

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



National Center for Human Resources
Development (NCHRD)

**The Situation of Adolescents
In Jordan:^{*}
A Secondary Analysis of Data
from 1990 to 1997**

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Introduction

Young people under the age of 21 represent nearly 50% of the total population in Jordan. While infants and children have received considerable attention from both the national government and international agencies, adolescents and youth in Jordan have not received the same level of attention. As a consequence, the level of service provision to this large group of the population has often been less than what has been required to ensure the health, well-being and livelihood of this future generation.

The purpose of this study is to determine the current situation of adolescents and youth in Jordan utilizing and analyzing available data as both a starting point for discussion and action and as an initial basis for further inquiry. For the purposes of this study adolescents and youth have been determined as being between the ages of 12 and 21 - an age grouping consistent with educational age classification - with entry into Grade 6 at the lower age and graduation from a four year university degree program at the upper age. This age grouping also reflects at the lower age the onset of adolescence, while at the upper age of 21 reflective of the continued dependency of the majority of youth on their family for their basic needs until that age. For the purposes of this study the entire age grouping of 12-21 has been identified as adolescent for the ease of language use in the study.

The study is organized into six chapters, each dealing with specific characteristics of the adolescent situation. Chapter 1 provides a demographic examination of the adolescent age cohort, providing basic information on the adolescent including age-sex structure, sex ratios and median age. Chapter 2 offers data and analysis of adolescent fertility.

Included in this chapter is a discussion of infant and child mortality of adolescent mothers. Chapter 3 examines the situation of adolescent health, morbidity and mortality. In Chapter 4, an extensive look at adolescent employment and unemployment is provided, including a section on the incidence of child labour. Chapter 5 offers insights into some key social characteristics of adolescents including educational attainment, marriage age, head of household incidence and adolescents and crime/violence. Chapter 6 offers information on the attitudes towards participation of adolescents in the public life of Jordan. Chapter 7, a final chapter,

attempts to summarize the key findings of the study and provide suggestions for further analysis.

Sources of available data utilized have included:

- ☐ *The Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.*
- ☐ *The Jordan Population and Family Health Surveys, 1990 and 1997.*
- ☐ *The Health, Nutrition, Manpower and Poverty Surveys, 1987 and 1994.*
- ☐ *The Employment and Unemployment Surveys, 1997 and 1998.*
- ☐ *Jordan Public Security Department, Annual Report, 1997.*
- ☐ *Statistical Yearbook, Department of Education, 1996/97.*

The selected available data has been disaggregated by gender, age, location and socio-economic factors where possible and where the statistical validity of the data could be retained through disaggregation. The focus of the data analysis was to highlight any disparities or issues related to the situation of adolescents and youth and the provision of services to adolescents and youth, particularly adolescent girls and young women.

In some instances, disaggregated data was not available for all ages (12-21). In other instances, the disaggregation of data and cross-tabulation by gender, age, location and socio-economic status would have yielded statistically invalid information due to the relatively small size of the original sample. This was particularly true in the case of the sample size offered by the Jordan Living Conditions Survey. In many instances, socio-economic data related to the family of the adolescents was not available for disaggregation.

This particular study on the current situation of adolescents and youth in Jordan is one of a series of activities being undertaken by UNICEF in the planning stages of a major four year project entitled "Increasing the Role and Life Choices of Adolescent Girls in the Jordanian Society". The overall project's objective is to expand the horizon and role of adolescent girls in Jordanian society, focussing on four areas of information, strengthening the services available to adolescents, strengthening their self-image and participation rights, and their livelihood options.

Chapter 1

Demographic Characteristics

1.1 Age - Sex Structure

The present age-sex structure of the adolescent population (ages 12-21) is the result of previous trends in fertility, mortality and migration. The age- sexes structure of the adolescent population, in turn, influences the rate of population growth, since birth, deaths and migration occur with unequal frequency at different ages.

In Jordan, in 1997 the estimated total population of adolescents aged 12-21 years of age was 782,000 of a total population of 4.6 million representing an adolescent population of about 17 % of the total population.

The age-sex structure of the adolescent population as surveyed by the Jordan Living Conditions Survey (JLCS) 1996 is presented in Table 1.1. The distribution of adolescent males and females at each age is given as a percentage of the total adolescent population.

The table shows that one-third of the total adolescent population were of ages less than 15 years. The same share was observed for both males and females. The adolescent population in the age group 15-19 years formed 50.0 percent of the total adolescent population. The adolescent population aged 20-21 constituted about 17 percent of the total adolescent population.

The key observation to be made concerning the data provided in Table 1-1 is that the data indicates there were more individuals entering the adolescent age cohort than were leaving it (that is, for every 8.0 individuals leaving at age 21, 11.5 individuals entered at age 12). This age cohort (ages 12-21) will be expected to increase to a total of 1,058,000 adolescents in the next ten years.

Table No. 1.1: Percent Distribution of the Adolescent Population Aged 12-21 by Age in (single years) and Gender, Jordan, 1996.

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 12 | 11.2 | 11.7 | 11.5 |
| 13 | 11.1 | 11.4 | 11.3 |
| 14 | 10.8 | 10.3 | 10.5 |
| 15 | 11.0 | 9.9 | 10.4 |
| 16 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 10.5 |
| 17 | 9.8 | 10.6 | 10.2 |
| 18 | 10.4 | 10.0 | 10.2 |
| 19 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.6 |
| 20 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 |
| 21 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100 | 100 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

A comparison of the male and female age-structure revealed some significant differentials at ages 15 and 17. Male adolescents at the age of 15 constituted 11.0 percent of total males as compared with 9.9 percent for females. In contrast with this, females at the age of 17 formed 10.6 percent of the total adolescent females as compared with 9.8 percent for males.

These differentials may be due to the "heaping effect", where the respondents tended to report certain ages at the expense of their actual ages. The preference for certain ages, more commonly those ending in "0" and "5", was pronounced among males with the distribution mainly towards ages 15 and 20. The preference for these ages was lower among females with only 9.9 percent and 8.8 percent of females reported at ages 15 and 20 respectively.

In general, the age distribution of male and females showed the same patterns.

1.2 Gender Ratio (Number of males to females)

The gender composition of a population is the most basic of all demographic characteristics and it is directly related to the incidence of births and deaths. Table 1.2 presents gender ratios for single ages and total adolescents in 1996. It is observed that the gender ratios demonstrated considerable fluctuations between ages. Fluctuations were observed in all the geographic domains (Table 1.3.). Unusually high gender ratios were found in the Zarqa and Mafraq domain, Balqa and Madaba, Irbid, Jarash and Ajloun and in the South. Also at ages 15 and 20 the gender ratios were higher than at other ages.

*Table No. 1.2: Gender Ratios for the Adolescent Population
Aged 12-21, Jordan, 1996.*

| Age | Sex Ratio |
|--------------|------------|
| 12 | 101 |
| 13 | 103 |
| 14 | 111 |
| 15 | 118 |
| 16 | 105 |
| 17 | 98 |
| 18 | 109 |
| 19 | 103 |
| 20 | 105 |
| 21 | 104 |
| Total | 106 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

These deviations are believed to be due primarily to the effects of age-heaping (see explanation in Chapter 1.1) in all the identified domains rather than the effects of mortality and in-country migration. These deviations may also be the result of the sample size of the JLCS. Some countries that demonstrate such gender ratio deviations also have high female mortality exceeding that of males during childhood and the adolescent period. In the case of Jordan, where female mortality is very low, the reasons for the higher gender ratios are not clearly evident and may warrant further investigation.

The results of JLCS have also recorded unusually low gender ratios for some ages in all the geographic domains, for which the reason may be age heaping as well. The low gender ratios of less than 100 reported at ages under 15 for the Zarqa and Mafraq domain, Balqa and Madaba domain, Irbid and the South are unique and may warrant additional inquiry. The table also shows that the variations in gender ratios among the geographic domains generally became progressively greater with age. The ratios ranged from 99 in the Zarqa and Mafraq domain to almost 109 in the Jarash and Ajloun domain for ages under 15 years; from 89 in Jarash and Ajloun domain to 148 in the South for age 15 years and from 97 in the Amman domain to 117 in the Zarqa and Mafraq domain for the group of adolescents aged more than 15 years.

The final row of Table 1.3 shows that the gender ratios for the total adolescent population in all the domains ranged from 101 in the Amman domain to 111 in the Zarqa and Mafraq domain. Differences in age structure may be an important factor in explaining this gap between the Amman domain and other domains, since the Amman domain had a much higher proportion of its population in the older ages. Preference for male child survival may also be more prevalent in domains outside of Amman.

Table 1.3: Gender Ratios for the Adolescent Population Aged 12-21 by Geographic Domain, Jordan, 1996.

| Age | Amman | Zarqa And Mafraq | Balqa And Madaba | Irbid | Jarash And Ajloun | South |
|--------------|------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| 12 | 102 | 83 | 100 | 105 | 100 | 130 |
| 13 | 110 | 100 | 98 | 87 | 111 | 113 |
| 14 | 110 | 119 | 117 | 126 | 119 | 75 |
| 15 | 106 | 125 | 126 | 134 | 89 | 148 |
| 16 | 108 | 105 | 111 | 117 | 103 | 73 |
| 17 | 91 | 109 | 95 | 114 | 104 | 96 |
| 18 | 109 | 160 | 98 | 80 | 100 | 132 |
| 19 | 93 | 106 | 114 | 121 | 100 | 111 |
| 20 | 83 | 109 | 135 | 137 | 142 | 103 |
| 21 | 104 | 116 | 118 | 88 | 124 | 103 |
| Total | 101 | 111 | 109 | 109 | 108 | 106 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

1.3 Median Age

The median age represents that age at which 50% of a given population is below that age and 50% of the given population is above that age. The median age of a population reflects the cumulative effects of the demographic components of population growth, which include fertility, mortality and migration. Changes in age composition of the population because of changes in the levels of fertility, mortality and migration will consequently affect the value of the median age.

Table 1.4 presents the calculated median age for the total adolescent population according to the geographic domains. As shown in the table, minor variations among the domains were observed with the median age ranging from 16.4 years in the Zarqa and Mafrq domain to 16.7 years in the Amman and Irbid domains. These results suggest that the past fertility levels in the Amman and Irbid domains are lower than other domains. In contrast, the low level of median age in the Zarqa and Mafrq domain and in the South domain reflects the high fertility levels in the past.

As Amman and Irbid are both urban areas, the lower birth rate could be attributable to easier access to and longer attendance at school by adolescents in urban areas as well as easier access in urban areas to reproductive health care, including family planning and contraceptive methods.

Table 1.4: Median Age for Adolescent Population Aged 12-21 by Geographic Domain, Jordan, 1996

| Domain | Median Age (in Years) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Amman | 16.7 |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | 16.4 |
| Balqa and Madaba | 16.6 |
| Irbid | 16.7 |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 16.5 |
| South | 16.4 |
| Total | 16.6 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

The median age of the entire population was age 15.0 years in 1997 and was estimated to be age 18.7 years in 1997. This data suggests there was likely a similar shift in the median age of the adolescent population aged 12-21 years during the same time period.

Chapter 2

Adolescent Fertility and Childhood Mortality

This chapter deals with two major issues, namely adolescent fertility (its trends, levels and patterns) and childhood mortality among children of adolescent females. The approach combines information primarily from two surveys - the 1990 and the 1997 Jordan Population and Family Health Surveys. (JPFHS).

2.1. Adolescent Fertility

Young people below the age of 21 make up nearly half of Jordan's population. The population of young people under 21 in Jordan is expected to double between 1998 and the year 2018. The family formation patterns of these young people as they mature and begin to have their own families will determine Jordan's population growth rate and size for the next 20 years and beyond.

The gradual rise in the age of marriage is offering new opportunities for females. Since almost all pregnancies occur within marriage in Jordan, a later age of marriage for females also protects them from the potential physically and psychologically detrimental effects of early pregnancy and childbirth. However, 16.4 percent of females aged between 15 and 21 years in Jordan are married (see additional discussion in Chapter 5.2 on age of marriage). Most of the females who enter marriage as an adolescent have children even before they reach the age of 20 years.

Numerous studies demonstrate that both the adolescent mother and her child face increased health risks as well as limited social and economic options when compared with those who marry and have children at later ages. Very young adolescent females have a higher rate of maternal mortality, higher infant and childhood mortality and higher rates of low birth weight.

*2.1.1. Exposure to Pregnancy and Birth **

The 1990 JPFH Survey

The results of the 1990 Jordan Population And Family Health Survey indicated that the level of adolescent childbearing in Jordan was low with 7.4 percent of adolescent females aged 15-19 in the sample having given birth or were pregnant with their first child.

* (Data is available for 15-19 year olds, however data for 20 and 21 year olds is not provided as the statistics for 20 and 21 year olds are included in the statistics for 20-24 year olds and is not able to be separated out easily. Pregnancy and childbirth for ages under 15 is considered negligible).

The results of the survey, as shown in Table 2.1 indicate that among adolescent females 18 years of age, one in seven (14 percent) was pregnant with her first child or had become a mother already. This increased to 18 percent for adolescent females 19 years of age.

Differentials in the proportions of adolescent females who had begun childbearing were more pronounced according to the age of the adolescent (Table 2.1.). The proportions started very low, 0.6 at age 15, increased rapidly in the following two ages (2.8 at age 16 and 6.3 at age 17) and reached the highest value at age 19 (18.0).

Place of residence (urban or rural) showed a less significant role, where the proportion of adolescent females who had begun childbearing was similar in the different places of residence (about 7.0 percent each).

Table No. 2.1: Percentage of Adolescent Females Aged 15-19 who are Mothers or Pregnant with Their First Child, by Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1990.

| Background characteristics | Already Mothers | Pregnant with first child | Percentage who have begun childbearing |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Age</u> | | | |
| 15 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| 16 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 2.8 |
| 17 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 6.3 |
| 18 | 9.2 | 4.2 | 13.5 |
| 19 | 15.3 | 2.7 | 18.0 |
| <u>Residence</u> | | | |
| Large cities | 5.6 | 1.8 | 7.5 |
| Other urban | 5.1 | 1.9 | 7.1 |
| Rural | 5.0 | 2.7 | 7.7 |
| <u>Region</u> | | | |
| Amman | 5.3 | 1.6 | 6.9 |
| Zarqa & Mafrq | 4.7 | 1.9 | 6.6 |
| Irbid | 5.3 | 2.4 | 7.7 |
| Balqa - Madaba | 3.6 | 4.2 | 7.8 |
| South | 9.9 | 3.3 | 13.2 |
| <u>Education</u> | | | |
| No education | 8.3 | 2.3 | 10.6 |
| Primary | 8.8 | 4.2 | 13.0 |
| Secondary | 4.8 | 1.7 | 6.5 |
| More than secondary | 0.8 | 2.1 | 3.0 |
| Total | 5.3 | 2.1 | 7.4 |

Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 1990

Classifications by regions however reflected considerable differences where the Southern region had the highest proportion (13.2) followed by Balqa and Madaba (7.8).

Educational level also showed a strong role in the incidence of childbearing. The proportion of adolescent females who had begun childbearing decreased as educational level increased (13 percent for women with primary education and 3.0 percent for women with an educational level higher than secondary).

The 1997 JPFH Survey

The results of the 1997 JPFHS Survey (Table 2.2) show that the proportion of adolescent females who had begun their childbearing constituted 5.7 percent of the total ever married adolescent females. The proportion of adolescent females who were mothers formed the majority of the total adolescent females who had begun childbearing (73%), while the rest were pregnant with their first child.

Comparison between the results of the 1990 Survey and the 1997. Survey revealed that there was a significant decline in the proportion of adolescent females who had begun childbearing, decreasing from 7.4 percent in 1990 to 5.7 percent in 1997. This decrease represents a decline of about 23 percent.

The results of the 1997 survey also show-as in 1990- that there was a positive association between age of the mother and having children. Mothers aged 15 years of age constituted a very small proportion or about 3 percent of total adolescent mothers, while mothers aged 18 years formed about 29 percent. Mothers at age 19 constituted about half of the total adolescents or 47%.

Differentials between urban and rural areas were minor where the proportions of adolescent females who had begun childbearing were 5.7 percent in urban areas and 5.9 percent in rural areas, but these differentials become significant if we consider the proportion of adolescent females who were already mothers.

Differentials between regions were significant mainly between the northern and the southern regions where the proportions of adolescent females who had started their childbearing was 6.1 percent in the north and 4.8 percent in the south.

Educational attainment could be the most effective factor influencing the incidence of child bearing. The results revealed that the proportion of adolescent females who were already mothers decreased as educational level increased.

Table 2.2: Percentage of Adolescent Females Aged 15-19 Who Are Mothers or Pregnant in Their First Child, By Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1997.

| Background characteristic | Already Mothers | Pregnant with first child | Percentage who have begun childbearing | Total |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| <u>Age</u> | | | | |
| 15 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 531 |
| 16 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 507 |
| 17 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 4.2 | 513 |
| 18 | 5.9 | 2.5 | 8.5 | 500 |
| 19 | 10.1 | 3.8 | 13.9 | 472 |
| <u>Residence</u> | | | | |
| Urban | 3.9 | 1.9 | 5.7 | 2,070 |
| Rural | 4.6 | 1.3 | 5.9 | 452 |
| <u>Region</u> | | | | |
| North | 4.5 | 1.6 | 6.1 | 681 |
| Central | 3.9 | 1.8 | 5.7 | 1,689 |
| South | 3.0 | 1.8 | 4.8 | 153 |
| <u>Educational Level Attended</u> | | | | |
| No Education | * | * | * | 25 |
| Primary | 7.8 | 4.8 | 12.7 | 158 |
| Secondary | 3.9 | 1.7 | 5.6 | 2,154 |
| Higher | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 181 |
| Total | 4.0 | 1.8 | 5.7 | 2,523 |
| <i>Note: An asterisk means that the figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases, and has been suppressed.</i> | | | | |

Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 1997

Taken together, the findings illustrate that education and urban location delay child bearing. Less education, being married earlier and lack of knowledge about or access to contraception are characteristics of females who start their child-bearing early.

Selected Comparisons-1990 and 1997 JPFH Surveys

Table 2.3 presents the distribution of ever-married females aged 15-49 by age at first birth and by current age for 1990 and 1997.

The age at which childbearing is initiated is an important demographic and health indicator that is directly related in Jordan to changes over time in the age at first marriage.

As shown in the table, the proportion of females with no births tended to be higher in all age groups in 1997 in comparison with 1990. This trend is consistent with the increase in the age at first marriage during the same period of 1990-1997 (see Chapter 5.2 for a more complete discussion). Some of the factors contributing to this increase in the age of marriage might be the increase in educational attainment, economic factors and increased awareness of the dangers of early pregnancy.

It should be noted that around three percent of all ever married females aged 15-19 gave birth to their first child before age 18 in both 1990 and 1997, although the incidence of early childbearing has decreased during the same period. About one in every five females, aged 45-49 in 1997 had their first birth at ages 18 and 19 compared to one in ten females aged 20-29. Less than 7 percent of females aged 25-29 in 1997 had already had a child before age 18 compared with 14.4 percent of females at the same age in 1990.

Although the rate of having children at an early age is declining, the proportion of births occurring to females under the age 20 remains high, representing a potential for increased health risks for mother and child.

Table 2.3: Percent Distribution of Adolescent Females Aged 15-49 by Age at First Birth and by Current Age, Jordan, 1990 and 1997.

| 1990 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Current Age | Women with No Births (%) | Age At First Birth (%) | | | | | | Total |
| | | <15 | 15-17 | 18-19 | 20-21 | 22-24 | 25+ | |
| 15-19 | 94.7 | — | 3.4 | 1.9 | — | — | — | 100.0 |
| 20-24 | 64.8 | 0.3 | 7.6 | 12.9 | 9.3 | 5.1 | — | 100.0 |
| 25-29 | 32.1 | 0.6 | 13.8 | 15.5 | 14.0 | 16.7 | 7.3 | 100.0 |
| 30-34 | 13.6 | 1.8 | 19.3 | 19.2 | 15.8 | 17.3 | 13.0 | 100.0 |
| 35-39 | 8.3 | 1.3 | 21.5 | 22.7 | 16.7 | 16.1 | 13.3 | 100.0 |
| 40-44 | 3.9 | 2.7 | 19.3 | 22.1 | 19.3 | 20.7 | 12.0 | 100.0 |
| 45-49 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 16.6 | 21.7 | 23.6 | 18.4 | 11.9 | 100.0 |

Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 1990

| 1997 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Current Age | Women with No Births (%) | Age At First Birth (%) | | | | | | Total |
| | | <15 | 15-17 | 18-19 | 20-21 | 22-24 | 25+ | |
| 15-19 | 96.0 | 0.2 | 2.8 | 1.0 | NA | NA | NA | 100.0 |
| 20-24 | 69.2 | 0.1 | 5.9 | 10.8 | 9.8 | 4.1 | NA | 100.0 |
| 25-29 | 38.6 | 0.1 | 6.6 | 10.5 | 15.0 | 19.7 | 9.5 | 100.0 |
| 30-34 | 23.5 | 0.2 | 9.0 | 14.1 | 15.0 | 18.9 | 19.3 | 100.0 |
| 35-39 | 14.6 | 1.1 | 15.0 | 14.8 | 14.4 | 17.3 | 22.9 | 100.0 |
| 40-44 | 8.6 | 1.4 | 17.5 | 18.9 | 18.0 | 18.6 | 17.1 | 100.0 |
| 45-49 | 7.1 | 1.2 | 16.3 | 20.3 | 22.4 | 15.2 | 17.6 | 100.0 |

NA = Not applicable

— = Less than 0.05 percent

Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 1997

2.1.2. Trends in Fertility Patterns

Age specific fertility rates taken from a number of different surveys are presented in Table 2.4. Considering the results of all surveys, one can notice the continuous decrease in fertility rates for all age groups during the period 1976-1997. If this trend continues, the fertility rate for the total population and for adolescent females will continue to decrease, however the rate of decrease will not be as rapid as in earlier years (1976 to 1983). This decline has resulted in total fertility being decreased from 7.4 children per female of child bearing age in 1976 to 4.4 children per female of child bearing age in 1997. The share of the younger age group 15-19 was relatively small, but still contributes significantly to overall fertility rates. Childbearing was concentrated among females aged 25-34. Comparing total fertility rates for females aged 15-19 and 20-49, the rate for the younger age group was about 5 percent of the total fertility rate of the older age group (20-49). In general, age specific fertility rates started very low at the beginning of the childbearing period, (15-19) increased sharply at the following age group (20-24) and reached the peak at the age group 25-29. Beginning at age 30, age specific fertility rates tended to decrease slowly, then sharply declined at the end of the childbearing period.

Data on the mean number of children ever born alive from the 1990 and 1997 surveys is presented in Table 2.5. The table shows the mean number of children ever born in five-year age groups of females, providing an indicator of the momentum of childbearing. It is clear from the table that the mean number of children ever born for the younger cohort of females (15-19 years of age) was much less than the mean for older cohorts of females whether in 1990 or 1997. These differences are due mainly to the gradual increase in age at marriage- a situation that has also been positively associated with rising school enrolment, free compulsory education and longer periods of attendance at school.

Table 2.4: Age Specific Fertility Rates and Total Fertility Rates from Selected Surveys, Jordan, Various Dates

| Age Group | JFS 1976 | JFFHS 1983 | JPFHS 1990 | JPFHS 1997 |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 15-19 | 0.071 | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.043 |
| 20-24 | 0.300 | 0.228 | 0.219 | 0.172 |
| 25-29 | 0.367 | 0.335 | 0.296 | 0.246 |
| 30-34 | 0.332 | 0.305 | 0.264 | 0.206 |
| 35-39 | 0.240 | 0.233 | 0.188 | 0.144 |
| 40-44 | 0.112 | 0.127 | 0.079 | 0.048 |
| 45-49 | 0.047 | 0.040 | 0.019 | 0.011 |
| TFR 15-19 | 0.36 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.22 |
| TFR 20-49 | 7.0 | 6.34 | 5.33 | 4.14 |
| TFR 15-49 | 7.4 | 6.6 | 5.6 | 4.4 |

TFR- Total Fertility Rate

Jordan Family Survey, 1997

Jordan Family and Health Survey, 1983

Jordan Population and Family Health Surveys 1990 and 1997

Table 2.5: Mean Number of Children Ever Born by Age of Female, Jordan, 1990 and 1997

| Age Group | JPFHS 1990 | JPFHS 1997 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 15-19 | 0.10 | 0.06 |
| 20-24 | 0.80 | 0.60 |
| 25-29 | 2.40 | 1.78 |
| 30-34 | 4.60 | 3.26 |
| 35-39 | 6.20 | 4.78 |
| 40-44 | 7.40 | 6.17 |
| 45-49 | 7.70 | 6.72 |
| Total | 2.70 | 2.25 |

Jordan Population and Family Health Surveys 1990 and 1997

Information on birth spacing for 1997 is presented in Table 2.6. From the data, there is clear evidence that younger mothers tend to have fewer months between births, almost one-half of the mothers between ages 15-19 have had their next birth within 7-17 months since the previous birth. In general, for all mothers, higher education tends to result in a decrease in the number of months since the previous birth.

Table 2.6: Percent Distribution of Births by Age Group of Mothers by Number of Months Since Previous Birth and Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1997.

| Background Characteristics | | Number of Months Since Previous Birth | | | | | Median No. of Months Since Last Birth |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| | | 7-17 | 18-23 | 24-35 | 36-47 | 48+ | |
| Age of Mother | 15-19 | 46.5 | 39.7 | 10.7 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 18.8 |
| | 20-29 | 28.4 | 29.4 | 29.8 | 7.9 | 4.6 | 22.3 |
| | 30-39 | 17.3 | 18.8 | 29.9 | 14.0 | 20.0 | 28.5 |
| | 40+ | 9.7 | 11.5 | 26.0 | 15.3 | 37.6 | 37.8 |
| Birth Order | 2-3 | 29.0 | 26.8 | 27.9 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 22.6 |
| | 4-6 | 16.5 | 20.5 | 30.3 | 13.6 | 19.2 | 27.8 |
| | 7+ | 14.3 | 18.1 | 30.8 | 14.5 | 22.2 | 29.9 |
| Residence | Urban | 21.0 | 22.4 | 28.5 | 11.6 | 16.5 | 26.1 |
| | Rural | 23.7 | 24.3 | 32.9 | 10.8 | 8.3 | 24.9 |
| Educational Level | None | 16.3 | 18.4 | 35.3 | 15.4 | 14.6 | 27.8 |
| | Primary | 19.1 | 21.2 | 30.3 | 11.2 | 18.2 | 26.4 |
| | Secondary | 22.1 | 24.0 | 28.5 | 10.9 | 14.5 | 25.0 |
| | Higher | 23.5 | 22.1 | 28.9 | 11.5 | 14.0 | 25.3 |
| Total | | 21.5 | 22.8 | 29.3 | 11.4 | 14.9 | 25.5 |

Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 1997

It is suggested that since obtaining higher education tends to delay marriage to a later age, there is pressure on more highly educated mothers to have all their children as soon as possible after marriage thus effectively reducing the time between births. Urban mothers are more likely to have longer birth intervals than rural mothers, perhaps due to better access to and knowledge of contraceptive methods are.

Comparisons between the 1990 and 1997 surveys show a general increase in birth spacing for all mothers from 24.0 in 1990 to 25.5 in 1997. The most significant contributor to this increase in the birth interval between 1990 and 1997 appears to be the increase in educational levels of females, in spite of the pressure more highly educated mothers experience in having their children as soon as possible after marriage.

2.2. Trends in Infant and Childhood Mortality

Infant and childhood mortality is generally considered a composite indicator of the various, economic, biological and health characteristics of a population.

Similarly, differences in the mortality rates among children at the early years of age, across the country and among sub-populations within a country may be interpreted as reflections of disparities in the level of the quality of life.

Table 2.6 presents estimated levels of infant and childhood mortality from the 1990 and 1997 JPFH Surveys. In general, all measures of mortality during the childhood period show evidence of decline. The most striking example of the sharp decline in infant and childhood mortality rates was for female infants and children. The infant mortality rate fell from 37 in 1990 to 23 per thousand in 1997 and mortality within the first five years of life fell from 43 to 30 per thousand during the same period. The comparative analysis of differentials of child mortality according to selected background characteristics of mothers is shown in Table 2.6. Three demographic variables have been found to be particularly important predictors of child mortality and child survival. These are the gender of the child, the age of the mother at the birth of the child, and the birth interval. Place of residence also has been included in this analysis to investigate the relationship between residence and the levels of infant and child mortality.

The results of the 1990 and 1997 surveys show different patterns of mortality among male and female infants and children; Post-neonatal mortality rate (PNN) or deaths occurring at ages 1-11 months tended to be higher for females than males (15.9 per thousand females

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and 13.7 per thousand for males). The same tendency applied to the infant mortality rate (I) which represents the probability of dying between the birth of the child and one year of age (37.3 per thousand for females and 36.4 per thousand for males).

Table 2.6: Infant and Childhood Mortality by Selected Characteristics, Jordan, 1990 and 1997

| Background Characteristics | 1990 (1) | | | | | 1997 (2) | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------|------|-----|------|----------|------|------|-----|------|
| | NN | PNN | I | C | T | NN | PNN | I | C | T |
| <u>Sex of Child</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 22.6 | 13.7 | 36.4 | 6.0 | 42.2 | 21.6 | 12.8 | 34.3 | 3.7 | 37.9 |
| Female | 21.2 | 15.9 | 37.3 | 5.6 | 42.7 | 14.8 | 8.6 | 23.4 | 6.6 | 29.9 |
| <u>Age of Mother at Birth</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <20 | 27.5 | 24.1 | 51.5 | 7.1 | 58.2 | 26.4 | 23.3 | 49.7 | 5.5 | 54.9 |
| 20-29 | 20.0 | 16.1 | 36.2 | 5.6 | 41.5 | 16.2 | 9.4 | 25.6 | 4.7 | 30.2 |
| 30-39 | 22.7 | 10.4 | 33.1 | 5.6 | 38.5 | 18.6 | 10.2 | 28.8 | 5.4 | 34.1 |
| 40-49 | 29.4 | 7.9 | 37.3 | 8.1 | 45.1 | 34.2 | 8.1 | 42.3 | 8.5 | 50.4 |
| <u>Previous Birth Interval</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <2 years | 24.9 | 19.1 | 44.0 | 7.5 | 51.2 | 24.3 | 12.4 | 36.7 | 6.2 | 42.6 |
| 2-3 years | 12.1 | 9.9 | 22.0 | 4.3 | 26.2 | 11.6 | 8.3 | 19.9 | 3.9 | 23.7 |
| 4 years and more | 17.5 | 9.6 | 27.1 | 3.8 | 30.8 | 15.1 | 11.6 | 26.7 | 5.7 | 32.2 |
| <u>Residence</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 21.9 | 13.9 | 35.7 | 4.9 | 40.4 | 17.8 | 8.9 | 26.7 | 4.7 | 31.3 |
| Rural | 22.1 | 17.2 | 39.2 | 8.4 | 47.3 | 20.3 | 18.7 | 39.1 | 6.9 | 45.7 |

NN- Neonatal Mortality Rate

PNN- Post Neonatal Mortality Rate

I - Infant Mortality Rate

C- Child Mortality Rate

T- Total Combined Mortality Rate

Sources: (1) Dept. of Statistics, 1992", Jordan Population and Family Health Survey 1990 Amman

(2) Dept. of Statistics, 1998", Jordan Population and Family Health Survey 1997 Amman.

In contradiction to post-neonatal and infant mortality rates, the neonatal death rate (NN) which represents the probability of dying between birth and one month of age and the child mortality rate (C) which represents the probability of a child who survives to age one year dying between age one and age five, were higher for males than females. The over-all infant and childhood mortality rate which represents the probability of dying between birth and age 5 years, tended to be slightly higher for females than males in 1990 (42.7 per thousand for females and 42.2 per thousand for males). In 1997, while the total infant and childhood mortality rate declined from 1990, the rate for males was 37.9 and

Chapter 3

ADOLESCENT HEALTH

The purposes served by health, morbidity and mortality statistics are many. These statistics are essential to public health authorities for the control of disease and epidemics and for the location, design, and administration of public health and medical care facilities and services, including rehabilitation programmes, and for estimating health, labour force needs. Voluntary health bodies also rely on morbidity data for their operations in both the solicitation and disbursement of funds.

According to the World Health Organization "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". Deviations from this ideal may be regarded as morbid conditions. (WHO, 1961).

This section will discuss some health issues affecting adolescents in Jordan by relying on the data collected by the 1996 Jordan Living Conditions Survey. These issues include the perceived health status of the person, prevalence of health problems during the two weeks preceding the interview, and the utilization of health services. In addition, information on smoking among the adolescent population will be provided as smoking is considered a key health risk and may also be indicative of the potential occurrence of other substance abuse issues.

3.1 Self-Appraisal of Health Status

Although a person will usually regard his or her health status in relation to daily activities, he or she may be aware of symptoms of poor health but continue to conduct daily affairs in the usual fashion.

As shown in Table 3.1, the majority of adolescent males and females surveyed were satisfied with their present state of health. About two-thirds of adolescent males and females reported that they were in very good health. One-third of adolescent males and females considered themselves in good health, while a small proportion among males and females considered their health as fair. Adolescents who considered their health as bad constituted only 0.5% of the total adolescents surveyed.

Table 3.2 shows that with an advance in age, increasing self-dissatisfaction was reported by adolescents with their state of health. The 1996 JLCS recorded that whereas 3.2 percent of males at age 15 years were not satisfied with their state of health, the figure rose to 16.0 percent at age 20 years.

Table 3.1: Percentages of the Adolescent Population Aged 15-21 years by Gender and by Personal Health Assessment, Jordan, 1996

| Personal Health Assessment | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Very Good | 65.4 | 66.9 | 66.1 |
| Good | 28.8 | 27.3 | 28.1 |
| Fair (moderate) | 5.1 | 5.5 | 5.3 |
| Bad | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Very bad | — | — | — |
| Total | 100.0 (898) | 100.0 (883) | 100.0 (1782) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Table 3.2: Percentage Distribution of the Adolescent Population Aged 15-21 years by Gender, Age and by Personal Health Assessment, Jordan, 1996

| Age and Gender | Very Good | Good | Fair (moderate) | Bad | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| <u>Male</u> | | | | | |
| 15 | 84.7 | 12.1 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 100.0 |
| 16 | 59.2 | 34.9 | 5.9 | — | 100.0 |
| 17 | 62.1 | 28.8 | 8.3 | 0.8 | 100.0 |
| 18 | 71.3 | 26.1 | 2.6 | — | 100.0 |
| 19 | 66.7 | 28.1 | 5.2 | — | 100.0 |
| 20 | 55.7 | 28.3 | 13.2 | 2.8 | 100.0 |
| 21 | 47.5 | 52.5 | — | — | 100.0 |
| <u>Female</u> | | | | | |
| 15 | 82.8 | 12.0 | 5.2 | — | 100.0 |
| 16 | 64.2 | 28.5 | 6.6 | 0.7 | 100.0 |
| 17 | 65.4 | 32.7 | 1.9 | — | 100.0 |
| 18 | 65.4 | 32.3 | 2.3 | — | 100.0 |
| 19 | 70.8 | 23.4 | 5.8 | — | 100.0 |
| 20 | 70.1 | 23.9 | 5.1 | 0.9 | 100.0 |
| 21 | 43.4 | 41.0 | 15.8 | — | 100.0 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Similarly, for adolescent females about 5.0 percent at age 15 years were not satisfied with their state of health while 15.6 percent at age 21 years were not satisfied. Variations among males and females with regard to their assessment of their own health status were minor, with a slight increase of the proportion of females who considered their health as very good (66.9 percent), compared with 65.4 percent for males.

- The vast majority of adolescent males and females aged 15-21 years were satisfied with their present status of health.
- There was no differential between adolescent males and females concerning appraisal of health status, 94 percent of males and females said that they were in good health.
- The assessment of health status in Table 3.3 shows significant variations among males according to the geographic domains. About 76 percent of adolescent males living in Balqa and Madaba domain said that they had very good health, while only about 53 percent of adolescent males living in Irbid said that they had good health.
- About 5 percent of adolescent males in Jarash and Ajloun domain indicated that they were in bad health.
- Adolescent males with high educational levels and adolescents who were living in rural areas were more likely to assess their health as very good, while adolescent males with lower educational levels and adolescents living in urban areas were more likely to assess their health to be fair or bad.
- Adolescent females who were living in the South geographic domain and those who were living in Balqa and Madaba domain tended to say that they were in very good health.
- Adolescent females with higher education tended to say that they were in very good health, while adolescent females with lower educational levels did the opposite.
- Rural adolescent females were more likely to say that they were in a very good health in comparison to urban adolescent females.

Table No. 3.3: Percent Distribution of Adolescent Males and Females Aged 15-21, by Personal Health Assessment and Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1996

| Background Characteristic | Health Assessment | | | | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-----|-------------|
| | Very good | good | Fair (Moderate) | Bad | |
| Male | | | | | |
| Domain | | | | | |
| Amman | 61.0 | 31.9 | 7.1 | — | 100.0 (364) |
| Zarqa and Mafraq | 67.3 | 29.6 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 100.0 (159) |
| Balqa and Madaba | 76.2 | 14.9 | 8.9 | — | 100.0 (101) |
| Irbid | 52.7 | 35.7 | 4.6 | — | 100.0 (154) |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 73.8 | 21.4 | | 4.8 | 100.0 (42) |
| South | 74.7 | 22.8 | 2.5 | | 100.0(79) |
| Total | 65.4 | 28.8 | 5.1 | 0.7 | 100.0(898) |
| Educational Level | | | | | |
| None | 69.7 | 27.3 | 3.0 | | 100.0(33) |
| Less than Secondary | 61.6 | 30.2 | 7.1 | 1.1 | 100.0(255) |
| Secondary | 43.3 | 46.7 | 8.3 | 1.7 | 100.0(60) |
| Intermediate Diploma | 100.0 | | | | 100.0(12) |
| University | | 100.0 | | | 100.0(2) |
| Place of Residence | | | | | |
| Urban | 63.4 | 30.2 | 5.8 | 0.6 | 100.0(755) |
| Rural | 73.8 | 23.3 | 2.3 | 0.6 | 100.0(172) |
| Female | | | | | |
| Domain | | | | | |
| Amman | 72.0 | 24.4 | 3.6 | | 100.0(361) |
| Zarqa and Mafraq | 54.9 | 35.3 | 9.8 | | 100.0(133) |
| Balqa and Madaba | 71.4 | 24.3 | 4.3 | | 100.0(70) |
| Irbid | 61.1 | 32.1 | 6.8 | | 100.0(162) |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 67.3 | 31.0 | | 1.7 | 100.0(58) |
| South | 71.7 | 19.2 | 7.1 | 2.0 | 100.0(99) |
| Educational Level | | | | | |
| None | 64.3 | 21.4 | 14.3 | | 100.0(14) |
| Less than Secondary | 58.9 | 34.7 | 6.0 | 0.4 | 100.0(251) |
| Secondary | 58.1 | 32.3 | 9.6 | | 100.0(62) |
| Intermediate Diploma | 96.4 | 3.6 | | | 100.0(28) |
| University | 100.0 | | | | 100.0(1) |
| Place of Residence | | | | | |
| Urban | 65.3 | 29.1 | 5.6 | | 100.0(657) |
| Rural | 72.0 | 22.2 | 4.9 | 0.9 | 100.0(225) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

3.2 Acute Illness and Injury

Generally, the incidence of an acute condition starts at a time early in the beginning of the adolescence period, rises then diminishes at later ages. The situation is shown in Table (3.4) for the period two weeks before the interviews for the 1996 JLCS. Both

sexes showed fluctuating levels of acute illness or injury incidence at each age, but a general trend to a higher incidence of acute illness or injury at higher ages. Injury for the purposes of this report refers to bodily harm by either one's own actions or the actions of others.

The table also shows that about (8) percent of the total adolescent population were exposed to acute illness or injury. The proportion of females who were exposed to illness and injury was higher than the proportion of males (8.7 percent versus 7.7 percent). It must be noted that these figures represent only those acute illnesses and injuries reported. In addition, at the adolescent ages females, more so than males, under go considerable physiological changes that may contribute to higher reporting by females. In explanation of the lower morbidity rate of adolescent males from acute illness and injury conditions, it has been suggested that, for the same symptoms, adolescents females were more likely than adolescent males to report the illness and injury. Furthermore, household respondents in the 1996 JLCS interviews were more frequently females than males. These reporting females may have recalled more of their female children's illnesses and injuries than those of their male children. An important element in the higher incidence of acute and injury conditions among females at ages 18-21 years may be also due to the additional risk associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

Table 3.4: Percentages of the Adolescent Population Aged 12-21 Who Were Exposed To Injury or Illness During The Two Weeks Before The Interview By Age and Gender and by Place of Residence, Jordan, 1996.

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 12 | 7.6 | 8.4 | 7.9 |
| 13 | 8.4 | 7.3 | 7.9 |
| 14 | 9.5 | 6.8 | 8.3 |
| 15 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 8.3 |
| 16 | 7.7 | 8.4 | 8.1 |
| 17 | 8.8 | 7.0 | 7.9 |
| 18 | 5.3 | 10.5 | 7.8 |
| 19 | 6.4 | 10.4 | 8.3 |
| 20 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.4 |
| 21 | 4.8 | 14.3 | 9.5 |
| Total | 7.7 | 8.7 | 8.2 |

Table 3.4: Continued from Page 23

| Gender | Urban | Rural |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Male | 8.7 | 4.4 |
| Female | 8.7 | 7.4 |
| Total | 8.9 | 5.9 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

- The proportion of adolescent females who reported they were exposed to illness or injury was higher than the proportion of adolescent males (8.7 percent and 7.7 percent for females and males respectively).
- The pattern of exposure to illness and injury shows significant fluctuation with age among both males and females.
- The highest proportion of adolescent males who were exposed to illness or injury was found at age 14, while the highest proportion among females was found at age 21. This difference between the genders, may be attributable to the ages at which males and females become physically active outside the home.
- The Amman and Zarqa and Mafrqa geographic domains showed the highest exposure rates to injury and illness in comparison with other domains (9.8% for Amman and 8.8% for Zarqa and Mafrqa). The implication of the data appears to be that higher rates of injury and illness for adolescents exist in urban areas.
- The variation in reporting about exposure to illness or injury was significant by level of education. About 14 percent of adolescents with university education reported acute illness or injury. This higher rate may be due to a greater knowledge of illness and injury by the adolescent as well as the greater individual independence of university students and thus having greater exposure to hazards.
- The exposure rate in urban areas (8.9%) was higher than rural areas (5.9%). While urban males and females had similar rates, rural males appeared to either be less exposed to illness or injury or do not report.

Table No. 3.5: Percent Distribution of the Adolescent Population Aged 12-21 years by Exposure Status To Injury or Illness During The Two Weeks Preceding the Interview by Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1996.

| Background Characteristics | Exposure | | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Yes | No | |
| Age | | | |
| 12 | 7.9 | 92.1 | 988 |
| 13 | 7.9 | 92.1 | 973 |
| 14 | 8.4 | 91.6 | 910 |
| 15 | 8.3 | 91.7 | 888 |
| 16 | 8.0 | 92.0 | 909 |
| 17 | 7.9 | 92.1 | 878 |
| 18 | 7.8 | 92.2 | 868 |
| 19 | 8.4 | 91.6 | 729 |
| 20 | 8.4 | 91.6 | 739 |
| 21 | 9.5 | 90.5 | 664 |
| Total | 8.2(700) | 91.8(7845) | 8545 |
| Domain | | | |
| Amman | 9.8 | 90.2 | 3387 |
| Zarqa and Mafraq | 8.8 | 91.2 | 1429 |
| Balqa+madaba | 5.7 | 94.3 | 810 |
| Irbid | 8.4 | 91.6 | 1575 |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 3.6 | 96.4 | 470 |
| South | 5.6 | 94.4 | 874 |
| Total | 8.2(700) | 91.8(7845) | 8545 |
| Educational Level | | | |
| None | 6.5 | 93.5 | 217 |
| Less than Secondary | 7.4 | 92.6 | 1681 |
| Intermediate Diploma | 8.4 | 91.6 | 419 |
| Secondary | 7.9 | 92.1 | 101 |
| University | 14.3 | 85.7 | 14 |
| Other | 0 | 100 | 1 |
| Total | 7.5(182) | 92.5(2250) | 2432 |
| Place of Residence | | | 100% |
| Urban | 8.9 | 91.1 | 6512 |
| Rural | 5.9 | 94.1 | 2033 |
| Total | 8.2(700) | 91.8(7845) | 8545 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Further research is suggested to identify the types of injuries faced by adolescents. Information on injury and illness also needs to be documented and disseminated to parents and adolescents on the types of hazards that can cause illness and injury in an effort to educate individuals and thereby reduce the rates of illness and injury.

3.3 Mortality

The main sources of the present analysis of mortality among the adolescent population are from demographic surveys conducted by the Department of Statistics, namely: The Health, Nutrition, Manpower and Poverty Survey (HNMPs) of 1987,

and the accompanying survey of 1994. Unfortunately, mortality statistics from the two mentioned surveys are classified by five-year age intervals which make it difficult to separate the data to conform to the adolescent age group of 12-21 years. However, the present data is useful to develop a general understanding of mortality levels among youth. Age-specific death rates and the probability of surviving for the adolescent population for 1987 and 1994 are presented in Tables 3.6 and 3.7. From these tables one can notice the following:

- Age specific death rates for adolescents aged (10-14) and (15-19) was low for both males or females.
- The increase in mortality observed in 1994 may be due to changes in the number of cases of death or the problems in reporting or surveying.
- Age specific death rates for females showed a significant increase with age in both 1987 and 1994.
- Probability of surviving at ages 10-14 shows an increase during the period 1987 to 1994 for males, while the probability of surviving for females at age 10-14 showed a slight decline during the same period.
- Probability of death for both males and females at age 15-19, showed a slight increase from 1987 to 1994.

Table 3.6: Age Specific Death Rates For Age Groups (10-14) and (15-19) by Gender, Jordan, 1987 and 1994

| Age Group | 1987 | | 1994 | |
|-----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 10-14 | 0.0009 | 0.00025 | 0.00067 | 0.00072 |
| 15-19 | 0.0009 | 0.00067 | 0.00106 | 0.00105 |

Health, Nutrition, Manpower and Poverty Surveys, 1987 and 1994

Table 3.7: Probability of Death (A) and Probability of Surviving (B) For Ages (10-14) and (15-19) by Gender, Jordan, 1987 and 1994

| Age Group | 1987 | | | | 1994 | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Male | | female | | Male | | female | |
| | a | b | a | b | a | b | a | b |
| 10-14 | 0.00450 | 0.99550 | 0.00125 | 0.99875 | 0.00433 | 0.99567 | 0.00443 | 0.99557 |
| 15-19 | 0.00450 | 0.99550 | 0.00340 | 0.99660 | 0.00646 | 0.99354 | 0.00621 | 0.99379 |

Health, Nutrition, Manpower and Poverty Surveys, 1997 and 1994

3.4 Utilization of Health Services

The results of the 1996 JLCS findings on the utilization of health services show that 41.0 percent of adolescent population who were acutely ill or injured consulted health services. About 43 percent of adolescent females who were acutely ill or injured consulted about their illness while about 39 percent of adolescent males did. Table 3.8 presents the percentages of the Jordanian adolescent population who were acutely ill or injured and who did not consult medical services as classified by sex and domain. Variations in consultation were substantial among the geographic domains as well as between males and females.

In fact, the magnitude of variations between Amman and other geographic domains is striking, the consultation level was found to be significantly lower among the adolescent population who are acutely ill or injured residing in Balqa and Madaba domain (about 26 percent), Jarash and Ajloun domain (about 29 percent) and the South (about 31 percent), although differences were significant between the domains with high consultation levels. The highest level of consultation was observed in the Amman domain where about 46 percent of adolescent population who were acutely ill or injured consulted health services. Zarqa and Mafraq domain occupied the second highest position with 40 percent. High consultation in some geographic domains may be partly attributable to the availability of health services in these domains in comparison with other domains or perhaps a higher awareness among adolescents in Amman of health services and the benefit of consultation in treating illness and injury.

In addition to the differences between geographic domains, large variations in consultations between males and females were found in some domains, particularly in Balqa and Madaba domain, Jarash and Ajloun domain and in Amman domain. However, it should be noted that variations in consultation levels may be more indicative of the socio-economic conditions of households. Income of household is often the single most influential factor in the decision to obtain consultation. Regardless, the significant variations noted may warrant further investigation to determine the specific reasons for the lack of consultation by some groups of adolescents in Jordan.

Table 3.8: Percentages of the Adolescent Population Aged 12-21 Who Were Ill or Injured During The Two Weeks Before The Interview, Who Didn't Consult Medical Services by Geographic Domain and Gender, Jordan, 1996

| Domain | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Amman | 56.3 | 50.9 | 53.5 |
| Zarqa & Mafraq | 62.9 | 58.1 | 60.0 |
| Balqa & Madaba | 77.3 | 66.7 | 73.9 |
| Irbid | 59.4 | 62.3 | 62.1 |
| Jarash & Ajloun | 66.7 | 72.7 | 70.6 |
| South | 69.6 | 68.0 | 69.4 |
| Total | 60.9 | 57.2 | 59.0 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Table 3.9 shows that the vast majority of adolescents who were acutely ill or injured and consulted about their illness or injury consulted a doctor (included general practitioner and specialist doctor). About 3.0 percent consulted a pharmacist while the proportion who consulted the traditional healer was very small (0.5 percent).

The results revealed small differences between males and females according to the person consulted during the illness or injury. Adolescent females tended to consult the pharmacist more than males, while adolescent males tended to consult traditional healers for treatment more than females. These findings are contrary to popular belief and other information that would indicate the reverse situation is true for older ages. The inconsistency may either be the result of insufficient data being available to validate the findings or that there is a real shift in the nature of consultation being undertaken by the younger population. This warrants further investigation.

As shown in Table 3.10, there were large variations in the place selected for consultation. A little over 40 percent of adolescents who made a consultation had that consultation in a governmental health center. About one-third of consultations were held in private clinics, and about 15.0 percent in governmental hospitals. The rest of the adolescents made the consultation in other places such as: (private hospitals 3.9%, pharmacies 2.9%, UNRWA Clinics 2.1% and 2.1% at home).

Females consulted governmental health centers and pharmacies more than males. About 46 percent of females consulted the governmental health centers compared with about 38 percent of males. About 4 percent of females consulted the pharmacists in comparison with about 2 percent for males.

Overall, governmental health services provided the main place of consultation for acutely ill or injured adolescents, followed by the private sector, while UNRWA clinics were places of consultation for a small proportion of acutely ill and injured adolescents.

Table 3.9: Distribution of Adolescents Aged 12-21 years Who Were Acutely Ill or Injured and made a Medical Consultation by Gender and by Person Consulted, Jordan, 1996.

| Person Consulted | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| General practitioner | 70.2 | 70.0 | 70.2 |
| Specialist Doctor | 25.4 | 26.1 | 25.7 |
| Pharmacist | 2.4 | 3.9 | 3.1 |
| Traditional Healer | 1.0 | — | 0.5 |
| Other | 1.0 | | 0.5 |
| Total | 100.0 (205) | 100.0 (207) | 100.0 (413) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Table 3.10: Percentage Distribution of Adolescents Aged 12-21 Who Were Acutely Ill or Injured and made a Health Consultation by Gender and by Place of Consultation, Jordan, 1996.

| Place of Consultation | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Private Hospital | 4.8 | 3.4 | 3.9 |
| Government Hospital | 17.9 | 11.1 | 14.5 |
| Private Clinic | 32.9 | 32.7 | 32.7 |
| UNRWA Clinic | 1.4 | 2.9 | 2.1 |
| Government Health Center | 38.2 | 46.2 | 42.4 |
| Pharmacy | 1.9 | 3.8 | 2.9 |
| At Home | 2.9 | | 1.5 |
| Total | 100.0 (207) | 100.0 (208) | 100.0 (413) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Further research is required on how consultations take place, the reasons for the consultations and the results of the consultations, especially for adolescent females.

3.5 Chronic Diseases and Serious Health Problems

It is important to note that the data presented in Table 3.11 understates the prevalence of chronic diseases and health problems for the adolescent population as a whole since they exclude the institutionalized adolescent population, among whom the prevalence may be very high. As indicated in the table the prevalence rate of chronic diseases and health problems is low whether among adolescent males or females.

About 2.5 percent of the adolescent population surveyed, aged 12-21 reported that they had chronic disease or health problems. The proportion of adolescent males who have chronic diseases or health problems constituted 2.7 percent of the total

adolescent males, in comparison with 2.2 percent for females. In general, prevalence rates were very low among adolescent males and females and ranged between 1.1 percent at age 16 years and 5.6 percent at age 20.0 years for males, and between 1.0 percent at age 16 years to 3.3 percent at age 14 years for females.

Table 3.11: Age-Specific Prevalence of Chronic Disease or Serious Health Problems among Adolescents Aged 12-21 by Age and Gender, Jordan, 1996.

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 12 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| 13 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| 14 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 |
| 15 | 2.7 | 1.5 | 2.1 |
| 16 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 17 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 1.7 |
| 18 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 3.3 |
| 19 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
| 20 | 5.6 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| 21 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| Total | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.5 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

3.6 Smoking

Table 3.12 provides data on the prevalence of tobacco smoking (includes cigarettes, pipe, cigars and arguilah) among adolescents aged 15-21 years by gender and frequency of smoking. The prevalence of smoking among the total adolescent population was about 15.0 percent in comparison with the estimated rate for the population aged 15 years and above of 24 percent. Variations between males and females were high with about one-fourth of adolescent males smoking daily while only 0.3 percent of females reported smoking daily; approximately 4.0 percent of adolescent males smoked occasionally compared with about 2.0 percent for female adolescents. It is suggested that there may be severe under reporting of the prevalence of smoking among adolescents, especially among adolescent females where smoking is not viewed favourably by the family or society. The most frequent age (or mode) for beginning smoking for males was 17 years and for females 22 years.

Table 3.12: Percentage Distribution of the Adolescent Population Aged (15-21) years by Gender and Frequency of Smoking, Jordan, 1996.

| Frequency of Smoking | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yes/Daily | 23.4 | 0.3 | 12.0 |
| Yes/Occasionally | 4.0 | 1.6 | 2.8 |
| No/Never | 72.6 | 98.1 | 85.2 |
| Total | 100.0 (898) | 100.0 (652) | 100.0 (1782) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Chapter 4

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The economic activities of a people are among the most important topics of investigation. Detailed and current data regarding the employed and employment available population have become essential to effective administration by business, organized labour, and the government on several levels. Government relies upon such data for the study and operation of its social programs, to ascertain the general condition of the country's economy and to identify areas of labour shortage or surplus. To business such data are valuable not only for measuring economic change, but also for the study of markets and for locating sources of labour supply.

Adolescent labour has become an important issue and occupies an advanced position among the social issues of many countries. The proportion of adolescent labour of the total labour force could be used as an indicator of the standard of living in the country since there are numerous factors standing behind this phenomenon such as the poverty of the household, high education drop out rates, family dissolution, and other socio-economic factors. The Labour Law of 1996 raised the minimum age for formal employment from 13 to 16, thus matching the age of compulsory education. However, the law does not cover children working in family enterprises, agricultural activities and domestic labour, in effect those areas where a significant proportion of females are employed. In addition, the law would appear to permit vocational training of children as young as 7 since no minimum age is specified in the legislation.

In attempting to understand the situation of economic activity of adolescents, it is important to appreciate that most of the information collected on economic activity is related to formal employment activities - that is employment activities that are governed or affected by the laws and legislation of a country. This approach has not been able to measure, in any meaningful way, the prevalence of informal economic activity, for example, family work, housework and child labour. For the data provided from the Jordan Living Conditions Survey, an attempt has been made in the survey to include the participation of individuals in both informal and formal sectors of the economy, however the data sample for ages 12-21 is not large and presents challenges for valid interpretation.

In addition, the definitions of how an individual participates in the economy are important for any discussion on participation as definitions affect not only the gathering of data but also its interpretation.

The term "inactive" may be defined as not seeking work in the formal sector. The term "active" may be defined as either seeking work (unemployed) or having work (employed) in the formal sector. Unfortunately, these terms fail to include, to any significant degree, the informal sector-whether paid or unpaid work. As a result the reader is cautioned that the data presented has a clear gender bias towards males. Males are more likely to seek and find work in the formal sector, thus being included in the data whereas females are less likely to seek and find work in the formal sector. Thus, females tend to get excluded from traditional calculations of economic participation.

The present chapter is designed, for the purposes of this report, to highlight the incidence of adolescent labour. There is a need to investigate, on the one hand, the proportional size of this category of labour force and, on the other, the economic characteristics of adolescent labour with regard to the type of economic activity, occupational structure, and employment status. In addition to this, the chapter will also provide information on unemployed adolescents.

4.1. Relationship to Economic Activity

Data related to economic activity has been collected in the JLCS 1996 and other demographic surveys. The analysis in the present chapter is based mainly on data derived from the 1996 JLCS, which provided information on the various characteristics of the economically active population. The reference period for surveying different economic characteristics is one week before the date of interview, whether for the JLCS or other demographic surveys, which have been conducted by the Department of Statistics. The JLCS Survey included age 15, even though the Labour Law of 1996 prohibits anyone under the age of 16 from engaging in formal employment. The reporting of age 15 in the employment activity in the 1996 JLCS is due to the JLCS survey being conducted prior to the passage of the Labour Law.

Table 4.1 and Figures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 present the percentage distribution of the adolescent population aged 15-21 years by age, sex and relationship to economic activity. It is observed that the proportion of the active adolescent population was

about 23 percent of the total adolescent population aged 15-21 years, while the inactive adolescents formed the largest proportion or about 77 percent of the total adolescents.

The results obtained from the 1997 Employment and Unemployment Survey show that the adolescent labour force (employed and unemployed) constituted 7.5 percent of the total labour force in Jordan, while the unemployed adolescents aged 15-19 years formed about 17 percent of the total unemployed persons in Jordan in 1997. The data also revealed that about one-third of the adolescent labour force were unemployed (32.3%).

Data from the first round of the Employment and Unemployment Survey in 1998 show that 7.1 percent of the total labour force in Jordan were in the age group of 15-19 years, which means that more than one in fourteen active persons was an adolescent person. The results of the 1998 survey show that unemployed adolescents made up about 14 percent of the total unemployed Jordanian labour force. Employed adolescents aged 15-19 formed 6.0 percent of the total employed Jordanian persons aged 15 years and above in 1998. About two-third of the employed adolescents had at most basic education, while illiterate employed adolescent persons formed 3 percent of the total employed persons aged 15 years and above. This data demonstrates that there is a positive relation between educational level and employment opportunities for the lower occupational levels of economic activity. This relationship is not linear. For higher education levels employment opportunities are reduced. The hypothesis is that Jordan can employ more unskilled individuals than it can workers from the highly skilled occupations.. A comparison between 1997 and 1998 data is provided in Table 4.2.

Data presented in Table 4.1 shows that males tended to participate in the labour force more than females. About 40 percent of males aged 15-21 years were considered as active compared with about 6 percent for females. These variations between males and females are due to many factors such as the high education drop-out rates among males, availability of jobs for males and the social norms which prevent females from participating in the labour market. The results also support the fact that males are the portion of population regardless of their age who take the responsibilities in their households with regard to financial support.

Considering the percentages of the active adolescent population for individual ages, the percentages started at low levels for the youngest age (15 years), where about 6.0 percent of the total population was active (either employed or unemployed).

Compared to females, adolescent males were more likely to be active than females. At age 15 years about 11 percent of males were considered to be active while only 0.7 percent of females were active.

Table No 4.1: Distribution of the Adolescent Population Aged 15-21 by Age, Gender and Participation in Economic Activity, Jordan, 1996

| Age | Active | | | Inactive | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 15 | 10.5 | 0.7 | 6.1 | 89.5 | 99.3 | 93.9 |
| 16 | 17.8 | 0.9 | 9.5 | 82.2 | 99.1 | 90.5 |
| 17 | 24.3 | 2.4 | 13.1 | 75.7 | 97.6 | 86.9 |
| 18 | 38.9 | 5.5 | 23.0 | 61.1 | 94.5 | 77.0 |
| 19 | 56.6 | 7.9 | 32.7 | 43.4 | 92.1 | 67.3 |
| 20 | 68.0 | 12.5 | 40.8 | 32.0 | 87.5 | 59.2 |
| 21 | 77.6 | 16.9 | 47.9 | 22.4 | 83.1 | 52.1 |
| Total | 39.4 | 6.2 | 23.3 | 60.6 | 93.8 | 76.7 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Figure 4.1: Active and Inactive Adolescent Males Aged 15-21, Jordan 1996.

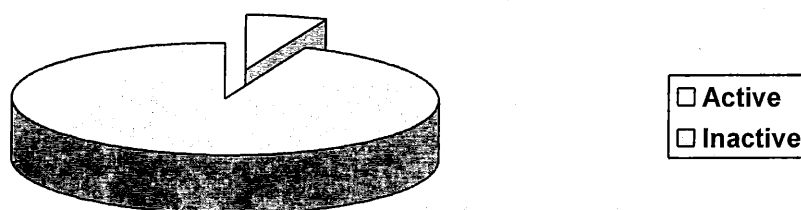
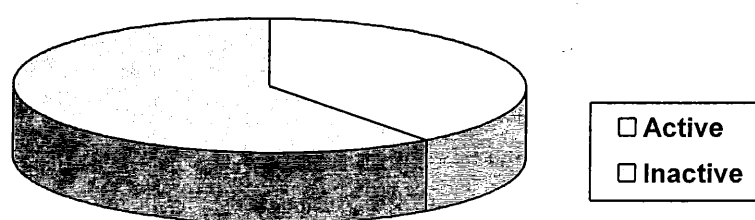


Figure 4.2: Active And Inactive Adolescent Females Aged 15-21, Jordan 1996.

Figure 4.3: Comparison Graph of Active Males and Females, Aged 15-21, Jordan 1990

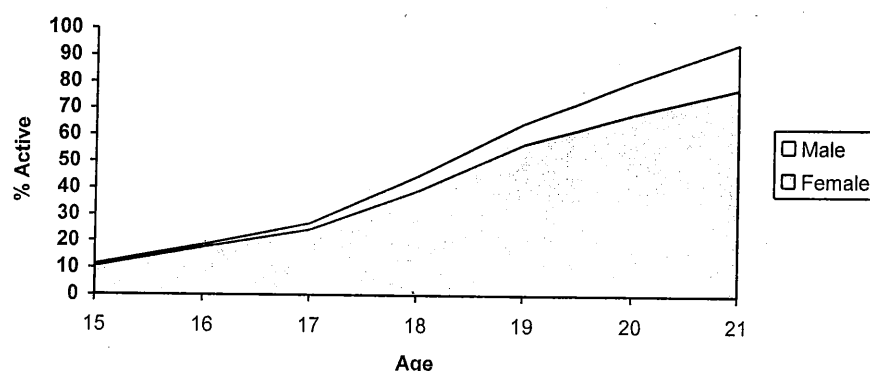


Table 4.2: Comparison of Adolescent Employment by Age Group and by Gender, Jordan, 1997 and 1998.

| Age Group | 1997 (1) | | | 1998 (2) | | |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 15-17 | 14.4 | 0.6 | 7.7 | 16.0 | 1.0 | 8.6 |
| 18-19 | 46.7 | 4.7 | 26.1 | 42.5 | 3.3 | 23.6 |

(1) Employment and Unemployment Survey 1997

(2) Employment and Unemployment Survey 1998/First Round

As age increased, the proportion of active adolescents increased. The proportion of active adolescents increased slowly in ages less than 18 years, then tended to increase more rapidly after that age to reach 32.7 percent at age 19, to about 41 percent at age 20, and to about 48.0 percent at the end of the adolescent age group. Patterns of participation for males and females are similar. The proportion of active adolescent males and females started low at the youngest age (15 years) (10.5 percent of males were active and 0.7 percent of females were active). The proportions between males and females continued as age increased. The highest values were recorded at the end of adolescent period. Irrespective of the pattern similarity observed between the two genders, active female rates started very low, increased at a similar rate to males, but were still much lower in comparison with the number of active males.

Factors lying behind these variations could be the availability of jobs for males and more restrictive social constraints on female participation to work away from the home. As noted previously, one part of the explanation for the low activity rates being reported for females may be their involvement with the informal economy, thus not being recorded as being active in the traditional measurements of economic participation.

The results of the 1997 and 1998 Employment and Unemployment Surveys (Table 4.2) show that at any given age activity rates for males were higher than those for females. The results also show that there was a positive relationship between age and activity rate, which means that employment opportunity and/or actively seeking work increased with age.

4.2. Urban-Rural Differentials

The difference between urban and rural participation in economic activity is presented in Table 4.3. The data shows that overall participation rates for males and females in rural areas was higher than the rates for urban areas.

The participation rates of males in urban and rural areas were considerably higher than those for females in both areas. Approximately 6 percent of females aged 15-21 years were active in the rural areas, while about 28 percent of males were active. The same gender difference existed in urban areas where 26 percent of males were active compared with only 4 percent for females.

Educational level tends to be one of the most important variables in determining the activity status among males and females in both rural and urban areas. More educated males and females tended to be more active in comparison with other groups of males and females.

Family income as a determinant of participation did not show a significant role whether in urban or rural areas or between males or females.

Table 4.3: Percent Distribution of the Adolescent Population Aged 15-21 Years by Selected Background Characteristics, Activity Status, Gender and Urban-Rural Residence, Jordan, 1996.

| Background Characteristics | Urban | | | | Rural | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | Active | Inactive | Active | Inactive | Active | Inactive | Active | Inactive |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 10.1 | 89.9 | 0.6 | 99.4 | 12.1 | 87.9 | 1.1 | 98.9 |
| 16 | 18.1 | 81.9 | 0.3 | 99.7 | 15.4 | 84.6 | 2.7 | 97.3 |
| 17 | 22.9 | 77.1 | 1.7 | 98.3 | 30.0 | 70.0 | 4.4 | 95.6 |
| 18 | 36.4 | 63.6 | 5.2 | 94.8 | 46.6 | 53.4 | 6.6 | 93.4 |
| 19 | 54.7 | 45.3 | 8.5 | 91.5 | 63.5 | 36.5 | 5.9 | 94.1 |
| 20 | 67.1 | 32.9 | 12.1 | 87.9 | 71.8 | 28.2 | 12.5 | 87.5 |
| 21 | 77.1 | 22.9 | 17.4 | 82.6 | 80.0 | 20.0 | 15.7 | 84.3 |
| Total | 26.0 | 74.0 | 4.0 | 96.0 | 27.7 | 72.3 | 6.4 | 93.6 |
| Educational Level | | | | | | | | |
| None | 63.3 | 36.7 | 10.9 | 89.1 | 67.6 | 32.4 | 11.5 | 88.5 |
| Less than secondary | 84.7 | 15.3 | 6.0 | 94.0 | 91.4 | 8.6 | 5.9 | 94.1 |
| Secondary | 84.3 | 15.7 | 20.6 | 79.4 | 89.8 | 10.2 | 23.1 | 76.9 |
| Intermediate Dip. | 95.7 | 4.3 | 61.8 | 38.2 | 100.0 | — | 90.9 | 9.1 |
| University | 100.0 | — | 66.7 | 33.3 | 100.0 | — | — | — |
| Other | 50.0 | 50.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| <900 | 29.3 | 70.7 | 3.6 | 96.4 | 32.8 | 67.2 | 9.4 | 90.6 |
| 901-1800 | 30.8 | 69.2 | 3.6 | 96.4 | 28.3 | 71.7 | 4.7 | 95.3 |
| 1801-4300 | 26.0 | 74.0 | 4.1 | 95.9 | 27.0 | 73.0 | 2.7 | 97.3 |
| 4301+ | 18.4 | 81.6 | 5.2 | 94.8 | 27.6 | 72.4 | 8.2 | 91.8 |
| Unspecified. | 23.5 | 76.5 | 2.8 | 97.2 | 26.7 | 73.3 | 5.7 | 94.3 |
| Total | 26.0 | 74.0 | 4.0 | 96.0 | 27.7 | 72.3 | 27.7 | 72.3 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

4.3. Type of Economic Activity

Studies of the types of economic activities in which the adolescent labour force is engaged deserves an important place in the study of the adolescent situation along with the study of the adolescent labour force and its composition in terms of gender, age and other characteristics.

Table 4.4 provides the percentage distribution of employed adolescents by type of economic activity and gender.

The table shows that three industries, namely: public administration, wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing employed about (60) percent of the employed adolescents aged 15-21 years.

Public administration occupied the first rank in employing adolescent workers (22.2 percent of total employed adolescents) while the balance (79.8%) worked in the private sector (except for a small percentage in Education (1.2%) and Health and Social work (2.3%). The wholesale and retail trade occupied the second position with a percentage of 20.4 percent of total employed adolescents, while the third position was occupied by manufacturing with a percentage of 18.4. Agriculture and construction industries employed relatively similar percentages and had together about 19 percent of the total employed adolescents.

The residual proportion of employed adolescents (about 20 percent) was distributed unevenly across the rest of the industries and ranged between 4.9 percent in community, social and personal activities, to 0.3 percent in mining, financial services, and extra-territorial organizations and bodies.

Table 4.4: Distribution of the Adolescent Population Aged (15-21) by Type of Economic Activity and Gender, Jordan, 1996

| Type of Economic Activity | Male | Female | Total |
|--|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Agriculture | 8.2 | 26.3 | 10.2 |
| Mining and Quarrying | 0.4 | - | 0.3 |
| Manufacturing | 19.3 | 10.5 | 18.4 |
| Electricity, Gas and water supply | 0.5 | - | 0.4 |
| Construction | 8.8 | 3.2 | 8.3 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 21.6 | 10.5 | 20.4 |
| Hotels and Restaurants | 2.3 | 4.2 | 2.5 |
| Transport, storage and communications | 4.5 | 6.3 | 4.7 |
| Financial Inter-mediation | 0.2 | 2.1 | 0.3 |
| Real Estate | 1.2 | 5.3 | 1.7 |
| Public Administration | 24.8 | - | 22.2 |
| Education | 0.9 | 4.2 | 1.2 |
| Health and Social Work | 1.7 | 6.3 | 2.3 |
| Other Community, Social and Personal Services Activities | 4.7 | 6.3 | 4.9 |
| Private Households with Employed Persons | - | 14.8 | 1.5 |
| Extra-Territorial Organizations and Bodies | 0.4 | - | 0.3 |
| Unspecified | 0.5 | - | 0.4 |
| Total | 100.0 (828) | 100.0 (95) | 100.0 (923) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

The relative distribution of males and females in different economic activity show significant differences. Employed males were concentrated mainly in three industries, namely: public administration (about one-fourth of total employed males), wholesale trade and retail trade (about 22 percent), and manufacturing (about 19 percent). Again, agriculture and construction employed approximately the same proportions (or about 8 percent each of the total employed males).

Female workers were concentrated mainly in agriculture, which employed about 26 percent. Private households with employed persons occupied the second position in employing adolescent females with about 15 percent of total employed females. About one-fifth of total employed adolescent females were engaged in manufacturing and wholesale and retail trades. Three additional industries: health and social work, community and social services, and transport, storage and communication employed a combined total of about 19 percent of total employed adolescent females. The relatively small sample size of 95 females raises concern about the validity of the data, however, the low rate of reported female employment is of concern and warrants further inquiry.

The results discussed above suggest that the governmental sector employed about one-fourth of males, most of whom were not permanent workers according to the governmental employment system. The other industries, which attracted males, were related to the private sector and characterized by low levels of wages. A considerable proportion of females worked in agriculture and in private households, meaning that about one-fourth of employed adolescent females (those who were working in agriculture) are seasonal workers, and about one-sixth of the total employed adolescent females were working as servants in households.

4.4. Occupational Structure

The occupational structure of the labour force reflects the kind of functions workers perform in the economy. Also, the structure of occupations reflects the complexity of technology being utilized in the productive sector (indicating level of training required) and organization of the economy relative to other countries thus providing an indicator of competitiveness. Table 4.5 and Figure 4.4 illustrate the distribution of adolescent employed persons by occupation and gender. It is clear from the data presented in the table that more than half of the employed adolescents were engaged in two kinds of occupations: crafts (not handicrafts) and related trades and elementary occupations. The other large proportion of adolescent employment was found in the

service field (about 17 percent of the total employed persons). Agricultural employees and operators comprised together about 17 percent of the total employed adolescents.

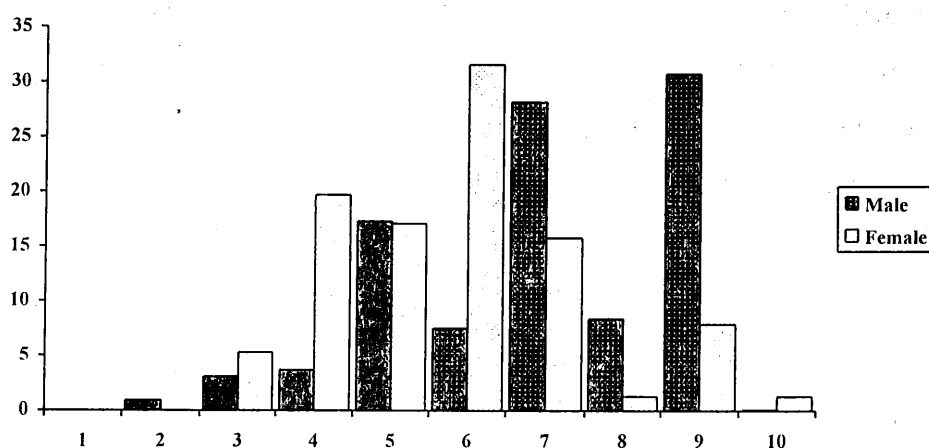
The occupational structure for males and females showed great variations and reflected the industries the adolescent labour force was engaged in. For female workers, the largest proportion was agricultural work while the largest proportion of males worked in elementary occupations. Service workers showed similar proportions for both males and females (about 17 percent each). Skilled craft workers (not handicrafts) were more than one-fourth of the total adolescent male workers and about 16 percent of total adolescent female workers.

Table No. 4.5: Percent Distribution of Employed Adolescents Aged (15-21) by Occupation and by Gender, Jordan, 1996.

| Occupation | Male | Female | Total |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Legislators and senior officials | - | - | - |
| 2. Professionals | 0.9 | - | 0.8 |
| 3. Technicians | 3.1 | 5.3 | 3.3 |
| 4. Clerks | 3.7 | 19.7 | 5.1 |
| 5. Service workers | 17.3 | 17.1 | 17.3 |
| 6. Agricultural workers | 7.5 | 31.6 | 9.6 |
| 7. Skilled craft and related trades (not handicrafts) | 28.2 | 15.8 | 27.1 |
| 8. Plant and machine operators | 8.4 | 1.3 | 7.6 |
| 9. Elementary occupations | 30.8 | 7.9 | 28.7 |
| 10. Unspecified | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.4 |
| Total | 100.0 (765) | 100.0 (76) | 100.0 (840) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

Figure 4.4: Graph-Distribution of Adolescent Employed Persons by Occupation and Gender, Jordan, 1996.



** See Table 4.5 for list of occupations*

Table 4.6 presents the percentage distribution of employed adolescent males and females according to selected background characteristics.

It is evident from the data that about one-third of all employed adolescent males are engaged in two kinds of occupations: craft and related trades which employed about 28% of total employed adolescent males and elementary occupations which reported about 31 percent of employed males.

For females, 40% were employed in the occupation of clerk and 36 percent in the agricultural occupations.

The distribution of employed adolescent males and females by geographic domain and occupational group shows that males were more likely to work in elementary occupations and crafts occupations, while females in all domains were more likely to be clerks and agricultural workers.

Education has a significant role in determining the occupational structure of employed adolescents. Better educated males and females were more likely to work as professionals, technicians and clerks. Less educated females tended to be agricultural workers.

Distribution by marital status revealed that single males were more likely to work in elementary occupations and craft trades, while married males tended to work in services and agriculture. For females, single females were more likely to be agricultural workers, while married females tended to be clerks. This distinction between occupations held by single and married females is most probably a function of age and of the level of education attained. Single females will tend to be younger with less education and married females will likely be older with more education.

Table 4.6: Percent Distribution Of Employed Adolescent Males and Females by Occupation and Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1996

| Back Ground | Occupation | | | | | | | | Total |
|---------------------------------|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| Males | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Domaine</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Amman | — | 4.0 | 3.3 | 23.5 | 3.3 | 38.8 | 9.2 | 17.9 | (273) |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | — | 4.7 | 0.7 | 18.1 | 3.4 | 25.5 | 10.7 | 36.9 | (149) |
| Balqa and Madaba | 1.6 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 11.5 | 26.2 | 13.1 | 4.9 | 36.1 | (61) |
| Irbid | 2.5 | 1.2 | 5.0 | 14.9 | 6.2 | 28.0 | 6.2 | 36.0 | (16) |
| Jarash and Ajloun | — | 2.4 | 4.7 | 11.9 | 4.7 | 16.7 | 4.8 | 54.8 | (42) |
| South | 2.5 | 1.3 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 19.2 | 15.4 | 9.0 | 37.2 | (78) |
| <u>Educational level</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| None | — | — | — | 10.9 | 23.6 | 32.7 | 7.3 | 25.5 | (55) |
| Less than | 0.4 | 1.8 | 3.7 | 15.1 | 6.5 | 30.3 | 9.2 | 33.0 | (542) |
| Secondary | | | | | | | | | |
| Secondary | 1.6 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 31.5 | 4.0 | 18.5 | 7.3 | 25.8 | (124) |
| Inter-mediate | 5.0 | 30.0 | 5.0 | — | 5.0 | 40.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 | (20) |
| Diploma | | | | | | | | | |
| University | 22.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 75.0 | (4) |
| <u>Marital Status</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Never Married | 0.8 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 17.1 | 7.0 | 28.8 | 8.2 | 31.5 | (741) |
| Married | 4.4 | — | 13.0 | 21.8 | 21.8 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 13.0 | (23) |
| Females | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Domain</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Amman | — | 8.0 | 40.0 | — | — | 36.0 | — | 16.0 | (25) |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | — | — | 17.6 | 17.6 | 53.0 | 5.9 | — | 5.9 | (17) |
| Balqa and Madaba | — | — | — | 11.1 | 44.5 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 11.1 | (9) |
| Irbid | — | — | — | 87.5 | 12.5 | — | — | — | (8) |
| Jarash and Ajloun | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| South | — | 7.1 | 14.3 | 7.2 | 71.4 | — | — | — | (14) |
| <u>Educational level</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| None | — | — | — | — | 33.3 | — | — | 66.7 | (6) |
| Less than secondary | — | — | — | 37.5 | 29.1 | 25.0 | 4.2 | 4.2 | (24) |
| Secondary | — | — | 52.4 | 19.0 | 4.8 | 23.8 | — | — | (21) |
| Inter-mediate | — | 50.0 | 50.0 | — | — | — | — | — | (8) |
| Diploma | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| University | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| <u>Marital Status</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Never married | — | 5.8 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 31.9 | 17.4 | 1.4 | 8.7 | (69) |
| Married | — | — | 75.0 | — | 25.0 | — | — | — | (40) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Note: Occupation Legend

2 = Professional

3 = Technicians

4 = Clerks

5 = Service workers

6 = Skilled agricultural workers

7 = Crafts and related trades

8 = Plant and machine operators

9 = Elementary occupations

Interpretation of the data should be approached with caution due to the relatively low sample size provided by the 1996 JLCS. An additional data requirement is the provision of information on income for adolescents by gender, occupation, educational level and location.

4.5. Employment Status

The distribution of the employed adolescent population by employment status and sex is presented in Table 4.7 and Figure 4.5. This information shows that the majority of employed males and females were working as paid employees. Paid workers constituted about 82 percent of employed adolescent males and about 73 percent of employed female workers. Unpaid family workers who were working in family enterprises occupied the second position and formed about 9 percent for males and about 15 percent for females. Unpaid workers constituted a small proportion among male and female workers (about 4 percent and about 6 percent for males and females respectively).

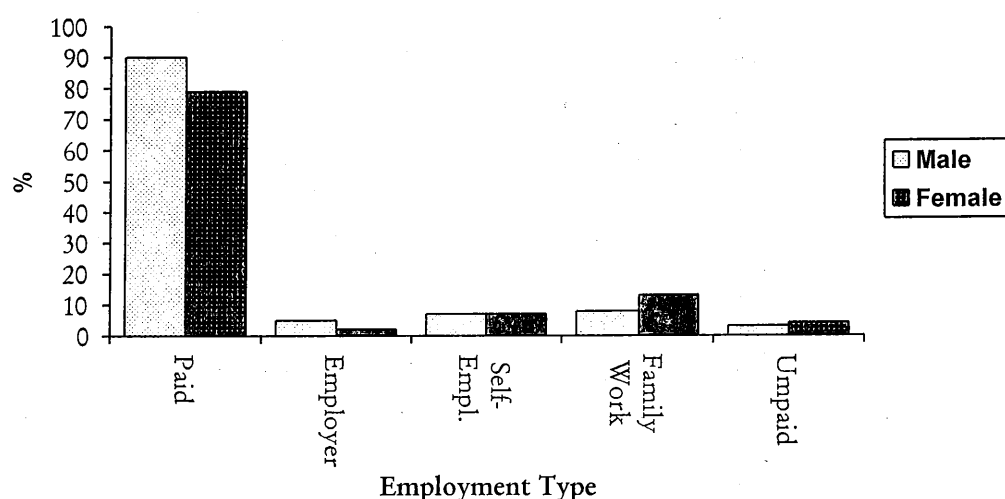
It is interesting to note that there was a significant proportion of self-employed workers among the adolescent males and females, which could indicate that there is a part of adolescent labour force serving as employers of other workers. This indicates that adolescent workers have the capacity to organize their own work and administer the work of others who are working within their enterprises.

Table No. 4.7: Percent Distribution of Employed Adolescents Aged 15-21 by Employment Status and by Gender, Jordan, 1996

| Employment Status | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Paid employee | 81.7 | 72.9 | 80.7 |
| Employer | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| Self-employed | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Family worker | 8.7 | 14.6 | 9.3 |
| Unpaid worker | 3.5 | 6.3 | 3.8 |
| Total | 100.0 (676) | 100.0 (96) | 100.0 (924) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Figure 4.5: Graph of the Employment Status of Adolescents by Type of Employment and by Gender, Jordan, 1996.



Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

4.6. Employment and Unemployment

The unemployment rates among the adolescent population can be considered to be high in comparison with the rates for the total labour force. Findings of the JLCS 1996 show that one-third of the adolescent labour force was seeking jobs. When considering the total number of unemployed regardless of gender, males were about 82 percent while females were about 18 percent of the total unemployed adolescents. (Tables 4.8 and 4.9).

Table 4.8: Age Specific Unemployment Rates for Adolescents Aged 15-21 years by Single Age and Gender, Jordan, 1996

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 15 | 20.8 | - | 19.3 |
| 16 | 27.9 | 25.0 | 27.0 |
| 17 | 36.4 | 27.3 | 35.3 |
| 18 | 36.8 | 37.5 | 36.8 |
| 19 | 36.5 | 40.0 | 36.9 |
| 20 | 32.1 | 54.2 | 35.4 |
| 21 | 25.3 | 52.5 | 42.9 |
| Total | 31.6 | 45.8 | 33.4 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Table No. 4.9: Distribution of Unemployed Adolescents Aged 15-21 years by Single Age and by Gender, Jordan, 1996.

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 15 | 2.9 | - | 2.4 |
| 16 | 6.3 | 1.2 | 5.2 |
| 17 | 10.4 | 3.7 | 9.1 |
| 18 | 17.8 | 11.0 | 16.6 |
| 19 | 21.1 | 14.6 | 20.1 |
| 20 | 23.0 | 31.7 | 24.6 |
| 21 | 18.5 | 37.8 | 22.0 |
| Total | 100.0 (383) | 100.0 (82) | 100.0 (463) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Comparing unemployment rates for males and females, sizeable differentials between the two genders are observed. The unemployment rate for females was higher than that of males (46 percent for females and 32 percent for males), which means that adolescent males are more likely to find jobs in the labour market than females. Nevertheless, other factors may be involved, such as the availability of suitable jobs, constraints on females to seek and obtain socially acceptable employment and the relevancy of their education and training to the labour market (see Chapter 5.1). Again, it is important to stress that the data appears to have gender bias against females in that the data does not adequately include the participation of adolescent females who tend to work the informal sector (whether paid or unpaid work).

Table 4.9 presents the percentage distribution of unemployed adolescent males and females by age. Data revealed the tendency towards seeking jobs among unemployed adolescent males and females mainly after age 17. Approximately 80 percent of the total unemployed adolescents were concentrated in the age group 18-21. In effect, this implies that those individuals who left secondary school and did not pursue further education are more likely to be in the labour market actively seeking work.

A comparison between unemployed males and females show that the bulk of unemployed females were concentrated in last two ages (20 and 21), while the highest proportions of unemployed males were found at ages 19 and 20. This differential might be attributed to the age at which males and females become active in the labour market. That is, out-of-school males tend to be economically active earlier than females. Another possible explanation that may contribute to the reporting of the highest number of males at age 20 rather than 21 is "age-heaping" (see earlier explanation in Chapter 1 that suggests males select to report age 20 rather than their actual ages).

The patterns of unemployment among adolescent males and females which is illustrated in Table 4.8 show that the age specific unemployment rates started low at the youngest ages then increased as age increased to reach their maximum values at the end of the adolescent age group.

Considering the distribution of unemployed adolescents by marital status (not shown in the table), the majority of unemployed adolescents were single whether male or female. Unemployment rates by marital status show that divorced males had the highest rate, while single and married females had higher unemployment rates than single and married males.

Table 4.10 presents the percentage distribution of unemployed adolescents aged 15-21 years by gender and by selected background characteristics. The data shows the positive association between unemployment and age, which means that the proportions of unemployed persons tended to increase with age. About 41 percent of unemployed males and about 70 percent of unemployed females were concentrated in ages 20 and 21 years.

Comparing data for unemployed males and females according to the educational level attained, it appears that unemployment is increasing among males with educational levels less than secondary, while the opposite is the situation for females.

Adolescents living in the Amman geographic domain constituted the largest proportion of unemployed adolescents (about 35 percent of the total unemployed males and about 38.0 percent of the unemployed females). The second largest population of unemployed males and females was found in Zarqa and Mafrq domain (18 percent for males and 22 percent for females), while the smallest number of unemployed males and females was found in Jarash and Ajloun domain (6.2 percent for males and 3.6 percent for females).

The distribution of unemployed males and females followed the general population distribution between urban and rural areas where more than 75 percent of unemployed males and females were living in urban areas.

Table No. 4.10: Distribution of the Unemployed Adolescent Population Aged 15-21 by Gender and Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1996

| Selected Characteristics | Sex | | Total |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Male | Female | |
| Age | | | |
| 15 | 2.9 | | 2.4 |
| 16 | 6.3 | 1.2 | 5.2 |
| 17 | 10.4 | 3.7 | 9.1 |
| 18 | 17.8 | 11.0 | 16.6 |
| 19 | 21.1 | 14.6 | 20.1 |
| 20 | 23.0 | 31.7 | 24.6 |
| 21 | 18.5 | 37.8 | 22.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Education | | | |
| Non | 8.4 | 1.3 | 7.2 |
| Less than Sec. | 69.5 | 25.3 | 61.9 |
| Secondary | 14.5 | 27.8 | 16.8 |
| Intern. Diploma | 6.5 | 40.5 | 12.6 |
| University | 1.1 | 5.1 | 1.5 |
| Other | | | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Domain | | | |
| Amman | 34.9 | 37.8 | 35.4 |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | 18.0 | 22.0 | 18.8 |
| Balqa and Madaba | 12.8 | 15.9 | 13.1 |
| Irbid | 15.6 | 7.3 | 14.2 |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 6.2 | 3.6 | 5.8 |
| South | 12.5 | 13.4 | 12.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Place of Residence | | | |
| Urban | 77.5 | 78.0 | 77.6 |
| Rural | 22.5 | 22.0 | 22.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Table 4.11 presents the percentage distribution of employed adolescent males and females by selected background characteristics. The probability of being employed increased as age increased. The proportion of employed males and females started small at age 15

years (5.0 percent for males and about 3.0 percent for females) and then increased with age to reach its maximum level at the end of adolescent period (about 25 percent for males and about 29.0 percent for females at age 21).

The data showed that about 48 percent of employed males were aged 20 and 21, while more than half of employed females were concentrating in these two ages.

Most of the employed males (about 79 percent of total employed males) had qualifications less than secondary school, while the majority of females had secondary level education and above. These gender variations reflect the lower education participation rates of males in comparison to females.

The data also show that more than half of the employed males and about 66 percent of females were residing in the Amman, Zarqa and Mafrqa geographic domains, while the smallest proportion of employed males and females were residing in the Jarash and Ajloun domains.

In general, about three-fourths of the employed adolescent males and females were living in urban areas, matching the general population distribution between urban and rural areas in the country.

Tables 4.11: Distribution of the Employed Adolescent Population Aged 15-21 years by Gender and Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1996.

| Selected Characteristics | Sex | | Total |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | |
| Age | | | |
| 15 | 5.0 | 3.1 | 5.0 |
| 16 | 7.5 | 3.1 | 7.0 |
| 17 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 8.3 |
| 18 | 14.1 | 15.4 | 14.3 |
| 19 | 17.0 | 18.6 | 17.2 |
| 20 | 22.5 | 22.7 | 22.5 |
| 21 | 25.4 | 28.9 | 25.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Education | | | |
| None | 7.8 | | 8.1 |
| Less than Sec. | 71.3 | 10.7 | 68.6 |
| Secondary | 17.3 | 40.0 | 18.8 |
| Intern. Diploma | 3.1 | 34.7 | 4.1 |
| University | 0.5 | 14.6 | 0.4 |
| Other | | | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Domain | | | |
| Amman | 35.8 | 45.8 | 36.6 |
| Zarqa and Mafrqa | 18.8 | 20.2 | 18.9 |
| Balqa and Madaba | 8.8 | 10.6 | 9.1 |
| Irbid | 19.5 | 8.5 | 18.4 |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 6.0 | 1.1 | 5.6 |
| South | 11.1 | 13.8 | 11.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Place of Residence | | | |
| Urban | 74.4 | 74.0 | 74.2 |
| Rural | 25.6 | 26.0 | 25.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

4.7 Child Labour*

Recently, attention has been focussed on the incidence of child labour in Jordan. The perceived rise in the occurrence of child labour has largely been blamed on the rise in poverty in the country. According to the 1997 National Study on Child Labour prepared by the National Task Force for Children, most children labour is concentrated in informal sector enterprises and is mostly temporary and seasonal. While the study cites poverty as one contributor to child labour, perceptions of diminishing social and economic returns from education and the lack of extracurricular activities are also identified.

It is difficult to assess the true extent of child labour in Jordan, however the National Study on Child Labour utilized Employment, Unemployment, Returnees and Poverty Surveys (EURPS) to provide some indication of the incidence of child labour.

The findings presented in the report are shown in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Percentage of Adolescents and Children Active in the Labour Force by Selected Years and Gender, Jordan 1961-1996.

| Year | Age Group | Activity Rates | | |
|------|-----------|----------------|-------|-------|
| | | Female | Male | Total |
| 1961 | 10-14 | 1.12 | 9.64 | 5.71 |
| | 15-19 | 0.39 | 57.02 | 5.85 |
| 1979 | 15-19 | 3.44 | 37.18 | 20.97 |
| 1983 | 15-19 | 3.75 | 29.82 | 17.35 |
| 1987 | 10-14 | 0.24 | 3.16 | 1.76 |
| | 15-19 | 2.15 | 29.82 | 16.66 |
| 1991 | 10-14 | 0.31 | 3.21 | 1.76 |
| | 15-19 | 2.34 | 28.06 | 15.74 |
| 1996 | 15-16 | 1.10 | 13.00 | |

Employment, Unemployment, Returnees and Poverty Surveys, 1961-1996

From the data it appears as if there is a clear decline in reported child employment rates since 1961. This apparent decline has been largely attributed to the increased academic enrolment rates of children in response to free compulsory education for the first ten years of schooling and also to the possibility that child employment may be increasingly under reported.

* Child labour being defined as the participation of children and adolescents under the age of 16 in formal employment.

However, while comparison of the different age groups for different years does pose some challenges, it does appear as if there may be an increase in the reported incidence of child labour in more recent years. The reported 1996 rates of 1.1% and 13% for 15 and 16-year-old females and males respectively are higher than what might be expected for this two-year age grouping. When comparing the rates for this two-year age group in 1996 to the five-year age group (15-19) in 1991, the 1996 rate does appear to be somewhat higher than one might anticipate. This apparent increase in activity rates for 15 and 16 year olds in 1996 is even more pronounced if one accepts that 17-19 year olds likely will be more active in the labour market than 15 and 16 year olds. If this the case, a significant proportion of the 1991 data would not be considered for comparison to the 1996 data.

If one accepts the argument that the rates for 15 and 16 year olds are higher than anticipated and may actually be increasing, it can be implied that the rates of employment for younger ages may be increasing as well.

It is important to stress again that the data provided does not account for child labour in the informal sector, namely domestic work, agricultural and tourism. There is also an acknowledged reluctance to report children who are working illegally. These factors could contribute to the surveys largely under estimating the extent of child labour in Jordan. Further investigation into the incidence of child/adolescent labour under the age of 16 is warranted.

Chapter 5

Selected Social Characteristics

In this chapter data on a number of selected social characteristics of adolescents are provided and analyzed. These selected areas for inquiry provide additional insight into the situation of adolescents in Jordan. Areas selected are educational participation, marital status, head of household incidence, and the incidence of crime/ violence in the adolescent population.

5.1 Educational Participation

Education participation by a population is a key indicator of the level of development of the country and its people. The level of education attained has a direct correlation to and effect on a number of other population indicators, including fertility rates, health and socio-economic status. Jordan boasts one of the highest levels of educational participation, not only in the Middle East region, but globally as well. Long identified by the leaders and government of Jordan as a high priority for investment, the high educational participation by the population is perhaps the single most important accomplishment of the country. The establishment of free compulsory education to age 16 in 1989 marked a major shift in the attendance and educational achievement of the adolescent population, particularly among females whose participation rates in basic and secondary school levels now match the participation rates of males attending school.

Basic and Secondary Education

The adolescent age group of 12-21 occupies many levels of education, including basic and secondary education, community colleges, universities and vocational training centers.

At the basic and secondary education levels, for the purposes of this study, enrolment figures are provided for the Basic Education Level 6 to Secondary Education Level 2 (G2), representing ages 12-18 for the most part.

In Table 5.1, the 1998/99 enrolments for all basic and secondary schools for Basic Education Level 6 to Secondary Education Level 2 (G2) is presented. The data demonstrates that in basic education, adolescent males represented approximately 51 percent of the total student population. The percentage of male students relative to female students showed a slight decrease with entry into the secondary levels with a 49.9 percent male student population enrolled in the final year of secondary school. This data supports the observation that more males than females tended to leave school after completion of basic education (Level 10).

One interesting observation to be made from this data is the variation in program enrolments between males and females once they begin secondary level studies. Approximately 51 percent of the total number of female adolescents in secondary school were enrolled in the Literature program, followed by 29 percent in the scientific program, about 18 percent in the vocational program. It appears from the data that a higher percentage of female students were beginning to enroll in the Vocational program (comparing G2 and total G1 enrollments against total G2 and G1 enrollments). When compared to male secondary school students, female secondary school had a higher rate of enrolment in the Literature program (61% female to 39% male) and the Sharia'h program (60% female to 40% male).

Female secondary students, when compared to males were under represented in the scientific program (46% female to 54% male) and the vocational program (36% female to 64% male).

Table 5.1: Enrolments in Basic and Secondary Education (all schools) by Grade and by Gender, Jordan, 1998/99

| Grade/ Program | Total | Male | | Female | | Participation (%) | |
|----------------|---------|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------------------|--------|
| | | No. | % | No. | % | Male | Female |
| Basic | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 114709 | 58815 | 8.4 | 55894 | 8.2 | 51.3 | 48.7 |
| 7 | 113009 | 57770 | 8.2 | 55239 | 8.2 | 51.1 | 48.9 |
| 8 | 109849 | 56186 | 8.0 | 53663 | 7.9 | 51.1 | 48.9 |
| 9 | 103630 | 52699 | 7.5 | 50931 | 7.5 | 50.8 | 49.2 |
| 10 | 96714 | 49318 | 7.0 | 47396 | 7.0 | 51.0 | 49.0 |
| Secondary G1 | | | | | | | |
| G1 Literature | 35501 | 13975 | | 21526 | | 39.4 | 60.6 |
| G2 Scientific | 27091 | 14583 | | 12508 | | 53.8 | 46.2 |
| G1 Sharia`h | 797 | 328 | | 469 | | 41.2 | 58.8 |
| G1 Vocational | 23551 | 15172 | | 8379 | | 64.4 | 35.6 |
| Total | 86940 | 44058 | 6.3 | 42882 | 6.3 | 50.6 | 49.4 |
| Secondary G2 | | | | | | | |
| G2 Literature | 33845 | 13216 | | 20629 | | 39.0 | 61.0 |
| G2 Scientific | 25098 | 13723 | | 11375 | | 54.7 | 45.3 |
| G2 Sharia`h | 800 | 299 | | 501 | | 37.4 | 62.6 |
| G2 Vocational | 18792 | 11946 | | 6846 | | 63.6 | 36.4 |
| Total G2 | 78535 | 39184 | 5.6 | 39351 | 5.8 | 49.9 | 50.1 |
| Total | 1380722 | 703184 | | 677538 | | 50.9 | 49.1 |

Planning Directorate, Ministry of Education, 1998

Community Colleges

In Table 5.2 the enrolment statistics are provided for the community colleges by program and gender. From the data, the overall participation rate was 3:2 for males to females. For males the most preferred program of study was Administration (26.7%) followed by Academic Studies (19.4%) and Paramedical Studies at 14.7%. Computer Studies (12.9%) were closely followed by Engineering (12.1%). The lowest enrolments were found in Hotel/Tourism, Social Work and Agriculture at 1.6%, 1.5% and 1.1% respectively. For females, the highest rate of enrolment was found in Academic Studies (28.0%) followed by Administration (26.3%). Paramedical Training (15.6%), Computer training at 13.0% and Applied Arts (6.2%) had more than a third of all females enrolled. The lowest enrollments were found in Agriculture (.8%) and Hotel/Tourism (.02%). The largest disparities between male and female enrollments were found in Engineering (Males 12.1%; Females 3.3%) and Hotel/Tourism (Males 1.6%; Females 0.2%).

Table 5.2: Enrolments in Community Colleges by Program and Gender, Jordan, 1996/97

| Program | Total | Male | | Female | | Participation (%) | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Males | Females |
| Academic | 9390 | 4788 | (19.4) | 4602 | (28.0) | 51 | 49 |
| Education | 1755 | 953 | (3.9) | 802 | (4.9) | 54 | 46 |
| Engineering | 3516 | 2974 | (12.1) | 542 | (3.3) | 85 | 15 |
| Agriculture | 409 | 284 | (1.1) | 125 | (.8) | 69 | 31 |
| Paramedics | 6188 | 3630 | (14.7) | 2558 | (15.6) | 59 | 41 |
| Administration | 10901 | 6585 | (26.7) | 4316 | (26.3) | 60 | 40 |
| Computer | 5317 | 3179 | (12.9) | 2138 | (13.0) | 60 | 40 |
| Hotel/Tourism | 392 | 388 | (1.6) | 4 | (.02) | 99 | 1 |
| Applied Aids | 2520 | 1507 | (6.1) | 1013 | (6.2) | 60 | 40 |
| Social Work | 688 | 369 | (1.5) | 319 | (1.9) | 54 | 46 |
| Total | 41076 | 24657 | 100 | 16419 | 100 | 60 | 40 |

Statistical Yearbook, Department of Statistics, 1996

Universities

Universities in Jordan tended to enrol the majority of students in post-secondary educational programs. Compared to the total enrolment of 41,076 students for community colleges in 1996/97, universities enrolled 83,506 students.

Table 5.3 provides university enrolment information by program and gender for 1996/97. The proportion of males to females was slightly lower (5.7:4.3), than for community colleges (6.0:4.0).

On a gender comparison of enrolments females were significantly under represented in Law (26.3%), Engineering (20.9%), Business Administration (27.5%), Veterinary (34.1%), Medicine (35.4%), and Math and Computer Science (32.4%). These program areas, on the whole, might reasonably be expected to have a relatively good chance for employment or self-employment upon graduation.

Areas where female students were over-represented compared to males: Education (60.1%), Humanities (63%), Fine Arts (66.4%), Natural Science (61.6%). These are program areas that, to a large degree, might not lead directly to employment upon graduation. The Humanities program attracted the highest percentage of all female enrolments at 25% (compared to the percentage of all males at 11.0%).

Table 5.3: Enrolments of B.A/B.Sc Students By Program and Gender, Jordan, 1996/97

| Program | Total | Male | | Female | | Participation (%) | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Male | Female |
| Education | 8810 | 3519 | 7.4 | 5291 | 14.7 | 39.9 | 60.1 |
| Humanities | 14248 | 5265 | 11.1 | 8983 | 25.0 | 37.0 | 63.0 |
| Social Science | 4181 | 2069 | 4.4 | 2112 | 5.9 | 49.5 | 50.5 |
| Law | 5753 | 4218 | 8.9 | 1505 | 4.2 | 73.7 | 26.3 |
| Engineering (includes Applied) | 9165 | 7253 | 15.2 | 1912 | 5.3 | 79.1 | 20.9 |
| Business Admin. | 17089 | 12381 | 26.0 | 4708 | 13.1 | 72.5 | 27.5 |
| Mass Comm. | 263 | 100 | 0.2 | 163 | 0.5 | 38.0 | 62.0 |
| Phys. Comm. | 992 | 474 | 1.0 | 518 | 1.4 | 47.8 | 52.2 |
| Agriculture | 2343 | 1291 | 2.7 | 1052 | 2.9 | 55.1 | 44.9 |
| Pharmacy | 3871 | 1872 | 3.9 | 1999 | 5.6 | 48.4 | 51.6 |
| Dentistry | 666 | 303 | 0.6 | 363 | 1.0 | 45.5 | 54.5 |
| Veterinary | 179 | 118 | 0.2 | 61 | 0.2 | 65.9 | 34.1 |
| Fine Arts | 657 | 221 | 0.5 | 436 | 1.2 | 33.6 | 66.4 |
| Medicine | 1026 | 663 | 1.4 | 363 | 1.0 | 64.6 | 35.4 |
| Math/Computer | 6604 | 4463 | 9.4 | 2141 | 6.0 | 67.6 | 32.4 |
| Natural Science | 4310 | 1656 | 3.5 | 2654 | 7.4 | 38.4 | 61.6 |
| Para-Medical | 2501 | 1256 | 2.6 | 1245 | 3.5 | 50.2 | 49.8 |
| Architecture | 848 | 411 | 0.9 | 437 | 1.2 | 48.5 | 51.5 |
| Total | 83506 | 47563 | 100 | 35943 | 100 | 57.0 | 43.0 |

Statistical Yearbook, Department of Statistics, 1996

Vocational Training

Vocational training in Jordan is conducted primarily by the Ministry of Education and the Vocational Training Corporation.

Data for the Ministry of Education is included in Table 5.1 as students are eligible for secondary school graduation while those enrolled in the Vocational Training Corporation are not-being considered as apprenticeship students rather than school students.

Data provided in Table 5.4 shows the distribution of enrolments for new entrants into the Vocational Training Corporation by program (occupational group) and gender for 1997. While there was a reasonable gender balance for total enrolments (52.4% for males and 47.6% for females), there was a marked gender difference in the types of programs that males and females were enrolled in. The majority of females (over 80 percent) were enrolled in two occupational groups: Textile and Leather Works (43.7 percent of total females enrolled) for which females have 85.2 percent of the total (male and female) program enrolments and Hair Dressing/Cosmetology and Skin Care (36.6 percent) for which females represent 92.3 percent of the total program enrolments.

Interesting enrolment data for females was noted in Electronics and Hotel and Restaurant occupations (22.0% and 12.7% respectively). These programs represent more non-traditional occupational pursuits for females.

Table 5.4 Enrolments of Now Entrants at the Vocational Training Corporation by Program and by Gender, Jordan, 1996/97

| Program (Occupational Group) | Total | Male | | Female | | Participation % | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Electric (Power) | 173 | 173 | 14.1 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Vehicle Repair | 71 | 71 | 5.8 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Electronics | 118 | 92 | 7.5 | 26 | 2.3 | 78.0 | 22.9 |
| Air Conditioning/ Plumbing | 137 | 137 | 11.1 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Metal Fabrication Mechanical Maintenance | 56 | 56 | 4.6 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Hotel and Restaurant | 283 | 247 | 20.1 | 36 | 3.2 | 87.3 | 12.7 |
| Textile and Leather Works | 573 | 85 | 6.9 | 488 | 43.7 | 14.8 | 85.2 |
| Barber | 311 | 311 | 25.3 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Hair Dressing, Cosmetology + Skin Care | 442 | 34 | 2.8 | 408 | 36.6 | 7.7 | 92.3 |
| Typing | 103 | 0 | 0 | 103 | 9.2 | 0 | 100 |
| Glazed Pottery | 37 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 3.3 | 0 | 100 |
| Auto Parts | 11 | 11 | 0.9 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Gypsum Works | 13 | 13 | 1.1 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Cloth - Flower making | 18 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 1.6 | 0 | 100 |
| Total | 2346 | 1230 | 100 | 1116 | 100 | 52.4 | 47.6 |

Vocational Training Corporation, Annual Report 1997 (Note: data for Construction and Cabinet - making were missing from the Annual Report).

In spite of the encouraging rates of participation of the adolescent population (12-21) in educational programs, not all is well with the education system. Even though enrolments over the years have increased significantly and remain relatively high, questions have been raised for a number of years about the quality of the education being received by students. Significant investments, including World Bank loans and contributions from other donors have been applied to the country's Education Reform Program - initiated in 1989-in an effort to focus more attention on educational quality, relevance and efficiency.

Early School Leaving and Educational Participation Rates

While student enrolment maintained a relatively high level at the younger ages, an examination of the rates of participation and early school leaving of adolescents from the formal education system can reveal additional information on the situation of adolescents and the factors that influence their lives.

Table 5.5: Non-Participation Rates by Gender, Age and Geographic Domain, Jordan, 1996.

| Background Characteristics | Sex | |
|----------------------------|------|--------|
| | Male | Female |
| Age | | |
| 12 | 3.4 | 1.4 |
| 13 | 4.8 | 4.6 |
| 14 | 5.0 | 8.1 |
| 15 | 12.1 | 11.1 |
| 16 | 19.7 | 16.0 |
| 17 | 28.0 | 18.1 |
| 18 | 45.1 | 43.1 |
| 19 | 62.7 | 57.8 |
| 20 | 72.1 | 68.6 |
| 21 | 80.4 | 80.7 |
| Total | 30.0 | 27.7 |
| Domain | | |
| Amman | 28.0 | 27.3 |
| Madaba+mafraq | 32.5 | 32.7 |
| Zarqa and Mafraq | 30.0 | 26.5 |
| Irbid | 31.4 | 25.8 |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 29.5 | 26.8 |
| South | 31.1 | 25.5 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

The data shows that the non-participation rates for males were generally higher than for females, except at age 14 and 21 for females. It is interesting that the rates for males and females were similar at ages 13, 15, 16, and 18 to 21. If one takes into account the potential for "age-heaping" in the reporting of ages, it may be that the female non-participation rates at age 15 far exceeded that of males. Rates across the geographic domains were relatively similar for both males and females. Reasons for non-participation can provide additional information. Table 5.6 offers the main reasons for non-attendance in education as taken from another survey-the 1996 Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Income.

Table 5.6: Main Reasons For Education Non-Attendance Ages 6-29 by Reasons and Gender, Jordan, 1996

| Main Resource | Males | | Females | |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Number | % | Number | % |
| Under legal age to attend | 606 | (18.6) | 570 | (10.02) |
| Helping at home | 14 | (.43) | 590 | (10.38) |
| Helping at Family Work | 397 | (12.2) | 131 | (2.3) |
| Poor Family | 592 | (16.2) | 296 | (5.2) |
| Working | 146 | (4.4) | 7 | (.12) |
| Lack of Schools | 619 | (19.04) | 1113 | (19.5) |
| Disability | 156 | (4.7) | 127 | (2.2) |
| Marriage | 1 | (.03) | 12 | (.02) |
| Failure at School | 5 | (.15) | 3 | (.05) |
| Broken Family | 19 | (.5) | 29 | (.5) |
| Difficult Curricula | 1 | (.03) | 4 | (.07) |
| Others | 758 | (23.3) | 282 | (49.2) |
| | | | | |
| Total | 3251 | (100) | 5684 | (100) |

Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Income, General Department of Statistics, 1996.

While the data provided in the table is not just for the adolescent age group, the data is useful since most individuals leaving the education system (other than those under the legal age to attend) would likely have done so during their adolescent years. Ignoring those under the legal age for enrolment, a significant proportion of individuals were affected by the lack of school facilities. This shortfall in school facilities is being addressed by an aggressive school building program funded by the World Bank and others. The lack of school facilities is no longer considered to be as important a factor in educational non-attendance as it was previously. Other than lack

of schools, females were most likely to leave school to assist at home (10.38%), while males were most likely to leave to help in family work (12.2%) or for reasons of a poor family (16.2%). Clearly economic reasons constituted a significant contributor to early school leaving for males as one-third of male respondents (33.2%) reported reasons that are related for their economic situation. For females, 18.0% cited reasons related to economic conditions. The category of "Others" in the table warrants further investigation as this category accounted for almost half of the responses from females and almost one quarter of the male responses.

- Non-participation rates for urban areas and rural areas showed the same pattern according to age. The rates started very low, then increased as age increased.
- Non-participation rates for adolescent males are higher than those of females at nearly all ages.
- Zarqa and Mafrq domain had the highest rates of non-participation among adolescent males and females in comparison with other domains, while the South domain has the lowest female rate (about 26 percent).
- The overall enrollment rates in urban and rural areas were close, indicating there is little variation between the two areas.
- Illiteracy rate for adolescent males aged 15-21 years was higher than that of females (10.5 percent to 7.5 percent) respectively.

5.2. Age at Marriage

Marriage is an important event in the life of the two individuals concerned, but it is also important from the demographic points of view because it leads to exposure to childbearing. The age at which a person marries represents a point of change in status in his or her life which has important implications for the society because a new household is formed and implications for the population because of the marriage's potential effect on fertility patterns.

For the population as a whole the mean age at marriage for males and females represents the collective measure of the number of years lived by a group of males or females before marriage. In Jordan, the minimum legal age of marriage for females is 15, while for males it is 16 years of age.

Age at first marriage rose significantly in Jordan during the period 1979-1998, from 26 years to 28.6 years for males and from 21.1 years to 25.5 years for females. Factors behind this increase for females include the increase in educational attainment, improvements in socioeconomic conditions, and changes in cultural factors.

Analysis of data presented in Tables 5.7 and 5.8 revealed that females tended to get married at younger ages in comparison with males or three to four years before the age at which males married. Moreover, the data shows that considerable proportions of males entered marriage before the end of the adolescence period. One-third of total married males were married before age 19, and a majority became married before age 21.

Differentials in age at first marriage were significant between the geographic domains. One in five females in the Irbid domain was married before age 16, while one in ten females was married before that age in the Zarqa and Mafrqa domain. About one half of the married males in the South were married at ages less than 19 years, while one in four was married at that age in the Balqa and Madaba domain.

Adolescent males and females with no education tended to get married at earlier ages in comparison with those with some education. About half the males with no education were married before age 19, while all females with no education were married before that age. The results indicate that urban males and females were more likely to postpone their marriage in comparison with rural males and females. About 24 percent of rural married females were married before age 16 years, while only about 15 percent of urban married females were married at ages less than 16 years.

Table 5.7: Percent Distribution of the Married Adolescent Male Population Aged 15-21 years by Age at First Marriage and Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1996.

| Background Characteristics | Age at First Marriage | | | | | | | | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----|----|------|------|------|-------|------|-----------|
| | < 15 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
| <u>Domain</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Amman | — | — | — | 13.3 | 26.7 | 33.3 | 6.7 | 20.0 | 100.0(15) |
| Zarqa and Mafrqa | — | — | — | — | 33.3 | — | 33.3 | 33.3 | 100.0(3) |
| Balqa and Madaba | — | — | — | 25.0 | — | 25.0 | 50.0 | — | 100.0(4) |
| Irbid | — | — | — | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 | — | 25.0 | 100.0(1) |
| Jarash and Ajloun | — | — | — | — | — | — | 100.0 | — | 100.0 |
| South | — | — | — | 25.0 | 25.0 | — | 50.0 | — | 100.0(8) |
| Total | — | — | — | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 | (31) |
| <u>Educational Level</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| No education | — | — | — | 25.0 | 25.0 | — | — | 50.0 | 100.0(4) |
| Secondary | — | — | — | 15.4 | 26.9 | 23.1 | 26.9 | 7.7 | 100.0(26) |
| Less than Secondary | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Intermediate Diploma | — | — | — | — | — | 40.0 | — | 60.0 | 100.0 (5) |
| Total | — | — | — | 5 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 35 |
| <u>Place of Residence</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | — | — | — | 15.4 | 26.9 | 15.4 | 23.1 | 19.2 | 100.0(26) |
| Rural | — | — | — | 12.5 | 12.5 | 37.5 | 25.0 | 12.5 | 100.0(8) |
| Total | | | | 5 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 34 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Table No. 5.8: Percent Distribution of the Married Adolescent Females Aged 15-21 Years by Age at First Marriage and Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1996.

| Background Characteristics | Age at First Marriage | | | | | | | | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | < 15 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
| <u>Domain</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Amman | 1.1 | 13.3 | 13.3 | 19.3 | 23.2 | 17.1 | 8.8 | 3.9 | 100.0(181) |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | 1.3 | 10.1 | 12.6 | 25.3 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 11.4 | 1.3 | 100.0(79) |
| Balqa and Madaba | 3.5 | 10.7 | 21.4 | 17.9 | 14.3 | 17.9 | 14.3 | — | 100.0(28) |
| Irbid | 7.3 | 19.1 | 16.2 | 25.0 | 11.8 | 7.3 | 11.8 | 1.5 | 100.0(68) |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 3.8 | 19.2 | 15.4 | 19.3 | 15.4 | 19.3 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 100.0(26) |
| South | 5.9 | 17.7 | 17.7 | 20.6 | 8.8 | 17.6 | 8.8 | 2.9 | 100.0(34) |
| Total | 12 | 59 | 62 | 88 | 76 | 66 | 41 | 12 | 416 |
| <u>Educational Level</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| No education | 7.1 | 28.6 | 21.4 | 28.6 | 14.3 | — | — | — | 100.0(14) |
| Secondary | 3.2 | 16.3 | 19.8 | 22.6 | 15.2 | 10.2 | 9.5 | 3.2 | 100.0(282) |
| Less than Secondary | — | 2.4 | 3.7 | 20.7 | 32.9 | 30.5 | 8.6 | 1.2 | 100.0(82) |
| Intermediate Diploma | — | — | — | — | — | 54.5 | 45.5 | — | 100.0(11) |
| Total | 10 | 52 | 61 | 86 | 72 | 61 | 39 | 11 | 392 |
| <u>Place of Residence</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Urban | 2.4 | 13.1 | 14.9 | 21.4 | 19.2 | 17.4 | 9.2 | 2.4 | 100.0(328) |
| Rural | 5.6 | 18.2 | 14.8 | 20.5 | 14.8 | 10.2 | 12.5 | 3.4 | 100.0(88) |
| Total | 12 | 59 | 62 | 88 | 76 | 66 | 41 | 12 | 416 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Of particular note to this discussion is the concern being expressed by some sectors of society that the rising number of unmarried females in Jordan reflects negatively on single females and society as a whole. Citing the high cost of marriage as a major barrier preventing marriage, one group is offering group marriage to encourage more marriages in an attempt to reduce the number of single women in the country. (Jordan Times, April 28, 1999).

5.3. Headship of Household

The headship rate is a ratio of the number of heads of households by age, sex, marital status, etc., to the selected population category. The concept of the headship rate is very important since it is a pivot around which the modern method of projecting households and families turns. It also serves as an indicator for measuring the degree of housing privacy enjoyed by each segment of population. (U.N., 1976).

The Jordanian definition of head of household is as follows: "He (She) is a usual household member living in Jordan, who is recognized as such by other members of the household. He (she) is usually responsible for living arrangements and decision

taking of the household. He (She) may be male or female aged 15 years and above". (Dept. of Statistics, 1997).

It will be useful to deal with this subject for two reasons, directly because of its importance from a socioeconomic and demographic point of view, and secondly because it reflects, indirectly, the standard of living conditions of households which are headed by adolescents.

Table No. 5.9: Headship Rates for Adolescents Aged 12-21 by Gender and Geographic Domain, Jordan, 1996

| Domain | Male | Female |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Amman | 1.0 | — |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Balqa and Madaba | 1.6 | 0.2 |
| Irbid | 1.7 | 0.3 |
| Jerash and Ajloun | 1.1 | — |
| South | 1.5 | 0.7 |
| Total | 1.2 | 0.2 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Table 5.9 shows the headship rates for male and females classified by geographic domains. The rates closely resemble those of economic activity rates of adolescents in Jordan. As noted in the table, the male headship rates were higher than the female headship rates in all the domains. This reflects the fact that males in Jordan are more likely to be heads of their households than females, ignoring their ages and their place of residence.

As shown in Table 5.9, differences in male headship rates between the domains were not significant. The highest male headship rate was found in Irbid (1.7); followed by Balqa and Mafrq (1.06); while the lowest male headship rate was found in Zarqa and Mafrq (0.9). In contrast, female headship rates show narrower differences than those for males, ranging from 0.2 in Balqa and Madaba to 0.7 in the South.

The percentage distribution of adolescents who were heads of households by gender, place of residence and geographic domains is presented in Table 5.10. The information shows that more than 55 percent of the total male adolescent headed households were concentrated in the more populated domains (Amman and Irbid). About 15 percent of the males heading their households were found in Zarqa and

Mafrq. Balqa and Madaba and the South had an equal proportion (12.7 percent each).

Comparison between heads of households by gender and geographic domain using the data presented in Table 5.10 shows an interesting picture where the great majority of domains had equal proportions (16.7 percent each), while the Irbid domain alone had one-third of total female heads of households. Living in rural areas appears to be a major factor preventing the female from being the head of her household even if she is the most eligible person. Females in urban areas outside of Amman were more likely to be heads of households than their rural counterparts, perhaps due to weaker social and cultural influences. However, the situation of Amman reporting no female heads of households warrants further investigation.

Table No. 5.10: Distribution of Heads of Households Aged 12-21 by Gender and Geographic Domain, Jordan, 1996

| Domain | Place of Residence | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | Urban | | Rural | | Total | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Amman | 31.7 | 0.0 | 30.8 | 0 | 29.1 | 0 |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | 14.6 | 50.0 | 7.7 | 0 | 14.5 | 16.7 |
| Balqa and Madaba | 9.8 | 16.7 | 23.11 | 0 | 12.7 | 16.7 |
| Irbid | 29.3 | 33.3 | 15.4 | 0 | 25.5 | 33.3 |
| Jerash and Ajloun | 4.9 | 0.0 | 7.7 | 0 | 5.5 | 16.7 |
| South | 9.8 | 0.0 | 23.1 | 100 | 12.7 | 16.7 |
| Total Percentage | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Total Number | 41 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 55 | 6 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

Table 5.11 presents the percentage distribution of heads of households aged 15-21 years by gender and selected background characteristics. The distribution shows that more than two-third of adolescent heads were concentrated in the ages 20 and 21.

Among males about 70 percent of heads were in ages 20 and 21, while only a small proportion of heads were aged 15 years (3.6 percent).

In comparison with males, only half of females heading their households were concentrated in ages 20 and 21.

The distribution of heads of households by domain shows that one-fourth of all heads of households were living in the Amman domain, while the largest proportion of heads of households were living in the Irbid domain (27.0 percent).

Variations between males and females with regard to their distribution according to the geographic domains revealed that the Amman domain had the largest proportion of male heads of households followed by the Irbid domain. More than one-third of the females heading their households were found in the Zarqa and Mafrq domains, followed by the Irbid domain (25.0 percent).

According to educational level, about 64 percent of total heads of households had education less than secondary. Among females, this proportion was about 88 percent, while about 61 percent of males had education less than secondary.

Three-fourth of total heads of households among males and females were residing in urban areas.

Table No. 5.11: Percent Distribution Of Heads Of Households among the Adolescent Population Aged 15-21 Years by Gender and Selected Background Characteristics, Jordan, 1996.

| Background Characteristics | Gender | | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | Male | Female | |
| Age | | | |
| 15 | 3.6 | | 3.2 |
| 16 | | | |
| 17 | 10.9 | 12.5 | 11.3 |
| 18 | 9.1 | 25.0 | 9.7 |
| 19 | 7.3 | | 8.1 |
| 20 | 27.3 | 37.5 | 29.0 |
| 21 | 41.8 | 12.5 | 38.7 |
| Domain | | | |
| Amman | 29.1 | | 25.4 |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | 14.5 | 37.5 | 15.9 |
| Balqa and Madaba | 12.7 | 12.5 | 12.7 |
| Irbid | 25.5 | 25.0 | 27.0 |
| Jarash and Ajloun | 5.5 | 12.5 | 6.3 |
| South | 12.7 | 12.5 | 12.7 |
| Total | 100.0 (55) | 100.0 (8) | 100.0 (63) |
| Educational Level | | | |
| None | 10.5 | | 8.9 |
| Less than Secondary | 60.5 | 87.5 | 64.4 |
| Secondary | 21.1 | 12.5 | 20.0 |
| Inter mediate Diploma | 7.9 | | 6.7 |
| Total | 100.0 (38) | 100.0 (8) | 100.0 (45) |
| Place of Residence | | | |
| Urban | 74.5 | 75.0 | 74.6 |
| Rural | 25.5 | 25.0 | 25.4 |
| Total | 100.0 (55) | 100.0 (8) | 100.0 (63) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey 1996.

5.4 Adolescents and Crime/Violence.

A key social characteristic worthy of investigation into the situation of adolescents in Jordan is the incidence of crime and violence among the adolescent population. This includes an examination of both adolescent victims and adolescent perpetrators of crime and violence.

In considering the data, it is note worthy that it is generally accepted that some crimes/violence against females are seriously under reported. Reporting of crimes against females is as low as an estimated 7.5% of all crimes committed against females (Violence Against Woman in Jordan, 1998).

The data utilized to analyze crimes against adolescents is from the Public Security Department's Annual Report of 1997. The Public Security Department uses the classification of "Juvenile" (ages 8 to 18) to report statistics and desegregated data by age was not readily available.

Crimes Committed Against Adolescents (ages 8-18) for 1997

Data in Table 5.12 shows that the greatest number of crimes committed against individuals aged 12-18 in 1997 was the crime of sexual assault representing 48.4 percent of the total reported crimes committed, followed by severe injury at 31.9 percent and rape at 6.5 percent.

Table 5.12: Crimes Committed against Adolescents Aged 8-18 by Type of Crime and Gender of Victim, Jordan, 1997

| Type of Crimes | Age of Victim | | | % | | Total | % |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| | Under 12 | 12-14 | 15-18 | Female | Male | | |
| Manslaughter | 5 | 3 | 6 | 57.14 | 42.86 | 14 | 3.8 |
| Latent to Murder | 1 | 3 | 5 | 11.11 | 88.89 | 9 | 2.4 |
| Kidnapping | 4 | 3 | 7 | 78.56 | 21.44 | 14 | 3.8 |
| Badly Harm/ Sever Injury | 24 | 25 | 80 | 2.33 | 97.67 | 129 | 34.9 |
| Sexual Absently Molesting | 92 | 44 | 43 | 29.05 | 70.95 | 179 | 48.4 |
| Rape | 1 | 5 | 18 | 100 | 0 | 24 | 6.4 |
| Second Degree Murder | 1 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 1 | 0.3 |
| Total | 128 | 83 | 159 | 24.33 | 75.67 | 370 | 100 |

Public Security Department, Annual Report, 1997

The largest number of crimes committed against female children and adolescent compared to males was rape and murder by fault where 100 percent were committed against females only. This was followed by kidnapping at 78 percent, premeditated murder at 57.14 percent, sexual assault at 29.05 percent, attempted murder at 11.11 percent and finally severe injury at 2.33% of all crimes committed against children and adolescents aged 8-18. Other information from the Public Security Departments Annual Report for 1997 showed that the Amman geographic domain has the highest rate (40%) of all crimes committed against children and adolescents with Irbid at 16 percent, Zarqa at 14.9 percent and Balqa and Irbid at 6 percent each.

The most affected age group of children and adolescent crime victims were aged 15 to less than 18, followed by ages less than 12, and the least affected were the 12 to 14 years olds.

61.89 percent of victims were unemployed while students represented 34.59 percent of the victims.

Comparing the above to data from the year 1996, in the case of location, rates show that the highest rates were in Amman (40.8%), followed by, Zarqa (15.63%), Balqa (7.18%) and Karak (4.28%).

As for type of crime, rates were as high in 1996 as in 1997 for sexual assault and severe injury. For female children and adolescents, data from 1996 shows that the highest rate for crimes against was for rape (100%), followed by kidnapping (89.66%), and premeditated murder (46.67%).

In 1996, children and adolescents of ages less than 12 were the largest number of victims, followed by ages between 15 and 18, and the least for 12 to 14 year olds, where females constituted 12.24% of the total. Considering the occupation of the victims in 1996, data shows that the largest number of victims was students (51.84%) compared to the unemployed (24.53%). Table 5.13 and Table 5.14 provides data over a four and half year period from 1993 on crimes committed against women and juveniles. There was a general increase in the percentage of crimes reported committed against women under 18. (36.3% in 1993 to 43.91% in 1997). For crimes committed against juveniles, there was a general increase in the number of crimes committed

against juveniles in each successive year. The percentage of students as victims has decreased while victims who were unemployed has increased.

Table 5.13: Number of Crimes Committed against Juveniles Aged 8-18 for 1993-1997 by Occupation and by Gender, Jordan, 1997

| Year | Student | | Unemployed | | Female | | Total Cases |
|-------|---------|------|------------|------|--------|------|-------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| 1993 | 311 | 61.9 | 137 | 37.3 | 105 | 21.0 | 496 |
| 1994 | 375 | 62.6 | 166 | 27.7 | 131 | 21.9 | 570 |
| 1995 | 249 | 36.2 | 383 | 55.7 | 118 | 17.2 | 641 |
| 1996 | 479 | 51.8 | 393 | 43.5 | 115 | 12.5 | 793 |
| 1997* | 128 | 34.6 | 229 | 61.9 | 90 | 34.3 | 347 |

** Only the first 6 months of the year*

Public Security Department, Annual Report, 1997

Table 5.14: Number of Crimes Committed Against Females for 1993-1997 and Age by Group, Jordan, 1997

| Year | Females under age 18 | | Total |
|-------|----------------------|------|-------|
| | Number | % | |
| 1993 | 118 | 36.3 | 313 |
| 1994 | 131 | 34.7 | 368 |
| 1995 | 153 | 33.2 | 444 |
| 1996 | 190 | 39.3 | 451 |
| 1997* | 119 | 43.9 | 250 |

** Only first 6 months of the year*

Public Security Department, annual Report 1997

Crimes Committed by Adolescents (ages 8-18) for 1997

Data in Table 5.15 shows the number of adolescents aged 8-18 that had committed crimes in 1997 by governorate, level of education and by gender. While it is apparent that mostly males were arrested for committing crimes, the relative percentage of females committing crimes in this age group was significant in the urban governorates of Amman, Zarqa and Irbid, with the highest ratio being Irbid. Table 5.16 provides data on the number of adolescents aged 8-18 committing crimes by type of crime, governorate and gender for 1997. As the data illustrates male offenders were the majority of offenders, however on a proportional basis, females have a high incidence of begging-over one-third of all begging/homeless incidents were being committed by females. (The only significant instance where females committed more crimes than males was in Irbid for the crime of begging). All other crimes committed by females are proportionally low when compared to males aged 8-18. Most crimes committed by all adolescents aged 8-18 are for theft (39%), fighting (21%) and delinquent behaviour (19%).

Table 5.15: Number of Adolescents Aged 8-18 Committing Crimes by Governorate, Level of Education and Gender, Jordan, 1997

| Governorate | Don't read or write | | Basic | | Secondary | | Total | | Total |
|-------------|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | |
| Amman | 37 | 12 | 1561 | 33 | 302 | 6 | 1950 | 51 | 2001 |
| Madba | 1 | 4 | 170 | 3 | 51 | 1 | 222 | 8 | 230 |
| Balqa | 6 | 3 | 289 | 7 | 104 | 1 | 399 | 11 | 410 |
| Zarqa | 14 | 3 | 1012 | 25 | 156 | 2 | 1182 | 30 | 1212 |
| Irbid | 15 | 17 | 859 | 37 | 397 | 6 | 1271 | 60 | 1331 |
| Jerash | 5 | 2 | 326 | 2 | 61 | 1 | 392 | 5 | 397 |
| Ajloun | 0 | 0 | 195 | 2 | 82 | 1 | 277 | 3 | 280 |
| Mafrq | 4 | 0 | 132 | 11 | 111 | 1 | 247 | 12 | 259 |
| Karak | 4 | 3 | 149 | 5 | 86 | 1 | 239 | 9 | 248 |
| Tafleh | 2 | 1 | 93 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 133 | 1 | 134 |
| Ma'an | 9 | 0 | 162 | 3 | 43 | 0 | 214 | 3 | 217 |
| Aqaba | 8 | 0 | 126 | 2 | 18 | 0 | 152 | 2 | 154 |
| Total | 105 | 45 | 5074 | 130 | 1499 | 20 | 6678 | 195 | 6873 |
| Total | 150 | | 5204 | | 1519 | | 6873 | | 6873 |

Public Security Department, Annual Report, 1997.

Table 5.16: Number of Adolescents Aged 8-18 Committing Crimes According to Type of Crime, Governorate and Gender, Jordan, 1997

| Governorate | Theft | | Fighting | | Delinquent Behavior | | General Acts | | Traffic Crime | | Trespassing | | Home less and Beggars | | Causing Death | |
|-------------|-------|----|----------|----|---------------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------------|----|---------------|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Amman | 702 | 14 | 334 | 4 | 420 | 9 | 36 | | 178 | | 101 | 3 | 55 | 17 | | 1 |
| Madaba | 116 | | 22 | 2 | 34 | | 15 | | 11 | 1 | 4 | | 10 | 5 | 1 | |
| Al-Balqa | 151 | 4 | 103 | | 47 | 4 | 15 | 1 | 28 | 1 | 31 | | 3 | 1 | 5 | |
| Al-Zarqa | 444 | 10 | 259 | 2 | 300 | 12 | 30 | | 53 | | 19 | | 17 | 6 | | |
| Irbid | 525 | 10 | 244 | 10 | 242 | 14 | 71 | 4 | 76 | | 63 | | 12 | 22 | 1 | |
| Jarash | 165 | 2 | 87 | 1 | 33 | | 73 | | 16 | | 6 | | 5 | 2 | | |
| Ajloun | 118 | | 49 | 3 | 39 | | 27 | | 12 | | 18 | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Al-Mafrq | 73 | | 64 | 5 | 17 | 1 | 51 | 5 | 25 | | 10 | 1 | | | | |
| Al-Karak | 93 | 4 | 56 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 51 | | 15 | | 3 | | | 2 | 1 | |
| Tafealh | 35 | | 31 | | 23 | | 28 | | 4 | | 9 | | | | | 1 |
| Meaan | 30 | | 84 | 1 | 38 | | 37 | 2 | 13 | | 7 | | 1 | | | |
| Aqaba | 59 | | 29 | 2 | 31 | | 3 | | 7 | | 9 | | 3 | | | |
| Total | 2511 | 44 | 1362 | 31 | 1234 | 41 | 437 | 12 | 438 | 2 | 280 | 4 | 107 | 55 | 9 | 2 |
| Total | 2555 | | 1393 | | 1275 | | 449 | | 440 | | 284 | | 162 | | 11 | |

Public Security Department, Annual Report, 1997

A useful area of inquiry would be to conduct longitudinal studies on crimes committed by the adolescent age group to determine any decreases or increases in crime activity by type of crime, age, gender, geographic location and educational attainment to gain further insight into this important social indicator of the situation of adolescents.

Chapter 6

Attitudes Towards And Participation In Public Life

By studying the attitudes towards and participation of adolescents in society one can gain an understanding of reasons that may affect the participation of individuals in public life not only during their adolescent years, but also during their adult life. Insights may be obtained as to those areas where a change in attitude may be necessary to address any differentials in access to social activities and participation in public life. In this chapter, information is provided on the participation of adolescents in public life, specifically in social events including membership in clubs (as adolescent participation in governing institutions is negligible). In addition, information is provided on the attitudes of adolescents towards foreign influence in Jordan (specifically by developed western countries), voting in public elections, and their opinions about the performance of selected government institutions. As a final section to this chapter, selected information on the social norms that are prevalent in Jordan is presented in an attempt to provide a context for present adolescent attitudes and participation as well as to signal some of the challenges that any attempt to change attitudes may face.

6.1 Participation of Adolescents in Public Life

Since adolescent participation in the governing institutions within Jordan is, for the purposes of this study, almost non-existent, attention is focused on the participation of adolescents in social events, including membership in clubs. Data from the Jordan Living Conditions Survey of 1996 is presented in Table 6.1. Adolescents reported a high percentage of attendance in what might be called "pleasurable" social events. This participation included 83 % of all adolescents attending wedding/engagement events in the 12 months previous to the interview, attendance at religious events showed 62 % participation, almost half (49.3 %) attended what are referred to as ordinary events. Events that might be called "less pleasurable", showed participation of 40.5 % in condolence visits, 7.1 % in political meetings (i.e. discussions on the elections), 6.8 % attended meetings to resolve disputes, and only 4.7 % of all adolescents reported attendance at meetings to decide on the provision of social assistance.

Table 6.1: Distribution of Adolescents Aged 15-21 Years by Participation Status in Social Events during the Previous Twelve Months and by the Kind of Event, Jordan, 1996

Events during the Previous Twelve Months and by the Kind of Event, Jordan, 1978

| Kind of Social Event | Participation Status | | | | | | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|-----------------|
| | Yes | | | No. | | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | |
| Ordinary Gathering | 52.4 | 48.3 | 49.3 | 47.6 | 51.7 | 50.7 | 100.0 (1782) |
| Wedding/Engagement | 78.5 | 86.7 | 82 | 21.5 | 13.3 | 17.5 | 100.0 (1782) |
| Condolence | 54.2 | 26.6 | 40.5 | 45.8 | 73.4 | 59.5 | 100.0 (1782) |
| Dispute among hamula or ashira | 9.6 | 4.1 | 6.8 | 90.4 | 95.9 | 93.2 | 100.0 (1782) |
| Social assistance in hamula or ashira | 5.0 | 3.6 | 4.7 | 95.0 | 96.4 | 95.3 | 100.0 (1782) |
| Religious Events | 67.8 | 55.7 | 61.7 | 32.2 | 44.3 | 38.3 | 100.0 (1782) |
| Political Matters (elections) | 9.6 | 4.8 | 7.1 | 90.4 | 95.2 | 92.9 | 100.0 (1782) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

Whether the attendance at such social events is self-selected or whether there is family and social norms in place to prevent adolescent attendance is not evident from the data, however it is safe to assume that the “less pleasurable events” are the primary responsibility of adults within the family and would not normally involve adolescents in the discussions or decisions. In considering the differences in participation in social events between males and females, the following is noted:

- Adolescent male participation in social events is significantly higher than adolescent female participation for the purposes of offering condolences (males 54.2%, females 26.6%), resolving disputes (males 9.6%, females 4.1%), deciding on social assistance (males 5.0%, females 3.6%) and discussions on political matters (males 9.6%, females 4.8).
- Adolescent female participation in social events only exceeds that of males for participation in wedding/ engagement events.
- Similar participation rates for adolescent males and females in social events occurs with ordinary gatherings, wedding/ engagements and for religious events.

The gender differences evidenced for participation in social events may be attributable to the social norms in the country where males are expected more than females to offer condolences on behalf of a family, assist in settling disputes, determining the level of social assistance provision, and for the discussion of political matters.

Another source of data about the participation of adolescents in public life comes from information on the membership of adolescents in clubs. Table 6.2 presents some data about the level of participation of adolescents. The data demonstrates that only about 11 % of all adolescent males and 3 % of adolescent females were members of clubs. The highest rate of membership for males was in Amman (11.5 %), Zarqa and Mafrq (11.4 %) and in Irbid (11.0 %) with the lowest membership rate being in Jarash and Ajloun. Female membership in clubs showed relatively high rates in Amman (5.3 %) and the South (5.1 %) compared to the national average. Zarqa and Mafrq data showed no membership of adolescent females in clubs.

Table 6.2: Distribution of Adolescents Age 15-21 years by Gender, Membership in Clubs and by Geographic Domains, Jordan, 1996.

| Domain and Gender | Membership in Clubs | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Yes | No | Total |
| Amman | | | |
| Male | 11.5 | 88.5 | (365) |
| Female | 5.3 | 94.7 | (361) |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | | | |
| Male | 11.4 | 88.6 | (158) |
| Female | - | 100.0 | (133) |
| Balqa and Madaba | | | |
| Male | 9.9 | 90.1 | (101) |
| Female | 1.4 | 98.6 | (71) |
| Irbid | | | |
| Male | 11.0 | 89.0 | (154) |
| Female | 2.5 | 97.5 | (163) |
| Jarash and Ajloun | | | |
| Male | 4.8 | 95.2 | (42) |
| Female | 3.4 | 96.6 | (58) |
| South | | | |
| Male | 8.9 | 91.1 | (79) |
| Female | 5.1 | 94.9 | (99) |
| Total | | | |
| Male | 10.7 | 89.3 | (898) |
| Female | 3.4 | 96.6 | (885) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

In general, the majority of adolescents in Jordan do not **belong** to clubs. The low rates of membership may be due to the limited number of **clubs** that are available, the relevance of the club's programs to the needs of the **adolescents**, and perhaps the high fees associated with club membership. Low membership **by** female adolescents may be due more to restrictive social constraints on **their** movements in society in combination with few clubs being available for females.

6.2 Attitudes of Adolescents

In this section, data on adolescent attitudes towards some selected issues is presented, specifically attitudes towards foreign influences, participation in voting and the performance of selected government institutions.

Attitudes of adolescents towards foreign influence (specifically influence from western developed countries) could be affected by many factors including family and the media. The extent to which the family supports external influence in Jordan and the extent to which the public/news media present the acceptability of western influences will largely determine the attitudes of adolescents in this regard.

Table 6.3 presents the opinions of adolescents aged 15-21 concerning some selected cultural and political matters, classified by gender and educational level of the respondent. The results show that a majority of adolescents believed that the translation and sale of foreign books in Jordan should be done in Jordan. Adolescent males and females with secondary education and above were more likely to support such translation (about 84% and about 90% for males and females respectively) in comparison with adolescent males and females with education less than secondary.

The great majority of adolescent males and females in both educational categories supported the use and transfer of technology from developed countries to Jordan. Those with secondary education and above were very supportive.

Table 6.3: Distribution of Adolescents Age 15-21 Years by Gender, and Educational Level as to Opinions About Selected Cultural and Political Matters, Jordan, 1996

| Cultural and Political Matters | Less than Secondary Education | | | Secondary Education and Above | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------|---------|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| | Yes | No | Unspec. | Yes | No | Unspec. |
| Translation and Sale of Foreign Books in Jordan | | | | | | |
| Male | 77.8 | 16.8 | 5.4 | 83.8 | 10.2 | 6.0 |
| Female | 77.5 | 15.4 | 7.1 | 89.5 | 10.5 | |
| Use of Developed Countries' Technology in Jordan | | | | | | |
| Male | 88.6 | 9.6 | 1.8 | 93.4 | 2.4 | 4.2 |
| Female | 83.5 | 12.0 | 4.5 | 91.7 | 6.1 | 2.2 |
| Application of Developed Countries Political System in Arab Countries | | | | | | |
| Male | 52.0 | 40.5 | 7.5 | 52.4 | 38.6 | 9.0 |
| Female | 37.6 | 47.7 | 14.7 | 50.3 | 42.0 | 7.7 |
| Life Style in Arab Countries to Become as in Developed Countries | | | | | | |
| Male | 24.5 | 75.4 | 0.1 | 24.7 | 78.9 | 2.4 |
| Female | 18.0 | 79.5 | 2.5 | 21.0 | 77.4 | 1.6 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

Opinions about the application of the political system of developed countries in Arab countries revealed that about half of all adolescents support the use of such systems, while the other half stands against the application. Differentials between adolescents by educational level were minor where about 52 percent of both educational categories for males supported this idea. Significant differentials existed between females with secondary and above and females with less than secondary education. About half of females with secondary and above supported the application while about 38 percent of females with less than secondary education did so.

Attitudes and opinions towards western life style show that one male adolescent out of four whether with education less than secondary or secondary and above supported the western life style. About one adolescent female out of five supported the transformation of life style to be like western countries, while the greatest proportion of adolescent females were against this suggestion.

Since there appears to be significant resistance by adolescents to life style changes moving towards that of developed countries, additional research should be undertaken to determine the specific life style changes that are viewed as negative and those that may be viewed as positive to determine possible entry points for providing services to adolescents.

Attitudes of adolescents towards their own participation in voting in elections (as shown in Table 6.4) clearly reflects that the great majority of adolescents do not support their own participation in voting (89 % of males and 86 % of females).

Table 6.4 Distribution of Adolescents Age 15-21 years by Gender, and Attitudes towards Participating in Voting by Geographic Domains, Jordan, 1996.

| Domain and Gender | Participating in Voting | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|-------|
| | Yes | No | Total |
| Amman | | | |
| Male | 8.8 | 91.2 | (364) |
| Female | 10.6 | 89.4 | (360) |
| Zarqa and Mafrq | | | |
| Male | 10.1 | 89.9 | (158) |
| Female | 12.8 | 87.2 | (133) |
| Balqa and Madaba | | | |
| Male | 10.9 | 89.1 | (101) |
| Female | 17.4 | 82.6 | (69) |
| Irbid | | | |
| Male | 10.4 | 89.6 | (154) |
| Female | 19.0 | 81.0 | (163) |
| Jarash and Ajloun | | | |
| Male | 19.0 | 81.0 | (42) |
| Female | 13.8 | 86.2 | (58) |
| South | | | |
| Male | 22.8 | 77.2 | (79) |
| Female | 14.1 | 85.9 | (99) |
| Total | | | |
| Male | 11.1 | 88.9 | (898) |
| Female | 13.7 | 86.3 | (884) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

Reasons for the high level of adolescents not supporting their own participation in voting could be the effects of family and societal influence which views voting in political elections as an adult (male) responsibility or due to the relative recent developments in the electoral system which would allow adolescents the right to vote. Adolescent males and females in the South geographic region tended to demonstrate higher support for participation in voting (males 2.8 % and females 14.1 %), with Amman showing the lowest level of support (8.8 % for males and 10.6 % for females). Research into the reasons for the low level of support by adolescents for their own participation in voting should be undertaken to assist in determining appropriate mechanisms to involve adolescents more in public life.

Another area that provides some information on the attitudes of adolescents towards public life is the opinions that adolescents hold concerning the performance of selected government institutions. The results presented in Table 6.3 indicate that about half of the adolescents surveyed evaluated the performance of the government, courts and public schools as excellent, while more than two-thirds of adolescents evaluated the performance of police and public health services as excellent. The performance the Jordanian Radio and Television is excellent according to the opinions of 60 % of adolescents.

Table 6.5: Opinions of Adolescents Aged 15-21 Years About the Performance of Selected Governmental Institutions by Gender, Jordan, 1996.

| Total | Opinion | | | | | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|------|------|---------|---------|--------|
| | Excellent | Good | Poor | Unspec. | Total % | |
| The Government | 50.9 | 21.4 | 17.5 | 10.2 | 100.0 | (1783) |
| The Police | 68.0 | 13.6 | 7.5 | 10.9 | 100.0 | (1783) |
| The Courts | 50.1 | 10.9 | 6.6 | 32.4 | 100.0 | (1782) |
| Public Schools | 55.5 | 18.0 | 21.6 | 4.9 | 100.0 | (1781) |
| Jordanian Radio and TV | 59.9 | 21.1 | 16.8 | 2.2 | 100.0 | (1782) |
| Public Health Services | 66.9 | 17.3 | 13.4 | 2.4 | 100.0 | (1782) |
| Male | | | | | | |
| The Government | 48.7 | 24.5 | 19.0 | 7.8 | 100.0 | (898) |
| The Police | 65.5 | 15.4 | 10.3 | 8.8 | 100.0 | (898) |
| The Courts | 50.2 | 10.5 | 8.2 | 31.1 | 100.0 | (898) |
| Public Schools | 48.2 | 20.9 | 25.8 | 5.1 | 100.0 | (899) |
| Jordanian Radio and TV | 58.6 | 23.8 | 14.6 | 3.0 | 100.0 | (898) |
| Public Health Services | 66.2 | 17.9 | 13.5 | 2.4 | 100.0 | (899) |
| Female | | | | | | |
| The Government | 53.3 | 18.3 | 15.8 | 12.6 | 100.0 | (884) |
| The Police | 70.6 | 11.9 | 4.4 | 13.1 | 100.0 | (884) |
| The Courts | 49.9 | 11.4 | 5.0 | 33.7 | 100.0 | (884) |
| Public Schools | 62.9 | 15.1 | 17.4 | 4.6 | 100.0 | (884) |
| Jordanian Radio and TV | 61.2 | 18.3 | 19.1 | 1.4 | 100.0 | (885) |
| Public Health Services | 67.6 | 16.8 | 13.3 | 2.3 | 100.0 | (884) |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996.

Table 6.6: Opinions About the Performance of Institutions Rated Excellent by Gender and Educational Level for Adolescents Aged 15-21 Years, Jordan, 1996.

| Institution Performance and Gender | Less than Secondary | Secondary and Above | Total % | No. of Cases |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Male | | | | |
| The Government | 84.4 | 15.6 | 100.0 | 437 |
| The Police | 80.4 | 19.6 | 100.0 | 588 |
| The Courts | 84.4 | 15.6 | 100.0 | 450 |
| Public Schools | 85.5 | 14.5 | 100.0 | 433 |
| Jordanian Radio and TV | 84.2 | 15.8 | 100.0 | 526 |
| Public Health Services | 84.4 | 15.6 | 100.0 | 595 |
| Female | | | | |
| The Government | 80.3 | 19.7 | 100.0 | 472 |
| The Police | 79.5 | 20.5 | 100.0 | 623 |
| The Courts | 79.8 | 20.2 | 100.0 | 440 |
| Public Schools | 79.3 | 20.7 | 100.0 | 555 |
| Jordanian Radio and TV | 81.0 | 19.0 | 100.0 | 542 |
| Public Health Services | 79.8 | 20.2 | 100.0 | 598 |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

Differentials between males and females were significant in opinions towards the performance of governmental institutions. The proportion of adolescent females who said that the performance of institutions were excellent was higher than the proportion of adolescent males who ranked them as excellent. This difference may be due to the fact that most adolescent females do not have as much exposure to government institutions compared to adolescent males, who may have experience upon which to base their opinions.

In general, 26 percent of adolescent males said that the performance of public schools was poor compared with about 17 percent of adolescent females. Significant proportions of adolescent males and females preferred to give no answers about their opinions, mainly towards the performance of the legal courts. This may be due to the limited knowledge most adolescents have about this particular institution.

Table 6.6 reflects the opinions of the adolescent population aged 15-21 years who said that the performance of governmental institutions was excellent as classified by gender and educational level. It is apparent from the results that the great majority of adolescents (male and female) who said that the performance of governmental institutions was excellent had less than secondary education.

Differences between males and females with secondary education and above were significant which indicates that the effects of education on lowering the opinions of adolescent males on the performance of institutions was stronger than for adolescent females.

6.3 Social Norms and Adolescents

Perhaps one of the strongest influences on the participation of adolescents, particularly females, in public life comes from the application of social norms. While many laws,

including the National Charter of 1991, and the stated policies of organizations operating in Jordan boast equal access/opportunity, the undeniable evidence is that the social norms in practice in Jordan are not equitable with respect to the expectations for females and males when applied to participation in public life. The Jordan Living Conditions Survey in the study of attitudes and public life concluded that there is a general “psychological” barrier against female public and political participation in Jordanian society. It can be safely assumed that this same “psychological” barrier is being applied on the participation of adolescent females in public life, even though in recent years there has been improved equity in the participation of females in education, access to health care and to a certain degree, selection with respect to a marriage spouse. It appears that this gender-related “psychological” barrier is applied to the role of females outside of the home. For example, females are expected by their families to obtain as high an educational level as males (data demonstrates that parents have higher expectations of their daughters than their sons to obtain education), however females will be less likely than males to utilize the education they obtain if it involves taking on a role outside the home.

The data provided in Table 6.7 from the Jordan Living Conditions Survey of 1996 helps to demonstrate this “psychological” barrier.

Table 6.7: Selected Issues Demonstrating Social Attitudes Towards Female Participation in Public Life, Jordan 1996

| Issue | Male | Female | Total |
|--|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. Percentage against females serving in Municipal Councils | 46 % | 24 % | 34 % |
| 2. Percentage against females serving in the National Assembly | 47 % | 25 % | 35 % |
| 3. Percentage of Men between ages 20-24 years who hope not to see females ever in parliament/national assembly | 57 % | | |
| 4. Percentage who do not want women to vote | 20 % | 9 % | |
| 5. Percentage who do not want women to participate in Voluntary Social Events | 34 % | 10 % | |
| 6. Percentage of Men between ages 20-24 years who do not want females working for charity | 40 % | | |
| 7. Percentage who do not think that females should work outside the home | 41.1 % | 16.7 % | |
| 8. Percentage who do not believe that females should drive a car. | 35.2 % | 13.2 % | |
| 9. Percentage who believe that females should not run their own business. | 49.9 % | 27.1 % | |
| 10. Percentage who believe that females should not live alone in their own apartment | 93.7 % | 90.1 % | |
| 11. Percentage of females who are allowed to visit neighbours without being accompanied | | | 83 % |
| 12. Percentage of females who are allowed to visit travel alone within borders of the town/village where they live | | | ~60 % |
| 13. Percentage of females who are allowed to go alone to visit relatives who live outside the are of residence. | | | ~30 % |
| 14. Percentage of females who are allowed to go alone to visit relatives who live abroad. | | | ~12 % |
| 15. Percentage of females who are allowed to go alone to the doctor. | | | ~46 % |
| 16. Percentage of females who believe that they are able to move freely (also twice as more likely to vote) | | | ~27 % |
| 17. Percentage of females who believe that they are never able to go out alone. | | | ~12 % |

Jordan Living Conditions Survey, 1996

With respect to the attitudes noted above in Table 6.7, the Jordan Living Conditions Survey of 1996 also showed that individuals with higher educational levels and with an increase in income the attitudes towards the participation of females in public life (except with regards to participation in parliament) tended to be more positive. Also, the attitudes of those involved in public life (male or female) tended to be the most positive towards the participation of females in public life. The Jordan Living Conditions Survey also supports the findings of the 1993 national poll conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan that showed that approximately 80 % of all respondents believed males were more capable of political work than females. The study also showed that 68.5 % of women surveyed would vote for a male. The majority of respondents clearly saw the role for females as being at home and out of public life. By examining the perceptions of females regarding their own roles in society, it is not surprising that the attitudes of females tend to mirror their own perceptions of their social position and values towards family roles. There should be little wonder then that services for females that would support participation in public life are few (of 228 cultural societies registered with the Ministry of Culture only 4 are for females, of 75,155 registered members in voluntary organizations registered with the General Union of Voluntary Societies, only 13,200 members are female - or 17.6 %, of 48 Youth Centers, only 16 are for females, only one female Minister, no female Ambassadors, no females elected to Parliament in the last general election, no females in the House of Representatives, only 2 female judges).

To emphasize the impact of social norms on the well-being of adolescents, the results of the recent Jordanian Youth Forum held in Amman on April 20-22, 1999, showed a recurring theme that concerned the issue of participation of adolescents, particularly by female adolescents. The following main themes were identified:

- A serious lack of leisure centers for female and male youth.
- The obvious contradiction between youth's perceptions and identity recognition and the outside world's perceptions in relation to them.
- Serious family problems affecting youth's perspective on family relationships.
- A serious lack of sports facilities for female and male youth.
- The lack of communication between female and male youth, which negatively affects their understanding of each other.

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- Restrictions on girl's involvement in decision-making related to all aspects of their lives.
 - Limited political involvement of youth.
 - Restricted freedom of thought for females.
 - Limited and restricted working opportunities for females.
 - Limited and restricted girl's participation in different local activities.

If the Youth Forum results can be used as an indicator of the attitudes of adolescents from all regions of Jordan, then it is evident that the prevailing views of many adolescents in Jordan are in direct conflict with the social norms that are being applied in the society. With the large number of young people in Jordan relative to the total population, this attitudinal difference between youth and adults concerning the role of females in public life, represents an area where considerable dialogue within society must begin to take place in the near future in an effort to avoid serious social conflict and repercussions in the society.

Chapter 7

Summary

In this chapter a summary of the key findings presented in the previous chapters of this study is provided. In addition, an attempt has been made to identify several critical issues related to the key findings that are deserving further attention and investigation. This study, the data that has been analyzed and even the critical issues that have been identified concerning the situation of adolescent in Jordan are not exhaustive. However this study can serve as a useful base of information from which either immediate action might be taken or further inquiry may be warranted, either for initial data gathering or for the longitudinal study of certain issues.

In summary, the following comments and observations are offered concerning the situation of adolescents in Jordan.

- The study on the situation of adolescents in Jordan attempted to gather and analyze data on the adolescent age group (defined for the purposes of this study as being ages 12 to 21 years). The age grouping of 12 to 21 years of age presented some challenges for data gathering and analysis, particularly for the ages 12-14 and 20-21. This situation resulted from the fact that several data sources utilized in the study did not utilize the same age grouping of 12-21 years of age. Age groupings of 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 were more common, however some other data sources used other age groupings as well. In some instances, disaggregated data by single age was not readily available to allow the formulation of an age grouping of 12-21 years of age for this study. Future studies on adolescents should acknowledge the age grouping limitation of existing data and consider the benefits of primary research into the adolescent age group.
- In analyzing the data, cross-tabulation of the data against a number of specific criteria, specifically age, gender, location, education levels, and family income would have been useful and informative. In some instances, namely the Jordan Living Conditions Survey data, the size of the data sample for the age group 12-21 years was considered too small to ensure the validity of the data. Even without the ability to cross tabulate the data against the above-mentioned criteria, some analysis in the study may raise questions about its validity due to small sample

sizes. A major gap in data was the inability to provide much information on income levels of families who had adolescents in their households.

- A significant gap in the information presented is the comprehensive collection, analysis and integration of data on the social attitudes of the population in Jordan towards some of the key issues studied. While some information is available, in many instances, it is not been collected or analyzed in a scientifically rigorous method, leading to concerns about its reliability and validity. An attempt has been made to include some of the findings of the Youth Forum held in April 1999 as the activity was targeted directly to the project that this study was prepared for.
- The total adolescent population (ages 12-21 years) in 1997 was estimated to be 17% (782,000) of the total population of Jordan. The age structure of the adolescent population showed that there were more adolescents entering the age group at age 12 that were leaving it at age 21, indicating that the adolescent population is likely to continue to grow for some time. It is estimated that the total adolescent population will be 1,058,000 in the year 2007. The median age for the total adolescent population was 16.6 years (50 % of the populations was below this age and 50 % was above this age). Examining median age by geographic domain, lower median ages were found in Zarqa and Mafrqa (16.4) with Amman and Irbid being the highest (16.7). A higher median age suggests a lower fertility rate in the past, perhaps due to access to family planning information, higher educational levels or economic pressures in the urban centers of Irbid and Amman. The age-gender structure for adolescents showed that there are more adolescent males than females with a total age-gender ratio of the adolescent population ages 12-21 of 106. This may be partly attributable to higher birth rates of males and an increase in the death rates of adolescent females. There were some significant variations of the gender ratios at various ages in various parts of the country. Some of the major differences may be explained by "age-heaping", where there appeared to be a tendency for males to report their age as being 15 or 20 years rather than their actual age. However large gender ratio differences for the total adolescent population were found in some geographic domains as well. The highest was found in the Zarqa and Mafrqa domain at 111, followed by Balqa, Madaba and Irbid at 109 and Jarash/Ajloun at 108. This may be partly attributable to internal migration of adolescent males or a continuing preference for male child survival in more rural areas; however, further inquiry is needed to explore these apparent large gender ratio differences as well as the actual incidence of "age-heaping".

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- The proportion of adolescent females 18 years of age and under who had begun child-bearing has declined over the past 7 years, from 7.4% in 1990 to 5.7% in 1997 – a decline of 23%. However, this still meant that by the time an adolescent female had reached the age of 18 years one in every twelve had begun child-bearing. This decline in adolescent fertility is linked to a later age of marriage (since almost all births occur within marriage). General information on birth spacing for all women indicates that the time interval between births is also increasing (24 months in 1990 to 25.5 months in 1997). The most significant contributor to this increase in birth interval appears to be increased levels of education for females. No data appears available on the time elapsed between the date of first marriage and the birth of the first child. Additional information on birth spacing, including the elapsed time between the birth of the first child after marriage is required. The mean number of children born to adolescent females has also decreased (from 0.1 in 1990 to 0.06 in 1997 for ages 15-19 and from 0.8 in 1990 to 0.6 in 1997 for ages 20-24). Data on infant and child mortality for the total population suggests there has been an overall decline, however the same level of decrease in infant and child mortality has not been observed for the children of adolescent mothers, remaining high (58.2 for 1990 and 54.9 for 1997). This finding is deserving of further inquiry to identify the specific factors that continue to contribute to the higher mortality rates for children of adolescent mothers as well as the development of specific interventions to decrease the high rate of mortality.
 - Most adolescents considered themselves to be in good health (94%). However as age increased there was a tendency for adolescents to report lower satisfaction with their state of health. Adolescents from rural geographic domains were more likely to consider themselves in good health compared to their urban counterparts. The incidence of acute illness and injury reported among adolescents showed a higher reporting by females (perhaps attributable more to the different physiological changes being experienced by females at these ages). Urban areas showed a significantly higher rate of reporting illness and injury than did rural areas (8.9% to 5.9%). This variation may be due to the nature of the working conditions, having health insurance or adolescents from rural areas were less likely to report. The utilization of health services by adolescents tended to be higher in Amman (46.5%) than the other geographic domains with the lowest rate being in

the Balqa/Madaba domain (26.1%). Adolescent females were more likely than adolescent males to consult health services, the highest rate being Amman (49.1%) and the lowest in Jarash/Ajloun (27.3%). It should be noted that most of the consultations likely occurred among older adolescents. While the presence of health services and differences in the ability to afford services may be some of the factors explaining the urban-rural differences, the low rates of consultation outside of Amman, especially in Jarash/Ajloun and Irbid for females are noteworthy. Another interesting finding was that the age-specific probability of dying for 15-19 year olds increased slightly from 1984 to 1994, while the age-specific death rates for females rose considerably during the same period. Additional information and analyses should be undertaken in the area of adolescent health and the provision of health services to determine those factors adolescents consider indicative of good and poor health and the factors influencing the utilization of health services by adolescents, particularly for reproductive health issues (contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.). In a recent youth forum, the lack of services for adolescents suffering from psychological stress and illness was highlighted. Information on the different types of acute illness and injury and causes of mortality that adolescents are exposed to by age, gender, geographic domain, educational level and family income would be useful. Information on disability among adolescents, particularly by disability type and the services provided for those suffering from various disabilities would be welcomed. In addition, a broader examination of health issues affecting adolescents may need to be undertaken, including nutritional issues and environmental health.

- Smoking tobacco among adolescents is considered to be seriously under reported, particularly by females, for whom the practice is not socially acceptable. Data indicates that almost one in every four adolescent males report smoking daily compared with 0.3% for females. The most frequent age for beginning smoking was 17 for males and 22 for females. This age difference suggests different motives to smoke among males and females. It may be that self assertion and proving of masculinity might be the basic motivation for starting smoking among males. Among females, the "stress" or "enjoyment" hypothesis may be more prevalent. While smoking is only one form of substance abuse, it can be used as an indicator of the incidence of other substance abuse in the adolescent population. The recent youth forum identified that drug abuse was of significant concern and that services to raise awareness on drug addiction were lacking.

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- The analysis of economic participation by adolescents posed major challenges due to the definitions and methodology by which economic participation is measured and reported. Much of the data available is derived from measurements of participation in the formal sector of the economy, largely ignoring the informal sectors of the economy. The Jordan Living Conditions Survey of 1996 attempted to measure participation in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy, however the sample size for the age group 12-21 leaves data interpretation suspect.. Since males are more likely than females to seek and obtain work in the formal sector, particularly during the adolescent period, the data gathered and subsequently analyzed is biased towards reporting the economic participation of males, thereby overlooking the economic contribution of females through the informal sector. This bias in the data collected, combined with the higher availability of jobs in the formal sector for males and some of the social norms that would restrict adolescent females from participating in the formal sector, presents an inaccurate assessment that adolescent females are not economically active. Perhaps as a starting point, revisions to the traditional methods of measuring economic participation could be undertaken to provide a more accurate assessment of the contribution of females to the economy. Aside from the major constraint placed on the information by the bias of definitions and methodology used to measure economic participation, there are some implications from the data. This includes the suggestion that rural adolescents have a higher economic participation rate than their urban counterparts and higher educational attainment tends to indicate a higher participation rate. Areas for additional inquiry could include data on wage and working conditions, economic mobility, effect of expatriate labour on employment opportunities, the incidence of gaining employment through “connections” as opposed to qualifications, the incidence of poverty and access to social services among adolescents.
 - Child labour (defined in Jordan as the formal employment of an individual under the age of 16) appears to be declining in Jordan, but the data available is insufficient to ascertain the exact situation. A reluctance to report what is an illegal activity combined with the fact that the 1996 Labour Law does not cover the informal sector (where most adolescent females are employed) and that the law does not provide a minimum age for vocational training suggests that, from an

international perspective and definition, child labour may be far more prevalent in Jordan than what is reported.

- Adolescent females tended to stay in school longer than males during the basic and secondary school levels. Economic pressures on the individual and the family tend to be the highest contributor to the ability to continue to participate in the educational system. Female participation was similar to the level of male participation in basic and secondary education, however female participation in post-secondary education lags behind that of males (40% for females and 60% for males). Female students, compared to males, tended to be enrolled in programs of study at colleges and universities that, for the most part, had less economic advantage and would unlikely lead directly to employment. When examining alternative programs of study that might lead directly to employment, concerns have been expressed about the lack of vocational training centers for females and also the social perceptions about vocational training as being less than desirable. When females had enrolled in vocational programs, either in college, secondary school or a vocational training center, these programs were more likely to lead to employment in the informal sector than the formal sector of the economy. Information should be gathered and analyzed on the choices available to adolescent males and females and how their choices are influenced when it comes to selecting or being selected for educational programs of study. While the focus of a large amount of investment in recent years, the quality and relevance of education and training to societal needs and to the labour market appears to need additional improvement. Content of study programs at all educational levels should be investigated to determine the extent of gender bias, presence of discussions on human rights, role models, health and reproductive health issues, the development of leadership, conflict resolution, livelihood, employability skills among others. Labour market linkages and employment and educational counseling need to be provided at all levels of the education system. Investigation is required into the high social and family pressure that is attached to the Tawjihi exams – a significant source of stress for adolescents.
- Age at first marriage has risen between 1979 and 1998 (26.0 to 28.6 years for males and 21.1 to 25.5 years for females). The rise in the age of marriage has had a positive effect in lowering the birth rate. Reasons suggested for the rise in the age of marriage include the rise in educational participation of females and economic pressures to delay marriage until economic participation can be attained.

Adolescent marriages remain high in some geographic domains however. As an example, one in every five females in Irbid is married before the age of 16. Opinion expressed at the recent youth forum suggested that the minimum legal age for marriage should be raised to protect adolescent females from early marriage. On the other hand, some groups within society have expressed concern over the increasing number of single women in the population and have offered group weddings as a way to reduce the high cost of weddings. Additional data should be collected and analyzed on: the educational, social, age and economic characteristics of those entering adolescent marriages, the long-term effects on income levels of early marriage, and the divorce rate and duration of marriage of those married as adolescents and the socio-economic effect on those divorced.

- While it is reported that most adolescents (ages 8-18) committing a crime are males, there is a significant portion of females in urban areas who are reported as committing crimes. Most adolescents commit the following types of crime: theft (39%), fighting (21%) and delinquent behaviour (19%). For crimes committed against all adolescents (aged 8-18), sexual assault ranked the highest of reported crimes. For crimes committed against adolescent females, rape was reported as the highest. Amman had the highest rate with 40% of all crimes committed, however, when comparing this to the total population; Amman has a relatively low per capita reporting of adolescent crime. The majority of adolescent female victims were either unemployed or students. It is of note that the under reporting of crime against females may be as high as 92.5%. Important areas for additional inquiry could include collecting information on the individuals who commit crimes against adolescents, particularly females as well as to undertake longitudinal studies on the incidence and type of adolescent crime by individual age, gender, location, educational levels and income.
- Adolescent attitudes towards public life and their participation in public life showed gender differences in a number of areas. Adolescent membership in clubs was 11% for males and 3% for females. The low percentage of participation in clubs by adolescents was perhaps due to the absence of clubs for adolescents, the lack of appropriate services provided by these clubs or the high annual fees of some clubs especially in some parts of the country. This suggestion is supported by the discussions undertaken at the recent youth forum, indicating a serious lack of leisure centers and sports facilities. The absence of clubs may be more of an issue for females than for males, however the more limited freedom of movement of

adolescent females may be the major contributor to non-participation. It is interesting that while there was apparent low support among adolescents for the participation of adolescents in voting, there was higher support from females for participation in voting than from males (13.7% to 11.1%). The highest rate for support for voting participation was from females in Irbid at 19% - the lowest in Amman at 10.6%. Female adolescents were more likely to rank the performance of governmental institutions as excellent than were males. This was especially true for the public schools where 62.9% of adolescent females and 48.2% of adolescent males ranked public schools as excellent. Females with education above secondary school level were more likely than males with secondary education or above to rank government institutions as excellent while adolescent males with less than a secondary education were more likely to rank the institutions excellent. A major topic discussed at the recent youth forum identified a number of "social pressure" issues that influence and affect the participation of adolescents in society. These included: the differences in perception of adolescents and the society around them, serious family problems, lack of communications between adolescent males and females, restricted freedom of movement for females and restrictions on decision-making by adolescent females, and the effects of negative peer pressure. An additional area of inquiry that would be useful in the dissemination of information to adolescents would be the mass media and knowledge information consumption patterns and behaviours of adolescents (What kind of information do adolescents access? Where do they access it, How is it accessed?)

In closing, this study was intended to provide some basic information on the situation of adolescents in Jordan. It is intended only as a starting point for the development of programs and services that will meet better the needs of an under serviced and growing part of the population. It is also intended as a starting point for undertaking further study and analysis to reveal more about the situation of adolescents in Jordan for the adolescents themselves and for others who work to provide assistance in meeting the needs of adolescents and the society they live in. The work is important, if not critical, for it is the current adolescent and the population of adolescents whose behaviours, attitudes and practices will shape Jordan for the foreseeable future.