POPS (2): Survey on the Marriage and Parenthood (M&P) Package 2008

IPS Perception of Policies in Singapore Survey (POPS)

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Acknowledgement

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Background

Introduction

- 2008 Marriage and Parenthood (M&P) Package the latest package of pro-natalist and pro-family measures introduced by the government to increase fertility.
  - Having Children
  - Parenting
  - Work-Life Support

- Enhancement of the 2004 package of measures.

Objectives

- Primary objective of the survey to examine the attitudes of Singaporeans towards the 2008 M&P measures in view of the constant low fertility levels.

- Another objective to examine if the recent global economic crisis had influenced childbearing decisions.

Survey Methodology

Sample Size	• 2010 persons
Sampling Method	• Multiple-stage random sampling with quota
Citizenship	• Singapore Citizens • Singapore Permanent Residents
Age Group	• 20 through 49 years ("Reproductive Ages")
Gender	• Both males and females

Age Distribution

	Population*	Unweighted Sample**
• 20-29 years	• 11%	• 19%
• 30-39 years	• 42%	• 41%
• 40-49 years	• 47%	• 40%

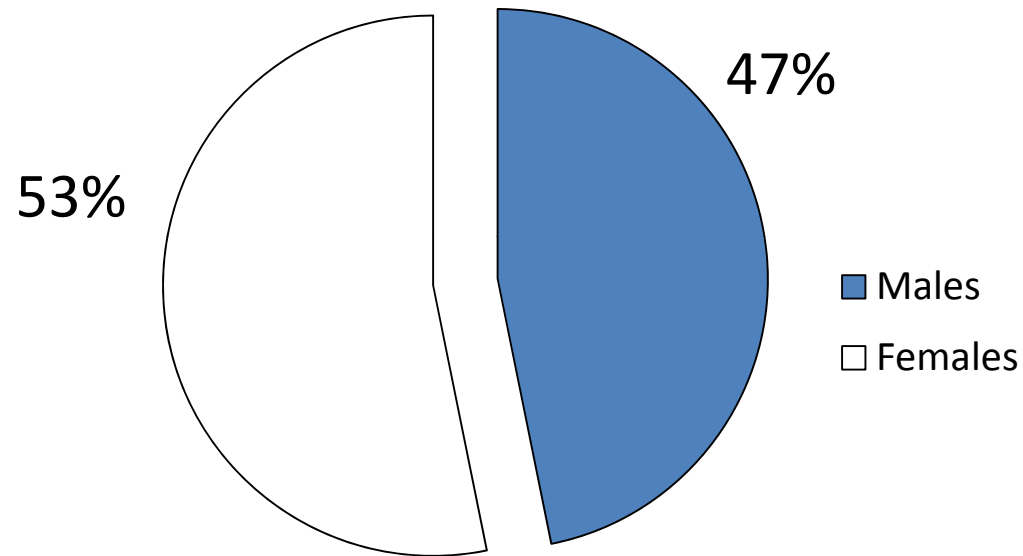*   Actual population distribution based on 2005 General Household Survey, DOS.

** Re-weighted to be reflective of actual population distribution.
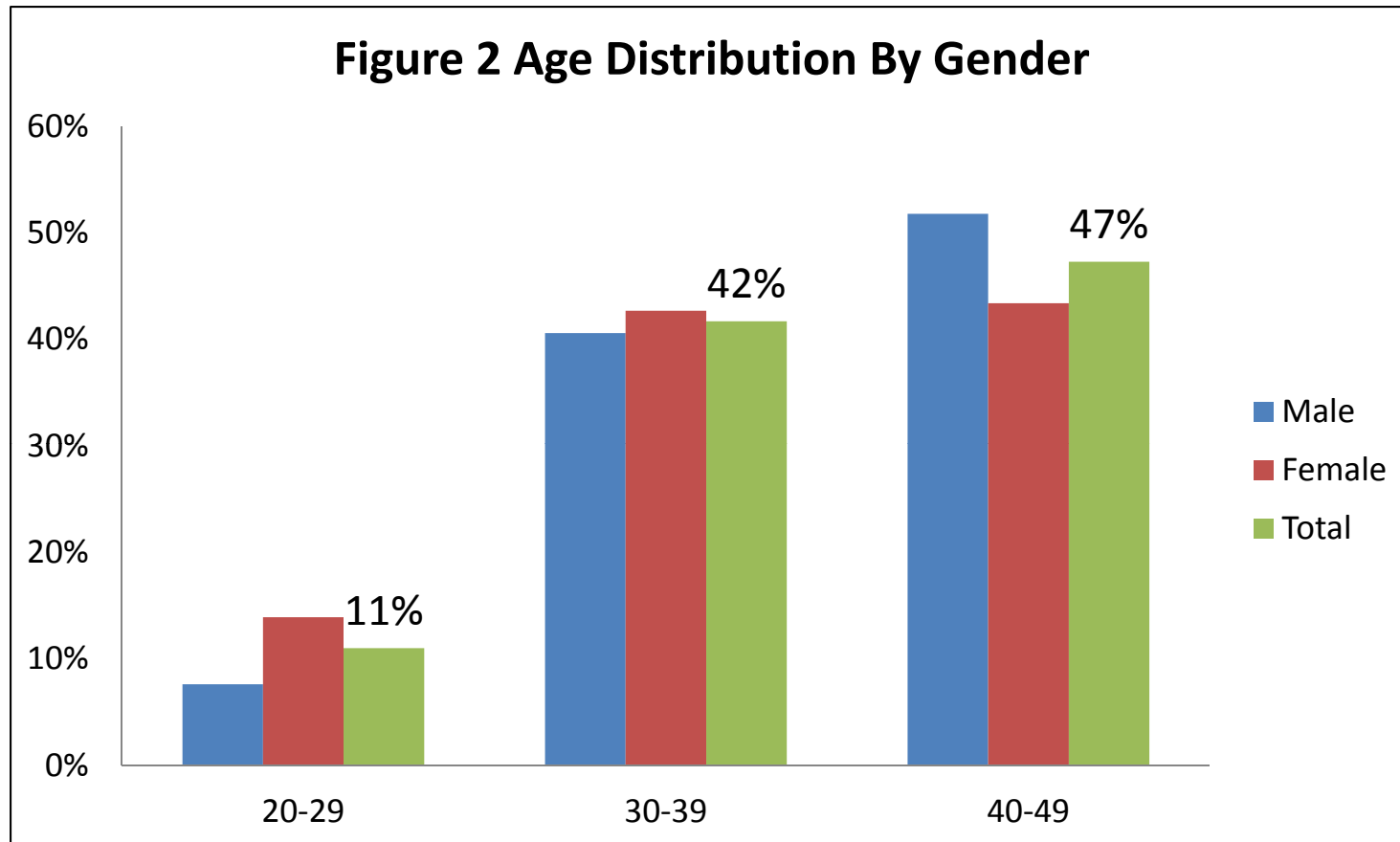
Multi-Stage Random Sampling with Quota

All Households → Grouped into reticulated units (RU) (200 households each) → Random Sample of 100 RUs → 20 persons selected from each RU
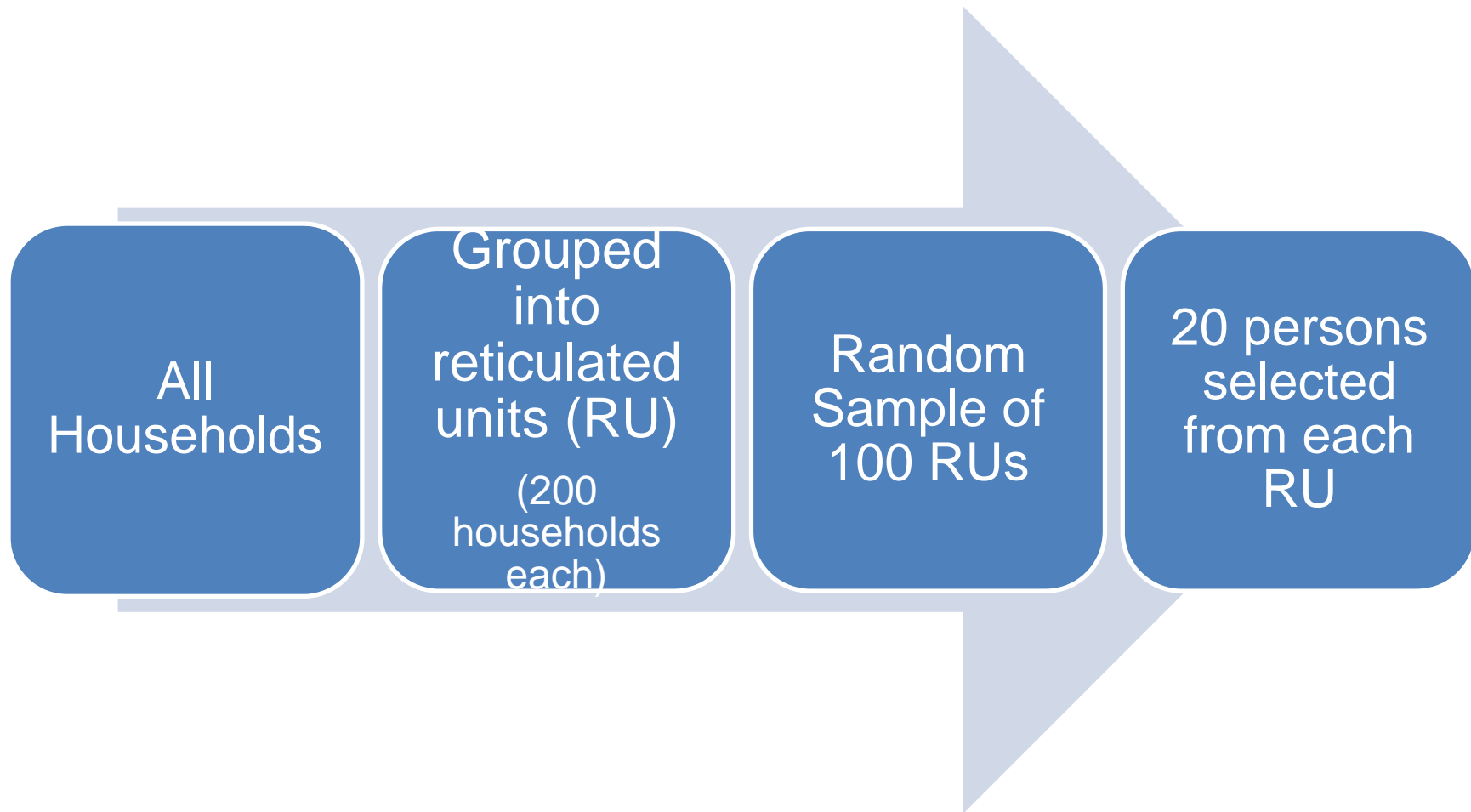
Respondents' Characteristics

Figure 1 Gender Distribution

47%

53%

■ Males
□ Females

Base: Married persons aged 20 to 49 years

Figure 2 Age Distribution By Gender
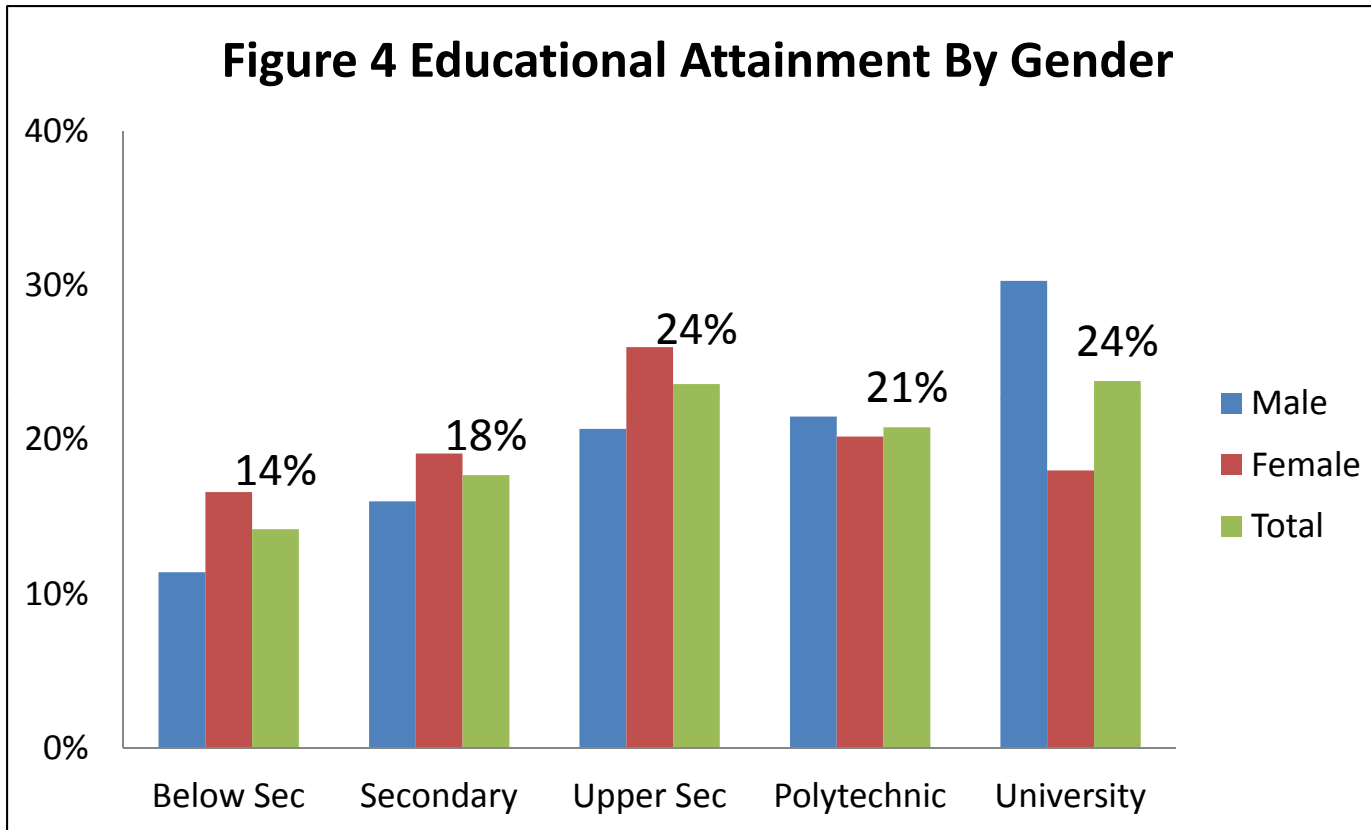
- Age distribution skewed towards the older age groups and would have implications for future births as fertility and childbearing related to age.

Figure 3 Ethnic Distribution By Gender

Figure 4 Educational Attainment By Gender
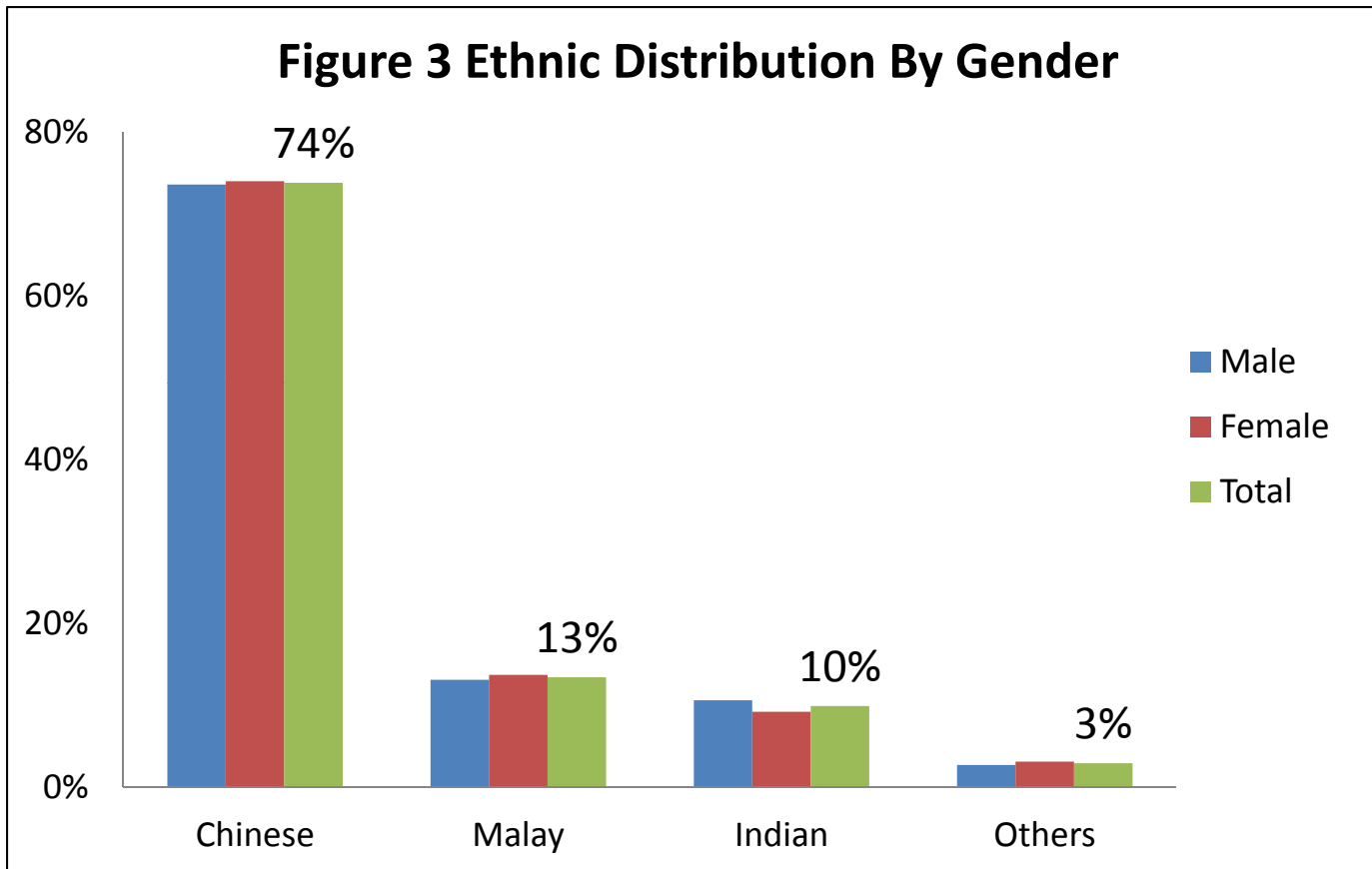
- 69% of the group had upper secondary or higher educational qualification.

Figure 5 Employment Status By Gender
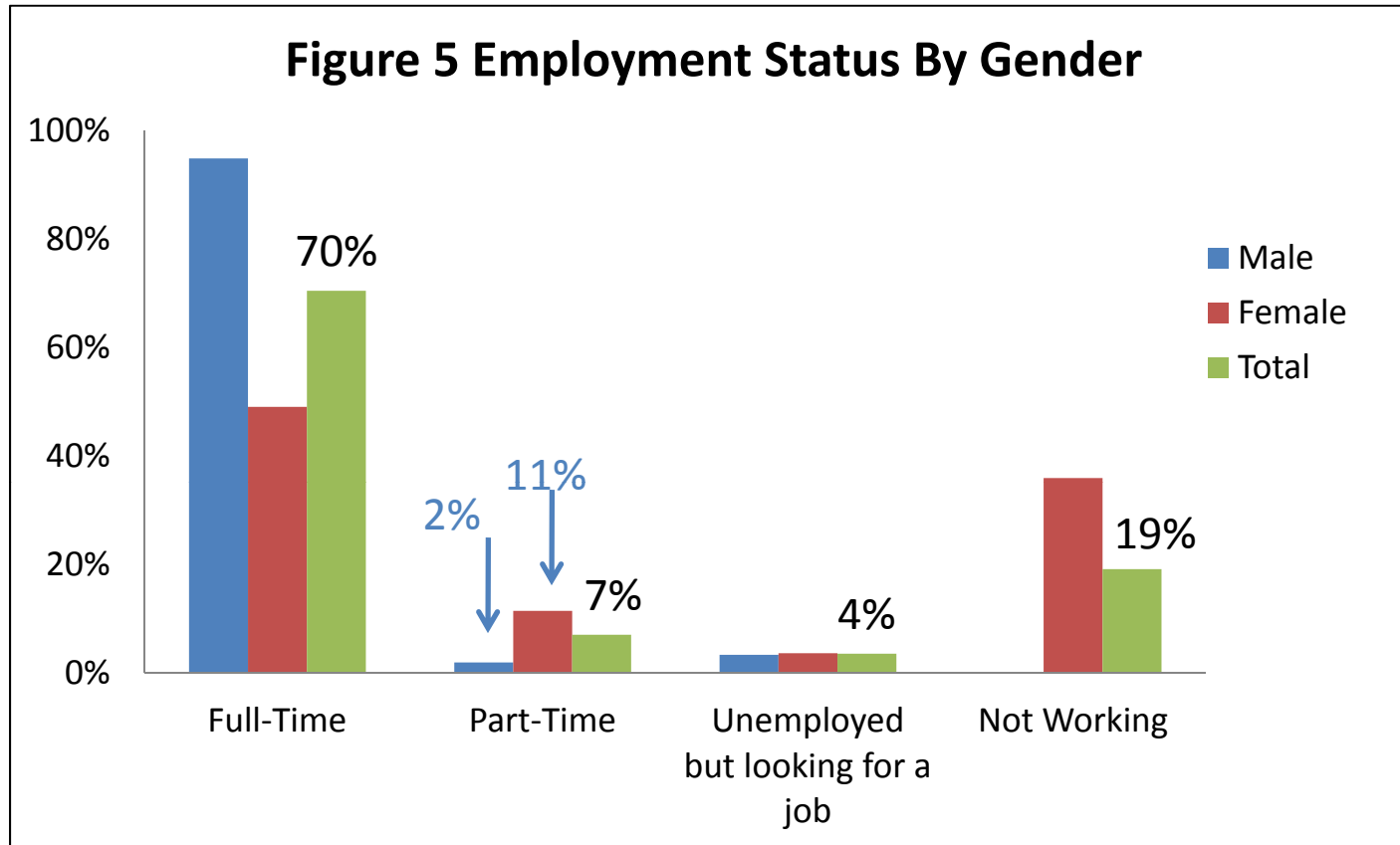
- 77% employed.
- Males more likely to be employed than females.
- Females (11%) more likely to be employed part-time than males (2%).

Figure 6 Distribution By Monthly Household Income
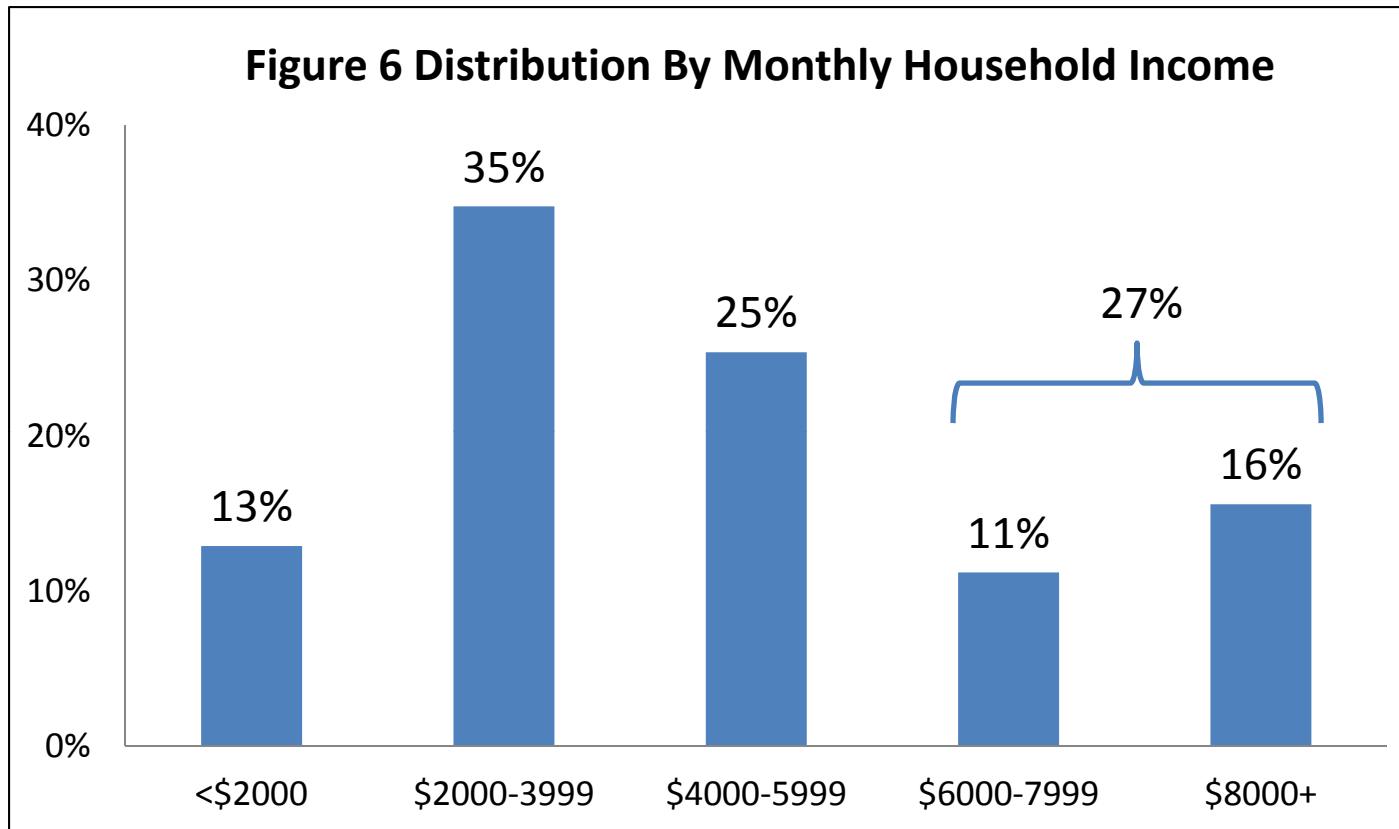
- Median monthly household income : $4176.

Figure 7 Current Number of Children

Average Number : 1.76

Chart data:
- None: 11%
- 1 Child: 29%
- 2 Children: 39%
- 3 Children: 18%
- >= 4 Children: 3%
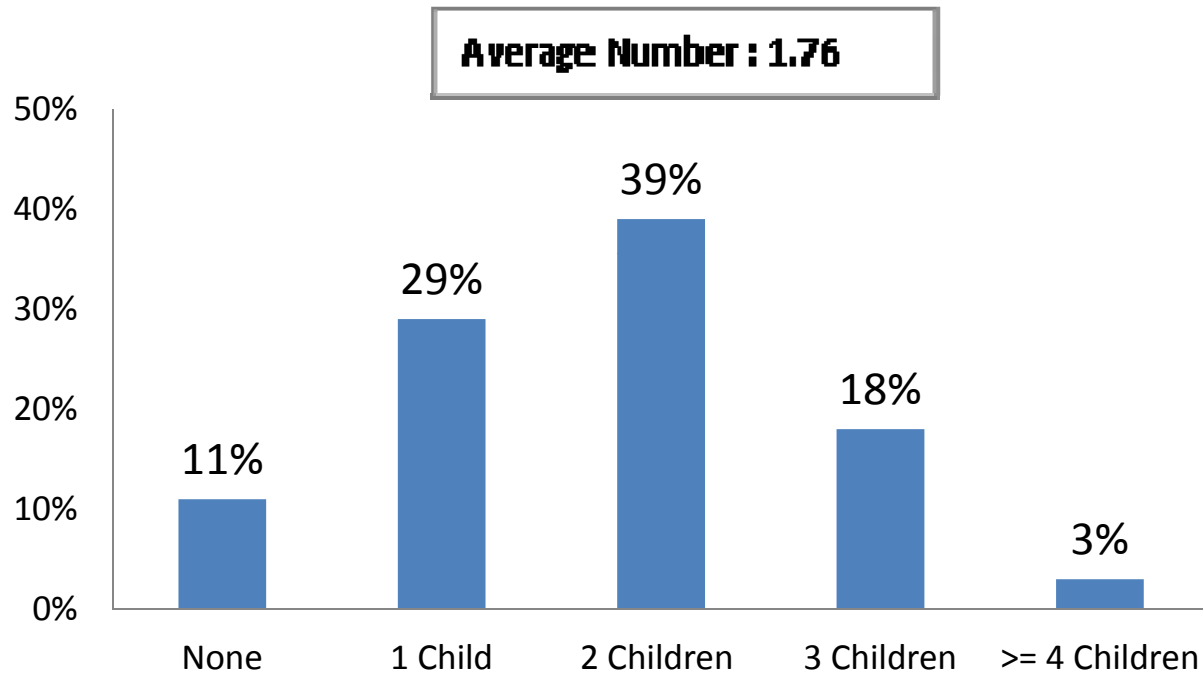
Responses To M&P Package

Whether M&P 2008 Package Conducive To Having Children (1)

**Figure 8 Whether 2008 M&P Package
Has Made It Conducive For
Singaporean Couples To Have Children**

21%

79%

■ Yes
□ No

Base: Married persons aged 20 to 49 years
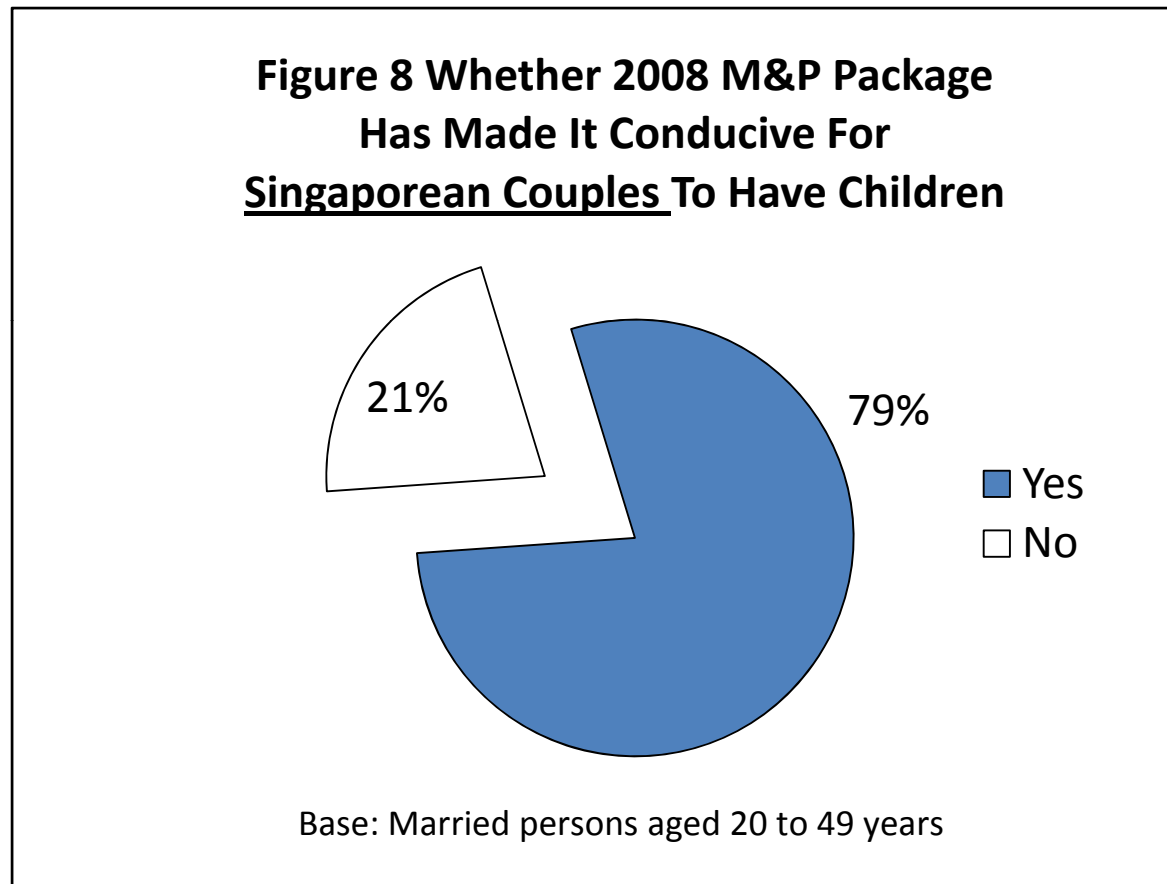
- 79% of respondents felt 2008 M&P Package made it conducive for Singaporean couples to have children.

Whether M&P 2008 Package Conducive To Having Children (2)

Figure 9 Whether 2008 M&P Package Has Made It Conducive For Respondent And Spouse To Have Children

53%

47%

■ Yes
☐ No

Base: Married persons aged 20 to 49 years
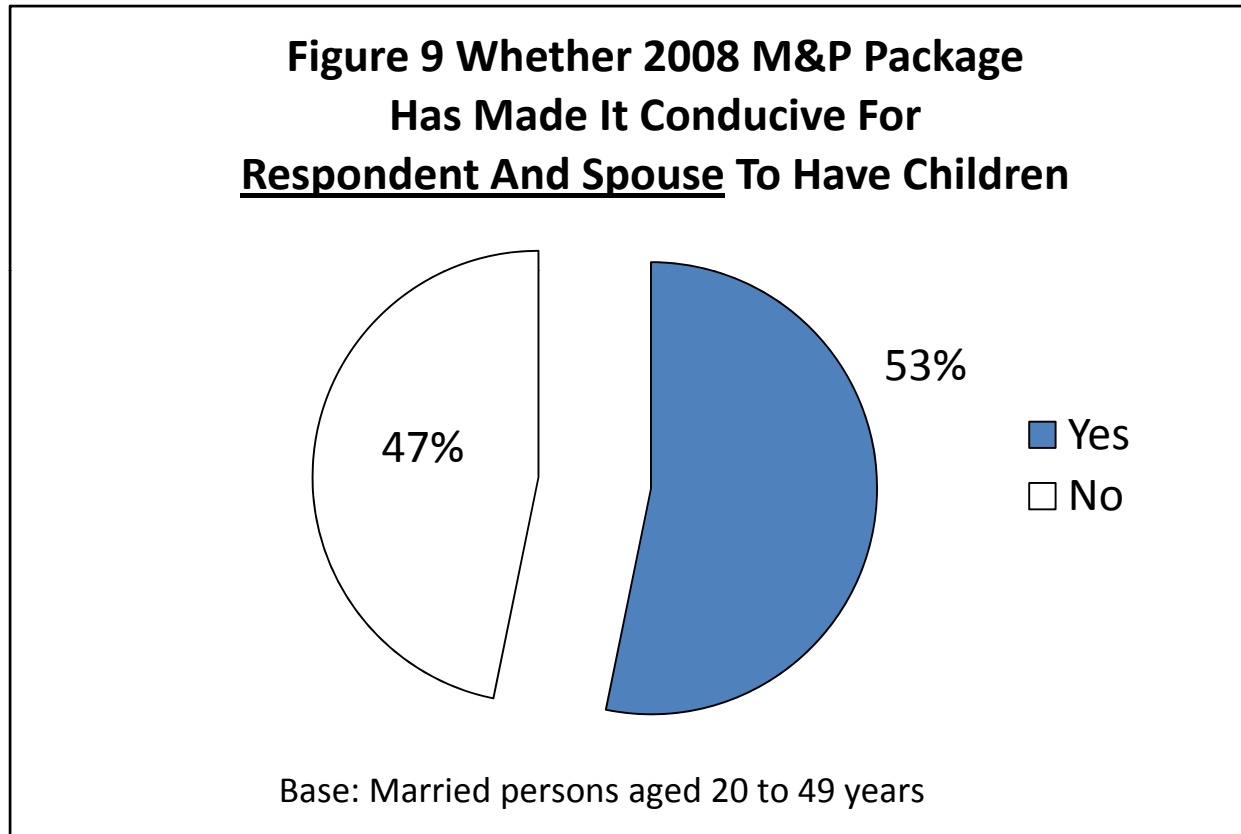
- 53% of respondents felt the M&P Package made it conducive for them to have children.

Whether M&P 2008 Package Conducive To Having Children (3)

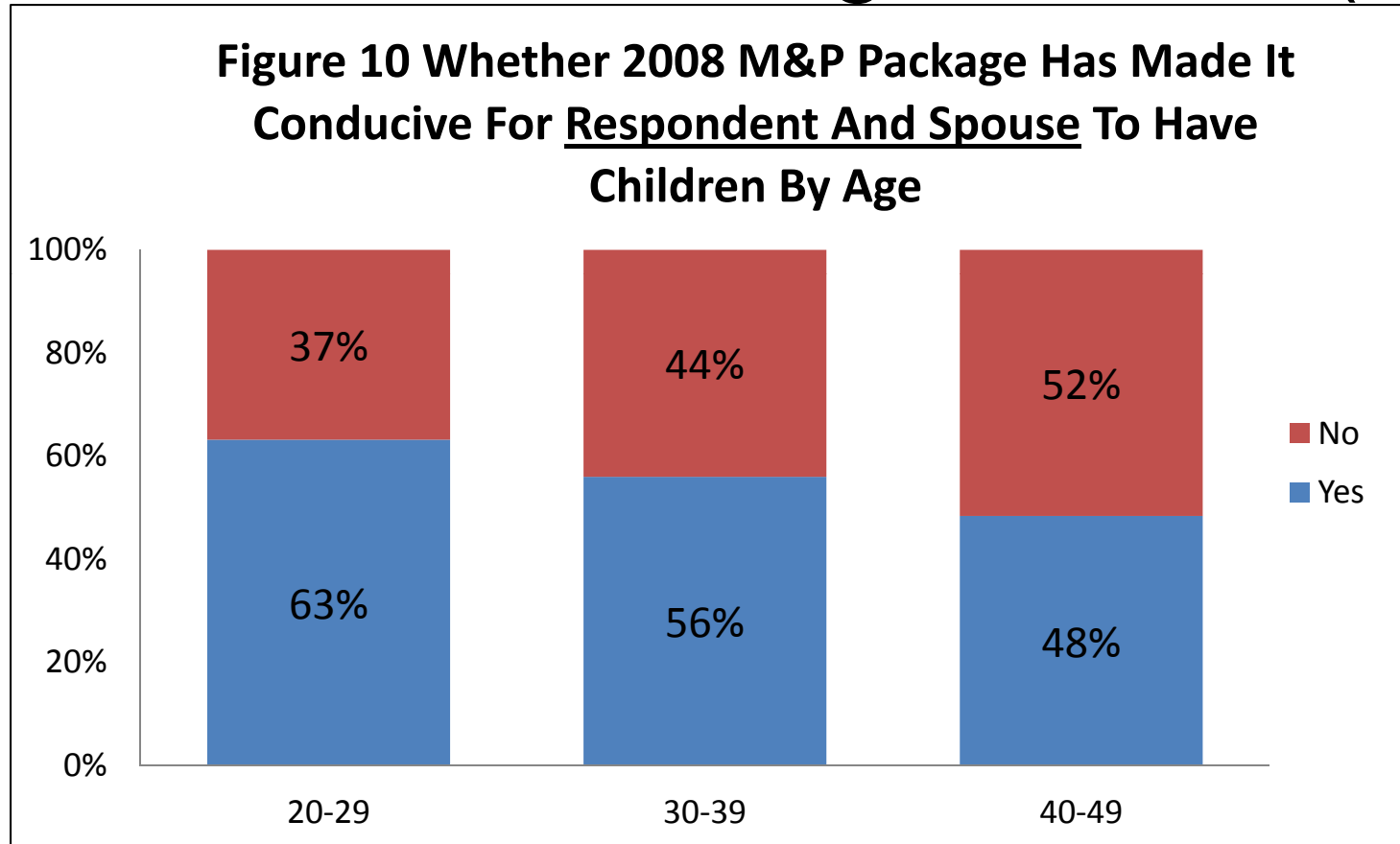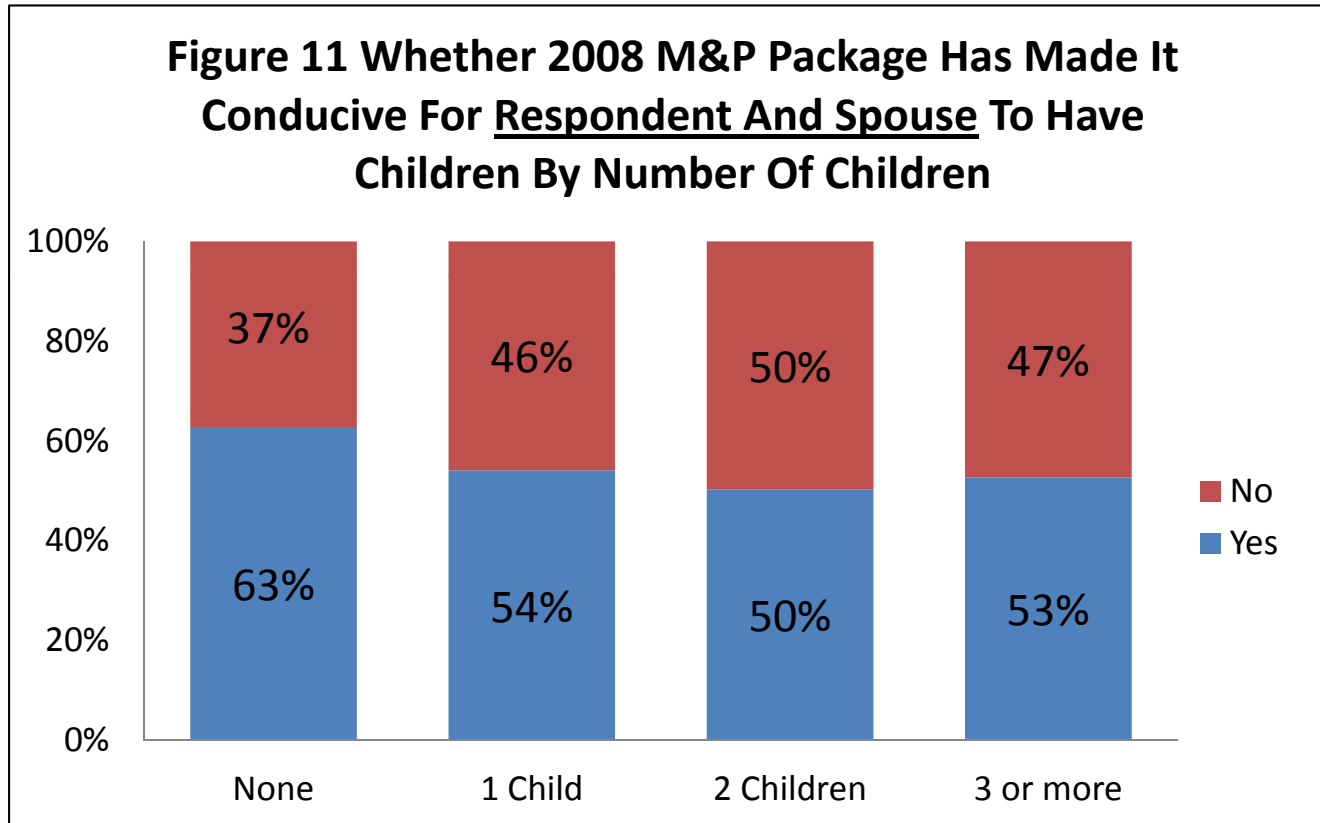
Figure 10 Whether 2008 M&P Package Has Made It Conducive For <u>Respondent And Spouse</u> To Have Children By Age

- Younger respondents more likely to find 2008 M&P Package conducive.

Table 1 Current Number Of Children By Age				
Number of Children	**Age**			**Total**
	20 to 29 years	**30 to 39 years**	**40 to 49 years**	
None	40%	10%	4%	11%
1 Child	41%	36%	20%	29%
2 Children	16%	41%	43%	39%
3 or more Children	3%	13%	33%	21%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
	221	839	951	2011

Table 2 Achievement Of Desired Number Of Children By Age				
Current and Planned Number of Children	**Age**			**Total**
	20 to 29 years	**30 to 39 years**	**40 to 49 years**	
Current Number > Planned Number	1%	3%	4%	3%
Current Number = Planned Number	19%	46%	69%	54%
Current Number < Planned Number	81%	51%	28%	43%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
	221	839	950	2010

- Most of the youngest respondents had no children or only one child and had not completed their families whereas most of the respondents aged 40 to 49 years had two or more children and had completed their families.

Whether M&P 2008 Package Conducive To Having Children(4)

Figure 11 Whether 2008 M&P Package Has Made It Conducive For **Respondent And Spouse** To Have Children By Number Of Children

- 63% of respondents with no children felt that 2008 M&P Package made it more conducive for them to have children.

Whether M&P 2008 Package Conducive To Having Children(5)

Figure 12 Whether 2008 M&P Package Has Made It Conducive For **Respondent And Spouse** To Have Children By Monthly Household Income
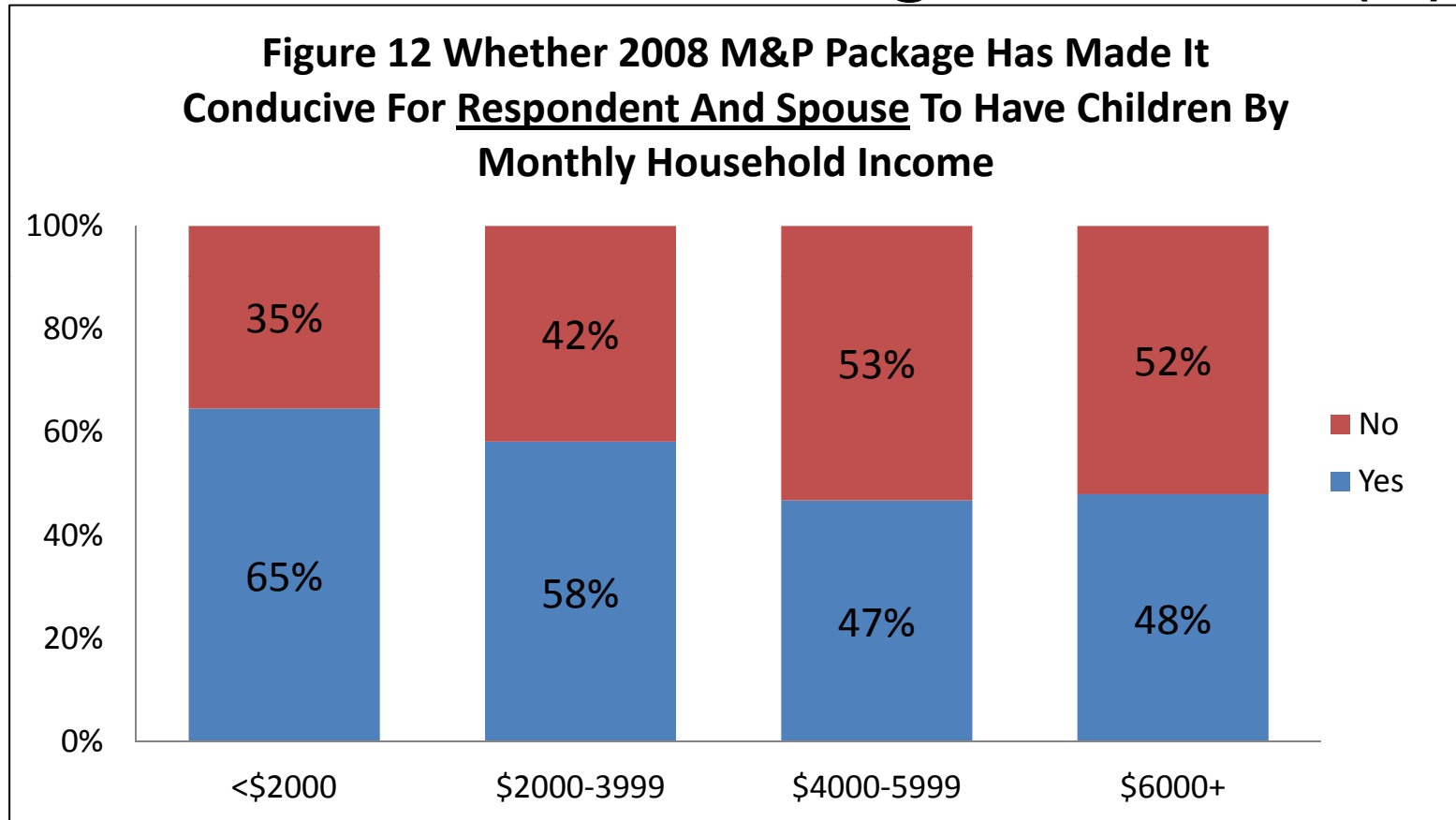
- Package appealed more to respondents with monthly incomes of less than $4000 than those with higher incomes.

Whether M&P 2008 Package Conducive To Having Children(6)

Figure 13 Whether 2008 M&P Package Has Made It Conducive For <u>Respondent And Spouse</u> To Have Children By Pregnancy Status
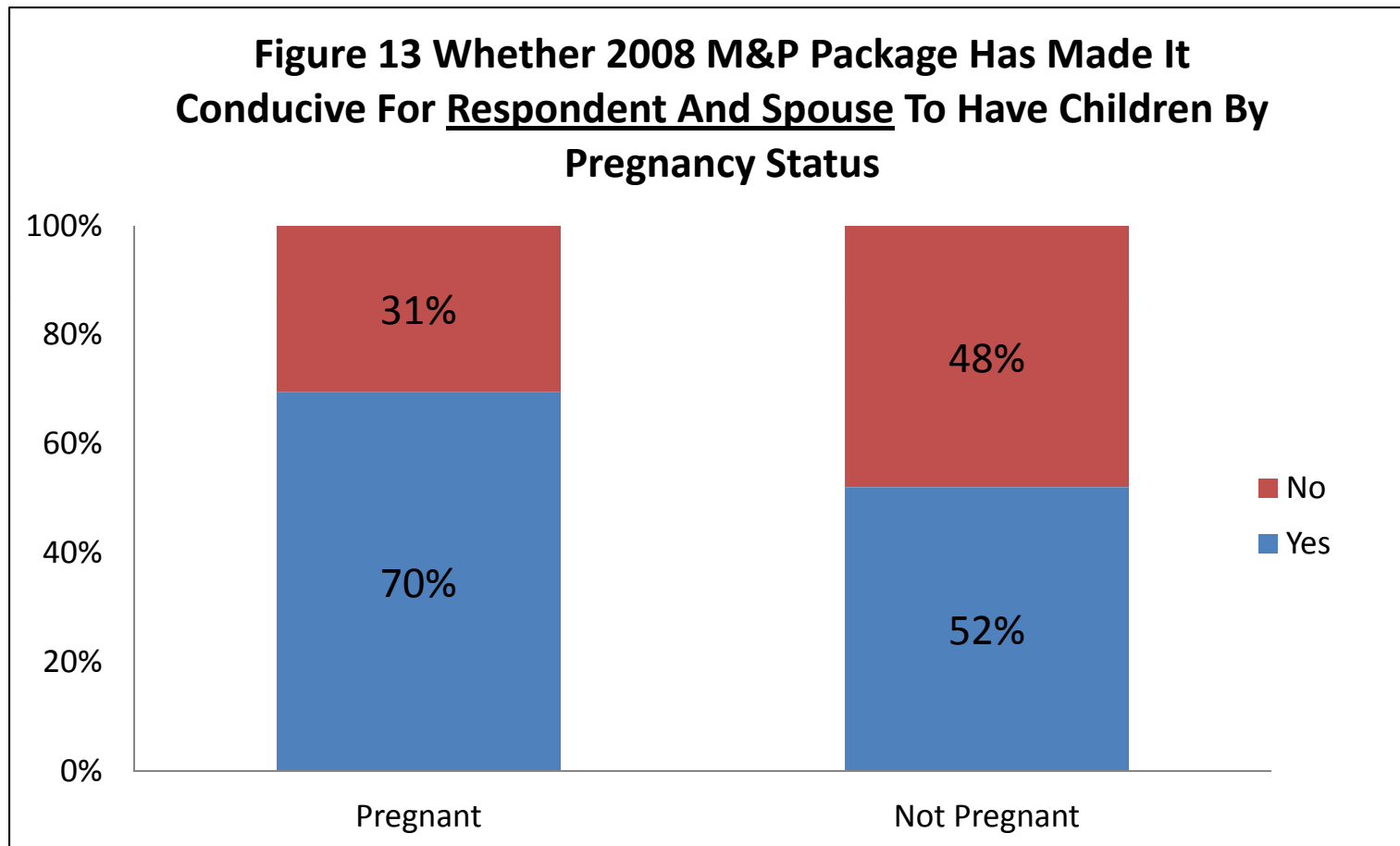
- Respondents expecting a child (n=131) responded more positively than those who were not (n=1879).

Adequacy Of Package (1)

Figure 14 Rating of Adequacy of 2008 M&P Package

Bar chart showing:
- Very Adequate: 18%
- Somewhat Adequate: 44%
- Neutral: 25%
- Somewhat Not Adequate: 12%
- Not Adequate At All: 1%

Base: Married persons aged 20 to 49 years
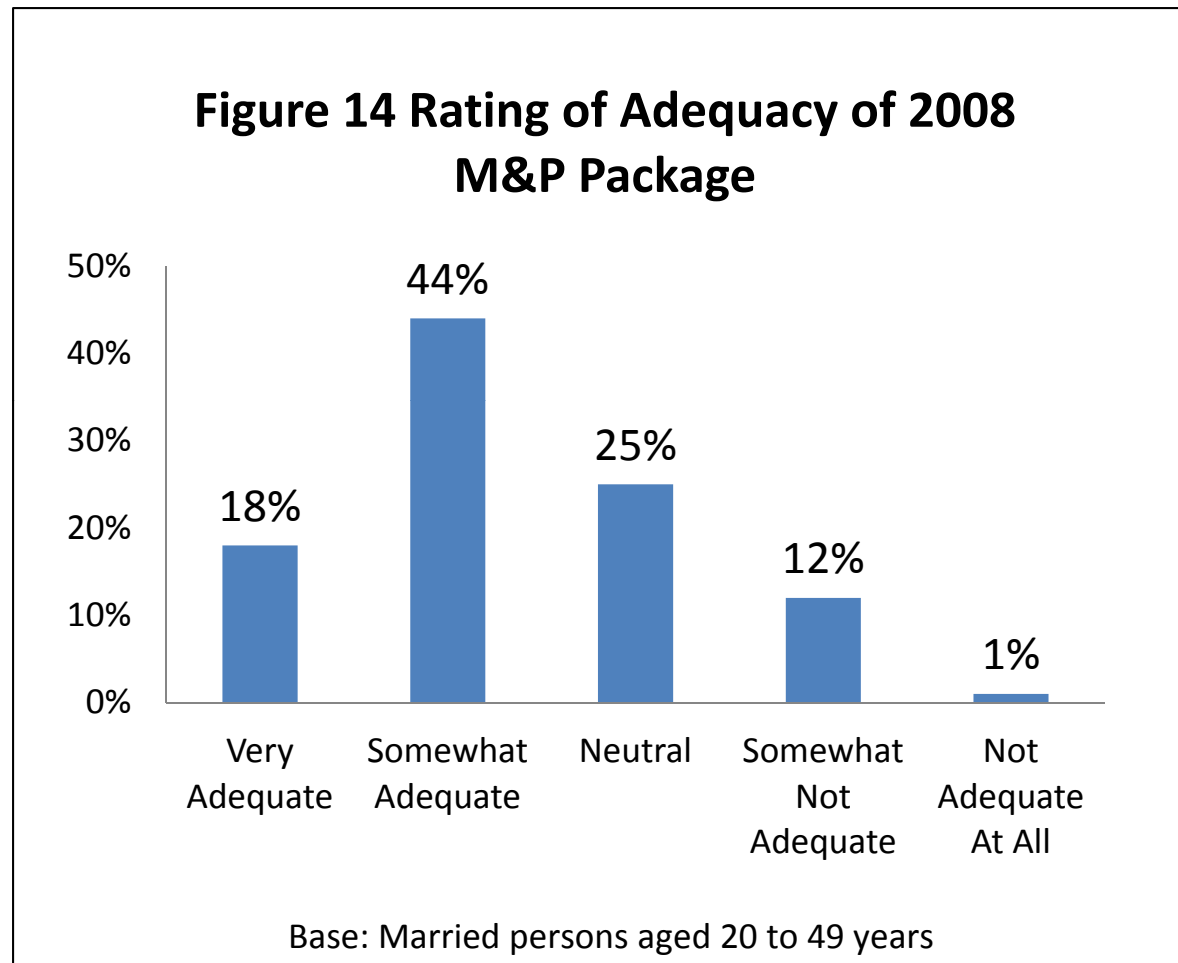
- 62% found 2008 M&P Package "Very Adequate" or "Somewhat Adequate."

Adequacy Of Package (2)

Table 3 Rating of Adequacy Of 2008 M&P Package By Age

	Age			Total
	20 to 29 years	30 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	
Very Adequate	23%	18%	16%	18%
Somewhat Adequate	40%	45%	44%	44%
Neutral	26%	24%	25%	25%
Somewhat Not Adequate	10%	11%	14%	12%
Not Adequate At All	1%	2%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
	221	837	950	2008

- Youngest respondents, aged 20 to 29, more likely to rate 2008 M&P Package "Very Adequate."

Adequacy Of Package (3)

Figure 15 Rating of Adequacy of 2008 M&P Package by Monthly Household Income
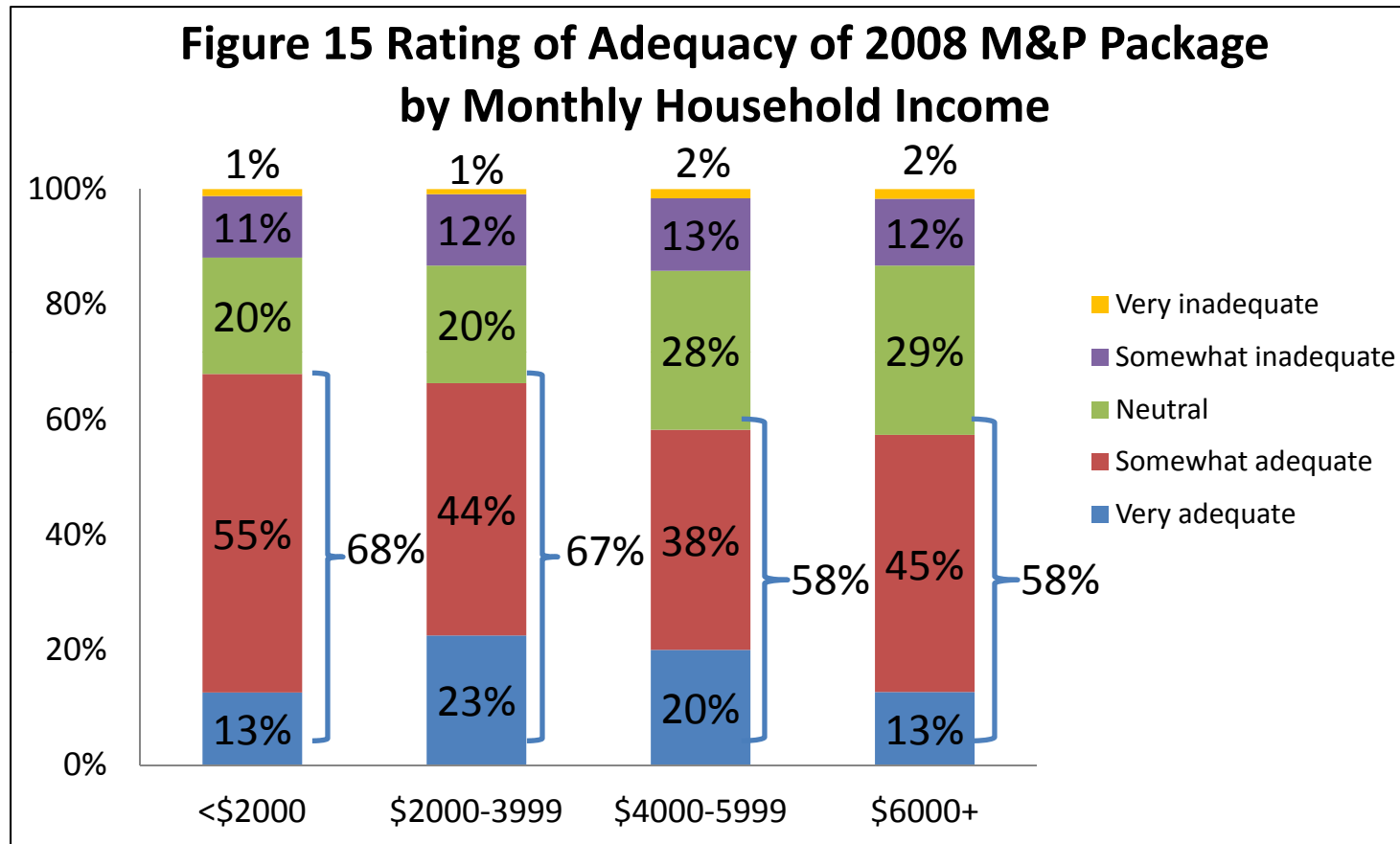
- Lower income groups more likely to respond 2008 M&P Package "Very adequate" or "Somewhat adequate" compared to higher income groups.

Adequacy Of Package (4)

- 13% responded 2008 M&P Package inadequate
- 2 most common suggestions for improvement: more subsidies for education and further improvements to be made to Baby Bonus Scheme.

Table 4 Improvements Respondents Would Like To See in 2008 M&P Package (Open-Ended Question)		
1	Subsidise/Reduce education fees/Provide free education	23%
2	More cash incentive/Baby Bonus/Baby Bonus to be in single payment	18%
3	Reduce/Subsidise medical fees/Allow use of Medisave	9%
4	Provide long term benefit/solution/Extend benefit period	7%
5	More subsidies/funding from government/more categories of benefits	6%

Base: Those who rated the M&P Package as inadequate

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Comparison Of 2004 And 2008 Packages

Table 5 Comparing 2008 And 2004 M&P Packages	
Ratings	**Per Cent**
Better	54%
About the same	30%
Worse	1%
Not aware of earlier package	15%

- For 54% , 2008 M&P Package an improvement over 2004 Package.
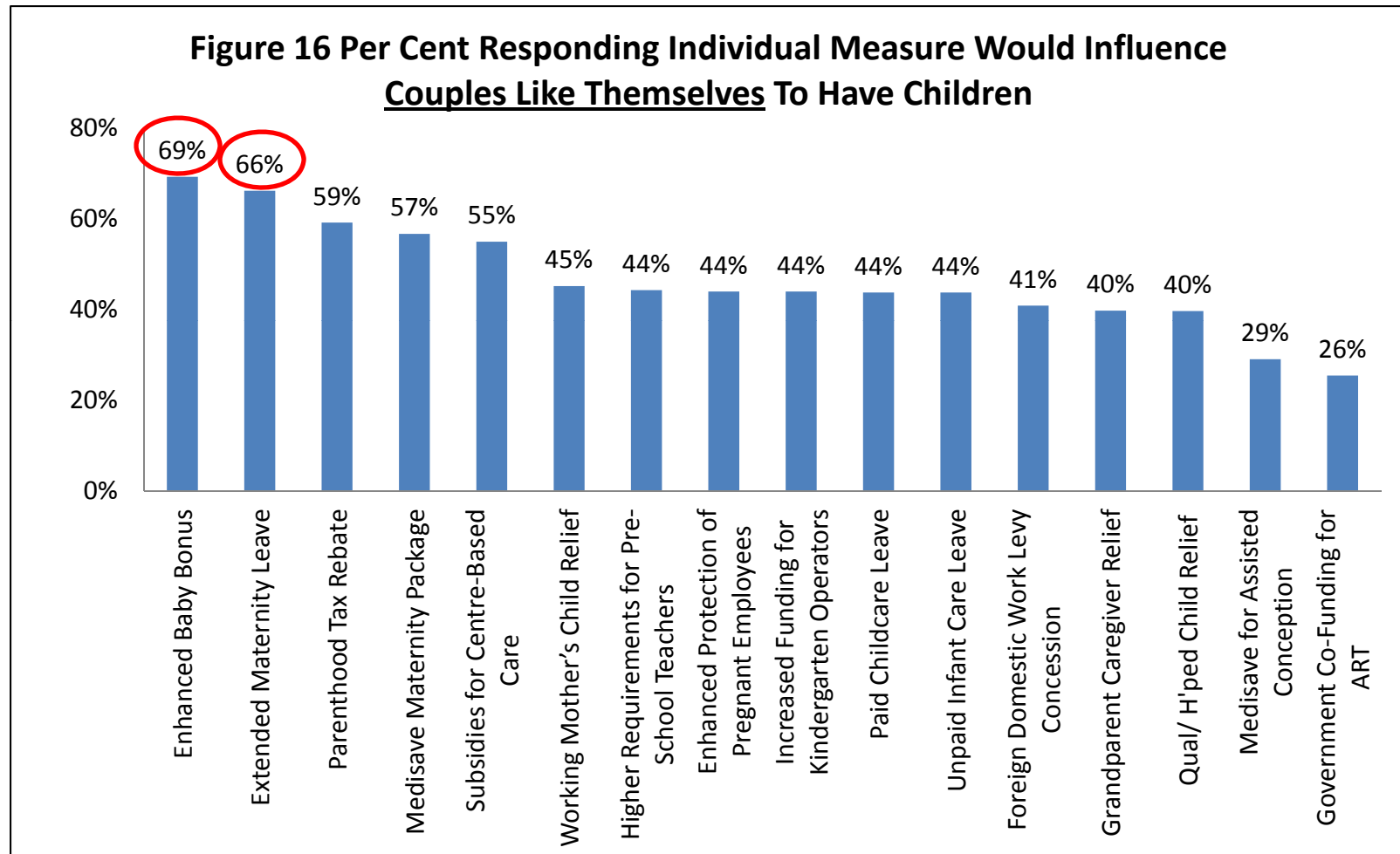
Responses To Individual Measures

Awareness Of Individual M&P Measures (1)

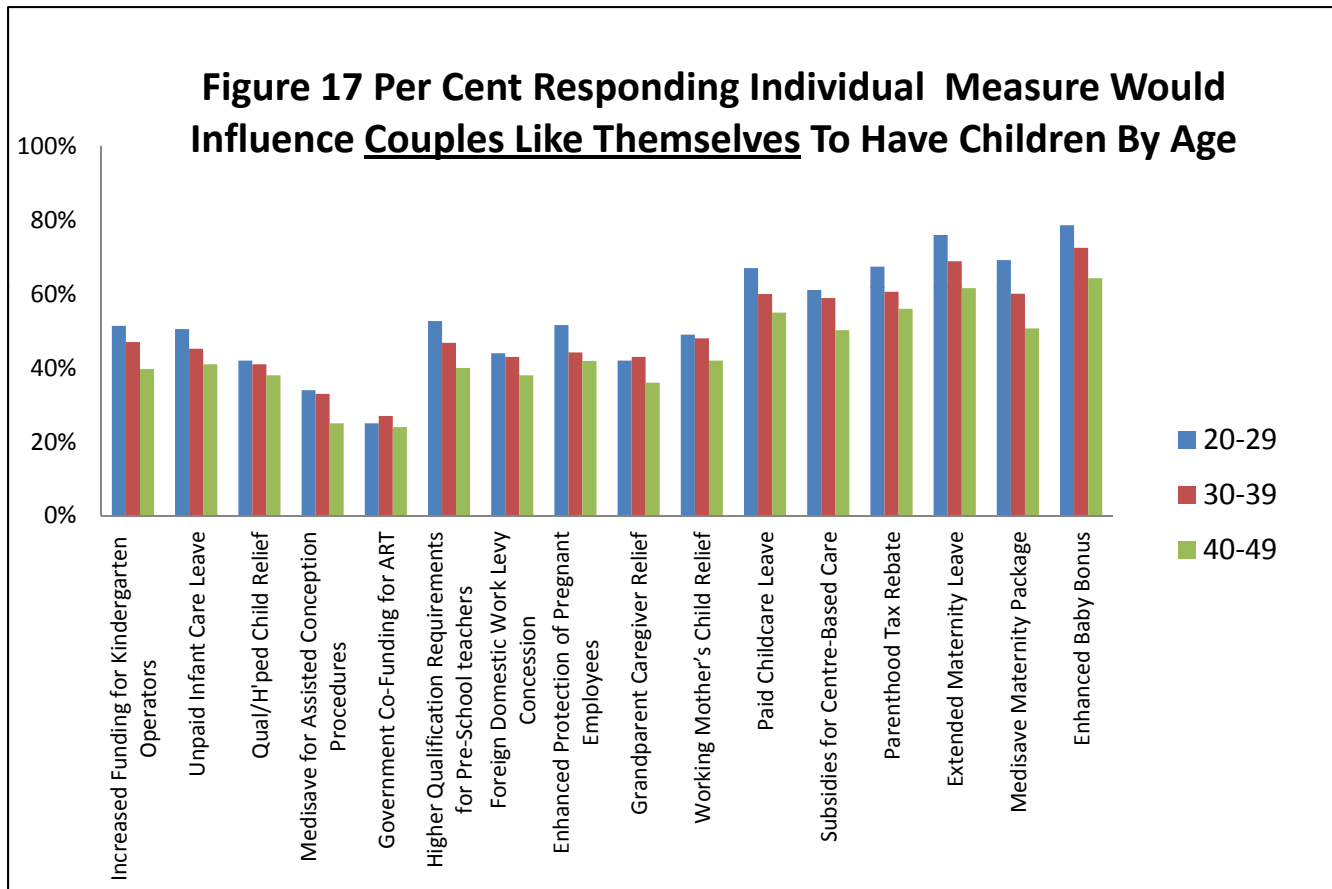| Table 6 Whether Respondent Heard Or Read About Individual M&P Measure	
Measure	**% Yes**
1 Extended Maternity Leave	90%
2 Enhanced Baby Bonus	89%
3 Parenthood Tax Rebate	73%
4 Paid Childcare Leave	73%
5 Medisave Maternity Package	65%
6 Subsidies for Centre-Based Infant Care and Childcare	65%
7 Qualifying Child Relief and Handicapped Child Relief	53%
8 Working Mother's Child Relief	57%
9 Enhanced Protection of Pregnant Employees	54%
10 Unpaid Infant Care Leave	54%
11 Foreign Domestic Work Levy Concession	53%
12 Grandparent Caregiver Relief	49%
13 Enhanced Quality of Kindergarten Education through Higher Educational and Qualification Requirements for Pre-school Teachers	47%
14 Enhanced Quality of Kindergarten Education through Increased Funding for Kindergarten Operators	46%
15 Medisave for Assisted Conception Procedures	33%
16 Government Co-Funding for Assisted Reproduction Technology Treatment	26%

Awareness Of Individual M&P Measures (2)

- **Extended Maternity Leave, the Enhanced Baby Bonus, Parenthood Tax Rebate and Paid Childcare Leave** known to more respondents than other measures.

Responses To Individual M&P Measures (1)

Figure 16 Per Cent Responding Individual Measure Would Influence <u>Couples Like Themselves</u> To Have Children

Responses to Individual M&P Measures (2)

**Figure 17 Per Cent Responding Individual Measure Would Influence <u>Couples Like Themselves</u> To Have Children By Age**

- As noted earlier, most of the oldest respondents had 2 or more children and had completed their families.

- More incentives may be required before these respondents are motivated to have any more children.
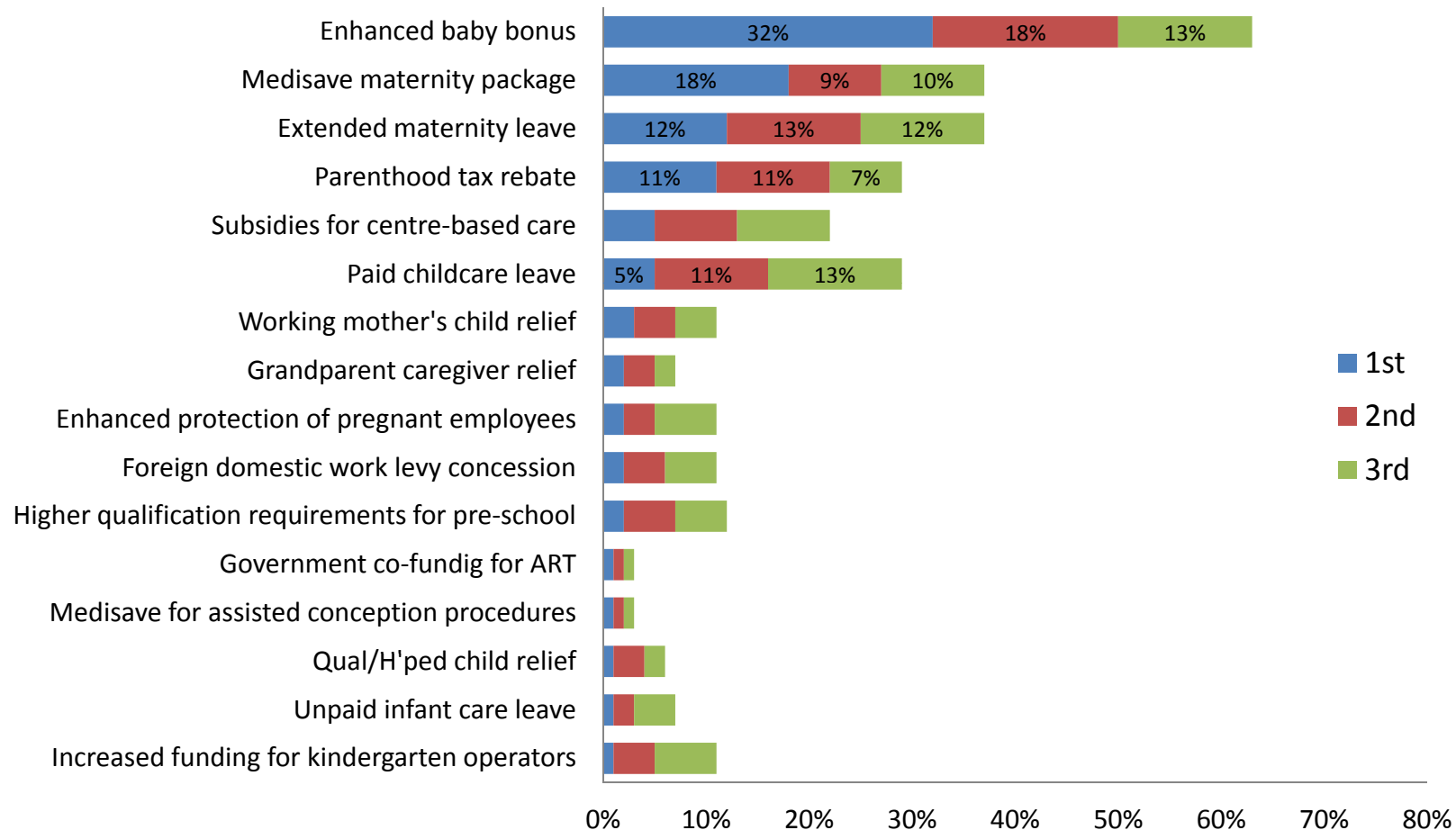
Responses to Individual M&P Measures (3)

Figure 18 Per Cent Responding Individual Measure Would Influence Couples Like Themselves To Have Children By Monthly Household Income
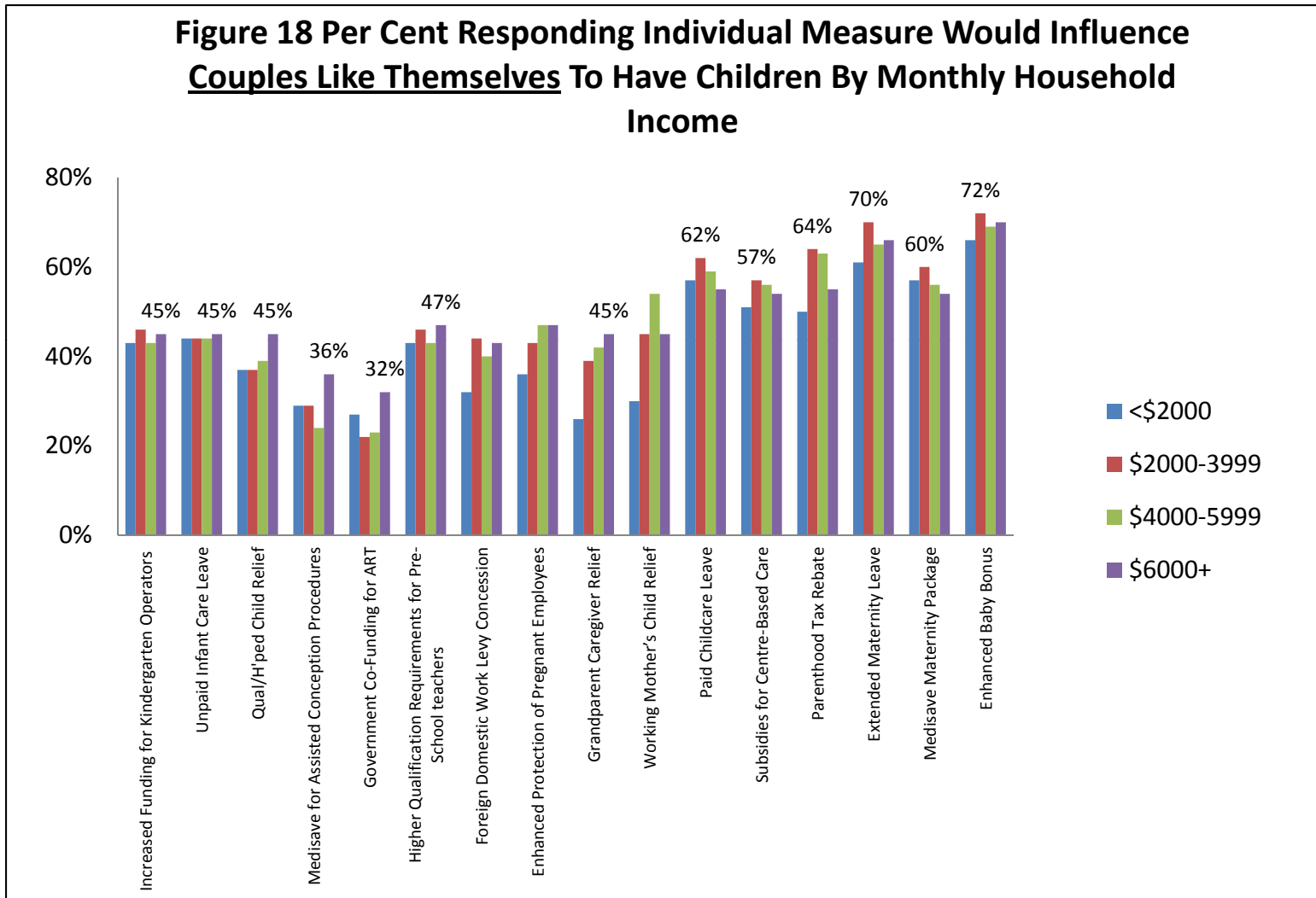
Responses to Individual M&P Measures (4)

Figure 19 Three Most Attractive/Appealing Measures

Responses to Individual M&P Measures (5)

Figure 19 Three Most Attractive/Appealing Measures

Measure	1st	2nd	3rd
Enhanced Baby Bonus	32%	18%	13%
Medisave Maternity Package	18%	9%	10%
Extended Maternity Leave	12%	13%	12%
Parenthood Tax Rebate	11%	11%	7%
Paid Childcare Leave	5%	11%	13%
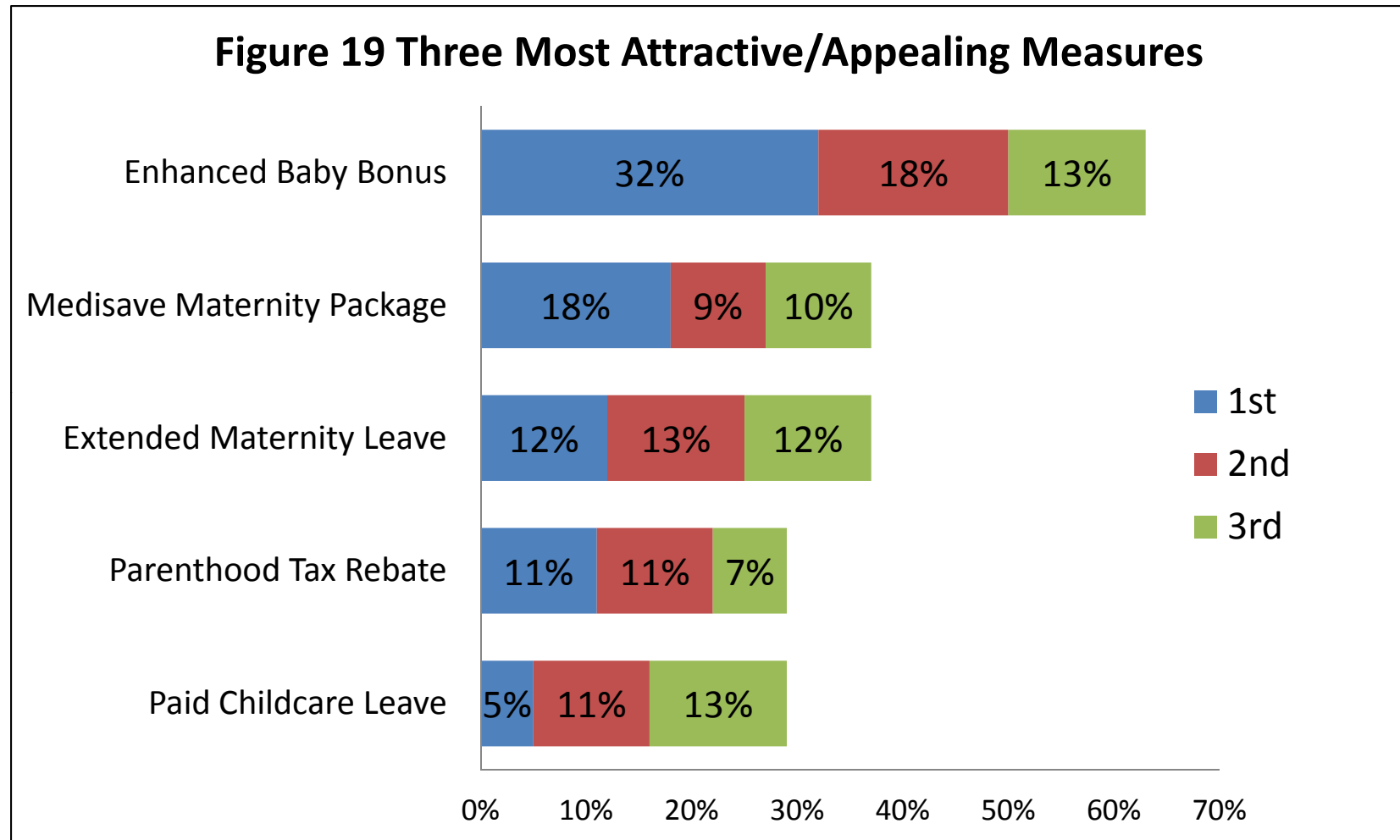
- Measures that directly affected respondents financially (Baby Bonus Scheme, Medisave Maternity Package) and the leave measures more appealing than other measures.

Impact Of Economic Crisis

Impact of 2008/2009 Economic Crisis On Livelihood

Table 7 Impact Of 2008/2009 Economic Crisis On Respondent Or Spouse		
Whether Livelihood Had Been Affected	**Yes**	**No**
Compulsory No Pay Leave	10%	90%
Shorter Work Week	12%	88%
Retrenchment	6%	94%
Reduced/No Income	33%	67%
Reduced/No Savings	32%	68%
Others	2%	98%

Base: Married persons aged 20 to 49 years

- 33% experienced reduction or loss of income while 32% experienced reduction or loss of savings.

Impact of 2008/2009 Economic Crisis On Childbearing Decisions (1)

Figure 20 Impact Of Economic Crisis On Childbearing Decisions

Economic crisis has affected decision to have a child/ another child

18%

82%

- Yes
- No

Base: Married persons aged 20 to 49 years

Would consider having a child/ another child when economy picks up...

Yes	66%
No	34%
Not sure/ depends	1%

Base: Those who mentioned that economic crisis has affected their decision to have a child/ another child

- Economic crisis could have contributed to decline in Total Fertility Rate in 2009; however, two thirds of those affected would consider having a/nother child when economy picked up

Impact of 2008/2009 Economic Crisis On Childbearing Decisions (2)

Table 8 Main Reason For Not Intending To Have A Child/Another Child After The Financial Crisis (Based On Open-Ended Question)	Per Cent
Age factor/Too old	39%
Cost of living/Standard of living too high	37%
Financial problem/Financially Unstable/Income not enough	22%
Job Security/Job is unstable	3%

Base: Those who would not consider having a child when the economy picks up.

- Of those whose childbearing decision had been affected by 2008/09 economic crisis, one third would not consider having a child/ another child when economy picked up -- mainly because of age (39%) and high cost/standard of living (37%).

"Predicting" Future Childbearing

"Predicting" Future Childbearing (1)

- Logistic regression, a form of multivariate analysis, used to "predict" respondents' likelihood to have children based on responses that 2008 M&P package was conducive to their having children

- Variables examined in full Model included gender, ethnicity, education, number of children, employment status, impact of the economic crisis, and citizenship.

"Predicting" Future Childbearing (2)

- Respondents in younger age groups (20-29 and 30-39) significantly more likely than those aged 40-49 (reference category) to respond that package was conducive.

- Respondents in higher income groups less likely to indicate that package was conducive compared to lower income respondents.

- Respondents expecting a child significantly more likely to view the package positively than those who were not expecting.

  – Expectant respondents generally
    - Young (below age 40)
    - Better educated (attained a polytechnic diploma or university degree)
    - Better resourced (monthly household incomes of $6000 or above)
    - In early stages of family formation (no children or one child)

"Predicting" Future Childbearing (3)

	Model 1			Model 2		
Table 9 Logistic Regression Analysis (N=1968) **Dependent Variable: The Current Marriage And Parenthood Package <u>Is Conducive</u>** **For Respondent And Spouse To Have Children**						
Predictors	**β**	**SE β**	**Odds Ratio**	**β**	**SE β**	**Odds Ratio**
Age (40 – 49)^						
20 – 29	.636***	.158	1.890	.532**	.184	1.702
30 – 39	.299**	.097	1.349	.315**	.109	1.370
Number of Children (None)^						
1 Child				-.247	.176	.781
2 Children				-.298	.177	.743
3 or more				-.114	.197	.892
Monthly Household Income (<$2000)^						
$2000 - $3999				-.417*	.169	.659
$4000 - $5999				-.966***	.191	.381
$6000 and above				-.949***	.200	.387
Expecting/Spouse Expecting (No)^						
Yes				.524*	.207	1.689

^ Reference category indicated in brackets.
*p<.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001.

Thank You