

LSE Research Online

Rula Ghandour, <u>Katie Bates</u>, Sawsan Imseeh, Suzan Mitwalli, Shiraz Nasr, Doaa Hammoudeh, <u>Ernestina Coast</u>, <u>Tiziana Leone</u>, Rita Giacaman National health surveys: whose priorities?: a case study of the Palestinian Family Health Survey (PFHS) 2010

Conference poster

Original citation:

Originally presented at Ghandour, Rula, Bates, Katie, Imseeh, Sawsan, Mitwalli, Suzan, Nasr, Shiraz, Hammoudeh, Doaa, Coast, Ernestina, Leone, Tiziana and Giacaman, Rita (2015) *National health surveys: whose priorities?: a case study of the Palestinian Family Health Survey (PFHS) 2010.* In: Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance 6th conference, 20-21 Mar 2015, Beirut, Lebanon.

This version available at: http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/61160/

Available in LSE Research Online: March 2015

© 2015 the Authors

LSE has developed LSE Research Online so that users may access research output of the School. Copyright © and Moral Rights for the papers on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. Users may download and/or print one copy of any article(s) in LSE Research Online to facilitate their private study or for non-commercial research. You may not engage in further distribution of the material or use it for any profit-making activities or any commercial gain. You may freely distribute the URL (http://eprints.lse.ac.uk) of the LSE Research Online website.



National Health Surveys: Whose priorities? A case study of the Palestinian Family Health Survey (PFHS) 2010



Rula Ghandour¹, Katie Bates², Sawsan Imseeh¹, Suzan Mitwalli¹, Shiraz Nasr¹, Doaa Hammoudeh¹, Ernestina Coast², Tiziana Leone², Rita Giacaman¹ ¹Institute of Community and Public Health –Birzeit University- Palestine ²London School of Economics - UK

Background

International population health surveys are vital for national planning, implementation and monitoring of health programmes and policies. Yet little is known about how the content of these surveys is developed.

Aim

To analyse the content and scope of the Palestinian Family health Survey (PFHS) 2010 in order to identify data gaps and Palestinian women's needs.

Methods

- 1. Qualitative content
- on women's health

Results

The PFHS is limited in scope and does not consider women's health across their entire life-course, especially beyond reproductive ages. Noncomparable questions were asked of women based on their age and marital status.

> Very little data collected on women aged

55-59 years

Questions in the **PFHS 2010**

Questions for women aged 15-54 focused on pregnancy, childbirth and family planning, and ignored other health issues (eg: mental, occupational and nonreproductive health).

Older women were asked different questions, precluding comparisons across the life course.

> Never-married women excluded from questions on genito-urinary tract, menstrual problems, and barriers to healthcare access..

Do women 55-59 years old have any health problem? Do they need to

Do elderly women

seek health care?

menopausal and/or menopausal and/or genitourinary tract problems?

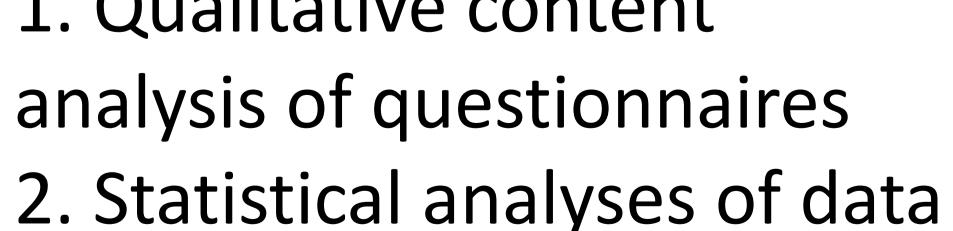
27 questions on HIV/AID when the

women have health they need to seek health care?

Interpretation

- The PFHS is an important source of data.
- However, such population surveys are constructed and implemented with the support of international agencies, and are necessarily restricted by available local resources.
- We need a better understanding and dialogue about the scope and content of such surveys if we are to better understand the health of everyone, irrespective of their age or marital status.
- Internationally comparable health surveys need to take into account the health situation of specific settings whilst retaining the ability to monitor international health targets.

Mixed methods:





27 questions on

HIV/AIDS were

included in a

country with

<100 confirmed

cases since 1988.

Screening questions

for breast and

uterine cancer

included only

women 30-54 years

old excluding older

women



