

# Prevalence and Determinants of Domestic Accidents among People of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria

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## Abstract

*Human activities are increasing on a daily basis especially at home where everybody starts and ends the day's activities. This study investigated the prevalence and determinants of domestic accidents among the people of Ahoada west Local Government Area of Rivers State. Six research questions and one hypothesis were formulated to achieve the objectives of the study. A descriptive survey research design was adopted and the population of the study consisted of all the people of Ahoada west Local Government Area of Rivers State. The sample size for this study was 300 people of Ahoada West Local Government Area in Rivers State. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select five districts from the area while simple random sampling technique was used to select 60 respondents from each of the selected districts. The instrument used for data collection was a self-developed and structured questionnaire titled "Determinants of Domestic Accidents Questionnaire (DDAQ)" The findings of this study showed that the prevalence of domestic accidents was high (77.2%). Factors such as: lack of supervision, poor housekeeping and carelessness were revealed as the determinants of domestic accidents. The result of the tested hypotheses showed that there was a significant difference on the occurrence of domestic accidents based on educational qualifications ( $p = 0.000$ )  $F(4.245) = 9.541, p < 0.05$ ). It was recommended among others that, Health educators should conduct health education programmes via mass media in order to create more awareness on the increasing rate of domestic accidents in homes and parents should educate house-helpers, babysitters and caregivers on the preventive measures of domestic accidents and how to manage it as they take care of the home in their absence.*

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**Keywords:** Accidents, Ahoada west, Determinants, Domestic, People, prevalence and Rivers State

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## Introduction

The home is the first environment of everybody including children. As the home remains the place where all daily activities begins and ends, domestic accidents will be inevitable at home. In recent times, domestic accidents are basically one of the major causes of death globally. The home has very important role to play as far as prevalence and prevention of domestic accidents is concerned. Domestic accidents are very likely to occur at home due to constant activities going on at home and its environs at which various home appliance are always involved. According to Arulogun, Ikolo and Oluwasanu (2013), domestic accidents include burns, cuts, and choking, poisoning, falls among others which involves the use of objects such as knife, bottle, razor, hot objects, and chemicals among others. The authors added that these home implements might seem harmless but if not handled cautiously by taking safety measures, the accidents that may likely to occur might just prove as fatal as any other normal accidents

However, in developed countries, such as: United Kingdom. World Health Organization (2013) reported that more than one million people were involved in domestic accidents. Rospa (2012) reported that in the UK, 40 percent of all accidents occur at home and 2,700,000 people are treated due to domestic accidents with 7,000 deaths annually. In Turkey, domestic accidents with incidence of 25.0 percent, is the second leading cause of death following traffic accidents (Koçer, 2006). In Nigeria, Arulogun, Ikolo and Oluwasanu (2013) reported that the prevalence of domestic accidents was 46 percent.

Nevertheless, in Nigeria, studies also showed that domestic accidents are the cause of childhood injuries. Morongiello, and Corbett ( 2006 ) stated that domestic accidents though not the leading child health problem in Nigeria but constitute a major cause of morbidity among children and commonly encountered in rural clinics and casualty department of major hospitals. The case may not be different in Rivers State where some households accommodate large number of people such as; children, relatives, parents, house-helps and visitors. Domestic accidents resulting in injuries are the leading causes of death (UNFPA, 2001). However, there are depths of information about factors responsible for accidents that occur at home hence, the study sought to investigate prevalence and determinants of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State.

### **Domestic Accidents**

Accidents can occur anywhere such as road, office, industry, home, market among others. However, accidents that occur at home are known as domestic accidents. Accidents is an occurrence that is unplanned, unpremeditated, unintentional, and unforeseen. In the view of Rezapur-Shahkolai, Afshari, Moghimbeigi and Hazavehei (2017), domestic accidents is an unprecedented occurrence in the home that can lead to injury or damage. Mohammed et al (2016) highlighted some types of domestic accidents which include poisoning, cut, suffocation and burns. According to Lima, Pedrosa, Galvao, Aguiar, Paiva and Holanda (2014), domestic accident is referred to as accidents that take place in the home environment. Rezapure-Shahkolai et al (2017) identified forms of domestic accidents such as: falls, poisoning, electric shock, asphyxiation, suffocation and choking.

Domestic accidents occur in a home or in its immediate surroundings. The types of domestic accidents identified by Arulogun, Ikolo and Oluwasanu (2013) were: fall from slippery floor, cut from knife, blade, fall from bed, chair, staircase, burns from boiling water, and burns from lighted candle, lantern, and electric shock. Similarly, four types of domestic accidents were identified by Lafta, Al-Shatari and Abass (2013) which include: accident caused as a result of sharp instrument, fire, electricity and chemicals. Domestic accidents are accidents that occur in the home and around environment. The World Health Organization (2013) defined domestic accident as an unintentional event that occurs at home that results or could result in an injury. However, in the United Kingdom, more than one million people are involved in accidents in and around the home every year, for which they are taken to accident and emergency units (WHO, 2005). In Turkey, home accidents with incidence of 25.0 percent, is the second leading cause of death following traffic accidents (Koçer, 2006). The domestic accident is the fourth leading cause of deaths worldwide (Çavuşoğlu, 2008). In Nigeria, Arulogun, Ikolo and Oluwasanu (2013) reported the prevalence of domestic accident to be 46 percent. The WHO (2015) reported that annually, 830,000 people died due to domestic accidents worldwide.

### **Determinants of Domestic Accidents**

The cause of domestic accidents reflects more clearly than any other the character and lifestyle of people at home and its environments. Lack of supervision of children and carelessness of the mother are the fundamental causes of accidents at home (National Safe Kids

Campaign, 2012). To explain this, poor housekeeping and the prevailing circumstances prior to the accidents are all attributed to the occurrence of accident. Wong (2002) opined that if there is lack of co-ordination between the determining factors, the risk for accidents increases. The author added that the kitchen is considered the most dangerous place in the house for children and the common causes of home-injury deaths are; fire, burns, suffocation, drowning, choking, falls, poisoning and firearms. Andersson (2002) lauded that to be able to prevent future accidents at home, it is necessary to have detailed knowledge concerning the course of events of historical accidents. Therefore, lack of knowledge on environmental cleanliness and poor housekeeping can also contribute to the occurrence of accidents at home. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC (2012) explained that most domestic accidents occur where there is water in the bathroom, kitchen, swimming pools, or heat or flames in the kitchen. Carelessness can also portray potential fall which include: fall from bed, stairs, slippery floors, high windows, or tipping furniture (CDC 2012).

Conversely, some forms of domestic accident can be prevented depending on the individual's attitude and the environment. Mohammed et al (2016) reported that, there was statistical significant correlation between level of education and practices in caring for the children in order to minimize domestic accidents. Silva (2017) highlighted some causes of domestic accidents which include: lack of monitoring of children, carelessness which can lead to ingestion of cleaning products or toxic substances, playing while bathing, and lack of guardian.

### **Safety Measures to prevent domestic accidents**

Some of the accidents that occur at home can be prevented. This can only be made possible if individuals have the right attitude and a favourable environment. It is on records that one-third of all accidental injuries at home were preventable. On this note, Philippakis, Hemenway, Alexe, Dessypris, Spyridopoulos and Petridou (2004) stated that if safety precautions are taken seriously, most domestic accidents could have been prevented. Again, Andersson (2002) was of the view that to be able to prevent domestic accidents, it is important to have detailed knowledge concerning the course of events of historical accident; factors influencing the course of events and factors influencing the building up of the risk situation prior to an earlier accident. Several reports have revealed that effective community based intervention programmes potentially reduce the risk for accidents and injury at home. However, Black (2005), highlighted that the safety measures that can be taken to prevent domestic accidents include: keeping detergents and medications in a high or locked cabinet, proper arrangement of knives and sharp instruments in the kitchen, and constant monitoring of children as they are at greater risk for domestic accidents.

However, safety measures adopted to prevent domestic accidents as given by WHO (2005) included: the use of stair gates, window bars, smoke detectors, water temperature regulator, child resistant lighters, flame retardant fabrics, child resistant packaging, safe storage, swimming pool fencing, warning labels, bans of products causing choking, increased awareness of safety measures in the home and use of appliance in the home.

### **Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the prevalence and determinants of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada-West Local Government Area of Rivers State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determine the prevalence of domestic accidents in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State.
2. Determine lack of supervision of children as a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State.

3. Investigate poor housekeeping as a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State..
4. Investigate carelessness as a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State.
5. Outline safety measures that can be adopted to prevent the occurrence of domestic accidents in Ahoada West West Local Government Area.

### Research Questions

The following research questions were used to guide the study:

1. What is the prevalence of domestic accidents in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?
2. To what extent does lack of supervision of children constitute a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?
3. To what extent does poor housekeeping constitute a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?
4. To what extent does carelessness constitute a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?
5. What are the safety measures that can be adopted to prevent domestic accidents in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?

### Hypotheses

The null hypothesis was formulated and tested for the study:

**HO<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the occurrence of domestic accidents among the people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State based on educational qualification.

### Methods

A descriptive survey research design was adopted to investigate prevalence and determinants of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State. The population of this study consisted of all the people of Ahoada West Local Government Area in Rivers State. The total number of the people was two hundred and forty nine thousand, four hundred and twenty five (249,425) individuals (National Population Commission (NPC), 2016). The sample size for this study was 300 people of Ahoada West Local Government Area in Rivers State. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select five districts from the area while simple random sampling technique was used to select 60 respondents from each of the selected districts. The instrument for data collection was a self-developed and structured questionnaire titled "Prevalence and Determinants of Domestic Accidents Questionnaire (PDDAQ)". The questionnaire was made up of four sections of A, B, C and D. Section A contained items that elicited information on the socio-demographic data of the respondents, section B contained items that emphasized on the prevalence of domestic accident, section C concentrated on the determinants of domestic accidents and section D contained items on preventive measures of domestic accidents. The instrument was validated by experts in Health and Safety studies and others in related field for scrutiny and evaluation. Corrections were made on the content and the input of the experts was incorporated and the instrument was thus found to be valid for the study. With the help of two trained research assistants, 300 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents and retrieved on the spot. Out of the 300 copies of the questionnaire administered, 38 copies were not retrieved while 12 were not properly filled which yielded 98.0 per cent return rate. So, data analysis was done using 250 questionnaires and the researcher adopted the descriptive statistics

of simple percentage, mean and standard deviation for research questions while Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the null hypothesis at .05 level of significance.

**Results :** The results of this study are presented below:

**Research question 1:** What is the prevalence of domestic accidents in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?

**Table 1: Analysis on Prevalence of Domestic Accidents in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State.**

Items	Yes F(%)	No F(%)
Ever experienced the occurrence of accidents at home	193(77.2)	57(22.8)
<b>Type of domestic accidents that occurred</b>		
Fall from slippery floor	186(74.4)	64(25.6)
Cut from knife/blade	186(74.4)	64(25.6)
Fall from bed/chair/staircase	166(66.4)	84(33.6)
Burns from boiling water	153(61.2)	97(38.8)
Burns from lighted candle/lantern	152(60.8)	98(39.2)
Kerosene ingestion	126(50.4)	124(49.9)
Insertion of pin in the ear	109(43.6)	141(56.4)
Ingestion of soap	128(51.2)	122(48.8)
Electric shock	123(49.2)	127(50.8)

Table 1 above showed that more than three quarter 193(77.2%) of the respondents had experienced the occurrence of accidents at home. The types of domestic accident include: fall from slippery floor 186(74.4%), cut from knife, blade 186(74.4%), fall from bed, chair, staircase 166(66.4%), burns from boiling water 153(61.2%), burns from lighted candle, lantern 152(60.8%), kerosene ingestion 126(50.4%), insertion of pin in the ear 109(43.6%), ingestion of soap 128(51.2%) and electric shock 123(49.2%).

**Research question 2:** To what extent does lack of supervision of children constitute a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?

**Table 2: Analysis on Lack of supervision as a determinant of domestic accident among respondents**

Items	SA F(%)	A F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)	Mean
Accident can occur at home when children are allowed to play without any supervision by an adult	159(63.6)	82(32.8)	0(0.0)	9(3.6)	3.56
Allowing children to do housework without supervision can cause accident	146(58.4)	70(28.0)	34(13.6)	0(0.0)	3.45
When young ones are allowed to use sharp objects without an adult's supervision accident can occur	191(76.4)	59(23.6)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	3.76

When a mother fails to supervise the activities in her home, it can increase the chances of accident	135(54.0)	78(31.2)	9(3.6)	28(11.2)	3.28
Grand mean					3.51
Criterionmean					2.50

Table 2 revealed that the grand mean 3.51 is greater than the criterion mean indicating that lack of supervision was a determinant of domestic accidents among respondents. However, the highest proportion in each of the items showed that (63.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that accident can occur at home when children are allowed to play without any supervision by an adult; (58.4%) strongly agreed that allowing children to do housework without supervision can cause accident; (76.4%) strongly agreed that when young ones are allowed to use sharp objects without an adult's supervision accident can occur and ( 54.0%) also strongly agreed that when a mother fails to supervise the activities in her home, it can increase the chances of accident.

**Research question 3:** To what extend does poor housekeeping constitute a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?

**Table 3: Analysis on Poor housekeeping as a determinant of domestic accidents among respondents**

Items	SA F(%)	A F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)	Mean
Improperly kept sharp objects in the house can cause accident	165(66.0)	85(34.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	3.66
Improper arrangement of furniture and equipment in the house can cause accident	151(60.4)	64(25.6)	0(0.0)	35(14.0)	3.32
Failure to mop the floor particularly when water is poured can lead to accident due to slippery floor	174(69.6)	76(30.4)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	3.69
Poorly installed electrical appliances can result in accident	185(74.0)	65(26.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	3.74
Grand mean					3.60
Criterionmean					2.50

Table 3 revealed that the grand mean = 3.60 is greater than the criterion mean = 2.5 indicating that poor housekeeping was a determinant of domestic accident among respondents. The highest proportion in each of the items showed that (66.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that improperly kept sharp objects in the house can cause accident; (60.4%) strongly agreed that improper arrangement of furniture and equipment in the house can cause accident; (69.6%) strongly agreed that failure to mop the floor particularly when water is poured can lead to accident due to slippery floor and (74.0%) also strongly agreed that poorly installed electrical appliances can result in accident.

**Research question 4:** To what extend does carelessness constitute a determinant of domestic accidents among people of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State?

**Table 4: Analysis on Carelessness as a determinant of domestic accident among respondents**

Items	SA F(%)	A F(%)	D F(%)	SD F(%)	Mean
Keeping sharp objects such as pin, razor blade, knife, etc can increase the chances of accident	154(61.6)	96(38.4)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	3.62
Easily accessed medications, i.e. keeping drugs within the reach of children can lead to accident	140(56.0)	63(25.2)	23(9.2)	24(9.6)	3.28
When liquid such as kerosene, alcohol, etc are kept within the sight and reach of children it can lead to accident	163(65.3)	76(30.4)	11(4.4)	0(0.0)	3.56
Keeping substances such as banana pills, nylon, etc, carelessly on the floor can lead to accident	152(60.8)	63(25.2)	24(9.6)	11(4.4)	3.42
Grand mean					3.47
Criterionmean					2.50

Table 4 revealed that the grand mean = 3.47 is greater than the criterion mean = 2.5 indicating that carelessness was a determinant of domestic accident among respondents. The highest proportion in each of the items showed that (61.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that keeping sharp objects such as: pin, razor blade, knife, can increase the chances of accident; (56.0%) strongly agreed that Easily accessed medications, keeping drugs within the reach of children can lead to accident; (65.3%) strongly agreed when liquid such as: kerosene, alcohol, are kept within the sight and reach of children it can lead to accident and (60.8%) also strongly agreed that Keeping substances such as: banana pills, nylon, carelessly on the floor can lead to accident.

**Research question 5:** What are the various safety measures that can be adopted to prevent the occurrence of domestic accidents in Ahoada West Local Government Area?

**Table 5 Analysis on Various safety measures adopted among respondents**

Items	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
<b>Take safety measures</b>		
Yes	222	88.8
No	28	11.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Safety measures adopted by respondents</b>		
Keeping detergent and medications in a high or locked cabinet	27	12.2
Proper arrangement of knives and sharp instrument	102	45.9
Consistent monitoring of children	93	41.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5 revealed that 88.8% of the respondents indicated that they took safety measures to prevent the occurrence of domestic accident. The safety measures adopted by the respondents

were proper arrangement of knives and sharp instrument (45.9%), consistent monitoring of children (41.9%) and keeping detergent and medications in a high or locked cabinet (12.2%).

### Testing of Hypothesis

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant difference on the occurrence of domestic accidents among people in Ahoada West Local Government Area based on educational qualifications.

**Table 6: ANOVA results showing the significant difference on the occurrence of domestic accidents based on educational qualifications**

Sources of variance	Sum of squares	df	Meansum of squares	F-value	P-value	Decision
Between group	5.931	4	1.483	9.541	0.000	Rejected
Within group	38.073	245	.155			
Total	44.004	249				

**P<0.05 = Significant**

Table 6 revealed the One-Way ANOVA on significant difference on the occurrence of domestic accidents based on educational qualifications. The finding of this study shows a significant difference between the two variables at  $p = 0.000$ ,  $F(4,245) = 9.541$ ,  $p < 0.05$ . Therefore, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference on the occurrence of domestic accidents based on educational qualifications among people in Ahoada West Local Government Area was not retained.

### Discussion of findings

The results of the study in table 1 showed that the prevalence of domestic accidents was 77.2 per cent which is high. This finding was expected therefore not surprising because the people of Ahoada-West Local Government Area are always engaged in business and farming activities which may reduce their attention to their homes. The finding of this study is in line with Abd El-Aty (2005) who reported that the prevalence of domestic accidents was more than 50 per cent and the types of domestic accidents include: fall from slippery floor 186(74.4%), cut from knife, blade 186(74.4%), fall from bed, chair staircase 166(66.4%), burns from boiling water 153(61.2%), burns from lighted candle/lantern 152(60.8%), kerosene ingestion 126(50.4%), insertion of pin in the ear 109(43.6%), ingestion of soap 128(51.2%) and electric shock 123(49.2%). The finding of this study also corroborates with that of Mohammed et al (2016) who reported that more than (50%) of the respondents admitted the experiences of one accident or the other in their homes and (72%) of the participants had experienced domestic accident such as: falls, meanwhile more than one quarter (28%) of them experienced cut wounds. The findings of this study is at variance with that of Arulogun, Ikolo and Oluwasanu (2013) who reported that types of domestic accidents found were fall from slippery floor which occurred most (32.8%), followed by cut from knife/blade (17.9%), fall from bed, chair, staircase (14.2%), burns from boiling water (12.8%), burns from lighted candle/lantern (10.7%) and the least reported was electric shock (0.3%).

The results of the study in table 2 revealed that lack of supervision was a determinant of domestic accidents among respondents. However, 63.6 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that accident can occur at home when children are allowed to play without any supervision by an adult; 58.4 per cent strongly agreed that allowing children to do housework without supervision can cause accident; 76.4 per cent strongly agreed that when young ones are allowed to use sharp objects without an adult's supervision accident can occur and while 54.0 per cent also strongly agreed that when a mother fails to supervise the activities in her



home, it can increase the chances of accident. This finding was expected therefore not surprising because the first environment of the children is their home where they start and end the day's activities. The finding of this study is similar to that of Arulogun, Ikolo and Oluwasanu (2013) who reported that more than (50%) of the respondents agreed that allowing children to play unsupervised can make them prone to domestic accidents. The finding of this study is consistent with that of the National Safe Kids Campaign (2012) which reported that lack of supervision of children is a fundamental cause of accidents at home. The finding of this study is in agreement with Niekerka, Reimersb and Laflammeb (2005) who revealed that the occurrence of domestic accident is highly influenced by lack of supervision of the young by the adults or parents.

In Table 3, the findings of the study indicated that poor housekeeping was a determinant of domestic accidents among respondents. From the study, 66.0 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that improperly kept sharp objects in the house can cause accidents; 60.4 per cent strongly agreed that improper arrangement of furniture and equipment in the house can cause accidents; 69.6 per cent strongly agreed that failure to mop the floor particularly when water is poured can lead to accident due to slippery floor and 74.0 per cent also strongly agreed that poorly installed electrical appliances can result in accidents. This finding was expected therefore not surprising because disorderliness and improper arrangement of things at home predisposes children to all forms of domestic accidents. The findings of this study corroborates with that of Arulogun, Ikolo and Oluwasanu (2013) where majority of the respondents agreed that faulty electrical appliances without proper attention cause domestic accidents. Similarly, the findings of this study supports that of Oyerinde and Obiyemi (2013) who highlighted the following factors to be responsible for domestic accidents: faulty electrical connections and slippery floor caused by water poured on the floor.

The findings of the study in table 4 showed that carelessness was a determinant of domestic accidents among respondents where 61.6 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that keeping sharp objects such as pin, razor blade, knife, can increase the chances of accidents; 56.0 per cent strongly agreed that easily accessed medications can cause accidents; 65.3 per cent strongly agreed that when liquid such as kerosene, alcohol, etc are kept within the sight and reach of children it can lead to accident and 60.8 per cent also strongly agreed that Keeping substances such as: banana pills, nylon, and carelessly dropping soap on the floor can lead to accidents. This finding was expected therefore not surprising because carelessness and act of negligence can predispose an individual to accidents. The findings of this study is in line with that of Arulogun, Ikolo and Oluwasanu (2013) where it was noted that factor such as: keeping medications where children can have access to swallow them was a determinant of domestic accidents. The findings of this study supports that of Morrison and Stone (2009) where it was stated that, toxic substances put in the medicine cabinet, or even in a purse or other place where medications are stored shows carelessness which the aftermath most times is domestic accidents. Such act of carelessness can also portray potential for fall which includes: fall from bed, stairs, slippery floors, from high wind among others.

The findings of the study in table 5 revealed that majority (88.8% of the respondents indicated that they took safety measures to prevent the occurrence of domestic accidents in their homes. The safety measures adopted by the respondents were proper arrangement of knives and sharp instrument (45.9%), consistent monitoring of children (41.9%) and keeping detergent and medications in a high or locked cabinet (12.2%). This finding was expected therefore not surprising because adopting safety measures and precautions at home will help to prevent some accidents at home which is in line with the primary message of public health which is prevention and reassurance hence confirm the popular maxim 'prevention is better than cure'. The findings of the study is in agreement with that of Black (2005) who noted that the safety

measures that can be taken to prevent domestic accidents include: keeping detergents and medications in a high or locked cabinet, proper arrangement of knives, sharp instruments in the kitchen and consistent monitoring of children as they are at greater risk for domestic accidents. However, the finding of this study is at variance with that of Carlsson, Dykes, Jansson and Bramhagen (2016) where a lesser proportion (48.7%) indicated that they have taken sufficient safety measures to decrease the risk of injuries at home.

The findings of the study in table 6 showed that there is a significant difference on the occurrence of domestic accidents based on educational qualifications ( $p = 0.000$ ,  $F(4,245) = 9.541$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). The finding of this study corroborates that of El-Sabely, Yassin and Zaher (2014) where the result showed a statistically significant difference between educational level and domestic accidents ( $p < 0.001$ ). This finding was expected therefore not surprising because educated people will acknowledge the benefits of adopting safety measures and precautions at home unlike illiterate people. The findings of this study is similar to that of Mohammed et al (2016) where the result showed that there were highly statistical significant correlations found between respondents' education and the occurrence of accident at home. The finding of this study is also consistent with that of Aktürk and Erci (2016) who reported a significant relationship between maternal education level and home accident with lower incidence by increasing education level.

### **Conclusion**

It was concluded that, the prevalence of domestic accident was high in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State. The types of domestic accident include: fall from slippery floor, cut from knife, blade, and fall from bed, chair, staircase, burns from boiling water, and burns from lighted candle, lantern, kerosene ingestion, and insertion of pin in the ear, ingestion of soap and electric shock. Factors such as: lack of supervision, poor housekeeping, carelessness were determinants of domestic accidents while there was significant difference in the prevalence and determinants of domestic accidents among the people of Ahoada West Local Government Area based on educational qualifications.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Health educators should conduct health education programmes via mass media in order to create more awareness on the increasing rate of domestic accidents in homes.
2. Mothers should always arrange the home properly and supervise the activities of the children at home because lack of supervision increases the chances of domestic accidents.
3. Parents should educate house-helpers, babysitters and caregivers on the preventive measures of domestic accidents and how to manage it as they take care of the home in their absence.
4. The ministry of health should strengthen the existing Child Health Care Services and Health promotion especially in all pediatric health care settings in order to enhance sensitization of domestic accidents prevention.
5. The government should release supportive strategies for accidents prevention intervention programmes which will be directed towards prevention and control of accidents at home.

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