



University of Jordan
Faculty of Medicine



Medical Committee
The University of Jordan



Community Medicine



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Demography

Demography (population studies): is the study of human populations their size, composition, and distribution.

- Demography is important because it reflects the health status of the community.

-The health indicator is the population.

-Three major factors determine the population dynamics:

1-Birth (Fertility)

2-Deaths (mortality)

3-Migration

-The increase in population caused by migration affects the country resources dramatically.

Fertility

Fertility: is the number of births that occur to an individual or in a population.

In 1998, the fertility of some world countries was as follows:

1.2 child/woman in Italy, Spain, Latvia and other European countries

7.4 child/woman in Niger

USA 2.0

Jordan 3.5

For the world it is 2.9

-Those numbers are VIP.

Intermediate determinants of fertility:

1- Cultural and economical factors.

2-They operate in different societies.

3-Fecundity: it is the physiological ability of individuals or couples to have children.

- It is the ability to have intercourse.

-It is the ability to conceive.

-It is ability to carry pregnancy to term.

-Some are infecund due to disease or genetic dysfunction.

-Fecundity ranges between 0-30 children for the individual woman (from the age of 15-49); it depends on the age of marriage.

The gaps between fertility and fecundity:

1-Cultural values, for example: - in the eighties the fertility in Jordan was 7.2 children/woman but it drops to reach 3.6 in 2002 because of using contraception.

-And it is normal in Jordan for each family to have 3 to 4 children but in some countries like Saudi Arabia it is normal to have 13 to 15 children maybe because of polygamy.

2-Social roles.

3- Economic.

4-Health.

-Multi pregnancy affects the woman.

-Sexual transmitted diseases, and infections prevent pregnancy.

-Tubal ligation in Jordan is allowed only for women above the age of 35, have at least 3 children, and pregnancy is a life threatening.

4-Sexual unions

-is the percentage of women in union

-This rate is affected by:

1-Age at first marriage (in Jordan is 25 according to latest study), which affects the productive age.

2-Time spent outside the union.

3-Male mortality levels.

4-Demographic factors (divorce, marriage)

5-Birth control

-Using of contraceptive.

-Contraceptive sterilization.

-Induced abortion.

- In developing countries----- high fertility rate-----high mortality
- In developed countries-----low fertility rate-----low mortality
- Population transition is very important depending on infant mortality and birth.
- Low fertility---high mortality =negative growth in population
- High fertility---low mortality =fast growth in population
- fertility = mortality (no change)

Proximate determinants of fertility

1- John Bonnegarte demonstrated that 4 of these

Variables explain nearly all variation in fertility

Levels among population. These have a direct

Biological effect on fertility:

- The proportion of women married or in a sexual union.
- The percentage of women using contraception.
- The proportion of women who are breastfeeding/ infecund.
- The level of induced abortion.

2- In US. And most developed countries contraceptive use and abortion are the most important proximate determinants.

The rate of contraceptive use in US, Brazil, Australia, and few

East and South East Asia have contraceptive use rates of $\geq 75\%$.

3- Spain recorded the lowest fertility rate in nation 1.15 births per woman of reproduction age. Basically due to 72% usage of contraceptives.

Russia achieved low fertility rates due to having easier access to Abortion. In Jordan, the usage of contraceptive methods reached 42% according to latest study with the IUD being more common than the pills. (This is a VIP no.)

IUD stands for intra uterine device, which is simply called loop.

4- When contraceptive and abortion prevalence rates are Low, the postpartum infecundity and marriage determinants Are more important.

4- African countries:

Women marry early and bring more children, but they breast feed for 2-3 years, thus prolonging the period of infecundity following childbirth since women during breastfeeding have high levels of prolactin, this is a natural birth control method.

5- Others abstain as long as women are breast feeding.

6- Polygamy and being away from home.

7- Sexually transmitted diseases affect fecundity.