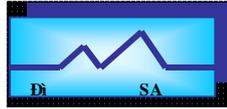




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RA National Statistical Service



RA Ministry of Health

Press Release

§Armenian Demographic and Health Survey 2005 §

Armenian Demographic and Health Survey 2005 (ADHS-2005) is the second of its kind in the Republic of Armenia (the first one was implemented in 2000). During 2005 study, slightly more than 8000 males and females of reproductive age (15-49) were surveyed. ADHS was conducted by the RA National Statistical Service and RA Ministry of Health: Funding was provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as UNICEF/Armenia and UNFPA Armenian Office.

The key findings of the survey are of great interest:

Childhood vaccination coverage and childhood mortality rates

Childhood mortality rates have declined during the last 15 years to 26 deaths per 1000 live births.

Infant mortality for children who live in wealthiest households was 14 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to 41 deaths per 1,000 life births for the infants in the poorest households.

Only 60% of children 12-23 months of age had received all WHO-recommended vaccinations. In 2000, the same indicator was 76%. The results of the survey demonstrate that currently 40% of children are totally unprotected against childhood diseases such as measles, tetanus, rubella, mumps, etc.

Almost all Armenian infants were breast-fed, however, only one-third of them received exclusive breastfeeding, as recommended by RA Ministry of Health.

Women's Obesity

According to the results of 2005 survey, 27% of women are overweight and another 16 percent are considered obese, compared to 27% and 14% in 2005. Incidentally, only 2 percent of women aged 15-19 are obese, while among women aged 40-49 this rate reaches 33 percent.

Antenatal Care and Childbirth

In the five years preceding the survey 93 percent of women who gave live birth received at least one antenatal care counseling by health care provider (doctor, nurse, or midwife). In urban areas, 94% of women received antenatal care from health providers, as opposed to 83% in rural areas.

In Armenia, almost all births (97 percent) occurred at health facilities.

Trends in reproductive health

Reproductive health care has remained mostly unchanged in the last five years. Facility-based births have increased slightly, from 91% in 2000 to 97% in 2005. Although assistance by a health professional has remained constant, the proportion of births assisted by doctors increased from 83% in 2000 to 93% in 2005.

Fertility preferences

Survey showed that men, as opposed to women, would like to have more children. Forty-four percent of men reported that they would ideally like 2 children, 30 percent 3 children, and 18 percent 4 or more children. In general, among all men, the preferred number of children was on average 2.8 and among all married men, 3.1. For both women and men, there is a positive correlation between preferred and actual number of children.

Incorrect opinions about HIV/AIDS

Although premarital sexual relationships are widespread among young males, not all males have comprehensive and detailed knowledge about HIV/AIDS and the ways of its transmission. One-third of young males age 15-24 had sexual relationships and only half of them had comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and the ways of its transmission. Eighty-eight percent of males who had premarital sexual relationships used condom during the last sexual intercourse. Only two-thirds of youth age 15-24 said they knew a place where they could obtain a condom.

Fertility and use of contraception methods

According to ADHS-2005 results, for the three years preceding the survey, total fertility rate (TFR) was 1.7. It has not changed since year 2000. TFR is a number of children a woman could have during her childbearing lifetime.

In 2005, 53% of women who have been married at the time of survey have used some methods of contraception. In 2000, this indicator was 61%.

Thirty-four percent of married women used traditional methods of contraception, while 20% used modern methods. The most commonly used methods were withdrawal, (28%), intrauterine devices (IUD, 9%), and male condoms (8%). Although Armenian women prefer to use withdrawal as a family planning method, the latter is the most ineffective method for avoiding pregnancy.

Regular preventive at-home examinations are being established in Armenia

ADHS showed that the majority of population is able to improve their health. Regular examinations might contribute to the protection of child and maternal health. For instance, breast cancer is the most prevalent type of cancer in Armenia; however, the overwhelming majority of women do not know how to perform breast self-exam. Only 10% of women performed breast self-exam during the 3 months prior to the survey.

Children with diarrhea need to be given large amounts of fluids. Less than a half of children received this simple method, readily available at home.

ADHS-2005 details

Armenian Demographic and Health Survey 2005 (ADHS-2005) included 6566 women and 1447 men age 15-49. This is the second ADHS in Armenia.

MEASURE DHS is a program that allows to collect nationally representative survey data. This program is financed by USAID and implemented by ORC Macro in collaboration with a host country's government. Within the framework of this program, nationally representative household survey data are collected on numerous demographic, health, nutrition, fertility, family planning issues and major indicators are calculated.

RA National Statistical Service
Government Building #3, Republic Ave.,
Yerevan 375010, Republic of Armenia
Tel: (37410) 524 213
www.armstat.am

RA Ministry of Health
Government Building #3, Republic Ave.,
Yerevan 375010, Republic of Armenia
Tel: (37410) 564351
www.armhealth.am

