



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

Third Quarterly Report: July to September 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 third 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 1140 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the third quarter of 2011, which resulted in a total of 1159 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 87 births (1072 births reported in 3rd 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 third quarter of 2011, the greatest number of deliveries (33.1%), occurred in the age group 30-34 years, followed by the 25-29 year age group (31.1%). There were no deliveries in the age group <15 years and one delivery in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of mothers at delivery was 15 years while the maximum age was 45 years. The most frequent age at delivery was 30 years (97 mothers) 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	3 rd Quarter 2011		3 rd Quarter 2010	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<15	0	0	1	<1
15-19	58	5.1	54	5.2
20-24	175	15.4	165	15.8
25-29	354	31.1	353	33.8
30-34	377	33.1	313	30.0
35-39	150	13.2	148	14.2
40-44	25	2.2	11	1.1
45+	1	<1	0	0
Unspecified	0	0	0	0

Marital Status:

For the third quarter of 2011, 26.4% (301) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were reported as single (never married); while 68.7% (783) of all deliveries occurred to mothers reported as married, and 4.9% (56) of mothers were reported as widowed, separated or divorced. Marital status was specified for all mothers.

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

Nationality:

87.5% (998) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 12.4% (141) were Non-Maltese. In one mother nationality was not specified.

Parity:

There were 54.6% (622) of mothers who were primiparas (ie. delivering for the first time) while 45.4% (518) were multiparas (ie. having already delivered at least one live or still birth) in the third quarter of 2011.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 79 (6.9%) mothers who were reported to smoke one or more cigarettes during pregnancy in the second quarter of this year. 4 were reported to drink some alcohol in pregnancy and 10 were reported to be drug abusers.

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

Table 2 – Maternal lifestyles

	<i>3rd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>Cigarette smoking during pregnancy</i>		
1 to 3/day	22	9
> than 3/day	57	81
Do not smoke	1060	955
Unspecified	1	0
<i>Alcohol consumption during pregnancy</i>		
Up to 1unit/day	4	2
> than 1unit/day	0	0
None	1136	1043
Unspecified	0	0
<i>Drug Abuse during pregnancy</i>		
Yes	10	3
No	1130	1042
Unspecified	0	0

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PREGNANCY

In the third quarter of 2011, there were 12 cases of assisted reproduction (ART) reported, this includes all forms of ART namely ovulation stimulation, IVF and ICSI (16 cases of ART reported in 3rd 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% of mothers were registered as having gestational hypertension in the third quarter of 2011.

Table 3 – Pregnancy related conditions

	<i>3rd Quarter 2011</i>		<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
Antepartum Haemorrhage	24	2.1	20	1.9
Gestational hypertension	46	4.0	45	4.3
Pre-eclampsia	7	0.6	7	0.7
Eclampsia	0	0	0	0
Placenta praevia	17	1.5	12	1.1
Abruption of placenta	8	0.7	3	0.3

Diabetes in Pregnancy

In the third quarter of this year, there were 4 mothers who was reported as being Insulin Dependent Diabetics before the current pregnancy while no mothers were reported with Non-Insulin Dependent diabetes prior to pregnancy. In addition, there were a total of 35 mothers (3.1%) registered with gestational diabetes who were controlled without the use of insulin, and no mothers registered as having gestational diabetes treated with insulin.

DELIVERIES ACCORDING TO PLURALITY

For the third quarter of 2011, there were a total of 1121 (98.3%) singleton, 19 (1.7%) twin and no triplet or quadruplet deliveries.

Table 4 –Delivery by Plurality

	<i>3rd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>
Singleton	1121	1019
Twin	19	25
Triplet	0	1
Quadruplet	0	0

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the third quarter of this year, there were a total of 1159 infant births, while there were 1072 in the same quarter of 2010.

There were more male infants born than female, the gender distribution for this quarter was 606 (52.3%) males and 553 (47.7%) females (*3rd quarter 2010: males – 535; females – 537*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 1159 infants born between July and September 2011, 710 (61.3%) were delivered as unassisted vertex delivery, 398 (34.3%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 51 (4.4%) by assisted vaginal delivery (this includes forceps, ventouse and breech deliveries).

Table 5 – Distribution of births by method of delivery

	<i>3rd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>
Vaginal vertex delivery	710	662
Emergency/elective Caesarean Section	398	364
Forceps delivery	2	4
Ventouse	49	42
Breech	0	0

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 398 babies born by caesarian section but 381 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 33.4% of the total maternal deliveries (1140) this quarter.

BIRTHS BY GESTATIONAL AGE CATEGORY

This quarter there were 81 (7.0%) preterm babies of less than 37 weeks gestation, of these 15 (1.3%) were very preterm being less than 32 weeks of gestation.

Table 6 – Distribution by gestational age categories

	<i>3rd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>
Extremely Preterm (22 - 27 wks)	7	7
Very Preterm (28 - 31 wks)	8	5
Moderately Preterm (32 - 36wks)	66	77
Term (37 - 41wks)	1076	979
Post term (41+ wks)	2	4
Unknown	0	0

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the third quarter of 2011, there were 1071 (92.4%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4499g, 64 (5.5%) of the total births were in the low birth weight range of 1500g to 2499g, 14 (1.2%) of births were of very low birth weight 500g to 1499g, no babies were less than 500g although having a gestation of 22 completed weeks. There were 9 infants with a birth weight of 4500g or over, and in 1 case was the birth weight unspecified.

Table 7 – Births by birth weight

	<i>3rd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>
<500g	0	0
500-999g	7	4
1000-1499g	7	9
1500-1999g	18	15
2000-2499g	46	53
2500-2999g	269	218
3000-3499g	490	442
3500-3999g	270	281
4000-4499g	42	45
4500-4999g	9	5
5000+	0	0
Unspecified	1	0
Average Birth weight (g)	3195	3216

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the third quarter of this year was 1154 which accounted for ---% of the total births at a national level. The remaining 5 births were stillbirths. Stillbirths are defined as fetal death at or after 22 completed weeks of gestation.

Table 8 – Live and still births

	<i>3rd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>
Babies born alive	1154	1068
Stillbirths	5	4

Of the 1154 live births this quarter, there were 7 early neonatal deaths and 1 late neonatal death.

Table 9 – Early and late neonatal deaths

	<i>3rd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	7	4
Late Neonatal deaths	1	0

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>3rd Quarter 2011</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2010</i>
Breast only	653	571
Bottle only	345	355
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	147	139
Other*	13	7
Unspecified	1	0

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

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St. James Hospital, Zabbar