Maternal and Newborn Health

Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey 2023-24 Key Findings

Introduction

Maternal and newborn health remains a critical public health priority and a key determinant of population well-being and sustainable development. Ensuring that women receive quality care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period, and that newborns have access to essential health services, is fundamental to reducing preventable deaths and improving health outcomes.





Antenatal care

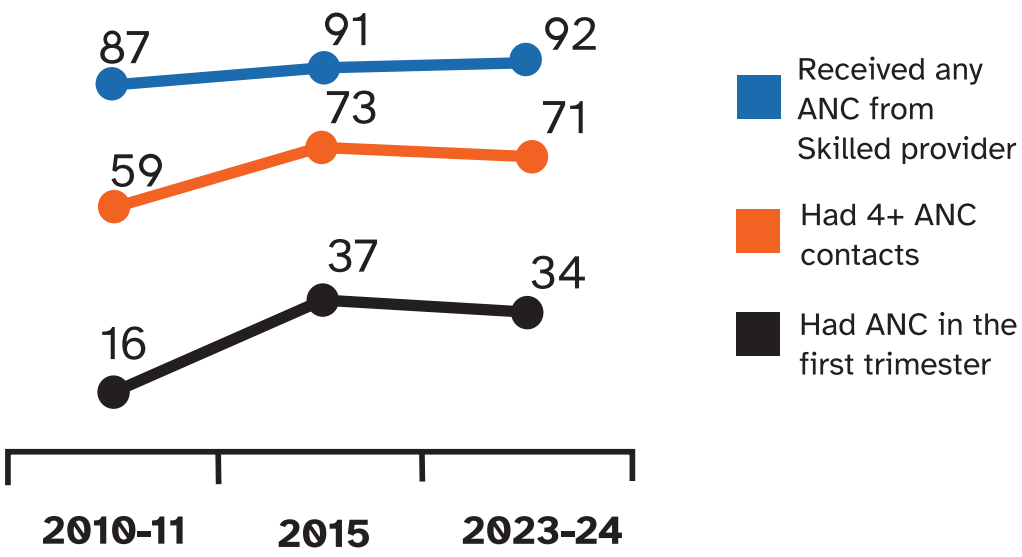
Women with at least one ANC contact was **92%** with **34%** having ANC in the first trimester.

7% women did not receive any ANC for their most recent birth

Women with at least 4+ ANC contacts **(71%)** and 8+ contacts **(9%)**

This factsheet highlights key indicators to inform policy, programs, and community action. Health care services during pregnancy, childbirth and after delivery are important for the survival and well-being of both the mother and the newborn baby. Zimbabwe's new Antenatal Care (ANC) guidelines recommend that all pregnant women receive at least eight ANC contacts conducted by a skilled provider (MoHCC 2018).

Trends in antenatal coverage



The percentage of women with a live birth and/or still birth 2 years preceding the survey who had ANC from a skilled provider increased from **87%** in 2010-11 to **92%** in 2023-24.

Percentage distribution of women who received ANC from skilled provider by province



Percentage of women 15-49 years who received ANC from a skilled provider was highest in Matabeleland North **(97.9%)** and lowest in Manicaland **(77.5%)**.

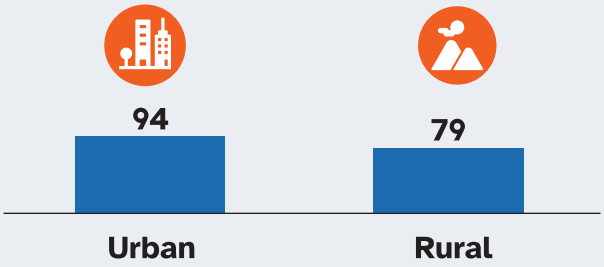
ANC from skilled provider by wealth quintile



The percentage of women who had ANC contacts from a skilled provider increased with increase in wealth quintile from lowest **(83.8%)** to highest **(97.2%)**.

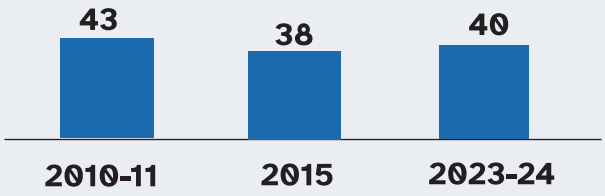
Deliveries attended by skilled provider by residence

Births attended by a skilled provider are higher in urban areas **(94%)** than in rural areas **(79%)**.



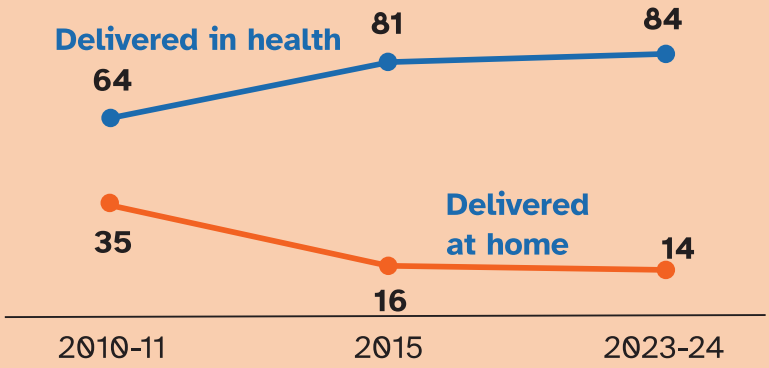
Protection against neonatal tetanus

The percentage of women whose most recent live birth was protected against neonatal tetanus decreased from **43%** in 2010-11 to **38%** in 2015 and then increased to **40%** in 2023-24



Trends in place of birth

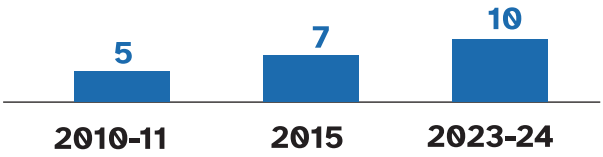
Deliveries by skilled providers have increased overtime, from **64%** in 2010-11 to **84%** in 2023-24. Home deliveries decreased from **35%** to **14%** in the same period.



Caesarean Section

Caesarean section has increased from **5%** in 2010-11 to **10%** in 2023-24

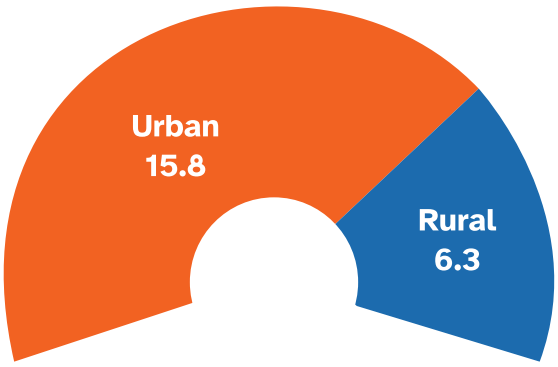
Trends in Caesarean section



Caesarean section by residence

Among women who had a caesarean section, around **16%** were from urban areas and about **6%** from rural areas in 2023-24.

Caesarean section by residence

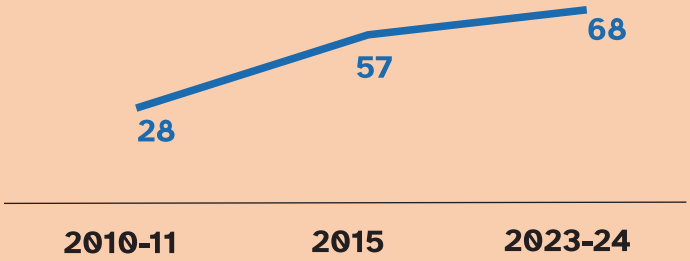


Postnatal care

The percentage of mothers receiving a postnatal check (PNC) within 2 days was **68%**. **41%** of these occurred within the first 4 hours

24% of women did not have a postnatal check

Trends in postnatal health checks for mothers



Percentage of women who received a postnatal check within the first 2 days after delivery increased from **28%** in 2010-11 to **68%** in 2023-24

The percentage of women 15-49 years who had PNC checks was highest in urban areas **(77.5%)** and lowest in rural areas **(62.6%)** in 2023-24

Postnatal checks for mothers by residence

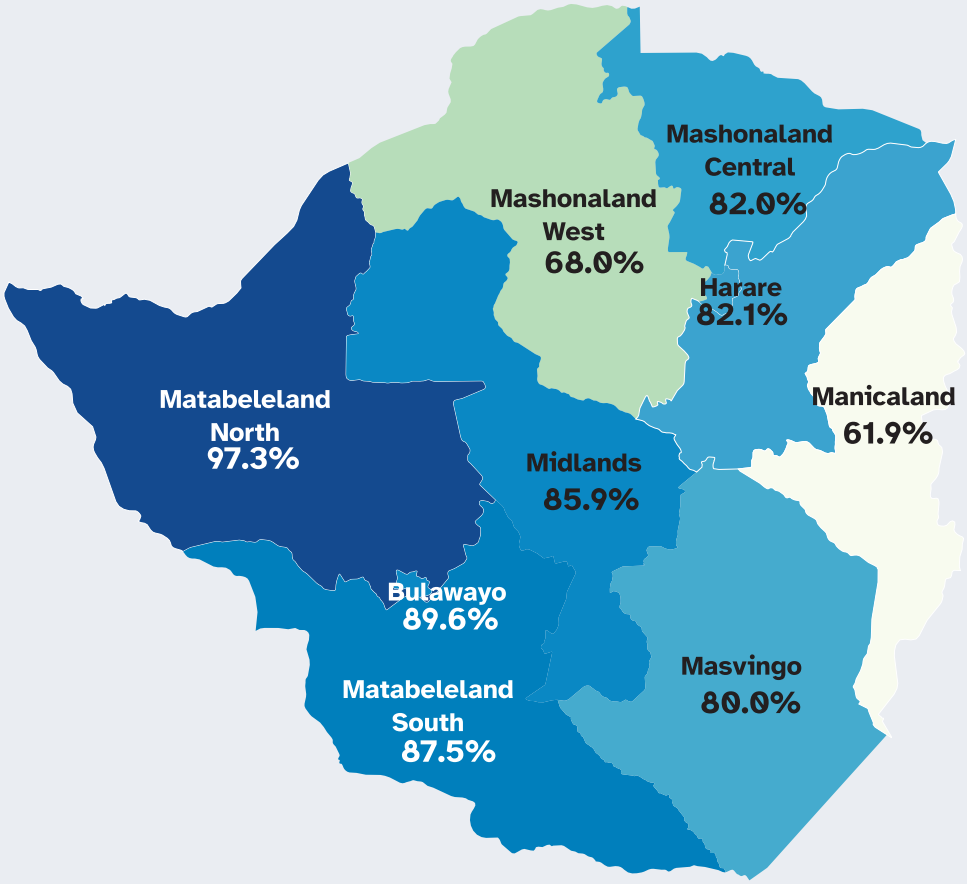




Newborn postnatal checks

The proportion of newborn babies who had postnatal checks was highest in Matabeleland North with **97.3%** and lowest in Manicaland **(61.9%)**.

Postnatal checks on newborn babies by province



Postnatal checks for newborn babies by mother's age

The percentage of newborn babies who had postnatal checks during the first 2 days according to mother's age at birth was highest among mothers less than 20 years **(82.1%)** and lowest for those 35-49 years **(76.8%)**.

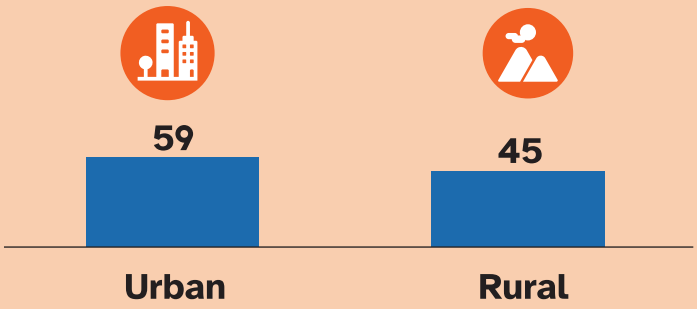
Postnatal checks for newborn babies by mother's age



Men's involvement in maternal health care

- **89%** of men (15-49 years) reported the child's mother had an ANC check-up during pregnancy and **64%** of these were present during at least one of the visits.
- Men who accompanied the child's mother to the health facility was higher in urban areas **(59%)** than in rural areas **(45%)**.

Percentage of men who accompanied the child's mother to health facility by residence

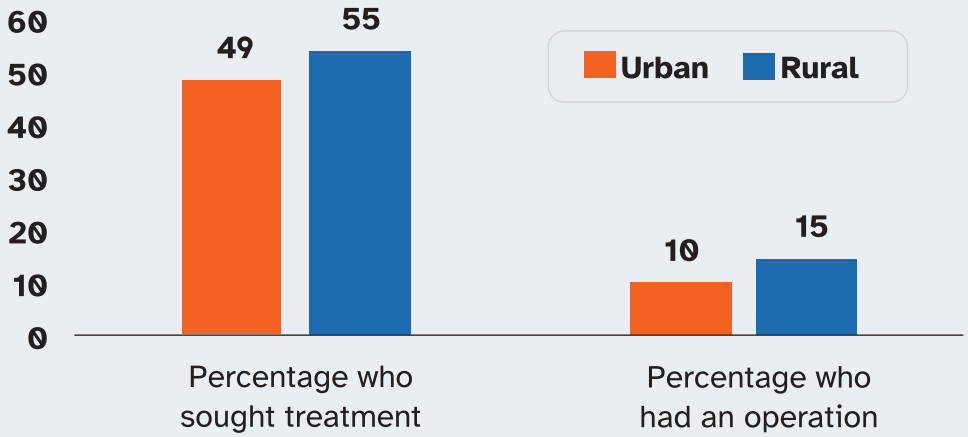


Obstetric fistula

Thirty-three percent of women 15-49 years reported that they had heard about the symptoms of obstetric fistula and **0.4%** were currently experiencing the symptoms.

Among women who reported having fistula symptoms **52%** had sought treatment and of these **13%** had an operation. Fifty-five percent of those who sought treatment resided in the rural areas and **49%** were from urban areas. Fifteen percent of those who had an operation resided in the rural areas and **10%** were from urban areas.

Care-seeking for fistula symptoms by residence



Appreciation goes to the following partners who have provided support to the ZDHS 2023-24