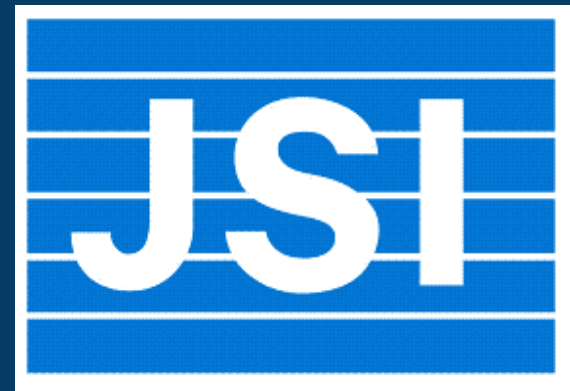


# Awareness and use of ORS in treatment of childhood diarrhea among mothers in Bauchi state, Northern Nigeria: An implementation research findings



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## Background

- Oral rehydration salt (ORS) plays a crucial role in the management of childhood diarrhea reducing death and disability from diarrheal disease.
- Key messages on appropriate health and care-seeking behaviors, including use of ORS were provided through health facility workers, household education by community based health volunteers (CBHVs), and mass media in Bauchi State, Nigeria.



## Objectives

- Assess households' experiences in managing common childhood illnesses, including diarrhea.
- Inform the design of a pilot study aimed at substantially improving access and quality of health services for children under-five at the existing point of service including private medicine vendors (PMVs).

## Methods

- Cross-sectional household survey in 2013
- Conducted in four Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Bauchi State, Northeast region of Nigeria.
- Two-stage cluster sampling of 1,588 households with children less than 5 years of age
  - 1st stage, a random sample of 30 villages/clusters per LGA.
  - 2nd stage, 50 target households sampled per cluster.
  - Each household screened firstly for under-five children, and secondly for a sick under-five child in the last two weeks.
  - Mother or caregiver interviewed using household and under-five questionnaires.
- Ethics Review and approval by Bauchi State Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC)
- Informed consent obtained from eligible respondents.
- 3,077 children under 5 years of age were identified in 1,588 selected households.
- 1,560 mothers with sick children under five in the last two weeks before the survey were interviewed.

## Results

Variable	Category	Number (n=1,588)	%
Education	Never attended school	1,222	77.0%
	Primary level	229	14.4%
	Secondary level	121	7.6%
	Higher level	16	1.0%
Marital status	Currently married	1,572	99.0%
	Ever married	10	0.6%
	Never married	6	0.4%
Age	15-24 years	570	35.9%
	25-34 years	737	46.4%
	35-44 years	255	16.1%
	45-49 years	26	1.6%
Source of drinking water	Improved	435	27.4
	Non-improved source	1,153	72.6
Toilet Facility	Improved	242	15.2
	Non-improved	1,346	84.8

Table 1: Descriptive Information about caregivers & Households

- Average age of mother or caregiver is 27 years.
- 22.4% of the children had diarrhea, with 81% (281) of these children (n=349) treated.
- Among mothers of children treated with other drugs, about 60% are aware of ORS while 40% have not heard about ORS or don't know. Knowledge of zinc is very low, 5.8%.

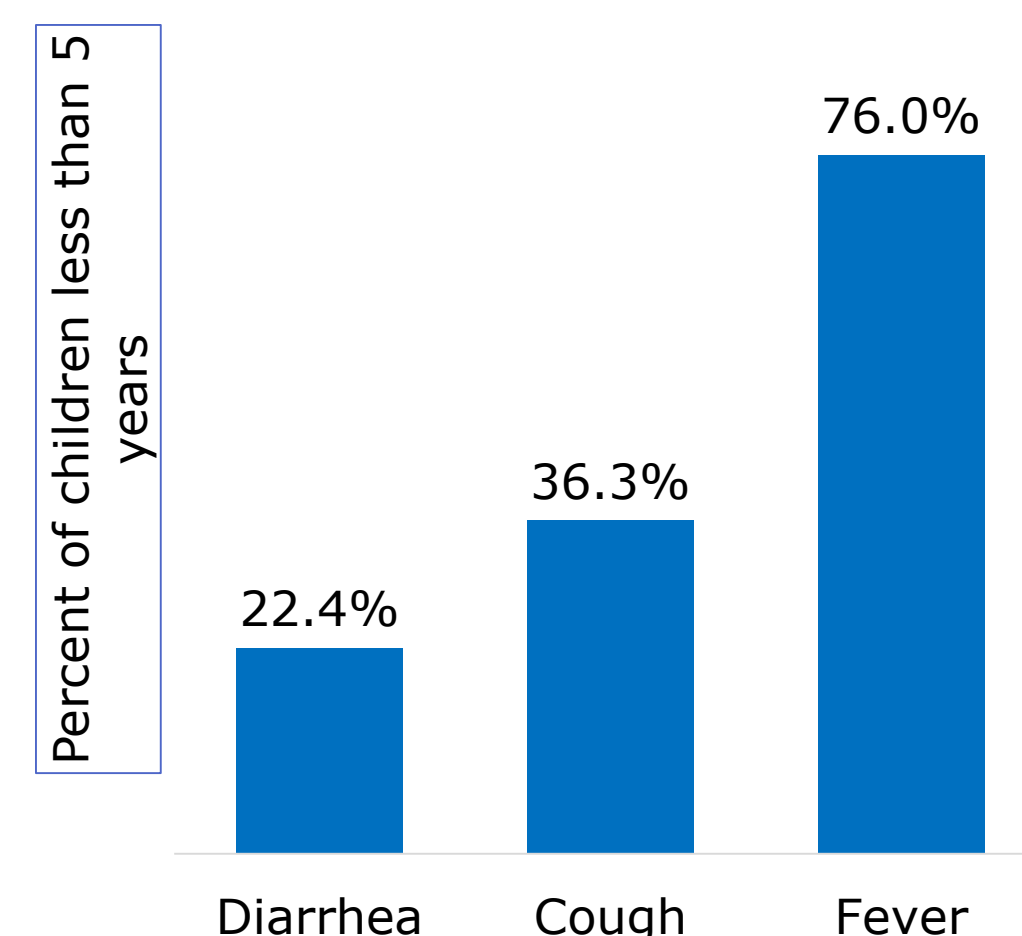


Figure 1: Prevalence of Childhood Illnesses

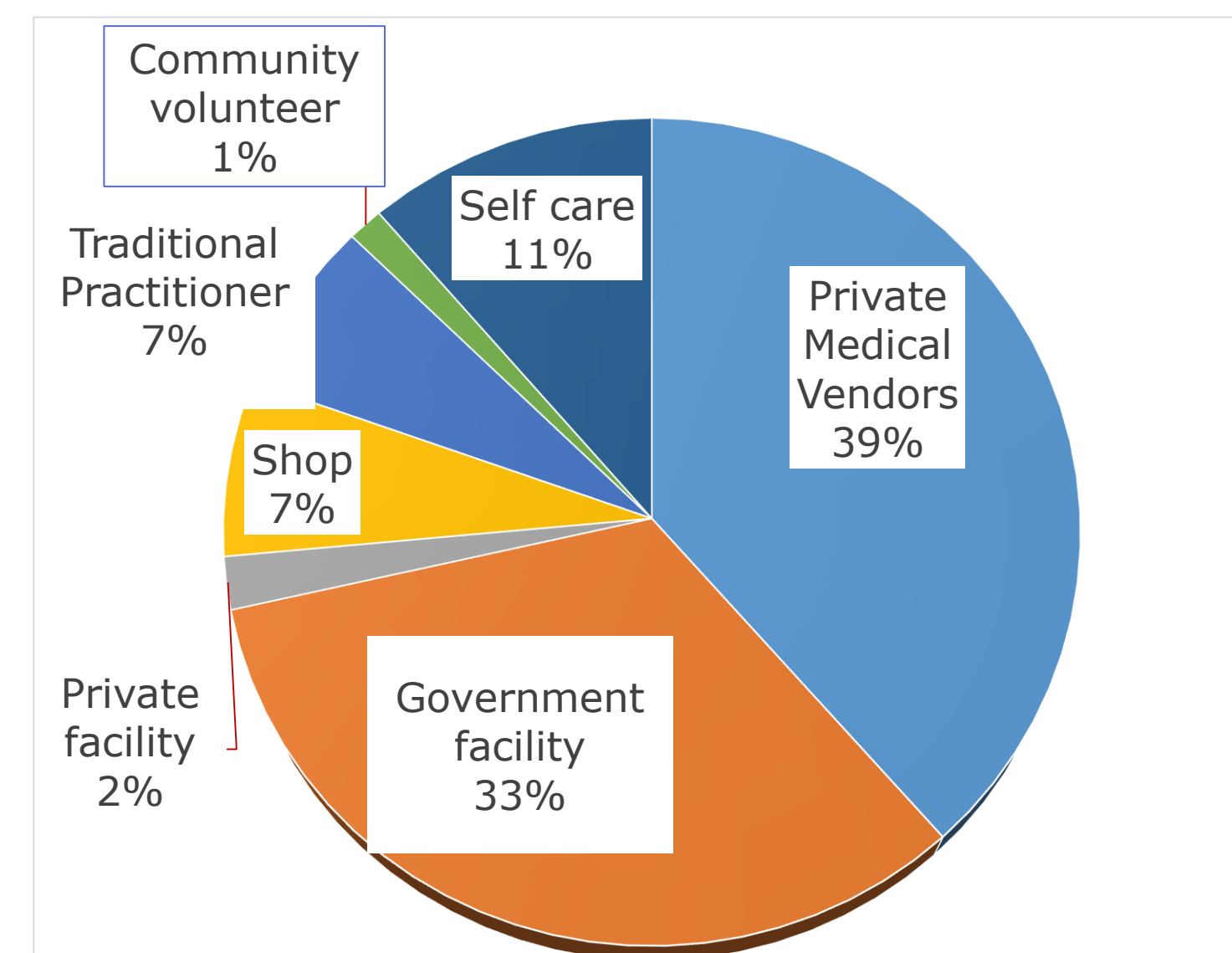


Figure 2: Type of Providers Visited for Diarrhea Treatment

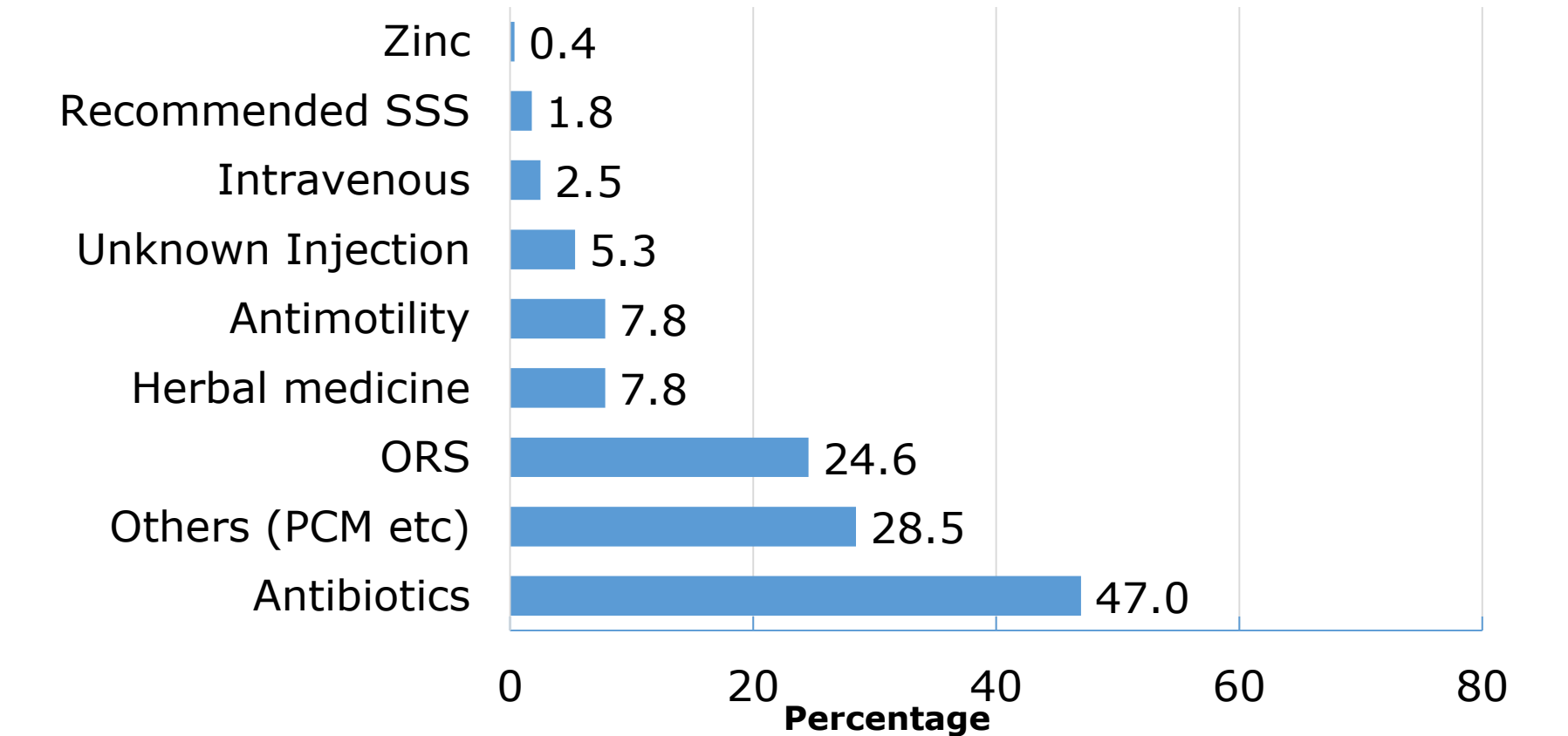


Figure 3: Type of Drugs Used for Diarrhea Treatment

- Only 1 case was treated using Zinc and ORS.
- 25% of children treated were treated using ORS.

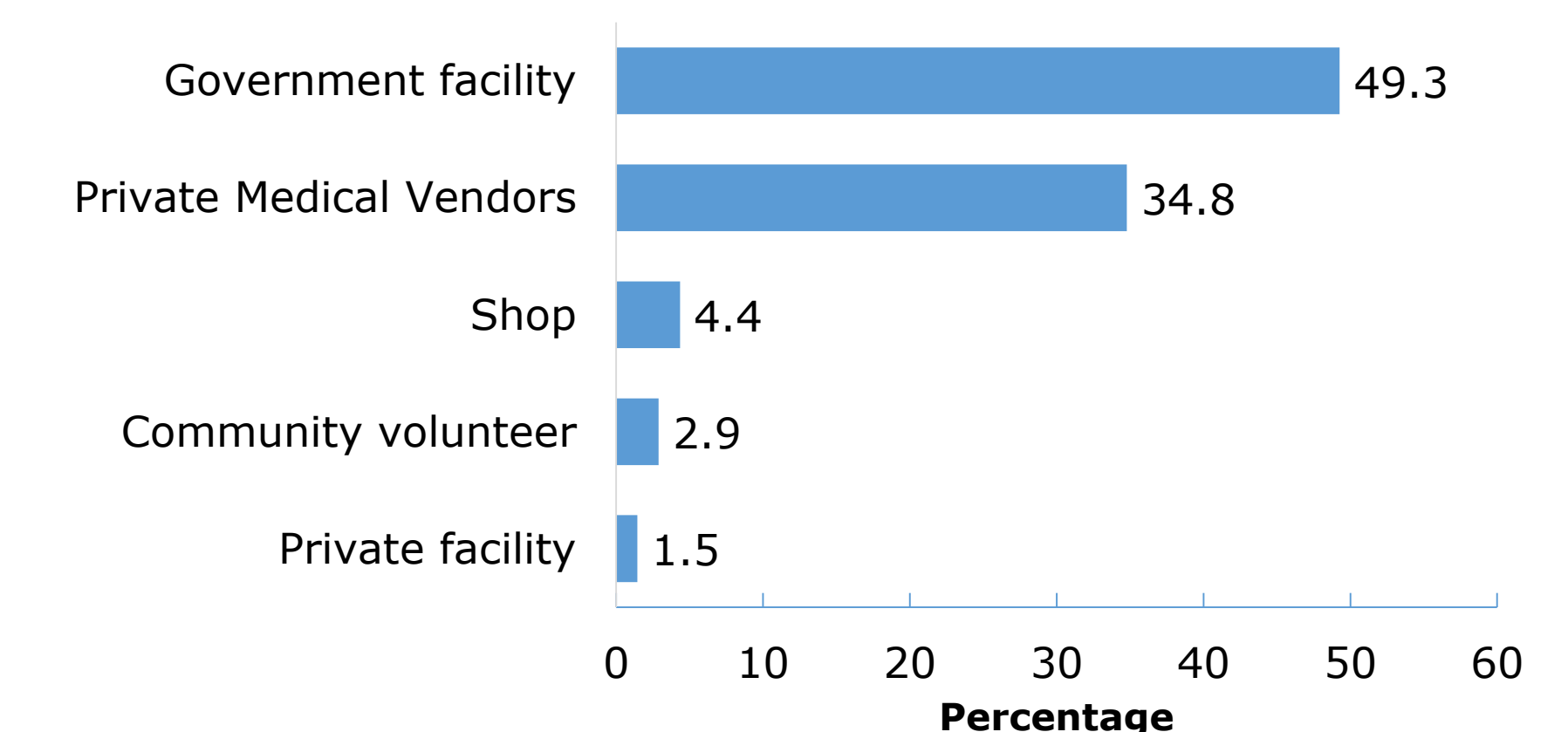


Figure 4: Source of ORS (Among those that use ORS)

## Implications for intervention

- The awareness of ORS is high, however there is need for in-depth examination of possible issues preventing use.
- Further messages that are consistent with local beliefs about the management of diarrhea, need to be provided to caregivers on use and appropriateness of ORS and Zinc.
- Consideration needs to be given to continuous education of existing point of service especially private medical vendors on ORS and Zinc.
- Caregiver awareness of Zinc for the treatment of childhood diarrhea is low, so zinc promotion campaigns need to be developed.

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