In China, despite the economic modernization of recent years, daughters are still less valued than sons. This is reflected in the abnormally low proportion of female births, and in the higher death rate of girls compared with boys.

In 2010, China became one of the countries where the situation of women, compared to that of men, is now most critical in demographic terms:

- China has an estimated 60 million "missing" females.
- China is the country with the world’s highest gender gap in mortality during the first year of life. According to the 2000 census, the probability of dying before age 1 was 38.9 per 1,000 for girls versus 26.5 per 1,000 for boys. The high ratio of these probabilities (1.5) reflects the strong discrimination against girl infants.
- Last but not least, China is the country with the world’s lowest proportion of female births. In 2005, the sex ratio at birth most slightly above 120 boys per 100 girls!

**SOURCES**

**LINKS FOR MORE INFO**
www.ined.fr :
China, a demographic giant with the feet of clay
Population and Societies n° 416: Chinese population challenges: fewer girls, more old people?
Population and Societies, n° 404: Fewer births, but a boy at all costs: selective female abortion in Asia
All the countries in the world [Data]
Population atlas [Graphs and maps]