

CARICOM SECRETARIAT



REGIONAL SPECIAL TOPIC MONOGRAPH

on

# **The Elderly**

**Based on Analysis of the 2000 Round Census Data  
of Eighteen Caribbean Countries**

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**CARICOM CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
(CCDP)**

**In collaboration with the  
CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
(CIDA)**

**2000 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS DATA  
ANALYSIS SUB-PROJECT**

**REGIONAL SPECIAL TOPIC MONOGRAPH  
THE ELDERLY**

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THE ELDERLY**

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## FOREWORD

The Caribbean Community Council of Ministers, acting on the advice and recommendations of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), in February 2000, approved the use of a regionally coordinated approach for the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. The strategy included an activity on the **Analysis and Dissemination of Census Data and Results**, which comprised the preparation of National Census Reports (NCRs) and Regional Special Topic Monographs (RSTMs).

Fourteen Member States and four Associate Members participated in the programme. The participation of these countries in the Regional Census programme was in recognition of the value and economy of regional co-operation and coordination in executing the Censuses and for the production of comparable, high quality socio-economic data, useful in planning, and improving the quality of life and in achieving overall progress of the peoples of the Region.

The topics for the RSTM were: Gender and Development Issues; The Elderly; Children and Youth; Economic Activity, Education and Training; and International Migration. The RSTMs were undertaken by writers from within and outside of the region.

The RSTM publication, “**2000 Round of Population and Housing Census of the Caribbean Community: The Elderly**” was written by Ms. Valerie Nam, Director, Censuses, Demography and Social Studies, Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), Jamaica and was reviewed by two reviewers: Prof. Chukwudum Uche, Professor of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, UWI, Mona, Jamaica and Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. The tables for the Report were generated by Mr. Wendell Thomas, Data Processing Consultant of Trinidad and Tobago as well as by the staff of the CARICOM Secretariat. The final draft of the publication was reviewed by the CARICOM Secretariat.

The analysis of the Census was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the CARICOM Capacity Development Programme (CCDP). **The CCDP was designed as a strategic response to key trends and emerging priorities in the CARICOM environment with the objective of promoting the economic and social development of CARICOM through the deepening of the regional integration process. The overall aim of the CCDP was the strengthening of the institutional capacity of CARICOM to provide leadership in the regional integration process, and the enhancing of the implementation capacity of the CARICOM Secretariat to achieve clear results in core programme areas.**

Specifically, the outputs of the Census Statistics Sub-Project under the CCDP were to lead to improved development planning in Member Countries and in the Region through the use of the census data and information. The deliverables comprised eighteen (18) National Census Reports; five (5) Regional Special Topic Monographs; a volume of Basic Tables; training of personnel in demographic analysis through a seven-week workshop facilitated by UWI; and the establishment

of an online facility to enable access to census data by users for analysis, research, policy formulation and decision-making.

The Census Data Analysis project was aimed at filling the gap existing in the Region and specifically within the national statistical systems in the area of demographic and population analysis, thereby enabling its use in policy and decision-making. The Census Data Analysis project provided a *common framework* for enabling comparability of the demographic transition and population characteristics across Member States based on the elements outlined in the content of the National Census Report. The process of preparing the reports also allowed for quality checks on data, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (UNECLAC).

A major challenge that persists is that of having clean data sets for analysis. Statisticians are in short supply in the Region and the area of demography is even more severely affected. To mitigate these data challenges, a series of four training courses is being undertaken to train personnel in the Region, with the first one funded out of the CCDP and the remaining three from a multi-programme technical assistance project, with funds received from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). In addition, a short course for senior officials from statistical officers was also undertaken with CDB funding.

It is hoped that this Monograph on The Elderly in the Caribbean will benefit the countries in the region through providing analysis with regard to the health and disability, headship and living arrangements and their age, sex, education, occupation, economic activity and other critical characteristics that are important to aid the formulation of policy and decision-making, both public and private, such as government officials, researchers, academics, members of the business community and civil society. Furthermore, the experience gained, together with the efforts to strengthen capacity, will equip the Region to analyse the results of the 2010 Census.

The CARICOM Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank all persons and organisations who have been associated with this Statistics project.

**LOLITA APPLEWHAITE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL (ag)  
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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ICF	International Classification of Functioning Disabilities and Health
ICIDH	International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The present study deals with the ageing of the population in eighteen Caribbean states, the demographic and social characteristics of the elderly and with certain aspects of their living arrangements. One of the most distinctive demographic events of the twentieth century has been population ageing. This is a natural result of the fertility declines and to a large extent, increases in life expectancy, both of which are consequences of the demographic transition. It has been widely recognized and accepted that the world population is in the midst of an “unprecedented transformation brought about by the transition from a regime of high mortality and high fertility to one of low mortality and low fertility” (United Nations, 2005, 2).

Kinsella (1988, 5) says that the ageing of modern populations represents a major success story unfolding during the latter stages of the twentieth century. He argues that through the efforts of both national and international agencies, many societies have drastically reduced their rates of infant and maternal mortality, as well as the incidence of infectious and parasitic diseases. Further, these improvements have interacted with reductions in fertility and advancements in education and health to produce populations with increasingly larger proportions of older members.

The United Nations reports that the major areas of the world are at different stages of the demographic transition. In an assessment of global trends in population ageing, the Caribbean has been placed in the second stage and the view is that because the region has experienced, on average, fairly rapid fertility declines, the populations are expected to age more rapidly than those of Europe and North America (now in the third stage), did, in the past (United Nations, 2005).

Kinsella and Velkoff (2001, 1) point to the fact that although the growth of elderly populations is most often primarily associated with the developed industrialized countries of Europe and North America, the absolute numbers of elderly in developing nations are large and increasing. The

writers state that in 2000, an estimated 249 million persons representing well over a half (59 per cent) of the world's elderly, 65 years and over, live in developing nations. The United Nations population projections show that population ageing is occurring at its fastest rate in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The data shown in Table 1.1 demonstrate that the percent of elderly in both regions is projected to double between 2000 and 2030.

**Table 1.1      Percentage Distribution of the Elderly by Age: 2000-2030**

Region	Years	65 years and over	75 years and over	80 years and over
Europe	2000	15.5	6.6	3.3
	2015	18.7	8.8	5.2
	2030	24.3	11.8	7.1
North America	2000	12.6	6.0	3.3
	2015	14.9	6.4	3.9
	2030	20.3	9.4	5.4
Oceania	2000	10.2	4.4	2.3
	2015	12.4	5.2	3.1
	2030	16.3	7.5	4.4
Asia	2000	6.0	1.9	0.8
	2015	7.8	2.8	1.4
	2030	12.0	4.6	2.2
Latin America/Caribbean	2000	5.5	1.9	0.9
	2015	7.5	2.8	1.5
	2030	11.6	4.6	2.4
Near East/North Africa	2000	4.3	1.4	0.6
	2015	5.3	1.9	0.9
	2030	8.1	2.8	1.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	2000	2.9	0.8	0.3
	2015	3.2	1.0	0.4
	2030	3.7	1.3	0.6

Source: Kinsella, Kevin and Victoria A. Velkoff, U.S.Census Bureau, Series P95/01-1, An Aging World: 2001, U.S. Government Printing Office Washington, DC, 2001.

## **Definition of Ageing**

What is population ageing? And what are the causes? Population ageing refers most simply to increasing proportions of older people within an overall population structure and the process is primarily determined by fertility (birth) rates and secondarily by mortality (death) rates. (Kinsella and Velkoff, 2001, 17). Populations with high fertility tend to have low proportions of older people and vice versa. Generally, populations begin to age when fertility declines and adult mortality rates improve. Lee (2003) describes the process as an integral part of the demographic transition and in particular, the third phase. Increasing longevity which is characteristic of this phase, leads to a rapid increase in the elderly population.

In relation to international migration, the third component of population growth, Kinsella (2001) argues that international migration does not usually play a major role in the ageing process but can be important in smaller populations. He cites the Caribbean nations as examples of such smaller populations. In such cases, he says, the experience of the combination of emigration of working –age adults, immigration of elderly retirees from other countries, and return migration of former emigrants who are above average population age are all factors which contribute to population ageing. It is expected that international migration should assume a more prominent role in the process of ageing, especially in the more developed countries where persistently low fertility has resulted in stable and even declining population sizes.

Who are the elderly? When does someone become old? A number of terms are used to describe people considered old (Kinsella and Phillips (2005, 6) but the authors point out that there is an increasing awareness that the terms should acknowledge the tremendous diversity inherent in a group of people whose ages can span a range of 40 or more years. There are several and varying identities. The United Nations (1998) identifies three categories of old. The ‘near old’ covering ages 55-64 years, the ‘young old’, ages 65-79 years and the ‘oldest old’ ages 75 years and over, sometimes the 80 years and over which is also designated the ‘frail elderly. The UN does acknowledge however (1998, 13) that different cut-off points are used, depending on the official national ages of retirement especially in the cases when this age is lower than 65 years. In cases of increasing life expectancies, the cut-off for the ‘oldest old’ may be increased.

Palloni and Devos (1999, 3) argue that:

More generally the term ‘elderly population’ makes reference to the proportion of a population older than  $T$ , where  $T$  is an arbitrary age taken to be a boundary between old and young. Because of its association with labour force participation and retirement in developed economies,  $T$  is normally defined to be 65, although in many cases demographers and policy makers alike prefer to work with a boundary age within the 50-60 instead. By the more traditional definition, an ‘aged society’ is one where the proportion of the population aged 65+ at time  $t$  is relatively high. The less traditional definition, refers to the fraction of the population above age 60 at time  $t$ .

### **Measures of Ageing**

There are several demographic indicators of ageing. The main ones used are as follows: (1) the proportion of the population in the groups defined as young and or old; (2) the median age of the population (3) age dependency ratios and (4) the ageing index, or the aged-child ratio, which is the ratio of the number of elderly persons to the number of children in the population. In their discussion of these measures, Siegel and Swanson (2004, 159) state that in relation to the proportions in the respective age groups, populations with 10 per cent or more 65 years old and over may be said to be old while populations with proportions under 5 per cent in this age group may be said to be young.

The median age is that age which divides a population into numerically equal parts of younger and older people. Siegel and Swanson (2004) describe populations with medians under 20 years as “young”, those with medians 30 years and over as “old” and those with medians of 20-to 29 years as of “intermediate” age. When the median age rises the population may be said to be “ageing” and when it falls, the population may be said to be “younging”.

Age dependency ratios take account of the variations in the proportions of children, aged persons and persons of “working age”. The age dependency ratio represents the ratio of the combined child population and aged population to the population of intermediate age. Siegel and Swanson (2004, 160) indicate that the formula generally used for international comparisons relates the

number of persons under 15 and 65 and over to the number 15 to 64. The authors state that for developed countries the age 18 years is used instead of age 15 as entry into the workforce typically comes relatively later than in the less developed countries, and for the less developed countries the population 60 years and over is used instead of age 65 years to designate adult dependents. In that case the age group 15-59 years represents adults of working age.

The ratio of the number of elderly persons to the number of children, or the aged-child ratio, takes into account the numbers and changes at both ends of the age distribution simultaneously. Populations with aged-child ratios under 15 may be described as young while populations with aged-child ratios over 30 may be described as old.

The authors stress that the four criteria may not give a consistent indication as to whether the population is ageing or not. As changes in the median age over time depend on the relative magnitude of the growth rates of the total age segments above and below the initial median age for the period, it may hardly change while the proportions of aged persons and of children may both increase or decrease. As a result a population may in some cases appear to be 'ageing' and 'younging' at the same time.

The United Nations (2007) uses the number of persons aged 60 years and over instead of age 65 years and over per hundred persons under age 15 in defining the ageing index and identify an indicator called the parent support ratio defined as the number of persons aged 85 years and over per one hundred persons aged 50 to 64 years.

## **The Study Area**

This study covers the CARICOM member states of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and the associate states, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Geographically, these countries lie within the area stretching from Guyana and Suriname on the South American coast to Belize on the Central American mainland to Bermuda in the Atlantic. All except Guyana, Belize and Suriname are islands. Historically, all have shared British ownership and the plantation experience but for varying lengths of time and with varying degrees of intensity.

A prominent feature of the region is the considerable variation in the size of the countries. Jamaica with a population of 2.7 million is the largest accounting for about 40 per cent of the total. The three largest units, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana account for 71 per cent of the total. The smallest unit, Montserrat accounts for less than 1 per cent of the total.

## **The Report Plan**

In this report the terms “the elderly” and “older population” are used interchangeably and refer to people age 60 or older. Disaggregation into narrower age groups will be done where possible to highlight any diversity.

The present chapter, Chapter 1, presents a discussion on the definitions and measurements and outlines the report plan. Chapter 2 will present a summary of the social theories of ageing. Chapter 3 is a brief review of the literature which mainly presents background information on the current state of global population ageing. Chapter 4 will examine the recent demographic trends among the countries which comprise the study area, with specific reference to the determinants of ageing. Chapter 5 presents a demographic profile, Chapter 6 focuses on the socio-economic characteristics, Chapter 7 considers health and disability, Chapter 8 examines relationships, household headship and living arrangements and Chapter 9 is a summary of recommendations for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses to allow for more comprehensive

comparative analysis.

### **Data Sources and Data Limitations**

The main source of data for the report is the tabulations based on the 2000 round of population and housing censuses for Caribbean countries. Five countries – The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda and Trinidad and Tobago – conducted censuses in 2000. Eleven of the eighteen countries – Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines – conducted censuses in 2001, while Guyana's census date was 2002 and Suriname's 2004.

Other sources of data are published reports presenting census and demographic data for individual countries and for the region, the official websites of the national statistical offices and CARICOM and United Nations publications and websites.

There is a possibility that concepts and definitions used by the countries are not always comparable. It has not been possible to check this as there has been no access to the census manuals and other documentation which would allow for this verification. Special circumstances related to the delivery of tables for this report have made it impossible to recheck tables which appear erroneous. In some cases entire tables were not delivered. On this account some countries have been omitted from some aspects of the analysis.

The population totals which have been used combine both the institutional and non-institutional population in the countries as a separation was not available for most countries. This is an important limitation as institutional living has special significance for the elderly population and analysis of this type of living arrangement would add value to the study. It is assumed that data on household size examined, relate to the non-institutional population only.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **SOCIAL THEORIES OF AGEING**

Ageing forms part of the field of Social Gerontology which is a relatively new field beginning in the 1940s, with the development and testing of theoretical statements mainly taking place only since the 1960s. Cockerham (1991) has identified the main theories in social gerontology that have so far been the most influential in explaining the relationship between society and the process of ageing. These are as follows: disengagement, activity, continuity, and modernization.

#### **Disengagement Theory**

This theory is based on the structural-functionalist perspective. Structural-functionalism views society as made up of institutions which carry out particular functions for society and its members and each is interrelated with and dependent on all the others, to a greater or lesser degree. All parts of the system operate together to generate and maintain stability and social order. Functional theorists argue that changes, decisions and events that occur in one part of the system inevitably affect to some degree, all other parts of the system.

Disengagement theory applies functionalism to the study of ageing. The proponents are Elaine Cumming and William Henry (1961) who identify three basic propositions for the theory:

1. a process of mutual withdrawal of ageing individuals and society from each other is natural;
2. this process of withdrawal is inevitable;
3. the process of withdrawal is also necessary for 'successful' ageing

Ageing is described as a gradual process that involves the separation of the individual from several of his or her regular social roles and activities over time. It is pointed out however, that disengagement of the elderly is more likely in a developed industrialized society where a continuous replacement of older workers by younger ones is needed to maintain modern work skills. In the developing societies, the aged, they say, do not typically disengage from society as much as they are more likely to continue to work and remain as the head of the family.

Another aspect of the theory suggests that the individual themselves withdraw from particular social roles when they become old. They are no longer preoccupied with work, career or raising children as they become retired and more focused on personal interests.

### **Activity Theory**

The activity theory was formulated by Robert Havighurst (1963) and is described as “an action theory for successful aging”. The three basic propositions are: that the majority of normally ageing people will maintain fairly constant levels of activity, that the amount of engagement or disengagement will be influenced by past lifestyles and socio-economic factors, rather than by some inevitable process and that it is necessary to maintain or develop substantial levels of social, physical and mental activity if the ageing experience is to be successful.

According to Havighurst, successful ageing is based on how close an elderly person approximates the norms and activities of middle-aged persons. This is so, he argues, because the norms for old age are the same as those for middle age. Activity theory therefore says that most people do not disengage from society when they become old and if they retire from their job, they compensate for it by substituting some other type of activity from which they derive satisfaction.

### **Continuity Theory**

Continuity theory proposes that a person's personality traits determine how he or she reacts to ageing. Successful ageing therefore occurs, when people while ageing, are able to maintain or to continue having the traits, interests and behaviours that they have always had. The theory does however recognize that reactions to the ageing process will vary because of the various and complex forms of interaction people have with each other and the changing social environment encountered during all the stages of the life cycle.

Generally however, the aged person will react to situations in a manner which is consistent with his or her personality over the life cycle.

Cockerham (1991, 56) points out that continuity theory is not a full-blown theory in the research literature on ageing because it is concerned with only one particular and limited aspect of ageing, that of personality effects. The author argues that this theory presents a micro rather than a macro, orientation. He describes macro-level social theories as explaining how large-scale social processes influence individual behaviour. Such theories as continuity and activity theories fall into this category. Micro-level views, like continuity theory, allow us to see how individuals, not the wider society, construct their own behaviour, he says. Continuity theory tells us that people tend to respond to social situations in their old age in a fashion that is consistent with their past adult personality, he explains.

### **Modernization Theory**

Donald Cowgill (1986) has adapted the modernization theory, a macro-level theory of global social change in sociology, to explain ageing. Cockerham (1991, 60) explains that as a theory of social change, modernization theory argues that underdeveloped societies will gradually be transformed by industrialization to resemble the developed countries of North America and Europe. The relationship between modernization and ageing is explained by Cowgill (1986) and Cowgill and Holmes (1972). According to Cowgill the concept of old age is relative to a society's degree of modernization. He explains that people in primitive societies are classified as

old at earlier chronological ages, have the onset of old age determined more by an event (such as becoming a grandparent) rather than age, and live shorter lives but have higher status and are more likely to hold positions of political and economic power. In modern societies, in contrast, they argue, the elderly are more likely to live longer but have low status and hold less important positions in society. Therefore, the aged have relatively high status in developing societies where they are able to continue useful and valued functions, but have low status in technologically advanced societies where the most important work is done by younger people.

Cowgill therefore concludes that modernization appears to have adversely affected the status of the aged. Retirement, he says, is a modern invention and is found chiefly in modern high-productivity societies. He further argues that the system of retirement based on age has been adopted by all industrialized societies and is a means to ensure that younger and more recently trained workers have jobs available. The basic premise of the modernization theory of ageing as proposed by Cowgill, is therefore that the processes that cause societies to change from a rural and agrarian system to an urban and industrial economy also change the roles of the elderly and reduce their status.

In his summary of the theories, Cockerham (1991, 68) expresses the view that structural functionalism has provided what he refers to as the most influential approach to theories of ageing in social gerontology. Three theories, disengagement theory, activity theory and modernization theory are all grounded in structural functionalism. Each of these theories, he argues, provides a macro-level view of the ageing process in which older individuals are subject to norms requiring them either to disengage, to remain active, or to cope with reduced status because of modernization, while the larger society remains functional and relatively unaffected by large numbers of the elderly. Continuity theory, he says, has a micro-orientation, but is limited to explaining personality adjustments in old age.

The writer concludes that these theories are still in the formative stage, in the first place because social gerontology is a relatively new field and therefore is awaiting the accumulation of an extensive body of research data. In the second place, research on ageing should include

longitudinal or long-term studies of people as they age, which is expensive. It therefore requires several years of data collection on ageing cohorts before more adequate theories can be formulated.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

In 2007 the United Nations published the report *World Population Ageing 2007*. The report covers the period 1950-2050 and presents demographic profiles which highlight indicators of ageing for the world as a whole, for more or less developed regions as well as individual countries. Some of the main findings are as follows:

1. In 2000, the population aged 60 years or over numbered 600 million, three times the number present in 1950.
2. Globally the population of older persons is growing at a rate of 2.6 per cent per year, considerably faster than the population as a whole which is increasing at 1.1 per cent annually.
3. Marked differences exist between developed and developing nations in the number and proportions of older persons. In the developed regions, over a fifth of the population is currently aged 60 years or over. In the less developed regions<sup>1</sup>, older persons account for just 8 per cent of the population.
4. The pace of population ageing is faster in developing countries than in developed countries. Consequently, developing countries will have less time to adjust to the consequences of population ageing. Moreover population ageing in developing countries is taking place at lower levels of socio-economic development than has been the case for developed countries.
5. The median age for the world is 28 years. The country with the youngest population is Uganda, with a median age of 15 years, and the oldest is Japan, with a median age of 43 years.
6. The population of older persons is itself ageing. Among those 60 years or over, the fastest

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<sup>1</sup> The less developed regions include all regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand). The more developed regions include all other regions and the three countries excluded from the less developed regions.

growing population is that of the oldest old, that is those 80 years or over. Their numbers are increasing at 3.9 per cent per year.

7. Because fertility levels are unlikely to rise again to the high levels common in the past, population ageing is irreversible and the young populations that were common until recently are likely to become rare over the course of the twenty-first century.

The phenomenon of global population ageing has resulted in considerable development of economic and demographic research in light of the recognition that nations will face new challenges especially related to health care and retirement systems, intergenerational relationships within families and labour market supply (Population Reference Bureau, 2007). Some of the areas of major research outlined in the volume are: demographic and population research, biodemography, longevity and genetics, health, chronic illness and disability, health care and health policy, income, savings work and retirement, family support systems and socio-economic status and health.

Palloni and Devos (1999), identify five dimensions of ageing as follows: demographic, health, labour force, residential arrangements and intergenerational transfers. The demographic dimension consists of conditions related to the relative size or stock, rate of growth, and composition of the elderly population. The health dimension is a function of conditions that determine the current and prospective health status of the elderly population and their demand for and rate of use of health care. The labour force dimension refers to the dynamic of labour force participation among the elderly, its age and sex profile, as well as its distribution by economic sector. Residential arrangements refer to characteristics of households where the elderly reside. The intergenerational transfers dimension refers to institutionalized transfers such as pension systems as well as to informal and formal exchanges between kin and family members.

The present study will as far as is possible with the available data, be done within the context of these dimensions.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

The population of the eighteen states at the time of the 2000 round of censuses was estimated at 6.5 million. Data are available for sixteen of the eighteen states for the earlier round of censuses in 1990-1992. These sixteen states represent 92 per cent of the population in 2000. Table 4.1 presents the population for these sixteen states around 1990 and 2000 and the average annual rate of growth for the period. The population count at the earlier round was of 5.5 million. The movement to 6.5 million in 2000-2002 represents an increase of 9 per cent in the ten years; indicative of an average annual rate of 0.9 per cent. In the majority of countries, ten, the population grew at an annual rate below 1 per cent, while in three countries, Montserrat, Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines negative rates were registered. There are special circumstances surrounding Montserrat, and these will be discussed below. Two countries, St Lucia and St Kitts-Nevis showed rates of over 1 per cent but less than 2 per cent while four countries recorded rates in excess of 2 per cent. The highest rates of growth were registered by the Turks and Caicos Islands (5.5 per cent) and the British Virgin Islands (3.6 per cent). The Bahamas and Belize recorded the next highest rates; 2.6 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively.

The variations in rates of growth reflected variations in levels and rates of the growth components of fertility, mortality and migration. With the exception of Belize, countries exhibiting the highest rates are traditionally known to be those experiencing considerable net inflows of people. More than a half of the population of the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands at the time of the 2000 census was foreign born; 58 per cent and 56 per cent respectively. In the case of the Bahamas, 3 out of 10 of the population were foreign born. The high growth rate seen for Belize may be attributed mainly to fertility as the total fertility rate for that period has been estimated at about 4 per woman.

**Table 4.1      Distribution of the Population by Country and Changes  
between 1990 and 2000**

Country	Population		Change 1990–2000		
	2000	1990	Number	%	Annual % Rate of Growth*
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>6,044,654</b>	<b>5,554,680</b>	<b>489,974</b>	<b>8.82</b>	<b>0.85</b>
Antigua and Barbuda	63,863	59,355	4,508	7.59	0.73
Bahamas	303,611	234,292	69,319	29.59	2.59
Barbados	250,010	247,288	2,722	1.10	0.11
Belize	232,111	185,970	46,141	24.81	2.22
Bermuda	62,098	58,460	3,638	6.22	0.60
British Virgin Islands	23,161	16,115	7,046	43.72	3.63
Dominica	68,635	69,463	-828	-1.19	-0.12
Grenada	86,442	85,123	1,319	1.55	0.15
Guyana	751,221	701,704	49,517	7.06	0.68
Jamaica	2,607,632	2,380,667	226,925	9.53	0.91
Montserrat	4,303	10,639	-6,336	-59.55	-9.05
St Kitts Nevis	46,325	40,618	5,707	14.05	1.31
St Lucia	156,736	133,308	23,428	17.57	1.62
St Vincent and the Grenadines	106,253	106,480	-227	-0.21	-0.02
Trinidad and Tobago	1,262,366	1,213,733	48,633	4.01	0.39
Turks and Caicos Islands	19,887	11,465	8,422	73.46	5.51

Note:      \* Exponential rate of growth (see Technical Notes).

- (i) No 1990 data available for Anguilla and Suriname.
- (ii) The total population for 2000 for all 18 states is 6,548,913. The total shown excludes Anguilla and Suriname.
- (iii) Source of 1990 data for all countries except Trinidad and Tobago- CARICOM (undated) 1990-1991 Population and Housing Census of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Volume of Basic Tables for sixteen CARICOM Countries.
- (iv) The 1990 and 2000 figures for Trinidad represent adjusted counts extracted from: Central Statistical Office (undated) 2000 Population and Housing Census. Demographic Report.

In the case of Montserrat, population movements during the decade of the 1990s have not been normal but have been attributed to the volcanic eruptions of the Soufriere Hills which began in 1995. This has resulted in a mass exodus of persons mainly to the United Kingdom which introduced a voluntary evacuation scheme for residents of the island.

### **Movements in the Growth Components**

One of the most outstanding aspects of the global demographic transition has been the drop in fertility rates from about 6 to 3 children per woman in the thirty years between 1960 and 1990, in most countries. Table 4.2 shows the available data for the Caribbean as reported by the United Nations and which were used for the preparation of the 2006 global population projections. The data for the nine countries for which data are available show crude birth rates in excess of 30 per 1000 for five countries for the period 1970-1975. The highest rate, estimated at 40 per 1000 is seen for Belize and followed by St Lucia (38), Suriname (35) and Jamaica (33). By 1990-1995, the rates have fallen to below 30 per 1000 for eight of the nine states, ranging from the lowest of approximately 15 per 1,000 for Barbados to the highest, 25 approximately for Jamaica. On average, the total fertility rate for the 1975-1980 period is 4.7, and this moved to 2.8 for 1990-1995, a fall of 40 per cent. Belize has the highest rate in the earlier period, 6.3, and maintains the highest rate in the later period, 4.4. Other countries with total fertility rates of 5 or higher in 1970-1975 are St Lucia (5.7), St Vincent and the Grenadines (5.5), Suriname (5.3) and Jamaica (5.0). By 1990-1995, only Belize has a rate in excess of 4.0. In the case of Barbados the rate falls to under 2.0, the only country in this category.

Improvements in life expectancies have accompanied the fertility declines and gains prominence as a factor in population ageing. The average for the nine countries in the United Nations database rises from about 66 years in 1970-75 to about 71 years in 1990-1995.

All nine countries show evidence of ageing but the pace is not uniform. At one end of the scale there is Barbados with the highest life expectancy of 75 years and the lowest total fertility rate of 1.6 per for the period 1995-2000.

**Table 4.2 Demographic Indicators for Specific Countries: 1970-1995**

Country	Period	Crude Birth Rate	Total Fertility Rate	Crude Death Rate	Life Expectancy (in years)
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>1970-75</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>66.0</b>
	<b>1990-95</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>70.5</b>
Bahamas	1970-75	29.3	3.4	6.1	66.5
	1990-95	23.7	2.6	6.3	69.2
Barbados	1970-75	20.8	2.7	8.7	69.4
	1990-95	14.9	1.6	7.7	74.9
Belize	1970-75	40.2	6.3	7.3	67.6
	1990-95	34.3	4.4	4.9	72.5
Grenada	1970-75	29.1	4.6	8.7	64.6
	1990-95	23.4	3.3	9.5	66.5
Jamaica	1970-75	32.5	5.0	8.2	69.0
	1990-95	24.8	2.8	7.0	71.8
St Lucia	1970-75	37.9	5.7	8.0	65.3
	1990-95	23.8	3.0	6.9	71.3
St Vincent	1970-75	38.2	5.5	10.0	61.6
	1990-95	23.6	2.8	7.0	69.8
Suriname	1970-75	34.6	5.3	7.5	64.0
	1990-95	22.9	2.6	6.4	68.6
Trinidad and Tobago	1970-75	27.0	3.5	7.4	65.9
	1990-95	18.1	2.1	6.8	69.9

**Source:** United Nations, 2007. World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision Vol 1. United Nations New York.

On the other hand there is Suriname with the lowest life expectancy; 69 years with a total fertility rate of 2.6 per woman. Belize has the highest total fertility rate, 4, but a life expectancy of 73 years.

**Table 4.3      Emigration to the United States 1990-2000**

Country	Total Population Around 1990	Emigrants	
		Number	%
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>5,554,680</b>	<b>390,520</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Antigua and Barbuda	59,355	4,215	5.5
Bahamas	234,292	11,380	0.7
Barbados	247,288	12,450	1.1
Belize	185,970	9,910	0.8
Bermuda	58,460	2,105	0.6
British Virgin Islands	16,115	505	0.8
Dominica	69,463	6,935	2.2
Grenada	85,123	8,725	2.2
Guyana	701,704	73,610	3.1
Jamaica	2,380,667	174,360	1.7
Montserrat	10,639	735	1.1
St Kitts Nevis	40,618	2,325	1.4
St Lucia	133,308	5,340	0.7
St Vincent and the Grenadines	106,480	6,580	1.5
Trinidad and Tobago	1,213,733	68,050	1.1
Turks and Caicos	11,465	415	0.7

**Note:**

- (i) Excludes Anguilla and Suriname
- (ii) Figures for Trinidad represent adjusted counts extracted from: Central Statistical Office (undated) 2000 Population and Housing Census. Demographic Report.
- (iii) Source for migration data: US Census Bureau Census 2000 Special Tabulation (STP-159) Accessed August 9, 2008, from [http:// www.dhs.gov/ximgtm/statistics/data/dslpr.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtm/statistics/data/dslpr.shtm).

Emigration has always played a very important role in the demographic history of the Caribbean. During the period 1990-2000 an estimated 390, 000 persons emigrated from the eighteen countries to the United States (Table 4.3).

The most populated territories of Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago lost the largest numbers of persons; 174,360, 73,610 and 68,050 respectively. In terms of proportions of the 1990 population, it is Antigua (5 per cent), Guyana (3 per cent), Grenada and Dominica (2 per cent) which show the highest. In recent years intra-regional population movements have resulted in considerable immigration into some of the countries.

Table 4.4 below presents the foreign born population for the eighteen countries in the study. The total foreign born population is estimated at 298,131, approximately 5 per cent of the total population. There are six countries whose foreign born population is estimated to be in excess of 20 per cent; The British Virgin Islands (58 per cent), the Turks and Caicos Islands (56 per cent), Antigua and Barbuda (30 per cent), Bermuda (28 per cent), Montserrat and Anguilla (27 per cent). More than half the population of the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, at the 2000 census is foreign born.

**Table 4.4 Foreign Born Population: 2000**

Country	Total Population	Foreign Born Population	
		Number	%
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>6,548,913</b>	<b>298,131</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Anguilla	11,430	3,130	27.4
Antigua and Barbuda	63,863	19,425	30.4
Bahamas	303,611	36,195	11.9
Barbados	250,010	23,485	9.4
Belize	232,111	34,279	14.8
Bermuda	62,098	17,675	28.5
British Virgin Islands	23,161	13,398	57.8
Dominica	68,635	240	0.3
Grenada	86,442	5,446	6.3
Guyana	751,221	9,249	1.2
Jamaica	2,607,632	25,230	1.0
Montserrat	4,303	1,152	26.8
St Kitts Nevis	46,325	6,264	13.5
St Lucia	156,736	10,526	6.7
St Vincent and the Grenadines	106,253	4,589	4.3
Suriname	492,829	34,933	7.1
Trinidad and Tobago	1,262,366	41,753	3.3
Turks and Caicos	19,887	11,162	56.1

Note: Total population figure for Trinidad and Tobago represent adjusted counts extracted from Central Statistical Office (undated) 2000 Population and Housing Census. Demographic Report.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE OLDER POPULATION**

#### **Age Composition**

The age and sex composition of the population of the eighteen states based on the data from the 2000 round of censuses reflected the historical trends in fertility and mortality; a relatively high level but declining trend in the case of fertility and moderate but declining mortality. The result is the age groups with the largest numbers being the very young and each successive older age group being slightly smaller.

Table 5.1 presents a number of indicators of ageing for the eighteen states. On the basis of the measure proposed by Seigel and Swanson (2004) as described earlier, that populations with 10 per cent or more 65 years old and over may be considered old; the eighteen countries covered by this study may be grouped as follows:

The oldest countries are Montserrat (13 per cent), Barbados (12 per cent), Bermuda (11 per cent) and Dominica (10 per cent). Median ages and the ageing index are also highest for these countries. Montserrat has a median age of about 37 years and an ageing index of 65 per 100, while for Barbados the median age is approximately 33 years and the ageing index is 54 per 100. Bermuda and Dominica show median ages and ageing indices of about 36 years and 28 years respectively and ageing indices of 57 per 100 and 35 per 100 respectively. At the other end, the countries with the youngest populations, identified on the basis of having proportions of the population 65 years and over less than 5 per cent, are the Turks and Caicos islands, Belize and Guyana each with an estimated 4 per cent of the population, 65 years and over. While the Turks and Caicos has a fairly high median age of about 28 years, median ages for Belize and Guyana are approximately 19 years and 23 years respectively. The apparent inconsistency in the case of the Turks and Caicos is an example of the point made by Seigel and Swanson, referred to earlier, that the criteria for ageing may not give a consistent indication as to whether the population is ageing or not.

**Table 5.1      Ageing Indicators by Country: 2000**

Country	Median Age in Years	% under 15 years	% 65+years	Aged Dependency Ratio	Ageing Index
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>25.29</b>	<b>30.62</b>	<b>7.02</b>	<b>7.61</b>	<b>22.93</b>
Anguilla	28.84	28.01	7.61	11.82	27.17
Antigua and Barbuda	27.90	28.24	6.95	10.72	24.60
Bahamas	26.59	29.42	5.66	8.72	19.24
Barbados	33.13	21.84	11.76	17.72	53.87
Belize	18.65	40.85	4.26	7.76	10.43
Bermuda	36.34	19.08	10.82	15.44	56.72
British Virgin Islands	30.90	23.74	5.50	7.78	23.19
Dominica	27.67	29.45	10.23	16.96	34.74
Grenada	23.98	32.52	9.05	15.49	27.84
Guyana	22.50	35.84	4.22	7.04	11.78
Jamaica	24.32	32.35	7.65	12.75	23.65
Montserrat	36.46	20.17	13.08	19.60	64.86
St Kitts Nevis	26.60	28.99	7.94	12.58	27.38
St Lucia	25.04	29.80	8.08	13.01	27.13
St Vincent and the Grenadines	24.30	30.61	7.30	11.75	23.84
Suriname	25.46	29.99	5.93	9.25	19.76
Trinidad and Tobago	27.65	25.34	7.08	10.48	27.93
Turks and Caicos	28.42	28.63	3.81	5.64	13.31

All other countries, the majority, may be considered to be at an intermediate stage of ageing, with proportions of the population 65 years and over, between 5 and 9 per cent. Proportions of the population age 65 years and older range from about 6 per cent for Suriname, the Bahamas and the British Virgin Islands to 9 per cent for Grenada reflecting an overall average of about 7 per cent. The median age ranges from 24 years for Jamaica and St Vincent to 31 years for the

British Virgin Islands. This high median age of 31 years with a 6 per cent of the 65 years and over is another example of the inconsistency addressed by Siegel and Swanson (2004).

The large foreign born population in the Turks and Caicos and the British Virgin Islands and the implications for ageing, and in particular the median age, should be noted. The data presented in Table 5.2 show that for both countries the median age of the foreign born exceeds the age for the local born by 13 years in the case of the British Virgin Islands and by 8 years in the case of the Turks and Caicos.

**Table 5.2      Median Age of the Population of the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands by Nativity: 2000**

Item	British Virgin Islands	Turks and Caicos Islands
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>30.90</b>	<b>28.42</b>
Foreign Born	34.58	30.76
Local Born	21.91	23.25

The dependency ratios presented in Table 5.1 show Montserrat (with its own particular problems) with the highest old dependency ratio of an estimated 20 persons 65 years and older per 100 in the working ages 15-64 years, followed by Barbados (18 per 100) and Dominica with 17 per 100. This is more than double the old age dependency ratios of such countries as the Turks and Caicos, Guyana, the British Virgin Islands and Belize with approximately 6, 7 and 8 per 100, respectively.

The differences in the age profiles are determined primarily by fertility and migration as mortality is fairly uniform among the countries. Countries with relatively high fertility rates such as Belize tend to have a younger age profile as indicated by a smaller proportion of residents being age 65 years and older, while those with low fertility rates such as Barbados have an older age profile.

### **The Population 60 Years and Over**

Approximately 629,800 persons 60 years and over, representing 9 per cent of the population of the eighteen states, were counted at the time of the 2000 round of censuses. Just over 60 per cent of these persons lived in the two most populous countries, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, each country having 264,773 and 126,477 persons in this age group respectively. Less populated countries have small elderly populations. Two states, Guyana and Suriname have elderly populations between 40,000 and 50,000; 46,842 and 42,589 respectively; Barbados and the Bahamas have elderly populations exceeding 20,000 but less than 40,000; 36,336 and 25,202 respectively. St Lucia (16,711), Belize (13,763), Grenada (10,509) and St Vincent and the Grenadines (10,499) were the four countries with elderly populations greater than 10,000 but less than 20,000. The remaining eight countries had populations aged 60 years and over which was less than 10,000; Bermuda (9,339), Dominica (9,174), Antigua and Barbuda (5,956), St Kitts-Nevis (4,745), British Virgin Islands (91,813), Anguilla (91,174), Turks and Caicos Islands (1,046), and Montserrat (752).

The older population is growing at a faster rate than the total population. As previously indicated the total population increased by about 9 per cent over the period, at an annual rate of growth of about 0.9 per cent (Table 4.1). The growth among the elderly population 60 years and over based on the sixteen countries for which data are available, was by an estimated 25 per cent, indicative of an annual growth rate of 2.2 per cent.

**Table 5.3      Distribution of the Population 60 Years and Over by Country  
and Changes Between 1990 and 2000**

Country	2000		1990		Change 1990-2000		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Annual % rate of growth*
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>629,767</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>504,951</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>124,816</b>	<b>24.72</b>	<b>2.21</b>
Antigua and Barbuda	5,999	9.4	6,557	11.0	-558	-8.51	-0.89
Bahamas	25,202	8.3	15,795	6.7	9,407	59.56	4.67
Barbados	38,336	15.3	37,834	15.3	502	1.33	0.13
Belize	13,763	5.9	11,367	6.1	2,396	21.08	1.91
Bermuda	9,340	15.0	7,801	13.3	1,539	19.73	1.80
British Virgin Islands	1,813	7.8	1,250	7.8	563	45.04	3.72
Dominica	9,197	13.4	8,177	11.8	1,020	12.47	1.18
Grenada	10,509	12.2	9,085	10.7	1,424	15.67	1.46
Guyana	46,842	6.2	41,557	5.9	4,925	12.72	1.12
Jamaica	264,773	10.2	231,477	9.7	33,296	14.38	1.34
Montserrat	755	17.5	1,819	17.1	-1,064	-58.49	-8.79
St Kitts Nevis	4,745	10.2	5,136	12.6	-391	-7.61	-0.79
St Lucia	16,709	10.7	11,771	8.8	4,938	41.95	3.50
St Vincent and the Grenadines	10,499	9.9	9,484	8.9	1,015	10.70	1.02
Trinidad and Tobago	126,477	10.0	105,841	8.7	20,636	19.50	1.78

Note:

- (i) Excludes Anguilla, Suriname and Turks and Caicos Islands
- (ii) 1990 and 2000 figures for Trinidad represent adjusted count. Source Central Statistical Office (undated) 2000 Population and Housing Census. Demographic Report.

\*Exponential rate of growth (see .Technical Notes).

Three countries showed a decline; Montserrat (9 per cent), Antigua and Barbuda (0.9 per cent) and St Kitts-Nevis (0.8 per cent). The special circumstances related to Montserrat have been outlined. There is no obvious explanation for the situation as it relates to Antigua and St Kitts-

Nevis. Data on the age distribution of emigrants for these countries might shed some light but are unavailable.

The highest annual rate of growth among the elderly is seen for The Bahamas (4.7 per cent) followed by the British Virgin Islands (3.6 per cent) and St Lucia, 3.5 per cent. For St Lucia this was more than twice the rate of growth of 1.6 per cent for the total population and for The Bahamas, this was almost twice the growth for the total population. The 3.7 per cent growth rate for the British Virgin Islands was only minimally higher than the 3.6 per cent growth for the total population.

Because of mortality, the number of persons decreases fairly rapidly with increasing age. Table 5.4 shows that at the time of the 2000 round of censuses, an estimated 28 per cent of men and 26 per cent of women over age 60 years were 60-64 years old. An additional estimated 24 per cent of men and 23 per cent of women 60 years and over were between the ages of 65 and 69 years, while men and women 75 years and older accounted for 28 per cent and 33 per cent respectively of the elderly of each sex.

**Table 5.4      Population 60 Years and Over by Five Year Age Groups  
and Sex: 2000**

Age Group	2000					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of Total		
<b>Total 60 years+</b>	<b>629,769</b>	<b>290,153</b>	<b>339,614</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
60-64	169,936	81,971	87,965	26.98	28.25	25.90
65-69	147,238	70,192	77,044	23.38	24.19	22.69
70-74	120,735	56,489	64,246	19.17	19.47	18.92
75 years+	191,860	81,501	110,359	30.47	28.09	32.50

“A notable aspect of the global ageing process is the progressive demographic ageing of the older population itself” (United Nations, 2007, 27). “In most countries” the report continues, “the population aged 80 or over is growing faster than any younger segment of the population”. Table 5.5 presents data for 1970 and 2000 for 15 of the 18 countries showing the proportions of the population 60 years and over in the respective five year age groups, as the basis for an assessment of ageing among the older segment of the population.

**Table 5.5 Population 60 Years and Over by Five Year Age Groups and Sex: 1970-2000**

Age Group	2000			1970		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Number of Persons						
<b>Total 60 years+</b>	<b>580,009</b>	<b>267,000</b>	<b>313,004</b>	<b>338,068</b>	<b>149,895</b>	<b>188,173</b>
60-64	154,684	74,838	79,845	114,440	55,065	59,375
65-69	134,937	64,223	70,712	91,670	42,252	49,418
70-74	110,671	51,768	58,903	58,316	25,713	32,603
75 years+	179,717	76,171	103,544	73,642	26,865	46,777
Percent of Total						
<b>Total 60 years+</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
60-64	26.67	28.03	25.51	33.85	36.74	31.55
65-69	23.27	24.05	22.59	27.12	28.19	26.26
70-74	19.08	19.39	18.82	17.25	17.15	17.33
75 years+	30.99	28.53	33.08	21.78	17.92	24.86
Annual % Rate of Growth* 1970-2000						
	Total		Male		Female	
60 years +	1.80		1.92		1.70	
75 years +	2.97		3.47		2.65	

Note: Excludes Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda and Suriname

\*Exponential rate of growth (see .Technical Notes).

For men the proportion age 75 years and over rose from approximately 18 per cent to approximately 29 per cent and for women from 25 per cent to 33 per cent. In terms of absolute numbers, the number of persons 75 years and over more than doubled in the 30 years from 73,642 for these 15 countries in 1970 to 179,715 in 2000.

The number of men increased from 26,865 to 76,171 while the number of women rose from 46,777 to 103,544. Growth rates for the 75 years and over population, were 3.5 per cent for men compared to 1.9 per cent for men 60 years and over, and 2.7 per cent for women 75 years and over, which compared with the 1.7 per cent growth rate for women 60 years and over. In both cases the rates for the older groups were more than one and a half times the rates for the 60 years and over group.

### **Sex Composition**

Women outnumbered men at every age among the elderly. At the time of the 2000 round of censuses, there were an estimated three women for every two men age 60 years and older, and the sex ratio was even more skewed among the oldest old. The preponderance of women among the elderly reflects the higher death rates for men than women at every age.

**Table 5.6      Sex Ratio by Age for the elderly: 2000**

Age Group	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
<b>60 years and over</b>	<b>290,153</b>	<b>339,614</b>	<b>85.43</b>
60-64	81,971	87,965	93.18
65-69	70,192	77,044	91.11
70-74	56,489	64,246	87.93
75+	81,502	110,359	73.85

The number of women 60 years and over counted for the 18 countries was approximately 340,000 and the number of men, approximately 290,000, resulting in a sex ratio (males per 100 females) of 85 (Table 5.6). The sex ratio dropped steadily with age; from about 93 per 1000 in the 60-64 years group, to 91 for ages 65-69 years, to 88 for ages 70-74 years and to 74 per 100 for ages 75 years and older.

**Table 5.7      Sex Ratios of the Elderly by Country: 2000**

Country	Males	Females	Sex Ratio
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>290,153</b>	<b>339,614</b>	<b>85.44</b>
Anguilla	550	624	88.14
Antigua and Barbuda	2,654	3,345	79.34
Bahamas	11,137	14,065	79.18
Barbados	15,935	22,401	71.14
Belize	7,026	6,737	104.29
Bermuda	3,976	5,364	74.12
British Virgin Islands	910	903	100.78
Dominica	4,046	5,151	78.55
Grenada	4,626	5,883	78.63
Guyana	21,724	25,117	86.49
Jamaica	122,819	141,954	86.52
Montserrat	405	350	115.71
St Kitts Nevis	2,060	2,685	76.72
St Lucia	7,597	9,112	83.37
St Vincent and the Grenadines	4,715	5,784	81.52
Suriname	19,949	22,641	88.11
Trinidad and Tobago	59,545	66,932	88.96
Turks and Caicos	479	566	84.63

The excess of females over males was highest for the oldest countries of Barbados and Bermuda with sex ratios of 71 and 74 respectively (Table 5.7). Three countries, Belize, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat had an excess of men over women. Montserrat had the highest sex ratio, 116 per 100, followed by Belize and the British Virgin Islands with 104 and 101 respectively.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **SOCIO ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF OLDER PERSONS**

#### **Marital Status**

In the study of the elderly, marital status is an important determinant of many aspects of life. Kinsella and Velkoff (2001, 57) indicate that studies in developed countries show for example that married people, particularly married men, are healthier and live longer than their non-married counterparts. They also suggest that older married people tend to be more financially secure than non-married people. Changes in marital status at older ages can affect pension potential, retirement income and an individual's social support network. Very importantly, marital status also influences one's living arrangements. Among the research focusing on marital status and health, is a comparative study by Hu and Goldman (1990) which uses models to analyze marital- status specific death rates for a large number of developed countries. The researchers find that divorced persons especially divorced men have the highest death rates among the unmarried groups of each gender. The analysis also finds that the smaller the proportion of persons who never marry or who are divorced, the higher the resulting death rates.

Waite (1995) argues that married men and women exhibit lower levels of negative health behaviours than the unmarried and indicates that research evidence suggests that married men and women face lower risks of dying at any point than those who had never married or whose previous marriage has ended. Palloni and DeVos (1999, 16) refer to the "economic vulnerability, social isolation and emotional distress" which are associated consequences of widowhood among the elderly.

Caribbean censuses have historically focused on both marital status and union status. Marital Status is defined by the United Nations (2008, 137) as the personal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws of the country. Only legal categories are required in fixing marital status.

The concept of union status has been adopted for many years for the study of Caribbean family forms because of the high level of consensual unions which have always existed in these societies. Union status involves the participation into socially sanctioned family forms, which are established in terms of two criteria, the presence or absence of legal sanction and whether or not the partners to the union share the same household. Three union types are recognised. A married union exists when a man and a woman are legally married to each other and are living together. A common-law union indicates that a man and a woman share a common household but are not legally married to each other. The third type of union, visiting, exists when a man and a woman have a steady sexual relationship but are neither legally married to each other nor living with each other. Caribbean censuses have used these union types in various forms since the 1940s, while maintaining the marital status categories.

The approach to the 2000 round of censuses represented somewhat of a departure from previous censuses and was not consistent among the countries. For the majority of countries the focus shifted almost entirely to union status and the tabulations provided have combined both sets of categories in one table. This has meant that the separation of marital status from union status in the tabulations is not entirely possible as one individual may be classified in both. The common law union type and the visiting type for example may include persons legally married. Of the eighteen countries, eight; Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Jamaica, Montserrat, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and The Turks and Caicos Islands present tables which clearly define marital status.

For the remaining ten countries, the categories identified as legally married and married but not in union are used as the basis for this discussion to represent legally married persons. The categories widowed and divorced are used as presented in the tabulations to represent these types with the recognition that persons legally widowed and divorced for the ten countries, could be classified in common law and visiting relationships.

**Table 6.1      Distribution of the Older Married Population by Sex and Country:  
2000**

Country	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of total		
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>270,971</b>	<b>157,748</b>	<b>113,223</b>	<b>45.17</b>	<b>57.33</b>	<b>34.87</b>
Anguilla	610	345	265	52.59	63.42	3.02
Antigua and Barbuda	2,572	1,493	1,079	43.35	56.96	32.58
Bahamas	11,113	6,612	4,501	45.45	62.32	32.52
Barbados	15,958	8,906	7,052	42.38	56.99	32.01
Belize	7,194	4,269	2,925	52.27	60.76	43.42
Bermuda	5,110	2,882	2,228	54.75	72.54	41.56
British Virgin Islands	1,027	606	421	57.44	67.56	47.25
Dominica	4,266	2,378	1,888	46.55	58.96	36.80
Grenada	4,537	2,591	1,946	43.17	56.01	33.08
Guyana	19,395	11,483	7,912	41.59	53.28	31.55
Jamaica	119,437	68,885	50,552	45.59	56.71	35.97
St Kitts Nevis	1,860	1,043	817	39.82	51.81	30.74
St Lucia	7,463	4,184	3,279	44.77	55.20	36.07
St Vincent and the Grenadines	2,596	1,545	1,051	25.00	33.17	18.35
Suriname	15,685	9,535	6,150	42.05	54.58	31.01
Trinidad and Tobago	51,536	30,630	20,906	48.00	61.32	36.41
Turks and Caicos	612	361	251	58.57	75.37	44.35

The data presented in Tables 6.1 and 6.2 show that older men were more likely to be married and older women were more likely to be widowed. An estimated 45 per cent of the population 60 years and older reporting in seventeen countries (Montserrat is excluded because 98 per cent of the target population were either never married or did not report) was legally married, whether living with a spouse or not.

There were fairly marked differences between men and women. Among older women 35 per cent were married while among older men the proportion reached 57 per cent. On the whole there were approximately 139 married men for every 100 married women. The proportion of persons who were married varied from the highest, about 59 per cent in the Turks and Caicos to the lowest, 25 per cent in St Vincent. The gender gap in the proportion married was highest in the Bahamas where older men were about one and a half times as likely as older women to be married (62 per cent among older men and 33 per cent among older women). On the other hand, the gender gap was lowest in Belize where the corresponding proportions were about 61 per cent for older men and 43 per cent for older women.

In relation to widowhood, about a quarter (24 per cent) of the elderly was widowed (Table 6.2). As in the case of married persons, the gender gap was also quite marked among the older widowed population. In absolute terms there were three times as many widowed elderly women (109,545) as men (35,331). Guyana showed the highest proportion of elderly widowed with 29 per cent and St Vincent the lowest, 9 per cent. The gender gap was greatest in the Bahamas, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Bermuda. In these countries, the proportion of widowed women exceeded the proportion of widowed men by 25 per cent or more. In the Bahamas while about 40 per cent of elderly women were widowed, 12 per cent of elderly men were. The proportions of elderly men reporting for Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Bermuda were 14 per cent, 16 per cent, and 9 per cent respectively for men compared to 42 per cent (Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana) and 34 per cent respectively for women.

**Table 6.2      Distribution of the Older Widowed Population By Sex and Country:  
2000**

Country	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of Total		
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>144,876</b>	<b>35,331</b>	<b>109,545</b>	<b>24.15</b>	<b>12.84</b>	<b>33.74</b>
Anguilla	265	69	196	22.84	12.68	31.82
Antigua and Barbuda	1,278	286	996	21.54	10.91	29.95
Bahamas	6,812	1,293	5,519	27.86	12.19	39.87
Barbados	8,724	2,007	6,717	23.17	12.84	30.49
Belize	2,694	691	2,003	19.57	9.83	29.73
Bermuda	2,215	372	1,843	23.73	9.36	34.38
British Virgin Islands	341	87	254	19.07	9.70	28.51
Dominica	1,942	500	1,442	21.19	12.40	28.10
Grenada	2,036	453	1,583	19.37	9.79	26.91
Guyana	13,614	3,112	10,502	29.19	14.44	41.88
Jamaica	59,157	14,967	44,190	22.58	12.32	31.45
St Kitts Nevis	1,085	265	820	23.23	13.16	30.85
St Lucia	3,101	791	2,310	18.60	10.44	25.41
St Vincent and the Grenadines	945	261	684	9.10	5.60	11.94
Suriname	8,606	2,191	6,415	23.07	12.54	32.35
Trinidad and Tobago	31,814	7,931	23,883	29.63	15.88	41.59
Turks and Caicos	247	55	192	23.64	11.48	33.92

For both men and women, the proportion married decreased with older age and the proportion widowed increased. Data for sixteen countries presented in Table 6.3 show that approximately 32 cent of persons 75 years and over were married compared to the 45 per cent of the 60 years and over. For widowed persons the comparative proportions were 24 per cent for those 60 years and over and 38 per cent for the older age cohort.

The gender differences were quite considerable. In the case of married persons as discussed, 57 per cent of men aged 60 years and over were married compared with 35 per cent of women in that age group. At ages 75 and over 49 per cent of men were still married, compared to only 20 per cent of women. The gender differences in proportions widowed was equally pronounced. The data show that while 13 per cent of men and 34 per cent of women 60 years and over were widowed (Table 6.3), at ages 75 years and over the respective proportions were 24 per cent of men and 48 per cent of women.

**Table 6.3      Distribution of Married and Widowed Elderly by Specific Ages and Sex: 2000**

Age Group	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons		
<b>60 years and over</b>			
Total Population*	599,833	275,128	324,705
% Married	45.17	57.34	34.87
% Widowed	24.15	12.84	33.74
<b>75 years and over</b>			
Total Population*	183,402	77,334	106,068
% Married	32.40	49.39	20.01
% Widowed	37.80	23.58	48.17

\* Population reporting marital status

An examination of the divorced population for seventeen countries (Table 6.4) shows fairly low proportions except in the case of Bermuda which stands out with 13 per cent of the population classified as divorced. The proportion for women exceeded that for men by 3 percentage points; 14 per cent compared to 11 per cent.

For the other countries the percentage divorced varied between approximately 1 per cent for Belize to about 6 per cent for Anguilla.

**Table 6.4      Distribution of the Older Divorced Population by Sex and Country:  
2000**

Country	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of Total		
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>20,739</b>	<b>10,164</b>	<b>10,575</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>3.69</b>	<b>3.26</b>
Anguilla	66	34	32	5.69	6.25	5.20
Antigua and Barbuda	213	113	100	3.59	4.31	3.02
Bahamas	1,094	480	614	4.47	4.52	4.44
Barbados	2,076	966	1,113	5.52	6.18	5.05
Belize	203	93	110	1.48	1.32	1.63
Bermuda	1,169	423	746	12.52	10.64	13.92
British Virgin Islands	76	39	37	4.25	4.35	4.15
Dominica	212	94	118	2.31	2.33	2.30
Grenada	263	134	129	2.50	2.90	2.19
Guyana	1,265	600	665	2.71	2.78	2.65
Jamaica	7,599	3,990	3,609	2.90	3.29	2.57
St Kitts Nevis	159	68	91	3.40	3.38	3.42
St Lucia	340	157	183	2.04	2.07	2.01
St Vincent and the Grenadines	213	119	94	2.05	2.56	1.64
Suriname	1,581	726	855	4.24	4.16	4.31
Trinidad and Tobago	4,170	2,105	2,065	3.88	4.21	3.60
Turks and Caicos	37	23	14	3.54	4.80	2.47

## Educational Attainment

Numerous studies have established the positive association between education and health. Ross and Wu (1995) found that well-educated people experience better health than the poorly educated as indicated by high levels of self-reported health and physical functioning and low levels of morbidity, mortality and disability.

**Table 6.5 Distribution of the Older Population Attaining at Least a Primary Level Education by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of total		
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>364,093</b>	<b>166,261</b>	<b>197,832</b>	<b>62.26</b>	<b>61.97</b>	<b>62.51</b>
Anguilla	813	367	446	71.32	68.86	73.48
Antigua and Barbuda	3,860	1,564	2,296	64.39	59.00	68.66
Bahamas	7,030	2,881	4,149	29.55	28.04	30.70
Barbados	19,985	7,781	12,204	53.68	50.37	56.02
Belize	4,909	2,428	2,481	36.13	35.03	37.28
Bermuda	3,881	1,731	2,150	41.75	43.77	40.26
British Virgin Islands	1,052	526	526	61.59	61.59	61.59
Dominica	7,438	3,171	4,267	82.04	79.57	83.98
Grenada	9,043	3,869	5,174	86.62	84.20	88.52
Guyana	21,875	9,907	11,968	49.73	48.81	50.53
Jamaica	169,862	78,542	91,320	67.13	66.96	67.27
Montserrat	469	244	225	74.80	74.16	75.50
St Kitts Nevis	3,011	1,259	1,752	67.16	65.13	68.71
St Lucia	10,850	4,775	6,075	68.32	66.26	70.04
St Vincent and the Grenadines	8,946	3,924	5,022	86.70	85.08	88.01
Suriname	16,697	8,132	8,565	44.79	46.77	43.06
Trinidad and Tobago	73,653	34,868	38,785	69.58	70.41	68.85
Turks and Caicos	719	292	427	68.74	60.83	75.44

Ross and Wu (1996) propose that socioeconomic differences in health diverge with age and the positive effect of educational attainment on health increases with age. The data on educational attainment from the 2000 round of censuses for the eighteen countries in the study show that there is widespread attainment of at least primary level education as about 6 out of 10 of the older population had attained at least this level (Table 6.5).

**Table 6.6      Distribution of the Older Population Attaining Secondary Level Education by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of total		
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>124,081</b>	<b>58,023</b>	<b>66,058</b>	<b>21.22</b>	<b>21.63</b>	<b>20.87</b>
Anguilla	66	28	38	5.79	5.25	6.26
Antigua and Barbuda	964	364	600	16.08	13.73	17.94
Bahamas	13,400	5,701	7,699	56.33	55.49	56.97
Barbados	13,499	5,756	7,743	36.26	37.26	35.54
Belize	813	454	359	5.98	6.55	5.39
Bermuda	2,893	1,112	1,781	31.12	28.12	33.35
British Virgin Islands	234	107	127	13.70	12.53	14.87
Dominica	418	188	230	4.61	4.72	4.53
Grenada	588	262	326	5.63	5.70	5.58
Guyana	15,669	7,707	7,962	35.62	37.97	33.61
Jamaica	50,046	23,342	26,704	19.78	19.90	19.67
Montserrat	25	12	13	3.99	3.65	4.36
St Kitts Nevis	528	214	314	11.78	11.07	12.31
St Lucia	912	398	514	5.74	5.52	5.93
St Vincent and the Grenadines	295	143	152	2.86	3.10	2.66
Suriname	7,207	4,006	3,201	19.33	23.04	16.09
Trinidad and Tobago	1,6342	8,127	8215	15.44	16.41	14.58
Turks and Caicos	182	102	80	17.40	21.25	14.13

Just over one fifth, 21 per cent of the population 60 years and over had completed a secondary level education. Table 6.6 shows the countries showing the highest percentages of the elderly with secondary level to be the Bahamas (56 per cent), Barbados (36 per cent) and Bermuda (31 per cent), all of which exceeded the regional average of 21 per cent. With improvements in the educational levels over time, this is a likely reflection of the ageing of the younger more educated cohorts. Seven countries had proportions of the elderly with secondary level education estimated at less than 10 per cent; St Vincent and the Grenadines (3 per cent), Montserrat (4 per cent), Dominica (5 per cent), Grenada, St Lucia, Anguilla and Belize (6 per cent).

Despite the improvements in educational levels however, university level education is still not widespread as on average, as from Table 6.7 it can be seen that only 3 per cent of the elderly in the eighteen states had attained this level. The proportion of the elderly attaining university level education ranged from a low of about 2 per cent for Suriname and Belize, to a high of about 13 per cent and 12 per cent for the British Virgin Islands and Bermuda respectively.

Overall, the gender gap for educational attainment was not substantial but within seven countries, (Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, St Kitts-Nevis and St Lucia) elderly women had a slight edge over elderly men in the proportions attaining secondary level education. Bermuda and Antigua showed the largest gap between the sexes, a difference of about 5 percentage points in respect of Bermuda and 4 percentage points for Antigua, (Table 6.6). At the university level, as shown in Table 6.7, elderly men had a slight edge over elderly women in all countries. The overall average attainment at this level was 4 per cent for older men, twice the 2 per cent for older women.

**Table 6.7      Distribution of the Older Population Attaining University Level  
Education by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of total		
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>18,501</b>	<b>11,123</b>	<b>7,378</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>4.15</b>	<b>2.33</b>
Anguilla	109	64	45	9.56	12.01	7.41
Antigua and Barbuda	519	323	196	8.66	12.18	5.86
Bahamas	2,341	1,223	1,118	9.84	11.90	8.27
Barbados	1,215	807	408	3.26	5.22	1.87
Belize	269	187	82	1.98	2.70	1.23
Bermuda	1,129	572	557	12.15	14.46	10.43
British Virgin Islands	218	117	101	12.76	13.70	11.83
Dominica	224	143	81	2.47	3.59	1.59
Grenada	236	175	61	2.26	3.81	1.04
Guyana	1,345	921	424	3.06	4.54	1.79
Jamaica	5,904	3,117	2,787	2.33	2.66	2.05
Montserrat	50	29	21	7.97	8.81	7.05
St Kitts Nevis	226	155	71	5.04	8.02	2.78
St Lucia	376	240	136	2.37	3.33	1.57
St Vincent	214	138	76	2.07	2.99	1.33
Suriname	664	558	106	1.78	3.21	0.53
Trinidad and Tobago	3,386	2,305	1,081	3.20	4.65	1.92
Turks and Caicos	76	49	27	7.27	10.21	4.77

**Economic Activity**

In all countries the elderly, as expected, accounted for only a small percentage of the total economically active population. Table 6.8 shows that around 2000, about 5 per cent of the total economically active population of sixteen of the eighteen countries in the study were elderly.

**Table 6.8 Economically Active Population by Country: 2000**

Country	Total Economically Active Population*	Economically Active Population 60 years and over	
		Number of Persons	% of Total
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>2,334,464</b>	<b>123,894</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Anguilla	4,925	296	6.0
Antigua and Barbuda	32,841	1,802	5.4
Bahamas	161,007	8,691	9.6
Barbados	130,534	5,891	4.5
Bermuda	38,251	3,398	8.9
British Virgin Islands	13,626	721	2.7
Dominica	28,516	1,973	2.9
Grenada	35,102	2,086	2.7
Guyana	260,464	9,120	3.3
Jamaica	1,017,113	15,730	6.5
Montserrat	2,031	130	3.3
St Kitts Nevis	23,035	1,149	2.2
St Lucia	71,995	6,053	2.5
St Vincent and the Grenadines	45,486	2,229	2.4
Trinidad and Tobago	458,399	14,194	1.9
Turks and Caicos	11,139	431	1.7

\*Population 15 years and over. Excludes Belize and Suriname

The economically active is here defined as persons who were employed or who were unemployed but either actively seeking work and if not actively seeking was available for work if offered. In all but three countries the data used as the basis for this analysis relates to the activity in the twelve months preceding the census. Data for Jamaica, Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos Islands relate to the week preceding.

Overall, there has been some decline in the participation of the older population in economic activity over the past twenty years. Data for nine countries taken from the censuses of 1980, and 2000 are presented in Tables 6.9 and 6.10.

**Table 6.9      Population 60 Years Old and Over By Sex and Country:  
1980 and 2000**

Country	2000			1980		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>461,206</b>	<b>212,982</b>	<b>248,204</b>	<b>392,074</b>	<b>179,188</b>	<b>212,886</b>
British Virgin Islands	1,805	905	900	933	486	447
Dominica	9,151	4,025	5,126	7,289	3,071	4,218
Grenada	1,0509	4,626	5,883	8,842	3,511	5,331
Guyana	44,652	20,663	23,989	42,335	20,198	2,2137
Jamaica	258,354	119,785	138,569	227,116	103,560	123,556
St Kitts-Nevis	4,668	2,015	2,653	5,734	2,413	3,321
St Lucia	16,633	7,550	9,083	9,033	3,843	5,190
St Vincent and the Grenadines	8,472	3,298	5,174	8,028	3,343	4,685
Trinidad and Tobago	106,962	50,115	56,847	82,764	378,763	44,001

Note: Excludes population not reporting

For both sexes combined the proportion of the elderly economically active moved from about 25 per cent in 1980 to an estimated 22 per cent in 2000 (Table 6.10). The general pattern however was for a reduction in the involvement of men and for an increase in the involvement of women. Among men the decline was from about approximately 42 per cent to approximately 34 per cent

between 1980 and 2000, and the fall was evident in all countries during that period. The largest decline was seen for Trinidad and Tobago with participation cut by about 50 per cent, from 40 per cent in 1980 to 20 per cent in 2000.

**Table 6.10 Economically Active Population 60 Years Old and Over as a Per Cent of the Total Population 60 Years Old and Over by Sex and Country: 1980 and 2000**

Country	2000			1980		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>22.39</b>	<b>33.64</b>	<b>12.73</b>	<b>24.86</b>	<b>41.71</b>	<b>10.68</b>
British Virgin Islands	39.94	49.39	30.44	34.83	53.09	14.99
Dominica	21.56	33.14	12.65	30.92	52.49	15.22
Grenada	19.85	29.83	12.00	32.57	57.56	16.11
Guyana	20.42	32.73	9.83	22.51	38.87	7.58
Jamaica	25.44	38.51	14.14	24.52	40.62	11.02
St Kitts-Nevis	24.61	37.27	15.00	31.36	53.54	15.24
St Lucia	36.39	40.40	33.06	33.20	56.26	16.13
St Vincent	26.31	47.76	12.64	32.75	58.27	14.54
Trinidad and Tobago	13.27	20.40	6.99	23.42	40.05	8.78

Based on Table 6.9

Over the period, overall, participation for women increased by about 2 percentage points, from 11 per cent to approximately 13 per cent in the twenty years. At the country level, while increased participation was evident only in four of the nine countries; St Lucia, the British Virgin Islands, Jamaica and Guyana, the extent of the increase was considerable especially in two of the four countries. Participation by older females in economic activity in St Lucia and the British Virgin Islands doubled over the period.

For St Lucia percentage involvement increased from an estimated 16 per cent in 1980 to an estimated 33 per cent in 2000. For the British Virgin Islands the change was from about 15 per cent to about 30 per cent in the twenty year period.

As participation in economic activity for elderly men had declined and participation for elderly women had shown increases, the female share of the elderly economically active had steadily increased. For the nine countries for which data are available for the twenty year period, in 1980, approximately 23 per cent of the economically active persons aged 60 years and over were women. By 2000, this proportion had increased to about 31 percent (Table 6.11).

**Table 6.11    Per cent Distribution of the Economically Active Population 60 Years and Over by Sex: 1980-2000**

Age Group	2000	1980
	Number of Persons	
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,255</b>	<b>97,481</b>
Male	71,654	74,736
Female	31,601	22,745
	Per cent of Total	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Male	69.4	76.7
Female	30.6	23.3

Note: Based on the nine countries shown in Tables 6.9 and 6.10

**Table 6.12     Distribution of the Economically Active Population 60 Years and Over by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total Population			Per cent Economically Active		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>580,507</b>	<b>265,508</b>	<b>314,999</b>	<b>22.04</b>	<b>32.83</b>	<b>12.94</b>
Anguilla	1,168	546	622	25.34	36.81	15.27
Antigua and Barbuda	5,911	2,610	3,301	30.49	41.26	21.96
Bahamas	23,530	10,148	13,382	36.94	53.99	24
Barbados	38,074	15,795	22,279	15.47	22.98	10.15
Bermuda	9,328	3,970	5,358	36.43	47.63	28.13
British Virgin Islands	1,805	905	900	39.94	49.39	30.44
Dominica	9,151	4,025	5,126	21.56	33.14	12.47
Grenada	10,509	4,626	5,883	19.85	29.83	12
Guyana	44,652	20,663	23,989	20.42	32.73	9.83
Jamaica	258,354	119,785	138,569	25.44	38.51	14.14
Montserrat	639	334	305	20.34	25.15	15.08
St Kitts Nevis	4,668	2,015	2,653	24.61	37.27	15
St Lucia	16,633	7,550	9,083	36.39	40.4	33.06
St Vincent and the Grenadines	8,472	3,298	5,174	26.31	47.76	12.64
Suriname	39,607	18,644	20,963	10.21	15.45	5.54
Trinidad and Tobago	106,962	50,115	56,847	13.27	20.4	6.99
Turks and Caicos	1,044	479	565	41.28	58.25	26.9

Note: Excludes Belize

Table 6.12 presents the distribution of the economically active population 60 years and over for both men and women at the time of the 2000 round of censuses. On average for the seventeen countries shown, just over one in five (22 per cent) of the population 60 years and over were economically active.

Participation of the elderly in economic activity varied widely among the countries. The table shows that at the country level, participation was highest for the Turks and Caicos Islands with about 41 per cent of the elderly, economically active. The British Virgin Islands (40 per cent), the Bahamas (37 per cent) and Bermuda and St Lucia (36 per cent), followed. Participation of the elderly in economic activity was lowest in Suriname (10 per cent) and Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados (13 per cent).

In all countries older women had lower participation rates than older men. Men were about two and a half times more likely to be economically active than women, as on average approximately 33 per cent of men and 13 per cent of women 60 years old and higher were economically active. Male participation reached a peak in the Turks and Caicos Islands where more than a half of the men (58 per cent) were economically active. Elderly men in the Bahamas showed the next highest level of activity as about 54 per cent were involved. The elderly women of the St Lucia and the British Virgin Islands showed the highest participation with about 33 per cent and 30 per cent involvement, respectively, in economic activity. The largest gender gap was seen for St Vincent and the Grenadines where elderly men were more than three and a half times as likely as elderly women to be economically active. An estimated 48 per cent of the elderly men of St Vincent and the Grenadines were economically active compared to 13 per cent of the elderly women.

Decreased participation in economic activity that comes with ageing is shown in Table 6.13. The Table shows that the proportion of the elderly males involved in economic activity decreased with increasing age. Thirty-three per cent of the 60 years and over age group were economically active. This proportion fell to 22 per cent at 65 years and over and 13 per cent at 75 years and over. For women a similar pattern is observed as the proportion declined from the estimated 13 per cent at age 60 years to about 8 per cent at age 65 years and by age 75 years was only about 4 per cent. In all countries older women had lower participation rates than older men and rates for both sexes decreased with age.

**Table 6.13      Participation in Economic Activity for Specific Age Groups of the Elderly Population: 2000**

Age Group	Total	Male	Female
<b>60 years and over</b>			
Total Population	580,507	265,508	314,999
Economically Active	127,937	87,176	40,761
% of Total	22.04	32.83	12.94
<b>65 years and over</b>			
Total Population	437,406	197,987	239,419
Economically Active	61,568	43,310	18,258
% of Total	14.08	21.88	7.63
<b>75 years and over</b>			
Total Population	179,180	76,092	103,088
Economically Active	14,292	9,921	4,371
% of Total	7.98	13.04	4.24

Table 6.14 presents the occupational distribution of the employed elderly male and female workers 60 years and over and shows the distinct differences by gender. More than a half of the elderly working women was engaged in elementary (31 per cent), professional (27 per cent) and clerical jobs (23 per cent). The majority of elderly working men were employed in agriculture, fishing, mining (36 per cent), professional (19 per cent) and craft and related trades occupations (15 per cent). Table 6.15 shows that the proportion of elderly men engaged in agriculture increased with age to 42 per cent for men 65 years and over, with slightly less involvement in craft and related trades and professional occupations. For women at the older ages, there was a slight shift from the professional into the clerical and secretarial. By this age, the percentage of elderly women in the first named group declined by about 2 percentage points from approximately 27 per cent to 25 per cent while the employment in the clerical group moved to 25 per cent from 23 per cent for the younger cohort.

**Table 6.14 Employed Population 60 Years and Over by Occupation Group and Sex: 2000**

Occupation Group	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of Total		
<b>All Occupations</b>	<b>117,644</b>	<b>83,004</b>	<b>34,640</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Senior Officials, Professionals, Technicians and Associate Professionals	24,894	15,647	9,247	21.16	18.85	26.69
Clerical Secretarial, Sales and Service	16,057	8,260	7,797	13.65	9.95	22.51
Skilled Agricultural and Fishery	34,237	29,489	4,748	29.10	35.53	13.71
Craft and Related Trades Workers	14,794	12,409	2,385	12.58	14.95	6.89
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	7,588	6,941	647	6.45	8.36	1.87
Elementary Occupations	22,371	11,752	10,619	19.02	14.16	30.66

**Table 6.15 Employed Population 65 Years and Over by Occupation Group and Sex: 2000**

Occupation Group	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of Total		
<b>All Occupations</b>	<b>61,224</b>	<b>43,812</b>	<b>17,412</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Senior Officials, Professionals, Technicians and Associate Professionals	12,111	7,711	4,400	19.78	17.60	25.27
Clerical Secretarial, Sales and Service	8,362	3,974	4,388	13.66	9.07	25.20
Skilled Agricultural and Fishery	20,683	18,294	2,389	33.78	41.76	13.72
Craft and Related Trades Workers	6,504	5,467	1,037	10.62	12.48	5.96
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	2,851	2,709	142	4.66	6.18	0.82
Elementary Occupations	10,713	5,657	5,056	17.50	12.91	29.04

The country distribution of the employed elderly population by occupation groups for men and women (Tables 6.16 and 6.17) show that participation in agricultural and related occupations was highest for the men of Dominica and Jamaica. More than a half of the elderly men in these countries (Dominica about 60 per cent and Jamaica about 52 per cent) were employed in these occupations. Belize was the only country with more than a 30 per cent involvement in elementary occupations among elderly men as about 32 per cent of men 60 years and over in Belize were employed in these occupations. The highest involvement in the professional groups is seen in Montserrat and Suriname where more than 4 out of 10 of the men in these countries were in professional and related occupations. For women, the number of countries with similar proportions (40 per cent or more) in professional occupations was double the number seen for men. Four countries, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago show proportions of between approximately 40 and 47 per cent of elderly women employed in professional and related occupations. Anguilla (48 per cent), the Bahamas (47 per cent) and Suriname (41 per cent) show the highest proportions of elderly women in clerical and related occupations while the highest percentage of elderly women in elementary occupations is noted for Barbados (42 per cent), Antigua and Barbuda (42 per cent) and The Bahamas (41 per cent).

**Table 6.16    Employed Male Population 60 Years and Over by Occupation Group and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Professionals and Technicians	Agricultural	Craft and Related	Elementary Occupations
		Per cent of Total			
All Countries	83,004	18.85	35.53	14.95	14.16
Anguilla	202	26.24	24.75	12.87	15.84
Antigua and Barbuda	907	28.00	7.50	17.20	20.95
Bahamas	5,461	37.30	4.16	20.88	27.36
Barbados	3,497	30.03	7.29	24.76	15.16
Belize	3,420	13.07	29.77	11.08	31.75
Bermuda	1,799	30.18	4.00	3.67	0.00
British Virgin Islands	383	39.16	0.00	21.67	16.19
Dominica	1,197	14.12	59.82	7.60	9.86
Grenada	1,484	17.92	48.25	11.66	11.05
Guyana	6,226	13.96	24.54	12.67	17.30
Jamaica	42,183	11.73	52.09	14.06	11.30
Montserrat	56	48.21	14.29	8.93	8.93
St Kitts Nevis	721	25.24	8.46	23.16	0.00
St Lucia	1,996	15.03	40.83	13.13	11.37
St Vincent and the Grenadines	1,221	18.76	40.21	8.93	17.20
Suriname	2,298	40.43	17.80	14.53	3.09
Trinidad and Tobago	9,732	32.01	11.07	18.41	17.11
Turks and Caicos Islands	221	36.20	1.36	18.55	24.43

**Table 6.17    Employed Female Population 60 Years and Over by Occupation  
Group and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Professionals and Technicians	Clerical, Secretarial and Sales	Elementary Occupations
		Per cent of Total		
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>34,640</b>	<b>26.69</b>	<b>22.51</b>	<b>30.66</b>
Anguilla	87	28.74	48.28	12.64
Antigua and Barbuda	622	27.81	22.99	41.80
Bahamas	1,967	40.77	47.38	40.82
Barbados	2,163	26.54	23.12	42.30
Belize	460	25.43	17.83	16.96
Bermuda	118	23.73	33.05	0.00
British Virgin Islands	242	47.11	28.51	18.18
Dominica	569	30.05	11.95	22.85
Grenada	528	28.60	24.43	28.22
Guyana	2,863	14.15	24.76	16.28
Jamaica	18,026	24.50	19.64	31.83
Montserrat	39	41.03	25.64	23.08
St Kitts Nevis	655	29.31	5.80	32.52
St Lucia	1,060	15.38	34.91	27.26
St Vincent and the Grenadines	530	26.42	13.77	36.23
Suriname	906	26.82	40.95	13.13
Trinidad and Tobago	3,694	40.15	17.38	31.78
Turks and Caicos Islands	111	30.63	35.14	27.03

In keeping with the involvement in specific occupations, the participation in industry presented in Tables 6.18 and 6.19 show elderly men to be most involved in the primary industries of agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining; as about 45 per cent of employed men 60 years and over were involved in this group. The wholesale and retail trade employed 14 per cent of older men. By age 65 years, the proportion in agriculture increased to 49 per cent while the percentage involved in the wholesale trade remained stable. Employed women 60 years and over were mainly engaged in community and social services (35 per cent) and wholesale trade (32 per cent). As the women age there was some shifting into the agricultural group as the percentage rose from 19 per cent to 22 per cent while involvement in community, social and personal services declined from about 35 per cent to 31 per cent.

**Table 6.18    Employed Population 60 Years and Over by Industry Group and Sex:  
2000**

Industry Group	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of Total		
<b>All Industry Groups</b>	<b>123,998</b>	<b>86,190</b>	<b>37,808</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry, Fishing, Mining and Quarrying	45,827	38,547	7,280	36.96	44.72	19.26
Manufacturing	7,307	5,817	1,490	5.89	6.75	3.94
Electricity, Gas, Water and Construction	10,086	9,048	1,038	8.13	10.50	2.75
Wholesale and Retail Hotels and Restaurants	24,004	11,787	12,257	19.39	13.68	32.42
Transport and Communication	5,525	4,698	827	4.46	5.45	2.19
Financial Intermediaries and Real Estate	6,412	4,597	1,815	5.17	5.33	4.80
Community, Social and Personal Services	24,848	11,747	13,101	20.04	13.63	34.65

**Table 6.19    Employed Population 65 Years and Over by Industry Group and Sex:  
2000**

Industry Group	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Per cent of Total		
<b>All Industry Groups</b>	<b>63,687</b>	<b>44,618</b>	<b>19,069</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry, Fishing, Mining and Quarrying	25,992	21,865	4,127	40.81	49.00	21.64
Manufacturing	3,805	2,939	866	5.97	6.59	4.54
Electricity, Gas, Water and Construction	4,390	3,716	674	6.89	8.33	3.53
Wholesale and Retail Hotels and Restaurants	12,188	6,024	6,164	19.14	13.50	32.32
Transport and Communication	2,417	2,008	409	3.80	4.50	2.14
Financial Intermediaries and Real Estate	3,227	2,327	900	5.07	5.22	4.72
Community, Social and Personal Services	11,468	5,739	5,929	18.32	12.86	31.09

An examination of the country variations from Tables 6.20 and 6.21 shows that more than two thirds of older Guyanese men and about 65 per cent of older Dominican men were engaged in the agricultural and related industries. This industry group also employed about 56 per cent of elderly Jamaican men. Participation in the wholesale and retail trade was highest for the elderly men in Anguilla (about 32 per cent) and Montserrat (about 31 per cent).

Country participation in the industry group of first preference for elderly women, community, social and personal services, was highest for Montserrat as just under two thirds of the women were employed in this group. The Bahamas showed the second highest participation (61 per cent). With respect to the industry group of second choice, the wholesale, retail, hotels and restaurants group, more than a half of the employed older women of Anguilla were in this group, making Anguilla the country with the highest rate of participation.

**Table 6.20      Employed Male Population 60 Years and Over by Industry Group and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining	Electricity, Gas, Water, Construction	Wholesale, Retail, Hotels and Restaurants	Community Social and Personal Services
		Per Cent of Total			
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>86,266</b>	<b>44.68</b>	<b>10.49</b>	<b>13.66</b>	<b>13.62</b>
Anguilla	174	9.20	23.56	31.61	18.39
Antigua and Barbuda	938	13.11	11.51	20.58	29.21
Bahamas	4,895	9.29	20.30	23.92	18.08
Barbados	3,481	9.51	17.95	19.13	28.84
Belize	3,228	51.43	0.43	20.79	0.00
Bermuda	1,858	2.37	19.43	23.84	16.74
British Virgin Islands	396	7.32	16.92	29.04	20.71
Dominica	1,279	64.97	19.00	9.23	0.00
Grenada	1,187	41.70	35.64	15.00	0.00
Guyana	12,427	68.25	3.28	7.98	8.73
Jamaica	40,237	55.62	8.79	9.89	13.01
Montserrat	55	14.55	10.91	30.91	25.45
St Kitts Nevis	657	17.05	34.09	27.40	0.00
St Lucia	1,717	47.18	9.14	18.35	10.48
St Vincent and the Grenadines	1,319	48.29	8.26	18.27	9.93
Suriname	2,588	18.43	7.92	24.50	23.07
Trinidad and Tobago	9,580	17.22	15.39	18.19	19.50
Turks and Caicos Islands	249	3.61	21.69	29.72	20.48

**Table 6.21 Employed Female Population 60 Years and Over by Industry Group and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining	Electricity, Gas, Water, Construction	Wholesale, Retail, Hotels and Restaurants	Community Social and Personal Services
		Per Cent of Total			
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>36,722</b>	<b>19.82</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>33.38</b>	<b>35.68</b>
Anguilla	88	1.14	3.41	52.27	37.50
Antigua and Barbuda	631	6.18	0.95	38.83	41.36
Bahamas	1,824	5.15	0.93	66.39	60.96
Barbados	2,154	7.38	0.88	30.22	48.42
Belize	753	9.69	0.00	45.29	0.00
Bermuda	1,489	0.07	1.61	36.33	39.36
British Virgin Islands	218	8.72	1.83	39.91	33.49
Dominica	644	35.71	39.44	4.97	0.00
Grenada	593	22.77	47.22	5.40	0.00
Guyana	4,368	58.08	0.34	17.33	17.28
Jamaica	17,357	18.70	0.89	33.65	40.41
Montserrat	35	11.43	0.00	17.14	65.71
St Kitts Nevis	373	12.06	39.95	15.01	0.00
St Lucia	965	19.17	1.14	41.55	23.83
St Vincent and the Grenadines	546	28.21	2.20	47.44	11.17
Suriname	895	16.31	0.67	38.66	32.29
Trinidad and Tobago	3,649	5.81	2.25	37.00	43.11
Turks and Caicos Islands	140	0.71	1.43	40.00	34.29

Data on the employment status and the sectors in which the elderly were employed are presented in Tables 6.22 and 6.23. Employment status refers to the status of the person with respect to his/her employment, that is, the type of contract of employment that the person has with other persons or organizations. The majority of the older population of both sexes was self-employed. Self-employment was more prevalent among elderly men compared to elderly women while participation as employees of private enterprise was higher among elderly women than elderly men. More than a half of the men, about 57 per cent and approximately 46 per cent of the women were categorized as self-employed. About 42 per cent of the older women and one third of the men were employees in private enterprise. Self-employment among elderly men and women was highest in Dominica with just over 7 out of 10 men and about 68 per cent of the women in self-employment. The elderly in Bermuda showed the highest participation as employees in private enterprise as about 77 per cent of the older employed women and an estimated 58 per cent of the older employed men of Bermuda were employed in that capacity.

**Table 6.22 Employed Male Population 60 Years and Over by Employment Status and Sector by Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Employees		Self Employed
		Government and Statutory	Private Enterprise	
		Per cent of Total		
All Countries	74,254	9.93	33.40	56.67
Anguilla	180	12.22	45.56	42.22
Antigua and Barbuda	865	31.56	34.10	34.34
Bahamas	4,192	4.17	52.79	43.03
Barbados	5,509	24.60	45.29	30.11
Belize	3,207	7.02	35.48	57.50
Bermuda	1,829	8.26	57.68	34.06
British Virgin Islands	375	24.53	48.00	27.47
Dominica	1,214	6.92	21.99	71.09
Grenada	1,136	8.36	41.99	49.65
Guyana	6,022	16.36	43.16	40.48
Jamaica	36,947	5.46	24.70	69.85
Montserrat	62	17.74	22.58	59.68
St Kitts-Nevis	660	40.45	25.30	34.24
St Lucia	1,784	11.15	37.33	51.51
St Vincent and the Grenadines	1,276	10.42	32.68	56.90
Trinidad and Tobago	8,754	14.30	39.80	45.90
Turks and Caicos Islands	242	15.70	51.65	32.64

**Table 6.23      Employed Female Population 60 Years and Over by Employment Status and Sector by Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Employees		Self Employed
		Government and Statutory	Private Enterprise	
		Per Cent of Total		
All Countries	36,035	12.12	42.25	45.63
Anguilla	95	10.53	45.26	44.21
Antigua and Barbuda	604	29.47	41.72	28.81
Bahamas	2,508	8.21	57.06	34.73
Barbados	3,405	19.27	46.37	34.36
Belize	2,527	8.90	56.63	34.47
Bermuda	1,424	8.78	76.62	14.61
British Virgin Islands	217	29.03	49.77	21.20
Dominica	563	6.75	25.75	67.50
Grenada	552	9.06	38.04	52.90
Guyana	2,008	19.42	34.01	46.56
Jamaica	16,801	9.84	36.12	54.03
Montserrat	42	23.81	42.86	33.33
St Kitts Nevis	336	53.27	9.82	36.90
St Lucia	989	10.62	40.95	48.43
St Vincent and the Grenadines	558	8.78	34.77	56.45
Trinidad and Tobago	3,273	12.34	45.25	42.41
Turks and Caicos Islands	133	18.80	38.35	42.86

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

As outlined in the introduction the phenomenon of ageing has emerged from the demographic transition which relates to the change that populations undergo from high to low levels of fertility and mortality Kinsella and Velkof (2001, 37) explain that related to this change is the epidemiological transition which refers to the long-term change in leading causes of death, from infectious and acute to chronic and degenerative diseases. They explain that the concept was first used in the early 1970s by Omran (1971). Omran states:

Conceptually, the theory of epidemiologic transition focuses on the complex change in patterns of health and disease *and* on the interactions between these patterns and their demographic, economic and sociologic determinants and consequences. An epidemiologic transition has paralleled the demographic and technologic transitions in the now developed countries of the world and is still underway in less-developed societies. Ample evidence may be cited to document this transition in which degenerative and man-made diseases displace pandemics of infection as the primary causes of morbidity and mortality.

Kalache (1996) explains that as population ages more people will enter the age of higher risk of developing non-communicable diseases which in turn may result in disability. In fact, diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and cancer are predicted to be the main contributors to the burden of disease in developing countries by 2020, and will be responsible for over three quarters of all deaths. At the same time, communicable diseases - although declining - will not have disappeared in those regions, thus leading to the so-called 'double burden'.

Since the growing international recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities as highlighted by the United Nations “Decade of the Disabled Persons” (1983-1992), many countries introduced questions aimed at collecting information on the disabled for the first time in the 1990 round of censuses. Since then much work has been undertaken at the international level in developing guidelines for the development of disability statistics. In 1980 the World Health Organization (WHO) issued the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) which was succeeded in 2001 by the International Classification of Functioning Disabilities and Health (ICF).

The ICIDH which guided countries for the 2000 round of censuses, distinguishes three dimensions that can be studied to monitor the situation of people with disability: impairment (organ and body dimension), disability (individual dimension) and handicap (social dimension). Impairment refers to any loss or deviation of physiological, neurological or anatomical structure or function of an organ or body part. Disability reflects any limitation in learning, speaking, walking or some other activity. Handicap concerns constraints on the relationship between the person with a disability and the social and physical environment, for example in the areas of education, occupation or communication.

The UN recommended that for the census, owing to the limited space available, the focus should be on only one of the three ICIDH dimensions with the other dimensions left to a household survey. For the census a disability-oriented approach is recommended. By focusing on people’s experiences in participating in daily life activities, this approach is considered as more relevant for determining and guiding policy.

In order to measure the disability dimension, a person with disability is defined as a person who is limited in the kind or amount of activities that he or she can do because of ongoing difficulties due to a long-term physical or mental condition or health problem. Only disabilities lasting for more than six months should be included.

Questions on health and disability have special significance for the older populations. Many challenges remain in the collection of this type of data in the census and consistency between countries in relation to the definitions and concepts used is still to be achieved. The data presented are based on fourteen of the eighteen countries in the study. Available information on the approach of three countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Jamaica are as follows:

For the 2001 census Antigua and Barbuda recognized the constraints involved in the collection of information related to disability and the instructions to the interviewer clearly stated “it is accepted that for complete accuracy the questions should be best asked by someone with medical training, but on the premise that some information is better than none, all you can do is ask the questions and record the answer as given”. The purpose of the questions was to measure the incidence and type of disability and handicap experienced by members of the population.

The question asked was “do you suffer from any long-standing disability or infirmity?”

An illness, disability or infirmity was considered to be long-standing, if the person had the condition for six months or more and it was not of a temporary nature. The condition must have been permanent irrespective of how long ago it manifested itself. A broken leg for example was not to be considered a long-standing illness, but diabetes would be long-standing even if diagnosed the day before the enumeration.

For the 2000 census of Barbados, the approach adopted was a combination of disability/impairment and the question asked was “Do you have any of the following disabilities or major impairments? The response categories were as follows:

Hearing, speech, sight, upper limb, lower limb, neck/spine, intellectual, mental, other and none. The interviewers were instructed to indicate as many as are applicable. Respondents were then asked to indicate the aid (wheelchair, cane etc) required and if the condition had been diagnosed by a doctor.

Barbados defined disability or major impairment as a condition characterised by the complete or almost complete (75% or more) absence of a body function. For example, *complete blindness* or

*near blindness* was classified as disability/major impairment but the condition *short-sightedness* was classified as a minor impairment and excluded from the scope of the definition.

In designing the 2001 census topics on the question, Jamaica adopted the recommendations of the U.N. to use the disability approach, rather than the ‘impairment’ or ‘handicap’ approach. A screening question was asked to identify persons with a disability which limits their activities, and a list of specific types was listed for scoring the answer.

The question asked was “Do you suffer from any disability or infirmity?” If yes “Does it limit your activities compared with most people your age?” If yes, “What type of disability do you have?” The response categories for types of disability were as follows:

Sight only, hearing only, speech only, physical disability only, multiple disability, slowness of learning, mental retardation, mental illness and other. Jamaica defined disability as any restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. Such restriction or lack of ability must be as a result of impairment. A person has impairment if he or she has suffered any loss or abnormality of mind or body.

A total of about 87,200 persons representing approximately 16 per cent of the 530,241 persons 60 years and over for fifteen countries reported having a disability (Table 7.1). Of these 49,431 representing more than a half, about 57 per cent were women. Prevalence rates for women were approximately 173 per 1,000 compared to approximately 155 per 1,000 for men. Overall the rate for both sexes combined was about 164 per 1,000. The data show important variations between countries, with rates for both sexes combined varying from a low of an estimated 7 per 1,000 for St Lucia to a high of an estimated 335 per 1,000 for Belize.

Bearing in mind the possible inconsistencies in the approach of countries, the data must be interpreted with caution.

Looking at the gender data and excluding the extremes of St Lucia and Belize, for the females there was no country with rates below 100 per 1,000 and the lowest rates of 104 and 106 per 1,000 were seen for females in The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos. For men, these two

countries again had the lowest rates, less than 100; approximately 84 per 1000 for the Turks and Caicos and 91 per 1,000 for the Bahamas.

**Table 7.1 The Elderly Population Reporting Disability by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Persons			Rate per 1000 population		
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>87,171</b>	<b>37,740</b>	<b>49,431</b>	<b>164.40</b>	<b>154.61</b>	<b>172.75</b>
Anguilla	235	112	123	200.17	203.64	197.12
Antigua and Barbuda	1,319	530	789	219.87	199.70	235.87
Bahamas	2,480	1,013	1,467	98.40	90.96	104.30
Barbados	5,457	2,197	3,260	142.35	137.87	145.53
Belize	4,609	2,180	2,129	334.88	310.28	360.55
British Virgin Islands	308	140	168	169.88	153.85	186.05
Dominica	1,413	603	810	153.64	149.04	157.25
Grenada	1,743	696	1,047	165.86	150.45	177.97
Jamaica	48,190	21,026	27,164	182.01	171.20	191.36
St Kitts Nevis	1,007	391	616	212.22	189.81	229.42
St Lucia	112	61	51	6.70	8.03	5.60
St Vincent and the Grenadines	1,851	739	1,112	176.30	156.73	192.25
Trinidad and Tobago	18,347	8,012	10,335	145.06	134.55	154.41
Turks and Caicos	100	40	60	95.69	83.51	106.01

Note: Based on population in Table 5.7

Regarding type, ten countries included sight, hearing and speech as response categories on their questionnaire. As in some cases multiple responses were allowed, the data are being interpreted as responses rather than persons. The table 7.2 shows a total of 30,971 responses for the three types. Sight accounted for the majority, 22,118 responses representative of just over 7 out of 10 cases, followed by hearing (24 per cent). About 4 per cent of the responses related to speech. The pattern for each sex was similar, except that there were minimally higher rates for sight and

speech impairments among men while for hearing impairments, the rate for women was minimally higher than for men (5 per cent compared to 4 per cent).

**Table 7.2      Responses for the Elderly Population Related to Sight, Hearing and Speech Disabilities by Sex: 2000**

Type of Response	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Responses		
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,971</b>	<b>13,303</b>	<b>17,668</b>
Sight	22,118	9,535	12,583
Hearing	7,515	3,116	4,399
Speech	1,338	652	686
	Per Cent of Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Sight	71.42	71.68	71.22
Hearing	24.26	23.42	24.90
Speech	4.32	4.90	3.88

**Table 7.3      Responses for the Elderly Population Related to Sight, Hearing and Speech Disabilities by Sex and Country: 2000**

	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>30,971</b>	<b>13,303</b>	<b>17,668</b>
Anguilla	96	41	55
Antigua and Barbuda	958	369	589
Barbados	2,731	1,089	1,642
Belize	4,276	2,142	2,134
British Virgin Islands	158	74	84
Grenada	1,041	419	622
Jamaica	18,229	7,742	10,487
St Kitts-Nevis	564	211	353
St Lucia	1,601	700	901
St Vincent	1,236	482	754
Turks and Caicos Islands	81	34	47

Tables 7.3 and 7.4 shows the country distribution of the responses related to impairments of sight, hearing and speech. Table 7.4 shows that sight related disabilities were most prevalent among the elderly women of Antigua and Barbuda as about 8 out of 10 of the responses for all three types indicated this type. For hearing disabilities the highest incidence was seen for the women of the British Virgin Islands and the men of Belize. In both instances about 33 per cent of responses related to hearing. Speech impediments for both elderly men and women of the British Virgin Islands Anguilla and St Lucia appeared to be particularly high compared to the other countries.

About 20 per cent of the responses for the elderly men of the British Virgin Islands, 15 per cent for the elderly men of Anguilla and 11 per cent for the elderly men of St Lucia related to speech impediments. These proportions were considerably higher than the overall average of approximately 5 per cent for the eleven countries reporting.

**Table 7.4      Percentage Distribution of Responses for the Elderly Population  
Related to Sight, Hearing and Speech by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Sight		Hearing		Speech	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>71.68</b>	<b>71.22</b>	<b>23.42</b>	<b>24.90</b>	<b>4.90</b>	<b>3.88</b>
Anguilla	63.41	67.27	21.95	21.82	14.63	10.91
Antigua and Barbuda	76.15	80.81	17.34	13.24	6.50	5.94
Barbados	65.29	63.52	29.11	30.57	5.60	5.91
Belize	59.80	66.73	33.19	27.79	7.00	5.48
British Virgin Islands	58.11	50.00	21.62	33.33	20.27	16.67
Grenada	71.12	76.21	20.76	18.01	8.11	5.79
Jamaica	74.97	71.64	21.97	26.19	3.06	2.16
St Kitts-Nevis	78.67	79.04	11.85	14.45	9.48	6.52
St Lucia	75.86	74.36	13.57	16.43	10.57	9.21
St Vincent and the Grenadines	76.76	78.65	17.22	15.25	6.02	6.10
Turks and Caicos Islands	75.86	68.09	23.53	27.66	5.88	4.26

Note: based on responses shown in Table 7.2

## Chronic Illnesses

In respect of chronic illnesses, data from ten countries on three illnesses, arthritis, diabetes and hypertension, are presented below in Table 7.5. There were 134,967 responses for these three illnesses. Just over 6 out of 10 responses, totalling 81,782, were from women. The largest numbers of responses, 62,160 were in respect of arthritis, with just over three quarters of this number being for Jamaica.

**Table 7.5      Responses for the Elderly Population Related to Arthritis, Diabetes and Hypertension by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>134,967</b>	<b>53,185</b>	<b>81,782</b>
Anguilla	946	296	650
Antigua and Barbuda	4,921	1,702	3,219
British Virgin Islands	1,208	477	731
Grenada	8,476	2,748	5,728
Jamaica	94,545	39,831	54,714
Montserrat	466	177	289
B St Kitts-Nevis	3,496	1,055	2,441
St Lucia	10,734	3,605	7,129
St Vincent	9,372	3,035	6,337
Turks and Caicos Islands	803	259	544

Table 7.6 shows that there were more responses for arthritis and hypertension for women, 40,319 or approximately 65 per cent of total arthritis cases, and 29, 845 or an estimated 61 per cent of responses related to hypertension. On the other hand, the majority of all diabetes responses were for men. Men reported about 52 per cent of the total 24,160 responses in respect of diabetes.

**Table 7.6 Responses for the Elderly Population Related to Arthritis, Diabetes and Hypertension by Sex: 2000**

Type of Response	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Responses		
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,967</b>	<b>53,185</b>	<b>81,782</b>
Arthritis	62,160	21,841	40,319
Diabetes	24,160	12,542	11,618
Hypertension	48,647	18,802	29,845
	Per Cent of Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Arthritis	46.06	41.07	49.30
Diabetes	17.90	23.58	14.21
Hypertension	36.04	35.35	36.49
	Per Cent of Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>39.41</b>	<b>60.59</b>
Arthritis	100.00	35.14	64.86
Diabetes	100.00	51.91	48.09
Hypertension	100.00	38.65	61.35

At the country level, Table 7.7 shows that arthritis cases among the elderly were most prevalent among Jamaican men and women. With respect to arthritis, the highest percentages were observed for Jamaica, 56 per cent of female responses and 42 per cent of male responses. Diabetes was most prevalent among the elderly of Montserrat (approximately 28 per cent for men and 29 per cent for women). With respect to hypertension, the highest percentages were observed for the elderly women of Anguilla (52 per cent) and the elderly men of the Turks and Caicos Islands (47 per cent)

**Table 7.7      Percentage Distribution of Responses for the Elderly Population  
Related to Arthritis, Diabetes and Hypertension by Sex and Country:  
2000**

Country	Arthritis		Diabetes		Hypertension	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>41.07</b>	<b>49.30</b>	<b>23.58</b>	<b>14.21</b>	<b>35.35</b>	<b>36.49</b>
Anguilla	36.15	28.15	26.69	20.31	37.16	51.54
Antigua and Barbuda	33.02	35.32	23.56	21.19	43.42	43.49
British Virgin Islands	36.69	35.57	25.58	23.11	37.74	41.31
Grenada	40.39	40.01	23.11	21.11	36.50	38.88
Jamaica	42.16	55.61	23.92	10.56	33.92	33.84
Montserrat	26.55	29.07	28.25	28.72	45.20	42.21
St Kitts-Nevis	34.41	32.32	26.35	27.24	39.24	40.43
St Lucia	39.31	36.84	21.53	20.38	39.17	42.78
St Vincent	39.11	36.82	20.40	21.16	40.49	42.02
Turks and Caicos Islands	30.89	35.11	21.62	19.67	47.49	45.22

Note:      Based on responses shown in Table 7.5

## CHAPTER 8

### HEADSHIP, RELATIONSHIP AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

The basic unit of enumeration in the census is the household. Information on relationships within the household provides an important basis for the examination of family and household composition and living arrangements of this group. Information on household headship has often been an indicator of the levels of dependency for the older population (United Nations 2005, 46). The household as defined for Caribbean censuses consists of one person who lives alone or a group of persons who, as a unit have common arrangements for housekeeping. The household may be composed of related persons only, of unrelated persons, or a combination of both. For census purposes; every household must have a head. The head is the person, man or woman, who generally carries the main responsibility in the affairs of the household.

**Table 8.1 Elderly Population by Sex and Relationship to Head: 2000**

Type of Response	Total	Male	Female
	Number of Responses		
<b>Total</b>	<b>566,930</b>	<b>260,260</b>	<b>306,670</b>
Heads	369,926	208,912	161,014
Spouse	113,308	18,701	94,607
Other Relationships	83,696	32,647	51,049
	Per Cent of Total		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Heads	65.25	80.27	52.50
Spouse	19.99	7.19	30.85
Other Relationships	14.76	12.54	16.65

Note: Excludes Suriname

Table 8.1 shows that on average about 85 per cent of the population 60 years and over were either the head of the household or the spouse or partner of the head; approximately 65 per cent of the population were heads and about 20 per cent were spouse or partner. The gender differentials show that about 80 per cent of elderly men and 52 per cent of the elderly women were household heads while 31 per cent and 7 per cent of the women and men respectively were spouses or partners of the head.

**Table 8.2      Male Elderly Population Reporting Relationship to Head by Country:  
2000**

Country	Total	Percentage Head	Percentage Spouse/Partner
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>260,260</b>	<b>80.27</b>	<b>7.19</b>
Anguilla	550	86.73	4.36
Antigua and Barbuda	2,654	85.04	5.50
Bahamas	11,137	81.00	4.71
Barbados	15,935	83.61	7.12
Belize	7,026	84.32	4.55
Bermuda	3,976	74.14	18.08
British Virgin Islands	910	88.90	2.53
Dominica	4,046	86.90	6.10
Grenada	4,626	84.80	9.17
Guyana	21,073	81.37	4.34
Jamaica	121,848	77.24	8.43
Montserrat	405	88.64	2.96
St Kitts Nevis	2,060	82.38	7.43
St Lucia	7,597	76.39	11.06
St Vincent and the Grenadines	4,715	80.62	9.16
Trinidad and Tobago	51,423	84.62	4.90
Turks and Caicos Islands	479	90.40	2.30

Tables 8.2 and 8.3 show the percentage distribution of the elderly male and female population who were heads or spouses/partners. The highest proportion of male heads were reported in the Turks and Caicos Islands where the proportion of elderly men who were heads was about 90 per cent, about 12 percentage points more than the average for all men. For female heads the percentages ranged from approximately 43 per cent for Belize to about 65 per cent for Grenada.

**Table 8.3      Female Elderly Population Reporting Relationship to Head by  
Country: 2000**

Country	Total	Percentage Head	Percentage Spouse/Partner
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>306,670</b>	<b>52.50</b>	<b>30.85</b>
Anguilla	624	52.72	33.01
Antigua and Barbuda	3,345	57.01	23.32
Bahamas	14,065	51.87	28.82
Barbados	22,401	60.52	25.04
Belize	6,737	42.57	36.25
Bermuda	5,364	57.92	28.52
British Virgin Islands	903	49.39	30.45
Dominica	5,151	57.06	29.39
Grenada	5,883	64.97	24.38
Guyana	24,477	51.95	26.11
Jamaica	140,513	50.16	34.29
Montserrat	350	57.71	25.14
St Kitts Nevis	2,685	60.22	21.08
St Lucia	9,112	56.71	25.98
St Vincent and the Grenadines	5,784	60.15	24.34
Trinidad and Tobago	58,710	52.45	29.92
Turks and Caicos Islands	566	50.00	34.28

In relation to spouses, the highest percentages of male spouses were found in Bermuda (18 per cent) and St Lucia (11 per cent). Among the female elderly, more than one third of the elderly women of Belize (36 per cent), the Turks and Caicos and Jamaica (34 per cent) were spouses or partners.

**Table 8.4 Elderly Household Heads 75 Years Old and Over as a Per Cent of Total Population 75 Years old and Over by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total population 75+			Per cent Heads		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>186,834</b>	<b>78987</b>	<b>107486</b>	<b>62.31</b>	<b>73.40</b>	<b>54.38</b>
Anguilla	373	165	208	69.44	81.82	59.62
Antigua and Barbuda	2,013	850	1,163	68.01	80.82	58.64
Bahamas	7,313	2,939	4,179	56.97	66.55	52.88
Barbados	13,443	5,110	8,333	73.51	83.54	67.36
Belize	3,791	1,812	1,979	60.27	75.88	45.98
Bermuda	2,545	896	1,649	67.62	73.21	64.58
British Virgin Islands	571	273	298	71.80	88.28	56.71
Dominica	3,003	1,199	1,804	70.16	83.49	61.31
Grenada	3,091	1,198	1,893	76.19	84.06	71.21
Guyana	11,270	4,830	6,370	58.52	70.66	49.95
Jamaica	87,508	37,234	50,274	62.03	74.48	52.81
Montserrat	276	140	136	71.74	80.71	62.50
St Kitts Nevis	1,702	698	1,004	69.33	81.66	60.76
St Lucia	6,090	2,607	3,483	63.66	71.61	57.71
St Vincent and the Grenadines	3,244	1,288	1,956	70.04	78.73	64.31
Suriname	9,760	4,316	5,444	21.31	17.86	24.05
Trinidad and Tobago	30,522	13,287	17,138	69.34	83.06	59.09
Turks and Caicos Islands	320	145	175	70.31	90.34	53.71

Tables 8.4 and 8.5 present data on headship at older ages by gender to show declining headship rates at the higher ages. Male heads continued to dominate at the older ages but at lower rates. At ages 75 years and over, on average, approximately 73 per cent of men were heads and this fell to 65 per cent by ages 85 years and over.

**Table 8.5 Elderly Household Heads 85 Years Old and Over as a Per Cent of Total Population 85 Years Old and Over by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total population 85+			Per cent Heads		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>46,172</b>	<b>17,666</b>	<b>28,506</b>	<b>55.66</b>	<b>64.99</b>	<b>49.86</b>
Anguilla	116	48	68	63.79	72.92	57.35
Antigua and Barbuda	561	203	358	57.93	65.02	53.91
Bahamas	2,584	1,186	1,398	43.96	44.18	43.78
Barbados	3,556	1,188	2,368	70.08	80.05	65.08
Belize	942	407	535	51.70	65.11	41.50
Bermuda	557	174	383	65.17	72.99	61.62
British Virgin Islands	154	79	75	70.13	79.75	60.00
Dominica	1,123	584	539	47.20	38.70	56.40
Grenada	759	267	492	73.78	80.15	70.33
Jamaica	24,367	9,219	15,148	52.03	63.24	45.20
Montserrat	72	34	38	62.50	67.65	57.89
St Kitts Nevis	393	133	260	60.05	71.43	54.23
St Lucia	1,810	738	1,072	57.35	65.04	52.05
St Vincent and the Grenadines	776	261	515	64.82	73.95	60.19
Suriname	1,679	619	1,060	51.76	63.81	44.72
Trinidad and Tobago	6,642	2,489	4,153	63.11	76.13	55.31
Turks and Caicos Islands	81	37	44	71.60	89.19	56.82

The gender gap lessened at these older ages as there was a slight rise in female headship at age 75 years with 54 per cent of elderly women being heads, up by about 3 percentage points over age 60 years although falling to about 50 per cent at ages 85 years and over. There were minor variations to this trend between countries as for example, four countries, Guyana, The Bahamas, St Kitts-Nevis and Jamaica did not show the increase among females between ages 60 and 75 years while two countries, the Turks and Caicos and the British Virgin Islands did not show the decline in female headship rates between 75 years and 85 years.

### **Characteristics of Head**

Typically where couples were in a married or common law union, it was usually the man who was regarded as the head, while female heads were generally without a spouse. Just over 6 out of 10 (62 per cent) of male heads were in married or common law unions compared to only 12 per cent of female heads. On the other hand, approximately 48 per cent of female heads were widows, while an estimated 13 per cent of male heads were of similar status (Table 8.6).

Data on activity status of the head as presented in table 8.7 shows that older male heads were more likely to be working compared to older female heads and older female heads were more likely to be retired and or doing home duties, compared to older male heads. About 32 per cent of male heads were working and about 57 per cent were retired or at home. More than 7 out of 10 of female heads were engaged in home duties or retired and only about 13 per cent of these older female heads were working. An examination of country variations show that the highest proportion of the elderly male working heads were observed for the British Virgin Islands (50 per cent) and Bermuda (47 per cent). Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados showed the highest proportion of retired heads of both sexes, approximately 80 per cent.

**Table 8.6 Percentage Distribution of Elderly Heads by Marital/Union Status, Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Married or Common-law			Widowed		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>40.03</b>	<b>61.88</b>	<b>11.99</b>	<b>28.47</b>	<b>12.88</b>	<b>48.49</b>
Anguilla	44.79	66.25	13.68	26.55	11.95	47.72
Antigua and Barbuda	36.86	59.37	10.23	24.09	10.32	40.38
Bahamas	42.88	71.51	7.48	32.38	11.64	58.02
Barbados	34.88	59.22	10.95	27.56	13.41	41.47
Bermuda	45.04	70.96	20.44	29.48	10.45	47.54
British Virgin Islands	51.79	71.69	15.70	23.19	8.90	19.10
Dominica	38.71	64.76	7.55	25.02	12.26	40.29
Grenada	37.07	64.54	8.87	23.01	10.30	36.05
Guyana	48.34	72.25	16.10	32.62	13.20	58.81
Jamaica	38.38	58.78	11.19	27.00	12.56	46.25
St Kitts Nevis	31.99	51.03	12.00	25.62	12.96	38.90
St Lucia	43.50	63.79	20.71	22.56	10.79	35.78
St Vincent and the Grenadines	23.09	36.62	8.31	11.51	6.05	17.48
Trinidad and Tobago	43.07	64.62	12.62	33.48	15.07	59.48
Turks and Caicos Islands	52.93	77.37	15.55	25.56	10.62	48.41

Note: (i) excludes heads not reporting union  
(ii) excludes Belize, Suriname and Montserrat

**Table 8.7 Percentage Distribution of Elderly Household Heads by Activity Status, Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Heads Reporting			Working Heads		Retired Heads	
				Per cent of :		Per cent of:	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>351,482</b>	<b>197,310</b>	<b>154,172</b>	<b>32.22</b>	<b>13.40</b>	<b>57.35</b>	<b>77.12</b>
Anguilla	802	473	329	37.63	15.20	52.22	70.21
Antigua and Barbuda	4,166	2,252	1,914	40.32	23.35	53.11	68.91
Barbados	27,185	13,466	13,719	22.56	10.60	73.73	85.24
Bermuda	6,053	2,948	3,105	47.15	30.76	49.49	63.06
British Virgin Islands	1,266	816	450	50.49	31.78	41.67	54.44
Dominica	6,452	3,508	2,944	32.98	12.87	54.62	73.51
Grenada	7,306	3,484	3,822	31.66	11.49	70.61	77.97
Guyana	29,706	17,105	12,601	32.61	11.22	58.18	79.65
Jamaica	172,323	98,056	74,267	38.01	15.39	47.86	72.96
Montserrat	553	356	197	17.13	16.75	53.93	63.96
St Kitts Nevis	3,317	1,696	1,621	37.44	18.08	55.90	72.49
St Lucia	10,948	5,781	5,167	35.25	17.50	46.41	64.52
St Vincent and the Grenadines	7,353	3,836	3,517	30.60	11.74	60.27	77.14
Trinidad and Tobago	74,052	43,533	30,519	19.82	7.55	74.88	87.58

- Note:
- (i) Exclude heads not reporting activity status
  - (ii) Retired includes persons classified as doing home duties. For Trinidad and Tobago retired includes category named 'old age pensioner'
  - (iii) Excludes Belize, Montserrat, Suriname and Turks and Caicos Islands.

### **Other Relatives of Head**

A total of 73,114 elderly persons were classified as other relatives of the head. The majority of these, 50,303 representing more than two thirds, were women. These women accounted for about 15 per cent of elderly women (Table 8.8). The elderly men classified as other relatives comprised about 8 per cent of elderly men. Table 8.9 shows that just about 45 per cent of persons classified as other relatives were parents of the head or spouse/partner. The total number of parents was about 32,870 and about seven out of ten of these persons were women. From the table it can also be observed that these elderly women, who were parents of the head, accounted for about a half of the elderly female population. For elderly men, the comparable proportion was 35 per cent.

**Table 8.8      Distribution of Other Relatives of Head of Household by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Number of Persons			Per cent of Total Population*		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>73,114</b>	<b>22,811</b>	<b>50,303</b>	<b>11.68</b>	<b>7.91</b>	<b>14.90</b>
Anguilla	113	36	77	9.63	6.55	12.34
Antigua and Barbuda	797	207	590	13.29	7.80	17.64
Bahamas	3,169	893	2,276	12.57	8.02	16.18
Barbados	3,837	1,021	2,816	10.01	6.41	12.57
Belize	2,052	672	1,380	14.91	9.56	20.48
Bermuda	785	211	574	8.40	5.31	10.70
British Virgin Islands	217	54	163	11.97	5.93	18.05
Dominica	856	224	632	9.31	5.54	12.27
Grenada	832	244	588	7.92	5.27	9.99
Guyana	6514	2576	3938	14.30	12.22	16.09
Jamaica	36,564	11,365	25,199	13.95	9.33	17.93
Montserrat	82	26	56	10.86	6.42	16.00
St Kitts Nevis	608	145	463	12.81	7.04	17.24
St Lucia	2,283	836	1,447	13.66	11.00	15.88
St Vincent and the Grenadines	1,168	368	800	11.12	7.80	13.83
Trinidad and Tobago	13,119	3,903	9,216	11.91	7.59	15.70
Turks and Caicos Islands	118	30	88	11.29	6.26	15.55

\*Based on total population in Table 8.1

**Table 8.9      Distribution of Parents\* by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Number of Persons			Per Cent of Other Relatives		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>32,870</b>	<b>7,939</b>	<b>24,931</b>	<b>44.96</b>	<b>34.80</b>	<b>49.56</b>
Anguilla	79	18	61	69.91	50.00	79.22
Antigua and Barbuda	505	106	399	63.36	51.21	67.63
Bahamas	1,742	328	1414	54.97	36.73	62.13
Barbados	1,889	336	1553	49.23	32.91	55.15
Belize	1,325	398	927	64.57	59.23	67.17
Bermuda	573	103	470	72.99	48.82	81.88
British Virgin Islands	58	13	45	26.73	24.07	27.61
Dominica	471	84	387	55.02	37.50	61.23
Grenada	356	75	281	42.79	30.74	47.79
Guyana	3,168	1,199	3,139	48.63	46.55	50.00
Jamaica	20,582	4,762	15,820	56.29	41.90	62.78
Montserrat	59	17	42	71.95	65.38	75.00
St Kitts Nevis	375	72	303	61.68	49.66	65.44
St Lucia	929	245	684	40.69	29.31	47.27
St Vincent and the Grenadines	696	176	520	59.59	47.83	65.00
Turks and Caicos Islands	63	7	56	53.39	23.33	63.64

Note: (i) Excludes Trinidad and Tobago.

\*Includes parents in law

## **Living Arrangements**

The United Nations (2005, 28) uses data reflecting the proportions of persons aged 60 years and over living alone at dates in the 1970s-1980s and in the 1990s or later to suggest that there has been a worldwide increase in the prevalence of solitary living among the older population.

“In general”, the report states, “the fraction of older persons living alone increased for both men and women. The only exception was among men in Latin America and the Caribbean where the proportion living alone remained practically the same over time” (United Nations, 2005, 28).

Available data on solitary living among the population 60 years and over for nine of the countries in this study supports this view. Overall, for the nine countries the proportion of elderly persons living alone moved from about 16 per cent in 1990 to about 17 per cent in 2000. (See table 8.10).

**Table 8.10    The Elderly Population Living Alone by Country: 1990 and 2000**

Country	2000		1990	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>90,362</b>	<b>16.77</b>	<b>72,762</b>	<b>15.55</b>
Barbados	8,707	22.71	8,535	22.56
Belize	1,930	14.02	1,526	13.42
British Virgin Islands	571	31.49	262	20.96
Dominica	2,104	22.88	1,669	20.41
Grenada	2,799	26.63	1,984	21.84
Guyana	6,153	13.14	4,868	11.71
Jamaica	46,592	17.60	35,577	15.37
St Lucia	3,299	19.74	2,094	17.79
St Vincent	1,890	18.00	1,651	17.41
Trinidad and Tobago	16,317	12.90	14,596	13.79

There were variations in the pattern among the countries however, as Table 8.10 shows, as while,

for example, the proportion increased from approximately 21 per cent to approximately 31 per cent in the British Virgin Islands and from 22 per cent to 26 per cent in Grenada, no change was seen for Barbados with an estimated 23 per cent of the elderly living alone at both dates and for Trinidad and Tobago a small decline was evident; from 14 per cent in 1990 to 13 per cent in 2000.

The Caribbean is also an exception to the global pattern which shows that in most countries the proportion of older persons living alone is higher among women than men (United Nations, 2007). The data from the 2000 censuses for the eighteen countries show that more men than women lived alone: about 20 per cent of the elderly male population reporting which represented a total of 55,390 men compared to approximately 16 per cent of the 329,378 women totalling 51,462 women (Table 8.11). The proportion of the elderly living alone increased with age as about 20 per cent of each sex lived alone at ages 85 years and over, indicating , no sex differentials at the oldest ages (Table 8.12).

There were variations between countries as the proportion of the 60 years and over living alone ranged from 13 per cent in Guyana to 46 per cent in Montserrat.

About 49 per cent of older persons 60 years and over lived in households with between 1 and 3 other persons and about 34 per cent lived with 4 or more other persons (Table 8.13). The available data do not allow for any analysis of the age structure of the persons or of their relationship to the elderly in the households.

**Table 8.11 Solitary Living by the Population 60 Years and Over by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total Population			Per cent living alone		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>609,617</b>	<b>280,240</b>	<b>329,378</b>	<b>17.53</b>	<b>19.77</b>	<b>15.62</b>
Anguilla	1,174	550	624	21.89	26.73	17.63
Antigua and Barbuda	5,999	2,654	3,345	24.75	28.86	21.49
Bahamas	25,202	11,137	14,065	16.17	17.19	15.36
Barbados	38,336	15,935	22,401	22.71	24.91	21.15
Belize	13,763	7,026	6,737	14.02	15.73	12.25
Bermuda	9,340	3,976	5,364	22.62	16.50	27.16
British Virgin Islands	1,813	910	903	31.49	37.03	25.91
Dominica	9,197	4,046	5,151	22.88	27.71	19.08
Grenada	10,509	4,626	5,883	26.63	30.74	23.41
Guyana	45,550	21,073	24,477	13.51	14.01	13.07
Jamaica	262,161	121,848	140,513	17.77	21.77	14.31
Montserrat	755	405	350	45.70	52.35	38.00
St Kitts Nevis	4,745	2,060	2,685	29.72	36.26	24.69
St Lucia	16,709	7,597	9,112	19.74	21.72	18.10
St Vincent and the Grenadines	10,499	4,715	5,784	18.00	22.52	14.32
Suriname	42,589	19,949	22,641	15.10	13.38	16.61
Trinidad and Tobago	110,135	51,423	58,710	14.80	15.56	14.14
Turks and Caicos Islands	1,046	480	566	35.76	35.63	35.87

**Table 8.12 Solitary Living by the Population 85 Years and Over by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Total Population			Per cent living alone		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>44,491</b>	<b>16,885</b>	<b>27,606</b>	<b>20.35</b>	<b>20.69</b>	<b>20.14</b>
Anguilla	116	48	68	24.14	20.83	26.47
Antigua and Barbuda	561	203	358	27.27	27.59	27.09
Bahamas	2,779	1,294	1,485	15.19	12.44	17.58
Barbados	3,557	1,188	2,369	30.14	29.97	30.22
Belize	942	407	535	20.81	22.60	19.44
Bermuda	557	174	383	37.88	32.18	40.47
British Virgin Islands	158	79	79	35.44	43.04	27.85
Dominica	823	284	539	23.94	26.41	22.63
Grenada	759	267	492	32.02	35.96	29.88
Jamaica	24,367	9,219	15,148	17.70	18.69	17.10
Montserrat	72	34	38	37.50	38.24	36.84
St Kitts Nevis	393	133	260	35.11	35.34	35.00
St Lucia	1,811	738	1,073	21.37	22.49	20.60
St Vincent and the Grenadines	776	261	515	20.62	20.31	20.78
Trinidad and Tobago	6,739	2,519	4,220	21.01	21.36	20.81
Turks and Caicos Islands	81	37	44	40.74	45.95	36.36

Note: Based on population reporting. Excludes Suriname and Guyana

**Table 8.13 Living Arrangements of the Population 60 Years and Over by Sex and Country: 2000**

Country	Per cent living with 1 to 3 other persons			Per cent living with 4 or more other persons		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>48.57</b>	<b>50.20</b>	<b>47.19</b>	<b>33.90</b>	<b>30.04</b>	<b>37.19</b>
Anguilla	54.94	53.82	55.93	23.17	19.45	26.44
Antigua and Barbuda	54.71	52.00	56.86	20.54	19.14	21.64
Bahamas	53.92	54.10	53.79	29.90	28.71	30.85
Barbados	58.31	57.89	58.61	18.97	17.20	20.24
Belize	49.57	46.47	52.80	36.41	37.80	34.96
Bermuda	69.84	76.31	65.04	7.54	7.19	7.79
British Virgin Islands	49.15	44.73	53.60	19.36	18.24	20.49
Dominica	57.27	54.30	59.60	19.85	17.99	21.32
Grenada	51.20	18.14	53.61	22.16	21.12	22.98
Guyana	49.28	49.32	49.25	37.21	36.67	37.68
Jamaica	52.43	50.12	54.43	29.80	28.11	31.26
Montserrat	51.13	44.69	58.57	3.18	2.96	3.43
St Kitts Nevis	52.48	48.30	55.68	17.81	15.44	19.63
St Lucia	55.72	54.09	57.09	24.53	24.19	24.81
St Vincent and the Grenadines	62.52	47.80	74.52	19.48	29.67	11.17
Suriname	27.88	44.17	13.54	57.02	42.45	69.85
Trinidad and Tobago	36.34	47.80	26.47	48.77	36.64	59.39
Turks and Caicos Islands	64.24	64.38	64.13	0.00	0.00	0.00

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **CONCLUSION**

Population ageing in the Caribbean is generally following the global trends; the older population is growing considerably faster than the population as a whole and the older population is itself ageing. The data from the 2000 round of censuses show however that the process varies quite considerably from country to country. For Barbados and Bermuda the two oldest countries, an estimated 12 per cent and 11 per cent respectively of the population were age 65 years and over and with median ages of 33 years and 36 years respectively. This was in comparison to Belize and Guyana which had less than 5 per cent of the population being 65 years and over and median ages of 19 years and 23 years respectively. The majority of the countries with a total population of approximately 5.1 million representative of 79 per cent of the total population of the eighteen states, may be considered to be at an intermediate stage of ageing. The proportion of the population 65 years and over for these countries, was on average approximately 7 per cent.

Population ageing is primarily dependent on fertility and secondarily by mortality but international migration has important implications for the process in some smaller Caribbean populations. More than a half of the population of the British Virgin Islands (58 per cent) and the Turks and Caicos Islands (56 per cent) at the time of the 2000 round of censuses was foreign born.

Women outnumbered men at every age among the elderly and the sex ratio was even more skewed among the oldest old. The sex ratio dropped from 93 per 100 for the 60-64 year group to 74 per 100 for ages 75 years and older. Older men were more likely to be married while older women were more likely to be widowed. For both men and women, the proportion married decreased with older age while the proportion widowed increased.

About one in five of the elderly had attained at least a secondary education. Only 3 per cent had attained a university level education. The data show no substantial gender gap among persons with secondary level attainment, but at the university level older men had a slight edge over older women.

Older men were about two and a half times more likely to be economically active than women (33 per cent of men and 13 per cent of women are economically active). Self-employment was more prevalent among elderly men compared to elderly women while participation in private enterprise was higher among elderly women compared to elderly men.

On average, 65 per cent of the elderly population were heads of households. About 80 per cent of elderly men and 53 per cent of elderly women were household heads. About 31 per cent of the older women were spouses or partners compared to 7 per cent of older men.

Typically where couples were in a married or common law union, it was usually the man who was regarded as the head, while female heads were generally without a spouse. Approximately 62 per cent of male heads were in married or common law unions compared to only 12 per cent of female heads. On the other hand, an estimated 48 per cent of female heads were widowed, while an estimated 23 per cent of male heads were of similar status.

Older male heads were more likely to be working compared to older female heads and older female heads were more likely to be retired or doing home duties compared to older male heads.

About 18 per cent of the older population was living alone. More men than women live alone. Montserrat had the highest percentage of older persons living alone; about 52 per cent of older men and 38 per cent of older women.

The ageing of the population in Caribbean societies and the demographic and socio-economic changes taking place, provide impetus for further examination of the conditions of the elderly population, including their living arrangements. The scope of this study and the data available do not allow for more detailed explanation of country differences. Multivariate analysis which would allow for an analysis of associations and relationships is required.

A review of concepts and definitions is needed to ensure that as far as possible, countries maintain uniformity and standardization to allow for more effective comparisons. It is hoped that the data from the 2010 round of censuses will address some of these deficiencies.

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## TECHNICAL NOTES AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### Demographic Indicators

Crude birth rate – The number of births in a given year per 1000 midyear population

$(\text{Births/midyear population}) \times 1000$

Crude death rate – The number of deaths in a given year per 1000 midyear population

$(\text{Deaths/midyear population}) \times 1000$

Total fertility rate – The average number of births that a woman would have during her life, if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates of a given period (usually a year). An age-specific fertility rate is calculated as the ratio of annual births to women of a given age or age-group to the population of women of the same age or age-group in the same year.

Life Expectancy – the average number of years of life remaining to a group of persons who reached a given age, as calculated from a life table.

### Growth Rates

Rates of Growth are calculated using the Exponential growth rate using the formula:

$$r = \frac{\ln(P_0 / P_n)}{n}$$

where

$P_0$  = population at the start

$P_n$  = population at the end

$n$  = number of intervals between  $P_0$  and  $P_n$

$r$  = annual growth rate

$\ln$  = natural logarithm

### **Measures of Sex Composition**

Sex Ratio – the number of males per 100 females, calculated as:  
 $(\text{Males/females}) * 100$

### **Measures of Age Composition**

Old-Age-Dependency Ratio – The number of persons aged 65 years and over per one hundred persons 15 to 64 years, calculates as:

$(\text{Population 65 years and over/population 15-64years}) * 100$

### **Ageing Index**

The number of persons aged 60 years and over per one hundred persons under age 15 years calculated as:

$(\text{Population 60 years and over/population 0-14 years}) * 100$

Median Age – The age which divides the population into two equal-size groups, one of which is younger and the other of which is older than the median.

## **APPENDIX**

**Appendix Table 1.1 Total Elderly Population by Five Year Age Groups by Country**

Country	Total 60 years and over	Age Groups					
		60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 and over
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>629,264</b>	<b>172,485</b>	<b>148,982</b>	<b>121,669</b>	<b>83,717</b>	<b>53,691</b>	<b>48,720</b>
Anguilla	1,174	304	286	211	155	102	116
Antigua and Barbuda	5,999	1,563	1,311	1,112	848	604	561
Bahamas	33,538	8,706	7,322	6,130	4,399	3,319	3,662
Barbados	30,000	8,230	6,803	5,591	3,886	2,817	2,673
Belize	13,763	3,872	3,441	2,659	1,786	1,063	942
Bermuda	9,340	2,618	2,332	1,845	1,275	713	557
British Virgin Islands	1,813	538	389	315	240	177	154
Dominica	9,197	2,175	2,241	1,778	1,285	895	823
Grenada	10,509	2,684	2,617	2,117	1,500	832	759
Guyana	62,587	22,196	17,318	12,509	4,841	3,168	2,555
Jamaica	264,773	65,293	59,870	52,102	38,588	24,553	24,367
Montserrat	755	192	133	154	117	87	72
St Kitts Nevis	4,745	1,068	1,016	959	759	550	393
St Lucia	16,709	4,041	3,720	2,858	2,409	1,870	1,811
St Vincent and the Grenadines	10,499	2,746	2,555	1,954	1,517	951	776
Suriname	42,588	13,385	10,703	8,741	5,201	2,879	1,679
Trinidad and Tobago	110,230	32,586	26,686	20,436	14,782	9,001	6,739
Turks and Caicos	1,045	288	239	198	129	110	81

Note: (i) Population for Trinidad and Tobago represents the enumerated population.

(ii) Age was not reported for 5,912 persons in the Guyana census. Some of these persons would be 60 years and over.

**Appendix Table 1.2 Elderly Male Population by Five Year Age Groups by Country**

Country	Total 60 years and over	Age Groups					
		60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 and over
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>299,820</b>	<b>87,405</b>	<b>74,395</b>	<b>59,534</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>22,387</b>	<b>18,499</b>
Anguilla	550	144	159	82	65	52	48
Antigua and Barbuda	2,654	716	600	488	391	256	203
Bahamas	11,137	3,750	2,651	1,689	1,039	714	1,294
Barbados	15,935	3,969	3,648	3,208	2,310	1,612	1,188
Belize	7,026	2,131	1,745	1,338	922	483	407
Bermuda	3,976	1,230	1,056	794	473	249	174
British Virgin Islands	910	294	194	149	116	78	79
Dominica	4,046	975	1,041	831	568	347	284
Grenada	4,626	1,257	1,214	957	625	306	267
Guyana	39,484	15,005	11,743	8,544	1,895	1,302	995
Jamaica	122,819	31,828	28,901	24,856	17,711	10,304	9,219
Montserrat	405	104	72	89	62	44	34
St Kitts Nevis	2,060	488	462	412	353	212	133
St Lucia	7,597	1,894	1,727	1,369	1,094	775	738
St Vincent and the Grenadines	4,715	1,313	1,222	892	639	388	261
Suriname	19,948	6,273	5,209	4,151	2,447	1,249	619
Trinidad and Tobago	51,453	15,889	12,637	9,610	6,837	3,961	2,519
Turks and Caicos	479	145	114	75	53	55	37

Note: (i) Population for Trinidad and Tobago represents the enumerated population.

(ii) Age was not reported for 3,226 males in the Guyana census. Some of these persons would be 60 years and over.

**Appendix Table 1.3 Elderly Female Population by Five Year Age Groups by Country**

Country	Total 60 years and over	Age Groups					
		60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 and over
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>329,444</b>	<b>85,080</b>	<b>74,587</b>	<b>62,135</b>	<b>46,117</b>	<b>31,304</b>	<b>30,221</b>
Anguilla	624	160	127	129	90	50	68
Antigua and Barbuda	3,345	847	711	624	457	348	358
Bahamas	22,401	4,956	4,671	4,441	3,360	2,605	2,368
Barbados	14,065	4,261	3,155	2,383	1,576	1,205	1,485
Belize	6,737	1,741	1,696	1,321	864	580	535
Bermuda	5,364	1,388	1,276	1,051	802	464	383
British Virgin Islands	903	244	195	166	124	99	75
Dominica	5,151	1,200	1,200	947	717	548	539
Grenada	5,883	1,427	1,403	1,160	875	526	492
Guyana	23,103	7,191	5,575	3,965	2,946	1,866	1,560
Jamaica	141,954	33,465	30,969	27,246	20,877	14,249	15,148
Montserrat	350	88	61	65	55	43	38
St Kitts Nevis	2,685	580	554	547	406	338	260
St Lucia	9,112	2,147	1,993	1,489	1,315	1,095	1,073
St Vincent and the Grenadines	5,784	1,433	1,333	1,062	878	563	515
Suriname	22,640	7,112	5,494	4,590	2,754	1,630	1,060
Trinidad and Tobago	58,777	16,697	14,049	10,826	7,945	5,040	4,220
Turks and Caicos	566	143	125	123	76	55	44

Note: (i) Population for Trinidad and Tobago represents the enumerated population.

(ii) Age was not reported for 2,686 females in the Guyana census. Some of these persons would be 60 years and over.