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# The Timing of Antenatal Care: Implications for Equity in the Provision of Quality Care

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# Maternal and Child Health Program: Sindh, Pakistan

- USAID's flagship MCH Program
- 2013 – 2017
- Focus on strengthening public and private sector to provide high-impact evidence-based interventions across a continuum of care



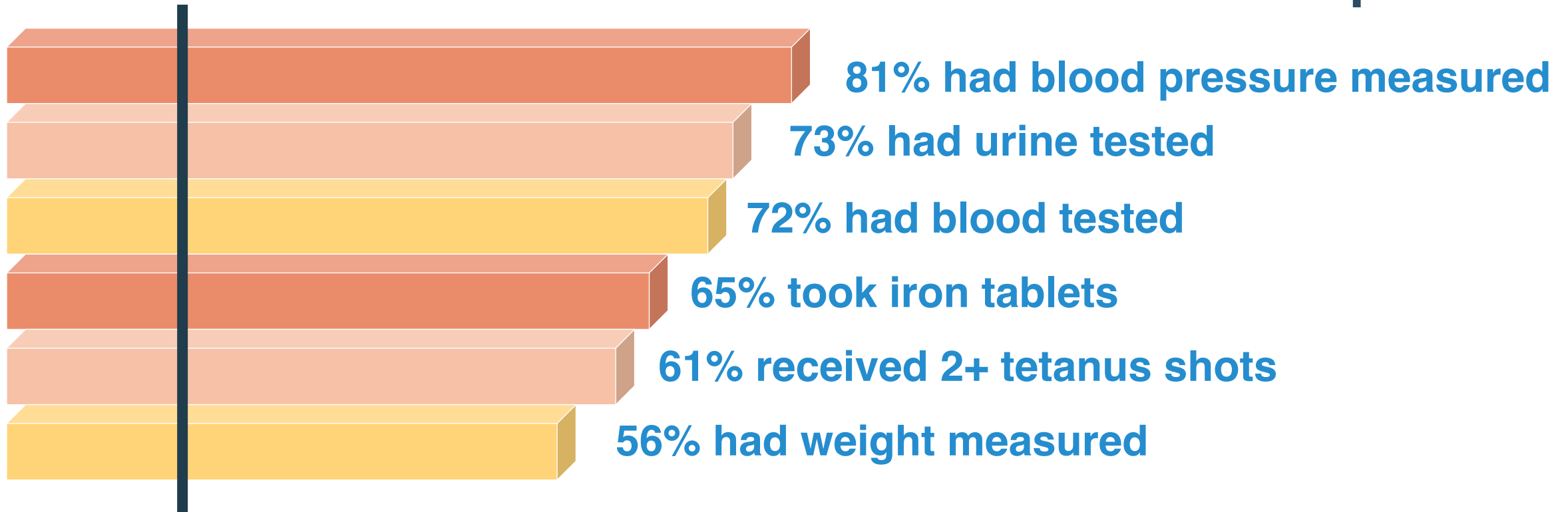
# Maternal and Child Health Program Indicator Survey

- 4,000 married women aged 15-49
- Live births in 2 years before survey
- Multistage, stratified sampling
  
- Average age: 27 years
- Average family size: 3 children
- 49% urban / 51% rural
- 43% have primary education



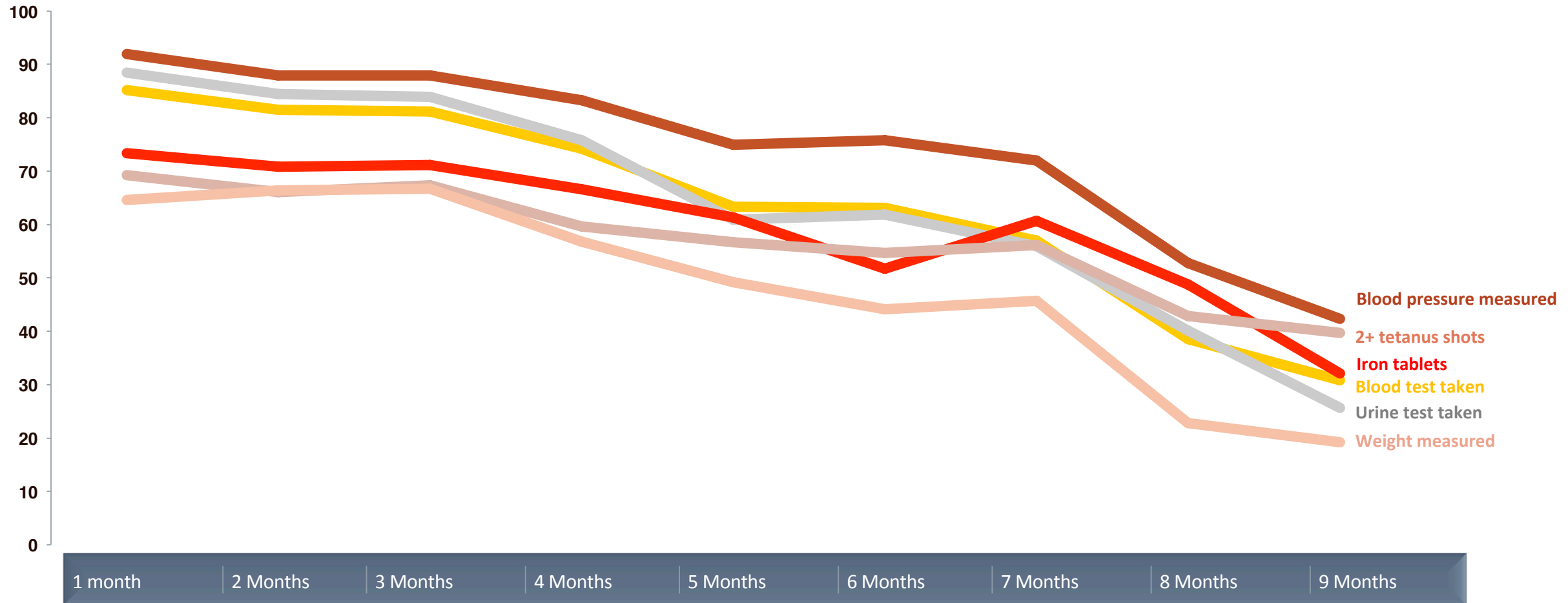
# Antenatal Care Coverage & Quality

**87% of women received at least one ANC checkup**



**Only 11% of women received all 6 elements of care**

# Percent of Women Receiving Antenatal Care Services by Month of 1<sup>st</sup> Check-up



# Disparities in Coverage & Timing of 1<sup>st</sup> ANC Visit

	ANC Coverage (ANC 1)	Early ANC (1 <sup>st</sup> trimester)	Odds of Early ANC* (1 <sup>st</sup> trimester)
<b>Residence</b> urban vs rural	94% vs. 80%	60% vs. 36%	0.9 (0.7-1.2)
<b>Education</b> primary vs none	98% vs. 72%	53% vs. 35%	<b>1.3 (1.1 – 1.6)</b>
secondary vs none	92% vs. 72%	74% vs. 35%	<b>2.3 (1.8 – 3.0)</b>
<b>Wealth</b> middle vs poorest	85% vs. 60%	49% vs. 26%	<b>2.3 (1.7 – 3.1)</b>
richest vs poorest	97% vs. 60%	74% vs. 26%	<b>4.3 (2.8 – 6.3)</b>

\*Adjusted odds ratios controlling for residence, age at marriage, parity, education & wealth; bold indicates statistical significance

# Antenatal Care Coverage, Quality & Timing By Wealth Quintile

## Richest Quintile

Median Timing of 1<sup>st</sup> ANC visit:  
**Month 3**

- **99%** of women received at least one ANC checkup
- **74%** of women had at least one ANC checkup during 1<sup>st</sup> trimester
- **23%** of women received all 6 elements of ANC

## Poorest Quintile

Median Timing of 1<sup>st</sup> ANC visit:  
**Month 7**

- **70%** of women received at least one ANC checkup
- **26%** of women had at least one ANC checkup during 1<sup>st</sup> trimester
- **2%** of women received all 6 elements of ANC

# Summary Findings & Implications for Programming

- Substantial variation in ANC services women receive in Sindh
- Timing of the first ANC check-up is a powerful predictor of service content
- Coverage indicators may mask disparities in quality and equity of services



# MCH Program Response

- Shifting focus towards ensuring early ANC checkup
- Addressing barriers to access for the most vulnerable women
- Advocacy for inclusion of ANC timing in Sindh's district health information system



**To find out more:**

**<http://www.mchip.net/Pakistan>**

**<http://jhpiego.pk/site/>**