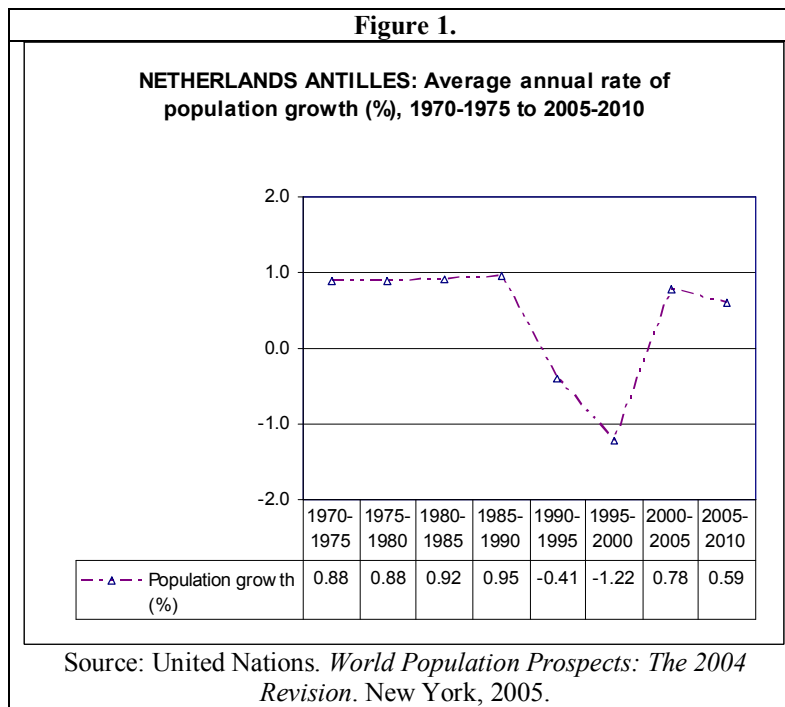


NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Population

The total population of the Netherlands Antilles is estimated at 183,000 in 2005, of which 70.1% live in urban areas.¹ Women represent 53.0% of the total population.² In the year 2004, 58,000 women were 15 to 49 years old, that is, around 60% of the total number of women.³

According to demographic estimates, the average annual rate of growth of the population underwent substantial changes since 1970 to date, remaining stable at around 1% for much of the period but also reflecting population decreases during part of the period (Figure 1).



¹ PAHO/AIS. *Health Situation in the Americas. Basic Indicators 2005*. Washington, DC, 2005.

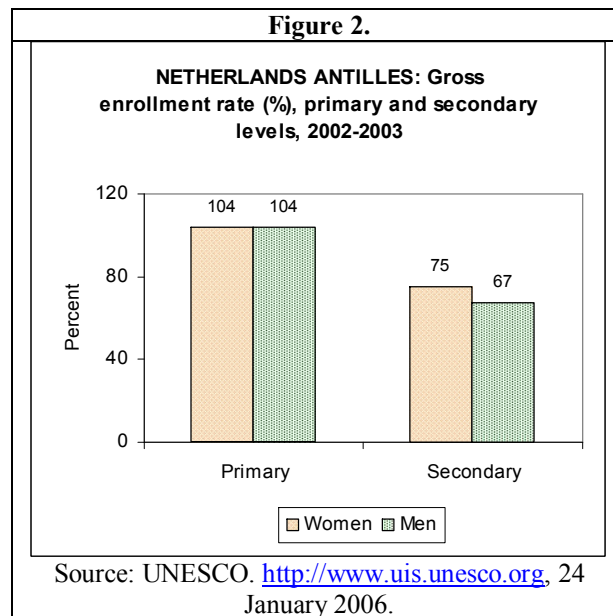
² Based on data from: PAHO/AIS. Technical Information System. Table Generator. <http://www.paho.org>, 26 January 2006.

³ United Nations. *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*. New York, 2005.

General context

Education

Literacy among the population aged 15 years and over was 96.9% in 1998; male literacy was 96.9% and female literacy, 97.0%.⁴ It is estimated that the gross enrollment rate for the primary level exceeds 100% among males and females, but that enrollment rates are much lower for the secondary level (Figure 2).



Resources that facilitate initiatives leading to gender equality

Commitment to gender equality		
The facultative protocol for the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): ⁵	Yes	No
- Was signed	X	
- Was ratified by the legislature		X

Abortion policy⁶		
	Yes	No
Does the penal code prohibit abortion?		X

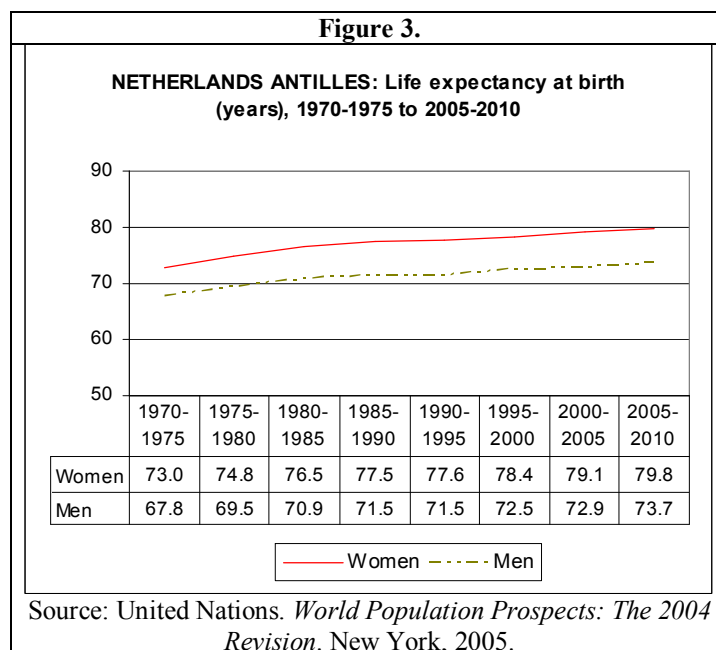
⁴ PAHO/AIS. *Health Situation in the Americas. Basic Indicators 2005*. Washington, DC, 2005.

⁵ United Nations. Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>, 27 March 2006. Data for The Netherlands.

⁶ United Nations. Population Policy Data Bank, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. New York, N.Y. (27 March 2006) Abortion policy for The Netherlands.

Health Situation

In 2005, life expectancy at birth was 79.5 years for women and 73.4 years for men.⁷ Recent demographic estimates and projections have found that, by the 2005-2010 quinquennium, life expectancy levels will be quite high for both sexes, but female life expectancy at birth will be 6.1 years greater than male life expectancy (Figure 3).



Risk factors⁸

In 1993-1994, the prevalence of obesity on Curacao Island among the population 15 to 49 years old was 36% among women and 19% among men. Data are not available on the prevalence of tobacco consumption in the population.

Mortality

Mortality data by sex, age and cause of death are not available from the Netherlands Antilles.

The infant mortality rate was estimated at 12.6 per 1,000 live births for the year 2004.⁹

⁷ PAHO/AIS. *Health Situation in the Americas. Basic Indicators 2005*. Washington, DC, 2005.

⁸ PAHO/GE. *Gender, Health and Development in the Americas. Basic Indicators 2005*. Washington, 2005.

⁹ PAHO/AIS. *Health Situation in the Americas. Basic Indicators 2005*. Washington, DC, 2005.

Sexual and reproductive health

In 2004, the total fertility rate in the Netherlands Antilles was 2.0 children per woman.¹⁰

Adolescent pregnancy is one of several reproductive risk categories;¹¹ it constitutes a barrier that can prevent women from developing capabilities to help them achieve the resources necessary for their well-being. In the Netherlands Antilles, in 2004, 4% of adolescents 15 to 19 years old gave birth; among women 35 to 49 years, 2% gave birth to a child.

A grand total of 235 cases of AIDS were reported through December 1995; more recent data on AIDS cases are not available.¹² In September 2005 there were 354 people under treatment with antiretroviral drugs in the Netherlands Antilles;¹³ the number of people 15 to 49 years old who needed such treatment in 2004 is unknown.¹⁴

¹⁰ PAHO/GE. *Gender, Health and Development in the Americas. Basic Indicators 2005*. Washington, DC, 2005.

¹¹ Reproductive risk factors: mother's age less than 20 years and over 34 years; birth interval less than 24 months; birth order greater than 3.

¹² PAHO/National AIDS Program.

¹³ *Idem*.

¹⁴ UNAIDS/WHO.