

**NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY  
(NFHS-3)**

**2005–06**

**INDIA  
VOLUME I**

**September 2007**

**Suggested citation: International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and Macro International. 2007. *National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), 2005–06: India: Volume I*. Mumbai: IIPS.**

**For additional information about the 2005-06 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), please contact:**

**International Institute for Population Sciences  
Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai - 400 088  
Telephone: 022-2556-4883, 022-2558-3778  
Fax: 022-2558-3778  
E-mail: [iipsnfhs@vsnl.com](mailto:iipsnfhs@vsnl.com), [iipsnfhs@gmail.com](mailto:iipsnfhs@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.nfhsindia.org>**

**For related information, visit <http://www.iipsindia.org> or <http://www.mohfw.nic.in>**

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

**P.N. Mari Bhat**  
**Fred Arnold**  
**Kamla Gupta**  
**Sunita Kishor**  
**Sulabha Parasuraman**  
**P. Arokiasamy**  
**S.K. Singh**  
**H. Lhungdim**

*In fond memory of the late  
Prof. P.N. Mari Bhat*

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## VOLUME II

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सत्यमेव जयते



राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन

भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110011  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi - 110011

**Naresh Dayal**

Health & FW Secretary  
Tel.: 23061863 Fax : 23061252  
e-mail : secyfw@nb.nic.in  
ndayal@nic.in

## FOREWORD


The Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission in April 2005 with the objectives of meeting the outcomes envisioned in the National Population Policy 2000, the Eleventh Plan, MDGs and the Vision 2020 India by improving the reproductive and child health delivery system along with the overall preventive and curative and preventable health care system in the country.

In order to have an effectual set of policies and also to translate that into new programmes and initiatives, there is always a hunt for newer set of evidences of the ground realities. This is where the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) have always played a crucial role. Like its predecessors, NFHS-1 (1992-93) and NFHS-2 (1998-99), present round, NFHS-3 (2005-06) was conducted when there was the need to have base line information on the crucial reproductive and Child Health, nutrition, life style and HIV/AIDS related indicators, due to the launching of the Phase II of the Reproductive and Child Health programme and the NACP-III programme for control of HIV/AIDS.

National Family Health Survey (2005-06) popularly known as NFHS-3 is not only large in its coverage of newer areas of data collection, it has covered for the first time unmarried women age 15-49 and married and unmarried men age 15-54 in addition to all ever-married women age 15-49. Thus, the number of individuals interviewed has also increased almost twice of that during previous rounds.

I hope that the information set in this round of NFHS would further strengthen India's demographic and health database. The efforts of all in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, NACO, International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), National AIDS Research Institute, the Chairmen & members of the Technical and Administrative Committees, partners from USAID, UNICEF, UNFPA, DFID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and ORC Macro, USA who have assiduously worked and supported this project are acknowledged with appreciation.

*Naresh Dayal*  
(Naresh Dayal)

 सम्पर्क से पहले सोचो, एच आईवी/एडस से बचो **HIV/AIDS : Prevention is better than cure**



## PREFACE

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The National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) programme, initiated in the early 1990s, has emerged as a nationally important source of data on population, health, and nutrition for India and its states. The 2005-06 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), the third in the series of these national surveys, was preceded by NFHS-1 in 1992-93 and NFHS-2 in 1998-99. Like NFHS-1 and NFHS-2, NFHS-3 was designed to provide estimates of important indicators on family welfare, maternal and child health, and nutrition. In addition, NFHS-3 provides information on several new and emerging issues, including family life education, safe injections, perinatal mortality, adolescent reproductive health, high-risk sexual behaviour, tuberculosis, and malaria. Further, unlike the earlier surveys in which only ever-married women age 15-49 were eligible for individual interviews, NFHS-3 interviewed all women age 15-49 and all men age 15-54. Information on nutritional status, including the prevalence of anaemia, is provided in NFHS-3 for women age 15-49, men age 15-54, and young children.

A special feature of NFHS-3 is the inclusion of testing of the adult population for HIV. NFHS-3 is the first nationwide community-based survey in India to provide an estimate of HIV prevalence in the general population. Specifically, NFHS-3 provides estimates of HIV prevalence among women age 15-49 and men age 15-54 for all of India, and separately for Uttar Pradesh and for Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, and Tamil Nadu, five out of the six states classified by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) as high HIV prevalence states. No estimate of HIV prevalence is being provided for Nagaland, the sixth high HIV prevalence state, due to strong local opposition to the collection of blood samples.

NFHS-3 covered all 29 states in India, which comprise more than 99 percent of India's population. NFHS-3 is designed to provide estimates of key indicators for India as a whole and, with the exception of HIV prevalence, for all 29 states by urban-rural residence. Additionally, NFHS-3 provides estimates for the slum and non-slum populations of eight cities, namely Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Kolkata, Meerut, Mumbai, and Nagpur. NFHS-3 was conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, and is the result of the collaborative efforts of a large number of organizations. The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, was designated by MOHFW as the nodal agency for the project. Funding for NFHS-3 was provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), DFID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, UNFPA, and MOHFW. Macro International, USA, provided technical assistance at all stages of the NFHS-3 project. NACO and the National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) provided technical assistance for the HIV component of NFHS-3. Eighteen Research Organizations, including six Population Research Centres, shouldered the responsibility of conducting the survey in the different states of India and producing electronic data files.

The survey used a uniform sample design, questionnaires (translated into 18 Indian languages), field procedures, and procedures for biomarker measurements throughout the

country to facilitate comparability across the states and to ensure the highest possible data quality. The contents of the questionnaires were decided through an extensive collaborative process in early 2005. Based on provisional data, two national-level fact sheets and 29 state fact sheets that provide estimates of more than 50 key indicators of population, health, family welfare, and nutrition have already been released. The basic objective of releasing fact sheets within a very short period after the completion of data collection was to provide immediate feedback to planners and programme managers on key process indicators.

Given the vast amount of information collected in NFHS-3, the national report is being published in two volumes. The first volume contains comprehensive findings from NFHS-3, based on a standard tabulation plan developed at a workshop held at IIPS on 25 May 2006. According to the recommendations of the NFHS-3 Technical Advisory Committee, the tabulation plan was finalized by IIPS and tables and figures were produced for the final report. The second volume of the report includes the three NFHS-3 questionnaires, more detailed information on the sample design, sampling errors for key indicators, and data quality tables. The two volumes of this report were written jointly by authors from IIPS and Macro International.

We take great pride in presenting the NFHS-3 national report. We hope that the report will provide helpful insights into the changes that are taking place in the country and will provide policymakers and programme managers with up-to-date estimates of indicators that can be used for effective management of health and family welfare programmes, with an emphasis on both the reproductive and nutritional health of the population. The report should also contribute to the knowledge of researchers and analysts in the fields of population, health, and nutrition.

S. Lahiri  
Officiating Director  
International Institute for  
Population Sciences  
Mumbai



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

The 2005-06 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) was successfully completed due to the efforts and involvement of numerous organizations and individuals at different stages of the survey. As far as possible, we would like to thank everyone who was involved in the survey and made it a success.

First of all, we are grateful to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, for their overall guidance and support during the project. Mr. Prasanna Kumar Hota, Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, deserves special thanks. He initiated the project and designated the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, as the nodal agency for the survey. He also formed the Steering Committee, the Administrative and Financial Management Committee, and the Technical Advisory Committee for the smooth and efficient functioning of the project. Special thanks are due to Mr. Naresh Dayal, the present Secretary of Health and Family Welfare, who continued to take an active interest in the project and provided timely guidance and support. The contributions of Ms. S. Jalaja, ex-Additional Secretary, Mr. G.C. Chaturvedi, Mission Director, NRHM, Mr. S.K. Sinha, Additional Director General, Mr. S.K. Das, Additional DG, Mr. Partha Chattopadhyay, Chief Director, Mr. D.K. Joshi, the then Chief Director, Dr. V.K. Manchanda, ex-DC (Maternal Health), and Mr. K.S. Rejimon, Deputy Director are acknowledged with gratitude. We especially want to thank Mr. K.D. Maiti, Adviser (MH/Stats), and Ms. Rashmi Verma, Deputy Director, for their continuing contributions at every stage of the survey.

We gratefully acknowledge the immense help received from the Office of the Registrar General of India, New Delhi (particularly Mr. D.K. Sikri, Registrar General of India, Mr. Unnikrishnan, Deputy Registrar General of India, and Mr. R.C. Sethi, Additional Registrar General, in implementing the sample design, making the latest SRS results available to cite in the reports, and providing details about the non-household population. We are grateful to the Directorate of Census Operations and all state census offices for providing census maps. We thank all the expert participants in the series of workshops to finalize the questionnaire design, the sample design, and the tabulation plan for the survey. Special thanks are due to the UNIFEM South Asia Regional Office, New Delhi, for providing lists of the organizations giving support to victims of domestic violence in each state.

We are thankful to the Department of Health and Family Welfare of each state for helping the Research Organizations (ROs) by providing them with logistical assistance, whenever possible. Special thanks go to the local officials in all of the sample areas for facilitating the data collection.

NFHS-3 is funded by a number of development partners. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided generous funding for NFHS-3. USAID's contribution to the project is sincerely acknowledged. Special thanks are due to Mr. Robert Clay, Director of the Office of Population, Health and Nutrition (PHN), USAID, New Delhi, Ms. Sheena Chhabra, Chief, Health Systems Division, and Mr. Jyoti Shankar Tewari, Project Management Specialist during most of the project (and currently Health Adviser, DFID), for their initiative and

involvement in the project. Many thanks are due to UNICEF for providing additional funding for the nutrition component of the project and the most modern medical equipment for carrying out the height-weight and biomarker measurements. Special thanks are due to Dr. Robert Jenkins, Chief, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Dr. Kamakshi Murthy and Mr. Rubin Lalwani, Asst. Project Officers, and Mr. Raj Gautam Mitra, Project Officer, UNICEF, New Delhi, for their earnest cooperation in this respect.

Major funding was also provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the Avahan Project, Department for International Development (DFID), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We are thankful to Mr. Ashok Alexander, Director, Dr. Virginia Loo, Ms. Gina Dallabetta (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), Ms. Joanna Reid, Dr. Ranjana Kumar, Ms. Jyoti Datta, Dr. Geena Ibrahim (DFID), and Mr. Hendrik van der Pol, Ms. Shachi Grover, Dr. K.M. Satyanarayana (UNFPA) for active involvement at all stages of the project.

We acknowledge the guidance and support provided by Prof. N.K. Ganguly, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), and the National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) for overall guidance for the HIV component of the survey, including HIV testing. We gratefully acknowledge the help given by Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, former Additional Secretary and Director General, Ms. K. Sujatha Rao, Additional Secretary and Director General, Dr. Mohd. Shaikat, Joint Director (Technical) and Deputy Director (IEC), Dr. Ajay Khera, Joint Director (ART & Surveillance), and Dr. Dimple Kasana, Deputy Director (R&D) (NACO). We are thankful to Dr. R.S. Paranjape, Director, Dr. Arun R. Risbud, Deputy Director, Dr. Sanjay Mehendale, Deputy Director, and Dr. Madhuri Thakar, Sr. Research Officer (NARI) for providing external quality control for HIV testing. We gratefully acknowledge the efforts put in by all staff of SRL Ranbaxy, including Dr. Amar Dasgupta, Dr. Girish Patwardhan, Dr. Shashikala Menon, and Dr. Shirish Malwankar in testing a large number of blood samples for HIV in a short period.

We gratefully acknowledge the help and cooperation given by Prof. Alok Chaurasia, the then CEO, Population Resource Centre, RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal, during the national pretest of the NFHS-3 questionnaires in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. We also thank the Director General, RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal, for extending support during the national pretest. We also thank the Director, National Institute for Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi, for providing assistance in holding various meetings at NIHFW, New Delhi.

Thanks are due to Dr. Arvind Pandey for chairing the Technical Advisory Committee, and all the members of the Steering Committee, Administrative and Financial Management Committee, and Technical Advisory Committee, Sub-committee on Sexual Behavior and Domestic Violence, Committee on Finalization of Report Format, and Ethics Review Board, IIPS, for participating in various meetings and providing valuable guidance for successful execution of the project.

Dr. T.K. Roy was Director of IIPS and Dr. G. Rama Rao was Offg. Director of IIPS during the planning and development of the project. Their immense interest and great assistance to NFHS-3 are gratefully acknowledged. Dr. P.N. Mari Bhat was Director of IIPS during the implementation of the project. We gratefully acknowledge his technical and administrative guidance

during this crucial period. We appreciate the continuing interest and efforts on behalf of the survey from Dr. S. Lahiri, the current Offg. Director of IIPS.

We appreciate and acknowledge the untiring efforts, interest, and initiative taken by Dr. Fred Arnold, Dr. Sunita Kishor, Dr. Ruilin Ren, Dr. Jasbir Sangha, and Mr. Zaheer Ahmad Khan from Macro International. It is only due to their hard work that NFHS-3 could be completed successfully. Thanks are also due to Dr. Anil Mishra, Programme Advisor, Path International, for supervision of the biomarker measurements in NFHS-3.

Macro International made available the CSPro computer package for data entry and tabulation. Special thanks go to Mr. Glen Heller for his skillful coordination of Macro International's data processing team and his key role in all data processing and data analysis activities. We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Ms. Sherrell Goggin and Mr. Martin Wulfe in the data processing operation, data analysis, and preparation of the tables for the NFHS-3 reports. We greatly appreciate the work of Mr. Trevor Croft for his help in developing the computer interface for laboratory testing and for assisting with the data processing training.

We gratefully acknowledge Ms. Y. Vaidehi, NFHS-3 Senior Research Officer, for her valuable contribution in NFHS-3, particularly in data processing. We are thankful to Dr. Rajeshri Chitanand, Assistant Research Officer, Department of Development Studies, IIPS, for her contribution in NFHS-3. We acknowledge the contribution of NFHS-3 Senior Research Officers Mr. Lakhan Singh and Mr. Sangram Kishor Patel, and Research Officers Ms. R. Usha and Dr. M. Benarji Prasad and Assistant Research Officer Ms. Subarna Debnath. We also thank the Senior Research Officers, Research Officers, and the Health Coordinators listed in Appendix B for their valuable assistance during the fieldwork. Thanks are also due to the other supporting staff of the project, particularly Mr. R.S. Hegde, Project Officer, Mr. Manuel Roche, Ms. Kavita Rathod, Ms. Manorama Rautela, Office Assistants and Mr. Pramod T. Sawant, Mr. Ashok Pawar and Mr. Yogesh, Office Attendants. We also gratefully acknowledge the Administrative, Accounts, Library, and other staff of IIPS, for their continuous cooperation during the entire project period.

The difficult task of data collection, office editing, and data entry for NFHS-3 was successfully carried out by 18 Research Organizations (ROs). Our heartfelt thanks are due to the Directors and staff of the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, Centre for Operations Research and Training (CORT), Vadodara, Population Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi, Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur, ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi, Research and Development Initiative Pvt. Ltd. (RDI), New Delhi, Economic Information Technology (EIT), Kolkata, State Institute of Health and Family Welfare (SIHFW), Bhubaneswar, TNS India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, MODE Services Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, TALEEM Research Foundation, Ahmedabad, Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare Trust (GIRHFWT), Tamil Nadu, Society for Applied Research in Humanities, (SARH), New Delhi, Development and Research Services (DRS), New Delhi, Population Research Centre, Dharwad, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, and Population Research Centre, Kerala.

This acknowledgement cannot be concluded without expressing appreciation for the hard work put in by the interviewers, health investigators, supervisors and field editors in collecting data for NFHS-3.

Last but not the least, credit goes to all the eligible women and men who spent their time and responded to the lengthy questionnaires with tremendous patience and without any expectation from NFHS-3.

Kamla Gupta  
Sulabha Parasuraman  
P. Arokiasamy  
S.K. Singh  
H. Lhungdim

NFHS-3 Coordinators, IIPS