

## DETERMINANTS OF UNDER FIVE MORTALITIES AMONG THE PASTORALISTS IN KAJIADO, KENYA

Lydia Kirika  
Maseno University  
KENYA

### ABSTRACT

This was a cross sectional study of the determinants of under-five mortalities among the pastoralists in Kajiado, Kenya. The study utilized both qualitative and quantitative methods. The aim of the study was to find out the determinants of death among children (5 years and below) born of pastoralist parents living in Mashuru Division in Kajiado Sub-County, Kenya. Theoretically, the study was anchored on Mosley and Chen (1984) framework which provides that all social and economic determinants of child mortality necessarily operate through a common set of biological mechanisms, or proximate determinants (intermediate variables) to directly influence the risk of mortality. Data was analyzed using SPSS 20.0. Descriptive analysis involving frequencies and percentages was employed as well as chi-squared test at 95% CI. The study has shown that 68 % of the mothers reported death of their children through miscarriage or after birth. Of the 1563 children born during the 5 year period, 253(16%) died. Infant mortality rate was found to be at 119/1,000 live births. Under 5 mortality rate was 162/1,000 live births. The three leading causes of death were pneumonia (25%), malaria (18%) and neonatal sepsis (13%). The most significant determinants of the under-five mortality were mother's education, age at first birth and low immunization coverage. The study recommends appropriate public health measures to curb the high neonatal and child mortality in the area.

**Keywords:** Neonatal, Mortality, Child mortality, Pastoralists, Neonatal Sepsis.