

REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS - 2008

Live Births

In 2008, the total number of live births registered was 20 659. Of these, 19 888 occurred in 2008, while 771 occurred in years prior to 2008 (late registrations). In the births that occurred, there was a 5.3% increase over the year 2007 figure of 18 889, while in the late registrations there was a 53.6% increase over the previous year's figure. (Tables 1 and (i)).

A review of the live births that occurred in 2008, revealed that 10 225 or 51.4% were males, while 9 663 or 48.6% were females. The greatest number of births 11 319 or 56.9% continued to be to mothers in the 20–29 age group, while those in the 30–39 age group were responsible for 5 574 or 28.0% of the total number of live births. Births to teenage mothers increased from 2 130 in 2007 to 2 426 in 2008, or by 13.9%. Nevertheless, they still accounted for 12.2% of all live births. (Table 2).

A further evaluation of the data on live births by age group of mother and parity, that is the order in which children were born alive to mothers including the last live birth, showed that 8 779, (44.1%) were first born babies, while 5 882 (29.6%) were the second child and 2 824 (14.2%) were the third child. (Table 8).

Of the 19 888 live births, 5 292 or 26.6% were delivered by doctors, while 14 503 or 72.9% were delivered by midwives. Together, a total of 19 795 or 99.5% of the live births that occurred were delivered by skilled personnel (i.e. doctors and midwives). (Table 12).

The number of live births at Government Hospitals and Delivery Units amounted to 16 475, an increase of 5.3% over the 2007 figure of 15 649. Births at Nursing Homes and Private Hospitals increased from 3 230 in 2007, to 3 393 or by 5.0% in 2008. (Table 14).

The greatest number of live births 4 836 (24.3%) of all live births was delivered at the San Fernando General Hospital, while the Mount Hope Maternity and Port of Spain General Hospitals accounted for 4 200 (21.1%) and 4 096 (20.6%), respectively of all live births. In Tobago, at the Scarborough General Hospital, births amounted to 945 (4.8%) of the total number of live births. (Table 14).

Still Births

The total number of still births that occurred in 2008 was 169 or 0.8% of all births. (Table 14).

Deaths

The number of deaths that occurred in 2008 was 10 463, an increase of 809 or 8.4% over the previous year's figure of 9 654. Of the deaths that occurred, 6 003 or 57.4% were males, while 4 460 or 42.6% were females. (Table 18).

The age group 50–74 accounted for the greatest number of deaths 4 189 or 40.0% of the total number of deaths, while the 75 years and over age group accounted for 3 789 or 36.2% of all deaths. The other age groups 0–4, 5–24 and 25–49 accounted for 3.0%, 4.8% and 15.9% respectively, of the total number of deaths. (Table 18).

There was a slight increase in the number of deaths from heart diseases; which continued to be the number one cause of death in Trinidad and Tobago, accounting for 2 465 or 23.6% of all deaths occurring in 2008. Deaths from malignant neoplasms, the next main cause of death increased slightly, accounting for 1 422 or 13.6% of all deaths in 2008. Deaths from diabetes mellitus also increased slightly to 1 420 in 2008 from 1 385 in 2007 and accounted for 13.5% of all deaths. Deaths from cerebrovascular diseases amounted to 837 or 8.0% of all deaths. Together, these four causes accounted for 58.7% of the total number of deaths. (Table ii).

Deaths from Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) disease, moved from 251 in 2007 to 245 in 2008 which represent a decrease of 2.4 % over the previous year's figure. Of these deaths, 154 or 62.8% were males, while 91 or 37.2% were females. The 40–49 age group again accounted for the greatest number of these deaths 71 or 29.0%, while the 30–39 age group accounted for 68 or 27.8%. The 20–29 and 50–59 age groups accounted for 11.8% and 20.4% respectively. Persons living in Port of Spain, San Juan/Laventille, and Tunapuna/Piarco accounted for 49.0% of the total number of HIV deaths. (Tables 20 and 21).

Marriages

In 2008, the total number of marriages registered was 8 149, a decrease of 151 or 1.8% from the previous year's figure of 8 300. (Table 28).

For brides, the age group 25–29 recorded the greatest number of marriages, 2 328 or 28.6% of all marriages. In the 20–24 and 30–34 age groups, there were 2 058 or 25.2% and 1 204 or 14.8% respectively, of the total number of marriages. These three age groups were responsible for 68.6% of all marriages. Teenage brides accounted for 579 or 7.1% of all marriages in 2008. (Table 29).

In the case of grooms, the 25–29 age group, continued to be the most favoured one, since it recorded the greatest number of marriages, 2 320 (28.5%) of the total number of marriages, the 20–24 and 30–34 age groups accounted for 1 251 (15.4%) and 1 599 (19.6%), respectively. These three age groups accounted for 63.5% of all marriages. (Table 29).

Divorces

The total number of divorces granted in 2008 was 2 485, an increase of 35 or 1.4% over the number granted in 2007. (Table 35).

The greatest number of divorces, 760 (30.6%) was granted to persons who had experienced more than 20 years of marriage, while 563 (22.6%) were granted to those with 5–9 years of marriage. Persons with 10–14 and 15–19 years of marriage, were granted 477 (19.2%) and 362 (14.6%) respectively, of the total number of divorces. (Table 36).

A further review of the data revealed that the number of divorces granted to women with no children amounted to 879 or 35.4% of the total number of divorces in 2008. While those with one and two children were granted 672 or 27.0% and 514 or 20.7% respectively, of the total number of divorces. The data further showed, that 90.9% of all divorces were granted to women with three or less children. (Table 37).

