

Newborn Care Indicators for Household Surveys

The Newborn Indicators Technical Working Group (TWG) reviewed newborn indicators that are currently collected through national surveys, including the DHS and MICS, and has recommended new indicators on newborn care practices that could be added to national and program household surveys. In addition, the TWG has recommended additional indicators of interest, but that need further testing before they are recommended for inclusion in national household surveys. This document includes all these indicators as well as standardized questions to capture the new recommended indicators and those that require testing.

The recall periods included below are the maximum recommended, and shorter periods may be used. Some indicators may be collected only for the most recent live birth for women with more than one live birth during the recall period.

INDICATORS CURRENTLY INCLUDED IN NATIONAL SURVEYS (DHS/MICS)

Program Element	Indicator	Numerator	Denominator
Neonatal mortality rate	Number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births	Number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births	N/A
Stillbirths	Number of stillbirths ¹	Number of stillbirths	N/A
Antenatal care (at least one)	Percentage of women receiving antenatal care from skilled health personnel ²	Number of women receiving antenatal care from skilled health personnel for her most recent live birth	Total number of women with a live birth in the 5 years prior to the survey
Antenatal care (4 or more)	Percentage of women attended at least 4 times by any provider	Number of women attended at least 4 times by any provider for her most recent live birth	Total number of women with a live birth in the 5 years prior to the survey
Skilled attendant at birth	Percentage of live births attended by skilled health personnel	Number of live births attended by skilled health personnel	Total number of live births in the 5 years prior to the survey
Facility delivery	Percentage of live births delivered in a health facility	Number of live births delivered in a health facility	Total number of live births in the 5 years prior to the survey
Caesarian section rate	Percentage of live births delivered by caesarian section	Number of live births delivered by caesarian section	Total number of live births in the 5 years prior to the survey
Neonatal tetanus protection	Percentage of newborns protected against tetanus	Number of newborns protected against tetanus at birth ³	Total number of last live births in the 5 years prior to the survey

¹ Stillbirths are fetal deaths in pregnancies lasting seven or more months.

² Skilled health personnel include doctor, nurse, midwife, and auxiliary nurse/midwife.

³ Mother received two injections during the pregnancy of the last live birth, or two or more injections (the last within three years of the last live birth), or three or more injections (the last within five years of the last live birth) or four or more injections (the last within 10 years of the last live birth), or five or more injections at any time prior to the last live birth.

Program Element	Indicator	Numerator	Denominator
Postnatal care for mothers	Percentage of women who received postnatal care within two days ⁴ of birth	Number of women who received postnatal care within two days of the last live birth (regardless of place of delivery)	Total number of women with a live birth in the 2 years prior to the survey
Postnatal care for newborns	Percentage of newborns who received postnatal care within two days of birth	Number of newborns who received postnatal care within two days of birth (regardless of place of delivery)	Total number last live births in the 2 years prior to the survey
Early initiation of breastfeeding	Percentage of newborns put to the breast within one hour of birth of birth	Number of newborns put to the breast within one hour of birth	Total number last live births in the 2 years prior to the survey
Exclusive breastfeeding (for the first six months of life)	Percent of infants ages 0-5 months who are exclusively breastfed	Number of infants ages 0-5 months who are exclusively breastfed	Total number of infants ages 0-5 months at the time of survey
Birth weight	Percentage of live births with a reported birth weight	Number of live births in the 5 years prior to the survey with a reported birth weight	Total number of last live births in the 5 years prior to the survey

⁴ Postnatal care 0-71 hours or 0-2 days after birth

INDICATORS RECOMMENDED FOR SURVEYS

Program Element	Indicator	Numerator	Denominator
Thermal care: drying	Percentage of newborns dried after birth	Number of newborns dried after birth	Total number of last live births in the 2 years prior to the survey
Thermal care: delayed bath	Percentage of newborns with delayed bath after birth	Number of newborns with first bath delayed at least six hours ⁵ after birth	Total number of last live births in the 2 years prior to the survey
Cord care	Percentage of newborns with cord cut with clean instrument (non-facility births only)	Number of newborns with cord cut using new blade or boiled instrument (non-facility births only)	Total number of last live births in the 2 years prior to the survey born outside a facility

INDICATORS NEEDING ADDITIONAL TESTING

Program Element	Indicator	Numerator	Denominator
Thermal care: skin-to-skin contact	Percentage of newborns placed on the mother's bare chest after delivery	Number of newborns placed on the mother's bare chest after delivery	Total number of last live births in the 2 years prior to the survey
Cord care	Percentage of newborns with nothing (harmful) applied to cord ⁶	Number of newborns with nothing (harmful) applied to cord	Total number of last live births in the 2 years prior to the survey
Postnatal care signal functions	Percentage of newborns that received at least 2 signal functions ⁷ within 2 days after birth	Number of newborns that received at least 2 signal functions within 2 days after birth	Total number of last live births in the 2 years prior to the survey

⁵ Timing could be modified based on WHO/country policy

⁶ Interviewer records all substances put on the cord from cutting until it falls off. Harmful substances are determined during analysis.

⁷ Signal functions are 1) Checking the cord, 2) Counseling on danger signs, 3) Assessing temperature, 4) Observing/counseling on breastfeeding, and 5) Weighing the baby (where applicable).

Standardized Questions for new indicators

1. Questions for Recommended Indicators

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about what happened soon after (NAME) was born.

1	Was (NAME) dried (wiped) after delivery?	Yes.....1 No.....2 Don't know . . .98	→ 2 → 2
1a	How soon after birth was (NAME) dried (wiped)? IF LESS THAN ONE HOUR, RECORD 00. <i>Optional question not required for indicator and may be removed.</i>	Immediately: 00 HOURS: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Don't know.....998	
2	How long after delivery was (NAME) bathed for the first time? IF LESS THAN ONE HOUR, RECORD 00. <i>May also record Days in areas where it is recommended to delay bathing >1 day. Otherwise, days can be recorded in hours (1day=24hrs, 2days=48hrs, 3days=36hrs, etc)</i>	Immediately: 00 HOURS: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Don't know.....998	
3	ASK FOR HOME BIRTHS ONLY: What was used to cut the cord? <i>List of answer options may be modified.</i>	Blade from delivery bag or New blade.....1 Blade used for other purposes.....2 Sickle3 Scissor4 Other, Specify: _____ Don't Know/Can't Remember.....98	→ 6
4	Was the instrument used to cut the cord boiled prior to use?	Yes.....1 No.....2 Don't know . . .98	→ 6 → 6 → 6
5	ASK FOR FACILITY BIRTHS ONLY: Did you bring a Clean Delivery Kit or a new blade to the facility the time you gave birth to (NAME)? <i>Question not associated with a recommended indicator and may not be appropriate in all settings. May be removed.</i>	Yes.....1 No.....2 Don't know . . .98	

2. Draft Questions for Indicators Needing Further Testing

6	After the birth, was (NAME) put directly on the bare skin of your chest? SHOW MOTHER EXAMPLE OF SKIN-TO-SKIN POSITION	Yes.....1 No.....2 Don't know . . .98	→ 7 → 7	
6a	When was (NAME) first put directly on the bare skin of your chest? IF LESS THAN ONE HOUR, RECORD 00. <i>Optional question not required for indicator and may be removed.</i>	Immediately: 00 HOURS: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Don't know.....998		
7	Was anything applied to the cord after the cord was cut and tied until the cord fell off?	Yes.....1 No.....2 Don't know . . .98	→ 9 → 9	
8	What was applied to the cord? Probe: Anything else? (MULTIPLE RESPONSE)	<i>List must be specific to each setting. Harmful and non-harmful substances needs to be determined in analysis plan and will vary by setting.</i>		
9	During the first two days after birth, did any health care provider do the following for your newborn? 1. Examine the cord? 2. Counsel you on danger signs for newborns? 3. Assess the temperature of your baby? 4. Counsel you on breastfeeding and observe your baby breastfeeding? 5. Weigh the baby?		Yes	No
		EXAMINE CORD	1	2
		DANGER SIGNS	1	2
		ASSESS TEMPERATURE	1	2
		COUNSEL ON BREASTFEEDING	1	2
		WEIGH BABY	1	2