

Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health:

Policy Developments and Indicators 2003



United Nations Population Fund



Population Reference Bureau

Malawi



Overview

Malawi has had a population policy since 1994. The population policy, which is related to the Government's policies on youth, gender and HIV/AIDS, emphasizes sexual and reproductive health, the balance of population dynamics with resources, and the mainstreaming of these concerns into sectoral plans and programmes. The policy is consistent with the three critical areas in the Common Country Assessment and the Development Assistance Framework, namely 1) poverty, 2) governance and human rights, and 3) HIV/AIDS.

Malawi views its population and fertility levels as too high and its under-5 and maternal mortality rates as unacceptable. With a view towards addressing these issues, the Government provides direct support to improving access to modern contraceptive methods. With international assistance, it introduced a national contraceptive management system in 1998.

Malawi, with 64 per cent of its households living in poverty and a drop of five years in its life expectancy level since 1985, is among the world's least-developed countries. It has subscribed to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative on debt relief. With a median age of 18 and Malawi women under 20 accounting for 68 per cent of all first pregnancies, the health sector elements of the new Poverty Reduction Plan will give attention to making sexual and reproductive health services available nationwide as an integral part of the essential health-care package. The plan's educational sector component places emphasis on a life-skills curriculum that includes components on sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Statistics

POPULATION

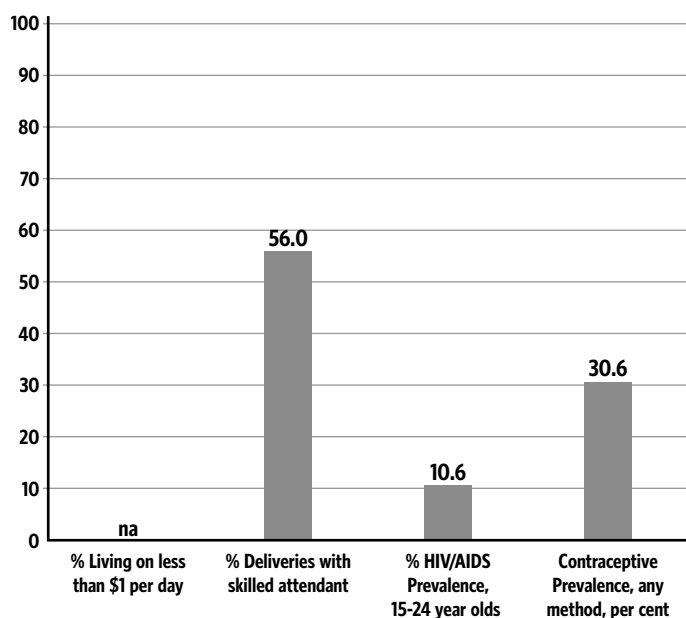
Population in Thousands, 2001, Total, Male	5,889.5
Population in Thousands, 2001, Total, Female	5,938.7
Population Growth Rate, Per Cent	2.4
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	47.2
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	22.2
Urban Population, Per Cent	15.5
Sex Ratio at Birth, Male Births per Female Birth	1.03
Women 15-49, Thousands	2,626.0
Women 15-49, Per Cent	44.2
Total Fertility Rate per Woman 15-49	6.75
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49, Modern Method, Per Cent	26.1
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49, Any Method, Per Cent	▲ 30.6
Maternal Mortality Ratio per 100,000 Live Births (MMR)	● ▲ 580
MMR, Lower Bound	● ▲ 410
MMR, Upper Bound	● ▲ 750
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	● ▲ 139.8
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Total	● ▲ 224
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Female	● ▲ 223
Under Age 5 Mortality Rate, Male	● ▲ 224
Life Expectancy at Birth, Combined, Years	● ▲ 40.7
Life Expectancy at Birth, Female, Years	● ▲ 40.7
Life Expectancy at Birth, Male, Years	● ▲ 40.7
Population 60 Years and Over, Per Cent	4.8

Estimated Annual Resource Requirements for Population Programmes

Years 2005-2015 (in millions \$US)

Date	2005	2010	2015
Cost	46.89	56.84	70.07

Indicators for Population and Reproductive Health



Indicators

for updates, please visit our web site: <http://www.unfpa.org/profile>

SOCIO-ECONOMIC & HEALTH

Gross Domestic Product Per Capita, Purchasing Power Parity, International Dollars	615
Gross Domestic Product Growth Rate, Annual Per Cent	1.7
Income Group per World Bank Classification	Low income
UNFPA Country Priority Classification	A
Population Below \$1/Day, Per Cent	▲ na
Access to Improved Water Supply, Per Cent	▲ 57
Deliveries Attended by Skilled Attendants, Per Cent	● ▲ 56
Family Planning Programme Effort Index, 1999 (Total Mean Score)	50.0
Illiteracy Rate, Per Cent of Population Age 15 and Over, Male	26
Illiteracy Rate, Per Cent of Population Age 15 and Over, Female	53
Primary School Enrolment, Gross % of School Age Population, Male	● ▲ 158
Primary School Enrolment, Gross % of School Age Population, Female	● ▲ 158
Secondary School Enrolment, Gross Per Cent of School Age Population, Male	● ▲ na
Secondary School Enrolment, Gross Per Cent of School Age Population, Female	● ▲ na
Children Underweight Under 5, Male, Per Cent	na
Children Underweight Under 5, Female, Per Cent	na
Stunted Children Under 5, Moderate, Per Cent	49
Stunted Children Under 5, Severe, Per Cent	24
Wasted Children Under 5, Moderate, Per Cent	6
Wasted Children Under 5, Severe, Per Cent	1

● ICPD Goals ▲ MDG Indicators

ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Proportion of Population 15-24	20.1
Age-Specific Fertility Rate per 1000 Women, 15-20	152.2
Mean Age at Marriage, Male	23.6
Mean Age at Marriage, Female	18.6
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Lower Bound, Female	● ▲ 11.9
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Upper Bound, Female	● ▲ 17.9
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Lower Bound, Male	● ▲ 5.1
HIV/AIDS Prevalence, 15-24, Upper Bound, Male	● ▲ 7.6

GENDER EQUALITY

Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Total	83.2
Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Male	87.3
Labour Force Participation Rate, 15-64, Female	79.3
Women in Managerial or Technical Positions, Thousands	na
Seats in Parliament Held by Women, Per Cent	9.3

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH COMMODITY SECURITY

Projected Increase/Decrease in Women of Reproductive Age 2000-2015, Thousands	1,053.8
Projected Increase/Decrease in Women of Reproductive Age 2000-2015, Per Cent	42.0
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Spacing, Per Cent	● 17.2
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Limiting, Per Cent	● 12.5
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Total, Per Cent	● 29.7
Unmet Need for Family Planning, Thousands	● 523.1

INTERNAL DISPARITIES

Total Fertility Rate per Woman 15-49:

Urban	4.5
Rural	6.7
No Education/Primary	7.3
Highest Level of Education	3.0
Provincial Low	6.0
Provincial High	6.8
Poorest	7.2
Richest	6.1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:

Urban	82.5
Rural	116.7
No Education/Primary	116.6
Highest Level of Education	65.4
Provincial Low	97.6
Provincial High	129.6
Poorest	141.2
Richest	106.1

Age-Specific Fertility Rate, 15-19 Years:

Urban	134.0
Rural	180.0
Poorest	143.0
Richest	131.0

Adolescent Women 15-19 Begun Childbearing:

Urban, Per Cent	27.1
Rural, Per Cent	34.2
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	56.1
Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	19.7
Provincial Low, Per Cent	29.7
Provincial High, Per Cent	35.7
Poorest, Per Cent	na
Richest, Per Cent	na

Deliveries Attended by Skilled Attendants:

Urban, Per Cent	81.6
Rural, Per Cent	51.9
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	45.0
Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	87.7
Provincial Low, Per Cent	52.2
Provincial High, Per Cent	62.2
Poorest, Per Cent	44.6
Richest, Per Cent	77.9

Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate for Women 15-49:

Urban, Per Cent	38.2
Rural, Per Cent	24.1
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	21.7

Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	41.6
Provincial Low, Per Cent	25.3
Provincial High, Per Cent	27.2
Poorest, Per Cent	3.9
Richest, Per Cent	17.2

Children Underweight Under 5, Moderate:

Urban, Per Cent	12.8
Rural, Per Cent	27.3
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	29.0
Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	9.7
Provincial Low, Per Cent	17.4
Provincial High, Per Cent	27.9
Poorest, Per Cent	34.1
Richest, Per Cent	17.4

Children Underweight Under 5, Severe:

Urban, Per Cent	1.4
Rural, Per Cent	6.5
No Education/Primary, Per Cent	6.9
Highest Level of Education, Per Cent	2.1
Provincial Low, Per Cent	3.4
Provincial High, Per Cent	6.7
Richest, Per Cent	4.0
Poorest, Per Cent	12.4