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Fertility Survey
2013

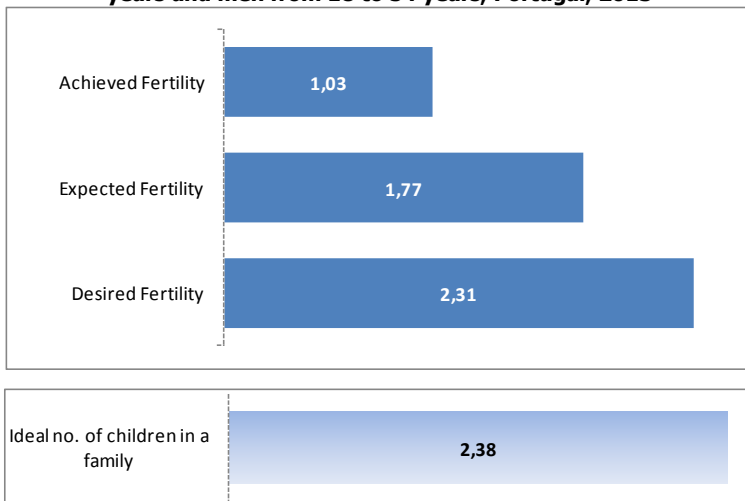
Fertility Survey: first results

This survey allows for the study of fertility not only amongst those that are already parents, but also between those that haven't (yet) had children, considering the number of children they already have, the number of children they think of having in the future, and the number of children they would wish to have throughout their lifetime. Several concepts were established, from which we underline three, as they constitute the main axes of analysis:

- **Achieved Fertility** – number of biological children (born alive) people had until the moment of reference of the survey;
- **Expected Fertility** - number of biological children (born alive) people had added by the number of children they think of having in the future (including present pregnancies, if applied);
- **Desired Fertility** – number of biological children people wish they had over their lifetime, independently of the number of children they actually have or still think of having.

Alongside with the three types of fertility, reference is also made to the "**ideal number of children in a family**", meaning the number of children (biological, adopted, stepchildren or other) considered by individuals as the ideal number for a family to have, independently of being their own.

Average number of children, by fertility type, women from 18 to 49 years and men from 18 to 54 years, Portugal, 2013



On average, people have 1.03 children, think of having 1.77 children, and wish they had 2.31 children. The majority of people without children is under 30 years of age; it is, however, in this age group that the proportion of those who intend and desire a larger number of children is higher.

Independently of marital status, level of education, or labour force status, the percentage of people that think of having, at the most, 2 children is prevailing.

"To see the children growing and developing" is the most common reason that lead people into deciding to have children.

"Financial burden associated with having children" is the

most common reason that take people to decide not to have children.

"Increasing family income for families with children" was the measure considered as the most important incentive to natality.

These are the first results from the Fertility Survey, made by Statistics Portugal in partnership with the Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos.

Technical note:

The Fertility Survey was made by Statistics Portugal using a sample of population residing in Portugal. The main objective was to collect information that allowed for a characterization of fertility patterns in Portugal, as well as to contribute for a better understanding of attitudes, values and socioeconomic covariates leading to the decision people make of having or not having children. The collected information constitutes a relevant instrument to help establish and evaluate family and fertility related policies. The survey was developed under a protocol signed in 2012 between Statistics Portugal and the Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos.

The information was collected by personal interview at the household of all selected individuals. Data collection took place between January 16th and April 15th 2013. Interviews were made at around 10 thousand households, distributed over all regions from the mainland and Autonomous Regions of Azores and Madeira. A sample of women between 18 and 49 years was selected, representing female population at national and NUTS 2 levels, and of men between 18 and 54 years, representative of the male population at national level. As a result, 7,624 successful interviews were made. Response to the survey was mandatory – Law no. 22/2008, from May 13th.

For a detailed analysis of the applied methodology, the reading of the Fertility Survey methodological document is suggested. It can be found here (only on Portuguese): <http://smi.ine.pt/DocumentacaoMetodologica?clear=True>.

The data collection instrument can be found here: <http://smi.ine.pt/SuporteRecolha/Detalhes/10110>.

Main concepts:

Achieved Fertility – number of biological children (born alive) people had until the moment of reference of the survey.

Expected Fertility – number of biological children (born alive) people had added by the number of children they think of having in the future (including present pregnancies, if applied).

Desired Fertility – number of biological children people wish they had over their lifetime, independently of the number of children they actually have or still think of having.

Ideal number of children in a family - number of children (biological, adopted, stepchildren or other) considered by individuals as the ideal number for a family to have, independently of being their own.