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No. 7, 2008

Bongaarts, John. "Fertility transitions in developing countries: Progress or stagnation?" *Poverty, Gender, and Youth Working Paper* no. 7. New York: Population Council. ([PDF](#))

ABSTRACT

Over the past quarter century fertility has declined rapidly in many developing countries. Projections typically assume that this trend will continue until the replacement level is reached. However, recent evidence suggests that ongoing fertility declines may have slowed or stalled in a number of countries in transition. This study examines the pace of fertility change in developing countries that have multiple DHS surveys to determine whether ongoing transitions are decelerating or stalling. The main findings are that in sub-Saharan African countries, the average pace of decline in fertility is lower around 2000 than in the mid-1990s, and more than half the countries in transition in this region have stalled.



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