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Measuring skilled attendance at birth using linked household, health facility, and health worker surveys in Ethiopia, North-East Nigeria, and Uttar Pradesh, India

Tanya Marchant and Joanna Schellenberg
Women increasingly deliver with skilled birth attendants

Estimated that 56% of maternal, fetal and newborn deaths could be prevented if all births were assisted by a skilled attendant in a facility providing basic emergency care (State of the World’s Mothers, 2013)
What is the measurement problem?

“What gets measured gets done” (and we don’t measure enough)
1. Are health facilities ready?

What proportion of births took place in a primary health facility that was ready for clean delivery care?
2. Are skilled birth attendants prepared?

What proportion of skilled birth attendants had all the basic items ready at the last birth they attended?

What was the effective coverage?
3. Do skilled birth attendants take life saving actions during births?

What proportion of skilled birth attendants administered prophylactic uterotonics to prevent post-partum haemorrhage at the last birth they attended?

What was the effective coverage?
Methods with IDEAS

• Cluster sample survey of households in 2012 in NE Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Uttar Pradesh, plus surveyed frontline health workers and primary care facilities serving the selected households

• Surveyed all households and interviewed all women aged 13-49 in selected clusters (mean cluster size: 58 households)

• Survey instruments compatible with other large-scale questionnaires:
  – Household survey: special module for women with a birth in last 12 months to collect detailed information about care and behaviours
  – Facility survey: availability and functionality of items for maternal and newborn health care, staffing, and work load
  – Health worker survey: training, cadres, actions at last birth attended
Study area - Uttar Pradesh, India

**This Survey (Nov 2012)**

- 80 clusters
- 5258 households
- 604 women with recent birth
- 62 Skilled birth attendants
- 155 Unskilled attendants
- 60 Primary health facilities

- 76% delivered with a SBA
- 79% delivered in a facility

**Uttar Pradesh, 2010:**
- MMR: 440/100,000
- NMR: 45/1,000
**Study area – Gombe State, Nigeria**

**THIS SURVEY (June 2012)**

- 40 clusters
- 1868 households
- 349 women with recent birth
- 20 Skilled birth attendants
- 41 Unskilled attendants
- 25 Primary health facilities

- 22% delivered with a SBA
- 30% delivered in a facility

**Nigeria, 2010:**
- MMR: 840/100,000
- NMR: 39/1,000
Study area – Ethiopia

THIS SURVEY (June 2012)

80 clusters
4294 households
533 women with recent birth
77 Skilled birth attendants
239 Unskilled attendants
81 Primary health facilities

16% delivered with a SBA
15% delivered in a facility

Ethiopia, 2010:
MMR: 470/100,000
NMR: 35/1,000
Facility Readiness: infection prevention

- Disinfectant, disposable gloves, soap, clean cord cutter, cord tie

Uttar Pradesh

- Service not provided
- Service provided, not available, items missing
- Service provided, not available, all items present
- Service provided, available, items missing
- Service provided, available, all items present

62
Facility Readiness: infection prevention: disinfectant, disposable gloves, soap, clean cord cutter, cord tie

Service not provided
Service provided, not available, items missing
Service provided, not available, all items present
Service provided, available, items missing
Service provided, available, all items present

Uttar Pradesh: 87% of facility births
NE Nigeria: 39% of facility births
Ethiopia: 49% of facility births
Skilled birth attendant reported actions at last birth attended

**Items prepared:**
- Disinfectant
- Gloves
- Gauze
- Uterotonic
- Clean cloths
- Sterile blade
- Cord ligature
- Eye ointment

![Graph showing prepared items and administered prophylactic uterotonics for different locations, including Uttar Pradesh, NE Nigeria, and Ethiopia.](graph.png)
Effective coverage: components of skilled birth attendance

**Items prepared:**
- Disinfectant
- Gloves
- Gauze
- Uterotonic
- Clean cloths
- Sterile blade
- Cord ligature
- Eye ointment

**Legend:**
- Blue: SBA where SBAs are prepared
- Light blue: SBA where SBAs not fully prepared
- Green: No SBA

Uttar Pradesh
- 11

NE Nigeria
- 2

Ethiopia
- 8
Limitations

• Facility and frontline worker survey only extended to primary level care provision in this enquiry

• Facility readiness only assessed on the day of survey – does not reflect duration of stock-outs

• Likely (?upward) responder bias by skilled birth attendants – no observation of behaviours

• Skilled birth attendant information refers to the last birth attended: effective coverage estimates don’t directly measure behaviours for individual women
## Summary

| 1. PHC deliveries in a ‘ready’ facility | 87% | 39% | 49% |
| Skilled birth attendance | 76% | 22% | 16% |
| Effective coverage | | | |
| 2. Quality SBA | 11% | 2% | 8% |
| 3. Prophylactic uterotonic | 38% | 15% | 7% |
In-country MLE partners:

- Ethiopia: JaRco Consulting
  www.jarrco.info
- Nigeria: Health Hub
  www.africahealthub.com
- India: Sambodhi
  www.sambodhi.co.in

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