

EWC Analysis About Low Fertility



Policy Response to Low Fertility in China: Too Little, Too Late?

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In 1970, Chinese women were having an average of nearly six children each. Only nine years later, this figure had dropped to an average of 2.7 children per woman. This steep fertility decline was achieved before the Chinese government introduced the infamous one-child policy. Today, at 1.5 children per woman, the fertility rate in China is one of the lowest in the world. Such a low fertility level leads to extreme population aging—expansion of the proportion of the elderly in a population, with relatively few children to grow up and care for their aging parents and few workers to pay for social services or drive economic growth. China's birth-control policies are now largely relaxed, but new programs are needed to provide healthcare and support for the growing elderly population and to encourage young people to have children. It will be increasingly difficult to fund such programs, however, as China's unprecedented pace of economic growth inevitably slows down.

support for the growing elderly population and to encourage young people to have children. It will be increasingly difficult to fund such programs, however, as China's unprecedented pace of economic growth inevitably slows down.

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Forthcoming in June 2017: Low Fertility in Japan—No End in Sight, by Noriko Tsuya. AsiaPacific Issues.

- Policy Briefs prepared for United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Policy Responses to Low Fertility – New York, 2-3 November 2015 (<http://www.EastWestCenter.org/UNLowFertility>)
1. Cross-cutting issues and policies in countries experiencing low fertility
 2. Fertility in Australia has remained steady despite policy swings
 3. Fertility, family change and policy adjustments in Austria
 4. Regional variations in fertility trends and policies in Canada
 5. Below-replacement fertility in China: Policy response is long overdue
 6. Fertility, family change and policy adjustments in the Czech Republic
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Related Publications

Rindfuss, Ronald R. and Minja Kim Choe, eds., (2016). *Low Fertility, Institutions, and their Policies: Variations Across Industrialized Countries*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International.

Rindfuss, Ronald R. and Minja Kim Choe, eds. (2015). *Low and Lower Fertility: Variations across Developed Countries*. Cham, Switzerland; New York: Springer.

Choe, Minja Kim, and Hyung-Seog Kim (2014). Lowest-low fertility in the Republic of Korea: Variations by locality, 2000-2010. *Asia-Pacific Population Journal* 29(2): 5-24.

Stephen, Elizabeth Hervey (November 2011). *Policy Concerns of Low Fertility for Military Planning in South Korea*. AsiaPacific Issues, no. 102. Honolulu: East-West Center.

Chen, Jiajian, Robert D. Retherford, Minja Kim Choe, and Li Xiru (2010). Effects of population policy and economic reform on the trend in fertility in Guangdong Province, China, 1975-2005. *Population Studies* 64(1): 43-60.

Westley, Sidney B., Minja Kim Choe, and Robert D. Retherford (May 2010). *Very Low Fertility in Asia: Is There a Problem? Can It Be Solved?* AsiaPacific Issues, no. 94. Honolulu: East-West Center.

Bumpass, Larry, Ronald R. Rindfuss, Minja Kim Choe, and Noriko O. Tsuya (2009). The institutional context of low fertility. *Asian Population Studies* 5(3): 215-35.

Chen, Jiajian, Robert D. Retherford, Minja Kim Choe, Li Xiru, and Hu Ying (2009). Province-level variation in the

achievement of below-replacement fertility in China. *Asian Population Studies* 5(3): 309-28.

Choe, Minja Kim, and Robert D. Retherford (2009). The contribution of education to South Korea's fertility decline to "lowest-low level". *Asian Population Studies* 5(3): 267-88.

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Choe, Minja Kim and Kyung-Ae Park (2006). Fertility decline in South Korea: Forty years of policy-behavior dialogue. *Korea Journal of Population Studies* 29(2): 1-26.

Wang, Feng (March 2005). *Can China Afford to Continue Its One-Child Policy?* AsiaPacific Issues, no. 77. Honolulu: East-West Center.

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Rindfuss, Ronald R., Karen Benjamin Guzzo, and S. Philip Morgan (2003). The changing institutional context of low fertility. *Population Research and Policy Review* 22(5-6): 411-38.

Robert D. Retherford and Sidney B. Westley (2002). Fertility and Family Planning. In East-West Center. *The Future of Population in Asia*. Honolulu: East-West Center.

NTA Bulletin from the National Transfer Accounts Project (<http://www.EastWestCenter.org/NTABulletin>)

Counting Women's Work: Measuring the Gendered Economy in the Market and at Home

NTA Bulletin, no. 11, January 2017

Population Change and the Economic Security of Older People in Asia

NTA Bulletin, no. 10, September 2016

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NTA Bulletin, no. 9, July 2016 revised

Population Change and Economic Growth in Asia: New Findings from the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) Project

NTA Bulletin, no. 8, November 2015

Human-Resource Development and Demographic Change in China

NTA Bulletin, no. 7, October 2014

