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Demography Abstracts

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Edited by Gregory T. Papanikos

THE ATHENS INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



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Demographic Transition in Argentina

Demographic transition, epidemiological transition, changes in population. And these changes in the living conditions of the population of Argentina in the last hundred years allow us to estimate that a girl born this year may have an average life of 79 years, almost double of a girl born a hundred years ago. What factors led to this gain in life expectancy in Argentina? Who were the main beneficiaries? How these changes occurred?

Argentina is in an advanced stage of the Demographic Transition that began in the late nineteenth century, when mortality and fertility rates decreased with the simultaneous arrival of mass immigration from overseas. The significant decline in mortality that preceded the fertility led to an increase in life expectancy at birth, close to 33 years in the late nineteenth century to 48.5 in 1914.

Changes in patterns of reproductive behavior and the production of health policies generated effects on fertility and mortality in the population. Alongside, these factors were associated with cultural and social behaviors that had significant impact on the family environment. In recent years, Argentina is moving towards what is called second demographic transition characterized by the decline in marriage and increase in domestic partnerships and divorces, major changes in the structure of families and changes in reproductive patterns.

In this document the evolution of mortality, fertility and life expectancy at birth is presented: the change in these indicators allow us to observe, over time, the changes occurred during much of the twentieth century and its main effects such as an aging population and changes in families.