# Afghanistan: An Nine Year View From Outside the Wire

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# Afghanistan 2000-2001

# Afghanistan

- 20 years of armed conflict and human rights violations
- Soviet Occupation:1979-1992 with ~ 1 million killed
- Largest single caseload of refugees in the world
  - 1.4 million refugees in Iran and 1.2 million in Pakistan
  - 75% of the refugees are women and children
- Violent power struggles between Mujahedin groups after the Soviet occupation

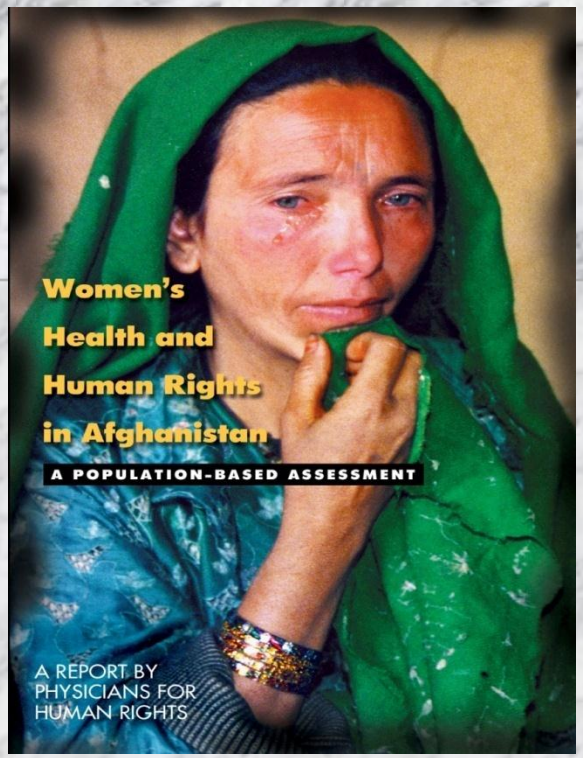
# Afghanistan since 1994

- "Taliban" emerge
  - "students of Muslim religious studies"
  - poorly educated Pashtun refugee youths
  - Led by Mullah Mohammed Omar
- In 2000; controlled 95% of the country
- Claim: restore peace and security through "Islamic law"
- Edicts imposing Taliban interpretation Shari'a law in conflict with international human rights

# Women in Afghanistan: Official Taliban Policies

- May only leave home when escorted by close male relative
- Access to health care limited to seeing female physicians
- May not attend school
  - Except religious school up to 8 years of age
- May not work outside the home
  - Prior to Taliban:
    - 70% of all teachers
    - 50% of civil servants
    - 40% of physicians

# Health and Human Rights Survey Development




- Needs
  - English and Farsi version
  - Ease of Administration
  - Safety*
- Translated - Back Translated
- Database designed before going into the field
- Data collector training
- Piloted in the field
  - Changes agreed upon by team

# Safety Measures Taken

- Coded words or phrases
- No identifiers
  - Data Collectors
  - Respondents
- Letters of safety
- Unidentifiable data sheets
- Questions “buried”
- E-mail database periodically from the field
  - Data entry in the field when possible

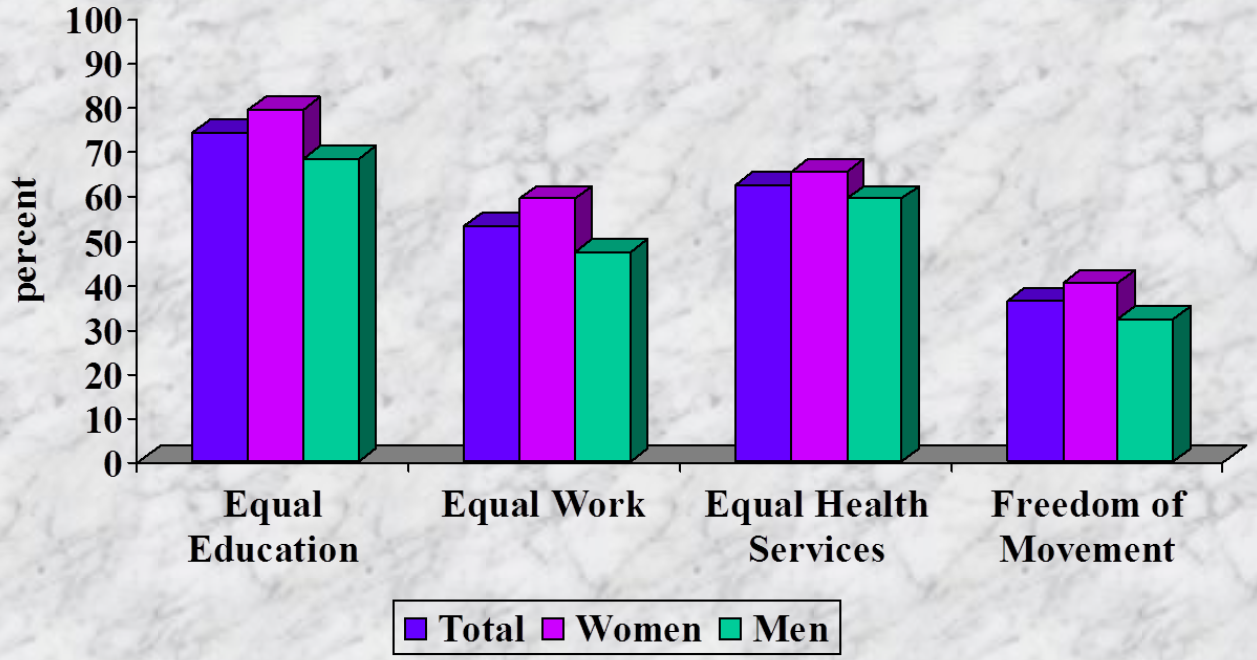
# Methods

- Informed consent
- Randomized survey:
  - Afghanistan Residents (n=346)
    - Non-Taliban Controlled Area
      - Urban/Rural
      - Women and Men
  - Afghanistan Residents (n=400)
    - Taliban Controlled Area
      - Urban /Rural
      - Women and Men

# Sampling

- **Women**
- **Close male relative**
- **Urban Areas**
  - City planning map
  - Sectors randomly chosen
  - # homes/# needed
- **Rural Areas**
  - Mapped area
  - # homes/ # needed

# 2000 Freedom and Needs Survey: Human Rights of Women




Rated as "very" or "extremely" important for health and development of community

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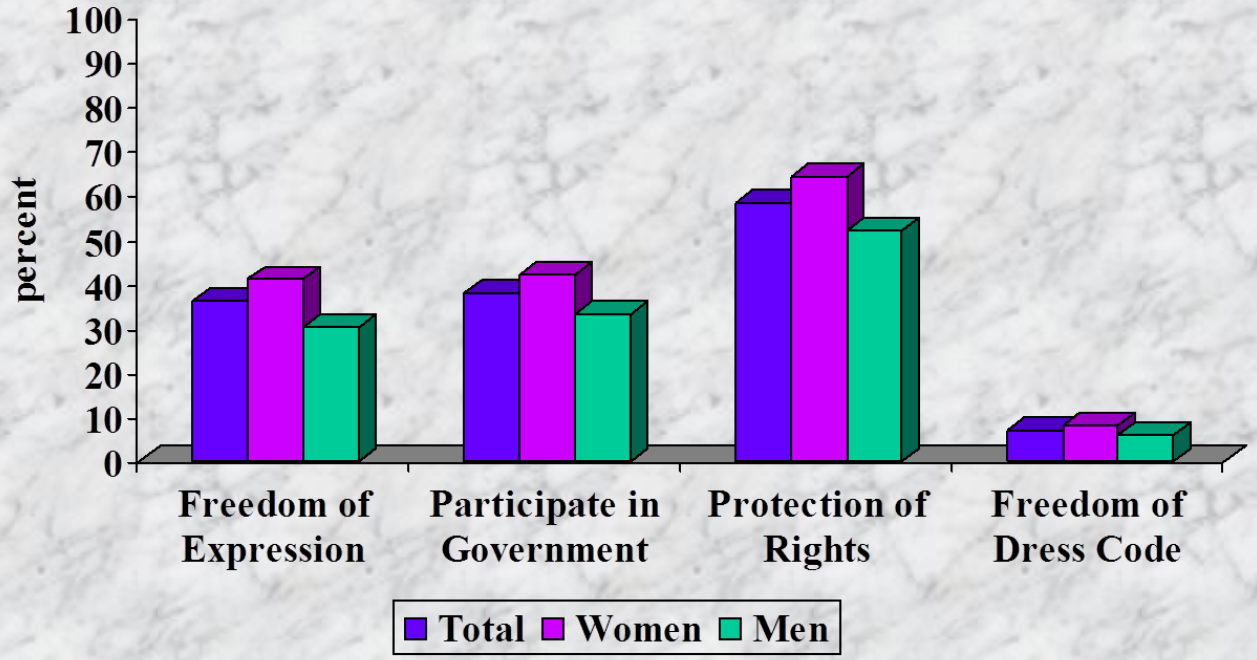


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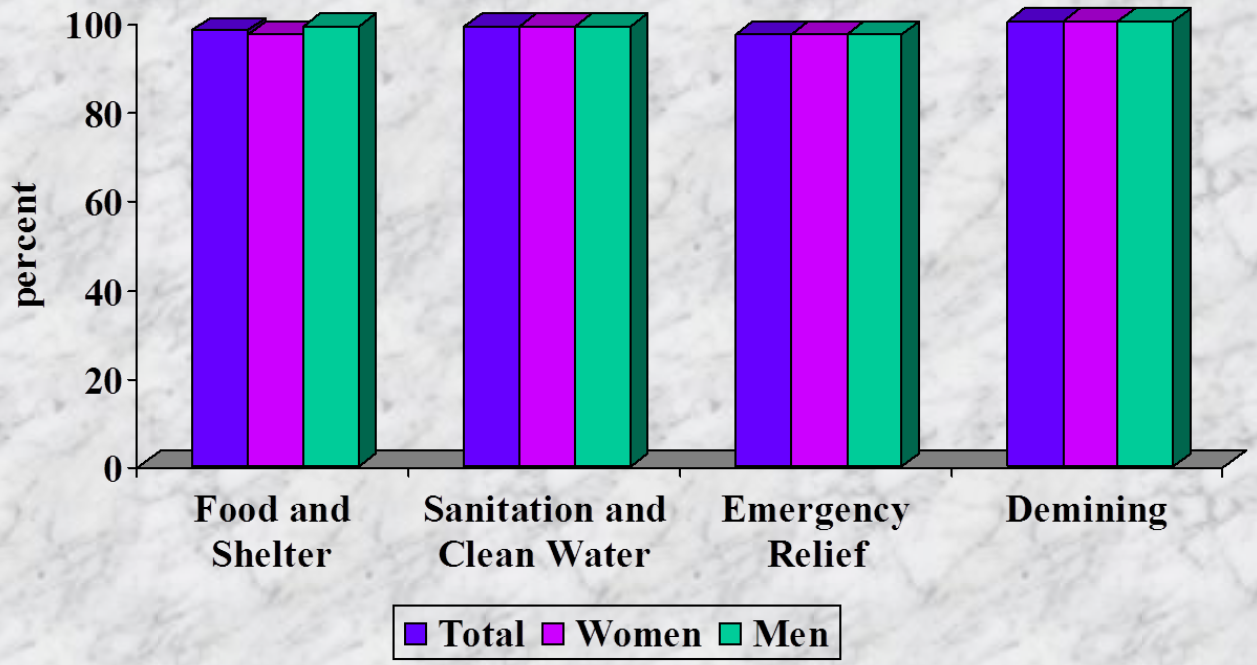
# 2000 Freedom and Needs Survey: Basic Needs

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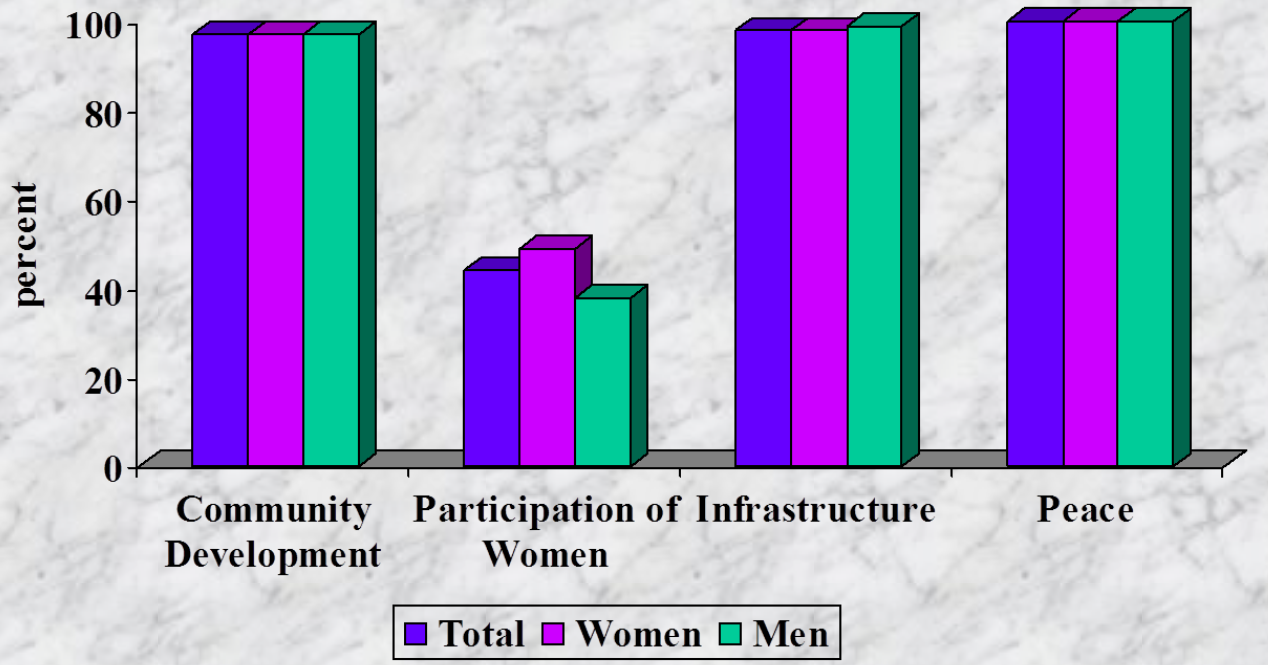
# 2000 Freedom and Needs Survey: Community Development

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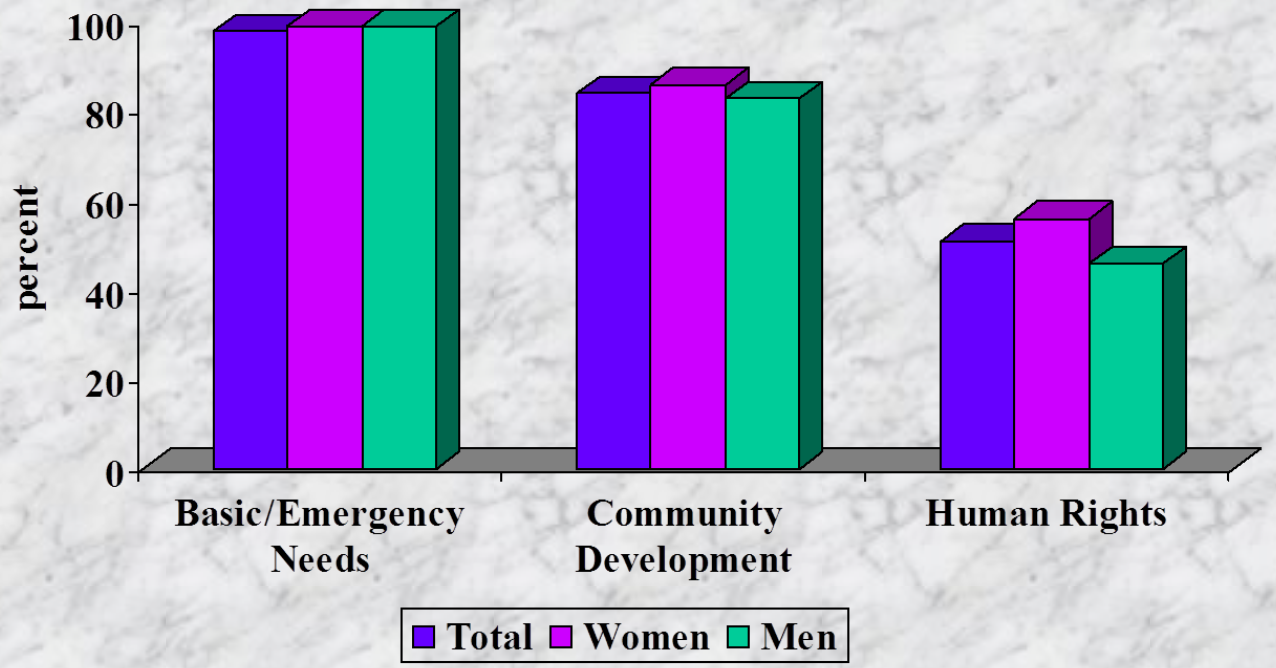
# Freedom and Needs Survey:
# Basic Human Needs versus Individual Freedoms

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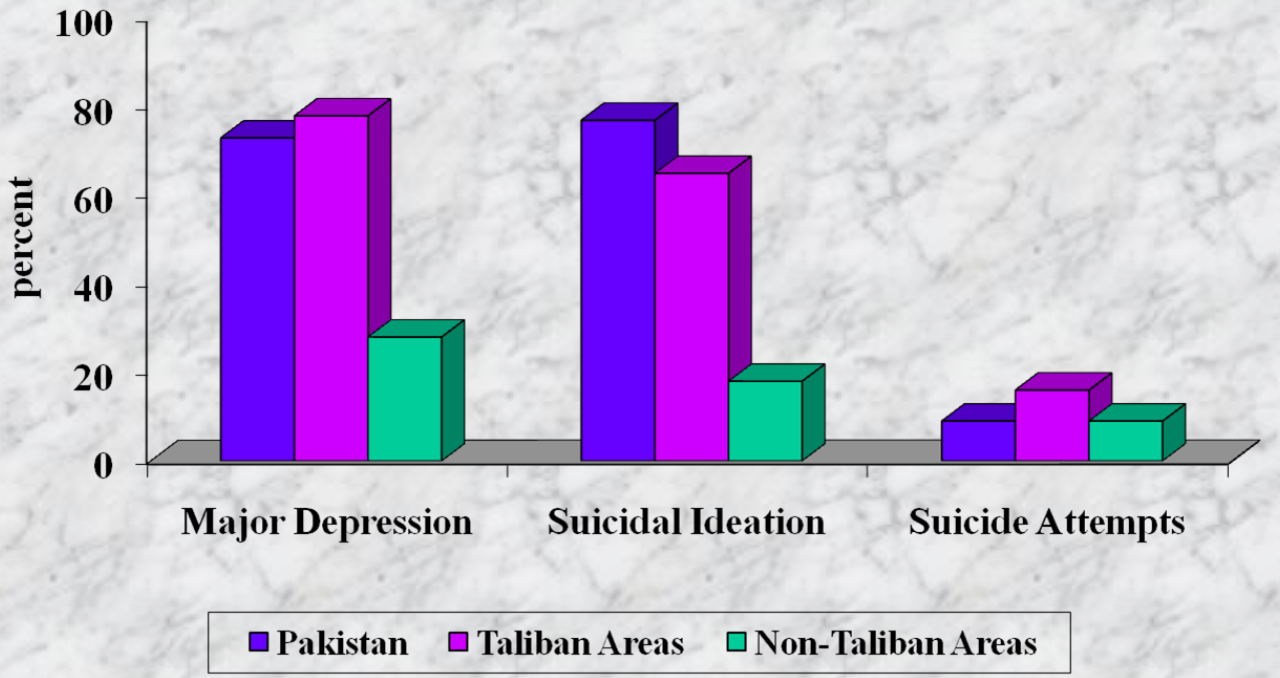
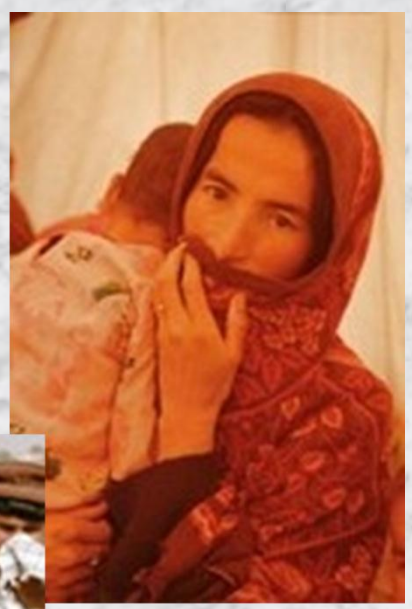
# Mental Health Among Women



# Summary…..

- Afghan women and men believe community development includes ***basic human needs*** and ***individual freedoms***
- Official policies restricting women's rights are not consistent with opinions and attitudes identified
- Health practitioners should involve the community in efforts to promote health and well-being

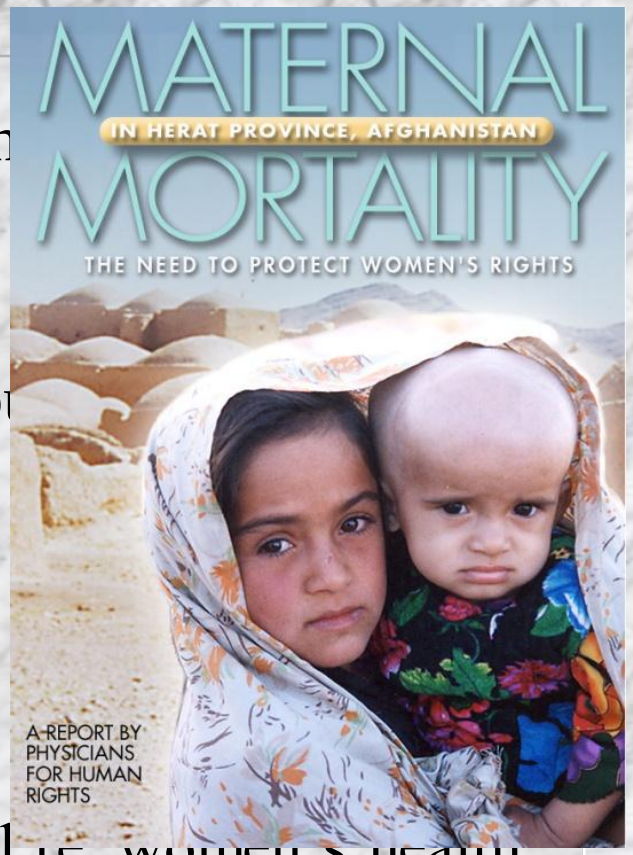
# October 2001



# Maternal Mortality in Herat Afghanistan: An Index of the Status of Women's Rights, 2002

# Purpose of the Study

- Provide a rapid and accurate estimate of matern
  Herat, Afghanistan
- Assess women's human rights that may contribu
  mortality
- Assess maternal health services in the region
- Present data with MoPH to congressional panel re. women's health
  funding post-conflict

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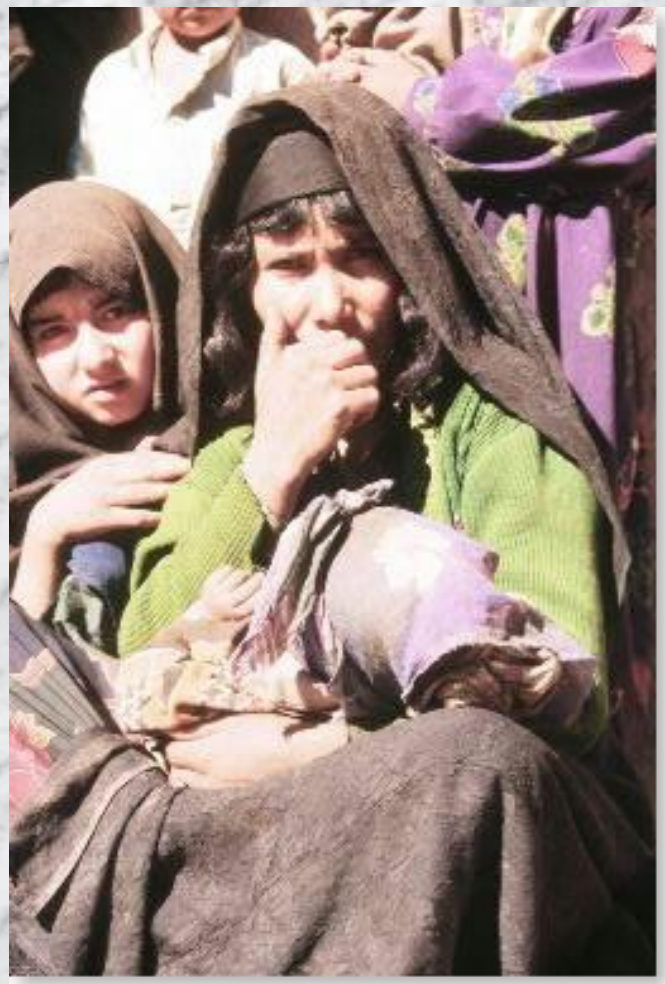
# Methods

- Females age 15-49, n=5014
- 7 of 13 districts in Herat
  - *Random sampling, representing 73% of population*
  - *75% rural and 25% urban*
  - *34 Villages >200 households*
    - *~5 villages per district*
    - *600 household interviews per district*
    - *Within a 4 hour-drive from Herat city*



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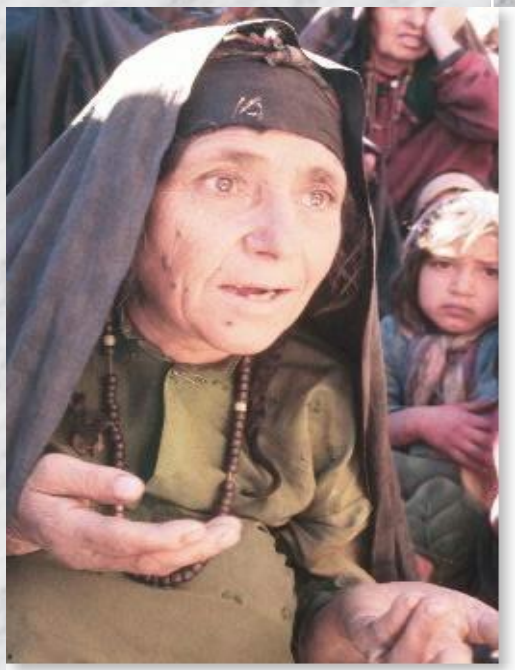
# Respondent Demographics

- Mean age 31 years old (range 15-49)
- 88% married
- 10% widowed
- On average, lived in area 17 years (range .25-50)
- Mean years of formal education 0.35 years (range 0-16)
- 84% ranked lack of food, shelter and clean water as their primary problems



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# Indirect Maternal Mortality Estimate

- *Indirect Sisterhood Method, n=4886*
- *92% of deaths in rural areas*
- *593 maternal deaths/100,000 live births*
- *95% CI 557 to 630*

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# Marriage, Family, Reproductive Health Characteristics

- Mean age of actual marriage 15 years old (range 5-39)
- Mean desired age of marriage 18 years old (range 5-30)
- 85% wanted to marry at the time of marriage
- 20% reported feeling pressured by family

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# Marriage, Family, Reproductive Health Characteristics

- Mean desired age of having children 19 years old
- Mean desired number of children = 6 children
- 11% of women received prenatal care
- 74% could not afford prenatal care
- 95% reported needing permission for health care;
- Less than 1% were refused permission to seek care
- 12% of women used birth control
- 23% desired birth control
- 88% reported that timing and spacing of children was decided equally between husband and wife

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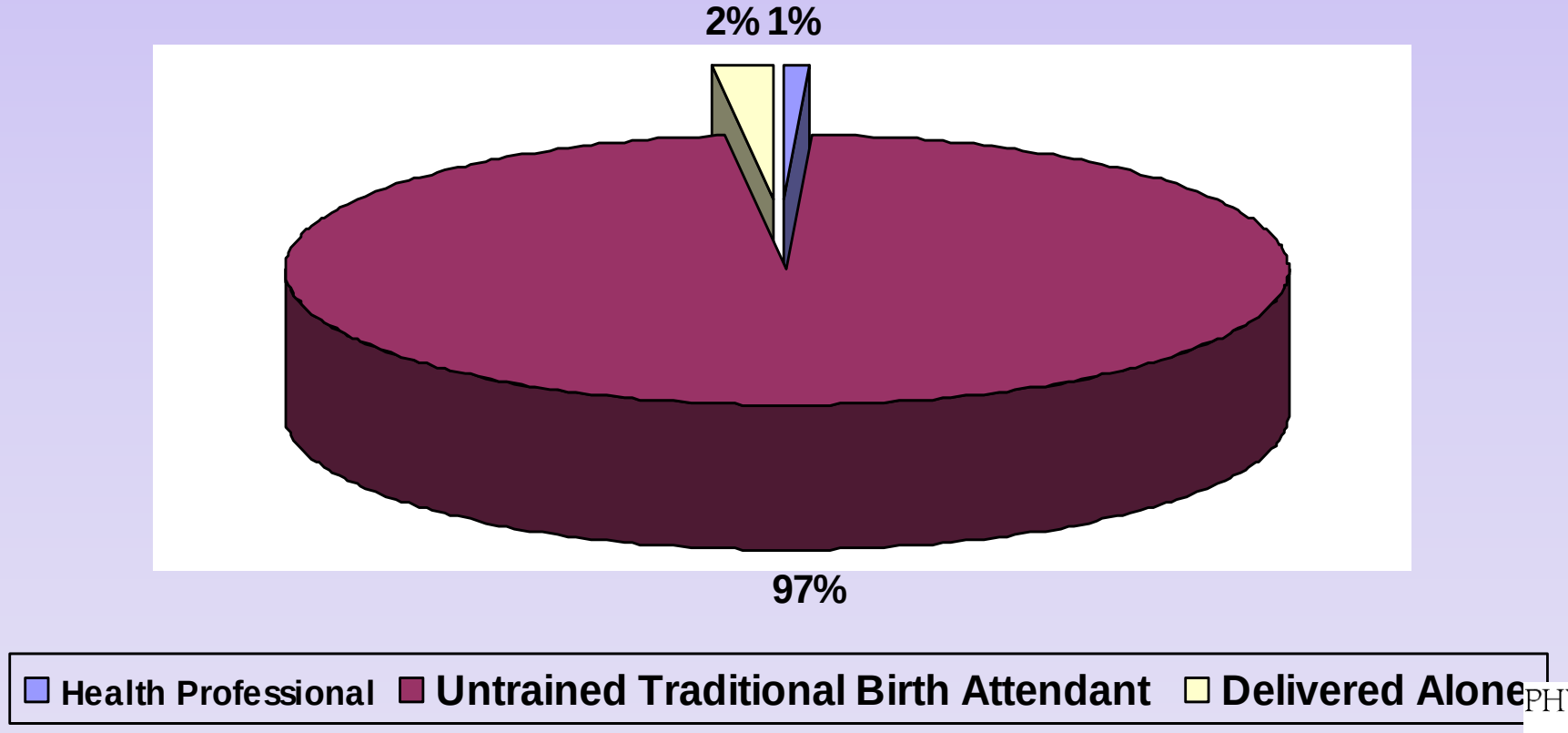
# Figure 1: Proportion of Women With Trained and Untrained Attendants Present at Birth

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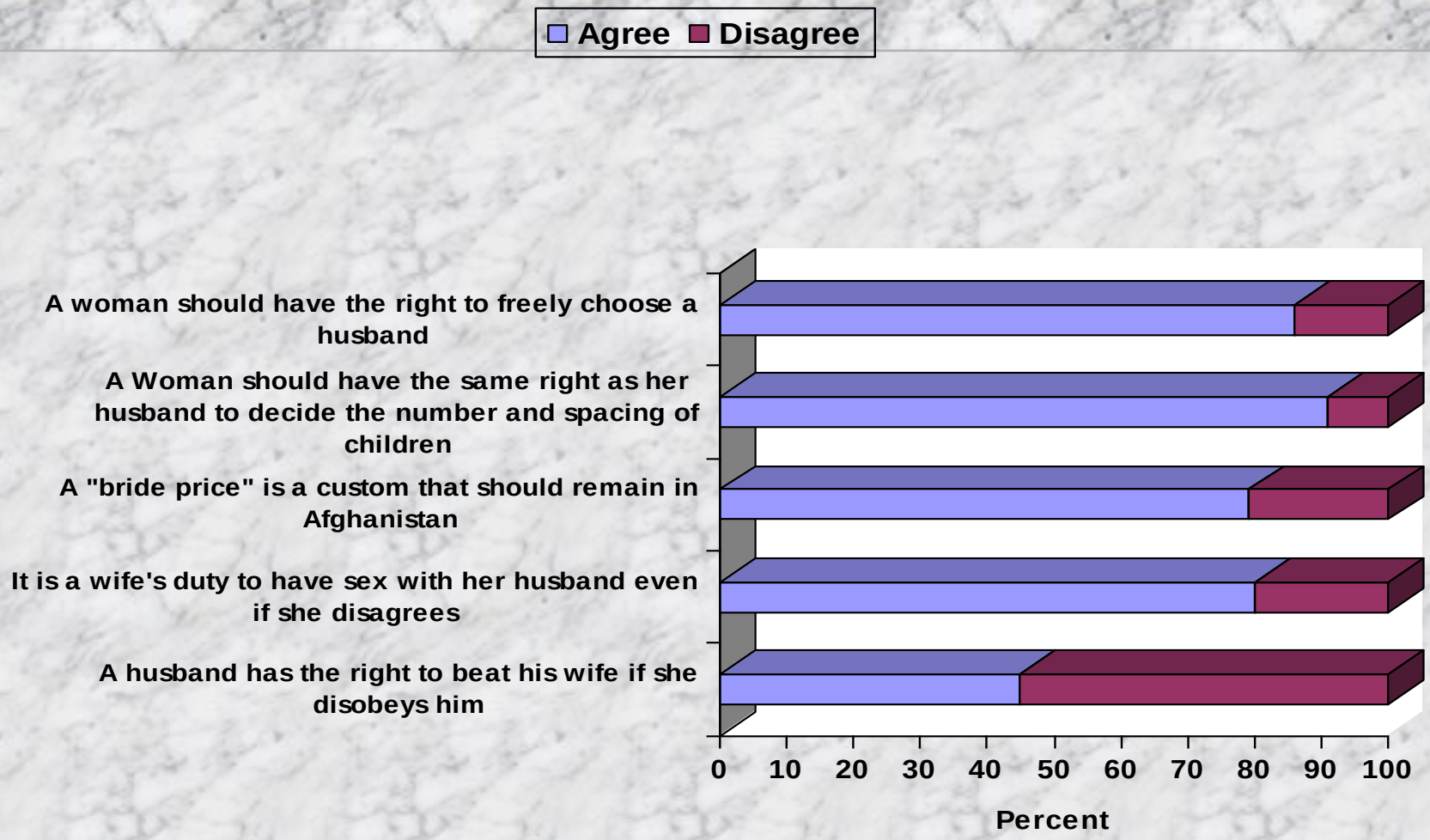
## Figure 2: Attitudes and Beliefs about Marriage, Family, and Women's Roles in Society

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# Key Recommendations (2002)

- **Maternal health must not be considered a luxury or second stage priority and must be integrated into a public health plan.**
- **Protect Afghan Women's Rights**
- **Address Security Gaps**
- **Extend Women's Health Services**
- **Expand Medical Education**
- **Provide for Basic Needs**
- **Family Planning Services**
- **Protection and Promotion of Human Rights**

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# Afghanistan Talking Health Book

# Afghanistan Talking Health Book

# Afghanistan Talking Health Book: Results

- Ceiling effect on knowledge
- Developed at HHS by Afghan Americans
- Translations poor
- No coordination with MoPH
- 80,000 made before testing
- Afghans liked the idea but preferred to have administration with a community health worker

# August 2009

- Met with Afghan Surgeon Generals of ANA and ANP
- Discussion of possible traumatic brain injury study among military/police

Cristal
PEPSI

# DoD Health Efforts

*The Department of Defense's Involvement in Civilian Assistance,:A Quantitative Description of the Projects Funded by the U.S. Department of Defense's Overseas Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster and Civic Aid Program. Disaster Med Public Health Prep. (In Press)

- Military to Military
  - Military medical school
  - Train the trainers in emergency care, professionalism, first responder
  - Improvement in ANA/ANP hospitals and clinics
- Civilian healthcare supported by few authorizations
  - OHDACA (58-85 million +)
  - HCA – can only be used for projects involved in training of MHS personnel
  - CERP – more common in conflict, commanders intent – may not be coordinated
- OHDACA projects since 2001*
  - 102 projects in Afghanistan – second to Iraq
  - Primarily school construction and refurbishment, health/water infrastructure, disaster response infrastructure, and disaster response training projects
  - 15% projects were health infrastructure, 40% schools

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عروسی کابل پاریس

Today……

# Observations

- More than 35 restaurants/bars
- 2 Shopping malls
- 10 hotels; several “4Star”
- “Afg-cranes”
- Airlines (international and domestic)
- International terminal

## Shopping in Kabul

# You can get everything you want

**The Kabul City Center,**
next to the Shar-e-now park, has some very smart shops.

**Roshan Plaza**
has some quite respectable clothes shops.

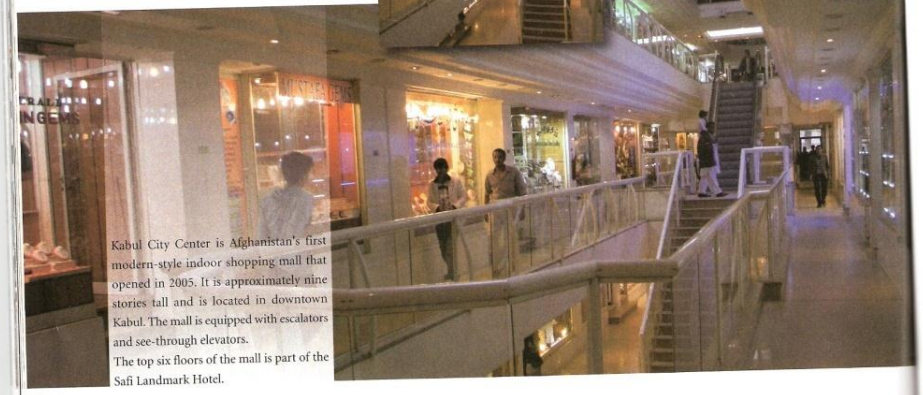
**Chicken Street**
is famed for its tourist fare (carpets, carvings, knives etc) and pirated CD/DVD's.

**Chelsea Supermarket**
sells many types of western foods and products.

**Supreme Supermarket**
on the Jalalabad road (near the British military base) has western products.
A little further down the road is Ciano, an Italian commissary. There is frequently a security alert on the Jalalabad road.

**Spinneys**
Wazir Akbar Khan, near British and German Embassy sell most western products and food.

**Shah M Book Co,**
(across from Mustafa Hotel). The best bookstore in the city, it's the place to head for your next novel, and also has a good selection of coffee table books and books about Afghanistan. The owner was the subject for the recent book The Bookseller of Kabul. Prices are high, but you'll appreciate his selection.



Kabul City Center is Afghanistan's first modern-style indoor shopping mall that opened in 2005. It is approximately nine stories tall and is located in downtown Kabul. The mall is equipped with escalators and see-through elevators.
The top six floors of the mall is part of the Safi Landmark Hotel.





## Kabul

# Sleep

### 1. Mustafa Hotel
Has a restaurant, Internet cafe and billiards.
Single rooms from $30/night.

### 2. Salsal Guesthouse
Zarghona Maidan, Shar-e Naw Park, (located between the park and the Chelsea Supermarket, and is signed in English), +93 (0) 799 734 202. Reasonably clean, shared bathrooms, friendly manager (Bashir) speaks English. Single rooms from 510/night, includes cable TV and a fan.
Double rooms from $20/night

### 7. Heetal Plaza Hotel
Street 14, Wazir Akbar Khan, +93 799 167 824. A nice, quiet, relaxing and cozy place. Single rooms from Af 5000/$100.

### 3. Le Monde Guest House
Kabul, 7 Herati Mosque Street, Shar-e Naw Park, and Flower street.

### 8. Intercontinental Hotel
Bagh-e Bala Rd, +93 20 220 1321. A great 5-star hotel with nice restaurants and a swimming pool. Single room from $90/night. A landmark historical hotel.

### 4. Park Residence Hotel
Ansari Square, Shahr-e Naw Park, +93 799 373 780, reasonable rooms with cable TV and Internet access. Internet cafe is now shifted inside the hotel near the reception (this was the site of the 2005 internet cafe suicide bombing). Single, double and triple rooms from 555/night including breakfast.
Dinner buffet is $6.

### 9. Kabul Serena Hotel
A clean and modern 5-star hotel with 3 great restaurants. One of the best hotels in the city, rooms from $250/night. The hotel was attacked on 14th January 2008. A large explosion killed at least 7 people. The Taliban has claimed responsibility. The hotel has multiplied its security following the attacks.

### 5. UNICA Guest House
Shar-i-Nave, Ansari Wat. Rooms starting at $25 per night--majority of rooms are $40 and $50. Facility is nice by Kabul standards and includes nice common gardens, swimming pool and Bar. Dinner buffet is $8, Thursday night is Salsa night. For visitors a passport is required.

### 10. Safi Landmark Hotel & Suites
Shar-e Naw Park (top 6 floors of the Kabul City Center shopping mall), +93 20 220 3131. Large conference hall, restaurant and gym area, apartments also available. Single room from $80/night.

### 6. Golden Star Hotel
A clean and modern 4-star hotel, with restaurant, conference hall & small gym. High speed internet in each room. $80 USD a night.

“Ten years ago I would have laughed if you told me I would be buying Lego in the Kabul Airport Duty Free”

# Questions?