



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

Second Quarterly Report: April to June 2008

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

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

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NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (NOIS)

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.

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: Mater Dei 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 second quarter of 2008 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 953 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the second quarter of 2008, which resulted in a total of 969 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 27 births (942 births reported in 2nd quarter 2007).

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

second quarter of 2008, the greatest number of deliveries (36%), occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years while there were <1% deliveries in the age group <15 years and one delivery in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of the mothers was 14 years while the maximum age was 48 years. The most frequent age at delivery was 28 years, while the average age at delivery was 29 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>2nd Quarter 2008</i>		<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
<15	3	<1	2	<1
15-19	59	6	62	7
20-24	126	13	152	16
25-29	341	36	317	34
30-34	311	33	285	31
35-39	89	9	90	10
40-44	22	2	17	2
45+	1	<1	1	<1
Unspecified	1	<1	0	0

Marital Status:

For the second quarter of 2008, 22% (211) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were reported as single (never married); while 75% (710) of all deliveries occurred to mothers reported as married, and 3% (32) of mothers were reported as widowed, separated or divorced. Marital status was specified for all deliveries.

In the second quarter of 2008, all mothers were registered as having ‘Support at home to raise the infant’.

Nationality:

88% (842) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 11% (106) were Non-Maltese. In the remaining <1% (5) nationality was not specified.

Parity:

There were 52% (497) of mothers who were primiparas while 48% (456) were multiparas in the second quarter of 2008.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 61 (6.4%) mothers who were reported to smoke one or more cigarettes during pregnancy in the second 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 second quarters of 2008 and 2007.

<i>Maternal Lifestyles</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2008</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>Cigarette smoking during pregnancy:</i>		
1 to 3/day	23	7
> than 3/day	38	18
Do not smoke	879	874
Unspecified	13	27
<i>Alcohol consumption during pregnancy:</i>		
Up to 1unit/day	0	0
> than 1unit/day	0	0
None	940	899
Unspecified	13	27
<i>Drug Abuse during pregnancy</i>		
Yes	4	0
No	935	899
Unspecified	14	27

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PREGNANCY

In the second quarter of 2008, there were 11 cases of assisted reproduction (ART) reported, this includes all forms of ART namely ovulation stimulation, IVF and ICSI (6 cases of ART reported in 2nd quarter 2007).

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% of mothers who were registered as having gestational hypertension in the second quarter of 2008.

<i>Conditions recorded during pregnancy</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2008</i>			<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>		
	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Unspecified</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Unspecified</i>
Antepartum Haemorrhage	914	39	0	918	8	0
Gestational hypertension	896	57	0	866	60	0
Pre-eclampsia	930	23	0	925	1	0
Placenta praevia	931	21	1	910	16	0
Abruption of placenta	951	2	0	923	3	0
Cardiovascular disease	945	8	0	926	0	0

Diabetes in Pregnancy

In the second quarter of this year, there were 9 mothers who were reported as being Insulin Dependent Diabetic before the current pregnancy while 31 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 no mothers registered as having gestational diabetes treated with insulin.

CATEGORY OF MATERNITY ACCORDING TO DELIVERY

For the second quarter of 2008, there were a total of 938 (98.4%) singleton, 14 (1.5%) twin and one triplet delivery.

<i>Category</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2008</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>
Singleton	938	910
Twin	14	16
Triplet	1	0
Quadruplet	0	0

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the second quarter of this year, there were a total of 969 infant births.

There were more male infants born than female, the gender distribution for this quarter was 501 (51.7%) males and 467 (48.2%) females, there was also one case of indeterminate sex in a very early neonatal death with major congenital anomalies (*2nd quarter 2007: males –489; females – 453*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 969 infants born, 590 (61%) were delivered as unassisted vertex delivery, 337 (35%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 42 (4%) by assisted vaginal delivery (this includes forceps, ventouse and breech deliveries).

<i>Method of Birth*</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2008</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>
Infants delivered by vertex delivery	590	591
Infants delivered by emergency/elective Caesarean Section	337	316
Infants delivered by forceps	3	7
Infants delivered by ventouse	38	28
Breech deliveries	1	0

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 337 babies born by caesarian section but 322 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 33.8% of the total maternal deliveries (953) this quarter.

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the second quarter of 2008, there were 886 (91.4%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4999g, 61 (6.3%) of the total births were in the low birth weight range of 1500g to 2499g, 13 (1.3%) 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 8 (0.8%) cases the birth weight was unspecified. There were no deliveries of 5000g or over.

<i>Birth weights</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2008</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>
<500g	1	2
500-999g	8	1
1000-1499g	5	4
1500-1999g	16	8
2000-2499g	45	54
2500-2999g	199	236
3000-3499g	406	405
3500-3999g	216	197
4000-4499g	62	31
4500-4999g	3	3
5000+	0	0
Unspecified	8	1
Average Birth weight (g)	3216	3170

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the second quarter of this year was 964 which accounted for 99.5% of the total births at a national level. The remaining 5 births were stillbirths.

<i>Outcome of Birth</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2008</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>
Babies born alive	964	939
Stillbirths	5	3

Of the 964 live births this quarter, there were 5 early neonatal deaths and 1 late neonatal death.

<i>Neonatal Deaths</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2008</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	5	2
Late Neonatal deaths	1	2

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>2nd Quarter 2008</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2007</i>
Breast only	527	546
Bottle only	328	248
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	97	132
Other*	16	13
Unspecified	1	3

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

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Mater Dei Hospital, Tal-Qroqq l/o Msida

Gozo General Hospital, Victoria

St. James Hospital, Sliema

St. James Hospital, Zabbar

St. Philip's Hospital, Sta Venera.