

The Impact of Demographic Change on Families

Zitha Mokomane, PhD

Department of Sociology

University of Pretoria



Processes of Demographic Change

1



Fertility

The average number of births per woman over a lifetime;

2



Mortality

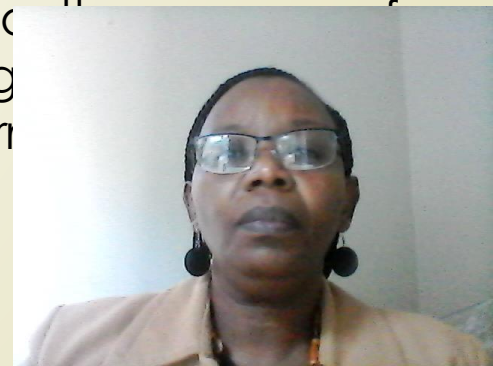
the total number of deaths in a population

3



Migration

The geographic movement of people across a specified boundary for a period of time, establishing or semi-permanent residence.





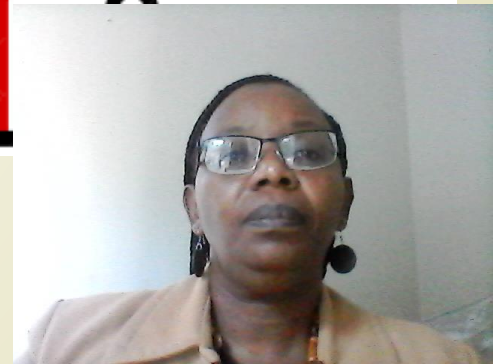
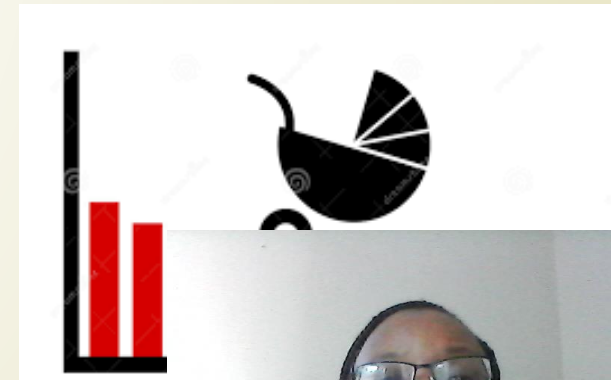
Demographic change and the family

All demographic events occur in families. The motivation for having a child, the consequences of losing a parent or spouse, and when people move to new locations (whatever other economic and social factors are involved) are all family experiences. Individuals' health depends on the transmission of genes from parent to child. Individuals rely on family members to care for them if they become ill and to help them remain healthy once they are better. People move into and out of the labour force and adjust their hours worked to fulfill family responsibilities. They move to new locations, including across national borders, to contribute to their families' economic welfare. Family members provide resources and ameliorate the risks of economic change (Seltzer (2019:405)



Fertility change and the family

- Quantity/quality tradeoff
- Women's labour force participation
- Old age support
- Multigenerational households,
- Intergenerational relationships
- Family social capital



Mortality change and the family

- “Family effect” in mortality related to the ‘social gradient of health’
- Impact of mortality on the family
 - shifts in family dynamics;
 - changes the role & identities of family members
 - changes patterns of communication
 - restructured relationships between family members



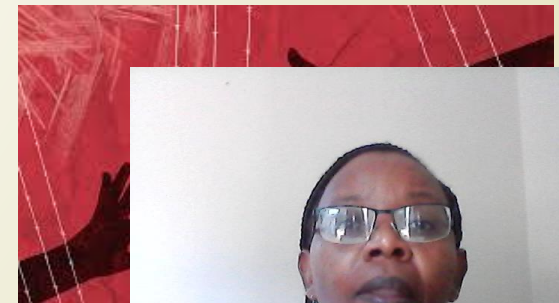
Impact of migration and the family

- ▶ Family effect of migration on the family cannot be blanket judgment
 - ▶ it is largely dependent on individual and family circumstances such as educational level, occupation and skills economic, and other socio-historical factors
 - ▶ migration trends stems from its deep-rooted impact on family-decision making practices, and function.



Impact of migration and the family

- Remittances
- Gender equality
- Transnational families
- Transnational motherhood
- Migration policies
- Urbanisation



Conclusions

- ▶ People's longer life span ... and smaller families produce generations of older adults with, on average, fewer "traditional" family ties ... *Voorpostel (2013:816)*

Family migration is a driver of overall migration and as such family needs should be recognized in overall policymaking. When migrating individually, migrants are still part of families, and their migration decisions are largely motivated by the desire to improve the wellbeing of other family members, especially children (*Kaczmarska & Ono, 2022:4*)



NGIYA THOKOZA! ro livhuwa!
dankie! ke a leboga! ENKOSI!
inkomu! thank you! udo livhuwa!
ke a leboga! ngiyabonga!
siyabonqa!

