

NFHS-1 (1992-93): The First National Family Health Survey (NFHS-1) was conducted as part of a project launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) in 1991 to strengthen the survey research capacity of Population Research Centres (PRCs) in India.

- IIPS, Mumbai was the nodal agency responsible for coordination and technical guidance.
- Data collection in each state was carried out by selected Field Organizations in collaboration with the respective PRCs.
- East-West Center and Macro International provided technical assistance.
- The survey was funded by USAID, New Delhi.
- UNICEF and Plan International provided weighing scales for the survey.

Interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of 88,562 households and 89,777 ever-married women in the age group 13-49, from 24 states and the then National Capital Territory of Delhi (which later attained statehood) using uniform questionnaire, sample design and field procedures. The main objective of the survey was to collect reliable and up-to-date information on fertility, family planning, mortality, and maternal and child health. Data collection was carried out in three phases from April 1992 to September 1993. The NFHS-1 was a major landmark in the development in the demographic database for India.

NFHS-2 (1998-99): The National Family Health Survey-2 (NFHS-2) was conducted in 1998-99 to strengthen India's database for implementing the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) approach adopted after the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

- IIPS was the nodal agency, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The survey was funded by USAID, with additional support from UNICEF.
- Macro International and the East-West Center, USA provided technical guidance.
- Data collection was carried out by 13 reputed Indian organizations, including Population Research Centres.
- The main objectives were to provide information on fertility, family planning, infant and child mortality, maternal and child health, and health-service utilization.
- NFHS-2 also collected data on the quality of health and family welfare services, women's status, women's reproductive health, and domestic violence.

NFHS-2 expanded the collection of nutritional information for women and children. It measured women's height and weight and tested the haemoglobin levels of ever-married women and children below three years to assess anaemia. Blood tests for lead were also conducted among young children in Delhi and Mumbai. The survey also examined the use of iodine-fortified cooking salt in households.

The survey covered about 91,000 ever-married women aged 15–49 years across 26 states, conducted in two phases in 1998–99. It provided state-level demographic, health, socioeconomic and programme-related data, which are useful for planning health and development policies.

NFHS-3 (2005-06): NFHS-3 was the third National Family Health Survey in India, following NFHS-1 (1992–93) and NFHS-2 (1998–99).

- The survey was conducted under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with IIPS, Mumbai as the nodal agency.
- ORC Macro, USA provided technical assistance.
- NFHS-3 was funded by USAID, DFID (UK), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, UNFPA, and the Government of India.
- 18 research organisations conducted the survey across India.
- More than 230,000 women (15–49 years) and men (15–54 years) were interviewed.
- Over 100,000 people were tested for HIV, and more than 200,000 adults and young children were tested for anaemia.
- Fieldwork was conducted from December 2005 to August 2006.

In short NFHS-3 collected extensive information on family health, HIV, anaemia, and other health-related issues among women, men, and children across India.

NFHS-3 also provides information on several new and emerging issues including:

- Perinatal mortality, male involvement in family welfare, adolescent reproductive health, high-risk sexual behaviour, family life education, safe injections, tuberculosis, and malaria;
- Family welfare and health conditions among slum and non-slum dwellers in eight cities (Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Kolkata, Meerut, Mumbai and Nagpur); and
- HIV prevalence for adult women and men at the national level, for Uttar Pradesh, and for five high HIV prevalence states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, and Tamil Nadu.

NFHS-5 (2014-15): NFHS-4 was conducted in 2014–15 and was the fourth National Family Health Survey in India.

- It was conducted under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with IIPS, Mumbai as the coordinating agency.
- ICF International, USA provided technical assistance, while major funding came from USAID and the Government of India.
- For the first time, NFHS-4 covered all 29 states and 6 Union Territories.

- It provided district-level estimates for all 640 districts based on the 2011 Census.
- Around 568,200 households were covered, including 625,014 eligible women and 93,065 men.
- Information was also collected on 265,653 children below 5 years of age.
- Data were collected using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) on mini-notebook computers.
- The survey covered major areas such as fertility, child and maternal health, mortality, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, non-communicable diseases, domestic violence, and reproductive health.
- The findings helped the Government of India and other agencies monitor and evaluate population, health, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS programmes and policies.

NFHS-5 (2019–21): NFHS-5 was the fifth National Family Health Survey, conducted during 2019–21. It provided information on population, health, and nutrition at the national, state, Union Territory, and district levels.

The survey was conducted under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), with IIPS, Mumbai as the nodal agency. Funding was mainly provided by the Government of India, with technical assistance from ICF and the USAID-supported Demographic and Health Surveys Program. ICMR and NARI, Pune also supported some clinical and laboratory tests.

NFHS-5 used four questionnaires—household, woman's, man's, and biomarker—in 19 languages through Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Women aged 15–49 years and men aged 15–54 years were eligible for interviews.

The survey collected information on fertility, marriage, contraception, reproductive health, maternal and child health, nutrition, immunisation, HIV/AIDS, sexual behaviour, women's work, domestic violence, and gender roles. It also included measurements such as height, weight, haemoglobin, blood pressure, blood glucose, and other health indicators, with respondents' informed consent.

The NFHS-5 sample covered approximately 610,000 households and was designed to provide reliable estimates for all 707 districts in India. A two-stage sampling method was used in both rural and urban areas.

In short: NFHS-5 provided comprehensive and district-level data on India's population, health, nutrition, reproductive health, and other socio-economic and health indicators, helping the government evaluate and improve health and development programmes.

NFHS-6 (2023-24): The National Family Health Survey 2023–24 (NFHS-6), the sixth round in the NFHS series, provides comprehensive information on population, health, and nutrition for India and each State/Union Territory (UT), except Manipur. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India designated the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai as the nodal agency for conducting NFHS-6. NFHS-6 fieldwork was carried out between May 2023 and December 2024 across 715 districts of the country.

The NFHS-6 Compendium of Fact Sheets for India and States/UTs was released on 29 May 2026. The District Fact Sheet Compendiums for Andhra Pradesh (13 districts), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (3 districts), Telangana (33 districts), Jammu and Kashmir (20 districts), Ladakh (2 districts), and Mizoram (8 districts) were released on 20 August 2026, while the remaining States/UTs were released on 21 August 2026.

The survey has been implemented by a group of survey organizations and Population Research Centres, chosen through a rigorous selection procedure. NFHS-6 has provided estimates of the levels of fertility, infant and child mortality, and other family welfare and health indicators by background characteristics at the national and district levels; and has measured trends in family welfare and health indicators over time at the national and district levels.