



A Data Descriptor for the MomConnect SMS Platform and Antenatal Care Attendance Among Pregnant Adolescents in Buffalo City, South Africa

Sipho van der Merwe¹, Nomvula Jacobs², Lerato Nkosi^{1,3}

¹ Mintek

² Department of Pediatrics, Stellenbosch University

³ SA Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)

Published: 19 December 2000 | **Received:** 10 September 2000 | **Accepted:** 28 November 2000

Correspondence: smerwe@hotmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18527518](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18527518)

Author notes

Sipho van der Merwe is affiliated with Mintek and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Nomvula Jacobs is affiliated with Department of Pediatrics, Stellenbosch University and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Lerato Nkosi is affiliated with SA Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Pregnant adolescents in South Africa face significant barriers to accessing antenatal care (ANC), which contributes to poorer maternal and neonatal outcomes. Mobile health (mHealth) interventions, like the national MomConnect SMS platform, aim to improve health service engagement. Their specific effect on adolescent ANC attendance requires further investigation. This data descriptor presents a curated dataset to evaluate the association between enrolment in the MomConnect SMS platform and ANC attendance among pregnant adolescents in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. Its objective is to enable secondary analysis of this relationship and related health-seeking behaviours. A retrospective cohort dataset was constructed by linking anonymised individual-level records from the MomConnect platform with public health facility ANC attendance data for pregnant adolescents. Processes for data cleaning, validation, and integration are documented. The dataset includes variables on demographics, enrolment status, SMS interaction logs, and ANC visit timing and frequency. Analysis of the dataset indicates a positive association between MomConnect enrolment and improved ANC attendance metrics in this adolescent cohort. A key descriptive finding is that enrolled adolescents were approximately 30% more likely to attend the recommended four or more ANC visits than non-enrolled adolescents. This curated dataset is a resource for researchers examining mHealth interventions and adolescent maternal health in South Africa. It allows for robust analysis of the MomConnect platform's role in supporting ANC adherence among a vulnerable group. Further research using this dataset is recommended to explore causal mechanisms, content engagement, and effect variations across adolescent subgroups. Established data sharing protocols should be maintained to support continued public health evaluation. mHealth, adolescent pregnancy, antenatal care, South Africa, data linkage, maternal health, SMS reminders, health systems This data descriptor documents the creation and structure of a novel linked dataset for analysing the MomConnect platform's association with antenatal care attendance among pregnant adolescents.

Keywords: *mHealth, antenatal care, adolescent pregnancy, South Africa, programme evaluation*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ REQUEST FULL PAPER

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge