



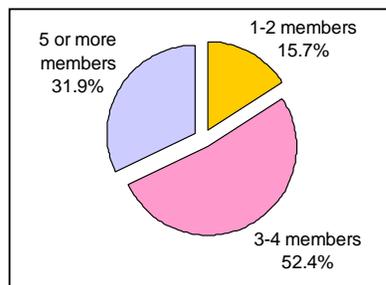
About the DHS Survey

Demographic & Health Survey (2006/07) conducted by the Department of Census & Statistics provides important information on Fertility, Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and awareness of HIV/AIDS. The survey is designed to provide National as well as district and sector wise estimates. The survey covered all parts of the country excluding Northern Province. Information was collected from 23000 housing units. Main target group of the survey was ever married women in the 15-49 age group and their children below 5 years of age at the time of the survey.

- No. of households interviewed: 608.
- No. of eligible women (age 15-49) interviewed: 470.
- Estimated housing units: 102,354.
- Estimated population: 404,344.
- Household response rate: 98.5%.

Household Size -

Figure 1: Households by household size in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7



- Average household size is 4.0 persons per household.
- About 68 percent of households are with less than 5 persons.

About the household population -

Table 1: Proportion of the population in selected age groups & sex in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7

Age Group	Total	Male	Female
Below 5 yrs.	9.5	9.5	9.5
Below 15 yrs.	26.5	26.3	26.7
Below 18 yrs.	32.4	32.7	32.1
15-49 yrs.	54.6	54.9	54.3
15-64 yrs.	68.2	67.8	68.5
65 years or more	5.4	5.9	4.8

- 54 percent of females are in the reproductive age group.

Table 2: Age dependency ratio in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7

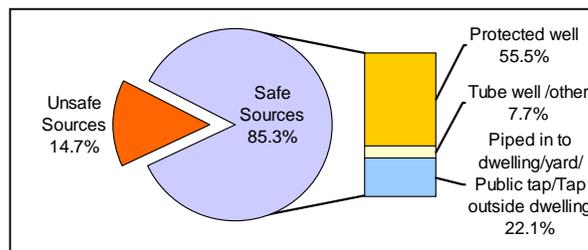
Age Dependency Ratio	Total
Below 15 yrs.	38.9
65 years or more	7.9

- Young age dependency ratio (38.9) is nearly 5 times greater than that of old age dependency ratio (7.9).



Access to safe drinking water -

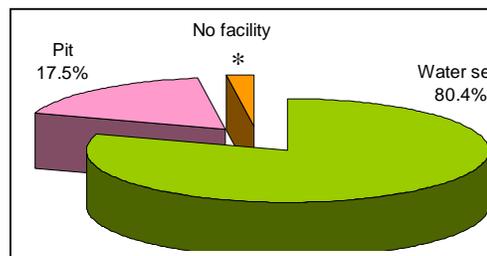
Figure 2 : Households by availability of safe drinking water in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7



- About 85 percent of households have access to source of safe drinking water. 17.6 percent households have water piped in to the home or yard and 4.5 percent use public tap or tap outside dwelling. About 56 percent have access to water from protected well.

Sanitation Facility -

Figure 3 : Households by availability of sanitation facility in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7



* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- About 80 percent of households use water sealed toilets while 17.5 percent use pit toilets.

Electricity

66.1 percent households in Polonnaruwa District have electricity.

Ownership of household consumer goods -

Table 3: Percentage of households by ownership of household equipment in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7

Equipment	Percentage of Households
Television	71
Radio	79
Refrigerator	22
Mobile phones	20
Land phones	22

Main source of cooking fuel –

- About 93 percent of households in Polonnaruwa District use firewood for cooking while about 4.5 percent use LP gas as main source of fuel for cooking.

Use of Mosquito nets -

- About 93 percent of the households in Polonnaruwa District currently use mosquito nets and 30.4 percent of households use mosquito coils.

About Children in Polonnaruwa District -

- Out of the children in 5 – 15 year age group 99.3 percent have ever attended a school.
- It is reported that 8.9 percent of currently school attending children in 5-17 year age group do not have enough school books.

Child Health -

Immunization Coverage

- It was observed that 100 percent of children between 12-23 months in Polonnaruwa District have received specified vaccines BCG, Polio, DPT and Measles by 12 months of age.

Birth Weight

- 85.4 percent of children (with health development report) of 0-59 months in Polonnaruwa District have birth weight as equal or above 2.5kg.
- 14.6 percent of children have low birth weights (Less than 2.5kg).

Mother's Health Care in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7-

- The Government health facilities have served 98.6 percent of deliveries which occurred during the 5 year period preceding the survey.
- The survey further reported that almost every mother has received assistance of skilled health person at their last delivery.

Exclusive breast feeding

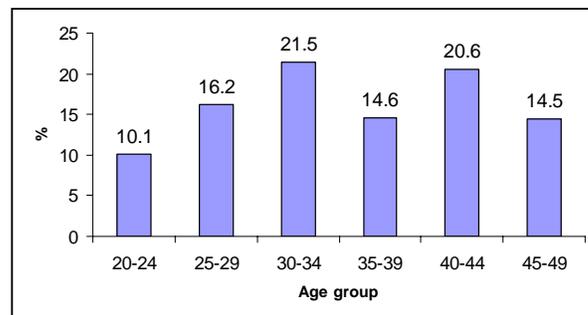
- The proportion of mothers who have exclusively breast fed during the first 4 months at their last birth in Polonnaruwa District is 89.2.

Background characteristics of ever married females of 15-49 years

Age distribution of eligible women* -

- Figure 4 shows that highest proportion (21.5 percent) of eligible women belong to 30-34 age category.

Figure 4: Distribution of eligible women in Polonnaruwa District by age group 2006/7



Note: Percentage of 15-19 age group is negligible

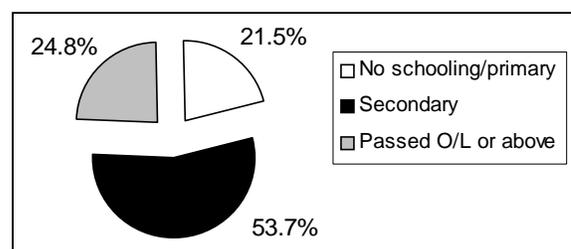
Marital status of eligible women -

- 94.3 percent of eligible women were married at the time of the survey.

Level of education of eligible women -

- 21.5 percent of eligible women in Polonnaruwa District have primary level education or never attended school.
- Majority (53.7%) of them have attended up to secondary level of education.

Figure 5: Eligible women by level of education in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7



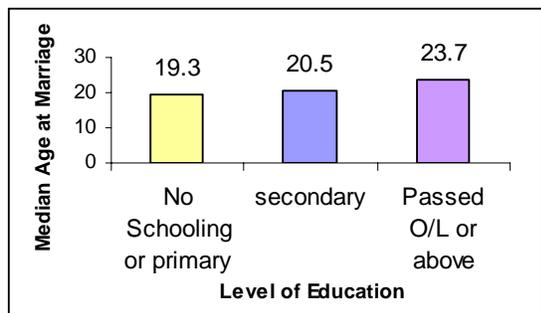
Awareness about HIV AIDS -

About 96 percent of women in Polonnaruwa District have heard about HIV AIDS. Out of this about 61 percent of women know that the AIDS can be prevented by using condoms, while about 88 percent of them have knowledge about limiting sex to one uninfected partner and 83.7 percent stated that abstaining from sex help to reduce HIV AIDS.

Median age at marriage -

- Median age at marriage of women in Polonnaruwa District is 20.7.
- Median age at marriage increases with the level of education.

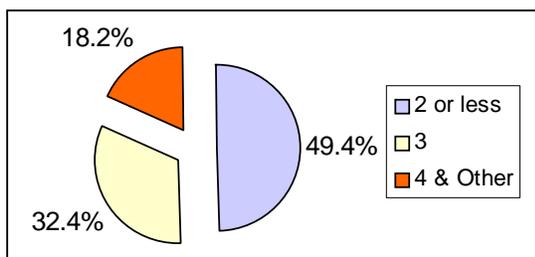
Figure 6: Median age of women at marriage by level of education in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7



Desired family size -

Currently married women in Polonnaruwa District prefer small families. 49.4 percent of women would like to have 2 or less than 2 children. Further, 81.8 percent of women liked to have 3 or less than 3 children.

Figure 7: Ever married women by desired family size in Polonnaruwa District 2006/07



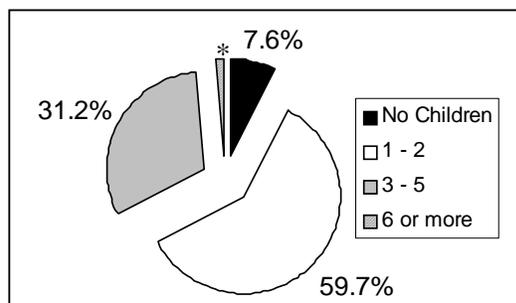
Mean no. of children -

On an average ever married women in Polonnaruwa district have 2.1 children.

Children ever born -

7.6 percent of ever married eligible women never have children while about 60 percent of women have only 1 or 2 children.

Figure 8: Ever married Women by number of children ever born in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7.

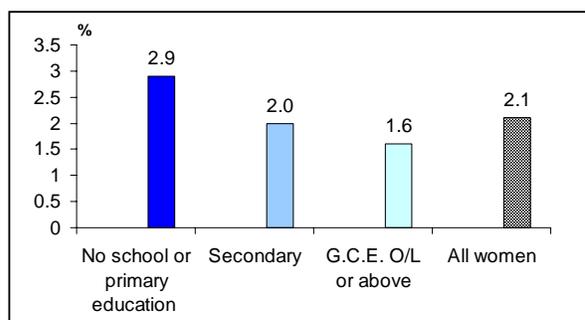


* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

Note *: See Definition

Mean number of children ever born by level of education-

Figure 9: Mean number of children ever born by level of education of eligible women in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7

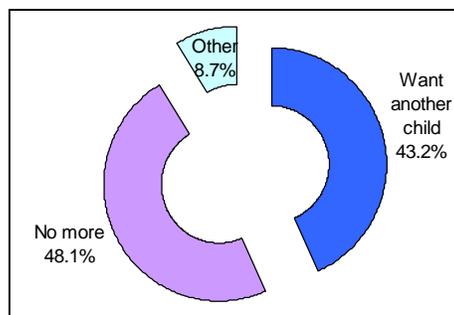


- Mean number of children ever born decreases with increasing the level of education of eligible women.

Fertility preferences -

48.1 percent of eligible women (Excluding sterilized women) have answered that they do not want to have another child. Proportion of women like to have another child is 43.2 %.

Figure 10: Ever married Women by fertility preferences in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7 (Excluding sterilized women)



Awareness of contraceptive methods -

Table 4: Ever married women by awareness of contraceptive methods in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7

Method	Percentage of know method
Female sterilization	99.1
Male sterilization	82.2
Pills	98.9
IUD	96.6
Injection	99.8
Norplant	87.6
Male Condom	90.8
Female Condom	18.0
LAM	34.9
Safe period	80.2
Withdrawal	80.5
Emergency contraception	32.1

- Injection & Female Sterilization are the widely known methods (99.8 percent and 99.1 percent respectively), followed by the Pills and IUD (98.9 percent and 96.6 percent).
- Percentage who knows about male condom is also high (90.8).
- Percentage of women knowing LAM, Female Condom, Norplant and Emergency contraception is relatively low.

Current use of contraception -

- Total number of estimated currently married women in Polonnaruwa District is 75,226
- 77.6 percent of women are currently using contraception.

Table 5: Currently married women by use of contraceptive method in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7

Method	No.	%
Total	75226	100.0
Not using *	16857	22.4
Any method	58369	77.6
Any modern method	51274	68.2
Modern Permanent		
Sterilization	18930	25.2
Modern Temporary		
Pills	6133	8.2
Injection	18191	24.2
IUD	**	**
Condom	**	**
Norplant	**	**
Any traditional method	7095	9.4
Safe period	**	**
Withdrawal	**	**

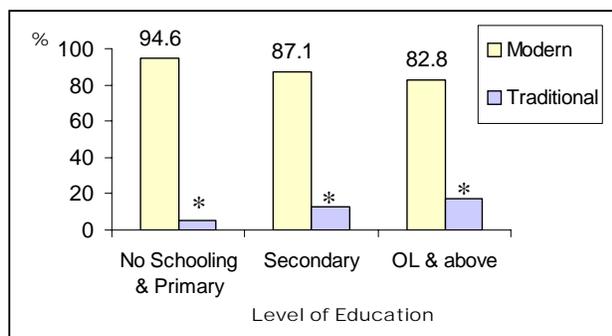
* Including pregnant women.

** Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- Survey reveals that about 68.2 percent of currently married women currently using modern contraceptive methods while another 9.4 percent use traditional methods.
- 22.4 percent of currently married women are not currently using any contraceptive method. (Including pregnant women) Data shows that the most commonly used modern temporary method is injection (24.2 percent) followed by pills (8.2 percent).
- Further, 25.2 percent of eligible women use sterilization (Mostly Female sterilization).

Level of education and use of contraception -

Figure 11: Currently married and non pregnant women who use family planning by level of education in Polonnaruwa District 2006/07



* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size.

- Figure 11 indicate that females in all education levels inclined towards to modern methods.

Contraceptive use by age -

Table 6: Current use of family planning by age groups in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7

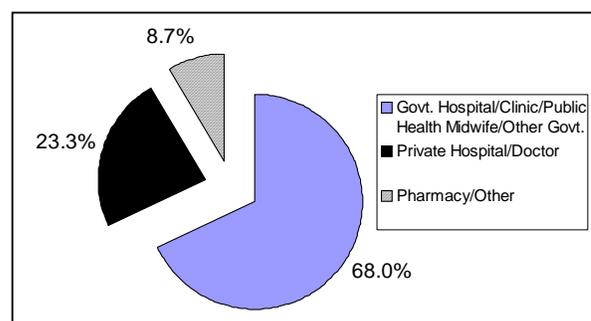
Methods	15 -19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	Total
Any method	*	65.6	81.3	82.5	77.6
Modern method	*	63.1	69.6	69.7	68.2
Traditional method	*	*	*	*	9.4
Not using	*	34.4	18.7	*	22.4
Total	*	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size

- About 34 Percent of women in 20-29 age group are currently not using any method.

Source of supply -

Figure 12: Current users of contraceptive by most recent source of supply in Polonnaruwa District 2006/7



- Government facilities (Including public health midwife) have catered to the needs of about 68 percent of current users of modern temporary contraceptive methods

Definitions used:

Safe sources of drinking water:

Protected well, tube well, main water line, and Spring protected.

Unsafe sources of drinking water:

Unprotected well, bowser, river/tank/stream and other sources such as rain water and unprotected spring water.

Eligible women: Women who were ever married and who were in the age group of 15-49 at the time of the survey.

Level of Education:

No schooling - Never attended school

Primary level- Passed grade 1,2,3,4, or up to grade 5

Secondary level - Passed grade 6,7,8,9 or up to grade 10

O/L and above - Passed GCE O/L or above