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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

### *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*

**Article**    **Untangling the Myths and Realities of Fertility and Mortality in the Pacific Islands**

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**Abstract**    Lack of information, or erroneous information and, in some cases, misinterpretation of information have given rise to a series of myths concerning the island populations of the Pacific, such as the South Pacific being a sexual paradise. Another myth is that what may hold true in one island group can be readily applied to another, or even all of them. Yet other myths include the idea that high fertility is "traditional". The latest myth is that the populations of the Pacific islands are "careering out of control". There are also some realities that writers have been reluctant to admit: for example, the disinclination to identify as the cause of population decline foreign contacts, with the dispersal of various diseases. Another is the notion that Pacific island peoples were psychologically vulnerable to contact with superior civilizations.

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