

# **National Family Health Survey**

**(MCH and Family Planning)**

**India**  
**1992-93**

**International Institute for Population Sciences**  
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## FOREWORD

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is an important component of the Project to Strengthen the Survey Research Capabilities of the Population Research Centres in India, launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), New Delhi, in 1991. It was undertaken with the principal objective of providing state-level and national-level estimates of fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health care and the utilization of services provided for mothers and children. Another important objective of the NFHS was to provide high quality data to academicians and researchers for undertaking analytical research on various population and health topics.

The MOHFW designated the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Bombay, as the nodal agency for providing coordination and technical guidance to the NFHS. The data collection for the NFHS was undertaken by various Consulting Organizations (COs) in collaboration with the concerned Population Research Centres (PRCs) in each state. The East-West Center/Macro International provided technical assistance for all of the survey operations. Funding for the NFHS was provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), New Delhi.

The NFHS covered 24 states and the National Capital Territory of Delhi (the erstwhile Union Territory of Delhi, which recently attained statehood), which comprise 99 percent of the total population of India. In all, 89,777 ever-married women age 13-49 and 88,562 households were covered, using uniform questionnaires, sample designs and field procedures. The data collection was carried out on a state-by-state basis from April 1992 to September 1993. Preliminary reports with selected results were prepared for each state by the end of 1993 and presented to policymakers and programme administrators responsible for improving family welfare programmes in most states. The final state-level reports were prepared jointly by representatives from the concerned PRC for each state, faculty members from IIPS and demographers from the East-West Center/Macro International.

The contents and tabulation plan for this national report were discussed and finalized at a workshop held at IIPS on 19-20 September 1994. The tables and graphs for this report were finalized and produced at IIPS based on the recommendations of the workshop. The report has been written jointly by IIPS and the East-West Center/Macro International. The report contains detailed information on household and individual respondent characteristics, marriage, fertility, knowledge and practice of family planning, fertility preferences, infant and child mortality, utilization of antenatal services, vaccination, child feeding practices, nutritional status of children, and knowledge of AIDS. Interstate variations on key indicators are also presented in this report.

With the release of this report, the data collected under the NFHS are being made available to researchers all over the world. I hope that there will be many further analyses of the NFHS data by researchers in India as well as outside India. As a part of the further analysis of the NFHS data, a series of subject reports is planned as a collaborative effort of IIPS, the East-West Center, the PRCs and MOHFW, covering various topics including the determinants of fertility, contraceptive use and infant and child mortality. The publication of a series of *NFHS Research Bulletins*, highlighting the findings of these analyses, is also being planned with

a view to achieving wider dissemination of the findings.

Never before in India has such a large population and health survey been undertaken and completed in the stipulated time period. I am, therefore, very happy to present the national report based on the NFHS data. I do hope that it will contribute to the knowledge of researchers and analysts in India and that programme administrators and policymakers will find it useful for policy development and implementation of the family welfare programme.

**K.B. Pathak**  
Director, International  
Institute for Population  
Sciences, Bombay

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