

**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

**STATISTICS  
IN  
MAURITIUS**

**A GENDER APPROACH**

**2021**

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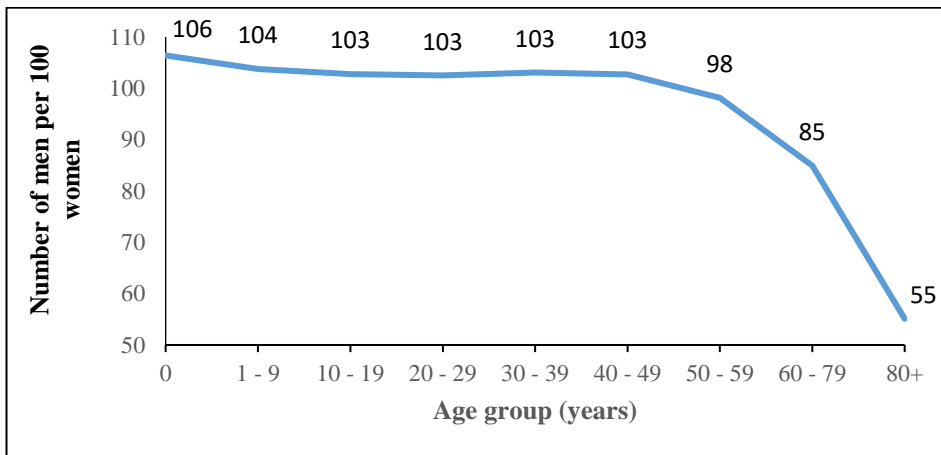
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# 1 Population, Marriage and Families

## 1.1 More new born boys

More boys than girls were born in 2021 – 103 boys for every 100 girls, which is a universal biological norm. However, the sex ratio eventually shifts due to higher mortality rate among men at the age of 50 years and over than women. And as from age 50 years and above, there were about twice as many women as men.

**Figure 1 - Number of men per 100 women, Republic of Mauritius, 2021**

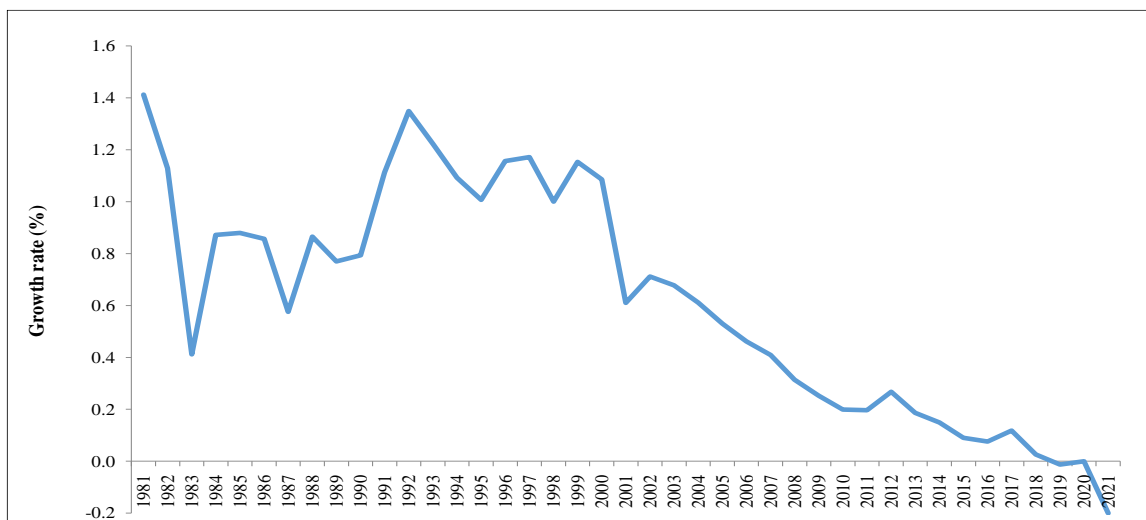


Source: Statistics Mauritius

## 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 consistently. The dips observed in the eighties and nineties mainly indicate falling fertility. It is worth to be noted that births, deaths and migration influenced population growth.

**Figure 2 – Growth rate of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1981– 2021**



Source: Statistics Mauritius

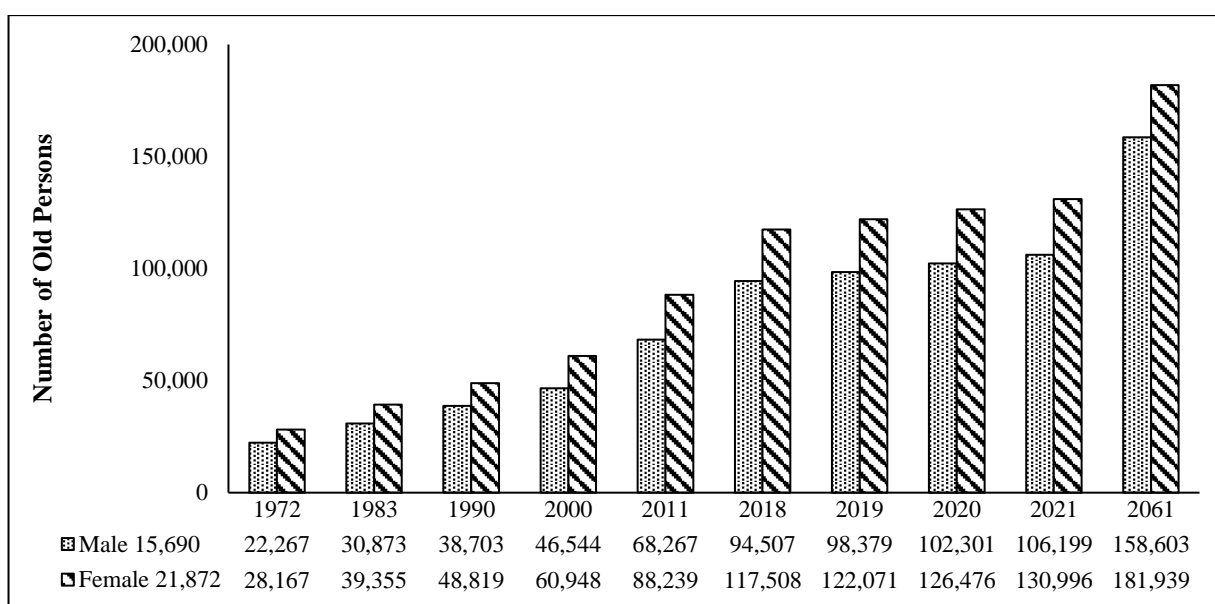
### 1.3 More Elderly Women

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, from aged 60 years and above made up 6.0% of the population in 1972, now make up 18.7% in 2021 and are projected to reach 36.5% in 2061. In terms of numbers, the seniors are now 237,195 and will reach 340,542 in forty years.

Women live longer than men; the life expectancy for women is 77.3 years compared to 70.4 years for men. As a result, old women outnumber old men. This has been the situation during the past 49 years and is more likely to persist after 2021.

**Figure 3 – Elderly population aged 60 years and over by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 – 2061**



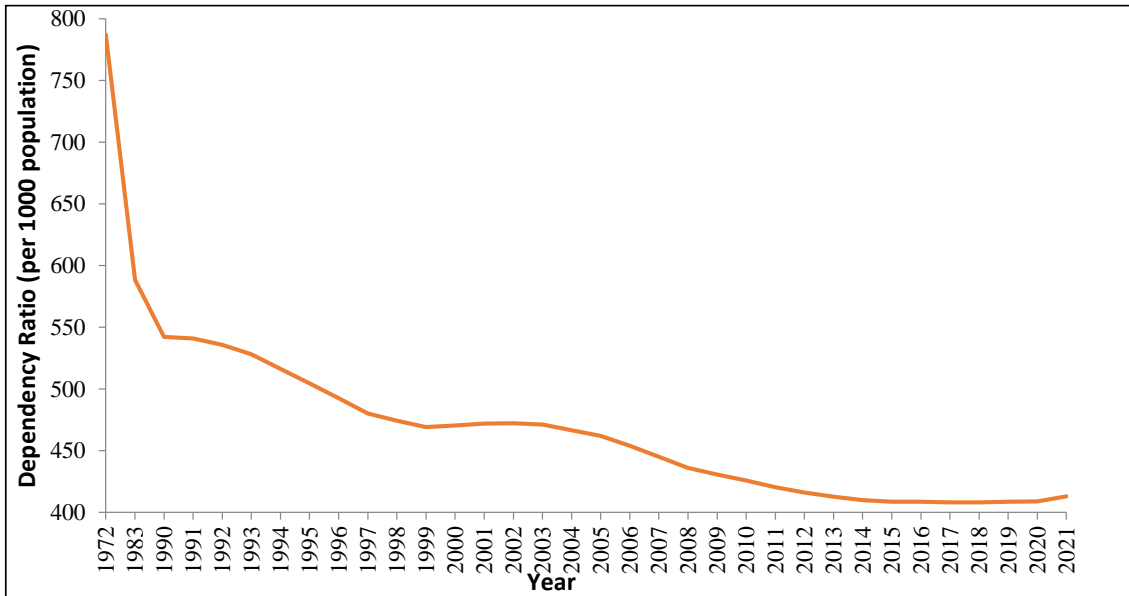
Source: Statistics Mauritius

### 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 413.0 in 2021 (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 – 2021**

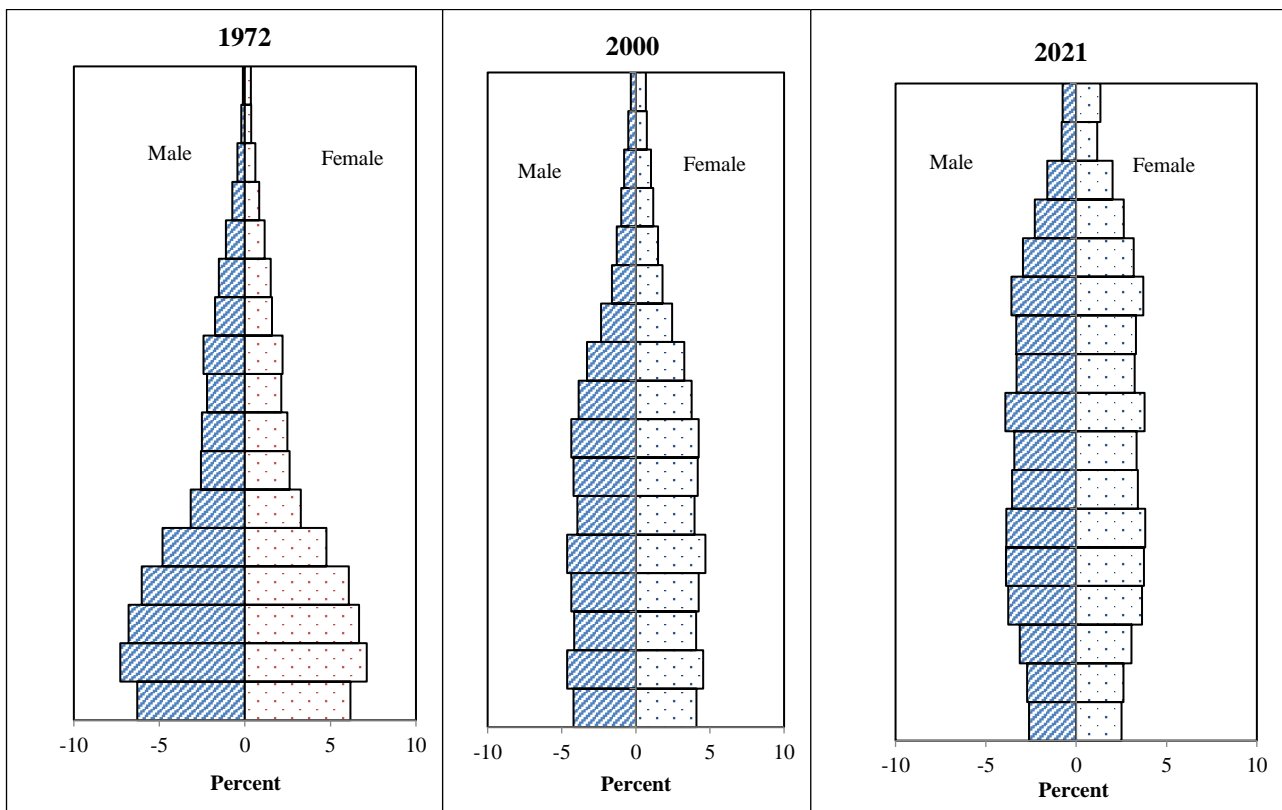


Source: Statistics Mauritius

### 1.5 Population Age Structure

The first pyramid in 1972 (Figure 5), 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 2021, 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 2021, 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 & 2021**



*Source: Statistics Mauritius*

### **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 as heads of households were predominant among small sized households while men tend to head larger households.

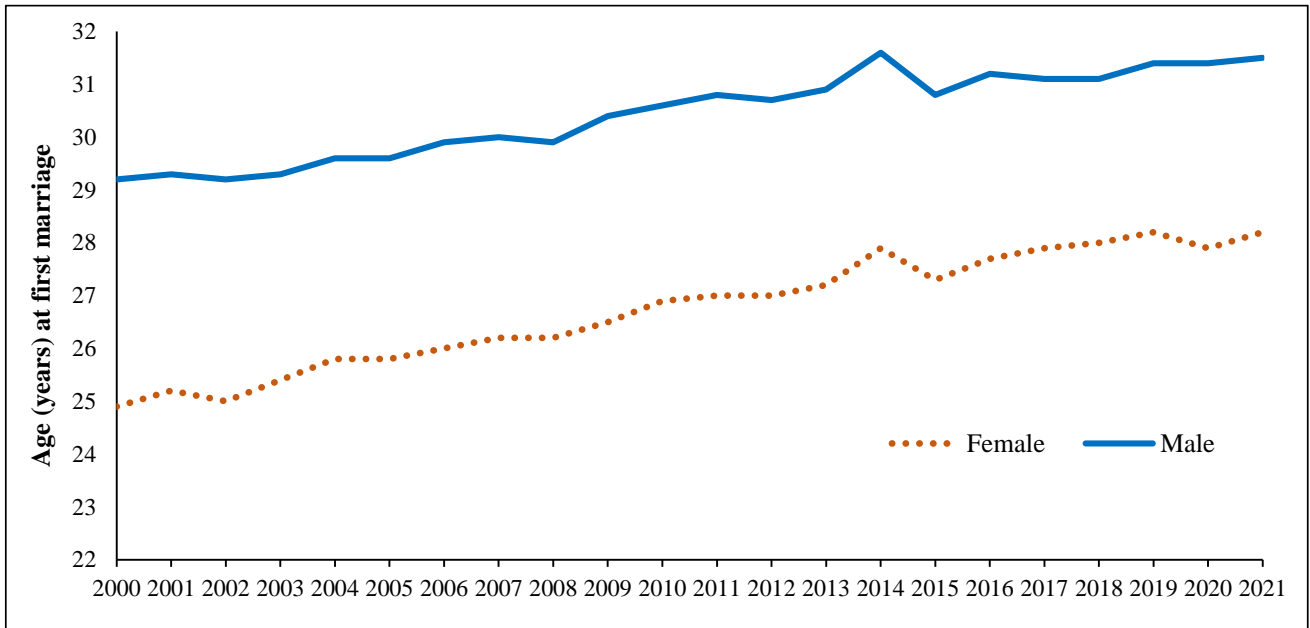
### **1.8 Age at first marriage increasing**

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 2000, the average age at first marriage was 24.9 years for women and 29.2 years for men. By 2021, this has increased to 28.2 years for women and 31.5 years for men.

The average age gap at the time of marriage was 4.3 years in 2000. This gap has steadily decreased to 3.3 years in 2021.



**Figure 6 - Average age at first marriage, Republic of Mauritius, 2000– 2021**

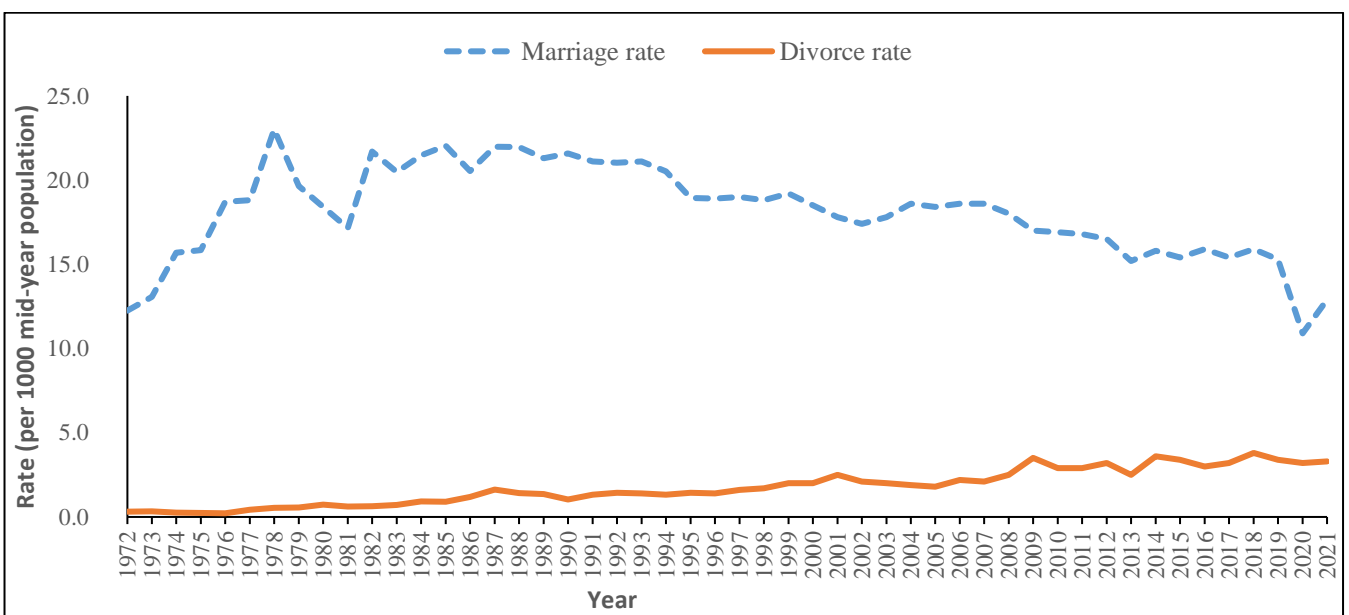


Source: Statistics Mauritius

### 1.9 Fewer Marriages, More Divorces

The marriage rate (the number of persons married per 1,000 mid-year population) has been increasing while the divorce rate (number of divorced persons per 1,000 mid-year population) 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 12.9 in 2021. On the other hand, the divorce rate which was around 0.3 in the 1970s, gradually rose to reach 3.3 in 2021.

**Figure 7 - Marriage and Divorce Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 – 2021**



Source: Statistics Mauritius

### 1.10 More unmarried parents

Marriage, as recognized 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>

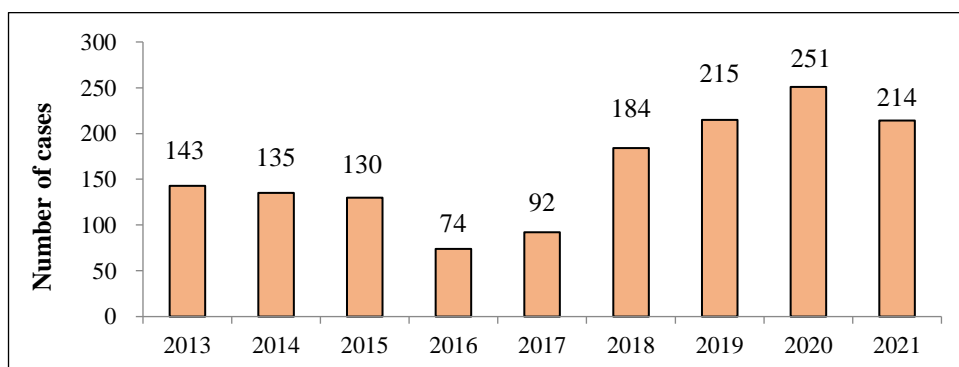
Source: 2011 Population Census, Statistics Mauritius

### 1.11 Teenage Pregnancy

Young people are becoming sexually active at an increasingly earlier age. According to the 2014 Contraceptive Prevalence Survey, 12.1% of adolescents (girls aged 15-19 years) have already started childbearing. In 2021, 7.7% of all live births occurred in Mauritius, were to girls aged 15-19. This is a major concern since more complications are associated with child birth among women below the age of 20 years.

The number of cases of teenage pregnancy reported at the Child Development Unit (CDU) is decreasing in the island of Mauritius. It was 214 in 2021 compared to 251 in 2020 as represented by Fig. 9.

**Figure 9 - Reported cases of teenage pregnancy at CDU, Island of Mauritius, 2013 – 2021**



Source: CDU, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

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

The Drop-in-Centre (DIC) is currently being managed by the Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association (MFPWA) and monitored by the Child Development Unit (CDU) to assess the extent of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

The DIC and the MFPWA are continually taking various preventive measures to combat the issues of early sexual activities among teenagers resulting in teenage pregnancy. In 2021, 325 cases of sexual abuse including 238 cases of teenage pregnancy were reported at the DIC and the following measures were taken:

- IEC programmes in schools, colleges and communities on the ill effects of child sexual abuse and teenage pregnancy and comprehensive sexuality education reaching 2,922 students.
- Training of 100 educators/stakeholders on how identifying and reporting cases of child sexual abuse and teenage pregnancy.
- Radio programmes in Hindi and Creole at the MBC and other radio channels. 22 radio programmes were recorded and broadcasted on MBC in 2021 on sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy and DIC services.

The DIC also offers the following services to the victims:

- Long Term counselling and therapy;
- Monthly medical sessions;
- Parental counselling;
- Couple/Contraceptive counselling;
- Monthly home visits to victims to ascertain their recovery and reinsertion in family/society;
- Focus group discussions;
- Echography and clinical services, includes Gynaecologist at MFPWA's Clinic;
- Laboratory tests (HIV/Pregnancy);
- Prevention and sensitization of adolescents/public on sexual abuse and teenage pregnancy;
- Referral to other NGOs/Social aid and other institutions (as and when needed for specific supports);
- Group activity therapy (personality development, Art and Craft therapy, Art competition during school holidays);
- Referral to vocational courses through MITD/NEF/HRDC; and
- Radio programmes and networking.

## **2 Health**

### **2.1 National health system**

Public health services in Mauritius are free of cost to members of the public throughout the country. The public health services in Mauritius operate through 5 regions with separate arrangements for Rodrigues. A well-established private sector also 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 specialised 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 2021, the Primary Health Care network, in the island of Mauritius, comprised 19 Area Health Centres, 114 Community Health Centres, 6 Medi-clinics and 2 Community Hospitals. Services provided at the primary care level are increasingly comprehensive which 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, specialised clinics, disease prevention and screening, health promotion, surveillance of communicable diseases, reproductive health and rehabilitation services.

General curative and specialised 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 national cancer centre, 1 diabetes and vascular centre and 1 cardiac centre, 1 cardiac centre at Candos ceased to operate in November 2021. In addition, all covid-19 positive patients are being managed at the New E.N.T Hospital located at Vacoas. The number of beds in government health institutions was 3,803 as at end 2021.

The private health sector, consisting mainly of curative and specialised services providers, comprised 18 hospitals/clinics in 2021. Bed capacity in this sector which was 706 in 2011 improved to 776 in 2021. The total number of beds in both public and private sectors as at end of 2021 was 4,579, that is, 266 inhabitants per bed.

The healthcare delivery system in Rodrigues comprises 1 main hospital, 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. Mont Lubin was operating as Covid-19 hospital in 2021. There is also a network of 12 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 222, that is, 200 inhabitants per bed.

At the end of 2021, there were 3,775 doctors registered with the Medical Council of the Republic of Mauritius, that is, 29.9 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants.

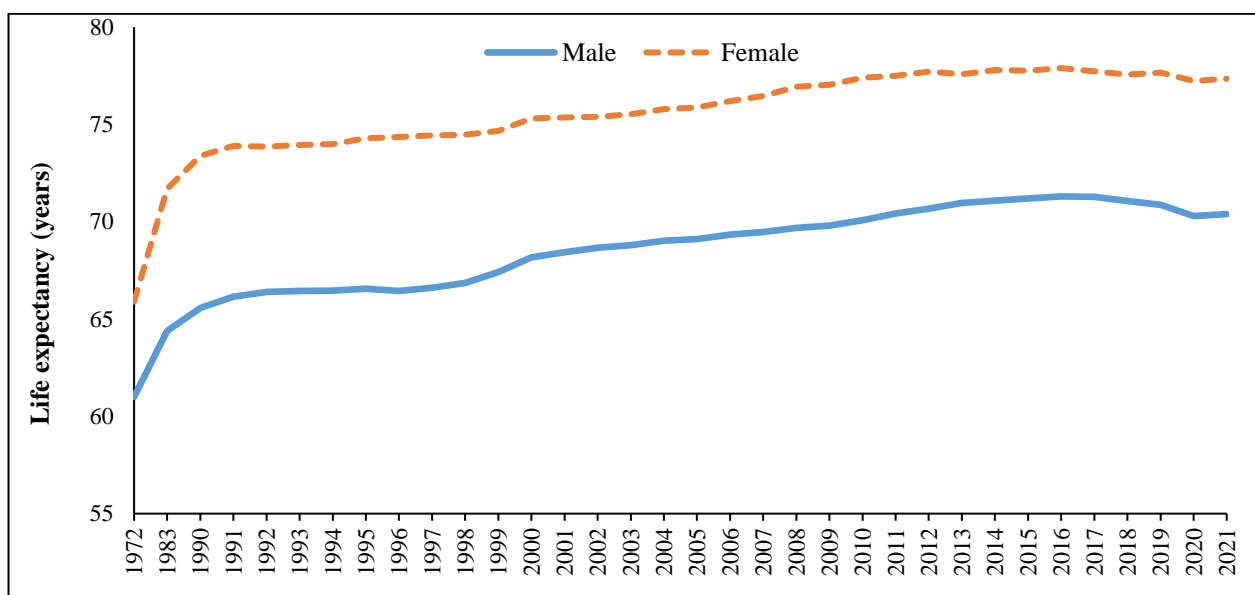
The general health of both men and women has been improving over the years. The statistics presented below show that people are living longer and fewer children die in their first year.

## 2.2 Women live longer than men

Life expectancy at birth is an 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 2021, a newborn boy can be expected to live up to 70 years, whereas a girl can be expected to reach 77 years of age.

Female life expectancy at birth was 7 years higher than for men in 2021 and remained the same during the last twenty years.

**Figure 10 - Life Expectancy at birth, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 – 2021**



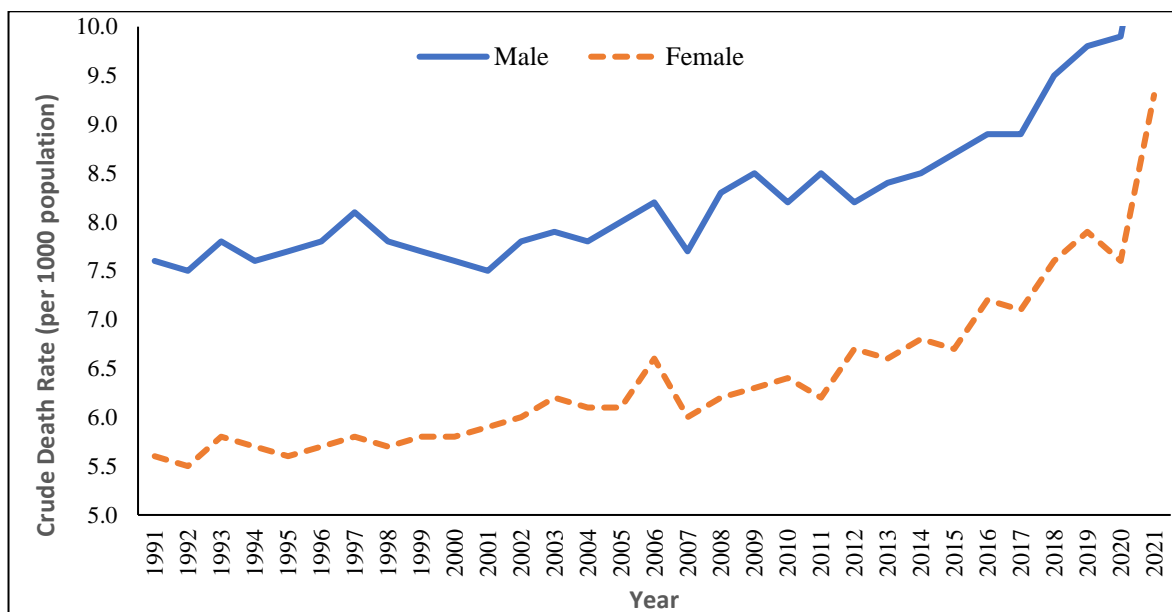
Source: Statistics Mauritius

According to population projections from 2021, life expectancy is expected to increase. Projections suggest that a boy born in 2060 will have a life expectancy of 75.7 years and a girl 80.7 years. The gender gap in 2021 stood at 7 years and it is expected to reduce to 5.0 years in 2061.

## 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 2021, 5,940 women as compared to 7,334 men died. The crude death rate in 2021 was 9.3 for women and 11.7 for men as shown in Figure 11.

**Figure 11 - Crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1991 – 2021**



Source: Statistics Mauritius

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

In the past, heart and cerebrovascular diseases were the most prominent cause of death among women and men. However, a decline in heart and cerebrovascular mortality among women and men has been observed. On the other hand, mortality due to diabetes mellitus and cancer was on the rise. In 2021, heart disease and diabetes mellitus were responsible for 20.7% and 21.3% of deaths among women and 19.0% and 21.4% of deaths among men. Cerebrovascular disease was responsible for 8.4% of deaths among women and 7.8% of deaths among men. Causes of death specific to women, such as breast and uterus cancer, were responsible for 5.0% of deaths among women while maternal deaths accounted for another 0.1%. Compared to men, women were more likely to die of hypertensive disease and neoplasms but less likely to die of liver diseases and commit suicide.

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

As regards external causes of death, no significant changes have occurred over the last 10 years, either among women or men. More men than women die in traffic accidents, accidental drowning, injuries, poisoning, smoke and fire and suicide. In 2021, 73 women died in accidents compared to 268 men.

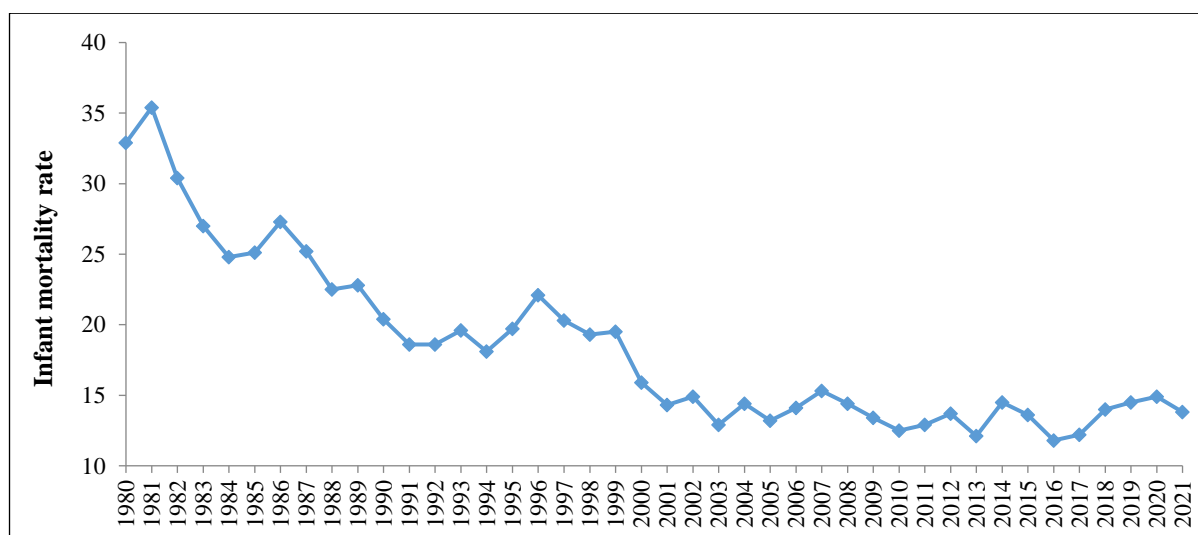
**Table 2 - Causes of death, Republic of Mauritius, 2011 and 2021**

Causes of death	2011		2021	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Diabetes mellitus	1,187	1,137	1,397	1,229
Heart disease	910	678	1,566	1,264
Hypertensive Disease	242	228	314	332
Cerebrovascular disease	411	355	574	497
Neoplasm:	535	512	688	735
<i>of which: Breast cancer</i>				
<i>(malignant)</i>	2	130	1	228
<i>Uterus cancer (malignant)</i>	<i>n/a</i>	51	<i>n/a</i>	72
Diseases of the respiratory system	431	277	698	520
<i>of which: Pneumonia</i>	123	90	118	102
<i>Asthma and Bronchitis</i>	121	70	115	42
Cirrhosis of liver	185	33	189	63
Maternal death	<i>n/a</i>	5	<i>n/a</i>	7
Injury, poisoning, accident and other external causes	469	126	382	91
<i>of which: Accident</i>	204	49	268	73
<i>Suicide</i>	96	25	114	18
Other	320	168	910	667
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,236</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>7,334</b>	<b>5,940</b>

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

## 2.6 Infant mortality rate on a decreasing trend

**Figure 12 - Infant Mortality Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1980 – 2021**



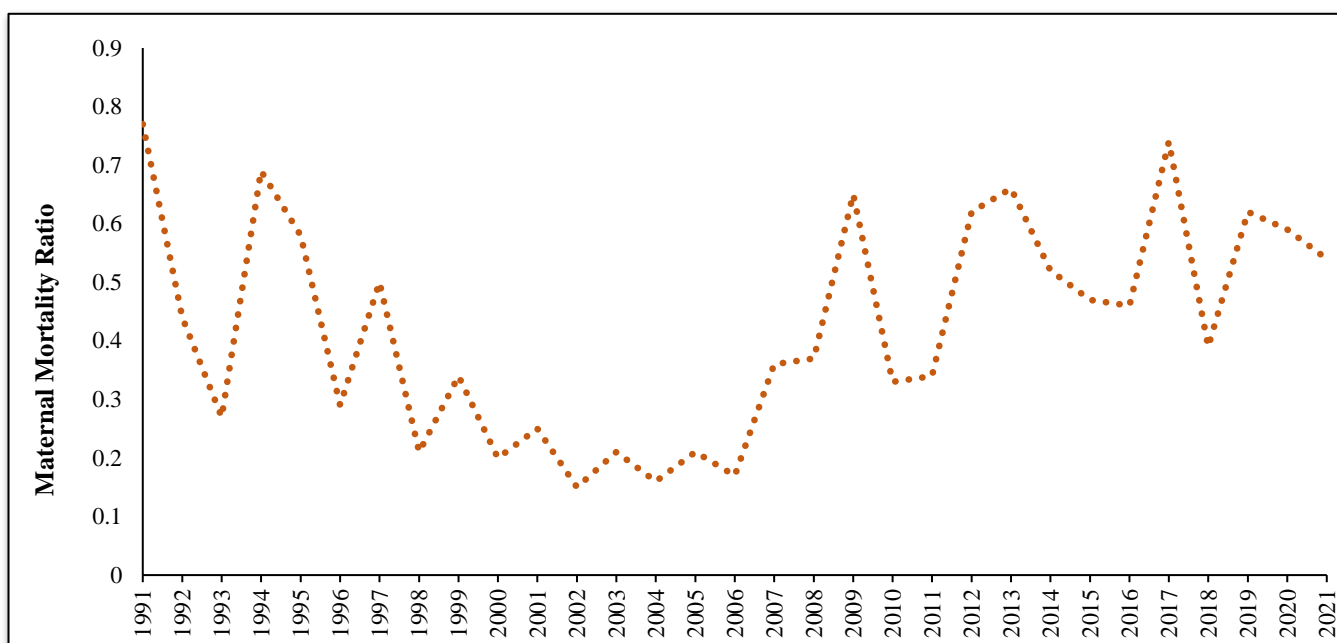
Source: Statistics Mauritius

The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, decreased significantly from 32.9 in 1980 to 13.8 in 2021, 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 15.9 in 2000 to 13.8 in 2021.

## 2.7 Maternal mortality ratio 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 1991 to 2006, the maternal mortality ratio declined from 0.77 maternal death per 1,000 live births to 0.17. After 2006, the maternal mortality ratio was on a rising trend to reach 0.54 in 2021.

**Figure 13 - Maternal Mortality Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 1991 – 2021**



Source: Statistics Mauritius

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

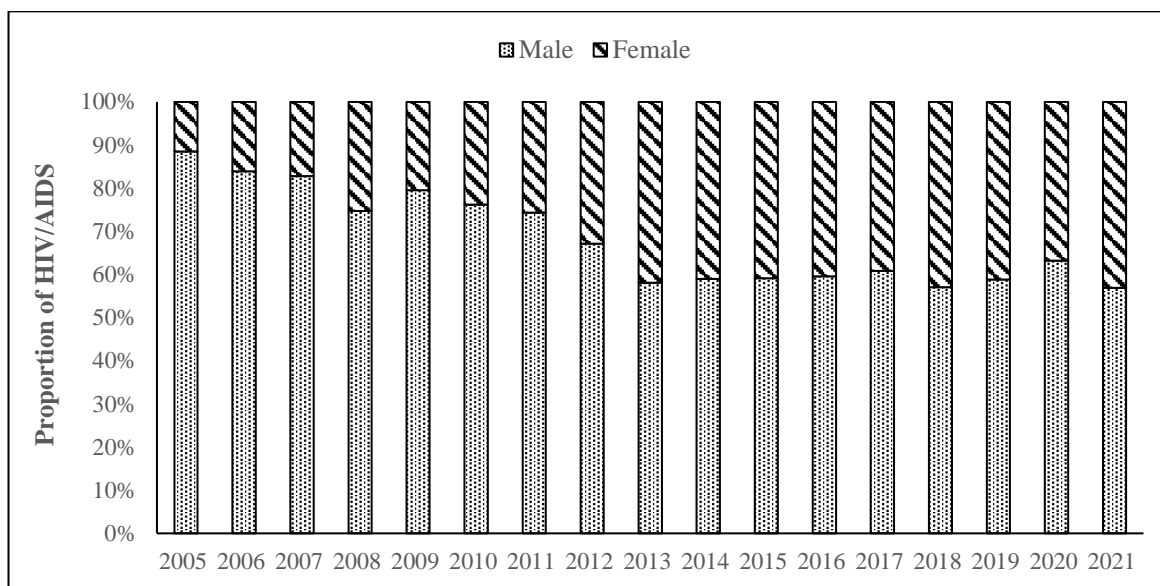
HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), if not treated. As at date, there is no cure for HIV. HIV is a chronic infection which can be controlled through life long treatment. HIV attacks the body's immune system making the person more likely to get other infections.

In the Republic of Mauritius, the first case of AIDS was notified in October 1987. As at end of 2021, a total of 8,794 cases of HIV/AIDS were detected, of whom 8,440 (6,110 males, 2,330 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. The proportion of new cases for women was 43.1% in 2021 compared to 36.8% in 2020.



**Figure 14 - Proportion of new cases of HIV/AIDS registered among Mauritians, 2005 - 2021**



Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

HIV is transmitted by coming into direct contact with certain body fluids from a person with HIV who has a detectable viral load. These fluids are:

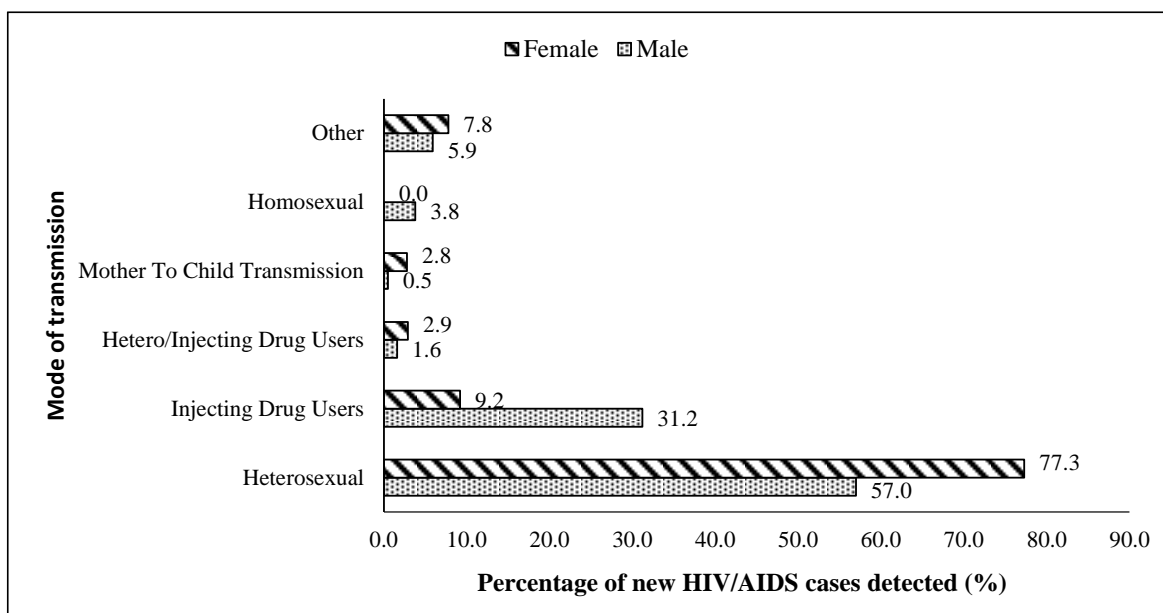
- Blood
- Semen and pre-seminal fluid
- Rectal fluids
- Breast milk

HIV can only be spread through specific activities:

- Having vaginal or anal sex with someone who has HIV without using a condom the right way every time or taking medicines to prevent or treat HIV. Anal sex is riskier than vaginal sex for HIV transmission
- Sharing injection drug equipment, such as needles, syringes, or other drug injection equipment (“works”) with someone who has HIV because these items may have blood in them, and blood can carry HIV. People who inject hormones, silicone, or steroids can also get or transmit HIV by sharing needles, syringes, or other injection equipment.
- Being exposed to HIV through a needlestick or sharps injury. It can be mainly for Health Care Workers.
- HIV-positive women transmitting HIV to their baby during pregnancy, birth, or breastfeeding.

In 2021, out of the 141 new HIV/AIDS cases detected among females, 77.3% was due to heterosexual as mode of transmission and 9.2% to drug injection. As regards males, among the 186 new cases, the mode of transmission mainly due to heterosexual and drug injection were 57.0% and 31.2% respectively.

**Figure 15 - Proportion of new cases of HIV/AIDS by mode of transmission & sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2021**



Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

## 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 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. According to Maternal and Child Health Programme in 1972, the MFPWA has continued to run a family planning clinic where contraceptive methods and counselling services are offered. Moreover, ‘Action Familiale’, established in 1963, has been promoting the use of natural family planning methods and providing counselling services.

Table 3 showed that as at 31 December 2021, there were 55,792 users registered at the family planning service points of the Government, MFPWA and Action Familiale in the Republic of Mauritius. Sympto-thermal was the most preferred method of family planning among the current users accounting for 47.1%, followed by tubal ligation (25.5%), male condom (11.2%), pill (6.0%) and injectable contraception (5.7%).

**Table 3 - Current users of family planning method, Republic of Mauritius, 2021**

Method	Current Users	
	Number	%
Pill	3,354	6.0
Male Condom	6,235	11.2
Intra-Uterine Device (IUD)	1,653	3.0
Injectable	3,205	5.7
Sympto Thermal	26,269	47.1
Tubal Ligation	14,214	25.5
Implant	862	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,792</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

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 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.

## 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).

<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

### 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:

<b>New Education structure</b>	<b>Age group (Years)</b>	<b>Duration (Years)</b>
1.Early Childhood Care and Education	3 to 4	2
2.Basic Education	5 to 14	9
3. Post Basic Education/Upper Secondary	14 to 18	4
4. Post-Secondary and Higher Education	above 18	at least 2

After two years in pre-primary schools, all children aged five 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 to three years of Lower Secondary education (Grades 7-9) and hence complete the nine-year cycle of basic education.

After the National Certificate of Education examination, learners will pursue their secondary schooling in either general or technical education. Those opting for 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 studies in a tertiary education institution either in Mauritius or overseas.

#### 3.2 Expenditure on education

Government expenditure on education and training for the financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 are estimated at Rs 18,303 million and Rs 16,529 million, representing 7.7% and 9.3% 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**

Year	Male	Female	Difference
2000	88.7	81.5	+7.2
2011	92.3	87.3	+5.0

*Source: 2011 population Census, Statistics Mauritius*

### 3.4 Enrolment in Day Care Centres

In 2021, there were 2,992 boys and 2,741 girls (aged 3 months to 3 years) enrolled in 378 Day Care Centres.

**Table 5 - Number of children aged 3 months to 3 years enrolled in day care centres, Island of Mauritius, 2017 – 2021**

Year	Number of children enrolled		Number of day care centres
	Boys	Girls	
2017	3,173	2,980	347
2018	3,126	2,876	361
2019	3,093	2,858	348
2020	2,906	2,675	349
2021	2,992	2,741	378

*Source: Annual Survey in Day Care Centres, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family Welfare*

### 3.5 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 23,603 in 2021. Boys represented 51.2% of the 2021 pre-primary school population and girls 48.8%. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (pre-primary enrolment as a percentage of the population aged 4 to 5 years) was 92 % for boys compared to 93% 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 6 shows that there is no disparity between boys and girls with regards to enrolment at pre-primary level.

**Table 6 - Gross Enrolment Ratio (4-5 years) at pre-primary level, Republic of Mauritius, 2017 – 2021**

Year	Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)		Gender Parity Index
	Male	Female	
2017	97	96	0.99
2018	95	97	1.02
2019	97	96	0.99
2020	104	100	0.96
2021	92	93	1.01

*Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology*

The primary school population in the Republic of Mauritius was 84,129 in 2021. Boys represented 50.3% of the 2021 primary school population, and 49.7% for girls. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (primary enrolment as a percentage of the population aged 6 to 11 years) was 99% for boys and 101% for girls. (Table 7)

**Table 7 - Gross Enrolment Ratio (6-11 years) at primary level, Republic of Mauritius, 2017 - 2021**

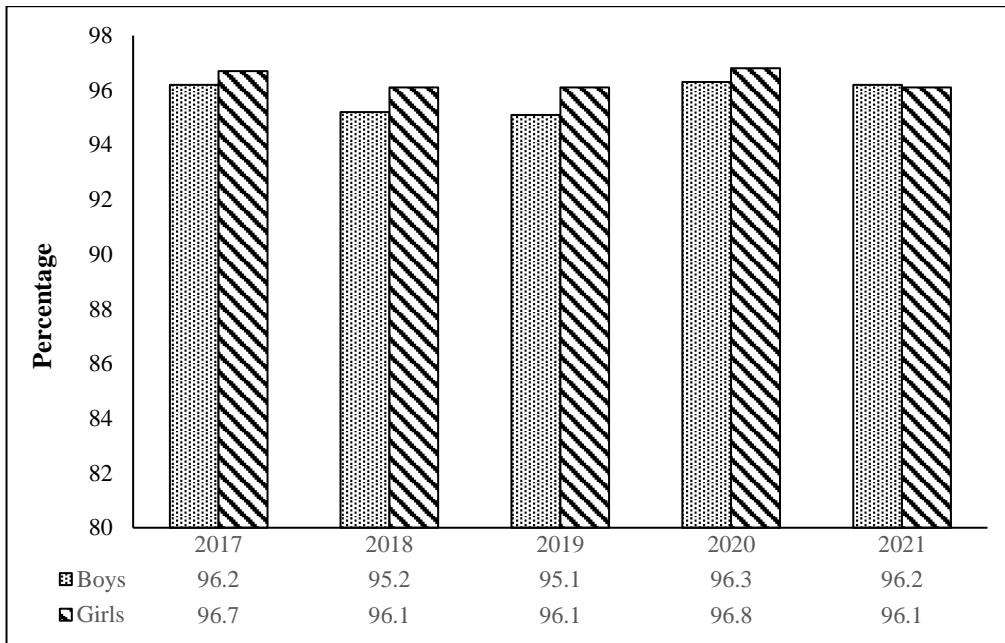
Year	Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)		Gender Parity Index
	Male	Female	
2017	96	97	1.01
2018	96	97	1.01
2019	95	96	1.01
2020	95	96	1.01
2021	99	101	1.02

*Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology*

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

In 2021, the proportion of girls starting Grade 1 who reached Grade 6 was 96.1%, slightly lower than boys with 96.2%.

**Figure 16 - Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 6, Republic of Mauritius, 2017 - 2021**

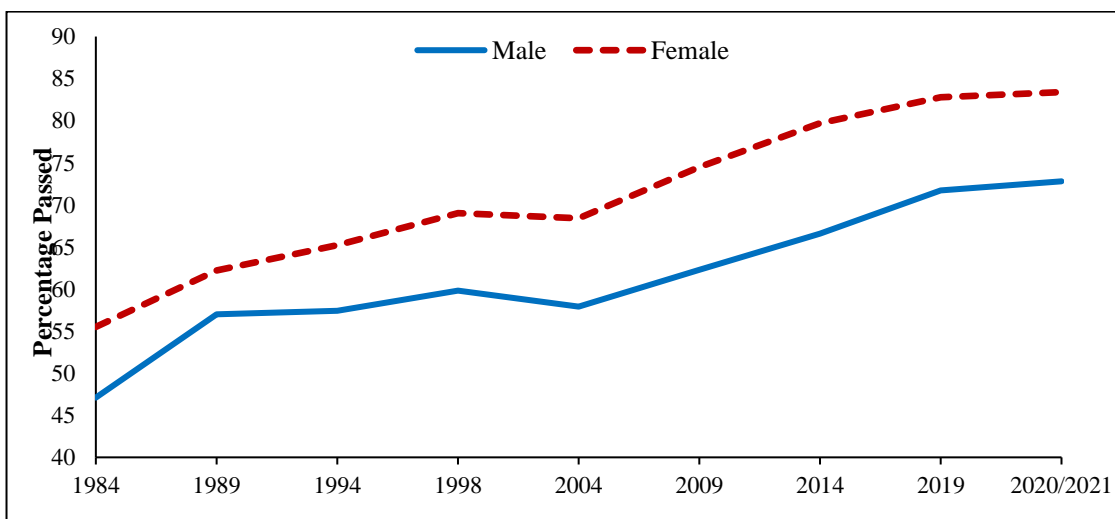


Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

### 3.7 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 2020/2021, the pass rate for girls was nearly 83.4% against 72.8% for boys.

**Figure 17 - PSAC (formerly CPE) Pass Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1984 – 2020/2021**



Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

### 3.8 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 2021 Gross Enrolment Ratio (secondary enrolment as a percentage of the population aged 12 to 19 years) was 74% for girls against 69% for boys. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in secondary enrolment was 1.1 in 2021 showing a disparity in favour of girls.

**Table 8 - Gross Enrolment Ratio (12-19 years) at secondary level, Republic of Mauritius, 2017 - 2021**

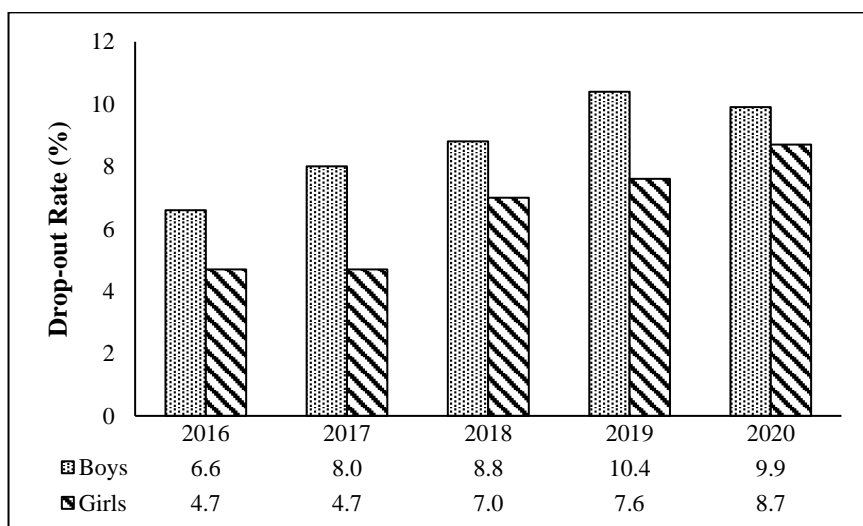
Year	Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)		Gender Parity Index
	Male	Female	
2017	67	76	1.13
2018	69	77	1.12
2019	69	76	1.10
2020	69	76	1.10
2021	69	74	1.07

Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

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

Girls are less likely than boys to drop out from secondary academic stream, 8.7% against 9.9% in 2020.

**Figure 18 - Drop-out Rate (%) in secondary schools (general), Republic of Mauritius, 2016 - 2020**



Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

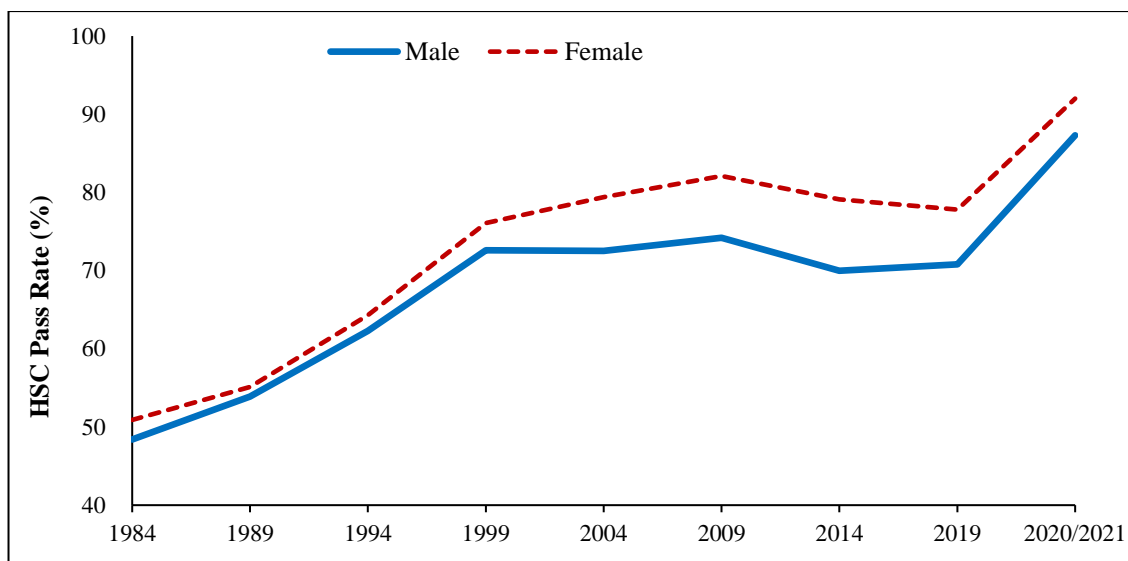
### 3.10 Girls perform better than boys in SC and HSC examinations

Regarding performance in examinations at secondary level, it was observed that girls were more successful than boys. For the 2020/2021 School Certificate (SC) examinations, girls recorded a higher



pass rate, 88% against 83%. The pass rate for girls at the Higher School Certificate (HSC) for 2020/2021 was 92.0% against 87.3% for boys.

**Figure 19 - HSC Pass Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1984 – 2020/2021**



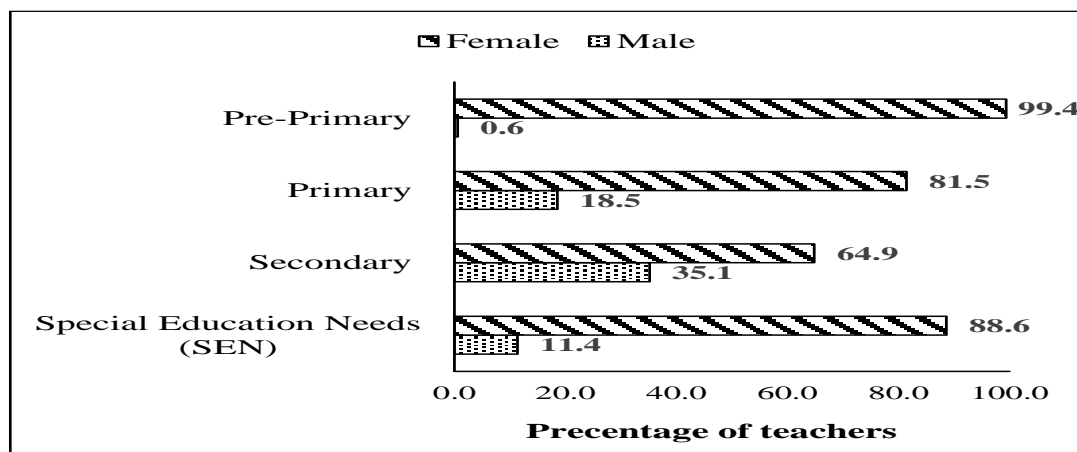
Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

### 3.11 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 2021, out of the 1,831 pre-primary school teachers, only 11 were male. Women also dominated the primary school sector. About 81.5% of teachers in the primary sector were female and at secondary level, the proportion remained 64.9%.

**Figure 20 - Proportion of teachers by level, Republic of Mauritius, 2021**



Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

### 3.12 Girls less likely to enrol for technical and vocational education

In 2021, there were 6,171 students (of whom 76.7% were males) enrolled in publicly funded technical and vocational courses compared to 7,328 in 2020. Some 47.2 % of the students were enrolled in full-time courses, 28.9% in part-time courses and the rest (23.9%) in apprenticeship courses (Table 9).

**Table 9 - Enrolment in Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) Centres, 2021**

Sex	Mode of Study			Total
	Full Time	Part Time	Apprenticeship	
Male	2,342	1,343	1,046	<b>4,731</b>
Female	573	441	426	<b>1,440</b>
<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>6,171</b>

*Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology*

There were only 19.7% of girls for the fulltime courses (Table 9).

**Table 10 - Enrolment in MITD Centres by course level, year of study and sex (Full Time), 2021**

Course Level	Male	Female	Total
National Certificate Level 2	560	196	756
National Certificate Level 3	536	125	661
National Certificate Level 4	531	88	619
National Certificate Level 5	79	28	107
Brevet de Technicien	338	5	343
Diploma	257	101	358
Higher National Diploma	41	30	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>2,915</b>

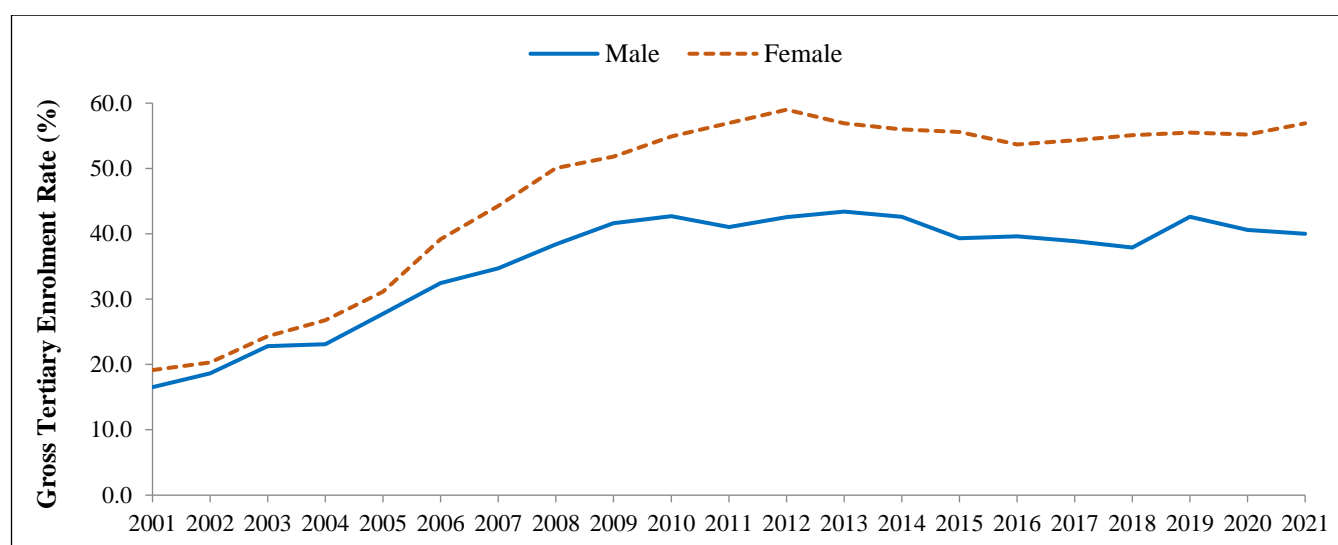
*Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology*

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

From 2001 to 2012, participation in tertiary education for both boys and girls has increased with a widening gap in favour of girls. Tertiary enrolment, as measured by Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate (GTER), rose from 19.1 % in 2001 to 59.0 % in 2012 for girls, then started to decline to reach 56.9 % in 2021. A similar pattern is observed for boys, the GTER rose from 16.5% in 2001 to attain a peak of 43.4 % in 2013 then started declining to 40.0% in 2021. In 2021, female students enrolled in public, private

and overseas tertiary institutions numbered 28,393, representing 57.4% of the student population which stood at 49,497.

**Figure 21 - Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate (GTER), Republic of Mauritius, 2001 - 2021**



Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

### 3.14 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 advanced degree programmes (PhD, MPhil and DBA), 296 women against 299 men.

**Table 11 – Enrolment<sup>1</sup> in tertiary institutions by level, Republic of Mauritius, 2021**

Level	Male	Female
PhD	156	144
MPhil	113	132
DBA <sup>2</sup>	30	20
Masters Degree	2,004	2,886
Post Graduate Diploma	85	111
Post Graduate Certificate	82	312
Professional	907	1,387
Bachelor Degree	10,925	16,734
Diploma	827	839
Certificate	158	170
<b>All levels</b>	<b>15,287</b>	<b>22,735</b>

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

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

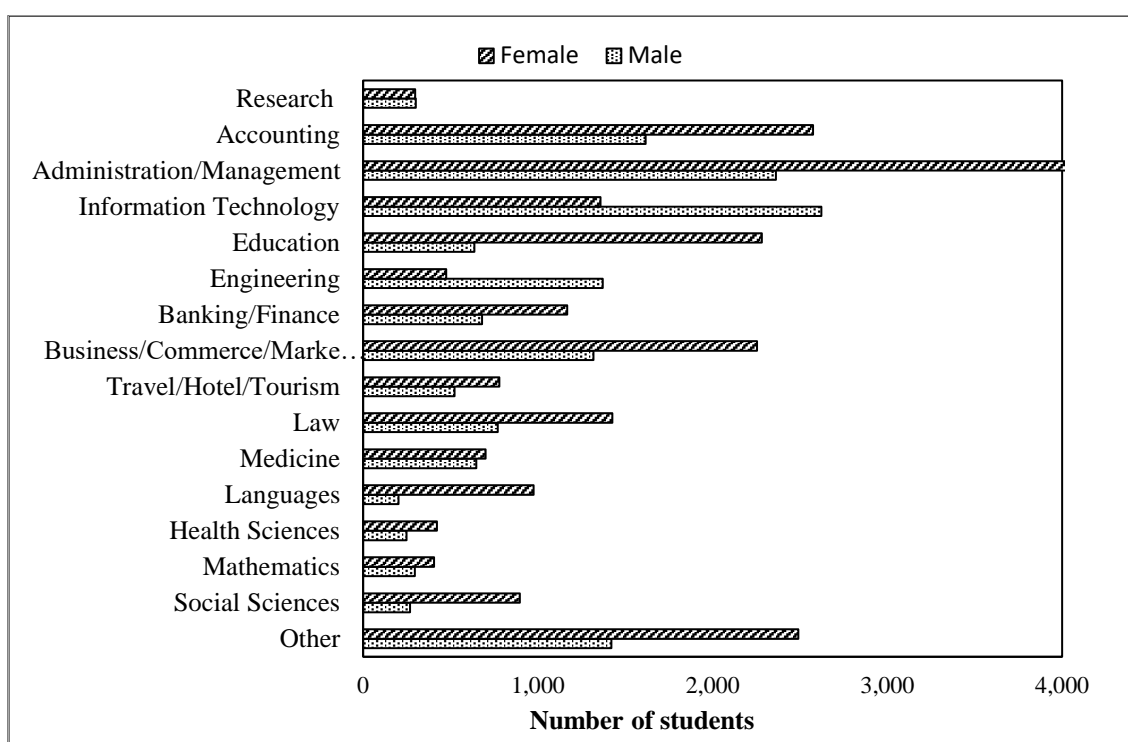
Source: Higher Education Commission

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

The most popular field of study for women was Administration/Management (19%) followed by Accounting (11%), Education (10%) and Business/Commerce/Marketing (10%). While the most popular field of study for men was Information Technology (17%) followed by Administration/Management (15%) and Accounting (11%).

Women were underrepresented in science-related fields such as Engineering (26% against 74%) and Information Technology (34% against 66%) whereas men were underrepresented in Social Science (23% against 77%) and Languages (18% against 83%).

**Figure 22 - Number of students enrolled<sup>1</sup> in tertiary institutions by field of study, 2021**



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

Source: Higher Education Commission

### 3.16 Home Economics

The Home Economics Unit, under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, aims to promote the social and economic empowerment of women and the community at large through capacity building programmes about Home Economics. The courses are free of cost, MQA approved and are targeted at men and women of the community. Life-skills Development Programmes are also implemented for the benefit of young boys and girls as well as for working men and women.

Training Programmes are run as a decentralised service in a network of more than 125 centres located all over the island.

In 2021, out of the 966 persons who benefited from the training courses held by the Home Economics Unit, 99.6% of them were women. The training courses that were mostly followed by women were as follows Healthy Lifestyle Programme (22.4%), Sustainable Development & Food Security (17.7%), Pastry and Dessert (11.5%), Food preservation/Food processing (11.0%), Healthy Vegetarian Cooking (9.2%), Beauty Care (8.0%), Floral Arrangement (5.2%), Yoga (3.7%), Family and Consumer Issues (3.6%) and Recycle Decorative Household Items (3.1%) (Table 12)

**Table 12 - Number of persons by sex who followed training courses held by the Home Economics Unit, Island of Mauritius, 2021/2022**

Course	Male	Female	Both sexes
Floral Arrangement	-	50	50
Food preservation/Food processing	2	106	108
Pastry & Dessert	2	111	113
Motherhood and Childcare	-	10	10
Healthy Lifestyle Programme	-	215	215
Healthy Vegetarian Cooking	-	88	88
Recycle Decorative Household Items	-	30	30
Yoga	-	36	36
Advanced Yoga	-	8	8
Beauty Care	-	77	77
Advanced Beauty Care	-	16	16
Family & Consumer Issues	-	35	35
Caring for Elderly	-	10	10
Sustainable Development & Food Security	-	170	170
<b>All courses</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>966</b>

*Source: Home Economics Unit, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family Welfare (As a result of lockdown due to Covid-19 and the closure of training centres for a long period of time, many courses specially those of more than 3 months duration could not be completed)*

### 3.17 National Women Entrepreneur Council

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWECC) is a parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare since 1999. It is the main organization that provides support and assistance to both potential and existing women entrepreneurs in Mauritius.

The objective of NWECC is to promote entrepreneurship and inculcate the right business culture for women empowerment in Mauritius.

There are 930 active women entrepreneurs who are registered with the NWECC as at 30 June 2021 and are engaged in the following sectors: agro business, handicraft, textile and services.

**Table 13 - Main achievements of the NWECC from July 2020 to June 2021**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Women entrepreneurs participation</b>
Fairs/Sales exhibitions	31	580
Sensitization Campaigns	5	231
Training programmes on Digital and online Marketing and Coaching	7	94
Workshops (Virtual regional workshop and webinar)	3	
Industry visit to 45 students		3

## 4 Employment and work

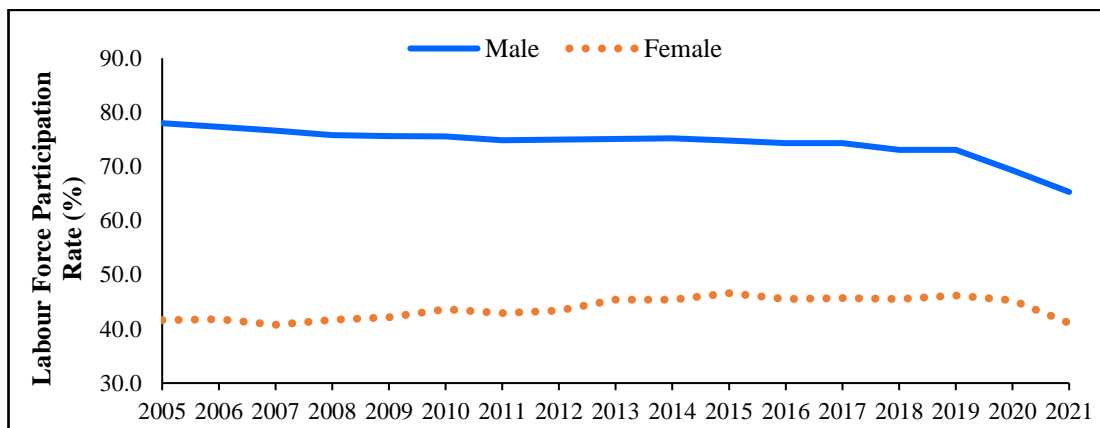
### 4.1 Employment

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 532,800 people aged 16 years and above made up the labour force in Mauritius. There were 214,000 (40%) women and 318,800 (60%) men in the labour force in 2021.

### 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 2021, the labour force participation rate for women - at around 41.1 per cent - was nearly 24.2 percentage points lower than the rate for men.

**Figure 23 - Labour Force Participation Rate (%) by sex, 2005 - 2021**

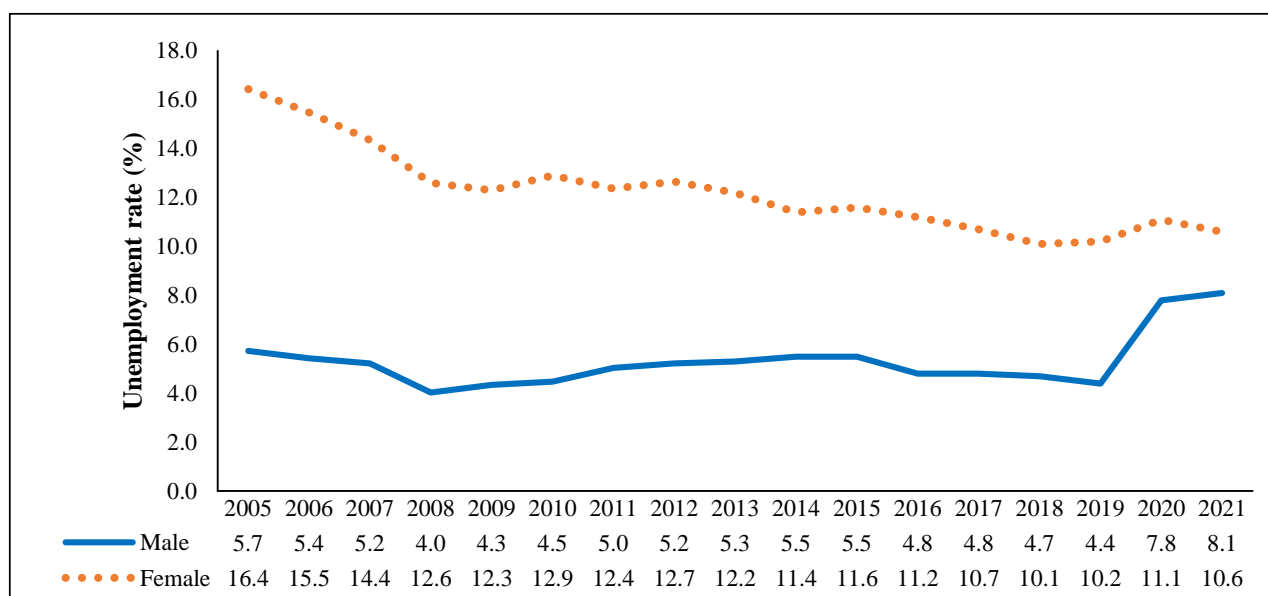


Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

### 4.3 Unemployment

Unemployed people are those who have no job but are seeking and available for work. From 2011 to 2021, women’s unemployment rate was higher than men’s. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted severely the male unemployment rate which reached 8.1% in 2021 compared to 5.0% in 2011 while the female unemployment rate was 10.6% in 2021 compared to 12.4% in 2011. In 2021, there were 22,600 unemployed women compared to 25,800 men. Female unemployment rate stood at 10.6%, much higher than the rate of 8.1% for male.

**Figure 24 - Unemployment Rate (%) by sex, 2005 - 2021**



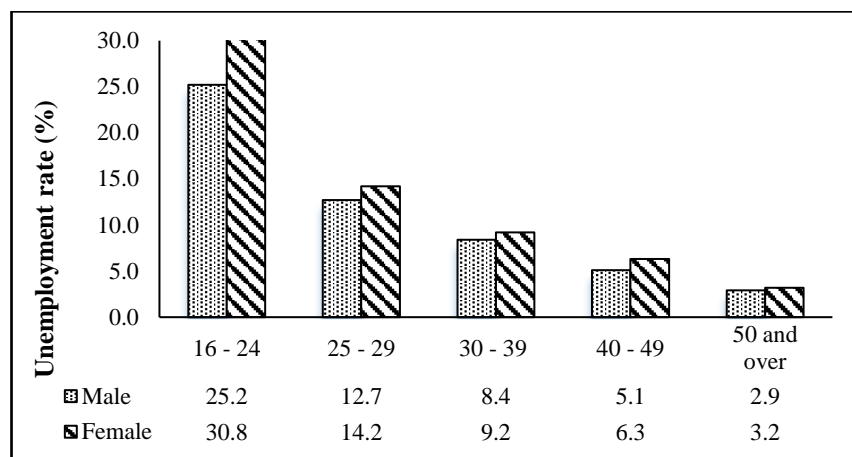
Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

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

In 2021, around 30.8 per cent of young women aged 16 to 24 years were unemployed compared to 25.2 per cent of young men; the difference was nearly 5.6 percentage points. Also, unemployment was more prevalent among young persons aged 16 to 24 years than among adults aged 25 and older. In 2021, 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 & sex, 2021**



Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

Government has taken several initiatives to reduce unemployment, especially for youth and women, namely through 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. As at 31 December 2021, 18,647 male and 23,165 female youths were registered with YEP and 10,991 males and 13,445 females obtained placement.

**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. As at December 2021, 5,331 women were registered in this programme and 1,328 have been placed.

**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

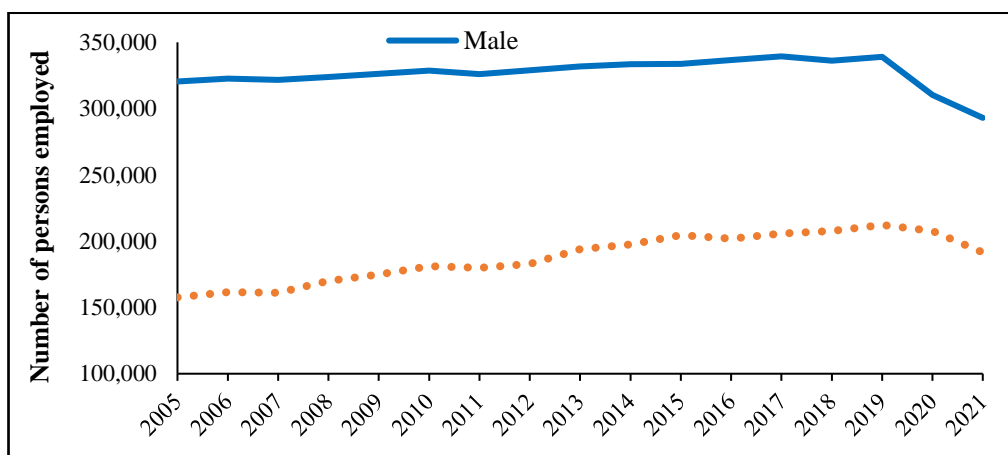


Commission or the Mauritius Qualifications Authority in fields required by the labour market, with placement in an enterprise. Under the Programme, trainees were paid a monthly stipend of Rs 6,000 for a maximum period of three years. As for employers, they were refunded 50% of the course fees or Rs 50,000 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. As at December 2021, 205 trainees (90 males and 115 females) have successfully completed their training and 155 trainees have obtained permanent jobs after completion of the training.

**The Trainee Engineer Scheme (TES)** was launched in September 2016 in the Public Sector and was extended to the Private Sector in March 2017. The objective of the Trainee Engineer Scheme is to provide practical training to graduates over a period of 24 months under supervision of a professional Engineer to enable them to qualify for registration with the Council of Registered Professional Engineers of Mauritius and to be able to operate as full-fledged Engineers. Under the TES, trainees are paid a monthly stipend of Rs 23,975. Employers from the private sector are refunded 50% of the stipend. The requirements for enlistment of trainees for the Trainee Engineer Scheme are a Degree in Engineering plus Eligibility Certificate Stage 1 from the Council of Registered Professional Engineer. As at 31 December 2021, the number of applications received for the scheme was 1,399 (1,040 males and 359 females). The number of placements effected in the public sector was 441 (349 males and 92 females) and in the private sector it was 262 (197 males and 65 females). Most placements were made in the following fields: 50% in “Civil Engineering” and 20% in “Mechanical Engineering” and 14% in “Electrical and Electronics Engineering”.

The number of women working has been increasing gradually. In 2021, an estimated 191,400 women compared to 293,000 men were in employment.

**Figure 26 – Employed population by sex, 2005 – 2021**

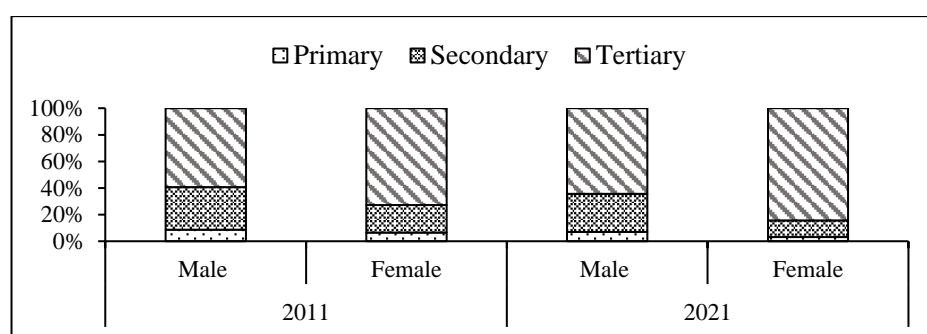


Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

#### 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 2021, 84.4% of employed women and 64.5% 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 2011 to 2021 went down by 48.0% for women and 28% 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 42.0% for women compared to 31.5% for men mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector.

**Figure 27 - Employed population by industrial sector, 2011 & 2021**



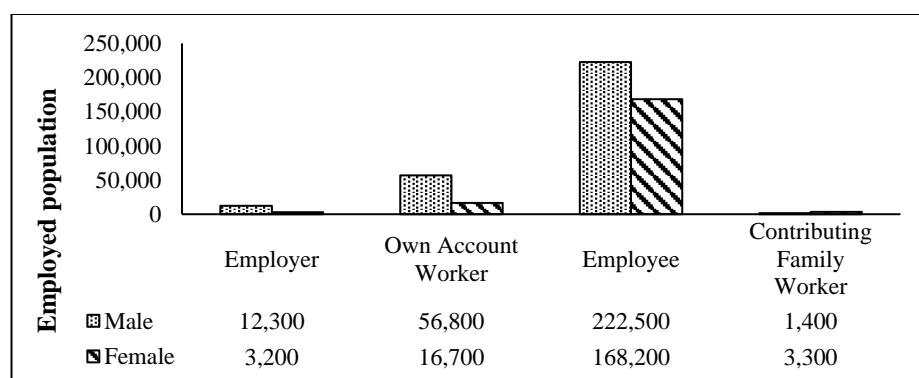
Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

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

Information on how hold jobs is important as such classification provides the basis for analysing employment conditions regarding 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 2021, around 87.9% of employed women and 75.9 % of employed men were wage and salaried employees.

**Figure 28 - Employed population by employment status & sex, 2021**



Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

#### **4.7 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 subject to variance in income and difficult working conditions. They are considered to be in “vulnerable” types of employment. In 2021, 20,000 women compared to 58,200 men were in vulnerable employment.

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

A small production unit is 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 139,961 in 2018. Around 100,115 females compared to 229,515 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.” (30.7%), “Construction” (18%), “Transportation and storage” (17.2%) and “Manufacturing” (11.5%). Among female workers, 34.5% were in “Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles”, 19.4% in “Accommodation and food service activities” and 15% in “Manufacturing”.

#### **4.9 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 enterprises that are not considered as separate legal entities independent of the households who own them. They can be engaged in any kind of productive activity virtually – 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 2018 Census of Economic Activities (CEA) which cover all types of economic activities except agriculture, 28% (38,550 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’ (23%), ‘Manufacturing’ (17%), ‘Construction’ (12%) and ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (8%).

The number of persons engaged in the informal units was around 64,387, representing 20% of the total number of persons engaged in all small establishments covered in the CEA. Male employment was estimated at 47,311 and female employment at 17,076.

Around 39% of the female workers and 30% of the male workers were engaged in ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ (30.7%), ‘Transportation and storage’ (17.2%) and ‘Construction’ (18.0%).

#### **4.10 Women earn less than men**

On average in 2021, women earned Rs 20,000 per month compared to Rs 25,000 earned by men. The gender pay gap was 20.0%, meaning that women earned 80.0% of what men earned.

#### **4.11 Higher pay-gap in primary sector**

On average, women earned Rs 13,300 per month compared to Rs 18,700 earned by men in the primary sector. The gender pay gap was 28.9%, meaning that women earned 71.1% of what men earned in that sector.

**Table 14 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2021**

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	18,700	13,300	17,600
Secondary	21,300	14,700	19,700
Tertiary	26,900	20,800	23,900
<b>All Sectors</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>22,800</b>

*Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius*

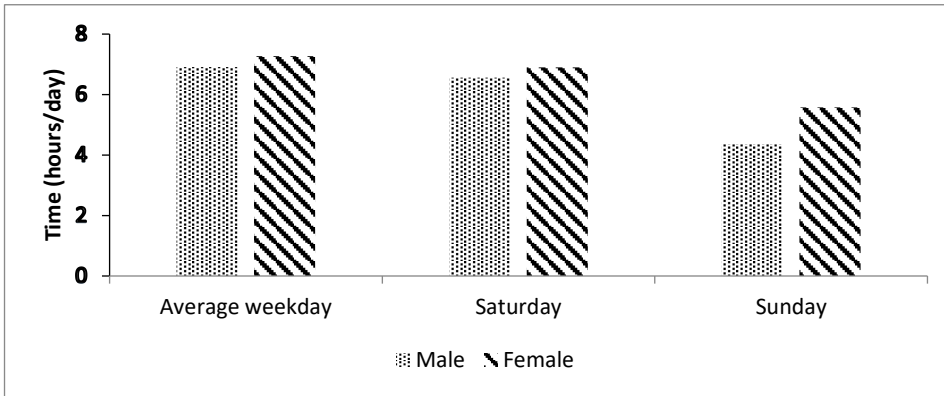
#### **4.12 Time spent on paid and unpaid work**

The average time spent at work is 4.0 hours per day during weekdays (5.3 hours for males and 2.9 hours for females), 3.4 hours on Saturdays (4.6 hours for males and 2.2 hours for females) and 1.6 hours on Sundays (2.2 hours for males and 1.0 hour for females).

Time spent on household tasks does not change much when comparing week days and week-end patterns: 3.1 hours during week days (1.6 hours for males and 4.4 hours for females) compared to an average of 3.3 hours during the week-end (2.1 hours for males and 4.6 hours for females).

Time spent on personal activities is higher on Sundays than on weekdays, as few persons work on Sundays. Men spend 19.6 hours for personal activities on Sundays compared to 17.1 hours on weekdays, and women 18.4 hours on Sundays and 16.7 hours during weekdays. It is also worth noting that time spent on personal activities by women is less than for men throughout the week and the difference is more pronounced on Sundays.

**Fig.29 - Average time spent on paid and unpaid work by day of the week and sex, 2018/19**



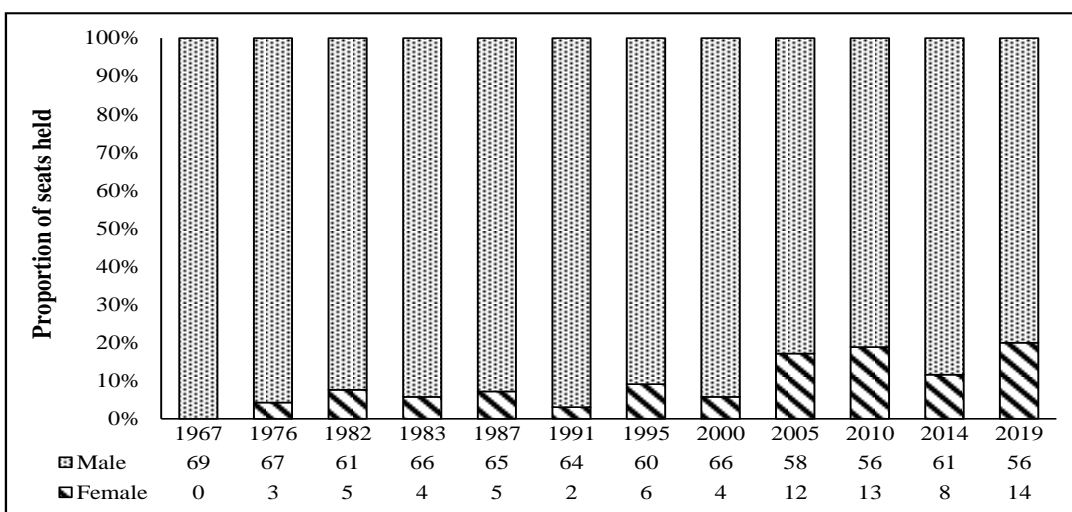
Source: Living Condition Survey 2018/19, Statistics Mauritius

## 5 Public life and decision-making

### 5.1 Women continue to be underrepresented in Parliament

Although women make up about 51% 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 20% in the last 2019 election.

**Figure 30 - Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament, 1967 – 2019**



Source: National Assembly

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 15 below.

**Table 15 - Elected Members at Municipal Council Election, 1985 – 2015**

Year	Elected Members			
	Male	Female	Both sexes	% 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: Electoral Commissioner’s Office

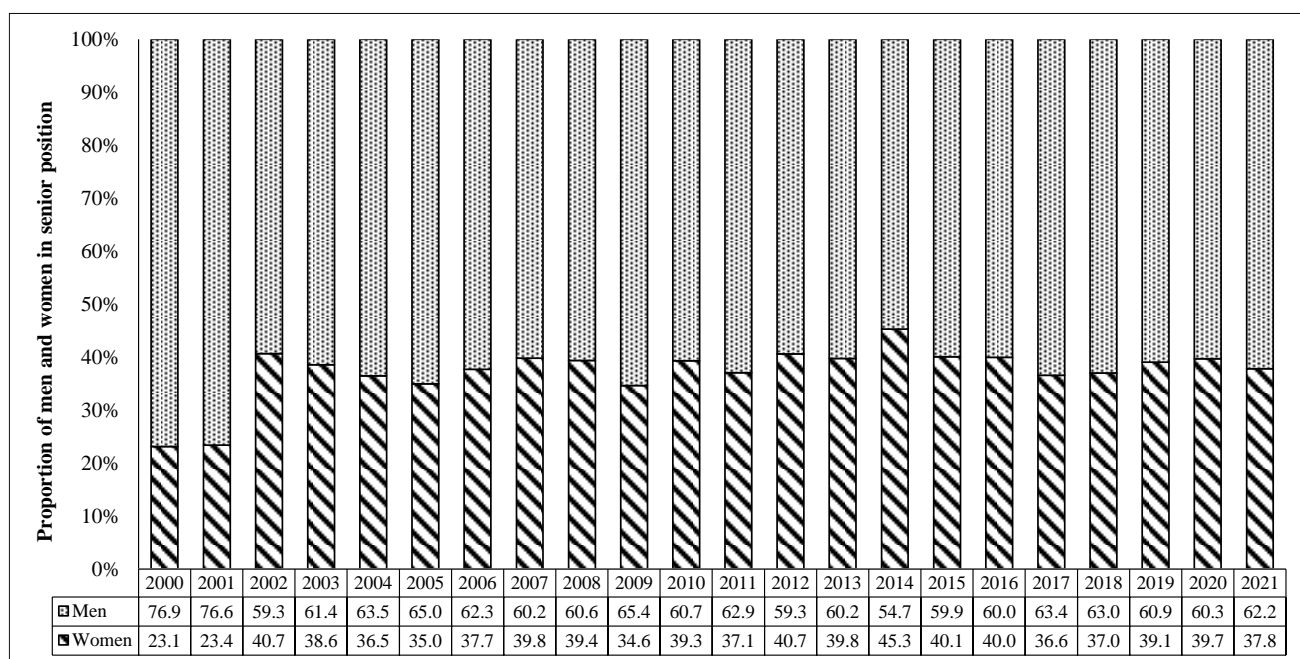
### 5.2 Mayors are largely men

Even though the proportion of women elected at Municipal Council elections has increased, the proportion of female mayors remained low. In 2021, there was no female mayor in the five municipalities.

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

From 2000 to 2002, there has been a noticeable progress in the proportion of women holding senior positions in Government. However, data from 2010 to 2021 on senior-level civil servants indicate that the share of women in those posts remain at around 37.8%.

**Figure 31 - Proportion of women in senior positions<sup>1</sup> in Government, 2000 – 2021**



<sup>1</sup>Senior positions: Senior Chief Executive, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Director, Manager, Judge and Magistrate

Source: Annual Survey of Employment in Government Services, Ministry of Gender Equality 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 2020 data<sup>1</sup>, the proportion of women holding senior positions in the private sector was around 26.0%. Very few women can reach the position of CEO. Data indicate that the glass ceiling remains impenetrable in private companies in Mauritius. In 2021, there was no female CEO.

<sup>1</sup>*The Top 100 Companies, 2020 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 42.1% in 2017 to 68.2% in 2021.

**Table 16 - Judge and Magistrate in the Judiciary, 2017 – 2021**

Year	Male	Female	Both sexes	% Female
2017	11	8	19	42.1
2018	11	9	20	45.0
2019	9	13	22	59.1
2020	8	16	24	66.7
2021	7	15	22	68.2

*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 6.6 % in 2011 to reach 9.3 % in 2020/2021.

**Table 17 - Women in the Mauritius Police Force, 2011 – 2020/2021**

Year	Male	Female	Both sexes	% female
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
2019	13,343	1,210	14,553	8.3
2020/2021	11,488	1,135	12,623	9.0

*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.

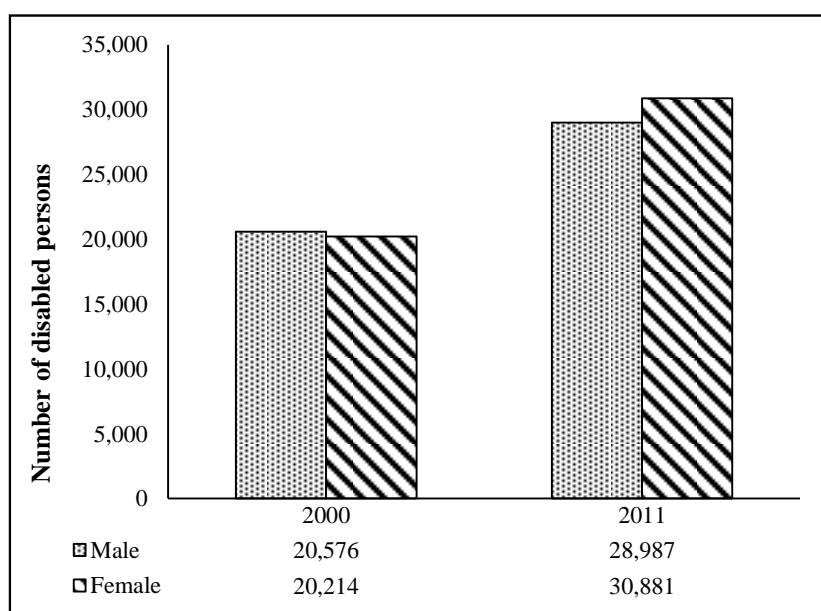
### 6.1 More disabled women than men

Figure 32 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 32 - Disabled population, 2000 and 2011 Population Censuses**



Source : *Population Censuses, Statistics Mauritius*

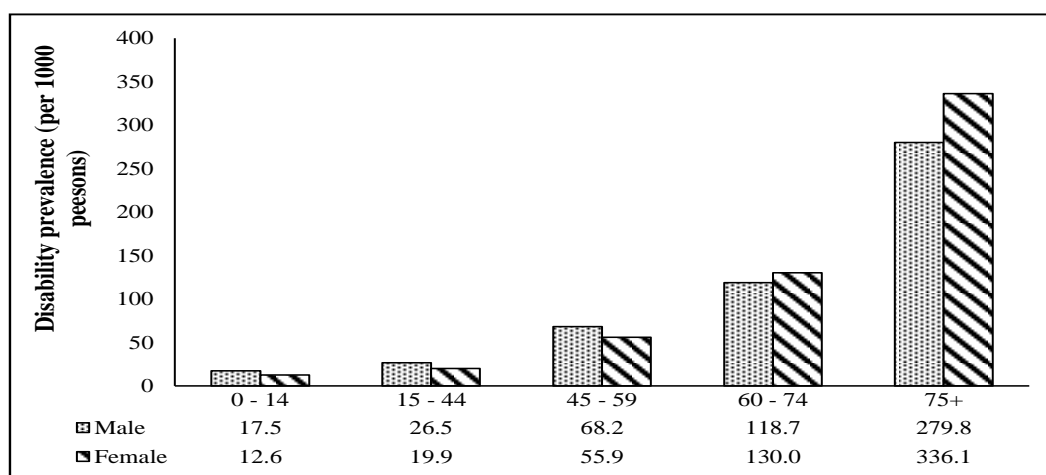


## 6.2 Prevalence of disability increases with age for both women and men

Disability prevalence (figure 33), which relates to the number of disabled persons 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 33 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 33 - Disability prevalence (per 1000 persons) by age, 2011**



Source: 2011 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 18 - 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 : 2011 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, 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 19 - Distribution of disabled population aged 16 years and above by activity status, 2000 and 2011**

Activity status	2000		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Economically active</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<i>Employed</i>	16.6	5.6	22.2	8.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	2.0	0.8	1.9	1.2
<b>Economically inactive</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>89.6</b>
<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: 2011 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 20 - 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
Not stated	14	3	0.2	0.1
<b>All occupations</b>	<b>5,893</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source : 2011 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 2021, there were 32,321 such beneficiaries, with a higher proportion of men (53.8%) compared to women (46.2%).

**Table 21 - Beneficiaries of Basic Invalidity Pension by age and sex, June 2021**

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both sexes
0-14	1,925	1,255	3,180
15-19	1,124	708	1,832
20-24	920	648	1,568
25-29	1,001	826	1,827
30-34	1,107	957	2,064
35-39	1,388	1,248	2,636
40-44	1,812	1,727	3,539
45-49	2,016	2,052	4,068
50-54	3,027	2,704	5,731
55-59	3,081	2,795	5,876
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,401</b>	<b>14,920</b>	<b>32,321</b>

*Source: Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity*

## 7 Poverty and Social Welfare

Poverty is multidimensional. Poverty entails more than a 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 and a 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 11.1% against 9.7% for male. Out of 131,300 persons in relative poverty, 70,800 were females and 60,500 were males.

**Table 22 - Number of persons in relative poverty, 2012 and 2017**

	2012	2017
Relative poverty line (Rs)	5,652	7,509
Persons in relative poverty		
Both sexes	122,700	131,300
Male	56,000	60,500
Female	66,700	70,800

*Source: Household Budget Surveys, Statistics Mauritius*

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

In 2017, 16.1% of female-headed households were in relative poverty as compared to 7.7% of male-headed households.

**Table 23 - Proportion (%) of households in relative poverty, 2012 and 2017**

	2012	2017
Relative poverty line (Rs)	5,652	7,509
Number of households in relative poverty	33,600	36,500
Proportion of households in relative poverty (%)	9.4	9.6
Proportion of male-headed households in relative poverty (%)	7.3	7.7
Proportion of female-headed households in relative poverty (%)	17.0	16.1

*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, subsidized 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 Violence (GBV)**

### **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 and the use of protection against sexually transmitted diseases, coerced into having 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***

Being denied the possibility of 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, discrimination, disproportionate anger, expressing negative expectations, harming pets, intimidation, jealousy, name calling, perpetrator using 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 and 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 2021, there were 1,654 cases of domestic violence reported at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, 1,423 were new cases (i.e. 86.0%). Overall a decrease of domestic violence cases from 2,425 in 2020 to 1,654 in 2021 was noted.

**Table 24 - Number of cases of domestic violence, 2013 – 2021**

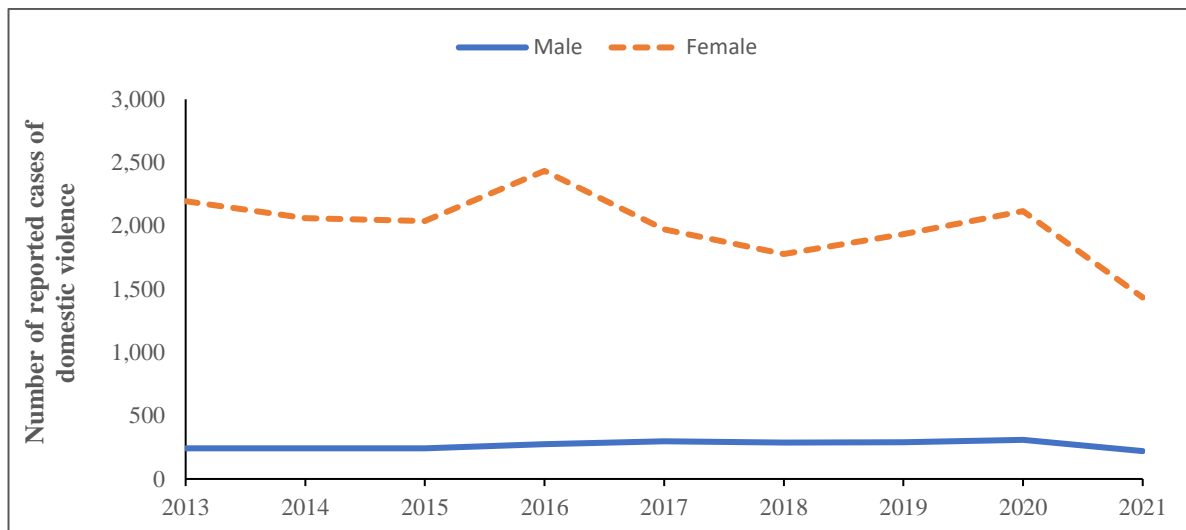
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
New	1,786	1,680	1,626	2,077	1,703	1,527	1,710	2,162	1,423
Old	652	621	655	632	566	539	512	263	231
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>1,654</b>

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

*Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare*

The total number of cases of domestic violence against women decreased from 2,116 in 2020 to 1,434 in 2021 and those against men fell from 309 to 220 (Figure 34).

**Figure 34 - Number of reported cases (new and old) of domestic violence, 2013 - 2021**



*Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare*

It is to be noted that a victim of domestic violence can be subject to one or more types of violence and thus the number of cases of domestic violence tend to be higher than the number of victims. Some 36.2% of women victims of domestic violence reported physical assault by spouse or partner, 27.2% verbal assault by spouse or partner (ill treatment, harassment, abuse, and humiliation) and 13% has been subjected to verbal assault by others living under the same roof. Reported cases by men related mostly to verbal assault by spouse or partner (28.7%), verbal assault by others living under the same roof (25.2%), and physical assault by spouse or partner (19.0%).

### **Support Services to family**

The Family Welfare and Protection Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality 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 and psychotherapeutic intervention 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, psychological counselling and therapy to adult victims of sexual assault; and
- Referral to other institutions as appropriate, amongst others.

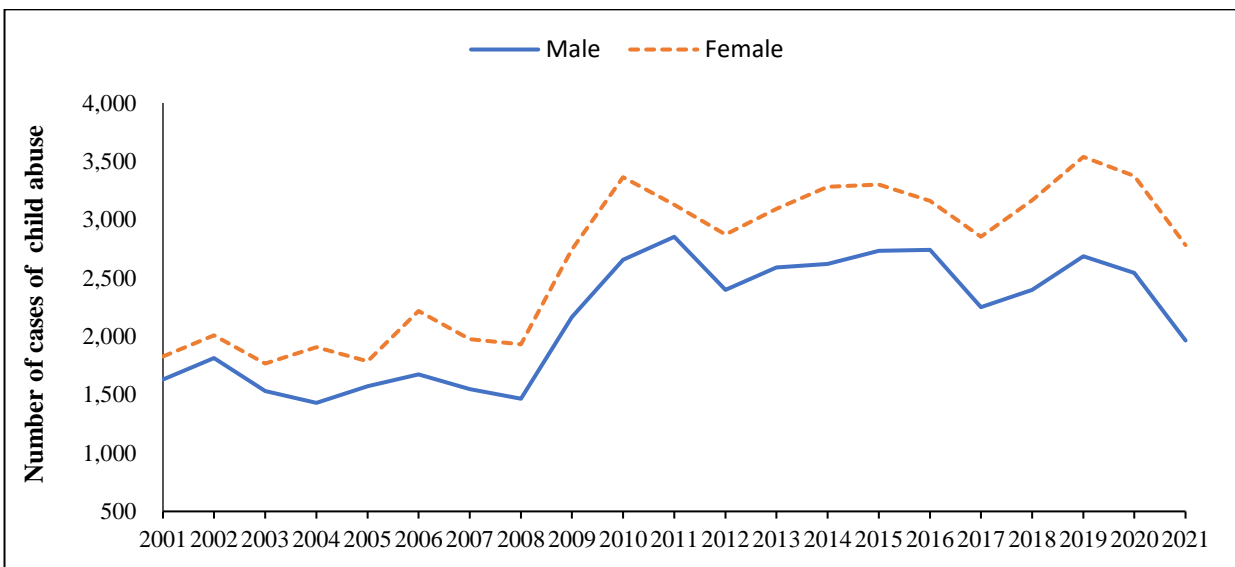
Note:

- (i) A 24-hour service is offered in emergency situations to victims of domestic violence through the Integrated Support Centre on Hotline 139.
- (ii) A mobile Application “Lespwar” was launched in November 2020. It enables a victim of GBV to connect rapidly with the Main Police Command and Control Centre. It is a rapid response via the press of a panic button. It can be downloaded on a smart phone and clear instructions are provided for registration and how to use the panic button.

#### 8.4 Child abuse

The total number of cases reported at the Child Development Unit went down to 4,746 in 2021 from 5,917 in 2020 (Figure 35).

**Figure 35 - Number of cases reported at the Child Development Unit (CDU), 2001 - 2021**



Source: CDU, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

Of the stated cases in 2021, some 58.6% of the victims were females. Among the females, 16.7% cases of psychological/emotional were reported followed by neglect cases (13.1%) and sexual abuse (13.1%). Whereas among the males, 19.1% neglect cases were reported followed by psychological/emotional (18.8%) and physical abuse (13.8%).



**Table 25 – Reported cases of child abuse at Child Development Unit (CDU) by nature of problem, 2021**

Nature of Problem	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Abandonment	35	1.8	20	0.7
Physical abuse	271	13.8	250	9.0
Neglect cases	375	19.1	365	13.1
Worst forms of Labour	9	0.5	14	0.5
Sexual abuse	57	2.9	364	13.1
Psychological /Emotional abuse	370	18.8	464	16.7
Teenage mother	-	-	69	2.5
Teenage pregnancy	-	-	214	7.7
Custody of child	497	25.3	598	21.5
Other problems	350	17.8	424	15.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,964</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,782</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: CDU, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family Welfare

## **8.5 Admission of children in institutions under the aegis of Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare**

There were 254 children victim of violence, under Court Orders, who were admitted in institutions in 2020, representing a decrease compared to 318 in 2020.

**Table 26 - Number of children admitted in institutions by sex, 2013 - 2021**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Male	63	100	67	56	48	51	59	140	89
Female	70	97	119	70	54	58	48	178	165
<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>254</b>

Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

### **8.5.1 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 4 Government-owned Shelters and 18 Residential Care Institutions (RCIs) run by NGOs. As at December 2021, there were 506 children placed in the 22 Shelters/RCIs.

There were more girls than boys in the Shelters/RCIs, i.e. 251 boys and 255 girls. In terms of percentage, there is a disparity of 0.001% 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 12 Shelters/RCIs that cater for both girls and boys, 3 Shelters that cater only for boys and there are 7 Shelters/ RCIs 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 (CSEC), 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. Nineteen female children, victims of sexual abuse and CSEC, have been placed at Residential Drop in Centre L’Oasis since December 2021.

### 8.5.2 Children placed in Foster Care families

In cases, where it is noted that residents of residential institutions cannot be reinserted into their biological environment owing to incest or where parents are found to be in prisons dealing in prostitution, drug addicts, the option of Foster Care is explored.

In 2021, 14 children out of which 7 boys and 7 girls, were placed in 8 Foster Care Families.

The table below shows the number of children placed in foster families from 2013 to 2021. There were 14 children placed in families in 2021, which represented a decrease as compared to 22 children placed in 2020.

**Table 27 - Number of children placed in foster families by sex, 2013 - 2021**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Male	2	5	7	9	5	5	9	10	7
Female	6	-	1	2	8	4	7	12	7
<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>

*Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare*

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

The Back-to-Home Programme has been initiated since October 2018 at the level of the Ministry. This programme ensures the re-integration of minors (previously victims of violence) into the family settings.

The main objective of the Back-To-Home Programme is to provide children in Residential Care Institutions (RCIs) the opportunity to live and evolve among their kins and relatives.

After the discharge of the minor, follow-up with parents through visits/phone calls is ensured by the Back-to-Home Officers and Psychologists.

There were 279 children who have been re-integrated back within their family setting in 2021.

#### 8.5.4 Child Mentoring Programme

The Child Mentoring Programme through its trained Child Mentors provides assistance to children aged 10 to 16 years in need of emotional and social reconstruction of their beings. In December 2021, there were 19 Children (8 boys and 11 girls) who were placed under this 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 2021, some 51.4% of the assaults and 64.7% of the intentional homicides were committed against men. Some 93.3% victims of sexual violence and sexual exploitation were women (Table 28).

**Table 28 - Victims<sup>1</sup> of selected offences<sup>2</sup> reported at the Police, Republic of Mauritius, 2021**

Offences	Male	Female	Both sexes
Homicides	64	21	85
<i>of which Intentional homicides</i>	22	12	34
Assaults	4,660	4,406	9,066
Sexual violence and sexual exploitation	42	588	630
<i>of which Rape</i>	<i>n.a</i>	37	37

<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)

Source: Mauritius Police Force

Boys are much more likely to commit offences than girls. In 2021, only 6.6% of the juvenile offences were committed by girls. The female juvenile delinquency rate stood at 0.9, while that for male was 7.4.

**Table 29 - Number of Juvenile offenders<sup>1</sup> reported, Republic of Mauritius, 2021**

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Crimes	154	7	161
<i>of which drug offences</i>	23	0	23
Misdemeanours	237	38	275
<i>of which drug offences</i>	13	0	13
Contraventions <sup>2</sup>	270	2	272
<b>Total</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>708</b>
Juvenile Delinquency Rate <sup>3</sup>	7.4	0.9	4.2

<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

Source: Mauritius Police Force

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

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

From year 2020 to year 2021, the number of juveniles admitted decreased by 24.1% from 162 (159 boys and 3 girls) to 123 (122 boys and 1 girl). Some 94.4% (17) of the 18 juvenile convicts admitted to CYC in 2021 had committed theft/robbery/burglary.

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

The number of juveniles admitted for detention and training at RYC decreased by 41.2% from 68 (27 boys and 41 girls) in 2020 to 40 (17 boys and 23 girls) in 2021. Some 71.5% of the juveniles admitted in 2021 were on remand. All cases admitted were of juvenile beyond control.

### **Probation Home/Hostel**

The number of juveniles admitted in probation institutions decreased from 5 girls in 2020 to only 1 girl in 2021.

## **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.

In 2021, Mauritius was ranked 110 out of 156 countries worldwide (Table 30). Mauritius has closed both its education attainment, and health and survival gender gaps with indices nearing 1 (Table 31).

**Table 30 - Global Gender Gap Index by selected countries, 2019 – 2021**

Country	2019		2020		2021	
	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Iceland	1	0.877	1	0.877	1	0.892
Norway	2	0.842	2	0.842	3	0.849
France	15	0.781	15	0.781	16	0.784
United Kingdom	21	0.767	21	0.767	23	0.775
Canada	19	0.772	19	0.772	24	0.772
South Africa	17	0.780	17	0.780	18	0.781
Australia	44	0.731	44	0.731	50	0.731
United States	53	0.724	53	0.724	30	0.763
Singapore	54	0.724	54	0.724	54	0.727
Madagascar	62	0.719	62	0.719	57	0.725
Brazil	92	0.691	92	0.691	93	0.695
China	106	0.676	106	0.676	107	0.682
India	112	0.668	112	0.668	140	0.625
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>0.665</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>0.665</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0.679</b>
Pakistan	151	0.564	151	0.564	153	0.556
Yemen	153	0.494	153	0.494	155	0.492

*Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum*

**Table 31- Global Gender Gap Index for overall and four key areas, Republic of Mauritius, 2009 - 2021**

Year	Overall	Economic participation	Educational attainment	Health and survival	Political empowerment
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
2019	0.665	0.596	0.992	0.980	0.094
2020	0.665	0.596	0.992	0.980	0.094
2021	0.679	0.600	0.992	0.980	0.144

*Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum*

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

The HDI is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth, the education dimension is measured by mean years of schooling for children from school entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by the gross national income per capita.

Mauritius' HDI value for 2021/2022 is 0.802— which put the country in the high human development category positioning it at 63 out of 191 countries and territories.

Mauritius' 2021/2022 HDI of 0.802 is above the average of 0.750 for countries in the high human development group and above the average of 0.55 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. From Sub-Saharan Africa, countries which are close to Mauritius in 2021 HDI rank and to some extent in population size are Botswana and Gabon, which have HDIs ranked 117 and 112 respectively.

**Table 32 - Human Development Index of selected countries, 2021/2022**

Country	2021/2022	
	Rank	Value
Switzerland	1	0.962
Norway	2	0.961
Australia	5	0.951
Germany	9	0.942
Singapore	12	0.939
Canada	15	0.936
United Kingdom	18	0.929
United States	21	0.921
France	28	0.903
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0.802</b>
China	79	0.768
Brazil	87	0.754
Botswana	117	0.693
South Africa	109	0.713
India	132	0.633
Pakistan	161	0.544
Madagascar	173	0.501
Yemen	183	0.455

*Source: Human Development Index, Report 2021/2022*

## 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.

**Misdemeanours:** 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)*