

# Birth rate crisis? Half of those who want children have waited longer than they'd like, due largely to cost <sup>[1]</sup>

Among those seeking childcare just half say they were successful, and experience was satisfactory

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## AVAILABILITY

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

## Excerpt

Canada's fertility rate hit its lowest rate in recorded history for a second consecutive year in 2023. The spinoff impacts of this are already being felt – with Canada's aging workforce joining a swelling retirement-age population and increasing economic pressure to meet this groups' needs and entitlements.

New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds insight into the reasons behind lagging birth rates. ARI asked 1,300 Canadian adults younger than 50 if they plan to have children, and if not, why? Among this group, one-in-five are definitely (21%) going to have at least one child, while one-in-three (32%) say they may still do so. Within these two groups of potential parents, fully half say that they have delayed having kids longer than they ideally would have wanted. This rises to three-quarters (74%) among 35- to 44-year-olds. The top reasons driving delays are both societal and personal. For many, the search for the right partner has just not borne fruit (40%). For others, however, uncertainty surrounding their finances and the job market (41%) the cost of childcare (33%) and the housing affordability crisis (31%) are all drivers of the decision to wait.

Even among those who are definitely not going to have children (37% of the 1,300 adults surveyed) these worries about childcare and cost are a factor. One-quarter among this group say they decided not to have kids because the spectre of childcare costs was too daunting (25%), while one-in-five (18%) said it was too hard to foresee having proper housing to start a family.

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**Related link:** As Canada's fertility rate tanks, is it time to reform parental leave? <sup>[3]</sup>

**Region:** Canada <sup>[4]</sup>

**Tags:** affordability <sup>[5]</sup>

birth rate <sup>[6]</sup>

parental leave <sup>[7]</sup>

**Source URL (modified on 16 Oct 2024):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/24/10/birth-rate-crisis-half-those-who-want-children-have-waited>

## Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/24/10/birth-rate-crisis-half-those-who-want-children-have-waited> <sup>[2]</sup> <https://angusreid.org/birth-rate-crisis-child-care/> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/24/10/canada-s-fertility-rate-tanks-it-time-reform-parental-leave> [4] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7864> [5] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/affordability> [6] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/birth-rate> [7] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/parental-leave>