MDA_07

Zeman, K. and Sobotka, T. Age-specific fertility rates calculated from the official published and unpublished birth counts for 1980–2014 and from reestimated population exposures published as a part of the MPIDR WORKING PAPER WP 2015-011. Submitted to the HFC by K. Zeman and T. Sobotka on 29 April 2016.

Description

Age-specific fertility rates for all birth orders combined and by birth order for the period 1980–2014 for Moldova were calculated on the basis of the official published and unpublished live birth counts and reestimated population estimates. In this respect they differ from the data on Moldova published in the HFC as MDA_04, which take into account the officially published population data.

This recalculation was performed because the registration of births covers only the events that occur within the country (the de facto population), whereas the official population at risk for the period 1990-2014, estimated on the basis of the 1989 population census, also includes Moldovan citizens who live abroad (the de jure population). Because the country has high levels of emigration, there are substantial differences between the de facto and the de jure population numbers, resulting in the nominator-denominator bias, and substantial underestimation of the fertility levels, especially in the more recent periods. To obtain plausible demographic rates, actual estimates employ corrected population size, as published by Olga Penina, Dmitri Jdanov and Pavel Grigoriev (2011): Producing reliable mortality estimates in the context of distorted population statistics: the case of Moldova. MPIDR WORKING PAPER WP 2015-011. The working paper estimates the size of the de facto Moldovan population by age and sex, consistent with unpublished 2014 population census data. The data take into account international migration of Moldovan citizens after 1989.

The official data on births are published in the StatBank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova. The ages range from ≤15 to 50+, specified by one-year age groups. Birth order ranges from 1 through 5+. Data on live births are not published for 1988–1989; they were provided by Olga Penina, Centre for Demographic Research, Academy of Sciences of Moldova. Live births for 1998-1999 are available only by 5-year age groups.

Numbers of live births of unknown birth order are added to total numbers of live births by age. Numbers of live births of unknown age are excluded from data. The numbers of live births of unknown age and/or birth order were very small (with maximum of 136 cases, i.e. 0.3% of births, in 1998), and their omission has a negligible effect on the calculated total fertility rates.

Population exposures for a given age group were calculated as an average of population estimates for 1st January of a given year and the following year.

Both births and population data for 1998-2014 exclude the territory of Bender and Transnistria.

Sources of the input data

Live births, 1980–1987, 1990–1997: Data downloaded on 29 January 2014 from the StatBank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova at http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=POP0307&ti=Nascuti-vii+dupa+rangului+nascutului%2C+virsta+mamei+si+medii%2C+1980-1997&path=../Database/RO/02%20POP/POP03/&lang=1

Live births, 1988–1989: Unpublished official data provided by Olga Penina (Centre for Demographic Research, Academy of Sciences of Moldova) on 29 April 2016

Live births, 1998–1999: Data downloaded on 20 April 2016 from the StatBank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova at http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=POP0308&ti=Nascuti-vii+dupa+rangul+nascutului%2C+virsta+mamei+si+medii%2C+1998-1999&path=../Database/RO/02%20POP/POP03/&lang=1

Live births, 2000–2014: Data downloaded on 20 April 2016 from the StatBank of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova at http://statbank.statistica.md/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=POP0309&ti=Nascuti-vii+dupa+rangul+nascutului%2C+virsta+mamei+si+medii%2C+2000-2014&path=../Database/RO/02%20POP/POP03/&lang=1

Female population by age on 1st January 1980–2015: Data downloaded on 20 April 2016 from the supplementary material to Olga Penina, Dmitri Jdanov and Pavel Grigoriev (2011): Producing reliable mortality

estimates in the context of distorted population statistics: the case of Moldova. MPIDR WORKING PAPER WP 2015-011 at www.demogr.mpg.de/publications/files/5498_1448460779_1_Annex.zip

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