The 2014 Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) provides up-to-date information about the population and health situation in Egypt. The 2014 EDHS is the tenth DHS conducted in the country.

The survey collected information from 28,175 households and 21,762 ever-married women age 15-49 on child mortality, vaccination, infectious diseases, and circumcision.

Despite earlier declines, childhood mortality has changed little since 2008.

**Trends in Childhood Mortality**

Deaths per 1,000 live births

- **2008 EDHS (2004-2008)**
- **2014 EDHS (2010-2014)**

- **Neonatal**
  - 20
  - 16
  - 14

- **Infant**
  - 33
  - 25
  - 22

- **Under-5**
  - 41
  - 28
  - 27

**Under-5 Mortality by Residence**

Deaths per 1,000 live births in the 10-year period before the survey

- **Urban Governorsates**
  - 20

- **Lower Egypt**
  - 26

- **Urban**
  - 21

- **Rural**
  - 28

- **Upper Egypt**
  - 38

- **Urban**
  - 27

- **Rural**
  - 42

- **Frontier Governorsates**
  - 25

*Does not include North and South Sinai governorates

Under five mortality ranges from a low of 20 deaths per 1,000 live births in Urban Governorates to a high of 38 deaths per 1,000 live births in Upper Egypt.

**Infant Mortality by Birth Interval**

Deaths per 1,000 live births for the 10-year period before the survey

- **< 2 years**
  - 51

- **2 years**
  - 23

- **3 years**
  - 15

- **4+ years**
  - 15

**Under-5 Mortality by Birth Interval**

Deaths per 1,000 live births

- **< 2 years**
  - 56

- **2 years**
  - 28

- **3 years**
  - 18

- **4+ years**
  - 19

The infant mortality rate for babies born less than 2 years after a previous birth is more than 3 times as high as the rate for babies born 3 years after a previous birth.

**Prevalence and Treatment of Diarrhea**

Percent of children under 5 with diarrhea in the 2 weeks before the survey

- **Advice or treatment sought from a health facility or provider**
  - 14%

- **Given oral rehydration solution/home solution**
  - 55%

- **Given antibiotic**
  - 30%

Advice or treatment was sought for more than half of young children with diarrhea; 37% of these children were treated with an antibiotic even though this is not the recommended practice.

In the 2 weeks before the survey, **14%** of children under 5 were ill with cough and rapid breathing, symptoms of acute respiratory infection (ARI). Among these children, **68%** were taken to a health facility or provider for advice or treatment; **63%** were given antibiotics; and **20%** received no advice or treatment.

**91%** of children age 18-29 months have received all basic vaccinations—BCG, measles, 3 DPT and 3 polio doses.
Circumcision poses health risks, sometimes fatal, for young girls. According to mothers’ reports, more than half of all girls age 0-19 are expected to be circumcised by the time they are adults. Expected rates of circumcision are highest in Upper Egypt and are higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

Circumcision Status by Residence
Percent of girls age 0-19 already circumcised and expected to be circumcised in the future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Already circumcised</th>
<th>Percentage expected to be circumcised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>21/56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Governorates</td>
<td>11/31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Egypt</td>
<td>17/62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>11/34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>19/56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Egypt</td>
<td>29/69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>24/52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>31/75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontier Governorates</td>
<td>18/39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Cover photo © 2013 UNICEF/Yousri Akl
The 2014 Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) provides up-to-date information about the population and health situation in Egypt. The 2014 EDHS is the tenth DHS conducted in the country since 1988.

In the 2014 EDHS all households were asked about education and access to health care. Almost 6,700 women were asked about their experience with domestic violence. About 22,000 adults were asked about methods of child discipline used in their households.

More than two-thirds of women report problems accessing health care. Most often women are concerned that facilities will not have drugs or providers.
Attitudes toward Wife Beating
Percent of married women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife if she:

- Argues with him: 13
- Neglects the children: 24
- Goes out without telling him: 26
- Refuses to have sex with him: 20
- Burns the food: 7
- At least one specified reason: 36

More than one-third of women think wife beating is sometimes justified.

Child Discipline by Method
Percent of children age 1-14 disciplined in the month before the survey

- Nonviolence discipline: 4
- Any physical punishment: 78
- Any severe physical punishment: 43
- Any violent discipline method: 93

In the month before the survey, 93% of children were disciplined by a violent method. Violent methods ranged from yelling or screaming to severe physical punishments including hitting the child on the face, head or ears, or hitting the child over and over as hard as one can.

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**Regular Antenatal Care by Wealth Quintile**  
Percent of mothers who received 4+ ANC visits for the last birth in the 5 years before the survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quintile</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poorer women get antenatal care less often than wealthier women.

**Components of Antenatal Care**

- **Percentage among women who had a live birth in the past 5 years:**
  - Took iron tablets or syrup: 66%
  - Informed of signs of pregnancy complications: 46%
  - Weighed: 88%
  - Blood pressure measured: 93%
  - Urine sample taken: 78%
  - Blood sample taken: 81%

Most pregnant women receive routine screening procedures during antenatal care, but less than half say they are informed about signs of pregnancy complications.

**Trends in Delivery Care**  
Percent of births in the 5 years before the survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Medically assisted delivery*</th>
<th>Caesarean delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Assisted by doctor or nurse/midwife

Medical assistance at childbirth has risen steadily since 2000. Caesarean deliveries, which increase risks for mothers and babies, have increased steeply since 2008.

**Place of Delivery**  
Percent of live births in the 5 years before the survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public facilities</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private facilities</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most births take place in private health care facilities.

**Deliveries at Home by Residence**  
Percent of births at home in the 5 years before the survey

- **Frontier Governorates**  
  - Urban: 5
  - Rural: 10
  - Total: 16

*Does not include North and South Sinai governorates

One in five births in Upper Egypt takes place at home.
Women have an average of 3.5 births, an increase since 2008. Births to women younger than 20 and older than 35 increase risks for mothers and babies. One in eight recent births in Egypt are among older women. Eleven percent of married girls age 15-19 are pregnant or have already given birth.

**Length of Birth Intervals in Months**

Percent of non-first births in the five years before the survey by number of months since preceding births

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Birth Intervals in Months</th>
<th>7-17</th>
<th>18-23</th>
<th>24-35</th>
<th>36-47</th>
<th>48-60+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Birth intervals less than 36 months can harm the health of mothers and children.

**Unmet Need for Family Planning**

Percent of currently married women age 15-49

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unmet Need for Family Planning</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>For spacing</th>
<th>For limiting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Over half of women use a method of modern contraception, virtually the same rate as in 2008. However, 1 in 8 women has an unmet need for family planning.
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The survey collected information from 28,175 households and 21,762 ever-married women age 15-49 on nutritional status among women and children.

**Breastfeeding in Egypt**

96% of infants are ever breastfed. Only 40% of infants are exclusively breastfed until 6 months of age, as recommended.

**Exclusive Breastfeeding by Age**

Percent exclusively breastfed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age in months</th>
<th>0 to 1</th>
<th>2 to 3</th>
<th>4 to 5</th>
<th>0 to 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exclusive breastfeeding is highest in the first month after birth; by age 4-5 months, only 13% of infants are exclusively breastfed.

**Complementary foods**

77% of children age 6-8 months are receiving complementary foods, as recommended.

**Children’s Nutritional Status**

Percent of children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2014 EDHS</th>
<th>2008 EDHS</th>
<th>2005 EDHS</th>
<th>2000 EDHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stunted (too short for age)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasted (too thin for height)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underweight (too thin for age)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One in five children is stunted—a sign of chronic malnutrition. Less than 10% of children are wasted or underweight. Wasting is a sign of acute malnutrition. Underweight can indicate either chronic or acute undernourishment or both.

**Stunting by Residence**

Percent of children under 5 years moderately and severely stunted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Urban Governance</th>
<th>Lower Egypt</th>
<th>Rural Governance</th>
<th>Upper Egypt</th>
<th>Frontier Governorates*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban Governance</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Egypt</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Governance</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Frontier Governorates</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Frontier Governorates</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not include North and South Sinai governorates

Stunting is most common in Upper Egypt and least common in the Frontier Governorates.

**Trends in Nutritional Status of Children**

Percent of children under 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Stunted</th>
<th>Wasted</th>
<th>Underweight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stunting and underweight are very similar to rates reported in 2000 and 2005. Wasting is increasing slightly over time.
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85% of Ever-married Women are Overweight or Obese
Percent distribution of ever-married women age 15-49

Nutritional Status among Never-Married Youth
Percent distribution of ever-married women age 15-49

About One in Four Women and Children Have Anemia
Percent of children age 6-59 months and women age 15-49 years with anemia

2014 Egypt
Demographic and Health Survey