

KNOWLEDGE OF DANGER SIGNS AFTER DELIVERY

Output indicator

Indicator Phrasing

English: % of mothers of children 0-23 months who know at least three danger signs for the mother after birth

French: % de mères d'enfants de 0 à 23 mois qui connaissent au moins trois signes de danger pour la mère après la naissance

Portuguese: % de mães de crianças com idades entre 0 a 23 meses que conhecem pelo menos três sinais de perigo para a mãe após o nascimento

Czech: % matek dětí ve věku 0-23 měsíců, které znají alespoň tři příznaky poporodních zdravotních rizik pro matky

What is its purpose?

The indicator measures the proportion of mothers of young children aware of at least three warning signs after pregnancy – one of the essential pre-conditions for women to seek required health care in a timely manner.

How to Collect and Analyse the Required Data

Collect the following data by conducting individual interviews with a [representative sample](#) of mothers of children aged 0-23.99 months:

RECOMMENDED SURVEY QUESTION (Q) AND POSSIBLE ANSWERS (A)

Q1: *Sometimes after delivery mothers have severe health problems and should be immediately taken to a health facility. In your opinion, what types of symptoms should cause mothers to go to a health facility right away?*

A1:

- 1) heavy vaginal bleeding
- 2) fast/ difficult breathing
- 3) loss of consciousness
- 3) placenta not delivered within 30 minutes after delivery
- 4) fever with or without chills
- 5) foul smelling discharge from the vagina

- 6) convulsions/ rigidity
- 7) severe headache, visual disturbances
- 8) no urine output in first eight hours
- 9) severe abdominal pain
- 10) pain in calf
- 11) behaviour that indicates that the mother may hurt herself or the baby

Note: If less than three signs are stated, keep probing: *“Are there any other warning signs you know?”*

Calculate the indicator’s value by dividing the number respondents aware of at least three of the pre-defined warning signs by the total number of respondents and multiplying the result by 100

Disaggregate by

- 1) Consider using a slightly revised indicator for **assessing the knowledge of important family members** who accompany mothers during and after delivery, such as their mothers, husbands or mothers-in-law.
- 2) This indicator relies on accurate age assessment. Since people often do not remember the exact dates of their children’s birth, the data collectors should **never rely only on the information provided by caregivers and always verify the child’s age**. This can be done by reviewing the child’s birth certificate or other documents; however, since many caregivers do not have such documents, it is essential that your data collectors are able to **determine the child’s age by using local events calendars**. Read FAO’s Guidelines (see below) to learn how to prepare local events calendars and how to train data collectors in their correct use.

Important Comments

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