

Population Growth in Ebonyi

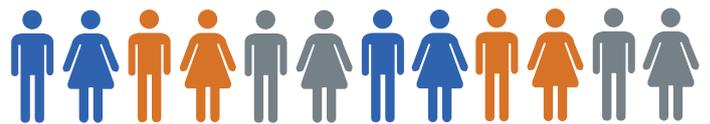
Ebonyi's population is growing at a rapid pace, and will continue to do so in the years to come. If it remains unchecked, the state's growing population will have dire consequences for future socioeconomic development, especially in the areas of healthcare, education, and employment.

2017 Ebonyi Population Profile

- **Population growth trend.** Ebonyi's population is growing by about 2.7 percent per year. If growth continues at this rate, the population will double in about 25 years and by 2050, it will be about 2.5 times larger than the population today, reaching just over seven million people.
- **Large youth population.** The youth population in Ebonyi is a crucial factor to consider. Over 40 percent of the population is under the age of 15. As the population continues to grow, so will the proportion of people under the age of 15. A youthful age structure has enormous implications for future socioeconomic development, as most youth are not yet part of the workforce. The youthful population will place an increasingly heavy burden on the working age population and further constrain the availability and accessibility of basic services. Further, once youth reach working age, the amount of employment opportunities may not match the number in need.
- **Low contraceptive prevalence rate compared to other South East states.** Compared to other states in the South East, Ebonyi has the lowest number of

This snapshot presents findings from the RAPID (Resources for the Awareness of Population Impacts on Development) model application for Ebonyi. RAPID projects the economic consequences of rapid population growth on various health and non-health sectors. It complements a larger suite of materials on RAPID, which include national- and state-level applications, and offers quick, easy-to-use facts and figures that demonstrate the impact of population growth on development and the need to invest in family planning in Ebonyi as a viable, long-term solution.

Estimated population **2.8 Million**



Population will **double** in 25 years

Average number of **5.3** births per woman



Married women using a **5.6%** modern contraceptive method

married women using a modern contraceptive method. Only 5.6 percent of married women in Ebonyi use a modern method, whereas rates in Imo, Enugu, and Abia are at 10 percent and above.

Population Growth Scenarios

Considering the impact of future population growth on socioeconomic development in Ebonyi, the RAPID model predicts outcomes in education, employment, and healthcare, based on two scenarios: high population growth and reduced population growth. The following are potential impacts from a reduced population growth scenario, in which the total fertility rate is reduced to three births per woman by 2037, and then reduced to about two births per woman by 2050.



₦38 billion

saved in primary education costs between now and 2050



1,100

fewer doctors will need to be trained between now and 2050



360,000

fewer new jobs will be required between now and 2050

What We Must Do

- It is essential that Ebonyi's family planning programme receive adequate political support. High-level government officials in Ebonyi should demonstrate their support for efforts to reduce population growth.
- Decision-makers in Ebonyi should encourage both government and nongovernmental organizations to collaborate on delivering family planning programmes.
- Increasing access to family planning information, services, and methods is essential. Providing high-quality family planning services, commodities to support those services, and communication and messaging around family planning all require financial resources. It is critical that sufficient funds are provided to support these efforts.

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