

Reading and Understanding SPA Tables

Example I: Availability of Child Health Services (Based on the entire sample of health care facilities)

Table 4.1 Availability of child health services 1

Percentage of facilities offering the indicated child health services at the facility, by background characteristics, Rwanda SPA 2007

Background characteristics	Percentage of facilities that provide:				Number of facilities
	Curative outpatient care for sick children	Growth monitoring	Childhood immunization	All basic child health services	
Type of facility					
Hospital	90	17	12	5	42
Health center/Polyclinic	99	72	96	71	389
Dispensary/Clinic/Health post	79	7	24	7	107
Managing authority					
Government	97	63	85	61	309
Government-assisted	98	71	84	68	133
Private/NGO/Community	81	7	31	6	96
Province					
North	100	58	84	57	90
South	95	68	85	67	117
East	93	54	73	52	113
West	97	59	83	56	132
Kigali City	87	30	44	28	86
Total	95	55	75	53	538

Statistical tables can look intimidating at first glance. This worksheet is designed to help you read and interpret tables from the Service Provision Assessment Survey.

Step 1: Read the title and subtitle. They provide a brief description of the information contained in the table. In this case, the table tells us what percentage of health care facilities provide specific child health services.

Step 2: Scan the column headings—the top horizontal row. The columns summarize the indicators being measured. In this case, each column represents one child health service. The fourth column on the white background shows what percent of facilities have ALL of the 3 services. Note that the very last column, in gray, lists the number of facilities in each category—these are absolute numbers, NOT percentages. These numbers are the denominators, that is, the total number of facilities surveyed for each topic and each background characteristic. In this case, 538 facilities were surveyed.

Step 3: Look at the very last row at the bottom of the table. These figures represent the total percentages. That is, the percentage of ALL facilities that offer each of the three services, and the percentage of facilities that offer ALL three services. This table shows that child health services are widely available in Rwanda; 95% of all facilities offer curative care for children; 55% offer growth monitoring; and 75% offer childhood immunization. Fifty-three percent of facilities offer all three services.

Step 4: Scan the row headings—the first vertical column. The row headings show how the information is presented. In the case of the RSPA, the information is presented by background characteristics—facility type, managing authority, and region. These categories allow you to compare availability of services in hospitals versus health centers and polyclinics; government versus private facilities; and one region versus another. In this example, 7% of dispensaries, clinics, and health posts provide **all** basic child health services compared to 71% of health centers and polyclinics (see circle in upper right of table). There are large differences in availability of childhood immunization by region. Only 44% of facilities in Kigali City offer childhood vaccination compared to 85% in the South (see circle in the bottom center of table). Growth monitoring varies greatly by managing authority. Government-assisted facilities are much more likely to provide growth monitoring services than private, NGO, and community facilities (71% versus 7%; see circle in middle of table).

Example 2: Components Needed for Childhood Immunizations (Based on a subset of health care facilities)

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Table 4.2 Health system components required for childhood immunization services

Percentage of facilities offering child immunization services at the facility that have all equipment, items for preventing infection, records indicating good administrative practices, and all basic child vaccines, by background characteristics, Rwanda SPA 2007

Background characteristics	Percentage of facilities offering child immunization with:				Number of facilities offering child immunization services ⁴	Percentage of facilities offering child immunization services and storing vaccine with:		Number of facilities offering child immunization services and storing vaccines
	All equipment ¹	All items for infection control ²	Administrative components ³	All equipment, items for infection control, and administrative components		All basic child vaccines ⁵	All components for providing quality child immunization services (including vaccines) present	
Type of facility								
Hospital	100	100	40	40	5	100	40	5
Health center/Polyclinic	70	28	80	22	374	94	22	356
Dispensary/Clinic/Health post	62	58	46	35	26	89	44	9
Managing authority								
Government	74	28	79	22	263	94	21	250
Government-assisted	62	29	78	22	112	94	23	107
Private/NGO/Community	67	60	53	40	30	92	46	13
Province								
North	70	26	83	24	76	97	25	68
South	70	26	77	18	99	95	18	97
East	63	11	72	6	83	90	6	80
West	71	41	80	34	109	94	36	90
Kigali City	84	66	68	45	38	94	37	35
Total	70	31	77	23	405	94	23	370

Step 1: Read the title and subtitle. This table provides detailed information on the availability of various components necessary to provide childhood immunization services.

Step 2: Identify the two panels. Panel a refers to all facilities offering child immunization services (N=405). Panel b is a subset of panel a; panel b refers only to the facilities offering immunization services AND storing vaccines (N=370).

Step 3: Look at the last column in panel a. How many facilities offer child immunization services in the survey? The number is 405.

When reading and using SPA tables, be sure to identify which group of facilities is being displayed. For example, look at the first column in panel b. It is NOT correct to say that 94% of facilities have all basic child vaccines. It IS correct to say that 94% of facilities offering childhood immunization services **and** storing vaccines have all child vaccines.

Step 4: Now, read the column headings in panel a. The first column is percent of facilities offering child immunization that have “all equipment”. Footnote #1 explains that “all equipment” includes blank immunization cards, syringes and needles, and cold box with ice packs. Keep in mind that if a facility is missing just one of these items, it will NOT be included in this column. If you want to see exactly which item is missing, you can find the more detailed tables in the appendix tables of the RSPA report.

Step 5: Look at the column for “All equipment, items for infection control and administrative components.” These are the components the SPA defines as necessary for providing quality immunization services. Notice that the percentages in this column are low. This is because most facilities are missing one or more of the many items that are included in footnote #2, items for infection control, and footnote #3, administrative components. Many of the facilities may have many of the items listed. However, in Rwanda, regular water supply is available in only one-third of facilities. Running water is one of the most essential items needed for infection control, and therefore, all of the facilities without running water will not be considered as having all items for quality immunization services, even if they have all of the other items.

Practice Reading SPA Tables

Use Table 4.2 (Example 2) to answer the following questions (answers are upside down, below):

- a) What type of facility offering child immunization is most likely to have all items for infection control?
- b) What percentage of government-assisted facilities offering child immunization services have all items for providing quality immunizations (all equipment, all items for infection control, AND administrative components)?
- c) How many government facilities in the sample provide immunization services? (Hint: remember, the gray shaded boxes show the NUMBER of facilities, while the rest of the table shows the percentages.)
- d) What percentage of facilities offering childhood immunizations AND storing vaccines have all of the basic child vaccines in stock?
- e) In which region do the greatest percentage of facilities offering child immunization services AND storing vaccines have all the components for providing quality child immunization services?

a. Hospitals—100% of hospitals that provide childhood immunizations have all items for infection control.
b. 22% of government-assisted facilities
c. 263 government facilities offer immunization services.
d. 94% of facilities offering childhood immunizations AND storing vaccines have all of the basic vaccines in stock.
e. Kigali City—37% of facilities in Kigali City offering child immunization services AND storing vaccines have all components for providing quality child immunization services.