

NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL

FACT SHEET No. II:

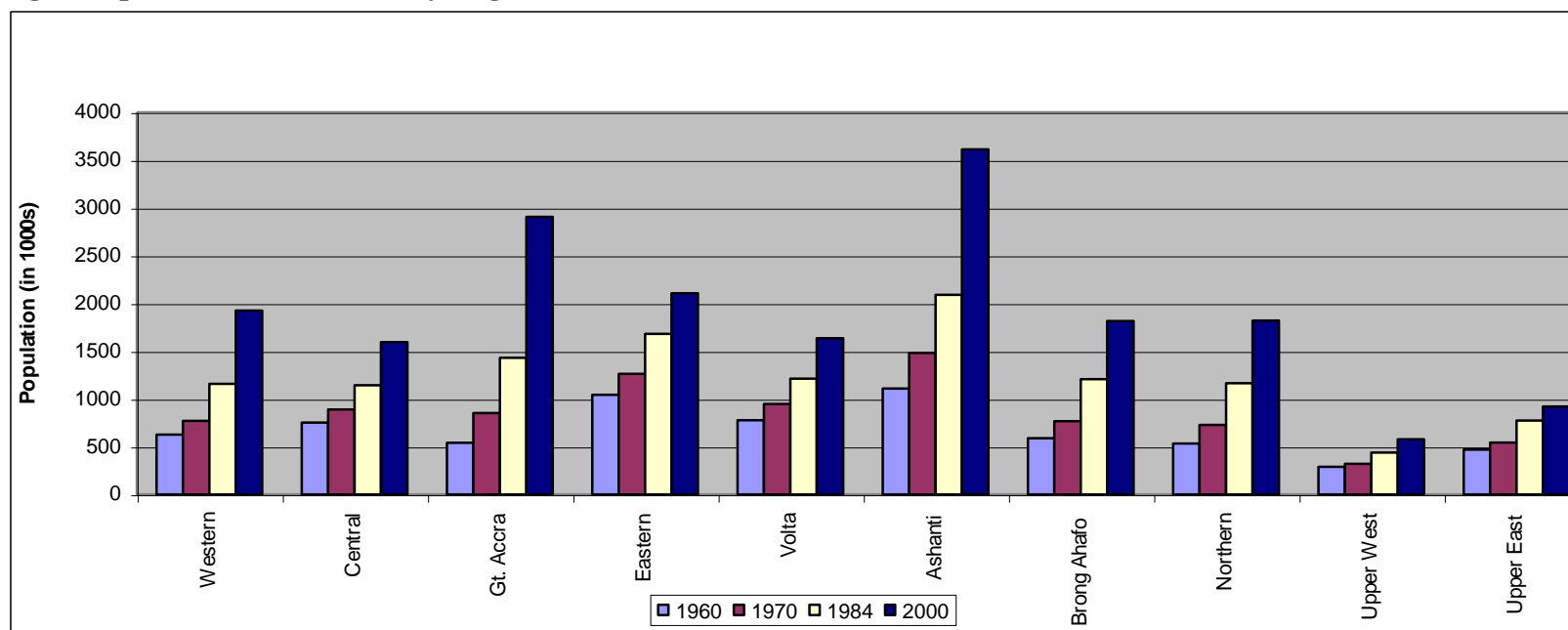
Population of Ghana: Regional Trends

September 2004

1. Population Distribution by Region, 1960-2000

- ❑ All the regions have recorded steady increases in their population size since 1960.
- ❑ Greater Accra, Central and Ashanti Regions account for about 40 percent of the total population of Ghana. They have high population densities of 896, 162 and 148 persons per square kilometer respectively.
- ❑ Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions had the highest increase in their population.

Fig 1: Population Distribution by Region, 1960-2000

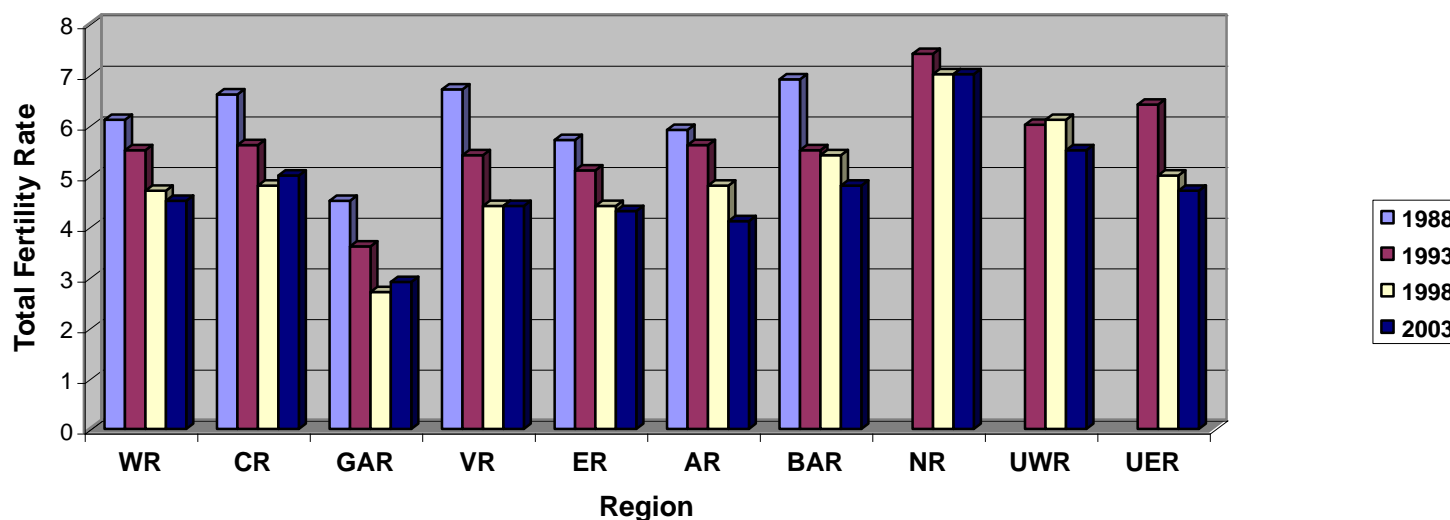


Source: GSS, Census Reports, 1960, 1970, 1984 & 2000.

2. Trends in Fertility by Region, 1988-2003

- ❑ Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined in all the regions between 1988 and 2003 except for Upper West in 1998 and Central and Greater Accra in 2003 where there were slight increases in the rates.
- ❑ In 1988 TFR were highest in Central, Volta and Brong Ahafo Regions with about 6 children per woman in each region. Greater Accra Region recorded the lowest fertility rate (about 4 children per woman) in the same year.
- ❑ Between 1988 and 1993, TFR in Central, Greater Accra, Volta and Brong Ahafo Regions declined by at least one child per woman.
- ❑ Between 1993 and 1998 Greater Accra, Volta and Upper East Regions recorded significant decline in total fertility of one child per woman. Northern Region recorded the highest TFR of 7 children per woman in 1998.
- ❑ From 1998 to 2003, TFR in Volta, Eastern and Northern Regions remained almost stationary, while there were slight increases in the TFR in Central and Greater Accra.

Fig.2: Trends in Total Fertility Rate by Regions, 1988-2003



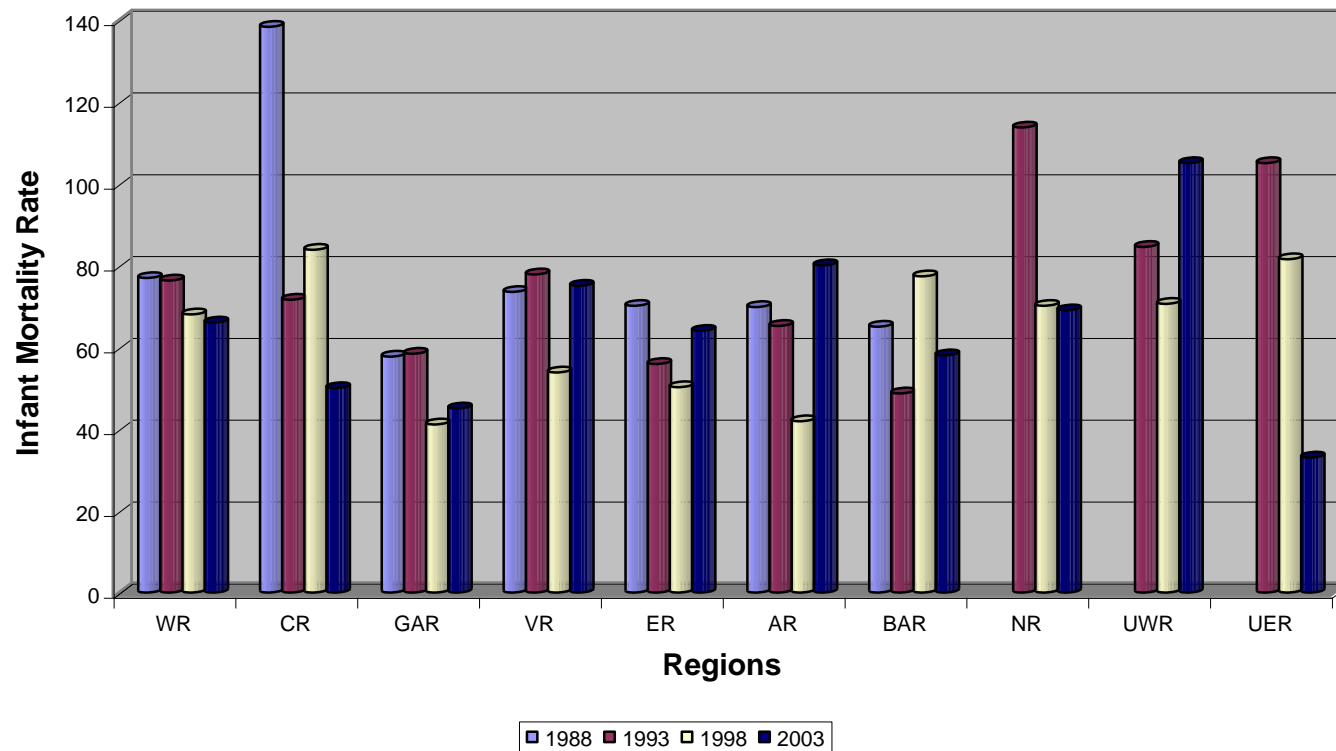
Source: GDHS 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003

** Data on TFR for NR, UWR & UER for 1988 was combined in GDHS 1988 Report.*

3a. Trends in Infant Mortality Rates (IMR) by Region, 1988-2003

- ❑ All the regions had a decline in IMR between 1988 and 1998, except Central and Brong Ahafo Regions, where IMR declined between 1993 and 1998.
- ❑ Central Region had the highest IMR in 1988, while Greater Accra Region recorded the lowest rate in the same year. Between 1988 and 1993, however, Central Region recorded a decline in IMR having dropped from 138 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1988 to 71 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1993.
- ❑ In 1993, children in the Northern Region faced the greatest risk of dying before their first birthday (i.e. 114 deaths per 1,000 live births), followed by Upper East and Upper West Regions (105 and 85 deaths per 1,000 live births respectively).
- ❑ Between 1993 and 1998, IMR declined from 114 deaths per 1,000 live births to 70 deaths per 1,000 live births in the Northern Region. However, Central and Brong Ahafo Regions recorded increases in IMR.
- ❑ The increase in the national figure for IMR between 1998 and 2003 is attributable to increases in the rate in five regions, the highest of which occurred in Volta, Ashanti and Upper West.

Fig3a: Trends in Infant Mortality Rates by Region, 1988-2003



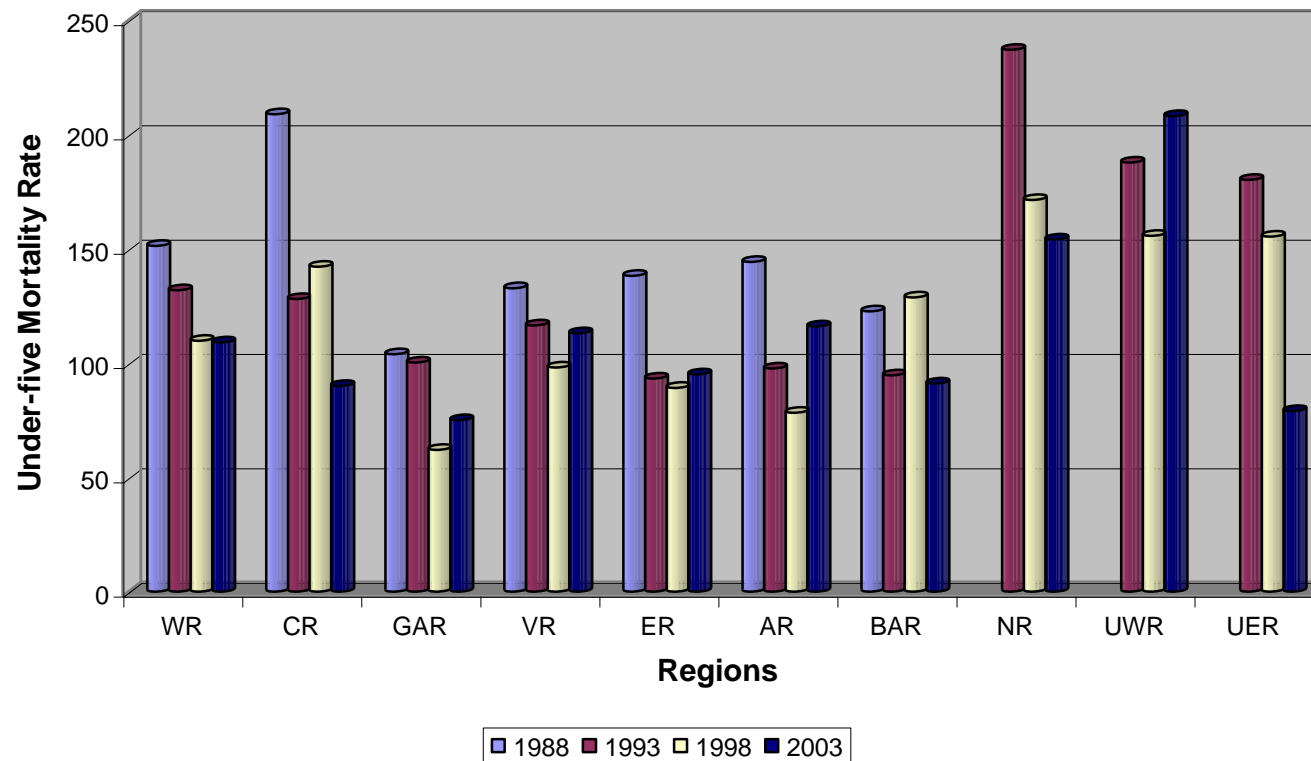
Source: GDHS 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003

* Data on Infant Mortality Rate for NR, UWR & UER for 1988 was combined in GDHS 1988 Report.

3b. Trends In Under-five Mortality Rates by Region, 1988-2003

- ❑ Trends in under-five mortality rates were similar to that of infant mortality rates. There was a declining trend from 1988 to 1998 in all regions except in Central and Brong-Ahafo.
- ❑ High rates of 150 deaths per 1,000 live births or more were recorded in the three northern regions during the period.
- ❑ Increases in Under-five Mortality Rates in 2003 are pronounced in Volta, Ashanti and Upper West Regions.

Fig3b: Trends in Under-five Mortality Rates by Region, 1988-2003.



Source: GDHS 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003

*Data on Under-five Mortality Rates for NR, UWR & UER for 1988 was combined in GDHS 1988 Report

Table1: Fertility & Mortality Data by Region, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003

| REGION | Median Age at First Sex (Yrs) | | | Median Age at First Marriage (Yrs) | | | | Median Age at First Birth (Yrs) | | | | Total Fertility Rate | | | | Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 live births) | | | | Under-five Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 live births) | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------|------|------------------------------------|------|------|------|---------------------------------|------|------|------|----------------------|------|------|------|---|------|------|------|---|-------|-------|------|
| | 1993 | 1998 | 2003 | 1988 | 1993 | 1998 | 2003 | 1988 | 1993 | 1998 | 2003 | 1988 | 1993 | 1998 | 2003 | 1988 | 1993 | 1998 | 2003 | 1988 | 1993 | 1998 | 2003 |
| Western | 16.4 | 17.7 | 17.9 | 18.2 | 18.3 | 19.2 | 19.5 | 19.5 | 19.1 | 19.7 | 20.0 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 76.9 | 76.3 | 68.0 | 66 | 151.2 | 131.8 | 109.7 | 109 |
| Central | 16.8 | 17.9 | 17.5 | 18.4 | 18.5 | 19.3 | 19.1 | 19.4 | 19.7 | 20.0 | 20.1 | 6.6 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 138.3 | 71.6 | 83.8 | 50 | 208.8 | 128.0 | 142.1 | 90 |
| Gt. Accra | 17.7 | 18.3 | 19.1 | 19.0 | 20.1 | 20.4 | 20.9 | 20.6 | 21.6 | 22.0 | 21.8 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 57.7 | 58.4 | 41.4 | 45 | 103.8 | 100.2 | 62.0 | 75 |
| Volta | 16.9 | 17.6 | 17.7 | 18.7 | 18.9 | 18.9 | 19.5 | 19.9 | 20.0 | 20.4 | 20.7 | 6.7 | 5.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 73.5 | 77.8 | 53.8 | 75 | 132.7 | 116.4 | 98.0 | 113 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Eastern | 17.1 | 17.2 | 18.4 | 18.8 | 19.2 | 18.7 | 19.8 | 19.3 | 20.4 | 20.0 | 20.3 | 5.7 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 70.1 | 55.9 | 50.2 | 64 | 138.1 | 93.2 | 89.1 | 95 |
| Ashanti | 16.8 | 17.2 | 18.3 | 17.8 | 18.6 | 18.8 | 18.9 | 19.5 | 19.9 | 19.9 | 20.2 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 69.8 | 65.2 | 41.9 | 80 | 144.2 | 97.6 | 78.2 | 116 |
| Brong Ahafo | 16.5 | 16.6 | 18.1 | 18.0 | 18.3 | 18.2 | 18.9 | 19.5 | 19.6 | 19.6 | 20.2 | 6.9 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 65.0 | 48.7 | 77.3 | 58 | 122.6 | 94.6 | 128.7 | 91 |
| Northern | 18.4 | 18.5 | 18.1 | 17.9 | 19.4 | 18.7 | 19.2 | 19.4 | 20.8 | 20.2 | 21.1 | 6.8 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 103.1 | 113.7 | 70.1 | 69 | 211.8 | 237.0 | 171.3 | 154 |
| Upper West | 17.5 | 18.6 | 19.3 | | 18.8 | 19.2 | 19.1 | | 21.0 | 21.2 | 20.5 | | 6.0 | 6.1 | 5.5 | | 84.5 | 70.6 | 105 | | 187.7 | 155.6 | 208 |
| Upper East | 16.9 | 18.3 | 17.4 | | 18.3 | 18.8 | 18.3 | | 20.1 | 20.8 | 19.9 | | 6.4 | 5.0 | 4.7 | | 105.0 | 81.5 | 33 | | 180.1 | 155.3 | 79 |
| Total | 17.0 | 17.6 | 18.2 | 18.3 | 18.8 | 19.1 | 19.4 | 19.6 | 20.2 | 20.3 | 20.5 | 6.4 | 5.5 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 77 | 66 | 56.7 | 64 | 158 | 119 | 107.6 | 111 |

Source: GDHS, 1988,1993, 1998, 2003

*Data on median age at first sex for 1988 are not available.

*Data for all indices in 1988 for UWR, UER and NR were combined.