

Reading and Understanding SPA Tables: 2013-14 Malawi Service Provision Assessment (MSPA), A Census of Malawian Health Care Facilities Example I: Availability of Basic Client Services (Based on all health facilities)

Table 3.2 Availability of basic client services 1

Among all facilities, the percentages offering indicated basic client services and all basic client services, by background characteristics, Malawi SPA 2013-14

4	2	Child growth monitoring services	Child vaccination services	Any modern methods of family planning	Antenatal care services	Services for STI	All basic client services ¹	Number of facilities	
Facility type									
Hospital	95	83	83	70	91	96	58	113	
Health centre	99	98	97	89	96	98	84	466	
Dispensary	94	91	83	85	37	85	28	48	
Clinic	90	30	24	77	20	96	11	327	
Health post	45	100	100	77	10	20	10	23	
Managing authority									
Government	95	96	95	95	85	94	81	472	
CHAM	99	96	94	57	91	96	49	163	
Private	93	22	17	79	21	95	8	214	
NGO	83	36	31	81	17	93	10	58	
Company	81	52	46	68	41	97	35	69	
Region									
Northern	96	81	78	85	71	95	63	165	
Central	94	72	69	84	65	96	51	362	
Southern	93	71	69	80	62	93	49	450	
Total	3	94	73	70	82	65	95	52	977

¹ Basic client services include outpatient curative care for sick children, child growth monitoring, facility-based child vaccination services, any modern methods of family planning, antenatal care, and services for sexually transmitted infections (STI).

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 all health care facilities provide the basic client services assessed in the 2013-14 Malawi Service Provision Assessment (MSPA).

Step 2: Scan the column headings—the top horizontal row. The columns summarise the indicators being measured. In this case, each of the six columns represents one basic client service. The seventh column on the white background shows what percent of facilities have ALL six basic client services. Note that the very last column, in gray, lists the number of facilities in each category. These numbers are the denominators, that is, the total number of facilities surveyed for each topic and each background characteristic. In this case, 977 facilities were surveyed. Of these 977 surveyed facilities, 113 are hospitals, 466 are health centres, 48 are dispensaries, 327 are clinics, and 23 are health posts.

Step 3: Look at the very last row at the bottom of the table. These figures represent the total percentages. That is, the percent of ALL facilities that offer each of the six services, and the percent that offer ALL six services. This table shows that services for STIs (95%) and child curative care (94%) are widely available in Malawi. Overall, 52% of all facilities provide ALL basic client 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 Malawi SPA, 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 clinics, government versus private facilities, and among the regions. In this example, 84% of health centres provide ALL basic client services compared to 10% of health posts. There are large differences in availability of child vaccination services, especially by managing authority. Only 17% of private facilities offer child vaccination services compared to 95% of government facilities.

Example 2: Availability of antenatal care (ANC) services (Based on all health facilities and a subset of health facilities)

Table 6.1 Availability of antenatal care services 1							
Among all facilities, the percentage offering antenatal care (ANC) services and, among facilities offering ANC services, the percentages offering the service on the indicated number of days per week, by background characteristics, Malawi SPA 2013-14							
4 Background characteristics	Percentage of facilities that offer ANC	Number of facilities	2 Percentage of facilities offering ANC where ANC services are offered the indicated number of days per week ¹			Tetanus toxoid vaccine every day ANC is offered	Number of facilities offering ANC
			1-2	3-4	5+		
Facility type							
Hospital	91	113	24	12	63	91	103
Health centre	96	466	48	20	31	82	445
Dispensary	37	48	52	0	19	88	18
Clinic	20	327	50	2	40	66	64
Health post	10	23	50	0	0	50	2
Managing authority	2						
Government	85	472	44	19	34	83	399
CHAM	91	163	47	16	37	89	149
Private	21	214	35	2	54	64	45
NGO	17	58	10	0	90	50	10
Company	41	69	65	0	28	79	28
Region							
Northern	71	165	66	10	20	80	118
Central	65	362	32	17	48	83	235
Southern	62	450	46	18	34	83	280
Total	65	3 977	45	16	37	82	632

¹ Some facilities offer ANC services less often than one day per week, and so the total percentage may be less than 100 percent.

Step 1: Read the title and subtitle. In this case, the table is about two separate groups: a) all health facilities, and b) facilities that offer antenatal care (ANC) services.

Step 2: Identify the two panels. Panel **a** refers to all health facilities (N=977), and panel **b** is a subset of panel **a**; panel **b** refers only to the health facilities offering ANC services (N=632).

Step 3: Look at panel **a**. What percent of all health facilities in Malawi offer ANC services? It's 65%. Now look at panel **b**. How many health facilities offer ANC services? It's 632 or 65% of all health facilities (65% of 977 = 632). When reading and using the 2013-14 MSPA 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 45% of health facilities offer ANC services 1-2 days per week. It IS correct to say that 45% of facilities offering ANC services offer these services 1-2 days per week.

Step 4: Scan the row headings—the first vertical column. The row headings show the information presented by background characteristics. These background characteristics are the same as Table 3.2 on the first page.

Practice: Use the table above to answer the following questions (answers are upside down, below).

- a) What type of facility is most likely to offer ANC services?
- b) What percentage of health facilities offering ANC services offer ANC services 3-4 days per week?
- c) How many government facilities offer ANC services? (Hint: the gray column shows the denominators, or the number of health facilities in the sample or subsample.)
- d) What percentage of clinics offering ANC services offer a tetanus shot every day that ANC services are offered?
- e) In which region are ANC services least likely to be provided five or more days per week by facilities offering ANC services?

a) Health centres—96% of health centres offer ANC services.
b) 16% of health facilities offering ANC services offer ANC services 3-4 days per week.
c) 399 government facilities offer ANC services, a subsample of the 472 government facilities included in the survey.
d) 66% of clinics offering ANC services offer a tetanus shot every day that ANC services are offered.
e) Facilities offering ANC services in the Northern region are least likely to offer ANC services five or more days per week.

Example 3: Observed consultations in the 2013-14 MSPA

Table 5.10.1 Components of counseling and discussions during consultations for all female family planning clients 1

Among all female family planning (FP) clients whose consultations were observed, the percentages whose consultation included the indicated components and the indicated discussions related to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and condoms, by background characteristics, Malawi SPA 2013-14

4	Background characteristics									5	
	Facility type				Managing authority						
	2	Health centre	Dispensary	Clinic	Government	CHAM	Private	NGO	Company		Total
Components of consultation	Hospital										
Privacy and confidentiality											
Visual privacy assured	92	85	87	92	90	67	86	97	100	88	
Auditory privacy assured	87	82	84	88	86	68	85	97	100	85	
Confidentiality assured	20	23	17	31	22	18	22	48	18	22	
All three counseling conditions on privacy and confidentiality met ¹	18	21	17	31	20	16	22	47	18	20	
Discussion related to STIs and condoms											
Use of condoms to prevent STIs	6	12	2	11	9	3	4	29	16	9	
Use of condoms as dual method ²	8	11	3	11	10	6	5	21	3	10	
Any discussion related to STIs ³	25	22	11	19	24	13	11	39	23	23	
Concerns, side effects and individual client cards											
Concerns about methods discussed ⁴	76	74	78	74	77	64	65	91	58	75	
Side effects discussed ⁵	49	40	66	41	45	39	35	57	26	44	
Individual client card reviewed during consultation	96	95	97	88	95	97	84	94	100	95	
Individual client card written on after consultation	98	97	98	93	98	100	94	93	100	98	
Visual aid and return visit											
Visual aids were used during consultation	25	26	18	19	26	23	13	29	1	25	
Return visit discussed	86	89	92	92	86	95	95	89	99	88	
Number of observed female FP clients	3	682	692	27	97	1,238	137	55	38	32	1,499

¹ Visual and auditory privacy and confidentiality assured during consultation
² Use of condoms to prevent both pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
³ Discussed risks of STIs, using condoms to prevent STIs, or using condoms as dual method
⁴ Provider asked client about concerns with family planning method
⁵ Method-specific side effect discussed with client, if client was provided or prescribed a method

Step 1: In the 2013-14 MSPA, consultations with family planning (FP) clients were observed by interviewers. We can use the same steps to read and understand tables about observed consultations. Read the title and subtitle. In this case, the table is about the components and discussions that were observed during FP client consultations.

Step 2: Scan the column headings—the top horizontal row. In this case, each column represents the background characteristics of facility type and managing authority. In this example, background characteristics are presented as columns and not as rows.

Step 3: Note that the very last row, in gray, lists the number of observed female FP clients in each category. These numbers are the denominators, that is, the total number of FP clients observed for each background characteristic. In this case, a total of 1,499 female FP client consultations were observed. Among the 1,499 consultations, 682 were performed in hospitals, 692 in health centres, 27 in dispensaries, and 97 in clinics.

Step 4: Scan the row headings—the first vertical column. For this table, the rows represent the components of the consultations: privacy and confidentiality; discussion related to STIs and condoms; concerns, side effects, and individual client cards; and visual aid and return visit. These categories allow you to compare components of the consultations by facility type or managing authority.

Step 5: Look at the last column of the table. It represents the total percentage of each component observed during FP consultations. For example, among observed FP consultations, 88% took place in an area where visual privacy was assured and 23% had any discussion related to STIs—the risk of STIs, using condoms to prevent STIs, or using condoms as dual method.