



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

Second Quarterly Report: April to June 2011

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https://ehealth.gov.mt/HealthPortal/strategy_policy/healthinfor_research/registries/births.aspx

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NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (NOIS)

Background

A national obstetric information system was launched at the Department of Health Information and Research (DHIR) at the beginning of 1999 and now covers practically all deliveries taking place on the islands of Malta and Gozo.

Systematic data collection for NOIS commences once the mother delivers her baby. Information regarding the course and outcome of each pregnancy is recorded by the relevant staff at each centre on a standard NOIS sheet. Once the data are recorded, the sheets are forwarded to the DHIR on a regular basis. At the DHIR the relevant sheets are processed and entered into the NOIS database. All data is kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 2001.

The maternity centres actively participating in this information system are: Mater Dei Hospital, Gozo General Hospital, St James Hospital Sliema and Zabbar.

Report analysis

This report analyses the national maternities/deliveries and infant births that occurred in the second quarter of 2011 and where appropriate compares it to the figures reported for the same period of last year. The data in this report describes the birth statistics for all maternities (Maltese and non-Maltese) and infant births registered into the system. All births, live or still, of gestation 22 weeks and above are registered and analysed in this report.

Data is sent to the Registry from all hospitals on the Maltese Islands. Accuracy and completeness of data sent on the NOIS reporting sheets is the responsibility of the Hospital providing data.

This report provides basic statistics regarding births and deliveries in the Maltese Islands. If required, further information and details may be obtained from our website: https://ehealth.gov.mt/HealthPortal/strategy_policy/healthinfor_research/registries/births.aspx or by e-mail: healthinfo@gov.mt .

ANALYSIS

There were a total of 932 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the second quarter of 2011, which resulted in a total of 949 infant births.

Comparing these figures with those reported for the same period last year one can see that the number of infant births increased by 76 births (873 births reported in 2nd quarter 2010).

MATERNITIES / DELIVERIES

MATERNAL AGE, MARITAL STATUS, NATIONALITY AND PARITY

Maternal Age:

The maternities have been grouped according to standard age groupings and the frequency distribution of deliveries according to maternal age at delivery has been analysed. In the second quarter of 2011, the greatest number of deliveries 328 (35.2%), occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years, followed by the 30-34 year age group (32.0%). There were no deliveries in the age group <15 years and 3 deliveries in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of mothers at delivery was 15 years while the maximum age was 55 years. The most frequent ages at delivery were 30 and 31 years and the average age at delivery was 29 years.

The frequency distribution of deliveries according to maternal age group is given in the following table.

Table 1- Deliveries according to maternal age group

Age in years	2 nd Quarter 2011		2 nd Quarter 2010	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<15	0	0.0	2	0.2
15-19	46	4.9	54	6.3
20-24	120	12.9	120	14.0
25-29	328	35.2	284	33.1
30-34	298	32.0	273	31.8
35-39	117	12.6	113	13.2
40-44	20	2.1	13	1.5
45+	3	0.3	0	0
Unspecified	0	0	0	0

Marital Status:

For the second quarter of 2011, 23.7% (221) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were reported as single (never married); while 71.2% (664) of all deliveries occurred to mothers reported as married, and 5% (46) of mothers were reported as widowed, separated or divorced. Marital status was not specified for one mother.

In the second quarter of 2011, all mothers were registered as having 'Support at home to raise the infant'.

Nationality:

89.5% (834) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 10.4% (97) were Non-Maltese. Nationality was not specified for one mother.

Parity:

There were 47.2% (492) of mothers who were primiparas (ie. delivering for the first time) while 52.8% (440) were multiparas (ie. having already delivered at least one baby, live or still) in the second quarter of 2011.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 75 (8.0%) mothers who were reported to smoke one or more cigarettes during pregnancy in the second quarter of this year. None were reported to drink alcohol and 4 were reported to be drug abusers.

The following table gives the smoking, alcohol and drug habits of mothers for the second quarters of 2011 and 2010.

Table 2 – Maternal lifestyles

	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>		<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	
	<i>No.</i>		<i>No.</i>	
<i>Cigarette smoking during pregnancy</i>				
1 to 3/day	31		5	
> than 3/day	44		60	
Do not smoke	856		794	
Unspecified	1		0	
<i>Alcohol consumption during pregnancy</i>				
Up to 1unit/day	0		4	
> than 1unit/day	0		0	
None	931		855	
Unspecified	1		0	
<i>Drug Abuse during pregnancy</i>				
Yes	4		4	
No	927		855	
Unspecified	1		0	

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PREGNANCY

In the second quarter of 2011, there were 13 cases of assisted reproduction (ART) reported, this includes all forms of ART namely ovulation stimulation, IVF and ICSI (*13 cases of ART were also reported in 2nd quarter 2010*).

The table below gives the number and frequency of mothers recorded with specific obstetric conditions during pregnancy. The most frequently recorded was gestational hypertension; in fact 4.5% of mothers were registered as having gestational hypertension in the second quarter of 2011.

Table 3 – Pregnancy related conditions

	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>		<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
Antepartum Haemorrhage	25	2.7	13	1.5
Gestational hypertension	42	4.5	57	6.6
Pre-eclampsia	7	0.8	9	1.0
Eclampsia	0	0	0	0.0
Placenta praevia	16	1.7	9	1.0
Abruption of placenta	2	0.2	3	0.3

Diabetes in Pregnancy

In the second quarter of this year, there were 5 mothers who were reported as being Insulin Dependent Diabetics before the current pregnancy while 1 mother was reported with Non-Insulin Dependent diabetes prior to pregnancy. In addition, there were a total of 39 mothers registered with gestational diabetes who were controlled without the use of insulin, and no mothers were registered as having gestational diabetes treated with insulin.

DELIVERIES ACCORDING TO PLURALITY

For the second quarter of 2011, there were a total of 917 (98.4%) singleton, 13 (1.4%) twin and 2 triplet deliveries.

Table 4 –Delivery by Plurality

	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>
Singleton	917	846
Twin	13	12
Triplet	2	1
Quadruplet	0	0

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the second quarter of this year, there were a total of 949 infant births.

There were more male infants born than female, the gender distribution for this quarter was 480 (50.6%) males and 469 (49.4%) females (*2nd quarter 2010: males –444; females – 429*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 949 infants born, 596 (62.8%) were delivered as unassisted vertex delivery, 318 (33.5%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 35 (3.7%) by assisted vaginal delivery (this includes forceps, ventouse and breech deliveries).

Table 5 – Distribution of births by method of delivery

	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>
Vaginal vertex delivery	596	562
Emergency/elective Caesarean Section	318	276
Forceps delivery	2	4
Ventouse	33	27
Breech	0	4

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 318 babies born by caesarian section but 301 caesarean deliveries performed, this due to the fact that a number of caesareans are done in multiple birth deliveries. The Caesarean section operation rate was 32.3% of the total maternal deliveries (932) this quarter.

BIRTHS BY GESTATIONAL AGE CATEGORY

This quarter there were 77 (8.1%) preterm babies of less than 37 weeks gestation. 15 (1.6%) were very preterm being less than 32 weeks of gestation.

Table 6 – Distribution by gestational age categories

	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>
Extremely Preterm (22 - 27 wks)	5	4
Very Preterm (28 - 31 wks)	10	6
Moderately Preterm (32 - 36wks)	62	48
Term (37 - 41wks)	871	813
Post term (>41 wks)	1	2
Unknown	0	0

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the second quarter of 2011, there were 872 (91.9%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4999g, 63 (6.6%) of the total births were in the low birth weight range of 1500g to 2499g, 9 (0.9%) of births were of very low birth weight 500g to 1499g. There were 4 infants with birth weight below 500g but gestation 22weeks+ and one baby with birth weight over 5000g. In all cases the birth weight was specified.

Table 7 – Births by birth weight

	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>
<500g	4	0
500-999g	3	5
1000-1499g	6	3
1500-1999g	20	15
2000-2499g	43	41
2500-2999g	201	193
3000-3499g	411	369
3500-3999g	224	197
4000-4499g	33	44
4500-4999g	3	5
5000+	1	1
Unspecified	0	0
Average Birth weight (g)	3188	3212

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the second quarter of this year was 941 which accounted for 99.2% of the total births at a national level. The remaining 8 births were stillbirths. Stillbirths are defined as fetal death at or after 22 completed weeks of gestation.

Table 8 – Live and still births

	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>
Babies born alive	941	868
Stillbirths	8	5

Of the 941 live births this quarter, there were 4 early neonatal deaths and no late neonatal deaths.

Table 9 – Early and late neonatal deaths

	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	4	3
Late Neonatal deaths	0	1

INFANT FEEDING METHODS AT DISCHARGE

Infant feeding habits are recorded by hospital staff at the time of discharge; little can be said on the actual infant feeding habits as these may change soon after discharge from the birthing facilities.

Table 10 – Infant feeding methods at time of discharge

	<i>2nd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>
Breast only	545	519
Bottle only	265	255
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	127	90
Other*	12	8
Unspecified	0	1

* 'Other' - include babies who are still at hospital after 28 days and those who die before discharge

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements go to all contributing hospitals and their respective staff:

Mater Dei Hospital, Tal-Qroqq l/o Msida

Gozo General Hospital, Victoria

St. James Hospital, Sliema

St. James Hospital, Zabbar