

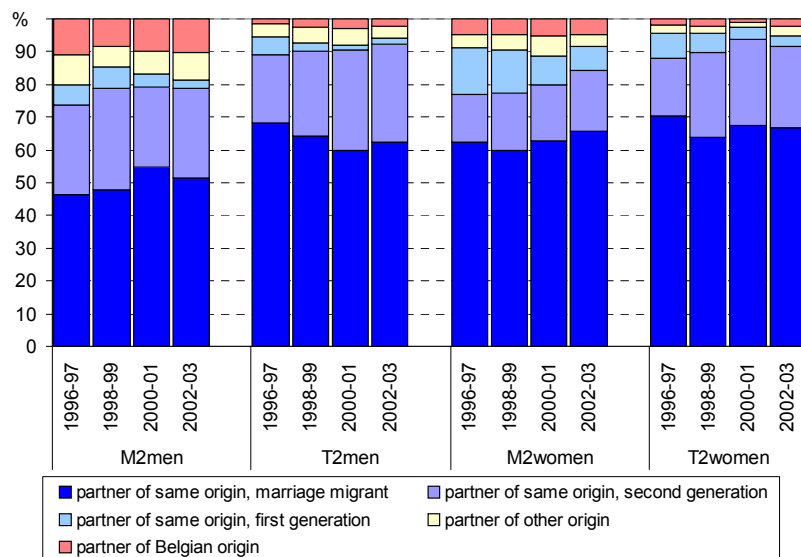
## Second-generation Turkish and Moroccan men and women in Flanders (Belgium). Does partner choice influence the start of family formation?

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### Research question

Partner choice among second-generation Turkish and Moroccan young adults reveals a strong preference for a partner of the same origin and in particular for a partner that was born and grew up in the same country of origin (Figure 1). The choice for a marriage migrant is rather constant across marriage cohorts, whilst the choice for a second-generation partner increases.

Figure 1. Partner choice of the Turkish (T2) and Moroccan (M2) second generation, by marriage cohort and gender.



The number of second-generation young adults of Turkish and Moroccan origin will increase in the near future and a considerable number of marriage migrants from Turkey and Morocco is expected to arrive in Flanders the coming years. I examine whether family formation starts differently for second-generation Turkish and Moroccan men and women depending on their marriage to a newcomer or a second-generation partner.

### Data source and definitions

*Population register* data of birth cohorts 1969-78 (25- to 34-years old in 2004).

*Origin*: Turkish or Moroccan nationality at birth or Belgian nationality at birth and parent(s) with Turkish or Moroccan nationality at birth.

*Second-generation migrants*: born in Belgium or immigrated into Belgium before the age of 3.

*Marriage migrants*: immigrated into Belgium at the time of marriage.

*First marriages* of second-generation migrants.

8 groups of second-generation migrants are distinguished:

1	Second-generation Moroccan men, married to a second-generation Moroccan woman	M2men x M2	427
2	Second-generation Moroccan men, married to a Moroccan marriage migrant	M2men x Mm	667
3	Second-generation Moroccan women, married to a second-generation Moroccan man	M2women x M2	311
4	Second-generation Moroccan women, married to a Moroccan marriage migrant	M2women x Mm	1,083
5	Second-generation Turkish men, married to a second-generation Turkish woman	T2men x T2	578
6	Second-generation Turkish men, married to a Turkish marriage migrant	T2men x Tm	1,469
7	Second-generation Turkish women, married to a second-generation Turkish man	T2women x T2	443
8	Second-generation Turkish women, married to a Turkish marriage migrant	T2women x Tm	1,573

The start of family formation for second-generation Moroccan men from group 1 is compared to the behaviour of second-generation Moroccan men from group 2. Furthermore, differences between groups 3 and 4 (i.e. the behaviour of second-generation Moroccan women), 5 and 6 (second-generation Turkish men), as well as 7 and 8 (second-generation Turkish women) are examined.

## Results

Overview of differences in behaviour of second-generation Turks and Moroccans depending on their marriage partner.

Behaviour of	Second-generation Moroccan men [M2men] married to M2 against Mm	Second-generation Turkish men [T2men] married to T2 against Tm	Second-generation Moroccan women [M2women] married to M2 against Mm	Second-generation Turkish women [T2women] married to T2 against Tm
age at marriage (figure 2)	no significant difference	if married to Tm, T2men marry at younger age	if married to Mm, M2women marry at younger age	no significant difference
age difference between partners (figure 2)	if married to Mm, M2men have a much younger partner	if married to Tm, the age difference is larger	if married to Mm, M2women have a much older partner	if married to Tm, the age difference is larger
virilocality (figure 3)	if married to Mm, M2men more often live (temporarily) with their parents	if married to Tm, T2men more often live (temporarily) with their parents	no significant differences	if married to Tm, T2women more often have their own household
age at first birth (figure 4)	no significant differences	if married to Tm, T2men have their first child at younger age	if married to Mm, M2women have their first child at younger age	no significant differences
first birth within marriage (figure 5)	no significant differences (delay in first year of marriage)	if married to Tm, T2men become father faster after marriage	if married to Mm, M2women delay their first birth longer	no significant differences
mean number of children after longer marriage duration (figure 6)	no significant differences	if married to Tm, T2men have more children	no significant differences	if married to Tm, T2women have more children

## Conclusions

The choice of a marriage partner – 2<sup>nd</sup> generation versus marriage migrant – affects several aspects of family formation. The effects differ for Turks and Moroccans and also for men and women.

Turkish second-generation men married to a marriage migrant have a more traditional pattern of family formation than Turkish second generation men with a second-generation spouse. Partner choice does not have the same consequences for family formation of second-generation Turkish women, where differences are much smaller regardless of whether the partner came from Turkey or grew up in Belgium.

This confirms the hypothesis of other researchers that the underlying motivations for choosing a partner from Turkey are different for men and women.

Being married to a marriage migrant has more serious consequences for family formation of Moroccan second-generation women than for Moroccan second-generation men.

Figure 2. Age at marriage and age difference between partners.

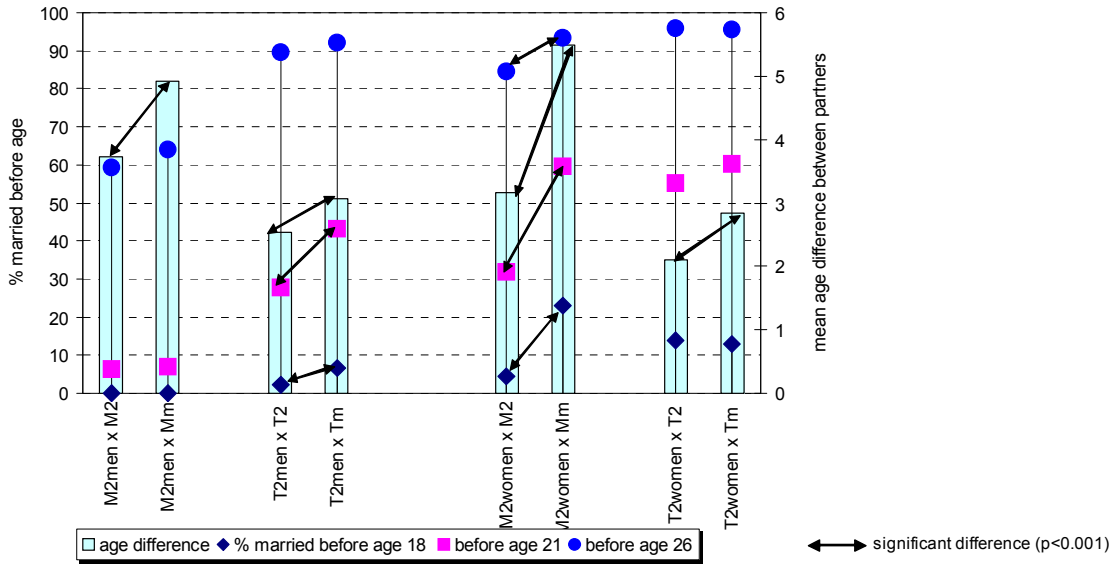


Figure 3. Living in with the parents /parents-in-law after marriage

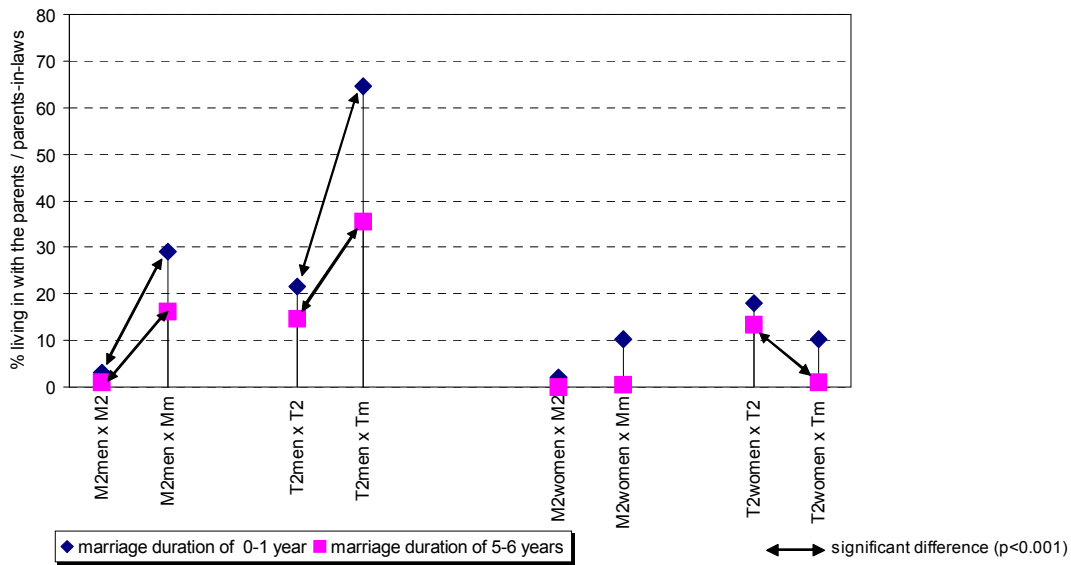


Figure 4. Age at first birth

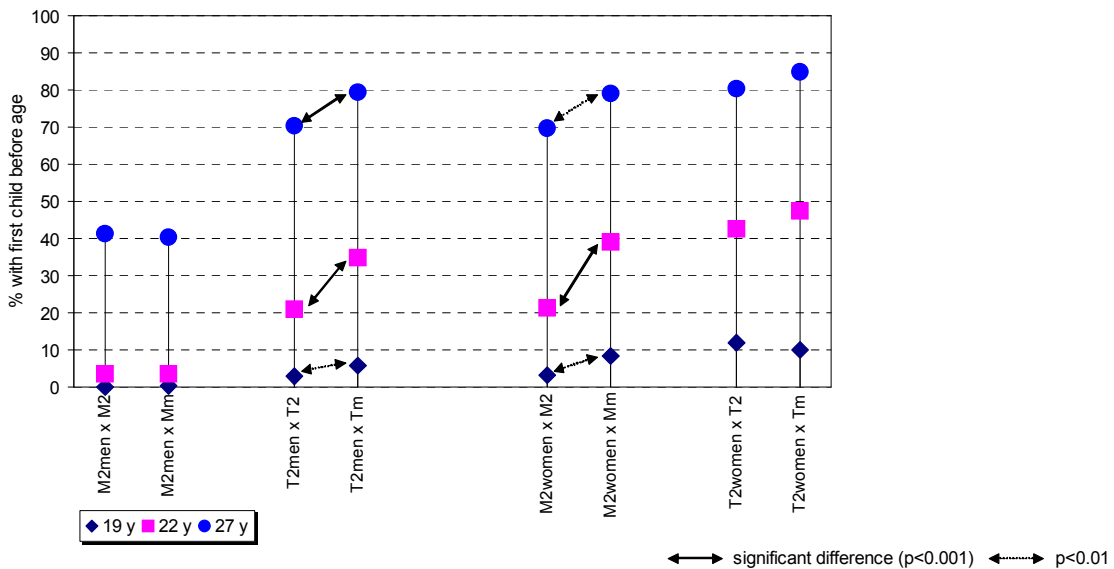


Figure 5. Timing of first birth within marriage

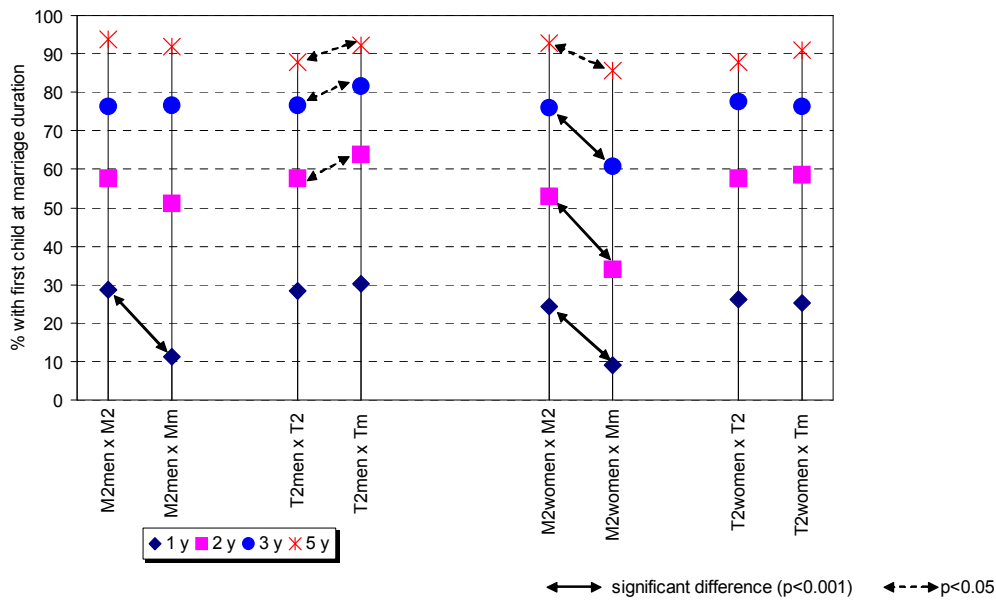


Figure 6. Mean number of children within marriage

