

The Burden of Crises and Changes in Fertility Intentions

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During the Autumn and Winter of 2022-23, Austrian residents encountered high inflation, brought on by the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine. This study delves into the impact of multiple crises on fertility plans utilizing data from the Austrian Generations and Gender Survey. The findings reveal that individuals with lower socioeconomic status, characterized by factors such as low educational attainment, non-German home language, and single parenthood, perceive inflation as a more substantial burden. Moreover, for both the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the ability to make ends meet emerges as the primary driver mediating the relationship between lower socioeconomic characteristics and the perceived burden. A perceived burden of inflation and financial strain correlates with definite changes to fertility plans due to the crisis. Notably, when individuals revise their fertility plans in response to crises it is predominately towards opting for fewer or no (additional) children.