

Second generation and family formation in Sweden

Migration contributes significantly to the population of Sweden. Ever since the 1930s, except for a few years in the beginning of the 1970s, Sweden has had an immigration surplus. . The children of the immigrants are now a growing group in Sweden. In 2008 11 per cent of the Swedish population has at least one parent born abroad and the share is assumed to increase. Most of those born in Sweden with at least one parent born abroad have their roots in another Nordic country, Germany, the former Yugoslavia or Turkey.

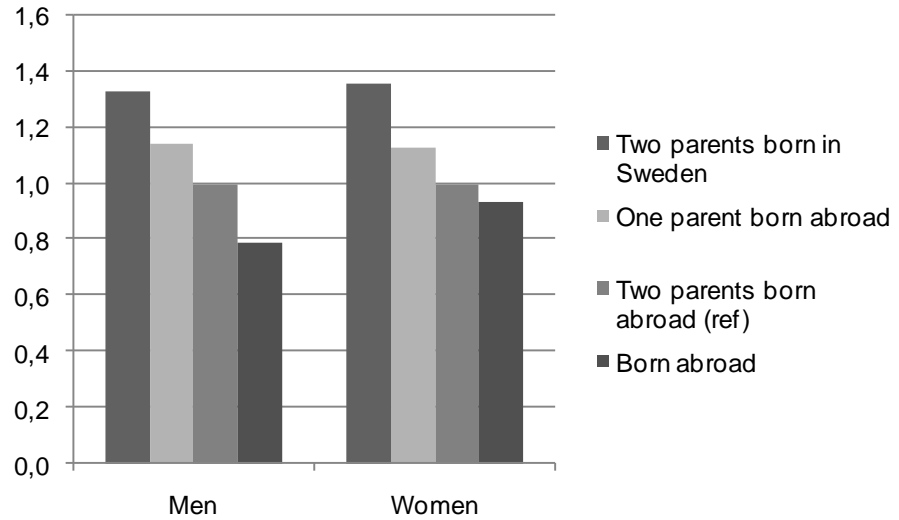
In this ongoing study the aim is to investigate if second generation migrants has a different pattern when it comes to family formation compared to others born in Sweden. There are several questions we would like to answer, for instance: Are they forming a family at younger ages than others born in Sweden? With whom are they forming a family? Is the spouse more often born abroad? And in that case born in the same country as the parents? Are there any differences depending on the parents' country of birth?

Sweden has a high quality register data which are used in this study. The population is divided into four groups; Born in Sweden with two parents born in Sweden, Born in Sweden with one parent born abroad, Born in Sweden with two parents born abroad and Born abroad.

One is considered to have formed a family either when you had your first child or your first marriage. The data consists of everyone that formed a family during the years 2004-2008 and those that have remained childless and unmarried during those years.

The preliminary result indicates that the second generation Swedes with two parents born abroad have a significant lower propensity to form a family both compared to those born in Sweden with two parents born in Sweden and those born in Sweden with one parent born abroad. On the contrary they have a significant higher propensity to form a family than those born abroad. Those results apply both to men and women in the age group 25-40 years. There is no significant difference between the different groups in the propensity to form a family in ages under 25 and over 40 years.

Chart 1: Relative risk for forming a family ages 25-40, by sex.



The Swedish registers don't contain information about people living together without being married or having common children. However when a couple have had a child or have got married, we can follow them backward and see how long they have been registered at the same property.

Chart 2: Age structure of those that have formed a family 2004-2008

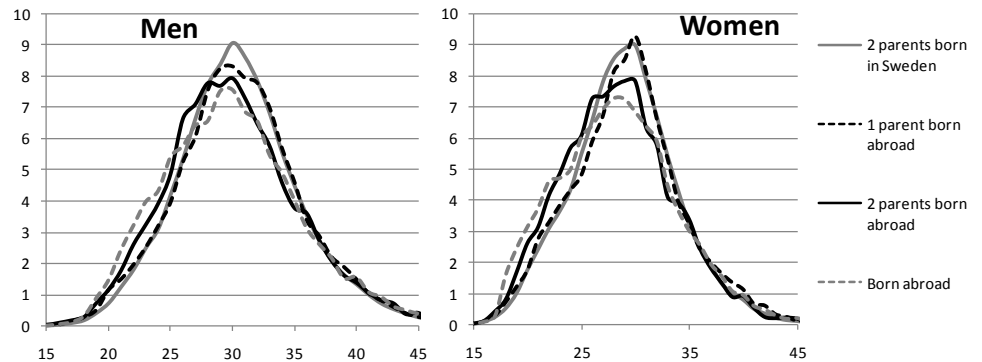
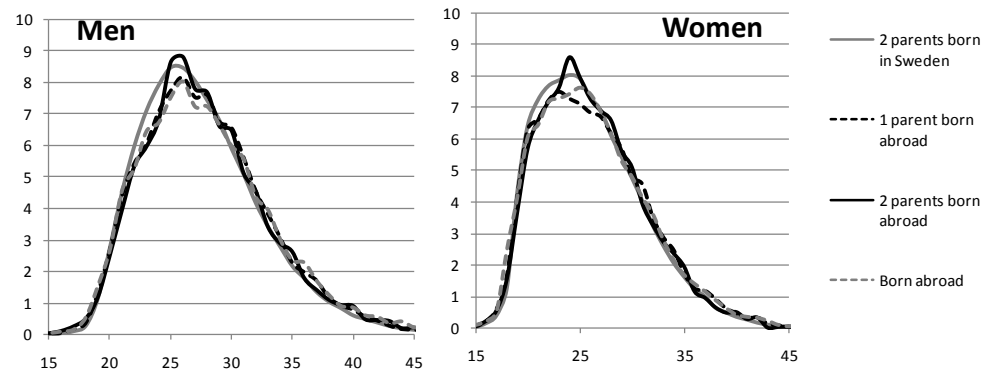


Chart 3: Age structure when they started to live together of those that have formed a family 2004-2008



In the two topmost previous diagrams it is clear that the second generation Swedes with two parents born abroad and those born abroad are forming a family at younger ages than those born in Sweden with two parents born in Sweden or one parent born abroad. If we study at marriage and having a child separately then it is clear that the difference is due to early marriage among those born abroad and born in Sweden with two parents born abroad. When we take into account the age when they started to live together there are no differences among the different groups (the two bottomed diagrams).

The next step in this study is to further investigate the results and divide the group by country of roots. Another issue is who the second generations migrants are forming a family with and the difference due to parents' country of birth. In time for the conference in Vienna there will be more results to present.