

The Demography of Latin America and the Caribbean since 1950

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I. Introduction

I. A region of great diversity

Behind its apparent uniformity, the region comprising Latin America and the Caribbean is extremely diverse, reflecting a long history of human settlement. The massive inflow of migrants from Europe and Africa during the colonization process contributed substantially to long-term population growth in the region, though the population actually declined at the time of initial contacts between European migrants and the Amerindian civilizations. When the conquistadors first set foot in America, the continent had at least 2,000 indigenous languages and an immense variety of social models, ranging from the most complex and advanced, such as those of the Aztecs, the Mayas and the Incas, to the most simple, such as that of the Amazonian rainforest populations⁽¹⁾. Today, there are more than 500 indigenous population groups, totalling an estimated 30 to 50 million individuals. These communities are largest in Peru, Mexico, Bolivia and Guatemala. In the latter two countries indigenous people represent more than half the total population (Appendix Table A.1.)⁽²⁾.

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⁽¹⁾ The indigenous populations of Latin America went through four major crisis cycles that threatened their survival: the conquest of the sixteenth century; the Bourbon reforms in the late eighteenth century; the expansion of the liberal republics in the second half of the nineteenth century and, from the end of the twentieth century, neoliberal structural adjustments and globalization (Toledo, 2005).

⁽²⁾ Traditionally considered as rural, the indigenous populations are now very diverse, ranging from isolated rural communities to large urban populations with urban-rural and transnational mobility.

From the sixteenth century, the colonization process went hand in hand with the massive import of slaves, while the indigenous populations were vanquished and enslaved to provide manual labour, notably in the mines and in agriculture. They were soon decimated by repeated massacres and epidemics. The slave trade between Africa and the Caribbean (Cuba and Saint Domingue), Brazil and other countries began very soon after the conquest and grew in scale over the seventeenth century with the development of crop plantations, notably sugar cane. The abolition of slavery was foreshadowed by numerous slave revolts and the creation of the Republic of Haiti in 1804. The other countries soon followed suit, and Brazil was the last country to abolish slavery in 1888.

The geography of the region is very varied. It stretches from the 32nd parallel, at the border between the United States and the Mexican state of Baja California in the north, to the Argentine and Chilean islands of Tierra del Fuego in the south (see Map on page 575). Arid zones in northern Mexico and the Atacama desert in northern Chile give way to dense rainforest in Amazonia and parts of Central America. Its topography ranges from the plains of Venezuela and the Argentine Pampas to the mountainous regions of the Andean States, from the lowlands of Guyana to the high peaks of the Andes mountain range. These vast continental expanses contrast with the many small island territories of the Caribbean.

Altogether, the region includes more than fifty countries and territories, some with very small populations, such as the islands of Grenada and Dominica, and others, such as Mexico and Brazil, with many millions of inhabitants. This chronicle analyses data for 35 countries (with a population of at least 80,000 in 2005) totalling more than 560 million people. For the purposes of this chronicle, the countries are grouped together geographically into four regions: *Mesoamerica* (Mexico and the countries of Central America), the *Caribbean* (including Latin and non-Latin countries) the *Andean countries* (Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia) and the *Southern Cone* (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay) alongside *Brazil*.

2. The region in the world: demographic overview

The estimated population of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2005 was 563.7 million, i.e. 8.7% of the world total (Appendix Table A.10), and current population growth rates in the region are moderate in global terms. The annual growth rate is 1.4%, slightly above the global rate – around 1.2% – but below that of Africa, and of sub-Saharan Africa especially, where it stands at 2.3%. The region's population increased by 7.7 million per year between 2000 and 2005, representing more than 10% of world population growth over the period.

Fertility in the region was estimated at 2.6 children per woman in 2000-2005, slightly below the world average (2.7). The fertility level is close to that of Asia (2.5), and much lower than that of Africa (5.0).

For the region as a whole, life expectancy is estimated at close to 72 years (68 years for men and 75 years for women), slightly more than 4 years above the global average of 67 years.

International migration is increasing, with estimated negative net migration of 3.4 million over the period 2000-2005.

3. Population growth above the world average

Despite relatively high mortality levels, the growth rate in the region has remained above that of the world population since the eighteenth century (Table 1). Its relative weight has risen from just 2% of the world total in 1750 to almost 7% in 1950 and 9% in 2000. It was in the twentieth century, the second half especially, that the most sustained demographic growth occurred in the region, qualified by many as a population explosion. While the world population was multiplied by 3.7 between 1900 and 2000, that of Latin America and the Caribbean increased seven-fold.

TABLE 1.— POPULATION GROWTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND WORLD POPULATION GROWTH FROM 1750 TO 2000

Region	Population (in millions)					
	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950	2000
World	791	978	1,262	1,650	2,519	6,086
Latin America and the Caribbean	16	24	38	74	167	523
<i>Percentage of world population</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>8.6</i>
	Mean annual growth rate (%)					
		1750-1800	1800-1850	1850-1900	1900-1950	1950-2000
World		0.1	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.8
Latin America and the Caribbean		0.3	0.9	1.3	1.6	2.3

Sources: United Nations (1999); United Nations (2005).

4. Demographic and socioeconomic aspects of regional diversity

The populations of the countries in the region are of very unequal size. Almost 80% of the population live in just six of the region's fifty or more states and territories: Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Peru and Venezuela. Brazil and Mexico alone, with 188 and 107 million inhabitants respectively, account for more than half of the region's population (53%). At the other extreme, the twenty or so Caribbean countries represent hardly more than 7% of the total (Table 2).

Countries with larger surface areas tend to have more inhabitants, but lower population densities. The highest densities are found in the Caribbean (more than 200 inhabitants per sq.km), ahead of Mesoamerica (though with 300 inhabitants per sq.km, the density of El Salvador is higher than that of certain Caribbean countries), the Andean countries and lastly the Southern Cone and Brazil (Table 2).

TABLE 2. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TOTAL POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY BY SUB-REGION AND COUNTRY IN 2005

Sub-region and country	Population (thousands)	Density inhab. per sq.km
Mesoamerica	146,897	74
Costa Rica	4,322	85
El Salvador	6,874	327
Guatemala	12,700	116
Honduras	7,347	64
Mexico	106,943	55
Nicaragua	5,483	42
Panama	3,228	43
Caribbean	41,521	217
Bahamas	321	23
Barbados	272	627
Belize	266	12
Cuba	11,257	102
Dominica	79	105
Dominican Republic	8,993	183
French Guiana	187	2
Grenada	80	299
Guadeloupe	446	263
Guyana	768	3
Haiti	9,151	307
Jamaica	2,701	241
Martinique	397	359
Netherlands Antilles	224	228
Puerto Rico	3,915	446
Saint Lucia	152	298
Suriname	442	3
Trinidad and Tobago	1,311	254
Others ^(a)	559	–
Andean countries	123,202	32
Bolivia	9,427	8
Colombia	46,039	40
Ecuador	13,211	47
Peru	27,947	22
Venezuela	26,577	29
Southern Cone and Brazil	252,130	21
Argentina	38,592	14
Brazil	187,601	22
Chile	16,267	22
Paraguay	6,215	15
Uruguay	3,455	20
Latin America and the Caribbean	563,750	27

^(a) Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands and US Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Panama Canal Zone (between 1970 and 1975).
Sources: United Nations (2004) and United Nations (2005) for density. CELADE estimate for population (available online at: http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm), except for data concerning the English-speaking Caribbean taken from United Nations (2005).

Though the economic and social indicators of the region are around the world average, and in some cases above it, ECLAC⁽³⁾ estimates for 2005 indicate that 41% of Latin Americans live in poverty and 17% in extreme poverty. In absolute figures, this represents a total of 213 million poor people. These figures tally with those of gross national income per capita, estimated by the World Bank at USD 3,704 in 2004, compared with a world average of USD 6,487. Per capita income varies considerably from one country to another, reaching more than USD 10,000 in certain small Caribbean islands, but no more than around USD 1,000 in Haiti, Nicaragua and Bolivia (Appendix Table A.2.).

The high levels of poverty are due not only to the low level of economic activity in many countries, but also to the persistence of highly inegalitarian social structures (ECLAC, 2006). Latin America and the Caribbean is the region of the world with the largest income disparities, and there are no signs of substantial change in the short or medium term. Poverty levels are highest among the rural communities, among indigenous populations and those of African origin. The combination of these characteristics creates an accumulation of disadvantages which perpetuates the social and intergenerational reproduction of poverty.

This poverty is exacerbated by the inability of the limited formal labour markets to absorb the constant arrival of new generations of working-age adults. Continuing the trend of the 1980s, the rate of employment in the informal urban sector rose from 43% in 1990 to 47% in 2003 (Weller, 2005).

The demographic indicators also vary from one country to another. According to CELADE⁽⁴⁾ data, fertility has fallen sharply in most countries. Though it remains above 4 children per woman in Guatemala, it is well below replacement level in Cuba (1.6 children per woman). Life expectancy is 78 years in Costa Rica, but below 60 years in Haiti.

II. Progress in the collection and availability of demographic data

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, population censuses were conducted in the region (Sánchez-Albornoz, 1977). During the first half of the twentieth century, several countries organized regular censuses, once every ten years for Mexico, Chile and Panama, or more frequently in some cases. In Honduras, six censuses took place between 1925 and 1950⁽⁵⁾. From the 1950s,

⁽³⁾ ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe): <http://www.eclac.cl>

⁽⁴⁾ CELADE: Latin-American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Demografía) – Population Division of ECLAC: <http://www.eclac.cl/celade/default.asp>

⁽⁵⁾ See the site of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE) of Honduras at <http://www.ine-hn.org/censos/indice.htm>

most countries introduced decennial census programmes. For political, financial or other reasons, some countries did not respect this time interval and allowed more than ten years to elapse between two censuses. All the countries of Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean conducted a census in the early 1970s, though several did not take part in the census series of the following decade and, above all, that of the decade 1990-1999, primarily because of the economic crisis in the region (Appendix Table A.3). Most countries have held a census since 2000, and results now become available much more quickly thanks to progress in data processing and dissemination via the Internet (Jaspers and Poulard, 2002). Censuses are the main source of data in the countries of the region, not only for population size and distribution, but also for internal migration and certain aspects of international migration. They also provide a means to estimate fertility and infant mortality and to break down the statistics by geographical area.

Despite progress in the collection and dissemination of demographic data, census under-reporting still exceeds 3% in many countries (Table 3). Progress is uneven, with signs of improvement in countries with high levels of under-reporting (Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala), but also a deterioration in other countries where under-reporting is low (Argentina and Chile).

TABLE 3.— ESTIMATED UNDER-REPORTING RATE IN POPULATION CENSUSES CONDUCTED FROM 1950 TO 2000 (%)

Country	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Argentina	1.4	3.3	2.8	1.1	1.1	2.8
Bolivia	0.7	—	6.0	—	7.7	4.5
Brazil	3.8	4.2	3.4	2.6	3.8	2.9
Chile	5.9	4.0	5	1.6	2	3.8
Colombia	8.3	2.8	13.9	5.8	11.3	—
Costa Rica	6.7	2.2	4.1	7.8	—	2.9
Cuba	5.0	—	0.7	0.2	—	0.1
Dominican Republic	9.5	6.0	8.2	5.8	6.3	—
Ecuador	6.5	6.1	2.6	5.3	6.9	3.2
El Salvador	4.7	5.1	3.8	—	4.4	—
Guatemala	10.5	7.9	13.8	15.6	14.5	5.8
Haiti	5.2	—	6.1	9.3	—	—
Honduras	0.7	3.2	8.3	7.2	—	—
Jamaica	—	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.0
Mexico	6.9	5.3	3.4	1.6	3.1	2.5
Nicaragua	3.5	6.3	11.0	—	1.0	—
Panama	13.0	5.7	4.8	6.1	3.1	3.5
Paraguay	11.4	6.6	4.6	8.4	7.1	—
Peru	—	3.1	2.7	4.2	3.0	—
Trinidad and Tobago	—	—	—	—	-1.7	2.0
Uruguay	—	1.7	1.4	1.9	2.3	—
Venezuela	2.8	3.1	4.5	7.4	8.9	7.5

Note: The rate of under-reporting is estimated by comparing population projections with the census enumeration. A negative rate indicates that the enumerated population is higher than the projected population (due to imprecise parameters used for the projection or adjustments to crude census data).
Source: CELADE, cited by Tacla (2006), and authors' calculations.

The quality of civil registration statistics covering recent decades is variable. Though coverage has improved in some countries, in others, where the registers of births and deaths are not exhaustive, the data collected are very incomplete. Though death registers are showing signs of improvement in most countries (Appendix Table A.4), under-reporting of deaths is nevertheless close to 40% or even higher in four countries (Paraguay, Peru, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic), and ranges between 10% and 30% in at least seven countries. Birth registers are generally of better quality than death registers, but they do not appear to be improving in countries where quality is poor (Ecuador, Brazil, Dominican Republic and Venezuela). Note that the registers in Guatemala (for births especially) are of relatively high quality, despite the country's extreme poverty. For all these reasons, the population estimates of many countries based on vital records are unreliable, especially those concerning mortality.

The standardized data are taken notably from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and from reproductive health surveys financed by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) in the USA (Appendix Table A.5). These surveys, along with the national surveys conducted outside these programmes⁽⁶⁾ are the most important data sources for estimating fertility, infant mortality and nuptiality. National surveys also focus increasingly on individual sexual and reproductive behaviours. The range of information collected has broadened in scope to include gender issues (surveys increasingly include both men and women), HIV-AIDS, maternal mortality, violence against women, etc. Three important facts should be highlighted however in relation to these national survey programmes. First, not all countries are covered by these surveys, and not all have expressed the wish to extend their thematic coverage. This is the case for Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and several Caribbean countries. Second, not all surveys are strictly comparable. Certain variations in fertility and infant mortality statistics may be due to a problem of data accuracy. Last, these surveys provide little information on adult mortality.

International migration data is also problematic, due to the difficulties in quantifying the massive flows of non-registered migrants. To remedy the lack of information and make the most of available data sources, CELADE set up the IMILA project (Project on Investigation of International Migration in Latin America) several decades ago⁽⁷⁾. The information provided by this project is based on Latin American census data and gives, for each census, the number of persons who were born (or lived five years previously) in another country. Data on foreign-born persons include some of their socio-demographic characteristics (sex, age, fertility, infant mortality, conjugal status, educational level, labour market status). Statistics from the IMILA database are also widely used in studies

⁽⁶⁾ Demographic surveys may be conducted under international programmes such as the World Fertility Survey (WFS) and the American Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). Many national household surveys conducted include demographic modules, notably the PNAD in Brazil (*Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios*). A wide range of surveys have been conducted outside the main international programmes in Mexico, Uruguay and elsewhere. We did not use national sources for this chronicle as they are not always comparable.

⁽⁷⁾ For a recent update on the IMILA programme, see Bay and Martinez (2005).

of international migration in Latin America to analyse the causes and effects of this migration (ECLAC-CELADE-IOM, 1999; Martínez, 2003a, 2003b and 2000; Pellegrino, 1993, 1995 and 2000; Villa, 1996). Household survey data can be used to study international migration. They provide information on immigrants' characteristics and on the links between families and their members who have migrated abroad. CELADE also collects data on Latin Americans enumerated in countries outside the region, notably in the USA and Canada. Last, the registers of arrivals and departures, which track the continuous flows of travellers, provide data on cyclical fluctuations in migratory flows.

III. The demographic transition models

Like other regions of the world, Latin America has undergone more rapid demographic transition than today's more developed regions. Mortality started to decline in the first half of the twentieth century, while birth rates remained high, and even increased in some countries between 1950 and 1960 (Guzmán and Rodríguez, 1993). Fertility then started dropping rapidly throughout most of the region from the early 1960s.

1. Rapid natural growth

The current population growth rate in the region is estimated at 1.5%. The growth rates recorded in the 1950s and 1960s were higher than in all other parts of the world except Africa. The combination of high fertility and declining mortality at the start of the Latin American transition period produced growth rates above 3% in 11 of the 22 countries of the region (Table 4). These rates remained above 2% until the mid 1990s in more than

TABLE 4. – DISTRIBUTION OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (a)
BY NATURAL AND OVERALL GROWTH RATES, 1950-2005

Period	Natural growth rate				Overall growth rate			
	3% or more	2 to 3%	1 to 2%	Below 1%	3% or more	2 to 3%	1 to 2%	Below 1%
1950-1955	7	11	4	0	6	11	5	0
1955-1960	8	10	4	0	7	10	5	0
1960-1965	11	8	3	0	8	9	5	0
1965-1970	8	12	2	0	5	11	5	1
1970-1975	5	14	3	0	4	11	5	2
1975-1980	4	14	4	0	4	12	4	2
1980-1985	4	14	2	2	1	14	4	3
1985-1990	3	12	6	1	2	10	6	4
1990-1995	2	12	6	2	0	10	8	4
1995-2000	1	8	10	3	0	7	11	4
2000-2005	0	6	13	3	0	5	12	5

(a) This includes the countries of Latin America and five Caribbean countries: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago (22 countries in all).
Source: CELADE, population estimates, www.eclac.cl/celade.

half the countries. Since 1995, the growth rate in most countries has been under 2%, and three have even fallen below 1%. There are still very large differences between countries however, with a natural growth rate that ranges from 0.5% in Cuba to almost 3% in Guatemala.

Though the birth rate has been a key factor of population growth, migration has also played an important role. Today, in more than half the countries of the region, emigration is slowing overall growth, and in many countries has done so for the last five decades.

2. Not one but many transitions

The demographic transition is one of the most important social changes to have affected the region over the last century. It has produced not only a reduction in the absolute number of births over the short term, but also a medium- and long-term restructuring of the population pyramid. As elsewhere in the world, the models of demographic transition are very diverse. In Latin America, four main models can be identified (Figure 1).

Firstly, two of the Southern Cone countries – Argentina and Uruguay – began their transition very early, following a similar pattern to Europe. The fertility decline occurred in these countries in the first half of the twentieth century, and by the 1950s the average number of children per woman was close to 3. In Argentina, fertility started falling in around 1915-1920, with a total fertility rate that fell from 6.2 children per woman at that time to 3.2 in 1947 (Pantelides, 1996)⁽⁸⁾. As mortality also fell sharply before 1960, the natural growth rate of these two countries was already below 1.5% at the start of the twentieth century. European immigration is seen as a key factor behind the early fertility transition in these two countries. They belong to the category of countries where the transition is very advanced, alongside Cuba, where fertility and mortality were already low in the 1950s, but where fertility rose after the revolution, pushing natural growth to more than 2.5% in the early 1960s. For the period 2000-2005, Cuba is the country with the lowest natural growth in the region (around 0.5%), followed by Uruguay, Trinidad and Tobago and other smaller Caribbean countries with growth rates below 1%. In these countries, emigration has slowed down population growth, with “losses” representing 25% to 50% of natural growth during certain periods. In the Caribbean, migration became the main regulator of demographic growth from the 1960s, following a dynamic that was independent of economic cycles in the host countries (Guengant, 1993). Argentina, on the other hand, has remained a receiving country, attracting immigrants from across its borders, so its population growth has declined less sharply.

At the other extreme, we find countries which are currently in a situation of early or moderate transition (Chackiel, 2004). These countries

⁽⁸⁾ According to the author, this early transition can be explained by the massive arrival of immigrants from countries with lower fertility, and by the rapid and equally early urbanization process.

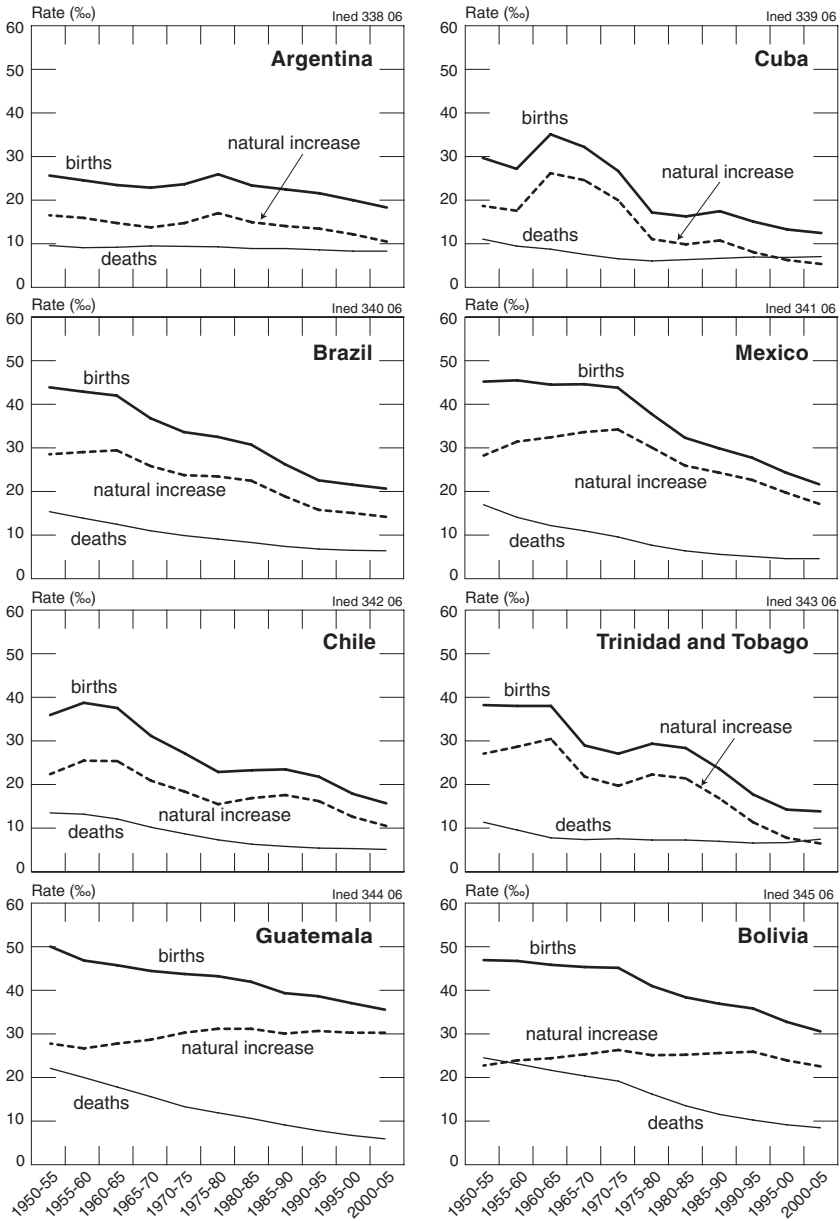


Figure 1.— Examples of demographic transition in Latin America and the Caribbean 1950-2005

Source: Appendix Tables A.6, A.7, A.8.

began their fertility transition much later and much more slowly. They include Guatemala and Honduras in the Mesoamerican zone, Haiti in the Caribbean, and Bolivia in the Andean countries. These countries all began their transition with high fertility levels and their growth remained practically stable up to the 1980s (and for Guatemala its has changed little since then), either because there was no significant change in fertility or, when it did change, because the birth rate and the death rate both fell at the same speed. Haiti is a special case. With high mortality and a persistently high birth rate, the population growth rate was quite low in the early 1960s (less than 2%), but had risen to almost 3% by the early 1980s. It was not until the 1990s that growth rates returned to the levels of the mid-1960s. Overall population growth is much smaller, however, due to large-scale emigration.

The third and largest group comprises the countries that follow the most typical transition model over the period. It includes the region’s two largest countries, Mexico and Brazil, along with four of the five Andean countries (Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela), three Mesoamerican countries (Panama, Costa Rica and El Salvador), and two Caribbean countries (Dominican Republic and Jamaica). In practically all these countries, the natural growth rate reached close to 3% or even well above in the 1950-60s. Mexico (Figure 2) and Brazil are at the two extremes. Transition in Mexico started much later, with a natural growth rate that only began falling in the late 1970s, a decade after Brazil.

Chile and Trinidad and Tobago are in an intermediate position. Their transition process is similar to that of the previous group, but starting from lower rates.

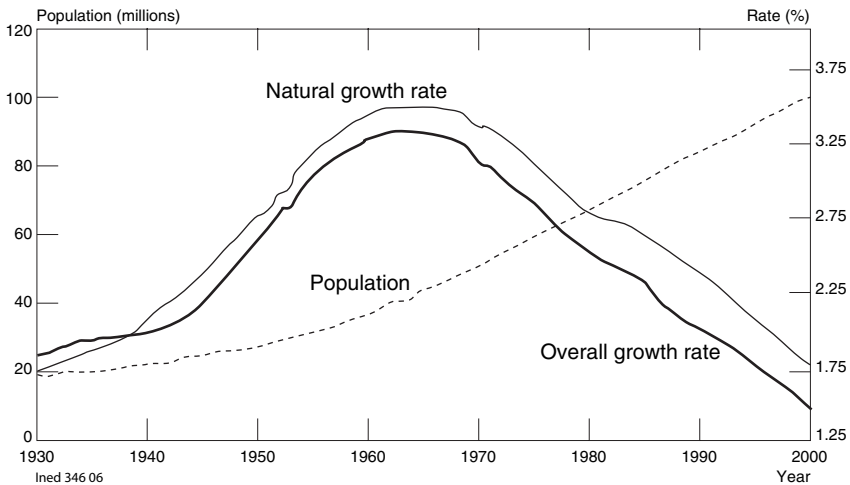


Figure 2.— Population size, natural and overall growth rates in Mexico, 1930-2000

Source: Tuirán et al. (2002).

Note that in many of these countries – Mexico, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia – emigration has held back overall population growth, while growth in other countries, such as Venezuela (until the 1980s) and Costa Rica, has been accelerated by immigration. In Venezuela, for example, the population increased by 40% between 1970 and 1980. In Costa Rica, the growth rate remained stable in the 1990s, due mainly to a large inflow of Nicaraguans who represent 83% of the country's immigrants and 8.3% of its population (Cortes, 2005).

IV. Diverse and changing fertility trends

1. Major changes in intensity and timing

The fertility decline is one of the major social changes affecting the region. The number of children per woman has fallen practically everywhere, resulting in a new demographic regime characterized by a restructuring of the family unit. Over the last four decades of the twentieth century, the small family ideal (which emerged at the start of the transition) became widespread, establishing the norm of two or three children per woman.

The key features of this process are as follows (Guzmán, 1996):

- a) At the start of the transition, fertility rates were very high in several countries, reaching 7.5 children or more per woman;
- b) Not all countries started out from the same level or followed the same pattern, resulting in large differences between countries;
- c) In most countries, the transition began in the early or mid 1960s;
- d) The use of contraception, reflecting growing demand for fertility control, combined with greater availability and accessibility of contraceptive methods, is considered to be the key factor behind the fertility decline;
- e) The higher marriage rate in the 1950s produced a certain rise in fertility during the pre-transition period following the Second World War (Guzmán and Rodríguez, 1993), but does not appear, in general, to have significantly affected the transition process itself;
- f) This general change is associated with broad social and spatial diversity which has amplified further over the last decade in some countries.

2. Diverse patterns of change

In the 1960s, the total fertility rate (TFR) was above 6 children per woman in two-thirds of countries, and above 7 children in four (Figure 3). In the early 2000s, fertility in several Caribbean countries was below replacement level, i.e. 2.1 children per woman. This was the case in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba, where the TFR has remained low for the last fifteen years or

more. In the Southern Cone, fertility is now slightly below replacement level in Chile, while other countries, such as Brazil, are moving close to it⁽⁹⁾. The total fertility rate is above 3 children per woman in eight countries, including Guatemala with 4 children per woman, the highest rate in the region.

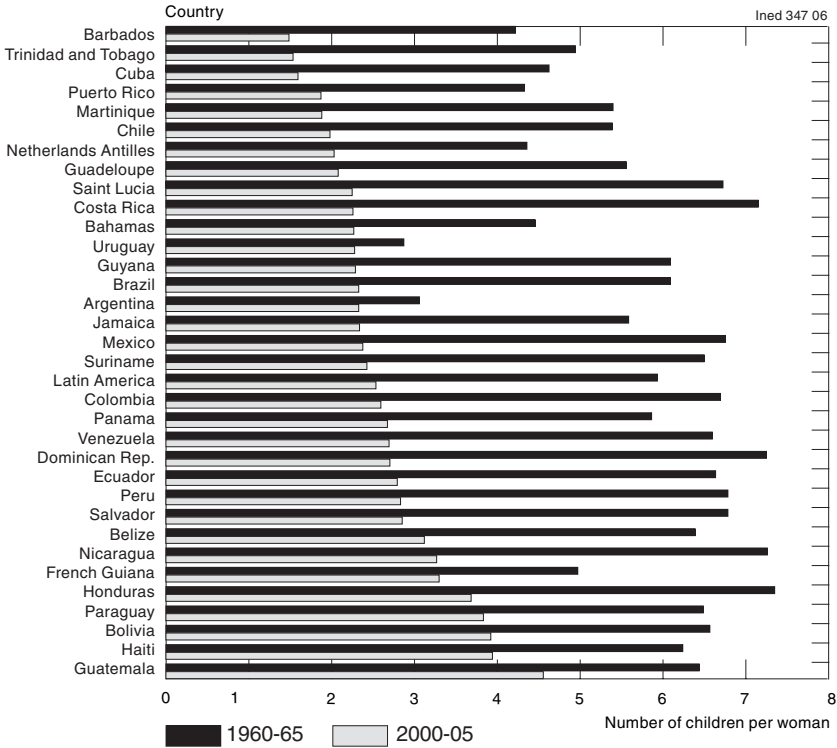


Figure 3.— Total fertility rates in 1960-1965 and in 2000-2005

Source: Appendix Table A.11.

Trend analysis reveals several different fertility transition models (Figure 4). Two Southern Cone countries, Argentina and Uruguay, pioneered the transition in the early twentieth century, under the effect of economic and social development and European immigration (ECLAC, 2006; Pantelides, 1996). It is interesting to note that for these two countries, the changes observed from the 1960s were more modest than elsewhere. They are not the countries of the region with the lowest fertility rate today. In the Caribbean, Cuba can be seen as an example of relatively early transition, interrupted by the political and economic transformations following the 1959 revolution. Estimated Cuban fertility had dropped to below 4 children per woman by the end of the 1950s (Alfonso-Fraga, 2006). Several Caribbean countries have followed a quite similar pattern.

⁽⁹⁾ In 12 Latin American cities out of the 15 studied, young people aged around 20 in 2000 should have a number of children close to two (Rosero-Bixby 2004).

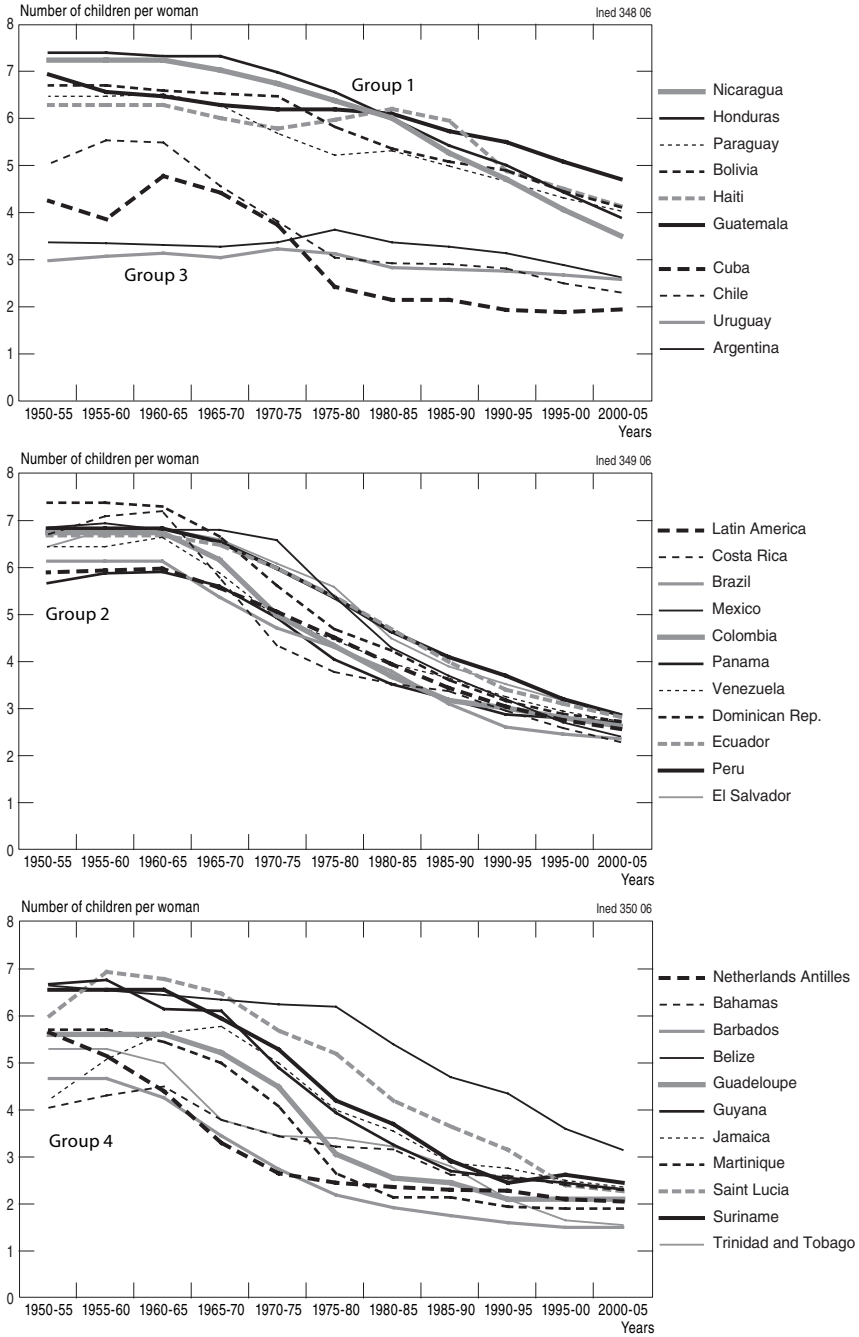


Figure 4.— Fertility transition in Latin America, 1950-2005

Source: Appendix Table A.11.

The second, and largest, group of countries, with a fertility rate of between 2 and 3 children per woman, began the transition process in the 1960s. This group includes the two most populated countries of the region, Mexico and Brazil, three Mesoamerican countries, the Andean countries except for Bolivia and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. This group includes countries such as Costa Rica, where fertility declined very rapidly – by 3 children per woman in just ten years (between 1960-1965 and 1970-1975) – and others such as Mexico, where the fertility transition began late (in the late 1960s) and accelerated rapidly at the start of the next decade, after a national family planning policy was implemented in 1974 (Cosío-Zavala, 1994). The fertility decline in Brazil, though varying from one region to another, is a country-wide trend that has continued through periods of both growth and crisis⁽¹⁰⁾, despite the absence of explicit government support for family planning.

A third group includes three Mesoamerican countries (Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), along with the least developed countries of each sub-region (Paraguay for the Southern Cone, Haiti for the Caribbean and Bolivia for the Andean countries). In these countries, the downtrend is slower and the total fertility rate remains above 3 children per woman, and even 4 in Guatemala. These countries are among the poorest in the region and have a large indigenous population (Bolivia and Guatemala).

The non-Latin countries of the Caribbean are analysed separately to highlight the diversity of situations in the region. Independently of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, already discussed, and with the exception of Belize where fertility decline follows a similar pattern to that of neighbouring Central American countries, the countries of this sub-region can be included either in the first group (Barbados and the Netherlands Antilles) or the second (all other countries).

3. Earlier fertility timing

One of the characteristics of the fertility decline over the last four decades is a forward shift in fertility timing. For the region as a whole, the mean age at childbearing has fallen from around 30 years in the 1960s to 27 years in 2000-2005. Likewise, at the start of the transition, fertility was highest at ages 25-29, compared with 20-24 today.

Changes in fertility rate by age group (Appendix Table A.12) do not appear to reflect a trend towards delayed childbearing (Chackiel, 2004). With the decline in fertility and the smaller number of births, the mean age at childbearing is likely to decrease further, though it may rise again if age at first birth increases. However, the transition process under way in the region does not seem to be converging towards the delayed fertility model that prevails in western Europe. This may be linked to the fact that most couples

⁽¹⁰⁾ For more details on the determinants of fertility change in Brazil, see Martine (1996).

prefer to have children immediately after marriage, and that age at marriage is falling or stabilizing. As we shall see, the fact that age at first union remains unchanged and relatively low testifies to the continuing influence of cultural factors that encourage early fertility.

In a few countries, however, births are tending to be delayed, or have always been late and are still so today. Chile and Uruguay are interesting cases in point: in both these countries, the marked fertility decline over the last 15 years is due almost exclusively to the drop in fertility between ages 20 and 29 (INE, 2004; Paredes, 2003) while, paradoxically, adolescent fertility is increasing.

4. Adolescent fertility: little change in fertility timing

Compared with other regions of the world, one particular feature of adolescent fertility – i.e. before age 20 – in Latin America is its higher-than-expected level in relation to the demographic transition process and the level of economic and social development in the region⁽¹¹⁾. Indeed, adolescent fertility is not declining steadily in the same way as overall fertility (Appendix Table A.13). After falling in most countries at the start of the transition, it has stabilized and even risen slightly in some cases, notably during the 1980s and 1990s (Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, Dominican Republic and Colombia). This increase mainly concerns the youngest teenagers. In Chile for example, between 1985 and 1998, the fertility rate rose from 57 to 71 per thousand at age 17 (a 25% increase), from 32 to 50 per thousand at age 16 (a 57% increase) and from 13 to 23 per thousand at age 15 (up 73%) (Rodríguez, 2005). However, recent data from the National Statistics Institute show a reversal of this trend, with adolescent fertility falling from 65 to 55 per thousand between 2000 and 2003 (www.ine.cl).

The most recent data from the DHS and CDC surveys confirm a certain increase in the adolescent fertility rates in Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Colombia and Haiti, while these rates are falling in Guatemala, Bolivia, Belize, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Paraguay and Peru (Table 5). Beyond existing differences and recent trends, the age at first birth remains low, despite an increase in women's educational level which should delay childbearing.

The current model of adolescent fertility does not correspond to the model that prevailed during early transition (Rodríguez, 2005), qualified as traditional, in which high adolescent fertility was linked to early marriage and the absence of birth control. The 1990s saw the emergence of a new fertility

⁽¹¹⁾ Adolescent fertility is viewed as a social problem both because it incurs health risks, especially when pregnancy occurs in early adolescence, and also because it may compromise the future of the teenagers concerned, notably in terms of educational achievement. Though these alarmist suppositions, targeted by regional policies and programmes, have recently been brought into question (Hakkert, 2001), it is generally acknowledged that a model of early fertility appears to be incompatible with the fulfilment of women throughout their life course through education and social integration.

model of two or three children per woman, starting with early births outside a stable union (Rodríguez, 2005).

TABLE 5.– ADOLESCENT FERTILITY RATES BASED ON SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN 13 LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Country	Adolescent fertility rate (for 1,000 women aged 15-19)			Source and survey year		
	1985- 1990	1990- 1995	2000- 2005	1985-1990	1990-1995	2000-2005
Belize	–	137	95	–	FHS 1991	CDC 1999
Bolivia	99	94	84	DHS 1989	DHS 1994	DHS 2003
Brazil	74	76	–	DHS 1986	DHS 1991	–
Colombia	73	89	90	DHS 1986	DHS 1995	DHS 2005
Dominican Republic	100	88	116	DHS 1986	DHS 1991	DHS 2002
Ecuador	89	91	100	CDC 1987	CDC 1994	CDC 2004
El Salvador	134	124	104	DHS 1985	CDC 1993	CDC 2002-2003
Guatemala	130	126	114	DHS 1987	DHS 1995	DHS 2002
Haiti	96	76	86	EMMUS-I 1996	DHS 1994-1996	DHS 2000
Honduras	132	136	137	CDC 1991-1992	CDC 1996	CDC 2001
Nicaragua	158	158	119	DHS 1997-1998	CDC 1992-1993	DHS 2001
Paraguay	97	107	65	DHS 1990	CDC 1995-1996	CDC 2004
Peru	79	61	66	DHS 1986	DHS 1992	DHS 2000

Source: ORC Macro, 2006: <http://www.measuredhs.com>;
 CDC surveys: <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/Surveys/index.htm>

5. The factors of change

With the exception of Argentina, Uruguay and, to a lesser extent, Cuba, fertility in the countries of the region started declining in the 1960s. Though the timing was similar in all countries, the speed of decline appears to be linked to socioeconomic characteristics, notably the mean level of education and the degree of development of the countries concerned (Guzmán, 1994).

The small family ideal spread early in the region (ECLAC, 2005). The contraceptive prevalence surveys conducted under the PECFAL Latin American fertility surveys programme (Programa de Encuestas de Fecundidad Para America Latina) in the 1960s had already revealed that the fertility ideal was below actual fertility, notably in urban areas (CELADE, 1972). This result was confirmed by the World Fertility Survey and later, in the 1980s and 1990s, by the Demographic and Health Surveys. The 1990-1999 survey data show that the mean number of children desired is close to 2 children per woman, or even below replacement level in many countries (Hakkert, 2004).

As we will see later, it was the growing use of contraceptives that enabled this small-family preference to become a reality. A combination of factors lay behind this “contraceptive revolution” (ECLAC, 2005): biotechnological factors, with the development of production capacity, and the increased efficacy and quality of birth control products; political factors, with the spread of family

planning programmes enjoying broad coverage and strong official backing; cultural factors with the growing psychological acceptance of contraception. Contextual factors, such as urbanization and the development of the media have also played a key role by reinforcing the impact of the other factors. These factors have not all acted simultaneously, or with the same degree of intensity. For example, in Brazil, unlike Mexico, public policy played no role in the spread of contraception. Nevertheless, the Brazilian state directly encouraged structural and socio-cultural transformations by applying policies and programmes which not only reduced child demand, but also helped to gain acceptance for birth control through the market rather than through public policy (Perpetuo and Wong, 2006).

The development of contraceptive use from the 1970s to the early 1990s can be explained by the growing number of couples wishing to limit their family size, and by the progressive disappearance of the many obstacles preventing couples from realizing their preferences (Feyisetan and Casterline, 2000). However, the ability to match effective fertility to ideal fertility remains dependent upon social status, level of education and other socioeconomic variables. In the most disadvantaged communities, access to contraception is not universal, making it impossible to reach desired fertility objectives. In Peru, for example, the 1996 Demographic and Health Survey showed that the number of children desired was practically the same for all women, varying between 1.8 and 2.0 by educational level. Yet women with no education still have 7 children on average, those with a primary education have 4.6 and the others 2.6 (Hakkert, 2004).

6. Contraception, the key determinant of transition

To better understand the process of fertility decline in the region, we will analyse its main determinants (Bongaarts, 1982): contraception, nuptiality and induced abortion.

Generally speaking, contraceptive use is the determinant with the strongest impact on fertility decline in Latin America and the Caribbean over recent decades⁽¹²⁾. Contraceptive use has been decisive in reducing fertility, with a prevalence that has increased steadily among women in a union (Figure 5)⁽¹³⁾. For example, on the basis of several studies, Lerner and Quesnel (1994) show that 80% of the fertility decline in Mexico can be attributed to contraceptive use⁽¹⁴⁾.

⁽¹²⁾ The effect of other close determinants is smaller. For example, it has been shown that postnatal infertility, not examined in detail here, has had less effect on fertility decline than the other factors analysed (Moreno and Singh, 1996; Chackiel, 2004). It nevertheless explains large differences in countries such as Bolivia, where very diverse regional patterns are observed, associated with specific cultural and ethnic traditions (Guzmán et al., 1991).

⁽¹³⁾ In several countries of the region, the number of sexually active single women has increased in recent years. Most of them use contraception. In most of the countries concerned, contraceptive use among these women is slightly more frequent than among women in a union.

⁽¹⁴⁾ But the same authors also point out that the programmes to promote contraception were introduced at a time when the population was ready to modify its reproductive behaviour. These programmes simply accelerated and amplified a process that would have occurred in any case.

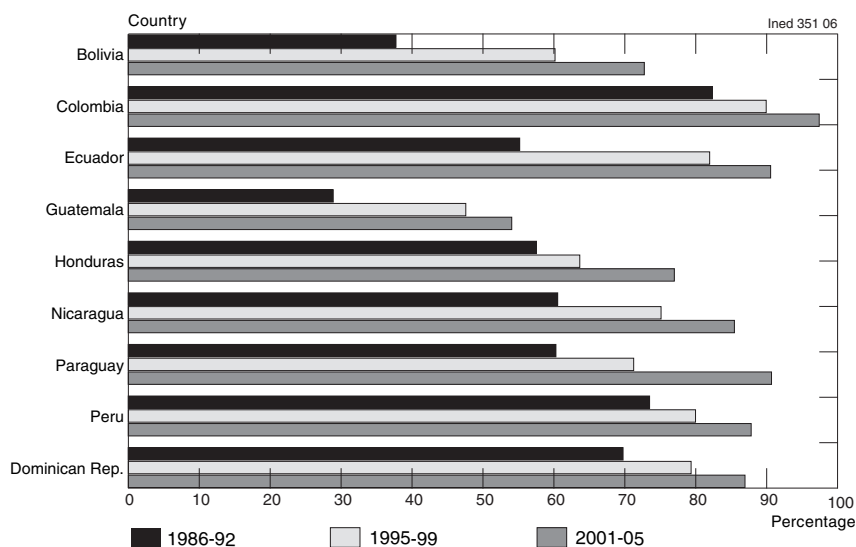


Figure 5. – Prevalence of contraceptive use among women living with a partner in selected Latin American countries

Sources: DHS and CDC surveys.

In Latin America, the use of modern contraceptive methods largely reflects the policies adopted by national governments and implemented by public health institutions. In Mexico, for example, 45% of women in a union used modern contraception in 1987, compared with just 23% in 1973 (Lerner and Quesnel, 1994). However, state intervention varies in scope and intensity from one country to another, and even within countries. It has created large inequalities by giving clear priority to urban areas. With the exception of Colombia, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, contraceptive prevalence is much lower in rural areas, above all in countries with large indigenous populations (Bolivia, Guatemala and Mexico) with very limited access to contraception (Figure 6).

In countries where fertility is high, such as Guatemala and Haiti, the prevalence of contraceptive methods (modern or traditional) is below 50% among women who are married or in a union, whereas in countries with low fertility, such as Colombia and Brazil, it is around 80% (Appendix Table A.16). In certain countries, such as Bolivia and Paraguay, prevalence increased by more than 20 percentage points within a decade. This may be largely thanks to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994, which led to greatly increased contraceptive availability and an ensuing decline in fertility.

The prevalence of modern contraceptive methods is much higher than that of traditional methods, which are nevertheless still quite widespread in countries with large indigenous populations, such as Bolivia and Peru (Appendix Table A.15). Despite the high prevalence of modern contraception in the region, efforts must still be made to extend coverage to certain disadvantaged populations.

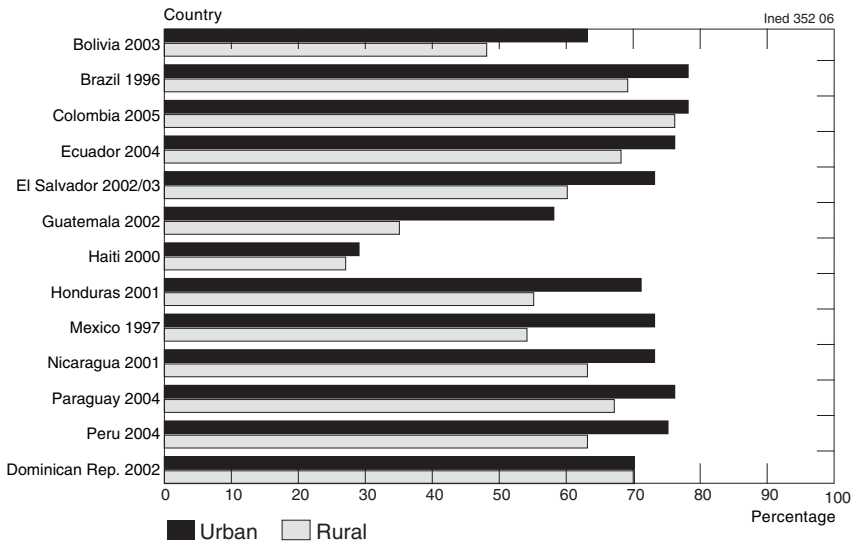


Figure 6.– Prevalence of contraceptive use among women living with a partner by place of residence in selected Latin American countries

Sources: DHS and CDC surveys.

Contraceptive practice appears to be levelling off in many countries of the world however (Bongaarts, 2005). This is attributed by Bongaarts to reduced investment in family planning programmes. In the case of Latin America, the most striking example is that of the Dominican Republic, where the proportion of contraceptive users among women living in a union remained practically unchanged between 1999 and 2002 (Appendix Table A.16).

Moreover in Mexico, as in most countries of the region, family planning programmes have almost exclusively targeted women (CONAPO, 2001), and this partly explains the low prevalence of methods that require direct male participation. The methods most commonly used by Latin American couples are female sterilization, followed by the pill and the IUD (Appendix Table A.16), which are widely recommended in the family planning programmes. The fertility decline is due mainly to female sterilization, notably in countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, and its use is increasing in most countries, while use of the pill, the IUD and other methods has remained stable.

As pointed out by Lerner and Quesnel (1994), it is regrettable that this massive recourse to female sterilization is due largely to the low availability of other methods and to the limited resources of women living in disadvantaged areas (notably lack of knowledge of their reproductive rights). This observation also applies to the use of other methods. In Mexico, for example, many women who chose the IUD or sterilization reported that they were not told about other

options (CONAPO, 2001). For sterilization to be a truly intentional decision, it must be taken knowingly and without constraint.

The fact that female sterilization is the most common form of contraception – well ahead of other methods in some countries – has implications in terms of gender equity. It means that responsibility for the fertility transition is still placed upon women, with men remaining very much in the background. It may also reflect the limits of family planning programmes which are incapable of promoting a wider range of methods, and the advantages of sterilization as a permanent solution in situations where the long-term use of other methods is difficult. Not forgetting the existence of medical practices, in Brazil for example, which almost automatically result in sterilization for women who give birth by Caesarean section (Berquó, 1994). It has been shown for this country that sterilized women have more problems negotiating their sexual relations with their partners and, as a general rule, have a lower educational level than other women (Barbosa and Vieira, 1995).

7. Nuptiality: stability and change

One of the most characteristic features of nuptiality in Latin America is the relative constancy of age at first union, which is accompanied by major changes in other nuptiality indicators.

The overall analysis of countries in the region, using data from censuses since the 1960s (Rosero-Bixby, 1996; Fussell and Palloni, 2004; García and Rojas, 2001; Bay et al., 2004), shows little variation in age at first union over several decades (Appendix Table A.17). There is no visible evidence that the region's inhabitants are delaying the decision to live together (García and Rojas, 2001). For Fussell and Palloni (2004), this stability of the age at union formation and the low celibacy rates observed in most countries are due to the centrality of marriage as an institution in social life and its role as a reference point in an era of social change. However, we are not dealing with a single model. The authors quoted mention the persistence of two distinct cohabitation models in the region. In one group of countries, mainly in the Southern Cone, age at first union remains high and consensual unions account for a minority share – albeit a growing one – of total unions. In a second group of countries, chiefly Mesoamerican and Caribbean, age at first union is lower, with a higher proportion of consensual unions⁽¹⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁵⁾ The percentage of consensual unions is rising, particularly in countries where they were uncommon (Appendix Table A.18). By contrast, in countries where their share was traditionally large, we observe no significant change. For instance, in Nicaragua, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, and El Salvador, the proportion of consensual unions among women aged 20-29 remains close to or even above 40%. These figures tend to corroborate the notion that countries where legal unions predominated are witnessing a new pattern of consensual union at the start of conjugal life, regarded as a necessary step – for economic or other reasons – to the consolidation of the couple. This increase has a clear impact on the proportion of children born outside marriage: in Costa Rica, the proportion of these births rose from 38% to 59% between 1990 and 2004, and in Uruguay it rose from 32% to 55% between 1990 and 2002. This uptrend in births outside marriage was already observed in the 1970s and 1980s in Costa Rica, Chile and Argentina (Rosero-Bixby, 1996).

Lastly, permanent celibacy among women is declining nearly everywhere (Appendix Table A.19). Between 1960 and 2000, it fell from 8% to 5% in Brazil and from about 30% to 14% in Venezuela. The only countries where the proportion of women remaining single at ages 45-49 still exceeds 10% are Venezuela, Chile, Paraguay and Costa Rica. By contrast, the proportion is very low in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and El Salvador. These results should be treated with caution however, owing to possible under- or over-estimates (for example, some women living in partnerships or separated from their husbands may report themselves as never-married⁽¹⁶⁾).

The impact of nuptiality on the fertility decline is viewed as relatively insignificant, except in the Dominican Republic where, according to one study, the decrease in the number of cohabiting women in the 1970s accounted for 43% of the fall in fertility (Rosero-Bixby, 1996). But nuptiality has also had an opposite effect. The same author and others (Guzmán and Rodríguez, 1993) contend that the rise in fertility observed in many countries of the region in the 1950s was chiefly driven by an increase in nuptiality, due, for some authors, to better living conditions, economic growth, and advances in the status of women (Cosio-Zavala, 1993). In recent years, trends have not varied significantly, nor have they exerted the same decisive influence as contraception on the decline in fertility. In Peru, however, nuptiality was the second contributing factor, after contraception, to the decrease in fertility in the country as a whole between 1994 and 2004, and the main factor among higher-income groups (Ortiz, 2006).

8. Induced abortion: an incomplete picture

The number of induced abortions in Latin America is hard to estimate⁽¹⁷⁾. As they are illegal in most countries (Appendix Table A.20), the figures reported in demographic surveys are of doubtful reliability. There is not enough available information for an in-depth analysis of the phenomenon or its impact on fertility.

Independently of its relevance as a factor of fertility decline, abortion is an important women's rights and public health issue because of the unsafe conditions under which abortions are often performed, except in Cuba, Guyana and Puerto Rico, where they are legal. Chile and El Salvador, where abortion is totally banned, even when the mother's life is at risk, are extreme cases. Other countries, such as Mexico, have eased their legislation in recent years.

In the absence of accurate figures, experts estimate that some four million Latin American women undergo abortions (WHO, 2004), mostly outside the law and therefore in unsafe conditions. It is also estimated that 17% of maternal

⁽¹⁶⁾ In Chile, this includes women legally separated as a result of an annulment procedure, who thereby return to never-married status.

⁽¹⁷⁾ For a review of recent literature on abortion in the region, see the study by A. Guillaume and S. Lerner: http://ceped.cirad.fr/article.php3?id_article=138

deaths are due to unsanitary abortions (Lafaurie et al., 2005; WHO, 2004); in Colombia, the figure is almost 30%, making abortion the country's second cause of maternal death (Deulaire et al., 2002; Lafaurie et al., 2005). The gravity of the problem is confirmed by the Alan Guttmacher Institute which estimates (2001) that complications following induced abortion affect some 800,000 Latin American and Caribbean women every year. The same source estimates the induced-abortion rate at about 35 per thousand women of childbearing age, and even above 45 per thousand in some countries such as Chile and Peru.

Citing published data, notably from the United Nations (2001) and the Alan Guttmacher Institute (1999), Bay et al. (2004) estimate that one Argentine woman in two undergoes abortion in her lifetime, and that in several countries, including Brazil, Peru, and the Dominican Republic, there are 30 abortions per 100 conceptions among women aged 15-49; the proportion rises to 60% in Cuba (Guzmán et al., 2001b).

Unlike in the developed countries, where most abortions are performed on young never-married women, the Latin American women choosing to abort tend to be married women living in urban areas who already have their desired number of children and who are unwilling to endure the economic hardship that would result from an additional child (Bay et al., 2004; Alan Guttmacher Institute, 2001). In all likelihood, abortions have been trending up, given that, before the 1970s, couples did not actively seek to control the number of births (Alan Guttmacher Institute, 2001).

Unfortunately, socioeconomic conditions cause abortions to be experienced very differently by economically disadvantaged rural women (who frequently abort in unsanitary, unsafe conditions and are more prone to complications) compared with middle-class and high-income urban women (who have easier access to private doctors and can abort in low-risk conditions). In the patriarchal, inegalitarian societies of Latin America, abortion remains a complex and serious problem.

9. Social differences in fertility

Throughout the region, major socioeconomic and geographical differentials in fertility are observed. These differences persist despite the changes that have occurred. Fertility remains higher in rural areas than in urban areas (on average, one-and-a-half times as high) and that of women with no education is twice or three times as high as that of women with secondary or higher education (Figure 7 and Appendix Table A.14). For the most highly educated Latin-American women, fertility rates are fairly similar from one country to another. This implies both the spread of the small-family ideal and increased access to contraception. In this group, the average number of children varies between 2 and 2.5, even though the countries concerned are at different stages of the demographic transition. At the opposite end, women with no education have an average number of children ranging from 4.5 to over 6, depending on the country.

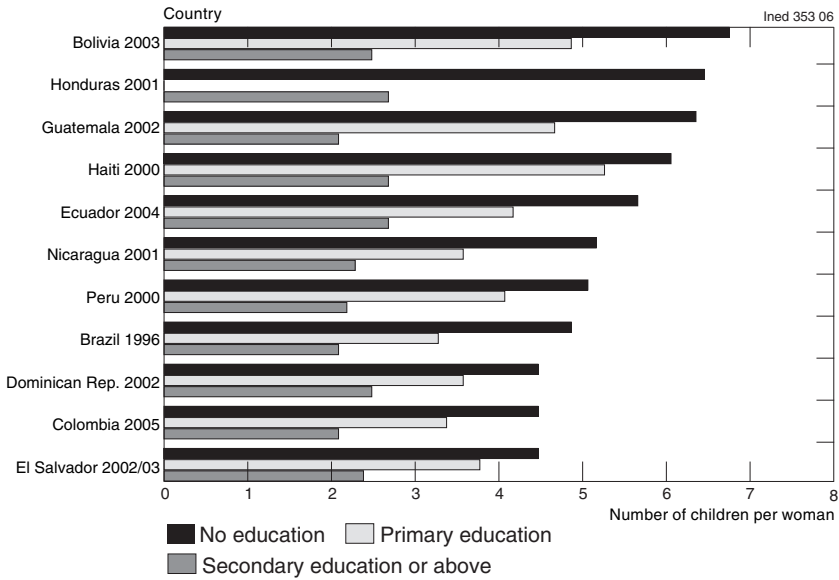


Figure 7.— Total fertility rate by female educational level in 11 Latin American countries (late 1990s, early 2000s)

Source: Appendix Table A.14.

The breakdown by household socioeconomic level⁽¹⁸⁾ illustrates the inequalities (Figure 8). In Panama, Venezuela and Brazil, fertility in the most disadvantaged quintile (Q1) is twice as high as in the most advantaged quintile (Q5). The sole exception is Chile, where the gap is minimal. The variations are larger among adolescent girls: their fertility is between four and six times as high among the most disadvantaged groups as among the most advantaged (Figure 9). These results are corroborated by the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHSs) conducted in the 1990s (Guzmán et al., 2001).

We might have expected the demographic transition to lessen the differences in fertility by socioeconomic level. But a recent study based on data from censuses in the 1990s and later reveals divergent national trends (ECLAC, 2005). Geographic differentials between broad regions in each country have narrowed (Brazil, Guatemala and Venezuela), remained stable (Chile) or widened (Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama and Paraguay).

Observing the differences by women’s educational level and, more specifically, the ratio of fertility of women with no education⁽¹⁹⁾ to that of women

(18) The socioeconomic indicator combines the level of household living amenities and the head of household’s educational level. It is computed from census data. For more details, see ECLAC (2005).

(19) Note that the proportion of illiterate women (i.e. with no education) has fallen substantially in all countries. It is now below 8% in most countries except Guatemala and Haiti, where it exceeds 20%, and Nicaragua and El Salvador, where it stands at nearly 15%.

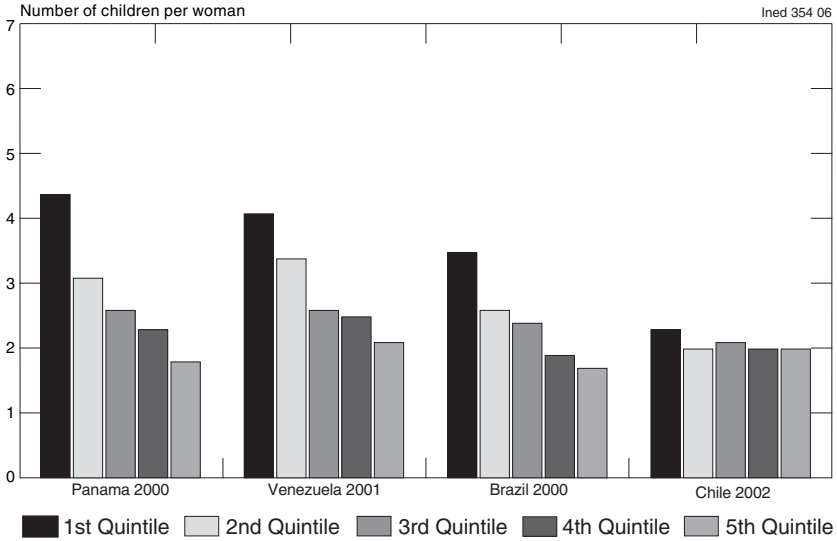


Figure 8. – Total fertility rate by household socioeconomic level, ca. 2000

Source: estimates based on population censuses (ECLAC, 2005).

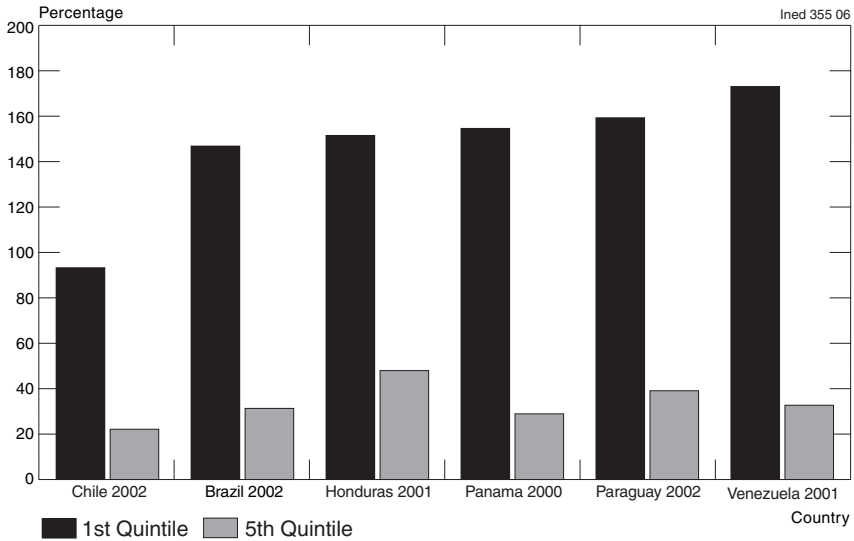


Figure 9. – Fertility rate of adolescent girls by lowest and highest household socioeconomic level

Source: estimates based on population censuses (ECLAC, 2005).

with secondary or higher education, the relative gaps between the two groups are wide (Figure 7 and Appendix Table A.14): the fertility of women with no education is twice or even three times as high as that of the most-educated women. These gaps display no observable overall widening or narrowing trend.

Fertility differences by socioeconomic level exhibit a more diverse pattern of change. In countries such as Brazil and Chile, the gaps remain unchanged; elsewhere, as in Paraguay and Venezuela, they have widened owing to a sharp decline in fertility among advantaged groups. In Panama and Honduras, they appear to have shrunk.

In sum, we find no one-to-one relationship between fertility levels and socioeconomic inequalities or place of residence. The existence of a large-scale family planning programme may reduce social and geographic differences. For example, a comparative study of federal states in Mexico and Brazil shows that, despite Brazil's lower fertility levels, the variation in fertility by educational level is greater in Brazil, which, unlike Mexico, has never officially adopted family-planning policies (Amaral and Potter, 2004).

The differences in adolescent fertility by socioeconomic level have recently widened in five of the six countries studied: Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Paraguay and Venezuela. This appears to confirm the fact that Latin America's "structural handicap" of social inequality restricts the scope for convergence of fertility by socioeconomic category and geographic area (ECLAC, 2005). Accordingly, to reduce fertility at young ages, family planning programmes should consider a broad approach that consists in analysing the reasons for such precocious behaviour and how it meshes with personal intentions and individual life courses.

V. Overall mortality: significant progress

1. A transition towards a longer life

Latin America has registered an unprecedented mortality decline, particularly in the second half of the twentieth century. This decline, which often began after 1920, is associated with a number of factors: better living conditions, faster urbanization, broader health service coverage thanks to a more institutionalized approach, stronger emphasis on primary healthcare, rapid medical advances (ECLAC, 2004; Chackiel, 2004; Cosio-Zavala, 1998), and massive campaigns to control the vectors of disease (at least in tropical countries). In developing countries, the decline in mortality – infant mortality especially – has also been accelerated by the implementation of effective, low-cost prevention measures (Hill, 1995).

Little information is available on mortality in the first decades of the twentieth century, though fragmentary estimates put life expectancy at 30-

40 years for that period (Pérez Brignoli, 1993; Arriaga and Davis, 1969). Chile had an estimated life expectancy of only 30 years or so in 1909 (Preston et al., 1972).

Between 1950-1954 and 2000-2004, the mean length of life for Latin America as a whole rose by 20 years from 51.4 to 71.5 years; that of women rose by almost 22 years to 74.9 years in 2000-2004 (Table 6). The region's life expectancy exceeds the world average, but lags behind that of Europe, Oceania and North America (Figure 10). Life expectancy at birth registered significant gains in the period studied, particularly in countries where it was previously low. Strikingly, Argentina and Uruguay, pioneers in transition and in mortality reduction, have been overtaken by countries where longevity has risen spectacularly, such as neighbouring Chile.

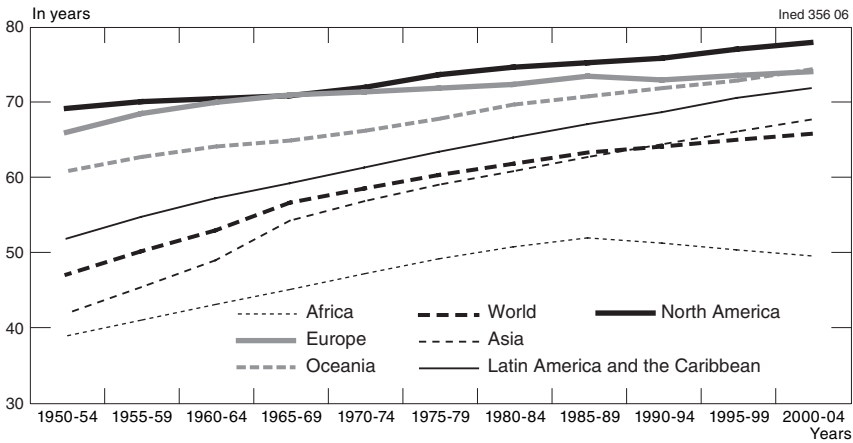


Figure 10.— Life expectancy at birth in broad regions of the world, by five-year periods from 1950 to 2004

Source: United Nations.

Latin American and Caribbean countries still have a long way to go before their life expectancy matches that of Northern countries: the level reached in 2000-2004 corresponds to that attained in the North thirty years ago. However, thanks to medical progress in recent years, the region may take less time to achieve this level than did the Northern countries. The number of years gained since 1950 is smaller than the figure for Asia, where life expectancy rose by 25 years in the same period, but twice as high as the figure for Africa, where HIV/AIDS is responsible for two decades of stagnation or even decline in life expectancy.

Beyond these general advances in the fight against mortality, individual countries display a wide diversity of situations (Table 6). At one end, Haiti is the only country where life expectancy has not crossed the 60-year threshold, and may actually regress in the medium term because of HIV/AIDS. With an HIV/AIDS prevalence rate of around 4%, Haiti is one of the hardest-hit countries in the

TABLE 6. – LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 1950-1954 AND 2000-2004 (IN YEARS)

Countries	Men		Women		Total		Gains between 1950-1954 and 2000-2004		
	1950-1954	2000-2004	1950-1954	2000-2004	1950-1954	2000-2004	Men	Women	Total
Mesoamerica	47.8	71.3	51.0	76.5	49.3	73.8	23.5	25.5	24.5
Costa Rica	56.0	75.8	58.6	80.6	57.3	78.1	19.8	22.0	20.9
Guatemala	41.8	65.5	42.3	72.5	42.0	68.9	23.7	30.2	26.9
Honduras	40.5	68.6	43.2	73.4	41.8	71.0	28.1	30.2	29.2
Mexico	48.9	72.4	52.5	77.4	50.7	74.8	23.5	24.8	24.1
Nicaragua	40.9	67.2	43.7	71.9	42.3	69.5	26.3	28.2	27.2
Panama	54.4	72.3	56.2	77.4	55.3	74.7	17.9	21.1	19.5
El Salvador	44.1	67.7	46.5	73.7	45.3	70.6	23.6	27.3	25.4
Caribbean	51.8	68.3	54.8	72.8	53.3	70.5	16.5	18.0	17.2
Netherlands Antilles	59.1	73.3	61.6	79.2	60.5	76.3	14.2	17.6	15.9
Bahamas	58.3	63.9	61.2	70.3	59.8	67.1	5.6	9.1	7.3
Barbados	55.0	74.5	59.5	79.5	57.2	77.2	19.5	20.0	20.0
Belize	57.1	69.9	58.3	73.0	57.7	71.4	12.9	14.7	13.7
Cuba	57.8	75.3	61.3	79.1	59.5	77.1	17.5	17.8	17.7
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	55.0	74.8	58.1	81.7	56.5	78.3	19.8	23.6	21.8
Guyana	50.8	60.1	53.9	66.3	52.3	63.2	9.3	12.4	10.9
French Guiana	50.3	72.5	56.9	78.3	53.3	75.1	22.2	21.4	21.9
Haiti	36.3	57.8	38.9	60.7	37.6	59.2	21.5	21.9	21.7
Jamaica	56.9	73.7	60.2	77.8	58.5	75.7	16.8	17.6	17.2
Martinique	55.0	75.8	58.1	82.3	56.6	79.1	20.8	24.2	22.6
Puerto Rico	62.7	71.2	66.0	80.1	64.3	75.6	8.5	14.1	11.3
Dominican Rep.	44.7	67.8	47.3	72.4	46.0	70.1	23.1	25.1	24.1
Saint Lucia	52.7	70.8	55.3	74.1	54.1	72.5	18.1	18.8	18.4
Suriname	54.4	68.5	57.7	73.7	56.0	71.1	14.1	16.0	15.1
Trinidad and Tobago	58.2	68.4	59.9	74.4	59.1	71.3	10.2	14.5	12.2
Andean countries	47.2	68.6	50.2	74.3	48.7	71.4	21.4	24.1	22.7
Bolivia	38.5	61.8	42.5	66.0	40.4	63.8	23.3	23.5	23.4
Colombia	49.0	69.2	52.3	75.3	50.6	72.2	20.2	23.0	21.6
Ecuador	47.1	71.3	49.6	77.2	48.4	74.2	24.2	27.6	25.8
Peru	42.9	67.3	45.0	72.4	43.9	69.8	24.5	27.4	25.9
Venezuela	53.8	69.9	56.6	75.8	55.2	72.8	16.1	19.2	17.6
Southern Cone and Brazil	52.5	68.4	56.3	75.8	54.3	72.0	15.9	19.5	17.7
Argentina	60.4	70.6	65.1	78.1	62.7	74.3	10.2	13.0	11.6
Brazil	49.3	67.3	52.8	74.9	51.0	71.0	18.0	22.2	20.0
Chile	52.9	74.8	56.8	80.8	54.8	77.7	21.9	24.0	22.9
Paraguay	60.7	68.6	64.7	73.1	62.6	70.8	7.9	8.5	8.2
Uruguay	63.3	71.6	69.4	78.9	66.3	75.2	8.3	9.5	8.9
Total	49.7	68.3	53.1	74.9	51.4	71.5	18.6	21.8	20.1

Sources: estimates by CELADE (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm); United Nations (2005) for data on English-speaking Caribbean countries.

region (UNAIDS, 2006). In Bolivia likewise, life expectancy remains relatively low by regional standards (63.8 years)⁽²⁰⁾. Elsewhere, life expectancy exceeds 67 years. Costa Rica, Chile and Cuba, as well as several non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean islands (Barbados, Martinique and Guadeloupe), currently post the highest life expectancy at birth, at over 77 years, close to that of many developed countries. Note that the oldest-old mortality rates in Costa Rica are among the lowest in the world (Rosero-Bixby, 2006).

By the early 1950s, there was a 29-year gap in life expectancy between Haiti (average: 37.6 years) and Uruguay (66.3 years). Along with Argentina and some Caribbean countries, Uruguay was a pacesetter, with a life expectancy of over 60 years. In the 2000-2004 period, the indicator stood between 69 years (Guatemala) and 78 years (Costa Rica)⁽²¹⁾ in nearly all countries. This trend towards convergence (excluding Bolivia and, above all, Haiti) is due to the stronger gains in countries where life expectancy was lowest. From 42 years in Guatemala and Honduras at the start of the period, life expectancy gained 27 and 29 years respectively between 1950-1954 and 2000-2004. This increase is all the more remarkable as both countries have remained among the region's poorest (ECLAC, 2005).

In fact, despite the generally observed connection between a country's poverty level (low levels of development and social protection) and life expectancy at birth, poverty is not necessarily synonymous with high mortality. For example, though life expectancy for both sexes combined is similar in Honduras and Brazil, the poverty level is twice as high in the first country as in the second. Nevertheless, while it is impossible to define a sub-regional model, inter-country differences in mortality often correlate with fertility differentials. Countries such as Bolivia, Haiti and Guatemala combine high fertility with high mortality.

2. Differences between men and women

Although women throughout the region have a higher life expectancy at birth than men, the gender gap varies from one country to another. Nor do we find a strict correlation with the mortality level. The narrowest gap – only three years – is found in Haiti. At the other extreme, in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina, as well as Chile until the 1970s, the gap is equal to or greater than seven years; Guatemala has recently joined this group. In countries with the lowest mortality, such as Costa Rica and Cuba, the difference between the sexes is still about four to five years; in Chile, it is slightly larger (six years in 2000-2004); but in most of these countries, the gender gap is widening (Appendix Table A.24). On average, the difference between female and male life expectancy rose from 3.4 years at the start of the period studied (1950-1954) to 6.7 years in 1990-1994. It has since stabilized.

⁽²⁰⁾ According to estimates, Guyana is in a similar situation, with a mortality level that has remained unchanged for the past two decades at least.

⁽²¹⁾ In some Caribbean islands – particularly Martinique and Guadeloupe – life expectancy is even longer.

We can assume that male excess mortality will trend down for two reasons: first, the more effective treatment of degenerative diseases responsible for early mortality among men; second, the fact that growing numbers of women work outside the home and engage in the same range of activities as men. This downtrend now appears to be confirmed by a slight fall in the indicator in Chile and Mexico, and its stabilization in Costa Rica, Uruguay, Panama, Venezuela and other countries (Chackiel, 2004).

3. Excess adult male mortality: the weight of violent and accidental deaths

Given the sharp drop in infant mortality, the gender gap is due mainly to adult mortality, most notably the increase in male excess mortality among adolescents and young adults (20-34 years). In the years 2000-2004, male mortality at these ages was three times higher than female mortality (and occasionally more). This is due to a far slower decline in male mortality than in female mortality, or even to an increase in male mortality at those ages, as in Venezuela.

Countries with the highest male excess mortality include Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Chile and Brazil. The phenomenon is intrinsically linked to deaths due to accidents and violence⁽²²⁾. In Colombia, violence linked to political and economic factors is compounded by violence linked to drug-related criminal activities. Male homicide rates have risen sharply, in particular between the early 1980s and early 1990s. Gender-specific homicide rates among adolescents and young adults aged 10-29 years are highest in Colombia, El Salvador and Brazil⁽²³⁾. They are between 10 and 17 times higher among men than among women (Table 7).

TABLE 7.— HOMICIDE RATE PER 100,000 INHABITANTS AGED 10-29 IN SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, MID-1990S

Countries	Year	Homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants aged 10-29			Male excess mortality (M/F)
		Women	Men	Total	
Mexico	1997	2.8	27.8	15.3	10
Ecuador	1996	2.3	29.2	15.9	13
Venezuela	1994	2.8	46.4	25.0	17
Brazil	1995	5.2	59.6	32.5	11
El Salvador	1993	6.5	94.8	50.2	15
Colombia	1995	11.9	156.3	84.4	13

Source: World Report on Violence and Health, WHO, Geneva, 2002.

⁽²²⁾ A study by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) identifies Chile, Mexico, Colombia and Cuba as the Latin American countries with the highest violent mortality between 1978 and 1989 (Yunes and Rajs, 1994).

⁽²³⁾ In Brazil, the main cause of mortality at ages 5-39 is violent death. More than half of such deaths are from road accidents and acts of violence: both causes were on the rise in the 1990s. Concern over both issues resulted in the implementation, in May 2001, of a national policy to fight morbidity and mortality due to accidents and acts of violence.

In Argentina, a study conducted in Córdoba province has shown that the gender gap in life expectancy widened from 7.6 to 8.3 years owing to a steeper increase in male deaths caused by accidents and violence (Peláez, 2004).

4. A look at changes in mortality by age and causes of death

Adult mortality has declined less rapidly than mortality at earlier ages, and experts estimate that half of the life expectancy gains between 1980 and 1994 are due to decreased mortality among the under-15s (Arriaga, 2003; PAHO, 2002).

The main changes in cause-specific mortality are the following:

a) deaths from diseases of the circulatory system have diminished in all countries;

b) there has been no significant change in cancer mortality in any country, although men have registered an increase in prostate cancer and a decrease in tracheal, lung and liver cancer; among women, breast and cervical cancer have increased in certain countries and decreased in others;

c) a practically region-wide increase in deaths due to AIDS, diabetes and septicaemia;

d) a relative stabilization or mild increase in acute respiratory conditions.

The breakdown of deaths by broad groups of causes (infectious diseases, neoplasms, cardiovascular diseases, perinatal mortality, violent deaths and other causes), reveals the classical model of what is known as the epidemiological transition: a decrease in deaths from infectious diseases (except HIV/AIDS) and in deaths during the perinatal period, combined with an increase in the relative share of deaths due to chronic and degenerative disorders, such as diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms (Chackiel, 2004). In Costa Rica, for example, the proportion of deaths caused by infectious diseases fell from 39% to 7% among men and from 41% to 8% among women between 1960-1965 and 1995. In Mexico, the proportions fell from 41% to 10% for men and from 46% to 11% for women. Similarly, almost all countries have registered an increase in the relative share of deaths due to neoplasms and diseases of the circulatory system.

5. HIV/AIDS and its impact

The prevalence of HIV (percentage of persons aged 15-49 living with HIV) in Latin America stands at about 0.5%, one-half the world average (UNAIDS, 2006). However, it is high in the Caribbean sub-region (1.6%), which includes the largest number of high-prevalence countries. The hardest-hit country is Haiti, along with the Bahamas, where prevalence rates exceed 3%; Trinidad and Tobago, Belize and Guyana have rates between 2% and 3%; Suriname, Barbados, Honduras, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic post

rates between 1% and 2%. In Cuba, by contrast, HIV prevalence is below 0.2%. Outside the Caribbean, two Mesoamerican countries, Honduras and Guatemala, have rates in excess of 1%. Some of these countries display signs of a decrease (Haiti) or a stabilization in the prevalence of the disease.

The most populous country in Latin America, Brazil, has the largest population of HIV-infected persons. They account for nearly two-thirds of persons living with HIV in Latin America (UNAIDS, 2006, p. 46).

The United Nations Population Division has estimated the impact of AIDS-related deaths on life expectancy in countries with the highest prevalence rates: the impact is significant in Haiti, the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago, which lose five years or more of life expectancy to AIDS (Table 8). The loss exceeds four years in Guyana; in the other countries, it ranges between two and three years, except for Brazil, which has a lower prevalence rate (approximately 0.5%).

TABLE 8.— LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN. ESTIMATED LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, WITHOUT AIDS AND WITH AIDS, 2000-2005 (IN YEARS)

Countries	Life expectancy at birth		Difference
	With AIDS	Without AIDS	
Mesoamerica			
Honduras	67.6	71.0	-3.4
Guatemala	67.1	69.0	-1.9
Caribbean			
Haiti	51.5	59.2	-7.7
Bahamas	69.5	74.8	-5.3
Trinidad and Tobago	69.9	74.9	-5.0
Guyana	62.8	67.2	-4.4
Dominican Republic	67.1	70.0	-2.9
Jamaica	70.7	73.5	-2.8
Belize	71.9	74.4	-2.5
Barbados	74.9	77.2	-2.3
Suriname	69.0	71.2	-2.2
Southern Cone and Brazil			
Brazil	70.3	71.0	-0.7

Source: United Nations (2005, Volume III: Analytical Report).

In high-prevalence countries – the Dominican Republic, Barbados, Suriname and Belize – the epidemic remains a primarily male phenomenon⁽²⁴⁾; in Jamaica, the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago, it affects both sexes; in Haiti, Honduras and Guyana, the majority of victims are women (Figure 11). In several countries, women – particularly adolescent girls and young women –

⁽²⁴⁾ Sexual intercourse between men is a major source of HIV transmission throughout Mesoamerica. In Argentina and Brazil, the leading cause is intravenous drug use. In the Caribbean, the chief source of transmission is heterosexual intercourse. Two exceptions to this rule are Puerto Rico and Bermuda, where a large share is due to intravenous drug use (UNAIDS, 2004).

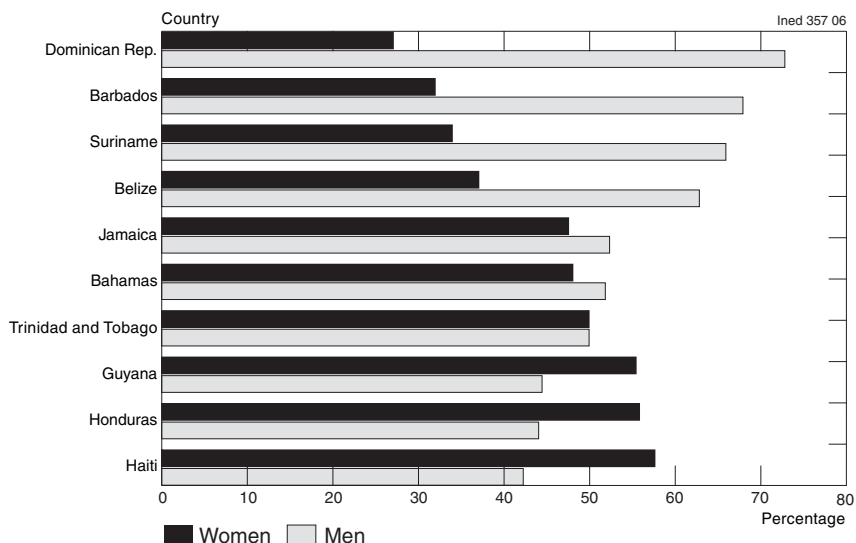


Figure 11.— Latin America and Caribbean: Gender breakdown of persons infected by HIV/AIDS in high-prevalence countries, 2003 (%)

Source: UNAIDS.

outnumber men among newly-infected persons: in Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, between twice and six times as many females as males become infected at ages 15-19. A relative feminization of the epidemic can therefore be expected in the near future.

Some countries have made progress in monitoring and treating the epidemic: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile in the Southern Cone; Cuba, the Bahamas and Barbados in the Caribbean; Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama in Mesoamerica, as well as Venezuela, which has expanded antiretroviral therapy coverage. Elsewhere, by contrast, the negative attitude of national authorities – who refuse, for example, to publish realistic figures on the disease – is holding back the extension of coverage. The lowest coverage (under 20% of infected persons) is in countries with the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence (UNAIDS, 2006).

VI. A rapid and widespread decline in infant mortality

In the mid-twentieth century, around one child in eight born in the region died before their first birthday. In more than half of all Latin American countries, the infant mortality rate was above 100 per thousand, reaching or even exceeding 150 per thousand in certain Caribbean countries (Haiti and

Dominican Republic), in three Mesoamerican countries (Nicaragua, Honduras and Salvador) and in two Andean countries (Peru and Bolivia).

Over the following decades, infant mortality declined very rapidly, falling from 126 per thousand in 1950-1954, to 57 per thousand in 1980-1984, and 26 per thousand in 2000-2004 for the region as a whole (Appendix Table A.25). All countries experienced this decline, though to a varying extent. The risk of dying in early infancy decreased, despite poverty, severe social inequalities in most countries of the region, and successive economic crises. In 2000-2004, the infant mortality rate was 6.1 per thousand in Cuba 8 per thousand in Chile and 10.5 per thousand in Costa Rica. At the other extreme, it exceeded 50 per thousand in Haiti, Bolivia and Guyana. Countries with a rate of between 30 and 40 per thousand are found in all the sub-regions: Mesoamerica (Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala), Caribbean (Belize and Dominican Republic), Andean countries (Peru) and Southern Cone (Paraguay).

This radical improvement can be attributed to a range of factors. The development of low-cost, high-impact mother-and-child health programmes, focusing mainly on primary health care (massive vaccination campaigns, oral rehydration, medical follow-up of children) has coincided with major socioeconomic and demographic changes, such as the extension of basic services (notably drinking water and sewerage), improved education and lower fertility. This fertility decline has been accompanied by a lower frequency of high-risk pregnancies (late, multiple or closely spaced pregnancies)⁽²⁵⁾. All these factors served to increase the availability of resources for mother-and-child health care and to improve its quality. With less quantitative pressure on the health care system, it became possible to invest more in improving care and extending the range of services available.

1. Infant mortality differentials

Despite substantial progress, major social and geographical inequalities still exist across the region (Appendix Table A.28). Only in countries where mortality has declined most sharply is the situation less heterogeneous, thanks to the development of health services and mother-and-child programmes in the most isolated areas (ECLAC, 2005). For the others, there are large geographical disparities within individual countries. In Brazil, for example, the risk of dying before age one is 4.4 times higher in the State of Alagoas than in R o Grande do Sul⁽²⁶⁾. In most countries, there is no clear reduction in

⁽²⁵⁾ The frequency of high-risk births (spaced less than two years apart or above parity 5) has decreased. According to DHS survey data, the proportion of pregnancies occurring less than two years after the previous birth fell from 36% to 20% in Colombia between 1986 and 2005, from 42% to 28% in the Dominican Republic between 1986 and 2002, and from 35% to 20% in Peru between 1986 and 2005. In these three countries, for children born less than two years after a previous birth, the risk of dying is 1.6 to 1.9 times higher than that of children born after an interval of two years or more.

⁽²⁶⁾ Likewise, in Panama, the risk of dying before age one in Ng be Gubl  is 4.8 times higher than in the province of Panam  which includes the national capital.

inequalities between the least developed areas and the more prosperous regions. The indigenous communities often live in conditions of exclusion and poverty with limited access to social welfare programmes. Infant mortality is a very revealing indicator of these factors (Figure 12) and differentials between indigenous and non-indigenous populations are very large (ECLAC, 2005). High infant mortality among indigenous communities is associated with low income, minimal education, limited access to basic amenities such as drinking water and sewerage, and low availability of health services, especially in the case of rural populations living far from urban centres. Indeed, large differentials are still observed between urban and rural areas, varying by the mother's educational level and socioeconomic category. For children born to illiterate mothers, the ratio of infant mortality to that of children born to mothers with at least secondary education ranges from 1.6 (Salvador) to 3.4 (Guatemala). Trend analysis by educational level or place of residence does not suggest that these infant mortality differentials are narrowing. The gap is even widening in certain cases. However, trend analysis by socioeconomic category and controlling for place of residence gives more positive results (ECLAC, 2005). In the countries studied, early infant mortality has declined, in urban zones especially, and socioeconomic inequality has also decreased in these zones since infant mortality has fallen most sharply among the disadvantaged populations.

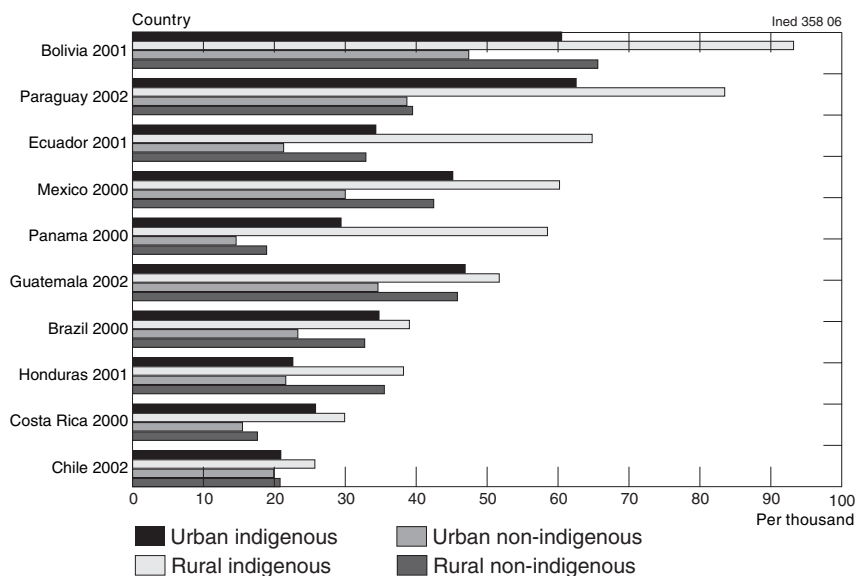


Figure 12. – Infant mortality rate among the indigenous and non-indigenous populations circa 2000. Selected countries of Latin America

Source: ECLAC (2005).

We note lastly that in all countries of the region, the infant mortality rates of girls were already lower than those of boys in the 1950s, in contrast to the other regions of the developing world (Appendix Tables A.26 and A.27).

VII. Age structure: demographic dividends and ageing

1. A changing pyramid

The demographic transition and, above all, the fertility decline are reshaping the region's population pyramid. In 1950, the pyramid had a broad base and the youngest age groups were in the majority: the under-15s made up 40% of the population (Figure 13). The pyramid then shifted because of the fall in the relative proportion of children and young people. At first, the base narrowed while the centre expanded, without a significant increase in the proportion of older persons. In the coming decades, the base will continue to shrink and the proportion of older persons will rise. Population ageing, already observable in 2000, will intensify between now and 2020.

Let us examine the situation in a set of countries representative of the region's diversity: Cuba, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Guatemala. Argentina, a country that experienced an early transition, will be affected by significant population ageing by 2020, fairly similar to that of Europe. Mexico and Brazil, which began with wide-based pyramids, are converging at different paces towards a top-heavy structure, while Guatemala, where the transition came later, is expected to preserve what may still be described as a "young" age structure in 2020. Cuba displays an atypical structure, due to a sharp drop in fertility and its persistence below the replacement rate, combined with emigration of adolescents and young adults.

These sometimes drastic changes in the population pyramid create major challenges. A short-term consequence of lower fertility is the relatively rapid decrease in dependency ratios, i.e. a favourable situation in which the potential burden on the active population eases as the number of children and adolescents declines, while the share of the elderly population remains small⁽²⁷⁾.

This stage of demographic change characterizes all societies undergoing major shifts in fertility and mortality. It is regarded as a period of opportunity because of the smaller relative weight of the child population. Resources are freed up for investment in healthcare and education, making it possible to improve living conditions and the quality of services offered to the population. It provides a chance to "harvest" what are sometimes called "demographic dividends," i.e. accelerated economic growth and human development resulting from these structural demographic changes. However, some analysts

⁽²⁷⁾ The dependency ratio is the ratio of the "dependent" population (the young and the elderly) to the working-age population.

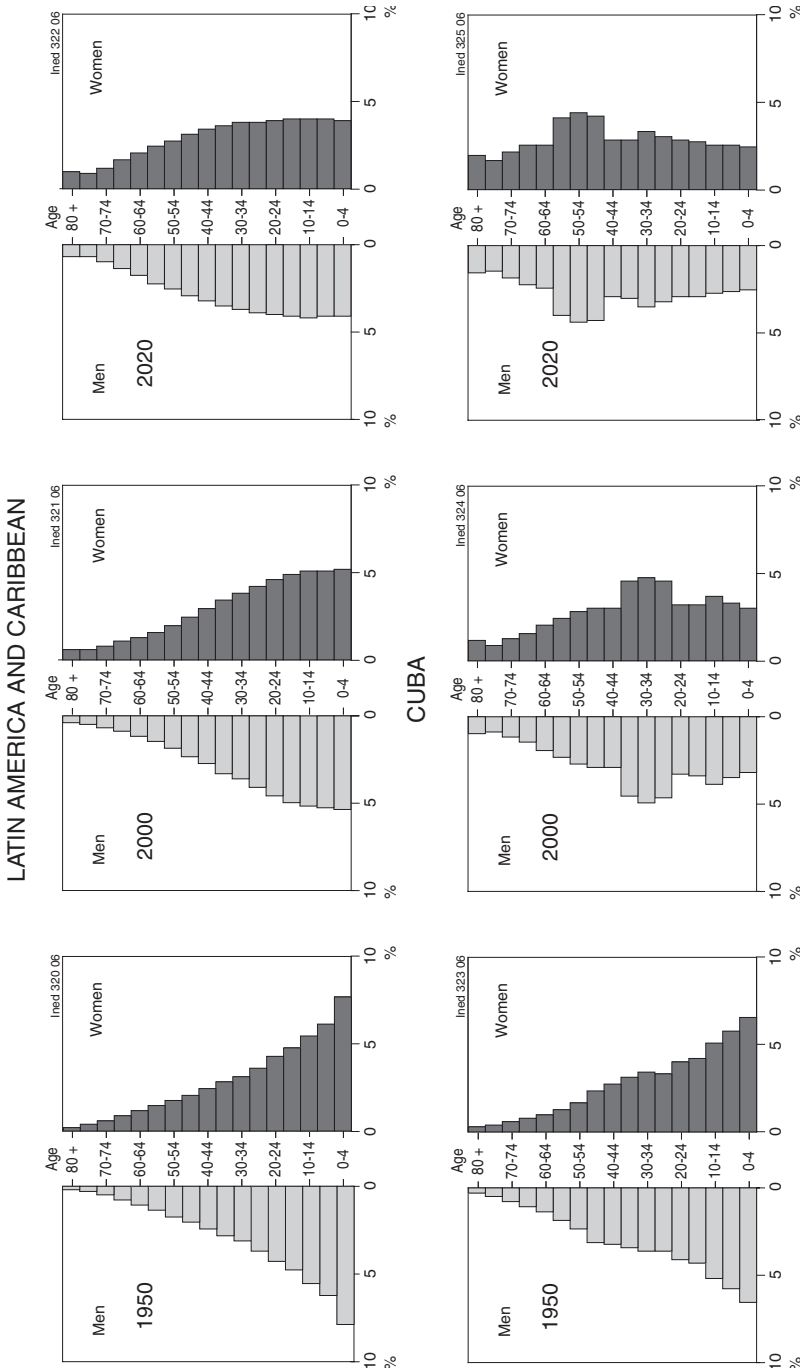


Figure 13.— Latin America and Caribbean: population pyramids of the region and of five selected countries, 1950, 2000 and 2020 (projection)

Source: ECLAC estimates and United Nations (2005).

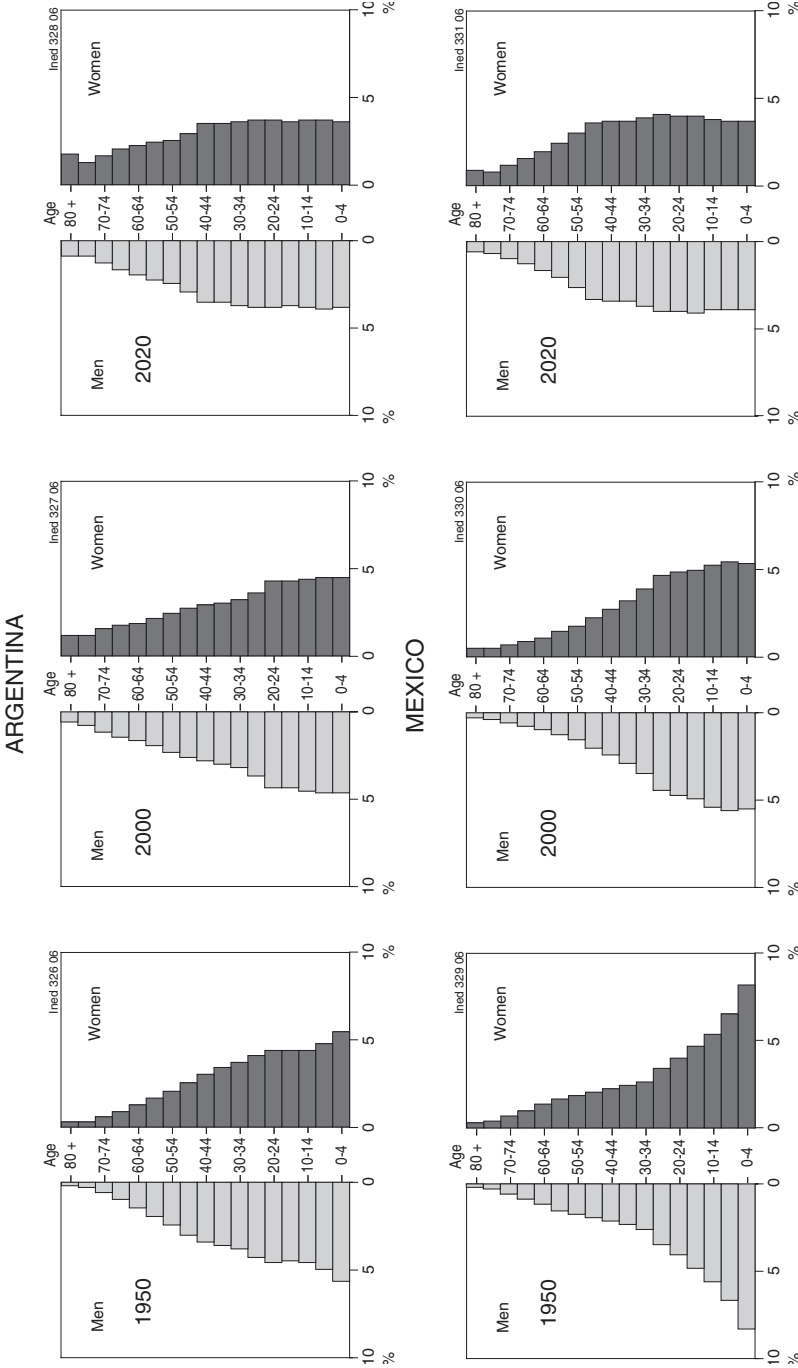


Figure 13. (cont'd) – Latin America and Caribbean: population pyramids of the region and of five selected countries, 1950, 2000 and 2020 (projection)

Source: ECLAC estimates and United Nations (2005).

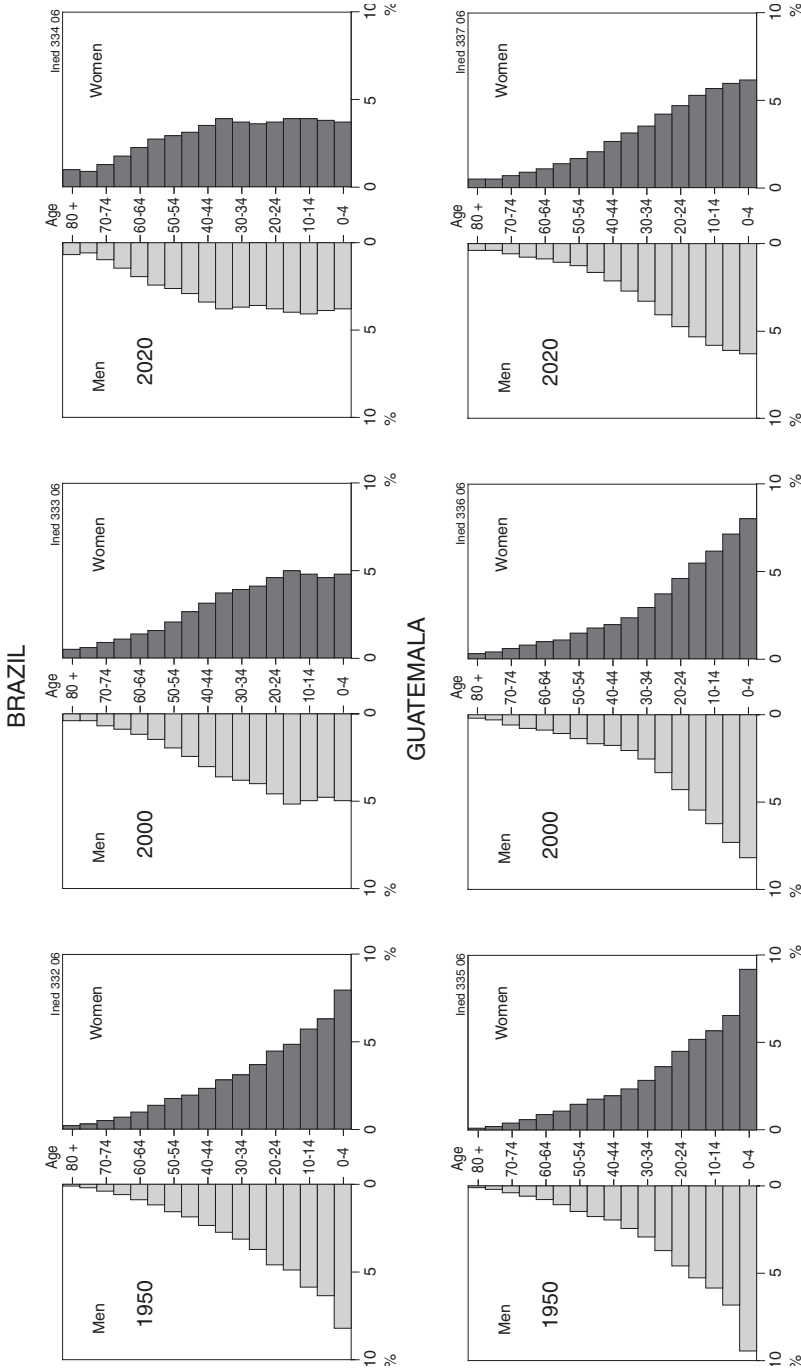


Figure 13. (cont'd) – Latin America and Caribbean: population pyramids of the region and of five selected countries, 1950, 2000 and 2020 (projection)

Source: ECLAC estimates and United Nations (2005).

(ECLAC, 2004) have emphasized that to exploit this opportunity policy-makers must encourage job creation – a complex task in Latin America and the Caribbean, where a large share of the population works in the informal sector and in casual employment. Observers have also noted that this phase is of limited duration, hence the need to act effectively before population ageing gains momentum (Carvalho, 2002).

2. A rapidly ageing region

One of the most significant effects of these unprecedented changes is population ageing due to the fertility decline in the past several decades, and the ongoing rise in life expectancy. The effect will intensify in the first half of this century.

In all Latin American and Caribbean countries, the proportion and absolute number of elderly people will grow rapidly in the decades ahead (Table 9) (Miró 2003). The population aged 60+ will rise by 58 million, from 42 million today to over 100 million in 2025; between 2025 and 2050, their number is projected to grow by 88 million⁽²⁸⁾. The population of old people is expanding rapidly (at a rate of 3.5% over the period 2000-2025), at a faster pace than younger age groups. In 2000-2025 and 2025-2050, it will grow at respectively three and five times the rate of the total population. The number of over-60s will more than double between 2000 and 2025 as a consequence. By 2050, one Latin American in four will be an elderly person. With people living longer, the percentage of the very old (aged 75 and over) will rise as well, from 1% to 5% between 2000 and 2050. Two age-structure indicators clearly show the demographic repercussions of this process. First, the median age of the population will rise by 15 years between 2000 and 2050: one half of the population will be over 40 in 2050. Second, the ratio of old people to under-15s will be reversed. Today, there are 25 adults aged 60+ for 100 young people aged under 15; by about 2050, the ratio will be 133 to 100.

TABLE 9. – LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN: DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING INDICATORS, 2000, 2025 AND 2050 (PROJECTION)

Indicators	2000	2025	2050
Population aged 60+ (thousands)	42,330	100,673	188,652
Percentage of population aged 60+	8.1	14.5	24.1
Annual growth rate of population aged 60+ (2000-2025 and 2025-2050) (%)		3.5	2.5
Percentage of population aged 75+	1.0	2.1	5.2
Median age of population (years)	24.4	32.3	39.9
Ageing index ^(a) (%)	25.3	61.9	133.4

^(a) Ratio of elderly population aged 60+ to population of under-15s multiplied by 100.
Source: United Nations (2005). Central hypothesis for projections.

⁽²⁸⁾ The data supplied are based on projections. Nevertheless, they suggest broad demographic trends that will not undergo significant shifts, since the old people of the next sixty years are already alive.

Ageing patterns vary substantially across the region. The countries fall into four broad groups, ranging from incipient ageing to very advanced ageing⁽²⁹⁾ (Figure 14).

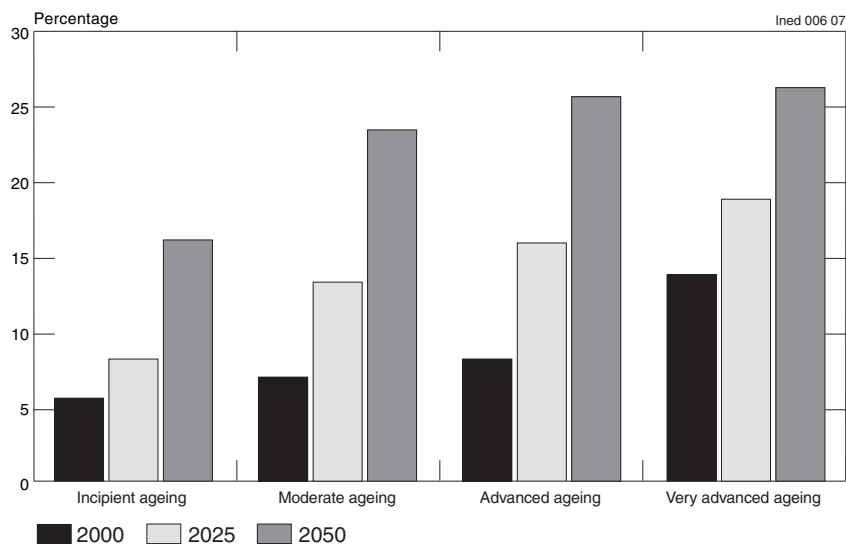


Figure 14. – Share of population aged 60+ in country groups where ageing is incipient, moderate, advanced or very advanced, 2000, 2025 and 2050.

Note: see text for list of countries in each category.

Sources: ECLAC/CELADE, 2003 demographic projections; United Nations (2001).

The first group, where the population is only just starting to age, includes Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay. The proportion of persons aged 60 and over, which stood at 5-7% in 2000, is expected to reach 15-18% in 2050. The process could accelerate if the fertility decline gains momentum.

In the second, “moderate ageing” group, the proportion of persons aged 60 and over ranged between 6% and 8% in 2000. The figure will exceed 20% in 2050. Ten countries fit this profile: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. They are countries where fertility underwent significant changes between 1965 and 1990.

The third group consists of “advanced ageing” countries where the proportion of elderly people ranged from 8% to 10% in 2000. Their share is

⁽²⁹⁾ This classification is based on the estimated values of the total fertility rate and the ageing index for each country in the decade 1990-1999. Some countries may be reclassified if estimates are revised to take account of the most recent census data.

expected to grow rapidly, reaching 25-30% by 2050. This category includes the Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The final group, which is experiencing “very advanced ageing”, comprises countries such as Argentina and Uruguay, pioneers of the fertility transition in Latin America, along with Cuba and several Caribbean islands (Netherlands Antilles, Barbados, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Puerto Rico).

While diversified, the ageing process is a region-wide phenomenon. It is having direct effects on social protection systems – both formal and informal – and will represent a heavy burden in terms of funding and infrastructure over years to come (Mesa-Lago, 1985; ECLAC, 2006). Ageing will exert strong pressure on the financing of social benefits, in both pay-as-you-go contributory systems and non-contributory systems. Today, only one-third of the countries of the region that have adopted structural reforms provide social assistance pensions (Bertranou, 2005a, 2005b): in many cases, the oldest-old are taken care of by their families. Some countries of the region, such as Chile, have a rapidly ageing population (persons aged 60+ currently account for 11% of the total) and have developed pension systems essentially based on personal contributions. This leaves a significant share of the workforce – particularly women – without coverage, a situation that is likely to put ever greater strain on public resources (Bravo and Bertranou, 2006). Lastly, a large share of healthcare costs is still borne by families (ECLAC, 2006), who provide their elders with financial support or take care of them directly. Hence, in the years ahead, population ageing will also place a heavy burden on families themselves.

VIII. Spatial distribution of the population and internal migration

1. A highly urbanized region

Latin America and the Caribbean form the most urbanized region of the developing world. According to United Nations estimates⁽³⁰⁾, 77% of the population lived in urban areas in 2005, above Europe’s 72% and second only to North America’s 81%. UN projections put the urban population at around 610 million in 2030 (up from 434 million in 2005)⁽³¹⁾, and the rural population at approximately 113 million (down from 127 million in 2005). By that date, the urban population will thus represent 84% of the total (Table 10).

⁽³⁰⁾ Regularly updated online at: <http://esa.un.org/unup/>

⁽³¹⁾ The urban population is the population living in localities classified as urban areas according to each country’s specific criteria, a definition that raises problems of comparability. However, studies using other indicators, such as the share of the population living in towns and cities of at least 20,000 inhabitants, confirm the region’s high level of urbanization (Figure 15).

TABLE 10. – LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN: POPULATION RESIDING IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS (THOUSANDS) AND PERCENTAGE URBAN, 1950-2030

Place of residence	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2020	2030
Rural	97,084	111,062	122,178	126,522	129,007	128,717	126,914	125,210	120,613	113,409
Urban	70,237	107,515	163,018	235,688	314,739	394,212	434,432	473,561	546,342	608,968
Total	167,321	218,577	285,196	362,210	443,746	522,929	561,346	598,771	666,955	722,377
Percentage urban	42.0	49.2	57.2	65.1	70.9	75.4	77.4	79.1	81.9	84.3

Source: United Nations (2005); United Nations (2006).

Today, four out of ten Latin Americans live in city of at least 500,000 inhabitants, a distinctly higher proportion than in Europe (Table 11). The census figures compiled in the CELADE database confirm this eminently urban profile of most countries in the region: a majority of the population lives in towns of 20,000 or more inhabitants (Figure 15).

TABLE 11. – BROAD REGIONS OF THE WORLD: POPULATION LIVING IN CITIES OF 500,000 OR MORE INHABITANTS, AND PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION (ESTIMATES FOR 2005)

Region of the world	Population (thousands) living in cities of:				Percentage of population living in cities of 500,000 or more inhabitants
	10 million or more inhabitants	5-10 million inhabitants	1-5 million inhabitants	500,000-1 million inhabitants	
Latin America and Caribbean	62,164	26,701	97,661	38,727	40.4
Africa	22,281	5,717	82,893	34,084	16.3
Asia	166,346	103,341	344,756	171,661	20.1
Europe	10,672	34,495	101,738	48,167	26.9
Oceania	0	0	13,592	521	42.8
North America	30,644	24,477	85,716	26,918	50.5

Source: United Nations (2004).

The percentage urban in the region varies between countries (Figure 16). The differences are significant and – with a few exceptions such as Costa Rica and Cuba – tend to coincide with the degree of progress in the demographic transition.

At one end, there is a highly urbanized group of countries: the three Southern Cone countries (Argentina, Uruguay and Chile), plus Venezuela, in which the urban population represents close to 90% of the total, according to national definitions, and over 70% of the population lives in towns of at least 20,000 inhabitants. Within this group, Argentina and Uruguay, which underwent early urbanization, stand apart from Chile and Venezuela, where urbanization occurred later, but at a faster pace.

At the other end, we find less urbanized countries where the rate of urbanization is moderate to slow. They comprise several countries of Mesoamerica, the least urbanized sub-region of Latin America and the Caribbean: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

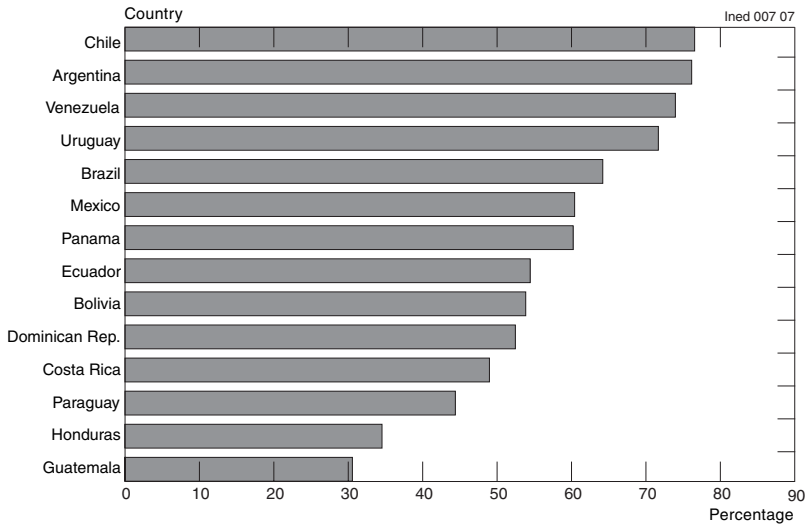


Figure 15.— Latin America and Caribbean: percentage of national population living in towns of 20,000 or more inhabitants (censuses conducted since 2000)

Source: CELADE, 2006, DEPUALC database, www.eclac.cl/celade/depualc/

Most other countries in the region lie between these two extremes, particularly Brazil and Mexico, which have urbanized rapidly in recent decades and which, because of their demographic weight, have set the pace for the entire region.

Urbanization has outpaced economic and social development in the region. As a result, Latin American and Caribbean towns and cities – even more so than their counterparts in developed countries – are facing problems such as poverty, deprivation, insecurity, predominance of informal systems, and inadequate social protection.

Poverty is even more widespread in rural areas, which are still home to one in four Latin Americans. In several countries, most of the population lives in rural areas or small towns (2,000-20,000 inhabitants), where living conditions are generally very difficult (ECLAC, 2005).

Regional urbanization has followed a pattern of strongly hierarchical urban systems. In most countries, the primacy index (ratio of population of largest city to population of next three largest cities combined) is above 2: this is a rather unusual figure in other countries of the world, which are structured around large cities (United Nations, 2004). One in three Latin Americans lives in a city of over one million inhabitants, and 4 of the world's 14 most populous cities in 2000 were located in the region: São Paulo, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro. Most of the rural population is scattered among numerous small villages with limited infrastructure and services and

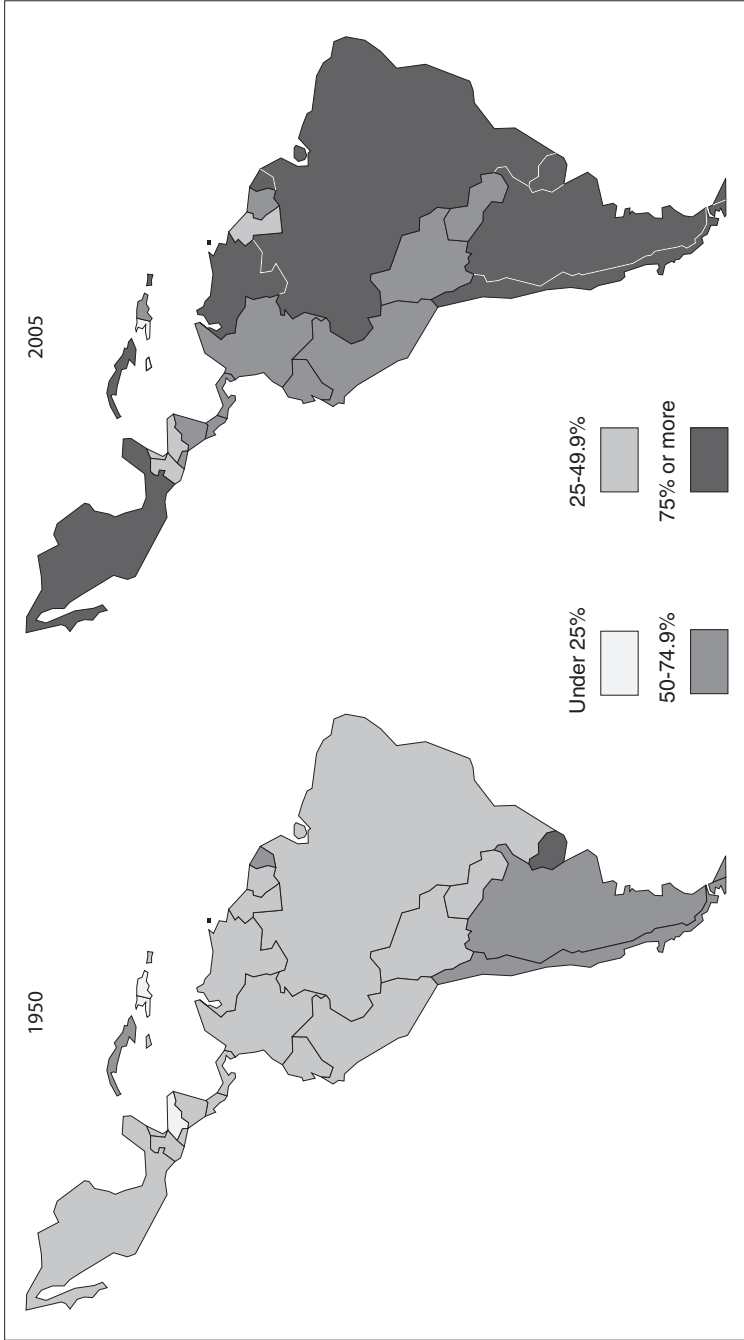


Figure 16. – Latin America and Caribbean: percentage of urban population by country, 1950 and 2005
Source: United Nations (2006).

poor communications; moreover, in the few relatively dense rural areas (Mexican plateau, large Caribbean islands, high plateau of the Andes), living conditions are harsh compared with those of urban areas in the same countries.

The growth of large cities (500,000 inhabitants or more) has slowed and their share of the total urban population has decreased for various reasons: first, these urban units have a low natural growth owing to the fertility decline; second, the economic crises of the last quarter-century have been particularly severe in the large metropolises; third, decentralization and regional development policies have dampened their growth. By contrast, mid-sized cities (between 50,000 and 500,000 inhabitants) have registered the fastest growth, with their population share increasing across the entire urban system. As this category combines many highly diverse urban conurbations, it is difficult to identify common growth factors⁽³²⁾. In any event, the outcome has been a gradual deconcentration, diversification and extension of the urban fabric. Some analysts have qualified the process as merely virtual – referring to it as a “concentrated deconcentration” – because based on the rapid expansion of a ring of medium-sized cities around the large metropolises (Pinto da Cunha, 2002). But several recent studies tend to confirm that the process is indeed real (Rodríguez, 2002; Rodríguez and Villa, 1998).

2. *Internal migration*

As regards internal migration, the analysis of census data⁽³³⁾ yields some broad general conclusions.

a) Migration intensity varies from one country to another⁽³⁴⁾. This variability is linked less to each country’s degree of development than to public policies encouraging territorial redistribution of the population. For instance, the highest migration intensity between localities was observed in Paraguay owing to a radical change in population settlement patterns.

⁽³²⁾ Their expansion may have been driven by new development strategies. This is the case of border towns, tourist localities, or towns and cities located in free zones, as well as in areas producing primary products for export. To cite just a few examples: the rapid growth of cities on Mexico’s northern border, some of which now have over one million inhabitants; the growth of tourist cities such as Cancún, a modest fishing village in 1950, which had more than 400,000 inhabitants in 2000; and the growth of towns hosting regional export-production conglomerates such as Puerto Montt in Chile. In other cases, the decisive factors are local and contingent, enabling medium-sized localities to establish positions at the heart of sub-national urban systems. Lastly, a significant number of towns of this size are located on the outskirts of metropolises, and are expanding rapidly at their expense. It is this group that has fuelled the hypothesis of “concentrated deconcentration” mentioned in the text.

⁽³³⁾ Since the series of censuses in the 1980s, the data have been available in CELADE’s *Migración Interna en América Latina y el Caribe* (MIALC) database (www.eclac.cl/migracion/migracion_interna/).

⁽³⁴⁾ Migration-intensity indicators are affected by exogenous factors such as the number and size of administrative divisions included in the computation (Bell, 2005; Greenwood, 1997). However, a standard census question is available: the municipality of residence (*municipio*) five years prior to the census. This can be used to compute the proportions of people aged 5 and over who were living in another municipality five years earlier. This measure still has comparability problems, but is the best indicator we can compute using Latin American census microdata.

b) The predominant form of migration consists of flows between urban areas, as to be expected in a region as urbanized as Latin America and the Caribbean⁽³⁵⁾.

c) Net emigration from rural areas persists, for the region has not experienced a massive “return to the countryside” despite its vigorous agricultural and forestry export sectors. In fact, though the contribution of rural migrants to urban demographic expansion is decreasing, it is still positive. Rural emigration is still quantitatively significant, which explains the demographic stabilization and ageing of rural areas despite their early stage of demographic transition.

d) Migration from major metropolises to other towns and cities continues, with variations over time and between countries (Table 12). These migrants head for localities that are more dynamic or offer a better quality of life. In certain cases, they move to towns located around large cities. In such cases the decline in the cities' demographic weight is offset by the extension of their sphere of influence.

e) The migration appeal of the capitals of certain small countries with strongly hierarchical urban systems – such as Panama City (Table 12) – remains intact, so it cannot be generally concluded that metropolises are “driving out” their inhabitants.

TABLE 12. – ESTIMATED VOLUME OF MIGRATION TO, FROM AND WITHIN
SELECTED METROPOLITAN CONURBATIONS

Metropolis	Immigrants from towns and cities outside the metropolis (1)	Emigrants to towns and cities outside the metropolis (2)	Intra-metropolitan migrants	Net migration (1)–(2)
Mexico City (1995-2000)	426,062	490,274	1,408,570	–64,212
Rio de Janeiro (1995-2000)	304,999	322,620	313,257	–17,621
São Paulo (1995-2000)	830,141	1,013,200	584,638	–183,059
Santiago de Chile (1997-2002)	227,648	277,022	779,642	–49,374
Quito (1996-2001)	129,895	66,452	38,456	63,443
Managua (1990-1995)	43,082	13,197	2,578	29,885
Panama City (1995-2000)	107,154	21,105	88,087	86,049
San José (1995-2000)	42,866	58,147	78,302	–15,281

Source: Rodríguez (2004), based on censuses conducted in the 2000s.

f) Intra-metropolitan migration is expanding and becoming polarized (Rodríguez, 2004; Dureau et al., 2002). In addition to the historical flow of the poor to the outskirts, there is now a flow of well-to-do families to rural

⁽³⁵⁾ In Brazil, for example, an estimate for the period 1995-2000 shows that 10.8 million people migrated between urban areas – disregarding flows between municipalities of the same conurbation – while barely more than 2 million migrated between cities and rural areas (Rodríguez, 2004, pp. 119-122). Estimates based on the classification of urban and rural municipalities indicate that most migration in Mexico in the 1980s occurred between conurbations. For the period 1995-2000, inter-municipal migration represented 70% of the total, while migration from rural areas to urban areas accounted for only 14% (Rodríguez, 2004, p. 121-122).

areas close to the metropolis, equipped with services and urban infrastructure, from which residents commute to the city for work or study⁽³⁶⁾.

Lastly, it is important to mention one of the most dramatic consequences of internal migration to large cities: the appearance of shanty towns⁽³⁷⁾ where migrants from rural areas and other groups have settled since the 1930s. In some Latin American cities, these neighbourhoods now represent a sizeable share of the housing stock. Over time, some of them have been consolidated and blended into their environment. It is no longer a question of eradicating them (apart from exceptional cases involving environmental hazards) but rather of consolidating them by taking account of the human and social dimension while addressing the key issues of housing, infrastructure and communications. Two examples are the Favela-Barrio programme in Brazil and the Chile-Barrio programme in Chile. Moreover, the expansion of existing shanty towns and the growth of new ones are increasingly driven by intra-metropolitan migration. Several countries are faced with a paradoxical situation where the poor leave the relatively well-developed central districts to settle in shanty towns on the outskirts where direct costs (particularly rents) are lower but indirect costs (transport, access to services, health hazards) can prove to be far higher.

IX. Characteristics of international migration⁽³⁸⁾

Recent decades have been marked by large-scale emigration flows to countries outside the region. The flows have become larger, with a broader range of destinations, and the proportion of women among migrants has increased. It is estimated that in 2005, slightly more than 27 million Latin Americans and Caribbeans lived outside their home country, representing more than 10% of international migrants world-wide.

Following the Second World War, immigration from countries outside the region fell sharply, while return migration to Europe grew in scale. Hence, since the 1960s, the number of immigrants born outside the region has fallen steadily. Totalling 4 million in 1970, their number had fallen to just over 2.5 million by 1990 and less than 2 million by 2000. The proportion of people born outside the region among the total immigrant population dropped from over 75% in 1970 to slightly more than 50% in 1990 and 40% in 2000 (Table 13).

⁽³⁶⁾ The term “rurbanization” has been coined to describe the phenomenon.

⁽³⁷⁾ Shanty towns (*tugurios* in Spanish) are variously referred to as *favelas* in Brazil, *villas miseria* in Argentina, *barrios* in Venezuela, *poblaciones callampas* or *campamentos* in Chile, and so on.

⁽³⁸⁾ Most of the data on international migration are taken from the census results available in the IMILA project (Project on Investigation of International Migration in Latin America) database set up by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE) (www.eclac.cl/celade) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The contents of the present chapter are based mainly on a document presented at the meeting of the ECLAC group of experts on migration, human rights and development held in Port of Spain in 2005.

TABLE 13. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INTRA- AND EXTRA-REGIONAL IMMIGRANT POPULATION (1970 TO 2000)

Region of origin	Enumerated population and breakdown in % ^(a)			
	1970	1980	1990	2000
Latin America and Caribbean (intra-regional migration)	1,218,990 23.9%	1,995,149 36.9%	2,242,268 48.8%	2,971,888 60.6%
Rest of world (extra-regional migration)	3,873,420 76.1%	3,411,426 63.1%	2,350,441 51.2%	1,935,499 39.4%
Total	5,092,410 100.0%	5,406,575 100.0%	4,592,709 100.0%	4,907,387 100.0%

(a) covering 16 countries for the censuses of the 1970s, 14 for those of the 1980s, 13 for those of the 1990s and 14 for 2000.
Source: estimates based on IMILA, ECLAC/CELADE data.

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean is characterized by extensive intra-regional population movements which are strongly rooted in the economic and social history of these countries. Favoured by geographical and cultural proximity, intra-regional migration mainly concerns countries offering the best employment opportunities or the most advantageous social conditions. Alongside these structural factors, this migratory pattern has been affected by cycles of economic expansion and recession and by sociopolitical upheaval (Pellegrino, 1993, 1995, 2000). This is the case for the Central American countries that were destabilized by internal conflict, and for South American countries that were governed by totalitarian regimes during the 1970s and 1980s. However, the restoration of democracy in the 1990s did not slow down emigration, which is probably determined by a more complex set of factors. Chile and Costa Rica are the only countries where immigration from neighbouring countries has increased, thanks to their economic and political stability.

Intra-regional migrants accounted for 60% of the immigrant stock in 2000 (Table 13), and already represented 50% in 1990. The origins and destinations of the intra-regional migratory flows have varied little, despite changing socioeconomic and political conditions.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, the largest number of intra-regional migrants came from Colombia. Slightly more than 600,000 Colombians in 1990 and 700,000 in 2000 were counted in the censuses of other Latin American countries, of whom almost 90% were in Venezuela. One of the factors behind this large-scale immigration was the need for displaced populations to find refuge elsewhere. Next come the Paraguayans and the Chileans, with respective totals of 360,000 and 270,000 people (counted mainly in Argentina). Though large, these groups represent less than 3% of the total population of their country of origin⁽³⁹⁾ (except for Paraguay).

⁽³⁹⁾ Uruguayan emigration, mainly to Argentina, is a special case: in the early 1970s, the national emigration rate equalled the mortality rate (Fortuna and Niedworok, 1985).

Migration within the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is characterized by a low level of permanent migration. Circular migration between the different countries of the sub-region, all located in close geographical proximity, is predominant (Simmons and Guengant, 1992). In 1990, slightly more than half of all CARICOM immigrants came from within the sub-region and represented almost 4% of the total population of all member countries (Mills, 1997). Generally speaking, international migration has strongly influenced the population dynamics of the Caribbean countries. Migratory flows from Haiti to the Dominican Republic have deep historical roots, and have remained largely unchanged in the recent past. The flows observed in recent years are characterized by a high proportion of undocumented migrants, employment in the informal labour market, selection by educational level and growing labour force participation of women (Silié et al., 2002).

With the decline in immigration from countries outside the region, which has not been offset by increased intra-regional migration, emigration away from the region now represents the largest migrant flow. It is estimated that some three-quarters of immigrants head for the United States, forming a South-North migration flow with many adverse consequences for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, not least the “brain drain”. Moreover, undocumented migrants are themselves exposed to numerous risks (from the absence of rights to expulsion from the host country). This emigration has also led to the formation of transnational migrant communities who send money back to their home country, thereby supporting its economy.

Emigration to the United States of people born in the region – notably in Mexico and the Caribbean – is not a new phenomenon⁽⁴⁰⁾, though its scale has varied over time according to the economic and sociopolitical situation and to the American immigration laws in force. A more recent trend is the sharp increase in the number of migrants from Central and South America which began in the mid-twentieth century. Altogether, the number of Latin American and Caribbean immigrants living in the USA doubled between 1980 and 1990. They totalled an estimated 18 million in 2004 (14.5 million in 2000), i.e. slightly more than half of all the immigrants living in the country. Immigration from Latin America and the Caribbean also increased by an estimated 100% between 1990 and 2004 (Lollock, 2001; www.census.gov). Mesoamericans represent an estimated 68% of all immigrants from the region (Mexicans account for more than 50%), followed by Caribbeans at 19% (Figure 17 and Table 14). Behind the Mexicans, the main other immigrant groups in the United States are Cubans, Salvadorians, Dominicans and Colombians, though each nationality counts fewer than one million individuals.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ The Hispanic community, comprising old and new immigrants and their descendants, is now the largest ethnic minority in the United States.

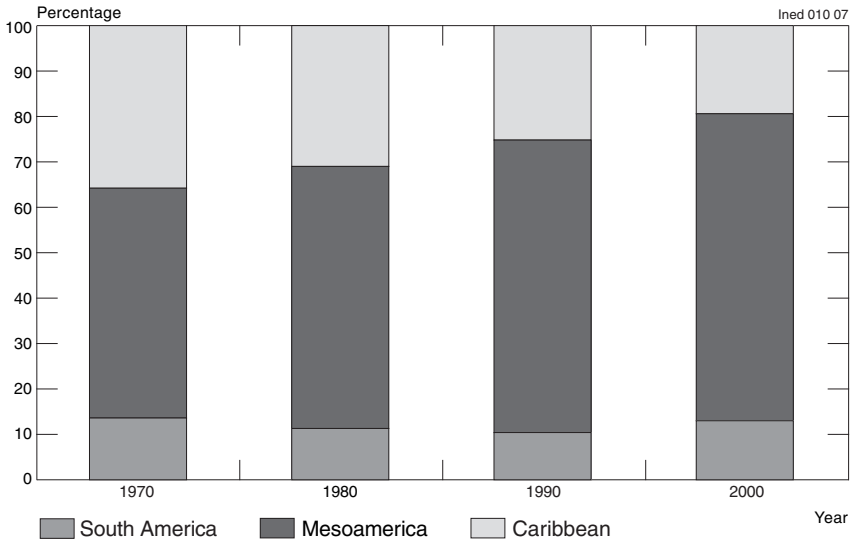


Figure 17. – Breakdown of the Latin American population living in the United States by sub-region of origin (%)

Sources: Villa and Martínez (2002), from the IMILA database; for 2000, Current Population Survey.

TABLE 14. – DISTRIBUTION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN POPULATION ENUMERATED IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1970, 1980, 1990, AND 2000

Origin	Enumerated population and breakdown (%)				Mean annual growth rate (%)		
	1970	1980	1990	2000	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000
Mesoamerica	873,624 50.6%	2,530,440 57.7%	5,391,943 64.4%	9,789,000 67.6%	10.6	7.6	6.0
Caribbean	617,551 35.8%	1,358,610 31.0%	2,107,181 25.2%	2,813,000 19.4%	7.9	4.4	2.9
South America	234,233 13.6%	493,950 11.3%	871,678 10.4%	1,876,000 13.0%	7.5	5.7	7.7
Overall	1,725,408 100.0%	4,383,000 100.0%	8,370,802 100.0%	14,478,000 100.0%	9.3	6.5	5.5

Source: IMILA project, CELADE; for 2000, Current Population Survey.

The Latin American and Caribbean immigrants in the United States form a very heterogeneous population. Overall, men outnumber women because there are large numbers of immigrants from Mexico and Central America where most emigration candidates are men. The majority of immigrants from the Caribbean and South America, on the other hand, are women. These latter two groups also have a much higher level of education than the Mesoamericans, and the women are more often economically active (Martínez, 2003a).

Mexican immigrants living in the United States form a group with very specific characteristics: they are by far the most numerous, they count the largest proportion of undocumented immigrants, they are the least qualified, and present the broadest ethnic diversity and geographical dispersion. More than 20 million people born in Mexico or with Mexican-born ascendants live in the United States. They form a community with a very strong social, economic and cultural influence.

Three million Latin Americans were registered in other countries in 2000. Canada⁽⁴¹⁾, certain European countries (notably Spain and the United Kingdom), Japan, Australia and Israel are the main destinations. In several European countries and in Japan, the number of Latin Americans and Caribbeans has been increased by the return of former emigrants who acquired the nationality of their host country, and the arrival of descendants who are granted citizenship in their family's country of origin. Hence, Spain recently became the number two receiving country for Latin American and Caribbean emigraton. A total of 840,000 people from the region were counted in the 2001 census, mainly from South America (84%), Andean countries such as Ecuador and Colombia, and Argentina. More recent estimates, based on municipal registers, give a total of 1.7 million Latin American migrants in Spain (ECLAC, SEGIB, 2006). Most of these immigrants are women (Izquierdo et al., 2002). Several studies have shown that Latin Americans living in Spain are highly qualified. They tend to work in specific economic sectors, but thanks to their experience and their family and social networks, they rapidly achieve social and professional mobility (Anguiano, 2002; Martínez Buján, 2003).

In the case of Japan, immigration, primarily from Brazil and Peru, has been encouraged by measures adopted in the 1990s to grant entry and temporary residence visas to direct descendants of Japanese citizens who migrated to Brazil and Peru in the first decades of the twentieth century. In 2000, more than 300,000 people living in Japan were Latin Americans (80% Brazilians). Most of these immigrants are male industrial workers, though the number of women is also increasing (Martínez, 2003a).

X. Access to education for men and women

Over the last fifty years, the educational level of Latin American and Caribbean populations has progressed to unprecedented degree. In 1950, the region had an illiteracy rate of around 40% among persons aged 15 and above; by 2005 it had fallen below 10%. The speed of progress has varied between countries and the illiteracy rate remains high in some countries, notably the Andean and Mesoamerican countries with large indigenous populations

⁽⁴¹⁾ Canada has a wide-reaching permanent admission programme for immigrants.

(Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru) but also in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Brazil (Appendix Table A.30). In the other countries, illiteracy is less widespread and mainly concerns old people, the poorest populations⁽⁴²⁾ and those living in rural areas.

In all countries of the region, the proportion of persons who complete primary schooling has increased rapidly from one cohort group to the next (Figure 18). In the Southern Cone countries which pioneered the fertility transition (Argentina and Uruguay), almost 80% of women born around 1940 completed their primary schooling, compared with only 15% or less in three Mesoamerican countries (Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras). Though the educational level is rising everywhere, there are still large, though narrowing, disparities between countries. For example, among the 1980-1984 cohorts, 95% of individuals completed primary schooling in Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, compared with just 60% in Guatemala (Appendix Table A.31).

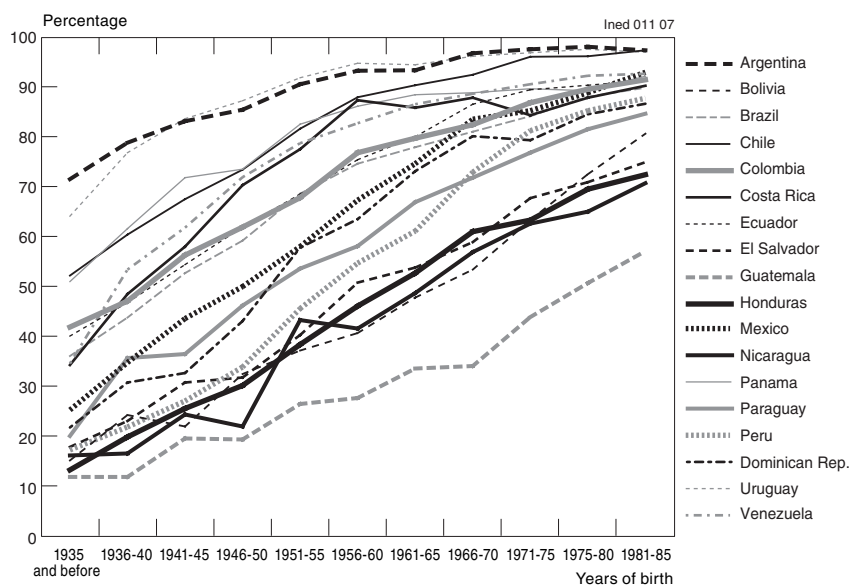


Figure 18.— Latin America and the Caribbean: proportion of women who completed their primary schooling by cohort group (19 countries)

Source: Appendix Table A.33.

⁽⁴²⁾ Despite the progress achieved, young people from poor households in the region are still much less likely to reach a high educational level: only 30% of young people in Latin America whose parents did not complete primary schooling reach the end of secondary school, compared with more than 80% of those whose parents completed their secondary schooling (CEPAL, 2004, *Una década de desarrollo social en América Latina, 1990-1999*, Santiago de Chile).

In most countries, there is no longer a significant difference between female and male illiteracy rates (Figure 19). The only exceptions are Peru and Bolivia in the Andean sub-region, Guatemala in the Mesoamerican sub-region and, to a lesser extent, Haiti in the Caribbean. Note that these figures concern persons aged 15 or above, so do not reflect recent changes. Data on the youngest cohorts indicate that gender differences have disappeared in the aforementioned countries, thanks to the universal provision of primary education throughout the region. Among the youngest cohorts, the trend is even reversing in some countries, with boys increasingly lagging behind girls (Appendix Table A.34). Moreover, in a growing number of countries, the majority of students in secondary and higher education are girls (CEPAL, 2004).

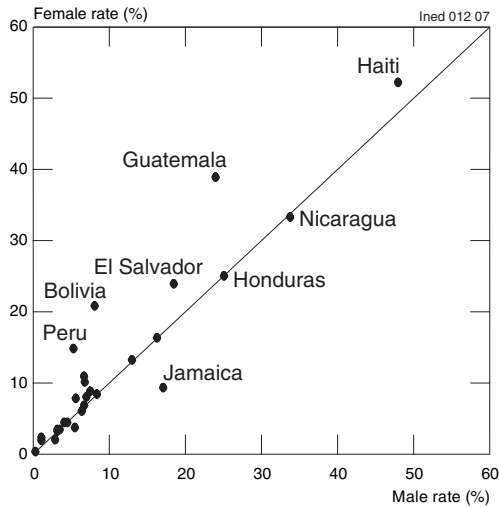


Figure 19.— Male and female illiteracy rates in 2000 (%)

Source: Appendix Table A.30.

Conclusion

Latin America and the Caribbean are engaged in a process of demographic transition that began several decades ago. With the decline in mortality, life expectancy increased by twenty years on average between 1950 and 2000. Fertility started falling in the mid-1960s, from almost 6 children per woman in 1960-1964 to 2.5 in the early 2000s. The natural growth rate has fallen sharply, while net migration has been affected by more massive emigration to countries outside the region.

Despite the inconsistent quality of the data upon which demographic estimates are based, the key components of these demographic dynamics are

now more clearly understood, notably thanks to the growing number of recent surveys conducted in the region. They can be summarized as follows.

Population growth in Latin America is slowing down. In most countries, the young population is growing very slowly, and in some their weight is no longer increasing. This situation opens new prospects for investment in human capital. It is to be hoped that the countries of the region will seize the opportunities arising out of this transition to increase investments in education and improve the efficiency and coverage of social protection systems so that growing demand for services among the ageing population can be met in years to come. While the second half of the twentieth century was the era of falling birth rates, the first half of the twenty-first century will be that of population ageing in all countries of the region.

The overall decline in fertility stems from an increasingly widespread small family preference. Despite the existence of barriers which perpetuate and even aggravate social inequalities, contraceptive use is rising everywhere, and the availability of contraception via both public and private channels is increasingly enabling women, including those who are poor and uneducated, to control their fertility. By the end of the decade, the number of children per woman is likely to fall below two children in many countries.

Mortality has also fallen sharply, resulting in much longer life expectancy. Though disparities between countries still exist, the mortality transition is well under way everywhere. In many cases, the life expectancy gains are enormous. Only the HIV-AIDS epidemic is having a negative impact in some countries. The growing number of violent deaths is also limiting the rise in male life expectancy, and sometimes broadening the gap between men and women. Indeed, female life expectancy has reached 80 years – a level similar to that of Northern countries – in some countries of the region (such as Chile, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico). Life expectancy nevertheless remains low in some countries, Haiti especially, where sanitation is poor and health care inadequate.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the most highly urbanized “developing” region of the world. This raises opportunities but also major challenges that have generally been addressed slowly and ineffectively by successive governments. Beyond this urban reality, a vast process of population redistribution is under way in the region, in response to more complex and varied mechanisms than the traditional flows from rural to urban areas. These processes have sometimes been initiated or encouraged by specific policies, though they have mostly occurred spontaneously, thereby exposing a non-negligible proportion of the population, the poorest categories in particular, to unhealthy or dangerous environments.

Latin America has become a major source of emigration, and almost 20 million Latin Americans live outside the region. Emigration is increasing, the range of destinations is becoming broader and the emigrants' educational level is rising, as is the proportion of women. Alongside emigration to the United States, especially massive during the 1990s (three-quarters of the

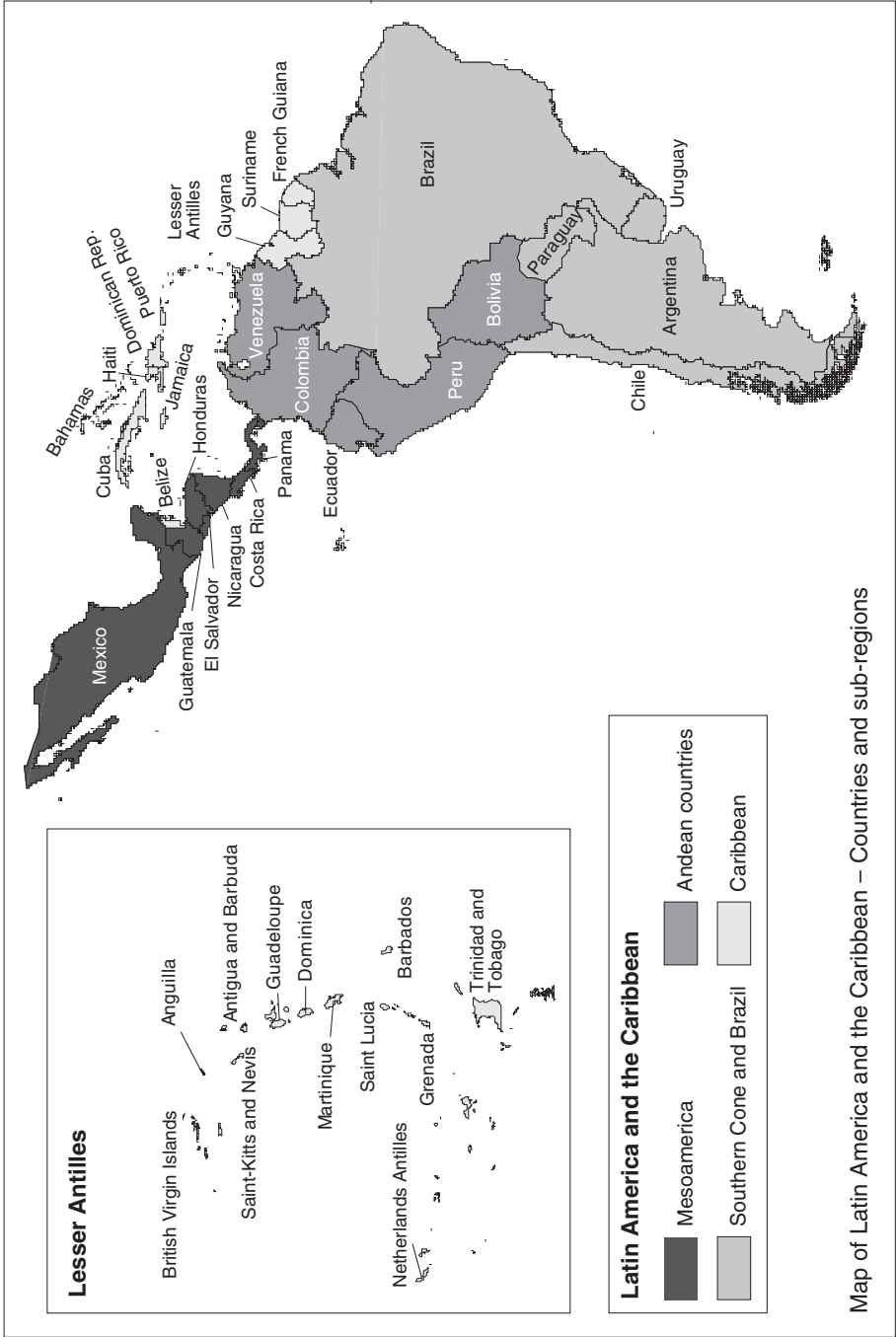
region's emigrants), emigration to Europe has also increased in the last fifteen years. There is also a high level of intra-regional migration, linked to employment opportunities in neighbouring countries and hence to the economic situation.

Demographic behaviour has changed in all countries, with persistent disparities between different social groups. In certain areas – adolescent fertility for example – the gap is even widening. Latin America has the largest income differentials in the world, a fact that reflects the persistence of social structures offering unequal access to goods and services, and the inadequacy of public policies.

Beyond these characteristics, certain paradoxes are also worth highlighting. One is the consistently high level of adolescent fertility, despite the drop in overall fertility. This behaviour pattern is associated with models of early conjugal union that appear to be totally unaffected by the major social changes occurring in the region. Another paradox is the persistence and even aggravation of social inequality, rather than the gradual convergence of behaviours that might be expected on the most urbanized continent of the developing world. Last, there is no truly sub-regional demographic model: very different patterns persist and co-exist in each sub-region.

Lastly, the demography of Latin America has changed radically and will doubtless continue to do so. Projections suggest that over coming decades the region will become increasingly urbanized, its population will grow even more slowly, that life expectancy at birth will continue to rise and that its inhabitants will be increasingly mobile, both inside and outside the region. But other scenarios are also possible. A faster fertility decline would lead to faster population ageing. A slowdown in the mortality decline – due to an increase in accidental deaths for example – would limit male life expectancy gains; highly selective emigration may substantially reduce the capacity of the sending countries to pursue their development. In all events, demographic inertia is such that the next stage in the process is already partly foreseeable. Let us hope that this knowledge will be usefully exploited by the governments of each Latin American country to address the needs of future generations.

Acknowledgements: The authors thank Sandra Huenchuan, Jorge Bravo and Fabiana del Popolo for their collaboration.



STATISTICAL APPENDIX

TABLE A.1.1.—LATIN AMERICA: POPULATION SIZE AND PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN EACH COUNTRY, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s AND 2000s

Country	1970s			1980s			1990s			2000s		
	Year	Population size	%	Year	Population size	%	Year	Population size	%	Year	Population size	%
Peru	1972	3,467,140	30.5	1981 ^(a)	3,626,944	24.8				2001	8,500,000	32.0
Mexico	1970	3,111,415	7.7	1980 ^(a)	5,181,038	9.0	1990 ^(a)	5,282,347	7.4	2000	6,101,630	6.3
Bolivia	1976	2,446,097	63.5				1992 ^(b)	3,058,208	59.0	2001	5,008,997	62.2
Guatemala	1973	2,260,079	43.7	1981	2,536,443	41.8	1994	3,476,684	42.8	2002	4,610,440	41.0
Colombia	1973	318,425	1.5	1985	237,759	0.8	1993	532,233	1.6	2005 ^(f)	892,631	2.0
Ecuador							1990	349,074	3.7	2001	830,418	6.8
Brazil										2000	734,127	0.4
Chile							1992 ^(c)	998 385	10.3	2002	692,192	4.6
Venezuela				1982	140,562	0.9	1992 ^(d)	314,772	0.9	2001 ^(g)	506,341	2.2
Nicaragua										2005 ^(h)	443,847	8.6
Honduras				1988 ^(a)	48,789	1.3				2001	427,943	7.0
Argentina							1990 ^(e)	350,000	1.0	2001 ⁽ⁱ⁾	402,921	1.1
Panama	1970	75,738	5.3	1980	93,091	5.2	1990	194,269	8.3	2000	285,231	10.1
Paraguay				1981	38,703	1.2	1992	29,482	0.7	2002 ^(g)	88,529	1.7
Costa Rica							1990 ^(e)	400,000	7.0	2000 ^(g)	63,876	1.7
El Salvador							1990 ^(e)	4,000	1.6			
Uruguay												

(a) Population aged 5 or above; (b) Population aged 6 or above; (c) Population aged 14 or above; (d) Census of indigenous population only; (e) circa 1990; (f) Projection of indigenous population in Colombia; (g) Includes the indigenous population of the general census plus that of the indigenous population census; (h) Includes indigenous populations and ethnic communities (Creole and Garífuna); (i) Based on the complementary survey, counting as indigenous the members of families whose head (or spouse) speaks Quechua, Aymara or an Amazonian language as their mother tongue.

Sources: ECLAC/CELADE, special processing of 2000 census data using the criterion of self-reported ethnic status, applied or imputed to the entire population, Peyser and Chackiel (1994); Pando (1990); ECLAC/CELADE-BID (2005a, 2005b, 2005c); FAO (s.d.) from the 2001 national survey of households (ENAHO) in Peru; Bodnar (2006); INDEC-Argentina (2006).

TABLE A.2. – GROSS NATIONAL INCOME PER CAPITA IN THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2004

Country	Gross national income per capita (USD)
Mesoamerica	
Costa Rica	4,349
Guatemala	2,233
Honduras	1,046
Mexico	6,518
Nicaragua	847
Panama	4,325
El Salvador	2,340
Caribbean	
Netherlands Antilles	10,794
Bahamas ^(a)	16,728
Barbados	10,401
Belize	3,870
Cuba	–
Dominica	3,794
Grenada	4,135
Guyana	1,047
Haiti	420
Jamaica	3,352
Dominican Republic	2,130
Saint Lucia	4,663
Suriname	2,484
Trinidad and Tobago	9,640
Andean countries	
Bolivia	974
Colombia	2,176
Ecuador	2,322
Peru	2,490
Venezuela	4,214
Southern Cone and Brazil	
Argentina	3,988
Brazil	3,284
Chile	5,836
Paraguay	1,220
Uruguay	3,842

^(a) Data for 2003.
Source: World Bank (2006), World Development Indicators, www.worldbank.org

TABLE A.3. – POPULATION CENSUS DATES IN COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE NON ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

Country	Period					
	1950-1959	1960-1969	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000-2006
Argentina	10-05-1947	30-09-1960	30-09-1970	22-10-1980	15-05-1991	17/18-11-2001
Bolivia	05-09-1950	–	29-09-1976	–	03-06-1992	05-09-2001
Brazil	01-07-1950	01-09-1960	01-09-1970	01-09-1980	01-09-1991	01-08-2000
Chile	24-04-1952	29-11-1960	22-04-1970	21-04-1982	22-04-1992	24-04-2002
Colombia	09-05-1951	15-07-1964	24-10-1973	15-10-1985	24-10-1993	07-12-2005
Costa Rica	22-05-1950	31-03-1963	14-05-1973	11-06-1984	–	28-06-2000
Cuba	28-01-1953	–	06-09-1970	11-09-1981	–	06-09-2002
Ecuador	29-11-1950	25-11-1962	08-06-1974	28-11-1982	25-11-1990	25-11-2001
Guatemala	18-04-1950	18-04-1964	26-03-1973	23-03-1981	17-04-1994	24-11-2002
Haiti	07-08-1950	–	31-08-1971	30-08-1982	–	11-01-2002
Honduras	18-06-1950	17-04-1961	06-03-1974	29-05-1988	–	28-07-2001
Mexico	06-06-1950	08-06-1960	28-01-1970	04-06-1980	12-03-1990	14-02-2000
Nicaragua	31-05-1950	31-05-1963	20-04-1971	–	25-04-1995	28-05-2005
Panama	10-12-1950	11-12-1960	10-05-1970	11-05-1980	13-05-1990	17/18-05-2000
Paraguay	28-10-1950	14-10-1962	09-07-1972	11-07-1982	26-08-1992	28-08-2002
Peru	–	02-07-1961	04-06-1972	12-07-1981	11-07-1993	–
Dominican Republic	06-08-1950	07-08-1960	09-01-1970	12-12-1981	24-09-1993	16-10-2002
El Salvador	13-06-1950	02-05-1961	28-06-1971	–	27-09-1992	–
Uruguay	–	16-10-1963	21-05-1975	23-10-1985	22-05-1996	–
Venezuela	26-11-1950	26-02-1961	02-11-1971	20-10-1981	21-10-1990	01-10-2001

Source: ECLAC: www.eclac.cl/celade

TABLE A.4. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED UNDER-REPORTING OF DEATHS BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 1980-2005

Country		Period				
		1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005
Argentina	Overall	4.0	7.6	7.0	3.7	–
	Males	4.6	8.0	6.5	3.0	–
	Females	3.3	7.1	7.7	4.5	–
Brazil	Overall	29.0	26.7	20.9	17.1	18.4
	Males	27.6	27.8	20.7	17.2	17.8
	Females	30.8	25.3	21.1	16.9	19.4
Chile	Overall	2.4	1.2	0.7	0.5	–0.2
	Males	1.1	0.1	–1.8	–1.6	–1.8
	Females	4.1	2.5	3.6	2.9	1.6
Colombia	Overall	–	30.2	31.2	28.2	28.7
	Males	–	29.4	30.2	24.1	23.8
	Females	–	31.2	32.7	33.6	34.8
Costa Rica	Overall	20.8	14.5	8.5	3.1	6.1
	Males	21.5	15.2	8.3	2.3	5.9
	Females	19.9	13.6	8.7	4.1	6.5
Cuba	Overall	6.8	4.0	–0.9	–2.5	–
	Males	7.1	4.0	–1.8	–2.9	–
	Females	6.4	4.0	0.2	–2.1	–
Ecuador	Overall	22.9	21.3	18.0	14.6	17.2
	Males	22.7	21.0	18.0	14.8	18.3
	Females	23.1	21.7	17.9	14.4	15.7
Guatemala	Overall	14.4	16.3	4.3	10.2	8.3
	Males	11.0	17.0	6.6	11.2	9.0
	Females	18.4	15.5	1.3	8.8	7.4
Mexico	Overall	11.4	10.1	7.4	1.4	–
	Males	11.1	9.6	5.7	–0.8	–
	Females	11.9	10.7	9.5	4.0	–
Nicaragua	Overall	–	–	51.6	45.9	–
	Males	–	–	50.4	43.7	–
	Females	–	–	53.1	48.6	–
Panama	Overall	30.0	26.1	22.8	19.5	18.9
	Males	30.8	26.3	22.4	18.5	17.9
	Females	28.9	25.7	23.4	20.9	20.2
Paraguay	Overall	49.0	50.7	46.5	38.0	35.2
	Males	49.3	50.9	45.6	35.8	33.0
	Females	48.6	50.5	47.5	40.4	37.8
Peru	Overall	48.2	48.7	50.2	44.9	–
	Males	50.2	50.3	51.3	46.1	–
	Females	45.8	46.7	48.9	43.4	–
Dominican Republic	Overall	43.5	40.6	51.2	47.9	41.9
	Males	43.2	40.1	50.8	47.5	40.9
	Females	43.9	41.2	51.8	48.4	43.4
El Salvador	Overall	36.0	–	23.3	20.9	–
	Males	36.5	–	19.9	14.9	–
	Females	35.3	–	27.9	28.1	–
Uruguay	Overall	3.7	2.8	1.6	–1.2	1.1
	Males	3.3	3.8	2.0	–2.7	–0.2
	Females	4.1	1.4	1.2	0.4	2.6
Venezuela	Overall	12.2	11.4	7.3	11.0	14.4
	Males	13.6	13.0	6.7	10.3	9.8
	Females	10.2	9.2	8.2	12.0	20.7

Note: For the period 2000-2005, deaths were estimated on the basis of annual means recorded for the years for which data are available over this period. The rate of under-reporting is estimated by comparing population projections with the census enumeration. A negative rate indicates under-estimation of deaths in population projections due to the use of imprecise parameters for the calculation.

Source: ECLAC. Calculations based on demographic estimates and projections and civil registration statistics.

TABLE A.5.— LIST OF SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN THE REGION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN UNDER THREE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SURVEY PROGRAMMES

Country	WFS surveys	DHS surveys	CDC surveys
Bolivia		1989 1994 1998 2003	
Brazil		1986 1991 1996	
Colombia	1976	1986 1990 1995 2000 2005	
Costa Rica	1976		1991 1993
Ecuador	1979-80	1987	1994 1999 2004
Guatemala	1978 1983	1987 1995 1998-99	2002
Guyana	1975	2005	
Honduras		2005	1987-88 1991 1996 2001
Haiti	1977	1994-95 2000 2005	
Jamaica			1975-76
Mexico	1976-77	1987	
Nicaragua		1997-98 2001	1992-93
Panama	1975-76		1984
Paraguay	1979	1990	1995-96 1998 2004
Peru	1977-78	1986 1992 1996 2000 2004	
Dominican Republic	1975 1980	1986 1991 1996 1999 2002	
El Salvador	1978	1985	1988 1993 1998 2002-03 2004
Trinidad and Tobago	1977	1987	
Venezuela	1977		

Note: WFS: World Health Survey; DHS: Demographic and Health Surveys; CDC and others: surveys supported by the Center for Disease Control in the United States,
<http://encuestas.ccp.ucr.ac.cr/camerica/index.htm>
<http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/Surveys/AboutSurveys.htm>
<http://opr.princeton.edu/archive/wfs/>

TABLE A.6. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED CRUDE BIRTH RATE, BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND BY COUNTRY, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Crude birth rate (per thousand)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	46.3	46.2	45.2	44.7	43.5	38.6	33.9	31.5	29.3	26.3	23.7
Costa Rica	44.6	45.1	44.3	36.3	30.5	30.1	30.0	28.9	24.7	21.5	19.1
Guatemala	50.3	47.1	46.0	44.7	44.0	43.5	42.2	39.6	38.9	37.3	35.8
Honduras	52.8	52.3	50.8	49.8	46.9	44.9	42.3	39.4	37.1	33.5	30.0
Mexico	45.3	45.6	44.6	44.7	43.9	37.9	32.4	30.0	27.8	24.4	21.7
Nicaragua	54.2	52.3	50.4	48.3	47.1	45.7	44.1	39.8	36.1	32.5	29.1
Panama	39.9	40.5	40.4	39.0	35.6	31.0	28.6	27.3	25.1	24.1	22.7
El Salvador	48.1	48.8	47.5	45.6	42.7	40.2	33.6	30.7	29.6	27.7	25.3
Caribbean	37.5	36.6	38.6	35.4	31.4	27.5	27.1	26.2	23.1	21.3	20.2
Netherlands Antilles	41.6	35.5	29.1	22.6	20.4	21.5	20.2	19.3	19.0	16.1	15.0
Bahamas	38.6	36.0	37.8	32.4	29.3	27.5	27.2	23.6	23.6	21.1	19.4
Barbados	32.8	31.8	29.1	23.8	20.8	17.7	17.4	15.7	14.3	12.9	12.2
Belize	49.6	44.8	42.0	40.5	40.2	40.9	37.4	35.5	34.4	29.8	27.0
Cuba	29.7	27.2	35.1	32.2	26.7	17.2	16.3	17.5	15.1	13.3	12.5
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	39.0	38.7	36.8	32.7	28.9	19.6	20.2	19.2	17.9	17.6	16.1
Guyana	43.0	43.9	41.1	40.6	35.0	31.5	29.6	25.3	24.5	23.8	21.9
French Guiana	36.4	32.6	30.4	30.5	29.6	25.8	28.6	30.2	32.3	29.2	24.5
Haiti	43.5	42.6	41.9	39.7	38.6	41.0	42.9	41.6	33.6	31.8	30.4
Jamaica	34.8	39.2	39.6	37.3	32.5	28.8	26.9	23.8	24.1	21.9	20.5
Martinique	39.5	39.3	35.6	31.1	25.8	17.4	16.6	18.0	16.7	15.3	13.7
Puerto Rico	36.2	33.5	31.3	26.8	24.4	23.8	20.5	18.8	17.8	15.7	14.3
Dominican Republic	50.5	50.5	49.4	45.0	39.1	35.2	34.3	31.5	28.2	25.7	24.4
Saint Lucia	37.4	46.1	45.3	43.2	37.9	33.8	31.1	25.9	26.5	21.1	20.4
Suriname	43.8	44.4	44.4	40.0	34.6	29.5	30.5	25.4	22.4	23.9	21.7
Trinidad and Tobago	38.2	38.0	38.0	28.9	27.0	29.3	28.3	23.5	17.6	14.1	13.7
Andean countries	46.9	45.7	44.9	41.9	37.5	35.4	32.4	30.1	28.2	25.6	23.4
Bolivia	47.0	46.8	45.9	45.4	45.2	41.0	38.4	36.9	35.8	32.7	30.5
Colombia	47.4	45.4	44.2	41.0	34.7	32.6	29.9	27.8	27.0	24.5	22.3
Ecuador	45.6	44.7	44.1	42.8	40.6	38.2	34.8	30.9	27.5	25.6	23.3
Peru	47.1	46.8	46.3	43.6	40.5	38.0	33.7	31.2	29.2	26.2	23.3
Venezuela	46.4	44.8	45.0	40.1	35.1	34.2	32.0	30.3	26.9	24.5	22.9
Southern Cone and Brazil	38.9	38.4	37.6	33.6	31.2	30.6	29	25.5	22.5	21.2	20.1
Argentina	25.4	24.3	23.2	22.6	23.4	25.7	23.1	22.2	21.3	19.7	18.0
Brazil	44.0	43.0	42.1	36.9	33.7	32.6	30.8	26.3	22.6	21.6	20.7
Chile	36.1	38.9	37.7	31.3	27.3	23.0	23.4	23.6	21.9	18.0	15.8
Paraguay	42.3	40.3	39.4	38.2	36.4	35.9	38.3	36.6	34.1	31.3	29.6
Uruguay	21.2	21.9	21.9	20.5	21.1	20.2	18.4	18.3	18.2	17.7	16.9
Overall	42.0	41.4	40.9	38.0	35.5	33.3	30.8	28.1	25.5	23.5	21.7

Source: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.7.—LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED CRUDE DEATH RATE, BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND BY COUNTRY, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Crude death rate (per thousand)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	17.8	15.1	13.0	11.6	10.1	8.4	7.1	6.1	5.4	4.9	4.8
Costa Rica	13.5	11.9	10.2	8.2	6.8	5.7	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.0
Guatemala	22.3	20.2	18.0	15.8	13.5	12.1	10.8	9.3	8.0	6.9	6.1
Honduras	22.8	20.6	17.8	15.6	13.4	11.0	8.9	7.0	6.1	5.4	5.1
Mexico	17.0	14.1	12.2	11.0	9.6	7.7	6.4	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.6
Nicaragua	23.0	19.9	17.0	14.6	12.5	11.2	10.0	8.2	6.2	5.4	5.1
Panama	13.3	11.1	9.8	8.6	7.5	6.3	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1
El Salvador	19.8	17.4	14.8	12.5	11.1	11.3	10.8	7.9	6.7	6.1	5.9
Caribbean	15.3	13.3	12.0	10.5	9.4	8.6	8.5	8.2	7.8	7.4	7.3
Netherlands Antilles	12.3	9.4	7.9	7.1	6.7	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.2
Bahamas	10.7	9.0	7.7	7.1	6.1	5.6	6.1	5.8	6.6	7.6	8.2
Barbados	13.2	10.3	9.2	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.0	8.7	9.1	8.3	7.8
Belize	12.6	11.0	9.6	8.3	7.3	6.5	5.7	5.2	5.1	4.9	5.3
Cuba	11.1	9.5	8.8	7.6	6.6	6.1	6.4	6.7	7.0	6.9	7.1
Dominica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guadeloupe	13.1	10.2	8.5	8.1	7.5	6.9	6.7	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2
Guyana	17.7	15.9	13.7	11.6	10.3	9.2	9.0	8.6	8.2	8.4	9.0
French Guiana	15.6	14.1	12.0	9.0	7.8	7.2	6.1	5.2	4.5	3.9	3.7
Haiti	27.5	24.7	22.2	19.6	17.7	16.4	15.7	14.1	12.0	10.8	9.8
Jamaica	11.5	9.8	9.1	8.5	8.2	7.4	6.7	6.5	6.4	5.9	5.7
Martinique	12.9	9.9	8.5	7.5	7.2	6.8	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.4	6.9
Puerto Rico	8.7	7.1	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	7.1	7.9	7.9	8.3
Dominican Republic	20.3	17.4	14.7	12.1	9.8	8.4	7.7	6.8	6.1	5.6	5.3
Saint Lucia	14.7	14.5	11.8	8.4	8.0	7.1	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.2	5.9
Suriname	12.6	11.4	10.3	8.8	7.5	7.3	7.0	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.9
Trinidad and Tobago	11.2	9.4	7.6	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.4	6.5	7.3
Andean countries	17.9	15.5	13.6	12.0	10.3	8.9	7.6	6.8	6.4	5.9	5.7
Bolivia	24.4	23.0	21.5	20.2	19.0	16.0	13.3	11.3	10.0	8.9	8.2
Colombia	16.3	13.1	11.4	10.0	8.8	7.7	6.7	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.5
Ecuador	19.4	17.0	14.6	13.1	11.5	9.8	8.1	6.7	5.9	5.3	5.1
Peru	21.6	19.7	17.6	15.6	12.8	10.9	9.0	7.8	6.9	6.5	6.2
Venezuela	12.4	10.7	9.3	7.7	6.6	5.9	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.1
Southern Cone and Brazil	13.8	12.7	11.7	10.6	9.7	8.9	8.2	7.5	7.0	6.7	6.6
Argentina	9.2	8.7	8.8	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.5	8.5	8.2	7.9	7.9
Brazil	15.4	13.9	12.5	11.0	9.9	9.1	8.3	7.4	6.8	6.5	6.4
Chile	13.6	13.3	12.2	10.3	8.8	7.4	6.4	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.2
Paraguay	11.1	10.8	10.0	9.4	8.5	7.9	7.3	6.7	6.0	5.4	5.1
Uruguay	10.5	10.1	9.6	9.6	10.0	10.1	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.4	9.3
Overall	15.6	13.9	12.4	11.1	9.9	8.8	7.9	7.2	6.7	6.2	6.1

Source: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.8. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN; ESTIMATED NATURAL GROWTH RATE, BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND BY COUNTRY, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Natural growth rate (per thousand)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	28.4	31.1	32.2	33.1	33.4	30.3	26.8	25.3	23.9	21.3	18.9
Costa Rica	31.1	33.2	34.1	28.1	23.7	24.5	25.2	24.5	20.6	17.4	15.1
Guatemala	28.0	26.9	28.0	28.9	30.5	31.4	31.4	30.3	30.9	30.5	29.7
Honduras	30.0	31.7	33.0	34.2	33.6	33.8	33.4	32.3	31.0	28.1	24.9
Mexico	28.3	31.5	32.5	33.7	34.3	30.2	26.0	24.4	22.7	19.8	17.2
Nicaragua	31.2	32.4	33.4	33.8	34.6	34.5	34.1	31.6	29.8	27.0	24.0
Panama	26.6	29.4	30.6	30.3	28.1	24.7	22.9	21.8	19.8	19.0	17.6
El Salvador	28.2	31.4	32.8	33.1	31.6	28.9	22.8	22.8	22.9	21.6	19.3
Caribbean	22.1	23.3	26.6	24.9	22.0	18.9	18.7	18.0	15.2	13.8	12.9
Netherlands Antilles	29.3	26.1	21.2	15.5	13.7	14.9	13.9	13.1	12.6	9.9	8.8
Bahamas	27.9	27.0	30.1	25.3	23.2	21.9	21.1	17.8	17.0	13.6	11.3
Barbados	19.6	21.5	19.9	15.3	12.0	9.1	9.4	7.0	5.1	4.6	4.4
Belize	37.0	33.8	32.4	32.2	32.9	34.4	31.7	30.3	29.3	24.9	21.8
Cuba	18.7	17.6	26.2	24.6	20.0	11.1	9.9	10.8	8.1	6.3	5.4
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	25.9	28.5	28.4	24.6	21.5	12.7	13.5	13.0	11.7	11.5	10.0
Guyana	25.3	28.0	27.4	29.0	24.7	22.3	20.6	16.8	16.3	15.3	12.9
French Guiana	20.8	18.5	18.4	21.5	21.7	18.5	22.5	24.9	27.8	25.3	20.8
Haiti	16.0	17.9	19.7	20.1	20.9	24.6	27.3	27.5	21.6	21.1	20.6
Jamaica	23.3	29.4	30.5	28.8	24.3	21.4	20.2	17.3	17.7	15.9	14.8
Martinique	26.6	29.4	27.1	23.6	18.6	10.6	10.2	11.9	10.3	8.9	6.9
Puerto Rico	27.5	26.4	24.3	20.2	17.8	17.4	14.0	11.6	9.9	7.9	6.0
Dominican Rep.	30.2	33.1	34.7	32.9	29.3	26.9	26.6	24.6	22.1	20.1	19.0
Saint Lucia	22.7	31.6	33.5	34.8	29.9	26.7	24.8	19.8	20.1	14.9	14.5
Suriname	31.2	33.0	34.1	31.2	27.1	22.2	23.4	19.0	16.3	17.8	15.8
Trinidad and Tobago	27.0	28.6	30.4	21.7	19.6	22.2	21.3	16.7	11.2	7.6	6.3
Andean countries	29.0	30.2	31.4	30.0	27.2	26.5	24.7	23.3	21.8	19.7	17.7
Bolivia	22.6	23.8	24.3	25.2	26.2	25.0	25.1	25.5	25.8	23.8	22.4
Colombia	31.2	32.3	32.8	31.0	26.0	24.9	23.2	21.4	20.5	18.7	16.8
Ecuador	26.2	27.8	29.4	29.7	29.1	28.4	26.7	24.2	21.7	20.3	18.3
Peru	25.5	27.1	28.7	28.0	27.8	27.1	24.7	23.5	22.3	19.7	17.1
Venezuela	34.0	34.1	35.7	32.4	28.5	28.3	26.5	25.3	22.1	19.6	17.8
Southern Cone and Brazil	25.1	25.7	25.9	23.0	21.6	21.6	20.8	18.0	15.6	14.6	13.5
Argentina	16.2	15.6	14.4	13.4	14.4	16.7	14.6	13.7	13.1	11.8	10.1
Brazil	28.6	29.1	29.5	25.9	23.8	23.5	22.5	18.9	15.8	15.1	14.2
Chile	22.5	25.6	25.5	21.0	18.5	15.6	17.0	17.7	16.3	12.7	10.6
Paraguay	31.2	29.5	29.5	28.9	27.9	28.0	31.0	29.9	28.1	25.9	24.5
Uruguay	10.7	11.9	12.4	10.9	11.2	10.1	8.5	8.3	8.4	8.2	7.5
Overall	26.4	27.5	28.5	26.9	25.6	24.5	22.9	20.9	18.8	17.3	15.6

Source: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.9. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED TOTAL GROWTH RATE, BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND BY COUNTRY, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Total growth rate (per thousand)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	27.3	30.2	30.9	31.4	30.7	27.3	22.6	21.0	20.0	17.5	15.6
Costa Rica	31.2	33.3	34.2	28.1	23.8	27.0	27.8	26.3	24.4	24.4	19.3
Guatemala	28.0	26.9	26.9	26.9	27.1	24.5	24.7	23.1	23.2	23.0	24.7
Honduras	30.9	32.5	33.9	28.8	30.3	33.6	31.9	30.6	29.5	27.5	24.9
Mexico	26.9	30.4	31.0	31.9	31.6	27.6	22.4	20.4	18.6	15.7	13.3
Nicaragua	30.1	31.2	32.1	32.0	32.6	31.3	27.9	23.2	24.6	20.4	20.2
Panama	25.5	28.4	29.1	29.1	26.9	24.7	22.0	20.6	20.5	19.8	18.2
El Salvador	26.2	29.6	31.1	35.6	27.1	21.5	7.8	13.8	20.7	20.4	18.2
Caribbean	18.1	19.1	21.0	18.5	17.1	14.5	15.3	14.0	11.5	10.7	10.0
Netherlands Antilles	18.6	18.6	16.7	16.7	8.8	8.8	9.2	6.4	17.5	9.9	8.3
Bahamas	22.7	42.6	49.6	37.9	21.3	21.3	21.1	17.9	20.8	13.6	11.3
Barbados	14.9	2.9	3.9	3.0	5.6	2.8	3.0	3.5	4.2	3.7	3.5
Belize	29.8	29.7	28.2	27.6	17.3	14.5	25.2	26.0	27.8	23.6	20.6
Cuba	18.5	16.7	20.7	18.4	17.3	8.3	8.1	9.6	6.2	4.5	2.6
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	23.4	30.7	17.5	12.7	5.2	-1.0	16.5	19.2	9.2	9.1	8.4
Guyana	27.8	31.4	25.3	19.0	6.8	7.2	-1.9	-6.1	2.8	4.7	2.4
French Guiana	23.0	25.5	41.2	37.1	30.6	39.8	50.8	55.8	34.9	34.1	25.3
Haiti	14.6	16.2	17.1	17.4	17.0	20.6	23.5	24.7	18.7	18.4	18.2
Jamaica	18.9	11.0	15.5	12.0	14.8	11.6	14.8	6.2	8.5	8.6	9.2
Martinique	20.4	27.3	20.0	8.9	1.8	-1.4	8.6	11.3	7.1	6.5	5.6
Puerto Rico	2.9	9.5	18.1	10.1	15.8	16.8	11.1	8.7	8.6	7.1	5.2
Dominican Republic	30.3	33.2	32.7	30.2	26.8	24.5	24.0	19.2	16.1	15.5	15.8
Saint Lucia	9.2	7.6	13.8	15.7	10.5	14.5	13.9	16.8	12.8	7.9	7.8
Suriname	30.2	29.7	27.2	22.8	-4.2	-5.2	15.4	9.1	3.7	7.6	8.0
Trinidad and Tobago	25.1	31.3	12.3	16.0	8.3	13.4	17.1	6.2	7.4	4.4	3.4
Andean countries	29.0	29.9	30.3	28.9	27.3	26.6	23.8	22.3	20.2	18.5	16.8
Bolivia	20.5	21.8	22.4	23.3	24.4	23.6	21.5	22.3	23.0	23.8	22.4
Colombia	29.0	29.8	30.1	28.2	23.6	22.8	21.4	19.9	19.5	18.7	16.8
Ecuador	26.2	27.8	29.5	29.8	29.2	28.4	26.7	24.3	20.8	15.2	14.4
Peru	25.5	27.1	28.8	28.0	27.8	26.7	23.8	21.7	18.3	16.9	14.9
Venezuela	40.3	39.2	36.4	32.9	34.4	34.0	27.5	26.1	22.1	19.6	17.8
Southern Cone and Brazil	27.0	25.9	26.0	23.0	21.7	21.3	20.7	18.1	15.6	14.5	13.5
Argentina	19.7	17.1	15.6	14.5	16.7	15.1	15.2	14.5	13.1	11.2	9.6
Brazil	30.6	29.1	29.6	25.9	23.8	23.5	22.5	18.9	15.8	15.1	14.2
Chile	21.3	24.4	24.7	20.3	16.9	14.1	16.0	17.0	17.7	13.5	11.0
Paraguay	21.7	21.0	24.4	24.3	24.7	31.6	29.5	31.2	27.0	25.9	24.6
Uruguay	11.6	13.5	11.9	8.4	1.4	5.9	6.4	6.3	7.1	7.3	7.0
Overall	27.0	27.3	27.8	26.1	24.9	23.6	21.6	19.7	17.6	16.0	14.6

Source: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.10. — LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TOTAL MID-YEAR POPULATION BY COUNTRY, 1950-2005 (THOUSANDS)

Sub-region and country	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Mesoamerica												
Costa Rica	37,230	42,680	49,630	57,917	67,776	79,023	90,578	101,406	112,639	124,471	135,870	146,897
Guatemala	966	1,129	1,334	1,582	1,821	2,051	2,347	2,697	3,076	3,475	3,925	4,322
Honduras	3,146	3,619	4,140	4,736	5,419	6,204	7,013	7,935	8,908	10,004	11,225	12,700
Mexico	1,380	1,610	1,894	2,245	2,592	3,017	3,569	4,186	4,879	5,654	6,485	7,347
Nicaragua	27,737	31,737	36,940	43,141	50,611	59,287	68,046	76,117	84,296	92,523	100,052	106,943
Panama	1,190	1,383	1,617	1,898	2,228	2,622	3,067	3,526	3,960	4,477	4,957	5,483
El Salvador	860	977	1,126	1,303	1,506	1,723	1,949	2,176	2,411	2,670	2,948	3,228
	1,951	2,224	2,578	3,012	3,598	4,120	4,586	4,769	5,110	5,669	6,276	6,874
Caribbean												
Netherlands Antilles												
Bahamas	17,771	19,465	21,407	23,771	26,083	28,401	30,542	32,949	35,320	37,426	39,485	41,521
Barbados	112	123	135	146	159	166	174	182	188	205	215	224
Belize	79	89	110	140	170	189	210	234	255	283	303	321
Cuba	211	227	231	235	239	246	249	253	257	263	267	272
Dominica	69	80	93	107	123	134	144	163	186	213	240	266
Dominican Republic	5,850	6,416	6,976	7,738	8,483	9,251	9,645	10,041	10,537	10,867	11,113	11,257
Grenada	51	55	60	65	71	72	74	73	72	75	78	79
Guadeloupe	76	85	89	91	93	91	89	87	85	83	81	80
Guyana	210	236	275	300	320	329	327	355	391	409	428	446
French Guiana	423	486	569	645	709	734	761	754	741	741	759	768
Haiti	25	29	32	40	48	56	68	88	116	139	164	187
Jamaica	3,261	3,508	3,804	4,143	4,520	4,920	5,454	6,134	6,942	7,622	8,357	9,151
Martinique	1,403	1,542	1,629	1,760	1,869	2,013	2,133	2,297	2,369	2,472	2,580	2,701
Puerto Rico	222	246	282	311	325	328	326	341	360	373	386	397
Dominican Republic	2,218	2,250	2,360	2,583	2,716	2,939	3,197	3,378	3,528	3,683	3,816	3,915
Saint Lucia	2,353	2,737	3,231	3,805	4,425	5,059	5,719	6,447	7,097	7,690	8,312	8,993
Suriname	79	83	86	92	100	105	113	121	131	140	146	152
Trinidad and Tobago	215	250	290	332	372	364	355	384	402	409	425	442
Others (a)	636	721	843	896	971	1,012	1,082	1,178	1,215	1,261	1,289	1,311
	278	303	313	339	370	393	423	440	458	497	527	559

TABLE A.10. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TOTAL MID-YEAR POPULATION BY COUNTRY, 1950-2005 (THOUSANDS)

Sub-region and country	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Andean countries												
Bolivia	31,396	36,296	42,157	49,044	56,656	64,943	74,179	83,555	93,398	103,300	113,296	123,202
Colombia	2,714	3,006	3,351	3,748	4,212	4,759	5,355	5,964	6,669	7,482	8,428	9,427
Ecuador	12,568	14,527	16,857	19,591	22,561	25,381	28,447	31,659	34,970	38,542	42,321	46,039
Peru	3,387	3,862	4,439	5,144	5,970	6,907	7,961	9,099	10,272	11,396	12,297	13,211
Venezuela	7,632	8,672	9,931	11,467	13,193	15,161	17,324	19,516	21,753	23,837	25,939	27,947
	5,094	6,230	7,579	9,094	10,721	12,734	15,091	17,318	19,735	22,043	24,311	26,577
Southern Cone and Brazil												
Argentina	80,934	92,615	105,396	120,055	134,712	150,117	166,967	185,203	202,774	219,240	235,734	252,130
Brazil	17,150	18,928	20,616	22,283	23,962	26,049	28,094	30,305	32,581	34,779	36,784	38,592
Chile	53,975	62,893	72,757	84,351	96,021	108,167	121,672	136,178	149,690	162,019	174,719	187,601
Paraguay	6,082	6,764	7,643	8,647	9,570	10,413	11,174	12,102	13,179	14,395	15,398	16,267
Uruguay	1,488	1,659	1,842	2,081	2,350	2,659	3,114	3,609	4,219	4,828	5,496	6,215
	2,239	2,372	2,538	2,693	2,808	2,829	2,914	3,009	3,106	3,218	3,337	3,455
Overall	167,330	191,055	218,590	250,787	285,227	322,484	362,265	403,113	444,131	484,437	524,385	563,750

(a) Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands and US Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Panama Canal Zone (between 1970 and 1975).

Source: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.11. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED TOTAL FERTILITY RATE, BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND BY COUNTRY, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Mean number of children per woman										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	6.87	6.93	6.83	6.75	6.47	5.48	4.54	3.97	3.51	3.03	2.71
Costa Rica	6.72	7.11	7.22	5.80	4.35	3.78	3.53	3.37	2.95	2.58	2.28
Guatemala	7.00	6.60	6.50	6.30	6.20	6.20	6.10	5.70	5.45	5.00	4.60
Honduras	7.50	7.50	7.42	7.42	7.05	6.60	6.00	5.37	4.92	4.30	3.72
Mexico	6.87	6.96	6.82	6.82	6.60	5.40	4.30	3.70	3.20	2.70	2.40
Nicaragua	7.33	7.33	7.33	7.10	6.79	6.40	6.00	5.20	4.60	3.90	3.30
Panama	5.68	5.89	5.92	5.62	4.94	4.05	3.52	3.20	2.87	2.79	2.70
El Salvador	6.46	6.81	6.85	6.62	6.10	5.60	4.50	3.90	3.52	3.17	2.88
Caribbean	5.26	5.21	5.50	5.06	4.41	3.66	3.46	3.20	2.79	2.61	2.50
Netherlands Antilles	5.65	5.15	4.40	3.30	2.65	2.45	2.36	2.30	2.28	2.10	2.05
Bahamas	4.05	4.31	4.50	3.79	3.44	3.22	3.16	2.62	2.60	2.40	2.29
Barbados	4.67	4.67	4.26	3.45	2.74	2.19	1.92	1.75	1.60	1.50	1.50
Belize	6.65	6.55	6.45	6.35	6.25	6.20	5.40	4.70	4.35	3.60	3.15
Cuba	4.10	3.68	4.67	4.29	3.55	2.13	1.83	1.83	1.60	1.55	1.61
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	5.61	5.61	5.61	5.22	4.49	3.06	2.55	2.45	2.10	2.10	2.10
Guyana	6.68	6.77	6.15	6.11	4.90	3.94	3.26	2.70	2.55	2.45	2.31
French Guiana	5.00	4.92	5.02	5.00	4.18	3.30	3.58	3.73	4.05	3.83	3.33
Haiti	6.30	6.30	6.30	6.00	5.76	5.96	6.21	5.94	4.79	4.38	3.98
Jamaica	4.22	5.08	5.64	5.78	5.00	4.00	3.55	2.87	2.76	2.50	2.36
Martinique	5.71	5.71	5.45	5.00	4.08	2.65	2.14	2.14	1.94	1.90	1.90
Puerto Rico	4.97	4.82	4.37	3.41	2.99	2.76	2.46	2.26	2.18	1.99	1.89
Dominican Republic	7.40	7.40	7.32	6.68	5.63	4.70	4.24	3.61	3.16	2.88	2.73
Saint Lucia	6.00	6.94	6.79	6.48	5.69	5.20	4.20	3.65	3.15	2.40	2.27
Suriname	6.56	6.56	6.56	5.95	5.29	4.20	3.70	2.92	2.45	2.62	2.45
Trinidad and Tobago	5.30	5.30	4.99	3.79	3.45	3.40	3.22	2.80	2.10	1.65	1.55
Andean countries	6.72	6.72	6.75	6.28	5.44	4.83	4.19	3.71	3.39	3.07	2.82
Bolivia	6.75	6.75	6.63	6.56	6.50	5.80	5.30	5.00	4.80	4.32	3.96
Colombia	6.76	6.76	6.76	6.18	5.00	4.34	3.69	3.17	3.01	2.80	2.62
Ecuador	6.70	6.70	6.70	6.50	6.00	5.40	4.70	4.00	3.40	3.10	2.82
Peru	6.85	6.85	6.85	6.56	6.00	5.38	4.65	4.10	3.70	3.20	2.86
Venezuela	6.46	6.46	6.66	5.90	4.94	4.47	3.96	3.65	3.25	2.94	2.72
Southern Cone and Brazil	5.35	5.42	5.45	4.85	4.35	4.04	3.63	3.09	2.68	2.50	2.36
Argentina	3.15	3.13	3.09	3.05	3.15	3.44	3.15	3.05	2.90	2.63	2.35
Brazil	6.15	6.15	6.15	5.38	4.72	4.31	3.80	3.10	2.60	2.45	2.35
Chile	4.95	5.49	5.44	4.44	3.63	2.80	2.67	2.65	2.55	2.21	2.00
Paraguay	6.50	6.50	6.55	6.30	5.65	5.15	5.25	4.90	4.55	4.17	3.87
Uruguay	2.73	2.83	2.90	2.80	3.00	2.89	2.57	2.53	2.49	2.40	2.30
Overall	5.89	5.94	5.97	5.55	5.05	4.50	3.93	3.43	3.03	2.75	2.55

Source: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.12. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED FERTILITY RATE BY AGE GROUP AND MEAN AGE AT CHILDBEARING BY COUNTRY, 1980-1984 AND 2000-2004

Sub-region and country	1980-1984							Mean age at childbearing (years)
	Fertility rate by age group (per thousand)							
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
Mesoamerica	105.3	231.9	225.6	173.4	115.0	46.8	10.1	28.3
Costa Rica	97.9	193.2	175.3	128.6	78.5	28.4	3.5	27.5
Guatemala	138.5	286.5	285.5	241.9	172.1	79.1	16.4	28.83
Honduras	140.0	281.5	269.5	231.7	167.3	91.8	18.1	29.0
Mexico	96.2	221.9	218.6	165.5	107.8	41.0	9.0	28.2
Nicaragua	158.0	308.9	288.5	212.3	150.4	65.9	16.1	28.1
Panama	107.7	202.2	172.9	118.4	68.3	27.2	6.3	27.1
El Salvador	129.6	236.3	207.4	157.2	106.5	51.9	11.1	27.9
Caribbean								
Netherlands Antilles	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bahamas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Barbados	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Belize	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cuba	84.8	120.0	90.8	48.3	17.8	3.3	1.2	24.9
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guyana	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
French Guiana	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Haiti	90.0	212.0	290.0	285.0	222.0	133.0	10.0	30.6
Jamaica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Martinique	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Puerto Rico	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dominican Republic	118.7	214.3	200.0	156.4	106.9	46.3	5.5	28.0
Saint Lucia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Suriname	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Trinidad and Tobago	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Andean countries								
Bolivia	81.3	200.6	207.5	163.0	112.3	57.6	16.2	29.1
Bolivia	89.0	238.5	251.2	214.1	161.1	80.6	25.4	29.7
Colombia	68.3	181.8	191.3	139.1	88.0	51.0	17.5	29.0
Ecuador	99.9	223.1	223.4	182.0	129.2	65.0	17.5	29.0
Peru	74.1	204.4	224.6	191.3	145.8	73.1	16.7	29.7
Venezuela	101.0	206.0	194.3	147.1	93.2	40.5	9.3	28.0
Southern Cone and Brazil								
Argentina	74.3	186.6	187.6	142.8	89.4	37.5	7.1	28.4
Argentina	74.2	163.8	171.1	124.4	69.6	22.8	4.1	27.8
Brazil	75.0	194.5	194.7	150.1	96.1	41.7	7.9	28.5
Chile	64.3	151.0	145.6	99.0	53.8	18.2	2.3	27.4
Paraguay	93.6	242.8	241.3	208.4	155.1	86.1	22.7	29.6
Uruguay	62.6	139.5	140.1	98.6	54.4	17.4	1.4	27.5

TABLE A.12. (CONT'D) – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED FERTILITY RATE BY AGE GROUP AND MEAN AGE AT CHILDBEARING BY COUNTRY, 1980-1984 AND 2000-2004

Sub-region and country	2000-2004							Mean age at childbearing (years)
	Fertility rate by age group (per thousand)							
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
Mesoamerica	79.0	146.3	140.9	98.2	57.2	16.9	3.5	27.2
Costa Rica	77.5	126.3	114.3	82.0	42.9	12.1	1.2	26.7
Guatemala	115.4	238.1	218.2	174.0	115.9	48.8	9.6	28.2
Honduras	102.5	200.2	167.5	131.8	88.1	45.6	8.9	28.0
Mexico	70.2	129.4	131.0	87.6	48.9	10.7	2.3	27.0
Nicaragua	124.8	195.6	151.7	105.5	57.3	20.9	4.1	26.4
Panama	89.0	155.7	138.9	97.3	45.6	12.1	1.4	26.5
El Salvador	87.1	157.3	136.9	95.9	63.3	28.5	7.6	27.6
Caribbean	65.1	133.2	129.6	93.7	56.0	20.4	4.0	27.7
Netherlands Antilles	28.6	94.4	116.5	109.1	57.9	14.6	3.9	29.1
Bahamas	60.8	121.1	119.7	94.8	49.7	12.0	2.3	27.5
Barbados	42.6	84.9	82.8	57.9	25.5	6.0	0.3	26.8
Belize	87.0	183.7	161.4	119.4	63.1	22.6	2.1	27.2
Cuba	49.7	97.5	91.1	56.6	23.0	3.9	0.3	26.2
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	18.8	77.3	109.7	118.9	66.8	18.0	2.4	29.9
Guyana	66.7	127.5	131.2	82.5	39.6	9.9	1.4	26.8
French Guiana	92.8	184.8	172.6	128.2	69.6	28.0	6.1	27.5
Haiti	64.1	150.0	194.3	171.1	137.3	64.3	15.6	30.1
Jamaica	82.1	142.2	118.9	81.2	45.6	16.2	2.4	26.7
Martinique	30.8	89.8	119.8	94.1	48.2	11.9	0.8	28.5
Puerto Rico	61.6	101.4	103.3	77.7	33.3	6.3	0.3	26.7
Dominican Republic	93.2	189.2	138.1	78.4	36.6	9.4	0.5	25.7
Saint Lucia	62.6	113.5	111.7	74.0	49.1	23.9	13.2	28.1
Suriname	44.9	127.2	170.3	112.7	51.5	13.8	0.0	27.9
Trinidad and Tobago	37.3	89.2	84.6	67.6	33.5	9.1	0.8	27.5
Andean countries	77.4	153.5	137.7	100.1	63.4	26.7	5.4	27.7
Bolivia	84.4	194.1	187.6	154.0	109.3	50.4	11.9	28.8
Colombia	79.5	152.8	129.3	87.1	51.7	20.5	3.7	27.1
Ecuador	84.5	150.3	133.1	99.6	62.2	27.8	6.0	27.6
Peru	54.6	141.7	143.0	112.2	78.6	35.7	7.0	28.8
Venezuela	92.1	154.5	131.7	91.3	52.0	18.9	4.1	26.8
Southern Cone and Brazil	82.5	131.3	117.1	79.6	44.1	14.8	2.5	26.7
Argentina	60.7	112.9	119.4	101.6	56.8	17.2	1.4	27.9
Brazil	89.6	136.6	115.6	71.9	39.1	13.5	2.7	26.3
Chile	61.6	93.2	100.4	82.9	47.8	13.3	0.8	27.6
Paraguay	68.3	192.0	188.7	160.8	108.4	47.9	8.5	29.0
Uruguay	69.6	123.1	126.3	88.7	41.4	11.0	0.5	26.9

Source: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.13.– LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED ADOLESCENT FERTILITY RATE, BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AND BY COUNTRY, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Fertility rate at age 15-19 (per thousand)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica											
Costa Rica	119.2	120.8	125.0	107.8	104.5	105.5	97.9	100.2	93.5	86.9	77.5
Guatemala	171.7	157.7	153.2	142.9	137.5	140.1	138.5	131.4	127.6	121.1	115.4
Honduras	160.5	160.5	158.7	158.8	150.8	146.2	140.0	133.5	126.5	114.6	102.5
Mexico	117.3	118.8	118.2	118.2	117.7	109.4	96.2	87.4	78.6	78.7	70.2
Nicaragua	168.0	168.0	168.0	163.7	157.9	150.2	158.0	166.5	160.1	143.7	124.8
Panama	145.4	146.7	144.8	143.2	134.6	118.7	107.7	101.4	90.9	93.2	89.0
El Salvador	141.8	146.8	165.4	160.0	150.6	141.2	129.6	118.8	110.6	95.2	87.1
Caribbean											
Netherlands Antilles	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	35.1	28.6
Bahamas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	63.4	60.8
Barbados	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	43.2	42.6
Belize	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	102.1	87.0
Cuba	66.8	77.2	119.7	130.1	140.7	110.2	84.8	84.8	67.2	65.4	49.7
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	19.2	18.8
Guyana	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	76.7	66.7
French Guiana	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	103.4	92.8
Haiti	76.8	76.8	76.8	73.2	65.7	67.0	90.0	91.0	76.0	70.1	64.1
Jamaica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	93.5	82.1
Martinique	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	29.7	30.8
Puerto Rico	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	76.0	61.6
Dominican Republic	165.9	165.9	164.2	150.1	116.7	110.3	118.7	110.3	102.6	96.9	93.2
Saint Lucia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	67.0	62.6
Suriname	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	50.9	44.9
Trinidad and Tobago	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	41.6	37.3
Andean countries											
Bolivia	99.5	99.5	97.2	95.9	94.7	87.3	89.0	89.4	89.3	86.9	84.4
Colombia	128.0	128.0	128.0	118.6	89.9	77.0	68.3	81.6	99.6	87.6	79.5
Ecuador	135.6	135.6	135.6	130.9	120.0	111.5	99.9	87.6	83.8	85.4	84.5
Peru	129.9	129.9	129.9	102.3	86.3	92.5	74.1	72.0	70.7	82.6	54.6
Venezuela	126.8	126.8	133.0	121.9	102.6	102.3	101.0	103.7	97.8	94.1	92.1
Southern Cone and Brazil											
Argentina	62.4	61.8	61.1	60.4	68.3	84.0	74.2	73.4	73.2	69.8	60.7
Brazil	82.5	82.5	82.5	74.6	68.3	65.3	75.0	80.4	83.8	89.7	89.6
Chile	80.0	87.7	87.9	82.8	84.1	71.2	64.3	64.0	68.1	66.9	61.6
Paraguay	97.0	97.0	98.9	98.3	95.8	92.9	93.6	91.2	86.7	76.0	68.3
Uruguay	59.5	61.7	63.2	61.0	65.4	71.0	62.6	66.4	70.5	70.1	69.6

Source: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm).

TABLE A.14. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: VARIATIONS IN TOTAL FERTILITY RATE BY MOTHER'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (15 COUNTRIES)

Country	Survey date	Place of residence			Level of education				Overall
		Urban	Rural	Rural/Urban	No education	Primary	Secondary or above	No ed./Secondary or above	
Belize	1991	3.9	5.8	1.5	6.0	4.5	3.2	1.9	4.5
	1999	3.1	4.2	1.4	5.1	3.6	2.7	1.9	3.7
Bolivia	1989	4.0	6.6	1.7	6.4	6.0	3.3	1.9	5.0
	1994	3.8	6.3	1.7	6.5	6.1	3.2	2.0	4.8
	1998	3.3	6.4	1.9	7.1	5.7	2.9	2.4	4.2
	2003	3.1	5.5	1.8	6.8	4.9	2.5	2.7	3.8
Brazil	1986 (a)	2.8	5.1	1.8	6.2	3.6	2.0	3.1	3.4
	1991 (b)	2.8	5.2	1.9	5.8	3.6	2.0	2.9	3.7
	1996	2.3	3.5	1.5	4.9	3.3	2.1	2.3	2.5
Colombia	1986	2.6	4.7	1.8	5.2	3.9	2.4	2.2	3.2
	1990	2.5	3.6	1.4	4.8	3.5	2.3	2.1	2.8
	1995	2.5	4.3	1.7	5.0	3.8	2.5	2.0	3.0
	2000	2.3	3.8	1.7	4.0	3.6	2.2	1.8	2.6
	2005	2.1	3.4	1.6	4.5	3.4	2.1	2.1	2.4
Ecuador	1987	3.5	5.3	1.5	6.4	5.1	2.9	2.2	4.2
	1994 (c)	3.0	4.6	1.6	6.2	4.0	2.7	2.3	3.6
	1999 (d)	2.8	4.3	1.5	5.6	4.1	2.6	2.1	3.4
	2001	–	–	–	5.6	4.2	2.4	2.3	3.3
	2004	2.9	3.9	1.3	5.7	4.2	2.7	2.1	3.3
El Salvador	1985	3.3	5.4	1.6	5.7	4.2	2.4	2.4	4.2
	1993	3.1	5.0	1.6	5.4	3.9	2.3	2.3	3.9
	1998 (e)	2.8	4.6	1.6	5.0	3.8	2.4	2.1	3.6
	2002/03	2.4	3.8	1.6	4.5	3.8	2.4	1.9	3.0
Guatemala	1987 (f)	4.0	6.4	1.6	6.8	5.1	2.7	2.5	5.5
	1995	3.8	6.1	1.6	7.1	5.1	2.5	2.8	5.1
	1998/99	4.1	5.8	1.4	6.8	5.2	2.9	2.3	5.0
	2002	3.4	5.2	1.5	6.4	4.7	2.1	3.0	4.4
Haiti	1994/95	3.3	5.9	1.8	6.1	4.8	2.5	2.4	4.8
	2000	3.4	5.8	1.7	6.1	5.3	2.7	2.3	4.7
Honduras	1996(g)	–	6.3	–	7.1	–	2.9	2.5	4.9
	2001	–	5.6	–	6.5	–	2.7	2.4	4.4
Mexico	1987	3.3	6.0	–	6.1	4.8	2.5	–	4.0
Nicaragua	1992/93 (h)	3.4	6.4	1.9	6.9	3.9	2.4	2.9	2.4
	1997/98	2.9	5.0	1.7	5.7	4.2	2.5	2.3	3.6
	2001	2.6	4.4	1.7	5.2	3.6	2.3	2.3	3.2
Paraguay	1990	3.6	6.1	1.7	6.5	5.5	3.2	2.0	4.7
	1995/96 (i)	3.3	5.7	1.7	6.9	4.7	2.4	2.8	4.4
	1998 (j)	3.2	5.6	1.8	6.2	5.0	2.3	2.7	4.3
	2004 (k)	2.5	3.7	1.5	...	3.8	2.1	...	2.9
Peru	1986	3.1	6.3	2.0	6.6	5.0	2.9	2.3	4.1
	1992	2.8	6.2	2.2	7.0	5.1	2.6	2.7	3.5
	1996	2.8	5.6	2.0	6.9	5.0	2.6	2.7	3.5
	2000	2.2	4.3	2.0	5.1	4.1	2.2	2.3	2.8
Dominican Republic	1986	3.1	4.8	1.5	5.2	4.2	2.7	1.9	3.7
	1991	2.8	4.4	1.6	5.2	3.8	2.8	1.9	3.3
	1996	2.8	4.0	1.4	5.0	3.7	2.5	2.0	3.2
	1999	2.5	3.0	1.2	2.2	3.5	2.1	1.0	2.7
	2002	2.8	3.3	1.2	4.5	3.6	2.5	1.8	3.0
Trinidad and Tobago	1987	3.0	3.1	1.0	3.6	3.5	2.9	1.2	3.1

(a) Women aged 15 to 44; (b) Nordeste only; (c) 1989-1994; (d) March 1994 to February 1999; (e) March 1993 to February 1998, women aged 15-44; (f) September 1995 to August 1998; (g) 1993-1995; (h) 1987-1992; (i) 1990-1995; (j) Women aged 15 to 44; (k) It is impossible to estimate the TFR for women with no education. The survey categories were as follows: 0-5 years of schooling (TFR=4.2), and 6 years of schooling (TFR=3.8).

Source: ORC Macro, 2005. <http://www.measuredhs.com>.

TABLE A.15.—LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: CHANGES IN INTERMEDIATE FERTILITY VARIABLES IN THE 1980S, 1990S AND 2000S (14 COUNTRIES)

Country	Year of survey	Contraceptive prevalence (%)		Nuptiality		Post-partum infertility (mean duration in months)		
		Modern methods	Traditional methods	% of women in union	Mean age at first birth (25-49)	Amenorrhea	Abstinence	Post-partum insusceptibility
Bolivia	1989	12.2	17.1	69.3	20.3	10.7	2.7	11.4
	1994	17.8	23.7	69.7	20.6	10.1	2.5	11.4
	1998	25.2	22.3	66.6	20.9	9.6	2.7	11.0
	2003	34.9	23.2	68.0	20.6	9.5	2.7	11.0
Brazil	1986 (a)	56.5	9.0	65.6	21.2	2.5	1.9	3.2
	1996	70.3	6.1	69.4	21.1	3.0	2.2	4.3
Colombia	1990	54.6	10.9	63.5	21.0	3.6	2.3	5.0
	1995	59.3	11.1	67.8	21.4	4.3	2.2	5.6
	2000	64.0	12.3	66.0	21.5	4.3	2.4	5.5
	2005	68.5	12.1	67.1	21.7	4.4	2.4	5.8
Costa Rica	1986	58.0	11.0	—	—	—	—	—
	1992	65.0	10.0	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	71.0	9.0	—	—	—	—	—
Ecuador	1987	35.8	8.5	69.0	20.1	6.1	2.0	8.1
	1994 (b)	45.7	11.1	65.7	20.7	7.5	2.7	8.3
	1999 (c)	50.0	15.8	68.0	21.1	8.0	2.6	8.4
	2004	58.7	14.0	67.9	20.6	—	—	—
El Salvador	1985	44.3	3.0	75.1	19.0	—	2.9	7.7
	1993	48.4	5.0	71.7	19.4	6.8	2.7	7.5
	1998 (d)	54.1	5.7	70.4	19.5	7.4	3.2	8.3
	2002/03	61.8	5.5	69.2	19.8	7.9	3.4	9.0
Guatemala	1987 (e)	19.0	4.2	73.2	18.6	11.9	3.0	13.2
	1995	26.9	4.5	72.0	19.0	10.5	2.4	11.6
	1998/99	30.9	7.3	73.8	19.3	9.5	2.3	10.0
	2002	34.4	8.8	68.4	19.3	9.3	2.0	9.9
Haiti	1994/95	13.2	4.8	68.2	20.8	11.1	3.4	12.5
	2000	22.3	5.8	68.6	20.5	6.2	2.9	9.4
Honduras	1987	33.0	7.6	—	—	—	—	—
	1996 (f)	39.7	10.3	72.4	18.9	8.7	3.3	9.3
	2001	50.8	11.0	73.5	19.0	8.4	3.1	9.1
Mexico	1987	44.6	8.1	67.4	19.9	3.4	2.2	4.3
	1997	56.0	11.6	—	—	—	—	—
Nicaragua	1992/93 (g)	44.9	3.7	78.1	18.6	6.9	6.4	10.5
	1997/98	57.4	2.5	76.4	18.3	5.0	2.5	6.4
	2001	66.1	2.5	74.2	18.2	5.5	2.5	7.1
Paraguay	1990	35.2	8.9	67.1	20.9	4.5	2.1	5.3
	1995/96 (h)	41.3	9.5	69.9	21.0	5.5	1.8	5.8
	1998 (i)	47.7	9.7	66.9	—	—	—	—
	2004	60.5	12.3	61.1	21.2	5.9	1.9	0.2
Peru	1992	32.8	24.6	61.9	21.1	8.3	2.2	9.5
	1996	41.3	21.3	65.8	20.9	8.4	2.3	9.6
	2000	50.4	17.5	64.2	21.4	9.0	2.5	9.9
	2004	46.7	23.8	63.0	21.9	8.8	2.8	9.2
Dominican Republic	1991	51.7	4.2	70.6	19.0	3.5	2.2	4.2
	1996	59.2	4.0	74.4	19.3	3.5	2.3	4.3
	1999	64.1	5.0	74.2	19.3	3.5	2.4	3.9
	2002	65.8	3.1	77.0	19.0	3.2	2.0	4.0

(a) Women aged 15 to 44; (b) 1989-1994; (c) March 1994 to February 1999; (d) March 1993 to February 1998, women aged 15-44; (e) Women aged 15 to 44; (f) 1993-1995; (g) 1987-1992; (h) 1990-1995; (i) September 1995 to August 1998.
Source: National Demographic and Health Survey reports, taken from Bay et al. (2004).

TABLE A.16. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PREVALENCE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS (IS COUNTRIES) (%)

Country	Year	Modern methods					Traditional methods				Total users	Total non-users	Overall
		Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Periodic abstinence	Coitus interruptus	Other				
Bolivia	1989	1.9	4.8	0.7	0.3	4.4	16.1	1.0	1.1	30.3	69.7	100.0	
	1994	2.8	8.1	0.8	1.3	4.6	22.0	1.7	4.0	45.3	54.7	100.0	
	1998	3.8	11.1	1.1	2.6	6.5	20.0	2.3	0.9	48.3	51.7	100.0	
	2003	3.6	10.2	8.0	3.9	6.5	19.3	3.8	3.1	58.4	41.6	100.0	
Brazil	1986	25.2	1.0	0.6	1.7	26.8	4.0	5.0	1.9	66.2	33.8	100.0	
	1991	13.3	0.3	0.8	1.4	37.7	2.4	2.9	0.4	59.2	40.8	100.0	
	1996	20.7	1.1	1.2	4.4	40.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	76.7	23.3	100.0	
Colombia	1986	16.4	11.0	2.4	1.7	18.3	5.7	5.7	3.6	64.8	35.2	100.0	
	1990	14.1	12.4	2.2	2.9	20.9	6.1	4.8	2.7	66.1	33.9	100.0	
	1995	12.9	11.1	2.5	4.3	25.7	5.2	5.8	4.7	72.2	27.8	100.0	
	2000	11.8	12.4	4.0	6.1	27.1	6.0	6.3	3.2	76.9	23.1	100.0	
	2005	9.7	11.2	5.8	7.1	31.2	3.8	5.7	3.7	78.2	21.8	100.0	
Costa Rica	1986	19.2	7.4	1.2	12.9	16.7	7.6	3.1	1.2	69.3	30.7	100.0	
	1992	18.0	8.7	1.0	15.7	19.7	6.9	3.3	1.7	75.0	25.0	100.0	
	1999	25.6	6.9	5.9	10.9	21.4	6.0	1.8	1.5	80.0	20.0	100.0	
Ecuador	1987	8.5	9.8	0.7	0.6	14.9	6.1	2.0	1.7	44.3	55.7	100.0	
	1994	10.2	11.8	0.5	2.6	19.8	7.4	3.5	1.0	56.8	43.2	100.0	
	1999	11.1	10.1	3.5	2.7	22.5	7.9	6.5	1.6	65.8	34.2	100.0	
	2004	13.3	10.1	5.9	4.3	24.2	7.5	5.7	1.7	72.7	27.3	100.0	
Guatemala	1987	3.9	1.8	0.5	1.2	10.3	2.8	1.2	1.5	23.2	76.8	100.0	
	1995	3.8	2.6	2.5	2.2	14.3	3.6	0.9	1.5	31.4	68.6	100.0	
	1998/99	5.0	2.2	3.9	2.3	16.7	5.7	1.5	0.9	38.2	61.8	100.0	
	2002	3.4	1.9	9.0	2.3	16.8	6.3	2.3	1.4	43.4	56.6	100.0	
Haiti	1994/95	3.1	0.2	2.7	2.6	3.1	0.6	2.4	3.3	18.0	82.0	100.0	
	2000	2.3	0.1	11.8	2.9	2.8	2.1	3.1	3.0	28.1	71.9	100.0	

TABLE A.16. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PREVALENCE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS (IS COUNTRIES) (%)

Country	Year	Modern methods				Traditional methods				Total users	Total non-users	Overall
		Pill	IUD	Injection	Condom	Female sterilization	Periodic abstinence	Coitus interruptus	Other			
Honduras	1991/92	10.1	5.1	0.5	2.9	15.6	6.7	5.0	0.3	46.2	53.8	100.0
	1996	9.9	8.5	1.1	3.2	18.1	3.7	5.3	1.3	51.1	48.9	100.0
	2001	10.4	9.6	9.6	3.2	18.0	4.4	6.4	0.2	61.8	38.2	100.0
Mexico	1987	9.8	10.2	2.8	1.9	18.7	4.4	3.5	1.4	52.7	47.3	100.0
Nicaragua	1992/93	12.9	9.3	1.2	2.6	18.5	2.6	1.1	0.4	48.6	51.4	100.0
	1997/98	13.9	9.1	5.2	2.6	26.1	1.6	1.0	0.8	60.3	39.7	100.0
	2001	14.6	6.4	14.3	3.3	25.3	1.5	1.0	2.2	68.6	31.4	100.0
Paraguay	1990	13.6	5.7	5.2	2.6	7.4	5.3	2.9	5.7	48.4	51.6	100.0
	1998	13.1	11.1	7.5	7.3	8.0	2.8	5.4	2.0	57.2	42.8	100.0
	2004	15.0	11.5	10.4	11.9	11.5	6.7	4.5	1.3	72.8	28.2	101.0
	1986	6.5	7.3	1.3	0.7	6.1	17.7	3.6	2.6	45.8	54.2	100.0
Peru	1992	5.7	13.4	1.9	2.8	7.9	20.6	3.9	2.8	59.0	41.0	100.0
	1996	6.2	12.0	8.0	4.4	9.5	18.0	3.2	2.9	64.2	35.8	100.0
	2000	6.7	9.1	14.8	5.6	12.3	14.4	3.2	2.8	68.9	31.1	100.0
	2004	7.4	7.1	11.2	8.6	10.4	17.5	4.5	3.8	70.5	29.5	100.0
	1986	8.8	3.0	0.1	1.4	32.9	1.4	1.5	0.7	49.8	50.2	100.0
	1991	9.8	1.8	0.1	1.2	38.5	2.0	2.2	0.8	56.4	43.6	100.0
Dominican Republic	1996	12.9	2.5	0.5	1.4	40.9	1.8	1.9	1.8	63.7	36.3	100.0
	1999	14.5	3.2	0.8	0.9	43.5	1.9	3.1	1.3	69.2	30.8	100.0
	2002	13.5	2.2	1.9	1.3	45.8	1.4	1.7	2.0	69.8	30.2	100.0
	1985	6.6	3.3	0.7	1.2	31.8	1.9	0.8	1.0	47.3	52.7	100.0
El Salvador	1993	8.7	2.1	3.6	2.1	31.5	3.0	2.0	0.4	53.4	46.6	100.0
	1998	8.1	1.5	8.9	2.5	32.4	3.1	2.6	0.7	59.8	40.2	100.0
	2002/03	5.8	1.3	18.3	2.9	32.7	2.9	2.6	0.9	67.4	32.6	100.0
Venezuela	1998	21.1	9.5	–	3.4	26.4	3.6	4.5	1.8	70.3	29.7	100.0

Sources: Based on data from DHS, CDC and other surveys.

TABLE A.17.—LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: MEAN AGE AT FIRST UNION
(19 COUNTRIES) 1970-2000 (YEARS)

Country	1970	1980	1990	2000
Argentina	23.1	22.9	24.8	24.8
Bolivia	22.1	23.0	22.7	22.8
Brazil	23.0	22.7	22.3	22.7
Chile	23.4	23.6	23.3	23.4
Colombia	22.3	22.7	22.2	23.1
Costa Rica	21.7	22.2		22.2
Cuba	19.5	20.2		
Ecuador	21.2	21.5	21.8	21.7
Guatemala	19.7	20.5	21.3	21.3
Honduras	20.0	20.8	21.0	21.1
Mexico	21.2	22.4	22.4	22.7
Nicaragua	20.2	20.0	20.4	20.3
Panama	20.5	21.3	21.9	21.9
Paraguay	21.7	21.6	21.1	21.6
Peru	21.8	22.8	23.8	23.1
Dominican Republic	19.6	21.8	21.6	21.5
El Salvador	19.0	20.5	21.1	22.1
Uruguay	22.5	23.0	23.3	
Venezuela	22.2	21.3	22.1	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2004), International Data Base.

TABLE A.18.—LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PROPORTION OF WOMEN
AGED 20-29 IN CONSENSUAL UNION (19 COUNTRIES), 1970-2000 (%)

Country	1970	1980	1990	2000
Argentina	6.8	9.0	12.8	23.7
Bolivia	—	—	—	24.1
Brazil	4.5	8.4	25.1	28.5
Chile	3.0 (a)	3.9	7.0	13.7
Colombia	12.3	20.0	29.8	—
Costa Rica	10.6	12.1	—	20.8
Cuba	29.3 (a)	—	—	38.2
Ecuador	18.8	19.9	19.8	25.4
Guatemala	39.7	33.0	27.3	25.8
Honduras	39.7	33.9	—	37.3
Mexico	11.3	9.9	11.0	15.7
Nicaragua	29.9	—	38.4	37.3
Panama	36.9	35.1	34.2	40.4
Paraguay	16.0	14.9	18.3	29.6
Peru	16.0	19.9 (a)	28.0	—
Dominican Republic	40.8 (a)	36.9	35.7	41.1
El Salvador	35.7	—	31.2	—
Uruguay	6.0	9.0	15.5	—
Venezuela	18.0	19.4	20.8	29.6

Sources: ECLAC; (a) U.S. Census Bureau (2004), International Data Base.

TABLE A.19. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PROPORTION OF SINGLE WOMEN
AT AGE 45-49 (19 COUNTRIES), 1970-2000 (%)

Country	1970	1980	1990	2000
Argentina	10.9	10.2	11.4	10.2
Bolivia	7.7	–	7.3	10.9
Brazil	8.8	8.1	8.0	7.0
Chile	12.8 (a)	12.7	13.4	15.7
Colombia	15.3	11.7	12.1	–
Costa Rica	14.6	13.3	–	13.0
Cuba	10.1 (a)	–	–	9.4
Ecuador	11.0	10.1	10.3	12.1
Guatemala	10.8	5.8	7.3	8.8
Honduras	4.9	14.0	–	13.4
Mexico	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.5
Nicaragua	12.6	–	6.7	11.0
Panama	7.1	7.1	8.1	9.0
Paraguay	19.9	15.3	14.5	13.0
Peru	12.0	8.5 (a)	9.5	–
Dominican Republic	–	8.0	9.4	10.2
El Salvador	22.3	–	13.7	–
Uruguay	10.6	9.2	8.6	–
Venezuela	22.2	14.3	12.8	14.0

Sources: ECLAC; (a) U.S. Census Bureau (2004), International Data Base.

TABLE A.20.— LEGAL STATUS OF ABORTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Totally prohibited	Chile El Salvador
Authorized to save the woman's life	Antigua and Barbuda Brazil (a) Dominica Guatemala Haiti Honduras Mexico (a),(h) Nicaragua (g) Panama (g),(a),(c) Paraguay Dominican Republic Suriname Venezuela
Authorized for physical health reasons	Argentina (d) Bahamas Bolivia (a),(b) Colombia (a),(b),(c) (adopted in May 2006) Costa Rica Ecuador (d) Grenada Peru Saint Lucia Uruguay (a)
Authorized for mental health reasons	Jamaica (g) Trinidad and Tobago Saint Kitts and Nevis
Authorized for socioeconomic reasons	Barbados (g),(a),(b),(c) Belize (c) St Vincent and the Grenadines (a),(b),(c)
Authorized without restriction	Cuba (g) Guyana (f) Puerto Rico (e)
<p>(a) Abortion authorized in the event of rape; (b) Abortion authorized in the event of incest; (c) Abortion authorized in the event of damage to the foetus; (d) Abortion authorized in the event of rape of a mentally handicapped woman; (e) The law does not restrict abortion while the foetus is not yet viable; (f) Up to eight weeks' gestation; (g) Parental consent required; (h) The laws are not the same in all states and provinces: we consider the legislation that applies to the majority of the national population.</p> <p>Source: Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida (GIRE), 2005. Situación legal del aborto en el Mundo. Data available online at: http://www.gire.org.mx/</p>	

TABLE A.21. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 1950-2004 (MEN AND WOMEN)

Sub-region and country	Life expectancy at birth (years)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	49.3	53.5	56.7	58.8	61.3	63.8	66.2	68.5	70.7	72.5	73.8
Costa Rica	57.3	60.2	63.0	65.6	68.1	71.0	73.8	75.2	76.2	77.3	78.1
Guatemala	42.0	44.2	47.0	50.1	53.9	56.2	58.3	60.9	63.6	66.3	68.9
Honduras	41.8	44.6	48.0	51.0	54.1	57.7	61.6	65.4	67.7	69.8	71.0
Mexico	50.7	55.3	58.5	60.3	62.6	65.3	67.7	69.8	71.8	73.6	74.8
Nicaragua	42.3	45.4	48.6	51.9	55.2	57.6	59.5	62.2	66.1	68.0	69.5
Panama	55.3	59.3	62.0	64.3	66.5	69.0	70.8	71.9	72.9	73.8	74.7
El Salvador	45.3	48.6	52.3	55.9	58.3	57.1	57.1	63.4	67.1	69.4	70.6
Caribbean	53.3	56.6	59.3	61.8	63.9	65.7	66.6	67.6	68.3	69.5	70.5
Netherlands Antilles	60.5	64.4	66.6	68.3	70.4	72.1	73.8	74.5	74.6	75.5	76.3
Bahamas	59.8	62.4	64.2	65.8	66.5	67.3	68.1	69.6	68.7	67.3	67.1
Barbados	57.2	62.6	65.9	67.6	69.4	71.3	73.2	74.6	75.4	76.4	77.2
Belize	57.7	60.2	62.7	65.2	67.6	69.7	71.2	72.3	72.5	72.5	71.4
Cuba	59.5	62.4	65.4	68.6	71.0	73.1	74.3	74.6	74.8	76.2	77.1
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	56.5	61.6	64.6	65.8	67.8	69.9	72.5	73.6	75.9	77.3	78.3
Guyana	52.3	54.8	57.3	59.2	60.0	60.7	61.0	62.1	63.8	63.6	63.2
French Guiana	53.3	56.1	59.4	64.2	65.7	66.5	69.4	71.2	72.8	74.2	75.1
Haiti	37.6	40.7	43.6	46.3	48.5	50.7	51.9	53.6	55.4	57.2	59.2
Jamaica	58.5	62.6	65.6	67.5	69.0	70.1	71.2	72.5	73.7	74.8	75.7
Martinique	56.6	60.8	64.2	66.7	69.2	71.8	74.2	76.3	77.6	78.8	79.1
Puerto Rico	64.3	68.5	69.6	71.1	72.2	73.4	73.8	74.6	73.9	74.9	75.6
Dominican Republic	46.0	50.0	53.6	57.0	59.9	62.1	63.2	65.1	67.0	68.6	70.1
Saint Lucia	54.1	56.8	59.7	62.5	65.3	68.0	70.5	71.0	71.4	71.5	72.5
Suriname	56.0	58.7	60.5	62.5	64.0	65.1	67.1	68.2	69.0	70.1	71.1
Trinidad and Tobago	59.1	61.8	64.9	65.4	65.9	68.3	70.2	72.1	71.9	72.1	71.3
Andean countries	48.7	52.1	54.9	57.3	59.7	62.1	64.8	66.8	68.3	70.0	71.4
Bolivia	40.4	41.9	43.5	45.1	46.7	50.1	53.9	57.3	60.0	62.0	63.8
Colombia	50.6	55.1	57.9	60.0	61.7	64.0	66.8	67.9	68.6	70.7	72.2
Ecuador	48.4	51.4	54.7	56.8	58.9	61.4	64.5	67.5	70.0	72.3	74.2
Peru	43.9	46.3	49.1	51.5	55.5	58.5	61.6	64.4	66.7	68.3	69.8
Venezuela	55.2	58.1	61.0	63.8	66.1	67.7	68.8	70.5	71.5	72.2	72.8
Southern Cone and Brazil	54.3	56.4	58.3	59.9	61.7	63.6	65.3	67.0	68.8	70.5	72.0
Argentina	62.7	64.7	65.5	66.0	67.4	68.8	70.2	71.0	72.1	73.2	74.3
Brazil	51.0	53.4	55.9	57.9	59.8	61.8	63.6	65.5	67.5	69.4	71.0
Chile	54.8	56.2	58.1	60.6	63.6	67.2	70.7	72.7	74.3	75.7	77.7
Paraguay	62.6	63.2	64.4	65.0	65.9	66.5	67.1	67.6	68.5	69.7	70.8
Uruguay	66.3	67.2	68.4	68.6	68.8	69.6	71.0	72.1	73.0	74.1	75.2
Overall	51.4	54.3	56.8	58.8	60.9	63.0	64.9	66.7	68.3	70.2	71.5

Sources: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.22. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: MALE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Life expectancy at birth (years)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	47.8	51.8	54.8	56.9	59.0	60.9	62.9	65.5	67.9	70.1	71.3
Costa Rica	56.0	58.8	61.6	63.9	66.1	68.9	71.6	72.9	74.0	75.0	75.8
Guatemala	41.8	43.7	46.2	49.0	52.4	54.4	56.1	58.3	60.5	62.9	65.5
Honduras	40.5	43.0	46.3	49.2	52.1	55.6	59.4	63.2	65.4	67.5	68.6
Mexico	48.9	53.3	56.4	58.2	60.1	62.2	64.4	66.8	69.0	71.3	72.4
Nicaragua	40.9	44.1	47.3	50.5	53.7	55.3	56.5	59.0	63.5	65.7	67.2
Panama	54.4	58.4	60.9	63.1	64.9	67.0	68.4	69.3	70.2	71.3	72.3
El Salvador	44.1	47.3	50.8	54.1	56.1	52.2	50.8	59.0	63.3	66.5	67.7
Caribbean	51.8	55.0	57.6	60.1	62.0	63.8	64.7	65.5	66.2	67.2	68.3
Netherlands Antilles	59.1	63.0	64.8	66.4	67.8	69.5	70.9	71.5	71.5	72.5	73.3
Bahamas	58.3	60.8	61.0	62.9	63.2	63.5	64.4	66.0	64.8	63.4	63.9
Barbados	55.0	60.2	63.5	65.2	66.9	68.7	70.5	71.9	72.9	73.7	74.5
Belize	57.1	59.6	62.1	64.6	66.9	68.9	70.1	71.1	71.5	71.0	69.9
Cuba	57.8	60.8	63.8	67.0	69.4	71.5	72.6	72.8	72.9	74.2	75.3
Dominica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guadeloupe	55.0	59.5	62.5	63.2	64.7	66.4	68.9	70.1	72.4	73.6	74.8
Guyana	50.8	53.3	55.8	57.5	58.0	58.3	58.2	59.2	60.5	60.2	60.1
French Guiana	50.3	53.0	56.4	61.4	62.5	63.1	66.0	68.2	70.0	71.5	72.5
Haiti	36.3	39.4	42.3	44.9	47.1	49.2	50.6	52.2	54.0	55.8	57.8
Jamaica	56.9	60.8	63.7	65.7	67.3	68.4	69.6	70.7	71.9	72.9	73.7
Martinique	55.0	59.0	62.3	64.3	66.3	68.5	72.0	73.2	74.7	75.5	75.8
Puerto Rico	62.7	66.6	67.0	68.2	69.2	70.2	70.5	70.6	69.6	70.4	71.2
Dominican Republic	44.7	48.6	52.1	55.4	58.1	60.3	61.4	63.2	65.0	66.5	67.8
Saint Lucia	52.7	55.1	57.6	60.0	62.4	64.9	67.3	68.3	69.3	69.8	70.8
Suriname	54.4	57.0	58.7	60.5	61.7	62.8	64.8	65.8	66.5	67.5	68.5
Trinidad and Tobago	58.2	60.1	62.9	63.4	63.6	65.9	67.6	69.1	69.4	69.2	68.4
Andean countries	47.2	50.6	53.4	55.5	57.7	60.0	62.1	64.0	65.2	67.1	68.6
Bolivia	38.5	39.9	41.4	43.0	44.6	48.0	52.0	55.6	58.3	60.1	61.8
Colombia	49.0	53.5	56.2	58.3	59.7	61.8	63.6	64.2	64.3	67.3	69.2
Ecuador	47.1	50.1	53.4	55.4	57.4	59.7	62.5	65.3	67.6	69.7	71.3
Peru	42.9	45.1	47.8	50.1	53.9	56.7	59.5	62.1	64.4	65.9	67.3
Venezuela	53.8	56.6	59.3	61.5	63.3	64.8	65.9	67.7	68.7	69.3	69.9
Southern Cone and Brazil	52.5	54.3	56.1	57.6	59.2	61.1	62.1	63.6	65.1	66.9	68.4
Argentina	60.4	62.1	62.5	62.8	64.1	65.4	66.8	67.6	68.6	69.7	70.6
Brazil	49.3	51.6	54.0	55.9	57.6	59.5	60.4	62.0	63.7	65.7	67.3
Chile	52.9	53.8	55.3	57.6	60.5	63.9	67.4	69.6	71.5	72.8	74.8
Paraguay	60.7	61.3	62.5	63.1	63.8	64.4	64.9	65.4	66.3	67.5	68.6
Uruguay	63.3	64.2	65.4	65.5	65.6	66.3	67.6	68.6	69.2	70.5	71.6
Overall	49.7	52.5	54.9	56.7	58.6	60.5	62.0	63.6	65.0	66.9	68.3

Sources: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.23.—LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: FEMALE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Life expectancy at birth (years)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	51.0	55.2	58.6	60.9	63.7	67.0	69.6	71.7	73.6	75.1	76.5
Costa Rica	58.6	61.5	64.5	67.5	70.2	73.3	76.1	77.5	78.6	79.7	80.6
Guatemala	42.3	44.7	47.9	51.3	55.4	58.0	60.6	63.7	66.8	70.0	72.5
Honduras	43.2	46.2	49.8	53.0	56.2	59.9	63.8	67.7	70.1	72.3	73.4
Mexico	52.5	57.3	60.6	62.5	65.2	68.6	71.2	73.0	74.6	76.1	77.4
Nicaragua	43.7	46.8	50.0	53.4	56.8	60.0	62.6	65.5	68.7	70.4	71.9
Panama	56.2	60.4	63.1	65.5	68.1	71.1	73.3	74.6	75.7	76.4	77.4
El Salvador	46.5	50.0	54.0	57.8	60.6	62.2	63.8	68.0	71.1	72.5	73.7
Caribbean	54.8	58.2	61.1	63.7	65.9	67.8	68.6	69.8	70.7	71.8	72.8
Netherlands Antilles	61.6	65.6	68.3	70.2	73.0	74.8	76.5	77.5	77.6	78.4	79.2
Bahamas	61.2	63.8	67.3	68.6	69.9	71.2	72.5	73.9	73.5	71.4	70.3
Barbados	59.5	65.0	68.3	70.1	72.0	73.9	75.5	76.9	77.9	78.7	79.5
Belize	58.3	60.8	63.3	65.8	68.3	70.6	72.5	73.7	73.9	74.2	73.0
Cuba	61.3	64.2	67.1	70.2	72.7	74.9	76.0	76.6	76.7	78.2	79.1
Dominica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guadeloupe	58.1	63.7	66.8	68.5	70.9	73.4	76.2	77.1	80.1	80.9	81.7
Guyana	53.9	56.4	58.9	61.0	62.1	63.2	64.0	65.3	67.4	67.1	66.3
French Guiana	56.9	59.9	63.2	68.0	69.5	70.5	73.0	74.5	76.0	77.5	78.3
Haiti	38.9	42.0	44.9	47.6	50.0	52.2	53.3	55.0	56.8	58.7	60.7
Jamaica	60.2	64.5	67.5	69.3	70.7	71.8	72.9	74.2	75.8	76.8	77.8
Martinique	58.1	62.3	66.0	69.0	72.0	75.0	76.4	79.2	81.5	82.0	82.3
Puerto Rico	66.0	70.7	72.3	74.0	76.0	77.0	77.5	78.9	79.1	79.6	80.1
Dominican Republic	47.3	51.4	55.2	58.7	61.8	64.0	65.1	67.0	69.0	70.8	72.4
Saint Lucia	55.3	58.5	61.6	64.7	67.9	71.0	73.7	73.6	73.6	73.1	74.1
Suriname	57.7	60.5	62.5	64.5	66.5	67.7	69.7	70.8	71.5	72.7	73.7
Trinidad and Tobago	59.9	63.5	67.1	67.6	68.3	70.9	72.6	74.2	74.8	75.2	74.4
Andean countries	50.2	53.6	56.6	59.1	61.8	64.4	67.6	69.8	71.6	73.0	74.3
Bolivia	42.5	44.0	45.6	47.3	49.0	52.2	55.9	59.1	61.8	64.0	66.0
Colombia	52.3	56.9	59.7	61.8	63.9	66.3	70.2	71.7	73.0	74.3	75.3
Ecuador	49.6	52.7	56.1	58.2	60.5	63.2	66.7	69.9	72.6	75.1	77.2
Peru	45.0	47.5	50.5	53.0	57.3	60.5	63.8	66.8	69.2	70.9	72.4
Venezuela	56.6	59.6	62.8	66.1	68.9	70.7	71.8	73.5	74.5	75.2	75.8
Southern Cone and Brazil	56.3	58.6	60.6	62.3	64.3	66.3	68.7	70.7	72.6	74.3	75.8
Argentina	65.1	67.4	68.6	69.3	70.8	72.2	73.7	74.6	75.8	77.0	78.1
Brazil	52.8	55.4	57.8	60.0	62.2	64.3	66.9	69.2	71.5	73.3	74.9
Chile	56.8	58.7	61.0	63.8	66.8	70.6	74.2	75.9	77.4	78.8	80.8
Paraguay	64.7	65.2	66.4	67.0	68.1	68.7	69.3	69.9	70.8	72.0	73.1
Uruguay	69.4	70.4	71.6	71.9	72.2	73.1	74.5	75.8	76.9	78.0	78.9
Overall	53.1	56.2	58.8	60.9	63.3	65.7	68.1	70.0	71.7	73.6	74.9

Sources: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.24.— LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FEMALE AND MALE LIFE EXPECTANCIES BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Difference between female and male life expectancy (F-M) in years										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	3.2	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.7	6.1	6.6	6.2	5.7	5.1	5.1
Costa Rica	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.6	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7
Guatemala	0.5	1.0	1.7	2.3	3.0	3.6	4.5	5.4	6.3	7.1	7.0
Honduras	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.8
Mexico	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.3	5.1	6.3	6.7	6.2	5.6	4.8	4.9
Nicaragua	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1	4.7	6.2	6.5	5.2	4.7	4.8
Panama	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	3.1	4.2	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.1
El Salvador	2.4	2.7	3.2	3.7	4.5	10.1	13.0	9.0	7.7	6.0	6.1
Caribbean	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.5
Netherlands Antilles	2.5	2.6	3.5	3.8	5.2	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.9
Bahamas	2.9	3.0	6.3	5.7	6.7	7.8	8.1	7.8	8.8	8.0	6.4
Barbados	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Belize	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.4	2.6	2.4	3.3	3.1
Cuba	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.8
Dominica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guadeloupe	3.1	4.2	4.3	5.3	6.2	7.0	7.3	6.9	7.7	7.3	6.9
Guyana	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.5	4.1	5.0	5.8	6.2	6.9	7.0	6.3
French Guiana	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.0	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.8
Haiti	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0
Jamaica	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.9	3.9	4.1
Martinique	3.1	3.3	3.7	4.7	5.7	6.5	4.4	6.0	6.8	6.5	6.5
Puerto Rico	3.3	4.2	5.4	5.8	6.8	6.8	7.0	8.2	9.6	9.2	8.9
Dominican Republic	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.6
Saint Lucia	2.6	3.3	4.0	4.7	5.4	6.1	6.4	5.3	4.3	3.4	3.4
Suriname	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.2
Trinidad and Tobago	1.7	3.4	4.2	4.2	4.7	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.5	6.0	6.0
Andean countries	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.6	4.2	4.5	5.5	5.9	6.4	5.9	5.7
Bolivia	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.2
Colombia	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.2	4.5	6.6	7.5	8.8	7.0	6.1
Ecuador	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.6	4.2	4.6	5.1	5.5	5.9
Peru	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.1
Venezuela	2.8	3.0	3.5	4.7	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9
Southern Cone and Brazil	3.8	4.2	4.4	4.7	5.1	5.2	6.5	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.4
Argentina	4.7	5.3	6.2	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.5
Brazil	3.4	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.6	4.7	6.5	7.2	7.7	7.6	7.6
Chile	3.9	4.9	5.7	6.1	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.3	5.9	6.0	6.0
Paraguay	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Uruguay	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.9	7.2	7.7	7.5	7.3
Overall	3.4	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.7	5.2	6.1	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.6

Sources: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.25. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED INFANT MORTALITY RATE BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 1950-2004 (MALES AND FEMALES)

Sub-region and country	Infant mortality rate (per thousand)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	126.5	108.7	95.5	85.7	74.8	62.3	51.8	43.0	35.5	29.4	22.9
Costa Rica	93.8	87.7	81.3	67.7	52.5	30.4	19.2	17.4	14.5	11.8	10.5
Guatemala	140.8	133.8	126.7	115.5	102.5	90.9	79.3	67.1	54.8	45.5	38.6
Honduras	169.3	153.9	135.5	119.0	103.7	81.0	65.0	53.0	43.0	35.0	31.2
Mexico	121.2	101.5	88.0	79.4	69.0	56.8	47.0	39.5	33.1	27.7	20.5
Nicaragua	172.3	150.7	131.3	113.8	97.9	90.1	79.8	65.0	48.0	35.0	30.1
Panama	93.0	74.9	62.7	51.6	43.7	36.3	31.6	29.6	27.0	23.7	20.6
El Salvador	151.1	137.0	122.7	110.3	105.0	95.0	77.0	54.0	40.2	32.0	26.4
Caribbean	115.5	100.3	87.8	77.9	68.3	57.5	48.6	42.1	34.9	30.5	26.9
Netherlands Antilles	69.0	51.0	42.0	35.0	28.0	22.0	18.0	17.0	16.3	14.2	12.6
Bahamas	78.8	56.3	48.3	41.2	38.2	35.4	29.6	23.1	20.4	19.1	17.7
Barbados	132.0	87.0	61.0	46.0	33.0	27.0	16.9	15.2	14.0	12.4	10.9
Belize	88.0	78.0	69.0	60.0	52.0	45.0	39.3	35.9	34.6	33.3	31.1
Cuba	80.6	69.9	59.4	49.7	38.5	22.3	17.4	15.9	15.3	9.6	6.1
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	79.5	60.0	48.9	44.9	38.5	31.9	24.7	22.0	9.2	8.3	7.4
Guyana	119.0	105.0	95.0	82.0	79.0	67.0	69.3	65.6	56.7	55.6	51.2
French Guiana	103.4	89.1	73.1	51.4	45.9	42.9	32.0	25.0	19.9	16.4	14.3
Haiti	219.6	193.5	176.2	165.2	152.2	139.2	122.1	100.1	74.1	66.1	59.1
Jamaica	91.9	78.3	61.4	51.6	45.0	37.0	30.5	27.0	24.3	21.9	19.9
Martinique	64.7	55.7	47.7	42.3	34.7	21.9	14.0	10.1	7.6	7.0	6.8
Puerto Rico	63.4	51.4	44.8	33.3	25.3	19.7	17.2	13.8	11.6	11.0	10.3
Dominican Republic	149.4	132.2	117.5	105.0	93.5	84.3	62.5	54.1	46.6	40.0	34.4
Saint Lucia	114.6	105.3	81.1	47.7	39.1	29.3	22.7	20.1	16.9	16.9	14.8
Suriname	89.2	76.2	63.5	54.6	48.8	44.0	40.3	36.1	33.4	29.1	25.7
Trinidad and Tobago	76.0	63.0	48.0	45.6	41.1	32.0	25.3	19.7	16.3	15.1	14.1
Andean countries	135.1	120.4	107.3	96.5	85.1	71.3	59.6	49.6	41.2	33.9	27.8
Bolivia	175.7	169.7	163.6	157.5	151.3	131.2	109.2	90.1	75.1	66.7	55.6
Colombia	123.2	105.3	92.1	82.2	73.0	56.7	48.4	41.4	35.2	30.0	25.6
Ecuador	139.5	129.4	119.2	107.1	95.0	82.4	68.5	55.5	44.2	33.3	24.9
Peru	158.6	148.2	136.1	126.3	110.3	99.1	81.6	68.0	55.5	42.1	33.4
Venezuela	106.4	89.0	72.8	59.5	48.7	39.3	33.6	26.9	23.1	20.7	17.5
Southern Cone and Brazil	116.1	106.7	97.6	89.7	80.0	68.6	54.8	45.5	37.4	30.6	24.2
Argentina	65.9	60.4	59.7	57.4	48.1	39.1	32.2	27.1	24.4	21.8	15.0
Brazil	134.7	121.9	109.4	100.1	90.5	78.8	63.3	52.4	42.5	34.1	27.3
Chile	120.3	118.3	109.0	89.2	68.6	45.2	23.7	18.4	14.1	11.5	8.0
Paraguay	73.4	69.7	62.3	58.6	53.1	51.0	48.9	46.7	43.3	39.2	37.0
Uruguay	57.4	53.0	47.9	47.1	46.3	42.4	33.5	22.6	20.1	17.5	13.1
Overall	126.2	112.7	100.8	91.1	80.7	69.0	56.9	47.1	38.7	32.1	26.0

Sources: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.26. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED MALE INFANT MORTALITY RATE BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Male infant mortality rate (per thousand)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	138.0	120.0	106.0	94.6	82.7	69.5	57.5	46.9	38.4	32.4	25.6
Costa Rica	101.0	95.0	88.9	74.5	58.5	33.8	21.4	19.6	16.4	13.3	11.8
Guatemala	150.3	142.7	135.2	122.8	108.4	95.9	83.6	71.6	59.6	50.7	44.0
Honduras	172.5	159.8	143.1	127.0	112.2	88.6	71.7	58.9	48.2	39.7	35.5
Mexico	133.8	114.1	99.6	88.9	77.2	64.4	52.9	43.0	35.5	30.3	22.9
Nicaragua	180.3	159.0	139.7	122.0	105.7	98.1	87.5	71.8	53.8	39.5	33.8
Panama	101.0	81.6	68.5	56.6	48.3	40.8	36.0	33.9	31.1	27.6	24.1
El Salvador	161.3	146.0	130.7	117.4	112.5	101.9	82.7	59.9	43.9	34.9	28.6
Caribbean	124.2	108.4	94.2	81.9	71.3	59.4	53.0	46.2	38.1	33.3	29.1
Netherlands Antilles	73.3	54.3	46.5	39.5	34.3	27.8	22.7	21.5	20.7	17.4	16.2
Bahamas	84.8	60.8	58.3	49.4	48.0	46.6	38.0	28.8	22.8	19.2	15.8
Barbados	148.0	99.6	71.0	54.5	39.9	33.5	20.9	18.6	16.4	14.2	11.9
Belize	92.5	81.1	70.9	60.9	52.3	45.1	39.9	36.7	34.7	33.2	31.7
Cuba	90.8	78.7	66.9	55.9	43.0	25.0	19.0	18.0	17.4	11.2	6.7
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	88.3	67.6	55.7	51.5	44.5	37.3	29.2	26.2	11.0	9.7	8.3
Guyana	130.4	114.2	102.6	88.6	86.4	74.6	78.8	76.5	71.6	65.1	56.9
French Guiana	120.5	105.3	87.4	62.9	57.8	55.2	42.1	32.9	25.7	20.7	17.3
Haiti	230.1	203.9	180.6	160.0	145.0	131.1	128.0	105.0	78.0	70.0	63.0
Jamaica	98.9	85.5	67.6	56.7	49.4	40.6	33.7	30.0	17.9	16.8	16.0
Martinique	71.0	61.6	53.3	47.6	39.4	25.2	16.2	11.8	11.1	8.9	7.7
Puerto Rico	68.7	56.1	49.0	36.6	27.9	21.8	19.1	15.4	12.9	12.1	10.7
Dominican Republic	157.6	140.2	125.3	112.6	100.9	90.8	70.8	61.5	53.5	46.0	39.6
Saint Lucia	127.1	117.7	91.5	54.3	45.0	34.2	26.9	23.7	19.8	18.8	16.5
Suriname	96.8	83.2	70.0	60.8	56.0	50.9	46.0	41.7	38.8	34.7	30.6
Trinidad and Tobago	79.0	68.9	54.3	51.7	47.6	38.2	31.0	24.8	20.6	18.1	16.0
Andean countries	142.9	127.8	114.5	103.5	91.9	77.2	65.1	54.8	45.7	38.4	32.1
Bolivia	190.0	182.9	175.8	168.5	161.2	140.0	116.0	96.0	79.2	70.3	60.0
Colombia	130.0	112.5	99.5	89.5	80.3	62.6	53.4	46.2	39.5	34.0	29.2
Ecuador	150.5	139.6	128.7	116.1	103.5	90.1	75.5	61.7	49.6	37.4	28.8
Peru	166.4	155.6	143.0	132.8	116.1	104.6	87.9	74.7	61.8	50.1	41.7
Venezuela	110.9	92.7	76.3	63.8	53.4	43.7	37.6	30.3	25.9	22.8	19.0
Southern Cone and Brazil	125.1	115.9	106.5	98.5	90.6	78.8	60.7	50.9	42.3	34.5	27.5
Argentina	69.9	64.3	64.2	62.0	52.2	42.7	35.5	30.0	27.0	24.2	17.0
Brazil	145.6	133.0	119.8	110.4	103.5	91.4	70.2	58.8	48.3	38.6	31.0
Chile	128.0	126.4	117.1	96.5	74.3	49.2	25.8	19.9	15.3	12.6	9.0
Paraguay	77.8	73.8	65.9	62.0	59.2	57.0	54.7	52.5	48.6	43.8	41.9
Uruguay	62.1	57.7	52.3	51.8	51.3	47.1	36.9	25.0	22.5	20.5	15.5
Overall	135.7	122.3	109.8	99.5	89.5	77.2	62.7	52.1	42.9	35.8	29.2

Sources: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.27. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED FEMALE INFANT MORTALITY RATE BY FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 1950-2004

Sub-region and country	Female infant mortality rate (per thousand)										
	1950-1954	1955-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004
Mesoamerica	114.4	96.7	84.4	76.3	66.5	54.9	45.8	38.9	32.4	26.3	20.0
Costa Rica	86.2	80.0	73.3	60.5	46.3	26.9	16.9	15.0	12.6	10.3	9.1
Guatemala	130.9	124.4	117.9	107.8	96.2	85.8	74.8	62.3	49.8	40.1	33.0
Honduras	166.0	147.8	127.5	110.5	94.8	73.1	57.9	46.8	37.6	30.2	26.7
Mexico	107.9	88.3	75.9	69.5	60.3	49.0	40.9	35.9	30.6	24.9	18.0
Nicaragua	163.9	142.0	122.5	105.2	89.6	81.8	71.7	57.8	41.9	30.2	26.2
Panama	84.6	67.9	56.6	46.4	38.8	31.6	27.1	25.2	22.7	19.7	17.0
El Salvador	140.3	127.6	114.2	102.8	97.1	87.7	71.0	47.9	36.3	29.0	24.1
Caribbean	101.5	87.7	73.5	59.6	50.2	39.4	37.5	32.0	25.7	22.8	20.3
Netherlands Antilles	64.5	47.5	37.3	30.2	21.4	15.9	13.1	12.2	11.7	10.8	10.1
Bahamas	72.6	51.6	37.8	32.6	27.9	23.8	22.5	18.4	15.5	13.5	11.6
Barbados	115.5	74.0	50.7	37.1	25.8	20.2	12.6	11.7	11.4	10.5	9.7
Belize	83.4	74.8	67.0	59.1	51.7	44.9	38.7	35.1	34.1	32.3	29.4
Cuba	69.9	60.5	51.5	43.1	33.6	19.6	15.7	13.6	13.0	7.9	5.5
Dominica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grenada	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guadeloupe	70.4	52.0	41.9	38.1	32.3	26.3	19.9	17.6	7.3	6.8	6.3
Guyana	107.1	95.3	87.1	75.0	71.2	59.0	59.8	57.7	51.7	46.7	41.0
French Guiana	85.4	72.2	58.0	39.3	33.4	29.9	21.4	16.8	13.8	11.8	10.8
Haiti	208.5	182.6	159.9	140.0	124.3	110.1	116.0	95.0	70.0	62.0	55.0
Jamaica	84.5	70.8	54.9	46.3	40.4	33.2	27.1	23.9	15.6	14.5	13.8
Martinique	58.2	49.5	41.9	36.8	29.8	18.5	11.6	8.4	7.6	7.0	6.4
Puerto Rico	57.8	46.5	40.3	29.8	22.5	17.5	15.3	12.2	10.3	9.8	9.0
Dominican Republic	140.8	123.8	109.3	97.1	85.8	77.4	53.9	46.3	39.4	33.7	28.9
Saint Lucia	101.8	92.6	70.4	40.9	32.9	24.2	18.5	16.3	13.6	14.4	13.2
Suriname	81.0	68.7	56.4	48.0	41.1	36.5	34.4	30.4	27.9	23.9	20.3
Trinidad and Tobago	72.9	56.9	41.5	39.3	34.3	25.5	19.5	14.4	12.4	11.8	11.3
Andean countries	130.5	118.7	107.1	96.0	84.0	71.7	58.8	47.5	38.5	31.3	24.9
Bolivia	160.7	155.8	150.9	145.9	140.9	122.0	102.0	84.0	70.8	62.8	51.0
Colombia	116.0	97.8	84.3	74.5	65.4	50.5	43.1	36.4	30.6	25.8	21.8
Ecuador	128.1	118.6	109.1	97.7	86.2	74.2	61.1	49.0	38.6	28.9	20.8
Peru	150.4	140.5	128.9	119.5	104.2	93.3	75.1	61.0	48.8	39.6	32.9
Venezuela	101.7	85.1	69.2	55.1	43.7	34.8	29.4	23.4	20.3	18.5	16.0
Southern Cone and Brazil	106.8	97.1	88.4	80.5	68.9	57.8	48.6	39.7	32.3	26.5	20.8
Argentina	61.7	56.3	55.1	52.6	43.8	35.3	28.8	24.1	21.6	19.4	13.0
Brazil	123.3	110.3	98.5	89.3	76.9	65.5	56.1	45.6	36.5	29.4	23.5
Chile	112.4	109.8	100.7	81.7	62.6	40.9	21.6	16.7	12.9	10.3	7.0
Paraguay	68.9	65.4	58.4	55.0	46.7	44.8	42.7	40.6	37.8	34.4	31.8
Uruguay	52.5	48.1	43.3	42.2	41.1	37.5	30.0	20.0	17.5	14.4	10.5
Overall	116.2	102.7	91.3	82.3	71.5	60.3	50.8	41.9	34.2	28.3	22.7

Sources: ECLAC estimates (http://www.eclac.cl/celade/proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm). Data for the English-speaking Caribbean are from the United Nations (2005).

TABLE A.28. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INFANT MORTALITY RATE BY MOTHER'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (14 COUNTRIES), 1980s, 1990s AND 2000s (PER THOUSAND)

Country	Survey date	Place of residence			Level of education				Overall
		Urban	Rural	Rural/Urban	No education	Primary	Secondary or above	No ed./Secondary or above	
Bolivia	1989	73.9	106.6	1.4	116.1	98.7	50.2	2.3	90.6
	1994	68.8	105.8	1.5	122.2	99.5	48.2	2.5	86.6
	1998	53.0	99.9	1.9	112.5	86.6	41.3	2.7	73.5
	2003	57.4	81.4	1.4	102.6	74.2	39.0	2.6	67.8
Brazil	1986 (a)	72.9	106.0	1.5	113.2	89.1	23.1	4.9	84.0
	1991 (b)	81.0	106.9	1.3	124.7	86.9	34.5	3.6	93.3
	1996	42.4	65.3	1.5	93.2	58.1	32.0	2.9	48.1
Colombia	1986	37.5	40.7	1.1	49.3	42.0	28.6	1.7	38.7
	1990	28.9	23.4	0.8	60.5	27.3	20.4	3.0	27.0
	1995	28.3	35.2	1.2	26.9	36.5	25.6	1.1	30.8
	2000	21.3	31.1	1.5	42.3	28.2	19.6	2.2	24.4
	2005	20.3	25.9	1.3	43.3	27.3	17.4	2.5	22.1
Ecuador	1987	51.6	77.7	1.5	104.5	68.7	39.4	2.7	65.2
	1994	30.0	52.0	1.7	79.0	44.0	28.6	2.8	40.0
	1999	22.0	40.0	1.8	51.0	35.0	21.8	2.3	30.0
	2004	28.0	32.0	1.1	48.0	36.0	22.2	2.2	29.0
Guatemala	1987 (a)	66.6	84.2	1.3	82.9	80.1	41.8	2.0	79.2
	1995	45.4	62.9	1.4	69.8	53.6	26.1	2.7	57.2
	1998/99	49.0	49.1	1.0	55.7	46.5	41.1	1.4	49.1
	2002	35.0	48.0	1.4	57.0	40.0	17.0	3.4	44.0
Haiti	1994/95	83.2	88.9	1.1	95.2	78.4	75.6	1.3	87.1
	2000	87.0	90.5	1.0	90.9	97.5	55.9	1.6	89.4
Honduras	1996 (c)	33.0	37.0	1.1	43.0	30.1	24.0	1.8	36.0
	2001 (d)	29.0	38.0	1.3	63.0	30.1	18.0	3.5	34.0
Mexico	1987	41.6	79.2	1.9	82.9	58.1	27.6	3.0	56.4
Nicaragua	1992/93 (e)	51.0	68.0	1.3	73.0	46.0	29.0	2.5	60.0
	1997/98	40.0	51.1	1.3	62.1	45.3	31.0	2.0	45.2
	2001	27.7	42.8	1.5	54.2	34.4	21.7	2.5	35.3
Paraguay	1990	32.6	38.7	1.2	52.2	39.1	22.9	2.3	35.9
	1995/96	29.0	37.0	1.3	50.0	34.0	11.0	4.5	33.0
	2004	28.0	31.0	1.1	–	–	–	–	–
Peru	1986	55.8	106.1	1.9	118.8	88.3	41.5	2.9	79.1
	1992	47.5	89.9	1.9	100.0	83.2	33.9	2.9	63.7
	1996	34.9	71.0	2.0	78.9	61.7	30.6	2.6	49.9
	2000	28.4	60.3	2.1	73.4	53.5	27.4	2.7	43.2
Dominican Republic	1986	71.9	67.9	0.9	96.1	73.7	47.5	2.0	70.1
	1991	37.2	54.4	1.5	46.8	54.1	25.9	1.8	44.4
	1996	45.8	52.6	1.1	84.7	53.8	29.3	2.9	48.6
	1999	35.3	39.1	1.1	34.7	50.6	17.9	1.9	36.8
	2002	33.1	37.5	1.1	52.5	39.1	26.5	2.0	34.6
El Salvador	1985	57.6	82.4	1.4	99.7	64.2	24.9	4.0	70.9
	1993 (d)	35.2	44.0	1.2	39.0	45.4	24.0	1.6	41.0
	1998 (e)	27.0	41.0	1.5	41.0	34.2	35.0
	2002/03	24.0	24.0	1.0	36.0	21.8	23.0	1.6	24.0
Trinidad and Tobago	1987	34.2	27.9	0.8	69.0	24.2	38.5	1.8	30.5

(a) Women aged 15-44; (b) Nordeste; (c) 1991-1995; (d) 1996-2000; (e) 1982-1992.

Sources: ORC Macro, 2006. MEASURE DHS STAT compiler. <http://www.measuredhs.com>; <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/surveys/index.htm>

TABLE A.29. – CHANGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN POPULATION LIVING IN TOWNS OF MORE THAN 20,000 INHABITANTS IN EACH COUNTRY (20 COUNTRIES)

Country	Census					
	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
Argentina	50.8	60.1	66.9	71.0	74.9	76.5
Bolivia	19.7	–	34.1	–	49.6	54.1
Brazil	28.8	28.9	40.7	52.2	58.4	64.5
Chile	47.1	55.1	62.0	68.5	72.1	75.4
Colombia	22.5	37.2	45.5	55.1	59.2	60.2
Costa Rica	18.4	22.8	30.8	33.8	33.8	49.2
Cuba	38.3	–	43.8	47.9	47.9	–
Ecuador	18.0	27.7	35.3	42.5	48.0	54.7
Guatemala	14.5	19.2	22.2	22.6	24.3	32.5
Haiti	5.5	–	13.7	17.4	17.4	–
Honduras	6.8	11.5	20.5	28.0	28.0	34.7
Mexico	29.3	36.9	45.7	52.8	57.1	60.7
Nicaragua	15.2	23.0	29.6	–	41.0	–
Panama	28.2	34.6	39.1	43.6	46.8	52.7
Paraguay	19.6	23.0	27.6	33.1	39.0	44.6
Peru	15.9	30.3	42.0	49.9	55.2	–
Dominican Republic	11.1	18.7	30.5	41.9	45.2	52.7
El Salvador	14.7	19.5	21.9	–	35.9	–
Uruguay	66.9	66.9	69.9	71.8	74.3	–
Venezuela	38.7	52.7	63.5	70.5	71.5	74.3

Sources: CELADE (2005) and DEPUALC database.

TABLE A.30.— LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ILLITERACY RATE IN THE POPULATION AGED 15 OR ABOVE IN 2000 (%)

Country	Illiteracy rate (%)		
	Males	Females	Overall
Mesoamerica			
Costa Rica	4.5	4.4	4.4
Guatemala	24.0	38.9	31.5
Honduras	25.1	25.0	25.0
Mexico	6.7	10.9	8.8
Nicaragua	33.8	33.3	33.5
Panama	7.5	8.8	8.1
El Salvador	18.5	23.9	21.3
Caribbean	3.5		
Netherlands Antilles	5.5	3.4	3.5
Bahamas	0.3	3.7	4.6
Barbados	6.7	0.3	0.3
Belize	3.2	6.8	6.8
Cuba	—	3.4	3.3
Dominica	—	—	—
Grenada	—	—	—
Guadeloupe	—	—	—
Guyana	1.1	1.9	1.5
French Guiana	—	—	—
Haiti	48.0	52.2	50.2
Jamaica	17.1	9.3	13.1
Martinique	—	—	—
Puerto Rico	6.4	6.0	6.2
Dominican Republic	16.3	16.3	16.3
Saint Lucia	—	—	—
Suriname	—	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago	1.1	2.3	1.7
Andean countries			
Bolivia	8.1	20.8	14.6
Colombia	8.4	8.4	8.4
Ecuador	6.8	10.1	8.4
Peru	5.3	14.8	10.1
Venezuela	7.0	8.0	7.5
Southern Cone and Brazil			
Argentina	3.2	3.2	3.2
Brazil	13.0	13.2	13.1
Chile	4.1	4.4	4.2
Paraguay	5.6	7.8	6.7
Uruguay	2.9	2.0	2.4
Overall	10.1	12.1	11.1
<i>Source:</i> Social Indicators and Statistics Database (BADEINSO), based on data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.			

TABLE A.31. – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS HAVING COMPLETED PRIMARY SCHOOLING, BY COHORT GROUP (18 COUNTRIES)

Sub-region and country	Years of birth										
	1980-1984	1975-1979	1970-1974	1965-1969	1960-1964	1955-1959	1950-1954	1945-1949	1940-1944	1935-1939	Before 1935
Mesoamerica											
Costa Rica	88.7	87.2	84.6	86.1	85.9	87.1	79.3	73.1	61.1	52.4	35.7
Guatemala	60.8	55.9	52.2	41.2	38.4	36.9	28.8	25.6	20.4	15.4	11.7
Honduras	68.4	66.7	61.7	59.5	51.5	45.9	40.9	32.4	26.8	21.5	13.9
Mexico	92.6	89.7	86.7	84.0	78.0	69.3	64.1	53.5	45.9	37.1	27.8
Nicaragua	64.5	62.5	60.2	55.2	50.9	46.0	39.4	28.7	23.7	22.7	14.5
Panama	91.5	89.8	89.3	88.9	88.2	86.4	82.5	74.4	70.8	61.1	50.5
El Salvador	74.3	72.8	9.0	62.3	57.4	54.2	46.1	40.4	35.4	28.0	19.4
Caribbean											
Dominican Republic	81.9	81.0	676.3	76.2	71.6	63.6	56.9	47.8	35.1	34.3	23.1
Andean countries											
Bolivia	81.6	77.0	67.1	61.8	56.7	50.4	46.9	39.8	33.4	31.4	19.4
Colombia	89.7	88.4	85.6	82.1	78.8	75.4	68.7	63.0	56.3	48.4	42.7
Ecuador	90.8	90.8	89.8	87.6	82.6	78.8	71.5	66.6	57.9	50.1	41.2
Peru	89.4	88.6	85.4	77.6	66.7	61.9	52.5	44.0	35.6	28.0	22.4
Venezuela	90.2	90.0	88.3	87.1	85.1	82.4	78.4	73.7	64.6	56.8	38.7
Southern Cone and Brazil											
Argentina	96.6	97.5	97.1	95.9	94.0	92.5	89.9	85.6	82.7	81.0	73.7
Brazil	87.6	85.6	82.2	79.2	76.3	74.0	68.6	60.6	53.8	45.9	36.8
Chile	97.0	96.0	95.5	92.0	90.1	87.7	82.9	74.4	69.8	61.6	53.4
Paraguay	80.8	80.7	78.3	72.8	69.1	59.5	56.9	47.7	42.4	36.4	22.7
Uruguay	96.3	97.1	96.2	95.8	94.6	94.2	90.9	86.2	84.0	76.4	64.1
Overall	88.1	86.4	83.7	80.6	76.7	72.8	67.5	59.8	53.0	45.8	37.3

Source: ECLAC (2005) from OREALC-UNESCO (2004).

TABLE A.32.—LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PERCENTAGE OF MEN HAVING COMPLETED PRIMARY SCHOOLING, BY COHORT (18 COUNTRIES)

Sub-region and country	Years of birth										
	1980-1984	1975-1979	1970-1974	1965-1969	1960-1964	1955-1959	1950-1954	1945-1949	1940-1944	1935-1939	Before 1935
Mesoamerica											
Costa Rica	87.3	86.5	84.8	84.3	85.9	86.9	81.1	75.9	64.5	56.6	37.2
Guatemala	64.8	61.5	60.7	48.5	44.0	47.0	31.1	32.5	21.2	18.9	11.2
Honduras	64.3	63.4	59.7	57.6	49.8	45.6	43.7	34.6	28.0	23.2	14.5
Mexico	92.2	90.5	88.3	84.5	81.7	71.6	70.4	57.5	48.4	39.3	30.5
Nicaragua	58.6	59.8	57.7	53.1	53.3	50.8	34.6	35.8	22.7	28.3	12.3
Panama	90.9	90.3	88.8	88.9	87.9	86.6	82.5	75.3	69.8	60.6	49.9
El Salvador	73.6	74.8	70.5	66.3	61.9	58.5	53.6	50.4	40.6	33.9	21.3
Caribbean											
Dominican Republic	77.6	77.7	73.0	71.6	70.0	63.6	55.8	52.5	37.9	37.9	24.5
Andean countries											
Bolivia	82.4	81.8	71.2	71.0	66.8	61.4	56.2	46.6	44.3	38.7	24.3
Colombia	88.0	87.0	84.2	81.6	77.6	73.8	69.7	64.1	56.3	49.7	43.6
Ecuador	90.1	91.3	90.1	88.8	85.2	82.4	74.5	71.2	61.1	53.3	42.2
Peru	91.0	91.9	90.0	82.7	72.9	69.5	59.8	54.8	45.0	34.5	27.5
Venezuela	87.8	87.6	86.0	85.5	83.6	82.0	78.1	75.4	67.5	60.3	43.6
Southern Cone and Brazil											
Argentina	95.8	96.8	96.7	95.0	94.6	91.6	89.0	85.6	82.1	83.4	76.9
Brazil	85.3	83.0	80.0	77.0	74.5	73.2	68.5	62.0	54.9	48.2	37.4
Chile	96.6	95.8	94.9	91.3	89.7	87.4	84.2	75.4	71.9	63.0	55.0
Paraguay	77.4	79.7	79.8	73.8	71.3	61.1	60.0	48.9	48.9	37.2	25.6
Uruguay	95.6	96.5	95.6	95.4	94.7	93.6	89.7	85.1	84.3	75.8	63.9
Overall	86.8	85.7	83.4	80.2	77.4	73.8	69.4	62.6	55.1	48.2	38.6

Source: ECLAC (2005) from OREALC-UNESCO (2004).

TABLE A.33.—LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN HAVING COMPLETED PRIMARY SCHOOLING, BY COHORT (18 COUNTRIES)

Sub-region and country	Years of birth										
	1980-1984	1975-1979	1970-1974	1965-1969	1960-1964	1955-1959	1950-1954	1945-1949	1940-1944	1935-1939	Before 1935
Mesoamerica											
Costa Rica	90.3	87.9	84.4	87.9	85.9	87.4	77.6	70.4	58.1	48.6	34.4
Guatemala	57.2	50.8	44.0	34.2	33.7	27.8	26.6	19.5	19.7	12.0	12.0
Honduras	72.5	69.6	63.4	61.1	52.8	46.2	38.5	30.3	25.7	20.0	13.4
Mexico	93.0	88.9	85.3	83.6	74.7	67.4	58.1	50.1	43.7	34.9	25.4
Nicaragua	70.8	65.1	62.7	57.0	48.8	41.7	43.4	22.1	24.5	16.7	16.3
Panama	92.2	89.3	89.7	88.9	88.5	86.2	82.6	73.6	71.9	61.7	51.1
El Salvador	75.0	71.0	67.8	59.0	53.9	50.9	40.4	31.9	30.9	23.2	18.0
Caribbean											
Dominican Republic	86.7	84.6	79.4	80.2	73.2	63.6	57.9	43.2	32.8	30.9	21.9
Andean countries											
Bolivia	80.7	72.6	63.4	53.5	47.9	40.8	37.3	32.6	22.1	24.4	15.3
Colombia	91.5	89.6	86.9	82.5	79.8	76.9	67.9	62.0	56.4	47.2	42.0
Ecuador	91.4	90.4	89.5	86.6	80.1	75.5	68.6	62.0	54.5	46.9	40.2
Peru	87.8	85.3	81.3	73.0	61.2	54.8	45.7	34.0	27.2	22.0	17.4
Venezuela	92.7	92.3	90.6	88.7	86.6	82.8	78.8	72.0	61.9	53.5	34.7
Southern Cone and Brazil											
Argentina	97.4	98.1	97.6	96.8	93.4	93.3	90.6	85.5	83.2	78.9	71.6
Brazil	89.9	88.1	84.2	81.1	78.0	74.7	68.7	59.3	52.8	43.9	36.2
Chile	97.4	96.2	96.1	92.5	90.4	88.0	81.7	73.5	67.6	60.5	52.3
Paraguay	84.7	81.6	76.9	71.9	67.0	58.2	53.7	46.3	36.6	35.8	20.2
Uruguay	97.0	97.6	96.9	96.2	94.5	94.8	91.9	87.3	83.7	76.9	64.2
Overall	89.4	87.2	84.0	80.9	76.1	72.0	65.7	57.2	51.0	43.6	36.4

Source: ECLAC (2005) from OREALC-UNESCO (2004).

TABLE A.34.—LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: RATIO OF FEMALE TO MALE PRIMARY SCHOOLING RATES BY COHORT GROUP (F/M) (18 COUNTRIES)

Sub-region and country	Years of birth										
	1980-1984	1975-1979	1970-1974	1965-1969	1960-1964	1955-1959	1950-1954	1945-1949	1940-1944	1935-1939	Before 1935
Mesoamerica											
Costa Rica	1.03	1.02	1.00	1.04	1.00	1.01	0.96	0.93	0.90	0.86	0.92
Guatemala	0.88	0.83	0.72	0.71	0.77	0.59	0.86	0.60	0.93	0.63	1.07
Honduras	1.13	1.10	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.01	0.88	0.88	0.92	0.86	0.92
Mexico	1.01	0.98	0.97	0.99	0.91	0.94	0.83	0.87	0.90	0.89	0.83
Nicaragua	1.21	1.09	1.09	1.07	0.92	0.82	1.25	0.62	1.08	0.59	1.33
Panama	1.01	0.99	1.01	1.00	1.01	1.00	1.00	0.98	1.03	1.02	1.02
El Salvador	1.02	0.95	0.96	0.89	0.87	0.87	0.75	0.63	0.76	0.68	0.85
Caribbean											
Dominican Republic	1.12	1.09	1.09	1.12	1.05	1.00	1.04	0.82	0.87	0.82	0.89
Andean countries											
Bolivia	0.98	0.89	0.89	0.75	0.72	0.66	0.66	0.70	0.50	0.63	0.63
Colombia	1.04	1.03	1.03	1.01	1.03	1.04	0.97	0.97	1.00	0.95	0.96
Ecuador	1.01	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.94	0.92	0.92	0.87	0.89	0.88	0.95
Peru	0.96	0.93	0.90	0.88	0.84	0.79	0.76	0.62	0.60	0.64	0.63
Venezuela	1.06	1.05	1.05	1.04	1.04	1.01	1.01	0.95	0.92	0.89	0.80
Southern Cone and Brazil											
Argentina	1.02	1.01	1.01	1.02	0.99	1.02	1.02	1.00	1.01	0.95	0.93
Brazil	1.05	1.06	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.02	1.00	0.96	0.96	0.91	0.97
Chile	1.01	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	0.97	0.97	0.94	0.96	0.95
Paraguay	1.09	1.02	0.96	0.97	0.94	0.95	0.90	0.95	0.75	0.96	0.79
Uruguay	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.00	1.01	1.02	1.03	0.99	1.01	1.00
Overall	1.03	1.02	1.01	1.01	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.91	0.93	0.90	0.94

Source: ECLAC(2005) from OREALC-UNESCO (2004).

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GUZMÁN José Miguel, RODRÍGUEZ Jorge, MARTÍNEZ Jorge, CONTRERAS Juan Manuel, GONZÁLEZ Daniela – **The Demography of Latin America and the Caribbean since 1950.**

Covering Latin America and the Caribbean (more than fifty states and territories, 564 million inhabitants), this chronicle gives an overview of the main socio-demographic and health developments in the region since the 1950s. It includes a summary of census and survey data on each country, with statistics on population size and structure, fertility, nuptiality, mortality, migration, urbanization and education. For several decades, Latin America and the Caribbean have been engaged in a rapid process of demographic transition, attributable to the fertility decline from the early 1970s and a decrease in mortality which raised average life expectancy by 20 years between 1950 and 2000. It now stands at 68 years for men and 75 years for women. The rate of natural increase has slowed down rapidly (1.4% in 2000-2005), while net migration is affected by more massive emigration to destinations outside the region. Against a backdrop of general fertility decline (2.6 children per woman in 2000-2005), the models of early family formation have persisted. Among the so-called developing regions of the world, Latin America and the Caribbean have the highest level of urbanization (77% in 2005). Another specific feature of the countries in this region is the onset of population ageing, a phenomenon yet to emerge in sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Arab World and the Middle East, the regions covered in our two previous chronicles (*Population, English Edition* 5, 2004 and 5-6, 2005).

GUZMÁN José Miguel, RODRÍGUEZ Jorge, MARTÍNEZ Jorge, CONTRERAS Juan Manuel, GONZÁLEZ Daniela – **La demografía de América latina y del Caribe desde 1950.**

Este artículo, dedicado a América latina y el Caribe (un poco más de cincuenta Estados y territorios, 564 millones de habitantes), propone una síntesis de los grandes cambios sociodemográficos y sanitarios desde los años 1950 y a la vez, un balance estadístico que reúne los datos de los censos y de las grandes encuestas sobre cada país. En él se examinan en particular los efectivos y las estructuras de la población, la fecundidad, la nupcialidad, la mortalidad, las migraciones, la urbanización y la educación. América Latina y el Caribe experimentan desde hace varios decenios un proceso rápido de transición demográfica, debido a un descenso de la fecundidad a partir del principio de los años 1970 y a un retroceso de la mortalidad que ha conducido a un alza media de la esperanza de vida de 20 años entre 1950 y 2000, para alcanzar 68 años en los hombres y 75 años en las mujeres. El ritmo de crecimiento natural ha disminuido en gran medida (1,4% en 2000-2005), mientras que el saldo migratorio se ve afectado por una mayor emigración hacia destinos extra-regionales. En una situación de baja generalizada de la fecundidad (2,6 niños por mujer en 2000-2005), los modelos de entrada precoz a la vida familiar persisten. América latina y el Caribe presentan la tasa de urbanización más elevada del mundo en desarrollo. Otra especificidad de los países de esta región del mundo es que su estructura de edad comienza a estar afectada por envejecimiento, el cual es todavía poco aparentes en los países de África subsahariana y del mundo árabe y de Medio Oriente descritos en las anteriores crónicas (*Population*, 5, 2004 y 5-6, 2005).

GUZMÁN José Miguel, RODRÍGUEZ Jorge, MARTÍNEZ Jorge, CONTRERAS Juan Manuel, GONZÁLEZ Daniela – **La démographie de l'Amérique Latine et des Caraïbes depuis 1950.**

Consacrée à l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (un peu plus de cinquante Etats et territoires, 564 millions d'habitants), cette chronique propose à la fois une synthèse des grands changements socio-démographiques et sanitaires depuis les années 1950, et un bilan statistique rassemblant les données des recensements et des grandes enquêtes sur chaque pays. Y sont notamment examinés les effectifs et les structures de la population, la fécondité, la nuptialité, la mortalité, les migrations, l'urbanisation et l'éducation. L'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes connaissent depuis plusieurs décennies un processus de transition démographique rapide, imputable à une baisse de la fécondité à partir du début des années 1970 et à un recul de la mortalité qui a conduit à une hausse moyenne de l'espérance de vie de 20 ans entre 1950 et 2000, pour atteindre 68 ans chez les hommes et 75 ans chez les femmes. Le rythme de croissance naturelle a fortement diminué (1,4% en 2000-2005), tandis que le solde migratoire est affecté par une plus forte émigration vers des destinations extra-régionales. Dans un contexte de baisse généralisée de la fécondité (2,6 enfant par femmes en 2000-2005), les modèles d'entrée précoce dans la vie familiale persistent. Parmi les régions dites en développement, l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes présentent le taux d'urbanisation le plus élevé du monde en développement (EVA). Une autre spécificité des pays de cette région du monde est que leur structure d'âge commence à être marquée par les effets du vieillissement, qui en revanche sont encore peu apparents dans les pays d'Afrique sub-saharienne et du monde arabe et du Moyen Orient décrits dans les précédentes chroniques (*Population*, 5, 2004 et 5-6, 2005).

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