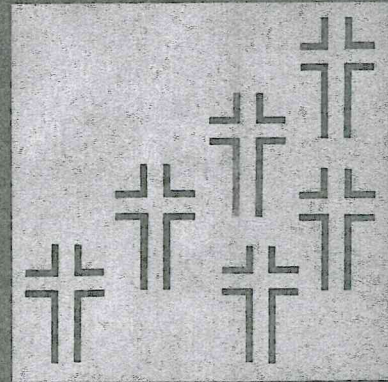
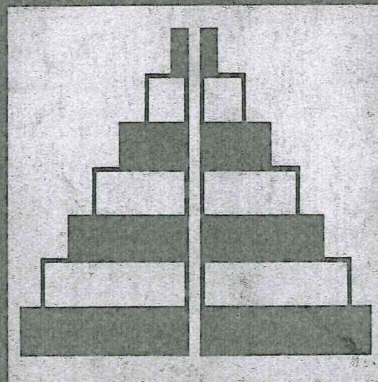
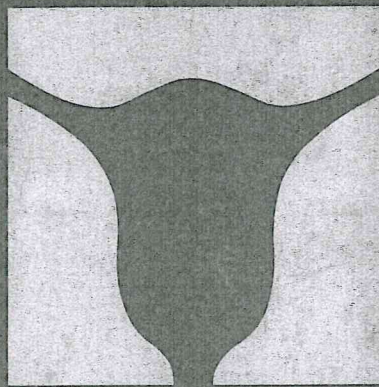
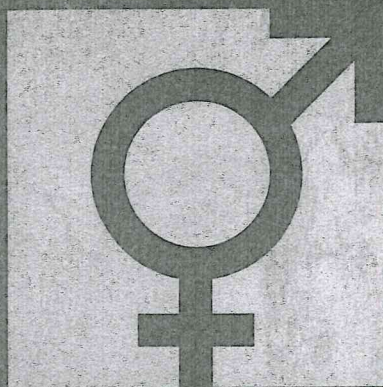


Demographic Trends in Hong Kong 1971-82

An analysis based on vital registration statistics of
births, marriages, and deaths and on census results



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Age-specific fertility rates

Table 5.2 examines the trend in age-specific fertility rates. The rate relates the number of live births occurring to women in a given age group during a calendar year to the total female population in that age group at the middle of that year. At the younger ages these rates can be affected by the proportions of women married. For example, in a country like Hong Kong where fertility is almost entirely channelled through marriage, declines in the proportions of women marrying at the younger ages, as highlighted in Chapter 4 will, other things being equal, result in a reduction in the age-specific fertility rates at these ages. However, the relationship is complicated by the fact that changes in the interval between marriage and the birth of the first child can also affect the rates at the younger ages. Declines in age-specific rates at the older ages will almost exclusively reflect reductions in marital fertility through greater resort to family planning.

Over the past 10 years, the age-specific fertility rates have declined at every age. In the age group 15-19, which in 1971 already had a relatively low level of fertility compared with most countries, there was a drop of about one-third in the rate between 1971 and 1981; a similar decline occurred for women aged 20 to 24. The changes at these ages were associated in part with the changes in first marriage patterns described earlier.

However, there was also a marked decline in marital fertility between 1971 and 1981 as is apparent from the even greater reductions in the age-specific fertility rates at ages 25 and over. The declines in rates over age 35 were most substantial, amounting to 58 per cent at ages 35 to 39, 76 per cent at ages 40 to 44, and 81 per cent at ages 45 to 49.

Table 5.2 Age-specific fertility rates (per 1 000 women); 1971-81

Year	Age of Women						
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
1971	17	145	243	162	83	28	4
1972	17	139	248	146	77	26	3
1973	18	133	243	142	72	24	3
1974	19	133	219	137	66	21	3
1975	18	122	199	126	55	18	2
1976	17	110	192	120	49	15	2
1977	17	105	186	115	46	13	1
1978	15	99	179	114	44	11	1
1979	13	90	166	110	42	9	1
1980	12	89	161	104	40	9	1
1981	12	87	155	98	35	7	1
	Index of rate with that for 1971 taken as base (100)*						
1971	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1972	102	96	102	90	93	91	89
1973	105	91	100	87	87	83	89
1974	111	92	90	85	79	74	69
1975	105	84	82	78	65	64	67
1976	102	76	79	74	59	51	42
1977	102	73	77	71	55	46	31
1978	90	69	73	70	52	40	31
1979	75	62	68	68	51	33	25
1980	73	61	66	64	47	30	22
1981	69	60	64	61	42	24	19

*Computed on unrounded figures.