

Key Findings on Gender

Data from the 2010 Tanzania
Demographic and Health
Survey (TDHS)



The 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) was carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW). ICF Macro provided technical assistance for the survey through the USAID-funded MEASURE DHS programme, which is designed to assist developing countries to collect data on fertility, family planning, and maternal and child health. Funding for the survey was provided by the Tanzanian government through the MoHSW, Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC), Department for International Development (DFID), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), One UN Fund (Joint Programme 2, and Joint Programme 5 – through MoHSW, Zanzibar), and Irish Aid. The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the donor organisations.

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(Front Cover Photo Courtesy of the EngenderHealth CHAMPION project.)



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About the Survey

The 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) is designed to provide data for monitoring the population and health situation in Tanzania. The 2010 TDHS is the eighth in a series of national surveys conducted in Tanzania. The objective of the survey was to provide up-to-date information on fertility, family planning, childhood mortality, nutrition, maternal and child health, domestic violence, malaria, adult mortality, and HIV/AIDS-related knowledge and behaviour.

Who participated in the survey?

A nationally representative sample of 10,139 women age 15–49 in all selected households and 2,527 men age 15–49 in one-third of selected households were interviewed. The response rate for women was 96% and for men it was 91%. This sample provides estimates for Tanzania as a whole, for urban and rural areas in the Mainland, for Zanzibar, and for each of the seven zones, and, for most indicators, an estimate for each of the 26 regions. This booklet focuses on gender in Tanzania—most data come from questions that were asked of all women and men. The 2010 TDHS also included questions about gender-based violence for women. Only one eligible woman per household was asked about her experiences with violence; data on gender-based violence is based on a sample size of 7,048 women.

Introduction

Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to the health of nations, as well as social and economic development. The promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals, which underscores the importance of women's empowerment as essential to international development efforts. Lasting progress cannot be made in improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and nations while gender inequality exists in society.

Comparing women and men on several key indicators—like educational attainment, and literacy—allows for assessment of gender equality in Tanzania. Examining women's earnings, fertility, and participation in decisionmaking provides a picture of the extent of women's empowerment. Finally, considering data on domestic violence helps to assess women's status throughout Tanzania.

When possible, this booklet presents data from the 2003-04 Tanzania HIV/AIDS Indicator Survey (THIS), the 2004-05 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS), and the 2007-08 Tanzania HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey (THMIS) to show trends and changes over time in women's status.

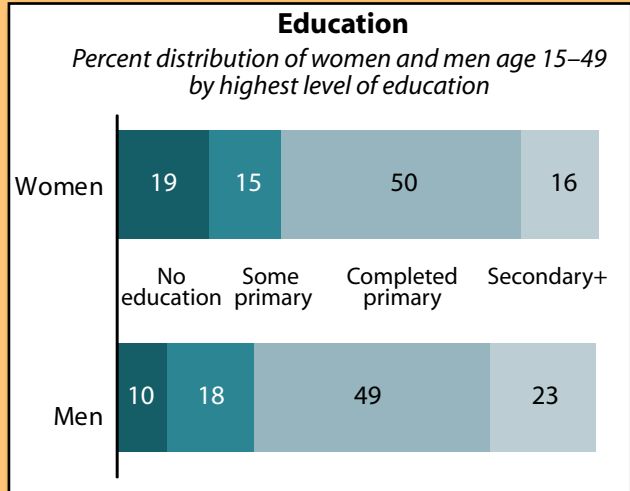
Key Messages

- **In Tanzania, women are disadvantaged compared to men in terms of both education and earnings, factors that greatly influence the health of women and children.** Overall, 19% of women have received no formal education, almost twice the proportion of men (10%). Likewise, women that were employed in the 12 months before the survey were almost twice as likely as men to report not being paid—either in cash or in-kind—for their work.
- **Age at first marriage for women is much lower than for men, which limits women’s educational and earning potential.** Tanzanian women get married at about 19 years of age, more than five years earlier than Tanzanian men. However, age at first marriage is markedly higher among more educated women.
- **Overall, married women have less control over their own lives than married men do.** Two out of five or 40% of married women do not participate in decisionmaking regarding their own healthcare. Almost half of ever-married women report that their husbands or partners insist on knowing where they are at all times.
- **Violence against women is a common practice in Tanzania.** Among Tanzanian women, 39% have ever experienced physical violence since age 15, and one in five women has ever experienced sexual violence. Spousal violence is even higher, with 44% of ever-married women reporting that they have ever experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their husband or partner. Spousal violence is highest among women who report that their husband exhibits controlling behaviours—more than three-quarters of women who report that their husband exhibits five or more controlling behaviours have ever experienced spousal physical or sexual violence. A higher proportion of women (54%) believe that wife-beating is justified for any of the specified reasons, compared to 38% of men.
- **Men’s sexual and reproductive health practices are putting their health and the health of their families at risk.** On average, men have many more sexual partners over their lifetime than women—6.7 compared to 2.3. One in five men reported having two or more sexual partners in the past 12 months, compared to just 4% of women.
- **Men are less likely than women to get tested for HIV.** Women are more likely than men to know about prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Women are more likely to have ever been tested for HIV; 55% of women have ever been tested for HIV and received their results, compared to 40% of men.

Educational Attainment

More education is associated with better health of women and children.

- 19% of Tanzanian women age 15-49 have received no formal education, almost twice the proportion of Tanzanian men (10%).
- The disparity between women and men's education levels is greatest among older women and men:



- 36% of women age 45-49 have received no formal education versus just 7% of men age 45-49.
- Younger women and men are more likely than their older counterparts to have secondary or higher education. Moreover, the difference between younger men and women's educational attainment is small:
 - 35% of women age 15-19 have secondary or higher education versus 39% of men age 15-19.
- Smaller differences in education levels between younger women and men indicate that gender equality in education is improving in Tanzania.
- Fewer women (72%) than men are literate (82%) in Tanzania.
- Similar to educational attainment, the disparity in literacy rates between younger women and men is smaller than the disparity between their older counterparts:
 - At age 15-19, 84% of women and 85% of men are literate versus 60% of women and 85% of men age 45-49.

Earnings

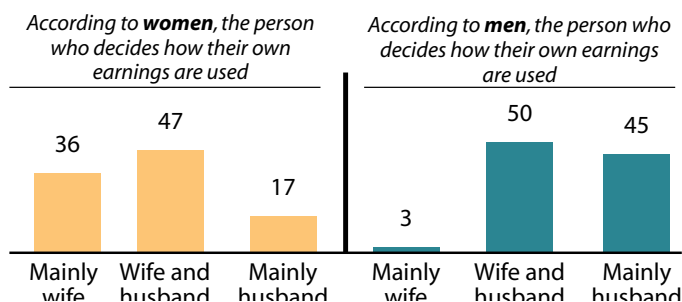
The 2010 TDHS found that 9 in 10 currently married women age 15-49 are employed, compared to almost all men. These women and men were asked about the earnings they receive from their employment.

- Employed women were almost twice as likely as employed men to report not being paid (either in cash or in-kind) for their work (53% and 28%, respectively). Men were more likely to report being paid entirely in cash.
- Among women who received cash earnings, nearly three-quarters (73%) report earning less than their husband or partner.
- Just 13% of women said that they earn the same amount as their husband or partner.

Currently married women and men who received cash earnings for employment in the 12 months before the survey were asked who decides how their earnings are used:

Control Over Earnings

Among currently married women and men age 15-49 who received cash earnings for employment in the 12 months before the survey



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