



# Maternity Care for Women who Deliver at the Monkey Bay Community Hospital

Eypór Örn Jónsson  
Medical student



# Introduction



- Why should we be interested?
  - Half a million maternal deaths annually
  - 4 million neonatal deaths annually
  - Maternal health and delivery events have a great impact on neonatal survival
- To lower these numbers
  - Improve coverage and quality of professional care



# The Objective



- To describe and assess health services provided to women who deliver at the MBCH and identify obstacles to improved services and propose feasible actions that can be taken.



# The Study Group



- 68 women that delivered during a one month period at the MBCH during the spring of 2005
- 21 women that were referred to Mangochi District Hospital
- Interviews with thirteen mothers.



# Results



# ANC



- 92% received adequate malaria prophylaxis during pregnancy
  - Two full treatment doses of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine
- 81% had an adequate status of tetanus toxoid immunization
- 71% were tested for syphilis



# Hemoglobin



- Hemoglobin was measured for 79%
  - 81% were anemic ( $< 11$  g/dl)
  - 41% had hemoglobin levels measured at first ANC visit



# Delivery



- Blood pressure and temperature was registered for 2/3 of the women on admission for delivery
- All women were given an oxytocic drug at delivery
- All children were weighed at birth



# Cesarean sections at MBCH?



- Fewer referrals to Mangochi
- MBCH does not function properly as the referral unit it is intended to be
  - Only one woman referred to MBCH
- Two babies with breech presentation were stillborn during the research period



# Limitations



- Small study population
- Interviews – reality?
  - Two gave birth alone
  - Three were assisted by a cleaner
  - Eight were assisted by a midwife



# Summary



- Encouraging findings
  - Malaria prophylaxis
  - Administration of oxytocic drugs
- Services not utilized to their full potential
  - Tetanus toxoid immunization
  - Syphilis screening
  - Blood transfusions



# Summary



- Anemia is an important problem
  - Hemoglobin needs to be measured sooner in pregnancy
- Incomplete coverage of services and lack of quality of care are in part due to shortage of staff and lack of motivation amongst staff.