

DOI: 10.26693/jmbs07.05.140

UDC 314.52+614.2

Mekhtiyeva A. F., Jafarova A. G.,

Agayev A. A., Naghiyeva R. G.

## The Relationship between Socio-Demographic Indicators and the Age of Marriage of Women in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Medical University,  
Department of Public Health and Health Organization,  
Azerbaijan Republic, Baku

*The purpose of the work* is to study the current marital status of the local population of women by means of a questionnaire.

*Materials and methods.* A free anonymous sociological prospective study was conducted among women of reproductive age in Baku. Questionnaires in the Azerbaijani language were distributed to women in polyclinics in the Sabail, Yasamal, Sabunchi and Azizbek districts of Baku. In total, 3,000 questionnaires were distributed, 2,533 questionnaires were collected back, of which 1,221 questionnaires fully contained answers to the questions asked. The study was conducted in 2021. The medical workers of the institutions actively participated in the distribution of the questionnaires and their return collection. They also filled out the questionnaires themselves and involved relatives and neighbors in the survey. The age of the women ranged from 18 to 47 years and all of them were of Azerbaijani nationality. Statistical processing of the results was carried out using Student's t-test.

*Results and discussion.* It was found that the largest share fell on women who are married, the indicator of which is  $50.7 \pm 1.8\%$ . The share of women who did not marry increased significantly -  $25.5 \pm 1.6\%$ .  $51.2 \pm 2.5\%$  planned to have two children,  $26.2 \pm 2.2\%$  planned to have one child,  $12.6 \pm 1.7\%$  of women planned the birth of three children and  $4.6 \pm 1.1\%$  of women planned the birth of four children. It was established that for each woman there were on average  $2.56 \pm 0.43$  cases of pregnancy,  $0.79 \pm 0.11$  abortions,  $0.30 \pm 0.08$  unplanned children,  $2.15 \pm 0.41$  actually born children.

Ineffective family planning, unprotected sex, or improper use of contraceptives leads to a large number of pregnancies that exceed the number of planned children. There are on average  $2.56 \pm 0.43$  pregnancies per one woman. Therefore, many women resort to abortions, on average  $0.79 \pm 0.11$  abortions per

one woman. At the same time, for various reasons, a number of women do not resort to abortions, which leads to the birth of unplanned children, the number of which is  $0.30 \pm 0.08$  children per woman, which increases the number of actually born children to an average of  $2.15 \pm 0.41$  children per one woman.

*Conclusion.* Thus, the current situation with the family system requires the need to conduct clear, accessible information and explanatory work among women about the timely creation and planning of a family, the rational use of contraceptives, and the dangers of abortion to health. Further study of the problem of late marriage will help protect women's health and improve the socio-demographic indicators of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**Keywords:** socio-demographic indicators, family planning, marriage, Azerbaijani population.

**Introduction.** The main cell of population reproduction is the family. The more prosperous, sufficient families there are, the more children are born and high demographic rates are ensured. However, recent years have been characterized by a decline in family and marital values. The share of late-age marriages is increasing, when the reproductive potential of women decreases, and they are increasingly limited to the birth of 1-2 children [1]. The frequency of broken marriages is also steadily increasing. Wars, migration processes, injuries (transport, construction and other), nicotine, alcohol and drug addiction of men increase the share of widowed women [2]. Therefore, the study of demographic and family-marriage aspects acquires an urgent importance.

In many ways, the periodically conducted population censuses of various countries represent valuable information in this regard. But even more valuable information, covering a wide range of issues, is acquired by conducting local, territorial-ethnic, specialized prospective sociological studies. These studies

are carried out especially intensively in developed countries, the results of which allow the implementation of various social programs for the modification of demographic and family-marital processes, including women's reproductive health [3, 4].

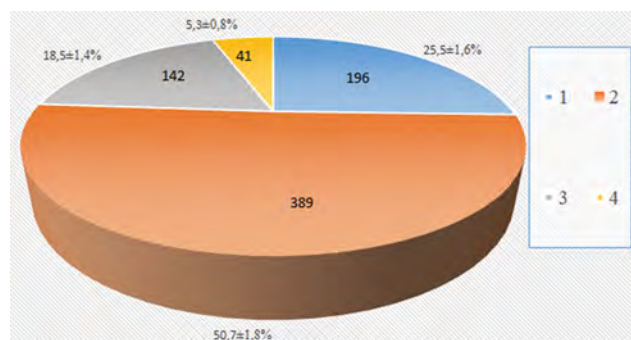
**The purpose of the work** was to study the current marital status of the local population of women by means of a questionnaire.

**Materials and methods.** A free anonymous sociological prospective study was conducted among women of reproductive age of the Azerbaijani population in Baku. Questionnaires in the Azerbaijani language were distributed to women in polyclinics in the Sabail, Yasamal, Sabunchi and Azizbek districts of Baku. The study was conducted in 2021. The medical workers of these institutions actively participated in the distribution of questionnaires and their return collection. They also filled out the questionnaires themselves and involved relatives and neighbors in the survey. In total, 3,000 questionnaires were distributed, 2,533 questionnaires were collected back, of which 1,221 questionnaires fully contained answers to the questions asked. The age of the women ranged from 18 to 47 years and they were all of Azerbaijani nationality.

The study conforms to the Helsinki Declaration (1997), the Convention on Europe on Human Rights and Biomedicine (1997), the International Code of Medical Ethics (1983), ICHGSP (2002).

Statistical processing of the results was carried out using Student's t-test [5].

**Results and discussion.** First, the structure of the marital status of women was studied, the data of which are shown in Fig. 1.

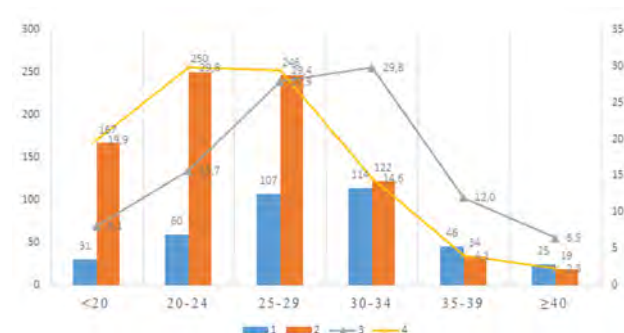


**Fig. 1** – Marital status of the urban population of women: 1 – Not married; 2 – Married; 3 – Divorced; 4 – Widows

It was established that the largest share fell on women who are married, the indicator of which is  $50.7 \pm 1.8\%$ . Considering that the survey was conducted among women of reproductive age and, for social and natural reasons, the vast majority of them should be married, then the given indicator should be recognized as low. In the future, such a situation with marriages can reduce the rate of population reproduc-

tion, and this will lead to unfavorable socio-economic consequences in the republic. The positive rates of population reproduction are currently largely related to the birth of unplanned children, which occurs as a result of the low effectiveness of family planning, due to the fact that most women do not use contraceptives or use them with violation of the regulatory requirements to the recommendation.

The share of women who did not marry increased significantly –  $25.5 \pm 1.6\%$ . Usually, in the republic, most women get married at the age of 18–24. At this age, girls receive secondary, secondary specialized and higher education. However, this situation is currently changing. Therefore, it is of interest to compare the age of unmarried women with the age of marriage, being already married, when conducting a current study. The conducted age analysis of women is shown in Fig. 2.



**Fig. 2** – Age structure of marriage of women who are not married (n=383) and married (n=838). Absolute indicators of women (abs.): 1 – Not married; 2 – Married. Relative indicators of women (%); 3 – Not married; 4 – Married. On the abscissa axis – the age of women, years

The figure clearly shows the difference between married and unmarried women. Among the latter, the share of women at the age of  $27.9 \pm 2.1\%$  and especially at the age of  $29.8 \pm 2.3\%$  is high.

As it can be seen, nowadays women postpone marriage until a later age period. Questioning women made it possible to reveal the reasons for the desire to get married at a more mature age. So, the most priority reasons turned out to be the need to obtain higher education and ensure further career growth, doing business, having a separate apartment by a future husband, and his financial security. The created situation has already begun to affect the population reproduction, as can be seen from the results of the survey of married people (Table 1).

As can be seen from this table, more than half of the women –  $51.2 \pm 2.5\%$  planned to have two children. The share of women who planned the birth of one child is high –  $26.2 \pm 2.2\%$ . The birth of three children was planned by  $12.6 \pm 1.7\%$  of women, and four children, respectively, by  $4.6 \pm 1.1\%$  of women. Along

**Table 1** – Ratio between planned and actually born children of married women (n=389)

Number of planned children	Number of women planning to have children		Total number of planned children		Pregnancy rate		Number of abortions		Number of unplanned children born		Children actually born	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
0	21	5.4 ± 1.1	0	-	24	2.4 ± 0.5	24	7.8 ± 1.5	0	-	0	-
1	102	26.2 ± 2.2	101	14.2 ± 1.3	213	21.4 ± 1.3	91	29.4 ± 2.6	20	16.9 ± 3.5	122	14.6 ± 1.8
2	199	51.2 ± 2.5	398	55.4 ± 1.9	496	49.9 ± 1.6	74	23.9 ± 2.4	24	20.3 ± 3.7	422	50.4 ± 1.7
3	49	12.6 ± 1.7	147	20.4 ± 1.5	182	18.3 ± 1.2	86	27.8 ± 2.6	47	39.8 ± 4.5	194	23.2 ± 1.5
4	18	4.6 ± 1.1	72	10.0 ± 1.1	79	7.9 ± 0.9	34	11.0 ± 0.5	27	22.9 ± 3.9	99	11.8 ± 1.1
Total	389	100.0±0.0	719	100.0±0.0	994	100.0±0.0	309	100.0±0.0	118	100.0±0.0	837	100.0±0.0
On average			1.85 ± 0.36		2.56 ± 0.43		0.79 ± 0.11		0.30 ± 0.08		2.15 ± 0.41	

with this, 5.4 ± 1.1% of women did not plan to have children at all. If the birth of children corresponded to planning, then one woman would have an average of 1.85 ± 0.36 children, while in order to maintain a positive rate of population reproduction, each woman, according to international standards, should give birth to 2.2 children.

However, ineffective family planning, unprotected sex, or improper use of contraceptives leads to a large number of pregnancies that exceed the number of planned children [6]. The table shows that each woman has an average of 2.56 ± 0.43 cases of pregnancies. Therefore, many women resort to abortions, on average 0.79 ± 0.11 abortions per one woman. Our data correspond to the data of other authors [7, 8]. At the same time, for various reasons, a number of women do not resort to abortions, which leads to the birth of unplanned children, the number of which is 0.30 ± 0.08 children per one woman, which increases the number of actually born children to an average of 2.15 ± 0.41 children per one woman. And such birth rate corresponds demographically to international standards, according to which the overall birth rate has decreased significantly over the past decades in many countries, so that today almost half of all people worldwide live in a country

or area where lifetime birth rate is below 2.1 live births per one woman, which roughly corresponds to the level required for a population with low mortality [9].

Thus, the current situation with family system requires the need to conduct clear, accessible information and explanatory work among women about the timely creation and planning of a family, the rational use of contraceptives, and the dangers of abortion to health.

### Conclusion

1. The share of women who got married was 50.7 ± 1.8%, and the age of marriage in the Azerbaijani population in general was 18–24 years.
2. The share of women who did not marry increased significantly – 25.5 ± 1.6%.
3. For every woman there are on average 2.56 ± 0.43 pregnancies, 0.79 ± 0.11 abortions, 0.30 ± 0.08 unplanned children, 2.15 ± 0.41 actually born children.

**Perspectives of further research.** Further study of the problem of late marriage will contribute to the protection of women's health and improvement of socio-demographic indicators of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

### References

1. Beaujouan É. Late fertility intentions increase over time in Austria, but chances to have a child at later ages remain low. *Reprod Biomed Soc Online*. 2021 Nov 23;14:125-139. PMID: 35079645. PMCID: PMC8782643. doi: 10.1016/j.rbms.2021.10.002
2. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Marriage Data*. 2019.
3. UK Office for National Statistics (2014). *Marriage statistics, cohabitation and cohort analyses*.
4. US Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Marriage and Divorce: Patterns by Gender, Race, and Educational Attainment", October 2013. Available from: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2013/article/pdf/marriage-and-divorce-patterns-by-gender-race-and-educational-attainment.pdf>
5. Bayot ML, Abdelgawad I. Statistics. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK538315/>
6. Kantorová V, Wheldon MC, Ueffing P, Dasgupta ANZ. Estimating progress towards meeting women's contraceptive needs in 185 countries: A Bayesian hierarchical modelling study. *PLoS Med*. 2020 Feb 18;17(2):e1003026. PMID: 32069289. PMCID: PMC7028249. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1003026

7. Donovan P, Wulf D. Family planning can reduce high infant mortality levels. *Issues Brief (Alan Guttmacher Inst)*. 2002 Apr;(2):1-4.
8. Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers. 2018 World Health Organization and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Available from: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/260156/9780999203705-eng.pdf?sequence=1>
9. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). *World Family Planning 2020 Highlights: Accelerating action to ensure universal access to family planning (ST/ESA/SER.A/450)*. 2020.

УДК 314.52+614.2

## ВЗАЄМОЗВ'ЯЗОК МІЖ СОЦІАЛЬНО-ДЕМОГРАФІЧНИМИ ПОКАЗНИКАМИ ТА ВІКОМ ОДРУЖЕННЯ ЖІНОК В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНІ

**Мехтієва А. Ф., Джафарова А. Г., Агаєв А. А., Нагієва Р. Г.**

**Резюме.** Мета дослідження - вивчити шляхом анкетування сучасний шлюбний статус місцевої популяції жінок.

**Матеріали та методи.** Проведено вільне анонімне соціологічне проспективне дослідження серед жінок репродуктивного віку м. Баку. Анкети азербайджанською мовою роздавали жінкам у поліклініках у Сабаїльському, Ясамальському, Сабунчинському та Азізбеківському районах м. Баку. Загалом роздали 3000 анкет, назад зібрали 2533 анкети, з них 1221 анкета повністю містили відповіді поставлені питання. Вік жінок варіював від 18 до 47 років і всі вони були азербайджанської національності. Статистичну обробку результатів провели за допомогою критерію Стюдента.

**Результати.** Останні роки характеризуються збільшенням частки пізньовікових шлюбів, обмеженням числа народження дітей і неухильно зростаючою кількістю шлюбів, що розпадаються. В результаті проведеного дослідження було встановлено, що найбільша питома вага припадала на жінок, які перебувають у шлюбі, показник якого становить  $50,7 \pm 1,8\%$ . Суттєво зросла питома вага не одружених жінок –  $25,5 \pm 1,6\%$ . При цьому,  $51,2 \pm 2,5\%$  – планували мати двох дітей,  $26,2 \pm 2,2\%$  – планували народження однієї дитини,  $12,6 \pm 1,7\%$  жінок – народження трьох дітей та  $4,6 \pm 1,1\%$  жінок – народження чотирьох дітей. Встановлено, що на кожну жінку припадало в середньому  $2,56 \pm 0,43$  випадків вагітності,  $0,79 \pm 0,11$  абортів,  $0,30 \pm 0,08$  позапланових дітей,  $2,15 \pm 0,41$  фактично народжених дітей.

**Висновки.** Сучасна ситуація з сімейним устроєм потребує проведення серед жінок зрозумілої, доступної інформаційно-роз'яснювальної роботи про своєчасне створення та планування сім'ї, раціональне використання засобів контрацепції, про шкоду абортів для здоров'я.

**Ключові слова:** соціально-демографічні показники, планування сім'ї, одруження, азербайджанська популяція.

### ORCID and contributionship:

Arzu Fahraddin Mekhtiyeva : 0000-0002-4919-9204 <sup>A,B,C,D,E,F</sup>

Aynura Hasan Jafarova : 0000-0002-1847-5106 <sup>A,B,C,D,E,F</sup>

Agayev Anar Azam : 0000-0002-7373-318X <sup>A,B,C,D,E,F</sup>

Rana Galandar Naghiyeva : 0000-0001-6946-9729 <sup>A,B,C,D,E,F</sup>

A – Work concept and design, B – Data collection and analysis,  
C – Responsibility for statistical analysis, D – Writing the article,  
E – Critical review, F – Final approval of the article

### CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

**Arzu Fahraddin Mekhtiyeva**

Azerbaijan Medical University

Public health and health organization Department

14, Anvar Gasimzadeh Str., Baku Az 1022, Azerbaijan

tel.: +994552477734, e-mail: arzu.mehdiyeva.81@bk.ru

*The authors of this study confirm that the research and publication of the results were not associated with any conflicts regarding commercial or financial relations, relations with organizations and/or individuals who may have been related to the study, and interrelations of coauthors of the article.*

Стаття надійшла 08.07.2022 р.

Рекомендована до друку на засіданні редакційної колегії після рецензування