

Journal Contents

SEARCH

Current Volume

Volumes

Articles

Special Collections

General Information

About the Journal

Information for Authors

Copyright Information

Register for e-mail alerts

Submit a Paper

A cross-over in Mexican and Mexican-American fertility rates Evidence and explanations for an emerging paradox

Reanne Frank
Patrick Heuveline

VOLUME 12 - ARTICLE 4

PAGES 77 - 104

Date Received: 29 Sep 2004

Date Published: 11 Mar 2005

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol12/4/>

- ▶ [Bookmark this page](#)
- ▶ [Send this article to a friend](#)



Click the icon to view and/or download the PDF file.

Once you are in the PDF file, use your browser back button to return to this page.

Abstract

Against a backdrop of two new developments in the fertility behavior of the Mexican-Origin population in the U.S., the present discussion will update contemporary Mexican-Origin fertility patterns and address several theoretical weaknesses in the current approach to minority group fertility. Data come from six national surveys (three from Mexico and three from the U.S.) that cover a twenty-five year period (1975-2000). The findings demonstrate dramatic decreases in the fertility rates in Mexico at the same time that continuous increases have been documented in the fertility rates of third-or-later generation Mexican-Americans in the U.S., particularly at younger ages. These changes necessitate a reexamination of the ubiquitous theory that Mexican pronatalist values are responsible for the high fertility rates found within the Mexican-Origin population in the U.S. Instead, they point to the increasing relevance of framing the fertility behavior of the Mexican-Origin population within a racial stratification perspective that stresses the influence of U.S. social context on fertility behavior. As a step in this direction, the analysis examines fertility patterns within the Mexican-Origin population in the U.S. Special attention is given to the role of nativity/generational status in contributing to within group differences.

Author's affiliation

[Reanne Frank](#)

Harvard University, United States of America

[Patrick Heuveline](#)

University of Chicago, United States of America

Keywords

[fertility](#), [Mexican-Americans](#), [Mexican-Origin](#), [Mexico](#)

Word count (Main text)

6321

Similar Articles (in *Demographic Research*)



[\[17-28\] The interrelationship of fertility, family maintenance and Mexico-U.S. Migration \(Mexico, fertility\)](#)