



Marriage and divorce registration in selected countries: levels and differentials

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Population Data for the 21st century: Advances in data collection methodologies
UNFPA Headquarters
4-6 December 2019

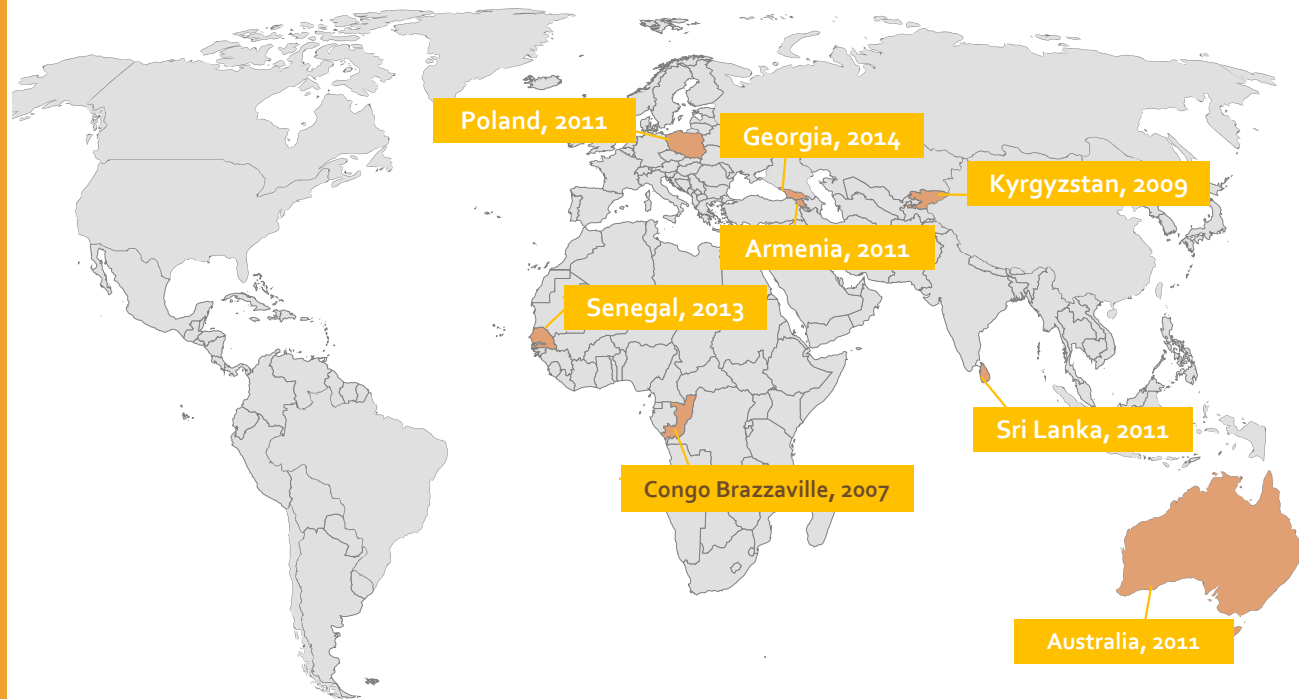
Outline

- × Why marriage and divorce registration matters?
- × What do we know about marriage and divorce registration coverage levels?
 - + Preliminary analysis from Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Republic of Congo
- × UNFPA ongoing activities in marriage registration and way forward

Why Marriage and Divorce Registration Matters?

- ✗ Legal proof of marriage or dissolution of marriage
- ✗ Secure property and inheritance rights and social protection
- ✗ Legal basis for the distribution of parental responsibilities
- ✗ Provide guidance for developing programs on family welfare and protection of rights of women and children
- ✗ Statistics show patterns of family formation and dissolution
- ✗ Demographic studies, genealogical research, and sampling frames for research studies

Evidence of coverage of marriage registration from censuses



Armenia 2011

18. Marital status (for persons 15 years and over)

Never married

Married (registered)

Married (not registered)

Marriage carried out only with church canonical ritual

Widowed

Divorced (registered)

Separated (not registered)

Kyrgyzstan 2009

10. Marital status (persons 15 years and over)

Never married

Registered married

Not registered married

Widowed

Divorced

Separated

Sri Lanka 2011

The marital status question categorized all persons into the following marital statuses:

Never married

Married (Registered)

Married (Customary)

Widowed

Divorced

Legally separated

Separated (Not legally)

Poland 2011

21. What is your marital status? (Concerns people aged 15 years or more)

Single

Married (in actual status of marriage)

Married (in separation adjudicated by court)

Married (not in the actual status of marriage but without separation adjudicated by court)

Widower/widow

Divorced

23. Non-obligatory question:

Was your current relationship formally established in a registry office or in a church (religious association)?

Australia 2011

6. What is the person's present marital status? ('Married'
refers to registered marriages)

Never married

Widowed

Divorced

Separated but not divorced

Married

Georgia 2014

The marital status question classified persons aged 15 years and above into the following marital statuses:

Married

Single

Widowed

Divorced

Persons who reported being married were further asked if the marriage is registered (Y/N)

Senegal 2013

B41. Etat matrimonial Situez l'état matrimonial du recensé et inscrivez le code correspondant à la réponse

- 00- Monogame (pour les hommes et les femmes mariés en union monogame)
- 01- Poly/1ère épouse (pour les femmes mariées en union polygame et qui occupe le 1er rang (1ère épouse))
- 02- Poly/2ié épouse/2 épouses
- 03- Poly/3iè épouse/3 épouses
- 04- Poly/4iè épouse /4 épouses
- 05- Poly/5iè épouse /5 épouses
- 06- Célibataire
- 07- Veuf/Veuve
- 08- Divorcé(e)
- 09- Union libre (concubinage)
- 10- Séparé (e)

B42 DECLARATION A L'ETAT CIVIL Est-que le mariage de [NOM] a été déclaré à l'Etat civil?

1 si c'est OUI , 0 si c'est NON et 9 pour NSP

Congo 2007

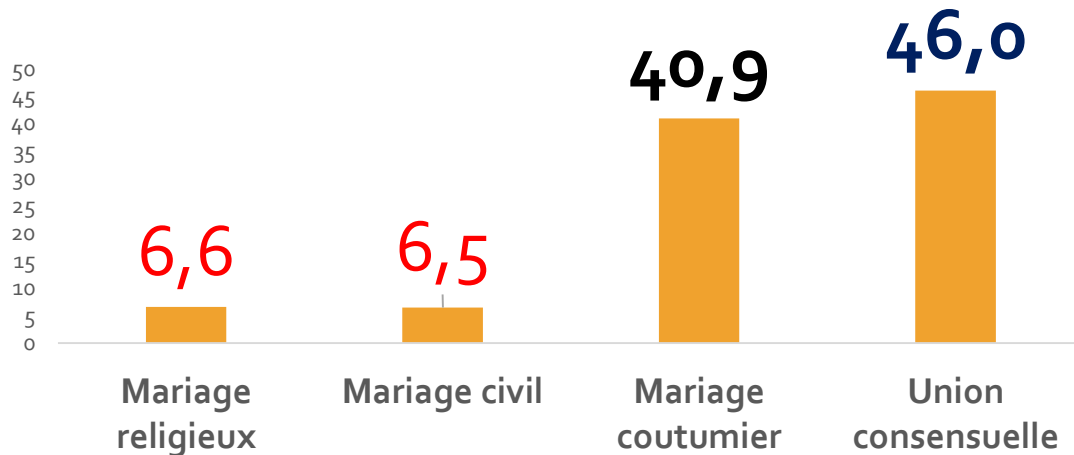
For countries that have not included a direct question on the status of marriage and divorce registration in their censuses or household surveys....

Coverage of marriage registration is derived indirectly if the questionnaire provides a detailed breakdown of different types of marriages that are practiced by the country's population (i.e. quantifying registerable marriages according to the country laws). **2007 census of Congo is an example**

Congo Case Study

Congo, like most sub-Saharan African countries, has a low proportion of marriages registered in the civil registration system (13.1%)

Type of Marriages



Notes: Mariage religieux=religious marriage; Mariage civil = civil marriage; Mariage coutumier=customary marriage; Union consensuelle= common-law union

Source: Congo 2007 census

Historical and legislative framework

Before colonization:

- Rights and duties governed by customs
- Parish registers for the needs of the church

During colonization: administration of the colony (HR management, assessment of the tax base, mobilization of migrants, etc.)

- The Decree of 29 June 1889, which for the first time organized the civil registration system of French citizens in the French Congo, was the **birth certificate** of the Congolese civil registration system
- Order No. 927 of 13 December 1940, reorganizing the indigenous civil status into an AEF (French Equatorial Africa), made the declaration of marriages mandatory.

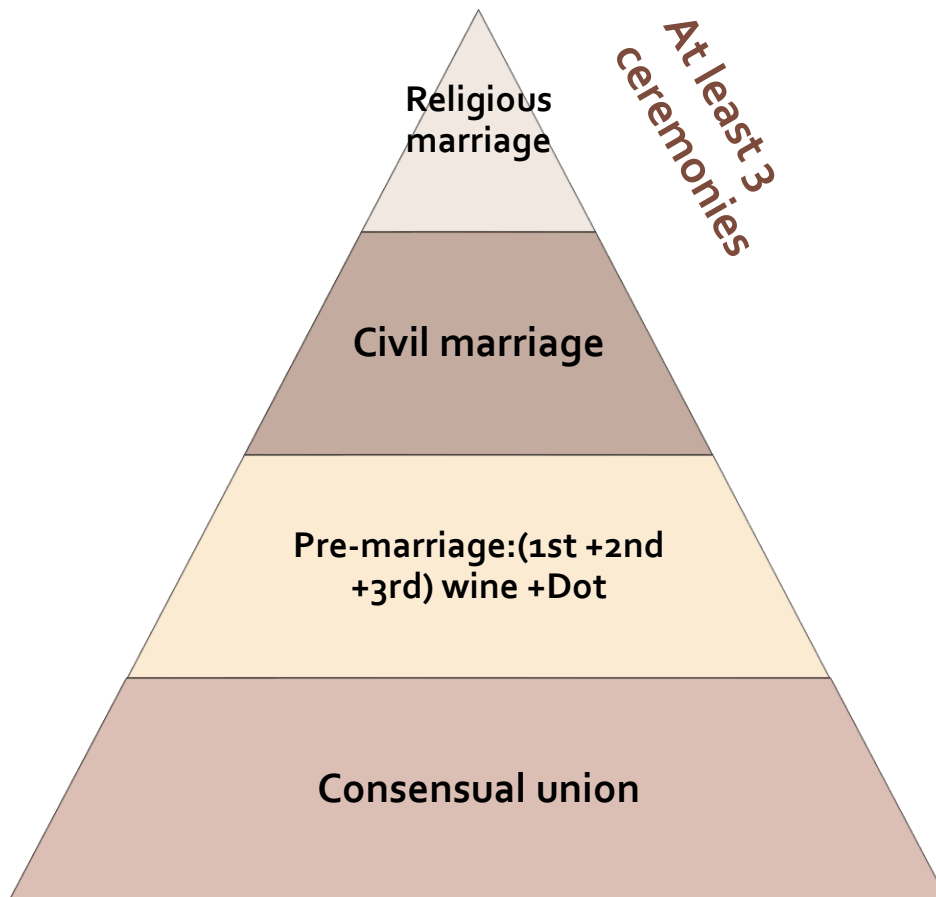
Historical and legislative framework

After independence:

- The current civil registration system is governed by Law No. 073/84 of 17/10/1984 on the Congolese Family Code.
- Customary marriage: **a prerequisite for civil marriage** (article 123) but without legal effect and not registered
- Validated by the payment of the Dot not exceeding CFAF 50,000 (article 140), prescription not applied. There is a lot of stock on the issue of the cost of dowry.
- Maximum duration of the **"pre-marriage": 5 years** (article 126), prescription also not applied
- Age for marriage: 21 years (men) and 18 years (women).



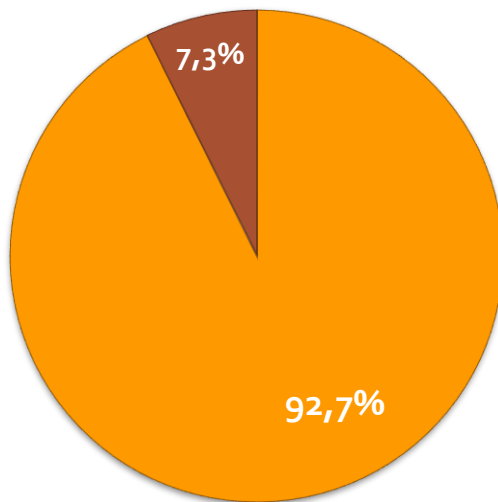
Matrimonial processes in Congo



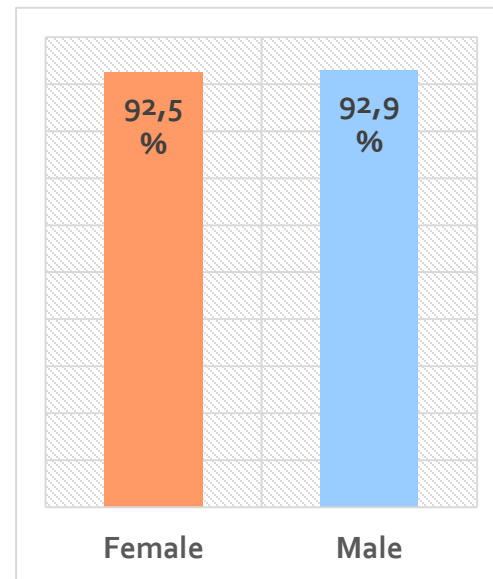
**Preliminary Results:
2009 Kyrgyzstan
Population and Housing Census**

Overall marriage registration level

92.7% of marriages were registered in **Kyrgyzstan** in 2009, with **no significant sex disparities**

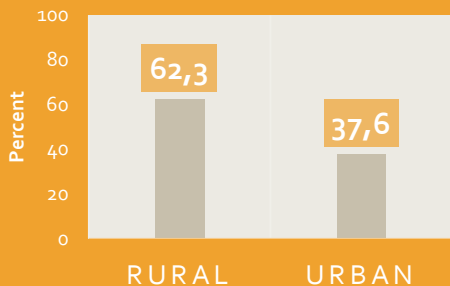


■ Married registered
 ■ Married not registered



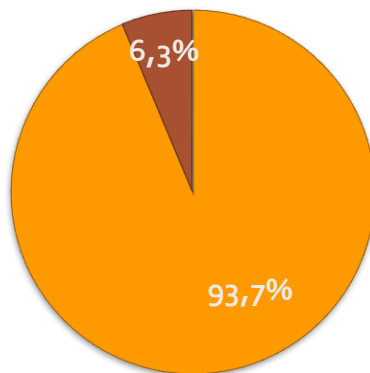
Marriage registration level by place of residence

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION AGE 15+

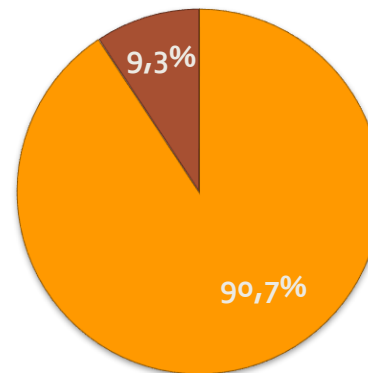


No significant difference in marriage registration coverage between rural (**94%**) and urban (**91%**) areas in **Kyrgyzstan**

Rural



Urban



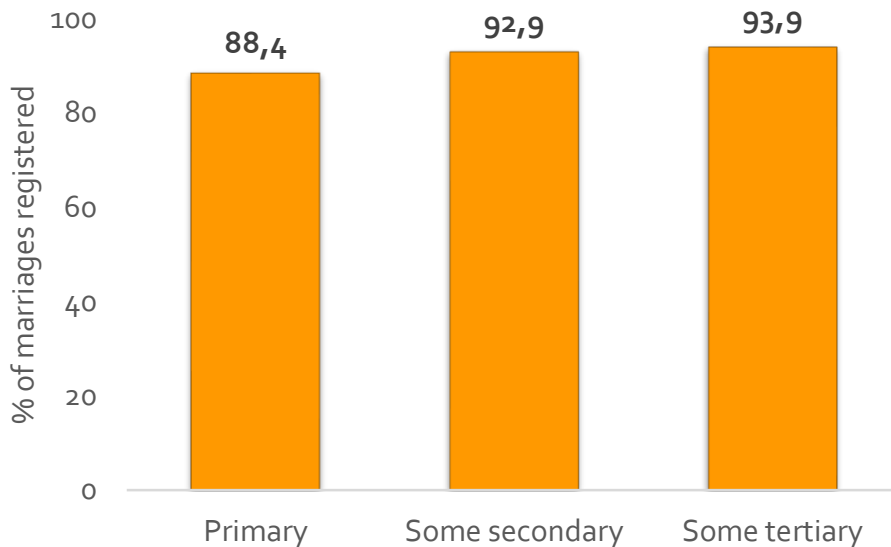
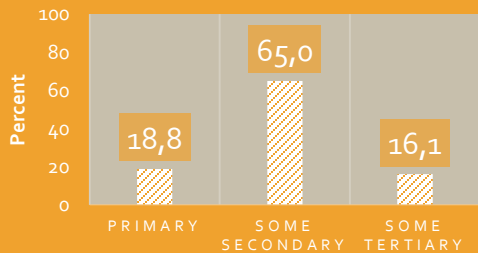
■ Married registered ■ Married not registered

■ Married registered ■ Married not registered

Marriage registration coverage by education level

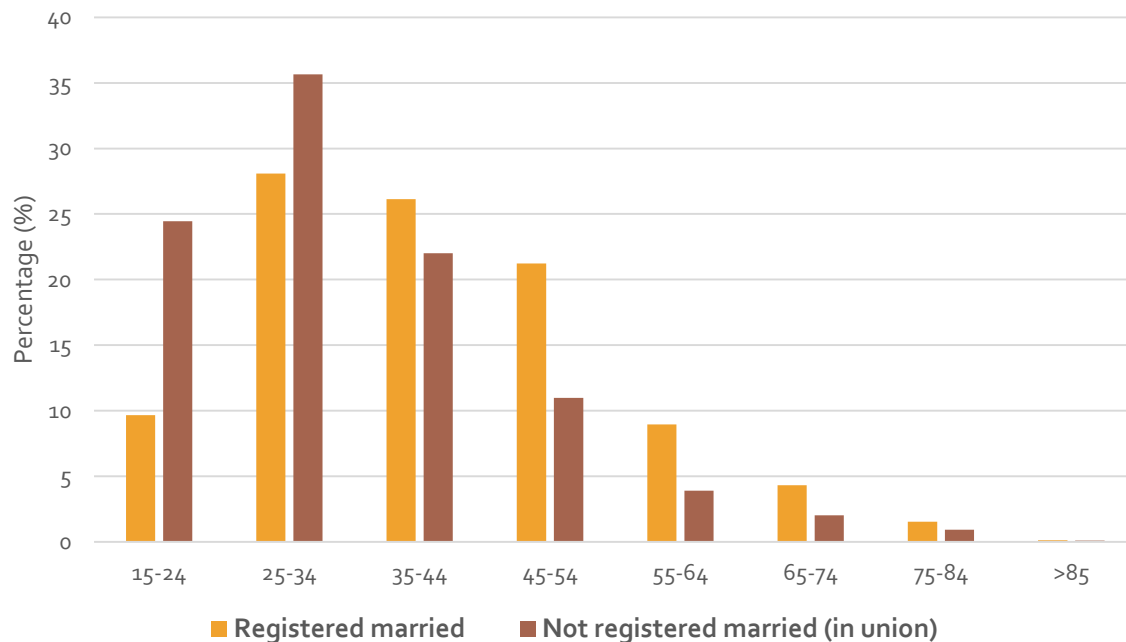
Marriage registration coverage is the lowest among people with **primary education** in **Kyrgyzstan**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE REFERENCE POPULATION BY EDUCATION LEVEL



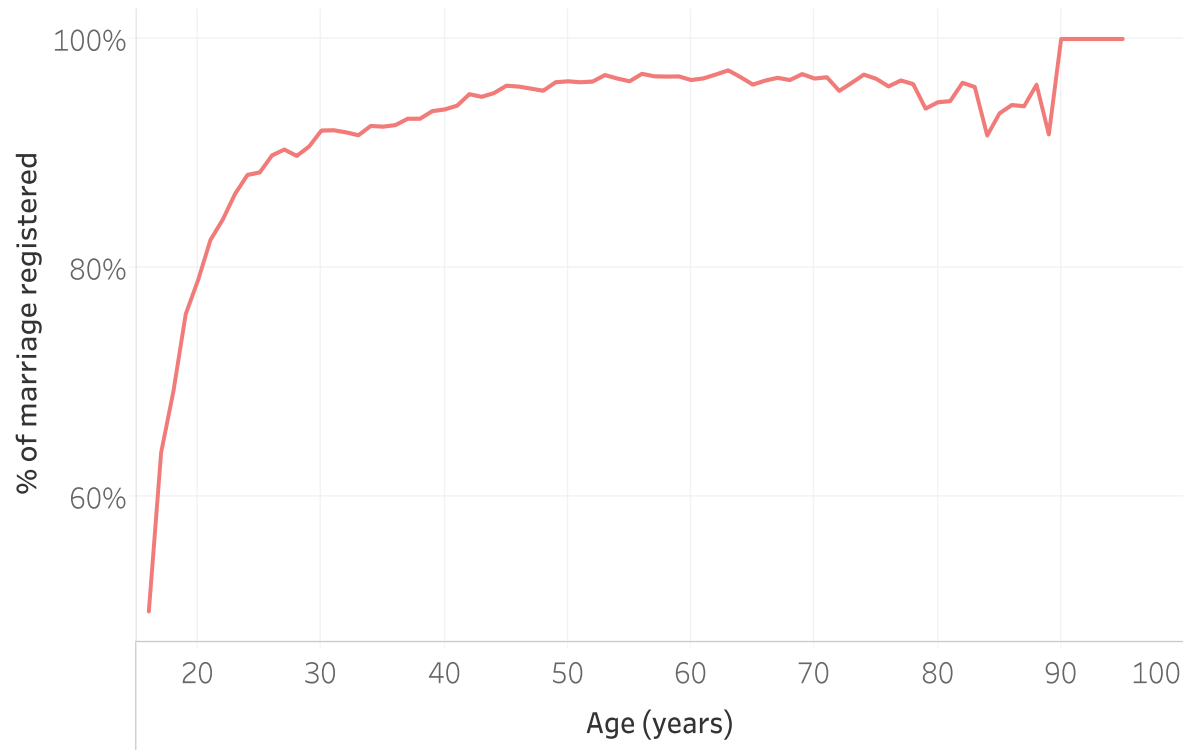
Marriage registration coverage by age

Younger people (34 years and below) are more likely to be in unregistered marriages than older people in **Kyrgyzstan**



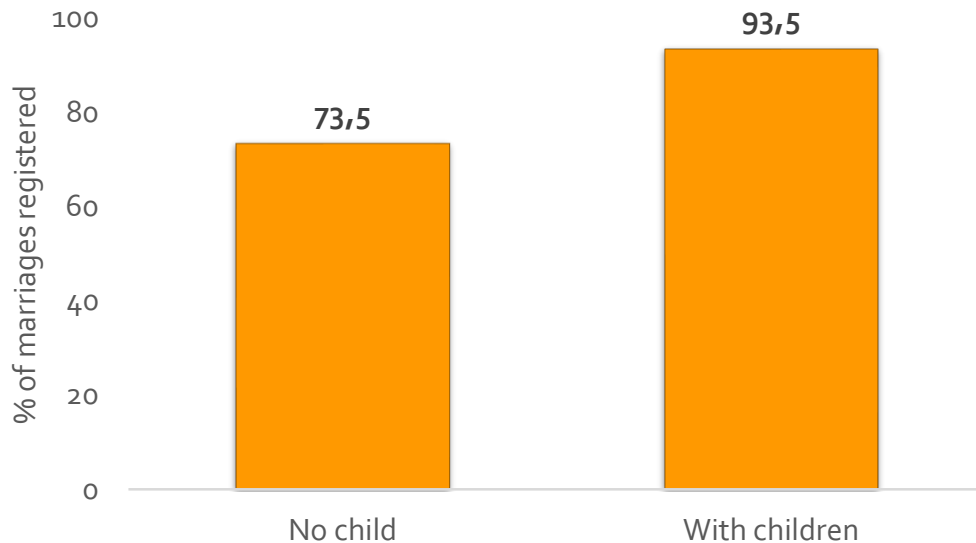
Marriage registration coverage by age

Pattern is true by place of residence, education level, and sex in **Kyrgyzstan**

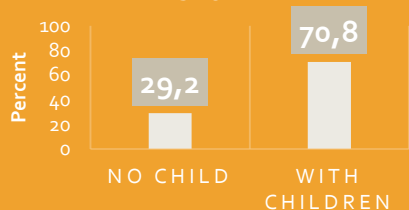


Marriage registration level among women by their reproductive history

Women with no child ever born have a lower marriage registration level than those with children in **Kyrgyzstan**



DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN AGE 15+ BY REPRODUCTIVE HISTORY



Marriage registration level among women by their reproductive history and education

Reproductive history has the largest impact on the marriage registration level of women with lower education level in **Kyrgyzstan**

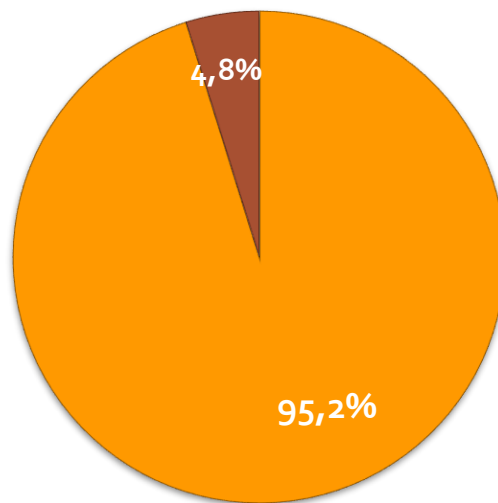


History of child ever born
■ Had no child ever born
■ Had child ever born

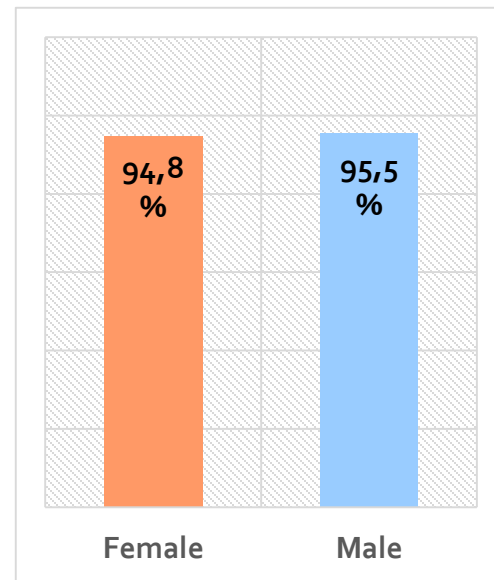
**Preliminary Results:
2011 Armenia
Population and Housing Census**

Overall marriage registration level

95% of marriages were registered in **Armenia** in 2011, with **no significant sex disparities**



■ Married registered
 ■ Married not registered

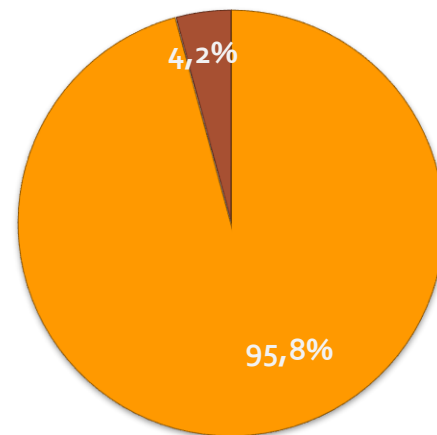
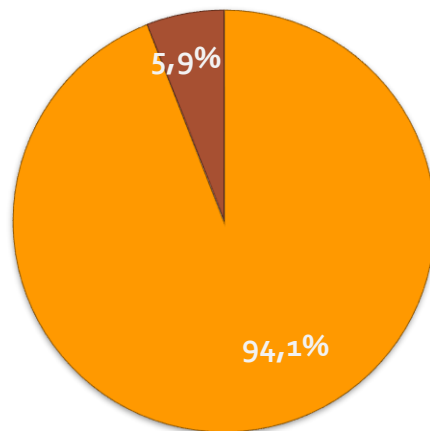


Marriage registration level by place of residence

Marriage registration level similar in urban and rural areas in **Armenia**

Rural

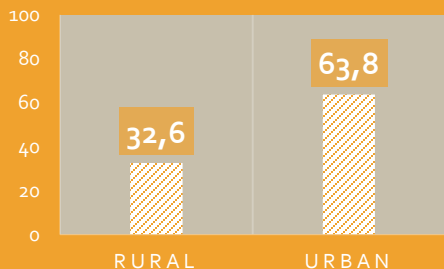
Urban



■ Married registered ■ Married not registered

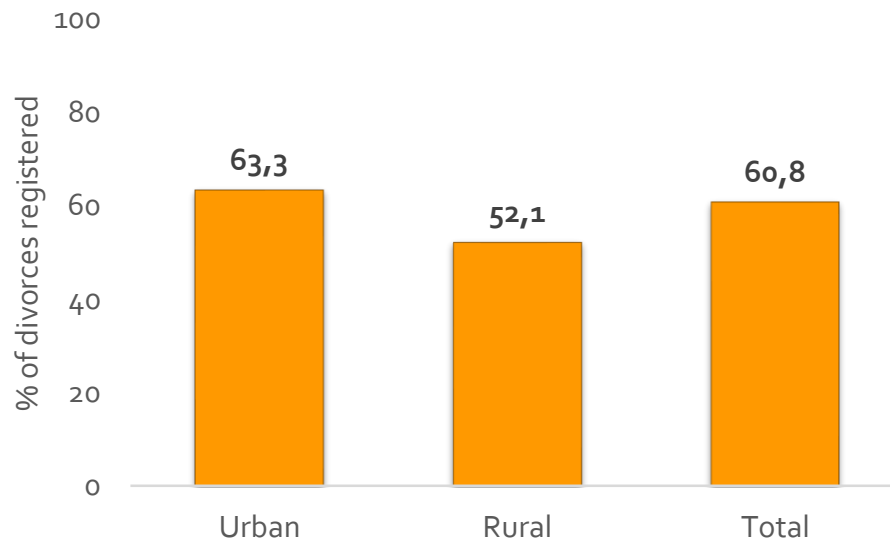
■ Married registered ■ Married not registered

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION AGED 15+ (%)



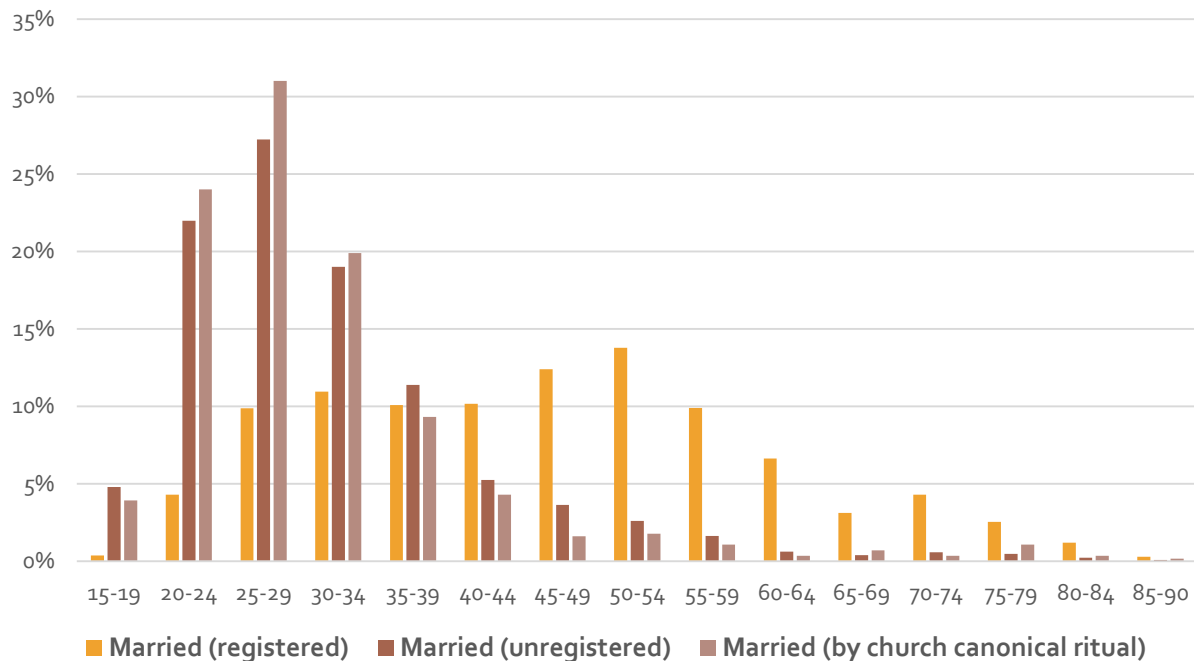
Divorce registration coverage by place of residence

Lower divorce registration level in rural areas in Armenia



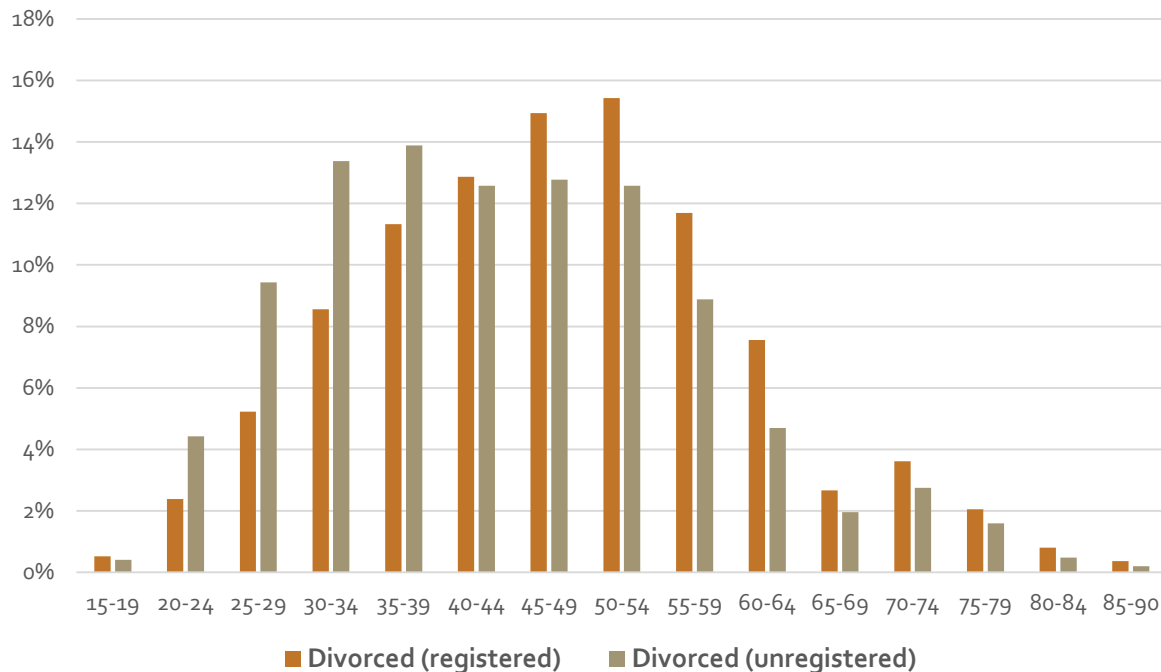
Marriage registration coverage by age

Non registration of marriage disproportionately high among **young people** (34 years and below) in **Armenia**



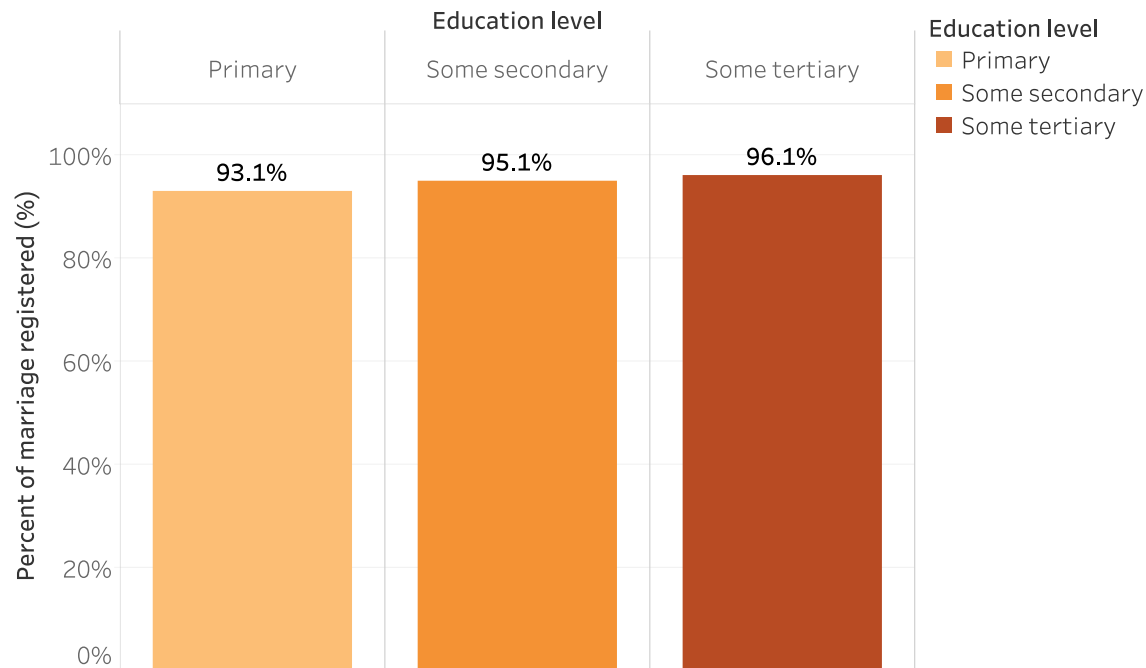
Divorce registration coverage by age

So is non registration of divorce - disproportionately high among **young people in Armenia**



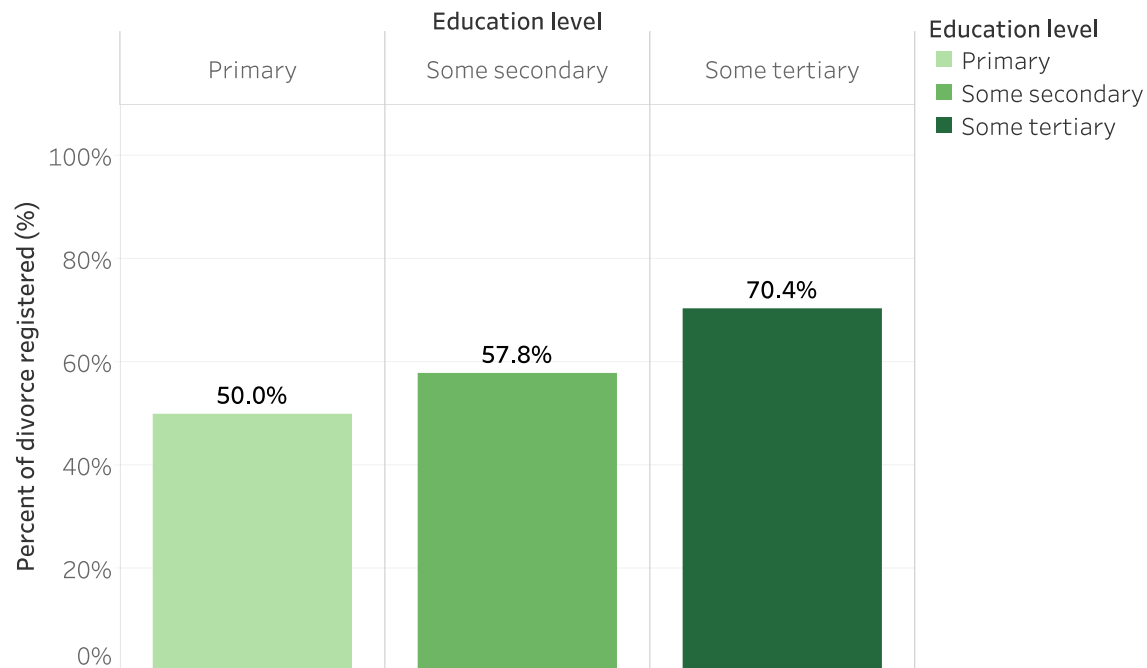
Marriage registration coverage by education level

No significant difference in marriage registration coverage by education level in **Armenia**



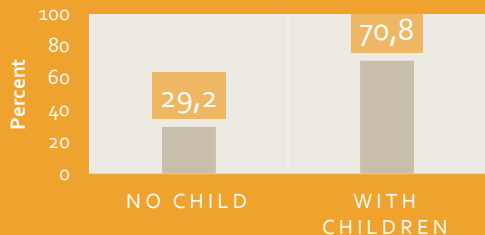
Divorce registration coverage by education level

People with **lower education level** are less likely to register their divorce in **Armenia**

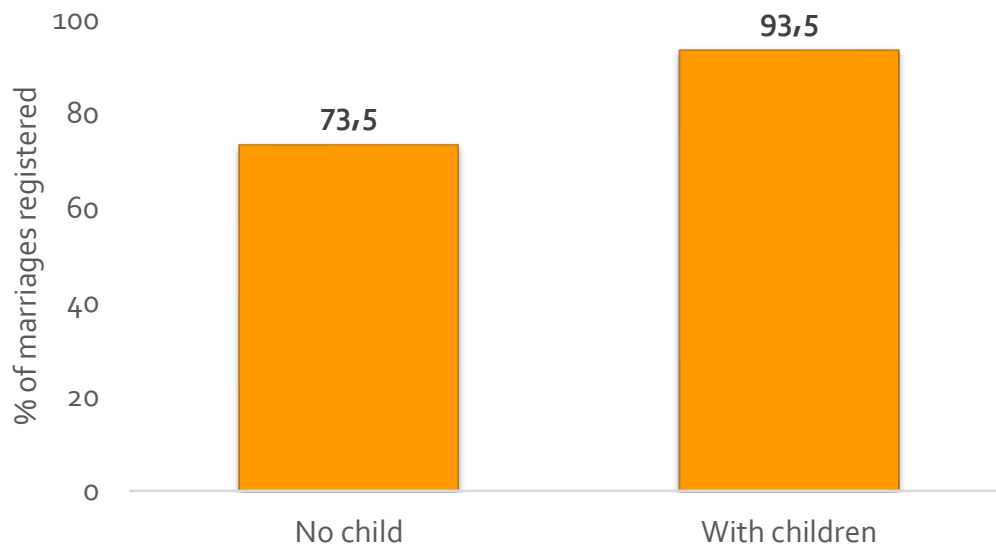


Marriage registration level among women by their reproductive history

DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN AGE 15+ BY REPRODUCTIVE HISTORY

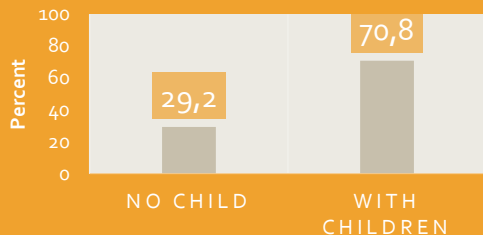


Women with no child ever born have a lower marriage registration level than those with children in **Armenia**

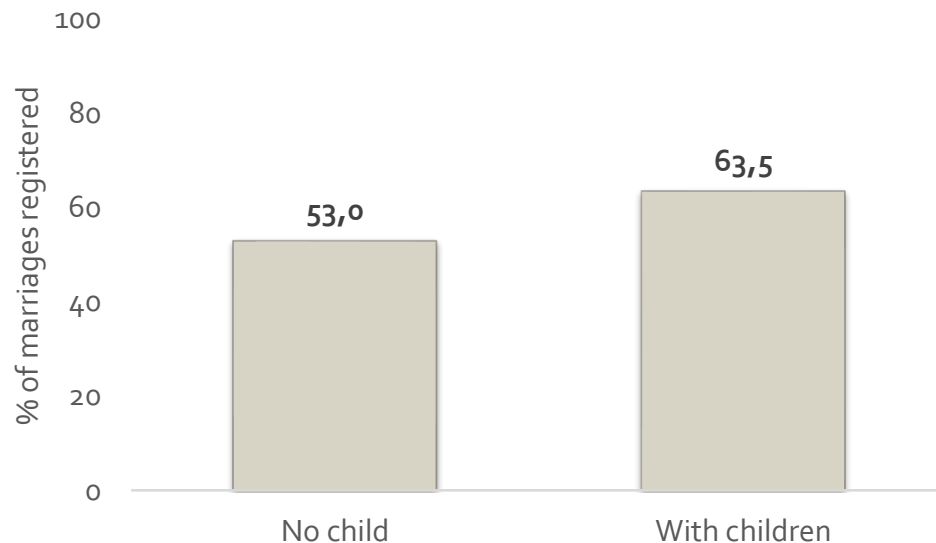


Divorce registration level among women by their reproductive history

DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN AGE 15+ BY REPRODUCTIVE HISTORY

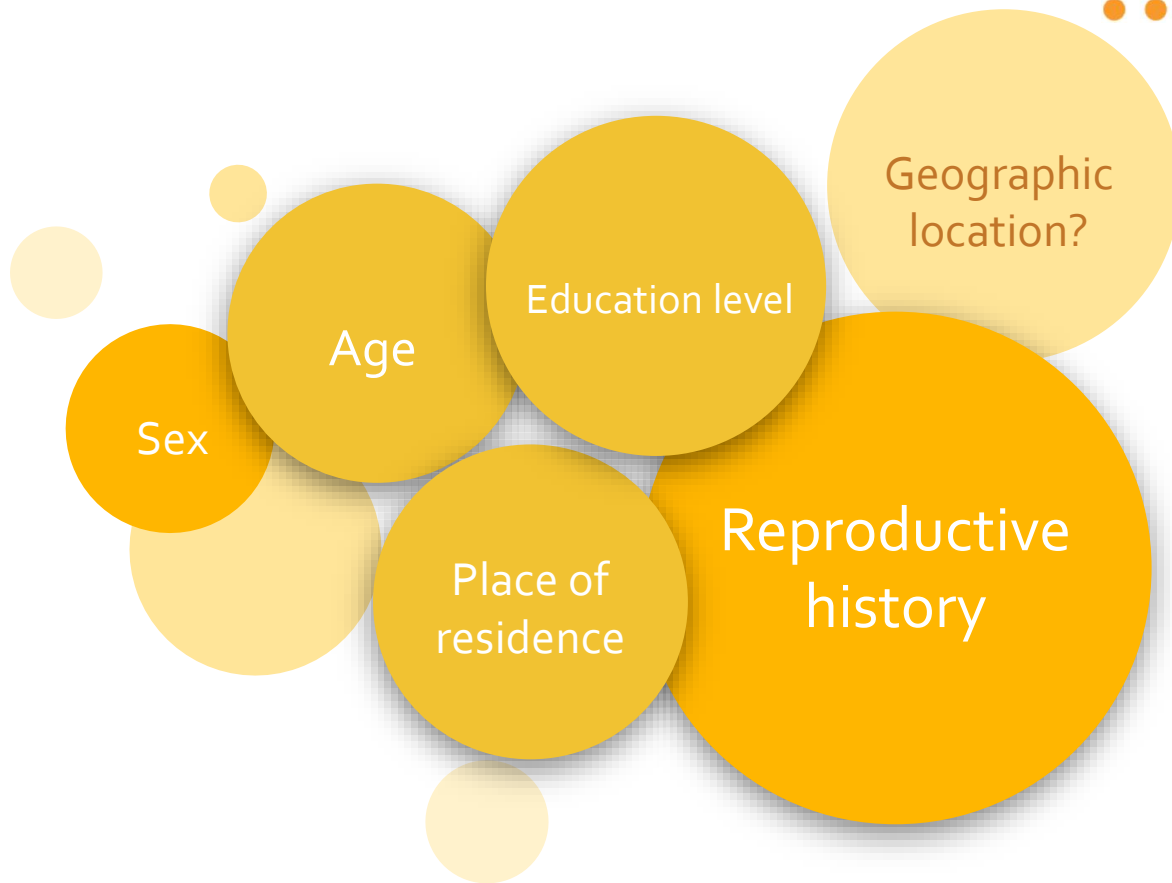


Women with no child ever born also have a lower divorce registration level than those with children in **Armenia**



Summary

Factors associated with marriage and divorce registration



UNFPA ongoing activities in marriage registration and way forward

- × Representation in major conferences
 - + Conference of Ministers responsible for CRVS
 - + UAPS - 8th African Population Conference (APC)
- × Ongoing advocacy to include questions on marriage and divorce registration in 2020 census round and household surveys (MICS)
 - + Marriage questions now include in the DHS8 women's questionnaire
- × Research and analysis
 - + Analysis of Senegal 2013 census and others?
 - + Duration of marriages, former marriages, socio-demographic characteristics of husbands/partners
 - + Qualitative studies
- × Policy implication
 - + Legal reforms? Family code? Provision of civil registration services? Raise awareness?

Proposed questions

to be asked to persons who self-identify as "married" to question on marital status

1. What is the type of your marriage?

- + Civil/Statutory;
- + Customary/Traditional;
- + Detailed religious categories, to be defined at the national level, e.g. Islamic/Hindu/Christian;
- + Other, please specify _____
- + Unknown

2.1 Has your marriage been legally registered? or

2.2 Do you have a certificate for your marriage?

2.3 Age at first marriage (asked to ever-married people)