

28 November 2018

**Fertility Survey**  
Year 2018 Advanced results

**Nearly three out of four women would like to have at least two children**

**The main incentive demanded by women to have children is an increase in the length of maternity and paternity leave**

**5.4% of women under 55 have undergone assisted reproduction treatment**

The Fertility Survey for 2018 continues the series of surveys of this type conducted in 1977, 1985 and 1999. Its main objective is to identify the factors that determine current and recent fertility levels, such as income, balance between work and family life, the existence of benefits or life as a couple.

In this preview of results, only part of the questionnaire have been used, focusing on the desired fertility, the barriers and incentives that people encounter when making decisions about their fertility and the use of assisted reproduction today.

**For the first time, the survey investigates men**, in order to know their family and reproductive behaviour and thus have a gender perspective given that their work and family trajectories and their reproductive aspirations also have a direct impact on fertility.

### **Desired fertility**

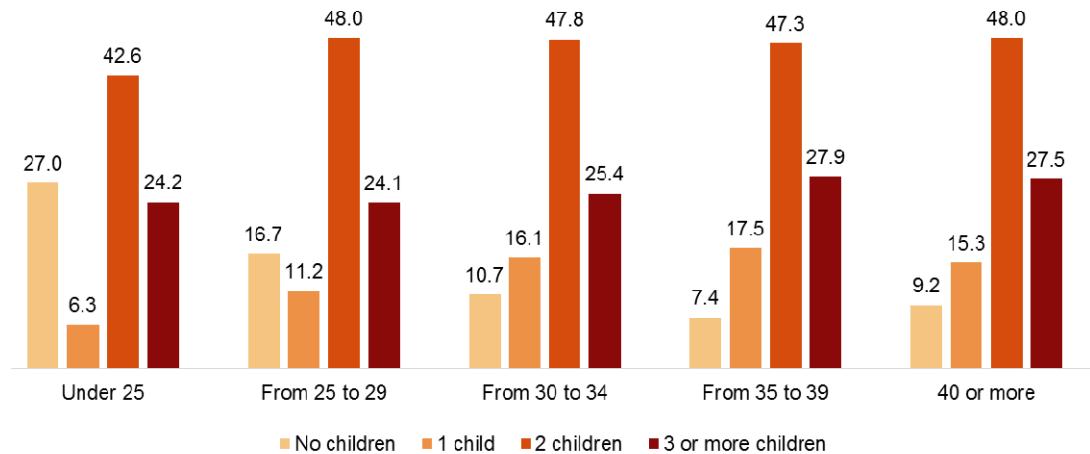
Almost half of women aged 18 to 55, including those who already have children, wish to have two children in total. The highest percentages, 48.0%, are found among those aged 25 to 29 and in those aged 40 and over.

On the other hand, the percentage of women who want to have three children was around 25%, although it exceeded 27.0% in those over 35.

If these two groups are combined, it turns out that almost three out of four women would like to have at least two children.

On the other hand, the percentage of women who do not want to have children decreases as age increases. Thus, 27.0% of those under 25 do not want to have children, compared with 16.7% of those between 25 and 29. And only one in 10 women over 30 does not want to have children.

**Desired fertility (number of children) by women by age group**  
Percentages



The most important reason why women who have not had children do not want them is because they do not want to be mothers. For those under 25, the main reason was that they considered themselves too young to have children.

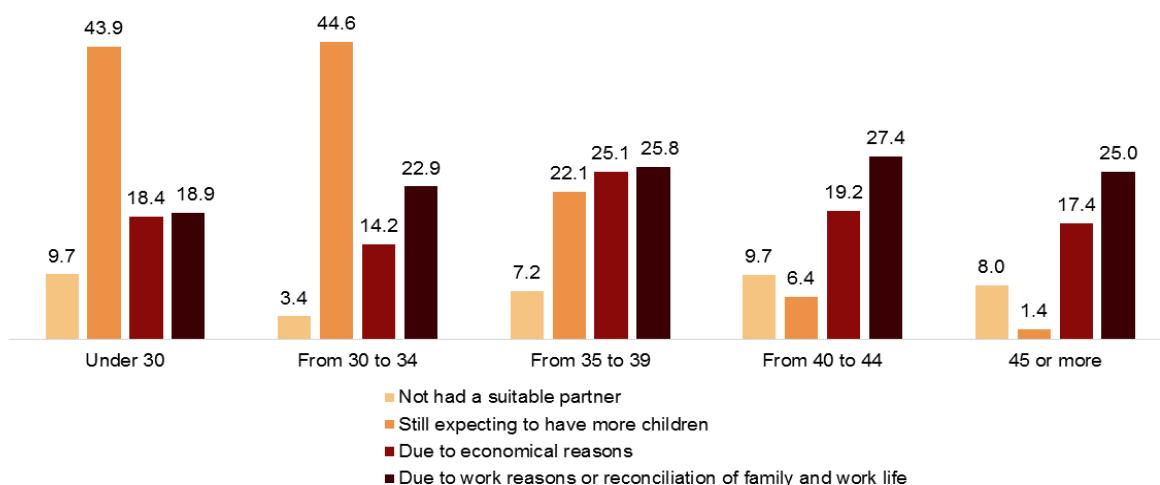
### Barriers and incentives

Most women under 35 still expect to have more children. Around 44% of them stated that this is the main reason why they have had fewer children than they wished to have.

From the age of 35 onwards, the most important reasons for which women have had fewer children than they wanted are *working reasons or balancing work and family life* and *economic reasons*.

### Women who have had fewer children than desired by main reason and age

Percentages of women

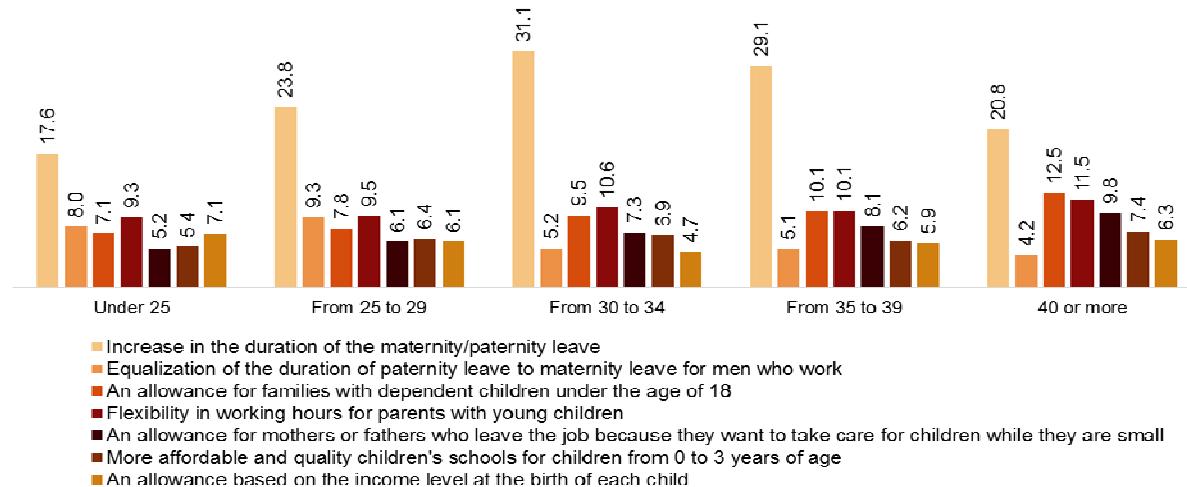


The main incentive for the growth of the birth rate that women demand from the State is the increase in the duration of maternity/paternity leave. By age group, the highest percentages were among women aged 30 to 34 (31.1%) and 35 to 39 (29.1%).

The second most important birth rate incentive for women under 40 is flexible working hours for fathers and mothers with young children.

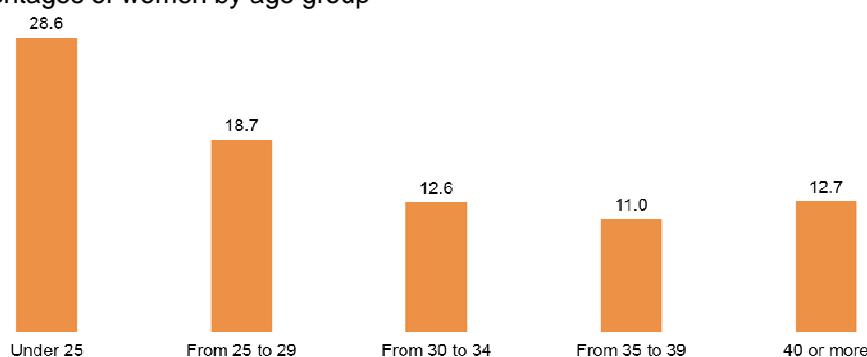
And, for those aged 40 and over, the second most important measure is an allowance for families with dependent children under the age of 18.

### Distribution by age of the main incentives demanded for the growth of the birth rate Percentages of women



28.6% of women under the age of 25 do not believe that a higher birth rate should be encouraged. This percentage decreases with age and reaches 12.6% in the age group with the highest fertility at present (30 to 34 years).

### Women who do not believe that a higher birth rate should be encouraged by the State Percentages of women by age group



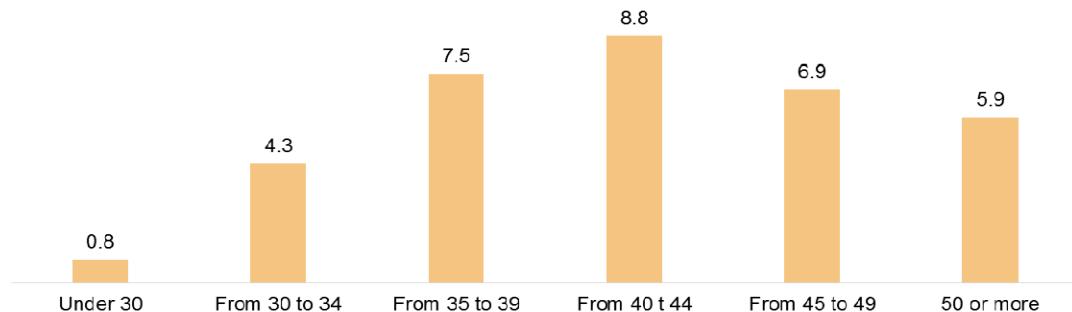
### Assisted Reproduction

5.4% of women between the ages of 18 and 55 resident in Spain have ever undergone assisted reproduction treatment.

This percentage increases with age, reaching a maximum of 8.8% in those between the ages of 40 and 44, and then decrease. However, it should be noted that 5.9% of women today aged 50 and over have ever undergone or are currently undergoing assisted reproduction treatment.

### Distribution by current age of the use of assisted reproduction

Percentage over total women population



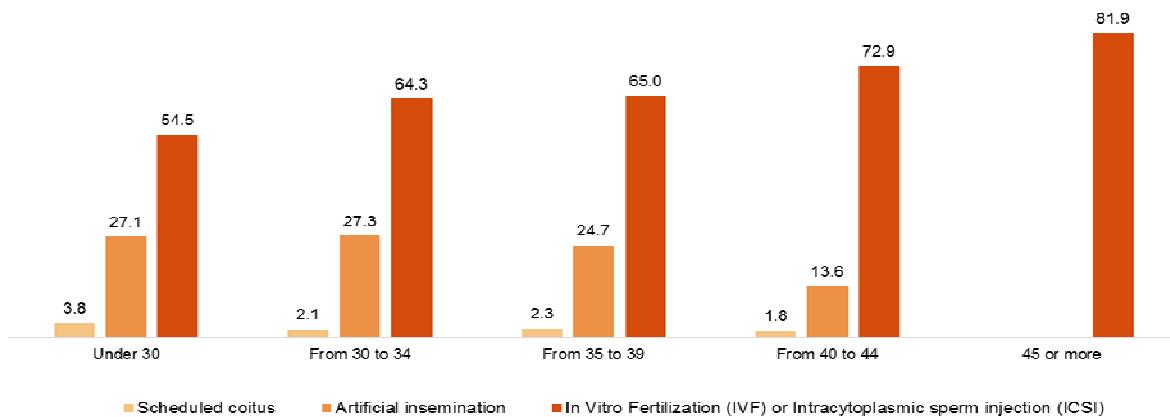
The most commonly used assisted reproduction treatments were in vitro fertilisation (IVF) or intracytoplasmic injection (ICSI) and artificial insemination.

The degree of utilisation of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) or intracytoplasmic injection (ICSI) increases with age. Thus, it goes from 54.5% in women under 30 who have ever undergone or are undergoing assisted reproduction treatment, to 81.9% in those aged 45 and over.

With artificial insemination, the opposite is true. It is used by slightly more than 27% of women under 35 who have ever undergone or are undergoing assisted reproduction treatment, and by 13.6% of those aged 40 to 44.

### Type of assisted reproduction treatment according to age at first treatment

Percentage of women who have ever undergone assisted reproductive treatment



## Fertility desired by men

There are no major differences between the number of children desired by men and women. The greatest discrepancy occurs in the percentages of men who wish to have three children, which are lower than those of women.

As is the case with women, most men wish to have a total of two children (almost half of those aged 25-39 and more than half for the rest).

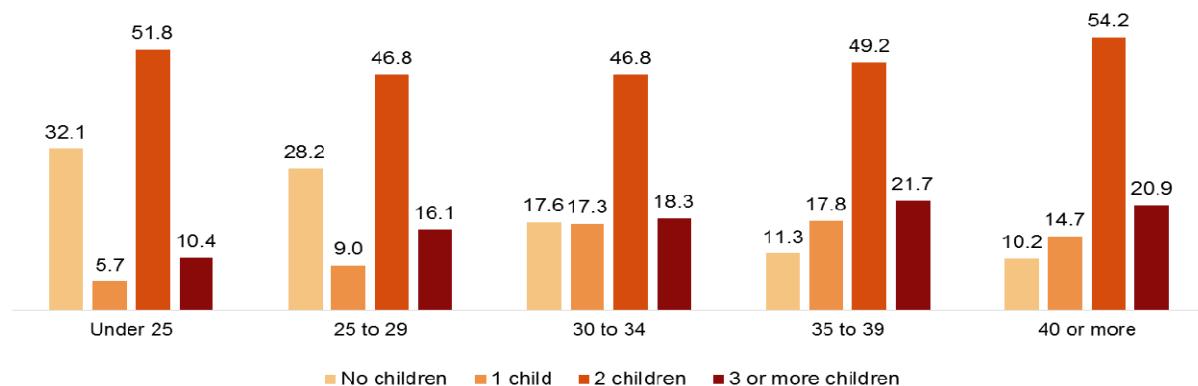
On the other hand, around 20% of men over 30 years of age want to have three children, compared with 16.1% of those between 25 and 29 years of age and 10.4% of those under 25 years of age.

The percentage of men who do not want to have children decreases as age increases, as is the case with women. Thus, 32.1% of those under 25 do not want to have children, compared with 10.2% of those over 40.

It is also observed that the group of men who want to have only one child is relatively low at all ages, as is the case with women.

### Desired fertility (number of children) by men by age group

Percentage of men



## Review and update of data

The data published today are a preview of results, after part of the questionnaires have been exploited. The final detailed results will be published in April 2019.

## **Methodological note**

The **Fertility Survey for 2018** continues the series of surveys of this type conducted in 1977, 1985 and 1999. The research has been addressed to the group of people from 18 to 55 years old, both ages included, who reside in main family dwellings throughout the national territory, with the objective of identifying the determining factors of current, recent and expected fertility for the future, the determining factors on the decision to have children or not to have them and the reasons that lead to the delayed maternity and paternity. The information was collected over 15 weeks, from 12 March to 25 June 2018.

For the first time, the survey investigates men, in order to know their family and reproductive behaviour and thus have a gender perspective given that their work and family trajectories and their reproductive aspirations also have a direct impact on fertility.

Two independent samples have been selected, one of men and a larger one of women. In both cases, independent samples have been selected in each Autonomous Community. National and Autonomous Community results are provided for women and national results for men.

**Type of survey:** structural survey with irregular periodicity

**Population scope:** persons aged 18 to 55, including both ages, residing in main dwellings.

**Geographical scope:** the entire national territory

**Reference period of the results:** 2018

**Reference period of the information:** date of interview

**Sample size:** 17,037 people (14,446 women and 2,591 men) distributed in 1,825 census tracts.

**Type of sampling:** stratified two-stage sampling

**Collection method:** Collection method: interview completed by the respondent himself via the Internet, telephone interview and computer-assisted personal interview.

A more complete tabulation plan is available to users on the INE website.

For more information you can access the methodology at:

[http://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/en/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica\\_C&cid=1254736177006&menu=metodologia&idp=1254735573002](http://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/en/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736177006&menu=metodologia&idp=1254735573002)

And the standardised methodological report at:

<http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/en/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30317>