

Determinants of the under-fives survival in eastern Uganda, 2010 – 2015.

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Background

The Sustainable Development Goals have a renewed commitment to a healthy population by 2030. Goal 3 is Good health and well-being with target 3.2 stated as '*end all preventable deaths of new-borns and children under-five years of age*'. There are a number of manageable and preventable factors responsible for under-five mortality in resource limited settings.

Objective

To determine the risk factors of under-five mortality in Eastern Uganda.

Methods

The study included first and second born children under-five years in Iganga Mayuge Health and Demographic Surveillance Site (IMHDSS) from 2010 to 2015. Data on deaths was collected during the routine household census in the surveillance area. A multivariate logistic regression model was fitted to determine the association between under-five mortality and a set of hypothesized explanatory variables and tested using Pearson's Chi-square test.

Results

In the period under review, there were 23,969 live births and the under-five mortality rate was 12.8 (11.3-14.1) per 1000 live births. Children of mothers with a short birth intervals were twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday (AOR 1.56, CI: 1.20-2.03) compared to mothers ensuring long intervals between pregnancies. Also children of mothers whose partners were present during ANC had a lesser risk of dying (AOR 0.48, CI: 0.34-0.69) compared to those where partners were absent.

Conclusions

Good family planning practices of mothers improve child survival up to five years of age. Spouse participation in reproductive health and births is key in minimizing under-five mortalities. There is need to implement interventions that encourage male participation and empower women on family planning practices like child spacing.