Did you know?

Partnership arrangements for families with disabled children vary across countries in Europe. Analysis of GGP data reveals that disabled children in all countries are more likely to live in a one-parent household (on average 16% of them, as compared with 11% of non disabled children) – with the exception of Russia. Living apart together is also more common among women with disabled children. In addition, analysis of GGP data on partnership histories indicates that among the families with disabled children, almost 2% never had a partner. Among those currently without a partner (11% of the total group) almost all (91%) separated following the birth of the disabled child. Even among the families with both partners in the household, about 6% separated after the birth of the disabled child, which indicates a new union for the respondent. Data from the GGP is vital for understanding how disabilities affect family life and how these effects can be mitigated.

Figure 1: Percentage of children, with & without disability, living with both biological parents, by country

Recently published GGP studies

This issue of the At A Glance newsletter highlights the use of GGS datasets in the EU Seventh Framework project Changing families and sustainable societies: Policy contexts and diversity over the life course and across generations, FamiliesAndSocieties. This selection of Working Paper Series present the use of GGS data in cross-national research. FamiliesAndSocieties aimed to contribute to evidence-based policy-making through research on the diversity of family forms, relationships, life courses and the compatibility of existing policy frameworks with the dynamic reality of families in modern European society.

Abstract: This study investigates union formation and dissolution among immigrants and their descendants in four European countries with different migration histories and welfare state policies (United Kingdom, Estonia, France and Spain). While there is a growing body of literature on migrant families in Europe, there is little comparative research that has benefited from the opportunities that the European context offers. We use pooled data from four countries and apply an event history analysis. The analysis shows a significant variation in partnership trajectories across migrant groups in some countries (e.g., South Asians versus Caribbeans in the UK) and similar union trajectories for some migrant groups in different countries (e.g., South Asians in the UK and immigrants from Turkey in France). The descendants of immigrants exhibit partnership patterns that are similar to those of their parents’ generation. The country context also matters; specific patterns are observed for Spain and Estonia.

Abstract: One of the non-standard family forms that emerged and recently became more visible, both in society and in science is a “non-residential partnership”, known as Living Apart Together or “LAT”. Despite the growing visibility of this new family form, determining the statistical incidence of LAT is complex for two main reasons. First, LAT partnerships are not registered in any official statistics. Second, a generally accepted definition of LAT is absent. In this paper, we collect several studies that give an overview of the prevalence and the determinants of LAT in Europe.

This working paper provides an overview of trends in female and male childlessness in Europe over the last decades and explores associations between cohort childlessness and national demographic and social indicators. We also estimate proportions of voluntary childless people. Results show that childlessness has increased at ages 30–34 and 40–44 years among both men and women throughout Europe, with few exceptions. Female childlessness at ages 40–44 years remains low (below or at 10%) in Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Russia, moderate (11–15%) in France, Belgium, Georgia, Germany, Norway, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, and the US, and high (around 20%) in Austria, Italy, Finland, the Netherlands and the UK. Male lifetime childlessness is highest (above 23% among men aged 45–49) in Finland, Italy, Germany, the UK and Czechia. Childlessness is more common among men with little education, and among women with either very high or very low education. Childlessness is higher in countries where mean age at marriage is high and entry into motherhood is on average more delayed. Childlessness remains negatively associated with proportions ever married, and also with completed cohort fertility. The last association has even grown stronger in the youngest cohorts, suggesting that in a low fertility context, increasing childlessness
contributes markedly to overall fertility. The prevalence of childlessness does not seem to be associated with proportions of women with high education, with women’s employment rates and with divorce rates at country level. Higher childlessness is found in countries with widespread individualist values.

Abstract: Using data from the Generations and Gender Survey, this study explores the effect of field of education on first union formation for women and men born since the 1960s in Norway, Austria, Belgium, and Poland. Educational attainment is known to influence differently the union patterns of men and women. These differences in partnership formation have been traditionally explained using the economic interpretation of education. The researchers suggest that looking at fields of study may yield additional insights and offer a more comprehensive picture for understanding union entry patterns. The analysis focusses on the effect of three dimensions of education—educational level, enrolment, and field—on first union entry and union type. Educational field is found to be important not only as a control variable that helps add nuance to the relation between educational level and family formation, but also in and of itself. The findings suggest that the field of study reflects unobserved value orientations but also different degrees of opportunities in the labour market.

Abstract: This working paper describes a potential sub-field of research within the scope of life course studies. This sub-field is defined with intentions for performing life course events. The paper describes a diversity of lines of research providing empirical illustrations based on the use of survey data. A restricted set of events and intentions are considered within the life trajectory experienced by young adults, with an emphasis on the intention to have a first child. Events and intentions at the macro level are described. The discussion continues at the micro level including applications of the theory of planned behaviour. Special attention is given to concurrent intentions, i.e. intentions stated at one and the same time. These intentions might be competing or supporting. Intentions are discussed in light of their realisation or non-realisation. Findings support the existence of links among intentions, in that some are competing and others supporting. Psychological distress is checked and its effect is found for individuals who fail to realise their plans. The results support the importance of a broad area of research that needs increased attention by researchers. It can provide valuable policy implications.

Abstract: The aim of this study is to deepen the understanding of the nexus between women’s employment and marital stability. Data from the Generations and Gender Survey is used to examine the impact of women’s employment on divorce in Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Poland. The analytical strategy allows to account for selection and anticipation mechanisms; i.e., marital disruption and employment are estimated jointly, looking not only at the effects of employment on marital stability, but also at the impact of time since employment entry. The findings reveal that women’s employment facilitates marital disruption in Italy and Poland, but not in Germany and Hungary. These results are discussed in light of these countries’ contextual arrangements and reveal that selection effects play out differently in different contexts. The findings highlight the importance of accounting for selection in divorce studies, especially in comparative studies. Finally, traces of anticipation behaviors are noted in Italy, which is attributed to the low employment levels among Italian women.
Announcements

Save the Date: European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) Conference 2018

June 6-9, 2018 Vrije Universiteit | Brussels | Belgium

The EAPS 2018 Conference Call for Abstracts is open and can be viewed on line here.

Submission deadline is 1 October 2017.

Call for Contributed Papers

The Second International Conference on the Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys
July 25-27, 2018 University of Essex | UK

The organisers of the Second International Conference on the Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys (MOLS2) invite submissions of contributed paper proposals. Contributed papers will be presented orally at the conference at the University of Essex, UK on 25-27 July 2018 and may be eligible for submission to a special journal issue. Papers should address methodological issues that are specific to the context of longitudinal data collection including any type of quantitative survey that involves collecting information on multiple occasions from the same subjects. Topics of interest are listed here.

Submission and deadline: Abstracts of not more than 400 words should be submitted online by 8 December 2017.

Generations & Gender Programme @ IPC2017, Cape Town

28th International Population Conference | October 29- November 4, 2017
Cape Town International Convention Centre | Republic of South Africa

Side Meeting: What innovations in data collection and data linking methods is GGP experimenting with for future directions in longitudinal survey data collection? How can you become a national GGP Focal Point?

Come learn about new directions and exchange experiences and insights about GGP’s future during our side meeting on Tuesday, 31 October 2017 from 19.00-21.00hrs. Provisional meeting room room 1.61, 1st floor of the CTICC. Changes in meeting location will be communicated via Twitter and Facebook ahead of time.

Exhibition Booth: GGP User Community members are invited to visit the GGP team in the IPC Exhibition Hall from 30 October – 3 November. Do you need a place to meet for GGP business, would you like to speak to a GGP technical advisor or are you interested in the directions GGP is headed? Drop by to speak with a team member. The GGP exhibition booth number will be confirmed via Twitter at the start of the IPC2017 Conference.

Generations & Gender Programme Facebook Page

Follow the GGP on Facebook now too! Find us via @GGPdata or https://www.facebook.com/GGPdata/.

Our Twitter handle remains unchanged: @GGP_i.