

# Lassa Fever Outbreak Investigation in a Tertiary Health Institution in Abeokuta, Ogun State; January 2017

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# Introduction

- Lassa fever (LF)
  - Highly infectious haemorrhagic disease
  - Associated with high morbidity and mortality
  - Spread within healthcare settings common with poor Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) strategies
- LF cases were highest in 2016, in Nigeria (911 cases, 29 states)\*
- A health worker suspected for Lassa fever in Ogun State, died on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2016
- Laboratory results confirmed LF virus on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

\* <http://www.ncdc.gov.ng/reports/20/2016-december-week-52>

# Objectives

- To characterize the outbreak in Time, Place and Person
- To determine the mode of transmission
- To institute control measures
- To assess infection control and prevention measures in place

# Methods

- Descriptive study:
  - Case definition established using IDSR guidelines
  - Data collected using line-listing form
  - Data analyzed using Epi Info 7
- Samples collected and tested by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- Assessment of IPC facilities
- Environmental assessment include:
  - Health facilities
  - Waste disposal practices

# Results

- Of the 19 samples tested only 1 was positive
- Total of 3 probable cases were traced
- Confirmed case was linked to hospital exposure
- Case Fatality Rate = 100%
- 345 contacts line-listed and 89.5% were health workers

# IPC Strategies

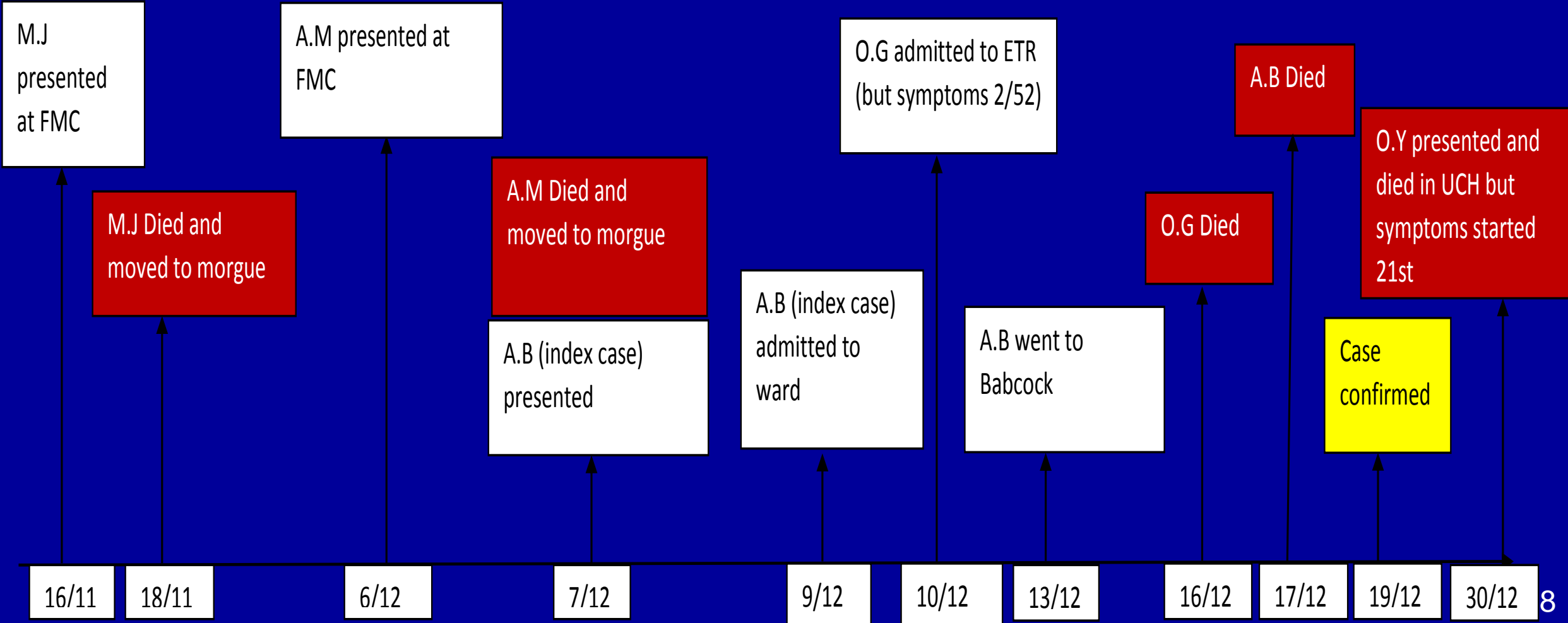
- Regular hand washing was reported among 94.5% of the line-listed contacts,
- Uninterrupted water supply reported by 15% of contacts
- Availability of soap in facility reported by 32% of contacts
- IPC practices, especially waste management in the hospital was poor

# Demographic characteristics of the cases

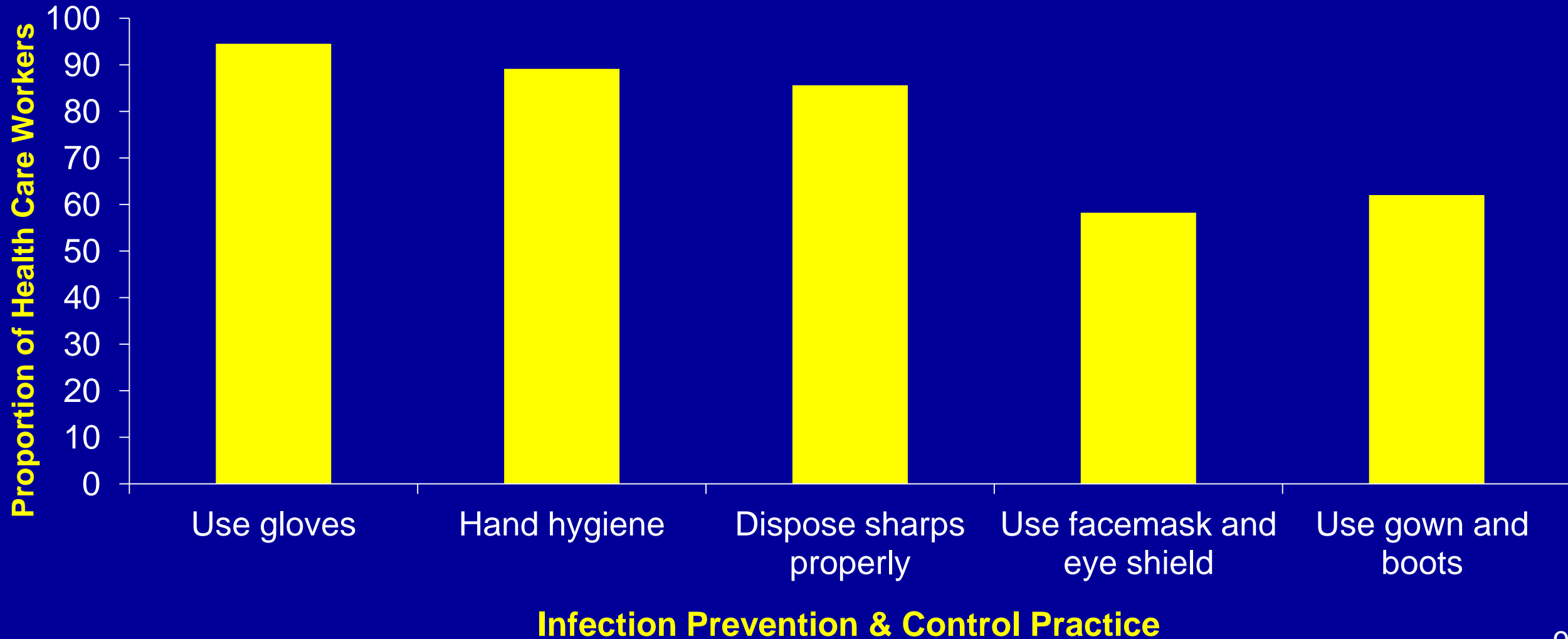
	Variable	Frequency (n=14)
Gender:	Male	4
	Female	10
Age group:	20-29	5
	30-39	6
	40-49	2
	50-59	1
Occupation:	Health worker	10
	Non-Health worker	4
Exposure to confirmed case:	Yes	9
	No	5

# Timeline of Cases

TIMELINE OF CASES AND PROBABLE CASES



# IPC strategies amongst Healthcare workers



# Public Health actions

- Sensitization of health facilities in the State on prompt disease detection, reporting and strict infection control measures
- Delivery of digital thermometers by NCDC
- Setting up isolation ward
- Decontamination of infected areas
- Safe burial practices for the deceased cases

# Conclusion

- Outbreak confirmed by Laboratory diagnosis
- Confirmed case was linked to hospital exposure
- Infection Prevention and Control strategies were poor, particularly waste management
- Isolation ward was set up as part of control measures

# Acknowledgements

- Nigerian Field Epidemiology And Laboratory Training Programme
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- Nigeria Center For Disease Control
- State Ministry Of Health, Abeokuta, Ogun State

Thank you for listening