

# **Determinants of Maternal Health Care Service Use: A Regional Analysis in Karnataka**

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## **Abstract**

This paper aims to examine the levels and determinants of maternal health care services across different regions in Karnataka. The data are drawn from the District Level Household Survey (DLHS-RCH), 2002-2004 that collected information on maternal health care services from currently married women whose last pregnancy resulted as stillbirth or live birth during three years preceding the survey. The analysis has been done separately for specific regions in Karnataka. The districts of Karnataka are grouped into four health divisions/regions; Gulbarga Division, Belgaum Division, Mysore Division and Bangalore Division. The key indicators of maternal health care considered in this paper are; antenatal check up, tetanus toxoid vaccine, consumption of iron and folic acid tablets, place of delivery, and assistance delivery.

In order to identify determinants of maternal health care service, logit regression approach has been adopted. The study indicates that determinants of maternal health care services are not same across regions/divisions and for different maternal health care indicators. The level of utilization of maternal health care services was found to be highest in Mysore division, followed by Bangalore division, Belgaum division and Gulbarga division. Education of the women and economic status of the household seems to be an important in enhancing the utilization of maternal health care in case of Gulbarga and Belgaum divisions. These variables seems to be important in the other two divisions namely Mysore and Bangalore divisions but only in the case of place of delivery and professional care at delivery (not in case of other three indicators which care considered for the analysis). Women who belongs to Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes continue to be at disadvantage position but only in case of certain specific indicators and specific divisions.