

Population Growth in Sokoto

Sokoto's population has experienced a six-fold increase since 1960, from about 800,000 people to about 5.1 million in 2015. In 2017, the population of Sokoto is estimated to be close to 5.4 million. Such rapid population growth can have negative outcomes on the availability and accessibility of education, healthcare, and employment in the state. Slowing population growth through greater investments in family planning can help reduce some of these potentially negative consequences.

2017 Sokoto Population Profile

- **Population growth trend.** Sokoto's population has grown at a rapid pace over the past several decades and will continue to do so. At the current growth rate of about three percent per year, Sokoto's population will double in about 23 years, reaching 9.8 million. By 2050, the population will reach 16 million people, almost three times larger than the current size.
- **Large youth population.** The youth population is a crucial factor to consider in Sokoto. Over half of the population is under the age of 15 and as the population continues to grow, the proportion under age 15 will continue to increase. A youthful age structure has enormous implications for future socioeconomic development, as most youth are not yet part of the workforce, placing a heavy burden on the working age population. It also constrains the availability and accessibility of basic health and education services. In addition, as youth reach working age, the number of available jobs may not match the number in need.

This snapshot presents findings from the RAPID (Resources for the Awareness of Population Impacts on Development) model application for Sokoto. RAPID projects the economic consequences of rapid population growth on various health and non-health sectors. It complements a larger suite of materials on RAPID, which include national- and state-level applications, and offers quick, easy-to-use facts and figures that demonstrate the impact of population growth on development and the need to invest in family planning in Sokoto as a viable, long-term solution.

Estimated population **5.4 Million**



Population will **double** in 23 years

Average number of **7** births per woman



Married women using a **modern contraceptive method** **0.7%**

- **Low contraceptive prevalence rate, high unmet need.** Less than one percent of married women in Sokoto use a modern method of contraception, much lower than the national rate of 10 percent. However, unmet need for family planning in the state is high compared to usage—7.5 percent of married women are in need of contraception to limit or space births.

Population Growth Scenarios

Considering the impact of future population growth on socioeconomic development in Sokoto, the RAPID model predicts outcomes in education, employment, and healthcare based on two scenarios: high population growth versus reduced population growth. The following are potential impacts from a reduced population growth scenario, in which the total fertility rate is reduced to three births per woman by 2050.



What We Must Do

- It is essential that Sokoto's family planning programme receive adequate political support. High-level government officials in Sokoto should demonstrate their support for efforts to reduce population growth.
- Decision-makers in Sokoto should encourage both government and nongovernmental organizations to collaborate on delivering family planning programmes.
- Increasing access to family planning information, services, and methods is essential. Providing high-quality family planning services, commodities to support those services, and communication and messaging around family planning all require financial resources. It is critical that sufficient funds are provided to support these efforts.

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