



Comment on “Fertility Transition in China”

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Summary (1)

- Fertility transition in the 1970s with “one-child policy” aided by change in reproductive norms in the 1950s.
 - >> TFR 5.8 (50s) to 2.8 (1979)
- Further decline after the 1980s: continues declining trend to replacement rate & economic development after the 1990s.
 - >> TFR 2.3-2.9 (80s) to 1.7-1.8 (90s)



Summary (2)

- Three major determinants

1. Government program

Centralized guidance with decentralized policy formation and operation (Tab 3).

More voluntary participation and heavy reliance on female contraception.



Summary (3)

2. Socio-economic development

Rapid growth and larger job opportunity.
Regional gap in income and education.

3. Changes in reproductive culture

Change in marriage patterns, smaller family size.....



Summary (4)

- Regional disparity: large but converging
- Policy TFR and development (per capita GDP/consumption, urbanization) matters.



Comments (1)

- Concise overview of Chinese fertility
- Contributions and causality of the three determinants: which is the dominant and how to identify quantitatively?
Lower fertility has reverse causality?
The most important factor for current and future?



Comments (2)

- “Rebound” possible to “two child”?

Suppressed by gov. regulation but further economic development (quality-quantity argument) & change in norms

- Long-term effects :

Policy implication; economic growth and social security policy (pension, LTC,...)

Abnormal sex ratio (biological, sociological effects)



Comments (3)

- Rationale for the policy target (one child or other)? Poverty reduction? Optimum for economic growth? Still valid now?
- Financial incentive/disincentive really works? (P.6)