



The Place of Demography in Global Development Discourse in the 21st Century

Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital

Alex Ezeh

Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University

November 21, 2022



Global Concerns about Population Growth

- Geneva – 1927
- Rome 1954: Scientific; advocated for regional training centers
- Belgrade 1965: Fertility as part of development planning; USAID Population programs
- Bucharest 1974: Demographic targets integral to development planning – Contraception is the best development
- Mexico City 1984: Development is the best contraception
- Cairo 1994: Individuals' right to comprehensive RH care
- ...
- Post-Cairo ...



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

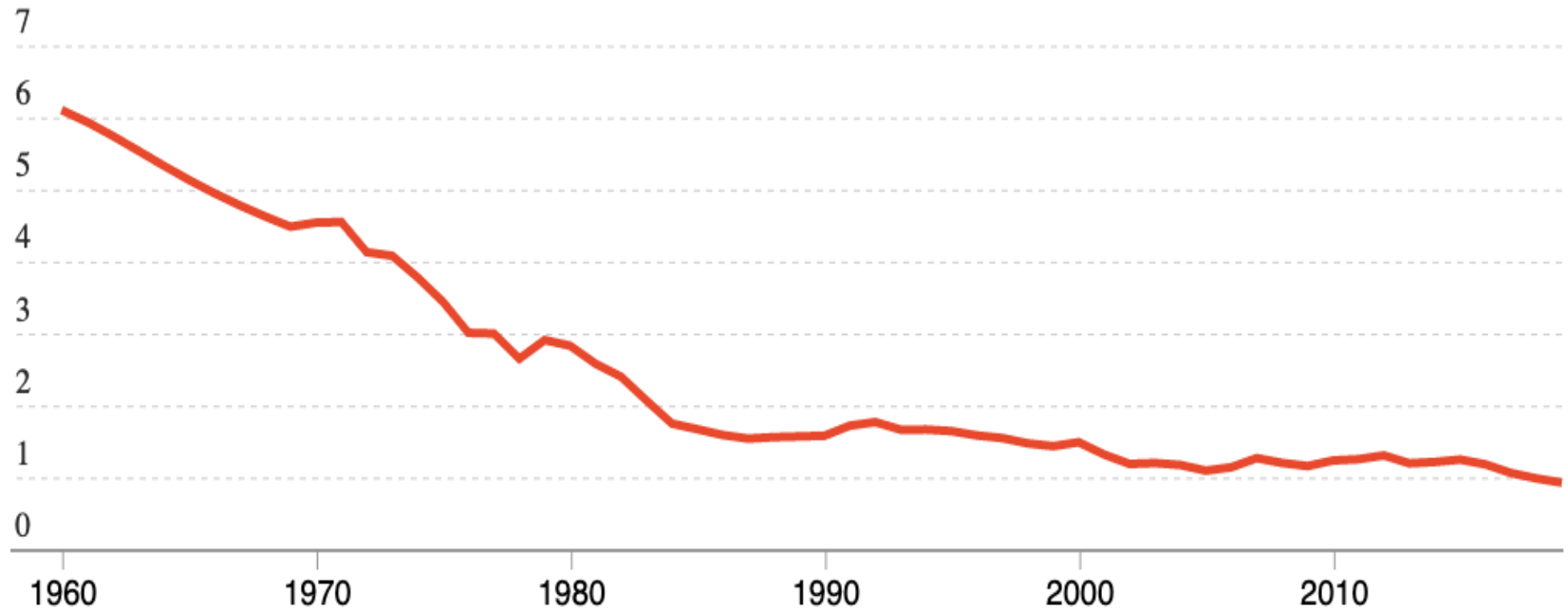
Dornsife

School of Public Health

Desired Family Size: Assumptions & Measurements



Fertility rate in South Korea



Data from datacatalog.worldbank.org via Data Commons

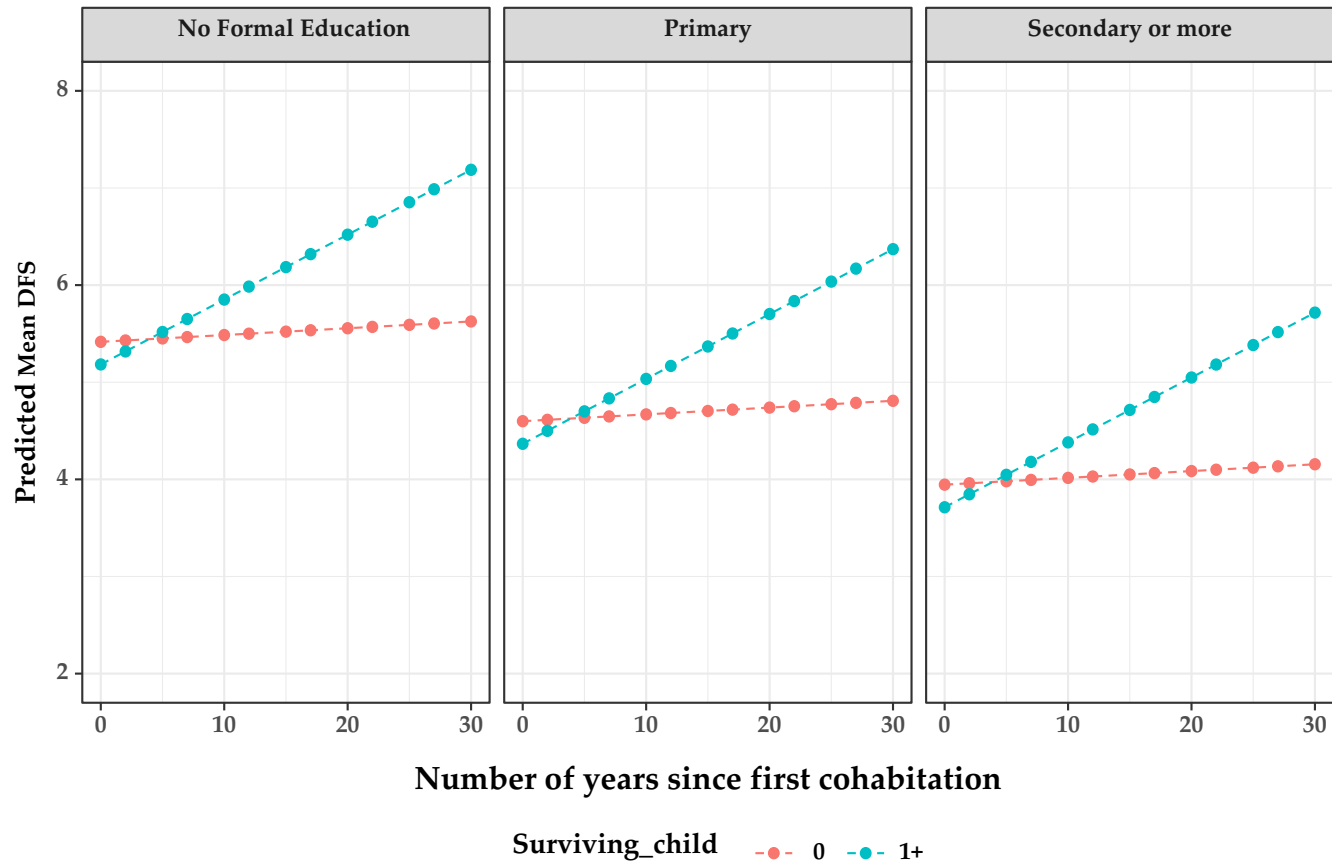


Measuring Desired Family Size

- **Mothers:** “If you could go back to the time you did not have any children and could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?”
- **No Child:** “If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?”



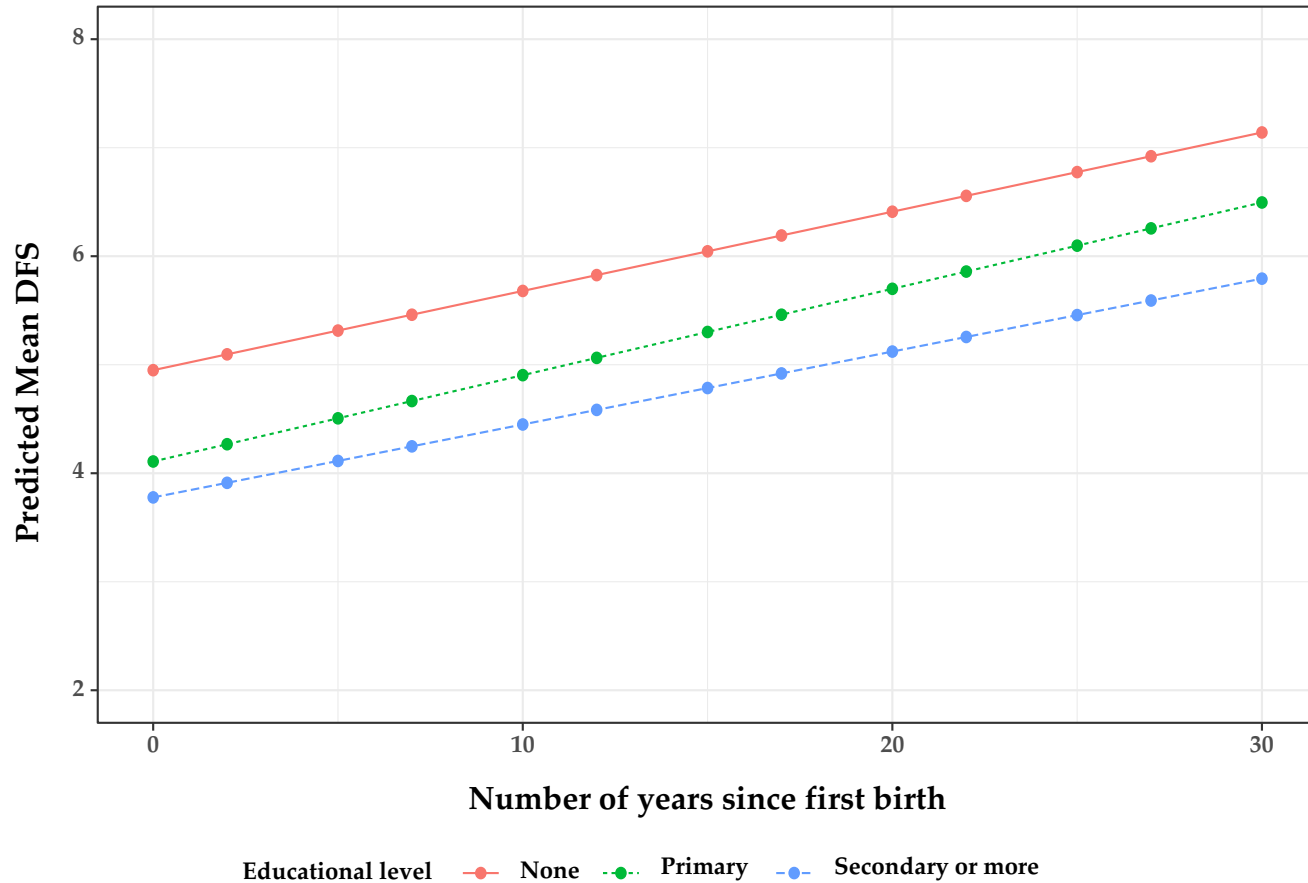
Figure 1. Predicted number of DFS by duration since first cohabitation, and Educational attainment



Data source: DHS from 39 SSA countries



Figure 2. Predicted number of DFS by duration since first birth and Education



Data source: DHS from 39 SSA countries

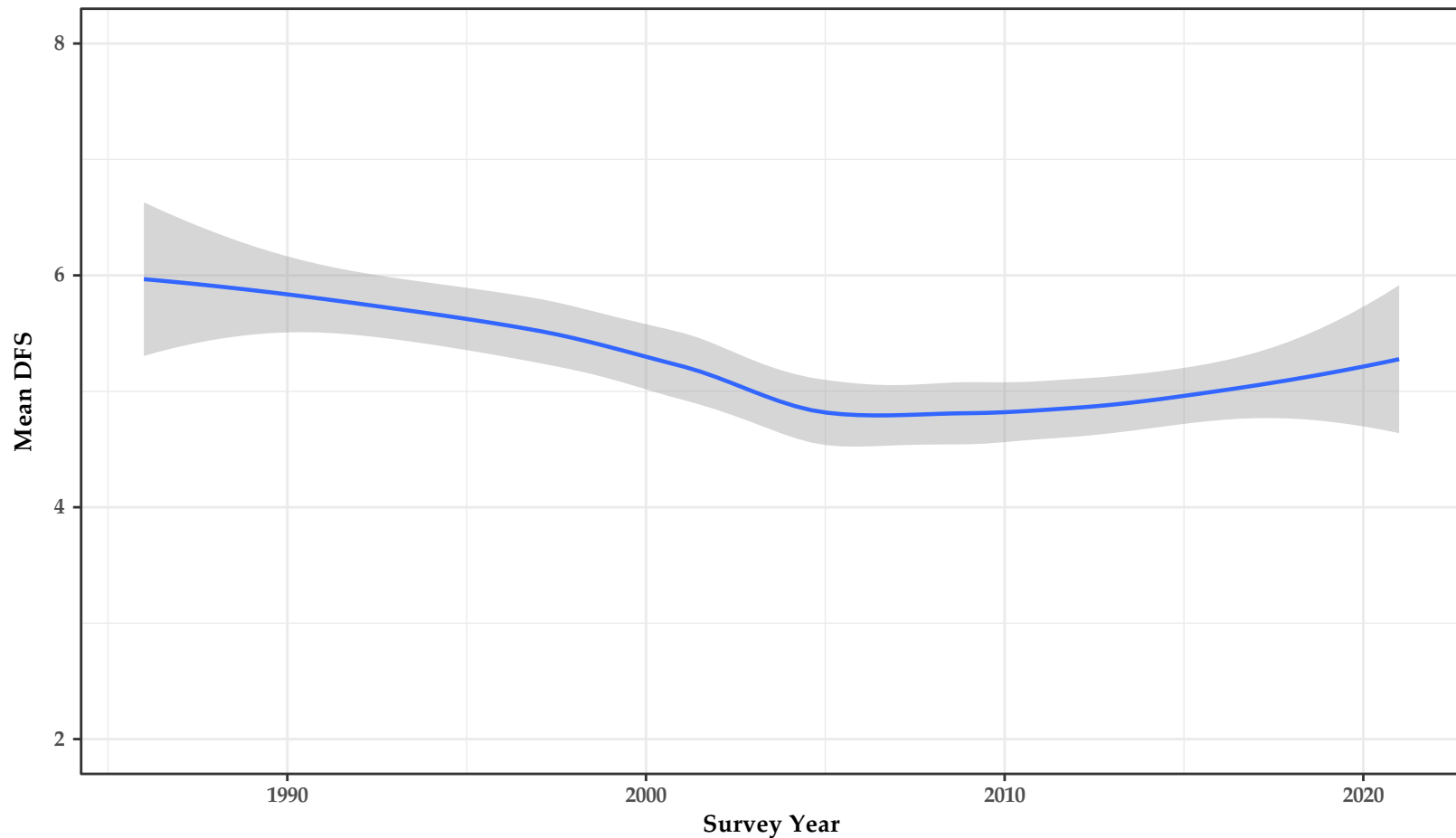


Table 5: Fixed effect OLS regression of desired family size by years since first birth, with gradual introduction of control variables. **Women with 1+ surviving child(ren)**

	<i>Dependent variable: Ideal Number of Children</i>			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Years since first birth	0.074*** (0.002)	.102*** (.011)	.070*** (.005)	.072*** (.005)
Age at interview date	No	YES	YES	YES
Other controls+	No	No	YES	YES
Quantile of wealth index	No	No	No	YES
Country FE	YES	YES	YES	YES
Survey year FE	YES	YES	YES	YES
Observations	938,994	938,994	909,702	693,089
No. countries	39	39	38	37
Adj. R2	.24	.24	.30	.32
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01				
+ Includes: Birth cohort, area of residence, and education				



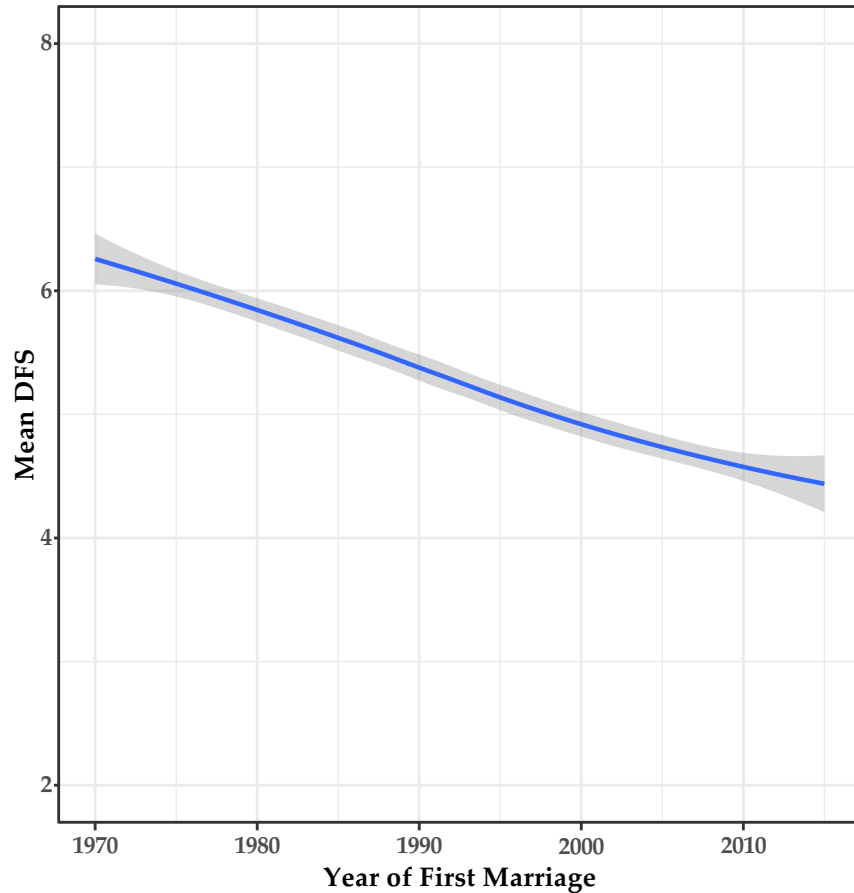
Trends in Desired Family Size by Survey Year



data source: DHS from 39 SSA countries; only ever-married women with child(ren)

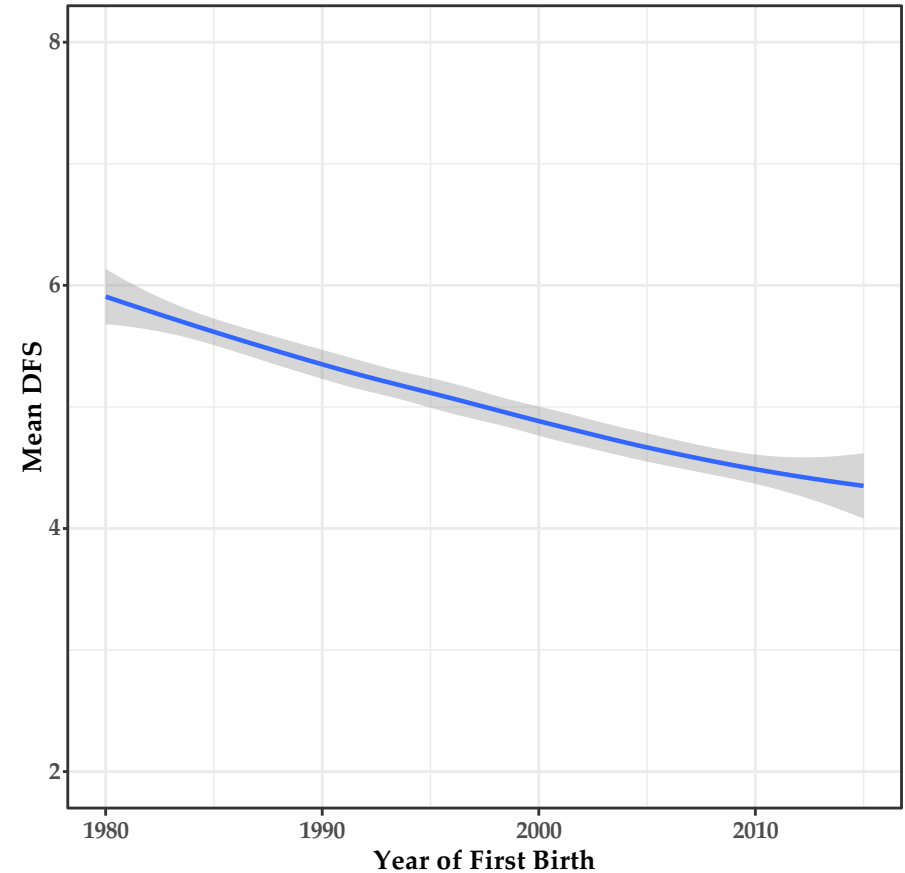


Figure A: Trends in DFS by Year of First Marriage



data source: DHS from 39 SSA countries ; only ever-married women with child(ren);
most recent surveys (2010-2020)

Figure B: Trends in DFS by Year of First Birth



data source: DHS from 39 SSA countries ; only women with child(ren)



- TFR
- Wanted TFR = TFR – Births > DFS
- Unwanted TFR = TFR – WTFR
- Etc.

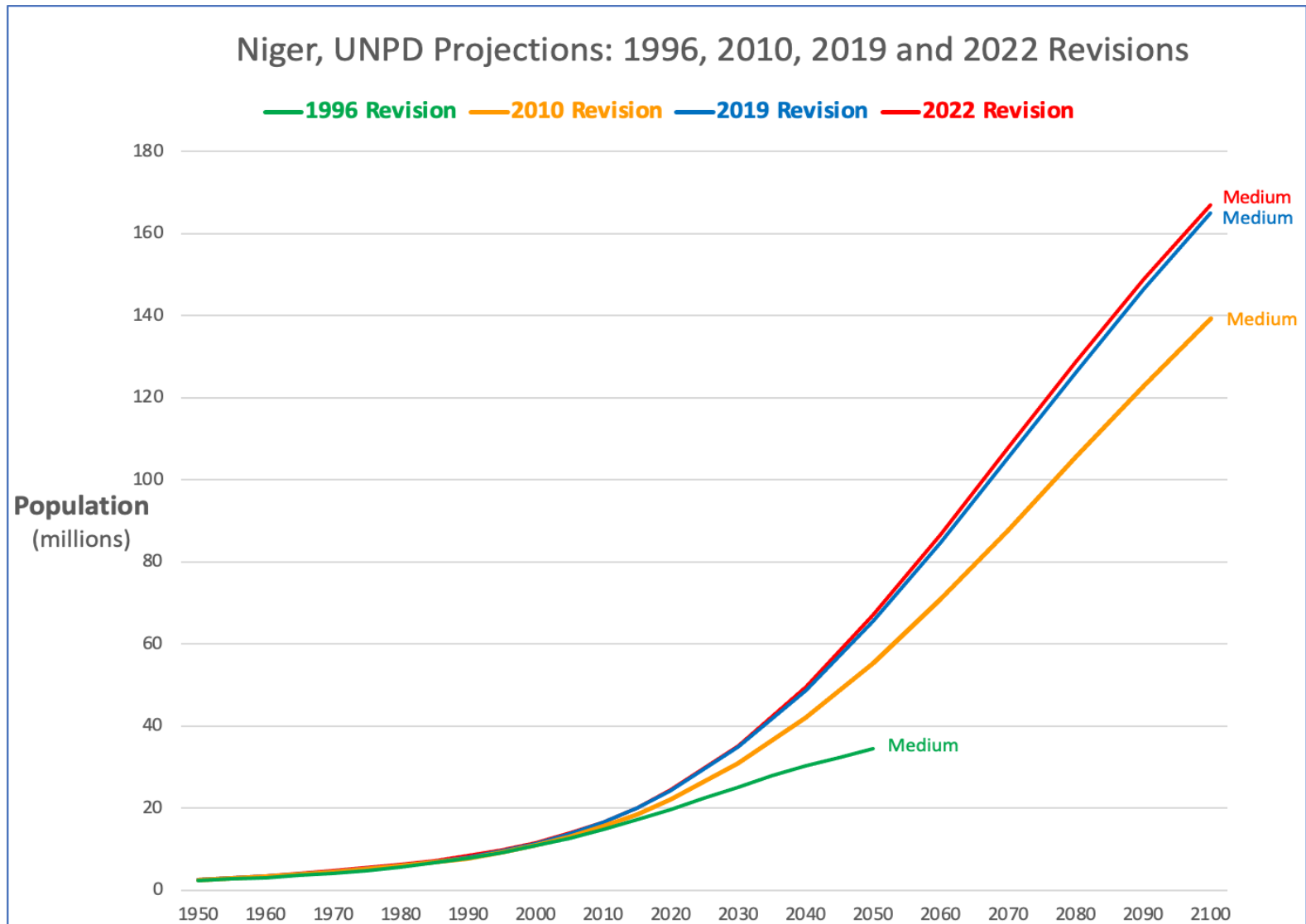


Population Projections



Projected size of Global Population for each Year in Billions

Organization	2010	2017	2020	2030	2040	2050	2075	2100	Peak No.	Peak Year
UNPD (2022)	6.99	7.60	7.84	8.55	9.19	9.71	10.4	10.35	10.4	2085
IIASA (2014)	6.90		7.64	8.28	8.80	9.16	9.40	8.96	9.40	2070
IHME (2020)		7.64						8.79	9.73	2064
Diff	0.09	0.04	0.20	0.27	0.39	0.55	1.00	1.56		



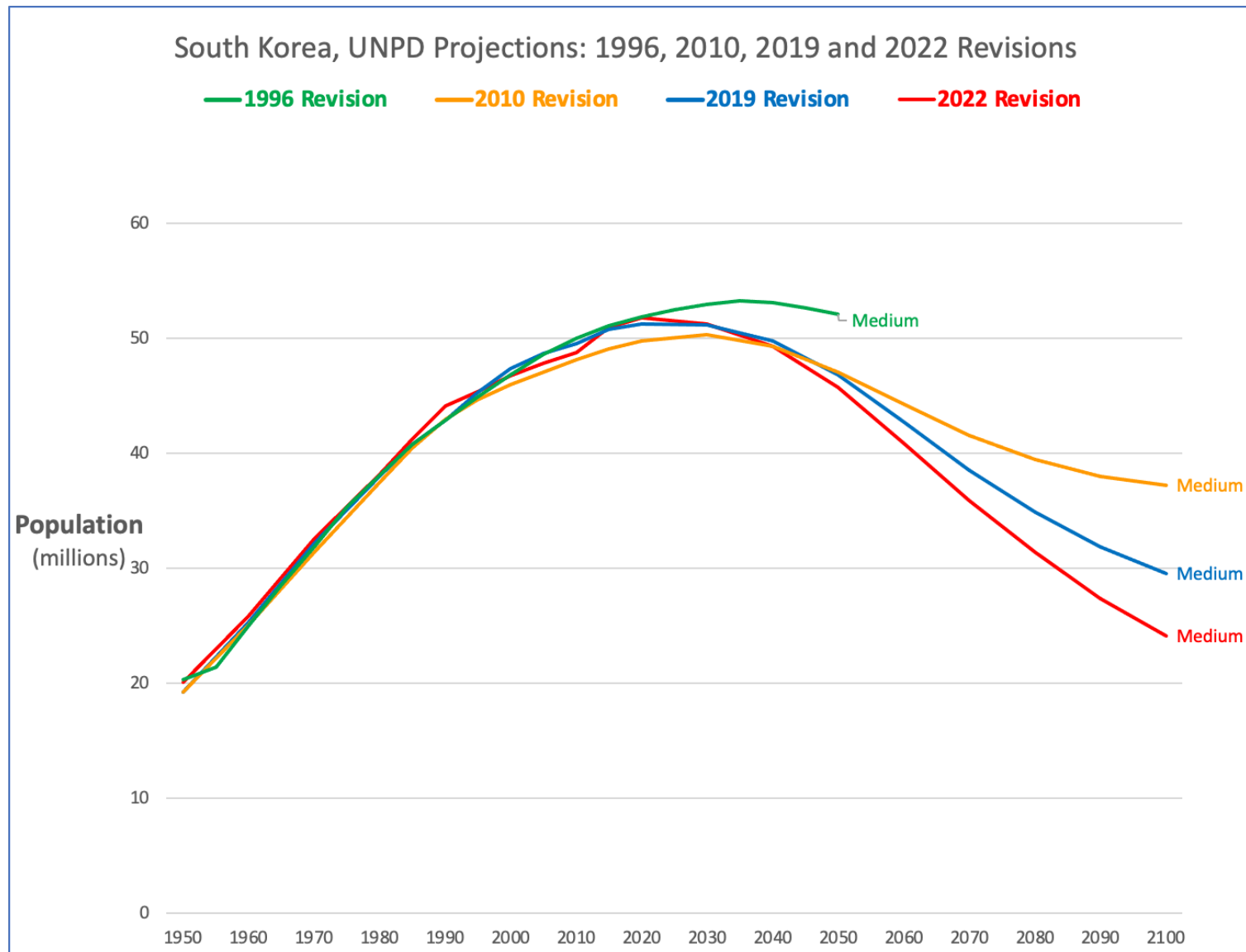
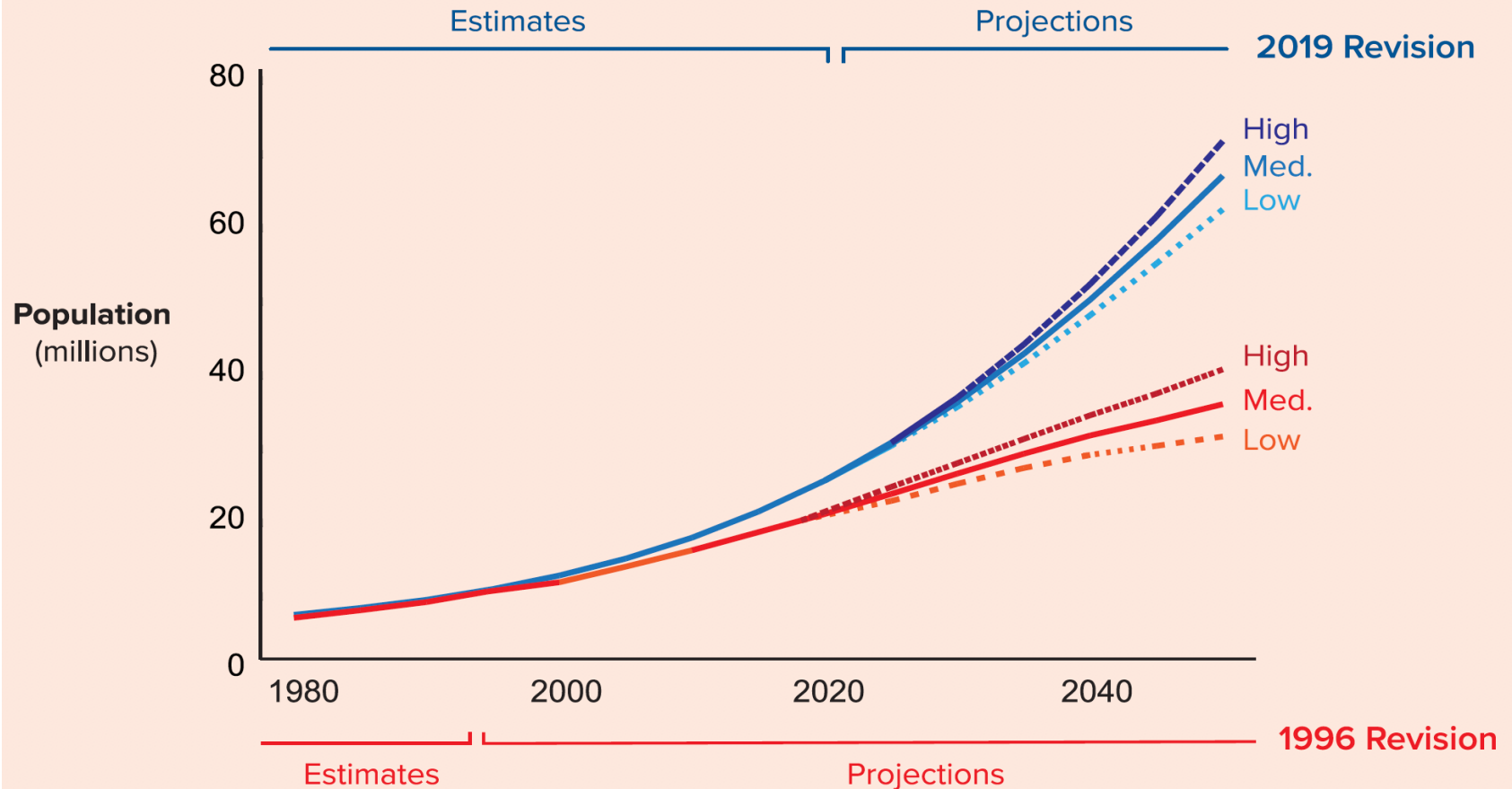




FIGURE 13. Compared Projections, 1996 and 2019

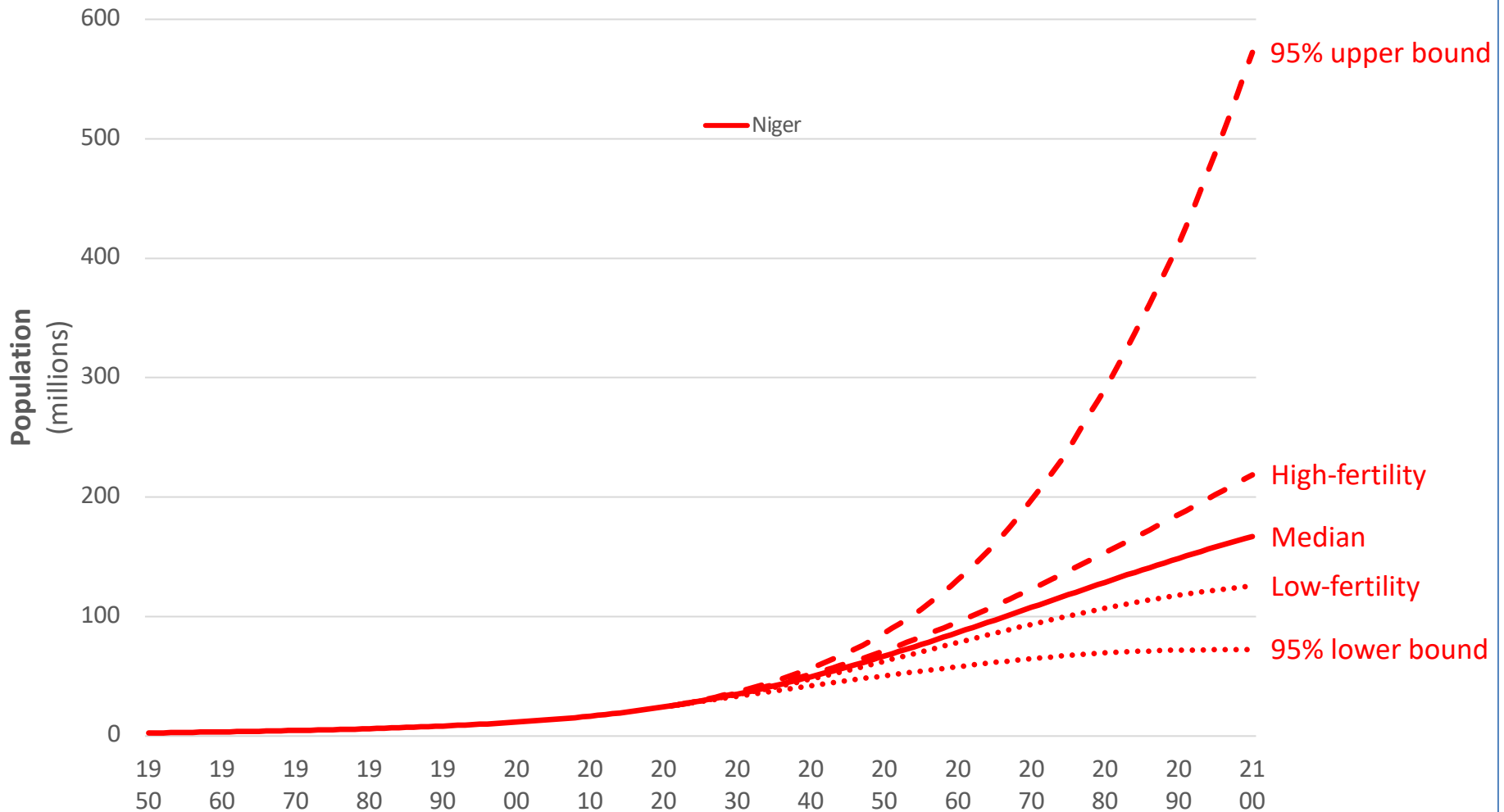
Niger



Source: Data: UNDESA/ Population Division, 1997, 2019.



Niger, UNDP Projection Variants, 2022 Revision





Why Population Change is an Existential Threat

- Divergent experiences ...
- Pace of decline will be much faster in poorer countries
- A repeat of history
- Awkwardness of discussing population concerns



Conclusion...

- Population – a two-edged sword?
- Policy responses?