

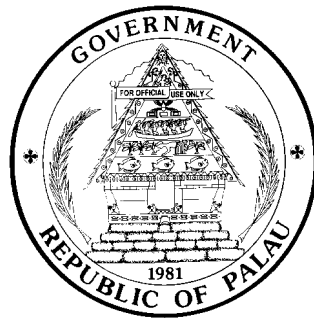
**REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

**2003**

**POPULATION**

**AND**

**ENVIRONMENT SURVEY**



**APRIL 2003**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The 2003 Population and Environment Survey was made possible through the financial support of RARE Center for Tropical Conservation, a non-profit organization based in Arlington, Virginia. RARE develops and implements innovative programs that change attitudes towards conservation and provide tangible benefits to local stakeholders worldwide. The project is a great example of real partnership between the public and private sectors that produce the outcomes desired to the benefit of the communities served. We thank Mr. Alleyne Regis, Director, Population and Environment Program, for his support and patience, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with RARE in the future.

Lacking the administrative support to conduct the survey, RARE offered financial support to the Government to undertake the survey on its behalf, presented with the opportunity to fill key national accounts data gaps, the Office of Planning and Statistics, with the assistance of the U.S Bureau of Census, with funding provided by the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, agreed to undertake the survey. The survey cost about \$25,000. The survey took approximately 10 weeks beginning in April with the finalization of the questionnaire, recruitment and training of the enumerators to processing and report writing in the latter half of May. It actually took longer than planned but we were able to complete the survey and provide the baseline data required and other information beneficial to national accounts work.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the U.S Bureau of the Census and Dr. Michael J. Levin. As always, Dr. Levin's input was instrumental to the success of this project and we are grateful for his continued assistance and support. We appreciate the hard work of the enumerators and everyone involved and we commend the staff of the Office of Planning and Statistics for a job well done. A special appreciation is extended to Ms. Francisca Sakuma for coming back and assisting us with the survey work.

### **OFFICE OF PLANNING AND STATISTICS**

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## **Introduction**

The information contained in this publication of Population and Environment survey will provide the needed guidelines to the government, and many other groups of people to evaluate schemes, upgrade programs, plan and implement activities concerned with health and environment programs.

As noted, the 2003 Population and Environment Survey was made possible through the financial support of RARE Center for Tropical Conservation. The partnership with RARE came about because RARE had teamed up with Population Communications International (PCI) to develop popular radio serial dramas that help change attitudes about population and the environment in the Caribbean. Recognizing the success of the radio dramas, reproductive health representatives from Micronesia indicated interest in participating in a project to develop a similar program for all the participating countries in the region. Palau bid and was selected by RARE to be the host site for the project.

In September 2001, a workshop was conducted designed to gauge attitudes on key population and environmental issues in an effort to ensure that the serial drama developed best reflect real life and issues in Micronesia. During this workshop, it was also agreed that a questionnaire survey must be conducted to test the knowledge and attitudes regarding issues pertaining to population and the environment. The results of the survey would serve as the baseline data for the development of the storyline and to measure the impact of the drama.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Staff in the Office of Planning and Statistics worked with Dr. Michael Levin of the U.S. Census Bureau's International Programs Center to reconfigure the RARE questionnaire used elsewhere for Palau's purposes. Every effort was made to make the questions themselves and the flow of the questions compatible with sensibilities of Pacific Islands populations. Several versions of the questionnaire were tested before the form was finalized.

Because RARE wanted approximately 1,000 adults in the survey, OPS decided to draw a random, 10 percent sample of households based on the 2000 Census. Cisca Sakuma, who had previously retired, returned to the office to assist in drawing the sample. Ultimately, the sample involved all 345 households selected according to the household listing from the 2000 Census of Housing and Population provided by the Office of Planning and Statistics. These households were visited door-to-door and face-to-face by enumerators who conducted face to face interviews with the adults in the households. However, on the listing sheets, everyone in the house was included to assist the government in assessing changes in the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of Palau's population since the 2000 Census.

This survey consisted of seven parts: Population; Communication; Environment; Fertility and Knowledge; Attitudes; Behavior; Sexually Transmitted Disease.

## 1. Population

The population consisted of all people living in households, but most of the tables provided data only for persons 15 years and over, since the survey was looking at adult attitudes about the environment and health practices.

### Age and Sex (Table 1.1 and 1.2)

Age and sex composition of population provides basic information necessary for planning, providing key approach on social and economic characteristics. The age composition helps identify population for schooling, employment, voting and retirement. The sex distribution is important for analyzing social characteristics and trends in community structure and to determine the population's economic potential.

We will not be looking separately at the States in Palau, but only at the National level. But, as can be seen in the appendix tables, it is evident that across the 16 states of the republic, the age composition of the population varied due to differences in migration patterns and to the small number of the population in some rural states. The capital state of Koror, where about 2/3rds of the population resides, greatly influences the age structure of the republic. Some of the rural states had relatively older population, with median ages slightly above 40 years. This can be partly explained by the larger proportions of the elderly persons.

Table 1.1. Age and Sex, Palau: 2003

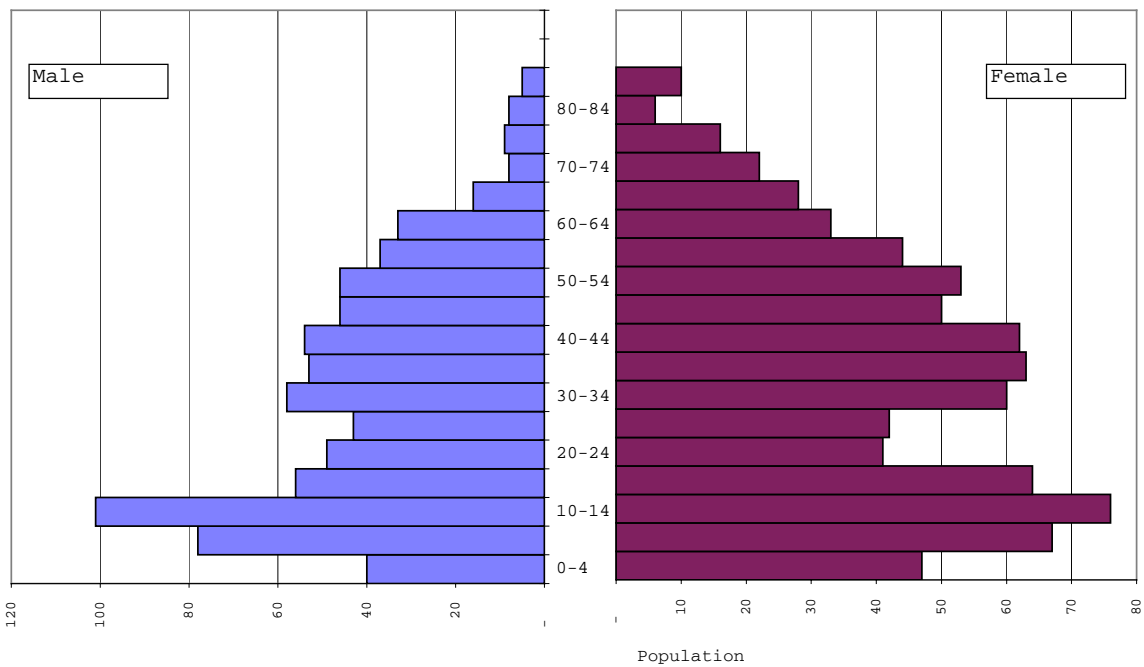
Age Group	Number			Percent			Males/100
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	females
Total	1,524	740	784	100.0	100.0	100.0	94.4
Under 15 years	409	219	190	26.8	29.6	24.2	115.3
15 to 29 years	295	148	147	19.4	20.0	18.8	100.7
30 to 44 years	350	165	185	23.0	22.3	23.6	89.2
45 to 59 years	276	129	147	18.1	17.4	18.8	87.8
60 to 74 years	140	57	83	9.2	7.7	10.6	68.7
75 years and over	54	22	32	3.5	3.0	4.1	68.8
Median	32.5	30.3	34.6	...	...	...	...

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

An interesting aspect in the population distribution of Palau was the sex composition in 2003. Of the total number of persons 15 years and over, there were 740 males and 784 females. In other words, there were about 94 males to 100 females in the country. Males had consistently outnumbered females over the past censuses and in 2003, the ratio inverted – however, the particular sample may have influenced these results. Sex ratios differed among the 16 states in Palau, shown in table 2, total numbers of persons 15 years and over, females outnumbered males in 2003.

The population pyramid shown in the accompanying figure graphically shows the distribution of the population by age and sex. Small numbers skew the look of a pyramid, as is the case here. Nonetheless, the population under 15 seems to be showing something of a baby boom let about 10 to 15 years before the survey, with a large fertility decrease after that. For the other ages, the effects of migration are seen – especially because the sample selection skewed to Palau-born. As the 2000 Census showed, many Palauans in the 15 to 44 age groups had left to find work outside the republic, to be replaced by foreign workers, who work more cheaply, and who live in group quarters, not picked up by this survey. Also, the survey itself was meant to target Palauans, so enumerators may simply not have enumerated at non-Palauan houses.

Palau: 2003  
1. Population by Age and Sex



**Religion (Table 1.3)**

Religion is very important in Palau and provides a foundation for understanding ourselves and our relationship to the world. The figures shows that around 47 percent of the total 15 years and over were Catholics followed by Protestant at 37 percent, with the remainder being from other religious groups. About 53 percent of the total population was female, so the sex ratio for the religious groups was similar.

Table 1.2 Religion by Sex, Palau: 2003

Age Group	Number			Percent			Percent females
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
All persons	1,115	521	594	100.0	100.0	100.0	53.3
Modekngei	144	68	76	12.9	13.1	12.8	52.8
Catholic	521	239	282	46.7	45.9	47.5	54.1
Protestant	408	188	220	36.6	36.1	37.0	53.9
Seventh Day Adventist	294	134	160	26.4	25.7	26.9	54.4
Mormon	91	42	49	8.2	8.1	8.2	53.8
Jehovah witness	14	7	7	1.3	1.3	1.2	50.0
Other Protestant	9	5	4	0.8	1.0	0.7	44.4
Other religion	12	7	5	1.1	1.3	0.8	41.7
None or refused	30	19	11	2.7	3.6	1.9	36.7

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

About 1 in every 6 people in the survey said they never went to church (Table 1.3). More than in every 3 went to church once a week, another 1 in 8 went once a month, and the remaining 1 in 3 went “once in a while”. Females were much more likely to go to church weekly than males, and much less likely to never go. About 3 out of every 5 people in the survey going to church weekly were females, while only 2 in every 5 of those never going were female – 3 out 5 of the “never goers” were male.

Table 1.3. Frequency of Religious Service Attendance by Sex, Palau: 2003

Age Group	Number			Percent			Percent females
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
Total	1,115	521	594	100.0	100.0	100.0	53.3
Once a week	420	165	255	37.7	31.7	42.9	60.7
Once a month	143	64	79	12.8	12.3	13.3	55.2
Once in a while	353	174	179	31.7	33.4	30.1	50.7
Never	199	118	81	17.8	22.6	13.6	40.7

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

### **Place of Birth and Citizenship (Table 1.4 & 1.5)**

Data on the birthplace from the survey show different results than the census, showing a skewing to Palau born. That is, while the 2000 Census had about 70 percent Palau born, the survey had more than 9 in 10 being born in Palau, so people born in other places were less likely to be included in the survey than they were in the census. Part of the reason for this was that the survey did households only so people living in group quarters – the majority being foreign born – were less likely to appear in the survey.



**Table 1.4. Birthplace by Sex, Palau: 2003**

Age Group	Number			Percent			Percent females
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
All persons	1,115	521	594	100.0	100.0	100.0	53.3
Palau	1,018	483	535	91.3	92.7	90.1	52.6
Elsewhere	97	38	59	8.7	7.3	9.9	60.8

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

The percentages for males and females were similar. However, while the Palau born were slightly less female (less than 53 percent of all Palau born) than the total population, more than 60 percent of those born elsewhere were female.

### **Voting Place (Table 1.6)**

Data on the place the people in the sample were registered to vote appear in the attached tables. This survey provides information of number of people 18 years and over who are registered voters. Table 1.6 shows that 86 percent of the surveyed persons are at a legal age to vote, and are registered voters of Palau, and 34 percent are registered voters of Koror, the capital state of Palau.

### **School Enrollment, Educational Attainment (Table 1.7)**

The 2003 survey obtained data on school enrollment for persons 15 years and over. Persons were classified as enrolled in school if they reported attending public or private school or college at any time during the enumeration. Numbers in the attached tables show that there were 66 persons 15 years and above enrolled in school. Six were reported as elementary students and 1 out of that 6 was enrolled in a private elementary, while 48 were total high school, and 39 were enrolled in public high school. College students include 12, and 2 were enrolled in private college.

Data on educational attainment were tabulated for persons 25 years and over for 2003. Persons were classified according to the highest grade of school completed or the highest degree received. About 7 percent of the total persons 25 years and above never attended school and 39 percent completed high school only. About 5 percent had obtained bachelors degree while 2 percent received graduate or professional degrees.

**Table 1.7 Percent High School and College Graduates by Sex, Palau: 2003**

Age Group	Number			Percent			Percent females
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
People 25+ yrs	905	416	489	81.2	79.8	82.3	54.0
High School	579	278	301	64.0	66.8	61.6	52.0
College	62	31	32	6.9	7.4	6.5	50.9

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

About 67 percent of the males and 62 percent of the females in the sample had graduated from high school, so about 64 percent of the total population 25 years and over and in the sample. Similarly, while 6.9 percent of the sample – 62 people total – were college graduates, this was true for 7.4 percent of the males and 6.5 percent of the females. About 54 percent of the population was female – about 52 percent of the high school graduates were female, and 51 percent of the college graduates.

## **2. Communication (Table 2.1)**

Table 2.1 Communications, Palau: 2003

Communication	Numbers			Percents			Percent female
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
C1. Do you watch TV at home?	986	458	528	88.4	87.9	88.9	53.5
C2. Do you buy local newspaper?	374	177	197	33.5	34.0	33.2	52.7
C3. Do you listen to radio?	844	392	452	75.7	75.2	76.1	53.6
C3a. Listen most to WWW weekdays	449	223	226	53.2	56.9	50.0	50.3
C3b. Listen most to WWW-FM weekends	376	187	189	44.5	47.7	41.8	50.3
C3c. Favorite listing 6-9 PM - weekday	343	153	190	40.6	39.0	42.0	55.4
C3c. Favorite listing 6-9 PM - weekend	238	112	126	28.2	28.6	27.9	52.9
C4a. News	799	383	416	71.7	73.5	70.0	52.1
C4b. Sports	584	322	262	52.4	61.8	44.1	44.9
C4c. Music	721	330	391	64.7	63.3	65.8	54.2
C4d. Education	530	238	292	47.5	45.7	49.2	55.1
C4e. Phone-ins	236	114	122	21.2	21.9	20.5	51.7
C4f. Religious	474	211	263	42.5	40.5	44.3	55.5

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

Second set of tables obtained information on use of and attitudes about communication by sex and 15 year age group. As noted previously, 47 percent of the total 15 years and above population are males and the remaining 53 percent are females.

About 88 percent of adults watched at least some television at home during the reference period – with about equal percentages of males as females. More people in Palau received information from the television than newspapers, since only about 1 in 3 bought a local newspaper (although different numbers of people could be watching a single television set or reading a particular newspaper.) About 3 in every 4 of Palau’s adult use the third medium – radio – about equal percentages of males as females for each medium.

Of the radio listeners, about 56 percent prefer listening to WWFM followed by 21 percent for KRFM, 15 percent for EPFM, 7 percent for WSZB, and 1 percent for High Adventure FM (see the tables attached). As seen in the table below, 57 percent of the male listeners and 50 percent of the females listened to WWW week days, and 48 percent of the males and 42 percent listen to that station on weekends, by the far the most popular radio station in Palau.

When asked about their favorite time to listen to the radio, Palau's adults greatly preferred the period 6 to 9 PM, both during the week, and on the weekends. About 39 percent of the males and 42 percent of the females preferred that time period during the week, and 29 percent of the males and 28 percent of the females preferred it on weekends.

Almost 72 percent of the adults in Palau liked to listen to news on the radio – the highest of all the categories – compared to 65 percent for music, and 52 percent for sports. However, while 62 percent of the males liked to get sports information from the radio, only 44 percent of the females did. Slightly less than half of the adults obtained education information from the radio, and 43 percent listed to religious broadcasting. Only about 1 in 5 listed to phone-in shows. The percentages for each sex – except for sports – were about the same for females as males – males preferred news more than females, while females were partial to religious broadcasting, music, and education.

### **3. Environment (Table 3.1)**

Third topic concerned attitudes about the environment. The tables in the appendix contain information on Palau's population's attitudes about the environment; as expected, the majority of the population believes that saving Palau's wildlife is important and should be protected by law.

The following table shows who agreed with each of the statements presented. For example, of the 521 males in the survey, 512 (98.3 percent) and 585 of the 594 females (98.5 percent) agreed with the statement that it is "important to save wildlife". Similarly, 97 percent of both sexes felt that wildlife should be protected by law. About 96 percent felt that "illegal species destroy the environment", and 95 percent that "littering is a problem." All of these agreements are not surprising, given public awareness in Palau.

The next group of agreements – in the 80 to 89 percent range – included a few more "controversial" issues, but, again, most adults in Palau are very aware of the environmental impact of various activities. For example, 89 percent thought that "tourism development is good" and that bad fishing practices sometimes occurred in Palau, and 88 percent that "misuse of pesticides harms the environment" and that Palau's wildlife is "unique". About 85 percent felt that "development negatively affects Palau", 84 percent that turtles are endangered, 83 percent know that Palau has laws to protect the environment, and 82 percent that population growth affects the environment.

About 3 in every 4 of Palau's adults at the time of the survey felt that "Palau has sufficient forest lands" and knew that Palau has agencies "responsible for managing wildlife." And, about half of the adults knew about "national parks in Palau." However, less than half of the respondents agreed with the other statements: only 45 percent felt that "enough is done to save wildlife", 41 percent that the "government is doing enough to protect the environment", and 33 percent that "there is enough recycling in Palau". In addition to concern about recycling, environmental conscious was shown in the 21 percent who littered during the previous 6 months (meaning that 79 percent did not), and only 14 percent had used pesticides. Generally, Palau's population is very environmentally concerned, as expected given that the economy depends so much on the environment.

Table 3.1 Environment, Palau: 2003

Environment	Numbers			Percents		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT:						
E1a. Important to save wildlife	1,097	512	585	98.4	98.3	98.5
E1b. Wildlife should be protected by law	1,081	505	576	97.0	96.9	97.0
E1c. Palau has sufficient forest lands	845	394	451	75.8	75.6	75.9
E1d. Population growth affects the environment	916	434	482	82.2	83.3	81.1
E1e. Littering is a problem	1,056	491	565	94.7	94.2	95.1
E1f. Government is doing enough to protect environm	454	218	236	40.7	41.8	39.7
E1g. Misuse of pesticides harm the environment	983	451	532	88.2	86.6	89.6
E1h. Illegal species destroy the environment	1,066	494	572	95.6	94.8	96.3
E1i. Tourism development is good	993	461	532	89.1	88.5	89.6
E1j. There is enough recycling in Palau	372	185	187	33.4	35.5	31.5
E1k. Development negatively affect Palau	948	441	507	85.0	84.6	85.4
E2. Past 6 mos, have littered	234	112	122	21.0	21.5	20.5
E3. Past 6 mos, ever use pesticides	157	68	89	14.1	13.1	15.0
E4. Do you know any law that protects wildlife	926	438	488	83.0	84.1	82.2
E5. Enough done to save wildlife	503	251	252	45.1	48.2	42.4
E6. Any unique of Palau's wildlife	986	459	527	88.4	88.1	88.7
E7. Agency responsible for managing wildlife	847	409	438	76.0	78.5	73.7
E8. Any national parks in Palau	564	281	283	50.6	53.9	47.6
E9. Any bad fishing practices in Palau	995	469	526	89.2	90.0	88.6
E10. Turtles are endangered	934	445	489	83.8	85.4	82.3

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

#### **4. Fertility and Knowledge (Table 4.1 & 4.2)**

Fertility plays a vital role in giving shape to the age-sex structure and in producing the change in population size. The age distribution of a population is more sensitive to changes in fertility than to changes in mortality. Data on fertility or children ever born was asked of women 15 years and above regardless of marital status. Stillbirths, stepchildren, and adopted children were excluded from the number of children ever born. It is evident that number of children ever born per woman 15 years and older increased with age (see the text table). Of course, younger women have not yet completed their fertility. However, for the older women who have stopped having children, it is clear that Palau is experiencing a fertility decline. Women over 54 years old had almost 5 children, compared to only 3.3 for those 50 to 54 and 2.7 for those 45 to 49 years old. Almost all children born in to women in Palau survive, probably because of the excellent health care available at the hospital. Also, it is clear that use of contraceptives and family planning contributes to low fertility rate.

Table 4.1 Fertility, Palau: 2003

Fertility	Females									
	Total	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+
F1.Children ever born	594	64	41	42	60	63	62	50	53	159
Ave CEB	2.63	0.08	0.51	0.81	1.68	2.38	2.90	2.68	3.30	4.79
Ave CS	2.54	0.08	0.51	0.79	1.65	2.30	2.87	2.64	3.19	4.58
F4a.Ever pregnant,want another child	18.5	9.4	22.0	33.3	38.3	28.6	11.3	22.0	11.3	10.1
F4b.Never pregnant, want have child	24.7	28.1	29.3	33.3	35.0	30.2	16.1	26.0	18.9	18.9

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

For the future, more than 18 percent of the women who had ever been pregnant, wanted to have another child, compared to the 25 percent of the women who had never been pregnant. The difference is not surprising. Neither is the age distribution, with the youngest women not yet thinking about being pregnant, the women in the middle age groups – the most fertile age groups – considering it the most, and the older women not thinking about becoming pregnant again.

### **5. Attitudes (Table 5.1,5.2 & 5.3)**

The next section of the survey had to do with cultural attitudes. Numbers shown in these tables show what people are thinking about the importance of raising children, and the island culture in general. Not all items on the questionnaire will be discussed here, but the appendix contains the complete set of tables.

The following table shows the factors Palauan adults think are important in determining the total number of children their family should have. The biggest factor in determining the number of children was “love of children” at 96.5 percent, followed by “time and effort to raise a child”, and “cost of raising children”. These factors were followed by “religious teaching” (89 percent), “cost of educating children” (89 percent), “government health programs” (83 percent), and total number of children (80 percent). Farther down the list, so less important considerations, included “information on the radio” (66 percent), “children contributing to security” (62 percent), “children contributing to farm work” (57 percent), “availability of birth control” (49 percent), and “cost of birth control” (44 percent).

Table 5.1 Attitude, Palau: 2003

Factors for Total Children	Number			Percents		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<b>VERY IMPORTANT FOR TOTAL CHILDREN:</b>						
A4a. Cost for raising children	1,051	483	568	94.3	92.7	95.6
A4b. Time and effort to raise child	1,065	488	577	95.5	93.7	97.1
A4c. Number of children	890	404	486	79.8	77.5	81.8
A4d. Children contribute to security	690	318	372	61.9	61.0	62.6
A4e. Children contribute to farm work	632	283	349	56.7	54.3	58.8
A4f. Love of children	1,076	491	585	96.5	94.2	98.5
A4g. Religious teaching	997	453	544	89.4	86.9	91.6
A4h. Government health programs	928	416	512	83.2	79.8	86.2
A4i. Information on radio	737	330	407	66.1	63.3	68.5
A4j. Cost of birth control	496	210	286	44.5	40.3	48.1
A4k. Availability of birth control	550	234	316	49.3	44.9	53.2
A4l. Cost of educating children	991	448	543	88.9	86.0	91.4

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

Text table 5.2 below shows agreement with various statements about family relations. About 68 percent of the respondents in the survey felt that men and women have the same rights, which, of course, means that 32 percent – about 1 in 3 of adult Palauans – do not think that the sexes have equal rights. Females, at 73 percent, were more likely to agree with this statement than males (at 62 percent).

Only about 11 percent, though, felt that it was acceptable for “men to have more sex partners”, and only 5 percent thought it was acceptable for females to have more sex partners. About 1 in 4 of the respondents – about the same for males and females – thought it was acceptable for females to have multiple sex partners before marriage.

Within marriage, only 5 percent thought that it was acceptable for a man to hit his wife, and 6 percent thought it was acceptable for a woman to hit her husband. And, 16 percent thought it was all right for parents to hit their children.

Table 5.2 Spouses' Rights, Palau: 2003

Spouse's Rights	Number			Percents		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<b>AGREEING WITH THE FOLLOWING:</b>						
A5a. Man and women have same rights	760	324	436	68.2	62.2	73.4
A5b. Acceptable for men to have more sex partners	120	78	42	10.8	15.0	7.1
A5c. Acceptable for women to have more sex partners	55	32	23	4.9	6.1	3.9
A5d. Acceptable for men to hit wife	57	28	29	5.1	5.4	4.9
A5e. Acceptable for women to hit husband	66	29	37	5.9	5.6	6.2
A5f. For women, more sex partners pre-marriage	280	133	147	25.1	25.5	24.7
A5fg. Okay for parents hit children	180	79	101	16.1	15.2	17.0

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

About 89 percent of the population 15 years and older believed that our island culture changed because of changing lifestyle and foreign influences, but only about half felt that the “island culture had changed for the better”. That is, about half of the adults felt that foreign influences have not made the island culture better.

The items in this series of questions do not sort themselves easily into groups. About 66 percent felt that “culture and religious duties must be fulfilled, and 58 percent that suicide is a problem in Palau, with 59 percent of the females, but 56 of the males in that category.

For alcohol and tobacco use, only 9 percent of the adults felt it was okay for teenagers to use tobacco. About 12 percent felt that it was all right to chew tobacco (this was without reference to teenagers, so was meant for adults). About 10 percent felt it was okay for teenagers to try alcohol. In fact, 85 percent felt that alcoholism is a problem in Palau – 83 percent of the males and 87 percent of the females.

For attitudes about families, about 3 in 4 of the adults felt that “family planning helps financially”, while 88 percent felt that the “father must provide child support”. Fully 96 percent felt that “breastfeeding is

good”, 91 percent knew that “sexually transmitted diseases affect unborn children. And, for family planning itself, 63 percent felt that “women are responsible for family planning”, and 86 percent felt that families should obtain medical help before using contraceptives.

Table 5.3 Attitudes, Palau: 2003

Attitudes	Numbers			Percents		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<b>STRONGLY AGREE WITH:</b>						
A8a.Island culture change due to foreign influences	996	459	537	89.3	88.1	90.4
A8b.Island culture change for better	575	268	307	51.6	51.4	51.7
A8c.Culture, religious duty be fulfilled	735	340	395	65.9	65.3	66.5
A8d.Suicide is a problem in Palau	643	291	352	57.7	55.9	59.3
A8e.Okay for teens to use tobacco	103	51	52	9.2	9.8	8.8
A8f.Okay for teens to try alcohol	110	52	58	9.9	10.0	9.8
A8g.Alcoholics is a problem in Palau	947	430	517	84.9	82.5	87.0
A8h.Okay to chew tobacco	133	65	68	11.9	12.5	11.4
A8i.Family planning helps financially	844	391	453	75.7	75.0	76.3
A8j.Father must provide child support	981	454	527	88.0	87.1	88.7
A8k.Breastfeeding is good	1,074	493	581	96.3	94.6	97.8
A8l.Sexually transmitted disease affect unborn child	1,013	471	542	90.9	90.4	91.2
A8m.Women are responsible for family planning	703	318	385	63.0	61.0	64.8
A8n.Need medical help before contraceptive	963	438	525	86.4	84.1	88.4

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

## **6. Behavior (Table 6.1 & 6.2)**

Behavior and attitudes about family planning were the issues in the next section. Data obtained in these tables present number of persons above 15 years of how they consider family planning. Around 21 percent of the total number had ever used any method to prevent pregnancy – about 14 percent of the males, but 28 percent of the females. The percentages for strongly supporting the statement “feeling about using birth control” were the same. On the other hand, about half of the adults had no problem discussing the number of children they want. Only about 1 in 4 intended to use birth control in the future – about 1 in 6 of the males but 3 in 10 of the females. And, only 16 percent were using birth control at the time of the survey, 10 percent of the males and 22 percent of the females. At least these were figures reporting the use – since, as noted above, Palau is over-whelming Roman Catholic, what is reported to the enumerators may not be what is actually happening in the bedroom, given Palau’s low birth rate.

Table 6.1 Behavior, Palau: 2003

Behavior	Numbers			Percents		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
B1.Ever used any birth control	242	73	169	21.7	14.0	28.5
B2.Feeling about using birth control - strongly support	241	72	169	21.6	13.8	28.5
B3.Discuss number of children - very easy	576	257	319	51.7	49.3	53.7
B4.Intend to use birth control in future	269	88	181	24.1	16.9	30.5
B5a.Are you currently using any birth control method	183	52	131	16.4	10.0	22.1

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

Table 6.2 shows the percentage of Palau's adult who *never spoke* with the listed types of people about family planning in the 6 months before the survey. About 79 percent of the respondents never spoke with their spouse about family planning. Even larger proportions did not speak with their children (89 percent), a same sex friend (88 percent), an opposite sex friend (93 percent), their parents (88 percent), a physician or health care worker (86 percent), a family planning worker (87 percent), or a religious leader (94 percent). In short, family planning is not discussed very much in Palau.

Table 6.2 Family Planning Discussions, Palau: 2003

Family Planning Discussions	Numbers			Percents		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Never Spoke with ... about family planning last 6 months:						
B7a. Your spouse	881	426	455	79.0	81.8	76.6
B7b. Your children	996	480	516	89.3	92.1	86.9
B7c. Same sex friend	987	479	508	88.5	91.9	85.5
B7d. Opposite sex friend	1,036	485	551	92.9	93.1	92.8
B7e. Your parents	984	480	504	88.3	92.1	84.8
B7f. Physician/health worker	955	476	479	85.7	91.4	80.6
B7g. Family planning worker	966	477	489	86.6	91.6	82.3
B7h. Religious leader	1,051	494	557	94.3	94.8	93.8

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey



## **7. Sexually Transmitted Disease (Table 7.1 & 7.2)**

The final section of the survey concerned sexually transmitted diseases. Numbers shown in these tables explain how many people are aware of the HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and what is done to prevent from contracting these disease. It is evident that most people above 15 years of age are well aware of all the possible ways to contract such diseases. About 3 in every 5 adults felt that is was easy to stay with a single partner.

With respect to HIV/AIDS awareness, Palau’s adults were fully aware of the epidemic. About 92 percent of the adults had heard of HIV/AIDS (although, given the other responses, this value is clearly low). About 94 percent knew that they could get HIV/AIDS from sexual intercourse, and about the same percentage knew they could get HIV/AIDS from blood transfusions. Almost 90 percent knew they could get HIV/AIDS from sharing a razor with someone, and 70 percent reported that HIV can come from breastfeeding. Some misinformation was present however – 44 percent though a person could get HIV/AIDS from kissing an infected person, and 71 percent thought they could get the disease from a mosquito or bed bug bite.

Table 7.1 Sexually Transmitted Disease, Palau: 2003

Sexually transmitted diseases	Numbers			Percents		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
S1.Easy or difficult to only have single partner	694	318	376	62.2	61.0	63.3
S2.Heard of HIV/AIDS	1,026	475	551	92.0	91.2	92.8
S3a.Possible to get HIV from Sexual intercourse	1,049	491	558	94.1	94.2	93.9
S3b.Possible to get HIV from Blood transfussion	1,050	490	560	94.2	94.0	94.3
S3c. Possible to get HIV from Kissing an infected person	494	229	265	44.3	44.0	44.6
S3d. Possible to get HIV from Mosquito or bed bug bites	789	372	417	70.8	71.4	70.2
S3e. Possible to get HIV from Sharing a razor with person	998	465	533	89.5	89.3	89.7
S3f. Possible to get HIV from Breastfeeding	786	354	432	70.5	67.9	72.7

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

With reference to discussing sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), about 56 percent felt it would be “very easy” to speak with their spouse about STDs. About 16 percent had ever talked about how to prevent STDs.

Only 6 percent felt that you could tell if a person had HIV/AIDS by their looks, or how they behave. Within the past 6 months, 13 percent had been tested for HIV/AIDS.

More than 70 percent knew that condoms can prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS, more than 90 percent felt that being “faithful to one partner prevents HIV/AIDS”. However, only 42 percent were doing anything to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission (the survey did not ask if they were sexually active at the time); those who were doing something, were staying with a single partner (95 percent).

If the person did get HIV/AIDS, about half would stop having sex. About 3 in 10 would have sex only with condoms to prevent transmission, and the other 2 in 10 would do “nothing different.”

Table 7.2 Sexually Transmitted Disease, Palau: 2003

Sexually transmitted diseases	Numbers			Percents		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
S4.Very Easy to talk to spouse about STDs	630	285	345	56.5	54.7	58.1
S5.Tell if person look or behave HIV/AIDS	73	34	39	6.5	6.5	6.6
S6.Ever talk about preventing STD	184	92	92	16.5	17.7	15.5
S7.Past 6 mos,been tested for HIV	140	66	74	12.6	12.7	12.5
S8.Condoms can prevent HIV/AIDS	787	378	409	70.6	72.6	68.9
S9.Faithful to one partner prevents HIV/AIDS	1,009	473	536	90.5	90.8	90.2
S10.Do anything prevent HIV/AIDS	473	224	249	42.4	43.0	41.9
S11.If yes, what are you doing?	450	208	242	95.1	92.9	97.2
S12.What would you do if you have AIDS	1,115	521	594	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nothing different	224	136	88	20.1	26.1	14.8
Stop having sex	549	237	312	49.2	45.5	52.5
Only have sex with condoms	342	148	194	30.7	28.4	32.7

Source: 2003 Palau Population, Environment and Labor Force Survey

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This survey was undertaken at the request of, and funded by, an environmental/educational NGO in Arlington, Virginia. While obtaining the information requested by that organization, Palau has also been able describe its own profile for 2003 with respect to attitudes about the environment and certain health practices. While the questions on the survey do not give a completely comprehensive picture of the health of Palau's population, with the Health Survey collected by the Public Health nurses at about the same time, Palau will have more information about both attitudes and practices of the adults in the Republic. These data can help create programs and determine health policy for the immediate future.