

## 1. NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY (NFHS)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare initiated the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) in the early 1990s to provide high quality data on population and health indicators. So far five rounds of the National Family Health Survey have been completed in 1992-93, 1998-99, 2005-06, 2015-16 and 2019-21 respectively. The NFHS surveys are nationwide surveys conducted with a representative sample of households throughout the country. The five NFHS surveys conducted to date are a major landmark in the development of a demographic and health data base for India. The NFHS surveys use standardized questionnaires, sample designs, and field procedures to collect data. The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, has been designated as the nodal agency for each of the five rounds of NFHS.

The broad objectives of the National Family Health Surveys are to provide high quality data on population and health indicators as well as data on emerging issues in health and family welfare; and to provide essential information that would assist policymakers and programme managers in setting benchmarks and examining progress over time in India's health sector. Besides providing evidence on the effectiveness of ongoing programmes implemented by the M/o HFW and other Ministries and agencies. The first three rounds of NFHS provided only National and State level estimates. Since 2012, to meet the requirement of timely and reliable data at the National, State and District levels, MoHFW had taken a conscious decision to conduct one integrated survey (National Family Health Survey) with a periodicity of three years. In view of this, different surveys earlier being carried out by the Ministry were suspended. Accordingly, the fourth round of National Health Survey (NFHS-4), was conducted in 2015-16 as an integrated survey with the aim to provide estimates for the levels of fertility, infant and child mortality by background characteristics at National/ State level, and other key family welfare and health indicators at the National, State and District levels. All subsequent rounds were decided to provide estimates up to district level for majority of the indicators considering the fourth round of NFHS as the benchmark.

The fifth round of NFHS was carried out in 2019-21 and its results in the form of National, State/UT and District factsheets have been released by the Ministry and all the publications from the NFHS in the form of factsheets and reports are available in public domain and can be accessed from the website (<http://rchiips.org/NFHS/index.shtml>). The national and State factsheets contain information on 131 indicators covering the domains of population and household profiles; marriage and fertility; infant and child mortality; current use and unmet needs of family planning; maternal and child health; nutritional status and anaemia among children and adults; prevalence of certain Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and their risk factors; and women's empowerment, etc. The district factsheets provide information on 104 indicators.

The survey work for NFHS-5 was conducted in two phases covering about half the country in each phase with an aim to provide district level estimates for most of the indicators for all 707 districts (as of March, 2017). The survey work was initially scheduled to be completed by December 2020. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Phase-II survey field work got delayed by around 8 months and was finally completed in April, 2021. The survey covered 6.36 lakh sample households from all the 707 districts, and interviewed 724115 women and 101839 men to collect crucial information on population, health, family planning, nutrition and other associated domains. The scope of NFHS-5 has been modified in respect of target population ranges and age reference to align them as per SDGs requirement. Thus expanded age range of 15+ years is being considered for non-communicable diseases (e.g. Diabetes, Hypertension etc.) and also for their risk factors. It has also been expanded by including questions inter-alia on disability, collection of Dried Blood Sample (DBS) for carrying out tests for Malaria, HbA1C, Vitamin-D and measurement of Waist/ Hip circumferences, etc.

**NFHS-5 India factsheet**

**NFHS Reports**

<http://rchiips.org/nfhs/index.shtml>