

INTRODUCTION

Menya governorate lies south of Cairo in the Nile Valley of Upper Egypt. Menya's current population of 3.7 million is primarily rural; only 19 percent lives in urban areas. The governorate ranks near the bottom on the Human Development Index, and its population has among the lowest life expectancy of any of Egypt's governorates (65.4 years).

With the support of USAID, special population and health initiatives are being undertaken in Menya. This report is intended to provide information for planning and monitoring the impact of these initiatives. The first part of the report highlights key results from the survey in providing an overall profile of the demographic and health situation in Menya governorate. More detailed information can be found in the tables included in Annex A at the end of the report.

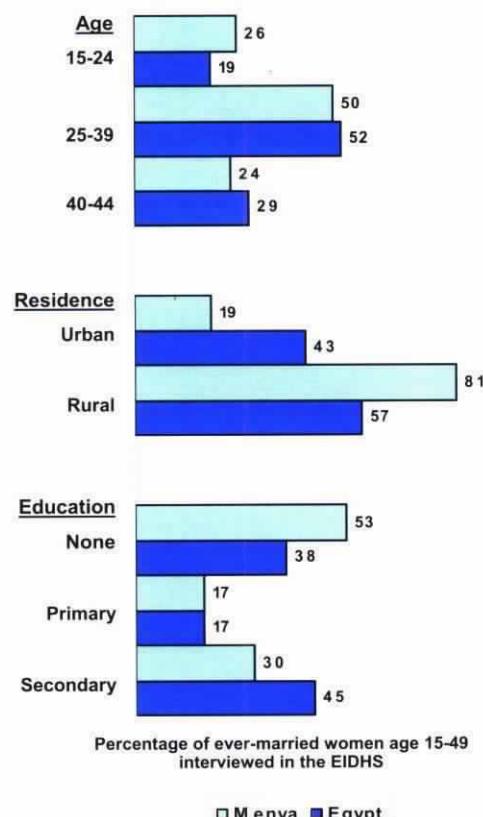
The data used in the report were collected in the 2003 Egypt Demographic and Health Survey.¹ A representative sample of 2,199 households and 2,053 ever-married women ages 15-49 from Menya were interviewed in the EIDHS in order to provide these data (Table 1.1).

Considering the profile of the EIDHS respondents from Menya (Table 1.2), 92 percent are currently married, 5 percent widowed, and 3 percent divorced or separated. Reflecting the influence of the younger age at marriage in Menya than in Egypt as a whole, EIDHS respondents from Menya are somewhat younger than the EIDHS sample as a whole; just over 25 percent of respondents from the governorate was under age 25 compared to 19 percent in the EIDHS sample as a whole.

Menya is much less urbanized than Egypt as a whole. Around two in ten ever-married women in the Menya subsample live in urban areas while a little more than four in ten women in the entire EIDHS sample are from urban areas.

The EIDHS results indicate that Menya lags behind the country as a whole in female educational achievement. For example, in Menya, 53 percent of ever-married women ages 15-49 never attended school compared to 38 percent of all Egyptian women in this age group. Slightly more than 60 percent of the ever-married women in Menya cannot read a simple sentence compared to 44 percent in Egypt as a whole.

Ever-married women from Menya are somewhat younger, less urbanized, and less likely to have attended school than all ever-married women in Egypt.



¹The 2003 Egypt Interim Demographic and Health Survey (2003 EIDHS) is the most recent of seven DHS surveys to be undertaken in Egypt. For more information on the 2003 EIDHS, see El-Zanaty and Way, 2003.

Considering the work status, 15 percent of ever-married women in Menya are working for cash. This rate is quite similar to the rate for women in the country as a whole.

Using the information the EIDHS sample from Menya, the remainder of this report examines indicators relating to the health status of women and children from Menya governorate.