Indicator 2.2.3

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)

Target 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

Percentage of women aged 20–49 years with a haemoglobin concentration less than 120 g/L

○ Concepts

Anaemia: A condition in which the blood haemoglobin concentration falls below an established reference value. An iron deficiency that is insufficient to maintain the normal physiological functions of blood, the brain and muscles. (ICD-11, 5B5K.0 iron deficiency)

Iron deficiency anaemia: (ICD-11, 3A00, iron deficiency anaemia)

Blood haemoglobin concentration: The concentration of haemoglobin in whole blood.

○ Rationale and Interpretation

Iron deficiency anaemia in pregnant women is associated with adverse reproductive outcomes, such as reduced iron stores in infants which may lead to premature birth, low birth weight and impaired development. Iron deficiency is considered the most common cause of anemia, but there are other nutritional and non-nutritional causes. Anaemia can be assessed by measuring haemoglobin in blood. Furthermore, if used in combination with other indicators of iron stores, haemoglobin in the blood can provide information on the severity of the iron deficiency. Prevalence of anaemia is used to classify the public health severity of this problem.

Data Sources and Collection Method

Calculated based on the National Health and Nutrition Survey.
https://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/kenkou/kenkou_eiyou_chousa.html

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

○ Computation Method

- Data are based on the National Health and Nutrition Survey which is conducted in certain unit blocks stratified and randomly selected from the unit blocks of the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions.
- The number of women aged 20−49 with a blood haemoglobin concentration less than 12.0 mg/L in the National Health and Nutrition Survey (measured by the SLS-Hb method) is divided by the total number of women aged 20−49 participate in the survey to determine the percentage.

* For a summary of the National Health and Nutrition Survey (purpose, participants, survey items, etc.), see the report posted at the URL above.

○ Comments and limitations

- Calculations use the test results of women aged 20−49 who participated in the National Health and Nutrition Survey and whose blood haemoglobin concentration was measured. The number of participants varies depending on the survey year.
- It should be noted that only a limited number of individuals participate in the National Health and Nutrition Survey.
- Individuals who use medication to treat anaemia are included in the participants.
- No consideration is made for pregnancy status.
- No adjustments are made for altitude (above sea level) or smoking status.

Data Disaggregation

By age group in 10-year increments

References

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: National Health and Nutrition Survey

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/kenkou/kenkou_eiyou_chousa.html

Custodian Ministries of Data

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Children and Families Agency

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

International Organizations

World Health Organization (WHO)