

## DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH UPTAKE OF SKILLED DELIVERY SERVICES AMONG WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN MANDERA COUNTY, KENYA

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### ABSTRACT

Skilled delivery at all births is considered to be the single most critical intervention for ensuring safe motherhood, because it hastens the timely delivery of emergency obstetric and newborn care when life-threatening complications arise. This study aimed at investigating demographic and economic factors associated with uptake of skilled delivery services among women of reproductive age living in Mandera central Division of Mandera County, Kenya. The study adopted multi stage random sampling technique where a list of all locations, respective sub locations and villages was compiled then simple random selection was applied to select participating units. Both quantitative and qualitative data was collected. Pretested and standardized structured questioner, key informant interview (KII) guides and focused group discussion (FGD) guide was used to collect the data. A research team was selected, recruited and trained on data collection protocol and etiquette. Data was analyzed using statistical computer package of social science (SPSS) version 17 and excel then presented descriptively. Analysis revealed that 34 % of the respondents sought skilled delivery services. The key factors are age of the mother, education, and number of deliveries ( $p < 0.005$ ) were significant predictive factors for the use of skilled assistance. Economically, mother's occupation and income as well as the spouses' income predict the utilization of skilled delivery ( $p < 0.005$ ). The study concludes that utilization of skilled delivery services remain vital in central division of Mandera East Sub County. The study recommends community sensitization and awareness on the consequences of utilization of unskilled delivery services by divisional public health team. The strong role of social norms and traditions calls for advocacy to demystify out dated beliefs by community leaders. Local NGOS and CBOS are encouraged to empower the girl child both academically and economically.

**Keywords:** Maternal Health, Skilled delivery, Obstetric care.