

Impact of frequency and timing of Antenatal care visits on Neonatal mortality in India

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Background: Globally 5.9 million child deaths occurred in 2015, in which 2.7 million were neonatal deaths (WHO, 2015). So frequency of Antenatal care visits and timing of first ANC visit is important to offer information and advice to women about pregnancy related complications and to reduce neonatal deaths in India.

Objective: We analyse the association between frequency of antenatal visits and neonatal mortality and also examine relationship between timing of first antenatal visit and neonatal mortality in India.

Data: This study included 184,627 last births in preceding five years from fourth National family Health Survey 2015-16. We estimate crude and adjusted odds ratios and their 95% CIs for association between frequency of ANC visits and neonatal mortality.

Results: The result shows that pregnant women who had more ANC visits experienced a lower risk of neonatal mortality and more benefit in 10 or more ANC visits significantly, the adjusted ORs against 0 visit group, was 0.47 (95% CI 0.28-0.83) and proportion of neonatal mortality in 10 or more visit group women is lowest 8/1000 live births. We also found that pregnant women who had first ANC visit in first trimester were experienced a lower risk of neonatal mortality.

Conclusion: Strategies like extensive health promotion through healthcare persons and increasing level of education in women will have effect on ANC visits and MCH services in India.

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