

Impact of Marital Dissolution on Fertility in the Czech Republic

Abstract

The intention of this study is to analyze fertility of people who experience a divorce or husband/wife death in their reproductive age so it could be find out if these people have more or less children than people whose marriage persists until the age of 50. The conclusions are made based on the study of data from the second wave of Generations and Gender Survey which took place in the Czech Republic in 2008. The life table method (its output Survival Distribution Function) and Cox regression model are used for the analysis. Reproductive behavior of people who never enter into marriage, those who spend their reproductive age in the first marriage and those who experience the first marital dissolution before their 50th birthday is compared. The analysis of divorced and widowed people fertility is supplemented by evaluation of an effect that certain variables like age, number of children and age of the youngest child in the year of the first marital dissolution have on the follow-up reproductive behavior of these men and women. The situation about the partnership after the dissolution of the first marriage was identified as the most significant. People who find a new partner after their first marital dissolution have on average more children than those who spend whole reproductive age in their first marriage. On the contrary, people who do not find a new partner have less children. The impact of the first marital dissolution on follow-up fertility cannot be positively defined.

Keywords: fertility, fertility of divorced people, fertility of widowed people, marital dissolution, partnership history, Generations and Gender Survey, Survival Distribution Function, Cox regression model, Czech Republic