Analysis of Demographic & Reproductive Health Indicators

This 2007 Yearbook is the thirty-third 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 2006 and 2007. The figures show that between 2006 and 2007 the proportion of population aged under 15 has decreased slightly from 23.7% to 23.1% and the proportion of the elderly population (aged 60 and above) has increased from 9.7% to 10.0%. Moreover, the median age of the population has increased from 31.0 years in 2006 to 31.5 years in 2007.
Table A.7 summarises the changes in the age structure of the Mauritian population from 1962 to 2007. The total size of the population is projected to grow by 13.6% between 2007 and 2047. The proportion of people aged under 15 will decline from 23.1% in 2007 to 17.2% in 2047 and the proportion of people aged 60 and above will increase from 10.0% in 2007 to 25.5% in 2047. In absolute numbers, the elderly population will increase from 122,455 in 2007 to 353,804 in 2047, thus exhibiting an increase of slightly about 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 2047.

Life expectancy at birth has improved considerably over the years. Table B.8 shows that life expectancy at birth was 75.89 years for females and 69.10 years for males in 2006. By 2047, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 79.91 years for females and 76.02 years for males (Table A.6).

Table B.1 indicates that the population growth rate in 2007 was 0.65% and if this rate is maintained annually, it will take 108 years for the 2007 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 20.4 in 1993, it decreased again from 19.5 in 1994 to 13.2 in 2007. Moreover, the *average* crude birth rate in the last 5-year period has declined as opposed to the preceding 5-year period, from 16.6 for the period of 1998-2002 to 14.6 for the period of 2003-2007.
From 1986 to 2006, the crude death rate has fluctuated between 6.5 and 7.3 and in 2007, it was 6.8.

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 13.5 in 2006. In 2007, the infant mortality rate was 15.3.

However, the infant mortality rate in the last 5-year period shows a decline as compared to the preceding 5-year period: from 16.6 for the period 1998-2002 to 13.7 for the period 2003-2007.

Table B.3 shows that the still birth rate dropped from 18.6 in 1983 to 9.6 in 2007.

From 1983 to 2007, the maternal mortality rate dropped from 0.60 to 0.37 (37 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births showing a decrease of 38.3%.

The perinatal mortality rate has declined from 32.7 in 1983 to 17.7 in 2007, thus representing a decrease of 45.9%.

The early neonatal mortality rate dropped from 14.3 in 1983 to 8.2 in 2007, thus indicating a decrease of 42.7%. However, it should be noted that early neonatal deaths contributed to about 53.2% of all infant deaths in 2007.

**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 1999 to 2007. In 2007 Black River had the highest crude birth rate (14.8) while Plaines Wilhems had the lowest crude birth rate (11.7). Overall, seven districts had higher crude birth rates than the national level of 13.2.
In 2007, Port Louis had the highest crude death rate (8.7), and Black River had the lowest crude death rate (5.5). Moreover, it is noted that, in the last ten years, Port Louis have registered the highest crude death rate.

In 2007, Flacq had the highest still birth rate (13.0) and Black River had the lowest still birth rate (6.5). However, Moka has registered a significant decrease in its still birth rate, from 9.0 in 2006 to 6.9 in 2007 – a decrease of 23.3%.

In 2007, Flacq had the highest infant mortality rate (20.5) and Black River had the lowest infant mortality rate (7.5). There was a significant improvement in infant mortality rate in Pamplemousses representing a decrease of 45.5% over the 2006 figure, which was 21.3. However four districts had higher infant mortality rates than the national level of 15.3 in 2007.

**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 a further decrease to reach 47.5 in 2007. It is to be noted that the 2007 figure was the lowest rate ever recorded in Mauritius.

The total fertility rate decreased from 5.86 in 1962 to 1.94 in 1986, but increased to 2.04 in 1999. Thereafter the total fertility rate showed a significant decrease to reach 1.63 in 2007, 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.

The net reproduction rate has decreased from 0.96 in 1999 to 0.78 in 2007 - the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius.
Table B.9A shows that from 1999 to 2007, the fertility rates declined in the first six five-year age groups (from 15-19 years to 40-44 years) except in the age group 45-49. In 2007, the age-specific fertility rates showed that women aged 25-29 had the highest fertility, which was 100.4, followed by women aged 20-24, which was 94.2.

Adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) has decreased from 35.4 in 1999 to 32.4 in 2006. However between 2006 and 2007 a slight increase in adolescent fertility was observed from 32.4 to 34.2 representing an increase of 5.5%. Moreover, it is noted that the number of livebirths pertaining to mothers aged under 15 years has slightly increased from 24 livebirths in 2006 to 34 livebirths in 2007.

In 2007, there were 2,583 births of third and higher orders, which accounted for 16.1% of the 16,041 total live births in the Island of Mauritius. Table B.11 shows that 10.6% of the total live births were to mothers under 20 years, thus representing 1,701 live births of which 23 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 1993 to 18.5 in 2006. In 2007, 11,361 marriages were registered in the Island of Mauritius and the marriage rate was 18.6.
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 2007, there were 1,302 divorces granted in the Republic of Mauritius compared with 1,379 divorces granted in 2006, indicating a decrease of 5.6% over a one-year period and 65.5% of all couples granted divorce in 2007 had at least one dependent child. Incidentally, there were 1,512 dependent children whose parents were granted divorce in 2007. Chart 8 shows a decreasing trend in the divorce rate from 2.5 in 2001 to 2.1 in 2007.

**Family Planning**

**New Acceptors**

In 2007, there was a total of 7,153 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 527 new acceptors of tubal ligation reported at Government Family Planning Clinics. Pill was the most preferred method among the new acceptors accounting for 32.1% followed by barrier method (25.2%), sympto-thermal (23.2%), injectable (8.9%), tubal ligation (7.4%), intra-uterine device (1.7%) and implant (1.4%).
**Current Users**

Table C.10 shows that there was a total of 87,441 current users as at 31st December 2007 in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, AF and MFPWA. This total also includes the 11,863 clients who have undergone tubal ligation, but were registered at Government hospitals. Among the total current users, 16.8% were on pill, 5.4% were on intra-uterine device, 21.2% were on barrier method, 19.4% were on tubal ligation, 31.80% were on sympto-thermal, 4.5% were on injectable, and 0.9% was on implant.

The service statistics of government and NGOs show that 25.9% of women in the reproductive age group and 42.3% of *married women* in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2007. 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 2007, there was a total of 163 service points throughout Island of Mauritius: 1 Community Hospital, 2 Medi-Clinics, 23 Area Health Centres, 113 Community Health Centres, 4 Family Health Clinics, 2 Family Planning Clinics, 1 Family Planning Supply Centre and 17 Industrial Family Planning Supply Centres. About 2,079 women in the reproductive age group were served per point in 2007.
Tables E.3.A to E.3.E show the attendance of family planning clients at these service points by district.

In 2007, 14 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 43.8 in 1968 to 22.6 in 2007. 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 2.86 in 2007.

From 2000 to 2006, the age-specific fertility rates showed a pattern that peaked at ages 25-29. In 2007, it is however noted that women in the age group 30-34 had the highest fertility rate (141.8).

The adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) was 68.8 in 2007, compared with 71.2 in 2006, thus representing a decrease of 3.4%. However, it is to be noted that the 2007 adolescent fertility rate is higher than the 2000 figure, which was 64.8.

Rodrigues has witnessed remarkable improvement in the survival of infants. The infant mortality rate dropped from 56.7 in 1982 to 18.3 in 2006, thus representing a decrease of 67.7%. In 2007, the infant mortality rate was 15.4, the lowest ever recorded in Rodrigues.
The still birth rate declined from 21.8 in 1982 to 14.7 in 2006, thus showing a decrease of 32.6%. However, in 2007, the still birth rate was 17.5, thus exhibiting an increasing of 19.0% between 2006 and 2007.

In 2007, 628 new acceptors were recorded in the family planning clinics in Rodrigues: 277 were on pill, 190 were on injectable, 56 were on sympto-thermal, 98 were on barrier method and 7 were on intra-uterine device.

By the end of December 2007, 6,821 current users were recorded in the family planning clinics: 40.7% were on pill, 19.8% were on injectable, 11.9% were on barrier method, 20.3% were on sympto-thermal, 3.5% were on intra-uterine device, and 3.8% were on tubal ligation. The service statistics of government and NGOs show that 70.0% of women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2007. 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 2007, there were 17 family planning service points in the Island of Rodrigues and about 573 women in the reproductive age group were served per point.
### Selected Demographic & Reproductive Health Indicators – 2007  
*Island of Mauritius*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated mid-year population</td>
<td>1,223,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density (inhabitants per square km)</td>
<td>656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio (males per 1,000 females)</td>
<td>977.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population growth rate (%)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of mid-year population aged under 15 years</td>
<td>23.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of mid-year population aged 60 years &amp; over</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of female population aged 15 – 49 years over total population</td>
<td>27.6</td>
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#### Fertility

- **Crude birth rate (per 1,000 mid-year population)**: 13.2
- **Total fertility rate**: 1.63
- **Gross reproduction rate**: 0.80
- **Net reproduction rate**: 0.78

#### Mortality

- **Crude death rate (per 1,000 mid-year population)**: 6.8
- **Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)**: 15.3
- **Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)**: 0.37
- **Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-07:**
  - Female: 75.89
  - Male: 69.10

#### Family Planning (Government services and NGOs)

- **Number of new acceptors**: 7,153
- **New acceptors as a % of female population aged 15-49 years**: 2.1
- **Number of current users**: 87,441
- **Current users as a % of female population aged 15-49 years**: 25.90