



Government of Malawi
National Statistical Office

Special Stats Flash DHS 2004 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The National Statistical Office (NSO) would like to announce the release of the preliminary results of the 2004 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS 2004). The MDHS is the third survey conducted in Malawi under the auspices of the worldwide DHS programme. The preliminary report is intended to provide policy makers and programme managers with a first glimpse of the survey findings. A more comprehensive report, which will also include detailed HIV/AIDS – related information, is scheduled for late 2005. The following are some of the highlights:

FERTILITY: All women interviewed were asked to provide a full account of all children who were born alive. Table 1 shows the total (TFR) and age-specific fertility rates for the three year period prior to the survey. The results indicate that if fertility were to remain constant at the current age-specific rates measured in the survey, a woman in Malawi would have 6.0 children in her lifetime. The TFR is higher for rural (6.4) than urban (4.2) areas. Fertility is also higher among women in the younger age groups. The report also shows that fertility has continued to decline since 1984. The TFR has declined from 7.6 in 1984 to 6.7 in 1992 and to 6.3 in 2000 and now stands at 6.0.

CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE RATE: Women and men were asked a series of questions about family planning knowledge, ever use and current use. The contraceptive prevalence rate of any method among currently married women is 33%. Prevalence of any modern contraceptive methods among married women has increased from 7% in 1992 to 14% in 1996, to 26% in 2000 and to 28% in 2004.

CHILDHOOD MORTALITY: The rates shown in Table 2 were calculated for three five-year periods before the survey. The figures show that there has been a substantial decline in childhood mortality in the most recent past. The report also shows infant and under-five mortality rates for the same period and the observation is that of a gradual decrease in infant and under-five mortality which appears to have accelerated in the most recent five-year period.

ASSISTANCE AT DELIVERY AND CHILD NUTRITIONAL STATUS: The results indicate that a doctor or nurse/midwife assisted the delivery of 57% of the recent births as compared to 55% and 56% for the 1992MDHS and 2000MDHS respectively. The results also show that 48% of children under-five years are stunted (too short for their age) and 22% are severely stunted. Five percent are wasted or too thin, and 22 percent are underweight. Children's nutritional status in 2004 is therefore virtually identical to the status in 1992 and 2000.

OTHER: The report also contains information on background characteristics, child labour, family planning, fertility preferences, maternal health, vaccination, childhood illness, breastfeeding, anaemia among children and women, condom use, knowledge and testing of HIV, use of mosquito nets and physical violence at the domestic level.

Table 1. Current fertility

Age-specific and cumulative fertility rates, the general fertility rate, and the crude birth rate for the three years preceding the survey, by urban-rural residence, Malawi 2004

Age group	Residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
15-19	109	175	162
20-24	237	308	293
25-29	195	266	254
30-34	159	233	222
35-39	97	174	163
40-44	29	87	80
45-49	22	37	35
TFR	4.2	6.4	6.0

Table 2. Early childhood mortality rates

Infant, child, and under-five mortality rates for five-year periods preceding the survey, Malawi 2004

Years preceding the survey	Approximate calendar years	Infant mortality (1q0)	Child mortality (4q1)	Under-five mortality (5q0)
0-4	2000-2004	76	61	133
5-9	1995-1999	112	84	187
10-14	1990-1994	104	96	190

