

CHINA'S RECENT FERTILITY DECLINE: EVIDENCE FROM RECONSTRUCTED FERTILITY STATISTICS

Zhongwei Zhao et Xiaomu Zhang

I.N.E.D | Population (english edition)

**2010/3 - Vol. 65
pages 451 à 478**

ISSN 1634-2941

Article disponible en ligne à l'adresse:

<http://www.cairn.info/revue-population-english-2010-3-page-451.htm>

Pour citer cet article :

Zhao Zhongwei et Zhang Xiaomu , « China's Recent Fertility Decline: Evidence from Reconstructed Fertility Statistics »
,
Population (english edition), 2010/3 Vol. 65, p. 451-478. DOI : 10.3917/pope.1003.0451

Distribution électronique Cairn.info pour I.N.E.D.
© I.N.E.D. Tous droits réservés pour tous pays.

La reproduction ou représentation de cet article, notamment par photocopie, n'est autorisée que dans les limites des conditions générales d'utilisation du site ou, le cas échéant, des conditions générales de la licence souscrite par votre établissement. Toute autre reproduction ou représentation, en tout ou partie, sous quelque forme et de quelque manière que ce soit, est interdite sauf accord préalable et écrit de l'éditeur, en dehors des cas prévus par la législation en vigueur en France. Il est précisé que son stockage dans une base de données est également interdit.

Table 3. Age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) and total fertility rates (TFR) recorded by recent fertility sample surveys, China, 1990-2005

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
ASFR								
15-19	0.026	0.019	0.015	0.022	0.010	0.010	0.011	0.008
20-24	0.207	0.181	0.167	0.161	0.143	0.142	0.145	0.128
25-29	0.156	0.111	0.091	0.089	0.082	0.090	0.088	0.085
30-34	0.057	0.028	0.031	0.031	0.028	0.024	0.026	0.027
35-39	0.010	0.009	0.007	0.005	0.006	0.004	0.006	0.005
40-44	–	–	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001
45-49	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TFR computed from ASFRs	2.280	1.740	1.570	1.555	1.355	1.360	1.385	1.270
Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
ASFR								
15-19	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.014	0.013	0.012	0.012	0.016
20-24	0.143	0.130	0.145	0.122	0.117	0.112	0.144	0.169
25-29	0.085	0.084	0.097	0.099	0.091	0.085	0.104	0.106
30-34	0.026	0.029	0.031	0.038	0.038	0.039	0.046	0.045
35-39	0.007	0.006	0.005	0.007	0.007	0.009	0.010	0.010
40-44	0.001	0.000	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.001	0.001
45-49	–	–	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000
TFR computed from ASFRs	1.350	1.285	1.440	1.406	1.347	1.299	1.586	1.736

Note: For some age groups the ASFR cannot be computed due to the constraints imposed by data availability (“–”).

Sources: Authors’ calculations based on National Population and Reproductive Health Survey (NPFPC 1997) for 1990-1995; and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Survey (NPFPC 2001) for 1996-2000; Zhang et al. (2008), for 2001-2005.

evidence. Because the statistical authority did not give a convincing explanation, this may be reasonably regarded as an over-adjustment, as has also been pointed out by Qiao, who suggested that China’s National Bureau of Statistics “artificially added almost 3 million births each year” to the total population over the period 1990-1999 (2005, p. 12). While China’s statistical authorities may have their own reasons for inflating numbers of births, CBRs and TFRs to a level beyond that made necessary by the under-reporting rates found in the post-enumeration surveys, practices of this kind inevitably create confusion, especially when no justification is given.⁽⁹⁾ Indeed, these officially adjusted and probably over-inflated

(9) It was suggested that the NBS decided to inflate its annual survey results in such a manner partly because of its past experience of underestimation. In addition, the practice was also a response to the strong suspicions of both policymakers and demographers who believed that the under-reporting was more severe than what they had found (Zhang, 1995; Yu and Xie, 2000). Qiao speculates that the NBS might have used the upper bound of the estimated reporting error interval