

Factors Contributing to Maternal Mortality in Narok County Referral Hospital, Kenya

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Abstract

Maternal mortality refers to the death of a pregnant woman due to complications related to or worsened by pregnancy or management of those conditions, provided the causes are not accidental or incidental. In Narok county, the maternal mortality rate is 444 per 100,000 live births; for this reason, it is ranked as one of Kenya's counties with poor maternal outcomes. This study aimed at identifying the factor contributing to maternal mortality in Narok county referral hospital. The study was retrospective in nature and employed a descriptive cross-sectional survey design. The study was carried out at Narok county referral hospital. The study population were all the dead mother's files since January 2020 to December 2022. Descriptive analysis was done and reported in pie charts, bar graphs and tables. Based on the data collected majority of the causes of death were not facility related. Of all the files reviewed, n (15), 60% were sociocultural factors. Facility based factors contributed to 40% of total deaths. Also, sociocultural factors that significantly contributed to maternal deaths. The data revealed that 60%(n 15) were multiparous women. Out of the reviewed files (n10) represented teenage pregnancies. Out of sizeable reviewed files (n10) had no history of family planning. Those mothers that had delayed reaching the facility on time represented 20% (n 5). Delayed review of the patient by a skilled medical officer or obstetrician and inadequate medical supplies accounted for 10% (n5). The study was essential because was going to act as performance indicator for the facility and to help the community and the facility identify the gaps that exists in matters concerning maternal health, that way they are able to curb maternal death.

Key words: Maternal mortality, multiparous women, teenage pregnancies, sociocultural.