Introduction

General fertility rates in U.S. are lowest since 1920s

- Millennials reproducing at slowest pace of any generation in U.S. History
  (Washington Post, 2015)
- College-educated women opting out of child-bearing until after 30 years of age
- College-educated women have fewer children than other women
  (World Economic Forum, 2015)
- Many millennials opting out of having children altogether
  (World Bank, 2015)

Research Question

What factors determine Millennials’ intention to parent?

Methods

Conceptual Model: Traits-Desires-Intentions-Behavior (TDIB) model and Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)

Exploratory Pilot Study

Setting: Mid-sized public University, southeastern U.S.

Population: Upper division nursing and health and human performance coeds

Study Timeframe: Spring 2016

Type of Study: Survey

- 28 questions
- Demographic questions, multiple choice
- Likert-type scales
  - Personality Preference
  - Parenting Self-Efficacy
  - RELATE: Relationship Evaluation of the Individual, Family, Cultural, and Couple Contexts
  - Parenting Desires and Intentions

Data Collection: Pencil and paper survey

Analysis: Percentages and Pearson Product Moment Correlations using SPSS 22

Participant Profile

Participants = 223  
Female: 76.6%  
Age 21 – 24: 66.4%  
Race: 90.6% White  
Partner Status: Single 85.6%  
Personality Preference: 58.3% identify with “Extraverts”  
“Religion is Important to me”: 70.8%

Results (n=223)

- 85.7% Intend to parent
- 67.7% Plan to start family between ages 26-30
- 97.3% Believe parenting should be shared equally

Factors Most Correlated with Intention to Parent

- Desire to have children
- Importance of the parenting role

Demographics matter!

- Level of parent education positively correlated with number of children desired
- Heterosexuals, on average, more likely to want more children
- Whites, on average, more likely to want more children

Discussion

Limitations - Convenience sample, lack of race/ethnic variation, limited gender diversity

Recommendation: Random sample of college students from other institutions of higher education