

# KNOWLEDGE OF NEONATAL DANGER SIGNS

Output indicator

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## Indicator Phrasing

**English:** % of mothers of children aged 0-23 months who know at least three neonatal danger signs

**French:** % de mères d'enfants âgés de 0 à 23 mois qui connaissent au moins trois signes de danger néonatal

**Portuguese:** % de mães de crianças com idades entre 0-23 meses que conhecem pelo menos três sinais de perigo neonatal

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

## What is its purpose?

Neonatal deaths are often caused by factors which can be prevented if the baby is taken for examination to a health facility in time. The indicator therefore measures the proportion of mothers of young children aware of at least three newborn danger signs – one of the essential pre-conditions for seeking the 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 months:

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

**Q1:** *Sometimes, newborns have severe health problems within the first month of life and should be immediately taken to a health facility. What types of symptoms would cause you to take your newborn to a health facility right away?*

- 1) convulsions
- 2) fever
- 3) poor suckling or feeding
- 4) fast/ difficult breathing
- 5) baby feels cold or hot
- 6) baby was born too small/ early
- 7) fits, rigid, stiff, floppy

- 8) yellow palms/ soles/ eyes
- 9) swollen abdomen
- 10) unconscious
- 11) pus or redness of the umbilical stump, eyes or skin

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

To **calculate the indicator’s value**, divide the number respondents aware of at least three of the pre-defined warning signs by the total number of respondents. Multiply the result by 100 to convert it to a percentage.

## Disaggregate by

[Disaggregate](#) the data by location (rural/ urban), socio-economic characteristics (education level, [wealth](#) quintile) and the number of respondent’s children (none, one, two, three, four ...).

## Important Comments

1) Consider using a slightly revised indicator for **assessing the knowledge of important caregivers** such as mothers-in-law or husbands.

2) This indicator relies on an accurate age assessment. Since people often do not remember the exact dates of their children’s birth, the data collectors should **always verify the child’s age**. This can be done by reviewing the child’s birth certificate, vaccination card or another document; however, since many caregivers do not have such documents (and since they can include mistakes), it is essential that your data collectors are able to **verify 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.

## E-Questionnaire

- [XLS form for electronic data collection - indicator Knowledge of Neonatal Danger Signs](#)

## Access Additional Guidance

- FAO (2008) [Guidelines for Estimating the Month and Year of Birth of Young Children](#)