

Intergenerational Transmission of Fertility Timing in Germany

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Motivation

Fertility timing is as important for aggregate fertility levels as number of children

Previous research on intergenerational transmission of fertility in Germany focused on completed family size only (Kotte & Ludwig, 2011)

If intergenerational transmission of fertility exists, low fertility will not persist (Kolk, 2014)

Research Questions

1. Is there an intergenerational transmission of age at birth between mothers and daughters in Germany?
2. What underlying mechanisms explain the continuity of fertility timing?
3. Is there a difference in intergenerational transmission of fertility timing in eastern and western Germany?

Results

Figure 1: Predicted Piecewise Survival Function, Transition to First Birth by Mother's Age at Daughter's Birth, Interaction with Daughter's Age

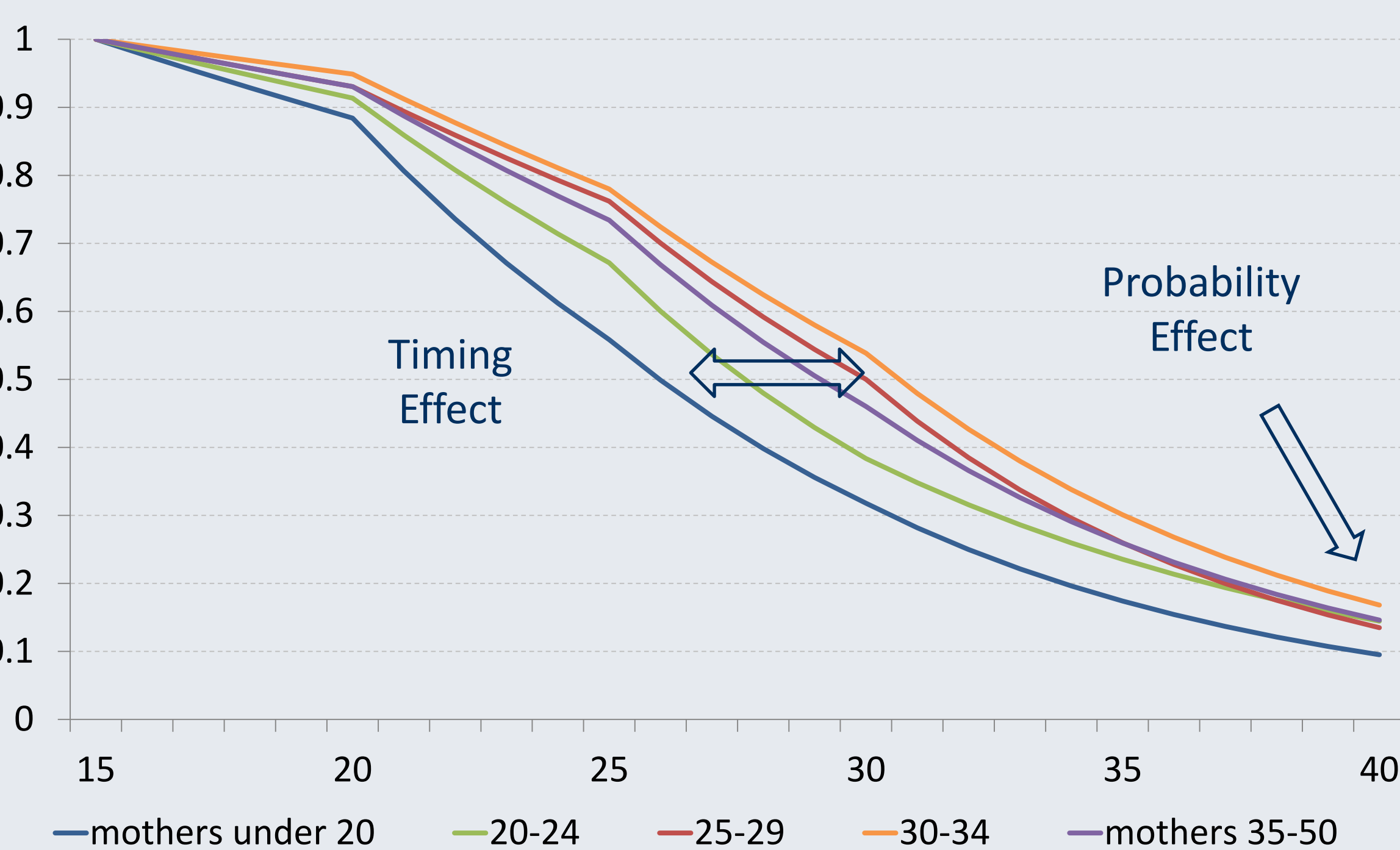


Table 1: Results of the Event History Analysis for Daughter's Transition to First Birth

Covariates	Effect on Transition to Daughter's First Birth	Reduces Effect of Mother's Age at Daughter's Birth?
Socio-economic characteristics		
Mother's education	-	slightly
Daughter's education (time-varying)	-	no
Socio-demographic characteristics		
Region (East Germany) (time-varying)	+	no
Birth cohort (younger)	-	no
Migration background	+	no
Socialization		
Number of siblings	+	no
Living with both parents up to at least age 18	-	no
Assessment of childhood (happy)	-	no
Markers of the transition to adulthood		
Age at moving out of parental home (time-varying)	+	no
Age at cohabitation/marriage (time-varying)	+	yes

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Mother's Age at Daughter's Birth vs. Mother's Age at First Birth

Mother's age at first birth has been widely used to study intergenerational transmission of fertility timing

Here, we use mother's age at daughter's birth based on the assumption that this is the age daughters directly observe when growing up

Data

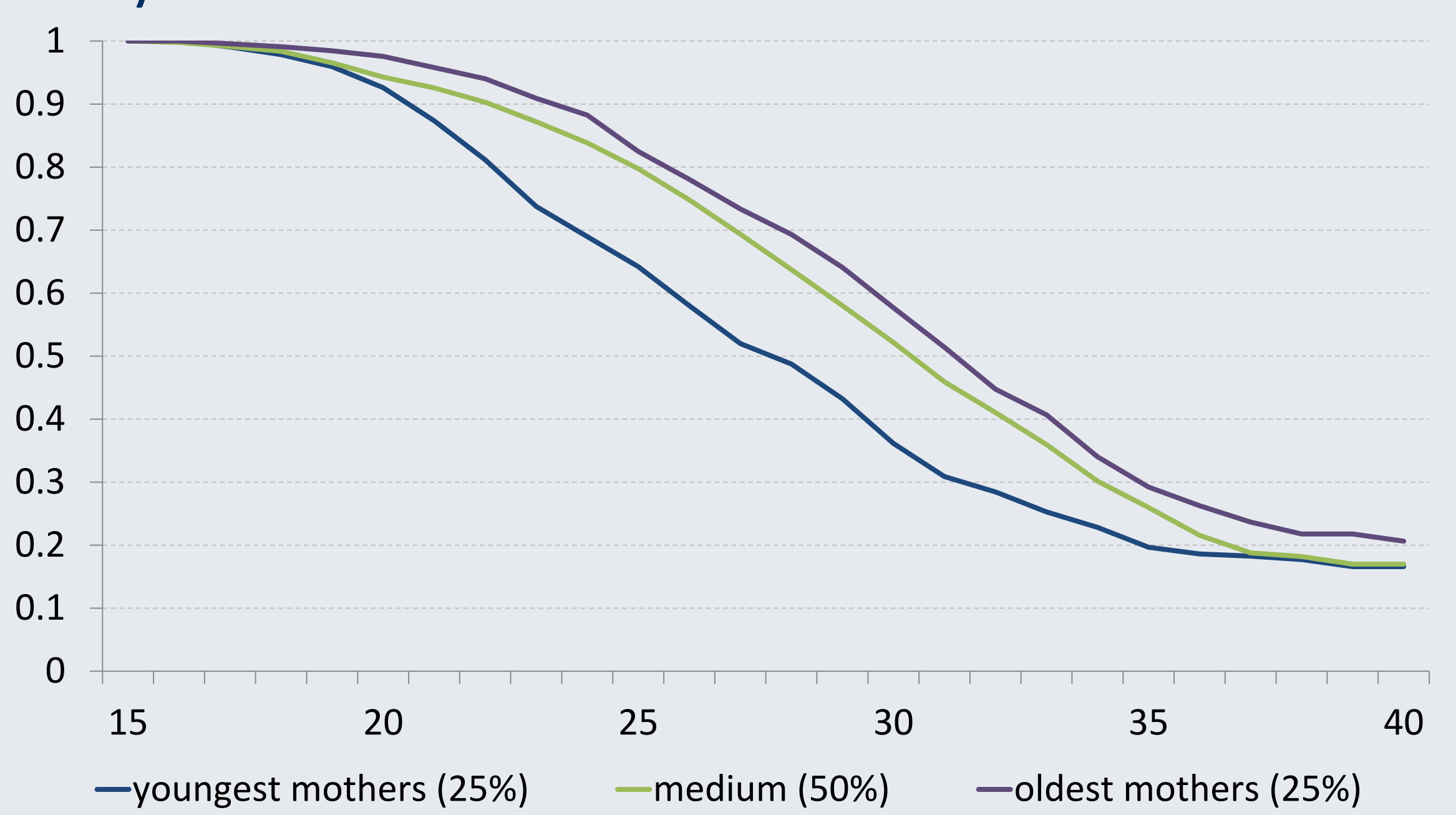
Pairfam - The German Family Panel (waves 1-3, 2008/09- 2010/11)
4,974 women born in 1971-73 or 1981-83

Method

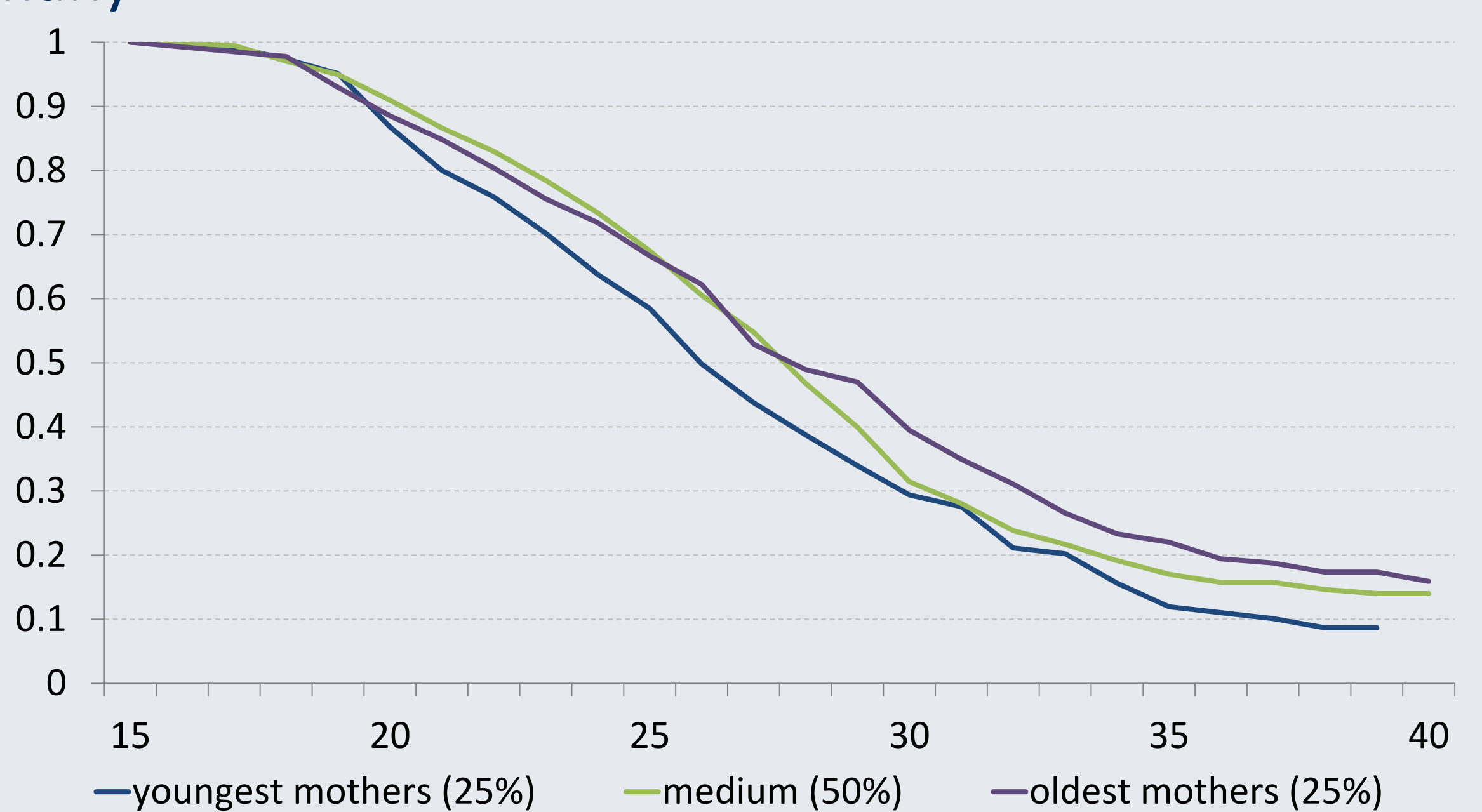
Event history analysis: Kaplan-Meier-estimations & piecewise-constant models

Figure 2: KM Survival Estimates for Transition to First Birth by Mother's Age at Daughter's Birth

West Germany



East Germany



Conclusions

Intergenerational transmission of fertility timing between mothers and daughters is:

- particularly strong at younger ages (below the norm)
- stronger in western than in eastern Germany
- largely mediated by age at cohabitation/marriage and only slightly by socio-economic characteristics
- somewhat more pronounced for mother's age at first birth compared to mother's age at daughter's birth

References:

Kolk, M. (2014). Multigenerational processes in demography. Stockholm: Stockholm University.
Kotte, M., & Ludwig, V. (2011). Intergenerational transmission of fertility intentions and behaviour in Germany: The role of contagion. Vienna Yearbook of Population Research, 9, 207-226.