



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

INCIDENCE, DETERMINANTS AND OUTCOMES OF PRETERM LIVE BIRTHS IN A TERTIARY HEALTH FACILITY IN THE VOLTA REGION, GHANA.

Category:

Maternal and child health

Authors:

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Objectives:

Accurate measures of preterm livebirth burdens are a challenge in developing countries due to factors including poor data quality and unreliable last menstrual period use in determining the gestational age of pregnancies. This study employed first-trimester ultrasound dating to determine incidence of preterm livebirth and its associated factors at Ho Teaching Hospital, Ghana.

Method:

This was a prospective study involving 666 pregnant women and their 680 live newborns (including multiple births) between October 2019 and March 2020. Data was collected on socio-demographic and obstetrics variables including gestational age at delivery. Primary outcome was overall preterm livebirth incidence. Predictors were determined using logistic regression analysis and odds ratios at 95% confidence intervals. Statistical significance was pegged at p-value <0.05

Results:

Mean age of the women was 29.0 years. Overall preterm livebirth incidence was 9.1% (62/680). Employment (formal employment [AOR 6.84 (95% CI 1.63-28.73), p=0.009], informal employment [AOR 4.98 (95% CI 1.39-17.85), p=0.014]) and hypertensive disorders in pregnancy (HDP) [AOR 6.43(95% CI 2.78-14.89); p<0.001] increased the odds of preterm livebirth. Adequate antenatal clinic contacts [AOR 0.14 (95% CI 0.05-0.37); p<0.001] and doses of sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine for malaria prevention in pregnancy [AOR 0.21(0.10-0.45);p<0.001] reduced the odds of preterm livebirth by 86% and 79% respectively.

Conclusion:

Overall preterm livebirth incidence compared favourably with global estimates. HDP and being employed were the important risk factors for preterm livebirth. Reducing time and workloads of pregnant women in employment, and posting of specialists to manage HDP at district hospitals could reduce preterm livebirth incidence.

Submission Date:

