



Project Title: Quality of antenatal care services in the public and private sector in Afghanistan		Code: SPH9
Host School / Institute: Sydney School of Public Health		Address: Level 3, Edward Ford Building (A27), Camperdown
Certificates & Clearances required: No		
Primary Supervisor: A/Prof Camille Raynes-Greenow		
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Co-Supervisor/team: Dr Aliko Christou		
Project Type: Data Analysis; Literature Review		
Project Category: Public Health; Global health		
<p>Skills / Attributes of a successful student: The successful student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -will have a strong background or experience with data analysis preferably using STATA or another statistical programming package. -will have a strong interest in public health/global health, particularly perinatal health research -may have public health and or research experience -may have practical experience in global health research, implementation or practice, but not essential. -will be diligent and motivated with attention to detail. -will be inquisitive, and demonstrate initiative with problem solving, and good time management skills. 		
Project Keywords: Quality of care; Antenatal care; Maternal health; Afghanistan; Data analysis		
<p>Project Description: Antenatal care in pregnancy is critical for preventing pregnancy-related disease and mortality. In Afghanistan, only 59% of women access antenatal care during their pregnancy and only 18% receive 4 or more visits (the previous minimum target). As a result, many women continue to die in childbirth or suffer severe complications, including preventable newborn deaths and stillbirths. Use of antenatal care through the public health system is very low, despite being free. The quality of this care is a concern for women and those who can afford it choose to seek antenatal care from private providers. However, even private antenatal care does not necessarily ensure that women receive the necessary clinical care to reduce their risk of pregnancy-related morbidity. What is not well understood is what is the content and quality of this antenatal care and does it differ between the public and private sectors? Do women that receive care from a private provider experience better maternal and neonatal outcomes? And what are the drivers of antenatal care utilisation and quality of care in Afghanistan?</p> <p>To investigate these questions the student, with support, will undertake an analysis of a national-level household survey data set from Afghanistan. This project will generate important information on the quality of care in Afghanistan and builds on a body of work conducted by the research team on improving perinatal outcomes in Afghanistan. The student will gain experience working with large population-based data sets and data analysis using STATA. At the end of the project, together with support from the supervisory team, the student will have assisted with completing the analysis and contributed to the production of a draft manuscript.</p>		