

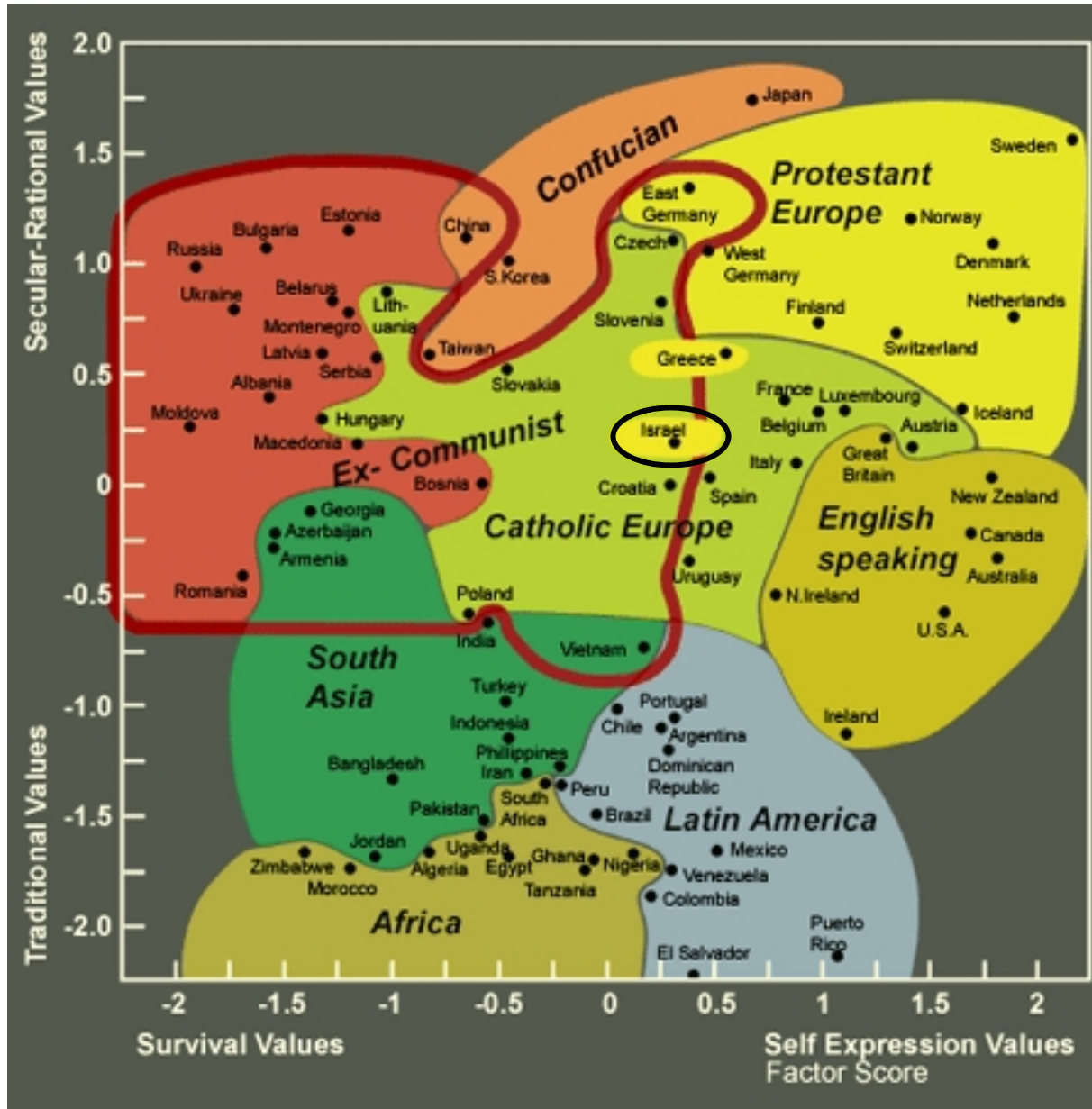
EAPS International Conference  
**Can policies enhance fertility in Europe?**  
Vienna/Austria, 6–7 December 2007  
Vienna Institute of Demography

**View from a Different Planet:  
Fertility and Policy Preferences in Israel**

**Sergio DellaPergola**

The Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
*and*  
The Jewish People Policy Planning Institute

# WHERE IS ISRAEL?



Source: Inglehart and Welzel, 2005.

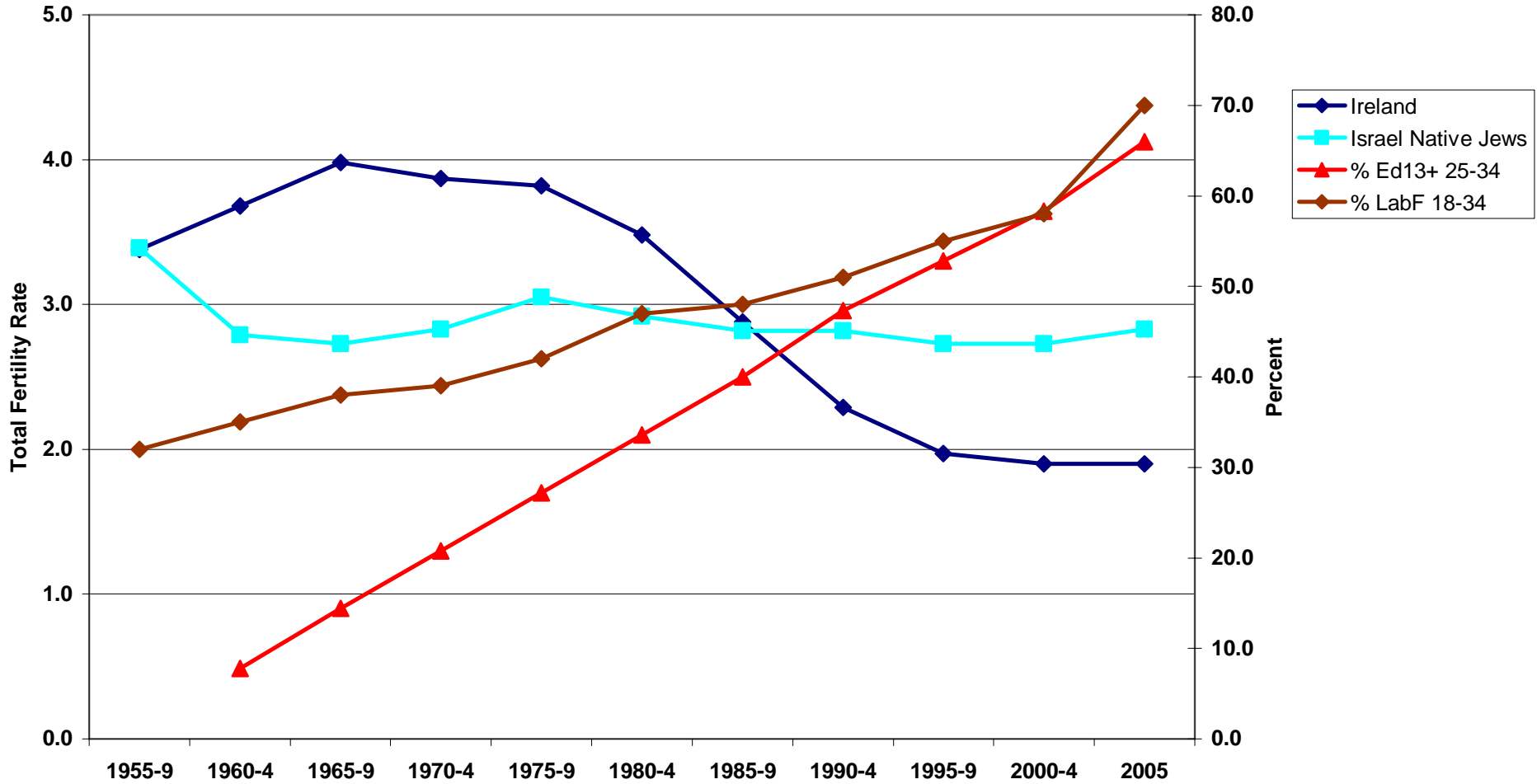
Our longer report focuses on four major themes:

- Description of main fertility trends in Israel in historical perspective
- Differential perceptions of intended and appropriate family size among Jewish married couples in Israel
- Determinants of discrepancies between intended and appropriate fertility
- Perceptions of policy options that might affect the future course of fertility

# TOTAL FERTILITY RATES - ISRAEL 2006

<b>Religious group</b>	<b>TFR</b>
Total	2.88
Jews	2.75
Muslims	3.97
Christians	2.64
Druzes	2.14
No religion	1.55

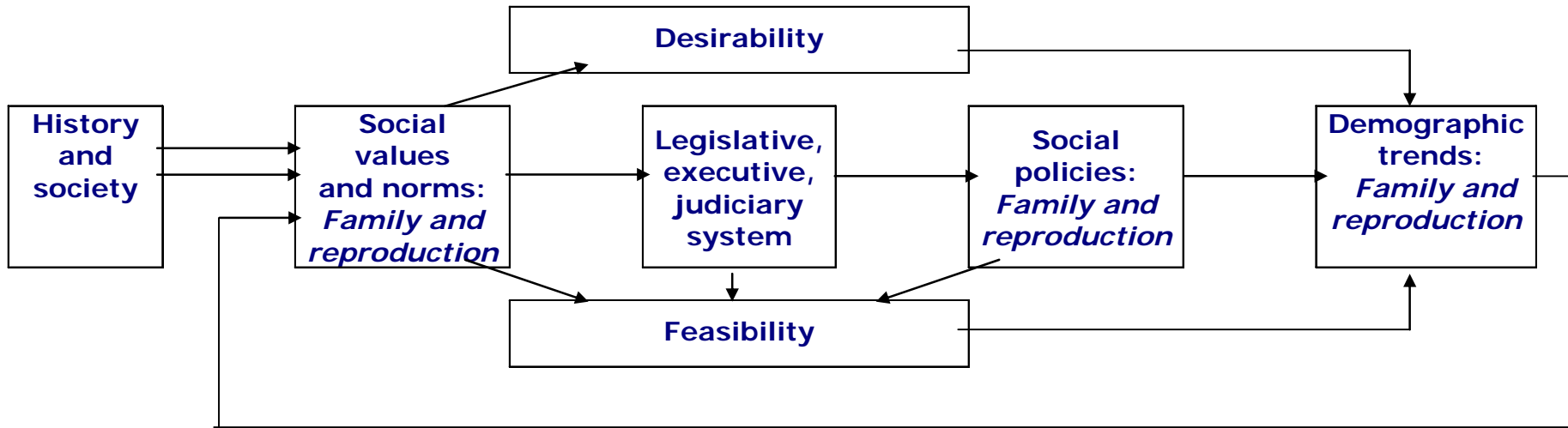
## Selected Total Fertility Rates Compared with Educational Attainment and Labor Force Participation at Selected Ages - 1955-2005



# ISSUES FOR POLICY CONSIDERATION

- Matching up *feasibility* with *desirability*:
  1. Can *actual* children be brought up to match *intended* children?
  2. Can *intended* children be brought up to match *appropriate* children?
- Societal identities and projects:
  1. Can child *desirability* be affected?
  2. How do large-scale immigration and ethnic diversity affect fertility? How does *majority-minority* dialectics affect fertility?

# DIRECT AND INDIRECT SOCIETAL ROLES OF VALUES AND NORMS AFFECTING FAMILY AND REPRODUCTION



# Israel Survey of Attitudes and Behaviors Concerning Family Size, 2004-2005

- Representative sample:
- 1000 women aged 25 to 45
- 500 men aged 25 to 50
  
- All married or in stable unions
- Response rate of 95%.
  
- Demographic and socioeconomic background;
- religiosity, norms about self-fulfillment and optimism, gender roles;
- *intended*, *most appropriate*, and *ideal* family sizes;
- *desirability* and *feasibility* of policies about family and reproduction.

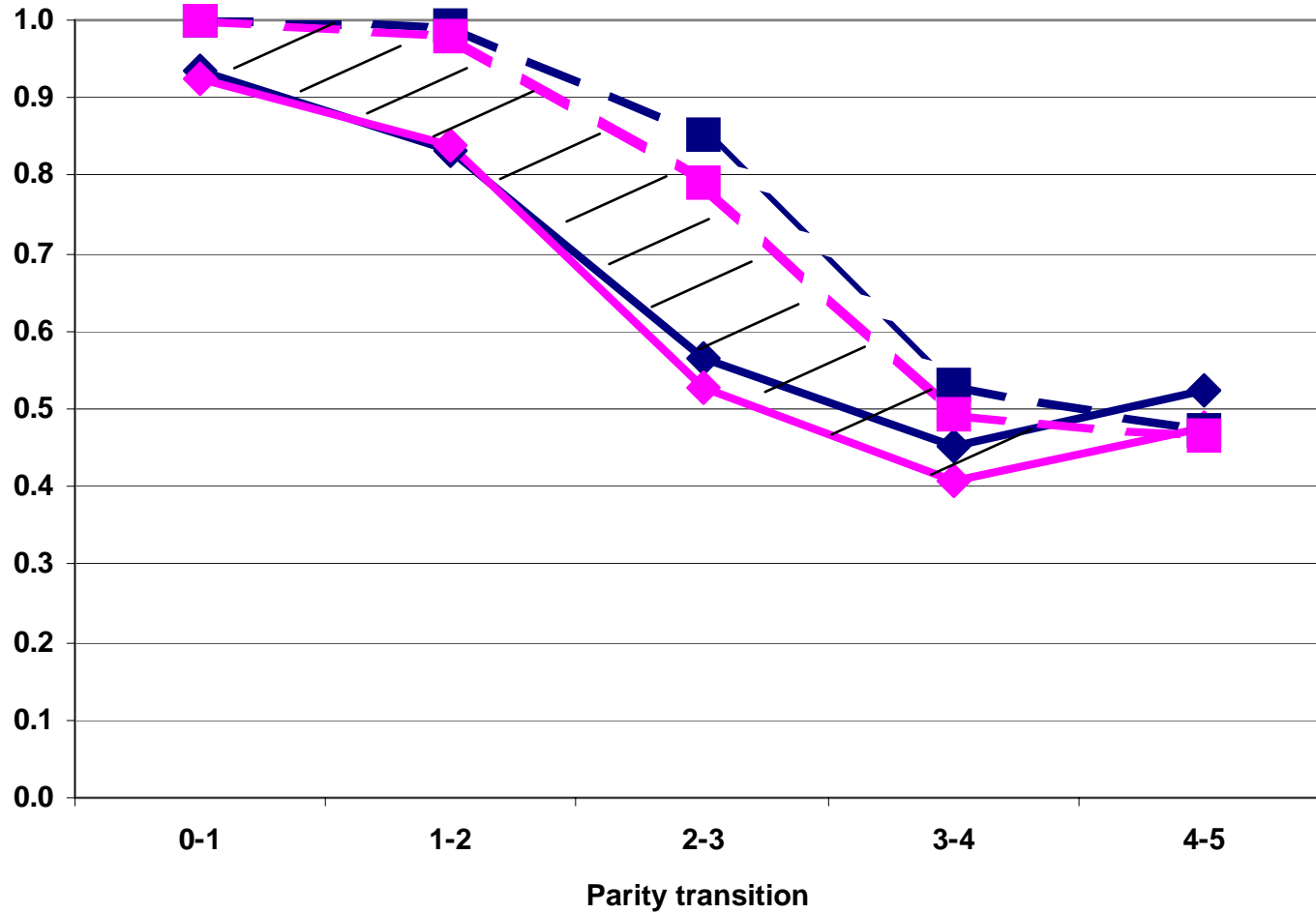
# FAMILY SIZE PREFERENCES OF MARRIED JEWISH WOMEN ISRAEL, 1988-2005

Number of children	1988	2005	
	Total	Total	Without Haredim*
Currently born	2.5	2.5	2.3
Personally intended	3.5	4.1	3.5
Most appropriate for an Israeli family of social status same as respondent's	3.4	4.0	3.8
<b>Ideal for an Israeli family</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>

\* Very religious residentially segregated.

Source: *Survey of Attitudes and Behaviors Concerning Family Size among Israel's Jewish Population, 2005*. 1988 data are based on 1500 married women aged 20-39. 2005 data are based on 1004 Jewish women, 25-40, and 494 Jewish men, 25-50, currently married or in stable relations.

# ACTUAL AND INTENDED PARITY TRANSITIONS ISRAEL, MARRIED JEWS, 2005



—◆— Women actual   
 —◆— Men actual   
 -■- Women intended   
 -■- Men intended

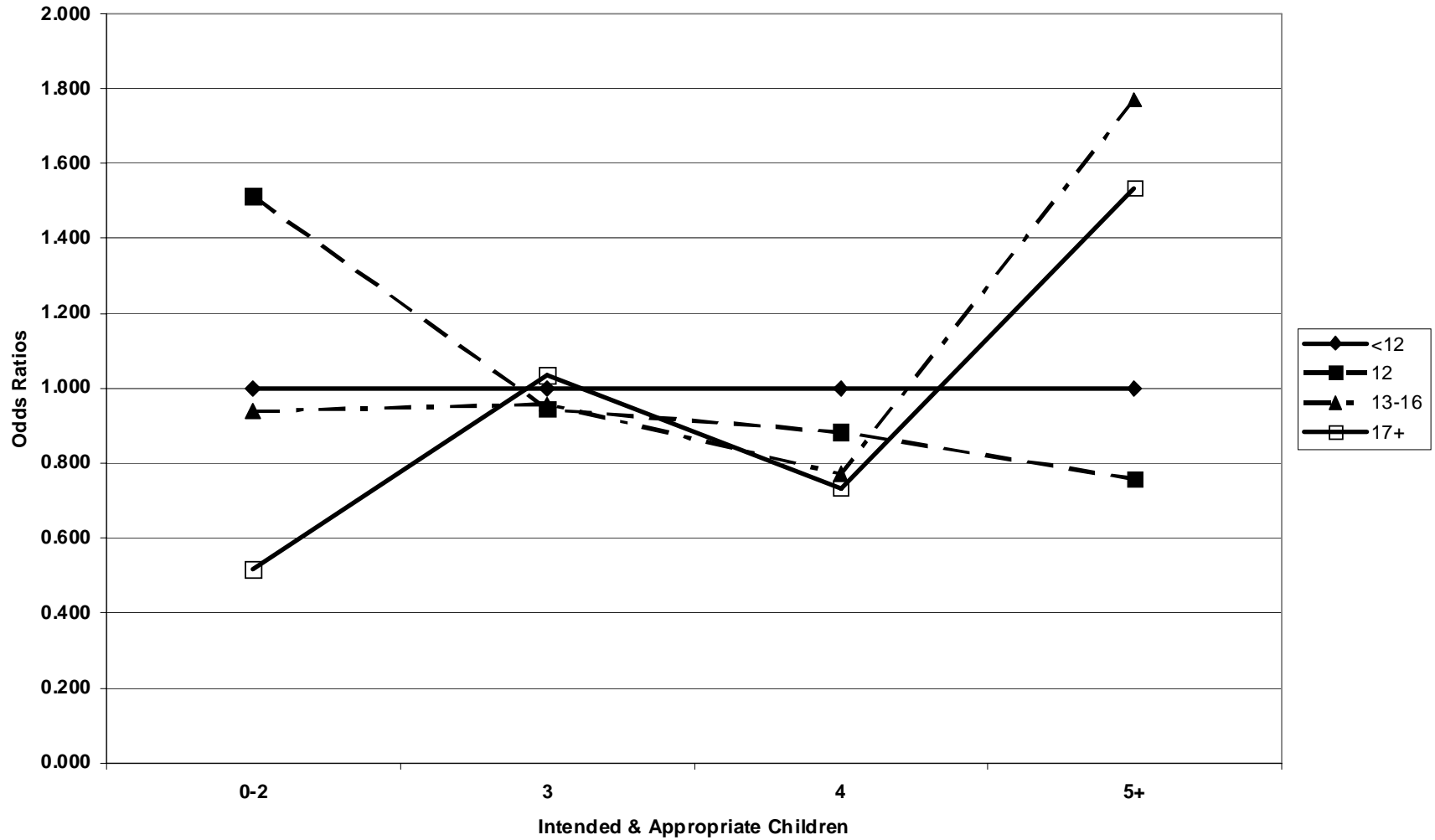
## NUMBER OF INTENDED<sup>a</sup> VS. APPROPRIATE<sup>b</sup> CHILDREN AMONG CURRENTLY MARRIED<sup>c</sup> JEWS - ISRAEL, 2005

Gender and age	Number of Intended vs. Appropriate Children							Total	N
	Same				Different				
	0-2 <sup>d</sup>	3 <sup>d</sup>	4 <sup>d</sup>	5+ <sup>d</sup>	I < A <sup>e</sup>	I > A <sup>f</sup>			
Women, 25-45	12	25	11	16	8	28	100	975	
Men, 25-50	14	26	11	11	15	22	100	481	
<b>Women % difference</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>+45</b>	<b>-47</b>	<b>+27</b>	<b>=</b>		

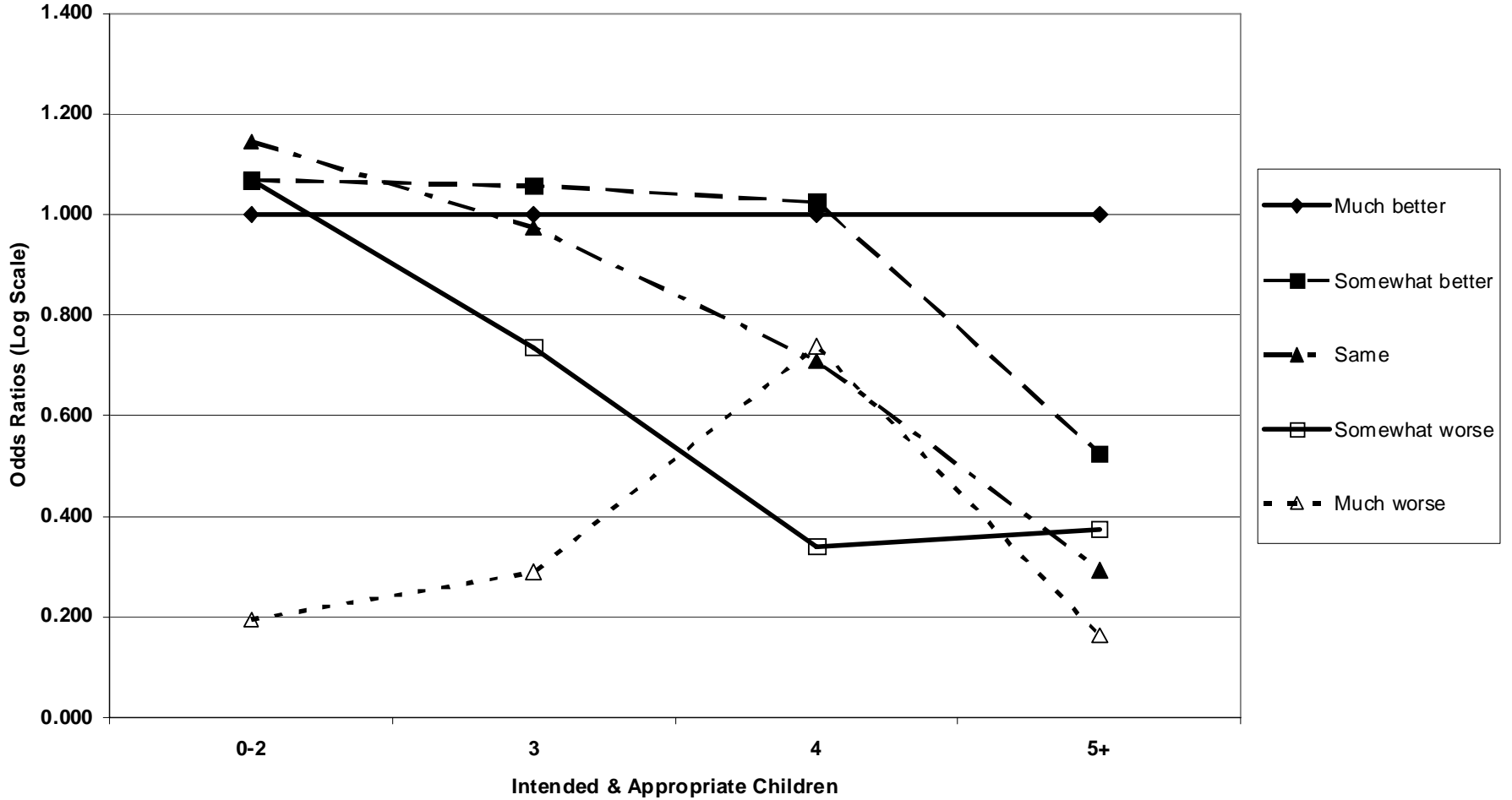
- a. Sum of total number of children born so far plus total additional children expected.
- b. Number of children most appropriate for family with standard of living same as respondent's.
- c. Including non-married persons in stable couple relations.
- d. Same number of children Intended and Appropriate.
- e. Number of children Appropriate 3, 4, or 5, and fewer children Intended.
- f. Number of children Appropriate 2, 3, or 4, and more children Intended.

Source: *Survey of Attitudes and Behaviors Concerning Family Size among Israel's Jewish Population, 2005*

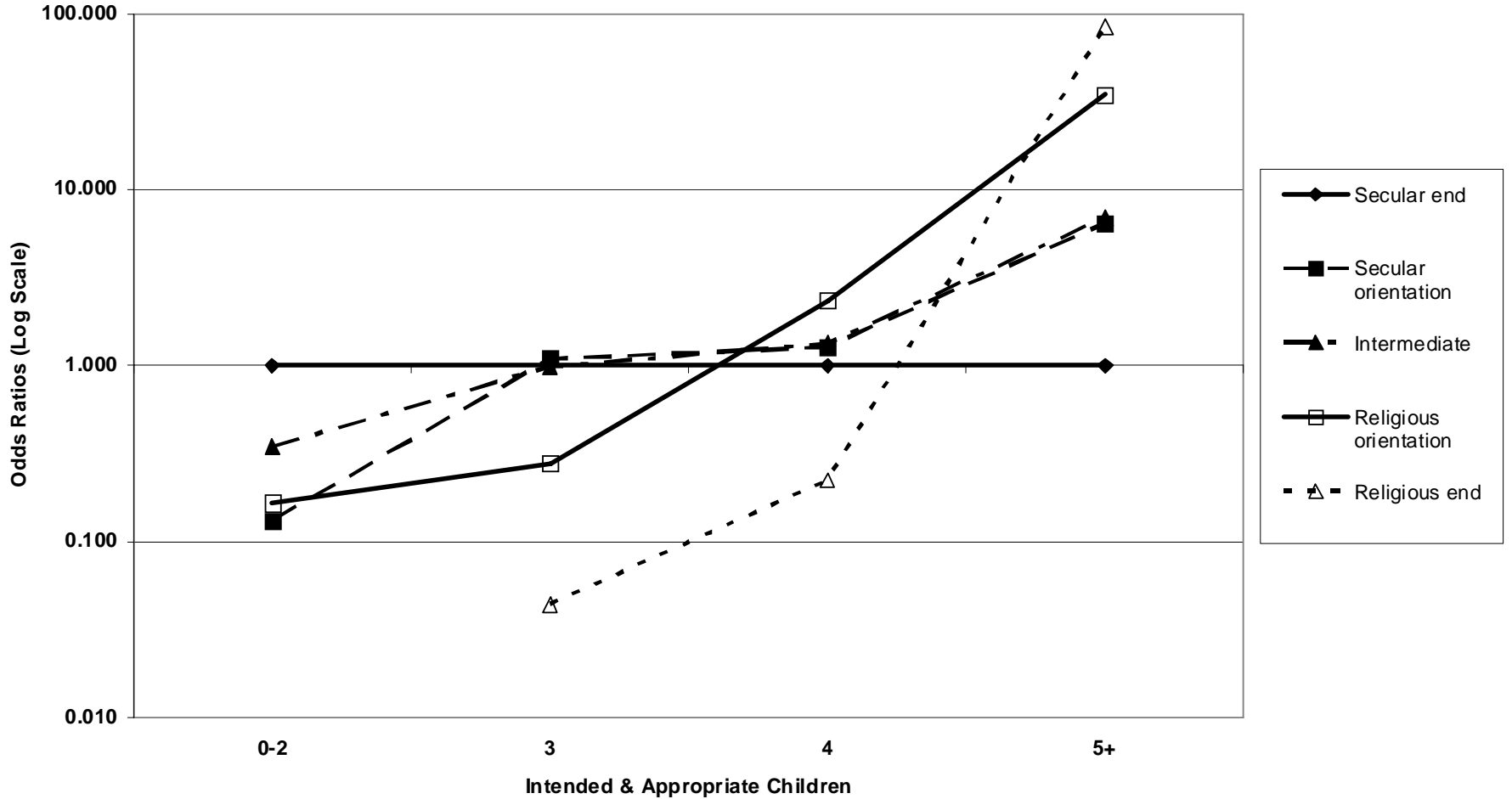
# LOGISTIC REGRESSION ODD RATIOS: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



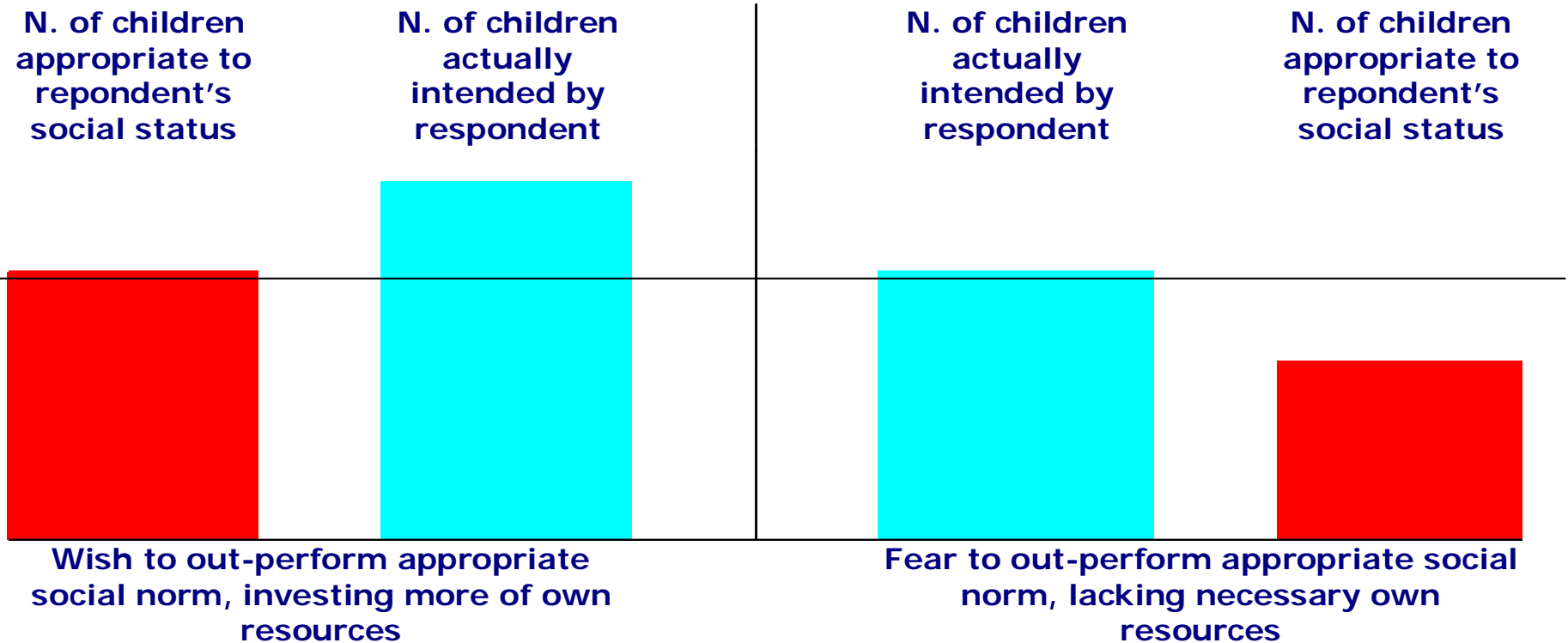
# LOGISTIC REGRESSION ODD RATIOS: FAMILY'S RELATIVE ECONOMIC STATUS



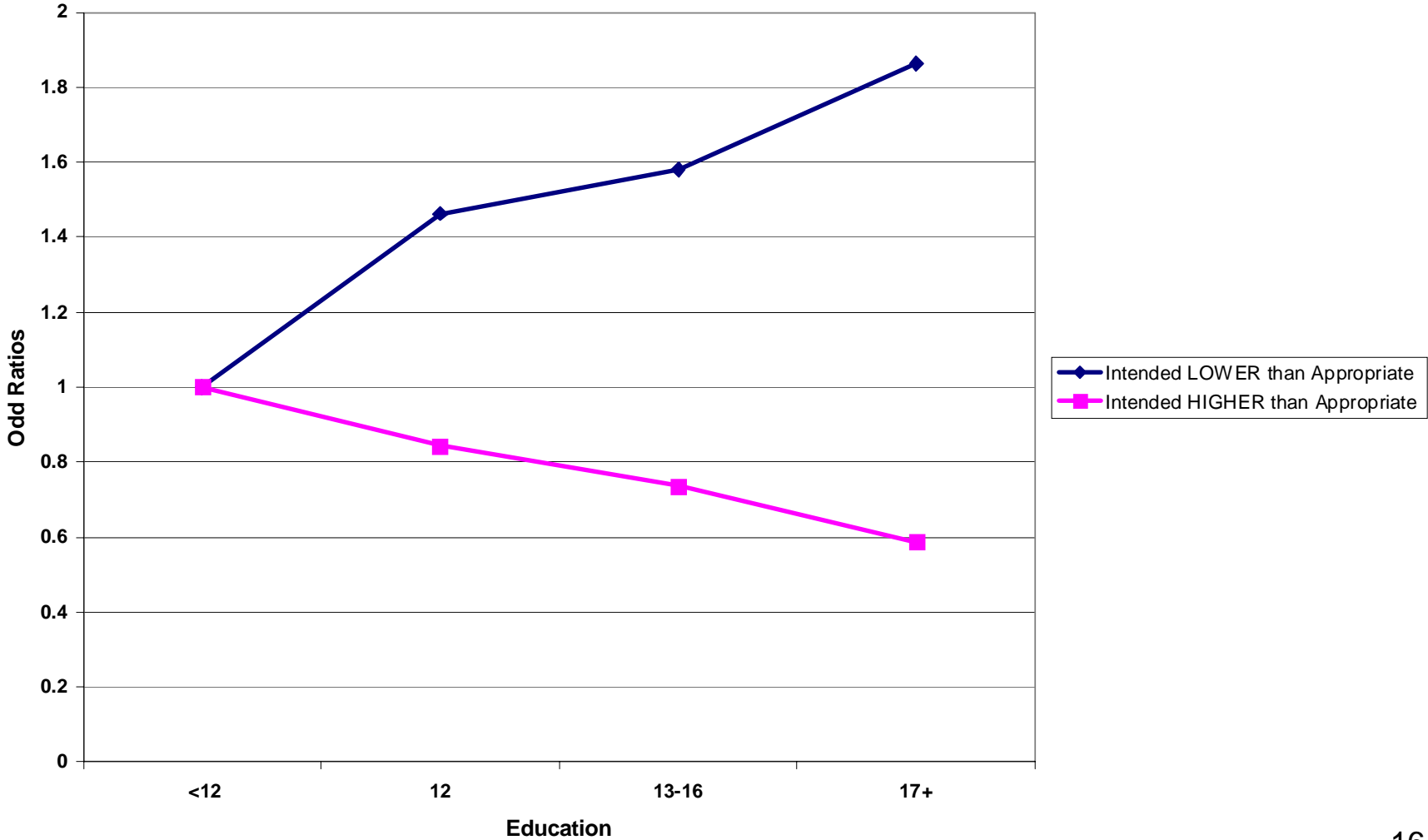
# LOGISTIC REGRESSION ODD RATIOS: RELIGIOSITY



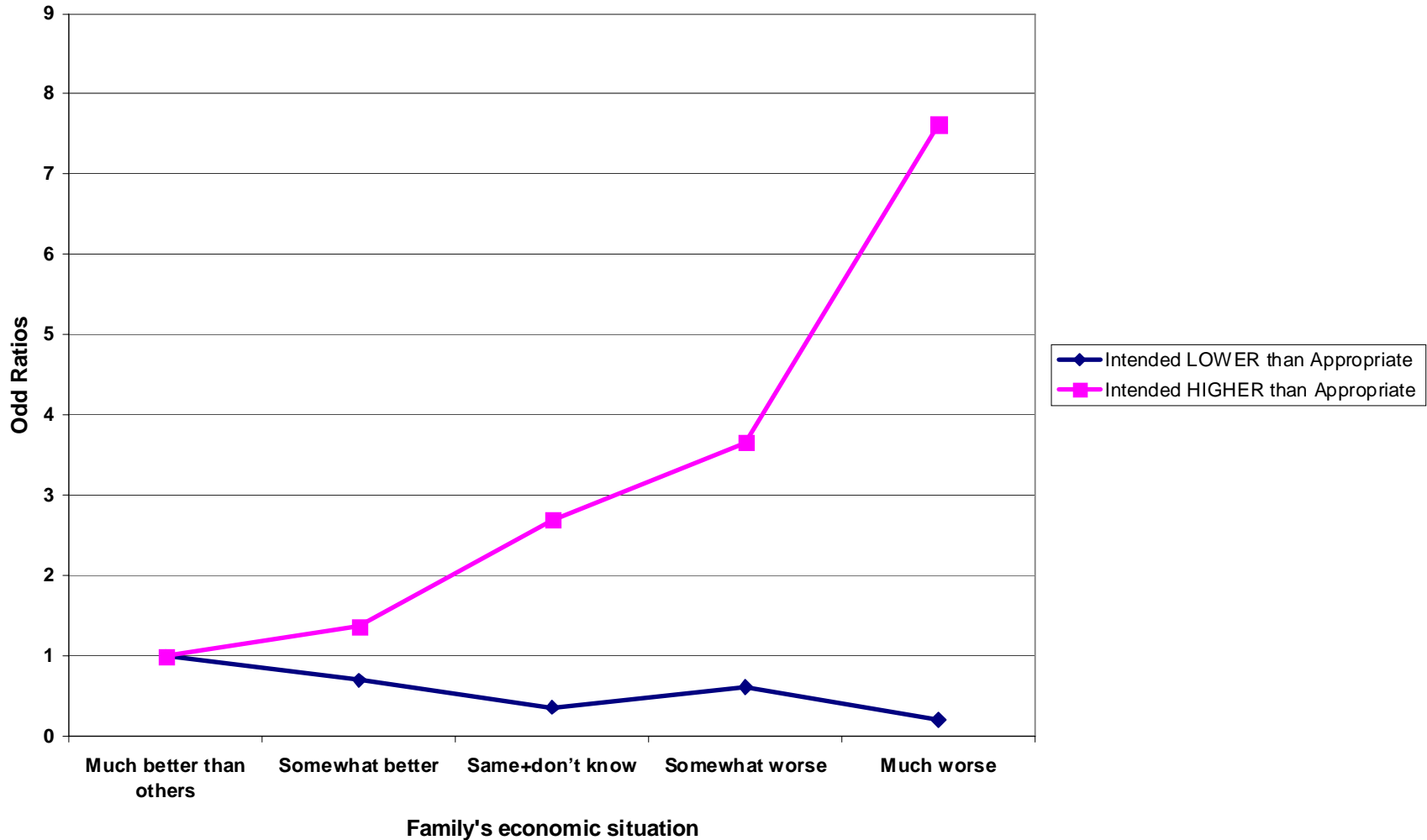
# ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS OF INCONSISTENCIES: INTENDED > APPROPRIATE TOTAL CHILDREN



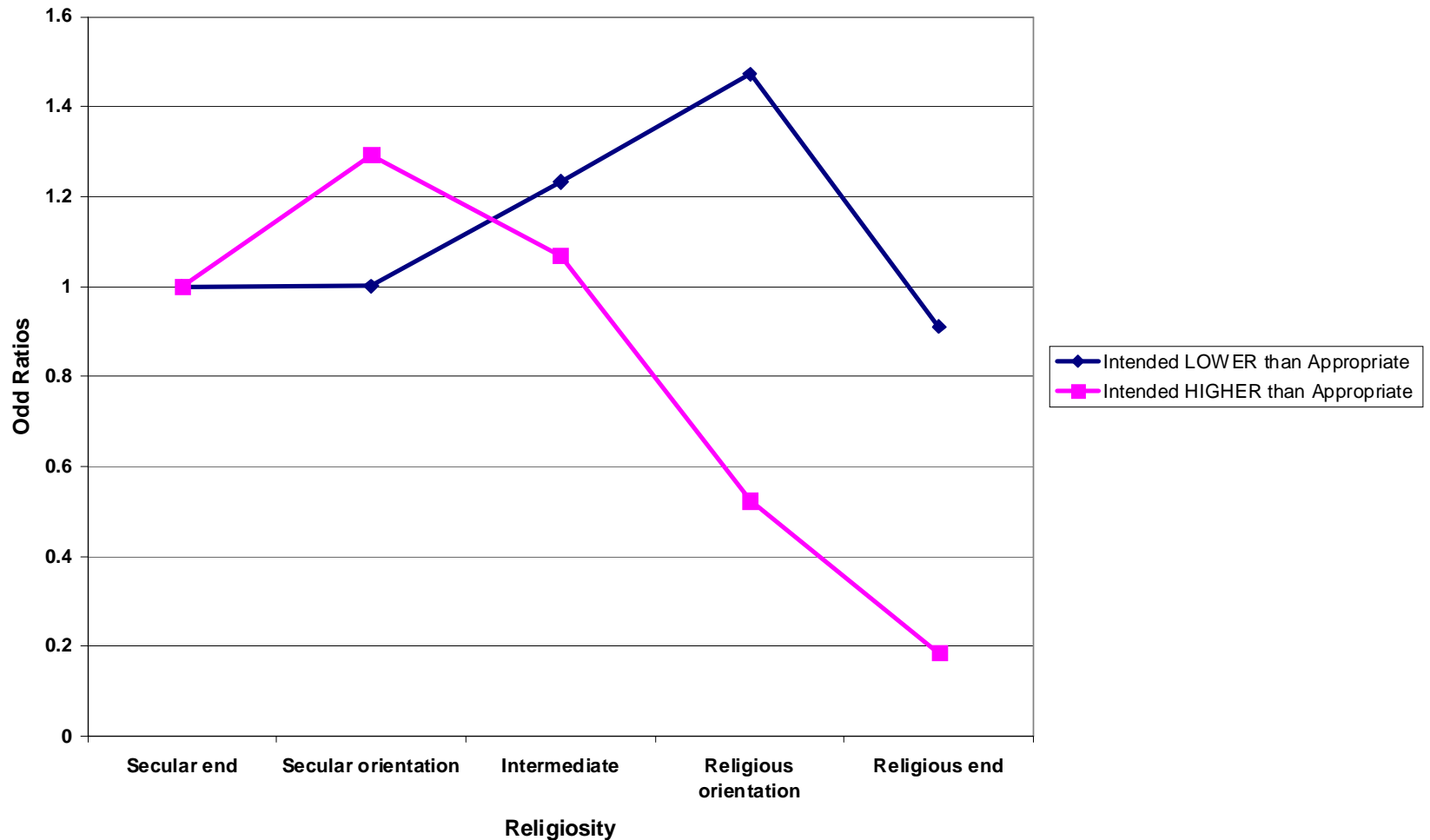
# LOGISTIC REGRESSION ODD RATIOS FOR EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT – INCONSISTENT INTENDED AND APPROPRIATE N. OF CHILDREN



# LOGISTIC REGRESSION ODD RATIOS FOR FAMILY'S RELATIVE ECONOMIC SITUATION – INCONSISTENT INTENDED AND APPROPRIATE N. OF CHILDREN



# LOGISTIC REGRESSION ODD RATIOS FOR RELIGIOSITY – INCONSISTENT INTENDED AND APPROPRIATE N. OF CHILDREN



## Main Factor Affecting Having One Additional Child Above Number Intended – Currently Married Jews – Israel, 2005

Reason	Women	Men	Women % difference
<b>N</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>481</b>	
<b>Response %</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>+16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>=</b>
Early childhood care	28	19	+47
Child education cost	10	16	-38
Woman employment	18	10	+80
Housing	14	14	=
Money transfers	5	9	-44
Tax exemptions	5	9	-44
Fertility treatment	3	4	-25
Good to children	17	19	-11