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Multinational Agribusiness Systems Incorporated

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN
MINISTRY OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

PNAAP 169

VOLUME 2

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

ATACORA

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECT FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT
OF
ONCHO-FREE AREAS**

CENTRAL BUREAU FOR PROJECTS
B.P. 2022 - COTONOU
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN

MULTINATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC.
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VOLUME 2: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

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VOLUME 2

ATACORA

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

I. POPULATION IN GENERAL

A. Population Distribution by Nationalities

The population of BENIN is characterized by an extreme diversity of ethnic groups or nationalities which we can arrange in nine major categories. The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis list them as follows:

ADJA

- 1 - Adja
- 2 - Ouatchi
- 3 - Mina

FON and kin

- 1 - Aïzo
- 2 - FON
- 3 - Goun
- 4 - Kotafon-Tchi
- 5 - Mahi
- 6 - Ouemè

OTAMMARI ou SOMBA

- 1 - Berba
- 2 - Besorabe
- 3 - Betammadibé
- 4 - Betyobé
- 5 - Gagamba
- 6 - Gourmantché
- 7 - Hossori
- 8 - Natimba
- 9 - Otammari
- 10- Waaba, or Yoabou
- 11- Yendé (ex Miendé)

DENDI and kin

- 1 - Dendí

BARIBA and kin

- 1 - Bariba
- 2 - Boko
- 3 - Mokolle

DJOUGOU and kin

- 1 - DOMPAGO
- 2 - Kabyé
- 3 - Koto-Koli
- 4 - Yoa (ex Pila-Pila)
- 5 - Scruba (Biyolié)
- 6 - Taneka (Tamba)
- 7 - Windji-Windji (Bassila)

PEULH

- 1 - PEULH
- 2 - Gando

HOUEDA and kin

- 1 - Houéda (Peda)
- 2 - Houla (Pla)
- 3 - Sahouè
- 4 - Torri
- 5 - Toffin
- 6 - Sèto

YORUBA and kin

- 1 - Yoruba
- 2 - Nagot
- 3 - Chabè
- 4 - Idassa
- 5 - Holli-dji
- 6 - Ifè (Ana)
- 7 - Itcha
- 8 - Kétou
- 9 - Manigrí

In the context of this analysis, we will look into the major ethnic groups which also cover the individuals related by kinship. Here is the distribution of these groups in ATACORA:

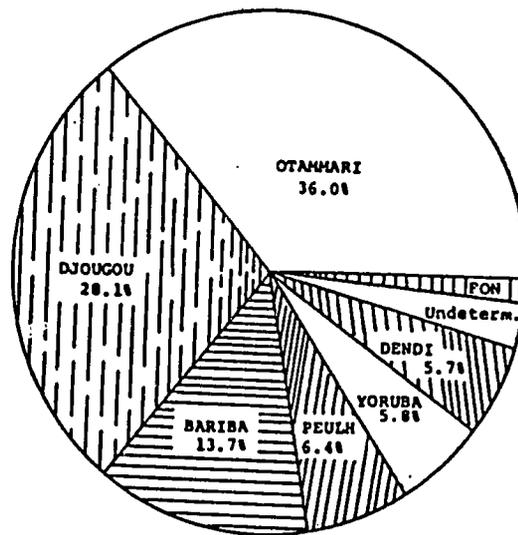
NATIONALITY	A.F.	R.F. (%)
FON	89	1.4
UNDETERMINED	176	2.8
DENDI	363	5.7
YORUBA	370	5.8
PEULH	405	6.4
BARIBA	870	13.7
DJOUGOU	1780	28.1
OTAMMARI	2283	36.0
TOTAL	6336	100.0

In this table we can see that we have three main groups in ATACORA: the OTAMMARI, who by themselves account for more than one-third of the population; the DJOUGOU, and the BARIBA. The other groups are definitely in the minority. We will therefore include them in the analysis as having an indicative value. Only the category of "UNDETERMINED" will be eliminated, consisting, as it does, of several undetermined or foreign groups and having no particular significant value.

The OTAMMARI are found primarily in the districts of BOUKOUMBE, COBLY, NATITINGOU, TOUCOUNTOUNA, TANGUIETA, and MATERI. The DJOUGOU live mainly in the districts of DJOUGOU URBAIN and DJOUGOU RURAL, whereas the BARIBA populate the districts of KEROU, KOUANDE and PEHUNCO. The PEULH, DENDI, and YORUBA are scattered a little bit throughout the entire province although the DENDI are encountered rather more frequently in towns such as NATITINGOU and DJOUGOU. The FON are a special group and

will be treated as such here: they are civil servants who have come from the South. We therefore find them in the district seats and in the towns. But they are in the North only on a temporary basis: the duration of their assignment.

RELATIVE SIZE OF NATIONALITIES
IN ATACORA



B. Population Distribution by Age

As in all countries in West Africa, the population of the province of ATACORA is extremely young. Table 1 shows that, in the sample considered, comprising a total of 6,336 persons,

46.5% are under the age of 15. The group of senior citizens, those over the age of 60, accounts for only 5.8%. The median age is 16 years while the mean age is 21.5 years; we thus do not have normally distributed population here. As a matter of fact, 50% of the population in the sample are under the age of 16 but the presence of senior citizens moves the mean age up. If we want to extrapolate the mean age of this sample on the province level, within a degree of confidence of 95%, we can conclude, applying the formula used in the methodological part (Volume 1), that the mean age of the population is between 21 and 21.9 years; this shows that we are dealing with a very young population here. This young character on the part of the population is even more pronounced in certain nationalities than in others. The table below shows that, as far as the FON are concerned, the median age is only 11 years and the mean age is 14.8 years, whereas for the DJOUGOU, it is 18 years and 23.3 years, respectively.

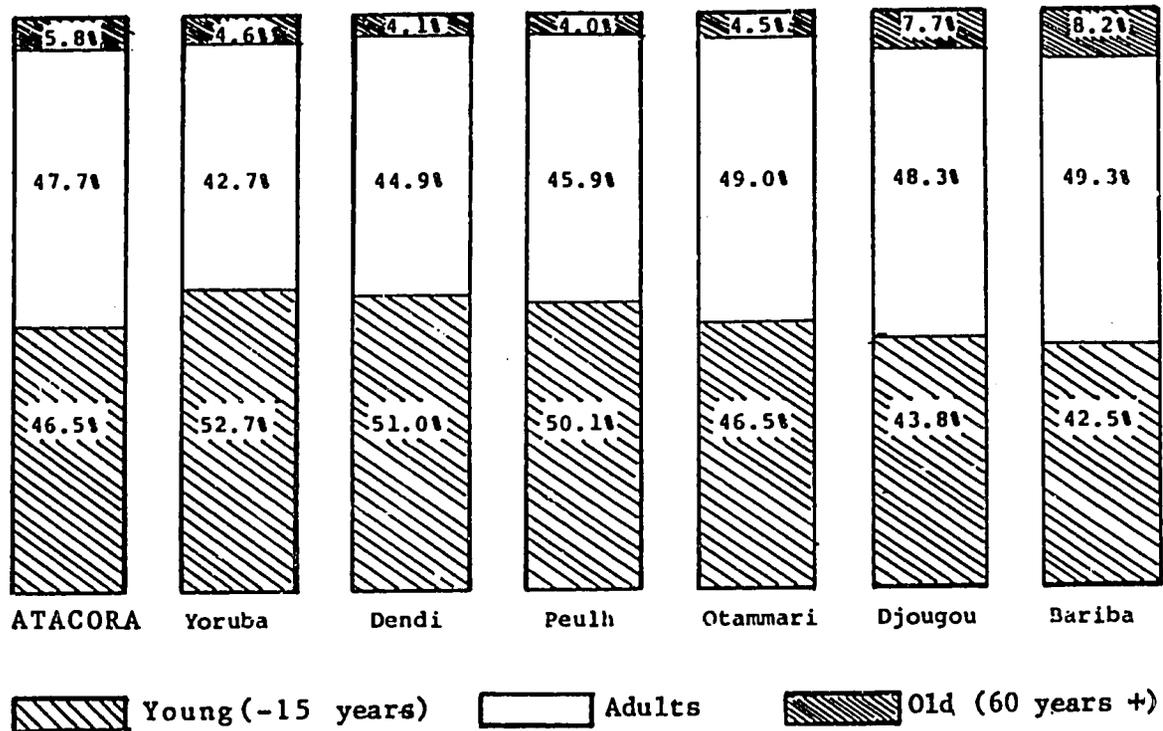
NATIONALITY	MEDIAN AGE	MEAN AGE
FON	11.0	14.8
YORUBA	12.0	15.8
DENDI	14.0	19.6
PEULH	14.0	19.7
OTAMMARI	16.0	21.2
BARIBA	18.0	22.8
DJOUGOU	18.0	23.3

It is not at all surprising that the youngest group is represented by the FON when we realize that the FON are not natives of the province but for the most part are civil servants appointed by the government, spending only a few years in ATACORA.

A population study by major categories shows that the group of adults between 15 and 59 years, which makes up the active class, accounts for barely 47.8% of the population. The burden on this group resulting from the existence of inactive persons (children and old people) is very heavy. The proportion of unproductive population that must be carried by the adults is about 1.1 which means that the dependence index is 110%. This is all the more serious since this is an essentially agricultural region and since we find that close to 50% of the male population (see Table 3) are under the age of 15 and that the active class represents only 44.1%. Now, in these agricultural areas, most of the farm work is done by men. The distribution of ethnic groups by major age categories show that we find the highest percentage of persons under the age of 15 among the FON and that the group of the BARIBA contains the largest percentage of active persons and old individuals.

NATIONALITY	under 15 years (%)	15 - 59 years (%)	+ 60 years (%)
FON	59.6	40.4	-
YORUBA	52.7	42.7	4.6
DENDI	51.0	44.9	4.1
PEULH	50.1	45.9	4.0
OTAMMARI	46.5	49.0	4.5
DJOUYOU	43.8	48.3	7.9
BARIBA	42.5	49.3	8.2

**RELATIVE NUMBER OF YOUNG PERSONS
ADULTS AND OLD INDIVIDUALS
BY MAJOR NATIONALITIES**



As in the case of all nationalities, the population of the districts is very young; the median age varies from 13 years at MATERI to 20 years in the district of OUAKE and the mean age runs from 18.1 to 23.8 for both of these districts.

Here is a listing of districts according to a progressive order of median and mean age:

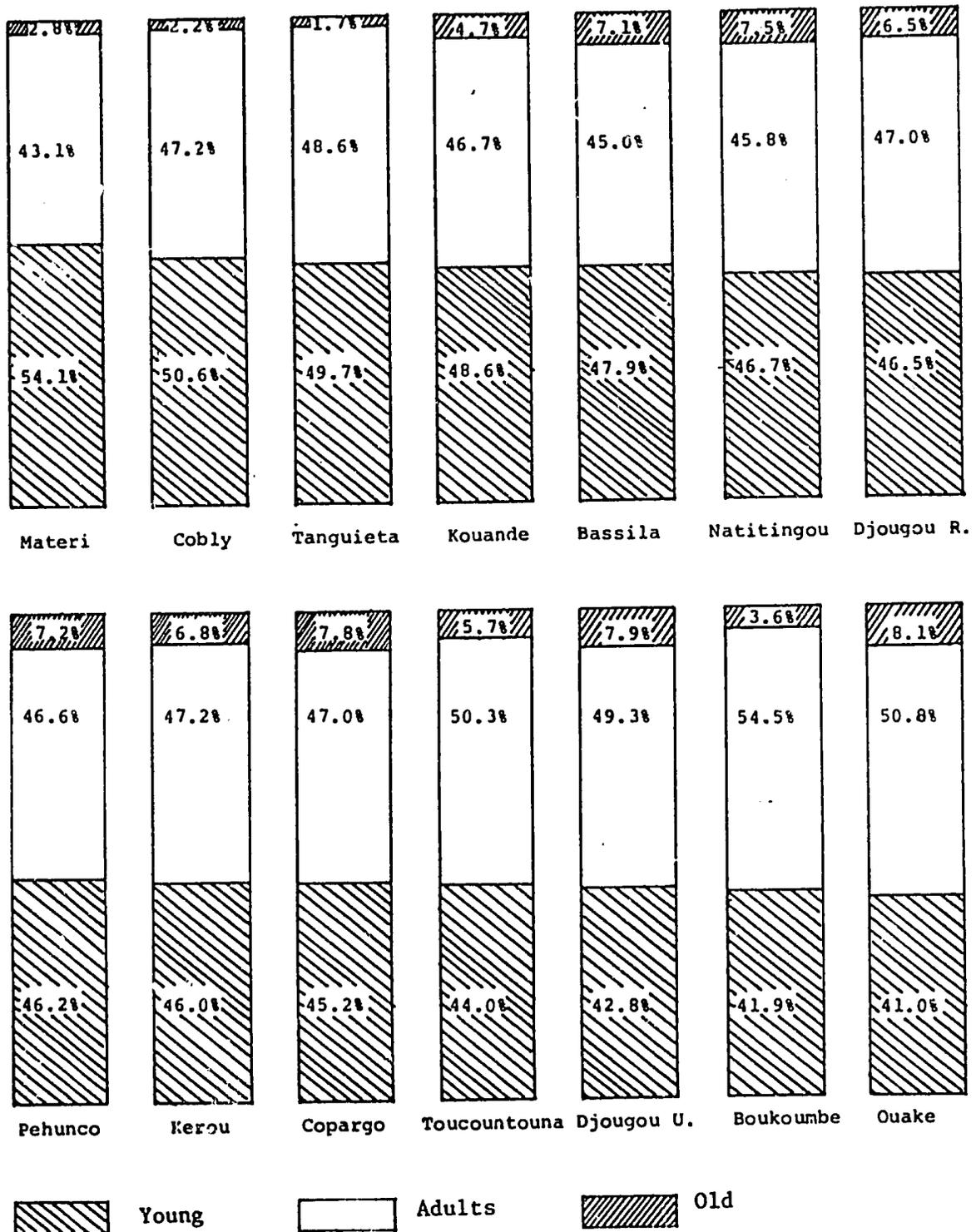
DISTRICT	MEDIAN AGE	MEAN AGE
MATERI	13	18.1
COBLY	14	18.5
TANGUIETA	15	19.1
KOUANDE	15	21.0
KEROU	16	21.5
DJOUGOU RURAL	16	21.5
BASSILA	16	22.5
NATITINGOU	16	23.1
PEHUNCO	17	21.6
COPARGO	17	23.6
DJOUGOU URBAIN	18	23.4
BOUKOUMBE	19	21.7
TOUCOUNTOUNA	20	22.6
OUAKE	20	23.8

In no district is the population's median age over 20 years. A distribution of districts by major age groups shows that, in the case of TANGUIETA, COBLY, and MATERI, senior citizens over the age of 60 years represent only a very small percentage of the population, less than 3% whereas in the case of COPARGO and DJOUGOU URBAIN, they exceed 7%, going even as high as 8.1% in OUAKE.

DISTRICTS	under 15 years (%)	15 - 59 years (%)	+60 years (%)
MATERI	54.1	43.1	2.8
COBLY	50.6	47.2	2.2
TANGUIETA	49.7	48.6	1.7
KOUANDE	48.6	46.7	4.7
BASSILA	47.9	45.0	7.1
NATITINGOU	46.7	45.8	7.5
DJOUGOU RURAL	46.5	47.0	6.5
PEHUNCO	46.2	46.6	7.2
KEROU	46.0	47.2	6.8
COPARGO	45.2	47.0	7.8
TOUCOUNTOUNA	44.0	50.3	5.7
DJOUGOU URBAIN	42.8	49.3	7.9
BOUKOUMBE	41.9	54.5	3.6
OUAKE	41.0	50.8	8.1

A graphic illustration of these statistics demonstrates the proportion of major age categories in each of the districts as shown below.

RELATIVE SIZE OF YOUNG, ADULT AND SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE DISTRICTS



A comparative analysis of these age structures with those in the 1961 population survey (Population Survey in DAHOMEY, 1961, Final Results, Ministry of Cooperation, INSEE Cooperation Service, Paris, 1964) for the province of ATACORA shows a relative drop in the proportion of active persons to the benefit of inactive persons (senior citizens and children), as can be seen in the following table:

AGE	SURVEY 1961 (%)	SURVEY 1981 (%)
0 - 14 yrs	44.6	46.4
15 - 59 yrs	50.6	47.8
60 + yrs	4.8	5.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

If this decline in the proportion of active individuals continues, it will be very harmful to the area's economic development.

C. Population Distribution by Sex

Table 2 shows that 49.2% of the population of ATACORA is male against 50.8% female. The women are thus more numerous than men; there are 103.35 women for every 100 men, a rate rather close to that of the "General Population Census" of 1979. This slight imbalance between men and women is not uniform; in certain nationalities, such as the FON, the DENDI, and the YORUBA, the men predominate, whereas the women predominate among the BARIBA, DJOUGOU, and PEULH. Among the OTAMMARI, we find as many men as women and this is evidenced in the table below:

NATIONALITIES	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
FON	66.3	33.7
DENDI	51.2	48.8
YORUBA	51.1	48.9
OTAMMARI	50.0	50.0
PEULH	49.4	50.6
BARIBA	47.8	52.2
DJOUYOU	47.2	52.2

The high percentage of FON men compared to the women does not imply a demographic anomaly for this ethnic group but is rather due to the particular situation of the latter, as underscored earlier and some are still single, or they left their families temporarily in the South. On the district level we also note a slight imbalance between the number of men as compared to the number of women. While the men are predominant at BOUKOUMBE and KOUANDE, the women are more numerous at PEHUNCO, OUAKE and TOUCOUNTOUNA; on the other hand, at COPARGO and TANGUIETA, the numbers are equal, as we can see in the following table.

DISTRICTS	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
BOUKOUMBE	52.5	47.5
DJOUYOU URBAIN	52.1	47.9
KOUANDE	51.5	48.5
NATITINGOU	50.7	49.3
COBLY	50.3	49.7
KEROU	50.2	49.8
COPARGO	50.0	50.0
TANGUIETA	50.0	50.0
BASSILA	49.0	51.0
MATERI	48.1	51.9
DJOUYOU RURAL	47.2	52.8
TOUCOUNTOUNA	47.0	53.0
OUAKE	46.5	53.5
PEHUNCO	42.6	57.4

D. Population Distribution by Age and Sex

Table 3 shows that the age distribution for the men is slightly different from that of the women, thus, the median age for the men is lower than that of the women: 50% of the men are under the age of 15 while 50% of the women are under the age of 18. On the other hand, the mean age of the men is slightly higher than that of the women, in other words, 21.9 years for the men and 21.6 years for the women. The men are more numerous in the group of individuals under the age of 15 while the proportion of women is higher in the age group between 15 and 59 years, as we can see in the following table:

AGE	MEN	WOMEN
0 - 14 yrs	49.3	43.2
15 - 59 yrs	44.1	51.7
60 + yrs	6.6	5.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

This can be observed not only on the level of the entire province as a whole but also on the level of all the nationalities and all districts, as evidenced by the following tables.

**POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX
BY NATIONALITY**

NATIONALITY	UNDER 15 YEARS		15 - 59 YEARS		60 YEARS AND OVER	
	MEN %	WOMEN	MEN %	WOMEN	MEN %	WOMEN
FON	60.9	56.6	39.1	43.4	-	-
BARIBA	44.8	40.6	46.5	51.6	8.7	7.8
DENDI	55.3	45.8	39.8	50.7	4.9	3.5
DJOUYOU	45.8	42.1	45.3	50.9	8.9	7.0
PEULH	54.0	46.3	39.5	52.2	6.5	1.5
OTAMMARI	50.1	52.9	45.0	43.1	4.9	4.0
YORUBA	55.6	49.8	38.6	46.8	5.8	3.4

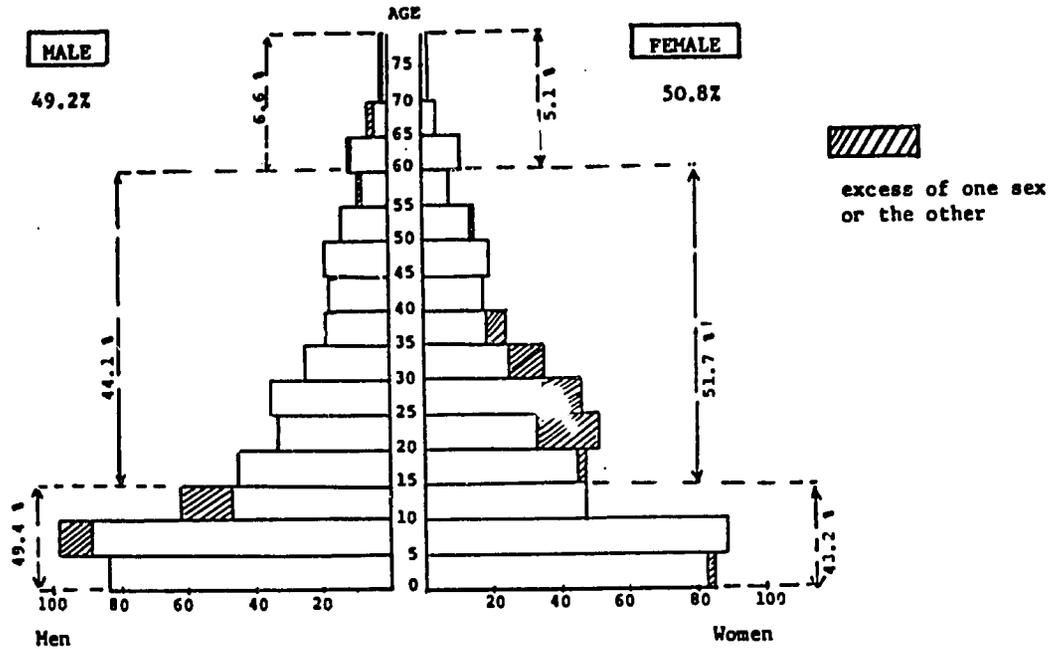
**POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP AND BY SEX
BY DISTRICTS**

DISTRICTS	UNDER 15 YEARS		15-59 YEARS		60 YEARS AND OVER	
	MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN
BASSILA	49.9	45.0	42.4	48.4	7.7	6.6
BOUKOUMBE	42.6	39.7	52.3	58.4	5.1	1.9
COBLY	58.1	43.1	39.4	55.1	2.5	1.8
COPARGO	48.3	42.2	41.2	52.8	10.5	5.0
DJOUGOU URBAIN	48.7	36.4	42.1	57.1	9.2	6.5
DJOUGOU RURAL	47.9	45.2	46.0	48.0	6.1	6.8
KEROU	45.9	43.7	45.3	51.5	8.8	4.8
KOUANDE	54.8	41.9	40.8	53.0	4.4	5.1
MATERI	56.9	51.5	39.7	46.3	3.4	2.2
NATITINGOU	53.6	39.7	39.4	52.2	7.0	8.1
OUAKE	38.9	40.8	48.7	54.6	12.4	4.6
PEHUNCO	51.6	42.4	42.3	49.6	6.1	8.0
TANGUIETA	51.1	47.8	47.8	50.0	1.1	2.2
TOUCOUNTOUNA	45.8	42.6	47.2	52.9	7.0	4.5

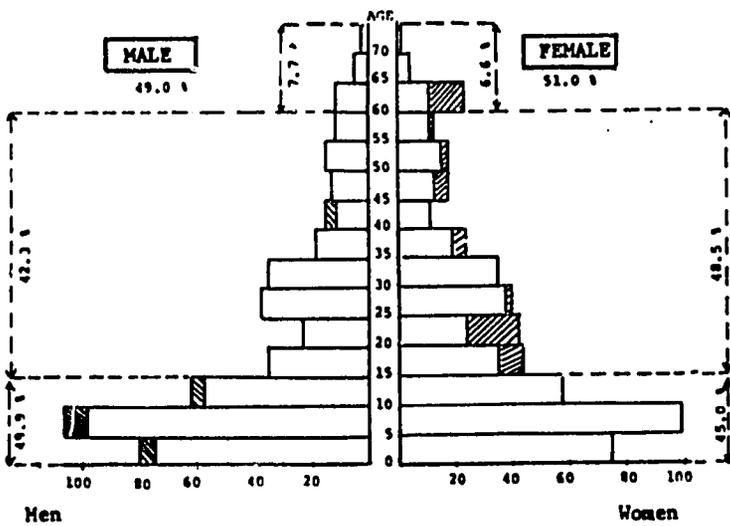
The age pyramid makes this phenomenon even more evident. We can see that the pyramid has a wide base and tapers off rapidly; this is a characteristic of pyramids in regions with high fertility and high mortality. This pyramid also shows a certain number of irregularities partly due to the difficulty in determining the exact age in the absence of a civil register and in an almost illiterate population.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND BY SEX FOR 1,000 INHABITANTS

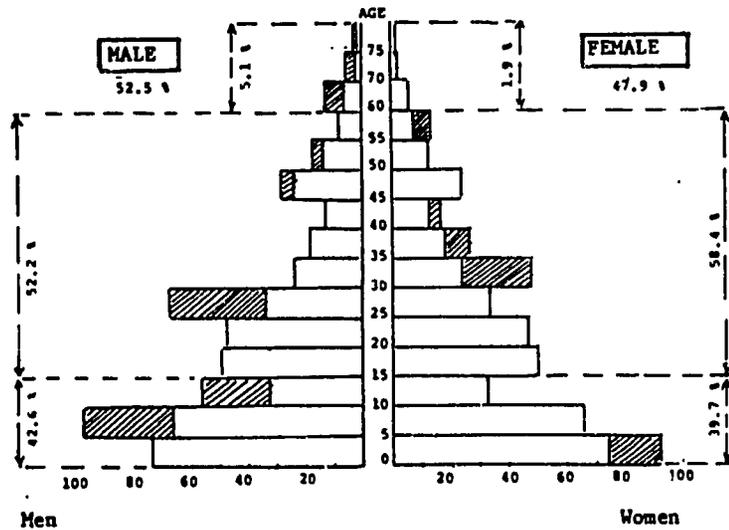
PROVINCE OF ATACORA



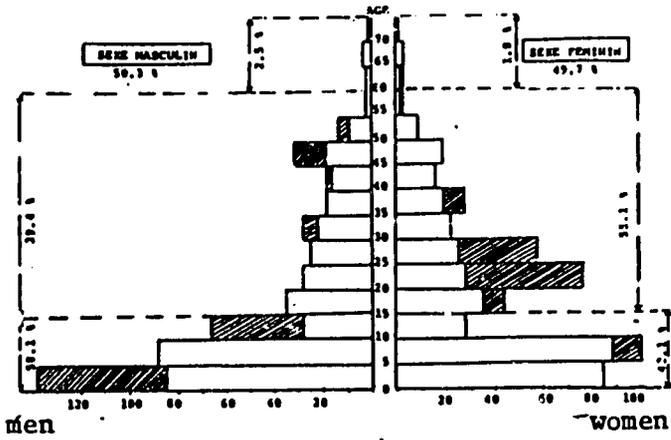
DISTRICT OF FASSILA



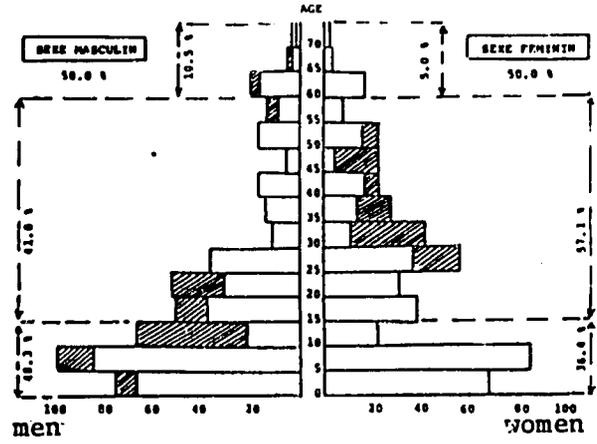
DISTRICT OF BOUKOUMBE



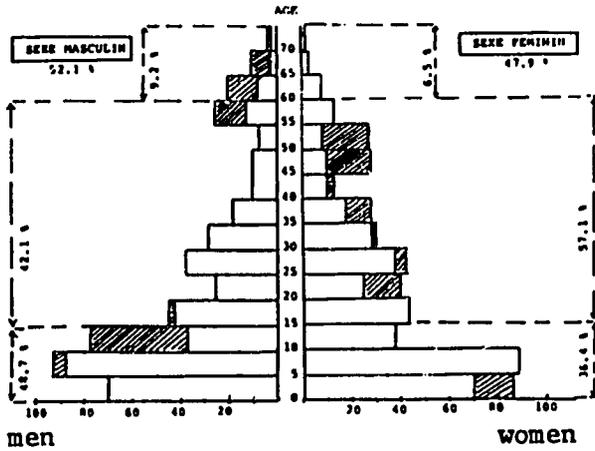
DISTRICT OF COBLY



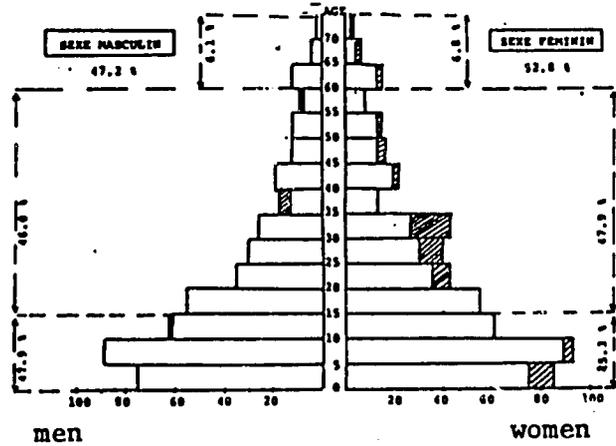
DISTRICT OF COPARGO



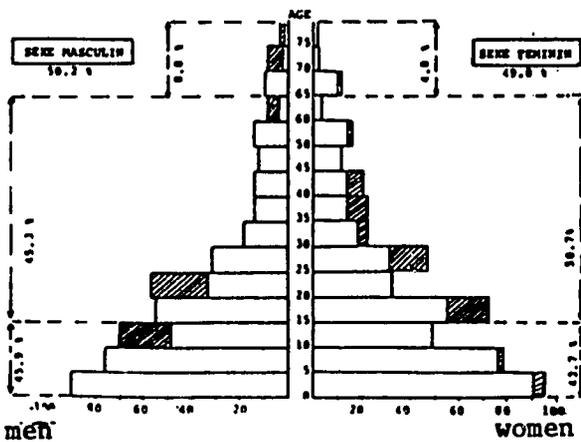
DISTRICT OF DJOUGOU URBAIN



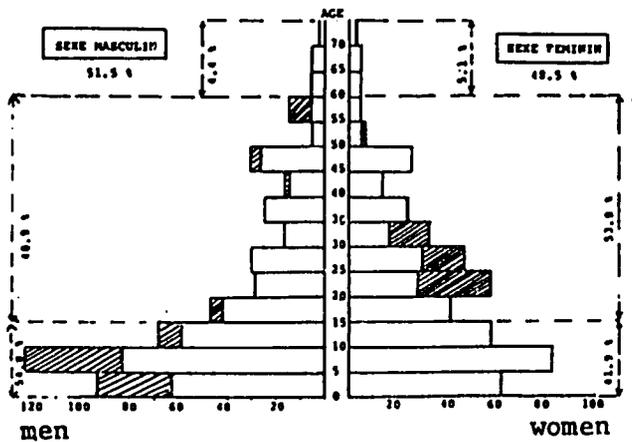
DISTRICT OF DJOUGOU RURAL



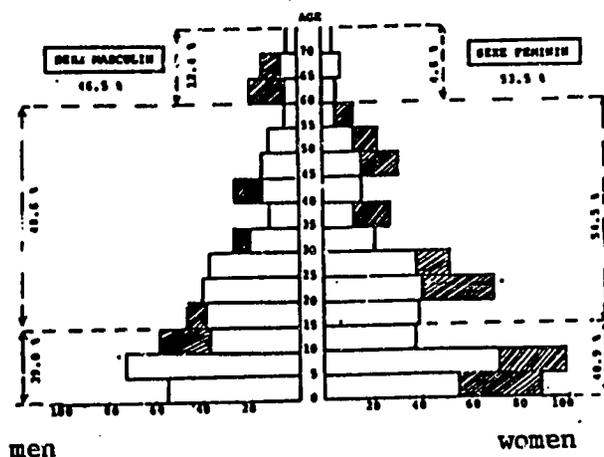
DISTRICT OF KEROU



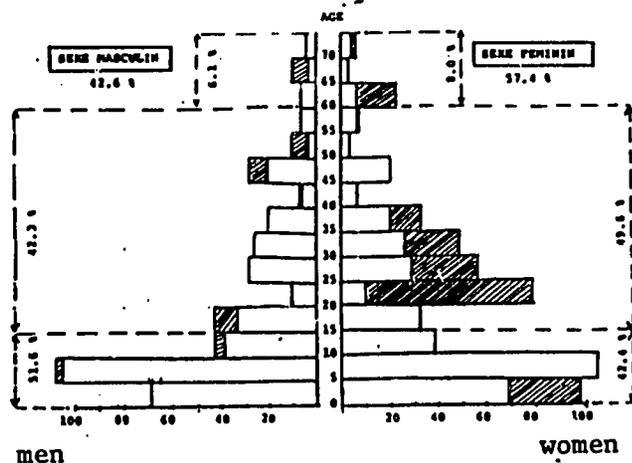
DISTRICT OF KOUANDE



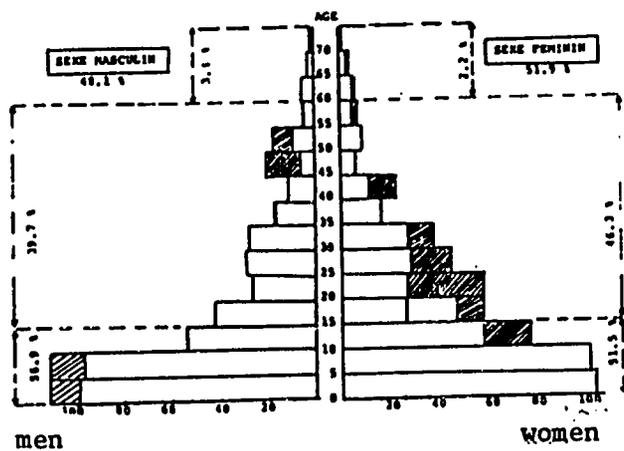
DISTRICT OF OUAKE



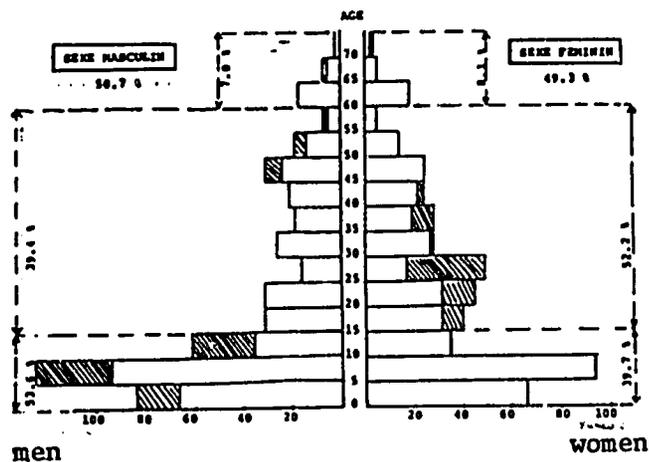
DISTRICT OF PEHUNCO



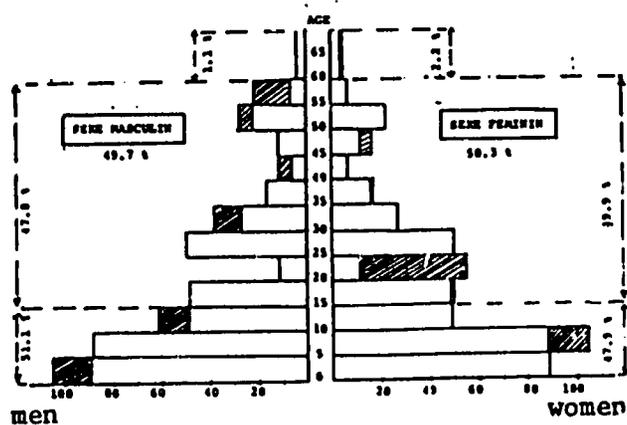
DISTRICT OF MATERI



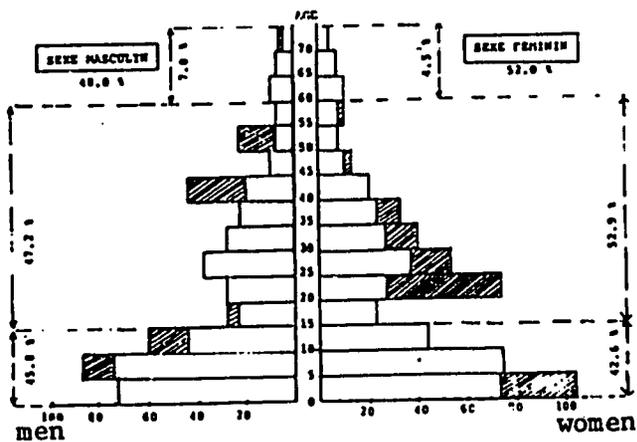
DISTRICT OF NATITINGOU



DISTRICT OF TANGUIETA

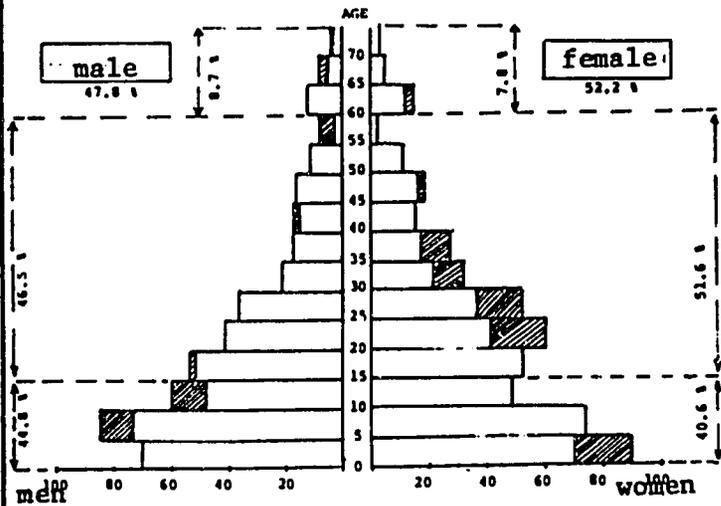


DISTRICT OF TOUCOUNTOUNA

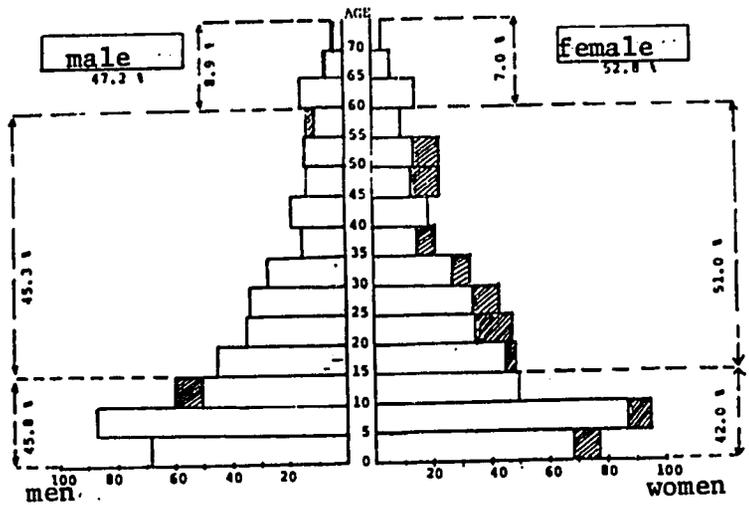


AGE PYRAMID OF PRINCIPAL NATIONALITIES

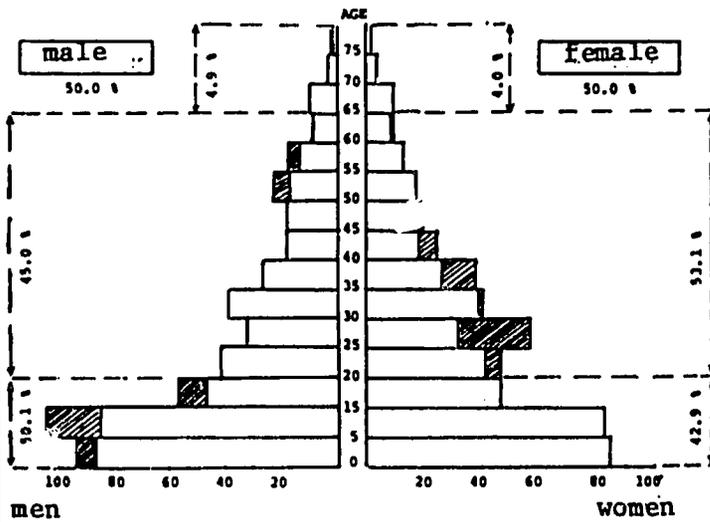
BARIBAS



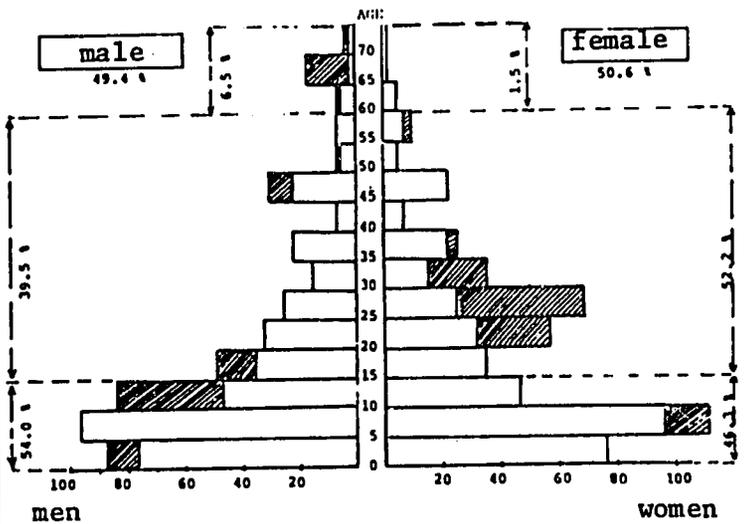
DJOUGOUS



OTAMMARIS



PEULHS



The shape of the curve showing the male population rate enables us to say that abnormalities detected here come partly from the age interpretation. Thus, girls in the 10-14 and 15-19 age groups who are married and have several children are often considered by those around them like women of 20-24 years or sometimes even 25-39 years. On the other hand, women of 40 years and over who never had children are considered to be young women. Finally, we note the small percentage of old women as compared to old men.

The age pyramids in the districts and nationalities reveal the same features:

- very wide base
- rapid tapering
- countless irregularities deriving from determination of ages
- number of old men compared to old women, explained by excessively high female mortality in the 60 years and over age group.

How can we explain the fact that men are less numerous in the 15-59 year age groups than women, as we can see in all the age pyramids? Can this be explained only by the phenomenon of the migration from the rural areas? It is true that men leave the fields to seek work in the big cities and in neighboring countries and that the final return of the men takes place only after they have reached an advanced age. Concerning the numerical strength of old men (60 years and over) compared to old women, we may think that the excessively high female mortality in this group (see the chapter on Mortality) is the main reason for this.

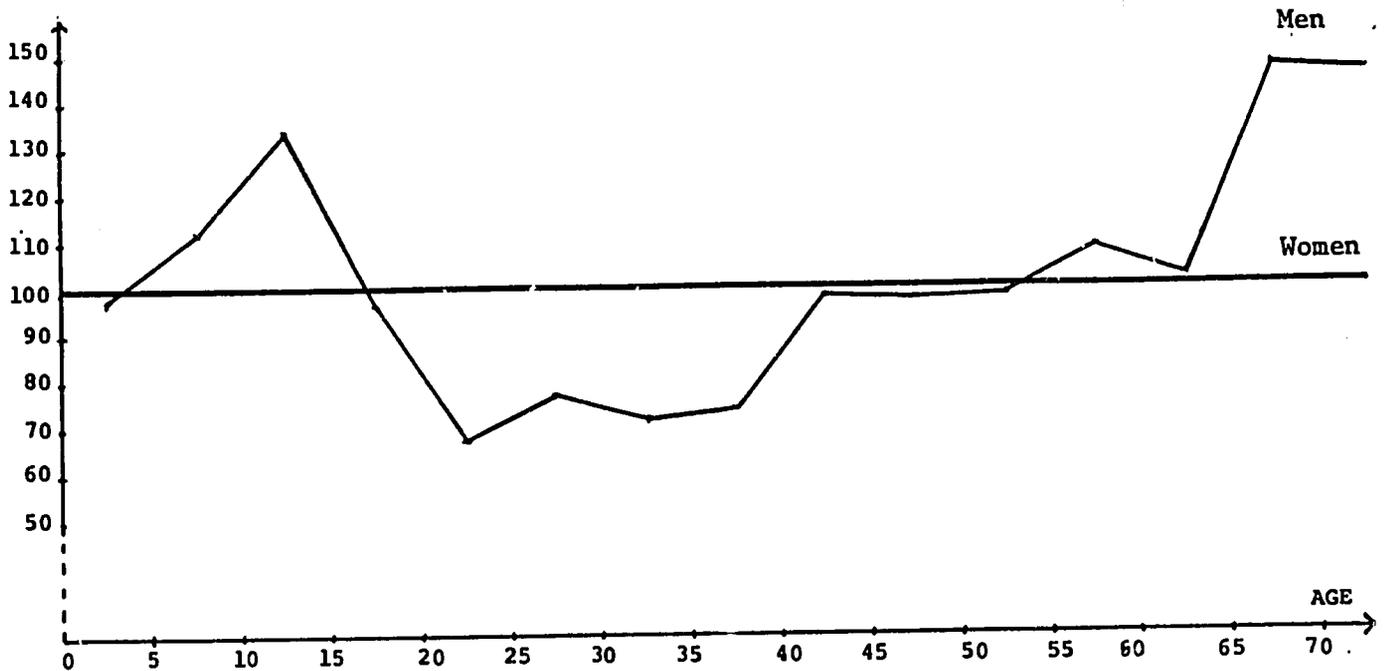
NUMBER OF MEN PER 100 WOMEN
BY AGE AND NATIONALITY

AGE GROUPS	NATIONALITIES						PROVINCE OF ATACORA TOTAL
	BARIBA	DENDI	DJOUGOU	PEULH	OTAMMARI	YORUBA	
0 - 4 yrs	78	90	89	113	108	100	98
5 - 9 yrs	116	140	92	87	124	120	111
10 - 14 yrs	124	180	121	179	121	141	113
15 - 19 yrs	104	106	93	143	89	88	96
20 - 24 yrs	69	93	73	57	57	100	66
25 - 29 yrs	69	52	79	36	99	69	77
30 - 34 yrs	67	36	81	43	68	80	71
35 - 39 yrs	63	58	68	90	72	78	74
40 - 44 yrs	115	120	100	100	91	100	99
45 - 49 yrs	82	113	56	133	137	100	98
50 - 54 yrs	100	167	57	150	138	125	99
55 - 59 yrs	350	300	135	75	87	80	113
60 - 64 yrs	77	125	104	150	100	100	101
65 - 69 yrs	175	0	130	100	100	200	146
70 yrs & +	106	400	121	0	167	0	145
TOTAL	92	105	90	98	100	104	97

This last table enables us to trace the male population curve such as it appears in the following graph, evidencing the surplus of males in the 5-15 and over 55 year age groups.

**PROVINCE OF ATACORA
MALE POPULATION CURVE**

Number of
Persons .



II. HOUSEHOLDS

Households are groups of persons who live practically together in one housing unit and who take their meals together. A household generally involves a man who may be married, widowed, or divorced, and his wife or wives, his unmarried children, and persons for whom he is responsible and live with him. The essential criterion is living together here.

Households may consist of only one person (single individual, divorced or widowed persons) occupying a housing unit and having his or her own resources.

The study of households is of great economic interest because, being a form of social organization, households constitute

consumption units and even production units in the rural areas. These are the base units for our surveys.

We distinguish two categories of households: agricultural household and non-agricultural.

The household is said to be agricultural when the household head carries out his main activity in the primary sector but when the main activity is carried out in a sector other than the primary sector, the household is called non-agricultural.

Agricultural households are most numerous. They account for more than 85% of the households surveyed and they are often very large (see the Agro-economic section).

According to Table 4, the mean size of a household in general in the area is 8.1 persons. This is a rather high mean which is characteristic of the community life of the groups who live in the country's North. This mean size varies according to nationalities and also districts.

Apart from the FON households, who constitute a special case, the agricultural or non-agricultural OTAMMARI households reveal the smallest mean size with 6.5 persons, whereas the BARIBA present the biggest mean size with 9.1 persons. Looking at the districts, KEROU shows the highest mean size with 13.8 persons per household, whereas the mean household size in the district of BOUKOUMBE is only 5.9 persons.

Households with between 5 and 9 persons (Table 4) are most numerous with 46.7% and account for 39.0% of the population (Table 5); then we have households with between 1 and 4 persons or 23.8% but only 8.8% of the population belong to those households. The population percentage is low because here we

often encounter "isolated" households (single-person households). Households with between 1 and 4 persons are most numerous among the FON group with 73.1%.

Large households with 20 persons and more are very small in number (3.2%) and are found mostly among the BARIBA with 10.4% where the household size can come to as much as 49 members. Looking at the districts, such households are not negligible in the districts of KEROU and KOUANDE.

Table 5 shows the population distribution by size and age of members constituting the household; it enables us to say that 67.9% of the population are concentrated in households with between 5 and 9 and between 10 and 14 persons and that, furthermore, the percentage of young persons under the age of 15 years is minimal in small-sized households but increases with the size of the household as shown in the Table below. On the other hand, the percentage of senior citizens 60 years old and over decreases as the household size increases.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	UNDER 15 YEARS (%)	15 - 59 YEARS (%)	60 YEARS + (%)
1 - 4	29.5	61.0	9.5
5 - 9	46.4	47.5	6.1
10 - 14	48.3	46.3	5.4
15 - 19	48.8	47.0	4.2
20 and over	53.1	42.4	4.5

Table 6 underscores the relative importance of children in the households. We note that the percentage of collateral relatives increases with the size of the household. The most remarkable fact here is that 76.7% of the population of the household is made up of spouses, children, and family heads, in other words, the real household, followed by parents and brothers and sisters. We observe the same phenomena among the nationalities and districts.

III. HOUSEHOLD HEADS

A. Distribution of Household Heads by Age

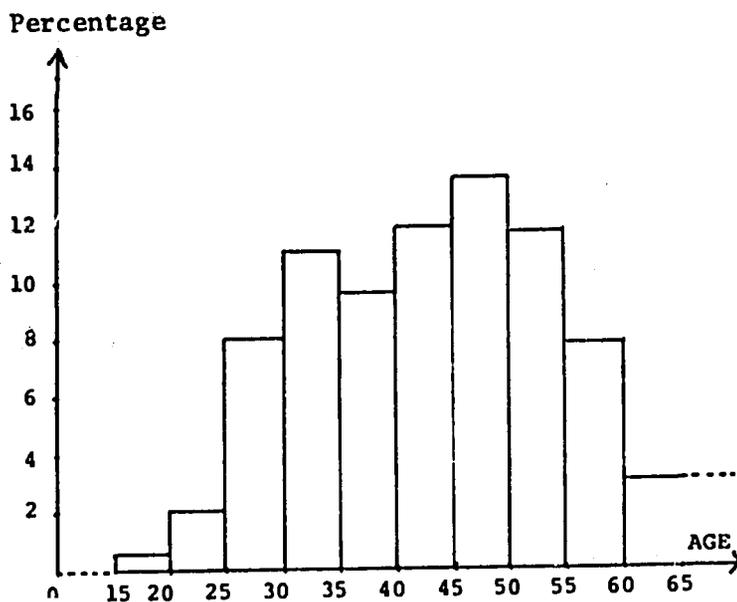
The distribution of household heads by age, as it appears in Table 7, shows the great maturity of household heads in these rural areas where very few of the young people under the age of 20 become household heads. With the exception of the FON, OTAMMARI, and YORUBA, we do not find any household heads under the age of 25. In these latter two groups, they account for only a very small percentage.

The mean age of the household heads is 47.9 years, varying from 30.6 years for the FON, to 54.3 for the BARIBA, as we can see in the table below.

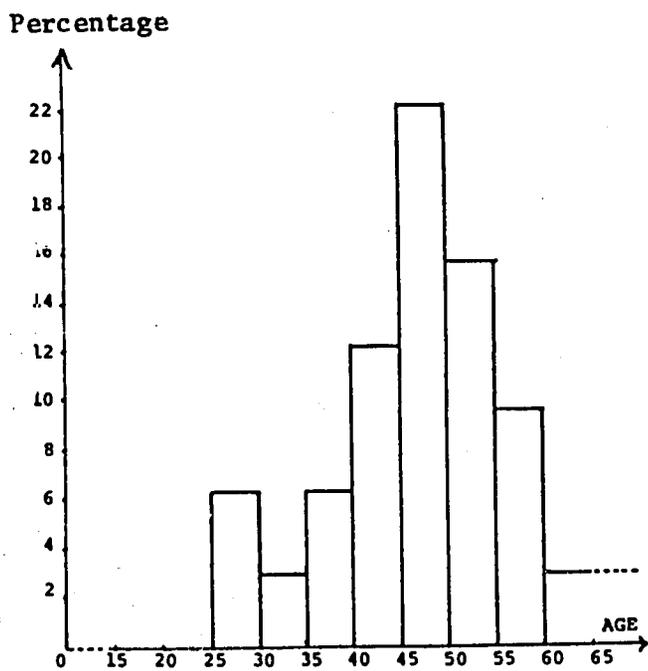
NATIONALITY	MEAN AGE	MEDIAN AGE
FON	30.6	31.0
OTAMMARI	43.6	45.0
YORUBA	48.0	45.0
PEULH	51.4	48.0
DENDI	53.5	49.5
DJOUGOU	53.9	53.0
BARIBA	54.3	50.0
TOTAL	47.9	46.0

REPARTITION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS BY AGE

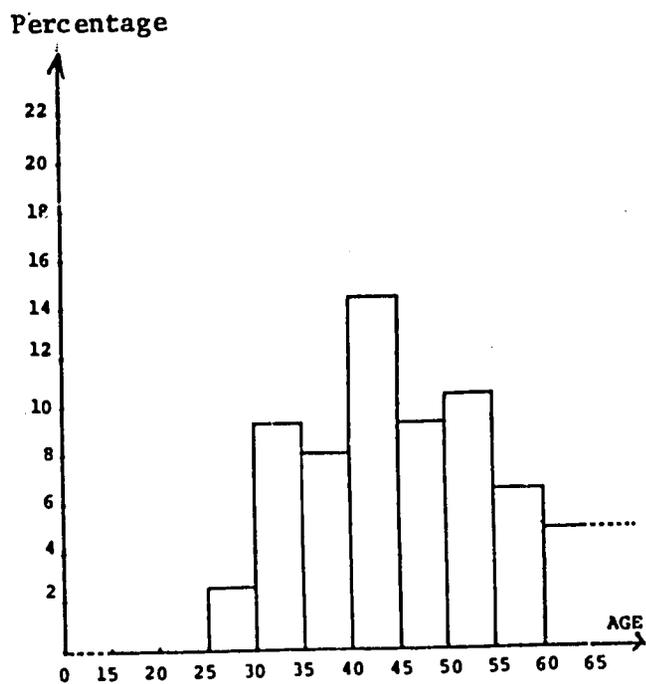
PROVINCE of ATACORA



DENDIS

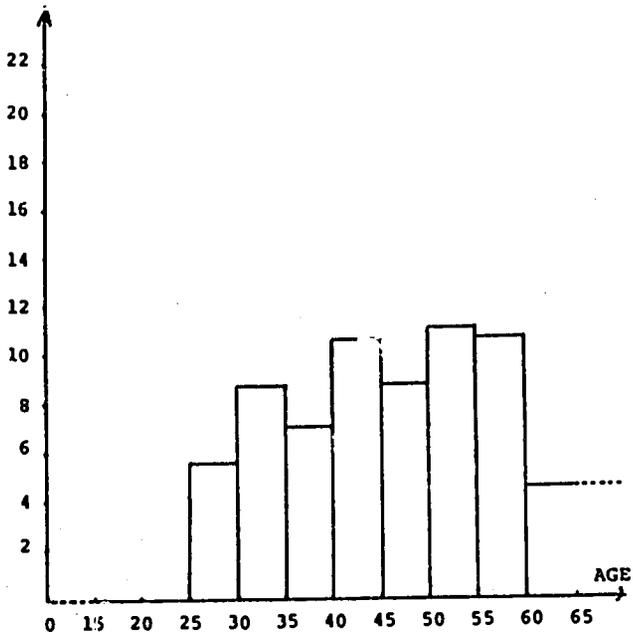


BARIBAS



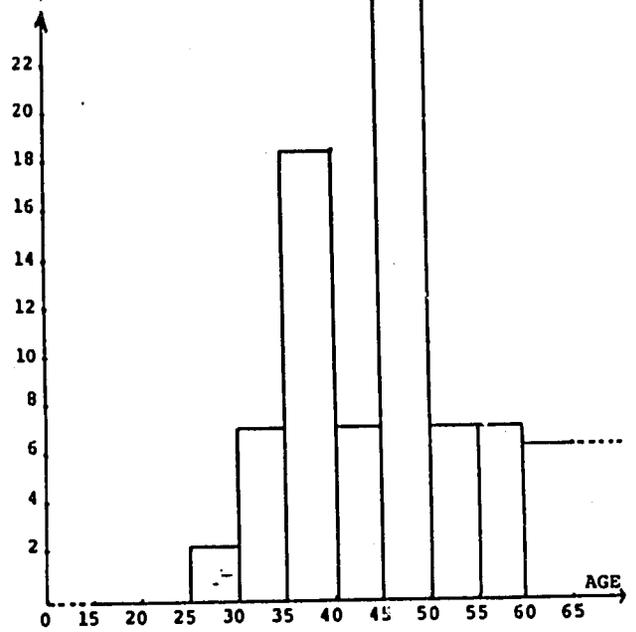
DJOUGOUS

Percentage



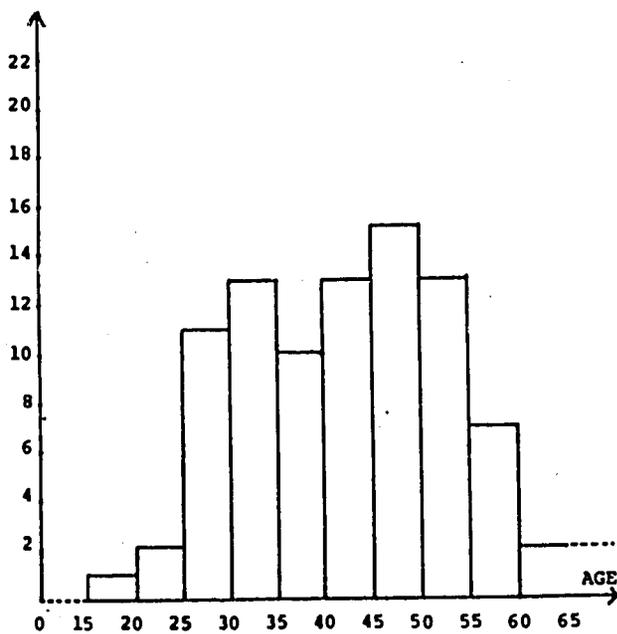
PEULHS

Percentage



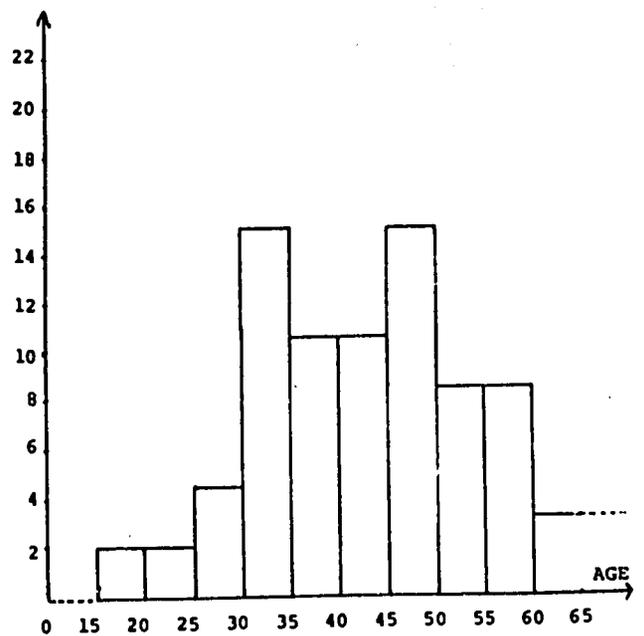
OTAMMARIS

Percentage



YORUBAS

Percentage



After the FON, the OTAMMARI shows the youngest mean and median age, followed by the YORUBA. In these two nationalities, the household heads are younger and we find that 5% are under the age of 45 whereas, among the DJOUGOU, the median age is 53 years. This means that there are less old men among the OTAMMARI and YORUBA than among the DJOUGOU. Indeed, we find only 15% old men among the OTAMMARI against 37.9% among the DJOUGOU.

Household heads constitute an active population made up of 75.5% adults between the ages of 15 and 59. The group of old men 60 years and over constitutes a portion of the supported population and represents less than 25%. But we note that in the rural areas, they do not constitute a supported population since they participate in economic activity. Furthermore, the most remarkable fact is that it is the old persons who often own the biggest agricultural establishments.

Looking at the districts, we come up with a similar classification. We find that household heads, whose mean age is younger, can be found in the district of COBLY while the older ones are to be found in the district of OUAKE.

DISTRICTS	MEAN AGE	MEDIAN AGE
COBLY	40.4	40
TANGUIETA	40.5	45
BOUKOUMBE	41.1	45
TOUCOUNTOUNA	42.2	40
MATERI	42.2	40
PEHUNCO	49.7	47
BASSILA	49.7	50
KEROU	50.1	52
NATITINGOU	51.5	47
DJOUGOU RURAL	51.5	50
COPARGO	52.5	55
DJOUGOU URBAIN	54.0	55
OUAKE	56.0	60

B. Distribution of Household Heads by Sex

Table 8 shows the number of men who are household heads. They account for 91.3%. Few women come to be heads of households; this is a good indication of conjugal stability in the province. Women become household heads only when they are divorced or when they are widowed.

NATIONALITIES	MEN HOUSEHOLD HEADS (%)	WOMEN HOUSEHOLD HEADS (%)
FON	100.0	-
PEULH	100.0	-
YORUBA	97.9	2.1
DENDI	96.9	3.1
DJOUGOU	91.9	8.1
BARIBA	90.8	9.2
OTAMMARI	88.0	12.0

As the above table shows, the percentage of women household heads is highest among the OTAMMARI, while we do not note any female household head among the PEULH. Looking at the districts, we note that the percentage of female household heads is higher above all in the districts of BOUKOUMBE and MATERI; this as a matter of fact corresponds to the geographic distribution of the ethnic groups involved. The district in which the percentage of female household heads is lowest is BASSILA with only 1.8%.

DISTRICT	MEN HOUSEHOLD HEADS (%)	WOMEN HOUSEHOLD HEADS (%)
BASSILA	98.2	1.8
COPARGO	98.1	1.9
KEROU	97.3	2.7
KOUANDE	96.1	3.9
DJOUGOU URBAIN	95.2	4.8
COBLY	94.9	5.1
PEHUNCO	94.1	5.9
TOUCOUNTOUNA	93.2	6.8
TANGUIETA	92.0	8.0
OUAKE	88.9	11.1
NATITINGOU	88.2	11.8
DJOUGOU RURAL	87.4	12.6
MATERI	87.0	13.0
BOUKOUMBE	84.8	15.2

C. Distribution of Household Heads by Birthplace, Prior Domicile, and Duration of Stay

Statistics concerning the birthplace of household heads, their prior domicile, and their duration of stay in the village enable us to estimate the population mobility. The distribution of household heads according to their birthplace (Table 9)

shows that 66% were born in the area selected for the survey (survey village). More than 26.8% were born in the survey region, that is to say, in the commune, in the district, and in the province. The rest, born outside of the region, is made up of those who were born in the other regions of BENIN (4.4%) and those who were born abroad (almost 3%).

Looking at the province as a whole, we find that 92.7% are native to the survey zone.

Concerning nationalities, the tables below enable us to observe that most of the household heads are natives of the village, with the exception of the DENDI where only 3.1% are natives of the village and the FON where the figure is 5.3%. Regarding the DENDI, however, 96.9% were born in the province, as against only 21.1% for the FON.

NATIONALITIES	BORN IN VILLAGE (%)	BORN IN PROVINCE (%)
BARIBA	86.8	92.1
PEULH	74.4	95.3
DJOUGOU	70.2	92.9
OTAMMARI	69.8	97.9
YORUBA	53.2	85.1
FON	5.3	21.1
DENDI	3.1	96.9

At the district level, we find that more than 80% of the population is native to the district itself. But there is a certain mobility within districts, except for PEHUNCO and KEROU where more than 90% live in the village in which they were

born. On the other hand, at DJOUGOU, although 88.1% were born in the districts, only 16.7% still live in their village of origin.

DISTRICT	BORN IN VILLAGE (%)	BORN IN DISTRICT (%)
DJOUYOU URBAIN	16.7	88.1
KOUANDE	54.9	80.4
DJOUYOU RURAL	58.9	88.4
MATERI	62.3	87.0
TANGUIETA	64.0	88.0
BOUKOUMBE	67.0	94.3
BASSILA	67.3	92.7
TOUCOUNTOUNA	70.5	93.2
COPARGO	71.7	86.8
NATITINGOU	72.1	92.6
OUAKE	75.6	80.0
COBLY	76.9	82.9
KEROU	91.9	91.9
PEHUNCO	97.1	97.1

For the last two districts, those who were born in the district as a matter of fact are natives of their village. At OUAKE and COBLY, 13.3% and 7.7% of the household heads, respectively, are natives of TOGO.

The breakdown by prior domicile, compared to the results for the birthplaces, enables us to establish the low population mobility of household heads (Table 13).

Only 31.6% changed their domicile. And among those, almost 25% come from the survey area, in other words, they represent movement within the province; 3.2% came from other regions of BENIN and the rest came from abroad, especially TOGO.

Disregarding movement within the province itself, we can say that the population displays a high degree of stability. Looking at Table 12, we find that 92.6% were born or have been settled in the province for more than 15 years. The mean duration of their stay is 44.9 years.

Regarding domicile change, the majority takes place within the province as a whole, as shown in the Table below. But the few movements recorded beyond provincial borders, in other words, to and from abroad, can be found among the DJOUGOU. Domicile movements among the DENDI are to be found only in the interior of the province.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS BY NATIONALITIES
ACCORDING TO PRIOR DOMICILE

PRIOR DOMICILE	FON %	BARIBA %	DENDI %	DJOUYOU %	PEULH %	OTAMMARI %	YORUBA %	OVERALL %
VILLAGE	15.8	88.2	6.3	73.7	83.7	70.4	57.4	68.4
COMMUNE	5.3	-	-	8.1	11.7	12.6	25.5	9.7
DISTRICT	5.3	6.6	90.6	5.1	7.0	11.4	4.3	11.7
PROVINCE	5.3	1.3	3.1	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.6
OVERALL PROVINCE	31.6	96.1	100.0	88.9	97.7	97.0	89.3	92.4
OTHER REGION OF BENIN	57.9	3.9	-	1.0	-	1.2	8.5	3.2
FOREIGN	10.6	-	-	10.1	2.3	1.8	2.1	4.3
incl. TOGO	5.3	-	-	2.5	2.3	0.9	-	1.3

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS OF EACH DISTRICT
ACCORDING TO PRIOR DOMICILE

DISTRICTS	VIL- LAGE %	COM- MUNE %	DIS- TRICT %	PRO- VINCE %	SURVEY REGION %	OTHER REGION OF BENIN %	FOREIGN %	inc. TOGO %
BASSILA	67.3	25.4	-	-	92.7	5.5	1.8	1.8
BOUKOUMBE	63.8	11.4	19.0	1.0	95.2	3.8	1.0	-
COBLY	76.9	5.1	-	-	82.0	7.7	10.3	7.7
COPARGO	81.1	1.9	1.9	3.8	88.7	1.9	9.4	-
DJOUGOU U	23.7	2.4	66.7	4.8	97.6	-	2.4	-
DJOUGOU R	62.1	15.8	7.4	4.2	89.5	1.1	9.5	1.1
KEROU	91.9	-	-	2.7	94.6	-	5.4	-
KOUANDE	64.7	-	25.5	3.9	94.1	5.9	-	-
MATERI	58.4	23.4	9.1	1.3	92.2	6.5	1.3	1.3
NATITINGOU	73.5	7.4	7.4	4.4	92.7	1.5	5.9	1.5
OUAKE	84.4	-	2.2	-	86.7	4.4	8.9	-
PEHUNCO	97.1	-	-	2.9	100.0	-	-	-
TANGUIETA	72.0	16.0	18.0	14.0	100.0	-	-	-
TOUCOUN- TOUNA	65.9	11.4	13.6	4.5	95.4	4.5	-	-

This stability among household heads is further confirmed by data pertaining to the duration of stay in their current place of residence (Table 12): 92.6% of the households have been there for more than 15 years and 68.4% (Table 13) have been there since birth. A breakdown of the mean and median duration of stay, by nationality, shows that more than 95% of all household heads have been there for more than 15 years, except for the FON whose median stay is 4 years. The situation is identical in the districts. Comparing Tables 17 and 7, we note that the mean duration of stay on the provincial level is 44 years and that the mean age of household head is 47 years.

D. Breakdown of Household Heads by Civil Status (Table 10)

The household head population is made up of persons aged 15 years and over which explains the small percentage of single individuals and the very high rate of married individuals, which is 83.1%. Widowers and widows represent 7.1%. The high widowhood rate may be a consequence of mortality situation among the population.

The mean age of the OTAMMARI seems to be very low and the widowhood rate is highest in their group (10.6%). (The study on mortality could provide further clarification on this point).

Divorced persons account for 2.5%. Conjugal mobility is very low in the rural areas. A married man is held in higher esteem and sometimes even the polygamous man is an important man because he has more manpower for his farms since the women and children also participate in agricultural activities. This is therefore a source of wealth. The polygamy rate is 32.6%. For all the household heads together, 100 married men have 155 spouses and 100 polygamous men have 240 spouses.

A study of the matrimonial situation by nationality brings out some very interesting facts: the percentage of single individuals is highest among the YORUBA and OTAMMARI. We find one person out of every nine still single among the YORUBA and one person out of every 12 among the OTAMMARI.

The case of the DENDI, where celibacy does not exist, could represent a special fact deriving from our sample. Among them we only find married individuals.

The rate of married individuals is highly variable. The PEULH show the highest percentage of married household heads. They are followed by the DJOUGOU as shown. The OTAMMARI have the lowest percentage. We find the highest widowhood rate (10.6%) and also the highest celibacy rate.

Among married individuals, we find that the number of polygamous men is greater than that of monogamous men among the DENDI (polygamy rate 65.4% as against 34.6% monogamy) and the PEULH (polygamy rate 53.5% as against 39.5% monogamy). The table below shows the importance of polygamy in the nationalities.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS
BY MATRIMONIAL SITUATION
AND NATIONALITIES

NATIONALITIES	CIVIL STATUS				
	MARRIED				
	SINGLE (%)	TOTAL (%)	POLYGAMOUS (%)	WIDOWS/WIDOWERS (%)	DIVORCED (%)
DENDI	-	100.0	65.4	-	-
BARIBA	1.3	86.9	22.4	7.9	3.9
DJOUYOU	3.5	86.9	35.4	7.1	2.5
PEULH	4.7	93.0	53.5	2.3	-
OTAMMARI	8.5	78.1	28.5	10.6	2.9
YORUBA	10.6	87.2	36.1	2.1	-
PROVINCE	6.6	83.1	32.6	7.7	2.5

Divorced persons are found above all among the BARIBA with 3.9% and the OTAMMARI, while the divorce rate is less or nonexistent among the PEULH, the YORUBA and the DENDI.

The following tables indicate the differences on the district level.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS
BY MATRIMONIAL SITUATION
BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICTS	CIVIL STATUS				
	MARRIED				
	SINGLE (%)	TOTAL (%)	POLYGAMOUS (%)	WIDOWS/WIDOWERS (%)	DIVORCED (%)
BASSILA	7.3	90.9	34.5	1.8	-
BOUKOUMBE	11.4	69.5	20.1	16.2	2.9
COBLY	-	39.7	38.4	10.3	-
COPARGO	5.7	86.7	26.3	3.8	3.8
DJOUYOU URBAIN	2.4	92.8	57.1	4.8	-
DJOUYOU RURAL	2.1	85.2	37.8	9.5	3.2
KEROU	5.4	89.2	27.0	-	5.4
KOUANDE	2.0	94.1	52.9	3.9	-
MATERI	10.4	80.5	35.0	9.1	-
NATITINGOU	13.2	70.6	17.7	10.3	5.9
OUAKE	4.4	84.5	28.9	8.9	2.2
PEHUNCO	5.9	85.3	32.4	5.9	2.9
TANGUIETA	4.0	88.0	40.0	8.0	-
TOUCOUNTOUNA	9.1	84.1	29.6	-	6.8

The districts of BOUKOUMBE, MATERI, NATITINGOU and TOUCOUNTOUNA have the highest celibacy rates (NATITINGOU 13.2%); (BOUKOUMBE 11.4%, MATERI 10.4% and TOUCOUNTOUNA 9.1%) while the districts of DJOUYOU URBAIN and KOUANDE show the highest married rate (KOUANDE 94.1%. DJOUYOU URBAIN 92.8%).

The high widowhood rates are found in the districts of BOUKOUMBE with 16.2%, COBLY with 10.3% and NATITINGOU with 10.3%.

Polygamy is also widespread in these two districts. The district of NATITINGOU has a low rate of polygamous men and a high proportion of spouses per 100 polygamous men, after KEROU (KEROU: 270 spouses per 100 polygamous men, NATITINGOU : 267 spouses per 100 polygamous men).

DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF SPOUSES FOR 100 POLYGAMOUS
TANGUIETA	200
TOUCOUNTOUNA	208
MATERI	215
COPARGO	221
OUAKE	231
BOUKOUMBE	233
DJOUGOU RURAL	244
COBLY	247
DJOUGOU URBAIN	250
KOUANDE	256
BASSILA	258
PEHUNCO	264
NATITINGOU	267
KEROU	270

E. Religion (Table 11)

The practice of Animism is still widespread: 57.8%; it is followed by Islam with 29.4% and Catholicism with 10.6%. Protestantism is little practiced accounting for barely 1%. The "miscellaneous" group includes the sects of Cherubin, the sects of Celestial Christianists, etc. While the OTAMMARI are very

much devoted to ancestor worship (Animism), 79.5% among them are Animists, as against the DENDI, the PEULH, and the YORUBA who for the most part are Muslims.

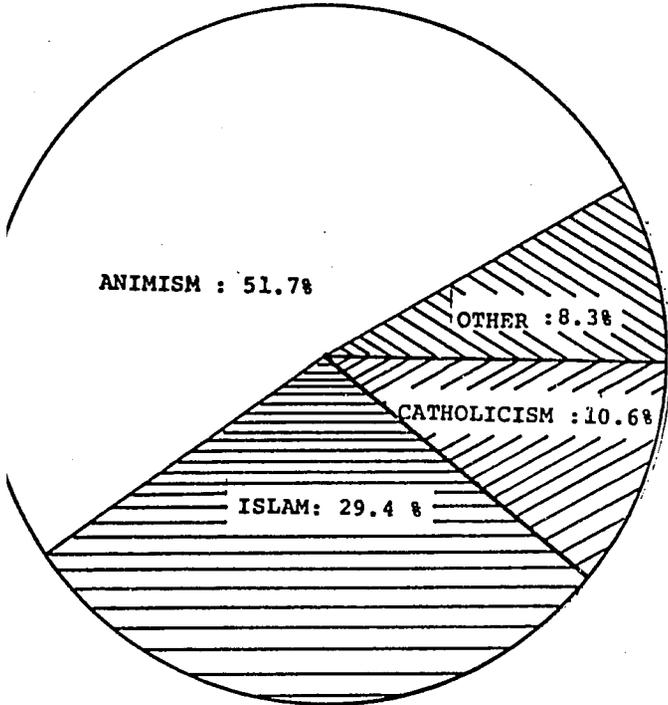
The BARIBA and DJOUGOU do not seem to be especially devoted to any particular religion. They practice Catholicism just like Islam and Animism; the highest percentage in the "miscellaneous" category is found among them.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS
ACCORDING TO RELIGION BY NATIONALITY

	ANIMIST (%)	MUSLIM (%)	CATHOLIC (%)	PROTESTANT (%)	MISC. (%)
OTAMMARI	79.5	8.9	11.7	1.2	0.7
BARIBA	48.7	27.6	14.5	-	9.2
DJOUGOU	41.4	43.9	4.0	0.5	10.1
PEULH	4.7	88.4	2.3	-	4.6
DENDI	-	96.9	3.1	-	-
YORUBA	-	87.2	12.8	-	-
TOTAL	51.7	29.4	10.6	1.0	7.3

The following tables bring out certain very interesting facts at the district level. The districts of BASSILA and DJOUGOU URBAIN are essentially Muslim whereas the Animist religion is most frequently practiced at BOUKOUMBE with 91.4%. In the districts of DJOUGOU RURAL we find all religious practices but at TANGUIETA and KOUANDE, there are two predominant religious faiths: Animism and Catholicism at TANGUIETA, Animism and Islam at KOUANDE.

The graph below illustrates the relative importance of the various religions.



DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS BY RELIGION
AND DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	ANIMIST (%)	CATHOLIC (%)	PROTESTANT (%)	MUSLIM (%)	MISC. (%)
BASSILA	1.8	9.1	1.8	87.3	-
BOUKOUMBE	91.4	6.7	1.9	-	-
COBLY	74.4	2.6	7.7	15.4	-
COPARGO	54.7	5.7	-	22.6	17.0
DJOUGOU URBAIN	-	2.4	-	97.6	-
DJOUGOU RURAL	33.7	9.5	2.1	50.5	4.2
KEROU	62.2	10.8	-	8.1	18.9
KOUANDE	35.3	-	-	60.8	3.9
MATERI	63.6	20.8	-	2.6	13.0
NATITINGOU	51.5	19.1	-	13.2	16.2
OUAKE	57.8	4.4	-	20.0	17.8
PEHUNCO	29.4	17.6	-	44.1	8.8
TANGUIETA	68.0	32.0	-	-	-
TOUCOUNTOUNA	75.0	15.9	-	4.5	4.5
ATACORA	51.7	10.6	1.0	29.4	7.3

F. Education, School Attendance (Tables 14 and 15)

Since no national language is taught, instruction is given in French. A knowledge of French is an indication of the education level. The literacy rate of a region is the ratio between literate inhabitants and the total population.

As shown in the Table below, 88.3% of household heads are illiterate; this is often found in rural areas.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS WHO CAN READ AND WRITE
BY NATIONALITY

NATIONALITIES	CAN NEITHER READ NOR WRITE (%)	CAN READ AND WRITE (%)
BARIBA	97.2	2.8
PEULH	94.4	5.6
DJOUYOU	91.7	8.3
OTAMMARI	90.5	9.5
YORUBA	80.4	19.6
DENDI	11.8	88.2
FON	11.8	88.2
TOTAL	88.3	11.7

The illiteracy rate varies according to the nationalities. It remains high except among the FON who, constituting a population of emigrants, make up the stratum of literate individuals; roughly four FON household heads out of every five know how to read and write. For the province as a whole, about one household Head out of every nine can read and write French. After the FON, one DENDI household head out of every four knows how to read and write. The DENDI constitute the developed group in the area, followed by the YORUBA.

This high rate of illiterate individuals is explained by the fact that almost all of the household heads are adults (20-59 years) and almost all persons 60 years old and over did not have a chance to go to school because schools were few in number, very far away, and above all concentrated in the large

population centers or only in the district capital. This can explain the lower rate of illiterate individuals in the Districts of NATITINGOU and TOUCOUNTOUNA (see table below).

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS WHO CAN READ AND WRITE
BY DISTRICT

DISTRICTS	CAN NEITHER READ NOR WRITE	CAN READ AND WRITE
TOUCOUNTOUNA	81.4	18.6
BOUKOUMBE	83.8	16.2
NATITINGOU	85.3	14.7
DJOUYOU URBAIN	85.7	14.3
DJOUYOU RURAL	86.5	13.5
BASSILA	86.8	13.2
TANGUIETA	87.5	12.5
COPARGO	88.7	11.3
COBLY	89.2	10.8
OUAKE	91.3	8.7
MATERI	92.0	8.0
KOUANDE	92.2	7.8
PEHUNCO	92.2	7.8
KEROU	100.0	0

At the district level the situation is hardly any better. The overwhelming illiteracy rate persists almost everywhere, even in the districts that benefitted from school facilities in the past. Their education level is only very little improved as hardly one person out of every five knows French. At TOUCOUNTOUNA, for example, eight household heads out of ten are still illiterate; at NATITINGOU, almost nine household heads of ten still do not know how to read or write.

G. Economic Activities of Household Heads (Tables 16 and 17)

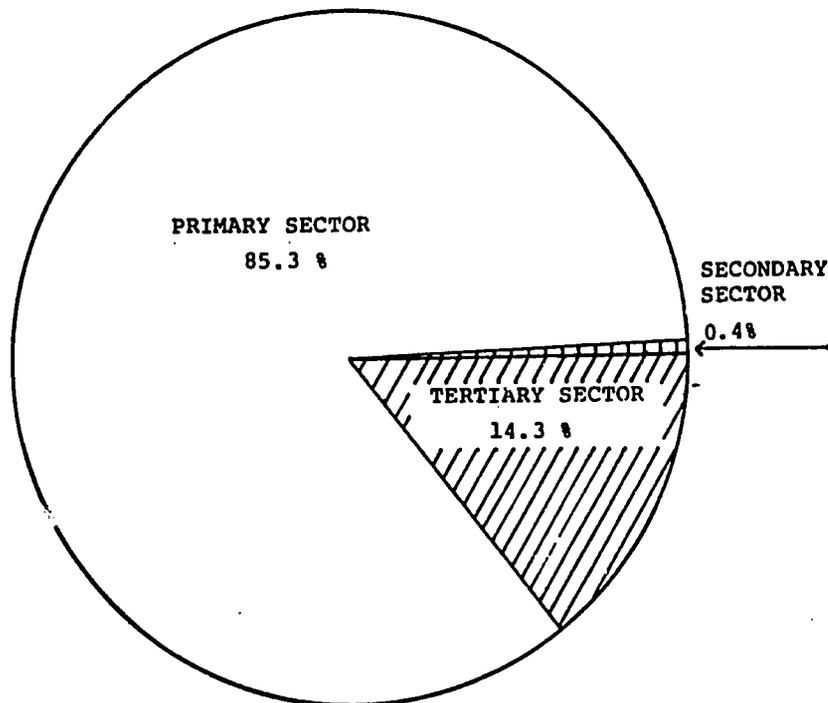
Household heads constitute an active population all of whose members are over the age of 15. If we classify them by major activity sectors, as indicated in the Table below, we get the following results:

85.3% of the household heads are involved in a primary activity. Within this sector, the essential portion is devoted to agriculture with 83.4% followed by animal husbandry with 1.7%. It is practiced in the majority of cases by all nationalities, except in the PEULH group where we find 30.2% who engage in animal husbandry.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS
ACCORDING TO MAJOR ACTIVITY (Main activity)
BY NATIONALITY

ACTIVITY SECTOR	ENTIRE PROVINCE	FON	BARIBA	DENDI	DJOUGOU	PEULH	OTAMMARI	YORUBA
<u>Primary sector:</u>	<u>85.3</u>	<u>11.1</u>	<u>85.5</u>	<u>81.3</u>	<u>87.7</u>	<u>95.3</u>	<u>88.2</u>	<u>81.8</u>
incl.								
Agriculture	83.6	11.1	85.5	81.3	87.7	65.1	88.2	81.8
Animal husbandry	1.7	-	-	-	-	30.2	-	-
Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Secondary Sector:</u>	<u>0.4</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>4.7</u>	<u>0.3</u>	-
incl.								
Traditional crafts	0.4	-	-	-	-	4.7	0.3	-
<u>Tertiary Sector</u>	<u>14.3</u>	<u>88.9</u>	<u>14.5</u>	<u>18.7</u>	<u>12.3</u>	-	<u>11.5</u>	<u>18.2</u>
incl.								
Commerce	1.4	-	2.6	9.4	1.0	-	-	6.8
Civil servant	6.1	83.3	2.6	6.3	3.6	-	3.3	11.4
Household	5.7	-	6.6	-	7.2	-	7.1	-
Miscellaneous	1.2	5.6	2.7	3.0	0.5	-	1.1	-

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF MAJOR ACTIVITY SECTORS



The secondary sector is practically non-existent since it comprises only 0.4% of the household heads and constitutes only slightly developed traditional crafts activities. These activities are carried out mostly all by the PEULH with 4.7% and limitedly by the YORUBA with 0.3%.

The tertiary sector is barely developed in these rural areas, which consists essentially of public services, small commercial establishments, and miscellaneous activities. The term "civil servant" includes public services (utilities), health, education, etc. We find that 14.3% of the household heads are engaged in a tertiary activity. If we eliminate "household" activities (home work), which are not remunerated, we can see that, in the tertiary sector, the vast majority consist of civil servants with 6.1% followed by commerce in which 1.4% of the household heads, especially all DENDI, YORUBA, BARIBA and DJOUGOU, are involved.

In the districts, the primary sector is dominant everywhere employing more than 80%. In this sector, agriculture is practiced everywhere but animal husbandry is found only in some districts, namely: KOUANDE with 3.9%, COPARGO with 3.8%, NATITINGOU with 3.0%, PEHUNCO with 2.9%, MATERI with 2.3%, DJOUGOU RURAL with 2.1%, and BASSILA with 2.0%.

Traditional crafts are practiced only in the districts of KOUANDE with 3.9% and MATERI with 1.3%.

In the tertiary sector, we find that the activity under the heading of "civil servant" is being used in almost all districts. Commerce is the business of some districts, particularly KOUANDE with 7.8%, DJOUGOU URBAIN with 4.8%, and NATITINGOU with 3.0%.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS ACCORDING TO ACTIVITIES, BY DISTRICTS (MAIN ACTIVITY)

DISTRICTS	PRIMARY SECTOR			TOTAL	SECONDARY SECTOR		TERTIARY SECTOR			TOTAL
	AGRI- CULTURE	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY	FISH- ING		CRAFTS	CIVIL SERVANT	COMMERCE	HOUSE- HOLD	MISC.	
BASSILA	86.0	2.0	-	88.0	-	12.0	-	-	-	12.0
BOUKOUMBE	82.5	-	-	82.5	-	7.8	-	8.7	1.0	16.5
COBLY	89.7	-	-	89.7	-	5.1	2.6	2.6	-	10.3
COPARGO	84.9	3.8	-	88.7	-	7.5	1.9	-	1.9	11.3
DJOUGOU										
URBAIN	85.7	-	-	85.7	-	-	4.8	4.8	4.8	14.3
DJOUGOU										
RURAL	80.0	2.1	-	82.1	-	7.4	1.1	8.4	1.1	18.0
KEROU	91.9	-	-	91.9	-	-	-	5.4	2.7	8.1
KOUANDE	84.3	3.9	-	88.2	3.9	-	7.8	-	-	7.8
MATERI	79.2	2.6	-	81.8	1.3	6.5	-	9.1	1.3	16.9
NATITINGOU	83.6	3.0	-	86.6	-	4.5	3.0	4.5	1.5	13.5
OUAKE	81.4	-	-	81.4	-	7.0	-	11.6	-	18.6
PEHUNCO	88.2	2.9	-	91.2	-	2.9	-	5.9	-	8.8
TANGUIETA	80.0	-	-	80.0	-	12.0	-	8.0	-	20.0
TOUCOUNTOUNA	81.8	2.3	-	84.1	-	9.1	-	4.5	2.3	15.9

H. Secondary Activity

While the main activity is that which occupies the major portion of a person's time and earns him the necessary income, the secondary activity basically is a supporting activity carried out during spare time. It also brings in some supplementary earnings which, in certain cases, may be rather considerable when commercial activities are involved.

There is a very large percentage of household heads who are involved in secondary activities: 41.1% (Table 17).

IV. ABSENTEES

Movements (relocations) are significant elements in the development of a region's population. Their importance often changes the age pyramids. Two such kinds of movements are outgoings and incomings.

In the present case we will study only the outgoing movements, the departures of habitual residents. In the rural areas, immigrations (incoming) movements are imperceptible.

A. Movements of Absentees in Households

Table 18 shows that 27.9% of the households are involved in departure movements which reveal a rather isolated, individual character and often do not disturb the life of the household. Absences of one or two persons in the household are most frequent with 42.2% and 29.3%, respectively. On the other hand, only 9.8% of the households revealed absences of more than five persons per household.

We find among the nationalities the highest percentage of households with absentees among the DJOUGOU households with 37.8% as shown by the Table below.

NATIONALITY	PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD WITH ABSENTEES
DJOUGOU	37.8
BARIBA	22.9
OTAMMARI	22.3
PEULH	21.1
DENDI	19.5
YORUBA	14.5

B. Age and Sex of Absentees

The percentage of absentees in the population is 7.5% or about one person out of 13 leaves the village to go to another village in the province or to go to the city or abroad.

Table 19 gives the breakdown of absentees according to age and reveals high mobility among young people. The figure of 63.8% of departures comes between the ages of 10 and 29. On the other hand, we find that almost half (40.9%) of the departures take place between the ages of 15 and 29. Starting at the age of 45, a person practically no longer leaves the household; absentees over the age of 45 represent only 4.7% of the total and the percentage of absentee senior citizens is very small with 0.8%.

The table below shows that the DENDI have the highest percentage of absentees under the age of 30 while the YORUBA the lowest percentage, which however still gives us 65.2% of absentees.

NATIONALITY	PERCENTAGE OF ABSENTEES UNDER THE AGE OF 30
DENDI	87.5
OTAMMARI	86.6
DJOUGOU	79.3
PEULH	75.0
BARIBA	70.4
YORUBA	65.2

Looking at the districts, we find that all absentees are under the age of 25 in COBLY and TANGUIETA, while 63.4% of the absentees in KOUANDE are under the age of 30, as shown by the following table.

DISTRICTS	PERCENTAGE OF ABSENTEES UNDER THE AGE OF 30
COBLY	100.0
TANGUIETA	100.0
MATERI	93.0
NATITINGOU	85.7
DJOUGOU RURAL	84.9
TOUCOUNTOUNA	83.3
COPARGO	80.7
KEROU	80.0
PEHUNCO	79.0
BOUKOUMBE	78.5
BASSILA	76.3
DJOUGOU URBAIN	75.0
OUAKE	69.8
KOUANDE	63.4

Table 20 gives the distribution of absentees according to sex. We count more absent women than absent men, 54.9% absent women as against 45.1% absent men. This imbalance can also be observed among nationalities, except in the OTAMMARI and YORUBA groups, where there are more absent men than absent women (OTAMMARI: 55.6% absent men, YORUBA:52.2% absent men).

C. Distribution of Absentees According to Kinship and Marital Status

Table 21 shows the number of absent children with 71.4%. In the households, the children are more prone to leave for a specific or undetermined time. Rare are the household heads who absent themselves from their household accounting for only 1.3% of the absentees. We can make the same observation of the nationalities except for the group of PEULH where 32.1% of the absentees are made up of spouses (wives).

Table 22 shows that single individuals absent themselves most of all (49.9%), followed by monogamous married individuals (39.8%). Absences materialize according to the degrees of responsibility in the household. While the single person will absent himself easily, this is not true of the monogamous married person and even less so of the polygamous married person (2.5%). The table below shows the number of single absentees.

DISTRIBUTION OF ABSENTEES
ACCORDING TO MARITAL STATUS

MARITAL STATUS	ABSENTEES (%)
Single	49.9
Married, one wife	39.8
Polygamous	3.1
Widowed	0.2
Divorced	2.7
Undetermined	4.2

D. Duration of Absence - Place of Absence

About 31.9% of the absences last at least 6 months and 52.2% last more than a year as shown in Table 23.

Table 24 provides an estimate of probable returns of absentees. Here, 31.0% of the absentees are final emigrants while 69.9% have left momentarily for short periods of time, broken down as follows:

10.2% for less than 6 months,
17.5% for between 6 months and 1 year,
41.2% for more than a year.

The latter category may, be likened to the group of definitive absentees.

Among the nationalities the absence duration percentages vary; the highest percentage of absentees for more than a year is found in the BARIBA group with 66%, followed by the OTAMMARI with 58.2%, the DENDI with 53.8% and the DJOUGOU with 51.3%, classified as follows:

Departure for more than a year:

BARIBA	66.0%
OTAMMARI	58.2%
DENDI	53.8%
DJOUYOU	51.3%

The PEULH and YORUBA show the highest percentage of short-term absentees of less than 6 months, broken down as follows:

PEULH	64.7%
YORUBA	61.5%

Estimating probable returns, the percentages of final departures are high above all among the OTAMMARI and the DJOUGOU, as shown by the following statistics:

OTAMMARI	48.1%
DJOUYOU	28.8%
BARIBA	18.8%
YORUBA	14.3%
PEULH	11.1%

Table 26 gives a breakdown of absentees according to new residence (place of reception), looking like this:

- 36.0% of the absentees remained in the province.
- 19.6% of the absentees are outside their province but in another region of BENIN.
- 44.4% of the absentees or close to half are beyond the borders of BENIN, primarily in NIGERIA or TOGO.

This latter group can be broken down as follows:

- 14.1% of the absentees go to NIGERIA,
- 9.1% of the absentees are in TOGO,
- 2.9% of the absentees are in NIGER,
- 0.2% go to UPPER VOLTA,
- 18.3% go to other countries.

We find that the DJOUGOU usually immigrate to TOGO (17.2%), while the YORUBA (30.4%) and the OTAMMARI (21.5%) prefer NIGERIA.

At the districts and absentees most often either go to NIGERIA or TOGO (Table 26) but the highest percentages going to NIGERIA and TOGO can be observed in the following districts:

DISTRICTS	NIGERIA (%)	TOGO (%)
COBLY	62.5	-
MATERI	39.5	-
TOUCOUNTOUNA	33.3	-
BASSILA	28.9	18.4
COPARGO	19.2	-
OUAKE	3.2	42.9

E. Reason for Departure - Current Activity

As we might expect, 30.4% of the absentees all men, leave in search of work (Table 25). There is a high percentage of absentees (41.2%) who leave for family reasons. In this group we categorize wives who often return to their families (for childbirth).

We can see that few (6.4%) go off to study and that tourism and commerce interest them very little. Commerce is essentially carried out by the YORUBA (12.5%) and the DJOUGOU (2.65).

At the district level, we find that all of the absentees in COBLY leave to look for work whereas family reasons predominate at OUAKE (65.5%), TOUCOUNTOUNA (75%), DJOUGOU URBAIN (66.7%) and KEROU (60%).

Table 27 outlines the activities currently practiced by absentees after they emigrate from their village. We see that they are engaged in the same activities as at home, especially

agriculture with 35.6% and household duties with 39.4%. This latter activity confirms the results of Table 20, that is to say the percentage of women is higher than the percentage of men among absentees.

V. WIVES OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS

We will deal with two items in this chapter.

The first item will deal with statistics on the wives of household heads only, their age (Table 23), religion (Table 33) and main activity (Table 35).

The second item will be devoted to the fertility of all women surveyed, i.e. those aged 12 years and over. We will study in succession their age at first marriage (Table 30); their rank in the household (Table 31); their conjugal mobility (Table 32); the nature of their marriage (Table 34); the kinship link with their husband (Table 36); and finally their total fertility (their number of live-born children, Table 37).

A. Wives Characteristics

1. Distribution of Wives by Age

Table 29 shows the extreme youth of the wives of household heads whose mean age is 32.9 years, while that of the household heads is 47.9 years (overlooking the 8.7% who are female household heads) and 50% of the wives are under the age of 30.

We find similar statistics with the nationalities with the mean age varying from one group to the next; except for the FON who are a special case, the OTAMMARI wives

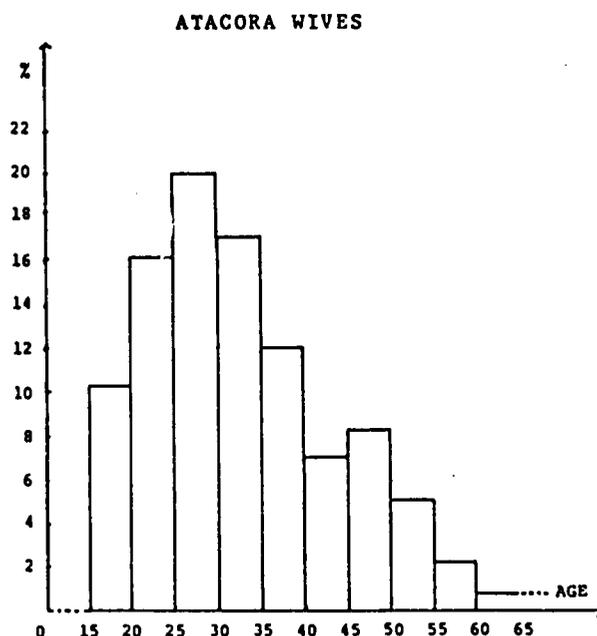
are the youngest, with a mean age of 30.2 years, followed by the PEULH wives with 30.7 years, while the DJOUGOU wives are the oldest with 36.8 years as the mean age (see table below).

MEAN AGE AND MEDIAN AGE OF WIVES BY NATIONALITY

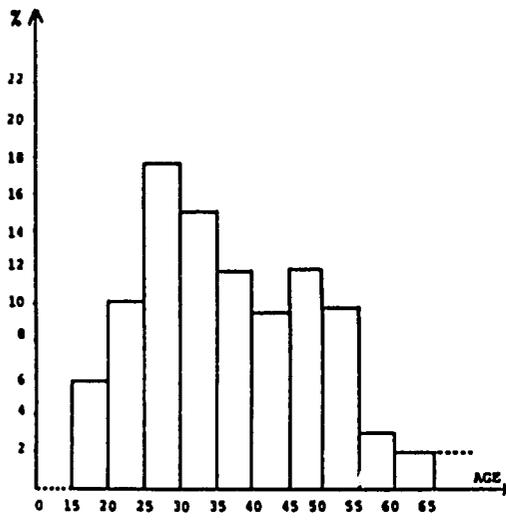
NATIONALITY	AVERAGE AGE	MEDIAN AGE
FON	24.1 yrs	22.0 yrs
OTAMMARI	30.2 yrs	28.0 yrs
PEULH	30.7 yrs	29.0 yrs
BARIBA	33.1 yrs	30.0 yrs
DENDI	35.0 yrs	30.0 yrs
YORUBA	36.0 yrs	33.0 yrs
DJOUYOU	36.8 yrs	35.0 yrs

The following graphs evidence the age differences between the nationalities and enable us to conclude that the modal age (the age of the majority of wives) is between 25 and 30 years in all groups except the OTAMMARI where the modal age is between 20 and 25.

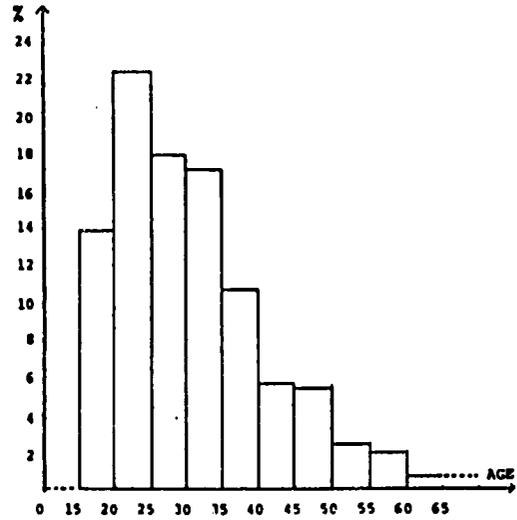
DISTRIBUTION OF WIVES BY AGE



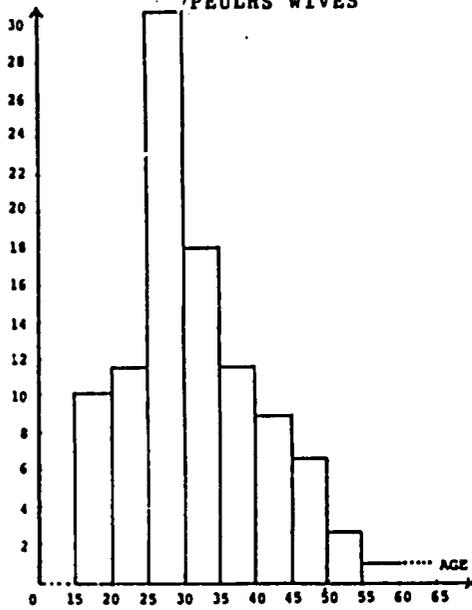
DJOUGOUS WIVES



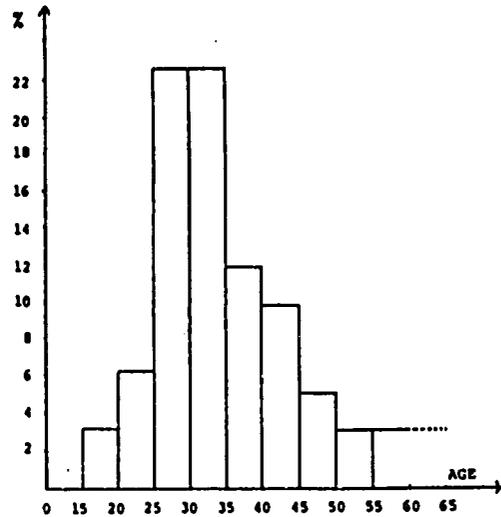
OTAMMARIS WIVES



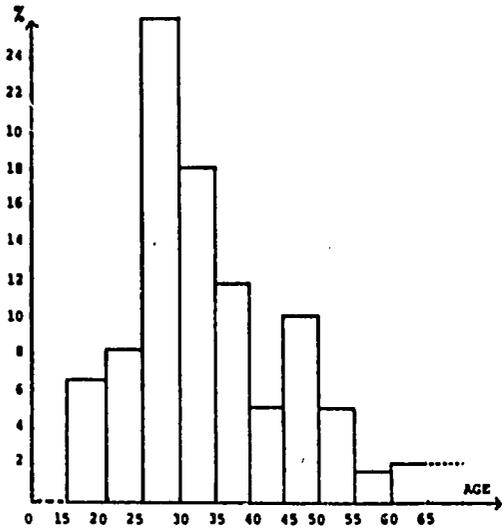
PEULHS WIVES



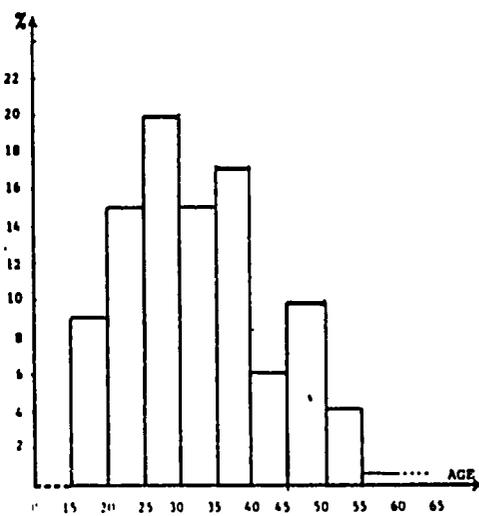
YORUBAS WIVES



DENDIS WIVES



BARYBAS WIVES



These phenomena recur in a similar manner on the district level. The districts of MATERI and COBLY have the lowest mean age with 25.1 years and 26.7 years, respectively, while the COPARGO, BASSILA, and NATITINGOU wives appear to be the oldest. Their mean ages are, respectively, 40.5 years, 38.3 years, and 37.8 years. We can categorize them as follows:

DISTRICTS	MEAN AGE	MEDIAN AGE
MATERI	25.1 yrs	24 yrs
COBLY	26.7 yrs	25 yrs
TOUCOUNTOUNA	29.9 yrs	28 yrs
BEMBEREKE	30.4 yrs	30 yrs
TANGUIETA	30.6 yrs	28 yrs
KOUANDE	31.6 yrs	30 yrs
KEROU	32.4 yrs	30 yrs
PEHUNCO	32.4 yrs	30 yrs
DJOUGOU RURAL	33.5 yrs	31 yrs
DJOUGOU URBAIN	35.7 yrs	34 yrs
OUAKE	37.1 yrs	36 yrs
NATITINGOU	37.8 yrs	33 yrs
BASSILA	38.3 yrs	35 yrs
COPARGO	40.5 yrs	38 yrs

2. Distribution of Wives by Religion

Table 33 gives the distribution of wives according to religion. As we would expect, the dominant religions are Animism with 50.8%, Islam with 35.5% and Catholicism with 5.7%.

The DENDI wives are entirely Muslim (100%), followed by the YORUBA wives (90.3%) and the PEULH wives (89.6%)

while the OTAMMARI group is mostly Animist (81.2%). Islam and Animism predominate among the BARIBA and DJOUGOU wives. Here is the breakdown:

NATIONALITIES	ISLAM (%)	ANIMISM (%)
DENDI	100.0	-
YORUBA	90.3	-
PEULH	89.6	6.5
DJOUYOU	48.6	42.0
BARIBA	21.6	57.8
OTAMMARI	1.3	81.2

There are also "miscellaneous" denominations, particularly among the BARIBA with 16.4%, the DJOUGOU with 7.6% and the OTAMMARI with 7.0%. These "miscellaneous" religion practices cover all denominations.

In all districts, the wives usually are either Muslims or Animists. Islam predominates in the districts of DJOUGOU URBAIN (98.6%), BASSILA (94.7%), KOUANDE (67%), and DJOUGOU RURAL (53.6%), whereas the Animist faith prevails in some districts, such as BOUKOUMBE (95.8%), TOUCOUNTOUNA (84.4%), etc. Animism is practiced some in all districts except DJOUGOU URBAIN. The Table below gives a breakdown of districts according to the percentage of wives who follow Islam or Animism.

DISTRICTS	ISLAM (%)	ANIMISM (%)
DJOUGOU URBAIN	98.6	-
BASSILA	94.7	1.3
KOUANDE	67.0	30.8
DJOUGOU RURAL	53.6	39.1
PEHUNCO	48.1	19.2
OUAKE	27.4	56.5
COBLY	25.4	66.1
COPARGO	20.9	59.7
NATITINGOU	20.6	54.0
TOUCOUNTOUNA	4.4	84.0
KEROU	3.0	76.1
MATERI	1.1	63.2
TANGUIETA	-	77.4
BOUKOUMBE	-	95.8

While the Catholic religion is practiced by a small percentage in all districts except KOUANDE, we note that Protestantism is almost non-existent and can be found only in districts of COBLY with 0.8%, COPARGO with 6.8%, DJOUGOU RURAL with 0.7%, and MATERI with 1.1% (see Table 33).

3. Main Activity of Wives (Table 35)

The distribution of wives of household heads according to main activity is given in Table 35.

The wives of household heads, like the majority of wives in rural areas, are above all occupied with household duties to the extent of 92.3%. Few among them engage in agriculture (4.2%) or are involved in commerce (2.7%) as a job. The table of nationalities shows that it is mostly among the OTAMMARI where the wives are engaged in

agriculture (10.4%) and among the DENDI where the wives pursue commerce (26.7%). The wives of the FON are employed only in household activities.

There is significant change among the districts where wives are homemakers. Wives are engaged in agriculture primarily in the districts of NATITINGOU with 22.2%, BOUKOUMBE with 14.0%, and MATERI with 11.0%.

The highest percentage of wives engaged in commerce as a main activity is to be found in the districts of DJOUGOU URBAIN and KOUANDE with 11.0% and 12.2% respectively.

B. Fertility - Birth Rate

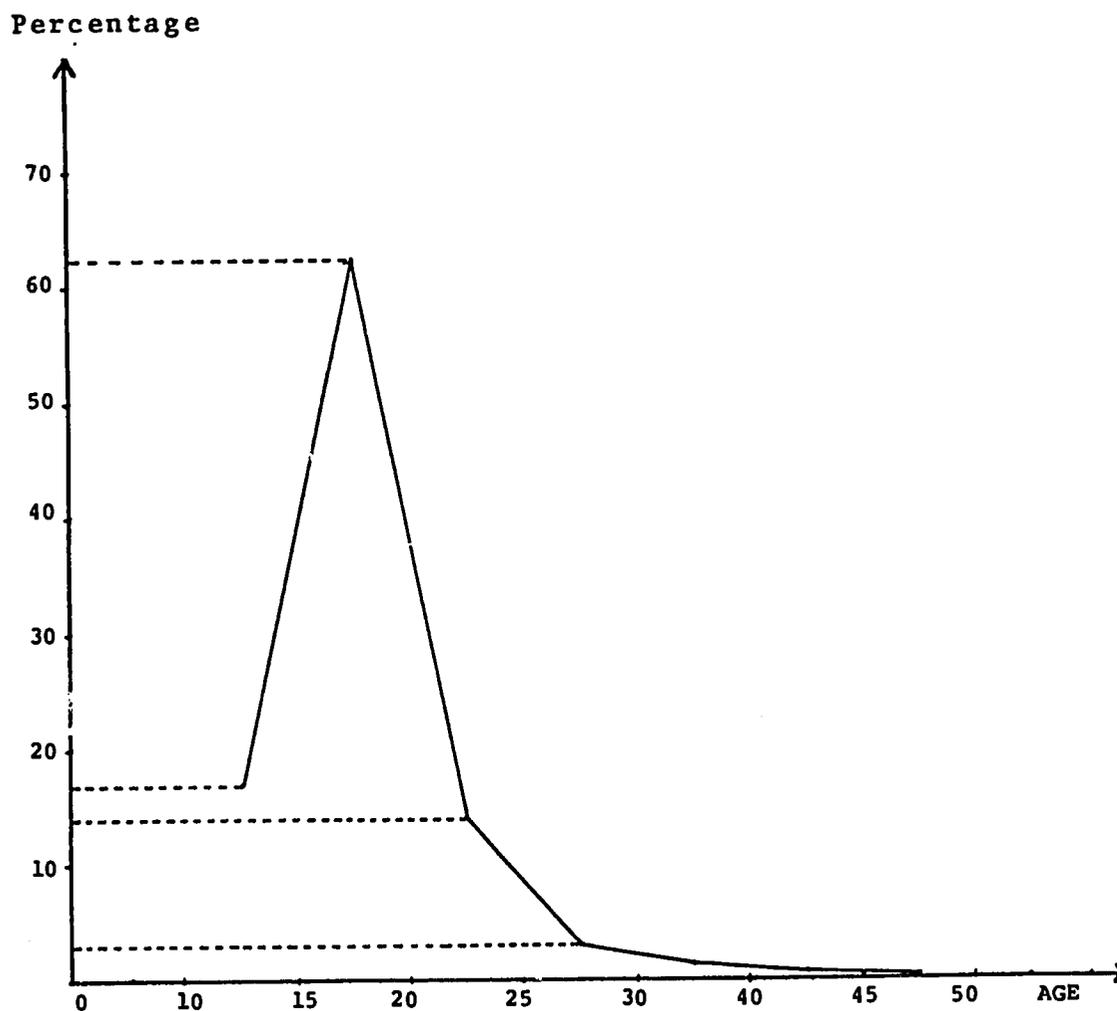
1. Age of Women upon Marriage

Table 30 gives the distribution of wives by marriage age and covers all women from the age of 12 on up.

Women get married very young in rural areas. By the age of 20, more than 3/4 of the women are already in a household and only a small proportion marry after the age of 30. This early marriage age among women is neatly indicated by the median age which is 17 years. Some are married from the age of 12 on.

The graph below tells us that the majority of women are married between the ages of 15 and 19 years and that, starting at the age of 20, the number decreases progressively and becomes zero around 50 years, the age when women return to final celibacy.

**GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION
OF WOMEN'S MARRIAGE AGE**



This early marriage age is found in all districts but it is most pronounced in the districts of MATERI, COBLY,

KOUANDE, TANGUIETA, etc., where the median age is around 15 and 16 years. At the age of 20, in TANGUIETA, all women (100%) are married, with 99% being married at MATERI while this phenomenon takes place only belatedly in the other districts, especially at NATITINGOU where we can find that only 91.1% of the women are married by the time they are 30. The Table below enables us to keep track of the changes in this early age in the districts. We find that the girls do not marry very early in the districts of NATITINGOU and BASSILA; this could be due to the women's school attendance or emancipation in the urban centers. The women's median age and mean age upon marriage in the districts is as follows: .-

MEDIAN AGE AND MEAN AGE OF WOMEN UPON MARRIAGE
BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICTS	MEDIAN AGE	MEAN AGE
MATERI	15.0 yrs	15.2 yrs
COBLY	15.5 yrs	15.9 yrs
KOUANDE	15.5 yrs	16.9 yrs
TANGUIETA	16.0 yrs	16.3 yrs
BOUKOUMBE	16.0 yrs	17.8 yrs
PEHUNCO	16.0 yrs	19.5 yrs
TOUCOUNTOUNA	17.0 yrs	17.0 yrs
DJOUGOU RURAL	17.0 yrs	17.7 yrs
COPARGO	17.0 yrs	17.8 yrs
KEROU	17.0 yrs	18.7 yrs
DJOUGOU URBAIN	18.0 yrs	18.2 yrs
OJAKE	18.0 yrs	18.4 yrs
BASSILA	18.5 yrs	20.5 yrs
NATITINGOU	20.0 yrs	21.0 yrs

2. Ranking in Marriage

The distribution of wives according to rank in the marriage is given in Table 31; it points up the large proportion of first wives with 60.2% and also second wives with 29.6%. We can see that, after monogamy, polygamy with two wives is very widespread in all districts with a percentage varying between 23.4% at KEROU and 38.2% in DJOUGOU URBAIN. We find that certain wives gladly accept polygamy limited to two wives and that, on the other hand, few women agree to marry polygamous men with four spouses (Table 31). Large scale polygamy with four or more wives is very limited. As we see in Table 31, this form of polygamy is only in the districts of COBLY and DJOUGOU RURAL.

3. Conjugal Mobility

Table 32 gives the distribution of married women according to the number of marriages contracted and enables us to analyze conjugal mobility.

It follows from this analysis that 78.3% of the women were married only once, 18.4% were married twice, 2.6% married three times, and 0.7% four times and more. These percentages express a conjugal stability which we find in every district, but in varying degrees. We can categorize the districts according to the number of marriages contracted.

DISTRICT	1st MARRIAGE (%)	2nd MARRIAGE (%)	3rd MARRIAGE (%)	4th MARRIAGE (%)	5th MARRIAGE (%)
TANGUIETA	91.2	8.8	-	-	-
DJOUGOU URBAIN	90.4	9.6	-	-	-
MATERI	86.9	12.3	0.8	-	-
BOUKOUMBE	85.7	11.7	0.6	1.3	0.6
KOUANDE	84.3	15.0	0.8	-	-
COBLY	82.9	8.6	5.7	1.4	1.4
TOUCOUNTOUNA	82.2	15.1	2.7	-	-
KEROU	81.0	17.4	0.8	-	0.8
BASSILA	79.7	18.8	1.4	-	-
NATITINGOU	75.7	20.3	4.1	-	-
PEHUNCO	71.0	25.8	3.2	-	-
OUAKE	67.8	25.3	6.0	-	-
DJOUGOU RURAL	65.25	31.9	2.25	0.7	-
COPARGO	58.9	28.4	9.5	3.2	-

4. Type of Marriage - Kinship Link with Husband

Table 34 enables us to study the nature of marriage of women. We can see that 47.3% of the women are married in the customary state, with dowry; 22.0% of the women are married in a free union; 13.8% of the women are married in a religious ceremony; 11.3% of the women went through customary marriage without dowry. Only 1.1% of the women were married by civil registry.

Since religious weddings most of the time takes place only after the customary rites, we could group customary marriage with dowry and religious marriage together; we could also link marriage in a free union to customary marriage without dowry, which gives us the table below.

DISTRICTS	CUSTOMARY WITH DOWRY AND RELIGIOUS (%)	CUSTOMARY WITHOUT DOWRY AND FREE UNION (%)
DJOUGOU URBAIN	92.3	5.1
BASSILA	87.5	8.3
KEROU	82.6	17.3
KOUANDE	69.4	26.4
PEHUNCO	68.7	29.7
DJOUGOU RURAL	63.6	33.7
OUAKE	61.9	34.5
COPARGO	56.8	40.0
COBLY	55.1	43.6
BOUKOUMBE	50.6	45.1
TANGUIETA	48.6	42.9
TOUCOUNTOUNA	44.6	48.6
NATITINGOU	40.4	52.4
MATERI	37.1	37.1

It follows from this table that the customary marriage with dowry and the religious marriage are very important in DJOUGOU URBAIN and BASSILA; this could be due to the influence of the Islamic religion which predominates in these two districts. Furthermore, we find a large percentage of "miscellaneous" (25.8%) at MATERI and the lowest rate of customary marriage with dowry (22.6%); this is explained by the traditional marriage system among the GOURMANTCHE which consists of an exchange of sisters, as was explained already in the presentation of this group (see Socio-Cultural Volume).

Table 36 gives the distribution of women according to kinship link with the husband. We find that there is a very small proportion of marriages between blood relations; 66.1% of the married women declare that they

had no kinship link with their husbands; 11.1% of the women are cousins of their husbands; 7.7% are nieces and 4.7% are women coming from inheritance. Only 18.8% of the marriages are contracted between blood relations.

We note the same facts on the district level, except in the districts of KOUANDE, where there is a large percentage of marriages between blood relations (34.5% are cousins and 14.9% are nieces), PEHUNCO where there is a significant proportion of marriages between uncles and nieces (10.9%), and TANGUIETA (where 21.9% of the women here are cousins of their husbands).

We find that marriages between relatives in most cases take place only with first wives (Table 36).

5. Overall Fertility

Table 37 gives the distribution of women according to number of children born during their conjugal life. The inconvenient aspect of these statistics is represented by the fact that they take into account all women aged 12 years and over, rather than women of 50 years and over only who are the most interesting in a fertility study because they are at the end of the procreation cycle.

The total number of live-born children comes to 2,913 in the sample considered and can be broken down as follows:

boys	2,645
girls	268

or 90.8% boys and 9.2% girls.

It follows from these statistics that the mean number of children per wife is 2.3.

These different statistics must be used with much caution for the following reasons:

- the considerable gap between male births and female births is highly suspect; even though it is not impossible that major consideration might have been in fact given to the birth of boys, one must keep in mind that the births of girls are obviously underestimated.

- The low level of the mean number of children (2.3), giving the impression of a Malthusian population, comes from the fact that in our calculations, we took all women 12 years and over instead of those aged 15-50 years and over. The mean number of children likewise has no great significance. It only has indicative value.

Looking at the districts, these data are even less significant so that we will present them here only by way of indication.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER WOMAN
BY DISTRICT

DISTRICTS	CHILDREN	DISTRICTS	CHILDREN
COPARGO	2.8	COBLY	2.3
KEROU	2.6	TANGUIETA	2.3
OUAKE	2.6	DJOUGOU URBAIN	2.2
MATERI	2.5	DJOUGOU RURAL	2.1
NATITINGOU	2.5	KOUANDE	2.1
BOUKOUMBE	2.4	TOUCOUNTOUNA	2.1
BASSILA	2.3	PEHUNCO	1.7

6. Birth Rate

Table 38 enables us to calculate the birth rate for the year 1980-1981 which is 67.6‰. It is very high and by far exceeds the rate (49.6‰) determined during the 1961 survey for the province. However, it is on the same order of magnitude as the one disclosed in the Mono (68.9‰) in 1961, during the same population survey. This rate is calculated by relating the births that took place during the last 12 months prior to the survey (April 1980 to April 1981) to the population figure counted in 1981. This is only an approximate rate as it is impossible to get the mean population figure for the period of time considered.

At the end of the survey, we disclosed the births that took place during the period covered by the survey (April 1982 to April 1982). These statistics seemed rather likely because this investigation relied less on memory and, the interviewer had become accustomed to the household during weekly visits over a period of 12 months. The also kept up with the population events that took place in the household. These statistics enable us to come up with a birthrate of 40.6‰. This rate seemed likely in the light of the above. We find that this second birth rate is on the same order of magnitude as those already revealed in the course of other surveys in BENIN and in other African countries.

VI. DEATH RATE

A. Death Rate by Age

Statistics on the death rate are obtained on the basis of "death" events that happened over the last 12 months.

Tables 39, 40 and 43 give the breakdown of deaths by age, sex, and also age and sex, while the causes of death are presented in Table 42.

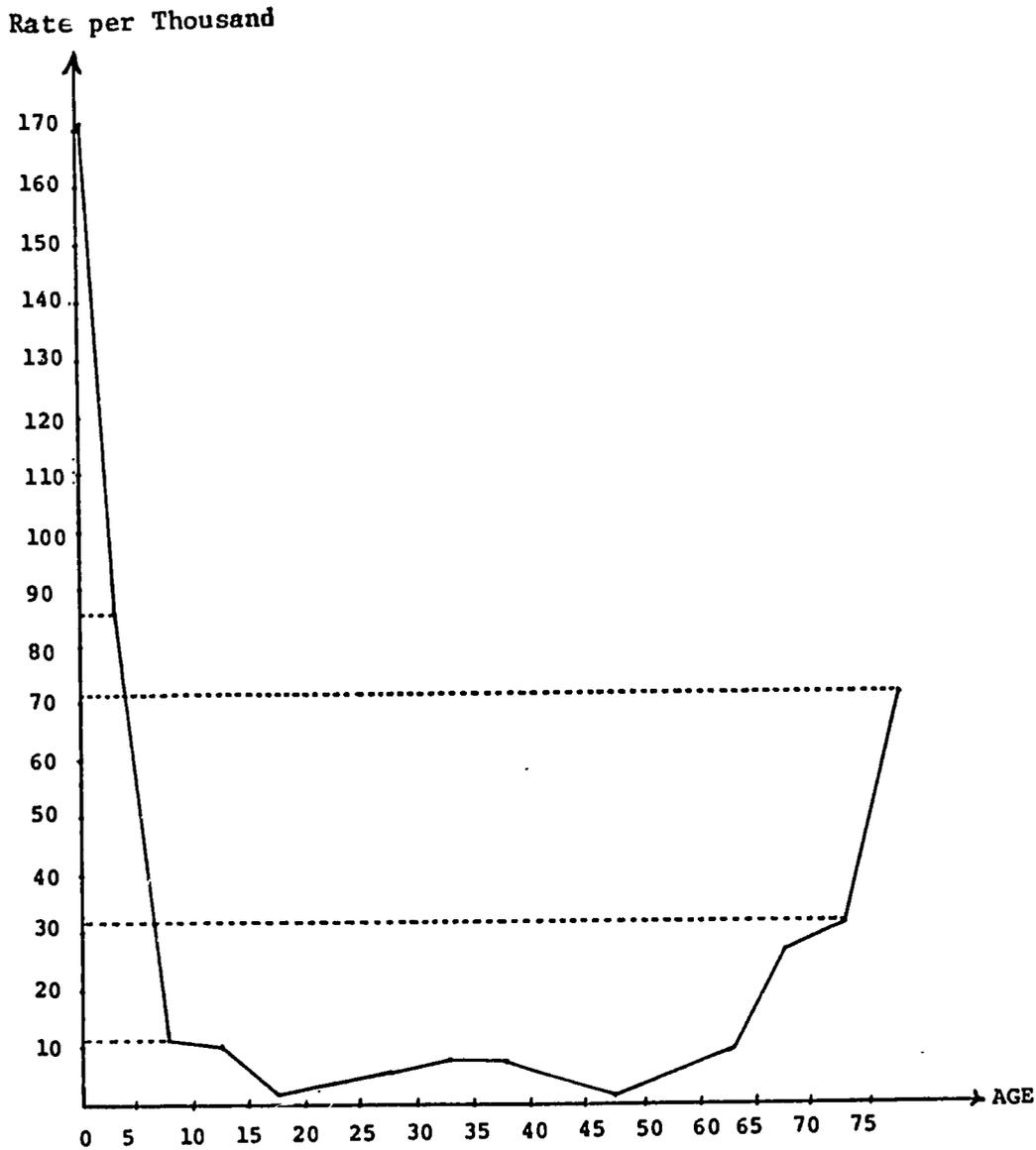
The overall death rate is 24.9 ‰. It is less than the rate shown, (33‰) in ATACORA during the 1961 population survey.

The death rate by age varies according to the ages as indicated in the Table and graph below.

MORTALITY RATE BY AGE

AGE	MORTALITY RATE (‰)	AGE	MORTALITY RATE (‰)
less than 1 yr	171.1	30-40 yrs	7.9
1- 4 yrs	86.4	35-39 yrs	7.5
5- 9 yrs	11.0	40-54 yrs	1.6
10-14 yrs	10.1	55-59 yrs	8.8
15-19 yrs	1.7	60-64 yrs	27.6
20-24 yrs	3.7	65-69 yrs	31.3
25-29 yrs	5.3	70 and over	70.1
<hr/>			
TOTAL.....			24.9

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF MORTALITY RATE
BY AGE



The infant mortality rate (death at less than 1 year compared to the total number of children under the age of 1) is 171.1‰. It is very high compared to the rate in 1961

(infant rate in ATACORA in 1961: 111‰) but it is on the same order of magnitude as the rate discovered in 1961 in Upper Volta, a neighboring country (174‰). We must note that, according to the authors of the 1961 population survey, the infant mortality rate in the rural North in 1961 was "manifestly underevaluated".

B. Death rate by age and by sex

Considering the breakdown by sex (Table 40), we find male mortality rate that is higher than the female mortality rate. The male mortality rate excess is rather unimportant (men's mortality rate 25.3‰, women's mortality rate 24.6‰).

As regards the age and sex breakdown (see Table 43) we find female mortality excess at almost all ages except in the age group between 1 and 4 and between 40 and 64.

In the age groups of less than 1 year, for every ten deaths of girls there are close to nine deaths of boys, whereas in the age group between 1 and 4, for about 13 deaths of boys, there are only 10 deaths of girls. We see that the juvenile mortality rate is very high among boys. The male mortality excess is thus important in this age group, just as the female mortality excess is in the age groups between 5 and 40 years and 60 years and over. For every nine deaths of men between the ages of 5 and 39 years, there are about 17 deaths of women. This female mortality excess is even higher in the age group of 70 and over where, for every male death, there are close to three female deaths; this explains the large number of old men observed in the age structure (age pyramid).

Moreover, the female mortality excess between 20 and 39 years (and even between 15 and 39 years considering the early marriage age), is in line with the additional risk of death due to pregnancy.

Finally, the Table below gives the breakdown of mortality rates according to sex and age and enables us to keep track of these different variations. The graph below indicates the mortality excess in both sexes.

MORTALITY RATE BY AGE AND BY SEX

AGE	SEX		TOTAL (‰)
	MEN	WOMEN	
less than 1 yr	163.0	178.9	171.1
1 - 4 yrs	98.4	74.5	86.4
5 - 9 yrs	9.6	12.4	11.0
10 - 19 yrs	4.4	8.4	6.3
20 - 39 yrs	2.8	8.1	5.9
40 - 64 yrs	11.1	2.2	6.7
65 - 69 yrs	26.3	38.5	31.3
70 and over	43.0	109.0	70.1
TOTAL	25.3	24.6	24.9

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF MORTALITY RATE BY AGE AND BY SEX

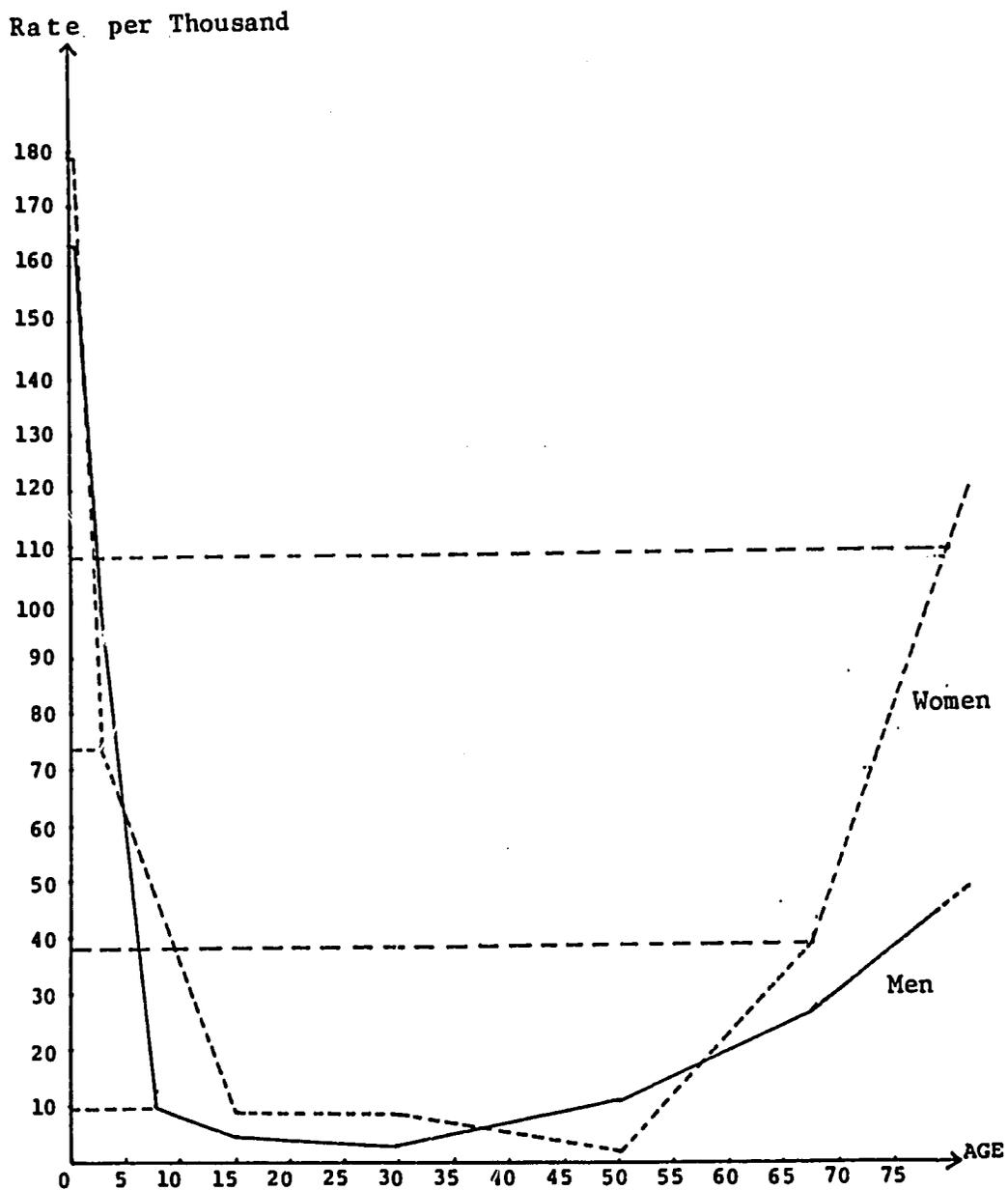


Table 41 gives the breakdown of deaths by kinship. It follows from this Table that 67.2% of the deceased are children (sons) of the household head, followed by the deaths of in-laws with 12.6% and very few deaths of spouses with 3.1%.

Table 42 pertains to the cause of these deaths. Since we do not have any medical terminology here, it is impossible for us to go into any detail on the causes. These data thus do not have great significance. For example, we find that 57.4% of the deaths are caused by diseases which we cannot explain and 30.1% are due to unknown causes. These data thus only have indicative value.

VII. GROWTH RATE

A population's natural growth rate results from the difference between the birth rate and the mortality rate. To determine the growth rate, we will distinguish two periods: the period prior to the survey and the period of the survey.

Period of last 12 months prior to survey (April 1980 to April 1981)

The calculated birth rate is.....67.6°/oo

The mortality rate is.....24.9°/oo

The natural birth rate resulting
from that is thus.....42.7°/oo
or..... 4.3%

The growth rate is higher than the one found in 1961 (1.8%) for the province of ATACORA but it is on the same order of magnitude as the one (4.0%) for the urban environment found in 1961.

Period of 12 months of survey (April 1981 to April 1982)

The birth rate is.....40.56°/°°
The mortality rate is.....16.5 °/°°

These latter two birth and death rates are less than those found for the preceding period which come primarily from retrospective survey that calls upon memory, and can involve error sources; the determination of the age of children under the age of 1 is likewise another source of error. As for mortality, the error sources are again numerous, as are the sources of forgetfulness. But, for the period of the survey, the events were recorded periodically.

The natural growth rate for the 12 months of the survey is 2.4%. This rate approximates the one found in 1961.