

# POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS ON AGE AND MARITAL STATUS

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## Abstract

In this paper the structure and dynamics of marital status has been analyzed. The data of two last censuses in Belarus have been compared.

## 1 Introduction

Marriage is one of the most important demographic processes, which has a significant impact on the demographic situation in general and the factors determining it: family formation, fertility, mortality, etc. The importance of research on the state and dynamic of marriage becomes more important in terms of demographic crisis, which occurred during the last 20-30 years in the Republic of Belarus, as well as the implementation of the National Program on Demographic security of the Republic of Belarus for 2011-2015.

## 2 Marital status as a category

Marital status of the individual - it is his position in respect of institution of marriage in accordance with the laws and customs of the country. Statistics of population makes it possible to study the following demographic conditions that result from the process register one's and divorce. It is premarital, marital proper and postmarital status. In premarital state reside persons, never married, regardless of their age, postmarital - persons who are in a state of widowhood and divorce. The distribution of population by these categories of marital status characterizes the marriage situation in the country, the prospects for the formation and development of new families, the prospects for fertility, the problems of loneliness people, etc.

Marital status of a person is recorded at the time of the census usually with the words of the interviewee, in accordance with the principle of self-determination. Census population exposed marriageable age. The legal boundaries of the same age in different countries are different, so the statistics use conventional boundary. By marriageable age population is older than 15 years.

Statistical data on marital status are grouped by gender, age, marital status categories, as well as on various socio-economic characteristics: by settlement type (urban, rural), by territory (regions), education, nationality, profession, etc. Censuses of the population of Belarus in 1999 and 2000 included the following categories of marital status of the population: never married; married; widowed; divorced and separated.

In the category of "married" was accounted for as officially registered (legal) and informal (real) marriage. Category of "separated" is different from the category of "divorced" that applies to persons who previously consisted in not registered with the civil registry offices.

At marriage, divorce, widowhood is a transition of persons from one category to another. The totality of all these transitions affect the reproduction of the marriage of the population, from which in turn depends on family composition and reproduction of the total population.

### 3 Marital status analysis

The marriage rate (the number of marriages registered with the civil registry offices per 1000 people) for the last 20 years decreased from 9,7 marriages in 1990 to 8,1 marriages in 2010, or by 16,5%. In this case, the divorce rate (the number of divorces registered with the civil registry offices per 1000 people) varied slightly and was about four divorce. Reducing the marriage was one of the reasons that the number of married couples in the period from 1989 to 2009, down from 2,6 mln to 2,3 mln, or 11,5%. Annual absolute decrease in population marriageable age reduces the number of registered marriages automatically. Increase in total mortality rates, including the death of a spouse, leads to dissolution of marriage and thus to reduce the number of married couples.

Of particular importance for the characterization of the marital status of the population have a series of distribution of men and women by age and type of marital status. They make it possible to calculate and analyze the structure of the population of both sexes on the marital status of species in the two areas (sections) in the first 100% is each age group, in the second - 100% is the marital status of each species, and spread it over the ages.

Analysis of the dynamics of the marital status of the population between the censuses of 1999 and 2009 by this method showed that the share of married men and married women of childbearing age 20-49 decreased to about 60%, which is not very favorable for the reproduction of the population, and the vast majority never married, both men and women are concentrated in the age under 30. The share of never married men increased from 24,3% to 26,7%, and women - from 16,8% to 18,0%. The fact that the share of never married men than among women is largely due to the fact that in the age under 25 in a population more than men (due to the fact that the share of boys than of girls born) and among them at this age the share never married are significantly higher than for women. For example, among men aged 20-24, the share was in 2009, 78,3%, and among women in this age group - 58,2%. The city share had never married, both men and women is much higher than in rural areas.

The largest share among marriageable age of the population of the Republic of Belarus is the person, male and female, married: in 2009, the men - 61,7%, and women - 52,4% (against 65,7% and 56,1% respectively in 1999). However, this includes a registered marriage (legal marriage) and consisting of unregistered relationships (actual marriage). According to the last census 187,3 thsd men and 186,4 thsd Belarusian women indicated that they are as common law marriage. For ten years the share of

married couples whose marriage is not legally issued, increased from 5% to 8%. The largest number of unregistered marriages were in the age group 18-24 years, that is, 15% of men and 13% of women of this age. The highest share of people who are not registered with the civil registry offices among the villagers: out of 60,8% men who are married, 53,3% were registered as married, 7,5% - in the common law, and out of 52,3% women in marriage, respectively 45,8% and 6,5%.

As the results of the 2009 Population Census, the share of married men with increasing age up under 70 years of age is growing. This is due to the higher intensity of remarriage of divorced and widowed men. The highest level of the marital status of women is at the age of 30 years to 49 years. For example, in the range of 35-39 years women have never been married 8,4%, were married 72,0% (one in wedlock 6.8%), 2,5% were widowed and divorced 16,3%, and in the range 40-44 years, respectively, 5,7%, 71,5%, 6,3%, 4,5% and 17,7%.

Important to characterize the marital status of the Republic of Belarus have categories widowed, divorced and separated. As the data in the 2009 Population Census the absolute and relative number of the persons of a given categories in 10 years has increased, despite the fact that the total population of marriageable age decreased. In 2009, there were 810,4 thsd widows, or 18,4% to 134 thsd widowers, or 3,6%; divorced women was 463,5 thsd, or 10,5%, and men - 269,9 thsd, or 7,3%. These figures show that the total population of marriageable age every third- fourth woman is divorced or widowed (28,9%), and of the men - one in ten (10,9%). For 10 years, the number of widows has increased by 5,4% and widowers - 8,9% of divorced women has increased by 12,5% and men - by 9,7%, more than half of divorced women is of childbearing age, with negative affects the dynamics of fertility. In all age groups the share of widows and divorced women than men. One reason for this is that the widowed and divorced men are more likely to remarry, and a significant excess of widowed women over widowed men, after 50 years is also due to higher mortality of men, beginning with the active working age.

## 4 Concluding remarks

Based on data on marital status of the population it is possible to calculate indexes marriage situation as the number of unmarried women for unmarried men. If the results of the 1989 census 146 single women had been on 100 unmarried men, including those 141 in urban and 152 women in rural, then through the 20 years it has improved sex ratio: 124 unmarried women had been 100 unmarried men (respectively 125 in urban, and 122 in rural).

In the three years since the last 2009 Population Census, marital status of the Republic of Belarus has not improved. In 2012 compared to 2011, the number of marriages has decreased by 12,1% and the number of divorces increased by 1,2%. If in 2011, 445 divorces per 1000 marriages, in 2012 - 512, or 15,1% more.