

# Family structure and educational attainment in Germany

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## **Abstract**

A large body of research provides evidence for the quantity-quality trade-off in children. This analysis updates and extends previous research for Germany using data from the 2006 wave of the German Socio-Economic Panel which are matched to maternal birth biographies to generate indicators on family structure, namely family size, sex composition, and birth order of the siblings. Furthermore, a recently developed birth order index (Booth and Kee, 2005) is employed to account for interdependencies between family size and birth order in order to test whether siblings receive equal shares of parental resources. Ordered Probit estimations for educational attainment measured in categories and, as robustness check, OLS regressions on years of schooling are run separately by gender and by East and West German as well as foreign origin, controlling for parental background and family level information. Across all sub-samples used in this study, the estimates imply that both family size and higher birth order have detrimental effects on individuals' education. Using data from individuals with at least one sibling, the estimates further suggest a positive relationship between education and the share of sisters a person has for West German and foreign females.

JEL classification: I2, J1

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