

**Table 1. Demographic and reproductive health indicators in Lebanon, 2000–2007 (cont.)**

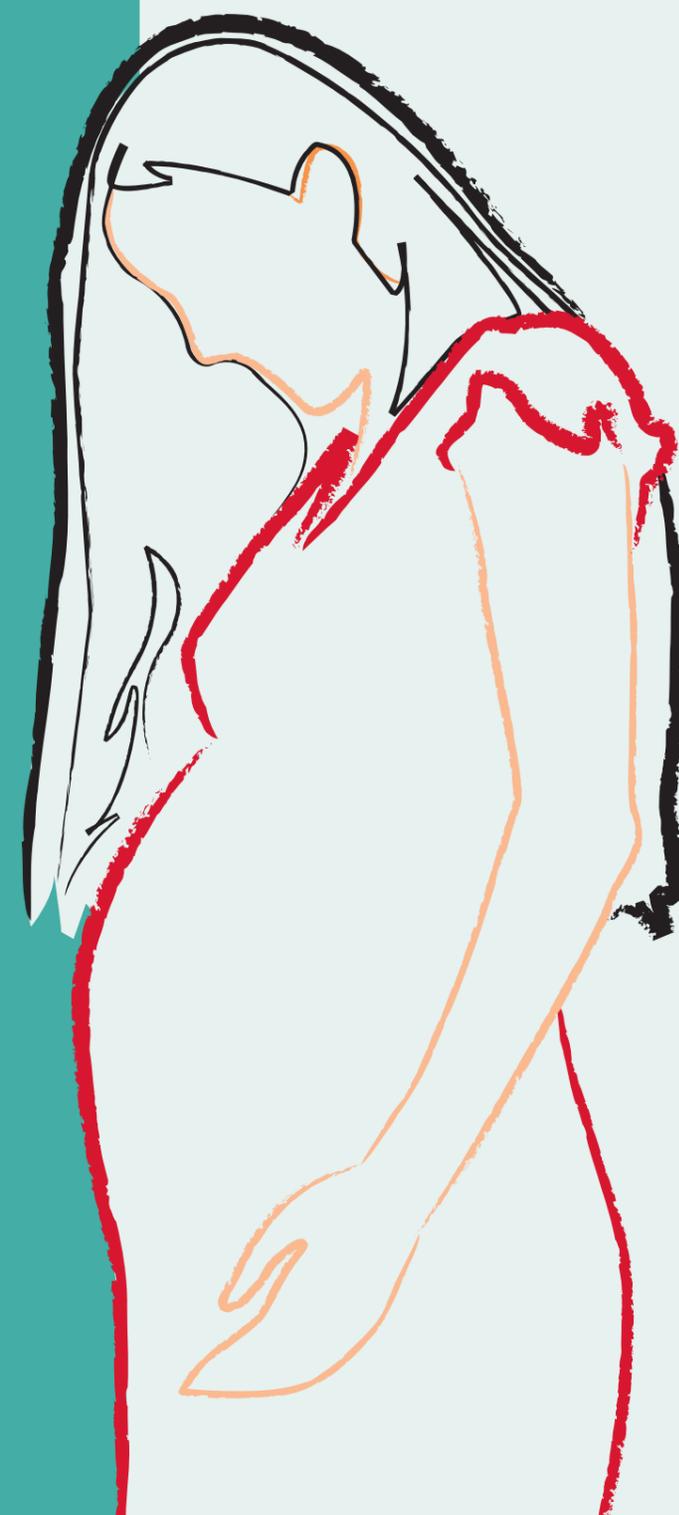
Indicator	Parameter	Year	Source
Contraceptive prevalence rate among married women of reproductive age (15–49), all methods (%)	58	2004	PAPFAM
Total population	3 928 000	2007	MOPH
<i>Traditional methods (all)</i>	66	2004	PAPFAM
Withdrawal	n/a		
Rhythm	n/a		
Lactational amenorrhoea	0.2	2004	PAPFAM
<i>Modern methods (all)</i>	34	2004	PAPFAM
IUD	13.8	2004	PAPFAM
Condoms	4.3	2004	PAPFAM
Contraceptive pill	12.7	2004	PAPFAM
Injectables	0.6	2004	PAPFAM
Implants	0.7	2004	PAPFAM
Female sterilization	3.5	2004	PAPFAM
<i>Factors for not using modern methods among married women</i>			
Fear of side-effects	22	2004	PAPFAM
Lack of knowledge	0.3	2004	PAPFAM
Cost	0.4	2004	PAPFAM
Lack of access	n/a		
Traditional misconceptions	n/a		
Partner opposes	2.2	2004	PAPFAM
Unmet need for modern contraception	n/a		
Receipt of postpartum care and family planning counselling	n/a		
Incidence of sexually transmitted infections (per 100 000)	11	2004	PAPFAM
Syphilis	n/a		
Gonorrhoea	n/a		
Chlamydia	n/a		
Trichomoniasis	n/a		
HIV prevalence (%)			
Number of verified HIV cases	1056	2007	NAP <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> NAP- National AIDS programme

# Lebanon

## Reproductive health profile

### 2008



## Health care system

Like other sectors in Lebanon, the health sector is currently struggling with the consequences of the July 2006 conflict, which disrupted the social, economic and health infrastructure of the country. Before the conflict several interventions were initiated to improve the monitoring of delivery and the quality of health care services. These included hospital accreditation, building a network of primary health care (PHC) centres, autonomy of public hospitals, pilot maternal and child health project (Akkar region), preventative programmes and infection control programmes. Given the country's volatile situation the health sector is in constant evolution. The private sector is the main provider of secondary and tertiary care, while primary health care services are provided by the Government (Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)) and also nongovernmental organizations health care outlets under the overall supervision of the MoPH.

In 2003 Lebanon's health expenditure was 10.6% of gross domestic product (GDP). Current reforms aim at lowering this percentage while maintaining optimal quality of services. Strategies include: harmonization and improving efficiency of population coverage system; implementing a hospital accreditation for contracting with public and private providers; reducing the national medicines bill; establishing a national health information system (NHIS); strengthening the planning capacity of the MoPH; and boosting the primary health care subsystem. Health insurance is provided by various entities, including private insurance companies, government employee COOP, NSSF (where the Government covers most of the health care costs), MoPH (for the uninsured) and veterans' insurance. Essential medicines are available for uninsured citizens from the MoPH central warehouse.

## Reproductive health

The national reproductive health component of the project Leb/02/P03 provides reproductive health services to 191 health outlets. The whole package of services is offered within primary health care outlets, which belong to the MoPH, MoSA and nongovernmental organizations. The outlets are supported by the reproductive health project which offers free contraceptives, essential gynaecological medicines, equipment and kits. Most pregnant women receive prenatal care from trained personnel (96%), most are attended by skilled health staff during delivery (98%) and most deliveries take place in health facilities (97%) (Table 1).

The MoPH allocates approximately 0.4% of its annual budget to the implementation of the reproductive health strategy. The procurement of modern family planning methods is one of the main deliverables of the project. All health outlets operating within this project receive free supplies of family planning methods such as oral contraceptive pills, intrauterine devices (IUD's), progesterone injectables, condoms, spermicidals and vaginal foams. Training in order to improve the quality of reproductive health services



from standard service delivery guidelines and system management protocols has been ongoing every year. However, utilization of reproductive health services is not up to national objectives. The contraceptive prevalence rate was estimated at 58% in 2004, out of which modern methods accounted for 34% of the total contraceptive users (Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM)). The intrauterine device is the most popular method (13.8% of total contraceptive users) followed by contraceptive pills (12.7%), condoms (4.3%) and other modern methods (3.2%).

The birth rate in Lebanon is estimated at 19.8 per 1000 inhabitants, the death rate at 5.2 per 1000 inhabitants and the rate of natural increase at 1.1%. The total fertility rate decreased from three births per woman during 1989–1993 to 2.3 during 1994–1998, and then to 1.9 births during 1999–2003. The maternal mortality ratio is 86.3 deaths per 100 000 live births, which is above the national target set at 64 deaths per 100 000 live births. According to the

MoPH, the number of verified HIV/AIDS cases in 2007 was 1056, out of which 42% were classified HIV+, 40.9% AIDS and 17.1% unspecified.



**Table 1. Demographic and reproductive health indicators in Lebanon, 2000–2007**

Indicator	Parameter	Year	Source
Total population	3 928 000	2007	MOPH
Population growth rate	1.54	2007	MOPH
Crude birth rate	20.76	2007	MOPH
Crude death rate	5.35	2007	MOPH
Urban to rural population, ratio	87:13	2007	MOPH
Number of women of reproductive age (15–49 years)	1 061 001	2007	MOPH
Total fertility rate	1.9	2004	PAPFAM
Percentage of pregnant women attended by skilled personnel (of all pregnant women)	96	2004	PAPFAM
Number of facilities with functioning essential obstetric care per 500 000 persons	16	2000	MOPH
Percentage of deliveries attended by skilled personnel (of all deliveries)	98	2004	MOPH
Percentage of deliveries undertaken in health facilities (of all deliveries)	97	2004	PAPFAM
Percentage of caesarean sections (of all deliveries)	23	2004	PAPFAM
Percentage of pregnant women with anaemia (of all pregnant women)	n/a		
Percentage of newborn infants with low birth weight (of all newborn infants)	35	2004	NPME
Maternal mortality per 100 000 live births	86.3	2004	PAPFAM
Perinatal mortality per 1000 live births	6	2004	PAPFAM
Neonatal mortality per 1000 live births	11.7	2004	PAPFAM
Life expectancy at birth female (years)	74.9	2004	PAPFAM
Life expectancy at birth male (years)	71.7	2004	PAPFAM