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## **Influence of marital and family relations on demographic processes in Ukraine**

*The article is an analytical study of the development of marital and family relations from the time of Ukraine's independence to the present day and their impact on the country's demographic processes. It has been clarified how family values affect the preservation of marriage and harmonizing relations between partners. The issue of the influence of psychological readiness for marriage, the formation of young people's knowledge about the essence of married life, stable and comfortable relationships in the future is also highlighted. The problems of family conflicts, distribution of roles between partners, value and moral norms in family relations are considered. The dynamics of registered marriages and divorces since the independence of Ukraine and their influence on the birth rate have been analyzed. Modern scientists single out the main problems of Ukrainian families: from a social point of view, it is a high level of population poverty and low monetary income; improper living conditions and unorganized life; from a demographic point of view – this is a decrease in the birth rate and an increase in the death rate of the population; lack of natural growth; the aging of the population and the reduction of life expectancy of both sexes; deterioration of the nation's health; the intensity of migration processes, the increase of the «load» on its working part; from a psychological point of view – these are negative forms of experiencing emotional states: mood, affect, stress, distress, frustration; psychological unreadiness for marriage; lack of knowledge and violated value orientations; lack of common interests; loss of feeling of love; incompatibility of characters; unwillingness to improve and lack of concern for the partner; frivolous attitude to family responsibilities; differences in religious views; sexual dissatisfaction and infidelity; alcohol, drug or gaming addiction. Therefore, in Ukraine, the problem of the country's demographic security is becoming extremely urgent. To improve the demographic situation in the country and reduce the number of divorces, a comprehensive approach is needed: attractive changes in all spheres of social life should be aimed at systematically solving demographic problems. This requires certain developments and implementation, namely: a long-term national strategy to reduce divorce and overcome population depopulation; to clearly forecast a complex system of measures as an economic, social, legal, educational-cultural, spiritual and information-propaganda lever.*

**Keywords:** *marital and family relations; registered marriages; broken marriages; demographic processes; demographic security of the state; state family policy.*

**Statement of the problem.** The legislation of each country recognizes marriage as a symbol of the foundation of a family. The Family Code of Ukraine states that the family is the primary and main center of society, which is created by individuals for a joint life, having mutual rights and obligations. Any family relationship is regulated on the basis of justice, good faith and reasonableness, which directly correspond to the moral principles of society. Marriage is based on parity and voluntary principles, on mutual feelings of love, support and respect [5].

Today, marriage is considered a somewhat variable concept. Over time, the concept of marriage is changing, where it is possible to be in a family relationship and be a family member in today's society without the official registration of marriage, which greatly complicates the definition of universally recognized and long-used concepts. Cohabitation and partnerships are becoming more common, leading to changes in existing legislation to give greater rights to unmarried and, in some countries, same-sex couples. Such forms of partnership significantly complicate the statistical process of data collection and observation, their use for analysis and comparisons.

The modern concept of «family» is somewhat distorted, the majority of individuals who want to create a family and believe that they need a reliable and strong relationship cannot provide it due to their lack of preparation for married life.

In the modern society of Ukraine, as well as in the society of European countries, legal alternatives to marriage are becoming more and more popular, which in turn lead to a decrease in the number of registered marriages and an increase in the share of nuclear families that give birth to children outside of a registered partnership.

A decrease in the number of registered marriages and an increase in the number of their dissolutions has been observed since the independence of Ukraine to the present day. The same trend exists in the countries of the European Union.

Due to modern views and changes in the models of family formation, as well as its disintegration, it is becoming increasingly difficult for demographers to analyze and make predictions for the future. Modern statistical data do not have a complete set of information from which comparisons can be made over time, sample marriage surveys are not conducted, so information on marriages is forced solely on the basis of the data of marriage records, which are filled out by the state civil registration authorities. Information on divorces is also formed on the basis of the data of legal records regarding the dissolution of marriage, which are filled in by the state civil registration authorities and data of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Marital and family relations in Ukraine are studied by individual scientists, significant attention is paid by such scientists as: T.Pasnichenko, R.Fedorenko, M.Mushkevych. An important role in the analysis and forecasting is played by modern scientists of the Institute of Demography and Social Research named after M.V. Ptuha of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, in particular: E.Libanova, O.Gladun, S.Pirozhkov, L.Sliusar, O.Makarova and other researchers.

**The purpose of the study.** The purpose of the article is to study the peculiarities of the impact of marital and family relations on demographic processes in Ukraine in today's conditions.

**Presentation of the main material.** Since the independence of Ukraine, modern families have undergone more and more serious changes. According to research data, it is possible to distinguish generalized features inherent in families in modern society, namely: a drop in the birth rate, an increase in divorces, as a result of which there is an increase in the number of single-parent families and families living with non-native parents, the wide spread of out-of-wedlock births, unpreparedness for marriage and complications of interpersonal relationships. If in the past the family was united, first of all, by external and formal factors, such as: law, customs, public opinion, traditions, etc., then now a new type of family is being formed, the unity of which increasingly depends on personal relations with each other and all its members, their mutual understanding, affection, respect, mutual participation, devotion, sympathy and love. After all, existing feelings form the strength and unbreakability of the family hearth.

Contradictions, disagreements and conflicts that arise during the implementation of certain aspects of family life directly lead to the emergence of family crises. The consequences of which are: the clash of interests, needs, motives, values, actions, deeds of family members as participants in the interaction based on various types of disagreements. Analyzing the available scientific sources, the main reasons leading to the emergence of crisis relationships are observed.

Intentions to change partners; inability to communicate with each other; misunderstanding as a result of reluctance to dialogue; restriction of freedom of action; self-expression of family members; unsatisfied needs for positive emotions (lack of care, attention and mutual understanding); domestic disorder; betrayal; selfishness; jealousy; disrespecting each other; incompatible views on family values; inconsistency of temperaments; bad habits of one of the partners and the consequences associated with them; reluctance to help each other; material issues that are difficult to solve; differences in spiritual interests. All these reasons lead not only to family crises, but also to more serious consequences, such as divorce. According to many family psychologists, modern married couples are more selfish, constantly defend only their opinion and do not know how to come to any agreements. And only in the process of consulting by specialists, partners understand the essence of conflicts and possible ways to overcome them. After all, determining the causes of family crises, their awareness and understanding, in most cases, enables partners to reach compromises, understand the values of family life and save marriage. Most of the negative trends in family relationships occur for psychological reasons. Both partners seek to master the same object, occupy the same place or exclusive position, play incompatible roles, and achieve divergent goals. Violation of marital ethics (betrayal, jealousy, lies); biological incompatibility; misunderstanding of the spouses with the people around them – relatives, friends, acquaintances, etc.; incompatibility of interests and needs; the difference in pedagogical positions regarding the upbringing of children; the presence of personal flaws or negative qualities; lack of mutual understanding between parents and children, which is based on different values, needs and interests of different generations; inability to understand and accept another opinion. As a result, the partners do not find harmony in their relationship, which leads to dissatisfaction with the marriage. Personal features of the participants in the conflict are instinctiveness, intemperance, impulsiveness, etc. The emergence of family disagreements depends not only on objective reasons (for example, on the specifics of the conditions of the crisis and the characteristics of its participants), but also on subjective factors: the partners' individual perceptions of themselves and their own needs, motives, and values. Partners cannot normally agree on any issue, as a result of which there are difficulties in communication, the need to redistribute traditional female and male roles, gender characteristics of the perception of marriage, family roles and their true expectations. Undoubtedly, interpersonal relationships, which include marital and family relationships, directly play an important role in the satisfaction of married life, because healthy and constructive relationships are the consequences of harmonious relationships and affect not only the preservation of marriage, its longevity, but also the increase in fertility.

According to the data of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, we can observe the following dynamics of indicators: the highest overall marriage rate (the ratio of the number of registered marriages during the calendar

year to the average annual number of the existing population) was recorded in 1991 – 9,5; in 2007 – 9,0; in 1995 – 8,4 and in 2003, 2011 and 2015 – 7,8, respectively. Instead, the lowest overall marriage rate fell in 2020 and was 4.5, and in 2022 it was fixed at the level of 5,4 per 1,000 people of the existing population [1].

Regarding the overall divorce rate (the ratio of the number of divorces during the calendar year of marriages to the average annual number of the existing population), the most optimal years were 2010 with an indicator of 2,7, 2005 – 2,9 and 2014 – 3,0, respectively. The crisis years with the largest number of divorces are 2006–2007 with an identical rate of 3,8 and 2000 and 2011 – 4,0 per 1,000 people of the existing population [1].

During the period of independence, the size of the available population (estimated – an approximate determination of the population on the territory of the country or its part without conducting a population census) is decreasing every year at a record level, which leads to a decrease in the birth rate in the country. The great advantage of mortality over live births (natural population growth) and the acceleration of demographic aging is one of the most important and urgent issues not only in Ukraine, but also for most European countries. Despite the global problem of various European countries, since the independence of our state, Ukraine has been and still remains the country with the lowest birth rate and with a critical lag in life expectancy among other European states. For thirty years, there has been a sharp decline in many demographic indicators in Ukraine. Instead, the number of divorces is increasing, which indicates an extremely negative future situation in the country. As a result of negative demographic processes, the issue of population reproduction is becoming acute. After all, the demographic situation has a important and significant impact on all processes of development and prosperity of the country.

Institute of Demography and Social Research named after M.V. Ptuha of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine has recently made a forecast regarding the population until 2033. According to the director of the institute, Ella Libanova, in 2033, the population of Ukraine will be only 35 million. Therefore, the problems related to the creation and preservation of families and their values are among the priority subjects of research.

Studying marital and family relations, it is possible to emphasize the urgent need for the formation of comprehensive measures to preserve families and their values in order to ensure positive and favorable conditions for their development. The instability of marital relations has a direct impact on the decrease in the birth rate, because in the event of a divorce, the couple does not have time to realize themselves in parenthood, because in the conditions of unstable family relations, spouses have a certain caution regarding the birth of children, and divorce is a valid reason for abandoning those births that were previously planned.

Therefore, the state, which represents the interests of citizens, must find ways to minimize the contradictions between modern forms of marriage and society's need for optimal conditions for the socialization of the modern younger generation, since the natural center for a child is a full-fledged family in which both parents raise and support their child.

The state family policy is a necessary and important political tool for influencing the provision of favorable and comfortable conditions for the development of the family as a whole, improving its standard of living, increasing the importance of the family as the foundation of society, strengthening and developing the social institution of the family as a whole, and its members separately.

The family policy of any state is an integral part of the social policy, which affects the situation of parents and children, the purpose of which is to ensure well-being, reduce financial and other risks for families, spread gender equality, minimize the drop in the birth rate and, on the contrary, promote it increase with the help of certain tools.

Modern instruments of family policy of Ukraine include financial support measures (one-time financial assistance at the birth of a child) and tools to promote employment of parents (combination of parenthood and employment). There is also financial assistance for single mothers (parents) and single adoptive parents, but the payments are only a third of the minimum wage, which does not motivate to give birth to children at all. Thus, if the family has strong relationships and one of the parents receives sufficient income to support and raise children, such a couple plans to replenish the family, but if the relationship is shaky and may be broken in the future, then of course even with the support of the state a single mother or a single father who, due to maternity leave, will not be able to work and receive income at least at the level of the minimum wage, the available assistance from the state will of course not be enough for the most necessary things, so for such citizens there is not even a question of reproductive motives, which sometimes leads to a complete rejection of motherhood (childfree).

Analyzing the number of live births from the years of Independence of Ukraine to 2021, the birth rate decreased by 43 %. If in 1991 the number of live births was 360,8 thousand people, then in 2021 this number was only 272,0 thousand people. In 2022, 206,000 babies were born, and in 2023 their number decreased to 187,400, which is 9 % less than the previous year and 32 % less than in 2021. At the same time, the number of registered marriages in the country for 2022 slightly increased and amounted to 222,9 thousand units, but in 2023 it decreased to 186.1 thousand units, which is 16,5 % less than last year (information on the state registration of civil acts of state for 2022 and 2023 provided by the departments of state registration of acts of civil status located in the territory under the control of the Ukrainian authorities [4]).

The number of out-of-wedlock births also decreased, in 1991 the number of live births to mothers who were not in a registered marriage amounted to 75.1 thousand, and in 2021 their number decreased to 55,8 thousand, respectively (table 1).

Table 1

*Dynamics of certain demographic processes in Ukraine for the period 1991–2021*

Year	Number of available population (estimated), persons	Number of registered marriages, units	The number of divorces, units	Number of live births, persons	Number of live births to mothers who were not in a registered marriage
1991	51944400	493067	200810	630813	75097
2001	48923200	309602	181334	376478	67825
2011	45778534	355880	182490	502595	109966
2021	41588354	214013	121381	271983	55781

Source: [1]

Since the independence of Ukraine, the marriage rate, divorce rate and the number of live births, including those of mothers who were not in a registered marriage, have experienced constant fluctuations. Among European countries, Ukraine is one of the countries with a high number of registered marriages and remains one of the highest divorce rates, which is quite logical.

**Conclusions.** Reproduction of the population and its direct socialization is impossible without the family, therefore the level of development of the family and institutions serve the social order according to which people exist in different countries and under different historical conditions. After all, the institution of the family is considered one of the oldest and most important in society since the beginning of society and makes a significant contribution to the life of the population, as it ensures the availability of all the necessary conditions for its existence and development through the physical and socio-cultural movement of generations. The family has always been, is and will be the only unchanging basis of the family tree, the foundation of universal values, where the most valuable public wealth is created – a person, since it is in the family that a personality is born and undergoes all stages of formation. This is the basis from which any state begins, because there is no country without a family and its family relations. The demographic factor is one of the significant potentials that serve for the sustainable and safe development of the country, and the issue of demographic development should be analyzed as a factor and at the same time as a result of the proper functioning of the state. Ukrainian society will never be balanced and sustainable if its population does not have the proper conditions for life and does not feel absolute security for the implementation of sustainable demo-reproductive behavior. Each family and individual should feel prospects for their existence, development and support.

According to the results of the research, in order to improve the demographic processes in Ukraine, the state needs to develop a plan to increase the birth rate, reduce the divorce rate, and overcome population depopulation. Studying marital and family relations, it is possible to draw conclusions regarding the significant influence of family relations on demographic processes and directly on the birth rate. Therefore, in Ukraine, the problem of marriage and family relations is of particular relevance.

Currently, the issue of not only strengthening family relations, reducing the number of divorces and improving demographic processes, but also the issue of maintaining these indicators and preventing the deterioration of the negative state in the state is acute. Therefore, comprehensive measures are needed, which require certain developments and their implementation. Immediate changes should take place in all areas of the social environment and be aimed at a systematic solution to all demographic problems. The national strategy should be long-term and contain issues of an economic, social, legal, educational, cultural, informational, propaganda and spiritual nature.

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##### **Вплив шлюбно-сімейних відносин на демографічні процеси в Україні**

Стаття є аналітичним дослідженням розвитку шлюбно-сімейних відносин з часів незалежності України до сьогодення та їх вплив на демографічні процеси країни. З'ясовано як сімейні цінності впливають на збереження шлюбу та гармонізаційні відносини між партнерами. Також висвітлено проблематику впливу психологічної готовності до шлюбу, формування знань молоді щодо сутності подружнього життя, стабільних та комфортних взаємин в подальшому. Розглянуто проблематику сімейних конфліктів, розподілу ролей між партнерами, цінністність та моральні норми у сімейних стосунках. Проаналізовано динаміку зареєстрованих шлюбів та розлучень з часів незалежності України та їх вплив на народжуваність. Сучасні науковці виокремлюють основні проблеми українських сімей: з соціальної точки зору - це високий рівень бідності населення та низький грошовий дохід; неналежні житлові умови та необлаштований побут; з демографічної точки зору - це зменшення народжуваності та

збільшення смертності населення; відсутність природного приросту; старіння населення та скорочення тривалості життя обох статей; погіршення здоров'я нації; інтенсивність міграційних процесів, збільшення «навантаження» на працездатну його частину; з психологічної точки зору - це негативні форми переживань емоційних станів: настрій, афект, стрес, дистрес, фрустрація; психологічна неготовність до шлюбу; нестача знань та порушені ціннісні орієнтири; відсутність спільних інтересів; втрата почуття любові; несумісність характерів; небажання вдосконалюватись та відсутність турботи про партнера; легковажне ставлення до сімейних обов'язків; розбіжності в релігійних поглядах; статева незадоволеність та невірність; алкогольна, наркотична або ігрова залежність. Тому в Україні проблема демографічної безпеки країни набуває надто особливої актуальності. Для покращення демографічної ситуації в країні та зменшення кількості розлучень потрібен комплексний підхід: привабливі зміни в усіх сферах суспільного життя мають бути націлені на системне вирішення демографічних проблем. Це потребує певних розробок та реалізації, а саме: довгострокової національної стратегії щодо зменшення розлучень та подолання депопуляції населення; чітко прогнозувати комплексну систему заходів, як економічного, соціального, правового, освітньо-культурного, духовного та інформаційно-пропагандистського важеля.

**Ключові слова:** шлюбно-сімейні відносини; зареєстровані шлюби; розірвані шлюби; демографічні процеси; демографічна безпека держави; державна сімейна політика.

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