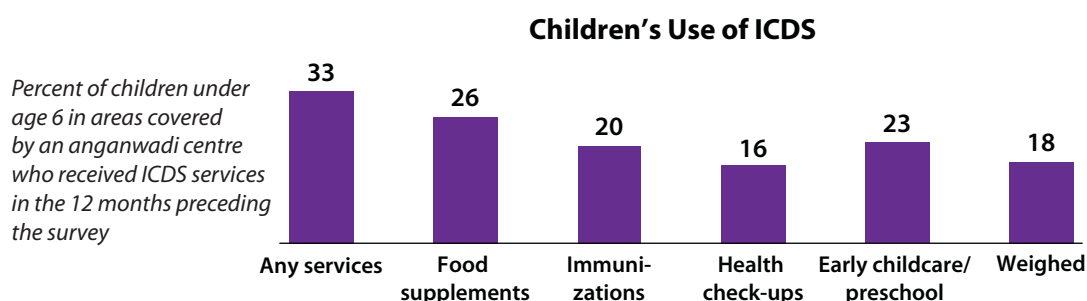


Utilization of ICDS Services Inadequate

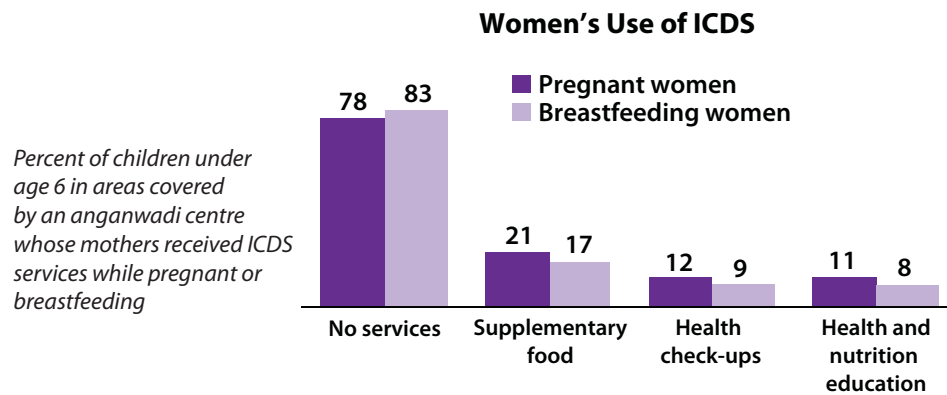
The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is the primary government programme providing health and nutrition services for children under age 6, pregnant women, and nursing mothers, as well as preschool for children age 3-6 years. These services are provided through community-based *anganwadi* centres.

- Nationwide, 72 percent of the NFHS-3 sample enumeration areas are covered by an *anganwadi* centre (AWC), and 62 percent are covered by an AWC that had, by the time of the survey, existed for at least five years. In total, 81 percent of children under age 6 years live in areas covered by an AWC.
- Only 33 percent of children under 6 years receive any kind of service from an *anganwadi* centre. Use of AWC services is more common in rural areas, among Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist children and among children from scheduled tribes. Use of services is greater where AWCs have been in operation for 6 or more years.
- In areas that have an *anganwadi* centre, use of AWCs in the last 12 months varies widely among states, ranging from only 12 percent in Delhi to about 66 percent in Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Fifty percent or more children received any services in Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Chhattisgarh).



- In areas covered by an *anganwadi* centre, almost three-fourths of children under 6 (74 percent) did not receive any supplementary food from an AWC in the last 12 months, and only 12 percent received supplementary food almost every day.
- Only a minority of children in areas with an *anganwadi* centre receive other services from the AWCs including immunizations (20 percent), growth monitoring (18 percent), health check-ups (16 percent), and pre-school or early childhood education (23 percent).

- Most pregnant women and nursing mothers do not use AWC services during pregnancy or while breastfeeding. Only 21 percent of women in areas served by an AWC received supplementary food from an AWC during their last pregnancy, 12 percent received health check-ups, and 11 percent received health and nutrition education. Similarly, 83 percent of breastfeeding women did not get any services at all, and only 17 percent of breastfeeding women received supplementary food.



For more information about ICDS coverage and utilization, please see Chapter 9 in the NFHS-3 final report.