

The objective of this chapter is to provide a demographic and socioeconomic profile of the 2005 EDHS sample and a descriptive assessment of the environment in which women and children live. Information is presented on the age, sex, and education of the household population, as well as on housing facilities and household possessions. The profile of the households provided in this chapter will help in understanding the results of the 2005 EDHS in the following chapters. In addition, it may provide useful input for social and economic development planning.

## 2.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

The questionnaire for the 2005 EDHS included two questions distinguishing between the *de jure* population (persons who usually live in selected household) and the *de facto* population (persons who spent the night before the interview in the household). The differences between these populations are small, and since past surveys and censuses were based on *de facto* populations, tabulations for the household data presented in this chapter are based on the *de facto* definition, unless otherwise stated.

### Age and Sex Composition

Table 2.1 presents the percent distribution of the *de facto* population by age, according to urban-rural residence and sex. The table describes the demographic context in which the behaviors examined in the report occur.

Age	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<5	10.7	10.4	10.6	13.9	12.8	13.4	12.6	11.8	12.2
5-9	10.4	10.1	10.3	12.9	11.6	12.3	11.9	11.0	11.4
10-14	10.0	9.3	9.6	11.7	10.9	11.3	11.0	10.2	10.6
15-19	11.7	11.3	11.5	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.1	12.0	12.0
20-24	9.6	10.9	10.3	9.3	10.5	9.9	9.4	10.7	10.1
25-29	7.7	8.4	8.1	7.4	8.3	7.9	7.6	8.3	7.9
30-34	5.9	6.5	6.2	5.8	6.2	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.1
35-39	6.0	6.5	6.3	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.1	5.9
40-44	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.2	4.7	5.0	5.6	5.3	5.5
45-49	5.5	5.5	5.5	4.0	4.5	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.8
50-54	5.0	5.0	5.0	3.3	3.1	3.2	4.0	3.9	4.0
55-59	3.9	3.4	3.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.0	3.1
60-64	3.0	2.4	2.7	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.4
65-69	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
70-74	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
75-79	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
80 +	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	22,185	22,708	44,893	30,453	31,290	61,743	52,638	53,998	106,635

The population spending the night before the survey in the households selected for the survey included 106,635 individuals, of which 49 percent were males and 51 percent females. The age structure of the de facto household population reflects the effects of past demographic trends, particularly high fertility. The majority of the household population (56 percent) was less than 25 years old, and around one-third were less than 15 years old. The proportion under age 15 was greater in the rural population (37 percent) than in the urban population (31 percent). This difference is an outcome of lower recent fertility in urban areas compared to rural areas.

The population pyramid shown in Figure 2.1 was constructed using the sex and age distribution of the 2005 EDHS household population. The pyramid has a wide base. This pattern is typical of countries that have experienced relatively high fertility in the recent past.

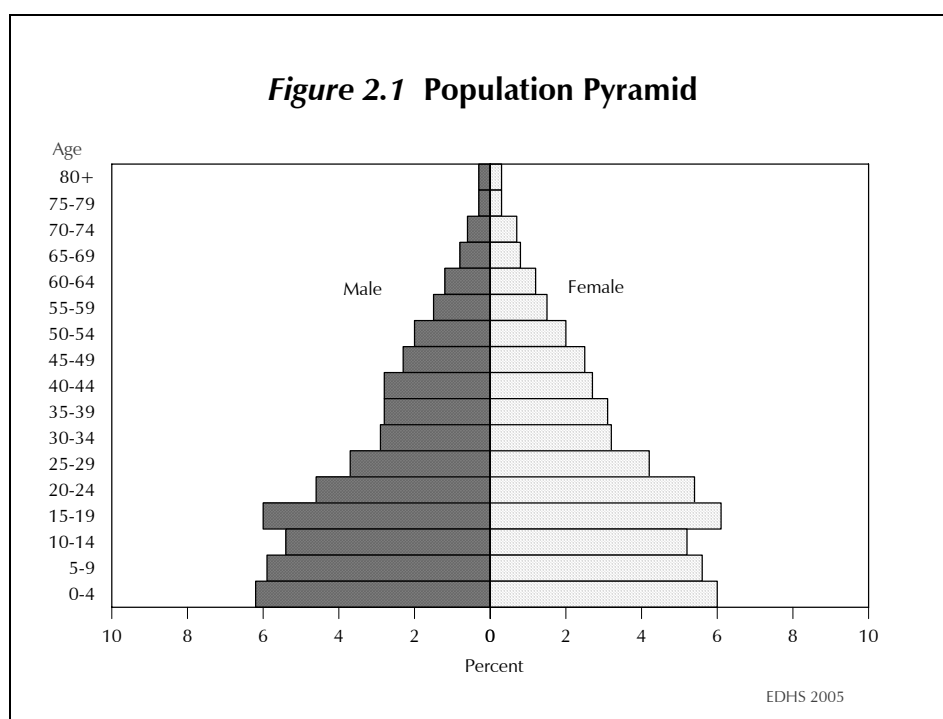


Table 2.2 presents a comparison of the distribution of the household population by broad age groups for the five EDHS surveys carried out between 1988 and 2005. The dependency ratio, defined as the ratio of the nonproductive population (persons under age 15 and age 65 and over) to the population age 15-64, is calculated based on these figures. The ratio declined from a level above 80 at the time of the 1988 survey to 62 at the time of the 2005 EDHS. The decline reflects a substantial lessening in the burden placed on persons in the productive ages to support older and younger household members.

**Table 2.2 Trends in population distribution by age, 1988-2005**

Percent distribution of the de facto population by age and dependency ratio, Egypt 1988-2005

Age group	1988 EDHS	1992 EDHS	1995 EDHS	2000 EDHS	2005 EDHS
Less than 15	41.2	41.7	40.0	37.3	34.2
15-64	55.0	54.6	56.3	59.1	61.7
65+	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	4.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median age	na	18.8	19.3	20.3	21.7
Dependency ratio	81.8	83.2	77.6	69.2	62.1

na = not available

Source: El-Zanaty and Way, 2001, Table 2.2

## Household Composition

Table 2.3 presents the distribution of households in the 2005 EDHS sample by sex of the head of the household and by the number of *de jure* household members. These characteristics are important because they are often associated with socioeconomic differences between households. For example, female-headed households frequently are poorer than households headed by males. In addition, the size and composition of the household affects the allocation of financial and other resources among household members, which in turn influences the overall well-being of these individuals. Household size is also associated with crowding in the dwelling, which can lead to unfavorable health conditions.

Table 2.3 Household composition by residence  
Percent distribution of households by sex of head of household and by household size, according to residence, Egypt 2005

Characteristic	Urban	Rural	Urban Governorates	Lower Egypt			Upper Egypt			Frontier Governorates	Total
				Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural		
<b>Household headship</b>											
Male	86.1	89.1	84.8	88.8	86.1	90.0	87.9	87.6	88.1	92.9	87.7
Female	13.9	10.9	15.2	11.2	13.9	10.0	12.1	12.4	11.9	7.1	12.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number of members</b>											
1	7.2	3.5	8.4	4.4	7.5	3.1	4.4	5.3	3.9	4.0	5.3
2	12.3	9.1	14.0	9.9	11.1	9.4	9.6	10.9	8.8	8.3	10.6
3	15.4	10.9	15.2	13.4	15.9	12.3	11.4	15.2	9.2	11.0	13.1
4	22.7	15.9	23.8	19.4	22.3	18.1	16.2	21.4	13.2	14.8	19.1
5	21.1	18.2	20.9	22.1	23.5	21.5	16.0	19.5	14.0	19.9	19.6
6	12.1	15.0	10.8	14.1	11.7	15.2	14.7	14.4	14.9	13.2	13.6
7	4.8	10.1	3.8	7.4	5.3	8.2	10.0	5.9	12.4	9.1	7.6
8	2.2	5.8	1.7	3.5	1.3	4.5	6.1	3.7	7.4	6.8	4.1
9+	2.2	11.5	1.5	5.7	1.2	7.7	11.5	3.8	16.1	13.0	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,533	11,439	4,704	9,031	2,724	6,307	8,029	2,968	5,061	208	21,972
Mean size	4.2	5.5	4.0	4.8	4.2	5.1	5.4	4.5	6.0	5.8	4.9

Note: Table is based on de jure members, i.e., usual residents

The household head is female in 12 percent of households. The proportion of households headed by females does not vary greatly across residential categories, except for the Frontier Governorates, where females head seven percent of households.

There are on average 4.9 persons per household. Slightly more than one-quarter of the households have three or fewer members, while around one-fifth of the households have seven or more members. In general, rural households are larger than urban households. For example, two percent of urban households have nine or more members, compared to 12 percent of rural households. Household size varies from an average of 4.0 persons in the Urban Governorates to 6.0 persons in rural Upper Egypt.

## 2.2 EDUCATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

The educational level of household members is among the most important characteristics of the household because it is associated with many phenomena including reproductive behavior, use of contraception, and the health of children. Primary education in Egypt starts at age 6 and has until recently

consisted of five years of schooling.<sup>1</sup> A further three-year period, known as the preparatory stage, is considered basic education and is compulsory. The secondary stage, which includes another three years of schooling, is not compulsory.

During the household interviews, questions were included on the highest level of schooling completed for all household members age six and older and on recent school attendance for household members age 6-24 years. In addition, information was obtained on kindergarten attendance for children age 3-5 years. The information collected on the educational attainment of all household members is presented in Tables 2.4.1 and 2.4.2. Information on school attendance among children and young adults is discussed further in Chapter 18.

A comparison of Tables 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 highlights the gap in educational attainment between males and females. Overall, 84 percent of males in the EDHS households have ever attended school, compared to 70 percent of females. The median number of years of schooling for men is 6.3, which is almost 2 years higher than the median for women (4.4 years).

Background characteristic	None	Some primary	Completed primary	Some secondary	Completed secondary	More than secondary	Don't know/missing	Total	Number	Median years
<b>Age</b>										
6-9	15.1	84.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	100.0	4,779	0.4
10-14	1.9	36.9	20.9	40.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	5,772	4.5
15-19	4.4	5.2	3.1	60.3	15.6	11.2	0.1	100.0	6,372	8.6
20-24	6.2	6.7	4.7	12.5	42.0	27.9	0.1	100.0	4,956	10.5
25-29	8.4	7.1	6.9	14.4	41.2	21.8	0.1	100.0	3,977	10.4
30-34	12.0	10.4	4.1	14.8	39.0	19.4	0.2	100.0	3,079	11.3
35-39	17.0	13.4	4.1	9.2	39.6	16.6	0.1	100.0	2,980	11.2
40-44	20.9	13.7	6.4	10.0	29.9	19.1	0.1	100.0	2,969	9.7
45-49	20.0	18.8	7.4	8.7	24.8	20.3	0.1	100.0	2,461	8.1
50-54	32.3	14.7	8.3	9.4	18.3	17.0	0.1	100.0	2,124	5.3
55-59	37.5	14.7	9.2	6.8	15.5	16.2	0.0	100.0	1,638	4.7
60-64	44.5	10.6	10.0	6.7	12.6	15.2	0.4	100.0	1,292	3.8
65+	61.0	12.5	8.1	3.1	7.5	7.4	0.5	100.0	2,149	0.0
<b>Urban-rural residence</b>										
Urban	10.8	19.3	7.0	19.6	22.1	21.0	0.2	100.0	19,289	8.3
Rural	19.2	23.5	7.2	20.9	21.0	8.1	0.2	100.0	25,259	5.3
<b>Place of residence</b>										
Urban Governorates	10.5	17.4	7.7	19.4	21.2	23.5	0.3	100.0	8,391	8.6
Lower Egypt	15.0	22.0	6.9	20.2	22.9	13.0	0.1	100.0	18,451	6.6
Urban	9.3	20.1	6.8	19.3	22.1	22.3	0.1	100.0	4,944	8.6
Rural	17.0	22.7	6.9	20.5	23.2	9.6	0.1	100.0	13,507	5.8
Upper Egypt	18.7	23.5	7.0	20.9	20.0	9.8	0.2	100.0	17,178	5.4
Urban	12.5	21.4	6.1	19.9	23.3	16.7	0.2	100.0	5,630	7.5
Rural	21.7	24.5	7.5	21.4	18.3	6.4	0.2	100.0	11,548	4.7
Frontier Governorates	14.2	18.4	8.7	22.4	24.5	11.1	0.7	100.0	529	6.9
<b>Total</b>	15.6	21.7	7.1	20.3	21.5	13.7	0.2	100.0	44,548	6.3

<sup>1</sup> Beginning in 2004, primary education was extended to include six years.

An examination of the education distributions for successive cohorts indicates that there have been changes over time in the educational attainment of both men and women. For example, the median number of years of schooling is 10.5 for males age 20-24 years, nearly double the median for males in the 50-54 age group (5.3 years).

Women have experienced marked improvements in educational attainment as well. As a result of these gains, the gap in the educational attainment between males and females has almost disappeared among younger cohorts. For example, the differential in the median number of years of schooling is 0.2 years between men and women age 20-24.

Urban residents are more likely to have attended school and to have remained in school for a longer period than rural residents. The results in Tables 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 also show that gender differences in educational attainment are less evident in urban than in rural areas. For example, the median number of years of schooling is 5.3 years among rural men, three years greater than the median among rural women (2.3 years). The difference is much smaller in urban areas, where the median number of years of schooling is 8.3 years for men, compared to 7.1 years for women.

By place of residence, gender differences in the likelihood of attending school are most evident in rural Upper Egypt where 78 percent men have ever attended school, compared to 55 percent of women. The gender gap is least apparent in urban Lower Egypt where 84 percent of women have had some education, compared to 91 percent of men.

**Table 2.4.2 Educational attainment of female household population by age and residence**

Percent distribution of the de facto female household population age six and over by highest level of education attended or completed and median number of years of schooling, according to background characteristics, Egypt 2005

Background characteristic	None	Some primary	Completed primary	Some secondary	Completed secondary	More than secondary	Don't know/missing	Total	Number	Median years
<b>Age</b>										
6-9	17.0	82.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	4,655	0.3
10-14	6.8	33.9	19.2	39.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	5,506	4.4
15-19	12.8	4.2	2.2	52.2	17.0	11.5	0.1	100.0	6,458	8.6
20-24	19.3	6.3	3.3	9.7	38.5	22.8	0.0	100.0	5,767	10.3
25-29	22.3	7.2	5.2	10.5	36.3	18.4	0.2	100.0	4,499	10.2
30-34	30.1	8.7	2.2	12.6	33.6	12.5	0.2	100.0	3,405	8.5
35-39	39.1	12.2	3.8	7.2	27.8	9.8	0.1	100.0	3,309	4.7
40-44	43.0	16.0	5.1	5.2	19.6	11.1	0.0	100.0	2,867	2.8
45-49	47.5	19.0	5.7	3.7	13.8	10.1	0.1	100.0	2,665	1.1
50-54	54.6	13.9	7.3	4.9	11.2	7.8	0.3	100.0	2,097	0.0
55-59	64.3	12.7	6.3	3.5	7.1	5.6	0.5	100.0	1,646	0.0
60-64	71.1	11.6	3.7	2.7	5.9	3.5	1.5	100.0	1,243	0.0
65+	76.9	11.2	4.4	1.1	2.8	1.2	2.4	100.0	2,210	0.0
<b>Urban-rural residence</b>										
Urban	19.0	18.1	5.8	17.7	22.2	16.9	0.3	100.0	19,850	7.1
Rural	37.6	21.2	5.2	15.9	15.2	4.5	0.4	100.0	26,480	2.3
<b>Place of residence</b>										
Urban Governorates	18.2	17.4	6.2	17.1	21.8	19.0	0.4	100.0	8,588	7.5
Lower Egypt	27.0	20.0	5.4	17.1	21.0	9.2	0.3	100.0	19,083	4.8
Urban	16.4	17.8	5.6	17.5	24.8	17.7	0.2	100.0	5,149	7.9
Rural	30.9	20.8	5.3	17.0	19.6	6.1	0.3	100.0	13,934	4.0
Upper Egypt	37.7	21.0	5.1	16.0	13.6	6.2	0.3	100.0	18,142	2.3
Urban	22.2	19.5	5.2	18.7	20.6	13.7	0.2	100.0	5,800	5.8
Rural	45.0	21.7	5.1	14.8	10.3	2.7	0.4	100.0	12,341	0.3
Frontier Governorates	31.2	16.8	8.3	17.5	18.1	7.2	1.0	100.0	518	4.3
<b>Total</b>	29.6	19.9	5.5	16.7	18.2	9.8	0.3	100.0	46,331	4.4

## 2.3 HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

The 2005 EDHS survey collected information on a range of housing characteristics. These data are presented for households and for the total de jure household population. The results for households are further disaggregated by residence.

### Water Supply

Increasing access to improved drinking water is one of the Millennium Development Goals that Egypt along with other nations worldwide has adopted (United Nations General Assembly 2001). The 2005 EDHS collected information that can be used to explore the status of Egyptian households in relation to this goal.

Table 2.5 presents a number of characteristics relating to a household's access to improved drinking water. The first of these characteristics is the source from which the water that household members drink is obtained. Improved sources are defined as those sources which are likely to provide safe drinking water (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation 2004). Improved sources include water obtained a piped source within the dwelling, a public tap, a tubehole or borehole, or a protected well or spring.<sup>2</sup>

The results in Table 2.5 show that 98 percent of households in Egypt have access to water from an improved source. In most cases, the source is a piped connection in the dwelling itself or the plot (90 percent).

Almost all households get water from a source on premises (94 percent). The majority of households fetching water from a source outside the dwelling or plot are within 30 minutes of this source. Women age 15 and older are generally responsible for fetching water for households in which the water source is not on the premises.

Around one-third of households report that they have experienced interruptions in their water supply; 11 percent say the supply is interrupted on a daily or almost daily basis, 15 percent report interruptions at least a few times per week while 8 percent experience less frequent interruptions.

Households generally do not treat the water they drink. Among households reporting that the water is treated (6 percent), the most common practices are to filter the water or to let it stand and settle.

Looking at the variations in drinking water indicators by residence, households in the Frontier Governorates and rural Upper Egypt are the least likely to obtain water from an improved source (89 percent and 94 percent, respectively). Interruptions in the water supply are more common in Upper Egypt (41 percent) than in other areas within Egypt.

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<sup>2</sup> A well or spring which is covered or otherwise 'protected' from contamination from surface water or animals.

**Table 2.5 Household drinking water access and treatment by residence**

Percent distribution of households by source of drinking water, time to collect water (if not within residence or plot), person fetching the water, and interruption of water supply during two week period prior to the survey and percentage of households using various modes for treating drinking water, according to urban-rural residence and place of residence and percent distribution of the de jure population by household drinking water arrangements and percentage of the de jure population living in households using various modes to treat drinking water, Egypt 2005

Drinking water	Urban	Rural	Urban Governorates	Lower Egypt			Upper Egypt			Frontier Governorates	Total households	Total de jure population
				Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural			
<b>Source of drinking water<sup>1</sup></b>												
Improved source	99.2	96.9	99.6	99.6	99.3	99.8	95.5	98.9	93.5	89.3	98.0	97.9
Piped into house/plot	98.0	82.2	98.3	91.3	98.7	88.1	83.3	97.5	75.0	74.6	89.7	88.3
Public tap	0.9	6.2	0.8	3.2	0.5	4.4	5.8	1.2	8.4	0.2	3.6	3.8
Tubewell/borehole	0.1	6.7	0.0	3.9	0.1	5.6	5.1	0.1	8.1	3.8	3.5	4.2
Protected well/spring	0.1	1.9	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.7	1.3	0.1	2.0	9.6	1.0	1.5
Unimproved source	0.8	3.0	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2	4.4	1.1	6.4	10.7	1.9	2.1
Tanker truck/cart	0.7	2.9	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2	4.3	1.0	6.2	9.8	1.9	2.0
Surface water	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
<b>Time to water source</b>												
On premises	98.8	90.1	98.9	95.2	99.1	93.4	90.6	98.2	86.1	90.9	94.3	93.8
Within 15 minutes	0.5	4.4	0.5	1.9	0.4	2.6	4.4	0.6	6.7	3.2	2.5	2.6
15-29 minutes	0.2	2.2	0.2	1.0	0.1	1.4	2.0	0.2	3.1	2.6	1.2	1.4
30 + minutes	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.2	0.2	1.7	1.1	0.5	1.4	1.7	0.9	1.2
Don't know/missing	0.3	1.7	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.9	1.9	0.5	2.8	1.5	1.1	1.0
<b>Person obtaining water for household</b>												
Adult man 15+	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.9	1.9	0.5	0.5
Adult woman 15+	0.6	7.0	0.5	3.5	0.3	4.8	6.5	1.1	9.7	5.0	4.0	4.3
Male child <15 years	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Female child <15 years	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
Water on premises/other/missing	99.1	91.9	99.3	95.8	99.3	94.3	92.6	98.7	88.8	92.8	95.3	94.9
<b>Water supply interrupted</b>												
Not interrupted	70.2	64.8	74.7	70.9	73.3	69.8	59.2	60.5	58.4	67.1	67.4	66.3
Daily/almost daily	9.8	11.2	10.3	8.7	6.3	9.7	12.5	11.5	13.2	17.9	10.5	10.8
Few times per week	13.4	15.1	10.8	12.9	12.7	13.0	17.9	18.3	17.8	9.2	14.3	14.7
Less frequently	6.4	8.7	3.9	7.2	7.3	7.2	10.2	9.5	10.6	5.6	7.6	7.9
Don't know/missing	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,533	11,439	4,704	9,031	2,724	6,307	8,029	2,968	5,061	208	21,972	107,300
<b>Water treated prior to drinking</b>												
Not treated	91.6	96.3	89.4	94.7	92.4	95.7	96.1	94.3	97.1	93.8	94.0	94.6
Boiled	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
Bleach/chlorine added	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Strained	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2
Water filter used	5.5	0.7	7.1	2.2	5.2	0.9	1.5	3.3	0.4	2.4	3.0	2.5
Solar disinfection	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Stand and settle	2.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	1.5	2.9	2.0	1.9	2.1	3.5	2.3	2.3
Number	10,533	11,439	4,704	9,031	2,724	6,307	8,029	2,968	5,061	208	21,972	107,300

<sup>1</sup> Because the quality of bottled water is not known, households using bottled water are classified according to the source of water used for cooking and washing.

## Sanitation Facilities and Waste Disposal

Ensuring adequate sanitation facilities is another Millennium Development Goal. Table 2.6 shows that most Egyptian households have access to a toilet, with 43 percent reporting they have modern flush toilets, and 55 percent traditional flush toilets. Only one percent of households have no toilet facility. Most households (97 percent) report that the toilet is connected to a sewer, bayara (vault), or septic system. Ten percent of households report problems with the drainage system. Five percent report they share the toilet facility with at least one other household.

Table 2.6 Sanitation facilities by residence

Percent distribution of households by type of toilet facility, drainage system, problems experienced with drainage system, number of households using the toilet facility, type of sanitation facilities, and method of disposal of kitchen waste and trash (according to urban-rural residence and place of residence and percent distribution of de jure population by sanitation facilities, Egypt 2005)

Sanitation facility	Urban	Rural	Urban Governorates	Lower Egypt			Upper Egypt			Frontier Governorates	Total households	Total de jure population
				Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural			
<b>Toilet facility</b>												
Modern flush toilet	71.2	17.1	81.2	39.7	73.9	24.9	24.4	53.2	7.5	42.4	43.0	36.2
Traditional (tank flush)	1.5	2.3	0.8	2.6	1.7	3.0	1.8	2.4	1.5	0.9	1.9	1.9
Traditional (bucket flush)	27.0	76.7	17.8	57.2	24.2	71.5	68.5	43.6	83.0	55.5	52.9	59.5
Pit latrine/bucket toilet	0.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.7	0.5	4.0	1.1	1.0	1.1
Other/missing	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
No facility	0.1	2.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	2.6	0.3	3.9	0.1	1.1	1.1
<b>Drainage system</b>												
Public sewer	88.0	32.4	97.0	63.9	94.0	50.9	31.8	69.5	9.6	43.3	59.0	52.8
Vault (Bayara)	5.9	22.3	1.6	3.7	0.4	5.1	33.6	16.7	43.5	33.1	14.4	17.5
Septic system	5.5	40.0	0.9	30.4	5.6	41.1	28.9	12.4	38.6	22.9	23.5	26.2
Pipe to canal	0.2	1.4	0.3	1.3	0.0	1.9	0.5	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.8	1.0
Pipe to groundwater	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Emptied (no connection)	0.2	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.4	2.2	0.6	3.1	0.4	0.9	1.0
Other	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2
No toilet facility	0.1	2.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	2.6	0.3	3.9	0.1	1.1	1.1
<b>Problems with drainage system</b>												
No problems	91.8	88.8	91.2	92.9	97.1	91.2	86.7	88.1	85.9	88.2	90.2	89.7
Pooling around dwelling(s)	6.5	5.1	7.6	4.3	2.4	5.1	6.4	8.5	5.2	7.4	5.8	6.1
Cost of evacuation	1.8	3.8	1.5	2.4	0.4	3.3	4.0	3.4	4.4	4.6	2.8	3.2
Insects	3.4	3.2	4.0	2.0	1.0	2.4	4.2	4.5	4.0	8.9	3.3	3.5
Other	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1
Don't know/missing	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1
No facility/no connection	0.1	2.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	2.6	0.3	3.9	0.1	1.1	1.1
<b>Number of households using toilet</b>												
No facility	0.1	2.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	2.6	0.3	3.9	0.1	1.1	1.1
One	97.5	90.6	97.0	95.8	99.1	94.4	89.9	96.7	85.8	96.5	93.9	92.4
1-2	1.2	3.9	1.2	2.3	0.6	3.0	3.8	1.7	5.0	1.7	2.6	3.1
3+ households	1.0	3.4	1.4	1.5	0.2	2.1	3.6	1.0	5.0	1.7	2.2	3.2
Not sure/missing	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2
<b>Sanitation facilities</b>												
Improved <sup>1</sup>	96.5	86.5	96.1	93.9	98.9	91.7	85.5	95.2	79.8	95.0	91.3	89.5
Not improved	3.5	13.5	3.9	6.1	1.1	8.3	14.5	4.8	20.2	5.0	8.7	10.5
<b>Disposal of kitchen waste/trash</b>												
Collected from home	53.6	26.4	49.6	42.0	62.2	33.3	31.2	53.6	18.1	20.1	39.5	35.2
Collected from street/container	32.8	4.4	44.8	11.2	24.1	5.7	9.5	21.2	2.7	31.6	18.0	15.6
Dumped into street/empty plot	9.9	25.9	4.8	19.7	11.3	23.3	24.3	16.1	29.0	27.6	18.3	20.2
Dumped into canal/drainage	1.3	18.3	0.4	14.5	1.3	20.3	11.1	2.7	16.0	0.8	10.1	11.6
Burned	1.9	18.9	0.1	9.1	0.8	12.7	18.7	5.6	26.5	16.1	10.8	13.2
Fed to animals	0.3	5.9	0.0	3.3	0.3	4.7	4.9	0.6	7.4	3.6	3.2	4.0
Other	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1
Don't know/missing	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	10,533	11,439	4,704	9,031	2,724	6,307	8,029	2,968	5,061	208	21,972	107,300

<sup>1</sup> The household is considered to have improved sanitation facilities if the household has sole use of a modern or traditional flush toilet that empties into a public sewer, Bayara (vault) or septic system.



A household is classified as having an improved toilet if the toilet is used only by members of one household (i.e., it is not shared) and if the facility used by the household separates the waste from human contact (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation 2004). The facilities meeting the latter criteria include toilets that flushed or pour flushed into a sewer, bayara, or septic system. Overall, Table 2.6 shows that 91 percent of Egyptian households have access to an improved toilet facility. The proportion of households using an improved facility is lowest in rural Upper Egypt (80 percent).

Table 2.6 also presents information on waste disposal practices. The majority of households (58 percent) report that kitchen waste or trash was collected, either at the dwelling or from a container in the street (i.e., a container shared with others). Slightly more than one-quarter of households say that they dump waste or trash into the street, an empty plot or a canal or drainage ditch, 11 percent burn waste or trash, and 3 percent feed it to animals. Dumping or burning waste or trash is much more common in rural than in urban areas (63 percent and 13 percent, respectively). More than 7 in 10 households in rural Upper Egypt dispose of trash by dumping (45 percent) or burning (27 percent).

### **Cooking Arrangements**

Indoor pollution from solid fuels (biomass fuels and coal) is a major killer, particularly of children under age five. The 2005 EDHS included questions on the type of fuel, type of stove, and cooking location to help assess the proportion of the population relying on solid fuels, another Millennium Development goal indicator (United Nations General Assembly 2001).

Table 2.7 shows that virtually all Egyptian households use fossil fuels (LPG, natural gas, or kerosene) for cooking. Among households using other types of fuel, most cook on an open stove without a chimney or hood (94 percent) in a kitchen area within the dwelling unit. In the majority of dwellings (81 percent), the kitchen is separated from other rooms in the dwelling.

Table 2.7 Cooking arrangements by residence

Percent distribution of households by type of cooking fuel, type of fire/stove, and location of cooking area according to urban-rural residence and place of residence and percent distribution of the de jure population by cooking arrangements, Egypt 2005

Cooking arrangements	Urban	Rural	Urban Governorates	Lower Egypt			Upper Egypt			Frontier Governorates	Total households	Total de jure population
				Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural			
<b>Type of cooking fuel</b>												
Electricity	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2
LPG	76.2	93.5	67.0	93.1	80.9	98.4	86.6	85.3	87.3	95.6	85.2	87.3
Natural gas	22.4	0.1	31.9	5.6	18.2	0.1	4.5	12.0	0.1	1.6	10.8	8.7
Biogas	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Kerosene	1.0	5.5	0.7	0.9	0.3	1.1	7.8	2.3	11.0	1.8	3.4	3.3
Charcoal/coal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wood/straw/shrubs/grass/crops	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.3
Dung/other	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2
Missing	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	10,533	11,439	4,704	9,031	2,724	6,307	8,029	2,968	5,061	208	21,972	107,300
<b>Type of fire/stove<sup>1</sup></b>												
Open without chimney/hood	92.7	93.7	(94.6)	83.6	*	84.2	94.7	93.3	94.9	*	93.5	93.3
Open with chimney/hood	4.4	5.1	(0.0)	14.4	*	13.7	4.1	4.7	4.1	*	5.0	5.6
Closed with chimney	0.2	0.2	(0.0)	2.0	*	2.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	*	0.2	0.1
Missing	2.7	1.0	(5.4)	0.0	*	0.0	1.1	1.8	1.1	*	1.2	0.9
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	118	704	35	87	7	79	693	72	621	4	817	4,084
<b>Location of cooking area</b>												
Within dwelling	99.5	98.6	99.6	98.4	99.2	98.0	99.6	99.8	99.4	98.3	99.1	99.2
In separate room	91.0	71.0	93.3	86.9	93.9	83.9	66.0	84.6	55.0	84.2	80.6	78.3
Not separated	8.6	27.6	6.3	11.5	5.3	14.1	33.6	15.1	44.4	14.0	18.5	20.8
In separate building	0.3	1.0	0.2	1.4	0.7	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.7
Outdoors	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Don't know/missing	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.1
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	10,533	11,439	4,704	9,031	2,724	6,307	8,029	2,968	5,061	208	21,972	107,300

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Refers to households reporting use of biomass fuels

## Other Housing Characteristics

Table 2.8 shows the distribution of households according to other dwelling characteristics for which information was obtained in the 2005 EDHS. The results indicate that the majority of urban households (85 percent) live in apartments, whereas the majority of rural households (64 percent) occupy free-standing houses. Eighty-five percent of rural households own their dwelling. Ownership is less common in urban areas, particularly in the Urban Governorates, where slightly less than half of households own their dwelling.

Virtually all households in Egypt have electricity, with households in the Frontier Governorates more likely to report that they do not have it than households in other areas.

Table 2.8 Dwelling characteristics by residence

Percent distribution of households by type and tenure of dwelling, availability of electricity, type of flooring and windows, and number of rooms and mean number of rooms and persons per room according to urban-rural residence and percentage of de jure population by dwelling characteristics, Egypt 2005

Dwelling characteristic	Urban	Rural	Urban Governorates	Lower Egypt			Upper Egypt			Frontier Governorates	Total households	Total de jure population
				Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural			
<b>Type of dwelling</b>												
Apartment	84.5	33.1	93.3	53.6	83.6	40.6	42.0	72.6	24.1	39.7	57.7	49.3
Free standing house	13.2	64.4	3.7	45.2	15.8	57.9	54.6	24.7	72.2	59.2	39.9	48.7
Other	2.3	2.4	3.0	1.2	0.6	1.5	3.3	2.8	3.6	1.1	2.4	2.0
<b>Tenure</b>												
Owned/Owned jointly	52.0	85.4	46.0	73.5	52.6	82.5	78.1	59.8	88.8	81.0	69.4	74.4
Rented	42.4	5.7	50.2	16.4	38.8	6.7	15.4	34.2	4.4	16.9	23.3	19.2
Other/missing	5.6	8.9	3.8	10.1	8.5	10.8	6.5	6.0	6.8	2.1	7.3	6.4
<b>Electricity</b>												
Yes	99.8	99.1	99.8	99.7	100.0	99.6	99.1	99.8	98.6	94.6	99.4	99.4
No	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.9	0.2	1.4	5.4	0.6	0.6
<b>Flooring</b>												
Ceramic/marble tiles	18.3	4.1	22.6	8.7	16.3	5.5	6.5	13.6	2.3	10.7	10.9	9.0
Cement tiles	69.7	40.5	67.0	57.0	73.2	50.0	44.3	71.0	28.7	54.0	54.5	50.4
Cement	6.2	35.3	4.4	27.0	5.7	36.3	24.7	9.0	33.8	28.5	21.3	24.9
Carpet/vinyl/polished wood	3.9	0.8	5.5	2.1	4.2	1.2	0.6	1.3	0.2	1.2	2.3	1.9
Wood/planks	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Earth/sand	1.6	19.3	0.3	5.0	0.5	7.0	23.8	4.9	34.8	5.4	10.8	13.6
Other/missing	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Windows</b>												
All glass	89.2	56.6	94.9	79.4	90.7	74.5	50.8	78.9	34.3	77.3	72.2	67.3
With and without glass	4.8	15.5	2.5	12.2	6.9	14.5	12.8	6.4	16.6	10.0	10.3	12.9
All without glass	4.6	25.4	1.3	7.5	1.7	10.0	32.6	12.3	44.6	12.3	15.4	17.9
No window openings	1.2	2.4	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.8	3.6	2.3	4.4	0.2	1.8	1.6
Other/missing	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
<b>Number of rooms<sup>1</sup></b>												
1-2	11.4	14.3	11.5	9.6	8.9	9.9	17.7	13.8	20.0	6.1	12.9	10.9
3-4	77.9	63.5	80.0	71.6	77.3	69.1	63.5	75.5	56.5	66.0	70.4	66.2
5+	10.5	22.0	8.3	18.6	13.7	20.8	18.5	10.5	23.2	27.6	16.5	22.6
Don't know/missing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	10,533	11,439	4,704	9,031	2,724	6,307	8,029	2,968	5,061	208	21,972	107,300
<b>Mean rooms per household</b>	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.9
<b>Mean persons per room</b>	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.8

<sup>1</sup> Number of rooms does not include kitchens, hallways and bathrooms.

With regard to flooring, more than eight in ten households live in dwellings with a tile (ceramic or cement) or cement floor. About 10 percent have a dirt (earth/sand) floor in their dwelling. Rural households are more likely than urban households to live in dwellings with a dirt floor (19 percent and 2 percent, respectively). Dirt floors are around five times more common in rural Upper Egypt than in rural Lower Egypt (35 percent and 7 percent, respectively).

Almost all dwellings had some type of window opening. Except in rural Upper Egypt, seven in ten or more households have glass windows throughout their dwelling. In rural Upper Egypt, 45 percent of the households lived in dwellings without any glass windows, and four percent lived in dwellings without a window opening.

Table 2.8 also shows that 13 percent of households live in dwellings with one or two rooms, 70 percent have three or four rooms, and 17 percent have five rooms or more. The mean number of rooms per household is 3.7, and there is an average of 1.5 persons per room. Rural households are more crowded than urban households. The mean number of persons per room is 1.3 in urban areas, compared to 1.6 persons in rural areas.

## 2.4 HOUSEHOLD POSSESSIONS

Table 2.9 provides information on household ownership of durable goods and other possessions. More than nine in ten EDHS households own a television (color or black and white), and more than eight in ten households own a radio. Fifteen percent of households have a satellite dish, and 12 percent a video or DVD player. At least half of households have a telephone, with one-quarter having a mobile phone. Eleven percent of households own a computer.

A majority of Egyptian households own most basic appliances. More than nine in ten have a stove (gas/electric) and a washing machine (automatic/other). More than eight in ten households own an electric fan and a refrigerator, and more than one-third have a water heater. Fewer households possess the other appliances and electric goods shown in Table 2.9; less than 10 percent have a sewing machine or freezer and less than five percent have an air conditioner or dishwasher.

Considering household furnishings, 90 percent or more of households own a bed, sofa and hanging lamp, and 85 percent or more have a chair and table. Six in ten household own a *tablia*, and around a third have a *kolla/zeer*. At least one household member owns a watch in 90 percent of the households.

Urban households are more likely to have most of these items than rural households. For example, 73 percent of households in urban areas have a telephone (landline or cell) compared to 40 percent of households in rural areas. Rates of ownership of various household possessions also differ by place of residence, with higher rates of ownership for most items reported among households in the Urban Governorates, Lower Egypt, and the Frontier Governorates than in Upper Egypt. For most items, households in rural Upper Egypt have the lowest rates of ownership.

Table 2.9 also includes information on household ownership of a means of transportation. Animal carts are owned more often by rural than urban households (8 percent and 1 percent). Relatively few households have a motorcycle, and rates of ownership of bicycles vary from five percent in the Urban Governorates to 20 percent in rural Upper Egypt. Overall, seven percent of households own a car, van, or truck, with the highest rate of ownership in the Urban Governorates (14 percent) and the lowest rate in rural Upper Egypt (3 percent).

As expected, households in rural areas are significantly more likely than urban households to own a farm or other land. Twenty-eight percent of rural households own a farm or other land, compared to only 3 percent of urban households. There is also considerable variation in the proportion reporting that they own farm animals, from 54 percent of households in rural Upper Egypt to four percent of households in the Urban Governorates.

Table 2.9 also shows that comparatively few households have bank/savings accounts (11 percent). Urban households, especially households living in the Urban Governorates, are more than three times as likely as rural households to have an account.

Table 2.9 Household possessions by residence

Percentage of households possessing various household effects/possessions, means of transportation, property, farm animals, and bank/savings account according to urban-rural residence and place of residence, and percentage of de jure population by household possessions, Egypt 2005

Household effect/possession	Urban	Rural	Urban Governates	Lower Egypt			Upper Egypt			Frontier Governates	Total households	Total de jure population
				Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural			
<b>Household effects</b>												
Radio	90.2	79.8	90.6	87.8	92.4	85.9	77.9	87.5	72.3	83.5	84.8	84.5
Television	95.8	90.1	96.8	93.2	96.0	91.9	90.2	94.4	87.8	91.2	92.8	94.0
Black and white TV	10.5	27.5	6.5	19.2	12.3	22.1	27.3	15.4	34.3	9.2	19.3	21.4
Color TV	89.3	67.9	92.8	79.4	89.8	74.9	68.0	83.4	59.1	83.7	78.2	78.2
Video/DVD	20.9	4.1	25.5	8.0	17.3	4.0	8.9	17.0	4.1	15.9	12.2	10.8
Telephone	73.4	39.9	78.9	51.2	70.8	42.7	47.8	67.1	36.5	62.6	56.0	54.6
Landline telephone	70.0	37.7	75.1	48.2	67.4	39.9	45.8	64.3	35.0	56.1	53.2	52.0
Mobile telephone	40.0	11.2	47.3	20.3	36.7	13.3	17.1	31.6	8.5	31.6	25.0	23.1
Satellite dish	24.2	7.0	27.6	12.2	22.3	7.9	11.3	20.5	5.9	22.6	15.3	13.9
Computer	19.0	2.6	24.2	7.1	16.0	3.2	6.3	13.9	1.8	6.9	10.5	9.4
Sewing machine	9.8	6.0	10.9	7.5	9.2	6.8	6.4	8.9	4.9	6.5	7.8	8.1
Electric fan	91.9	83.0	92.1	85.4	91.6	82.7	86.7	92.2	83.4	81.5	87.3	87.6
Air conditioner	6.7	0.7	8.8	1.7	4.0	0.7	2.6	6.1	0.6	1.8	3.6	2.9
Refrigerator	94.4	77.7	95.6	89.2	95.7	86.4	75.9	91.3	66.9	86.4	85.7	85.3
Freezer	10.6	1.9	14.0	4.8	9.7	2.6	2.7	5.7	0.9	9.7	6.0	5.1
Water heater	59.2	15.5	67.5	31.6	58.4	20.0	23.6	46.7	10.0	41.5	36.4	31.6
Dishwasher	2.6	0.2	3.7	0.8	2.2	0.2	0.5	1.4	0.1	0.3	1.3	1.1
Washing machine	96.4	88.1	96.7	95.2	97.9	94.1	85.9	95.0	80.6	88.0	92.1	92.5
Automatic	37.7	5.5	45.2	15.1	34.4	6.8	13.3	29.2	4.0	20.7	20.9	17.7
Other	73.2	85.5	66.9	87.6	79.5	91.1	78.2	77.5	78.7	75.4	79.6	82.6
Gas/electric stove	98.8	93.7	99.1	98.9	99.7	98.6	91.2	97.4	87.6	97.4	96.1	96.1
Bed	99.3	96.9	99.4	99.2	99.7	99.0	96.0	99.0	94.2	98.0	98.1	98.2
Sofa	97.2	93.8	97.7	95.8	97.6	95.0	94.0	96.7	92.4	83.2	95.4	95.5
Hanging lamp	85.2	94.3	83.5	90.9	83.8	94.0	92.6	89.4	94.6	87.0	89.9	91.3
Table	94.3	82.9	96.1	86.4	93.4	83.4	86.3	92.9	82.5	79.4	88.4	87.9
Tablia	47.6	75.2	40.3	64.1	48.1	70.9	72.6	59.3	80.4	47.8	61.9	67.3
Chair	92.0	78.4	93.5	86.0	93.5	82.7	79.0	89.0	73.2	73.6	84.9	83.5
Kolla/zeer	11.4	48.9	7.0	32.1	13.1	40.2	43.7	16.6	59.5	30.6	30.9	36.1
Watch	96.0	84.7	96.5	93.4	97.8	91.5	82.5	93.4	76.1	92.0	90.1	90.2
<b>Means of transportation</b>												
Animal-drawn cart	0.8	7.9	0.5	5.9	0.9	8.0	5.4	1.2	7.8	6.7	4.5	6.9
Bicycle	9.4	19.2	5.1	16.8	11.8	19.0	17.7	14.2	19.7	6.0	14.5	17.1
Motorcycle/scooter	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.6	0.6	2.1	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.7	1.6	1.8
Car/van/truck	10.9	3.0	14.1	5.1	9.6	3.2	4.2	6.8	2.6	11.6	6.7	6.4
<b>Farm animals</b>												
	7.8	46.9	3.5	31.4	9.1	41.0	38.9	13.1	54.1	28.3	28.2	35.8
<b>Agricultural land</b>												
	3.3	27.6	2.0	20.6	4.0	27.7	19.0	4.7	27.4	15.7	16.0	20.9
<b>Bank/savings account</b>												
	16.6	5.4	20.3	8.4	14.7	5.7	7.7	12.4	5.0	12.1	10.8	9.6
None of the above	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Number of households	10,533	11,439	4,704	9,031	2,724	6,307	8,029	2,968	5,061	208	21,972	107,300

## 2.5 HOUSEHOLD WEALTH

Information on household assets was used to create an index representing the wealth of the households interviewed in the EDHS. The wealth index is a proxy for long-term standard of living of the household. It is based on data collected in the EDHS household questionnaire the household's ownership of consumer items such as a fan to a television and car; dwelling characteristics such as flooring material; type of drinking water source; toilet facilities; and other characteristics that are related to wealth status. Each household asset for which information is collected is assigned a weight or factor score generated

through principal components analysis. The resulting asset scores are standardized in relation to a standard normal distribution with a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one.

These standardized scores are then used to create the break points that define wealth quintiles. Each household is assigned a standardized score for each asset, where the score differs depending on whether or not the household owned that asset (or, in the case of sleeping arrangements, the number of people per room). These scores are summed by household, and individuals are ranked according to the total score of the household in which they reside. The sample is then divided into population quintiles, i.e., five groups with the same number of individuals in each. At the national level, approximately 20 percent of the household population is in each wealth quintile.

A single asset index is developed on the basis of data from the entire country sample and used in all the tabulations presented. Separate asset indices are not prepared for rural and urban population groups on the basis of rural or urban data, respectively.

Wealth quintiles are expressed in terms of quintiles of individuals in the population, rather than quintiles of individuals at risk for any one health or population indicator. (Thus, for example, the quintile rates for infant mortality refer to the infant mortality rates per 1,000 live births among all people in the population quintile concerned, as distinct from quintiles of live births or newly born infants, who constitute the only members of the population at risk of mortality during infancy.)

The wealth index has been compared against both poverty rates and gross domestic product per capita for India, and against expenditure data from household surveys in Nepal, Pakistan and Indonesia (Filmer and Pritchett, 1998) and Guatemala (Rutstein 1999). The evidence from those studies suggests that the assets index is highly comparable to conventionally measured consumption expenditures.

Table 2.10 shows the distribution of the *de jure* household population into five wealth levels (quintiles) based on the wealth index by residence. These distributions indicate the degree to which wealth is evenly (or unevenly) distributed by geographic areas. A much larger proportion of the Egyptian population in urban areas than in rural areas falls in the highest wealth index group (42 percent and 5 percent, respectively). In turn, more of the rural than urban population is found in the lowest wealth index group (31 percent and 5 percent, respectively). Considering place of residence, slightly over half of the population in the Urban Governorates is in the highest wealth quintile compared to 12 percent of the population in Upper Egypt and 15 percent in Lower Egypt. The population in rural Upper Egypt is especially concentrated at the lower end of the wealth index with 73 percent of the population in the two lowest wealth quintiles.

**Table 2.10 Wealth quintiles by residence**  
Percent distribution of the de jure household population by wealth quintiles, according to urban-rural residence and place of residence, Egypt 2005

Wealth quintiles	Urban	Rural	Urban Governorates	Lower Egypt		Upper Egypt			Frontier Governorates	Total	
				Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban			Rural
Lowest	4.5	30.9	2.8	15.0	1.6	19.7	32.2	8.6	42.7	30.0	20.0
Second	7.5	28.8	5.0	22.0	6.0	27.5	24.6	12.2	30.1	16.6	20.0
Middle	15.2	23.3	11.0	25.0	16.0	28.2	18.9	20.6	18.2	16.2	20.0
Fourth	30.8	12.5	30.1	23.1	36.4	18.5	12.7	27.4	6.1	16.4	20.0
Highest	41.9	4.5	51.1	14.9	40.0	6.1	11.6	31.2	2.9	20.7	20.0
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	44,360	62,940	18,890	43,644	11,317	32,327	43,554	13,420	30,134	1,212	107,300