



Registered or Unregistered: Factors Associated with Registration and Certification of Births in Ghana

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The birth of a child is a vital event that needs to be registered but this is not always the case as an estimated 40 million births go unregistered annually. It is necessary that all births are registered and even more critical that the registration of a birth is followed by the issuance of a birth certificate. This paper examines the factors that influence the registration and certification of births in Ghana. The paper uses data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in Ghana in 2011. The analytic sample consist of 4,113 children under the age of five and their mothers. Differentials in birth registration and certification were examined using bivariate and multivariate statistical tools. Birth registration and certification is lowest among children born to young mothers (15-19 years old), children whose mother have no formal education, mothers who reside in rural areas and mothers in the poorest wealth quintile. Home births are less likely to be registered or issued a birth certificate. Efforts aimed at improving birth registration in Ghana need to target groups of children and mothers with low birth registration and certification such as children who are born at home, children born to young mothers and children of mothers who reside in rural areas.

Keywords: Birth registration; Birth certificate; Ghana