

WHERE DO YOUTH WORK?

The most popular areas for youth to work in are clerical and sales. Youth make up 17% of all employed people in Anguilla and yet 30% of those working as clerks or cashiers are under 25 years of age.

The most popular employer among young people is the banking sector where 34% of their work force is under 25 years of age. One fifth of construction workers are young people and a quarter of those working in the sea transportation sector are also young people.

HOW HEALTHY ARE OUR YOUTH?

Eighty-four percent (84%) of our young people said they did not suffer from any illnesses compared to the general population where 77% said they did not suffer. This however, is normal, as you get older you are more likely to suffer from such diseases as diabetes, heart disease and hypertension. Young people have a greater tendency to suffer from allergies, asthma and sickle cell anaemia than the older population. 30% of those suffering from sickle cell anaemia are in the younger persons age group but this mainly because people with sickle cell usually do not live beyond 40 years of age.

WHAT KIND OF HOUSEHOLDS DO THEY LIVE IN?

Just under a third of our households in Anguilla do not have any people aged 13 to 24 years living with them. Of the households where young people live, only a third are the traditional mother- father and child model. 18% are with one parent, 7% are either living on their own or with a spouse and the remainder are in other kinds of households such as multi-generational households or households where members are not related.

Households where young people live have a greater tendency to have the new telecommunications technology including cell phones, cable television, computers and the internet.

Three quarters of the young people live in households where their home is owned compared to 65% for households with no young people.

So in general according to the 2001 census our young people seem to be doing quite well with their lives.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

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Statistical Profile of Youth In Anguilla



WHO ARE YOUTH?

The slogan of Optimists is “Friend of Youth”. What can statistics tell us about youth living in Anguilla? First, we have to define what youth means to us. For the purposes of the youth policy of Anguilla, Youth is defined as persons aged 13 to 30.

HOW MANY “YOUTH” ARE LIVING IN ANGUILLA?

In the age group 13 to 30 there are 3,301 youth according to the 2001 census. This represents one third of the population. Optimists tend to work with those in the age groups 13 to 25 who make up one fifth of the population.

Table 2. Young Population by Age Groups and Citizenship, 2001 census

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 0 – 12 | 1360 | 1387 | 2747 |
| 13 – 17 | 514 | 526 | 1040 |
| 18 – 25 | 643 | 675 | 1318 |
| 26 – 30 | 472 | 471 | 943 |
| 31 & over | 2639 | 2743 | 5382 |
| Total | 5628 | 5802 | 11430 |

WHAT ARE THOSE AGED 17 TO 24 YEARS DOING?

Since youth up to the age of 17 children are generally in school, we shall look at what those 17 to 24 years are doing.

The majority are working. A greater proportion of young men (78%) are employed than their female counterparts (63%) but that is partially because more young girls are in school (12%) than are young men (6%). Also many more young women (7%) are mainly occupied with home duties than are young men (1%).

Unemployment among young girls is much higher than for young men with an unemployment rate for young girls of 15% compared to 10% for young men in this age group. There is no difference in the sexes regarding the proportion who said that they were mostly doing nothing (4%) during the week prior to the census.

WHO HAS CHILDREN? ARE THEY SINGLE OR MARRIED?

When the older persons of society look back on their younger years they tend to think of having fun and their first love. Many of our young people already have parental responsibilities. A third of young women have had at least one child before the age of 25 and 15% of young men are already fathers. 13% of these young women have two or more children.

The majority of young people aged 17 to 24 years are single, 83% of young women and 93% of young men. This leaves 6% who are married and another 6% who are living in common law relationships.

WHERE ARE OUR YOUTH FROM?

Close to a quarter of youth living in Anguilla do not have Anguillian citizenship. Of these “foreigners”, 18% are from St. Kitts and 16% hold US citizenship. The ‘youth’ age group which has the highest percentage of US citizens is those of school age i.e.: 13 – 16 years. 11% of foreign youth are from Santo Domingo.

Table 2. Young Population by Age Groups and Citizenship, 2001 census

| Citizenship | Age | | | Total |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 13-16 | 17-19 | 20-24 | |
| Anguillian | 77% | 79% | 74% | 76% |
| Other Caribbean | 17% | 17% | 21% | 18% |
| US | 5% | 3% | 3% | 4% |
| Other | 2% | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |