

## AN EVALUATION OF IODINE DEFICIENCY DISORDERS IN FOUR DISTRICTS OF BANGLADESH

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The first extensive survey of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) in Bangladesh was carried out in 1981-1982 (IPHN 1984). Total goitre rate (TGR) was used as an index of iodine status. In 1991, we carried out a survey of IDD in 1556 women of child bearing age in four of the districts surveyed in 1981-1982. The TGR for the four districts covered in both surveys is shown below.

| Year | Age (yrs) | Districts |        |        |       | Total |
|------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
|      |           | 1 (D)     | 2 (RP) | 3 (RS) | 4 (B) |       |
| 1981 | 19+       | 16.0      | 30.3   | 3.5    | 9.5   | 15.5  |
| 1991 | 15+       | 42.3      | 62.7   | 18.0   | 19.2  | 39.7  |

D = Dhaka, RP = Rangpur, RS = Rajshahi, B = Barisal

Although there are some differences in the age range sampled and actual sampling procedures, the results suggest that the TGR has increased in the last decade in spite of IDD control measures. These results will help health authorities to plan more effective measures for the control and prevention of IDD in Bangladesh.

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