

Migration and childbearing

Impact of childbearing on Polish migrants' settlement decisions

Background

Polish post-2004 migration to the UK

- From 2003 to 2011 Polish population in the UK increased from 75,000 to 643,000 (ONS 2012)
- Polish migrants constitute about 8% of all migrants
- Most Polish post-2004 migrants:
 - Economic
 - Young
 - Without children upon arrival
- A considerable increase in births to Polish women has occurred since 2004

Importance and relevance of research

Motivation of research



- Little is known about the childbearing of Polish migrants but given migrants' young age, an increase in the number of children born to Polish mothers is likely over the coming years
- **Uncertainty about** whether recent Polish settlement is permanent or will be reversed; childbearing decisions are crucial factor in determining settlement decisions
- Unpredictability of Polish migrants' behaviour is a challenge for policymaking and for future planning and resource allocation
- **Impact of migrants' childbearing** decisions on demography, labour market, welfare system and public services (education, healthcare, housing etc.) in Poland and in the UK

Contribution of research

My research will to shed light on the complex relationship between the childbearing of Polish migrants and their decisions to stay in the UK or to return to Poland. The research also examines the consequences of migrants' decisions for the policymaking in Poland and in the UK.

Research questions



• **Who** are those Polish migrants who decided to have a child in the UK?



• **How** do settlement decisions influence childbearing and how do childbearing decisions influence settlement?



• **What** are the consequences of Polish migrants' childbearing decisions for the UK and Poland?

Methodology



• Academic and policy-related literature review



• Analysis of the birth registration data

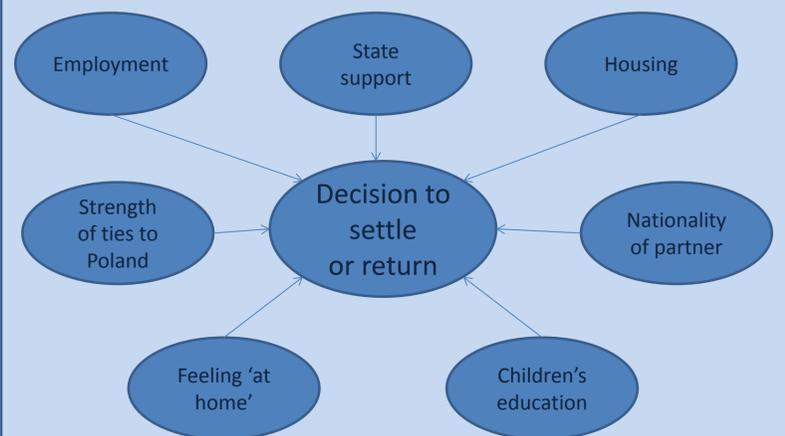


• **Online survey** of Polish migrants who become parents in the UK



• **In-depth interviews** with Polish migrants and policymakers

Conceptual framework



Factors influencing settlement in the UK and return to Poland

Preliminary findings

- Proportion of births to Polish mothers compared to all births in the UK has increased considerably from 0.26% in 2004 to 2.76% in 2010
- From 2004 to 2010 over 87,000 births to Polish mothers and nearly 65,000 children with two Polish parents

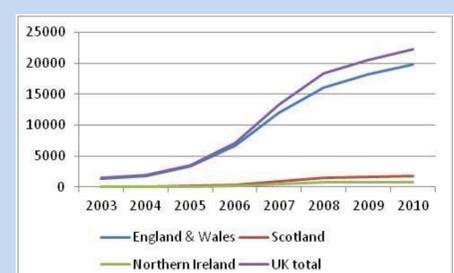
Year	Births to Polish mothers	% of all births in the UK
2004	1,870	0.26%
2005	3,560	0.49%
2006	7,171	0.96%
2007	13,333	1.73%
2008	18,326	2.31%
2009	20,560	2.60%
2010	22,242	2.76%

- A significant increase in the proportion of children with both Polish parents, from around one in three children with a Polish father pre-2004 to about three in four children with a Polish father at the moment



- Polish fathers mostly have children with Polish partners

- From around 2007-2008, proportion of births to Polish mothers closely reflects the relative proportion of the total UK population; that is, around 89% of births to Polish mothers take place in England and Wales, around 8% in Scotland and around 3% in Northern Ireland



- Since 2010 Polish mothers have topped the list of foreign born mothers giving birth in the UK