



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

Second Quarterly Report: April to June 2005

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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 second quarter of 2005 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 938 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the second quarter of 2005, which resulted in a total of 952 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 65 births (887 births reported in 2nd quarter 2004).

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 2005, the greatest number of deliveries (37%), occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years while there were 3 deliveries in the age group <15 years. There was one delivery in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of the mothers was 14 years while the maximum age was 47 years. The most frequent 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 2005</i>		<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
<15	3	<1	1	<1
15-19	63	7	38	4
20-24	158	17	158	18
25-29	345	37	332	38
30-34	264	28	244	28
35-39	89	9	81	9
40-44	15	2	21	2
45+	1	<1	0	0
Unspecified	0	0	1	<1

Marital Status:

For the second quarter of this year, 19% (177) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were never married (single); while 81% (761) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were married once (married, widowed, separated). For all deliveries marital status was specified.

In the second quarter of 2005, all the mothers registered as having never been married were registered as having 'Support at home to raise the infant'.

Nationality:

91% (853) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 7% (66) were Non-Maltese. In the remaining 2% (19) nationality was not specified.

Parity:

There were 51% (477) of mothers who were primiparas while 49% (461) were multiparas in the second quarter of 2005.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 62 (7%) of 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 (0.4%) were reported as being drug abusers.

The following table gives the smoking, alcohol and drug habits of mothers for the second quarters of 2005 and 2004.

<i>Maternal Lifestyles</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>Cigarette smoking during pregnancy:</i>		
1 to 3/day	12	9
>than 3/day	50	52
Do not smoke	875	814
Unspecified	1	1
<i>Alcohol consumption during pregnancy:</i>		
Up to 1unit/day	0	0
>than 1unit/day	0	0
None	937	875
Unspecified	1	1
<i>Drug Abuse during pregnancy</i>		
Yes	4	4
No	933	871
Unspecified	1	1

PATHOLOGY DURING PREGNANCY

The table below gives the number of mothers recorded with a specific obstetric pathology during pregnancy.

The most frequently recorded pathology during pregnancy was gestational hypertension, there were in fact 6% of mothers who were registered as having gestational hypertension in the second quarter of 2005.

<i>Pathology recorded during pregnancy</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2005</i>			<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>		
	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Unspecified</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Unspecified</i>
Antepartum Haemorrhage	926	11	1	865	8	3
Gestational hypertension	879	58	1	832	43	1
Pre-eclampsia	936	1	1	873	3	0
Placenta praevia	934	3	1	874	2	0
Abruption of placenta	937	0	1	874	2	0
Assisted fertilisation (ART)	932	5	1	871	5	0
Cardiovascular disease	934	1	3	876	0	0

DIABETES IN PREGNANCY

In the second quarter of this year, there were 3 mothers who were reported as being Insulin Dependent Diabetic before this pregnancy while there were no mothers reported with Non-Insulin Dependent diabetes prior to pregnancy. In addition, there were a total of 29 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 this year, there were a total of 925 (98.6%) singleton and 12 (1.3%) twin deliveries, there was one triplet delivery and no quadruplet deliveries.

<i>Category</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>
Singleton	925	865
Twin	12	11
Triplet	1	0
Quadruplet	0	0

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the second quarter of this year, there was a total of 952 infant births.

The gender distribution of these births was 509 (53%) males and 443 (47%) females (*2nd quarter 2004: males – 469; females – 418*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 952 infants born, 601 (63%) were delivered as a vertex delivery, 304 (32%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 47 (5%) by assisted vaginal delivery (includes forceps, ventouse and breech).

<i>Method of Birth*</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>
Infants delivered by vertex delivery	601	595
Infants delivered by emergency/elective Caesarean Section	304	266
Infants delivered by forceps	2	1
Infants delivered by ventouse	44	25
Breech deliveries	1	0

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 304 babies delivered by caesarian section but 290 caesarian operations performed, this due to the fact that a number of caesarians are done in multiple birth deliveries. The Caesarean section operation rate is 30.9% of the total maternal deliveries (938) this quarter.

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the second quarter of 2005, there were 893 (94%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4999g. 49 (5%) of the total births were in the low birth weight range of 1500g to 2499g, 8 (1%) of births were of very low birth weight 500g to 1499g. In two cases the birth weight was unspecified. No babies were reported with birth weight of less than 500g or of 5000g or more.

<i>Birth weights</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>
<500g	0	0
500-999g	4	2
1000-1499g	4	3
1500-1999g	5	14
2000-2499g	44	44
2500-2999g	193	191
3000-3499g	422	368
3500-3999g	235	213
4000-4499g	37	47
4500-4999g	6	3
5000+	0	1
Unspecified	2	1
Average Birth weight (g)	3236	3245

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the second quarter of this year was 951 which accounted for 99.9% of the total births at a national level. The remaining one birth was a stillbirth. There were 4 cases of early neonatal deaths and no cases of late neonatal deaths (see table below).

<i>Outcome of Birth</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>
Babies born alive	951	879
Stillbirths	1	8

Of the 951 live births this quarter, there were 4 early neonatal deaths and no late neonatal deaths registered.

<i>Neonatal Deaths</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	4	1
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>2nd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>2nd Quarter 2004</i>
Breast only	598	500
Bottle only	261	232
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	86	139
Other*	6	11
Unspecified	1	5

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

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St. Luke's / Karin Grech Hospital, Pieta

Gozo General Hospital, Victoria

St. James Hospital, Sliema

St. James Hospital, Zabbar

St. Philip's Hospital, Sta Venera.