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published by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. A free, open access, expedited, peer-reviewed journal of the population sciences, published regularly on the web since July 1999.

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Regional child care availability and fertility decisions in Spain

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VOLUME 21 - ARTICLE 27	Date Received: 8 May 2009	Se
PAGES 803 - 842	Date Published: 4 Dec 2009	•
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http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol21/27/		

doi: 10.4054/DemRes.2009.21.27



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Abstract

In this paper I explore two hypotheses: (1) Formal childcare availability for children under 3 has a positive effect on fertility; and (2) Formal childcare availability has different effects across contexts, according to the degree of adaptation of social institutions to changes in gender roles. Event history models with regional fixed effects are applied to data from the European Community Household Panel (1994-2001). The results show a significant and positive effect of regional day care availability on both first and higher order births, while results are consistent with the second hypothesis only for second or higher order births.

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Keywords care regime, child care, fertility, gender roles, social policy, welfare regimes

Word count (Main text) 10787

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