This 2005 Yearbook is the thirty-first volume presenting demographic and family planning data for the Republic of Mauritius. The 59 tables and 15 charts are grouped under the following headings: population, vital statistics, family planning and health service points. Data are also provided separately for the Island of Rodrigues.

**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 1.12% during the intercensal period 1990-2000: the censuses enumerated 1,143,069 inhabitants in 2000 and 1,022,456 inhabitants in 1990. In 2000, the sex ratio was 981 males per 1000 females.

Table A.2 shows the estimated mid-year resident population according to age group and sex in 2004 and 2005. The figures show that between 2004 and 2005 the proportion of population aged under 15 has decreased slightly from 24.7% to 24.2% and the proportion of the elderly population (aged 60 and above) has increased from 9.4% to 9.6%. Thus, the median age of the population has increased from 30.3 years in 2004 to 30.7 years in 2005. Table A.7 summarises the changes in the age structure of the Mauritian population from 1962 to 2045. The total size of the population is projected to
grow by 18.7% between 2005 and 2045. The proportion of people aged under 15 will decline from 24.2% in 2005 to 17.8% in 2045 and the proportion of people aged 60 and above will increase from 9.6% in 2005 to 24.8% in 2045. In absolute numbers, the elderly population will increase from 116,224 in 2005 to 355,351 in 2045, thus exhibiting an increase of slightly above threefold.

Chart 2 portrays the age-sex profiles of the population of Island of Mauritius: from a young population (the figure narrows at top), as evidenced in 1962, to an ageing population (the figure looks more like a 'chimney'), as projected in 2045.

Life expectancy at birth has improved considerably over the years. Table B.8 shows that life expectancy at birth was 75.59 years for females and 68.86 years for males in 2004. By 2045, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 79.86 years for females and 76.25 years for males (Table A.6).

Table B.1 indicates that the population growth rate in 2005 was 0.86% and if this rate is maintained annually, it will take 81 years for the 2005 population to double in size.

**Vital Rates**

The last thirty years have been characterised by a cyclical trend in the crude birth rate: a steady decline from 27.2 in 1979 to 18.3 in 1986 and after an increase from 19.1 in 1987 to 21.1 in 1992, it decreased again from 20.4 in 1993 to 14.9 in 2005. Moreover, the average crude birth rate in the last 5-year period has declined compared with the preceding 5-year period, from 17.3 for the period of 1996-2000 to 15.7 for the period of 2001-05.

From 1981 to 2004, the crude death rate ranged between 6.5 and 7.0 and in 2005, it was 7.0.
There have been significant improvements in the survival of infants over the past decades. The infant mortality rate has decreased from 60.1 in 1962 to 14.0 in 2004. In 2005, the infant mortality rate was 13.2.

Table B.3 shows that the still birth rate dropped from 20.2 in 1982 to 9.1 in 2004. In 2005, the still birth rate was 9.6.

From 1982 to 2004, the maternal mortality rate ranged between 0.05 and 1.3. In 2005, the maternal mortality rate was 0.22 maternal death per 1000 live births (22 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births).

The perinatal mortality rate has declined from 34.5 in 1982 to 16.4 in 2005, thus representing a decrease of 52.5%.

The early neonatal mortality rate dropped from 14.6 in 1982 to 6.9 in 2005, thus indicating a decrease of 52.7%. However, it should be noted that early neonatal deaths contributed to about 51.9% of all infant deaths in 2005.

Vital rates by geographical distribution

Tables B.4 to B.7 show the trends in vital rates by district in 1972, 1983, and 1990 and from 1997 to 2005. In 2005, Black River had the highest crude birth rate (18.0) and Plaines Wilhems had the lowest crude birth rate (13.0). Moreover, overall, six districts had higher crude birth rates than the national level of 14.9.

In 2005, Port Louis had the highest crude death rate (8.5), and Black River and Moka had the lowest crude death rate (5.8). Moreover, it is noted that among all districts, Port Louis was the district with the highest crude death rate in the last ten years.
In 2005, Flacq had the highest still birth rate (12.3), and Grand Port had the lowest still birth rate (7.1). Moreover, it is noted that Savanne has registered an increase of 194.5% in its still birth rate, from 3.7 in 2004 to 10.9 in 2005.

In 2005, Port Louis had the highest infant mortality rate (18.8) and Black River had the lowest infant mortality rate (8.1). Moreover, 4 districts had higher infant mortality rates than the national level of 13.2 in 2005.

**Fertility Rates**

Tables B.9 to B.12 show the trends in fertility rates. There has been a decrease in the general fertility rate from 181.4 in 1962 to 66.8 in 1986. However, from 1987 onward, the general fertility rate has been fluctuating, reaching 60.79 in 1997. The general fertility rate decreased from 58.40 in 1998 to 54.58 in 2004. In 2005, the general fertility rate was 52.92, and this was the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius.

The total fertility rate increased from 1.94 children per woman in 1986 to 2.03 in 1997, thus showing an increase of 4.6%. However, the total fertility rate decreased from 1.96 in 1998 to 1.83 in 2004. In 2005, the total fertility was 1.79, which was the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius. Hence, Island of Mauritius continues to experience below replacement fertility level of 2.1 children per woman.

From 1997 to 2004, the net reproduction rate ranged between 0.88 and 0.96 and in 2005, it was 0.86 - the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius.

Table B.9a shows that from 1997 to 2005, the fertility rates declined in all the five-year age groups except in the age group 40-44. In 2005, the age-specific
fertility rates showed that women aged 25-29 had the highest fertility, which was 110.6, followed by women aged 20-24, which was 105.4.

Adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) has decreased from 36.2 in 1997 to 35.9 in 2004. In 2005, the adolescent fertility rate was 33.5 – the lowest ever recorded in the island of Mauritius. Thus, the adolescent fertility rate has decreased by 6.7 % between 2004 and 2005. Moreover, it is also noted that the number of livebirths pertaining to mothers aged under 15 years has decreased from 30 livebirths in 2004 to 26 livebirths in 2005.

In 2005, there were 2,810 births of third and higher orders, which accounted for 15.9% of the 17,707 total live births in the Island of Mauritius. Table B.11 shows that 8.8% of the total live births were to mothers under 20 years, thus representing 1,554 live births of which 22 were of third and higher orders.

The censuses reveal that the mean age of childbearing has increased from 26.3 years in 1983 to 26.7 years in 1990 and to 26.9 years in 2000.

**Nuptiality**

Table A.4 indicates that 27.80% of the total women in the age group 15-19 were currently married in 1962 compared with 10.83% in 1990 and 9.37% in 2000. These figures imply that women got married at later years and this factor has played a crucial role in fertility reduction.

Chart 7 shows a downward trend in the marriage rate from 21.4 in 1992 to 18.6 in 2004. In 2005, 11,076 marriages were registered in the Island of Mauritius and the marriage rate was 18.4.

The 2000 census reveals that the singulate mean age at marriage was 28.6 years among men and 22.5 years among women.

In 2005, there were 1,133 divorces granted in the Republic of Mauritius compared with 1,162 divorces granted in 2004 and 62.9% of all couples
granted divorce in 2005 had at least one dependent child. Incidentally, there were 1,301 dependent children whose parents were granted divorce in 2005. Chart 8 shows a decreasing trend in the divorce rate from 2.5 in 2001 to 1.8 in 2005.

Family Planning

New Acceptors

In 2005, there was a total of 8,987 new acceptors in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association (MFPWA) and Action Familiale (A.F.). This total also includes 593 new acceptors of tubal ligation reported at government hospitals. Pill was the most preferred method among the new acceptors accounting for 31.6% followed by barrier method (29.5%), sympto-thermal (21.4%), injectable (7.5%), tubal ligation (7.1%), implant (1.5%) and intra-uterine device (1.5%).

Current Users

Table C.10 shows that there was a total of 90,421 current users as at 31 December 2005 in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, A.F. and MFPWA. This total also includes the 11,327 clients who have undergone tubal ligation, but were registered at Government hospitals. Among the total current users, 18.6% were on pill, 5.3% were on intra-uterine device, 21.5% were on barrier method, 20.0% were on tubal ligation, 29.5% were on sympto-thermal, 4.4% were on injectable, and 0.7% was on implant.

According to the service statistics of the government clinics and the two NGOs, it is estimated show that 27.0% of women in the reproductive age group and 44.1% of married women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2005. However, nation-wide, 75.9% of married
women in the reproductive age group used family planning methods as revealed by the 2002 contraceptive prevalence survey. This survey showed that women obtained their method not only from government programme, A.F. and MFPWA but also from private clinics and pharmacies and that some women 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. In 2005, there was a total of 166 service points throughout Island of Mauritius, including 1 Family Planning Supply Centre and 21 Industrial Family Planning Supply Centres. About 2,016 women in the reproductive age group were served per point in 2005.

Family planning services are provided through a network of 1 Community Hospital, 2 Medi-Clinics, 23 Area Health Centres, 112 Community Health Centres, 4 Family Health Clinics, 2 Family Planning Clinic, 1 Family Planning Supply Centre and 21 Industrial Family Planning Supply Centres throughout the five health regions. Tables E.3.A to E.3.E show the attendance of family planning clients at these service points by district.

In 2005, 21 family planning clinics provided services after working hours, on Sundays and on public holidays.
Island of Rodrigues

Tables F.1 to F.6 show vital rates and family planning statistics in Rodrigues. In the past forty years, the crude birth rate dropped significantly from 48.2 in 1966 to 24.3 in 2005. The lowest crude birth rate ever recorded in the island of Rodrigues was in 1997, which was 19.8.

Fertility levels in Rodrigues, also measured by the total fertility rate, have declined from 5.16 in 1983 to 2.84 in 2005.

From 2000 to 2004, the age-specific fertility rates showed a pattern that peaked at ages 25-29. In 2005, women in the age group 30-34 had the highest fertility rate (140.6).

The adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) was 75.5 in 2005 compared with 74.0 in 2004, thus representing an increase of 2.0%.

Rodrigues has witnessed remarkable improvement in the survival of infants. The infant mortality rate dropped from 56.7 in 1982 to 19.5 in 2004, thus representing a decrease of 65.6%. In 2005, the lowest infant mortality rate was 18.7, which the lowest ever recorded in the island of Rodrigues.

The still birth rate declined from 21.8 in 1982 to 18.8 in 2004, thus showing a decrease of 13.8%. In 2005, the still birth rate was 13.2.

In 2005, 630 new acceptors were recorded in the family planning clinics in Rodrigues: 215 were on injectable, 309 were on pill, 68 were on sympto-thermal, 23 were on barrier method and 15 were on intra-uterine device.

By the end of December 2005, 6417 current users were recorded in the family planning clinics: 38.8% were on pill, 19.6% were on injectable, 11.6% were on barrier method, 22.1% were on sympto-thermal, 3.8% were on intra-uterine device, and 4.1% were on tubal ligation. From the service
statistics from the government clinics and the two NGOs, it is estimated that 65.5% of women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in Rodrigues in 2005. However, nation-wide, 74.1% of married women in the reproductive age group used family planning methods as revealed by the 2002 contraceptive prevalence survey. This survey showed that women obtained their method not only from government programme, A.F. and MFPWA but also from a private pharmacy and that some women used traditional methods.

**Family Planning Service Points**

In 2005, there were 17 family planning service points in the Island of Rodrigues and about 576 females in the reproductive age group were served per point.