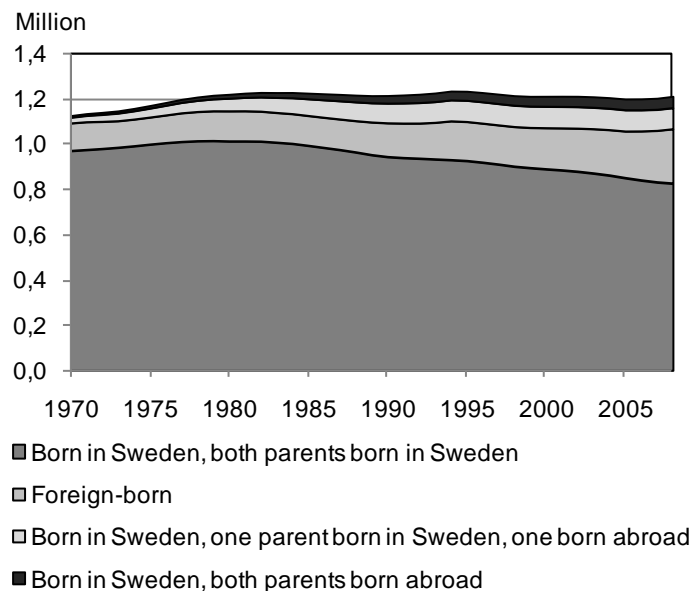


## Childbearing patterns of the second generation immigrants in Sweden

### Background

A relatively high amount of the Swedish population is born abroad. In 2008 20 percent of women in childbearing ages were born outside of Sweden. Other groups that have been growing in size are the Swedish-born with one or two foreign born parents. In 2008 7 percent of women in childbearing ages were Swedish-born with one foreign born parent and 4 percent had two foreign born parents. Graph 1 shows the development of women in childbearing ages by type of background.

**Graph 1. Number of women in childbearing ages 20–40 years by background 1970–2008**

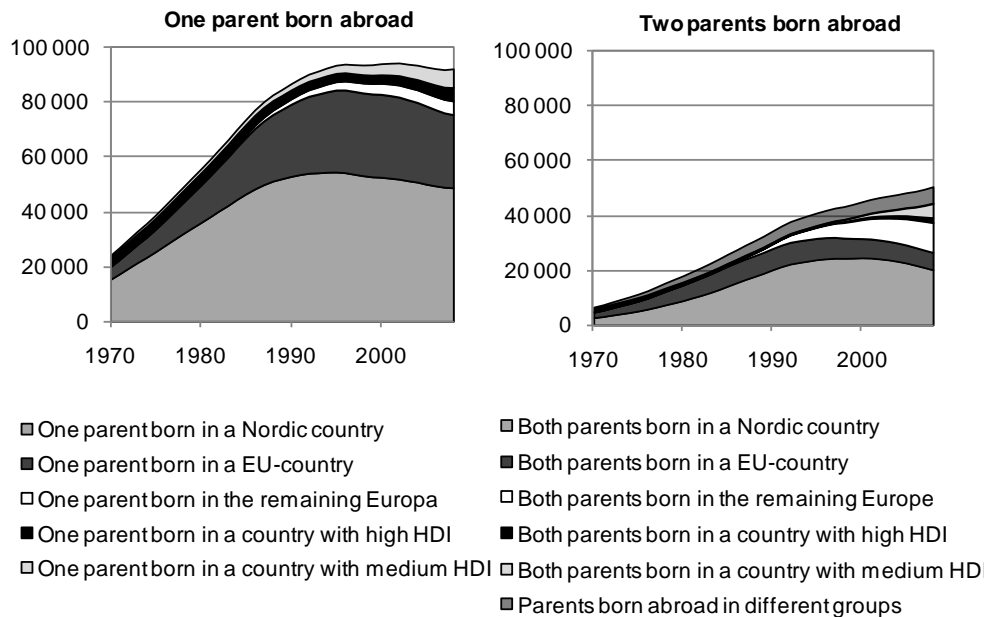


In graph 2 the group with one and two foreign born parents have been divided into subgroups depending on their parents background. The most common is to have a parent/parents with background from another Nordic country. A parent/parents with a background from a country in one of the EU-countries is also rather common. In recent years it has become increasingly common with a parent/parents born in one of the countries in the remaining Europe or in a so-called medium developed country<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> A country's development is based on the United Nation's classification (Human Development Index).

**Graph 2. Women born in Sweden with one or two parents born abroad by parents background 1970–2008.**

*Women in childbearing ages 20–40 years*



**Aim of study**

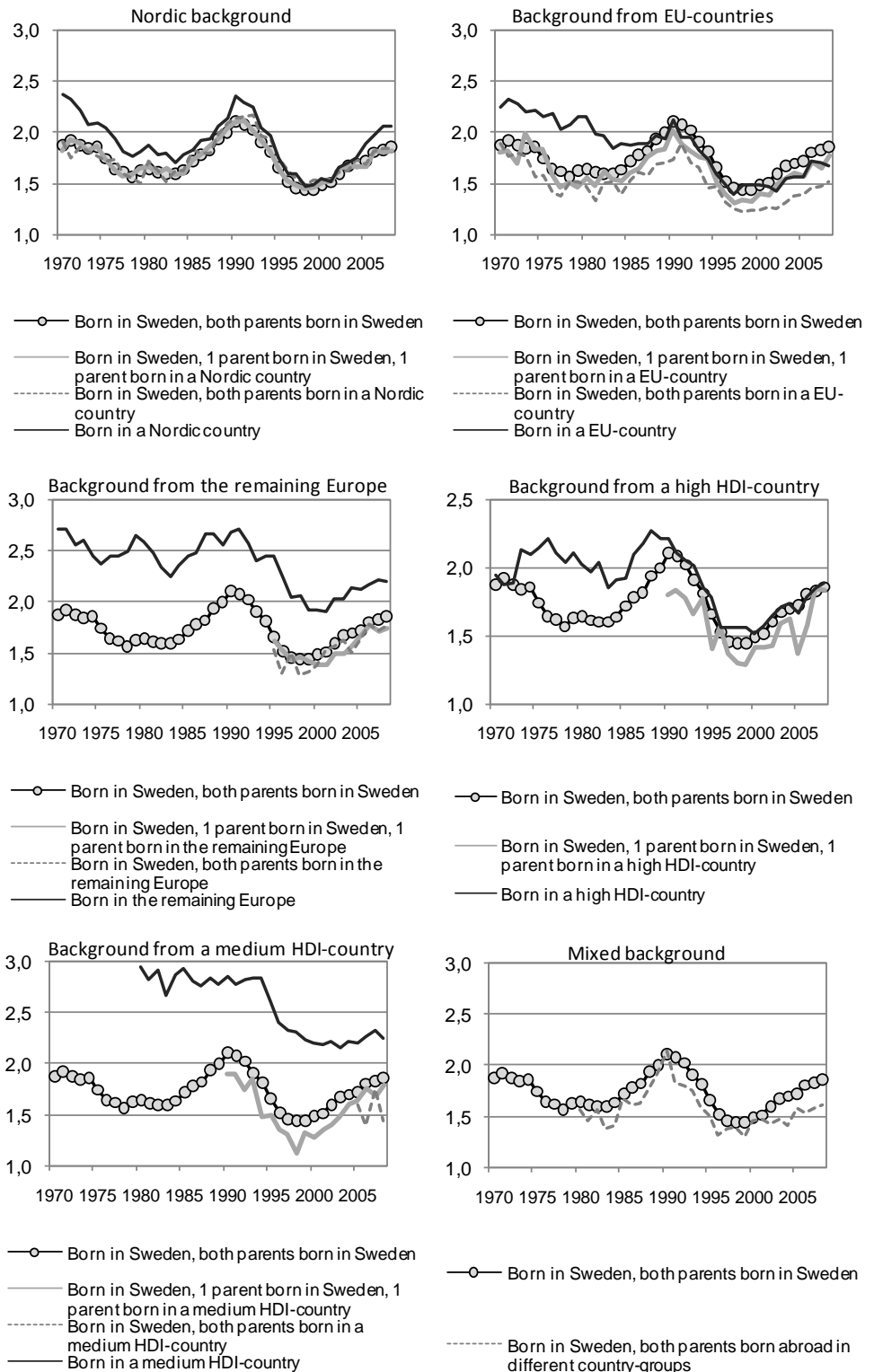
The purpose of the study is to provide better understanding of fertility trends for women and men born in Sweden with foreign born parents. The childbearing patterns of the second generation immigrants are compared with the patterns of the Swedish-born with Swedish-born parents and the foreign born women. Childbearing patterns by birth order are studied for different sub-groups depending on background.

**Data, method and results**

The analysis is based on register data containing information on the whole population from 1970–2008. For each woman there are annual data on age, own country of birth and parents countries of birth. Total Fertility Rates are calculated for the different groups each year. The results are shown in graph 3. Results show that women born abroad have the highest fertility in Sweden (an exception are women born in an EU-country). Women of the second generation have the lowest TFRs. At least that seems to apply for women with parents born in EU-countries or in countries of the remaining Europe. It also seems to apply to women with parents born in a medium HDI-country (Human Development Index). It doesn't seem to be true though for the second generation women with roots in some of the Nordic countries. They seem to have similar TFRs as women with a full Swedish background.

**Graph 3. Total Fertility Rate for different groups of Swedish-born and different groups of foreign-born women 1980–2007**

*Children per woman*



The study will examine whether the lower fertility for certain sub-groups is related to socio-economic factors. Register data on educational levels and labor market attachment will be added. The childbearing patterns of the different groups will be studied with Cox proportional hazard regression

## STATISTICS SWEDEN

models where standardizations will be done for calendar period, age of women and the socio-economic variables. Childbearing by birth order is available, so separate analysis will be done for the first, second and third child. At the time of the European Population Conference in September these results will be available.