



The influence of grandparents' proximity on 2nd and 3rd births

Francesca Michielin

Clara H. Mulder



The starting point

Nowadays, with dual earning couples, having children is more and more difficult

Who can take care of our child while we are working?

1st possibility: formal childcare facilities

2nd possibility: informal childcare

Grandparents!



But for being active in childrearing grandparents need to live close



The research hypothesis

Proximity to parents and parents-in-law will lead to a greater probability of having an additional child



Data and methods

Social Statistical Database (SSD)

Register data for all inhabitants of the Netherlands
in the period 1999-2003

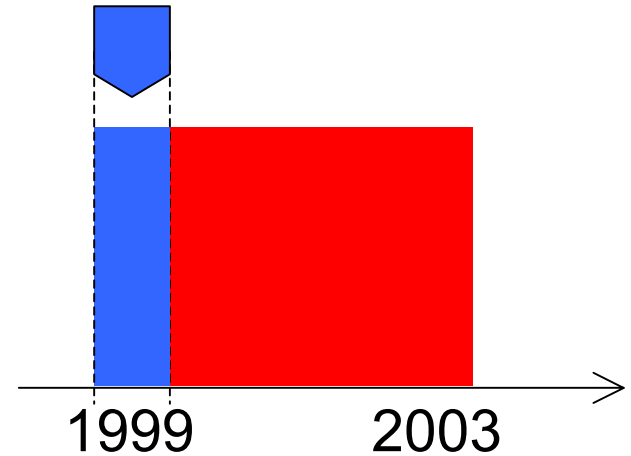
Record linkage between parents and children



Data and methods

Select couples who had a first
(second) child in 1999

Follow them until birth of an
additional child, or censoring
(emigration, couple dissolution or 2003)



Apply event history techniques

- Focus on a homogeneous group
- Maximize the period of observation



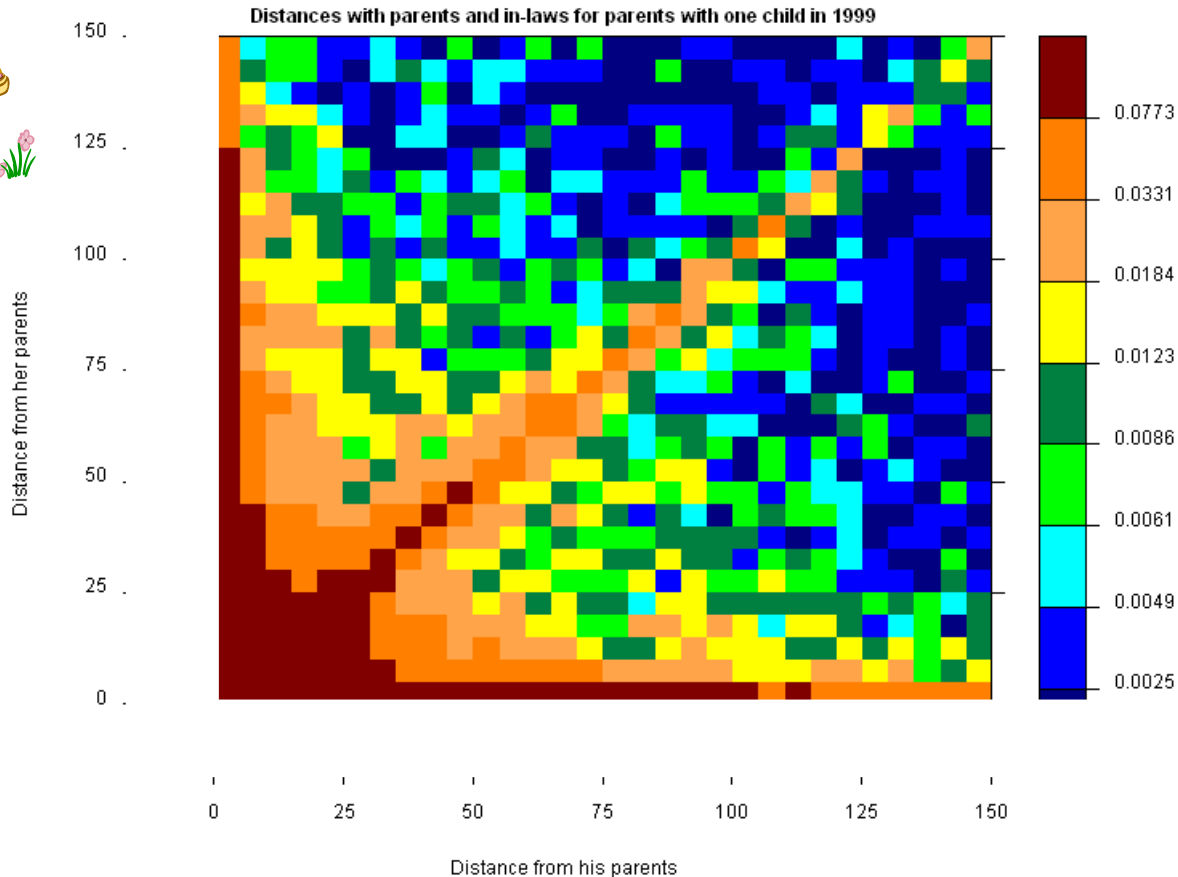
Data and methods

N couples who in 1999 had		% who had additional child
1 st child	82188	69%
2 nd child	63285	24%



Data and methods

Distances between couple and parents & parents-in-law





Data and methods

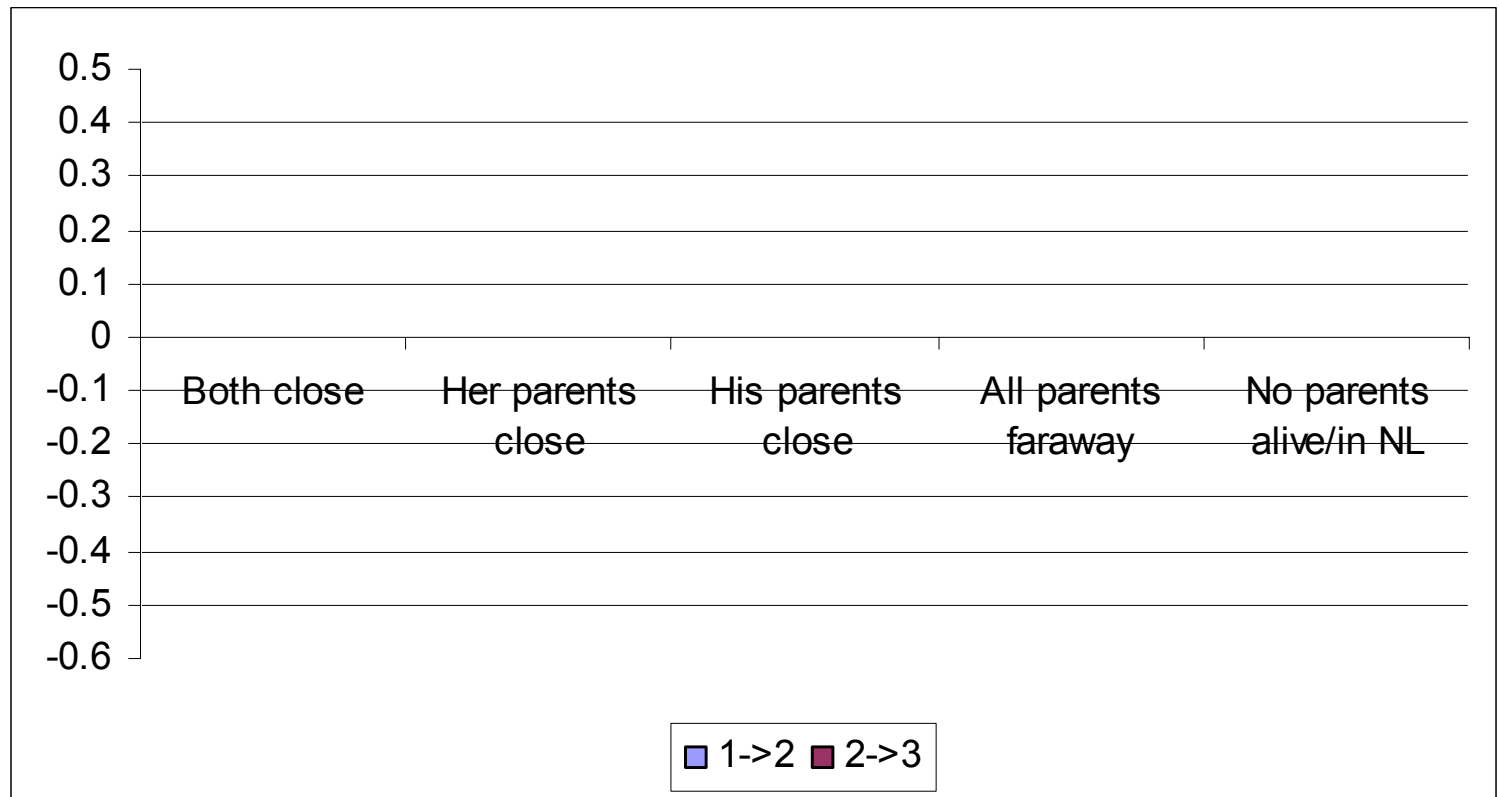
Control variables

- Calendar year (time varying)
- Age at birth of the mother (time constant)
- Age difference between partners of the couple (time constant)
- Working situation of the woman in 1999 (time constant)
- Working situation of the man (time varying)
- Marital status (time varying)
- Maximum level of education within the couple (time constant. University vs anything else; data limitation)
- logarithm of income (time varying)
- Degree of urbanization of current location (time varying)



Results (proximity only)

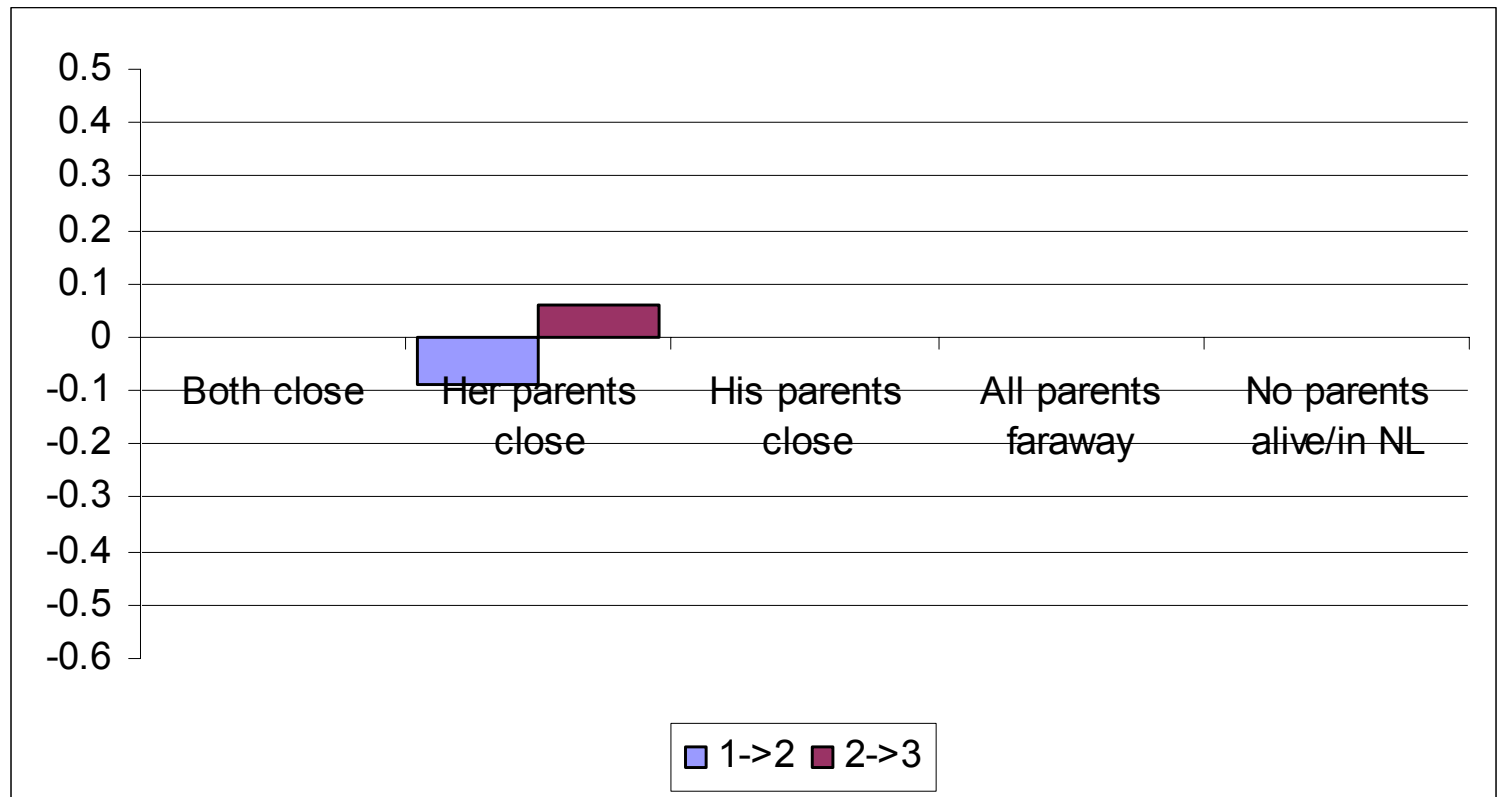
Location of parents





Results (proximity only)

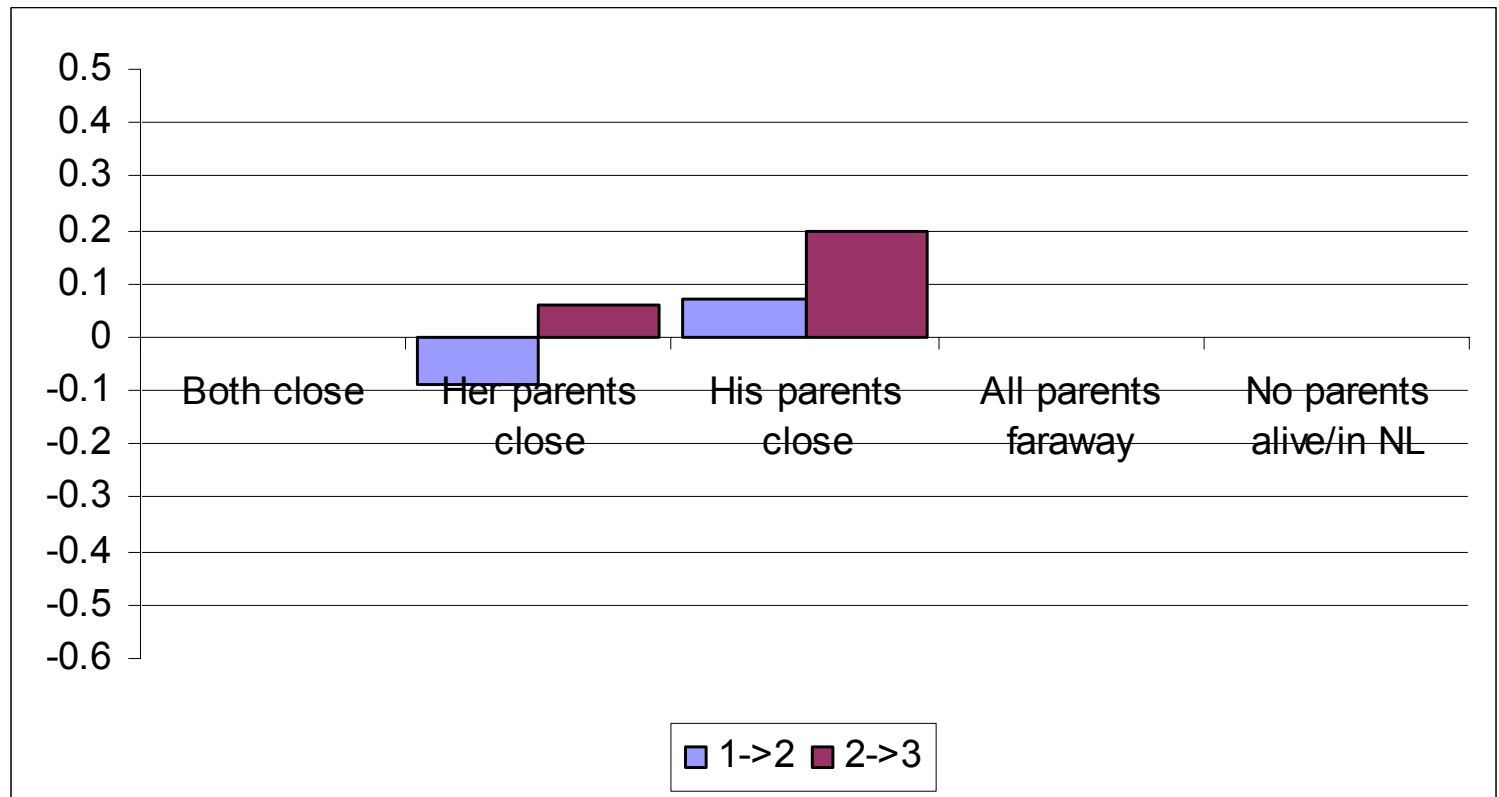
Location of parents





Results (proximity only)

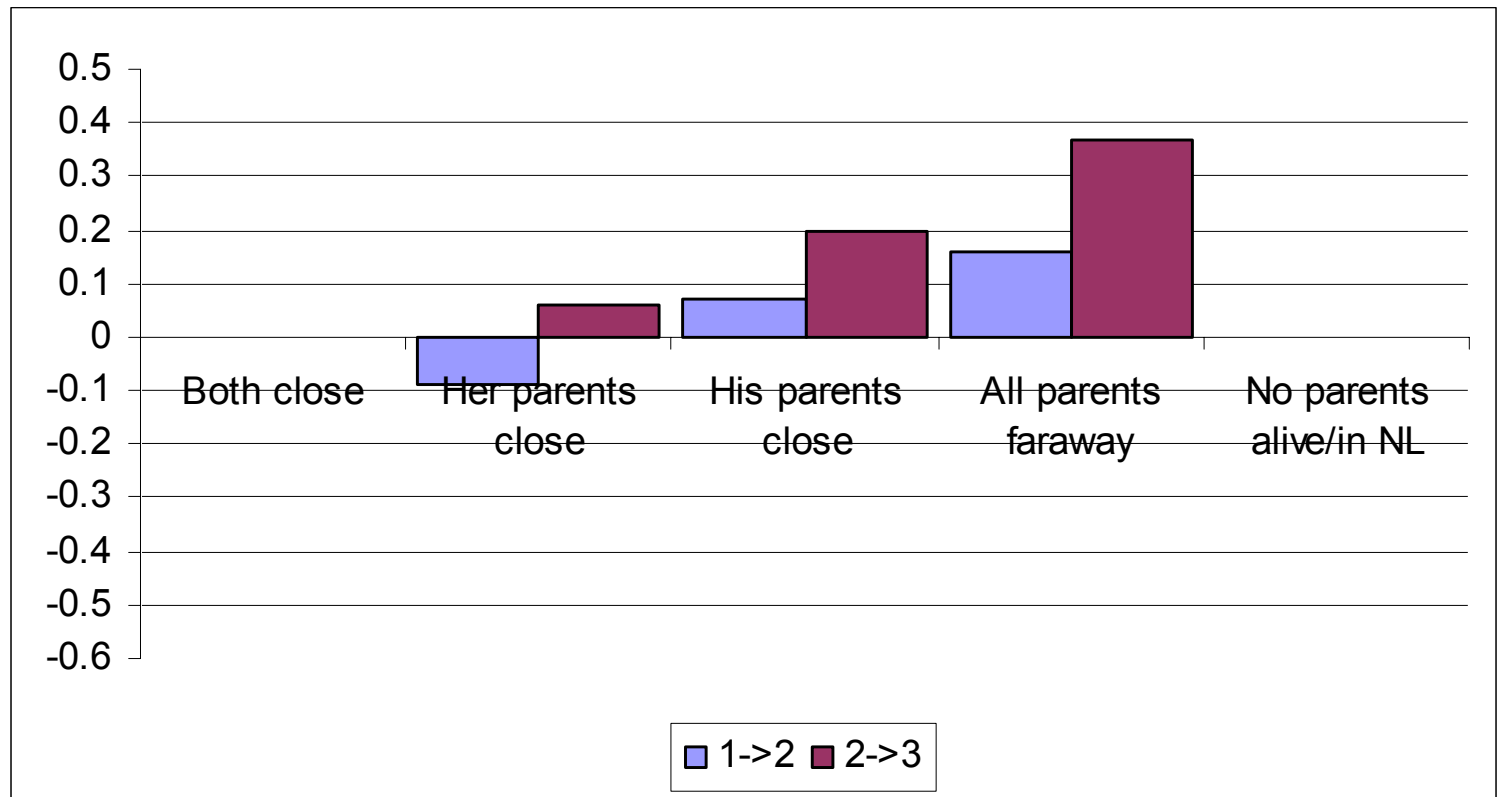
Location of parents





Results (proximity only)

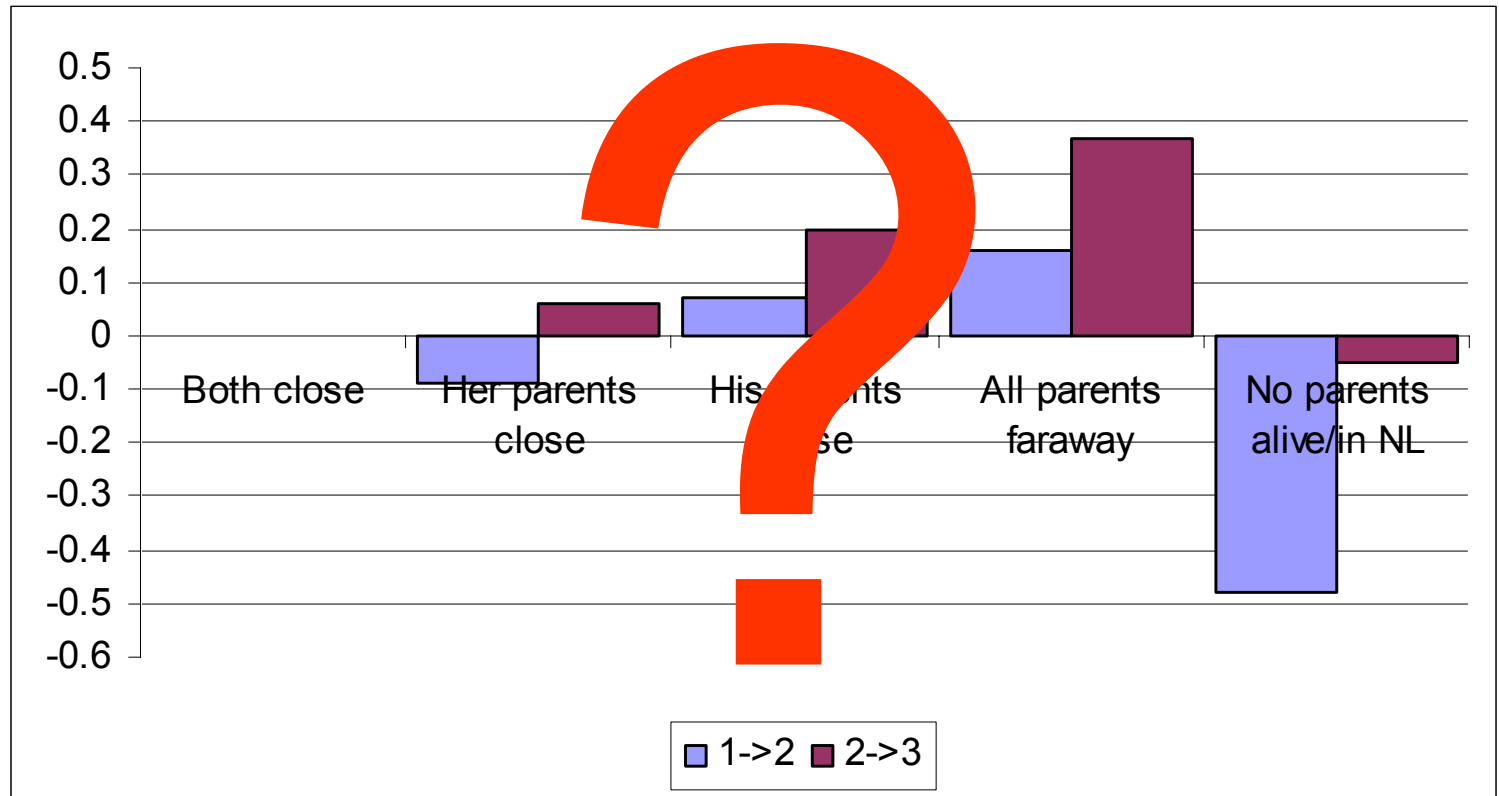
Location of parents





Results (proximity only)

Location of parents





Discussion

Possible explanations

- incomplete measurement of the greater economic success of those who have moved far away OR moving as an indicator of courage/initiative/...
- Endogeneity (location, working status, educ level)
- possible selection effects: those who had a first (second) child are a selective category
 - data on formal childcare are not (yet?) included
 - problems with the analytical strategy?
 - problems with some variables? (educational level, locations)



Suggestions?
Ideas?