Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors Associated with Timing of Antenatal Clinic Attendance Among First-Time Mothers in Rural Southern Ghana.

Version: 0 Date: 01 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Kate Cheney

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your interesting research into an area of importance.

My comments and questions are as follows:

Abstract:
* expand WHO the first time used please
* some syntax issues for the editor?
* your results are in months, it is more usual; to be weeks.
* Do you mean ....significantly associated with 'earlier' timing of initiation…?
* mention is made of crude model and adjusted model - do you mean the same thing and if so please choose one for consistency

Background
* could you please describe Ghana for the reader. Just a sentence or two to orientate the reader.
* …encourage 'and learn'…?
* You write…have died due to maternal causes…and go on to discuss MMR SDGs but it is not clear why this relates to early antenatal care adoption. That point is not made until later. Just feels like that para about MMR etc is a little long.
* Who and how is ANC in Ghana, how do you access it?
If the evidence is there that "...available evidence also shows that, late ANC attendance is associated with young maternal age, high parity, premarital status..." Tell us why it is important to do this study as opposed to redoing something which has been done? OR maybe say studies elsewhere…?

Methods

Were these primiparous women? could they have had a pregnancy loss in the past and could this have affected earlier instigation of ANC?

Page 6, Line 22 …it is usual to use birth rather than delivery.

Page 6 Line 24 …instead of exempted do you mean excluded?

Page 6 line 31 wat do you mean available data can you reference that literature?

Page 6, Line 46 Do you mean A descriptive analysis of sociodemographic characterises of participants was conducted?

Results

It is difficult to the reader to navigate all the numbers with multiple points…I mean things like could 72.21% just be 72.2% or 72%.. especially when describing people?

Is ‘ever married” important to this pregnancy?

It is usual to present weeks rather than months

Again, can the proportions be shown better i.e 4.08% ..maybe 4%..is more meaningful.

Presenting adjusted and unadjusted figures is a little confusing for the reader

Page 9, Typo Line 35.remove though. This is a very long sentence to read.

Do you need to say each factor was or was not statistically significant if you present OR. P values and CI)? Perhaps all this is better seen in a table with guidance to significant findings?

Table 2 again Im not sure ever married is helpful as it may not be relate to the index pregnancy studied
Discussion

* Could you explain to the reader why you compare your findings with Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi etc …are there similarities in some way? This is not apparent to the reader.

* P12 L 20.."This finding is coherent with a.." I don't think coherent is the best word? This study supports finding from …. Who found….

* "It is believed that intended pregnancies are more cared for by pregnant women and their partners; this enabling factor for women to initiate ANC timely"…Can you talk about this a little more as a belief in Ghana, as it is not necessarily the same elsewhere.

It is well known that young parents may be reluctant to attend for care in many places for the reasons you say but: I was thinking how do they "know' they are pregnant? Is the system 'trusted", Is there sex education at school, what is the unmet need for contraception, what number of these may have been a result of forced sex/trauma, etc , it is complex?

Guess I am saying there are lots of reasons why poor, young and uneducated people might attend for later antenatal care before stigma and other points you note. Did you consider this in reasoning/discussion?

* Planned pregnancies are known to be terminated too and planning pregnancies is a global issue around preconception care, & contraception until ready  for example.

Limitations

Conclusions and recommendations

* No need to restate findings in the conclusion,

* Some language structure for the editor

* This needs to be edited and tightened

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess
**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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