

Birth rate under/after the covid-19 pandemic can be influenced by economy

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ABSTRACT

Many articles clearly state that the birth rate is expected to drop under the covid-19 pandemic. Based on the past study, after the Spanish flu pandemic there was a surge called, Spanish flu baby boom. The strength of economy after the pandemic determined the size of the surge.

Meredith Wadman wrote a short article on the birth rate of the covid-19 pandemic¹. Döring described a commentary article on how the covid-19 pandemic affecting our sexualities². Miriam also mentioned how the covid-19 pandemic is affecting birthrates worldwide³. Brookings institution predicts the followings⁴:

1. the covid-19 episode will likely lead to a large, lasting baby bust,
2. the pandemic has thrust the country into an economic recession,
3. economic reasoning and past evidence suggest that this will lead people to have fewer children,
4. the decline in births could be on the order of 300,000 to 500,000 fewer births next year.

All articles^{1,2,3,4} clearly state that the birth rate is expected to drop under the covid-19 pandemic.

We can sometimes learn from the past study. According to CDC on the Spanish flu pandemic (H1N1 virus), lasting from February 1918 to April 1920, it infected 500 million people—about a third of the world’s population at the time⁵. Over three waves of infections, the Spanish flu killed at least 50 million worldwide⁵. Based on the past study of the Spanish influenza pandemic, the birth rate was dropped during the pandemic^{6,7,8}. After the pandemic there was a surge called, Spanish flu baby boom^{6,7,8}. However, we don’t know when the covid-19 pandemic will be ended. The world population in 1918 was less than 2 billion while it is now nearly 7.8 billion. By the summer of 1919, the flu pandemic in US came to an end, as those that were infected either died or developed immunity⁹. We know the fact that the U.S. fertility rate is proportional to the strength of economy which can be generalized worldwide¹⁰. Based on the fact, the birth rate may be strongly influenced by the strength of economy after the pandemic. In other words, it will surge after the pandemic where the birth rate spike may be depending on the state of economy.

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