



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

: Barriers of accessing Emergency Medical Services among residents in Ho.

Category:

Scaling access, delivery and integration of health services and goods (including traditional medicine)

Authors:

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Objectives:

This study aimed to identify the barriers hindering the utilization of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) among residents in Ho, Ghana. Despite the critical role EMS plays in prehospital care, early intervention, and improving patient outcomes, the utilization of these services remains low in the region.

Method:

A cross-sectional study was conducted among residents in Ho using a standardized questionnaire to gather data on EMS utilization barriers. The data were analyzed using statistical software to examine public awareness, attitudes, and usage patterns of EMS.

Results:

The study revealed that only 10.1% of respondents had used an ambulance during an emergency, and 23.0% were aware of the public emergency telephone number. While 83.1% expressed confidence in the quality of care provided by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), 83.7% believed there were insufficient ambulances available in Ho. In hypothetical emergency scenarios, 39.6% preferred taxis for pedestrian accidents, while 49.7% would use any available transport during labor emergencies at midnight.

Conclusion:

Public perception of ambulance services in Ho is generally positive, but the utilization rate is low. Public health education is necessary to increase awareness of the toll-free emergency number and the appropriate use of ambulances. Additionally, enhancing ambulance capacity is crucial for handling more emergencies efficiently.

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