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Although the qualitative approach is not the core one in demography, demographers show an increasing interest in this type of research. An aim of this article is to outline the benefits of applying the qualitative methods in the population studies. The article starts from sketching the main characteristics of the qualitative methodology. The logic of the qualitative research process is presented and the possible procedures of sampling, data collection and data analyzing are described. Next, some examples of the recent qualitative research projects are given, which deal with the problems of population dynamics. We choose the ones that investigate the fertility and family dynamics, indicating what additional insights can be gained by adding the qualitative methods to statistical analyses. Our focus is on the two studies that explore the lowest-low and delayed fertility in the Polish context. We summarize the paper by delineating the main benefits of combining qualitative and quantitative methods in the field of population studies, strongly advocating such mixed approach for the future demographic research.

**Key words**: qualitative research, sampling, data collection, data analysis
THE MULTI-STATE PROJECTION OF POLAND’S POPULATION BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE YEARS 2003–2030

The first population projection by education level of the Poland’s population until the year 2030 is presented. The projection is based on the multi-state projection model LIPRO developed by E. van Imhoff and N. Keilman (1991) and the LIPRO 4.0 software.

The initial population as well as the model parameters were calculated for the year 2002 on the basis of the National Population Census data and the Labour Force Survey data. The projection was prepared under an assumption on the constant parameters up to the year 2030.

The differences in mortality and fertility by education attainment were also taken into consideration.

The projection results for the years 2002–2006 were compared with the observed values to check the assumptions formulated.

The projection results show that the increasing enrolment at the tertiary and secondary levels of education among the baby boomers born in the mid-1970s and the early 1980s will dramatically change the population composition by education in the next two decades. The percentage of people with tertiary education in the working age population (15-59/64) will increase from 12% in the year 2002 to 35% in the year 2030. Moreover, the analysis was performed to demonstrate changes in the life expectancy at birth (e0) and the total fertility rate (TFR) which can be attributed to the changing population composition by education and existing differences in mortality and fertility by education, to be kept in the future. Until 2030 the life expectancy increases by about 2.2 years for men and 2.0 years for women only because of the shifts in the education composition. On the other hand, this factor was found as not contributing to the fertility changes in the next years.

Key words: population projection, education attainment, fertility and mortality differences by education
The article presents an overview of measures developed in quantitative studies on divorce. The overview is based mostly on articles published in 1980–2000 in American sociological journals.

The measures proposed can be divided into two main groups: measures directly related to divorce and measures indirectly related to the phenomenon under study. The first group includes the measures which identify causes of marriage dissolution by divorce, risk of marriage dissolution, and evaluate the post-divorce adjustment process. Measures of the second group refer to physical and psychological health, marriage satisfaction, marriage adjustment process, interpersonal relationships after divorce, level of conflict after divorce, alternative relationships to the current marriage.

In general, the remarkable development of measures used in quantitative studies on divorce, its causes and multidimensional effects is accompanied by the standardization of measures. However, due to many different measures applied in research on divorce it is sometimes difficult to compare their results directly. That difficulty might be reinforced by a lack of a precise description of measures used in the study which still is a case in some relevant publications on the subject.

**Key words**: divorce, measures in quantitative studies on divorce