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Abstract:

The study determined the motives and barriers in the utilization of prenatal care services among mothers in the City of San Fernando, La Union. Results revealed that along the profile of the mothers they are mostly 35-44 y/o, high school graduate, mostly unemployed and with low income.

The main motive is the mothers' concern for their own and their baby's health. Although there are no major barriers that exist, those prenatal care services that require mothers to spend money were not fully utilized. Generally, there is only partial utilization of these services during the first and second trimester which can be attributed to the difference in their profile. The number of children, income level and work status are the variables that play a significant difference in the utilization of these prenatal care services.

A guide to a healthy birth was proposed to enhance the utilization of these prenatal care services and a more intensive health education among mothers and their husbands and so with significant others.