This paper aims to examine trends in fertility in Cambodia based on available estimates and comment on their methods of estimation with particular reference to the most recent estimates. The consistency of the recent fertility estimates in relation to the proximate determinants of fertility is also discussed. Lastly, alternative estimates based on more appropriate indirect techniques are presented and discussed for the most recent periods. However, as background information, available evidence on the past trends in Cambodian fertility is presented first.

By using alternative methods of estimation the paper shows that after the post-Khmer Rouge recovery and "Baby Boom" fertility has started to decline in Cambodia from the early 1990s. It has not been possible to ascertain the magnitude or the speed of this decline, but more research is needed to identify the determinants of this decline, particularly when the use of contraception by married women is low. The paper recommends the collection additional data in order to facilitate the derivation of alternative estimates of fertility.

The paper was prepared by the United Nations Population Fund and The Australian National University Population and Development Strategies Project, for the 2002 IUSSP Regional Population Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, 10-13 June, 2002

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Knowledgebase