Measuring coverage for newborn care interventions

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on behalf of Newborn Indicators
Technical Working Group

Women Deliver
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Why is measurement important for newborns?

- Growing interest in newborn health
  - MDGs 4 and 5
  - WHO/UNICEF Joint Statement
- Data gaps in tracking coverage of key interventions
  - Countdown 2015 profiles
  - COIA
  - LiST review of evidence
- Opportunities exist
  - DHS, MICS, other national surveys
  - SNL and partners’ sub-national surveys
Newborn Indicators Technical Working Group

- Inter-agency group – UNICEF, ICF Macro, NGOs, researchers, SNL
- Established in 2008
- Aim – reach consensus on key indicators and to advocate for inclusion in nationally representative and specialized surveys
- Support and coordinate research and secondary analyses
- Identifies of gaps needing research
What is the state of newborn coverage indicators?

**Postnatal care**: % of newborns with PNC visit within 2 days of birth

- Countdown to 2015 indicator
- COIA

- Included in national surveys, but limited data
  - DHS – limited to home births prior to 2006; MICS – not included until MICS4
  - Countdown 2005 report – 0 countries
  - Questions on validity – women’s reports home versus facility births and definition of PNC

- Data on content/quality of care not available
## Postnatal care: Recall and validity

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<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Accomplishments</th>
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| Uncertainty on mother’s knowledge about what happens to baby after birth, esp. facility births | • Qualitative research – women have a good idea what happens to baby regardless of birth location  
• DHS and MICS questionnaires – all births  
• Standard tables in DHS and MICS – all births |
| Recall of past births up to 5 years prior to survey                  | • DHS and MICS include births 2 years prior to survey                             |
| Misunderstanding of survey questions                                | • Qualitative research – women have difficulty understanding term “postnatal care”  
•Introductory statement in MICS and DHS                            |
What is the state of newborn coverage indicators II?

Key behaviors and practices

– Thermal care
– Immediate breastfeeding
– Clean cord care

Other evidence-based interventions

– KMC
– Care-seeking and treatment for sepsis

• Not included in core DHS or MICS questionnaires
## Newborn behaviors and practices

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| Uncertainty on mother’s knowledge about what happens to baby after birth, esp. facility births | • Qualitative research –  
  • women can recall the event sequence for delivery and immediate newborn care practices  
  • no difference in recall between women with facility-based births and home births or the timing of the birth relative to the survey.  
  • women have difficulty recalling the exact timing of events as measured in hours and minutes  
  • Limit timing questions to hours (and not minutes) |
| Overlap wrapping and drying                                           | • >90% babies dried also wrapped (SNL endline surveys)  
  • Limit question to wrapping/wiping |
Recommended Indicators: PNC coverage

• Consensus on global indicator
  – % of women/newborns who received PNC within two days after delivery
  – Includes ALL births

• Comparable data DHS and MICS
  – Revision of DHS core questionnaire (2010)
  – MICS4 PNC module (~20 countries)

• More data available for global monitoring
  – Countdown 2012 report – 25 countries (home births); 4 countries (all births)
# Recommended Indicators: Newborn Behaviors and Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators Recommended</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of newborns dried after birth</td>
<td>All births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of newborns with delayed bath at least 6 hours after birth</td>
<td>All births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of newborns with cord cut with clean instrument</td>
<td>Home births only</td>
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<tr>
<th>Indicators Additional Testing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of newborns placed on the mother’s bare chest after delivery</td>
<td>All births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of newborns with nothing (harmful) applied to cord (from cord cutting until it falls off)</td>
<td>All births</td>
</tr>
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Research Gaps

• As more PNC data become available – need to assess:
  – Women’s understanding of PNC – is this “intrapartum care” or “postnatal care”
  – Feasible to combine PNC for woman and newborn into one indicator?
Timing of PNC

Percent of women who received PNC within 2 days of delivery by time of first PNC, DHS data 2005-2011

- Within 1 hr
- 1-6 hrs
- 7-24 hrs

Country and survey year:
PNC women and newborns

Percent of home births for which women and newborns received PNC within two days of delivery, DHS data 2005-2011
Next steps for measurement

• Finalize and test optional survey module
  – Behaviors and practices; content of PNC; multiple PNC contacts
• Follow up on PNC measurement, especially pre-discharge PNC
• Develop coverage measures of evidence-based interventions
  – KMC
  – Care seeking/treatment newborn sepsis
• Vital registration, stillbirths, HMIS
Acknowledgements

• Co-authors
• Newborn Indicator Technical Working Group members
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• Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Tools and materials available on Healthy Newborn Network (HNN) website:

http://www.healthynewbornnetwork.org/page/newborn-numbers

THANK YOU!
What did we do?

• Supported research and secondary analyses
  – Macro – PNC/PPC data analysis (Bangladesh and Egypt)
  – Macro – Qualitative study on recall and practices (Bangladesh and Malawi)
  – MICS4 pre-test – Mombassa, Kenya
  – ICH – Qualitative study on postnatal care recall (Ghana)
  – SNL – Secondary analyses of endline surveys
Content of PNC

• Signal functions
  – checking the newborn’s umbilical cord
  – assessing the newborn’s temperature
  – observing/counseling on breastfeeding
  – counseling on newborn danger signs
  – weighing baby (if applicable)

• Optional module
• **Facility births:**
  - Length of stay
  - Before discharge, check on health?
  - After discharge, check on health?
  - If yes, who, where and when

• **Home births:**
  - Before “birth attendant” left home, check on health?
  - After “birth attendant” left home, check on health?
  - If yes, who, where, and when