

# Assessment of Utilization of Maternal Health Care Services for Delivery by Pregnant Women in Ogun State, Nigeria

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## Abstract:

The study examined the assessment of utilization of maternal health care services for delivery by pregnant women in Ogun state, Nigeria. The descriptive research design of the survey type was used in the study. The population of this study consisted of pregnant women living in Ogun State. The sample for this study consisted of 142 pregnant women selected from some communities in Ogun State, Nigeria. A self-designed questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. The validity of the instrument was ensured through face and content validity. The reliability of the instrument was determined by finding the internal consistency of the instrument using Cronbach alpha. This yielded a coefficient value of 0.78. The data collected from the questionnaire were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings of this study revealed that primary health care center is accessible to the pregnant women and they have access to the services rendered. Also, the pregnant women utilized maternal health care services very often while the level of utilization of primary health care center in for delivery by pregnant women is high. The findings further revealed that level of education does not determine utilisation of maternal health care services and utilisation of primary health care

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center for delivery by pregnant women. Based on the findings, it was recommended that while there is the need to raise awareness on the utilisation of maternal health services, bring it closer to the mothers and make it more affordable, there is a more pressing need to improve its quality, especially through the alleviation of negative attitude of health care providers.

**Keywords:** Utilization, Maternal Health Care, Delivery, Pregnant Women,

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## Introduction

Yearly, the highest problem of maternal mortality in the world comes from Africa, while Nigeria is at the top in the maternal death figure in Africa. Nigeria's maternal mortality ratio of 1,100 is higher than the regional average. With an assessed 59,000 maternal deaths, Nigeria having about two percent of the world's population donates almost 10% of the world's maternal deaths average (World Health Organisation (WHO), 2015).

An opportunity has being provided to educate the women by the antenatal care unit, improves their communication with health workers, and also allows them to prepare for delivery. Similarly, when the excellence of antenatal care encounters expectation and medical standard, the degree of facility based delivery will be great (Amano, 2012). Access to information about maternal services should be obtainable in the community so that women can make selections about who to see and where to go, select the type of care they require (Titilayo, 2015). Poor antenatal, intra-partum and post-partum care are main risk factors for maternal mortality for Nigerian women (Findley, Ashir & Kana, 2015).

The use of maternal health services also adds to neonatal health outcomes as the health of the infant baby is reliant on the health of the mother. One of the causes of neonatal death is maternal complications in labour. The highest risk of death is on the first day of life while the three-quarters of neonatal deaths occur in the first week. Also, the main direct causes of neonatal death, globally, are preterm birth (28%), severe infections (26%), and asphyxia (23%). This epidemiological picture underscores the contribution of the delivery process to neonatal deaths (Babalola & Fatusi, 2009).

Even with the availability of primary health care facilities around where they live, work and school pregnant women travel long distances to access quality health care thereby making it stimulating for pregnant women or women in labour to reach help quickly. Most women choose old-style birth attendants, some deliver in church, at home, by untrained personnel while Mothers-in-law, husbands or other family members decides about looking for care in many cases. Hence the need to assess utilization of maternal health care services for delivery by pregnant women in Ogun state, Nigeria

The study examined the assessment of utilization of maternal health care services for delivery by pregnant women in Ogun state, Nigeria. The study specifically examined:

1. accessibility of pregnant women to primary health care centre;
2. the level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women;
3. the level of utilisation of primary health care centre for delivery by pregnant women;
4. the difference in level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women based on their level of education; and
5. the difference in utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women based on their level of education.

## Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. How accessible is the primary health care center to the pregnant women in Ogun State?
2. What is the level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women in in Ogun State?

3. What is the level of utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women in Ogun State?

### Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were generated for this study:

1. There is no significant difference in level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women based on their level of education
2. There is no significant difference in utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women based on their level of education

### Methodology

The descriptive research design of the survey type was used in this study. The design was considered appropriate because it allows information to be obtained from a representative sample of the population in the actual situation as they exist. The population of this study consisted of pregnant women living in Ogun State. The sample for this study consisted of 142 pregnant women selected from some communities in Ogun State, Nigeria. The sample was selected through multi stage sampling procedure.

A questionnaire designed by the researcher was used to collect data for the study.

The instrument was divided into four sections namely Section A, B, C and D. Section A sought for socio-demographic data which included their level of education. Section B measured level of accessibility of available maternal health care services to pregnant women while Section C consisted of items on level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women. Section D consisted of items on level of utilisation of maternal health care services for delivery by pregnant women.

To determine the extent to which the instrument measured what it is meant to measure, the instrument was subjected to face and content validity. It was subjected to thorough screening by experts in Nursing Science. In so doing, all irrelevances and ambiguous items were eliminated. The reliability of the instrument was determined by finding the internal consistency through a study carried out outside the sampled locations. Data collected were tested using Cronbach alpha which yielded a co-efficient value of 0.78. This was considered adequate for the study. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The research question was answered using frequency count and percentages. All hypotheses were tested using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significance.

### Results

#### Descriptive Analysis of Research Questions

**Research Question 1:** How accessible is the primary health care center to the pregnant women in Ogun State?

**Table 1: Accessibility of maternal health care services to pregnant women**

	Frequency	N=142	Percentage
<b>Do you have access to maternal health care facility</b>			
No		29	20.4
Yes		113	79.6
<b>If yes, do you utilize any form of maternal health care facilities</b>			

No	33	23.2
Yes	109	76.8
<b>Antenatal care</b>		
SD	17	12.0
D	9	6.3
A	30	21.1
SA	86	60.6
<b>Delivery Care</b>		
SD	19	13.4
D	11	7.7
A	41	28.9
SA	71	50.0
<b>Postnatal care</b>		
SD	36	25.4
D	30	21.1
A	37	26.1
SA	39	27.5
<b>Immunization</b>		
SD	23	16.2
D	7	4.9
A	34	23.9
SA	78	54.9
<b>Family planning</b>		
SD	28	19.7
D	17	12.0
A	55	38.7
SA	42	29.6

Table 1 revealed the accessibility of maternal health care services to pregnant women. Out of the 142 pregnant women, 113 (79.6%) of the respondents agreed to have access to maternal health care facility while 29 (20.4%) do not have access to health care facility. On utilization of any form of maternal health care facilities, 33(23.2%) respondent said no while 109(76.8%) said yes. Whereas for antenatal care (ANC); 17(14.8%) strongly disagreed, 9(6.3%) disagreed, 30(21.1%) agreed while 86(60.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed. And for delivery care; 19(13.8%) strongly disagreed, 11(7.7%) disagreed, 41(28.9%) agreed while 71(50.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed.

Also for postnatal care (PNC); 36(25.4%) strongly disagreed, 30(21.1%) disagreed, 37(26.1%) agreed while 39(27.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed. For immunization; 23(16.2%) strongly disagreed, 7(4.9%) disagreed, 34(23.9%) agreed while 78(54.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed. For family planning; 28(19.7%) strongly disagreed, 17(12.0%) disagreed, 55(38.7%) agreed while 42(29.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed. From the above it can be concluded that the primary health care center is accessible to the pregnant women and they have access to the services rendered.

**Research Question 2:** What is the level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women in in Ogun State?

**Table 2: Level of utilization of maternal health care services by pregnant women**

	Frequency N=142	Percentage
<b>Do you utilize maternal health care services</b>		
No	26	18.3
Yes	116	81.7
<b>Antenatal Care (ANC)</b>		
VO	62	43.7
O	21	14.8
R	30	21.1
NA	29	20.4
<b>Delivery Care</b>		
VO	55	38.7
O	15	10.6
R	31	21.8
NA	41	28.9
<b>Postnatal Care (PNC)</b>		
VO	31	21.8
O	14	9.9
R	23	16.2
NA	74	52.1
<b>Immunization</b>		
VO	65	45.8
O	28	19.7
R	25	17.6
NA	24	16.9
<b>Family planning</b>		
VO	32	22.5
O	18	12.7
R	32	22.5
NA	60	42.3

Table 2 revealed the level of utilization of maternal health care services by pregnant women. Out of the 142 pregnant women, 116 (81.7%) of the respondents agreed to utilise maternal health care facility while 26 (18.3%) do not utilise health care facility. Meanwhile for antenatal care (ANC); 62(43.7%) used it very often, 21(14.8%) used it often, 30(21.1%) used it rarely while 29(20.4%) respondents did not use it at all. For delivery care; 55(38.7%) used it very often, 15(10.6%) used it often, 31(21.8%) use it rarely while 41(28.9%) respondents did not used it at all. And for postnatal care (PNC); 31(21.8%) used it very often, 14(9.9%) used it often, 23(16.2%) used it rarely while 74(52.1%) respondents did not use it at all.

In addition, for immunization; 65(45.8%) used it very often, 28(19.7%) used it often, 25(17.6%) used it rarely while 24(16.9%) respondents did not use it at all. For family

planning; 32(22.5%) used it very often, 18(12.7%) used it often, 32(22.5%) used it rarely while 60(42.3%) respondents did not use it at all. The pregnant women utilized maternal health care services very often but some women did not use it at all for postnatal care (PNC) and family planning.

**Research Question 3:** What is the level of utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women in Ogun State?

**Table 3: Utilization of primary health care center for delivery**

	Frequency	N=142	Percentage
<b>Do you use maternal health care services for delivery</b>			
No	46		32.4
Yes	96		67.6
<b>If yes how many children did you deliver in health facility</b>			
None	46		32.4
1child	36		25.4
2 children	28		19.7
3 children	21		14.8
4 children	7		4.9
5 children	3		2.1
7 children	1		.7

Table 3 shows utilization of primary health care center for delivery. Out of the 142 pregnant women, 96 (67.6%) of the respondents used primary health care center for delivery while 46 (32.4%) do not used primary health care center for delivery. On the number of children deliver in health facility; 46(32.4%) did not deliver at the primary health center, 36(25.4%) delivered one child, 28 (19.7%) delivered 2 children, 21(14.8%) delivered 3 children, 7(4.9%) delivered 4 children, 3(2.1%) delivered 5 children while 1(0.7%) of the respondents delivered 7 children. The level of utilization of primary health care center in for delivery by pregnant women is high because majority of the pregnant women delivered their children very often in the facility.

### Testing of Hypotheses

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant difference in level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women based on their level of education

**Table 4:** Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for Difference in level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women based on their level of education

Groups	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	41.019	3	14.673	1.626	0.130
Within Groups	1245.036	138	9.022		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1286.055</b>	<b>141</b>			

$P > 0.05$

The result presented in table 4 showed that F-cal value of 1.626 was not significant because the P value (0.130)  $> 0.05$  at 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis was not rejected. This implies that there is no significant difference in level of utilisation of maternal health care

services by pregnant women based on their level of education. Pregnant women irrespective of their level of education utilises maternal health care service.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant difference in utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women based on their level of education

**Table 5:** Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for difference in utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women based on their level of education

Groups	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	30.393	3	10.131	1.183	0.284
Within Groups	1181.556	138	8.562		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1211.949</b>	<b>141</b>			

$P > 0.05$

The result presented in table 5 showed that F-cal value of 1.183 was not significant because the P value (0.284)  $> 0.05$  at 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis was not rejected. This implies that there is no significant difference in utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women based on their level of education. Pregnant women irrespective of their level of education utilises primary health care center for delivery.

### Discussion

The findings of the study clearly showed that majority of the pregnant women do have access to the primary health care center and as well to the services rendered. Agbede, Omeonu and Kio (2015) opine that indicators of access and acceptability of health care facilities to pregnant women are important, since at a very basic level, health services need to be available in order for women to be able to accept and use them.

The study also showed that the pregnant women utilize maternal health care service very often but some pregnant women did not use it at all for postnatal care (PNC) and family planning. This finding is not in consonance with the study carried out by Mekonnen (2010) as they concluded that the use of postnatal care is low in Tanzania with less than one in four women have visited a health facility for maternal health care service.

The study further showed that the level of utilization of primary maternal health care center for delivery by pregnant women is high because majority of the pregnant women delivered their children very often there but many did not use it for postnatal care and family planning. This is similar to result of the study posted by Babalola and Fatusi (2009) who reported that approximately 60% of women delivered in a health facility.

In hypothesis 1, it was revealed that there was no significant difference in level of utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women based on their level of education. The implication of this finding is that pregnant women irrespective of their level of education utilises maternal health care service. This contradicted the submission of Titilayo (2015) who concluded that utilisation of maternal health care services by pregnant women was influenced by their level of education.

In the second hypothesis, there was no significant difference in utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women based on their level of education. He implication of this finding is that pregnant women irrespective of their level of education utilises primary health care center for delivery. This finding is in line with the conclusion of

Raj, Lyons, Skinner and Teijlingen (2012) as they concluded that educational status of pregnant women does not influence their utilisation of primary health care center for delivery

### Conclusion

It is concluded that majority of the pregnant women had accessed to primary health care center, utilized maternal health care service for delivery but some pregnant women did not use it at all for postnatal care (PNC) and family planning. The study also concluded that level of education does not determine utilisation of maternal health care services and utilisation of primary health care center for delivery by pregnant women.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that while there is the need to raise awareness on the utilisation of maternal health services, bring it closer to the mothers and make it more affordable, there is a more pressing need to improve its quality, especially through the alleviation of negative attitude of health care providers.

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