How Family-friendly are German Cities?
First Results from a Comparative Survey in 7 German Cities

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City of Wiesbaden

In parallel to Urban Audit „quality of life“ perception survey in 2006 the KOSIS working group of German cities together with VDST (German Association of municipal statisticians) conducted the perception survey in 15 German cities.

7 of these 15 cities extended the survey program to cover the topic of family friendliness.

The telephone survey was funded by participating cities.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, cities have collected survey data on the topic of family friendliness WITH IDENTICAL METHODOLOGY.

Suplementary to these „subjective“ stock-taking, „objective“ statistical data was collected on the local situation of families, especially with regard to childcare facilities.
Survey Design

- Minimum sample size: \( n = 500 \) respondents per city
- Total sample size: \( n = 5,602 \) respondents
- Target group: German speaking population starting from age 15
- Data collection Nov-Dec 2006
- Field work: IFAK Institute for Social and Market Research, Taunusstein

Participating Cities

- Bremen
- Braunschweig
- Oberhausen
- Köln
- Dresden
- Wiesbaden
- Nürnberg
Family-friendliness - Political Targets -

Europe
- Lisbon agenda (2000): employment
  - Women’s employment rate should be raised to 60% until 2010
- Barcelona summit (2002): childcare
  until 2010 childcare service should cover (Minimum)
  - 90 % of children between three years old and entering school
  - 33 % of children under three years age

Germany
- Legal claim to public childcare services for children between 3 years old and entering school
- Legal claim to childcare services for children younger than 3 by 2013
- Childcare services should cover about 1/3 of children younger than 3

Municipal level
- Different policies and traditions at state and local level lead to differing levels of supply with public childcare services
Perception of municipal responsibility for various target groups

All 7 Cities – „How strong do you think is your city responsible to / for…“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>Less Strong</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>make public infrastructure suitable for handicapped persons</td>
<td>-17%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public services and help for older people</td>
<td>-19%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public care services for children and youth</td>
<td>-23%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>integration of migrants</td>
<td>-22%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supply families with affordable housing</td>
<td>-24%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support voluntary commitment</td>
<td>-26%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>find jobs for young people</td>
<td>-32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support reconciliation of employment and family life</td>
<td>-32%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support women's labor force participation</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perception of municipal responsibility for reconciliation of work and private life

„How strong do you feel *city* is responsible to support the reconciliation of employment and family life?“

- **All 7 Cities**
  - 45%“strong” + 51% „very strong“
- **Dresden**
  - 44% “strong” + 58% „very strong“
- **Bremen**
  - 45% “strong” + 52% „very strong“
- **Nürnberg**
  - 48% “strong” + 51% „very strong“
- **Köln**
  - 45% “strong” + 50% „very strong“
- **Wiesbaden**
  - 46% “strong” + 55% „very strong“
- **Braunschweig**
  - 43% “strong” + 47% „very strong“
- **Oberhausen**
  - 40% “strong” + 47% „very strong“

- Light blue: respondents not living with children under age of 15
- Dark blue: respondents living with children under age of 15
Perception of responsibility to support female labor force participation

„How strong is *city* responsible for supporting women’s employment?“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Respondents not living with children under age of 15</th>
<th>Respondents living with children under age of 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All 7 cities</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresden</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nürnberg</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Köln</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiesbaden</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunschweig</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oberhausen</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perception of local family policies

„How much does *city* government and administration take into account the needs and problems of families?“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>Little</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All 7 cities</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>53,1%</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunschweig</td>
<td>48,8%</td>
<td>26,6%</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>-60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiesbaden</td>
<td>51,9%</td>
<td>21,8%</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>-50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oberhausen</td>
<td>48,7%</td>
<td>24,5%</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>58,8%</td>
<td>21,1%</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresden</td>
<td>58,1%</td>
<td>21,3%</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nürnberg</td>
<td>46,8%</td>
<td>33,7%</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Köln</td>
<td>58,8%</td>
<td>18,4%</td>
<td>23,9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Colors represent: not at all, little, strong, very strong
Reconciliation of work and family life

„Do you think that in *city* opportunities to reconcile employment and family life are sufficient?“

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Sufficient</th>
<th>Not Sufficient</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All 7 cities</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresden</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nürnberg</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Köln</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiesbaden</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunschweig</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oberhausen</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

- sufficient
- not sufficient
- don’t know
Perception of supply with family services
(all 7 cities, respondents living with children under age of 15 only)

childcare facilities for schoolchildren in class years 5 to seven

childcare facilities during school holidays

all-day schools

fulltime childcare services for children between age of 3 and 6 1/2 years

childcare facilities for children in elementary school / exceeding class time

playgrounds and areas

affordable, suitable housing for families

actions to ensure security of children within road traffic

daily care facilities for children under the age of 3
Public childcare supply and satisfaction

Public childcare for age group 3 to 6 ½ years (kindergarten)

% not sufficient childcare supply rate

Nürnberg: 46.0
Köln: 57.5
Braunschweig: 51.2
Oberhausen: 41.9
Wiesbaden: 58.4
Dresden: 35.2
Public childcare supply and satisfaction

Public childcare for children under 3 years age (Krippe)

- Nürnberg: 62.2%
- Köln: 68.2%
- Braunschweig: 51.0%
- Oberhausen: 55.9%
- Wiesbaden: 64.8%
- Dresden: 42.6%

Legend:
- 1% "not sufficient"
- Childcare supply rate
Are German cities family-friendly?

- Demographic pressure (declining birth rates, families leaving core cities, shrinking number of inhabitants) enforces cities to compete for being attractive to families.

- All in all, citizens perceive a strong need to improve the local situation for families: 60% believe that family needs are not taken into consideration by their local city governments and administration.

- 50% of citizens in 7 German cities believe that opportunities to reconcile work and family life are far from being sufficient. Families with children are even more demanding, especially with regard to opportunities to reconcile work and family life.

- This survey covers mainly questions of how family demands are met with regard to quantity, NOT quality. Other important issues like flexibility / opening hours of childcare facilities could not be included. Nevertheless, these aspects may influence respondents perception.
Citizens do not ascribe all aspects of "family-friendliness" to be a core task of municipal policies. However, the majority of respondents do perceive their city as responsible for the supply with childcare and youth facilities.

Public childcare facilities are crucial for supporting (female) labor market participation.

From the 7 cities in this comparative survey, citizens in Dresden are the most satisfied in regard to public childcare facilities. Dresden also offers the highest childcare supply rates.

However, satisfaction with childcare facilities and other services cannot be explained by public supply rates exclusively.

Comparing "objective" statistical data should be supplemented with survey data. This is especially important when trying to assess how well certain target groups are supplied with public services and how well their (subjective) needs are met.
Thank you for listening!

For further information please visit the German Urban Audit cities website: http://www.statistik.nuernberg.de/urban-audit