

The Effect of Infant and Child Mortality on Subsequent Fertility

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The focus of this study is the replacement behavior of individual couples who have experienced the death of a child, and the differences in the ability and/or motivation of families to replace children who have died. The hypothesis is that the *replacement effect* a direct behavioral response to the death of a child, varies by such factors as socioeconomic status, use of contraception and parity. These differentials as well as cross-cultural variations are examined using World Fertility Survey data from Columbia, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The analysis examines the replacement motivation of women who have experienced child death and, for women who have completed child-bearing, the degree of replacement success through higher subsequent fertility. Proportional hazards models are used to examine how the impact of an infant death differs for population subgroups, and how these factors vary across the four countries. The findings suggest that women in these four countries are motivated to replace a child that dies and that their subsequent fertility is higher. Women with more education (in Sri Lanka and Pakistan) and women who have close to ideal family size (in Pakistan and Kenya) are significantly more effective at replacing a child who dies.