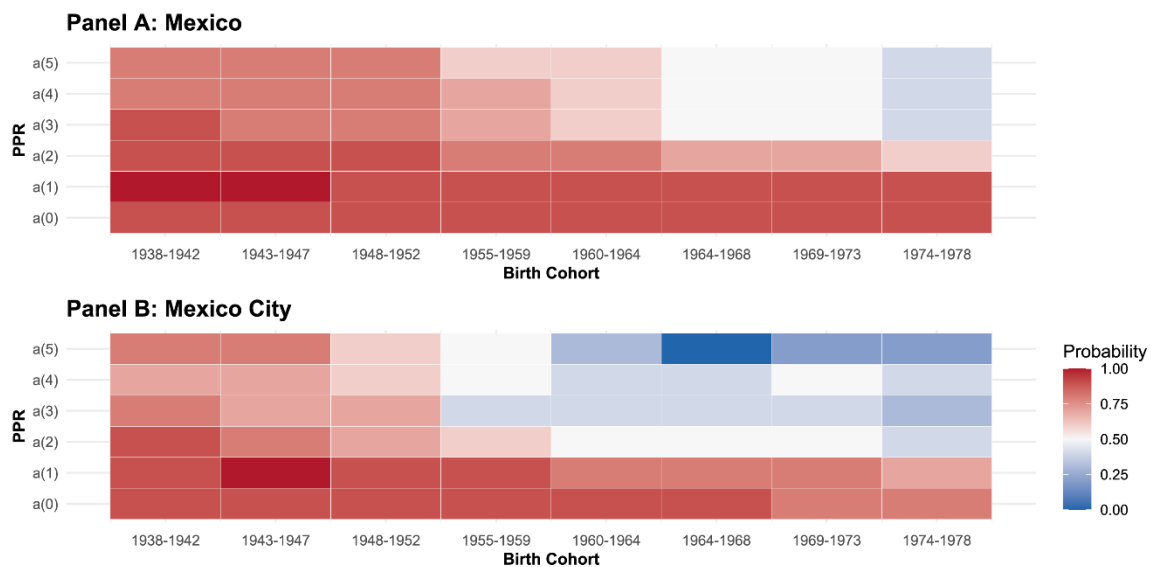


Supplementary material

Supplement to: Llanes-Díaz, N., García-Guerrero, V.M., Martes-Camargo, P. (2026) Postponement or limitation? Mechanisms of reproductive intentions in Mexico City's lowest-low fertility context. *Vienna Yearbook of Population Research*, 24. <https://doi.org/10.1553/p-e9c3-f87p>

Figure S.1 Parity progression ratios for Mexico (Panel A) and Mexico City (Panel B) in selected cohorts of women.



Source: ENADID (1992, 1997, 2009, 2014, 2018 and 2023).

© The Author(s) 2026

Open Access This article is published under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>) that allows the sharing, use and adaptation in any medium, provided that the user gives appropriate credit, provides a link to the license, and indicates if changes were made.

S1 Scripts for semi-structured in-depth interviews

a) Reproductive intentions and preferences of women living in Mexico Cit. Script for semi-structured interviews, Women with one child

Presentation of the project and purpose of the interview.

Informed consent

Recording

1. Sociodemographic information

I would like to start the interview by asking you some specific questions about yourself.

- How old are you?
- How old is your child? How old were you when you became pregnant?
- What grade did you finish in school? (ask further questions if they finished the grade)
- Who do you currently live with? Explore the number of people the woman lives with and their kinship relationship with her.
- If we went back to when you were 12, do you remember who you lived with?
- Do you know how far your mother/father went in school?
- What did your parents or guardians do for a living when you were 12, and what do they do now?

2. Occupation and working conditions

(Work prior to motherhood/working conditions when her child was young (in primary school), for cases in which the child is over 6 years old).

- What do you currently do for a living? How long have you been doing that or been in that job? (Explore on those who responds that they do not do any paid work, but sell things on their own or prepare food to sell, etc.)
- Could you tell me how many hours you spend on that job or doing those activities?
- Could you tell me what a day in your life is like, your daily routine from the moment you wake up until you go to sleep? During the narrative, you can ask, without interrupting too much, how much time she spends on each activity, if anyone else helps her with those activities, and if there are activities that she does simultaneously. (explore how is her routine when her child was in primary school and currently) See changes.
- Do you have flexibility at work to not attend if you need to be at home? How do you handle those situations? (Consider cases when her child was young.)
- Could you tell me how you feel your family perceives your decision to work? (Ask this question when her child was in primary school vs. current job to see changes).

3. Partnerships, dating and significant romantic relationships

Ask about her partnerships/relationships

- Have you ever been in a relationship? How many partners have you had? (i.e. lived together)
- Are you currently in a relationship?
- What type of union is it? (Married, cohabiting)
- Could you tell me about your relationship? (Let her elaborate, but consider asking: How long have you been together? How did you decide to get together? Were there other unions before? how did you meet?)
- Could you tell me your partner's age? What does he do for a living? How much time do you spend together? Ask about her partner's education.
- Tell me how you divide household chores and childcare. For example, on a normal day, who does what?
- How do you feel about this division? Wait for her to respond. Then ask: Would you like to change anything about this arrangement? What would you change?
- Do you think there is an ideal age to live with a partner? Explore: Why that age?
- Could you tell me how your family reacted to your decision to move in together?

Control: Is this couple we have been discussing the father of your child?

- Could you tell me how you came to the decision to have a child?
- Could you tell me about your relationship as a couple when your child was born? Did anything change?

Control: Ask whether there were other significant relationships.

If she was previously in a relationship but is now separated, add the following questions.

- Could you tell me about the reasons for the breakup?
- How did you feel at the moment and after the breakup?
- How do you organise childcare activities with your ex-partner?
- How do you organise childcare and domestic work (who participates)?
- In the hypothetical case that you decide to cohabit/marry again, what would you like this partner to offer you compared to your previous one?

In the case of women who are not in a relationship (single at the moment of the interview)

- What do you think about life as a couple or relationships?
- Do you think there is an ideal age to live as a couple? If so, what would that age be?
- Have you ever experienced any comments from your family or close friends about not being in a relationship? What do you think about these comments?
- What did your family think about your decision not to be in a relationship?
- Do you ever see yourself living with a partner?
- In the hypothetical case that you decide to be in a relationship, what would you like your partner to offer you?

Women with a boyfriend (singles)

- Do you currently have a boyfriend?
- How long have you been together? How old is your boyfriend? What does he do for a living? How much time do you spend together, approximately? How do you feel about this relationship?
- If not, have you ever had a significant boyfriend relationship that you would like to tell me about? How long did that relationship last? How old were you? What did your partner do for a living? How long did the relationship last? Can you share with me the reasons for the breakup?
- Does this person support you/did this person support you with household chores and childcare? Ask about the type of support received. Do you feel comfortable with this support? Wait for a response, then ask: Would you like to change anything about this arrangement? What would you change?
- Where you currently live, who takes care of domestic and caregiving tasks (cooking, organising household activities, etc.)? What do you think about this division of labour? If you ever lived with a partner, would you like to change anything about this division of labour? If so, what would you change?

4. Definition of family and changes in family values

- How would you define what family means to you?
- Do you see any differences between how you currently live your family life and the family life you had with your family of origin?
- What aspects do you feel are key to raising and caring for your children?
- Do you recognise any of these aspects in your own upbringing? Are there new things that you identify as important to you in the process of raising your child?

5. Pregnancy history

- How many pregnancies have you had? If the answer is more than one, ask the woman: what happened to the other pregnancies?

Control: In the case of voluntary terminations of pregnancy or miscarriages, ask if you would like to tell us anything about this experience.

- How did you experience the pregnancy of your child? / How did you find out you were pregnant? / Who were you living with at the time? / What method of contraception did you use before/after this pregnancy?
- Where did you receive prenatal care? Was the clinic/facility where you received prenatal care close to where you lived?

6. Reproductive intentions and experiences or perceptions regarding motherhood

- Have you ever thought about having more children? Explore here all the reasons for postponing or limiting fertility that she spontaneously mentions
- Would you like to have another child at this time or in the near future? Explore the reasons.

- Do you think there is an ideal age to have children? Explore whether this ideal age is associated with certain events, moments, or situations during the life course.
- Some women tell us that they have always wanted to have children, while others recall a specific moment when they began to desire children. In your case, how was it?
- Could you tell me how you made the decision to have a child? Explore: How old were you, how did the pregnancy happen, what do you remember about that moment? What was your relationship with your partner like? (for those who were in a relationship at the moment of the pregnancy)
- Do you have friends, sisters or close relatives who became mothers? What do you think about those decisions?
- Do you have friends, sisters, or close acquaintances your age who do not want to have children? What do you think about those decisions?
- **(Only for those who currently have a partner)** Have you shared this decision [not to have/postpone having children] with your partner? (explore about her partner's reactions)
- Have you shared this decision with your family? (explore about her family's reactions)
- In your day-to-day life, what changes have you noticed since becoming a mother?
- How do you manage to work and be a mother? Explore caregiving management.
- Could you tell me about some experiences that have been important to you since you became a mother?

7. Contraception

- Are you currently using any form of contraception? Which one? How did you decide that this was the method you wanted to use? Are you comfortable with this method, or would you like to use another one? Where did you obtain it?
- Is your current method the one you have always used? or have you changed methods at some point? Could you tell me about the reasons of that change?
- Have you shared your decision not to have more children/to delay having children with a doctor and/or health professional? Did they support your decision?
- How did you access your preferred method of contraception? (Explore any barriers the woman had faced.) Is the clinic/facility where you access these types of health services/care close to where you live?
- I would like to know your opinion on contraceptive methods
- Do you think it is easier and more acceptable to access contraceptive methods now than it was before? For example, compared with your mother's experience or when you were younger?

8. Access to social programmes

- Do you know of any social programmes available in your neighbourhood? How did you find out about these programs? (Example: scholarships, food assistance, health services, utopias, training centres, etc.)
- Have you participated in any of these programmes in the last year? (ask what type of program(s). What was your experience?

- How easy has it been for you to access the social programmes available in your neighbourhood?
- Do you think these spaces are accessible to everyone in the neighbourhood? (location, costs, hours, inclusion for people with disabilities)
 - o What do you think needs to be done so that more people in your neighbourhood can access these programmes?

End of interview

Application of the questionnaire about Gender Perceptions

b) Script for semi-structured interviews, Women without children

Presentation of the project and purpose of the interview.

Informed consent

Recording

1. Sociodemographic information

I would like to start the interview by asking you some specific questions about yourself.

- How old are you?
- What grade did you finish in school? (ask further questions if they finished the grade)
- Who do you currently live with? Explore the number of people the woman lives with and their kinship relationship with her.
- If we went back to when you were 12, do you remember who you lived with?
- Do you know how far your mother/father went in school?
- What did your parents or guardians do for a living when you were 12, and what do they do now?

2. Occupation and working conditions

(Both current and previous jobs prior to the interview)

- What do you currently do for a living? How long have you been doing that or been in that job? (Explore on those who responds that they do not do any paid work, but sell things on their own or prepare food to sell, etc.)
- Could you tell me how many hours you spend on that job or doing those activities?
- Could you tell me what a day in your life is like, your daily routine from the moment you wake up until you go to sleep? (Explore: how much time she spends on each activity, whether anyone else helps her with these activities, and whether there are activities she does simultaneously).
- Do you have flexibility at work to not attend if you need to be at home?
- Could you tell me how you feel your family perceives your decision to work?

3. Partnerships, dating and significant romantic relationships

Ask about her partnerships/relationships

- Have you ever been in a relationship? How many partners have you had? (i.e. lived together)
- Are you currently in a relationship?
- What type of union is it? (Married, cohabiting)
- Could you tell me about your relationship? (Let her elaborate, but consider asking: How long have you been together? How did you decide to get together? Were there other unions before? how did you meet?)
- Could you tell me your partner's age? What does he do for a living? How much time do you spend together? Ask about her partner's education.

- Tell me how you divide household chores. For example, on a normal day, who does what?
- How do you feel about this division? Wait for her to respond. Then ask: Would you like to change anything about this arrangement? What would you change?
- Do you think there is an ideal age to live with a partner? Explore: Why that age?
- Could you tell me how your family reacted to your decision to move in together?

Control: Ask whether there were other significant relationships.

If she was previously in a relationship but is now separated, add the following questions.

- Could you tell me about the reasons for the breakup?
- How did you feel at the moment and after the breakup?
- How do you feel about this marital situation (separated)? How do you think others see you?
- How do you organise caregiving and domestic work? Who participates?
- In the hypothetical case that you decide to cohabit/marry again, what would you like this partner to offer you compared to your previous one?
- What conditions would you impose on this couple? Explore: in terms of parenting.

In the case of women who are not in a relationship (single at the moment of the interview)

- What do you think about life as a couple or relationships?
- Do you think there is an ideal age to live as a couple? If so, what would that age be?
- Have you ever experienced any comments from your family or close friends about not being in a relationship? What do you think about these comments?
- What did your family think about your decision not to be in a relationship?
- Do you ever see yourself living with a partner?
- In the hypothetical case that you decide to be in a relationship, what would you like your partner to offer you?

Women with a boyfriend (singles)

- Do you currently have a boyfriend?
- How long have you been together? How old is your boyfriend? What does he do for a living? How much time do you spend together, approximately? How do you feel about this relationship?
- If not, have you ever had a significant boyfriend relationship that you would like to tell me about? How long did that relationship last? How old were you? What did your partner do for a living? How long did the relationship last? Can you share with me the reasons for the breakup?
- Does this person support you/did this person support you with household chores? Ask about the type of support received. Do you feel comfortable with this support? Wait for a response, then ask: Would you like to change anything about this arrangement? What would you change?
- Where you currently live, who takes care of domestic and caregiving tasks (cooking, organising household activities, etc.)? What do you think about this division of labour? If you

ever lived with a partner, would you like to change anything about this division of labour? If so, what would you change?

4. Definition of family and changes in family values

- How would you define what family means to you?
- Do you see any differences between how you currently live your family life and the family life you had with your family of origin?
- What aspects do you feel are key to raising and caring for your children?
- Do you recognise any of these aspects in your own upbringing? Are there new things that you identify as important to you in the process of raising your child?

5. Pregnancy history

- Have you ever been pregnant? (Explore with the woman when it was, how many pregnancies she has had).

Control: In the case of voluntary terminations of pregnancy or miscarriages, ask if you would like to tell us anything about this experience.

6. Reproductive intentions and experiences or perceptions regarding motherhood

- Have you ever thought about having children?
- Would you like to have a child at this time or in the near future? Explore the reasons.
- Do you think there is an ideal age to have children? Explore whether this ideal age is associated with certain events, moments, or situations during the life course.
- Some women tell us that they have always wanted to have children, while others recall a specific moment when they began to desire children. In your case, how was it?
- Do you have friends, sisters or close relatives who became mothers? What do you think about those decisions?
- Do you have friends, sisters, or close acquaintances your age who do not want to have children? What do you think about those decisions?
- In the hypothetical case that you decide to become a mother, how would you choose a partner to have children with? What characteristics would you consider in a partner who could potentially become the father of your child?
- **(Only for those who currently have a partner)** Have you shared this decision [not to have/postpone having children] with your partner? (explore about her partner's reactions)
- Have you shared this decision with your family? (explore about her family's reactions)
- What are your thoughts on motherhood?
- Could you share some experiences that are important to you, that you identify with, that have influenced your decision not to have children until now?

7. Contraception

- Are you currently using any form of contraception? Which one? How did you decide that this was the method you wanted to use? Are you comfortable with this method, or would you like to use another one? Where did you obtain it?

- Is your current method the one you have always used? or have you changed methods at some point? Could you tell me about the reasons of that change?
- Have you shared your decision not to have more children/to delay having children with a doctor and/or health professional? Did they support your decision?
- How did you access your preferred method of contraception? (Explore any barriers the woman had faced.) Is the clinic/facility where you access these types of health services/care close to where you live?
- I would like to know your opinion on contraceptive methods
- Do you think it is easier and more acceptable to access contraceptive methods now than it was before? For example, compared with your mother's experience or when you were younger?

8. Access to social programmes

- Do you know of any social programmes available in your neighbourhood? How did you find out about these programs? (Example: scholarships, food assistance, health services, utopias, training centres, etc.)
- Have you participated in any of these programmes in the last year? (ask what type of program(s). What was your experience?
- How easy has it been for you to access the social programmes available in your neighbourhood?
- Do you think these spaces are accessible to everyone in the neighbourhood? (location, costs, hours, inclusion for people with disabilities)
- o What do you think needs to be done so that more people in your neighbourhood can access these programmes?

S2 Analytical dimensions identified in the in-depth interviews

Dimension	Associated codes
Individualism and self-fulfilment	Travelling Selfishness Professional_aspiration Motherhood_all_consuming Losing myself Education_goal_aspiration
Structural factors and uncertainty	World_problems Spending power Kids are expensive Having own place_home ownership Financial_stability Family_networks All sorts of dangers Sporadic_child_financial_aid
Parenting and care	Responsive_parenting Quality time with kids Parenting_implications No support networks Major_responsibility Co-parenting_share parenting Be good father Family_childcare support No time for parenting Sense of capability Too_young_parenting Age gap between kids
Factors related to partner	Affective-disengagement
	Relationship burnout_relationship strain Partner_unwillingness Partner_absence Intimate_partner_violence Desire not to be in a relationship Pregnancy_loneliness
	Affective-engagement
	We're solid To be on the same page To be married Relationship_certainty Partner_support_security Partner_readiness Check out your partner Care involvement_partner

Note: Codes without underscores represent "in vivo" codes taken directly from the participants' narrative text.
Source: Own elaboration.

S3 Project description

Factors associated with low fertility intentions and preferences among women living in Mexico City

We are two research professors at El Colegio de México, a public research and teaching institution in Mexico, and we are conducting research to identify the elements and factors that lead women in Mexico City to decide to have fewer children or not have children at all.

The birth rate in Mexico has declined over the past several decades. However, most research has been conducted using quantitative data, that is, birth numbers provided by surveys, censuses, and birth records. This information is limited in terms of understanding why women and families, in general, make certain reproductive decisions. Understanding these reasons would help us to propose better programs and initiatives in areas such as health, care, and access to housing, while always respecting women's reproductive rights.

We invite women aged 25–40 years to participate in our study. Participation is completely voluntary and consists of a conversation, in the form of an interview, lasting a maximum of one hour, in a place agreed upon with the participants, where they feel comfortable talking. In this interview, we would discuss the women's family characteristics, school and work participation, use of contraceptive methods, and some aspects of life as a couple. In particular, we will focus on questions about motherhood and how decisions were made regarding whether or not to have children. Two researchers will conduct interviews. We will sometimes have a research assistant, but only one of us will be present for each interview. Participants have the right to withdraw from the study at any time and are not obliged to answer any of our questions.

The information provided will be kept confidential and anonymous. We can use a pseudonym with which the participant wishes to identify herself to protect her identity. We would like to audio record the conversation if the participant allows it. The audio will be transcribed, removing any proper names or places. Once transcribed, the audio recordings will be deleted from all devices. The handling of information will be the responsibility of the researchers in charge, and only we will have access to it.

As a result of this research, we hope to publish some of our findings in specialized academic journals, for which we will use excerpts from interviews. These findings will be shared with participants who wish to see them. If any additional questions arise during or after the interview, both researchers will be happy to answer them.

Dr. Nathaly Llanes Díaz, nllanes@colmex.mx
Dr. Paula Martes Camargo, pmartes@colmex.mx

INFORMED CONSENT

I declare that the researchers in charge read the project description and explained the research. They also satisfactorily answered my questions regarding the study. They indicated that my participation is voluntary, that I can withdraw at any time, and that I am not obliged to answer any questions I do not wish to answer. I have been informed that the information I provide will be recorded on audio and that my anonymity will be guaranteed, as well as that of my family members (if applicable). I am aware that the information I provide will be confidential and used for academic purposes only.

I am aware that my participation does not involve any risk to me or my family and that no financial compensation is provided.

I voluntarily consent to participate in this study.

Date

Signature

References

- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) (1992). *Encuesta Nacional de la Dinámica Demográfica (ENADID) 1992*. Retrieved 21 January 2025 from <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/enadid/1992/>
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) (1997). *Encuesta Nacional de la Dinámica Demográfica (ENADID) 1997*. Retrieved 21 January 2025 from <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/enadid/1997/>
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) (2009). *Encuesta Nacional de la Dinámica Demográfica (ENADID) 2009*. Retrieved 21 January 2025 from <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/enadid/2009/>
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) (2014). *Encuesta Nacional de la Dinámica Demográfica (ENADID) 2014*. Retrieved 21 January 2025 from <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/enadid/2014/>
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) (2018). *Encuesta Nacional de la Dinámica Demográfica (ENADID) 2018*. Retrieved 21 January 2025 from <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/enadid/2018/>
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) (2023). *Encuesta Nacional de la Dinámica Demográfica (ENADID) 2023*. Retrieved 21 January 2025 from <https://www.inegi.org.mx/programas/enadid/2023/>