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الشرائح التقديمية التالية هي ملكية خاصة بالمؤلفين ، ويتم توفيرها في هذا الموقع كخدمة عامة . يرجى عدم نسخ أو توزيع و إعادة نشر هذه الشرائح دون الحصول على إذن كتابي من المؤلفين المدرجين .

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Why are so many Qatari women are marrying late or not marrying at all?

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SESRI, Qatar University

Paper prepared for presentation at the "*2015 Annual Conference on Family Research and Policy: Research to Advance Family Policies*" organized by Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) , May 3-4, Doha, Qatar

"Families in the Arab world are undergoing major changes as new patterns of marriage and family formation emerge across the Middle East and North Africa."

Rashad et al., (2005). Marriage in the Arab world, Population Reference Bureau, Washington DC.

"Universal, early marriage is no longer the standard it once was in Arab countries: The average age at marriage for both men and women is generally rising, and more Arab women are staying single longer or not marrying at all."

Rashad et al., (2005). Marriage in the Arab world, Population Reference Bureau, Washington DC.

Qatari Policy makers are very concerned about this new marriage patterns.

- *"Encourage and facilitate marriages among persons of marriageable ages."*

- *"Adopt policies that will reduce delayed marriages, especially of girls."*

The State of Qatar's Population Policy, 2009, Permanent Population Committee, Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Qatar.

Main objectives of this paper

- Extent of marriage delay using census & the 2013 Qatar marriage delay data

- Qatari women's attitudes towards marriage and marriage timing.

- Qatari marriage customs and marriage delay

- Women's education , employment

The 2013 Qatar Marriage Delay Survey

- Cross-sectional survey of a nationally representative sample of 1721 Qatari women aged 18-39 that includes both married (N=1055) and never married women (N=666).

- Funded by National Priority Research Program (NPRP), Qatar Foundation.

- Conducted by the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI), Qatar University.

Extent of marriage delay

Average age at first marriage of Qatari women increased by 3.7 years between 1986 & 2010
(Qatar marriage registration data)

Year	Women	Men
1986	19.2	24.8
1995	22.9	26.1
2000	23.8	27.1
2005	23.9	26.7
2010	23.9	26.5

Source: Qatar Marriage Registration Data, Ministry of Development Planning and Statistic, Qatar

SESRI

# Proportion never married increased substantially among Qatari women aged 25+ years old
(Qatar census data)

Age	Census years			
	1986	1997	2004	2010
15-19	89%	94%	97%	96%
20-24	54%	64%	67%	66%
25-29	24%	30%	35%	36%
30-34	10%	19%	20%	22%
35-39	3%	12%	15%	16%
40-44	2%	8%	11%	14%
45-49	1%	3%	9%	13%

Source: Qatar Census, Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Qatar

SESRI

Proportion of Qatari women never married by age as of survey date
(2013 Qatar Marriage Delay Survey)
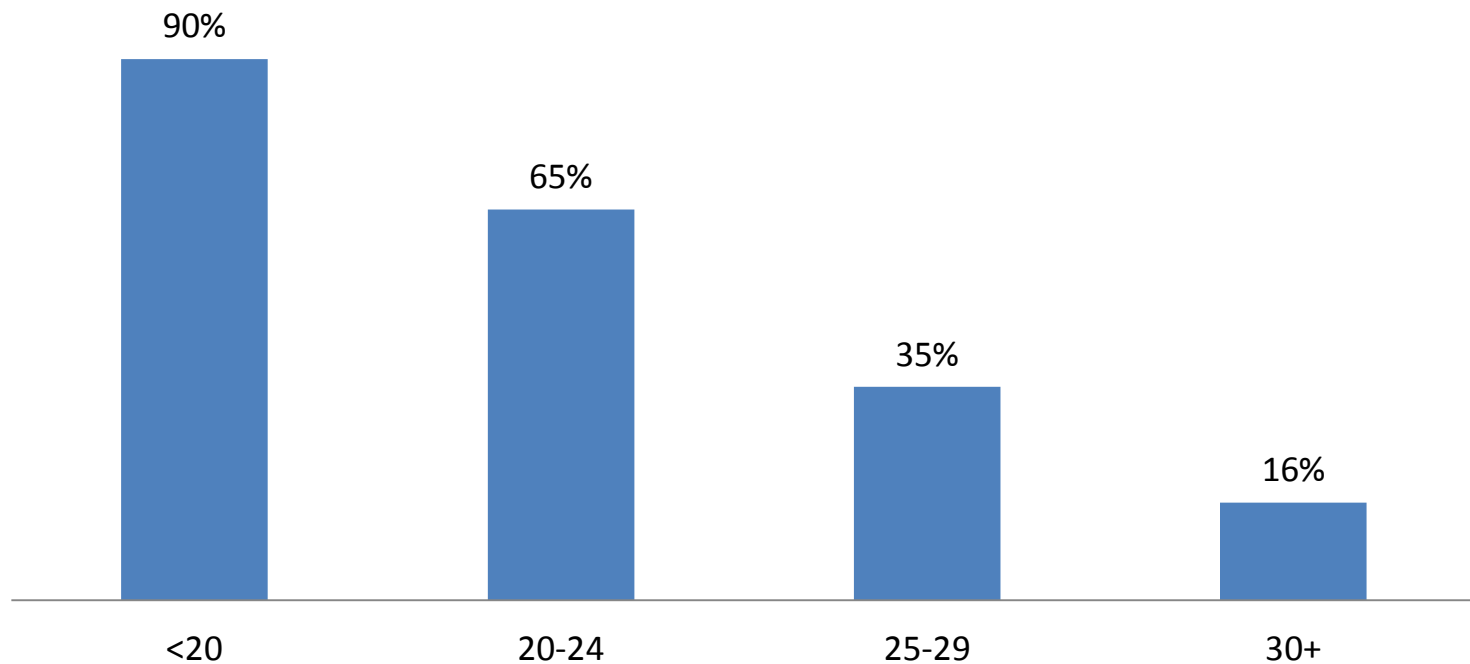
Sixteen percent of ever-married Qatari women married at 25 years and above

Age at first marriage	%
<20 (Early marriage)	42%
20-24 (Timely marriage)	42%
25+ (Late marriage)	16%
Total	100%

Proportion marrying late increased in recent years

Age at first marriage	Year of first marriage			Total
	1973-1994	1995-2004	2005-2013	
<20 (Early marriage)	75.2%	42.8%	29.3%	42.5%
20-24 (Timely marriage)	24.3%	44.8%	45.3%	41.6%
25+ (Late marriage)	0.5%	12.4%	25.4%	15.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Attitudes towards marriage and marriage timing

Overwhelming majority agreed that all women should marry

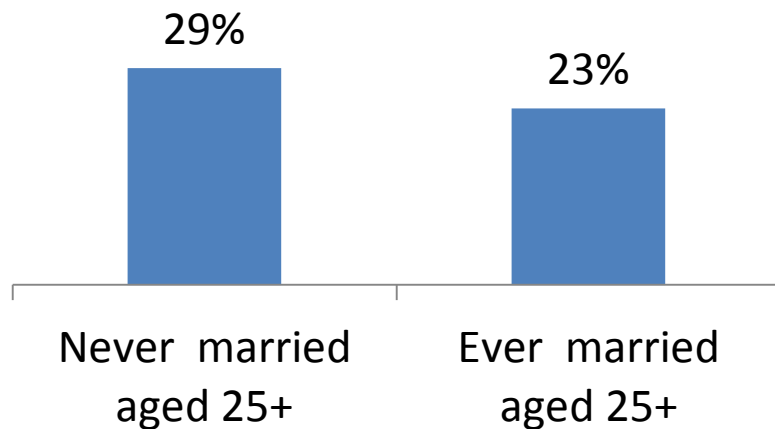Proportion agreed that "Marriage is a sacred act"

- Never married aged 25+: 86%
- Ever married aged 25+: 92%

Proportion agreed that "All women should marry"

- Never married aged 25+: 93%
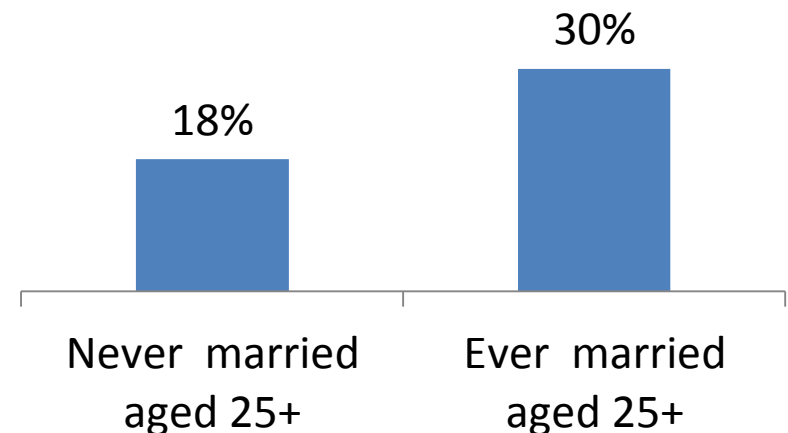- Ever married aged 25+: 94%
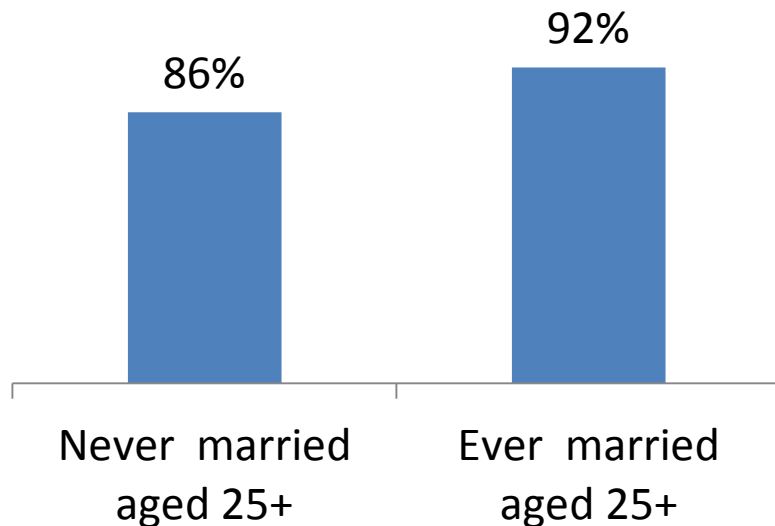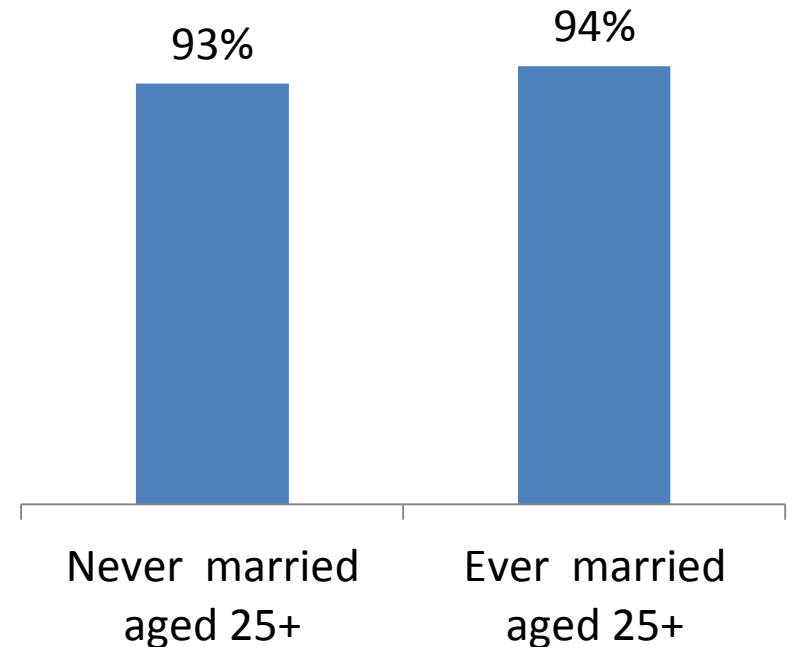
Overwhelming majority prefers no marriage than bad marriage

Proportion agreed that

"People should get married even if they don't get the right person but to satisfy family"

Proportion agreed that
"It's better to have a bad marriage than no marriage at all"

Left chart:
- Never married aged 25+: 29%
- Ever married aged 25+: 23%

Right chart:
- Never married aged 25+: 18%
- Ever married aged 25+: 30%

"In your opinion, what is the ideal age at first marriage for girls"?

Ideal age at first marriage	Marital status as of survey date		
	Ever-married	Never-married	Total
<20	24%	14%	20%
20-24	60%	61%	61%
25+	16%	25%	19%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: 2013 Qatar Marriage Delay Survey

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"At what age do you intend to marry?"
(Never married women)

	Age of never-married respondents as of survey date			
	18-24 (%)	25-29(%)	30-39 (%)	All (%)
God knows	36.1	50.8	58.3	42.2
Whenever found the right person	22.9	29.1	34.6	25.8
No intention to get married	0.4	0	3.0	0.8
After completing study	4.7	0	0	3.1
Age 18 - 24 years	23.1	2.1	0.8	15.9
Age 25+ years	12.1	15.6	2.0	11.1
Other	0.8	2.4	1.3	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 2013 Qatar Marriage Delay Survey

# Qatari marriage customs and marriage timing

SPOUSE SELECTION: PATTERN

Marriage arranged by family is still most preferred, but self-arranged marriage is relatively popular among unmarried

Marriage arranged by	Ever married	Never married
	"Was your marriage initiated through family or relatives, through friends, or by your own choice?"	"Is the best way to arrange marriage through family or relatives, through friends, or by your own choice?"
Family	77%	60%
Self	15%	38%
Friend	8%	2%
Total	100%	100%

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SPOUSE SELECTION: TREND

Proportion of marriage by type of spouse selection and year of marriage
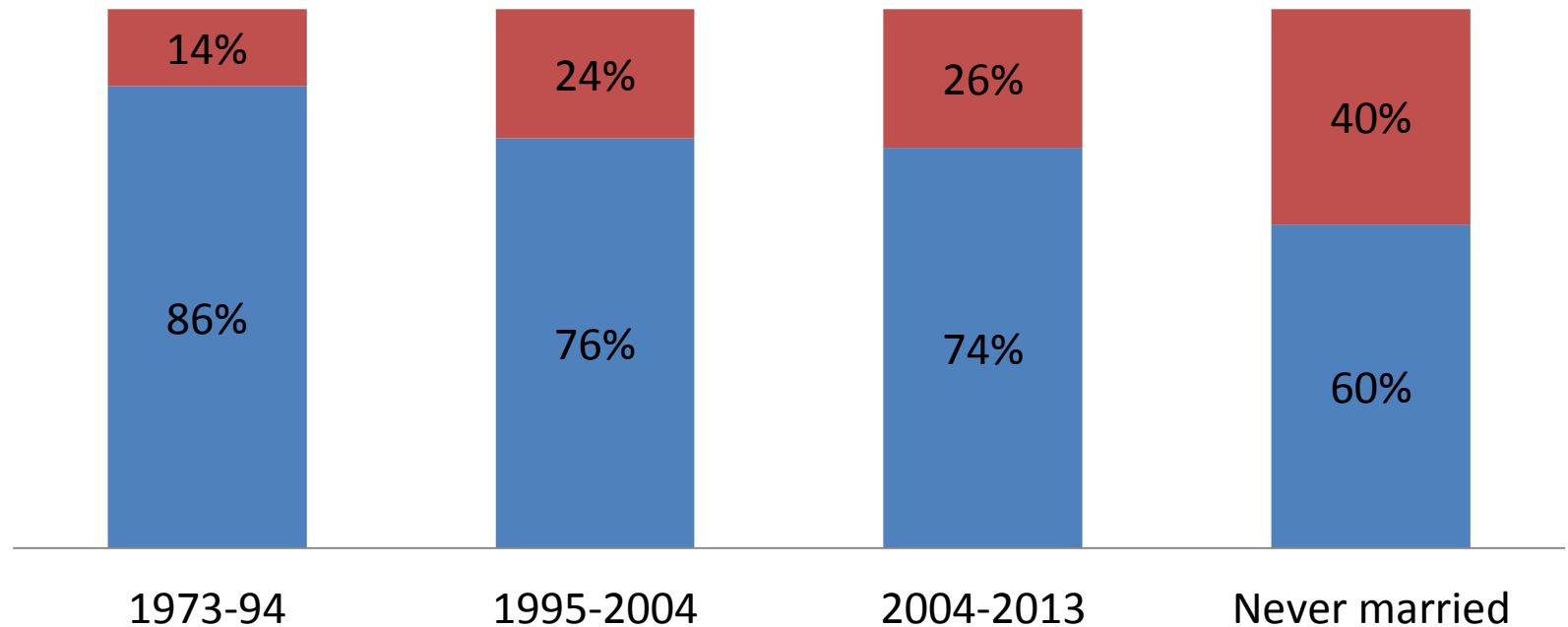
SPOUSE SELECTION: MARRIAGE TIMING

Marriage arranged by own choice delays marriage
(Ever married)

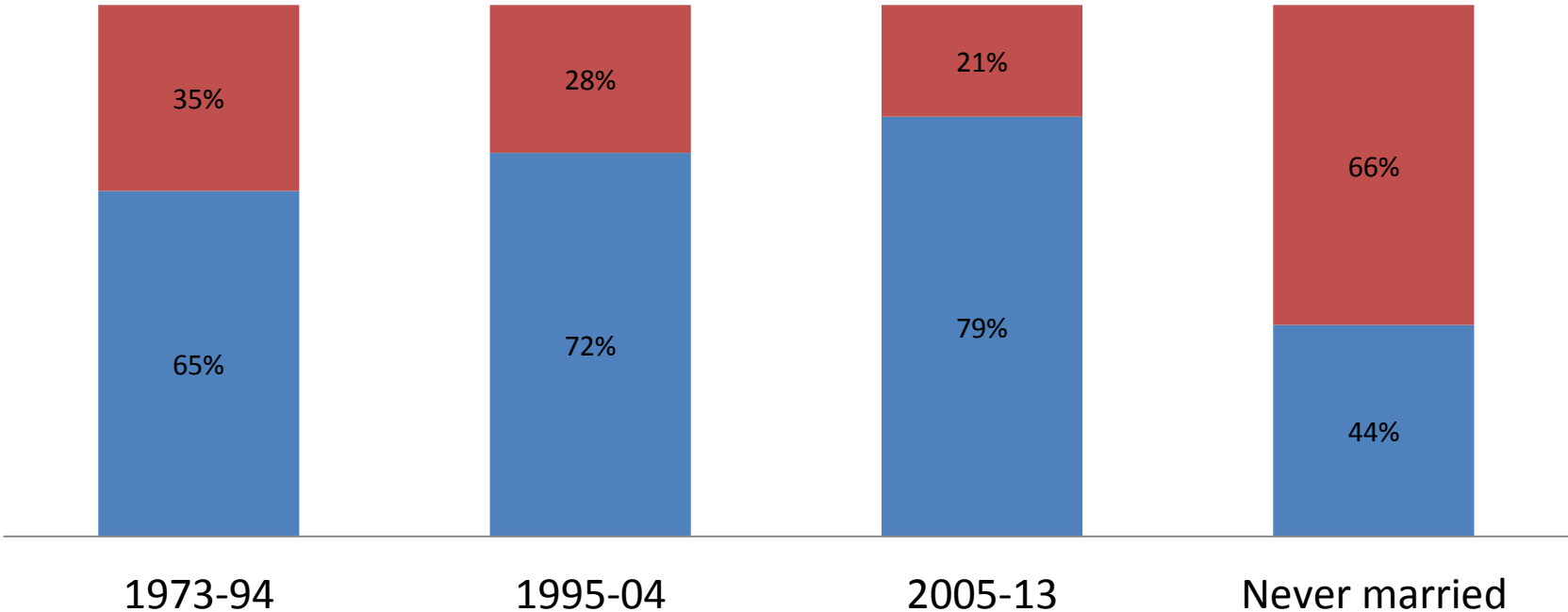| Age at first Marriage	Marriage arranged by	
	Family	Self
<20	45%	34%
20-24	42%	40%
25+	13%	26%
Total	100%	100%

POST-MARRIAGE RESIDENCE: PATTERN

Majority of women lived with in-laws after their marriage, but unmarried women prefer to live in a separate house after marriage

Post-marriage living arrangements	Ever married	Never married
	"Where did you first live after your marriage?"	"After your wedding, which of the following living arrangements would you prefer to start your new life with"
With in-laws/parents	73%	33%
Separate residence	27%	66%
Total	100%	100%

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POST-MARRIAGE RESIDENCE: TREND

Proportion by types of post marriage residence and year of marriage

POST-MARRIAGE RESIDENCE: MARRIAGE TIMING

Separate post-marriage living arrangements delay marriage
(Ever married)

Age at first marriage	Post-marriage residence	
	With in-laws	Separate residence
<20	44%	39%
20-24	42%	39%
25+	14%	22%
Total	100%	100%

CONSANGUINITY: TREND

Proportion married to blood relatives by year of marriage

1973-1994	1995-2004	2005-2013	Total
59%	44%	52%	52%
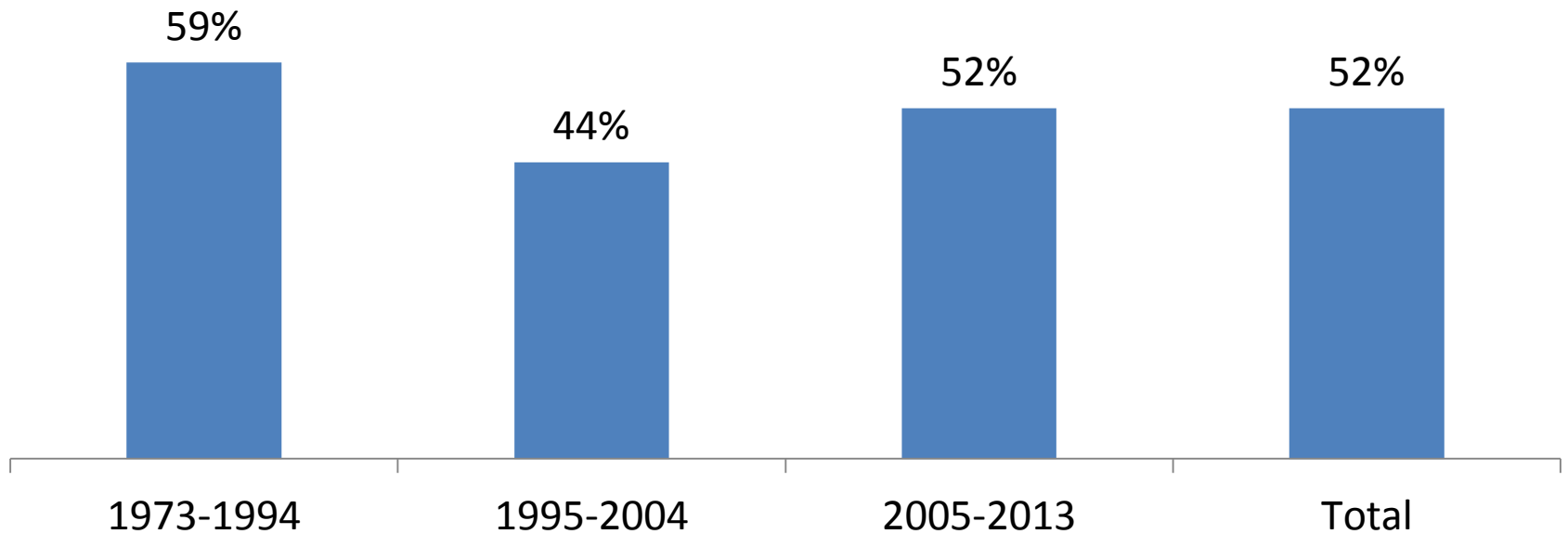
CONSANGUINITY: MARRIAGE TIMING

	Type of consanguinity	
Age at first marriage	Consanguineous marriage	Non-Consanguineous marriage
<20	46.8	38.3
20-24	43.2	40.0
25+	10.0	21.7
Total	100.0%	100.0%

EDUCATION: TREND

EDUCATION: MARRIAGE TIMING

Age at first marriage	Level of education at marriage		
	Below high school	Completed high school	Completed University
<20	65.3	41.2	21.4
20-24	26.1	45.2	50.7
25+	8.6	13.6	27.9
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

EMPLOYMENT STATUS: PATTERN

Employment status at marriage	Year of first marriage		
	1973-1994	1995-2004	2005-2013
Employed	2.7	13.9	28.7
Student	57.2	51.5	38.2
None of above	40.1	34.7	33.1
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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EMPLOYMENT: MARRIAGE TIMING

	Employment Status at marriage		
Age at first marriage	Employed	Student	None
<20	6.5	53.8	46.4
20-24	44.4	43.1	37.9
25+	49.1	3.1	15.7
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

Ordinary linear regression: Factors associated with first marriage timing

Variables	Model-1	Model-2	Model-3
Education (Ref. below secondary)			
Completed secondary	0.924***	0.786***	1.012***
Completed university	2.493***	2.359***	2.655***
Employed (ref. not)	3.629***	3.428***	3.225***
Spouse selected by own choice (ref. not)		0.064	0.036
Separate post-marriage residence (ref. not)		0.518**	0.419*
Married to blood relatives (ref. not)		-0.682***	-0.663***
Household size (ref. <7)			
7-9			-0.345
10+			-0.677***
Grand parents alive (ref. not)			-1.067***
Mother's education (ref. no education)			
Some education			-0.515**
Secondary			-1.081***
Post-secondary			-1.224***
R-square	**34.39**	**35.60**	**39.08**

legend: * p<.1; ** p<.05; *** p<.01

Conclusion

This paper examined the first marriage timings among Qatari women to gain an understanding of the trends and patterns of first-marriage delay.

All Qataris intended to marry eventually and, for women 20 to 24 were perceived as an ideal age range for marriage. Yet, an increasing number of Qatari women were marrying after age 24 while many others remained single.

Women with higher education and jobs were more likely to marry late compared with women with lower education and no work. Pre-marriage employment had the strongest impact on marriage timing.

Conclusion

Practice of cousin marriages, and post-wedding living arrangements have substantial impacts on marriage timings. Women who co-resided with in-laws after marriage were less likely to marry late compared with women who lived in separate houses with their husbands after marriage. Women who are married to non-relatives were more likely to marry late compared with women who are married to close relatives.