Factors Affecting Access and Utilization of Child Health Care in Nigeria

Rifkatu Nghargbu, Federal University Lafia

Nigeria has one of the highest under-five mortality rates in the world at 128 out of 1000 live births. Although the under-five mortality rate decreased from 201 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2003 to 128 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013, Nigeria could not achieve the Millennium Development goals (MDGs target of reducing the under-5 mortality to 64 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015. The objective of this paper is to estimate the factors affecting access and utilization of child health care in Nigeria using DHS data from 1990-2013. Logit and multinomial regression results shows that wealth, education, region, mothers age and child age are the most significant factors affecting child health care access and utilization. Hence child health care utilization can be improved if education and empowerment programmes are enhanced.