

How can the reporting of vaccination coverage data be further improved?

Some suggestions previously received include:

Analysis and presentation of multiple age cohorts: While DHS and MICS surveys have usually collected immunization information on children under five years of age, the standard survey report presents information on the cohort of children 12-23 months of age to reflect the most recent system performance of infant immunization. Increasingly, national schedules include doses recommended at older age and the selection of the appropriate cohort(s) for analysis have been problematic. Rather than modify the cohort age selection (e.g., from 18-29 months of age rather than 12-23 months) to capture vaccinations recommended at or after 12 months of age, we recommend presenting the immunization information using multiple age cohorts if necessary. For vaccinations recommended up to 12 months of age we recommend reporting on coverage in the 12-23 months of age cohort; the current practice. For vaccinations recommended between 12-23 months of age, we recommend reporting coverage on the cohort of children 24-35 months of age. For vaccinations recommended between 24-35 months of age, coverage should be presented for the children 36-47 months of age.

For example, if BCG is recommended at birth, DTP and polio at 6, 10, and 14 weeks, a first dose of measles at 12 months of age and a second at 24 months of age, coverage could be presented as below.

Children aged	12-23m	24-35m	36-47m	
BCG DTP1 polio1 DTP3 polio3 n12-23  MCV1 n24-35  MCV2 n36-47				
Vaccinated by card or facility register	85%	83%	81%	66%
Vaccinated by maternal recall	5%	5%	7%	10%
Vaccinated by either source	90%	88%	88%	76%

Age appropriate vaccination\* 88% 85% 85% 72% 72% 1000 72% 1200 70% 1200

Presentation of home-based vaccination record receipt: Currently information on whether a child ever had a vaccination card is asked as part of the questionnaire, but this information is not presented in standard published summaries. As the number and cost of the vaccinations recommended increases, it is becoming increasingly important that good recording and reporting practices are followed to ensure children are fully but not over vaccinated. Information on whether a child ever had a vaccination card would be useful information in addition to the currently presented data on whether a card was seen or not.

Full immunization coverage (FIC): How should full immunization coverage be calculated? What should be included? There were several ways the full vaccination coverage (FIC) rates are currently estimated in the surveys. Should they include:

Birth doses of polio or Hepatitis B. Neither is currently included in the definitions of FIC by DHS or MICS. The question was posed to the group whether such inclusion is necessary. The recommendation was that it is included in FIC in those cases where these doses are part of the nationally recommended schedule. New vaccines. Countries are often reluctant to make new vaccines part of the definition of the fully immunized. This has to do with how the FIC rate is computed: it cannot be higher than the lowest coverage rate of its individual component vaccines.

In the years immediately after introduction, new vaccine coverage rates are often low and can thus bring FIC sharply down. One possible solution is to wait a certain number of years post-introduction before including a new vaccine in the definition of FIC. Is "basic vaccination", including BCG, 3 doses of polio, 3 doses of DPT (or pentavalent), and 1 dose of measles, still a useful measure for monitoring trends in vaccination coverage? Should this indicator be dropped in favor of age appropriate full immunization coverage (FIC)?

Monitoring Timely versus Valid Doses: A timely dose is one in which a child is vaccinated early enough that s/he avoids being infected with disease. A valid dose is one which is likely to produce the desired immune response and is administered when a child has reached the minimum age for the vaccine and with the proper spacing between doses according to the national schedule. In both MICS and DHS, timely vaccination for the basic childhood vaccinations is part of the standard data presentation; however, there is currently no attempt to monitor valid doses. It is also important to highlight that monitoring of timely doses is dependent on accurate date of birth and vaccination date data and cannot be computed in settings where card retention is low.

A draft of revised tables for DHS7 are attached. Any further suggestions?

### File Attachments

1) [DRAFT DHS7 Tabulation Plan - Child Vaccinations.pdf](#),  
downloaded 1893 times

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