Original Paper

New mothers’ perceptions regarding maternity care services provided in a prefecture of Northern Greece

Evgenia Tsetsila BSc, MSc, MW, Clinical Collaborator, Midwifery Department, Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece

Maria Lavdaniti BSc, MSc, PhD, RN, Clinical Professor, Nursing Department, Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece

Maria Psychogiou BSc, MSc, RHV, PhD candidate, Department of Nursing Science, University of Eastern Finland

Spyros G Fountoukis, BSc, Msc, PhD, Dept. of Informatics with Applications in Biomedicine, University of Central Greece.

Maria Tseli MD, PhD, Paediatrician, Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy Department, Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece

Despina Sapountzi-Krepi BSc, MSc, PhD, RN, R HV, Professor, Nursing Department, Frederick University Cyprus,

Corresponding Author: Despina Sapountzi-Krepi Nursing Department, Frederick University, Cyprus Address: 7 Y. Frederickou Street, Pallouriotisa, Nicosia 1036, Cyprus Tel: +357 22431355, Fax: +357 22438234 E-mail address: desapoun@yahoo.com

Abstract

Background: The use of health care services during pregnancy assists in decreasing neonatal deaths and improves the quality of life of pregnant women and their newborn children.

Aim: To investigate the perceptions of new mothers in a prefecture of Northern Greece regarding the maternity services provided during pregnancy and childbirth.

Methodology: The sample consists of 133 mothers of newborn babies who were hospitalised, after in-hospital delivery, between April and June 2008 in a prefecture of Northern Greece. The instrument used for the data collection was the Kuopio Instrument for Mothers (KIM).

Results: 97% of participants were married, 42.2% had higher education and 23.3% were full-time employees. 42.9% of the mothers were primiparous and 57.1% were multiparous. 56.8% had vaginal delivery, while 42.9% had caesarean section. 84.2% of the participants stated that they would prefer to have their next delivery in a private maternity clinic, and 3% stated that they would prefer to give birth at home. 15.3% had participated in childbirth preparatory courses. Finally, the participants considered that maternity services, such as pregnancy monitoring, preventative examinations for foetal abnormalities, PAP-test and preventative examinations for breast cancer, should be provided by the state free of charge.

Conclusions: It is necessary to further develop and modernize maternity services in such a way that they will correspond to pregnant women’s needs.

Key words: Maternity, pregnancy, labour, delivery, mothers’ experiences, Greece.