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Female-headed Households and Children Status in Egypt, 2000.

Using data of the Egyptian Demographic and Health Survey 2000, this study investigates the most important demographic and socioeconomic factors affecting the status of children in female-headed households in Egypt. The study examines the factors associated with female-headed households with regard to major childhood diseases (Diarrhea diseases and acute respiratory infections). It also investigates children nutritional status. The findings of the study indicated that there was a positive relationship between age of woman and her participation in headship of the household. Looking at the region of residence, the proportions of females heading households for urban governorates followed by urban Lower Egypt are higher than other regions. Investigating the effect of household size indicates that as the number of household member's increases, the extent of females to head household's decreases in both urban and rural areas. As the level of female education increases, the percentage of headship decreases. Females heading households have higher percentage of working for cash in rural areas than for wives in male-headed households and this may be due to their responsibilities. Standard of living seems to be the most powerful single factor that characterizes the female headed households.