Low fertility and policy options in Germany.
A presentation to the media

Charlotte Höhn

5th GGP IWG meeting, Ljubljana, 18-20 January 2007
Kinderwünsche in Deutschland
Konsequenzen für eine nachhaltige Familienpolitik
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## Desired number of children

Basis: Women aged 20 to 39 years

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average desired</td>
<td>2,15</td>
<td>1,75</td>
<td>1,74</td>
<td>1,75</td>
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<tr>
<td>number of children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>FFS</td>
<td>PPAS</td>
<td>GGS</td>
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*only West Germany. FS = Family Survey, DJI; FFS = Family and Fertility Survey, BiB; PPAS = Population Policy Acceptance Study, BiB; GGS = Generations and Gender Survey, BiB.

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Desired number of children in Europe by gender

Basis: Men and women aged 20 – 49 years

Source: Federal Institute for Population Research; PPAS 2003

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Children hardly increase joy from life

“If you were to have a/another child during the next three years, would it be better or worse for the joy and satisfaction you get from life?”

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner by parity

\[\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\text{Children} & 0 & 1 & 2+ \\
\hline
\text{(much) better} & 44 & 23 & 12 \\
\text{neither better nor worse} & 46 & 65 & 12 \\
\text{(much) worse} & 10 & 12 & 16 \\
\end{array}\]
Family formation may improve partnership

“If you were to have a/another child during the next three years, would it be better or worse for the closeness between you and your partner/spouse?”

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner by gender

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Families enjoy no special prestige

„If you were to have a/another child during the next three years, would it be better or worse for what people around you think of you?“

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner by parity

![Bar chart showing percentages of responses to the question about having another child.]

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Security in old age hardly influenced by having children

"If you were to have another child during the next three years, would it be better or worse for the care and security you may get in old age?"

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner by parity

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Children don’t really matter for a female life

Agreement with the statement „A woman has to have children in order to be fulfilled“

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years
Agreement with the statement „A man has to have children in order to be fulfilled“

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years
Women expect worse employment opportunities...

"If you were to have a/another child during the next three years, would it be better or worse for your employment opportunities?"

Basis: Persons aged 20–49 years living with a partner by gender

![Bar chart showing the percentage of men and women who expect their employment opportunities to be better, neither better nor worse, or worse.](chart.png)
... and men expect that for women as well

„If you were to have a/another child during the next three years, would it be better or worse for your partner’s/spouse’s employment opportunities?“

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner by gender

%
(Potential) parents fear worse financial situation

„If you were to have a/another child during the next three years, would it be better or worse for your financial situation?“

% Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner by gender
Children reduce free options

"If you were to have a/another child during the next three years, would it be better or worse for the possibility to do what you want?"

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner, by gender and parity
More money and better time options very important

Agreement (important and very important) to composite family political measures, men and women in eastern and western Germany

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years with at least one child under 14 years in their household

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Large families rather need money, small rather infrastructure

Agreement (important and very important) to composite family political measures by number of children

Basis: Women aged 20 - 49 years, childless resp. with children under 14 years, by parity

Money: 80, 86, 85, 90
Infrastructure: 81, 83, 77, 70
Time: 90, 90, 90, 91

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Improved family policy particularly attractive for 1-child-families

Agreement (important and very important) to Q: „If your preferred family political measures were introduced which would be the consequences for your own life?“

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner by parity

- Would make it easier for me to have the number of children I intend to have
- Would enable me to have my next child sooner
- Would probably decide to have another child

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Considering to have a child by age

Answering „yes“ to question: „During the last three months, did you seriously consider having a/another child?“

Basis: Persons aged 20 – 49 years living with a partner
Thank you for your attention!