

Understanding Multiple-Partner Fertility in Canada

SOURCE: Ana Fostik and Céline Le Bourdais, "Regional Variations in Multiple-Partner Fertility in Canada," *Canadian Studies in Population* 47(1-2) (March 16, 2020). Link: <https://bit.ly/39u1uv3>.

INSIGHTS

- The rates of multiple-partner fertility (MPF) in Canada are found to **align with the rates observed in other countries**.
- **Significant variation** in the prevalence of MPF across regions was **found among mothers** but not for fathers, with the highest rates in the Atlantic provinces and Prairies, and the lowest rates in Quebec and Ontario.
- MPF in Canada **"appears closely linked" to the conditions surrounding the birth of the first child**, which supports existing literature.

INFORMATION

13% and 11% Proportion of mothers and fathers of at least two children, respectively, who **experienced MPF**

17%, 12% and 10% Proportion of mothers of at least two children aged 25 to 64 in 2011 in the **Atlantic provinces and the Prairies** (i.e. 17% each), **Quebec and Ontario**, respectively, who had children with more than one partner

13%, 8% and 7% Proportion of mothers aged 25 to 64 of at least two children in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario, respectively, in 2011 who **experienced MPF within 15 years of the birth of their first child**

IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Family research; family policy; family services; child welfare; early learning and child care; parenting programs; family law

INDICATORS

Region; age at first birth; conjugal setting at first birth; time spent in first birth union; birth cohorts; immigration status

FUNDING

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; McGill Canada Research Chair on Social Statistics and Family Change

PRIMARY DATA SOURCES

Biographical data from the 2011 GSS of the population aged 25 to 64 years at the time of the survey

STAKEHOLDERS

Demographers; family researchers; sociologists; parenting professionals; practitioners and coaches; school counsellors; social workers; social housing coordinators; community service navigators; family lawyers and mediators; family court judges

AUTHORS AND AFFILIATIONS

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ALIGNMENT WITH UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

