California’s fertility: how high; how low?

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Summary

Talk overview:

(1) how low is California’s fertility rate?
(2) how low might it go?
(3) why is it low?
(4) how high could it go?
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California: births and fertility rate

Total fertility rate: CA and USA, 2006–2015

California and world fertility rates
California and world fertility rates

![Graph showing California and world fertility rates over time.](image)
California and world fertility rates

[Chart showing fertility rates over time, comparing the world and California.]
California and world fertility rates

![Graph showing California and world fertility rates over time. The graph compares fertility rates from different regions and years, with a focus on trends from 1960 to 2050.]
Reasons for low fertility

Proximate: ‘aging’ of mothers as a group
Reasons for low fertility

Proximate: ‘aging’ of mothers as a group

Ultimate causes:

1. education: enrollment and attainment effects Amin & Behrman 2013
2. contraceptive technology
3. housing overcrowding/prices Goodsel 1937; Thompson 1938; Mulder and Billari 2006
4. economic change: return to human capital
5. social factors: changing social institutions; trendsetters Kohler 2000

Factors in future fertility

Unknowns: economic optimism, housing, education, technology.

CA is on a normal ‘developed country’ trajectory (low, stable).
Low fertility rates, but stable population growth (immigration).
Geographic variation.