

# ANALYSING AND USING ROUTINE DATA TO MONITOR THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES

Practical guide for national and subnational decision-makers

Interim guidance  
14 January 2021



Analysing and using routine data to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on essential health services: Practical guide for national and subnational decision-makers.

WHO continues to monitor the situation closely for any changes that may affect this interim guidance. Should any factors change, WHO will issue a further update. Otherwise, this interim guidance document will expire 2 years after the date of publication.

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## **MODULE 1: Life-course stages: reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, including immunization and nutrition**

Part 2 – Module 1 was developed through a collaboration involving the organizations and individuals listed here.

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# Introduction to this guide

WHO recently released *Maintaining essential health services: operational guidance for the COVID-19 context*, which provides an integrated framework to guide countries in their efforts to reorganize, adapt and maintain safe delivery of high-priority essential health services within the context of the pandemic (1). One of the recommended operational strategies for maintaining essential health services is to strengthen monitoring, through regular tracking, analysis and reporting on health-care utilization and delivery of essential health services throughout the likely waxing and waning of the outbreak. In the above-referenced guidance, a set of high-level actions and sample indicators were provided for monitoring essential health services that should be regularly assessed and reported.

## Purpose

The objective of this guide is to help countries monitor and analyse the impact of COVID-19 on essential health services to ultimately inform planning and decision-making. It provides practical recommendations on how to use key performance indicators to analyse changes in access to and delivery of essential health services within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; how to visualize and interpret these data; and how to use the findings to guide modifications for safe delivery of services and transitioning towards restoration and recovery. The guide focuses on existing indicators and data that are captured in routine reporting systems (sometimes referred to as health management information systems [HMIS]) and how they could be used by national and subnational authorities to understand specific contexts, challenges and bottlenecks.

The guide is organized into two parts:

**Part 1: Overview of methods** provides introductory practical guidance on the essential concepts of health service monitoring using a small subset of core indicators. The indicators shown can be used to track and analyse changes in health service delivery and utilization. They do not represent a complete set of indicators to monitor services, but the principles described in their analysis can be adapted to the other indicators listed within this document in separate modules.

**Part 2: Programme-specific modules** provides a set of topic-specific modules, with guidance on indicators and analysis for specific health programmes. These include:

- **life-course stages:** including reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, including immunization and nutrition;
- **communicable diseases;** and
- **noncommunicable diseases and mental health.**

This interim guidance includes Part 1 and the first module of Part 2 on "Life-course stages". It will be updated as other modules are finalized.

Both parts provide practical tips for using routine data around three steps:

- **Step 1:** Selecting key indicators to detect and monitor changes in essential health services;
- **Step 2:** Analysing and interpreting data; and
- **Step 3:** Using data to inform action.

The indicators selected in Step 1 are recommended because they:

- are representative of key elements of service delivery and utilization;
- are recognized as valid standards with well-established definitions, numerators and denominators (based on already existing and agreed indicators and guidance);
- are commonly used in existing routine information systems in countries across income levels, and thus do not impose additional burdens;

- capture effects on the largest portion of populations (based on their availability for previous time periods or geographic locations) (relevance to Step 2); and
- can inform clear and responsive action (relevance to see Step 3).

The manual should be read in conjunction with *Maintaining essential health services: operational guidance for the COVID-19 context* and published guidance for *Analysis and use of health facility data* (1, 2).

It expands on and complements the content and recommendations of the monitoring section of *Maintaining essential health services: operational guidance for the COVID-19 context* (1). It aims to provide practical guidance to countries in the analysis, interpretation and use of routine (existing) data to guide strategic decisions and targeted actions with regard to reorganizing and assuring safe access to essential health services during the pandemic, while taking into account critical equity dimensions.

## Audience

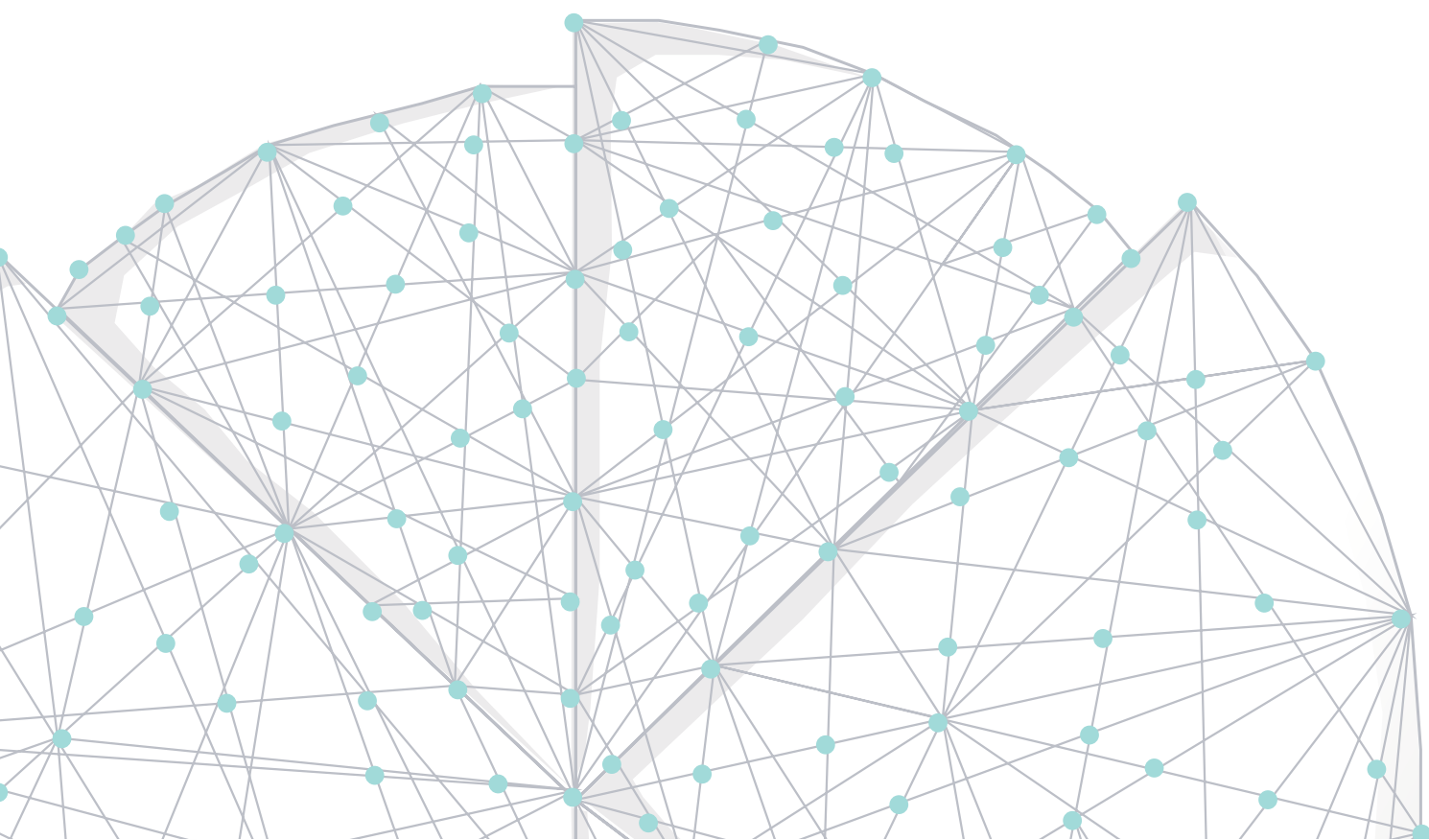
This guidance is written for managers of health services at national and subnational levels and for those working in other agencies supporting the delivery of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is concerned with monitoring the delivery of essential health services on a monthly or quarterly basis using routinely collected data, based on HMIS.

## References

1. Maintaining essential health services: operational guidance for the COVID-19 context. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/covid-19-operational-guidance-for-maintaining-essential-health-services-during-an-outbreak>, accessed 22 October 2020).
2. Analysis and use of health facility data. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020. ([https://www.who.int/healthinfo/tools\\_data\\_analysis\\_routine\\_facility/en/](https://www.who.int/healthinfo/tools_data_analysis_routine_facility/en/), accessed 22 October 2020).

# Part 1: Overview of methods

## Monitoring health services during COVID-19



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_24145](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_24145)

