

# An Assessment of the Characteristics of Rivers State Population and Its Socio-Economic Implications

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**ABSTRACT** - This paper assesses the characteristics of Rivers State population and its socio-economic implications. Descriptive statistics and demographic techniques were used in analyzing the 2006 population and Census data for Rivers State obtained from the National Population Commission with a view to extracting vital socio-economic indices. The results of the analyses showed that 51.4 percent of Rivers State population of 5,198,716 is male while 48.6 percent is female. It was also found that 4,667,470 representing 89.8 percent of the population is between the ages of 0-49 i.e. reproductive age bracket - indicating high momentum within the population. It was further revealed that 85 percent of the population is literate and 15 percent not literate. The analyses also showed that 54.7 percent of the population was never married, 41.8 percent married, 1.8 percent separated/divorced, and 1.7 percent widowed. It is evident from the findings that Rivers State population is very youthful and has the tendency for rapid growth. Therefore, measures such as investments in education, maternal health, and female empowerment amongst others are recommended to check the rates of fertility, illiteracy, and improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the people.

**Key words:** population, Rivers State, education, investment, fertility, socio-economic implications

## 1.0 Introduction

Rivers State is the most populated State in the Niger Delta region and sixth most populous State in Nigeria with a population of over 5 million people as given by the 2006 Census and is projected to increase to over 7 million in 2015. Also, there is high rate of migration into Rivers State for greener pastures as the hub of oil and gas activities in Sub-Sahara Africa. It is imperative therefore to assess the characteristics of Rivers State as presently constituted with a view to determining its impacts on infrastructure, environment, livelihoods, and indeed sustainable development.

According to Makama (2010), Nigeria is the 8<sup>th</sup> most populous nation in the world with a population of over 140 million people. Nigeria's population grows at an estimated rate of 3.2 percent per annum. Forty-nine percent of the total population is female. Of this 51 percent are in the reproductive ages (15-49). Twenty-three percent of women age 15-19 are already mothers or are pregnant with their first child. Total fertility rate for Nigeria has remained high (5.7) in the last five years. The current use of modern family planning methods among married women is only 10 percent (2 percentage point increase in the last five years). These phenomena represent a built-in momentum which will continue to stimulate rapid population growth for years to come.

The global population growth of the last 200 years appears explosive on the historical timeline. The overall effects of this growth on living standards, resource use, and the environment will continue to change the world landscape long after. Hinrichsen and Bryant (2000) opine that rising population growth can lessen our quality of life because it destroys resources, such as water and forests, needed to sustain us; slows the dynamics of a healthy economy; decreases the level of biodiversity upon which we depend. As the century begins, natural resources are under increasing pressure, threatening public health and development. Water shortages, soil exhaustion, loss of forests, air and water pollution, and degradation of coastlines afflict many areas including Rivers State. Therefore, the need to assess the characteristics such as growth rate, distribution, schooling and marital status among others of Rivers State population has become pertinent considering the increasing pressure on existing infrastructure and natural resources as well as social crises being experienced.

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## 2.0 The Study Area - Profile of Rivers State

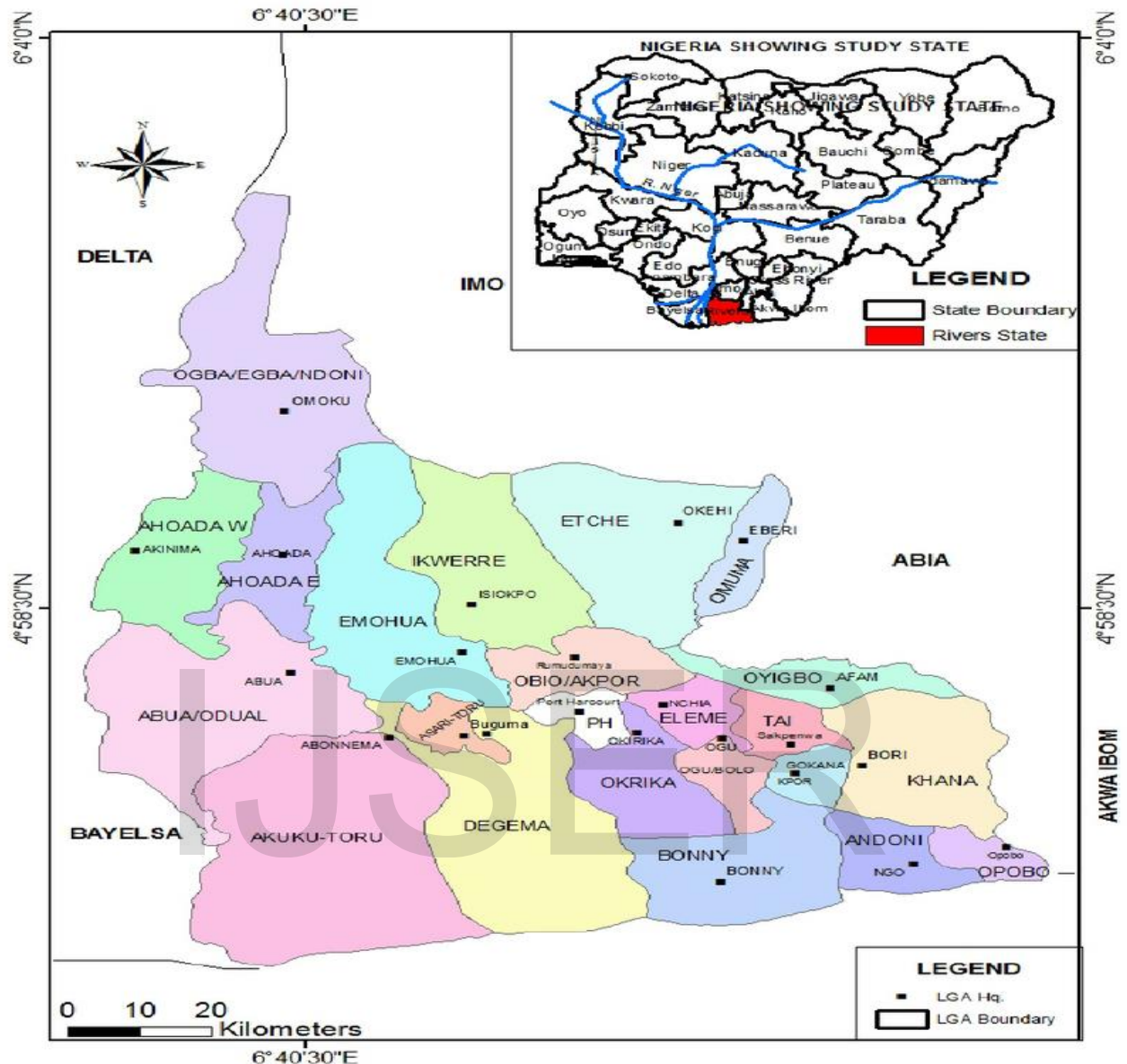
### Location

Rivers State is one of the 36 states of Nigeria. Its capital, Port Harcourt is the largest city in the Niger Delta region and is economically significant as the centre of Nigeria's oil industry. Rivers State is bounded on the South by the Atlantic Ocean, to the North by Imo, Abia and Anambra States, to the East by Akwa Ibom State and to the West by Bayelsa and Delta states. It is home to many indigenous ethnic groups such as Ikwerre, Ibani, Opobo, Eleme, Okrika, and Kalabari, Etche, Ogba, Ogoni, Engenni and others.

The inland part of the State consists of tropical rainforest; towards the coast the typical Niger Delta environment features many mangrove swamps (*Rivers State Government Website, 2014*).

Rivers State, named after the many rivers that border its territory, was part of the Oil Rivers Protectorate from 1885 till 1893, when it became part of the Niger Coast Protectorate. In 1900 the region was merged with the chartered territories of the Royal Niger Company to form the colony of Southern Nigeria. The state was created in 1967 with the split of the Eastern Region of Nigeria. Until 1996 the state contained the area now known as Bayelsa State ([www.citypopulation.de/php/ng-admin.php](http://www.citypopulation.de/php/ng-admin.php)).

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**Figure1:** Map of Rivers State

## Politics

Rivers State has 23 Local Government Areas, 32 House of Assembly seats, 13 House of Representatives seats and 3 Senatorial districts. It has a democratically elected Governor and Deputy as head of the Executive arm, Speaker of the House of Assembly as head of the legislature, and the Chief Judge as the head of the judiciary.

## Economy

Rivers State has maintained its importance as a leading supplier of wealth to Nigeria for centuries. In 2007, the State ranked 2nd nationwide with a gross domestic product (GDP) of \$21.07 billion and a per capita income of \$3,965 (Nigerian Tribune, 2014)

## Natural resources

The State is famous for its vast reserves of crude oil and natural gas. It was perhaps the richest and most important section of the African zone of the British Empire. Rivers State has two major oil refineries, two major seaports, airports, and

various industrial estates spread across the land. More than 40 percent of the country's output of crude oil is produced in the State. Other natural resources found within its boundaries are silica sand, glass sand and clay ((*Encyclopædia Britannica* 2014)

### **Agriculture**

Prior to the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in 1958, Agriculture was the primary occupation of the people of Rivers State. Around 19th century when the industrial revolution reached its peak in England, the area was then referred to as Oil Rivers Protectorate, this was due to its abundant palm oil and kernel which basically constituted the main revenue source of the country. In a sample survey carried out by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, about 40 percent of the rural inhabitants were committed to farming in 1983. Rivers State is one of the leading states in the production of yam, cassava, cocoyam, maize, rice and beans. About 39 percent (760,000 hectares) of the state's total land mass, particularly in the upland area, is suitable for cultivation. Major cash crops produced are oil palm products, rubber, coconut, raffia palm and jute. Other crops grown for food include vegetables, melon, pineapples, mango, pepper, banana and plantain. The fishing industry is also an important sector in Rivers State. Besides being lucrative, fishing is a favorite past time activity. There are approximately 270 species of fish existing; with many artisanal fishermen in the riverine areas. The State provides valuable sea foods such as crabs, oysters, shrimps and sea snails among others. Vertebrates like birds, mammals and reptiles are also found in the state (*Encyclopædia Britannica* 2014).

### **Education**

In 1999 the State had 2,805 Government primary schools and 243 secondary schools. The secondary schools are concentrated mainly in LGA headquarter towns and in Port Harcourt. Tertiary institutions include the University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Port Harcourt established by the Federal Government in 1975, the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, founded in 1980 by the State Government, the School of Health Technology, Port Harcourt, established by the State Government, the Federal College of Education (Technical), Omoku and the State-owned Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic at Bori, the Rivers State University of Education (Ignatius Ajuru University) at Rumuolumeni, Nkpolu Oroworukwo and Ndele and the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Rumueme, Port Harcourt. The Rivers State College of Arts and Science in Port Harcourt gained polytechnic status in 2006 (RIVCAS 2010).

## **3.0 Selected Literature Review**

The main challenge of this century is to ensure the well-being of 7 billion human beings who now populate the world and the 2 billion more that are projected by mid-century, while protecting the intricate balance of nature on which all life depends. Although the previous population projections of the United Nations Population Division suggested that the world population would stabilize at 9 billion, the latest projections of the United Nations Population Division indicate further population growth to 10 billion by the end of the century (UNFPA, 2011).

The expectation of 2 billion more people by mid-century, and 3 billion more by the end of the century, is based on the medium variant of the population projections published by the United Nations Population Division. It must be emphasized that, far from being assured, this variant assumes a relatively strong decline in fertility levels in some of the poorest countries. Whether the world population will grow as suggested by the medium variant, which is most commonly used in the analysis of population trends, or whether populations will grow at higher or lower rates strongly depends on national policies (UNFPA, 2011).

Worldwide, over the last decades, life expectancy has been increasing and fertility rates have been falling in most of developing world, with some exceptions, particularly among the least developed countries. But even where fertility rates have declined population growth often continues as a result of the inertia in population growth. Because fertility rates were high in the past, many countries now have a relatively large number of women in fertile ages. Even if fertility were to fall immediately to replacement level, therefore, populations would continue to grow for some time due the large cohort of women having children. But the size of this momentum will depend on when fertility rates decline. In countries where fertility continues to be high, the future growth attributable to such "population momentum" will also increase. Decisions made – or not made – now therefore have implications long into the future (UNFPA, 2011).

Population growth paired with higher consumption increases the pressure on all natural resources. More than 1 billion people throughout the world suffer from poverty and food insecurity. Lifting these people out of poverty and ensuring a decent quality of life for succeeding generations will require major development efforts. Not only is it important to ensure a more equitable distribution of economic resources – a growing challenge in an increasingly unequal world; higher economic output is

also essential (Herrmann, 2012). Feeding a world population of 9 billion, which will likely be reached before the middle of this century, will require an overall increase in agricultural output of about 70 percent according to the FAO (2010). In addition to increasing the output of the agricultural sector, countries will also need to increase production of many other vital goods and services. People will require clothing, housing, water, sanitation and infrastructure; they will also demand health care and education, for example. The ambition to reduce poverty and raise living standards for a growing world population will place mounting pressures on all natural resources, including climate, water, land and forests.

Population dynamics are strongly and inseparably linked to sustainable development. The world population has now passed the 7 billion mark and, according to the UN's projections, it will continue to grow. Population growth raises the stakes in our efforts to reduce poverty, create employment, and provide food, water and energy security, while safeguarding the natural environment (WEF and UNFPA, 2012).

#### 4.0 Materials and Methods

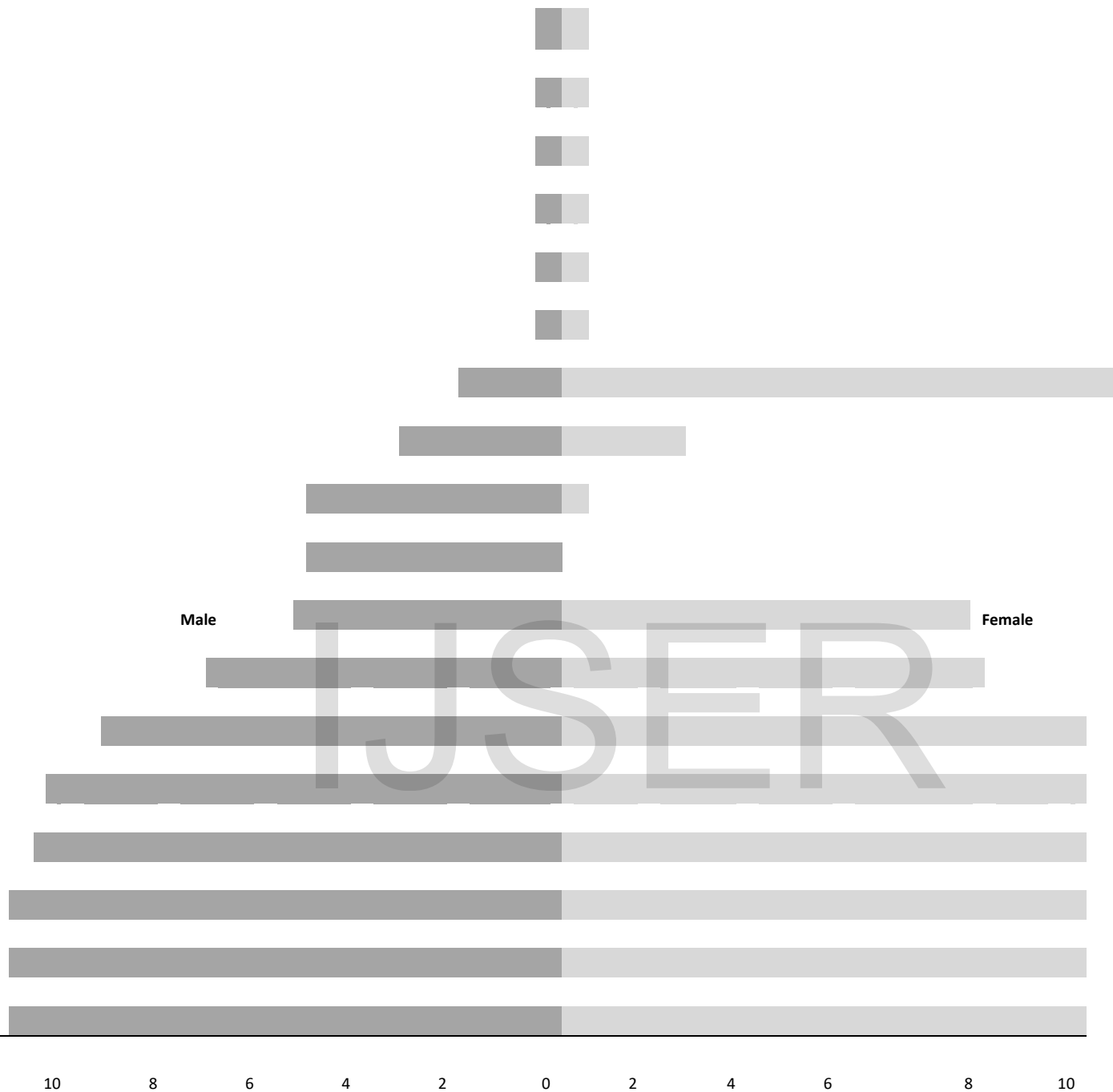
Secondary data on the population of Rivers State were collected from the National Population Commission (NPC) and analyzed using descriptive statistical methods and demographic techniques.

#### 5.0 Results

**Table 1: Distribution of Population by Five Year Age Groups and Sex**

Age Groups	Sex		
	Total	Males	Female
<b>RIVERS</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,198,716</b>	<b>2,673,026</b>	<b>2,525,690</b>
0 - 4	618,384	318,441	299,943
5 - 9	644,062	336,577	307,485
10 - 14	609,536	318,678	290,858
15 - 19	604,685	309,657	295,028
20 - 24	549,285	270,691	278,594
25 - 29	486,825	227,651	259,174
30 - 34	376,281	180,438	195,843
35 - 39	305,566	147,428	195,843
40 - 44	266,010	142,369	123,641
45 - 49	206,836	114,505	92,331
50 - 54	176,057	101,052	75,005
55 - 59	89,060	50,986	38,074
60 - 64	100,391	58,736	41,655
65 - 69	48,667	26,329	22,338
70 - 74	45,384	28,358	17,026
75 - 79	21,675	12,357	9,318
80 - 84	24,682	13,712	10,970
85+	25,330	15,061	10,269

*Source: NPC Priority Table Volume IV, 2010 (2006 Population and Housing Census)*



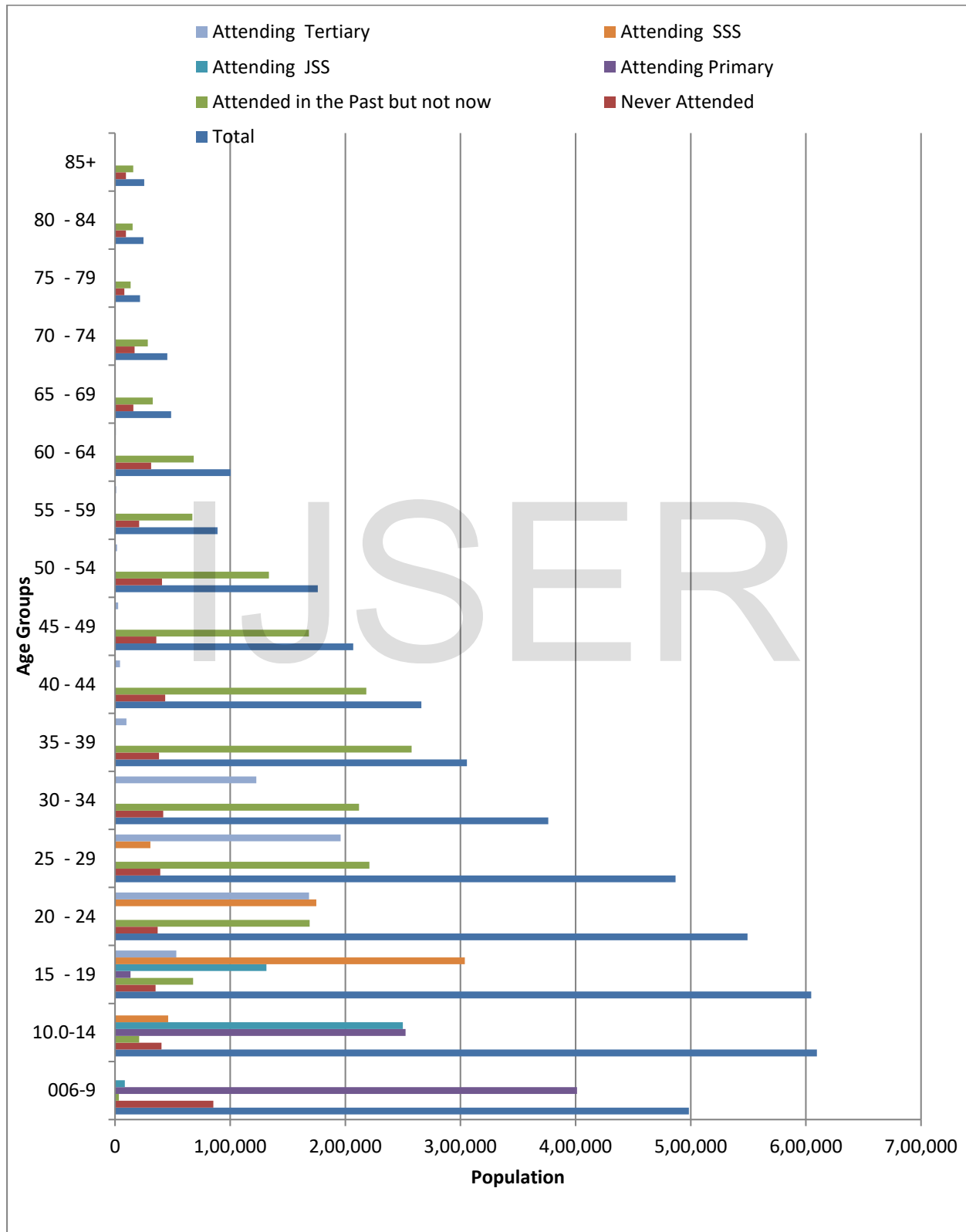
**Figure 2: Distribution of Rivers State Population by Five Year Age Group and Sex**

**Table 2: Distribution of Population (Age 6 and Above) by Sex, Age Groups and Schooling Status**

Both Sexes		Schooling Status					
Age Groups	Total	Never Attended	Attended in the Past but not now	Attending Primary	Attending JSS	Attending SSS	Attending Tertiary
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,434,640</b>	<b>549,323</b>	<b>1,712,667</b>	<b>666,847</b>	<b>389,934</b>	<b>555,391</b>	<b>560,478</b>
6 - 9	498,370	85,348	3,326	401,209	8,487	0	0
10 - 14	609,536	40,298	20,947	252,262	249,951	46,078	0
15 - 19	604,685	35,149	67,731	13,376	131,496	303,758	53,175
20 - 24	549,285	37,008	168,969	0	0	174,829	168,479
25 - 29	486,825	39,275	220,929	0	0	30,726	195,895
30 - 34	376,281	41,804	211,844	0	0	0	122,633
35 - 39	305,566	38,167	257,532	0	0	0	9,867
40 - 44	266,010	43,566	218,177	0	0	0	4,267
45 - 49	206,836	35,810	168,317	0	0	0	2,709
50 - 54	176,057	40,722	133,589	0	0	0	1,746
55 - 59	89,060	20,881	67,151	0	0	0	1028
60 - 64	100,391	31,370	68,342	0	0	0	679
65 - 69	48,667	15,910	32,757	0	0	0	0
70 - 74	45,384	16,981	28,403	0	0	0	0
75 - 79	21,675	8,105	13,570	0	0	0	0
80 - 84	24,682	9,425	15,257	0	0	0	0
85+	25,330	9,504	15,826	0	0	0	0
<b>Males</b>							
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,278,595</b>	<b>249,213</b>	<b>913,998</b>	<b>347,712</b>	<b>202,950</b>	<b>285,385</b>	<b>279,337</b>
5 - 9	260,587	44,807	1,752	209,422	4,606	0	0
10 - 14	318,678	21,281	10,870	131,469	130,848	24,210	0
15 - 19	309,657	18,272	32,320	6,821	67,496	157,348	27,400
20 - 24	270,691	17,826	78,604	0	0	89,109	85,152
25 - 29	227,651	16,463	100,280	0	0	14,718	96,190
30 - 34	180,438	16,215	102,968	0	0	0	61,255
35 - 39	147,428	13,940	128,629	0	0	0	4,859
40 - 44	142,369	13,264	123,261	0	0	0	1,844
45 - 49	114,505	13,956	99,434	0	0	0	1,115
50 - 54	101,052	17,325	82,942	0	0	0	785
55 - 59	50,986	8,567	41,976	0	0	0	443
60 - 64	58,736	14,236	44,206	0	0	0	294
65 - 69	26,329	6,345	19,984	0	0	0	0
70 - 74	28,358	8,926	19,432	0	0	0	0
75 - 79	12,357	3,909	8,448	0	0	0	0
80 - 84	13,712	4,731	8,981	0	0	0	0
85 +	15,061	5,150	9,911	0	0	0	0
<b>Females</b>							
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,156,045</b>	<b>300,110</b>	<b>798,669</b>	<b>319,135</b>	<b>186,984</b>	<b>270,006</b>	<b>281,141</b>
5 - 9	237,783	40,541	1,574	191,787	3,881	0	0
10 - 14	290,858	19,017	10,077	120,993	119,103	21,868	0
15 - 19	295,028	16,877	35,411	6,555	64,000	146,410	25,775
20 - 24	278,594	19,182	90,365	0	0	85,720	83,327
25 - 29	259,174	22,812	120,649	0	0	16,008	99,705
30 - 34	195,843	25,589	108,876	0	0	0	61,378
35 - 39	158,138	24,227	128,903	0	0	0	5,008
40 - 44	123,641	26,302	94,916	0	0	0	2,423
45 - 49	92,331	21,854	68,883	0	0	0	1,594
50 - 54	75,005	23,397	50,647	0	0	0	961
55 - 59	38,074	12,314	25,175	0	0	0	585
60 - 64	41,655	17,134	24,136	0	0	0	385
65 - 69	22,338	9,565	12,773	0	0	0	0
70 - 74	17,026	8,055	8,971	0	0	0	0
75 - 79	9,318	4,196	5,122	0	0	0	0
80 - 84	10,970	4,694	6,276	0	0	0	0
85 +	10,269	4,354	5,915	0	0	0	0



*Source: NPC Priority Table Volume VI, 2010 (2006 Population and Housing Census*



**Figure 3: Rivers State Schooling Status of Population by Age Groups of Both Sexes**



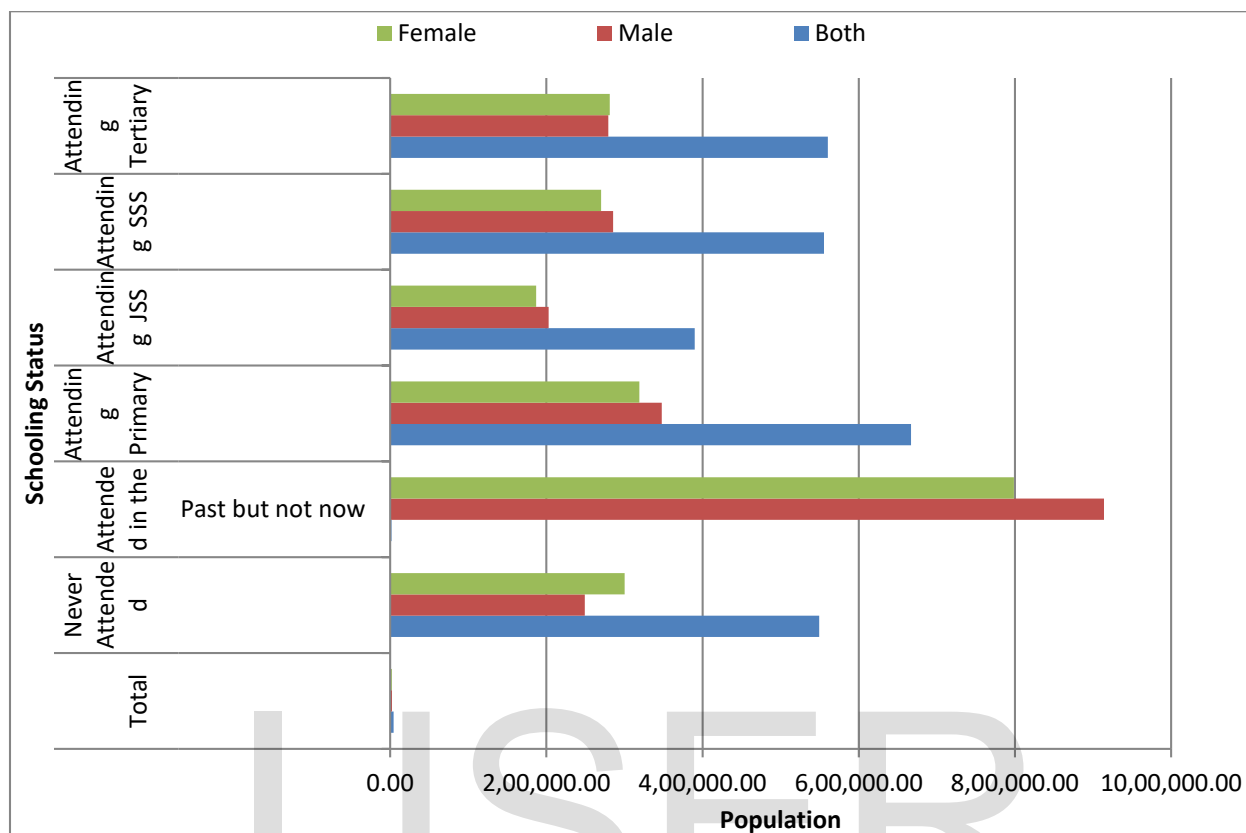


Figure 4: Rivers State Schooling Status of Population by Age Groups and Both Sexes

Table 3: Distribution of Population (Age 6 and Above) by Age, Sex and Literacy

Both sexes	RIVERS STATE		
	Total	Literate	Not Literate
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,434,640</b>	<b>3,782,589</b>	<b>652,051</b>
6 - 9	498.370	287.402	210.968
10 - 14	609.536	528.285	81.251
15 - 19	604.685	574.403	30.282
20 - 24	549.285	519.951	29.334
25 - 29	486.825	455.199	31.626
30 - 34	376.281	341.719	34.562
35 - 39	305.566	273.613	31.953
40 - 44	266.010	229.468	36.542
45 - 49	206.836	176.174	30.662
50 - 54	176.057	140.946	35.111
55 - 59	89.060	71.106	17.954
60 - 64	100.391	72.689	27.702
65 - 69	48.667	34.334	14.333
70 - 74	45.384	30.109	15.275
75 - 79	21.675	14.312	7.363
80 - 84	24.682	16.172	8.510
85+	25.330	16.707	8.623
<b>Males</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,278.595</b>	<b>1,978.446</b>	<b>300.149</b>
6 - 9	260.587	151.059	109.528
10 - 14	318.678	276.409	42.269
15 - 19	318.657	294.089	15.568
20 - 24	270.691	256.875	13.816

25 - 29	227.651	214.960	12691
30 - 34	180.438	167.851	12.587
35 - 39	147.428	136.596	10.832
40 - 44	142.369	128.991	13.378
45 - 49	114.505	103.389	11.116
50 - 54	101.052	86.943	14.109
55 - 59	50.986	44.049	6.937
60 - 64	58.736	46.792	11.944
65 - 69	26.329	20.863	5.466
70 - 74	28.358	20.596	7.762
75 - 79	12.357	8.920	3.437
80 - 84	13.712	9.576	4.136
85+	15.061	10.488	4.573
<b>Female</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,156,065</b>	<b>1,804.143</b>	<b>351.902</b>
6 - 9	237.783	136.343	101.440
10 - 14	290.858	251.876	38.982
15 - 19	295.028	280.314	14.714
20 - 24	278.594	263.076	15.518
25 - 29	259.124	240.239	18.935
30 - 34	195.843	173.868	21.975
35 - 39	158.138	137.017	21.121
40 - 44	123.641	100.477	23.164
45 - 49	92.331	72.785	19.546
50 - 54	75.005	54.003	21.002
55 - 59	38.074	27.057	11.017
60 - 64	41.655	25.897	15.758
65 - 69	22.338	13.471	8.867
70 - 74	17.026	9.513	7.513
75 - 79	9.318	5.396	3.926
80 - 84	10.970	6.596	4.374
85+	10.269	6.219	4.050

*Source: NPC Priority Table, Volume XII, 2010 (2006 Population and Housing Census)*

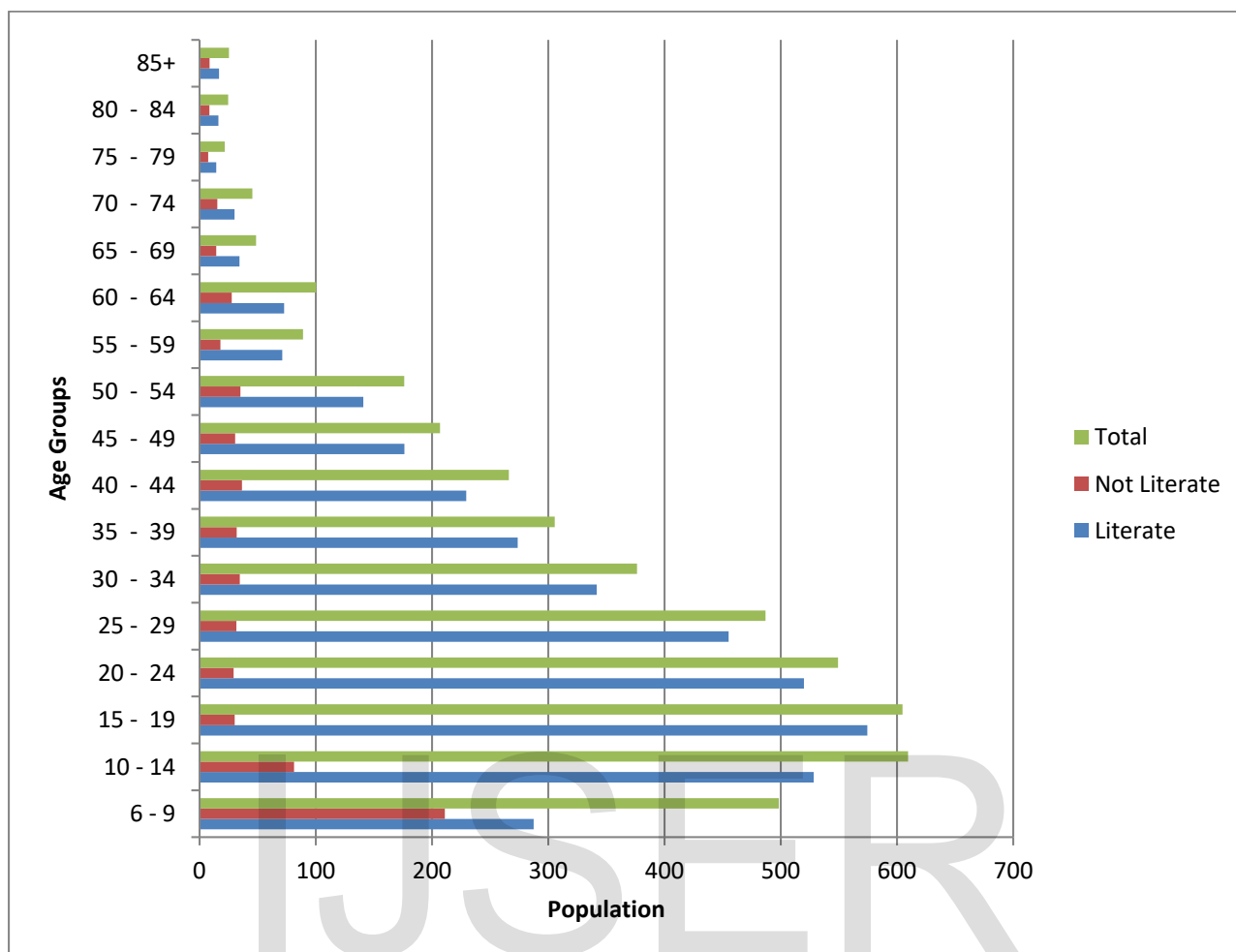


Figure 5: Literacy Level of Population of Both Literate & Not Literate of both Sexes within Age Groups in Rivers State

Table 4: Distribution of Population (Age 10 and above) by Sex: Age Groups and Marital Status

Both Sexes		Marital Status				
Age Groups	Total	Never Married	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,936,270</b>	<b>2,152,267</b>	<b>1,645,641</b>	<b>39,724</b>	<b>29,951</b>	<b>68,687</b>
10-14	609,536	588,170	15,076	2,741	2,560	989
15- 19	604,685	572,603	26,043	2,418	2,420	1,201
20- 24	549,285	463,740	76,226	2,898	2,078	1,343
25-29	486,825	306,237	171,997	4,209	2,344	2,038
30-34	376,281	123,493	239,270	5,943	3,417	4,158
35-39	305,566	46,935	244,073	5,313	3,412	5,833
40-44	266,010	17,514	231,444	4,798	3,694	5,833
45-49	206,836	9,111	183,819	3,248	2,726	7,932
50-54	176,057	6,124	155,584	2,853	2,473	9,023
55-59	89,060	2,954	78,413	1,356	1,229	5,108
60-64	100,391	3,608	86,792	1,473	1,417	7,101
65-69	48,667	2,305	40,951	694	666	4,051
70-75	45,384	2,528	37,516	630	577	4,133

**Source:**  
NPC  
Priority  
Table,  
Volume V,  
2010 (2006  
Population  
and Housing  
Census)

75-79	21,675	1,838	17,016	329	266	2,226
80-84	24,682	2,745	18,768	403	299	2,467
85+	25,330	2,362	19,653	418	373	2,524
<b>Males</b>						
TOTAL	2,018,008	1,156,038	819,312	17,665	12,612	12,381
10-14	318,678	309,373	6,008	1,465	1,328	504
15- 19	309,657	297,977	8,634	1,247	1,236	563
20- 24	270,691	247,766	19,955	1,362	1,036	572
25-29	227,651	174,327	49,967	1,833	948	576
30-34	180,438	76,799	98,780	2,585	1,361	913
35-39	147,428	27,524	115,415	2,191	1,247	1,051
40-44	142,359	8,569	129,146	1,950	1,370	1,334
45-49	114,505	4,068	106,850	1,337	1,072	1,178
50-54	101,052	2,720	94,782	1,247	960	1,334
55-59	50,986	1,285	47,869	583	495	88
60-64	58,736	1,414	55,009	696	698	1,012
65-69	26,329	759	24,458	287	272	553
70-75	28,358	959	26,098	307	264	730
75-79	12,357	615	11,056	177	119	390
80-84	13,712	1,013	11,986	186	124	403
85+	15,061	870	13,299	212	163	517
<b>Females</b>						
TOTAL	1,918,262	996,229	826,329	22,059	17,339	56,306
10-14	290,358	278,797	9,068	1,276	1,232	485
15- 19	295,028	274,626	17,409	1,171	1,184	638
20- 24	278,594	215,974	59,271	1,536	1,042	771
25-29	259,174	131,910	122,030	2,376	1,396	1,462
30-34	195,843	46,694	140,490	3,358	2,056	3,245
35-39	158,138	19,411	128,658	3,122	2,165	4,782
40-44	123,641	8,945	102,298	2,848	2,324	7,226
45-49	92,331	5,043	76,969	1,911	1,654	6754
50-54	75,005	3,404	60,802	1,606	1,504	7,689
55-59	38,074	1,669	30,544	773	731	4,157
60-64	41,655	2,194	31,783	777	812	6,089
65-69	22,338	1,546	16,493	407	394	3,498
70-75	17,026	1,569	11,418	323	313	3,403
75-79	9,318	1,223	5,960	152	142	1,836
80-84	10,970	1,732	6,782	217	175	2,064
85+	10,269	1,492	6,354	206	210	2,007

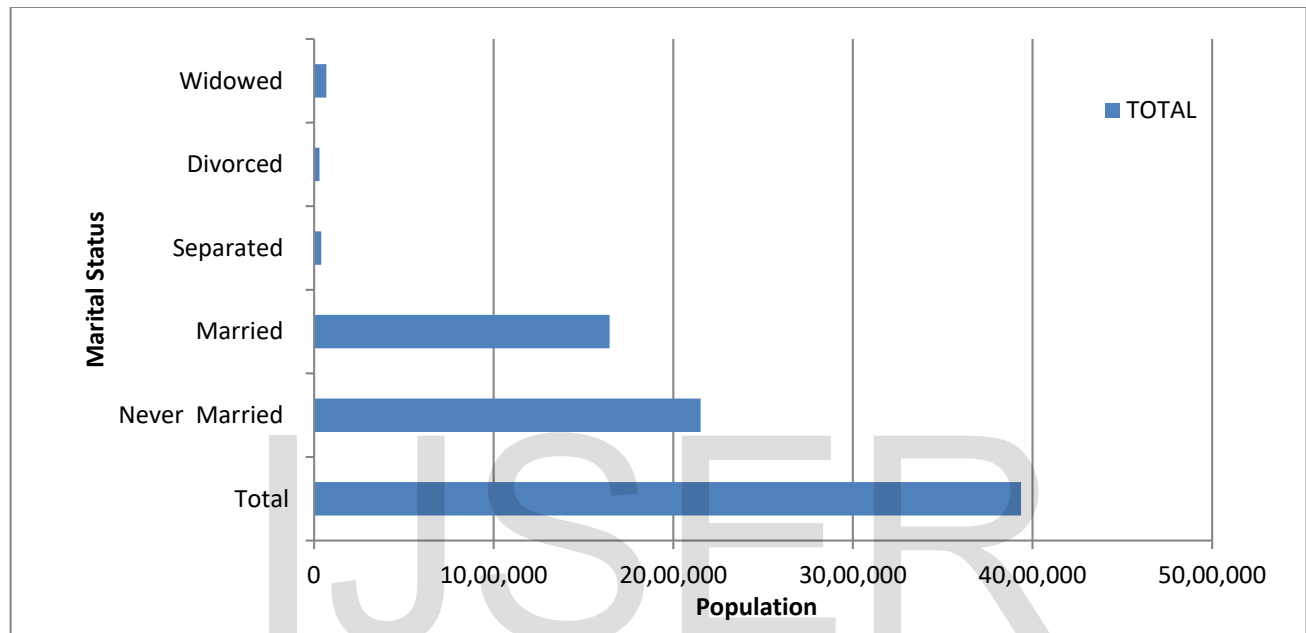


Figure 6: Marital Status of Total Population within Rivers State

Table 5: Projected Population Growth of Rivers State (2006-2015)

Year	Population projection Using 3.4% annual growth rate
2006	5,198,716
2007	5,424,424
2008	5,612,025
2009	5,806,115
2010	6,006,917
2011	6,214,664
2012	6,429,596
2013	6,651,961
2014	6,882,016
2015	7,120,028

Source: NPC, 2009

## 6.0 Discussion and Findings

Table 1 and figure 2 show clearly that the population structure (pyramid) is broad-based meaning that it is youthful with over 89 percent between the ages of 0-49 and 53.8 percent within the active reproductive age of 15-49. The structure indicates high momentum in the population of Rivers State.

Table 2, figures 3 and 4 show that the schooling status of the population where 38.6 percent attended school in the past but not now, implying that they either drop-out of primary/secondary school and could not proceed to tertiary or attended tertiary school but could not go beyond first degree or the like. Out of the 38.6 percent that attended school in the past but not now, 29.6 percent is between the ages of 15-49. Also, those within schooling age that never attended school constitutes 12.4 percent of the population and 6 percent of those in this category are between the ages of 15-49.

Table 3 and figure 5 show the literacy level of the population with 85 percent of both sexes being literate while 15 percent is not literate. Out of this illiterate group, 11.7 percent is within the ages of 6-49.

Table 4 and figure 6 show that marital status of the population which revealed that 54.7 percent were never married, 41.8 percent married, 1.8 percent separated/divorced, and 1.7 percent widowed. Thus with over half of the population living as single parents, the population appears to be burdened with high level of dependency particularly among the working class and also moral decay because most of the children might be without both parents living together.

Table 5 shows that the population of Rivers State grew from 5,198,716 in 2006 to 7,120,028 in 2015 as projected using 3.4 percent annual growth rate as given by the National Population Commission. This partly explains the current pressure on infrastructure like schools, health facilities, housing, and the high level of joblessness among the populace.

## 7.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

From the findings of this study, achieving the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating extreme hunger and poverty; achieve universal primary education; and promote gender equality and empower woman, appear elusive in Rivers State considering the level of dependency, illiteracy - those that never attended school, and the number of single parenthood in the population.

Therefore to promote sustainable development pathways, Rivers State Government in liaison with the Federal and Local Governments, development partners and stakeholders should make substantial investments in education, maternal health, family planning, empowerment of women, creation of job opportunities, among others with a view to ensure: universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and family planning; and the systematic integration of population projections in development strategies and policies. Planning for the estimated changes in population size and age structures is an indispensable precondition for sustainable rural, urban and national development.

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