Delayed Child Development in Rural Ghana: A Baseline Evaluation

Julius Weng^{1,2}, Sonia Rego², Sarah Gustafson^{2,3}, Frances Glascoe⁴, Diana Rickard^{2,3}

BACKGROUND

- Cognitive stimulation during the first five years of life is critical for proper childhood development.
- Prior community evaluations in rural Ghana have demonstrated that children in the Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai (BAB) district receive inadequate cognitive simulation.

OBJECTIVES

- To characterize baseline child development in the BAB district.
- To obtain formative data for developing a mentorship program for first-time mothers and their children.

METHODS

- The validated Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status: Developmental Milestones - Assessment Level survey (PEDS:DM-AL) was translated into the local language (Twi) and culturally adapted.
- PEDS:DM-AL was administered orally, in-person to parents of children ages 36 months and younger.
- Households were randomly selected from three villages.
- Statistical comparison of proportions was accomplished using the Chi-square test.

RESULTS

Table 1. Characteristics of Study	Populatior
Surveys administered, n	23
Surveys included in analysis, n	20
Age at time of survey, mo ¹	16 (8-
Female, %	52% (10
¹ Median (interquartile range)	

Corresponding author:

Julius Weng, BS

JuliusWeng@mednet.ucla.edu

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA



Figure 1. Percentage of Children with **Developmental Delays ≥ 25%** 52.2 Percent 36.0 33.9 33.1 33.0 28. 27.2 Self-help Receptive Expressive Social ≥ 1 domain ≥1 motor Fine Motor Gross ≥1 Language Language Emotional domain Motor language domain



Figure 2. Percentage of Children by Age with **Developmental Delays ≥ 25%**



Developmental Delays ≥ 25% 20.0 10.0 -Fine Motor Self-help Gross Motor

¹p-value > 0.05



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¹David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA ²Ghana Health and Education Initiative Department of Pediatrics at ³UCLA, ⁴Vanderbilt University

Figure 3. Percentage of Children by Sex with



Ghana were more likely to have substantial delays.