



Methodological aspects of Own Children Method applied to the Italian Labour Force Survey (ISTAT) for the period 2012-2020

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The OC Method and the LF Survey

The Own Children Method:

- **Definition:** indirect procedure to derive age-specific fertility rates and total fertility in the years preceding a census or a survey.
- **Requires:** age, gender, relationship with the householder.

The Labour Force Survey data (2012-2020):

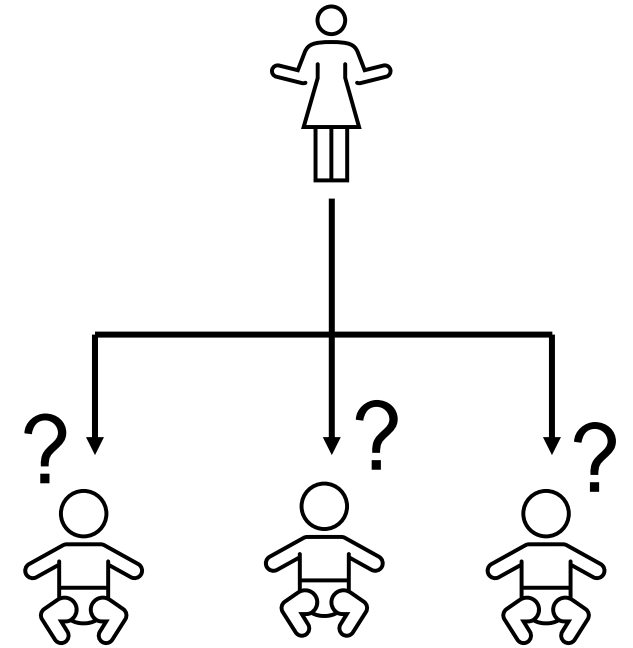
Advantages:

1. That involves a **large sample** of the Italian population, about 1% of the total (250,000 Italian families)
2. **Quarterly** data are available very **quickly**

I computed the fertility rates over the 19 years preceding the survey.

Procedure:

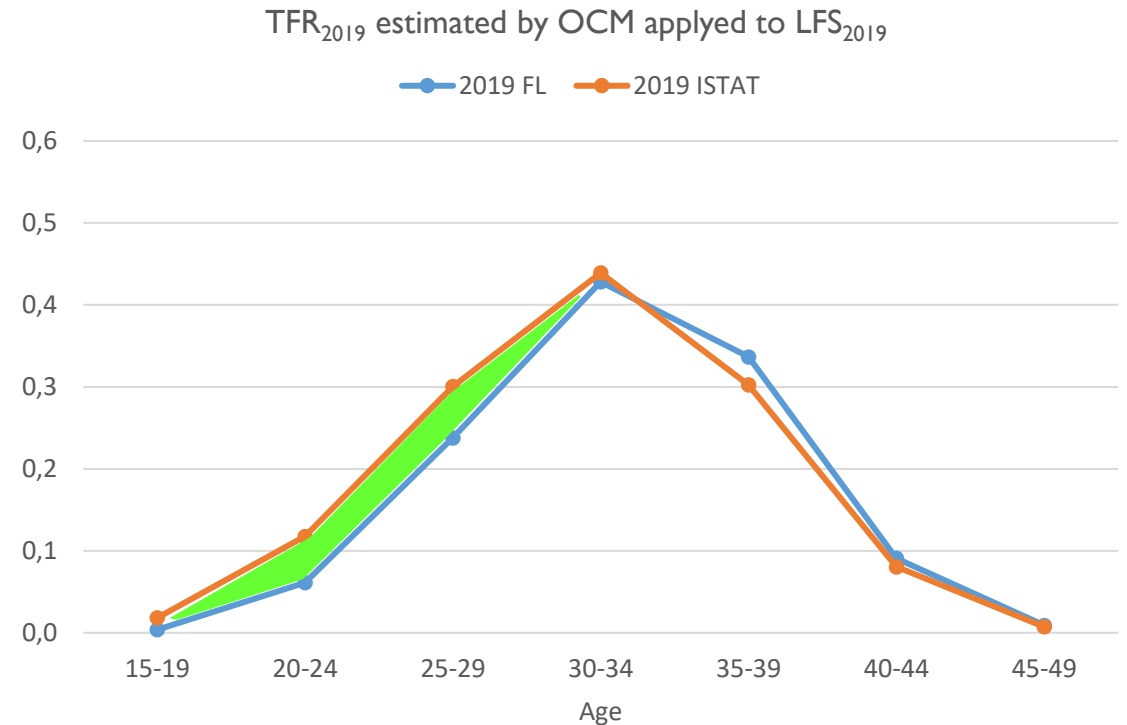
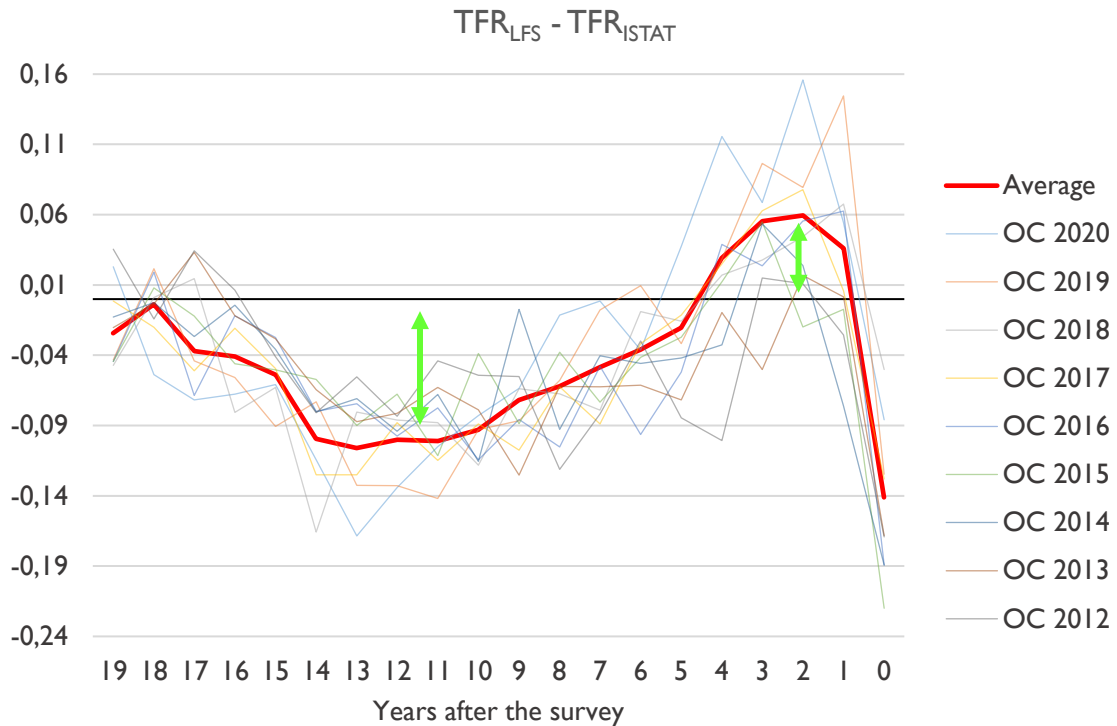
1. selecting the children aged 0-19
2. looking for their mother among other family members on the basis of:
 1. the within-family relation,
 2. sex
 3. age distance from the child, which had to be between 15 and 49 years.



Linkage performance:
only **2,4%** of children were not linked to their mother

Total Fertility Rates

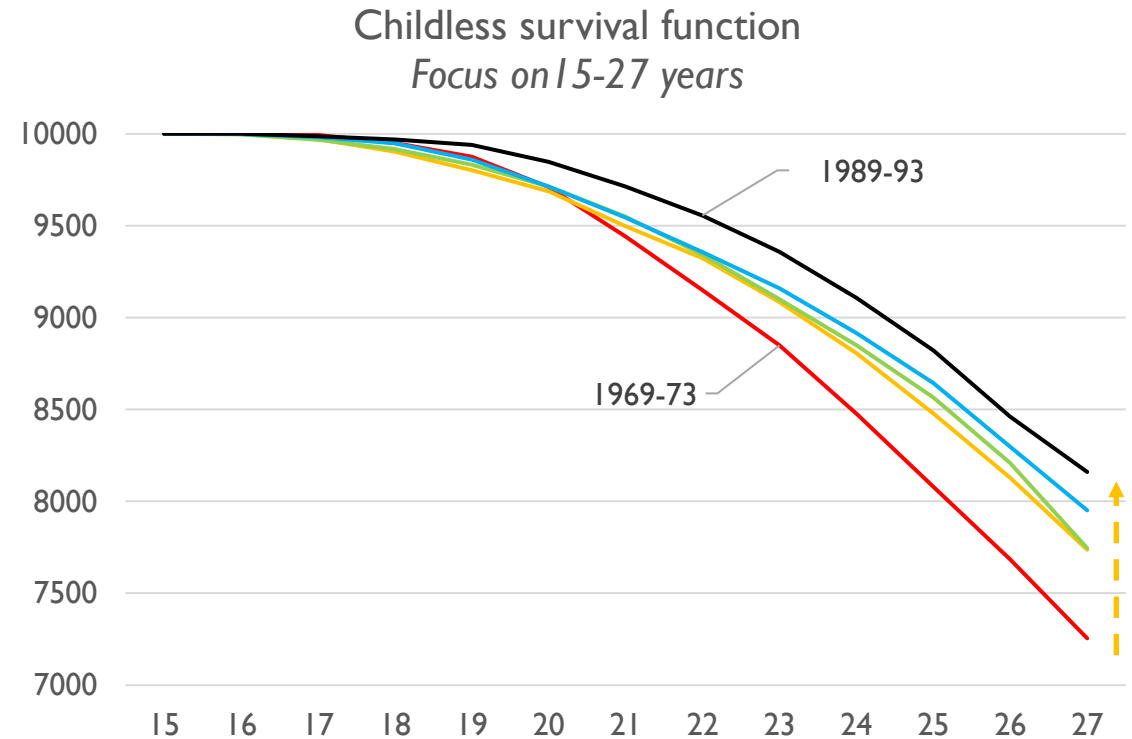
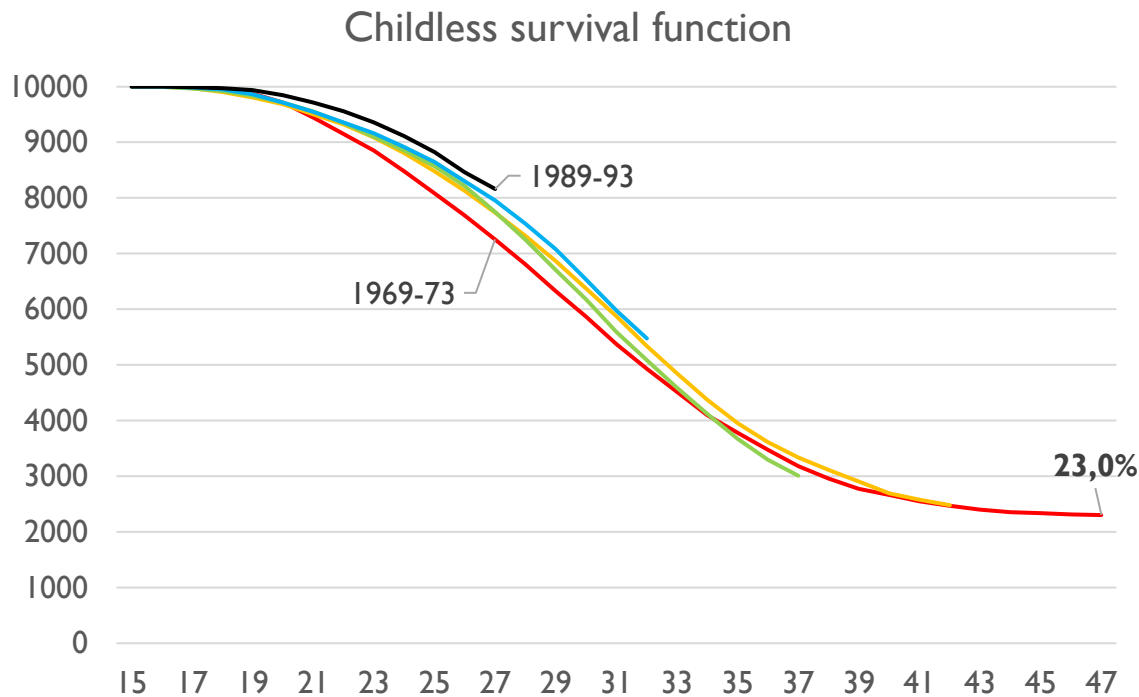
I organized the results into a table, where children were classified by year of birth and mother's age. Then I compared the estimated fertility rates to the ones computed by ISTAT using Population Registers.



For the years immediately preceding the survey, fertility rates are slightly overestimated, while fertility rates for women younger than thirty are slightly underestimated.

Childless women

By these results, for each woman I marked the oldest Own Child as the “**first one**” and I made a sort of [life table for “having a child” event](#). Thanks to the childless survival functions, I can see that the **23%** of the women born between ‘69 and ’73 never had any babies. This value seems to raise with the younger cohorts.



Childless women and differential analysis

For what concerns the **differential analysis** by levels of education and geographic distribution and between cohorts, I can notice that:

- the women with highest **education** tend to postpone the maternity respect with the lower educated;
- the observed difference in fertility behavior during the years are due to the **southern** women, who delay the maternity.

