Abstract. This article analyzes the demographic transformation of the Kharkiv region as an urbanized region of Ukraine. The main temporal features and preconditions of the current demographic situation in the region are considered. The structural changes in the basic demographic processes are presented and explained. The dominant factors of demographic transformations in urbanized region of Ukraine are defined. Possible directions of the regional demographic development are defined.

In modern conditions of reorientation and formation of a new national strategy, focused on development of human potential, combined with unfavorable demographic trends of reproduction in Ukraine, relevance of demographic researches of society is increasing. Individual components of current demographic processes in Ukraine have been formed over decades, before current political and socio-economic changes took place. A public reaction to new life conditions is manifested by changes in demographic behavior, in fertility decline, in transformation of family structure and functions, in reassessment of views on marriage and family relations [3, 5]. Determination of a demographic transformation in Ukraine and its regions remains a major problem of socio-geographical research.

Regional differentiation of demographic situation in Ukraine is caused by a set of socio-economic, political, environmental and other factors, in regular, long-term or temporary effects on the population change and its qualitative characteristics. Current demographic situation in Ukraine is caused not only by low fertility, but also by high mortality; the migratory movement of Ukrainian population is positive, though its volume is much less, therefore the overall decrease in population of Ukraine continues to occur. For the last fifteen years, population of Ukraine decreased by almost 6 million people and at the beginning of 2013 amounted 45.5 million people [1]. Considering features of Ukrainian settlement system and uneven regional development, trends of demographic transformations have certain territorial differences. Kharkiv region belongs to such regions of Ukraine, where demographic situation is very peculiar. The region has high socio-economic development, positive migration balance; people in working age dominate in the age structure; at the same time, unfavorable demographic trends are observed.

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Over the last twenty years, population of Kharkiv region declined by more than 400 thousand people and to 01.01.2012 it was 2742.18 thousand people. [2] Demographic changes in Kharkiv region indicate domination of certain trends.

1. Decrease of the population is caused by natural decline from 1991, main cause of which was a decline of the birth rate.

2. Birth rate in the region, as a result of political, economic and socio-psychological impact, was decreasing till 2000 (from 8‰ to 6.7‰ 1995-1999, respectively), followed by a gradual increase (9.9‰ in 2008, and stabilization at 9.5‰ in 2009-2011). Positive changes in birth rate are explained by the influence of endogenous and exogenous factors. The weightiest endogenous factors of fertility are sex and age structure of the population and age-specific features of fertility intensity. Conducted researches [6] show that structural changes in age and sex structure of population, in particular increase in quantity of reproductive age, contributed increase in birth rate for 2%. Changes in age-specific fertility rates have contributed to an increase in intensity of birth rate for 30%. It should be noted that degree of impact caused by changes in age-specific fertility intensity is most important for the Ukrainian population as a whole, as well as for the population of Kharkiv region, and can be explained by corresponding changes in urban areas, where fertility rates are traditionally lower, according to socio-economic improvements in the economy. An increase in birth rate is observed as a result of deferred births and late motherhood. Among the major trends also the spread of modern phenomenon of late motherhood should be noted. Exogenous factors of increase in birth rate are a certain stabilization of socio-economic development, a differentiated provision of material assistance at childbirth, etc.
3. Mortality rates have remained stable over the past 1995-2009 (16 ‰) that is a reflection of modern age structure. Since 2000 a decline have been observed in this level to 14,6 ‰ in 2011 [2]. It can be assumed that mortality rate remains at current level: contemporary cohorts of working-age population will move to the older age groups. As a positive factor we have to note tendency of changes in the structure of death causes. Diseases of the circulatory system, neoplasms and external causes of death were determining in a dynamic of death causes structure for decades. Decrease of infant mortality (from 16,1 ‰ in 1995 to stabilize at 9 ‰, starting from 2009) as well as increased life expectancy to 72 years were noted [2, 7].

4. Due to the political stabilization and improvement of socio-economic situation, since 2000, migratory influx of people into the region is observed, which, on the one hand, reduces decline rate of population due to the natural decline, and on the other hand it has a number of negative consequences. Decrease in the volume of internal migration is also observed, which also indicates stabilization of the socio-economic situation in the districts of the region and is a positive trend. The level of migration remains stable, its intensity is negligible, indicating stability of the current population structure in the region. [5]

5. It is worth to note proportionality of sex-age structure as the main internal factor of reproduction: relative equivalence in sexual reproductive age. Sex-age structure of population is characterized by an increase in the cohort of young people by increasing of birth rate, has a significant employment potential and even sex ratio of persons in reproductive age, that is creating favorable conditions for further revitalization of demographic behavior of the population, however, this age spread entails considerable demographic pressure in the coming decades.

6. A modern marriage and family structure of Kharkiv region transformed under the influence of changes in attitudes and socio-psychological aspects of demographic behavior, it is characterized by nuclearization of families and spread of consensual marriages. Latter led to a reduction in the marriage rate (an average from 6 to 8 ‰) and divorce rate (from 4,5 ‰ to 1,5 ‰) from 1995 to 2011, respectively. A change of attitudes and psychological aspects of demographic behavior occurred as a consequence of transformation in marriage and family structure [2, 4]. In addition, decrease of population in Kharkiv region, changes in the process of self-reproduction of the family, represented by a transition of reproductive behavior model from two-child to one child, caused a profound impact on economic, intellectual and social development. A significant transformation of social consciousness, economic and political system and social relations in the second half of the twentieth century undergone great changes under the influence, on the one hand, from the long-term effects of factors (such as changes in reproduction and its social controls), and on the other – from the short-term factors, such as crisis events in the country. A demographic catastrophe of the first half of XX century severely deformed quantitative and qualitative measures of reproduction, its age structure, a negative impact on social and economic development, and consequently, reduced reproductive capabilities of the demographic potential. [5] In summary, we have to note that the process of reproductive behavior of the population is multifactorial. It is influenced by the deep social and economic changes taking place in society, in
particular, economic crisis, changes in social and psychological stereotypes. A global transformation create a new social situation, emergence of a new human life orientation and values that make significant changes in the demographic behavior of the population and, consequently, in demographic development of Kharkiv region and Ukraine as a whole. On the basis of the research of major trends in development of demographic processes in the region, main problems and ways of improving demographic situation were identified.

REFERENCES