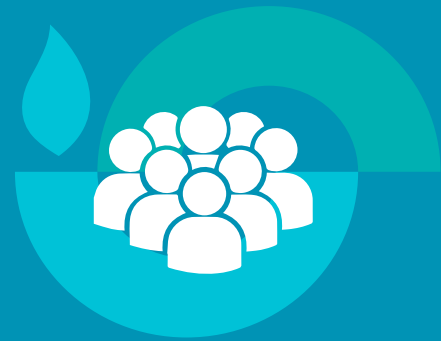


COUNT EVERYONE

Community Level Assessment of Death Registration Coverage and its Process in Bihar & Uttar Pradesh



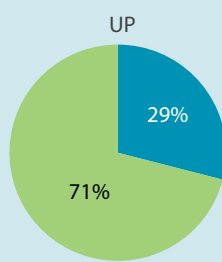
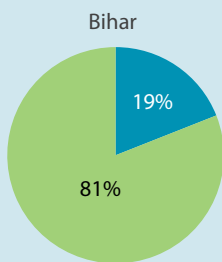
Majority of deaths in these states are non-institutional. Death registration coverage was 44% in Bihar and 46% in UP. Significant age and sex differentials were seen in the registered deaths, with significantly lower registration for young deaths and females. Death registration coverage was similar for institutional and non-institutional deaths. Barriers to death registration need to be addressed urgently to estimate the true number of Indians who die each year.

What did we do?

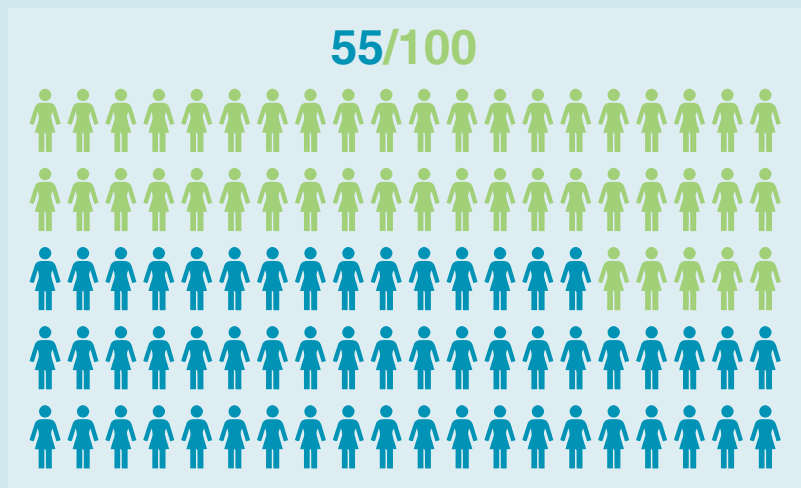
Community survey was undertaken to assess death registration in rural Bihar and 5 districts of UP (Agra, Deoria, Meerut, Rae Bareli and Sonabhadra)

SAMPLE	BIHAR	UP
Population covered	283,758 (38 districts)	196,235 (5 districts)
Type of population covered	Rural	Urban and rural
Deaths covered	4010 deaths of all ages in 2018, 2019 and 2020	3681 deaths of all ages in 2018, 2019 and 2020
Data collection time period	August 2020 – April 2021	February – April 2021

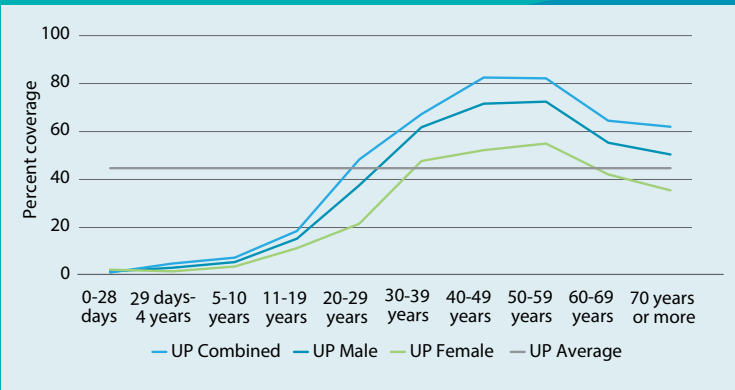
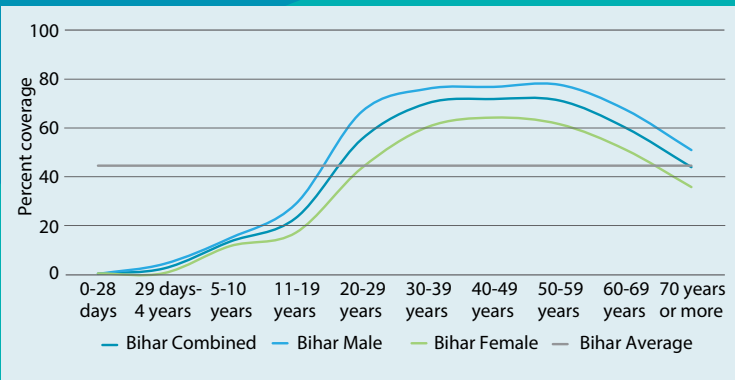
What did we find?



- Home was the place where majority of people died in both the states – 81% in Bihar and 71% in UP.



- Death registration coverage was similar in both the states.
- 55% of all deaths were not registered and hence did not have death certificate.
- This translates to about 4 in 7 deaths not being registered.
- Death registration coverage was not different for institutional and non-institutional deaths.



No one home to during the time to register
 Registration period is over
 Financial problem
 FLW/community member refused as home death
Will get it when need arises
 No Property so not needed
 Went to register staff NA
 FLW/community member refused as Pvt hospital death
 Registration process is complex
No need for it
 Died very old so not needed now
 FLW/community member didn't register
 FLW/community member asked money
 No adhaar card
 Bad previous experience
 No one told us to register
Did not think about it
 No idea where to register
 Due to Covid-19 lockdown offices closed
 FLW/community member not responding to request to register.



- Registration of deaths below the age 20 years was very low.
- Death registration of males was higher than for females at all ages.
- Broadly, deaths which had “financial benefit” were more likely to be registered. These were mainly when the deceased was working at the time of death, had property on his/her name, had a bank account or a life insurance.
- Most people did not think about getting the death registered or did not think it was needed.
- None of the neonatal deaths (deaths in the first 27 days of birth) in Bihar had a death certificate.
- Only 2% of neonatal deaths had a death certificate in UP.
- Most did not think of registering the baby's death as *baby died too young*.

Way forward

- As most deaths are non-institutional, **significant awareness activities** are needed to inform the community about the need to get **all** deaths registered irrespective of age or likely financial incentive from the death.
- The **outreach workers in rural areas can be incentivized** to facilitate registration of deaths of all ages in their catchment area.
- **Linkages to be established** with other programs and schemes such as Public Distribution System, Pension Scheme etc which remove the name from the system upon death. *Village sarpanch to be accountable for death registration for all deaths in his/her catchment population.*

About COUNT EVERYONE

The Public Health Foundation of India (Gurugram) was the technical lead of this study, which was done in collaboration with Sambodhi Research Pvt Ltd (Noida), CARE India (Patna) and Oxford Policy Management (New Delhi). COUNT EVERYONE was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, India office. The primary aim of this study was to generate information to improve birth and death registration, and cause of death documentation in Bihar & Uttar Pradesh.

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