

COUNT EVERYONE

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



Birth registration coverage was 68% in Bihar and 43% in UP. Coverage for babies who die within the first month of birth was only 14%. Only half of the livebirths are registered within 21 days. Public sector births have a higher birth registration coverage than those born in private sector or at home. Barriers to birth registration of neonatal deaths need to be addressed urgently to monitor tracking of SDG 2030 and INAP 2025 goals of neonatal mortality.

What did we do?

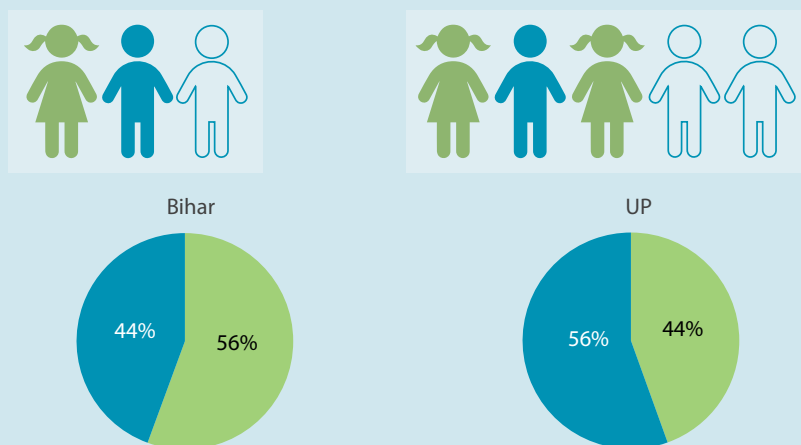
Community survey was undertaken to assess birth registration in rural Bihar and 5 districts of UP (Agra, Deoria, Meerut, Rae Bareilly and Sonabhadra)

SAMPLE	BIHAR	UP*
Population covered	283,758 (38 districts)	196,235 (5 districts)
Type of population covered	Rural	Urban and rural
Livebirths covered	8,696 livebirths born in 2019 and 2020	7,997 livebirths born in 2019 and 2020
Data collection time period	August 2020 – April 2021	February – April 2021

Interviews conducted to document:

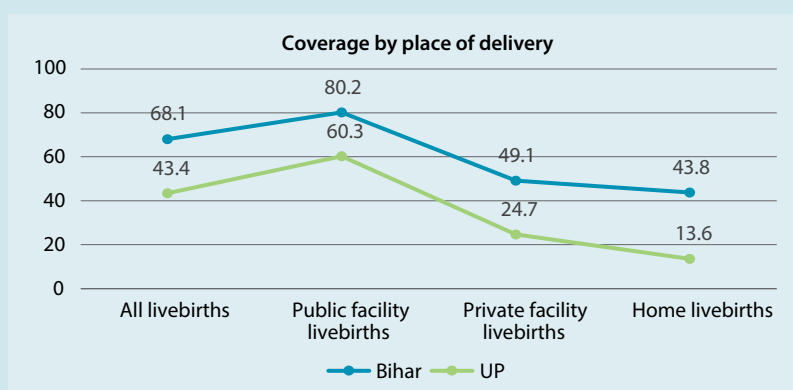
- Place of delivery
- Demography of the livebirth
- Birth registration & availability of birth certificate
- Process of birth registration
- Barriers to birth registration

What did we find?

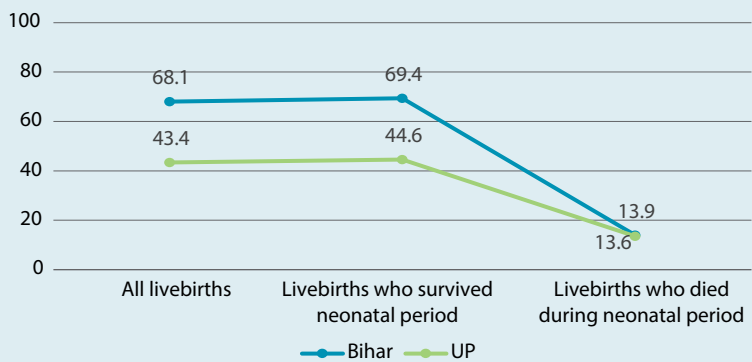


One in 3 children born in Bihar (68% registration) and 2 in 5 children born in UP (43.4% registration) do not exist officially as their birth is not registered.

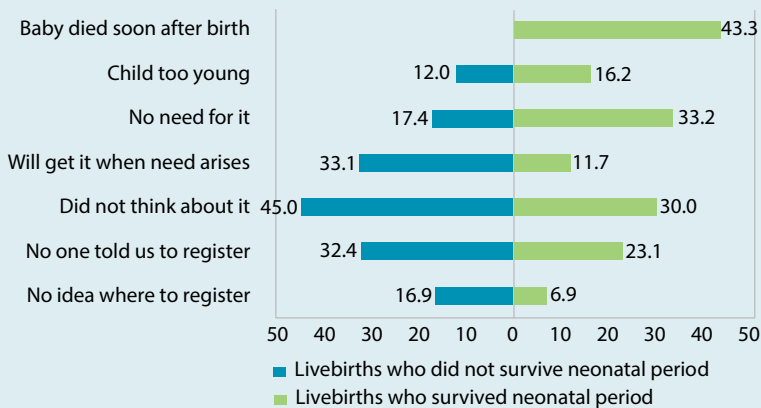
Among those with birth registration, 56% in Bihar had registered within 21 days as compared with 44% in UP.



- Livebirths born in public facilities had much higher birth registration in both the states as compared with livebirths born in private facilities or at home.
- Among the public facility births with birth registration, only 5% and 10% of these births in Bihar & UP were registered *before leaving the facility post-delivery, respectively.*



Livebirths who died within the first 27 days of birth (neonatal deaths) were the least likely to have birth registration in both the states irrespective of the place of delivery – 5 times less coverage in Bihar and 3 times less coverage in UP as compared with the livebirths who survived the first 27 days.



- For livebirths who died within the first 27 days of birth (neonatal deaths), the main reasons cited were *baby died soon after birth/died too young and did not think about registration*.
- For livebirths who survived the neonatal period, 45% *did not think about it* and one-third each informed *no one told them about it or will get when the need arises*.

Way forward

- **For public sector births**, ensure that *birth certificate* is issued before the mother and child are discharged from the facility. This should be *irrespective of whether the name is given to the child or not*. The birth certificate can be issued as “*baby of (mother’s name)*.” **This will ensure that all births in public sector facility have a birth certificate.**
- **For private sector births and home births**, the outreach worker to be made responsible for birth certificate *irrespective of whether the name is given to the child or not and whether the child survived or not*. **This will ensure that all births in private sector facility and home births have a birth certificate.**
- **Linkages to be established** with the maternal and child health programs which track and monitor every pregnancy outcome, to ensure birth registration for all livebirths.
- Encourage families to **apply for birth registration within 21 days of birth**.
- Encourage families to **collect birth certificate** before the mother and baby are discharged from the facility.

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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