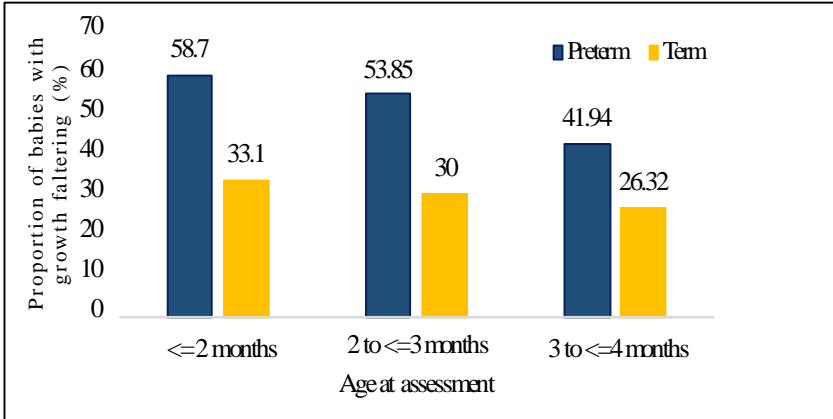


GROWTH FALTERING AMONG DISCHARGED BABIES FROM INPATIENT NEWBORN CARE FACILITIES: LEARNINGS FROM TWO DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Aim: To determine the burden of early growth faltering and understand the care practices for small and sick babies discharged from newborn units

ENROLLED INFANTS	ASSESSMENT	RESULTS												
<p>(N= 512)</p> <p>Infants -1-4mo, Discharged from SNCUs & NBSUs of Kangra & Sirmaur, HP</p> <p>Mean (SD)- Age: 74.8 (26.5) days Gestational age at birth: 37.4(2.1) weeks Birth wt: 2.6 (0.6) kg.</p>	<p>Anthropometric assessments, interview of mothers and ASHA workers</p>	<div><table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Age at assessment</th><th>Preterm (%)</th><th>Term (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>≤2 months</td><td>58.7</td><td>33.1</td></tr><tr><td>2 to ≤3 months</td><td>53.85</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>3 to ≤4 months</td><td>41.94</td><td>26.32</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <p>Growth faltering seen in 30% of term and 52.6% of pre-term infants</p> <p>96.7% mothers did not perceive inadequate weight gain in their infants</p> <p>ASHA Home visit Practices as reported by mothers (n=379)</p> <p>Infant weight taken: 64.6% Breastfeeding counselling: 62.5% Weight-gain counselling: 55.5% Counselled for FU visits to facility: 1.6%</p> <p>Similar pattern was seen in babies with and without growth faltering</p>	Age at assessment	Preterm (%)	Term (%)	≤2 months	58.7	33.1	2 to ≤3 months	53.85	30	3 to ≤4 months	41.94	26.32
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CONCLUSION: Follow-up care of small and sick babies, discharged from special care newborn units, is inadequate. There is a need to strengthen both facility-based and home-based follow up of such newborns