



## **Women in Muslim Countries (WIMC) Afghanistan: 2007, 2010, 2012, and 2014**

Survey research has a role to play in providing Muslim women with a public voice where custom and culture do not permit them their own. To this end, D3 sponsors The Women in Muslim Countries (WIMC) Survey. This multi-country, multi-wave study is designed to measure women's empowerment in actual daily practice, providing a deep look into the oft-perceived gap between current public policy and empowerment initiatives and actual practice on the personal and local level.

### **Background on WIMC Project**

From 2007 to 2014, WIMC collected data on the 26 countries listed below. Countries are continuously added. Most countries have national stratified random samples to capture the attitudes and behaviors of the female population as a whole.

- |                      |                |              |              |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| ▪ Afghanistan        | ▪ Lebanon      | ▪ Iraq       | ▪ Kyrgyzstan |
| ▪ Bahrain            | ▪ Oman         | ▪ Iran       | ▪ Sudan      |
| ▪ Bangladesh         | ▪ Pakistan     | ▪ Italy      | ▪ Syria      |
| ▪ Bosnia-Herzegovina | ▪ Qatar        | ▪ Jordan     | ▪ Tajikistan |
| ▪ Egypt              | ▪ Saudi Arabia | ▪ Kazakhstan | ▪ Turkey     |
| ▪ France             | ▪ Spain        | ▪ Kosovo     | ▪ UAE        |
|                      |                | ▪ Kuwait     | ▪ Yemen      |

### **Future of WIMC Project**

For over 25 years D3 has conducted public opinion, media, monitoring & evaluation and consumer surveys in over 120 countries worldwide.

D3's core competencies are research to support public diplomacy, international aid and development programs and broadcast media audience measurement in emerging markets and conflict/post-conflict environments. Our approach involves building permanent partnerships, at times including equity participation in new or existing firms and building indigenous expertise and capabilities through resource and knowledge transfer.

Themes in the survey include, but are not limited to:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ Women's Status & Rights              | ▪ Health Care                        |
| ▪ Household Dynamics                   | ▪ Court Systems                      |
| ▪ Outlook for the Future               | ▪ Access to Media and Resources      |
| ▪ Self-Perception of Rights and Status | ▪ Political Participation & Efficacy |

D3 Systems continues to enrich the WIMC project by collecting data from across the world.

For more information on how to participate or access the data please contact  
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## Afghanistan - Overview

The most recent wave of WIMC data collection in Afghanistan was fielded from March 10 to March 18, 2014. The achieved sample size was N = 2643 of face-to-face interviews, including women (N = 1291) and men (N = 1352). Topics include healthcare quality, women's rights, education, and outlook. The sampling methodology was a multistage random sample of adults 18+ from urban and rural locations. WIMC data from Afghanistan is also available for 2007 (N = 1175), 2010 (N = 1952) and 2012 (N = 971).

## Sample and Research Design

The sample is stratified by province and districts are selected through a proportional to population systematic random sample (PPS). Villages and settlements are selected through a simple random sample. Clusters are then distributed randomly within each settlement. A random walk method with a fixed sampling interval was performed from a starting point. Interviews use a Kish grid to select individual respondents within an eligible household.

## Healthcare

When asked about the affordability of healthcare in their area, 68% of Afghan women say that it is unaffordable, of which 29% say it is "very unaffordable." Close to half of all women also believe that healthcare services in their areas are somewhat, very inadequate or not available at all (Table 1). Respondents were more likely to say that reproductive healthcare services were the least adequate of all types of healthcare.

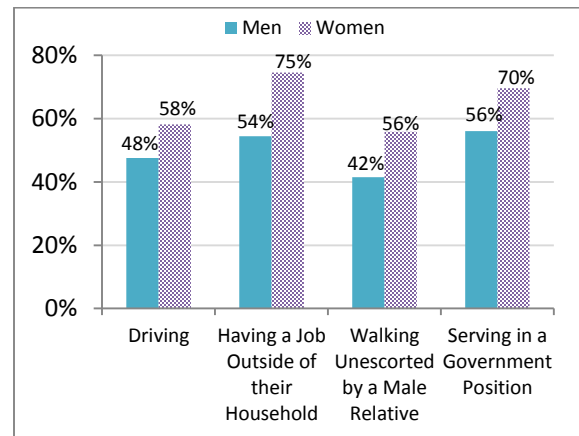
**Table 1:** Women's Belief that Healthcare Service is Somewhat/Very Inadequate or Not Available, 2014.

	Inadequate	Service N/A
General Healthcare	40.0%	6.2%
Pediatrics	46.3%	7.1%
Pre-Natal Care	51.8%	8.7%
Post-Natal Care	49.9%	9.8%
Women's Healthcare	49.7%	8.1%

## Women's Action

Men and women in Afghanistan show moderate to high levels of support for various types of actions which demonstrate women's freedom in Afghan society. The greatest difference in opinion between men and women relates to whether or not women should have jobs outside of the household.

**Figure 1:** Distribution of Men and Women in Support of Various Actions of Women, 2014.



## Education

Since the first study in 2007, the percentage of the Afghan women with no education has remained steady at around 70%. In 2014, the first year Afghan men were included in WIMC, 72% of women say they have never had any education while 43% of men say the same.

When women were asked in 2012 why they had no education or did not complete college, 33% said their family did not allow them to, 15% said no school was available to them, 12% said their family needed them in the household, and 11% said they became married or had a child which prevented them from getting an education.

## Outlook

A slight majority, 55%, of Afghan women and 58% of men believe that their country is heading in the right direction.

