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Migration and first-time parenthood Evidence from Kyrgyzstan

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VOLUME 17 - ARTICLE 25
PAGES 741 - 774

Date Received: 16 Aug 2006
Date Published: 20 Dec 2007

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol17/25/>

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Abstract

This article investigates the reproductive behavior of young women and men in the post-Soviet Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan, focusing on the link between migration and fertility. We employ event-history techniques to retrospective data from the 'Marriage, Fertility, and Migration' survey conducted in Northern Kyrgyzstan in 2005 to study patterns in first-time parenthood. We demonstrate the extent to which internal migration is related to family formation and to the patterns of becoming a parent after resettlement. We gain deeper insights into demographic behavior by considering information on factors such as the geographical destination of migration and retrospectively stated motives for reported moves. In addition, our study reveals clear ethno-cultural differences in the timing of entry into parenthood in Kyrgyzstan.

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Keywords








fertility, internal migration, Kyrgyzstan, migration

Word count (Main text)






6146

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