Socioeconomic Disparities in Accessing Early Newborn Care in Pakistan: Secondary Data Analysis of Nationally Representative Sample

Objective: Pakistan ranks third in newborn mortality. The study aims to examine any socioeconomic disparities in 48-hour newborn care practices in Pakistan using six signal functions.
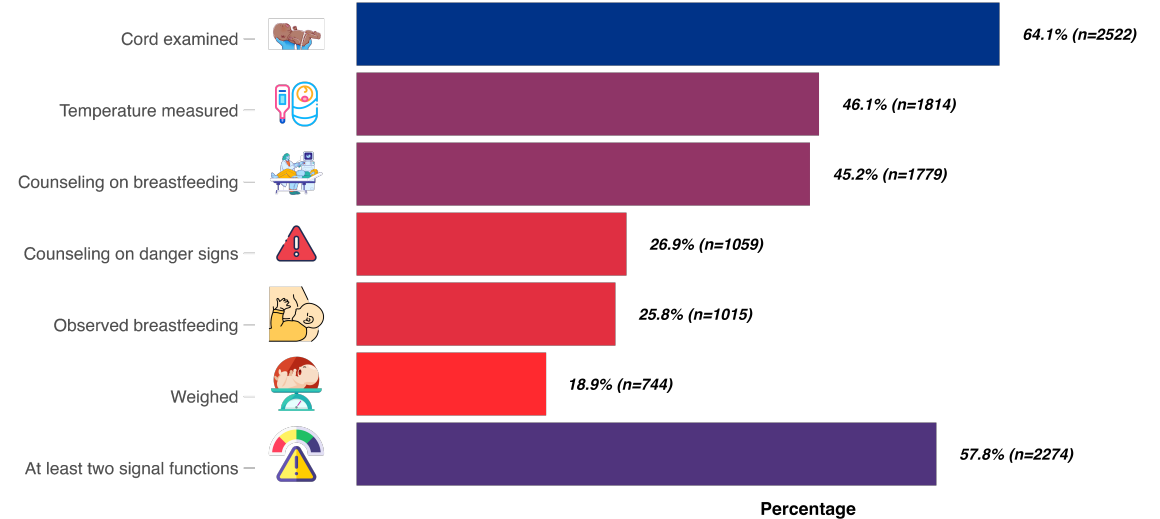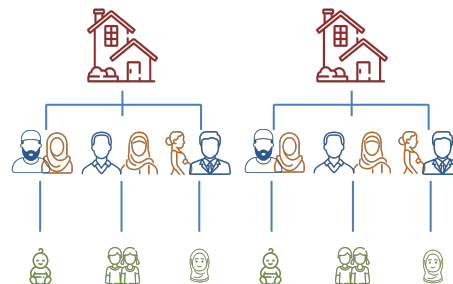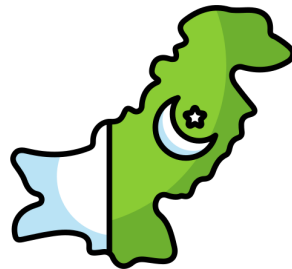
Methodology:

The DHS Program
Demographic and Health Surveys

R

Descriptive Analysis

Stepwise Regression

Cord examined — 64.1% (n=2522)

Temperature measured — 46.1% (n=1814)

Counseling on breastfeeding — 45.2% (n=1779)

Counseling on danger signs — 26.9% (n=1059)

Observed breastfeeding — 25.8% (n=1015)

Weighed — 18.9% (n=744)

At least two signal functions — 57.8% (n=2274)

Percentage

Conclusion: The study showed that all six ENC signal functions were not consistently implemented, with cord examination being the most common and weight measurement being the least. PNC was associated with factors such as wealth, C-sections, institutional deliveries, skilled birth attendants, and frequent ANC visits, suggesting that underprivileged populations require advanced interventions.