

FOREWORD

This is the Nineteenth Annual Digest of Vital Statistics published by this Department.

The purpose of the publication is to provide Demographers, Planners, Research Workers and the General Public with certain base series on Vital Statistics.

This publication gives details on Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces: future publications will encompass a wider cross-section of Vital Statistics.

The Department acknowledges the assistance received from the Ministry of Health (Statistics Unit) and the Registry Department.

Notification of errors and omissions as well as suggestions for improvement will be welcomed.

It was decided to realign some of the previously used district boundaries to match those used in the 1991 Population and Housing Census. As a result there have been some changes in the District Totals.

NB. All data for 2002 is provisional.

DIRECTOR OF STATISTICS

JULY 2004

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department would like to recognise the efforts of those staff members who participated in the preparation of this report.

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ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS

The Vital Statistics Report for 2002 highlights Population, Births, Deaths, Marriages and Divorces.

POPULATION

The population estimated at the end of June 2002 was 159,133 reflecting an absolute increase of 1235 a 0.8% increase from 157,898 in 2001.

BIRTHS

Registered Births numbered 2529 in 2002 as compared to the 2788 births registered in 2001. The crude birth rate of 15.9 per 1000 population represents a 9.3% decrease under the previous year's rate of 17.7 per 1000. The birth rate for 2002 is low due to a general decrease in births in that year.

The decrease in the absolute number of registered births and crude birth rate do not constitute conclusive evidence of a downward trend in the child-bearing experience of women in the society. A better indicator of change in fertility is the total fertility rate. This rate is a measure of the number of children a woman could expect to have in her lifetime, if at each age she had the same number of children women at those ages had in the year for which the rate was calculated.

The Total Fertility Rate of 3.8 in 1980 has declined slowly to 3.5 in 1985 and 2.2 in 2002. (See Page 5). It is important to note that 2.1 is the point at which the population is replacing itself.

The incidence of Teenage pregnancies has been the focus of attention in the society throughout this past decade and in an effort to postpone child-bearing and/or reduce fertility among potential teenage mothers, this age-group has been the target of special programmes by the Population Policy Unit, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and also the Family Planning Unit.

The percentage distribution of births by age of Mother occurring in 2001 and 2002 indicate that number of births to mothers aged less than 20 years has gone down from 564 in 2001 and 455 in 2002, 1.8% of these births are to mothers 12-14 years in 2002 and 3.0% in 2001. At the same time, however, the proportion of births to women aged 20-24 years is at 24.6% in 2001 and 27.1% in 2002. Births to women 25-29 years are 23.3% in 2001 and 22.5% in 2002. Together these three age groups account for 48.5 % and 49.9 % of total births in 2001 and 2002 respectively.

Mean Age of Childbearing

The average age of mothers in 2002 was 30.7 years for legitimate born children as compared to 25.6 years for illegitimate born children. In the year 2001 however the average age was 30.8 years for legitimate as compared to 25.4 years for illegitimate born children. These figures indicate that married mothers seek to have children at older ages that is 5 years older than do un-married mothers.

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Mean Age of Children Bearing by District

On comparing the districts in 2002 the lowest average age at child-bearing was recorded for Canaries that is 24.7 years while the highest was recorded by Choiseul was 28.1 years. This indicates that for the year 2002 Choiseul mothers on an average waited for an extra three years for child-bearing.

In 2001 the highest average age at child-bearing was recorded for Gros-Islet as 27.7 years, Canaries was the lowest recording average age 24.3 years.

BIRTH WEIGHTS

Weight is a personal characteristic that distinguishes children from each other. Weight has implications for both the physical and mental health of the child. Both overweight and underweight are issues to be examined towards formulation of health strategies and policies. Professional help from a paediatrician, dietician, or child psychologist may be necessary.

8.4% of births were below weight (2499 grammes and under) in 2002 as compared to 9.4% in the previous year. 85.8% were average (between 2500 - 4000 grammes) in 2002 as compared to 84.0% in the previous year. 5.9% were over weight in 2002 (4001 grammes+) as compared to 6.7% in the previous year. The incidence of diabetes among younger persons contribute heavily to overweight babies.

The average weight for all babies born in 2002 was 3193 grammes. The male average weight was higher by 81 grammes being 3232 grammes as compared to that of females 3151.

In 2002 the average birth weight per district show a range of 3170 to 3350 grammes. Dennery records the lowest average weight while Choiseul has the highest average weight of 3350 grammes.

DEATHS

Total Deaths

Registered Deaths numbered 957 in 2002 a 4.1% decrease under the 2001 figure of 998 in the previous year. The crude death rate of 6.0 per 1000 population in 2002 is slightly lower than the 6.3 per 1000 population recorded in the previous year (See Page 5).

Average Age of Death

The average age of death was 57 years in 2002 as well as for 2001. The district experiencing the lowest average is Vieux-Fort reporting an average age of 50 years. In 2001 the districts of Vieux-Fort, Micoud and Castries experienced the lowest average age of death that is 46 years and 55 years each respectively.

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**DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES
ON VITAL STATISTICS, RATES AND TERMS**

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

MEDIAN AGE :- The age at which half the population is older and half is younger.

CHILD-WOMAN RATIO:- is the number of children under 5 years of age per 1,000 women 15 - 49 years in a given year.

$$\frac{\text{Population under 5}}{\text{Population 15 - 49}} \times 1000$$

AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO:-is the ratio of persons in the "dependent" ages (under 15 and over 64 years) to those in the "economically productive" ages (15-64 years) in a population. The higher the dependency ratio value, the larger the number of people outside the working age groups to be "supported by" people of working age. A good value : is a low value

$$\frac{\text{Population under 15} + \text{Population over 64}}{\text{Population 15 - 64}} \times 100$$

SEX RATIO :-The Sex Ratio is the ratio of males to females in a given population, usually expressed as the number of males for every 100 females.

The sex ratio at birth in most countries is about 105 or 106 males per 100 females. After birth, sex ratios vary because of different patterns of mortality and migration for males and females within the population.

MORTALITY

CRUDE DEATH RATE:-Number of deaths in year

$$\frac{\text{-----}}{\text{Mid-year Population}} \times 1000$$

This rate tells us how many people die per 1,000 population in a given year.

INFANT MORTALITY

RATE :-
$$\frac{\text{Number of deaths to persons 0 - 1}}{\text{Number of live-births in year}} \times 1000$$

The Infant Mortality Rate tells us how many infants (under 1) who die in a given year per 1,000 births in that same year.

Maternal Deaths are those caused by deliveries and complications of pregnancy, child-birth and puerperium.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

RATE:-
$$\frac{\text{Number of maternal deaths}}{\text{Number of live-births in year}} \times 100,000$$

This rate tells us the annual number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live-births in that same year.

LIFE TABLE FUNCTIONS

nq_x - *Represents probabilities that persons will die before reaching the beginning of the next age interval.*

l_x - *Represents the number living at the beginning of the age interval.*

e_x - *This figure gives us the average remaining life expectancy at any age.*

FERTILITY

CRUDE BIRTH RATE =
$$\frac{\text{Number of Live-births in year}}{\text{Mid-year Population}} \times 1000$$

This rate simply tells us how many live-births take place in a certain year per 1000 population.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE: *Tells us what the completed family size would be if the fertility rate behaviour of a given year continued unchanged into the future.*

NET REPRODUCTIVE RATE: *is the average number of daughters that would be born to a woman if she passed through her life from birth conforming to the age specific fertility rates and mortality rates of a given year.*

Infant Deaths

Infant deaths numbered 36 in 2002 a 2.7% decrease under the 37 infant deaths in 2001, causing the infant death rate to be 14.2 as compared to a rate of 13.3 in the previous year. This decrease was due to conditions of the prenatal period, primarily the nutritional condition of the mother, other conditions affecting the incidence of infant deaths are better sanitation, increase in the educational level of mothers. There are more private clinics, and also more home visits by nutritionists.

Cause of Death

Of the Seventeen Causes of Death Categories listed, the highest incidence of deaths in 2002 occurred under the heading Diseases of the Circulatory System numbering 312 or 32.6% of total deaths. It is interesting to note that the 2002 figure of 312 decreased by 29 under the figure of 341 for the previous year.

Diseases of the Circulatory System still remains the highest cause of death. Ill-defined conditions is the second highest numbering 112 in 2002 or 11.7%, as compared to 147 or 14.7% in the previous year. The high incidence of death by circulatory disease is associated with persons over 60, and also with general progress in the society, it can also be attributed to the adoption of the American lifestyle. The number indicated for Ill-defined conditions points to sick persons not going for medical examination on a regular basis

Average Age by Selected Cause of Death

In 2002 the average age for persons dying of Cancers is 60 years, males record an average age of 59 years while females are higher by 1 year and record an average of 60 years. In 2001 the overall average is 70 years, the male average was 66 years while the female average was 72 years.

In 2002 the average age for persons dying of Heart Disease was 72 years, males record an average of 69 years while females were higher recording an average of 75 years. In 2001 the overall average for Heart Disease was 73 years, the male average was 69 years while the female average was 76 years.

Cerebro-vascular Disease followed a similar pattern in 2002 the overall average was 74 years, males record average age of 72 years while females were higher recording an average of 74 years. In 2001 the overall average was 71 years, the male average being 70 years while the female average was 71 years.

External Causes are the group which experiences the youngest average age of death. In 2002 the average age was 38 years, the males recorded an average age of 37 years while females were higher recording an average of 43 years. In 2001 the average age was 27 years, the male average was 25 years while the female average recorded was 28 years.

By Month

There was no significant difference in the occurrence of deaths by month. The deaths range from a low of 60 in November to a high of 105 in January of 2002. A range of 66 in February and 126 in December occurred in the previous year 2001.

MARRIAGES

Previous Marital Status

A total of 472 marriages were registered in 2002 as compared to 513 in 2001. It is observed that there is a steady decline in marriages from 655 to 513 to 472 in the last three years 2000, 2001 and 2002. It is expected that the 2002 figure will increase, because of late returns from the registrars to head office.

Of the 472 marriages, which occurred in 2002, 98% were between bachelors and spinsters as compared to 97% between the same group in the previous year.

By Age

88.3% of the marriages were to brides 44 years and under in 2002 as compared to 88.1% in the previous year. Whereas 80.1% of grooms married below age 44 in 2002 as compared to 81.9% in the previous year.

The average age at marriage for both males and females in 2002 were the same average as the previous year. In 2001 the average age of marriage was 37 years for males and 33 years for females.

Children Born To Women At Time Of Marriage

29.4% of women getting married for the first time in 2002 had already borne children as compared to 29.9% in the previous year.

DIVORCES

Number of divorces went down to 40 in 2002 as compared to 76 in the previous year. This reflects a 47.4% decrease in the absolute number of divorces between the two years. This figure do not represent the true number of divorces that were granted in 2002, since the Registry Dept. started Electronic Data Entry of these records from 1999 i.e divorces filed prior to 1999 but granted after 1999 were not entered.

Age

85% of divorces occur to males over 35 years in the year 2002 as compared to 81.6% in the previous year.

80% of divorces occur to females over 35 years in 2002 as compared to 81.6% in the previous year.

The average age at divorce for males is 44 years while female is 41 years in 2002 as compared to 47 years for males and 43 years for females in the previous year.

POPULATION CHANGE

RATE OF NATURAL INCREASE: is the rate at which a population is increasing (or decreasing) in a given year due to a surplus (or deficit) of births over deaths expressed as a percentage of the base population. This rate does not include the effects of migration.

$$\frac{\text{Births 2002 - Deaths 2002}}{\text{Mid-year Population 2002}} \times 1000$$

$$\text{CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE} = \frac{\text{Number of Marriages in year}}{\text{Mid-year Population in that same year}} \times 1000$$

$$\text{CRUDE DIVORCE RATE} = \frac{\text{Number of Divorces in year}}{\text{Mid-year Population in that same year}} \times 1000$$

SOURCE: Unless otherwise stated the tables in this publication are derived from data obtained from the Registrar of Civil Status.

SELECTED INDICATORS 1985 - 2002 P

	1985	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001R	2002P
Estimated Mid-year Population	124,805	135,975	138,151	139,908	142,689	145,437	147,062	149,666	151,952	153,703	155,996	157,898	159,133
Population Growth rate	1.51	1.49	1.60	1.27	1.99	1.93	1.12	1.77	1.53	1.15	1.49	1.22	0.78
Live Births	4,223	3,752	3,761	3,556	3,684	3,705	3,299	3,444	2,950	2,997	2,904	2,788	2,529
Twin Live Births	N.A.	36	24	38	42	35	34	34	21	31	21	23	26
Illegitimate Birth	3,555	3,210	3,314	3,101	3,150	3,166	2,839	2,994	2,532	2,543	2,493	2,369	2,176
Teen Births	1,083	754	739	683	647	662	522	560	474	474	483	564	455
Deaths	824	866	919	907	915	940	950	976	976	981	941	998	957
Marriages	423	521	565	477	517	496	587	540	627	732	655	513	472
Divorces	N/A	43	27	43	35	53	50	39	59	63	49	76	40
Infant Deaths	100	69	84	59	41	43	60	58	48	42	38	37	36
Still Births	52	56	60	30	44	62	57	53	39	46	41	32	51
Maternal Deaths	N/A	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	1	1
Birth Rate	33.8	27.6	26.1	24.5	25.4	25.5	22.4	23.0	19.4	19.5	18.6	17.7	15.9
Death Rate	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.0	6.3	6.0
Infant Mortality Rate	23.7	18.4	23.0	17.0	11.1	11.6	16.7	16.8	16.3	14.0	13.1	13.3	14.2
Maternal Mortality Rate	N/A	53.3	-	28.1	-	-	30.3	-	-	33.4	103.3	35.9	39.5
Rate of Natural Increase	27.2	21.2	19.7	18.2	19.1	19.0	16.0	16.5	13.0	13.1	12.6	11.3	9.9
Median Age	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.9	21.1	22.5	22.7	23.0	24.1	24.1	24.8	25.2
Total Fertility Rate	3.5	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2
Net Reproductive Rate	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Marriage Rate	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.4	3.6	3.4	4.0	3.6	4.1	4.8	4.2	3.2	3.0
Divorce Rate	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3
Age Dependency Ratio	76.3	76.3	76.3	72.4	71.1	69.4	68.0	66.1	64.4	62.5	62.5	63.4	60.6
Child-Woman Ratio	626.7	465.6	456.4	452.7	452.7	453.1	458.6	451.3	447.0	431.7	419.3	344.2	320.2
Male Life Expectancy at Age 0	69.5	69.1	68.7	68.9	69.7	68.8	69.5	70.6	70.4	69.5	68.7	72.5	72.0
Female Life Expectancy at Age 0	75.0	73.9	74.6	74.5	74.8	74.2	73.7	73.0	72.4	73.2	73.6	75.5	76.7

Due to revision of Population figures following 1991 Census, these rates have changed.

R means Revised

P means Provisional

SUMMARY

REGISTERED BIRTHS, DEATHS &
MID-YEAR POPULATION 1960 - 2002 P

PERIOD	LIVE-BIRTHS			TEEN-BIRTHS	INFANT DEATHS			TOTAL DEATHS			POPULATION
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL
1960	2,165	2,075	4,240	671	233	221	454	633	648	1,281	86,444
1961	1,972	2,039	4,011	614	208	200	408	583	645	1,228	87,800
1962	2,054	1,881	3,935	688	212	193	405	602	584	1,186	89,178
1963	1,987	1,994	3,981	702	161	151	312	513	556	1,069	90,577
1964	2,095	2,003	4,098	688	110	74	184	429	435	864	91,998
1965	2,191	2,188	4,379	789	123	88	211	425	417	842	93,441
1966	2,187	2,120	4,307	731	90	95	185	355	391	746	94,907
1967	2,255	2,085	4,340	634	137	93	230	429	458	887	96,396
1968	2,116	2,036	4,152	661	103	86	189	385	436	821	97,908
1969	2,060	1,997	4,057	771	107	89	196	396	395	791	99,444
1970	1,985	1,973	3,958	1,113	110	85	195	406	419	825	101,366
1971	2,051	2,032	4,083	751	86	66	152	398	404	802	102,779
1972	2,052	2,099	4,151	974	113	94	207	458	492	950	104,192
1973	2,010	2,044	4,054	911	71	73	144	421	414	835	105,605
1974	2,032	1,877	3,909	950	67	47	114	413	414	827	107,018
1975	2,074	1,977	4,051	974	90	63	153	450	405	855	108,431
1976	1,983	1,937	3,920	922	72	50	122	441	452	893	109,844
1977	2,137	1,990	4,127	1,056	62	29	91	424	391	815	111,257
1978	2,032	1,997	4,029	1,074	66	49	115	394	387	781	112,670
1979	1,941	1,867	3,808	1,034	74	54	128	439	411	850	114,083
1980	1,981	1,963	3,944	1,132	53	43	96	389	454	843	115,499
1981	2,008	1,852	3,860	1,048	47	45	92	406	437	843	117,360
1982	2,065	1,980	4,045	1,137	50	42	92	410	435	845	119,360
1983	2,024	2,045	4,069	1,072	53	53	106	407	388	795	121,083
1984	1,993	2,047	4,040	1,092	43	28	71	386	354	740	122,944
1985	2,108	2,115	4,223	1,083	53	47	100	439	385	824	124,805
1986	1,953	1,954	3,907	990	48	36	84	432	411	843	126,666
1987	1,999	1,917	3,916	901	43	35	78	471	463	934	128,527
1988	1,792	1,851	3,643	792	40	29	69	465	437	902	130,388
1989	1,857	1,795	3,652	783	35	23	58	438	444	882	132,249
1990	1,785	1,797	3,582	774	39	33	72	468	406	874	134,110
1991	1,943	1,809	3,752	754	49	20	69	445	421	866	135,975
1992	1,950	1,811	3,761	739	48	35	83	494	425	919	138,151
1993	1,810	1,746	3,556	683	29	30	59	477	430	907	139,908
1994	1,897	1,787	3,684	647	25	16	41	462	453	915	142,689
1995	1,936	1,769	3,705	662	29	14	43	507	433	940	145,437
1996	1,628	1,671	3,299	522	23	32	55	487	463	950	147,047
1997	1,768	1,676	3,444	560	33	25	58	455	521	976	149,621
1998	1,506	1,444	2,950	474	26	22	48	536	440	976	151,972
1999	1,497	1,500	2,997	474	25	17	42	515	466	981	153,703
2000	1,406	1,498	2,904	483	21	17	38	508	433	941	155,996
2001R	1,405	1,383	2,788	564	16	21	37	531	467	998	157,898
2002P	1,299	1,230	2,529	455	17	19	36	511	446	957	159,133

Population estimates revised as a result of 1991 Population Census.

SOURCE: REGISTRAR OF CIVIL STATUS & GOV'T STATISTICS DEPT.

