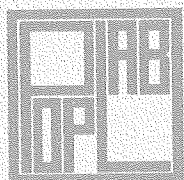


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The 1981 Jordan Demographic Survey: A Summary of Results

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The 1981 Jordan Demographic Survey: A Summary of Results

by POPLAB Staff

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Reference Period Data. Information on current fertility was obtained by asking a series of questions of each ever-married woman about her last live birth and about pregnancies occurring before and after that event. For each birth that was identified, date of birth and information as to whether it occurred before, or after Eidul Fitr (an important Moslem religious observance which occurred on August 23, 1979) were obtained. On the basis of this information, births which occurred between the 1979 Eidul Fitr and the survey date served as the basis for estimates of current fertility.

Estimates of age-specific fertility for Jordan by urban-rural residence are presented in Table 8, along with estimates of total fertility rates and crude birth rates. The fertility rates for both urban and rural areas were low at ages 15-19, increased at ages 20-24 reaching a peak at ages 25-29, and declined thereafter. Estimates for the rural areas are higher at every age group than for urban areas.

TABLE 8. Age-Specific Fertility Rates per 1,000 Women,
Total Fertility Rate, and Crude Birth Rate by
Area of Residence, Jordan, 1981

Age Group	Total	Urban	Rural
15-19	87	83	99
20-24	252	243	277
25-29	340	330	365
30-34	316	305	344
35-39	239	228	269
40-44	134	122	168
45-49	49	42	70
Total Fertility Rate (per woman)	7.1	6.8	8.0
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	38.4	37.2	41.3

The total fertility rate for Jordan was estimated at 7.1 children per woman with a crude birth rate of 38.4 births per 1,000 population. Urban rates are lower than rural.

Estimates of age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rates from the 1981 JDS are compared in Table 9 with the two sets of estimates for 1975-76 from the 1976 JFS based on individual women survey data (Col. 3) and household survey data (Col. 4).

TABLE 9. Estimates of Age-Specific Fertility Rates
and Total Fertility Rates From 1981 JDS
and 1976 JFS, Jordan

Age	1981 JDS (1979-81)	1976 JFS ¹		% Change Between 1975-76 and 1979-81 Using Estimates of	
		Women Survey (1975-76)	Household Survey (1975-76)	Women Survey	Household Survey
15-19	87	93	71	-6.5%	+22.5%
20-24	252	335	300	-24.8%	-16.0%
25-29	340	386	367	-11.9%	-7.4%
30-34	316	311	332	+1.6%	-4.8%
35-39	239	229	240	+4.4%	-0.4%
40-44	134	83	112	+61.4%	+19.6%
45-49	49	25	47	+96.0%	-4.3%
TFR	7.09	7.32	7.34	-3.1%	-3.4%

Source: ¹Department of Statistics. (1979). *Jordan Fertility Survey, 1976 Principal Report, Volume 2*. Amman: Department of Statistics, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. p. 52.

From this comparison there is some evidence that fertility rates of women under 30 declined. For women over 30, there is no clear trend. The household survey and individual survey estimates for 1975-76 are not completely consistent with each other and thus a definite conclusion about changes in the fertility of women over 30 is difficult to make. Overall, these data indicate that there was a slight decline of about 3% in the TFR of women between 1975-76 (7.3) and 1979-81 (7.1).

Own-Children Method. Estimates of fertility for Jordan were also obtained by use of the own-children technique (Cho, 1973) applied to data from the 1981 survey. This technique reconstructs the fertility experience of women enumerated in the survey. Estimates of age-specific fertility rates for Jordan for the 8-year period from 1971-73 to 1979-81 are shown in Table 10, along with the total fertility rate.

In general, estimates shown in Table 10 indicate a declining trend in fertility during the 1970's. The trend, however, is not smooth. The total fertility rate begins with a level of 9.1 children in 1971-73, declines to 8.3 in 1973-75, remains constant until 1977-79 and declines again to reach a level of 7.5 children in 1979-81. All age groups of women show declines in fertility. The declines were relatively greater for women under 25 years of age due largely to increasing age at marriage, and for women over 40 years.

TABLE 10. Age-Specific Fertility Rates and Total Fertility Rates for Various Time Periods Based on Own-Children Method, Jordan, 1981

Time Period	Age Group of Women							Total Fertility Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1971-73	154	359	406	374	295	174	61	9.1
1972-74	144	338	389	364	287	165	51	8.7
1973-75	131	337	386	351	276	154	46	8.4
1974-76	120	339	381	351	269	144	46	8.3
1975-77	114	344	392	351	265	150	48	8.3
1976-78	104	344	395	359	274	156	51	8.4
1977-79	92	322	399	361	277	158	52	8.3
1978-80	79	309	383	351	268	145	50	7.9
1979-81	72	290	367	336	256	139	46	7.5
Percent Decline from 1971	53.2	19.2	9.6	10.2	13.2	20.1	24.6	17.5

It should be pointed out that the total fertility rate of 7.5 children for 1979-81 is slightly higher than the total fertility rate of 7.1 for almost the same time period previously shown for reference period data. Since estimates from varying sources and methodology are subject to different types of error, it is not possible at this time to state which of these estimates is the more accurate.

Mortality

In the 1981 Jordan Demographic Survey, information on recent deaths was obtained to provide direct measures of mortality by relating reported deaths to the population enumerated in the survey. Data on child survivorship, parent survivorship, and spouse survivorship were collected to produce indirect measures of mortality.

With regard to direct measures of mortality, respondents in each household were asked about deaths occurring to members of the household since the 1979 Eidul Fitr. Based on data thus obtained, the calculated crude death rate was 3.6 deaths per 1,000 population. This rate is implausibly low. Under-reporting of recent deaths is common in surveys of developing populations due to reference period error, forgetfulness, lack of knowledge about