

# Effects of the Support Networks on Fertility Behaviors and Attitudes

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The purpose of this article is to investigate the influence of child care support networks on number of children, ideal family size and psychological strain using the data of the Third National Survey on Family in Japan (NSFJ-2003). The findings are as follows : (1) It is large portion of respondent's child care support network-type which is only composed by close relatives (spouse and parents). The role of non-kin networks and the public resources of social supports on child care are restrictive. (2) Child care networks were classified into four types; those mainly supported by husband, those mainly supported by husband and real parents, those mainly supported by husband and parents-in-law, and those mainly supported by real parents. (3) When respondents have support networks mainly supported by husband and parents-in-law, the number of children and ideal family size increase. In sum, the composition of child care support networks affects number of children, ideal family size and psychological strain. Based on the results, I discuss policy implications.