Analysis of Demographic & Reproductive Health Indicators

This 2011 Yearbook is the thirty-seventh volume presenting demographic and family planning data for Island of Mauritius and for Island of Rodrigues. The 60 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 0.84% during the intercensal period of 2000-2011: The censuses enumerated 1,248,126 inhabitants in 2011 compared to 1,143,069 inhabitants in 2000. In 2011, the sex ratio was 971 males per 1000 females.

Table A.2 shows the estimated mid-year resident population according to age group and sex in 2010 and 2011. The figures show that between 2010 and 2011 the proportion of population aged under 15 has decreased slightly from 21.3% to 20.8% and the proportion of the elderly population (aged 60 and above) has increased from 11.2% to 11.8%. 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 32.8 years in 2010 to 33.3 years in 2011.
Table A.7 summarises the changes in the age structure of the Mauritian population from 1962 to 2051. The total size of the medium variant projected population is estimated to decline by 3.54% between 2011 and 2051. The proportion of people aged under 15 will decline from 20.8% in 2011 to 13.3% in 2051 and the proportion of people aged 60 and above will increase from 11.8% in 2011 to 29.9% in 2051. In absolute numbers, the elderly population will increase from 147,577 in 2011 to 359,971 in 2051, 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 2011. In 2051, the population pyramid shows larger percentages of the population in the older age group. Table A.7 shows that the median age of the population is projected to increase from 33.3 years in 2011 to 46.7 years in 2051.

Life expectancy at birth has improved considerably over the years. Table B.8 shows that life expectancy at birth was 76.98 years for females and 69.72 years for males in 2010. By 2051, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 80.32 years for females and 75.52 years for males (Table A.6).

Table B.1 indicates that the population growth rate in 2011 was 0.41% and if this rate is maintained annually, it will take about 171 years for the 2011 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 24.9 in 1981 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 11.2 in 2011. Moreover, the average crude birth rate in the last 5-year period has declined compared with the preceding 5-year period, from 15.2 for the period of 2002-2006 to 12.1 for the period of 2007-11.

The crude death rate was 7.2 in 2011. In fact, the crude death rate has fluctuated between 6.5 and 7.3 during the last 30 years, i.e. 1981-2011.

There have been significant improvements in the survival of infants over the past three decades. The infant mortality rate has decreased from 33.6 in 1981 to 12.6 in 2011 showing a decrease of 62.5%.

Table B.3 shows that the still birth rate has dropped from 22.8 in 1981 to 6.6 in 2010 which was the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius. In 2011, the still birth rate was 9.6.

From 1980 to 2010, the maternal mortality rate dropped from 1.1 maternal death per 1000 live births to 0.28 (28 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births). In 2011, the maternal mortality rate was 0.36.

The perinatal mortality rate has declined from 38.55 in 1980 to 15.6 in 2011 representing a decrease of about 60%.

The early neonatal mortality rate dropped from 15.1 in 1981 to 6.1 in 2011, thus indicating a decrease of 59.6%. It should be noted that early neonatal deaths contributed to about 40% of all infant deaths in 2011.

**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 2004 to 2011. Port Louis had the highest crude birth rate (13.6)
in 2011, while Plaines Wilhems had the lowest crude birth rate (9.8). Overall, six districts had higher crude birth rates than the national level of 11.2.

In 2011, Port Louis had the highest crude death rate (9.6) and Black River had the lowest crude death rate (5.2). Overall, four districts had higher crude death rates than the national level of 7.2.

In 2011, Black River had the lowest still birth rate (5.2) and Port Louis had the highest still birth rate (13.5). Overall, four districts had higher still birth rates than the national level of 9.6.

In 2011, Riviere du Rempart had the lowest infant mortality rate (9.5) and Savanne had the highest infant mortality rate (17.5). Overall, 5 districts had higher infant mortality rates than the national level of 12.6.

**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 59.44 in 2000 and a further decrease to reach 40.63 in 2011.

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 1.42 in 2011, 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 2.51 in 1962 to 0.90 in 1986 but increased to 0.93 in 2000. In 2011, the net reproduction rate was 0.69, which was the lowest rate ever recorded in the Island of Mauritius.
Table B.9a shows that from 2004 to 2010, the fertility rates declined in all the five-year age groups. In 2011, the age-specific fertility rates showed that women aged 25-29 had the highest fertility rate (89.3) followed by women aged 20-24 (75.0). It is noted that between 2010 and 2011, the fertility rates of women aged 30-34 years and 35-39 years has increased from 58.4 to 59.0 and from 25.3 to 26.0 respectively.

Adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) decreased from 35.9 in 2004 to 28.9 in 2011, thus showing a decrease of 19.5%. In 2011, there were 23 live births pertaining to mothers aged under 15 years.

In 2011, there were 2,255 births of third and higher orders, which accounted for 16.2% of the 13,914 total live births occurred in the Island of Mauritius. Table B.11 shows that 10.6% of the total live births were to mothers aged under 20 years, thus representing 1,473 live births of which 12 were of third and higher orders.

The censuses reveal that the mean age of childbirth 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 10.50% in 1983 and 6.24% in 2011.
Chart 7 shows a downward trend in the marriage rate from 21.4 in 1993 to 16.7 in 2010. In 2011, 10,334 marriages were registered in the Island of Mauritius and the marriage rate was 16.6.

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

In 2011, 1,788 divorces were granted in the Republic of Mauritius compared with 1,837 in 2010 and 65.7% of all couples granted divorce in 2011 had at least one dependent child. Chart 8 shows that the divorce rate was 2.8 in 2011 for the Republic of Mauritius.

**Family Planning**

**New Acceptors**

In 2011, there were a total of 6,893 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 503 new acceptors of tubal ligation reported at Government Family Planning Clinics. Pill was the most preferred method among new acceptors accounting for 26.4% followed by sympto-thermal (25.1%), male condom (22.6%), 3-month injectable (14.1%), tubal ligation (7.5%), intra-uterine device (1.9%), implant (1.6%) and monthly injectable (1.1%).

**Current Users**

Table C.10 shows that there were a total of 70,531 current users as at 31st December 2011 in the Island of Mauritius at Government Family Planning Clinics, A.F. and MFPWA. This total also includes the 12,750 clients who have undergone tubal ligation, but were registered at Government hospitals. Among the total
current users, 41.57% were on sympto-thermal, 21.13% were on tubal ligation, 13.38% were on pill, 13.11% were on male condom, 5.03% were on 3-month injectable, 3.68% were on intra-uterine device, 1.58% was on implant and 0.53% on monthly injectable.

The service statistics of Government and NGOs show that 20.6% of women in the reproductive age group and 33.7% of married women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2011.

**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. Presently, there are 163 service points throughout Island of Mauritius: 1 Community Hospital, 3 Medi-Clinics, 22 Area Health Centres, 116 Community Health Centres, 3 Family Health Clinics, 2 Family Planning Clinics, 1 Family Planning Supply Centre and 14 Industrial Family Planning Supply Centres. Moreover, about 2,101 women in the reproductive age group are served per point.

Table E.3 show that there was an attendance of 85,387 family planning clients at the service points for the Island of Mauritius in 2011.

In 2011, 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 three decades, the crude birth rate dropped significantly from 42.9 in 1981 to 18.4 in 2011.

Fertility levels in Rodrigues, also measured by the total fertility rate, have declined from 5.16 in 1983 to 2.39 in 2011.

In 2011, women in the age group 25-29 had the highest fertility rate (110.7) followed by women aged 30-34 (104.5). The adolescent fertility rate (age group 15-19) was 55.6.

Rodrigues has witnessed remarkable improvement in the survival of infants. The infant mortality rate dropped from 53.1 in 1981 to 17.2 in 2011, thus representing a decrease of 67.6%.

The still birth rate dropped from 24.5 in 1981 to 4.3 in 2011, thus representing a decrease of 82.5%. The 2011 still birth rate of 4.3 is the lowest figure ever recorded in Rodrigues.

In 2011, 480 new acceptors were recorded in the family planning clinics in Rodrigues: 208 were on pill, 165 were on 3-month injectable, 56 were on sympto-thermal, 39 were on male condom, 8 were on implant and 4 were on intra-uterine device.

By the 31st of December 2011, 6,116 current users were recorded in the family planning clinics: 37.8% were on pill, 21.5% were on sympto-thermal, 17.9%
were on 3-month injectable, 13.9% were on male condom, 4.0% were on tubal ligation, 3.7% were on intra-uterine device and 1.2% on implant.

The service statistics of Government and NGOs show that 63.3% of women in the reproductive age group were contraceptive users in 2010.

**Family Planning Service Points**

In 2011, there were 17 family planning service points in the Island of Rodrigues and about 568 females in the reproductive age group were served per point.

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**In brief**

Island of Mauritius, Year 2011

**Population Data**

- *Estimated mid-year population*: 1,248,126
- *Population density (inhabitants per square km)*: 669
Sex ratio (males per 1,000 females) 971
Population growth rate (%) 0.41
% of mid-year population aged under 15 years 20.8
% of mid-year population aged 60 year & over 11.8
% of mid-year population aged 65 year & over 7.4
% of female population aged 15-49 years over total population 27.4

Fertility

Crude birth rate (per 1,000 mid-year population) 11.2
Total fertility rate 1.42
Gross reproduction rate 0.70
Net reproduction rate 0.69

Mortality

Crude death rate (per 1,000 mid-year population) 7.2
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) 12.6
Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) 0.36
Life expectancy at birth (years) 2009-2011:
  Female 76.98
  Male 69.72

Family Planning (Government services and NGOs)

Number of new acceptors 6,893
New acceptors as a % of female population aged 15-49 years 2.0
Number of current users 70,531
Current users as a % of female population aged 15-49 years 20.6