

Fertility during the covid-19 pandemic with a focus on Czechia

Abstract

The aim of the thesis is to characterize the fertility change that occurred in Czechia during the health and economic crisis related to the covid-19 pandemic between 2020-2022. The analytical part is based on a discussion of theoretical assumptions and previous international studies focusing on fertility during the covid-19 pandemic. The paper is based on the following main data sources: demographic data on the number of births and fertility levels in annual and monthly detail (unique Short-Term Fertility Fluctuations database within the Human Fertility Database) and the GGP-Contemporary Czech Family Sample Survey, which was conducted in Czechia during the covid-19 pandemic and examined, among others, reproductive plans. The paper also shows how monthly fertility fluctuations during the covid-19 pandemic projected into total fertility and which groups of women were more prone to fertility changes (by age, legitimacy and parity). The results suggest a positive effect of the first wave of the covid-19 pandemic on fertility in Czechia. However, fertility has been declining below pre-pandemic levels for a long time since early 2022. Reproductive behaviour was analysed using statistical methods of contingency tables and logistic regression. However, the results so far do not indicate any significant changes in the reproductive plans of Czech men and women in the context of the covid-19 pandemic, neither in terms of the number of children planned nor in terms of changes in the timing of their births.

Key words: fertility, covid-19, pandemic, crisis, total fertility rate, fertility intentions, Czechia