



Australian Population Association

12th Biennial Conference

population and society: issues, research, policy

15-17 September 2004 - Canberra, Australia

Mortality transition in Shanghai

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Abstract

An extraordinary mortality decline has been recorded in China in the last 50 years. Life expectancy in China has doubled from less than 35 years before 1950 to around 70 years at the end of the 20th century. Despite their significance, the origin and the process of this change, its major characteristics, regional variations, future trends and long-term socio-economic consequences, just like in many developing countries, are still poorly understood. In order to fill such a gap, a research project designed to examine mortality changes in Shanghai was launched last year. This paper will provide a brief introduction to the project and report some preliminary findings. On the basis of these results it will examine the major patterns and characteristics of mortality transition in Shanghai.

Paper prepared for the 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Population Association, 15-17 September 2004, Canberra.

