

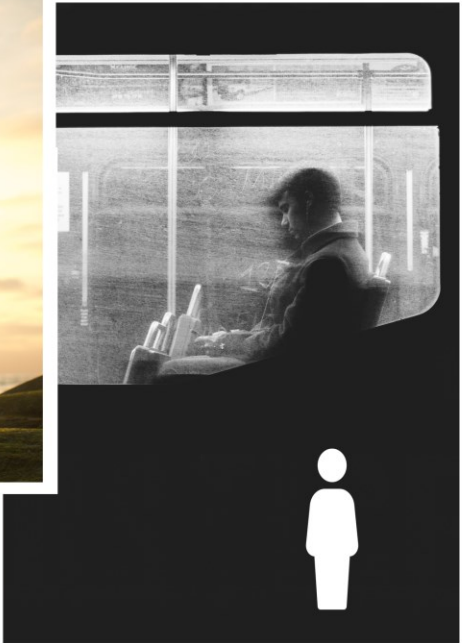
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Suicide in Relation to Marital Status – A National Study





Background

Men registered as unmarried, divorced and widowed are at increased risk of suicide compared to married men. (Stack 2000)(Yip 1998)

Research suggests that this is the case for women as well, but results have been inconclusive. (Evans, Scourfield et al. 2012)



Knowledge gap



Knowledge gap

- What is the risk for persons enduring a marital separation?



Knowledge gap

- What is the risk for persons enduring a marital separation?
- Age differences?



Knowledge gap

- What is the risk for persons enduring a marital separation?
- Age differences?
- Differences with respect to educational attainment or income level?



Aim of study

To investigate the relationship between marital status and the risk of completed suicide in the Norwegian population, especially with respect to age and gender differences, and examine to what extent the risk is influenced by income and educational attainment.



Data Sources

Individual data from three Norwegian longitudinal registers are interlinked:

- The Central Population Register
- Statistics Norway's events data base
- The Cause of death register



Design

Nested case-control design

The controls matches the cases on birth date and gender.

Incidence density sampling

The controls are randomly chosen from the population at risk **at the time of suicide.**



Study subjects

All registered suicides in the Cause of Death Register in the period 1992-2012

Up to 20 controls for each case

Exclusion criteria:

- Under 18 years of age
- Did not reside in Norway at the time of suicide

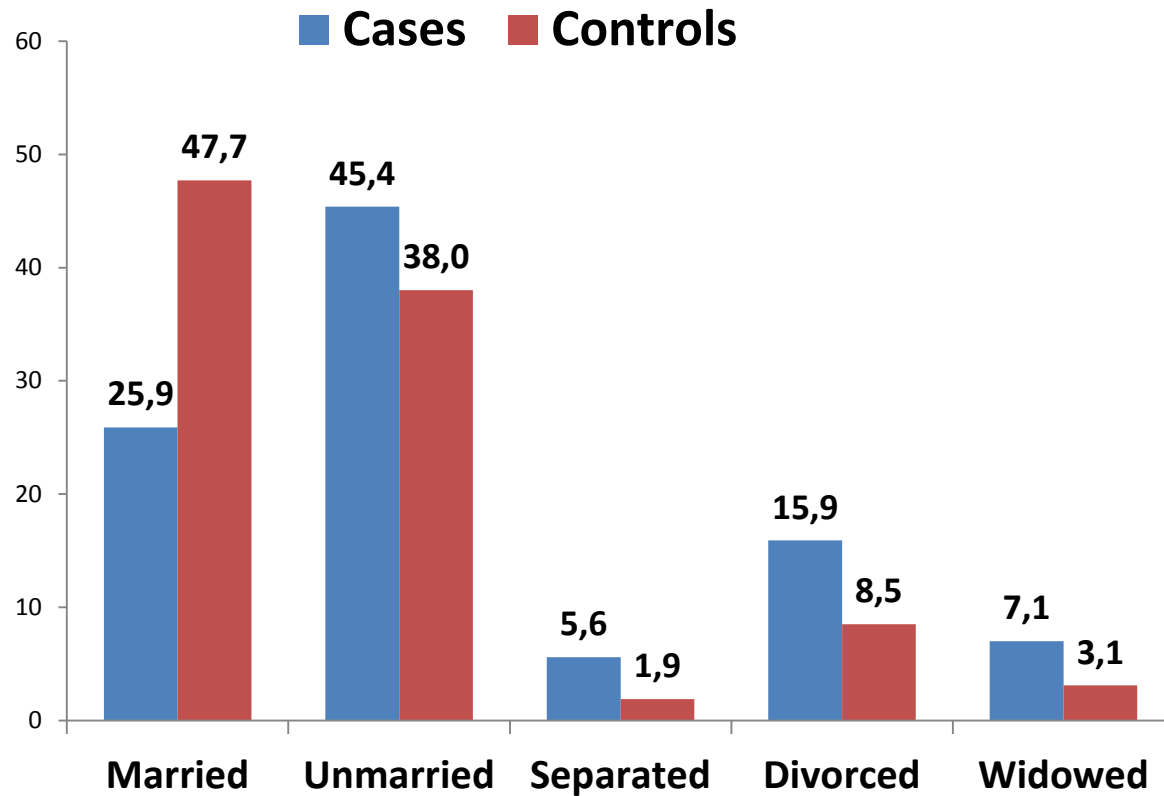


Study subjects

	Cases	Controls
Males	8026	134110
Females	3025	51575
Total	11051	185685



Distributions (%)



Statistical analysis

Odds ratios were assessed with conditional logistic regression.

Odds Ratio \approx Incidence Risk Ratio

When utilizing incidence density sampling and dealing with a rare event, the derived odds ratios will be approximately equal to the incidence risk ratio.



Independent variable:

**Marital
Status**



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Marital Status

Factors controlled for:

- Income
- Education
- Place of residence
- Immigration category



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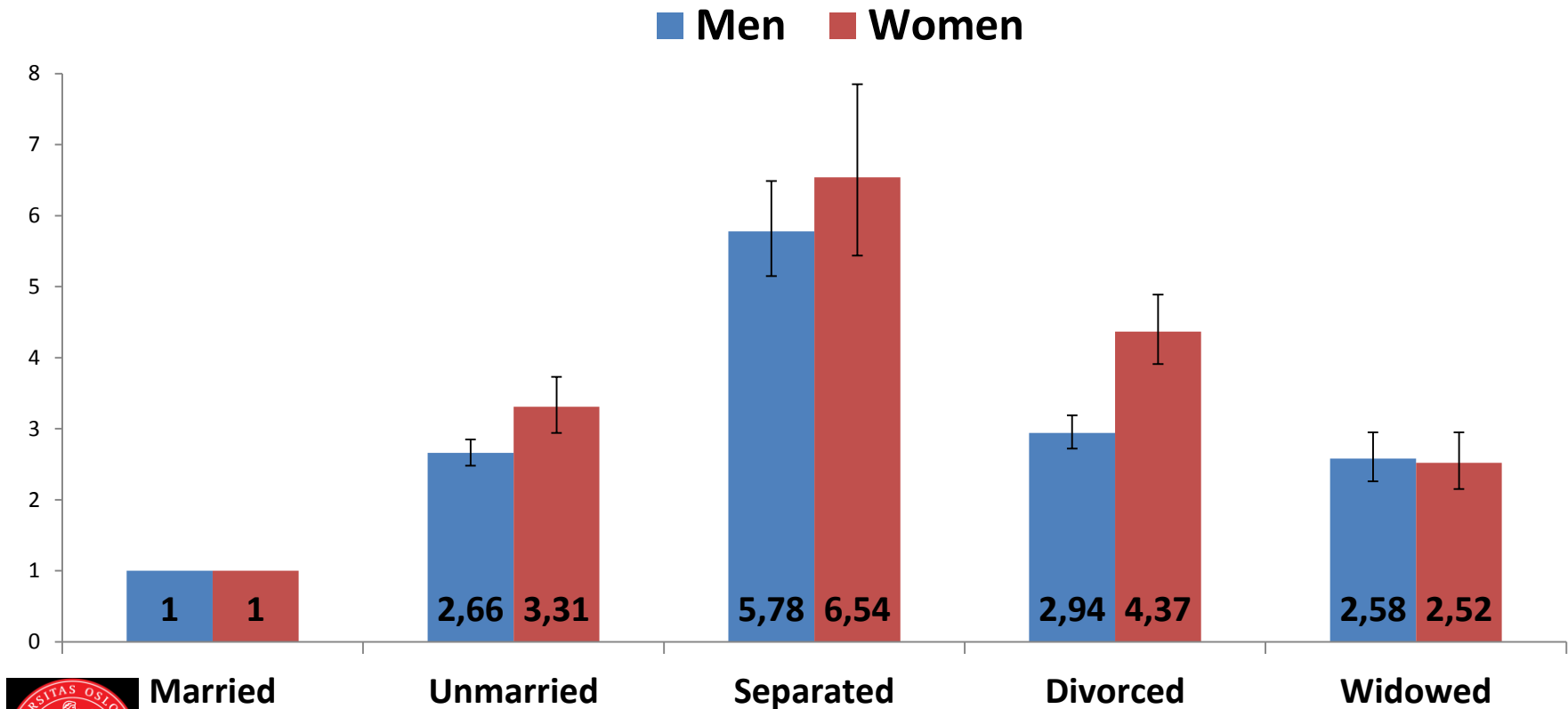
- **Income**
- **Education**
- **Place of residence**
- **Immigration category**

Outcome:

**Completed
Suicide**



Odds Ratios

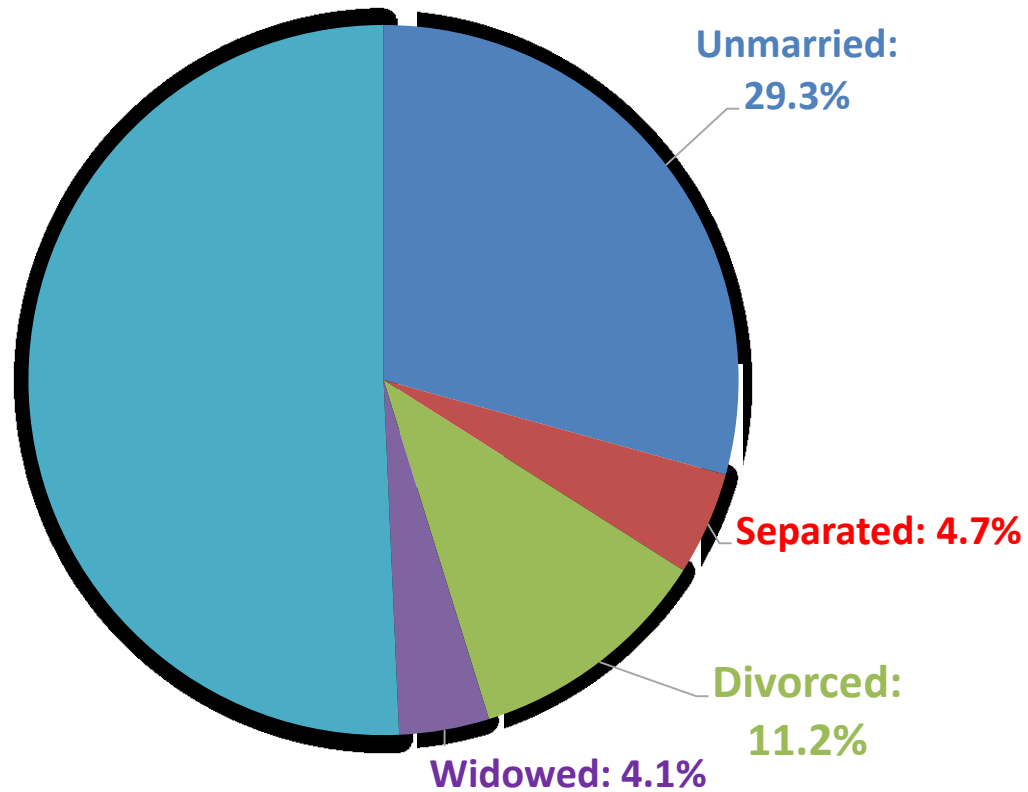


Population Attributable Risk

The proportion of suicides in the population that would not have occurred if the risk of suicide for persons in the single marital status categories were equal to the risk for married persons.



Population Attributable Risk



Formal Vs actual status



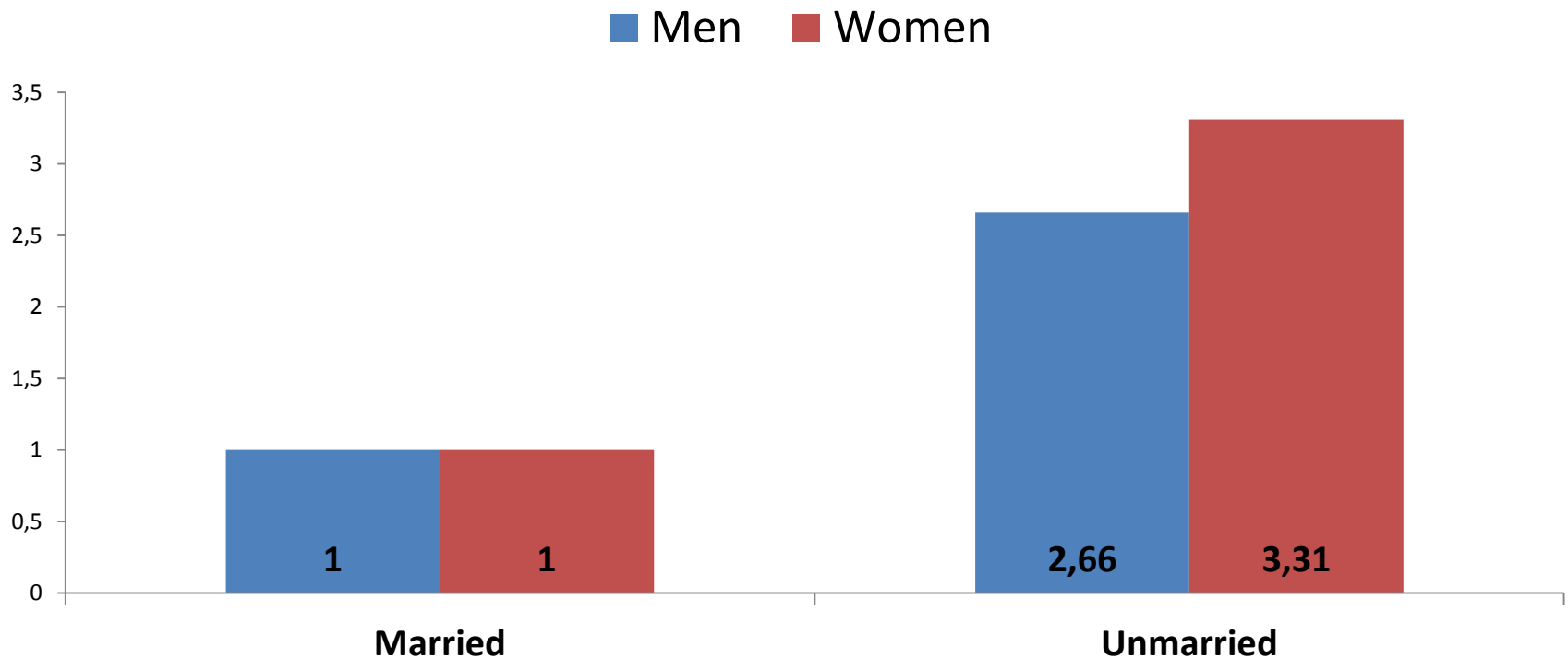
Cohabitants

The difference in well-being between cohabitants and persons who live alone is larger than the differences between the formal marital status categories (Mastekaasa 1994).

Slightly higher suicide risk than married persons, but lower than single persons (Qin, Agerbo et al. 2003)



Married Vs Unmarried

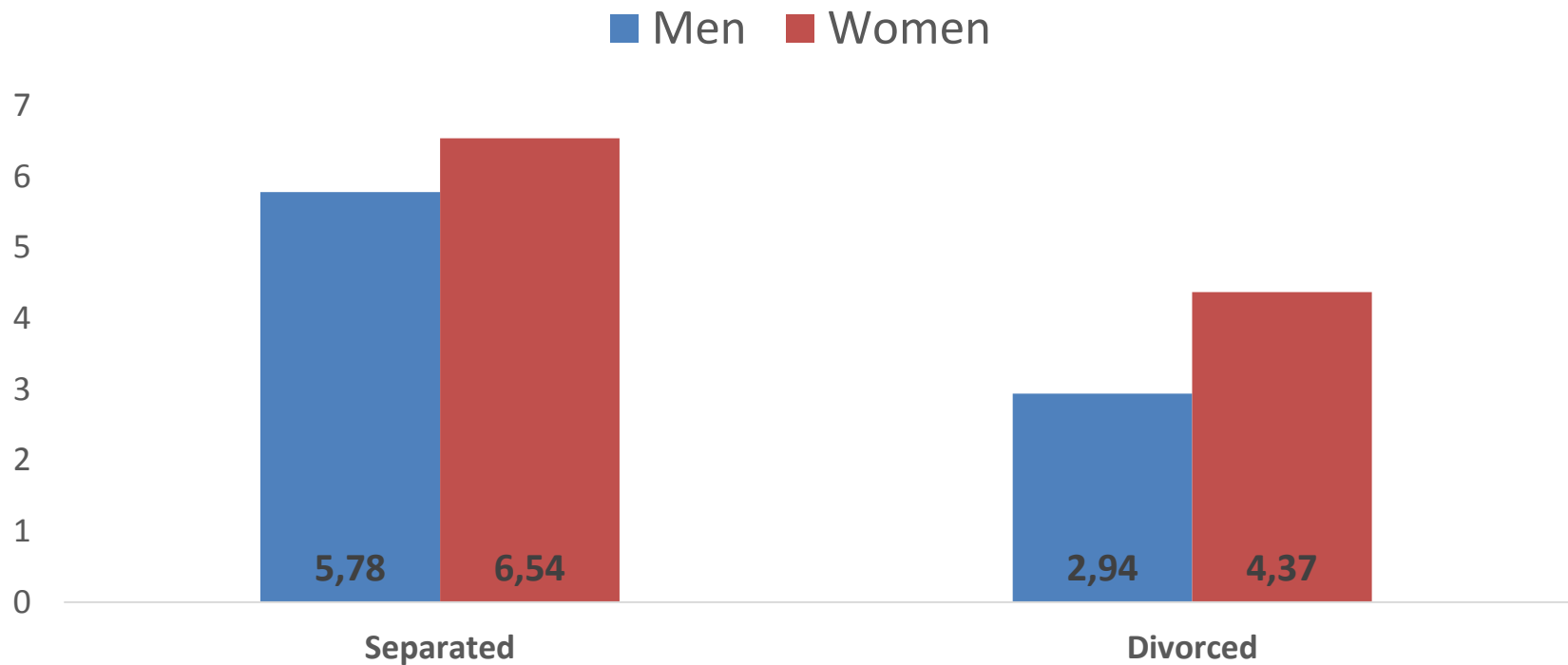


Married Vs Unmarried

- Selection into marriage
- Social integration
- Different lifestyle – better health



Relationship breakdown

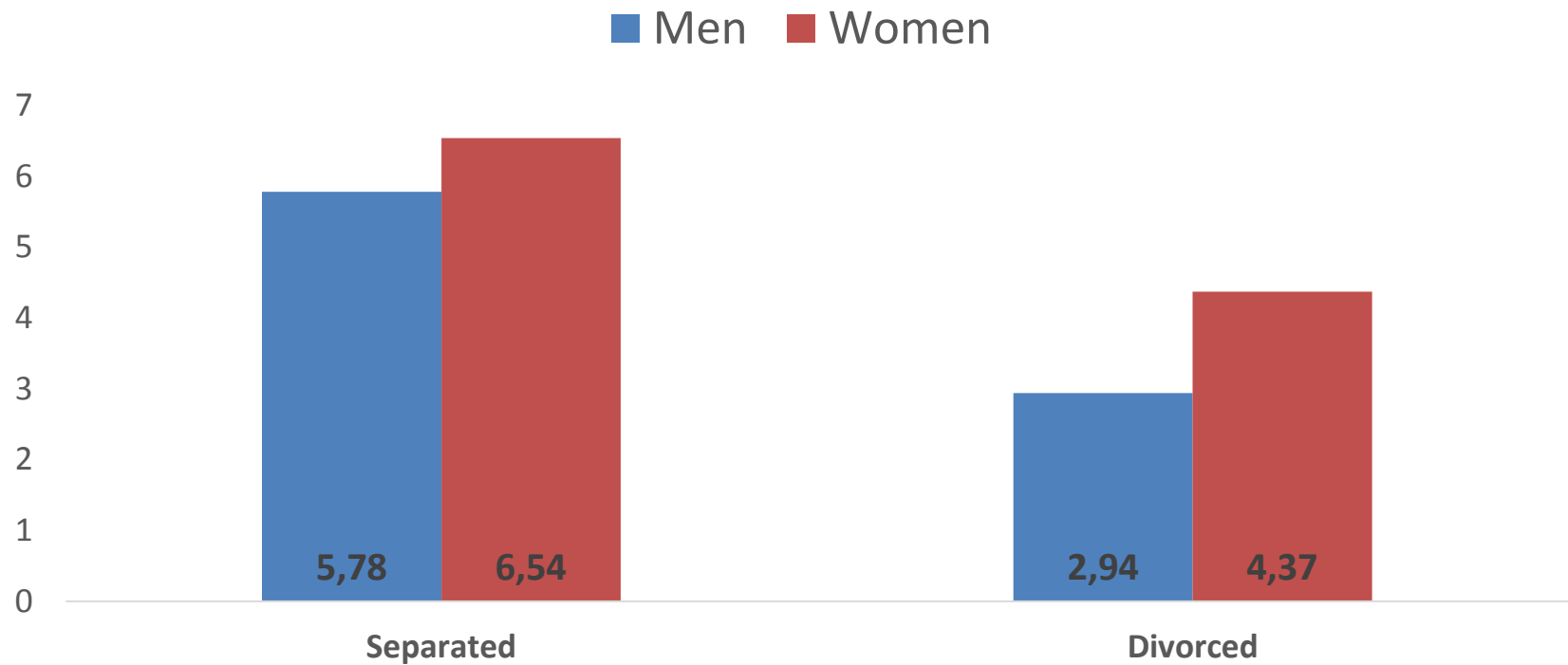


Relationship Breakdown

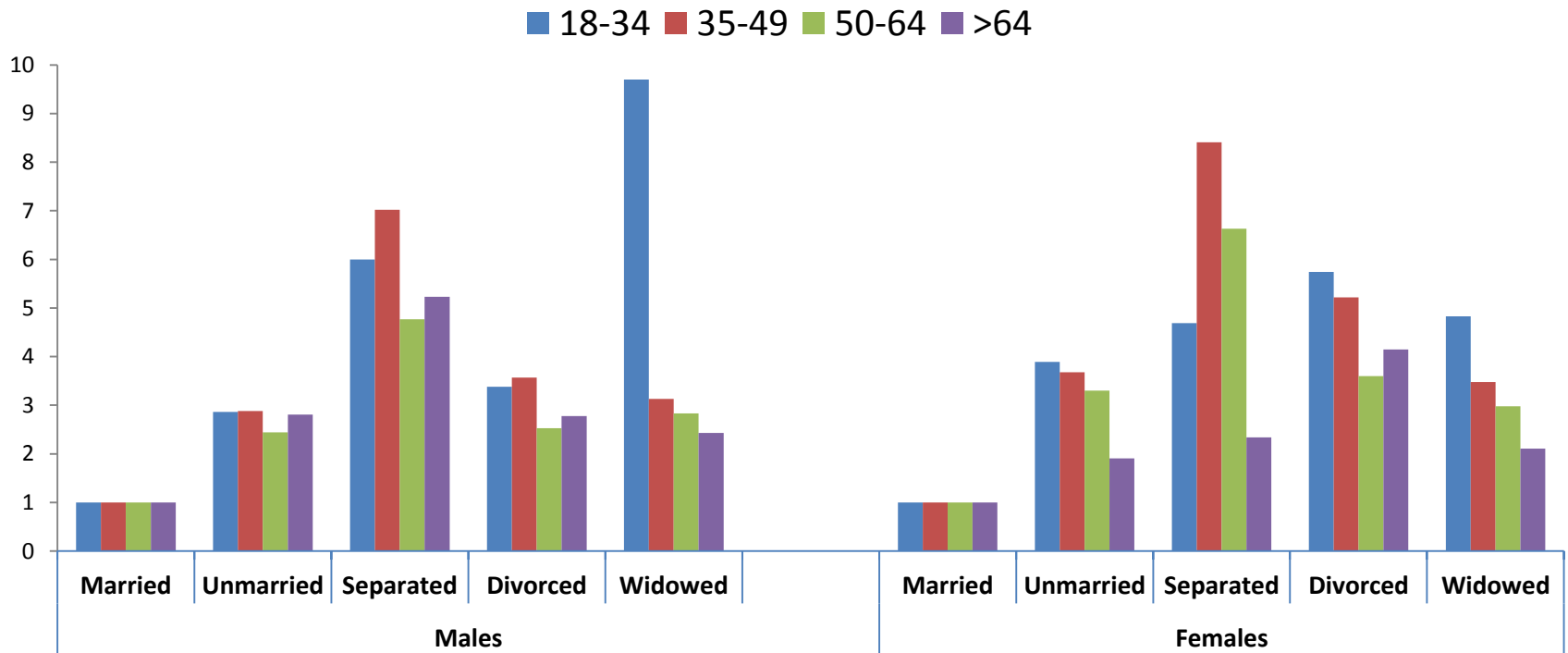
- Social selection?
- Crisis?
- Social role strain?



Crisis?



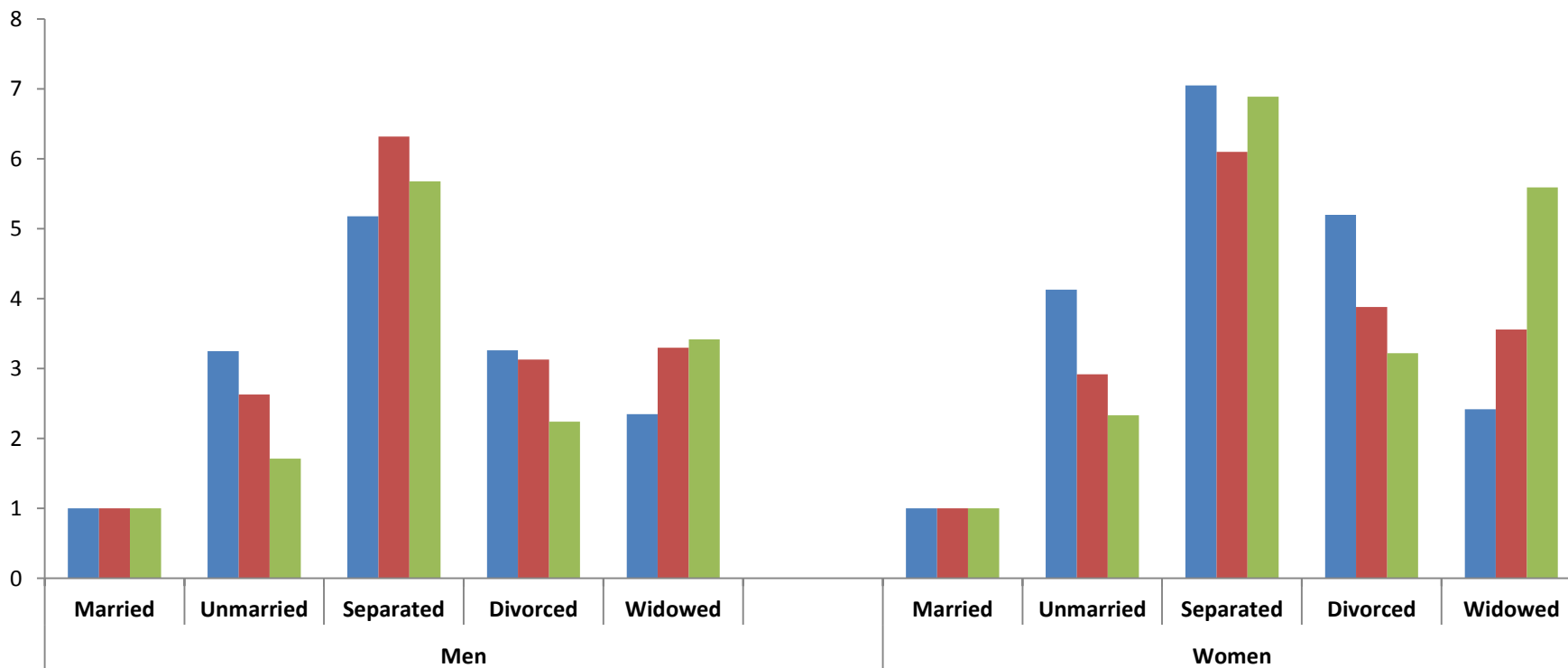
Odds Ratios - Age





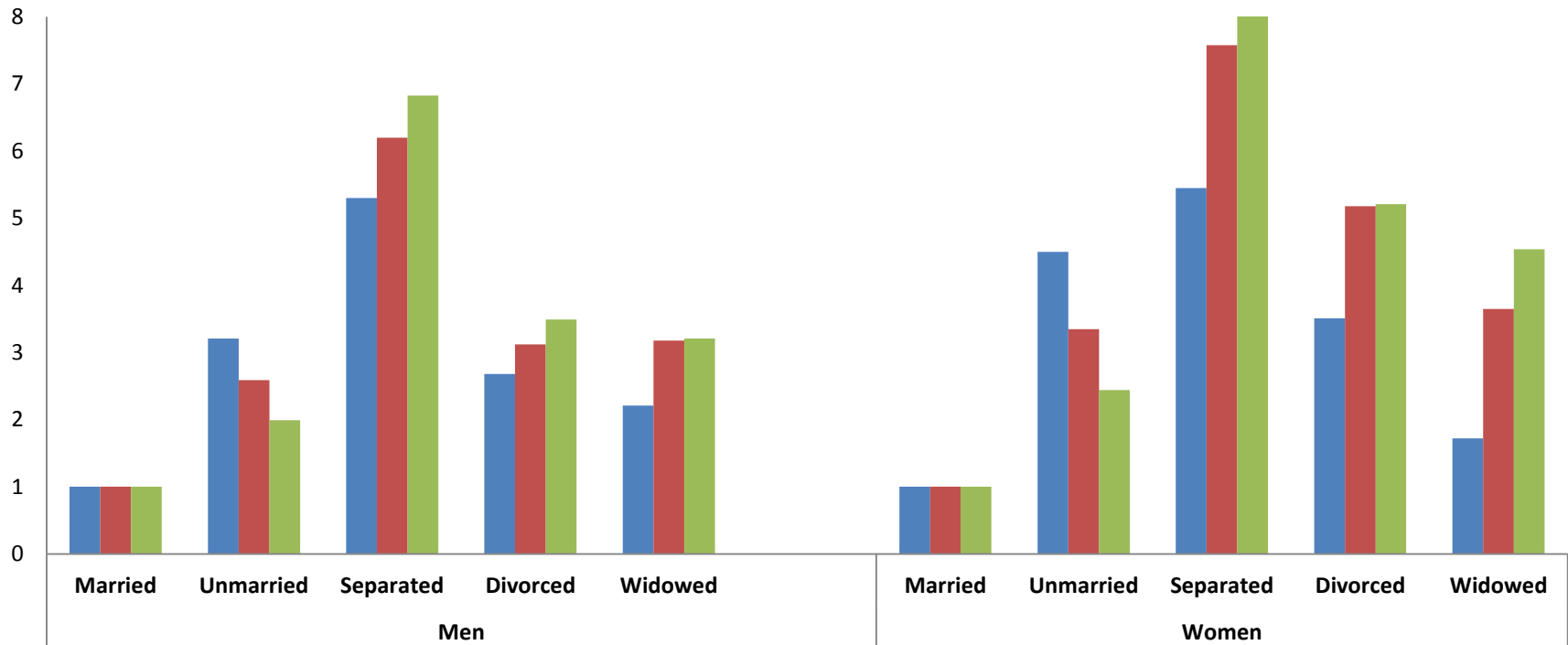
Odds Ratios - Income

Low Intermediate High



Odds Ratios - Education

Low Intermediate High



Further research

The temporal effect after a marital dissolution.

The accumulative effect of marital transitions.



Summary



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- Being in any of the single marital status categories is a risk factor for suicide, and the risk is most pronounced for young persons.
- The risk is especially high for persons enduring a marital separation.
- The increased risk for unmarried and divorced persons is most pronounced in the lowest income group.



Thank you for your attention!

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