

Triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B in the Pacific Islands, 2009-2019

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Background

- Without intervention, HIV, hepatitis B virus and syphilis can be transmitted from mother-to-child during pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding and these can cause adverse pregnancy and longer-term outcomes¹⁻⁴
- The 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) have among the highest global prevalence of syphilis and hepatitis B. Mother-to-child transmission remains a concern.
- Global and regional elimination impact targets have been set to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) by 2030 and programme targets have been set to indicate progress towards meeting the impact targets⁵
- The purpose of this study was to assess the availability of data to inform EMTCT programme targets.

Methods

- A systematic review was conducted to extract and collate program target data for 2000-2019 from peer reviewed literature, online WHO and UNICEF data repositories and grey literature.
- Program targets were ≥ 95 for the following:
 - Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit)
 - Births attended by skilled health personnel
 - Proportion of women who were screened for HIV during pregnancy
 - Proportion of women who were screened for syphilis during pregnancy
 - Proportion of women who were screened for hepatitis B during pregnancy
 - Treatment coverage during pregnancy - HIV
 - Treatment coverage during pregnancy - syphilis
 - Hepatitis B vaccine birth-dose coverage
 - Hepatitis B vaccine third-dose coverage

Results

- Peer reviewed literature:** 296 unique reports were screened and 16 were included
- Online data repository:** Data for 10 indicators from 14 countries were available
- Grey literature:** Reports were available for three indicators and seven countries.
- Peer reviewed literature was of good quality
- Availability of program target data varied between countries
- No country reported data for all programme targets; Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and Tuvalu reported the most programme target data and the most indicators that were achieving or close to the programme targets
- There was no data identified for Wallis and Futuna or Pitcairn Islands and limited data identified for American Samoa, French Polynesia, Northern Mariana Islands and Tokelau

	% antenatal care coverage (at least one visit)	% births attended by skilled health personnel	% women screened for HIV during pregnancy	% women screened for syphilis during pregnancy	% women screened for hepatitis B during pregnancy	% treatment coverage during pregnancy - HIV	% treatment coverage during pregnancy - syphilis	% hepatitis B vaccine birth-dose coverage	% hepatitis B vaccine third-dose coverage
Target:	$\geq 95\%$	$\geq 95\%$	$\geq 95\%$	$\geq 95\%$	$\geq 95\%$	$\geq 95\%$	$\geq 95\%$	$\geq 95\%$	$\geq 95\%$
American Samoa								● 96.7	● 82
Cook Islands	● 100	● 100		● 100				● 99	● 99
Federated States of Micronesia	● 80	● 100		● 94.5			● 70	● 75	● 80
Fiji	● 100	● 99.7		● 100			● 95	● 90	● 99
French Polynesia								● 91	● 98
Guam			● 68.9	● 94	● 96.7			● 100	● 83
Kiribati	● 88.4	● 98.3		● 42			● 100	● 89	● 90
Marshall Islands	● 81.2	● 90.1	● 100	● 96.6			● 100	● 94	● 82
Nauru	● 94.5	● 97.4		● 61.8			● 61.8	● 99	● 87
New Caledonia			● 88.6					● 98	● 93
Niue	● 100	● 100						● 54	● 99
Northern Mariana Islands								● 95	● 71
Palau	● 90.3	● 100					● 100	● 99	● 98
Papua New Guinea	● 78.8	● 53	● 62	● 24.9		● 41	● 77	● 25	● 56
Pitcairn Islands									
Samoa	● 93.3	● 82.5		● 98.7			● 100	● 67	● 74
Solomon Islands	● 88.5	● 86.2	● 15	● 4.9			● 100	● 67	● 99
Tokelau								● 88	● 100
Tonga	● 99	● 95.5	● 82	● 92			● 50	● 88	● 81
Tuvalu	● 97.4	● 93.1	● 100	● 100			● 100	● 99	● 96
Vanuatu	● 75.6	● 89.4		● 82.1			● 100	● 80	● 85
Wallis and Futuna									

LEGEND: ● $\geq 80\%$ (close to or achieving programme target) ● $\geq 60\%$ - $<80\%$ ● $<60\%$

Conclusions and Recommendations

- PICTs do not currently collect enough data to report on the coverage of the various process indicators included in the Triple Elimination Framework
- Major gaps are hepatitis B screening in pregnancy and HIV treatment coverage in pregnancy
- Whilst some countries appear to have made progress towards elimination impact targets, given the lack of programme target data, no PICT would be ready to apply for validation of elimination
- There are major data gaps and major investment is needed to support PICT to collect and report EMTCT data

References

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