

Title: Cuban International Migration and Low Fertility Conditions Impact Over the Aging of the Population and the Consequences of the Intergenerational Relations of Older Adults.

Abstract

Cuban population is aging more rapidly than any other country in Latin America. In 2006, 17 % of its population is 60 and over and 31 % is expected by 2030. Total population is decreasing since 2006 at a rate of 0,4 ‰. During the last 40 years emigration rate is higher than 2.0 ‰. It is likely that this migration pattern will continue. Cuban fertility rates are below replacement since 1978. In 2006 total fertility rate is 1,39.

The objective of this paper is to analyze the effect of migration and fertility on the increase of the rate of population aging in Cuba. The impact of population aging on the intergenerational relations of older adults in Havana City will also be considered.

Introduction

Cuban population is aging more rapidly than any other country in Latin America. In 2006, 17 % of its population is 60 and over and 31% is expected by 2030. Total population is decreasing since 2006 at a rate of 0,4 ‰. Projections estimate that this trend will continue, and that Cuban population will not increase over the 11.242.519 inhabitants, maximum attained in 2005.

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Objective

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Data and method

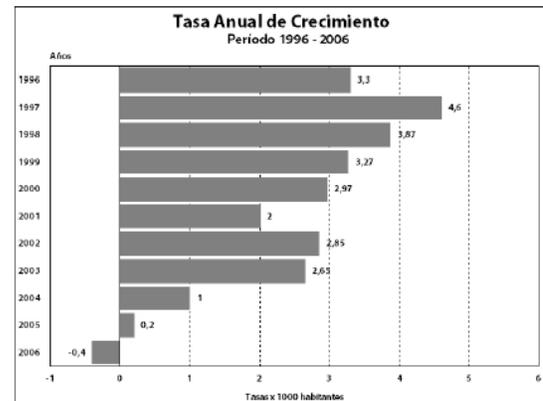
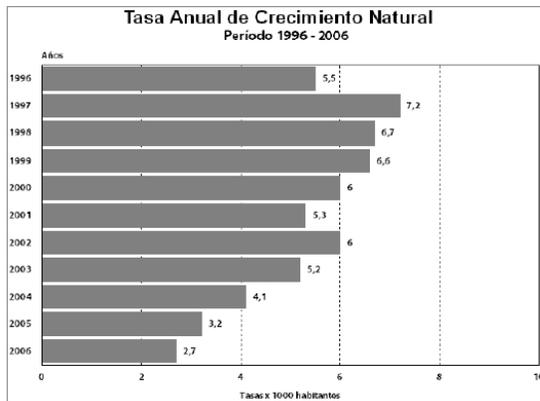
The Demographic Yearbook of Cuba in 2006; the Census of Population and Housing of Cuba in 2002. and the SABE Survey (Health, Well-being and Aging Survey) conducted by the Pan American Health Organization were used to carry on the study. SABE study consists of a round of cross-sectional surveys and includes information collected during 1999– 2000 on 10 981 men and women aged 60 and older from seven cities of Latin America and the Caribbean: Bridgetown, Barbados; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Havana, Cuba; Mexico City, Mexico; Montevideo, Uruguay; Santiago, Chile; and São Paulo, Brazil. The Cuban sample consisted of 1905 target individuals aged 60 or older.

A description of socio-demographic characteristics of the elderly population, living arrangement and intergenerational transfers are presented from the data of the SABE survey. The estimation of transfers and living arrangements were calculated using ratio and post stratification estimators by age and sex. The total population was used as an auxiliary variable.

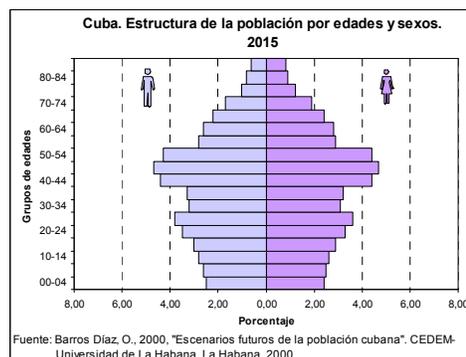
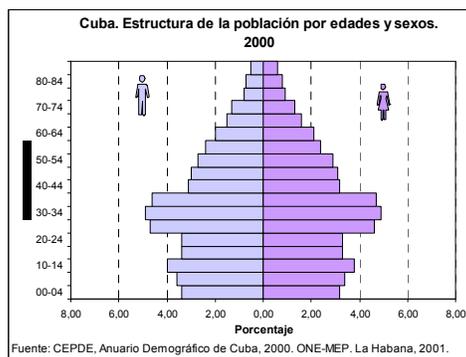
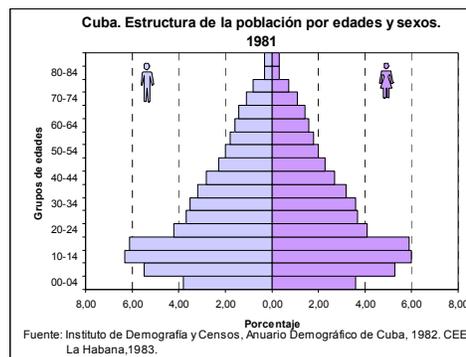
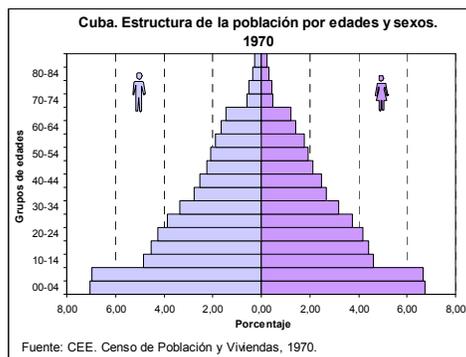
Preliminary results

Migration is closely related to the dynamics of population. For the past decades Cuba has had negative rates of migration and the projections of these trends do not seem to change.

The following figures show the effect of migration on the annual growth rate. On one hand, birth rates are declining having a negative effect on the natural population growth rate. This and migration had resulted in a negative population growth rate with having as an outcome the decline of the total population since 2006.



The analysis of Cuban population pyramids demonstrates the effects the rapid population aging in population structure by age and sex. In 2006, 17 % of its population is 60 and over and 20% is expected by 2015.



According to population projections by 2030 the elderly population will reach 31 %; population will double in 24 years. Due to this extraordinary increase in number and proportion adults 60 and over the analysis of health conditions and well-being of the population is relevant to policy making.

From SABE is known that in Havana City the median age of the elderly population is 70 years, 59.1% are women, 4.5% had no education and 44% had middle or high education. 11% of the elderly in Havana City live alone as well as those who live with their spouse who might have similar age and health conditions and needs

Older adults tend to share their home with up to four generations. More than one third live in a household of three generations and a similar proportion in households of two generations. Near half of elderly population with at least one ADL received help from only one person (44 %) and, 17 %, received help from 2 persons; 93 % of older adults received help for services, gifts, money and company. This last transfer, very important for the elderly is underestimated due to the fact the target did not answer this question in regard to the co-residents

Final considerations

Cuban population is aging more rapidly than any other country in Latin America. In 2006, 17 % of its population is 60 and over and 31% is expected by 2030. Cuban population aging is occurring in a shorter period of time, as compared with other populations. Due to this extraordinary increase in the number and the proportion adults 60 and over the analysis of health conditions, social security, pensions system and well-being of this population is relevant to policy making.