The Timing of Antenatal Care: Implications for Equity in the Provision of Quality Care

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USAID’s flagship MCH Program

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Focus on strengthening public and private sector to provide high-impact evidence-based interventions across a continuum of care
Maternal and Child Health Program Indicator Survey

- 4,000 married women aged 15-49
- Live births in 2 years before survey
- Multistage, stratified sampling
- Average age: 27 years
- Average family size: 3 children
- 49% urban / 51% rural
- 43% have primary education
Antenatal Care Coverage & Quality

87% of women received at least one ANC checkup

- 81% had blood pressure measured
- 73% had urine tested
- 72% had blood tested
- 65% took iron tablets
- 61% received 2+ tetanus shots
- 56% had weight measured

Only 11% of women received all 6 elements of care
### Disparities in Coverage & Timing of 1\textsuperscript{st} ANC Visit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ANC Coverage (ANC 1)</th>
<th>Early ANC (1\textsuperscript{st} trimester)</th>
<th>Odds of Early ANC* (1\textsuperscript{st} trimester)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>urban vs rural</td>
<td>94% vs. 80%</td>
<td>60% vs. 36%</td>
<td>0.9 (0.7-1.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>primary vs none</td>
<td>98% vs. 72%</td>
<td>53% vs. 35%</td>
<td>1.3 (1.1 – 1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>secondary vs none</td>
<td>92% vs. 72%</td>
<td>74% vs. 35%</td>
<td>2.3 (1.8 – 3.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wealth</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>middle vs poorest</td>
<td>85% vs. 60%</td>
<td>49% vs. 26%</td>
<td>2.3 (1.7 – 3.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>richest vs poorest</td>
<td>97% vs. 60%</td>
<td>74% vs. 26%</td>
<td>4.3 (2.8 – 6.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adjusted odds ratios controlling for residence, age at marriage, parity, education & wealth; bold indicates statistical significance.
Antenatal Care Coverage, Quality & Timing
By Wealth Quintile

**Richest Quintile**

- **Median Timing of 1\textsuperscript{st} ANC visit:** Month 3
- 99\% of women received at least one ANC checkup
- 74\% of women had at least one ANC checkup during 1\textsuperscript{st} trimester
- 23\% of women received all 6 elements of ANC

**Poorest Quintile**

- **Median Timing of 1\textsuperscript{st} ANC visit:** Month 7
- 70\% of women received at least one ANC checkup
- 26\% of women had at least one ANC checkup during 1\textsuperscript{st} trimester
- 2\% of women received all 6 elements of ANC
Summary Findings & Implications for Programming

- Substantial variation in ANC services women receive in Sindh

- Timing of the first ANC check-up is a powerful predictor of service content

- Coverage indicators may mask disparities in quality and equity of services
MCH Program Response

- Shifting focus towards ensuring early ANC checkup
- Addressing barriers to access for the most vulnerable women
- Advocacy for inclusion of ANC timing in Sindh’s district health information system
To find out more:

http://www.mchip.net/Pakistan

http://jhpiego.pk/site/