

Risk of Preterm birth and Low Birth Weight births by Maternal Age in Selected Health Facilities in Migori County, Kenya.

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What we learned

The odds of prematurity stratified by maternal age group followed a "U" shaped distribution

Pregnancy among women ≤ 21 years increases the risks of preterm delivery by 20% while pregnancies above this age seems to be protective

We therefore recommend that women who get pregnant below ≤ 21 be categorised as more likely of preterm delivery

Introduction

Preterm Birth Initiative (PTBi) East Africa is undertaking a study aimed at evaluating a package of interventions for reducing morbidity/mortality and improving survival of preterm in the first 28 days of life.

Background

Maternal age especially extremes of age has been known to have negative effect on pregnancy. However, the association between prematurity and maternal age remains controversial and there is a dearth of information from the LMIC especially in rural areas. Preterm birth is one of the most important factor determining neonatal morbidity and mortality, and has a major impact on the under 5 indicators

Objective

We aimed to profile the risk of preterm births and low birth weight births by maternal age within 17 selected health facilities in Migori County Kenya where the Preterm Birth Initiative is ongoing.

Method

- This was a retrospective maternity register review whereby we abstracted data among preterm and low birth weight babies from June 2016 to December 2017.
- Descriptive analysis and measure of association was conducted to determine risk of preterm and low birth weight birth in relation to maternal age.

Results

- Out of 16244 deliveries, 1669(10.3%) were preterm and low birth weight births.
- The proportion of female and male preterm babies was 53.3% and 46.8% respectively.
- Most, 1665 (99.7%) had maternal age recorded with a median age 21(18, 27) years
- The odds of prematurity stratified by maternal age followed a "U" shaped distribution with an Odds of 1.2 for maternal age ≤ 21 years, 0.8 for maternal 22 \leq age ≤ 30 and 0.9 for maternal age ≥ 31 years.

Maternal Age vs Preterm & Low Birth Weight Births

