



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Health seeking behaviour of caregivers of children under five and its determinants in Ho West and Adaklu districts, Volta region, Ghana: A community-based cross-sectional study

Category:

Maternal and child health

Authors:

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Objectives:

Healthcare-seeking at health facilities for sick under-fives within 24 hours of symptoms onset is key to mitigating morbidity and mortality. Limited literature on this outcome challenges monitoring adherence to prompt health-seeking behaviour (HSB). We reported prevalence and determinants of prompt caregiver HSB for sick under-fives in two districts in Volta Region, Ghana.

Method:

The study was conducted among 770 caregivers / children in Ho West and Adaklu districts. Data on caregiver and child characteristics were obtained. Summary statistics were presented as percentages. Logistic regression was used to quantify association between prompt HSB and independent variables and odds ratios presented.

Results:

93% of the caregivers were females mostly aged 20-39 years. Of caregivers who sought formal health care the last time their children fell ill, only 59% did so within 24 hours of symptoms onset. Less than 10% of caregivers had adequate knowledge of childhood danger signs while two-thirds had decision-making-capacity regarding sending a sick child to a health facility. Male children had twice the odds of caregivers' prompt HSB compared to females [AOR 2.02 95% CI: 1.24, 3.27; p=0.004]. Fourth or higher borns had 56% reduced odds of prompt HSB [AOR 0.44 95% CI: 0.26, 0.75; p=0.003].

Conclusion:

Prompt HSB was influenced by child's sex and birth order. Interventions are needed to improve prompt caregiver HSB in the area, especially for higher birth order children. Targeted education is needed to minimize "discrimination" against the girl child regarding prompt HSB. Further research is needed to better appreciate underlying nuances

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