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Determining association of ANC attendance and subsequent utilization of skilled delivery at Lokitaung Sub-County Hospital in Turkana, September 2013 to September 2016

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Background: Globally, more than 300,000 maternal deaths are reported annually. Skilled birth delivery helps reduce perinatal and maternal mortality, which currently stands at 441 and 1,594 per 100,000 births in Kenya and Turkana County, respectively. In Turkana north, the skilled delivery coverage is at 40% compared to 1st antenatal care (ANC) attendance, which is at 95%.

Aim: The aim of this study was to identify the factors associated with ANC that predict uptake of skilled delivery.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective review of ANC and maternity registries. Inclusion criteria were 1) women who attended at least one ANC visit; 2) estimated date of delivery between September 2013 and September 2016 and; 3) women who had skilled delivery within the same period. Data were collected into a predesigned MS-Excel tool, where it was cleaned, coded for confidentiality and audited for quality and consistency against official reports. Descriptive, associative and logistic regression statistics were analyzed with MS-Excel and OpenEpi.

Results: Overall 970 women were included in this study. Of this, 266 (27%) utilized skilled delivery at the facility. The two by two analyses showed that those with >2 ANC visits were 4.9 more likely to utilize skilled delivery than those with ≤2 ANC visits (OR=4.9, CI: 3.617-6.636). The regression analysis showed that the total ANC visits explained 14.4% of variability in uptake of skilled delivery ($R2=0.1437$, p-value=-34). The other predictors included age group ≤25 years (OR=1.4, CI: 1.027-1.815) and distance from the facility <5 km (OR=1.4, CI: 1.021-1.845). Distance explains 2.5% variability in >2 ANC visits. The DQA scores were between 85% and 100%. Data consistency scores ranged between 67% and 100% matched.

Conclusion: Increasing total number of ANC clinics attended is the key positive predictor of skilled delivery uptake. Distance remains an obstruction to skilled delivery uptake.

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