

Advocacy for Communities: Diarrhoea and Pneumonia in Children



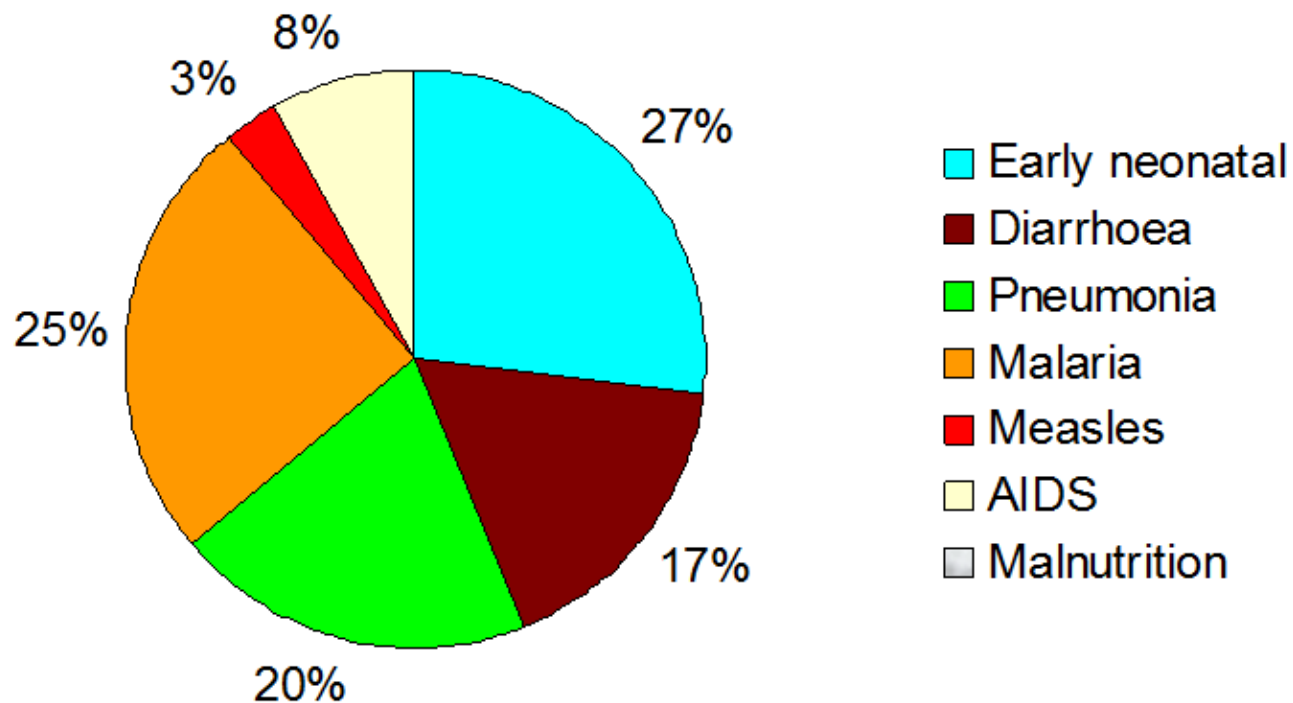
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Background

- Diarrhea is one of the most common causes of death in children under the age of 5
- The most common cause of diarrhea is contaminated water
- Pneumonia and diarrhea are responsible for at least 1/3 of the 9 million under-five deaths that occur each year
- Pneumonia kills more children than any other illness in the world in every region of the world

Causes of under-five mortality in Nigeria

Source: Lancet Child Survival Series with adjustments for Nigeria by authors



Burden of disease

- Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs
- Pneumonia is the leading cause of death in children worldwide.
- Pneumonia kills an estimated 1.2 million children under the age of five years every year.
- Pneumonia can be caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi.
- Pneumonia can be prevented by immunization, adequate nutrition and by addressing environmental factors.
- Pneumonia caused by bacteria can be treated with antibiotics, but only around 30% of children with pneumonia receive the antibiotics they need.

We know what works

- Low cost, highly effective treatments are available that have been proven to save children's lives:
 - Oral rehydration solution (ORS) to address dehydration
 - Zinc to strengthen the immune system and decrease the severity and duration of diarrhea episodes
 - Amoxicillin with appropriate case management to reduce deaths from pneumonia

What you can do

- Encourage mothers in your communities to take children to the health center when they encounter any of the following danger signs:
 - Child is dehydrated
 - Child has convulsions
 - Child vomits everything
 - Child is lethargic or unconscious
 - Child cannot feed or breastfeed

What you can do:

- Encourage mothers to seek care early for respiratory infections (cough/difficulty breathing or fast breathing)
- Encourage mothers to visit the local chemist or PPMV to obtain zinc and ORS for uncomplicated diarrhea and treat their child immediately
- Encourage healthy behaviors like handwashing and proper sanitation in your village to prevent diarrhea
- Encourage house ventilation to prevent pneumonia