

**Another indicator in measuring the fertility situation of a place
with very few births born outside wedlock**

Billy Y.G. Li

Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong, China

bygli@censtatd.gov.hk

The Total Fertility Rate is the most common indicator in measuring the fertility situation of a place. It measures the total number of births born to the total female population, irrespective of whether they have married or not. In Hong Kong, very few births were born outside wedlock. The proportion of births born outside wedlock was about 7-14% in the past decade, much lower than some 40% for western economies such as US. This paper introduces another measure of the fertility rate for a place with very few births born outside wedlock on an empirical point of view for comparison. The proposed fertility indicator is a weighted sum of the age specific marital fertility rates which excludes the never married females in the compilation. The cumulative percentage of women marrying up to a specified age from a hypothetical cohort estimated based on the current first marriage schedule are used as the respective weights in the compilation. Data from Hong Kong reveal that the proposed indicator reflects in a timely manner the contrasting effect of the changing marriage rates over time on the evolving fertility situation.

Key Words: Average number of children, age specific fertility rates, total marital fertility rate, fertility projections