

HAVE FERTILITY INTENTIONS BECOME HARDER TO REALIZE?

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Objectives

1. How many of those with positive fertility intentions fulfill their intentions?
2. Have fertility intentions become harder to fulfill over the latest decades?

Changes in opportunity structure for childbearing

- Increase in union instability
- Better family policy

Data: ⁽¹⁾

Three surveys, all representative of the Norwegian population in the ages sampled:

(with the exception that the 2003 survey did not sample immigrants)

1977 - *Norwegian Fertility Survey*

Response rate 82 %

1988 - *The Norwegian Family and Fertility Survey*

Response rate 81%

2003 - *The New Families Survey*

Response rate 64 %

Data: ⁽²⁾

- Follow-up information from *administrative registers*

Linking through the Norwegian system of personal ID numbers Norway. Birth histories followed up to the end of 2008

- **Data set:**
2 030 women aged 18 to 35
who were married or living as cohabitators
at the time of the interview

Fertility intentions

- All respondents were asked whether they intend to have any (more) children in the future
- Women who responded positively, were asked when they intended to have their first / next child within 1, 1-2, 3-4 or 5+ years

Analyses were performed on respondents who intended to have their first/next child within four years

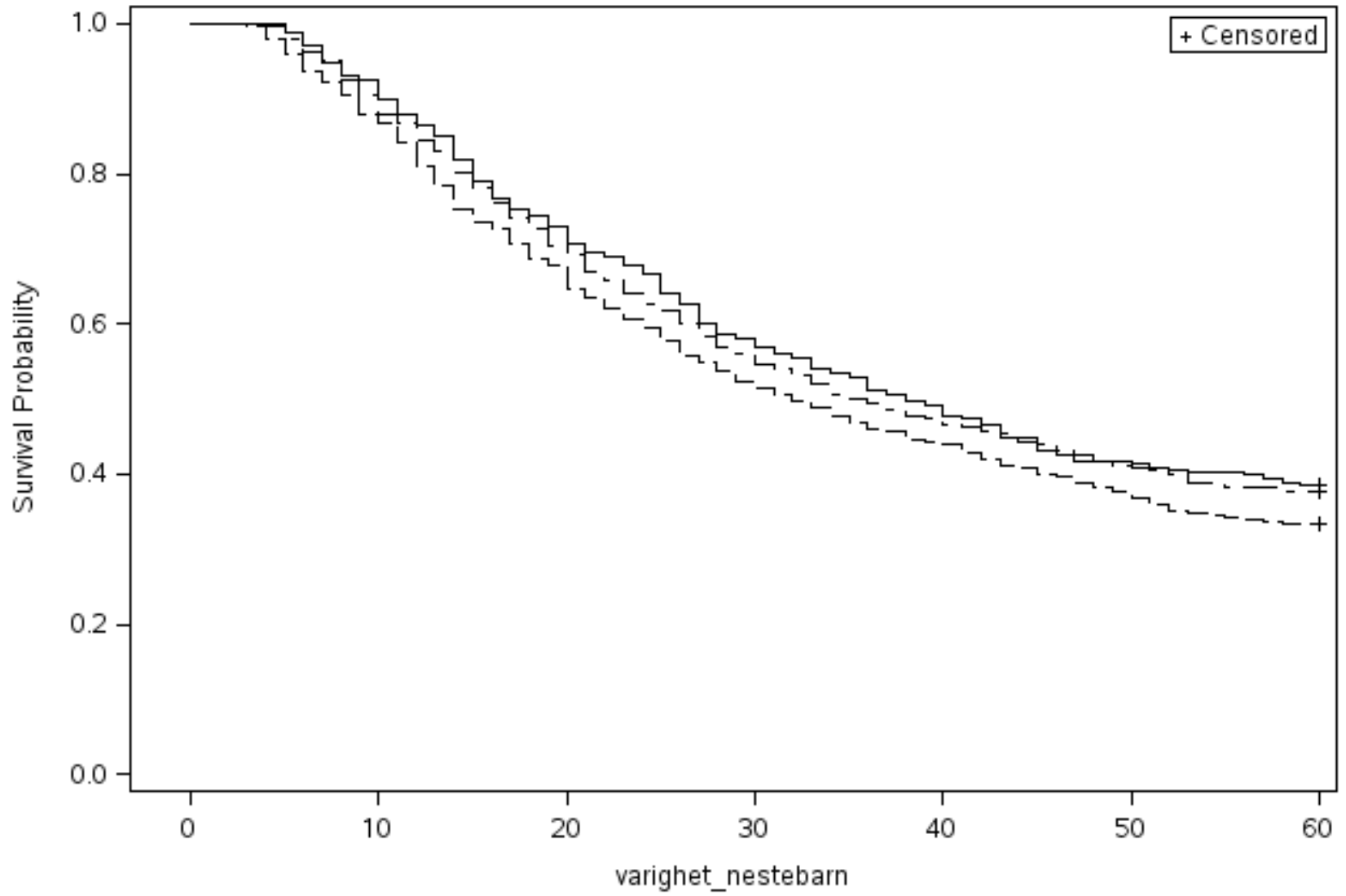
Descriptive statistics

| Variable | Category | 1977 | 1988 | 2003 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Mean/% (std. dev) | Mean/% (std. dev) | Mean/% (std. dev) |
| Fertility intention at survey | Within one year | 21.7% | 18.3% | 30.1% |
| | In 1-2 years | 51.7% | 47.2% | 43.9% |
| | In 3-4 years | 26.6% | 34.5% | 25.3% |

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| Age at survey | | 25.5 (3.6) | 25.5 (4.1) | 28.3 (3.6) |
| Union status at survey | Cohabiting | 9.5% | 49.3% | 65.2% |
| | Married | 90.5% | 50.1% | 34.8% |
| Duration of union (in months) | | 51.9 (34.8) | 53.2 (38.1) | 48.3 (38.3) |
| Parity at survey | 0 | 25.1% | 45.3% | 54.8% |
| | 1 | 47.8% | 38.1% | 31.0% |
| | 2+ | 27.1% | 16.6% | 14.2% |
| Analytical N | | 665 | 759 | 606 |

Product-Limit Survival Estimates



survey ——— 1977 - - - 1988 - . - 2003

Results univariate analysis

- Within 5 years, 64 % have had a birth
- No major difference across periods for realization levels.

Discrete-time logistic regression of a birth within 6 year after the survey

| Independent variables | Odds ratios | Confidence limits effects (95%) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Survey year | | |
| 1977 (<i>ref.</i>) | 1.000 | |
| 1988 | 1.684 | 1.308-2.169 |
| 2003 | 1.534 | 1.144-2.057 |
| Age at survey | | |
| 18-22 | 1.077 | 0.958-1.211 |
| 23-28 | 0.957 | 0.901-1.016 |
| 29-35 | 0.957 | 0.895-1.023 |
| Union status at survey | | |
| cohabiting | 1.00 | |
| married | 1.671 | 1.304-2.142 |
| ... | | |

Discrete-time logistic regression of a birth within 6 year after the survey *(cont.)*

| Independent variables | Odds ratios | Confidence limits effects (95%) |
|--|--------------------|--|
| ... | | |
| Intention at survey | | |
| Within 1 year | 1.000 | |
| In 1-2 years | 1.298 | 1.015-1.660 |
| Within 3-4 years | 0.572 | 0.435-0.752 |
| Parity at survey | | |
| 0 | 1.000 | |
| 1 | 1.471 | 1.164-1.858 |
| 2 | 0.755 | 0.550-1.037 |
| 3+ | 0.622 | 0.338-1.145 |
| <i>Union duration at survey</i> | | |
| <i>24-59</i> | <i>0.994</i> | <i>0.984-1.004</i> |
| <i>60+</i> | <i>0.995</i> | <i>0.990-1.001</i> |

Conclusions ⁽¹⁾

- There are no major population level changes
- Differences emerge w/demographic controls
 - Adjusting for:
age, union type, duration, intention timeframe
 - Higher realization in the 1998 and 2003 surveys,
than in the 1977 survey
- Opportunity structure for childbearing improved?

Increase in union instability

- In the second half of the 70s: 6.3 of 1 000 married women divorced
- Increased to 11.5 in the mid 90s and 12.3 in the first half of 2000
- 26 % of all couples are living in consensual unions with a higher probability of breaking up
- More periods living as single during the lifetime

Major changes in family policy

- Increase in parental leave from 18 weeks in 1977, to 22 in 1988 and 46 in 2009
- Day care coverage now 1-5 years 89 %, was only 52 % in 1998
- Improvement in the right to have paid leave when a child is ill
- Family friendly housing- and tax policies

And favourable economic conditions

- Constant growth in the economy
- Low unemployment rates also for young people
- Costs of taking education moderate
- And obtaining a residence within reach

Conclusions ⁽²⁾

- **But, preliminary results!**
- Cohabitation from marginal to mainstream behaviour
- Which factor(s) turn around the result from the Kaplan-Meier plots?