

Demographic and Health Survey 2006/07
Ratnapura District Bulletin (Provisional data)
 Department of Census and Statistics



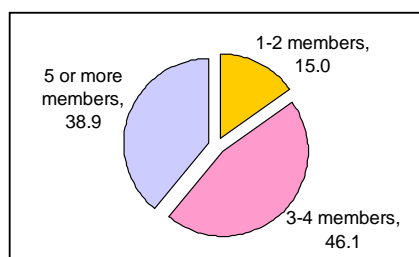
About the DHS Survey

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: 935.
- No. of eligible women (age 15-49) interviewed: 685.
- Estimated housing units: 271,415.
- Estimated population: 1,135,082.
- Household response rate: 96.1%.

Household Size -

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



- Average household size is 4.2 persons per household.
- About 61 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 Ratnapura District 2006/7

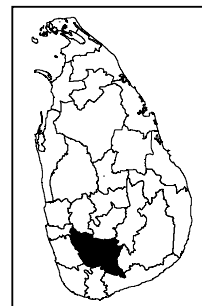
Age Group	Total	Male	Female
Below 5 yrs.	8.6	8.6	8.6
Below 15 yrs.	24.8	25.8	23.8
Below 18 yrs.	30.2	31.3	29.2
15-49 yrs.	51.5	51.3	51.7
15-64 yrs.	68.1	67.3	68.9
65 years or more	7.0	6.9	7.3

- About 52 percent of females are in the reproductive age group.

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

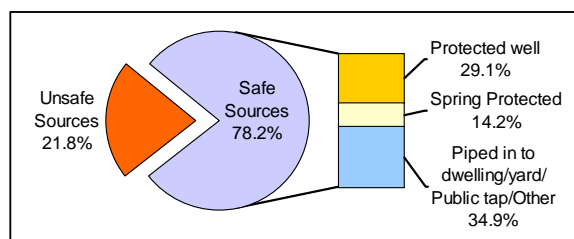
Age Dependency Ratio	Total
Below 15 yrs.	36.4
65 years or more	10.3

- Young age dependency ratio (36.4) is more than 3 times greater than that of old age dependency ratio (10.3)



Access to safe drinking water -

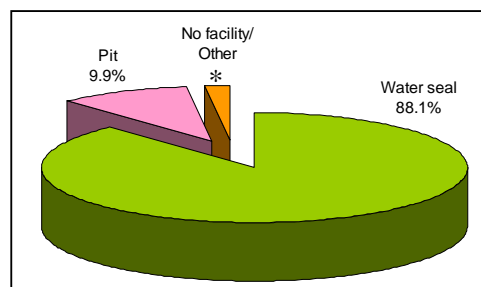
Figure 2 : Households by availability of safe drinking water in Ratnapura District 2006/7



- 78 percent of households have access to source of safe drinking water. 14.2 percent household have used water from protected springs and about 29 percent have access to water from protected well. 35 percent have piped water in to the home or yard or used public tap.

Sanitation Facility -

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



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

- About 88 percent of households use water sealed toilets while 10 percent use pit toilets.

Electricity

64.1 percent households in Ratnapura District have electricity.

Ownership of household consumer goods -

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

Equipment	Percentage of Households
Television	74
Radio	81
Refrigerator	21
Mobile phones	26
Land phones	22

Main source of cooking fuel –

- About 91 percent of households in Ratnapura District use firewood for cooking while about 6 percent use LP gas as main source of fuel for cooking.

Use of Mosquito nets -

- About 54 percent of the households in Ratnapura District currently use mosquito nets and 17.9 percent of households use mosquito coils.

About Children in Ratnapura District -

- Out of the children in 5 – 15 year age group 98.3 percent have ever attended a school.
- It is reported that 9.4 percent of currently school attending children in 5-17 year age group do not have enough school books.
- Fathers of 3.4 percent of the children in 0-17 year age groups were not alive at the time of the survey.

Child Health -

Immunization Coverage

- It was observed that 95.1 percent of children between 12-23 months in Ratnapura District have received specified vaccines BCG, Polio, DPT and Measles by 12 months of age.

Birth Weight

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

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

- The Government health facilities have served 97 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

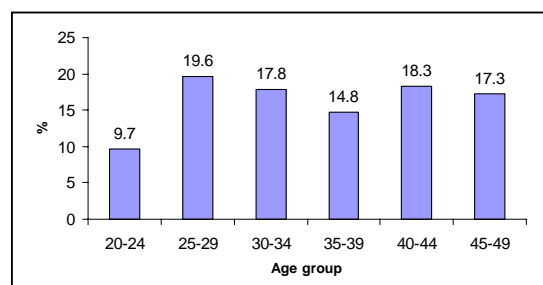
- The proportions of mothers who have exclusively breast fed during the first 4 months at their last birth in Ratnapura District is 87.

Background characteristics of ever married females of 15-49 years

Age distribution of eligible women* -

- Figure 4 shows that highest proportion (19.6 percent) of eligible women belong to 25-29 age category.

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



Note: Percentage of 15-19 age group is negligible

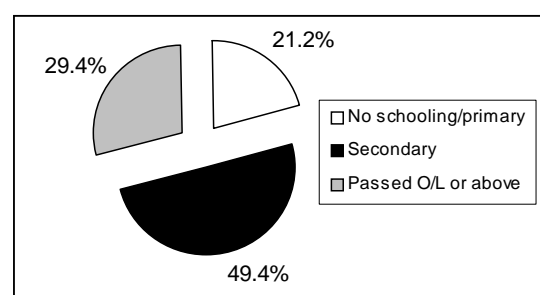
Marital status of eligible women -

- About 93 percent of eligible women were married at the time of the survey while only 7 percent of them were not in union (widowed or separated).

Level of education of eligible women -

- 21.2 percent of eligible women in Ratnapura District have primary level education or never attended school.
- Majority (49.4%) of them have attended up to secondary level of education.

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



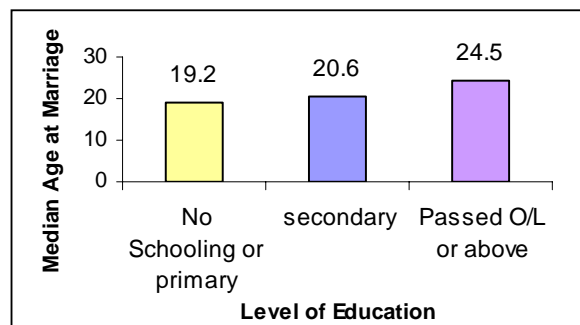
Awareness about HIV AIDS -

About 88 percent of women in Ratnapura District have heard about HIV AIDS. Out of this about 66 percent of women know that the AIDS can be prevented by using condoms, while about 92 percent of them have knowledge about limiting sex to one uninfected partner and 88 percent stated that abstaining from sex help to reduce HIV AIDS.

Median age at marriage -

- Median age at marriage of women in Ratnapura District is 21.3.
- Median age at marriage increases with the level of education.

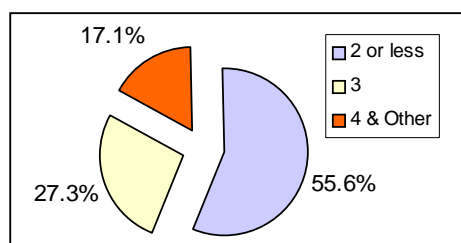
Figure 6: Median age of women at marriage by level of education in Ratnapura District 2006/7



Desired family size -

Currently married women in Ratnapura District prefer small families. 56 percent of women would like to have 2 or less than 2 children. Further, 83 percent of women liked to have 3 or less than 3 children.

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



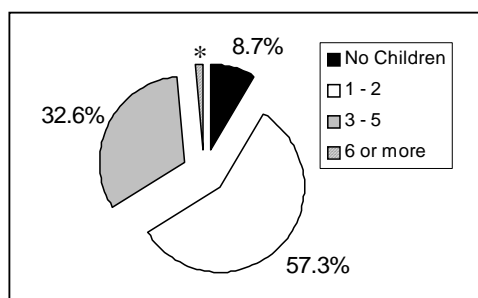
Mean no. of children -

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

Children ever born -

8.7 percent of ever married eligible women never have children while about 57.3 percent of women have only 1 or 2 children.

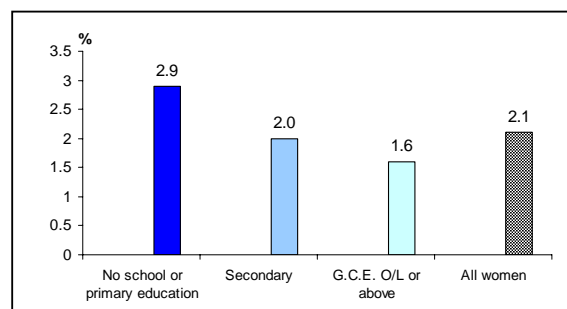
Figure 8: Ever married Women by number of children ever born in Ratnapura District 2006/7.



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

Mean number of children ever born by level of education-

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

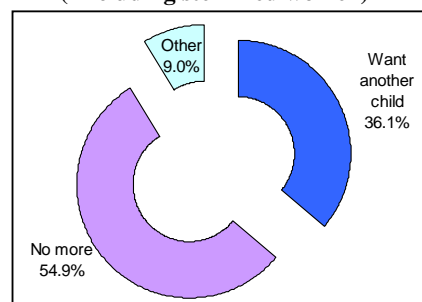


- Mean number of children ever born decreases with increasing the level of education of eligible women.

Fertility preferences -

55 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 36.

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



Awareness of contraceptive methods -

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

Method	Percentage of know method
Female sterilization	93.1
Male sterilization	67.9
Pills	95.1
IUD	89.7
Injection	94.1
Norplant	37.2
Male Condom	81.0
Female Condom	19.0
LAM	49.4
Safe period	68.3
Withdrawal	69.7
Emergency contraception	27.2

- Pill and Injection are the widely known methods (95.1 percent and 94.1 percent respectively), followed by the Female sterilization and IUD (93.1 percent and 89.7 percent).
- Percentage who know about male condom is also high (81.0).
- Percentage of women knowing LAM, Norplant, Female Condom and Emergency contraception is relatively low.

Current use of contraception -

- Total number of estimated currently married women in Ratnapura District is 191,170.
- 73.1 percent of women are currently using contraception.

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

Method	No.	%
Total	191170	100.0
Not using *	51484	26.9
Any method	139686	73.1
Any modern method	103097	54.0
Modern Permanent		
Sterilization	31717	16.6
Modern Temporary		
Pills	19320	10.1
IUD	19700	10.3
Injection	25422	13.3
Condom	**	**
Any traditional method	36590	19.1
Safe period	22783	11.9
Withdrawal	13807	7.2

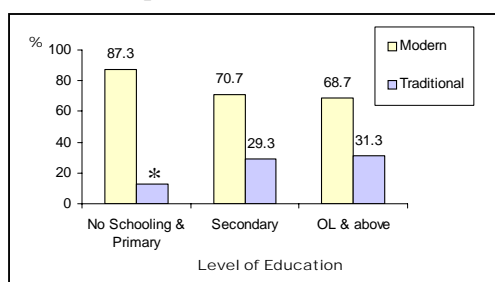
* Including pregnant women.

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

- Survey reveals that about 54 percent of currently married women currently using modern contraceptive methods while another 19 percent use traditional methods.
- 27 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 (13.3 percent) followed by IUD & Pills (10.3 & 10.1 percent respectively).
- Further, 16.6 percent of eligible women use sterilization (Mostly Female sterilization).
- Higher proportion of women (11.9) used safe period as traditional family planning method.

Level of education and use of contraception -

Figure 11: Currently married and non pregnant women who use family planning by level of education in Ratnapura 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.
- Percentage using traditional methods is higher among those who have qualified O/L and above.

Contraceptive use by age -

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

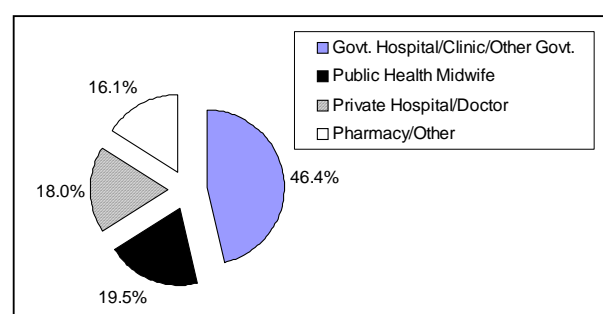
Methods	15 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	Total
Any method	*	67.2	82.1	71.5	73.1
Modern method	*	56.9	59.9	46.3	54.0
Traditional method	*	*	22.2	25.2	19.1
Not using	*	32.8	17.9	28.5	26.9
Total	*	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Reliable estimates cannot be provided due to small cell size

- While modern methods popular among all the age groups, the tendency to use traditional methods increases moderately with increase in age.

Source of supply -

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



- Government facilities (Including public health midwife) have catered to the needs of about 66 percent of current users of modern temporary contraceptive temporary 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