

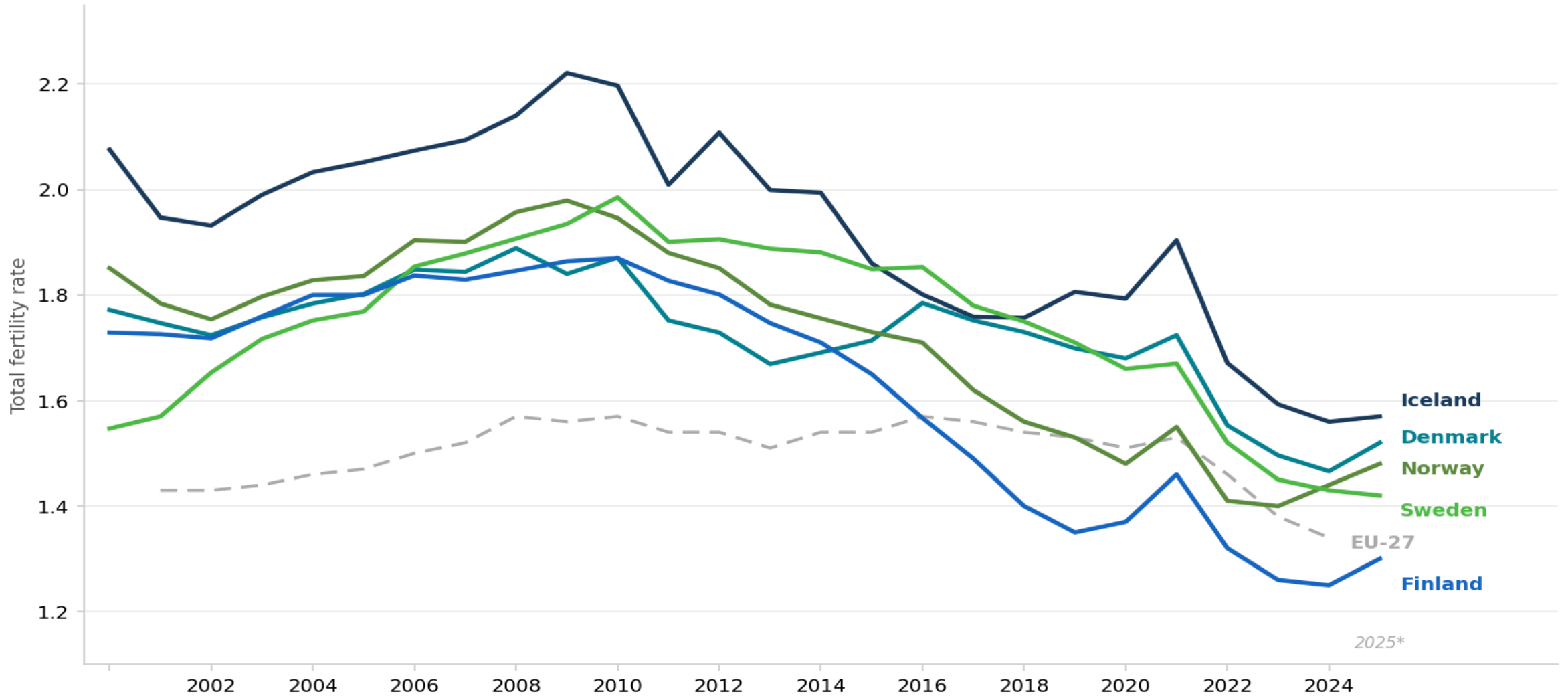


A future with children

IUSSP debate 1.4.26: "Should nations with more deaths than births implement or increase incentives for childbearing and subsidies for child-rearing?"

YES-team, Research Director Anna Rotkirch, Population Research Institute

TFR in the Nordics and EU-27, 2000–2025



Nordic governments: three fertility reports

Finland



Anna Rotkirch

Population Research Institute, Väestöliitto

Report 2024

Analysis of causes of fertility decline; policy recommendations for family formation approach

Norway



Rannveig Kaldager Hart

Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Full report February 2026

First government birth rate committee; focus on young adults under 30

Sweden



Åsa Hansson

Lund University (LUSEM)

Investigation 2024–2028

Government investigation; concrete measures for a "family-friendly society"

Traditional family policies do work – to some extent

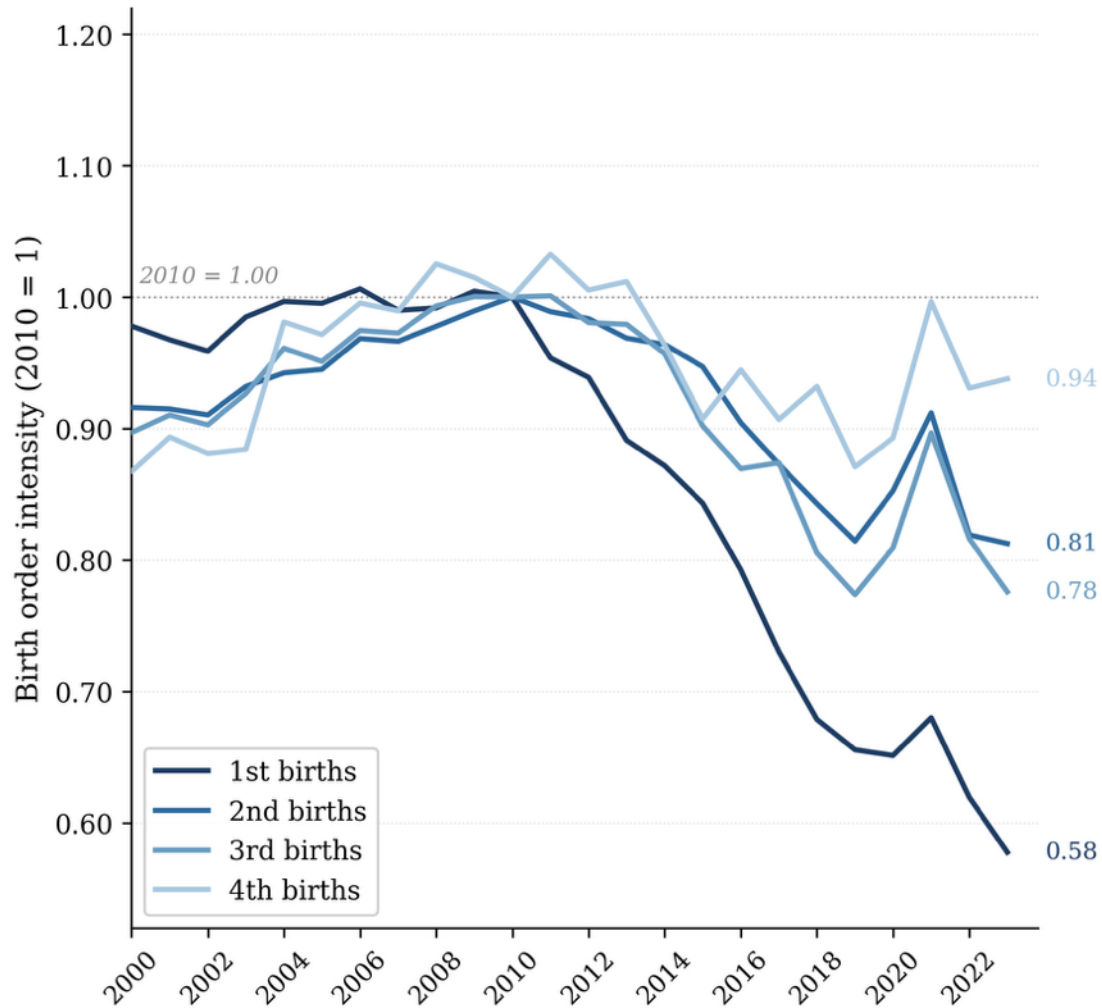
- **The type of family policies introduced in the Nordics in 1940–1990s is *robustly* associated with somewhat higher fertility**
 - as well as with child wellbeing and gender equality, their primary goals
- **They include** universal and affordable child care, parental leaves, cash transfers or taxation favouring parents, family friendly workplaces and neighbourhoods, free health care & education, ... **It takes a package.**
- **This package needs to be protected and prioritised as societies age**

Bergsvik, J., Fauske, A., & Hart, R. K. (2021). Can policies stall the fertility fall? A systematic review of the (quasi-) experimental literature. *PDR*

Puur et al. (2023). Parental leave and fertility: Individual-level responses in the tempo and quantum of second and third births. *EJP*

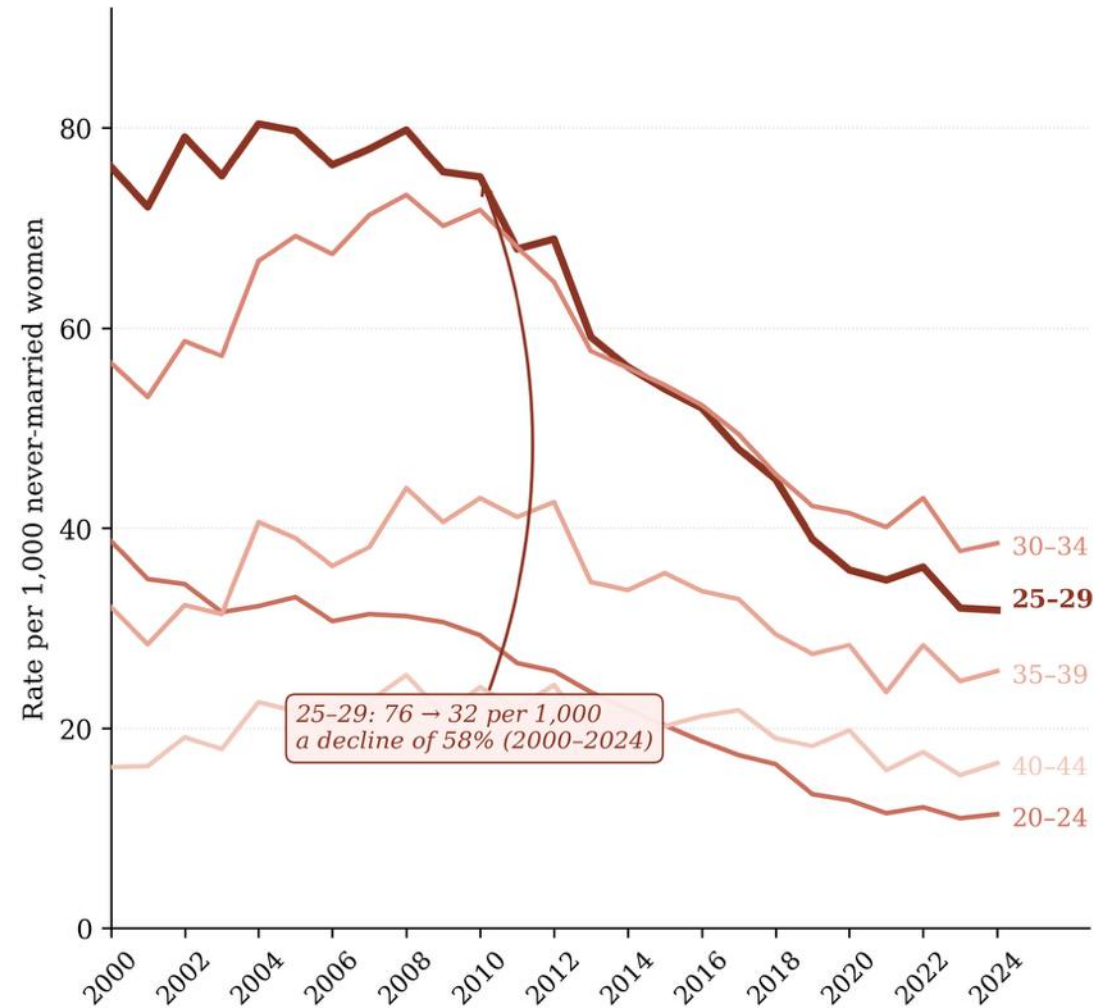
New challenges: first births and stable couples

Birth order intensities in Finland, 2000-2023 (2010 = 1)



Source: Statistics Finland, population statistics and Finnish Family Federation (Väestöliitto)

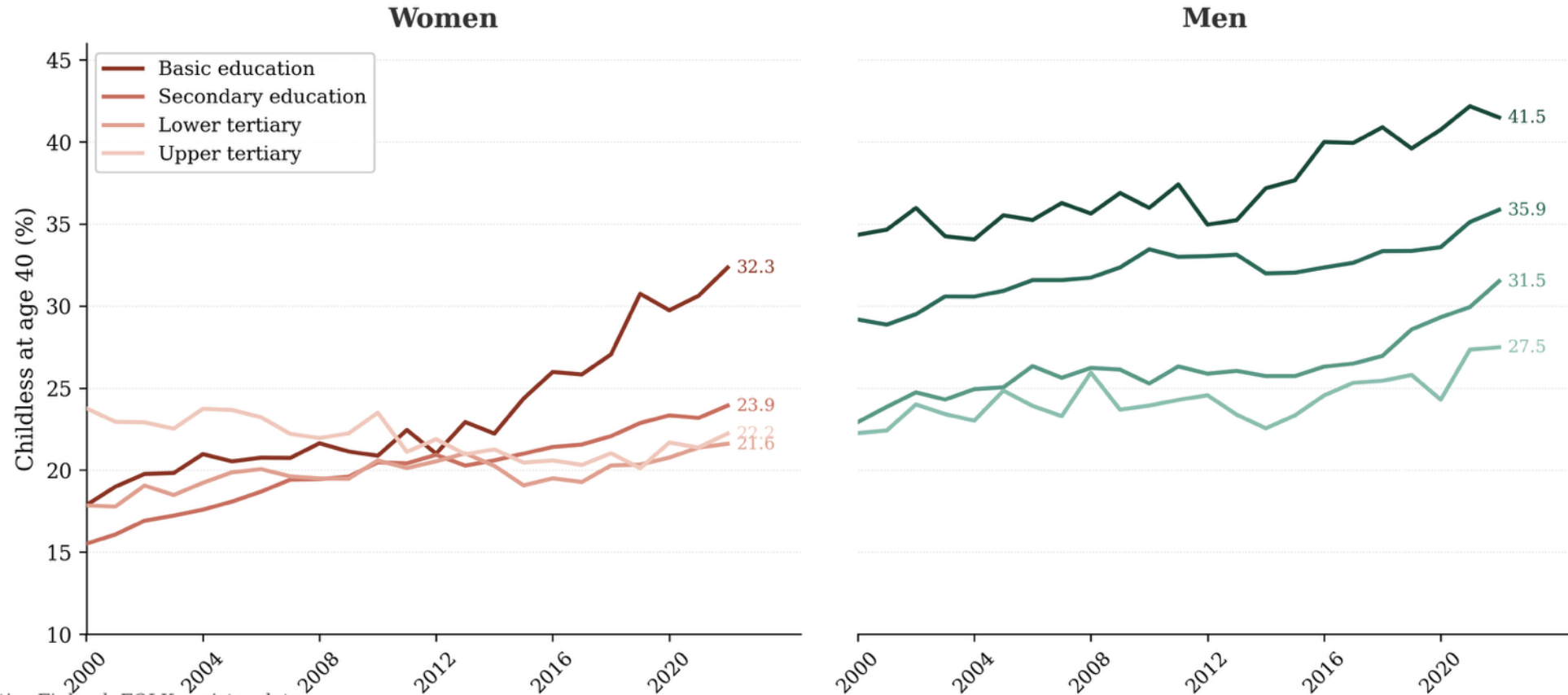
Women's first marriage rate by age group, Finland 2000-2024



Source: Statistics Finland, changes in civil status. Opposite-sex couples, per thousand never-married women.

New challenges: childlessness increasingly about inequality

Share of childless individuals at age 40 by education level, Finland 2000-2022 (%)



Source: Statistics Finland, FOLK register data

New solutions?

A new package for *family formation* policies

1

Tackle the 'relationship recession'

Education, digital wellbeing,
housing, and other support for
couples, ...?

2

Lower the threshold to become a parent

Create upfront and
substantial economic
incentives for first borns

Welcome all children into all
types of families

3

Support fertility awareness

Add family planning to family
planning education and
services,
within an empowering and
reproductive rights framework



Thank you for your attention

- [Finnish fertility report](#)
Finnish report available [in English here](#)
- [Norwegian birth rate report](#)
- [Swedish government report](#)