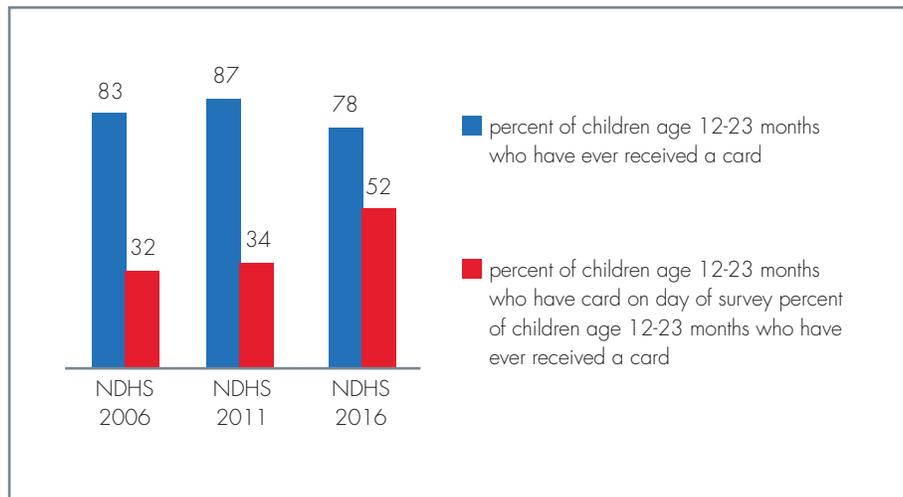


Uses

- **For public health administrations:** Recording tools for vaccination services, survey and training reference, and use in supervision and data quality audits
- **For health workers/female community health workers (FCHWs):** Recording tools for vaccinations and return dates, data triangulation and verifications, and counseling tools for caregivers/mobilizers
- **For parents/caregivers:** Record of child's vaccinations and health status for travel and school entry, and reference guide including key messages, actions, and return dates

Status of Child Health Card in Nepal:

The retention of the child health card among the 12-23 month age group was 52 % according to the NDHS 2016.



Factors Hindering Card Retention

- Poor card quality
- Lack of knowledge about the use and importance of card among health workers and caregivers
- Lack of counseling on use, importance, and the need to keep it safe
- Poor stock management of card from central to peripherals levels

Strategic Interventions

1) To increase use and retention of cards, educate FCHWs, caregivers and service providers about the importance of the card.

- Educate health workers, FCHWs and caregivers about their roles and responsibilities regarding the card.
- Encourage vaccination sessions, home visits and care group meetings with mothers.
- Educate health workers and FCHWs about proper timing, place and messages for counseling.
- Educate caregivers about the importance of card for school enrollment, cross border travel and to verify if their child has received vaccinations or not.
- Educate health workers on the importance of cards and the benefits for data triangulation and preventing duplication during vaccination sessions.
- Capacity-building for health workers on filling out and updating card after vaccination.
- Supervision and monitoring of card (which vaccinations the child received and which vaccinations are due and when; verification with register and tally sheets).
- How to use other IEC materials: job aid and flex should be used to educate caregivers.

2) To increase availability of card, ensure timely and sufficient printing of cards and ensure successful distribution from central level is required.

3) Proper stock management of card is necessary for regular supply and prevention of stock-outs and overstocking.

- Estimate number of cards needed for respective facility and district based on target population.
- Review of stock on time to avoid stock-out and plan for reproduction and distribution of new stock

Finally, increasing the use and retention of the card is absolutely necessary to strengthen immunization, and health workers play a crucial role in this.

Note: Local governance should also be implicated in increasing use and retention of the card. Throughout the process, they should be equally responsible for timely supply and distribution of cards. They should help in monitoring the use, availability and retention of the card and should play a role in distribution of funds and budgeting in order to ensure sufficient printing of cards for their municipalities.