

**Table 1 Personal characteristics of women in 4 consecutive surveys (2003–06)**

| Area/survey    | Age (years) |             | Age at menarche (years) |            | Age at first marriage (years) |            | No. of children |           | Crowding index (no. of persons/room) |                     | Ever worked outside the house |      |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|
|                | <i>n</i>    | Mean (SD)   | <i>n</i>                | Mean (SD)  | <i>n</i>                      | Mean (SD)  | <i>n</i>        | Mean (SD) | No.                                  | Median <sup>a</sup> | No.                           | %    |
| <i>Akkar</i>   |             |             |                         |            |                               |            |                 |           |                                      |                     |                               |      |
| S1             | 200         | 51.0 (12.0) | 193                     | 12.8 (1.3) | 192                           | 19.0 (4.6) | 197             | 5.0 (2.8) | 196                                  | 2.0                 | 39                            | 20.0 |
| S2             | 200         | 51.3 (11.0) | 198                     | 13.3 (1.4) | 180                           | 19.2 (3.9) | 179             | 4.9 (2.7) | 199                                  | 1.4                 | 62                            | 31.5 |
| S3             | 160         | 47.0 (11.5) | 160                     | 13.0 (1.7) | 132                           | 20.5 (4.5) | 132             | 4.4 (2.6) | 160                                  | 1.3                 | 53                            | 33.1 |
| S4             | 160         | 46.3 (12.0) | 160                     | 13.3 (1.7) | 140                           | 20.3 (4.9) | 140             | 5.0 (3.4) | 156                                  | 0.9                 | 31                            | 19.4 |
| <i>Batroun</i> |             |             |                         |            |                               |            |                 |           |                                      |                     |                               |      |
| S1             | 200         | 49.5 (10.4) | 199                     | 12.9 (1.6) | 173                           | 21.0 (5.3) | 179             | 3.4 (2.0) | 193                                  | 1.2                 | 59                            | 32.0 |
| S2             | 200         | 52.2 (12.0) | 199                     | 13.1 (1.9) | 184                           | 21.1 (5.0) | 181             | 3.7 (1.8) | 197                                  | 1.2                 | 79                            | 39.5 |
| S3             | 160         | 50.6 (12.2) | 160                     | 13.4 (1.7) | 142                           | 22.4 (5.0) | 142             | 3.5 (2.2) | 160                                  | 1.0                 | 84                            | 52.5 |
| S4             | 160         | 52.2 (11.6) | 159                     | 13.2 (1.7) | 136                           | 22.1 (5.2) | 136             | 3.8 (1.9) | 159                                  | 1.0                 | 51                            | 32.1 |
| <i>Chouf</i>   |             |             |                         |            |                               |            |                 |           |                                      |                     |                               |      |
| S1             | 199         | 53.2 (11.8) | 200                     | 13.3 (1.5) | 179                           | 20.4 (4.8) | 197             | 3.2 (2.2) | 199                                  | 2.0                 | 43                            | 21.5 |
| S2             | 200         | 51.5 (11.0) | 199                     | 13.2 (1.4) | 184                           | 20.7 (4.6) | 188             | 3.8 (2.3) | 200                                  | 1.0                 | 64                            | 32.2 |
| S3             | 160         | 48.9 (12.4) | 158                     | 13.4 (1.5) | 143                           | 20.6 (5.0) | 143             | 3.5 (2.1) | 160                                  | 1.0                 | 72                            | 45.0 |
| S4             | 160         | 50.0 (11.4) | 159                     | 13.0 (1.3) | 133                           | 20.5 (5.3) | 133             | 3.7 (2.6) | 160                                  | 1.0                 | 56                            | 35.2 |
| <i>Zahleh</i>  |             |             |                         |            |                               |            |                 |           |                                      |                     |                               |      |
| S1             | 398         | 48.4 (10.4) | 384                     | 13.5 (1.5) | 354                           | 19.3 (4.5) | 383             | 4.7 (3.2) | 390                                  | 1.5                 | 43                            | 11.1 |
| S2             | 399         | 48.9 (9.7)  | 396                     | 13.4 (1.5) | 370                           | 19.9 (6.4) | 367             | 4.7 (2.7) | 398                                  | 1.2                 | 56                            | 14.2 |
| S3             | 160         | 44.9 (9.9)  | 159                     | 12.6 (1.1) | 129                           | 19.5 (3.7) | 129             | 3.8 (2.0) | 160                                  | 1.0                 | 40                            | 25.0 |
| S4             | 160         | 50.0 (11.2) | 160                     | 13.0 (1.3) | 132                           | 20.4 (4.5) | 132             | 4.2 (2.4) | 157                                  | 1.0                 | 35                            | 22.0 |
| <i>Sour</i>    |             |             |                         |            |                               |            |                 |           |                                      |                     |                               |      |
| S1             | 200         | 50.0 (10.0) | 199                     | 12.9 (1.5) | 16                            | 20.8 (5.7) | 185             | 3.6 (2.6) | 192                                  | 1.0                 | 51                            | 26.0 |
| S2             | 200         | 50.1 (10.2) | 196                     | 13.3 (1.6) | 189                           | 19.8 (5.4) | 190             | 4.9 (3.0) | 200                                  | 1.2                 | 55                            | 27.5 |
| S3             | 160         | 45.4 (10.0) | 160                     | 13.2 (1.3) | 144                           | 19.7 (5.2) | 144             | 4.7 (2.4) | 160                                  | 1.2                 | 38                            | 23.8 |
| S4             | 160         | 51.0 (11.2) | 160                     | 13.0 (1.3) | 146                           | 18.9 (4.4) | 146             | 5.1 (2.6) | 150                                  | 0.8                 | 34                            | 21.4 |

Table 1 **Personal characteristics of women in 4 consecutive surveys (2002–06)** (*concluded*)

| Area/survey                  | Age (years) |             | Age at menarche (years) |            | Age at first marriage (years) |            | No. of children |           | Crowding index (no. of persons/room) |                     | Ever worked outside the house |      |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------|
|                              | <i>n</i>    | Mean (SD)   | <i>n</i>                | Mean (SD)  | <i>n</i>                      | Mean (SD)  | <i>n</i>        | Mean (SD) | <i>n</i>                             | Median <sup>a</sup> | No.                           | %    |
| <i>Administrative Beirut</i> |             |             |                         |            |                               |            |                 |           |                                      |                     |                               |      |
| S1                           | n/a         | n/a         | n/a                     | n/a        | n/a                           | n/a        | n/a             | n/a       | n/a                                  | n/a                 | n/a                           | n/a  |
| S2                           | n/a         | n/a         | n/a                     | n/a        | n/a                           | n/a        | n/a             | n/a       | n/a                                  | n/a                 | n/a                           | n/a  |
| S3                           | 200         | 51.9 (12.0) | 198                     | 12.7 (1.6) | 177                           | 21.2 (5.2) | 177             | 3.5 (2.1) | 200                                  | 1.0                 | 79                            | 39.5 |
| S4                           | 200         | 53.2 (10.7) | 199                     | 12.7 (1.5) | 177                           | 20.7 (4.5) | 177             | 4.0 (2.1) | 200                                  | 1.0                 | 65                            | 32.5 |

<sup>a</sup>Figures for the median have been substituted to those of means for this particular variable because of the presence of a few outliers skewing the overall distribution.

S1 = September 2003 survey; S2 = January 2004 survey; S3 = January 2005 survey; S4 = January 2006 survey.

*n* = number of women sampled; n/a = no sample taken.