MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5: END LINE RESULTS ON ANTENATAL AND BIRTH DELIVERY TARGETS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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BACKGROUND

One of the core strategies to decrease maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is by improving the access and utilization antenatal care and health facility delivery assisted by a professional birth attendant.

OBJECTIVE

This study aimed to assess the country’s MDG 5 targets in achieving the antenatal and birth delivery targets between 1990 and 2015 and to profile the mothers meeting and not meeting the antenatal and birth delivery indicators.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study is a cross-sectional analysis of the 2015 Updating of the Nutritional Status of Filipino Children and other Population Groups. Respondents of the study were 9,399 pregnant women and biological mothers with a child under 3 years old. Descriptive statistics were generated to characterize the mothers based on selected socio-demographic characteristics and MDG outcome variables.

RESULTS

Assistance at birth delivery and delivery in health facilities increased from the 1990 baseline targets (58.8% and 28.2%, respectively) but still below the target of 100% delivery in health facilities by 2015. On antenatal care, the non-numeric rating of “increasing” number of mothers with at least one and at least four antenatal care between 1990 and 2015 was achieved.

Working mothers, with high level of education, from the richest quintile with less than six children and from urban areas had significantly higher proportions of having at least four antenatal visits and delivery assisted by skilled birth professionals than their mother counterparts.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Gaps in access to health services of marginalized mothers were identified. These gaps need to be given the utmost priority if the Philippines is to reduce the risk of deaths among our mothers.