

## Diverse Transitions to Marital and Reproductive Life Paths in eight Latin American countries

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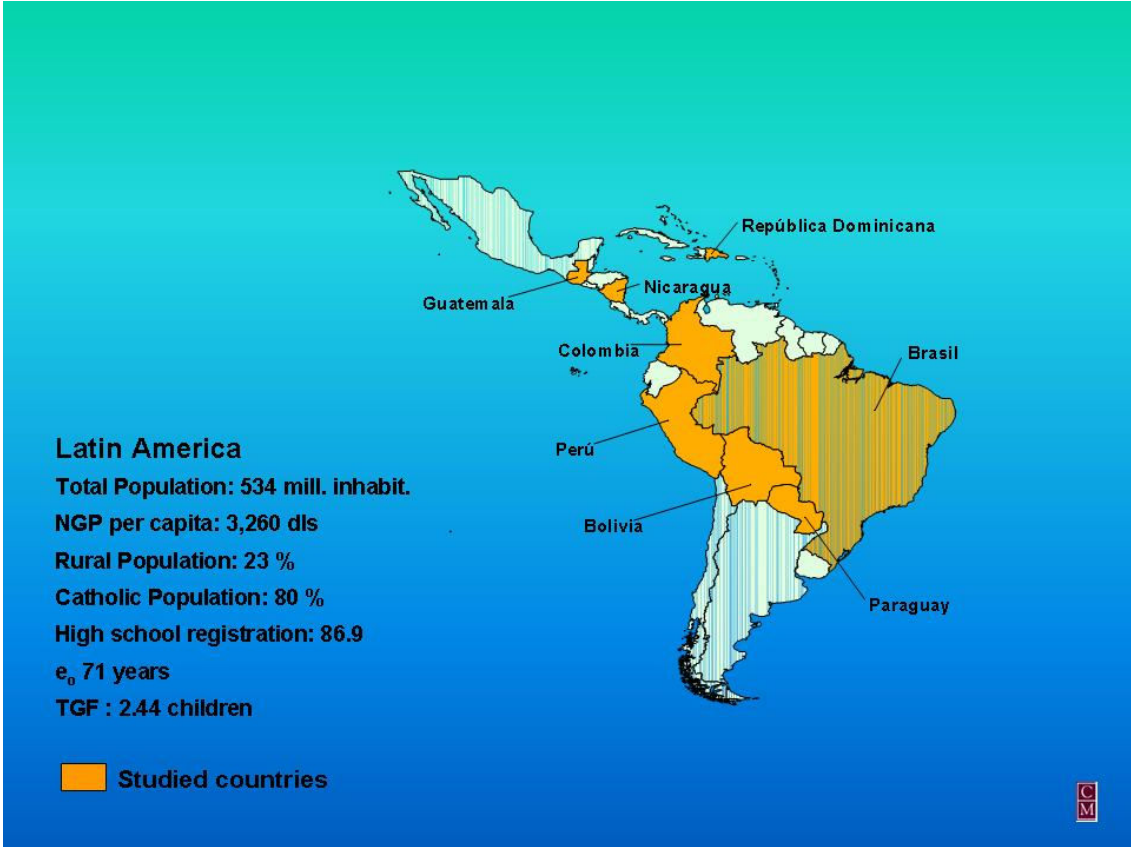
### Objetives

To reconstruct women life-paths according to the sequences in which they made their *first transitions to sexual, marital, and reproductive life*.

1. **On eight Latin American countries:**  
Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Rep. Dominicana, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay y Perú
2. **From women interviewed by the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in the 1995-1999 period\***
3. **From two generation groups:** on each respective survey reported being 25-29 years old (group A) and 45-49 years old (group B)
4. **With subsistents first unions**
5. Achieved the analized **transitions** *before reaching 30 years old*
6. **The Observation Period:**  
*1960 decade for women 45-49 years old (born on the end of the 1940 decade)*  
*1980 decade for women 25-29 years old (born on the 1960 decade)*

\*Except Paraguay 1990





## Background

The individual life-path construction depends both on the historical-cultural systems and on the associated institutions and values for those systems (Billari, 2001; Lesthaeghe, 1995; ONU, 2003; Thorton, 2001; Van de Kaa, 1987,2001)

Therefore, the related paths and transitions to sexual, marital and reproductive life can be considered as cultural, institutional and even prevailing values as in the Latin American context demonstrates.

## Hypothesis

The more catholic a society, as it is the case for Latin America, the more attachment to the observed behavior of the catholic marriage rule.

On this case: *sexual and reproductive practice within marriage.*

The larger the increase on *single status, consensual unions, and premarital sexual and reproductive life*, the more advanced the region itself respect the Second Demographic Transition (STD)



## Nupciality Characteristics in Latin America

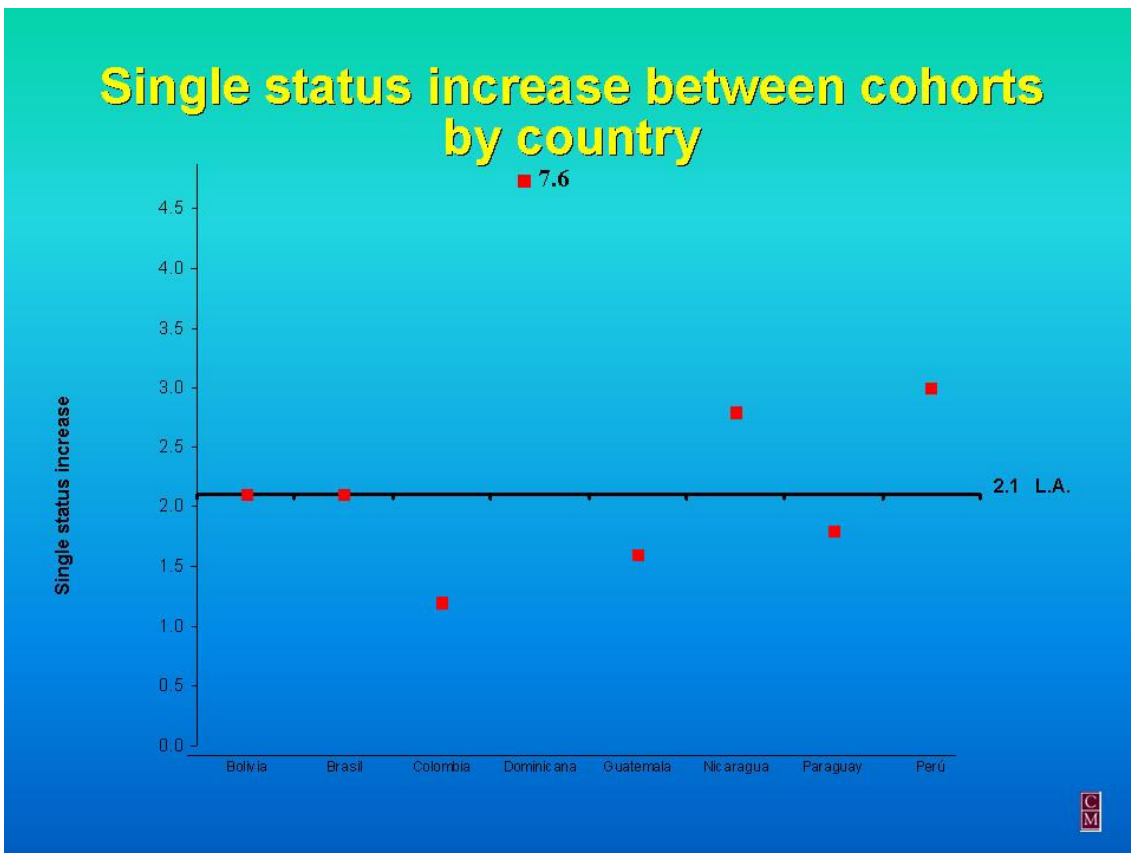
To a great extent it corresponds to the marriage model imported by the Spanish and Portuguese settlers in Latin America. Its propagation was due to the Catholic Church

- First union at a relatively early age
- Scarce definitive celibacy (5-10%)
- Presence of consensual unions on variable proportions according to the country
- Stable unions differ by geographical setting
- Frequent remarriage

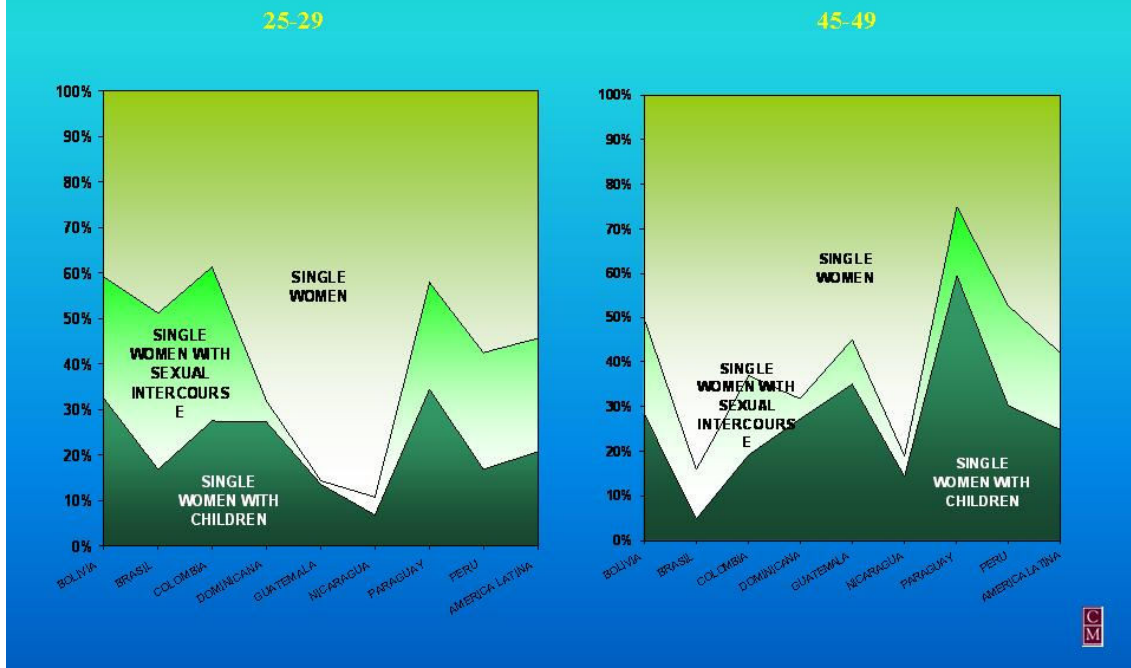


Paths ways	Sequence	Cohorts	
		25-29	45-49
RS <sub>1</sub> -U <sub>1</sub> <sup>M</sup> -HNV <sub>1</sub>	(1-2 <sup>M</sup> -3)	15.9	22.4
RS <sub>1</sub> -U <sub>1</sub> <sup>UL</sup> -HNV <sub>1</sub>	(1-2 <sup>UL</sup> -3)	10.1	4.0
RS <sub>1</sub> -HNV1-U <sub>1</sub> <sup>M</sup>	(1-3-2 <sup>M</sup> )	4.6	9.4
RS <sub>1</sub> -HNV1-U <sub>1</sub> <sup>UL</sup>	(1-3-2 <sup>UL</sup> )	5.1	2.4
RS <sub>1</sub> -U <sub>1</sub> <sup>M</sup> , without child	(1-2 <sup>M</sup> )	1.3	2.6
RS <sub>1</sub> -U <sub>1</sub> <sup>UL</sup> , without child	(1-2 <sup>UL</sup> )	1.1	0.7
	ST	<b>38.1</b>	<b>41.5</b>
U <sub>1</sub> <sup>M</sup> =RS <sub>1</sub> -HNV <sub>1</sub>	(2 <sup>M</sup> =1-3)	24.4	41.1
U <sub>1</sub> <sup>UL</sup> =RS <sub>1</sub> -HNV <sub>1</sub>	(2 <sup>UL</sup> =1-3)	13.7	5.9
U <sub>1</sub> <sup>M</sup> =RS <sub>1</sub> , without child	(2 <sup>M</sup> =1)	1.6	4.0
U <sub>1</sub> <sup>UL</sup> =RS <sub>1</sub> , without child	(2 <sup>UL</sup> =1)	0.6	0.6
	ST	<b>40.3</b>	<b>51.3</b>
Single women - RS <sub>1</sub> - HNV <sub>1</sub>	(1-3)	4.5	1.7
Single women - RS <sub>1</sub>	( 1 )	5.4	1.2
Single women	( 0 )	11.7	4.0
	ST	<b>21.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Information for the eight Latin American countries



## Single women by type of transitions, country and cohorts



## “Normative” and “Alternative” pathways for women < age 30 by country and cohorts

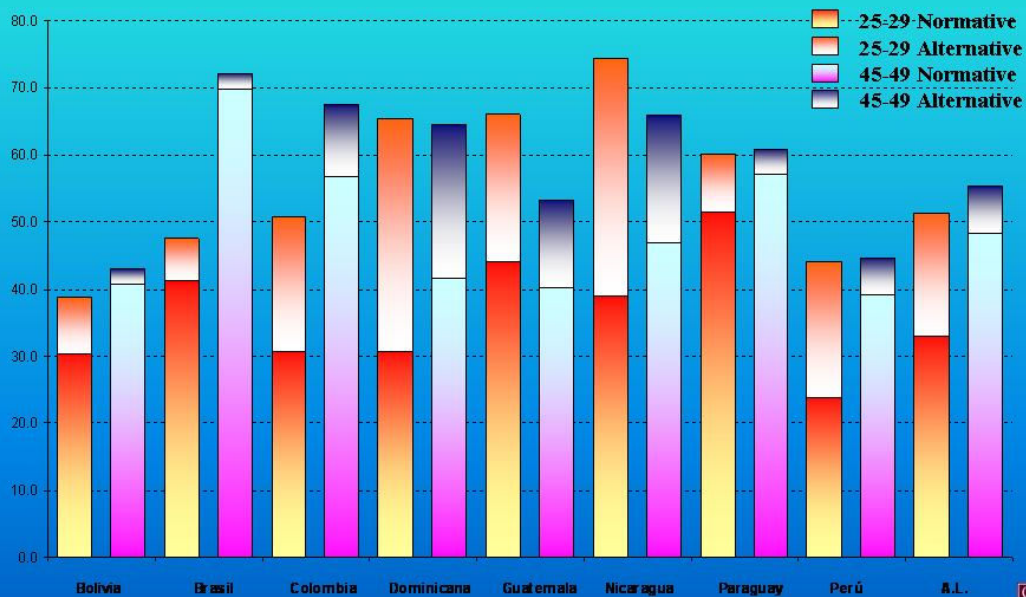
Path	Bolivia	Brasil	Col.	R. Dom.	Guatel.	Nica.	Par.	Perú	A.L.
<b>Normative:</b> direct entry into marriage without previous sexual intercourse									
25-29	30.3	41.2	30.8	30.8	44.2	38.9	51.6	23.9	33.1
45-49	40.7	69.8	56.7	41.7	40.3	47.0	57.0	39.2	48.4
<b>Alternative:</b> direct entry into out of wedlock union without previous sexual intercourse									
25-29	8.5	6.4	20.0	34.6	21.8	35.6	8.5	20.3	18.3
45-49	2.2	2.3	10.8	22.9	12.9	18.9	4.0	5.4	7.0
<b>Direct entry into marital union (Total)</b>									
25-29	38.8	47.6	50.8	65.4	66.0	74.5	60.1	44.2	51.4
45-49	42.9	72.1	67.5	64.6	53.2	65.9	61.0	44.6	55.4

## Marital and reproductive pathways < age 30 by country and cohorts

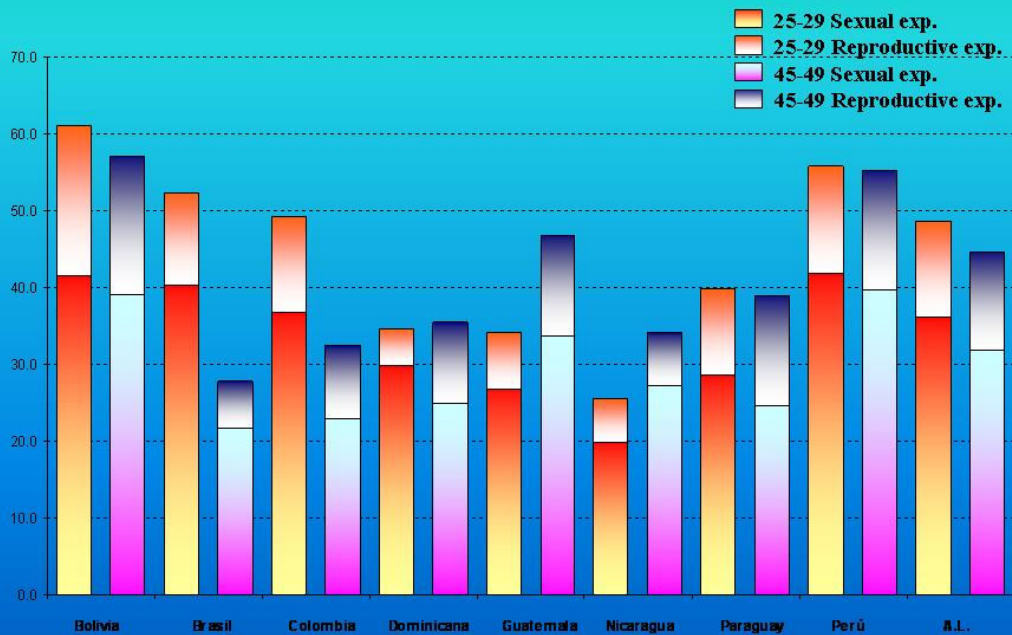
Pathways	Bolivia	Brasil	Col.	R. Dom.	Guatel.	Nica.	Par.	Perú	A.L.
<i>Direct entry into unions (Total)</i>									
25-29	38.8	47.6	50.8	65.4	66.0	74.5	60.1	44.2	51.4
45-49	42.9	72.1	67.5	64.6	53.2	65.9	61.0	44.6	55.4
<i>Women with premarital sexual experience</i>									
25-29	41.5	40.4	36.8	29.9	26.8	19.8	28.7	41.9	36.1
45-49	39.1	21.6	23.0	25.0	33.6	27.4	24.6	39.6	31.9
<i>Women with premarital reproductive experience</i>									
25-29	19.7	12.0	12.5	4.7	7.3	5.7	11.2	13.9	12.5
45-49	18.1	6.3	9.5	10.5	13.3	6.7	14.4	15.8	12.7
<b>Total</b>									
25-29	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
45-49	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



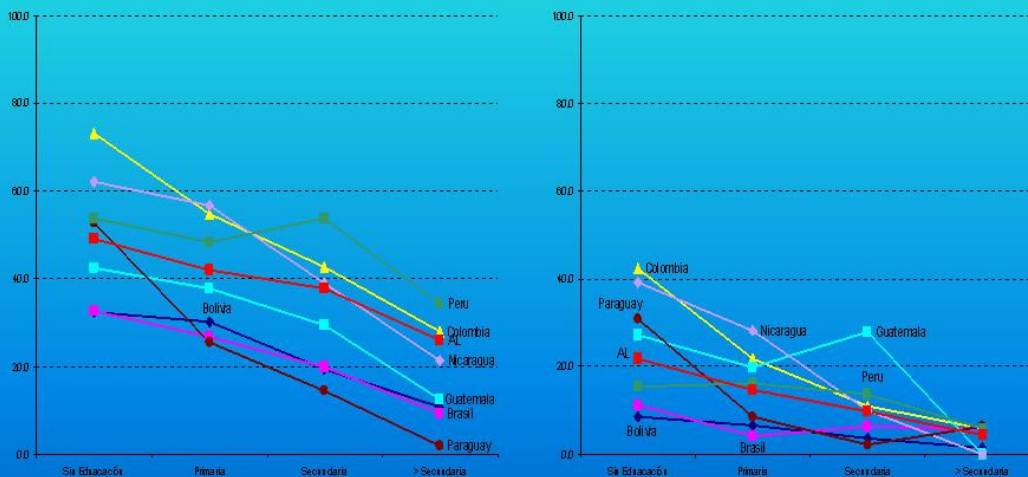
## “Normative” and “Alternative” Paths by country and cohorts (Direct entry into unions)



## Premarital sexual and reproductive experience by country and cohorts

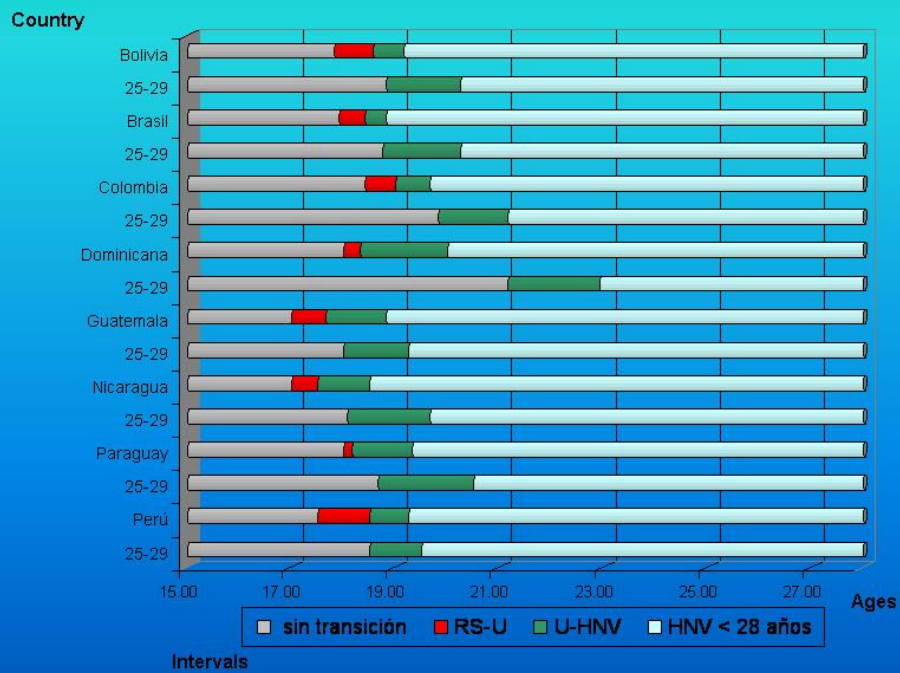


## Consensual unions by educational level, country and cohorts

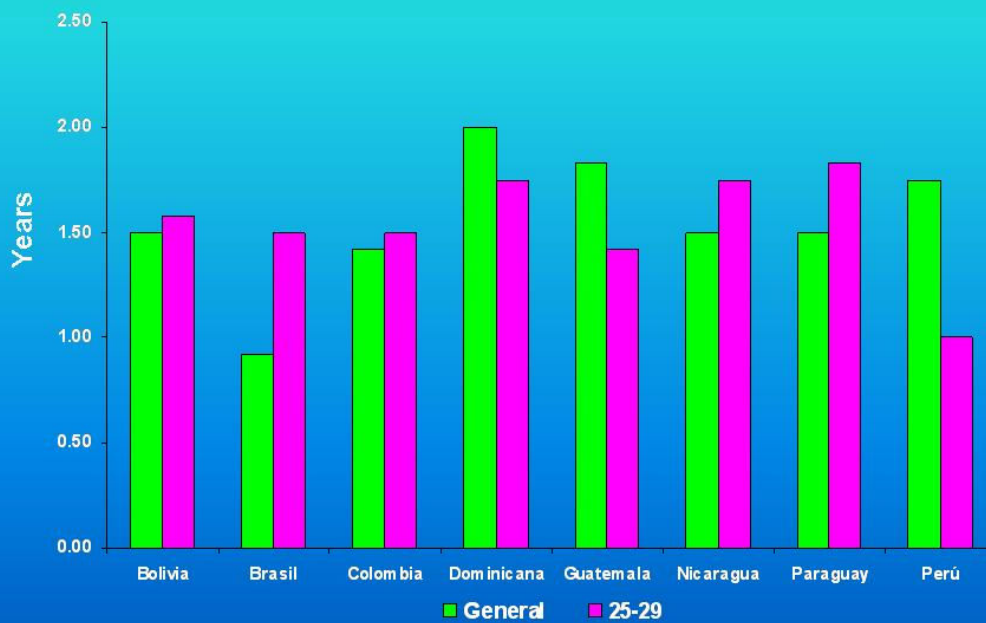


\* Dominican Rep.: Insufficient number of cases

## Median ages for each event by cohort and by women with Normative Paths (cohort 25-29 years old)



## Transition: intervals by cohorts and by women with Normative Paths (cohort 25-29 years - median intervals)





## Conclusions

- In the 1960's (cohorts born at the end of 1940's), around 50% of women entered directly to union; other 40% have the first intercourse before union; and, 7% remained single before age 30.

In the 1980's (cohorts born on the 1960's), the distribution was: 40%, 38% and 22% respectively.

- Attachment to the Catholic marriage rules is not mainstream:  
Institutionalized marriage decreases but not the direct entry into unions.
- However, current norms disclose a prevalent order in the transformation. There is an increasing preference for informal unions, with or without premarital intercourse, that assures a 1st child within a conjugal couples (85%)



## Conclusions

- The proportions of consensual unions are larger in the youngest cohorts but they decrease with education levels in both cohorts.
- The events transitions does not show any noticeable dissociation between sexual, marital and reproductive life. The first union follows very close the first sexual intercourse, and the interval between these events and the first child arrival is very short as well.
- The transitional interval (1st Sexual Intercourse and 1st child) does not exceeds 2 years in any country and it is shorter when the "Normative Path" is followed.
- What is unknown is the legalization process, its prevalence and timing.

