



A Second Child in the Family – the consequences of changing family and fertility patterns in the Czech Republic

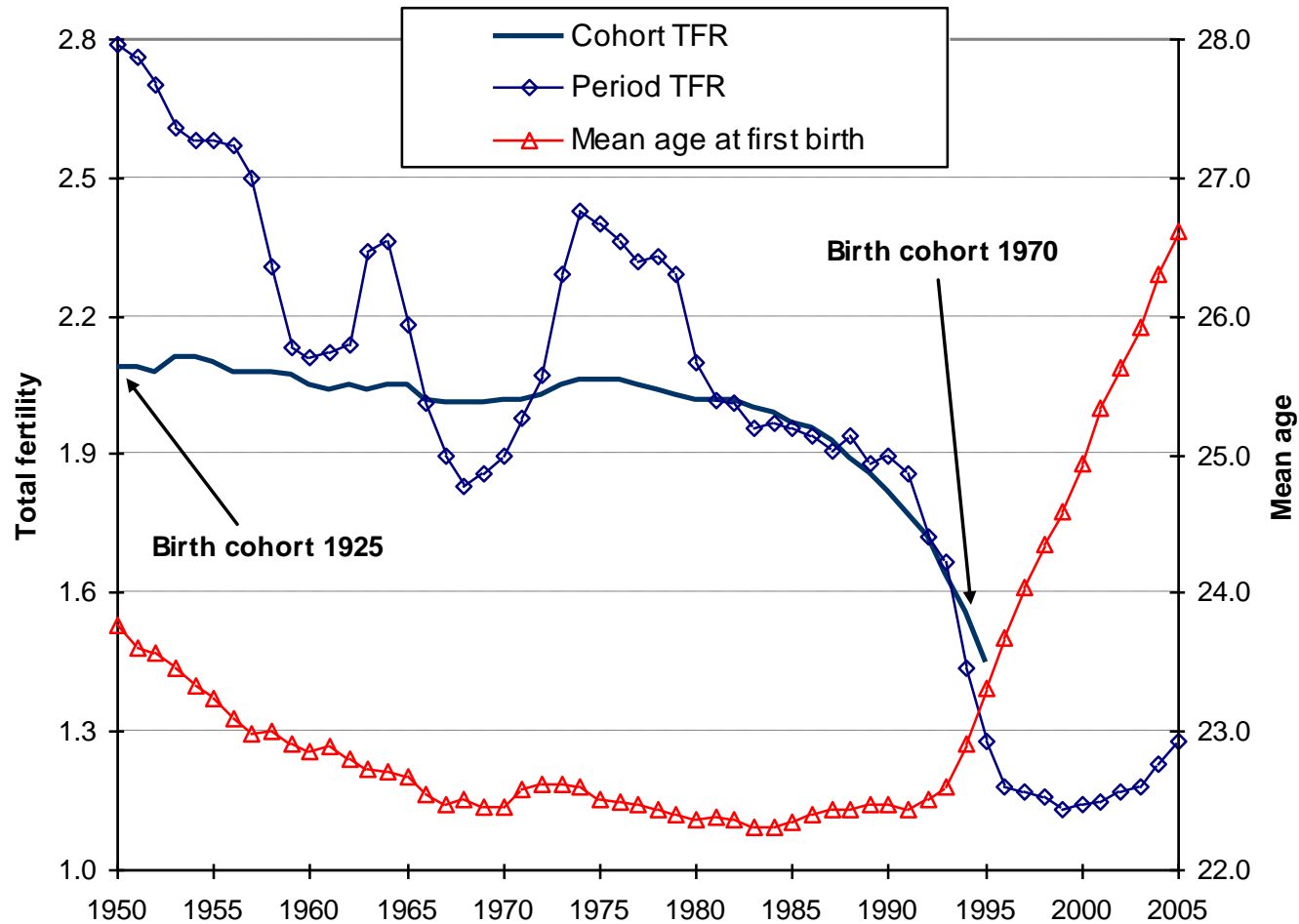
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EUSOC, Brno 29. 11. – 2. 12. 2007

Background - Czech Republic after 1989

- Family formation was postponed and period fertility rates declined sharply; since 1995 **total fertility rates** have dropped **below** the 'lowest-low' threshold of **1.3**.
- transition to a late childbearing pattern - a sharp **rise in the mean age** of mothers **at first childbirth**
- The most characteristic trend in reproductive patterns during the socialist era was a strong orientation towards the **two-child family**. According to recent sociological surveys, **the ideal of a two-child family still persists**; however, this is not borne out in reality.

Period (1950-2005) and cohort (1925-1970) fertility rate, mean age at first birth, Czech Republic



Research questions

- What aspirations concerning fertility are held by the current “younger middle” generation of women?
- What circumstances affect women’s decisions about having a second child? What impact is associated with a second child on various aspects of women’s life?
- How do characteristics of the parental home, such as number of siblings or the family situation of the parents influence the risk of the second birth?
- How important roles do women’s characteristics, such as education and partnership history, play in planning and timing childbirth?

Transition to the second child - Theoretical background

- the life course approach- people's lives are uniquely shaped by the timing and sequencing of life events
- the basic dimension of event history analysis = **time**
- the birth of a second child (compared to the transition to parenthood) - a specific life transition in which the “normative parental imperative” (*Rindfuss, Morgan, Swicegood 1987*) does not play a role

Data and Method

- **Czech Generations and Gender Survey (2005)**

N = 10 006 cases,

4797 men (48%), 5209 women (52%) age 18-79

Response rate 54 %

Data restricted to the Czech nationality only

- **Event history analysis** - transition to a second birth

$$\ln h_i^{(2)}(t) = y^{(2)}(t) + \sum_j \beta_{1j}^{(2)} x_{ij} + \sum_k \beta_{2k}^{(2)} w_{ik}(t)$$

Baseline: age of the first child (= time from the birth of the first child), the baseline log-hazard is a piecewise-linear spline

Event history model - Covariates

- **Time constant:**

 - Age at first birth (relative age - educational level)

 - Religion

 - Characteristics of parental home in childhood
(number of siblings, parental break-up)

- **Time varying:**

 - Educational level

 - Marital status / partnership status

 - Calendar period

Results I.

Expected (ultimate) number of children

Age	Expected number of children				N	Mean***
	0	1	2	3 and more		
18–19	7.5	17.0	66.0	9.4	159	1.79
20–24	6.2	17.3	60.1	16.4	323	1.88
25–29	3.3	13.4	63.0	20.3	454	2.05
30–34	3.0	13.7	56.1	27.2	497	2.13
35–39	4.4	17.2	54.8	23.6	454	2.07
40–44	8.5	16.2	56.9	18.4	425	1.91
45–49	7.7	22.6	52.4	17.3	452	1.84
18–49	5.5	16.7	57.6	20.2	2764	1.98

Education	Expected number of children				N	Mean**
	0	1	2	3 and more		
elementary degree	8.8	17.2	43.9	30.2	262	2.07
lower-secondary degree	4.8	14.0	59.2	22.0	1001	2.03
secondary degree (with “maturita”)	5.3	17.9	58.5	18.4	857	1.96
post-secondary degree	5.6	21.5	55.6	17.2	302	1.87
in education	5.5	16.9	63.5	14.0	307	1.88

Source: GGS Czech Republic 2005, women aged 18-49, weighted sample.

Results II.

Effect of a second child for mothers with 1 child

- **positive impact** - area of private lives (joy and satisfaction in life, the partnership or a feeling of security in life), social network
- **negative impact** - financial situation, working life and a personal independence (the possibility to do what she wants).
- women who were actually planning to have another child assessed the changes in all aspects considerably more positively than did women not planning to have another child

Results III.

Transition to second birth

	MODEL 4		
	β	$\exp(\beta)$	
Education			
In education	-0.4404	0.64	***
Out of education:			
elementary	-0.0261	0.97	
lower-secondary	0.0526	1.05	
secondary		1	
post-secondary	0.0100	1.01	
Number of siblings			
None	-0.3128	0.73	***
1 sibling		1	
2 siblings	0.1517	1.16	**
3 and more siblings	0.2470	1.28	***
Divorce of parents before age 16			
No		1	
Yes	-0.1659	0.85	*
Other/Missing	0.0941	1.10	
Religion			
Participation at religion services at least once per month	0.1971	1.22	**
Participation less often/ no participation		1	
Age at first birth			
Rather young	0.1384	1.15	**
Medium		1	
Rather old	-0.4316	0.65	***
Log-likelihood			
Initial log-likelihood	-7321.8		
	-7412.8		

Source: GGS Czech Republic 2005

Results IV.

Transition to second birth – role of partnership

- second birth risk for married women - higher than for cohabiting women and for women in union higher than for those living without partner
- new partner - elevated second birth risk

MODEL 4 A			
	β	exp(β)	
Partnership			
Cohabitation	-0.4721	0.62	***
Marriage		1	
Out of union	-0.9732	0.38	***
Number of union		New partner - exp(β)	
		no	yes
1		1	1.18
2+	0.91	1.92	***

Model is controlled for current calendar year, education, number of siblings, parental divorce, religiousness and relative age at first birth.

Source: GGS Czech Republic 2005

Conclusions I. – second birth determinants

- **family background** and early life course experiences
 - higher second birth risk - women with more siblings
 - lower second birth risk - women with divorced parents
- membership of a **religious community** - positive impact on the second birth risk
- **partnership status** :
 - second birth risk - lower for mothers that cohabit or stay in no union at all
 - higher second birth risk - is associated with a new partner

Conclusions II. – second birth determinants

- **education**

- increasing education level - decreasing average number of children desired

- the life course perspective - no significant differences in the risk of second conception according to the highest educational level achieved

- **age at first birth**

- women who had their first child later than other women with the same educational level have the lowest risk of getting another child

- those who became mothers relatively early are more likely to have a second child