

SHORT REPORT

Demographic and Sociocultural Factors Influencing Use of Maternal Health Services in Ghana

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ABSTRACT

Using data from the 1993 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS), this study investigates the demographic and sociocultural determinants of use of maternal health services. The maternal health services considered in this study are: i) use of a doctor for prenatal care; ii) soliciting antenatal check-up; iii) place of delivery and, iv) family planning. Logistic regression is employed to explore the relative importance of age at marriage, number of living children, education, place of residence, occupation, region of residence, religion, ethnicity, and age on the likelihood of using maternal health services. Multivariate analyses reveal that the use of the four maternal health services under study tend to be shaped mostly by level of education, place of residence, region of residence, occupation, and religion. Programmatic implications of these results are discussed. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 1998;2(1):73–80)

RÉSUMÉ

Les facteurs démographiques et socio-culturels influençant le Recours aux Services de Santé Maternelle au Ghana. En se basant sur des données de l'Enquête Démographique et de Santé du Ghana (1993), cette étude a analysé les déterminants démographiques et socio-culturels du recours aux services de santé maternelle au Ghana. Les services de santé maternelle considérés dans cette étude sont les suivants: i) le recours à un médecin pour des soins prénataux, ii) la demande d'un examen prénatal, iii) le lieu d'accouchement et iv) la planification familiale. La technique de régression logistique a été utilisée afin d'explorer l'importance relative dans le recours aux services de santé maternelle, des facteurs suivants: l'âge au mariage, le nombre d'enfants vivants, l'éducation, le lieu et région de résidence, l'occupation, la religion, l'appartenance ethnique et l'âge. Une analyse à variables multiples a révélé que le recours aux quatre services de santé maternelle sous considération tend à être fonction du niveau d'éducation, du lieu de résidence, de la région de résidence, de l'occupation et de la religion. Les implications de ces résultats en termes de programmes à mettre en place doivent être discutées. (*Rev Afr Santé Reprod* 1998;2(1):73–80)

KEY WORDS: *Demographic, sociocultural, maternal health, use of services*

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report is that factors influencing use of MHS in Ghana are similar to those identified in many settings throughout Africa and other developing countries.³⁹

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