

Improved demand and quality of antenatal and postnatal services following implementation of standards-based audit system in Nigeria: A mixed methods study.

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Background

Standards-based audit (SBA) system is being widely adopted to improve quality of care in antenatal (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) and to contribute to ending preventable maternal and newborn mortality in low- and middle-income countries.

Methods

- Cross-sectional, mixed-methods study in Oyo and Kaduna states, Nigeria.
- Health facilities that participated in quality improvement trainings selected antenatal and postnatal standards for auditing, periodically reviewed these standards and implemented recommended actions.
- In-depth interviews conducted with purposively selected healthcare providers to assess impact of the SBA over a one-year period.
- Data analysed using thematic approach



Map of Nigeria showing Kaduna and Oyo States



Training of health workers in SBA and ANC PNC



Results

- Improvements in attitude and practice among staff and increased confidence and ANC attendance amongst mothers, which was attributed to respectful maternity care, the key standard chosen and audited by all health facilities.
- 70% - 80% increase in proportion of first ANC attendees screened for hypertension and proteinuria over 1 year.
- Adoption of new tools for assessing domestic violence, improved utilization of rapid tests and provision of dedicated space for postnatal care in facilities where they were lacking.

Conclusion

Standards-based audit system is potentially useful in improving demand and quality of antenatal and postnatal services in this setting. More research is required to characterize and quantify these improvements to inform scale-up within Nigeria and beyond.

Partners and Funders

