

CHAPTER 2
Democratic Trends in Canada
Michelle Broderick

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter introduces the major concepts used in demography. Sources of information vary and include records compiled by government, such as birth registries; ecclesiastical institutions, such as marriage registries; and individual people, such as wills, journals, and diaries. One of the most common sources of demographic information is the census, which lists all of the people who live in a particular region at a specific point in time, providing a demographic snapshot of a population. When analyzing data, researchers tend to use one of two approaches, depending on the nature of the data at their disposal. Cross-sectional analysis is the quickest approach, because it looks at different groups of people at the same point in time. Longitudinal analysis, while more laborious because it follows the same group of people over time, usually produces more accurate results.

Sources and methods used in demographic analysis are examined by focusing on four key areas: fertility, nuptiality, mortality, and migration. Each of these four variables varies within and among populations. Over time they define the unique demographic nature of a population, and are ultimately responsible for generating the degree of diversity that is currently observed, regardless of how that diversity is defined (e.g., culturally, politically, or economically).

Some demographers are also interested in examining the genetic structure of a population indirectly through the study of marriages, births, and deaths. These studies typically focus on either mate selection or the examination of mortality and fertility differentials in subgroups within a population, each of which can have genetic implications.

A brief survey of the types of demographic research conducted on historical Canadian populations is also provided.

Chapter 2 Democratic Trends in Canada

TEST BANK QUESTIONS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Why is nuptiality an important variable in demographic analysis?
 - a. It limits the pool of mates.
 - b. It limits one's choice of a place to live.
 - c. It defines the life expectancy of a population.
 - d. It defines the length of the female reproductive period.

ANS: D

REF: p. 41

2. Which of the following is often related to celibacy?
 - a. propinquities
 - b. inheritance practices
 - c. polymorphisms
 - d. nutritional requirements

ANS: B

REF: p. 42

3. Which of the following provides the most accurate information?
 - a. crude marriage rate
 - b. crude birth rate
 - c. crude death rate
 - d. age-specific marriage rate

ANS: D

REF: p. 44

4. What is the maximum number of years that a human has ever lived?
 - a. 107
 - b. 111
 - c. 122
 - d. 130

ANS: C

REF: p. 43

5. Which of the following occurs when infant mortality is high?
- life expectancy is high
 - fertility is low
 - life expectancy is low
 - fertility is high

ANS: C

REF: p. 44

6. What is the incidence of particular diseases in a population called?
- morbidity
 - morphology
 - mortality
 - polyandry

ANS: A

REF: p. 46

7. What is the proportion of the population under the age 15 and above the age of 64 called?
- dependency ratio
 - geodesic ratio
 - extreme ratio
 - harmonized ratio

ANS: A

REF: p. 47

8. What is the movement of people into a specific area called?
- migration
 - emigration
 - diaspora
 - immigration

ANS: D

REF: p. 48

9. What are vital registries?
- census entries
 - important legal documents
 - records on births, deaths and marriages
 - journal entries made by individuals throughout their lifetime

ANS: C

REF: p. 50

10. In demographic analysis, which of these terms is used to describe a group of individuals who live together?
- a. cult
 - b. household
 - c. family
 - d. clique

ANS: B

REF: p. 51

11. Nominative records are those which:
- a. provide normalized information on individuals
 - b. provide the names of individuals
 - c. are not as important as vital registries
 - d. identify the age and sex of individuals

ANS: B

REF: p. 51

12. Demographic data can be summarized over specific geographical areas and/or over time periods. What is this process called?
- a. globalizing
 - b. aggregating
 - c. dissipating
 - d. integrating

ANS: B

REF: p. 52

13. Data can be divided into nonoverlapping age categories to make demographic inferences about segments of the population who are at different stages of life. What is this type of analysis called?
- a. latitudinal
 - b. longitudinal
 - c. cross-sectional
 - d. stratified random sampling

ANS: C

REF: p. 53

14. Which of the following methods is used to study the frequency of marriages that occur between individuals with the same surname?
- dependency ratio
 - isonomy
 - Crow's index of selection
 - kinship coefficients

ANS: B

REF: p. 54

15. A subfield of demography focuses on nonwritten sources of information to study patterns of birth, death and migration in prehistoric populations. What is this subfield called?
- paleodemography
 - historical demography
 - primordial demography
 - ancient demography

ANS: A

REF: p. 56

TRUE/FALSE

1. Social attitudes toward reproduction can affect fertility.

ANS: T

REF: p. 40

2. Patterns of economic activity coupled with religious restrictions can affect the seasonal pattern of marriage.

ANS: T

REF: p. 41

3. In Canada, females have a higher life expectancy than males.

ANS: T

REF: p. 43

4. The incidence of particular diseases in a population is related to both the social and physical environments.

ANS: T

REF: p. 46

5. Migration is always voluntary.

ANS: F
REF: p. 46

6. In Canada, the majority of external migrants originate from South America.

ANS: F
REF: pp. 49, 52

7. Members of a household are not necessarily related to each other.

ANS: T
REF: p. 51

8. A cohort is a group of people who share the timing of a vital event, such as the same year of birth.

ANS: T
REF: p. 52

9. In most populations, including humans, selection of a mate is random.

ANS: F
REF: p. 54

10. Studies of historical patterns of mortality often focus on epidemics.

ANS: T
REF: p. 43

SHORT ANSWER

1. How is fertility different from fecundity?

ANS: Answers will vary

2. Why is infant mortality a useful indicator of the general health status of a population?

ANS: Answers will vary

3. In Canada, the proportion of the population over the age of 64 almost tripled between 1921 and 2006. Why?

ANS: Answers will vary

4. Suppose you are a demographer who is examining large populations and recording hundreds of vital events each year. Identify and define one of the three techniques that you could use to evaluate the quality of your data.

ANS: Answers will vary

5. Identify and define the four aspects used to define a population.

ANS: Answers will vary

ESSAY

1. How do fertility, nuptiality, mortality, and migration affect the size of a population?

ANS: Answers will vary

2. Should the definition of the dependency ratio be changed?

ANS: Answers will vary

3. If you were going to reconstruct your family's genealogy, what types and sources of information would you need?

ANS: Answers will vary

