

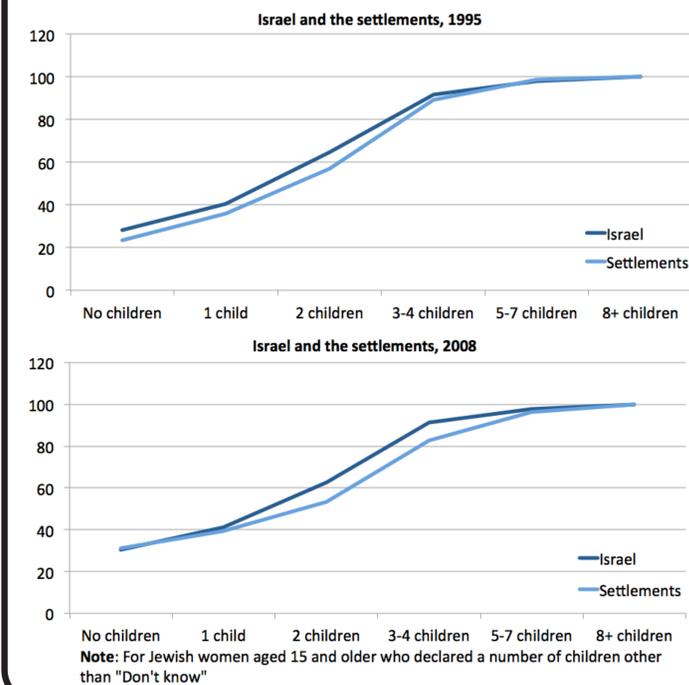
THE CONTEXT

- One of the highest fertility rates among high income countries
- Heterogeneous society, with family formation patterns differing across social groups
- Fertility remains high among various religious and SES groups

BACKGROUND

Jewish fertility in the settlements has been stable for at least fifteen years with a TFR of 4.97 children per woman in 2012 compared to 3.04 in Israel (ICBS 2013). Their fertility has stalled at a level well above replacement despite some major changes in lifestyles and living conditions.

Figure 1: Cumulative percentages of the number of children per woman



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Why has fertility been stalling in Israel in recent years, and especially in the Jewish settlements?
- What are the main drivers of the fertility stall?
- How does the effect of these drivers vary among population subgroups and parity?

DATA & METHODS

DATA

The 1995 and 2008 Israeli censuses provide information on religion, socioeconomic, and demographic characteristics:

- Analysis restricted to ever-married female Jewish respondents aged 15 and up
- Outcome: number of *children ever born* (CEB)
- Key predictors: age, family income, religiosity, years of schooling, ethnic background, and participation in the workforce

METHODS

1. Because the number of CEB is aggregated in the 5% sample and is of ordinal nature, it is best to use an *ordinal regression model*.
2. We cannot make the assumption that the relationship between each pair of outcome group is the same. We use a less restrictive *generalized ordered logit model* expressed as follows:

$$P(Y_i > j) = \frac{\exp(\alpha_j + X_i \beta_j)}{1 + [\exp(\alpha_j + X_i \beta_j)]}, j = 1, 2, \dots, M - 1$$

3. It provides results similar to running a series of logistic regressions, where first it is category 1 versus all others, then categories 1 & 2 versus all others, then 1, 2 & 3 versus all others, etc.

RESULTS

Figure 2: Regression coefficients for Israel, 1995 and 2008

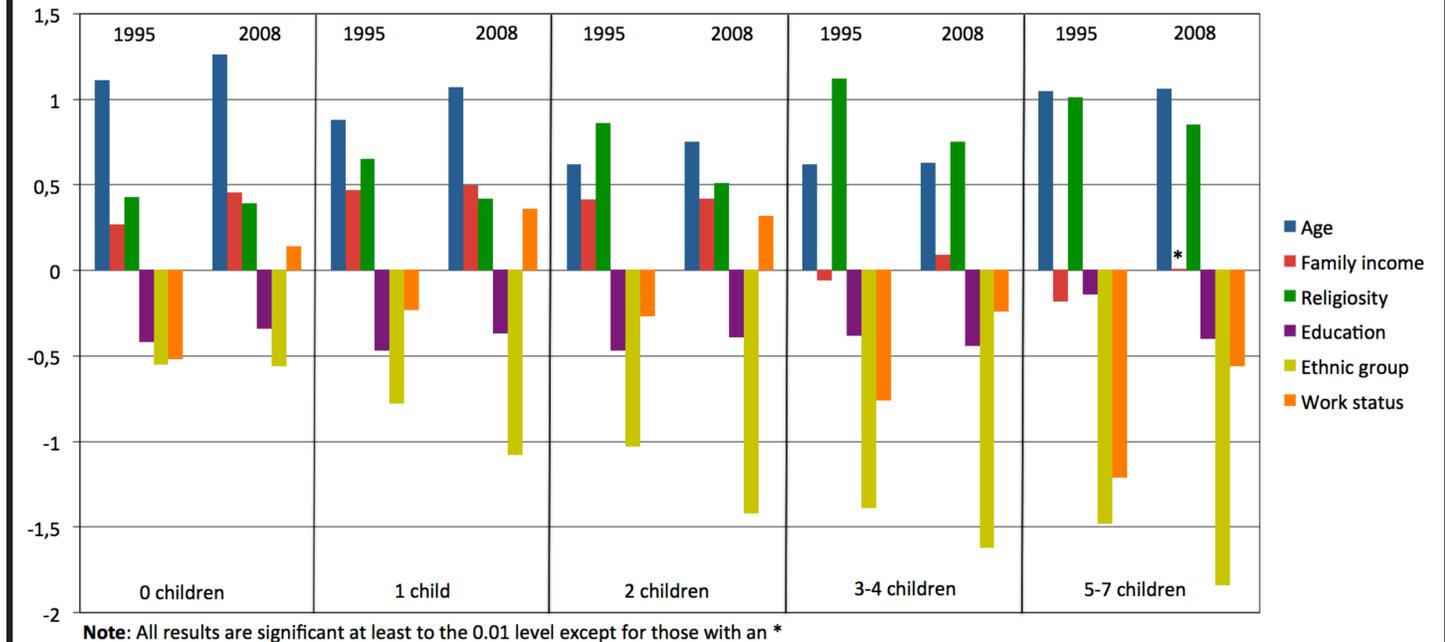
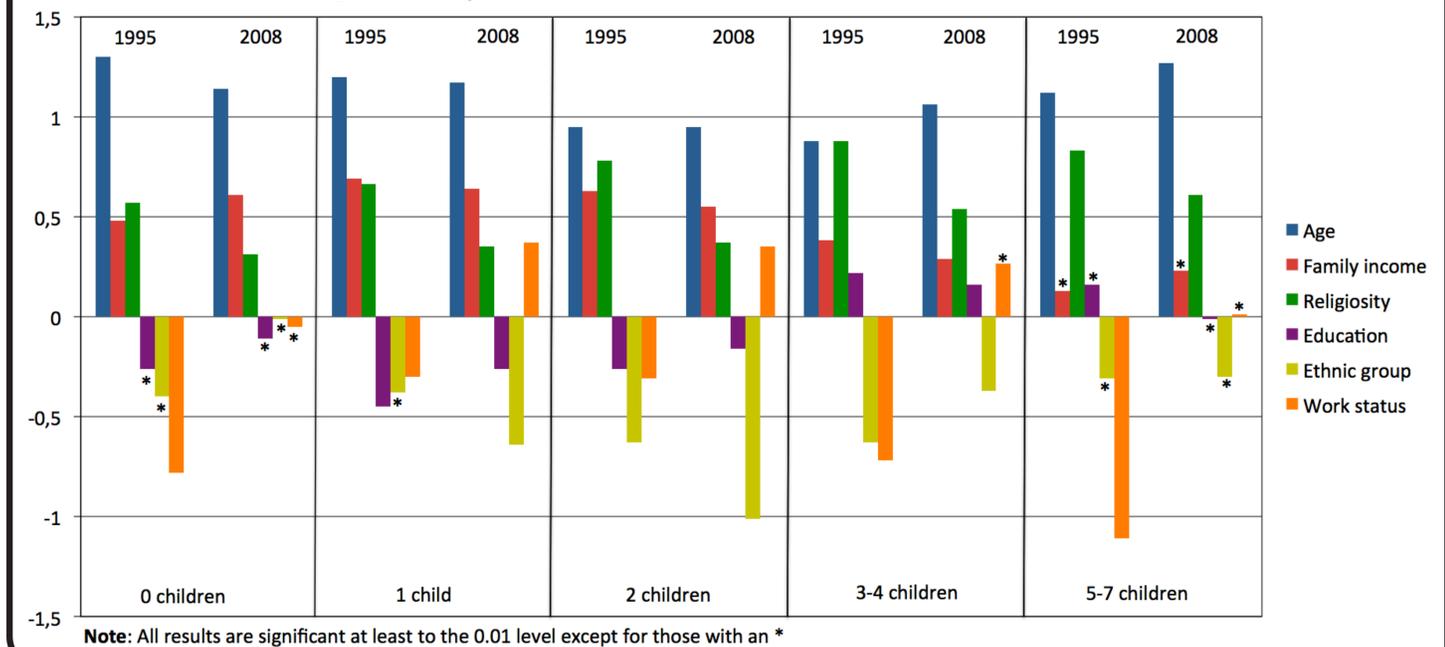


Figure 3: Regression coefficients for the settlements, 1995 and 2008



CONCLUSIONS

- At higher parities, the effect of higher education on fertility becomes positive only in the settlements in both census years.
- Religiosity has a stronger positive impact on fertility in Israel than in the settlements, its impact increases at higher parities, and is stronger in 1995.
- The positive effect of a higher income on fertility decreases with parity but remains positive in the settlements while it becomes negative in Israel, especially in 1995.
- In 2008 only, the presence of mothers in the workforce positively influenced fertility until 3 children in Israel while its effect in the settlements only becomes positive at higher parities.
- The impact of not being born in Asia or Africa (born in Europe-America or Israel) is more strongly negative in Israel, increases at higher parities, and is lightly stronger in 2008 than in 1995.