

The fertility section was administered to women who were 15 years or older regardless of whether they were attending school. For comparative purposes with the 1991 data, however, the analysis is restricted to females who were not attending high school.

Bermuda has been experiencing declining fertility levels since the 1970's when replacement level fertility was reached. This means that Bermudian women are not having sufficient numbers of children to replace themselves in the population. An analysis of the fertility patterns of women who had completed their childbearing years showed a decline in the average number of children born. Of the women 45 years and older in 2000, 40% had more than two children. This was 7 percentage points lower than for women of that age in 1991. (See Table 1.) This decline was propelled by the negative growth (-10%) in the number of women who had more than 4 children. As women opted for smaller families, the numbers having only one or two children increased by 44% and 51%, respectively. Moreover, the number of women who had not borne any children had grown by 26%.



Another indicator of fertility trends is the age at which women have their first live birth. The tendency of women to postpone childbearing is evident in Table 2, which shows the age at first live birth for women aged 15 to 64 who were not attending high school. By the end of the nineties the proportion of teens and women

TABLE 1
WOMEN AGED 45 YEARS AND OVER BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN, 1991 AND 2000

Children Ever Born	Number		Percentage Distribution		Percentage Change
	2000	1991	2000	1991	1991-2000
Total	11,544	9,302	100	100	+24%
0	1,606	1,278	14	14	+26%
1	1,913	1,330	17	14	+44%
2	3,436	2,276	30	24	+51%
3	2,147	1,692	19	18	+27%
4 or More	2,442	2,726	21	29	-10%
Average Number of Children	2.4	2.8			

aged between 20 and 29 who had entered motherhood had declined from 58% to 55%. In the case of teens, a drop from 31% to 26% was recorded. The proportion of women commencing motherhood in their thirties or at older ages increased by 6 percentage points. As a result, the median age at first birth rose from 21.6 years to 22.5 years.

TABLE 2
FEMALES AGED 15 TO 64 NOT ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL BY AGE AT FIRST LIVE BIRTH, 2000 AND 1991

Age at First Live Birth	Number		Percentage Distribution	
	2000	1991 ¹	2000	1991
Total	14,381	13,448	100	100
Under 20	3,808	4,116	26	31
20 - 24	4,660	4,796	32	36
25 - 29	3,326	2,935	23	22
30 - 34	1,741	1,105	12	8
35 & Over	600	338	4	3
Not Stated	246	158	2	1
Median Age at First Live Birth	22.5	21.6		

Not only were women entering motherhood later, but also by 2000 they were completing their families earlier. In 2000, a greater proportion of women aged 45 to 64, virtually all of whom would have completed their fertility, had their last live birth at an earlier age than was the case in 1991. At the previous census date 50% of women of this age group had had their last child before the age of 30, compared to 54% in 2000. Similarly, the proportion of mothers who completed their childbearing after age 29 had dropped from 49% to 44%. (See Table 3.) The median age at last live birth was thus down slightly from 28.9 to 28.2 years.

TABLE 3
FEMALES AGED 45 TO 64 NOT ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL BY AGE AT LAST LIVE BIRTH, 2000 AND 1991

Age at Last Live Birth	Number		Percentage Distribution	
	2000	1991 ¹	2000	1991
Total	6,585	5,471	100	100
Under 20	381	202	6	4
20 - 24	1,258	834	19	15
25 - 29	1,921	1,703	29	31
30 - 34	1,736	1,566	26	29
35 & Over	1,191	1,072	18	20
Not Stated	98	94	1	2
Median Age at Last Live Birth	28.2	28.9		

¹ Revised