

Older mothers in the Czech republic: trends and factors

Abstract

The main aim of this diploma thesis is to evaluate the evolution of fertility and (especially induced) abortion of older mothers aged 35-49 years in the territory of the Czech Republic in the period from 1950 to 2015. In nineties of the 20th century, the level of fertility fell deeply below the level needed for population renewal. A lot of authors often associate this phenomenon with the second demographic transition which is a highly discussed topic including many different opinions. Until then the changes in the level and timing of fertility had concerned primarily marital fertility. At the same time, however, the proportion of non-marital births and also the fertility rate of women aged 35-49 years have begun to increase. The level of induced abortion until 1990 was being directly influenced by legislative changes. The level of induced abortion has started to drop significantly due to the spread of modern contraception since the beginning of the 21st century. For women aged 35-49, the older the woman is, the more often she chooses the induced abortion before a child birth because in this age group the index of induced abortion increases with age.

Keywords: fertility, induced abortion, older mothers, second demographic transition, Czech republic