Author's response to reviews

Title: Determinants of neonatal mortality in Nigeria: Evidence from 2008 Demographic and Health Survey.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Comment 1: “There are currently no effective intervention programs in Nigeria specifically targeting neonatal mortality in Nigeria to augment existing programs [13]”

Response: Change has been made to the manuscript. What we meant to say was that “There are currently no effective community based intervention programs in Nigeria specifically targeting neonatal mortality”.

Comment 2: This sentence is a bit perplexing- “The 39 and 40 neonatal deaths per 1000 live births reported by the UN and NDHS, respectively, can be interpreted as approximately one in every 25 neonates born in Nigeria dying before their first birthday”

Response: Thanks, we have changed first birthday to one month of life.

Comment 3-1: “The main goal of this study was to investigate findings from the NDHS to assist public health researchers, and plan and evaluate actions to support and to reduce neonatal mortality in Nigeria While various interventions are suggested in the discussion and conclusions

Response: We have re-written this

The main aim of this study was to determine factors associated with neonatal mortality using the 2008 NDHS. Findings from the study would be useful to public health researchers and policy makers in reviewing and designing new community-based intervention strategies aimed at reducing neonatal mortality in Nigeria
Comment 3-2: it should be noted that DHS does not necessarily identify the cause of actual neonatal mortality, but instead can be used to identify possible associated factors - being born to a younger mother is not a cause per se. it does point to interventions like ensuring increase in marriage and child bearing age through the community engagement the authors suggest - there needs to be a clearer link between the findings and the recommendations.

Response: Our apologies if we misunderstood your comments but our study is about association and not about causation. I have edited the conclusion.

Comment 3-3: Also they have not mentioned current best practices in terms of reducing neonatal mortality including the previously mentioned kangaroo mother care. Issues of delaying first bath, etc. have been tested - how these relate to the DHS findings of mostly demographic factors associated with neonatal mortality need to be thought out by the authors.

Response: Thanks for sharing this article with us (Kangaroo Mother Care), We have included KMC reference in our paper and we have also included that in the limitations of hospital based study.