

FAMILY FORMATION IN BALKAN COUNTRIES: EXAMPLE OF BULGARIA

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ACCORDING TO THE PREVIOUS STUDIES, DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE

- ❑ QUICK DECLINE IN TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (BELOW REPLACEMENT LEVEL)
 - ❑ CONSIDERABLE POSTPONEMENT OF MARRIAGE AND CHILDBEARING
 - ❑ INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COHABITATION BEFORE MARRIAGE
 - ❑ INCREASING TEENAGE FERTILITY
 - ❑ INCREASE IN DIVORCE RATES
 - ❑ RISING TWO-INCOME UNIONS
- AS A RESULT; CHANGES IN FAMILY FORMATION BEHAVIOR

Figure 1. Populations of Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Turkey, 1950-2010

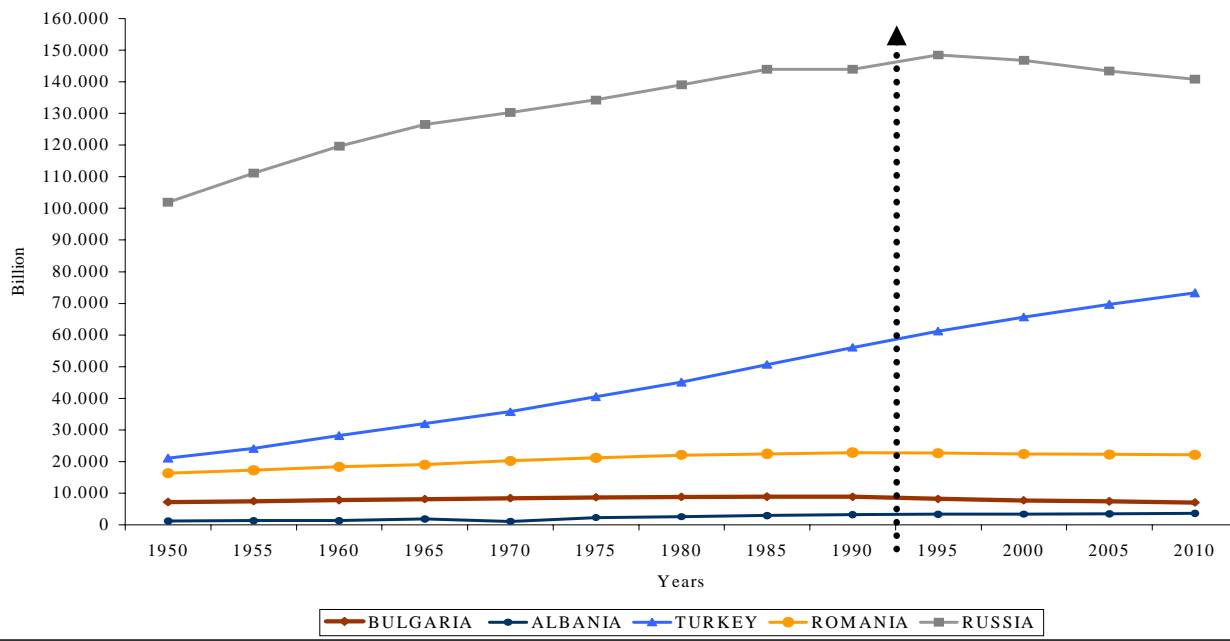


Figure 2. TFR in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Turkey between the periods of 1950-2010

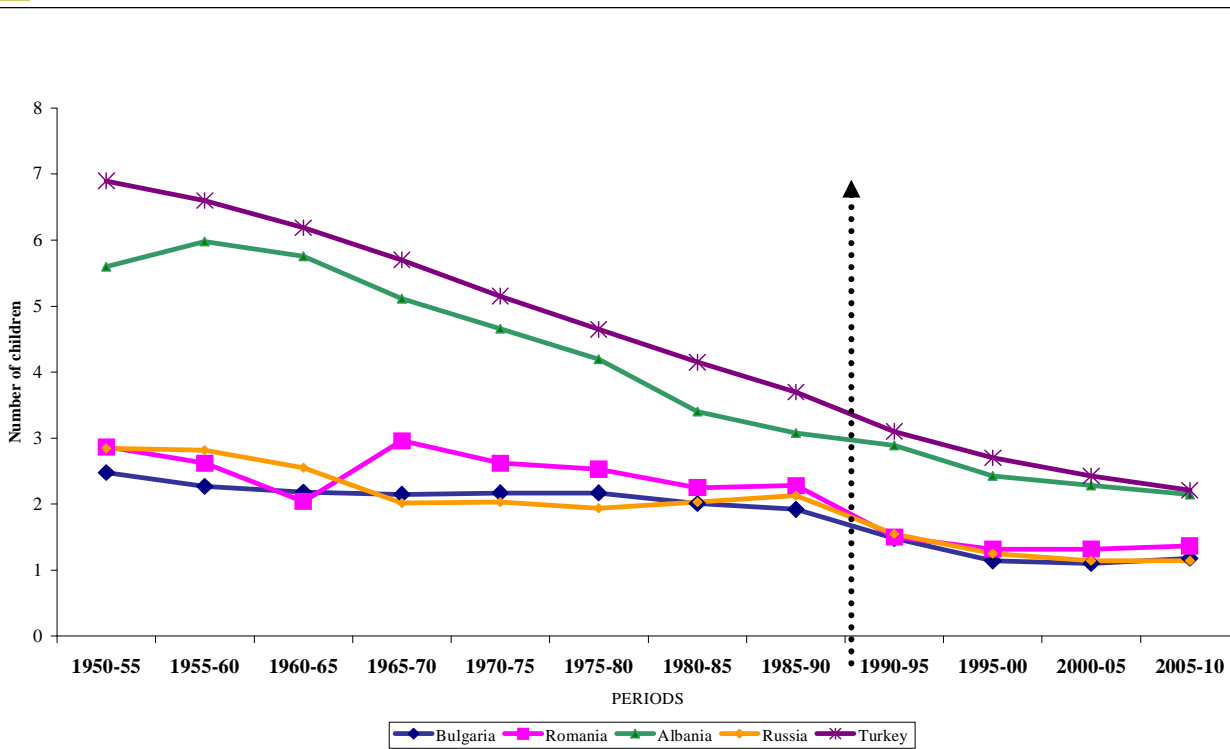
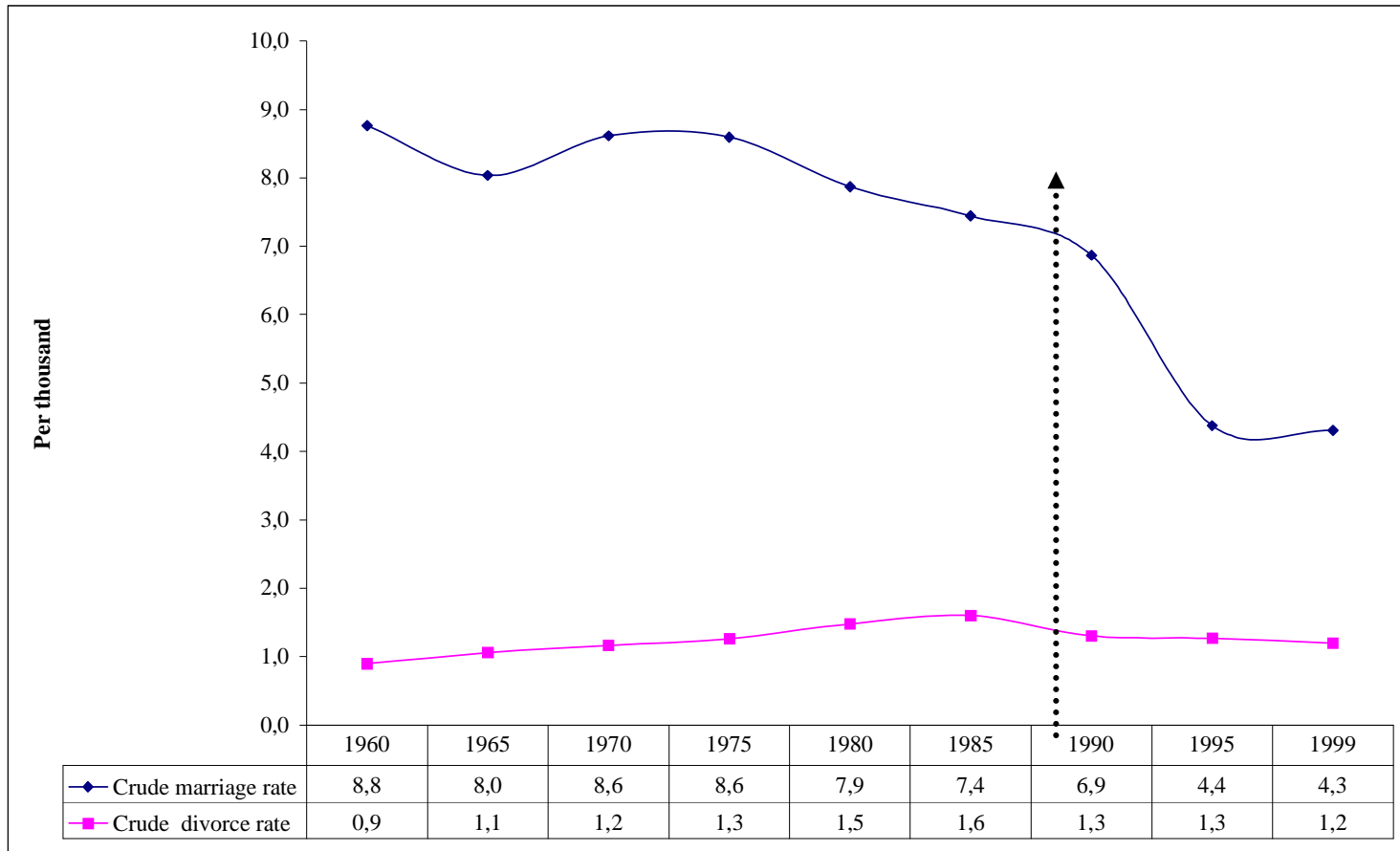


Figure 3. Crude marriage rate and crude divorce rate, Bulgaria, 1960-2000



National Statistical Institute Yearbooks, BG.

Figure 4. Extra-marital births, Bulgaria, 1960-1999

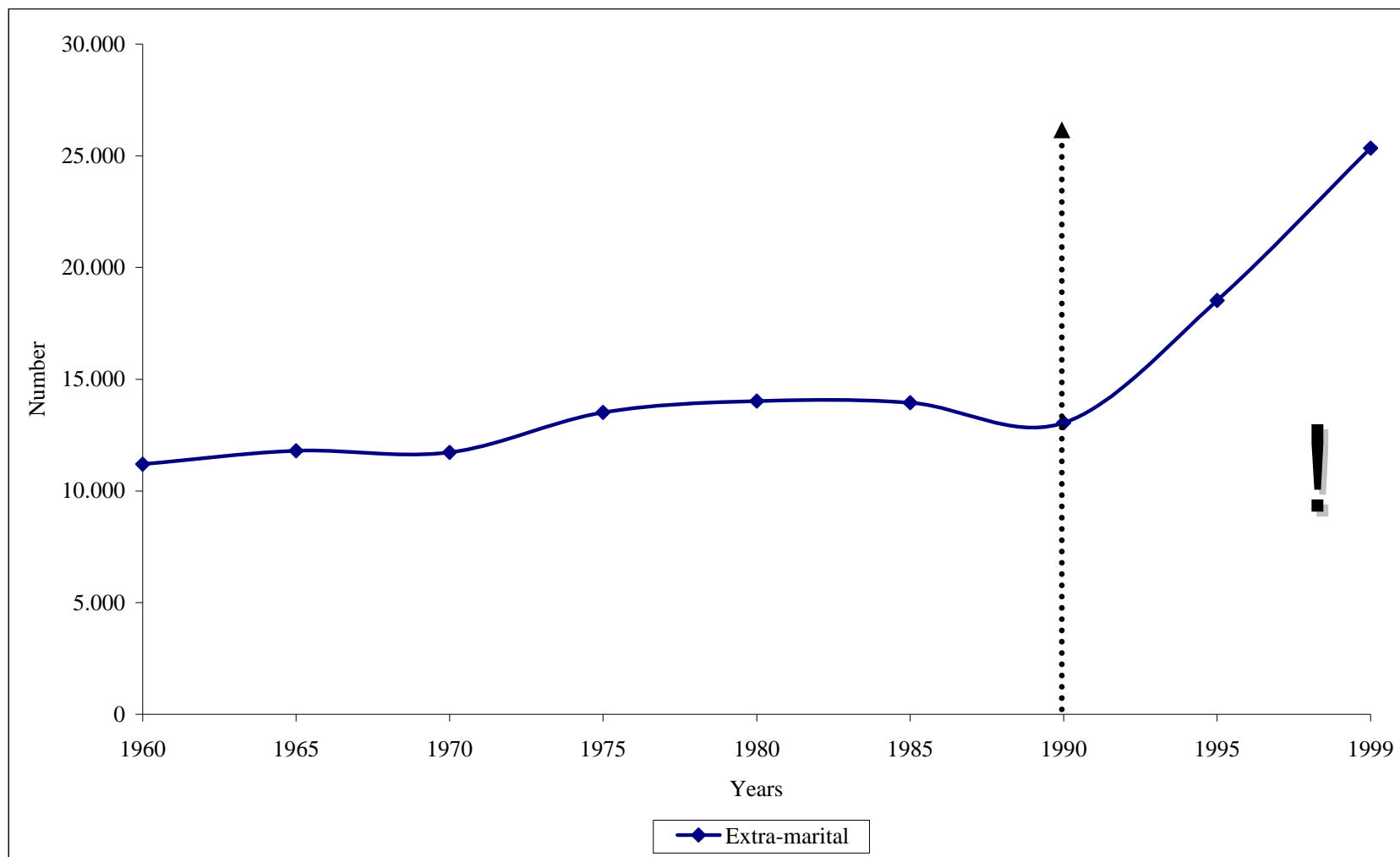


Table 1. Families in Bulgaria by number of children and religious groups, 2001

	No child	1	2	3	4	5	6+	Total	N
Total	58.6	24.5	14.8	1.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	100	2369100
Eastern orthodox	60.8	24.3	13.5	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	100	1970952
Catholic	60.7	22.0	15.7	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	100	13538
Protestant	37.0	26.0	24.0	8.8	2.6	1.0	0.6	100	11427
Muslim	48.8	24.6	21.7	3.9	0.8	0.2	0.1	100	290657
Other	54.8	25.5	15.8	2.6	0.9	0.3	0.1	100	4622
Unknown	43.9	28.9	21.1	4.0	1.2	0.5	0.3	100	77904

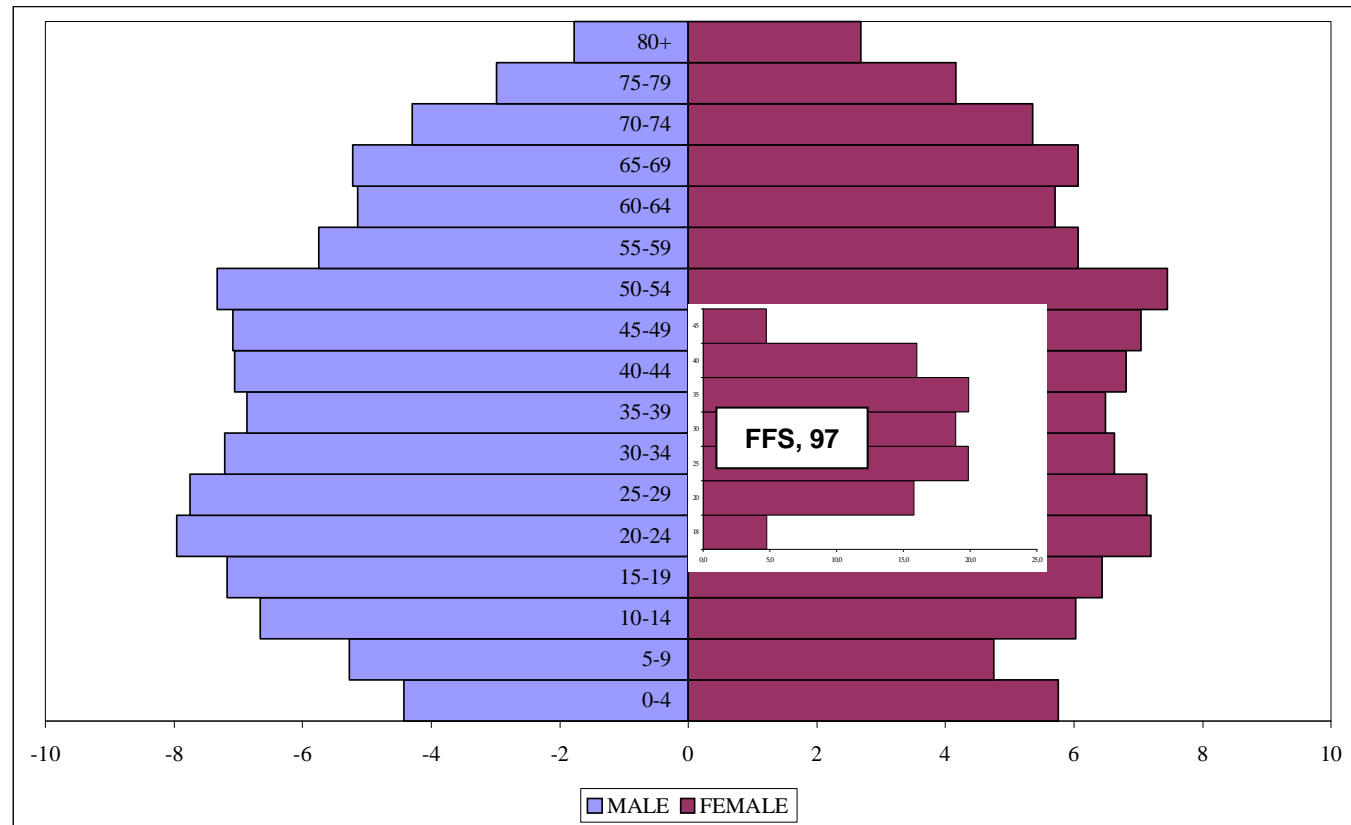
National Statistical Institute, CENSUS-2001,BG.

DATA:

Fertility and Family Survey, Bulgaria (FFS-BG), 1997

- Bulgaria in 1997
- The sample size is 2367; only females aged 18 to 45,

Figure 5. Age pyramid, National Statistics-1997 and FFS sample in proportions, Bulgaria



- 5 percent of the respondents refer to 18-19 and 45-49 age groups;
- about 60 percent of the survey population accounts for the 25-40; 20-24, 40-44 age groups are about 16 percent each, and 30-34 is 19 percent.

ANALYSES

DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSES

1. CROSSTABS
2. CHI-SQUIRE TESTS

▣ MULTIVARIATE ANALYSES

1. LOGISTIC REGRESSION
2. DECISION TREE (Classification and Regression Trees-C&RT method).

WERE EMPLOYED

DATA PROBLEMS

LOW CASE NUMBERS!

THEREFORE,

Options of the some used variables were re-grouped in the preparatory stage of the study because of the low case numbers: "Birth cohorts", "education" "status of employment", "religiousness" "the place of residence", ...

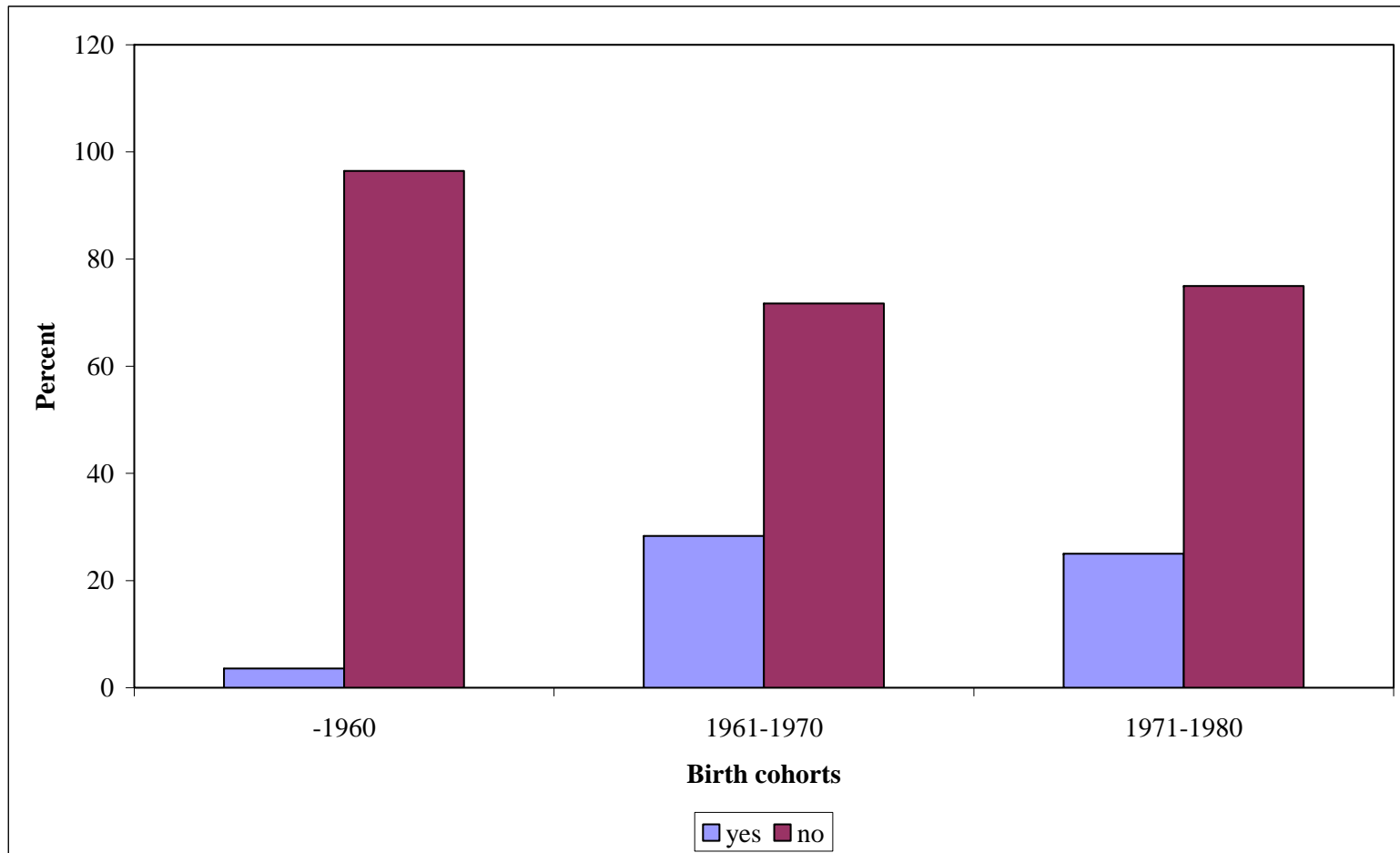
Table 5. “How many children do you think is the ideal number for a family to have in this country?”

<u>Ideal number of children</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
not necessary	2	0.1
one	248	12.3
one or two	250	12.4
two	601	29.8
two or three	789	39.1
three	108	5.4
three or four	14	0.7
four	4	0.2
four or five	1	0.0
Total	2017	100

Table 6. Mean number of the live births by ethnic status, residence and education, FFS-Bulgaria, 1997

Ethnic status	Mean	N
Bulgarian	1.6	1537
Turk	2.0	167
Gypsy	2.3	71
Total	1.7	1775
Residence		
rural	1.8	508
Urban	1.6	1251
Total	1.7	1759
Education		
elementary+p.school	2.1	270
secondary school	1.7	1002
higher school	1.5	525
Mean	1.7	1797

Figure 6. Percentage distribution of the respondents currently living in a non-marital cohabitation by birth cohorts, FFS-Bulgaria, 1997



RESULTS OF THE DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSES BASED ON CHI-SQUIRE TESTS

WOMEN'S ATTITUDES TO MARRIAGE AND FAMILY UNION BY THREE DETERMINING FACTORS: BIRTH COHORTS, MARITAL STATUS AND EDUCATION (1)

**Marriage is (not)
an outdated
institution**

- the women's attitudes to marriage are differentiated by the birth cohorts marital status and educational level of the women ($p < 0,05$).

RESULTS-M.isnotO.I.

- ❑ The percentages referring to the belief of “the marriage is not an outdated institution” increases across age.
- ❑ Overall the single and previously married women have some anxieties regarding the marriage institution even if most of them state the opposite of that.
- ❑ Among the single women the tendency of defining marriage as an outdated institution is very strong.
- ❑ The graduates of the primary and secondary schools seem more moderate against the idea of marriage. But among the women having higher education the proportion of the women who consider that marriage is an outdated institution is close to the thoughts of the women graduated from the elementary schools. The tendency of considering marriage as an outdated institution is strong.

WOMEN'S ATTITUDES TO MARRIAGE AND FAMILY UNION BY THREE DETERMINING FACTORS: BIRTH COHORTS, MARITAL STATUS AND EDUCATION (2)

If a woman wants to have a child as a single parent and she does not want to have a stable relationship with a man, she should (not) be able to have the child.

(Single-parent)

- **This opinion is differentiated by the birth cohorts, marital status and level of education of the women ($p < 0,05$).**

RESULTS- Single Parent

- ❑ The negative approach to the idea of “single parenting” decreases from the older birth cohorts to the younger ones.
- ❑ Among the single and previously married women, the general thought is that a woman can have the child, neither marriage nor a stable relationship is necessary to realize that.
- ❑ When the educational level increases, the percentage of the women who have affirmative thoughts on this approach that an unmarried woman can have children and become a single-parent also increases.

WOMEN'S ATTITUDES TO MARRIAGE AND FAMILY UNION BY THREE DETERMINING FACTORS: BIRTH COHORTS, MARITAL STATUS AND EDUCATION (3)

“If in the future, more emphasis was placed on family life, it would (not) be good thing”

- **This opinion is differentiated by the birth cohorts, marital status ($p < 0,05$) but not differentiated by level of education of the women**

RESULTS-Family in the future

- ❑ The desire of maintaining family institution and considering it important in the future increases across age.
- ❑ The proportion of the married women who suggest that “if in the future, more emphasis was placed on family life, it would not be good thing” is about 85 percent and their expressions are significant and notable. Because the observed number married women who think that family does not need more emphasis in the following years is quite high and the statistical difference between the observed and the expected values refers to a strong tendency.

FERTILITY INTENTIONS: LOGISTIC REGRESSION INCLUDES...

- ❑ Birth cohorts,
- ❑ Marital status
- ❑ Residence
- ❑ Employment status
- ❑ Religiousness of the respondent
- ❑ Household size
- ❑ Ethnic status
- ❑ Educational level

Intention to have first child

- ❑ It is observed that the women born in 1961-1970 are 5 times more likely to have first child than the women born in 1960 and before.
- ❑ The previously married women are 8,5 times more likely to have first child than the single women. It is the unexpected result that becoming married has not a significant effect on having first child.
- ❑ The likelihood of having first child is almost about 2 times fewer among the women living the urban and 9 times fewer among the women living in Sofia in comparison to their counterparts living in the rural areas.
- ❑ The employee women are about 5 times less likely to have first child than their counterparts who have different jobs.
- ❑ The women indicating that they are not religious are about 3 times less likely to have first child than ones who have more religious.

Intention to have a second child

- ❑ The women born between 1961 and 1970 are about 3 times and ones born between 1971 and 1980 are 12 times less likely to have a second child than their counterparts born in 1960 and before.
- ❑ The married women are about exact 2,6 times and the previously married women are about exact 2,9 times more likely to have a second child than the single women.
- ❑ It is observed that the employee women are exact 2,4 times more likely to have a second child than the women working in the other employment areas.
- ❑ With regard to ethnic status, the likelihood of having a second child for the Turkish women decreases 4 times as that of the Bulgarian women (low case numbers! such a result does not reflect the truth of the country)

Intention to have a third child

- ❑ **The women born in 1960 and before are approximately 4 times and the women born in 1961-1970 are 2,5 times more likely to have a third child than the women born in 1971-1980.**
- ❑ **The married women are 3,5 times more likely to have a third child than the single women.**
- ❑ **The likelihood of having a third child is about 6 times fewer among the rural women and about 4 times fewer among the urban women than the women living in Sofia, the capital city.**
- ❑ **According to the educational levels, the likelihood of having a third child for the women who have secondary education is 3 times more than the women having higher education.**

RESULTS OF THE DECISION THREE ANALYSIS

Figure 7. Importance of the variables affecting the model; the intention to have first child, FFS-Bulgaria, 1997

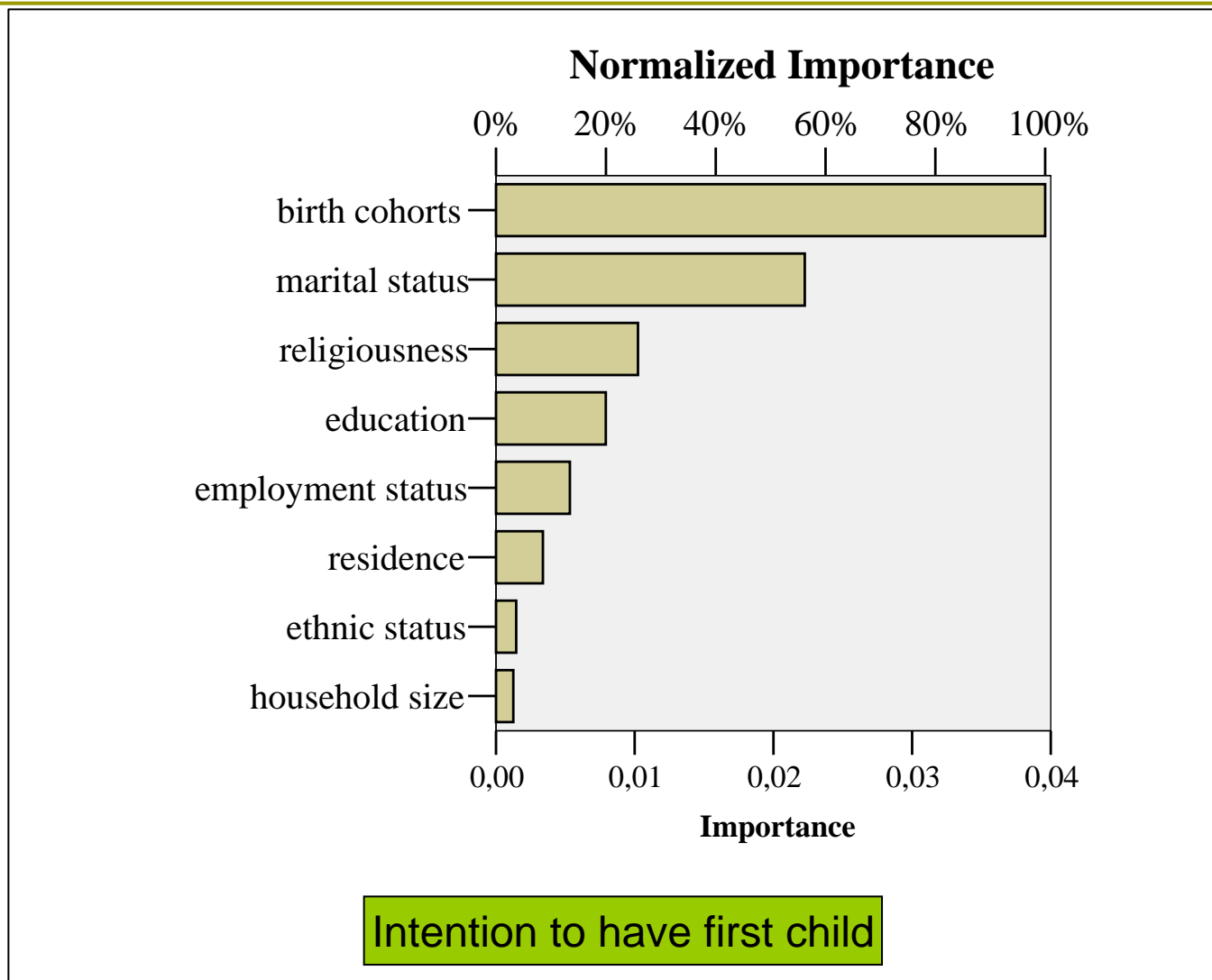


Figure. 8. Importance of the variables affecting the model on the intention to have a second child, FFS-Bulgaria, 1997

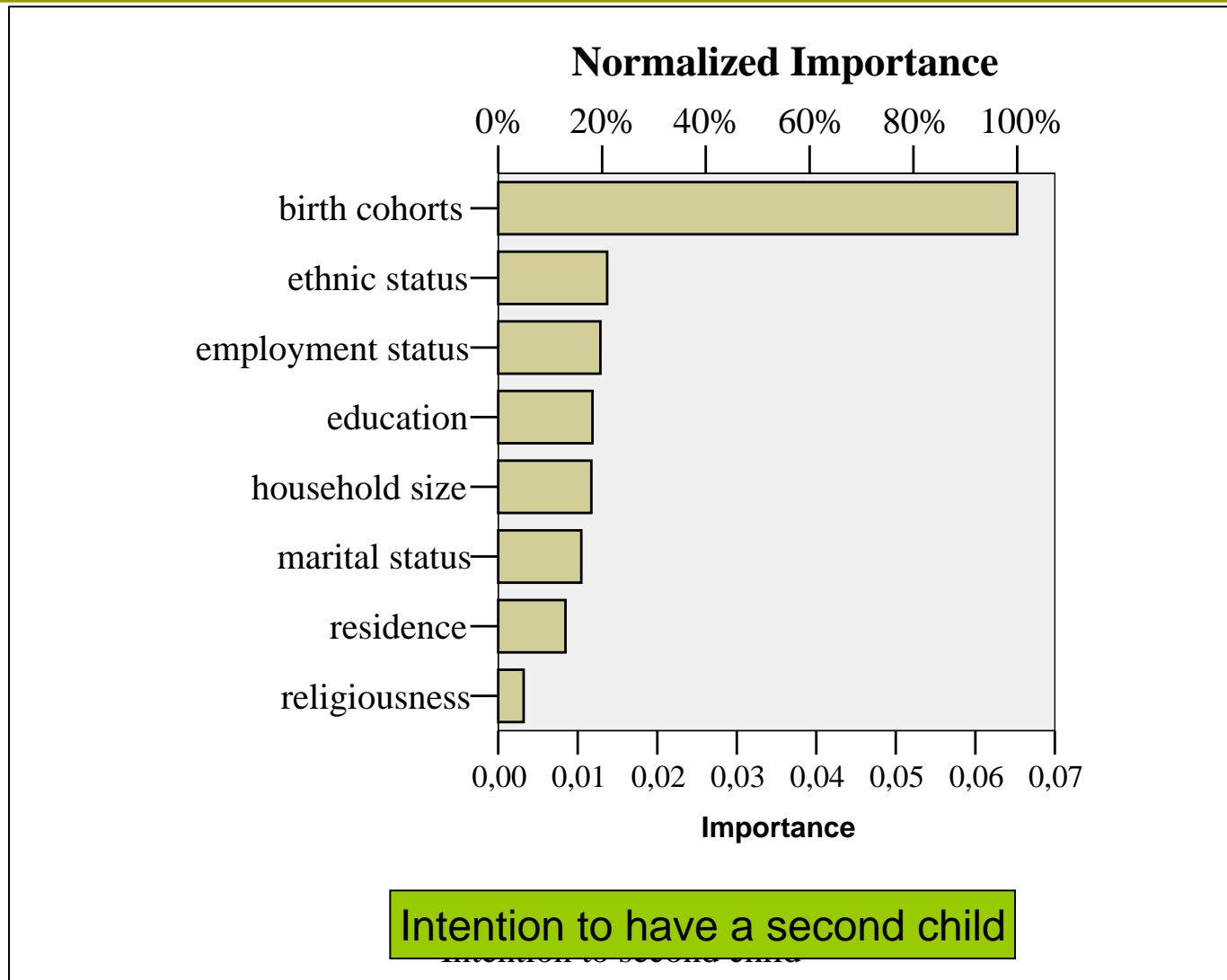
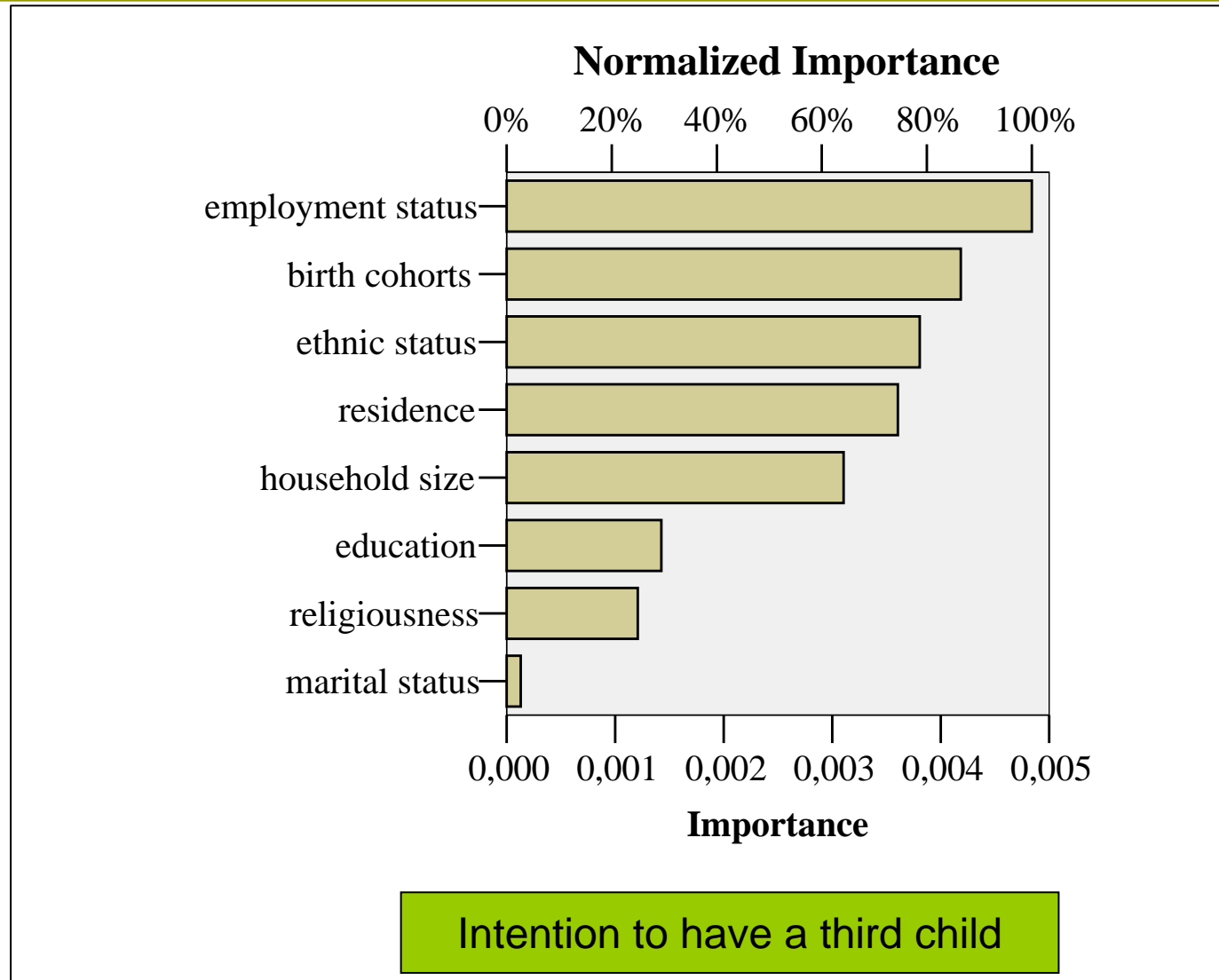


Figure 9. Importance of the variables affecting the model on the intention to have a third child, FFS-Bulgaria, 1997



□ THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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