



Union Health Ministry Releases National Family Health Survey – 6

NFHS-6 Reflects India's Accelerated Progress in Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and Financial Protection

Institutional Deliveries Reach 90.6%

ANC Coverage increases from 92.6% to 95.9%

Any Vaccine received by Children age 12-23 months remains Consistently High above 96%

95.6% children received most vaccinations through public health facilities as preferred choice

Rotavirus Vaccination Coverage more than Doubled

Primary Healthcare Strengthening Propels India Towards Significant Improvement in Full Immunization Coverage from 83.8% to 87.1%

Child Nutrition Indicators show Improvement with Reduction in Stunting by 17% and Severe Wasting by 32%

Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY and Expanded Health Protection Initiatives Strengthen Financial Security in Healthcare

Posted On: 29 MAY 2026 3:55PM by PIB Delhi

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) released the National Family Health Survey – 6, here today. The NFHS-6 was conducted during 2023-24 by MoHFW with the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai as the nodal agency. Covering nearly 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts, the survey provides vital evidence on population, health, nutrition and family welfare indicators and supports evidence-based planning and programme implementation up to the district level.



Key Findings of NFHS-6

India has recorded notable progress in health, nutrition, and social development indicators, reflecting the impact of sustained policy interventions and focused implementation of flagship programmes. Key findings from NFHS-5 (2019-21) to NFHS-6 (2023-24) are as follows:

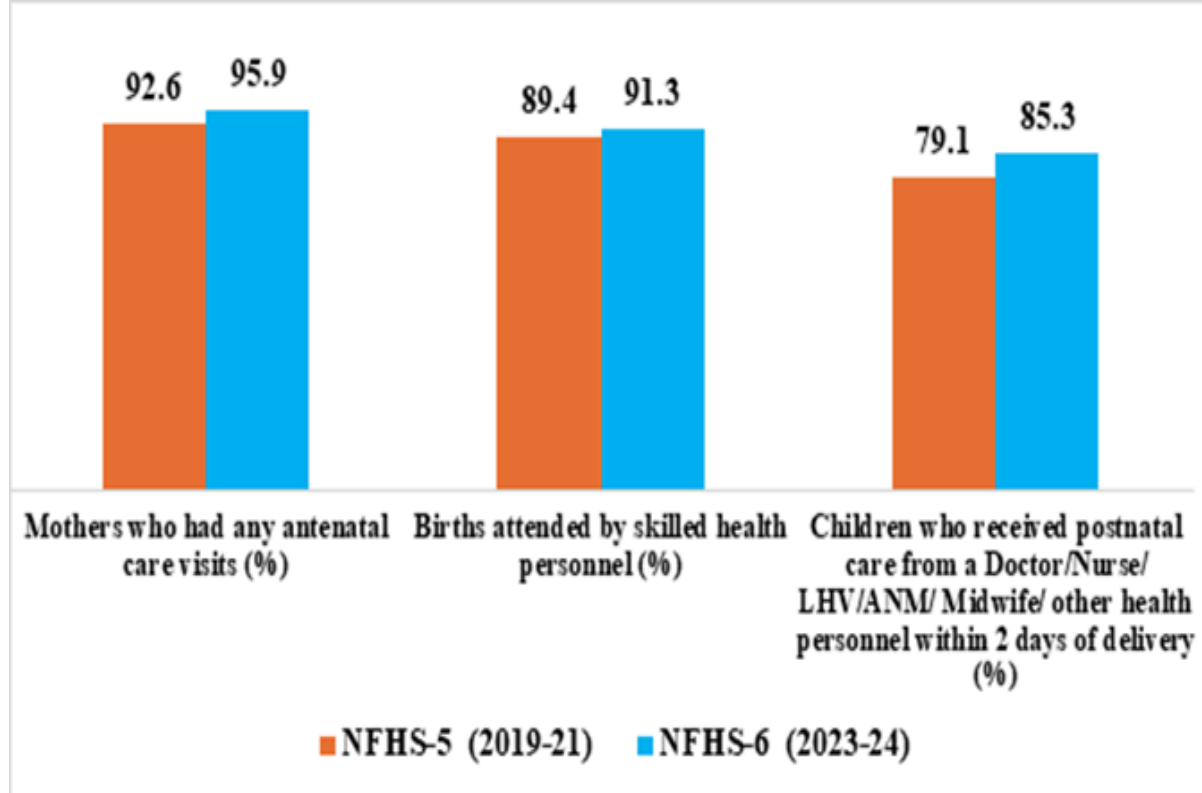
Safe Motherhood, Institutional Deliveries, Improved Maternal and Child Healthcare

NFHS-6 highlights significant improvements in maternal and child healthcare services across the country. 95.9% of pregnant women received antenatal care (ANC), while mothers receiving ANC in the first trimester increased from 70.0% to 76.2%. Mothers receiving at least four ANC visits also increased from 58.5% to 65.2%, reflecting stronger continuity of maternal healthcare services.

Institutional deliveries increased from 88.6% to 90.6%, moving India closer towards universal coverage. Births attended by skilled health personnel improved from 89.4% to 91.3%, while postnatal care for newborns by Doctor/Nurse/Lady Health Visitor (LHV)/Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM)/Midwife/other health personnel within two days of delivery improved from 79.1% to 85.3%.

Maternal nutrition indicators also showed notable improvement. Mothers consuming iron folic acid supplements for 100 days or more during pregnancy increased from 44.1% to 54.9%, while those consuming supplements for 180 days or more rose from 26.0% to 37.8%.

These gains reflect strengthened public health infrastructure and improved access to maternal and child healthcare services across the country, driven by focused implementation of initiatives such as Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA/e-PMSMA), Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN), Facility Based New-born Care, Home-Based Newborn Care, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY 2.0). These programmes have enhanced antenatal and postnatal care coverage, ensured quality care during pregnancy and childbirth and promoted safe motherhood and child health practices.



Family Planning Improvements

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remains at 2.0. The Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) increased from 66.7% to 69.1%, with focus on well-being of mother and child, thus showing improved access to family planning services to those who need.

These improvements underscore the continued impact of national family planning programmes, including Mission Parivar Vikas.

Child Immunization Success

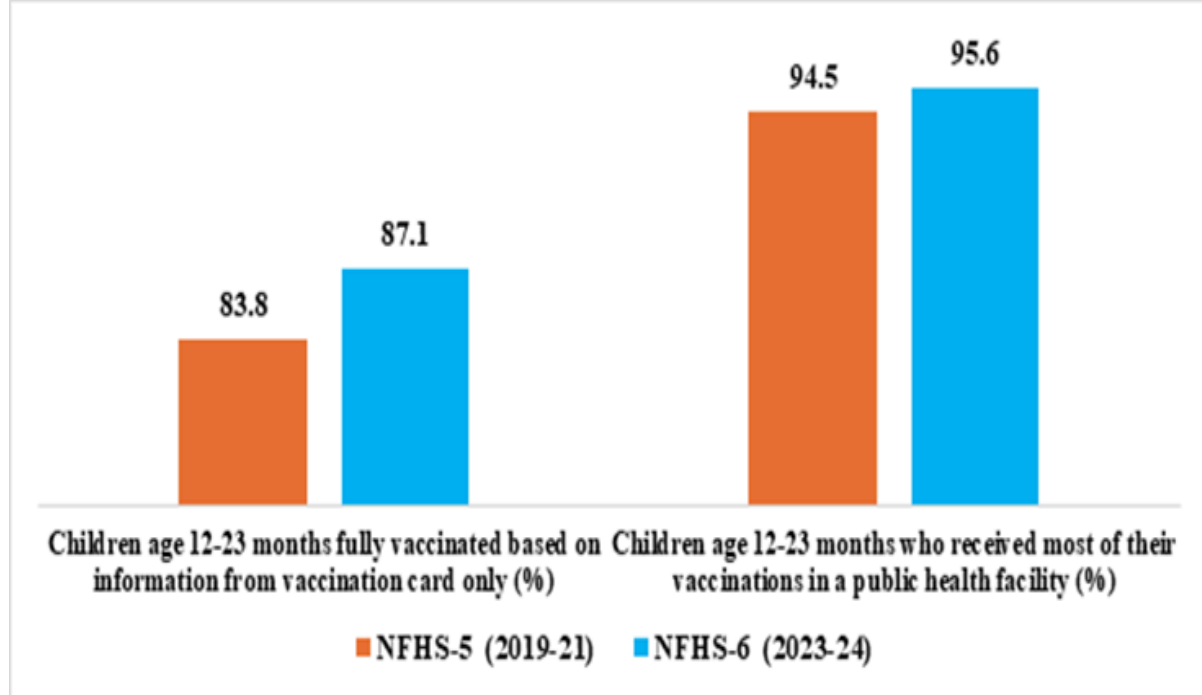
India continues to make strong progress towards universal immunization coverage. Full vaccination coverage among children age 12-23 months based on vaccination cards, increased from 83.8% to 87.1%.

95.6% of children received most vaccinations through public health facilities reaffirming the trust of community towards public healthcare system.

Any vaccine received by children age 12-23 months remains consistently high above 96%, while substantial improvement has been recorded across major vaccines. Substantial increase has been recorded in rotavirus vaccination coverage from 36.4% to 85.4%. Coverage of the second dose of measles-containing vaccine also increased significantly from 58.6% to 71.8%.

The survey also recorded improvements in key child health indicators. Prevalence of symptoms of acute respiratory infection (ARI) among children declined from 2.8% to 1.9%, while prevalence of severe diarrhoea also declined to 0.5%.

These gains reflect strengthened last-mile service delivery by dedicated frontline health workers enhanced cold chain infrastructure, digital tracking systems such as U-WIN and active community engagement under India's Universal Immunization Programme and other public health programmes.



India's Progress in Child Nutrition: A Positive Trajectory Towards SDG Achievement

NFHS-6 indicates encouraging progress in child nutrition outcomes.

95.6% of children under six months of age were found to be breastfed during survey period. Further percentage of children under age three years breastfed within one hour of birth increased by nearly 10 percent points from 41.8% to 50.1%.

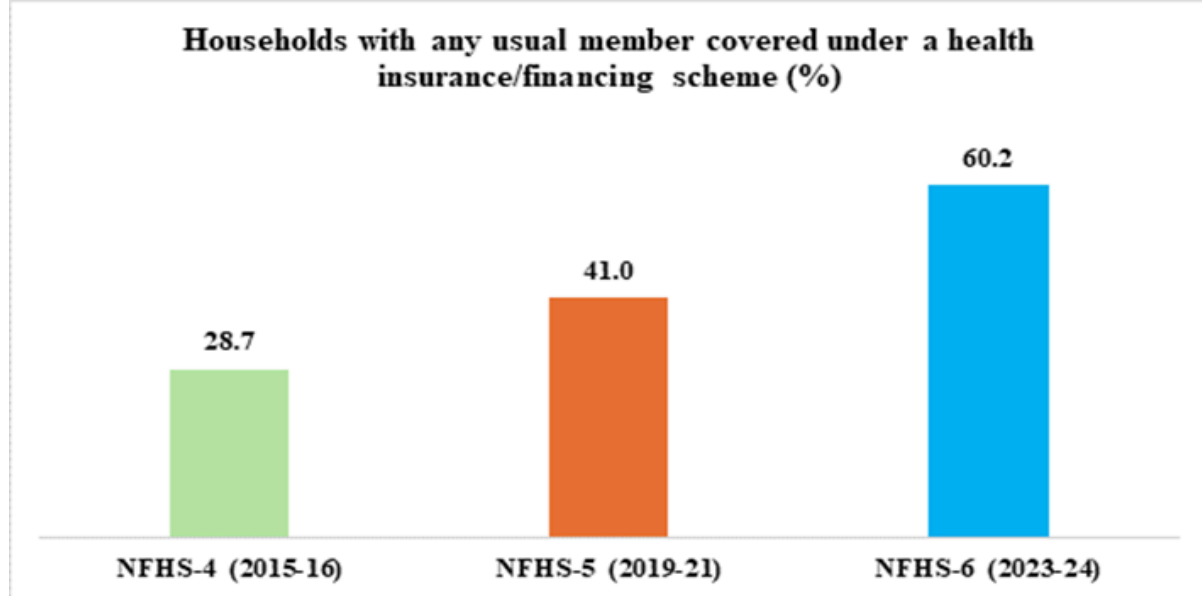
Stunting (low height for age) among children under five years declined substantially from 35.5% to 29.3%, reflecting improvement in long-term nutritional outcomes. The marked reduction in stunting prevalence provides strong evidence of improvement in long-term nutritional transition and child health outcomes in India.

Severe wasting (too thin for one's height) declined sharply from 7.7% to 5.2%, while underweight prevalence in under five children also registered a marginal decline from 32.1% to 31.8%. Improvement was also observed in infant and young child feeding practices. Children age 6-8 months receiving solid or semi-solid food along with breastmilk increased from 45.9% to 59.5%.

These gains are driven by convergent efforts across Ministries through flagship initiatives such as POSHAN Abhiyaan and Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, supported by strengthened service delivery under ICDS. Complementary interventions under the National Health Mission (NHM), including maternal and child health services, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA), Infant and Young Child Feeding, Iron and folic acid supplementation and growth monitoring have further contributed to improved outcomes.

Health Protection Expansion

Health insurance/financing scheme coverage has expanded significantly from 41.0% to 60.2% at the household level, reflecting the success of government-led initiatives aimed at strengthening financial protection in healthcare. Flagship schemes such as *Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)* have played a pivotal role in increasing access to affordable healthcare services, particularly for vulnerable populations. This expansion marks a critical step towards universal health coverage and equitable access to quality healthcare services across the country.



Women's Empowerment and Financial Inclusion

NFHS-6 records continued advancement in women's digital inclusion and financial empowerment. Women who had ever used the internet nearly doubled from 33.3% to 64.3%. Women having a bank or savings account that they themselves use increased from 78.6% to 89.0%, and women having a mobile phone that they themselves use rose from 53.9% to 63.6%.

The use of hygienic methods of menstrual protection among women age 15-24 years has increased from 77.6% to 79.2%, supported by initiatives such as the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS) within the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) and the affordable sanitary products under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana. These initiatives have enhanced awareness, accessibility, and adoption of safe menstrual hygiene practices in the nation.

NFHS-6 provides critical evidence for programme implementation and policymaking across health and social sectors. The findings reflect steady gains in maternal and child health, nutrition, women's empowerment and access to essential services.

At the same time, emerging challenges such as rising non-communicable diseases, lifestyle-related risks and the dual burden of undernutrition and rising overweight/obesity among adults highlight the need for continued focus on preventive healthcare, behavioural change and balanced nutrition strategies.

Overall, the findings reaffirm India's steady progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With continued emphasis on convergence, last-mile delivery and inclusive growth, India is well-positioned to sustain these gains and further improve the health and well-being of its population.

NFHS-6 can be accessed here: <https://master-mohfw-dohfw.digifootprint.gov.in/documents/publications?page=1>

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