



Belize Country Report

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National Council on Ageing

312,698

157,935 MALES | 154,763 FEMALES



MALES - 50.5% FEMALES - 49.5%

● = 10,000

HOUSEHOLDS

79,272

49.4%

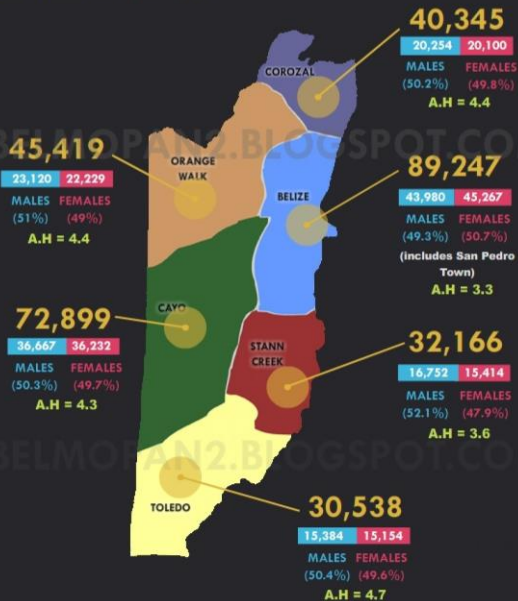
URBAN
(39,131)

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE: 3.9

50.6%

RURAL
(40,141)

A.H = AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE



Main Sources:

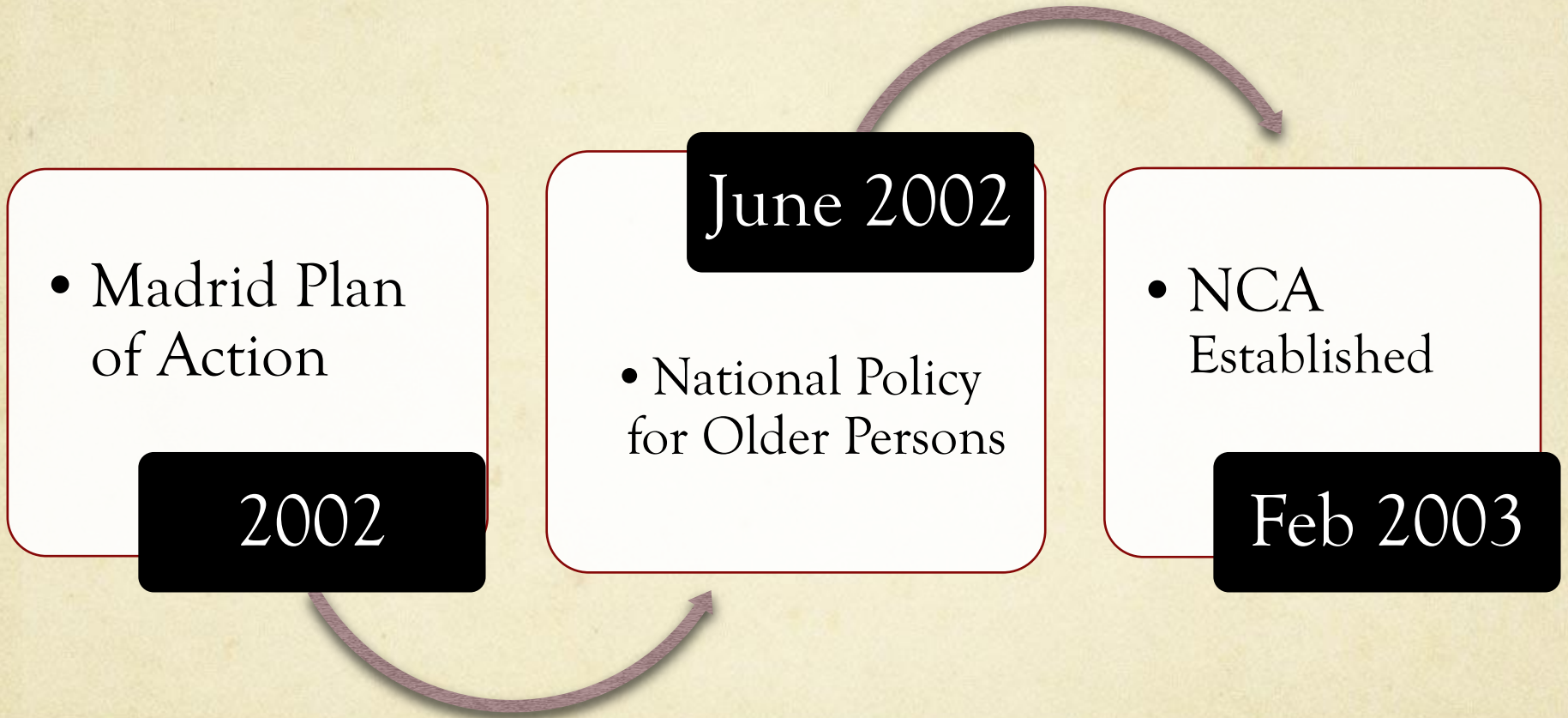
* www.statisticsbelize.org.bz

* www.slickrock.com

Ageing in Belize

- ❖ Population Estimate 2016: 377,968
- ❖ Approximately 6.1% (19,808) of our population is older persons. This figure increases by 1,200 annually.
- ❖ Diabetes (14.4%) and Hypertension(18.3%) (high blood pressure) are the two most common chronic illness experienced by older people in Belize
- ❖ There are 3 main residential facilities in Belize. These 3 facilities have less than 100 residents. Two private residential institutions also exist. within the Belize District. Older persons in Belize are living in communities..
- ❖ 34% of older persons are living in poverty (2010 CPA)
- ❖ 61% of older persons in Belize do not receive a pension or monthly income from a pension scheme. (2010 Study towards a Universal Pension)

Development of the NCA



San Jose Charter

Strengthen the protection of the Rights of Older Persons

- Draft ACT - Rights of Older Persons 2005
- VOICE Public meetings and advocacy work.
- Proposed legal clinics
- NCA 5 year strategic plan. (2015-2019)

Social Security

- Non-Contributory Pension through Belize Social Security Board

San Jose Charter

Health

- Expansion of National Health Insurance (NHI)
- Mercy Care Center - Primary health care center for geriatric medicine covered by NHI
- Certified Basic Home Health Care Training

Social Services

- Home Health Care Training
- Meals on wheels programs
- Home Care Programs through (HelpAge, PLOW, HECOPAB) with support from MHDST&PA
- Access to the BOOST (Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation) program for older persons

San Jose Charter

Life long Learning

- Senior Steps Dancing for health Groups
- VOICE
- Senior Organizations (Belize City Seniors, VOICE, HOPE, LIFE, HelpAge, Senior Steps)
- Adopt-A-Grandparent program

Recognition of Older Persons

- Ageing in Belize Documentary
- Intergenerational programming in schools (Adopt-a-Grandparent, Senior Steps Corozal)
- Elder Abuse Awareness Campaign

Gaps

- Formally adopted legal measures to protect older persons
- Universal Social Security Measures
- Geriatric care accessible across the country.
- Employment and income generation opportunities for older persons.

Areas of Focus

Within the next five to ten years the most relevant issues regarding ageing and human rights that are anticipated to receive further public policy priority are:

- Standardization of caregiver training and accreditations (Right to life and dignity in old age)
- Standardization measures of residential facilities and homes for the elderly (Rights of older persons receiving long-term care)
- Priority access to public services and spaces for older persons. (Right to participation and community integration)
- Signing of the Inter-American Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.