

## New Caledonia

### 1. Background information

Estimated Population as of 1 January 2006 in New Caledonia: 236 528

Southern Province: 166 867 inhabitants (70.5 %), with Grand Nouméa, urban zone with 148 727 inhabitants

Northern Province: 45 215 inhabitants or 19.1%

Loyalty Province: 22 466 inhabitants or 9.5%

Mortality rate in 2005: 4.8 deaths for 1000 inhabitants (with gender ratio m/f=1.4)

Birth rate in 2005: 17.2 births for 1000 inhabitants with an annual natural growth rate 1.6%

Distribution by age:

0-44 years old: 74.8 %

5-44 years old: 66.1 %

10-24 years old (teenagers and young adults): 26.1%

10-19 years old: 18.3%

GDP in 2001: 439 383 billion XPF

GDP/inhabitant: 2 022 million XPF (22 617 US Dollars)

Minimum wage: 120 000 XPF (1230 US Dollars)

In 2004, a monthly average of 9 632 job applicants registered with 31% young people under 25 years old. 71 235 young people registered for school in 2004.

Doctors: 499 (216.2/100 000 inh)

- 240 in private sector
- 367 in Nouméa(401.6/100 000 inh)

General practitioners: 252 (109.2/100 000 inh)

Specialists: 247 (107/100 000 inh)

As of 31 December 2004: 727 beds => 3.1 beds/1 000 inh for short-stay,

Average length of stay: 4.5 days (public = 5.2, private =3)

235 beds for long term-stay and psychiatry

### 2. Public policy and legislation

No information available

### 3. National programme development and implementation

#### (a) Priority types of injury and violence

Mortality By CIM group

(Source: Service des action sanitaires – DASS-NC – year 2005)

- Tumours (group II) 27.6%
- Circulatory illness (group VII) 25%
- External cause of trauma and poisoning (group XVII) 14.4%
- Mortality rate of 66.91/100 000 inhabitants

The standardised mortality rate of 2005 is equal to 474.2/100 000 inhabitants.

Distribution by gender: Male group XVII = 18% (group II = 27.4%; group VII = 27.4%)  
Female group XVII = 9.3%

Distribution by age: group XVII: first cause of death for age between 5-49  
Half of deaths due to traumatic lesions and poisoning occur between age 20 and 49  
And cause 1/4 of deaths between 20-29 years old

Group XVII, distribution by cause:  
70.4% killed in road accidents are men  
10 deaths by drowning, with 8 men

<u>Group XVII</u>	Male	Female	Total	%
External cause: trauma and poisoning	(121)	(44)	(165)	(100%)
Road accidents	50	21	71	43%
Drowning, accidental drowning, aspiration of ingestion of food products leading to suffocation	19	6	25	15.1%
Suicide	31	5	36	21.8%
Homicide	9	2	11	6.6%

165 casualties by trauma: among them 52.7 % aged between 20 and 49

- Traffic accidents = 71 deaths (among total figure of 1142 deaths)
- On public roads: Ratio of 3 deaths of men for 1 woman
- First cause of premature mortality between 1991 and 2005
- Over the first 6 months of 2005: 305 accidents, an increase of 10% (293 in 2004), 414 casualties = - 4,83% (435 in 2004)

All communities are concerned, though the situation for Kanak women is less favourable. Physical and sexual violence happens in each group, more often when education levels are low and women are not financially independent. In NC, the excessive consumption of alcohol by men exposes women to family violence. Younger women (under 25) are more exposed to the violent acts by their partners or other relatives.

Data regarding Suicide:

In 2005, there were 36 deaths by suicide (31 men and 5 women). The gross rate of mortality was 14.8/100 000 inhabitants, accounting for 21.2 % of violent deaths. In 2005, 57.2% of these deaths were by hanging, 27.7% by firearms, and 8.6% by medicine. An increase in hangings between 1991 and 2005 accounted for 3 % of the total number of deaths. During that same time period, there were an average of 27 deaths by suicide each year, with 68% concerning people aged between 15 and 44.

Suicide Attempts Noumea's Hospital	MEN Number of cases (average age)	WOMEN Number of cases (average age)	TOTAL
2002	78 (36.3 years old)	204 (34.5 years old)	282
2003	71 (36 years old)	202 (33.4 years old)	273
2004	88 (35 years old)	187 (31.7 years old)	275
2005	85 (35.3 years old)	239 (31.7 years old)	324
Total 2002-2005	322 (28%)	832 (72%)	1 154 (100%)

(b) National report on injury and/or violence

No information available

(c) National strategy/action plan/implementation plan; priority areas for action

Some of the current actions include:

Violence inside the family:

Information and action was taken towards a public census, and circulation of information, and support to women and children in order:

- to help them overcome their shame, to push them to be looked after and to be helped
- to make authors of violence become aware that they can be punished for their acts but also help them to change their behavior.

Association taking care of sexual and conjugal violence with free call service.

Possibility of emergency accommodation in Noumea in case of conjugal violence, and possibility of mediation.

A weekly radio and TV program on sexuality for young people « sexy radio » .

Publication by the government of a guidebook for identification of and help to victims of violence. This guidebook has been circulated to each health professional working in New Caledonia (with information also available on the Internet). Implementation of the observatory of social and medico-social action in the Southern Province with a free call service for endangered children.

Training of health professionals for identification of sexual abuse and domestic violence Implementation of the law of socio-judicial follow-up for the perpetrators of sexual attacks Legal possibility of obligation of care for addictive trouble. A socio-anthropological study (INSERM) based on the image of masculinity among young people

Road Violence:

Large scale road safety information campaign conducted by the government (started in July 2006) and more specifically based on young people, on health and on the preservation of life Continuation and intensification of repressive measures concerning speed, drink-driving and the safety (security) of vehicles

Information campaign on the harmful use of alcohol and cannabis when driving

Suicide and Dangerous Behaviours:

Epidemiological survey on overall population (2005-2006) based on mental health and on its socio-cultural representation, and on the frequency of mental, addictive and suicidal troubles  
Creation in Nouméa ( 2004) of « CASADO » ( free reception and care centre for teenagers), open to teenagers and to their families

Creation of an addiction prevention and care centre (January 2006)

Increased number of psychological and psychiatric medical consultations in the whole territory

Urban and School Violence:

In 2005, campaign of prevention in the Southern Province against incivility and violence at school (primary school)

In 2006, awareness campaign conducted by the New Caledonian Government and addressed to young people from 12 to 18, whose slogan was « Speaking about it is already acting »

(d) National targets/goals set –

No information available

(e) Provincial (sub-national) level strategies and plans

No information available

(f) Current or recently completed major intervention programmes

No information available

(g) Evaluation of interventions in terms of implementation and outcomes

No information available

(h) Dissemination of results of programmes

No information available

4. Coordination, leadership, administration and capacity

No information available

5. Data collection systems

No information available

6. Pre-hospital and hospital care

No information available

7. Issues and Challenges

Today, there is a strong governmental will to tackle all types of violence. Everybody should feel concerned by violence. There is an initiation to a more civic approach by society.

Necessity of good identification of sanitary actions (and also good coordination with judicial and police actions).

Public health actions to be developed and increased

Improvement of data collection to cover the problem in its various aspects (by geographical zones, by typology, etc.)

Information to the public (more specifically to young people: at school, inside sport clubs, advertising campaigns on road violence)

Training of health and social professionals (screening, care, legal obligations, etc.)

Over all of New Caledonia, tools for the evaluation of actions and of efficiency of information campaigns – sensitization (for example, the South Province's observatory of children at risk)

Research in the sanitary and socio-anthropological fields (epidemiological study in mental health and on socio-cultural representations, research on masculinity in New Caledonian society, etc.)