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Annual Meeting, Population Association of America 2012

**- Transition to Adulthood in Mexico -  
Life course analysis of the determinants of adolescent pregnancy**

**Abstract (150 Words):**

The transition to adulthood has become a vital area of life course studies research. However, in the Mexican context, few studies are based on life course analysis that aim to examine fertility factors affecting the adolescent transition into adulthood. This paper will focus on the link between risk factors of adolescent pregnancy and other life transitions such as migration, which occur during this key period.

We will use the 2011 demographic and retrospective survey - La Encuesta Demografica Retrospectiva 2011-, composed of a sample of 3200 individuals (with an equal distribution of male and female) living in urban areas. This sample is also nationally representative. Future results show precisely how the different life trajectories affect adolescent fertility. Migration and education pathways are linked directly with the appearance of the first birth during the adolescent period (12-19 years) in the Mexican context.

## **Seminar Paper**

### **1. Introduction - Description of the topic:**

The paper will examine the transition of adolescents into adulthood in Mexico through a life course analysis. More precisely, we will focus on the risk factors of adolescent pregnancy in Mexico, using the life course method for different generations: 1951-1953; 1966-1968; 1979-1981.

Demographic and socio-culturally bound as a transitional stage between childhood and adulthood, youth is a stage of increasing in socio-demographic research. Scientific concerns over adolescence stems first from the demographic transformation that still leaves young people as a large group in the structure of the social pyramid. In Mexico, young people aged from 10 to 19 years of age represent almost 20% of the total population (Census, 2010). Secondly, socio-institutional processes that have led to a broadening of the period of life covered, as well as the individuality with which the young make up a particular social group. This life stage is fundamental not only because a lot of changes occur during this period (education, first employment, union formation and union formation, first birth), but also because it's a key period of socialization which will have a definite impact on future adult life.

Although adolescent pregnancy is not a new phenomenon, issues relating to adolescents early fertility and parenthood have been a major focus of public and political concern in recent years. In 2006-2008, the national rate of adolescent fertility was 69,5 per mille women (ENADID, 2009). In Mexico, the fertility rate of the adolescent population (12-19 years) remains high despite the significant decline in fertility which rose from 6.7 in 1970 to 3.1 children per woman in 1995 (Coubes, Zavala Cosio, Zenteno, 2005 ), to 2.1 children per woman in 2010 (INEGI, 2010). The younger generation of 15 to 25 years has not exactly followed the pattern of their elders. The younger generation has been a smaller decline in fertility rates, even an increase in some parts of Mexico, including border areas (Gonzales, 2006). The case of Baja California is a prime example. Indeed, in Baja California, the number of births increased from 18.8% in 2004 to 20.7% for mothers under the age of twenty in 2008 (INEGI, 2008).

In recent years numerous studies have examined the determinants of teenage pregnancy in Mexico. Socio-economic status has often been put forward to explain the high occurrence of teenagers' pregnancies (Stern, Menkes; 2008). It was also recently demonstrated that school desertion was not a direct consequence of early pregnancies, but dropping out of school comes ahead of early pregnancies (Stern, Menkes; 2008). These new results highlight the importance of capturing all the interactions in different spheres of individuals (here, the school path and the fertility path). Life course provide bring another dimension for help reach a new understanding of the complex issues of adolescent fertility, and more generally to the transition to adulthood in the Mexican context.

## **2. Theoretical focus - Data and researches method:**

In recent years, the concept of the life course has become an important framework within which research on human development has been structured. Human developmental research has recognized the importance of events or patterns that characterize the early part of life. Out of this work has evolved the basic view of life processes as cumulative; even the earliest elements of individual lives can have a significant relation to later life events and processes (Elder, 1992). Individuals experience a variety of different events throughout their life-course - birth, marriage, change of employment, school graduation, etc. - which sometimes occur in rapid succession, and whose timing and definition may seem unclear.

This research proposes to analyze data coming from a recent survey: La Encuesta Demografica Retrospectiva 2011 (EDER 2011). This project is the result of collaboration between El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (México), El Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) (México), El Universidad de Baja California (UABC) (México), The CNRS-CREDAL (France) and the University Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense (France).

In 1998, in Mexico, the first retrospective and demographic survey called EDER 1998 was conducted by the same contributors.

Currently, the EDER 2011 updates the socio-demographic data concerning a national sample in an urban areas. The overall purpose of the EDER 2011 is to collect information about demographic processes (migration, education, occupation, marriage, fertility and mortality) experienced by the population of Mexico during the second half of the twentieth century and the beginning of twenty-first century. Also, this survey will retrieve information about various interrelationships of demographic phenomena in the life trajectories of individuals (data about migration paths, school paths, work, family, fertility, contraception uses,). Furthermore, we can also notice transitions to events such as leaving school, first job, first marriage, divorce, etc...). This survey is able to record individual trajectories in greater depth, changes of status can no longer be viewed simply as separate events, but involve a transition process of variable duration, from birth to the date of the interview.

EDER survey has selected people from three age cohorts. These periods coincide with economic and social phases which are considered as significant in social changes in Mexico:

- 1951-1953 (58-60 years old in 2011) - period of sustained economic growth driven by the import model substitution
- 1966-1968 (43-45 years old in 2011) - economic recession and productive restructuration toward economic openness in Mexico
- 1979-1981 (30-32 years old in 2011) - Opening and minimal growth.

The advantage of this survey facilitates the comparison of life sequences of three different cohorts, then examines and compares men and women life course. This work is original in highlighting both the male and female life course. The men's life course is often overlooked in studies related to adolescent pregnancy (Figueras-Perea, 2010). The EDER 2011 sample is made up of 3 200 individuals living in urban areas, and includes interviews of current resident distributed in 32 states all over the country. The data have been

collected by INEGI during the month of August 2011. The data will be very recent and will be presented at the conference in May 2012.

### **3. Expected findings :**

Using life course analysis, we emphasize, in particular the relationship between migration, educational background and fertility at early ages. The interrelationships between different spheres of adolescent life in Mexico are examined. This leads us to test whether migration, depending on the type of migration, will increase early birth rate among adolescents. Recent studies have started to show that migration is a factor increasing the risk of adolescent pregnancy. In the case study of Tijuana (Baja California), the percentage of women aged 20-24 who have had an adolescent pregnancy is higher among women born in another state than the native women born in South California (Palma Cabrera, 2011). In this specific case study, migration has a positive impact on adolescent pregnancy. Also, we will introduce a work at national level taking into account the origin and destination locations and the type of migration experienced by individuals, for men and women.

Select life course perspective through the EDER survey retrieves to give us new elements about adolescent pregnancy issues, but also account for the differences between transitions into adulthood for the three generations of the last half of the 20th century in Mexico.

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