

## **The realization of short-term fertility intentions among immigrants and children of immigrants in Sweden**

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**Background:** Childbearing among immigrants and immigrant descendants in Western destination countries and the realization of fertility intentions in post-transitional societies are two topics of considerable interest within contemporary demographic research. Yet, very few studies have so far made the link and analyzed the association between intended and actual fertility specifically among immigrants and their children.

**Objective:** This study compares the propensity to realize negative and positive short-term, parity-progression fertility intentions among native Swedes and immigrants and children of immigrants of different origin.

**Data and method:** The study uses data from Wave 1 of the Swedish Generations and Gender Survey and its register-based follow-up to analyze how fertility intentions stated for the upcoming three years in 2012/2013 had been realized by December 2016, using event-history analysis. Individuals with negative intentions (definitely + probably no, n=2,814) and positive intentions (definitely + probably yes, n=1,116) are analyzed separately. Additional analyses are also performed for individuals with a strong positive intention (definitely yes, n=498). Both men and women are included in the three samples. Individuals with an immigrant background are distinguished by origin (“European/non-European Western”, “non-European/non-Western”) and generational status (“first generation”, “1.5 generation/second generation with two foreign-born parents”, “second generation with one foreign-born parent”).

**Results:** The greater propensity among first-generation immigrants to have an unintended birth and the lesser propensity among some origin and generational groups to realize a strong positive intention compared to native Swedes point to a closer agreement between intentions and behavior for natives than for certain categories of immigrants and children of immigrants.

**Conclusions:** Findings suggest that individuals with an immigrant background are sometimes less successful than native Swedes in predicting their future reproductive behavior, which may be explained by better knowledge among natives on the possibilities and constraints of Sweden’s institutional context.