



# Analysing Urban Youth Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Rates through Mobile Health Clinics in Gambia: Periodic Survey

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**Published:** 20 October 2010 | **Received:** 18 June 2010 | **Accepted:** 22 September 2010

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18905173](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18905173)

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## Abstract

Urban youth in Gambia face unique health challenges, particularly concerning maternal and neonatal mortality rates (MNRs). Historically, these issues have been underreported due to limited access to healthcare facilities. The introduction of mobile health clinics (MHCs) aimed to address this gap by providing accessible services directly in urban areas. A cross-sectional survey design was employed, utilising structured questionnaires distributed via MHCs in urban Gambia. Data collection took place over two years, with responses analysed using descriptive statistics for trend analysis. Quantitative data were complemented by thematic content analysis of qualitative interviews conducted with participants and clinic staff. MHCs significantly reduced MNRs among surveyed youth; specifically, the proportion of cases where mothers reported receiving prenatal care increased from 42% to 68%. However, challenges in accessing MHCs persisted, particularly for those residing in remote urban areas. Qualitative data highlighted issues related to stigma and misconceptions about healthcare. While MHCs have proven effective in improving MNRs among urban youth, further efforts are needed to overcome barriers such as socio-cultural stigmas and geographic accessibility. Continued investment in MHC infrastructure is recommended alongside community engagement initiatives to address cultural sensitivities. Additionally, health education campaigns targeting specific populations could enhance service uptake. Treatment effect was estimated with  $\text{logit}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$ , and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

**Keywords:** African, Urban, Youth, Maternal Neonatal Mortality, Mobile Health, Surveillance, Epidemiology

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