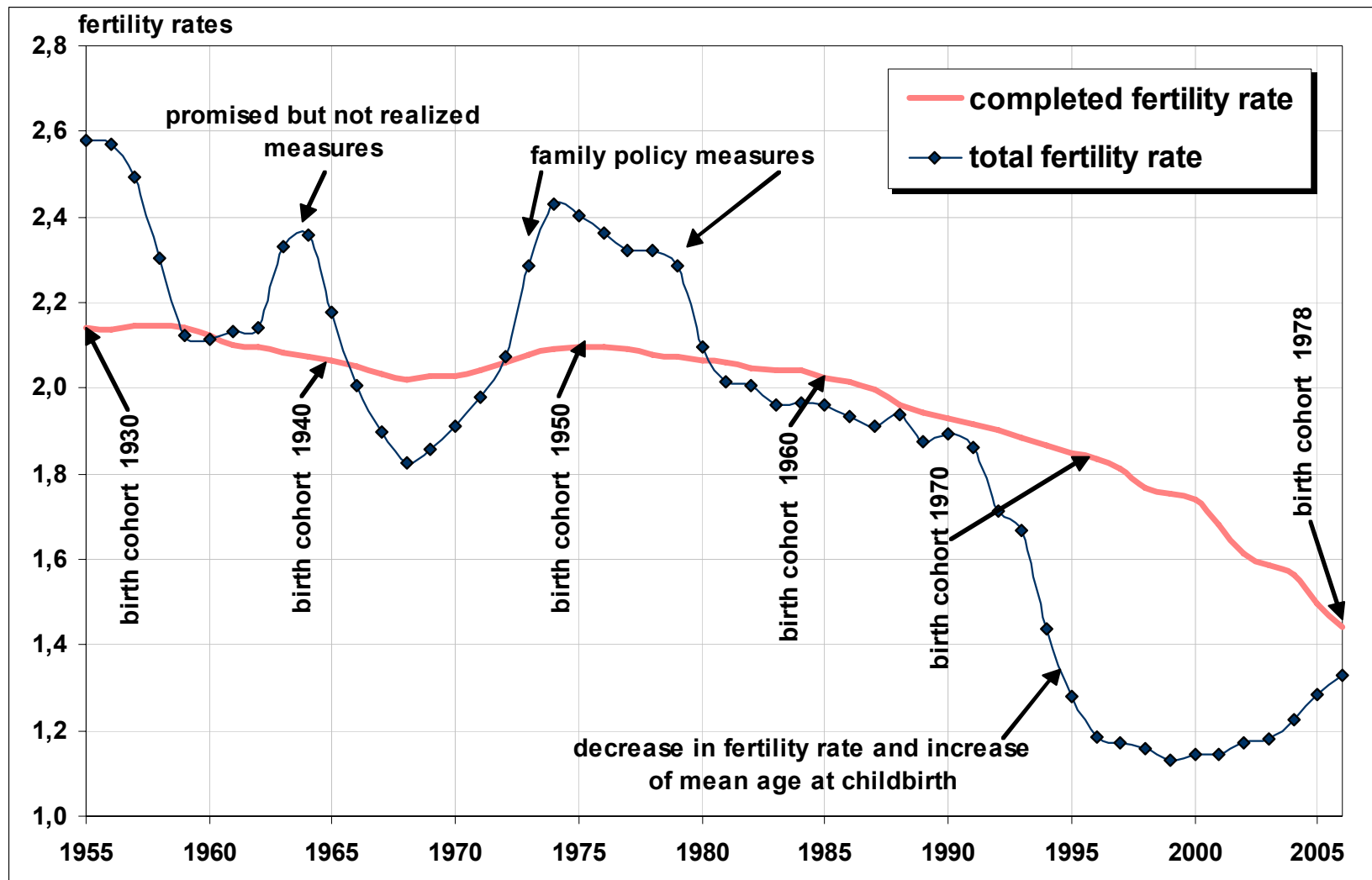





Lowest low fertility in the Czech Republic: challenge for new family policies?

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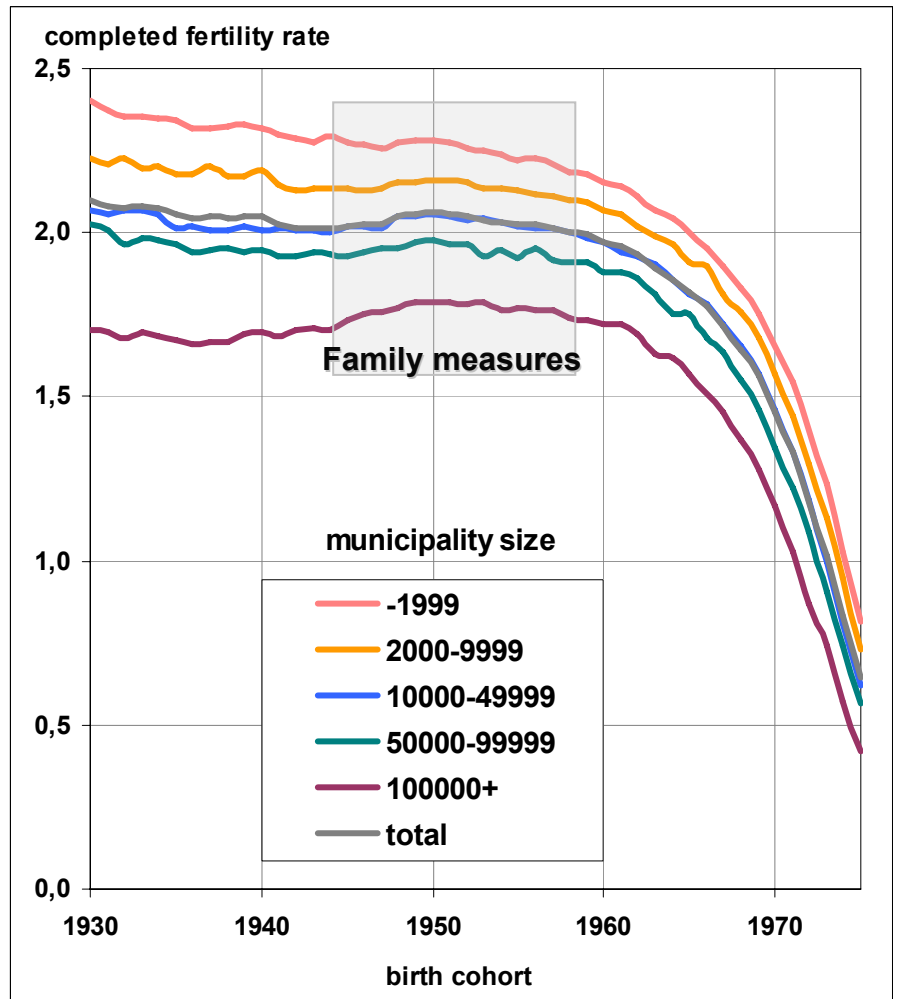
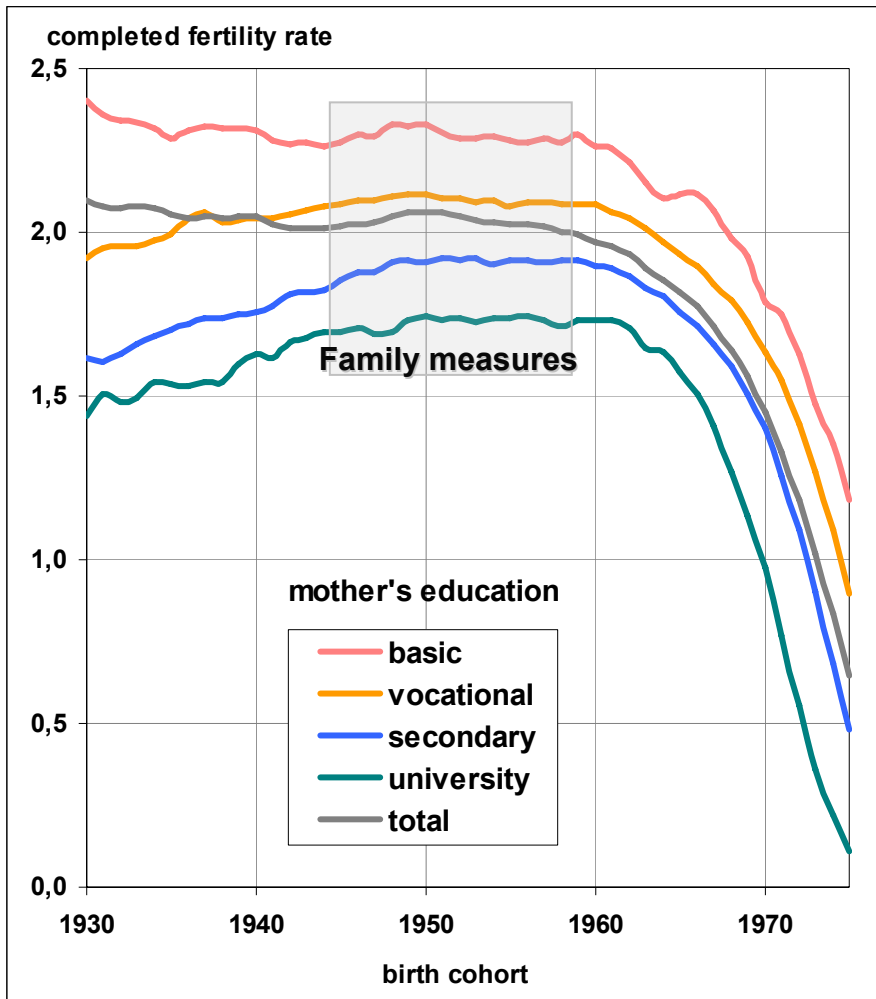
Czech Republic: recent profound decline in fertility contrasts previous stability





The generations of women born 1948-1955, and up to 1960, whose age of maximum fertility came during the era of innovative and influential pro-family measures and improving housing conditions, gave birth, on average, to more children than the generations of women born before and after them.

Family policy measures affected women with higher education and living in big cities





Pro-family measures in the 1970s positively influenced fertility rates especially **in big cities, and in women with higher education.**

In the future, these categories of women - more educated and living in larger municipalities - will weight more in the Czech population structure.

CZECH GGS 2005: Value orientations and attitudes

Both women and men value children

Agreement scale: strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree

Rotated Factor Pattern		Factor1	Factor2	Factor3
Q1107_5	A woman has to have children in order to be fulfilled	0,848	-0,121	0,120
Q1107_6	A man has to have children in order to be fulfilled	0,825	-0,016	-0,074
Q1107_7	A child needs a home with both a father and a mother to grow up happily	0,554	-0,054	-0,297
Q1107_9	When children turn about 18–20 years old they should start to live independently	0,125	0,654	-0,244
Q1107_10	Homosexual couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples do	-0,132	0,637	0,049
Q1107_2	It is all right for an unmarried couple to live together even if they have no interest in	-0,106	0,602	0,369
Q1107_8	A woman can have a child as a single parent even if she doesn't want to have a	0,081	0,581	0,396
Q1107_1	Marriage is an outdated institution	-0,300	0,491	0,127
Q1107_4	It is all right for a couple with an unhappy marriage to get a divorce even if they have	0,070	0,140	0,777
Q1107_3	Marriage is a lifetime relationship and should never be ended	0,320	-0,020	-0,676

Eigenvalues of the Correlation Matrix: Total				
= 10 Average = 1				
	Eigenvalue	Difference	Proportion	Cumulative
1	2,568	0,958	0,257	0,257
2	1,610	0,480	0,161	0,418
3	1,130	0,236	0,113	0,531

Components / Factors:

1: Both women and men value children

2: Tolerant society

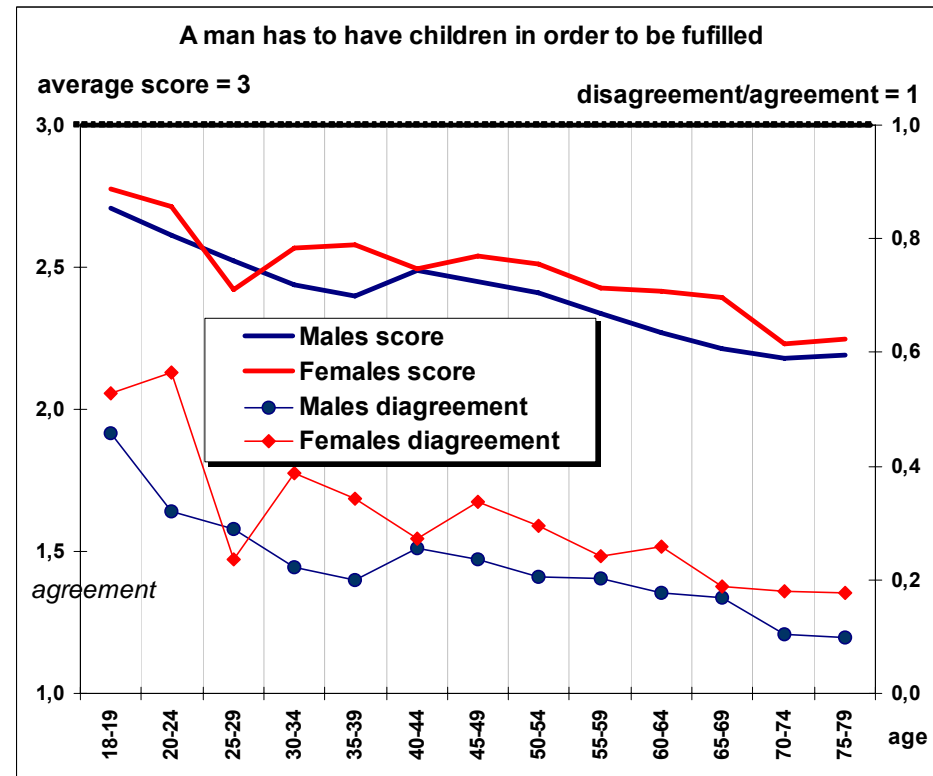
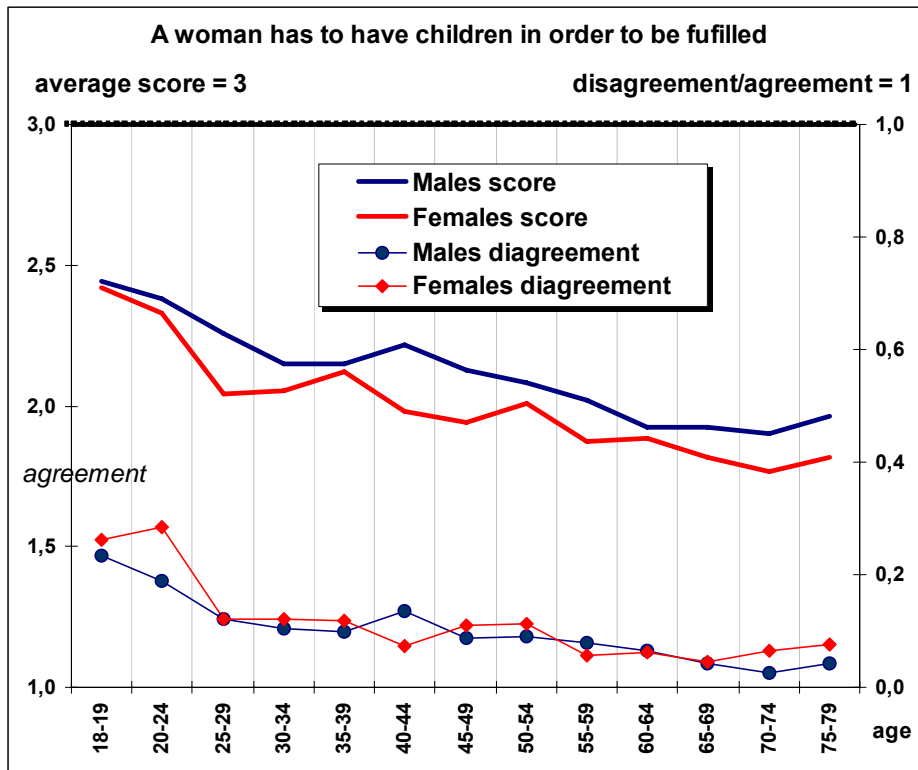
3: Marriage is not a lifetime commitment

Czech society shows strong inclinations towards parenthood. Having a child is the highest family value (first factor).

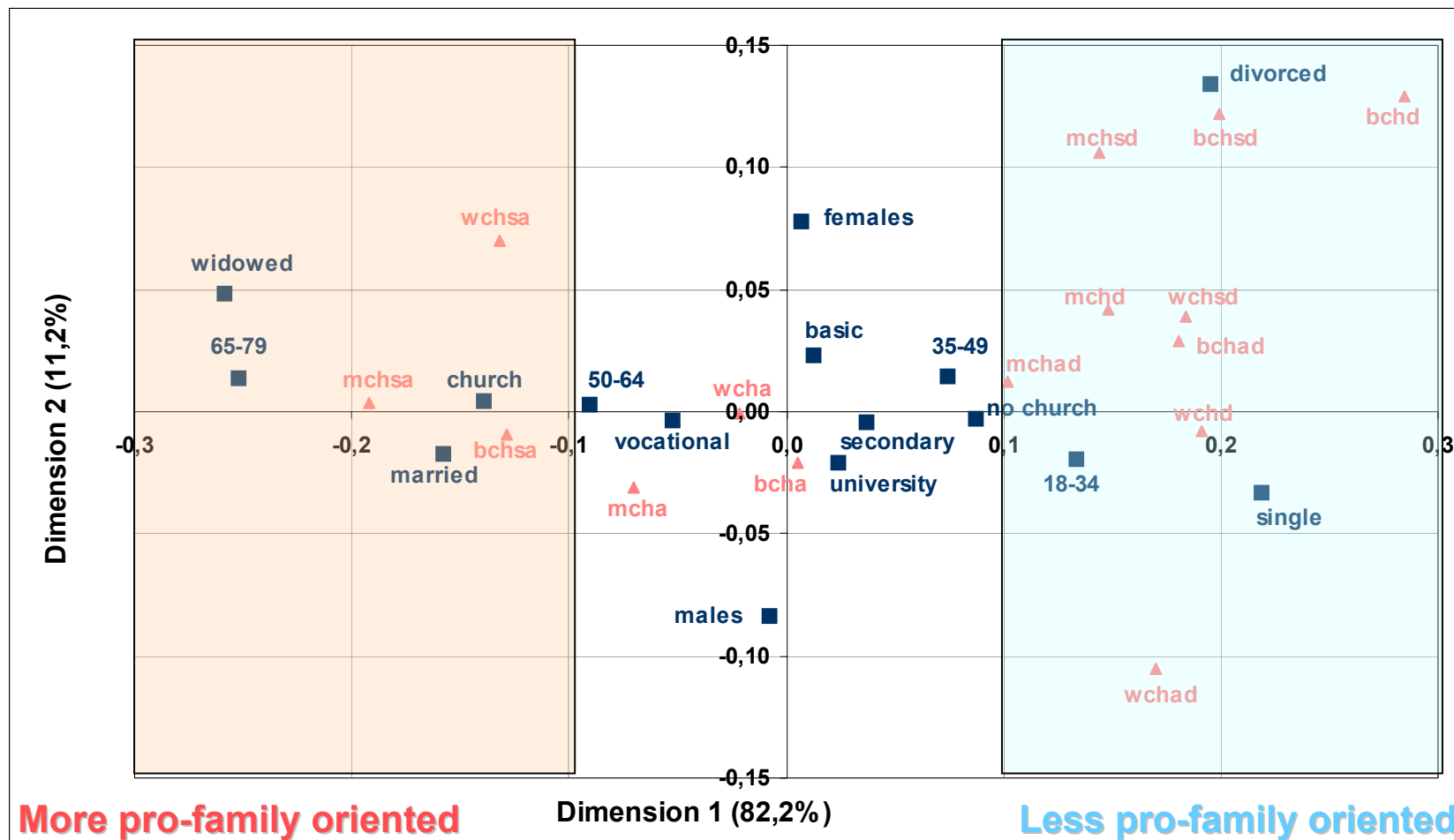
Tolerance toward cohabitation, homosexual partnership, or single motherhood is the second dimension (factor).

A marriage is not regarded as a lifetime commitment (third factor).

There is almost no difference between gender and according to age profile in wish considering a child as a life value



Czech GGS 2005: Correspondence analysis between people's characteristics and child orientation



Q1107_e (A woman has to have children in order to be fulfilled);

Q1107_f (A man has to have children in order to be fulfilled);

Q1107_g (A child needs a home with both a father and a mother to grow up happily)

w=woman m=man b=both ch=child

sa=strongly agree a=agree ad=neither agree nor disagree d=disagree sd=strongly disagree



Correspondence analysis shows:

- **Widowed, older, married, religious, and less educated people value more having children and complete family.**
- **Divorced and single people consider children less important.**



Family policy before 1990

- **Support to start family:** advantageous loans for newly married couples
- **Support to child-rearing:** direct and indirect financial compensation of expenses with upbringing and education of children
- **Support to reconcile work and family:** full-range system of child-care facilities for both pre-school and school children

Family policy after 1990

- **Discontinuity:** comprehensive system was replaced by reduced system aimed at low-income families
- **Unstability:** frequent changes in family policies as a result of non-uniform approach of political parties „wheter and how to support families“
- **Uncertainty:** deterioration of position of women with small children on labour market due to inaccessibility of child-care facilities for children under age 3



Findings from surveys

- Most people want **to have two children**, planned childless is still rare
- There are **obstacles** for people to complete their reproductive plans
- Most people are **strongly in favour** of state support to families

Effect of preferred measures on fertility decision of women aged 20-39 years (binary logistic regression)

		Women who intended to have a child	Women who did not intend to have another child	
Variables	Categories	„It would enable me to have next child sooner“	„I would reconsider possibility of having another child“	„I would probably decide to have another child“
Age	20-24	1,00	14,6*	11,59*
	25-29	4,14**	1,48	1,18
	30-34	3,86	0,62	0,93
	35-39	4,51	1,00	1,00
Number of children	0	0,55	1,64	0,97
	1	0,65	8,03**	3,34
	2	0,41	5,62*	4,15
	3 and more	1,00	1,00	1,00
Education	Low	1,00	1,00	1,00
	Middle	0,36	0,88	0,68
	High	0,84	1,29	1,07

Source: PPA2, Czech Republic 2001



Policies can enhance fertility when they are stable, developed systematically in a long term perspective, and as a whole package to make choice available and flexible.

but

the Czech reform in 2008 fails in two key tasks of family policy

- **Widening a gap between childless people and families with children**

Bad timing of family policy reform. It coincides with other reforms (taxes, health care) that will have negative impact on families.

Family benefits will be reduced and will not perform their functions!

- **Choice is limited and not flexible**

"Three speed" parental leave will be introduced.

However state does not intend to support a development of childcare facilities/services primarily for children under 3 years. They ceased being accessible, affordable, and they are not flexible.



Conclusion as regards implementation of policies

- Historical experiences
- Social and economic context
- Demographic rationality