



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

Third Quarterly Report: July to September 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 third 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 963 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the third quarter of 2005, which resulted in a total of 975 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 24 births (999 births reported in 3rd 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 third quarter of 2005, the greatest number of deliveries (39%), occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years while there were no deliveries in the age group <15 years. There were 2 deliveries in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of the mothers was 15 years while the maximum age was 47 years. The most frequent age at delivery was 27 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 2005</i>		<i>3rd Quarter 2004</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
<15	0	0	1	<1
15-19	39	4	72	7
20-24	174	18	191	20
25-29	374	39	356	37
30-34	269	28	250	26
35-39	84	9	83	9
40-44	21	2	22	2
45+	2	<1	0	0
Unspecified	0	0	0	0

Marital Status:

For the third quarter of 2005, 18% (174) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were reported as single (never married); while 80% (769) of all deliveries occurred to mothers reported as married, and 2% (20) of mothers were reported as widowed, separated or divorced. Marital status was specified for all deliveries.

In the third quarter of 2005, only one of the mothers was registered as not having 'Support at home to raise the infant'.

Nationality:

94% (902) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 6% (56) were Non-Maltese. In the remaining <1% (5) nationality was not specified.

Parity:

There were 48% (462) of mothers who were primiparas while 52% (501) were multiparas in the third quarter of 2005.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 63 (7%) of 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 1 (<1%) was reported as being a drug abuser.

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

Maternal Lifestyles	3rd Quarter 2005	3rd Quarter 2004
	No.	No.
Cigarette smoking during pregnancy:		
1 to 3/day	11	27
>than 3/day	52	53
Do not smoke	890	891
Unspecified	10	4
Alcohol consumption during pregnancy:		
Up to 1unit/day	0	0
>than 1unit/day	0	0
None	953	973
Unspecified	10	2
Drug Abuse during pregnancy		
Yes	1	5
No	952	968
Unspecified	10	2

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PREGNANCY

In the third quarter of 2005, there were 7 cases of assisted reproduction (ART) reported, this includes all forms of ART namely ovulation stimulation, IVF and ICSI (*18 cases of ART reported in 3rd quarter 2004*).

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 7% of mothers who were registered as having gestational hypertension in the third quarter of 2005.

Conditions recorded during pregnancy	3rd Quarter 2005			3rd Quarter 2004		
	No	Yes	Unspecified	No	Yes	Unspecified
Antepartum Haemorrhage	956	7	0	962	13	0
Gestational hypertension	896	66	1	913	61	1
Pre-eclampsia	958	5	0	970	5	0
Placenta praevia	956	7	0	971	4	0
Abruption of placenta	961	2	0	973	2	0
Cardiovascular disease	962	1	0	967	0	8

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 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 third quarter of this year, there were a total of 952 (99%) singleton and 10 (1%) twin deliveries, there was 1 triplet delivery and no quadruplet deliveries.

<i>Category</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2004</i>
Singleton	952	957
Twin	10	14
Triplet	1	2
Quadruplet	0	2

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the third quarter of this year, there were a total of 975 infant births.

Unlike the usual trend, there were more female infants born than male, the gender distribution for this quarter was 482 (49%) males and 493 (51%) females (*3rd quarter 2004: males – 528; females – 471*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 975 infants born, 641 (66%) were delivered as a vertex delivery, 290 (30%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 44 (5%) by assisted vaginal delivery (includes forceps, ventouse and breech).

<i>Method of Birth*</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2004</i>
Infants delivered by vertex delivery	641	666
Infants delivered by emergency/elective Caesarean Section	290	288
Infants delivered by forceps	1	6
Infants delivered by ventouse	41	39
Breech deliveries	2	0

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 290 babies delivered by caesarian section but 279 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 29% of the total maternal deliveries (963) this quarter.

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the third quarter of 2005, there were 911 (93%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4999g. 58 (6%) of the total births were in the low birth weight range of 1500g to 2499g, 5 (<1%) of births were of very low birth weight 500g to 1499g. In one case 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>3rd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2004</i>
<500g	0	0
500-999g	4	6
1000-1499g	1	9
1500-1999g	6	20
2000-2499g	52	56
2500-2999g	211	223
3000-3499g	413	401
3500-3999g	241	234
4000-4499g	42	47
4500-4999g	4	3
5000+	0	0
Unspecified	1	0
Average Birth weight (g)	3230	3182

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the third quarter of this year was 972 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 2005</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2004</i>
Babies born alive	972	997
Stillbirths	3	2

Of the 972 live births this quarter, there were 3 early neonatal deaths and 1 late neonatal death registered.

<i>Neonatal Deaths</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2005</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2004</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	3	5
Late Neonatal deaths	1	4

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 2005</i>	<i>3rd Quarter 2004</i>
Breast only	589	547
Bottle only	290	322
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	85	112
Other*	8	13
Unspecified	3	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

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St. James Hospital, Sliema

St. James Hospital, Zabbar

St. Philip's Hospital, Sta Venera.