Gender Profile: Mauritius

General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 143,064

Total female population over 15 years of age (2014) (CIA, 2015): 176,759

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 60
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 10.59

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 13.4

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2010) (WHO, 2014b): 99.5%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 1.3%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.6%


Education


Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 91.95%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (World Bank, 2014a): 98%
Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (World Bank, 2014a): 97.9%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 34.73%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 56.4%

Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 22.1%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 72.2%
Teachers in tertiary education who are female: NA

Economic Activity
Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 64%
Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 42%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 86%
Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 75%

Decision-Making
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014b): 19%

Human Rights
Girls married before 15: NA
Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 10%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime: NA
Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime: NA

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Gender Gaps

Health
• The Population Reference Bureau (2014) reports that as of 2008 (the most recent date for which data are available), 39% of women in Mauritius were using a modern method of birth control.
• The adolescent birth rate in 2008 was approximately 34%; this was, however, down from 45% in 1990 (Government of the Republic of Mauritius, 2010, p. 64).

Education

• In 2011, the female literacy rate in Mauritius was 87.3%; the nation’s total literacy rate for that year was 89.8% (UN Women, 2014, p. 21).

• A report by UN Women noted in 2014 that “out of 2,232 and 2,009 students enrolled in Information Technology and Engineering respectively in public funded tertiary institutions in 2011, 35% and 19% respectively were female (p. 22).

Economic

• As of 2013, only one of the 100 top companies in Mauritius was chaired by a woman (Government of the Republic of Mauritius, 2013, p. 40).

• According to the Government of Mauritius, “of the 41,500 unemployed persons in 2009, around 62% (25,700) were females. The unemployment rate for females was also higher at 12.3%, compared to just 4.4% for males (Government of the Republic of Mauritius, 2010, p. 53).

• The Government of Mauritius noted in 2013 that “the feminisation of poverty is very evident”; figures for 2012 indicated that 16.9% of female-headed households were living under the national poverty line, compared with 7.3% of male-headed households (Government of the Republic of Mauritius, 2013, p. 25).

Decision-Making

• Quotas for local government have proven very successful in encouraging women’s participation in politics. Women in 2012 made up 36.7% of municipal council members compared to just 12.7% in 2005 (Government of the Republic of Mauritius, 2013, p. 39).

• As of 2011, the male-to-female ratio of employees in government services was approximately 2:1 (UN Women, 2014, p. 13).

• Since 2009, “More women are occupying high positions in government services”, with the proportion of women in the most senior positions being 39% as of 2013 (Government of the Republic of Mauritius, 2013, p. 39).

Human Rights

• A study conducted by the South African NGO Gender Links in 2013 revealed that 23% of women in Mauritius have experienced violence and 22% of men admitted to perpetrating violence against women (Villarosa, 2013, p. 2).

• The same study indicated that only approximately 3% of women subjected to violence reported it to police. This is despite the fact that 42% of women subjected to violence reported having been injured as a result (Villarosa, 2013, p. 2).

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References


