

INTRODUCTION

National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2016: Maternal and Child Health was part of NHMS V (2015-2018) cycle. The objective of this survey was to provide health related community-based data and information so as to inform the Ministry of Health Malaysia in the review of health priorities, programme strategies, activities as well as the planning and allocation of resources related to maternal and child health.

This survey was conducted as a nation-wide community-based survey targeted to women who gave birth less than 2 year prior to the survey and their children aged less than 5 years. Data was collected using face-to-face survey using mobile device with clinical assessment done based on topics. A total of 10,140 living quarters were successfully interviewed (response rate of 85.6%) with 16,966 children involved.

HIGHLIGHT

1. CHILD HEALTH

1.1 Immunisation Coverage

- **86.4%** of children aged 12-23 months were verified as completed their primary vaccination (BCG, Hep B, DPT/IPV/Hib and MMR)
- **4.5%** of children 12-23 months did not complete their primary immunisation
- **0.1%** were not vaccinated
- Reasons given for incomplete immunisation:
 - 20%: 'no time'
 - 17%: financial/geographical barrier,
 - 11%: vaccine refusal
- **6.2%** received more than half of their vaccination at private facilities

1.2 Child Morbidities:

- **4.4%** of children aged 0-59 months had diarrhoea 2 weeks prior to survey
- **0.9%** of children aged 0-59 months had acute respiratory infection 2 weeks prior to the survey

1.3 Child Injuries

- **3.8%** of children ages 12-59 months experienced injuries in the past one year.

1.4 Oral Health

- Only about **26.8%** of mothers perceived that looking after their children's teeth as very important.
- **73.0%** of mothers reported they had never brought their child for a dental visit.

1.5 Nutrition

- **9.7%** of children aged 0-59 months had history of low birth weight (<2500g)
- **11.5%** of children aged 0-59 months had wasting
- **65.3%** of infants under 6 months were initiated early on breastfeeding (within one hour of birth)
- **98.1%** of infants under 6 months were ever breastfed
- **47.1%** of infants under 6 months were exclusively breastfed
- **39.4%** of children aged 20-23 months old were continued on breastfeeding
- **53.1%** of children aged 0-23 months had minimum acceptable diversity (children who were fed at least the minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency during the previous day for breastfed and non-breastfed)

1.6 Child Development

1.6.1 Developmental Delay

- **2.8%** of children aged 6- 59 months had developmental delay in which the highest was within the age of 6-11 months, (4.0%).

1.6.2 Autism

- **1.6%** of children aged 0-59 months failed M-CHAT screening
- One fifth of children aged 18-59 months under follow up at child health clinic were not screened with M-CHAT.

1.6.3 Screen Time

- **30.1%** of children under 5 years old were exposed to both television and other devices (computers, tablets, and smartphones) more than 2 hours a day.
- **28.2%** of children had been exposed to television more than 2 hours in a day whereas for devices other than television it was 10.2%.

1.6.4 Early childhood education

- **53.1%** of children aged 36 to 59 months attend an early childhood education program.
- **24.6%** of children aged 36 to 59 months had adults engaging in activities that promote learning and school readiness.
- **55%** of children under the age of 5 years had at least 3 children books at their homes.

1.7 Child Protection

1.7.1 Inadequate Care

- **0.2%** of children under the age of 5 were left alone for at least one hour in a week.
- **2.7%** of children under the age of 5 were left under the care of another child less than 10 years old for at least one hour in a week.

1.7.2 Child Discipline

- **27.3%** of children were disciplined by only non-violent disciplinary methods.
- **70.8%** of children received some form of psychological aggression or physical punishment.
- **5.2%** of children receive severe physical punishment.
- **54.8%** of parents believe physical punishment is needed in raising a child.

2. MATERNAL HEALTH

2.1 Antenatal Care

- **97.4%** of women had a minimum of 4 antenatal visits as suggested by WHO
- **8.3%** of pregnant women aged 15-49 years had associated medical conditions:

- heart disease in pregnancy: 0.5%
- Anaemia in pregnancy: 29.3%
- hyperglycemia in pregnancy: 13.5%
- hypertension in pregnancy: 5.8%
- maternal obesity: 14.6%

2.2 Intra-partum care

- **99.5%** of mothers had practised safe delivery
- Awareness on natural birth was:
 - 65.5% understood what natural birth is
 - 16.2% ever heard of natural birth
 - 0.6% ever practised natural birth

2.3 Postnatal care

- **94.3%** of mothers notified their deliveries to the nearest government health care facilities.
- **91.2%** of those who notified received a postnatal home visit within 24 hours.
- Overall, **92.3%** of those who notified received at least one visit per week. However, one third of mothers from East Malaysia did not receive a postnatal home visit.
- **98.2%** of mothers had a postnatal clinic visit at one month post-partum.

2.3.1 Postnatal Morbidity

- **12.7%** of mothers at 6-16 weeks postpartum scored positive on the EPDS (Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Score)

For details, kindly refer to:

Institute for Public Health (IPH):
National Health and Morbidity Survey 2016:
Maternal and Child Health.

c/o Institute for Public Health
Ministry of Health Malaysia
Jln Bangsar, 50590
Kuala Lumpur

Website: www.iku.gov.my