

Maricar Almeda, 2022, Prospective Molecular Biology International Care Ministries, Metro Manila, Philippines  
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## Introduction

- $\approx 830$  women die everyday due to pregnancy and childbirth
- 99% of maternal deaths occur in developing countries
- Lifetime risk of maternal death in the Philippines is 1 in 280 vs. 1 in 4900 in developed countries.

## Objective of the Study

A continuation of a study on maternal care in the Philippines by a previous Princeton intern, with focus on determining what barriers exist for ultrapoor women in accessing maternal care.

## Methods

### Study Design: Qualitative interviews

- Negros Oriental Province, Philippines
- 24 interviews – 14 with mothers and 10 with health professionals

### Participant Selection:

- Past ICM Transform Participants – Ultrapoorest women living on  $< \$0.50/\text{day}$  who've had at least one home birth
- Health professionals/workers such as nurses and midwives who have been working  $\leq 5$  years

### Analysis: Performed using NVivo

- A conceptual framework to health care access used as a lens

## Results

### Dimensions of Access

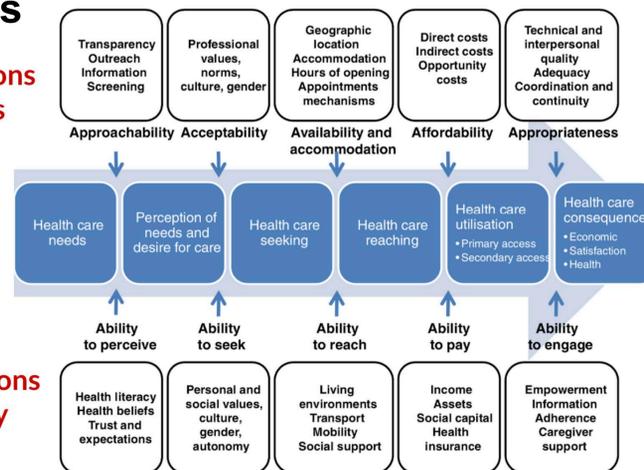


Figure 1. A diagram of the conceptual framework to health care access.

### Barriers found within the framework:

1. Perception of Timeliness and Approachability
2. Intimidation to encourage Acceptability
3. Restricted Affordability
4. The effect of Availability and Accommodation on Ability to perceive

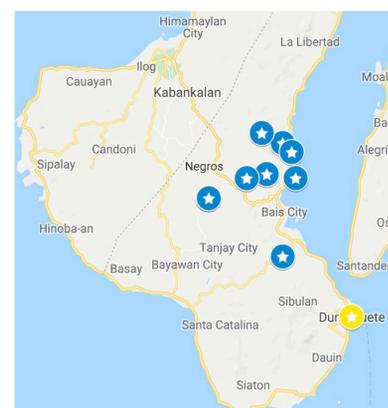


Figure 2. A map of the barangays visited. Blue dots portray barangays and yellow dot portrays Dumaguete, the base.

- 9 barangays in total
- Up to 3 hours from Dumaguete
- Transportation by car, tricycle, and motorbike

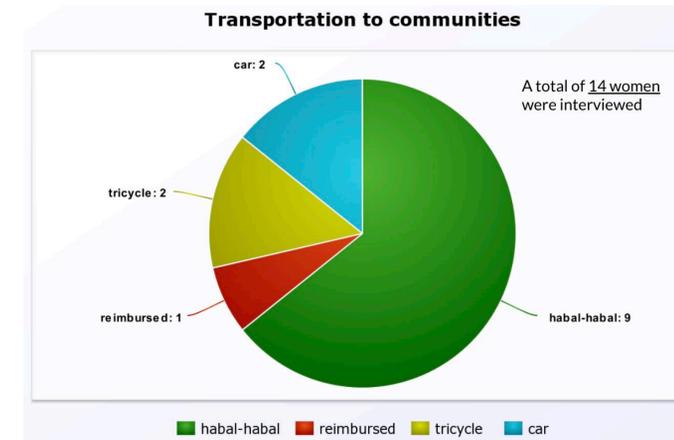


Figure 3. A pie chart of type of transportation utilized to reach each mother in the different barangays.

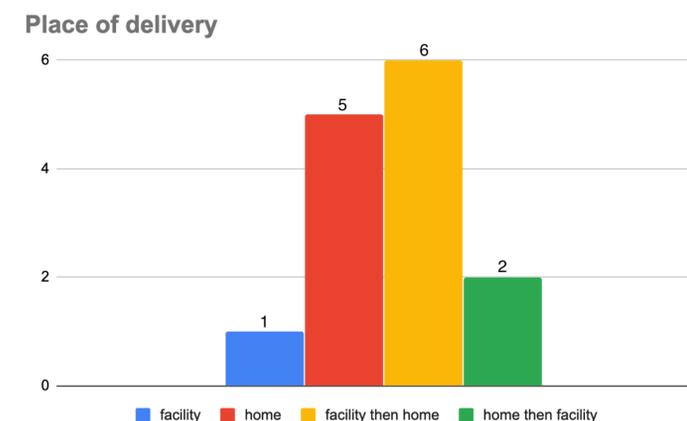


Figure 4. Shows where mothers who were interviewed have delivered.

## Discussion

### Perception of Timeliness and Approachability

- Emergency home births
- Some mothers expressed poor appropriateness (i.e. fear of wasting health workers' time)

### Intimidation to encourage Acceptability

- Scare tactic used without full disclosure of safety
- Emphasis solely on discouraging home births not encouraging facility births

### Restricted Affordability

- PhilHealth helps significantly with delivery costs
- Made to be affordable but not for those with unstable incomes.

### The effect of Availability and Accommodation on Ability to perceive

- Norms within geography influences health beliefs and expectations

## Conclusion

- It is important to identify what barriers exist so that solutions can be made to overcome them.
- The barriers found within the conceptual framework are the consequences caused by factors outside of the mothers' and health workers' control (such as the country's political and economical state)

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