Title of Article: Socio-Economic Determinants of Utilization of Programme Interventions to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Nigeria.

Author(s): Dominic Azuh and Amoo

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Abstract: Twenty four years after the safe motherhood initiative in Kenya, maternal mortality is still soaring, as more than half a million women die from pregnancy and related causes annually. Improving programme utilization would likely reduce the incidence of maternal deaths in Nigeria. Two hypotheses were formulated, to find out whether social, economic and demographic factors of mother are significantly related to knowledge of maternal health education and, whether individual’s attitude towards government programmes of intervention is significantly related to their socio-demographic characteristics like age, education and working status. The study used face-to-face structured interview and focus group discussion with a two level analytical approach to capture both the qualitative data and information from the focused group discussion segment. The findings show that mother’s age, education, occupation, and husband’s occupation and health centre distance are significant enhancers of antenatal clinic registration and utilization of medical care facilities among mothers (p=0.002, 0.001, 0.007 and 0.000 respectively). While the paper provides a guide for informed decision on maternal health services by government and related planning agencies in the country, it also suggests compulsory maternal health education and job empowerment for the prospective mothers. These policies and corrective actions will accelerate the utilisation of programme interventions and reduction on maternal mortality.

Key words: Maternal mortality, health centres, utilization services, pregnancy, antenatal care.