Analysis of Demographic & Reproductive Health Indicators

This 2006 Yearbook is the thirty-second 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 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 2005 and 2006. The figures show that between 2005 and 2006 the proportion of population aged under 15 has decreased slightly from 24.2% to 23.7% and the proportion of the elderly population (aged 60 and above) has increased from 9.6% to 9.7%. Moreover, the median age of the population has increased from 30.7 years in 2005 to 31.0 years in 2006.
Table A.7 summarises the changes in the age structure of the Mauritian population from 1962 to 2046. The total size of the population is projected to grow by 15.5% between 2006 and 2046. The proportion of people aged under 15 will decline from 23.7% in 2006 to 17.3% in 2046 and the proportion of people aged 60 and above will increase from 9.7% in 2006 to 25.3% in 2046. In absolute numbers, the elderly population will increase from 118,237 in 2006 to 354,916 in 2046, thus exhibiting an increase of slightly about threfold.

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 2046.

Life expectancy at birth has improved considerably over the years. Table B.8 shows that life expectancy at birth was 75.68 years for females and 68.92 years for males in 2005. By 2046, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 79.90 years for females and 76.08 years for males (Table A.6).

Table B.1 indicates that the population growth rate in 2006 was 0.65% and if this rate is maintained annually, it will take 108 years for the 2006 population to double in size.

**Vital Rates**

The last thirty years has 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 13.8 in 2006. Moreover, the *average* crude birth rate in the last 5-year period has declined as opposed to the preceding 5-year period, from 16.9 for the period of 1997-2001 to 15.2 for the period of 2002-06.
From 1981 to 2005, the crude death rate has fluctuated between 6.5 and 7.0 and in 2006, it was 7.3.

There have been significant improvements in the survival of infants over the past four decades. The infant mortality rate has decreased from 60.1 in 1962 to 13.2 in 2005. In 2006, the infant mortality rate was 13.5.

Table B.3 shows that the still birth rate dropped from 20.2 in 1982 to 9.6 in 2005. In 2006, the still birth rate was 8.0.

From 1982 to 2005, the maternal mortality rate fluctuated between 0.05 and 1.3. In 2006, the maternal mortality rate was 0.18 maternal death per 1000 live births (18 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births).

The perinatal mortality rate has declined from 34.5 in 1982 to 14.7 in 2006, thus representing a decrease of 57.4%.

The early neonatal mortality rate dropped from 14.6 in 1982 to 6.7 in 2006, thus indicating a decrease of 54.1%. However, it should be noted that early neonatal deaths contributed to about 49.8% of all infant deaths in 2006.

**Vital rates by geographical distribution**

Tables B.4 to B.7 show the trends in vital rates by district in 1972, 1983, 1990 and from 1998 to 2006. Black River had the highest crude birth rate (16.6) in 2006, while Plaines Wilhems had the lowest crude birth rate (12.1). Overall, six districts had higher crude birth rates than the national level of 13.8.
In 2006, Port Louis had the highest crude death rate (9.1), and Black River had the lowest crude death rate (6.2). Moreover, it is noted that, in the last ten years, Port Louis have registered the highest crude death rate.

In 2006, Flacq had the highest still birth rate (11.6) and Rivière du Rempart had the lowest still birth rate (5.3). It is also noted that Rivière du Rempart has registered a significant decrease in its still birth rate, from 11.9 in 2005 to 5.3 in 2006 – a decrease of 55.5%.

In 2006, Pamplemousses had the highest infant mortality rate (21.3) and Savanne had the lowest infant mortality rate (7.2). Moreover, 5 districts had higher infant mortality rates than the national level of 13.5 in 2006.

**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 66.8 in 1986 and to 58.40 in 1998. Between 1999 and 2005, the general fertility rate has decreased by 13.0%, from 60.84 to 52.92. In 2006, the general fertility rate was 48.90, which was the lowest rate ever recorded.

The total fertility rate increased from 1.94 children per woman in 1986 to 1.96 in 1998, thus showing a slight increase of 1%. However, the total fertility rate decreased from 2.04 in 1999 to 1.79 in 2005. In 2006, the total fertility was 1.67, 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 1998 to 2005, the net reproduction rate ranged between 0.86 and 0.96 and in 2006, it was 0.79 - the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius.
Table B.9a shows that from 1998 to 2005, the fertility rates declined in all the five-year age groups except in the age group 40-44. In 2006, the age-specific fertility rates showed that women aged 25-29 had the highest fertility, which was 104.3, followed by women aged 20-24, which was 96.6.

Adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) has decreased from 35.3 in 1998 to 33.5 in 2005. In 2006, the adolescent fertility rate was 32.4 – the lowest ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius. Thus, the adolescent fertility rate has decreased by 3.3 % between 2005 and 2006. Moreover, it is noted that the number of livebirths pertaining to mothers aged under 15 years has slightly decreased from 26 livebirths in 2005 to 24 livebirths in 2006.

In 2006, there were 2,687 births of third and higher orders, which accounted for 16.3% of the 16,467 total live births in the Island of Mauritius. Table B.11 shows that 9.5% of the total live births were to mothers under 20 years, thus representing 1,557 live births of which 28 were of third and higher orders.

The censuses results 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 as opposed to 10.83% in 1990 and 9.37% in 2000. This reveals 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 18.4 in 2005. In 2006, 11,262 marriages were registered in the Island of Mauritius and the marriage rate was 18.5.
The 2000 census results reveal that the singulate mean age at marriage was 28.6 years among men and 22.5 years among women.

In 2006, there were 1,379 divorces granted in the Republic of Mauritius compared with 1,133 divorces granted in 2005 and 65.5% of all couples granted divorce in 2006 had at least one dependent child. Incidentally, there were 1,570 dependent children whose parents were granted divorce in 2006. Chart 8 shows a decreasing trend in the divorce rate from 2.5 in 2001 to 2.2 in 2006.

**Family Planning**

**New Acceptors**

In 2006, there was a total of 7,491 new acceptors in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, Mauritius Family Planning & Welfare Association (MFPWA) and Action Familiale (AF). This total also includes 583 new acceptors of tubal ligation reported at Government Family Planning Clinics. Pill was the most preferred method among the new acceptors accounting for 30.1% followed by barrier method (26.1%), sympto-thermal (24.7%), tubal ligation (7.8%), injectable (7.5%), implant (2.1%) and intra-uterine device (1.7%).
**Current Users**

Table C.10 shows that there was a total of 87,412 current users as at 31st December 2006 in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, AF and MFPWA. This total also includes the 11,627 clients who have undergone tubal ligation, but were registered at Government hospitals. Among the total current users, 17.8% were on pill, 5.4% were on intra-uterine device, 21.0% were on barrier method, 19.6% were on tubal ligation, 30.8% were on sympto-thermal, 4.5% were on injectable, and 0.9% was on implant.

The service statistics of government and NGOs show that 26.0% of women in the reproductive age group and 42.4% of married women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2006. However, at national level, as revealed by the results of the 2002 contraceptive prevalence survey, 75.9% of married women in the reproductive age group used family planning methods. This nationwide survey revealed that besides government clinics, AF and MFPWA, other sources of contraceptive supplies are private clinics and pharmacies. Moreover, some women are using 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 2006, there was a total of 165 service points throughout Island of Mauritius: 1 Community Hospital, 2 Medi-Clinics, 23 Area Health Centres, 112 Community Health Centres, 4 Family Health Clinics, 2 Family Planning Clinics, 1 Family Planning Supply Centre and 20 Industrial Family Planning Supply Centres. About 2,041 women in the reproductive age group were served per point in 2006.
Tables E.3.A to E.3.E show the attendance of family planning clients at these service points by district.

In 2006, 20 Family Planning Clinics provided services after working hours, on Sundays and 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 47.9 in 1967 to 23.8 in 2006. 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 2.79 in 2006.

From 2000 to 2005, the age-specific fertility rates showed a pattern that peaked at ages 25-29. In 2006, it is also noted that women in the age group 25-29 had the highest fertility rate (153.5).

The adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) was 72.8 in 2006, compared with 78.3 in 2005, thus representing a decrease of 7%.

Rodrigues has witnessed remarkable improvement in the survival of infants. The infant mortality rate dropped from 56.7 in 1982 to 20.6 in 2005, thus representing a decrease of 63.7%. In 2006, the infant mortality rate was 27.2, thus exhibiting an increase of 32.0% between 2005 and 2006.
The still birth rate declined from 21.8 in 1982 to 17.3 in 2005, thus showing a decrease of 20.6%. In 2006, the still birth rate was 13.4.

In 2006, 506 new acceptors were recorded in the family planning clinics in Rodrigues: 239 were on pill, 184 were on injectable, 59 were on sympto-thermal, 9 were on barrier method and 15 were on intra-uterine device.

By the end of December 2006, 6,524 current users were recorded in the family planning clinics: 40.3% were on pill, 19.6% were on injectable, 10.3% were on barrier method, 22.1% were on sympto-thermal, 3.8% were on intra-uterine device, and 3.9% were on tubal ligation. The service statistics of government and NGOs show that 66.6% of women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2006. However, at national level, as revealed by the results of the 2002 contraceptive prevalence survey, 74.1% of married women in the reproductive age group used family planning methods. This nationwide survey revealed that besides government clinics, AF and MFPWA, other sources of contraceptive supplies are private clinics and pharmacies. Moreover, some women are using traditional methods.

**Family Planning Service Points**

In 2006, there were 17 family planning service points in the Island of Rodrigues and about 576 women in the reproductive age group were served per point.
Selected Demographic & Reproductive Health Indicators – 2006
Island of Mauritius

Estimated mid-year population  1,215,619
Population density (inhabitants per square km)  652
Sex ratio (males per 1,000 females)  977.5
Population growth rate (%)  0.65
% of mid-year population aged under 15 years  23.7
% of mid-year population aged 60 years & over  9.7
% of female population aged 15 – 49 years over total population  27.7

Fertility

Crude birth rate (per 1,000 mid–year population)  13.8
Total fertility rate  1.67
Gross reproduction rate  0.81
Net reproduction rate  0.79

Mortality

Crude death rate (per 1,000 mid-year population)  7.3
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)  13.5
Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)  0.18
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2004-06:
  Female 75.68
  Male 68.92

Family Planning (Government services and NGOs)

Number of new acceptors  7,491
New acceptors as a % of female population aged 15-49 years  2.2
Number of current users  87,412
Current users as a % of female population aged 15-49 years  26.0