### Definitions

Percentage of women aged 15-19 and 15-49 years having a live birth, receiving prenatal care on at least one occasion and undergoing a set of at least 6 basic interventions during their prenatal medical visits.

**Numerator**

Number of women aged 15-19 and 15-49 years having a live birth, receiving prenatal care on at least one occasion and undergoing a set of at least 6 basic interventions during their prenatal medical visits.

**Denominator**

Total number of women ages 15-49 having a live birth and receiving prenatal care on at least one occasion.

**Measuring unit**

X percent (%).

**Considerations for indicator quality**

The way of asking about interventions carried out during prenatal care has not been standardized, therefore should be reported specifically what question was asked to women and in what context: if it was in a survey at the exit of a health care center, or household survey.

### Interpretation implications

In the proposed operationalization for this indicator, obtaining 100% coverage means that all women receiving prenatal care underwent a series of basic interventions during their last pregnancy. This indicator does not reflect the magnitude of prenatal care coverage, that is, it does not report how many women were left without care, but rather gives an idea of how complete it was. That is why it is recommended to report and interpret this indicator together with the coverage of 4+ queries, because it is a complementary indicator.

It is also relevant to consider that effectiveness of some interventions depends on results of the tests being delivered and explained to women, for example, a woman may report that a urine sample was taken, but that does not guarantee she received the results in that same medical visit.

It has been reported that an earlier start of prenatal consultations is related to a better content of prenatal care (greater number of interventions).

### Context indicator

Prenatal care is a health services access and use during pregnancy indicator. Prenatal period is key to reach pregnant women with interventions that could be vital to improve themselves and their children well-being.

In addition to recommending between 4 and 8 prenatal consultations and having the first one between 12-15 weeks of gestation, it is relevant to monitor the type of care received through a basic package of interventions.

The following monitoring interventions are proposed for this indicator:

- Blood pressure measurement, test strip/general urine test, blood tests, iron supplementation, tetanus vaccination, communication of pregnancy warning signs and possible complications.
- Other interventions include: HIV testing and delivery of results.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently published WHO Recommendations on prenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience, including comprehensive considerations, for example, nutritional and alternative interventions for some common physiological pregnancy symptoms, among others.

### ODS framework

**EWEC-LAC framework**

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**N/A**

**Preferred data source**

Household surveys, for example: DHS (demographic and health survey), MICS (multiple indicator cluster survey), FFS (fertility and family survey), RHS (reproductive health surveys), SIP-CLAP, among others.

**Alternative data sources**

- Administrative (routine) health system sources.

**Inter-agency group estimates**

- N/A

**Global monitoring frameworks**

- Countdown 2030: Coverage indicators, Maternal and newborn health.
## For more information

- UNICEF Data: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women (UNICEF)
- Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)
- Reproductive Health Monitoring and Evaluation (WHO)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators
- Indicator and monitoring framework for the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health

## References

- Benova L, Tunçalp Ö, Moran AC, Campbell OMR. Not just a number: Examining coverage and content of prenatal care in low-income and middle-income countries. BMJ Glob Heal. 2018 Mar 1;3(2).