



Anguilla Statistics Department
Ministry of Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism
Government of Anguilla
The Valley, ANGUILLA, B.W.I.



Anguilla Statistics Week October 13 – 18 “Statistics in Every Life – Let us Educate and Appreciate”

**Address by the Deputy Governor of Anguilla
Hon. Stanley Reid**

Good day listening audience. I am delighted to have this opportunity to address you during this celebration of Statistics Week 2013. This year Statistics Week is being celebrated under the theme “Statistics in Every Life – Let us educate and appreciate”.

I will seek to highlight this year’s theme through an examination of society’s demands on social services. We generally express the view that the demand for social services continues to increase. What is our basis for this view? Have we sought information to support this general view? Why would we be interested in seeking such information? Part of the mandate of the Government is to respond positively to social needs. To respond appropriately to social needs the Government must have specific information on those needs. Not only must the Government know that a certain need exists but it must also be conscious of the context and the extent of the need.

Decisions, we will agree, are only as good as the information used to make those decisions. Information in turn is only valuable if it is accurate, relevant and timely. Decision makers who are not sufficiently discerning and do not insist that these qualities exist in data presented to them will invariably make bad

Tel: (264) 497-5731

“Sound Statistics for Sustainable Development”
E-mail: statistics@gov.ai & Website: www.gov.ai/statistics

Fax: (264) 497-3986

Old Court House Building
P. O. Box 60
The Valley, Anguilla

decisions. This will in turn result in the formulation and implementation of inefficient and ineffective policies and programmes.

When social needs become apparent alongside deteriorating physical infrastructure and scarce resources how does the Government respond? How will the scarce resources that are available be allocated? Will the Government respond to those who scream the loudest, irrespective of the extent of actual need or will deliberate analysis, resulting in the formulation of evidence based policies be pursued?

The publication of inaccurate, irrelevant and untimely statistics will negatively impact individuals, corporate entities and national governments, which rely on such data to inform current and future business and national decisions. These decisions will usually relate to capital investments and the securing and deployment of resources, - sometimes very scarce resources.

An examination of our Education System, in the context of considering its capacity to meet the needs of citizens and residents might assist in demonstrating the value of statistics in making decisions. Persons between the ages of 5 and 17 years are required by law to attend school. In order to adequately cater to the eligible population, the size of that population must be known along with other factors. Data must therefore be continually gathered to identify the number of eligible students. This gives one a sense of how many classrooms are required throughout the public school system.

As students progress throughout the school system the question of career choices begin to dominate the minds of students. It is then instructive for students, parents, educators and policymakers in the Education sector and at the national level to be aware of the dynamics of the country's labour market. The collection and analysis of labour related data is vital if appropriate decisions are to be made and

appropriate resources allocated by the relevant persons or bodies, to facilitate national development. The current and future labour market needs in Anguilla should influence the subject areas offered in school. The subject areas will influence the qualifications that teachers should possess and the infrastructure and resources required for use by teachers and students. Together these will all dictate the extent of the annual budget, which should be allocated to the Education System, in order to ensure that current and future national needs are realised.

Statistics are vital to those who wish to make informed decisions about issues pertaining to national development. Decision makers should be conscious that their decisions can have a far reaching and long lasting effect. It is therefore expected that they will require the consideration of all pertinent information before making decisions. Citizens and residents in turn must ensure the validity of any statistics being relied on by ensuring that they provide accurate, relevant and timely information, for the consideration of decision makers. Together we can build an Anguilla that responds to the greatest needs in our community, thereby ensuring that the greatest benefits are realised for Anguilla's citizens and residents. Let us use statistics to assist in the sustainable development of our island.

Thanks for listening.

October 16, 2013