

# RESULTS BRIEF:

## Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 Maternal and Newborn Health in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR)





# Maternal & Newborn Health in SNNPR, Ethiopia

Ethiopia has achieved remarkable success in reducing neonatal and maternal mortality in recent decades, but still has very high neonatal mortality rates (29 deaths per 1,000 live births) and maternal mortality ratios (412 deaths per 100,000 live births).

In recent years, the government of Ethiopia and the global community have invested heavily in improving the coverage of effective maternal and neonatal interventions, but few surveys routinely measure the coverage of high impact practices. The Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 Maternal and Newborn Health survey (PMA-MNH) employs a longitudinal design to better assess the coverage of such interventions and facilitate more reliable reporting of intervention utilization over time.

The study was conducted in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' region, which is one of the nine regions in Ethiopia. The longitudinal household survey was designed to collect information on knowledge, practice and coverage of maternal and neonatal health. The study was implemented in the same 44 enumeration areas that were used in the first four rounds of the PMA2020 core survey.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **83%** of women received antenatal care during pregnancy. Amongst all women, **53%** had 4+ antenatal visits. Women who had at least one child prior to the study were less likely to receive antenatal care compared to women having their first birth.
- Among women having their first child, **81%** delivered in a facility, compared to **45%** of women who had previously given birth.
- **38%** percent of women experienced a delivery complication, and of these women, **77%** sought treatment.
- **Approximately half** (53%) of all infants were wrapped within five minutes of birth.
- **88%** of live home births had their cords cut with a boiled instrument or new razor blade. **5%** of all newborns had antiseptic applied to the cord after cutting.
- **85%** of 7-day old infants were exclusively breastfed in the previous 24 hours.
- Less than **10%** of women had received a postnatal care visit from a Health Extension Worker (HEW) by the 7-day postpartum visit.
- **11%** of infants had received polio vaccination by the 7-day postpartum visit.



**A complete count of 44 EAs in SNNPR, Ethiopia was conducted and all women who were at least six months pregnant were enrolled into the study.**

**Follow-up interviews were conducted at three time-points after delivery:**



**7 DAY FOLLOW-UP**



**6 WEEK FOLLOW-UP**



**6 MONTH FOLLOW-UP**



Approximately **one in two women** (53%) delivered in a facility.

# Antenatal Care (ANC)

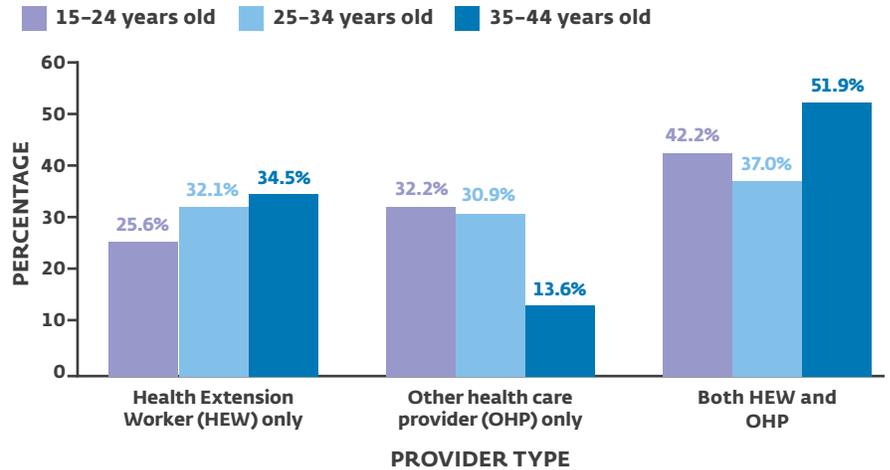
## HIGHLIGHTS

- **83%** of women received antenatal care during pregnancy. Amongst all women, **53%** had 4+ ANC visits.
- Women who had **at least one** birth prior to the study were less likely to receive ANC care.
- Across all parities, approximately **50%** of women had their first ANC visit before six months gestation.

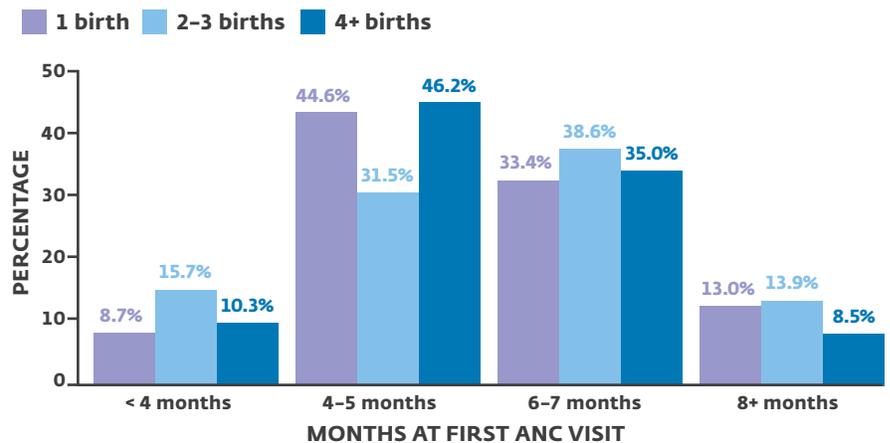
## Percentage of All Women Receiving Key ANC Services, Weighted (n=324)

SERVICES DELIVERED DURING ANC	%
Blood pressure measured	62.3%
Urine sample	30.7%
Blood sample	41.7%
Composite indicator: blood pressure, urine, and blood	24.5%
Tested, counseled, and received results for syphilis	8.6%
Tested, counseled, and received results for HIV	22.9%
Received counseling on postpartum family planning	47.2%
Discussion of place of delivery	73.2%
Discussion of delivery by skilled person	74.7%
Discussion of where to go in case of emergency	64.5%
Discussion of transport in case of emergency	47.0%
Discussion of danger signs of pregnancy	46.7%

## Type of Antenatal Care Provider by Age (n=269)



## Timing of First ANC Visit by Parity (Among women who received ANC)\* (n=269)



\*Parity is the number of times a woman has given birth to a fetus with a gestational age of 24 weeks or more.

## COMPREHENSIVE ANC INTERVENTION COVERAGE REMAINS LOW



**One-quarter** of all women had their **blood pressure measured** and **gave urine and blood samples** as part of regular ANC.



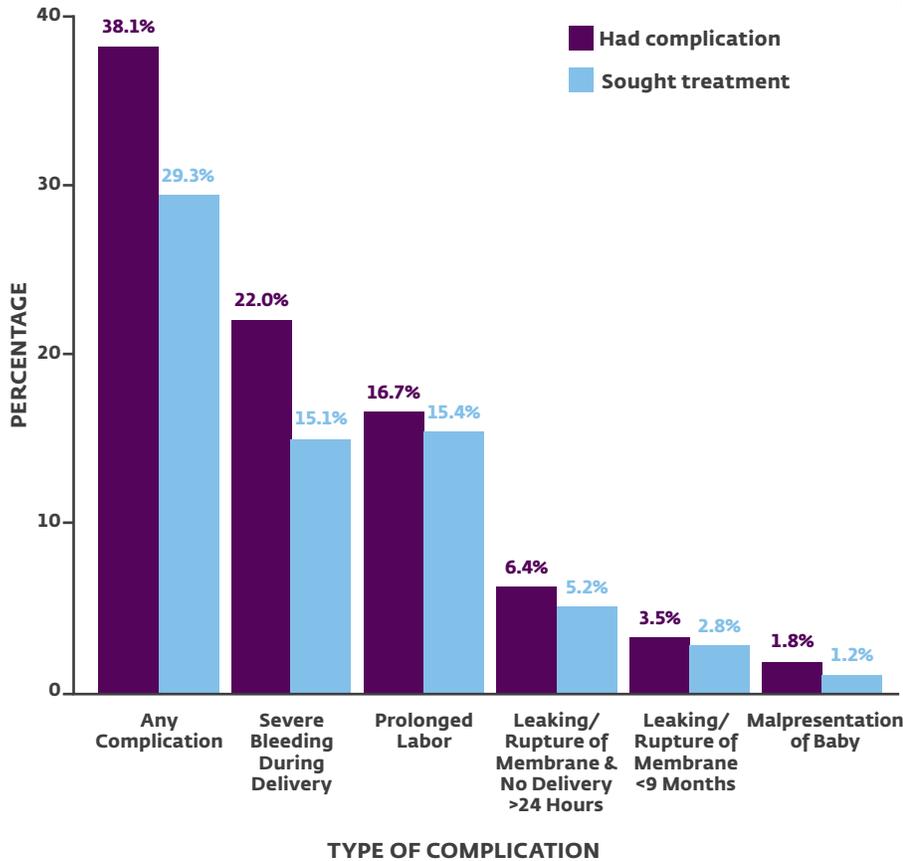
**Less than 1 in 10 (9%)** women were **tested, counseled, and received results for syphilis testing.**



**Three-quarters** of all women had a **discussion regarding skilled birth attendance** during ANC, but **less than half** discussed a transportation plan in the event of an emergency.

# Care Seeking for Delivery and Complications

Percentage of Women Who Experienced One or More Delivery Complications and Percentage That Sought Treatment (n=324)



## HIGHLIGHTS

- **53%** of women delivered in a health facility.
- **Over half** (53%) of women delivered with a skilled attendant, **40%** delivered with an unskilled attendant, and 7% delivered alone.
- **71%** of women intended to deliver in a facility and **24%** intended to deliver at home. Among women having a first birth, **68%** of women who intended to deliver in a facility did, compared to **44%** of women with 1-2 previous births, and **41%** of women with 3+ previous births.
- Among women who experienced delivery complications, **92%** of women sought treatment if this was their first child, compared to **63%** of women with 1-2 previous births, and **75%** of women with 3+ previous births.

## OF WOMEN WHO DELIVERED AT HOME\* (n=154):



**78%**

said they experienced a sudden delivery



**25%**

said it was because of personal or familial preference



**10%**

noted transportation challenges



**8%**

had poor prior experiences at a health facility

\*Respondents could select multiple reasons.

**38%** of all women reported **experiencing one or more complications during labor or delivery**, the most common was:



**22%**

severe bleeding



**17%**

prolonged labor

**77%** of these women (29% of all women) **sought treatment** for a delivery complication

# Neonatal and Infant Care

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **98%** of live born newborns were still alive at the 7-day postpartum visit.
- Approximately **half** of all newborns were wrapped within five minutes of birth.
- Among home deliveries, **96%** of live births had their cords cut with a razor blade.
- **41%** of live births were placed naked on their mother's chest post-delivery.
- **The majority (62%)** of newborns were breastfed within an hour after delivery; an additional **17%** began breastfeeding within 2 hours after delivery.

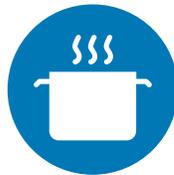
## CORD CARE:



Among live births at home, **96%** of women reported that a **razor blade was used to cut the baby's umbilical cord**; scissors (1%) and bamboo strips (3%) were other lesser used items.

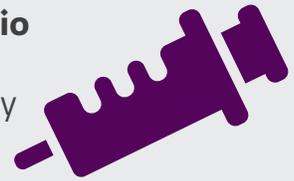


Only **5%** of live births had **chlorhexidine** or another antiseptic substance applied for cord care.

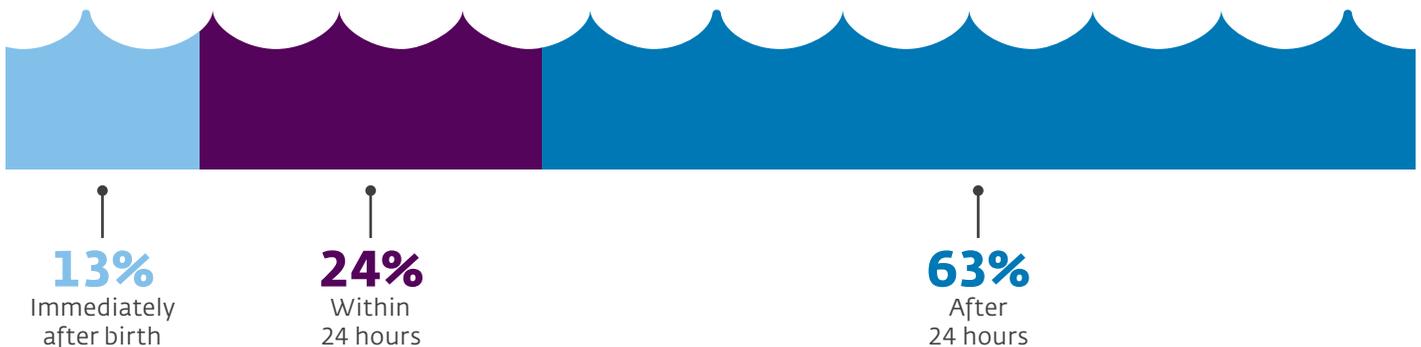


**One-third** said that they **boiled the cord-cutting instrument** before cutting and an additional fifty percent said that they used a new blade and had no need for boiling.

**11%** of infants had received **polio vaccination** and **8%** of infants had received **BCG vaccination** by the 7-day postpartum visit.



## First bath (n=326)



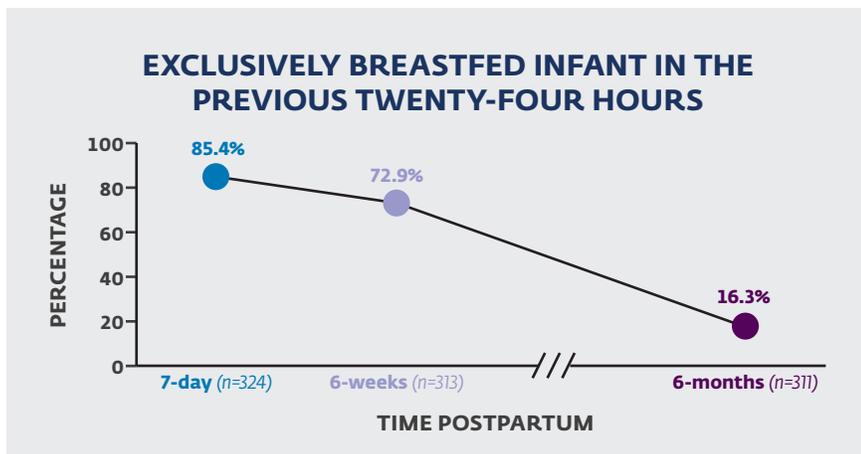
Slightly less than half of infant care was provided in the home (49%), with a greater proportion of postnatal care sought in the public health system (62%). Approximately one quarter of infants received a health check-up by the 6-week visit.

# Neonatal and Infant Care

## Infant healthcare checks

	6-WEEK (n = 313)	6-MONTH (n = 311)
Health check since delivery	25.7%	52.9%
Health check provider*	n=80	n=164
Health extension worker	70.8%	76.8%
Skilled professional	40.9%	49.2%
Doctor	10.6%	14.9%
Other	5.3%	2.1%

\*Multiple providers could be selected for infant care.



VACCINE	6-WEEK (n = 313)	6-MONTH (n = 311)
BCG vaccination	25.6%	74.0%
Oral polio vaccination	29.1%	73.0%
Pentavalent (Received at least one dose)	N/A	71.4%
PCV (Received at least one dose)	N/A	67.2%
Rotavirus (Received at least one dose)	N/A	68.8%

\*Infant vaccination was reported by two modalities; by vaccination card or by self-report.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Only about **25%** of infants had received a newborn check up by six-weeks.
- Vaccine coverage remained low at the six-week interview, with only **25.6%** having received BCG and **29.1%** having received oral polio vaccine.
- By six months old, over **two-thirds** of infants received the BCG, oral polio, pentavalent, PCV, and rotavirus vaccinations.
- By six weeks post-partum, slightly **over one quarter** of infants were no longer exclusively breastfed (27.1%)
- Among all women interviewed at the six-month interview, **16.3%** reported that they had exclusively breastfed their newborn within the last 24 hours.



**THE MAJORITY OF INFANT CARE WAS PROVIDED BY HEALTH EXTENSION WORKERS.**

# Maternal Postnatal Care

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Fewer than **1 in 10** (9%) of women received a postnatal care visit by 7 days postpartum.
- By the six-week interview, **14.9%** of women reported receiving a maternal health check since delivery. **72%** of these health checks were provided by health extension workers and over two-thirds happened at home.

## Maternal Healthcare Indicators

INDICATOR	6-WEEK (n = 324)	6-MONTH (n = 324)
Maternal health check since delivery	14.9%	30.5%
Maternal health check service provider*	(n=48) Health extension worker: <b>72.0%</b> Skilled worker: <b>22.0%</b> Doctor: <b>9.1%</b>	(n=99) Health extension worker: <b>58.3%</b> Skilled worker: <b>45.8%</b> Doctor: <b>2.0%</b>
Location of health check service delivery*	(n=48) Home: <b>68.5%</b> Government hospital: <b>11.7%</b> Government health center: <b>14.6%</b> Government health post: <b>3.6%</b> Private provider: <b>5.2%</b>	(n=99) Home: <b>19.1%</b> Government hospital: <b>3.7%</b> Government health center: <b>34.5%</b> Government health post: <b>47.6%</b> Private provider: <b>9.6%</b>

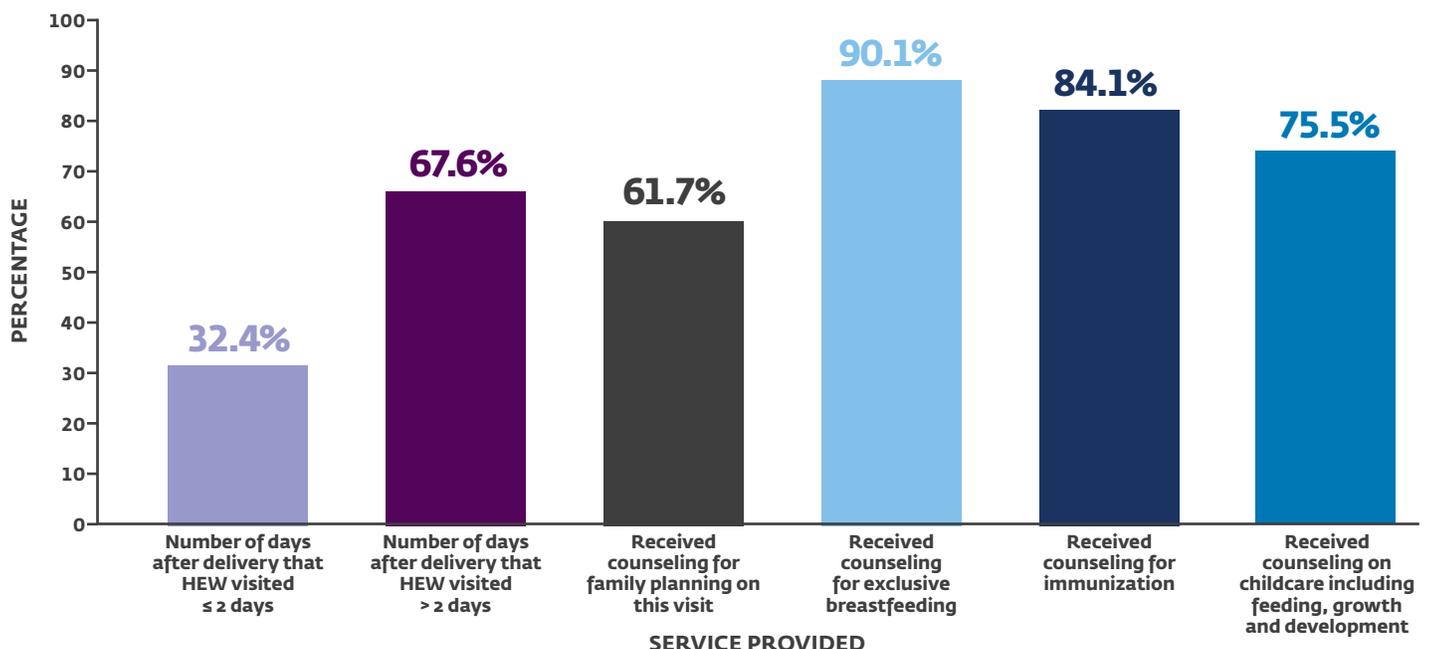
\*Multiple response options could be selected.

By six months, approximately **one-third** (31%) of women had received a postnatal maternal health check.



## Maternal Healthcare Provided by Health Extension Worker at 7-Days Post Partum (n=30)

Approximately 10% of mothers received a visit from a Health Extension Worker within seven days of delivery.



# Post-Partum Family Planning



At the 6-week and six-month interview, additional questions were asked on initiation of sexual activity and postpartum family planning.

## HIGHLIGHTS

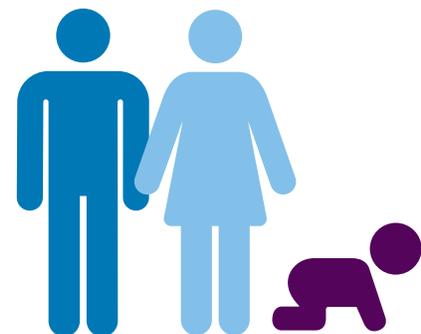
- At six weeks postpartum, **19%** of women reported having resumed sexual activity with their partner.
  - Approximately **one-quarter** (22%) of respondents had received counseling on postpartum family planning since delivery, however, only **12%** of women reported using any method of family planning.
- Approximately **one-quarter** of all women started using family planning within three months of birth.
- **88%** of women had resumed sexual activity by six months postpartum.

## Family planning related indicators from 6-week and 6-month interview

	6-WEEK (n = 324)	6-MONTH (n = 324)
Received counseling on family planning since delivery	22.4%	41.2%
Resumed sexual activity since delivery	18.5%	88.2%
Currently using family planning	11.8%	43.8%
	6-WEEK (n = 38)	6-MONTH (n = 142)
Method using, injectables	48.7%	66.0%
Method using, Lactational Amenorrhea Method	34.7%	2.7%
Method using, implants	13.3%	22.4%



Over 8 in 10 family planning users at the 6-month interview **obtained their method from a government provider**, either a health center, health post, hospital, or a health extension worker.



Approximately **90% of women using family planning** at 6 months postpartum reported that they **discussed their decision to use with their husband or partner** and nearly **three-quarters** stated that the decision to use **family planning was a joint decision**.

# Study Design and Respondent Characteristics

## HOUSEHOLD LISTING AND SCREENING FOR PREGNANCY STATUS

### Completed the survey:



**98.7%**  
response rate



**98.4%**  
response rate

**9,713**  
females (15-49 years old)  
interviewed

### Enrolled in longitudinal study:



**329**  
eligible women  
(6+ months pregnant)

### 7 Days Postpartum

- 324 respondents
- 98.5% response rate
- Live births: 321
- Still births: 7
- Child deaths: 5

### 6 Weeks Postpartum

- 322 respondents
- 97.9% response rate
- Infants: 311
- Child deaths: 3

### 6 Months Postpartum

- 321 respondents
- 205 in-person interviews
- 116 phone interviews
- 97.6% response rates
- Infants: 309
- Child deaths: 1

### Family Folder\*

**139**  
rural households

\*a paper-based household record for the household



About  
**68%**  
households in rural areas have a Family Folder

Most respondents were  
**25-34 years old**  
(52%)

**98%** of participants were married or living with a partner

**21%**

of women reported that this was their **first birth**

**25%**

of women reported **1-2 previous births**

**54%**

of women reported **3+ births**

## About PMA2020/Ethiopia

Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 (PMA2020) uses innovative mobile technology to support low-cost, rapid-turnaround surveys to monitor key health indicators in 11 countries. The project is implemented by local universities and research organizations, deploying a cadre of female data collectors trained in mobile-assisted data collection. PMA2020/Ethiopia is led by the Addis Ababa University School of Public Health College of Health Sciences, in collaboration with regional universities, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Central Statistics Agency. Overall direction and support is provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Data collection for this survey took place between August 2016 to July 2017.





Bill & Melinda Gates Institute *for*  
Population *and* Reproductive Health

Funding is provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

For more information, visit <http://www.pma2020.org>.