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Inequity in Childhood immunization coverage in Southeast Nigeria

Pharm. Nzewi Ifeoma¹, Uzochukwu BSC, Onwujekwe OE, Ezeoke U, Chukwuogo OI

¹ Pharmacy unit, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) Enugu, Nigeria

Background:

Nigeria's universal child immunization coverage is said to be improving in the last two years. However the socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population utilizing immunization services and immunization status of their children are not well known.

Method:

A cluster sampling design was adopted as the sampling method to select districts and respondents. The Socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population, utilization of immunization services and immunization status of 685 children under the age of 5 years from 462 households were determined by using interviewer-administered questionnaires to 462 mothers of children less than 5 years. Odds ratios for the socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics were assessed as possible related factors with the immunization coverage rates for children under 5 years and under 1 year using the backward elimination method in logistic regression.

Results:

Immunization coverage was as follows: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis third dose (DPT3), 65.3%; oral polio virus third dose (OPV3), 78.0%; measles, 55.8%; The full immunization rates for children under 5 years and under 1 year were 49.8 and 65.2%, respectively. Higher socioeconomic status was associated with a higher rate of complete immunization for children under 5 years of age.

Conclusions:

Complete immunization rates for children aged less than 1 year are lower than the national target and there are differences in immunization coverage rates between different socio-economic groups in the area. Therefore, an intervention programme should be considered to achieve the national targets particularly in socio-economically disadvantaged groups