Influence of Women’s Empowerment Indices on the Utilization of Skilled Maternity Care: Evidence from Rural Nigeria
Ntoimo LFC, Okonofua FE, Aikpitanyi J, Yaya S, Johnson E, Sombie I, & Aina O

Objective: To examine the role of women empowerment indices in the probability of receiving all three levels of skilled maternity care in rural Nigeria.

Results

**Women Empowerment Predictors of Skilled Maternity Care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Domain</th>
<th>Decision Domain</th>
<th>Influencer Domain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest level of education</td>
<td>Participation in decisions on:</td>
<td>Religion, Marital Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment status</td>
<td>Respondent's health</td>
<td>Age at first marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership of land or house</td>
<td>Respondent’s Earning</td>
<td>Number of co-wives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who pays for respondent’s health care</td>
<td>Major purchases</td>
<td>Spousal age gap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visits to family/relatives</td>
<td>Spousal gap in education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outcome - received maternal health care (antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care in a health facility)**

- Received all three
- Received less than three

**Analytical Framework**

- Harvard Gender Roles Framework
- Contributes to existing evidence to achieve zero preventable maternal mortality and SDG 3 of <70 MMR

**Methods**

Household Survey
Women age 15-45 [mean age 30.3 ±6.8] years in a union in two rural Local Government areas in Edo State, Nigeria, who have had a live birth in the five years preceding the survey.

Sample size
1,245 randomly selected in households

Theoretical framework
Model of the utilization of health services (Andersen and Newman, 2005)

Current evidence shows that skilled maternity care is still a big public health problem in Nigeria.

In 2018, 67% of women of reproductive age who were pregnant in the five years before the 2018 NDHS received skilled antenatal care, 39% delivered in a facility, and 42% received postnatal care.

This figure is even lower in the rural areas - 56%, 26%, 30%

The WHO as well as Nigeria’s FMoH recommend all three levels of care to prevent maternal death.