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Partnership Dissolution after Childbirth in Ireland: On the Importance of Pregnancy Intentions

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Outline

1. Motivation
2. Theoretical approaches
3. Data and methods
4. Results on separation by pregnancy intention
5. Conclusions



2. Commitment theory

- constraint vs. dedication driven events (unplanned vs. planned pregnancies)

Hyp. 1: Higher risk of separation after unplanned pregnancies.



2. Childbirth as a critical life course event

- Changes in partnership after childbirth (Dew/Wilcox 2011; Kluwer 2010; Lawrence et al. 2009)
- Contradictory findings: only small to medium changes (Doss et al. 2009, Keizer and Schenk 2012)

Hyp. 2: Higher dissolution risks after a birth from an unintended pregnancy due to larger partnership conflicts.



2. Family stress model + similar approaches

- Family stress model on economic hardship (Conger et al. 1999, support on Ireland: Lunn et al. 2009; Lunn/Fahey 2011)
- Guzzo/Hayford (2012) for the US

Hyp. 3: Higher risks after a birth from an unintended pregnancy,
a) as mothers face greater work-family conflicts,
b) due to financial stress.



3. Data

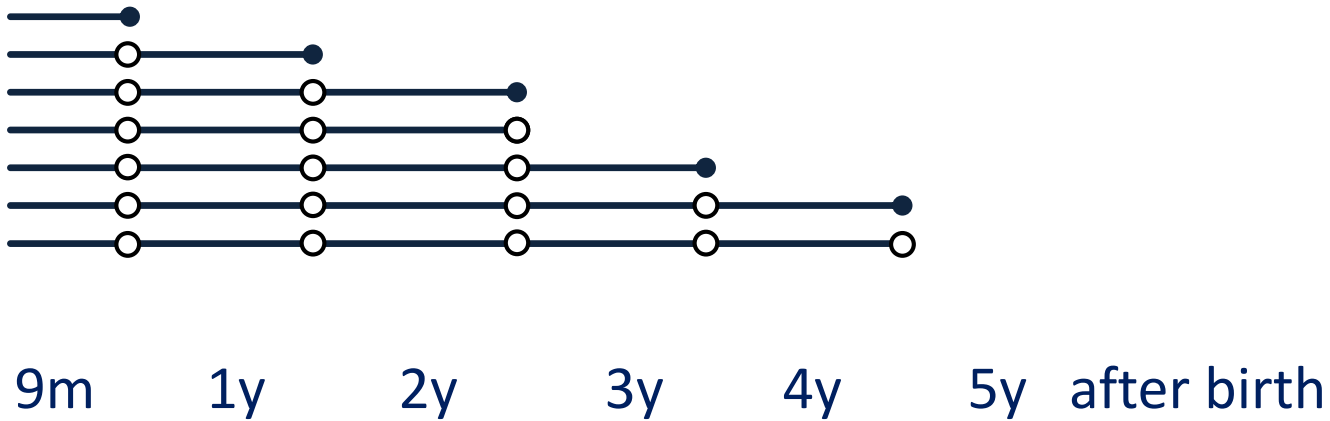
- Growing Up in Ireland: Infant Cohort
- Wave 1: 9m after birth
- Wave 2: 3y after birth
- Wave 3: 5y after birth
- Sources: <http://www.growingup.ie>; McCrory et al. (2013); Thornton et al. (2013)

Acknowledgement

“‘Growing Up in Ireland’ (GUI) has been funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) in association with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Department of Social Protection (DSP). These data have been collected in accordance with the Statistics Act, 1993. The DCYA, CSO and DSP takes no responsibility for the views expressed or the outputs generated from the research undertaken on the RMF(s). The project has been designed and implemented by the joint ESRI-TCD Growing Up in Ireland Study Team. © Department of Children and Youth Affairs.” Source: GUI/NLSCI Research Microdata File (RMF) Application Form and Agreement. 14.06.2013.

3. Research Design

- event: separation in $(t-1, t]$
- right censored: still in partnership



4. Descriptives I

	at 9 months	all sub-episodes	sub-episodes with event of all sub-episodes
Total (case numbers)	8,722	40,910	405
Mother's pregnancy intentions			
At this time (incl. even earlier)	72%	72%	0.7%
Somewhat later	10%	10%	1.8%
Much later	5%	5%	1.8%
No intention at all	6%	6%	2.2%
Miscellaneous	8%	8%	1.3%

Sources: GUI, infant cohort, wave 1-3, own calculations. No responsibility for data preparation and estimation by DCYA, CSO or DSP; for details, see Acknowledgement on slide 6.

4. Descriptives II

	at 9 months	all sub-episodes	sub-episodes with event of all sub-episodes
Total (case numbers)	8,722	40,910	405
Partnership quality since birth			
Better	74%	74%	0.8%
No change	21%	20%	1.4%
Worse	5%	5%	2.2%

4. Descriptives III

	at 9 months	all sub-episodes	sub-episodes with event of all sub-episodes
Total (case numbers)	8,722	40,910	405
Due to childcare problems for recent child...			
Quit/Prevented from taking job (Yes)	10%	10%	1.7%
No	90%	90%	0.9%
Cancelled/Prevented from training (Yes)	8%	8%	1.6%
No	92%	92%	0.9%
Reduction in job or training hours (Yes)	20%	20%	1.3%
No	80%	80%	0.9%
Household: medical card (tv) (Yes)	21%	25%	2.1%
No	79%	75%	0.6%
Household: private health insurance (tv) (Yes)	65%	67%	0.5%
No	35%	33%	1.9%

Sources: GUI, infant cohort, wave 1-3, own calculations. No responsibility for data preparation and estimation by DCYA, CSO or DSP; for details, see Acknowledgement on slide 6.



Statistical technique

- Event history model with discrete time intervals (Allison 2014)
- Separate baselines for every single interval

Modeling partnership dissolution II

	M1	M2	M3	M4
Pregnancy intention (tc)	X	X	X	X
Controls		X	X	X
Since/Due to child:				
- Change partnership quality (tc)				
- Career problems (tc)				
Partnership quality				
- Arguing (tv)				
- Shouting (tv)				
- Dyadic Adjustment Scale DAS (tc)				
Financial situation				
- Making ends meet (tv)				
- Medical card (tv)				
- Private health insurance (tv)				

mother's education,
father's ISEI, partner status
and mother's labor force
status before pregnancy, age
at pregnancy, # of previous
children, child(ren) outside
household, rural-urban area.



4. Relative risks of dissolution by pregnancy intentions

	M1	M2	M3	M4
Pregn. intention (ref. at this time)				
Somewhat later	2.62***	1.67***	1.63***	1.55**
Much later	2.58***	1.36	1.32	1.12
No intention to become p	3.15***	1.58**	1.43	1.14
Miscellaneous	1.94***	1.26	1.16	0.98
Controls		X	X	X
Since/Due to child:				
- Change partnership quality			X	X
- Career problems			X	X
Partnership quality				X
Financial situation				X

Sources: GUI, infant cohort, wave 1-3, own calculations. No responsibility for data preparation and estimation by DCYA, CSO or DSP; for details, see Acknowledgement on slide 6.

Significance level: * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001



4. Relative risks of dissolution by pregnancy intentions

	M3	M4
Partnership quality since childbirth		
Better	0.59***	0.72*
Worse	1.57*	1.04
Arguing with partner (<i>tv</i>)		3.00***
Shouting at partner (<i>tv</i>)		1.89*
Dyadic adjustment		10.53***
Due to childcare problems for recent child...		
Quit/Prevented from taking job	1.28	1.05
Cancelled/Prevented from training	1.06	0.96
Reduction in job or training hours	1.17	1.14
Difficulties in making ends meet (<i>tv</i>)		2.35**
Covered by medical card (<i>tv</i>)		1.72***
Having private health insurance (<i>tv</i>)		0.65**

Sources: GUI, infant cohort, wave 1-3, own calculations. No responsibility for data preparation and estimation by DCYA, CSO or DSP; for details, see Acknowledgement on slide 6.

Significance level: * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001

5. Conclusions

Hypotheses

&

findings:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Higher risk of separation after unplanned pregnancies. | + | + |
| 2. Higher dissolution risks after a birth from unintended pregnancy due to larger partnership conflicts. | - | + |
| 3. Higher risks after a birth from unintended pregnancy,
a) as mothers face greater work-family conflicts, | - | |
| b) due to financial stress. | | + |

Policy recommendations



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