Fertility trends in Asia: a snapshot

Across East and Southeast Asia, young men and women, more educated than ever before, are successfully building careers and livelihoods. But when it comes to building a family, they often

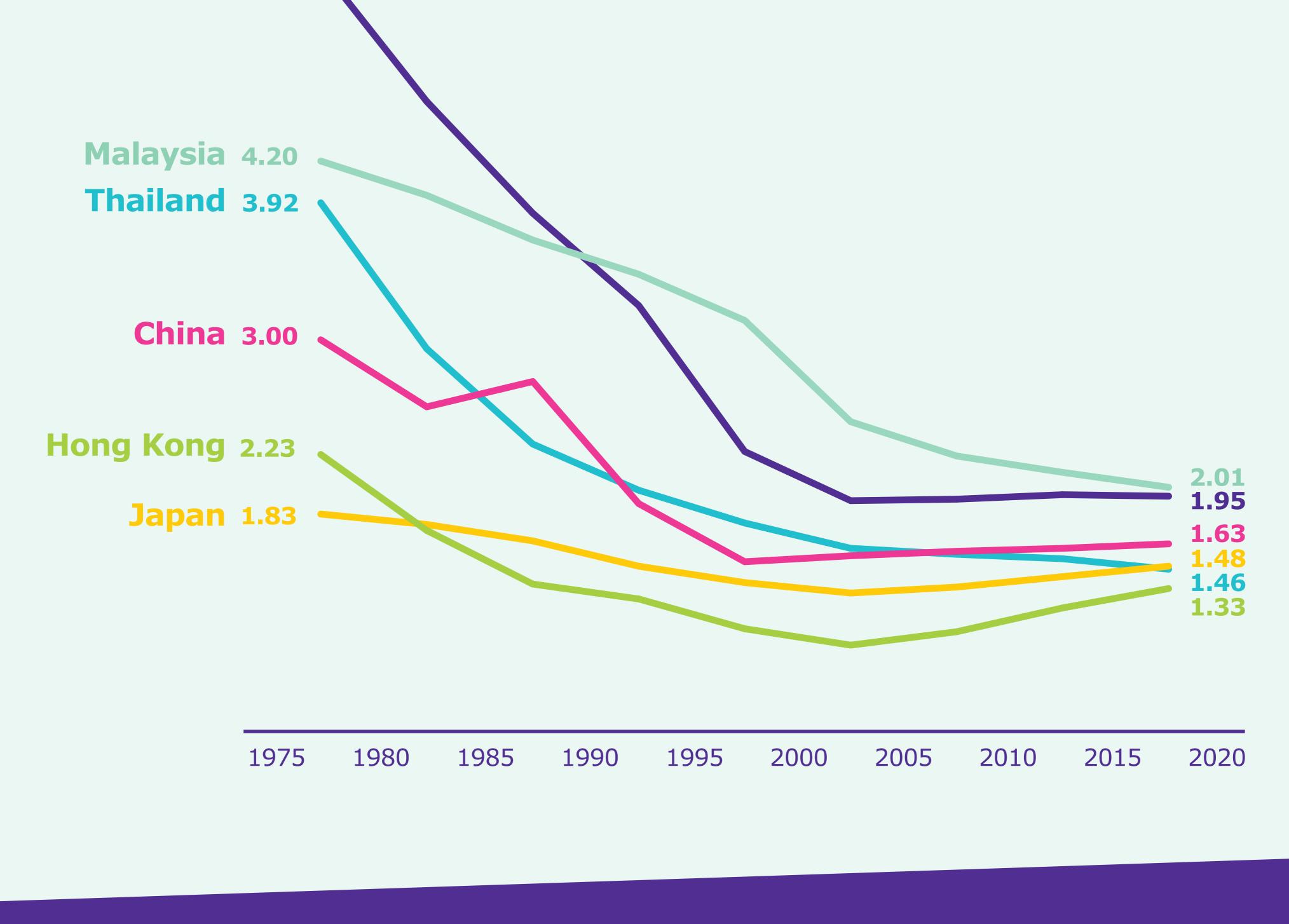
encounter barriers: high living costs, restrictive gender expectations, lack of supportive policies—and limited access to infertility treatments.

historic low Populations are ageing in Asia as couples marry later and birth rates fall. Most countries in the region are already below the replacement rate of

Birth rates at a

2.1 children per woman. Total fertility (live births per woman)¹

Vietnam 5.50



China

policy

Work-life

imbalance

Percentage of unpaid care work performed by men and women² **Thailand** Japan

Even though the vast majority of women in

in the home and undertake the majority of

domestic work.

East and Southeast Asia are employed outside

the home, they are still the primary caregivers



Many governments in Asia are looking more closely at a range of

policy, but its implementation varies widely across the region.

policy initiatives that can be combined to encourage couples to have

more children—and to have them earlier. Parental leave is one such

Less than 3 weeks

14 weeks or more

Data unavailable

In Japan and Korea, one year of paid leave is

Paid paternity leave³ No paid leave



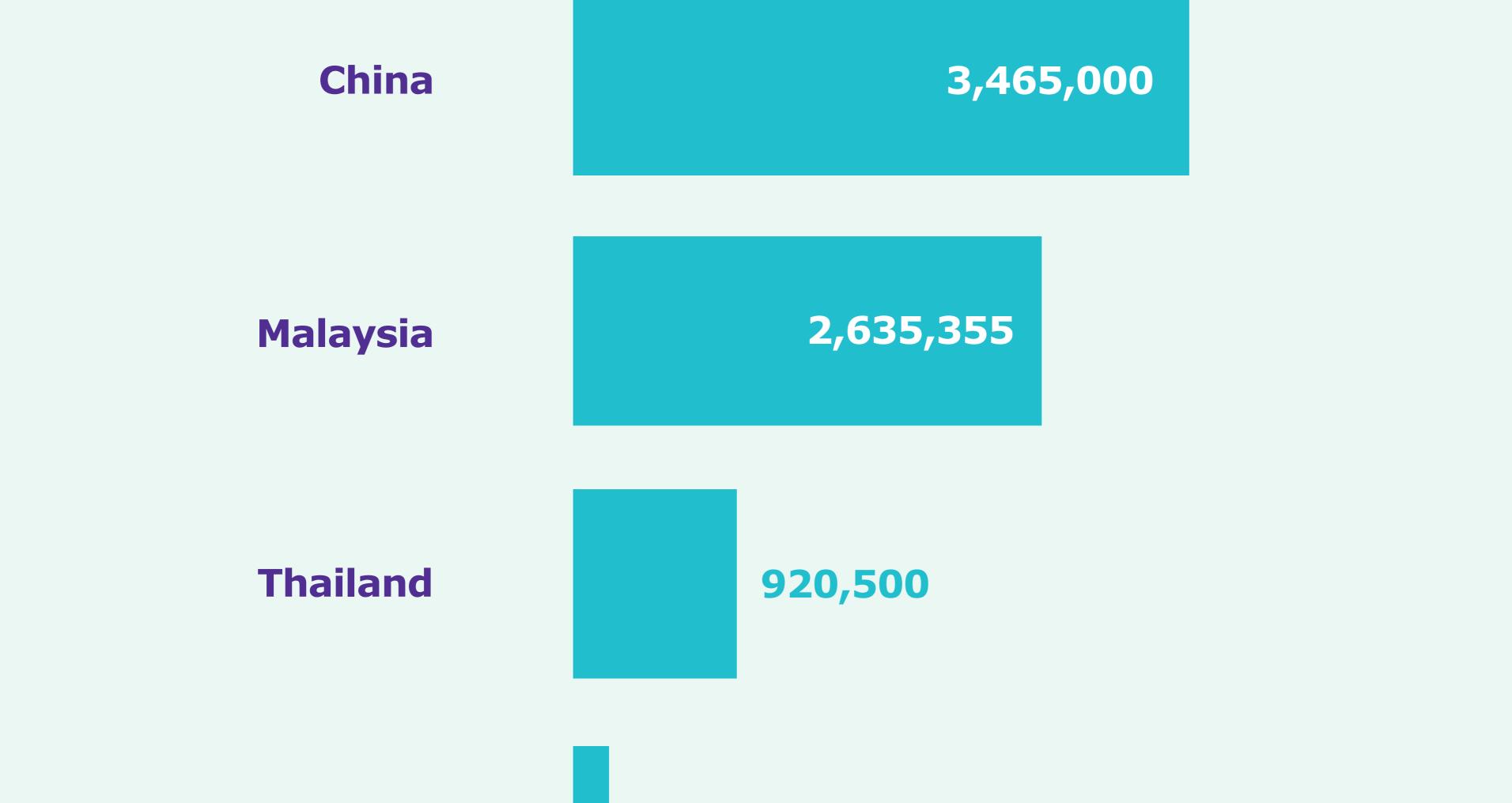
Assisted fertility out of reach for many As the age of first-time parents rises, more are experiencing fertility problems. Yet access to assisted reproductive technologies is a challenge and government support for couples seeking help in becoming parents remains patchy across Asia. Number of IVF clinics⁶

Inhabitants per clinic

4,876,377

Vietnam

Japan



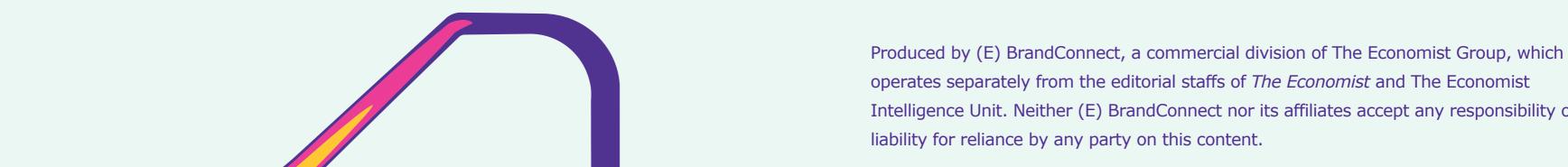
188,109

series of reports, sponsored by Merck. 1 https://population.un.org/wpp/DataQuery/, accessed May 2019

6 International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) Surveillance 2019, Chapter 1 Table 4, https://journals.lww.com/grh/Fulltext/2019/03000/IFFS_Surveillance_2019.3.aspx; 2017 population data from

For more about fertility trends in Asia and what policymakers can do to

address declining birth rates, read The Economist Intelligence Unit's



4 OECD, "Parental leave: Where are the fathers?", March 2016, https://www.oecd.org/policy-briefs/parental-leave-where-are-the-fathers.pdf

3 https://www.worldpolicycenter.org/policies/is-paid-leave-available-to-mothers-and-fathers-of-infants/is-paid-leave-available-for-fathers-of-infants%5D, 2019

2 International Labour Organization (ILO), Care work and care jobs: For the future of decent work, 2018, p368-372,

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_633135.pdf

5 https://data.unicef.org, accessed May 2019

https://data.worldbank.org

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