Articles

- Current Volume
- o Older Volumes
- Editor's Choice
- Replicable Articles
- o by Author
- o by Subject
- Search
- Special Collections
 - About Special Collections
 - All Special Collections
- for Authors
 - General Information
 - Submission Guidelines
 - Peer Review and Publication
 - Copyright Information
 - o Review Process
 - Submit a Paper
 - Submit a Letter
 - o My Author Account
- for Readers
 - Get Email Alerts
 - How to cite DR
- About the Journal
 - Purpose
 - From the Publisher and Editor
 - Who's Who
 - Our Reviewers
 - Contact Us
 - Copyright & Legal
 - Privacy Policy

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Stationary populations with below-replacement fertility

By Carl Schmertmann

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Additional

Austria.SI (r file, 5 kB)

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Austria. SIdata (csv file, 4 kB)

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Abstract

Background: A population with sustained below-replacement fertility and constant immigration eventually becomes stationary. Stationary-through-immigration (SI) populations have unusual age structures that depend on the distribution of immigrants' arrival ages.

Objective: I summarize known formal relationships between the distribution of immigrants' entry ages and the long-run size and structure of SI populations. I clarify a previously published result about SI dependency ratios.

Results: The long-run size and age structure of an SI population depend on the remaining life expectancies of arriving immigrants, but are also sensitive to the expected numbers of native children born after arrival. Numerical calculations with contemporary Austrian data show (1) contrary to previously published results, immigration flows need not be concentrated in early working ages in order to ensure low overall dependency, and (2) the SI dependency ratio is minimized when all immigrants are in their mid-30s.

Author's Affiliation

<u>Carl Schmertmann</u> - Florida State University, United States of America [<u>Email</u>]

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»Current Volume

»Older Volumes

»Volume 26

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Volume	Page	
Volume	Article ID	

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- Current Volume
- Older Volumes
- Editor's Choice
- Replicable Articles
- by Author
- by Subject
- Search
- Special Collections
- About Special Collections
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- for Authors
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- Submission Guidelines
- Peer Review and Publication
- Copyright Information
- Review Process
- Submit a Paper
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- for Readers
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- From the Publisher and Editor
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