The non-marital birth ratio on the increase:
what is behind?

A comparison of trends in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, 1992-2010

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Motivation

- Throughout the socialist era, the non-marital birth ratio (NMBR) remained stable (5-6%) in all three countries (Kotowska et al. 2008, Potančoková 2008, Štípková 2013).

- Since late 1980’s: it has been on the increase.

Source: Eurostat
Motivation


- But there is still some space for further research...
Forces behind

Direct forces
- sexual behaviour
- marital behaviour

Indirect forces
- marital fertility
- induced abortions
- parity (first births)
- mothers’ age & edu structure
Forces behind

Direct forces
- sexual behaviour
- marital behaviour

Δ NMBR

Indirect forces
- marital fertility
- induced abortions
- parity (first births)
- mothers’ age & edu structure
Indirect forces
Indirect: proportion of first births

NMBR among first (empty markers) and second+ (coloured markers) births

CZ

SK

PL
Indirect: proportion of first births

The role of changes in the proportion of first births was minor.

Role of parity changes in ∆ NMBR (1992-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Change in ∆ NMBR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Kitagawa, 1955)
Indirect: mothers’ educational structure

First-time mothers: NMBR by education

CZ

PL

SK

primary
basic vocational
secondary
tertiary
Indirect: mothers’ educational structure

First-time mothers:
educational structure

CZ


0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

PL


0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

SK


0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

tertiary basic voc secondary primary
Indirect: mothers’ educational structure

First-time mothers vs. first-time non-married mothers (difference normalized)

CZ

PL

SK


-1.5 -0.5 0.5 1.5 2.5 3.5

tertiary basic voc secondary primary
Indirect: mothers’ educational structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role of edu changes in Δ NMBR 1992-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Δ NMBR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
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<td>PL</td>
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</table>

(Kitagawa, 1955; Cho & Retherford, 1973)

-> The role of changes in the educational structure was important in Poland, but minor in the Czech Republic and Slovakia
Direct forces
Direct: Sexual & marital behaviour

Sexual: the proportion of non-marital conceptions

Marital: the proportions of their outcomes: non-marital birth vs. post-conception marriage
Direct: Sexual & marital behaviour

First-time mothers

CZ

Non-marital conceptions
Bridal pregnancy
Non-marital births

PL

SK
Direct: Sexual & marital behaviour

Role of behavioural changes in ∆ NMBR 1992-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>∆ NMBR</th>
<th>Structural effect of education</th>
<th>Behavioural effect</th>
<th>Marital behaviour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>-0.05 (-12%)</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>-0.07 (-47%)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>-0.04 (-15%)</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Kitagawa, 1955; Cho & Retherford, 1973, Akerlof et al., 1996)
Summary: Behind $\Delta$ NMBR...

- **Indirect forces**: changes in
  - the proportion of 1st births: minor and of marginal role
  - educational structure: considerable in all countries, but important only in PL (-)

- **Direct forces**: changes in
  - Sexual behaviour: minor and of minor role (+)
  - Marital behaviour: extensive and of crucial importance (+)
THANK YOU

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