

## **Fertility from Fifteen to Fifty: How Reproduction Affects Adult Sex- and Cause-Specific Mortality**

### Abstract

There is growing awareness that fertility affects rates of aging, adult survival prospects, and the likelihood of reaching exceptionally old ages. Much of this work, including our own, has focused on women and their ages at last birth, a proposed biodemographic marker for rates of aging. This literature has given far less attention to (1) men (2) the risk of specific causes of death (3) the role of early initiation of fertility and (4) how these forces may change over historical time. We use the Utah Population Database to examine how ages at first birth, ages at last birth, and parity affect cause-specific mortality after age 50 for mortality events from 1904-present for women (and their husbands) born between 1860-1930.