Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

SaQushal:
Learning and Way Forward

“Safe Care for every Newborn and every Child”
“Patient Safety from the Start”

Quality and Patient Safety Division

Burden of Unsafe Care

*Each year, 2.3 million newborns die globally, with about 15% due to sepsis. The Lancet Commission estimates that 60% of these deaths are preventable through safe, clean, and respectful care

**Study of a paediatric general surgery service: among 64 patients, 108 errors were identified; in about one-third of the patients, these errors led to adverse outcomes.

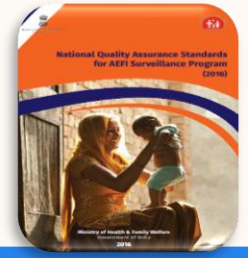
$In 2018, an estimated 0.6 million newborns died in India due to preterm birth, neonatal infections, intra-partum related complications/ birth asphyxia and congenital malformations. Eighty percent of these deaths were preventable.

#A study of 3,390 deaths in high-mortality sites across sub- Africa and South Asia found that 77% were potentially preventable. Measures to prevent deaths were improvements in antenatal and obstetric care, clinical management and quality of care, health-seeking behaviour, and health education

*https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/17-09-2025-world-patient-safety-day
**https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/14523820/

$ https://www.who.int/india/health-topics/newborn-health
#https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2797547

Quality Initiatives for Newborn and Child Safety



2016

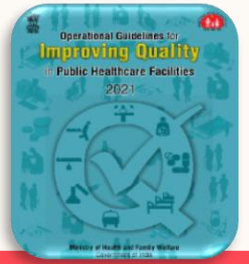
NQAS for AEFI Surveillance
to enhance the quality and efficiency of AEFI surveillance

2021

MusQan
Quality child-friendly services to reduce preventable newborn and child morbidity and mortality

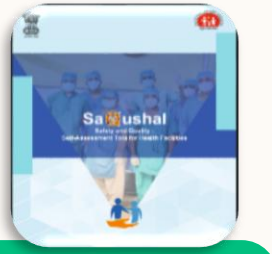
2021

NQAS for CLMC
Safe, effective, and equitable access to breastfeeding support and donor human milk services



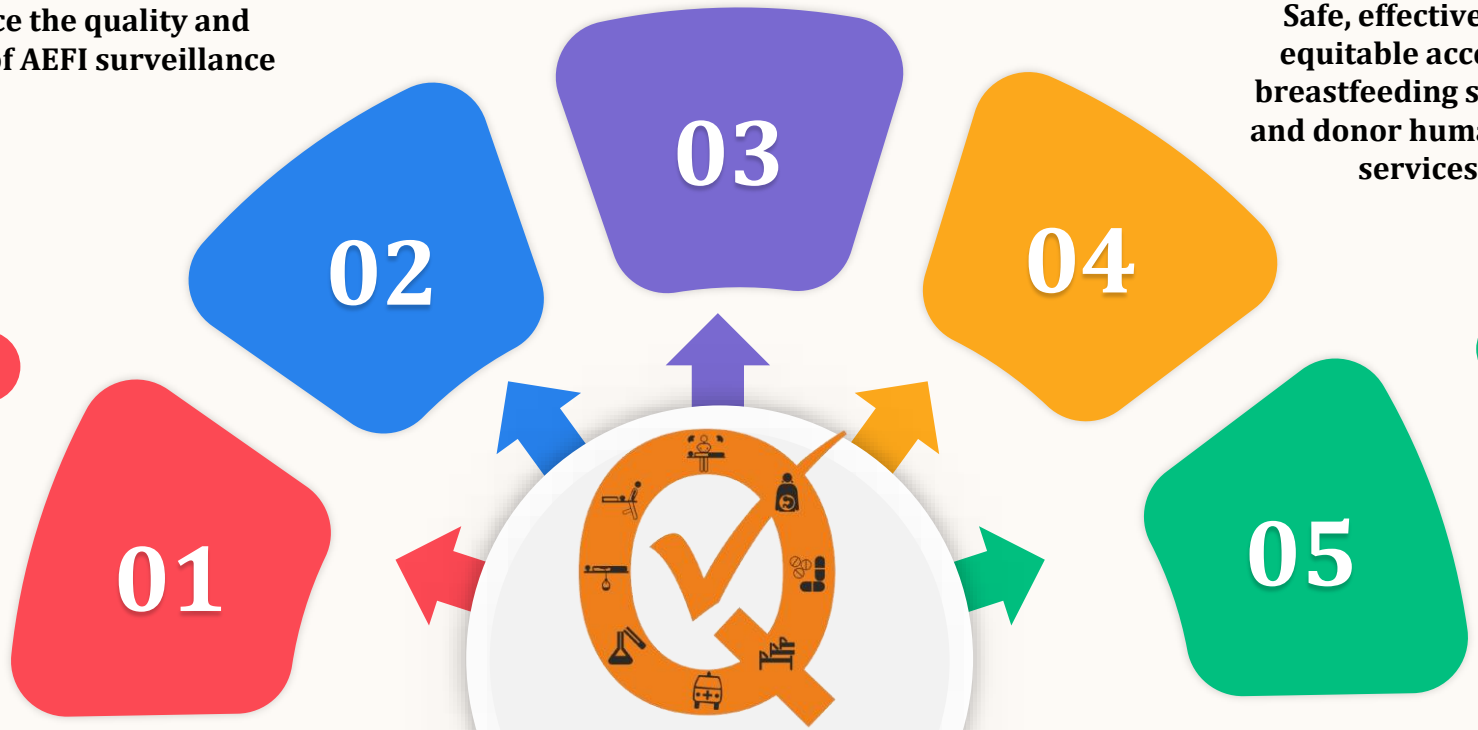
2013 & rev. 2021

National Quality Assurance Standards



2022

SaQushal
to assess the facility from a patient safety perspective



Conduct of Assessment at the Facility

01

Assessment Plan & Schedule

02

Constitution of the assessment Team

03

Conducting the Assessment

04

Conclusion and Scoring

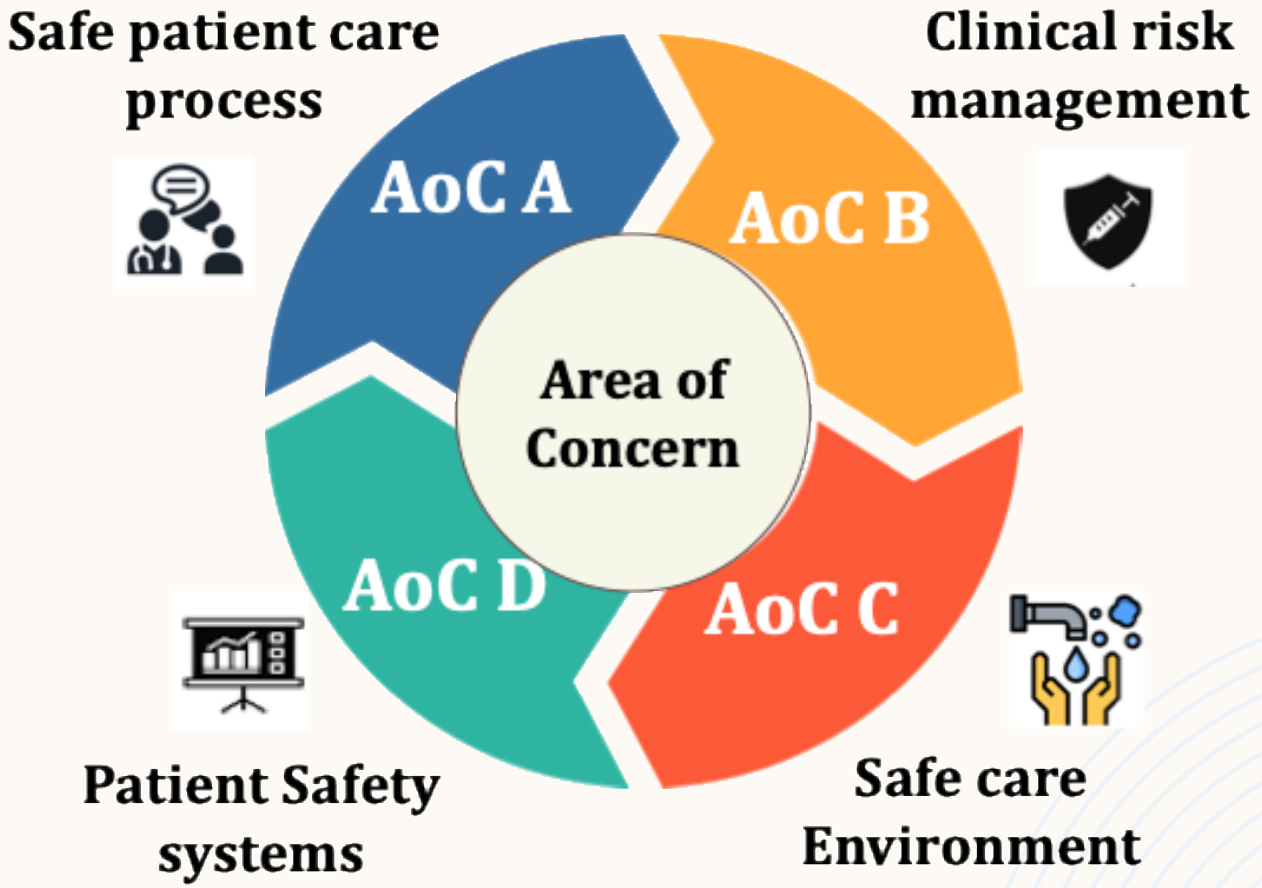
05

Review and Action Planning

SaQushal: Self-assessment Tool For Health Facilities

(Measurement System)

Area of Concerns	4
Standards	16
Measurable Elements	80
Checkpoints	400



AREA OF CONCERN: SAQUSHAL

A. Safe Patient Care Processes	B. Clinical Risk Management
Standardised Clinical Protocols	Incident Reporting
Medication Safety	RCA
Safe Surgical & Procedure Care	Clinical Audits
IPC	Morbidity and Mortality reviews
Monitoring and escalation	Risk Assessments
Documentation & communication	Safe Culture and training

AREA OF CONCERN: SAQUSHAL

C. Safe Care Environment	D. Patient Safety Systems
Infrastructural Safety	Governance and Leadership
Emergency Preparedness	Policy and protocols
Cleanliness and Hygiene	Incident Reporting & learning
Bio medical Waste Management	Staff training and sensitisation
Safety Signages and zoning	Monitoring and evaluation
Security and Patient dignity	Patient and family engagement

Components in SaQushal for Newborn and Child Safety

B2.3 Newborn Care

Area of Concern B - Clinical Risk Management

Standard (B2): Safety in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health

1. Safety and Security in Newborn Care Areas
- Identification tags for correct baby identification.
- Cots with side rails to prevent falls.
- Room temperature maintained at 26–28°C.

2. Essential Newborn Care After Birth
- Immediate drying, stimulation, and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC).
- Early initiation of breastfeeding; no promotion of milk substitutes.

3. Essential Postnatal Care
- Caregiver counselling on newborn danger signs.
- Bedside handover using SBAR for safety and continuity.

4. Immunization Safety
- Timely Hepatitis B and BCG vaccination per national guidelines.
- Vitamin K (1 mg IM) administered soon after birth.

5. Management of Newborn Illnesses
- Defined triage and emergency criteria.
- Documented protocols for neonatal and infant illness management.

Components in SaQushal for Newborn and Child Safety

B2.4 Child Care

Area of Concern B - Clinical Risk Management

Standard (B2): Safety in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health

1. Dedicated child health services
•Comprehensive child health services include paediatric ward, immunisation clinic, IYCF, NRC, CLMC, KMC, and SNCU/NBSU/MNCU

2. Functional equipment and consumables
•Adequate paediatric resuscitation equipment (ventilation bag, suction machine, ET tubes).
•Child-appropriate consumables (NG tubes, catheters, airways)

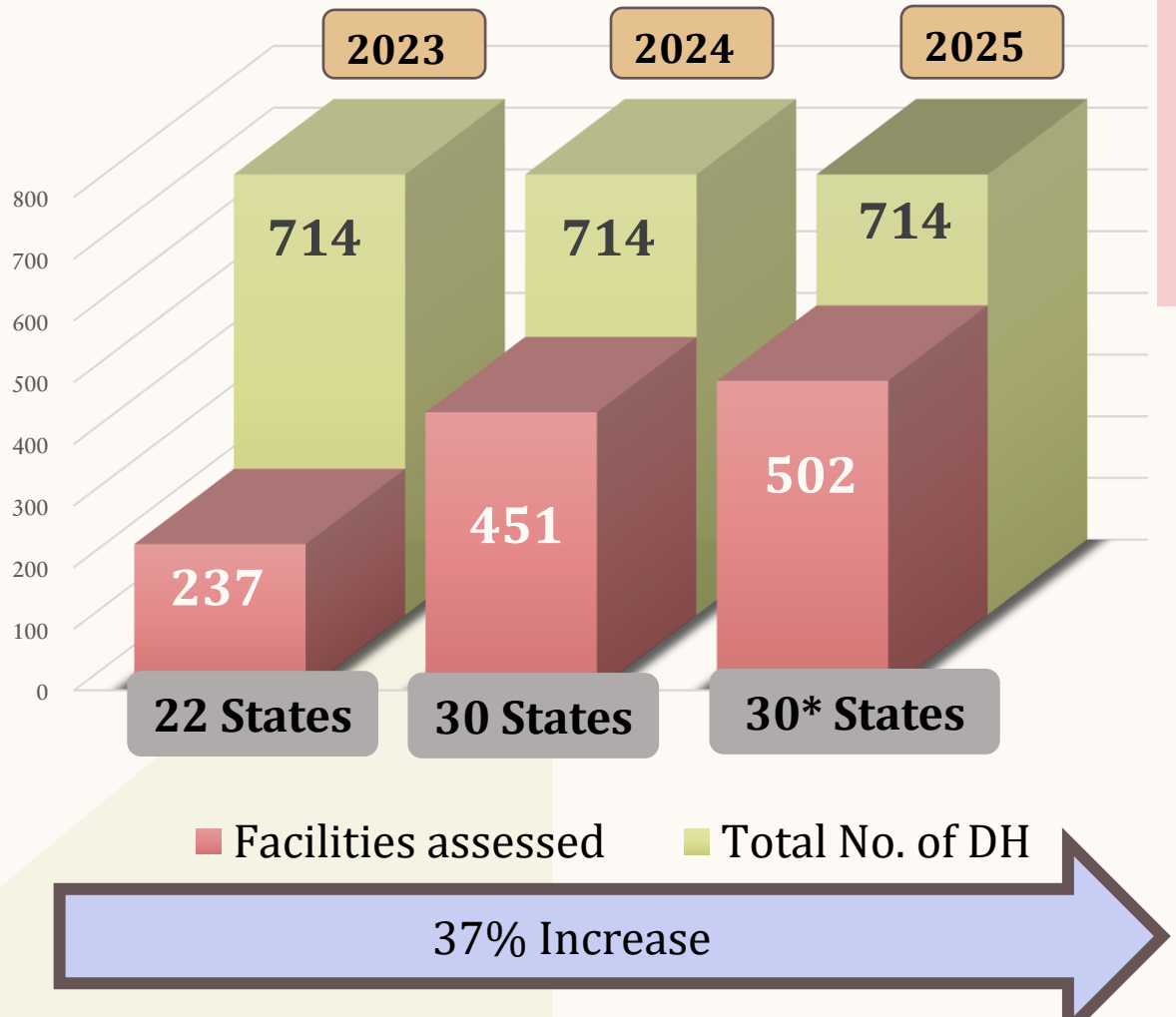
3. Child care safety and security
•Identification bands for all admitted children.
•Bedside call bells, indicator lights, and side railings to prevent falls.

4. Competent staff for emergency management
•Staff trained in IYCF, ETAT, IMNCI, and communication.
•Capacity built for AEFI management

5. Referral and continuity of care
•Linkages with tertiary care (PICU) for critical cases.
•Referral pathways for 4Ds — Defects, Deficiencies, Diseases, and Developmental Delays/Disabilities

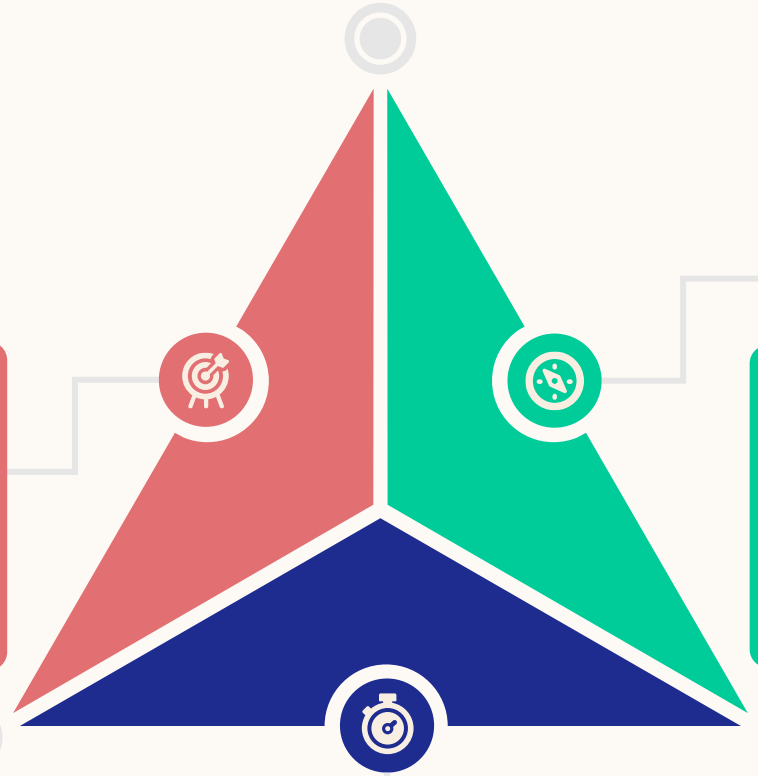
Growing Footprint of SaQushal across States

In comparison to year 2023 there is an increase of 37% of District Hospitals being assessed



*A&N, Chandigarh, Goa, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Jharkhand.

Assessing SaQushal Coverage across District Hospitals* – FY 2025



Less than 50%

Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim

Between 51-75%

Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Kerala

More than 75%

Assam, DND&DD, Haryana, Jammu Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

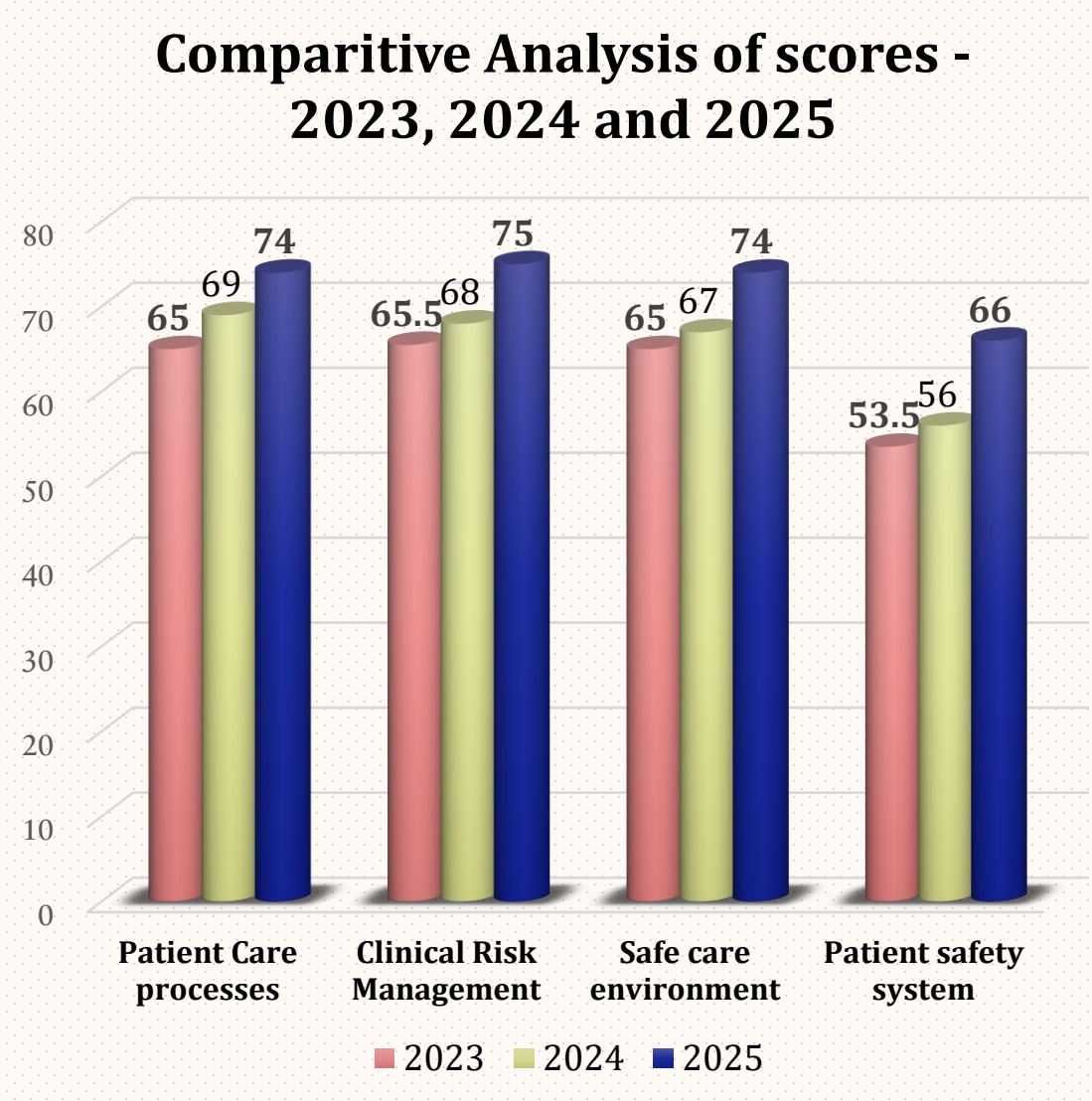
Data as per HDI 2022-23

Median Scores: Overall and by Area of Concern

The overall median score was 72 (an increase of 18% as compared to 2023)

Attributes	2024	2025
% of facilities scoring below 60%	42%	28%
% of facilities scoring between 60-80%:	41%	41%
% of facilities scoring above 80%:	17%	31%

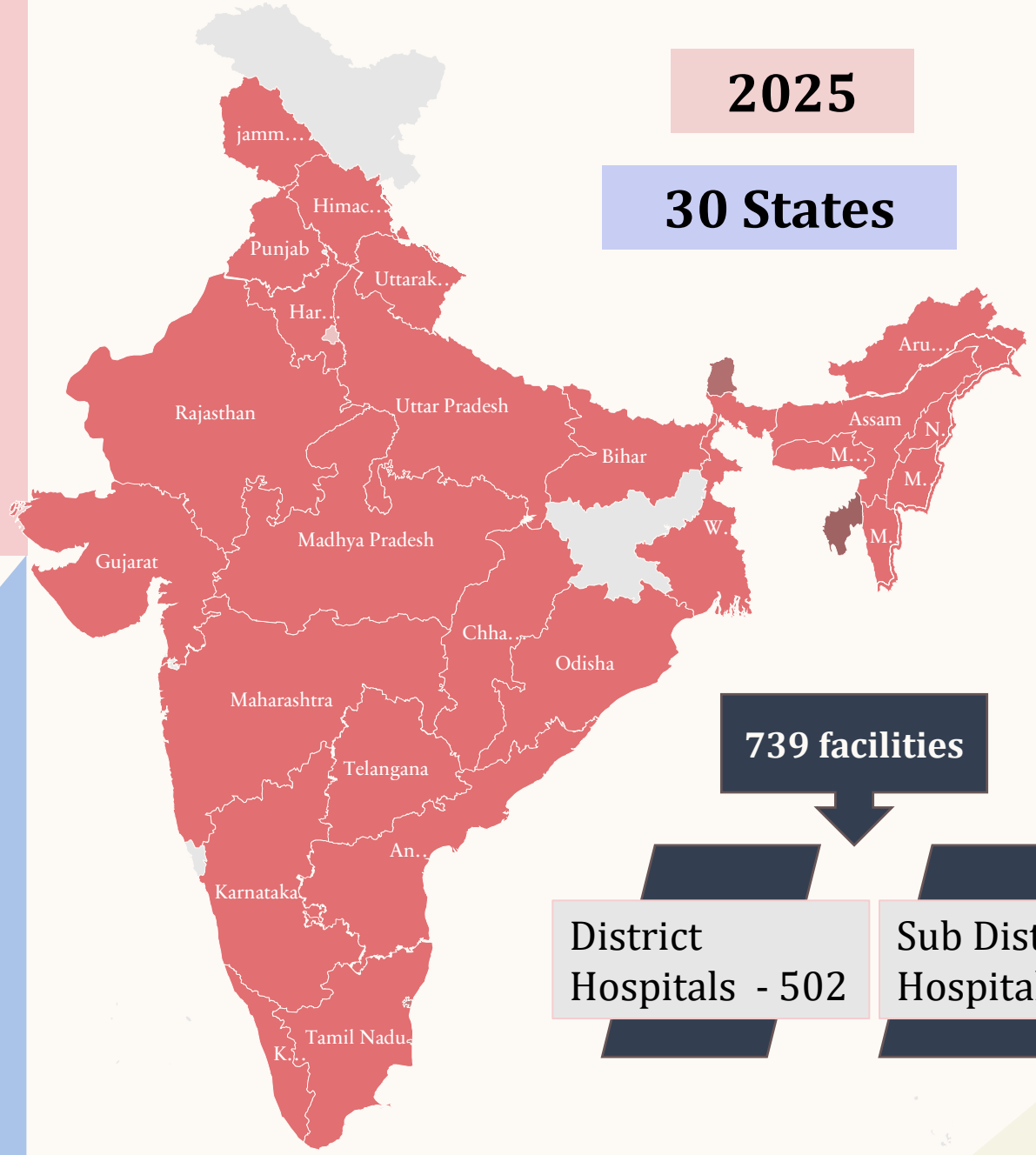
An increase in facilities with higher median scores indicates a positive trend in quality and patient safety nationwide.



SaQushal in 2024 & 2025: a glance

2025

30 States



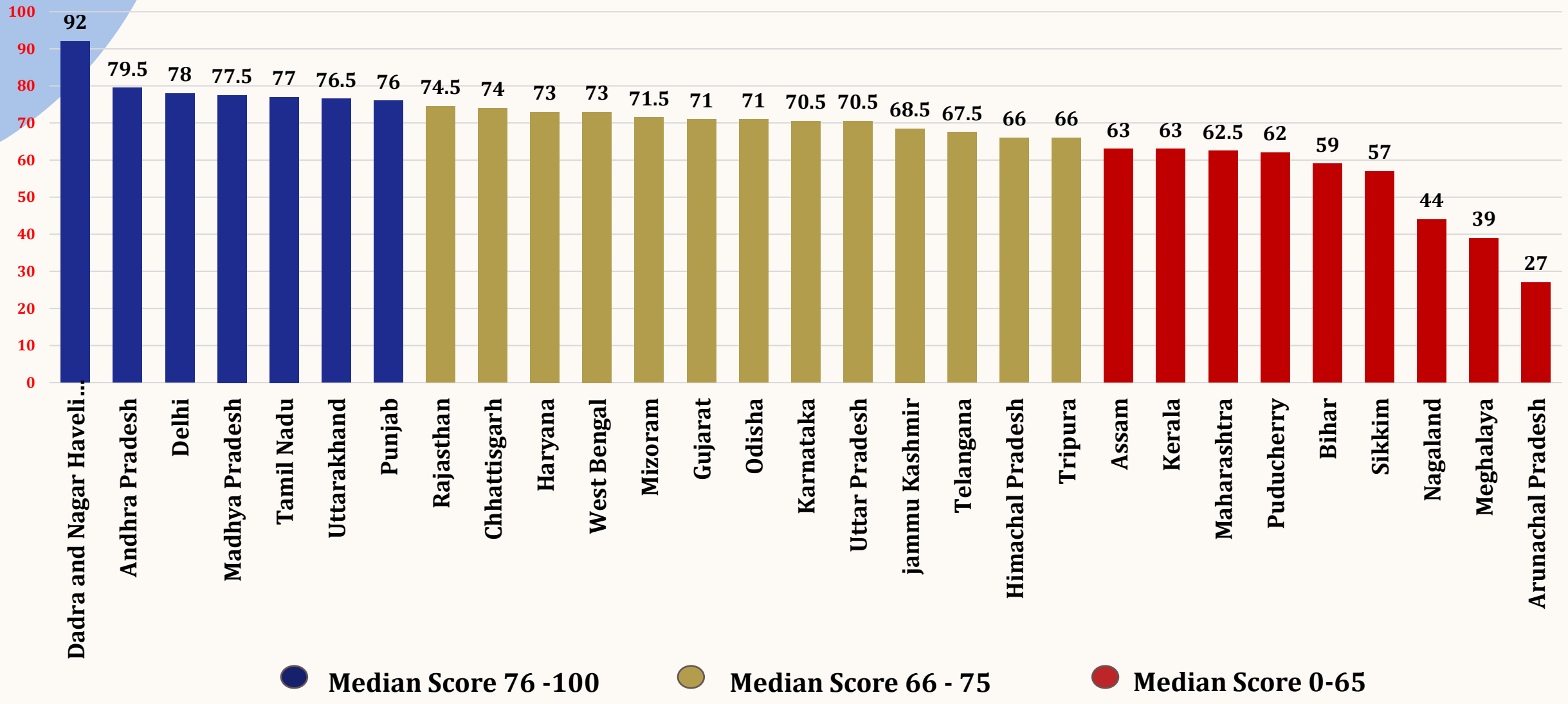
739 facilities

District Hospitals - 502	Sub District Hospital - 237

Four new States/UTs joined the SaQushal assessment in 2025: Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Maharashtra, Manipur, and Karnataka

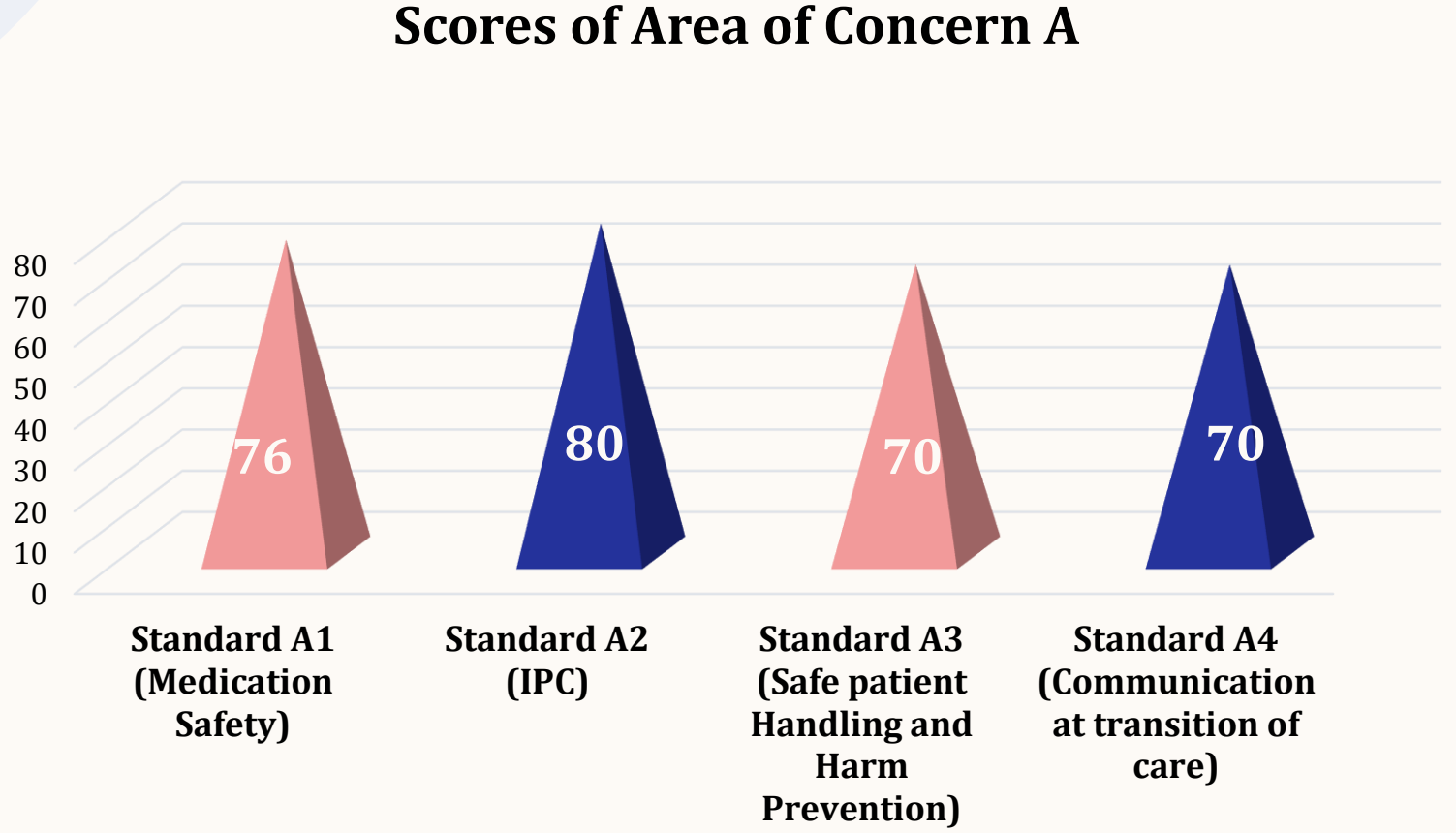
However, Chandigarh, Goa, Jharkhand and Lakshadweep participated in Self Assessment in 2024 but not in 2025

Categorization of States based on Median Score Achieved

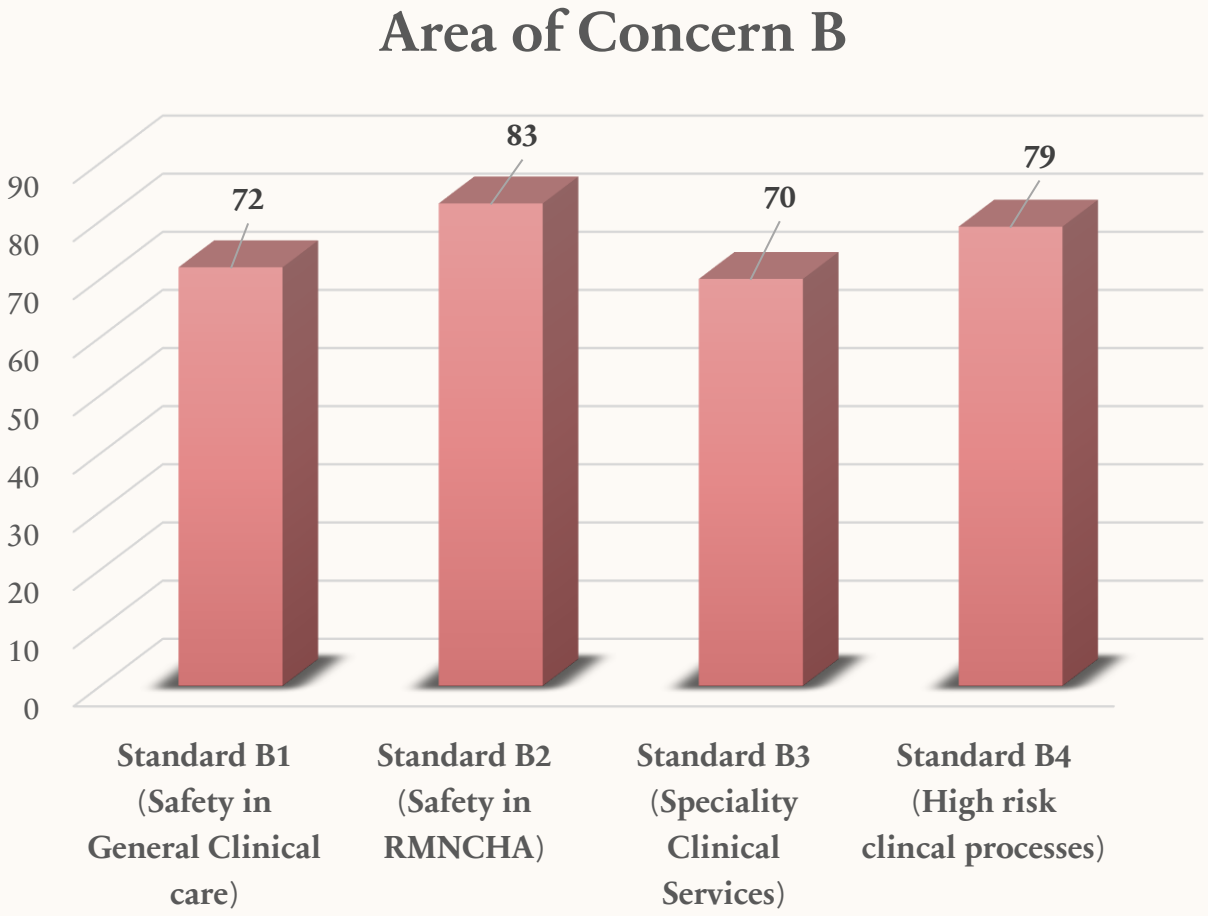


SCORES OF EACH AREA OF CONCERN PERTAINING TO SAQUSHAL TOOL IN 2025

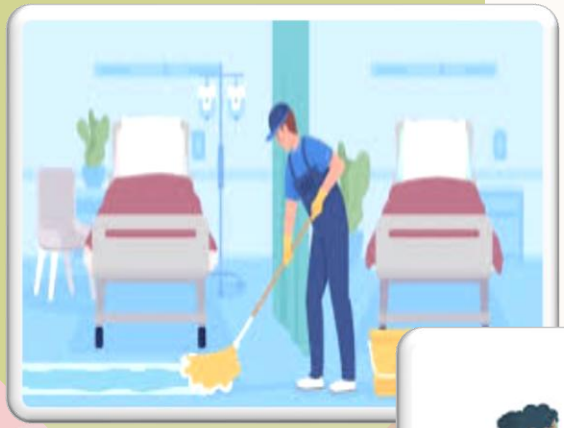
Scores of Area of Concern A
Patient Care Processes

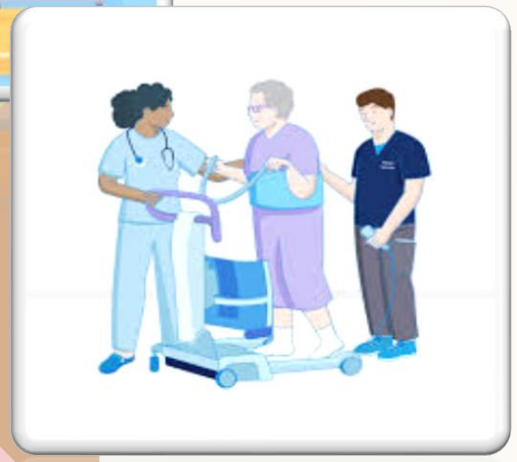


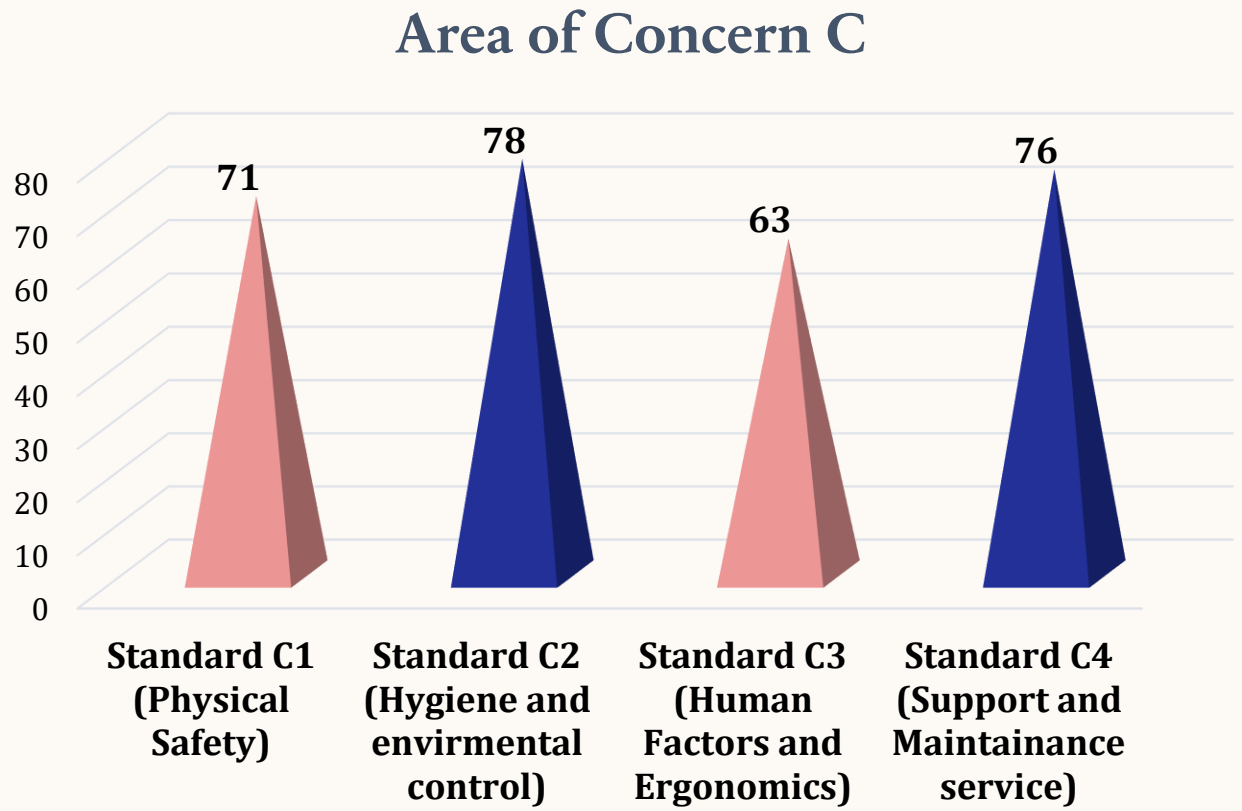
Scores of Area of Concern B
Clinical Risk Management



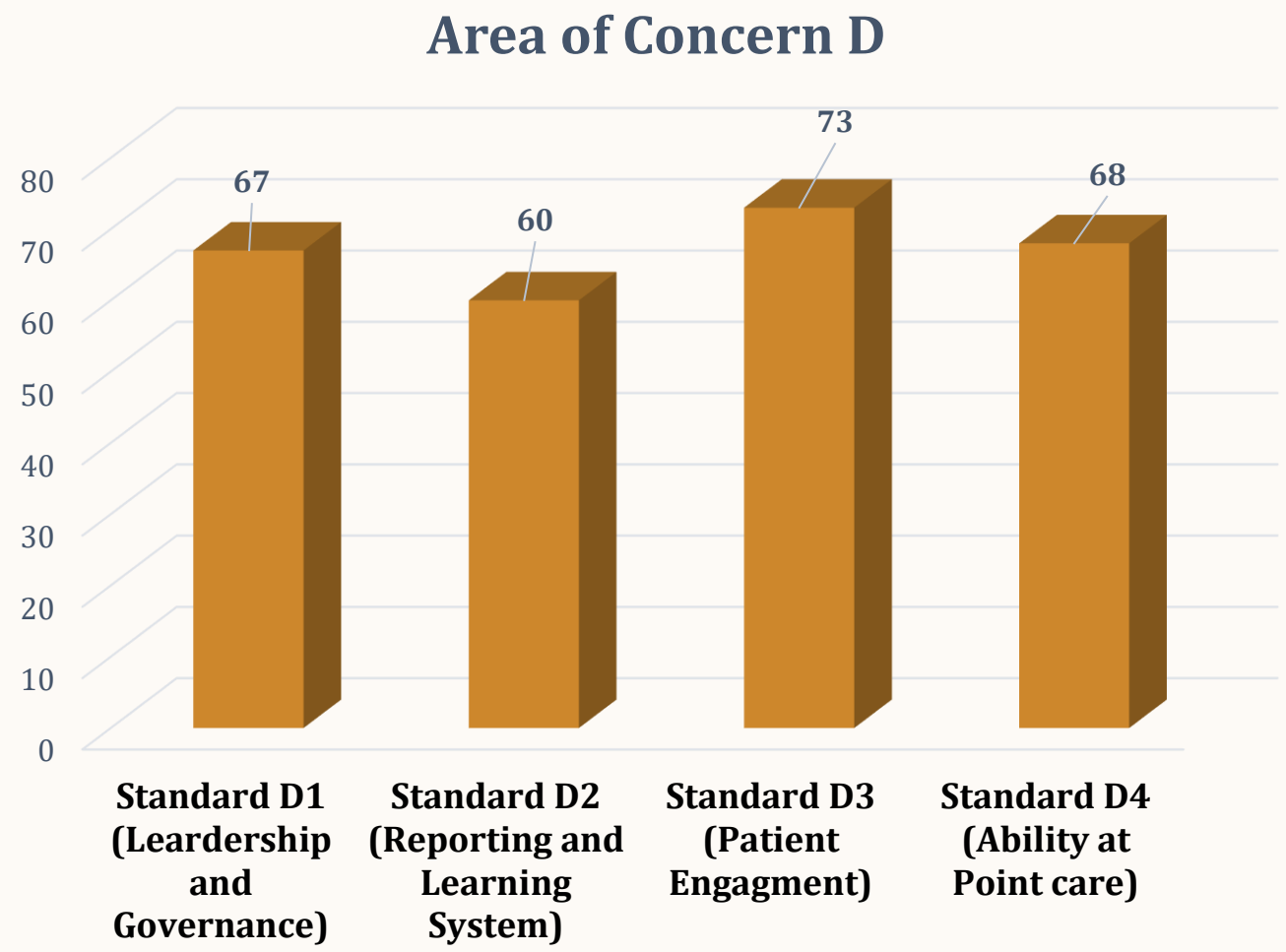
Scores of Area of Concern C
Safe Care Environment





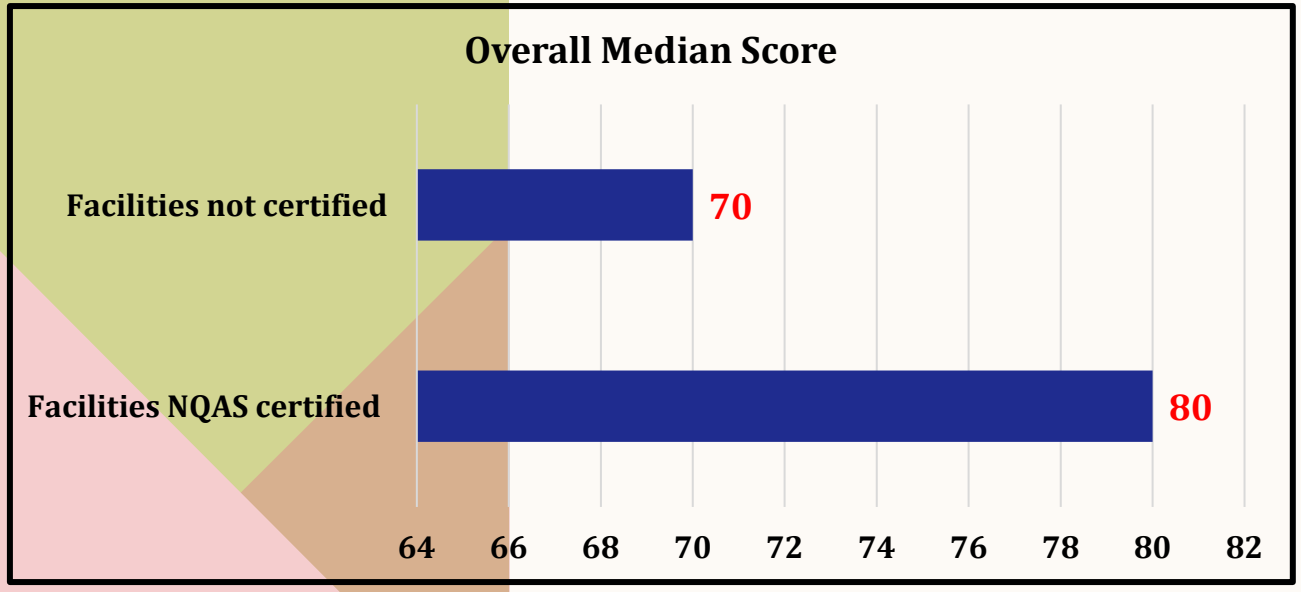


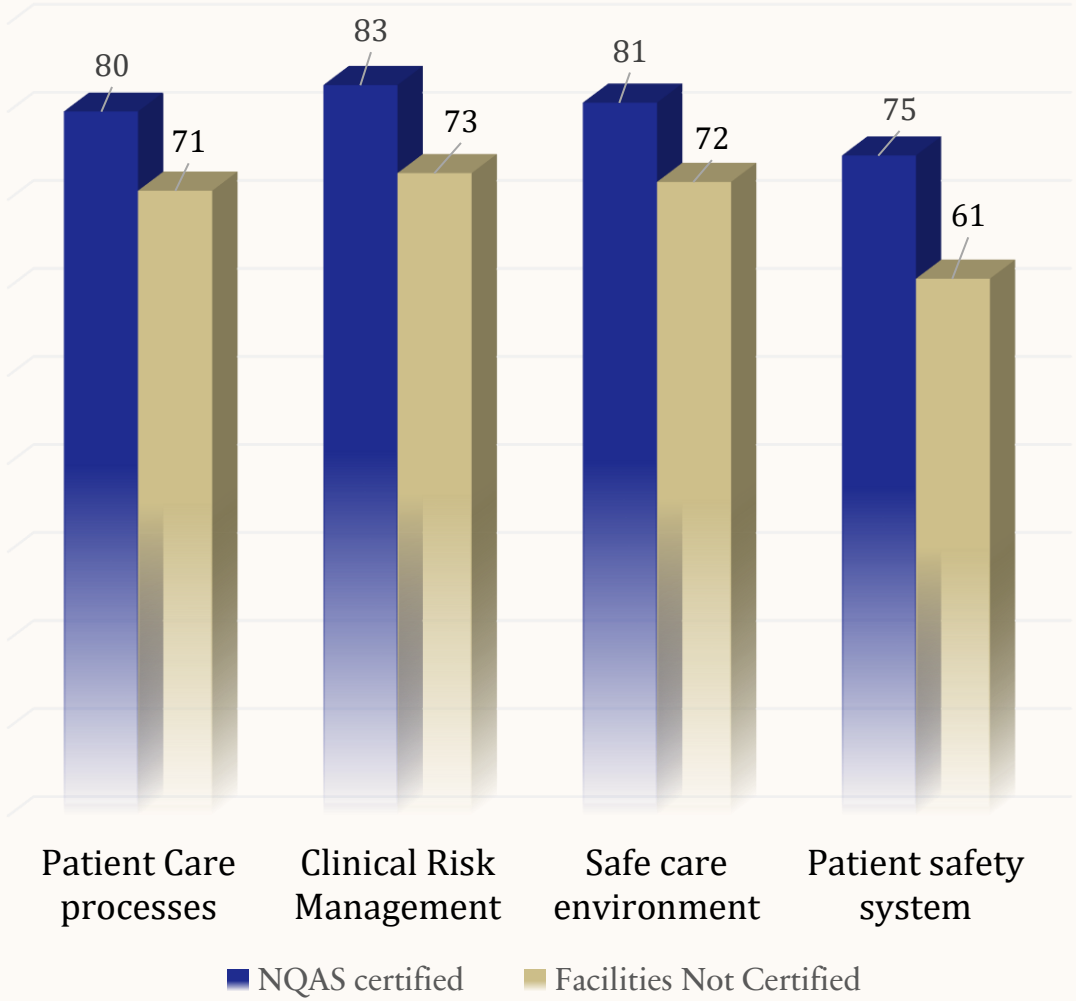
Scores of Area of Concern D
Patient Safety System



NQAS Certified vs Non-certified Facilities

No. of Facilities NQAS certified	No. of Facilities not certified
154	348





DEPARTMENT WISE SCORES 2025

Department wise Score – SNCU

AoC A 76	AoC B 77
AoC C 53	AoC D 36

N= 511

SNCU Department

N= 511

Department wise Score – Pediatric Ward

Department – Pediatric Ward

N= 563

AoC A - 77	AoC B - 76	AoC C - 75	AoC D - 65

Department wise Score –NRC

AOC A 79	AOC B 79
AOC C 79	AOC D 73

N= 336

Scores of Components in SaQushal for Newborn and Child Safety

PAED WARD

B2.3 - 100

B2.4 - 80

SNCU

B2.3 - 80

B2.4 – 70

Way forward

01

Prioritise the newborn and Child Safety: Strengthen the critical care units Promote the HFE principles in neonatal and paediatrics ward

02

Scale SaQushal implementation: Expend the SaQushal to all SDHs & high case load CHCs Institutionalize the mechanism of peer review

03

Targeted Capacity building: Focused training on Clinical risk management and Patient safety. Address the gaps through Simulation drills

04

Data driven monitoring: Analysis the SaQushal scores during NQAS assessments, identify trends. Develop mechanism for digital reporting of safety indicators

Safety isn't optional, it’s foundational.
Every child’s life deserves safe, quality health care.
Embed safety in every layer- transform harm into health, dignity and trust.

Thank You