

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Can the Rich World Escape Its Baby Crisis?](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2024/05/21/can-the-rich-world-escape-its-baby-crisis>

Author(s)	Economist Staff
Publication	The Economist
Publication Date	May 23, 2024

**Tweet:** In 1960 the mean US woman had 3.6 children; in 2023, this had fallen to 1.6, driven by declining birth rates among women under 30, while birth rates among women 30 and above have risen.

**Summary:** Birth rates have collapsed because young women are not having as many children. In 1960 American women had on average 3.6 children. In 2023 they had 1.6. Remarkably, women aged 30 and above are having more children. It is only younger women who are having fewer. The decline among younger women is itself concentrated among teenagers. More than half the drop in America's total fertility rate is explained by women under the age of 19 now having next to no children. Meanwhile, there is little evidence that middle-class women wish they had many more children, which would at least suggest they might be open to official persuasion. Today, at the age of 24, college-educated American women want on average 2.2 children roughly as many as previous generations. They will now have these children a little later than before, with the first arriving at the age of 30, compared with 28 in 2000. Although trends suggest that they will fall short of their ideal family size, the gap may be the same as for women in previous generations, who missed the target by an average of 0.25 children.

**Related Articles:** US Births Are Down Again, After the COVID Baby Bust and Rebound and Why Family-Friendly Policies Don't Boost Birth Rates and The Wealthy Are Starting to Have More Babies Than the Poor Again

**Primary Topic:** Family/Marriage

**Topics:** Demographics, Family/Marriage, News article, Weekly, Workforce

**Permalink:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/in-1960-the-mean-us-woman-had-3-6-children-in-2023-this-had-fallen-to-1-6-driven-by-declining-birth-rates-among-women-under-30-while-birth-rates-among-women-30-and-above-have-risen?view=detail>

**Featured Image Link:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/21111-can-the-rich-world-escape-its-baby-crisis-featured-thumbnail-image.png>