## Gender Statistics, 2014

## 1. Introduction

This is the sixth issue of Economic and Social Indicators (ESI) on gender statistics. It presents a portrait of women and men in the Republic of Mauritius and includes their demographic profile, health, family status, educational attainment and labour force characteristics.
The ESI is based on latest available sex disaggregated data from administrative sources, household surveys and censuses. Some of the statistics presented therefore refer to years earlier than 2014.

## 2. Highlights

(i) In 2014, the population comprised 636,932 women compared to 624,002 men. Women outnumbered men by 12,930 as they live on average seven years longer than men.
(ii) Women continue to give birth to fewer children than in the past.
(iii) Both men and women are getting married at an older age and the age difference between them is narrowing over time.
(iv) Diabetes, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and cancer together accounted for 62.9\% of causes of deaths among women against $56.2 \%$ of men's deaths.
(v) More women than men are enrolled in tertiary institutions.
(vi) Working women are more likely than men to be employees and contributing family workers but less likely to be heading business.
(vii) Employed women work on average six hours less than men.
(viii) In spite of being fewer in the labour force, women are more numerous among the unemployed.
(ix) Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts.
(x) Average income tends to be lower for women than for men - Rs14,800 against Rs19,900 monthly in 2014.
(xi) Women are largely under-represented in decision making at higher sphere of society. The number of female parliamentarians is 8 out of a total of 70 .
(xii) More women are occupying high positions in government services. The proportion of women in the most senior positions has increased from $19 \%$ to $45 \%$ over the past 15 years.
(xiii) Domestic violence against men and women is declining, though women are more likely to be victims.
(xiv) Men are more likely to be victims of homicides and assaults while women are more prone to sexual offences.
(xv) In 2014, Mauritius held the $106^{\text {th }}$ position out of 142 countries compared to the $98^{\text {th }}$ position the previous year according to the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) of the World Economic Forum. The GGI seeks to measure gender equality across four key areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival and political empowerment.

## 3. Population

Prior to 1950 women were fewer than men in number. However, the female population has been growing at a faster rate such that in the 50 's there were almost equal numbers of men and women. This balance in the population has been maintained for some 40 years. As from 1990, women have been increasingly outnumbering men over the years.

In 2014, there were 12,930 more women than men. Out of a total population of $1,260,934$, there were 636,932 women against 624,002 men, i.e., 98 men for every 100 women.

Though women were more numerous in the total population, this was not the case in all age groups. At the younger ages (under 50 years), men were more numerous mainly due to more births of baby boys than girls. In 2014, there were 102.7 male births for every 100 female births.

At ages 50 years and above, women outnumbered men and their proportion increases at higher ages. The male-female ratio stood at around 102 for those aged between 40 to 49 years compared to 53 among those aged 80 years and over; there were around 2 women for every man in this age group. The main reason for this imbalance is that women live longer than men.

Table 1 - Population by age and sex, Republic of Mauritius, ${ }^{\text {st }}$ July 2014

| Age Group <br> (years) | Male | Female | Both sexes | Sex ratio <br> (males per <br> $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ females) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Under 10 | 79,562 | 77,276 | 156,838 | 103.0 |
| $10-19$ | 98,977 | 96,345 | 195,322 | 102.7 |
| $20-29$ | 94,071 | 92,266 | 186,337 | 102.0 |
| $30-39$ | 97,940 | 95,886 | 193,826 | 102.1 |
| $40-49$ | 89,518 | 88,021 | 177,539 | 101.7 |
| $50-59$ | 84,959 | 86,889 | 171,848 | 97.8 |
| $60-79$ | 71,515 | 86,107 | 157,622 | 83.1 |
| $80+$ | 7,460 | 14,142 | 21,602 | 52.8 |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 2 4 , 0 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{6 3 6}$ |  | $\mathbf{1 , 2 6 3}$ |

Women have a higher life expectancy than men. In fact, women live 7 years longer than men. In 2014, life expectancy at birth for women was 78 years compared to 71 years for men. Life expectancy at birth has improved over the years for both men and women and over the past fifteen years, the gap between life expectancy of men and women tends to stabilise at around 7 years (Chart 1).

Chart 1 - Life Expectancy at birth, Republic of Mauritius, 1962-2014


## 4. Fertility and Contraceptive Use

Women continue to give birth to fewer children than in the past. The total fertility rate, which is an indication of the average number of babies born to a woman during her childbearing period, has maintained a decreasing trend over the last 24 years. The average number of children born to a woman dropped by nearly one child to reach a total fertility rate of 1.4 in 2014.

Chart 2 - Total Fertility Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1984-2014


In the 1990's, women in the age bracket 20-24 years had the highest fertility with 147 births per 1,000 women of that age group (Chart 3). The peak fertility moved to the age bracket 25-29 years in 2014, with only 90.5 births per 1,000 women in that age group. This shift is mostly explained by women getting married at an older age.

Chart 3 - Fertility Rate by age of mother, Republic of Mauritius, 1990 and 2014


In 2014, Government Family Planning Clinics, Mauritius Family Planning \& Welfare Association and Action Familiale registered a total of some 66,510 current users of contraceptive methods in the Island of Mauritius, a decrease of 25,281 from 91,791 in 2004.

Chart 4 - Number of current users of contraceptive, Island of Mauritius, 2000 and 2014


New acceptors of contraceptive methods registered in 2014 numbered 5,206 of whom 454 had tubal ligation. A declining trend is observed in the number of new acceptors from 9,952 in 2004.

Among the new acceptors in 2014, Pill (26.1\%), Sympto-thermal (23.7\%) and Male Condom (20.5\%) are the preferred methods of contraception while for current users Sympto-thermal (42.6\%) method is the preferred method.

Table 2 - Method of family planning, Island of Mauritius, 2014

| Methods | New Acceptors (\%) | Current Users (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Pill | 26.1 | 12.1 |
| Tubal Ligation | 8.7 | 21.8 |
| Sympto-thermal | 23.7 | 42.6 |
| Male Condom | 20.5 | 12.2 |
| 3-month injectable | 17.4 | 5.4 |
| Intra-uterine Devices | 1.2 | 3.4 |
| 1-month injectable | 1.6 | 0.6 |
| Implant | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

## 5. Family Status

While marriage rate is declining, divorce rate is on the rise. The marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married per 1,000 mid-year population, fell from 21.1 in 1993 to 15.8 in 2014. The number of divorced persons per 1,000 mid-year population increased from 1.4 in 1993 to 3.6 in 2014 (Chart 5).
Chart 5 - Marriage and Divorce Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1993-2014


Generally women tend to marry men who are older than them. However, over the past 25 years the age difference between husband and wife narrowed from 4.7 years in 1990 to 3.7 years in 2014.

The average age at first marriage is gradually increasing over the years for both women and men. The average age at first marriage for women increased from 24.8 years in 1990 to reach 27.9 years in 2014 while that for men increased from 29.5 to 31.6 during the same period.

Table 3 - Average age at first marriage, Republic of Mauritius, 1990-2014

| Year | Female | Male | Age <br> difference |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1990 | 24.8 | 29.5 | 4.7 |
| 1994 | 24.4 | 29.2 | 4.8 |
| 1999 | 24.4 | 29.2 | 4.8 |
| 2004 | 25.8 | 29.6 | 3.8 |
| 2009 | 26.5 | 30.4 | 3.9 |
| 2014 | 27.9 | 31.6 | 3.7 |

In 2014, around $49 \%$ of the petitioners for pronounced divorce were women (Table 4). In the same year, 2,262 divorces were granted by the Supreme Court, the majority of which (30.5\%) occurred after 5 to 10 years of union. The number of divorces after 25 years of union accounted for $8.9 \%$ of all divorces. Also, 7 divorces were registered within the first year of marriage (Table 5).

Table 4 - Divorce by petitioner, Republic of Mauritius, 2013 \& 2014

| Petitioner | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\%$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Husband | 450 | 28.4 | 617 | 27.3 |
| Wife | 763 | 48.2 | 1,118 | 49.4 |
| Joint petitioner <br>  <br> wife) | 371 | 23.4 | 527 | 23.3 |
| Total divorces | $\mathbf{1 , 5 8 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 2 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

Table 5 - Divorce by duration of union, Republic of Mauritius, 2014

| Duration of union <br> (years) | Number | \% |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| $<1$ year | 7 | 0.3 |
| 1 and $<3$ | 144 | 6.4 |
| 3 and $<5$ | 246 | 10.9 |
| 5 and $<10$ | 691 | 30.5 |
| 10 and $<15$ | 457 | 20.2 |
| 15 and $<25$ | 515 | 22.8 |
| 25 or more | 202 | 8.9 |
| Total divorces | $\mathbf{2 , 2 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

About one third of the couples who divorced in 2014 did not have children while slightly more than half of them had 1 to 2 children. There were 45 couples with 4 or more children.

Table 6 - Divorce by number of dependent children ${ }^{1}$, Republic of Mauritius, 2014

| Number <br> of <br> children | Number | $\%$ |
| :---: | ---: | ---: |
| 0 | 763 | 33.7 |
| 1 | 715 | 31.6 |
| 2 | 562 | 24.8 |
| 3 | 177 | 7.8 |
| 4 | 37 | 1.6 |
| 5 or more | 8 | 0.4 |
| Total divorces | $\mathbf{2 , 2 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

${ }^{1}$ dependent children are the living children who are dependent on either of the divorcees at the time the divorce petition is filed

## 6. Health

Since October 1987 when the first cases of AIDS were registered, the number has been increasing to reach 6,090 at December 2014, of whom 23 \% were women.

During 2014, 322 new cases of HIV/AIDS were registered and the proportion of women among the new cases was $41 \%$ compared to $16 \%$ in 2006.

Chart 6 - New HIV/AIDS cases, Republic of Mauritius, 2004-2014


In 2014, out of the 132 new HIV cases detected among females, $71 \%$ was due to heterosexual as mode of transmission and $11 \%$ due to drug injection. As regards males, among the 190 new cases, the percentages were $43 \%$ and $45 \%$ respectively

Chart 7 - Number of new HIV/AIDS cases by sex and age, 2014


Among the newly detected cases in 2014, 60.2\% were in the age group 20-39 years. However, women were predominant in the age group 20-29 years ( $38.6 \%$ ) while men were mostly in the age group 30-39 years (31.6\%).

## 7. Mortality

Though women are more numerous than men, there are fewer deaths among women than among men. In 2014, 5,329 men compared to 4,353 women died. The crude death rate for 2014 was 8.5 for man and 6.8 for woman.

Chart 8 - Number of deaths by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1994-2014


Diabetes, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and cancer (neoplasm) together accounted for $62.9 \%$ of causes of deaths among women against $56.2 \%$ of men's deaths in 2014. Causes of death specific to women, such as breast and uterus cancer were responsible for $4.9 \%$ of deaths among women while maternal deaths was responsible for another $0.2 \%$. Compared to men, women were more likely to die of diabetes but less likely to die of diseases of the liver ( $0.8 \%$ ) and to commit suicide ( $0.6 \%$ ).

Table 7 - Deaths (\%) by cause and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2014

| Cause of death | Male | Female |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Diabetes mellitus | 23.0 | 27.3 |
| Heart disease | 19.3 | 19.2 |
| Hypertensive Disease | 3.5 | 5.5 |
| Neoplasm: | 6.6 | 7.8 |
| of which: breast cancer (malignant) | - | 3.4 |
| $\quad$ uterus cancer (malignant) | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 1.5 |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 7.3 | 8.6 |
| Cirrhosis of liver | 2.6 | 0.8 |
| Suicide | 1.9 | 0.6 |
| Maternal death | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 0.2 |
| Other | 35.8 | 30.0 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |
|  | 9 |  |

The risk of a woman dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth during her lifetime has generally been declining over the years with slightly higher level of maternal deaths in recent years. From 1994 to 2006, the maternal mortality ratio declined from 0.66 maternal death per 1,000 live births to 0.17 . After 2006, the maternal mortality ratio was on a rising trend to reach 0.52 in 2014.

Chart 9 - Maternal Mortality Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 1994-2014


## 8. Education

Boys and girls are equally likely to go to pre-primary and primary schools. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) which measures the relative education participation of boys and girls was 1.0 for both pre-primary and primary, indicating no disparity.

Table 8 - Gross Enrolment Rates (\%) by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2014

| GER | Male | Female | Total | Gender <br> Parity Index |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Pre-Primary (4-5 years) | 98 | 98 | 98 | $\mathbf{1 . 0}$ |
| Primary (6-11 years) | 97 | 98 | 97 | $\mathbf{1 . 0}$ |
| Secondary (12-19 years) | 78 | 82 | 80 | $\mathbf{1 . 1}$ |

At the end of primary, girls generally perform better than boys at the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examinations. In 2014, the pass rate for girls was nearly $80 \%$ against $67 \%$ for boys.

Consequently at secondary level, girls are more likely to be enrolled than boys. The transition rate, i.e. the proportion of pupils stepping from primary level to secondary level in 2013 was around $88 \%$ for boys and $92 \%$ for girls.

Secondary enrolment (academic stream) for both girls and boys increased over time but with a gap in favour of girls. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in secondary enrolment, which measures the relative access to secondary education of males and females was 1.1 in 2014 showing a disparity in favour of girls.

Chart 10 - Gross Enrolment Rate at secondary level, Republic of Mauritius, 2010-2014


More women than men are enrolled in tertiary institutions. Tertiary enrolment for both girls and boys increased over time but with a widening gap in favour of girls. In 2013, women enrolled in public, private and overseas tertiary institutions numbered 28,208 , representing $56 \%$ of the student population which stood at 50,579 .

Chart 11 - Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate (GTER), Republic of Mauritius, 2000-2013


Administration/Management was the most popular field of study for both men (17\%) and women (20\%). Accounting was the second most popular subject for both men (15\%) and women (17\%) followed by Engineering (14\%) and Information Technology (13\%) for men and Education for women (12\%).

Women were largely under represented in Engineering (3\%) and Information Technology (5\%) whereas men were under represented in Languages (1\%).

Chart 12 - \% of student enrolled ${ }^{1}$ in tertiary public and private institutions by sex and field of study, 2013

${ }^{1}$ Enrolment in local public and private institutions, excluding self-studies through Distance Education and overseas students

## 9. Economics Characteristics

In 2014, the active Mauritian population (aged 16 years and above) stood at 575,700 with 352,800 men and 222,900 women. The active women represented $45.3 \%$ of the female population aged 16 years and above compared to $75.2 \%$ for men.

During the period 2004 to 2014, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate. However, the gap was narrowing over time as the activity rate for men has been constantly decreasing over the years while that of females has been generally increasing.

Chart 13 - Activity rate (\%) by sex, 2004-2014


Men and women have a similar pattern of economic activity during their life, i.e., less active at the younger and older age groups. Over the years, the shape of the curve for female activity rate by age has been tending towards that of the male. The increase in the level of activity among women was more pronounced for those aged 25 to 44 years.

## Chart 14 - Activity rate (\%) by age group and sex, 2004 and 2014



Both women and men had a high proportion of their working population in the tertiary sector (covering trade, accommodation service, transportation, health, education and other service industries), $60 \%$ for men and $77 \%$ for women. The secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity \& water and construction) accounted for about one third of the working men and one
fifth of the working women. The primary sector (comprising agriculture and mining \& quarrying) employed $9 \%$ and $6 \%$ of the working men and women respectively.

Table 9 - Distribution (\%) of employed persons by employment status and sex, 2014

| Employment status | Male | Female |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Employer | 6.1 | 1.7 |
| Own Account Worker | 16.6 | 9.7 |
| Employee | 76.4 | 84.1 |
| Contributing Family Worker | 0.8 | 4.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Women were more likely than men to be employees, with $84.1 \%$ of the female workforce in that employment status as compared to $76.4 \%$ of the male workforce. They were also much less likely than men to work on their own. Some $22.7 \%$ of working men were employers or own accounts workers compared to about only $11.4 \%$ for women.

On average, a woman works 6 hours less than man. In 2014, the average number of hours worked by women was 34.6 compared to 40.5 for men.

In spite of being fewer in the labour force (representing only 39\%), women are over represented among the unemployed; they make up nearly $57 \%$ of the total unemployed. Unemployed women numbered 25,400 in 2014 compared to 19,400 men. Female unemployment rate stood at $11.4 \%$, much higher than the rate of $5.5 \%$ for male. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was highest in the lower age groups; the difference was nearly 16 percentage points among the unemployed below 20 years and around 3 percentage points among those aged 40 years and above.

Chart 15 - Unemployment rate (\%) by age group and sex, 2014


Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around $52 \%$ of them possessed the School Certificate or above against $40 \%$ among males. Similarly, a higher proportion of unemployed women (20\%) attained tertiary level education as compared to unemployed men (13\%).

Table 10 - Distribution (\%) of unemployed persons by educational attainment, 2014

| Educational attainment | Male | Female |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Primary | 25.8 | 18.1 |
| $\quad$ of which passed CPE | 6.2 | 5.9 |
|  |  |  |
| Secondary | 60.8 | 61.4 |
| $\quad$ of which passed SC | 13.9 | 17.7 |
| $\quad$ of which passed HSC | 12.9 | 14.2 |
|  |  |  |
| Tertiary | 13.4 | 20.5 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

Average income tends to be lower for women than for men - Rs14,800 against Rs19,900 monthly in 2014, compared to Rs 13,300 and 17,900 in 2013.

## 10. Social benefit and senior living in infirmaries

In 2013, the number of women receiving Basic Retirement Pension outnumbered their male counterparts by 22,143. Out of 177,721 Basic Retirement pensioners, $56 \%$ were women.

There were 20,511 recipients of Basic Widows Pension in 2013, a decrease of $9 \%$ compared to 22,596 in 2009.

Invalids pensioners numbered 30,930 in 2013, with an almost equal proportion of men and women.

Table 11 - Number of beneficiaries of selected benefits, 2009 and 2013

|  | 2009 |  |  |  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Pension type | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |  |
| Basic Retirement Pension | 60,658 | 80,924 | $\mathbf{1 4 1 , 5 8 2}$ | 77,789 | 99,932 | $\mathbf{1 7 7 , 7 2 1}$ |  |
| Basic Widow's Pension | n/a | 22,596 | $\mathbf{2 2 , 5 9 6}$ | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 20,511 | $\mathbf{2 0 , 5 1 1}$ |  |
| Basic Invalid's Pension | 13,593 | 13,576 | $\mathbf{2 7 , 1 6 9}$ | 15,710 | 15,220 | $\mathbf{3 0 , 9 3 0}$ |  |

In 2013, $56 \%$ of the 690 inmates living in the 20 infirmaries registered at the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reforms Institutions were women. The women residents were older than men with $34 \%$ aged 80 years and over compared to $13 \%$ for men.

Chart 16 - Number of Inmates in infirmaries by age group and sex, 2013


Women inmates were more likely to suffer from a disease or a disability, $86 \%$ against $77 \%$ for men. However, they are less likely to be partially paralysed.

Table 12 - Distribution (\%) of inmates in infirmaries by disability, 2013

| Disability | Male | Female |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Partial paralysis | 16.5 | 9.8 |
| Mental diseases | 27.4 | 25.1 |
| Heart diseases | 5.3 | 3.4 |
| Diabetes   <br> Other (including those suffering from   <br> multiple disabilities) 5.9 6.7 <br> Inmates with no disabilities 21.8 40.8 <br> Total 23.1 14.2 $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |  |

## 11. Women in politics and decision making

Women are under-represented in the highest sphere of decision making. The number of women among parliamentarians was only 8 out of a total of $70(11 \%)$ in 2014 compared to $13(19 \%)$ in 2010.

Table 13 -Elected Members at National Assembly Elections, 2000-2014

|  | 2000 |  | 2005 |  | 2010 |  | 2014 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | \% | Number | \% | Number | \% | Number | \% |
| Men | 66 | 94.3 | 58 | 82.9 | 56 | 81.2 | 62 | 88.6 |
| Women | 4 | 5.7 | 12 | 17.1 | 13 | 18.8 | 8 | 11.4 |
| Total | 70 | 100.0 | 70 | 100.0 | 69 | 100.0 | 70 | 100.0 |

Women's participation in decision making at the level of local government has also decreased at the last election. In 2015, women comprised nearly $34 \%$ of the elected members at the Municipal Council Election compared to some 37\% at the previous election of 2012.

Table 14 -Elected Members at Municipal Council Elections, 2001-2015

|  | 2001 |  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 5}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Number | $\%$ | Number | $\%$ | Number | $\%$ | Number | $\%$ |
| Men | 109 | 86.5 | 110 | 87.3 | 57 | 63.3 | 79 | 65.8 |
| Women | 17 | 13.5 | 16 | 12.7 | 33 | 36.7 | 41 | 34.2 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 2 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{9 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

More women are occupying high positions in government services. The proportion of women in the most senior positions has increased from $19 \%$ to $45 \%$ over the past 15 years.

Table 15 - Senior position ${ }^{1}$ in Government Services, 1999-2014

|  | $\mathbf{1 9 9 9}$ |  | 2004 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | $\%$ | Number | $\%$ | Number | $\%$ | Number | $\%$ |
| Men | 252 | 80.8 | 216 | 63.5 | 334 | 65.4 | 331 | 54.7 |
| Women | 60 | 19.2 | 124 | 36.5 | 177 | 34.6 | 274 | 45.3 |
| Total | $\mathbf{3 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{3 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{5 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 0 5}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |

[^0]
## 12. Domestic violence

Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence. In 2014, out of 1,680 cases of domestic violence reported at the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, nearly $90 \%$ were against women. Over the past five years, domestic violence against both men and women has been declining slightly.

Some $34 \%$ of women victims of domestic violence reported physical assault by spouse or partner, $17 \%$ verbal assault by spouse or partner (ill treatment, harassment, abuse, and humiliation), $12 \%$ threatening assault by spouse and $13 \%$ harassment by spouse. Reported cases by men relate mostly to physical assault by spouse or partner (21\%) and verbal assault by spouse or partner (16\%).

Chart 17 - Number of new cases of domestic violence reported, 2009-2014


The total number of cases reported at the Child Development Unit of the Family Support Bureau was 5,903 of which $56 \%$ was female. The most common nature of abuse is psychological/emotional ( $27.1 \%$ for male and $22.7 \%$ for female) followed by neglect cases ( $17.3 \%$ male and $13.4 \%$ for female) and physical abuse ( $13.0 \%$ for male and $10.0 \%$ for female).

Chart 18 - Distribution (\%) of cases reported at the Child Development Unit by nature of problem, 2014


## 13. Offences

Men are more likely to be victims of homicides and assaults while women are more prone to sexual offences. In 2013, $71 \%$ of the intentional homicides and $56 \%$ of the assaults were committed against men. Women were victims to $88 \%$ of the sexual offences.

Table 16 - Victims ${ }^{1}$ of selected offences reported at the Police, Island of Mauritius, 2013

| Offences | Male | Female | Both sexes |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Homicides | 73 | 23 | 96 |
| of which Intentional homicides | 35 | 13 | 49 |
| Assaults | 7,069 | 5,433 | 12,502 |
| Sexual offences | 66 | 469 | 535 |
| of which Rape |  |  |  |

${ }^{1}$ A person may be victim of one or more than one offence and/or an offence may involve one or more victims

Boys are much more likely to commit offences than girls. In 2013, only $4 \%$ of the juvenile offences were committed by girls. The female juvenile delinquency rate stood at 1.0 while that for male was over 10 times higher.

Table 17 - Number of Juvenile offenders ${ }^{1}$ reported, 2013

|  | Male | Female | Both sexes |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Crimes | 200 | 12 | 212 |
| of which drug offences | 18 | - | 18 |
| Misdemeanours | 392 | 48 | 440 |
| $\quad$ of which drug offences | 26 | 1 | 27 |
| Contraventions ${ }^{2}$ | 838 | 3 | 841 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 , 4 3 0}$ | $\mathbf{6 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 4 9 3}$ |
| Juvenile Delinquency Rate $^{3}$ | 9.9 | 1.0 | 5.5 |

${ }^{1}$ Persons aged 12 to 17 years
${ }^{2}$ Exclude contraventions established by camera
${ }^{3}$ Rate per 1,000 mid-year juvenile population and exclude contraventions

## 14. Sports

The proportion of female high level athletes participating in sports is decreasing over time. In $2014,35 \%$ of high level athletes were females. The most common sporting disciplines practiced by them were "athletics" ( $23 \%$ for both females and males) followed by "Judo" (19\%). No woman practiced 'boxing' and 'kick boxing', while among men, $31 \%$ and $10 \%$ respectively did so.

In 2014, 32\% of the financial assistance was given to high level female athletes compared to $68 \%$ for male athletes.

Table 18 - Participation of high level athletes in sports by sex, 2012-2014

|  | 2012 |  | 2013 |  | 2014 |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Number | $\%$ | Number | $\%$ | Number | $\%$ |  |
| Male | 30 | 58.8 | 36 | 62.1 | 48 | 64.9 |  |
| Female | 21 | 41.2 | 22 | 37.9 | 26 | 35.1 |  |
| Total | $\mathbf{5 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{5 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ | $\mathbf{7 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0}$ |  |
| 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## 15. ICT

Females aged 12-19 and 30-39 years are more likely than males of the same age to use a computer. In 2014, around $89 \%$ of girls aged 12-19 years used a computer compared to $87 \%$ for boys of the same age. For the age group 30-39 years, $54 \%$ of women used a computer compared to $53 \%$ of men. At the older age-groups, the reverse is true.

As age increases, the use of computer decreases for both women and men.

Chart 19 - Usage of computer by age group and sex, 2014


Both men and women use the internet mainly for searching for information, entertainment, social networking, and for email/chat. However, they are both less likely to use the internet for education purposes.

Chart 20 - Usage of internet by age group and sex, 2014


## 16. Global Gender Gap Indices

Since 2006, through the Global Gender Gap Report series, the World Economic Forum has been quantifying the magnitude of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress over time. By providing a comprehensive framework for benchmarking global gender gaps, the report identified countries that are role models in dividing their resources equitably between women and men, regardless of the overall resource level.

The Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) seeks to measure one important aspect of gender equality; their relative gaps between women and men across a large set of countries and across four key areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival and political empowerment. The equality benchmark is considered to be one with no gap between men and women.
Mauritius holds the $106^{\text {th }}$ position overall out of 142 countries in 2014, regressing from the $98^{\text {th }}$ position held in 2013. Mauritius is one of the countries that has closed both its education attainment and health and survival gender gaps with indices nearing 1 (see Chart 21).

Table 19 - Global Gender Index by selected countries, 2013 \& 2014

| Country | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ |  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Rank | Value | Rank | Value |
| Iceland | 1 | 0.8731 | 1 | 0.8594 |
| Norway | 3 | 0.8417 | 3 | 0.8374 |
| France | 45 | 0.7089 | 16 | 0.7588 |
| South Africa | 17 | 0.7510 | 18 | 0.7527 |
| Canada | 20 | 0.7425 | 19 | 0.7464 |
| United States | 23 | 0.7392 | 20 | 0.7463 |
| Australia | 24 | 0.7390 | 24 | 0.7409 |
| United Kingdom | 18 | 0.7440 | 26 | 0.7383 |
| Madagascar | 56 | 0.7016 | 41 | 0.7214 |
| Singapore | 58 | 0.7000 | 59 | 0.7046 |
| Brazil | 62 | 0.6949 | 71 | 0.6941 |
| China | 69 | 0.6908 | 87 | 0.6830 |
| Mauritius | $\mathbf{9 8}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 6 5 9 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 6}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 6 5 4 1}$ |
| India | 101 | 0.6551 | 114 | 0.6455 |
| Pakistan | 135 | 0.5459 | 141 | 0.5522 |
| Yemen | 136 | 0.5128 | 142 | 0.5145 |

Source: The Global Gender Gap Report 2014, World Economic Forum

Chart 21 - Gender Gap Index for overall and four key areas, Republic of Mauritius, 2006-2014


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July 2015

## Appendix: Definitions of terms

Activity rate: The ratio (\%) of the economically active population (employed and unemployed) to population aged 16 years and above.

Age specific fertility rate: the number of live births to women of a specified age-group per 1,000 women in that age-group.

Contributing Family Worker: A contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family worker.

Crimes: Offences that are punishable by: (a) penal servitude (b) fine exceeding 5,000 rupees.
Crude death rate: the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
Current User of contraceptive method: A new acceptor who continues with the same or different method of contraception and pays regular return visits to the family planning service point to receive services and supplies.

Divorce rate: the number of persons divorced in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
Employee: An employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.
Employer: An employer is a person who operates his/her own business or trade and hires one or more employees.

Employment: Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16 years and above who have worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during reference week of a month. It includes those who are temporarily absent from work for reason such as leave with pay, leave without pay and temporary disorganisation of work (bad weather, break down of equipment, lack of order, etc).

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER): Number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the relevant age-group

- 4-5 years for pre-primary
- 6-11 years for primary
- 12 - 19 years for secondary

Gender Parity Index (GPI): Ratio of the GER for female to the GER for male. It measures the relative education participation of boys and girls. A GPI of 1 reflects equal enrolment rate for boys and girls, whereas a GPI greater than 1 shows disparity in favour of girls.

Juvenile: a person aged below 18 years.
Juvenile delinquency rate: the number of juvenile offenders involved in offences (excluding contraventions) per 1,000 juvenile populations.
Life Expectancy at birth: the number of years a new born infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout it life.

Marriage rate: the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
Maternal mortality rate: number of deaths due to pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium per 10,000 live births during that year.

Misdemeanors: Offences that are punishable by:(a) imprisonment for a term exceeding 10 days; (b) fine exceeding 5,000 rupees.

New acceptor of contraceptive methods: Someone who accepts a contraceptive method for the first time from a provider of a family planning programme.

Own Account Worker: An own account worker is a person who operates his/her own business or trade but does not hire employees. He/She may be working alone or with the help of contributing family workers.

Primary sector: Primary Sector comprises activities related to 'Agriculture, hunting. Forestry and fishing' and 'Mining'

Secondary sector: Secondary Sector comprises activities related to 'Manufacturing, 'Electricity, gas and water supply' and 'Construction’.

Sex Ratio: The sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females.
Total fertility rate: the average number of children born to an average woman assuming that she survives to the end of her child-bearing age and is subjected to a fixed schedule of age-specific fertility rates.

Unemployment Rate: Unemployment rate is the ratio (\%) of unemployment to economically active population (employed and unemployed).

Unemployment: Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 16 years and over who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work during the reference week.


[^0]:    1 Senior Chief Executive, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Director, Manager, Judge and Magistrate

