

Investments in reproductive health, including family planning and maternal care, are essential for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death and disability among women of reproductive age in developing countries. Three quarters of all maternal deaths occur during birth and immediately after delivery to six weeks.

Recommended minimum of 4 ante-natal care (ANC) visits and delivery with assistants of health workers can reduce the risks of deaths from pregnancy and birth related complications.

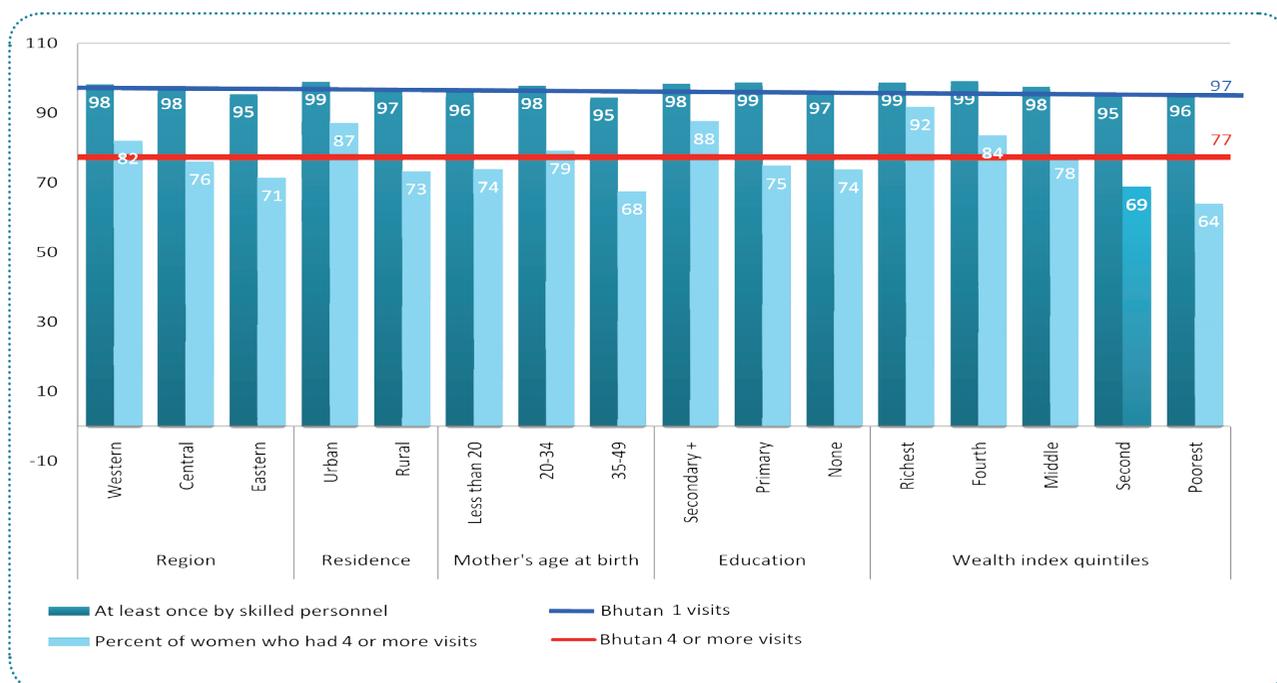
In Bhutan, 97% of pregnant receive ANC more than once during pregnancy. However only 77 pregnant women receive ANC at least four times.

Non-literate mothers and those from the poorest households are less likely to receive the recommended four visits. About 64% of women living in the poorest households reported four or more antenatal care visits compared to 92% among those living in the richest households.

SUMMARY OF REPRODUCTIVE AND MATERNAL HEALTH INDICATORS, BMIS 2010

Indicator	Value
Adolescent fertility rate	59 %
Early childbearing	15%
Contraceptive prevalence rate	66%
Unmet need	12%
Antenatal care (at least once)	97%
Antenatal care (four times)	77%
Content of antenatal care	88%
Skilled attendant at delivery	64%
Institutional deliveries	63%
Caesarean section	12%

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN WHO HAD ONE ANC VISIT COMPARE TO THOSE WHO HAD FOUR OR MORE VISITS



About 64% of pregnancy is attended by skilled health personnel in Bhutan. However there is a wide regional variation of about 79% in west, 58% in central and 49% in east Bhutan.

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL BY DIFFERENT BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS



In Bhutan, about 15% of the women aged 20-24 who had no education (25%) and were poorest (18%) are more likely to give birth before the age of 18 compare to the rich and educated women.

Girls aged 10-14 years are five times more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth than women aged 20-24. Girls aged 15-19 years are twice as likely to die and adolescent are less likely to use contraceptive as compared to older women.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGE 20-24 WHO HAVE HAD A LIVE BIRTH BEFORE AGE 18 BY DIFFERENT BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

