



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

Third Quarterly Report: July to September 2007

*Department of Health Information
National Obstetric Information System (NOIS), Malta*

www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=92

NOIS Registry:

Principal Medical Officer (Contact person):

Dr. Miriam Gatt

Data management:

Ms. V. Parnis

Ms. M. Mallia

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 2007 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 or of birth weight 500g and above are registered and analysed in this report, as per DH circular DH10/07.

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: www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=92 or by e-mail: healthinfo@gov.mt.

ANALYSIS

There were a total of 991 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the third quarter of 2007, which resulted in a total of 1001 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 45 births (*956 births reported in 3rd quarter 2006*).

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 2007, the greatest number of deliveries (31%), occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years while there were <1% deliveries in the age group <15 years and <1% deliveries in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of the mothers was 13 years while the maximum age was 45 years. The most frequent age at delivery was 30 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 2007</i>		<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
<15	2	<1	1	<1
15-19	69	7	73	8
20-24	183	18	158	17
25-29	310	31	334	36
30-34	297	30	262	28
35-39	107	11	86	9
40-44	19	2	19	2
45+	1	<1	1	<1
Unspecified	3	<1	5	<1

Marital Status:

For the third quarter of 2007, 27% (264) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were reported as single (never married); while 70% (689) of all deliveries occurred to mothers reported as married, and 4% (37) of mothers were reported as widowed, separated or divorced. Marital status was not specified for one mother.

In the third quarter of 2007, all mothers were registered as having ‘Support at home to raise the infant’.

Nationality:

90% (889) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 9% (92) were Non-Maltese. In the remaining 1% (10) nationality was not specified.

Parity:

There were 50% (497) of mothers who were primiparas while 50% (494) were multiparas in the third quarter of 2007.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 13 (1.3%) mothers who were reported to smoke one or more cigarettes during pregnancy in the third quarter of this year. None were reported to drink excessive alcohol and 4 were reported to be drug abusers.

The following table gives the smoking, alcohol and drug habits of mothers for the third quarters of 2007 and 2006.

Maternal Lifestyles	3rd Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2006
	No.	No.
Cigarette smoking during pregnancy:		
1 to 3/day	3	5
> than 3/day	10	17
Do not smoke	955	887
Unspecified	23	30
Alcohol consumption during pregnancy:		
Up to 1unit/day	0	1
> than 1unit/day	0	0
None	968	908
Unspecified	23	30
Drug Abuse during pregnancy		
Yes	4	4
No	964	905
Unspecified	23	30

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PREGNANCY

In the third quarter of 2007, there were 3 cases of assisted reproduction (ART) reported, this includes all forms of ART namely ovulation stimulation, IVF and ICSI (9 cases of ART reported in 3rd quarter 2006).

The table below gives the number of mothers recorded with specific obstetric conditions during pregnancy. The most frequently recorded was gestational hypertension, there were in fact 6.8% of mothers who were registered as having gestational hypertension in the third quarter of 2007.

Conditions recorded during pregnancy	3rd Quarter 2007			3rd Quarter 2006		
	No	Yes	Unspecified	No	Yes	Unspecified
Antepartum Haemorrhage	984	7	0	933	6	0
Gestational hypertension	924	67	0	882	57	0
Pre-eclampsia	988	3	0	935	4	0
Placenta praevia	978	13	0	930	9	0
Abruption of placenta	990	1	0	938	1	0
Cardiovascular disease	985	6	0	938	1	0

Diabetes in Pregnancy

In the third quarter of this year, there were 3 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 15 mothers registered with gestational diabetes who were controlled without the use of insulin, and none were registered as having gestational diabetes treated with insulin.

CATEGORY OF MATERNITY ACCORDING TO DELIVERY

For the third quarter of 2007, there were a total of 983 (99%) singleton and 7 (1%) twin deliveries, there were no triplet deliveries but one quadruplet delivery.

<i>Category</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2007</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>
Singleton	983	923
Twin	7	15
Triplet	0	1
Quadruplet	1	0

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the third quarter of this year, there were a total of 1001 infant births.

There were more male infants born than female, the gender distribution for this quarter was 516 (52%) males and 485 (48%) females (*3rd quarter 2006: males – 499-; females – 457*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 1001 infants born, 634 (63%) were delivered as a vertex delivery, 323 (32%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 44 (4%) by assisted vaginal delivery (this includes forceps, ventouse and breech deliveries).

<i>Method of Birth*</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2007</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>
Infants delivered by vertex delivery	634	568
Infants delivered by emergency/elective Caesarean Section	323	341
Infants delivered by forceps	2	0
Infants delivered by ventouse	42	46
Breech deliveries	0	1

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 323 babies born by caesarian section but 313 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 31.6% of the total maternal deliveries (991) this quarter.

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the third quarter of 2007, there were 931 (93%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4999g, 61 (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 and 1 was less than 500g although having a gestation of 22 weeks or more. In one case the birth weight was unspecified. There were no infants born 5000g or over.

<i>Birth weights</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2007</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>
<500g	1	0
500-999g	2	3
1000-1499g	5	4
1500-1999g	12	13
2000-2499g	49	42
2500-2999g	215	236
3000-3499g	474	438
3500-3999g	208	190
4000-4499g	28	29
4500-4999g	6	1
5000+	0	0
Unspecified	1	0
Average Birth weight (g)	3195	3173

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the third quarter of this year was 998 which accounted for 99.7% of the total births at a national level. The remaining 3 births were stillbirths.

<i>Outcome of Birth</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2007</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>
Babies born alive	998	955
Stillbirths	3	1

Of the 998 live births this quarter, there were 5 early neonatal deaths and no late neonatal deaths.

<i>Neonatal Deaths</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2007</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	5	2
Late Neonatal deaths	0	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.

<i>Infant feeding methods at time of discharge</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2007</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2006</i>
Breast only	576	586
Bottle only	301	253
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	109	100
Other*	13	15
Unspecified	2	2

* '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, Msida

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St. James Hospital, Zabbar

St. Philip's Hospital, Sta Venera.