

P3.1. Patterns of Health Care Utilization during Prenatal and Child Delivery among Adolescent Mothers - **Alfred Adewuyi**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria; **Akanni Akinyemi**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria; **Ambrose Akinlo**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria; **Sunday Adedini**; Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria
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Background/Significance: Adolescent fertility is on the increase in developing countries. Due to circumstances surrounding some of such pregnancies, they lack the ability to appreciate the changes and required level of care. This has contributed significantly to the high rate of maternal morbidities especially among under-age mothers. The importance of adequate health care utilization in pregnancy as well as child care cannot be overemphasized. The problem is on the importance placed on prenatal care as well as child delivery and postnatal care among adolescent mothers.

Main Question/Hypothesis: Are adolescent mothers empowered to seek adequate health care services during pregnancies? What are the constraints they may be faced with in seeking adequate health care for their pregnancies and child care?

Methodology: Data for this article was collected in four states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in Nigeria- Bauchi, Lagos, Nasarawa and Kano. The study was conducted in fifty-one local government areas spread across the four states and the FCT in February, 2007. Analysis for this current paper was based on 439 females who became mothers at ages less than 25 years. Among this set, the unit of analysis focused on those who had their first birth at ages below 19 years.

Findings: About 53% of teenage mothers claimed they did not want the pregnancy that resulted in the last birth they had. Only about 30% were presented for antenatal care in a modern health facility. Only about 17% of adolescent attended antenatal clinic before the sixth month of their pregnancies and also few weeks to delivery. About 20% were informed about warning signs of pregnancy complication while only 19% were told where to go if they experience pregnancy complications. Only about 14% received IPT vaccine, 24% received anti-tetanus injection and 27% received iron tablets during their last pregnancy. About 17% reported that they delivered in modern health facility while only 4% of births were attended to by skilled attendants. Only about 22% gave their baby breast milk about one hour after delivery while 28% bathed their child an hour after delivery.

Knowledge Contribution: Teenage pregnancies were generally poorly taken care of. The study showed that adolescents were not adequately empowered to seek proper medical care during pregnancies and child birth.