

PART I - REPORT

Chapter I

1. Introduction

For adequate planning Niue requires detailed information about the characteristics of its society and about specific goals of government programs to improve people's living conditions. Also required is some knowledge about the potential impact and effects of such programs on the society and its development. Such requirements speak for themselves and do not need to be dwelt upon here.

In its quest for social and economic development, Niue has often struggled with information that is incomplete or is not available at the time it is needed. Data are not only required, they are required at the opportune time for use before becoming obsolete.

The availability of data (including population data), has improved greatly in recent decades as a result of expansion and strengthening of the capabilities of the Statistics Office. By now, Niue has conducted a number of population censuses and will regularly take census. The Government of Niue has fully funded the last Population and Dwelling Census in 2001. The Statistical Office also has plans for intercensal surveys on specific topics in the years ahead.

Together with improvements in data collection, the development of computer programs for processing data has enhanced the prompt availability of tabulations appropriate for policy, planning and decision-making. The increases in communication among professionals and the availability of technical assistance have accelerated the process of collecting and publishing information in Niue. In some cases, the quality of the information still can be improved greatly. Especially needed is development and improvement in Vital Registration Systems (this of course is a Pacific wide problem that needs to be addressed by all countries in the region).

But the availability of information is not the only concern. If data are available but are not analysed, it is the same as if the data did not exist. The analysis too must be timely, as the data may rapidly become obsolete. The use of already developed microcomputer software programs has accelerated the process of analysing data in Niue.

This analytical report will provide the social and demographic indicators from the census, appropriate for monitoring and reviewing the progress of implementation of, not only the National Population Policy, but also other social and economic development policies by the government. As cited above, Niue so far has conducted a number of national population censuses. These censuses were conducted on a de-facto¹ basis and covered all persons in Niue, both citizens and non-citizens.

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the analysis of census data from the recent population census of Niue – the 2001 Population and Housing Census. The report also includes the description of procedures or methods used in the analysis. The report has three parts:

- Part I contains the results of data analysis;
- Part II contains basic tables; and
- Part III contains “manual of instructions.

Part I consists of six topics as follows:

Chapter I.	Introduction
Chapter II.	Population Structure
Chapter III	Social Characteristics
Chapter IV	Economic Characteristics
Chapter V	Household and Housing Characteristics
Chapter VI	Fertility, Mortality and Migration

Part II presents 52 basic census tables. There are 19 tables produced from Household Questionnaire, while 33 tables were produced from Personal Questionnaire. Sample Census Questionnaires, glossary and references are attached as appendixes.

Part III contains an extract from field booklet called “manual of instruction”.

It is also obvious that in the conduct of a statistical operation as large and complex as a national census, it is inevitable that errors will occur due to questions being misunderstood,

¹ Persons are counted in the census at the locations in which they spent census night, regardless of where they usually resided.

replies being incorrect or misinterpreted, etc. In fact, errors could have been introduced at all stages of the census, from planning, field operation stage, non-responses, non-call back to check on households that were missed during the actual enumeration and the training of enumerators (i.e. misunderstanding on the part of enumerators). Also errors could have been introduced at the data processing stage (editing, coding and data entry). In designing and carrying out the field procedures, including training procedures, considerable efforts were made in order to reduce the effects of such errors on the results. However, it is clear that several errors still occurred.

The Census of Population and Housing on Niue was conducted on 7, 8 and 9 September 2001. The Census moment or sometimes referred to as a “reference point in time” is 12 midnight that connects Friday, 7 September with Saturday 8 September 2001. The Census is therefore a count of the populations as at 12 o’clock midnight of that night.

Furthermore, like earlier censuses the 2001 Census was a de-facto census of the whole population. Every building structure used as a private dwelling house was recorded and all persons sleeping there, whether temporary or otherwise, on “Census Night” were included in census.

The enumerators commenced fieldwork on the 7 and 8 September 2001 and enumerated the name and particulars of all persons likely to spend Census Night in each enumeration area. On Sunday 9 September they did another round of visits to each and every house to check their initial enumeration and to ascertain which of the persons previously recorded were actually present on Census Night. Those who had died or gone away were eliminated from the census, and newborn babies and in-migrants were included. The enumeration was completed in three days.

The 2001 Niue Census utilized two schedules - Household/Dwelling Schedule and Population Schedule. Household schedule consists of 17 questions and Population Schedule consists of 33 Questions.

1.1. Summary of Results

A total population of 1788 persons consisting of 897 males and 891 females, were enumerated. This count represents all persons actually present in Niue at the time of census. Out of 1788 total population, private household population was 1736 persons with 867 males and 869 females while non-private institution population was 22 persons with 16 males and 6 females. There were 30 persons with 14 males and 16 females who were enumerated outside private and non-private dwellings – regarded as “moving population”.

Temporary overseas population was enumerated at 78 with 37 males and 41 females. The total population of 1788 persons excludes temporary overseas population. The previous Census of 28 September 1997 enumerated the total population at 2088 persons. As a result, Niue has a negative population growth rate of 3.8.

There were 508 households. The details of housing, household and population characteristics will be discussed on later chapters.