Reviewer's report

Title: Use of antenatal services and delivery care in Entebbe, Uganda: a community based survey

Version: 1 Date: 12 April 2007

Reviewer: Jennifer Moodley

Reviewer's report:

General
The article is generally well written

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Abstract Results Section
The third sentence is confusing. Based on the results the overall antenatal services varied by type of health service facility. No results on variation of HIV testing, haematinics and presumptive treatment of malaria by health facility are provided. It would be useful to present the services most frequently reported as well as those least frequently reported.
The authors need to clarify that the statement "A highly significant improvement in antenatal services was observed by year" refers to an improvement in the reported quality of antenatal care received over time.

Abstract Conclusion
Last sentence
This study was conducted in a semi-urban area. However the conclusion mentions that access to essential skilled birth attendants in rural areas remains difficult. No results on access in rural areas were presented.

Results Paragraph 2
The authors need to present the socio-demographic profile of the respondents.
Were there any neonatal or maternal deaths reported?
The proportion of mothers booking at antenatal care in the first trimester for the most recent pregnancy is low (16%). Do the authors have any information on changes in the proportion of mother booking by trimester over time?
In table 1 it is reported that 11% of women delivered at home with no trained assistance. What are the characteristics of these women? Is there any information on reasons for the home delivery.

Results Paragraph 3
First sentence - see earlier comment.

Results Paragraph 4 Page 6
Last sentence. Insert a period after "ward"

Page 7
Please use standard abbreviation for intermittent presumptive treatment for malaria - Different abbreviation used on page 4.

Discussion
The authors note that antenatal care services are well utilized. However there is no discussion on the fact that few mothers are booking early i.e. in the first trimester.

Conclusion
See earlier note on access to skilled birth attendants in rural areas.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Statistical methods
Please mention whether the antenatal quality measure that was used in this study has been previously used
or whether it was developed for this study by the researchers.

Results
Figures 2 and 3
Please label the X axis

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Methods
Page 4 Last paragraph
A brief description of the routine immediate post delivery practices as related to the infant would be useful to the reader.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.