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# Iran's Attempt to Reverse Declining Population

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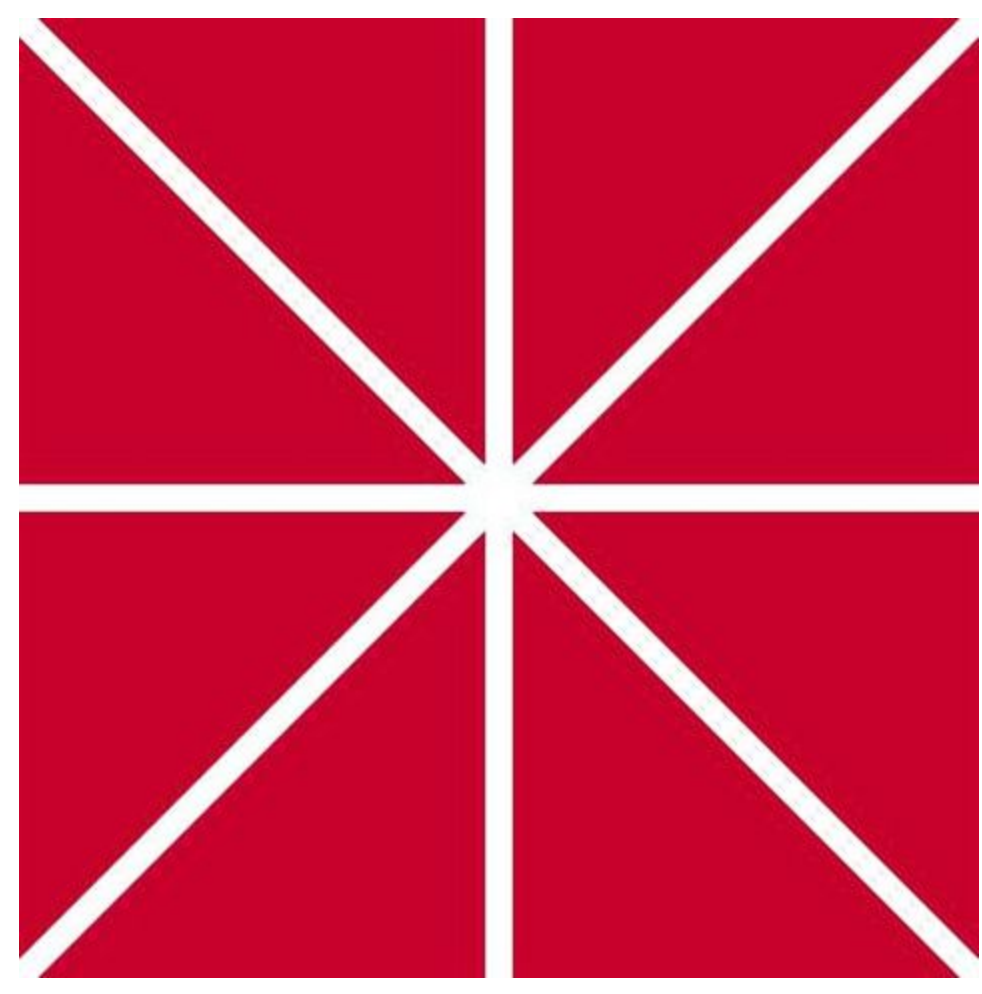
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# Iran's Attempt to Reverse Declining Population

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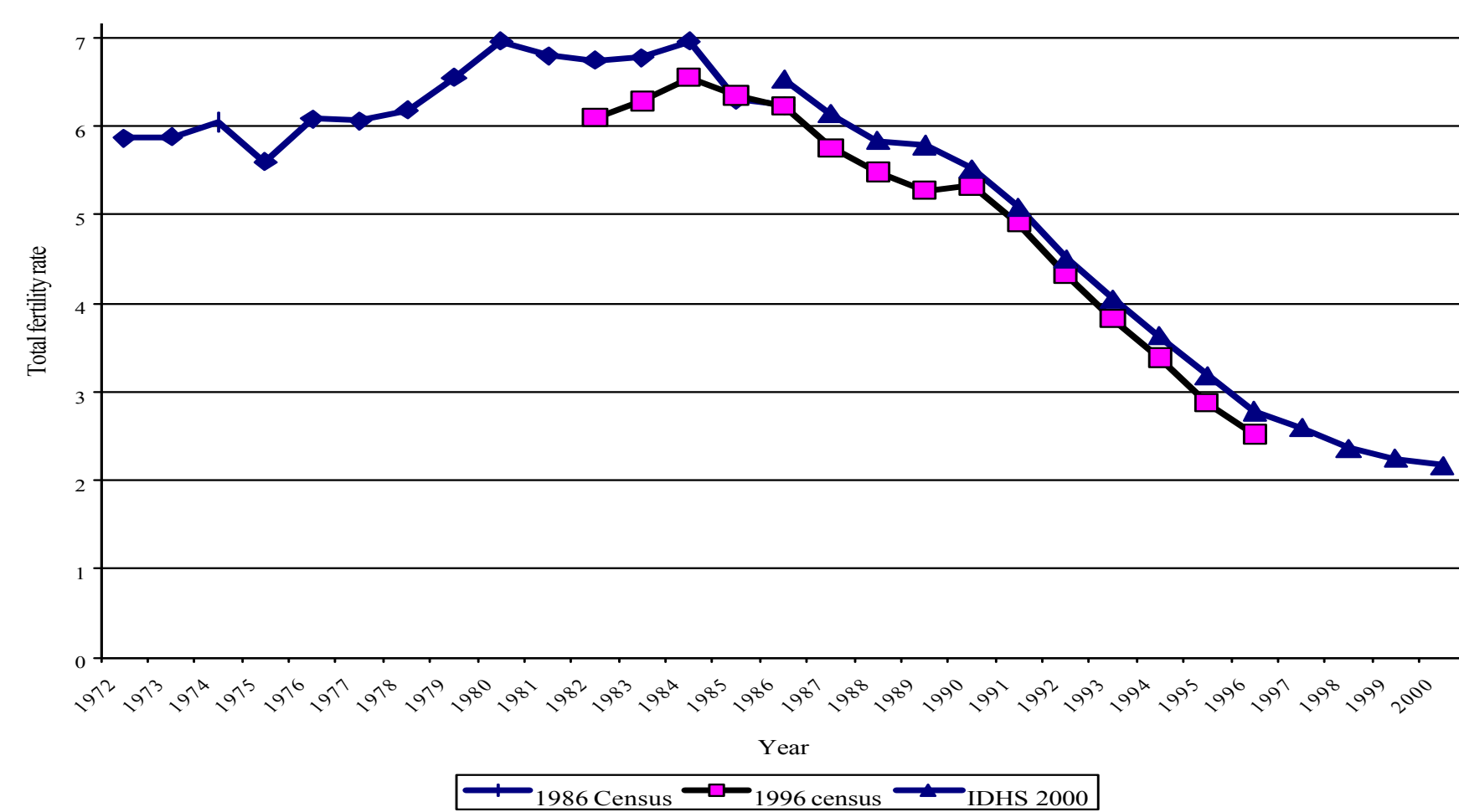
## Introduction

Iran has been struggling with a declining population for many reasons. Some examples of these reasons include:

1. Family planning was introduced into society in the 1960's due to large population growth previously.
2. After the revolution., in the 1980's and 1990's, family planning laws were put into effect because of another large population growth.
3. Iranians have been encouraged to not have more than one or two children over the last 50 years.
4. The population has been shifting into more urban areas as opposed to rural areas, which has also impacted population decline.

Due to this struggle Iran is attempting to reverse this declining population with many different methods that will have a large impact on the citizens of Iran.

Total Fertility Rates for Iran: 1972-2000



Source: Figures calculated by the author using the own-children method applied to the 1986 and 1996 censuses, and the 2000 Iran Demographic and Health Survey.

This graph shows the decline in the fertility rates in Iran from 1972-2000, which illustrates just how dramatically the population is decreasing at an extremely fast rate.

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/completingfertility/2RevisedABBASIpaper.PDF>

## Hypothesis

The steps being taken by Iran's government to reverse the declining population will have a negative effect on Iran's citizens.

## Experimental Method

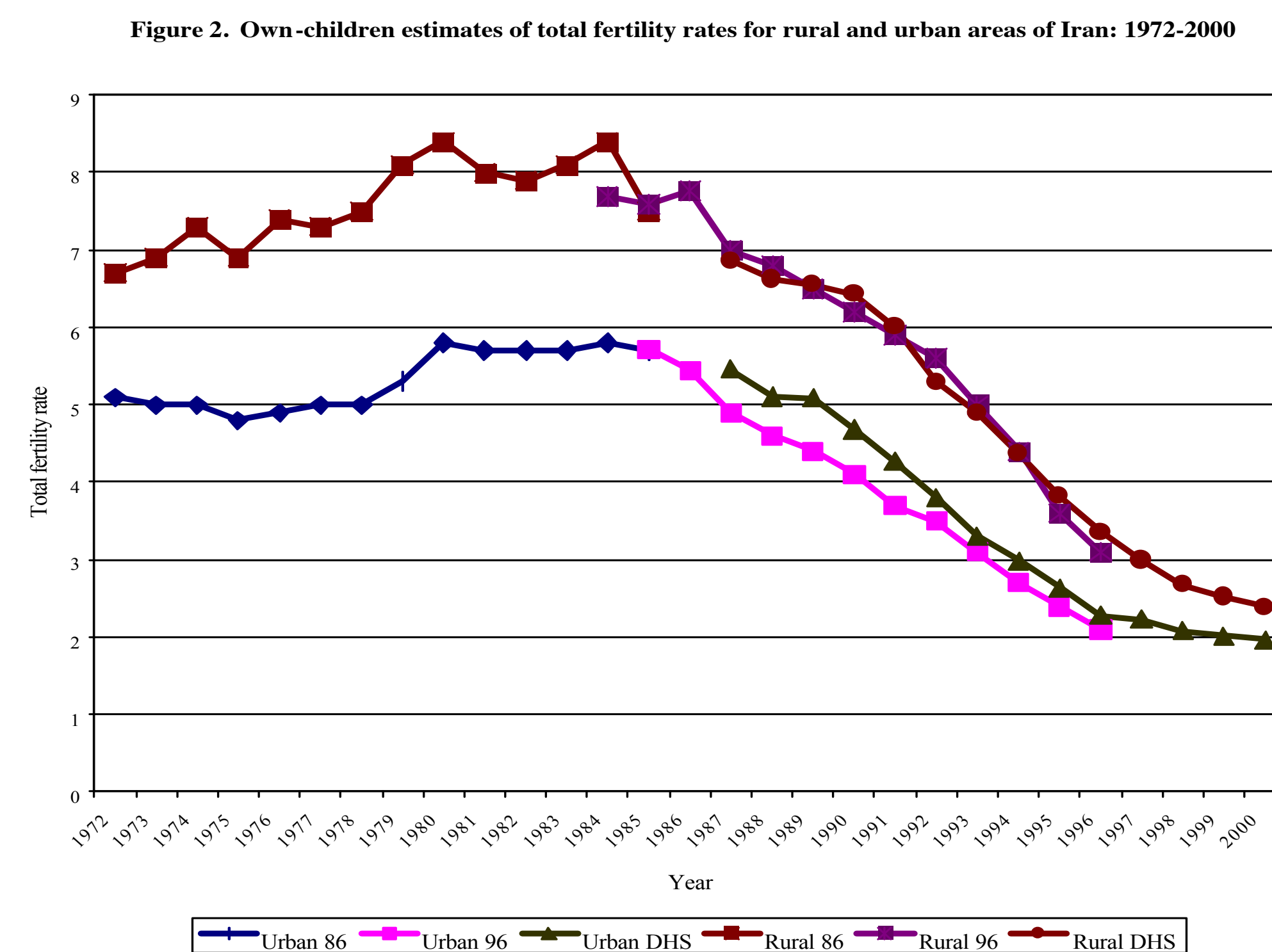
The experimental method that I chose to use when conducting this research was a content analysis of websites.

## Iran's Plan to Boost Population Growth

In an attempt to boost population growth for the future of Iran the government in Iran is considering banning vasectomies, tubectomies, and any other form of permanent sterilization and punishing any doctor that would perform them by sentencing them to prison time. In the 1980's and 1990's Iran introduced subsidizing sterilization and the distribution of condoms for free. Iran is also considering banning any form of advertisement that displays decreasing the birth rate in a positive light.

Iran is also considering putting into effect more strict abortion laws. Current abortion laws in the Iran state; that abortion is only legal when the mother's life is at risk or the fetus is diagnosed with designated diseases. Iran is launching a campaign to encourage citizens to have more children. "A single blossom is not spring" and "More children, better lives" are both on billboards that can be seen throughout Iran to promote people having more children.

Total Fertility Rates in Rural vs. Urban Iran: 1972-2000



Source: Figures calculated by the author using the own-children method applied to the 1986 and 1996 censuses, and the 2000 Iran Demographic and Health Survey.

## What These New Laws Will Mean for Citizens

Increase in illegal and unsafe medical procedures.

Banning procedures such as abortions and vasectomies has proven not to decrease the amount of procedures being performed, but in contrast it increase the number of unsafe procedures being performed as opposed to safe procedures.

Women will be forced back into domestic situations and out of the workforce, which will have a negative impact on Iran's economy.

Societies where women hold more equal positions have more population growth than societies where women are expected to be in strictly domestic roles because in more equal societies women feel they can have a family and a career as opposed to in less equal societies where women feel they have to choose one or the other and women are more inclined to choose a career and not have a family at all.

## Conclusions

Iran has a declining population and is taking steps to reverse this problem. This declining population is due to family planning laws being introduced and the population has been shifting into more urban areas.

The steps being taken to reverse this problem include: banning vasectomies and other forms of permanent sterilization, banning advertisements that promote decreasing the birth rate, creating more strict abortion laws, and launching a campaign to encourage citizens to have more children.

These changes will effect citizens by increasing the number of illegal and unsafe medical procedures and force women back into domestic situations and out of the workforce, impacting Iran's economy in a negative way.

## Future Research

This topic will definitely require future research and follow-up due to the uncertainty of how these attempts at reversing the declining population. There will need to be further research done on the following topics:

- Whether or not the amount of illegal and unsafe medical procedures increases.
- Whether or not the amount of women that are in strictly domestic situations and out of the workforce has increased.

## Acknowledgements

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## References

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