

PREFACE

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) conducted the fourth Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) between August 2005 and March 2006. The last ZDHS was fielded in 1999. The 2005-06 ZDHS is one of a series of surveys undertaken by CSO as part of the Zimbabwe National Household Survey Capability Programme (ZNHSCP). The survey is also part of the worldwide Demographic and Health Surveys programme, which has been implemented in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

This report presents the major findings of the 2005-06 ZDHS; a preliminary report was published in August 2006. While significantly expanded in content, the 2005-06 ZDHS is a follow-on to the 1988, 1994, and 1999 ZDHS surveys and provides updated estimates of basic demographic and health indicators covered in those surveys. The 2005-06 ZDHS collected information on fertility levels; nuptiality; sexual activity; fertility preferences; awareness and use of family planning methods; breastfeeding practices; nutritional status of mothers and young children; early childhood mortality and maternal mortality; maternal and child health; and awareness and behaviour regarding HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. Additionally, the 2005-06 ZDHS collected data on malaria prevention and treatment and domestic violence. The 2005-06 ZDHS is also the first survey in Zimbabwe to provide population-based prevalence estimates for anaemia among men, women and young children and HIV among women and men age 15-49.

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