



NATIONAL OBSTETRIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NOIS)

MALTA

First Quarterly Report: January to March 2006

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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 first quarter of 2006 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 955 maternities/deliveries registered in the Maltese Islands for the first quarter of 2006, which resulted in a total of 972 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 17 births (955 births reported in 1st quarter 2005).

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 first quarter of 2006, the greatest number of deliveries (34%), occurred in the age group 25 to 29 years while there were no deliveries in the age group <15 years and in the 45+ age group. The minimum age of the mothers was 15 years while the maximum age was 44 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>1st Quarter 2006</i>		<i>1st Quarter 2005</i>	
	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>
<15	0	0	0	0
15-19	44	5	57	6
20-24	176	18	163	17
25-29	328	34	358	38
30-34	296	31	274	29
35-39	99	10	67	7
40-44	12	1	16	2
45+	0	0	1	<1
Unspecified	0	0	0	0

Marital Status:

For the first quarter of 2006, 19% (179) of all deliveries occurred to mothers who were reported as single (never married); while 80% (762) of all deliveries occurred to mothers reported as married, and 1% (14) of mothers were reported as widowed, separated or divorced. Marital status was specified for all deliveries.

In the first quarter of 2006, all mothers were registered as having ‘Support at home to raise the infant’.

Nationality:

91% (871) of all deliveries this quarter, occurred to women of Maltese nationality while 8% (75) were Non-Maltese. In the remaining 1% (9) nationality was not specified.

Parity:

There were 53% (507) of mothers who were primiparas while 47% (448) were multiparas in the first quarter of 2006.

MATERNAL LIFESTYLES

There were 31 (3%) 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 first quarters of 2006 and 2005.

Maternal Lifestyles	1st Quarter 2006	1st Quarter 2005
	No.	No.
Cigarette smoking during pregnancy:		
1 to 3/day	7	10
>than 3/day	24	46
Do not smoke	912	879
Unspecified	12	0
Alcohol consumption during pregnancy:		
Up to 1unit/day	0	0
>than 1unit/day	0	0
None	943	935
Unspecified	12	1
Drug Abuse during pregnancy		
Yes	1	3
No	942	932
Unspecified	12	1

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF PREGNANCY

In the first quarter of 2006, there were 11 cases of assisted reproduction (ART) reported, this includes all forms of ART namely ovulation stimulation, IVF and ICSI (21 cases of ART reported in 1st quarter 2005).

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 5% of mothers who were registered as having gestational hypertension in the first quarter of 2006.

Conditions recorded during pregnancy	1st Quarter 2006			1st Quarter 2005		
	No	Yes	Unspecified	No	Yes	Unspecified
Antepartum Haemorrhage	948	7	0	923	13	0
Gestational hypertension	907	48	0	873	62	1
Pre-eclampsia	947	8	0	932	4	0
Placenta praevia	945	10	0	934	2	0
Abruption of placenta	952	3	0	935	1	0
Cardiovascular disease	954	1	0	936	0	0

Diabetes in Pregnancy

In the first 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 8 mothers registered with gestational diabetes who were controlled without the use of insulin, and 1 mother registered as having gestational diabetes treated with insulin.

CATEGORY OF MATERNITY ACCORDING TO DELIVERY

For the first quarter of 2006, there were a total of 940 (98%) singleton and 13 (1%) twin deliveries, there were 2 triplet deliveries and no quadruplet deliveries.

<i>Category</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2006</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2005</i>
Singleton	940	917
Twin	13	19
Triplet	2	0
Quadruplet	0	0

INFANT BIRTHS

TOTAL INFANT BIRTHS AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the first quarter of this year, there were a total of 972 infant births.

There were more male infants born than female, the gender distribution for this quarter was 523 (54%) males and 449 (46%) females (*1st quarter 2005: males – 495; females – 460*).

INFANTS AND METHOD OF BIRTH

Of the 972 infants born, 580 (60%) were delivered as a vertex delivery, 358 (37%) by emergency or elective Caesarean Section and 34 (3%) by assisted vaginal delivery (includes forceps, ventouse and breech).

<i>Method of Birth*</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2006</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2005</i>
Infants delivered by vertex delivery	579	621
Infants delivered by emergency/elective Caesarean Section	359	294
Infants delivered by forceps	3	1
Infants delivered by ventouse	31	38
Breech deliveries	0	1

**Data analysed according to total infant births*

This quarter there were 359 babies born by caesarian section but 342 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 35.8% of the total maternal deliveries (955) this quarter.

INFANT BIRTH WEIGHTS

In the first quarter of 2006, there were 899 (92%) of the total births that occurred in the birth weight range of 2500g to 4999g. 57 (6%) of the total births were in the low birth weight range of 1500g to 2499g, 15 (2%) of births were of very low birth weight 500g to 1499g. In 1 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>1st Quarter 2006</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2005</i>
<500g	0	0
500-999g	5	4
1000-1499g	10	4
1500-1999g	10	13
2000-2499g	47	51
2500-2999g	230	194
3000-3499g	410	422
3500-3999g	211	219
4000-4499g	43	43
4500-4999g	5	4
5000+	0	0
Unspecified	1	1
Average Birth weight (g)	3188	3218

OUTCOME OF BIRTH

The number of live births for the first quarter of this year was 969 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>1st Quarter 2006</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2005</i>
Babies born alive	969	954
Stillbirths	3	1

Of the 969 live births this quarter, there was 1 early neonatal deaths and no late neonatal deaths registered.

<i>Neonatal Deaths</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2006</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2005</i>
Early Neonatal deaths	1	5
Late Neonatal deaths	0	3

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>1st Quarter 2006</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2005</i>
Breast only	575	559
Bottle only	256	275
Mixed (Breast & Bottle)	121	111
Other*	19	10
Unspecified	1	0

* '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.