

## INTRODUCTION

The 2002 Population and Housing Census was the sixth census of a *de facto* count of the population of Guyana since the first post-war census of 1946. The conduct of each of these censuses had brought its own challenges as societal norms and values and country-specific socio-economic conditions change.

The main objectives Census were as follows:

- 1) to determine the present size and the distribution of the population;
- 2) to review and document the present status of the population with regard to socio-economic characteristics;
- 3) to indicate any change in the pattern of the population since the 1991 census;
- 4) to evaluate any qualitative change in selected socio-economic characteristics of the population;
- 5) to present general appraisals of some selected living and housing conditions in the country; and
- 6) to provide a comprehensive pool of information for policy-makers to be used as a tool for immediate and future planning purposes.

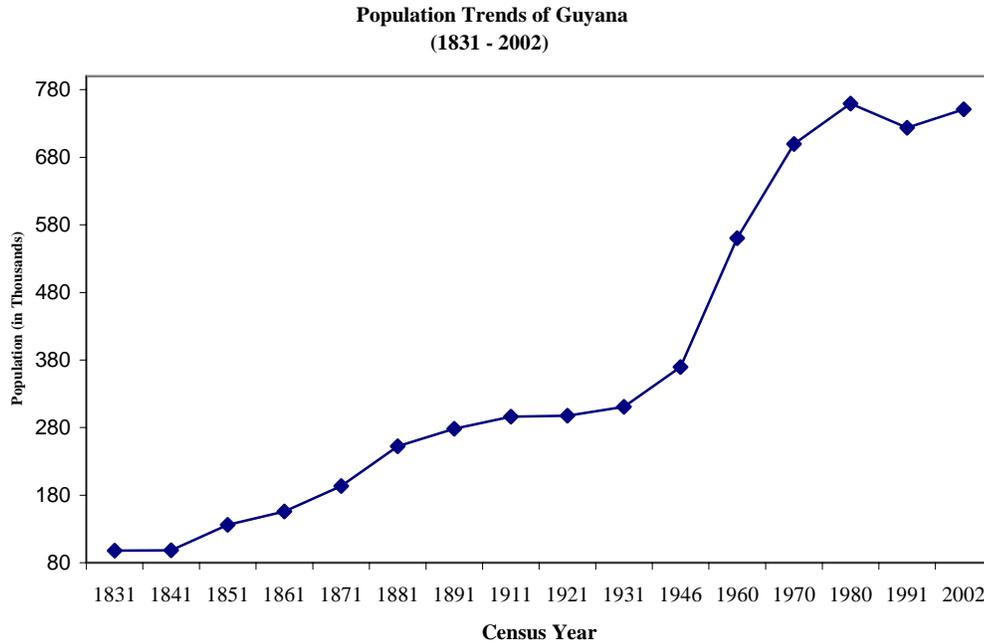
In keeping with the above objectives, a Preliminary analysis, based on the data from the visitation record was released in March 2004, and in August 2005, a Summary Results taking the publication programme a step further was also released.

This report is a detailed expansive “Regional Analysis” coordinated by the CARICOM Secretariat and covers thirteen chapters, such as, national population trends: size, growth and distribution, population composition, population redistribution and internal migration, mortality and fertility patterns, education and training, economic activity, housing and living arrangements, disability and health, marriage, divorce and cohabitations, children and youths, gender and development issues and the elderly population.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

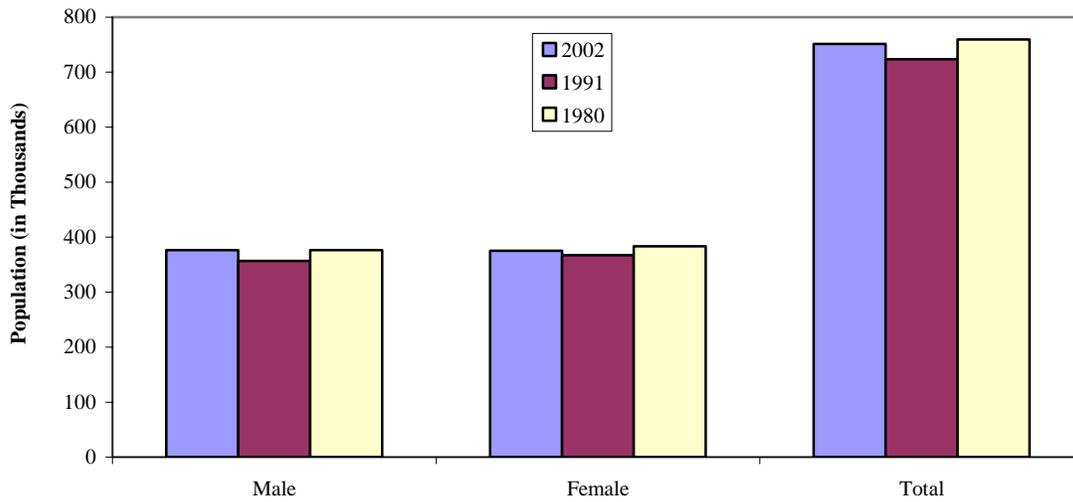
### *National Population Trends*

**Population Size:** The 2002 Population and Housing Census shows that the population of Guyana has risen to 751,223 persons – higher than the 1991 census by a little more than 27,500 persons. This new count is in keeping with trends of population change for Guyana, which has shown an increase at each census, except for the 1991 census; when – for the first time in history – the count was lower than that of the previous census.



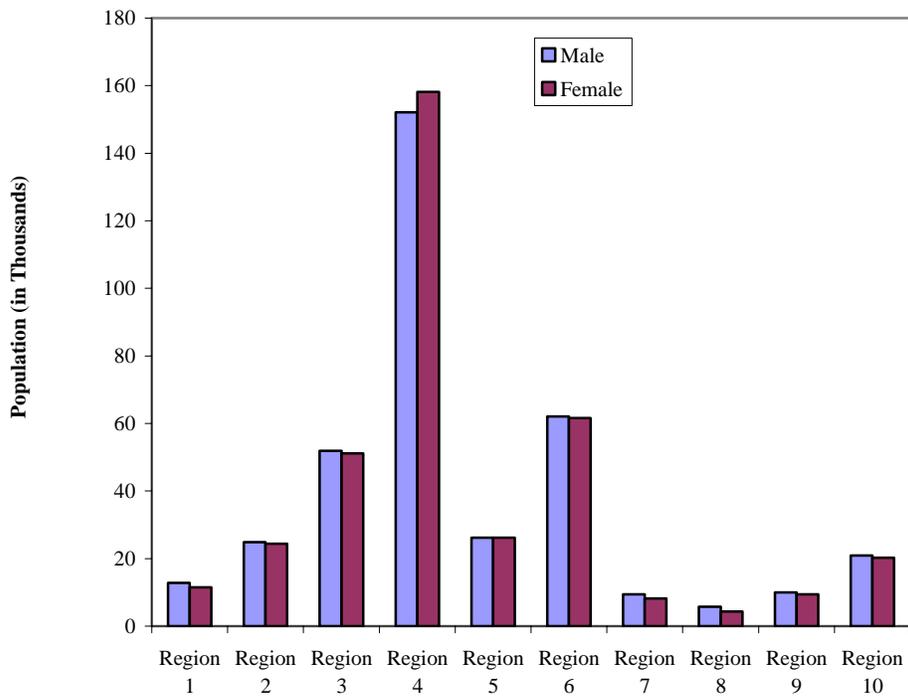
The population decline at census 1991 appeared consistent with the peak emigration flows recorded during the decade of the 1980s. The average annual rate of growth of the population has also reversed from its negative trend of the 1980s (seen in 1991), but the census survival ratios between 1980 and 2002 show a heavy influence of emigration on the distribution.

**Population of Guyana by Sex:  
1980-2002**



**Population Distribution and Growth:** Males outnumber females by a small percent (0.1), and the population is concentrated in Regions 4 and 6, with 41.3 percent located in Region 4. Region 3 is the third most populous with almost 14 percent of the population.

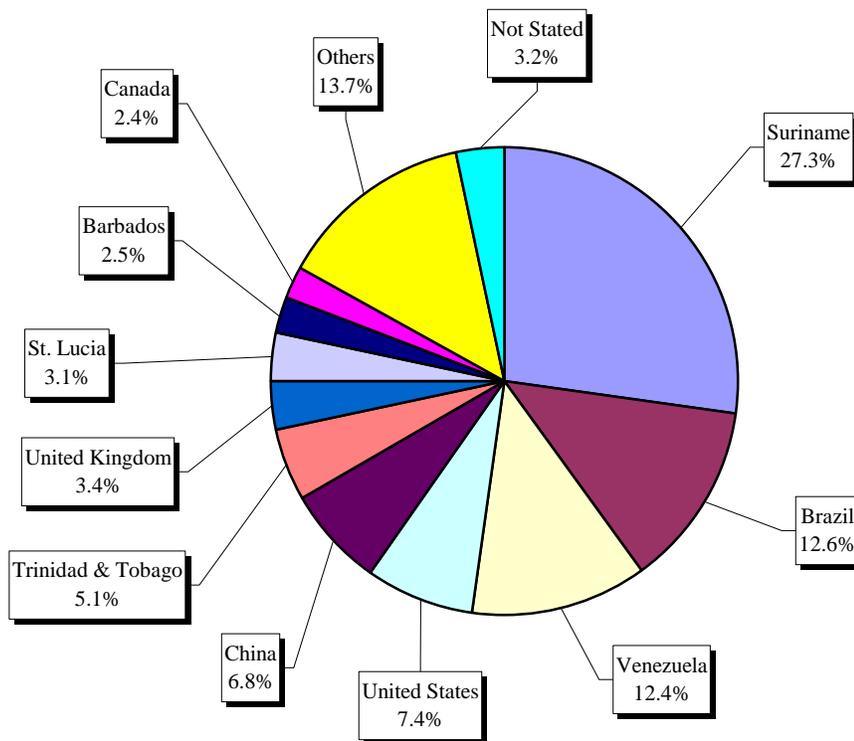
**Regional Population Distribution by Sex  
Guyana: 2002**



Regional growth rates are highest for Region 8 (5.2 percent per annum), followed by Regions 1 and 9 with rates of 2.4 and 2.2 percent respectively. The other regions have lower rates of growth, although Regions 7 and 2 are the only areas that have rates above 1 percent per annum. The mining and quarrying activities in Region 8 seem to have attracted migrants to that region and to a lesser extent Regions 9 and 1. Region 1 also has a vibrant agriculture sector and there is now road communication from the capital to Regions 8 and 9 via Region 10 that is probably promoting growth in those regions. The only region with negative growth has been Region 6 with a -1.3 average annual rate of decline in its population.

**Foreign-Born Population:** The growth of regional populations, particularly that of Regions 1 and 9, is also indicative of much of the increase seen in the foreign-born population. The majority of foreign-born are from neighboring countries; with Suriname contributing the highest proportion of the foreign-born population (27.3 percent), and followed by Brazil and Venezuela with approximately 13 percent each.

Foreign-Born Population by Country of Birth  
Guyana: 2002



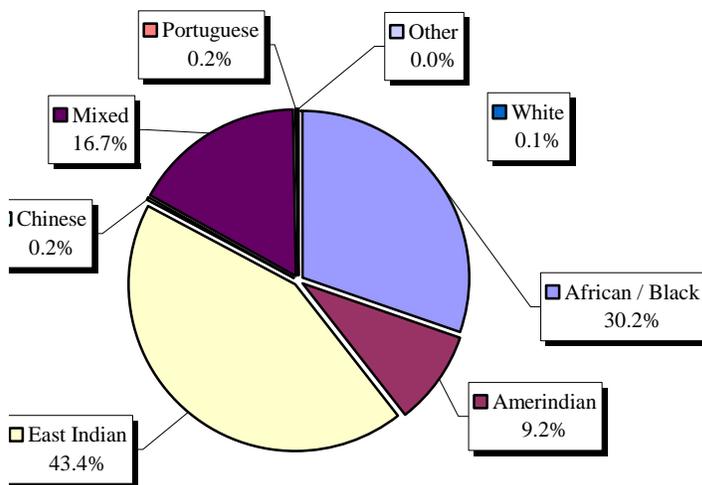
## Population Composition

Nationality background or descent, ethnic and religious compositions introduce differentials that could be significant to demographic processes. These sub-groups are therefore identified to facilitate further research and analysis.

Members of the population are identified by their ethnicity which is determined by the self-description/identification of each person. Modern practices in some countries attempt a determination of ethnicity through a correlation of self-identification, spoken language and mother tongue, additional considerations which are irrelevant in Guyana's context.

**Nationality Background:** The distribution of the population by ethnicity shows the highest proportions are those persons of East Indian and African heritage – 43 and 30 percent respectively. Amerindians are next, comprising almost 10 percent of the population and the others are less than 1 percent. Of note, however, has been the growth of a population of persons of 'Mixed' heritage. These persons could be any combination of the main nationality backgrounds found in the country, and they are larger than the Amerindian group comprising 17 percent of the population.

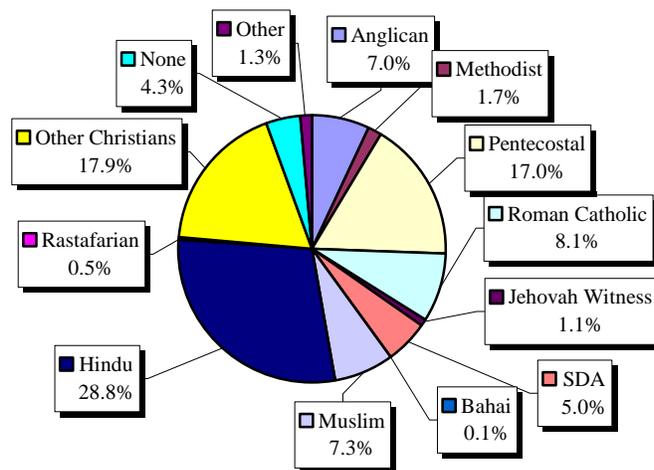
Population Distribution by Nationality Background/Ethnicity  
Guyana: 2002



The distribution of the various groups has been examined and those of African descent are located in Regions 3, 4, 6 and 10 and to a lesser extent in Region 5. Amerindians are found in Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 and to a lesser extent in Regions 2 and 4. This group has showed significant movement from their traditional areas of residence. Persons of East Indian descent can be found living mainly in Regions 3, 4 and 6 and to a lesser extent in Regions 2 and 5.

**Religious Affiliation:** The population composition by religious affiliation has also changed somewhat. The Pentecostals are now in the majority of all ‘Christian’ groups (17 percent), and they are followed by the Hindus who are nearly one-third of the population. Other religions that have grown and are now identified as separate categories are the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists and Rastafarians. Declines are seen largely in the Anglican and Roman Catholic bodies, which now attract 7 and 8 percent of the population respectively, and to a lesser extent the Methodists with affiliation from 2 percent of the population.

**Distribution of Population by Religious Affiliation  
Guyana: 2002**



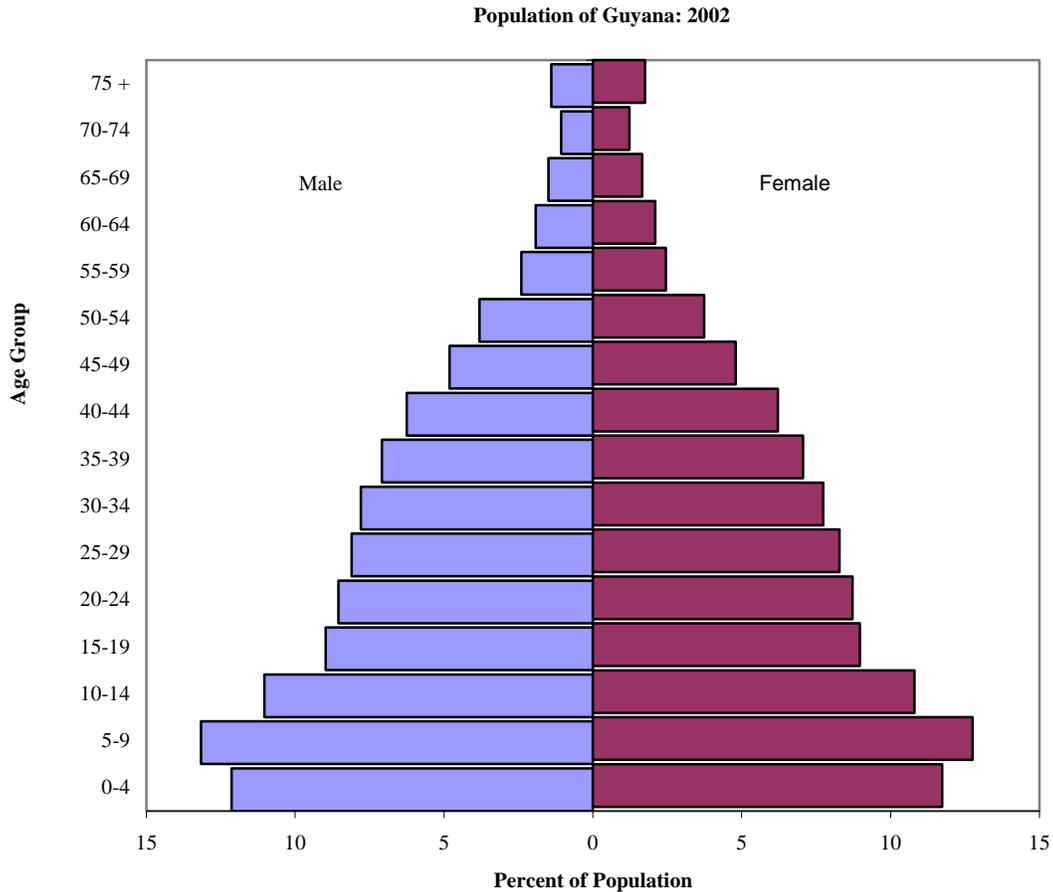
**Age-Sex Distribution:** The age-sex distribution of the population of Guyana shows that it is still in the expansive phase of the demographic transition,<sup>1</sup> and this means that it is still a growing population. Nevertheless, when the 2002 distribution is compared with that of 1980, there are signs that the population is beginning to age.

The age-sex distribution also shows that the 0-4 age-group is smaller than the 5-9 age group, suggesting a slowing down of the number of births. It must be noted, nevertheless, that the same pattern has been displayed by the age distribution of the 1991 census.

**Regional Age Structures:** It has been interesting to compare the national age structure of the population with that of some of the regions. These comparisons show the migration patterns of young women (particularly from Regions 1, 8 and 9) and influxes of men into Regions 7 and 8.

<sup>1</sup> There are three phases – expansive, constrictive and stationary.

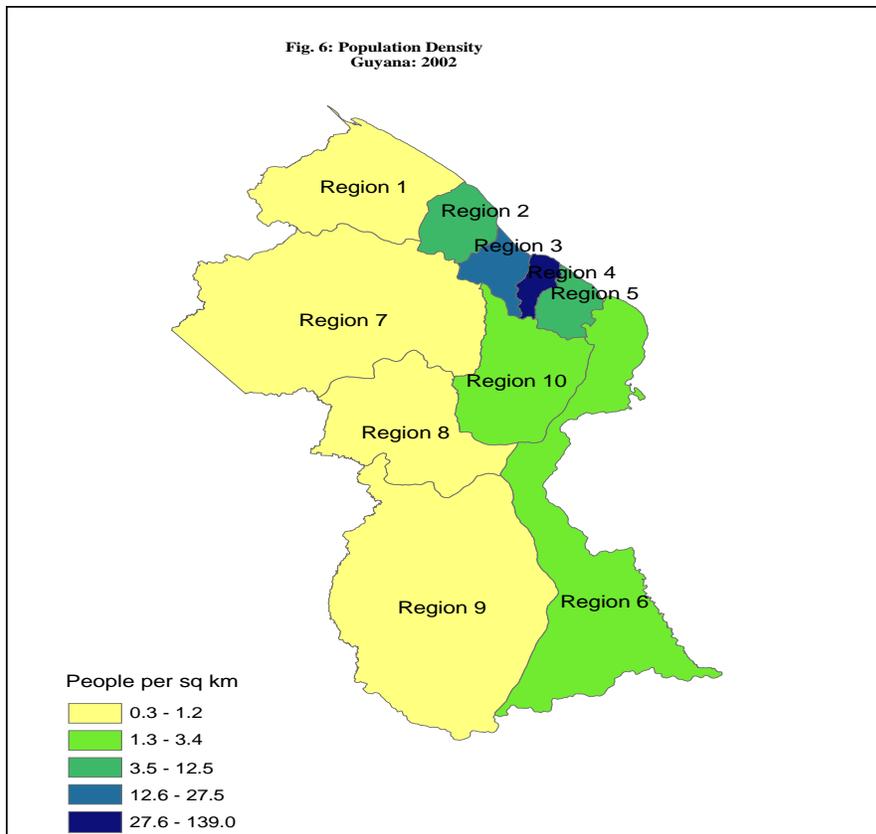
**Age Dependency:** Dependency ratios have fallen from 1980, but like other aspects of the population, have declined in 1991. The population of those not in working age groups (0-14 and 65+) is less than the working population. Age dependency has moved from 81 in 1980 to 67 in 2002. The *median age*<sup>2</sup> of the population has also increased to 22.9 years from 18.6 in 1980 and 21.8 in 1991. These movements also support the fact that the population is ageing gradually.



### Population Redistribution

**Population Density:** The population density is low when the national average is considered, but diverse when considered for the regions and for rural-urban areas. Average density for the country is almost 4 persons per square kilometer. The pattern for the regions is different. Regions 7, 8 and 9 – though showing some of the highest growth rates, are still the most sparsely populated, with density levels of less than one person per square kilometer. These levels contrast with that of Region 4 which has approximately 139 persons per square kilometer.

<sup>2</sup> The *median age* divides the population into two equal groups. One-half of the population will be above the median age and one-half below that age.



**Internal Migration:** The lifetime migrants or commonly referred to as inter-regional migration for Guyana numbered 103,191 in 2002, and were 14.2 percent of the native-born population. Also, the population redistribution due to lifetime migration streams amounted to 31,405 or 4.3 percent of the total native-born population. The migration stream was dominated by women; showing inter-regional migration rate<sup>3</sup> of 15.1 percent of the native-born female population compared to males with 13.2 percent. The corresponding population redistribution rates<sup>4</sup> due to lifetime migration for females and males were 4.8 and 3.8 percent respectively. The migratory exchanges at all levels confirmed that Regions 4, 8 and 10 were migration destination areas whereas the rest were mainly sending regions.

## Mortality and Fertility Pattern

**Infant and Childhood Mortality:** The estimates of infant and under-five mortality rates for Guyana in 2002 using Brass P/F Ratio were 54 and 52 per 1,000 live births

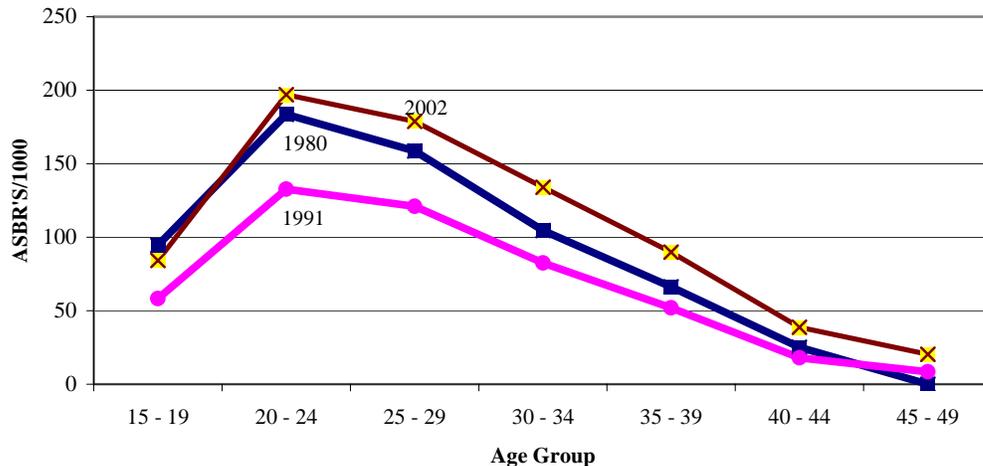
<sup>3</sup> **Inter-regional migration rate** is equal to the total native-born population minus the sum of non-migrants across the regions divided by the same native-born population multiplied by 100.

<sup>4</sup> **Population redistribution rate** is the sum of net lifetime gains (or sum of net lifetime losses) due to lifetime migration divided by the native-born population multiplied by 100.

respectively, while that of child mortality was 49 per 1,000 children surviving to the first birthday. Infant mortality ranges from as low as 37 deaths per 1,000 live births in Region 3 to as high as 74 in Region 5, while early childhood deaths were high in Regions 1 and 8, 72 and 62 deaths per 1,000 children surviving to the fifth birthday compared to 34 child deaths per 1,000 in Region 3.

**Fertility Pattern:** A Guyanese woman would have on average 3.7 children during her reproductive lifespan. The fertility rate had slightly increased from the 1980 level which was 3.2 children per woman. Education campaign among teenage girls had reduced their contribution to fertility from 17.6 percent in 1980 to 12.6 percent in 2002. On average, 100 Guyanese women will replace<sup>5</sup> themselves plus additional 82 daughters. This reproductive rate is high in Regions 1, 9, 8 and 7, with number of baby-girls born estimated as 472, 393, 388 and 294 per every 100 childbearing women respectively passing through the childbearing age.

Age Specific Fertility Rates, Guyana: 1980 - 2002

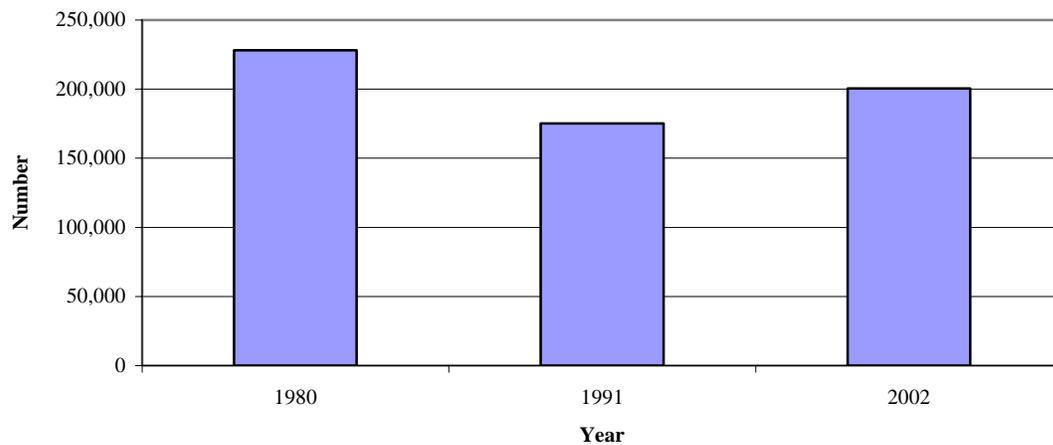


## Education and Training

**School Attendance:** Approximately, two-thirds of the school-age population currently attends school, up from 59 percent and 55 percent in 1980 and 1991 respectively. The highest percentages of persons of school age who actually attend school are in the 5-9 and 10-14 age-groups. A little over 90 percent of children in these age-groups attend school, which means that Guyana has surpassed the MDG target for primary school enrollment. Nevertheless, attainment of the MDG targets for enrollment is not by itself an indicator of quality of education and further research is required in this area.

<sup>5</sup>**Replacement level fertility** refers to number of baby-girls that the population will have to sustain its growth. A rate of one is exact replacement, above unity indicates that the population is more than replacing itself, and a rate below unity means the population is not replacing itself.

School Attending Population  
Guyana: 2002



Moving into the late secondary school/post-secondary school level, only 30 percent of persons in the 15-19 age-group attend school either full-time or part-time and this percentage is even less (4 percent) in the 20-24 age-groups. This means that there is a large ‘funnel-effect’ in education, with large percentages enrolled in early childhood and primary education, fewer completing secondary school and very small percentage of persons going on to university or technical school.

### **Economic Activity**

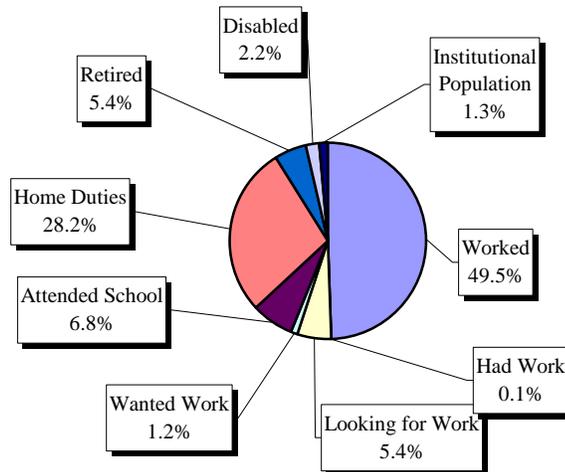
**Working-Age Population:** The working-age population or persons 15 years and over contains the country’s human resources who are in a position to engage in productive activity. For a variety of reasons however, not all these persons can work. Those who are not in a position to or do not work are referred to as the economically inactive while the others who work are referred to as the economically active.

Those not able to participate in productive work<sup>6</sup> are usually further classified according to their activity, i.e., whether retired, performing home duties, unable to work – because of disability or are attending school. Institutional populations tend to be considered in this group as some sections of the institutional population, for example, the prisoners, are also not able to work. However, other members of the institutional population, for instance, the soldiers in barracks are productive.

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<sup>6</sup> Productive work for this purpose is defined in the System of National Accounts. It has been widely accepted that performance of home duties particularly contributes to the productivity of a country.

**Principal Activities of the Population, 15 Years and Over  
Guyana: 2002**



The performance of home duties is usually a category that warrants particular interest in that many persons in this 'sector' usually keep small gardens, prepare sweets, etc. for sale. Income or produce from these activities normally supplement family income earned outside the home. Ideally, these persons should be included in the economically active population, but they do not describe themselves as such. If they did, then the numbers who participate in the labor force (the labor force participation rate) would increase.

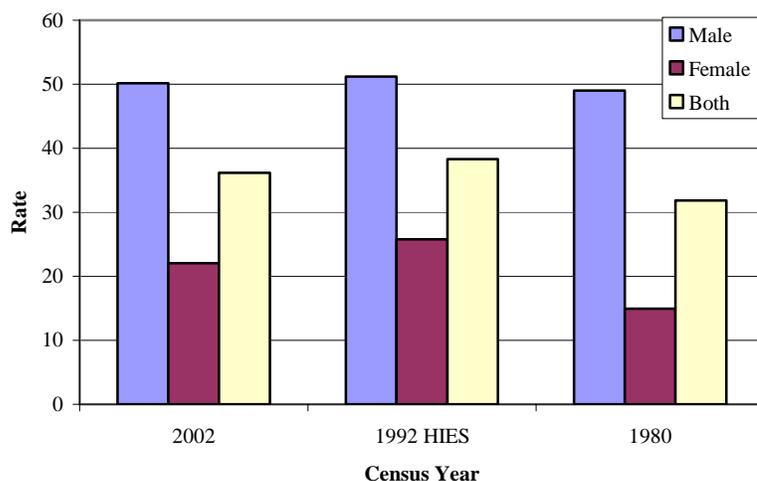
***Labour Force Participation:*** The working-age population has grown to two-thirds of the total population and approximately 44 percent of persons are not economically active. The remainder (approximately 56 percent) is in the work-force and is divided into those who actually work and those who are looking for a job or would like a job.

On average, 88 percent of all persons of the working population who would like to work are actually working. This is an average however, as 90 percent of the males who want to work actually do work, compared with 85 percent of the females. Persons who have no jobs comprise approximately 12 percent of the population who would like to work.

Once again, the average unemployment levels masks the male-female differential, in that 15 percent of females are out of work, compared with 10 percent of males. The 2002 average unemployment level compares with a level of 16.8 percent in 1980 and 11.7 percent at the time of the 1992 Household Income and Expenditure Survey.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Survey estimates are usually considered more accurate than those obtained by the census for certain variables. Since there was a survey near to the time of the 1991 census, these estimates of unemployment are used instead of the census estimates.

**Labour Force Participation Rates, Guyana: 1980-2002**



**Employment by Industries:** The agricultural sector provided 22 percent of the employment in 2002, a decline by 6 percentage points of the existing level in 1991, which was approximately 28 percent of the total employment. Those who shifted went to “Service-sector”- 46.4 percent in 1991 and increased to 53.1 percent in 2002. A significant contribution to the size and growth of the ‘Service-sector’ came from commerce, particularly “the wholesale and retail trade, repair of vehicles and motor cycles, and household goods” industry group. The manufacturing-sector also contributed a large proportion to employment. It was 24 percent in 2002, although slightly declined by 2 percentage points when compared to the 26 percent in 1991. The decline in the share of agricultural workers has been used as a good indicator of economic development, signifying in many ways that the economy was expanding, but whether the growth was sufficient to alleviate poverty and hunger in Guyana could be an interest of study.

**Occupation and Employment Status:** A large volume of the workers are paid employees followed by own account workers, with less than 4 percent engaged in unpaid family worker and employer group respectively. Also, 28.4 percent of the employees had elementary occupations, and in ranking order, craft and related trade workers (16.3 percent), service, shop and market sale workers (14.8 percent), while the remaining occupations employed less than 10 percent of the labour force. The overwhelming proportion (21.6 percent) of the women’s employment was in “service, shop and market sale professions”, while “clerical” and “technical and associate” professions engaged equal proportions of women (about 16 percent).

### **Housing and Living Arrangement**

**Households:** The number of households has increased to approximately 183,000 from 1991 to 2002 – an 18.5 percent increment. This means that slightly more than 2000 new households were established per year in the intercensal period. Approximately two-fifths of the households are in Region 4, just under one-fifth in Region 6 and nearly 15 percent

in Region 3. It is not possible to tell where the new households are being established, but it is possible that the trend seen with women apparently moving from rural regions means that women perhaps are heading those new households in other regions – most likely Region 4 and urban areas of those regions

**Household Headship:** Nearly three-quarters of all households are headed by males, and this situation pervades the regions. Household headship is usually an indication of how wealth is distributed within the household. The preponderance of male heads probably means that men control the majority of resources within households. There is a high probability therefore that many women – though living in non-poor households - could be poor as they are denied access to resources of the household.

**Overcrowding:** Overcrowding within households is usually an indicator of poverty and the corollary is also true. Average household size also does not give an indication of sleeping arrangements and privacy. Average household size for 2002 is 4.1 down from 4.7 in 1991. The regional distribution of average household size is similar to the national average, except for Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 where household size averages 5 or more persons per household (with Region 1 averaging almost 6 persons). Region 6 has slightly smaller household sizes (3.9 persons).

**Water and Sanitation:** Housing has become increasingly modernized in 2002. The percentage of households with no toilet facilities at all has declined to 2 percent from 3.1 percent in 1991. The modernization, however, has come through the increased use of W.C linked to a Cesspit or Septic tank. The reason is that the sewer system is expensive to install and maintain and given the size of the population, it is easier for septic tanks or cesspits be installed. Two-thirds of the households still use pit latrines, however, and nearly 2 percent still do not have any toilet facilities at all.

In terms of the distribution of households according to their access to improved water (piped into house or yard, from bore hole, spring or rainwater), nearly 80 percent of households have improved water, as defined by the MDG target for water.

**Ownership Status of Dwelling:** Owner-occupied dwellings constituted a significant proportion (63.8 percent) of the dwellings, and in absolute term, increased by 19.6 percent. The number of rented dwellings, both government and private individual rented premises dropped by 21.6 percent. The decline was been compensated for mainly by the rise in the share of rent-free households either residing on family or inherited properties. Six in every ten households in Guyana used wood to construct the outer wall of their dwellings, 90 percent used sheet metal, and about one-third of the dwellings were constructed more than thirty years ago or before 1970.

The **undivided private** housing currently comprises 71 percent of the dwelling stock in the country- down from 74 percent in 1991 and followed by **part of private dwelling** (14 percent).

## **Disability and Health**

**Number of Disabled Persons:** In 2002, there were 48,419 citizens living with some form of disability, about 6.4 percent of the total population in Guyana. Females outnumber males - with 51.1 percent compared to 48.8 percent disabled males. Visual impairment affected about one third of the total disabled persons followed, in ranking order, by those suffering from mobility impairment (16.4 percent), body movement (10.2 percent), hearing (9.1 percent), and mental impairment (8.3 percent). Also, there were 5,842 children under the age of 15 years living with some form of disability.

About two-fifths of the disabled persons in Guyana acquired their disability from accident, 26 percent didn't state how disability was acquired, 18 percent acquired it from birth, and 15 percent was caused by diseases.

**Working Disabled Persons:** Disabled people do not have the same opportunities to participate in the labour force. Of the 42,577 disabled persons in working age groups, 22 percent were in the labour force, and 86 percent who sought for work was employed, 14 percent were unemployed. In comparison, 88 percent were employed and 12 percent unemployed among the non-disabled persons.

**Educational Enrolment:** Only 7.4 percent (3,483) of the people with disabilities currently attended school either full time or part time, and there was no gender disparity in the enrolment rate. Despite their impairments, a large percentage of the disabled citizens had achieved some form of higher education, indicating that perhaps many of them attained their qualification prior to the unfortunate incident.

## **Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation**

**Proportion Ever Married:** In 2002, about 27.3 percent of the total marriageable population in Guyana had never married, 57.5 percent were currently married - either legally or living in common-law relationship, while 13.2 percent were either divorced, separated, widowed, or was common law, meaning, no longer living together.

**Singulate Mean Age:** The singulate mean age at first marriage (SMAM)<sup>8</sup> was estimated as 21.4 for females and 26.5 years for males respectively in 2002 at the national level, and varied significantly at regional level with Regions 1, 8 and 9 exhibiting the lowest for females. The lower SMAM for women in these regions requires special investigation as status and development of women are, in most instances, tied to the tradition and custom under which women take their bridegrooms.

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<sup>8</sup> SMAM is the mean age at first marriage among those who ever marry (or, in practice, among those who marry by some predefined age-limit, and computed from the proportions that are never married based on the assumption that no first marriage occurs after age 50 or before age 15 years.

## **Children and Youths**

There were 382,648 dependent children and youths in 2002, and of note, children below 15 years constituted 69 percent of this number. About 28.5 and 71.5 percent of the dependent children and youths resided in female-headed and male-headed households respectively. The proportion of dependents decreased with the age of children in male-headed households, and inversely increased in the female-headed households.

The economic dependency ratio for Guyana in 2002 was 187 dependents per 100 working persons, and dependent children contributed more than half to this ratio. The relationship between household headship either by sex, educational attainment and occupational status to enrolment of dependent children and youths in school did not show any wide margin. In either of these cross-classifications, enrolment of children in female-headed households was slightly higher compared to households headed by males.

School attendance and highest education reached are reported to exert strong influence on labour force participation of youths. School attendance rate decreased with the age of youths while labour force participation rate inversely increased with age of youths. As such, because young school graduates seem to have a waiting period to find their first job due to lack of work-experience, their unemployment rate was high, particularly for the teen age group.

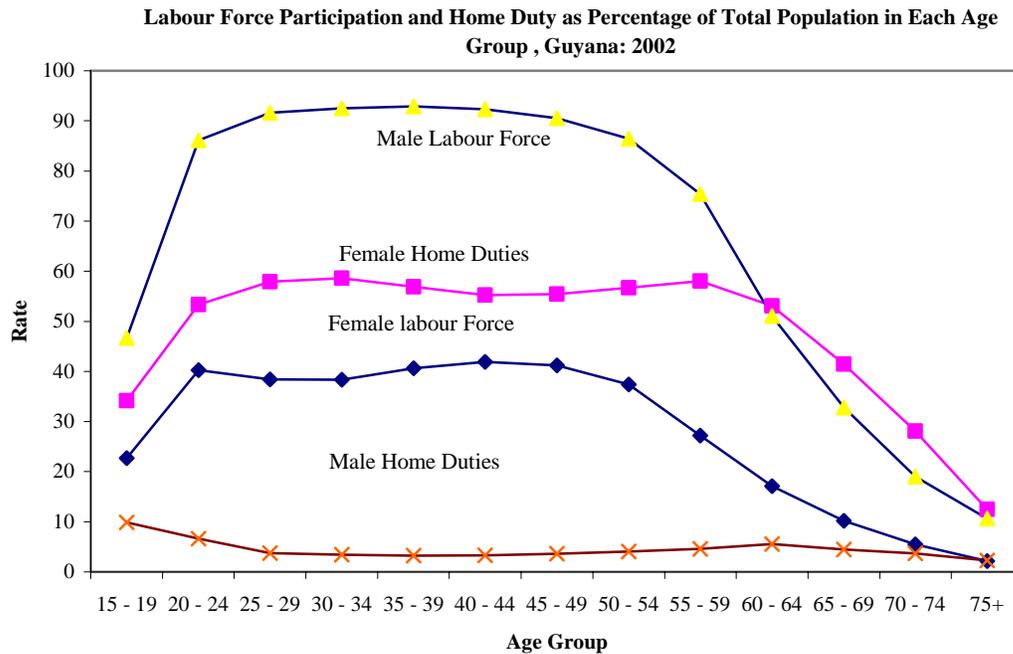
## **Gender and Development Issues**

Gauging labour force participation as an indicator of gender disparities is questionable because most work done by women are linked to “home duties” which are not counted in economic terms. This was the case when major activities for Guyanese women who were not in the labour force were reported in “home duties”, with 50.7 percent of women listing this as their main activity in 2002 compared to 34.1 percent in labour force; and in contrast, 78.5 percent of the men in labour force compared to only 4.9 percent in home duties.

These working women were mainly in three industries, namely: a) wholesale and retail trade and related industry, b) education, and c) manufacturing industry. Also, 68.1 and 46.4 percent of the women reported as “professionals” and “technical and associate professionals” respectively were employed in “education” and “health and social work” industries; working mainly as teachers and nurses. In all, a total of 22.7 percent of women employed in the categories of “legislators, senior officials and managers”, “professionals”, “technicians and associate professionals” which had previously been male-dominated occupations was a giant step forward for women in competing with men.

Another indicator used to study the gender disparities was household headship; which revealed that female-headed households constituted 28.5 percent in 1991, and increased slightly by 0.6 percentage point in 2002. Internal migration and dissolution of marriage were suspected as main reasons for the rise in female-headed households.

This increase presented two postulations; firstly, it seems to offer women the opportunity to excel in decision-making in the home, and secondly, in Guyana, where in most married couple households, the male is automatically the head; the increase should be interpreted more cautiously as to whether these single-parent women are not the subject of feminization of poverty.



### The Elderly

The proportion of citizens 65 years and over had increased, from 3.6 percent in 1970 to 4.2 percent in 2002. Females outnumbered males with 100 elderly females to 84 males, and the longevity of females was suspected to have caused this gap. There were 8 elderly persons to every 100 children in 1970, rising to 12 in 2002. While at the same time, about 7 elderly persons seemed to have depended on every 100 persons aged 15-64 years in 2002, thus accounting for an annual growth rate of elderly by 0.82 percent during the entire period.

About 65 percent of the elderly persons served as heads of households, the rest were dependents, and more than 80 percent resided in owner-occupied dwelling units. This finding indicated that the earnings during the prime life of the elderly persons were invested into providing homes, but the proportion without owner-occupied dwellings could be elderly living below minimum standards, and it would be necessary to design policies to alleviate their impoverished conditions.

A large segment (66 percent) of the elderly income receipts in 2002 came from old-age retirement schemes, with only 1.4 percent reported to have supported themselves through cumulated saving and interests. This reflection signifies that the pension industry would be required to support a greater number of pensioners for longer period; thus, it is expected to increase pressure on the provision of pension funds.