



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Psychosocial Factors Influencing Antenatal Care Utilization in Five Districts of Ghana: The Role of Education, Stigma, Social Support, and Marital Status

Category:

Maternal and child health

Authors:

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Objectives:

This study investigates the psychosocial factors influencing antenatal care (ANC) utilization in five districts in Ghana. It aims to examine how education, marital status, stigma, and social support impact early initiation and frequency of ANC visits among postpartum mothers.

Method:

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted with 1,071 postpartum mothers from five Districts in Ghana. Data were collected through structured questionnaires covering education, marital status, stigma, and social support. Chi-square and logistic regression were used to analyze the association between these variables and ANC attendance, using SPSS 27.

Results:

Among respondents, 99.4% attended at least one ANC visit. Tertiary education was associated with 1.36 times higher likelihood of early ANC initiation within 12 weeks (AOR = 1.36; CI: 0.21-2.63). Stigmatized mothers were 4.38 times more likely to attend fewer than four ANC visits (AOR = 4.38; CI: 1.995-9.604). Social support from family, partners, and others reduced the likelihood of fewer than four ANC visits by 95%, 90%, and 56%, respectively. While married women tended to complete recommended visits, this was not statistically significant.

Conclusion:

Tertiary education promotes early ANC attendance, while stigma reduces overall attendance. Social support significantly improves ANC visit frequency. MoH/GHS/DHMT should prioritize interventions to reduce stigma and enhance social support in healthcare settings. Study limitations include sampling bias and recall bias, mitigated by sample adjustments and simple recall questions.

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