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More Schooling, More Children: Compulsory Schooling Reforms and Fertility in Europe

by Margherita Fort, Nicole Schneeweis, Rudolf Winter-Ebmer
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Abstract:

We study the relationship between education and fertility, exploiting compulsory schooling reforms in Europe as source of exogenous variation in education. Using data from 8 European countries, we assess the causal effect of education on the number of biological kids and the incidence of childlessness. We find that more education causes a substantial decrease in childlessness and an increase in the average number of children per woman. Our findings are robust to a number of falsification checks and we can provide complementary empirical evidence on the mechanisms leading to these surprising results.

Text: See [Discussion Paper No. 6015](#)



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