

CHILE — Country Profile

Overview

Chile is located in Southern South America, bordering the South Pacific Ocean, between Argentina and Peru. The population of the country grew to 17.5 million people in 2017, as compared to the last intercensal period (2002-2017), where it was 15 million people. 90% of the population is located in the middle third of the country around the capital of Santiago. The urban population continued to grow compared to censuses of previous years, since in 1992 it reached 83.5%, in 2002 it was 86.6% and in 2017 represented 87.8% of the total.

Chile is in the advanced stages of demographic transition and is becoming an aging society - with fertility below replacement level, low mortality rates, and life expectancy on par with developed countries. Over the last two decades, Chile has made great strides in reducing its poverty rate, which is now lower than most Latin American countries. However, its severe income inequality ranks as the worst among members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Unequal access to quality education perpetuates this uneven income distribution.

Source: *extracted from Chile Census 2017; CIA World Factbook: Chile*

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Key findings from the *Vital Statistics 2016* and *Women's Education Level, Maternal Health Facilities, Abortion Legislation and Maternal Deaths: A Natural Experiment in Chile from 1957 to 2007* on the situation of SRHR in Chile are as follows:

Maternal Health:

- The maternal mortality rate among women aged 15-49 was 16.9 per 100,000 live births in 2009.
- Between 2000 and 2016, the infant mortality rate fell from 9.3 deaths per 1,000 live births to 7.0 deaths per 1,000 live births. This figure places Chile as the country with the lowest infant mortality rate in South America.
- Currently, over 99% of all deliveries occur in hospitals or maternities.
- In 2015, only 22% of women aged 20 to 24 were mothers.

Contraception:

- The total fertility rate (TFR) was 1.7 births per woman in 2016, as compared to 5.4 in the 1960s.

Abortion:

- In 2007, the abortion mortality ratio was 0.83 per 100,000 live births, and the absolute risk of dying from abortion was 0.046 per 100,000 women at fertile age – one in two million women between 15 and 49 years old.

Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Child Early & Forced Marriage (CEFM):

- The average age at first marriage was 34 years in 2016. 27.5% of women contracted nuptials between 25 and 29 years.
- According to data from 2016, 24.1% of women were mothers by age 19.

Current initiatives in Chile

- ARROW collaborates with the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN), based in Chile, to review the implementation of the ICPD POA in Latin America and the Caribbean.