

# MATERNAL MORBIDITY AND THE UTILIZATION OF MOTHER CARE SERVICES IN PURWOREJO DISTRICT, CENTRAL JAVA

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## ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Indonesian maternal mortality is still high, caused by postpartum haemorrhage, toxemia gravidarum and infection. The safe motherhood initiative was promoted through a variety of intersectoral approaches and non-governmental organization networking. The initiative places special emphasis on the need for better and more widely available maternal health services. Factors responsible for high maternal mortality and morbidity are associated with the level, quality and content of antenatal care received during pregnancy and labour.

**OBJECTIVES:** To study the frequency and determinant factors of maternal morbidity and the utilization of mother care services.

**METHODS:** A community based survey was conducted in the Purworejo district, Central Java to collect information about the women's health and their use of health services. A sample of approximately 15,000 households was selected using the probability proportional to estimated size. Precoded forms were used by trained-high school educated interviewers to collect data. The quality of data collection was monitored by checking system.

**RESULTS:** Data was collected from 2,445 women who have children within the previous three years. The average age of the respondents was  $29 \pm 6.2$  (SD) years. Forty five percent of the women work in the agricultural sector and 37% as house-wives. Access to antenatal services was 96.2% and antenatal coverage was 82.1%, there were differences in percentages between rural and urban areas. The most commonly reported morbidity symptoms during the last pregnancy were nausea-vomiting, swelling in the face, arm and leg, and lower abdominal pain. The most frequent diagnosis made by the health workers in pregnant women were anemia, malaria and hypertension. There was underutilization of the mother-care cards (31.5%). The distribution of iron tablets still did not cover all pregnant women (90%) and urban area had higher distribution than rural area. The most frequent provider of the antenatal services were midwives, but the majority of women delivered their last children at home (74.5%) and most of them delivered by TBAs (51.1% trained TBAs and 7.0% untrained TBAs). Polindes is still underutilization (6.5%). The three most common morbidity of woman during delivery were cephalopelvic disproportion, prolonged labour and malpresentation. The most

common postpartum morbidity were breast engorgement/illness, haemorrhage and infection. Seventy seven percent postpartum women sought advice on their health.

**CONCLUSION:** The antenatal care access, coverage and quality still need to be improved as well as the delivery of services. Regular evaluations are needed to increase the utilization of the mother care services.

**Key words:** Maternal morbidity - Community based survey - Mother care services