

Measuring the population: the importance of demographic indicators for gender analysis

UNECE workshop on Disseminating, Communicating and
Using Gender Statistics

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UNECE

Outline

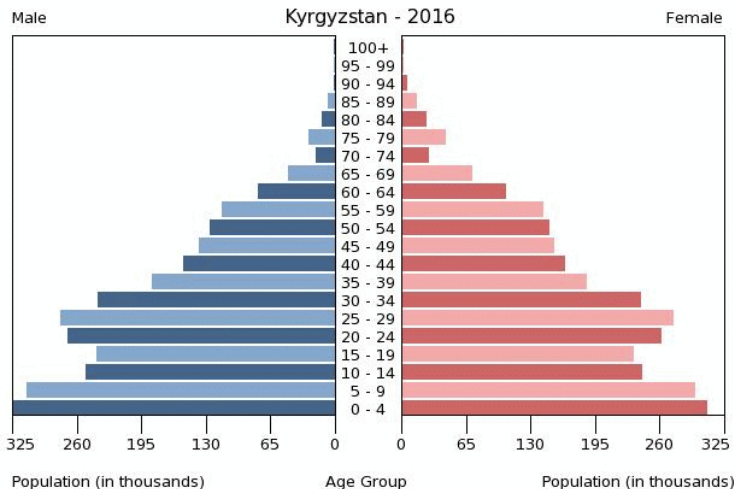
1. What is demography?
2. Demography and gender
3. Data sources
4. Sex ratios
5. Fertility rates



What is demography?



- The study of human populations
- Structure and change (dynamics) of populations
- Births, deaths and migration



- Demographers produce indicators such as:
 - Fertility rates
 - Life expectancy
 - Migration rates
 - Population growth estimates

Demography and gender

- Fundamental to monitoring gender relations
- Sex ratios
 - How many women are there compared to men? Overall and in different age groups?
 - Are many more boys born than girls?
 - Sex ratios can point to gender differences in health, migration...

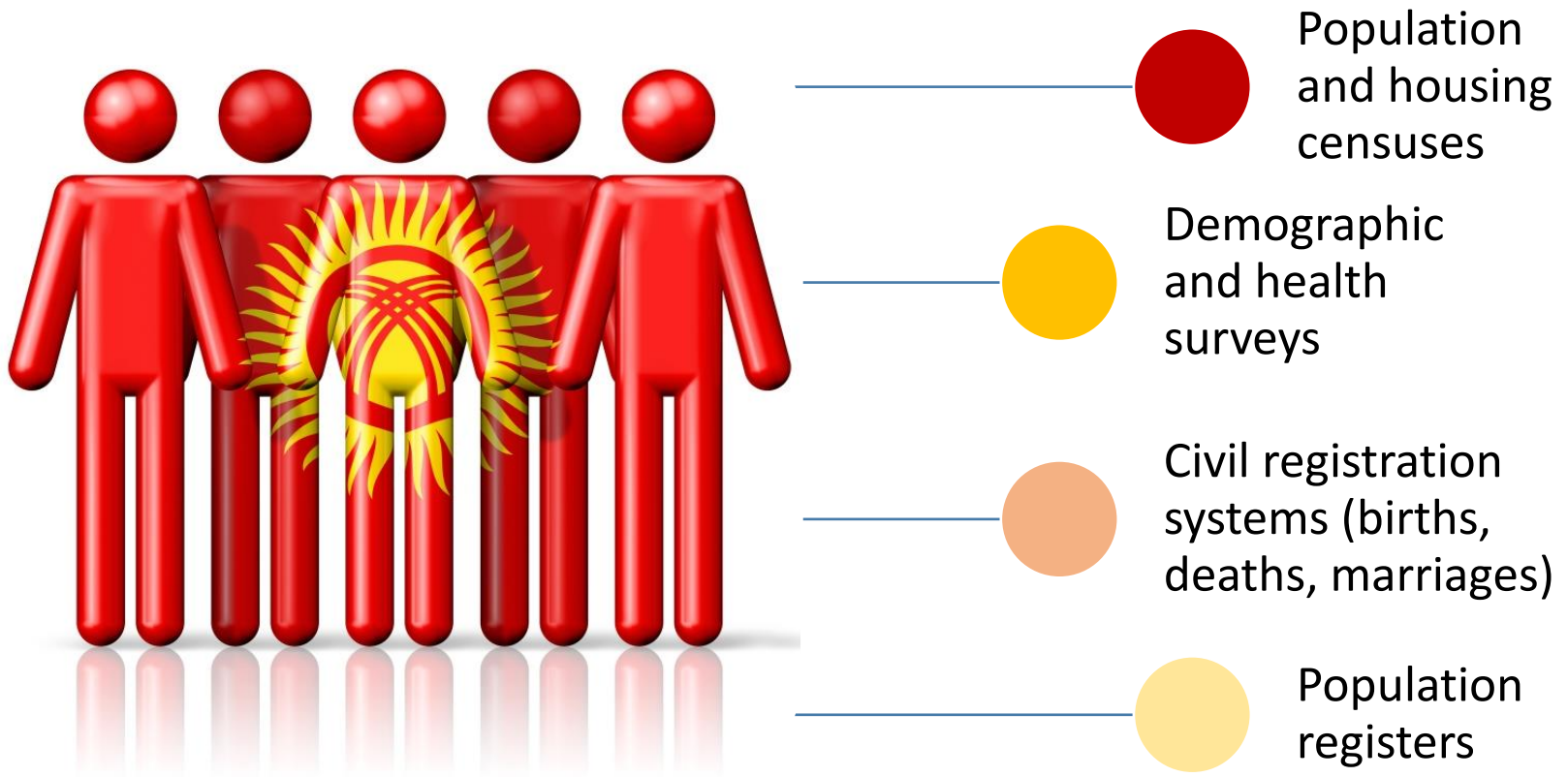
Demography and gender

- Fundamental to monitoring gender relations
- Sex ratios
- Reproductive patterns
 - When do people marry and have children?
 - How many children do they have?
 - Can provide evidence about roles, stereotypes, reproductive rights...

Demography and gender

- Fundamental to monitoring gender relations
- Sex ratios
- Reproductive patterns
- Composition of households
 - Single-headed households
 - Grandparent-headed households
 - Rural-urban location
 - Can indicate gender differences in migration, expectations of women...

Main data sources



What is a sex ratio?

Guide:

100 = same number of males as females

Less than 100 = more females

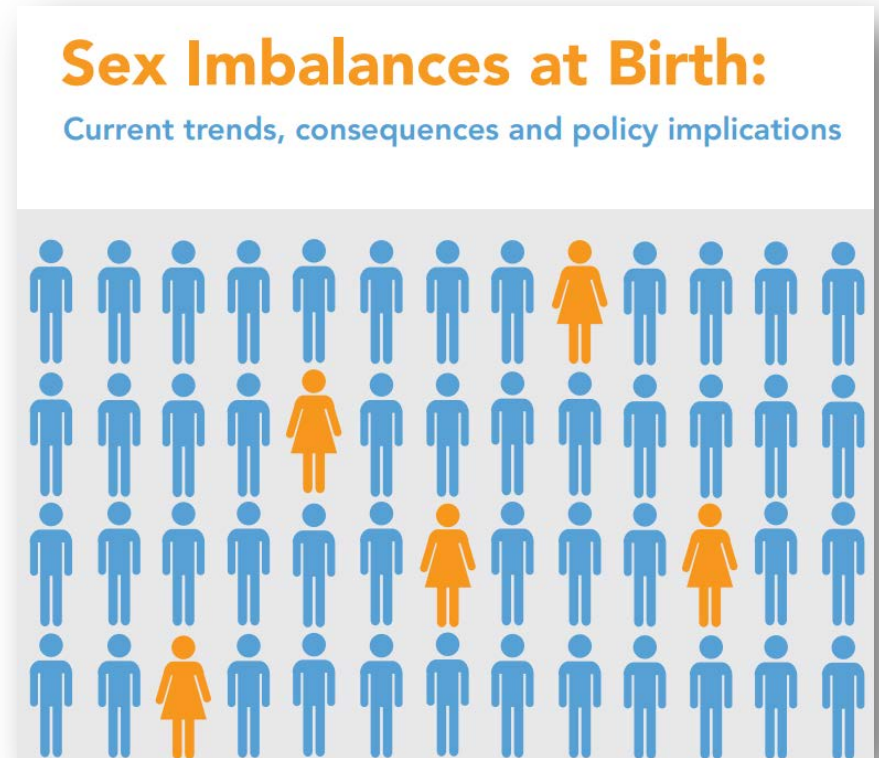
More than 100 = more males

	Female	Male
European Union-28	260,597,789	248,796,586
Armenia	1,570,493	1,434,095
Azerbaijan	4,843,592	4,805,749
Belarus	5,074,596	4,415,020
Georgia	1,940,790	1,776,281
Kazakhstan	9,065,624	8,478,502
Kyrgyzstan	3,008,339	2,948,932
Moldova, Republic of	1,844,443	1,709,664
Ukraine	22,922,416	19,752,854
Uzbekistan	15,603,361	15,695,568

Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from national and international (Eurostat and UNICEF TransMONEE) official sources. Data refer to 2015

Sex ratio at birth

- There are 104-106 boys born for every 100 girls
- Standard biological level



Source: United Nations Population Fund.
2012. Sex Imbalances at Birth: Current trends,
consequences and policy implications.

Sex ratios, Kyrgyzstan, 2015

	Sex ratio	Females	Males	Sex ratio
Sex ratio of total population		3,008,339	2,948,932	98
Sex ratio at birth		78,802	84,650	107
Sex ratio for older people (age 65+)		157,873	102,327	65

Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from national and international (Eurostat and UNICEF TransMONEE) official sources.

What impacts sex ratios?

- Biological differences
- Tendency for women to live longer
- Son preference
- Labour migration
- Health-related behaviours (alcohol, smoking, physical activity, violence)
- Wars and conflicts

Fertility rates

- Consequences of fertility
 - Structure of population
 - Demand for services
 - Economic production
 - Burden of care in the home
 - Environmental impacts



Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

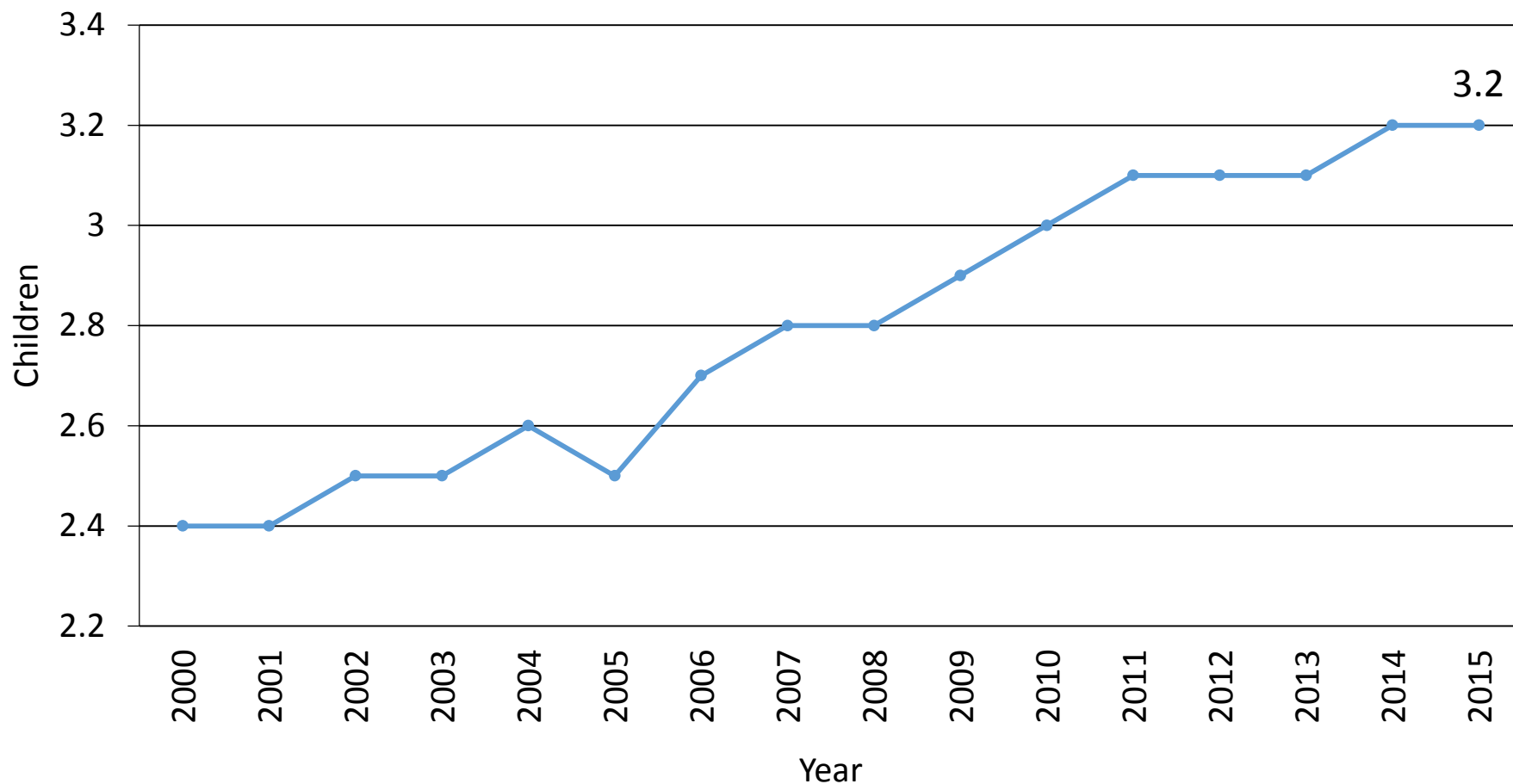
- The average number of live-born children a woman would have, in total, if she passed through her childbearing ages experiencing all the age-specific fertility rates of a given year
- Usually expressed as ‘the number of children per woman’
- Not simply all babies divided by all women!
- Not the same as the lifetime fertility of a cohort, e.g. those born in 1950

How to interpret the TFR

- Key factor influencing population growth/decline
- Replacement level fertility: TFR of ~2.1 children per woman

Total fertility rate		
TFR of 2.0 or lower	Low fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Becoming the norm for many countries• Armenia, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine are all classified as low fertility countries• Population ageing presents a challenge
TFR of 2.1 – 3.1	Moderate fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Azerbaijan, Georgia (lower end)• Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan (higher end)
TFR of 3.2 or higher	High fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rates highest in Eastern, Middle and Western Africa• In the EECCA region, Tajikistan (3.8) and Kyrgyzstan (3.2) are the only high fertility countries

TFR in Kyrgyzstan, 2000-2015



Source: UNECE Statistical Database

A photograph of a woman wearing a grey headscarf and a patterned dress, holding a baby wrapped in a light blue blanket. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and colorful fabrics.

Fertility and gender

- Low fertility
 - Ageing population – caring for the elderly
 - Pressure to produce sons
- High fertility
 - Health risks for mother and children
 - Limits paid work opportunities; increases unpaid work
 - Lower status of women