

Research Topic and Data Source

State your research topic. If you already have defined a research question, state that as well. Describe your data source, where you get it, how, and why. What is the sample? How large is it? Who collected it? Any potential issues with these data, including ethical ones.

Research Topic

I am interested in exploring the demographic and socio-economic impacts of China's One-Child Policy (1980-2016), its shift to a Two-Child Policy in 2016, and the resulting changes in fertility rates, especially in the context of the remarkably low birth rate reported in 2023 (and its possible potential future pressures on China's pension system due to these demographic shifts. If I could later find datasets about China's pension benefit system) I will also include a comparative analysis comparison with other East Asian countries like Japan and South Korea.

Research Question

How have the One-Child and Two(Many)-Child policies implemented between 1980 and 2023 affected China's fertility rates, and how do these trends compare with the demographic shifts observed in other Asian countries like Japan and South Korea during the same period?

Data Sets

Fertility Rates

China's One Child Policy (1980 - 2016) (the termination of one-child policy is the start of the two-child policy)

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?end=2016&locations=CN&start=1980>.

<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SPDYNTFRTINCHN>.

Japan

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?end=2016&locations=JP&start=1980&view=chart>

South Korea

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN?end=2016&locations=KR&start=1980>

The data source I found at this point comes from and collected by The World Bank DataBank. I got them by searching the fertility rate of different asian countries on google. The reason of choosing Asian countries rather than comparing big countries like China, Canada, and The United States is because the cultural and social similarity, population density, economic developments and government policies (for example, it would be inappropriate to compare China and Canada because Canada is significantly low in population compared to China and has to exercise policies like Canada child benefit AKA "the milk money" and relies largely on immigrations for maintaining a healthy workforce and economy.) The sample would be the

fertility rate between 1980 and 2016, additionally to recent years, in China, Japan, and South Korea. The ethical considerations arise from the accuracy and representation of populations, the cultural sensitivity in interpreting data across different countries, and the socio-political context influencing the data. There's also a need for cultural and political sensitivity in interpretation, especially since the political landscapes of these countries differ significantly — China's unique political system contrasts with the more Western-aligned political contexts of Japan and South Korea.

The impact on the pension system of China's decreasing fertility rate.

If I could find detailed and comprehensive datasets of China's pension system, I want to analyze the impact of the low birth rate on the pension system, project future demographic trends (time-series analysis) and forecast the potential burden (predictive models) on the working-age population. This decrease in birth rates, 9.02 million births in 2023, might lead to a smaller future workforce. This workforce will be responsible for supporting a larger retired population, which could strain the pension system.