

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Why Americans Are Having Fewer Babies](#)

Article Link: https://www.wsj.com/articles/why-americans-are-having-fewer-babies-3be7f6a9?mod=economy_lead_pos4

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Tweet: In 2021 the US birth rate was 1.66/woman vs the “replacement rate” of 2.1. If the US rate had continued at its at 2007 peak, there would be 9.6mm more children in the US.

Summary: Sociologists Karen Benjamin Guzzo and Sarah Hayford found that when millennials (born 1981 to 1996) and the oldest members of Generation Z (starting in 1997) were surveyed in their late teens and early 20s, they said, on average, that they wanted to have at least two children. But the gap between women’s intended number of children and their actual family size has widened considerably. The researchers found that by the time women born in the late 1980s were in their early 30s, they had given birth, on average, to about one child less than they planned. That is roughly double the size of the shortfall for women born two decades earlier, and it is likely too large to be erased by a spurt of childbearing in their late 30s. The median age at which women give birth is 30, three years older than it was in 1990. Despite advances in fertility treatments, women who delay having kids until their final childbearing years reduce their chances of doing so—not just because it narrows their biological window but because other priorities and roadblocks can more easily derail their plans.

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Primary Topic: Demographics

Topics: Database, Demographics, Family/Marriage, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Workforce

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