



Observatório das
Famílias e das
Políticas de
Família

*As decisões reprodutivas na sociedade portuguesa:
elementos para uma reflexão sobre o alcance e os limites das
políticas públicas na natalidade*

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Observatório das Famílias e das Políticas de Família

Conferência Nascer em Portugal

Presidência da República – Roteiros do Futuro

Palácio da Cidadela – Cascais, 17 de Fevereiro de 2012

Research Project

- Family Trajectories and Social Networks: the life course in an intergenerational perspective*
- ICS-UL/FCT: 2008-2011

One Main Aim

- To reconstitute the life trajectories of three generations of Portuguese men and women
 - 1935-40, 1959-55, 1970-75

Field Work

- National Survey conducted by GfK Metris (from September 2009 to March 2010)
- In-depth interviews conducted by the research team

Portuguese Team

- Karin Wall, COORD. (ICS-UL)
- Sofia Aboim, Vanessa Cunha, Rita Gouveia, Vasco Ramos, Lia Almeida (ICS-UL)
- Cátia Nunes (INE)
- M. Dores Guerreiro, A. Cristina Ferreira, Pedro Vasconcelos (ISCTE-IUL)

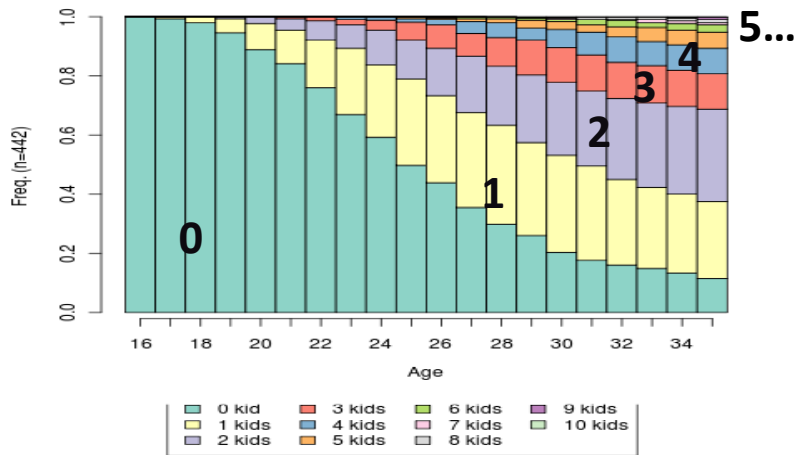
Participant countries

- Switzerland
- Lithuania

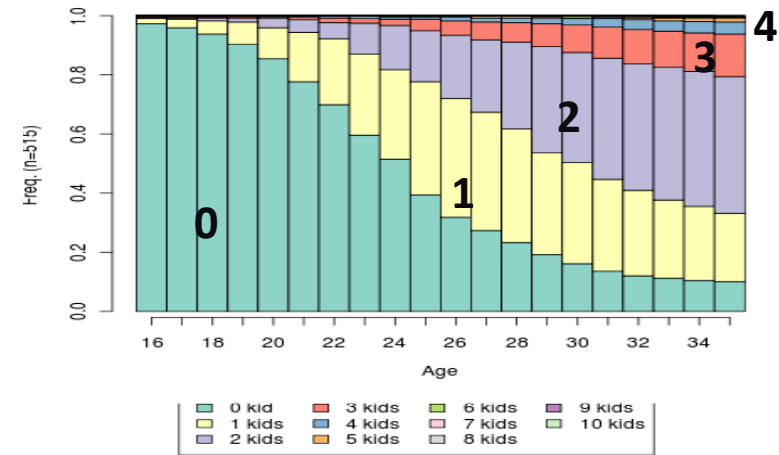
| Historical Period (transition to adulthood) | Generation (cohort of birth) | Reproductive trajectory (reproductive regime) |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Authoritarian and conservative Dictatorship Deification of traditional family | 1935-1940 | Prolific Prior to reliable contraceptive surveillance |
| 1974 Democratic Revolution Democratization of family life & values “Golden Age of Marriage” | 1950-1955 | Fertility decline “Pill” |
| Democracy/European Union Pluralization & privatization drifts | 1970-1975 | Childbearing postponement Very low fertility |

Reproductive trajectories of the generations (up to age 35)

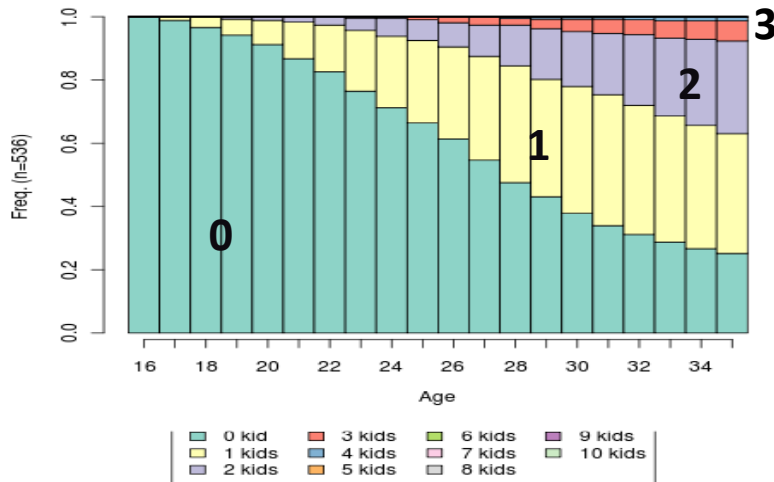
1935-40



1950-55



1970-75



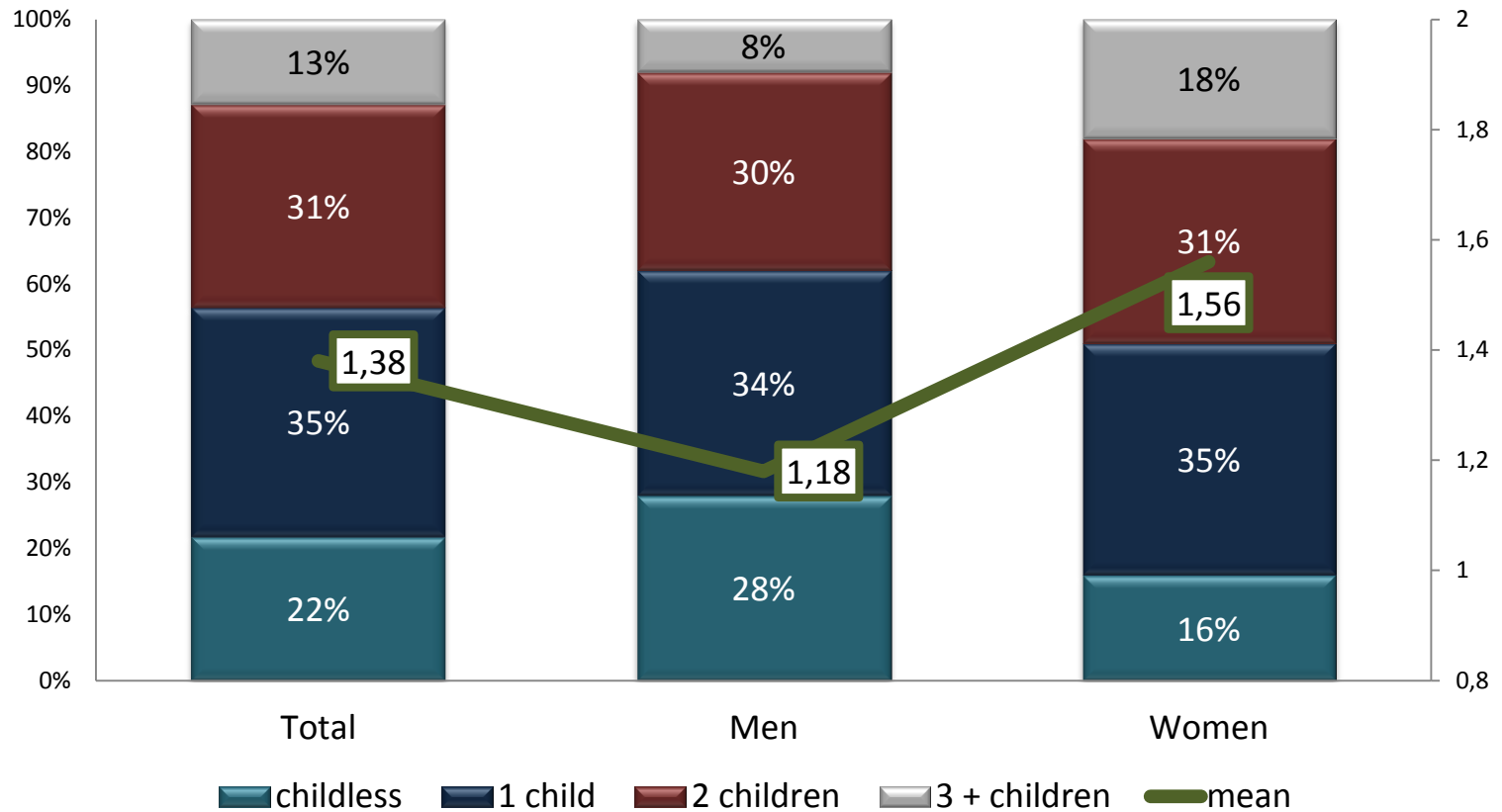
Main fertility patterns

1935-40: Extensive transition to parenthood, large parities, close childbirths

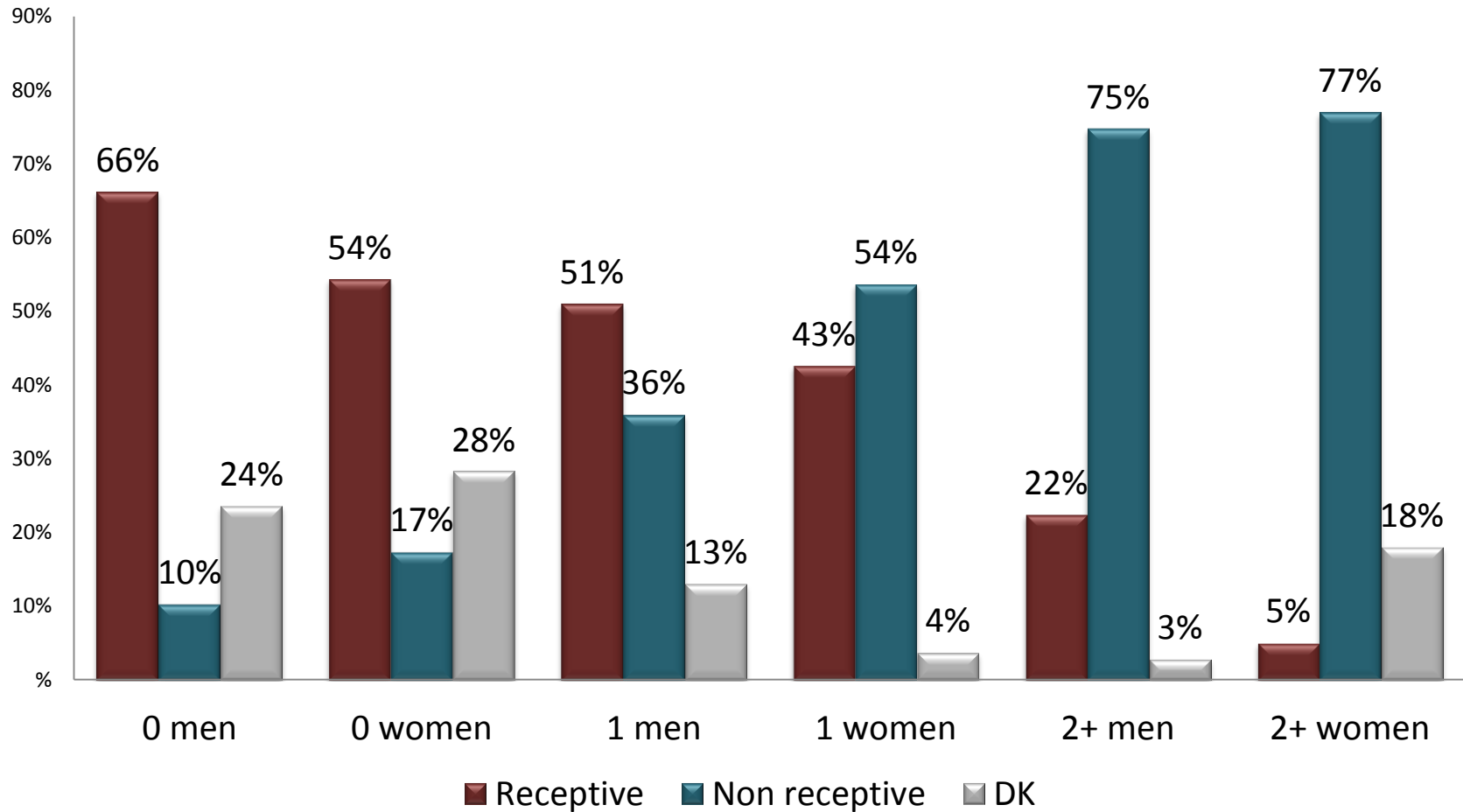
1950-55: Extensive (anticipated) transition to parenthood, two-child parities, 2nd and 3rd childbirths postponement

1970-75: Postponement of the transition to parenthood (*latent childlessness?*), 2nd childbirth postponement, one-child parities,

Current parity distribution of the generation 1970-75, by sex (% & mean)



Childbearing intentions, by current parity distribution and sex (%)



From 1 to 2: the difficult step?

Reasons for **postponing** & **refusing** the transition to the 2nd child

I'm going to read you a set of statements. For each one, please tell me how it contributes to the fact that ...

- RECEPTIVE** *you still haven't had another child?*
- NON RECEPTIVE** *you don't want to have another child?*

1. nothing, 2. little, 3. something, 4. pretty much or 5. very much

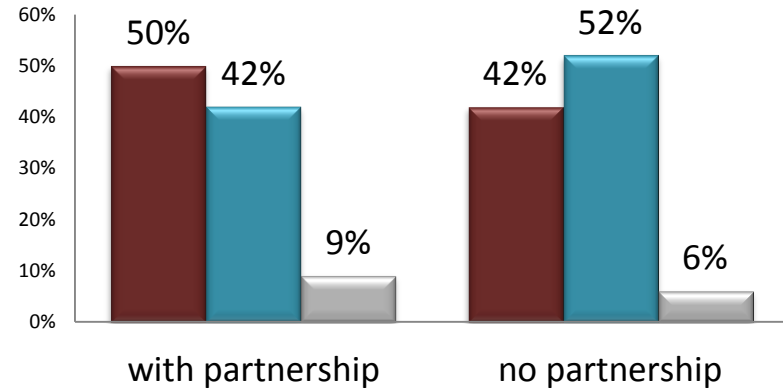
Reasons for **postponing** & **refusing** the transition to the 2nd child

| | | “Postponers” | “Refusers” |
|--|---|--------------|------------|
| Economic load & insecurity | <i>High cost of education</i> | 76% | 81% |
| | <i>Job instability</i> | 58% | 73% |
| | <i>Financial worries</i> | 78% | 68% |
| Reconciling work & family | <i>Lack of public support (childcare facilities, social benefits)</i> | 57% | 66% |
| | <i>Professional life too demanding (lack of time and willingness)</i> | 51% | 42% |
| | <i>Lack of family support (having someone to rely on)</i> | 47% | 39% |
| Family balance | <i>Personal and family life ok, a child would destabilize</i> | 24% | 55% |
| | <i>*Already have the number of children wanted</i> | - | 62% |
| | <i>**Child still very young</i> | 44% | - |
| Inner disadvantages (psychological, biological, health) | <i>Too old for childbearing</i> | 8% | 32% |
| | <i>Health problems</i> | 3% | 26% |
| | <i>Fertility problems</i> | 14% | 18% |
| | <i>Feel unable to take care of another person</i> | 5% | 4% |
| | <i>***Bad experience with a miscarriage</i> | 0% | 11% |
| | <i>***Uncomfortable with going through pregnancy/delivery</i> | 5% | 11% |
| Partnership dynamics | <i>Partner’s opposition</i> | 19% | 34% |
| | <i>Problems in couple's relation</i> | 4% | 9% |
| | <i>Lack of partner OR not the right partner</i> | 9% | 8% |
| Parental dynamics | <i>Children disturb couple's intimacy</i> | 17% | 12% |
| | <i>Parenthood was not a goal in life</i> | 30% | 7% |
| | <i>Parenthood not a very positive experience</i> | 4% | 7% |
| | <i>Problems with own child (difficult, handicapped)</i> | 1% | 5% |

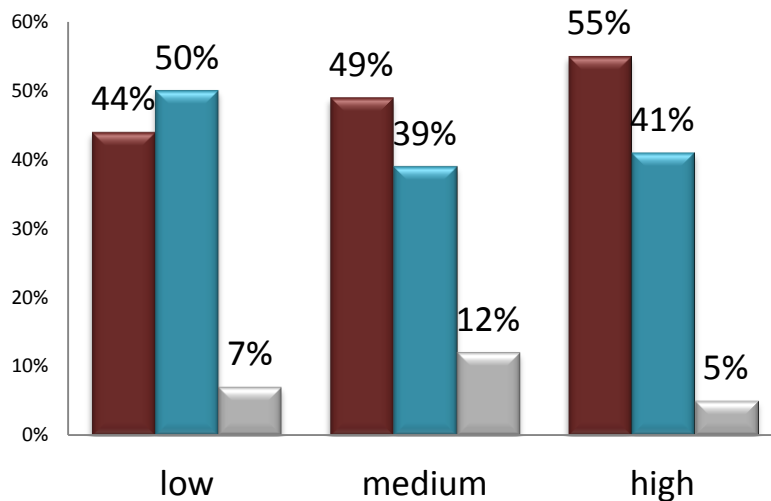
* Only “refusers”; ** Only “postponers”; *** Only women

Receptiveness to the transition to the 2nd child, by...

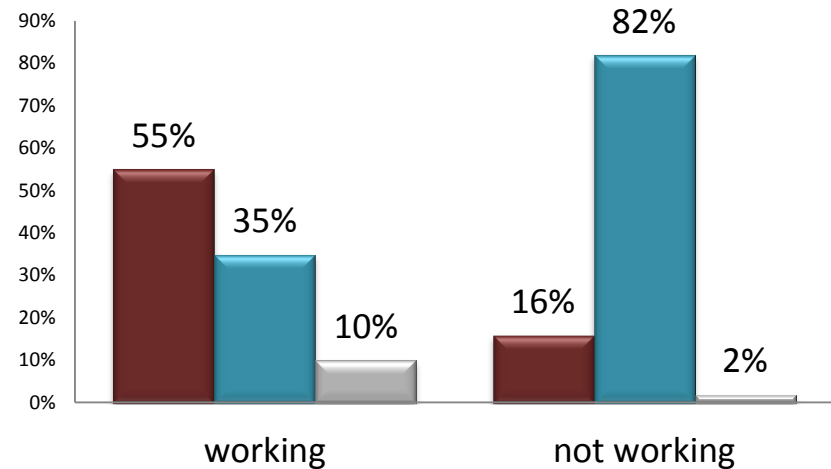
Partnership



Education



Working condition



■ receptive ■ not receptive ■ DK

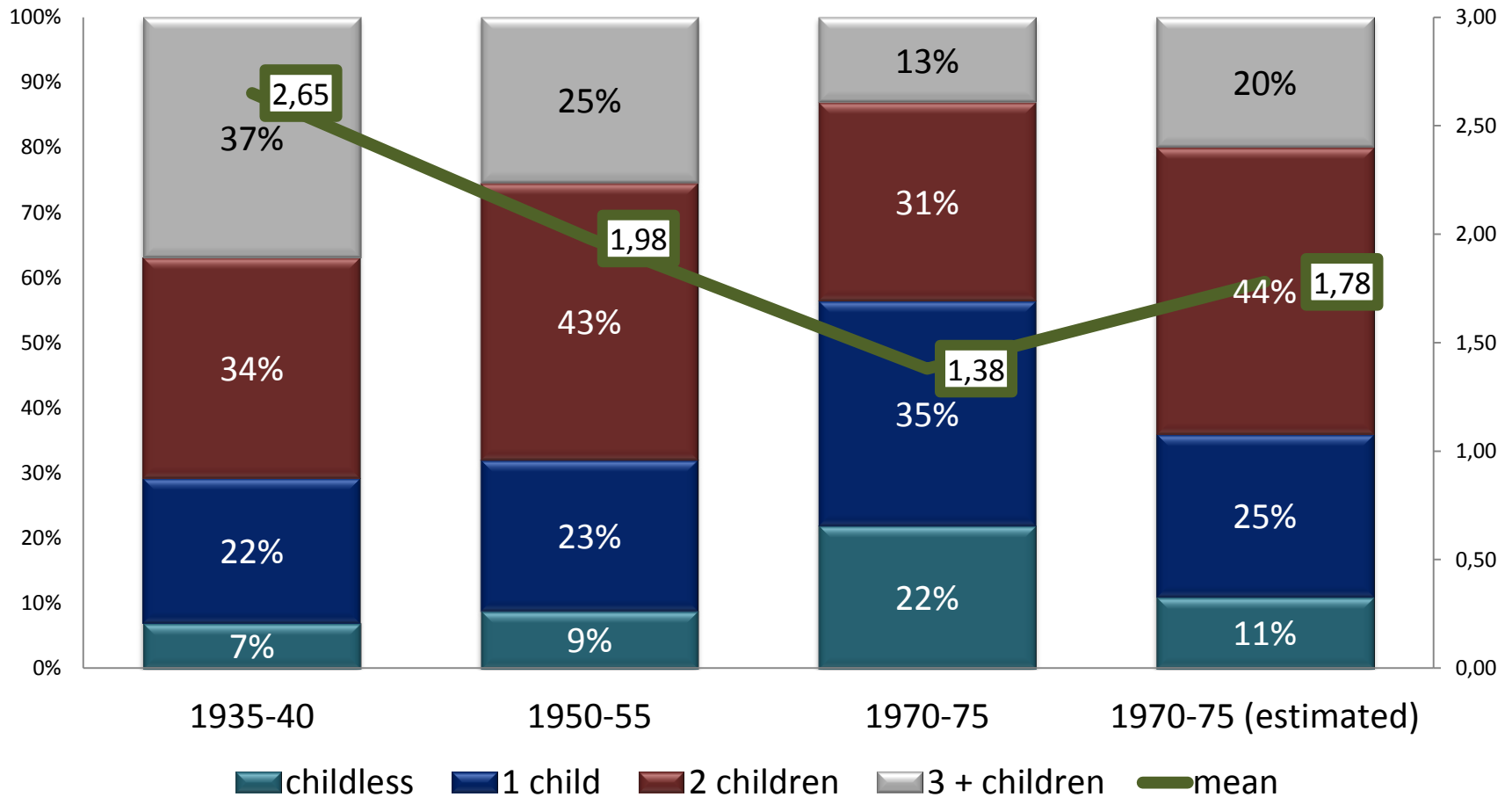


*The reproductive decisions in the Portuguese society:
considerations on the scope and the limits of public policies in fertility*

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Parity distribution and mean number of childbirths, by generation*



* 1st and 2nd generations: ultimate parity and mean; 3rd generation: current and estimation of ultimate (current + intended)