

## **Men's Fertility and Family Size as Compared to Women's**

Laurent Toulemon\*

### **Summary**

France's latest population census was taken in 1999. In conjunction with this census, as with previous ones, the French National Institute of Statistics (INSEE) conducted a one-per-cent survey on family histories. For the first time, this large-scale survey (380,000 respondents) included men as well as women, aged 18 and over.

This survey offers an opportunity to describe family forms and fertility and child-raising behaviours from men's as well as women's viewpoint. The respondents were questioned on number of own children, including adopted and deceased children, number of stepchildren (children from a spouse/partner that the respondent may or may not have brought up or lived with) and the existence of any foster-children.

Men's fertility, as reported in this survey, is 6% lower than women's fertility. Men and women's mean number of children may differ because of migration and differential mortality but the main reason for the discrepancy is the number of children not recognised by any father, and thus probably not referred to by the male respondents. Men's and women's parity distribution also differs: on the one hand, more men than women remain childless, and on the other hand men have large families more often than women.

The main reason of this discrepancy comes from nuptiality behaviours. Men whose union has broken down more often enter a new union than women and, as some of them do so with women who have never previously lived with a partner, more men than women are "excluded" from the "first partnership market".

Taking into account stepchildren offers a more precise description of the number of children that men and women may have brought up. The survey indicates the dates of arrival and departure of children and stepchildren, so that the children may be weighted by the number of years spent with the respondent. Men raise more children than women, but they may live a shorter period of time with them than women do, as most children go on living with their mother if the parents separate. Thus women rarely live with stepchildren, contrary to men.

As the majority of men still keep in contact with their children when they do not live with them any more, the family circle may include very close dependent relatives who are not living in the same household. This has always been true for the relations of adults – especially women – with elderly relatives, but it may now also be true for men's relations with their children living in another household.

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The first part of the paper is devoted to the presentation of data, which come from a very large survey: 380,000 men and women gave during the 1999 French census information on their fertility and family history. The data are still preliminary, but they are already available for researchers, including from outside of France.

The second part presents the number of men's and women's children, on a cohort and a period basis, including or not adopted children and stepchildren. Among the latter, we may distinguish stepchildren that the respondent has brought up, those who came and live with him/her (but were not declared as having been brought up), and those who did not come to live with the respondent.

The last part is devoted to an estimation of the mean duration that men and women spend with their brought up stepchildren.

### **I – Presentation of the Study of family history <sup>1</sup>**

In the March 1999 French population census, 380,000 men and women living in private dwellings filled out an additional schedule on the subject of their "family history", including questions on their origins, children, partnerships, and social history, as well as the languages (both national and regional) customarily spoken in their families. The sample gender ratio is not 1:1 but 3:5, i.e., 167,000 men and 278,000 women. In addition, the sample had to be designed to achieve representativeness at the regional level. The same information was gathered from 6,600 people living in institutions, including 1,700 male prison inmates.

There are two main sources of demographic information in France. The census provides data on the state of the population at a given date; vital records tell us about population changes as measured by births, marriages, and deaths. But both sources are too general to shed light on aspects of individual behaviour such as number of children, birth timing, types of partnership, remarriage, and so on. The Family Survey completes this information system. It has been coupled with the population census since 1954, making it one of INSEE's <sup>2</sup> oldest sample surveys. It is mainly intended to track the emergence of new family forms, through a retrospective and biographical questionnaire that reconstructs the demographic history of generations. Each successive survey also devotes a set of questions to a specific, topical theme, such as female participation in the labour force in 1982 or childcare in 1990. The subject chosen for 1999 was the inter-generational transmission of languages and dialects.

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<sup>1</sup> This part mainly comes from a more complete paper presenting the survey (Cassan, Héran, Toulemon, 2000) which will soon be printed in English.

<sup>2</sup> *Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques*, the French institute of statistics.

The survey is conducted on very simple principles. In a fraction of the "enumerator sectors" defined for census data gathering (one in fifty since 1962),<sup>3</sup> the persons included in the field of the Family Survey receive a special questionnaire in addition to their individual schedule. Respondents are asked to fill out the special questionnaire themselves and return it to the enumerator with the other census forms. One of the advantages of this arrangement is that it enables us to remove from the individual schedule a number of demographic questions that are included in censuses of other countries or recommended by the United Nations but would be expensive to put to the entire population (number of children born, detailed marital status, dates of death of partner or children, etc). Reciprocally, the Family Survey uses information gathered in the census.

The 1999 survey was the occasion for a major overhaul. The questions on partnership and family situations (demographic section) were considerably revised. Special care was taken to distinguish between *de facto* and *de jure* situations, and to identify the individuals who have lived in several successive partnerships; new questions were added on adopted children and on the partner's children, as well as on grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The survey field was expanded to two new categories: men and people aged over 64. For the institutional population, the field was extended to persons living in retirement homes and prison inmates.<sup>4</sup>

Barring some gender differences in the wording, the questionnaire is identical for men and women. Now in most cases the two members of a partnership have very similar family histories. To avoid asking for the same information twice, we have therefore disconnected the male and female samples. In a given dwelling, we have surveyed either the men or the women—which, in practice, means all men or all women in the household aged 18 or older.

The extension to the over-64s is justified by the retrospective character of the Family Survey. We can thus recapitulate French demographic history by going back as far as possible, beyond the baby boom. In the language section, we can go back even further, since the oldest respondents will report the language their parents spoke to them when they (the respondents) were five years old, i.e., on the eve of World War I.

As in earlier versions, the questionnaire begins with questions on the respondent's children, including adopted children. For each child, the respondent is asked to indicate the gender, date and place of birth, and, for adopted children, the date the child came to live in the household. Where appropriate, the ages at leaving the parental home and the dates of any deaths (with a special mention of stillborn children, which people make a point of reporting) enable us to document the periods in which the respondent has raised children. The questions on adopted children yield information never previously available in France: the social and demographic characteristics of the foster parents, and how various methods of adoption have spread since World War I (the child's place of birth allows a distinction between national adoption and international adoption).

The next set of questions concerns stepchildren, defined here as the children of a partner (or ex-partner) raised by the respondent. The questions are identical to the questions on children, making it possible, for study purposes, to examine children and raised stepchildren together. Three further questions complete the parenting-history section: (1) other children taken in; (2) presence of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; (3) number and age of the eldest,

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<sup>3</sup> The size of the survey sample is dictated by the need to break down most of the data according to many criteria, such as age and generation, profession, level of education, place of residence, *etc.*

<sup>4</sup> The Family Survey had already been extended since 1975 to women living in university residences or in female workers' hostels. In consequence, the only institutions still excluded in the 1999 survey were hospitals, barracks, and religious communities.

which should finally enable us to find out when people become grandparents or great-grandparents (Cassan, Mazuy, Toulemon 2001).

The questions on partnership history concentrate on de facto unions, with or without marriage. After a question on current status, we ask for the dates of the start and termination of the first and latest partnerships, and, where applicable, dates of marriage, separation, divorce, and death of spouse. As recommended by the National Commission on Information Technology and Civil Liberties, (Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés: CNIL) the survey questions are confined to no more than two partnerships, the first and the latest; past partnerships are restricted to those involving a cohabitation of at least six months.

Questions on the languages spoken in the family (and beyond, with close relations) seek to describe France's linguistic diversity and the momentum toward national integration all during the twentieth century. This represents a major innovation, as French official statistics had never addressed the topic on a national scale. Thanks to the data collected—and eagerly awaited by historians and linguists—INSEE will at last be able to establish a basic level of comparability with other countries in the field of languages spoken and their family transmission.

Thanks to the Family Survey's linkage to the census, we can survey a large sample at a very low marginal cost. As in earlier surveys, and to keep data-collection procedures simple, INSEE has chosen to cover entire "enumerator sectors,"<sup>5</sup> of which some are totally dedicated to the survey of males and others to the survey of females. As in previous years, the survey was carried out in one of every fifty dwellings.

The Family Survey data base will not be restricted to the information contained in the survey schedules. It will also incorporate most of the information derived from the census. The matching will be performed using the census identifiers, date of birth, and gender. In addition, the census data yield information on persons who have refused to fill out the survey schedule.

The decision has been taken to set up a "survey processing group" at INED that will be in charge of making the data available and organising studies outside INSEE. The group has an open-door policy. Appendix 1 presents the English version of the questionnaire. Readers who would like to take part in the survey processing can contact Laurent Toulemon (+33 1 56 06 21 16, [toulemon@ined.fr](mailto:toulemon@ined.fr)) or Cecile Lefèvre (+33 1 56 06 20 98, [lefevre@ined.fr](mailto:lefevre@ined.fr)).

Data from the survey are nowadays being merged with census data, but the complete datafile is not yet available. Thus the results presented here have to be considered as provisional.

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<sup>5</sup> For the census, the collection unit is the district (of which there are 330,000 in all). Each of the 115,000 enumerators hired by municipal governments to conduct the census was in charge of one or more districts. On average, an enumerator sector comprised a population of about 225 households and 500 people.

## II - Men and women's fertility

We can use five definitions of children, in order to enlarge fertility to all children that a person has or could have brought up.

- 1) The biological children belong to the first category. Of course we do not check in any way an eventual “biological truth”, and we believe to the declarations of the persons themselves.
- 2) The adopted children are the second category. Children may be adopted in France through a “plenary adoption” (*adoption plénière*) which cuts the relationship with the previous parents, and leads to a new information in the civil registration registers. They may also be adopted through a “simple adoption” (*adoption simple*), which does not destroy the relationship between the child and the previous parents. A single person may adopt a child, but the vast majority of adopted children are adopted by couples. Stepparents may also adopt their stepchildren. In the survey, we only know that a child has been adopted, and the date when the child came and live with the respondent.
- 3) The stepchildren, children from the current partner, or from a previous partner, may be divided into three categories. Note that children of an ex-partner born *after* the union breakdown are not part of the respondent’s stepchildren. Even if these children may be considered as half-brothers or half sisters by the respondent’s own children, they do not belong to the respondent’s “fertility history”, while on the contrary partners’ children born *before* the union do. Going on our list, the third category includes stepchildren that the respondent declares to have brought up.
- 4) The fourth category includes stepchildren who came and live with the respondent, but that the respondent does not declare to have brought up. They may be children who go and visit their parent (the respondent’s partner) some times during the week or the holidays, or who were already too old to be “raised” by a stepparent.
- 5) The stepchildren who did not come and live with the respondent form the last category.

### 1) Number of children ever born

By adding these categories of children, we may describe fertility with extending its definition to children that may be “more or less” the respondent’s children.

Table 1 presents men’s and women’s mean number of children, according to several definitions. All ages put together, men have less biological children than women (1.61 as against 1.85). On the one hand men have their children at an older age than women do, and on the other hand some men may not declare all their biological children. The adopted children are very rare (1 child per 100 men or women). These two first categories put together constitute the set of “own children”, to whom we may add the stepchildren.

No information was asked about the stepchildren who never lived with the respondent, (we do not know their number but on the one hand the occurrence of at least one step child, and on the other hand the number of children who came). Their number was estimated according to two alternative hypotheses. Both hypotheses are based on the assumption that all the step children stayed together when their parents entered a new union: if the respondents declare that some children came and live with him (or her), I assume that all of them did. When we know that the respondent has some stepchildren from a specific partner, and that none of these children came and live with the respondent, the first hypothesis assumes that there was only one stepchild, and the second hypothesis (the one that we will use in the next graphs) that the mean number of stepchildren is, in mean, the same than for the other stepparents.

Men and women declare very similar numbers of stepchildren: men have 0.14 stepchildren, and women 0.13. Around 8% of men as well as of women have at least one stepchild, the mean number being 1.6 stepchild per stepparent. A major differences appears when we consider only the stepchildren that the respondent has brought-up: 4.4% of all men declare that they are bringing up or have brought-up some stepchildren, as against only 1.7% of women. The mean numbers of brought up stepchildren are identical for men and women: 1.56 stepchildren. The same holds for children that the respondent did not bring up, but who came and live with him (or her): 2.4% of men and 1.0% of women declare such children. If we add these two categories of children, 6.5% of men and 2.7% of women spent some time with a stepchild in his or her household.

Table 1  
Mean number of children, men and women aged 20 and over,  
according to several definitions of children

	Mean numbers (all respondents)		Proportion (in %) with at least one child of that type		Mean numbers (if at least one child of that type)	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
1) Biological children	1,612	1,852	68,44	76,15	2,355	2,432
2) Adopted children	0,011	0,009	0,79	0,62	1,388	1,445
3) Step-children, brought up	0,068	0,027	4,38	1,73	1,562	1,562
4) Step-children who came	0,038	0,017	2,41	1,00	1,574	1,681
5) Step-children who did not came	0,021	0,056	2,02	5,46	1,022	1,029
5) <i>Step-children who did not came</i>	<i>0,032</i>	<i>0,085</i>	<i>2,02</i>	<i>5,46</i>	<i>1,562</i>	<i>1,562</i>
1+2: Own children	1,623	1,861	68,82	76,53	2,358	2,431
1+2+3: Brought up children	1,691	1,888	69,66	76,82	2,427	2,457
1+2+3+4: Children brought up or who came	1,729	1,905	70,05	76,98	2,468	2,474
1+2+3+4+5: Children and step-children	1,750	1,961	70,55	78,03	2,480	2,513
1+2+3+4+5: <i>Children and step-children</i>	<i>1,760</i>	<i>1,990</i>	<i>70,55</i>	<i>78,03</i>	<i>2,495</i>	<i>2,550</i>
3: Brought up	0,068	0,027	4,38	1,73	1,562	1,562
3+4: Brought up or who came	0,106	0,044	6,53	2,68	1,627	1,639
3+4+5 Step-children (total)	0,127	0,100	8,29	7,93	1,532	1,262
3+4+5 <i>Step-children (total)</i>	<i>0,138</i>	<i>0,129</i>	<i>8,29</i>	<i>7,93</i>	<i>1,663</i>	<i>1,629</i>

Of course these figures are widely varying with age. Women born around 1930, who were aged 65-69 at the time of the survey, have the highest number of children (2.6, as against 2.2 for women aged more than 90). Women aged less than 40 are too young to have completed their fertility. Women aged 40-44 have already 2.07 own children, plus 0.04 brought up stepchildren. If we include all the stepchildren, we see that women aged 40-44 have a total of 2.25 children.

Men's fertility by age does not show at all the same pattern: the mean number of children is rising up to the age of 85. Men born at the end of the twenties, aged 70-74 at the time of the survey, have "only" 2.46 children, 0.14 less than women of the corresponding cohorts. Among these cohorts, men were often immigrants, and many of them did remain childless; but the main difference with women comes from large families (three children or more), more often declared by women than by men (graph 2a and 2b). Part of the difference could come from the selection due to mortality, which might be more pronounced among men who raised a large family. When the data on union histories are checked with the census, we will go further on that direction.

At all ages, the inclusion of brought up stepchildren increases men's fertility more than women's. Nevertheless, the inclusion of brought up stepchildren does not change the major features of men's and women's distribution by number of children ever born (Mazuy, Toulemon 2001). For men as well as for women, the total number of stepchildren decreases with age for women aged more than 50: from the cohorts born at the beginning of the XXth century to women born in the forties, the occurrence of stepparenting increases. But when we consider only the stepchildren that the persons have brought up, such increase do not appear anymore among women: the mean number of women's brought up stepchildren is very stable with age, between 0.03 and 0.04 stepchild per woman. On the contrary, the increase in men's stepchildren is concentrated on brought up stepchildren. Among men aged between 40 and 50 years of age, the mean number of brought up stepchildren reaches 0.1 per man (graphs 3.a and 3.b).

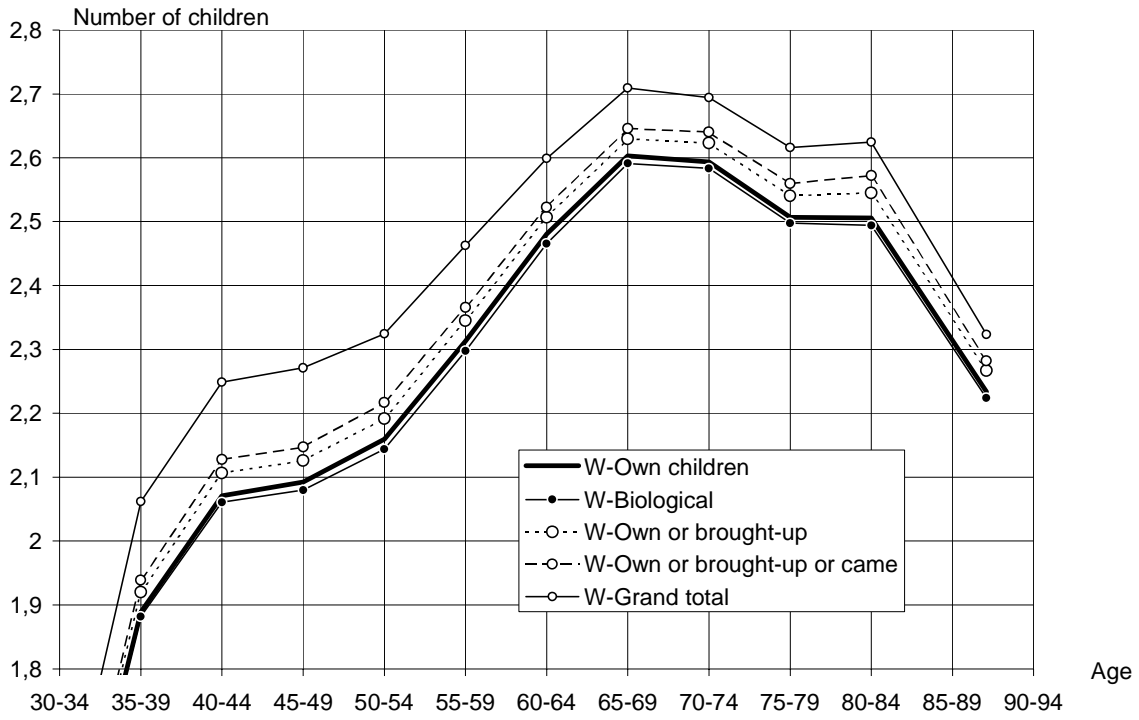
The impact of stepchildren on the fertility differential between men and women is shown on graph 4 for people aged around fifty at the time of the survey (men aged 49-53 and women aged 46-50 to take into account the age difference between partners). Men have less "own" children than women (2.05 as against 2.09), but when we add the own children and the stepchildren that have been brought up, the mean number of children appears to be higher for men than for women (2.15 vs 2.14). Adding the stepchildren who came leads to an increase of the difference (2.20 vs 2.16). Taking into account all stepchildren, irrespective of their co-residence with the respondent, makes the difference be similar to the one for own children: all in all, men have less children and stepchildren than women: 2.24 vs 2.28.

Part of this difference comes from the fact that more men than women declare that they never lived as a couple. If we restrict the observation to people who ever lived as a couple (graph 5), the contrast between men's and women's mean number of "biological" children is only 0.02 (men have 2.16 and women 2.18 biological children). Men who ever lived as a couple did raise more children than women, when we include brought up stepchildren and stepchildren who came and live with the respondent, while there is no more difference when we include all stepchildren.



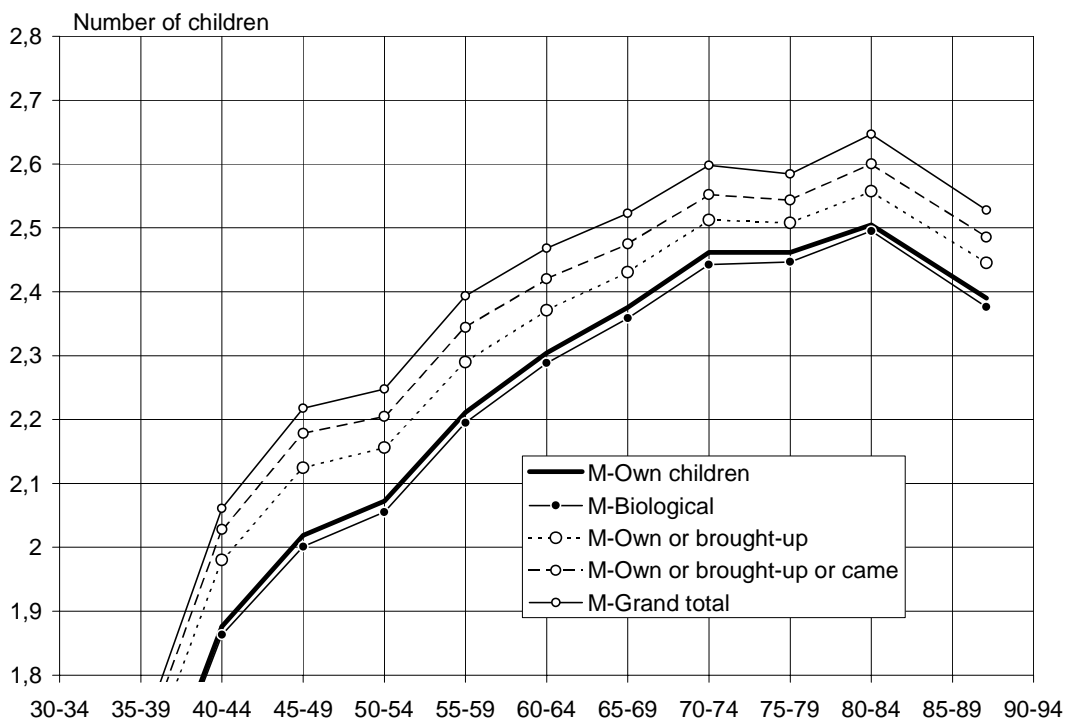
Graph 1.a

Mean number of children by age, women



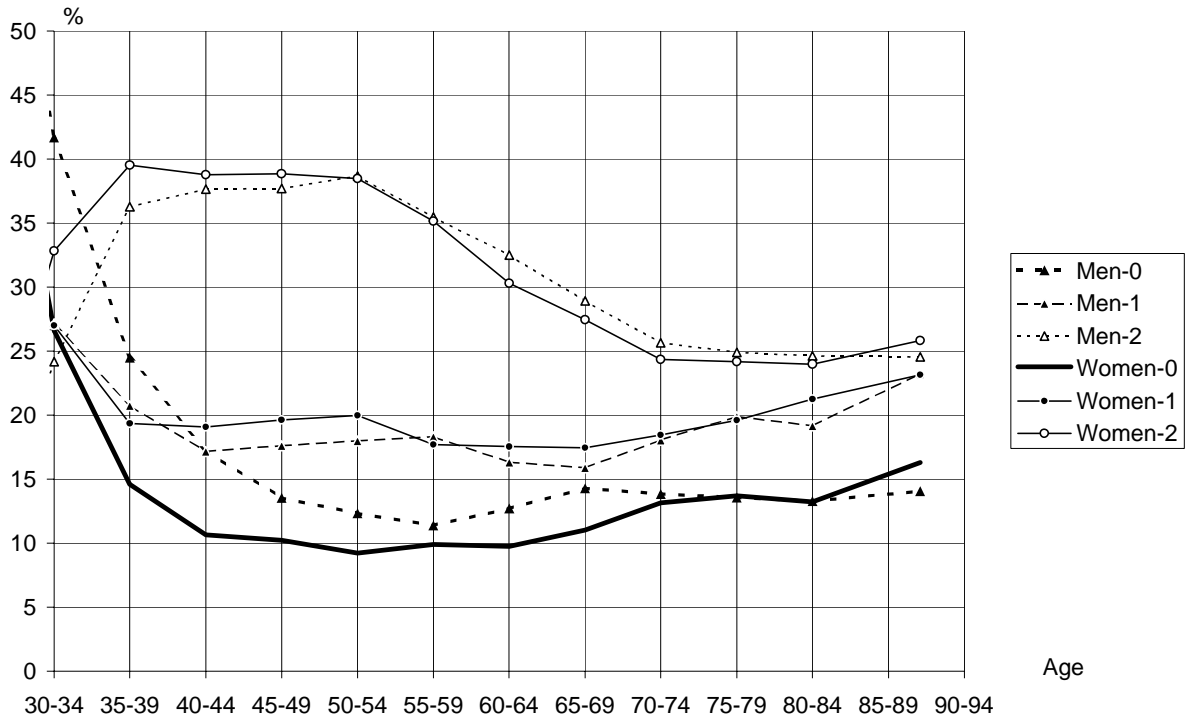
Graph 1.b

Mean number of children by age, men



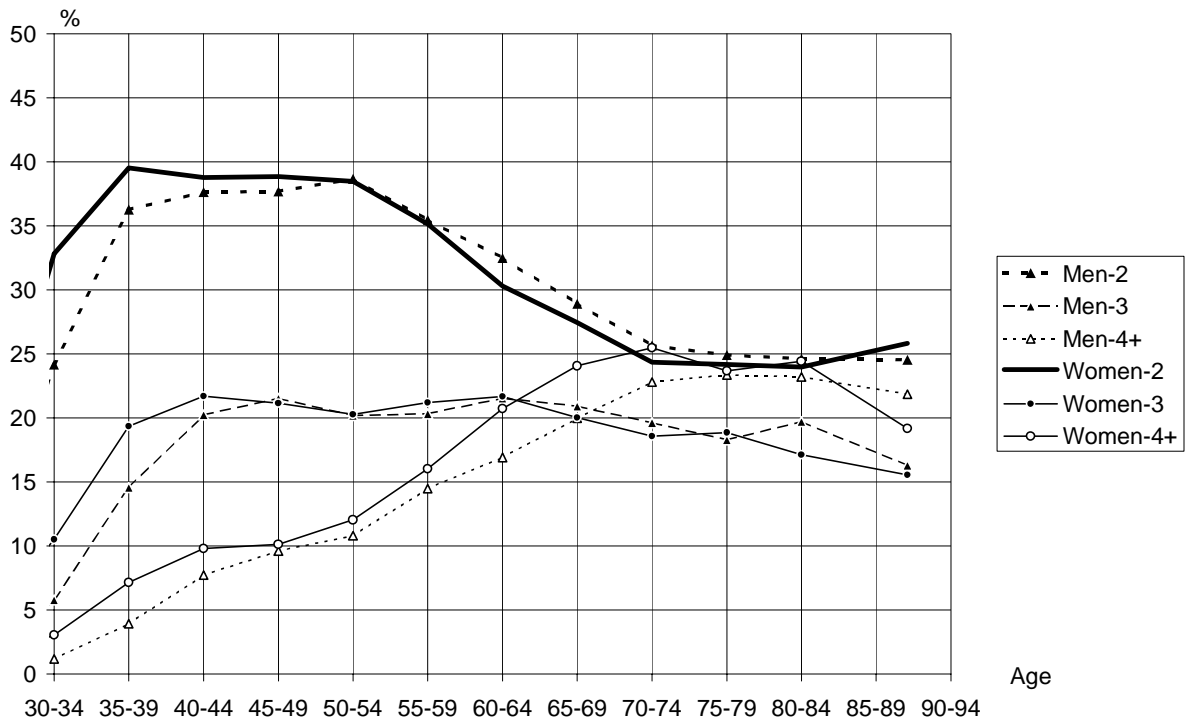
Graph 2.a

Proportion of respondents declaring 0, 1 or 2 “own children”, by sex and age



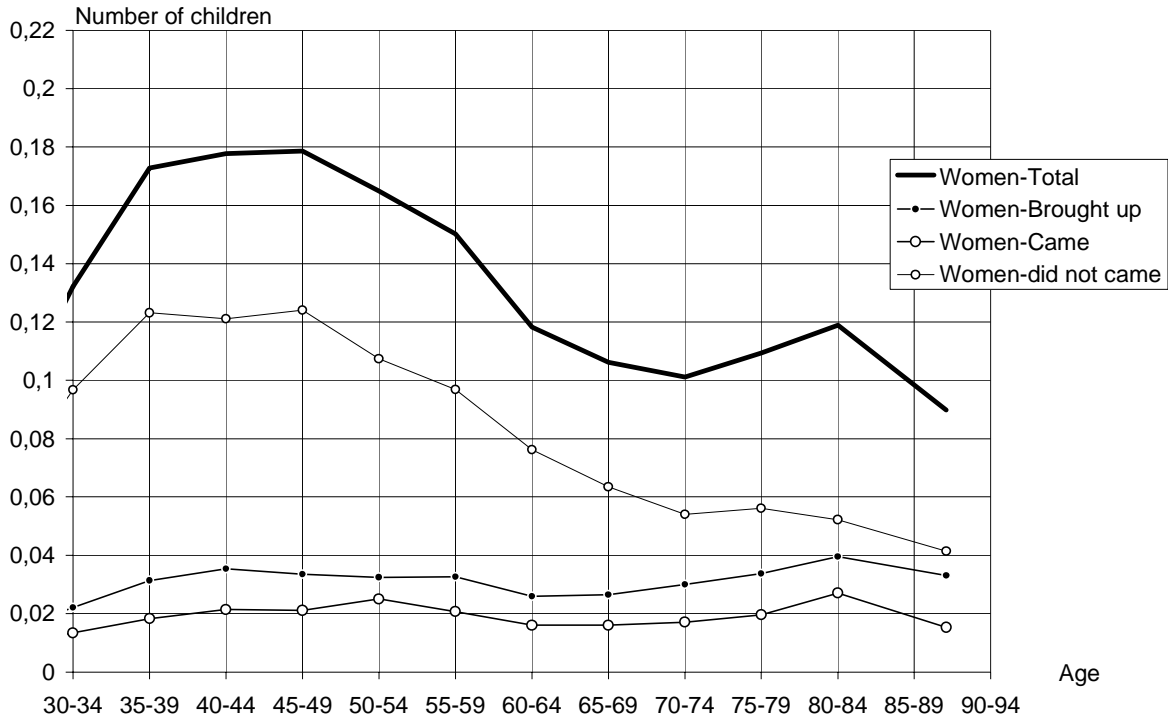
Graph 2.b

Proportion of respondents declaring 2, 3 or 4 and more “own children”, by sex and age



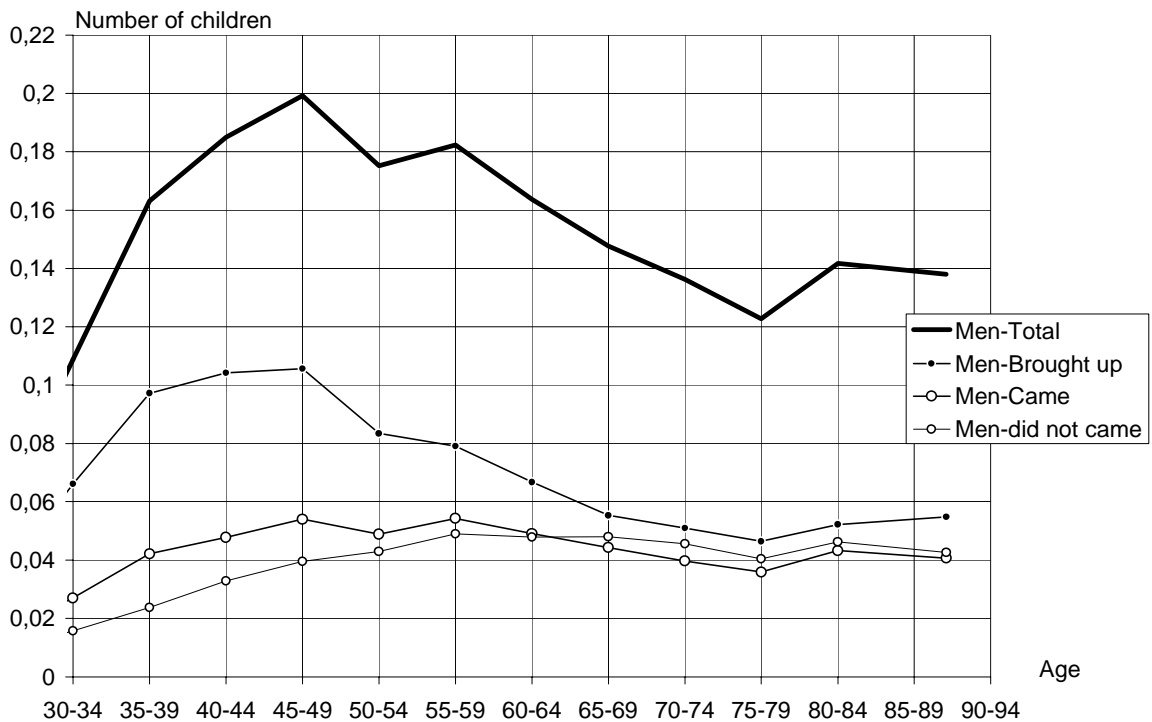
Graph 3.a

Mean numbers of stepchildren (all and brought-up), by age, women

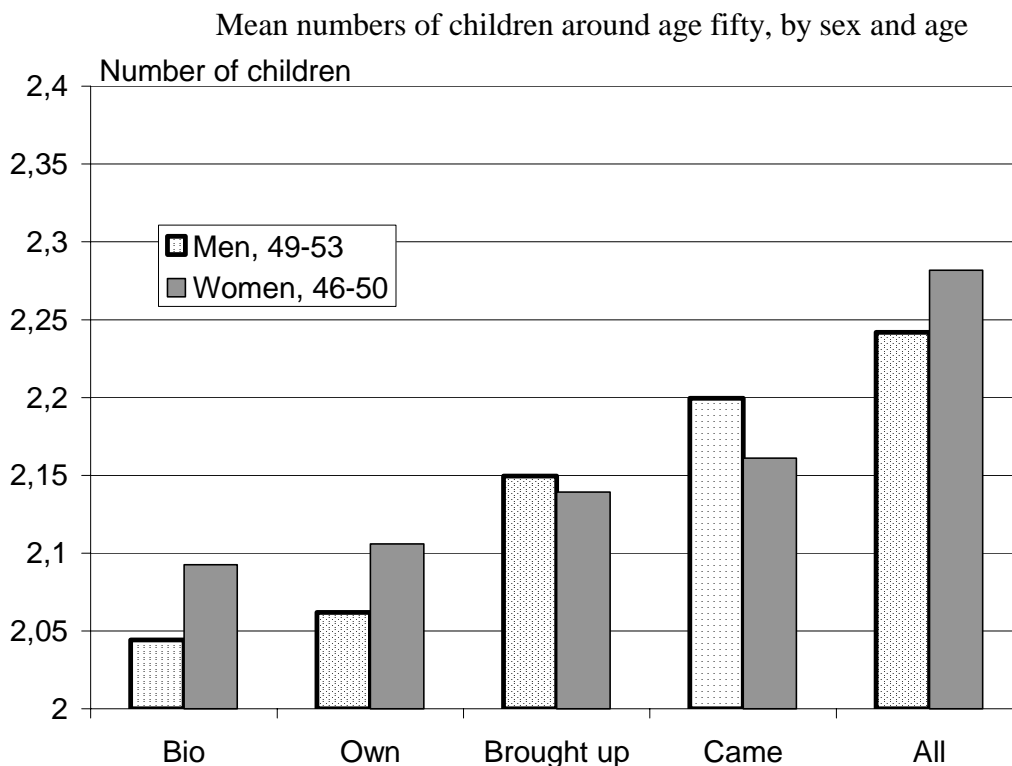


Graph 3.b

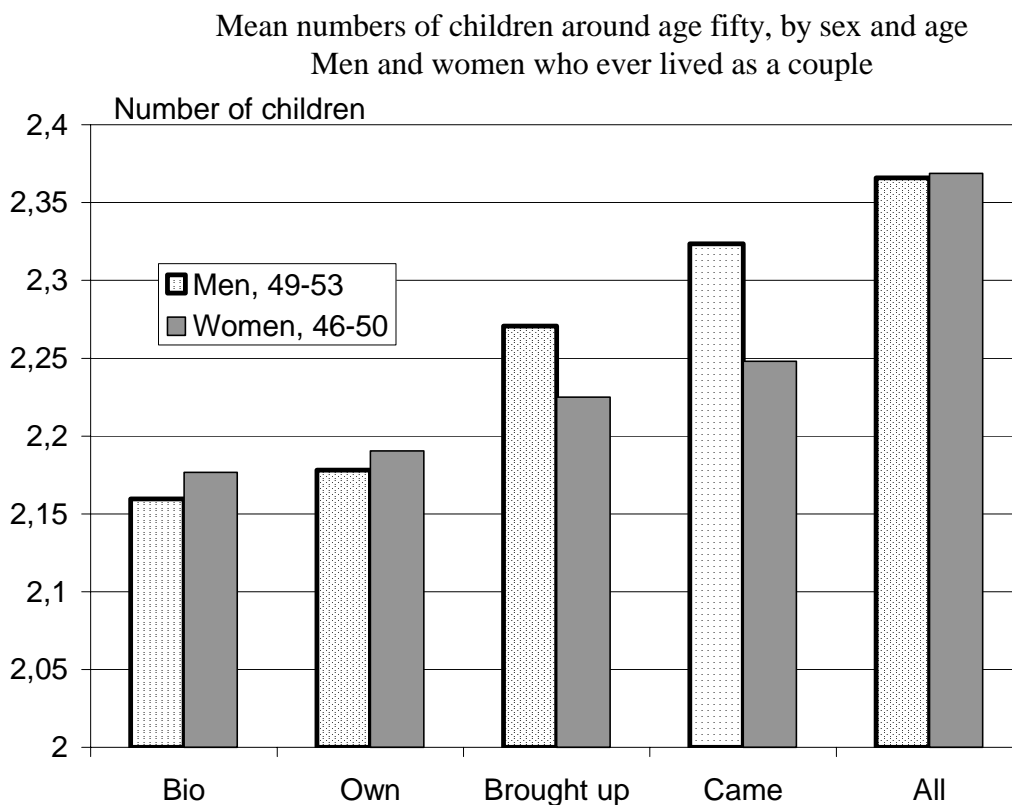
Mean numbers of stepchildren (all and brought-up), by age, men



Graph 4



Graph 5



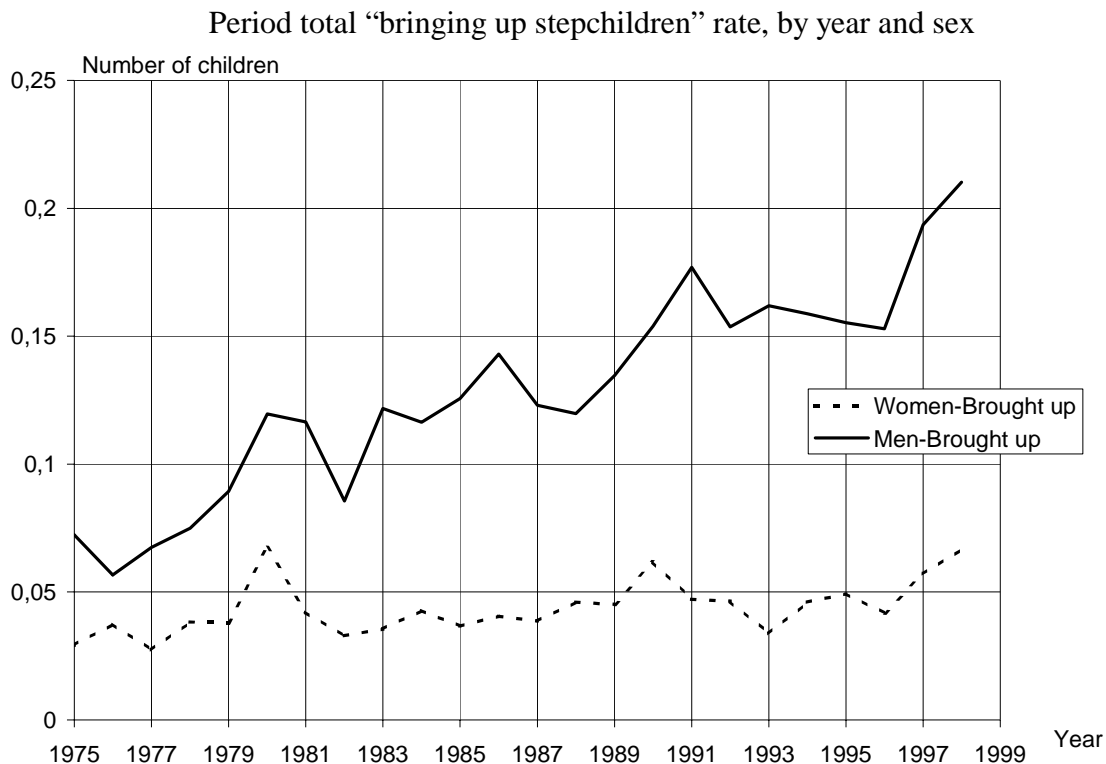
For younger cohorts, the mean number of stepchildren is lower, but stepchildren occur at a later age than own children do, and the nowadays situation may be described with using period synthetic indexes.

## 2) Period fertility indexes

In order to have an indication of the nowadays situation, it is useful to compute summary indexes of “bringing up stepchildren” by year. The indexes shown in graphs 6 and 7 come from a multistate life-table analysis by sex and year, the rates being specific for age and number of stepchildren who ever came. This index is very similar to the usual total fertility rate, but allows estimating the proportion of men and women who would remain “stepchildless” according to the rates of each year. The difference between man and women aged around 50 is even more pronounced when we look at recent figures (graph 6). Between 1975 and 1998, the mean number of stepchildren than women bring up is on the increase, from 0.04 to 0.06 stepchild per woman, but the level and increase is dramatically higher among men. The number of stepchildren that men would bring up according to period rates triples between 1975 and 1998, from 0.06 to 0.21 stepchild per man.

According to 1998 rates, the mean number of stepchildren is around 1.7 by stepfather and 1.5 by stepmother, and the proportion bringing up at least one stepchild is 12.7% among men, as against 4.5% among women.

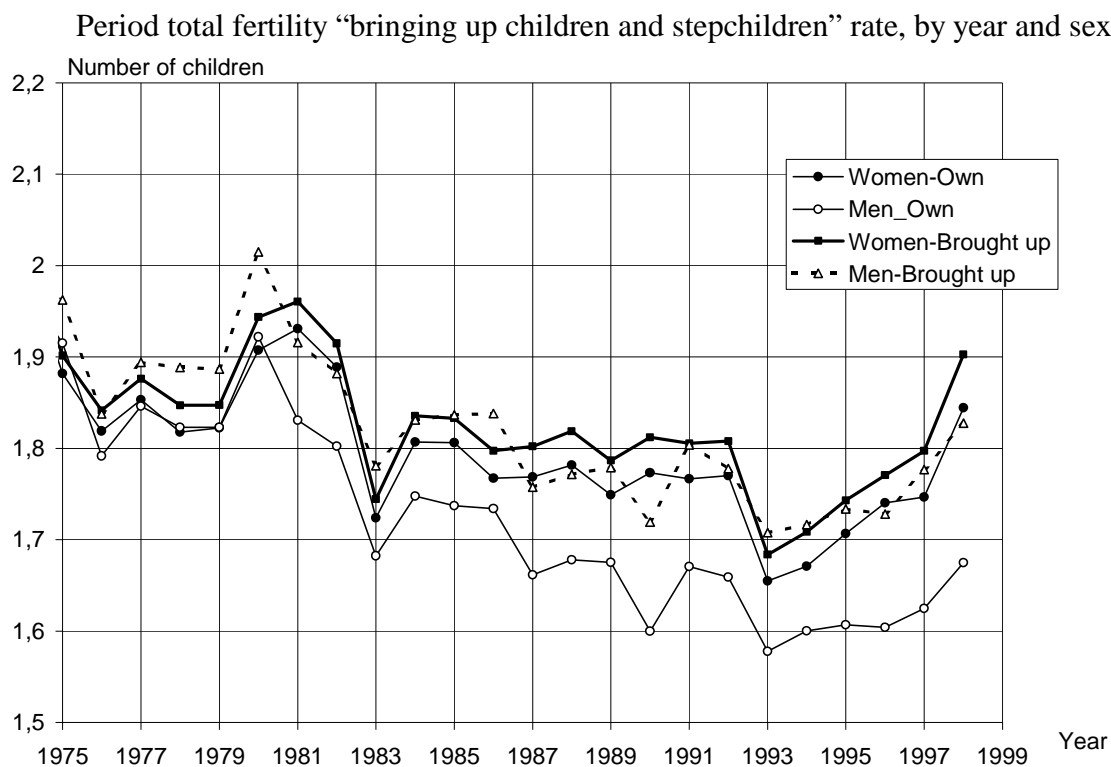
Graph 6



Looking only at own children, we again see that men’s fertility appears to be lower than women’s (graph 7). Comparisons between the yearly number of births estimated from the survey and the number of births registered in the vital records show that men underestimate their own fertility, by around 6%, while on the contrary the figures are very similar for women: maybe men do not declare children who never lived with them (estimates from previous surveys show that 5% of women do not live as a couple at the date of childbirth). When the census is available and the conjugal history checked, we will be able to estimate the number of very young children that men do declare without any date of departure, despite they are not present in the household, and compare this figure to the number of young children declared by lone mothers.

Adding stepchildren to own children in a multistate life table by “number of children or brought up stepchildren”, the contrast between men and women vanishes (graph 7).

Graph 7



### III – Duration of common life between parents and children

Adding own children and brought up stepchildren is based on the hypothesis that own children are always living with their both parents, at least for some period of time. The survey allows us to check this hypothesis, hope to the information about the age of the child when he stopped living with the respondent.

Unfortunately, some respondent may not have answered the question about the age of the child when he left the household, even if the child did left or if the child never lived with the respondent; the “correct” answer “at age 0” may be replaced by no answer at all. As a matter of fact, the proportion of children who left the household is underestimated from the survey, compared to other surveys conducted in France (Villeneuve-Gokalp 2001). When individual census data are linked with the Family history survey data, it will be possible to know for each child whether he or she has been registered in the census in the respondent’s household, and then to estimate more precisely the probability for each child to leave the parental home.

The probability of adoption or entry into a household as stepchild may not be directly estimated from the survey. We do not know the complete child’s family history, but only, for the own children of the respondent, the dates of entry into the respondent’s household (if the child has been adopted) and departure from the household and, for stepchildren brought up by the respondent, the dates of entry and exit. We do not have any information on the child history before the common residence with the respondent. As we can reconstruct the number of children by age and year, we could estimate the incidence rates (*taux de deuxième catégorie*) of adoption or “entry into stepchildhood”.

Another solution is to use all the events occurring just before the survey and to deduce from them the distribution of events: entry into stepchildhood and adoption by age, leaving the

parental home by age and by duration since entry into the household. We will restrict our observation to events occurring before the child reaches the age of 30.

We will use the events observed during the five years prior to the survey, 1994-1998. When useful, we will correct the distributions of events by age or duration by the number of prior events observed in the past (in the same sample) in order to deduce the “true distribution” from the observed distribution: for instance, as entry into stepchildhood with a stepfather is on the increase, the observed durations before leaving the parental home, among children who left the stepfather’s household are biased downward (see appendix 2). Thus the observed distribution has to be corrected from this bias, the numbers of exits at each duration being divided by the number of entries into stepchildhood with a stepfather during the corresponding year (year of exit minus duration of stay).

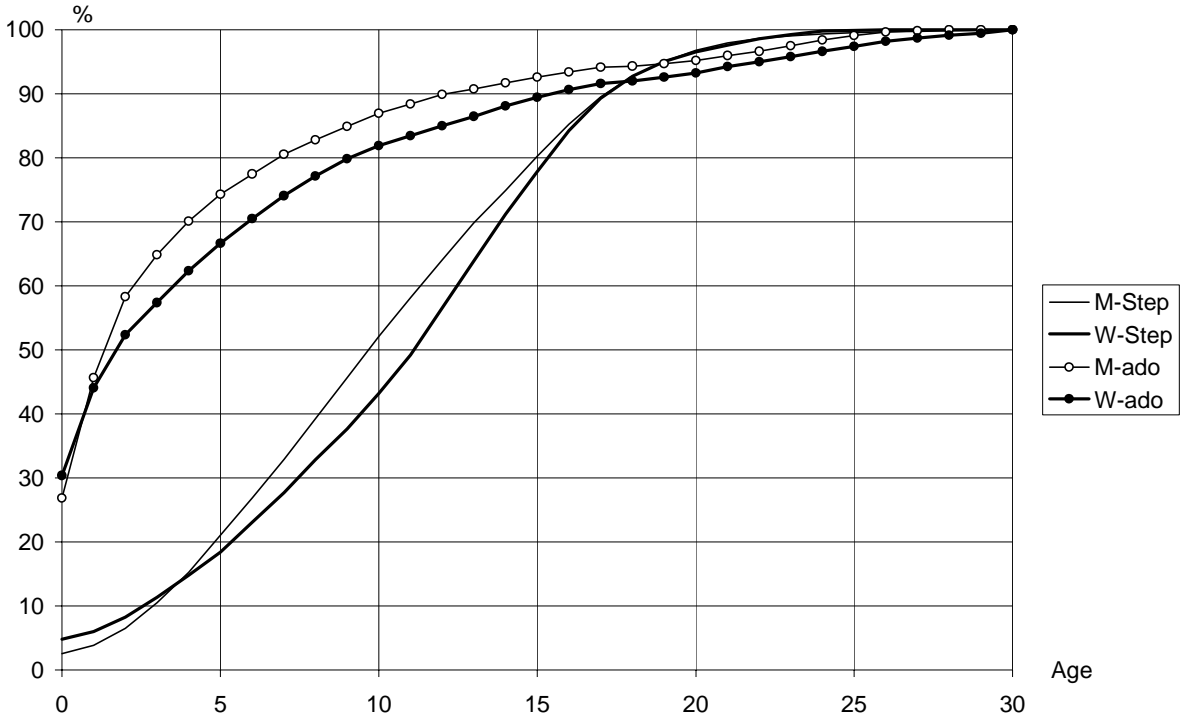
**1) Entry of adopted children and stepchildren into the parental household**

For “biological children”, as we did not ask whether the child was living with the respondent at birth, we will have to wait for the checking by sex: the proportion of children not living with their father will be obtained from the sample of women. Previous studies have shown that the proportion of children whose parents do not live together with him at birth is stable around 5% (Toulemon 1995), but we have to examine more carefully the union history before estimating this proportion for the most recent years.

A third (34%) of children adopted by women in 1994-1998 have been adopted during their year of birth. When we correct from the bias due to the increase in the number of adopted children, the proportion becomes 30% (see appendix 2). Half of adopted children are less than two years old when then enter the household, and 20% are aged 10 or more. Children adopted by men are less often very young; we saw that they are more numerous, because some of them may also be their stepchildren.

Graph 8

Cumulated proportions of adoptions and entry into stepchildhood, by age and sex of the parent or stepparent. Events occurring in 1994-1999, corrected from the increase of adoptions and entry into stepchildhood



Stepchildren are, of course, much older when they enter into stepchildhood.<sup>6</sup> We will only consider here the stepchildren that the respondents declare to have brought up, the only ones for whom we collected dates of beginning and ending of co-residence. The median age at entry into stepchildhood is 9.7 years of age for children who stay with their mother and “gain” a stepfather, and 11,1 for children gaining a stepmother. We saw that stepparenting is more frequent among men than among women; it is also more early, in terms of child’s age. The modal ages are very different: from 5 to 14 for men’s stepchildren, from 12 to 16 years of age for women’s stepchildren (see graph A3 in appendix 2).

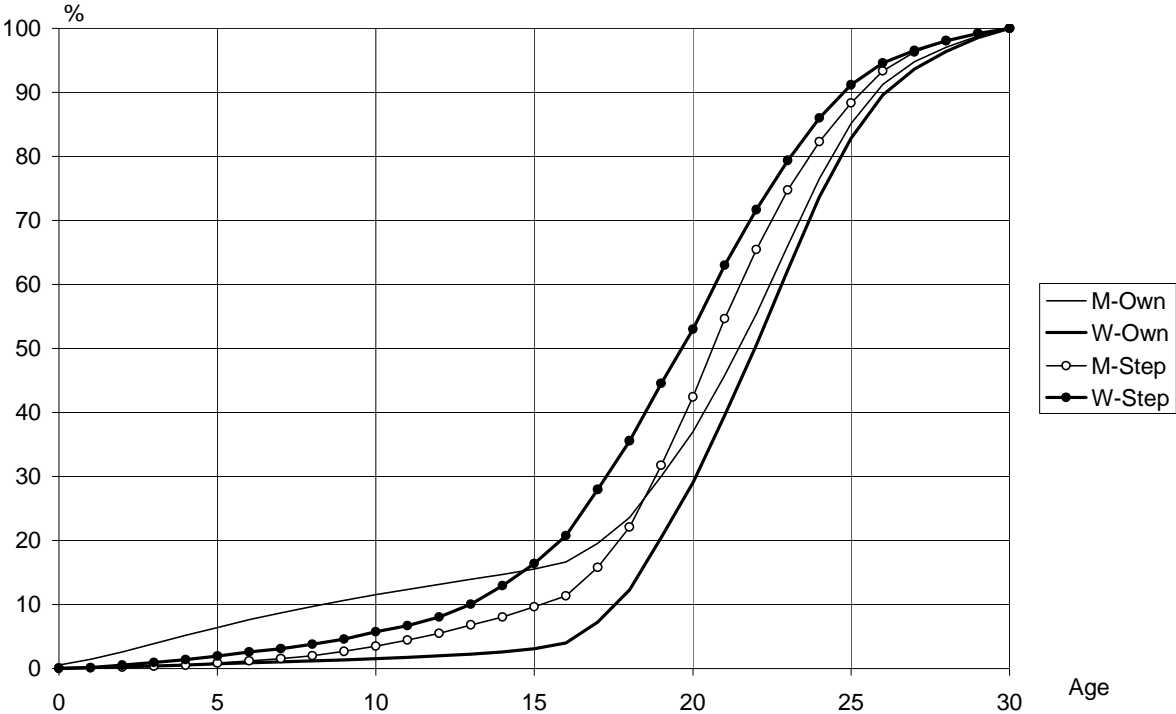
**2) Departure of children and stepchildren**

Children are leaving their father earlier than their mother, because in case of parental couple disruption most children stay with their mother. The proportion of children who ever left their father could be increased at each age because of the inclusion of the children who never lived with their father.

When the parents are not leaving together, children who are living with their father and a stepmother are leaving their stepmother earlier than children who live with their mother and a stepfather leave their stepfather. Further analysis will be necessary to distinguish the children who leave the “stepparental home” and children whose parent and stepparent separate.

Graph 9

Cumulated proportions of leaving the parental or stepparental home, for children and stepchildren, by age and sex of the parent or stepparent. Events occurring in 1994-1999, corrected from the increase of entry into stepchildhood



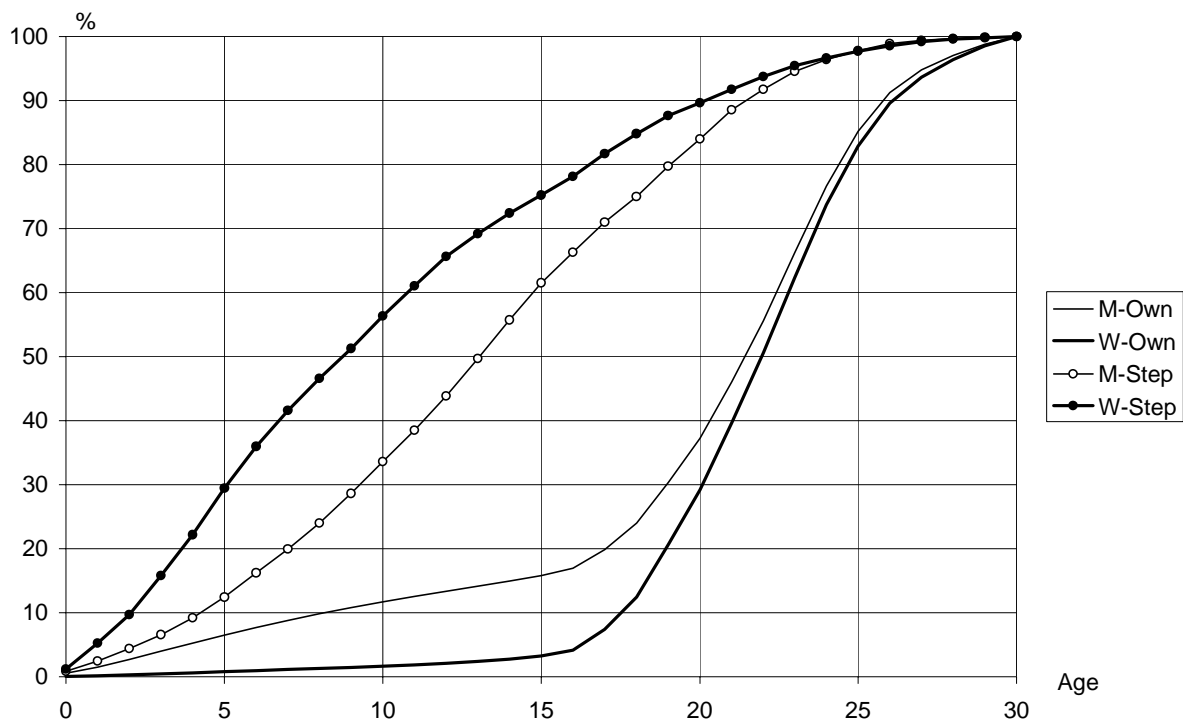
All in all, women’s stepchildren come later in the household, and leave their stepparent earlier than do men’s stepchildren. The duration that children share with their parents is very similar to their age at leaving the parental home (the only difference coming from adopted children, whose age at leaving the parental home is not shown here).

<sup>6</sup> A child who has two successive bringing up stepparents has two chances to be referred to in the survey.



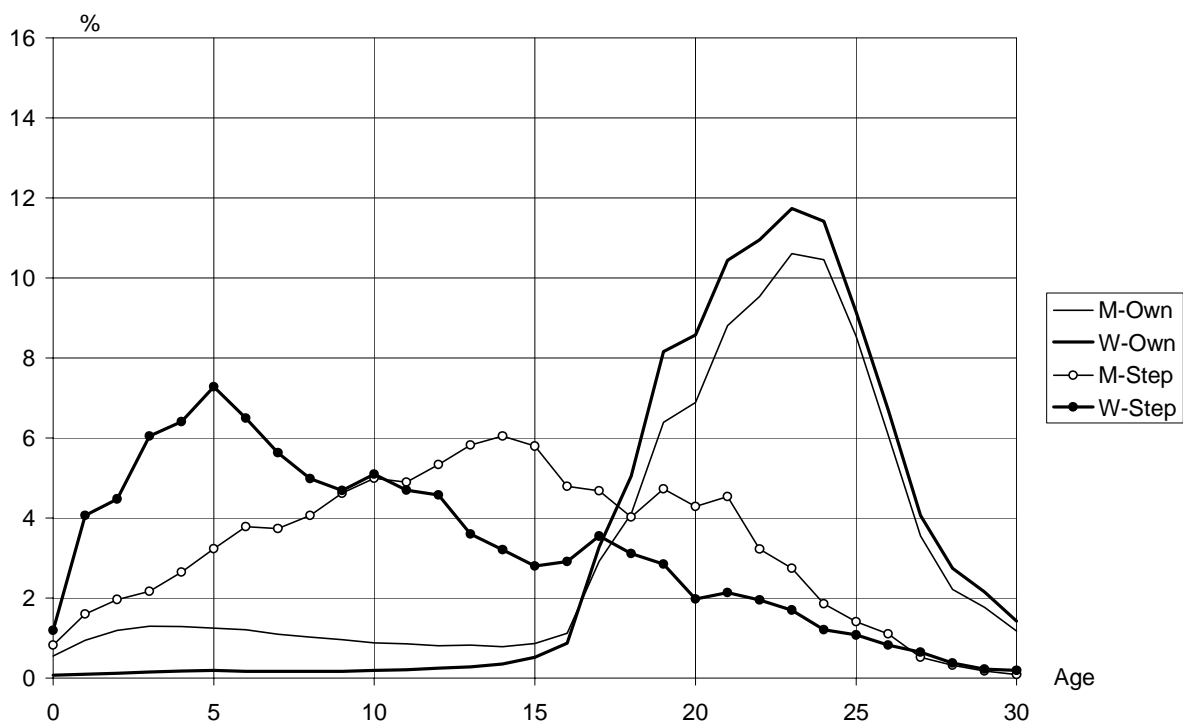
Graph 10

Cumulated proportions of leaving the parental or stepparental home, for children and stepchildren, by duration from arrival and sex of the parent or stepparent. Events occurring in 1994-1999, corrected from the increase of entry into stepchildhood



Graph 11

Distribution of duration between arrival and exit of children and stepchildren from the household, corrected from the increase of adoptions and entry into stepchildhood, by sex of the parent or stepparent



On the contrary, the duration between entry into stepparenting and separation with the stepchild, there is a huge difference between stepfathers and stepmothers. The mean duration that men spend with their stepchildren is 13.0 years, as against only 8.8 years for women (graph 10). The modal duration is 8-10 years for men, 5 years for women.

As a conclusion, stepparenting is more frequent, more early (in terms of stepchildren's age), and more lasting for men than for women. The mean duration with each child (under the hypothesis that all children are gone at age 30) is 20.2 years for fathers and 22.2 for mothers (the latter number may be overestimated because of the omission by men of children who never lived with them). The mean duration of stepparenting, in the sense of bringing up a stepchild, is 13.5 years for men's stepchildren and 10.5 for women's stepchildren.

## Conclusion

These figures are highly preliminary, and do not lead to any general conclusion, except on the interest to look at fertility and parenting from men's viewpoint as well as from women's. When data are checked and completed with the census, a complete demography of stepparenting will be possible, as well as a precise description of differentials between social groups.

## References

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Toulemon L., 1995, "The place of children in the history of couples", *Population. An English Selection*, vol. 7, p. 163-186.

Villeneuve-Gokalp, C., 2000, "The double families of children of separated parents", *Population, an English selection*, vol. 12, p. 111-137.

Villeneuve-Gokalp C., 2001, "Conséquences des ruptures familiales sur le départ et la mise en couple des enfants", paper presented at the XXIVth IUSSP General Conference, Salvador de Bahia, 18-24 August 2001, session S58, 19 p.

# Appendix1: The Study of family history questionnaire

Population  
census

# STUDY OF FAMILY HISTORY

Form number <b>33f</b>	Anonymous questionnaire to be used by INSEE Demography Department	To be filled by enumerator <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	REPUBLIC OF FRANCE  <b>1999</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> District number <input type="checkbox"/> Building number <input type="checkbox"/> Dwelling number	

## FORM TO BE FILLED IN BY WOMEN

- Every woman aged 18 and over on January 1, 1999 (born in 1981 or before) should fill in this form, irrespective of her marital status
- If several women aged 18 and or more live in the household, each should fill in a form

Before filling in this form, please read the leaflet on "Why study family histories?" It explains the particular usefulness of several of the questions

1 DATE OF BIRTH Born...     
 Day Month Year

2 HAVE YOU EVER HAD A CHILD? YES  1 → If yes: HOW MANY?   
*Include every child you have adopted or given birth to, even if s/he has since died*  
 NO  2 → If not, please go to next page

3 DESCRIPTION OF EACH CHILD'S SITUATION, BEGINNING WITH THE ELDEST (one line per child) Do not include here the other children you may have brought up

First name	Sex  <i>M for Male, F for Female</i>	Date of birth		If you have adopted this child, when did s/he begin to live with you?  <i>Month Year</i>	Was the child born in France?  <i>Yes or No</i>	If s/he is not living in the household		If s/he is deceased	
		<i>Month</i>	<i>Year</i>			How old was s/he when s/he stopped living with you? <i>Age in years</i>	Does s/he live in France at present? <i>Yes or No</i>	Was s/he stillborn? <i>Yes or No</i>	If not: How old was s/he when s/he died? <i>If less than one year write 0 year</i>
1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.									
6.									
7.									
8.									
9.									

If you have had more than nine children, please complete another form

Anonymous questionnaire to be used by the INSEE Demography Department . This survey has been approved by the National Council for Statistical Information and is therefore considered to be in the public interest. This form is not compulsory.

Certificate no. 97 X 700 EC of the National Council for Statistical Information, valid for the year 1999. Act 78/17 of January 6, 1978, on computers, data files, civil liberties, and respect of privacy applies to the answers to this survey. The Act entitles respondents to access and correct the data dealing with themselves. This right may be exercised by contacting the INSEE Regional Offices.

**OTHER CHILDREN CURRENTLY LIVING (or who have lived) WITH YOU**

4 **IN ADDITION TO YOUR OWN CHILDREN, HAVE YOU BROUGHT UP, OR ARE YOU STILL BRINGING UP, CHILDREN OF YOUR SPOUSE (or partner) OR FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE (relationship)?** YES  1 *If yes: HOW MANY?* \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO  2 *If not, please go to question 6*

**5 INFORMATION ON THESE CHILDREN, beginning with the eldest, one line per child**

First name	Sex  <i>M for Male, F for Female</i>	Date of birth		When did s/he begin to live with you?		Was the child born in France?  Yes or No	If s/he is not living in the household		If s/he is deceased  How old was s/he when s/he died? <i>If less than one year write 0 year</i>
		Month	Year	Month	Year		How old was s/he when s/he stopped living with you?  Age in years	Does s/he live in France at present?  Yes or No	
1.									
2.									
3.									

*If you have brought up more than three children from a spouse, please complete another form*

6 **HAVE YOU BROUGHT UP, FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS, ANY OTHER CHILDREN (grandchildren, nephews or nieces, foster children...)?** YES  1  
 NO  2

7 **DO YOU HAVE ANY GRANDCHILDREN (children of your own children)?** YES  1 *If yes:* → **How many altogether?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO  2 **How old is the eldest?** \_\_\_\_\_

8 **DO YOU HAVE ANY GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN (children of your own grandchildren)?** YES  1 *If yes:* → **How many altogether?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO  2 **How old is the eldest?** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR WORKING LIFE**

9 a. **AT WHAT AGE DID YOU STOP REGULARLY ATTENDING SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY (for the first time)?** \_\_\_\_\_ at the age of... \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you are still studying, check this box:

b. **AT WHAT AGE DID YOU FIND YOUR FIRST JOB (job lasting at least three months)?** \_\_\_\_\_ at the age of... \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you never had a job, check this box:   
 and go to the next page

10 **If you are not currently at work, IN WHAT YEAR DID YOU STOP WORKING?** \_\_\_\_\_ in... 19\_\_\_\_\_  
 If you are still working, check this box:

11 **DID YOU EVER INTERRUPT YOUR JOB FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS OR MORE? (excluding the present interruption if you are not currently working)?** YES  1 *If yes: You stopped...* → **from** 19\_\_\_\_ **to** 19\_\_\_\_  
**and** from 19\_\_\_\_ **to** 19\_\_\_\_  
 NO  2

**STAGES OF YOUR FAMILY LIFE**

**12 HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU STOPPED LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS, for the first time?**  
*Do not consider boarding school as a departure* at the age of... \_\_\_\_\_  
 If you still live with your parents, check this box:

**13 DO YOU CURRENTLY LIVE WITH A PARTNER, married or not (even if your spouse/partner lives in another household for occupational reasons)?**

YES..... 1 } → Go to question 14  
 NO, but you lived with a partner in the past 2 }  
 NO ..... 3 } → In that case, go to the next page

**14 MAIN DATES OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND MARRIAGE**

*By "partnership," we mean sharing the same household, for six months or longer, with or without marriage*

- If you have had only one partnership period, fill in the first line
- If you have had several partnership periods, list only the first and latest

PARTNER-SHIP PERIOD, with or without marriage	Approximately when did this partnership begin?		Before living with you, did your spouse/partner already have any children?	If yes: How many of them came to live with you?	If you have married this spouse/partner, what was the date of marriage?	If the union has broken up				If your spouse is deceased		
	Month	Year				Yes or No	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month	Year
The first												
The last												

*If you have brought up more than three children from a spouse, please complete another form*

**15 HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED?** \_\_\_\_\_ times

**16 INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CURRENT SPOUSE/PARTNER, MARRIED OR NOT, or your LAST SPOUSE/PARTNER, if you no longer live in a partnership**

**a. WHAT IS HIS DATE OF BIRTH (month, year)?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month Year

**b. WHERE WAS HE BORN (DÉPARTEMENT, FRENCH OVERSEAS TERRITORY)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**c. BEFORE LIVING WITH YOU, HAD HE ALREADY BEEN MARRIED?** YES  1 → If yes: was he... widowed  1 married  2 divorced  3  
 NO  2

**d. WHAT IS or what was HIS OCCUPATION?** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Do not write "unemployed," "retired" or "deceased," but write the LAST known occupation*

**17 YOUR PARENTS**

**a. HOW MANY CHILDREN DID YOUR MOTHER HAVE, INCLUDING YOURSELF AND ANY OFFSPRING SINCE DECEASED?**

Boys and girls

**b. And, among these children, HOW MANY BOYS AND HOW MANY GIRLS WERE BORN BEFORE YOURSELF? (if none, write 0)**

Boys and girls

**18 QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PARENTS (or the persons who brought you up)**

If you don't know, write DK	Where were they born ( <i>département</i> or region country if born abroad) <i>If you do not know the country, write "abroad"</i>	What is their occupation (or what was it before they retired)?	Were they a • Employees in a firm • State employees • Self-employed?	Are they still alive?  Yes or No	If not Year of death (approximate)
YOUR FATHER or the man who brought you up			<input type="checkbox"/> 1. In a public- or private-sector firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2. State employee <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Self-employed		19
YOUR MOTHER or the woman who brought you up			<input type="checkbox"/> 1. In a public- or private-sector firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2. State employee <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Self-employed		19

**FAMILY USE OF LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS**

**19 IN WHICH LANGUAGE, DIALECT OR "PATOIS" DID YOUR PARENTS USUALLY SPEAK TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, ABOUT FIVE YEARS OLD?**

YOUR FATHER  
or the man  
who brought  
you up

**1. usually spoke to you in..**

**2. and also in...**

YOUR MOTHER  
or the woman  
who brought  
you up

**1. usually spoke to you in...**

**2. and also in...**

*Examples: Alsatian, Basque, Breton, Catalan, Corsican, Creole, Flemish, Occitan, Platt, Provençal, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, sign language*

**• For FRENCH, just write "F"**

*• For dialects or "patois," specify area (ex. Picardy, Béarn, Rouergue, Moselle)*

*• For foreign languages, do not write the country, but the language.*

*Examples: do not write "Algerian, Moroccan, Senegalese, etc. but Arabic, Kabyle, Wolof, etc.*

## Appendix2: The distribution of events during the 30 years prior the survey

The distribution of all arrival of children by year, among events that took place during the period 1968-98, is shown in graph A1.

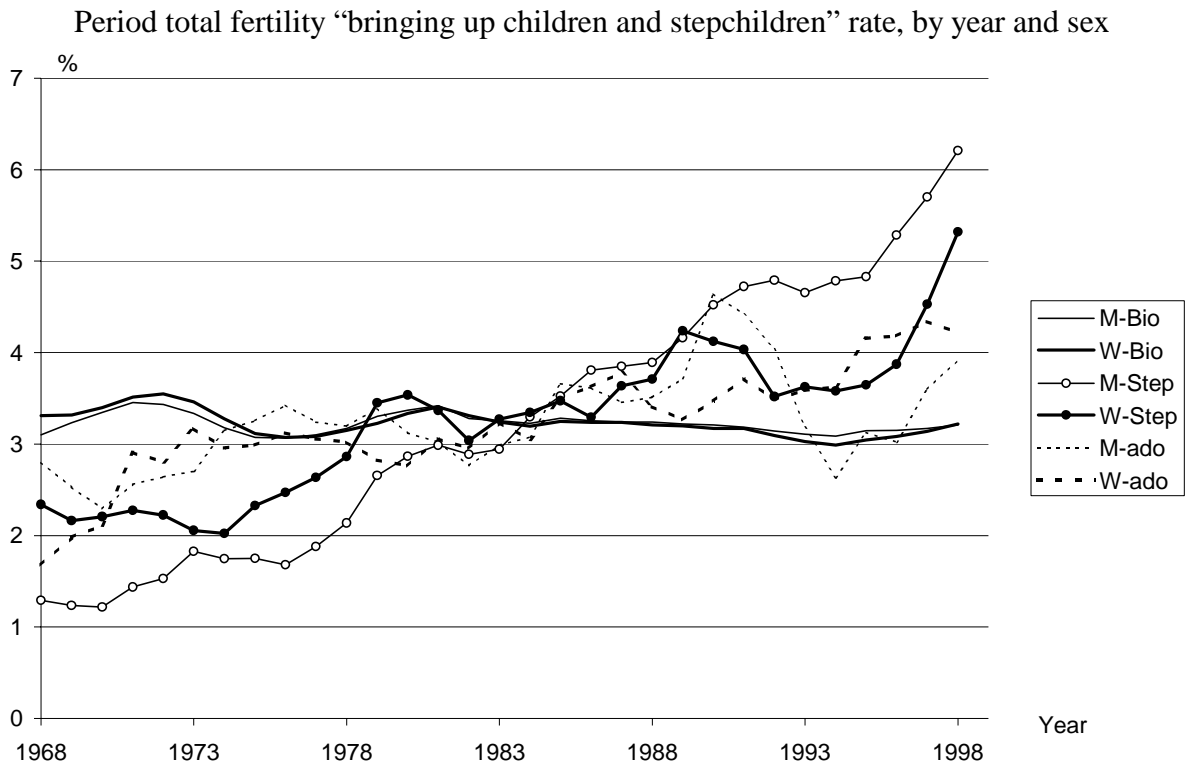
The annual number observed in the survey is almost stable, while arrivals of stepchildren are on the increase, especially for men, as well as adoptions.

The observed distributions of arrivals and departures of each category of children are corrected using these figures on number of events observed during the last 30 years.

In practice, we do not know the number of children that were “available for an adoption or for an entry into stepchildhood”; the distribution of arrivals was used to correct the distribution of all events observed during the five years prior the survey.

This estimation corrects for the bias due to the increase of the population at risk with time; it does not take into account a change in the mean duration in each state.

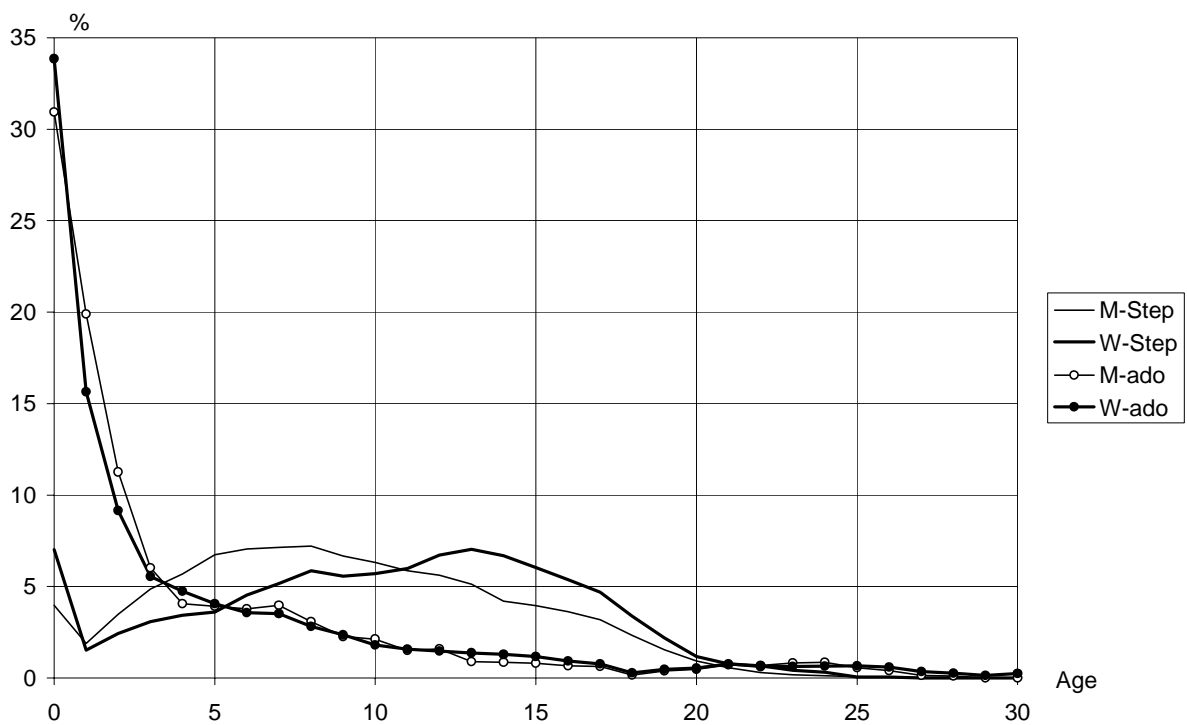
Graph A1



The distributions of adoptions and entry into stepchildhood are shown in graph A2 (observed entries) and graph 3 (distribution corrected for the increase of adoptions and stepchildhood).

Graph A2

Observed distribution of age at adoption or entry into stepchildhood, by sex of the parent or stepparent



Graph A3

Distribution of age at adoption or entry into stepchildhood, corrected from the increase of adoptions and entry into stepchildhood, by sex of the parent or stepparent

