

## ACCESS TO ANTENATAL AND DELIVERY CARE

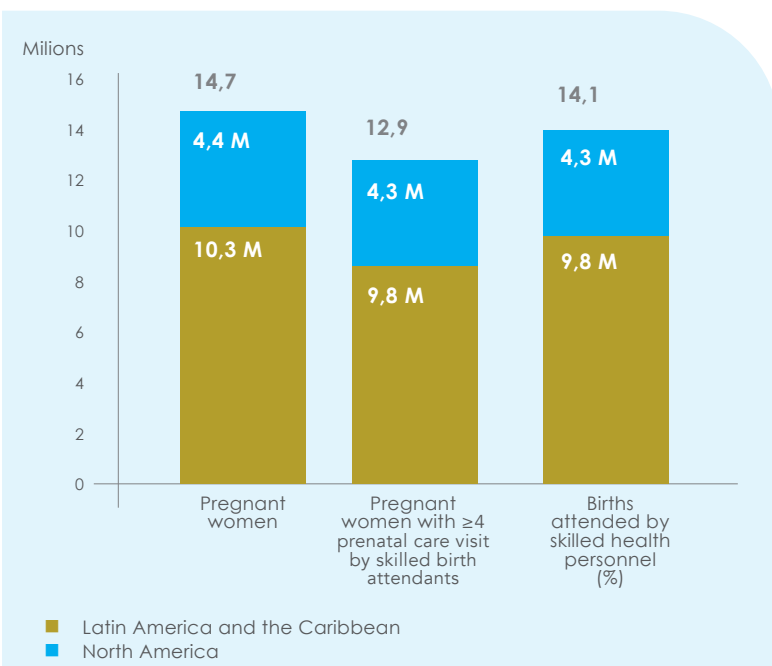
Within the continuum of reproductive health care, antenatal care (ANC) provides a platform for important health-care functions, including health promotion, screening and diagnosis, and disease prevention. In 2021, there was estimated a total of 14.7 million pregnant women in the Americas, 10.3 million (71%) of whom resided in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. Approximately 12.9 million of pregnant women accessed antenatal care consistently with four or more visits (ANC-4), representing 88% of pregnant women in the Americas. In Latin America and the Caribbean, this represented 86% of pregnant women.

Access to prenatal care has remained at similar levels since 2010, but inequalities persist. Out of 49 reporting countries, 32 reported updated data, at least since 2017. In total, 15 of them (47%) have ANC-4 coverage of more than 95%, while two remained with reported

ANC-4 coverage of less than 75% (Bolivia, 2020; Argentina, 2019).

The Region of the Americas has a high coverage of births attended by skilled health personnel (96.2%), higher in North America (99%) and Latin America (95%), than in the Caribbean (87.9%). In the Region hospitals play a central role in countries' responses to EMTCT. Important actions such as diagnosis, counseling, treatment, and use of prophylactic drugs, vaccination, as well as referral to adequate postpartum and childcare, cannot completely compensate for missed opportunities during prenatal, however, can make a difference in the lives of mothers, their children, and families. It is important to provide continued education and resources to maternity hospitals and hospitals where deliveries take place to ensure the provision and use per protocol of all available EMTCT technologies.

**Estimated number of pregnant women, number with four or more prenatal care consultations, and number of births attended by skilled health personnel in the Americas, by subregion, 2021**



Source: Health Information platform for the Americas (PLISA), 2021, (<https://opendata.paho.org/es/indicadores-basicos/tablero-de-los-indicadores-basicos>). Washington, D.C.

Notes: Estimates on total number of pregnant women were available for all countries and territories in the Region, based on PAHO's estimated births for the region, 2021. Data on the coverage of births attended by skilled personnel were not available for Aruba. Curacao and Guadeloupe were excluded from the analysis due to unavailability of data on coverage of antenatal care (ANC-4). Chile did not report ANC-4 and the Southern Cone average has been inputted. Aruba was excluded from the analysis due to unavailability of data on coverage of hospital births.