Analysis of Demographic

&

Reproductive Health Indicators

This 2008 Yearbook is the thirty-fourth volume presenting demographic and family planning data for Island of Mauritius and for Island of Rodrigues. The 59 tables and 17 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 1.12% during the intercensal period of 1990-2000: The censuses enumerated 1,022,456 in 1990 and 1,143,069 inhabitants in 2000. 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 2007 and 2008. The figures show that between 2007 and 2008 the proportion of population aged under 15 has decreased slightly from 23.1% to 22.5% and the proportion of the elderly population (aged 60 and above) has increased from 10.0% to 10.4%. 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 31.5 years in 2007 to 31.9 years in 2008.
Table A.7 summarises the changes in the age structure of the Mauritian population from 1962 to 2048. The total size of the medium variant projected population is estimated to grow by 11.8% between 2008 and 2048. The proportion of people aged under 15 will decline from 22.5% in 2008 to 17.2% in 2048 and the proportion of people aged 60 and above will increase from 10.4% in 2008 to 25.3% in 2048. In absolute numbers, the elderly population will increase from 127,426 in 2008 to 348,020 in 2048, thus exhibiting an increase of slightly below threefold.

Chart 2 portrays the age-sex profiles of the population of Island of Mauritius, from a young population structure (of pyramid shape) in 1962 to a narrowing base population structure in 2008 and to that of an ageing one (chimney shape) in 2048. The median age of the population is projected to increase from 31.9 years in 2008 to 41.5 years in 2048.

Life expectancy at birth has improved considerably over the years. Table B.8 shows that life expectancy at birth was 76.10 years for females and 69.14 years for males in 2007. By 2048, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 79.66 years for females and 74.93 years for males (Table A.6).

Table B.1 indicates that the population growth rate in 2008 was 0.57% and if this rate is maintained annually, it will take about 123 years for the 2008 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 12.7 in 2008. Moreover, the average crude birth rate in the last 5-year period has
declined compared with the preceding 5-year period, from 16.4 for the period of 1999-2003 to 14.0 for the period of 2004-08.

From 1987 to 2007, the crude death rate has fluctuated between 6.5 and 7.3 and in 2008, it was 7.1 (Table B.2).

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 15.3 in 2007. In 2008, the infant mortality rate was 14.3.

Table B.3 shows that the still birth rate has dropped from 65.5 in 1962 to 9.6 in 2007. In 2008, the still birth rate was 10.1.

From 1984 to 2008, the maternal mortality rate dropped from 0.9 maternal death per 1000 live births to 0.38 (38 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births). This represents a decrease of 57.8%.

The perinatal mortality rate has declined from 31.5 in 1984 to 16.8 in 2008, thus representing a decrease of 46.7%.

The early neonatal mortality rate dropped from 11.9 in 1984 to 6.8 in 2008, thus indicating a decrease of 42.9%. However, it should be noted that early neonatal deaths contributed to about 47.5% of all infant deaths in 2008.

**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 2000 to 2008. Black River had the highest crude birth rate (15.3) in 2008, while Plaines Wilhems had the lowest crude birth rate (11.3). Overall, six districts had higher crude birth rates than the national level of 12.7.
In 2008, Port Louis had the highest crude death rate (8.8) and Moka had the lowest crude death rate (6.0). Moreover, it is noted that, in the last ten years, Port Louis has registered the highest crude death rate.

In 2008, Savanne had the highest still birth rate (16.5) and Pamplemousses had the lowest still birth rate (7.5). It is also noted that Black River has registered a significant increase in its still birth rate: from 6.5 in 2007 to 11.4 in 2008 – an increase of 75.4%.

In 2008, Port Louis and Savanne had the highest infant mortality rate (16.7) and Moka had the lowest infant mortality rate (10.5). Moreover, 5 districts had higher infant mortality rates than the national level of 14.3 in 2008.

**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 45.08 in 2008.

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 1.56 in 2008, which was the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius. Hence, 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 0.93 in 2000 and 0.78 in 2007 and to 0.75 in 2008, which was the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius.
Table B.9a shows that from 2000 to 2008, the fertility rates declined in all the five-year age groups. In 2008, the age-specific fertility rates showed that women aged 25-29 had the highest fertility (96.1) followed by women aged 20-24 (88.4).

Adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) decreased from 37.7 in 2000 to 34.2 in 2007 and to 32.9 in 2008, thus showing a decrease of 3.8 % between 2007 and 2008. Moreover, in 2008, there were 33 livebirths pertaining to mothers aged under 15 years compared with 34 livebirths in 2007.

In 2008, there were 2,497 births of third and higher orders, which accounted for 16.3% of the 15,327 total live births in the Island of Mauritius. Table B.11 shows that 11.0% of the total live births were to mothers under 20 years, thus representing 1,685 live births of which 13 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**

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 10.83% in 1990 and 9.37% in 2000.

Chart 7 shows a downward trend in the marriage rate from 21.4 in 1992 to 18.6 in 2007. In 2008, 11,012 marriages were registered in the Island of Mauritius and the marriage rate was 17.9.
In 2000, the mean age at first marriage was 29.8 years for males and 25.4 years for females.

In 2008, 1,569 divorces were granted in the Republic of Mauritius compared with 1,302 in 2007 and 69.9% of all couples granted divorce in 2008 had at least one dependent child. Overall, there were 1,993 dependent children of whose parents were granted divorce in 2008. Chart 8 shows an increasing trend in the divorce rate; in 2008, it was 2.5.

**Family Planning**

**New Acceptors**
In 2008, there were a total of 6,718 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 579 new acceptors of tubal ligation reported at Government Family Planning Clinics. Pill was the most preferred method among new acceptors accounting for 28.8% followed by sympto-thermal (24.0%), barrier method (24.0%), 3-month injectable (10.7%), tubal ligation (8.6%), implant (2.2%) and intra-uterine device (1.7%).

**Current Users**
Table C.10 shows that there were a total of 88,225 current users as at 31st December 2008 in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, A.F. and MFPWA. This total also includes the 12,146 clients who have undergone tubal ligation, but were registered at Government hospitals. Among the total current users, 32.8% were on sympto-thermal, 21.3% were on barrier method,
19.3% were on tubal ligation, 15.8% were on pill, 5.3% were on intra-uterine device, 4.5% were on 3-month injectable, and 1.0% was on implant.

The service statistics of government and NGOs show that 25.9% of women in the reproductive age group and 42.4% of married women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2008. 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 from government clinics, A.F. and MFPWA, women obtained their contraceptive supplies from private clinics and pharmacies and some 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 2008, there were 160 service points throughout Island of Mauritius: 1 Community Hospital, 2 Medi-Clinics, 23 Area Health Centres, 114 Community Health Centres, 4 Family Health Clinics, 2 Family Planning Clinics, 1 Family Planning Supply Centre and 13 Industrial Family Planning Supply Centres. Moreover, about 2,125 women in the reproductive age group were served per point in 2008.

Tables E.3.A to E.3.E show the attendance of family planning clients at these service points by district.

In 2008, 9 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 four decades, the crude birth rate dropped significantly from 45.2 in 1969 to 20.8 in 2008.

Fertility levels in Rodrigues, also measured by the total fertility rate, have declined from 5.16 in 1983 to 2.51 in 2008.

In 2008, women in the age group 25-29 had the highest fertility rate (129.7) followed by women aged 30-34 (117.3).

The adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) was 68.3 in 2007 compared with 62.1 in 2008, thus representing a decrease of 9.1%.

Rodrigues has witnessed remarkable improvement in the survival of infants. The infant mortality rate dropped from 56.7 in 1982 to 19.9 in 2007, thus representing a decrease of 64.9%. In 2008, the infant mortality rate was 16.6, the lowest ever recorded in Rodrigues.

The still birth rate declined noticeably from 21.8 in 1982 to 7.6 in 2008, thus showing a decrease of 65.1%.

In 2008, 504 new acceptors were recorded in the family planning clinics in Rodrigues: 272 were on pill, 172 were on 3-month injectable, 39 were on sympto-thermal, 18 were on barrier method and 3 were on intra-uterine device.
By the end of December 2008, 6,761 current users were recorded in the family planning clinics: 40.9% were on pill, 20.7% were on sympto-thermal, 19.6% were on 3-month injectable, 11.5% were on barrier method, 3.9% were on tubal ligation and 3.3% were on intra-uterine device.

The service statistics of government and NGOs show that 69.4% of women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2008. 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 from government clinics, A.F. and MFPWA, women obtained their contraceptive supplies from private clinics and pharmacies and some used traditional methods.

**Family Planning Service Points**

In 2008, there were 17 family planning service points in the Island of Rodrigues and about 573 females in the reproductive age group were served per point.