



*Demographic Research* a free, expedited, online journal  
of peer-reviewed research and commentary  
in the population sciences published by the  
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research  
Konrad-Zuse Str. 1, D-18057 Rostock · GERMANY  
[www.demographic-research.org](http://www.demographic-research.org)

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***DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH***

VOLUME 12, ARTICLE 5, PAGES 105-106

PUBLISHED 22 MARCH 2005

[www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol12/5](http://www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol12/5)

DOI: 10.4054/DemRes.2005.12.5

*Research materials*

**Quadratic spline fits by nonlinear  
least squares**

**Carl Schmertmann**

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## **Quadratic spline fits by nonlinear least squares**

**Carl Schmertmann**<sup>1</sup>

### **Abstract**

This web program fits a Quadratic Spline model, as described in Schmertmann (2003; Demographic Research Volume 9, Article 5), to any empirical fertility schedule supplied by the user. The fit minimizes the sum of squared differences between the empirical nfx values and the nfx values from the QS model schedule. Output includes parameter estimates, a graphical depiction of the fitted schedule, and several text reports. Users do not need specialized statistical software or a particular operating system to run the program; the only requirement is a web browser

<http://www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol12/5/qsfit/qsfit.html>

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