Macro Roundup Artcile

Headline: Why Family-Friendly Policies Don't Boost Birth Rates

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Tweet: By her mid-thirties, the most common number of children a US or UK woman has is 0. @jburnmurdoch argues there is no evidence that fiscal transfers lift fertility in advanced economies.

Summary: Between 1980 and 2019, the world's most developed countries roughly tripled their real-terms per capita spending on child benefits, subsidised childcare, parental leave, and other family-friendly policies. They also saw their birth rates decline from 1.85 to 1.53 per woman. In egalitarian Finland, home to some of the most family-friendly policies in the world, the fertility rate has fallen by a third since 2010. In Hungary, famous for its extravagant payouts aimed at boosting the nation's number of babies, fewer children were born last year than at any time since records began. Meanwhile, in Korea, the poster child of plummeting fertility, the government's "baby bonus" programme was found to have mainly paid out to women who were already planning on having children. Related: $75,000 for a Baby? South Korean Businesses Float Incentives As Demographic Crisis Looms and Birth Rates Are Falling In The Nordics. Are Family-Friendly Policies No Longer Enough? and The Wealthy Are Starting to Have More Babies Than the Poor Again

Primary Topic: Demographics

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

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