ACHIEVING MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOUR AND FIVE: ASSESSING THE COVERAGE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANCE AND IN-FACILITY DELIVERY, AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR HEALTH

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Less than six years remain until the global health community will assess whether the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for child (MDG Four) and maternal health (MDG Five) have been met. Relatively little, however, is known about trends over time in the coverage of skilled birth attendance (SBA) or in-facility delivery (IFD), its relationship with development assistance for health (DAH) or the effectiveness of SBA or IFD in improving health outcomes. We analyzed unit record data from 277 surveys to determine the coverage of SBA and IFD, and added to this reported estimates from 77 surveys. We used bidirectional distance-dependent regression (BDDR) to estimate trends in coverage for 151 developing countries as defined by the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) for the period 1986 to 2007. Using individual-level data, we assessed the relationship between neonatal death and SBA and IFD, controlling for confounders using covariate matching. We examined correlations between DAH and changes in SBA and IFD coverage. Findings and implications will be discussed in the presentation.