

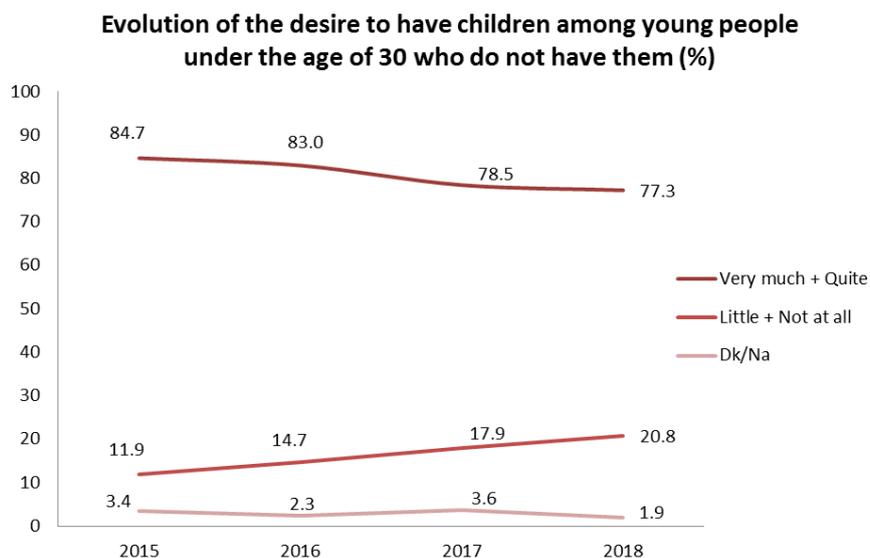
The desire of young people in the Basque Country to have children keeps falling

Young people who would like to become parents one day say that they would like to have their first child when they are 30 years old.

In the Basque Country, 77.3 % of young people under the age of 30 who do not have children state that they would like to have them one day. 20.8%, on the other hand, say they have little or no desire to have children.

These data come from the field work of the [Aurrera Begira](#) survey carried out by the Basque Youth Observatory between October and November 2018, in which 1512 people between 15 and 29 years old living in the Basque Country were interviewed.

In this research, among other questions, people aged 15-29 have been asked whether they would like to have children in the future. At the end of 2015, 84.7% of young people without children expressed their desire to have them, in November 2016, this percentage had fallen slightly to 83.0 % and in October 2017 it had fallen further to 78.5%. The last data collection in autumn 2018 falls to 77.3%.



Source: Basque Youth Observatory

Based on 2018 data, we find that the desire to have children is somewhat greater among girls (80.6% really want or rather want to have them) than boys (76.4%).

If we combine sex and age, we find that as age increases, the desire to have children also increases among both boys and girls. However, this desire is always greater among young women than among young men.

| The desire to have children one day among Basque young people aged 15 to 29 who do not currently have them | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| (%) | Total young people | Young women | | | | Young men | | | |
| | | Total | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | Total | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 |
| Very much + Quite | 77.3 | 76.7 | 71.5 | 78.1 | 80.5 | 77.9 | 78.7 | 80.0 | 75.1 |
| Little + Not at all | 20.8 | 21.7 | 27.5 | 20.6 | 17.0 | 20.0 | 19.9 | 18.5 | 21.7 |
| Dk/Na | 1.9 | 1.6 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 3.2 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Basque Youth Observatory (October-November 2018)

Young people who want to have children one day say that their ideal age for this would be when they are 30; this opinion is shared by boys and girls.

This ideal age increases slightly as age increases. People aged 15 to 19 say they would like to become parents when they are 29 years old; people aged 20 to 24 say the ideal age would be 30; and for those aged 25 to 29 the ideal age would be slightly later, at 31.

This ideal age is somewhat lower than the actual age at which people have their first child in the Basque Country. According to data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE), which can be found in the [statistics section of the Basque Youth Observatory](#) (in the **demography and population** sub-section), the average age when women have their first child is almost 32 (exceeding the age that women consider ideal to become mothers by two years).