Analysis of Demographic

&

Reproductive Health Indicators

This 2009 Yearbook is the thirty-fifth 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 2008 and 2009. The figures show that between 2008 and 2009 the proportion of population aged under 15 has decreased slightly from 22.5% to 21.9% and the proportion of the elderly population (aged 60 and above) has increased from 10.4% to 10.7%. 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 31.9 years in 2008 to 32.4 years in 2009.
Table A.7 summarises the changes in the age structure of the Mauritian population from 1962 to 2049. The total size of the medium variant projected population is estimated to grow by 10.18% between 2009 and 2049. The proportion of people aged under 15 will decline from 21.9% in 2009 to 17.2% in 2049 and the proportion of people aged 60 and above will increase from 10.7% in 2009 to 25.4% in 2049. In absolute numbers, the elderly population will increase from 132,330 in 2009 to 345,880 in 2049, thus exhibiting an increase of slightly below threefold.

Chart 2 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 2009. In 2049, the population pyramid shows larger percentages of the population in the older age group. The median age of the population is projected to increase from 32.4 years in 2009 to 41.4 years in 2049.

Life expectancy at birth has improved considerably over the years. Table B.8 shows that life expectancy at birth was 76.53 years for females and 69.30 years for males in 2008. By 2049, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 79.12 years for females and 75.17 years for males (Table A.6).

Table B.1 indicates that the population growth rate in 2009 was 0.47% and if this rate is maintained annually, it will take about 149 years for the 2009 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 26.6 in 1980 to 18.3 in 1986 and after an increase from 19.1 in 1987 to 21.1 in 1992, the crude birth rate decreased again from...
20.4 in 1993 to 11.8 in 2009. Moreover, the average crude birth rate in the last 5-year period has declined compared with the preceding 5-year period, from 16.1 for the period of 2000-2004 to 13.3 for the period of 2005-09.

The crude death rate was 7.3 in 2009. In fact, the crude death rate has fluctuated between 6.5 and 7.3 during the last 30 years, i.e 1979-2009.

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 14.3 in 2008. In 2009, the infant mortality rate was 13.3.

Table B.3 shows that the still birth rate has dropped from 65.5 in 1962 to 10.1 in 2008. In 2009, the still birth rate was 9.0.

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). In 2009, the maternal mortality rate was 0.68.

The perinatal mortality rate has declined from 31.5 in 1984 to 15.3 in 2009, thus representing a decrease of 51.4%.

The early neonatal mortality rate dropped from 11.9 in 1984 to 6.4 in 2009, thus indicating a decrease of 46.2 %. However, it should be noted that early neonatal deaths contributed to about 47.7% of all infant deaths in 2009.

**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 2002 to 2009. Black River had the highest crude birth rate (13.6)
in 2009, while Plaines Wilhems had the lowest crude birth rate (10.4). Overall, five districts had higher crude birth rates than the national level of 11.8.

In 2009, Port Louis had the highest crude death rate (9.6) and Black River had the lowest crude death rate (6.2). Moreover, it is noted that, in the last ten years, Port Louis has registered the highest crude death rate.

In 2009, Savanne had the lowest still birth rate (6.2), while Flacq and Grand Port had the highest still birth rate (12.0). It is to be noted that Savanne has registered a significant decrease of 62.4% in its still birth rate from 16.5 in 2008 to 6.2 in 2009, i.e in one single year.

In 2009, Port Louis and Flacq had the lowest infant mortality rate (11.6) while Moka had the highest infant mortality rate (16.1). Moreover, 5 districts had higher infant mortality rates than the national level of 13.3 in 2009. It is worth mentioning that Black River district has shown a significant improvement in its infant mortality in one single year; the infant mortality rate has decreased from 16.0 in 2008 to 11.8 in 2009 representing a decrease of 26.2%.

**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 42.65 in 2009.

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 1.48 in 2009, 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 0.75 in 2008 and to 0.72 in 2009, which was the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius.

Table B.9a shows that from 2000 to 2009, the fertility rates declined in all the five-year age groups. In 2009, the age-specific fertility rates showed that women aged 25-29 had the highest fertility (91.1) followed by women aged 20-24 (82.2).

Adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) decreased from 37.7 in 2000 to 32.9 in 2008 and to 31.4 in 2009, thus showing a decrease of 4.56% between 2008 and 2009. Moreover, in 2009, there were 34 live births pertaining to mothers aged under 15 years compared with 33 live births in 2008.

In 2009, there were 2,349 births of third and higher orders, which accounted for 16.1% of the 14,556 total live births in the Island of Mauritius. Table B.11 shows that 11.2% of the total live births were to mothers under 20 years, thus representing 1,626 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**

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 17.9 in 2008. In 2009, 10,446 marriages were registered in the Island of Mauritius and the marriage rate was 16.9.

In 2000, the mean age at first marriage was 29.8 years for males and 25.4 years for females.

In 2009, 2,154 divorces were granted in the Republic of Mauritius compared with 1,569 in 2008 and 69.2% of all couples granted divorce in 2009 had at least one dependent child. In 2008, Chart 8 shows an increasing trend in the divorce rate; in 2009, it was 3.4.

**Family Planning**

**New Acceptors**

In 2009, there were a total of 6,227 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 472 new acceptors of tubal ligation reported at Government Family Planning Clinics. Pill was the most preferred method among new acceptors accounting for 29.8% followed by sympto-thermal (25.9%), male condom (20.3%), 3-month injectable (10.8%), tubal ligation (7.6%), intra-uterine device (2.4%), implant (1.8%) and monthly injectable (1.4%).

**Current Users**

Table C.10 shows that there were a total of 85,503 current users as at 31st December 2009 in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, A.F. and MFPWA. This total also includes the 12,314 clients who have undergone
tubal ligation, but were registered at Government hospitals. Among the total current users, 34.2% were on sympto-thermal, 21.52% were on male condom, 19.54% were on tubal ligation, 14.2% were on pill, 4.81% were on intra-uterine device, 4.14% were on 3-month injectable, 1.18% was on implant and 0.39% on monthly injectable.

The service statistics of Government and NGOs show that 25.0% of women in the reproductive age group and 40.9% of married women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2009. 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 2009, there were 161 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 14 Industrial Family Planning Supply Centres. Moreover, about 2,120 women in the reproductive age group were served per point in 2009.

Tables E.3.A to E.3.E show the attendance of family planning clients at these service points by district.
In 2009, 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 19.1 in 2009.

Fertility levels in Rodrigues, also measured by the total fertility rate, have declined from 5.16 in 1983 to 2.36 in 2009.

In 2009, women in the age group 30-34 had the highest fertility rate (115.3) followed by women aged 25-29 (95.8).

The adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) was 66.0 in 2009 compared with 63.2 in 2008, thus representing an increase of 4.43%.

Rodrigues has witnessed remarkable improvement in the survival of infants. The infant mortality rate dropped from 56.7 in 1982 to 15.3 in 2008, thus representing a decrease of 64.9%. In 2009, the infant mortality rate was 13.9, the lowest ever recorded in Rodrigues.

The still birth rate declined noticeably from 21.8 in 1982 to 6.9 in 2009, thus showing a decrease of 68.3%.

In 2008, 467 new acceptors were recorded in the family planning clinics in Rodrigues: 209 were on pill, 165 were on 3-month injectable, 61 were on sympto-thermal, 14 were on male condom and 18 were on intra-uterine device.
By the end of December 2009, 6,206 current users were recorded in the family planning clinics: 36.6% were on pill, 23.2% were on sympto-thermal, 19.1% were on 3-month injectable, 12.8% were on male condom, 4.3% were on tubal ligation and 4.0% were on intra-uterine device.

The service statistics of Government and NGOs show that 63.8% of women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2009. 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 the only private pharmacy in Rodrigues and some used traditional methods.

**Family Planning Service Points**

In 2009, there were 17 family planning service points in the Island of Rodrigues and about 572 females in the reproductive age group were served per point.
## In brief
Island of Mauritius, Year 2009

### Population Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated mid-year population</td>
<td>1,237,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density (inhabitants per square km)</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio (males per 1,000 females)</td>
<td>974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth rate (%)</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of mid-year population aged under 15 years</td>
<td>21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of mid-year population aged 60 year &amp; over</td>
<td>10.7</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

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<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude birth rate (per 1,000 mid-year population)</td>
<td>11.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross reproduction rate</td>
<td>0.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net reproduction rate</td>
<td>0.72</td>
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### Mortality

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<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Crude death rate (per 1,000 mid-year population)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years) 2007-2009:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>76.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>69.3</td>
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### Family Planning (Government services and NGOs)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of new acceptors</td>
<td>6,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New acceptors as a % of female population aged 15-49 years</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of current users</td>
<td>85,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current users as a % of female population aged 15-49 years</td>
<td>25.0</td>
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