Postnatal Care (PNC) Indicators, Coverage Estimates, and Variations by Place and Provider Across Different PNC Stages: A Comprehensive Review and a Cross-Sectional Study

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Background

Postnatal Care (PNC) is essential for the health of women and newborns, and international and national guidelines include varied PNC indicators. No studies offer a comprehensive review of all indicators or estimate their coverage.

Objectives

The study aimed to comprehensively review PNC coverage indicators, investigate coverage estimates for various indicators, and assess variations by place and provider across different PNC stages.

Methods

Study Design: Comprehensive literature review, and Cross-sectional study

Study Setting: Baliakandi upazila, Rajbari, Bangladesh

Population: Women aged 15-49 years who had live births at least six weeks before the interview

Sample Size: 903

Data Collection: Face-to-face interview, Structured questionnaire

Data Analysis: Descriptive analysis, Bivariate analysis

Results

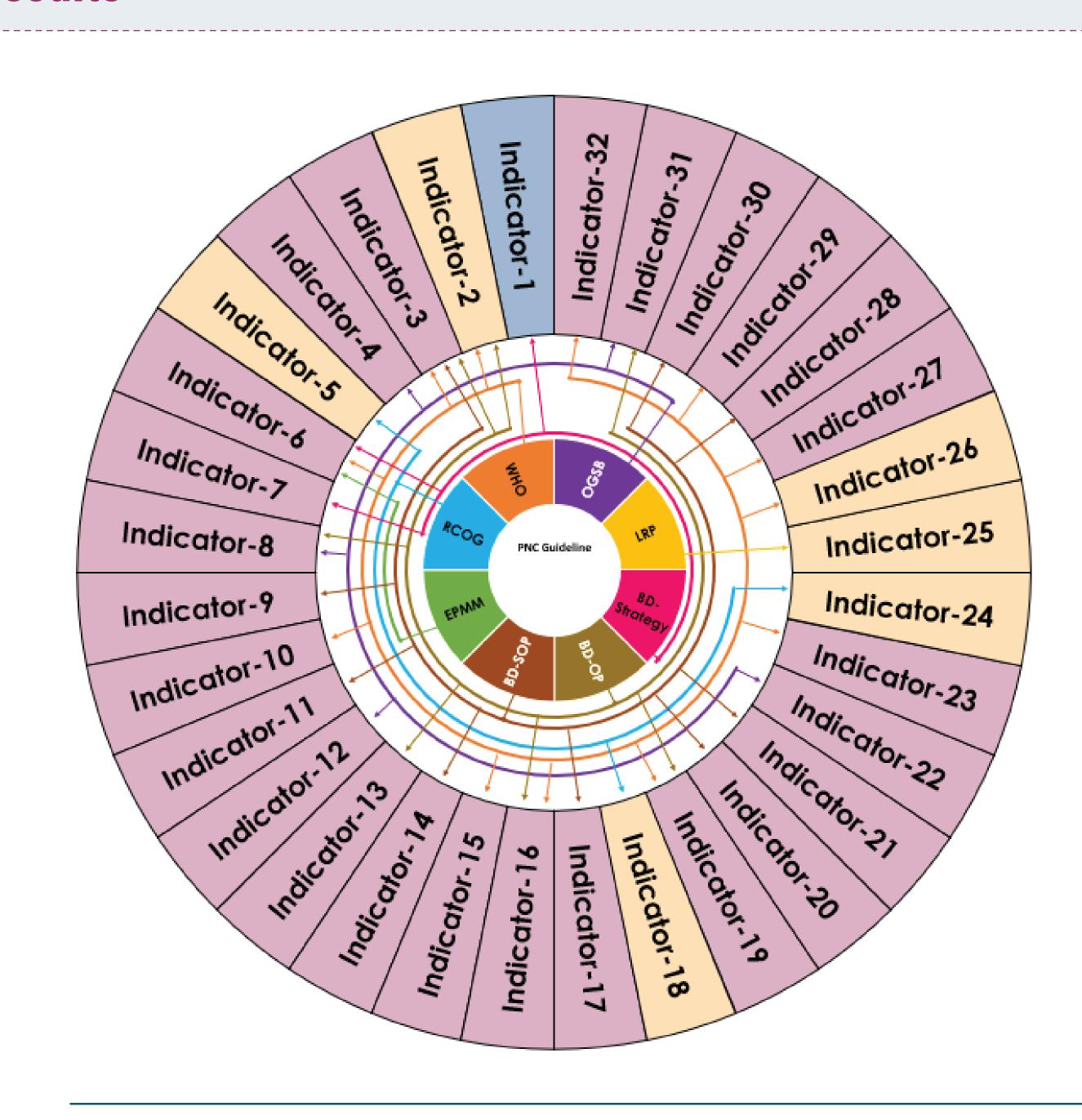


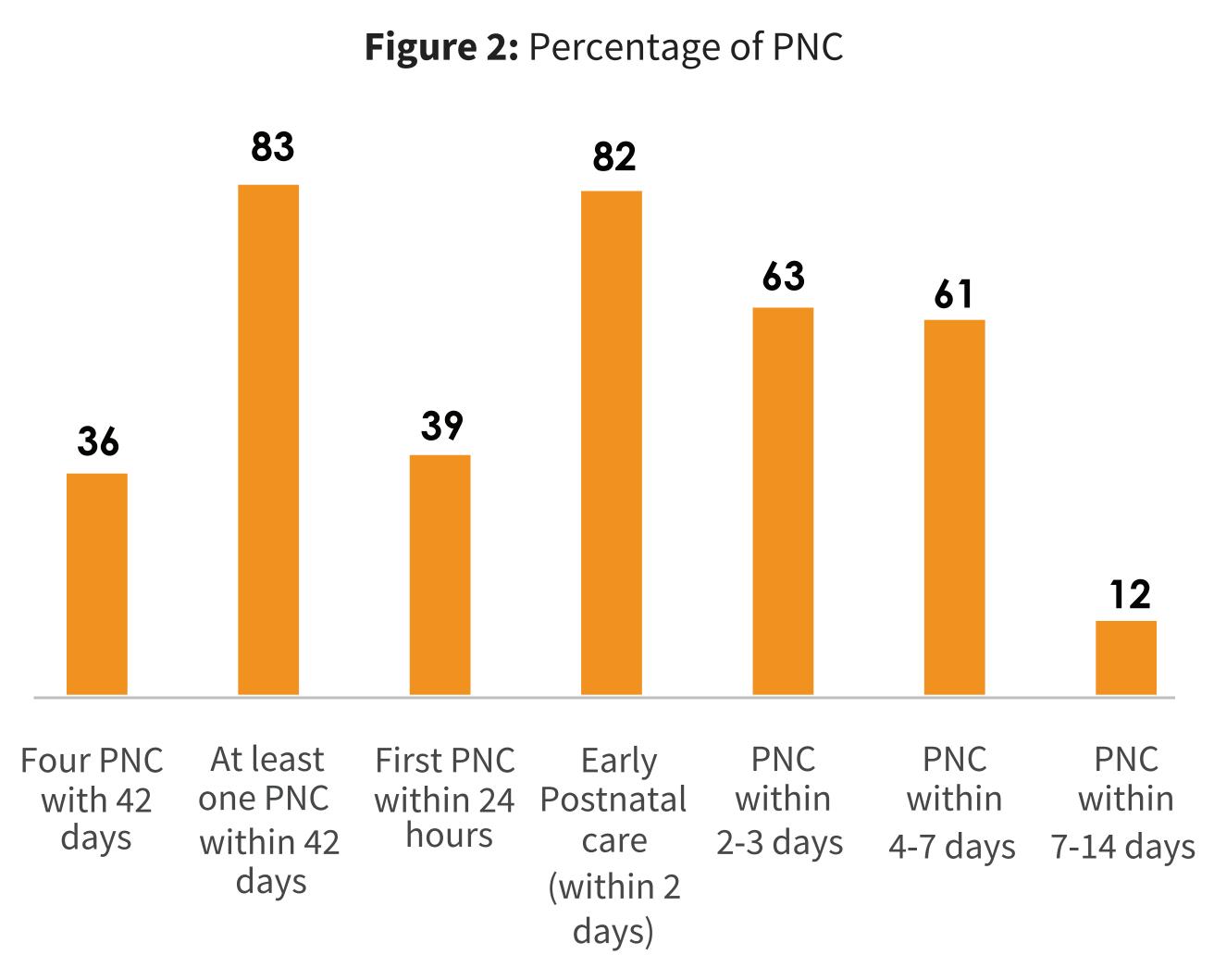
Figure 1: Indicators on Postnatal care from national and international guidelines and manuals

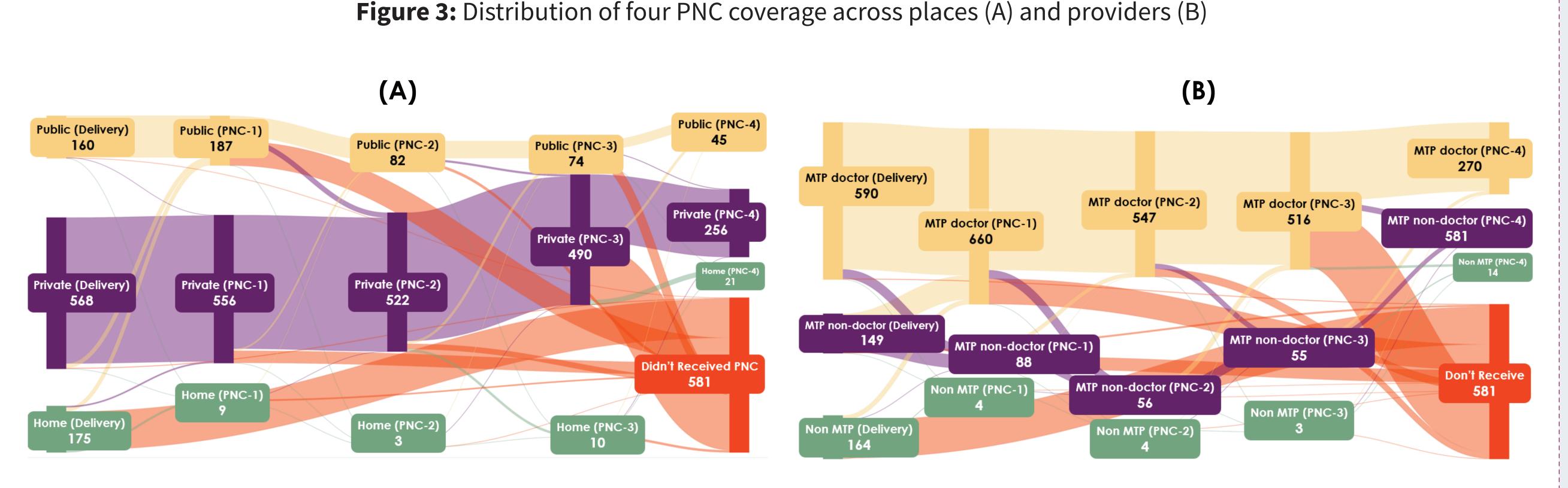
- WHO: WHO recommendations on maternal and newborn care for a positive postnatal experience (12 Indicators)
- RCOG: Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) postnatal care (3 Indicators)
- EPMM: Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality (1 Indicator)
- BD-SOP: Bangladesh Maternal Health Standard Operating Procedures (9 Indicators)
- BD-OP: Operational Manual for Maternal and Newborn Health Service Accreditation Program (7 Indicators)
- BD-Strategy: Bangladesh National Strategy for Maternal Health 2019-2030 (3 Indicators)
- LRP: Labor Room Management Protocol (1 Indicator)
- OGSB: Standard Clinical Management Protocols and Flowcharts on Emergency
 Obstetric and Neonatal Care 2019 by Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (5 Indicators)

Reported Directly Reported Indirectly Not Reported



To see the full list of indicators, please scan the QR code





Mothers who delivered at public health facility or by Medically Trained Provider (MTP) other than Doctor often did not receive PNC after the first visit.

Conclusion

This study is the first to review PNC coverage indicators thoroughly and provide coverage estimates from a single source. The findings highlight the need for increased efforts to ensure continuity in PNC, especially beyond the initial stage, to address the significant decline in follow-up visits across various settings and providers. The study's comprehensive review underscores the urgent need for countries to harmonise and standardise PNC indicators globally, ensuring consistency in monitoring and improving maternal and newborn health outcomes.

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