

Appendix 1: Surveys and questions analyzed

All surveys considered for inclusion and those selected for the analysis are listed in online Appendix 2; online data Appendix 4 provides a more detailed list with selected key indicators for each survey. Discussion of the selection criteria and of the robustness of the presented results is provided in online Appendix 3 (all supplementary online materials are available at <http://videurrep.oeaw.ac.at/two-is-best-pdr/>).

Multicountry surveys

—Eurobarometer (EB, 1979, 2001, 2006, 2011)

Data source: European Commission, Brussels: Eurobarometer 11, 56.2, 65.1; TNS OPINION & SOCIAL, Brussels (Producer); GESIS, Cologne (Publisher): ZA1036, ZA3627, ZA4505, ZA5564.

Questions and predefined response options:

EB 1979: “In (country name) today, what do you think is the ideal number of children for a family?”

Coded response options: 0 none; DK; NA; 1 one; 2 two; 3 three; 4 four; 5 five; 6 six; 7 seven; 8 eight; 9 nine or more.

EB 2001, 2006, and 2011: “Generally speaking, what do you think is the ideal number of children for a family?”

Coded response options (partly survey- and country-specific), including 9 there is no ideal number, it depends; 10 don’t know.

It is not clear whether the interviewers were expected to explicitly list all the response options. Only in the 2011 survey were the interviewers explicitly instructed to allow open-ended responses and not to read the pre-coded options.

—European Values Study (EVS, 1981–2008)

Data source: European Values Study 1981–2008, Longitudinal Data File ZA4804. Spanish data files ZA4451 and ZA4487. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne.

Question: “What do you think is the ideal size of a family—how many children, if any?”

Coded response options (in master questionnaire):

EVS 1981: open question.

EVS 1990 (it is not clear whether the pre-codes were read out):

0 none; 1 one child ... continuing up to 9 nine children; 10 ten or more children; 99 don’t know.

EVS 1999: Asked only in Sweden, coding information not available.

—International Social Survey (ISSP, 1988 and 1994)

Data source: ISSP Research Group, International Social Survey Programme (ISSP): 1988 ZA1700, 1994 ZA620. Distributor: GESIS, Cologne

Question: “All in all, what do you think is the ideal number of children for a family to have?”

Coded response options: no predefined codes; open question (write number in box).

—World Values Survey (WVS, 1981–2008)

Data source: World Values Survey 1981–2008 Official aggregate v.20090901, 2009. World Values Survey Association (www.worldvaluessurvey.org). Aggregate File Producer: ASEP/JDS, Madrid.

Question: “What do you think is the ideal size of a family—how many children, if any?”

Coded response options (in master questionnaire):

WVS 1981: open question.

WVS 1990 (no clear interviewer instruction is available on this question, so it was not necessarily read out): 0 none; 1 one child ... continuing up to 9 nine children; 10 ten or more children; 99 don't know.

WVS 1995, WVS 2000 (again, no clear interviewer instruction): 0 none; 1 one child ... continuing up to 7 seven children; 8 eight or more children; 9 don't know, no answer.

—Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)

Data source: ICF International, 2012. MEASURE DHS STATcompiler—<http://www.statcompiler.com>— data downloaded April 17, 2013.

Question: (a) Has living children: “If you could go back to the time you did not have any children and could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?”

(a) No living children: “If you could choose exactly the number of children to have in your whole life, how many would that be?”

Coded response options (phases 5 and 6): None 00; Number ... (specified); Other (specify) 96.

Individual country surveys

—INED and INED-INSERM surveys in France, 1955–2010

Data sources:

- *Les attitudes et la conjoncture démographique: natalité, structure familiale et limites de la vie active*. 1^{re} partie, 1955, INED. *Enquête conjoncture* (1955 EC).
- *La conjoncture démographique: régulation des naissances, famille et natalité*, 1967, INED. *Enquête conjoncture* (1967 EC).
- *Attitudes des Français sur la conjoncture démographique, la natalité et la politique familiale à la fin de 1976*, INED. *Enquête conjoncture* (1976 EC).
- *Une enquête d'opinion sur la conjoncture démographique*, 1982, INED. *Enquête conjoncture* (1982 EC).
- *L'opinion sur la politique démographique, la nuptialité et les nouvelles techniques de procréation en mai 1987*, INED. *Enquête conjoncture* (1987 EC).
- *Enquête permanente sur les conditions de vie des ménages* (EPCV), partie mobile: intentions de fécondité - mai 1998, INSEE. *Enquête sur les intentions de fécondités* (1998 EIF).
- *Enquête Fécondité-Contraception-Dysfonctions sexuelles* FECOND – juin 2010–janvier 2011, INED/INSERM.

Question (identical in all surveys) : “D’après vous, quel est le nombre idéal d’enfants dans une famille?” (In your opinion, what is the ideal number of children in a family?).

Coded response options: open-ended question, only in 1998 was it possible to give a range (we selected the minimum value in our computations).

—Swiss Household Panel Surveys (SHP), waves 2002 and 2005.

Data source: *Swiss Household Panel Surveys*, Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences (FORS), data accessed in April 2014

Question: “What would you say is the ideal number of children for a family living in Switzerland?”

Coded response options: open-ended question.

—Generation and Gender Surveys (GGS) Austria, wave 1 (2009) and wave 2 (2012–13)

Data source: *Austrian Generation and Gender Surveys*, Statistics Austria/Vienna Institute of Demography.

Question: „Was glauben Sie, ist die ideale Zahl von Kindern für eine Familie in Österreich?“ (What do you think is the ideal number of children for a family in Austria?)

Coded response options: open-ended question.

Notes

This research was funded by the European Research Council under the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) / ERC Grant agreement no. 284238 (EURREP project). Results of the study have been presented at the 2014 Population Association of America Annual Meeting in Boston and at the 2014 European Population Conference in Budapest. An earlier expanded version is available as a working paper (Sobotka and Beaujouan 2014). More details concerning data, data quality, and data selection criteria, as well as a sensitivity analysis of the presented results, are available in supplementary online Appendixes 2–4 (<http://videurrep.oew.ac.at/two-is-best-pdr/>). Data for Switzerland are derived from the Swiss Household Panel (SHP surveys), which is based at the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences FORS (project financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation). We thank Kryštof Zeman, who provided help with the analysis of the SHP surveys, and to Dimiter Philipov and Anna Matysiak, who provided comments on an earlier draft of this study.

1 This separation of datasets for eastern and western Germany is based on the fact that they formed two separate countries until 1990, but even more so on the distinctiveness of family and fertility patterns in these two areas that has persisted after reunification

(Kreyenfeld 2003; Goldstein and Kreyenfeld 2011; Sobotka 2011).

2 The question of ideal family size was not included in GGS conducted in other countries.

3 The EB surveys of 2001, 2006, and 2011 asked respondents about both general and personal ideal family size. (The question was: “And for you personally, what would be the ideal number of children you would like to have or would have liked to have had?”) Testa (2012: 9) found that in the 2011 EB there was very close agreement in responses to these two questions. The slightly higher personal ideal family size could be partly explained by women at higher parities reporting higher personal than general ideal family size, since they presumably wanted to avoid reporting a discrepancy between their personal ideals and actual behavior.

4 Our inclusion of these DHS datasets was motivated by the effort to expand the available datasets for Central and Eastern Europe, where only a few relevant recent surveys exist.

5 It might be argued that by selecting a wide age range for our analyses we would miss the opportunity to detect shifts in ideal family size among young adults, who could be early adopters of low family-size ideals. However, the available literature does not suggest any important shift among young respondents. A detailed analysis of the data from the