

Comparison of the Historical Fertility Levels among the Nine Provinces of South Africa

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ABSTRACT Women education, industrialization, urbanization, contraceptive use, etc. have brought fertility levels in developing countries down. Black South African women who were discriminated against by apartheid system and with higher fertility now control much wealth and live in cities as other racial groups. This study uses data from Statistics South Africa on historical fertility to determine whether fertility levels among them have come down; and that there are neither fertility differentials among the provinces nor age groups of the women. Demographic and statistical methods of analysis have been used. Based on the data on children ever born by 2001, this study has found out that fertility level was lowest in the more urbanized and highly educated provinces of Western Cape and Gauteng, and highest in least educated and rural province of Limpopo. The mean number of children ever born is less than three in Western Cape and Gauteng, but five in Limpopo and three in each of the remaining six provinces.