

Review of: "Using a Health and Demographic Surveillance System to Assess Stillbirths Trends and Risk Factors in Siaya County, Kenya between 2008 and 2019"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review by Dr Bernard Ilboudo

Thank you for associating me to the review of this article.

This work is of undoubted scientific interest.

However, it can be improved by taking into account the following remarks.

Abstract

The results contradict the introduction in that, contrary to the statement in the introduction, the results confirm that there may be under-notification, but there is indeed stillbirth surveillance in Kenya. It also exists in many other African countries.

Introduction

The reference used for the stillbirth rate is too old. Data from more recent studies are available.

The introduction should briefly recall the main factors reported in the literature as being associated with stillbirths.

Study population

The source and target populations are not described. It is rather the field of study that is presented.

The sample studied has not been described (sampling, size and precision).

Study design

The study design was not specified. It is a descriptive and analytical cross-sectional study.

Independent variables

The categorization of the variable "Gravida" creates a classification bias by including both the category "primigravida" and "1 to 3 pregnancies". The authors must therefore justify the categorization of all variables.

Statistical analysis

Specify the p-values and the methods of entry and removal of variables in the logistic regression model. Indicate whether the model was adjusted.

Ethical considerations

This section does not specify that the study protocol has received the approval from the Scientific Ethics Review Unit.

Results

Table 2 should have a more explicit title and show column and not row percentages.

Correct also the title of Table 3 and present the p-value of the variable and not of its modalities. A variable associated with stillbirth will have a p-value below the threshold set by the authors.

The results of the logistic regression cannot be correctly interpreted in this way.

Discussion

The discussion of associated factors must be adapted to the results that would have been obtained from logistic regression, correctly presented.