

## **New-Born Children and Marriage Stability: An Evaluation of Divorce Risk Based on 2010-2018 China Family Panel Studies Data**

**Authors :** Yuchao Yao

**Abstract :** As two of the main characteristics of Chinese demographic trends, increasing divorce rates and decreasing fertility rates both shaped the population structure in the recent decade. Figuring out to what extent can be having a child make a difference in the divorce rate of a couple will not only draw a picture of Chinese families but also bring about a new perspective to evaluate the Chinese child-breeding policies. Based on China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) Data 2010-2018, this paper provides a systematic evaluation of how children influence a couple's marital stability through a series of empirical models. Using survival analysis and propensity score matching (PSM) model, this paper finds that the number and age of children that a couple has mattered in consolidating marital relationship, and these effects vary little over time; during the last decade, newly having children can in fact decrease the possibility of divorce for Chinese couples; the such decreasing effect is largely due to the birth of a second child. As this is an inclusive attempt to study and compare not only the effects but also the causality of children on divorce risk in the last decade, the results of this research will do a good summary of the status quo of divorce in China. Furthermore, this paper provides implications for further reforming the current marriage and child-breeding policies.

**Keywords :** divorce risk, fertility, China, survival analysis, propensity score matching

**Conference Title :** ICASS 2022 : International Conference on Advances in the Social Sciences

**Conference Location :** San Francisco, United States

**Conference Dates :** November 03-04, 2022