

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Healthcare Workers regarding the Notification of Foodborne Disease Outbreaks in South Africa, 2023

Naledi Mapitja^{1,2,3}, Phuti Sekwadi³, Hellen Kgatla¹, Linda Erasmus³, Juno Thomas³

¹South African Field Epidemiology Training Program (SAFETP) of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), Johannesburg, South Africa

²University of Pretoria (UP), Pretoria, South Africa

³Centre for Enteric Diseases (CED) of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Johannesburg, South Africa

Healthcare workers across South Africa have good knowledge of foodborne disease outbreak notification and investigation, however, attitudes and practices need to be improved.

BACKGROUND

- Globally, 1 in 10 people fall ill from foodborne disease (FBD), leading to approximately 420 000 deaths yearly
- In South Africa, FBD outbreaks are:
 - A notifiable medical condition (NMC) and,
 - Diagnosis must be notified on the NMC surveillance system (NMCSS) within 24 hours
- Healthcare workers (HCWs) often fail to notify cases and there is limited research on why this happens
- This study aimed to:
 - Assess HCWs' knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) regarding the notification of FBD outbreaks and,
 - Determine factors associated with notifying practices

METHODS

- An analytic cross-sectional study was conducted and data were collected through an online questionnaire on Qualtrics
- The questionnaire link was emailed to HCWs in South African healthcare facilities
- Socio-demographic characteristics and KAP scores were summarized using descriptive statistics such as mean and mode
- Scores between 0-50% were classified as poor, while scores between 51-100% were classified as good
- Logistic regression was used to determine factors associated with notification practices

RESULTS

- Overall, 278 HCWs participated in the study, and 228 completed all sections
- The mean age was 43 years (Standard Deviation=+/-10.54)
- Majority of HCWs (159/240, 66%) did not know the case definition of a FBD outbreak
- In total, 19% (44/228) of HCWs had diagnosed a FBD outbreak in the past 12 months
- Only 15% (35/228) reported that they do not notify FBD outbreaks at all

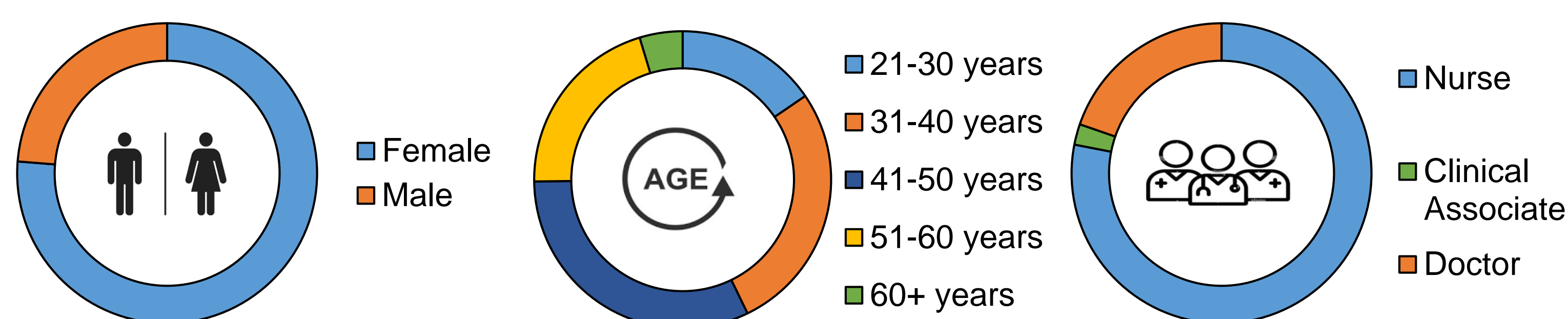


Figure 1: Sociodemographic characteristics of healthcare workers, South Africa, 2023

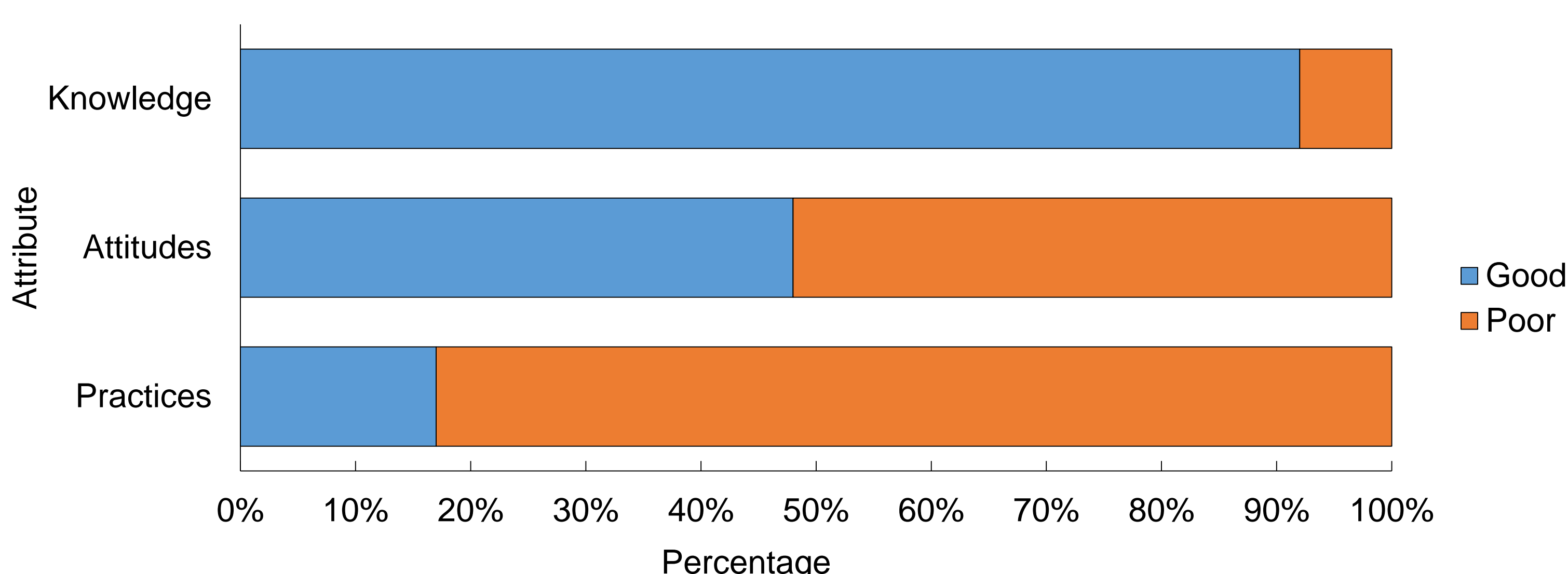


Figure 2: Knowledge, attitudes and practices scores on the notification of foodborne disease outbreaks by healthcare workers in South Africa, 2023

RESULTS CONTINUED

Table 1: Factors associated with notification of foodborne disease outbreaks by healthcare workers, South Africa, 2023

Factor	Odds Ratio	p-value	95% CI
Age group			
51-60	0.34	0.026	0.14 - 0.88
Profession			
Doctor	0.34	0.009	0.15 - 0.76
Province			
North West	0.20	0.001	0.08 - 0.51
Northern Cape	0.21	0.009	0.06 - 0.68
Facility			
Private Practice	7.20	0.002	2.05 - 25.26
Health Sector			
Private Healthcare	0.23	0.001	0.10 - 0.54

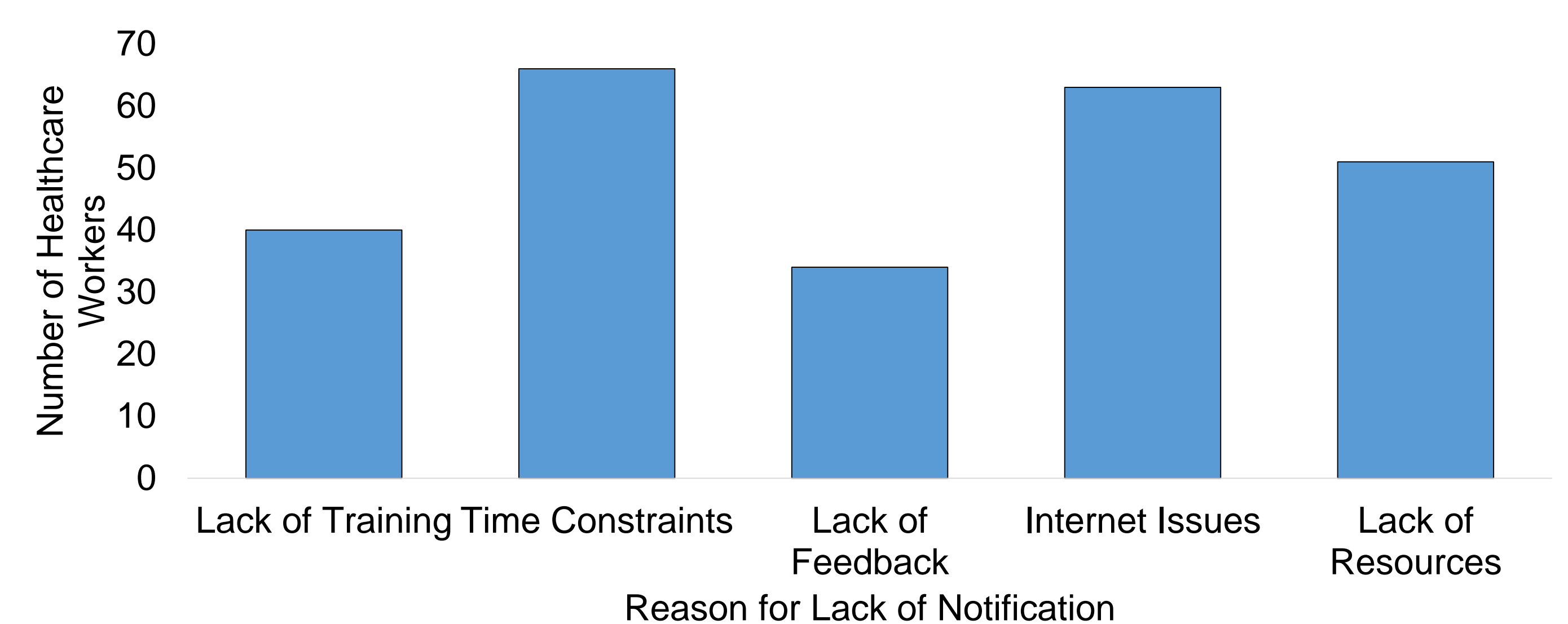


Figure 3: The reasons for lack of notification of foodborne disease outbreaks by healthcare workers, South Africa, 2023

CONCLUSIONS

- Findings demonstrate that HCWs have sufficient knowledge, however, reinforcement of case definitions is still needed
- This will not only improve knowledge but notification practices too
- Addressing misunderstandings about notifying responsibilities on the NMCSS may also lead to better attitudes and practices.
- Age, profession, province, facility type and health sector were associated with poor notifying practices
- Training efforts need to be strengthened in these groups of HCWs

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ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

Corresponding author:

N Mapitja (naledimapitja@gmail.com)