



SAFER CHILDBIRTHS FOR MOTHERS AND NEWBORNS

Evidence for Improving the Quality of Intrapartum Care in Kaduna State

Executive Summary

Kaduna State continues to experience high maternal and newborn mortality despite increasing access to facility-based delivery. This study assessed quality of intrapartum care across 24 public and private healthcare facilities. Public facilities demonstrated higher provider competence, stronger adherence to evidence-based practices and better readiness. However, gaps persisted across both sectors in informed consent, pain management, labour companionship and respectful maternity care. Strengthening provider competence, facility readiness, supportive supervision and respectful care can improve maternal and newborn outcomes.



Policy Question

How can Kaduna State improve childbirth care and reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths across public and private facilities?



Why This Matters

Many deaths occur during labour, childbirth and the immediate postpartum period. Most are preventable through skilled providers, evidence-based care, functional facilities and respectful maternity care.



At A Glance

24

FACILITIES

840

WOMEN

96

PROVIDERS

48

INTERVIEWS

4

QUALITY DOMAINS



What We Did

Comparative mixed-methods cross-sectional study. Quality domains assessed:

- Provider competence
- Adherence to evidence-based care
- Health system readiness
- Women's experiences of care



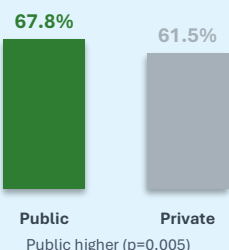
Key Messages

- Public facilities performed better technically
- Private facilities require greater support
- Respectful care influences experiences
- Provider training improves quality
- Routine quality monitoring is needed

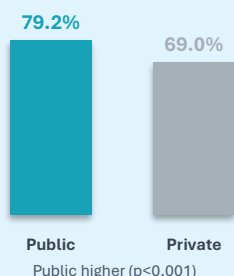
Results, Policy Actions and Recommendations

RESULTS DASHBOARD

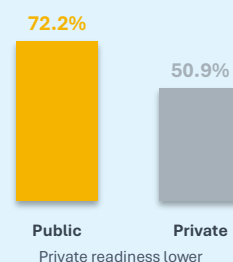
PROVIDER COMPETENCE



ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS



FACILITY READINESS



! What Matters Most to Women?

Women valued

- ♥ Respectful treatment
- ♥ Effective communication
- ♥ Emotional support
- ♥ Privacy and dignity

Common gaps

- △ Pain management
- △ Labour companionship
- △ Informed consent
- △ Shared decision-making

📋 Policy Ask

Kaduna State should establish a State Quality Improvement Initiative for Intrapartum Care.

📋 Priority Actions

1

TRAINING

Competency-based provider training

2

SUPERVISION

Supportive supervision and mentorship

3

REGULATION

Private facility accreditation

4

READINESS

Staffing, medicines and equipment

5

RESPECTFUL CARE

Communication, dignity and consent

🔧 Action Matrix

0–12 months: Training, supervision, audits
1–3 years: Regulation, readiness improvement
Continuous: Respectful care, quality dashboards

💰 Cost of Inaction

- △ Preventable deaths continue
- △ Newborn deaths and stillbirths remain high
- △ Trust in facility delivery may decline
- △ Health investments may underperform

🎯 Conclusion

Public facilities generally perform better in technical quality and readiness, but substantial gaps remain across both sectors. Investments in provider competence, facility readiness, supportive supervision and respectful maternity care offer a major opportunity to reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths in Kaduna State.



Acknowledgment

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Citation

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