**Factors Effecting Fertility Rates**

**Social**

**Cultural**

**Politics**

**Demographics**

**Economic**

**Level Of Education**

**Religion**

**Machismo**

**Infant Mortality Rates**

**Age Structures**

**Pressure from the Government**

**Level Of Healthcare**

**Employment Opportunities**

**The Status of Women**

**The Cost Of Having Children**

* Improvements in health care, sanitation & diet lead to a drop in infant mortality rate e.g. The Demographic Republic of Congo has a total fertility rate of 6.91 and 0.088 doctors per 1000 people.
* Availability of contraceptives for couples with knowledge and desire to use it e.g. Rwanda, where 10% of women practice modern methods of family planning and where the total fertility rate is 5.12. In Brazil, 70% of women practice modern methods of family planning and the total fertility rate is 2.21.
* In some countries, access to healthcare and education may be limited e.g. Afghanistan, total fertility rate of 7.7 with 0.17 doctors per 1000 & a female literacy rate of 13%.
* Higher female literacy rates lead to improved knowledge of birth control, more opportunities for employment and more choice. This may lead to lower fertility rates.
* Islam and the Roman Catholic church oppose the use of birth control although this influence may lessen with economic development.
* In many parts of the world religion/tradition demands high rates of reproduction.
* Women in some countries are obliged to produce as many children as possible e.g. Nigeria, total fertility rate 4.9.
* In some countries, the number of children is seen as a sign of virility and wealth.
* With the prospect of a career, women may have less children and marry later. e.g. the average marital age in the UK is 30.
* Reduced access to formal employment and other income earning opportunities means women are forced to devote most of their time and energy to child bearing.
* Children are seen as economic assets in LEDCs. They can be used as workers on land or to bring in more income.
* The time spent in education and the cost of childcare makes it more expensive to have a child. In the UK (TFR 1.66) the estimated cost of raising a child to 21 is £166,000.
* Some governments will try to influence the rate of population growth e.g. The chinese attempting to reduce the birth rate or Japan attempting to increase it.
* High birth rates to compensate a high infant mortality rate e.g. Nigeria with a birth rate of 5.16.
* Reduced infant mortality rate reduces the need for lots of children for security. e.g. Japan’s birth rate of 7.64 with an infant mortality rate of 2.79.
* Countries with a large proportion of young people may continue to see a population increase due to population momentum.
* Countries with a small proportion of youth face population decline even if birth rates per woman increase e.g. Japan.

[Mortality Rates »](https://geographyas.info/population/mortality-rates/)

[« The Population Of Brazil](https://geographyas.info/population/the-population-of-brazil/)

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