



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Association between Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices and Diarrhea Among Children Under 24 Months in the Shai Osudoku District, Greater Accra Region

Category:

Maternal and child health

Authors:

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Objectives:

This study sought to determine the association between infant and young child feeding practices and diarrhea in the Shai Osudoku District of the greater Accra region.

Method:

A facility-based cross-sectional study involving 267 children under two reporting with diarrhea. A WHO-adapted structured questionnaire was used to interview the mothers of these children. The outcome was diarrhea while exposure variables were feeding practices. Logistic and ordinal regressions were used to determine the associations between diarrhea and exposure variables.

Results:

Mothers of 267 children under 24 months with diarrhea were interviewed about the feeding practices of the children. The results were expressed in percentages and odds ratios with their confidence intervals. About 125 children constituting 46.82% were exclusively breastfed while 98% (262) were predominantly breastfed. Predominant breastfeeding was associated with diarrhea ($p=0.002$). Exclusive breastfeeding was not associated with diarrhea ($p=0.256$). Children who had continued breastfeeding after age one had 87% reduced odds of having diarrhea ($AOR=0.13$, $95\%CI=0.05-0.32$, $p=>0.001$). Children belonging to mothers with tertiary education showed a significant association with exclusive breastfeeding ($AOR: 8.94$, $95\% CI=2.91-27.40$, $p<0.001$).

Conclusion:

The prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding was suboptimal. The findings highlight the importance of promoting exclusive and continued breastfeeding for better child health outcomes. There is therefore the need for concerted efforts in promoting and supporting this vital practice. Targeted interventions should consider education and support for mothers.

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