

Journal Contents

SEARCH

Current Volume

Volumes

Articles

Special Collections

General Information

About the Journal

Information for Authors

Copyright Information

Register for e-mail alerts

Submit a Paper

Overview Chapter 2: Parity distribution and completed family size in Europe Incipient decline of the two-child family model

Tomas Frejka

VOLUME 19 - ARTICLE 4

PAGES 47 - 72

Date Received: 29 Jun 2007

Date Published: 1 Jul 2008

<http://www.demographic-research.org/volumes/vol19/4/>

- ▶ [Bookmark this page](#)
- ▶ [Send this article to a friend](#)



Click the icon to view and/or download the PDF file. Once you are in the PDF file, use your browser back button to return to this page.

Abstract

By the end of the 20th century the two-child family became the norm throughout Europe. Between 40 and over 50 percent of women in the 1950s and 1960s cohorts had two children. There were some incipient signs that shares of two-child families were declining, especially in Central and Eastern and Southern Europe. An increase in childlessness among recent generations was an almost universal trend. The increase in proportions of one-child families was prominent in CEE and in SE. Wherever shares of childless women and of women with one child continue to grow, the obvious result will be entrenched below replacement fertility. Much depends on progression ratios to first and to second births. In CEE mainly the progression ratios to second births are declining. In the Nordic countries progression ratios to first and to second births were relatively stable and even more so in France. Altogether, most people opt for two children, very few for three or more, the frequency of the one-child family is increasing as are the proportions of people remaining childless. The latter trends were more pronounced in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe and not so much in Northern and Western countries.

Author's affiliation

Tomas Frejka
Independent researcher, International

Keywords

childbearing, Europe, family size, fertility, parity distribution

Related links



You will find all publications in this Special Collection "Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe" at <http://www.demographic-research.org/special/7/>

Word count (Main text)

5360

Other Articles by the same author/authors (in *Demographic Research*)



[19-7] Overview Chapter 5: Determinants of family formation and childbearing during the societal transition in Central and Eastern Europe



[19-5] Overview Chapter 3: Birth regulation in Europe: Completing the contraceptive revolution

-  [19-3] Overview Chapter 1: Fertility in Europe: Diverse, delayed and below replacement
-  [19-2] Summary and general conclusions: Childbearing Trends and Policies in Europe
-  [16-11] Cohort birth order, parity progression ratio and parity distribution trends in developed countries
-  [15-6] First birth trends in developed countries: Persisting parenthood postponement
-  [5-5] Cohort Reproductive Patterns in the Nordic Countries

Most recent Similar Articles (in *Demographic Research*)

-  [19-29] Ukraine: On the border between old and new in uncertain times (fertility, childbearing)
-  [19-28] Sweden: Combining childbearing and gender equality (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-27] Spain: Short on children and short on family policies (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-26] Slovenia: Generous family policy without evidence of any fertility impact (Europe, childbearing)
-  [19-25] Slovakia: Fertility between tradition and modernity (family size, childbearing)

[[Back to previous page](#)]