



Alexis White

American University

An Exploration of the Relationship between Quality of Care and Birth Outcomes in the Dominican Republic

Alexisw93@gmail.com

The Dominican Republic has a high maternal mortality ratio given the high access to antenatal care and institutionalized deliveries and the social characteristics of the population. Previous studies have indicated that quality of care may be an explanation for the paradoxical relationship between high access to care and high maternal mortality. The purpose of this study was to determine which aspects of quality of care might explain birth outcomes in the country.

The study used Dominican government data on socioeconomic and quality of care variables at the provincial level, and used a Poisson regression to analyze the relationship of these variables with the birth outcomes maternal mortality and live birth as well as a negative binomial regression.

Maternal mortality was significantly related to the hospital bed rate in the Poisson regression ($p = .097$) and in the negative binomial regression ($p = .068$). There is evidence that quality of care influences birth outcomes in the Dominican Republic, and further support of previous studies that maternal mortality is high despite high access to maternal care.