



3 December 2020

Fertility Survey

2019

## FERTILITY SURVEY 2019

### THE DECREASING TREND IN FERTILITY PERSISTS

In 2019, 42.2% of women aged 18 to 49 years and 53.9% of men aged 18 to 54 years had no children. In 2013, those percentages were lower: 35.3% and 41.5%, respectively. The average number of children women and men had decreased from 1.03 in 2013 to 0.86 in 2019.

In 2019, 93.4% of women and 97.6% of men of the youngest age group (18 to 29 years old) had no children and more than half (54.6%) of men from 30 to 39 years old were in the same situation.

The average number of children people already had increased with age and with the number of siblings, and was higher for women, for those who had a complete level of education corresponding, at most, to primary and lower secondary education, for people with spouse or partner and for employed men.

When asked about their intention to have children, 55.1% of women and 47.3% of men indicated that they did not intend to have or have more children. Close to 10% of people (8.4% of women and 11.0% of men, 9.7% in total) did not have or intended to have children. For these people, the main reasons mentioned were self-will and the fact that parenthood was not part of their life project.

Considering the children women and men already had and those they still intended to have, it is expected they will have, on average, 1.69 children (1.78 in 2013).

The average number of children people desired was estimated at 2.15 (2.31 in 2013), with no evidence of significant differences between men and women in 2013 and 2019.

A significant proportion of women and men with children (45.1% and 58.5%, respectively) had their first child later than the age they desired. The postponement was of at least 5 years for a considerable portion of women and men (36.0% and 47.7%). The women who had their first child later than the age they desired were the ones who most frequently pointed out reasons related to financial and job stability and housing conditions as most important for the postponement.

For women, regardless of when they decided to have their first child – sooner, later, or at the age at which they desired –, the desire to be a mother was the most pointed reason for this decision.

It was mostly women who indicated that they were usually responsible for housework, such as laundry tasks (77.8%), cleaning the house (59.3%) and preparing meals (65.0%). Men reported more frequently making small house repairs and other house restorations (78.3%).

For people with small children, women were also more likely to indicate that they were in charge of the tasks related to their care and monitoring, namely dressing their children (64.7%), staying at home when they were sick (63.7%), taking them to the doctor (55.6%), helping with schoolwork (46.5%), putting the children



to bed (45.3%) and taking and picking up from the day-care or school (36.2%). Men do not stand out, in relation to women, in any of these tasks. Still, the degree of satisfaction with the division of domestic tasks and the care of children was high for both sexes, being only slightly lower among women.

About 9 out of 10 (89.8%) women and 85.9% of men considered that there should be policy measures to increase fertility. **In the context of working conditions**, the incentive measure most often referred to as the most important by women and men was “making working hours more flexible for mothers and fathers with young children”. **In the context of access to services for the occupation of children**, “extending the network and access to day-care centres, kindergartens and after school activities” was the most often referred to as the most important measure. **As for measures in the context of household income**, women and men showed a different distribution: for women, the measure considered to be the most important was “to increase subsidies related to education, health, transport, housing and food for households with children” , for men it was "reducing taxes for families with children, including increasing tax deductions for those who have children". With regard to **other measures** that do not belong to the three areas, “assigning tax incentives to employers with management practices that support workers with children” was highlighted as the most important by almost half of women and more than half of men.

## 1. Background

By the end of the seventies of the twentieth century, Portugal still registered values of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) that ensured the replacement of generations (2.1 children per woman), which stopped happening in the early 1980s, when a persistent trend of decline in fertility began<sup>1</sup>. This trend was accompanied by an increase of the mean age at childbirth (1<sup>st</sup> child), which was 24 years old in the 1970s. In 2013, Portugal reached the lowest fertility rate ever recorded in the country (1.21). However, despite the slight recovery in recent years (1.42 in 2019), the average age at childbirth of the 1<sup>st</sup> child kept increasing over the same period, reaching, in 2019, 29.9 years.

Although no country in the European Union has levels of fertility rate to ensure the replacement of generations, Portugal belongs to the group of countries in the 28 Member States of the European Union with the lowest TFR. The recovery observed in recent years has moved Portugal from the country with the lowest fertility rate in the EU 28 in 2013, to the eighth lowest in 2018<sup>2</sup>.

Six years after the last Fertility Survey, conducted in 2013, the Fertility Survey carried out in 2019 by Statistics Portugal, and financed by the European Economic Area Agreement (EEA Grants 2014-2021) under the Conciliation and Gender Equality Program, aims to update and reinforce knowledge about fertility in Portugal.

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<sup>1</sup> The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 children per woman is taken as a limit value that guarantees the replacement of generations. It is designated as the minimum level of replacement of generations, that is, for the replacement of a generation to be ensured, it is necessary that each woman have, on average, 2.1 children.

<sup>2</sup> Most recent year for which Eurostat provides comparable data.



Multiple dimensions of this phenomenon were considered for the population in the fertile period, namely their demographic and socioeconomic characteristics (such as age, level of education, migratory background, conjugality or labour status), the fertility already achieved and the desired one, intentions and the desire to have children, the ideal number of children, or the perceptions and constraints that influence the decision to have or not have children.

All data presented in this press release were collected between September 2019 and February 2020, referring to a period prior to the current COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the possible effects of the pandemic on fertility patterns are not captured in these results.

The information represents women at childbearing age, from 18 to 49 years old, living in Portugal, and men at the ages when they are more likely to have children, from 18 to 54 years old, living in Portugal.

Although some new dimensions were included in the 2019 Fertility Survey, in comparison with the 2013 Survey (for example, information on: the migrant / non-migrant origin of women and men; the first maternity of the mother of women and men; spouses or partners not residing in the household; the short-term intentions of family formation or cohabitation; the socio-demographic situation of women and men at birth of each child (up to the third); the use of contraceptive methods and reproductive health issues; the age desired to have / have had the first child and the ideal age to be a mother / father; the caregivers of young children), the comparability of data between these two moments is guaranteed, both in terms of design sample, and in terms of key concepts.

A wide range of tables with results from the survey is also made available today, as well as the anonymised database for researchers, for purposes of scientific research.



## 2. Comparative analysis of the main fertility indicators between 2013 and 2019

Fertility concepts used in this press release:

- **Achieved Fertility** – Number of biological children (born alive) a person had.
- **Intentional fertility** – Number of biological children that people think they will have in the future (including the current pregnancy, if applicable).
- **Expected Fertility** – Number of biological children (born alive) people had added by the number of children they think they will have in the future (including the current pregnancy, if applicable).
- **Intentional fertility in the short term** – Number of biological children that people think they will have in the next 3 years (including current pregnancy, if applicable).
- **Desired fertility** – Number of biological children desired by people throughout their life, regardless of the children they already have and the children they think they will have in the future.
- **Ideal number of children in a family** – Number of children (biological, adopted, stepchildren) considered by people as the ideal number for a family to have, regardless of being their own family.

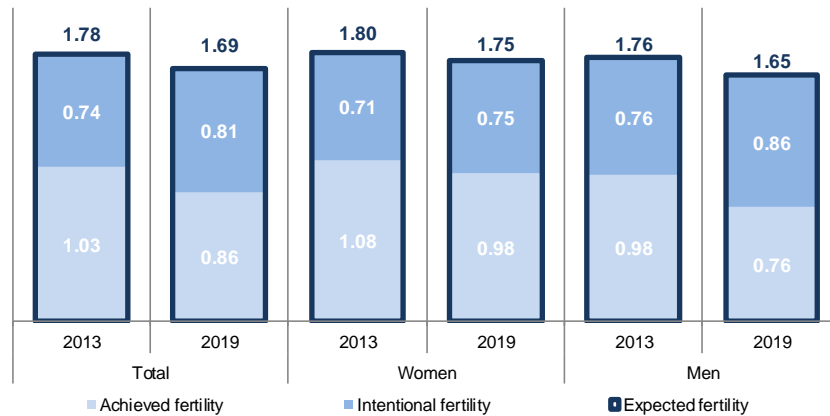
**Note:** the indicators underlying these concepts capture the ideals, desires, intentions and children people had at the time of the survey.

In Portugal, between 2013 and 2019, there were changes in fertility patterns, which are reflected in the evolution of the number of children people had, the ones they still intended to have, desired or considered ideal in a family.

The comparative analysis of the achieved, intentional, and expected fertilities between 2013 and 2019 reveals decreases, both in global terms, and for women and men (Figure 1).

Achieved fertility in 2019 was less than one child (0.86), as was the intentional fertility (0.81), leading to an expected fertility of 1.69 children, below the value observed in 2013.

Figure 1. Achieved, intentional, and expected fertility, total, women and men, Portugal, 2013 and 2019

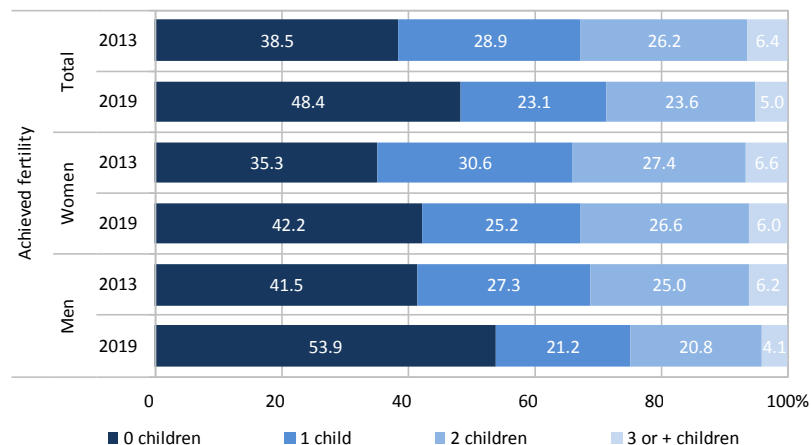


Source: Statistics Portugal, Fertility Survey 2013 and Fertility Survey 2019

Note: The expected fertility may not correspond to the sum of the achieved fertility and the intentional fertility due to the "Don't know" answer option and due to rounding issues

It should also be noted that, whereas in 2013 35.3% of women and 41.5% of men had no children, in 2019 these proportions were higher: 42.2% for women and 53.9% for men (Figure 2). In addition, in 2019, as had already happened in 2013, not having children was a more frequent situation than having one, two or three or more children, for both men and women. The percentage of people without children increased by almost 10 percentage points (pp), while the percentage of those who had a child decreased by almost 6 pp and the percentage of those who had two or more children decreased by around 4 pp. In 2019, almost half of the respondents did not have children, almost a quarter had a child and close to a third had two or more children.

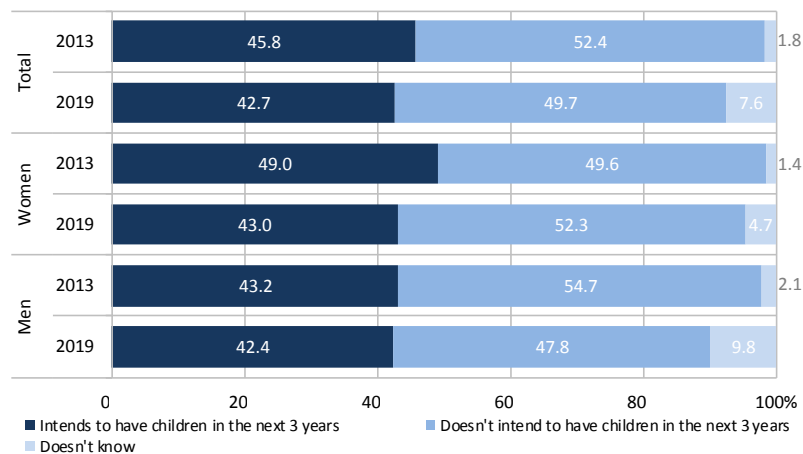
Figure 2. Achieved fertility, by number of children, total, women and men, Portugal, 2013 and 2019



Source: Statistics Portugal, Fertility Survey 2013 and Fertility Survey 2019

Considering only people who intended to have children in the future, less than half said they intended to have children in the next three years (Figure 3). The most relevant difference is observed among women, for whom the proportion of those who intended to have children in the next three years dropped from 49.0% to 43.0%.

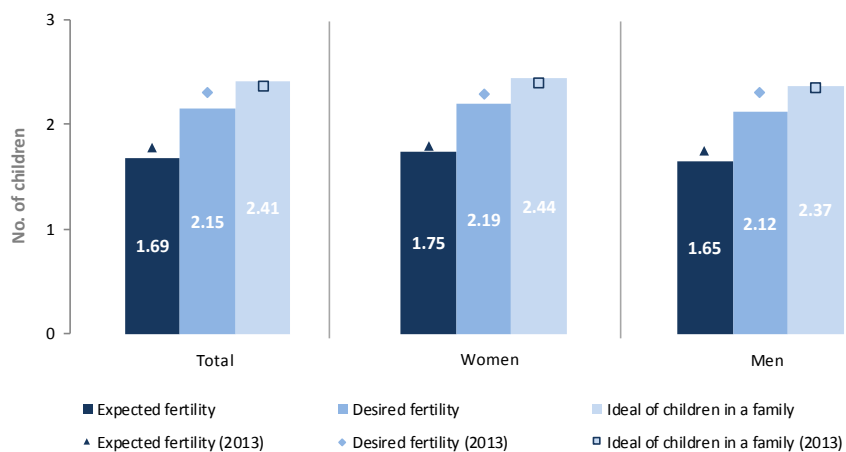
Figure 3. Intentional fertility in the short term, total, women and men, Portugal, 2013 and 2019



Source: Statistics Portugal, Fertility Survey 2013 and Fertility Survey 2019

The ideal number of children in a family and the number of children desired by people were both more than two, while the total number of children expected throughout life fell short of this figure: women expected to have 1.75 children and men 1.65 (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Expected and desired fertility, and ideal number of children in a family, total, women and men, Portugal, 2013 and 2019



Source: Statistics Portugal, Fertility Survey 2013 and Fertility Survey 2019

## Regional analysis

In all regions, the achieved fertility was lower in 2019 than in 2013

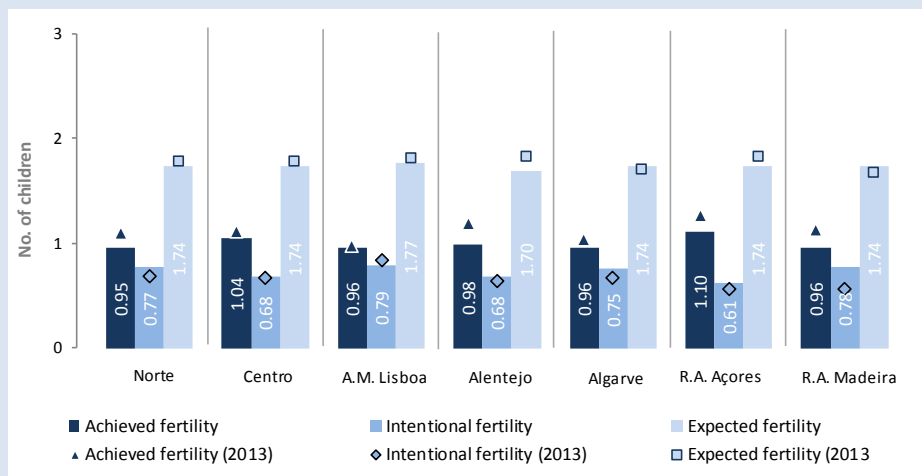
By NUTS 2 regions, the average number of children women aged 18 to 49 ranged from 0.95 children in the Norte region and 1.10 children in Região Autónoma dos Açores – 1.10 and 1.27 in 2013, respectively (Figure 1a).

The average number of children that women intended to have varied between 0.79 in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and 0.61 in Região Autónoma dos Açores (in 2013, it went from 0.84 in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and 0.57 in Região Autónoma dos Açores and Região Autónoma da Madeira).

The expected fertility was higher in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (1.77 children in 2019 and 1.83 in 2013), and the lowest value was observed in the Alentejo region (1.70 children, 1.84 in 2013).

In all regions, the achieved fertility was lower in 2019, compared to 2013. The expected fertility was higher in 2019 only in the Algarve region and in Região Autónoma da Madeira.

Figure 1a. Achieved, intentional, and expected fertility, women, NUTS 2, 2013 and 2019



Source: Statistics Portugal, Fertility Survey 2013 and Fertility Survey 2019

In all regions, the average number of children that women expected to have was less than the average number of children desired, and these values were lower than the ideal average number of children in a family, with the latter indicator keeping roughly the same values as in 2013.

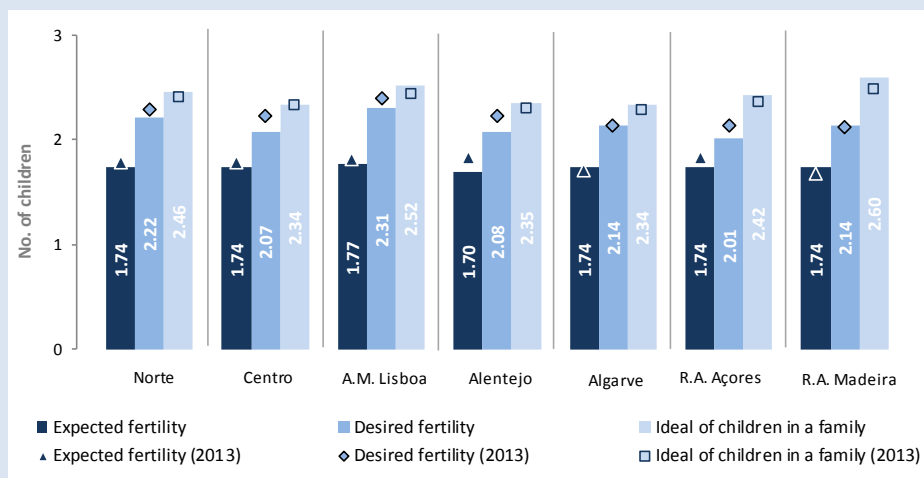
In relation to 2013, the average number of desired children was lower in all regions, with the exception of Região Autónoma da Madeira, where it remained virtually unchanged.

The difference between the average number of children desired and the average number of children women expected to have was higher in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (2.31 and 1.77 children,

respectively) and lower in Região Autónoma dos Açores (2.01 and 1.74 children).

If it is true that, in all regions, the ideal number of children in a family was higher than the average number of children desired, this difference was sharper in Região Autónoma da Madeira (2.60 and 2.14 children, respectively) and narrower in the Algarve region. (2.34 and 2.14 children).

Figure 1b. Expected and desired fertility, and ideal number of children in a family, women, NUTS 2, 2013 and 2019



Source: Statistics Portugal, Fertility Survey 2013 and Fertility Survey 2019

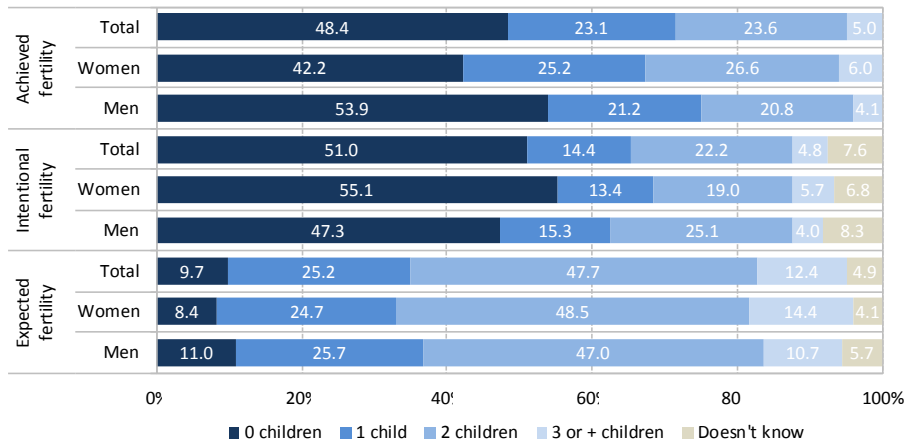
### 3. Main results from 2019

Almost half of women and more than half of men had no children; more than half of women and almost half of men did not intend to have or have more children

In 2019, 42.2% of women and more than half of men (53.9%) had no children; more than half of women (55.1%) and almost half of men (47.3%) did not intend to have or have more children; and 9.7% of people (8.4% of women and 11.0% of men) neither had nor intended to have children (Figure 5).



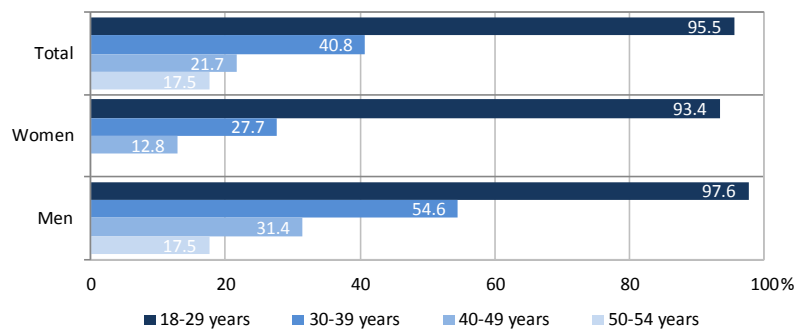
Figure 5. Achieved, intentional, and expected fertility, by number of children, total, women and men, Portugal, 2019



### A vast majority of people aged 18 to 29 had no children

In 2019, 93.4% of women and 97.6% of men aged 18 to 29 years did not have children, and more than half of men aged 30 to 39 (54.6%) were in the same situation (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Proportion of people with no children by age group, total, women and men, Portugal, 2019

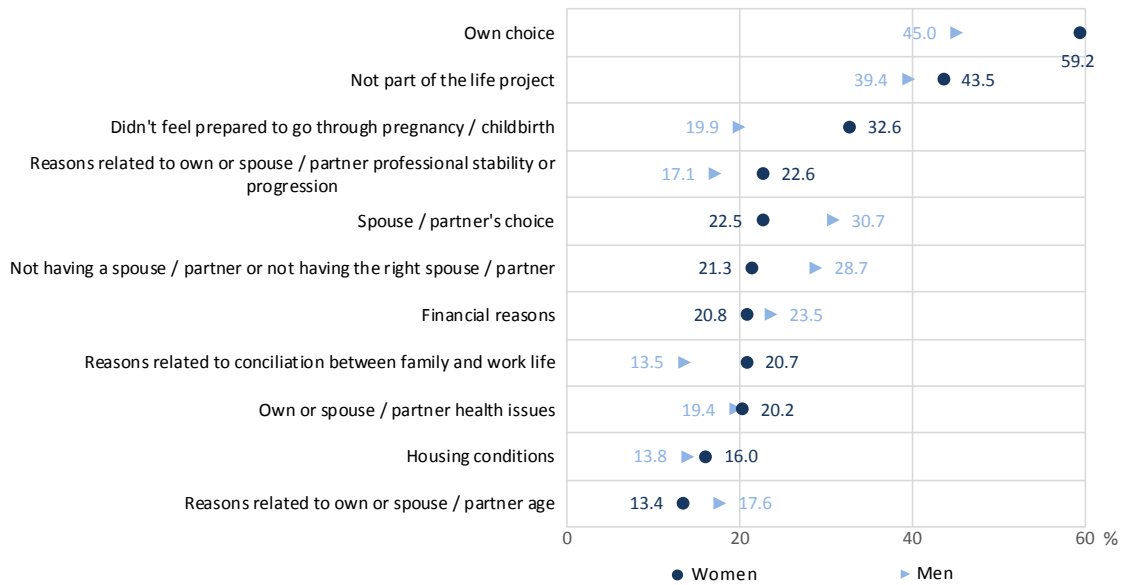


Note: Total for the 50 to 54 age group represents only men

Women and men who did not have children and said they did not intend to have children in the future referred as main reasons for this choice their own will, and the fact that parenthood was not part of their life project (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Reasons identified as very important for the decision of not having children by people without children, women and men, Portugal, 2019



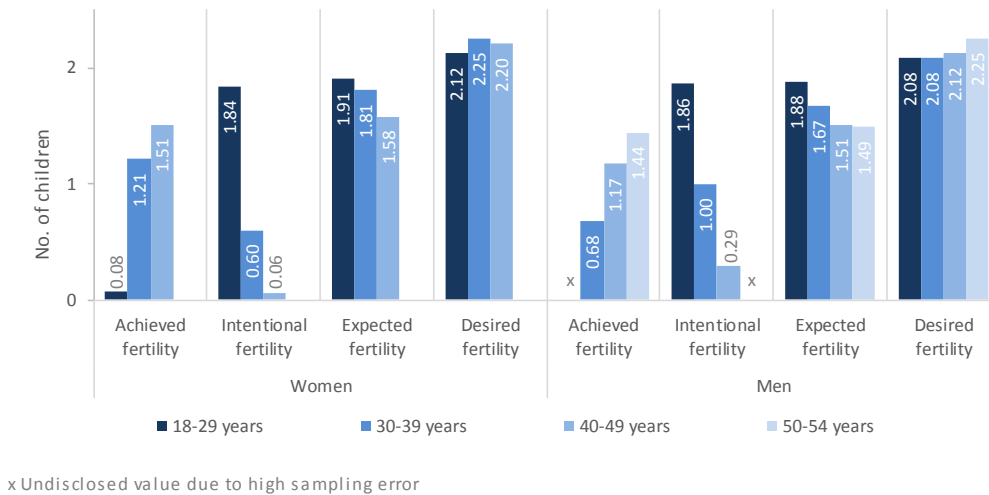
### The average number of children that people expected to have was higher in the younger generations

The average number of children that people expected to have (expected fertility) was higher in the younger generations (1.91 for women aged 18 to 29; 1.88 for men in the same age group), which results from the greater number of children that these people intended to have in the future: 1.84 and 1.86, respectively (Figure 8).

The average number of desired children varied little with age, always being slightly higher than 2 children.

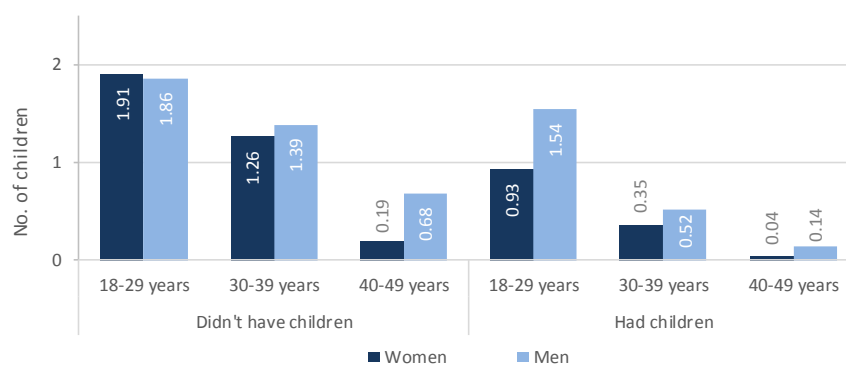
As such, the difference between the expected fertility and the desired fertility increased with age.

Figure 8. Achieved, intentional, expected, and desired fertility by age group, women and men, Portugal, 2019



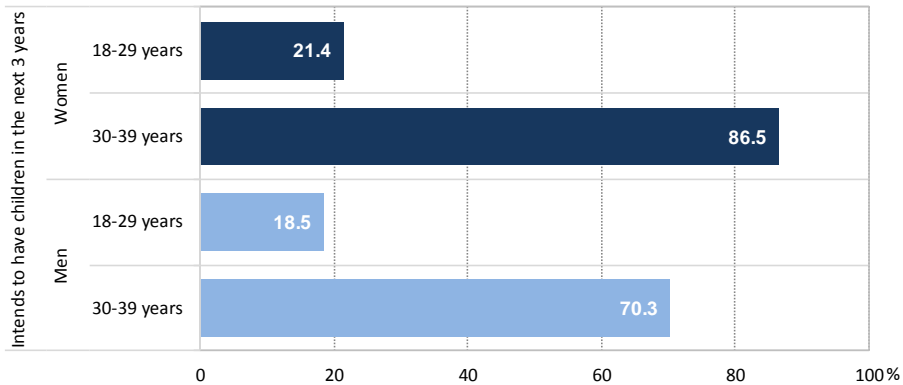
For people who still did not have children, women intended to have, on average, 1.57 children and men 1.45. Younger generations were those who intended to have, on average, more children, the highest number observed for women aged 18 to 29 years (1.91 children) (Figure 9). For those who already had children, it was men aged 18 to 29 who intended to have more children (1.54 children).

Figure 9. Intentional fertility for those who did not have children and for those who had children, by age group, women and men from 18 to 49 years old, Portugal, 2019



As for the intention to have children in the next three years, only a minority of younger women (21.4%) and men (18.5%) aged 18 to 29 who intended to have or have more children, planned to do so (Figure 10). The reverse was true for people aged 30 to 39: 86.5% of women and 70.3% of men from 30 to 39 years of age who intended to have or have more children, thought to do so in the next 3 years.

Figure 10. Proportion of people who intended to have children in the next 3 years, women and men aged 18 to 39 who intended to have or have more children, Portugal, 2019

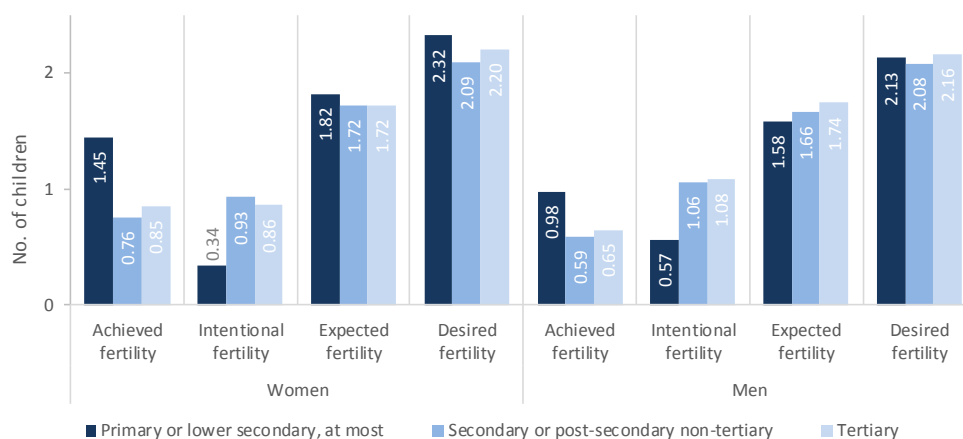


The average number of children desired was higher for women with lower levels of education and for men with higher education

Women and men with lower education levels had a higher number of children (achieved fertility), 1.45 children, on average, for women and 0.98 for men, when compared to other levels of education (Figure 11). Conversely, the intention to have children in the future was lower among women and men with less education. From the combination of these two results, the levels of expected fertility were not very different between levels of education.

The desired fertility was higher for women with less education (2.32) and for men with a higher level of education (2.16).

Figure 11. Achieved, intentional, expected, and desired fertility by level of education, women and men, Portugal, 2019

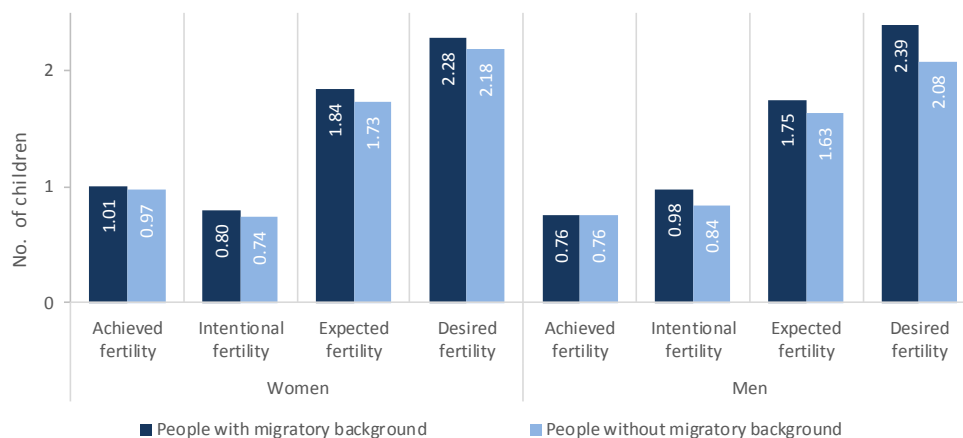


**Women and men born outside Portugal, or with at least one parent born outside Portugal, desired to have more children**

Women and men with a migratory background, that is, born outside Portugal, or with at least one parent born outside Portugal, desired and expected to have more children throughout their lives than people born in Portugal and with parents also born in Portugal (people without migratory background) (Figure 12). It was men with a migratory background who desired to have more children (2.39 children) and women with a migratory background who expected to have more children (1.84 children).

As for achieved fertility, there are practically no differences between those with a migratory background and those without a migratory background.

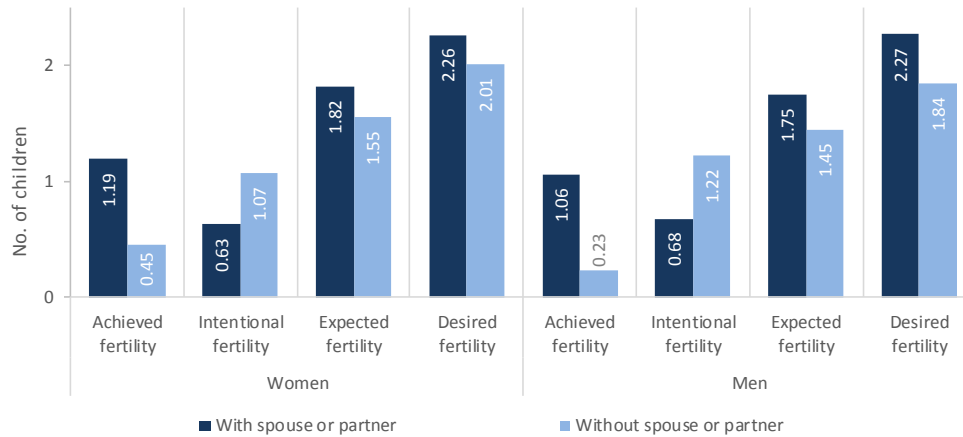
Figure 12. Achieved, intentional, expected, and desired fertility by migratory background, women and men, Portugal, 2019



**People with a spouse or partner had, expected to have, and desired to have more children than people who were not coupled (in a formal or informal conjugal situation)**

Women and men with a spouse or partner had, on average, 1.19 children and 1.06 children, and desired to have 2.26 children and 2.27, respectively, values higher than those observed for people who had no spouse or partner (Figure 13).

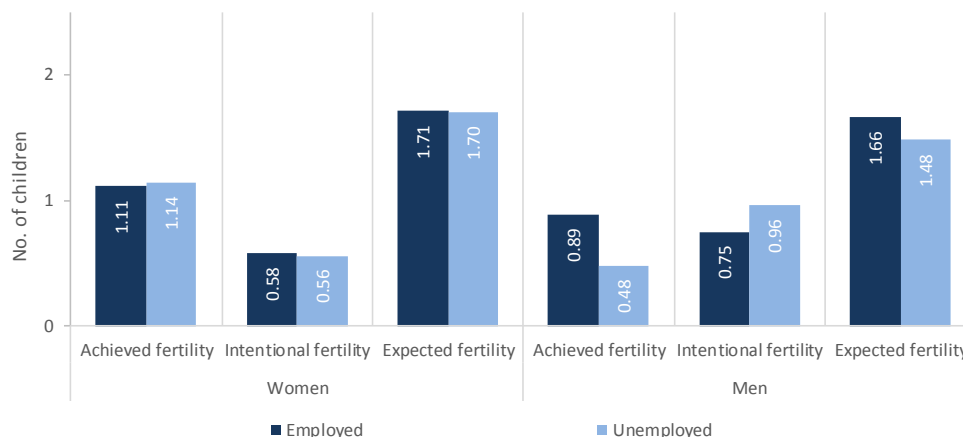
Figure 13. Achieved, intentional, expected, and desired fertility by marital status, women and men, Portugal, 2019



The fertility levels of women were not affected by their labour status, unlike what happened with men

For employed and unemployed women, fertility levels were identical. In the case of men, the achieved and expected fertility levels were higher among employees (0.89 and 1.66, respectively), compared to the unemployed (0.48 and 1.48, respectively) (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Achieved, intentional, expected, and desired fertility by labour status, women and men, Portugal, 2019

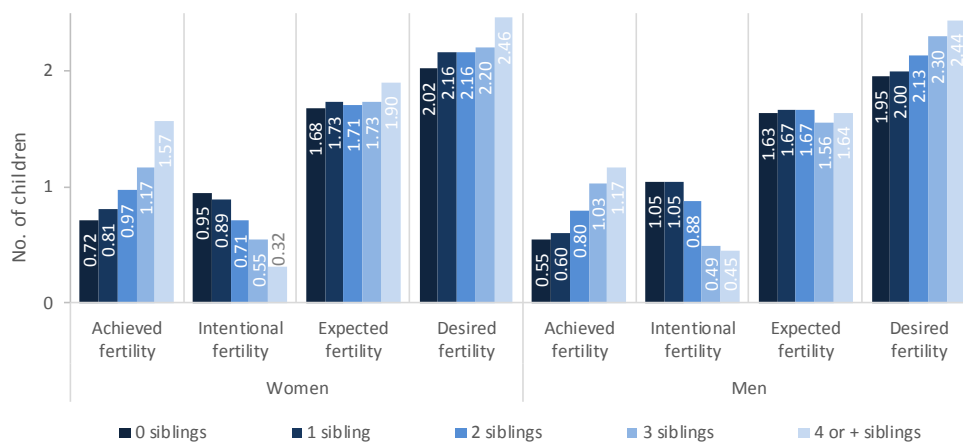


Women and men with more siblings had and desired to have more children; people with fewer siblings intended to have more children

Women and men with more siblings had and desired a greater number of children (2.46, on average, for women with 4 or more siblings and 2.44, on average, for men in the same circumstance) (Figure 15).

In addition to being related to levels of desired fertility, the number of siblings also appears to be associated with the number of children that people had: an increase in the number of siblings corresponds to an increase in the average number of children that people had.

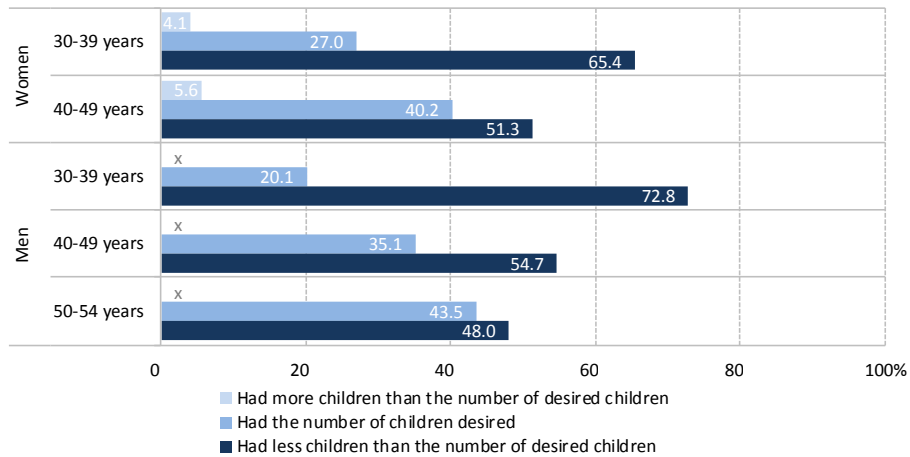
Figure 15. Achieved, intentional, expected, and desired fertility by number of siblings, women and men, Portugal, 2019



More than half of women and men aged 40 to 49 had fewer children than what they desired to have throughout their lives

Although it was more common for women and men aged 30 to 39 to consider having fewer children than they desired – 65.4% of women aged 30 to 39 and 72.8% of men of the same age – it is important to bear in mind that these people were not yet close to the end of their reproductive life, still having the opportunity and time to reduce the distance between their desire and the achieved fertility (Figure 16). It is among the older people that it is important to highlight the proportion of those who had fewer children than they desired – 51.3% of women aged 40 to 49, 54.7% of men of the same age group and 48.0% of men aged 50 to 54 years. On the other hand, 40.2% of women aged 40 to 49 years and 35.1% of men in the same age group had exactly the children they desired to have. This figure was slightly higher among men aged 50 to 54 years – 43.5%.

Figure 16. Proportion of people who had more, less or the number of children they desired, women aged 30 to 49 and men aged 30 to 54, Portugal, 2019



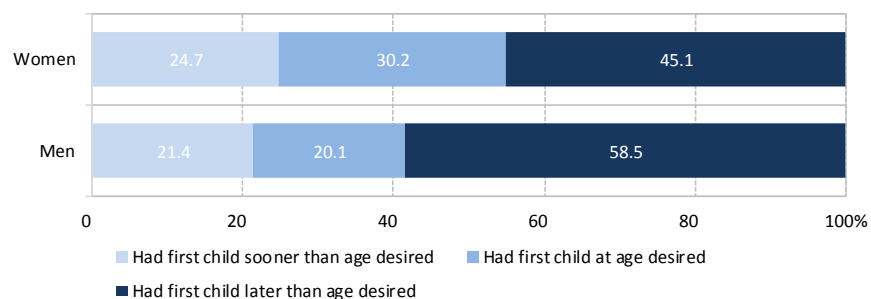
x Undisclosed value due to high sampling error

Note: The sum of the parts may not total 100% due to "Do not know" answer option and to undisclosed values

### Most men and almost half of women had their first child later than the age in which they desired

The contrast between the achieved fertility and people's desire can also be measured from the differences between the age at which they had their first child and the age at which they wished they had (Figure 17). The postponement of fertility is shared by women and men; however, it is more pronounced among men (45.1% of women had their first child later than the age they desired, which compares with 58.5% of men).

Figure 17. Proportion of people who had their first child earlier, later or at the age they desired, women and men, Portugal, 2019



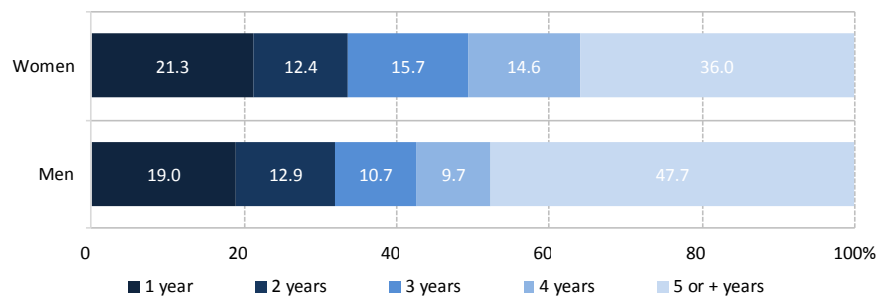
Considering only people who had their first child later than they desired, it appears that the postponement was, for a considerable share of women (36.0%) and men (47.7%), of at least 5 years (Figure 18).





For 50.6% of women and 57.4% of men, this postponement was of 4 years or more.

Figure 18. Proportion of people who had their first child later than they desired, by number of years of postponement, women and men, Portugal, 2019

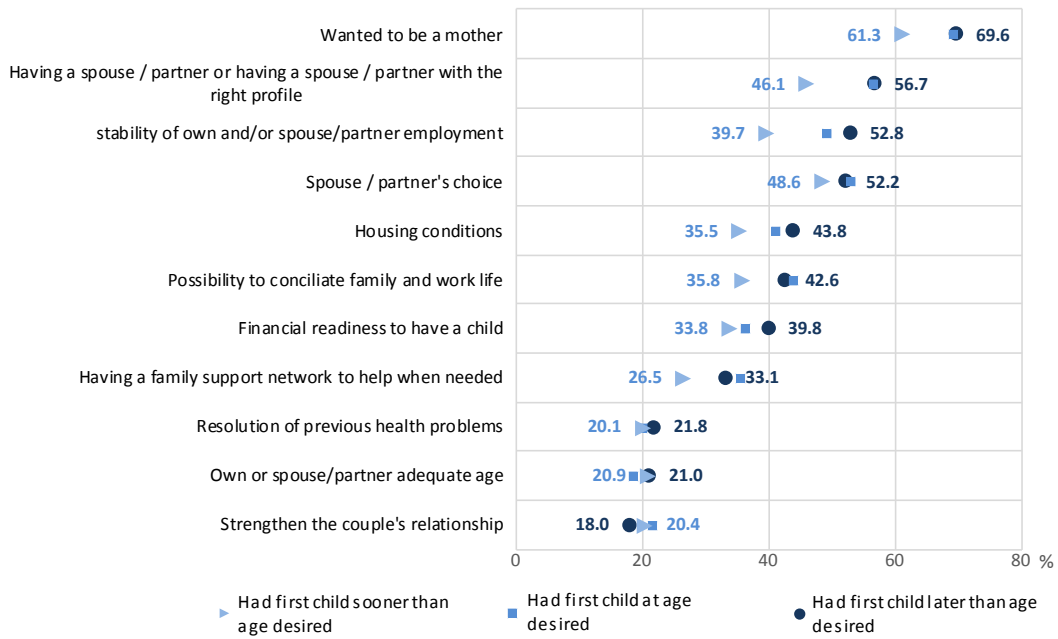


**Most women considered the desire to be a mother very important for the decision to have their first child**

Most women who planned the birth of their first child, regardless of when they had it, consider wanting to be a mother as a very important reason for deciding to have their first child (Figure 19).

For women who had their first child at the time or later than the age they desired, in addition to the aforementioned reason, it was also pointed out as important motives having a spouse / partner or having a spouse / partner with the right profile, stability of own and / or spouse / partner’s employment, and spouse / partner’s choice.

Figure 19. Reasons considered very important for having the first child at the time they had it, women, Portugal, 2019

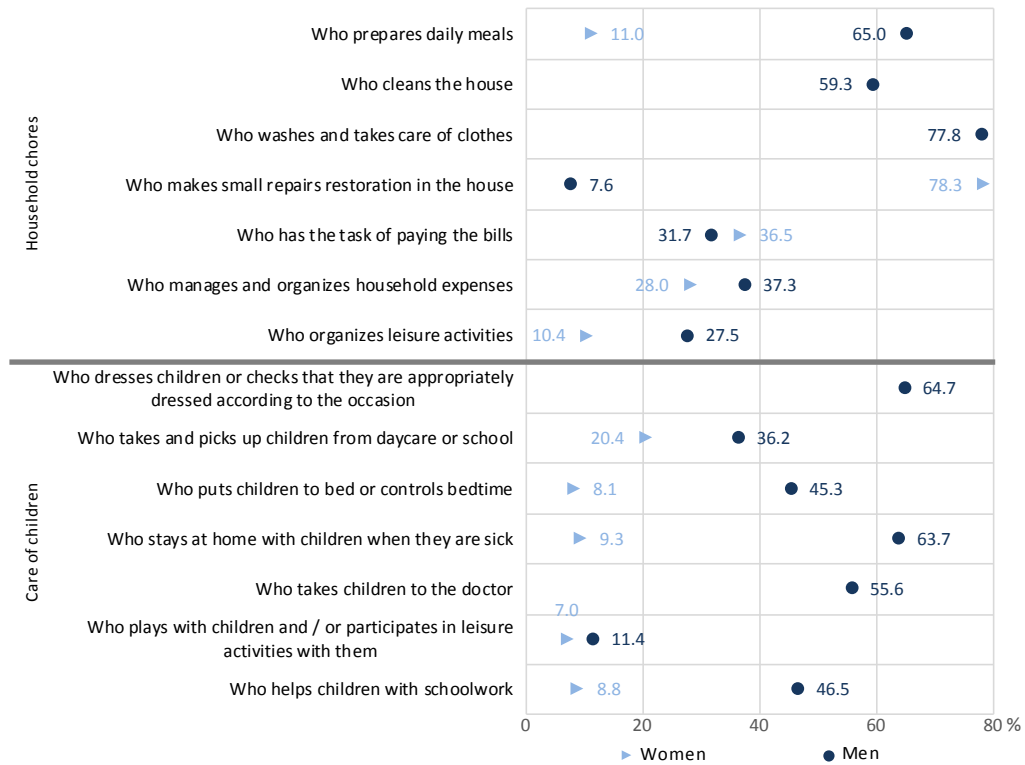


### It was mainly women who reported doing the tasks related to the care of home and children

Considering the people who lived with a spouse or partner, women reported being usually responsible for tasks such as washing and taking care of clothes (77.8%), cleaning the house (59.3%) and preparing meals (65.0%) (Figure 20). Men reported more often than not that they usually did small house repairs and restorations (78.3%).

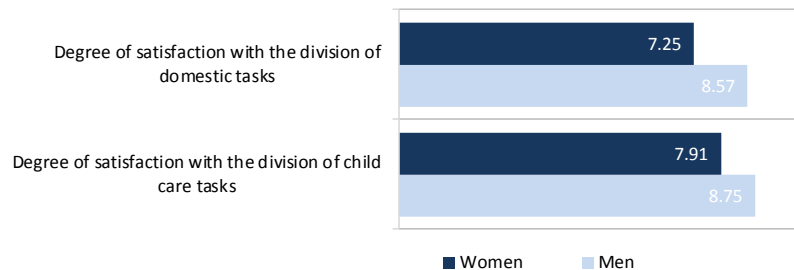
For people with children, the tasks related to their care and assistance were also mentioned by women as being usually done by them (Figure 20): dressing young children (64.3%), staying at home when they are sick (63.7%), taking them to the doctor (55.6%), helping them with schoolwork (46.5%), putting them to bed (45.3%) and taking and picking them up from day-care centre or school (36.2%).

Figure 20. Proportion of people, living with spouse or partner, who reported doing household chores and caring for children, women and men, Portugal, 2019



Although women were, on average, less satisfied than men with the division of housework and tasks related to the care and assistance of their children, it should be noted that the degree of satisfaction was positive in both cases (on a scale of 1 to 10, more than 7 points for women and more than 8 points for men) (Figure 21). It should also be noted that satisfaction with the division of chores related to child care was higher than satisfaction with the division of domestic tasks, for both men and women.

Figure 21. Average degree of satisfaction (scale from 1 to 10) with the division of domestic and child care tasks, women and men, Portugal, 2019



### 89.8% of women and 85.9% of men considered there should be policy measures to increase fertility

The 2019 Fertility Survey included a set of questions aimed at knowing people's opinions on the need for policy measures to increase fertility, grouped into 4 domains: working conditions for people with children, access to services for the occupation of children, income of families with children, and other measures.

The vast majority of people considered that there should be incentives to fertility, that is, there should be support for people to have more children: 89.8% of women and 85.9% of men, with no significant differences by age group.

People were asked to order the three measures presented in each domain, by the degree of importance they attributed to each of them (Figure 22).

Regarding the working conditions for people with children domain, the most often indicated as the most important measure (for 52.9% of men and 45.7% of women) was "making working hours more flexible for mothers and fathers with young children". The measure "extend the periods of parental leave for mothers and fathers" was more often mentioned as the most important measure in this domain by women (33.7%) than by men (25.9%). "Increasing part-time job opportunities for mothers and fathers" was the measure least marked as the most important, which may be related to the fact that Portugal is among the countries of the European Union with the lowest proportion of part-time workers (especially women).

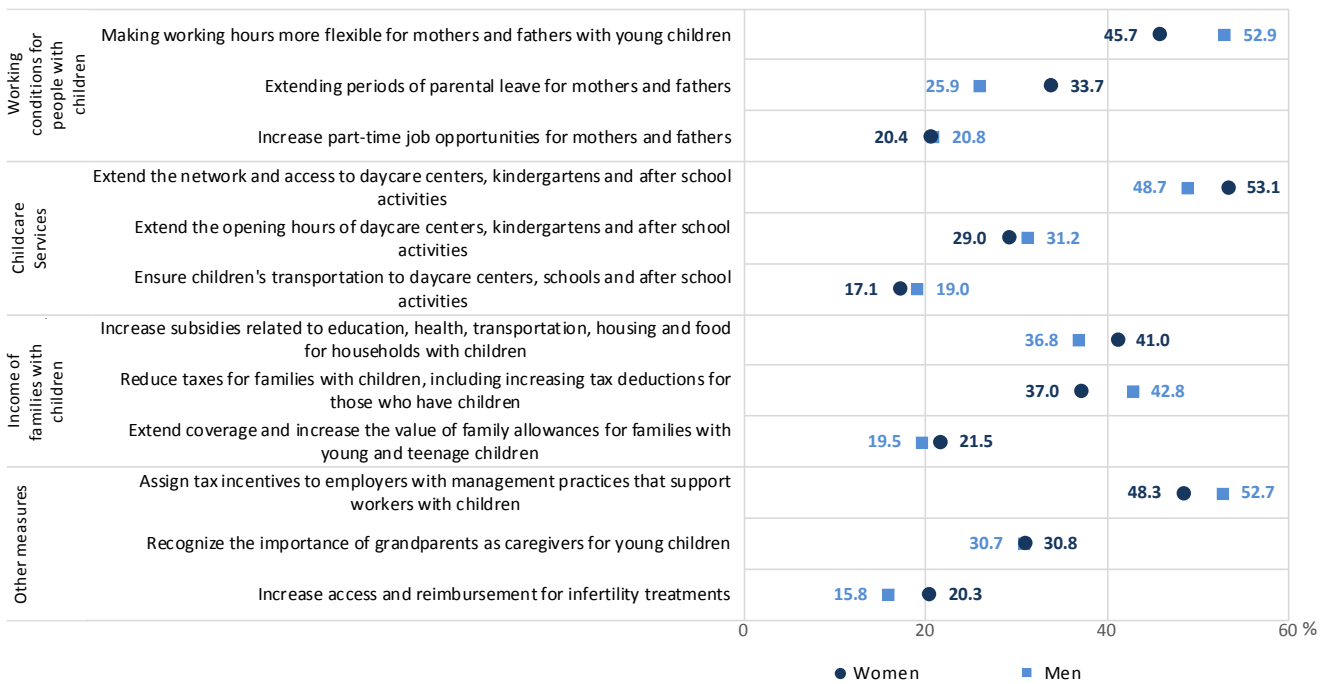
In the context of access to services for the occupation of children, "extending the network and access to day-care centres, kindergartens and after school activities" was the incentive measure most often referred to as the most important (53.1% of women and 48.7% of men). "Extending the opening hours of day-care centres, kindergartens and after school activities" and "ensuring the transport of children to day-care centres, schools and after school activities" were not considered as important.

With regard to measures in the context of household income, women and men show a different distribution in the measures they considered as the most important. For women the measure considered as the most important was "to increase subsidies related to education, health, transportation, housing and food for

households with children” (41.0% of women, compared with 36.8% of men); for men, the most regularly pointed out as the most important measure in this context was “to reduce taxes for families with children, including increasing tax deductions for those who have children” (42.8% of men, and 37.0% of women). However, both relate to the need to increase household disposable income.

With regard to other measures that do not integrate the three domains mentioned above, “assigning tax incentives to employers with management practices that support workers with children” was highlighted as the most important by almost half of women (48.3%) and more than half of men (52.7%).

Figure 22. Policy measures to encourage fertility marked as the most important, by domain of measures, women and men, Portugal, 2019





The profile of people with children and without children is very different

Here, the profile of people who had no children and of those who had children in 2019 is described, based on the most frequent characteristics of these two groups.

### Who were those without children in 2019?

Mostly men: 58.8%

Belonged to the age group of 18 to 29 years: 58.2%

Did not have a spouse or partner: 53.2%

Lived with father or mother or both: 71.0%

Had a completed educational level corresponding to secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary levels: 43.6%

Were employed: 63.9%

Had on average 1 or 2 siblings

Intended to have children: 69.6%

Considered 2 the desired number of children: 46.7%

Considered 2 the ideal number of children in a family: 61.3%

### Who were those with children in 2019?

Mostly women: 52.8%

Had two children: 45.6%

Belonged to the age group of 40 to 49 years: 53.2%

Had a spouse or partner: 87.0%

Lived with spouse or partner: 75.7%

Had a complete educational level corresponding, at most, to primary and lower secondary levels: 43.7%

Were employed: 88.4%

Had on average 2 or 3 siblings

Didn't intend to have more children: 79.9%

Considered 2 the desired number of children: 52.5%

Considered 2 the ideal number of children in a family: 59.5%



## METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The Fertility Survey 2019 was carried out by Statistics Portugal (INE) and financed by the European Economic Area Agreement (EEA Grants 2014-2021) under the Conciliation and Gender Equality Program, with a selected sample of residents in the national territory. Six years after the last Fertility Survey, conducted in 2013 in partnership with the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation, the main objective was to update and reinforce knowledge about fertility in Portugal, considering the multiple dimensions of this phenomenon, namely with regard to intentions and desire to have children, the ideal number of children in a family, the age they had and at which they desired to have had their first child, according to demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, such as age, level of education, migratory background or labour status, as well as the perceptions and constraints that weigh on the decision to have or not have children. The information obtained thus constitutes a relevant instrument to support the definition and evaluation of policies related to family and fertility.

All information related to the data now presented was collected between September 2019 and February 2020. The results refer to a period prior to the current COVID-19 pandemic, and as such the possible effects of the pandemic on fertility patterns are not captured in these results. The interviews, held in person at the households of the selected respondents, took place in approximately 10 thousand households, distributed throughout all regions of the Continent and in the Autonomous Regions of Açores and Madeira. The sample of women aged 18 to 49 years old, representative of the female population at country level and of the NUTS 2 regions level, and men aged 18 to 54 years old, representative of the male population at country level, resulted in a total of 7,709 interviews. Response to the survey was mandatory, according to Law No. 22/2008, of May 13.

The estimated results were obtained from individual weights, adjusted according to the distribution by NUTS 2 region, age group and sex, taking into account the provisional estimates of resident population on 12/31/2019. For each estimate, margins of error were also calculated in relation to the values that would be obtained in a survey of the entire population, in the form of variation coefficients. Estimates are not available whenever the respective coefficient of variation is greater than 20%.

Attached to this press release Statistics Portugal also publishes a set of result tables. An anonymized microdata base is also available to accredited researchers for scientific research purposes.

For a more detailed analysis of the methodology followed, the reader can access the methodological document here: <http://smi-i.ine.pt/DocumentacaoMetodologica/Detalhes/1560>

The conception of the 2019 Fertility Survey project, in particular the definition of contents to be observed and areas of analysis, benefited from the contributions of a group of experts in the areas of Sociology of the Family and Demography, to whom we are very grateful for the availability and collaboration: Vanessa Cunha, Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa; Maria Filomena Mendes, Escola de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Évora; Isabel Tiago de Oliveira, Escola de Sociologia e Políticas Públicas do ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa; and Maria João Valente Rosa, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, who coordinated.



**Note:** Due to rounding issues, the values for the various indicators presented in this press release may not correspond exactly to those obtained from the results disclosed in the attached Excel tables.

**Concepts used and explanatory notes:**

Achieved Fertility – Number of biological children (born alive) people had.

Adopted children – People who have or have not undergone a legal adoption process and that the individual considers as children.

Biological children – Children of blood, which hold the individual's genes.

Desired fertility – Number of biological children desired by people throughout their life, regardless of the children they already have and the children they think they will have in the future.

Expected Fertility – Number of biological children (born alive) people had added by the number of children they think they will have in the future (including the current pregnancy, if applicable).

Ideal number of children in a family – Number of children (biological, adopted, stepchildren) considered by people as the ideal number for a family to have, regardless of being their own family.

Intentional fertility – Number of biological children that people think they will have in the future (including the current pregnancy, if applicable).

Intentional fertility in the short term – Number of biological children that people think they will have in the next 3 years (including current pregnancy, if applicable).

Level of education – Higher level of education that has been successfully completed, or for which equivalence has been obtained, and which gives a certificate or diploma.

Migratory background – Typology defined based on the combination of the variables “Country of birth of respondent”, “Country of birth of father” and “Country of birth of mother”: people without a migratory background (people born in Portugal and whose parents were both born in Portugal) and people with a migratory background (people born outside Portugal or born in Portugal but with at least one parent born outside Portugal).

Stepchildren – Children (biological or adopted) of a previous relationship of the spouse or partner, whether of the current spouse or partner or of previous spouses or partners.

**Note:** the indicators underlying all fertility concepts capture the ideals, desires, intentions and children people had at the time of the survey.





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The Fertility Survey carried out by Statistics Portugal in 2019 was financed by the European Economic Area Agreement (EEA Grants 2014-2021) under the Conciliation and Gender Equality Program.

Through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners in the internal market with the Member States of the European Union.

As a way of promoting a continuous and balanced strengthening of economic and trade relations, the parties to the EEA Agreement have established a multiannual Financial Mechanism, known as the EEA Grants.

The EEA Grants have two goals – to contribute to a more equal Europe, both socially and economically – and to strengthen the relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and the beneficiary countries.

For the 2014-2021 period, a total contribution of 2.8 billion Euros was agreed for 15 beneficiary countries. Portugal will benefit from a budget of 102.7 million euros.

Learn more at: <https://www.eeagrants.gov.pt/en/>