

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

Russian Federation: From the first to second demographic transition

Sergei Zakharov

VOLUME 19 - ARTICLE 24

PAGES 907 - 972

Date Received: 18 Oct 2006

Date Published: 1 Jul 2008

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol19/24/>

- ▶ [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

The demographic transition in Russia was accelerated by several social cataclysms during the "Soviet type" modernization. Frequent changes in the timing of births and marriages engendered a mass "abortion culture". Contraceptive devices of poor quality were produced on a limited scale. The Soviet regime promulgated pronatalism and considered contraception to contradict this ideology. There have been two waves of government policy interventions. In the 1930s and 1940s restrictive and propaganda measures prevailed. These failed to yield serious effects. In the 1980s, policies aimed at lessening the tension between full-time employment and maternal roles. These generated shifts in birth timing, namely shorter birth intervals and earlier second and third births, however increase in completed cohort fertility was minimal. A third wave started in 2007. Preoccupied with continuous depopulation, authorities intend to boost births by substantially increasing benefits. The mid-1990s was a turning point in the change of fertility and nuptiality models. The 1970s birth cohorts marry and become parents later. They delay first and second births and increasingly begin partnerships with cohabitation. Contraception is replacing abortion. New attitudes and perceptions about family, partnership, childbearing, and family planning are emerging. A major transformation typical for developed countries, the Second Demographic Transition, is underway. Nevertheless, many neo-traditional features of fertility and nuptiality remain. These distinguish Russia from most European countries and will persist in the near future. Completed fertility, however, hardly differs from the average European level.

Author's affiliation

[Sergei Zakharov](#)

State University - Higher School of Economics, Russia, Russian Federation

Keywords

[childbearing](#), [demographic transition](#), [Europe](#), [fertility](#), [Russia](#)

Related links








You will find all publications in this Special Collection "Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe" at <http://www.demographic-research.org/special/7/>

Word count (Main text)

15277

Most recent Similar Articles (in *Demographic Research*)

-  [19-29] Ukraine: On the border between old and new in uncertain times (fertility, childbearing)
-  [19-28] Sweden: Combining childbearing and gender equality (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-27] Spain: Short on children and short on family policies (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-26] Slovenia: Generous family policy without evidence of any fertility impact (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-25] Slovakia: Fertility between tradition and modernity (fertility, childbearing)

[[Back to previous page](#)]