Metadata

Suggested citation: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Fertility Data 2019*. POP/DB/Fert/Rev2019. Available from https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/fertility/wfd2019.asp

World Fertility Data 2019 presents data on age-specific fertility rates, total fertility and mean age at childbearing for 201 countries or areas of the world. The database includes data from civil registration systems, population censuses, and sample surveys available as of August 2019 and covers the time period from 1950 to the present.

The *World Fertility Data* database builds on the historical repository of demographic data and

Definitions

Age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) measures the annual number of births to women of a specified age or age group per 1,000 women in that age group. An age-specific fertility rate is computed as a ratio. The numerator is the number of live births to women in a particular age group during a period of time, and the denominator is an estimate of the number of person-years lived by women in that same age group during the same period of time. It is expressed as births per 1,000 women. The following seven five-

Fertility data have been compiled from web sites, online databases, reports and other publications produced by national statistical systems, the United Nations or by other international and regional organizations. The main databases used are the Demographic Yearbook database of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (http://data.un.org, https://unstats.un.org/), internal databases of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (http://www.unpopulation.org), Eurostat (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database), Human Fertility Database (https://www.humanfertility.org) and Human Fertility Collection (https://www.fertilitydata.org). The main surveys utilized are the Demographic and Health Surveys

This dataset includes both adjusted and unadjusted data. For adjusted data, estimates derived by several methods are included when available. Additional information on the type of method used to produce fertility estimates is included, when known, in the database. For data compiled directly from the census reports, only official estimates are included. Unadjusted data should not be taken at face value for providing information on the level of fertility in a country. However, estimates based on unadjusted data have been included in the dataset for analytical purposes and to reflect the uncertainty and variability of estimates derived from different data sources.

References

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