Project Summary: Barriers to Skilled Maternal Healthcare in Kenya

Objective / Aim:
To analyze factors influencing whether women in Kenya give birth at home or in health facilities, using Kenya DHS data (2014–2022). The study aims to identify socioeconomic, educational, and healthcare-related determinants of skilled birth attendance, providing evidence to inform interventions and awareness campaigns.

Background / Rationale:
Maternal mortality remains a significant public health issue in Kenya. Despite improvements in healthcare infrastructure, a substantial proportion of women still deliver at home, increasing the risk of complications and death for both mother and child. Understanding the barriers to skilled maternal healthcare is critical for policymakers, healthcare providers, and community organizations working to improve maternal outcomes.

Research Questions:

1. What proportion of Kenyan women deliver at home versus in health facilities?

2. How do wealth, education, and residence (urban/rural) influence place of delivery?

3. What is the impact of antenatal care (ANC) attendance on skilled birth attendance?

4. Are there regional or demographic patterns that highlight areas of higher risk?

Expected Outcomes:

- Clear descriptive statistics on home vs facility deliveries in Kenya

- Identification of high-risk groups (e.g., low education, rural, low-income women)

- Evidence-based recommendations for improving maternal healthcare access

- Awareness materials that highlight the importance of skilled delivery

Significance:
This study contributes to the understanding of maternal health inequalities and provides actionable insights to support targeted interventions, policy decisions, and advocacy initiatives. Even in its exploratory form, the findings can help raise awareness and guide data-driven strategies to reduce maternal mortality.

Status: In Progress