

# A Second Child in the Family – the Consequences of Changing Family and Fertility Patterns in the Czech Republic

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## **Abstract**

The theme of this study is the two-child family model and second order births in the context of a changing Czech society. The study investigates the conditions and context surrounding the birth of a second child and the general values associated with children and focuses on selected factors associated with the decision-making process surrounding having a second child including the factors that a woman takes into account when deciding whether to have another child. Furthermore, the author studies the determinants of having a second child in Czech society and the relationship between the likelihood of the birth of a second child and different micro-level covariates and attempts to provide an explanation of the processes acting upon second childbearing through interaction with education and partnerships/union dynamics.

The thesis is divided into three thematic sections. Following the introductory chapters, the first part of the study addresses fertility patterns in the Czech Republic, societal conditions and theoretical concepts which deal with possible explanations for changing fertility behaviour. The second part of the study considers decision-making processes and value orientations from the perspective of the individual and is devoted to an analysis of the intentions, preferences and value orientations associated with reproductive behaviour in the Czech Republic. The third part of the study is devoted to the life course approach, event history modelling and to an analysis of the determinants of having a second child.

The data used in this study was chosen in order to illustrate both the macro and micro (individual) perspectives of reproductive behaviour in the Czech Republic. The data used in this study is taken namely from the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO), the Human Fertility Database and the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) carried out in the Czech Republic in 2005 and 2008 as part of the Generation and Gender Programme international project coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

**Keywords:** fertility, childbearing, intentions, two-child family model, second child, event history analysis, Czech Republic