

Partnership Formation and Dissolution in Eastern Europe

TLU Centre of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Lifecourse Studies
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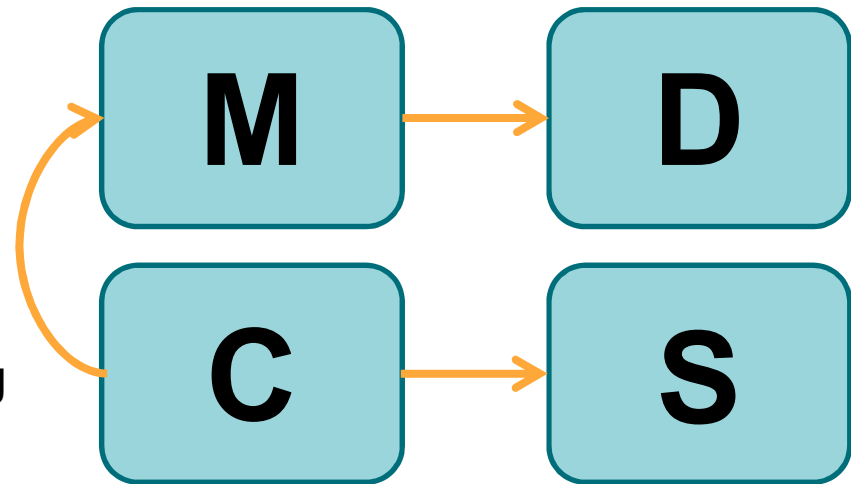


Background I

- Profound changes in demographic and family behavior over the last decades in many European countries:
 - „weakening of the traditional family“ (decreasing fertility, postponement of marriage and childbearing, and rising divorce rates)
 - spread of unmarried cohabitation and rise in number of children born within cohabitation
- Partnership formation and partnerships dynamics have become much more complex over the life course – but cross-national differences within Europe remain high

Background II

- Partnership dynamics: union formation and union dissolution
- Union dissolution is a stratified and stratifying life event: It varies across groups in both its likelihood of occurring and its consequences
- Partnership dynamics thus (can) become mechanisms for the transmission of inequality both within and across generations



Background III

- Micro-predictors of partnership dynamics:
 - Union dissolution: education; female employment; age at union formation
 - Re-partnering: education; having child(ren); ethnicity
 - Marriage preceded by cohabitation: having child(ren)
- Weight of predictors may lessen if demographic behaviors are a modal experience rather than being uncommon (“diffusion perspective”)

Background IV

Variation in union formation and dissolution:

- Across countries
- Across cohorts
- Between men and women

Variation due to context and/ or composition

Research gap: Eastern Europe

Partnership formation and dissolution over the life course: applying sequence analysis and event history analysis in the study of recurrent events

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Abstract

We present two types of approach to the analysis of recurrent events for discrete measured data, and show how these methods can complement each other when one co-residential partnership histories. Sequence analysis is a descriptive tool that gives overall picture of the data and helps to find typical and atypical patterns in histories. History analysis is used to make conclusions about the effects of covariates on the end duration of the partnerships. As a substantive question, we studied how background and childhood socio-emotional characteristics were related to later partnership formation and stability in a Finnish cohort born in 1959. We found that high self-control at age 8 was related to a lower risk of partnership dissolution and for a lower probability of repartnering. Child-centred parenting practices during childhood related to a lower risk of dissolution for women. Socially active boys were faster at forming partnerships as men.

Keywords: partnership formation, partnership dissolution, sequence analysis, event history recurrent events

1 Introduction

During the life course many events (such as marriages, child births, unemployment, etc.) can occur several times to an individual. In this paper we present two approaches to the analysis of recurrent events for discretely measured data and show how these methods can complement each other when analysing co-residential partnership histories of a representative sample of Finnish men and women now in their fifties. The first method, sequence analysis, is a descriptive technique which we used to summarize all partner transitions made by individuals over the whole observation period. We grouped similar histories of forming and dissolving

partnerships and searched for typical patterns. In contrast, event history model-based method which we use probability of making a transition partnership in a given time interval possibly time-varying. Individual and socio-emotional characteristics were related to later partnership stability, whether these effects differ for women and men, and if they play tendency to repartner.

1



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Research Article

Cross-national differences in women's repartnering behaviour in Europe: The role of individual demographic characteristics

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This publication is part of the Special Collection on "Separation, Divorce, Repartnering, and Remarriage around the World", organized by Guest Editors Beccit Laplante and Andrew Cherlin.

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Partnership Patterns in the United States and across Europe

Partnership Patterns in the United States and across Europe: The Role of Education and Country Context

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Partnership formation and dissolution are changing dramatically across the Western world. Some scholars have argued that women's trajectories of union formation and dissolution are diverging by education, with the higher educated postponing but eventually marrying and the lower educated more likely to cohabit or divorce if they do marry. At the same time, the variation in partnership behavior has also increased across countries, suggesting that country context plays an important role. Here, we use latent class growth models to compare the educational gradient of partnership trajectories in the United States and 14 countries in Europe and investigate the role of education and country context. Our results indicate a consistent positive educational gradient for partnership patterns showing the postponement of marriage, regardless of whether marriage was preceded by cohabitation, but a less consistent gradient for patterns reflecting long-term cohabitation and union dissolution. Although the US results show evidence of an educational divergence in marriage and union dissolution, the evidence from the other countries is weak. In addition, country context explains more of the variation in class membership than education, with context becoming more important over time. The divergence in behaviors across country contexts suggests that social, cultural, political, and economic developments are essential for understanding changes in partnership formation and dissolution.

Patterns of partnership formation and dissolution are changing dramatically across the Western world: marriage is being postponed, divorce is increasing, and cohabitation is now an alternative living arrangement for unmarried adults (Sobotka and Toulemon 2008; Kennedy and Bumpass 2008). Some scholars

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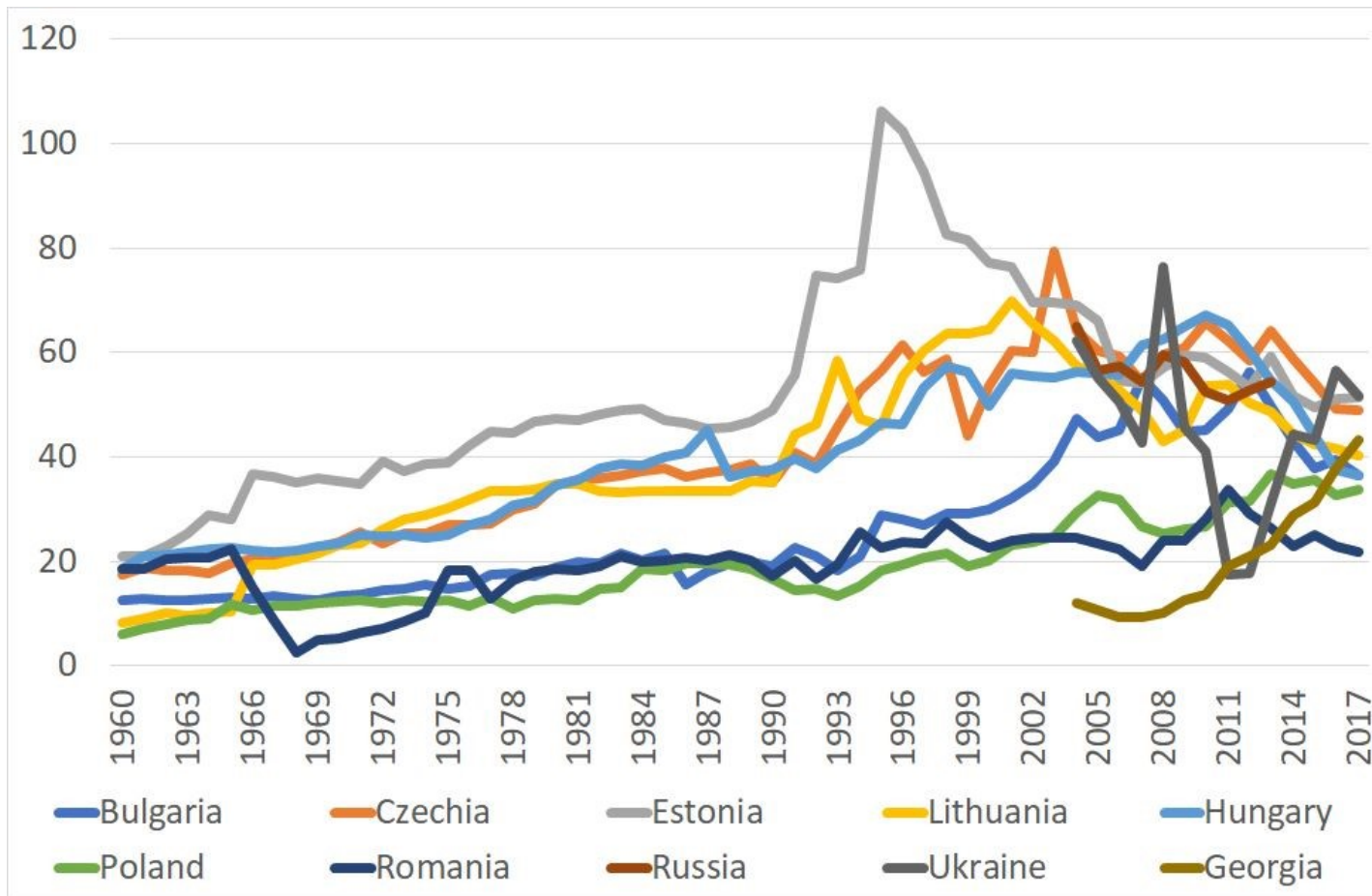


Fig. 1 Divorce per 100 marriages, 1960-2017 (Source: Eurostat)

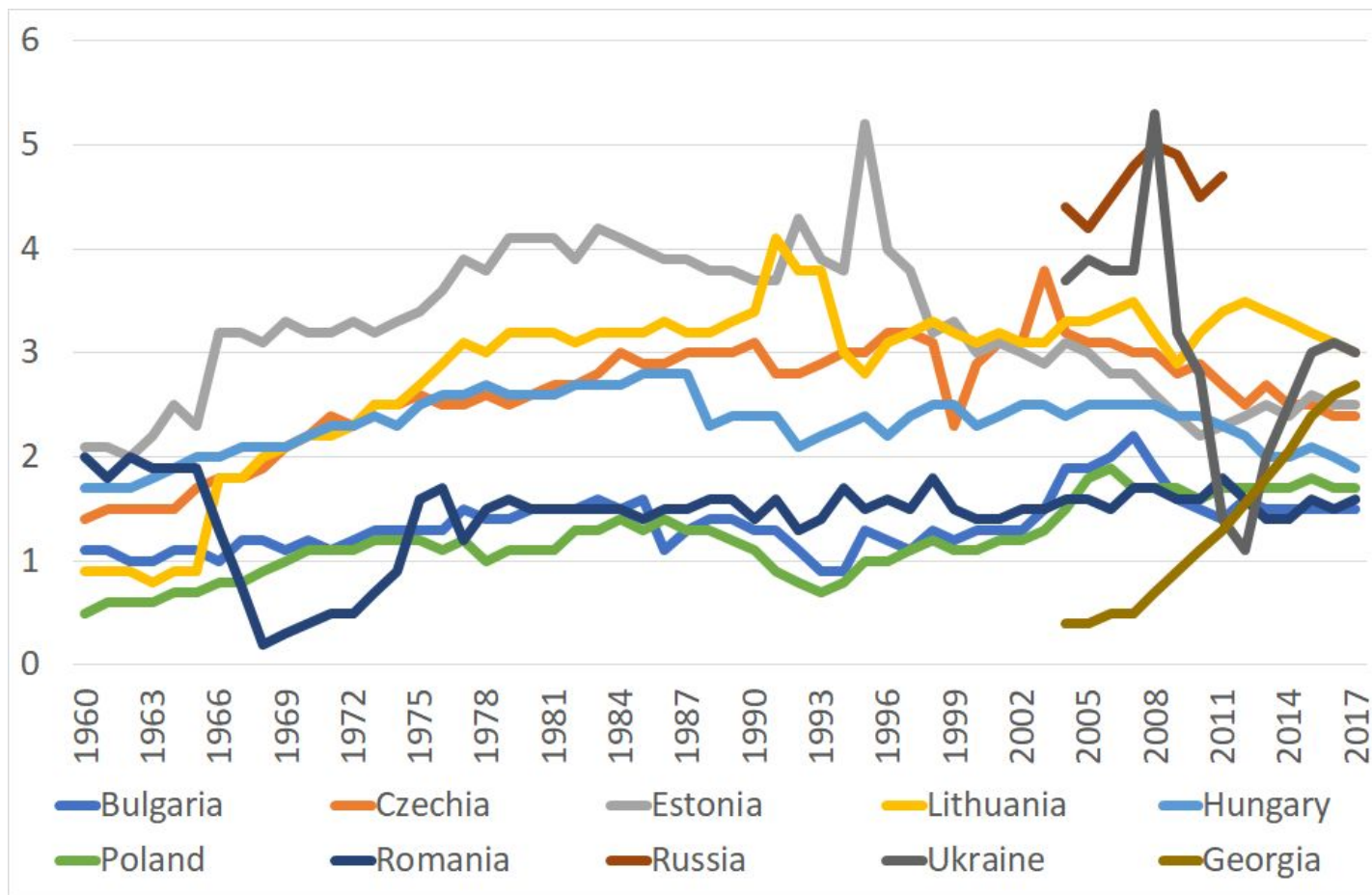


Fig. 1b Crude divorce rate, 1960-2017 (Source: Eurostat)

Data & Method

Harmonized Histories

- $N_{\text{country}} = 10$; $N_{\text{respondents}} = 117,517$
- Information on socio-demographics and parental background
- Monthly partnership histories

Event history analysis (and sequence analysis*)

Country	Data source	Date of data collection	
Bulgaria	GGG - W1	10/2004	12/2004
Czech Republic	GGG - W1	2/2004	4/2006
Estonia	GGG - W1	8/2004	12/2004
Georgia	GGG - W1	3/2006	7/2006
Hungary	GGG - W1	10/2004	5/2005
Lithuania	GGG - W1	4/2006	12/2006
Poland	GGG - W1	1/2010	12/2011
Romania	GGG - W1	11/2005	12/2005
Russia	GGG - W1	6/2004	8/2004
Belarus	GGP - 2020	1/2017	11/2017

Tab. 1 Overview of the Harmonized Histories

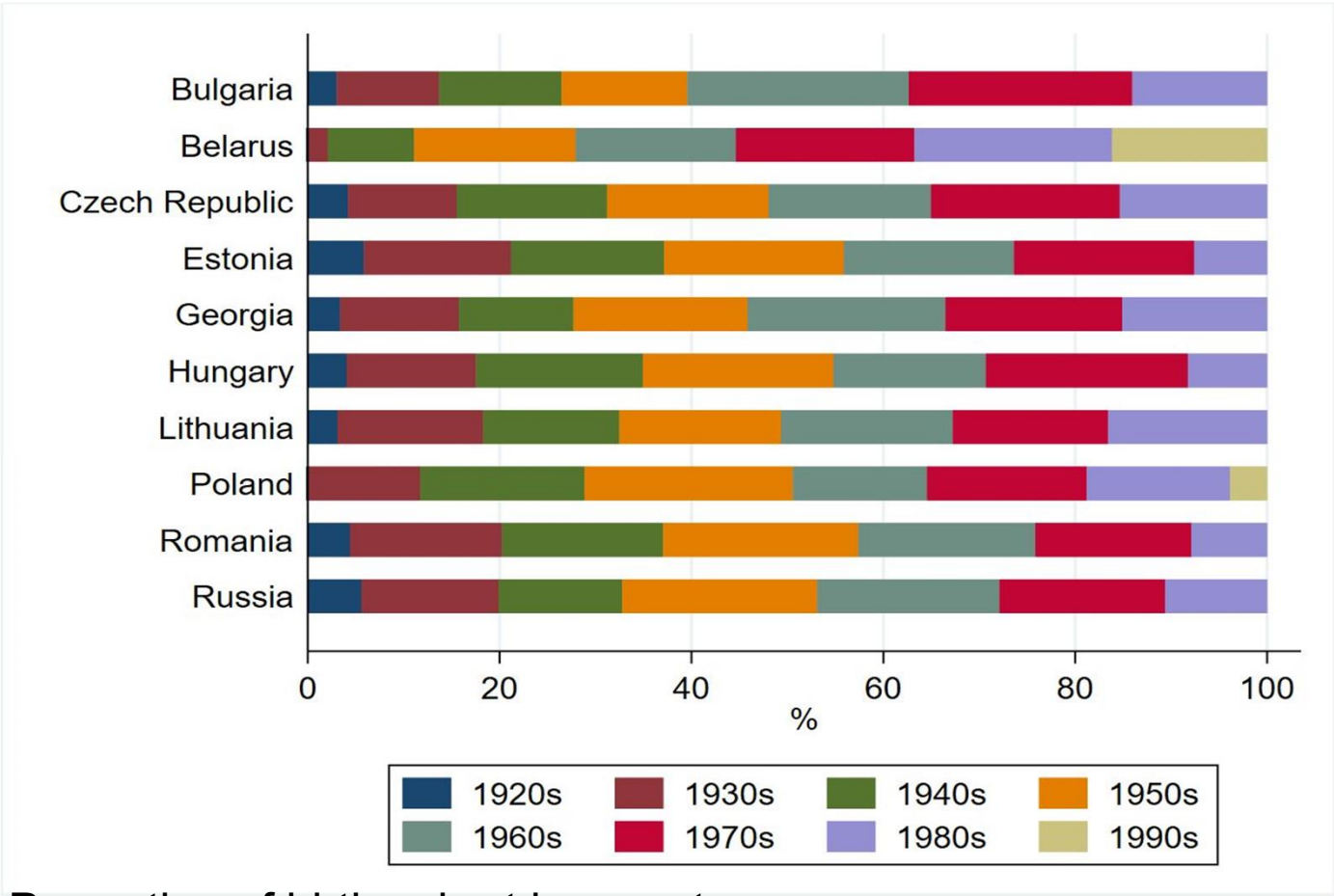


Fig. 2 Proportion of birth cohort by country

Preliminary results

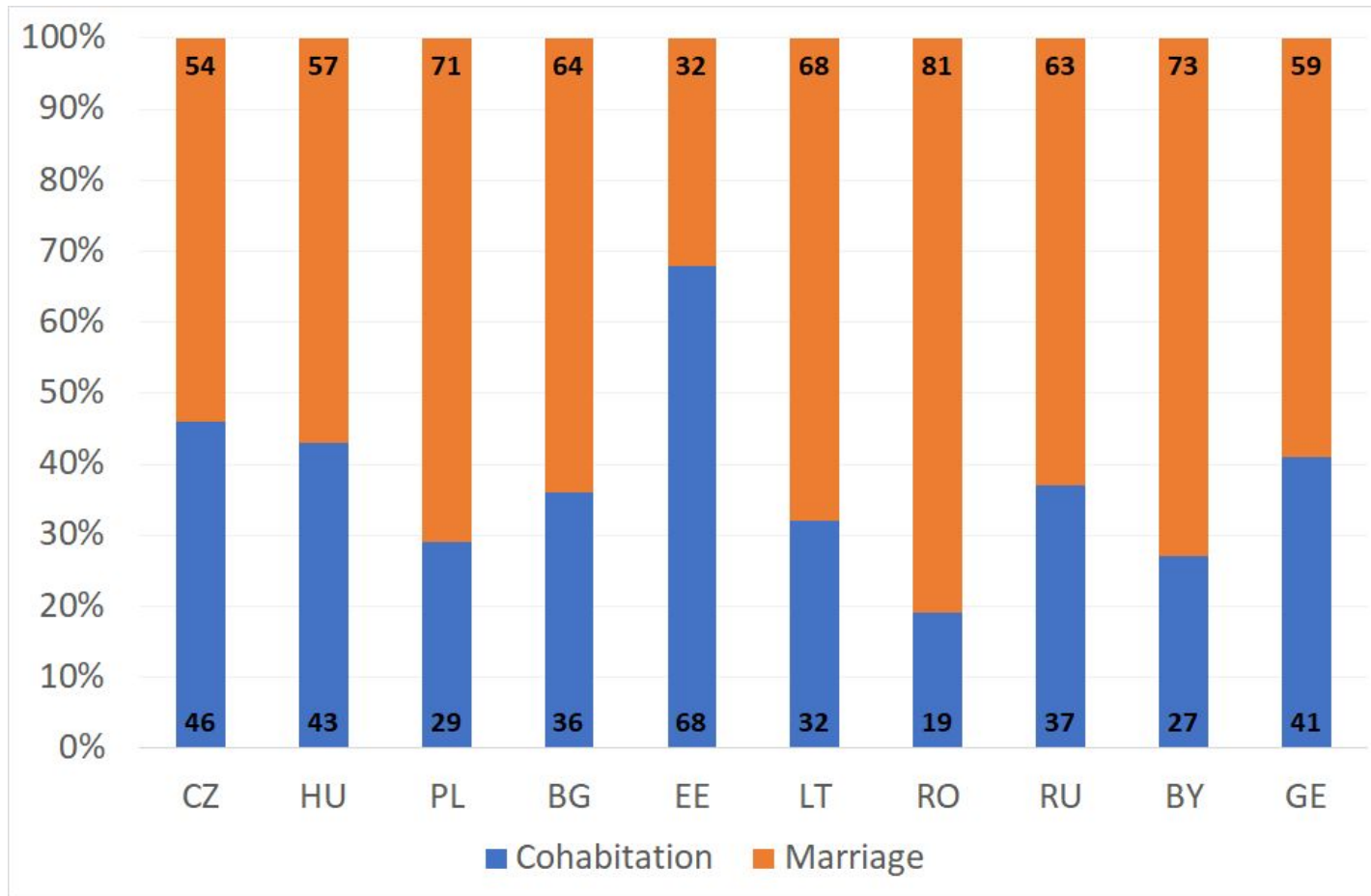


Fig. 3 Proportion of first unions formed after 1990, by type

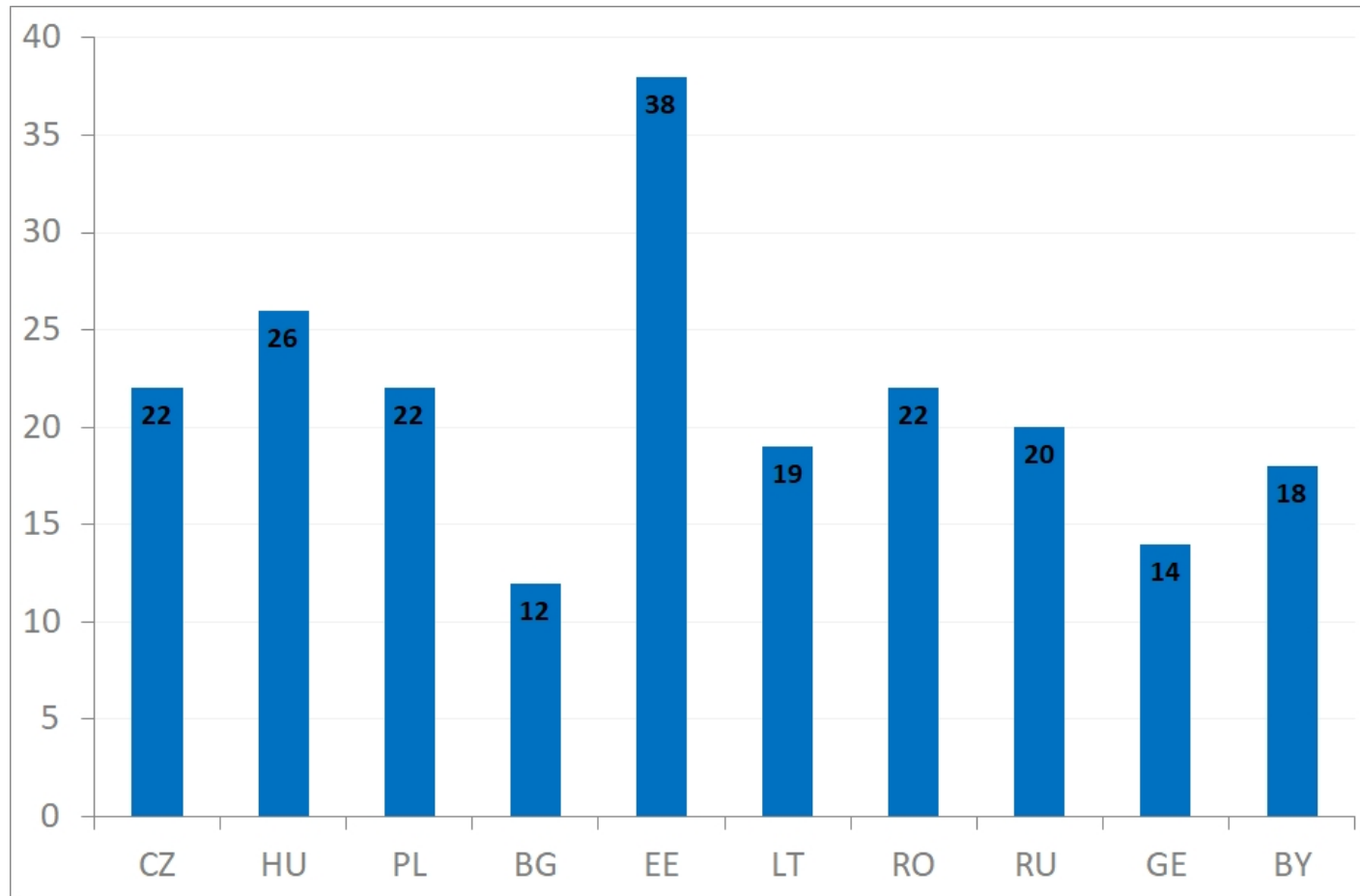


Fig. 4 Mean duration of cohabitations formed after 1990 in months, women

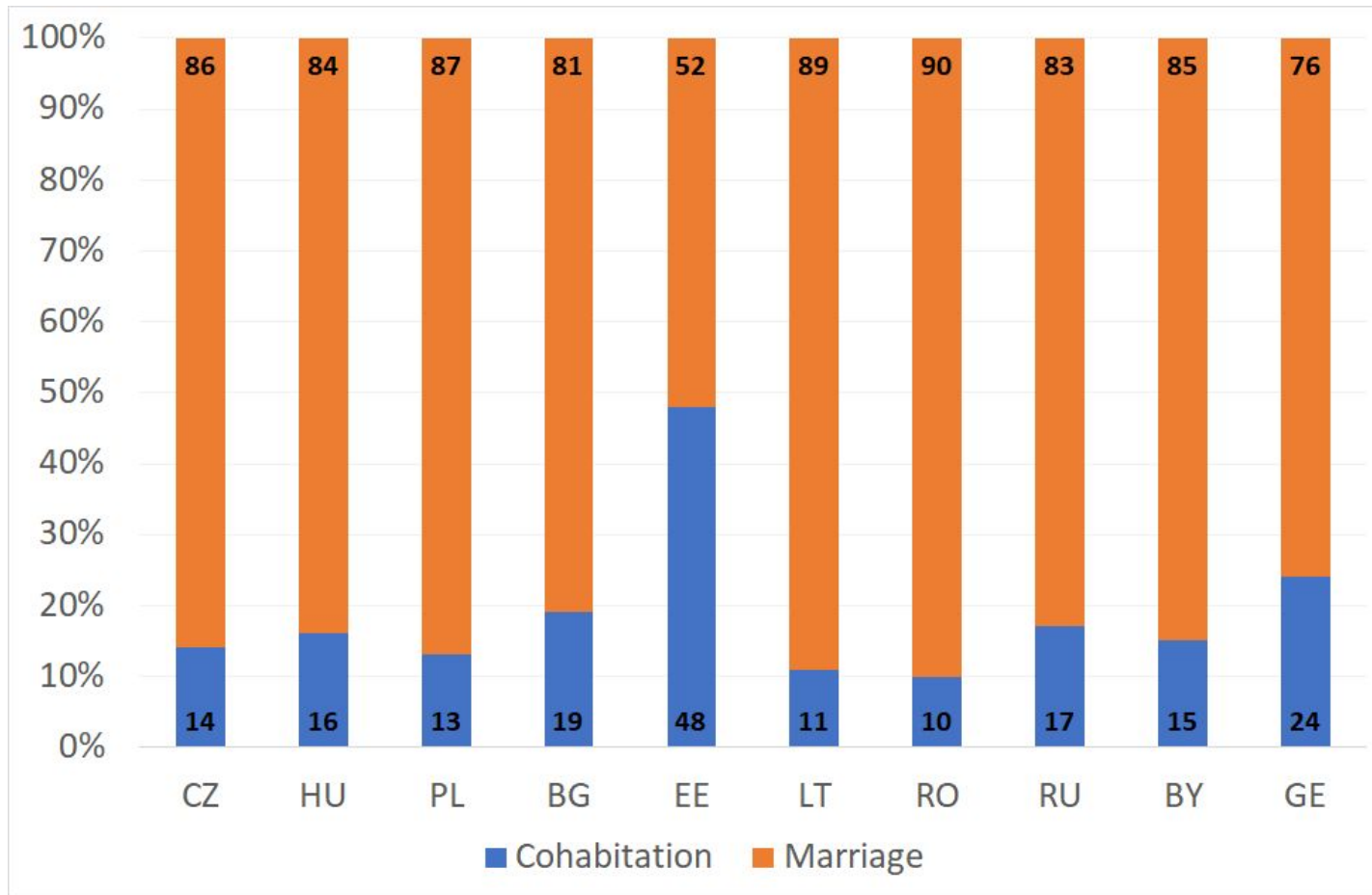


Fig. 5 Union context of a first birth within co-resident unions

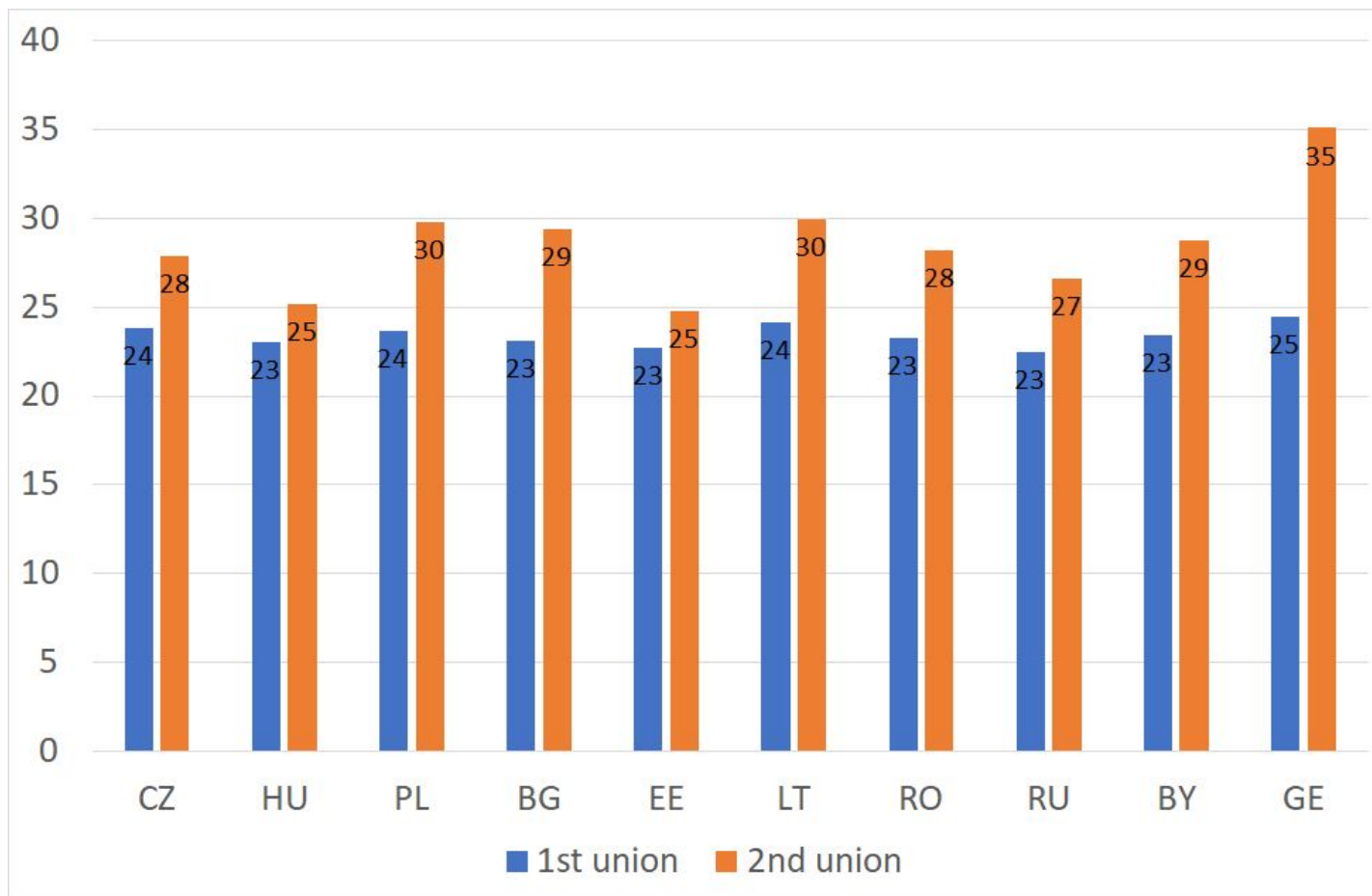


Fig. 6 Mean age at union start

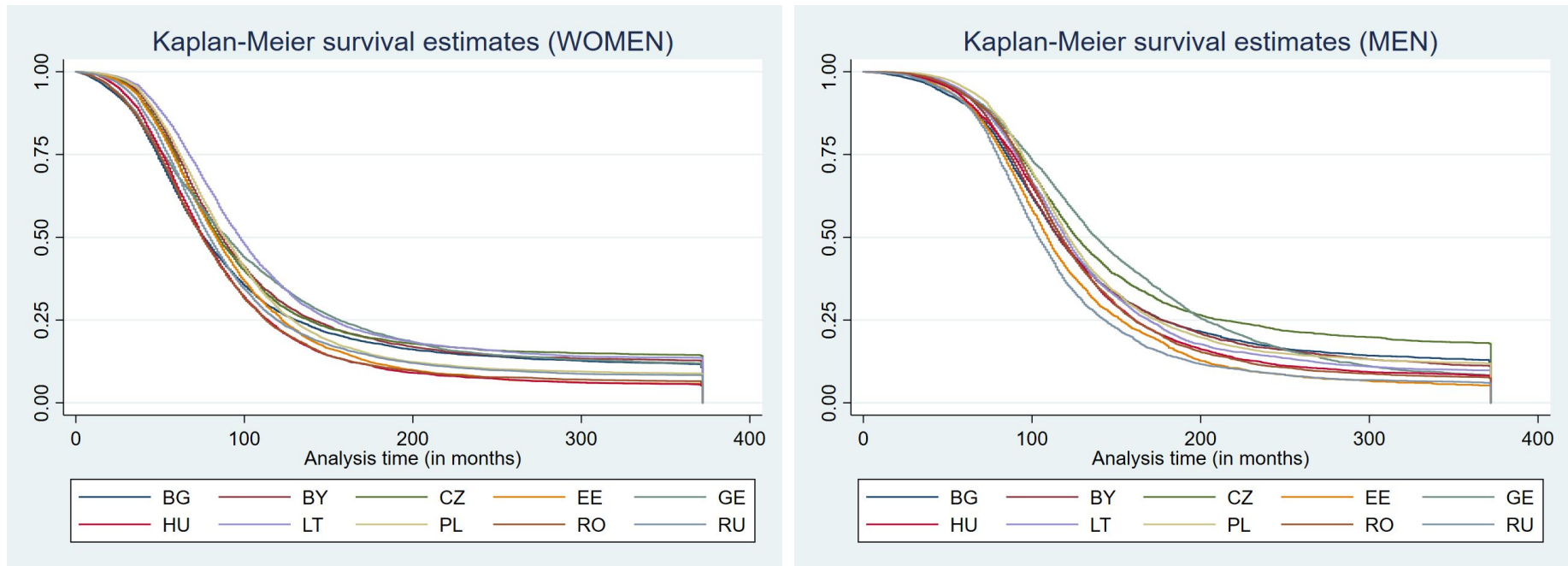


Fig. 7 Monthly 1st union formation rates by sex

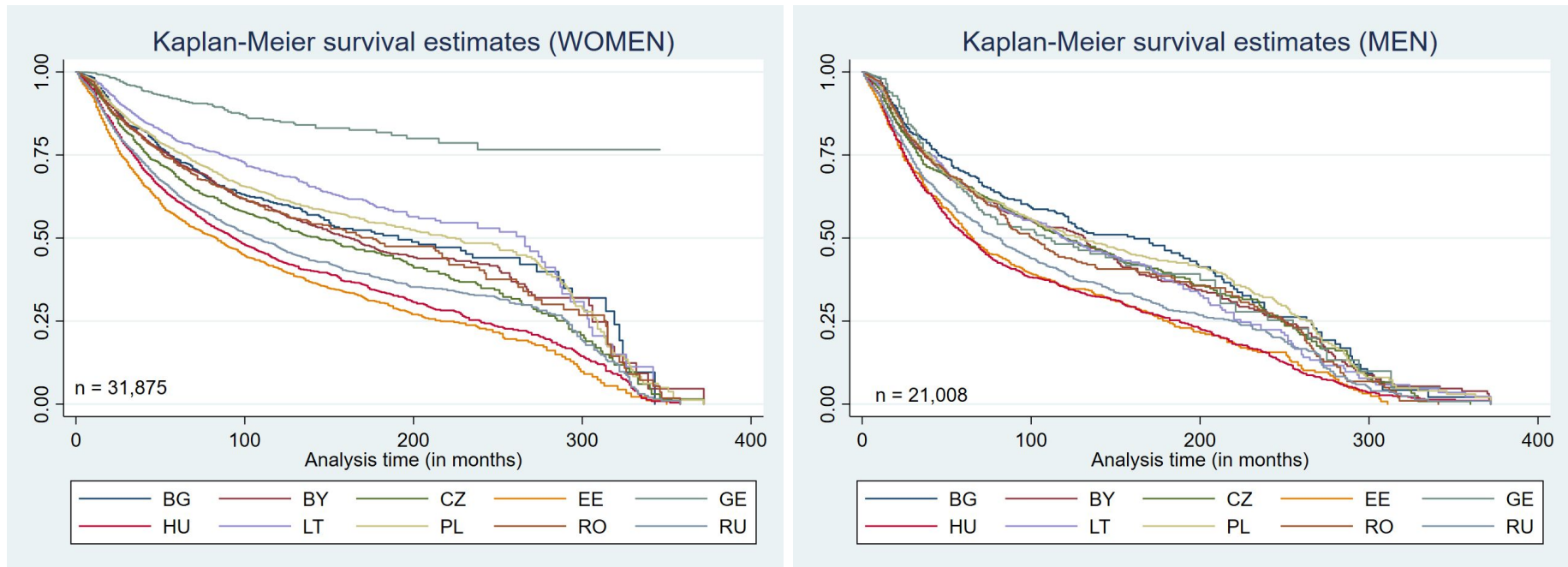


Fig. 8 Monthly 2nd union formation rates by sex

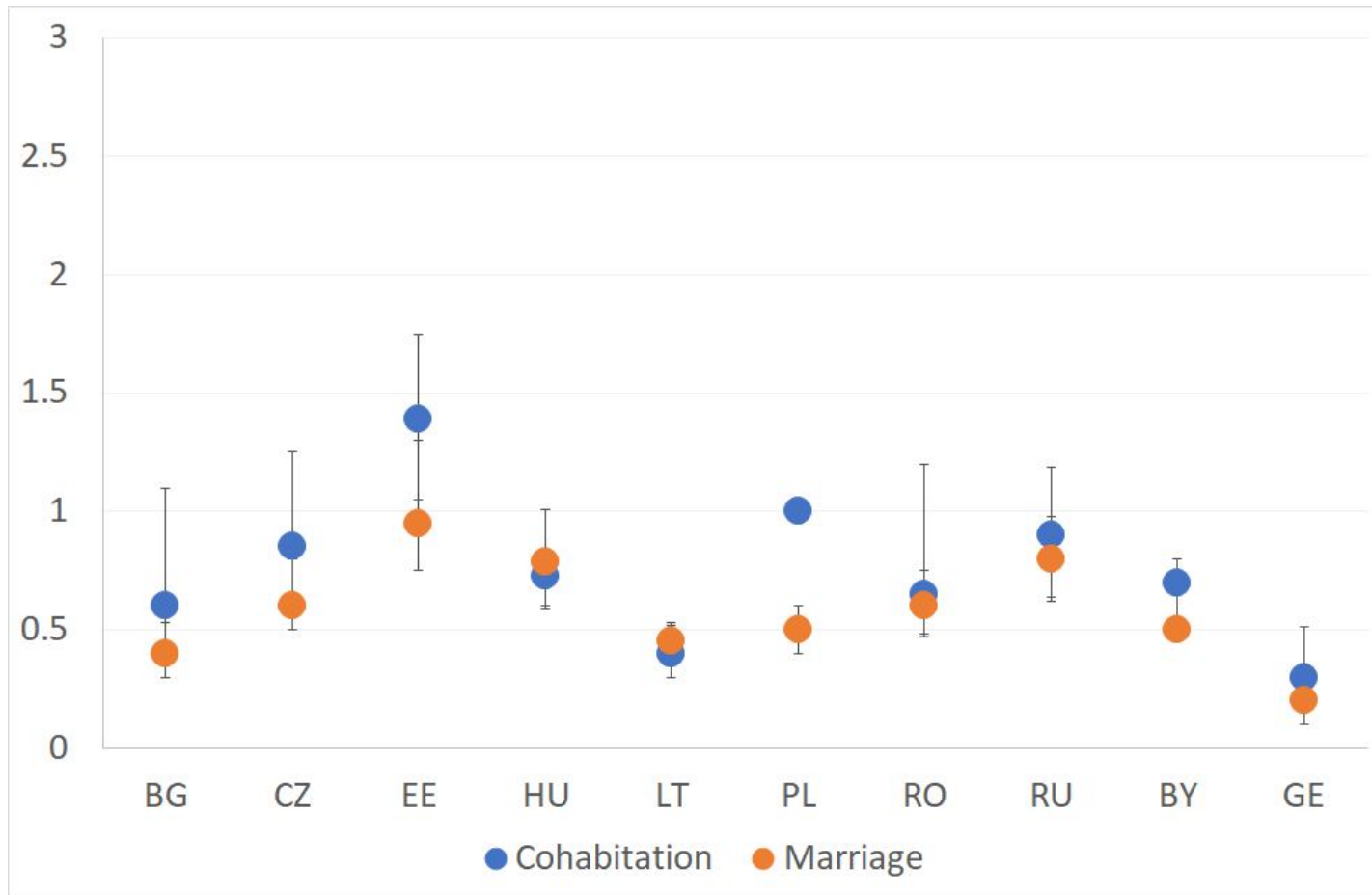


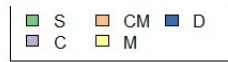
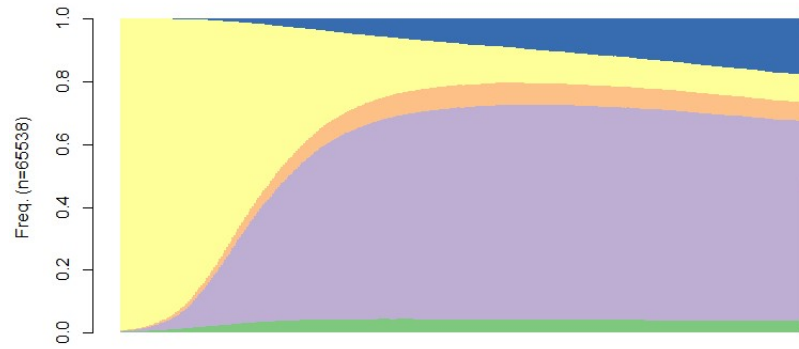
Fig 9. The odds ratio of re-partnering by country, women

Next steps

State definitions

	Helske et al 2015	Perelli-Harris & Lyons-Amos 2016
0	Single	Never in a union
1	1st partnership	Cohabiting
2	2nd partnership	Married preceded by cohabitation
3	3rd+ partnership	Directly married
4	Divorced/ separated	Single after separation
5	Missing	Missing

WOMEN



MEN

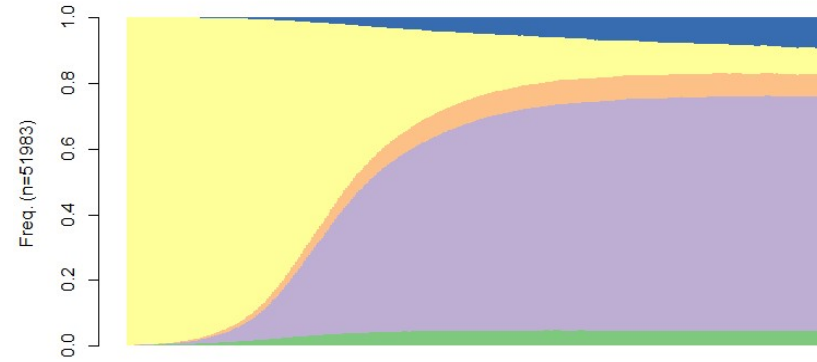


Fig. 10 State distributions between age 15-45, by sex

Thank you!

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