

# KNOWLEDGE OF DANGER SIGNS AFTER DELIVERY

Output indicator

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## Indicator Phrasing

**English:** % of mothers of children 0-23 months who know at least three danger signs for the mother after birth

**French:** % de mères d'enfants de 0 à 23 mois qui connaissent au moins trois signes de danger pour la mère après la naissance

**Portuguese:** % de mães de crianças com idades entre 0 a 23 meses que conhecem pelo menos três sinais de perigo para a mãe após o nascimento

**Czech:** % matek dětí ve věku 0-23 měsíců, které znají alespoň tři příznaky poporodních zdravotních rizik pro matky

## What is its purpose?

The indicator measures the proportion of mothers of young children aware of at least three warning signs after pregnancy – one of the essential pre-conditions for women to seek required health care in a timely manner.

## How to Collect and Analyse the Required Data

Collect the following data by conducting individual interviews with a [representative sample](#) of mothers of children aged 0-23 months:

### RECOMMENDED SURVEY QUESTION (Q) AND POSSIBLE ANSWERS (A)

**Q1:** *Sometimes after delivery, mothers have severe health problems and should be immediately taken to a health facility. In your opinion, what types of symptoms should cause mothers to go to a health facility right away?*

**A1:**

- 1) heavy vaginal bleeding
- 2) fast/ difficult breathing
- 3) loss of consciousness
- 3) placenta not delivered within 30 minutes after delivery
- 4) fever with or without chills
- 5) foul-smelling discharge from the vagina

- 6) convulsions/ rigidity
- 7) severe headache, visual disturbances
- 8) no urine output in first eight hours
- 9) severe abdominal pain
- 10) pain in calf
- 11) behaviour that indicates that the mother may hurt herself or the baby

**Note:** If less than three signs are stated, keep probing: *“Are there any other warning signs you know?”*

To **calculate the indicator’s value**, divide the number of respondents aware of at least three of the pre-defined warning signs by the total number of respondents. Multiply the result by 100 to convert it to a percentage.

## Disaggregate by

[Disaggregate](#) the data by location (rural/ urban), socio-economic characteristics (education level, [wealth](#) quintile) and the number of respondent’s children (none, one, two, three, four ...).

## Important Comments

1) Consider using a slightly revised indicator for **assessing the knowledge of important family members** who accompany mothers during and after delivery, such as their mothers, husbands or mothers-in-law.

2) This indicator relies on an accurate age assessment. Since people often do not remember the exact dates of their children’s birth, the data collectors should **always verify the child’s age**. This can be done by reviewing the child’s birth certificate, vaccination card or another document; however, since many caregivers do not have such documents (and since they can include mistakes), it is essential that your data collectors are able to **verify the child’s age by using local events calendars**. Read FAO’s Guidelines (see below) to learn how to prepare local events calendars and how to train data collectors in their correct use.

## E-Questionnaire

- [XLS form for electronic data collection - indicator Knowledge of Danger Signs After Delivery](#)

## Access Additional Guidance

- FAO (2008) [Guidelines for Estimating the Month and Year of Birth of Young Children](#)