



# A Systematic Review of Community Health Worker-Led Group Antenatal Care and Its Impact on Skilled Birth Attendance in Ghana's Brong-Ahafo Region, 2008

Kwame Asare<sup>1,2</sup>, Ama Serwaa Mensah<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Surgery, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi

<sup>3</sup> Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi

**Published:** 05 January 2008 | **Received:** 19 August 2007 | **Accepted:** 09 November 2007

**Correspondence:** [kasare@gmail.com](mailto:kasare@gmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18529299](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18529299)

## Author notes

*Kwame Asare is affiliated with Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Ama Serwaa Mensah is affiliated with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Skilled birth attendance is a crucial public health objective in Ghana. The Brong-Ahafo Region has implemented innovative strategies to improve maternal outcomes, including a community health worker-led group model for antenatal care. This approach uses group sessions to provide education and peer support, aiming to enhance knowledge and service use. This systematic review synthesised evidence on the effectiveness of the community health worker-led group antenatal care model on skilled birth attendance rates in Ghana's Brong-Ahafo Region. A systematic literature review was conducted in accordance with established guidelines. Multiple academic databases and grey literature sources were searched. Studies were screened against pre-defined eligibility criteria. Data were extracted and synthesised narratively due to heterogeneity in study designs. The review identified a limited number of relevant studies. The available evidence suggested a positive association between participation in the group antenatal care model and increased use of skilled birth attendance. One notable study reported that women in the intervention groups demonstrated a higher likelihood of planning for and using a skilled attendant at delivery compared to those receiving standard, individual antenatal care. The community health worker-led group antenatal care model appears promising for improving skilled birth attendance in the Brong-Ahafo Region. However, the current evidence base is limited, underscoring the need for more rigorous research to substantiate its effectiveness and clarify its mechanisms of impact. Future research should employ robust study designs, such as randomised controlled trials, to evaluate the model's effectiveness. Programme implementers should consider contextual adaptations and explore pathways for integrating the model within the broader health system to improve its sustainability and coverage. community health workers, group antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, maternal health, Ghana, systematic review This review consolidates the existing evidence on a specific maternal health intervention in Ghana, highlighting both its potential and the limitations of the current research. It provides a foundation to guide future research and programme planning aimed at improving skilled birth attendance.

**Keywords:** *community health workers, antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, Ghana, sub-Saharan Africa, maternal health services, 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](mailto: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](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge