Antenatal care coverage (%)

Rationale for use

Antenatal care coverage is an indicator of access and utilization of health care during pregnancy.

Definition

Percentage of women who utilized antenatal care provided by skilled health personnel for reasons related to pregnancy at least once during pregnancy as a percentage of live births in a given time period.

Associated terms

**Antenatal care** constitutes screening for health and socio-economic conditions likely to increase the possibility of specific adverse pregnancy outcomes, providing therapeutic interventions known to be effective; and educating pregnant women about planning for safe birth, emergencies during pregnancy and how to deal with them.

**Skilled birth attendant** (see Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel).

**Live birth** (see Probability of dying under age 5 years).

**Data sources**

- Household surveys: Birth history - detailed questions on the last child or all children a woman has given birth to during a given period preceding the survey (usually 3 to 5 years), and women are asked about the use of antenatal care. The number of live births to women surveyed provides the denominator.
- Routine health service statistics: Number of women receiving antenatal care (numerator). Census projections or in some cases vital registration data are used to provide the denominator (numbers of live births).

**Methods of estimation**

Empirical data from household surveys are used. At global level, facility data are not used.

**Disaggregation** By location (urban/rural, major regions/provinces) and socio-economic characteristics (e.g. women's education level, wealth quintile).

**References**


**Database**

- Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS): (http://www.measuredhs.com)

**Comments**

A single antenatal visit does not give information about the components or quality of the care provided. Additional indicators such as the number of visits (at least four per pregnancy are
recommended) and the timing of the first visit may be more useful, although these also do not indicate the content of the care.