

FEWER FIRST BIRTHS BUT FASTER AS AGE AT UNION FORMATION INCREASES IN FRANCE

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BACKGROUND

- Partnership histories are important to understand fertility behaviours [1]

Does age at first cohabitation have an effect on the occurrence and the timing of first births, *ceteris paribus*?

DATA

- Epic Survey (Ined-Insee, 2013-2014)
- Cohort 1948-1970, people who had at least one cohabiting union before age 40 (2,352 women and 1,764 men)
- 92% of women and 91% of men had a child in the selected sample
- Average duration between first cohabitation and first birth: **4 years**

METHOD

- Multivariate analysis of the:
 - **occurrence** (*logit models*)
 - and **timing** (*duration models*)
 of first births after the formation of the **first** cohabiting union
- Controls: characteristics of the first union and individual characteristics

Age effects on the *occurrence* of first births

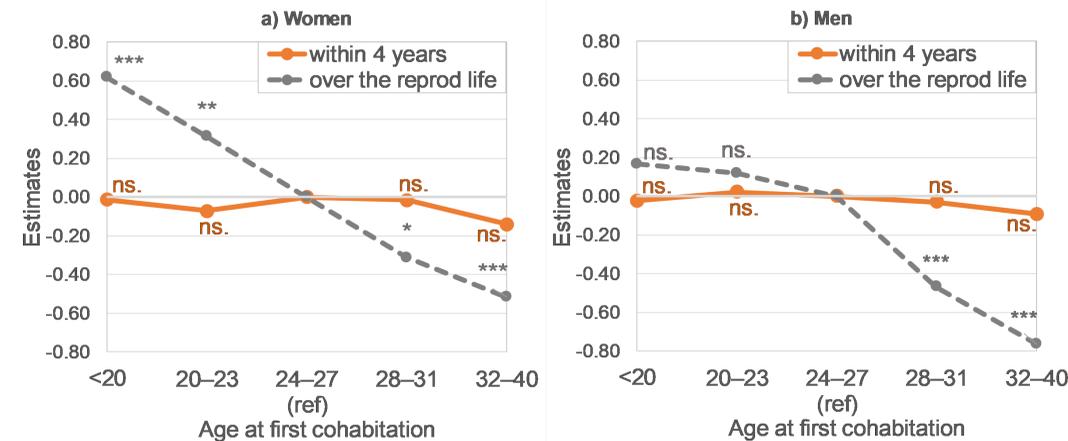


Fig. 1: Age effect estimates (logit models)

- Decrease of transitions to parenthood with age (irrespective of the duration since union formation),
- but within 4 years after union formation, not significant

Age effects on the *duration* between union formation and first births

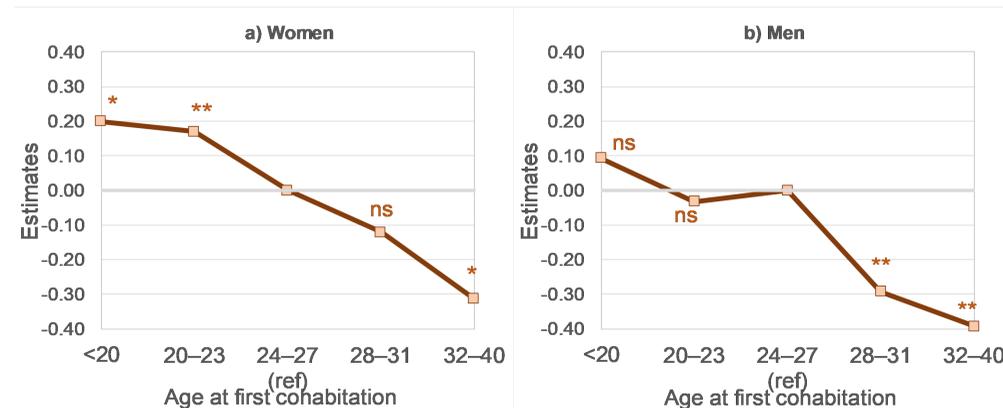


Fig. 2: Age effect estimates (duration models among parents)

- The later the age at first cohabitation is, the shorter the duration between union formation and first births

COVARIATES EFFECTS: characteristics at union formation

	W		M	
	OCCUR. (4y)	DUR. (4y)	OCCUR. (4y)	DUR. (4y)
Ego unemployed			-	+
Partner unemployed	-	+		+
Relationship duration before cohabiting				-
Age diff (male-female)				
Direct marriage	+	-	+	-
Partner's prev. children	-			
Cohabitation (t)		-		-

DISCUSSION

- Acceleration** of first births when the first cohabitation is late *for both men and women*
 - Biological or social reasons for accelerating a first birth?
- Additional **selection** effects of people who have a first cohabitation late

Acknowledgments

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References

[1] MIKOLAI J., 2017, « Partnership histories and motherhood in later reproductive ages in a comparative perspective », *Population*, 72, 1, p. 123-154.