Reviewer's report


Version: 1 Date: 11 January 2010

Reviewer: Amare Deribew

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Major compulsory revisions
Introducton:
# Several risk factors of under-five death including regional variation have been reported in Nigeria. Why are you doing this study again? You need to justify this issue.

# Together with this, please justify why you used the 2003 DHS which is old? Nine/ten years is long and things might have been changed.

Methods:
# Statistical analysis- did you consider the effect of interaction of variables in the analysis. Some variables are proxy indicators for others. E.g. education and wealth or occupation. You need to assess interaction.

# You have used three levels and four models in the analysis. Please specify which type of model building did you use (stepwise, backward, forward ect….)

results:
# Table 2 contains two ideas, Odds ratios and variances. Please put these two ideas in two tables

Discussion:
# Avoid recommendation/conclusions in the discussion part. The ideas mentioned from number 1 to 3 under the subtitle ‘policy implication’ are repetition of the conclusion. Better to take this idea under the conclusion section.

Minor essential revisions
Methods:
# Needs editorial revision—Please use past tense (the word ‘is’, ‘are’ needs to be changed). The last sentence in paragraph 1 needs revision. Eg ….a total of 6029 live born children born.

# Please replace the word ‘measure’ by measurement and describe the types of the variable under it.

# The paragraph/s under the sub-title ‘individual level explanatory factors’ needs clarity and revision
Results:
# Please don’t cite table in the sub-title (first sub-title in result). Describe the findings and cite the table at the end of the paragraph.
# Please correct phrases like “Mothers who had secondary of higher education”
# The second sub-title” multilevel logistic regression analysis” shall be replaced by ‘risk factors of under-five mortality’. We know the analysis in the method section.
# I would prefer the first row of table 1 be removed
# Make the titles self explanatory, time and place shall be included in the title
# Foot notes in the tables are fully elaborated in the method section, you don’t have to repeat them

Discussion:
# Please avoid the sub-heading in this section. Better to discuss the ideas chronologically.
# In your finding, higher risk of death was observed in south-south region. But, your literature indicated that the north part had higher death rate. Add more explanation if available in the discussion in this area

References- Use the same style eg. Reference 25 should be corrected

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests' below