

Iraq National Youth and Adolescents Survey 2009

Summary Report

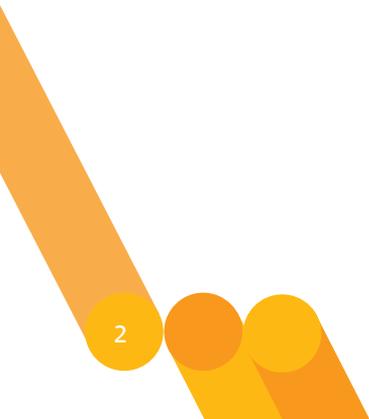
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- الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء وتكنولوجيا المعلومات

- وزارة الرياضة والشباب / إقليم كردستان
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بالتعاون مع

- مكتب العراق (UNFPA) صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان
- المشروع العربي لصحة الأسرة في جامعة الدول العربية (PAPFAM)







The Iraqi Government's Statement

Youth explores the future of any society; they indicate the role of generation building and preparation to assume their duties and responsibilities in the history of nations. Henceforth, it is quite important to study youth knowledge, perceptions and behavior. In this context, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) along with the Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) have conducted the National Youth and Adolescent Survey (NYS) in Iraq 2009. NYS addresses a set of important issues and aspects related to youth aged (10-30) years. It constitutes a prerequisite to compile Iraq's national youth strategy. NYS was launched with technical and organizational support provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Pan-Arab Project for Family Health in the League of Arab States (PAPFAM).

The main objective of this project is to study the knowledge, attitudes and behavior of youth and adolescents aged (10-30) years, to shape out a well defined strategy for youth in Iraq that would fulfill the ambitions and needs of this age category. A comprehensive detailed database on this age group would facilitate the work of planners and decision-makers and to deliver media messages that would improve the knowledge, attitudes and practices of youth and to develop them and direct them to help raise their standards in terms of body building, psychology, social and cultural levels.

The launching of the survey was made possible through a collective efforts made available by the teams of the Ministry of Youth and Sports at both the working center in Bagdad and in the Governorates. In addition to the key role of the COSIT, which is considered the specialized technical reference for statistical work in Iraq according to the ratified Statistics Law, whereby the competent field and office researchers devoted all their efforts to accomplish the preparatory stage and to implement the survey. NYS is the second youth survey in Iraq. It is important in particular after the major changes took place on the structure of Iraqi society in general and in the youth category in particular after 2003 events.

This accomplishment is considered the fruits of an outstanding scientific cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Pan-Arab Project for Family Health in the League of Arab States (PAPFAM) where the preparation for the survey, the management of its methodology and logistics were all accomplished through an important coordination and cooperation between the mentioned entities, which contributed to the enhancement of the national capabilities in implementing that specialized survey.

We are pleased to present this document to all those interested in developing Iraqi youth to work together for the development of the coming generations and to ensure a distinguished progress of their ambitions and expectations.

We also appreciate the great effort exerted by UNFPA Iraq office and PAPFAM as well as all the international and regional experts and consultants who contributed to the preparation of this survey. In particular, the representatives of UNICEF/Iraq office, WHO/Iraq Office, UNDP, and UNESCO/Iraq office. We are grateful to national teams of the MoYS and COSIT, Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office (KRSO) fieldworkers, as well as members of the High Committee who have accomplished one of the most important statistical surveys. We are also thankful to the efforts

of the national experts who contributed in preparing and revising the work methodologies and the results of the survey, especially the experts of the Ministries of Health, High Education and Scientific Research, Labor and Social Affairs, Education/Kurdistan region and the Parliamentary experts. We hope that Iraq will overpass the current difficulties for the sake of the happiness of the beloved Iraqi people.

Ali Ghaleb Baban
Minister of Planning and
Development Cooperation
2009

Jasem Mohamed Jafar
Minister of Youth and Sports
2009

Executive Summary

COSIT and MoYS launched the NYS to complete demographic and health databases necessary for planners and policy makers, within the framework of preparing the national strategy for youth. NYS was compiled in cooperation with KRSO along with the Ministry of Sports and Youth in KRG, and the support provided by UNFPA and PAPFAM.

The survey sample comprised 6492 households completely interviewed; these households are distributed across all governorates and included 15080 persons in the age of (10-30) years old who were completely interviewed. Data collection took place during the period from 25/3/2009 to 13/4/2009.

The objectives of the survey were summarized in the study of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of adolescents and youth in the selected age category especially after the political and social changes that Iraq witnessed since 2003. It also aimed at establishing a detailed database, comprising the educational, force labor, health, social and psychological characteristics as well as the prevalence of disabilities and the attitudes of youth towards those with disabilities; it looked into information technology and how far are the youth using it and making use of it; and it shed light on youth participations in social activities, civil rights, citizenship and the security situations.

1. General Characteristics

The results of the survey showed a higher rate of married females in comparison with their male counterpart; and that most of the youth live with their families in independent residencies mostly owned by their families.

2. Education and Information Technology

As is expected, the percentage of education enrolment is high among both genders, although it is a bit higher among males in comparison with their female counterparts. On the other hand, the percentage of drop-outs among those aged (15-24) years old is higher compared to their counterparts at the age of (10-14), and the desire not to continue education was the main reason behind dropping out from school.

Concerning information technology, the data showed meager levels of computer literacy and internet use among interviewed youth and adolescents and that around half of them own mobile phones, although the percentage is higher among males if compared to females.

3. Employment

It is observed that less than a quarter of the interviewed individuals were employed at the time of the survey and this figure is doubled those aged (25-30) years. The percentage for employed males reaches around five times the percentage of employed females, and around 13% of the employed individuals stated that they were not convinced with the work they are practicing.

4. Health and Reproductive Health

Around 90% expressed their good state of health and around half of them said they do not eat fast food, especially females.

Three out of every four of interviewed youth said they were satisfied with themselves at the present time and more than half of them feel happy, while three out of every five feel optimistic, this percentage is higher among females compared with to males' counterparts.

Turning to the practice of sports and hobbies, a very low rate of sports practice was noticed, whereby it was revealed that one out of every eight persons goes to sports clubs and forums, and that the percentage of females is very low when compared to males. Around half of the interviewees stated that the reason behind such a low percentage was the nonexistence of a nearby club.

The results of the survey certified that youth had complete knowledge and awareness of the symptoms of maturity and that the percent of knowledge among females was higher than it is among males.

Data showed no noticeable difference between males and females in the age they find ideal for marriage. It also confirmed that the decision to use birth control means was a joint decision between husband and wife.

It was also proved that the awareness of sexually-transmitted diseases, including the HIV/AIDS is still below the necessary level; and that around 85% of those who know about AIDS believe that the infected person must be isolated. As to those who predict a probable increase in the percentage of AIDS sufferers, they have rationalized it with the lack of or weak commitment to the ethical and religious values.

5. Media & Culture

It is observed that the television is the most important media that the surveyed youth turn to and that around 80% want to watch social films while one fifth of them practice reading, half of the latter group read books, and around 43% read magazines.

6. Social Participation and citizenship

The surveyed stated that youth find the political organizations the most important relative to all other organizations.

Three out of every 5 youth surveyed stressed that the respect of the others' rights is considered one of his most important duties as a citizen. It was also observed that women's participation in the elections was less compared with their males' counterpart.

Around 63% of males and 75% of females conveyed that women in general occupy the same social status as men. And the majority of those surveyed stressed the necessity that both men and women must jointly take all family decisions.

Around two thirds of the youth surveyed stated that terrorist operations constitute the chief cause behind the unstable security and that the launch of the reconstruction operations is one of the vital steps needed to realize stability.

The following table indicates a portrayal of the most important indicators according to the age groups while annex number 1 indicates the differences between governorates.

Main Indicators

Indicator	Youth at the Age of			
	(10-30)	(10-14)	(15-24)	(25-30)
Employment				
% of youth working at the time of the survey	23.3	6.5	23.6	46.3
% of youth supportive of women's work	57.1	54.5	52.3	63.9
% of youth supportive of early employment	30.6	49.0	32.3	24.7
Health and AIDS				
% of those suffering from chronic diseases	4.8	4.5	4.3	6.4
% of those knowing any means of water treatment	90.9	82.4	93.9	95.2
Youth at the age of	(15-30)		(15-24)	(25-30)
% of those who know about AIDS	74.6		72.6	79.6
% of those who know that a healthy person may be carrying HIV	44.6		42.5	49.2
% of those who know a place for AIDS tests	22.7		20.8	27.0
% of those who see a necessity to isolate AIDS patients	84.6		83.7	86.5
% of those willing to share food with AIDS patients	7.6		7.9	6.8
% of those willing to shake hands with an AIDS patient	14.3		14.1	14.8
Youth at the age of	(12-30)	(12-14)	(15-24)	(25-30)
Female Reproductive Health				
% of female who know any sign of female puberty	94.5	79.6	97.9	99.0
% of those who know about reproductive health	57.8	29.8	60.5	74.7
% of those who see that marriage among relatives has negative health repercussions	33.2	15.2	35.6	42.5
% of those who see it necessary to conduct pre-marital checkups	88.0	75.0	90.5	93.0
% of those who see the appropriate interval between births is 3+ years	13.7	9.5	15.1	13.8
% of those who see the appropriate number of pregnancy checkup visits 4+	51.8	28.8	52.5	69.1
% of those who know of family planning methods	77.3	46.3	81.1	94.0
% of pregnant women who had antenatal care	78.7	*	71.5	83.1
% of users of family planning methods	37.7	*	33.9	40.7
Male Reproductive Health				
% of male who know any sign of male puberty	91.4	73.5	95.2	97.7

% of those who know about reproductive health	50.5	23.2	51.5	72.1
% of those who see that marriage among relatives has negative health repercussions	29.8	14.5	31.1	40.0
% of those who know of family planning methods	73.2	38.5	77.2	93.9
% of those who know of condoms	13.8	2.8	13.6	24.3
Youth at the age of	(10-30)	(10-14)	(15-24)	(25-30)
Nutrition				
% of those who know of a balanced diet	40.7	26.1	44.9	50.6
% of those who don't consume fast food	48.7	52.6	46.8	47.8
% of those who know how nutrition affects human health	36.9	31.5	39.3	38.7
% of those who care about their weight	33	25.6	35.9	36.5
Psychological and Social Health				
% of those self-satisfied at present	75.5	84.5	73.0	69.2
% of those feeling happy at present	58.7	73.6	53.3	51.0
% of those with specific interests	85.1	82.0	85.6	88.1
% of those with specific goals in life	88.4	85.8	90.1	87.9
% of optimistic youth	60.1	70.8	56.9	52.9
% of those who perceive women of equal standing with men in general	68.7	59.8	71.8	73.4
% of those who see that politics is monopolized by men	30.5	25.2	31.6	35.2
% of those who see that women can play leading roles in the government	71.2	64.2	73.9	74.6
% of those who support the use of force to solve problems always or sometimes	35.6	27.8	37.6	41.5
Media and Culture				
% of those who watch the TV	96.7	95.9	97.5	95.6
% of those who listen to the Radio	37.9	22.4	41.8	49.9
% of those who read	21.5	14.6	23.5	26.4
% of those who perceive they have a specific role in preserving their heritage	47.6	33.2	51.0	59.3
Youths and Sports				
% of those who go to sports clubs/forums	12.5	11.7	13.7	10.7
% of those who like to practice sports as activities	32.0	34.8	33.0	25.8
% of those with specific hobbies to practice	63.4	61.5	64.2	64.0
Disability				
% of those who accept to befriend people with disabilities	83.5	82.5	83.1	85.8

% of those who accept to study with people with disabilities	87.0	87.7	86.7	87.1
% of those who accept to work with people with disabilities	76.8	77.5	76.1	77.4
% of those who accept to marry people with disabilities	14.1	13.2	13.3	17.1
% of those who know how to rehabilitate people with disabilities	72.4	55.7	77.1	84.4
Percentage of interviewed youth with disabilities	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.7
Information Technology				
% of computer literates	35.2	23.3	40.0	40.0
% of internet users	13.0	4.2	15.9	18.4
% of internet users for the aim of study or research	44.6	30.8	49.1	39.3
% of mobile phone owners	51.3	15.6	61.2	77.2
Youths and Security				
% of those who perceive terrorist groups as leading to a state of unstable security	66.5	58.4	68.2	73.8
% of those who perceive occupation as leading to a state of unstable security	39.2	34.4	41.1	41.3
% of those who perceive reconstruction and the eradication of unemployment as leading to stability and security	53.2	37.8	57.5	64.5
% of those who go through their daily lives securely	60.6	66.7	59.0	55.9
Youth Participation				
% of those wanting to participate in social activities	27.3	23.3	28.2	30.7
% of those who see they have a chance to discuss their opinions and let their voices be heard in political institutions	5.8	3.9	5.9	8.1
% of those who perceive youth as uninterested in social issues	27.0	21.0	29.7	28.9
% of those who see youth not trusting political work	41.4	28.6	45.3	49.7
% of those who perceive that political parties are important in public life	33.9	25.6	35.8	40.8
% of those who see that youth must take part in political activities	62.2	48.9	66.2	71.3
% of those who have a say in their marriage	56.2	36.9	61.3	70.7
Youth at the age of	(18-30)		(18-24)	(25-30)
Civil Rights and Citizenship				
% of those who perceive that the most vital right is that all Iraqis be equal under the law without discrimination	40.6		39.8	41.7
% of those who already participated in the national general elections	70.4		62.8	82.7

% of those who plan to participate in the upcoming elections	86.9	86.2	88.0
% of those who feel discriminated against due to religion or ethnicity	10.6	10.0	11.5
% of those who feel discriminated against due to patriotism	8.4	8.4	8.3
% of those who feel discriminated against due to gender	9.8	10.1	9.3
% of those who feel discriminated against due to political stances	9.3	8.9	10.0
% of those who support political transformations	56.7	55.3	58.9
% of those who talk to people who differ with them	61.5	60.4	63.2
% of those who perceive an enhancement in the economic status compared with last year	64.2	63.9	64.6
% of those who can express their opinion more openly than before	75.2	74.6	76.1
% of those who want to emigrate	16.8	16.9	16.6

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Chapter One **1**

Objectives and Methodology

1-1 Introduction

COSIT and MoYS in cooperation with KRSO launched NYS2009 with the support of the UNFPA and PAPFAM, to address a set of issues related to youth knowledge, perceptions and behaviors. The implementation of this survey comes as one of the essential requirements necessary to prepare a national strategy for this population category which was exposed to certain conditions and repercussions of wars, economic sanctions, terrorism and violence in Iraq.

1-2 Survey Objectives

NYS aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Studying knowledge, attitudes and practices of youth and adolescents aged (10-30) years, especially after the political and social transformations which Iraq went through since 2003, with the aim of drawing a clear national strategy for youth that would answer all their needs and ambitions
- Establishing a database on youth to assist researchers, planners, decision-makers and policymakers in preparing the health, social and developmental plans and programmes that aim at enhancing their social, economic, and cultural and health conditions.

1-3 Survey Tools and Methodology

To achieve the survey objectives, a questionnaire was designed consisting of the following sections:

- Identification information of the household and the housing unit
- Individuals aged (10-30) years background
- Education (Students aged (10-30) years)
- Work and employment for the ages (10-30) years old
- Health for the ages (10-30) years
- Sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS for the ages (15-30) years old
- Reproductive health for females aged (12-30) years
- Reproductive health for males aged (12-30) years
- Nutrition status for the ages (10-30) years old
- Psychological and social health and leisure time for the ages of (10-30) years old
- Media and Culture for the ages (10-30) years old
- Youth and Sports for the ages (10-30) years old
- Disability for the ages (10-30) years old
- Youth and Information Technology for the ages (10-30) years old
- Youth and security for the ages (10-30) years old
- Youth Participation for the ages (10-30) years old
- Civil rights and citizenship for the ages (18-30) years old

A number of meetings and experts' gatherings were held with the partaking of representatives from the participating organizations and entities connected to the COSIT and MoYS; KRSO; MoSY at KRG; UNFPA and PAPFAM, in addition to the ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, and the Syrian Organization

for Family Affairs, where the questionnaire was thoroughly discussed and its final version was devised. The period of data collection lasted from the 25th of March to the 13th of April 2009, and survey data was entered using CSPro software package and analyzed using SPSS.

1-4 Sample Design and Method of Selecting Sampling Units

The sample of the Iraq national youth and adolescent's survey for the year 2009 was designed to be representative at the governorates level with a confidence interval of 95% and a margin of error of 7%. It was taken into account, while deciding on the sample size, to address the bias resulting from the adoption of the cluster method in selection households and also to address the possible non-response rate due to the fact that some households might not be cooperative with the interviewers while others may not be present in their homes during the fieldwork.

To compute indicators, we take into account the relative weight of the population in each stratum, so that indicators showed are weighted using factors computed so that sampled population present the same pattern as the real population, for example the population of Baghdad Governorate constitutes around 22.1% of the whole Iraqi population while the Muthna governorate constitutes around 2.2%, etc.

In light of the above, the sample size was 6730 households with 360 households in each governorate with the exception of Baghdad where the sample amounted to 610 families, distributed on different environments (urban central, Suburbs, and rural areas) whereby 2500 households were sampled from the urban central area against some 2250 in the Suburbs areas and 1980 households in the rural communities, on the level of Iraq as a whole.

The Targeted Group

With the aim of studying the status of youth and adolescents in Iraq in light of what they have witnessed from circumstances and repercussions of wars, economic sanctions, terrorism, and violence, this survey focuses on the following two groups:

Population at the age of (10-less than 18 years old)	(19%)
Population at the age of (18-30 years old)	(23%)

This means that the survey targets an age group that constitutes around 42% of the Iraqi population. It is also observed that the targeted group encompasses a large segment but with different classifications and conditions, as the majority of the individuals at the age of (10-30) is at the education age of different levels while some of them have already joined the job market.

The design of the sample relied on the following criteria:

- Providing indicators with an adequate representation on the governorates level and on the environmental level in each governorate (urban central – suburbs – and rural), since the surveys, previously implemented over the past three years in Iraq, aimed at reaching that level of details.
- Adapting the available sample frames with the aim of selecting an adequate representative sample with the absence of a modern sample frame.
- Choosing a sampling design appropriate for Iraq current situation and facilitates completing fieldwork efficiently.

According to these criteria, the sample size was calculated using the following equation:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq(1 + NR)(DE)}{d^2 (HH's)(r)}$$

Where:

Z: is the limit of the confidence coefficient denoted with the tabled value of Z with a 5% degrees of freedom and is equal to 1.96

P: a percentage representing one of the survey variables (the percentage chosen was 0.5 to allow the enclosure of the highest variation expected among observations), and it is equal to 0.5

Pq: percentage variation and it is equal to 0.25

NR: non-response rate and it is equal to 4%

DE: Design Effects factor (Increasing the size of the sample here around twofold to address the bias resulting from the cluster sampling method), and it is equal to 1.8

HH'S: Average household size and it is equal to **6.6** in the urban areas

7.6 in the rural areas

6.9 (urban and rural areas)

r: percentage of individuals at the age of **(10-30)** years and it is equal to **42%**

d: acceptable deviation/ margin of error and it is equal to **7%**

The following table shows the distribution of the selected sample on governorates:

Distribution of the Selected Sample on the Iraqi Governorates

Governorate	Number of Families Included						Total	
	Urban central		Suburbs		Rural			
	Family	Individuals	Family	Individuals	Family	Individuals	Family	Individuals
Ninva	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Kirkuk	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Diala	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Anbar	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Baghdad	375	1050	125	350	110	350	610	1750
Babel	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Karbala	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Waset	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Saladin	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Najaf	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Qadiseyya	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Muthanna	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Thiqr	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Missan	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Basra	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Kurdistan region								

Dhook	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Erbil	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Sulaimanya	125	350	125	350	110	350	360	1050
Total	2500	7000	2250	6300	1980	6300	6730	19600

6492 households were interviewed with a response rate of 96.5%, while 15080 youth and adolescents were also interviewed with a total response rate of 92.6% (94.5% for females and 91.1% for males) that reached its utmost in the governorate of Najaf (100%) and its lowest was in As-Sulaimanya Governorate (73.2%).

Chapter Two 2 Characteristics of Youth

2-1 General Characteristics of Youth

Age and Gender structure

Table (1) shows the age and sex composition of youth according to the surrounding environment. It shows that 29% of the surveyed youth are between the age of (10-14) and that more than half of them are aged (15-24) years while the percentage of youth at the age of (25-30) represents around 21% of the total youth sampled.

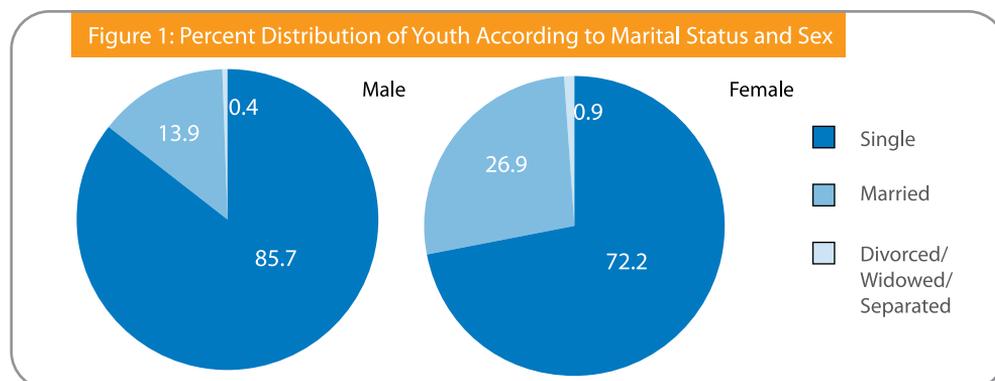
The table also demonstrates that 53.2% of the sampled youth are males against 46.8% of females, in addition to the differences in the age and sex structure according to the environment.

Table 1: Age and Sex Structure of Youth aged (10-30) According to the Environment

Characteristics	The Environment			Total
	Urban Central	Suburbs	Rural	
Age				
14 – 01	25.1	29.4	33.6	28.9
18 – 15	22.8	24.0	23.0	23.2
24 – 19	28.6	27.1	25.7	27.3
30 – 25	23.4	19.5	17.7	20.6
Gender				
Males	53.4	51.0	55.3	53.2
Females	46.6	49.0	44.7	46.8
Total	6261	4390	4429	15080

Marital Status

The results of the survey showed that one young male out of every five was married at the time of the survey, although the percentage of married youth females is around double that of the married males as in Figure (1)



As expected, the percentage of celibacy decreases among youth as they grow older whereby almost all youngsters at the age of (10-14) are single and the percentage keeps on decreasing until it reaches

40% among youth at the age of (25-30) years old.

2-2 Housing Conditions of Youth

The survey questionnaire included some questions concerned with housing; table (2) shows the distribution of youth according to some housing characteristics.

Table 2: Distribution of Youth at the age of (10-30) according to some housing characteristics

Housing characteristics	The Environment			Total
	Urban Central	Suburbs	Rural	
Type of Housing				
Independent	76.2	85.6	86.7	82.0
Shared	23.8	14.4	13.3	18.0
Type of Housing Unit				
House	95.3	97.3	97.2	96.4
Apartment	4.4	1.3	0.7	2.4
Cabin/Hut/Caravan	0.1	1.2	1.2	0.8
Others	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.4
House Ownership				
Owned	82.1	83.4	92.0	85.4
Rented	15.1	10.7	2.4	10.1
Free housing	2.4	5.2	5.1	4.0
Others	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5
Total	6261	4390	4429	15080

It is noticed that 82% of youth live in an independent separate house and this percentage increases in the Suburbs and rural areas. Moreover, the greater majority of youth live in houses and more than four fifth of the interviewed youth live in homes owned by their families.

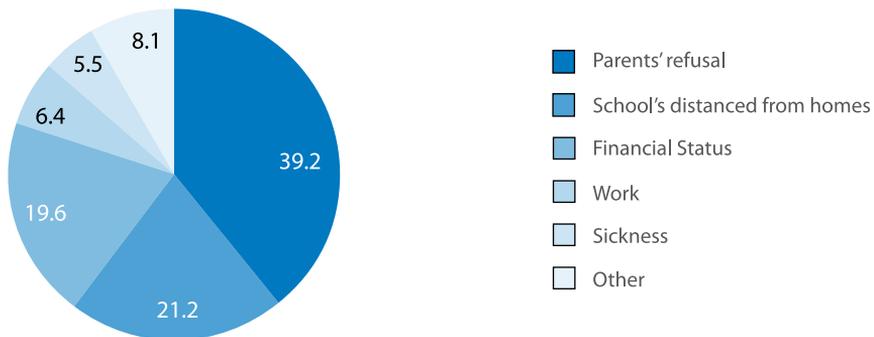
Chapter Three **3** Education and Technology

3-1 Enrollment in Education

The results of the survey showed that 6.2% of the youth aged (10-30) were never enrolled in education and this percentage lessens among younger youth aged (10-14) years to reach 4.5%, while it attains its highest level (8.4%) among youth aged (25-30) years.

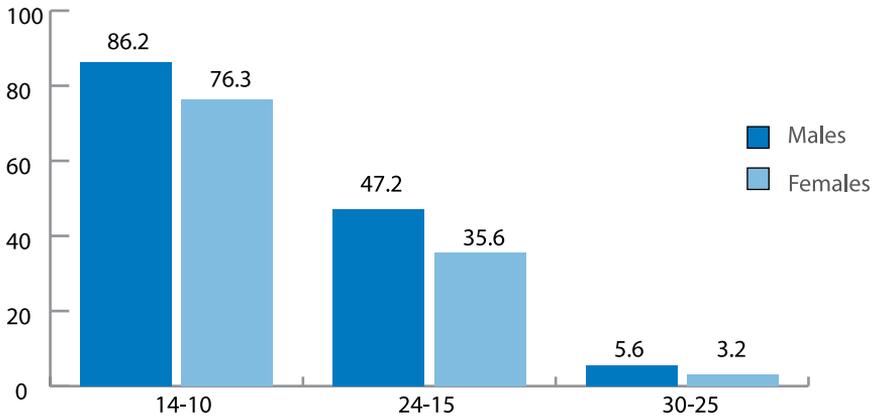
Parents' refusal was the main reason behind the non-enrollment in education with a percentage reaching 39.2% and this estimate decreases among males compared females. The long distance separating schools from homes and the financial status came as the second and third most common reasons, as shown in Figure (2).

Figure 2: Percent distribution of Youth at aged (10-30) who were not previously enrolled in Education according to the reason



45.6% of youth aged (10-30) years were enrolled in educational institutes during the time of the survey. This percentage increases to reach 81.7% among youngsters of (10-14) years. There are also differences between males and females.

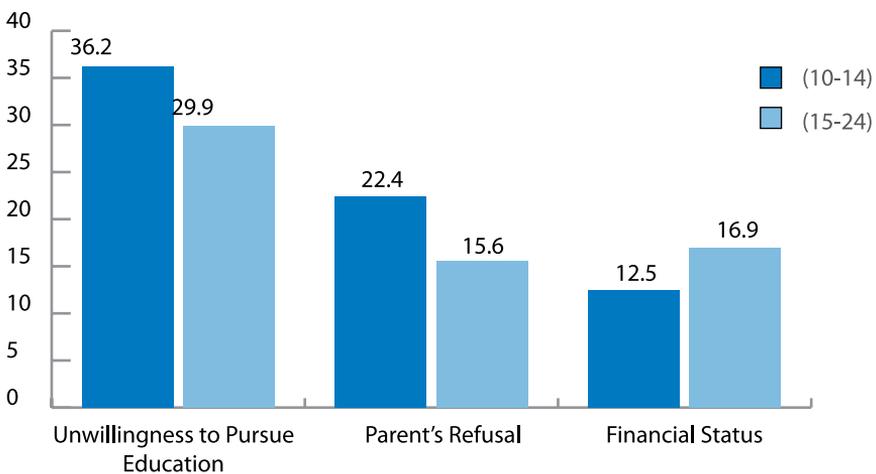
Figure 3 : Percentage of Youth aged (10-30) years currently enrolled in education by age and sex



3-2 Education Drop-Outs

Results have showed that 13.9% of youth aged (10-30) did not continue their education, while among youth of (15-24) years of age, this estimate surpasses the half. The main reason why youth of both age groups drop out is their unwillingness to pursue their education.

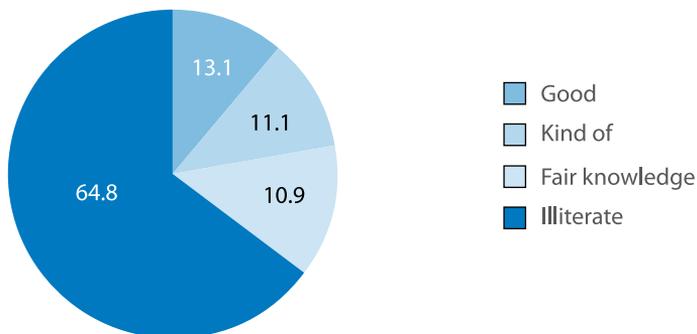
Figure 4 : Percentage of Youth who dropped out of education for specific reasons by age



3-3 Computer Literacy

Results showed that 35.2% of the Iraqi youth aged (10-30) know how to use computers while 13.1% of them described this knowledge as good as illustrated in Figure (5).

Figure 5 : Percent Distribution of youth aged (10-30) according to their perception of their knowledge of using computers

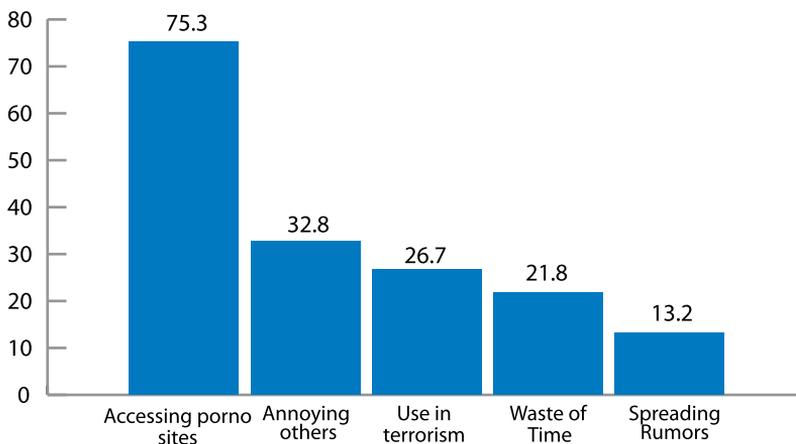


3-4 Internet Usage

Around 13% of youth use the internet and this estimate increases among males (17.5%) compared to females (7.9%). Surfing websites represents one of the essential areas of internet usage to 72.1% of youth against 51% who use it for chatting and communicating with others.

More than three quarters of youth using the Internet perceive that accessing porno sites is an abuse of the service, while 32.8% of them say that annoying and stepping over the rights of others is considered another facet of the Internet misuse. Approximately 27% of youth said that the Internet could be used in terrorism as another side of the maltreatment of the service.

Figure 6 : Percentage of Youth aged (10-30) who use the internet and perceive certain means of abusing the service



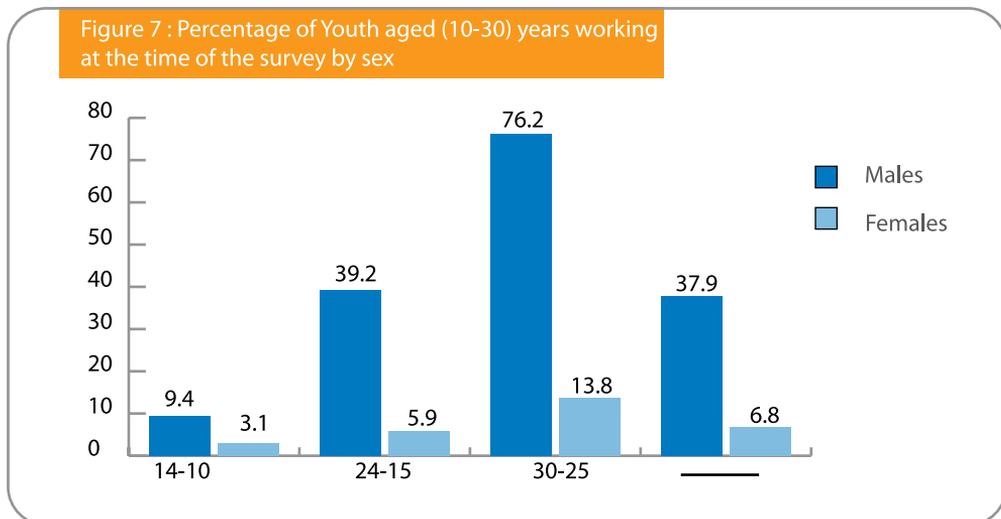
3-5 Mobile Phones

Results have shown that 51.3% of the Iraqi youth own mobile phones and this estimate increases among males (65.7%) compared to females (34.8%). Around 40% of those mobile owners perceive that the mobile phone cause some economic damage and around 27% of them specified that annoyingness is one of its negative effects while 23.2% said that it has health repercussions against 24% who do not perceive any harm using the mobile phones.

Chapter Four Employment

4-1 Joining the Job Market

Survey results showed that 23.3% of youth aged (10-30) years were working at the time of the survey, this percentage increases normally among youth aged (25-30) years to reach 46.3%. Meanwhile, the percentage of males employed at the time the survey was 37.9%, five times exceeding that percentage of working females which stood at 6.8% as indicated in Figure (7).

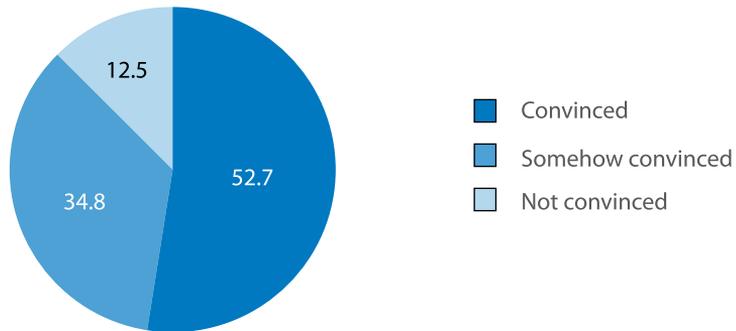


Results also indicate that one out of every four youth is either working at the time of the survey or used to work over the year that preceded the survey, while more than half of these (52.6%) worked because of the weak economic status.

4-2 Satisfaction with Work

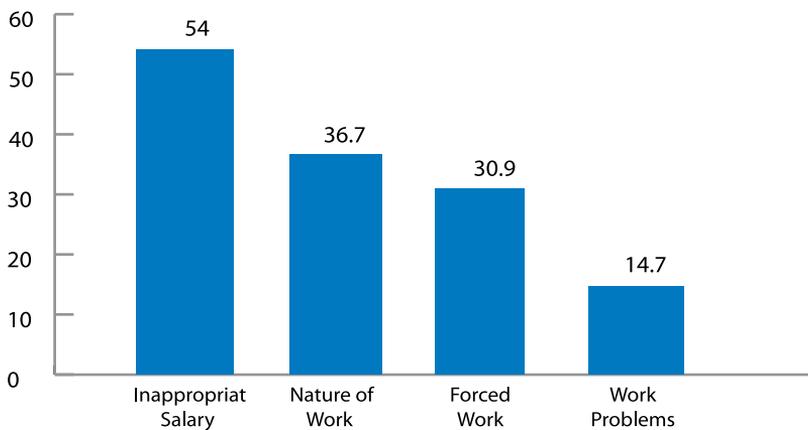
On the degree of satisfaction with work, results indicated that 12.5% of working youth were not convinced with their work as shown in Figure (8).

Figure 8 : Percent Distribution of working youth aged (10-30) years according to how they are convinced with their work



On the other hand, 54% of working youth who are not convinced with their work indicated that the salary they take is not suitable to the effort they exert nor their experience, while 36.7% of them were not convinced with their work for reasons related to the nature of work (Figure 9).

Figure 9 : Percentage of working youth not satisfied with their work by reason

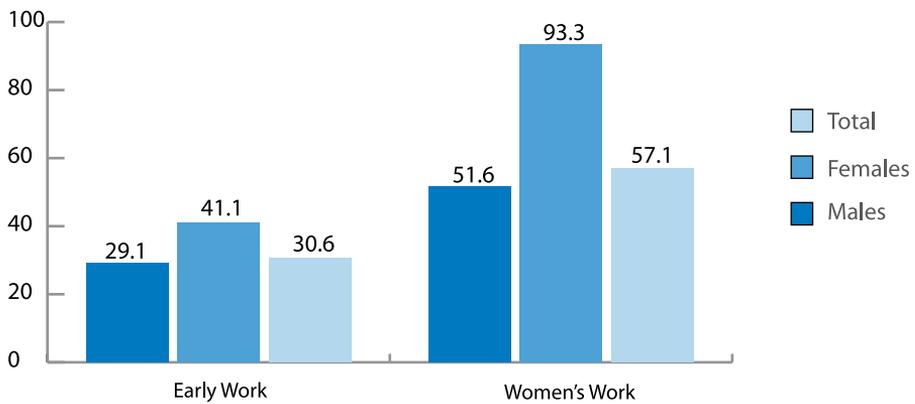


4-3 Attitudes

Survey results showed that 30.6% of youth aged (10-30) years old support staffing youth in the job market before they reach 15 years of age, although this percentage increases among females (41.1%) compared to males (29.1%). Around 70% of youth mentioned that dropping out from schools is one of the negative effects of early employment, in addition to 34% who perceive it as leading to the acquaintance of bad people.

Concerning women's work, 57.1% of youth aged (10-30) years supported women's work. This percentage significantly increases among women if compared to men, as indicated in Figure (10).

Figure 10 : Percentage of youth aged (10-30) who support women's work and early work by sex

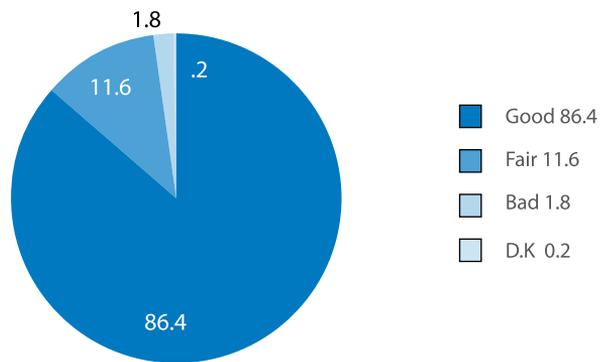


Chapter Five 5 Youth Health

5-1 Health Care

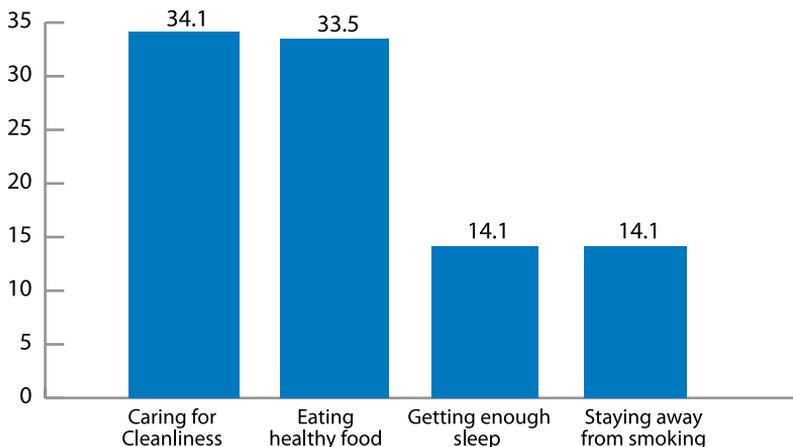
The results show that 86.4% of youth aged (10-30) years see that they are in good health and that 12% of them think they have an average health status as shown in Figure (11).

Figure 11 : Percent distribution of youth aged (10-30) years according to their assessment of their own health



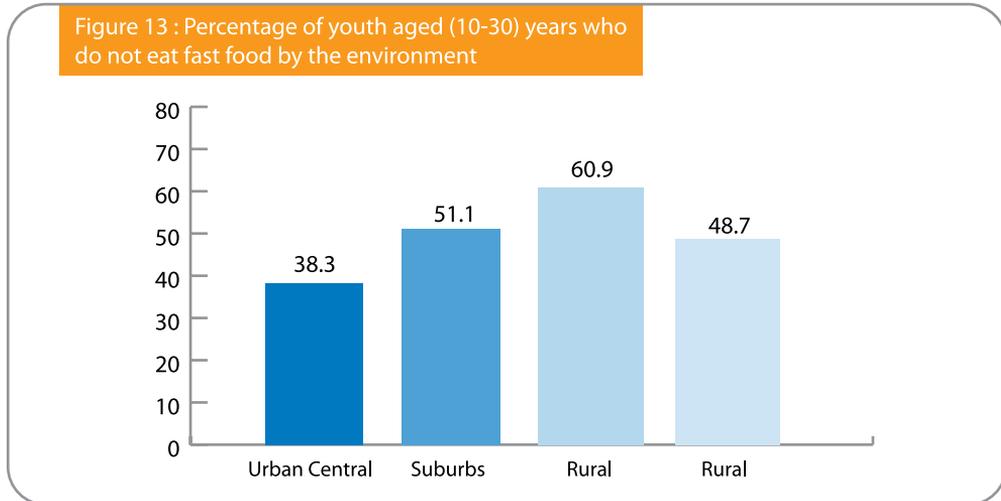
34.1% of youth take good care of their cleanliness to care for their health, while more than one third of them eat healthy food also with the aim of safeguarding their health figure (12).

Figure 12 : Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years who take special actions to care for their health



5-2 Health Status and Type and Quantity of Food

The results showed that 48.7% of youth at the age of (10-30) years old, do not eat fast food, while this percentage increases among females (62.1%) compared to males (36.9%). This percentage also differs depending on the environment, as shown in Figure (13).



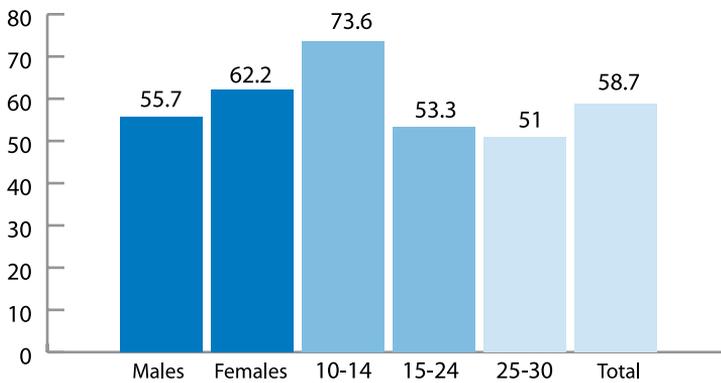
The study results indicated that the approximate number of times that the youth at the age of (10-30) years old eat snacks, out of those who eat fast food, reaches around two times per week.

On the issue of how far is a person affected by the quantity and quality of food he eats, 40.8% of youth believed that the quantity of food eaten has an impact on a person's health, against 38% of them who thought that the type of food is the main factor affecting the health. Meanwhile 36.9% of them saw that the quantity, quality and regular eating habits, all affect a person's health.

5-3 Psychological Health

Survey results indicate that more than three quarters of youth at the age of (10-30) years old in Iraq are currently satisfied with themselves and that 58.7% of them are happy although this percentage differs according to age and gender.

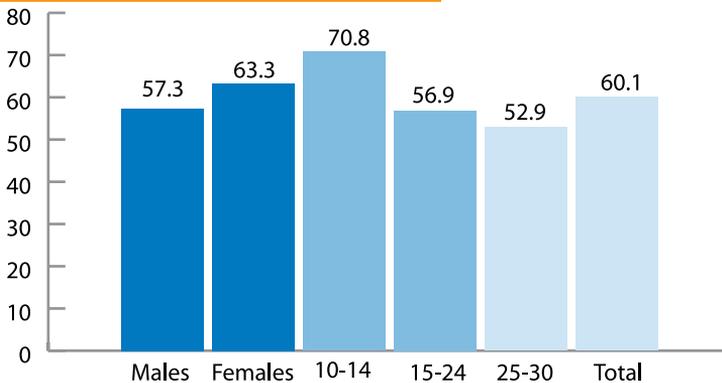
Figure 14 : Percentage of youth aged (10 – 30) years who feel happy at the present time by age and sex

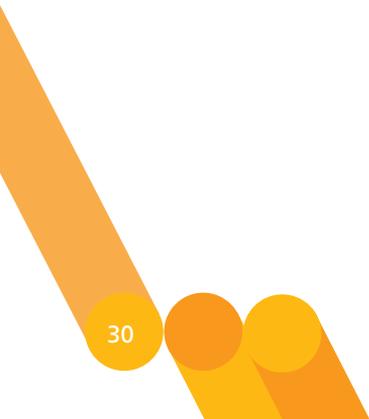


It was observed that the war worried 39.3% of the Iraqi youth and that 20.3% of them are worried due to the lack of security, while the bloody accidents disturb 19.2% of them.

Meanwhile, 60.1% of the Iraqi youth are optimistic. This percentage increases among the younger generation at the age of (10-14) years old, and among females more than males (Figure 15).

Figure 15 : Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years who are optimistic by age and sex





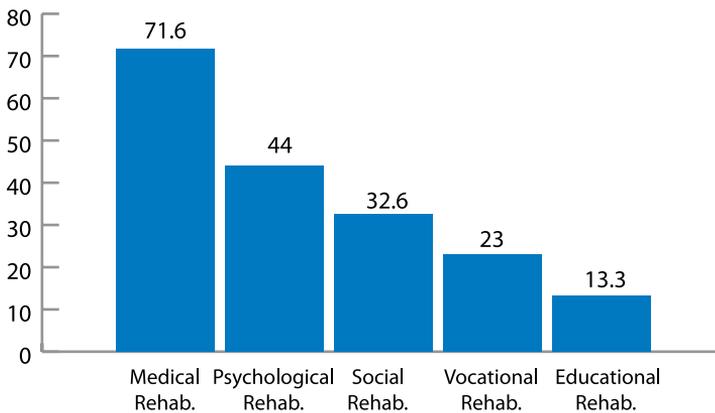
5-4 Disabilities

The results indicated that 1.1% of youth suffer from a disability and that 45.1% of these have a motion disability which in 54.8% of the cases was caused by birth defects since their delivery; nearly 14% were due to infectious diseases; and around 14% were caused by accidents and injuries.

In general, 48.8% of youth at the age of (10-30) years think that the disabled can be rehabilitated through General Medical Rehabilitation Centers, while 39.8% stated that they could be rehabilitated through Educational Institutes.

71.6% stated that the disabled are in need of medical rehabilitation against 44% who see that the disabled need psychological rehabilitation, as indicated in Figure (16).

Figure 16: Percentage of youth aged (10-30) who have an idea about rehabilitating the disabled and see they need different types of rehabilitation



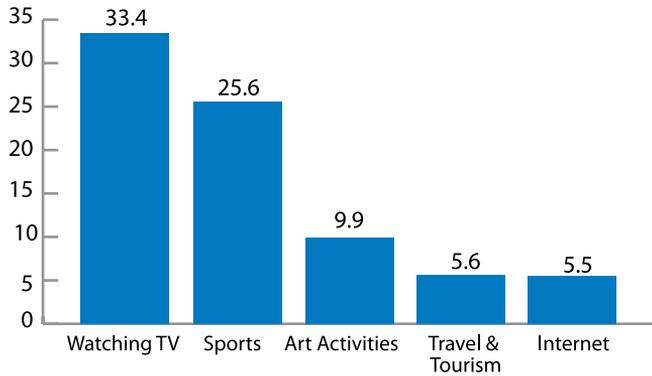
5-5 Practicing Sports and Hobbies

Results showed that only 12.5% of the Iraqi youth at the age of (10-30) years old go to sports clubs and forums, with a huge difference between males (21.6%) and females (2.1%).

45.8% of youth who do not go to sports clubs argue that the reason behind that is the lack of sports areas near their homes. The social and religious customs and traditions come as an obstacle, depriving 32.4% of youth from going to sports clubs. This percentage increases among females to reach 58.2%, significantly exceeding the same estimate among males (4.3%).

It is noticed that 36.6% of the Iraqi youth do not have any hobbies to practice, while watching the television is considered a hobby to one third of them, and 25.6% play sports, as shown in Figure (17).

Figure 17: Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years who enjoy different hobbies by hobby type



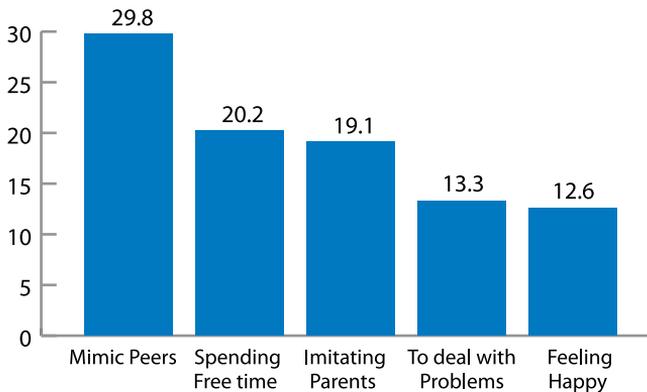
5-6 Smoking and Drinking Alcohol

52.2% of the Iraqi youth aged (10-30) years; know individuals of their same age who smoke. This estimate reaches 70.9% among males to double the same estimate among females (30.9%). Meanwhile, 33.8% know people of their same age who smoke water-pipe.

Turning to drinking alcohol, around 8% of youth know people of their same age who drink, and this percentage increases among males to reach 13.6% compared to their females' counterpart with only 1.5%.

Nearly 30% of the Iraqi youth think that keeping up with peers is one of the reasons behind drinking alcohols, mood tranquilizers or narcotics among youth; while one fifth of youth think that the reason behind it is the free time; as shown in Figure (18).

Figure 18: Percentage of youth aged (10 – 30) years who state reasons behind youth drinking alcohol and taking drugs



Chapter Six **6** Reproductive Health

6-1 Awareness of Puberty Symptoms

Figure (19) indicates that the percentage of youth who know about puberty symptoms according to sex and age. It also shows that the age group (10-14) years is the least knowledgeable, and that the percentage of knowledge is higher among females compared to males.

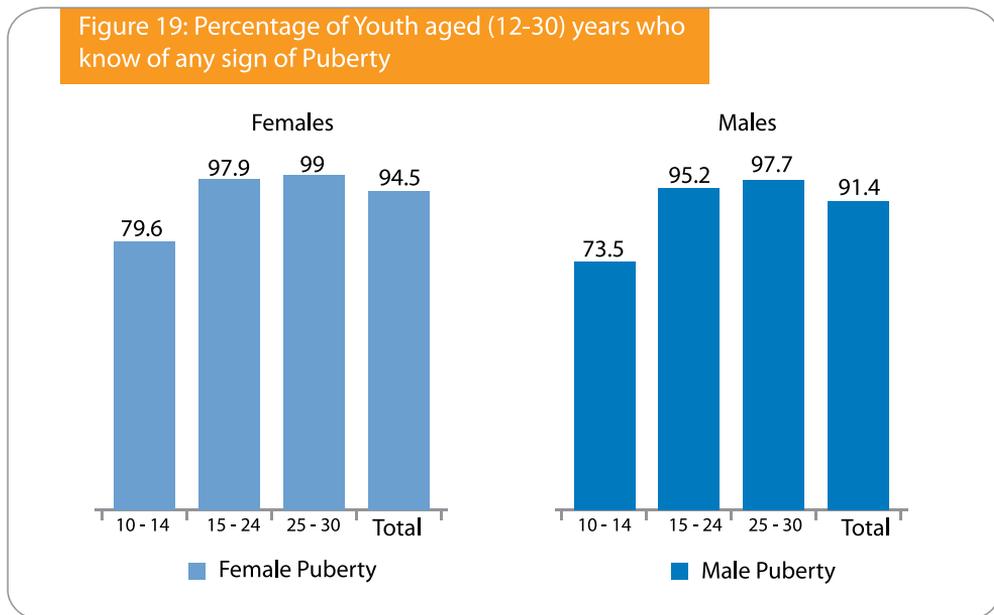
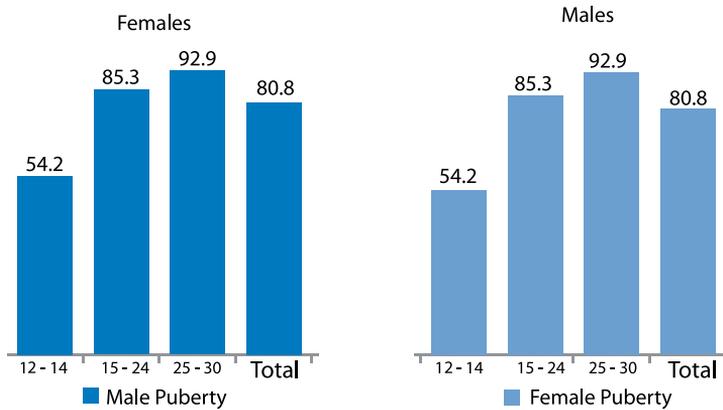


Figure (20) shows the percentage of youth who are knowledgeable about puberty signs of the opposite sex, and it shows that this percentage differs according to age and that females are more knowledgeable than males.

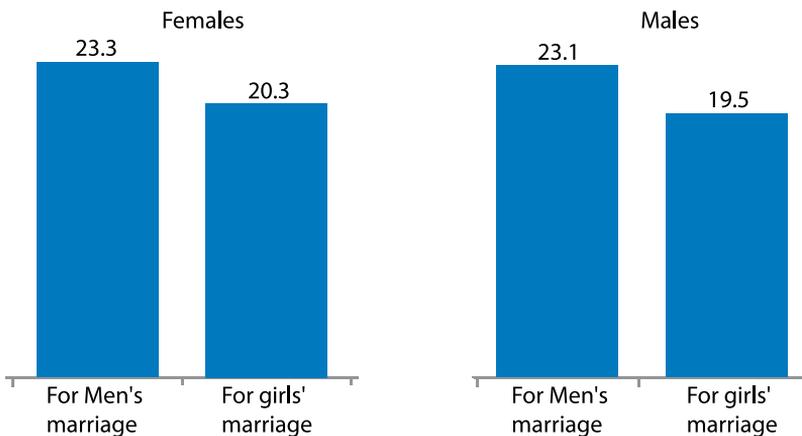
Figure 20: Percentage of youth aged (12-30) who know of any sign of puberty at the opposite sex



6-2 Ideal Age for Marriage

The following figure shows the opinion of the males and females on the appropriate marriage age which portrays no core differences between the two sexes on that topic.

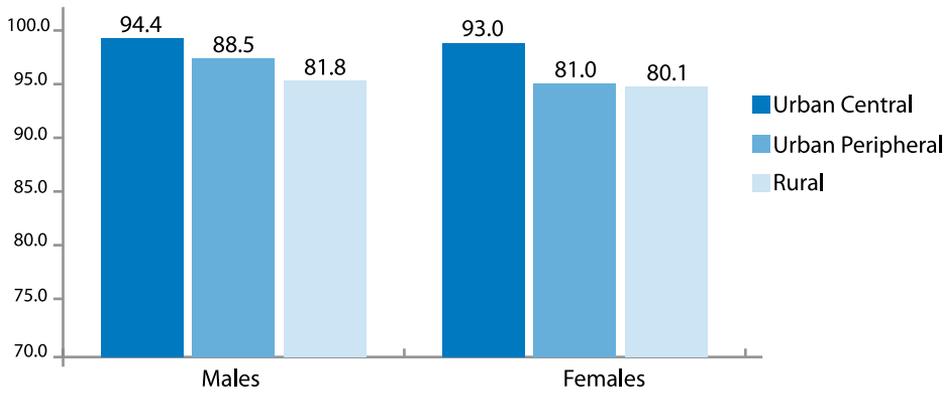
Figure 21: Mean ideal age for marriage according to the opinion of youth aged (12-30) years by sex



6-3 Pre-marital Checkups

86% of married females underwent pre-marital check-ups, for themselves and their husbands, while 88.6% of the males underwent pre-marital check-ups for themselves and their wives and this estimate differs according to the environment as shown in Figure (22).

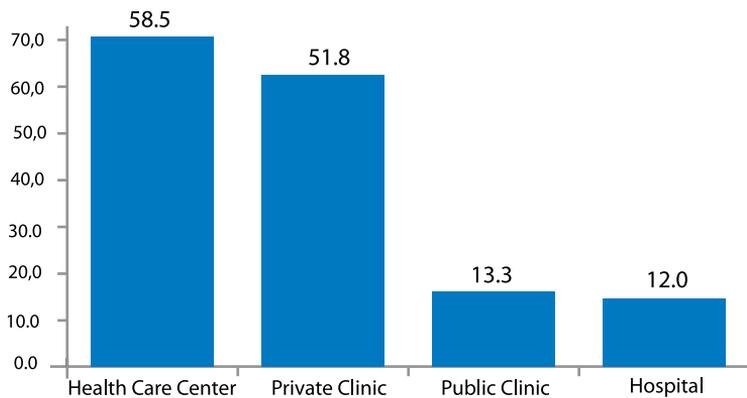
Figure 22: Percentage of married youth aged (12-30) years who had pre-marital Check-ups by sex and environment



6-4 Antenatal Care

The results of the survey showed that 11.6% of the married females at the age of (12-30) years of age were pregnant at the time of the survey, and 78.7% of these females had medical antenatal care during this pregnancy and 58.5% of them received medical care from a health center as shown in Figure (23).

Figure 23: Percentage of youth females aged (12-30) years who are pregnant and received antenatal care by where they got this care



6-5 Use of Contraception

The results showed that 37.7% of the married females at the age of (12-30) years and not pregnant are using contraception methods and this percentage increases among urban females than their rural counterparts as shown in Figure (24).

Figure 24: Percentage of married youth females aged (12-30) years who use contraceptives by the environment

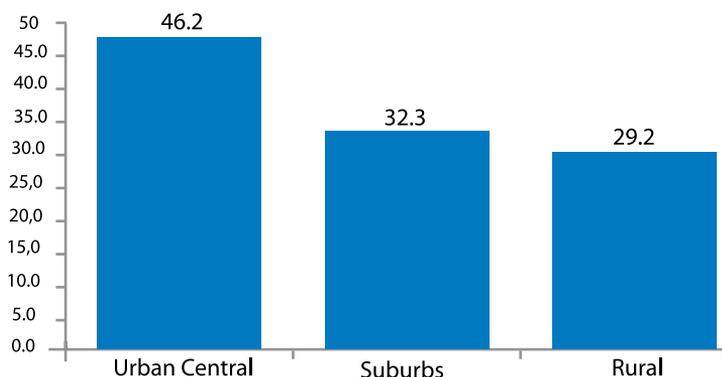
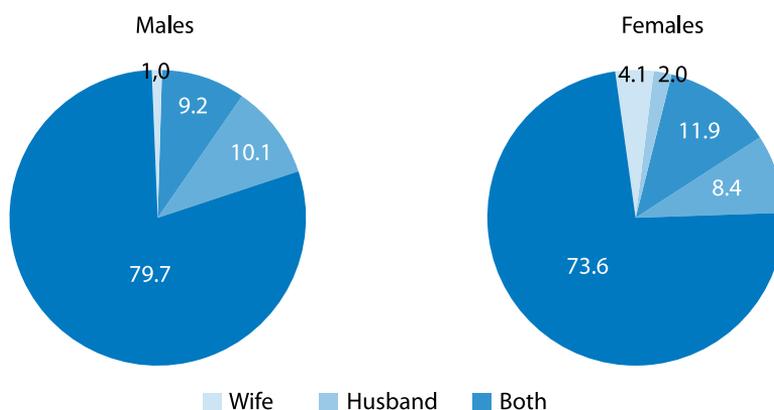


Figure (25) shows the distribution of the married males and females who use family planning methods according to the person who takes the decision, and the figure shows that the majority uses it based on a joint decision.

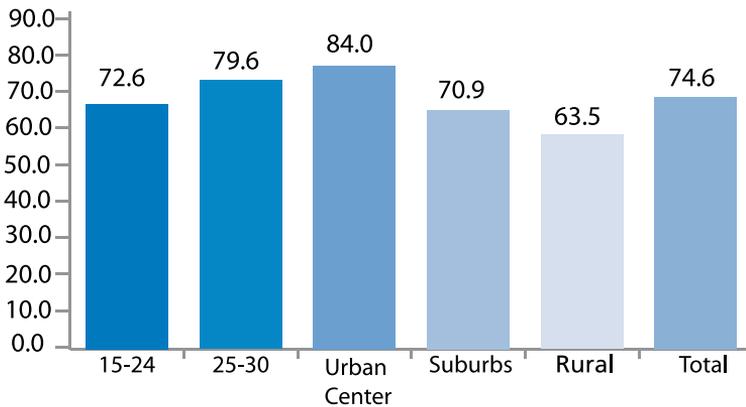
Figure (25) shows the distribution of the married males and females who use family planning methods according to the person who takes the decision, and the figure shows that the majority uses it based on a joint decision.



6-6 Knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS

Upon asking youth at the age of (15-30) years old on their knowledge of the sexually transmitted diseases, more than one third of them answered that they don't know about them, while 74.6% of them know about AIDS as an illness transmitted via sex and this percentage increases among males (79.1%) in comparison with females (69.6%) and it increases among youth of older age and the youth in the urban areas as shown in Figure (26).

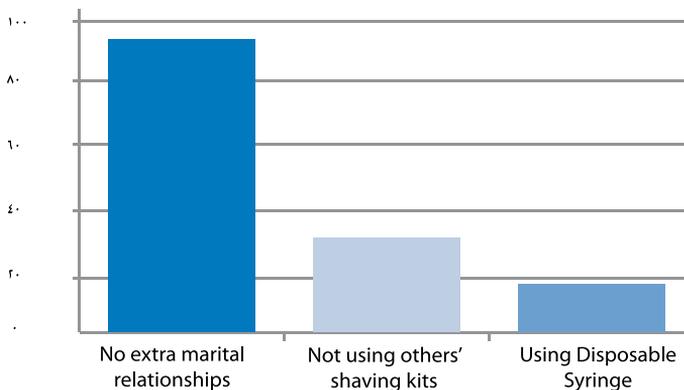
Figure 26: Percentage of youth aged (15 – 30) years who know about AIDS by age and environment



It was shown that the television is one of the main sources of information about sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS for around 79% of youth at the age of (15-30) who know about AIDS, while 27.4% received this information through educational institutes and 22.6% from friends and relatives.

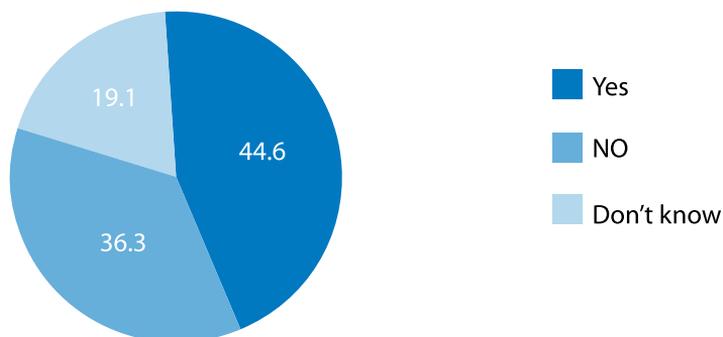
14.2% of the youth at the age of (15-30) years who know about AIDS could not recognize a way to prevent it, while 78.7% mentioned prohibiting extra-marital sex as a way of preventing it as shown in Figure (27).

Figure 27: Percentage of Youth at the age of (15-30) Aware of the AIDS & of Means of its Prevention According to the Means



And on the comprehensive knowledge of AIDS, 44.6% of youth at the age of (15-30) who stated they know about AIDS mentioned that a person who looks healthy could still be an AIDS patient (Figure 28), and this estimate increases among males (47.3%) compared to females (41.1%) and among youth at the age of (25-30) years (49.2%) compared to those aged (15-30) years (42.5%).

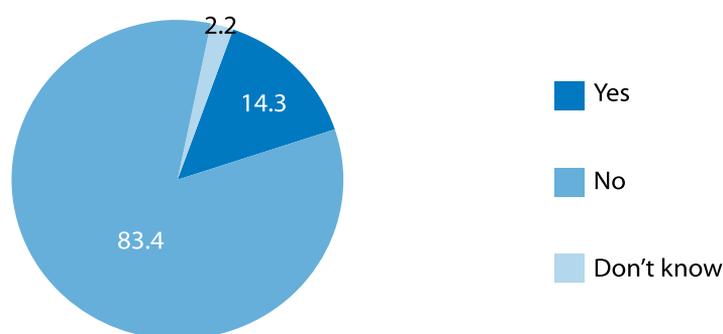
Figure 28: Percent Distribution of youth aged (15-30) years according to their awareness of the possibility that a healthy looking person could be infected with AIDS



6-7 Youth Attitudes towards People with HIV/AIDS

84.6% of youth at the age of (15-30) years old who are know about AIDS see it necessary to isolate people infected with AIDS, while 9 out of every 10 youth expressed unwillingness to share a meal with an AIDS infected person. Figure (29) shows how willing are the youth to shake hands with an AIDS patient.

Figure 29: Percent Distribution of youth aged (15-30) years who know about AIDS according to their willingness to shake hands with an AIDS infected person



30.5% of youth at the age of (15-30) years think that there is a possibility that the number of people suffering from sexually transmitted diseases increases at the present time, and 63% of those stated that the weak ethical and religious values is the main reason behind that possibility of increase and 28.7% referred it to the entry of medicines, medical supplies and vaccines through the borders without checking or supervision; whereas 27.9% stated that the reason could be the increasing number of arrivals and 24.5% said it was the increasing number of travelers abroad.

Chapter Seven 7 Media and Culture

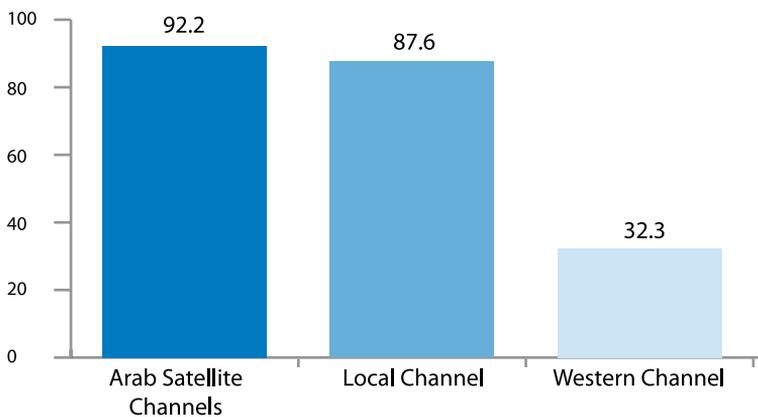
7-1 Exposure to Media

Survey results have shown that the media that is mostly followed by the Iraqi youth is the television with 87.4% percentage followed by the radio with 56.4%.

85.6% of the youth think that the television satisfies all youth needs while 40.5% of them believe the radio does satisfy their needs.

96.7% of youth watch the television and 63% of these prefer to watch it through the night, while 80% of them like to watch social movies and 54.8% enjoy watching cultural films and 92.2% watch Arab satellite channels.

Figure 30: Percentage of Youth at the age of (10-30) who watch TV according to channel watched



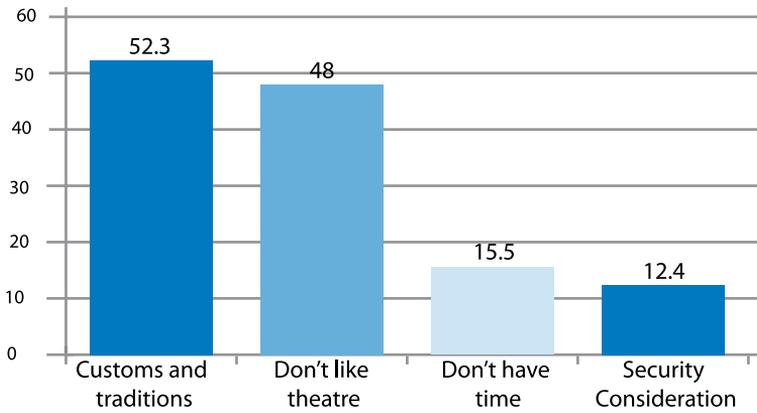
7-2 Cultural activities

Only 21.5% of youth read and around 51% of these read books, while 43.2% read magazines. Meanwhile, the cultural and social topics were ranked as the most read subject among youth reaching 54.1%.

It was also noticed that 78.5% of youth don't practice any type of reading and that 45% of them referred that to the lack of free time or the fact that they don't like to read.

37.3% of youth expressed their wish to go to theatres if theaters were available and this percentage increases among males (48.3%) more than females (24.6%). It was also shown that customs and traditions are the main reasons behind the unwillingness of youth to go to theatres with a percentage reaching 52.3%.

Figure 31: Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years not wanting to go to theatres according to the reason



it is observed that 70.4% of the Iraqi youth do not have any cultural or artistic interests while 14.6% of them are fascinated with poetry and the folkloric poems and only 10.1% care for painting and drawing.

Chapter Eight 8

Youths Attitudes towards Social Participation, Citizenship and Security Status

8-1 Social Participation

26.5% of the Iraqi youth at the age of (10-30) years perceive the political institutions as the most important ones at the time being, followed by the religious institutions with 25.1%.

Concerning their opinion of the aim behind the work of youth organizations, 31.1% of youth said they work for the interest of the youth while 22.4% said they worked for the interest of those who are managing them.

Table (3) shows the percentage of youth who agree on certain statements concerning their participation in the societal and political life.

Table 3: Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years who agree on some statements	
Youth is not interested in social issues	27.0
Youth does not trust the political work	41.4
The family does not allow youth to participate in political works	40.5
The family does not allow youth to participate in social activities	27.3
Students are not keen to join Student Unions	28.7
Political parties are important in public life	33.9
The abundance & variety of organizations allow youth participation	54.1
It is better for youth to have their own organizations and associations	71.4
It is the citizenship right to participate in political works	71.5
Syndicates do not reflect the demands	34.7

The table indicates that the most vital area of youth social participation is represented in the participation in the political sphere as one of the citizenship rights and their preference of the organizations and associations concerned only with youth.

8-2 Citizen Rights and Participation in Elections

40.6% of the Iraqi youth at the age of (18-30) years stated that the most important right is that all Iraqis be equal before the law without discrimination, while 15.1% perceived that the most important right was that the Iraqi nationality is a right to each Iraqi.

62.3% of the Iraqi youth stressed that the respect of others' rights is considered one of the most vital duties of the citizen, while 46.7% stated that defending the nation is considered the chief duty of citizenship in Iraq.

The results showed that 70.4% of youth have participated in the general elections and this percentage increased among males (75.7%) compared to females (64.5%). It was revealed that the reason behind the participation of 82.3% of those was to make their voices heard while 30.4% said that participation in the elections is a national duty.

Results also showed that 86.9% of youth plan to participate in the upcoming elections.

8-3 Attitudes towards Women and their Participation

Youth were asked on their level of acceptance to some statements concerning the participation and status of women. Table (4) shows the level of agreement on these statements.

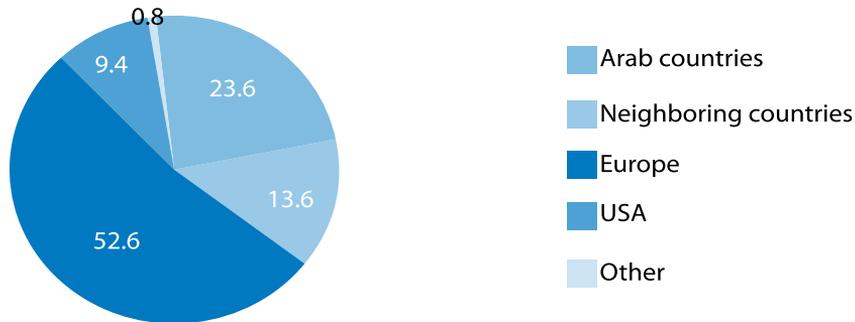
Table 4: Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years who agree with some statements by sex	Males	Females
Women are of no less status than men in general	63.3	74.8
Females must take the approval of their caretaker before practicing any work	92.1	92.3
Both women and men should share family decisions	83.3	91.4
The husband has the right to beat his wife if she disobeyed him	50.1	26.3
The girl must marry her relative if it is her caretaker's wish	46.5	34.2
A woman cannot take her own decisions or those of her family as she is incapable of that	35.8	25.5
Political practices are a men's monopoly	34	26.5
Women can take leading roles in the government	66	77.1
It is the duty of the family to impose stricter regulations on females more than the ones on males	71.9	58.1

The table indicates that youth stressed that women occupy the same status as men in the society and that it is necessary that women participate in taking family decisions and that they can occupy leading roles in the government, but a gap is observed in the opinions of males versus those of females.

8-4 Emigration

16.8% of the Iraqi youth at the age of (18-30) years expressed their wish to emigrate and more than half of those want to immigrate to Europe.

Figure 32: Percent Distribution of youth aged (18-30) years who wish to emigrate according to the destination



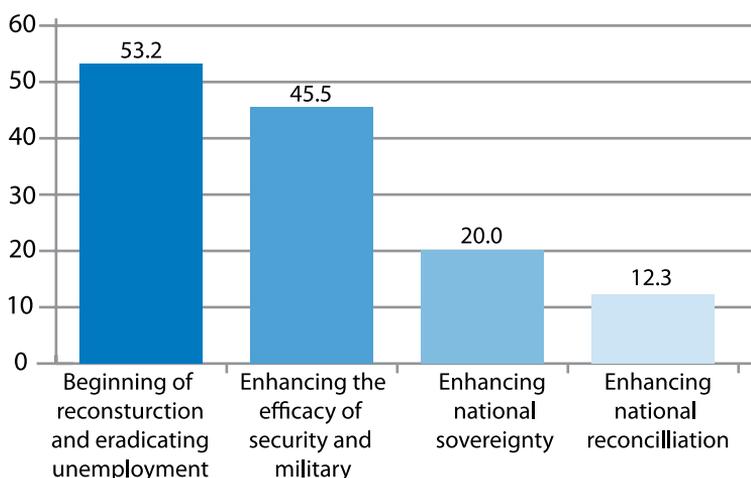
The results have indicated that the percentage of those who took actions to emigrate has reached 2.7% and the reason for one third of these who want to emigrate was to work, while escaping the current situation and conditions was the reason for around 26% of the cases.

8-5 Security Status

66.5% of the youth at the age of (10-30) years reported that terrorist groups are one of the main factors leading to unstable security in Iraq, while 39.2% of them said the occupation is a factor leading to instability.

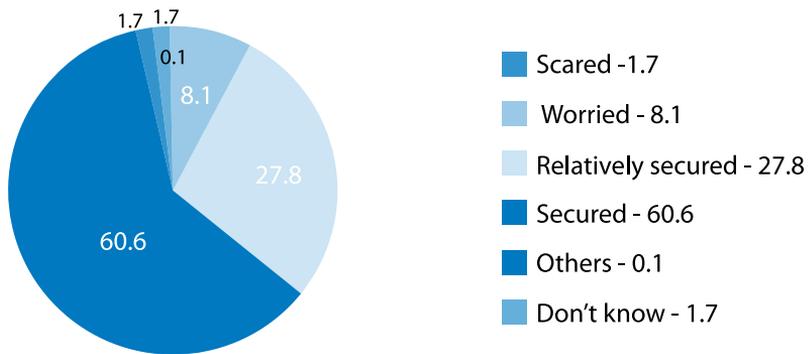
53.2% of youth mentioned that the beginning of the reconstruction and the eradication of unemployment are some of the factors that would bring about stability and security to Iraq, (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years who specified factors leading to stable security in Iraq according to the factor



It was revealed that 61% of the Iraqi youth go around their daily lives in security, while 8.1% of them feel worrisome and insecure, as shown in Figure (34).

Figure 34: Percent Distribution of youth aged (10-30) years according to sense of security in their daily life



Appendix 1

Main Indicators According to Governorate*

*The governorates in each table are sorted in a descending order according to the values, and in case the table contains two indicators, the sorting follows the first indicator.

Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years, never enrolled in education	
Missan	15.6
Dhouk	14.2
Muthanna	14.1
Erbil	12.4
Qadisyyah	9.8
Saladin	9.3
Najaf	9.1
Thiqar	8.2
Waset	7.0
Karbala	6.8
Babel	6.3
Sulaimanya	5.6
Anbar	5.5
Ninva	4.6
Basra	3.9
Baghdad	2.1
Kirkuk	2.0
Diala	2.0
Total	6.2

Percentage of youth aged (15-24), enrolled in education at the time of the survey	
Sulaimanya	61.0
Erbil	52.2
Anbar	49.5
Basra	47.4
Kirkuk	44.4
Karbala	43.5

Dhouk	42.9
Baghdad	42.4
Diala	42.2
Najaf	40.1
Qadisyyah	39.7
Waset	39.3
Muthna	37.4
Babel	36.6
Ninva	35.1
Saladin	33.1
Thiqar	31.5
Missan	26.0
Total	41.8

Percentage of youth aged (15-30) years, Joining the Job Market at the time of the survey		
Governorate	Males	Females
Kirkuk	58.1	21.1
Sulaimanya	57.6	12.1
Dhouk	57.3	3.1
Najaf	57.2	9.6
Qadisyyah	56.7	10.8
Baghdad	55.8	10.3
Saladin	55.6	22.6
Erbil	53.3	6.2
Anbar	52.1	9.7
Karbala	50.1	3.2
Missan	49.5	2.8
Ninva	49.3	2.6
Babel	45.5	6.5
Thiqar	41.2	5.8
Basra	39.8	3.1
Waset	34.6	5.1
Diala	34.4	0.0
Muthna	31.3	2.8
Total	49.7	8.2

Percentage of youth aged (25-30) years, Joining the Job Market at the time of the survey		
Governorate	Males	Females
Sulaimanya	91.1	13.7
Karbala	87.9	7.6
Qadisyyah	86.1	16.1
Erbil	85.3	9.1
Dhouk	84.3	5.7
Missan	83.1	3.3
Kirkuk	83.1	32.1
Najaf	81.4	13.6
Babel	79.1	12.4
Baghdad	78.5	16.8
Ninva	76.3	7.2
Saladin	75.9	30.6
Anbar	75.4	17.9
Diala	69.3	0.0
Basra	60.5	8.3
Waset	60.4	8.2
Thiqar	57.4	9.4
Muthna	54.7	8.7
Total	76.2	13.8

Percentage of youth aged (10-30), who own a mobile phone	
Kirkuk	61.6
Erbil	58.2
Babel	54.3
Karbala	54.1
Najaf	53.8
Baghdad	53.6
Basra	52.6
Sulaimanya	51.7
Anbar	50.4
Thiqar	50.2
Ninva	48.7
Waset	48.6
Dhouk	48.2

Qadisyyah	47.6
Diala	45.2
Saladin	44.3
Missan	43.0
Muthna	39.3
Total	51.3

Percentage of youth aged (15-30), who heard about AIDS	
Erbil	89.6
Kirkuk	88.4
Ninva	85.9
Basra	84.5
Anbar	81.9
Qadisyyah	79.7
Dhouk	78.2
Sulaimanya	76.1
Najaf	75.5
Baghdad	73.8
Thiqar	71.5
Waset	70.8
Diala	67.9
Saladin	64.1
Babel	56.9
Missan	56.5
Karbala	56.2
Muthna	55.0
Total	74.6

Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years, aware of all the effects of nutrition on Health	
Babel	59.0
Anbar	55.3
Ninva	49.9
Dhouk	49.6
Diala	46.5
Saladin	44.9
Kirkuk	42.5

Baghdad	40.6
Qadisyyah	37.6
Najaf	36.3
Karbala	32.4
Sulaimanya	26.2
Basra	25.5
Missan	23.8
Thiqar	19.8
Waset	17.7
Muthna	16.3
Erbil	11.0
Total	36.9

Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years, who play sports	
Basra	38.4
Erbil	37.7
Baghdad	36.0
Sulaimanya	35.4
Karbala	33.9
Thiqar	33.5
Ninva	32.7
Najaf	32.4
Muthna	30.5
Dhouk	30.1
Saladin	30.0
Missan	29.9
Babel	28.6
Anbar	26.1
Kirkuk	25.3
Qadisyyah	25.3
Waset	23.0
Diala	20.8
Total	32.0

Percentage of Females aged (12-30) years, who believe that the number of antenatal care visits should be at least 4 times	
Thiqr	75.9
Qadisyyah	75.5
Sulaimanya	69.7
Erbil	68.5
Muthna	63.4
Saladin	60.5
Basra	58.4
Kirkuk	57.6
Najaf	53.2
Ninva	52.7
Babel	45.4
Dhouk	43.4
Baghdad	42.9
Karbala	35.1
Waset	34.3
Anbar	32.3
Diala	25.4
Missan	22.0
Total	51.7

Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years, who read	
Sulaimanya	52.1
Erbil	43.5
Baghdad	29.7
Basra	24.1
Anbar	20.8
Najaf	20.2
Dhouk	18.7
Thiqr	15.7
Saladin	14.7
Qadisyyah	14.6
Kirkuk	14.1
Missan	13.5

Waset	12.9
Karbala	12.7
Babel	12.6
Muthna	11.4
Ninva	9.4
Diala	9.1
Total	21.5

Percentage of youth aged (18-30) years, planning to participate in the upcoming elections	
Karbala	96.3
Qadisyyah	93.2
Najaf	93.0
Basra	92.1
Missan	92.0
Dhouk	91.5
Waset	91.0
Babel	90.8
Kirkuk	90.7
Diala	90.3
Muthna	89.9
Ninva	89.6
Thiqar	89.4
Saladin	89.4
Sulaimanya	83.1
Erbil	81.5
Baghdad	81.0
Anbar	66.5
Total	86.9

Percentage of youth aged (10-30) years, perceiving women as capable of playing leading roles in the government	
Sulaimanya	90.3
Qadisyyah	87.6
Erbil	85.0
Dhouk	81.8
Thiqar	81.0