

Childbearing intentions of Polish men and women in Poland and the UK: Progression to the second child

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Research objectives

- To explore the role of attitudes, social norms and perceived behavioural control in the formation of intentions about whether to have a second child.
- To identify similarities and differences in determinants of fertility intentions between Polish men and women living in Poland and in the UK.

Context

Sharp fall in TFR in Poland
from 2.1 in 1989 to 1.39 in 2009

Fertility Gap in Poland: high fertility intentions but low TFR (1,39 in 2009)

Second children:

- Childlessness amongst Polish born individuals is rare
- However, one child families are becoming the norm

Increase in births to Polish born women in the UK from 0.5% in 2005 to 2.3 % in 2008 of all childbirths.

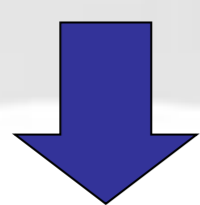
What don't we know?

- why people stop childbearing after the first child?
- what factors people consider while intending to extend their family?
- what are childbearing intentions of Polish migrants in the UK and what factors impact those intentions?

Emergent findings: Polish parents in the UK

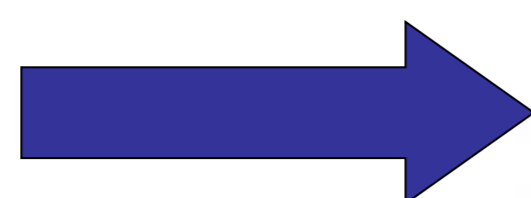
Findings from quantitative analyses

1. Mothers are more likely to work part time or be economically inactive than childless women, regardless of the number of children they have
2. Men tend to work full time regardless of the number of children they have
3. Parents get more social benefits than childless people e.g. housing benefit.



What we do not know from quantitative data?

1. What is intended family size and how much importance is attached to achieving fertility intentions?
2. What are the reasons for (not) having more than one child?
3. What influences intentions (not) to have a second child?



Research question

- How do Polish men and women in Poland and the UK rationalise and justify their intentions about whether or not to have a second child?

Quantitative data

Will give a demographic insight into:

- Context for qualitative research.
- Macro-level fertility trends
- British Labour Force Survey: Polish migrants in the UK
- European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC): parents in Poland.

Qualitative data

Semi-structured in-depth interviews.

Respondents: fathers and mothers of one child (n=50) living in London and Krakow.

The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) will inform the qualitative analyses.

What can we learn from qualitative data?

1. A preference for 2+2 family model, however, while childlessness seems unthinkable, having one child is acceptable and the second child depends on changing life circumstances.

"our plans are one thing but life verifies them. I can intend to have 2+2 model and then something will happen and I will have 2+1 and what?" (female, 32).

2. Persistent stereotypes about only children are important in influencing normative responses to ideal family size.

"it is as if the only child was worse, he will be selfish, he will not be able to share and to have friends" (female, 30).

3. More fertility control and planning with regards to the second child as compared to the first one.

'Our daughter 'happened' to us, we did not use protection, oops! We would like to have a second one because we do not want our child to be bored and alone but my wife does not want a second one now, so now we use protection" (male, 33).

4. The availability of social benefits gives parents feeling of financial security and allows for more independent decisions.

"the plus in bringing up a child is that.. the state ...gives benefits ... it is some kind of comfort, one does not need to worry about things like nappies, or that I will not have money to buy food for her...So one can concentrate more on the child and on her development" (female, 33).