

**TABLE 1. Selected population characteristics, by Demographic Health Survey year, Niger**

Characteristic	1959/60	1988	1992	1998	2006	2009
Population (in millions)	2.9	7.3	na	10.0	12.9	15.9
Birthrate	50–55	52	49.7	51.7	45.8	52.0
Death rate	27	20	na	na	na	17
Life expectancy from birth (in yrs.)	37	47	na	47.5	56.5	48
Infant mortality rate	200–250	138–158	na	118	148	108
Total fertility rate						
Nationwide	6.1	7.1	7.4	7.5	7.1	7.4
Rural	na	na	7.5	na	7.4	na
Women's desired family size	na	na	8.2	8.2	8.8	na
Contraceptive prevalence						
All methods	na	na	4.4	7.6	10	11
Modern methods	na	na	2.3	4.4	4.5	5
Rural	na	na	2.5	na	3	na
Median duration of lactation (in mos.)	na	na	20.9	na	21.3	na
Age at first birth*	na	na	17.7	na	17.9	na
Age at marriage						
Males	na	na	na	na	23.1	na
Females	na	na	15.1	na	15.5	na
% polygamous males aged 40	na	na	24	na	25	na
Median age of population	15.5	15.9	15.9	16.2	16.0	na
% rural	95	85	na	80	na	80
Maternal mortality ratio†	na	na	671	590	648	820

\*Among females 20–24. †Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Note: na=not applicable. Sources: reference 11. **Population, infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio**—1998: World Bank, *World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. **Women's desired family size**—1998 and 2006: Measure DHS, Demographic and Health Surveys Database, <<http://www.measuredhs.com/accesssurveys/>>. **Maternal mortality ratio**—2009: World Health Organization (WHO), *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2008*, Geneva: WHO, 2010.