

# People's policy project: Family fun pack <sup>[1]</sup>

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## AVAILABILITY

Access full PDF online <sup>[2]</sup>

## EXCERPTS from the Introduction

Relative to its European peers, the United States spends virtually nothing on benefits for families with children. This dearth of family benefits leads to two cruel outcomes: it denies many people the ability to have the families that they want and inflicts financial ruin on many of those who go through with parenthood despite the lack of social support.

The prevalence of financial problems among families with children causes many would-be parents to have fewer children than they would prefer and causes some to forego parenthood altogether. A recent survey found that one-fourth of people between the ages of 20 and 45 had fewer or expected to have fewer children than they wanted. The most common reasons were economic: 64 percent said child care is too expensive; 44 percent said they can't afford more children; and 43 percent said they waited too long because of financial instability.

**Related link:**

**Region:** United States <sup>[3]</sup>

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