

Timely Completion of Vaccination among Children in Gondar Town Administration, Northwest, Ethiopia: A Multi-Level Analysis

CURRENT STATUS: UNDER REVIEW

BMC Public Health  BMC Series

Zelege Abebaw Mekonnen
University of Gondar

✉ zelegeabebaw7@gmail.com *Corresponding Author*
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2923-468X>

Kassahun Alemu Gelaye
University of Gondar

Martin C. Were
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Binyam Tilahun
University of Gondar

DOI:

10.21203/rs.3.rs-15567/v1

SUBJECT AREAS

Health Policy *Infectious Diseases*

KEYWORDS

Immunization, Vaccination, Timeliness, Completeness, Ethiopia

Abstract

Background Timely vaccination is key to prevent unnecessary childhood mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases. Despite the substantial efforts to improve vaccination completeness, the effort towards timeliness of vaccination is limited with non-attendance and delays to vaccination appointments remaining a big challenge in developing countries. There is also a limited evidence on timeliness of vaccination. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the magnitude and associated factors for timely completion of vaccination among children in Gondar town administration, north-west, Ethiopia.

Methods This study employed a community-based cross sectional study design. A sample size of 821 children aged 12-23 months were considered. Two stages random sampling technique was applied. To account the effect of clustering, both bivariable and multivariable multilevel logistic regression analysis were applied. The measures of association estimates were expressed as adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with their 95% confidence intervals.

Results Of the 774 children included for the analysis, 498 (64.3%) were fully vaccinated while 247 (31.9%) were fully vaccinated on-time. Caregivers of greater than 35 years old (AOR= 0.469; 95% CI: 0.253-0.869], who had secondary education and above (AOR = 2.391; 95% CI: 1.317- 4.343), from richest households (AOR = 2.381; 95% CI: 1.502-3.773), children whose mothers attended four and more ante natal care visits (AOR = 2.844; 95% CI: 1.310-6.174) and who had two or more post natal care visits (AOR =2.054; 95%CI:1.377-3.063) were positively associated with on-time full vaccination. In contrary, being vaccinated at health post (AOR=0.144; 95%CI: 0.048-0.428) and caregivers who travelled more than 30 minutes (AOR= 0.158; 95%CI: 0.033-0.739) were negatively associated with on-time full vaccination. The random effects indicated that 26% of the variability in on-time full vaccination was attributable to differences between communities.

Conclusion In this study, untimely vaccination was found to be high. Different individual and contextual factors were found to be associated with on-time full vaccination. Therefore, tailored strategies have to be designed and implemented to address people and the communities where they live. Moreover, timeliness of vaccination should be considered as another important indicator of the

immunization program performance in Ethiopia.

Background

Vaccine preventable diseases contribute substantially to under five mortality as well as morbidity (1). Hence, immunization has become one of the major contributors to public health globally as it prevents communicable disease, particularly in children. Evidence shows that 29% of deaths among under five children are vaccine preventable (2) and being fully vaccinated is associated with 22% lower mortality in children (3).

Immunization averts an estimated 2 to 3 million deaths every year worldwide. However, despite the tremendous efforts made so far, vaccine preventable diseases remain a major health problem among children in developing countries including Ethiopia (4-7).

Completion and timeliness of routine vaccination as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) are very crucial for maximum protection of children against specific infections (8). To effectively control vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs), high immunization coverage is required with a targeted coverage level of 90% recommended by the WHO. In terms of control and prevention of childhood infectious diseases, achieving high vaccination coverage is a necessary; but insufficient indicator to assess the success of immunization program. In order to successfully control and eliminate vaccine-preventable infectious diseases, age appropriate vaccine coverage has to be achieved and maintained (9-12).

However, maintaining a high performance of an immunization program and its quality is challenging, with non-attendance and delays to vaccination appointments remaining a key challenge in developing countries (13,14). Worldwide in 2018, about 116.3 million infants (86%) received three doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) vaccine, protecting them against infectious diseases. On the other hand, an estimated 19.4 million infants worldwide were not reached with routine immunization services of which around 60% of these children live in 10 countries, including Ethiopia (15). As a result, substantial proportions of children in many countries still fail to benefit from all basic vaccines and vaccine preventable diseases still pose a public health risk with the highest rates of child mortality still in Sub-Saharan Africa (16,17).

Ethiopia launched the immunization program in 1980 and currently provides 11 antigens at birth, 6 weeks, 10 weeks, 14 weeks and 9 months. Despite the fact that immunization services are offered free of charge, full vaccination coverage in Ethiopia is significantly lower than the global target. The 2016 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) report showed that only 39% of children received all basic vaccinations (18) and the 2019 mini EDHS report also indicated that the full vaccination coverage has reached 43% with steady increase in vaccination coverage over time (19).

Findings from studies conducted in different settings of Ethiopia showed a wide range coverage of full vaccination from 48.8% to 91.7% (20–26). On the other hand, the incomplete vaccination coverage ranged from 20.3% to 45.5% (20,23,24).

Multiple assessments also reveal that despite relatively high vaccination coverage, there was a gap in the timeliness of children vaccination with substantial delay in age-appropriate vaccination demonstrating that high vaccination coverage does not imply that children are vaccinated according to the schedule (16,27–36).

Currently, the timing of vaccine administration has received increasing attention in many countries, especially when the level of vaccination coverage is close to that needed for protective herd immunity (10,29,37). Although many studies have measured full vaccination coverage, studies on timely vaccination completion are rare in developing countries particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (16,31)

To date, timeliness is not routinely used as an indicator to evaluate immunization programs in Ethiopia. Similarly, several studies had examined and documented the vaccination coverage for childhood immunization in Ethiopia with which timeliness had received less consideration (13,19,22,24,38). Therefore, this study aimed to determine the magnitude and associated factors for timely completion of vaccination among children in Gondar town administration, Northwest, Ethiopia.

Methods

Study design, area and period

A community based cross sectional study was conducted from October 22- November 30, 2018 in Gondar town administration, northwest, Ethiopia. The town administration had an estimated total

population of 390, 644 of which 12,149 were under one year of age. Gondar town administration has a total of 24 Kebeles (13 urban and 11 rural). In addition, the town administration has a total of 23 public health facilities (one comprehensive specialized hospital, eight health centers and 14 health posts (39)).

Source and study Populations

The target population were all children aged 12–23 months in Gondar town administration. The study populations were those eligible children in this age group from the selected kebele's included for the study.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Households with at least one live child aged 12–23 months who resided in the study area for at least 6 months prior to the study period were eligible for inclusion in this study. Those children included in the study had to have a history of routine vaccination and their caregivers had to give informed written consent to participate in the study. If more than one eligible child was found in a household, one child was selected randomly in order to avoid duplication of information from a single household. Children having history of vaccination from vaccination campaigns only were excluded.

Sample size calculation

The required sample size was calculated for both completeness and timeliness of vaccination using single population proportion formula by considering the following assumptions:

Using proportion of 58.7 % for full vaccination [Pilot study], 95% confidence level, 5% margin of error, design effect of 2 and non-response rate of 10%, the sample was 821.

Using proportion of 37.1% for on time-full vaccination [Pilot study], 95% confidence level, 5% margin of error, design effect of 2 and non-response rate of 10%, the sample was 395.

Hence, we used a sample size of 821 for this particular study.

Sampling procedure

Two stages sampling technique was used. During the first stage, the 24 kebele's were stratified by urban and rural and 10 kebele's (5 rural and 5 urban kebeles) were selected using simple random sampling technique. The number of respondents in each kebele were determined using sampling proportionate to child population size estimated for each Kebele. In the second stage of sampling, at

each selected kebele, eligible caregiver-child pairs were selected using systematic random sampling technique.

Variables definition and measurement

Dependent variable: On-time full vaccination

Independent variables: Socio-demographic characteristics, health service related factors and contextual factors.

Full vaccination was defined as the child vaccination status once an infant has received all recommended vaccines included in the national schedule: a dose of Bacille Calmette Guérin (BCG); three doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV); three doses each of Penta-valent and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV); one dose of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV); two doses of rotavirus and one dose of measles vaccines by the age of 12 months (5,22,26,40,41). On-time vaccination for specific vaccines was defined as vaccine dose administered within 4 days prior (31,42-45) and within 4 weeks after the recommended age specified in the national immunization schedule (12,30,31,37,43-49). On-time full vaccination was also defined as all vaccine doses administered within 4 days prior (31,42-45) and within 4 weeks after the recommended age specified in the national immunization schedule. Otherwise, it was not considered as on-time full vaccination if at least one vaccine dose was given early, late or missed at all (30,31,43,44,48,50-53).

The household socio-economic status was created by principal components analysis (PCA), including variables on asset ownership, housing characteristics and ownership of animals and farming. This was done for rural and urban households separately using 20 and 31 items for the PCA respectively (54). Having this, rural and urban households PCA loading scores were merged for household wealth index classification using quintiles. Finally, the merged scores for urban and rural were divided into three quintiles as poor, middle and rich households.

Data collection tools and procedures

Data collection tools were first developed in English, which then underwent forward and backward translation to ensure semantic consistency. The data collection tools were validated by six experts from different disciplines so as to ensure its face and content validity. Accordingly, the applicability of

the data collection tools and procedures were checked and revised as necessary.

Pilot study was also done out of the study area (in four kebele's of Bahirdar town administration) before the actual data collection with a sample size of 100. The results of the pilot study were used to determine the minimum sample size for the actual study as well. The reliability of the data collection tool was assessed using Cronbach's alpha (α). From the pilot study the internal consistency estimate of the reliability of items was found to be 0.87.

Interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to collect socio-demographic characteristics, health service related factors and vaccination status of the children. Eight data collectors and two supervisors were recruited for the data collection. Vaccination status and age at vaccination were confirmed by checking the vaccination card kept by caregivers or from the health facility expanded program on immunization (EPI) registers. For children with a vaccination card, the interviewer copied dates of any recorded vaccination on to the questionnaire. For children without a vaccination card, their vaccination status was verified from the health facility EPI registers.

Data processing, analysis and parameter estimation methods

Descriptive statistics

The data were entered into EPI-data version 3.1 software and transferred to STATA version 14 software for analysis. Prior to the commencement of the analysis data cleaning, labeling, coding and recoding were done for all variables. Frequency and percentages were used to report categorical variables.

Bivariable multilevel regression analysis

At the bivariable multilevel regression analysis, the effect of each individual and community level predictor variables on the outcome variable were checked at significance level of 0.2 (55). Variables which were statistically significant at the bivariable multilevel logistic regression analysis were considered as candidates for the individual and community level model adjustments.

Model specification

This study applied binary logistic multilevel analysis techniques in order to account for the clustering nature of the data and the binary response of the outcome variable. For the bivariable and

multivariable multilevel logistic regression analysis the STATA syntax `xtmelogit` was used.

Accordingly, four models containing variables of interest were fitted.

Model-I: was the null model, used to check the variability among the communities without inserting any variable. It's the first step used to provide evidence whether the data has a justifiable evidence to assess the random effects at the community level. Model-II: was a multivariable model used to adjust individual level variables which were significant at the bivariable multilevel regression analysis.

Hence, independent variables which were significant in Model-II were considered as candidates of the final model. Model-III: was also a multivariable model which was used to adjust community level variables which were significant at the bivariable multilevel regression analysis. Community level independent variables which were statistically significant in Model-III were included in the final model.

Model-IV: was a multivariable multilevel regression analysis model used to adjust the outcome variable against independent variables which were statistically significant either at Model-II or Model-III. Stepwise model building technique was used for all models.

Parameter estimation methods

The measures of association (fixed-effects) estimates the association between the likelihood of children to be fully vaccinated on-time and the predictor variables expressed as Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) with their 95 % Confidence Intervals (CIs). The measures of variation (random-effects) were reported as intra class correlation coefficient (ICC) which is the percentage of variance explained by the community level variables. Proportional Change in Variance (PCV), expresses the change in the community level variance between Model-I (empty model) and the consecutive models (Model-II, III and IV) (56).

Comparison of models

Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and log likelihood were used to compare the models. The AIC and the log likelihood values for each subsequent models were compared and the model with the lowest value was considered to be the better model (57).

Multicollinearity and model fit statistics

The presence of multicollinearity was checked among independent variables using Variance Inflation

Factor (VIF) at cut off point of 10. Predictors having a VIF value of less than 10 indicate absence of multicollinearity (58). In addition, Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness of fit test was used to estimate the goodness of fit of the adjusted final model (55).

Ethical considerations

Ethical approval was obtained from the University of Gondar Ethical Review Board (IRB) before the commencement of the study. In addition, study permission was sought at all levels of local governmental health administrations. Informed written consent was obtained from each of the caregivers of children for their participation in the study and to access their child vaccination data from health facilities. In the meantime, study participants were informed to withdraw and discontinue participation at any time if they felt discomfort. Moreover, confidentiality assurance was provided to study participants on the information provided by them. Information that was collected for this study was also secured and protected from unauthorized access. At last, official permission was requested from the health facilities to access the child vaccination records from EPI registers.

Results

Socio-demographic characteristics of caregivers

Out of the 821 children included for this study, the response rate was 98.9%. Thirty eight children with unverifiable records were excluded and a total of 774 children were included for analysis. Almost all 757 (97.8%) of the respondents as a care giver were mothers of the eligible child and two third 475 (61.4%) of respondents were in the age range of 25-34 years. About, 67% of respondents were from urban kebeles. Pertaining to educational status, majority (46%) had secondary education and above while 22% had no education. As indicated in table 1, from the total study participants 693 (89.5%) were married, 707(91.4%) were orthodox and 88 (11.4%) were government employed. With regard to sex of child, around 368 (47.6%) of children were females.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characters of caregivers in Gondar town, Ethiopia, 2018 [N=774]

Characteristics		Total (%)
Caregiver age in years	≤24	172 (22.2)
	25-34	475 (61.4)
	≥35	127 (16.4)
Marital status	Married	693(89.5)
	Others	81(10.5)
Religion	Orthodox	707(91.4)
	Muslim	53 (6.8)
	Others	14 (1.8)
Residence	Rural	252(32.6)
	Urban	522(67.4)
Education	No education	171(22.1)
	Primary	244(31.5)
	Secondary and above	359(46.4)
Sex of child	Female	368(47.6)
	Male	406 (52.4)
Occupation	Government employed	88(11.4)
	Others	686(88.6)
Family size	<5	436 (56.3)
	≥5	338(43.7)
Wealth Index	Poor	258 (33.3)
	Middle	258 (33.3)
	Rich	258 (33.3)

Health service related characteristics of caregivers

Majority 469 (60.6%) of caregivers reported that the mother had four and above ante natal care (ANC) visits for the child included for this study. Regarding place of delivery, only 54(6.9%) of deliveries were at home. Sixty eight percent of respondents reported that the mother of the child had two and more post natal care (PNC) visits. Of the included children for the study, 279 (36.1%) were in the first birth order while 148 (19.1%) reported that the birth order is four and above. Four hundred ninety two (63.6%) of the caregivers took their child to health center for vaccination and 391 (50.5%) of respondents reported that the distance to the vaccination site is less than fifteen minutes from their home [Table 2].

Table 2: Health service related factors of caregivers in Gondar town, Ethiopia, 2018 [N=774]

Variables		Total (%)
ANC	No	61 (7.9)
	1-3	244 (31.5)
	≥4	469 (60.6)
Place of delivery	Home	54 (6.9)
	Health Facility	720 (93.1)
PNC	<2	243 (31.4)
	≥2	531 (68.6)
Birth order	1st	279 (36.1)
	2nd-3rd	347 (44.8)
	4+	148 (19.1)
Distance to vaccination site	<15Minute	391 (50.5)
	15-30Minute	309 (39.9)
	>30Minute	74 (9.6)
Place of vaccination	Hospital	130 (16.8)
	HP	152 (19.6)
	HC	492 (63.6)

Over all vaccination status of children

Child vaccination card availability during the time of interview was 599 (77.4%) [Figure 1]. Of those caregivers who reported that their child's vaccination card is available during the time of interview, 551 (91.9%) showed the vaccination cards for the interviewers.

Of the 774 children included for analysis, 498 (64.3%) with 95%CI: (60.9- 67.6%) were fully vaccinated while 247 (31.9%) with 95% CI (28.7- 35.3%) children were fully vaccinated on-time [Figure 1]. The study also indicated that only half of those fully vaccinated children had been fully vaccinated on-time.

Vaccination coverage for specific vaccines

Figure 2 below depicted the vaccination coverage for specific vaccines. Coverage for each specific vaccine was calculated from all children included in this particular study. We found that the proportion of children with full vaccinations decreased from Penta I (95.5%) to Penta III (83.2%) and measles (76.2%) vaccine doses subsequently [Figure2]. The study also indicated that the Pentavalent vaccination drop-out rate was 12.8% and the BCG to measles vaccination dropout rate was 20.1%.

Timely vaccination for specific vaccines

Timeliness for each specific vaccine was calculated from those children vaccinated for that specific vaccine. As depicted in figure 3, timely vaccinations for each vaccine ranged from 62.4% for BCG vaccine to 80.5% for Rota 1 vaccine. The proportion of children who had received early vaccine doses

ranged from 3.1% for PCV3 vaccine to 13.6% for measles vaccine. On the other hand, the proportion of children who had received vaccine doses lately ranged from 13.9% for Rota1 vaccine to 37.6% for BCG vaccines [Figure 3].

Attendance to vaccination schedules

Full attendance to vaccination schedules were measured historically by asking the caregivers and objectively measured from vaccination cards and registers. The findings showed that the proportion of full attendance to vaccination schedules measured historically from caregiver's reports was 693(89.5%). On the other hand, the objective measurement from vaccination cards and registers indicated that proportion of full attendance to vaccination visits was 558 (72.1%).

Reasons for not attending vaccination schedules on-time

The reasons for not attending vaccination schedules were mentioned by those 81 caregivers who reported that their attendance to the vaccination schedules were not complete as scheduled. Among the reasons for not attending vaccination schedules on-time, 34% were due to forgetfulness, 28% being unaware of the schedules and 27% being busy to show up in vaccination schedules [Figure 4].

Bivariable and multivariable logistic regression analysis

The fixed effects and the random intercepts for on-time full vaccination are presented in Table 3. The ICC in the empty model implied that 25.7% of the total variance in on-time full vaccination was attributed to differences between communities [Table 3].

In Model-II only individual level variables were added. In this model the variables age of caregiver, marital status, religion, occupation, family size, number of children, sex of child, caregiver education, birth order, Ante natal care (ANC), place of delivery, Post natal care (PNC) and wealth index were included. With this, marital status, religion, family size, number of children and sex of child were insignificant at the bivariable analysis at P-value of 0.2. Finally, the variables occupation, birth order and place of delivery were statically insignificant at Model-II. The results showed that caregivers education level, household wealth index, antenatal care visits and post natal care visits were significantly associated with on-time full vaccination in Model-II. The ICC in Model-II indicated that, 23.5 % of the variation in on-time full vaccination was attributable to differences across communities.

As shown by the PCV, 11.4 % of the variance in on-time vaccination across communities was explained by the individual level characteristics [Table 3].

In Model-III only community level variables were added. In model-III the community level characteristics residence, distance to vaccination site and place of vaccination were included. At the bivariable analysis all the three variables were statistically significant at P-Value of 0.2. In model-III, the variable residence became statistically insignificant. The results in Model-III revealed that place of vaccination and distance to the vaccination site were significantly associated with on-time full vaccination. The ICC in Model-III implied that differences between communities account for about 2.1 % of the variation in on-time full vaccination. In addition, the PCV indicated that 93.9% of the variation in on-time full vaccination between communities was explained by community level characteristics [Table 3].

Model-IV, the final model included both the individual and community level characteristics simultaneously. After controlling for other individual and community level factors, caregivers with age of greater than 35 years were 53% less likely (AOR= 0.469; 95 % CI: 0.253-0.869] to complete their child vaccination on-time as compared to those caregivers aged 25 years and less. The study also indicated that caregivers who had secondary education and above were 2.4 times (AOR = 2.391; 95 % CI: 1.317- 4.343) more likely to complete their child vaccination on-time as compared to those who had no education after controlling for other variables. After holding other factors constant, caregivers from richest households had 2.4 times higher chance of completing their child vaccination on-time (AOR = 2.381; 95 % CI: 1.502-3.773) as compared to caregivers from poorest households [Table 3].

Looking at ANC, children whose mothers had attended four and above ante natal care visits were 2.8 times (AOR = 2.844; 95 % CI: 1.310-6.174) more likely to complete their child vaccination on-time as compared to those children whose mothers had no antenatal care checkups. Keeping other variables constant, children whose mothers had two and more PNC visits were 2 times more likely (AOR =2.054; 95%CI:1.377-3.063) to fully vaccinate their child on-time as compared to their counterparts [Table 3].

Pertaining place of vaccination, those caregivers who vaccinated their child at health posts were 86% (AOR=0.144; 95%CI: 0.048-0.428) less likely to fully vaccinate their child on-time as compared to those who vaccinated their child in hospital. In terms of distance to vaccination site, those caregivers who travelled more than 30 minutes to the vaccination site were 84% (AOR= 0.158; 95%CI: 0.033-0.739) less likely to fully vaccinate their child on-time as compared to those who travelled less than 15 minutes to the vaccination site [Table 3].

As shown by the estimated ICC in model-IV, 2.4% of the variability in on-time full vaccination was attributable to differences between communities. The PCV indicated that, 93.1 % of the variation in on-time full vaccination across communities was explained by both individual and community level factors included in model-IV [Table 3].

Comparison of models

Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and log likelihood were used to compare the models. The AIC and the log likelihood values for each subsequent models were compared and Model-IV with lowest values of AIC and log likelihood was considered to be the better model [Table 3].

Multicollinearity and model fitness test

Multicollinearity was checked for those variables included in the final model using VIF. Accordingly, the VIF for all predictor variables included in the final model was below 10 indicating that there was no multicollinearity among the predictor variables. Similarly, goodness of fit test for the final model was done using Hosmer and Lemeshow test. The Hosmer and Lemeshow test was statically insignificant indicating that the final model fits the data very well (P-value: 0.2792).

Table3: Multilevel regression analysis of factors associated with on-time full vaccination, Gondar town, Ethiopia, 2018

Fixed effects of individual and community level variables		Model-I	Model-II AOR [95%CI]	Model-III AOR [95%CI]	Model-IV AOR [95%CI]
Age of caregivers	≤24 years		1	-	1
	25-34 years		1.012 [0.669,1.531]	-	1.031[0.681,1.561]
	≥35 years		0.441[0.238,0.813]	-	0.469[0.253,0.869]
Education of caregivers	No education		1	-	1
	Primary		1.901[1.012,3.571]	-	1.786[0.954,3.343]
	Secondary and above		2.587[1.407,4.756]	-	2.391[1.317,4.343]
Wealth Index	Poor		1	-	1
	Middle		1.419[0.915,2.201]	-	1.494[0.976,2.287]
	Rich		2.269[1.419,3.627]	-	2.381[1.502,3.773]
ANC	No		1	-	1
	1-3		1.416[0.627,3.201]	-	1.404[0.618,3.191]
	4+		3.139[1.456,6.764]	-	2.844[1.310,6.174]
PNC	<2		1	-	1
	≥2		2.067[1.373,3.109]	-	2.054[1.377,3.063]
Place of vaccination	Hospital		-	1	1
	HP		-	0.103[0.036,0.289]	0.144[0.048,0.428]
	HC		-	0.809[0.511,1.282]	1.011[0.612,1.671]
Distance to vaccination site (minute)	<15 minute		-	1	1
	15-30 minute		-	0.661[0.469,0.933]	0.746[0.516,1.080]
	>30 minute		-	0.155[0.034,0.701]	0.158 [0.033,0.739]

Random effects

Random effect	Model-I	Model-II	Model-III	Model-IV
Community variance (SE)	1.14 (0.62)	1.01 (.59)	0.069 (0.08)	0.079 (0.093)
ICC (%)	25.7%	23.5%	2.1%	2.4%
PCV (%)	Ref	11.4%	93.9%	93.1%

Model comparison statistics

Model comparison	Model-I	Model-II	Model-III	Model-IV
Log likelihood	-447.77844	-407.19174	-432.57621	-393.93011
AIC	899.5569	836.3835	877.1524	817.8602

Discussion

Timely vaccination is very important to get the maximum benefit of the vaccine. As the health system is mostly focusing on the completion of vaccines, timely completion of recommended vaccines is important for evaluating the effectiveness of immunization programs in Ethiopia. In this study a total of 774 children nested within 10 clusters were included in the analysis after excluding 38 unverifiable records. The analysis showed that timely vaccination coverage is low in the study area. The results of the study also indicated that individual and community level factors were significantly associated with on-time full vaccination.

The findings of this study indicated that around two-third of children were fully vaccinated which is far behind the national target (5). This finding is also relatively lower than the findings of studies in Dessie (21), Woldia (22) and Markos (26) towns. This could be explained by the difference in information source for outcome measurement where we have used objective measures to ascertain vaccination status of children from the EPI cards and health facility registers only. In this study, one

third of children had not completed their vaccination and the coverage rate for specific vaccines declined for subsequent doses of vaccines with high dropout rates. This finding corroborates with other evidences where missing measles and third doses of polio and pentavalent vaccine were the main reason for not being fully immunized (3,24,43). In addition, the study indicated different coverage's for specific vaccines provided in the same vaccination visits. This finding is in line with other studies (21,26). This might be related with unavailability of some specific vaccines or supplies especially for the newly introduced vaccines like Rota and PCV during vaccination sessions. Service availability and readiness assessment report of 2018 also showed that availability of vaccines in health facilities ranges between 28–30 percent (59).

In terms of timeliness, we found that that almost two-third of the children were not vaccinated on-time either being early or late from the recommended time schedules. These findings corroborate the findings of other studies most of which reported higher proportion of delays in child vaccinations (10,13,27,33,49,60–64) This study also pointed out that only half of fully vaccinated children were timely for all the vaccine doses. This indicates that merely relying on vaccination coverage overestimates population immunity, as it does not account for delays in protection and extended susceptibility to preventable diseases. Another reports in the literature also concur that timely vaccination coverage is a better performance metric for routine immunization services than crude vaccination rates alone (53,61). As such, untimely vaccinations are likely to contribute greatly to the preventable disease burden in Ethiopia, allowing for transmission among those in the age group at which they are the most vulnerable to severe disease.

In the present study timely vaccination coverage was not only low, but also it declines as one goes from penta I to penta III and measles vaccine doses which is consistent with other evidences (32,45,46). This might be due to increased caregiver's workload with other activities while the child gets older and thereby might not remember vaccination appointments of their children. The other possible explanation could be the occurrence of side effects following prior dose vaccination that will not motivate caregivers for the next appointment.

This study also found that a substantial number of children started their routine immunization much

earlier than the recommended age. Similar result has been reported elsewhere (43). We found a high proportion of children vaccinated before nine months of age for measles which may be related with the Measles Open vial policy issues in which, the measles multi-dose vial has not been opened daily unless sufficient numbers of children were found in the vaccination site; be it in a static or outreach setting. According to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice recommendation, these invalid doses leads to low seroconversion rates with less child protection from vaccine-preventable disease and the vaccine dose should be repeated (42).

This study also demonstrated that there was a delay in all vaccine types showing that many Ethiopian children are receiving their vaccinations later than recommended, leaving them unnecessarily vulnerable to disease for extended periods. The implication of delay in receipt of vaccines is that a pool of children with incomplete or no immunization may build up (62). The presence of such a pool of susceptible children predisposes to outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases (13).

This study finally assessed the individual and community level factors associated with on-time full vaccination. At the individual level the variables age of caregiver, educational status, household wealth index, ANC and PNC service utilization were significantly associated with on-time full vaccination. The study showed that, as the caregivers get older the odds of timely full vaccination decreases. This finding is consistent with findings from Belgium (10), China (30) and Saudi Arabia (37). This difference could be explained by the reason that the younger caregiver would possibly have a better utilization of health care which may lead to an increased probability of vaccinating their child on-time (30). On the other hand no significant effect was reported from studies in Burkina Faso (31) Uganda (13) and Pakistan (52).

On-time full vaccination coverage was higher among children of caregivers with high educational level. Several studies also support the finding of higher educational level being related to timely adherence to the vaccination schedules (13,16,31,32,50,51,63,65). The possible reason for this may be related with the fact that the low education level can hinder the caregiver's communication with health workers and might influence caregiver's awareness to seek and take advantage of public health services including child vaccination.

Household wealth index was also found to be a significant predictor of on-time full vaccination in this study, with a better timeliness of vaccination among children from the richest households. This finding is consistent with findings from other countries (10,13,16,50,51,61,66). Though immunization services in Ethiopia are completely free of charge, the indirect cost of vaccination, such as income loss and transportation cost, might be associated with the low demand for vaccination especially for poorest households (50).

ANC visit of four and above at the health facility predicts better timely completion of child vaccination as it has been reported from other study settings (13,61,65). It is possible that mothers who attended ANC visits at health facilities may be more frequent users of health facilities and services including vaccination for children. In this study on-time full vaccination coverage was high among children whose mothers attended postnatal care (43). This is expected as they can get counselling about vaccination during PNC visits and their children have more chances of getting the vaccines than those who do not make any follow-up contact for PNC service.

At community level, the variables distance to the vaccination site and place of vaccination were significantly associated while place of residence didn't show significant association with on-time full vaccination. In this study, distance to the vaccination site was negatively associated with on-time full vaccination. This finding is consistent with studies in Burkina Faso (31), China (30) and Tanzania (36). Thus, this further strengthened the argument that the time spent to reach the vaccination site expenses a high opportunity cost to caregivers by creating the need for multiple visits, especially when vaccine vials were not opened for a small number of children like BCG and measles vaccines. The findings of this study also indicated that timely vaccination was more likely if the child was vaccinated in hospitals than health posts. This study is consistent with a study in Lebanon (60). This may reflect that health services, mainly having a better utilization of vaccination services, were more preferable and accessible to caregivers. National reports also indicated that child vaccination as an outreach service was not commonly offered on daily basis which is the case at health post level (59,67).

In our study, residence have no significant association with on-time full vaccination. In Ethiopia, urban

areas might have easier access to health services and better transportation available whereas the introduction of the health extension program might have increased access to vaccinations in rural areas with well-established rural outreach immunization efforts, which may account for the insignificant results in this study. This finding corroborates with a finding from Pakistan where residence has no effect on timeliness of vaccination (52). This finding is inconsistent with other findings from Bangladesh (50), Vietnam (51) and Nigeria (68) where children from urban areas have better timeliness for vaccination. This was justified by the reason that health facilities are more proximal to clients in the urban community than the rural community. On contrary, in a study from Burkina Faso children from rural have better timeliness for Penta III and measles vaccination (31). It was explained that although the urban area has a better health infrastructure compared to the surrounding villages, caregivers need to take their children to the health facilities by their own initiative, while rural villages are visited by an outreach vaccination team each month.

In addition, we found evidence of clustering effects of timely full vaccination at community (Kebele) level, such that children from the same communities tended to have similar vaccination status. This suggests that public health programs designed to improve timeliness of vaccination should address people and the communities in which they live (69).

The results of this study are subject to limitations. Only children with full data were included and this may have led to an underestimation of coverage. However, reviewing documented vaccine doses was the only way to obtain accurate vaccination status and vaccination dates. Though the Gondar town administration has urban and rural kebele's, the study was restricted to one town administration, so the study findings might not be generalizable to all regions across Ethiopia. Our study participants might have also introduced recall bias in remembering the frequency of maternal health service utilization factors and some of the reasons for untimely vaccinations. Despite these limitations, this study is a community-based survey that would be more representative of the children population. To reduce recall bias, we ascertained vaccination outcomes objectively from EPI cards and EPI registers of health facilities. Similarly, the analysis considered the clustered nature of the data in estimating the parameters using multi-level modeling. In addition, our study is drawing attention to this often

neglected aspect of timeliness of vaccination in Ethiopia.

Implications for practice and research

The evidence presented in this study highlighted that strengthening immunization program requires special efforts directed towards the inclusion of timeliness of vaccination as another indicator to monitor the performance of the EPI program in Ethiopia. Future strategies and studies should also develop and test intervention programs to improve timely vaccinations for children in developing countries like Ethiopia. In addition, conducting nationally representative survey about timeliness of vaccination is important to monitor the quality of the EPI program.

Conclusions

In this study, full vaccination coverage was relatively low and untimely vaccination was found to be high. At individual level the variables caregiver's age, caregiver's education, household wealth index, ANC and PNC service utilization were the significant factors affecting on-time full vaccination. In addition, at community level the variables distance to vaccination site and place of vaccination were the significant predictors of on-time full vaccination. Therefore, health facility vaccinators should focus on timeliness of vaccination to minimize early and delayed administration of vaccines. Moreover, targeted interventions should be implemented among the older, uneducated and with low socio-economic status. In addition, strengthening the quality of ANC and PNC services is also important. At health post level, emphasis should be given for daily vaccination service provision.

Abbreviations

AIC: Akaike Information Criterion; **ANC:** Ante Natal Care; **AOR:** Adjusted Odds Ratio; **BCG:** Bacille Calmette Guérin; **CI:** Confidence Interval; **DTP:** Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis; **EDHS:** Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey; **EPHI:** Ethiopian Public Health Institute; **EPI:** Expanded Program on Immunization; **FMOH:** Federal Ministry of Health; **ICC:** Intra Class Correlation Coefficient; **IPV:** Inactivated Polio Vaccine; **OPV:** Oral Polio Vaccine; **PCA:** Principal Component Analysis; **PCV:** Proportional Change in Variance; **PNC:** Post Natal care; **VIF:** Variance Inflation Factor; **VPDs:** Vaccine Preventable Diseases; **WHO:** World Health Organization

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

This study obtained ethical approval from University of Gondar Institutional Ethical Review Board (ref no: O/V/P/RCS/05/060/2018). In addition, study permission was acquired at all levels and informed written consent was obtained from study participants.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

Funding Statement

This study received funding from the University of Gondar, Ethiopia

Availability of data and materials

The datasets used for this particular study will be available from the corresponding author up on reasonable request

Author's contributions

All the authors initiated, designed and conducted the study. All the authors were involved in data analysis and manuscript write-up. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the University of Gondar for supporting this study. In addition, the authors are grateful for the study participants, data collectors, supervisors and stakeholders involved in this study.

References

1. WHO, UNICEF and World Bank. State of the world's vaccines and immunization, 3rd ed. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009
2. Shen K, Fields R, McQuestion M. The future of routine immunization in the developing world: Challenges and opportunities. *Global Health Science and Practice*, 2014; 2(4):381-394. Doi :10.9745/GHSP-D-14-00137
3. GAVI. Analysis of Coverage of Fully Immunized Child (FIC), Associated Factors, Outcomes, and Impact Using Routinely Collected Population Cohort Data 2001-2014, 2015

4. FMOH. National Strategy for Newborn and Child Survival in Ethiopia: 2015/16-2019/20
5. FMOH. Ethiopia national expanded programme on immunization. Comprehensive multi-year plan 2016 - 2020
6. FMOH. Health Sector Transformation Plan, 2015
7. World Health Organization. Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, IVB Catalogue, 2017. Available from: https://extranet.who.int/ivb_docs/reports/catalogue. Accessed on Sep 03, 2019
8. Dolan B, Carnahan E, Shearer C, Beylerian N, Thompson J, Gilbert S, et al. Redefining vaccination coverage and timeliness measures using electronic immunization registry data in low- and middle-income countries. *Vaccine*, 2019
9. Hu Y and Chen Y. Timeliness of Childhood Primary Immunization and Risk Factors Related with Delays: Evidence from the 2014 Zhejiang Provincial Vaccination Coverage Survey. *Int J Environ Res Public Heal*. 2017;14(9).
10. Lernout T, Theeten H, Hens N, Braeckman T, Roelants M, Hoppenbrouwers K, et al. Timeliness of infant vaccination and factors related with delay in Flanders, Belgium. *Vaccine*. 2013/11/21. 2014;32(2):284-9.
11. Kiely M, Boulianne N, Talbot D, Ouakki M, Guay M, Landry M, et al. Impact of vaccine delays at the 2, 4, 6 and 12 month visits on incomplete vaccination status by 24 months of age in Quebec, Canada. *BMC Public Health*, 2018
12. Mbengue MAS, Mboup A, Ly ID, Faye A, Camara FBN, Thiam M, et al. Vaccination coverage and immunization timeliness among children aged 12-23 months in Senegal: a Kaplan-Meier and Cox regression analysis approach. *Pan Afr Med J*, 2017
13. Babirye JN, Engebretsen IMS, Makumbi F, Fadnes LT, Wamani H, Tylleskar T, et al. Timeliness of childhood vaccinations in kampala uganda: A community-based cross-sectional study. *PLoS One*, 2012

14. Machingaidze S, Wiysonge CS, Hussey GD. Strengthening the expanded programme on immunization in Africa: looking beyond 2015. *PLoS Med.* 2013;10(3):e1001405.
15. World Health Organization. Immunization coverage. Fact Sheets. 2018; Available from: <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/immunization-coverage>. Accessed on Oct 11,2019.
16. Akmatov MK and Mikolajczyk RT. Timeliness of childhood vaccinations in 31 low and middle-income countries. *J Epidemiol Community Heal.* 2011/05/10. 2012;66(7):e14.
17. Zida-Compaore WIC, Ekouevi DK, Gbeasor-Komlanvi FA, Sewu EK, Blatome T, Gbadoe AD, et al. Immunization coverage and factors associated with incomplete vaccination in children aged 12 to 59 months in health structures in Lomé. *BMC Res Notes*,2019
18. CSA. Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey, 2016
19. EPHI and FMOH. Mini Demographic and Health Survey, 2019
20. Workina A, Seid S and Moga TT. Reason For Incomplete Vaccination and Associated Factors Among Children Aged 12-23 Months in Serbo Town. *Adv Res J Multi-Disciplinary Discov I*,2018
21. Lake MW, Boulanger L, Wasswa P, Merbratu M and Fenta A. Factors for Low Routine Immunization Performance; A Community Based Cross Sectional Study in Dessie Town, South Wollo Zone, Ethiopia, 2014. *Advances Appl Sci.* 2016; 1(1),7-17
22. Birara A. Coverage , Opportunity and Challenges of expanded Program on Immunization among 12-23 Months old Children in Woldia Town , Northeast , Ethiopia , 2018 :1-14.
23. Animaw W, Taye W, Merdekios B, Tilahun M, Ayele G. Expanded program of immunization coverage and associated factors among children age 12 - 23 months in Arba Minch town and Zuria District, Southern Ethiopia, 2013. *BMC Public Health*,2014
24. Yismaw AE, Assimamaw NT, Bayu NH and Mekonen SS. Incomplete childhood

- vaccination and associated factors among children aged 12-23 months in Gondar city administration, Northwest, Ethiopia 2018. BMC Res Notes,2019
25. Nina B, Tefera Y, Wagner L and Boulton L. Vaccine hesitancy among caregivers and association with childhood vaccination timeliness in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Hum Vaccin Immunother, 2018; 14 (10):2340-2347. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2018.1480242
 26. Gualu T and Dilie A. Vaccination Coverage and Associated Factors among Children Aged 12–23 Months in Debre Markos Town, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia. Adv Public Heal,2017
 27. Tauil M de C, Ferreira VL de R, Sato APS, Costa AA, Inenami M and Waldman EA. Vaccination coverage according to doses received and timely administered based on an electronic immunization registry, Araraquara-SP, Brazil, 2012-2014. Epidemiol e Serv saude Rev do Sist Unico Saude do Bras,2017
 28. Fadnes LT, Nankabirwa V, Sommerfelt H, Tylleskär T, Tumwine JK, Engebretsen IMS. Is vaccination coverage a good indicator of age-appropriate vaccination? A prospective study from Uganda. Vaccine, 2011
 29. Saini V, MacDonald SE, McNeil DA, McDonald SW, Kellner JD, Edwards SA, et al. Timeliness and completeness of routine childhood vaccinations in children by two years of age in Alberta, Canada. Can J Public Heal,2017
 30. Hu Y, Chen Y, Guo J, Tang X, Shen L. Completeness and timeliness of vaccination and determinants for low and late uptake among young children in eastern China. Hum Vaccin Immunother. 2014;10(5):1408–15.
 31. Schoeps A, Ouedraogo N, Kagone M, Sie A, Muller O, Becher H. Socio-demographic determinants of timely adherence to BCG, Penta3, measles, and complete vaccination schedule in Burkina Faso. Vaccine. 2013/11/05. 2013;32(1):96–102.
 32. Odotola A, Afolabi MO, Ogundare EO, Lowe-Jallow YN, Worwui A, Okebe J, et al. Risk

- factors for delay in age-appropriate vaccinations among Gambian children. *BMC Health Serv Res*,2015
33. Scott S, Odutola A, Mackenzie G, Fulford T, Afolabi MO, Jallow YL, et al. Coverage and timing of children's vaccination: An evaluation of the expanded programme on immunisation in the Gambia. *PLoS One*,2014
 34. Mutua MK, Kimani-Murage E, Ngomi N, Ravn H, Mwaniki P, Echoka E. Fully immunized child: Coverage, timing and sequencing of routine immunization in an urban poor settlement in Nairobi, Kenya. *Trop Med Health*,2016
 35. Nalley J and Maduka O. Completeness and timeliness of immunization among children aged 12 to 23 months in South-South Nigeria. *J Community Med Prim Heal Care*, 2019
 36. Le Polain de Waroux O, Schellenberg JRA, Manzi F, Mrisho M, Shirima K, Mshinda H, et al. Timeliness and completeness of vaccination and risk factors for low and late vaccine uptake in young children living in rural southern Tanzania. *Int Health*, 2013
 37. Alrowaili GZR, Dar UF, Bandy AH. May we improve vaccine timeliness among children ? A cross sectional survey in northern Saudi Arabia. *J Family Community Med*. 2019;26(2):113-117. doi:10.4103/jfcm.JFCM_153_18
 38. Mucheye Gizachew, Birhane N, Jember MM and A. A Community Based Assessment of the Immunization Coverage and the Associated Factors of Children Aged 12-23 Months at Gondar Town, Northwest Ethiopia. *EC Microbiol*, 2015;247-60.
 39. Gondar Town Health Department, Gondar Town Administration health office report, 2018
 40. FMOH. National Expanded Program on Immunization Implementation Guideline.Revised Edition,2015
 41. Negussie A, Kassahun W, Assegid S, Hagan AK. Factors associated with incomplete childhood immunization in Arbegona district, southern Ethiopia: A case - Control

- study. BMC Public Health,2016
42. CDC. General Recommendations on Immunization Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP),2011
 43. Adetifa IMO, Karia B, Mutuku A, Bwanaali T, Makumi A, Wafula J, et al. Coverage and timeliness of vaccination and the validity of routine estimates: Insights from a vaccine registry in Kenya. Vaccine,2018
 44. Zaidi SMA, Khowaja S, Dharma VK, Khan AJ, Chandir S. Coverage, timeliness, and determinants of immunization completion in Pakistan: Evidence from the Demographic and Health Survey (2006-07). Hum Vaccines Immunother, 2014
 45. Marefiaw TA, Yenesew MA, Mihirete KM. Age-appropriate vaccination coverage and its associated factors for pentavalent 1-3 and measles vaccine doses, in northeast Ethiopia: A community-based cross-sectional study. PLoS One,2019;14(8):1-19.
 46. Laryea DO, Abbeyquaye Parbie E, Frimpong E. Timeliness of childhood vaccine uptake among children attending a tertiary health service facility-based immunisation clinic in Ghana. BMC Public Health,2014
 47. WHO. Recommended Routine Immunizations for Children, 2017. Available from: https://www.who.int/immunization/policy/immunization_tables/en/. Accessed on Oct 20, 2019
 48. Veerasingam P, Grant CC, Chelimo C, Philipson K, Gilchrist CA, Berry S, et al. Vaccine education during pregnancy and timeliness of infant immunization. Pediatrics, 2017
 49. Stein-Zamir C and Israeli A. Timeliness and completeness of routine childhood vaccinations in young children residing in a district with recurrent vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, Jerusalem, Israel. Eurosurveillance. 2019;24(6):1-8.
 50. Sheikh N, Sultana M, Ali N, Akram R, Mahumud R, Asaduzzaman M, et al. Coverage, Timelines, and Determinants of Incomplete Immunization in Bangladesh. Trop Med

Infect Dis, 2018

51. Minh An DT, Lee JK, Van Minh HV, Trang NTH, Huong NTT, Nam YS, et al. Timely immunization completion among children in Vietnam from 2000 to 2011: A multilevel analysis of individual and contextual factors. *Glob Health Action*, 2016
52. Noh JW, Kim YM, Akram N, Yoo KB, Cheon J, Lee LJ, et al. Determinants of timeliness in early childhood vaccination among mothers with vaccination cards in Sindh province, Pakistan: A secondary analysis of cross-sectional survey data. *BMJ Open*. 2019;9(9):1-9.
53. Chiabi A, Nguéfack FD, Njapndounke F, Kobela M, Kenfack K, Nguéfack S, et al. Vaccination of infants aged 0 to 11 months at the Yaounde Gynaeco-obstetric and pediatric hospital in Cameroon: How complete and how timely? *BMC Pediatr*. 2017;17(1):1-7.
54. Shea R and Johnson K. The DHS Wealth Index. DHS Comparative Reports No. 6. Calverton, Maryland: ORC Macro, 2004
55. David Hosmer and Lemeshow S. *Applied Logistic Regression*. Second Edition, 2000
56. Stawski RS. Multilevel Analysis: An Introduction to Basic and Advanced Multilevel Modeling (2nd Edition). *Struct Equ Model A Multidiscip J*. 2013;20(3):541-50.
57. Hamaker EL, van Hattum P, Kuiper RM, Hoijtink H. Model Selection Based on Information Criteria in Multilevel Modeling. *Handb Adv Multilevel Anal*. 2015;(11237).
58. Akinwande MO, Dikko HG, Samson A. Variance Inflation Factor: As a Condition for the Inclusion of Suppressor Variable(s) in Regression Analysis. *Open J Stat*. 2015;05(07):754-67.
59. EPHI. Services Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA) 2018 Final Report, 2018
60. Mansour Z, Said R, Brandt L, Khachan J, Rady A, Fahmy K, et al. Factors affecting

age-appropriate timeliness of vaccination coverage among children in Lebanon.

Gates Open Res. 2018;2(May):1-13.

61. Vasudevan L, Labrique AB, Mehra S, Wu L, Levine O, Feikin D, et al. Maternal determinants of timely vaccination coverage among infants in rural Bangladesh. *Vaccine*, 2014
62. Clark A, Sanderson C. Timing of children's vaccinations in 45 low-income and middle-income countries: an analysis of survey data. *Lancet*. 2009/03/24. 2009;373(9674):1543-9.
63. Mohammadbeigi A, Mokhtari M, Zahraei SM, Eshrati B, Rejali M. Survival analysis for predictive factors of delay vaccination in Iranian children. *Int J Prev Med*, 2015
64. Fadnes LT, Jackson D, Engebretsen IMS, Zembe W, Sanders D, Sommerfelt H, et al. Vaccination coverage and timeliness in three South African areas: A prospective study. *BMC Public Health*, 2011
65. Noh JW, Kim YM, Akram N, Yoo KB, Park J, Cheon J, et al. Factors affecting complete and timely childhood immunization coverage in Sindh, Pakistan; A secondary analysis of cross-sectional survey data. *PLoS ONE*, 2018
66. Boulton ML, Carlson BF, Wagner AL, Porth JM, Gebremeskel B, Abeje Y. Vaccination timeliness among newborns and infants in Ethiopia. *PLoS One*, 2019
67. Ethiopian Public Health Institute. Ethiopian National Immunization Coverage Survey, 2012
68. Sibeudu FT, Uzochukwu BS, Onwujekwe OE. Rural-urban comparison of routine immunization utilization and its determinants in communities in Anambra States, Nigeria. *SAGE Open Med*. 2019;7:205031211882389.
69. Wiysonge CS, Uthman OA, Ndumbe PM and Hussey GD. Individual and Contextual Factors Associated with Low Childhood Immunisation Coverage in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Figures

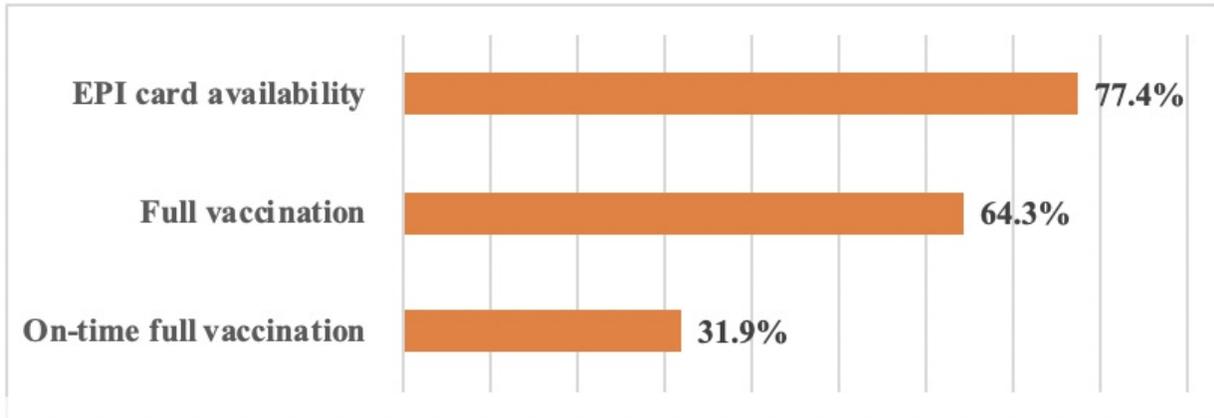


Figure 1

Over all vaccination status of children in Gondar town, Ethiopia, 2018 [N=774]

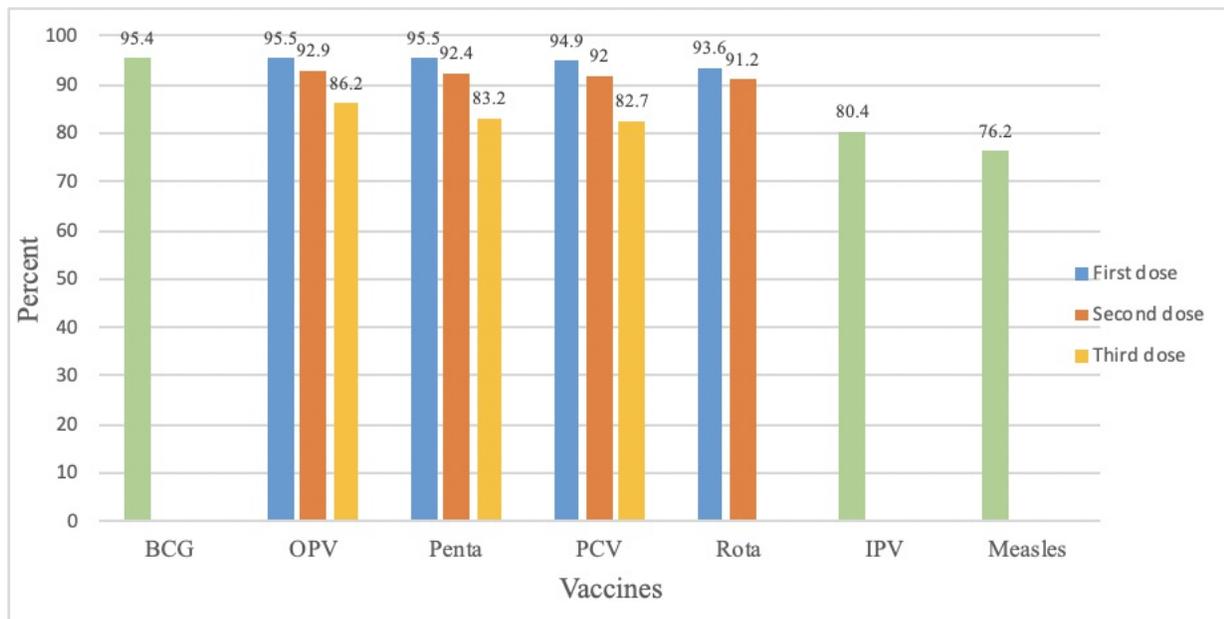


Figure 2

Vaccination coverage for specific vaccines among children in Gondar town, Ethiopia, 2018

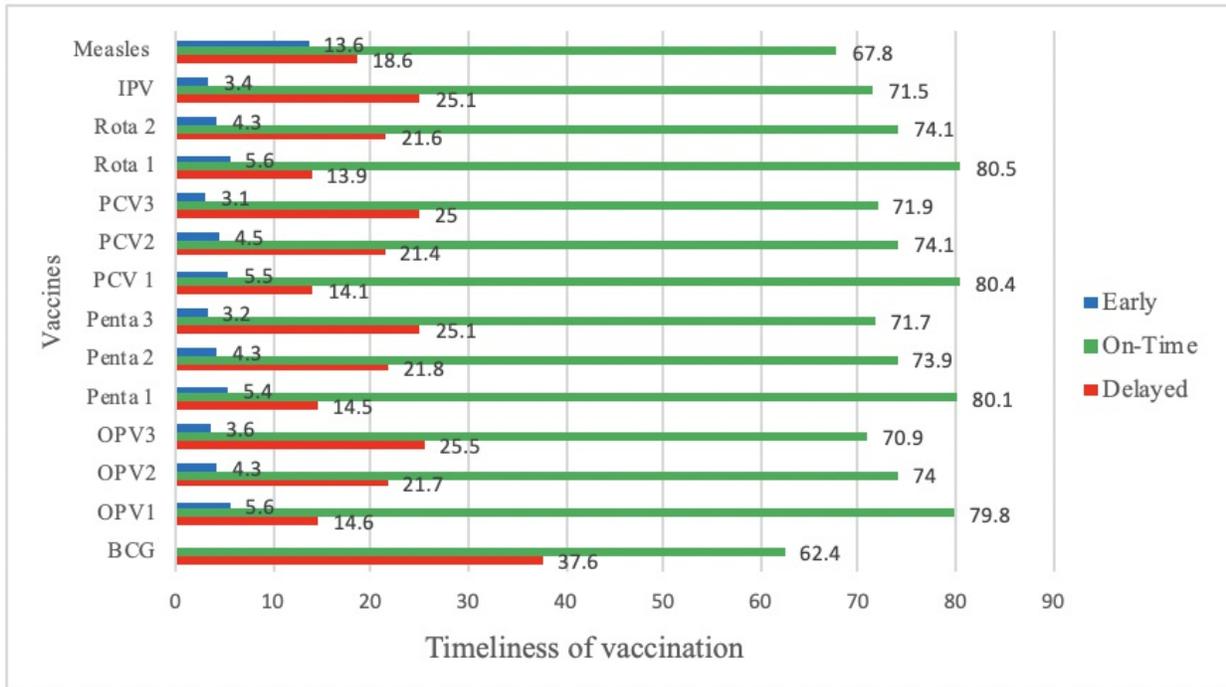


Figure 3

Timeliness of vaccination for specific vaccines among children in Gondar town, Ethiopia, 2018

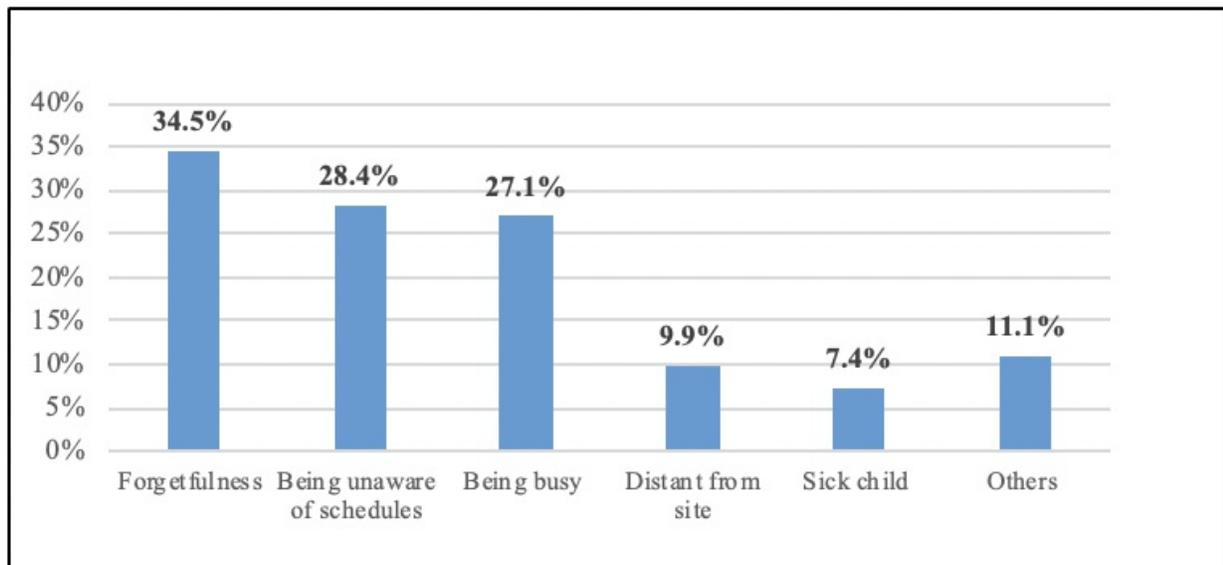


Figure 4

Reasons for not attending vaccination schedules on-time in Gondar town, Ethiopia, 2018

[N=81]

