

Age at first marriage and transition to adulthood of Egyptian youth

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DIPARTIMENTO DI METODI E MODELLI
PER L'ECONOMIA IL TERRITORIO E LA FINANZA
MEMOTEF



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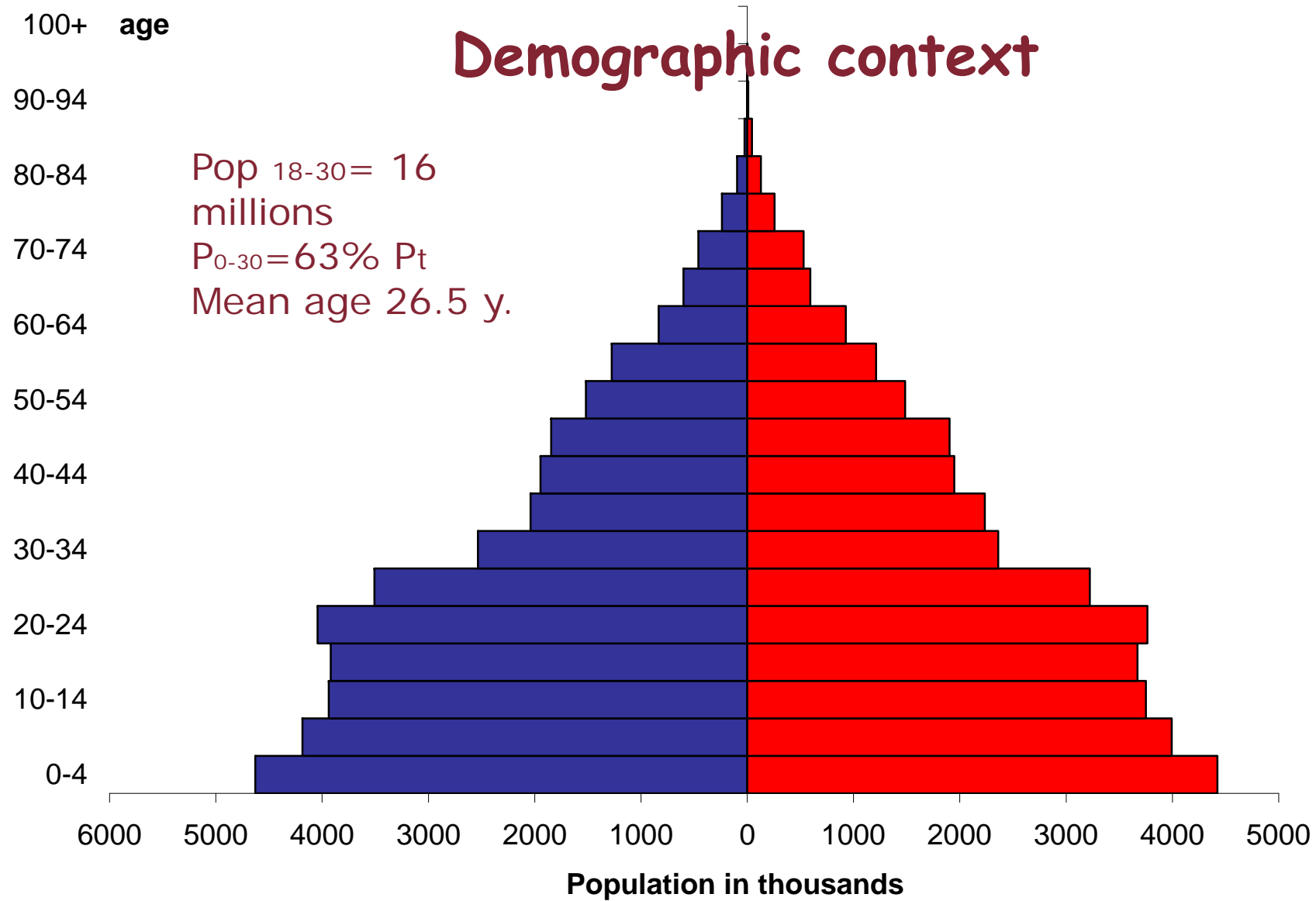
Journées Pôle Suds INED 18/12/2012

Aim of the research

- Understand the determinants of the transition to adulthood in Egypt in order to shed light on the process of fertility transition

Rationale of the analysis

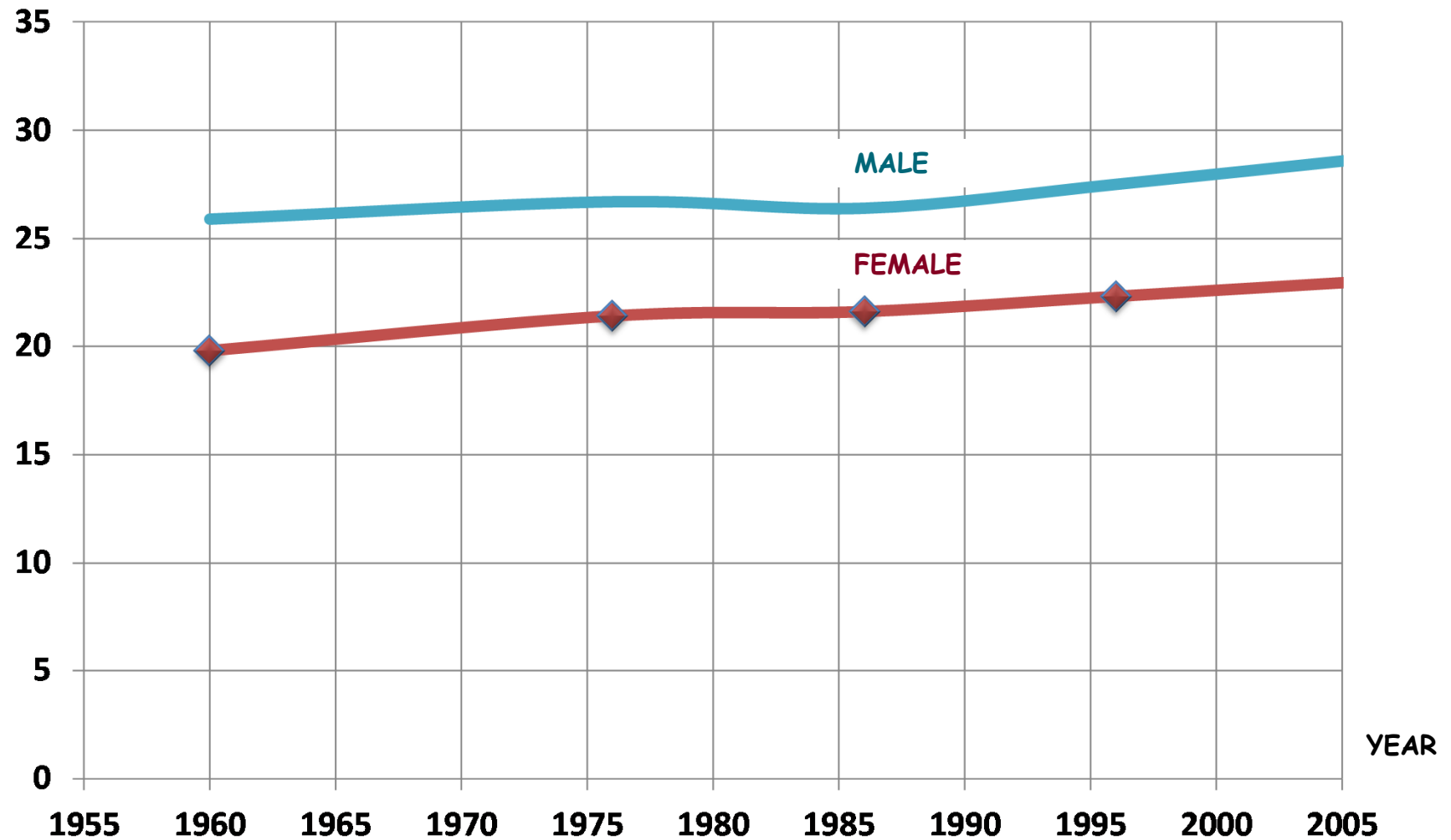
- Marriage: transition to adulthood (Singerman, 2007)
- Family: basis of the society
- Delayed marriage: economic motivations
 - ✓ high unemployment rate, weak opportunities in the labour market
 - ✓ difficulties in buying/renting a flat



(Source: Population census 2006, CAPMAS).

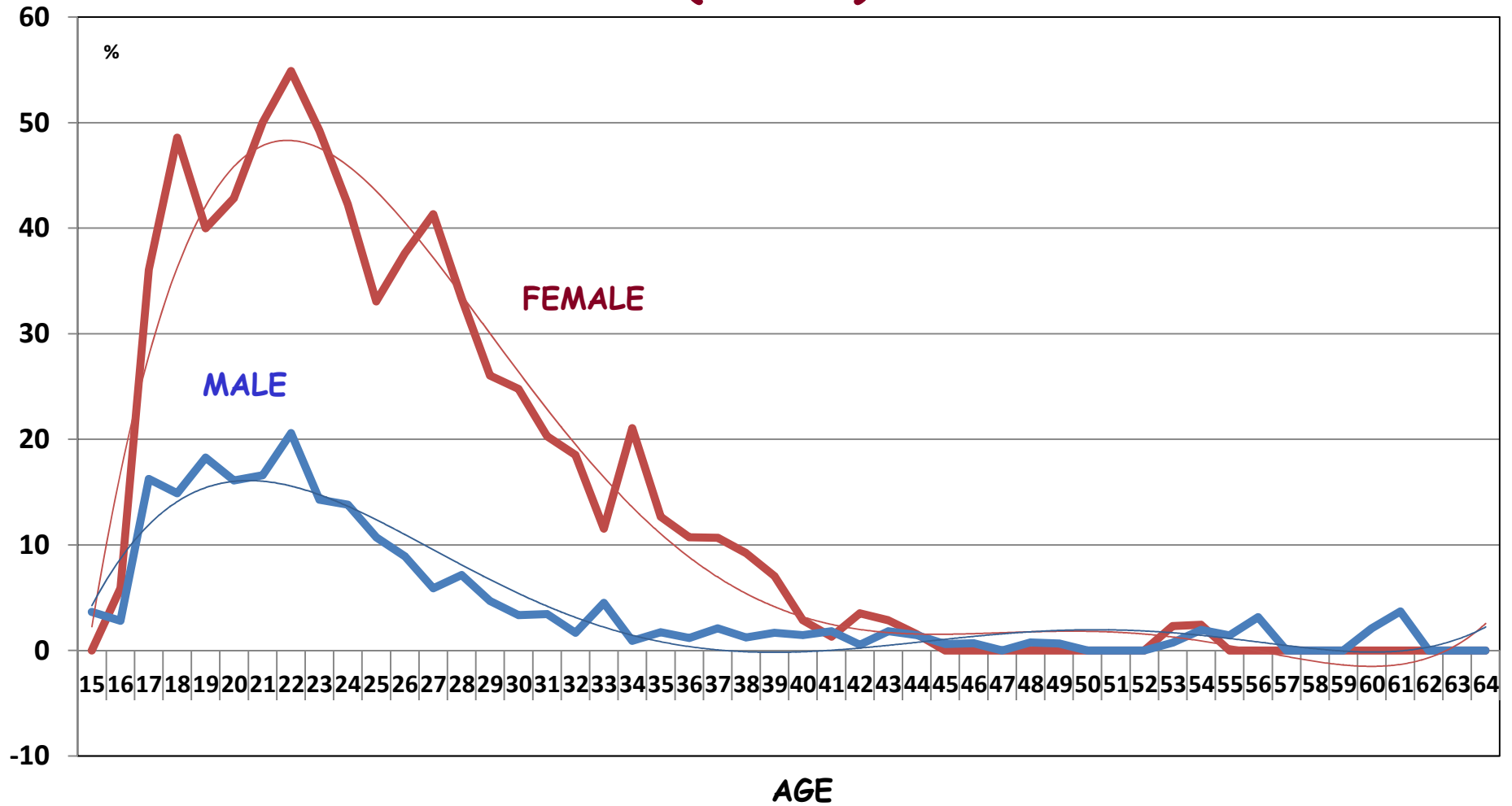
Evolution of age at first marriage

Age at first marriage



(Source: Ambrosetti, 2011).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE by Gender and Age (2006)



Source: Egyptian Labour Market Sample Survey, 2006

Sources

Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE):
Population Council 2009
Sample of 15,029 young Egyptian aged
between 10 and 29

Other sources

- EFS (Egyptian Fertility Survey), 1980
- EDHS (Egyptian Demographic and Health Survey), 1988, 1992, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2008
- Population Censuses
- Births, deaths and marriage records (CAPMAS)

Survey of Young People in Egypt

Questionnaire' topics

Employment

Education

Migration (15+)

Civic participation

Time usage & personal belongings


Family formation & health

Different questionnaires by age and gender

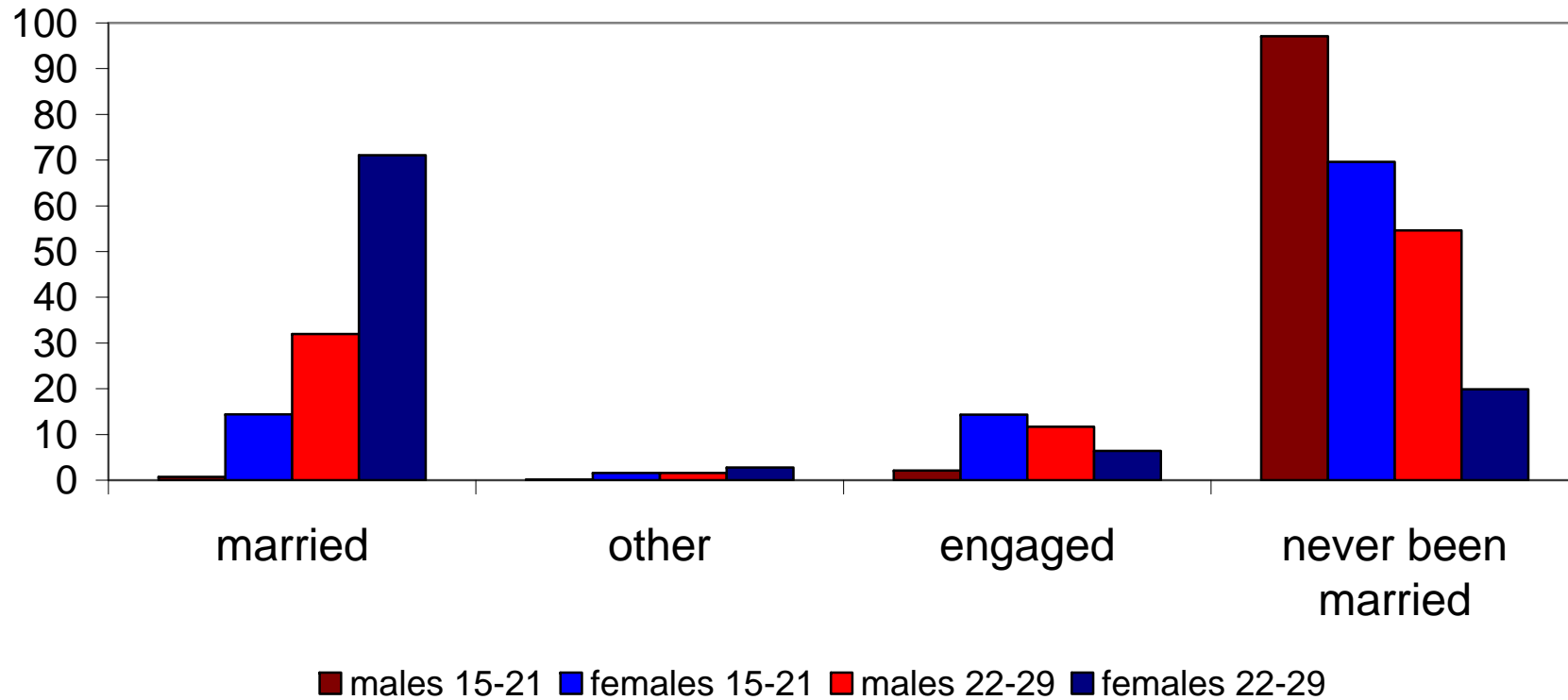
10-14

15-21

22-29



Descriptive statistics (15-29) Marital status by age group and gender



Source: SYPE survey 2009

Descriptive statistics (15-29)

- 78% of married males have a job. About 40% have a permanent job
- Young people who still live with their parents, have a part time job
- About 10% of females have a job: they are highly educated

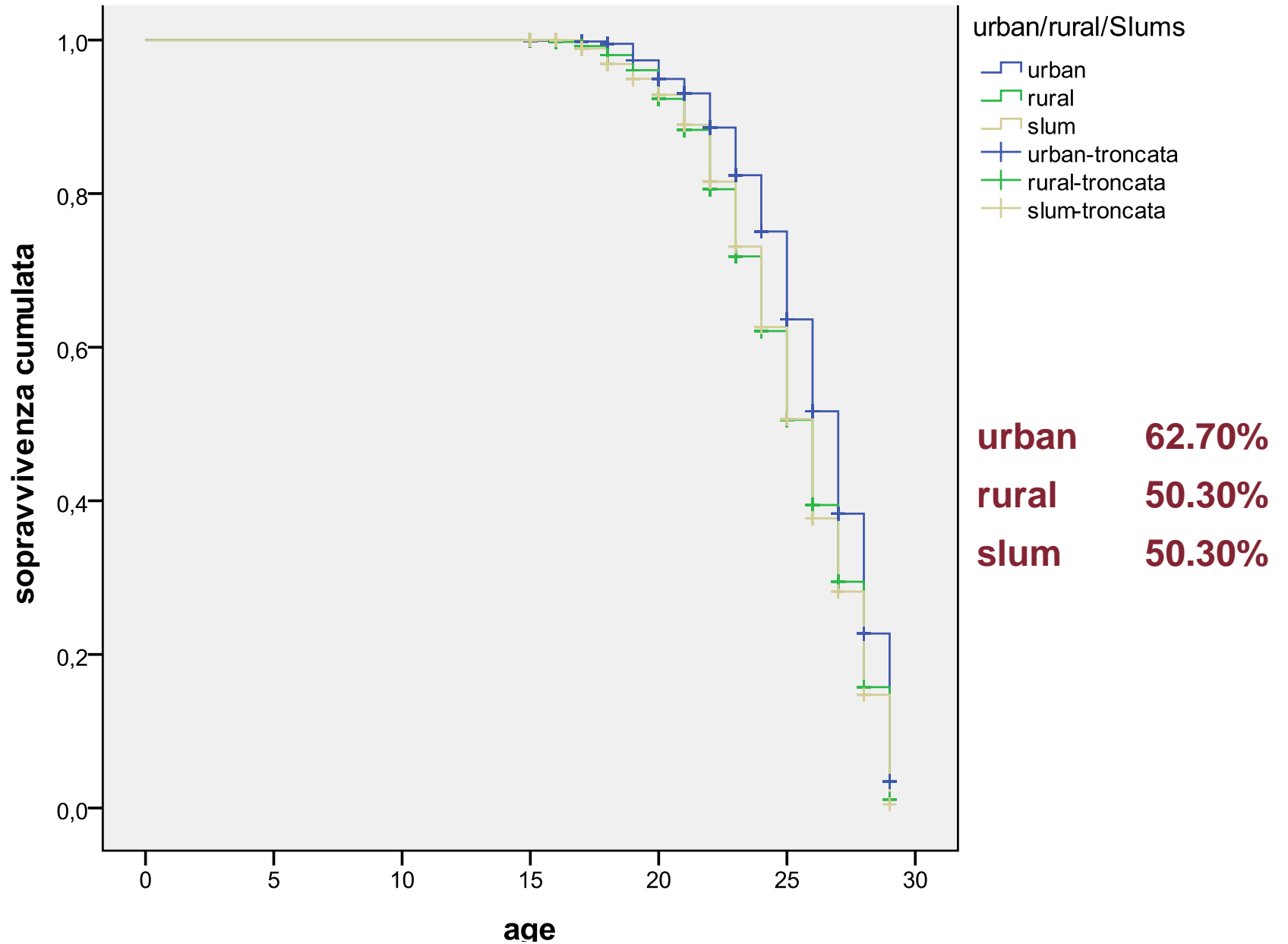
Kaplan Meier bivariate survival analysis on transition to first marriage

- Females 15-29
- Restricted to females 22-29 (to better understand the effect of education)

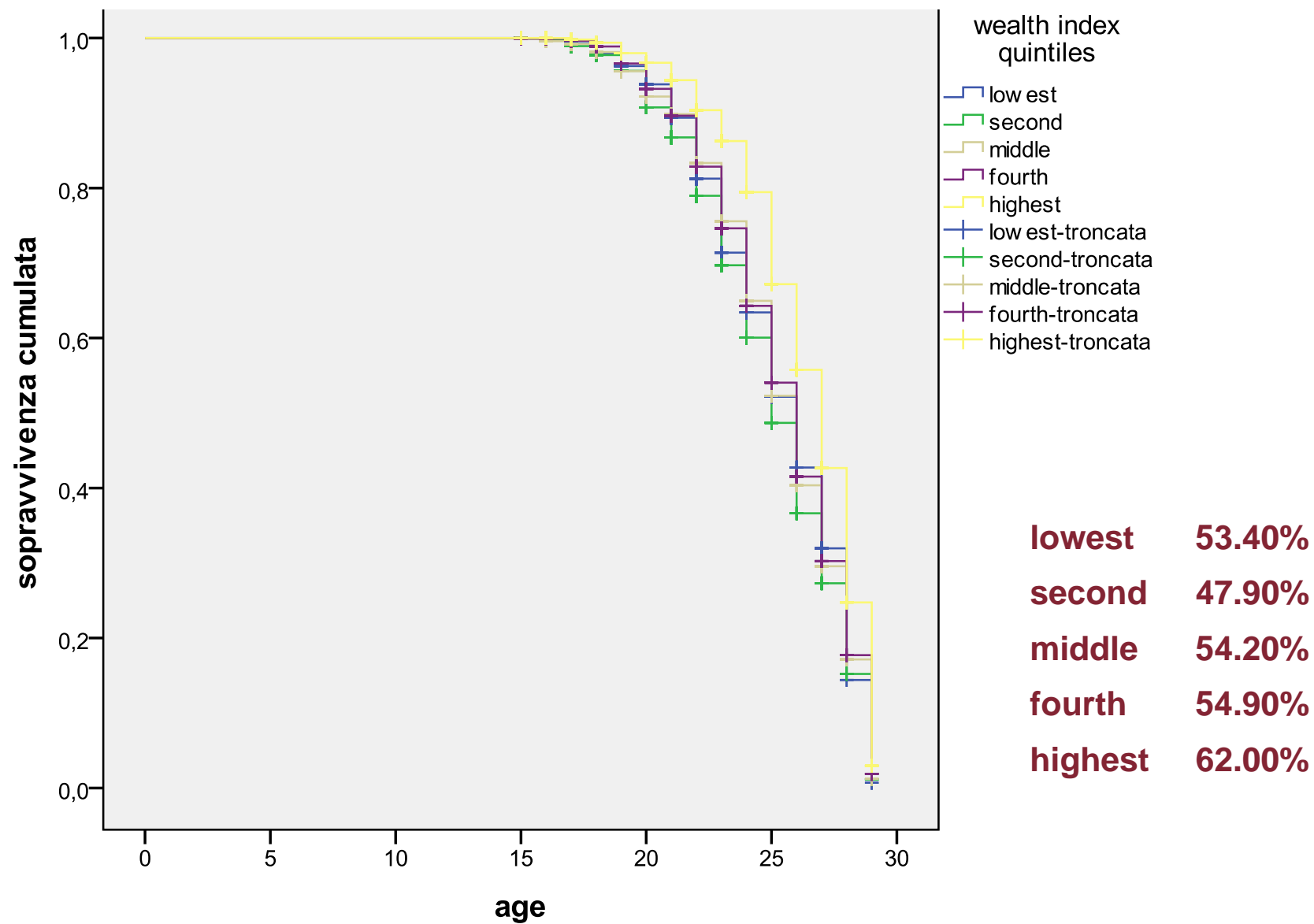
By:

- ✓ Residence
- ✓ Socio economic status of the household
- ✓ Labour market participation
- ✓ Religiosity
- ✓ Gender bias index

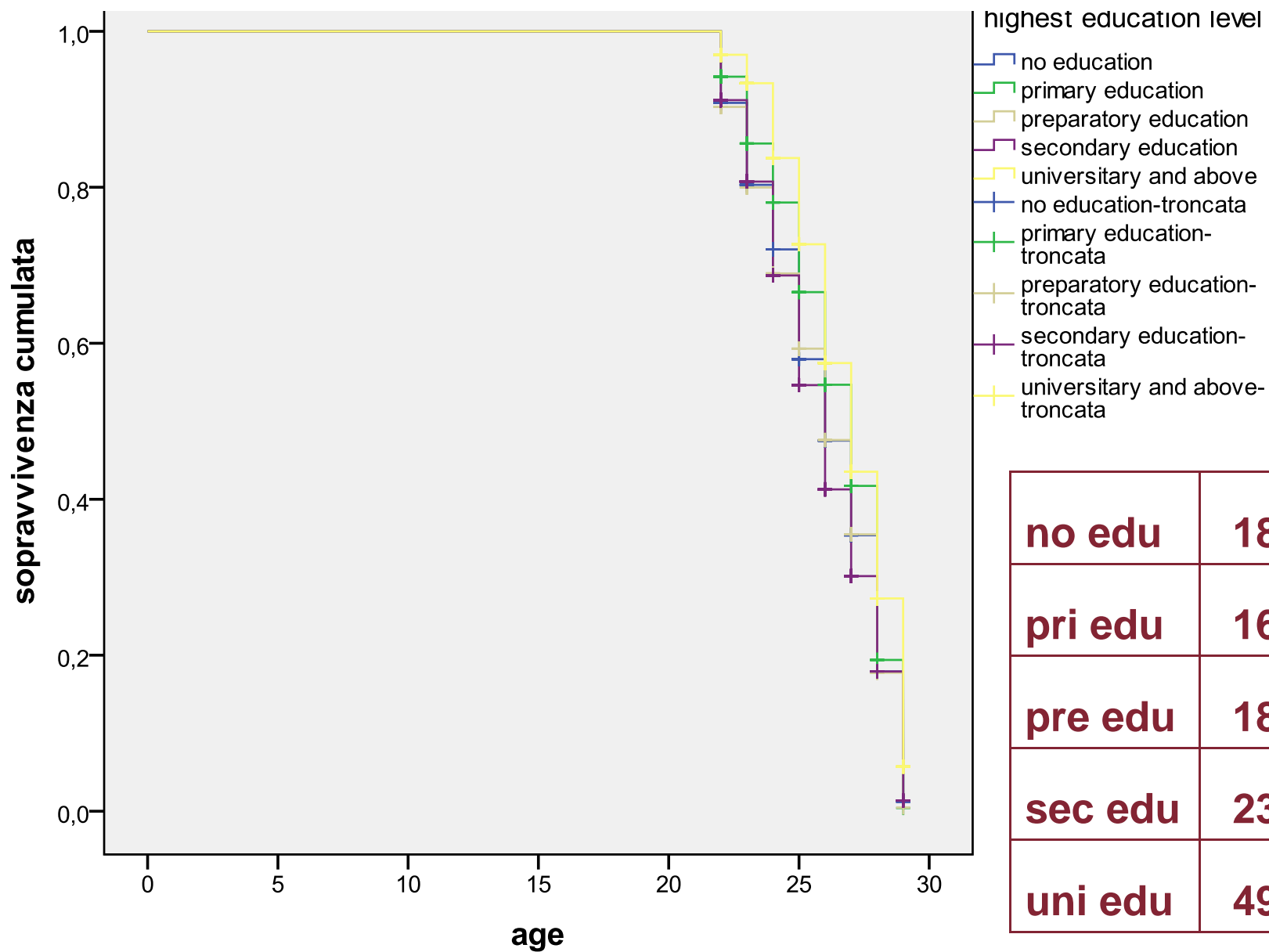
Mean survival time: first marriage by residence



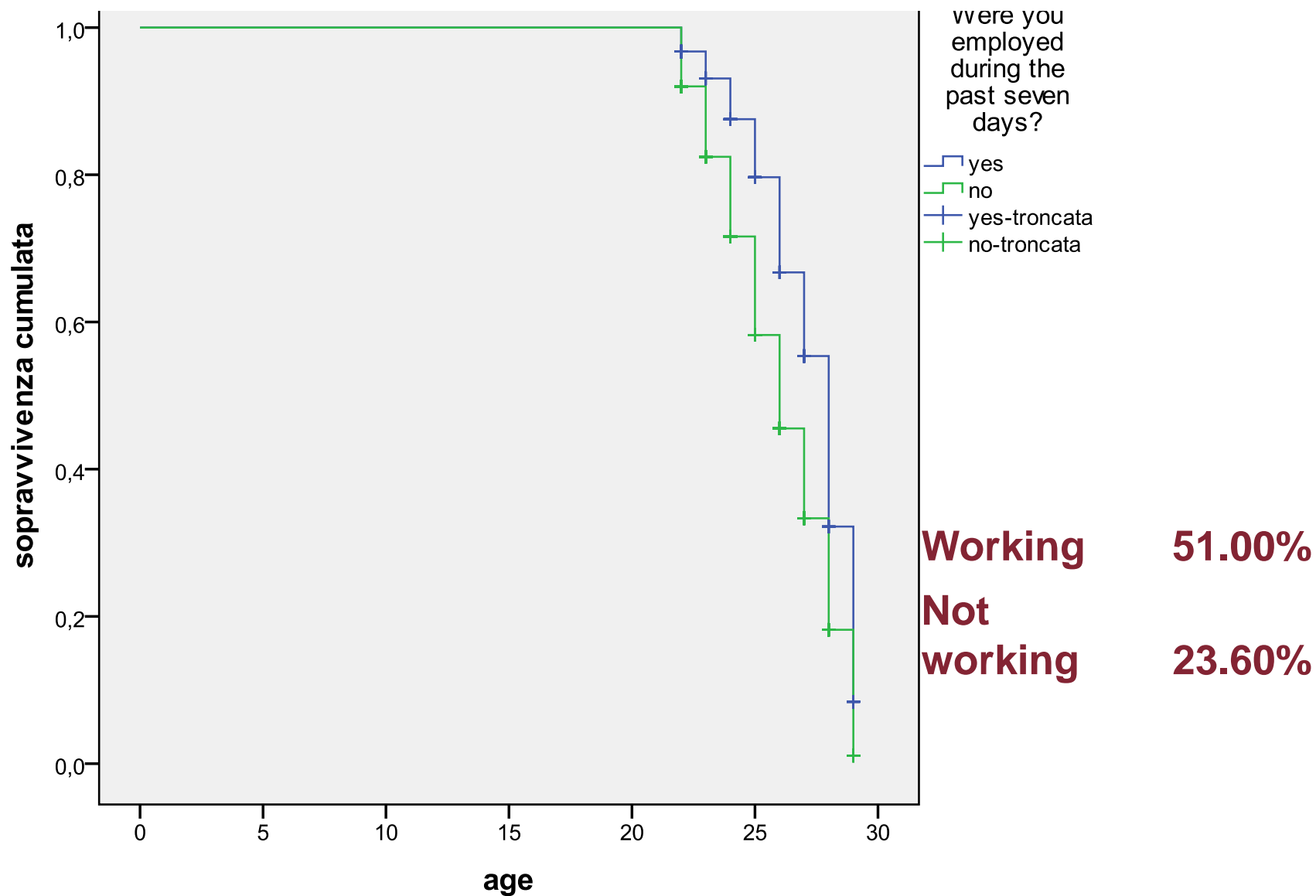
Mean survival time: first marriage by wealth quintile



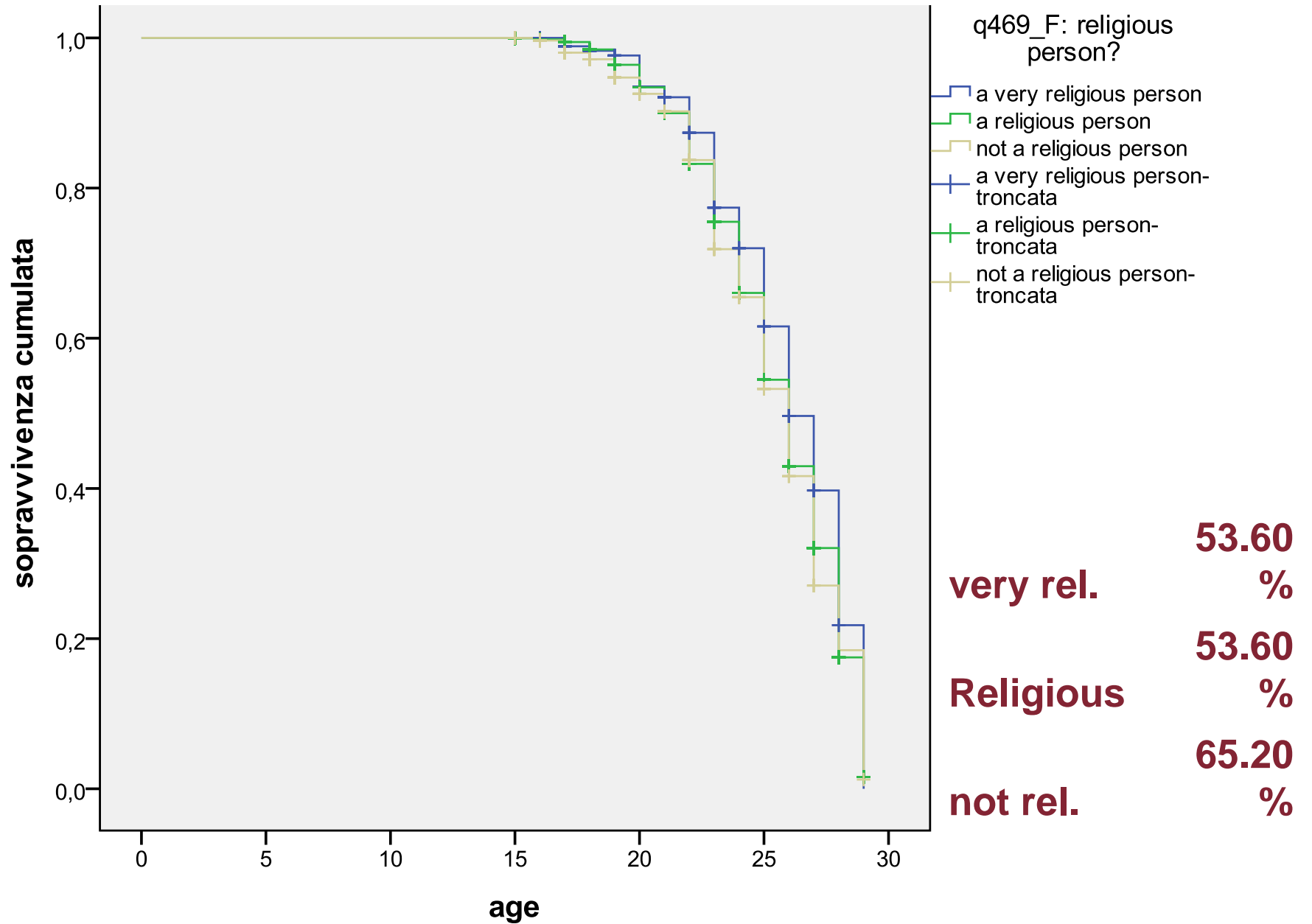
Mean survival time: first marriage by education (females 22-29)



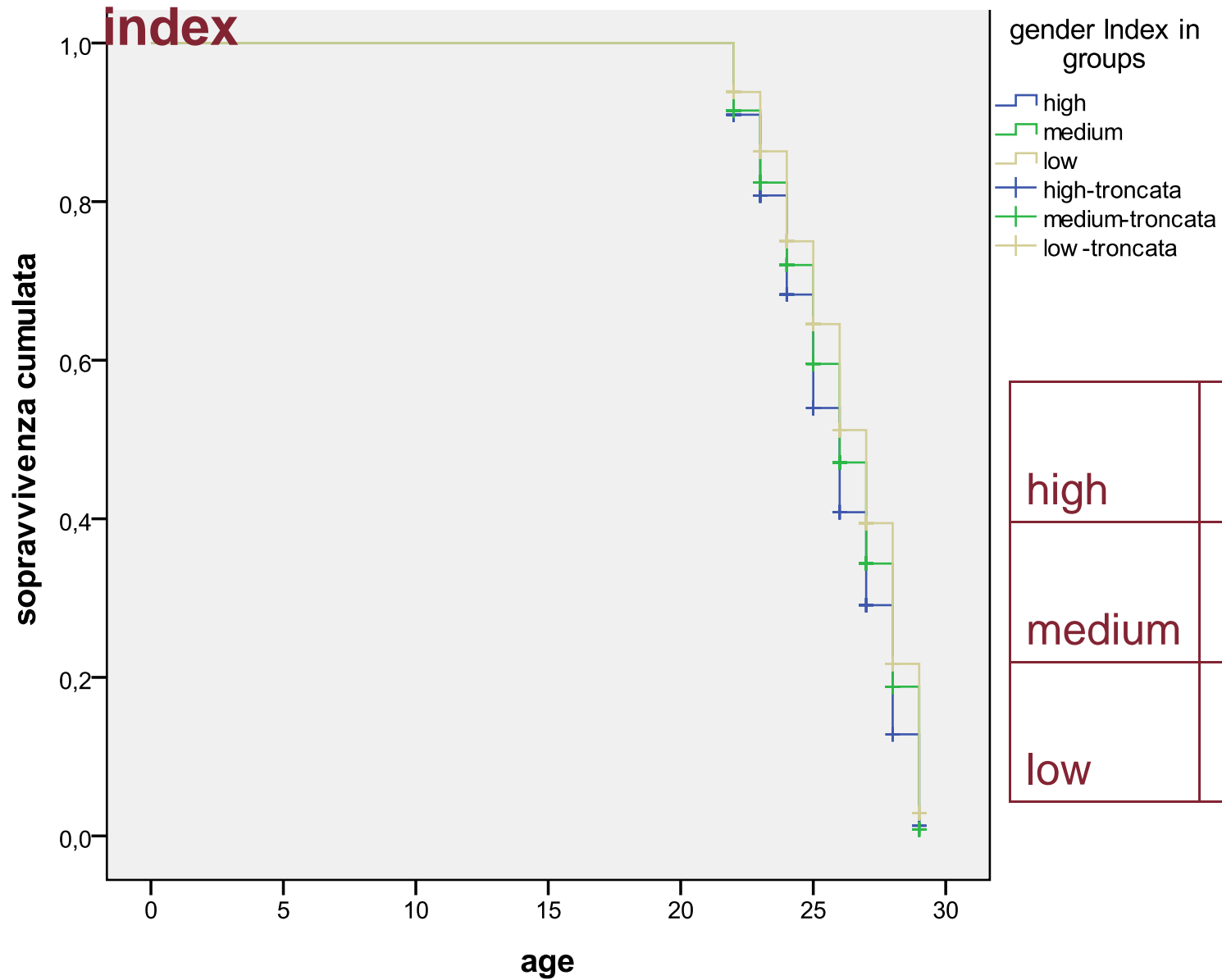
Mean survival time: first marriage & job (females 22-29)



Mean survival time: first marriage & religiosity



Mean survival time: first marriage by gender bias



**Cox regression: mean survival time at first marriage females
22-29 (dependent variable) (1)**


Independent variables	Description
Residence	(1) Urban (reference category) (2) Rural (3) Slum
Religion	(1) Muslim (reference category) (2) Other
Labour market participation	(1) Working (reference category) (2) Not working
Education	(1) no education (2) primary education (3) preparatory education (4) secondary education (5) university and above

**Cox regression: mean survival time at first marriage females
22-29 (dependent variable) (2)**

Independent variables	Description
Household socioeconomic status	(1) lowest (2) second (3) middle (4) fourth (5) highest
Gender bias index	(1) high (2) medium (3) low
Religiosity	(1) a very religious person (2) a religious person (3) not a religious person

Results

- Fairly consistent with bivariate analysis
- Differences in education, gender attitudes, work and residence have an impact on the timing of first marriage



Lower hazard to initiate marriage for more educated, working, lower gender biased and urban females between 22 and 29

- No effect of household socio-economic status, religion and religiosity on hazard to getting married



Discussion

- Limits:
 - ✓ lack of information on time sequencing of the events of interest (causal relationship).
 - ✓ Most of covariates are referred to the time of the survey (not when the event took place)
- Socio economic status of the household is not important factor and education is not strongly associated with hazard of getting married (universal marriage?)
- Further analysis:
 - ✓ factors that influence male decision to get married
 - ✓ transition to first birth

References

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Thank you! Merci

Any comment?

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