

Marriage & Cohabitation Patterns in an immigration country: Specificities of Latin-American Migrants in Spain

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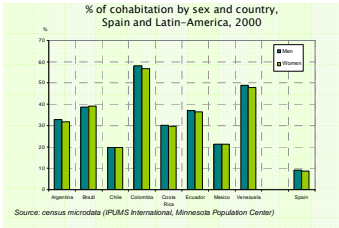
Background and purposes

What do we know about consensual unions in Spain and in Latin America?

- Spain cohabitation is increasing but is still less important than in other European countries and is usually conceived rather as an interim step before marriage than a definitive union form. (Alabarr, et al., 1988; Castro, 2003; Domingo, 1997)

- In Latin American countries, cohabitation is a traditional and common practice. In fact, cohabitation and marriage represent together a dual system of nuptiality. (Quilodrán, 1999; Castro, 2001)

- Latin-American immigrants in Spain have higher rates of cohabitation than Spanish. (Miret, 2006; Cortina et al., 2006, 2008)



Data and Methods

Data

- SPANISH LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (EPA) 2nd quarter 2007
- > for Spanish population analysis
- + SPANISH NATIONAL IMMIGRANT SURVEY (ENI) of 2007
- > for immigrant population analysis

Sample size

Source Data	Sex		
	Men	Women	Total
ENI			
Latin American born	1.239	1.878	3.117
Other countries born	1.971	2.469	4.440
Total foreign born	3.210	4.347	7.557
EPA			
Spanish born	17.150	19.462	36.652
TOTAL	20.400	23.809	44.209

Combined use of both sources allow us to conduct analysis with the most recent data available and to compare patterns of immigrants (ENI) and of Spanish (EPA).

Both surveys offer complete information on the characteristics of couples and spouses. Therefore the two datasets have been merged into a single one.

What do we want to know about consensual unions of Latin-Americans in Spain?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- Are Latin-American immigrants in Spain really cohabiting more than other immigrants and more than Spanish population?
- Is this singularity in union formation patterns of Latin-Americans related to:
 - Socio-demographic composition?
 - Migrant condition?
 - Influence of patterns in the countries of origin?
 - Differences in the signification of cohabitation?
 - ...

ANALYSIS:

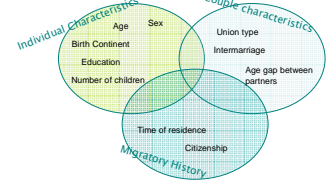
Using appropriate data:

- We compare union formation patterns of Latin-American immigrants to those of other immigrants and of Spanish population
- We explore determinants of cohabitation using multivariable regression models

Multi-variable Regression Models

- Analysis sample:**
 - > Men and women in heterosexual union between 15 and 49 years old
- Dependent Variable:**
 - > 'Union type'. Likelihood of being in consensual union instead of in marriage
- STEP 1: General models**
 - > Logit regressions by sex applied to all unions
- STEP 2: Specific models by origin**
 - > Logit regressions models by sex applied to Spanish and Latin-Americans

Selected variables

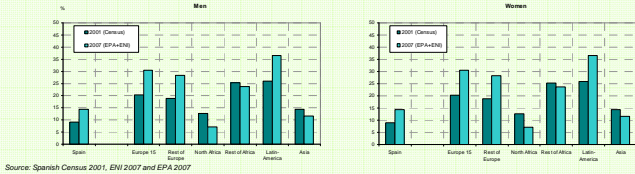


Results

Cohabitation Patterns of Spanish and Latin-Americans in Spain

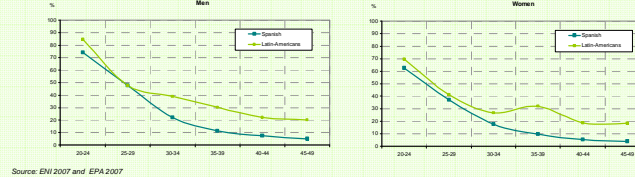
ORIGIN

Trends in cohabitation by sex and origin (age 15-49), 2001-2007.



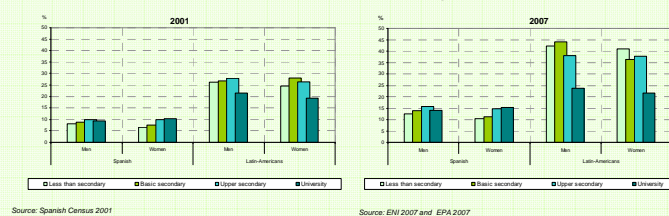
AGE

Cohabitation by age and sex, Spanish vs Latin-Americans (age 20-49), 2007.



EDUCATION

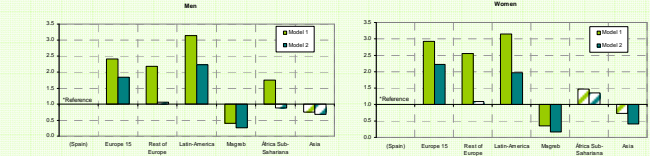
Cohabitation by educational attainment level and sex, Spanish vs Latin-Americans (age 15-49), 2007.



Determinants of cohabitation of Latin-Americans in Spain

STEP 1: General Models

Odds ratio of the likelihood of being in consensual union instead of in marriage, by sex and with and without control variables



Model 1: no control variables
Model 2: control variables: age, educational attainment level, number of children, intermarriage, age gap between spouses

STEP 2: Specific Models by origin

	Men (n=41)		Women (n=41)	
	Spanish	Latin-American	Spanish	Latin-American
Age	n	exp(B)	n	exp(B)
6-19	27	4.09	12	1.33
20-24	190	ref.	66	ref.
25-29	982	0.25 ***	335	0.17 ***
30-34	2656	0.09 ***	286	0.14 ***
35-39	2920	0.06 ***	271	0.10 ***
40-49	9406	0.04 ***	341	0.07 ***
Education	n	exp(B)	n	exp(B)
Less than secondary	2736	ref.	208	ref.
Basic secondary	5763	0.23	165	1.10
Upper secondary	5636	1.03	533	0.74
University	3046	0.91	261	0.49 ***
Unk/own	---	---	42	0.88
Num. of children	n	exp(B)	n	exp(B)
(0)	2989	ref.	248	ref.
1	4989	0.31 ***	371	0.59 ***
2+	9293	0.16 ***	590	0.60 ***
Intermarriage	n	exp(B)	n	exp(B)
(same birth place)	16376	ref.	852	ref.
Different birth place	805	1.98 ***	357	1.13
Age gap between spouses	n	exp(B)	n	exp(B)
Spouse older 3+ years	1224	ref.	214	ref.
Same age	9356	0.47 ***	498	0.44 ***
Spouse younger 3+ years	6601	0.84 *	497	0.50 ***
Citizenship	n	exp(B)	n	exp(B)
(Foreign)	871	ref.	273	ref.
Spanish (ance birth)	65	0.12 ***	65	0.12 ***
Naturalized Spanish	273	0.37 ***	273	0.37 ***
Years of residence	n	exp(B)	n	exp(B)
0-2 years	122	ref.	195	ref.
3-6 años	523	0.26	523	0.26
Más de 6 años	564	1.77	564	1.77
Controls	n	exp(B)	n	exp(B)
Constant	1101	1.10	335	1.10
N	17181		1209	
Predicted percentage	86.3		87.1	
-2 log likelihood	11451.2012		1338.541345	
df	13		18	

Higher educational selection for Latin-Americans

Concluding remarks

MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS:

- In answer to our two main research questions, the comparison analysis of the cohabitation patterns of Latin-American immigrants in Spain suggests that:
 - HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF COHABITING:** In the context of increasing cohabitation in Spain, international immigrants present their own partners. More specifically, Latin-Americans are significantly more likely to be cohabiting than Spanish and than other immigrants.
 - MORE SELECTED PROFILE OF COHABITANTS:** Determinants of cohabitation are basically the same for Spanish and Latin-Americans (negative effect of age, parenthood) except for education. Educational level is no related to the likelihood of cohabiting for Spanish, while for Latin-Americans higher educational still reduces the likelihood of cohabiting.

FURTHER RESEARCH:

- The particularities of Latin-Americans in terms of cohabitation patterns remain to be fully explained. Nevertheless we can conclude that:
 - The single migrant condition does not explain Latin-American singularities because their pattern clearly differs from the one of other origins (Africans and Asians).
 - Therefore, the idea that a link with the patterns in the countries of origin is important is clearly reinforced. A country specific analysis could help to further test this hypothesis.

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