

An analysis of episiotomy practice in Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Port
Harcourt: caregivers' and clients' perspectives
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ABSTRACT

There is a global call to reduce episiotomy rates due to lack of empirical evidence. This study examined episiotomy practice in Rivers State Teaching Hospital, Nigeria. A mixed methods design was employed. Census sampling was used to enroll 3138 singleton vaginal birth records (2017-2019), 19 skilled birth attendants (SBA), and 134 antenatal women. Quantitative data was collected using a data-extraction-sheet; qualitative data was collected using an interview guide and audio-recorder. All collected data were subjected to coding, thematic analysis and summarized with descriptive statistics. Hypotheses were tested at 5% level of significance using Chi-square and Relative risk analysis. The mean episiotomy rate from 2017 to 2019 was high (29.4%) and had a significant upward trend from 29.5% to 35.5%. Increasing maternal age and birth weight had significantly higher risk of routine episiotomy ($p < 0.01$). Primips had 22% greater risk of episiotomy than multips. Majority (31.6%) of SBA assessed perineal stretch before episiotomy. More than half (52.6%) of the SBA were not sure if empirical evidence supported episiotomy practice. The SBA reported no existing institutional episiotomy policy. Most (94.7%) of the SBA claimed that they involve pregnant women in decisions of episiotomy by obtaining informed consent prior to episiotomy, but information from clients (antenatal women) did not confirm this. More than half of the clients (56%) reported that they feel generally bad towards episiotomy. More sensitization of midwives and obstetricians is needed to remedy this identified situation.

Keywords: Episiotomy, birth, midwives, Nigeria

**Assessment of a midwife's leadership style and work outcome in two selected
comprehensive health centres in Rivers State**

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ABSTRACT

This study is an Assessment of midwives' leadership style and work outcome on the functioning of two maternity health centres in Rivers State. Four research questions and two null hypotheses guided the study, the cross-sectional descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprises of all staff of the two-comprehensive health centres in Rivers State. the sample size of the study was 85 which doctors, nurses and health extension workers. The instrument of the study was a 40-item questionnaire which is made up of a yes and no option and also structured four scale point rating scale of strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed. The research questions were analyzed using statistical tools of frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation while chi-square analysis was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level. The findings revealed that lack of time, high clinical demand, lack of an opportunity, lack of mentoring, lack of confidence, etc. are the barriers to effective health professional clinical leadership and Excellent communication, clinical experience, management skills, fair/trust/integrity, time management, team working, organizational skills, etc. are the perceived skills required as a midwife to be a leader in the selected health centers in Rivers State. Based on the findings, it was concluded that staff of the health centres have good knowledge in the barriers to effective leadership in midwifery, very conversant with required skills to be a leader but have low work out due to favorable work climate.

Keywords: Leadership, Styles, Midwives, Work, Output

Assessment of electrolytes level in the three trimesters of pregnancy in selected private obstetric and gynaecological hospital in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State.

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ABSTRACT

Pregnancy is the means through which human race populates, sometimes burdened with minor complications to the woman who embrace it. Virtually every system of the body is affected by the physiological changes that follow pregnancy including the fluids and electrolyte balance. The design of the study is a cross sectional study involving a laboratory investigation. An all-inclusive consensus method was employed to recruit participants from March - April, 2020. One hundred (100) pregnant women under 1st, 2nd and 3rd trimesters were used. The laboratory assessment of the electrolytes of all the samples was done in a central laboratory serving the selected Obstetric and Gynaecological clinics used in this study. The participant's socio – demographic characteristics were obtained from the laboratory request form and coded. The lithium heparin specimen bottles used were labeled and coded to match with the laboratory form. Blood samples collected in the lithium heparin sample bottles were transported in a sample carriage box under room temperature within 2 hours to a central laboratory for analysis. An automated blood gas and electrolytes analyzer (OPTI CCA TS 2) was used to analyze and determine for sodium, chloride, potassium and calcium concentrations. Descriptive statistics (Frequency and Percentages distribution) were used for socio-demographic characteristics; age, parity and trimesters. Chi – square was used to test the hypothesis in 0.05 level of significance. Statistical package for social sciences version 20.0 was used to support the data analysis. The study showed that the most deranged electrolytes were calcium, 88% low calcium level was recorded across the trimester, potassium 52%, sodium 6%, chloride 6% and 8% had high chloride across the three trimesters. The electrolytes imbalances among the 100 blood samples of participants were more during second trimester of pregnancy. The study also revealed that there is a significant relationship between the parity and electrolytes level of pregnant women receiving antenatal care in selected private O&G hospital. Hence, it is imperative that electrolytes assessment be included as a routine investigation for all pregnant women irrespective of their trimester and parity so as to curb the menace caused by electrolytes imbalance during pregnancy.

Association between antenatal-group-discussions and perceived-labor-pain and childbirth-fear among mothers in a tertiary hospital in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Group antenatal care involves focused antenatal group discussions for the purpose of peer support. This study examined the effect of antenatal group discussions on perceived labor-pain and postnatal fear-of-childbirth among mothers who had normal vaginal birth in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital Choba, Nigeria. Quasi-experimental design was used. A sample size of 218 (111 and 107 in treatment and comparison groups respectively) was examined. Consecutive sampling technique was used for selection of participants. A researcher designed Fear-of-childbirth and Numeric Analogue Scale for Labor Pain questionnaire was used for data collection. Data was collected by interview at 24-36 hours after birth. Collected data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics at 5% level of significance. Results revealed that 76.6% of participants in the treatment group had good participation in antenatal group discussion as they attended approximately 6.0 ± 2.0 classes out of a maximum of 8 classes. About 80.4% primiparae and 73.3% multiparae had good attendance. Although the participants mostly had non-morbid postnatal fear-of-childbirth, postnatal fear-of-childbirth was significantly less in the treatment group compared to comparison group (9.46 ± 1.01 vs. 11.29 ± 2.00 , $P = 0.0001$). The study participants mostly had moderate to severe perceived labour pain, and there was no significant difference in perceived labor-pain between treatment and comparison groups (4.66 ± 0.69 vs. 4.79 ± 0.61 , $P = 0.124$). In conclusion, participation in antenatal group discussions significantly reduced postnatal fear-of-childbirth. It is recommended that midwives and other stakeholders should lobby policy making corridors towards the inclusion of focused antenatal discussions into routine antenatal care services by ensuring that the importance of focused antenatal discussions is brought to the notice of their employers, nursing organizational bodies and the government

Key words: Group, Antenatal, Discussions, Care, Mothers

Birth preparedness and complication readiness knowledge and practice among pregnant women in selected primary health care centers in Port Harcourt, Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

The birth of a child usually brings unending joy and fulfilment in a family. What is most pleasing is when the outcome of the pregnancy results in both mother and baby being alive. Birth preparedness and complication readiness (BPCR) is an approach for achieving this objective.

Descriptive cross-sectional study design was adopted to assess BPCR knowledge and practice among pregnant women in selected primary healthcare centers in Port Harcourt Local Government area, Rivers State. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from 380 conveniently selected pregnant women with a response rate of 370(97%). Data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics at 5% level of significance.

Findings showed that more than 50% of the respondents were married, between the ages of 25 – 32 years, had secondary education and are Christians. More than 50% 252(68.9%) had good knowledge about BPCR while 118(31.1%) had poor knowledge. Practice of BPCR showed that 283(76.5%) had not made transport arrangement, 201(54.3%) had not identified a competent professional for the delivery, 213(57.6%) had not saved money for delivery. Overall, 199(53.8%) did not practice BPCR while 171(46.2%) practiced it. Statistical analysis using chi-square test showed that age, marital status, level of education, religion, occupation, current gestational age, gestational age at booking for antenatal, number of attended antenatal visits, parity, intention to have pregnancy, and knowledge ($p < 0.00 - 0.02$) were the factors associated with practice of BPCR.

It is recommended that midwives should provide regular counseling sections and health teaching on BPCR during antenatal visits.

Keywords: Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness, Pregnant women, Knowledge, Practice

Clients' perception of quality of care in some selected fertility clinics in Port Harcourt

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ABSTRACT

There have been a good number of advocacies, networking, training and capacity building programmes on infertility management across different parts of Nigeria with establishment of fertility centres across the country. This study explored clients' perception of quality of care in selected fertility clinics in Port Harcourt. Three (3) research questions guided the study which adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised 320 women attending the selected fertility clinics out of which 195 were selected using the mixed sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire designed on the modified 4-point likert scale format with a reliability index of 0.80. Data collection was done using the direct delivery and retrieval method to ensure high return rate. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentages and mean. Results revealed that majority of the clients perceived the provision of high-quality care fertility care; a large proportion of the clients had positive care experiences while accessing care in fertility clinics; out of the 195 respondents, 32(16.4%) were mildly satisfied, 51(26.2%) were moderately satisfied while 112(57.4%) were high satisfied with care provided in the fertility clinics. The study concluded that the most of the women accessing care in fertility clinics perceived high quality and satisfying care. The need to ensure that all healthcare variables meet the care needs of clients in fertility clinics was recommended.

Comparative analysis of active and expectant (physiological) and management of third stage of labour at national hospital Abuja

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ABSTRACT

Placental delivery is an indispensable part of a successful childbirth at the end of a pregnancy. This study examines the placental birth outcome between active management (AM) and expectant management (EM) in National Hospital, Abuja. Five research questions and two hypotheses were proposed, answered and tested. Retrospective research of cross-sectional design was implemented. Data from records of deliveries from January 2016 to December 2018 were collected. Systematic probability sampling method was used to arrive at 322 sample size from the population of 1653 deliveries. Descriptive statistics of frequency count and simple percentage were used to analyse data, and inferential statistics (chi-square) was adopted to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Answers to research questions on practice levels of active management and expectant management of placenta birth, timing of placenta delivery, incidence of post-partum haemorrhage (PPH) and association between timing of placental birth and PPH were all answered. The results showed that practice of active management of birth of placenta was high (95.7%) while expectant management of birth of placenta was low (4.3%). Timing of placenta deliveries were within normal and incidence of PPH was low (3.4%) in active management of placenta birth. There was a significant association between the placenta birth method outcome and PPH, ($X^2 = 409.08$, $p = 0.05$); as well between the timing of placenta delivery and PPH ($X^2 = 3.38$, $p = 0.05$). High practice level of active management of third stage of labour observed from the study is in conformity with low incidence of post-partum among the selected cases in the study area.

World Health Organization most current guideline on uterotonic administration in third stage of labour for prevention and treatment of PPH should be complied with for all births in order to avert the occurrence of PPH and the burden of maternal morbidity resulting from it.

Comparison of hiv incidence among pregnant women in selected private and public hospitals in Port Harcourt metropolis, River State

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ABSTRACT

*HIV is one of the leading causes of death among pregnant women. It has become an increasingly important focus of HIV research because of the role it plays in the spread of HIV especially among children. The aim of this research is to determine the prevalence of HIV and its associated factors among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in selected private and public hospitals in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State. The study was done between March, 2020 and April, 2020 using a laboratory based cross-sectional study design. A convenience sampling method was used to recruit the 309 pregnant women. The overall prevalence of HIV was 9.06%. The HIV seroprevalence was higher in the public facility when compared to the HIV seroprevalence in the private facility (10.19% vs. 6.80%), although this finding was not statistically significant ($p=0.441$). No significant association was observed between Age and prevalence of HIV in both the public and private health facilities ($p>0.05$). Mean gravidity was higher for public health facilities compared to private health facilities (2.77 ± 1.79 vs. 2.34 ± 1.12). There was a significant association between HIV prevalence and gravidity in both facilities ($t=2.15$, $p=0.003$ vs. $p=0.001$). The mean parity of participants was higher for the public health facilities compared to the private health facilities (1.63 ± 1.59 vs. 1.31 ± 1.15). HIV prevalence was significantly associated with parity in public facility, but none in the private facility ($p=0.02$ vs. 0.235). **Conclusion:** This research work revealed that the total prevalence of HIV in the study population was 9.1%, the prevalence is more in the public health facilities than in the private health facilities. It is therefore recommended that health education on HIV/AIDS and its effects on pregnant women, improved testing in both facilities and prompt management of HIV cases must be ensured.*

Keywords: HIV, Pregnant women, Public Hospitals, Private Hospitals

Determinants of utilization of preventive measures against mother-to-child transmission of HIV among positive pregnant women in teaching hospitals in rivers state.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the determinants of utilization of preventive measures against mother-to-child transmission of HIV among positive pregnant women in teaching hospitals in Rivers State, Nigeria. A cross-sectional research design was used for this study with a sample size of 238 which was selected using the simple random sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire with a reliability coefficient of 0.81. Data was analyzed using percentage, mean, standard deviation, and simple regression at 0.05 alpha level. The findings of this study shows that the level of knowledge of PMMTCT was high as majority (92.9%) of the respondents were knowledgeable about PMMTCT and also have a positive attitude towards it ($\bar{X} = 3.03 \pm 0.72$). The finding of the study also showed that the utilization of PMMTCT of HIV was determined by factors such as socio-economic status ($\bar{X} = 3.26 \pm 0.75$), cultural belief ($\bar{X} = 3.17 \pm 0.69$). There was a statistically significant high positive relationship between the utilization of PMMTCT and age ($r = 0.953$; $p < 0.05$), educational level ($r = 0.893$; $p < 0.05$), parity ($r = 0.867$; $p < 0.05$), knowledge of PMMTCT ($r = 0.968$; $p < 0.05$) and attitude towards PMMTCT ($r = 0.983$; $p < 0.05$). The study concluded that, the determinants of the utilization of PMMTCT of HIV was cultural belief, followed by others such as socio-economic status, age, educational level, parity, knowledge of PMMTCT and attitude towards PMMTCT. It was recommended that, the management of the tertiary health institutions should strategize more measures to improve the quality of services rendered to women on PMMTCT.

Effectiveness of training on neonatal resuscitation algorithm among midwives in primary healthcare centres in Rivers State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Simulation-based training (SBT) promotes understanding and effective use of skills of neonatal resuscitation (NR). This study assessed effectiveness of training on NR algorithm among midwives in Primary HealthCare (PHC) centres in Rivers State, Nigeria, with the aim of determining effectiveness of SBT in improving knowledge, behaviour and skills of NR among midwives to reduce newborn deaths arising from perinatal asphyxia. Three research questions and corresponding hypotheses guided the study. Study design was Quasi experimental design and population was 270 midwives in Rivers State PHC Management Board (RSPHCMB). Purposive sampling technique was used to select a sample of 79 midwives. Data was collected using standardized Questionnaire and Observation Checklist of Paediatric Association of Nigeria Conference (PANCOF) on NRT (training). Socio-demographic data, research questions and hypotheses (tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance), were analyzed using simple percentage, mean, standard deviation, paired T-test and ANCOVA respectively. Findings indicated SBT improved level of knowledge, behaviour and skills with pretest and posttest mean of 1.48 and 1.58; 2.42 and 3.91 and 1.42 and 1.65; mean gain of 0.10(3.3%), 1.49(23.5%) and 0.23(7.50%) for knowledge, behaviour and skills respectively. Also, results suggested t-value 5.821, 20.428 and 11.281; ANCOVA F-value ($F =_{(13,378)}$, $df = 1/64$, $p < 0.05$) and ($F =_{(54,123)}$, $df = 1/64$, $p < 0.05$), and ($F =_{(7,244)}$, $df = 4/61$, $p < 0.05$); ($F = 6.876$, $df = 4/61$, $p < 0.05$) and ($F =_{(4,339)}$, $df = 4/61$, $p < 0.05$) was significant, however, there was no significant difference in improvement of skills of those who had and those who did not have previous NRT, as ANCOVA F-value ($F =_{(1,509)}$, $df = 1/64$, $p > 0.05$) was insignificant. In conclusion, SBT is effective in improving level of knowledge, behaviour and skills of NR algorithm among midwives. Therefore, continuous SBT is recommended to improve midwives' effective use of NR algorithm in PHC Centres in Rivers State, Nigeria.

**Effects of oil pollution on birth outcomes: a comparative study of two communities in
Rivers State
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ABSTRACT

The global surge in crude oil exploration and processing has led to increase in release of hazardous carbon-based compounds resulting in environmental pollution. The World Health Organization encourages countries towards reduction of adverse birth outcomes resulting from oil pollution. This study examined the effect of oil pollution on birth outcome in Kegbara Dere (K-Dere) in Gokana and Iriebe in Obio/Akpor Local Government Areas, Rivers State. A retrospective-cohort design was used for the study. Birth records in K-Dere (an oil polluted community) served as the exposed group and those in Iriebe as the comparison group. A sample size of 338 (169 for each group) systematically selected birth records was examined. A data extraction sheet designed by the researcher was used for data collection. Data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics at 5% level of significance. The findings showed that exposed group had significantly lower body weight compared to the comparison group ($P = 0.001$). The proportion of participants in the exposed group who were anaemic (64.5%) was significantly higher than comparison group (40.2%) with a $p = 0.001$. The result showed significant difference in preterm birth between the exposed group and the comparison group (16% vs. 7.7%, $P = 0.018$). At 6 weeks after birth, the infants in the exposed group weighted significantly less than those in the comparison group (4.64 ± 0.82 vs. 4.85 ± 0.92 , $P = 0.032$). Additionally, infants in the exposed group had significantly more morbidity at 6 weeks following birth compared to the infants in the comparison group ($P = 0.000$). Conclusively, communities prone to crude oil pollution has an increased chance of maternal anaemia, preterm birth, slower infant growth rate and infant morbidity at six weeks after birth. It is recommended that midwife specialists should intensify education and enlightenment campaign on the community taking a stance against illegal oil refining. Government should implement cleanup and remediation of polluted communities.

Key Words: Effects, crude oil, pollution, Pregnancy, Birth outcomes

Episiotomy practice and its indications from 2009-2018 in two selected hospitals in Yenagoa,
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ABSTRACT

Background: Episiotomy is a deliberate surgical incision to the perineum of woman in labour during vaginal delivery at the second stage of labour to facilitate the passage of the fetus. **Objectives:** To determine the practice of episiotomy and its indicators in two selected hospitals, Federal Medical Centre Yenagoa and Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital Okolobiri, Bayelsa State. **Methods:** Descriptive study, purposive sampling technique was used in which all mothers who were delivered via episiotomy at the two selected hospitals from 2009-2018. Checklist was used for data collection, case files of all deliveries were retrieved. **Results:** 914 (100%) engaged in selective episiotomy practice in both hospitals, with 36.8 (40.3%) indicating episiotomy as primigravida permeating disrespectful maternity care. 914 (100.0%) were given medio-lateral type, 708 (77.5%) had episiotomy done by a midwife, 914 (100%) stated that there was no consent form signed, primigravid constituting 368 (40.3%). The null hypothesis was tested using Chi-square (X^2) statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance and at a degree of freedom of 4. Statistical illustration of relationship between indication and practice of episiotomy: The Chi-square table on this is $X^2 = 36.453$ at a P value of 0.021 which is less than 0.05 and as such null hypothesis accepted. On the other hand, relationship between duration of second state of labour and practice of episiotomy shows that the duration of second stage of labour influences the practice of episiotomy from Chi-square table value which is $X^2 = 20.361$ at a P value of 0.042 which is less than 0.05 thus null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted. **Conclusion:** Policy makers should define the goal and objective, train and retrain professionals on the practice of episiotomy procedure. Midwives and obstetricians should encourage perineal massage from 3rd stage of labour to prevent perianal tear.

Key words: Episiotomy, Practice, Indications

Experience of caesarean section among mothers in the University of Port Harcourt teaching
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ABSTRACT

Childbirth is a memorable event in the life of a woman. Its impacts on the woman is a function of the mode of delivery and outcome which could either be positive when the outcome is favourable and negative if when there is an unfavourable occurrence. Postnatal mothers` were studied to explore the postnatal experiences of caesarean section in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. The study adopted a phenomenological qualitative design. A total of 20 women who had given birth through C-section in the postnatal clinic and postnatal ward of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital between March and April 2020 were recruited for this study. The participants were within the age range of 20 -49years. They were all married and had Secondary education as lowest level of education. Data was collected through face-to-face interviews which were guided by semi structured interview guide. Data was analysed using thematic analysis. Four themes were identified namely knowledge, Feelings before the operation, experiences after operation and participants' perspectives measures that could enhance positive experiences were influenced by the support of some of the nurses, doctors, loved ones and presence of their healthy babies. Conclusively, mothers in this study were less apprehensive which could be as a result of their good understanding of what C-section was all about. Nonetheless, mothers had diverse experiences ranging from pain, socioeconomic and environmental challenges which impacted negatively on their experiences while positive experiences were drawn from the strong support system from their loved ones and some of the health workers as well as presence of live, healthy babies. Therefore, it is recommended that caesarean section should form part of antenatal education. Healthcare administrators and managers should address the issues that contributed to mothers' negative experiences.

Key word: *Caesarean section, mothers, experience, post-natal*

Experiences of women during the prolonged latent phase of labour in the University of Port
Harcourt teaching hospital

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ABSTRACT

The latent phase of labour does not have a uniform definition and it is complex to understand. This phase is not often looked into and does not get the required attention despite the advances in medicine/maternity care because it is difficult to differentiate it from false labour. The onset of labour is subjective and there is need for collaborative effort to diagnose the prolonged latent phase of labour. The overall aim of this study was to explore the experiences of women during the prolonged latent phase of labour. A phenomenological qualitative design was used, in-depth interviews (IDIs) and Key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted and in addition a self-administered questionnaire which contained the consent form and socio-demographic data was administered for both interviews. Five primiparous and multiparous women and three midwives were interviewed. The interviews were tape recorded in addition to note taking and observation of the respondents. Data was analyzed thematically and 4 themes (labour onset and duration, labour experience, coping strategies, care and outcome) were identified from the study. Conclusively, the prolonged latent phase of labour is related to caesarean section and neonatal admission in Sick Baby Unit (SCBU), although the experience is not palatable, having a positive birth experience depends on the type of intrapartum care given by the caregivers during the prolonged latent phase of labour.

Key words: *prolonged latent phase, primiparous, multiparous, thematic, intrapartum*

Glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) pattern in relation to fasting blood glucose of pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in selected private hospitals in Port Harcourt metropolis, Rivers State

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Abstract

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is hyperglycemia in pregnancy. Glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) and Fasting blood glucose (FBG) are screening tools for diabetes but the use of HbA1c as a screening tool in GDM has not been widely accepted. Although HbA1c may be a better screening tool for GDM because it shows the average level of blood glucose in the preceding three months, its availability and accessibility is low due to cost. Fasting blood glucose which is easier to determine and readily estimated even in rural settings without electricity is thus commonly used. The aim of this study was to determine HbA1c pattern in relation to FBG of pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in selected private hospitals in Port-Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State, Nigeria. A Laboratory based descriptive cross-sectional study design was used with participants recruited using a convenience sampling technique. An ichroma machine for analysis of HbA1c data and a photocolourimetre for analysis of FBG data were used.

*A total of 113 pregnant women were studied with a mean age of **32.38 ± 5.40 years**. Prevalence of GDM with HbA1c was 5.3% while FBG was 6.2%. Socio-demographic (Age) and obstetric factors (Gravidity and Parity) were identified as risk factors for GDM.*

There was a strong linear positive correlation between participant's HbA1c pattern and FBG levels ($r=0.775$). The Regression equation was given as $Y (\text{HbA1C}) = 1.716 + 0.670 (\text{FBG})$ for the prediction of HbA1c values from FBG and vice versa thus making it possible for inter-conversions between the levels of FBG and HbA1c values. It is therefore recommended that facilities where HbA1c is not available, the regression equation formulated in this study can be used for inter-conversion of levels between HbA1c and FBG. Additionally, there is the need to closely monitor the blood glucose level of pregnant women who are gravida three or more, parity of two or more, and those that are ≥ 40 years of age.

Keywords: Glycated haemoglobin, fasting blood glucose, pregnant women, private hospitals, Port-Harcourt Metropolis.

**Health status of pregnant women in selected internally displaced person's camp, Delta State
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ABSTRACT

The recent flood situation in Nigeria has contributed to the upsurge in the percentage of Internally Displace Persons particularly in the Delta State. This caused an effect on the health status of pregnant women. The aim of this study was to assess the health status of pregnant women in selected internally displaced persons camp in Delta State. A laboratory based descriptive research design was used for this study with a total of 97 pregnant women, random selected of four selected internally displaced person's camp in Delta, November 2019. A quantitative method of data collection was adopted with the use of a validated structured questionnaire. Anthropometric assessment ad Blood specimen was collected for laboratory analysis with the use of rapid diagnostic test. Data were entered into statistical package for social statistic; descriptive statistics was used to summarize data. Inferential statistic; analysis of variance, chi square and logistic regression were used to test for association and predictors of health status at a 5% level of significant. From the result, the mean age of respondent was 29 (± 5.8) years and gestational age was 22.7(± 9.5) weeks. Altered sleeping pattern (67%) was the most common health problem, 27.8% of the pregnant women has poor health status as indicated with MAUC of >23 cm. A confirmation of health status with anemia (hemoglobin >11 and PCV of PCV $>33\%$) shows that 33% of respondent has a poor health status. HIV was prevalence among 4.1% of respondent and hepatitis B and C status was 2.1% each respective. Pregnant women in their second (2nd) trimester were 0.75 times more likely to have a good health status than pregnant women in their first trimester (OR=0.75, CI=0.016-0.352, p-value=0.01). The result of this study shows that about a quarter of the internally displaced pregnant women have poor health statuses. Government should develop a vertical program that focuses on health of pregnant women

Implementation of focused antenatal care and its associated factors in primary health care centres in Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive cross-sectional survey assessed the level of implementation of focused antenatal care and its associated factors in primary healthcare centres in Rivers State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study assessed health care providers' level of knowledge of focused antenatal care, ascertained the level of implementation of focused antenatal care and identify factors associated with poor implementation of focused antenatal care in primary healthcare centres in Rivers State. Three (3) research questions and one hypothesis were formulated to guide the study. A total of 162 healthcare workers were selected from primary health care centres in Rivers East Senatorial District, Rivers State through purposive and convenient sampling techniques. The instrument for data collection was a validated structured questionnaire. Data were analyzed using descriptive charts, frequencies tables and percentages. The hypotheses was tested for significance at 0.05 level of significance, using Chi-square (X^2) analysis. The null hypothesis was rejected since calculated X^2 value (42.83) was greater than the critical value (3.84). The findings of the study revealed that: majority (89.5%) of healthcare providers in primary health care centres in Rivers State have good knowledge of focused antenatal care, while 10.5% have poor knowledge. Majority (94.4%) of the respondents have high level implementation of focused antenatal care, while few (5.6%) respondents have low level implementation. The major factors associated with poor implementation of focused antenatal care are shortage of health workers in healthcare facilities, lack of adequate infrastructural development of health facilities, healthcare workers' unwillingness to work in rural areas and low level income among pregnant women. There is a significant relationship between health care providers' level of knowledge and the level of implementation of focused antenatal care in primary healthcare facilities in Rivers State, Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was recommended that health policy makers, hospital managements and nurse leaders should organize regular seminars and workshops for healthcare providers to help to increase their knowledge of components of FANC, more healthcare workers should be recruited and adequate infrastructural facilities developed, especially in the rural areas to ensure that focused antenatal care is effectively implemented in primary healthcare facilities, help to save lives thereby preventing and reducing the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity in the society.

Incidence of hepatitis b surface antigen among pregnant women attending antenatal in selected private clinics in Port Harcourt metropolis

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ABSTRACT

Background: Despite the implication of perinatal transmission of Hepatitis B virus from mothers to their fetus or newborn during pregnancy, routine antenatal screening of pregnant women has not been fully implemented in many Nigerian hospitals and clinics offering antenatal services. The study aimed to determine the incidence of hepatitis B surface antigen among pregnant women attending antenatal in selected private clinics in Port Harcourt metropolis. The study employed a cross-sectional design between March and April 2020. A purposive sampling technique was used to recruit 100 participants out of 125. Socio-demographic characteristics from respondents were retrieved from laboratory forms and labels on blood sample while medical risk factor exposure to HBsAg was gotten from patient's folders. Blood samples of participants were analyzed at a central laboratory. A commercial Rapid diagnostic Test strips was used; Micro point and lab/ACON to detect HBsAg in serum/plasma. The incidence of HBsAg among participants was mostly in young aged women, multiparas and those exposed to medical risk. Demographic data was presented in frequencies and percentages, descriptive results were presented in tables and charts. Inferential statistics were done via hypothesis testing with Pearson chi-square and results were also presented in tables. No significant relationship existed between age, parity and the incidence of HBsAg at a p value of 0.05. However, a significant relationship existed between medical risk factor exposure and the incidence of HBsAg virus among the pregnant women attending antenatal in the selected private clinics in Port Harcourt Metropolis, in Nigeria. Ante, intra, post-partum and 6monthly interval screening is recommended.

**Influence of socio-cultural factors on choice of childbirth place among women of
childbearing age, in Oyigbo Local Government Area, Rivers State
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ABSTRACT

Choices of childbirth places among women may influence the rate of maternal risks and some socio-cultural practices which encourage maternal mortality is still a major challenge especially in developing countries like Nigeria, one of the commonest of these childbirth place choices is home birth. The aim of this study was to find out the prevalent social and cultural factors that influence the choice of childbirth places among the women of child bearing age, in Oyigbo Local Government area of Rivers State in Nigeria with three objectives and five research questions to guide the study. The theoretical framework applied was based on the Agency-structure theory, which is a theory centered on how individuals' behaviors is being influenced by the societal structure and the interrelationship existing between the agency and the structure. A self-structured questionnaire was used as instrument to collect data for the study through simple random sampling, and these data was analyzed using Frequency and percentage for descriptive statistics while chi-square was used for inferential statistics at 0.05 level of significance. The result showed that mean age of the women is 35.27 and most of them had secondary education (57.1%), also there was significant associations between income ($\chi^2 = 75.701$; $p=0.000$) and choices of childbirth places among the women but there were no significant association between cultural factors ($\chi^2 = 8.573$, $p=0.380$), social factors ($\chi^2 = 4.661$, $p=0.793$) and educational qualifications ($\chi^2 = 23.257$, $p=0.107$) and choices of childbirth places among the women. There was a high level of hospital/ health facility adherence (91.4%) among the women in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State; their choice of childbirth place was majorly influenced by their level of income.

Knowledge and attitude of midwives towards ethico- legal issues in midwifery practice in the university of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to investigate knowledge and attitude of midwives towards ethico legal issues in midwifery practice in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Rivers State, Nigeria the study further determined the knowledge and attitude of midwives towards ethico- legal issues, extent of negligence in midwifery practice, factors responsible and measures put in place to minimize ethico-legal issues in midwifery practice in UPTH. Five research questions guided the study. Descriptive survey design was adopted in the study. A sample of 250 registered midwives was drawn from the population of 660 midwives in the facility. A self-developed questionnaire was used to collect data from midwives working in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, who were on duty, purposive sampling technique was found to be appropriate for this study. The descriptive statistical tools of frequency and percentage was used to answer the research question while chi square was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level was used to analyse data. Findings revealed that most of the participants have good knowledge of ethics and the law. Although, participants have different opinions as regards following patients' wish always, while others were of the opinion that it is unethical to oblige patient's wishes at all times. Based on the findings, it was revealed that provision of emotional support and legal protection of the staffs by the organization is essential to encourage voluntary reporting of incidents. Moreover, training and emphasizing on the professional code of ethics can be effective in deepening the understanding of and belief in the moral foundations of patient safety.

Keywords: *Ethico-legal, Knowledge, Attitude, Professional and Nurse/Midwives*

Knowledge and attitude of pregnant women towards oil spillage effects on pregnancy outcomes in Gokana, Rivers State.

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Abstract

This study examined the knowledge and attitude of pregnant women towards oil spillage effects on pregnancy-outcomes in Gokana, Rivers State. Four research questions and two hypotheses guided the study which adopted a community-based cross-sectional design. The study population comprised 405 pregnant women living in Mogbo and Bodo communities of Gokana out of which 197 were selected using simple random sampling with 192 valid for data analysis. A self-structured questionnaire (modified 4-point likert scale format) with reliability index of 0.85, was used to collect data by direct delivery and retrieval method. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentages, mean, standard deviation and inferential statistics (chi-square). Results revealed that out of the 192 respondents studied, 150(78.1%) had poor knowledge while 42(21.9%) had good knowledge; 152(79.2%) had negative attitude while 40(20.8%) had positive attitude towards oil spillage effects on pregnancy-outcomes; the factors influencing knowledge and attitude of pregnant women towards oil spillage effects on pregnancy-outcomes include type of accommodation, occupation, culture, age, awareness, educational attainment, poverty and personal beliefs; there was a direct relationship between knowledge and attitude of pregnant women; while educational attainment did not in any way influence the attitude of pregnant women towards oil spillage effects on pregnancy-outcomes. The study concluded that majority of pregnant women had poor knowledge and negative attitude towards oil spillage effects on pregnancy-outcomes. The need for awareness creation and behavioural intervention to enhance the knowledge and attitude of pregnant women towards oil spillage effects on pregnancy-outcomes was recommended.

Knowledge and implementation of integrated management of childhood illness intervention strategy among nurses and midwives in primary health centres in Port Harcourt.

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the knowledge and implementation of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) intervention strategy among Nurses/Midwives in Model Primary Health Centres, Port Harcourt. The objective was to determine the knowledge of Nurses and Midwives on IMCI intervention strategy, to determine skills used by IMCI trained providers, to assess providers' adherence to IMCI strategy guideline in the care of under-five children and to identify factors influencing effective implementation of the IMCI intervention strategy. The study adopted the descriptive survey design with a target population of 60 Nurse/Midwives. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. The instrument for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire. The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach's Alpha which yielded a reliability index of 0.86. Descriptive statistics was used to analyse data, probability value of 0.05 was considered. Findings showed that out of 52 respondents 12.5% trained IMCI were within the age of 51-60 years. Most of the respondents were females 86.7 (RN/RM) 85.7% (BNSC) 100% IMCI trained and 13.3% male. The study revealed that Nurses and Midwives have knowledge of the IMCI intervention strategy, but in skill and adherence were unable to assess, classify and treat the sick comprehensively and consistently. The researcher therefore, recommend that training should be organized for Nurses of the Primary care levels; follow-up visit at six weeks after completion of the training as lack of supervision and availability of IMCI information booklet remains an area of concern. Experts should explore for alternative/innovative approaches for in-service IMCI training and sustain availability of updated chart booklets and other IMCI materials.

Key terms: *IMCI, Health Care Providers, Care givers, IMCI Trained, Knowledge, Implementation*

**Knowledge and utilization of information, communication technology in the management of preterm babies by nurses at University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital
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ABSTRACT

This study investigated ICT Knowledge and utilization of Information, Communication Technology in the management of Preterm Babies by Nurses at UPTH, Rivers State, Nigeria. Four research questions were used to guide the study. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. An instrument titled "Knowledge and Utilization of Information, Communication Technology Questionnaire" (KUIC TQ) was used for the data collection. The test-retest method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument and the coefficient obtained was 0.76. The instrument was administered and successfully collected by the researcher. Frequency and percentage were used for the data analysis. It was found that: most nurses know little about information technology knowledge, Poor Power supply affects the use of ICT, poor knowledge of ICT is always a problem to its usage for nurses in special care baby unit of UPTH; There is need for constant training and retaining of nurses on ICT, constant evaluation of the performance of the nurses on the use of ICT is needed. It was recommended among others that; Government should provide adequate and functional information and communication technology systems in all the health facilities in the Rivers State and the country at large. As this will enhance the capacity of the health workers in the discharge of their duties in the hospital.

Knowledge, attitude and acceptability of epidural analgesia among antenatal attendees in selected tertiary hospital in Rivers State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

Parturition an ancient and important life event for human existence is accompanied by pain. A gold standard for painless labour is epidural analgesia. Epidural analgesia is effective for pain management in labour yet it has not received enough coverage in our setting despite its benefits. The study was aimed to assess knowledge, attitude and acceptance of epidural analgesia among antenatal attendees in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Port Harcourt, Nigeria. It was a descriptive cross-sectional study among 302 women aged 18years and above attending the antenatal clinic of UPTH recruited by convenient sampling technique. A self - structured questionnaire with reliability coefficient of 0.80 was used for data collection. The mean age of the participants was (29.1±7.1), (73.7%) married, (62.1%) had tertiary education, (53.6%) unemployed and (58.4%) had 2 to 3 children. Majority (50.5%) had good knowledge, (60.8%) had negative attitude and (58.7%) moderately accept epidural analgesia. There was a significant association between knowledge and acceptability as p-value of 0.001 was got at 0.05 significant level. The study revealed good knowledge, negative attitude and moderate acceptability of epidural analgesia in labour among pregnant women in UPTH. Therefore, it is recommended that more efforts should be made to raise awareness by providing health education, dispelling misconceptions, enhancing training of providers and subsidizing the cost of providing epidural analgesia in labour since women desire painless labour.

Knowledge, attitude and utilization of pre-conception counseling services among women attending antenatal clinic in Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the knowledge, attitude and utilization of preconception counseling services (PCCS) among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH), Port Harcourt. Four (4) research questions and two (2) hypotheses guided the study which adopted descriptive survey as its working design. The study population consisted of 1000 pregnant women out of which 427 were selected using the systematic sampling technique with only 384 valid for the study. A structured self-administered questionnaire was used for data collection. Data analysis was done using descriptive of frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviation as well as inferential statistics of chi-square with p-value set at 0.05. The Statistical Product and Service Solutions was employed in the analytical process. Results revealed that out of the 384 respondents studied, 21.9% had poor knowledge while 78.1% had good knowledge of preconception counseling services; 286(74.5%) had positive attitude while 98(25.5%) had negative attitude towards preconception counseling services; 257 (66.9%) had low utilization, 55(14.3%) had moderate utilization while 72(18.8%) had high utilization levels regarding preconception counseling; Ignorance scored highest as one of the factors influencing utilization of preconception counseling among pregnant women, in RSUTH. 26.6%, followed by poor family support, 25.0%, attitude of healthcare providers, 21.4%, religious and cultural belief, 10.9%), poor access to facility for pre-conception counseling, 6.8%, perceived cost of service, 5.2% and absence of preconception counseling services, 4.2%. The study concluded that though majority of women had good knowledge and positive attitude towards preconception counseling services, very few actually utilize such services. Based on the study finding, educational, behavioural and related interventions directed at enhancing the utilization of preconception counseling services was recommended.

**Leadership and functioning of maternal health services in selected rural health centers in
Rivers State**

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ABSTRACT

This study examined leadership and functioning of maternal health services in selected rural health centers in Rivers State. Three (3) research questions guided the study which adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study consisted of 252 health workers out of which 169 were selected using the multi-stage sampling technique. The instruments for data collection consisted of a structured questionnaire titled "Leadership and Functioning of Maternal Health Services Questionnaire (LFMHSQ). Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages. Results revealed that out of the 169 respondents studied, 84(49.7%) strongly agreed, 62(37.7%) agreed, 11(6.50%) disagreed while 12(7.00%) strongly disagreed that appropriate infrastructural management enhances the quality of maternal healthcare services delivery. 86(51.0%) strongly agreed, 61(36.0%) agreed, 12(5.90%) disagreed while 10(5.90%) strongly disagreed that good working enhances the quality of maternal healthcare services delivery. 83(49.1%) strongly agreed, 65(38.5%) agreed, 10(5.90%) disagreed while 11(6.50%) strongly disagreed that good human resource management improves the functions of maternal healthcare services. The study concluded that good healthcare leadership is crucial to ensuring optimal functionality of rural maternal healthcare service delivery through quality healthcare leadership. Based on the study findings, the need for government and other key players in the health sector to ensure effective leadership in rural healthcare centres was recommended.

**Midwives' perception of clinical leadership in obstetrics and gynaecology wards of tertiary hospitals in Rivers State
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ABSTRACT

The study explored midwives' knowledge and perception of clinical leadership in the obstetrics and gynaecology ward of the two tertiary health institutions in the state. The study adopted the cross-sectional design. A total of 115 midwives took part in the study. A 36-item researcher designed instrument was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by experts in education and project supervisor. The Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the reliability of the instrument to obtain a coefficient of 0.80. Five research question and five hypotheses guided the study. The mean standard deviation 95%, confident interval of mean, standard error and bar charts were used for data analysis while the independent sample t-test was used to test the hypotheses. The result showed that the midwives knowledge and perception of clinical leadership in the obstetrics and gynaecology ward in tertiary health care centres of Rivers State was high (3.26) SD = 0.15 in RSUTH while UPTH was (3.65) SD = 0.29 mean understanding of the purpose of clinical leadership in their specific exercise in obstetrics and gynaecology ward was also high with 3.47, SD = 0.39 in RSUTH while UPTH was 3.59, SD = 0.38, the knowledge of the necessary antecedent of the emergence of good clinical leadership in midwifery was high with 3.41; SD = 0.30 in RSUTH while UPTH was 3.69, SD = 0.31, that of midwives knowledge of personal attributes for effective clinical leadership in midwifery practice recorded high respond with 3.52, SD = 0.29 in RSUTH while UPTH was 3.66 SD = 0.27. Also, the knowledge of potential positive outcome of effective clinical leadership for both clinicians and patients were equally high with 3.45, SD = 0.32 in RSUTH while UPTH was 3.69, SD = 0.30. The result showed a slight difference among the midwives' knowledge and perception of clinical leadership in the obstetrics and gynaecology wards of the tertiary hospitals in Rivers State. Based on this, it was recommended among others that the State Ministry of Health and Federal Ministry of Health should organize regular midwives' clinical leadership training among the obstetrics and gynaecology wards as this will cushion the disparity in their knowledge and perception of clinical leadership in the O & G wards of the tertiary hospitals in Rivers State.

Midwives' perspectives on post abortion care in tertiary hospitals in Rivers State, Nigeria
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ABSTRACT

This investigation was conducted to assess midwives' perspectives on post abortion care in tertiary hospitals in Rivers State, Nigeria. Specifically, it assessed midwives' perceptions of post abortion care, determined midwives' attitude to post abortion care, determined midwives' commitment to provision of post abortion care, and examined the factors influencing midwives' perspectives on post abortion care in tertiary hospitals in Rivers State, Nigeria. Four research questions and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The research design employed for the study was mixed method. A total of 138 nurses/midwives providing post abortion care services were sampled through purposive and convenience sampling techniques. Instruments of data collection were a validated self-administered structured questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide. Data collected were analyzed using mixed method Quantitative analysis was done using SPSS descriptive statistics, frequencies, tables and percentages, while qualitative analysis was done using thematic analytical method. The hypotheses were tested for at 0.05 level of significance, using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) analysis. The findings of the study revealed that: (91.3%) of nurses/midwives have positive perceptions about provision of post abortion care in tertiary health care facilities in Rivers State. (81.2%) of nurses/midwives have positive attitude towards provision of post abortion care in tertiary health care facilities in Rivers State. (90.6%) of nurses/midwives were highly committed to provision of post abortion care in tertiary hospital in Rivers State factors influencing midwives' perspectives on post abortion care in River State, Nigeria is: shortage of midwives in healthcare facilities, negative attitude towards provision of post abortion care, negative perceptions among midwives, and lack of commitment to post abortion care among midwives. There is a significant relationship between midwives' perceptions on post abortion care and commitment to provision of post abortion care in tertiary hospitals in Rivers State, Nigeria ($p = 0.723$). There is a significant relationship between midwives' attitude towards post abortion care and commitment to provision of post abortion care in tertiary hospitals in Rivers State, Nigeria ($p = 0.682$). Nurses/midwives responsible for post abortion care should consistently and correctly practice it in all healthcare facilities. More nurses/midwives should be recruited into healthcare facilities since shortage of nurses/midwives is a factor affecting midwives' perspectives on post abortion care.

Mistreatment of women throughout birthing process in tertiary healthcare institutions in Rivers State: implication for quality maternity care

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ABSTRACT

This examined mistreatment of women throughout birthing process in tertiary healthcare institutions in Rivers State: Implication for quality maternity care. Five (5) research questions and 5 hypotheses guided the study which adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised 520 women attending antenatal and post-natal clinics of University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and Rivers State University Teaching Hospital out of which 249 were selected using the Convenience sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was a self-administered structured questionnaire designed on a two-scale format (yes/no) with a reliability index of 0.83. Data collection was done using the direct delivery and retrieval method to ensure high return rate. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics of frequencies, percentages, mean and inferential statistics of chi-square. Results revealed that majority of pregnant women experience physical abuse, denial of autonomy, non-consented clinical care, non-confidential and non-dignified care during birthing process to a significant extent. This study concluded that majority of pregnant women experience disrespectful care during childbirth. Based on the study findings, the following are hereby recommended; active participation of women in all aspects of their care including decision making, women should be provided with dignified care during childbirth and afterward, women's right to self-disclosure during childbirth should be respected, full informed consent should be sought for and obtained from women during childbirth and the principle of confidentiality should be respected at all times when caring for women during childbirth.

Keywords: Mistreatment of Women, Birthing Process, Tertiary Institutions.

**Nutritional practices of pregnant women attending selected health centres in Obio/Akpor
local government area of Rivers state**

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ABSTRACT

This research was aimed at examining the nutritional Practices of Pregnant Women Attending Selected Health Centres in Obio/ Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State using simple random sampling. The health centres selected comprises of the following: model primary health centres Rumueme, model primary health centre Rumuigbo, model primary health centre Rumuodomanya, model primary health centre Rumuepirikom, and model primary health centre Ozuoba. A sample size of 422 was used for statistical analysis at a reliability coefficient of 0.70 and a percentage, frequency and regression statistics at 0.05 alpha level. The result showed that nutritional preference significantly predicted the nutritional practices of the pregnant folks investigated in Akpor Kingdom ($r = 0.448, p < 0.05$). Other factors like knowledge ($r = 0.078, p > 0.05$), age ($r = 0.010, p > 0.05$) and educational status ($r = 0.061, p > 0.05$) did not significantly predict the nutritional practices of the respondents. The nutritional practices of pregnant women attending selected health centres in Obio/ Akpor Local Government Area had their nutritional preferences. It was recommended that, Health care workers at the antenatal clinics should encourage healthy feeding practices during their health talks.

Oil spill, miscarriage and infertility: a comparative cross-sectional study of Okrika and Port Harcourt local government areas, Rivers State
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ABSTRACT

Oil production and exploration is highly lucrative, and a significant source of revenue in Nigeria. There is a mixture of evidence on the impact of oil spill contaminants on reproductive failure, such as infertility and human miscarriage, with occasional research indicating significantly increased risk. This study determined and compared the prevalence of miscarriage and infertility among women of childbearing age in a community (Ekerekana) that has recently been exposed and another community (Ozuboko) not exposed to oil spills in Rivers State. Cross-comparative sectional study design was adopted that employed a convenient sampling technique. From each community, a sample of 187 women in their childbearing age (18-45 years) was drawn. A semi-structured, interviewer-administered questionnaire was used for data collection. Ethics committee of the University of Port Harcourt gave ethical clearance for the study. Findings revealed that prevalence of miscarriage and infertility in Ekerekana community is 22.2% and 6.1% respectively; while in Ozuboko community it is 14.4% and 5.0% respectively. There was no statistical difference in the prevalence of miscarriage and infertility in Ekerekana community and Ozuboko community. Alcohol intake and age are not associated factors of miscarriage and infertility experienced by women in both communities. Based on the findings, it was concluded that oil spills may not have long-term effects on maternal experience of miscarriage and infertility. It was recommended that economic and environmental impact assessments, irrespective of the source of the spill, should be conducted to ensure that the potential health effects of spills are properly addressed.

Key words: *Oil spillage, Miscarriage, Infertility, Women of child bearing age*

Perception and acceptance of epidural analgesia during labour among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in University of Port Harcourt teaching hospital

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ABSTRACT

Despite the numerous merits of epidural analgesia, its acceptance and practice has become a subject of contention. The present study is a qualitative research aimed at evaluating the perception and acceptance of epidural analgesia during labour amongst pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in university of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. A total of 30 eligible pregnant women were recruited for the study and audio-taped interviews were recorded saturation occurred at the 16th subject. Thematic analysis identified the following themes; assessment of labour pain, pain relief during labour, perception of epidural analgesia, as well as acceptance of epidural analgesia during labour. The respondents had experienced labour pain in their previous deliveries, half of whom are aware of epidural analgesia but not used. All the respondents would accept epidural analgesia only if they are assured of its safety to them and their babies. Conclusively, non-pharmacological measures of pain relief are practiced in many obstetric units; the present study showed that pregnant women have strong interest to opt for epidural analgesia, although proper sensitization is still needed. This study recommends that more attention be directed to improve the practice of epidural analgesia in labour.

**Perception and determinants of place of birth among post-natal women attending
rumuodumanya model primary health center in Rivers State municipal, Nigeria**

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the perception and determinants of place of birth among post-natal women of Primary Health Centre Rumuodumanya, Rivers State. The aim was to ascertain postnatal women's perception and the factors that determine their choice of place of birth. It was a phenomenological study using in-depth interviews for eight postnatal women who consented to participate. Data analysis was done thematically, and themes and sub themes were generated. Findings showed that majority of the women preferred to deliver in a hospital or health centre, and majority also noted that the caring, cordial relationship and good hospitality of healthcare workers motivated them to give birth in a health facility. Furthermore, the women with higher educational qualification and parity delivered their first baby in a health facility because it was their first experience. However, some of the women felt they were treated poorly by the healthcare workers in the hospital and therefore, choose to have subsequent births at home or with Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). Some women said their family members believed in hospital delivery and this to a large extent affected their choice of giving birth in the health facility. Also, majority of the respondents agreed they gave birth in the health facility because it was close to their houses. Some of them choose to give birth at home because it was cheaper than in a health facility. In conclusion, the women perceived that they were poorly treated by healthcare workers and continue to give birth at home or with Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). Therefore, it is recommended that midwives should embark on community mobilization to create awareness and provide information to mothers on the benefits of giving birth in a health facility; in addition, capacity building should be organized for health workers to improve their knowledge and attitude towards provision of respectful maternity care to ensure safe and high-quality care for women of child bearing ages and their infants.

Perception and satisfaction with childbirth experience among postnatal women in selected health centres in Obio/Akpor local government area, Rivers State.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated perception and satisfaction of childbirth experience among women attending postnatal clinics in selected health centres in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. Cross-sectional research design was adopted for the study. The population for the study comprised of all the 400 women attending postnatal clinic in the health centres. A sample size of 200 postnatal women were drawn from the population through systematic sampling technique. A self-structured questionnaire was used for data collection which was personally administered and retrieved. Frequency and percentage were used for data analysis. It was found that majority of the women have normal vaginal delivery. Majority of the postnatal women 150(75%) had good perception while 50(25%) had poor perception of child birth experience. majority of the postnatal women 150(75%) were satisfied of child birth experience while minority of the postnatal women 50(25%) were dissatisfied with childbirth experience. The result also showed that, health status of women, level of awareness about method of delivery, emotional and psychological strength, attitudes of doctors and midwives, quality evidence-based care and supportive care are major factors that influence women's childbirth satisfaction. It was recommended among others that: Government should provide adequate human and non-human resources in the primary health facilities. This will help to enhance the capacity of personnel in service delivery especially, in childbirth and its related issues.

Keywords: *perception, satisfaction, childbirth, postnatal and experience.*

Perception and willingness of nurses and midwives to accept male involvement in maternity care in selected health facilities in Imo State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Male involvement has been recommended as an effective strategy to combat maternal and child death in pregnancy and childbirth and to promote effective child care. This study assessed nurses/midwives' perception and willingness to accept males in midwifery care. A total of 84 nurses/midwives participated in the study out of 100 purposively selected respondents in the facilities. The study employed a mixed-method approach in which a questionnaire and an interview guide were used to collect data. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS Version 25 while qualitative data were analyzed by grouping ideas into themes. Respondents were knowledgeable about the importance of male involvement in maternity care and 60.7% of the respondents had a good level of knowledge on male involvement in maternity care. Respondents' number of years in practice ($X^2 = 13.76$, $p = 0.001$) and rank ($X^2 = 14.75$, $p = 0.012$) were significantly associated with their level of knowledge. Over 80% of the nurses and midwives also showed a good perception of male involvement in maternity care. Respondents' facility ($X^2 = 6.290$, $p = 0.012$) and ward of practice ($X^2 = 9.280$, $p = 0.010$) significantly influenced the respondent's perception of the necessity of male involvement in maternity. Respondents in FMC and those in ANC and Labour ward in particular were more likely to have better perception than those in PNC. The concept of male involvement in maternity care was accepted among a majority of the nurses and midwives, however, the attitude of some nurses in the ward, facility infrastructure, limited space, hospital policy influenced their acceptance. The respondents were willing to modify their attitude, ward teachings, and act more friendly/politely to men who visited the wards. If nurses/midwives and other health care providers can accept the concept of male involvement and willingly modify constraining factors, maternity care will become more 'Male-friendly'. It is recommended that health facilities should create a more male-friendly infrastructure and a couple of approaches in care in the maternity wards.

Keywords: perception, willingness, acceptance, male involvement, maternity care

**Perception on male involvement in maternity care among men in Port Harcourt metropolis,
Rivers State.**

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ABSTRACT

Men involvement in maternal health services globally has been associated with positive reproductive health outcomes, such as increase in the use of contraceptives, improved maternal health outcomes and increased uptake of interventions to prevent HIV transmission. The objective of this study was to determine the perception on male involvement in maternity care among men in Port Harcourt Metropolis. This qualitative study involved in depth interviews (IDIs) with 11 husbands of women who had at least one child in Port Harcourt metropolis. The interview aimed at investigating the perception on male involvement in maternity care, deterrents to being involved and opined strategies to motivate them to get involved. The data obtained for each of the objectives were put together and analyzed thematically. The findings from the analyzed data revealed that majority of men have positive perception on male involvement in maternity care. Although, majority of the men are less actively involved in antenatal class, all the husbands are actively involved in delivery and postnatal care. All of the men gave social, financial and emotional support to their spouses. Poor male awareness on roles during maternity care, tight schedule of male partners, spousal conflict, too many financial responsibilities and government policies which includes hospital policies, were identified as major barriers to male involvement in maternity care. The result of this study has shown that men have positive perception of male involvement in maternity care but poor awareness on participation, financial challenges and health care provider's attitude stand as deterrent to active involvement. In order to get men to be involved, these deterrents must be addressed and tackled effectively.

Key words

Perception, Maternity care, maternal mortality, male involvement, complications, awareness campaign, Port Harcourt metropolis, Nigeria.

**Prevalence and pattern of congenital anomalies in University of Port Harcourt teaching hospital, Rivers State, Nigeria
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ABSTRACT

Birth defects can be life threatening resulting in long term disability and negatively affect individuals, families, healthcare system and society at large. This study investigated the prevalence and pattern of congenital anomalies in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, identified factors associated with the prevalence of congenital anomalies, adopted a descriptive retrospective cross sectional study design. The study population included all 837 cases of congenital anomalies recorded in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital from 2010-2019. Data was collected from birth register; the neonatal admission register and individual patient's record in the general record department of the Hospital. The instrument for Data collection was a self-structured checklist made up of two sections. Section A reflected the socio demographic characteristics of mothers and neonates while section b listed congenital anomalies diagnosed. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics, frequency, percentage, SPSS version 23. Findings showed that out of 21,738 deliveries recorded for the period, 837 babies were diagnosed with congenital anomalies, giving a prevalence rate of 3.9% implying 39/1,000 births. The pattern of congenital anomalies showed that majority 426(50.9%) of the cases were females and term babies 703(84%). Majority 717(85.7%) of the mothers were between 21-35years, 753(90%) booked their pregnancies with the facility while 555(66.3%) had spontaneous vaginal deliveries. The most affected system was the cardiovascular 243(29%) followed by musculoskeletal 209(25.0%). Tetralogy of fallot was the most common 88(10.5%) in the cardiovascular system while upper limb reduction was the most common 69(8.2%) for musculoskeletal system. Majority 585(69.9%) of the congenital anomalies were external. Statistical analysis revealed that gestational age at birth, birth weight and maternal age were significantly associated with prevalence of congenital anomalies. It is recommended that preventive strategies be part of health education for general public.

Key words: *Congenital anomalies, neonates, prevalence, pattern, birth defects.*

Prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in selected private hospitals in Port Harcourt metropolis

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ABSTRACT

This is a laboratory based cross sectional study of anaemia in pregnancy of 100 respondents from high, middle and low profile (socioeconomic status) residential areas who were receiving antenatal care in selected private hospitals in Port Harcourt metropolis. The broad objective was to assess the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in selected private hospitals in Port Harcourt metropolis. A cross-sectional laboratory-based study design was adopted in this study and a sample size of 100 pregnant women from high, middle and low-profile residential areas who met the inclusion criteria were selected using total population sampling technique. The demographic data was collected from the clients' laboratory investigation request forms and haemoglobin level was determined by analysis of the blood samples of the participants using the micro hematocrit centrifuge machine and micro hematocrit reader. The data were analysed and the result presented in tables and figures using means, frequency and proportions. The findings showed that the prevalence of anaemia among the study participants from the low-profile group was 47.8%. It was observed that the proportion of women from the high-profile areas with hemoglobin level $\geq 11.0\text{g/dl}$ were more compared to those from the low-profile areas. It was also observed from the study that socioeconomic status and standard of living could inversely affect hemoglobin level. The researcher therefore suggested that reproductive health education should be given to all women to create awareness about the risk of developing anaemia. There is a need for public interventions through media outreach, mass media campaigns programs to sensitize and educate women on the importance eating iron rich foods, early ante natal clinic bookings, and medication compliance during pregnancy.

**Prevalence of chlamydia infection among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in
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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the prevalence of Chlamydia infection among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). The specific objectives of the study were to determine the prevalence of Chlamydia infection among pregnant women, ascertain the prevalence of Chlamydia infection among pregnant women based on their age, trimester of pregnancy and parity. Four (4) research questions and hypotheses guided the study which adopted descriptive retrospective design. The population of the study comprised all antenatal mothers who accessed care in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital from January 2010 to December 2019 which totaled 21738. A total of 1579 case folders of all antenatal mothers who accessed care in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital from January 2010 to December 2019 were conveniently sampled. Data collection was done using a structured checklist titled "Prevalence of Chlamydia Infection among Pregnant Women Checklists (PCIPWC)". Data collected was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 22 was used in analyzing the data. Results revealed that there was 7.3% prevalence of Chlamydia infection among pregnant women in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital from January 2010 to December, 2019. The study concluded that there is an increasing prevalence of Chlamydia infection among pregnant women. Based on the study findings, it was recommended that pregnant women should be routinely screened for Chlamydia infection as a way of reducing the prevalence and associated obstetric outcomes. Pregnant women should also be given appropriate education on reproductive tract infection prevention strategies as a way of reducing prevalence of infections such as Chlamydia infection in pregnancy.

Prevalence of malaria parasitaemia among pregnant women attending four selected private hospitals in Port Harcourt, Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

This research is a cross sectional facility-based study on the prevalence of malaria parasitaemia among pregnant women attending four selected private hospitals in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. Three research questions and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Sample size was calculated using the Fisher formula. Using simple random sampling technique, a total of 103 participants who gave consent were recruited for the study; however, 3 participants did not meet the inclusion criteria hence only 100 pregnant women were studied. Data was collected using the laboratory request form for microscopy of the participants' blood sample: the socio-demographic data of the women were collected from the laboratory request form which included age, trimesters of the pregnancy and number of pregnancies. Venous blood samples were collected into EDTA sample bottles and taken to a central laboratory where a blood smear microscopy test was carried out to determine the presence of malaria parasite. Results were subjected to analysis using both descriptive and inferential statistics and results were presented in tables and graphs. Findings revealed high prevalence of malaria parasitaemia in pregnancy 61(61%), and more common in the second trimester 28(45.9%), and in multigravidae 43(70.5%). The study concluded that there is no significant relationship between trimester of pregnancy and number of pregnancies with malaria infection among pregnant women ($P = 0.05$). Based on these findings, it was recommended among others that malaria parasite test should be included in routine antenatal care, that some studies on malaria parasitaemia in pregnant women should be carried out say around June to July when the rainfall is highest, especially in the South South region of Nigeria, to see if the prevalence is mainly due to the excess rainfall and wet weather condition in this region or not and so on.

Quality antenatal care services in federal medical centre, Yenagoa Bayelsa State

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ABSTRACT

Antenatal care is a care provided by skilled health professionals to pregnant women and adolescent girls in order to ensure the best health conditions for both mother and baby during pregnancy.

The component of ANC are: *risk identification prevention and management of pregnancy – related disease, health education and health promotion*

The research was conducted of the quality of antenatal care services in Federal Medical Centre Yenagoa Bayelsa State. A descriptive cross-sectional design was utilized to carry out this study at the Federal Medical Centre Yenagoa a sample of 306 pregnant women who registered in FMC (Federal Medical Centre) as well as mothers who are currently receiving ANC and delivered at the centre in their last pregnancy with babies of six months old and less was drawn from their population through purposive sampling technique, data collection was done using semi-structured self-administered questionnaire. Ethical clearance was gotten from the university of Port Harcourt and Federal Medical Centre research ethic committee and consents, confidentiality privacy and beneficence were ensured for test of associations, statistical significance was set at 0.05.

Majority of the respondent agreed that there is adequate structure for antenatal care services, there are proper documentation of ANC process at the centre, women were always attended to at ease as well as good attention was given to pregnant women at each visit, ANC activities are regular and are attended to by health personnel's it was found that there is influence of material age on quality of ANC in FMC as well as influence of educational status on ANC in FMC Yenagoa.

Quality antenatal care services was found to be adequate it was evidenced by the structures, good processes etc it is recommended that advocacy to develop a better approach towards antenatal care in line with World Health Organization recommendation standard for ANC be implemented with provision of adequate structure for ANC in all Federal Medical Centre Nationally.

Types and patterns of bacterial urinary tract infection among internally displaced pregnant women in selected camps in Niger Delta

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the types and patterns of bacterial urinary tract infection among internally displaced pregnant women in selected camps in Niger Delta. Three (3) research questions and 2 hypotheses guided the study which adopted descriptive cross-sectional survey design. The population of the study comprised 108 internally displaced pregnant women who also formed the study sample as total sampling method was adopted due to the limited number of study participants. The tools for data collection were midstream urine samples gathered using sterile screw capped universal containers and the instruments used in isolating the bacterial uropathogens which include Cysteine-Lactose Deficient (CLED) agar, MacConkey and Nutrient agar plates. Descriptive statistics of frequency and percentage was used to analyze the research questions while inferential statistics of chi-square was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Results revealed that 67.6% of the internally displaced pregnant women had bacterial urinary tract infection. Results from the study showed that bacterial isolates in internally displaced pregnant women with urinary tract infection comprised of Escherichia coli 53.4%, followed by Klebsiella species 19.2%, Staphylococcus aureus 8.22%, Proteus species 6.85%, Enterococcus 4.11%, Streptococcus species 4.11% and Pseudomonas species 4.11%. There was no significant association between age, parity, trimester of pregnancy and the incidence of bacterial urinary tract infection among internally displaced pregnant women ($P > 0.05$). However, religion was significantly associated with the incidence of bacterial urinary tract infection among internally displaced pregnant women ($P < 0.05$). The study concluded that there is an increasing incidence of bacterial urinary tract infection among internally displaced pregnant women. Based on the study findings, early routine screening of all internally displaced pregnant women presenting or not presenting with clinical symptoms of urinary tract infection was recommended. The need for good personal and environmental hygiene to be encouraged in internally displaced persons' camp was also recommended.

**Women's experience of labour pain in primary healthcare centers in Obio Akpor local
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ABSTRACT

Labour pain experience has posed a lot of worries for women all over the world. This study investigated women's experiences of labour pain during childbirth in three health centers in Obio-Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. A mixed method phenomenological study was adopted, with a population comprising of post-natal women who came for six weeks post-delivery check-up. For the qualitative study, the instrument for data collection was an interview guide and then thematic data analysis was done. For the quantitative study, a questionnaire was distributed using multistage sampling to select 249 respondents. Data was analyzed using the Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 25.0. Findings showed that labour pain was described as sharp, sometimes unbearable and terrible but is a normal thing for every pregnant woman to experience during labour. In addition, pregnant women used some coping strategies such as walking up and down, and lying on their side. Also, the study showed that a little more than half of the respondents (55.0%) experienced severe pain during childbirth. In addition, the age of the women had a significant association with the intensity of pain experienced ($p < 0.05$). It was concluded that women experienced sharp and severe pain during labour but with a positive perception that such pain is normal for every woman in labour. It is recommended that, health care workers especially midwives should put more effort to inform pregnant women about the various labour pain coping strategies during their antenatal visits.

Keywords: Women, Labour, Pain, Experience and Strategy

**Women's perception regarding the attitude of healthcare providers in maternities at
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ABSTRACT

Positive attitude of healthcare workers towards women has been identified as one of the most impactful strategies for enhancing the utilization of maternal healthcare services and the reduction of stillbirths, maternal and newborn deaths. This study investigated the attitudinal challenges of facilitators in promoting maternity care in maternities of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. Four research questions and three hypotheses were stated to guide the study. Literature was reviewed under conceptual/theoretical framework and empirical review. The cross-sectional research design was used for this study. The study population comprised of twenty-four thousand, seven hundred and twenty (24,722) women in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State with a sample size of 414 which was determined using the Fisher's formula. A purposive sampling method was used. The instrument for data collection in this study was a structured questionnaire and data collected was analyzed using statistical tools such as percentage, mean, standard deviation and ANOVA. The result shows that, Women's perception regarding the attitude of healthcare providers in maternities: been attended to without good manners ($\bar{X} = 2.98 \pm .75$), healthcare workers shouting on pregnant women during antenatal ($\bar{X} = 3.20 \pm .96$), uncaring attitude of healthcare workers towards women in labour ($\bar{X} = 2.98 \pm 1.05$), and healthcare providers treat postnatal women without adequate care and respect ($\bar{X} = 3.08 \pm .76$). The study shows that women had a negative perception towards the attitude of health care providers in maternities.