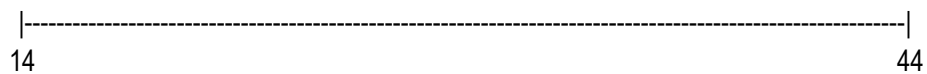Population: Fertility

- Fertility is the number of children that woman <u>actually have</u> during their lifetime (not the number of children a woman could possibly have).

- Fertility is measured using the Total Fertility Rate – the average number of children a women has during her lifetime.
    - High TFR: 7.1 →Niger (West Africa)
    - World TFR: 2.4
    - Replacement TFR (# of children each woman needs to have to replace the existing population): 2.1 → USA
    - Low TFR: 1.1 →Italy/Poland/Germany

- Women have about a 30 year window to have children

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  14   44

  The longer women delay having children, the fewer children they will have.

- Fertility is delayed by:
    - Education
        ⇒ More education = fewer babies
            ∗ Time spent in school delays starting a family (more years in school = longer delay in starting family)
        ⇒ Cultural expectation of women's roles changes → Women expected to have careers.

    - Cultural values
        ⇒ Marriage Age → Women generally wait until after marriage to have children.
            ∗ Average marriage age for women in the US → 27.5
            ∗ Women typically wait a few years after getting married to start family

        ⇒ Attitudes toward contraception
            ∗ Female access to birth control = women having fewer children
            ∗ Access to abortion = fewer children.

        ⇒ Attitudes towards/Accessibility of divorce
            ∗ Women not likely to have children while divorced

    - Socio-economic status
        ⇒ Wealthy tend to have fewer more children
            ∗ Don't think they can "afford" to have children?

    - Religion
        ⇒ Fundamentalists are more likely to have large families
            ∗ More likely to subscribe to traditional gender roles