

Factors Influencing Child Survival in Botswana

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ABSTRACT

Background

Child mortality is a global phenomenon of deaths of children under five years. Different studies have been undertaken on the topic of child survival, but little has been done in Botswana. The Government of Botswana is working hard to achieve Millennium Development Goal-4, the deterioration of 63 deaths per 1 000 live births between 1991 and 1994, shifting to 50 per 1000 in 1997 and deteriorating to 76 deaths per 1000 live births is the inspiration of this paper.

Methodology

A sample of 3 277 women who had children between 2002 and 2007 was selected from BFHS2007. Women in the age groups from 15 to 49 were selected. Binary logistic regression was used in the analysis of the data. Findings to the study revealed factors that have influence on child survival alongside Mosley and Chen Framework. The study recommends that breast feeding should be the number one practice so that there will be reduction and elimination of child mortality.

Results

Approximately 6.3% of the mothers have experienced child mortality. A Chi-square test for association between child survival and the characteristics of women concluded that level of education, place of residence, media access, breast feeding and parity have influence on child survival. For household characteristics only cooking place, salt usage had influence on child survival. A logistic regression analysis showed that breast feeding and salt usage were the only two factors influencing child survival.

Conclusion

The current study aims at determining factors that influence child survival in Botswana. Breast feeding should be the main recommendation to all mothers and salt usage in their homes. The study was guided by The Mosley and Chen Mortality Framework for Developing Countries.

Key words: *Child survival, child mortality, under 5 mortality, individual-level variables, household-level variables*