

# Ghana - Demographic and Health Survey 2014

**Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) - Government of Ghana, Ghana Health Service (GHS)  
- Government of Ghana, National Public Health Reference  
Laboratory (NPHRL) - Government of Ghana**

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# Sampling

## Sampling Procedure

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The sampling frame used for the 2014 GDHS is an updated frame from the 2010 Ghana Population and Housing Census provided by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS 2013b). The sampling frame excluded nomadic and institutional populations such as persons in hotels, barracks, and prisons.

The 2014 GDHS followed a two-stage sample design and was intended to allow estimates of key indicators at the national level as well as for urban and rural areas and each of Ghana's 10 administrative regions. The first stage involved selecting sample points (clusters) consisting of enumeration areas (EAs) delineated for the 2010 PHC. A total of 427 clusters were selected, 216 in urban areas and 211 in rural areas.

The second stage involved the systematic sampling of households. A household listing operation was undertaken in all the selected EAs in January-March 2014, and households to be included in the survey were randomly selected from the list. About 30 households were selected from each cluster to constitute the total sample size of 12,831 households. Because of the approximately equal sample sizes in each region, the sample is not self-weighting at the national level, and weighting factors have been added to the data file so that the results will be proportional at the national level.

All women age 15-49 who were either permanent residents of the selected households or visitors who stayed in the household the night before the survey were eligible to be interviewed and have their blood pressure measured.

In half of the households, all men age 15-59 who were either permanent residents of the selected households or visitors who stayed in the households the night before the survey were eligible to be interviewed. In addition, in the subsample of households selected for the male survey:

- blood pressure measurements were performed among eligible men who consented to being tested;
- children age 6-59 months were tested for anaemia and malaria with the parent's or guardian's consent;
- eligible women who consented were tested for anaemia;
- blood samples were collected for laboratory testing of HIV from eligible women and men who consented; and
- height and weight information was collected from eligible women, men, and children age 0- 59 months.

For further details on sample selection, see Appendix A of the final report.

## Response Rate

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A total of 12,831 households were selected for the sample, of which 12,010 were occupied. Of the occupied households, 11,835 were successfully interviewed, yielding a response rate of 99 percent, the same as the 2008 GDHS household response rate (GSS, GHS, and ICF Macro 2009).

In the interviewed households, 9,656 eligible women were identified for individual interviews; interviews were completed with 9,396 women, yielding a response rate of 97 percent. In the subsample of households selected for the male survey, 4,609 eligible men were identified and 4,388 were successfully interviewed, yielding a response rate of 95 percent. The lower response rate for men was likely due to their more frequent and longer absences from the household.

# Questionnaires

## Overview

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Three questionnaires were used for the 2014 GDHS: the Household Questionnaire, the Woman's Questionnaire, and the Man's Questionnaire. These questionnaires, which were based on standard Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) questionnaires, were adapted to reflect the population and health issues relevant to Ghana. Comments on the questionnaires were solicited from various stakeholders representing government ministries and agencies, nongovernmental organisations, and international donors. The definitive questionnaires were first prepared in English; they were then translated into the major local languages, namely Akan, Ga, and Ewe.

The Household Questionnaire was used to list all the members of and visitors to the selected households. Basic demographic information was collected on the characteristics of each person listed, including his or her age, sex, marital status, education, and relationship to the head of the household. For children under age 18, parents' survival status was determined. The data on age and sex of household members obtained in the Household Questionnaire were used to identify women and men who were eligible for individual interviews. The Household Questionnaire also included questions on child education as well as the characteristics of the household's dwelling unit, such as source of water, type of toilet facilities, materials used for the floor of the dwelling unit, and ownership of various durable goods.

The Woman's Questionnaire was used to collect information from all eligible women age 15-49.

In half of the selected households, the Man's Questionnaire was administered to all men age 15-59. The Man's Questionnaire collected much of the same information found in the Woman's Questionnaire but was shorter because it did not contain a detailed reproductive history or questions on maternal and child health.

# Data Collection

## Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2014-09	2014-12	N/A

## Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

### DATA COLLECTION NOTES

#### Training of Field Staff

Training of the field staff took place over four weeks (4-30 August 2014) with 139 field data collectors (67 women and 72 men) and 55 health technicians (26 women and 29 men). Training was conducted at the Winneba Windy Lodge Hotel in the Central Region about 65 kilometres from Accra.

During the first week, all trainees were instructed in standard DHS procedures, including general interviewing techniques, conducting interviews at the household level, and measuring blood pressures. During the second week, health technicians began separate biomarker training while the other field staff (data collectors) continued to train on the Woman's and the Man's questionnaires, including a detailed review of each question and mock interviews between participants in the classroom. To provide the health technicians with practical experience measuring anthropometry among children, representatives from UNICEF and GHS organised a standardisation exercise with the health technicians. Measurements from health technicians were compared to a reference measure, which helped health technicians correct and improve on their measurement techniques whenever applicable.

All trainees were also given an overview of the 2014 GDHS biomarker collection protocol that summarised eligibility for each biomarker, appropriate procedures for obtaining informed consent, and sample transportation logistics. In addition, nine data entry personnel (seven women and two men) attended the first two weeks of questionnaire training, so that they would be familiar with the survey instruments at a later stage when they received and entered data from the completed questionnaires. During the final week, ICF staff trained field editors in the computer assisted field editing (CAFE) system. Field supervisors were trained in the collection of global positioning system (GPS) data using the Garmin eTrex10 model.

Practice interviews with real respondents took place over a course of three days (24-26 August 2014) in areas outside the 2014 GDHS sample points.

Participants were evaluated through homework, in-class exercises, quizzes, and observations made during field practice. After training, they were assigned to 25 teams composed of one supervisor, one field editor, two female interviewers, one male interviewer, and two health technicians. Fourteen interviewers and five health technicians were selected as reserve staff.

#### Fieldwork

Data collection was carried out by the 25 field teams from early September to mid-December 2014. Senior staff members from the Ghana Statistical Service and the Ghana Health Service coordinated and monitored the fieldwork. Paper questionnaires were used to conduct the interviews. After the interviews, field editors entered the questionnaire data into laptops, using passwords to protect the files. Electronic data files were transferred to the central office every few days via the secured Internet File Streaming System (IFSS). Fieldwork monitoring was carried out by staff of GSS, GHS, and two survey technical specialists from The DHS Program. Data collection took 3.5 months.

## Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Ghana Statistical Service	GSS	Government of Ghana

### SUPERVISION

Fieldwork monitoring was carried out by staff of GSS, GHS, and two survey technical specialists from The DHS Program.

# Data Processing

## Data Editing

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The data processing operation included 100 percent verification (also called second data entry) and secondary editing, which involved resolution of computer-identified inconsistencies. The data processing activities at the central office were led by one key GSS officer who took part in the main fieldwork training. Data processing was accomplished using CSPro software. Data entry and editing were initiated in September 2014 and completed in February 2015.

# Data Appraisal

## Estimates of Sampling Error

The estimates from a sample survey are affected by two types of errors: non-sampling errors and sampling errors. Non-sampling errors are the results of mistakes made in implementing data collection and data processing, such as failure to locate and interview the correct household, misunderstanding of the questions on the part of either the interviewer or the respondent, and data entry errors. Although numerous efforts were made during the implementation of the 2014 Ghana DHS (GDHS) to minimize this type of error, non-sampling errors are impossible to avoid and difficult to evaluate statistically.

Sampling errors, on the other hand, can be evaluated statistically. The sample of respondents selected in the 2014 GDHS is only one of many samples that could have been selected from the same population, using the same design and expected size. Each of these samples would yield results that differ somewhat from the results of the actual sample selected. Sampling errors are a measure of the variability between all possible samples. Although the degree of variability is not known exactly, it can be estimated from the survey results.

Sampling error is usually measured in terms of the standard error for a particular statistic (mean, percentage, etc.), which is the square root of the variance. The standard error can be used to calculate confidence intervals within which the true value for the population can reasonably be assumed to fall. For example, for any given statistic calculated from a sample survey, the value of that statistic will fall within a range of plus or minus two times the standard error of that statistic in 95 percent of all possible samples of identical size and design.

If the sample of respondents had been selected as a simple random sample, it would have been possible to use straightforward formulas for calculating sampling errors. However, the 2014 GDHS sample is the result of a multi-stage stratified design, and, consequently, it was necessary to use more complex formulae. Sampling errors are computed in either ISSA or SAS, using programs developed by ICF International. These programs use the Taylor linearization method of variance estimation for survey estimates that are means, proportions or ratios. The Jackknife repeated replication method is used for variance estimation of more complex statistics such as fertility and mortality rates.

The Taylor linearization method treats any percentage or average as a ratio estimate,  $r = y/x$ , where  $y$  represents the total sample value for variable  $y$ , and  $x$  represents the total number of cases in the group or subgroup under consideration.

Note: A more detailed description of estimate of sampling error is presented in APPENDIX B of the survey report.

## Other forms of Data Appraisal

### Data Quality Tables

- Household age distribution
- Age distribution of eligible and interviewed women
- Age distribution of eligible and interviewed men
- Completeness of reporting
- Births by calendar years
- Reporting of age at death in days
- Reporting of age at death in months
- Nutritional status of children based on the NCHS/CDC/WHO International Reference Population

Note: See detailed data quality tables in APPENDIX C of the report.





## Related Materials

### Questionnaires

#### Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Household Questionnaire

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Title Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Household Questionnaire  
 Author(s) Ministry of Health, Ghana Ghana Statistical Service  
 Date 2014-08-20  
 Country Ghana  
 Language English  
 Filename Ghana\_2014\_DHS\_hh\_questionnaire.pdf

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#### Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Woman's Questionnaire

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Title Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Woman's Questionnaire  
 Author(s) Ministry of Health, Ghana Ghana Statistical Service  
 Date 2014-08-22  
 Country Ghana  
 Language English  
 Filename Ghana\_2014\_DHS\_woman\_questionnaire.pdf

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#### Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Man's Questionnaire

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Title Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Man's Questionnaire  
 Author(s) Ministry of Health, Ghana Ghana Statistical Service  
 Date 2014-08-22  
 Country Ghana  
 Language English  
 Filename Ghana\_2014\_DHS\_man\_questionnaire.pdf

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### Reports

#### Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Report

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Title Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Report  
 Author(s) Ghana Statistical Service, Accra, Ghana Ghana Health Service, Accra, Ghana The DHS Program, ICF International, Rockville, Maryland, USA  
 Date 2015-10-01  
 Country Ghana  
 Language English

TABLES AND FIGURES	ix
FOREWORD	xiii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xiv
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS	xvi
MAP OF GHANA	xvii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Geography, History, and Economy	1
1.1.1 Geography	1
1.1.2 History	1
1.1.3 Economy	1
1.2 Demographic Profile	2
1.3 Population Policy and Reproductive Health Programmes	3
1.4 Objectives and Organisation of the Survey	5
1.5 Survey Design	5
1.6 Outcomes	6
1.7 Blood Pressure Measurement, Anthropometry, Anaemia Testing, and HIV Testing	7
1.8 Pretest	9
1.9 Training of Field Staff	9
1.10 Fieldwork	10
1.11 Data Processing	10
1.12 Response Rates	10
2 HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS AND HOUSEHOLD POPULATION	11
2.1 Household Characteristics	11
2.1.1 Water and Sanitation	12
2.1.2 Housing Characteristics	14
2.1.3 Household Possessions	16
2.2 Socioeconomic Status Index	17
2.3 Household Composition	18
2.4 Household Population by Age and Sex	19
2.5 Household Composition	20
2.6 Birth Registration	22
2.7 Children's Living Arrangements, Orphanhood, and School Attendance	22
2.8 Education of Household Population	25
2.8.1 Educational Attainment of Household Population	25
2.8.2 School Attendance Ratios	28
3 CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS	31
3.1 Characteristics of Survey Respondents	31
3.2 Educational Attainment by Background Characteristics	35
3.3 School Attendance	35
3.4 Literacy	37
3.5 Access to Mass Media	39
3.6 Employment	41
3.6.1 Employment Status	41
3.6.2 Occupation	47
3.6.3 Earnings, Employers, and Continuity of Employment	47
4 MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY	49
4.1 Current Marital Status	49
4.2 Polygyny	50
4.3 Age at First Marriage	52
4.4 Median Age at First Marriage	53
4.5 Age at First Sexual Intercourse	54
4.6 Median Age at First Sexual Intercourse	55
4.7 Recent Sexual Activity	56
5 FERTILITY	59
5.1 Current Fertility	60
5.2 Fertility Differentials	61
5.3 Fertility Trends	62
5.4 Children Ever Born and Living	64
5.5 Birth Intervals	65
5.6 Postpartum Amenorrhoea, Abstinence, and Inseparability	66
5.7 Menopause	68
5.8 Age at First Birth	68
5.9 Teenage Pregnancy and Motherhood	69
6 FERTILITY PREFERENCES	71
6.1 Desire for More Children	71
6.2 Desire to Limit Childbearing by Background Characteristics	72
6.3 Ideal Family Size	74
6.4 Fertility Planning	76
6.5 Wanted Fertility Rates	77
7 FAMILY PLANNING	79
7.1 Knowledge of Contraceptive Methods	80
7.2 Current Use of Contraception	82
7.3 Current Use of Contraception by Background Characteristics	82
7.4 Trends in Current Use of Family Planning	86
7.5 Timing of Sterilisation	87
7.6 Source of Modern Contraception	87
7.7 Brands of Pills and Condoms Used	89
7.8 Informed Choice	88
7.9 Contraceptive Discontinuation Rates	89
7.10 Reasons for Discontinuation of Contraceptive Use	90
7.11 Knowledge of Fertility Period	91
7.12 Need and Demand for Family Planning Services	91
7.13 Future Use of Contraception	94
7.14 Exposure to Family Planning Messages	94
7.15 Contact of Nurses with Family Planning Providers	95
7.16 Attitudes towards Family Planning Among Men	96
8 INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY	99
8.1 Assessment of Data Quality	100
8.2 Levels and Trends in Infant and Child Mortality	101
8.2.1 Childhood Mortality Trends 1988-2014	102
8.2.2 Recent Trends 2008-2014	103
8.3 Socioeconomic Differentials in Childhood Mortality	103
8.4 Demographic Differentials in Mortality	104
8.5 Perinatal Mortality	105
8.6 High-risk Fertility Behaviour	107
9 MATERNAL HEALTH	109
9.1 Antenatal Care	109
9.1.1 Antenatal Care Coverage	109
9.1.2 Number and Timing of Antenatal Care Visits	110
9.1.3 Components of Antenatal Care	111
9.1.4 Tetanus Immunisation	113
9.2 Delivery Care	114
9.2.1 Place of Delivery	114
9.2.2 Assistance at Delivery	115
9.3 Trends in Maternal Care	117
9.4 Postnatal Care for the Mother	118
9.4.1 Timing of First Postnatal Checkup for the Mother	118
9.4.2 Type of Provider of First Postnatal Checkup for the Mother	119
9.5 Postnatal Care for the Newborn	120
9.5.1 Type of Provider of First Postnatal Checkup for the Newborn	121
9.6 Problems in Accessing Health Care	122
10 CHILD HEALTH AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT	125
10.1 Child's Size and Weight at Birth	126
10.2 Vaccination Coverage	127
10.3 Trends in Vaccination Coverage	129
10.4 Acute Respiratory Infection	133
10.5 Fever	135
10.6 Diarrhoeal Disease	136
10.6.1 Prevalence and Treatment of Diarrhoea	137
10.6.2 Feeding Practices	139
10.7 Knowledge of ORS Pockets	141
10.8 Stool Disposal	142
10.9 Childhood Early Learning and Development	143
10.9.1 Support for Learning	144
10.9.2 Reading, Book Ownership, and Textbook and Reading Materials	145
10.9.3 Language for Education	148
10.9.4 Travel to school	150
11 NUTRITION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN	153
11.1 Nutritional Status of Children	153
11.1.1 Measurement of Nutritional Status among Young Children	154
11.2 Data Collection	155
11.3 Levels of Child Malnutrition	155
11.4 Trends in Children's Nutritional Status	157
11.5 Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding	158
11.5.1 Initiation of Breastfeeding	158
11.5.2 Duration of Breastfeeding	160
11.5.3 Breastfeeding Status by Age	162
11.5.4 Types of Complementary Feeding	163
11.5.5 Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Practices	164
11.6 Anaemia in children	167
11.7 Micronutrient Intake among Children	169
11.8 Adult Nutritional Status	172
11.8.1 Nutritional Status of Women	172
11.8.2 Nutritional Status of Men	175
11.9 Prevalence of Anaemia in Women	176
11.10 Prevalence of Anaemia in Men	178
11.11 Micronutrient Intake among Mothers	178
12 MALARIA	181
12.1 Ownership of Mosquito Nets	181
12.2 Access to an Insecticide-Treated Net	184
12.3 Use of Mosquito Nets	185
12.3.1 Use of Mosquito Nets by Persons in the Household	185
12.3.2 Use of Mosquito Nets by Children under Age 5	188
12.3.3 Use of Mosquito Nets by Pregnant Women	189
12.3.4 Use of Mosquito Nets by Children under Age 5 and Pregnant Women	191
12.3.5 Trends in Use of Mosquito Nets by Children under Age 5 and Pregnant Women	191
12.3.6 Source and Cost of Nets	192
12.3.7 Insecticide Residuals	192
12.4 Indoor Residual Spraying	194
12.5 Use of Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria during Pregnancy	194
12.6 Prevalence, Diagnosis, and Prompt Treatment of Children with Fever	196
12.7 Prevalence of Low Haemoglobin in Children	199
12.8 Prevalence of Malaria in Children	200
12.9 Exposure to Messages on Malaria	201
12.9.1 Exposure to Specific Messages on Malaria	203
13 HIV/AIDS-RELATED KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIOUR	205
13.1 HIV/AIDS Knowledge, Transmission, and Prevention Methods	206
13.1.1 Knowledge of AIDS	206
13.1.2 Knowledge of HIV Prevention methods	208
13.1.3 Comprehensive Knowledge about HIV/AIDS	209
13.2 Knowledge about Mother-to-Child Transmission	212
13.3 Attitudes towards People Living with HIV/AIDS	214
13.4 Attitudes towards Negotiating Safe Sexual Relations with Partners	215
13.5 Attitudes towards Condom Education for Young People	218
13.6 Higher-risk Sex	219
13.7 Past Prevalence and Cumulative Prevalence of Concurrent Sexual Partners	221
13.8 Paid Sex	223
13.9 Coverage of HIV Testing Services	224
13.10 HIV Testing during Pregnancy	226
13.11 Male Circumcision	228
13.12 Self-reporting of Sexually Transmitted Infections	229
13.13 Injections	230
13.14 HIV/AIDS-related Knowledge and Behaviour among Young People	232
13.15 Age at First Sexual Intercourse among Young People	233
13.16 Premarital Sex	235
13.17 Multiple Sexual Partners among Youth	236
13.18 Age at First Sexual Intercourse	238
13.19 Recent HIV Test among the Youth	239
14 HIV PREVALENCE	241
14.1 Coverage Rates for HIV Testing	242
14.2 HIV Prevalence	245
14.2.1 HIV Prevalence by Age and Sex	245
14.2.2 HIV Prevalence by Socio-demographic Characteristics	246
14.2.3 HIV Prevalence by Other Socio-demographic and Health Characteristics	248
14.2.4 HIV Prevalence by Sexual Risk Behaviour	249
14.3 HIV Prevalence among Young People	251
14.4 HIV Prevalence by Other Characteristics Related to HIV Risk	253
14.5 HIV Prevalence among Couples	254
15 ADULT HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE	257
15.1 Blood Pressure	258
15.1.1 History and Treatment of High Blood Pressure	258
15.1.2 Coverage Rates for Blood Pressure Measurement	260
15.1.3 Prevalence of High Blood Pressure	261
15.2 Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables	264
15.3 Household Use of Salt Iodine	265
15.4 Knowledge of Iodine Salt and Its Perceived Benefits	266
15.5 Knowledge and Attitudes on Tuberculosis	268
15.6 Tobacco Use	270
15.7 Health Insurance	272
15.7.1 Health Insurance Coverage	272
15.7.2 Health Insurance Payment	275
15.7.3 Possession of a Valid NHIS Card	277
15.7.4 Out-of-Pocket Payments	278
15.7.5 Need for Services Not Covered Under NHIS	279
15.8 Perceived Quality of Services and Client Satisfaction	280
15.9 Treatment Seeking and Perceived Quality of Care	284
16 WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH OUTCOMES	289
16.1 Employment and Form of Earnings	290
16.2 Women's Control over Their Own Earnings and Relative Magnitude of Women's and Their Husbands' Earnings	291
16.3 Control over Husbands' Earnings	292
16.4 Women's and Men's Ownership of Selected Assets	293
16.5 Women's Participation in Decision-making	297
16.6 Attitudes towards Wife Beating	300
16.7 Women's Empowerment Indicators	303
16.8 Current Use of Contraception by Women's Status	304
16.9 Ideal Family Size and Unmet Need by Women's Status	304
16.10 Reproductive Health Care and Women's Empowerment	305
16.11 Infant and Child Mortality and Women's Empowerment	306
16.12 Entitlement to and Use of Maternity Leave	307
16.13 Length of Maternity Leave	309
16.14 Bridewealth Negotiation	311
REFERENCES	313
APPENDIX A SAMPLE DESIGN	317
A.1 Introduction	317
A.2 Sampling Frame	317
A.3 Sample Design and Selection	318
A.4 Sample Probabilities and Sample Weights	318
APPENDIX B ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERRORS	343
APPENDIX C DATA QUALITY TABLE	343
APPENDIX D PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2014 GHANA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY	349
APPENDIX E QUESTIONNAIRES	355

## Ghana 2014 Demographic and Health Survey, Key Findings

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 Filename <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/SR224/SR224.pdf>

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## Fast Facts from The 2014 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey

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