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Enfants et conjoints survivants d'un couple non marié

Orphelins mais pas veuves

Children and surviving spouses of unmarried couple

Orphans without widow(er)s

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Big_Stat, Institut National d'Études Démographiques



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I – Research topic

- **French legal marital status:**

- Single
- Married
- Widowed
- Divorced

- **A widow** = someone who faced the death of their partner in a **married** couple.

- **An orphan** = a child who face the death of at least on of their parents.

To be **considered** a widow(er) or an orphan give access to rights and benefits from the French State.

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A surviving spouse of an unmarried couple = invisible population in the sense of a *lack of recognition of their status*.

There is no records because the administrative and legal status of widow(er) only concerns married people.

This is consistent with common-law union because no contract binds the parties.

What about **couples with a contract** (Pacs)?

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Research questions:

As there is an increase of unmarried couples even at an older age :

- How many unmarried widow(ers) are there ?
- Is there a difference in mortality between married and unmarried couples?
- Is there a substantial economic difference between married and unmarried widow(ers) ?

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II – Data

EU-SILC, Family Surveys, *Tronc Commun des Ménages*, tax data (FIDELI)

EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions):

A panel of nine (and recently four) year rotating sample renewed per ninth (quarter) each year.

Providing a rich insight into both economic and demographic dynamics of households over time

However, death is only reported through only one variable:

« Did someone died in the household during the previous year ? »

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Orphans without widow(er)s

EU-SILC: very small numbers involved

Table 1 - Number of people facing widowhood in EU-SILC (2004-2018)

	N	Percentage
Widow(er)	721	1,8
Never faced widowhood	39 598	98,2
Total	40 319	100

Table 2- Conjugal status repartition among the people who faced widowhood in EU-SILC (2004-2018)

	N	Percentage
Married widow(er)	621	86,1
Pacs widow(er)	47	6,5
Common-law widow(er)	53	7,4
Total	721	100

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Orphans without widow(er)s



II – Data

Family Surveys:

Conducted with the census on a one-percent sample

1999 – Study of a family's history: first and last union (with or without marriage), all children including step-children

Isabelle Delaunay, « The Other Widowhood: Common-law Partners and Death in France », *Enfances Familles Générations* (2016)

2011 - Family and housing survey: current situation and duration since last change. Not useful because the partner's death is not collected for those who entered a new union afterwards.

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II – Data

Tronc Commun des Ménages (aggregated surveys):

No retrospective information

Orphans are well identified (questions on whether the father (and mother) is living in the household and, if not, if he or she is alive)

Nothing on partner's death but much on families with an orphan (and thus with a parent who lost a partner)

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Fideli: Fichiers DÉmographiques sur les Logements et les Individus, made available by the CASD (Secure Access Data Center).

A dataset built for research purpose by the INSEE (The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies), from tax and housing data, based on two successive tax returns

An exhaustive dataset provided by the administration and supervised by the INSEE

Two years are merged, with situation at the beginning and end of each year.

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Orphans without widow(er)s



The 2017 edition contains information on housing and individuals **both in 2016 and 2017**.

Therefore, the dataset gives access to the situation and finances for mainland France, **64.713.222** individuals, in which **573.870** died during 2016.

Fiscal marital status :

single, divorced, ***pacsés***, married, widowed.

Birthdate and gender

Standard of living in 2016 and 2017.

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Orphans without widows



Important:

All of the graphs and tables are created by the exploitation of FIDELI in complementarity to the annual demographic census wave provided by the INSEE

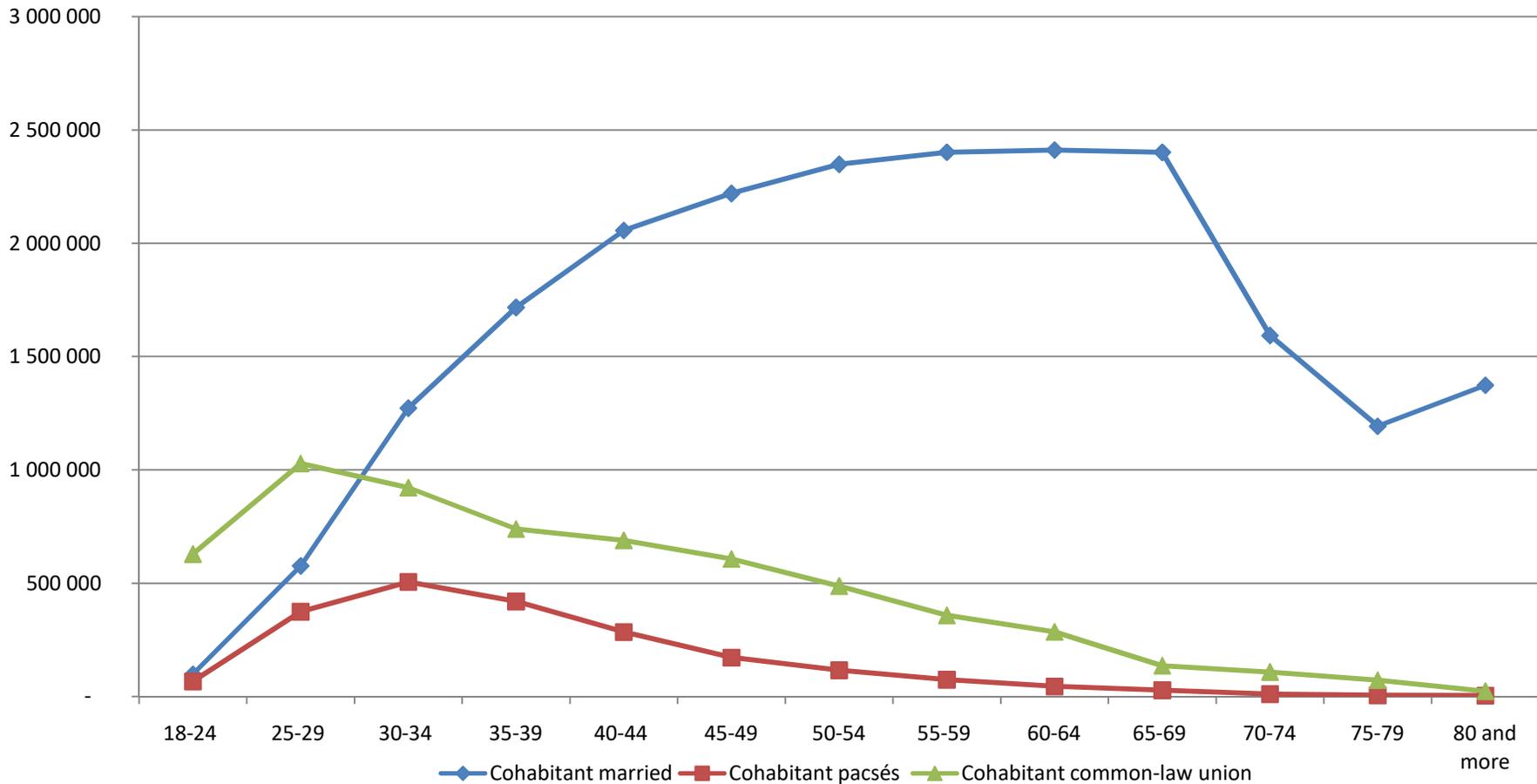
Fideli complements the census on categories that are yet to exist as well as the distribution for these categories, i.e. the age distribution of *pacsés* individuals.

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Orphans without widow(er)s



Graph 1 - Number of people living together by age and conjugal status

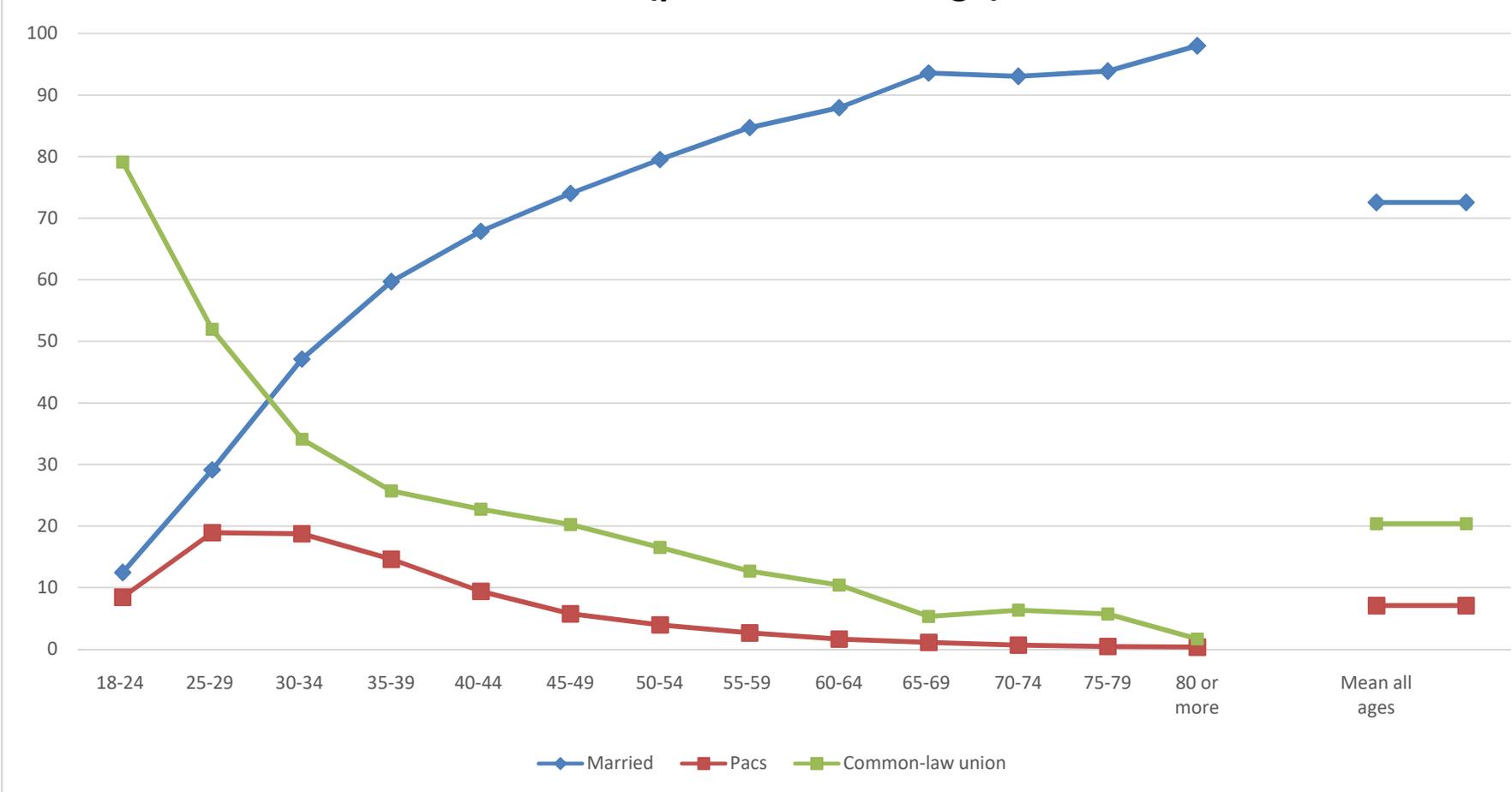


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Orphans without widow(er)s



Graph 2 - Distribution of people living together by age and conjugal status (percent at each age)



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Orphans without widow(er)s

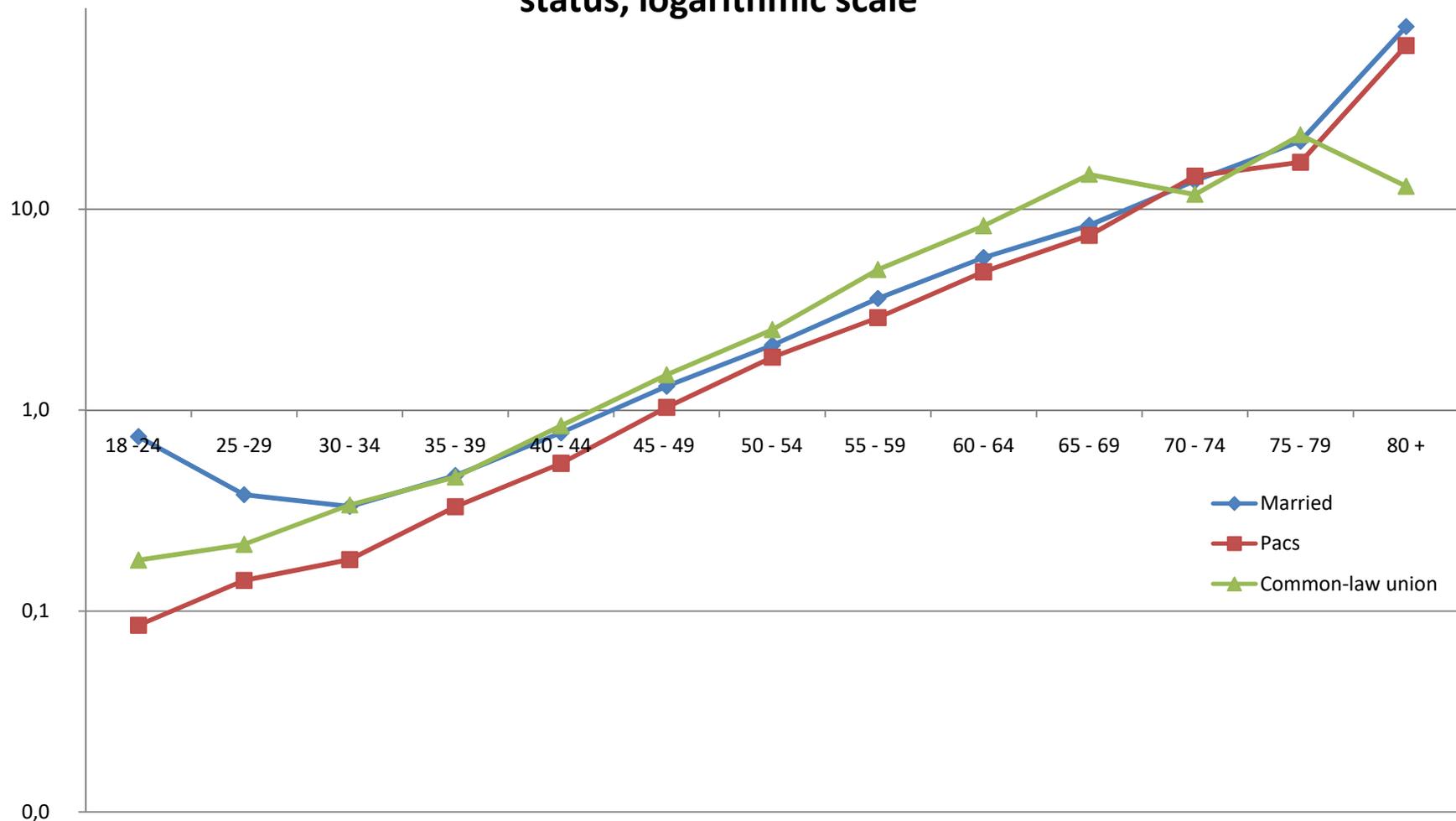
Table 3 - Number of death by age and conjugal status				
Âge	Married	Pacs	Common-law union	Total
18 -24	94	6	108	207
25 -29	250	53	204	507
30 - 34	450	91	282	824
35 - 39	845	139	310	1 293
40 - 44	1 648	155	507	2 311
45 - 49	3 007	178	807	3 992
50 - 54	5 092	214	1 047	6 352
55 - 59	8 869	216	1 462	10 547
60 - 64	14 217	219	1 826	16 262
65 - 69	20 393	210	1 245	21 847
70 - 74	21 810	163	1 492	23 466
75 - 79	26 207	98	1 446	27 750
80 +	106 136	304	1 140	107 580
Total	209 017	2 045	11 874	222 937

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Graph 3 - Death rate for 1000 people by age and conjugal status, logarithmic scale

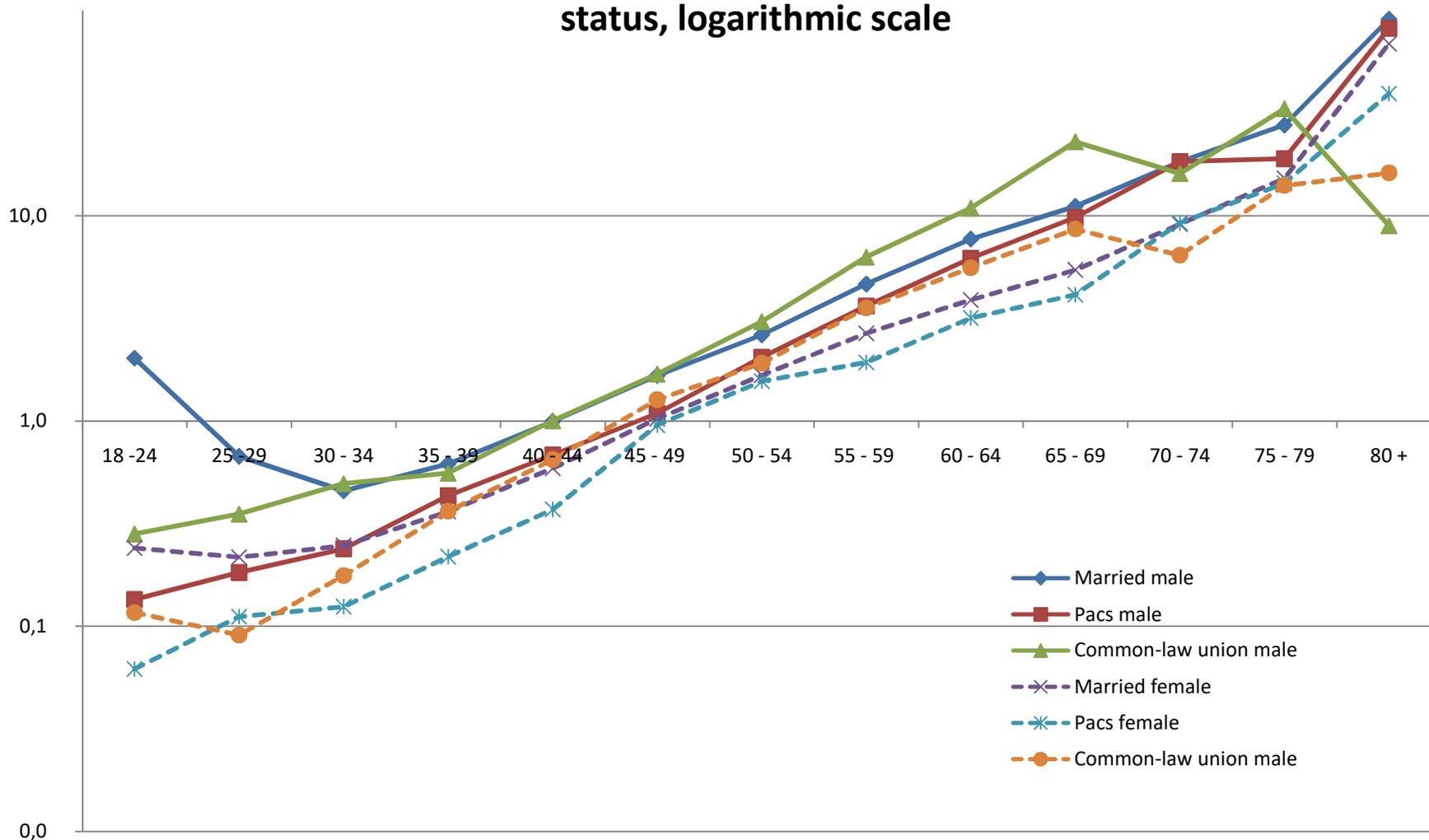


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Graph 4 - Death rate of 1000 people by age, gender and conjugal status, logarithmic scale



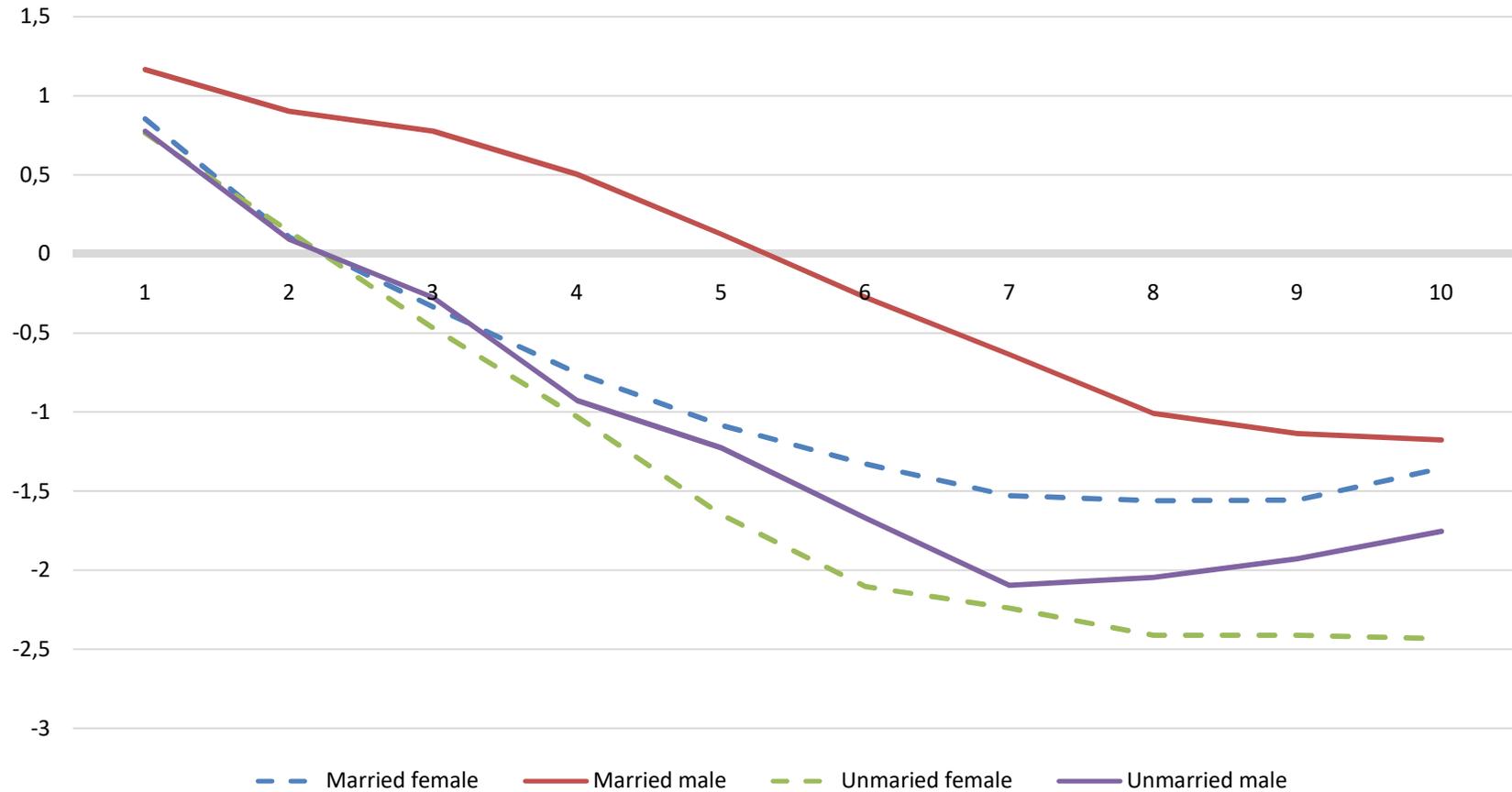
Children and surviving spouses of unmarried couple

Orphans without widow(er)s



Graph 5 – Change in income decile (2016->2017) after the death of a partner, by income decile, sex of the widow(er) and marital status in 2016. Childless couples

Linear regression on change in decile. Controls : age and number of children. 50-54 years of age, no child



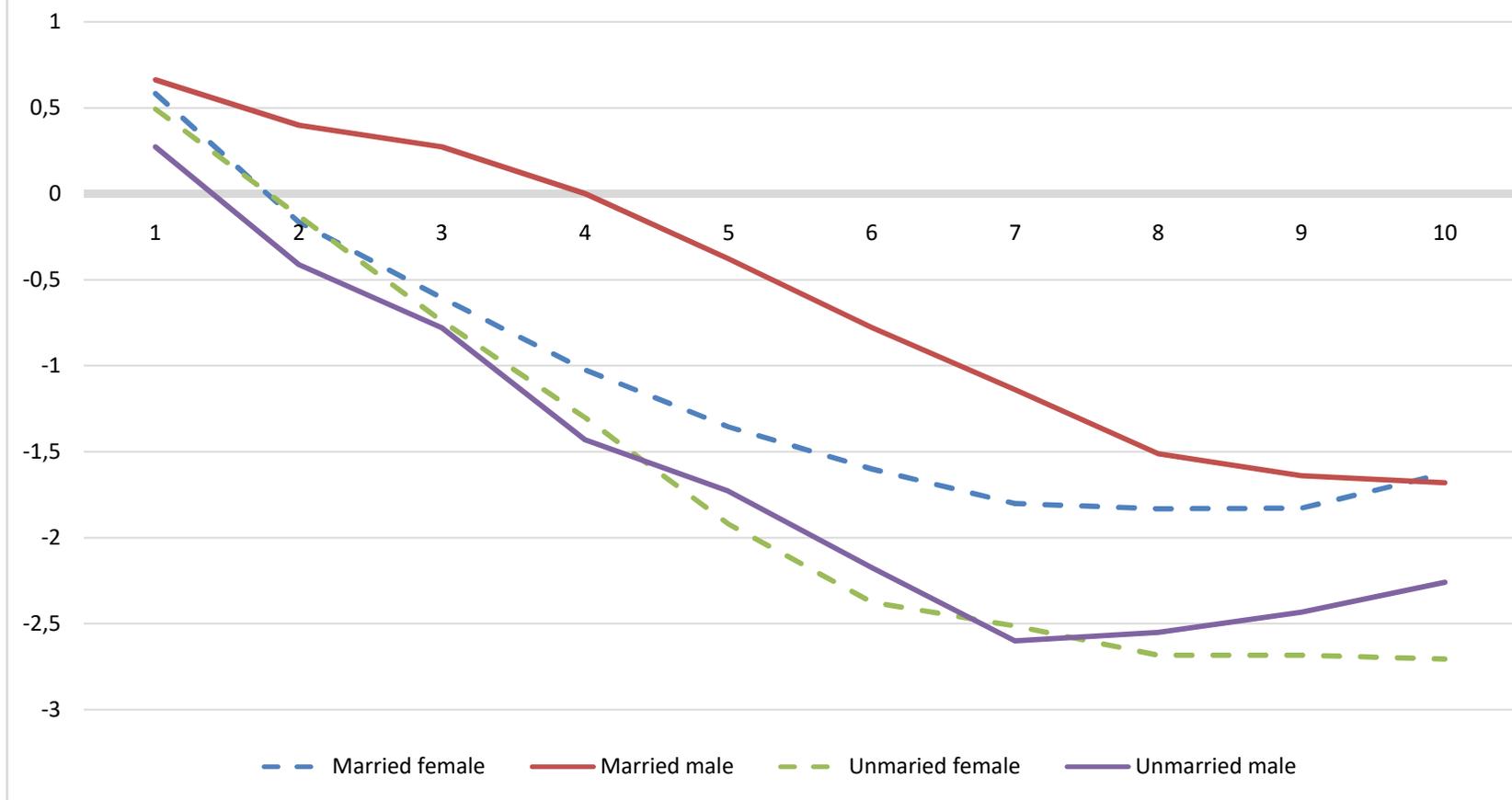
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Orphans without widow(er)s



Graph 6 – Change in income decile (2016->2017) after the death of a partner, by income decile, sex of the widow(er) and marital status in 2016. Couples with two children

Linear regression on change in decile. Controls : age and number of children. 50-54 years of age, two children



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Conclusion

Around 6% of invisible widow(er)s, and increasing

- Accuracy of data in FIDELI:
 - Standard of living during the year of partner's death
 - Identification of dead partners and information in FIDELI
- Possibility to access datasets like FIDELI for more than 2 years
 - Need to start from raw tax data files
- A new Family survey in 2025
 - Need to focus on retrospective questions