

# WHO GIVES BIRTH (FIRST) IN FEMALE SAME-SEX COUPLES IN SWEDEN?

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**Objective:** This study analyzes (i) factors predicting the transition to parenthood in female same-sex couples in Sweden, and (ii) which partner is the birth mother for the first and, (iii) (any) second child.

**Background:** Not all couples can or want to become parents but the female same-sex couples that do can (to some extent) choose who will carry the child. They may also take turns giving birth if they plan for more than one child. Consequently, the transition to parenthood in same-sex couples make up an interesting case for testing theories linked to family utility maximization, short-term or long-term, and relative resources/household bargaining.

**Method:** Applying discrete-time survival and linear probability models to Swedish population register data in the period from 1995-2016, couples' transition to first and second birth and the choice of birth mother is analyzed.

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**Results:** The higher the household income and education, the more likely female same-sex couples are to become parents (i). Income and education are unrelated to the choice of first birth mother (ii). The couples are more likely to have a second child if the first social mother is highly educated (iii), as this is linked to a higher probability that she will give birth.

**Conclusion:** In female same-sex couples, short-term financial concerns may be of less importance than suggested by economic theory. Still, any benefits of specialization is smaller in these couples as income differences on average are small.