Maternal Mortality

Kamille I. Brown
Morehouse School of Medicine
MSIV
NMF/GE Ghana Scholar
DID YOU KNOW?

- Worldwide over 500,000 women and girls die from complications related to pregnancy every year??
What is Maternal Mortality

Maternal mortality refers to those deaths which are caused by complications due to pregnancy or childbirth.

These complications may be experienced during pregnancy or delivery itself, or may occur up to 42 days following childbirth.
Top 5 Causes of M.M. in the world

- Hemorrhage – 25%
- Infection – 15%
- Unsafe Abortion – 13%
- Eclampsia – 12%
- Obstructed Labor – 8%
Maternal Mortality in Ghana

Deaths Per 100,000

Ghana

- 1994
- 1998
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
Top Causes of Maternal Mortality in Ghana

- Hypertension – 19%
- Bleeding – 17%
- Anemia – 12%
- Unsafe Abortion – 11%
- Infections – 10%
Why are so many women dying?

- In Ghana as well as in many other developing nations deaths during pregnancy and childbirth are most often linked to three obstacles
Seeking care

- Lack of information and inadequate knowledge
- Low status in society
- Lack of access to and control over resources
- Lack of decision making power
- Certain cultures and traditions that maintain that women must wait for approval from male relatives before seeking help
Health Facility Access

- Limited services – especially in rural areas
- Weak referral linkages between community, health centers and district hospitals
- Poor roads
- Poor communication networks
- Lack of transportation
- Inadequate community support
Health Facility Quality of care

- Inadequate preparedness to respond to obstetric emergencies
  - Lack of skilled attendants
  - Lack of equipment
  - Supply and drug shortages
  - Lack of motivated staff
Other Contributing Factors

- Early age of marriage
- Early age of first pregnancy
- High number of births per woman
  - Increasing risk of complications
- Despite high antenatal attendance more than half of pregnant women deliver outside the health facility and don’t get postnatal care
Gomoa District

Maternal Deaths

- 2001: 8
- 2002: 8
- 2003: 3
- 2004: 10
- 2005: 6
- 2006: 6
- 2007: 4

Maternal Deaths
Causes for Maternal Mortality in Gomoa District 2001-2007

- Eclampsia
- PPH
- Meningitis
- Anemia
- Sepsis
- Hemorrhagic shock
- Sickle Cell
- CCF
- Amniotic Fluid Embolus
- TB
Steps taken to reduce Maternal Mortality

2004-2005
- Free Deliveries in Gomoa District from Training of Midwives in Life Saving Skills in 2005/2006

2007/2008
- Training of Midwives in Emergency Obstetric Care
- Free Ante-natal care
Steps taken to reduce Maternal Mortality

- Signing of Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)
  - Between private transport owners and Gomoa District
- Instant Coverage of pregnant women who register for National Health Insurance
Sekyere West District

Maternal Deaths

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

- Maternal Deaths
Maternal Mortality in Sekyere West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of Death (2002-2004)</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hemorrhage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sepsis</td>
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<td>Anemia</td>
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Steps taken to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Sekyere West

- In-service training of forty midwives public and private on Emergency obstetric care
- Training of community based surveillance volunteers and TBAs on danger signs in antenatal care, labor and post natal.
- Sensitization of chiefs and opinion leaders, queen mothers and transport owners on maternal child health
- Distribution of laminated ANC cards
Medical Officers have to say…

- Better Roads
- Maternity Houses
- More training of Midwives
- Increased incentives to have an institutional birth
- Improved Transportation
Future Steps

- Legalization of abortion
- Increased communication between districts
- Community education on the importance of Maternal Health
- Improved transportation and roads
- District wide guidelines on patient reporting
References

- The Ghana Health sector 2006 program of work. Ministry of health. 2005
- Maternal and Neonatal Program effort index: A tool for maternal health advocates. Policy Project