

**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

**STATISTICS  
IN  
MAURITIUS**

**A GENDER APPROACH  
2018**

November 2020

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Population, Marriage and Families.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>More newborn boys .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Population Growth Rate.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.3</b>	<b>More Elderly Women .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Dependency Ratio .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1.5</b>	<b>Population Age Structure.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.6</b>	<b>The number of households increases but household size decreases .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1.7</b>	<b>Women headed households are on the increase .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1.8</b>	<b>Age at first marriage increasing .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1.9</b>	<b>Fewer Marriages, More Divorces .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1.10</b>	<b>More unmarried parents.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1.11</b>	<b>Marriages of minors aged 16 years and above .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1.12</b>	<b>Teenage Pregnancy / Teenage Mother .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1.13</b>	<b>Services at Drop-In-Centre .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Health.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>National health system.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Women live longer than men .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Women have lower mortality rate than men.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Diabetes was the leading cause of mortality for women.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Men are more exposed to accidents.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Infant mortality rate on a decreasing trend .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Maternal mortality on the rise.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Men are more likely than women to be infected with HIV/AIDS.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2.9</b>	<b>Family Planning and Contraceptive Use.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2.10</b>	<b>Antenatal Care .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Education.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Overview of the education system .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Expenditure on education .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Literacy gap between men and women is narrowing .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Boys and girls are equally likely to go to pre-primary and primary schools .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>3.5</b>	<b>A slightly higher proportion of girls complete basic education (primary) than boys... </b>	<b>22</b>
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Girls perform better than boys in PSAC examinations.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Girls are more likely to be enrolled than boys at secondary level .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Girls are less likely than boys to drop out.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3.9</b>	<b>Girls perform better than boys in SC and HSC examinations .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3.10</b>	<b>More women than men in the staff room.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Girls less likely to enroll for technical and vocational education .....</b>	<b>25</b>

3.12	Girls are more likely to be enrolled than boys at tertiary level .....	26
3.13	Fewer women than men in research.....	27
3.14	Women were underrepresented in science-related fields .....	28
4	Employment and work.....	28
4.1	Employment.....	28
4.2	Women are less likely than men to participate in the labour force .....	29
4.3	Unemployment .....	29
4.4	Young women are more likely to be unemployed than young men .....	30
4.5	For both women and men, employment in the services sector keeps growing .....	32
4.6	Women are less likely than men to be managers .....	32
4.7	Men as well as women are more likely to be employees .....	33
4.8	Men are more likely than women to be in vulnerable employment .....	34
4.9	Men are more likely than women to be engaged in small business .....	34
4.10	Men are more likely than women to be engaged in informal activities.....	34
4.11	Women earn less than men .....	35
4.12	Higher pay-gap in primary sector .....	36
4.13	Young women were more likely to be neither studying nor working .....	36
5	Public life and decision-making.....	37
5.1	Women continue to be underrepresented in Parliament.....	37
5.2	Mayors are largely men.....	38
5.3	Women are underrepresented among senior-level civil servants .....	38
5.4	Women are less likely to hold senior positions in the private sector .....	39
5.5	More women as judge and magistrate .....	39
5.6	Women are underrepresented in the police force .....	39
6	Disability .....	40
6.1	More disabled women than men.....	40
6.2	Prevalence rate of disability increases with age for both women and men .....	41
6.3	More disabled men than women in employment .....	42
6.4	Washington Group.....	43
6.5	Welfare of persons with disabilities.....	44
7	Poverty and Social Welfare.....	45
7.1	Women were more likely than men to be in poverty .....	45
7.2	Female-headed households more likely to be in poverty .....	45
7.3	Social Welfare.....	46
8	Gender based and family violence.....	46
8.1	What is Gender-Based Violence (GBV)? .....	46
8.2	Types of Gender-Based Violence .....	46
8.3	Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence .....	47

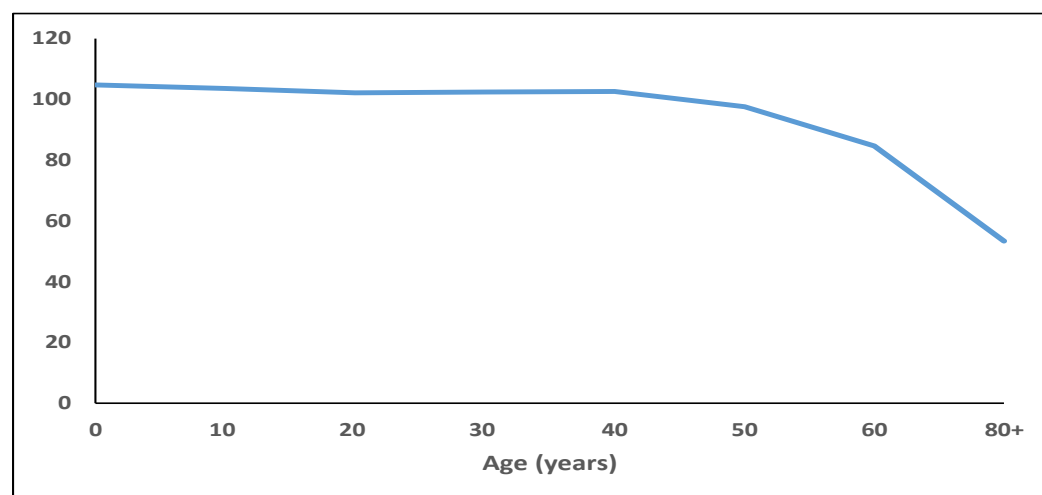
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Support Services to family .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>8.5</b>	<b>Child abuse .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>8.6</b>	<b>Admission of children in institutions under the aegis of Ministry of Gender .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>8.6.1</b>	<b>Rehabilitative and Alternative Care Support System of ACU .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>8.6.2</b>	<b>Children placed in Government owned Shelters and NGOs .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>8.6.3</b>	<b>Children placed in Foster Care families .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>8.6.4</b>	<b>Children from Shelters/NGOs reintegrated back within a family setting .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>8.6.5</b>	<b>Child Mentoring Programme .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Crime and security .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Crimes .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>9.2</b>	<b>Nearly all juveniles admitted to CYC had committed theft .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>International comparisons .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>10.1</b>	<b>Gender Inequality Index .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>10.2</b>	<b>Human Development Index (HDI) .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Concepts and Definitions .....</b>	<b>57</b>

# 1 Population, Marriage and Families

## 1.1 More newborn boys

More boys than girls were born in 2018 – 105 boys for every 100 girls, which is a universal biological norm. However, the sex ratio eventually shifts due to higher mortality rate among men. As from the age of 50, there were more women. And as from age 80 years and above, there were about twice as many women as men.

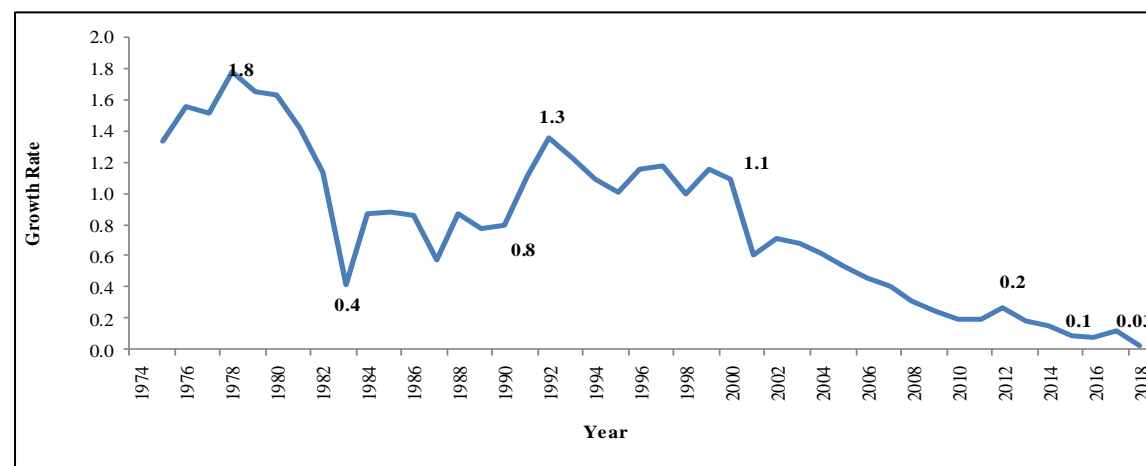
**Figure 1 - Number of men per 100 women, Republic of Mauritius, 2018**



## 1.2 Population Growth Rate

During the past 40 years, the population growth rate peaked in the late seventies followed by a fall in the eighties. The population growth rate caught up in the early nineties after which it dropped again to attain the lowest rate in 2018. The dips observed since the eighties mainly indicate falling fertility. It is worth to be noted that population growth is influenced by births, deaths and migration.

**Figure 2 – Growth rate of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1974 – 2018**



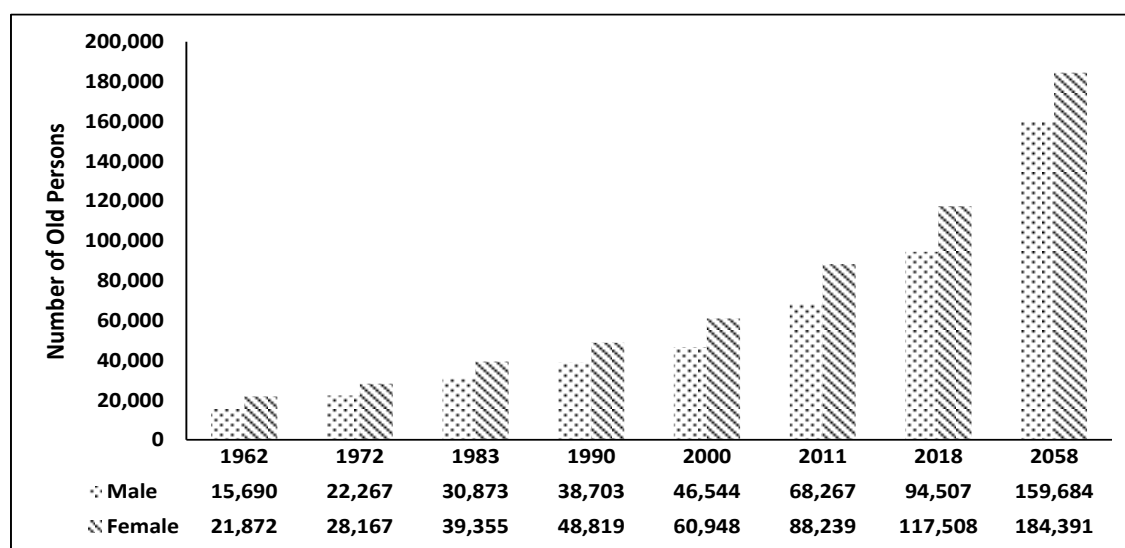
### 1.3 More Elderly Women

The Mauritian population is undergoing an ageing process. Population ageing is an increasing proportion of old persons in the population. It usually occurs when the number of births decreases and when people live longer.

Older persons, defined as those aged 60 years and above, who made up 5% of the population in 1962, now make up 17% and are projected to reach 35% in 2058. In terms of numbers, the seniors are now 212,015 and will reach 344,075 in forty years.

Women live longer than men; the life expectancy for women is 77.8 years compared to 71.4 years for men. As a result, old women outnumber old men. This has been the situation during the past 55 years and is likely to persist in the future.

**Figure 3 – Old population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1962 – 2058**

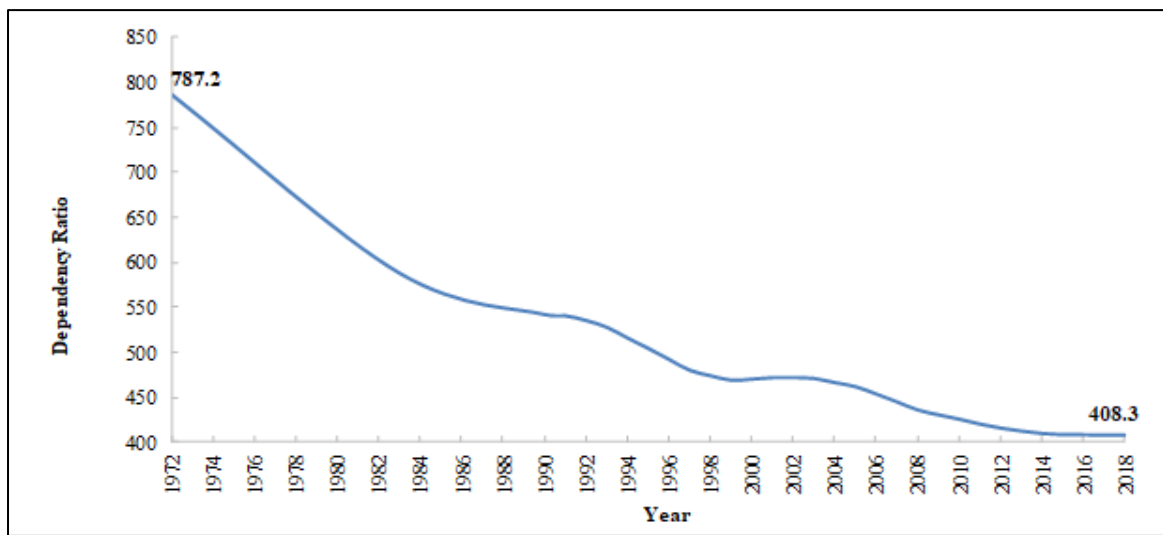


### 1.4 Dependency Ratio

Dependency ratio is defined as the combined child population (under 15 years) and population aged 65 years and over per 1,000 population of typical working age (15-64 years) in a particular year.

There has been a general decrease in the dependency ratio from 787.2 in 1972 to 408.3 in 2018 (Figure 4). The fall in dependency ratio observed is mainly the result of a decline in child population over the years.

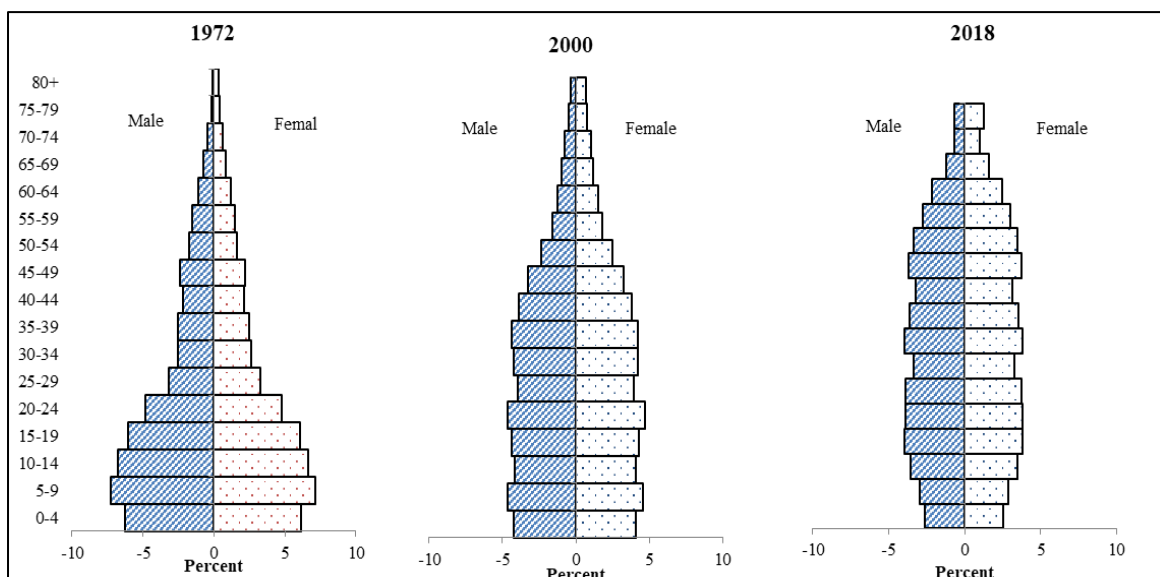
**Figure 4 - Dependency Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 – 2018**



### 1.5 Population Age Structure

The first pyramid in 1972, with its wide base and narrow top, is typical of a young population with high fertility. This shape is the results of high birth rates that increase the number of people in the youngest age groups (lowest bars) and in turn shrink the relative proportion at the oldest age groups. Between 2000 and 2018, the base of the pyramid has started to narrow because of the fall in birth rates. These are typical of a population with a slow growth. The female bars are almost always longer because women live longer than men. Between 1972 and 2018, there has been a decline in the proportion of children in the age group 0-14 while the proportion of old persons aged 60 and above has increased steadily.

**Figure 5–Population pyramids, Republic of Mauritius, 1972, 2000 & 2018**



### 1.6 The number of households increases but household size decreases

The number of private households went up by 16.6% from 296,800 in 2000 to 346,000 in 2011. At the same time, the average household size decreased from 3.9 to 3.5 persons.

### 1.7 Women headed households are on the increase

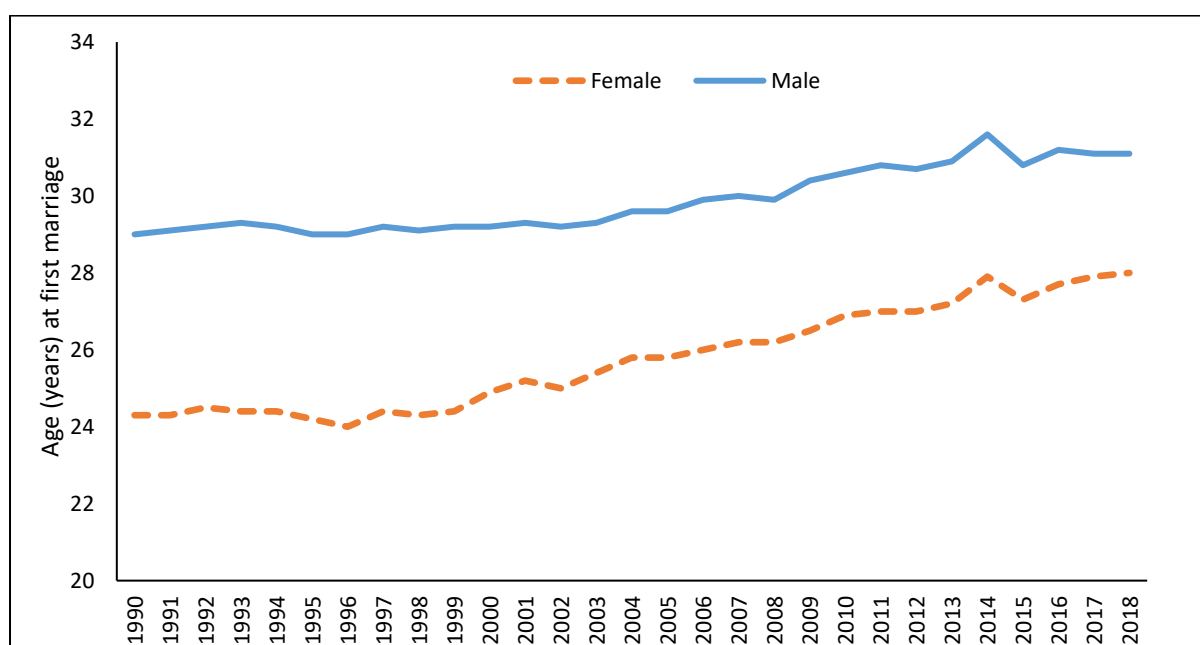
Based on results of Household Budget Surveys (HBS), there were 22.1% women headed households in 2017 compared to 21.3% in 2012. Women heads were predominant among small sized households while men tend to head larger households.

### 1.8 Age at first marriage increasing

Grooms are generally older than their brides. However, both women and men are marrying at a later stage, a reflection of increases in education levels and entry into the labour force. In 1990, the average age at first marriage was 24 years for women and 29 years for men. By 2018, this has increased to 28 years for women and 31 years for men.

The average age gap at the time of marriage was 4.7 years in 1990. This gap has steadily decreased to 3.1 years in 2018.

**Figure 6 – Average age at first marriage, Republic of Mauritius, 1990 – 2018**

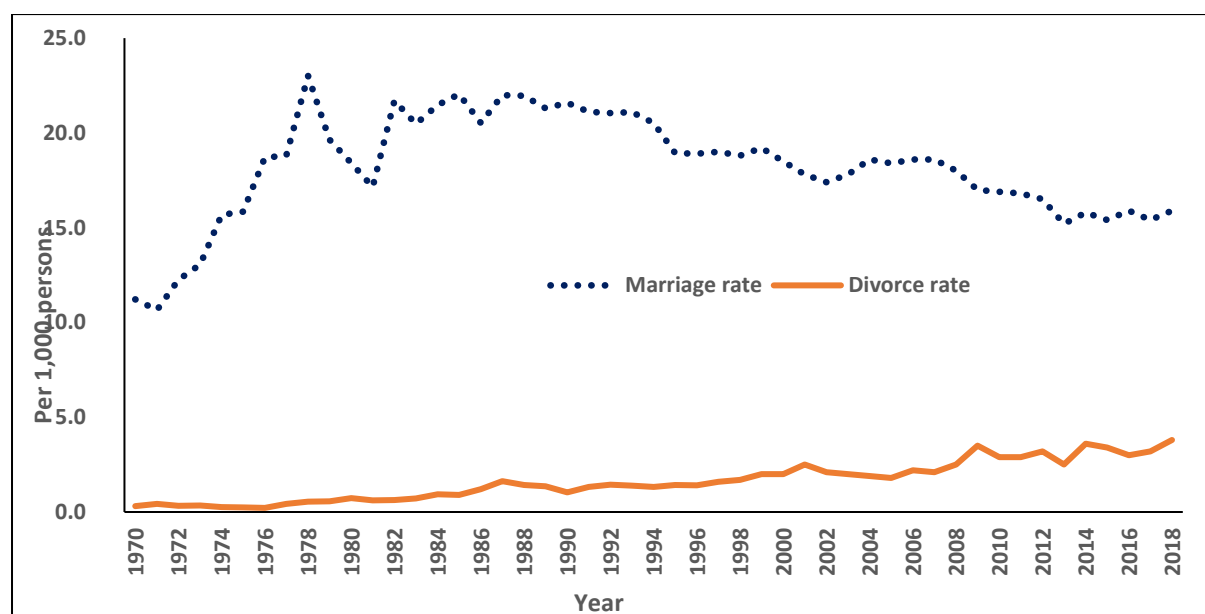


### 1.9 Fewer Marriages, More Divorces

The marriage rate (the number of persons married per 1,000 people) has been increasing while the divorce rate (number of divorced persons per 1,000 people) remained relatively stable till the late 1970s. A shift occurred in the 1980s with the marriage rate falling and the divorce rate increasing. In 1978, the marriage rate peaked to 23.0 then started declining to reach 15.9 in 2018. On the other hand, the divorce rate which was around 0.3 in the 1970s, gradually rose to reach 3.8 in 2018.



**Figure 7 – Marriage and Divorce Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1970 – 2018**



### 1.10 More unmarried parents

Marriage, as recognised by law, has long been considered to mark the formation of a family. However, the analysis of trends in family formation and dissolution based on just marriage and divorce data might not offer a full picture.

An increase in the proportion of unmarried parents was also observed. Unmarried parents, made up mostly of unmarried mothers, were on the increase from 2,100 in 2000 to 3,700 in 2011.

**Table 1 – Distribution of resident population aged 15 years and over by marital status, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 and 2011 Population Censuses**

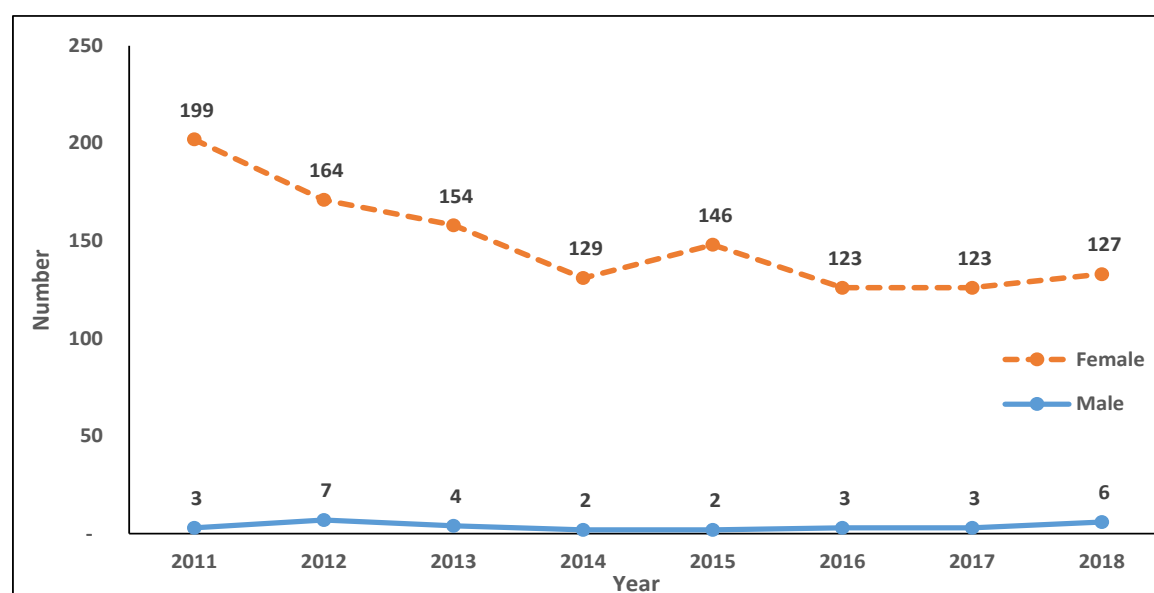
Marital Status	Census 2000 (%)	Census 2011 (%)
Single	29.2	27.4
Married/In a union	60.0	59.8
Widowed	7.5	8.2
Divorced/Separated	2.9	4.2
Unmarried parent	0.2	0.4
Other & not stated	0.2	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 1.11 Marriages of minors aged 16 years and above

The legal age of marriage in Mauritius is 18 years old as per the ‘Code Civil Mauricien’. However, boys and girls may get married as from the age of 16 with the consent of his/her parents or with the consent of one of the parents exercising ‘l’*autorité parentale*. In the absence

of the consent of parents, a Judge can grant authority to marry if the latter considers it to be in the best interest of the child. Free compulsory education up to the age of 16 is also a deterrent to child marriage. It is to be noted that child marriage is considered as a harmful practice and ending child marriage is one of the targets under SDG 5. Early marriage often reduces education and increases adolescent fertility, putting the health of mother and baby at risk.

**Figure 8 – Marriage of Minors aged 16 years and above, 2011 – 2018**



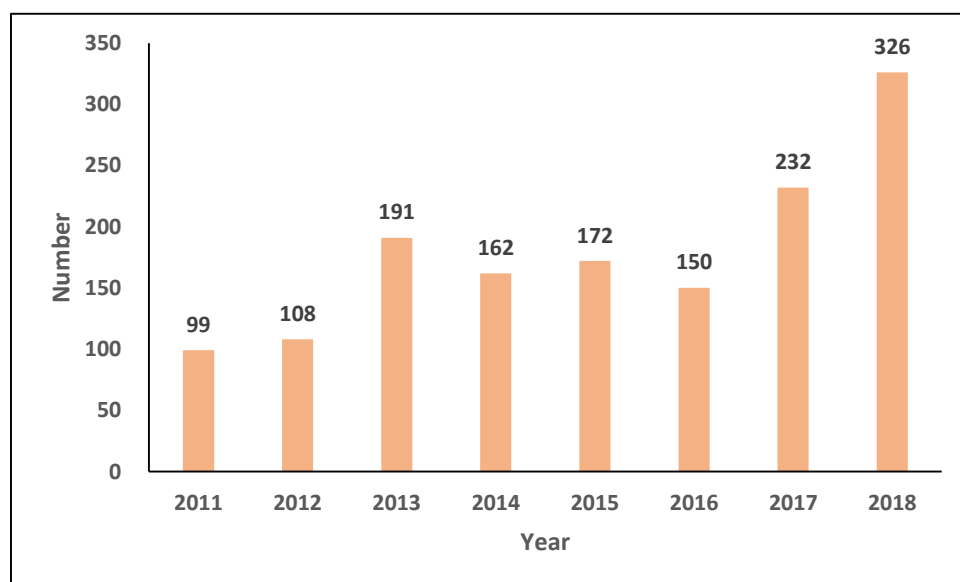
In 2018, there were 133 marriages involving minors aged 16 years and above and the vast majority were girls (127) compared to boys (6). Marriages of minors aged 16 years and above have fallen since 2011 when 202 minors were married in that year (199 girls and 3 boys).

### **1.12 Teenage Pregnancy / Teenage Mother**

Young people are becoming sexually active at an increasingly earlier age. According to the 2014 Contraceptive Prevalence Survey, 12.1% of adolescents (women aged 15-19 years) have already started childbearing. In 2018, 8.9% of all live births occurred in Mauritius, were to women aged 15-19. This is a major concern since more complications are associated with births among women below the age of 20 years.

Although knowledge of at least one method of contraceptives among women aged 15-19 years is high (94.0%), teenage pregnancy is on the rise. The number of cases of teenage pregnancy/teenage mother reported at the Child Development Unit (CDU) is on the rise in the island of Mauritius. It was 326 in 2018 compared to 99 in 2011, more than triple the number of cases.

**Figure 9 – Reported cases of teenage pregnancy/teenage mother at CDU, Island of Mauritius, 2011- 2018**



### **1.13 Services at Drop-In-Centre**

The Drop-in-Centre (DIC) was set-up at the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life in December 2003, following a study which was commissioned in 2001 by UNICEF and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare to assess the extent of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

The DIC also caters for teenagers who have fallen pregnant. In 2018, 297 cases were reported at the DIC and the following services are offered to victims, namely:

- Long Term Counselling and Therapy;
- Monthly Medical Sessions;
- Parental Counselling;
- Couple/Contraceptive Counselling;
- Monthly Home Visits to Clients;
- Focus Group Discussions;
- Echography and clinical services, include, gynecologist at MFPWA's Clinic; and
- Laboratory Tests (HIV/Pregnancy);

Other services which are offered are:

- Prevention and sensitization of adolescents/public on sexual abuse and Teenage Pregnancy; and
- Referral to other NGOs/Social aid and other institutions (as and when needed).

## **2 Health**

### **2.1 National health system**

Public health services in Mauritius are provided free of cost throughout the country. The public health services in Mauritius operate through 5 regions with separate arrangements for Rodrigues. There is a well-established private sector which provides healthcare services on a user fee basis.

The healthcare system in the public sector is best described as an interlocking set of primary, secondary and specialized healthcare institutions. Primary healthcare institutions serve a dual function. First, they provide direct provision of first-contact services. Second, they coordinate patients' health care services to ensure continuity of care.

In 2018, the Primary Health Care network, in the island of Mauritius, comprised 18 Area Health Centres, 116 Community Health Centres, 5 Medi-clinics and 2 Community hospitals. Services provided at the primary care level are increasingly comprehensive and include prevention and treatment of common diseases and injuries, basic emergency services, referrals to and coordination with other levels of care, primary maternity care and healthy child development, specialized clinics, disease prevention and screening, health promotion, surveillance of communicable diseases, reproductive health and rehabilitation services.

General curative and specialized services are provided through a network of 5 regional hospitals, 2 district hospitals, 1 eye hospital, one ear/nose/throat (ENT) hospital, 1 mental hospital, 1 chest hospital, 1 vascular centre and 1 cardiac centre. The number of beds in government health institutions was 3,691 as at end 2018.

The private health sector, which are mainly providers of curative and specialized services, comprised 19 hospitals in 2018. Bed capacity in the sector which was 517 in 2005 improved to 724 in 2018. The total number of beds in the public and private sectors as at end of 2017 was 4,415, that is, 277 inhabitants per bed.

The healthcare delivery system in Rodrigues comprises 1 main hospital, that is, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) located at Crève Coeur, Port Mathurin and 2 Area Health Centres with inpatient facilities at Mont Lubin and La Ferme. There is also a network of 14 Community Health Centres across the island, providing primary health care services including treatment of common diseases and injuries, maternal and child health care and family planning. The total number of beds in government institutions providing in-patient facilities was 171, that is, 250 inhabitants per bed.

At the end of 2018, there were 3,210 doctors registered with the Medical Council of the Republic of Mauritius, that is, 25.4 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants.

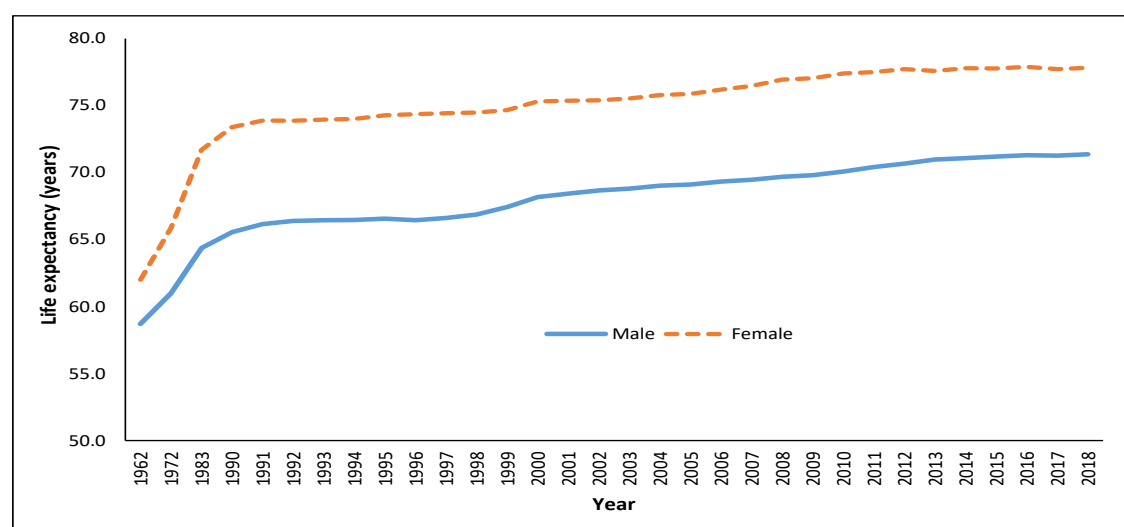
The general state of health of both men and women has been improving over the years. The statistics presented below show that people are living longer and fewer children die in their first year.

## 2.2 Women live longer than men

Life expectancy at birth is a summary indicator of mortality conditions and it is one of the most frequently used indicators to measure the health status of a population. A lower mortality rate among women means that they live nearly seven years longer than men. In 2018, a newborn boy can expect to live to 71 years, whereas a girl can expect to reach 78 years of age.

Female life expectancy at birth was 7 years higher than for men in 2018, compared to 3 years in 1962 in the Republic of Mauritius. The smaller gap in the 1960's may be due to high mortality prevailing at that time. Over time, the gap has widened reaching a peak of 8.0 years in 1996, after which it fell down to 6.7 in 2003. A slight increase to 7.3 was noted in 2010.

**Figure 10 – Life Expectancy at birth, Republic of Mauritius, 1962 – 2018**

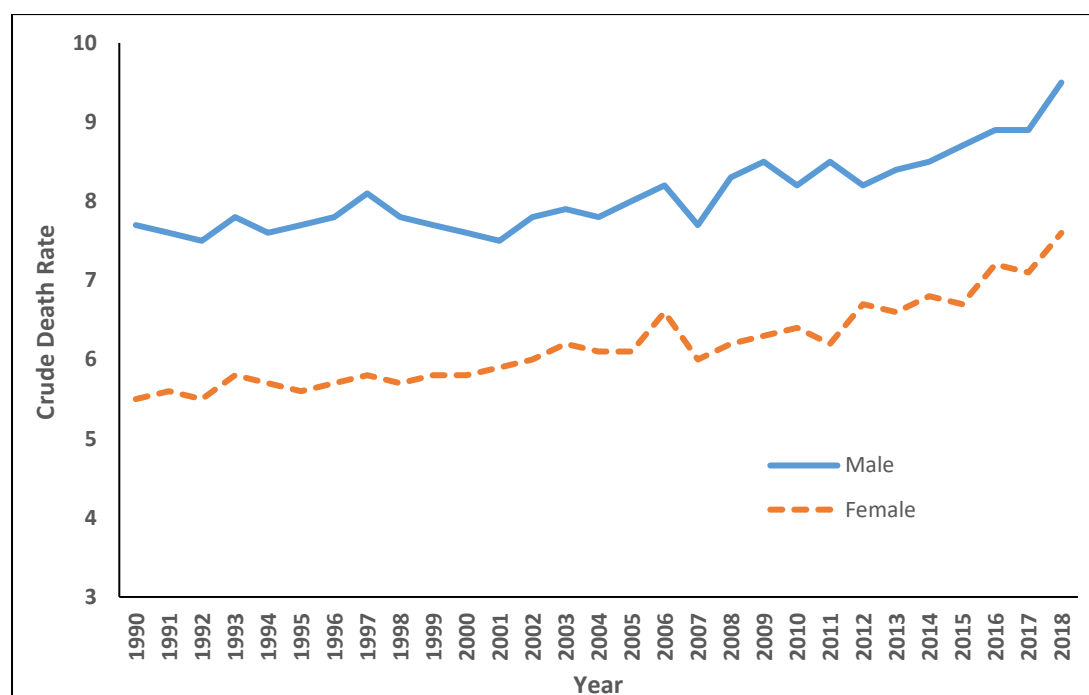


According to population projections from 2018, life expectancy is expected to increase. Projections suggest that a boy born in 2058 will have a life expectancy of 75.3 years and a girl 79.8 years. The gender gap in 2018 stood at 6.5 years and it is expected to reduce to 4.5 years in 2058.

## 2.3 Women have lower mortality rate than men

With an ageing population, an increasing trend was observed in the death rate of both women and men. However, even though there are more women than men in the population, a lower mortality rate was observed for women than for men. In 2018, 4,848 women compared to 5,939 men died. The crude death rate in 2018 was 7.6 for women and 9.5 for men.

**Figure 11 – Crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1990 – 2018**



#### **2.4 Diabetes was the leading cause of mortality for women**

In the past, heart disease was the most prominent cause of death among women and men. In 2018, diabetes mellitus, more commonly known as diabetes, was the leading cause of death among women, while for men heart disease was most common. Diabetes was responsible for nearly 21.6% of all female deaths and 19.6% of all male deaths. Heart disease was responsible for 20.5% of male deaths and 19% of female deaths. Cancer was responsible for 14.5% of female deaths and 11.4% of male deaths. Breast and uterus cancers (36.5%) were more common among women while lung and prostate cancers (28.4%) were common among men.

#### **2.5 Men are more exposed to accidents**

As regards external causes of death, no major changes have occurred over the last 18 years, either among women or men. More men than women die in traffic accidents, accidental drowning, injuries, poisoning, smoke and fire and suicide. In 2018, 44 women died in accidents compared to 179 men.

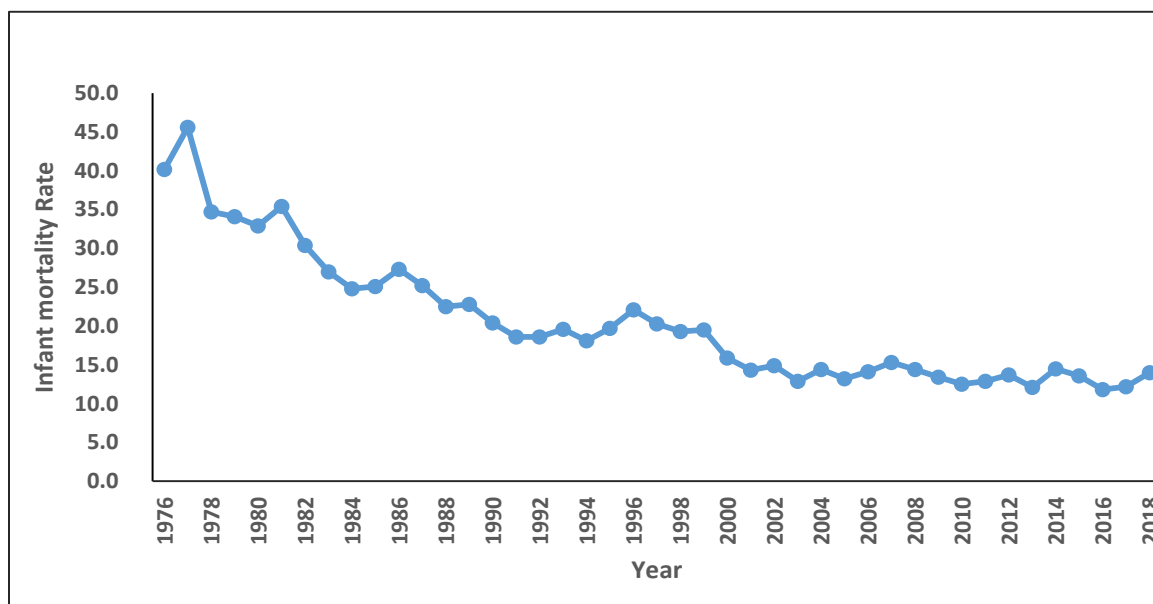
**Table 2 – Causes of death, Republic of Mauritius, 1999 and 2018**

Cause of death	1999		2018	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Diabetes mellitus	720	717	1,164	1,045
Heart disease	936	724	1,220	923
Hypertensive Disease	94	130	305	353
Cerebrovascular disease	410	334	494	471
Neoplasm:	394	356	677	704
<i>of which: Breast cancer (malignant)</i>	-	63	6	173
<i>Uterus cancer (malignant)</i>	n/a	59	n/a	84
Diseases of the respiratory system	468	296	691	560
<i>of which: Pneumonia</i>	148	104	155	154
<i>Asthma and Bronchitis</i>	107	84	121	73
Diseases of liver	215	37	131	26
Maternal death	n/a	7	n/a	5
Injury, poisoning, accident and other external causes	407	152	418	128
<i>of which: Accident</i>	220	69	179	44
<i>Suicide</i>	122	54	80	27
Other	862	685	839	633
<b>Total</b>	4,506	3,438	5,939	4,848

*Source: Ministry of Health & Quality of Life*

## 2.6 Infant mortality rate on a decreasing trend

Figure 12 – Infant Mortality Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1976 – 2018



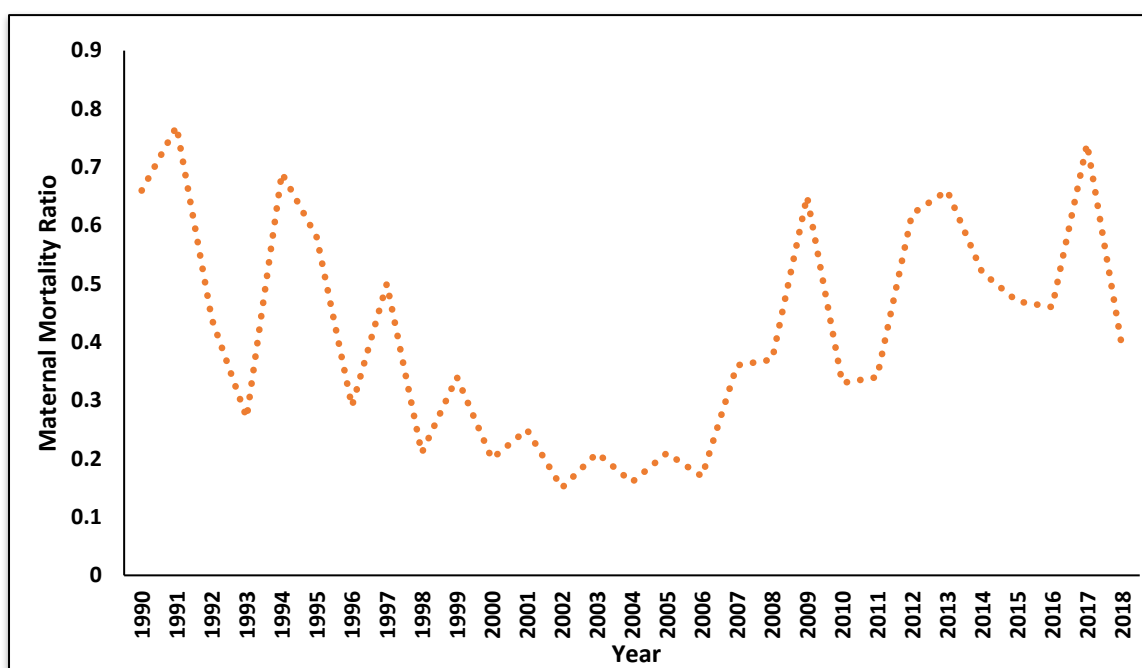
The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, decreased significantly from 50.0 in 1975 to 14.0 in 2018, indicating improvements made in reducing child mortality. It is to be noted that a Neonatal Intensive Care Service was opened at Victoria Hospital in May 1999. The Infant Mortality Rate fell from 19.2 in 1999 to 15.8 in 2000 and 13.9 in 2001 and then to 12.2 in 2017. However, the infant mortality rate rose to 14.0 in 2018.

## 2.7 Maternal mortality on the rise

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 1990 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 0.66 in 2013, but then decreased to reach 0.46 in 2016. In 2017, the maternal mortality ratio increased again to reach 0.74, but then decreased to 0.39 in 2018.



**Figure 13 – Maternal Mortality Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 1990 – 2018**



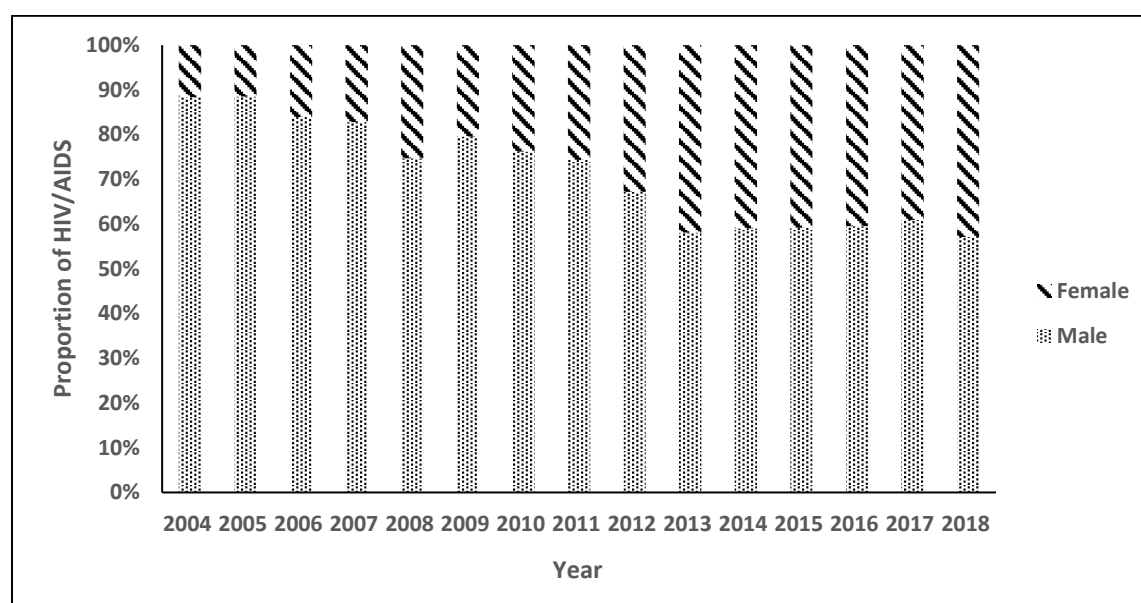
## 2.8 Men are more likely than women to be infected with HIV/AIDS

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), if not treated. Unlike some other viruses, the human body can't get rid of HIV completely, even with treatment. So once someone get HIV, they have it for life. HIV attacks the body's immune system making the person more likely to get other infections.

In the Republic of Mauritius, the first case of AIDS was notified in October 1987. As at end of 2018, a total of 7,712 cases of HIV/AIDS were detected, of whom 7,421 (5,503 males, 1,918 females) were Mauritians.

Figure 14 shows that the proportion of new cases of HIV/AIDS registered among Mauritians was consistently higher for men compared to women. However, an increasing trend in the number of new cases for women was observed from 2004 to 2013. From 2013 to 2018, the proportion of new cases for women oscillated at around 40%.

**Figure 14- Proportion of new cases of HIV/AIDS registered, Rep. of Mauritius, 2004 – 2018**



HIV is transmitted through body fluids such as blood, semen, breast milk and this can happen in several ways:

1. Blood Transmission

- Injecting drug with needles, syringes or other injection equipment with someone who has HIV.
- From being stuck with a needle or cut with a sharp object that contains HIV-positive blood.
- From getting a blood transfusion.

2. Sexual Transmission

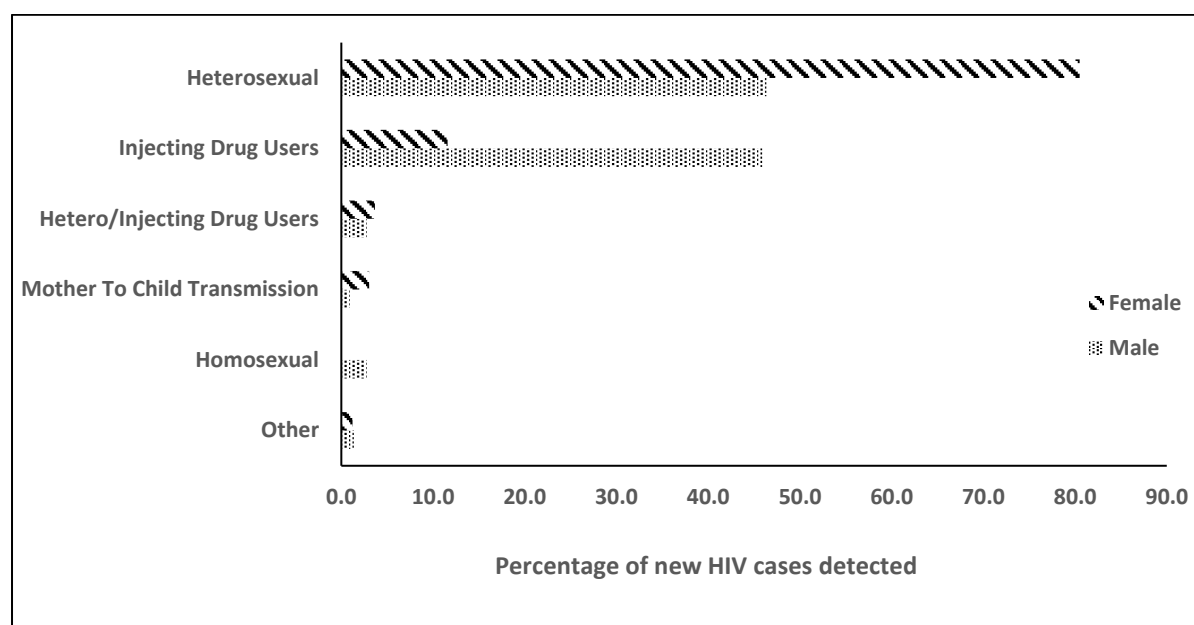
- From vaginal or anal sex with someone who has HIV, while not using a condom.

3. Mother to Child Transmission

- From mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding.

Unsafe sex was the leading risk factor in transmitting HIV/AIDS among women whereas men have a higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS when injecting drug with needles, syringes or other injection equipment. In 2018, out of the 164 new HIV/AIDS cases detected among females, 81% was due to heterosexual as mode of transmission and 12% to drug injection. As regards males, among the 218 new cases, the mode of transmission was 42% for heterosexual and 42% through drug injection.

**Figure 15–Proportion of new cases of HIV/AIDS by mode of transmission, Rep. of Mauritius, 2018**



## 2.9 Family Planning and Contraceptive Use

Family planning helps save women's and children's lives by avoiding unintended pregnancies. An unintended or unwanted pregnancy may be a pregnancy too early in life, too soon after a previous pregnancy, or after having reached the desired family size.

Family planning services are provided by government and two NGOs, namely the Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association (MFPWA) and Action Familiale. Government family planning services are available to individuals and couples, free of user cost, through an extensive network of health service points since late 60s. The MFPWA was set up in 1957 by some volunteers. The family planning programme was integrated with the government Maternal and Child Health Programme in 1972, and thereafter, the MFPWA has continued to run a family planning clinic where contraceptive methods and counselling services are offered. Moreover, the 'Action Familiale', which was established in 1963, has been promoting use of natural family planning methods and has been providing counselling services.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 62,528 current users who were registered at the family planning service points of government, MFPWA and Action Familiale in the Republic of Mauritius. Sympto-thermal was the most preferred method among the current users accounting for 44%, followed by tubal ligation (23%), male condom (11%), pill (10%) and injectable (6%).

**Table 3 – Current users of family planning method, Republic of Mauritius, 2018**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Current Users</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Pill	6,400	10.2
Male Condom	7,028	11.2
Intra-Uterine Device (IUD)	2,026	3.2
Injectable	3,878	6.2
Sympto Thermal	27,551	44.1
Tubal Ligation	14,417	23.1
Implant	1,228	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,528</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The Contraceptive Prevalence Survey, which was carried out in 2014, showed that the contraceptive prevalence rate for currently married women age 15-49 years was 63.8 percent in the Island of Mauritius. There was an almost equal proportion of currently married women age 15-49 years are using modern methods<sup>1</sup> (32.0 percent) and traditional methods<sup>2</sup> (31.8 percent).

This survey revealed that women in the reproductive age group 15-49 years were obtaining their contraceptive method either from programme sources (government and NGOs) or from non-programme sources (e.g. pills from pharmacies) or were using non-programme methods (such as withdrawal). The findings showed that withdrawal (28.5 percent) was the most commonly used method among currently married women age 15-49 years followed by male condom (10.6 percent), pill (8.9 percent) and tubal ligation (7.3 percent).

The 2014 survey also revealed that unmet need for family planning<sup>3</sup> in Mauritius was 12.5% among currently married women age 15-49 years. Moreover, 62.4% of women with unmet need for family planning do not intend to use a contraceptive method in the future.

<sup>1</sup> Modern methods: Tubal ligation; vasectomy; pill; 1-month or 3-month injectable; IUD; male condom; female condom; diaphragm; foaming tablet; implant; contraceptive patch; emergency contraceptive pill; sympto-thermal; mucus and temperature.

<sup>2</sup>Traditional methods: Withdrawal; calendar; and cycle beads.

<sup>3</sup>Unmet need for family planning is defined as the percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49), either married or in a union, who have an unmet need for family planning. Women with unmet need are those who want to stop or delay childbearing but are not using any method of contraception.

Source: United Nations

## **2.10 Antenatal Care**

The 2014 Contraceptive Prevalence Survey revealed that almost all women (98.1%) received antenatal care for their last live born child from a health professional. The majority (76.4%) received care from the public sector, 12.3% from the private sector and 11.3% received care from both the public and private sector simultaneously. 77.7% of women received regular antenatal care (i.e. they made four or more visits to a provider).

## **3 Education**

### **3.1 Overview of the education system**

Mauritius introduced in 2017, the nine year continuous basic education across six years of primary education and the first three years of lower secondary education. The new education structure consists of the following 4 stages, namely: (1) Early Childhood Care and Education – duration 2 years (ages 3-4 years), (2) Basic Education – duration 9 years (ages 5-14 years), (3) Post Basic Education/Upper Secondary – duration 4 years (ages 14-18 years), and (4) Post-Secondary and Higher Education – duration at least two years (above 18 years).

After two years in pre-primary schools, all children aged 5 years enter primary schools for the first six years of basic education (Grades 1-6). At the end of six years, students take part in the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) and then move on for three years of Lower Secondary education (Grades 7-9) and hence complete the nine year cycle of basic education.

From there onwards, after the National Certificate of Education examination, learners will opt to pursue their secondary schooling in either general or technical education. Those opting for the general education will spend two years of Upper Secondary (Grades 10-11), after which they sit for the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) examination. Passing the SC examination allows them to continue another two-year study (Grades 12-13) ending with the Cambridge Higher School Certificate (HSC) examination. Students passing the HSC examination can pursue their study in a tertiary education institutions either in Mauritius or overseas.

### **3.2 Expenditure on education**

Government expenditure on education and training for the financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 are estimated at Rs 17,708 million and Rs 18,176 million, representing 12.6% and 12.1% of total expenditure respectively.

### 3.3 Literacy gap between men and women is narrowing

Between 2000 and 2011, the literacy rate of the population aged 12 years and above improved (Table 4). The improvement was higher among females as indicated by a decrease in the gender gap from 7.2 to 5.0 percentage points.

**Table 4 – Literacy Rates, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 and 2011 Population Censuses**

Sex	2000	2011	Difference
Male	88.7	92.3	+3.6
Female	81.5	87.3	+5.8
<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>+4.8</b>

### 3.4 Boys and girls are equally likely to go to pre-primary and primary schools

The pre-primary school population in the Republic of Mauritius was 26,183 in 2018. Boys represented 51% of the 2018 pre-primary school population and girls 49%. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (pre-primary enrolment as a percentage of the population aged 4 to 5 years) was 95 % for boys compared to 97% for girls.

Gender Parity Index (GPI) measures progress towards gender parity in education participation and learning opportunities available to girls in relation to those available to boys. A GPI equal to 1 indicates no disparity between girls and boys. A value less than 1 indicates disparity in favour of boys and a value greater than 1 indicates disparity in favour of girls. Table 5 shows that there is no disparity between boys and girls with regards to enrolment at pre-primary level.

**Table 5 – Gross Enrolment Ratio (4-5 years) at pre-primary level, Rep. of Mauritius, 1998 – 2018**

Year	Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)		Gender Parity Index
	Male	Female	
<b>1998</b>	98	98	1.00
<b>2003</b>	99	99	1.00
<b>2008</b>	95	97	1.03
<b>2013</b>	99	97	0.99
<b>2018</b>	95	97	1.02

The primary school population in the Republic of Mauritius was 89,642 in 2018. Boys represented 50% of the 2018 primary school population, same as for girls. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (primary enrolment as a percentage of the population aged 6 to 11 years) was 96 % for boys and 97% for girls.

Table 6 below shows that boys and girls alike have access to primary education.

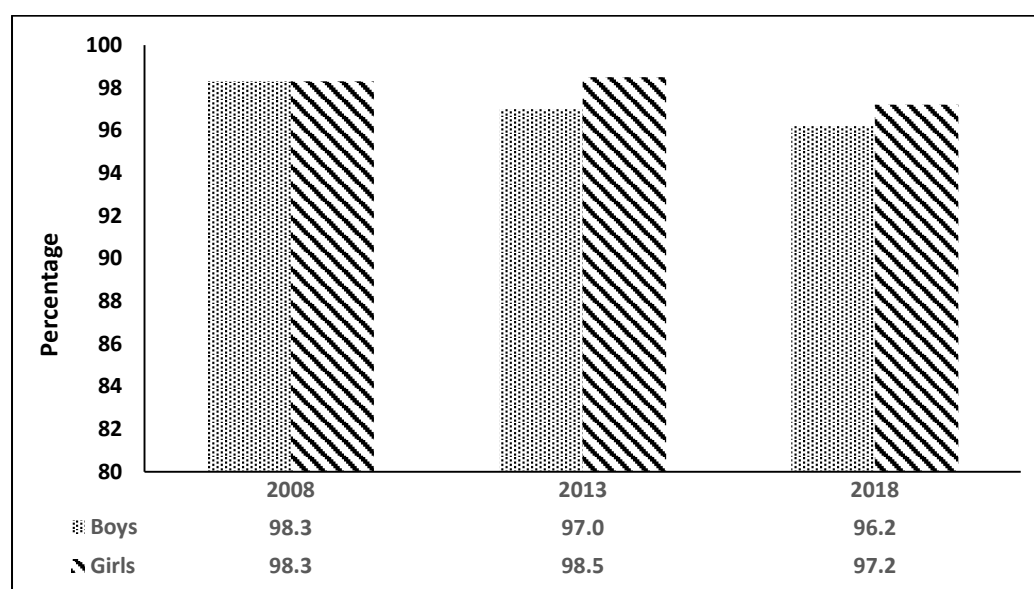
**Table 6 – Gross Enrolment Ratio (6-11 years) at primary level, Rep. of Mauritius, 1998 – 2018**

Year	Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)		Gender Parity Index
	Male	Female	
<b>1998</b>	105	106	1.01
<b>2003</b>	103	103	1.00
<b>2008</b>	101	99	0.99
<b>2013</b>	97	98	1.01
<b>2018</b>	96	97	1.01

### **3.5 A slightly higher proportion of girls complete basic education (primary) than boys**

In 2018, the proportion of girls starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 6 was 97.2%, slightly higher than boys with 96.2%.

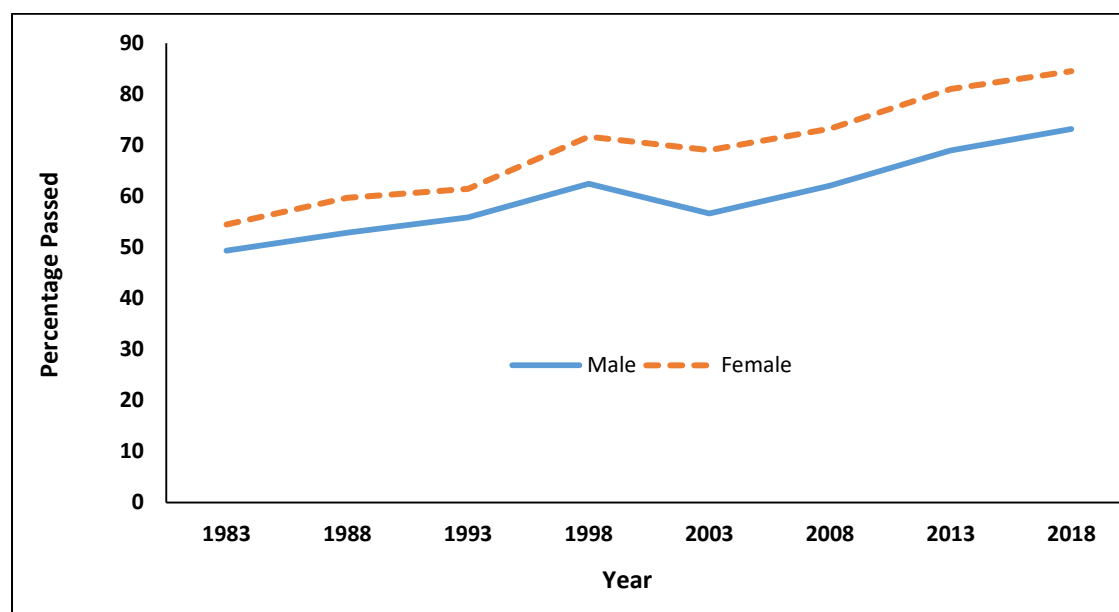
**Figure 16 – Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 6, Rep. of Mauritius, 2008 – 2018**



### 3.6 Girls perform better than boys in PSAC examinations

At the end of primary, girls generally perform better than boys at the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) examinations. In 2018, the pass rate for girls was nearly 85% against 73% for boys.

**Figure 17 – PSAC (formerly CPE) Pass Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1983 – 2018**



### 3.7 Girls are more likely to be enrolled than boys at secondary level

At secondary level, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) was higher for girls than for boys. The 2018 Gross Enrolment Ratio (secondary enrolment as a percentage of the population aged 12 to 19 years) was 80% for girls against 74% for boys. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in secondary enrolment was 1.1 in 2018 showing a disparity in favour of girls.

**Table 7 – Gross Enrolment Ratio (12-19 yrs.) at secondary level, Rep. of Mauritius, 1998 – 2018**

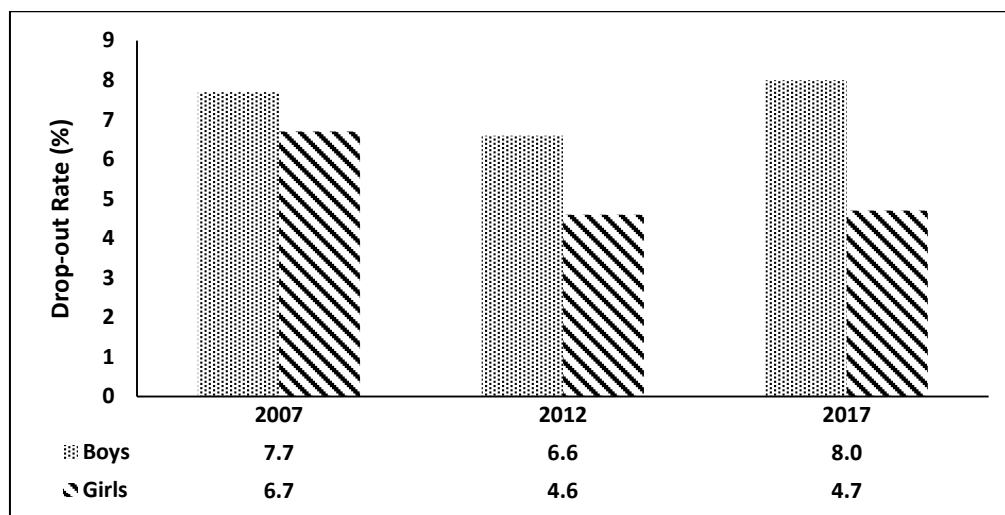
Year	Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)		Gender Parity Index
	Male	Female	
1998	54	58	1.07
2003	63	70	1.11
2008	71	76	1.07
2013	77	81	1.05
2018	74	80	1.08



### 3.8 Girls are less likely than boys to drop out

Girls are less likely than boys to drop out from secondary academic stream, 5% against 8% in 2017.

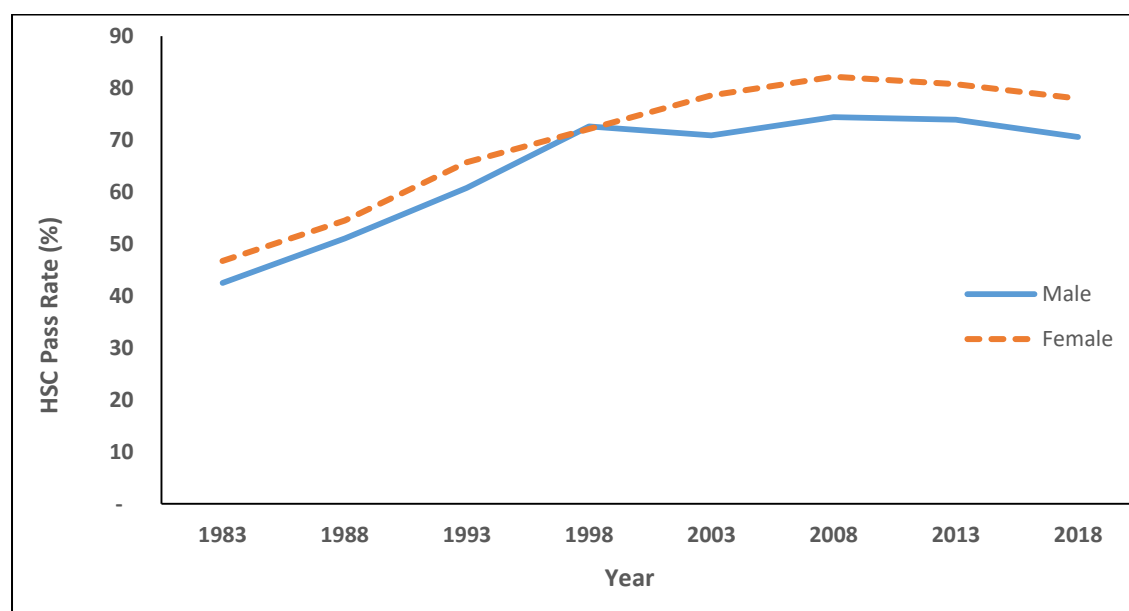
**Figure 18–Drop-out Rate (%) in secondary schools (general), Rep. of Mauritius, 2007-2017**



### 3.9 Girls perform better than boys in SC and HSC examinations

Regarding performance in examinations at secondary level, it was observed that girls were more successful than boys. For the 2018 School Certificate (SC) examinations, girls recorded a higher pass rate, 74% against 68%. The pass rate for girls at the Higher School Certificate (HSC) for 2018 was 78% against 71% for boys.

**Figure 19 – HSC Pass Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1983 – 2018**

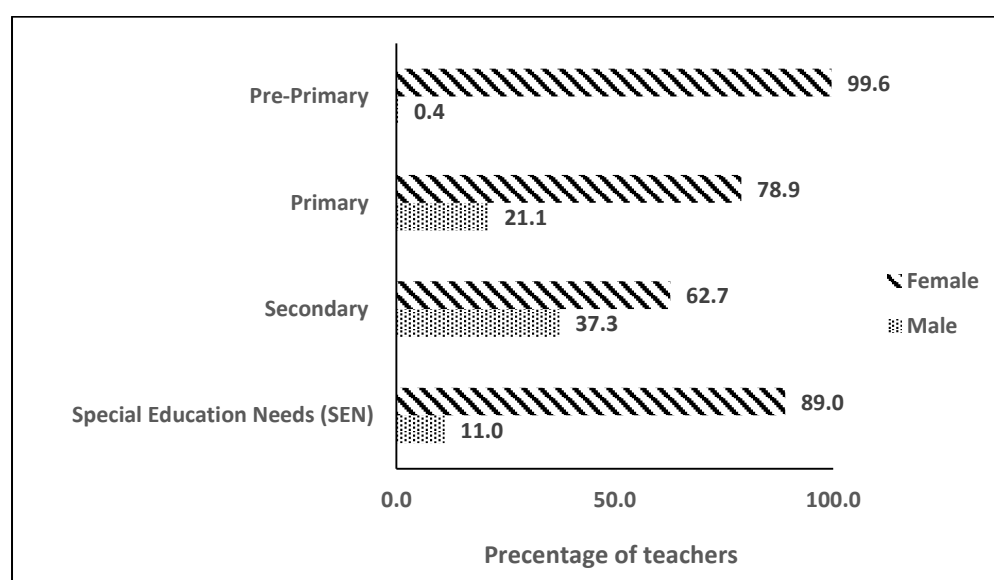


### 3.10 More women than men in the staff room

Teachers play an important role in society – they educate, nurture and shape the thinking of the future citizens, parents and contribute to developing the human capital of the country. In Mauritius, teaching is a female-dominated profession from pre-primary to secondary. However, the proportion of female teachers decreases as the level increases.

The pre-primary teaching sector is overwhelmingly represented by female teachers. In 2018, out of the 2,115 pre-primary school teachers, only 8 were male. Women also dominated the primary school sector. Nearly 79% of teachers in the primary sector were female and at secondary level, the proportion decreased to 63%.

**Figure 20 – Proportion of teachers by level, Republic of Mauritius, 2018**



### 3.11 Girls less likely to enroll for technical and vocational education

In 2018, there were 6,973 students (of whom 73.8% were males) enrolled in publicly funded technical and vocational courses compared to 7,603 in 2017. Some 37.6 % of the students were enrolled in full-time courses, 43.1% in part-time courses and the rest (19.3%) in apprenticeship courses (Table 8).

**Table 8- Enrolment in Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) Centres, 2018**

Sex	Mode of Study			Total
	Full Time	Part Time	Apprenticeship	
Male	2,035	2,244	869	<b>5,148</b>
Female	584	761	480	<b>1,825</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,619</b>	<b>3,005</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>6,973</b>

For the full time courses, there were only 22.3% of girls (Table 9).

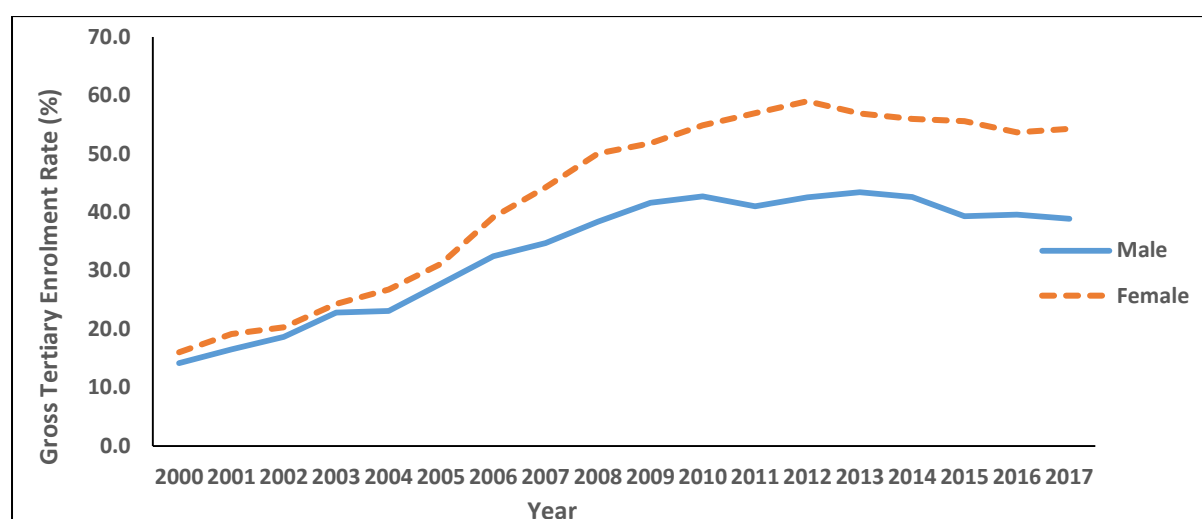
**Table 9 - Enrolment in MITD Centres by course level, year of study and sex (Full Time), 2018**

Course Level	Male	Female	Total
National Certificate Level 2	72	32	104
National Trade Certificate Level 3	9	10	19
National Certificate Level 3	371	166	537
National Certificate Level 4	806	115	921
National Certificate Level 5	75	24	99
Brevet De Technicien	339	3	342
Diploma	255	125	380
Higher National Diploma	108	109	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>2,619</b>

### **3.12 Girls are more likely to be enrolled than boys at tertiary level**

From 2000 to 2012, participation in tertiary education for both boys and girls has increased but with a widening gap in favour of girls. Tertiary enrolment, as measured by Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate (GTER), rose from 16 per cent in 2000 to 59 per cent in 2012 for girls, then started to decline to reach 54 per cent in 2017. A similar pattern is observed for boys, the GTER rose from 14 per cent in 2000 to attain a peak of 43 per cent in 2013 then reached 39 per cent in 2017. In 2017, women enrolled in public, private and overseas tertiary institutions numbered 27,655, representing 58% of the student population which stood at 48,007.

**Figure 21 – Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate (GTER), Republic of Mauritius, 2000 -2017**



### 3.13 Fewer women than men in research

Even though female participation in tertiary education surpasses male participation in almost all levels, women were underrepresented in the more advance degree programmes (PhD, MPhil and DBA), 235 women against 285 men. As a result, there were fewer women than men in research.

**Table10-Enrolment<sup>1</sup> in tertiary institutions by level, Republic of Mauritius, 2017**

Level	Male	Female
PhD	164	133
MPhil	82	87
DBA <sup>2</sup>	39	15
Masters Degree	1,816	2,015
Post Graduate Diploma	51	42
Post Graduate Certificate	190	505
Professional	2,527	3,486
Bachelor Degree	8,298	11,431
Diploma	1,111	1,582
Certificate	153	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,431</b>	<b>19,696</b>

<sup>1</sup>Enrolment in public and private institutions, excluding overseas students

<sup>2</sup> Doctor of Business Administration

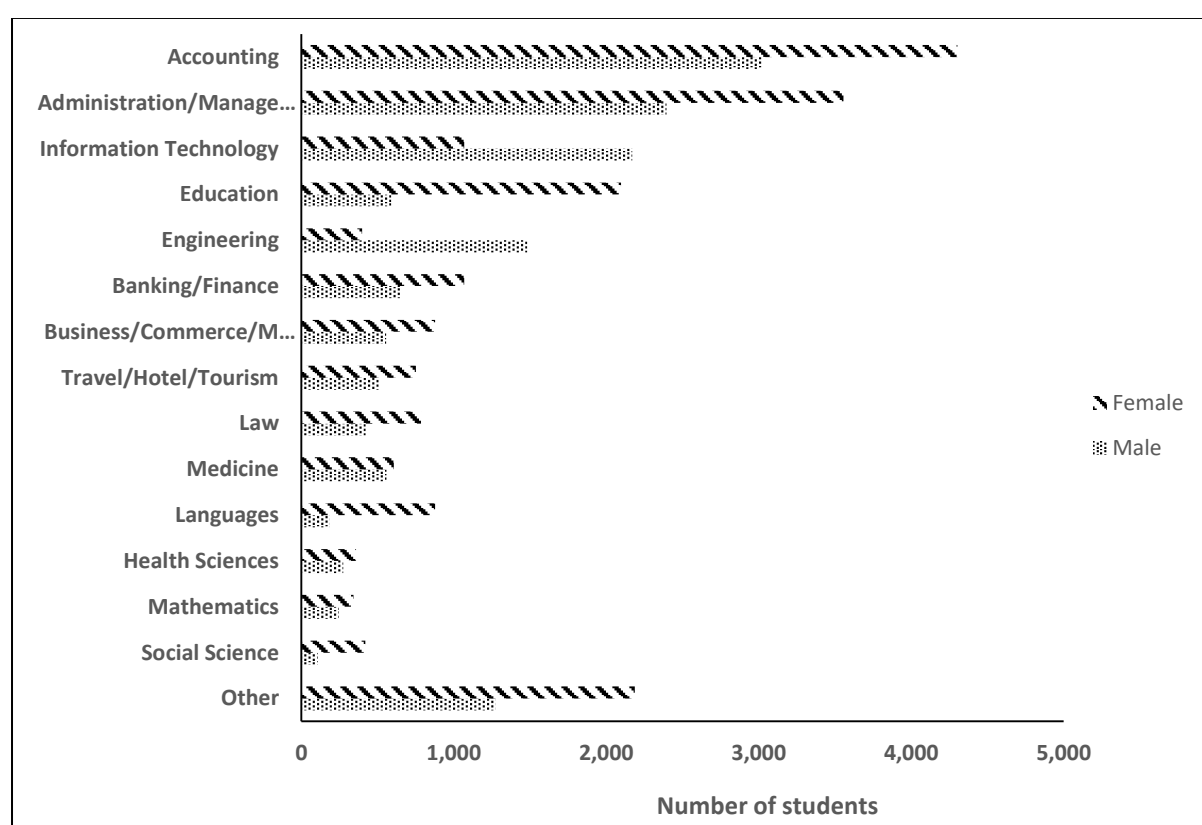
Source: Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)

### 3.14 Women were underrepresented in science-related fields

Accounting and Administration/Management were the most popular field of study for both men (21% and 17% respectively) and women (22% and 18% respectively). Information Technology was the third most popular subject for men (15%) followed by Engineering (10%). Education was the third choice for women (11%).

Women were underrepresented in science related fields such as Engineering (21% against 79%) and Information Technology (33% against 67%) whereas men were underrepresented in Education (22% against 78%) and Languages (17% against 83%).

**Figure 22 – Number of student enrolled<sup>1</sup> in tertiary institutions, 2017**



<sup>1</sup> Enrolment in local public and private institutions, excluding overseas students

## 4 Employment and work

### 4.1 Employment

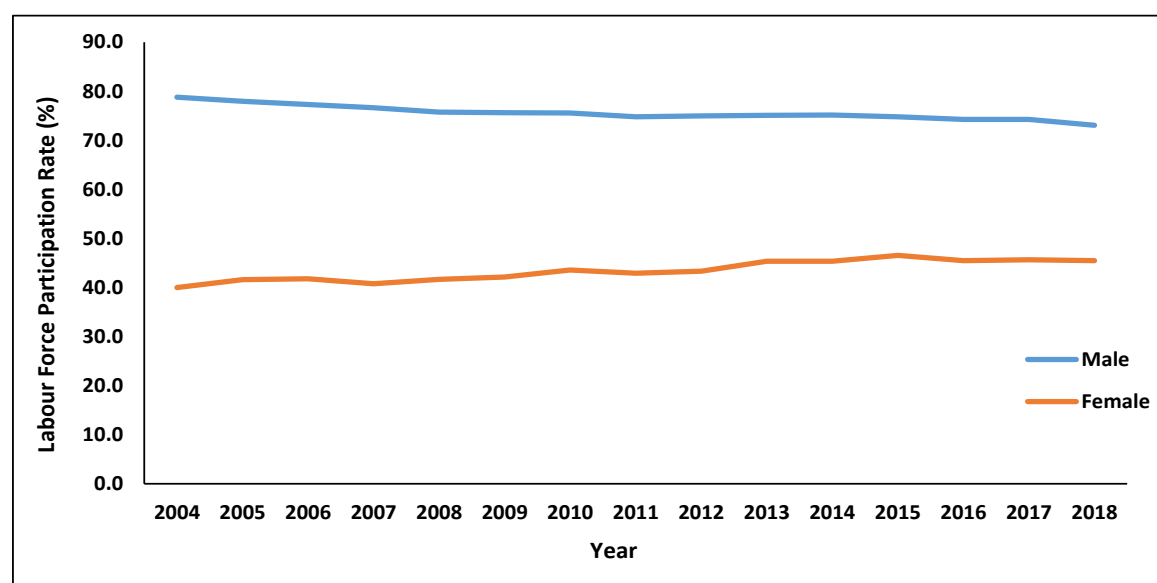
Labour force is made up of employed and unemployed population. Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16 years and above (16+) who have worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during a week. Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 16+ who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work. Around

583,800 people aged 16 years and above made up the labour force in Mauritius. There were 231,000 (39%) women and 352,800 (61%) men in the labour force in 2018.

#### 4.2 Women are less likely than men to participate in the labour force

While women's participation in the labour force has increased over the last decade, it is still below that of men. However, these gender differences in participation rates have been narrowing over time (figure 23). In 2018, the labour force participation rate for women - at around 46 per cent - was nearly 28 percentage points lower than the rate for men.

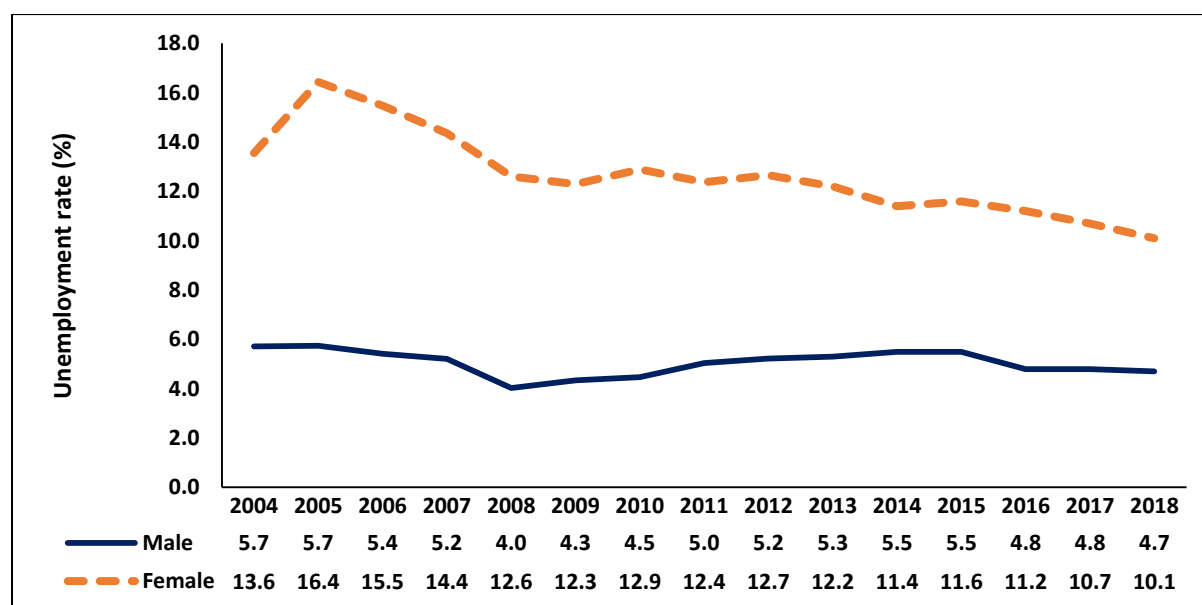
**Figure 23 – Labour Force Participation Rate (%), 2004 – 2018**



#### 4.3 Unemployment

Unemployed people are those who have no job but are seeking and available for work. From 2004 to 2018, unemployment rate for women was higher than that for men. However, the gender gap in unemployment is decreasing due to a declining trend in the unemployment rate for women while that for men remaining fairly stable at around 5%. In 2018, there were 23,400 unemployed women compared to 16,700 men. Female unemployment rate stood at 10.1%, much higher than the rate of 4.7% for male.

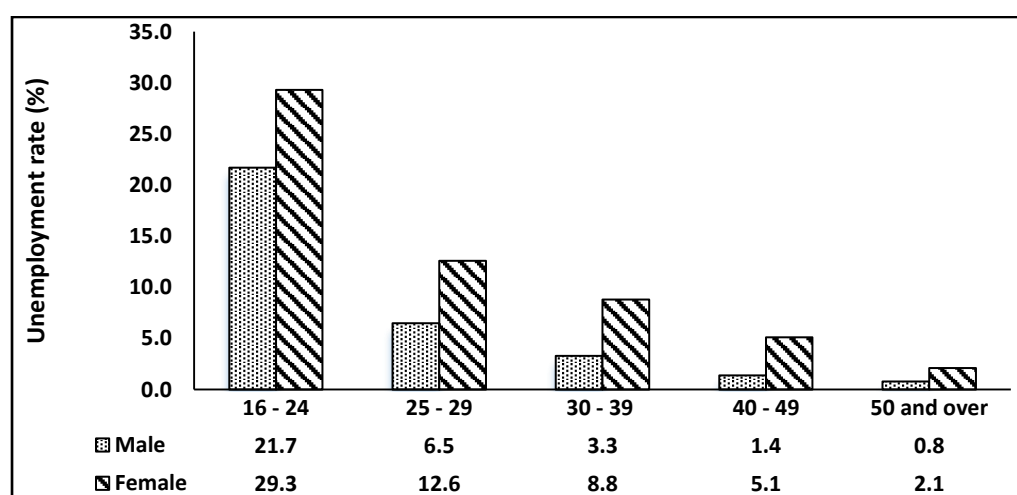
**Figure 24 – Unemployment Rate (%), 2004 – 2018**



#### 4.4 Young women are more likely to be unemployed than young men

In 2018, around 29 per cent of young women aged 16 to 24 years were unemployed compared to 22 per cent of young men; the difference was nearly 7 percentage points. Also, unemployment was more prevalent among young persons aged 16 to 24 years than among adults aged 25 and older. In 2018, the unemployment rate for young women aged 16 to 24 years was three times higher than women aged 30 to 39 years. Higher unemployment among young people, especially women, may be attributed to several factors, including lack of job experience and skills mismatch.

**Figure 25 – Unemployment Rate (%) by age-group, 2018**



Government has taken several initiatives to reduce unemployment, especially for youth and women, namely the Youth Employment Programme, the Back to Work Programme and the Dual Training Programme.

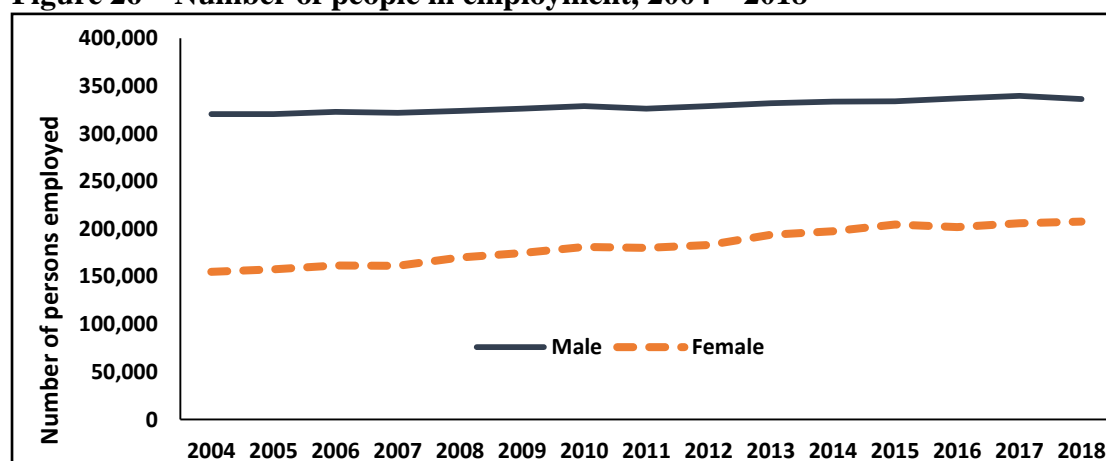
The Youth Employment Programme (YEP) which started in 2013 is meant for unemployed youth aged between 16 and 35 years and provides them with training and placement in an enterprise for an initial period of one year with the possibility of one additional year of placement with another enterprise. The Programme provides for the payment of a monthly stipend to the youth and 50% of the stipend is refunded to the employer by Government as well as 50% of the training cost up to a maximum of Rs 7,500 per youth.

The Back to Work Programme (BTWP) which was launched in June 2015 is meant for women above 35 years of age to enable them take up or resume employment. The Programme provides for the placement of women in a job for an initial period of one year following which they may be employed. During the placement period, the women will be paid a stipend of Rs 5,000 and will get the opportunity of following training in a registered institution. Employers enrolling women on placement under the Programme will be refunded the training cost up to a maximum of Rs 7,500 per woman as well as the stipend for the placement period

The Dual Training Programme (DTP), launched in June 2015 provides for unemployed Mauritians to follow a Diploma or Degree Course with a tertiary institution registered with either the Tertiary Education Commission or the Mauritius Qualifications Authority in fields required by the labour market, with placement in an enterprise. Under the Programme, trainees were paid a monthly stipend of Rs 6,000 for a maximum period of three years. As for employers, they were refunded 50% of the course fees or Rs 50,000 whichever is the lower, per year per trainee as well as the stipend for a maximum of three years. After satisfactory completion of the course, the trainees would be employed.

The number of women working has been increasing gradually. In 2018, an estimated 207,600 women compared to 336,100 men were in employment.

**Figure 26 – Number of people in employment, 2004 – 2018**

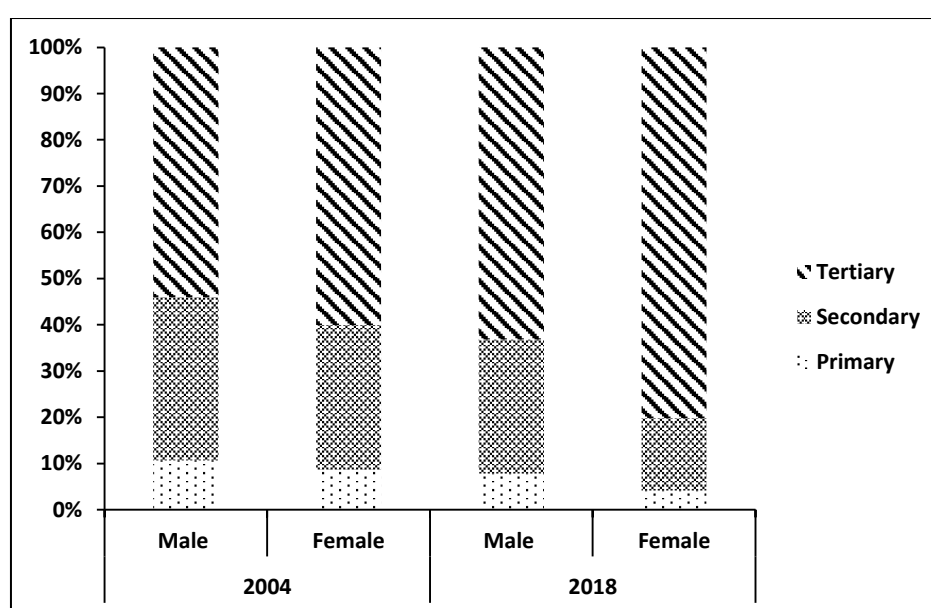




#### 4.5 For both women and men, employment in the services sector keeps growing

Overtime, the tertiary sector has become increasingly important as a source of employment for both women and men. In 2018, 80 per cent of employed women and 63 per cent of employed men were engaged in this sector. On the other hand, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining overtime. In the primary sector, employment during the period 2004 to 2018 went down by 35 per cent for women and 23 per cent for men due to a decline in the agricultural sector. During the same period, the secondary sector has declined in importance as a source of employment, more so for women than for men. In fact, the decrease was 33 per cent for women compared to 13 per cent for men mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector.

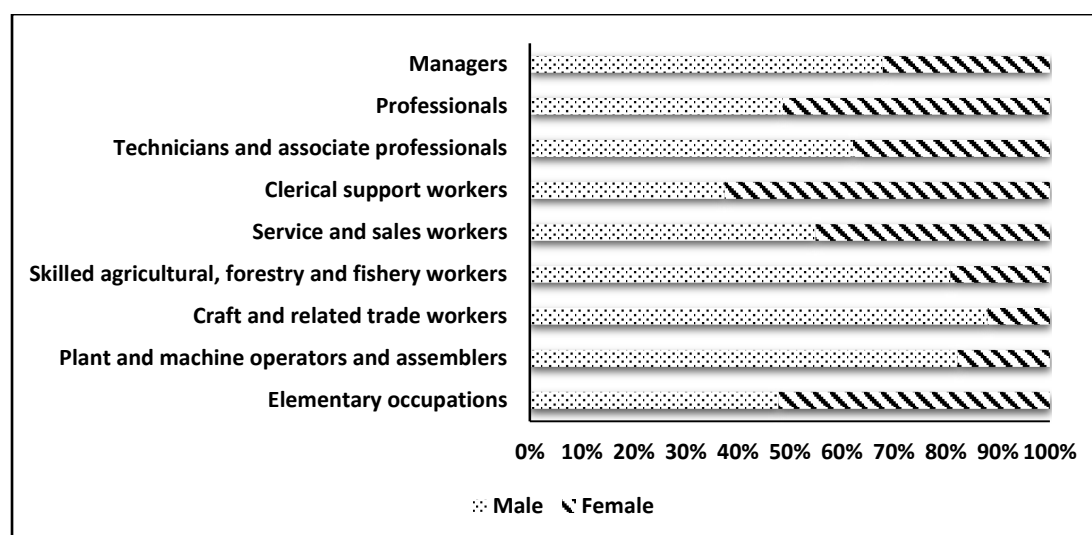
**Figure 27 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2004 & 2018**



#### 4.6 Women are less likely than men to be managers

An analysis of employment segregation for women and men in the labour market at occupational level shows that women were more concentrated in certain types of jobs than others. In 2018, nearly 61% of women in employment were engaged as service and sales workers, clerical support workers or in elementary occupations. The largest occupation group for both women and men was “service and sales workers” with 50,800 women and 62,000 men employed. The most male-dominated occupation was “craft and related trade workers” where men held nearly 88% of the jobs. Women held a 32% share of management and a 51% share in professional positions.

**Figure 28 – Employment by occupational group, 2018**

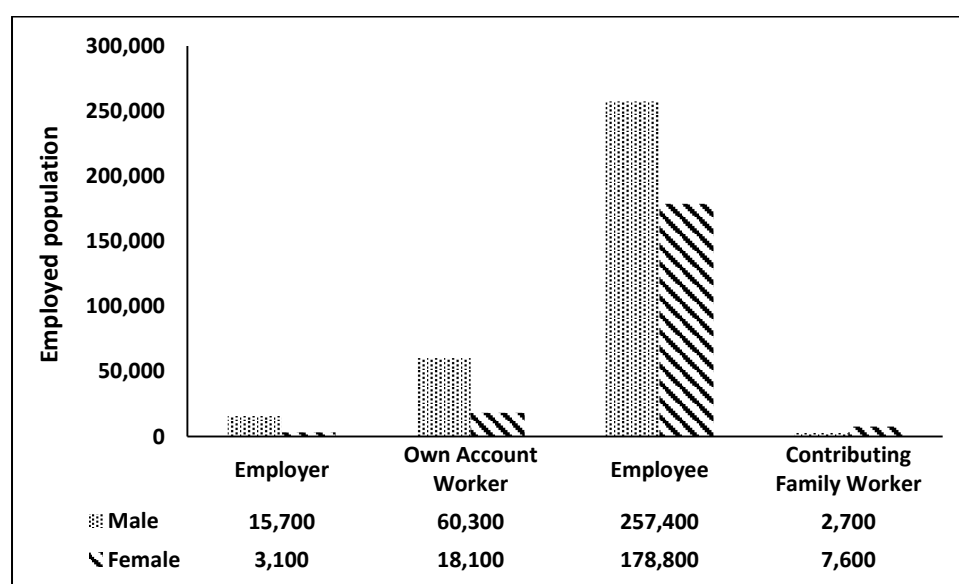


#### 4.7 Men as well as women are more likely to be employees

Information on how jobs are held by people is important as such classification provides the basis for analyzing employment conditions in terms of a job's level of security, protection and rights. Jobs can be classified into four main categories, which can be grouped under two main types of jobs: paid employment (employees) and self-employment (employers, own-account workers and contributing family workers).

The majority of employed women and men are wage and salaried employees. In 2018, around 86 per cent of employed women and 77 per cent of employed men were wage and salaried employees.

**Figure 29 – Employed population by employment status, 2018**



#### **4.8 Men are more likely than women to be in vulnerable employment**

Some jobs are less secure than others. People working as own-account workers and contributing family workers tend to lack basic social protections and are subjected to variance in income and difficult working conditions. They are considered to be in “vulnerable” types of employment. In 2018, 25,700 women compared to 63,000 men were in vulnerable employment.

#### **4.9 Men are more likely than women to be engaged in small business**

A small production unit is either an establishment or an itinerant unit engaging less than 10 persons, including working proprietors. An establishment is defined as a production unit engaged in one kind, or predominantly one kind of economic activity at a single physical location. An itinerant unit refers to a mobile production unit which does not operate at a fixed location. Examples are hawkers and sellers along the road within a temporary makeshift location, taxi operators and units involved in construction activities.

The number of small production units (establishments and itinerant units) was estimated at 125,500 in 2013. Around 86,000 females compared to 197,000 males were engaged in those small units. The figures include both full-time and part-time workers; a part-time worker being counted as one person engaged.

Male workers were mostly engaged in “Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles, etc.” (32%), “Construction” (18%), “Transportation and storage” (17%) and “Manufacturing” (13%). Among female workers, 42% were in “Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles”, 16% in “Accommodation and food service activities” and 13% in “Manufacturing”.

#### **4.10 Men are more likely than women to be engaged in informal activities**

The informal sector comprises household unincorporated market enterprises that do not have a complete set of accounts. This definition satisfies the four mandatory criteria adopted by the UN expert group on Informal Sector Statistics, that is, the enterprises (production units) are unincorporated and owned by households and they sell all or part of their production but do not have a complete set of accounts.

Household unincorporated enterprises are those enterprises that are not considered as separate legal entities independent of the households who own them. They can be engaged in virtually any kind of productive activity – agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, retail distribution or production of other kinds of services. They can range from single persons

working as street traders or shoe cleaners with no capital or premises of their own to manufacturing, construction or service enterprises with many employees.

Based on the 2013 Census of Economic Activities (CEA) which cover all types of economic activities except agriculture, 27% (33,500 units) of all small production units were informal. They were mainly engaged in ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ (33%), ‘Transportation and storage’ (24%), ‘Manufacturing’ (16%), ‘Construction’ (12%) and ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (8%).

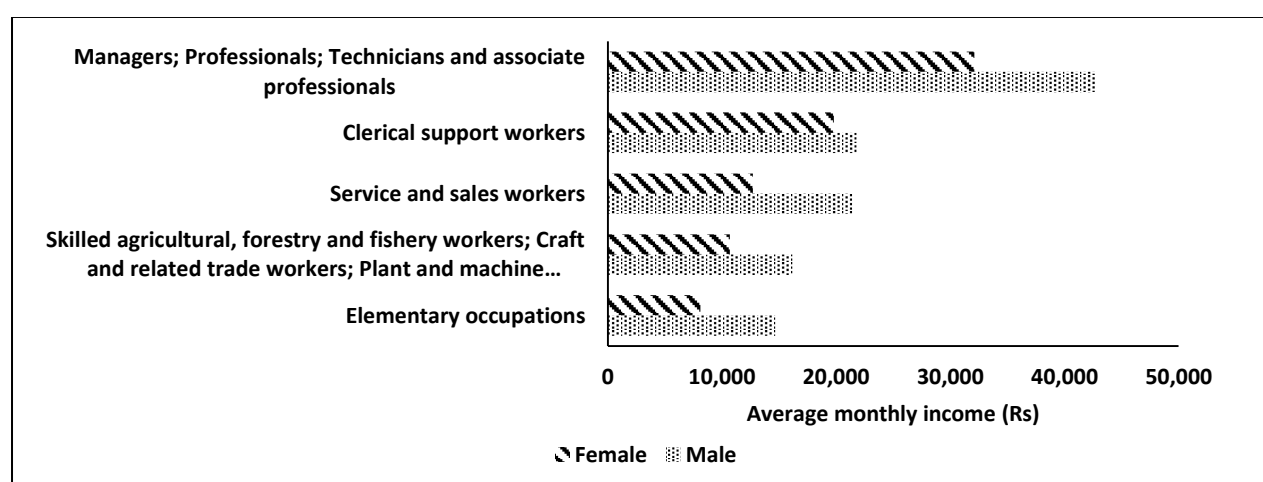
The number of persons engaged in the informal units was around 56,100, representing 20% of the total number of persons engaged in all small establishments covered in the CEA. Male employment was estimated at 41,000 and female employment at 15,100.

Nearly half of the female workers were engaged in retail trade while men were mostly in ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ (27%), ‘Transportation and storage’ (25%) and ‘Construction’ (24%).

#### 4.11 Women earn less than men

On average, women earned Rs 18,600 per month compared to Rs 24,400 earned by men. The gender pay gap was 24%, meaning that women earned 76% of what men earned. A gap in earnings between women and men was observed across all occupational groups. In the occupational category of managers, professionals and associate professionals, women earned on average 75 per cent of what men earned. In elementary occupations, women earned around half of what men earned.

**Figure 30 – Average monthly income (Rs) by occupational group, 2018**



#### 4.12 Higher pay-gap in primary sector

On average, women earned Rs 10,700 per month compared to Rs 18,800 earned by men in the primary sector. The gender pay gap was 43%, meaning that women earned 57% of what men earned in that sector. Other sectors with high pay gap were manufacturing and accommodation/food services activities. On the other hand, lowest pay gap was observed in transport/storage and construction sectors.

**Table 11 –Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2018**

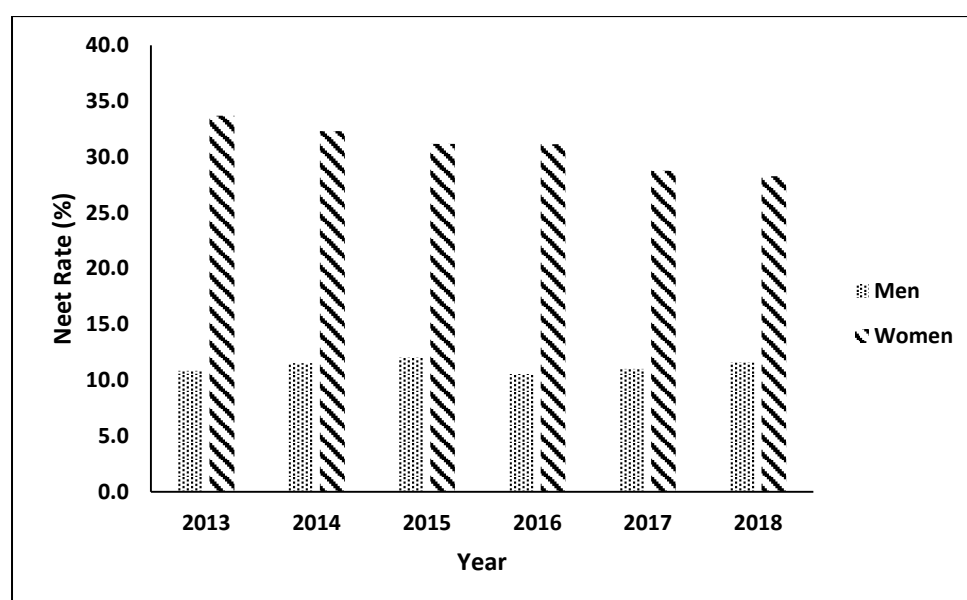
<b>Industrial Sector</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
<b>Primary</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>13,800</b>	<b>17,600</b>
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	<i>20,300</i>	<i>13,500</i>	<i>17,300</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>15,900</i>	<i>15,100</i>	<i>15,900</i>
<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>26,900</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>23,600</b>
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	<i>18,100</i>	<i>15,100</i>	<i>16,800</i>
<i>Accommodation and food service activities</i>	<i>20,200</i>	<i>13,900</i>	<i>17,800</i>
<i>Transportation and storage</i>	<i>27,400</i>	<i>26,600</i>	<i>27,200</i>
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	<i>32,900</i>	<i>30,200</i>	<i>32,100</i>
<i>Education and Human Health &amp; social work activities</i>	<i>34,600</i>	<i>24,700</i>	<i>28,400</i>
<b>All Sectors</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>22,000</b>

#### 4.13 Young women were more likely to be neither studying nor working

Young people are particularly susceptible to unemployment as they typically have less work experience than others competing for the same jobs. Young people not engaged in education, employment or training, expressed as the acronym “NEET”, are being used increasingly as a measure of youth marginalisation and disengagement. Because they are neither improving their future employability through investment in skills nor gaining experience through employment, NEETs are particularly at risk of both labour market and social exclusion.

Figure 31 shows that women were more likely to be neither studying nor working. During the period 2013 to 2018, the NEET rate was consistent higher for women compared to men. In 2018, the NEET rate was 28 per cent for women and 12 per cent for men.

**Figure 31 – NEET Rate<sup>1</sup> (%), 2013 – 2018**



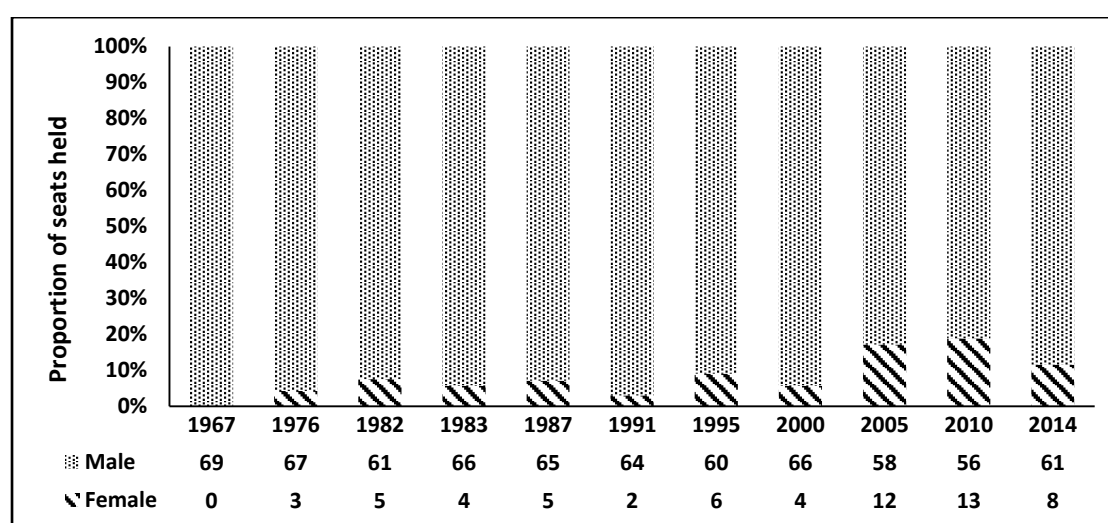
<sup>1</sup>Percentage of youth aged 16-35 not in employment, education or training

## 5 Public life and decision-making

### 5.1 Women continue to be underrepresented in Parliament

Although women make up about fifty-one per cent of the population, and the proportion of women candidates has been increasing over the years, they continue to be underrepresented as members of Parliament. The proportion of seats held by women in Parliament was only 12 per cent in the last 2014 election.

**Figure 32 – Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament, 1967 – 2014**



Source: Statistics Mauritius

In 2011, Government enacted the Local Government Act which provides for adequate representation of each sex at local government level. As a result, the proportion of women

elected at Municipal Council elections increased significantly in 2012 and 2015 as shown in the Table 12 below.

**Table 12 – Elected Members at Municipal Council Election, 1985 – 2015**

Year	Elected Members			
	Male	Female	Total	% of female
1985	119	7	126	5.6
1988	118	8	126	6.3
1991	119	7	126	5.6
1996	115	11	126	8.7
2001	109	17	126	13.5
2005	110	16	126	12.7
2012	57	33	90	36.7
2015	79	41	120	34.2

*Source: Statistics Mauritius*

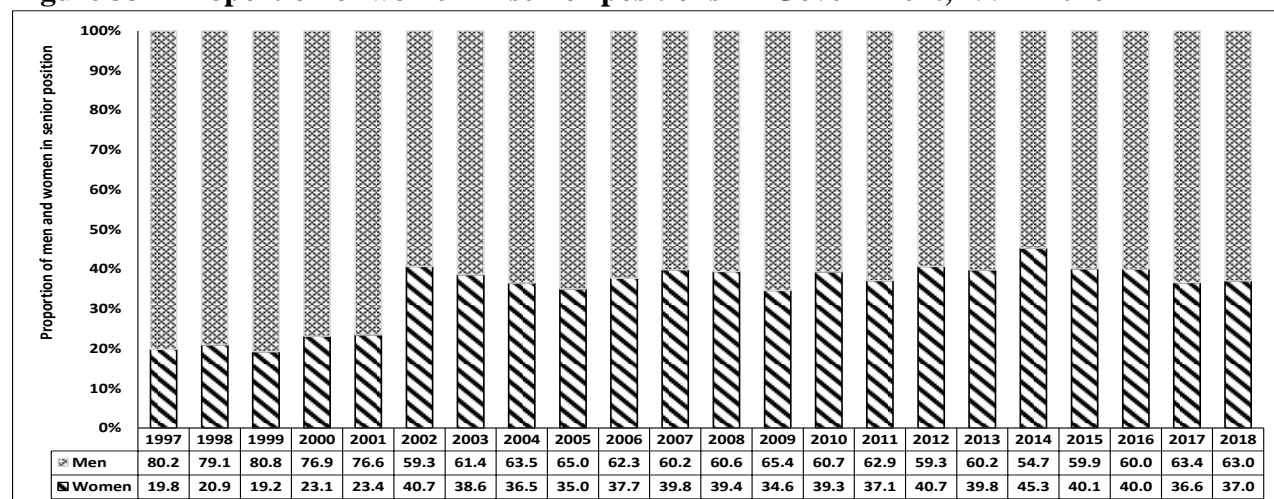
## 5.2 Mayors are largely men

Even though the proportion of women elected at Municipal Council elections has increased, the proportion of female mayors remained low. In 2018, out of the five municipalities, only one has a female mayor.

## 5.3 Women are underrepresented among senior-level civil servants

From 1997 to 2002, there has been a noticeable progress in the proportion of women holding senior positions<sup>1</sup> in Government. However, data from 2003 to 2018 on senior-level civil servants indicate that the share of women in those posts remain at around 37%.

**Figure 33 – Proportion of women in senior positions<sup>1</sup> in Government, 1997- 2018**



*Source: Annual Survey of Employment in Government Services, Min. of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare*

#### **5.4 Women are less likely to hold senior positions in the private sector**

Women are severely underrepresented in senior positions in the private sector. According to available 2015 data<sup>2</sup>, the proportion of women holding senior positions in the private sector was around 8 per cent.

Very few women are able to reach the position of CEO. Data indicate that the glass ceiling remains impenetrable in private companies in Mauritius. In 2015, less than 5 per cent of the CEOs were women.

<sup>1</sup> *Chief Executives, Senior Officials, Legislators and Managers*

<sup>2</sup> *The Top 100 Companies, 2015 Edition, La Sentinelle*

#### **5.5 More women as judge and magistrate**

There has been a noticeable progress in the representation of women among judges and magistrates in the judiciary over the last ten years. The proportion of women among judges and magistrates increased from 45 per cent in 2008 to 60 per cent in 2018.

**Table 13 – Judge and Magistrate in the Judiciary, 2008 - 2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of female</b>
2008	33	27	60	45.0
2013	31	39	70	55.7
2018	26	39	65	60.0

*Source: The Judiciary*

#### **5.6 Women are underrepresented in the police force**

The proportion of women in the police force has gradually increased but remained low. The share of women in the police force increased from 5.7 % in 2008 to reach 9.3 % in 2018.



**Table 14 – Women in the Mauritius Police Force, 2008 – 2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of female</b>
2008	11,128	667	11,795	5.7
2009	10,478	648	11,126	5.8
2010	10,305	733	11,038	6.6
2011	9,997	709	10,706	6.6
2012	10,455	912	11,367	8.0
2013	10,836	893	11,729	7.6
2014	11,408	1,048	12,456	8.4
2015	11,158	1,021	12,179	8.4
2016	11,648	1,012	12,660	8.0
2017	11,907	1,084	12,991	8.3
2018	11,841	1,214	13,055	9.3

*Source: Mauritius Police Force*

## **6 Disability**

According to UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Data on disabilities were collected at the 2011 Population Census where a person was counted as a disabled person if he/she had any difficulty to perform a daily-life activity considered normal for his/her age, i.e. , regardless of the severity of the difficulty. Persons were asked to report all disabilities that they had. However, each disabled person was counted only once.

### **6.1 More disabled women than men**

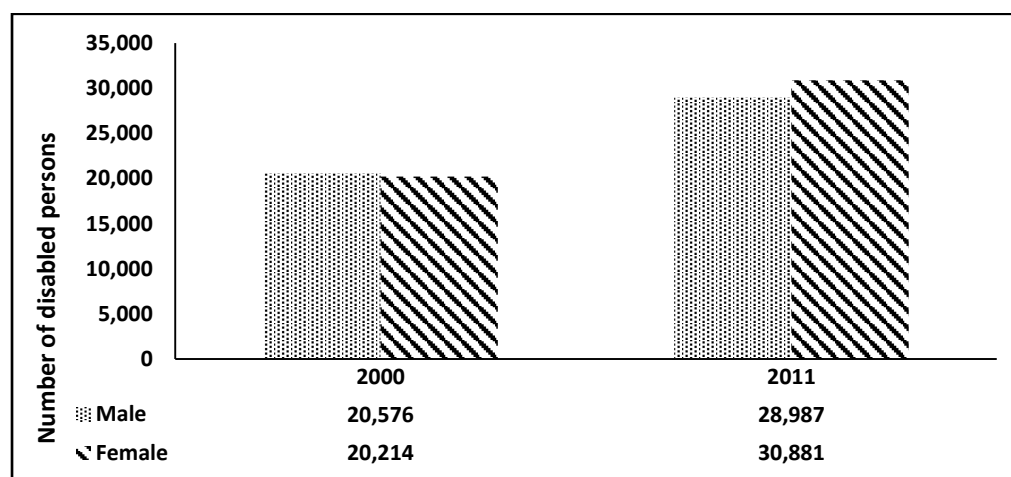
Figure 34 on disabled population shows two important changes. Firstly, the disabled population in 2011 for both women and men has increased compared to 2000. Secondly, there were more females than males in 2011 compared to 2000 where males outnumbered females.

In 2011, the disability prevalence rate, defined as the number of disabled persons per 1000 mid-year population was 47.5 for men and 49.3 for women. To enable comparison with year 2000, standardized rate is used to remove the effect of any change in age structure between 2000 and

2011. Using the 2000 population age structure as standard, the 2011 standardised disability prevalence rate was 40.4 for men and 40.7 for women per 1000 mid-year population.

In 2000, the disability prevalence rate was 35.2 for men and 34.0 for women per 1000 mid-year population. The figures reveal a higher prevalence of disability for both men and women in 2011.

**Figure 34 – Disabled population, 2000 and 2011 Population Censuses**

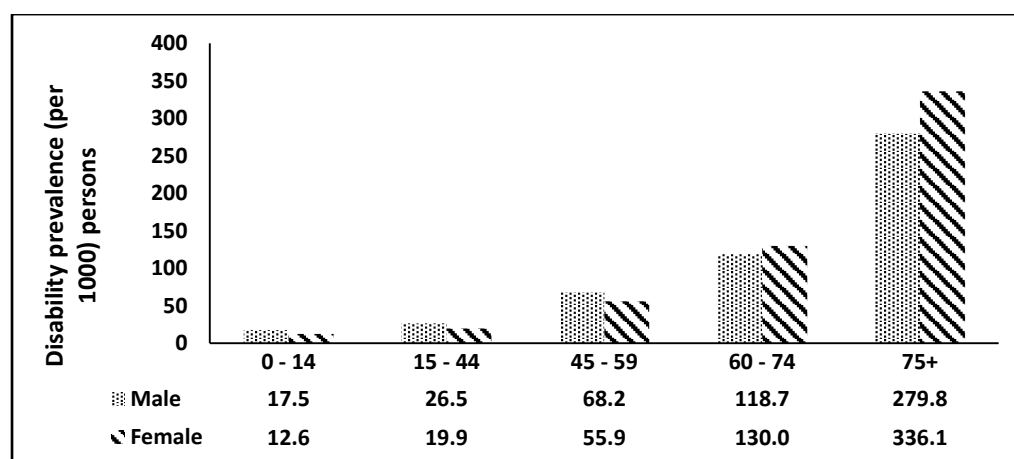


## 6.2 Prevalence rate of disability increases with age for both women and men

Disability prevalence (figure 35), which relates to the number of disabled person in an age group to its corresponding population, is the most appropriate measure to compare tendency between age groups. In 2011, there were 13 out of 1000 girls below 15 years having some form of disability, the prevalence increased rapidly to reach 336 per 1000 women aged 75 years and above. A similar pattern is observed for men.

Figure 35 also shows that prevalence among male was higher than among female for population below 60 years whereas female prevalence was predominant in the age groups 60 years and above.

**Figure 35 – Disability prevalence (per 1000 persons) by age, 2011**



*Source: Population Census, Statistics Mauritius*

An analysis of educational attainment reveals that disabled females are much more disadvantaged than their male counterparts. In 2011, nearly 31% of disabled females had no formal education or had attended pre-primary only compared to 14% for males. Furthermore, only 19% of the disabled females reached at least secondary level of education against 31% for males.

**Table 15 – Distribution of population aged 2 years and above by educational attainment, 2011**

Educational attainment	Disabled population		Overall population	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Nil and pre-primary	13.7	31.1	6.8	11.0
Primary	49.1	46.0	35.4	36.6
Secondary	29.7	18.1	51.9	48.5
University degree or equivalent	1.3	0.6	4.4	3.1
Specialised school for the Disabled	5.5	3.4	-	-
Other & not stated	0.7	0.8	1.5	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Population Census, Statistics Mauritius*

### **6.3 More disabled men than women in employment**

From 2000 to 2011, there has been an improvement in the level of activity of both disabled men and women. During this period, the activity rate for men increased from 18.6% to 24.2% while for women, it increased from 6.4% to 9.9%. However, disabled women were less active compared to men. In 2011, only 2,542 disabled women were in employment compared to 5,893 men. The number of unemployed disabled women stood at 348 against 516 men.

**Table 16 – Distribution of disabled population aged 16 years and above by economic activity, 2000 and 2011**

Activity status	2000		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Economically active	18.6	6.4	24.2	9.9
<i>Employed</i>	16.6	5.6	22.2	8.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	2.0	0.8	1.9	1.2
Economically inactive	79.3	91.6	75.4	89.6
<i>Household duties</i>	1.0	34.3	0.4	36.1
<i>Studies</i>	1.4	1.0	2.0	1.8
<i>Disability</i>	50.6	45.1	42.3	35.6
<i>Retired</i>	25.5	9.1	29.4	14.3
<i>Other</i>	0.7	2.1	1.3	1.8
Activity not stated	2.1	2.0	0.4	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Population Censuses, Statistics Mauritius

Disabled men are most likely to be employed as “craft & trade workers”, while women mostly work in “elementary” occupations, such as cleaner, cook, attendant or labourer.

**Table 17 – Employed disabled population aged 16 years and above by occupation, 2011**

Occupation	Persons employed		% distribution	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Managers	242	105	4.1	4.1
Professionals	216	168	3.7	6.6
Technicians and associate professionals	346	153	5.9	6.0
Clerical support workers	257	201	4.4	7.9
Service and sales workers	1,029	492	17.5	19.4
Skilled agricultural, forestry & fishery workers	490	120	8.3	4.7
Craft & related trade workers	1,545	151	26.2	5.9
Plant & machine operators & assemblers	599	219	10.2	8.6
Elementary occupations	1,155	930	19.6	36.6
Note stated	14	3	0.2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,893</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Population Census, Statistics Mauritius

#### 6.4 Washington Group

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) was set up in 2001 following the United Nations International Seminar on Measurement of Disability to address the need for statistical and methodological initiatives at an international level to facilitate the measurement of disability and the comparison of data on disability cross-nationally.

To date the WG has designed for inclusion in Censuses a set of six questions on disability and also introduced a measure of severity of the reported disability as “(1) Some difficulty, (2) A lot of difficulty and (3) Cannot do at all”. However, according to WG, only those reporting “(2) A lot of difficulty and (3) Cannot do at all” are to be considered and counted as disabled persons.

Data on measure of severity of disability has been collected, for the first time, at the 2011 Census. According to WG recommendations, the disabled population numbered 31,978 (15,969 male and 16,009 female) at the 2011 Census, representing a disability prevalence rate of 25.9 (26.1 for male and 25.6 for female) per 1000 mid-year population.

### **6.5 Welfare of persons with disabilities**

The Government gives financial assistance to persons with disabilities through the Basic Invalidity Pension (BIP). The BIP is payable to any person under the age of 60, if certified by a Medical Board that the person is either permanently or substantially incapacitated to a degree of 60% or more for at least 12 months. As at June 2018, there were 32,075 such beneficiaries, with a higher proportion of men (53%) compared to women (47%).

**Table 18 – Beneficiaries of Basic Invalidity Pension, June 2018**

<b>Age-group (years)</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both sexes</b>
0-14	2,051	1,284	<b>3,335</b>
15-19	930	621	<b>1,551</b>
20-24	886	673	<b>1,559</b>
25-29	956	846	<b>1,802</b>
30-34	1,040	935	<b>1,975</b>
35-39	1,570	1,440	<b>3,010</b>
40-44	1,625	1,663	<b>3,288</b>
45-49	2,116	2,060	<b>4,176</b>
50-54	3,175	3,052	<b>6,227</b>
55-59	2,578	2,574	<b>5,152</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,927</b>	<b>15,148</b>	<b>32,075</b>

*Source: Statistics Mauritius*

## 7 Poverty and Social Welfare

Poverty is multidimensional. Poverty entails more than lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. It includes hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, as well as lack of participation in decision-making. Poverty is usually measured in either monetary or non-monetary terms.

In Mauritius, the monetary approach is used to assess the poverty situation based mainly on the Household Budget Survey data. A person or household is “poor” if its resources fall below a threshold or cut off line known as the poverty line. The relative poverty line is defined as half of the median monthly household income per adult equivalent. In 2017, the relative poverty line was estimated at Rs 7,497.

### 7.1 Women were more likely than men to be in poverty

In 2017, women were more likely to be in relative poverty. The proportion of female in relative poverty was 11.0% against 9.6% for male. Out of 130,500 persons in relative poverty, 70,300 were females and 60,200 were males.

**Table 19 – Number of persons in relative poverty, 2012 and 2017**

	2012	2017
Relative poverty line (Rs)	5,652	7,497
Persons in relative poverty		
Total	122,700	130,500
Male	56,000	60,200
Female	66,700	70,300

*Source: Household Budget Surveys, Statistics Mauritius*

### 7.2 Female-headed households more likely to be in poverty

In 2017, 15.9% of female-headed households were in relative poverty as compared to 7.6% of male-headed households.

**Table 20 – Proportion (%) of households in relative poverty, 2012 and 2017**

	2012	2017
Relative poverty line (Rs)	5,652	7,497
Number of households in relative poverty	33,600	36,100
Proportion of households in relative poverty (%)	9.4	9.4
Proportion of male-headed households in relative poverty (%)	7.3	7.6
Proportion of female-headed households in relative poverty (%)	17.0	15.9

*Source: Household Budget Surveys, Statistics Mauritius*

### **7.3 Social Welfare**

Mauritius has a comprehensive social welfare system that consists of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability, namely: free health care, free education, basic pensions, assistance to families with special needs, social aid, food aid, cyclone refugee allowance, low cost housing, subsidies for rice and flour and free bus transport to student and elderly.

Social protection, free health services, education and bus transport play a key role in bringing down poverty. Without them, poverty would have soared to more than three times its level. In 2012, the proportion of poor households would have been 30% instead of 9.4%.

Social protection which comprises mainly universal pensions is the main instrument in reducing poverty by bringing it down to half its level. The 2012 poverty rate of 9.4% would have been higher at 19% without any social protection.

## **8 Gender based and family violence**

### **8.1 What is Gender-Based Violence (GBV)?**

GBV is an umbrella term used to describe any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on socially ascribed gender differences between males and females. GBV is a gross violation of human rights and a significant public health issue.

### **8.2 Types of Gender-Based Violence**

- ***Physical Violence***

Arm twisting, attempt to murder, backhanding, beating, biting, burning, choking, denial of access to services, deprived of medication, forced use of substances (e.g. alcohol and drugs), grabbing, holding the partner down, kicking, over medication, pinching, pulling hair, punching, pushing, refusal to get help or medical attention, scratching, shaking, slapping, spitting, stabbing, strangling, throwing objects, using weapons.

- ***Sexual Violence***

Being criticized sexually, being forbidden the use of birth control, being forbidden the use of protection against sexually transmitted diseases, coerced into sex with others, forced abortion, forced pregnancy, forced prostitution, forced sexual intercourse, forced sterilization, forced to perform degrading or painful sexual acts, sodomy, unfounded allegations of promiscuity and/or infidelity, unwanted kissing or touching, withholding sex as a punishment.

- ***Psychological Violence***

Denied with meeting ones' basic physical needs (e.g: eating and sleeping), locked out of the home, lying to confuse, manipulating the victim with words- ideas or lies, playing mind games,

threatening to harm victim- the children and victim's family- if victim leaves, threats of abandonment.

- ***Emotional Violence***

Brain washing children, constant criticism, constant humiliation, denying opportunities, destroying possessions, detained against ones' will, discriminating, disproportionate anger, expressing negative expectations, harming pets, intimidation, jealousy, name calling, perpetrator used silent treatment, prevented from leaving, recalling past mistakes, restraining to meet specific-persons, stalking, threatening to commit suicide, threatening to take the children, threatening with objects, victim blamed for all relationship problems, victim not allowed to have contact with family and friends.

- ***Economic Violence***

Controlling victim's choice of occupation, forbidding the victim to work, forbidding the victim to have access to the family income and bank accounts, forcing the victim to work, jeopardizing the victim's employment, perpetrator refusing to contribute to expenses, requiring justification for all money spent, taking money needed for the care of the family.

**Since domestic violence constitutes a big segment of GBV, deeper analysis is carried out on domestic violence.**

### **8.3 Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence**

In 2018, there were 2,066 cases of domestic violence reported at the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, 1,527 were new cases (i.e. 73.9%). Overall a slight decrease was noted when comparing with 2017 figures (from 2,269 in 2017 to 2,066 in 2018)

**Table 21 - Number of cases of domestic violence, 2012 – 2018**

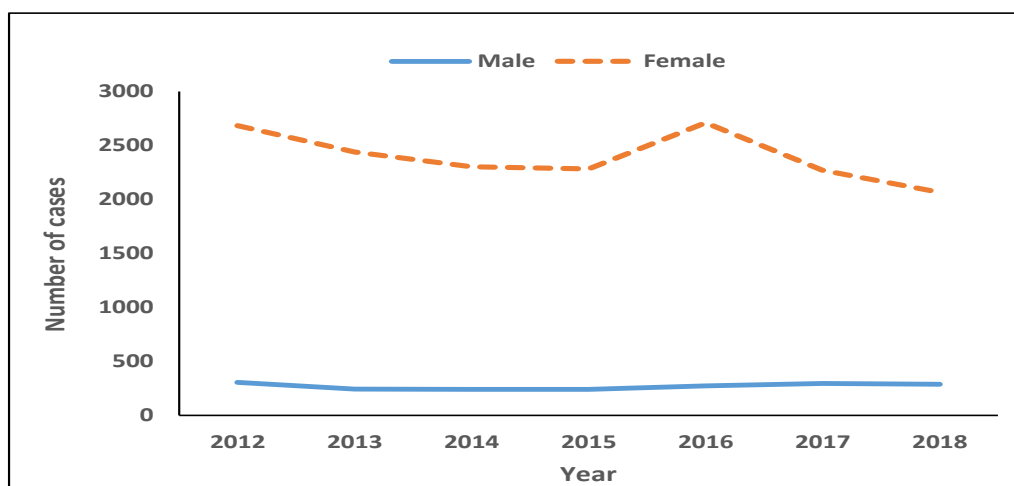
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New	1,974	1,786	1,680	1,626	2,077	1,703	1,527
Old	707	652	621	655	632	566	539
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,681</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>2,066</b>

*Note: old cases are cases which were already registered previously and recurred again in the reference year.*



The total number of cases of domestic violence against women decreased from 1,972 in 2017 to 1,778 in 2018. Similarly, the number of men victims of domestic violence decreased from 297 to 288 during the same period (Figure 36).

**Figure 36 – Number of cases (new and old) of domestic violence reported, 2012 - 2018**



Some 35.2% of women victims of domestic violence reported physical assault by spouse or partner, 33.2% verbal assault by spouse or partner, 12.5% various abuse by spouse (ill treatment, harassment, abuse, and humiliation), 10.5% threatening assault by spouse and nearly 6.6% has been subjected to physical assault by others living under the same roof. Reported cases by men related mostly to verbal assault by spouse or partner (32.3%), physical assault by spouse or partner (21.5%) and physical assault by others living under the same roof (11.8%).

#### **8.4 Support Services to family**

The Family Welfare and Protection Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare operates through a network of six (6) Family Support Bureaux (FSBx) around the island. The following services are available at the FSBx:-

- First hand Counselling
- Psychological Counselling
- Legal Advice
- Psycho-social support to victims of domestic violence;
- Assistance to victims of domestic violence with regards to their application for a Protection Order, Occupation Order and Tenancy Order under Protection from Domestic Violence Act (PDVA);
- Provision of psycho-social support as a follow-up following provision of Court Orders under the PDVA;
- Counselling services to adult perpetrators;
- Assistance to victims of domestic violence for temporary accommodation in shelters pending their application for appropriate Court Orders under the PDVA;
- Psycho-social assistance to families in distress (in cases of tragic deaths, natural disasters, accidents);
- Assistance to adult victims of sexual assault; and

- Referral to other institutions as appropriate, amongst others.

**Note: A 24-hour service is offered in emergency situations to victims of domestic violence through the Integrated Support Centre on Hotline 139.**

### 8.5 Child abuse

The total number of cases reported at the Child Development Unit is generally on the rise and reached 5,565 in 2018 compared to 5,104 in 2017 (Figure 37).

**Figure 37 – Number of cases reported at the Child Development Unit, 2000 - 2018**



Of the reported cases in 2018, some 56.9% of the victims were females. The most common nature of abuse was psychological/emotional (27.6% for male and 24.1% for female) followed by neglect cases (17.3% male and 13.0% for female) and physical abuse (9.8% for male and 7.0% for female).

**Table 22 – Cases reported at Child Development Unit by nature of problem, 2018**

Nature of Problem	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Abandonment	34	1.4	41	1.3
Physical abuse	236	9.8	223	7.0
Neglect cases	415	17.3	412	13.0
Worst forms of Labour	5	0.2	5	0.2
Sexual abuse	30	1.3	331	10.5
Psychological /Emotional abuse	661	27.6	762	24.1
Other problems	1,018	42.4	1,392	44.0
<b>All problems</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,166</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## **8.6 Admission of children in institutions under the aegis of Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare**

There were 109 children victim of violence, under Court Orders, who were admitted in institutions in 2018, representing a slight decrease as compared to 102 in 2017. The number of admission was higher in the past, it was 136 in 2012 and a peak of 197 was observed in 2014.

**Table 23 - No. of children admitted in institutions by sex, 2012 - 2018**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Male	65	63	100	67	56	na	na
Female	71	70	97	119	70	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>

na - not available

### **8.6.1 Rehabilitative and Alternative Care Support System of ACU**

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, through the agency of the ACU, provides for all children requiring its services impartially. The ACU works for the proper rehabilitation of all the children under its care, and it caters mainly for children victims of abuse and violence. The ACU is dedicated towards its mission, whereby all children are treated and cared for equally, and with a view of providing a sustained continuum of care and service provision, as well as to avoid the issue of overcrowding of Shelters/Residential Care Institutions (RCIs).

### **8.6.2 Children placed in Government owned Shelters and NGOs**

The Rehabilitation Section caters for a Rehabilitation Programme for Children victims of violence and their reinsertion into their families/next to kins. As a measure of last resort, children with utterly non-stable families are placed in Residential Institutions and are provided with more permanent residential care facilities following the issue of Committal Orders. These institutions are Charitable Institutions/Non-Governmental Organisations which work in collaboration with the Ministry.

There are 3 Government-owned Shelters and 14 Residential Care Institutions (RCIs) run by NGOs. As at December 2018, there were 503 children placed in the 17 Shelters/RCIs.

There were more girls than boys in the Shelters/NGOs, i.e. 245 boys and 258 girls. In terms of percentage, there is a disparity of 2% in the rate of girls accommodated in the Ministry's institutions which implies that more girls have been victims of violence and removed as a measure of last resort from their biological settings. There are 11 Shelters/NGOs that cater for both girls and boys, 2 Shelters that cater only for boys and there are 4 Shelters/NGOs that cater only for girls.

Residential/ Drop in Centre designated by the Ministry as a Place of Safety (POS) dedicated for cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, and it is operational since 26 May 2016. It caters for victims of sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children including those who have been harmed through child trafficking. The setting up of the above Centre is in line with the recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child with a view to strengthening policies and programmes for the prevention,

recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of children victims of CSEC. Thirty female children, victims of sexual abuse and CSEC, have been placed at Residential Drop in Centre L'Oasis since July 2018.

### **8.6.3 Children placed in Foster Care families**

For the year 2018, 9 children, out of which 5 were boys and 4 were girls, were placed in 8 Foster Care Families.

The table below shows the number of children placed in foster families from 2012 to 2018. There were 9 children placed in families in 2018, which represented a decrease as compared to 13 children placed in 2017.

**Table 24 - No. of children placed in foster families by sex, 2012 - 2018**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Male	7	2	5	7	9	5	5
Female	5	6	-	1	2	8	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>

### **8.6.4 Children from Shelters/NGOs reintegrated back within a family setting**

There were 44 children (20 boys and 24 girls) who have been re-integrated back within their family setting in 2018.

### **8.6.5 Child Mentoring Programme**

In December 2018, there were 33 Children are placed under this Programme, out of which 24 girls and 9 boys who were placed under the Child Mentoring Programme.

## **9 Crime and security**

### **9.1 Crimes**

Men are more likely to be victims of homicides and assaults, while women are more prone to sexual violence and sexual exploitation. In 2018, some 55.8% of the assaults and 64.0% of the intentional homicides were committed against men. Some 92.9% of victims of sexual violence and sexual exploitation were women (Table 25).

**Table 25 –Victims<sup>1</sup> of selected offences<sup>2</sup> reported at the Police, Republic of Mauritius, 2018**

Offences	Male	Female	Both sexes
Homicides	77	32	109
<i>of which Intentional homicides</i>	32	18	50
Assaults	6,053	4,788	10,841
Sexual violence and sexual exploitation	44	573	617
<i>of which Rape</i>	-	48	48

<sup>1</sup>A person may be victim of one or more than one offence and/or an offence may involve one or more victims

<sup>2</sup>Based on latest Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) Version 1.0, developed by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Boys are much more likely to commit offences than girls. In 2018, only 5% of the juvenile offences were committed by girls. The female juvenile delinquency rate stood at 1.1, while that for male was 9.9.

**Table 26 – Number of Juvenile offenders<sup>1</sup> reported, Republic of Mauritius, 2018**

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Crimes	245	7	252
<i>of which drug offences</i>	20	1	21
Misdemeanours	330	53	383
<i>of which drug offences</i>	67	3	70
Contraventions <sup>2</sup>	717	10	727
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1,362</b>
Juvenile Delinquency Rate <sup>3</sup>	9.9	1.1	5.6

<sup>1</sup>Persons aged 12 to 17 years

<sup>2</sup> Exclude contraventions established by camera

<sup>3</sup>Rate per 1,000 mid-year juvenile population and exclude contraventions

## **9.2 Nearly all juveniles admitted to CYC had committed theft**

### **Correctional Youth Centre (CYC)**

From year 2017 to year 2018, the number of juveniles admitted decreased by 10.5% from 172 to 154. Some 92.6% (25) of the 27 juvenile convicts admitted to CYC in 2018 had committed theft.

### **Rehabilitation Youth Centre (RYC)**

The number of juveniles admitted for detention and training at RYC decreased by 35.1% from 188 in 2017 to 122 in 2018. Some 78.7% of the juveniles admitted in 2018 were on remand. Out of the 26 convicts admitted, all were cases of child beyond control (10 boys and 16 girls).

### **Probation Home/Hostel**

The number of juveniles admitted in probation institutions increased from 5 in 2017 to 9 in 2018.

## **10 International comparisons**

### **10.1 Gender Inequality Index**

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, namely: (a) economic participation and opportunity, (b) educational attainment, (c) health and survival and (d) political empowerment. The equality benchmark is considered to be one with no gap between men and women.

Between 2017 and 2018, Mauritius improved its ranking from 112 to 109 out of 149 countries worldwide (Table 27). Mauritius has closed both its education attainment, and health and survival gender gaps with indices nearing 1, and it has progressed due to increase in Political Empowerment sub-indexes (Table 28).

**Table 27 – Global Gender Gap Index by selected countries, 2016 - 2018**

Country	2016		2017		2018	
	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Iceland	1	0.874	1	0.878	1	0.858
Norway	3	0.842	2	0.830	2	0.835
France	17	0.755	11	0.778	12	0.779
United Kingdom	20	0.752	15	0.770	15	0.774
Canada	35	0.731	16	0.769	16	0.771
South Africa	15	0.764	19	0.756	19	0.755
Australia	46	0.721	35	0.731	39	0.730
United States	45	0.722	49	0.718	51	0.720
Singapore	55	0.712	65	0.702	67	0.707
Madagascar	60	0.704	80	0.692	84	0.691
Brazil	79	0.687	90	0.684	95	0.681
China	99	0.676	100	0.674	103	0.673
India	87	0.683	108	0.669	108	0.665
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>0.652</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>0.664</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0.663</b>
Pakistan	143	0.556	143	0.546	148	0.550
Yemen	144	0.516	144	0.516	149	0.499

Source: The Global Gender Gap Report 2018, World Economic Forum

**Table 28 – Global Gender Gap Index for overall and four key areas, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 -2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Economic participation</b>	<b>Educational attainment</b>	<b>Health and survival</b>	<b>Political empowerment</b>
2007	0.649	0.547	0.983	0.980	0.085
2008	0.647	0.527	0.988	0.980	0.091
2009	0.651	0.546	0.988	0.980	0.091
2010	0.652	0.549	0.988	0.980	0.091
2011	0.653	0.544	0.989	0.980	0.099
2012	0.655	0.554	0.990	0.980	0.095
2013	0.660	0.574	0.991	0.980	0.096
2014	0.654	0.551	0.990	0.980	0.097
2015	0.646	0.534	0.991	0.980	0.078
2016	0.652	0.550	0.991	0.980	0.087
2017	0.664	0.595	0.992	0.980	0.090
2018	0.663	0.585	0.991	0.980	0.097

## **10.2 Human Development Index (HDI)**

The HDI is a summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. A long and healthy life is measured by life expectancy. Knowledge level is measured by mean years of schooling among the adult population, which is the average number of years of schooling received in a life-time by people aged 25 years and older; and access to learning and knowledge by expected years of schooling for children of school-entry age, which is the total number of years of schooling a child of school-entry age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates stay the same throughout the child's life.

Mauritius' HDI value for 2018 is 0.796— which put the country in the high human development category positioning it at 66 out of 189 countries and territories.

Mauritius' 2018 HDI of 0.796 is above the average of 0.750 for countries in the high human development group and above the average of 0.541 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. From Sub-Saharan Africa, countries which are close to Mauritius in 2018 HDI rank and to some extent in population size are Botswana and Gabon, which have HDIs ranked 94 and 115 respectively.



**Table 29 – Human Development Index of selected countries, 2018**

Country	2018	
	Rank	Value
Norway	1	0.954
Germany	4	0.939
Australia	6	0.938
Singapore	9	0.935
Canada	13	0.922
United Kingdom	15	0.920
United States	15	0.920
France	26	0.891
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0.796</b>
Brazil	79	0.761
China	85	0.758
Botswana	94	0.728
South Africa	113	0.705
India	129	0.647
Pakistan	152	0.560
Madagascar	162	0.521
Yemen	177	0.463

## 11 Concepts and Definitions

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

**Assault:** Assault is defined as intentional or reckless application of physical force inflicted upon the body of a person.

**Contraventions:** Contraventions are defined as offences that are punishable by: (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 days; (b) fine not exceeding 5,000 rupees.

**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, breakdown 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.

**HIV/AIDS:** AIDS (Acquired immune deficiency syndrome or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is a disease caused by a virus called HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

**Household income:** It comprises income from work (both paid and self-employment), transfer income (mainly government pensions, regular allowances from relatives and organisations), property income, and income from owned produced goods and it also includes imputed rent – a rental value for non-renting households.

**Intentional homicide:** Intentional homicide is defined as unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death.

**Juvenile:** a person aged below 18 years.

**Juvenile delinquency rate:** the number of juvenile offenders involved in offences (excluding contraventions) per 1,000 juvenile population.

**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 its 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'.

**Relative poverty line (RPL):** It is a threshold below which a household/ person is deemed poor and is set as the 'half median monthly household income per adult equivalent'.

**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.

**Sexual violence:** Sexual violence is defined as unwanted sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or contact or communication with unwanted sexual attention without valid consent or with consent as a result of intimidation, force, fraud, coercion, threat, deception, use of drugs or alcohol, or abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability.

**Sexual exploitation:** Sexual exploitation is defined as acts of abuse of a position of vulnerability, power or trust, or use of force or threat of force, for profiting financially, physically, socially or politically from the prostitution or sexual acts of a person.

**Tertiary sector:** Secondary Sector comprises activities related to Trade, Accommodation & Food Service Activities, Transportation & Storage, Information & Communication, Financial & Insurance, Real Estate Activities, Administrative & Support Service, Education, Human Health & Social Work Activities, and other service industries

**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.

***Vulnerable employment:*** Vulnerable employment refers to own-account workers and contributing family workers have a lower likelihood of having formal work arrangements, and are therefore more likely to lack elements associated with decent employment, such as adequate social security and a voice at work. Therefore, the two statuses are summed to create a classification of ‘vulnerable employment’, while wage and salaried workers together with employers constitute ‘non-vulnerable employment’. *Source: International Labour Organization (ILO)*