

TITLE IS MISLEADING

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This is an interesting article and well done. I have no issue with the factual findings, but the title is misleading.

Leaving aside the deep but normative issue of whether the proper welfare function is average human utility among the existing population or total human utility (which would have to include the utility of the unborn child), the research does not even capture the welfare of the possible mother. By definition the ten year period must end well short of old-age.

Approximately half of US states have "filial responsibility" laws and a much larger number of children provide both financial and emotional support to their parents. Thus the calculations in the paper cannot possibly capture all financial implications for the women in question unless they are fully rational and even then the quantitative estimates will be biased. A more accurate title would have been "Some Short-Run Consequences..."