

Pregnancy Sample – Baseline Survey

05.04.2022 – 31.05.2022

Intro

1. Principal Investigators: Prof. Anne Brenøe and Prof. Ana Costa-Ramón
We invite you to participate in the **Family Life Study 2021** on pregnancy, family life, and work-life balance. The study is aimed at expectant mothers. With your participation, you will help research better understand mothers' expectations and experiences before and after birth.

Today's survey takes approximately **10-15 minutes**. During the survey, you may be asked to watch a short video with sound.

We plan to **contact you three more times next year** to conduct brief surveys. Therefore, we will ask for your contact information at the end of the survey.

Among all participants who complete the survey, we will raffle **3 Galaxus vouchers worth 100 CHF each**.

*Please remember that you have the right to withdraw your consent or terminate participation in the survey at any time without giving reasons. **Confidentiality** will be strictly maintained throughout the study. After the study is completed, we will delete your contact information. We comply with **Swiss data security standards**. With your consent, you authorize us and the Federal Statistical Office to combine your survey data with administrative data. In today's survey, you may receive some information about pregnancy, family life, and work-life balance.*

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, you can contact our research team at family@econ.uzh.ch.

2. Please check the following box to confirm that you have read and understood the above information and agree to participate in this study.

I have read and understood the above information and agree to participate in this study and the merging of my answers with administrative data; I do not wish to participate in this study

3. **Attention!** During the survey, we will show you a **video with sound**.
Please make sure you have **sound turned on** or **headphones** handy. Would you like to start the survey and **watch the video now**?

Yes, continue to survey; No, I would prefer to complete the survey later

4. (If "No" at 3) Thank you. To complete the survey at a later time, please enter your **email address**. We will shortly send you a link to complete the survey at a later time.

Email: [Inline Textbox]

Demographics

5. What is **your** gender?

Female; Male

6. Are you **currently pregnant**?

Yes; No

7. When is your **due date**?

Month: [January, ..., December]

Day: [1, ..., 31]

8. Is this your **first child**?

Yes; No

9. Do you live **in Switzerland**?

Yes; No

10. What is your **highest level of education**?

Compulsory education (up to 10 school years); Secondary level I / II (gymnasium, apprenticeship, vocational training); Tertiary degree (university of applied sciences or university)

11. What is your **current marital status**?

Married, living with spouse; Living with partner (not married); Living without partner

12. Do you have any **food allergies**?

Yes; No

13. Do you **currently have a job**?

Yes; No

14. (If "Yes" at 13) What is your **current employment level**? (If you are on prenatal sick leave, please indicate your **regular employment level** when you are not on sick leave.)

[Slider 0(5)100]

15. What is your **current individual monthly net income** (after social security contributions but before taxes)?

less than 1,000 CHF; 1,001 - 2,000 CHF; 2,001 - 3,000 CHF; 3,001 - 4,000 CHF; 4,001 - 5,000 CHF; 5,001 - 6,000 CHF; 6,001 - 7,000 CHF; 7,001 - 8,000 CHF; 8,001 - 9,000 CHF; 9,001 - 10,000 CHF; more than 10,000 CHF

16. What **employment level do you plan** to have when your child is **one year old**?

[Slider 0(5)100]

Opinions

17. In the following, we would like to know to what extent you **agree** with the following statements:

18. When deciding how much to work after giving birth, the **costs of external childcare** play a **central role** in the **general financial considerations** of a household in Switzerland.

Strongly disagree; Disagree; Agree; Strongly agree

19. Overall, family life suffers when the woman works full-time.

Strongly disagree; Disagree; Agree; Strongly agree

20. What do you think, **how many** of the **20 people closest to you personally** would **agree or strongly agree** with the above statement?

[Dropdown 0(1)20]

21. Fathers are important, but ultimately children need their mothers more.

Strongly disagree; Disagree; Agree; Strongly agree

22. Men don't intuitively know how to handle children.

Strongly disagree; Disagree; Agree; Strongly agree

23. Being a parent is **not** the most fulfilling thing a person can do.

Strongly disagree; Disagree; Agree; Strongly agree

24. How much better or worse do you think external childcare (in a daycare centre or with a daycare provider) is for your child compared to care at home by a parent?

Much worse; Somewhat worse; Neutral, neither worse nor better; Somewhat better; Much better

25. In this section, we would like to better understand how you perceive various aspects of **your work and your partner's work**

26. Please think about the time when your **child will be 10 years old**. We would like to know how you estimate your **salary** in different **hypothetical scenarios**:

What do you think: How high would your **monthly salary** be (after social security contributions and before taxes)...

- ... if you had a **100% position** at that time, and had **always worked 100% since your return from maternity leave**? *Please enter the amount in CHF in whole numbers without decimal places.*

[Inline Textbox]

- ... if you had a **40% position** at that time, and had **always worked 40% since your return from maternity leave**? Please enter the amount in CHF in whole numbers without decimal places.
[Inline Textbox]

Childcare flexibility + Job flexibility + Attention check

27. In the next step, we would like to ask you a few questions about **your personal situation**.
28. How easy or difficult would it be for you to **arrange childcare** during your working hours that you would be satisfied with and trust, if you were to **work full-time** when your **child is 6 months old**?
- Very difficult; Rather difficult; Neither; Rather easy; Very easy*
29. Suppose you wanted to adjust your employment level in your current job by 20 percent, i.e., you wanted to work either one day more or one day less per week. How easy or difficult would it be for you to adjust your employment level?
- Very easy; Rather easy; Neither; Rather difficult; Very difficult*
30. How easy or difficult would it be for your partner to adjust their employment level accordingly?
- Very easy; Rather easy; Neither; Rather difficult; Very difficult; Does not apply*
31. The next question refers to the following problem: In surveys like this, there are sometimes participants who don't read the questions carefully and just click quickly through the survey. This means there are many random answers that can distort the significance of a study. To ensure that you are **reading the questions carefully**, please select the option "**Brown**" as the **answer** to the following question: What is your favorite color?
- Red; Blue; Brown; Yellow; Green; Gray*

Video

32. (If in Treatment group) We will now show you a **short video** that addresses the long-term financial consequences of reduced work hours. Please make sure you have **sound turned on** or **headphones** handy.
Please give the video your full attention, as we would like to ask you some questions about the content afterward. You can watch the video as many times as you like.
Please note that the "Continue" button will only appear after enough time has elapsed to finish watching the video. We ask you to watch the video until the end. Please do not reload the page, as this will restart the timer. The "Continue" button appears in the bottom right corner. If you experience technical problems, please feel free to send us an email.
33. (If in control group) We will now show you a **short video** that addresses new research findings on nutrition for babies and young children.

Please make sure you have **sound turned on** or **headphones** handy.

Please give the video your full attention, as we would like to ask you some questions about the content afterward.

You can watch the video as many times as you like.

Please note that the "Continue" button will only appear after enough time has elapsed to finish watching the video. We ask you to watch the video until the end. Please do not reload the page, as this will restart the timer. The "Continue" button appears in the bottom right corner. If you experience technical problems, please feel free to send us an email.

34. Did you have any **technical problems** watching the video?

No; Yes, specifically the following: [Inline Textbox]

35. We would now like to ask you some questions about the **content of the video**. Which aspects or information in the video were, in your opinion, **surprising**?

[Open Text]

36. If you answer the following question correctly, you will participate in an additional raffle and can win a **50 CHF Galaxus voucher**.

37. (If in Treatment group) What is the **total sum** of salary, salary increase, and pension benefits that Anna loses if she works 40% instead of 100%?

150,000 CHF; 1.9 Million CHF; 2.5 Million CHF; 3.1 Million CHF

38. (If in Control group) Which **type of nutrition reduces the risk of allergies** in babies and young children? A diet that

Is as diverse as possible; Avoids peanuts; Avoids potentially allergenic foods in the first year of life; Avoids foods that parents are allergic to

LFP

39. Please now think about **your own situation**.

What **employment level do you plan** to have when your **child is one year old**? *Please click on the scale to give your answer.*

[Slider 0(5)100]

40. Do you plan to increase your employment level in the future?

Yes; No

41. (If "Yes" at 40) I think I will increase my employment level when my child is [Inline Textbox] years and [Inline Textbox] months old.

42. Please now think about your **partner's employment level**. Ideally, if **you could choose**: What **employment level** would you choose for **your partner** when your **child is one year old**? *Please click on the scale to give your answer.*

[Slider 0(5)100]; Not applicable

Treatment check

43. Think about a couple with a **two-year-old toddler**.

The **father works full-time**. The **mother, Lara, is thinking about whether she wants to work 100%**. Her **child attends the local daycare** while she works.

Which **factors** do you think have **the greatest impact on the household's long-term budget** if Lara decides to increase her employment level to 100%?

Please arrange the following factors from greatest to least impact, so that the **factor with the greatest impact is at the top**.

[randomized order]

Costs for external childcare; Salary; Pension benefits; Future job promotions

44. Like many Swiss women, **Lara decided back then to continue working 40%**. Now **her child is 7 years old**, and Lara wants to start **working full-time**. How difficult do you think it is for Lara to **increase her employment level to 100%** in her current job or find another full-time position?

Very difficult; Rather difficult; Neither; Rather easy; Very easy

Childcare scenario

45. Earlier you told us that under current conditions and childcare costs, you aim for a employment level of [Amount entered at 39]% when your child is 1 year old. Imagine you had access to **the same external childcare options** currently available to you, but the government would heavily subsidize external childcare so that care would only cost 20 CHF per day. What employment level would you choose when your **child is 1 year old**? *(Please click on the scale to give your answer.)*

[Slider 0(5)100]

46. What employment level would you choose if **a person you trust** (e.g., grandparents or close friends) would gladly take care of your child anytime? *(Please click on the scale to give your answer.)*

[Slider 0(5)100]

Changes in perceptions of long-term financial factors

47. We would now like to know more about how you **plan your financial future**.

How likely is it that you will make a **plan for your financial future** together with your partner **before the birth** of your child?

Very unlikely; Rather unlikely; Neither; Rather likely; Very likely; Not applicable

48. Many **expectant parents** find it **helpful** to think through the **financial implications** of adjusting their **employment level** for childcare for their household. We are currently developing an **online tool** that allows users to calculate the **individual financial implications of different employment levels**. Would you be interested in trying such an online tool? It would be **free**.

Not at all interested; Rather less interested; Neither; Rather interested; Very interested

49. We would now like to ask you about **your expectations** regarding your **baby's health**. **How concerned** are you **in general** about your **baby's health**?

Not at all concerned; A little concerned; Moderately concerned; Concerned; Very concerned

50. **How concerned** are you that your **baby might develop allergies**?

Not at all concerned; A little concerned; Moderately concerned; Concerned; Very concerned

End

51. Now we are **almost at the end** of the survey.

52. What is your **date of birth**?

- *Month [Dropdown];*
- *Day [Dropdown];*
- *Year [Dropdown]*

53. So that we can **contact you again** and you can **participate in the voucher raffle**, please provide us with your **contact details**. This information will be treated **confidentially** and used only for the purposes of this study.

First name: [Inline Textbox]; Last name: [Inline Textbox]; Mobile phone number (Format: 079 123 4567): [Inline Textbox]; Email address: [Inline Textbox]; Repeat: Email address: [Inline Textbox]; Postal code (4 digits): [Inline Textbox]

54. Do you think the **survey was neutral**?

Yes; No, the survey was rather feminist; No, the survey was rather conservative

55. Did you have any **technical or language problems** completing the survey?

No; Yes, specifically the following: [Inline Textfield]

56. Do you have any **other feedback** you would like to share with us?

[Free text field]

57. **Thank you** for taking the time to participate in this first survey. Your contribution to this study is invaluable as it helps to better understand mothers' experiences around childbirth.

To ensure the feasibility of this study, we would greatly appreciate your participation in the upcoming surveys.