

4th International Conference on

Epidemiology & Public Health

October 3-5, 2016 | London, UK

FACTORS THAT PREDICT DIFFERENCES IN HEALTH SERVICES UTILIZATION FOR CHILDREN IN NIGERIAN COMMUNITIES

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Objective: To identify determinants of variation in health care utilization for children in communities in Nigeria.

Methods: Secondary analysis of the 2013 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey data (DHS) using univariable and multivariable mixed Poisson regression models. We included the index of maternal deprivation, gender of child, community environmental factor index, and maternal health seeking behavior index, multiple childhood deprivation index and ethnicity diversity index as the independent variables. The outcome variable was under-fives' hospital attendant rates for acute illness.

Results: 31,482 children from 896 communities in Nigeria were included. 1,936 (6.2%) were taken to the health care facilities for treatment. The final adjusted model revealed that both multiple childhood deprivation (incidence rate ratio [IRR] = 1.24, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.17 to 1.32) and children living in communities with a high ethnic diversity (IRR = 1.005, 95% CI 1.003 to 1.006) significantly increased the rate of health service use. Maternal health seeking behaviour on the other hand significantly reduced the rate of usage of health care services.

Conclusions: There are striking differences in health services utilization for sick children across Nigerian communities. Sociodemographic and cultural factors beyond the scope of health authorities and healthcare delivery systems are important in these variations.

Biography

Victor Adekanmbi graduated with Bachelors of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) from the College of Health Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria in 2005. Following his bachelors, he worked in a number of hospitals, then moved to the UK where he achieved Masters in Public Health (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) from the University of Birmingham in 2010 and subsequently worked in some International Non-Governmental Organisations. He also has a PhD in Health Sciences obtained from the University of Warwick in 2015. Presently he works as a Research Fellow at Warwick Medical School, and works on CLAHRC WM Theme 3, Prevention and Detection of Disease

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