Factors Associated with the Completion of the Continuum of Care for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Services in Ethiopia. Multilevel Model Analysis

Eshetu Ejeta Chaka\textsuperscript{1} Mahboubeh Parsaeian\textsuperscript{2} Majdzadeh Reza\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1}Ambo University, college of Medicine and Health Sciences, Department of Public Health, Ethiopia, 
\textsuperscript{2}Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences International Campus (TUMS-IC), Tehran, Iran, 
\textsuperscript{3}Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences International Campus (TUMS-IC), Tehran, Iran

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Introduction: Assuring completion of a continuum of maternal health care is a key program strategy to minimize morbidity and mortality of maternal and child. We aimed to examine the completion of a continuum of care and its associated factors.

Materials and Methods: This cross-sectional study was analyzed using the 2016 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey data. Multilevel logistic regression was used to assess the relationship between completion of a continuum of care and independent variables, in which each individual woman (level 1) nested within a community (level 2).

Results: About 9.1% of Ethiopian women complete the continuum of care. Odds of completing the continuum of care was more likely among those women formally employed (odds ratio, OR = 2.14; 95% confidence interval, CI: 1.37–3.35), from the female headed household (OR = 1.58; 95% CI: 1.08–2.31), and who gave birth at a health facility (OR = 4.85; 95% CI: 1.75–13.37) than their counterparts. Maternal health services during antenatal care, such as blood pressure measured (OR = 4.31; 95% CI: 2.47–7.52), informed about pregnancy complications (OR = 1.57; 95% CI: 1.61–2.11), and received tetanus injection (OR = 2.04; 95% CI: 1.42–2.92), were associated with completion of the continuum of care. Similarly, the perception of women that money is not a problem in accessing healthcare (OR = 1.40; 95% CI: 1.03–1.90) was significantly associated with the completion of a continuum of care.

Conclusion: Most women failed to complete the continuum of care. Factors related to individual, community, access to health services, and services provided during antenatal care were found to positively affect completion of the continuum of care. Therefore, effort should focus on the integration of maternal health care services and target those factors facilitating the completion of the continuum of care.

Keywords: continuity of patient care, maternal health, postnatal care, prenatal care