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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

Asia-Pacific Population Journal

Article Has Thailand's Fertility Decline Stalled?

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Abstract

Thailand is one of the third world countries where a very substantial fertility decline has occurred during the last two decades; however, there has been some recent concern, based on fertility rates derived from three national contraceptive prevalence surveys conducted in 1978/79, 1981 and 1984, that the fertility decline may have lost momentum at a level well above replacement fertility. New evidence now available from a more recent national survey, which permits calculation of retrospective fertility trends, in combination with those from registration data, clearly contradict the suggestion of a stall in the fertility decline. Moreover, because expected family size remains low among women currently starting their reproductive careers and evidence shows that the preferred number of children has fallen more or less steadily, low fertility may be expected to be a feature of the Thai population for some time to come.

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