

VIET NAM POPULATION 2007

Updated information:

- The Change in birth pattern from “EARLY” to “LATE”
- Sex Ratio at Birth



Hanoi, June-2008



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INTRODUCTION

The demand for information on population change and sex ratios at birth has increased in recent years. Development planners, policy makers, scientists, international organizations and media agencies now require, on a continuous basis, updated information on annual population change and family planning surveys, contributing towards their respective development and communication plans and policies.

This booklet summarizes major results of the Population Change and Family Planning survey (PCS) carried out on 1st April 2007. It is also the fourth of a sequence of annual publications on *the status of the Viet Nam population*, published by the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) office in Viet Nam. Information used in this publication draws from the report on the 2007 Survey released by the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam in June 2008 and birth statistics collected from 64 provinces and cities released by the Ministry of Health. This booklet aims to help the reader better understand the implications of population status in Viet Nam, providing updated information on the change in fertility patterns and on sex ratios at birth.

DATA SOURCES AND QUALITY

The 2007 Population Change and Family Planning survey aimed to investigate the permanent population actually in residence in the sampled areas at 0 hours on the 1st of April 2007. It also gathered statistics on the number of immigrant households and the total number of deaths that occurred in the previous 12 months. Further, the survey collected information on the birth history of women in the reproductive age of 15-49 years.

Representative samples at the provincial and city levels were selected on a household equivalent basis. Each province selected 60 areas with approximately 100 households/area. This meant that, on average, the survey investigated approximately 24,000 people in each province.

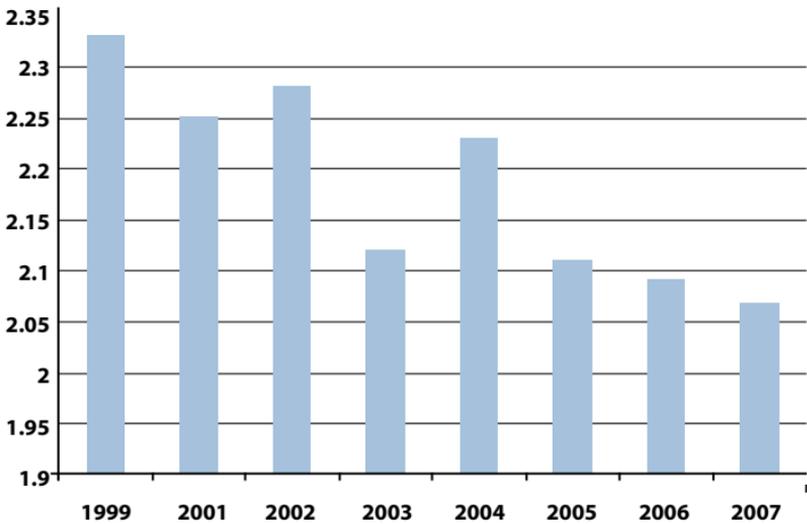
To ensure reliable statistical results, the annual data collection and analysis of the 2007 Population Change and Family Planning survey was carried out scientifically. External assessments of the results were confirmed by two leading international experts on population surveys and data analysis, Dr. Santow (2004 and 2006) and Dr. Feeney (in 2005) while working directly with the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam. Dr. Feeney commented that: *“Data collection and analysis methods that the GSO used to calculate birth and death estimates have already been used in many countries worldwide in the past decades. Those methods have been recognized as capable of providing reliable results under various conditions”*¹.

1 UNFPA. Viet Nam Population Growth: What the LATEST data tells us, Hanoi April – 2006, Page 5

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE

Total Fertility Rate (TFR), expresses the number of children that could be born subject to prevailing fertility rates at all ages and within a single given year. TFR is the most commonly used tool for analysis of changing birth rate trends. As in previous surveys, TFR and crude birth rate (CRB) are estimated from statistics relating to the number children born in a specific year and the number of children ever born to women in reproductive ages.

Survey data show a decrease in the TFR trend between 1999 and 2007 with the exception of survey results in 2002 and 2004. Particularly, TFR has decreased consistently in the three most recent surveys and *continues to fall below the replacement rate (2.07)* (see Graph 1).



Graph 1: Total Fertility Rate according to the surveys from 1999 to 2007

The downward trend in TFR reflects a direct connection between a decreasing birth rate with an increasing rate of contraceptive use, especially the use of modern methods.

Table 1: Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) by survey year

Year of Survey	TFR	CPR
2001	2.25	61.1
2002	2.28	64.7
2003	2.12	63.5
2004	2.23	64.6
2005	2.11	65.7
2006	2.09	67.1
2007	2.07	68.3

Data in Table 1 show that *the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased consistently since 2001*, with the exception of a slight decline in 2003. The increase in CPR has resulted in a reduction of TFR for several years. Variations occur in the TFR according to geographic regions. Those regions with lowest TFR are found in the South East (1.74), the Malaya

IN 2007

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