

Reaching Adulthood While Looking for Better Opportunities: Migration and Marital Timing in Mexico

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Outline

- Background
 - Justification
 - Conceptual Framework
 - Hypotheses
 - Data and Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusions
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Background

- Life-course perspective
 - Sequence of states and events
 - Migration
 - Transition to adulthood
 - Intra-cohort differentials
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Justification: why union formation?

- Age-graded event
 - Early transition, nearly universal
 - Slow changes in age at first union
 - Key role in social stratification system
 - Determinants vary by gender
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Conceptual Framework

Migration effects on union formation:

- Disruption
 - Adaptation
 - Human capital investment
 - Marriageability
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Hypotheses

Both men and women	Disruptive effects
1 st year rural destination	No effect
1 st year urban destination	Negative
1 st year international destination	Negative

Hypotheses

Both men and women	Disruptive	Adaptive
2 nd + year rural destination	No effect	No effect
2 nd + year urban destination	Negative but weaker than 1 st year	Negative and stronger than 1 st year
2 nd + year international destination	Negative but weaker than 1 st year	Negative and stronger than 1 st year

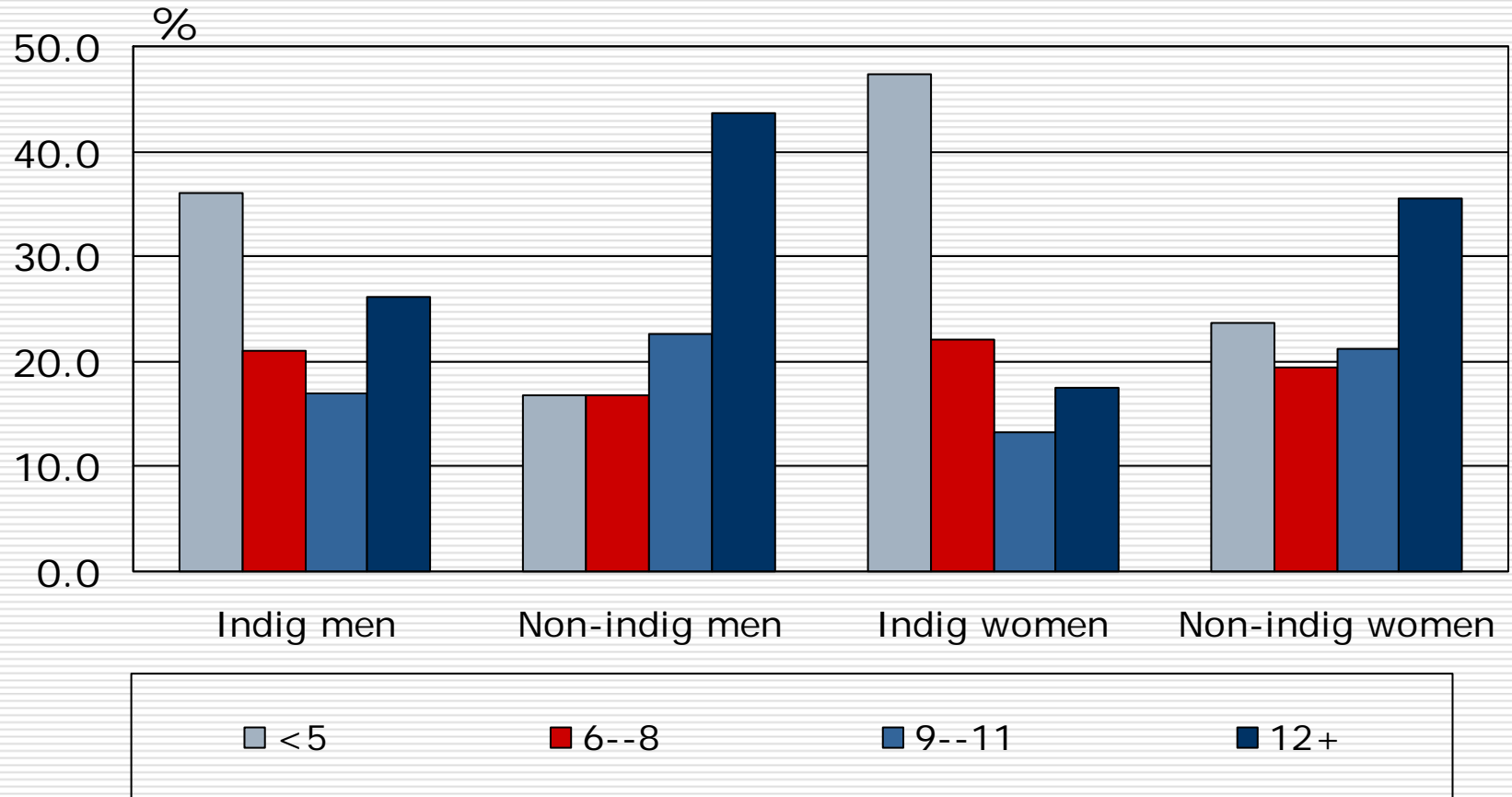
Hypotheses

Both men and women	Human capital investment	Marriageability	
		Men	Women
Return rural migration	No effect	No effect	No effect
Return urban migration	Positive	Positive	Negative
Return international migration	Positive	+/-	Negative

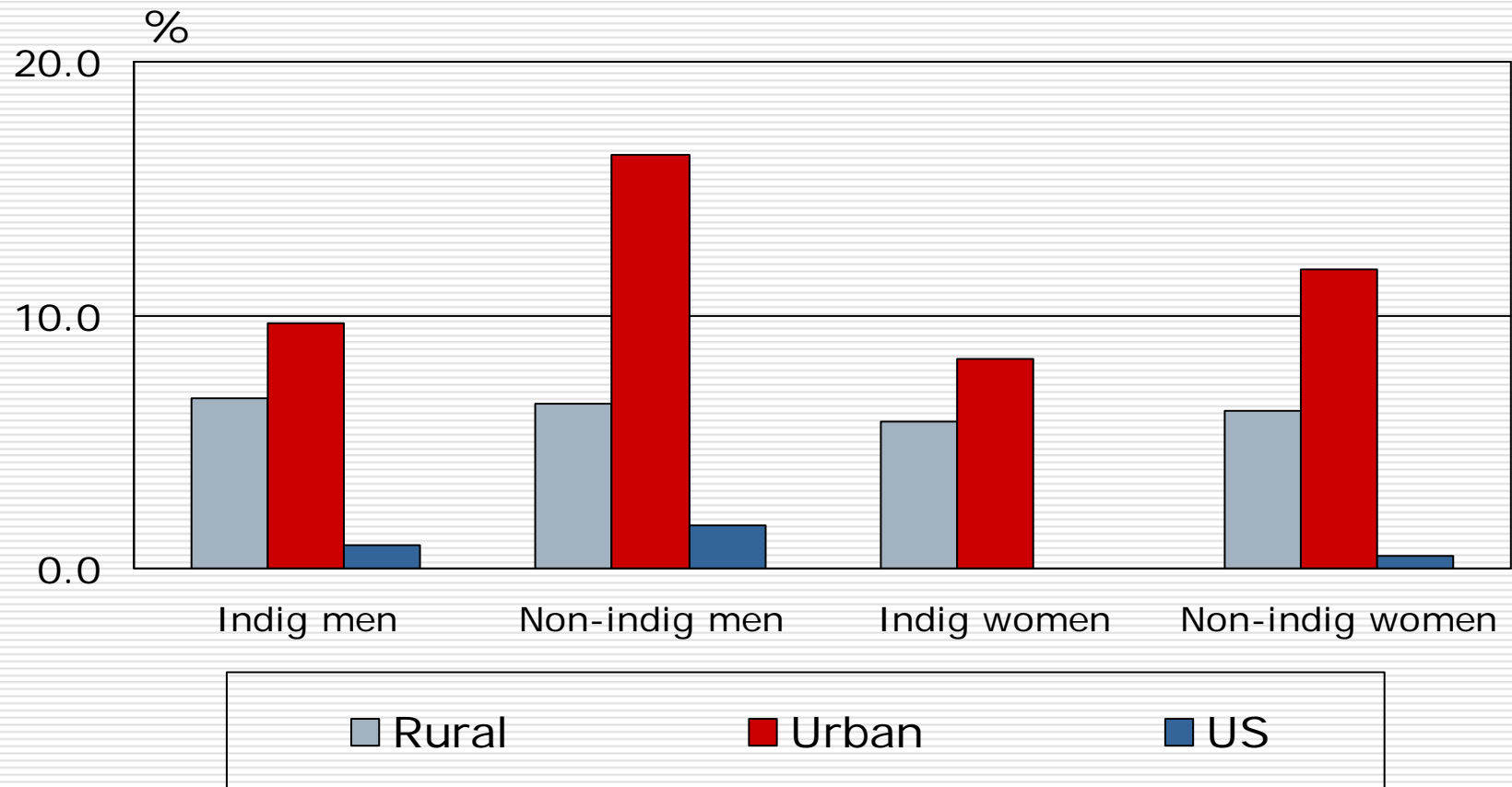
Data and Methods

- ❑ MxFLS-1
 - ❑ Events ages 12-31
 - ❑ Birth cohorts 1943-1982
 - ❑ Sample of 15,000 individuals
 - ❑ Units of analysis: individuals and life-years
 - ❑ Discrete-time logistic regression
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Levels of education by sex and ethnicity, Mexico 2002



Migration experience by sex and ethnicity, Mexico 2002



Marriage Timing Across Cohorts of Non-indigenous Women



Marriage Timing Across Cohorts of Indigenous Women



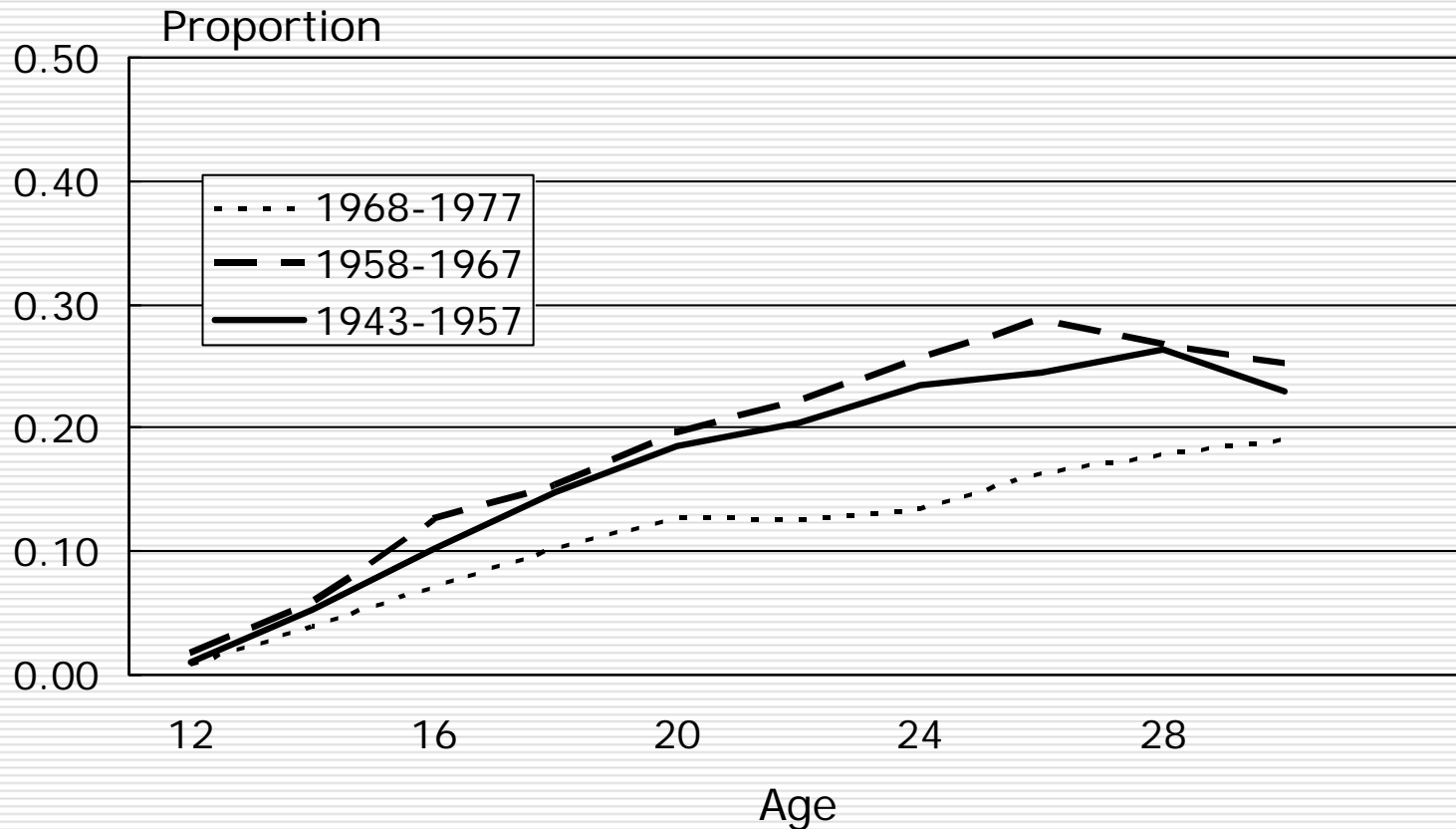
Marriage Timing Across Cohorts of Non-indigenous Men



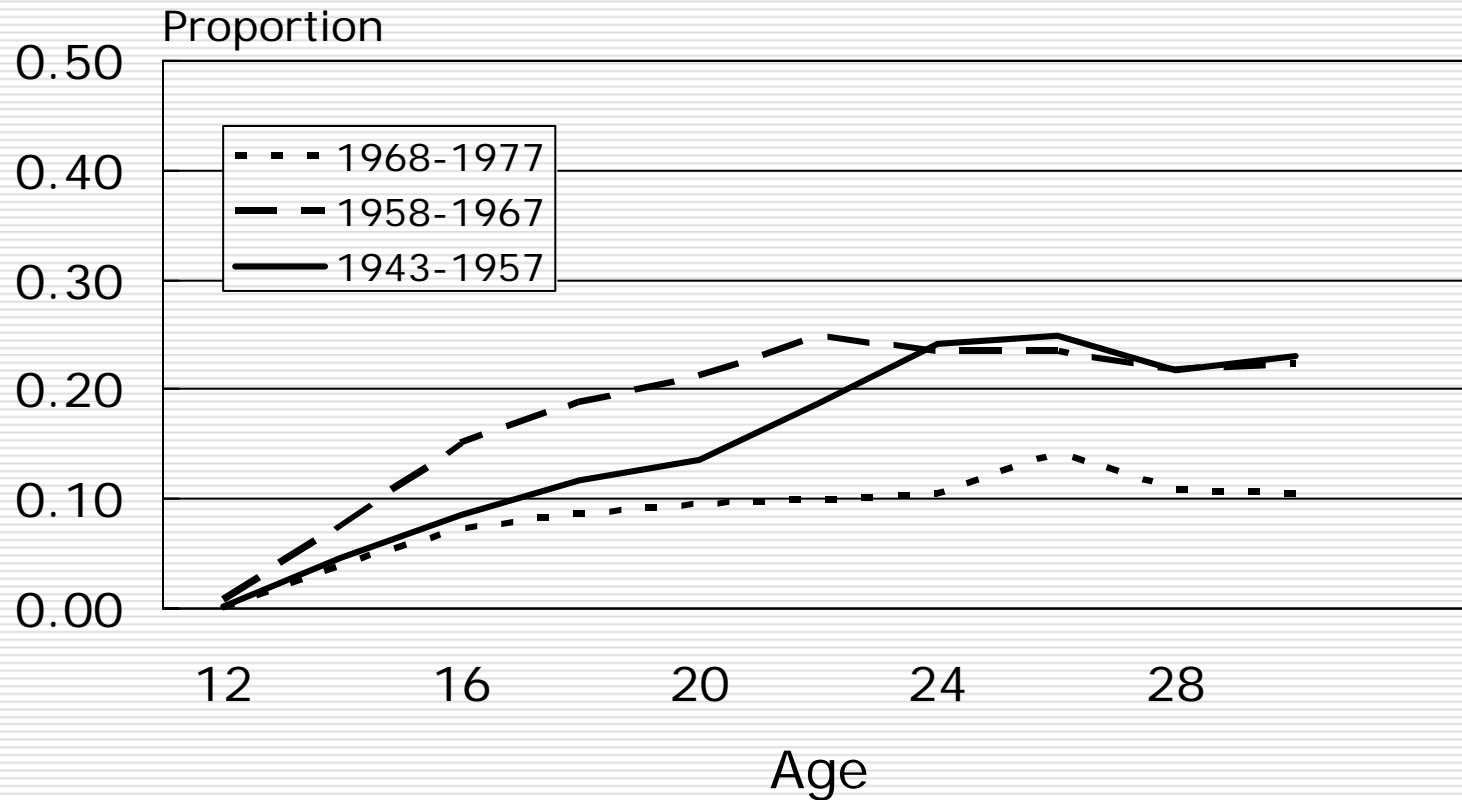
Marriage Timing Across Cohorts of Indigenous Men



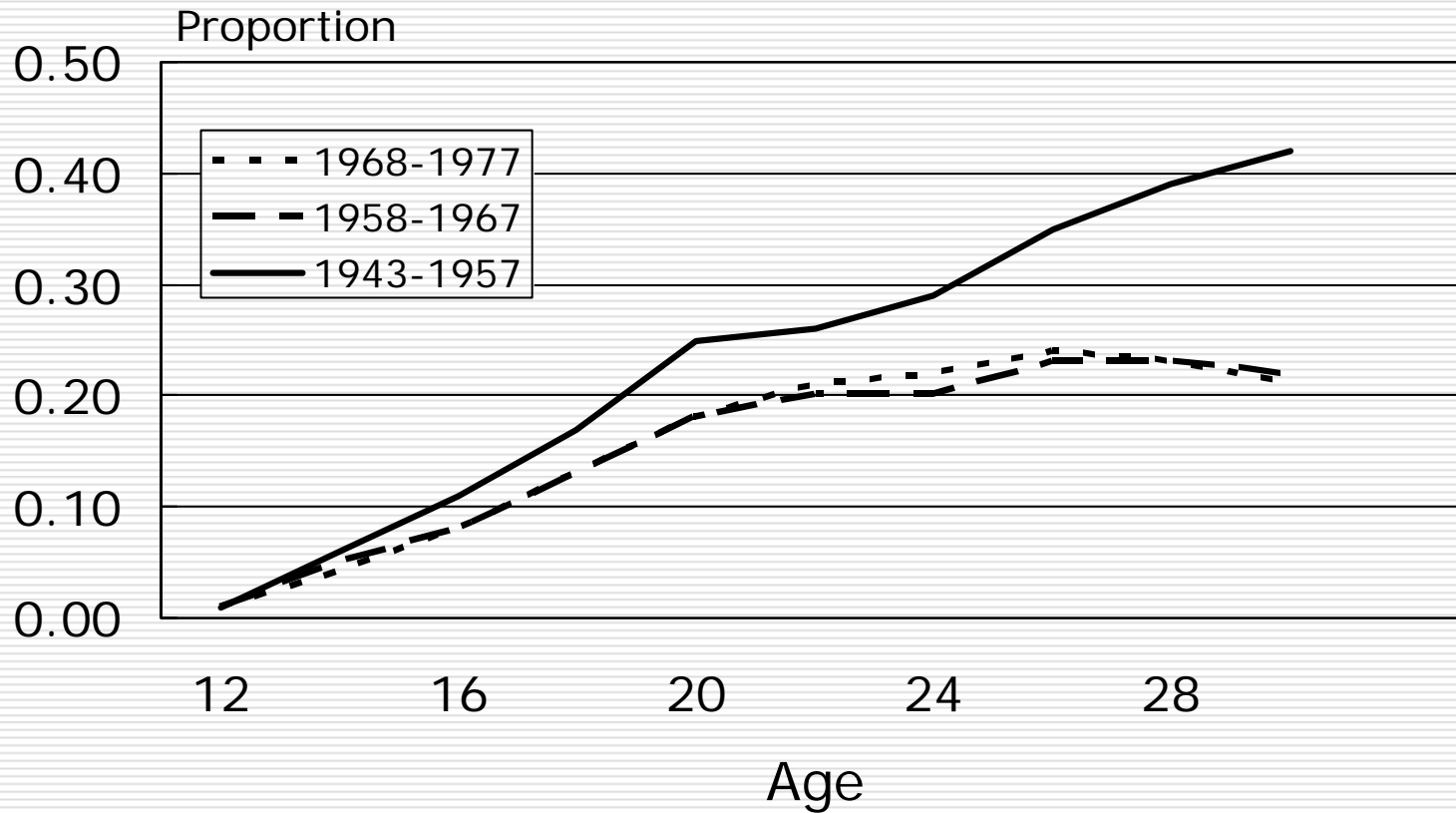
Age-specific proportions of never married non-indigenous women with migration experience



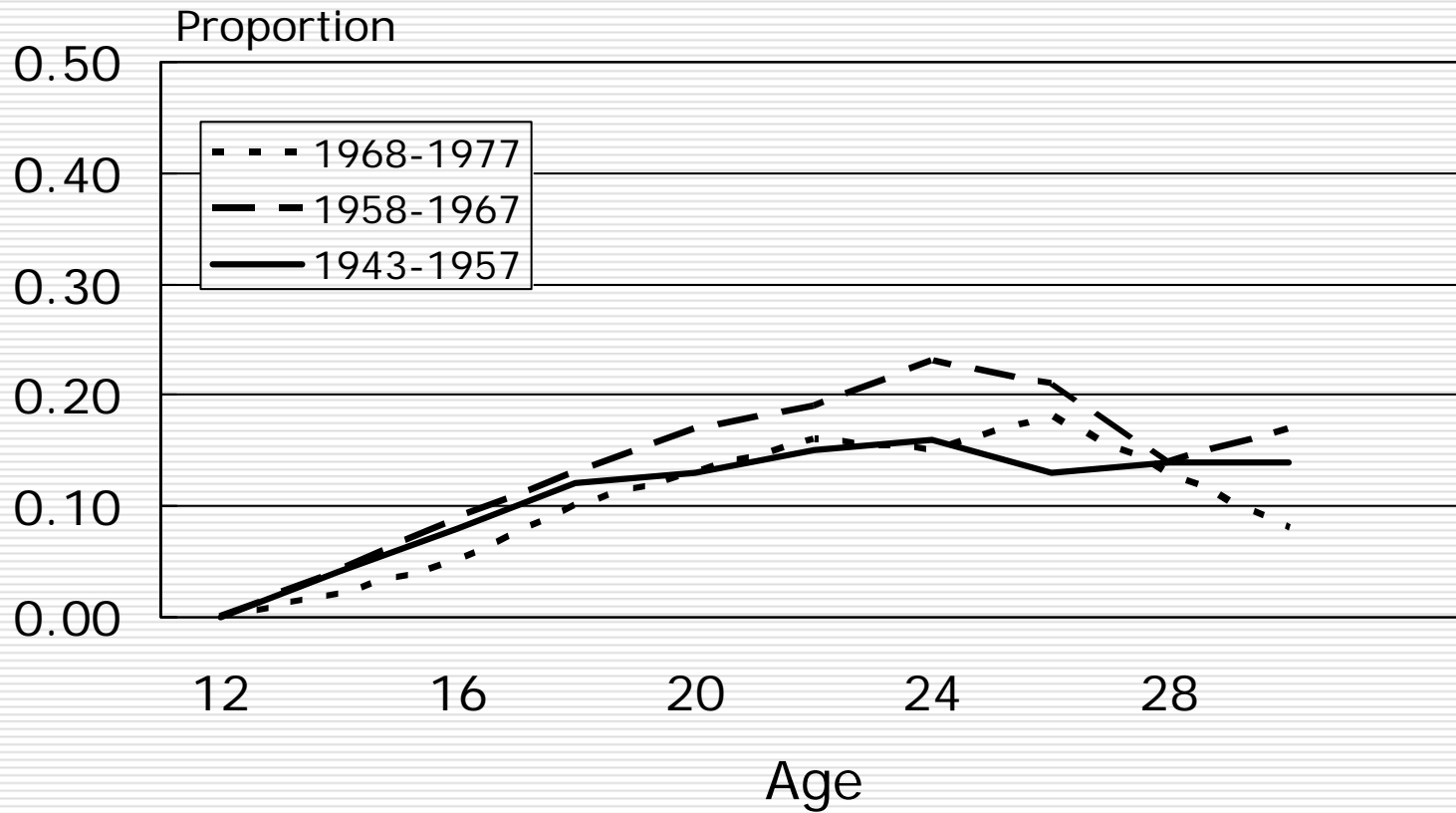
Age-specific proportions of never married indigenous women with migration experience



Age-specific proportions of never married men for non-indigenous migrants



Age-specific proportions of never married men for indigenous migrants



Coefficients from discrete-time regression models predicting first union formation

	Men	Women
Urban non-migrant	-0.096†	n.s.
1st year in rural destination	0.696**	1.542**
2nd+ year in rural destination	n.s.	0.381**
1st year in urban destination	n.s.	0.763**
2nd+ year in urban destination	n.s.	0.231*
2nd+ year in US destination	-0.452†	n.s.

†p<0,1 *p<0.05, **p<0.01

Reference category: rural non-migrants

Coefficients from discrete-time regression models predicting first union formation

	Men	Women
1st year of return rural migration	n.s.	0.449†
2nd+ year of return urban migration	0.180†	0.278†
2nd+ year of return international migration	n.s.	1.340†
Work experience	0.668**	-0.084†
In school	n.s.	-1.167**
Premarital birth	n.a.	2.094**
Ethnicity	0.180**	n.s.

Controlling for educational attainment, age, and cohort effects

Conclusions

- Migration is associated with union formation but is mostly an age-graded event, enforced by social norms
 - Type of migration matters
 - Tied migration
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