

# NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## 1. DEMOGRAPHICS, GENDER AND POVERTY

The estimated multi-ethnic population of the Northern Mariana Islands was 80 362 in 2005 and comprised Chamorros, Carolinians, Micronesians, Japanese, Chinese, Filipinos, Koreans and Caucasians. Even though the three official languages are English, Chamorro and Carolinian, 86% of the population speak a language other than English at home. Of the fourteen islands that make up the island nation, only three were inhabited in 2000: Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The population has an estimated growth rate of 2.61% (2005 estimate). The median age is 31.4 for men and 28.2 for women (2004 estimate). The country has an estimated crude birth rate of 19.77 births per 1000 population and an estimated crude death rate of 2.30 deaths per 1000 population.

Population	[Total]	80 362	Life expectancy at birth (years)	[Both]	75.88
	[0-14 years]	15 978 (19.88%)		[Male]	73.31
	[65+ years]	1281 (1.59%)		[Female]	78.61
Crude birth rate (per 1000 population)		19.51	Total fertility rate		1.27
Crude death rate (per 1000 population)		2.30	% of population served with safe water	[Total]	98.00 (2002)
				[Urban]	98.00 (2002)
				[Rural]	97.00 (2002)
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)		7.11	% of population with adequate sanitary facilities	[Total]	94.00 (2002)
				[Urban]	94.00 (2002)
				[Rural]	96.00 (2002)
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)		0.00 (2000)			

## 2. POLITICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION

### 2.1 Political situation

The Northern Mariana Islands are under the administration of the United States of America as part of the US Trust Territory of the Pacific. Negotiations for territorial status began in 1972 and a covenant to establish a commonwealth in political union with the United States of America was approved in 1975. A new government and constitution went into effect in 1978.

The Northern Mariana Islands elect a governor and a legislature. Governor Benigno R. Fitial was elected in November 2005.

### 2.2 Economic situation

The economy benefits substantially from financial assistance from the United States of America, but funding has declined as locally generated government revenues have grown. The tourist industry employs about 50% of the workforce and accounts for roughly one-quarter of gross domestic product (GDP). Japanese tourists predominate and annual tourist entries have exceeded half a million in recent years, although the financial recession in Japan led to a slowdown.

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### **3. HEALTH SITUATION**

#### **3.1 Health trends**

The overall health status of the population is changing as the economy of the Commonwealth continues to grow and develop, and is moving away from the health profile of a developing nation towards that of a more industrialized one. Compared with the United States of America, the Northern Mariana Islands spends much less per capita on health care but enjoys a level of health that is comparable in terms of disease incidence and prevalence, with the exception of diabetes, certain cancers and some infectious diseases.

Infectious diseases are once again emerging as a major public health concern. Of particular concern are tuberculosis, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, enteric foodborne illnesses, vaccine-preventable diseases, HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections. The public health department has dealt with recent outbreaks of hepatitis A, measles and foodborne outbreaks involving salmonella, shigella and cholera.

Obesity, diabetes, hypertension and atherosclerotic vascular disease are increasing concerns facing the ageing population.

#### **3.2 Health systems**

In 1996, per capita health expenditure was US\$ 1095. It dropped by more than half to US\$ 519 in the 2000 fiscal year.

To increase the effectiveness of available resources, the College of the Northern Mariana Islands has developed a nursing programme oriented towards public health nursing. In collaboration with the University of Hawaii, the School of Public Health is strengthening manpower training in public health. However, there have been difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified personnel. The main obstacles include the small human resource pool from which to recruit, the ever-rising costs of maintaining the Commonwealth Health Centre and a lack of community participation in the health care system. Human resource development and upgrading of the knowledge and skills of primary health care personnel will be priorities for the coming years.

There is a need for political commitment in the form of legislation to make primary health care services a priority, and the allocation of funds to primary health care services needs to increase. Future primary health care efforts must include strengthening of direct participation by the community and community-based agencies.

### **4. NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN AND PRIORITIES**

The Public Health Division has set nine immediate objectives targeted at all Northern Mariana Islands residents:

- to provide appropriate preventive health care and services to all communities, with an emphasis on women and children;
- to provide appropriate reproductive health and family planning services to all women of child-bearing age and their partners;
- to provide appropriate and timely health education, promotion and nutrition information to all residents;
- to provide an adequate surveillance and monitoring system, and timely prevention information on communicable and infectious diseases;
- to provide timely and appropriate noncommunicable disease prevention information and outreach services to all residents;
- to strengthen the availability of health information and health planning by developing surveillance systems that accurately monitor the health status of the community;

## **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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- to provide public health dental care and outreach dental health prevention services in schools;
- to provide and improve the environmental health and sanitation services; and
- to identify children who are developmentally delayed or 'at risk' in order to minimize their problems and enhance the quality of life for them and for their families.

### **5. MAJOR INFORMATION SOURCES**

Division of Public Health, Government of the Northern Mariana Islands

Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM). Secretariat of the Pacific Community (<http://www.spc.int/prism/>)

Politics of the Northern Mariana Islands ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics\\_of\\_the\\_Northern\\_Mariana\\_Islands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_the_Northern_Mariana_Islands))

### **6. ADDRESSES**

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## COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION PROFILE

**NORTHERN  
MARIANA  
ISLANDS**

**WESTERN PACIFIC REGION HEALTH DATABANK, 2006 Revision**

	INDICATORS	DATA			Year	Source
		Total	Male	Female		
1	Area (1 000 km <sup>2</sup> )	0.47			2004	1
2	Estimated population ('000s)	80.36	35.10	45.26	2005 est	2
3	Annual population growth rate (%)	2.61	...	...	2005 est	2
4	Percentage of population					
	- 0-14 years	19.88	23.74	16.89	2005 est	2
	- 65+ years	1.59	1.84	1.40	2005 est	2
5	Urban population (%)	94.20	...	...	2003	4
6	Crude birth rate (per 1 000 population)	19.51	...	...	2005 est	2
7	Crude death rate (per 1 000 population)	2.30	...	...	2005 est	2
8	Rate of natural increase of population (% per annum)	1.75 <sup>a</sup>	...	...	2005 est	2
9	Life expectancy (years)					
	- at birth	75.88	73.31	78.61	2005 est	2
	- Health-adjusted Life Expectancy (HALE) at age 60	...	...	...		
10	Adult literacy rate (%)	...	...	...		
11	Neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	...	...	...		
12	Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	7.11	7.05	7.17	2005 est	2
13	Under-five mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	7.43	...	...	1999	5
14	Total fertility rate (women aged 15-49 years)			1.27	2005 est	2
15	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)			0.00	2000	5
16	Percentage of newborn infants weighing at least 2500 g at birth	81.01	...	...	2000	5
17	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	...	...	...		
18	Percentage of pregnant women with anaemia			4.55	2000	5
19	Immunization coverage for infants (%)					
	- BCG	...	...	...		
	- DTP3	87.00	...	...	2004	6
	- OPV3	87.00	...	...	2004	6
	- Measles	82.00	...	...	2004	6
	- Hepatitis B III	89.00	...	...	2004	6
20	MCH coverage (pregnancies, deliveries, infant care)					
	- Percentage of pregnant women cared for by skilled health personnel			75.67	2000	5
	- Percentage of pregnant women immunized with tetanus toxoid (TT2)			...		
	- Percentage of deliveries at home by skilled health personnel (as % of total deliveries)			...		
	- Percentage of deliveries in health facilities (as % of total deliveries)			...		
21	Percentage of women in the reproductive age group using modern contraceptive methods			64.00	2000	7
22	Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	...	...	...		
23	HIV prevalence among 15-24 year-old pregnant women			...		
24	Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS <sup>ab</sup>	...	...	...		

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

INDICATORS		DATA			Year	Source			
		Total	Urban	Rural					
25	Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source	98.00	98.00	97.00	2002	8			
26	Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation	94.00	94.00	96.00	2002	8			
27	Proportion of the population using solid fuels for cooking or heating (%)	...	...	...					
28	Proportion of households with access to secure tenure	...	...	...					
29	Proportion of vehicles using unleaded gasoline (%)	...	...	...					
30	Health care waste generation (metric tons per year)	...	...	...					
31	Human development index	...	...	...					
32	Per capita GDP at current market prices (US\$)	28 734.49	...	...	1998	9			
33	Rate of growth of per capita GDP (%)	7.85	...	...	1998	9			
34	<b>Health expenditure</b>								
	<b>Total health expenditure</b>								
	- amount (in million US\$)			42.14	2000	10			
	- total health expenditure on health as % of GDP			...					
	- per capita total expenditure on health (in US\$)			519.00	2000	10			
	<b>Government expenditure on health</b>								
	- amount (in million US\$)			52.40	2002	3			
	- general government expenditure on health as % of total expenditure on health			...					
	- general government expenditure on health as % of total general government expenditure			16.44	2002	3			
	<b>External source of government health expenditure</b>								
	- external resources for health as % of general government expenditure on health			...					
	<b>Private health expenditure</b>								
	- private expenditure on health as % of total expenditure on health			...					
	Exchange rate in US\$ of local currency is: 1 US\$ =			...					
35	Health insurance coverage as % of total population			...					
INDICATORS		DATA						Year	Source
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female		
		Number			Rate per 10 000 population				
36	<b>Health workforce</b>								
	- physicians	31	...	...	4.47	...	...	1999	5
	- dentists	3	...	...	0.43	...	...	1999	5
	- pharmacists	4	...	...	0.58	...	...	1999	5
	- nurses	123	...	...	17.74	...	...	1999	5
	- midwives	14	...	...	2.02	...	...	1999	5
	- other nursing/ auxiliary staff	25	...	...	3.61	...	...	1999	5
	- other paramedical staff (e.g. medical assistants, laboratory technicians, X-ray technicians)	20	...	...	2.88	...	...	1999	5
	- other health personnel (health inspectors, assistant sanitarians, traditional workers, etc.)	14	...	...	2.02	...	...	1999	5
37	Yearly new graduates – physicians	...	...	...					
38	Yearly new graduates – nurses	...	...	...					

## COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION PROFILE

INDICATORS		DATA						Year	Source
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female		
39	<b>Ten leading causes of morbidity (notifiable diseases)</b>	Number			Rate per 100 000 population				
	1. Bacterial food poisoning	1219	...	...	1758.00	...	...	1999	11
	2. Chlamydia	206	...	...	297.00	...	...	1999	11
	3. Syphilis	97	...	...	140.00	...	...	1999	11
	4. Hepatitis B	76	...	...	110.00	...	...	1999	11
	5. Tuberculosis	58	...	...	84.00	...	...	1999	11
	6. Salmonellosis	31	...	...	45.00	...	...	1999	11
	7. Gonorrhoea	29	...	...	42.00	...	...	1999	11
	8. Shigellosis	29	...	...	42.00	...	...	1999	11
	9. Ciguatera	15	...	...	22.00	...	...	1999	11
	10. HIV	4	...	...	6.00	...	...	1999	11
40	<b>Ten leading causes of mortality</b>	Number			Rate per 100 000 population				
	1. Cardiovascular diseases	33	...	...	54.08	...	...	1998	5
	2. Neoplasms	26	...	...	39.06	...	...	1998	5
	3. Cerebrovascular diseases	14	...	...	21.03	...	...	1998	5
	4. Perinatal conditions	13	...	...	19.53	...	...	1998	5
	5. Motor vehicle accidents	7	...	...	10.51	...	...	1998	5
	6. Pneumonia	6	...	...	9.01	...	...	1998	5
	7. All other accidents	5	...	...	7.51	...	...	1998	5
	8. Chronic liver diseases and cirrhosis	5	...	...	7.51	...	...	1998	5
	9. Suicide	5	...	...	7.51	...	...	1998	5
	10. Diabetes mellitus	4	...	...	6.00	...	...	1998	5
41	<b>Selected diseases under the WHO-EPI</b>	Number of cases			Number of deaths				
	- Diphtheria	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
	- Pertussis (whooping cough)	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
	- Tetanus	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
	- Neonatal tetanus	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
	- Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
	- Hib meningitis	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
	- Measles	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
	- Mumps	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
	- Rubella	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6
- Congenital rubella syndrome	0	0	0	...	...	...	2004	6	
42	<b>Selected communicable diseases</b>	Number of cases <sup>aa</sup>			Number of deaths				
	Hepatitis viral								
	- Type A	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Type B	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Type C	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Type E	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Unspecified	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...		

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

INDICATORS		DATA						Year	Source	
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female			
42	<b>Selected communicable diseases</b>	Number of cases <sup>aa</sup>			Number of deaths					
	Leprosy	4	...	...	...	...	...	2003	6	
	Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...			
	Dengue/DHF	...	...	...	...	...	...			
43	<b>Malaria</b>	Prevalence rates			Death rates					
	- Rates associated with malaria (per 100 000 population)	...	...	...	...	...	...			
	- Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention measures <sup>b</sup>							...		
	- Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria treatment measures <sup>c</sup>							...		
44	<b>Tuberculosis</b>	Number of cases			Number of deaths					
	- All types	53	...	...	...	...	...	2004	6	
	- New pulmonary tuberculosis (smear-positive)	14	...	...	...	...	...	2004	6	
		Prevalence rates			Death rates					
	- Rates associated with tuberculosis (per 100 000 population)	68.00	...	...	8.00	...	...	2004	6	
		Detection rates			Success rates					
	- Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment, short-course (DOTS)	67.00	...	...	75.00 (2003)	...	...	2004	6	
		Number of cases (C)			Number of deaths (D)					
45	<b>Acute respiratory infections</b>	4242	...	...	...	...	...	2000	5	
46	<b>Diarrhoeal diseases</b>	10	...	...	1	...	...	C: 2000 D: 1998	5	
47	<b>Cancers</b>	Number of cases (C) 2000			Number of deaths (D) 1998					
	All cancers (malignant neoplasms only)	437	...	...	26	...	...	C: 2000 D: 1998	5	
	- Trachea, bronchus and lung	12	...	...	10	...	...		5	
	- Stomach	1	...	...	2	...	...		5	
	- Colon and rectum	0	0	0	1	...	...		5	
	- Lip, oral cavity and pharynx	0	0	0	0	0	0		5	
	- Liver	0	0	0	0	0	0		5	
	- Cervix				11			3	5	
- Leukaemia	0	0	0	5	...	...		5		
48	<b>Circulatory</b>									
	All circulatory system diseases	2265	...	...	...	...	...	C: 2000 D: 1998	5	
	- Ischaemic heart disease	28	...	...	7	...	...		5	
	- Acute myocardial infarction	16	...	...	7	...	...		4	
	- Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart diseases	39	...	...	0	0	0		5	
	- Cerebrovascular diseases	98	...	...	14	...	...		5	
- Hypertension	1758	...	...	2	...	...		5		
49	<b>Maternal causes</b>									
	- Haemorrhage				0			0	2000	5
	- Abortion				0			0	2000	5
	- Eclampsia				...			...		
	- Sepsis				...			...		
- Obstructed labour				...			...			

## COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION PROFILE

INDICATORS		DATA						Year	Source
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female		
		Number of cases (C)			Number of deaths (D)				
50	Diabetes mellitus	2490	...	...	4	...	...	C: 2000 D: 1998	5
51	Mental disorders	1197	...	...	2	...	...	C: 2000 D: 1998	5
52	Injuries								
	- All types	5742	...	...	...	...	...	2000	5
	- Motor and other vehicle accidents	555	...	...	7	...	...	C: 2000 D: 1998	5
	- Suicide	43	...	...	5	...	...	C: 2000 D: 1998	5
	- Homicide and violence	389	...	...	3	...	...	C: 2000 D: 1998	5
	- Occupational injuries	510	...	...	...	...	...	FY1999	12
53	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis						...		
54	Health infrastructure	Number			Number of beds				
	Public health facilities								
	- General hospitals (Saipan)			1			74	2000	5
	- Specialized hospitals			0			0	2000	5
	- District/first-level referral hospitals (Rota and Tinian)			2			8	2000	5
	- Primary health care centres			1			0	2000	5
	Private hospitals			5			0	2000	5
<b>Notes:</b>									
Red text Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators									
... Data not available									
est Estimate									
C Cases									
D Deaths									
FY The financial year refers to the span from April 1 of respective year to March 31 next year.									
aa Figure refers to number of new reported cases.									
ab Proxy indicator for MDG indicator 20: Ratio of school attendance of orphans and school attendance of non-orphans age 10-14 years.									
a Computed by Health Information and Evidence for Policy Unit of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific.									
b Prevention is measured by the percentage of children ages 0–59 months sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets.									
c Treatment is measured by the proportion of children ages 0–59 months who were ill with the fever in the two weeks before the survey and who received appropriate antimalarial drugs.									
<b>Sources:</b>									
1 Pacific island populations 2004. Noumea, Secretariat of the Pacific Community ( <a href="http://www.spc.int">http://www.spc.int</a> )									
2 United States Census Bureau, International Programs Center ( <a href="http://www.spc.int/prism/">http://www.spc.int/prism/</a> )									
3 CNMI Central Statistics Division, Department of Finance ( <a href="http://www.spc.int/prism/">http://www.spc.int/prism/</a> )									
4 Urban and rural areas 2003. New York, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2004.									
5 Data analyzed through the RPMS computerized system. Birth and Death Database Registry, Office of Health Planning and Statistics, Division of Public Health, Department of Public Health.									
6 WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, data received from the technical units									
7 Family Planning Programme, Division of Public Health, Department of Public Health.									
8 Meeting the MDG drinking water and sanitation target: A mid-term assessment of progress. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, 2004.									
9 Census information from the Central Statistics Division, Department of Commerce.									

## NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

10	Hospital Division, Department of Public Health.
11	Annual report on notifiable diseases to the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, Division of Public Health.
12	Data from Worker's Compensation Commission, Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.