

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TONGA

Population Census 2006

Press release No. 8

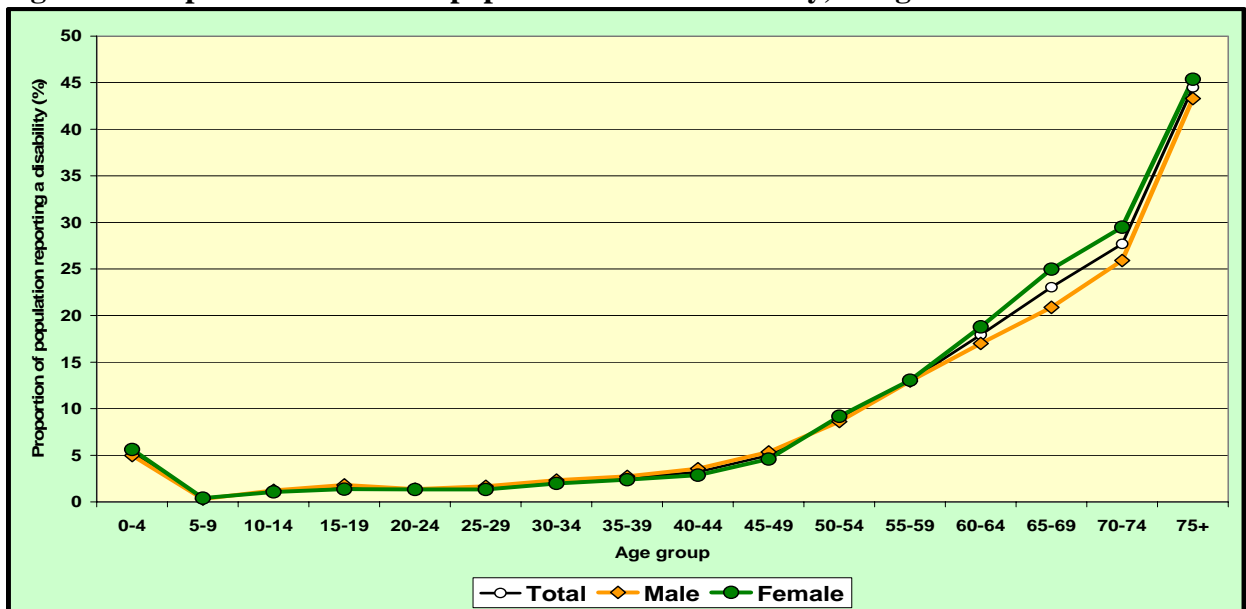
Tonga Population Census, seeing is the main difficulties in Tonga

A disability includes any difficulties that affect seeing, hearing, walking, remembering or concentrating properly. According to Population and Housing Census in 2006 the overall 5 per cent of the total population reported a disability.

As can be expected, the proportion of the population with a disability increases with age (Fig 1), and overall there is very little difference in the proportion of males and females with a disability.

While about 5% of children younger than 5 years of age had a disability, it was below this level for all age groups from 5 years to 49 years of age. From the age of 50 years upwards, the proportion of the population with a disability increases continuously until it reaches about 45% of the people aged 75 years and older.

Figure 1: Proportion of the total population with a disability, Tonga: 2006



The disability that was most commonly mentioned was difficulties *seeing* with **2,326 people** reporting, followed by difficulties with *walking* reported by **2,083** people (Table 1). Another **1,932** people reported difficulties with *hearing*, and 930 people had problems *remembering* and/or *concentrating*.

Table 1: Total population reporting a disability regardless of the severity of the disability, Tonga: 2006

Disability	Total	Male	Female
Seeing	2,326	1,043	1,283
Hearing	1,932	916	1,016
Walking	2,083	1,006	1,077
Remembering or concentrating	930	460	470

There were almost 200 people that could not walk at all, and the same number was reported to not be able to remember or concentrate (Table 2). Forty-four people were blind, and 39 were deaf.

Table 2: Total population reporting a sever disability, Tonga: 2006

Disability	Total	Male	Female
Blindness	44	17	27
Deafness	39	25	14
Lameness	194	91	103
Senile and/or amnesic	193	104	89

*During the preparation to publish the Census Report 2006, the Department will continue to release information from this Census and also available from our web site:
<http://www.spc.int/prism/Country/TO/stats/>*

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