Analysis of Demographic & Reproductive Health Indicators

This 2014 Yearbook is the fortieth volume presenting demographic and family planning data for Island of Mauritius and for Island of Rodrigues. The 60 tables and 19 charts are grouped under the following headings: population, vital statistics, family planning and health service points.

Island of Mauritius

Age structure of the population

Table A.1 shows the population distribution of the Island of Mauritius at census dates. The average annual population growth rate was 0.42% during the intercensal period of 2000-2011: The censuses enumerated 1,196,383 inhabitants in 2011 compared to 1,143,069 inhabitants in 2000. In 2011, the sex ratio was 976 males per 1000 females.

Table A.2 shows the estimated mid-year resident population according to age group and sex in 2013 and 2014. The figures show that between 2013 and 2014 the proportion of population aged under 15 has decreased slightly from 20.4% to 19.9% and the proportion of the elderly population (aged 60 and above) has increased from 13.8% to 14.3%. Moreover, the median age of the population, the age at which 50% of the population is older and 50% is younger than that age, has increased from 34.4 years in 2013 to 34.9 years in 2014.

Table A.8 summarises the changes in the age structure of the Mauritian population from 1962 to 2054. The total size of the medium variant projected population is
estimated to decline by 19.7% between 2014 and 2054. The proportion of people aged under 15 will decline from 19.9% in 2014 to 11.5% in 2054 and the proportion of people aged 60 and above will increase from 14.3% in 2014 to 33.8% in 2054. In absolute numbers, the elderly population will increase from 174,643 in 2014 to 330,972 in 2054, thus exhibiting an increase of slightly above twofold.

Chart 4 portrays the age-sex profiles of the population of Island of Mauritius. In 1962, there were larger percentages of the population in the younger age group as shown by the expansive population pyramid compared with the one in 2014. In 2054, the population pyramid shows larger percentages of the population in the older age group. Table A.8 shows that the median age of the population is projected to increase from 34.9 years in 2014 to 52.9 years in 2054.

Life expectancy at birth has improved considerably over the years. Table B.8 shows that life expectancy at birth was 77.57 years for females and 70.89 years for males in 2013. By 2054, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 79.51 years for females and 75.19 years for males (Table A.7).

Table B.1 indicates that the population growth rate in 2014 was 0.13% and if this rate is maintained annually, it will take about 538 years for the 2014 population to double in size.

**Vital Rates**

The last three decades has been characterised by a cyclical trend in the crude birth rate: a steady decline from 22.1 in 1982 to 18.3 in 1986 and after an increase from 19.1 in 1987 to 21.1 in 1992, the crude birth rate decreased steadily to 10.4 in 2014. Moreover, the average crude birth rate in the last 5-year period has declined compared with the preceding 5-year period, from 13.5 for the period of 2005-2009 to 11.2 for the period of 2010-14.

The crude death rate was 7.7 in 2014. In fact, the crude death rate has fluctuated between 6.5 and 7.7 during the last 30 years, i.e 1984-2014.
There have been significant improvements in the survival of infants over the past three decades. The infant mortality rate has decreased from 23.1 in 1984 to 14.1 in 2014 showing a decrease of 39.0%. Moreover, the average infant mortality rate in the last 5-year period has declined compared to the preceding 5-year period from 13.9 for the period of 2005-2009 to 12.9 for the period 2010-2014.

The under-five mortality rate is a leading indicator of child health and overall human development and it is indicative of government commitment to health. Figures show that the under-five mortality rate has decreased from 27.8 in 1984 to 15.6 on 2014 showing a decrease of 43.9%.

Table B.3 shows that the still birth rate has dropped from 19.8 in 1984 to 10.1 in 2014 showing a decrease of 49.0%.

The maternal mortality rate dropped from 0.7 maternal death per 1000 live births in 1991 to 0.55 (55 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births). The average maternal mortality rate was 0.51 for the last 5-year period 2010-2014.

The perinatal mortality rate has declined from 31.5 in 1984 to 15.8 in 2014 representing a decrease of 49.8%.

The early neonatal mortality rate dropped from 11.9 in 1984 to 5.7 in 2014, thus indicating a decrease of 52.1%. It should be noted that early neonatal deaths contributed to about 41% of all infant deaths in 2014.

**Vital rates by geographical distribution**

Tables B.4 to B.7 show the trends in vital rates by district in 1972, 1983, 1990, 2000 and from 2007 to 2014. Port Louis had the highest crude birth rate (12.8) in 2014, while Flacq had the lowest crude birth rate (9.4). Overall, three districts had higher crude birth rates than the national level of 10.4.
In 2014, Port Louis had the highest crude death rate (9.9) and Black River had the lowest crude death rate (6.4). Overall, three districts had higher crude death rates than the national level of 7.7.

In 2014, Pamplemousses had the lowest still birth rate (6.3) and Flacq had the highest still birth rate (12.8). Overall, six districts had higher still birth rates than the national level of 10.1.

In 2014, Riviere du Rempart had the lowest infant mortality rate (8.3) and Moka had the highest infant mortality rate (20.3). Five districts had higher infant mortality rates than the national level of 14.1.

**Fertility Rates**

Tables B.9 to B.12 show the trends in fertility rates. There has been a downward shift in the general fertility rate from 181.4 in 1962 to 59.44 in 2000 and a further decrease to reach 40.34 in 2014.

The total fertility rate decreased from 5.86 in 1962 to 1.94 in 1986, but increased to 1.97 in 2000. Thereafter, the total fertility rate showed a significant decrease to reach 1.41 in 2014. Island of Mauritius continues to experience below replacement fertility level (replacement level equals to 2.1 children per woman).

The net reproduction rate decreased from 2.51 in 1962 to 0.90 in 1986 but increased to 0.93 in 2000. In 2014, the net reproduction rate was 0.68.

Table B.9a shows that between 2007 to 2014, the fertility rates declined in all the five-year age groups except in the age group 35-39. In 2014, the age-specific fertility rates showed that women aged 25-29 had the highest fertility rate (90.1) followed by women aged 30-34 (65.5). It is noted that between 2013 and 2014, there has been a slight increase in fertility among women aged 25-39 years.
Adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) decreased from 35.4 in 2007 to 23.8 in 2014, thus showing a decrease of 32.8%. In 2014, there were 27 live births pertaining to mothers aged under 15 years.

In 2014, there were 2,088 births of third and higher orders, which accounted for 16.5% of the 12,658 total live births occurred in the Island of Mauritius. Table B.11 shows that 8.7% of the total live births were to mothers aged under 20 years, thus representing 1,106 live births of which 20 were of third and higher orders.

The censuses reveal that the mean age of childbearing has increased from 26.3 years in 1983 to 26.9 years in 2000 and to 27.5 in 2011.

**Nuptiality**

Postponement of marriage has played a crucial role in fertility reduction in Mauritius as revealed by censuses data. Table A.4 shows that the proportion of currently married women in the age group 15-19 has declined from 27.80% in 1962 to 10.50% in 1983 and 6.24% in 2011.

Chart 9 shows a downward trend in the marriage rate from 20.8 in 1994 to 16.1 in 2014. In 2014, 9,796 marriages were registered in the Island of Mauritius.

The 2011 census figures show that the singulate mean age at marriage was 29.0 years for males and 23.9 years for females.

In 2014, 2,262 divorces were granted in the Republic of Mauritius compared with 1,584 in 2013 and 66.3% of all couples granted divorce in 2014 had at least one dependent child. Chart 10 shows that the divorce rate was 1.9 in 2014 for the Republic of Mauritius.

**Family Planning**
New Acceptors

In 2014, there were a total of 5,206 new acceptors in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, Mauritius Family Planning & Welfare Association (MFPWA) and Action Familiale (A.F.). This total also includes 454 new acceptors of tubal ligation reported at Government hospitals. Pill was the most preferred method among new acceptors accounting for 26.1% followed by sympto-thermal (23.6%), male condom (20.4%), 3-month injectable (17.4%), tubal ligation (8.7%), monthly injectable (1.6%), intra-uterine device (1.2%) and implant (0.8%).

Current Users

Table C.10 shows that there were a total of 66,510 current users as at 31st December 2014 in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, A.F. and MFPWA. This total also includes the 13,177 clients who have undergone tubal ligation, but were registered at Government hospitals. Among the total current users, 42.49% were on sympto-thermal, 21.85% were on tubal ligation, 12.21% were on male condom, 12.15% were on pill, 5.37% were on 3-month injectable, 3.38% were on intra-uterine device, 1.92% were on implant and 0.62% on monthly injectable.

The service statistics of Government and NGOs show that 21.2% of women in the reproductive age group and 30.3% of married women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2014. However at national level, as revealed by the results of the 2014 contraceptive prevalence survey, 63.8% of married women in the reproductive age group used family planning methods. This nationwide survey revealed that besides from government clinics, Action Familiale and MFPWA, women obtained their contraceptive supplies from private clinics and pharmacies and others used traditional methods.

Family Planning Service Points

The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has established 5 operational health regions covering the whole Island of Mauritius and within each health region, there are service points that provide family planning services and information. Presently, there are 164 service points throughout Island of Mauritius: 1 Community Hospital, 5 Medi-Clinics, 20 Area Health Centres, 117 Community Health Centres, 2 Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook 2014, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life [VI]
Health Clinics, 3 Family Planning Clinics and 16 Industrial Family Planning Supply Centres. Moreover, about 1,913 women in the reproductive age group are served per point.

Table E.3 shows that there was an attendance of 72,749 family planning clients at the service points for the Island of Mauritius in 2014.

In 2014, 8 family planning clinics provided services after working hours, on Sundays and on public holidays.
Tables F.1 to F.6 show vital rates and family planning statistics in Rodrigues. In the past three decades, the crude birth rate dropped significantly from 30.7 in 1984 to 16.5 in 2014.

Fertility levels in Rodrigues, also measured by the total fertility rate, have declined from 5.16 in 1983 to 2.14 in 2014.

In 2014, women in the age group 25-29 had the highest fertility rate (104.7) followed by women aged 30-34 (92.7). The adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) was 52.0 which is the lowest figure ever recorded in Rodrigues.

Rodrigues has witnessed remarkable improvement in the survival of infants. The infant mortality rate dropped from 53.7 in 1984 to 21.8 in 2014.

The still birth rate dropped from 17.5 in 1984 to 11.5 in 2014, thus representing a decrease of 34.3%.

In 2014, 386 new acceptors were recorded in the family planning clinics in Rodrigues: 153 were on pill, 126 were on 3-month injectable, 38 were on sympto-thermal, 18 on tubal ligation, 29 were on implant, 15 were on male condom, and 7 were on intra-uterine device.

By the 31st of December 2014, 5,293 current users were recorded in the family planning clinics: 40.3% were on pill, 21.8% were on sympto-thermal, 15.9% were on 3-month injectable, 9.8% were on male condom, 6.0% on implant, 4.1% were on tubal ligation and 2.2% were on intra-uterine device.

The service statistics of Government and NGOs show that 49.0% of women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2014.
Family Planning Service Points

In 2014, there were 17 family planning service points in the Island of Rodrigues and about 636 females in the reproductive age group were served per point.