

# **Utilization Pattern of Antenatal Care Services among a Group of Women in Fayoum Governorate**

## **Thesis**

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**By**

**Nashwa Sayed Hamed**

Demonstrator of Public Health& Community Medicine

Faculty of Medicine – Fayoum University

(M. B., B. Ch)

**Supervised by**

**Dr. Fatma Ma'moun AbuHashima**

Professor Public Health& Community Medicine

Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University

**Dr. Hanaa Abdullah AbuZeina**

Professor Public Health& Community Medicine

Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University

**Dr. Naglaa AbdelKhalek ELSherbiny**

Assistant Professor Public Health& Community Medicine

Faculty of Medicine, Fayoum University

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## Summary

The ultimate aim is to enhance the proper utilization of ANC in Fayoum governorate. This is through providing the relevant stakeholders with the necessary information that would help formulation of fitting strategies.

This study was an observational, descriptive cross sectional comparative study. An interview questionnaire was used. A convenient sample of women who had a live birth within four months and were attending El Hadeka UHC; 100, and Garfes RHU; 108 .

It was found that most of the study women were in the peak of their fertility period; aging 20- less than 35 years old (87.0% of the study women attending El Hadeka UHC and 84.2% of the study women attending Garfes RHU). The social level of the study women in El Hadeka UHC was generally better than their counterparts in Garfes RHU(43.0% were from high social level in El Hadeka UHC compared to only 6.5% in Garfes RHU). An overall more than two thirds of the study women in both groups have previous pregnancy and were with more than one child (70.0 and 75.9% respectively). More than half of the study women in both groups claimed that they didn't have any health problems during the latest completed pregnancy (52.0% in El Hadeka UHC and 50.9% in Garfes RHU). Anemia was the most prevailing health problem, affecting 25.0% of the study women in El Hadeka UHC and 30.6% in Garfes RHU.

The study women utilization pattern of ANC was generally satisfactory. As most of them had ANC in their latest completed pregnancy; (92.0% in El Hadeka UHC and 91.7% in Garfes RHU). Most of them had regular ANC (91.3 and 83.8% respectively) and about two thirds start ANC visits early in the first trimester. Nonetheless, the role of PHC in providing ANC was very low if compared to private clinics, as only 8.7%

of the study women in El Hadeka UHC and 16.2% in Garfes RHU went to PHC facilities for ANC.

Women perception regarding ANC was generally good and most of women were satisfied about ANC their received in their last pregnancy (85.8% in El Hadeka UHC and 93.0% in Garfes RHU). On the other hand women knowledge about contents of ANC visits was poor.

While the age of the women, employment, the number of live birth deliveries and existence of obstetric/ medical problems in the latest completed pregnancy had their statistical significant association on the pattern among the study women attending the UHC, it was the age of the women and the number of live birth deliveries and community support among the study women attending the RHU

The study concluded that ANC utilization pattern was generally satisfactory. The utilization of PHC for ANC was limited. Study women knowledge about the contents of ANC service was poor. Matchless factors could affect ANC utilization pattern among different women.

The study recommended that further research is needed to develop tailored strategies to enhance ANC utilization in individual communities. Until that happens, more efforts are needed to promote the role of PHC in ANC provision through addressing the quality features wanted by the served women. Target women need to be aware the contents as well as the quality by which the ANC should be provided for them.