



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

Third Quarterly Report: July to September 2006

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NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (NOIS)

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

Data collection and Sources of Information

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 DHI on a regular basis. At the DHI 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: St. Lukes Hospital, Gozo General Hospital, St James Hospital Sliema and Zabbar and St. Philip's Hospital.

Report analysis

This report analyses the national maternities/deliveries and infant births that occurred in the third quarter of 2006 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.

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.

ANALYSIS

There were a total of 939 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the third quarter of 2006, which resulted in a total of 956 infant births.

Comparing these figures with those reported for the same period last year one can see that the number of infant births decreased by 19 births (*975 births reported in 3rd quarter 2005*).

MATERNITIES / DELIVERIES

MATERNAL AGE, MARITAL STATUS, NATIONALITY AND PARITY

Maternal Age:

The maternities have been grouped according to the standard age groupings and the frequency distribution of deliveries according to maternal age at delivery has been analysed. In the third quarter of 2006, the greatest number of deliveries (36%), occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years while there was 1 delivery in the age group <15 years and one in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of the mothers at delivery was 14 years while the maximum age was 45 years. The most frequent age at delivery was 29 years, while the average age at delivery was 28 years.

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

Deliveries according to maternal age groups:

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>		<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
<15	1	<1	0	0
15-19	73	8	39	4
20-24	158	17	174	18
25-29	334	36	374	39
30-34	262	28	269	28
35-39	86	9	84	9
40-44	19	2	21	2
45+	1	<1	2	<1
Unspecified	5	<1	0	0

Marital Status:

For the third quarter of 2006, 22% (207) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were reported as single (never married); while 75% (702) of all deliveries occurred to mothers reported as married, and 3% (28) of mothers were reported as widowed, separated or divorced. Marital status was not specified for 2 mothers.

In the third quarter of 2006, only one mother was registered as not having 'Support at home to raise the infant'.

Nationality:

90% (844) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 9% (85) were Non-Maltese. In the remaining 1% (10) nationality was not specified.

Parity:

There were 51% (481) of mothers who were primiparas while 49% (458) were multiparas in the third quarter of 2006.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 22 (2%) mothers who were reported to smoke one or more cigarettes during pregnancy in the third quarter of this year. One was reported to drink alcohol and 4 were reported as being a drug abusers.

The following table gives the reported smoking, alcohol and drug habits of mothers for the third quarters of 2006 and 2005.

<i>Maternal Lifestyles</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>Cigarette smoking during pregnancy:</i>		
1 to 3/day	5	11
>than 3/day	17	52
Do not smoke	887	890
Unspecified	30	10
<i>Alcohol consumption during pregnancy:</i>		
Up to 1unit/day	1	0
>than 1unit/day	0	0
None	908	953
Unspecified	30	10
<i>Drug Abuse during pregnancy</i>		
Yes	4	1
No	905	952
Unspecified	30	10

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PREGNANCY

In the third quarter of 2006, there were 9 mothers registered as having made use of assisted reproduction (ART), this includes all forms of ART namely ovulation stimulation, IVF and ICSI (7 cases of ART reported in 3rd quarter 2005).

The table below gives the number of mothers recorded with specific obstetric complications during pregnancy. The most frequently recorded was gestational hypertension, there were in fact 6% of mothers who were registered as having gestational hypertension in the third quarter of 2006.

<i>Conditions recorded during pregnancy</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>			<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>		
	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Unspecified</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Unspecified</i>
Antepartum Haemorrhage	933	6	0	956	7	0
Gestational hypertension	882	57	0	896	66	1
Pre-eclampsia	935	4	0	958	5	0
Placenta praevia	930	9	0	956	7	0
Abruption of placenta	938	1	0	961	2	0
Cardiovascular disease	938	1	0	962	1	0

Diabetes in Pregnancy

In the third quarter of this year, there were 2 mothers who were reported as being Insulin Dependent Diabetic before the current pregnancy while no mothers were reported with Non-Insulin Dependent diabetes prior to pregnancy. In addition, there were a total of 13 mothers registered with gestational diabetes who were controlled without the use of insulin, and 2 mothers registered as having gestational diabetes treated with insulin.

CATEGORY OF MATERNITY ACCORDING TO DELIVERY

For the third quarter of 2006, there were a total of 923 (98%) singleton and 15 (2%) twin deliveries, there was one triplet delivery and no quadruplet deliveries.

Category	3rd Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2005
Singleton	923	952
Twin	15	10
Triplet	1	1
Quadruplet	0	0

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the third quarter of this year, there were a total of 956 infant births.

There were more male infants born than female, the gender distribution for this quarter was 499 (52%) males and 457 (48%) females (*3rd quarter 2005: males – 482; females – 493*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 956 infants born, 956 (59%) were delivered as a vertex delivery, 341 (36%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 47 (5%) by assisted vaginal delivery (this includes forceps, ventouse and breech deliveries).

Method of Birth*	3rd Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2005
Infants delivered by vertex delivery	568	641
Infants delivered by emergency/elective Caesarean Section	341	290
Infants delivered by forceps	0	1
Infants delivered by ventouse	46	41
Breech deliveries	1	2

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 341 babies born by caesarian section but 324 caesarian deliveries performed, this due to the fact that a number of caesarians are done in multiple birth deliveries. The Caesarean section operation rate was 34.5% of the total maternal deliveries (939) this quarter.

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the third quarter of 2006, there were 894 (94%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4999g, 55 (6%) of the total births were in the low birth weight range of 1500g to 2499g, 7 (1%) of births were of very low birth weight 500g to 1499g. All cases had their birth weight specified. There were no infants of 5000g or over.

<i>Birth weights</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>
<500g	0	0
500-999g	3	4
1000-1499g	4	1
1500-1999g	13	6
2000-2499g	42	52
2500-2999g	236	211
3000-3499g	438	413
3500-3999g	190	241
4000-4499g	29	42
4500-4999g	1	4
5000+	0	0
Unspecified	0	1
Average Birth weight (g)	3173	3230

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the third quarter of this year was 955 which accounted for 99.9% of the total births at a national level. The remaining 1 birth was a stillbirth.

<i>Outcome of Birth</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>
Babies born alive	955	972
Stillbirths	1	3

Of the 955 live births this quarter, there were 2 early neonatal deaths and no late neonatal deaths registered.

<i>Neonatal Deaths</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	2	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.

<i>Infant feeding methods at time of discharge</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>
Breast only	586	589
Bottle only	253	290
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	100	85
Other*	15	8
Unspecified	2	3

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

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St. Luke's / Mater Dei Hospital, Pieta

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St. James Hospital, Sliema

St. James Hospital, Zabbar

St. Philip's Hospital, Sta Venera.