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INTRODUCTION

One in every four persons on Aruba is younger than 18 years. They represent both the present and the future of our country. Their social and economic circumstances reflect those of their parents as, for most, they are dependent on their parents. In this report the focus is on 'minors', children under the age of 18 who, according to the 2010 Census, were never married, were not living together with a partner and did not have children of their own (In essence, not having children of their own only applies to girls as in the 2010 Census this question was only asked to girls/women 14 years of age and older). Most of the data is presented from the children's perspective. This report provides information on different aspects of children's lives, such as the composition of their household, their household environment, school attendance, after school care, economic circumstances and health status. Statistics on children provide valuable information on the social and economic circumstances of our children. Information is derived from the 2010 Census and is compared, where possible, to previous Censuses. By making these statistics available, the Central Bureau of Statistics hopes to achieve a better understanding of the living circumstances of children of Aruba and in that manner contribute to a better tomorrow for these children and their families.

DEMOGRAPHICS

During the 2010 Census a total of 25,644 children between the ages of 0 and 17 years were counted, a 3.5 percent increase when compared to the total number of children counted during the 2000 Census. However, as a percentage of the total population, the number of children counted in the 2010 Census dropped with 7.7 percent when compared to the 2000 Census.

Figure 1. Absolute and relative number of children 0-19



AGE AND SEX

Thus, while the number of children living on Aruba has grown, the ratio of children to the total population has decreased. According to the latest population projections this trend will continue as children between 0 and 19 years of age will comprise an even smaller proportion of the population, decreasing from 31.1 percent in 1991 to 24.1 percent in 2030¹. Please take note of the fact that these percentages refer to the population 0-19 year olds, given that the population projections are based on five-year age groups.

The relative decrease of the younger population is a direct effect of the rapid decline in the Total Fertility Rate (TFR). Aruba experienced a TFR that was well above 5 before the 1950's. Since then the TFR dropped considerably to 2.28 per woman in 1991. In 2000 the TFR was at 1.85 and continued to drop to 1.79 in 2010².

In 2010, children aged 0 through 17 years represented 25 percent of the population of Aruba, totaling 25,634 children. The overall sex ratio for children younger than 18 years was 104.7 boys for every 100 girls. In all ages, except for those aged 4, 8 and 12 years, there were slightly more boys than girls. This is a reflection of the fact that more boys than girls are born each year. And even though there are more women than men on Aruba (sex ratio is 90.6), females do not begin to outnumber males until the age of 25. The exceptions in ages 4, 8 and 12 may be due to small sample variability and the fact that in the period 2006-2007 and 1998-1999 more girls were born than boys. Remarkable is though, that according to population projections, in 2025 women will outnumber men even in the younger ages.

Figure 2. Relative growth of population 0-17 years in single years 2000-2010

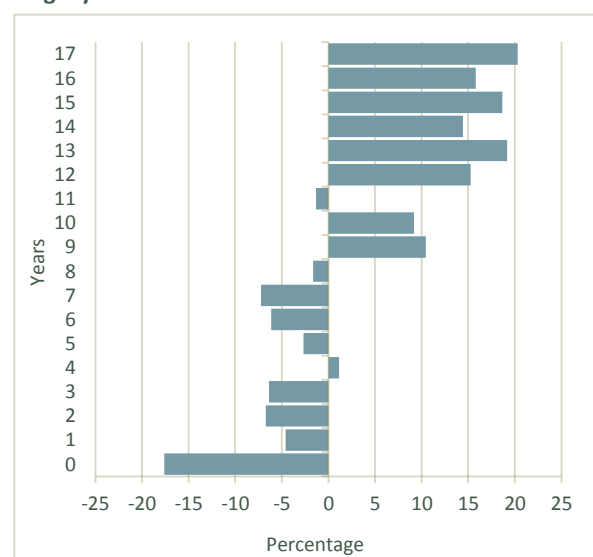


Table 1 shows the number of children by specific age groups and the sex ratio and relative growth for those specific groups. The decrease shown for the group of children younger than 6 years was mainly caused by fewer babies being born. As mentioned before the TFR dropped in 2010 to 1.79 which is pictured in figure 2 as a large decrease in number of babies aged 0 years. The largest intercensal growth (18.5 percent) was observed in 12 to 17 year olds. In all age groups there were more boys than girls.

Table 1: Number of children by sex and specific age groups, and sex ratio

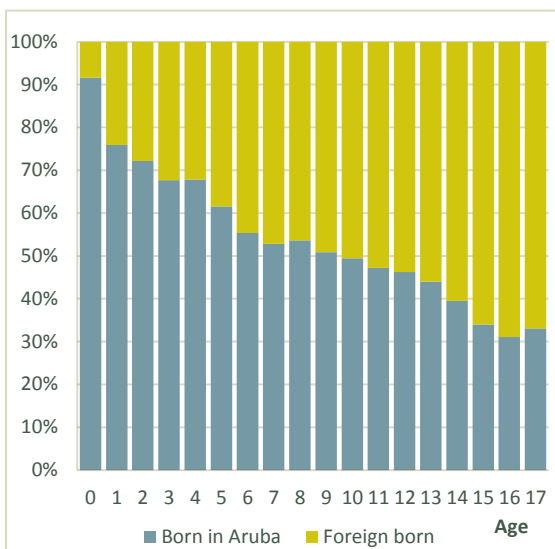
Age category	2010			Total	Growth 2000-2010
	Male	Female	Sex ratio		
0-3	2,630	2,454	107.2	5,084	-8.8
4-5	1,449	1,421	102.0	2,871	-0.8
6-11	4,360	4,204	103.7	8,564	0.4
12-16	3,880	3,730	104.0	7,610	16.7
17	789	715	110.3	1,505	20.3
Total	13,109	12,525	104.7	25,634	3.5

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Aruba is a melting pot of persons coming from 133 different countries and with 96 different nationalities. Even so, in 2010 the Aruban-born population accounted for 66 percent of the total population.

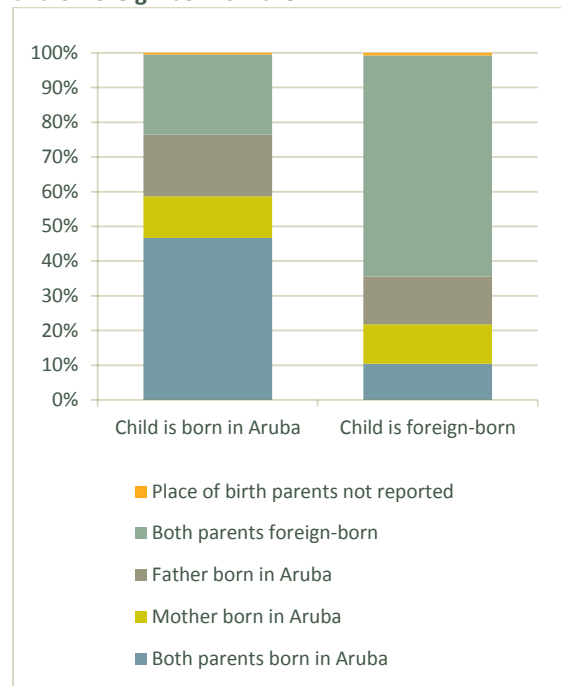
Where children are concerned, 86 percent was born in Aruba against 14 percent born elsewhere (see Figure 3). The foreign-born children were born in 60 different countries and had 44 different nationalities. Of the children born in Aruba, 93.2 percent had the Dutch nationality. Of the foreign-born children 56.2 percent did.

Figure 3: Children by age and country of birth, 2010



It is important to keep in mind that the population born in Aruba includes also those persons born in Aruba to foreign-born parents. In 2010, about two thirds (65.4 percent) of all persons born in Aruba were born to Aruban-born parents, 13.9 percent were born to foreign-born parents and 20.3 percent were born to parents from a mixed couple (Aruban-born mother and foreign-born father or vice versa; see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Country of birth of parents of Aruba-born and of foreign-born children



The origin of children born in Aruba is quite different to that of the entire population. Even as for the majority of children (46.7 percent) their parents were born in Aruba, there was a relatively large group whose parents were foreign-born (23.0 percent). Children whose parents were from mixed origin (Aruban-born and foreign-born), were more likely to have a foreign-born mother (60.0 percent).

The majority of the children living in Aruba (88.1 percent) were Dutch. Ninety three percent of the children born in Aruba were Dutch, of which only 18 percent was born to foreign-born parents (including parents born in the Dutch Kingdom). The remaining 82 percent of children born in Aruba with the Dutch nationality, 50.1 percent was born to parents who were both born in Aruba, and 31.6 percent was born to parents of which at least one was born in Aruba.

Foreign-born children were more likely to have parents who were both foreign-born. In 63.8 percent of cases, foreign-born children were born to foreign-born parents, whereas in 10.4 percent of foreign-born children, both parents were born in Aruba.

Where children born in Aruba were concerned, 30 percent had parents from mixed origin, while for foreign-born children this was 25 percent. In total, 56 percent of foreign-born children had the Dutch nationality of which the majority had either both parents of foreign origin (42.2 percent) or at least one parent who was foreign-born (39.1 percent).

Of the foreign-born children, 29.9 percent was born in the Netherlands, followed by 23.8 percent who was born in Colombia and 11.4 percent who was born in Venezuela. In comparison, of the total foreign-born population, the largest group was born in Colombia (26.9 percent), followed by the Netherlands (12.7 percent) and Venezuela (9.4 percent). Foreign-born persons mostly come to Aruba when they are of working age. The results of the 2010 Census showed that the majority of foreign-born persons in Aruba were 18 years or older. Of the group of people born in Colombia, for example, only 9 percent was aged 0 through 17 years. Furthermore, 5.4 percent of persons born in the Dominican Republic and 12.5 percent of those born in Venezuela were between 0 and 17 years of age. Of the population born in the Netherlands and in the United States, respectively 24.4 and 30.7 percent were children aged 0-17 years.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Children are somewhat evenly distributed over the island, except for Madiki Kavel, Shiribana and Pos Chiquito where, according to 2010 Census data, there was a relatively larger concentration of children. In these zones, one third of all persons was younger than 18 years. On the other hand, in Sividivi and in Van de Veen Zeppenfeldstraat there were the least number of children. In these zones, respectively 14.0 and 15.1 percent of the population was younger than 18 years.

As mentioned before the greater majority of children (86.1 percent) was born in Aruba. If we look only at the population born in Aruba, the concentration of children born in Aruba was highest in Piedra Plat, Cashero, Macuarima, Jara/Seroe Alejandro, Brasil, San Nicolas North Other and Village, where over 90 percent of children between 0-17 years were born on Aruba. The lowest concentration of children born in Aruba was found in Nassastraat where 67.8 percent of children were born on Aruba.

FAMILY AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

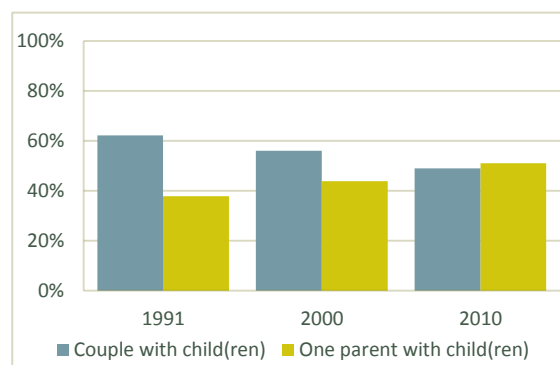
Children live in different types of households. With a growing number of persons staying single (never married), an increasing number of single parents and a growing number of divorces, important changes have occurred in the living arrangements of children.

According to the 2010 Census, 16,483 children (64.3 percent) lived with both parents. Another 7,665 children (29.9 percent) lived with their mother, 614 (2.4 percent) with their father and 872 (3.4 percent) reported living in a household without any of their parents present. For the 2010 Census a new methodology was introduced to identify the different types of households as defined by the United Nations' Principles and Recommendations. With this new methodology it is possible to distinguish types of households in more detail. In married couples, children were considered to be children of both partners, as was the case for children whose parents lived together in a consensual union. Consequently, the data obtained does not reflect the proportion of children that was the biological offspring of these unions.

For both men and women, their first marriage now takes place somewhat later in life³. During the 2010 Census, 43.0 percent of all persons aged 14 years or older indicated they were married, 40.2 percent were never married, 11.9 percent were divorced or legally separated and 4.9 percent were widowed. Comparing the above mentioned data with previous Censuses, the percentage of married persons showed a slow but steady decrease, amounting to a decline of 12 percentage points between 1991 and 2010. The never married population on the other hand is slowly increasing.

During the 2010 Census a total of 20,808 families with children were counted. This number includes families with adult children. Figure 5 shows the changes that have occurred in families with children over the last three decades. The data shows a steady decrease in the number of two-parent families and a rising number of single parent families. When controlling for the age of the children, in the year 2000, 19 percent of all these families had a child 18 years or older and in 2010 this was 27 percent, which gives an indication that relatively more 'older' children are living with a parent.

Figure 5: Families with children (regardless of age of children) by family type



Note: Families in this figure refer to couples with children regardless of the cohabitation status of these couples

Overall, the number of children with only one parent present in the household is smaller when compared to the two-parent families. Even though the number of single parent families increased in 2010 with more than 30 percent compared to ten years earlier, the number of children in these families decreased with 18 percent (see Tables 2 and 3). When taking into consideration only the single parents with children younger than 18 years, the most dramatic increase over the years has been in the number of children living with a single mother (Figure 6), which increased with 23 percent over the past decade. Single fathers with children younger than 18 years however, showed no change at all between 2000 and 2010.

Table 2: Number of families with children, 2000-2010

	2000	2010
All families with children	18,498	20,808
Couple with child(ren)	10,377	10,193
Mother with child(ren)	7,348	9,703
Father with child(ren)	773	912
All families with children 0-17 yrs	14,939	15,256
Couple with child(ren)	8,509	7,489
Mother with child(ren)	5,917	7,253
Father with child(ren)	513	513

Table 3: Number of children by type of family, 2000-2010

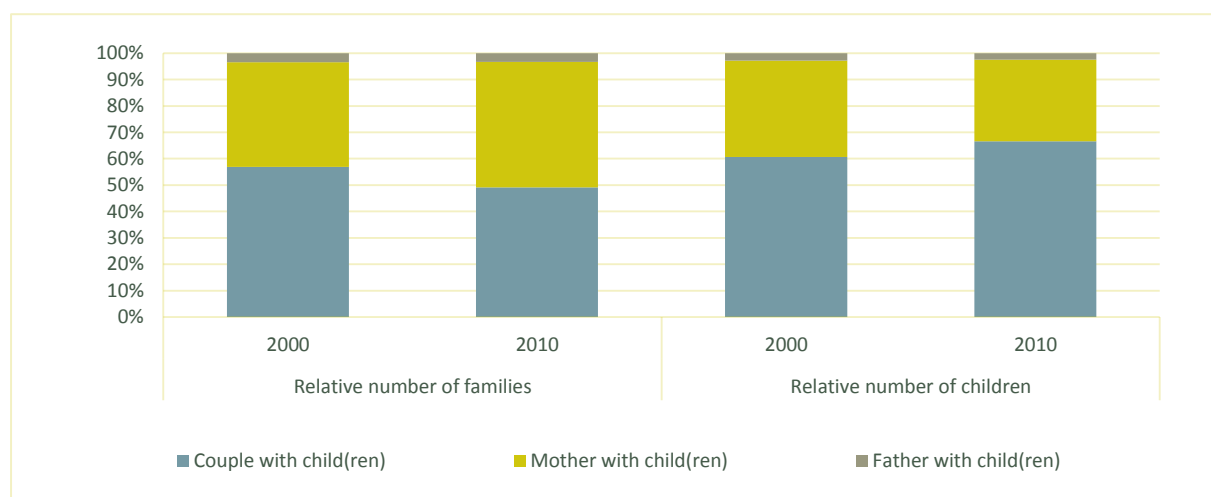
	2000	2010
All children	32,096	30,995
Couple with child(ren)	19,109	20,382
Mother with child(ren)	11,821	9,701
Father with child(ren)	1,167	912
All children 0-17 yrs	23,912	24,763
Couple with child(ren)	14,496	16,483
Mother with child(ren)	8,730	7,666
Father with child(ren)	686	614

Interestingly, of children who lived with their mother, 7.5 percent had a mother who lived together with a partner, compared to children who lived with a father of which 5.3 percent had a father who lived together with a partner. In families with only the mother present, 81.1 percent consisted of a mother and a child between 0 and 17 years of age. The median number of children in these families was 2. In families with only the father present, 88.9 percent consisted of children below the age of 18 years. The median number of children in these families was 1. Contrary to families where both parents were present, the majority (65.9 percent) consisted of more than one child.

It is important to mention that even though the number of two-parent families dropped with 12 percentage points during the last decade, in 2010 a total of 16,483 children still lived with both parents, 13.7 percent more than in 2000. Of these children 14,452 (87.7 percent) did not have other children older than 17 years living with them. In total, 20.4 percent of children where both parents were present had no siblings at all. On average a two parent family had two children.

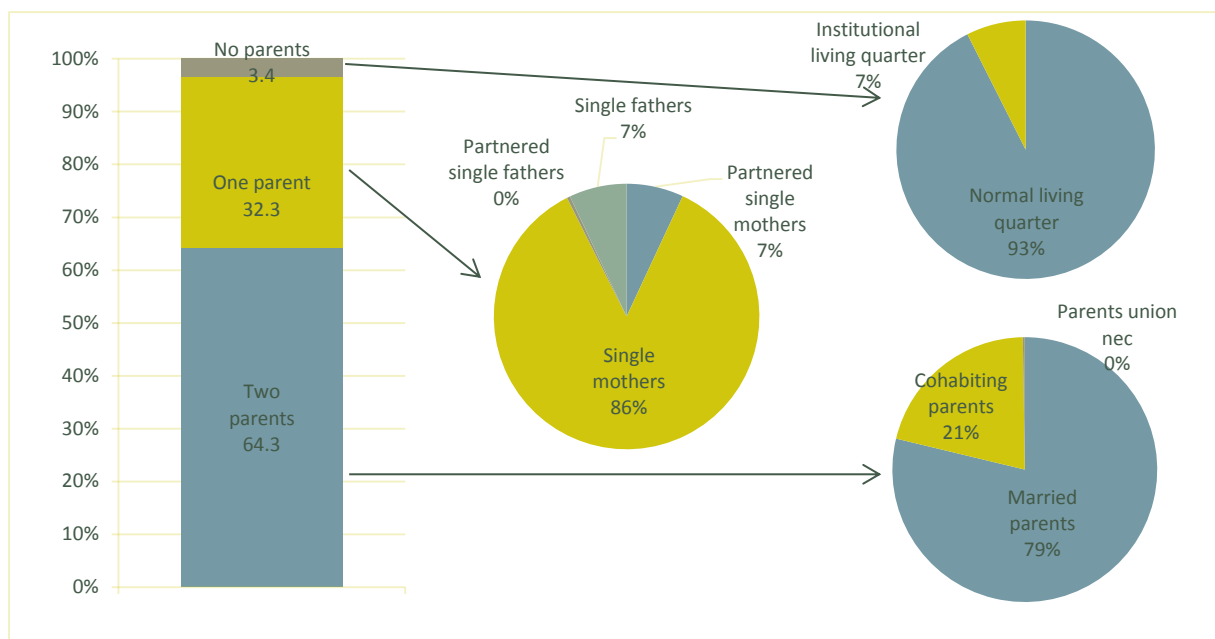
The presence of both parents does not necessarily imply that these couples are married (see Figure 7). In 2010, 78.8 percent these parents were married to each other, 21.0 percent lived in a consensual union, and less than 1 percent indicated being in another type of cohabitation. Where married couples with children were concerned, 85.0 percent of the fathers reported that they were living with their first spouse. For the mothers this was 91.6 percent. Of fathers who indicated not being in their first marriage, 93.8 percent indicated their first marriage ended because of divorce. This was also the case for 97.0 percent of mothers who reported not being in their first marriage.

Figure 6: Relative number of families with children 0-17 years by type of family



Note: Families in this figure refer to couples with children regardless of the cohabitation status of these couples

Figure 7: Children by presence of parents and cohabitation status of parents



It is remarkable that for parents in a conjugal union, the average age of children was 9 years with a tendency towards older children, while for the parents in consensual unions the average age of children was 6 years, with a tendency towards younger children. In addition, the average age of parents in a conjugal union with children younger than 18 years, was 43 years for fathers and 39 years for mothers. The average age of parents in a consensual union was 38 years for fathers and 34 years for mothers. Partnered couples thus tended to be younger and having younger children.

There are some interesting patterns when considering the country of birth of parents. In conjugal unions, parents both being born in Aruba, both being foreign-born, and parents of mixed origin were equally represented. On the other hand, in consensual unions, the proportion of local born parents was much larger, accounting for nearly half of these families (see Figure 8).

Of the 8,277 children younger than 18 years living with only one parent, the majority lived with a parent who had never been married, 36.7 percent lived with a parent who was divorced or separated, 12.5 percent lived with a parent who was married, but who did not live with a partner, and 4.1 percent lived with a parent who was widowed. The 2010 Census revealed that it was more likely for children living with one parent to be living with a mother who had never been married (47.8 percent) than with a father who had never been married (33.5 percent). However, almost half of all children (49.0) who lived with their mother and her partner had a mother who had gone through a divorce. In comparison, when

only the mother was present in the household, 35.0 percent of these mothers had gone through a divorce. Where children living with only their father were concerned, the majority of these children lived with a father who was divorced or legally separated. Finally, there was also a group of 1,037 children whose single parent indicated that they were married, but not living with their spouse (see Figures 9 and 10).

Figure 8: Children with both parents present by cohabitation status of parents

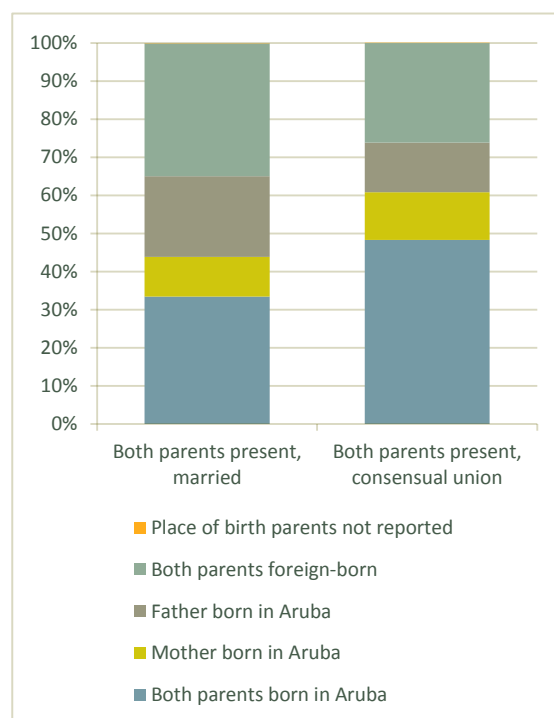


Figure 9: Distribution of children with only their mother present by cohabitation status and marital status of the mother

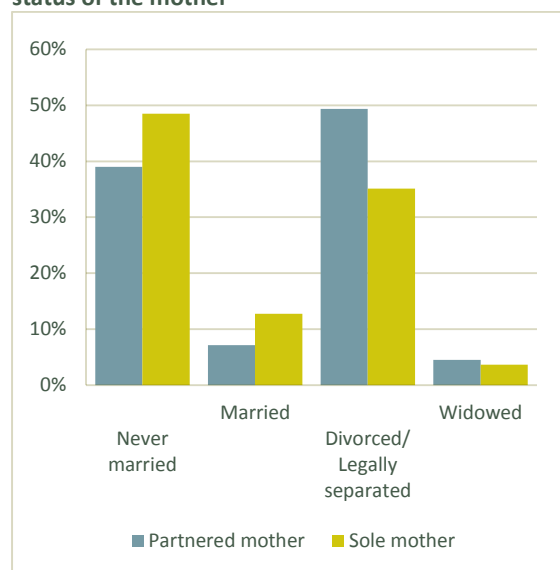
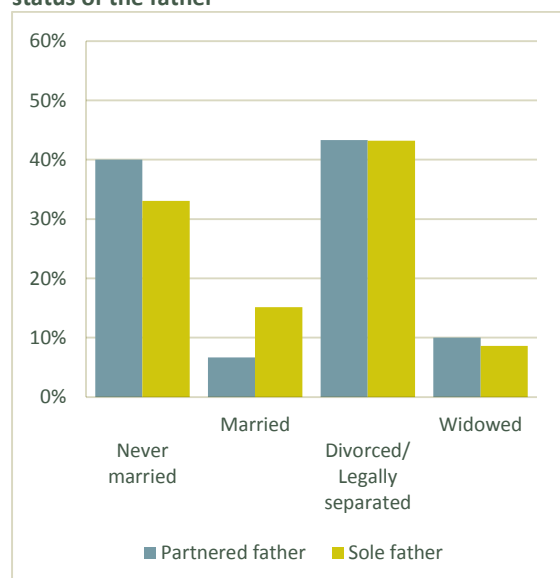


Figure 10: Distribution of children with only their father present by cohabitation status and marital status of the father



The partnered single parent tended to be older than the single parent without a partner. The partnered mother was on average 38 years old and the partnered father was 43 years old, while the single mother was on average 37 years old and the single father 41 years old. Consequently, it was more likely for a partnered single parent to have older children. In addition, it was more likely for single mothers to have smaller children and for single fathers to have older children living in their households.

Of all children aged 0 through 4 years living with a single parent, 92 percent lived with only their mother in the household. There was about an equal number of boys as there were girls in one parent families. This

was especially true for single mother families, where the sex ratio was equal to 100.2. Yet there were more boys than girls in single father families. The overall sex ratio for children in single father families was 123 boys for every 100 girls.

Regarding the country of birth of the single parent, the greater majority (64 percent) of single parents were born in Aruba. For the foreign-born single mothers the largest groups was from Colombia and the Dominican Republic, while the single fathers were more evenly distributed among the different countries of birth.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Three out of four children in two parent families lived in a nuclear household, irrespective of the legal or consensual bond of their parents (see Table 4). The average household size of these nuclear households was 4.2 persons, whereas the average household size in non-nuclear households was 6.3 persons. In non-nuclear households, 26.2 percent of fathers and 29.8 percent of mothers indicated they were living with at least one of their parents in the same household.

Table 4: Percentage of children in nuclear households by type of family

	Nuclear household	Other type of household
Both parents present, married	61.2	38.8
Both parents present, in consensual union	14.6	85.4
Single mother	44.6	55.4
Partnered single mother	5.7	94.3
Single father	45.3	54.7
Partnered single father	3.4	96.6

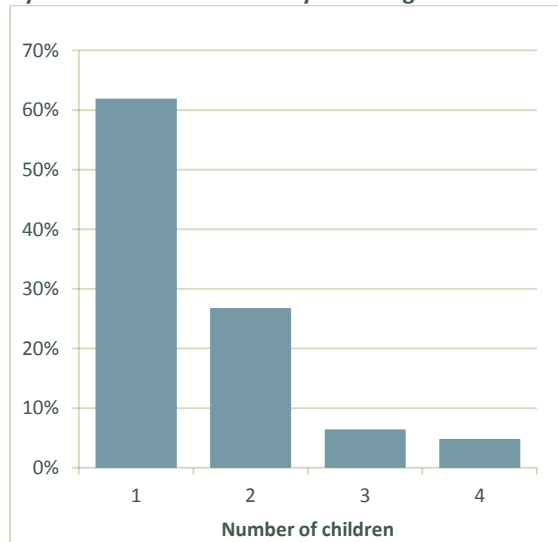
Of children where only their mother was present, 44.6 percent lived in a nuclear single mother household and 5.7 percent lived with a partnered mother in a nuclear household. The average household size in these cases was 3.2 persons. In non-nuclear households with only the mother present, the average household size was 5.6 persons. In contrast to two-parent non-nuclear households, 72.2 percent of mothers indicated they were living with at least one of their parents.

The average household size of single fathers (5.3 persons) was somewhat smaller than that of single mothers (5.6 persons). Of children where only their father was present 45.3 percent lived in a nuclear household and 3.4 percent lived with a partnered father in a nuclear household. Comparable to single mothers in a non-nuclear arrangement, 69.8 percent of single fathers indicated they were living with at least one of their parents.



In total, 872 children lived in a household where there was no parent present at all. About 62 percent of these children were the only youngsters in the household (see Figure 11). The average age of these children was 11 years with a tendency towards older children given that 62 percent were between the ages of 10 and 17 years. The average size of households consisting of children without parents was on average 4.5 persons. The greater majority (70.2 percent) of these children lived in an extended household, where everybody was related to each other. Twenty nine percent lived in a composite household, with at least one non-related person, and 0.8 percent reported living in a single person household. The latter were all 17 years of age.

Figure 11: Distribution of children in normal living quarters with no parents present in the household by number of children 0-17 years of age



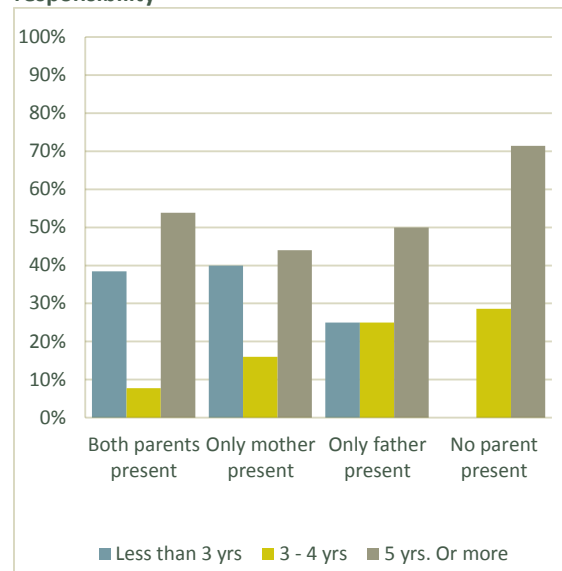
GRANDPARENTS

In addition to the traditional Census questionnaire the Central Bureau of Statistics introduced a long form in the 2010 Census. This form included questions normally gathered via surveys given that a sample of the total population would provide data that would be representative enough. One of these questions was asked to a sample of 3,481 respondents aged 30 years or older who did not live alone. These respondents were asked whether they had one or more grandchildren younger than 18 years of age who lived in their household. This was true for 11.1 percent of respondents. These respondents were then asked whether they as grandparents were financially responsible for these grandchild(ren).

Of all households with children younger than 18 years (14,913 in total), 1.3 percent consisted of three generations living together (grandparent(s), parent(s)

and grandchild(ren)). In 33.1 percent of these cases both parents were also present and in 10.9 percent of the cases there was no parent at all. Noteworthy is that in 46.3 percent of the cases only the mother was present and in 9.7 percent only the father. In about one in every three of these households the grandparent was financially responsible for the grandchild(ren). It was more likely for a single mother who was living with her parents to be financially dependent on the grandparents than was the case for a single father. When there were no parent(s) present in the household, 73.7 percent of the grandparents indicated being financially responsible for the grandchild(ren). The majority of these grandparents were financially responsible for the grandchild(ren) for more than 5 years (see Figure 12).

Figure 12: Financially responsible grandparents by presence of parents(s) and duration of financial responsibility

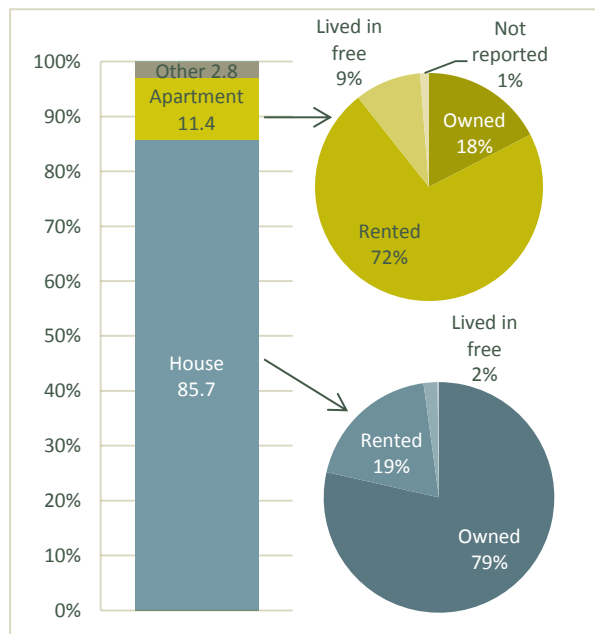


HOUSING

Of the 25,634 children who lived on Aruba in 2010, 99.7 lived in a normal living quarter and 0.3 percent lived in an institutional household. Children living in a normal living quarter were more likely to live in a house than in any other type of normal living quarter. A total of 2,903 children indicated they lived in an apartment and another 2.8 percent lived in another type of living quarter, including a cuarto, a trailer, a hotel/condominium or a separate room in a house. Most of the living quarters were owned by the household the child belonged to, which was the case for about 7 out of every 10 children. One quart of all children lived in a living quarter that was rented by the household he/she belonged to. When looking specifically at children living in a house or apartment, those living in an apartment were more likely to live in a rented living quarter compared to those living in a house.

Even though the majority of children lived in a house, children who lived with only their mother were more likely to live in an apartment (23.0 percent) than children who lived with both parents (12.9 percent) or with their father (13.4 percent). When both parents were present, a higher percentage of children living with cohabiting parents (19 percent) lived in an apartment compared to those whose parents were married (12 percent).

Figure 13: Children by specific type of housing unit and ownership thereof



EDUCATION

Education is one of the fundamental rights of a child. As soon as the law on compulsory education was put into effect, it became the government’s responsibility to secure the rights of each child to education, meaning that all children living on Aruba aged 4 to 16 years are obliged to attend school. The official educational program in Aruba starts at age 4 and 5 at the pre-primary level, followed by the primary level at ages 6 through 12 years. From age 13 years onwards, children attend secondary education, with possibilities for further studies to tertiary education. Even as at the time of the 2010 Census, compulsory school attendance was not implemented as yet, school attendance rate was above 95 percent for the compulsory age groups.

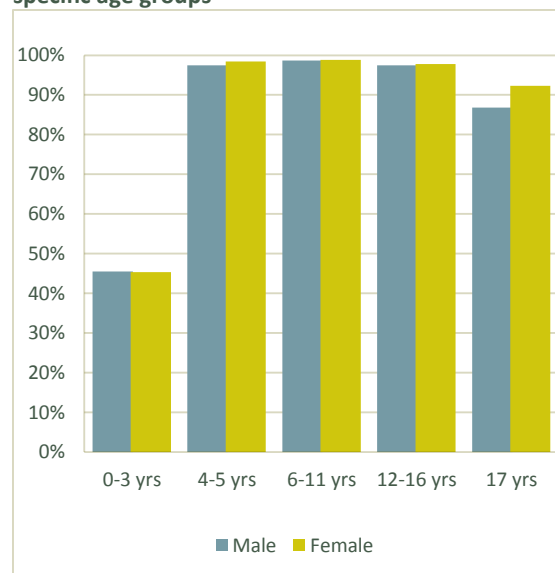
Contrary to the 2000 Census, where the school-attending population only included those individuals following regular educational programs that lead to an accredited diploma, the 2010 Census questionnaire was designed to also include those individuals following educational programs not (yet) officially accredited by the Aruban government. As

such, children attending pre-primary schools, kindergartens, playschools, and day nurseries, were also considered to be attending school as were individuals attending, for example, educational programs (at the level of an accredited diploma) offered through the internet.

Data collected during the 2010 Census showed that children in the compulsory education age groups were for the greater part born in Aruba (63 percent), from Aruban-born parents (51 percent). In addition, about 90 percent of these children reported speaking mostly Papiamentu at home. The majority of foreign-born children (78 percent) were born to foreign-born parents and 27 percent spoke mostly Papiamentu at home.

Where the school participation rate was concerned, in the compulsory age groups, the school participation rate was slightly higher for girls than for boys. But overall, more than 97 percent of all children aged 4 to 16 years were attending school in 2010. School attendance was the least amongst children 0 through 3 years of age. Less than half of these children were visiting a school (or daycare). As shown in Figure 14, school attendance dropped considerably at age 17 for both girls and boys. Especially boys had lower school participation rates at age 17, dropping to 87 percent. For girls the attendance rate at age 17 was 92 percent.

Figure 14: School attending children by sex and specific age groups



During the 2000 Census the school participation rate for children aged 0 through 3 years stood at 37.5 percent. The overall participation increased to 45.8 percent in 2010. Percentage-wise, the participation rate increased as age progressed. There were more 2 and 3 year olds attending school, especially 3 year olds. Their school participation rate increased to 76.1

percent in 2010. Even so, the growth in the participation rate between 2000 and 2010 was particularly high in children aged 0 and 1 years, where a growth was observed of respectively 2.6 and 3.8 per cent compared to a growth of only 0.3 percent for the 2 and 3 year olds (see Table 5). One might expect this growth to be the result of the higher participation rate of women on the labor market in 2010. This topic will be discussed in the next chapter.

Table 5: School attendance for specific ages, Census 2000 and 2010

Age	Number of school attending children		School participation rate		Growth 2000-2010
	2000	2010	2000	2010	
0 yrs.	96	124	7.1	12.2	26.4
1 yr.	306	445	22.7	33.6	37.6
2 yrs.	677	698	48.9	56.2	3.0
3 yrs.	1,005	1,038	68.5	76.1	3.2
Total	2,083	2,306	37.5	45.8	10.1

WOMEN'S LABOR PARTICIPATION

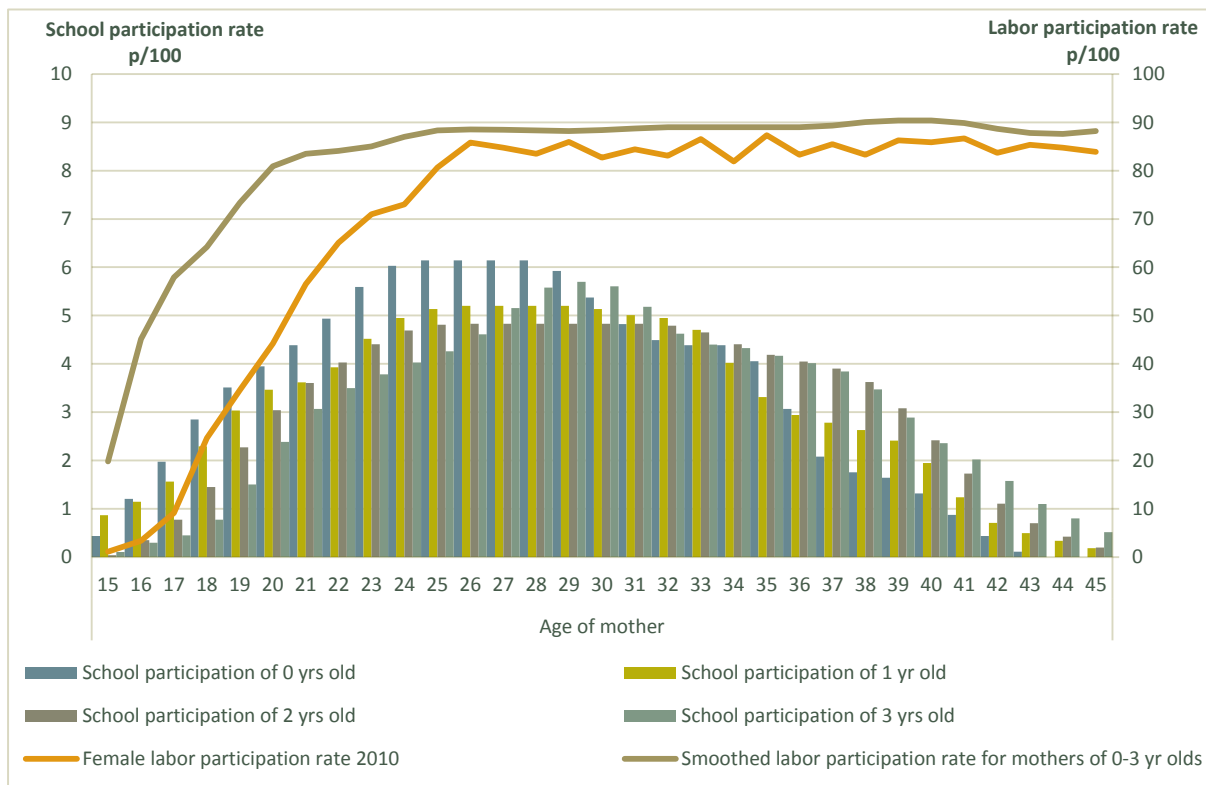
As shown in Figure 15, in 2010, the overall female labor participation rate gradually increased from age 15 through 26 years, reaching well above 80 per 100 women in the labor force from age 26 onward. The labor participation rate of mothers of children

between the ages of 0 through 3 years however was higher when compared to the labor participation rate of all women, especially when comparing in the younger age groups (15 to 26 years). At age 20, the labor participation rate of mothers of children between 0 and 3 years already reached 81 per 100 mothers.

In addition, Figure 15 shows that children in the ages of 0 and 1 years, whose mother was relatively young, were more likely to attend a kindergarten than children of relatively older mothers. Even as the labor participation rate of 'older' mothers was fairly high, their young children (0 and 1 years old) were less likely to attend a kindergarten. One possible explanation for this finding would be that younger mothers would lack the social network usually provided by grandparents given that their own mothers would most probably be still in the labor force. 'Older' mothers, on the other hand, would most probably have the support of their (older) mothers in taking care of their children given that they would most probably be pensioned.

Remarkable is the opposite trend observed in children aged 3 years. Those with relatively 'older' mothers were more likely to attend a kindergarten prior to enrolling to pre-primary education than those with relatively 'younger' mothers.

Figure 15: Female labor participation rate, labor participation rate of mothers of 0-3 years, and school participation rate of children 0-3 years old by single age of mothers of 0-3 year olds



SCHOOL PARTICIPATION AND THE FAMILY

Considering the type of family children between 0 and 3 years belong to, school participation was highest (56.8 percent) among children aged 0 through 3 years whose single parent was living together with a partner (see Figure 16). School participation was also high for children whose parents were not present in the household at all (52.4 percent. In total, 45.6 percent of all children aged 0 through 3 years with both parents present in the household were attending school. When only the mother was present, 44.0 percent of children attended school.

Figure 16: School participation rate of children 0-3 years of age by family type

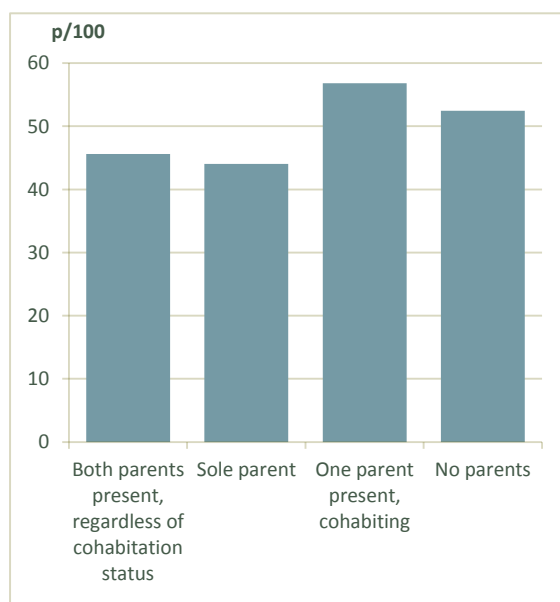
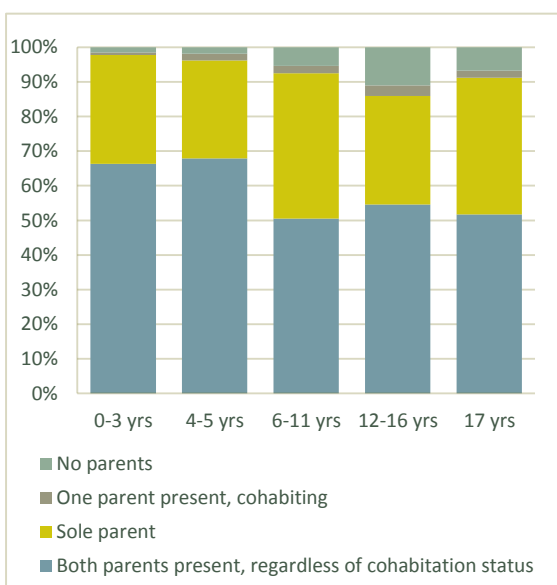


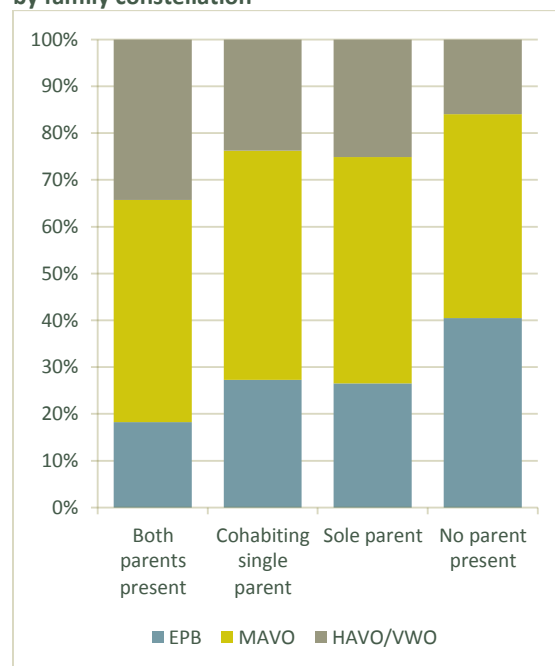
Figure 17: Not school attending children by specific age group and family type



As shown earlier (see Figure 14), school participation was lowest in children aged 0 through 3 years, whereas in the compulsory education age group (4 through 16 years) the school participation was highest with a total of only 334 children (1.8 percent) not attending school. Of children aged 17 years, a total of 159 (10.6 percent) reported not attending school. In the majority of cases of children not attending school, both parents were present in the household (see Figure 17).

Of all school-attending children 7,241 (28.3 percent) were attending secondary education, of which 21.9 percent were attending EPB, 47.6 percent were attending MAVO, and 30.5 percent were attending HAVO/VWO. Figure 18 shows that it was more likely for children whose parents were not present in the household to attend EPB than children whose parents were present regardless of the cohabiting status of parents. On the other hand, when both parents were present in the household, a relatively higher percentage of children attended HAVO/VWO compared to children in other family constellations. The majority of children living with either a cohabiting single parent or a sole parent attended MAVO (49.0 percent, and 48.4 percent, respectively).

Figure 18: The distribution of children among different types of schools for secondary education by family constellation



Children not attending school were mostly born in Aruba (see Figure 19). However, when taking into account the country of birth of their parents, Figure 20 shows that regardless of the country of birth of the children, the greater majority of children not attending school were children born of foreign-born parents.

Figure 19: Children not attending school by specific age group and country of birth

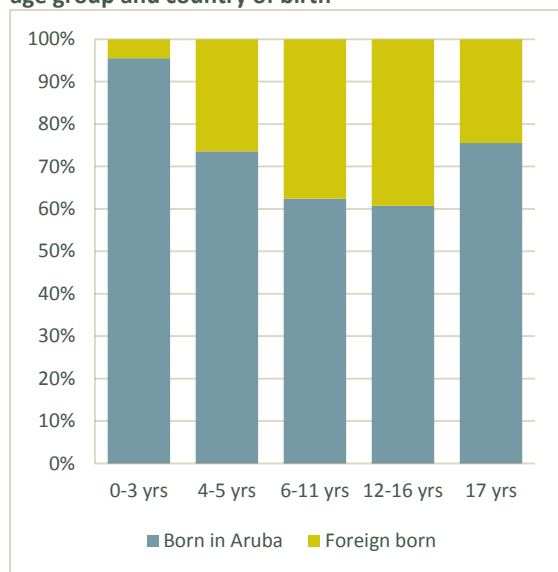
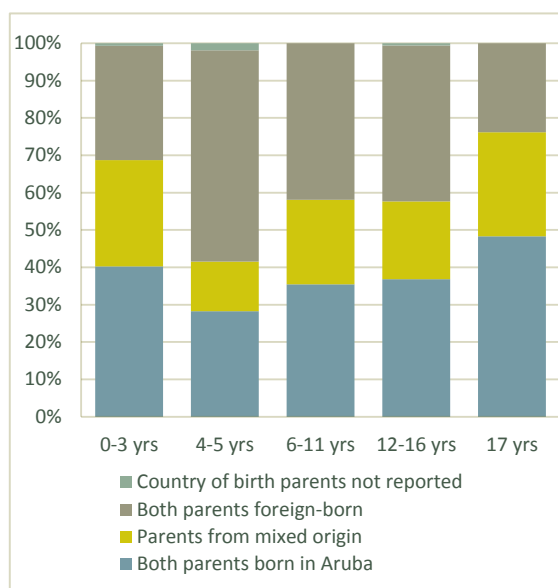


Figure 20: Children not attending school by age group and country of birth of parents



In addition, no matter the age, children not attending school were mostly boys. This was very pronounced for boys of age 17. At age 17 years, there were almost twice as many boys out of school than girls. In addition, at age 17, 69 percent of boys and 63 percent of girls reported having primary education or less as their highest level of educational attainment. The distribution is slightly different when taking into account the country of birth of children. Of the Aruban born 17 year old children not attending school, 65 percent had primary education or less while 72 percent of foreign-born children had primary education or less as their highest level of education attained.

According to the results of the 2010 Census, the highest educational attainment of the majority (77.0 percent) of the population of Aruba 14 years of age and older and not attending school was secondary education or lower, almost in equal proportion for males and females. When controlling for country of birth, the data indicated that 78.0 percent of the Aruban born population aged 14 years and older and not attending school had secondary education or less, compared to 76 percent of the foreign-born population. Following this pattern, both the school attending and the not school attending children were more likely to have lower educated parents than higher educated ones. In addition, there were relatively more mothers with a lower educational attainment than fathers with a lower educational background, regardless of the school attending status of the child.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Mothers are usually the primary caregivers and with a higher female labor participation rate, a higher attendance of children in an afterschool program would be expected. In 2010 there was a demand for a more detailed and extensive analysis of after school care. As the question on after school care was only asked to children younger than 14 years in the 2000 Census, some comparisons are only possible for school attending children between 4 and 11 years of age.

According to the 2010 Census, 14.1 percent of all 22,311 children between 0 and 17 years who attended school, attended an after school program. The majority of children between 4 and 11 years old however, stayed home with a parent in 2000 and in 2010. Table 6 shows however that even though the majority stayed at home with a parent, there is a growing group of children between 4 and 11 years who were going to a structured after school program.

About 19 percent of all school attending children between 4 and 11 years attended a structured afterschool program in 2010. Especially those aged 4 and 5 years. In 2000, 12.5 percent of the school attending 4 and 5 year olds attended some kind of structured afterschool program, compared to 21.5 percent in 2010. For the school attending children between the ages of 6 and 11 years, 9 percent reported going to a structured afterschool care in 2000 and 17.5 percent did so in 2010. The number of children reporting staying home alone decreased in both age groups (see Table 6).

Table 6: School attending children by type of after school care and age group, 2000-2010

	4-5 yrs		6-11 yrs	
	2000	2010	2000	2010
Mother/father	46.5	44.1	52.8	47.5
Child stays at home alone	0.4	0.1	2.2	1.0
Structured after school program	12.5	21.5	9.0	17.5
Other*	39.9	33.5	35.3	33.4
Not reported	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5

*Note: The types of after school care included in the category 'Other' in 2010 do not match the types of after school care included in this category in 2000

In 2010, it was more likely for a sole parent to have her/his child(ren) aged 4 through 11 years attending a structured after school program, than when both parents were present or when a partnered single parent was present in the household. About 23 percent of all children living with a sole parent attended a structured afterschool program compared to 17 percent of children who lived with either both parents or with a single partnered parent.

In addition, both parents having a job was related to a higher enrollment of children in an after school program. In total, 81 percent who lived with both parents and attended an after school program, had parents who both had a job. In comparison, 63 percent of children who lived with both their parents and who did not attend a structured afterschool program, had parents who both had a job.

Of all school attending children between 4 and 16 years, 87 percent did not attend a structured afterschool program. Of these children 87 percent indicated that they stayed at home after school. The greater majority of these children stayed with either their mother or their father or with both. These children accounted for more than 60 percent of all children between 4 and 16 years of age.

Census data showed that some factors influenced the choice between structured and unstructured afterschool care. More specifically, the attendance of children to either a structured or an unstructured after school program was related to the age, the country of birth and the highest level of education of their parents. For example, it was more likely for younger parents to send their children to a structured afterschool program than for parents who were 40 years or older. This may be attributed to the fact that younger parents most likely had younger family members and/or friends, who would not be available to watch over the kids after school due to their own responsibilities (at work).

As for the country of birth of parents, slightly more children with foreign-born parents attended a structured afterschool program than did children

with Aruban-born parents. Again, this would probably be related to a difference in social network. Educational level of mothers on the other hand showed to be more important for the choice of the type of after school care than the educational level of fathers. Even though not highly significant, 15 percent of children at a structured afterschool care had mothers with at least tertiary education (see Table 7).

Table 7: Percentage of school attending children between 4 and 16 years of age by type of after school program and by age, country of birth and level of education of their mother/father

Characteristics of fathers and mothers	Type of after school program		
	Structured	Unstructured	
Age father	Younger than 40 years	15.1	84.2
	40 years and older	8.9	90.7
Age mother	Younger than 40 years	14.5	84.9
	40 years and older	10.0	89.5
Country of birth father	Born in Aruba	11.6	87.6
	Foreign born	13.3	86.4
Country of birth mother	Born in Aruba	11.6	87.7
	Foreign-born	13.1	86.5
Educational attainment father	Secondary education or less	11.2	88.2
	Tertiary education or higher	11.3	88.3
Educational attainment mother	Secondary education or less	11.4	87.9
	Tertiary education or higher	14.9	84.6

Despite the fact that a report published in 2008 by the 'Fundacion pa nos Muchanan'⁴ (Foundation for Our Children) reported that parents wanting to enroll their children in a structured after school program were hindered by the financial costs involved, the results of the 2010 Census suggest that household income may not be a major factor determining the type of after school care children received.

Table 8: Percentage of children between 0 and 16 years of age by type of after school program and household income

	Household Income	Type of after school program	
		Structured	Unstructured
Children 4-16 years	Less than Afls.2,000	35.0	65.0
	Afls.2,000-Afls.3,999	40.8	58.5
	Afls.4,000- Afls.5,999	39.1	58.4
	More than Afls.6,000	34.3	64.1
Children 0-3 years	Less than Afls.2,000	11.5	88.0
	Afls.2,000-Afls.3,999	12.4	86.9
	Afls.4,000- Afls.5,999	14.0	85.4
	More than Afls.6,000	12.7	86.8

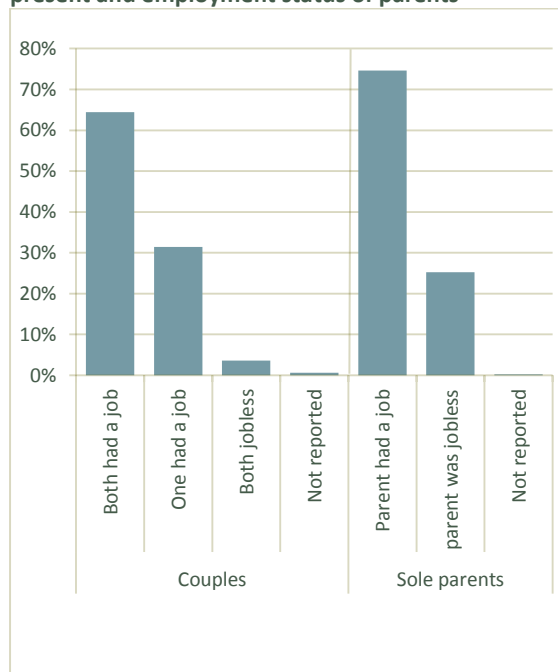
Regardless of household income, the majority of children were not enrolled in a structured after-school program (see Table 8).

ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

Not only is the parental participation in the labor force of importance to the economic wellbeing of children but also the employment status of other adults in the household (if present). Also of importance is the presence of both parents in the household, or the presence of only one, or neither of them. In addition, the employment status of the children themselves is also important to take into account.

Whether both parents were present in the household or whether there was a coupled single parent, the proportion of those employed in these groups was the same. Of children living with either both parents or with a coupled single parent, 64 percent lived in a household where both persons were employed, 4 percent lived in a household where both persons were jobless and in 31 percent of cases one of the adults had a job. In comparison, of children who lived with a sole parent, 75 percent lived with a parent who was employed and 25 percent lived with a parent who was jobless (see Figure 21).

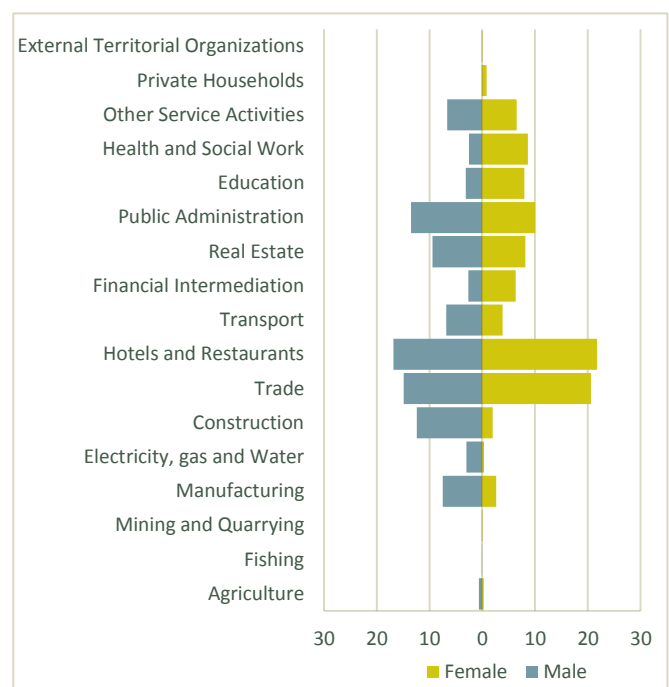
Figure 21: Percentage of children with parents present and employment status of parents



The results of the 2010 Census showed that the greater majority of the employed male population had a job in the ‘hotels and restaurants’ sector (17.3 percent), followed by the ‘construction’ sector (14.6 percent) and the ‘trade’ sector (13.6 percent). Employed females were mostly employed in the

‘hotels and restaurants’ sector (23.6 percent) and the ‘trade’ sector (18.4 percent). In families with children, the distribution of employed persons per sector resembled that of the entire employed population of Aruba. Of all children who lived in a family with either both parents or with a partnered single parent, 16.8 percent lived with a father or male partner of their mother who was employed in the ‘hotels and restaurants’ sector. Where mothers and female partners of single fathers were concerned, 21.7 percent were employed in this sector (see Figure 22).

Figure 22: Percentage of children living with either both parents or with a partnered single parent, of which both adults were employed by sector of employment (ISIC)



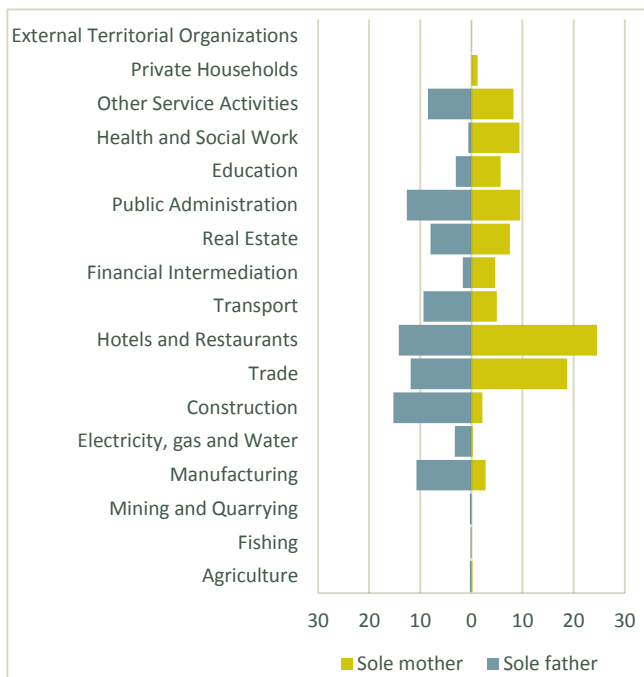
Of children who lived with a sole father, 15.3 percent lived with a father who was employed in the ‘construction’ sector. Of those living with their sole mother, 24.6 percent lived with a mother who was employed in the ‘hotels and restaurants’ sector (see Figure 23).

It is remarkable to note however that of children who lived with either both their parents or with a partnered single parent, only 8.3 percent lived with parents who both worked in the ‘hotels and restaurants’ sector. In addition, only 6.8 percent lived with both parents who were employed in the ‘trade’ sector.

Where the household income of families with children is concerned, the type of household is certainly an important factor to take into account as the average number of household members is usually

larger in non-nuclear households compared to nuclear households. In 2010 the average household size was 2.9 persons, however households with children counted on average 5 persons.

Figure 23: Percentage of children living with an employed sole parent by sector of employment (ISIC)



The median household income of non-nuclear households with children living with a couple (regardless of the marital status of the parent) was Afl.7200 per month. The mean number of persons in these households was 6.3 persons of which 3.2 household members contributed to the household income. On the other hand, nuclear households consisting of children living with a couple had a median household income of Afls.5,000 per month. These households consisted of an average of 4.2 persons of which 1.8 persons contributed to the household income.

The median household income of households with only mothers and their children was Afls.4,780 when in a non-nuclear setting, compared to Afls.2,200 in a nuclear household. These non-nuclear households with children and their mother consisted of an average of 5.6 household members of which 2.7 contributed to the median household income. Nuclear households with children and their mother consisted of an average of 3.1 household members of which 1.2 persons contributed to the median household income.

The median household income of households with only fathers and their children was slightly higher than that of households with mothers and their

children. The median household income of households with fathers and their children was Afls.5,700 in non-nuclear households and Afls.3,000 in nuclear households. These non-nuclear households consisted of an average of 5.3 persons of which 2.7 contributed to the household income, whereas nuclear households consisted of an average of 2.9 household members of which 1 contributed to the median household income.

Figure 24 illustrates that according to 2010 Census data, a two adult family with either one or two children had a median household income way above the calculated subsistence level⁵. However lone mothers with one child barely met the subsistence level compared to lone fathers with one child. Lone fathers with two children on the other hand had a shortage of Afls.176 while lone mothers with two children showed a dramatic shortage of Afls.776. In addition, as shown in Table 9, 64 percent of the children living with a lone mother lived on a median household income of Afls.3,176 or less per month. For the group living with a lone father 49.6 percent lived on a median household income of Afls.3,176 or less. As households composed of children living with a couple had, on average, two sources of income, relatively fewer of these children lived in households with an income below the subsistence level.

Figure 24: Median income and subsistence level for different types of families

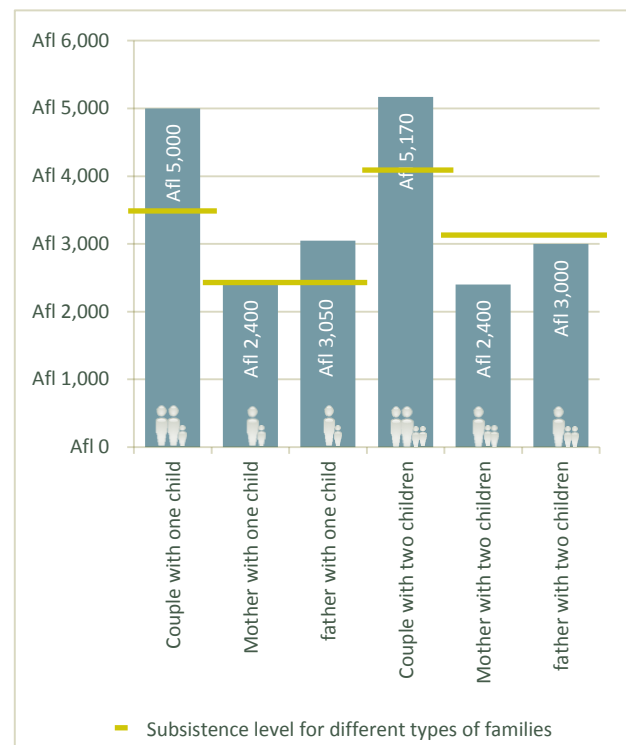


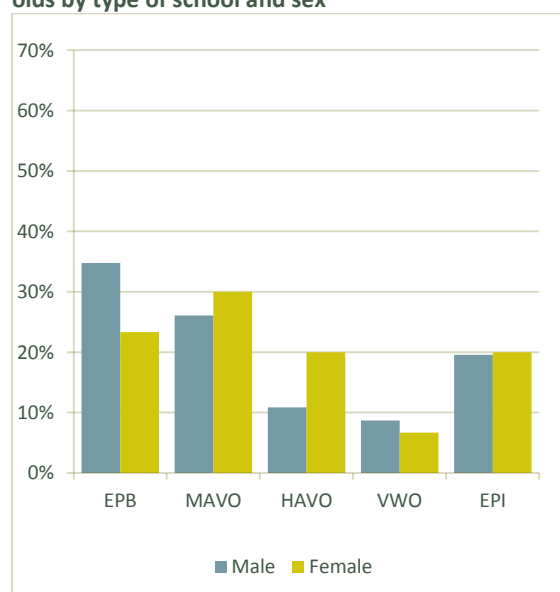
Table 9: Percentage of children in families below or above the subsistence level by type of family

	Couple with children	Mother with children	Father with children
Subsistence level	Afl. 4,169	Afl. 3,176	Afl. 3,176
Equal or less to subsistence level	36.1	64.0	49.6
Above subsistence level	56.4	31.1	41.9
Household income not reported	7.5	4.8	8.5

In 2010, about one quart of all children between 0 and 17 years of age was 14 years or older. At the time of the Census, a very small percentage of these children indicated they were employed (1.8 percent) or looking for work (2.6 percent). The majority indicated that they were inactive because they were attending school. The majority of the economically active (employed and unemployed) youth between 14 and 17 years of age was male (64.7 percent).

Overall, three out of every 4 employed teenagers was still visiting school (71 percent of boys and 81 percent of girls). The majority of employed teenage boys (34.8 percent) attended EPB, a school for lower and upper technical/vocational education (ISCED 2/3), while the largest group of employed teenage girls attended MAVO (a school for lower and upper secondary education, ISCED 2/3; see Figure 25). Even as the majority of employed teenagers were born in Aruba, 55 percent had parents who were both foreign born. Forty five percent were employed in the ‘Trade’ sector and 27.6 percent in the ‘Hotels and Restaurants’ sector. Of employed teenage girls who were still attending school, none indicated having a child. About 47 percent of employed teenagers lived with a sole parent, mostly a sole mother.

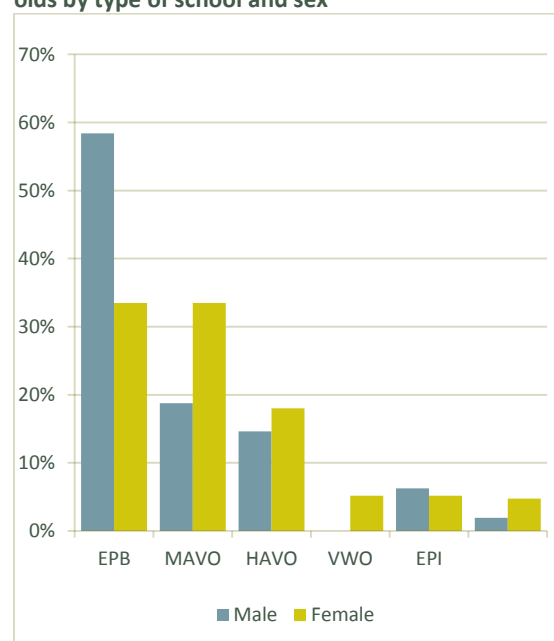
Figure 25: Employed school attending 14-17 year olds by type of school and sex



The majority of employed teenagers who were not attending school were boys (73 percent) of which 73 percent had completed primary education or less. Thirty five percent were employed in the ‘Trade’ sector and 24.0 percent in the ‘Hotels and Restaurants’ sector. In total 62 percent were born in Aruba, but unlike their unemployed peers an equal proportion of their parents was Aruban-born or foreign-born. The characteristics of employed teenage girls who were still attending school resembled those of employed teenage girls not attending school. None of these teenage girls indicated having a child. About 65.4 percent of the employed teenagers who did not attend school lived with either both their parents or with a coupled single parent.

A total of 159 teenagers reported being unemployed. Half of unemployed teenage boys reported attending school, compared to 75 percent of unemployed teenage girls. The majority of unemployed teenage boys who were attending school were attending EPB (58.4 percent). Unemployed school attending teenage girls were more evenly distributed between EPB (33.5 percent) and MAVO (33.5 percent, see Figure 26). Of all school attending teenagers born in Aruba, 0.4 percent reported looking for work compared to 0.8 percent foreign-born school attending teenagers looking for work. With regards to their family composition, 43 percent of unemployed teenagers lived with a couple (either their parents or a partnered parent), 38.4 lived with their single mother and 16.3 percent lived in a household with no parent present. Of the unemployed school attending teenage girls none reported having children.

Figure 26: Unemployed school attending 14-17 year olds by type of school and sex



Both the unemployed school attending teenagers and the unemployed not school attending teenagers had a low level education. Overall, 85 percent of unemployed not school attending teenagers had an EPB diploma or lower. In total, 84 percent of these teenagers were born in Aruba and 57.4 percent had parents who were both born in Aruba. Sixty one percent lived with a sole parent and 7.7 percent of unemployed not school attending teenage girls reported having a child.

LANGUAGE

The Aruban education system is modeled on the Dutch system and the language of instruction is Dutch. But as nearly 70 percent of the population has Papiamentu as their most spoken language at home (Population and Housing Census 2000), a proposal was made in the 1999-2008 Strategic Plan for restructuring language use in pre-primary, primary and special education to reflect the sociolinguistic situation in Aruba. The government approved the introduction of Papiamentu as a language of instruction up to and including 4th grade. In the early 1990s the Prisma project was launched with the aim of familiarizing non-Dutch speaking lateral students with the Dutch language as soon as possible to enable them to follow the regular school program. The Prisma project is running in all primary schools, supporting all children who need help with the Dutch language, including Aruban-born children.

During the 1991 Census, 81 percent of children in the ages of 3 to 17 years reported speaking Papiamentu most of the time at home. By the 2000 Census the percentage of children speaking Papiamentu mostly at home dropped to 76.3 percent and in the 2010 Census to 74.5 percent. On the other hand, the percentage of children speaking Dutch at home has shown a slight increase from 5.8 percent in 1991 to 6.5 percent in 2000 and 6.7 percent in 2010. Considering the fact that Aruba has known a large influx of Spanish speaking migrants since the nineties, the increase in the number of children who reported speaking Spanish mostly at home comes as no surprise. This percentage doubled from 4.9 percent in 1991 to 8.3 percent in 2000. As of the 2010 Census they represented 9.6 percent of all children on Aruba.

Remarkable is that of all children ages 3 to 17 years whose parents were from mixed origin, 79.1 percent reported speaking Papiamentu most of the time at home, regardless of whether the father or mother was born in Aruba. It was more likely for children born to a father who was born in Aruba and a mother who was born elsewhere to speak Spanish at home than the other way around. Of the children born to parents who were both foreign-born, 40.8 percent

reported speaking Papiamentu most of the time at home.

HEALTH STATUS

In 2010, 425 children aged between 0 and 17 years reported having at least one disability, representing 1.7 percent of all children below the age of 18 years. There were slightly more boys with a disability than girls (1.8 percent compared to 1.5 percent, respectively). Among children born in Aruba those with a disability represented 1.6 percent of the total number of children born in Aruba, while for those foreign-born children this was 2 percent. The majority of children born in Aruba and who had a disability had parents who were both born in Aruba. Foreign-born children with a disability were mostly born to foreign-born parents.

The most often reported type of disability among children between 0 and 17 years of age was a difficulty seeing. Girls scored higher when it comes to difficulty seeing and hearing and boys scored higher when it comes to difficulty remembering/concentrating, washing/dressing and communicating. In total, 41.6 percent of boys and 48.8 percent of girls with a disability had a disability seeing. The majority of children with disability (76.8 percent) had a disability on one domain. In total, 83.5 percent of all children with at least one disability were attending school.

In addition to questions on disability, the 2010 Census questionnaire included questions on perceived general health and emotional health. In children between ages 9 and 12 years (pre-teens), relatively more boys (4.1 percent) than girls (2.4 percent) reported having a bad general health. Where teenagers were concerned, relatively more teenage girls (8.2 percent) reported having a bad general health compared to teenage boys (5.4 percent). With regards to perceived emotional health, a slightly higher percentage of pre-teen boys (5.3 percent) reported having a bad emotional health than pre-teen girls (4.2 percent). Interestingly, where teenagers were concerned, 11.6 percent of teenage girls reported having a bad emotional health compared to only 5 percent of teenage boys.

TEENAGE MOTHERS

Worldwide, about 16 million women between 15 and 19 years of age give birth each year, representing 11 percent of all births⁶. According to the Population Registry Office of Aruba, in 2012, 137 babies were born to teenage mothers (mothers younger than 20 years of age), representing 12 percent of all births. In 2011, the Population Registry Office registered 147 babies born to teenage mothers, an all-time high in relative numbers. The highest registered number of

babies born to teenage mothers was 164 babies, registered in 2000. In the last decade, an average of 143 births was registered per year to teenage mothers between ages 15 and 19 years. On average, 3 percent of teenage mothers were younger than 15 years of age (representing an average of 3 births per year), except for 2008 where they represented 6 percent of teenage mothers. According to the Population Registry Office, in the last decade, an average of 16 percent of teenage mothers had more than one child before the age of 20 years.

Teenage mothers are not included in the focus group of this paper; yet they are still children. During the 2010 Census, 219 teenage mothers were counted of which 62 (28.2 percent) were younger than 18 years. These 62 teenage mothers were responsible for 68 children. In total, 89 percent of teenage mothers younger than 18 years reported having only one child and 11 percent having 2 children. About one quart of these adolescents was living together with a partner of which 14 percent were actually married to that partner. The age of partners ranged between 18 and 31 years of age. Three out of four teenage mothers younger than 18 years were born in Aruba and had the Dutch nationality. The majority of these teenage mothers, (56 percent) were born to parents of whom both were born in Aruba, 28 percent were born to parents from mixed countries of birth and 16 percent were born to foreign-born parents. Of teenage mothers who were living with their own mothers at the time of the 2010 Census, a little less than half (48 percent) of these grandmothers were teenage mothers themselves. A total of 49 of these grandmothers (34.1 percent) indicated they had their first child before the age of 20 years.

In addition to concerns for the health and wellbeing of adolescent mothers and their children, adolescent pregnancy affects families and the community as a whole. Girls who become pregnant are at greater risk of leaving school, which on the long term would have implications for themselves and for the community. According to the 2010 Census, 63 percent of teenage mothers (younger than 18 years), were still attending school. However, two thirds of these teenage mothers were attending EPB. In addition, the highest level of education of the majority (72 percent) of the grandmothers was also lower vocational education or less. The majority of teenage mothers (81 percent) were economically inactive, 5 percent indicated they were employed and 14 percent indicated they were unemployed. Three out of four teenage mothers had no source of income of their own.

STEPS 2006

In 2006 a survey was held with the purpose of monitoring behavioral risk factors for chronic non-communicable diseases on Aruba⁷. The 2006 STEPS

survey was an inter-departmental cooperation between the Department of Public Health of Aruba and the Central Bureau of Statistics and technical assistance from the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI). It was executed by using the 'WHO STEPwise approach to chronic disease risk factor surveillance' with the target population of adults between 25 and 64 years of age. Amongst other health topics covered in this survey, one set of questions included questions on emotional state. Parents, step-parents, partners and other adults caring for children in general, have important caregiving roles⁸ and it is interesting to note that a relatively high percentage of adults, especially females, reported some kind of emotional instability, such as feeling anger or bad tempered without a reason, feeling sad without reason, and feeling uptight or nervous without a reason (see Table 9). The survey covered basic demographic characteristics of the respondents, such as age, marital status and household composition. Questions on parenthood or on the presence of children in the household were not included in the questionnaire, hence further analyses on these variables is not possible.

Table 10: Percentage of participants reporting their emotional state by sex, STEPS Aruba 2006

	Male	Female	Total
Had problems falling asleep	15.1	20.2	18.0
Felt loved or wanted	95.5	96.8	96.2
Felt anger or bad tempered without reason	10.9	20.8	16.4
Had one or more persons to confide in or whom to ask for help if needed	91.3	92.4	91.9
Felt sad without reason	7.3	17.3	12.8
Felt that could control own thoughts, emotions and behavior	97.2	96.6	96.6
Felt lonely most of the time	11.5	21.5	17.0
Felt fear without a reason	3.2	8.5	6.1
Felt life was not worth living	9.7	8.4	9.0
Felt emotionally stable	97.0	96.8	96.9
Felt capable of making decisions and managing situations in life	98.8	98.6	98.7
Felt uptight or nervous without a reason	5.7	11.6	9.0
Felt satisfied with the way they were	98.3	97.2	97.9

SDQI

In September 2012, the Central Bureau of Statistics conducted a survey on the self-concept of pre-adolescent children of Aruba⁹. The survey was conducted by means of the Self-Description Questionnaire-I (SDQI), which was designed to measure multiple dimensions of self-concept of pre-adolescent children. In particular, the questionnaire taps self-perceptions relative to four non-academic areas (physical ability, physical appearance, peer relations and parent relations) and three academic areas (reading, mathematics and school in general).

The SDQ-I also includes a scale on the global perception of the self. The aim of this survey was to provide educators, social workers at schools, school boards and other organizations involved in childcare and guidance, important information regarding the self-concept of pre-adolescent children. The target group was children in 4th, 5th and 6th grade of primary schools in Aruba.

The results of this survey showed that, even though children in Aruba had a relatively high self-concept, there were certainly some areas that needed attention. For example, in accordance with the results of international studies on self-concept, a decline was observed in the self-concept of pre-adolescent children of Aruba between grades 4 and 6. However, the self-concept of children in Aruba tended to decline in some areas at a relatively faster pace than in others, especially in the academic areas. Another point of interest was that boys outscored girls in both academic and non-academic areas of functioning. As it is argued that self-concept scales tend to assess qualities that are typically 'masculine', studies including more 'feminine' items to the SDQ-I are warranted.

The SDQ-I included twelve negatively worded items that were not used for the purpose of calculating the individual scores or total scores, but showed some interesting results. Children's responses on these items show that a relatively high percentage of children reported hating reading (14.0 percent), mathematics (18.5 percent) and school subjects in general (7.8 percent).

In addition to the above mentioned areas of concern, there was a relatively small, but significant group of children who reported perceiving themselves as being ugly (7.2 percent) or as being 'no good' (9 percent). These children also scored lower on the General Self scale, pointing to an overall dissatisfaction with themselves and a perception of themselves as being less capable and less effective individuals. This group of children is most probably at risk for developing mental health issues that can impact their overall well-being.

Furthermore, even though children had relatively high scores on the Peer Relations scale, it is important to note that nearly half of the children reported that most kids had more friends than that they did, 48.2 percent of boys and 49.9 percent for girls. This result may be related to the timing of the survey conducted right after the start of a new school year. Children also scored high on the Parents Relations scale. However, 38.1 percent of boys and 33.0 percent of girls reported that their parents were usually unhappy or disappointed with what they did.

YOUTH HEALTH SURVEY

By order of the Ministry of Public Health and Sports and the PAHO/PHCO (Pan American Health Organization/PAHO Caribbean HIV Office) in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Education, the Department of Public Health conducted in 2012 a Youth Health Survey among youth attending secondary school¹⁰. The purpose of this survey was to gain insight in behavior, attitude, knowledge and perception of the youth between 12 and 19 years of age, on different topics including peer and family relationships, sexual and reproductive health, use of tobacco, alcohol and other substances, use of health services, social and mental health, nutrition, hygiene, physical activities, school environment and dental health.

Highlights of this study show that about 28 percent of the respondents ever tried a cigarette and 70 percent reported using alcohol. Interestingly, 11 percent of the smokers indicated having smoked their first cigarette between ages 13 and 15 years. For those who drank alcohol on the other hand, 11 percent reported consuming their first alcoholic beverage when they were younger than 10 years of age¹⁰.

About 16 percent of the youth reported smoking marihuana. Remarkably, in children younger than 14 years of age, more girls reported smoking marihuana compared to boys, respectively 53 and 47 percent. As age increased, more boys reported smoking marihuana than girls. Males had the highest percentage of smoking marihuana between ages 15-17 years (52 percent) and 18 years or older (62.5 percent). It is interesting to note that 5.4 percent of the marihuana users reported having tried marihuana for the first time when younger than 10 years of age. The study further shows that the use of hard drugs is low among the youth compared to the use of marihuana¹⁰.

Furthermore the study shows that 74.2 percent of the respondents felt lonely, 68.5 percent were worried about something in the past month which prevented them from sleeping at night and 14.6 percent thought seriously about committing suicide. Again, most of these respondents were girls. Almost 10 percent of the respondents actually did try to commit suicide at least once during the last year; 71 percent were female and 28.9 percent were male¹⁰.

SUMMARY

Aruba experienced a fertility decline from 5.26 births per woman in 1958 to 2.58 in 1967. Since then it hovered around or even below replacement level. As of the 2010 Census the Total Fertility Rate stood at 1.79 children per woman. Concerns are growing about the long-term viability of intergenerational

social support systems, which are crucial for the well-being of both the older and younger generation. This concern is especially acute in Aruba, where provision of care within the family becomes increasingly difficult as family size decreases and women, who are traditionally the main caregivers, engage more and more in employment outside the home.

In addition the youth dependency ratio is dropping at a high pace, indicating the decreasing share of young persons. The youth dependency ratio is the number of persons 0 to 14 years of age per 100 persons aged 15 to 64 years. Currently there are fewer people in the reproductive ages, which will cause the proportion of the younger population to further decrease in the years to come. However, this scenario will change when the relatively larger group of persons currently in the age group of 5 to 20 years reaches their reproductive age. This shrinking and expanding of the group of youngsters may pose a challenge for policy makers in the realm of education, who continuously have to adapt to a changing size of school attending population¹¹.

With an increasing number of children born out of wed-lock, marriage rates down and divorce rates up, there is an increasing number of children growing up in sole-parent or reconstituted families (blended families). There is no Census data on reconstituted families as one of the short-comings of the Census is that there is no possibility of telling children from previous marriages/relationships apart. However, the results of the 2010 Census show that 14.2 percent of all mothers who lived with their children younger than 18 years were divorced. Of this group of mothers 25 percent indicated having a new partner. The divorced fathers on the other hand represented 7 percent of all fathers living with their children of which 71 percent indicated having a new partner¹². Children in the reconstituted families may have to deal with stress related to difficulties in integrating two families in a new family construction.

Raising a child (or more children) by your own is a challenge: juggling between a job and the household, or looking for a job, childcare issues and a scale of other challenges. Studies support the notion that, on average, children do best when raised by their two married, biological parents who have low-conflict relationships¹³. However, questions are raised about how much of the disadvantages to children are attributable to family structure versus poverty. In addition questions are asked about whether it is marriage itself that makes a difference or whether it is more about the type of people who get married, as it is stated that the majority of children in sole-parent families grow up without serious problems. The 2010 Census results indicate that a higher proportion of children living with both parents attended a school for higher secondary education (HAVO/VWO).

Likewise the results show that children living with a couple were economically better off. Even though 36.1 percent of these children lived in a household with an income below the subsistence level, the economic situation of children with a sole mother/father was much more alarming, given that respectively 64 percent and 49.6 percent of these children lived in a household that went by an income which barely reached the subsistence level or fell below.

Another point of concern is the group of youngsters starting at a young age smoking, using alcohol and/or doing drugs. Even as this group is relatively small, it raises concern. In addition, according to the World Bank's Caribbean Youth Development Report (2003)¹⁴, the Caribbean has the earliest age of sexual 'debut' in the world with many young people being initiated into sexual behavior as a consequence of child abuse, starting sexual activity at as early as 10 years of age and in some cases at an even younger age. The situation of child sexual abuse in Aruba is also distressing whereby reported cases ranked the highest in 2009 (70 cases of child sexual abuse out of a total of 291 reported cases of child maltreatment), the second highest in 2010 (52 cases of child sexual abuse out of a total of 258 reported cases of child maltreatment) and the third highest in 2011 (46 cases of child sexual abuse out of a total of 248 reported cases of child maltreatment)¹⁵.

Structured after school programs may provide at a minimum a safe place for children and youth, keeping them off the streets and out of trouble and from spending too much time watching TV or playing video games. In addition international research shows that afterschool program participation is linked to positive outcomes for children and youth including educational success for those who attend programs on a regular basis¹⁶.

Results of the 2010 Census show that only 13 percent of children and youth between 4 and 16 years of age attend a structured afterschool program. And contrary to a survey conducted by the Fundacion Pa Nos Muchanan, Census 2010 data shows that income may not be a major determinant of children not attending a structured afterschool program. Other important factors should be considered when analyzing why parents do not enroll their child(ren) in an after school program. For example, it is unclear whether the supply of structured afterschool programs meets the demand, and whether concerns about the safety of centers offering after school care/guidance plays a role in the decision making process. In Aruba, these centers are not regulated by law. According to Census 2010 data, more than 60 percent of school attending children and youth between 4 and 16 years of age stayed at home with a mother or father after school.

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APPENDIX

Demographic background

Child population

Children ages 0-17 years	25,634
Boys	13,109
Girls	12,525
Children as a proportion of the population	25.3%
Number of households with children ages 0-17 years	14,913

Child population by age group (% of total population 0-17 yrs.)

0-3 yrs.	19.8%
4-5 yrs.	11.2%
6-11 yrs.	33.4%
12-17 yrs.	35.6%

Country of birth children

Born in Aruba	86.1%
Foreign-born	13.8%

Country of birth parents

Both parents born in Aruba	41.7%
Father born in Aruba, mother foreign-born	17.4%
Mother born in Aruba, father foreign-born	11.9%
Both parents foreign-born	28.7%

Language most often spoken by children 0-17 years in their household

Papiamentu	70.5%
Spanish	8.9%
Dutch	6.3%
English	5.7%
Other	2.7%
Does not speak (as yet)	5.9%

Family and social environment

Family structure and children's living arrangements

Children living with two married parents	50.6%
Children living with two unmarried parents	13.5%
Children living with two parents, status unknown	0.2%
Children living with a partnered single mother	2.2%
Children living with a lone mother	27.7%
Children living with a partnered single father	0.1%
Children living with a lone father	2.3%
No parent present	3.4%

Family and social environment (continued)

Household composition

Nuclear household	75.8%
Extended household	12.8%
Composite household	11.4%

Grandparents

Households with children 0-17 yrs. with grandparent(s) present	21.2%
Households with children 0-17 yrs. With financially responsible grandparent(s) present	34.3%

Housing

Normal living quarters	99.7%
Institutional living quarters	0.3%

Type of normal living quarters

House	85.7%
Apartment	11.4%
Other	2.8%
Type of normal living quarters not reported	0.2%

Tenure of normal living quarters

Owned	70.7%
Rented	25.6%
Lived for free	3.2%
Not reported	0.5%

Education and after school network

School attendance

Boys	86.8%
Girls	87.6%

0-3 yrs.	45.4%
4-5 yrs.	97.9%
6-11 yrs.	98.8%
12-16 yrs.	97.6%
17 yrs.	89.4%

After school care

Structured after school program	12.3%
Unstructured after school program	87.1%
Type of after school program not reported	0.6%

Education and after school network (continued)

Structured after school program (family composition)

Couple	61.5%
Sole parent	35.1%
No parent	3.4%

Unstructured after school program (family composition)

Couple	67.7%
Sole parent	28.6%
No parent	3.7%

Economic circumstances

Employment status adults

Couples

Both have a job	64.4%
One has a job	31.4%
Both jobless	3.6%
Employment status adults not reported	0.6%

Sole parents

Parent has a job	74.0%
Parent is jobless	25.8%
Employment status parent not reported	0.2%

Median household income (nuclear households)

Median household income from all sources	Afls. 5,000
% of children in households with income below subsistence level	36.1%
Average number of children	2.1
Average number of household members	4.2
Average number of household members contributing to household income	1.8

Lone mother with children

Median household income from all sources	Afls. 2,200
% of children in households with income below subsistence level	64.0%
Average number of children	1.9
Average number of household members	3.1
Average number of household members contributing to household income	1.2

Lone father with children

Median household income from all sources	Afls. 3,000
% of children in households with income below subsistence level	49.6%
Average number of children	1.8
Average number of household members	2.9
Average number of household members contributing to household income	1.0

Health status**Children with at least 1 limitation (% of all children 0-17 yrs.)**

Boys	1.8%
Girls	1.5%
All children	1.7%

Children with multiple limitations (% of all children 0-17 yrs. with at least 1 limitation)	23.2%
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