

assimilation of the behaviour of in-migrants to natives. Similar convergences took place elsewhere in the world, and what occurred between Italian immigrants in US seems to be very interesting. Livi Bacci (1961) pointed out that Italians began to assimilate when the immigrant flow ceased to be a mass phenomenon, and moreover that the economic crisis quickened the transition, affecting immigrants (weaker and belonging – at least most of them – to the working class) much more than natives. Both reasons may apply to the Turin municipality, but it could be that a change in the composition of in-migrant flows emphasizes fertility reduction.

The next step consists thus in taking into account the origin of in-migration as well as analysing the female population in the reproductive period by origin and checking the existence of a variety of fertility models. With this aim, we decomposed Italy in different zones, representing distinct origins of in-migration (Turin province, North-East Italy, North-West, Centre, South, and the islands).

We already underlined that female population in reproductive ages decreased strongly during time, and Figure 21 and Table 8 emphasise a substantial change in its composition. In this respect, it is clear how the relative importance of the in-migrant population is decreasing over time and at the same time foreigners are constituting an higher proportion over time: in the last decade foreign immigrants doubled their relative importance (in 1991

Table 8. Absolute and relative composition of female population in reproductive ages. Selected periods

(Absolute values)	1971	1981	1991	2000
Autochthon	120,282	138,242	128,829	120,455
Turin province	51,468	50,577	42,202	38,542
Piedmont	29,477	19,137	11,296	6,944
North-West	11,941	9,709	6,238	4,551
North-East	17,163	9,671	4,527	2,165
Central Italy	8,764	6,224	3,619	2,574
South and Islands	87,951	78,540	50,976	29,048
Foreigners	7,242	7,058	7,101	14,687
Unknown	21,895	5,941	381	114
Total	356,183	325,099	255,169	219,080
(Relative values)	1971	1981	1991	2000
Autochthon	34	43	50	55
Turin province	14	16	17	18
Piedmont	8	6	4	3
North-West	3	3	2	2
North-East	5	3	2	1
Central Italy	2	2	1	1
South and Islands	25	24	20	13
Foreigners	2	2	3	7
Unknown	6	2	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100