

BENIN

Capital

Porto-Novo (constitutional capital); Cotonou (seat of government)

Ethnic Groups

Fon and related 38.4%, Adja and related 15.1%, Yoruba and related 12%, Bariba and related 9.6%, Fulani and related 8.6%, Ottamari and related 6.1%, Yoa-Lokpa and related 4.3%, Dendi and related 2.9%, other 0.9%, foreigner 1.9%

Languages

55 languages; French (official)

Religions

Muslim 27.7%, Roman Catholic 25.5%, Protestant 13.5% (Celestial 6.7%, Methodist 3.4%, other Protestant 3.4%), Vodoun 11.6%, other Christian 9.5%, other traditional religions 2.6%, other 2.6%, none 5.8%

Population

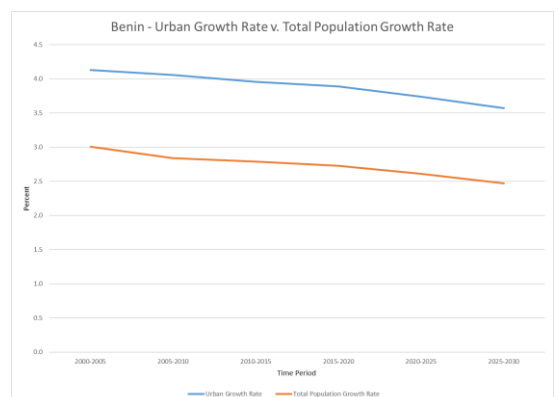
Total: 14.2 million
Median age: 17 years
Population growth rate: 3.31%
Urban: 50.1%
Rural 49.9%

Fertility

Birth rate: 40.72 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 5.39 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 0.97 male(s)/female

Mortality

Death rate: 7.82 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 62.6 years
Maternal mortality rate: 397 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 54.33 deaths/1,000 live births



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Migration

Net migration rate: 0.24 migrants/1,000 population

Health

Current health expenditure: 2.4% of GDP

Physician density: 0.07 physicians/1,000 population

Adult obesity: 9.6%

Alcohol consumption per capita: 1.25 liters of pure alcohol

Education

Education expenditures: 3% of GDP

Literacy: 42.4%

Population Distribution

the population is primarily located in the south, with the highest concentration of people residing in and around the cities on the Atlantic coast; most of the north remains sparsely populated with higher concentrations of residents in the west

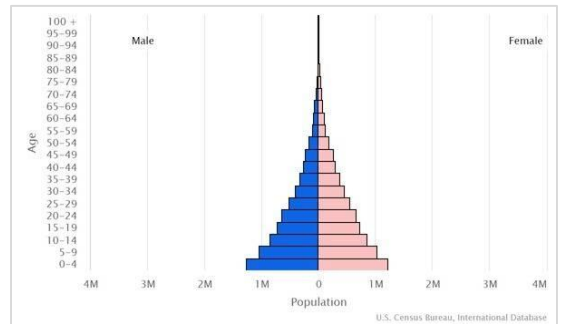
Demographic Profile

Benin has a youthful age structure – almost 65% of the population is under the age of 25 as of 2022 – which is bolstered by high fertility and population growth rates. Benin's total fertility has been falling over time but remains high, declining from almost 7 children per women in 1990 to 5.4 in 2022. Benin's low contraceptive use and high unmet need for contraception contribute to the sustained high fertility rate. Although the majority of Beninese women use skilled health care personnel for antenatal care and delivery, the high rate of maternal mortality indicates the need for more access to high quality obstetric care.

Poverty, unemployment, increased living costs, and dwindling resources increasingly drive the Beninese to migrate. An estimated 4.4 million, more than 30%, of Beninese live abroad. Virtually all Beninese emigrants move to West African countries, particularly Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire. Of the less than 1% of Beninese emigrants who settle in Europe, the vast majority live in France, Benin's former colonial ruler.

With about 40% of the population living below the poverty line as of 2019, many desperate parents resort to sending their children to work in wealthy households as domestic servants, mines, quarries, or agriculture domestically or in Nigeria and other neighboring countries, often under brutal conditions. Unlike in other West African countries, where rural people move to the coast, farmers from Benin's densely populated southern and northwestern regions move to the historically sparsely populated central region to pursue agriculture. Immigrants from West African countries came to Benin in increasing numbers between 1992 and 2002 because of its political stability and porous borders.

Age Structure



Population Distribution

