The results of the 2012 Census show that Rwanda had a total resident population in that year of 10,515,973, of which 5,451,105 were females, representing 52% of the population. There were around 386,000 more

females than males. At national level, women outnumbered men in rural areas (53%), while the opposite was the case in urban areas (where 49% are female).

Women were, on average, older than men: the mean age for the female population was 23.5, while it was 21.9 for males. This difference was due mainly to the higher percentage of women in older age groups: male mortality

was higher than female mortality. However, the population of Rwanda is young: half of the females are under 19 and half of the men under 18. Only 4% of the female population and 3% of the male population is over 65.

In general, young women get married from 18, while males get married from 20. But a higher percentage of men were in unions than women (47% compared to 45%). As women live longer than men, there are more widows than widowers (11% compared to 1%).

Although the TFR has declined significantly from 6.5 children per women in 2002 to 4 children per women in 2012, fertility is still regarded as high.

Reference documents (PDF)

- RPHC4_Gender.pdf (pdf, 5.87 MB)
  LAST UPDATED: 8 Feb 2025

Save as PDF