# Changes in Childbearing Intentions by Partnership Status in Sweden:

# Developments of the Early 2010s to Early 2020s

By:

Livia Sz. Oláh
Dept. of Sociology/SUDA, Stockholm University, Sweden
e-mail: livia.olah@sociology.su.se

Glenn Sandström
Dept. of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies/CEDAR, Umeå University, Sweden
e-mail: glenn.sandstrom@umu.se

Gerda Neyer
Dept. of Sociology/SUDA, Stockholm University, Sweden
e-mail: gerda.neyer@sociology.su.se

*Abstract*

The assumed importance of partnership status for childbearing provides the rationale for this paper. We seek to contribute to an explanation of the ongoing Swedish fertility decline by exploring i) how short-term childbearing intentions changed across partnership statuses in the 2010s; ii) whether uncertainty for longer-term childbearing plans increased and for which partnership statuses, and iii) how individuals' reflections about the importance of a partner for childbearing changed. We analyze data on childless women and men aged 24-44 from the Swedish GGS 2012 and 2021 along with in-depth interviews conducted in 2012 and 2022. Our mixed- and multi-methods research design combines binomial and multinomial logistic regression models and text analyses. The findings for short-term intentions suggest that partnership uncertainty reduces intentions among the most disadvantaged men (lower-educated, foreign-born, not in paid work and students). Among women, mainly those with a partner exhibit lower intentions in 2021 independently of educational level, employment status and, except for foreign-born LATs, ethnic origin. Combining short- and long-term intentions we find again evidence of partnership uncertainty reducing especially men's intentions in 2021. The interviews in turn reveal an increasing uncertainty about relationships enduring along with growing expectations of gender equal parenting by the early 2020s, a recognition that neither member of a couple wants to have children, and an emerging view of a partner not being necessary for childbearing. Hence (living with) a partner seems to be less of a guarantee for positive fertility intentions by the early 2020s.

## Rationale and previous research

A puzzling decline has characterized Swedish fertility developments from 2010, onward. The total fertility rate of 1.98 then, one of the highest in Europe, fell to 1.67 in 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the birth rate increased temporarily, but fell again in 2022, to 1.52, and below 1.5 in 2023 and 2024, the lowest rate ever recorded in Sweden (SCB 2025a). The fertility decline has been paralleled by decreasing inclination to marry while rates of entering cohabitation remained stable (Cantalini, Ohlsson-Wijk & Andersson 2024). High rates of union dissolution among couples without children over the past decades (Kolk & Andersson 2020) suggest the continued importance of partnership status for fertility decisions in Sweden, notwithstanding the propensity to marry or cohabit. Moreover, for a deeper understanding of developments in birth rates, carefully addressing fertility desires and intentions, in addition to realized fertility, is a necessity, as highlighted by the comprehensive scholarship of low fertility, that emerged in post-industrial societies since the late 1980s (see e.g. Bazzani & Vignoli 2022; Berrington 2021; Morgan & Rackin 2010; Philipov 2009).

As most research on the recent fertility decline in Sweden builds upon the population register with no information on living-apart-together relationships, we revisit the issue based on survey-data offering a more fine-tuned analysis from the partnership status point of view. We focus on intentions as births are most often preceded by positive childbearing intentions (Duvander et al. 2020; Harknett & Hartnett 2014; Spéder & Kapitány 2014). In addition, we will analyze a large number of qualitative interviews to gain insights into changes in the meaning of partnership as a precondition to parenthood (Bodin et al. 2021; Oláh, Neyer & Carlsson 2022). With this study, we thus aim to explore i) how short-term childbearing intentions have changed for various partnership statuses in the 2010s; ii) whether uncertainty for longer-term childbearing plans increased and for which partnership statuses, and iii) how individuals' reflections about the importance and characteristics of a partner with respect to childbearing have changed over the past decade. In our conceptual framework we will rely on the theory of planned behavior (Ajzen & Klobas 2013), the second demographic transition (Lesthaeghe 2014) and the gender revolution (Goldscheider, Bernhardt & Lappegård 2015).

## Data and methods

In our research we rely on both quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative data are derived from the Swedish Generations and Gender Surveys conducted in the early 2010s (round I) and the early 2020s (round II; Gauthier et al. 2023), consisting of register-linked survey data. The former dataset, SGGS2012, was conducted via telephone interviews with a response rate of 53.8%, providing information on a total of 9,688 respondents, both women and men aged 18-79 years (Thomson et al. 2015). It covers life-histories of education, employment, partnership and childbearing including fertility plans and intentions. Data collection for the SGGS2021, covering the same topics as its predecessor, took place via a self-administered postal/online questionnaire, resulting in 8,082 respondents aged 18-59 years with a response rate of 27.0% (Andersson, Dahlberg & Neyer 2021; Neyer, Andersson & Dahlberg 2024). The relatively low response rate for the latter survey notwithstanding, the GGS is the only large-scale high-quality survey that allows for the study of changes in fertility intentions in the population over the 2010s. Our analytical sample is restricted to childless women and men aged 24 to 44 years, as the mean age of first birth has been above the mid-20s from the late 1970s onward (HFD 2025), while becoming a parent at ages of mid-40s or later has remained rather rare in Sweden ever since (SCB 2025b). Respondents who themselves or whose partners are pregnant are included in the analyses, whereas those with missing information on any of the variables in the models were dropped,

similarly to respondents who (or their partner) were coping with reproductive impairment. The weighted sample thus includes a total of 3,017 respondents with a male majority (ca 57%) in both survey rounds, and about 60% of the total sample surveyed in the second round (Table 1).

In addition, we analyze two large qualitative datasets of in-depth semi-structured interviews with individuals in the main reproductive ages, collected around the time as the quantitative surveys included in this study. The first dataset, generated via snowballing, consists of 80 interviews conducted face-to-face with post-secondary educated women and men aged 24-35 years in Stockholm and Gothenburg in 2012. The sample was stratified by gender and partnership status (single, childless co-resident with a partner, and co-resident one-child parent). The topics covered in the interviews resembled the GGS relating to various aspects of work and family life, including childbearing intentions and ideals (Hellum & Oláh 2019). For our second qualitative dataset, interviewees were selected among respondents of SGGS2021 with Statistics Sweden sending our interview-invitations to childless female and male respondents aged 24-41 years and to one-child parents, educational attainment and residence type notwithstanding. The male sample was complemented via snowballing. A total of 99 interviews were conducted in 2022, two-third of which with women. About half of the interviewees had higher education, and two-thirds of all interviewees were childless. The topics discussed covered life situation, fertility ideals and intentions, perceptions and future outlooks, and in parts were deliberately modelled to facilitate comparison with the 2012 interviews (Neyer et al. 2022; Oláh, Neyer & Carlsson 2022). Altogether 100 interviews from the two datasets provided valuable information with respect to the topic of this paper; 61 of those interviews were carried out in 2022.

*Methods and variables*

In the analyses of both the quantitative and the qualitative material, we focus on childless women and men in ages from 24 years to the early 40s. We rely on a mixed- and multi-methods research design including binomial and multinomial logistic regression models of reported short- and longer-term fertility intentions with the results presented as average marginal effects thus comparable between groups, and on text analyses of interviews. In order to detect gender differences if any, we run separate models for women and men respectively. The survey rounds are also separately analyzed, as are the two interview datasets.

All variables are based on information at the time of the interview for respective survey rounds. Childbearing intentions constitute the dependent variables addressing the first two aims in this paper. As for intentions in the near future, the question about immediate intentions (wanting to have a child *now*) were differently phrased in the two surveys, hence we only use the question about wanting to have a child within three years being directly comparable. The response alternatives are the same in both survey rounds: definitely not, probably not, probably yes and definitely yes. We have created a 'positive intention' category out of the two latter response alternatives including also respondents who / whose partner are expecting a child at the time of the interview. With respect to the second aim of the paper, we rely on combined information for short-term and long-term intentions. Respondents who did not express positive short-term intentions were asked about intending to have a child at all in both surveys, with the same response alternatives as for short-term intentions. Combining short- and long-term intentions, we have created a 6-category dependent variable with the last categories being based on positive short-term intention responses including respondents who themselves or whose partner were pregnant at the interview.

All independent variables in the models are categorical. Partnership status is our main independent variable with three categories: the truly single, those with a non-resident partner (LATs), and those with a co-resident partner (married and cohabitants). For age-group we distinguish between those below age 30, ages of early-/mid 30s, the late 30s (36-40 years), and the early 40s. For educational attainment we distinguish between

below-tertiary and tertiary educated. Our employment status variable separates the employed, the students and those not in paid work. For ethnic background we distinguish between Swedish-born versus foreign-born.

## Results and discussion

### Descriptive findings

The descriptive statistics (Table 1) reveal an increase in negative childbearing intentions for the short term and in a combined short- and longer-term perspective between the years of 2012 and 2021, corroborating findings from a similar study on changes of intentions (Neyer, Lai & Andersson 2024). For the next 3-year time horizon negative intentions increased by about 10 percentage point along with a 10 percentage point decline in positive intentions, pregnancies included, resembling the fertility decline that materialized over the same period driven by plummeting first-birth rates (Ohlsson-Wijk & Andersson 2022). The combination of short- and longer-term childbearing plans show an especially sharp increase in negative intentions by 2021 with a nearly doubled share (19.4%) of 'not in 3 years, not later' responses, and a slight increase of 'probably not in 3 years, not later' intentions, whereas the 'not in 3 years, yes later' intentions decreased somewhat. The over-time negative outlook manifests itself also in the shrinking shares of 'probably yes in 3 years' and 'currently pregnant' responses, neither being asked about longer-term intentions. With respect to the independent variables, there are limited differences in the distributions across the various categories in the two rounds (see also: Neyer, Lai & Andersson 2024).

### Multivariate analyses

With respect to our first aim about examining changes in short-term childbearing intentions across partnership statuses in the 2010s, binomial logit models are our analytical tool. We explore all interactions between partnership status and the various independent variables, holding the other variables constant. The analyses reveal that the decrease in positive childbearing intentions comparing the two survey rounds is confined to young ages for both sexes in all partnership statuses (Figures 1a, 1b) and to men without a partner in their thirties (Figure 1a). We find lower intentions even among LAT women aged 30-35 (Figure 1b).

Focusing on educational attainment, we notice a gendered pattern. Among men, the less educated who do not have a co-resident partner (single or LAT) exhibit significantly lower fertility intentions in 2021 than in 2012, while no differences are seen for the co-residents in these years (Figure 2a). For women in contrast, the truly singles display similar intentions over the 2010s, whereas those with a partner, coresident or LAT, have reduced intentions in the early 2020s, independently of their level of education (Figure 2b).

Labor-market engagement makes no difference for coresident men's childbearing intentions in the early 2010s versus early 2020s, while intentions declined over the 2010s for unpartnered employed men and those not in paid work as well as for students with non-resident partner (Figure 3a). Among women, truly single students and partnered women who are employed and those not in paid work exhibit lower intentions by the early 2020s (Figure 3b).

Regarding differences in fertility intentions across ethnic backgrounds and partnership status, we find significant declines in intentions of non-partnered men among both Swedes and foreign-born, with much larger decline for the latter group. A similarly large decline in intentions is noted among foreign-born men with a non-resident partner, but not among Swedes. For those with a co-resident partner, no significant differences are observed for either Swedish or foreign-born men (Figure 4a). Opposite to men, declines among women are most evident among the foreign-born with a co-resident partner, and a smaller decline is noted among Swedish women in living-apart-together relationship (Figure 4b).

Our second aim is to gain insight into changes of longer-term childbearing intentions in relation to short-term intentions over the 2010s, based on multinomial logit models. We analyze the combined information of short- and longer-term intentions as described in the methods section above. The results indicate a significant increase of negative intentions by the 2020s among both women and men. The 'probably no within 3 years, no later' answer has gained momentum both among truly single and LAT men, with similar tendencies seen for the 'no within 3 years, no later' response among unpartnered as well as co-resident men, and a significant decline of positive intentions among those without a partner, while the decline of 'yes/ pregnant' response is also apparent among men with a non-resident partner (Figure 5a). For women the strengthening of negative intentions manifests in the increase of 'no within 3 years, no later' response among the truly singles and co-residents, and of the 'probably no within 3 years, no later' answer among LATs, accompanied by a strong drop in 'yes/ pregnant' answers among partnered women with or without a co-resident male partner, and in the 'probably yes' response among truly singles (Figure 5b).

Taken the findings together, truly single men exhibit both a strong increase of negative childbearing intentions in short- and longer-term alike over the 2010s and a decline of positive intentions. None of the other partnership status categories among men and no partnership statuses among women exhibit such a dismal picture with respect to their family planning for the 2020s vis-á-vis the early 2010s. At the same time, co-resident men appear the most resilient, being the only group among both gender without a significant drop in positive intentions, and only slight increase of firmly negative intentions. Also among co-resident women, the increase in 'no within 3 years, no later' response by the 2020s is relatively limited, but the drop in 'yes/ pregnant' response is quite pronounced. There is no apparent gender pattern among LATs, as we see a nearly equally strong drop among women and men in the 'yes/ pregnant' answers, an increase of 'probably no within 3 years, no later' response for men and a slightly stronger increase in the 'probably no within 3 years, yes later' response for women. Compared to women with non-resident partner, truly single women have a somewhat stronger drop in positive intentions as seen for their 'probably yes' answers in 2021, accompanied by an equally strong increase in firmly negative intentions.

Findings of the qualitative analyses

In both interview datasets the following preconditions for parenthood with respect to partnership could be singled out: a stable relationship, the 'right' partner, a wish to have a child together, and gender equal parenting. However, the content and/or interpretation of these aspects have changed somewhat comparing the reflections in the early 2010s and 2020s. Regarding the stability of partnership, lack of a partner and/or a break-up are seen as the main obstacles for becoming a parent in both datasets, but the 2020s' reflections also feature an increasing emphasis of being together sufficiently long before opting for a child, which reflects uncertainty playing in into fertility intentions more than before. With respect to the 'right' partner, both interview waves show the importance of trust, love, shared values, the understanding that the partner would be a good parent, but the idea that the partner is the one with whom the respondent wants to have children with has been more strongly emphasized in the later wave. While not explicit, even the latter emphasis can be interpreted as a need to minimize uncertainty with respect to the partner for fertility decisions. In both datasets appears the wish to have a child together in form of both being ready for parenthood, and the obstacle of the partner not (yet) wanting to become a parent, but the possibility that neither person in the couple wants to have children is acknowledged only in the early 2020s' reflections. Gender equal parenting is briefly mentioned in the 2010s, but has become very important and voiced as clear expectation in the more recent interviews. Moreover, a new feature emerged in the early 2020s, namely the understanding that a partner is not necessary for becoming a parent as pointed out by a few female respondents. Changes in 2016 in the rules regarding the possibility for single women obtaining ART and have a child on their own (Hobson, Oláh & Sandström 2023) may have contributed to acknowledging this new way of motherhood in the recent interviews.

Concluding remarks

To conclude, our study highlights that declining fertility in Sweden from the early 2010s onward has been accompanied by decreasing short-and long-term intentions to have a first child. Perhaps the wish to reduce uncertainty is driving these developments by the early 2020s as seen in a general postponement of parenthood plans among both women and men below age 30, among LAT women in ages of early-/mid 30s, and single men in their 30s. Partnership uncertainty (no partner or LAT) reduces intentions among the most disadvantaged men (lower-educated, foreign-born, not in paid work [for singles] and students [if LAT]). Among women mainly those with a partner exhibit lower intentions in 2021 independently of educational level, employment status and, except for foreign-born LATs, ethnic origin. Combining short- and long-term intentions we find again evidence of partnership uncertainty (no partner or LAT) reducing especially men's intentions with a strong increase in "not in 3 years, not later" and "probably not in 3 years, not later" intentions in 2021. The interviews in turn reveal an increasing uncertainty about relationships enduring along with growing expectations of gender equal parenting by the early 2020s, a recognition of the possibility that neither member of a couple wants to have children, and an emerging view of a partner not being necessary for childbearing. Thus (living with) a partner seems to be less of a guarantee for positive fertility intentions in 2021 compared to the early 2010s.

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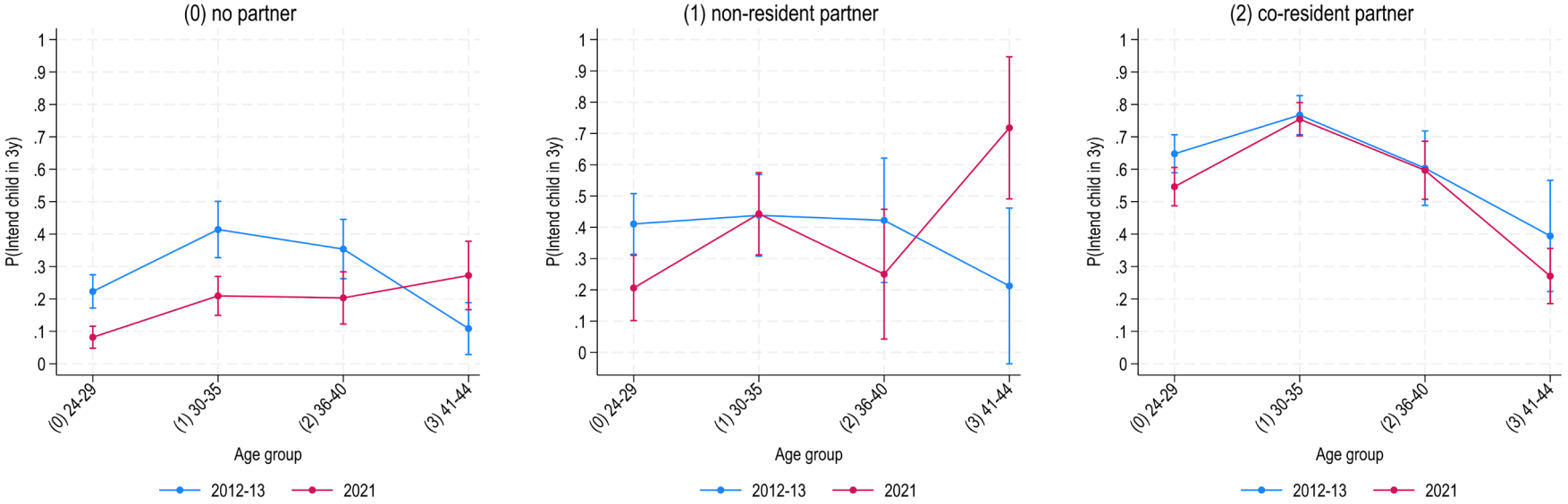
**Table 1. Descriptive statistics of the variables in the quantitative analyses. Childless respondents aged 24-44 years; Swedish GGS 2012-2013 and 2021.**

| | Survey version | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2012-13** | **2021** | **Total** | **Test** |
| N | 1,204 (39.9%) | 1,813 (60.1%) | 3,017 (100.0%) | |
| *Gender* | | | | |
| (0) Male | 691 (57.4%) | 1,024 (56.5%) | 1,715 (56.8%) | 0.634 |
| (1) Female | 513 (42.6%) | 790 (43.5%) | 1,302 (43.2%) | |
| *Age group* | | | | |
| (0) 24-29 | 626 (52.0%) | 922 (50.9%) | 1,548 (51.3%) | 0.860 |
| (1) 30-35 | 340 (28.2%) | 530 (29.2%) | 870 (28.8%) | |
| (2) 36-40 | 142 (11.8%) | 205 (11.3%) | 347 (11.5%) | |
| (3) 41-44 | 96 (8.0%) | 156 (8.6%) | 252 (8.4%) | |
| *Partnership status* | | | | |
| (0) no partner | 445 (37.0%) | 652 (36.0%) | 1,097 (36.4%) | 0.005 |
| (1) non-resident partner (LAT) | 176 (14.6%) | 192 (10.6%) | 368 (12.2%) | |
| (2) co-resident partner | 583 (48.4%) | 969 (53.5%) | 1,552 (51.4%) | |
| *Intention to have a child in next 3 years* | | | | |
| (0) Definitely not | 236 (19.6%) | 465 (25.7%) | 701 (23.2%) | <0.001 |
| (1) Probably not | 331 (27.5%) | 573 (31.6%) | 904 (30.0%) | |
| (2) Probably yes | 313 (26.0%) | 399 (22.0%) | 712 (23.6%) | |
| (3) Definitely yes | 243 (20.2%) | 297 (16.4%) | 541 (17.9%) | |
| (4) Currently expecting a child | 81 (6.7%) | 79 (4.3%) | 160 (5.3%) | |
| *Intention to have a child in 3 years* | | | | |
| (0) Def./probably not | 567 (47.1%) | 1,038 (57.3%) | 1,605 (53.2%) | <0.001 |
| (1) Def./probably yes / expecting | 637 (52.9%) | 775 (42.7%) | 1,412 (46.8%) | |
| *Fertility intentions in 3 yrs & the future* | | | | |
| (0) No, No later | 134 (11.1%) | 352 (19.4%) | 486 (16.1%) | <0.001 |
| (1) Probably no, No later | 78 (6.5%) | 168 (9.3%) | 246 (8.1%) | |
| (2) No, Yes later | 102 (8.4%) | 114 (6.3%) | 216 (7.1%) | |
| (3) Probably no, Yes later | 253 (21.0%) | 405 (22.3%) | 658 (21.8%) | |
| (4) Probably yes | 313 (26.0%) | 399 (22.0%) | 712 (23.6%) | |
| (5) Yes/ pregnant | 324 (26.9%) | 376 (20.7%) | 700 (23.2%) | |
| *Educational attainment* | | | | |
| (0) Less than tertiary | 675 (56.0%) | 978 (53.9%) | 1,653 (54.8%) | 0.303 |
| (1) Tertiary | 529 (44.0%) | 835 (46.1%) | 1,365 (45.2%) | |
| *Employment status* | | | | |
| (0) Employed | 906 (75.3%) | 1,300 (71.7%) | 2,206 (73.1%) | 0.150 |
| (1) Student | 195 (16.2%) | 329 (18.1%) | 524 (17.4%) | |
| (2) Not in paid work | 102 (8.5%) | 185 (10.2%) | 287 (9.5%) | |
| *Ethnic background* | | | | |
| (0) No | 998 (82.9%) | 1,576 (86.9%) | 2,574 (85.3%) | 0.010 |
| (1) Yes | 206 (17.1%) | 238 (13.1%) | 443 (14.7%) | |

Note: Frequencies are weighted for differences in the samples and the target population across age, sex, education, and region. Cases with missing response on any variable are excluded.
Source: Generations and Gender Survey, Sweden, round I (2012-13) and round II (2021)

**Figure 1a. Average marginal probability to report a positive intention to have a child within 3 years by partnership status, age group and survey year. Childless men, Sweden.**



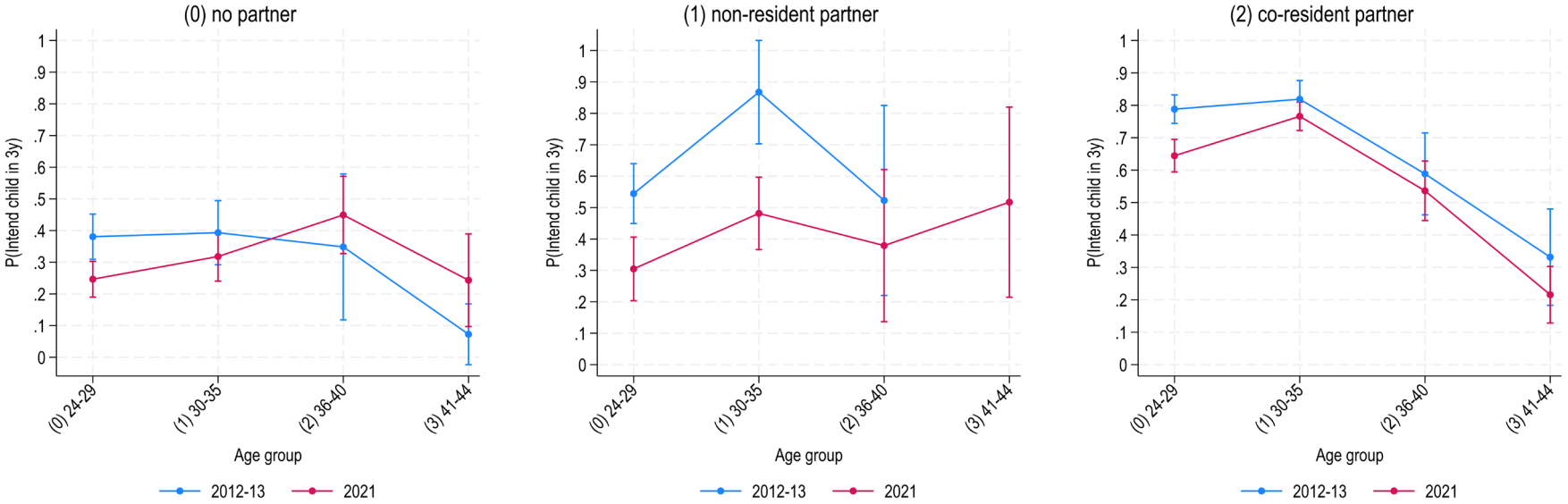

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) 24-29 | -0.13 | 0.002*** |
| (1) 30-35 | -0.22 | 0.007*** |
| (2) 36-40 | -0.16 | 0.087* |
| (3) 41-44 | 0.16 | 0.090* |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) 24-29 | -0.21 | 0.047** |
| (1) 30-35 | 0.00 | 0.971 |
| (2) 36-40 | -0.18 | 0.413 |
| (3) 41-44 | 0.50 | 0.041** |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) 24-29 | -0.10 | 0.090* |
| (1) 30-35 | -0.01 | 0.823 |
| (2) 36-40 | -0.01 | 0.951 |
| (3) 41-44 | -0.13 | 0.374 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

Note: The models control for educational attainment, employment status and ethnic background

**Figure 1b. Average marginal probability to report a positive intention to have a child within 3 years by partnership status, age group and survey year. Childless women, Sweden.**



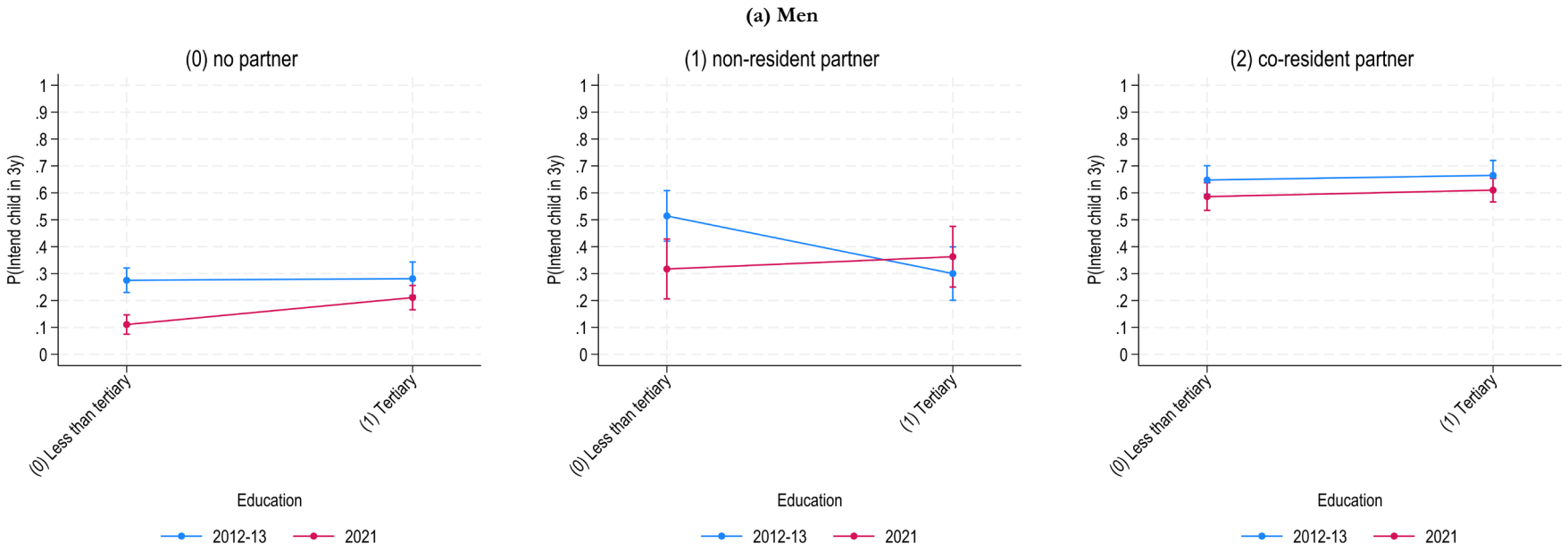

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) 24-29 | -0.13 | 0.042** |
| (1) 30-35 | -0.08 | 0.416 |
| (2) 36-40 | 0.10 | 0.597 |
| (3) 41-44 | 0.20 | 0.175 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) 24-29 | -0.23 | 0.017** |
| (1) 30-35 | -0.36 | 0.005*** |
| (2) 36-40 | -0.15 | 0.606 |
| (3) 41-44 | . | . |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) 24-29 | -0.15 | 0.003*** |
| (1) 30-35 | -0.05 | 0.310 |
| (2) 36-40 | -0.05 | 0.646 |
| (3) 41-44 | -0.12 | 0.354 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

Note: The models control for educational attainment, employment status and ethnic background

**Figure 2a. Average marginal probability to report a positive intention to have a child within 3 years by partnership status, educational attainment and survey year. Childless men, Sweden.**



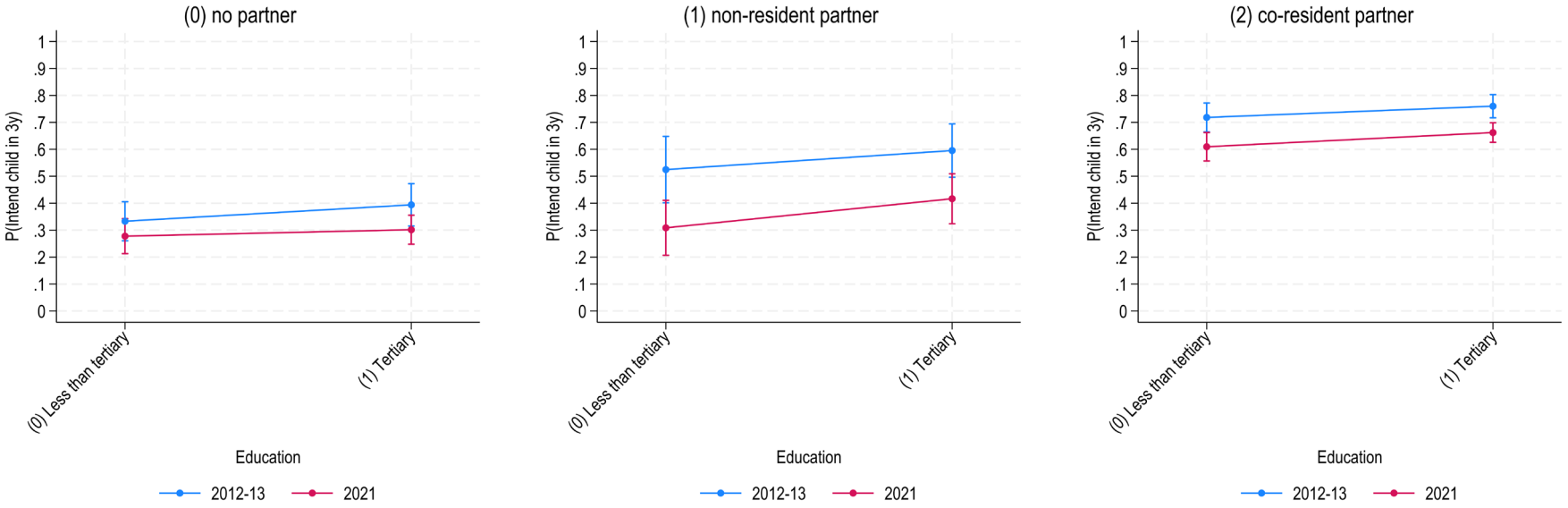

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Less than tertiary | -0.15 | 0.000*** |
| (1) Tertiary | -0.08 | 0.206 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Less than tertiary | -0.20 | 0.057* |
| (1) Tertiary | 0.06 | 0.558 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Less than tertiary | -0.06 | 0.250 |
| (1) Tertiary | -0.05 | 0.288 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

Note: The models control for age group, employment status and ethnic background

**Figure 2b. Average marginal probability to report a positive intention to have a child within 3 years by partnership status, educational attainment and survey year. Childless women, Sweden.**



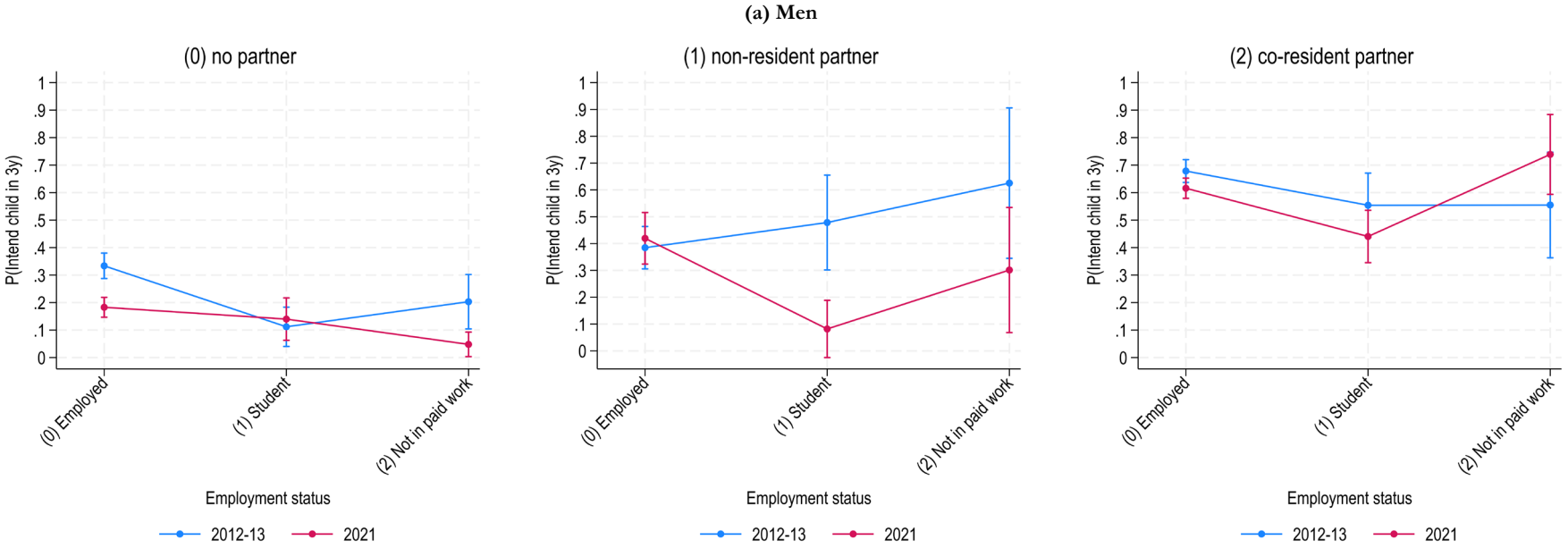

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Diff.** | **Sig. P** |
| (0) Less than tertiary | -0.05 | 0.432 |
| (1) Tertiary | -0.10 | 0.178 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Diff.** | **Sig. P** |
| (0) Less than tertiary | -0.21 | 0.063* |
| (1) Tertiary | -0.18 | 0.075* |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Diff.** | **Sig. P** |
| (0) Less than tertiary | -0.11 | 0.046** |
| (1) Tertiary | -0.09 | 0.017** |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

Note: The models control for age group, employment status and ethnic background

**Figure 3a. Average marginal probability to report a positive intention to have a child within 3 years by partnership status, employment status and survey year. Childless men, Sweden.**



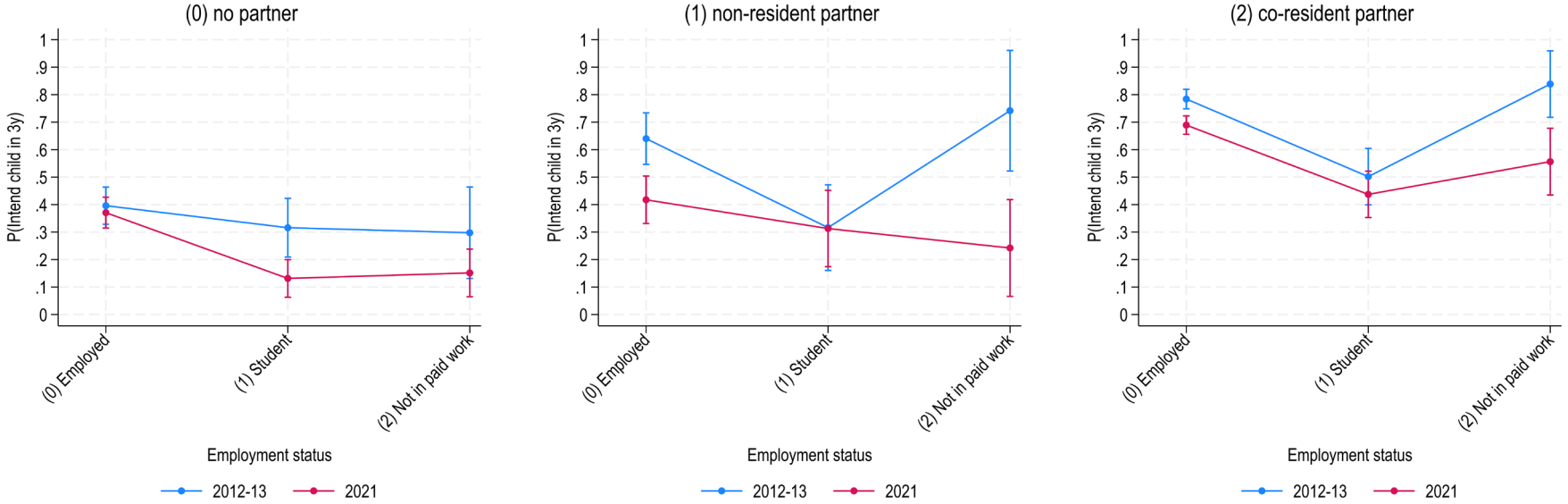

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Employed | -0.16 | 0.000*** |
| (1) Student | 0.02 | 0.710 |
| (2) Not in paid work | -0.15 | 0.050** |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Employed | 0.03 | 0.702 |
| (1) Student | -0.39 | 0.008*** |
| (2) Not in paid work | -0.33 | 0.212 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Employed | -0.06 | 0.124 |
| (1) Student | -0.12 | 0.298 |
| (2) Not in paid work | 0.19 | 0.291 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

Note: The models control for age group, educational attainment and ethnic background

**Figure 3b. Average marginal probability to report a positive intention to have a child within 3 years by partnership status, employment status and survey year. Childless women, Sweden**



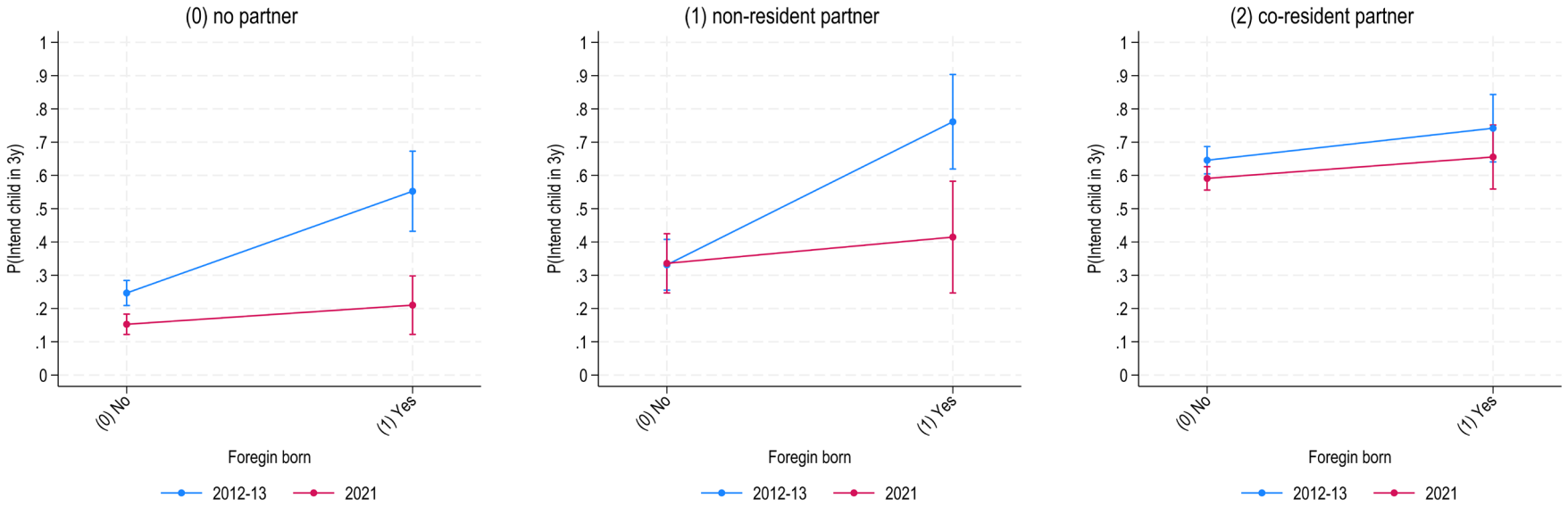

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Employed | -0.03 | 0.691 |
| (1) Student | -0.18 | 0.044** |
| (2) Not in paid work | -0.15 | 0.283 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Employed | -0.22 | 0.017** |
| (1) Student | -0.00 | 0.981 |
| (2) Not in paid work | -0.49 | 0.015** |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) Employed | -0.09 | 0.008*** |
| (1) Student | -0.07 | 0.498 |
| (2) Not in paid work | -0.29 | 0.026** |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

Note: The models control for age group, educational attainment and ethnic background

**Figure 4a. Average marginal probability to report a positive intention to have a child within 3 years by partnership status, ethnic background and survey year. Childless men, Sweden**



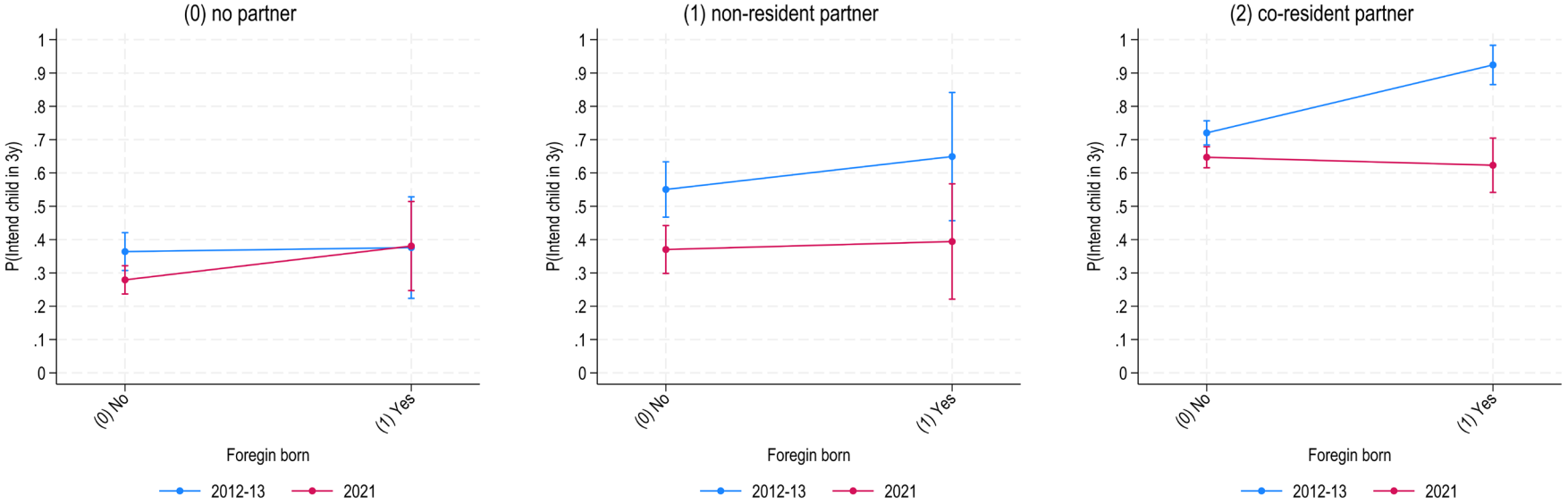

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) No | -0.10 | 0.008*** |
| (1) Yes | -0.33 | 0.002*** |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) No | 0.00 | 0.959 |
| (1) Yes | -0.35 | 0.028** |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) No | -0.05 | 0.168 |
| (1) Yes | -0.08 | 0.397 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

Note: The models control for age group, educational attainment and employment status

**Figure 4b. Average marginal probability to report a positive intention to have a child within 3 years by partnership status, ethnic background and survey year. Childless women, Sweden**



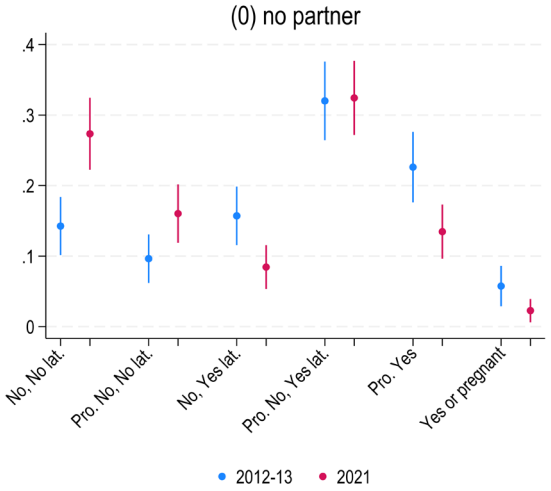

| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) No | -0.08 | 0.103 |
| (1) Yes | 0.00 | 0.975 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

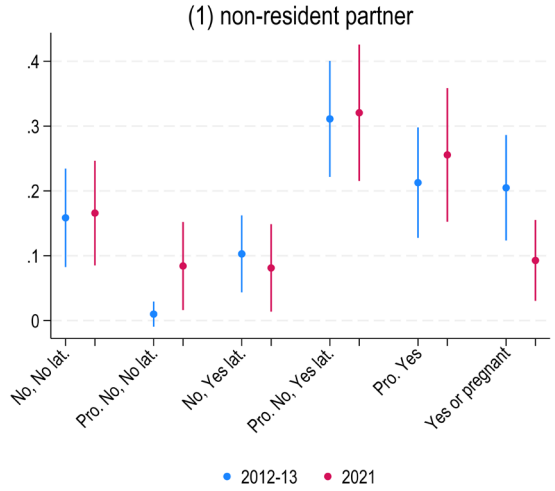
| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) No | -0.18 | 0.028** |
| (1) Yes | -0.26 | 0.177 |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

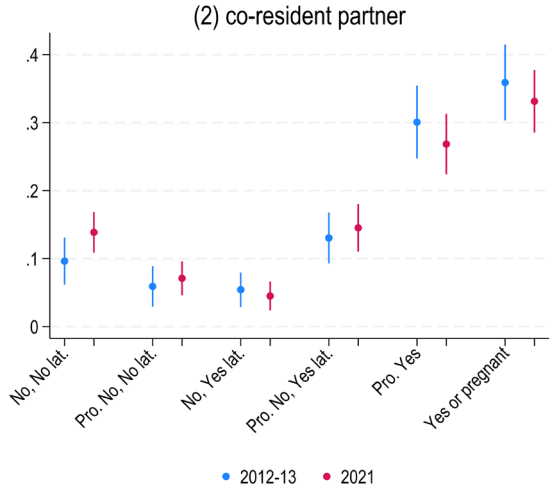
| Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13 | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Diff. | Sig. P |
| (0) No | -0.07 | 0.037** |
| (1) Yes | -0.31 | 0.000*** |
| *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1 | | |

Note: The models control for age group, educational attainment and employment status

**Figure 5a. Average marginal probability (multinominal) to report intention to have a child within 3 years, or later by partnership status and survey year. Childless men, Sweden.**




**Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13**

| | Diff. | Sig. P |
|---|---|---|
| No, No lat. | 0.13 | 0.000*** |
| P. No, No lat. | 0.06 | 0.021** |
| No, Yes lat. | -0.07 | 0.006*** |
| P. No, Yes lat. | 0.00 | 0.915 |
| P. Yes | -0.09 | 0.005*** |
| Yes/pregnant | -0.03 | 0.041** |

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

**Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13**

| | Diff. | Sig. P |
|---|---|---|
| No, No lat. | 0.01 | 0.899 |
| P. No, No lat. | 0.07 | 0.040** |
| No, Yes lat. | -0.02 | 0.640 |
| P. No, Yes lat. | 0.01 | 0.895 |
| P. Yes | 0.04 | 0.535 |
| Yes/pregnant | -0.11 | 0.034** |

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

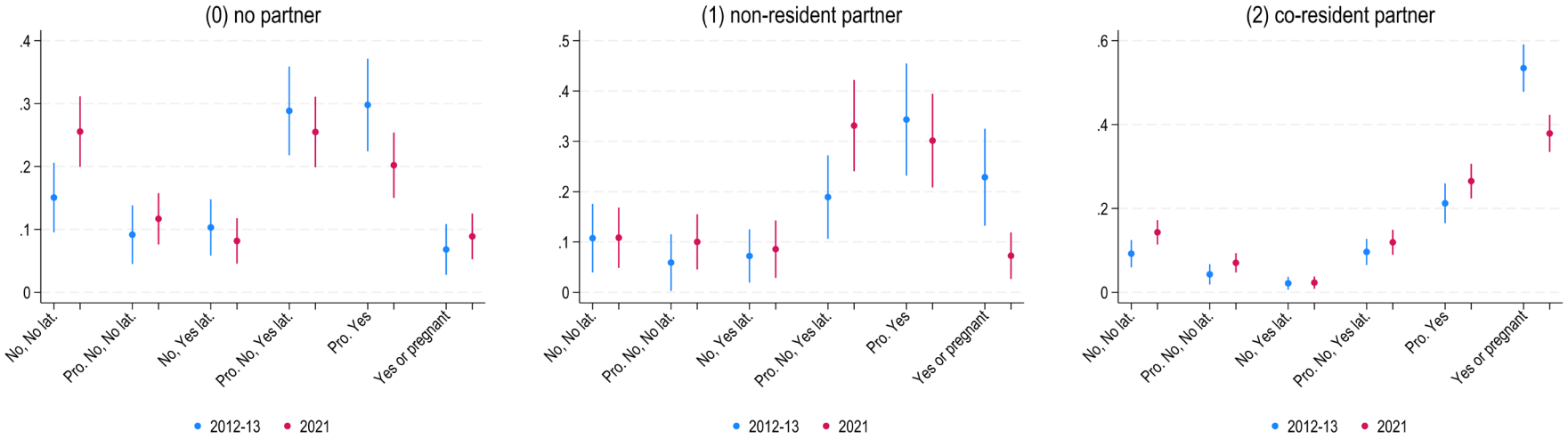
**Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13**

| | Diff. | Sig. P |
|---|---|---|
| No, No lat. | 0.04 | 0.074* |
| P. No, No lat. | 0.01 | 0.551 |
| No, Yes lat. | -0.01 | 0.587 |
| P. No, Yes lat. | 0.01 | 0.570 |
| P. Yes | -0.03 | 0.367 |
| Yes/pregnant | -0.03 | 0.456 |

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Note: The models control for age group, educational attainment, employment status and ethnic background

**Figure 5b. Average marginal probability (multinominal) to report intention to have a child within 3 years, or later by partnership status and survey year. Childless women, Sweden.**




**Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13**

| | Diff. | Sig. P |
|---|---|---|
| No, No lat. | 0.10 | 0.010*** |
| P. No, No lat. | 0.03 | 0.430 |
| No, Yes lat. | -0.02 | 0.467 |
| P. No, Yes lat. | -0.03 | 0.468 |
| P. Yes | -0.10 | 0.039** |
| Yes/pregnant | 0.02 | 0.459 |

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

**Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13**

| | Diff. | Sig. P |
|---|---|---|
| No, No lat. | 0.00 | 0.983 |
| P. No, No lat. | 0.04 | 0.316 |
| No, Yes lat. | 0.01 | 0.737 |
| P. No, Yes lat. | 0.14 | 0.027** |
| P. Yes | -0.04 | 0.580 |
| Yes/pregnant | -0.16 | 0.005*** |

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

**Difference in AMEs, 2021 vs. 2012-13**

| | Diff. | Sig. P |
|---|---|---|
| No, No lat. | 0.05 | 0.023** |
| P. No, No lat. | 0.03 | 0.111 |
| No, Yes lat. | 0.00 | 0.884 |
| P. No, Yes lat. | 0.02 | 0.299 |
| P. Yes | 0.05 | 0.101 |
| Yes/pregnant | -0.16 | 0.000*** |

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Note: The models control for age group, educational attainment, employment status and ethnic background