

## Reproductive Health

**Introduction:** Central Statistical Organization (CSO) conducted Iraq Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (I-WISH) in July 2011 in cooperation with KRISO, ministry of health, ministry of woman affairs and other relevant public bodies, with support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Pan Arab Population and Family Health Project (PAPFAM), as well as WHO, UN-Woman, UNICEF and UNDP. This survey is the first survey that addresses women issues on the basis of life cycle approach (adolescence, reproductive, after productive and elderly stages) from empowerment, health, reproductive health violence against women and other relevant social and health dimensions to establish a comprehensive database on Iraqi woman issues across life cycle. The innovation in I-WISH is the comprehensive approach beyond reproductive role of women, and the involvement of new modules on female adolescent and a module on man knowledge, perception and behavior in regard to women issues. The survey is based on a cluster multi stage random sample composed of 10,620 households derived from the listing frame of population census. Following is the main findings on “**Reproductive Health**”

**Pregnancy loss:** About 13.2 percent of ever married women 15-49 year were pregnant during the survey period, amongst 24.5 percent had miscarriages or abortion; 59.6 percent of these women had suffered from different multiplications of women diseases. Ever married women 15-49 years had an average of five live-births during their reproductive life.

**Ante Natal Care (ANC):** Among ever married women (15-49) years who gave a live birth during the past five years; about 90 percent had received qualified ANC provided by a doctor, a qualified nurse or a qualified midwife. 19.2 percent of live-births were at home because 70.6 percent of these women believed that home is better place to deliver babies, 68.1 percent of these women reported that public hospitals are better and 8.4 percent of these women voted for private hospitals. Around 75.1 percent of deliveries occurred in health institutions were natural, while 22.6 percent were cesareans.

Percentage of women who had 4+ ANC visits for a qualified provider during the first 3 months of pregnancy	Distribution of women by number of ANC visits						Average number of visits
	0	1	2-3	4+	D.K	Total	
45.2%	9.7%	4.7%	22.0%	57.7%	5.8%	100%	4.7

Distribution of ever married women 15-49 who gave live birth during the past five years and received ANC by place						
PHC	Gov. hospital	NGO hospital	Private doctor	Home	other	Total
%31.5	%12.7	1.8%	52.8%	1.0%	0.1%	100%

**Post Natal Care (PNC):** I-WISH survey results reveal that among ever married women 15-49 ears who gave live birth during the past five years only 37.9 percent of them received PNC by a qualified person, and 18.6 percent suffered from some health problems during six weeks after delivery.

Received PNC from qualified person	Percentage of ever married women who gave live birth during the past 5 years by receiving PNC					Received PNC	Did not receive PNC
	doctor	Nurse/midwife	Jaddat Arab	other			
37.9%	36.3%	3.7%	0.8%	1.2%	39.8%	60.2%	

**RH Morbidity:** Survey results reveal that ever married women 15-49 who gave live-births during the past five years had suffered from some RH morbidity symptoms. 18.3 percent suffered from prolapsed, 10.5 percent suffered from urinary incontinence and 25 percent of women 15-49 suffered from other kinds of complications including allergy or itching around their genital area or from excessive vaginal discharge.

**Infertility:** Around 11 percent of married women 15-49 old failed to get pregnant. 5.3 percent of these women believed that they were infertile and 23 percent of these women did not seek any kind of consultations or help due to the high costs of medical consultation, while 26 percent were disparate and believe that medical consultation or help will not cure their infertility.

**Public Health:** In general, about 59.2 percent of ever married women 15-49 years reported to have a good health, only 7.4 percent of reported not to have a good health. When comparing their overall health situation with the previous year, about 60 percent believe that they are the same, while 17.3 percent of these women reported that their health situation had deteriorated.

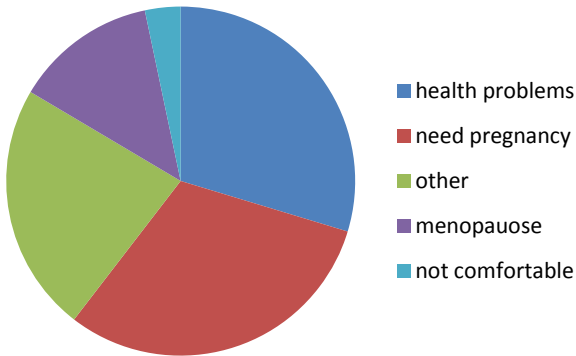
**Knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs):** About 57 percent of ever married women 15-49 have the knowledge about SDTs, only about 7.4 percent of these women have had one or two of these diseases during the year prior to the survey. About 86 percent of these women had medical consultation and were cured by doctors and around 56 percent of women 15-49 know about HIV (AIDS) and 94 percent of them believe that there is a way to avoid it.

**Family Planning (FP):** About 50.6 percent of ever married women 15-49 years have already used family planning methods. Almost 51 percent of these women used pills, half of this percentage has used IUD and 21 percent used isolation methods. 71.5 percent of women reported that they used these methods for birth spacing, while 27.8 percent to stop having any more children. The main source for getting family planning methods as the survey results showed were from private clinics (44.7%), 33 percent bought it from pharmacies while 4.7 percent had it from governmental health centers.

% of pregnant women	Distribution of pregnant women by pregnancy need				
	Wanted pregnancy	Preferred spacing	Preferred limiting	D.K	Total
13.2%	73.9%	11.9%	12.3%	1.9%	100%

Amongst pregnant women during the survey 73.9 percent of women 15-49 wanted to be pregnant while 22.8 percent did not want to be pregnant, 10.3 percent of them preferred spacing while 12.6 wanted to limit (total unmet needs is 22.8%). On the other hand, around half of married women 15-49 years did not want to use any FP method because 53.4 percent wanted to have more children. Still, the decision of having more children is a mutual decision between wife and husband in 66 percent of the cases and in 20 percent is up to the husband alone. The percentage of women 15-49 years who want more children is 38 percent which is very close to women 15-49 years who did not want more children (35%). Although 40.8 percent of married women 15-49 years during the survey did not care if the coming baby is a boy or a girl, 24.9 percent wanted to have a boy while 10.7 percent wanted a girl. In rural areas, women in Iraq start to use FP methods after having the third baby and after the second or third baby in urban areas. The main reason to stop using FP methods is due to their willingness to have more children; another reason is the method which is used caused some health complications, or which relate to menstrual cycle and other issues.

**Distribution of women stopped family planning use by reason**



**Percentage of FP use by type of method**

