Inequalities in access to emergency obstetric and neonatal care services in Dakar, Senegal

CPHIA 2023 Side Event Proposal

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C-section rates are increasing worldwide and contributing to reducing in maternal and neonatal mortality.

- In West Africa, C-section rates remain below 10% and high inequalities within countries.

**In Senegal:**
- To reduce maternal and child mortality: 
  
  **Implementation of c-section free policy in 2005**
- Little knowledge on inequalities in access to C-section
Objective

Study Population
Urban women of reproductive age living in the identified slums in Dakar region

Data sources
✓ District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) Government statistics on slum areas
✓ Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)
✓ Geospatial analysis: to localize emergency obstetric and neonatal care (EmONC) services using the Direction des Travaux Géographiques et Cartographiques (DTGC) databases and satellite imagery from Google Earth platform.
Good accessibility of C-section facilities

High concentration of health facilities offering C-sections near the slums

~ 75% of the slums are located less than 2 km from a health facility offering C-sections

Cesarean section delivery rates by wealth tertile and spatial proximity to health facilities (DHIS2, 2019)
C-section trends and associated factors

- Fluctuation in c-section trends over time

- **Wealth tertile** positively associated with C-section with high prevalence among the rich group

- High prevalence among women with [higher educational levels](#)

- Women aged between **40 and 49 years** were more likely to have a C-section than those aged 15–24 (aOR=2.02; 95% CI = (1.35-3.02)).
CONCLUSION

- Free policy effective in Dakar in 2013 but not major significant impact on C-sections rate
- Inequality in the use of C-sections related to socioeconomic factors (wealth status and mother’s level of education) and sociodemographic characteristics (mother’s age).
- Ineffectiveness in the implementation of the free policy particularly -- urban areas of Dakar region
- Need to implement strategies to promote adequate access to C-section for all women especially urban slums poor
THANK YOU

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