



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

Second Quarterly Report: April to June 2010

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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 2010 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 859 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the second quarter of 2010, which resulted in a total of 873 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 88 births (961 *births reported in 2nd quarter 2009*).

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 2010, the greatest number of deliveries 284 (33.1%), occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years, closely followed by the 30-34 year age group. There were <1% deliveries in the age group <15 years and no deliveries in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of mothers at delivery was 14 years while the maximum age was 43 years. The most frequent age at delivery was 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 2010		2 nd Quarter 2009	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<15	2	0.2	2	0.2
15-19	54	6.3	63	6.7
20-24	120	14.0	139	14.7
25-29	284	33.1	307	32.6
30-34	273	31.8	304	32.2
35-39	113	13.2	111	11.8
40-44	13	1.5	17	1.8
45+	0	0	0	0
Unspecified	0	0	0	0

Marital Status:

For the second quarter of 2010, 23.1% (198) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were reported as single (never married); while 72.6% (624) of all deliveries occurred to mothers reported as married, and 4.3% (37) of mothers were reported as widowed, separated or divorced. Marital status was specified for all deliveries.

In the second quarter of 2010, all mothers were registered as having 'Support at home to raise the infant'.

Nationality:

90.9% (781) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 9.1% (78) were Non-Maltese. Nationality was specified for all deliveries.

Parity:

There were 52.9% (454) of mothers who were primiparas (ie. delivering for the first time) while 47.1% (405) were multiparas (ie. having already delivered at least one baby – live or still) in the second quarter of 2010.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 65 (7.6%) mothers who were reported to smoke one or more cigarettes during pregnancy in the second quarter of this year. Four were reported to drink occasional 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 2010 and 2009.

Table 2 – Maternal lifestyles

	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>		<i>2nd Quarter 2009</i>	
	<i>No.</i>		<i>No.</i>	
<i>Cigarette smoking during pregnancy</i>				
1 to 3/day	5		23	
> than 3/day	60		45	
Do not smoke	794		871	
Unspecified	0		4	
<i>Alcohol consumption during pregnancy</i>				
Up to 1unit/day	4		0	
> than 1unit/day	0		0	
None	855		939	
Unspecified	0		4	
<i>Drug Abuse during pregnancy</i>				
Yes	4		4	
No	855		935	
Unspecified	0		4	

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PREGNANCY

In the second quarter of 2010, there were 13 cases of assisted reproduction (ART) reported, this includes all forms of ART namely ovulation stimulation, IVF and ICSI (4 cases of ART reported in 2nd quarter 2009).

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 6.6% of mothers were registered as having gestational hypertension in the second quarter of 2010.

Table 3 – Pregnancy related conditions

	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>		<i>2nd Quarter 2009</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
Antepartum Haemorrhage	13	1.5	15	1.6
Gestational hypertension	57	6.6	84	8.9
Pre-eclampsia	9	1.0	21	2.2
Eclampsia	0	0.0	1	0.1
Placenta praevia	9	1.0	17	1.8
Abruption of placenta	3	0.3	5	0.5

Diabetes in Pregnancy

In the second quarter of this year, there were 2 mothers who were reported as being Insulin Dependent Diabetics before the current pregnancy while one mother was reported with Non-Insulin Dependent diabetes prior to pregnancy. In addition, there were a total of 34 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 2010, there were a total of 846 (98.5%) singleton, 12 (1.4%) twin and 1 triplet delivery.

Table 4 –Delivery by Plurality

	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2009</i>
Singleton	846	926
Twin	12	16
Triplet	1	1
Quadruplet	0	0

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the second quarter of this year, there were a total of 873 infant births.

There were more male infants born than female, the gender distribution for this quarter was 444 (50.9%) males and 429 (49.1%) females (*2nd quarter 2009: males –498; females – 463*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 873 infants born, 562 (64.4%) were delivered as unassisted vertex delivery, 276 (31.6%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 35 (4.0%) by assisted vaginal delivery (this includes forceps, ventouse and breech deliveries).

Table 5 – Distribution of births by method of delivery

	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2009</i>
Vaginal vertex delivery	562	621
Emergency/elective Caesarean Section	276	289
Forceps delivery	4	4
Ventouse	27	47
Breech	4	0

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 276 babies born by caesarian section but 262 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 30.5% of the total maternal deliveries (859) this quarter.

BIRTHS BY GESTATIONAL AGE CATEGORY

This quarter there were 58 (6.6%) preterm babies of less than 37 weeks gestation. 10 (1.2%) were very preterm being less than 32 weeks of gestation.

Table 6 – Distribution by gestational age categories

	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2009</i>
Extremely Preterm (22 - 27 wks)	4	2
Very Preterm (28 - 31 wks)	6	12
Moderately Preterm (32 - 36wks)	48	60
Term (37 - 41wks)	813	884
Post term (>41 wks)	2	3
Unknown	0	0

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the second quarter of 2010, there were 808 (92.6%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4999g, 56 (6.4%) of the total births were in the low birth weight range of 1500g to 2499g, 8 (1.0%) of births were of very low birth weight 500g to 1499g. There was one infant 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 2009</i>
<500g	0	1
500-999g	5	3
1000-1499g	3	4
1500-1999g	15	11
2000-2499g	41	54
2500-2999g	193	201
3000-3499g	369	415
3500-3999g	197	228
4000-4499g	44	37
4500-4999g	5	5
5000+	1	1
Unspecified	0	1
Average Birth weight (g)	3212	3208

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the second quarter of this year was 868 which accounted for 99.4% 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>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2009</i>
Babies born alive	868	958
Stillbirths	5	3

Of the 868 live births this quarter, there were 3 early neonatal deaths and 1 late neonatal death.

Table 9 – Early and late neonatal deaths

	<i>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2009</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	3	5
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>2nd Quarter 2010</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2009</i>
Breast only	519	601
Bottle only	255	256
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	90	96
Other*	8	8
Unspecified	1	0

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

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