

Young People's Decisions in the Transition to Adulthood in France: The Influence of Family Factors – *Audrey Rose Menard and Vincent Vergnat*

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o Key Question

The transition to adulthood is a pivotal time when young people make a significant number of decisions that can have an impact on their future lives. These decisions are likely to be influenced by the family environment and to be interrelated. The article attempts to highlight the determining factors of decisions to work, study and leave the parental home, and to answer the question: how do family factors influence the decisions made by young adults?

o Methodology

The data used are taken from the *Enquête nationale sur les ressources des jeunes* (National survey on the resources of young adults, ENRJ) carried out in 2014 by DREES and Insee. A trivariate probit model is used to analyze the determining factors of decisions made almost simultaneously by young adults.

o Mains Results

- The family environment and family relationships have an influence on the decisions made by young adults.
- The probability of leaving the parental home, and also of studying, is higher those people whose parents have high incomes or are in a well-to-do socio-professional category.
- The children of executives, who are less financially constrained, are less likely to enter the labour market between the ages of 18 and 24 than young people whose parents are workers or employees.
- Tensions with at least one parent are positively correlated with the probability of becoming active and living in the parental home. In contrast, they are negatively correlated with the probability of studying.

o Message

Although endogeneity biases may exist due to the difficulty of having strong and exogenous instruments, the results highlight that the family environment can be a source of inequalities both in the empowerment process and in the opportunities of young adults. While it is difficult to intervene in the private relations between parents and children, it is possible to propose to correct, in part, the differences generated by social origin. Public policies can play an important role in enabling each young adult to make decisions independently (ideally) of his or her family environment. A universal autonomy allowance and its modalities could, for example, be envisaged and be the subject of specific studies.