

Individual and Contextual-Effects Model of Marriage and Mortality: China 1990

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Advisors: William Lively; Jerald Herting

- Objective: Does mortality differential exist between groups in and outside of marriage? Does the effect of marriage on mortality vary at individual and various contextual levels?
- Data: 1% clustered sample of China 1990 census; China-A dataset (Skinner and Henderson 2012)
- Method: logistic regression
- Contribution of this study:
 - Adds to the debate about who benefit from marriage: whether the mortality differential vary by sex, age, and among three groups of the not married;
 - First study that systematically looks into the marriage-mortality relationship of the total population in China, controlling for important covariates;
 - Address the unique context of China 1990: large disparities in economic development, social services and mortalities; hypergamy norms and co-residence of families; phenomenon of “leftover women”.



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- Results:
 - Both females and males experience higher odds of mortality in groups of the never married and the widowed compared to the married.
 - Female never-married population experience the highest odds of death compared to married females across different contexts.
 - Mortality differentials wane as people pass age 60, especially for males.
 - Both female and male never-married population experience higher odds of death in villages with high percentage of population married.
 - In villages where average years of schooling received by females are high, mortality differentials are lower.
 - Male never married and widowed groups experience higher odds of death compared to married males in high-income counties.



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Introduction

Do mortality differentials exist between groups of married and not married?

How does the relationship vary by individuals?

How does the relationship vary under the context of China 1990?

Method

logistic regression

Model setup

Individual level control:

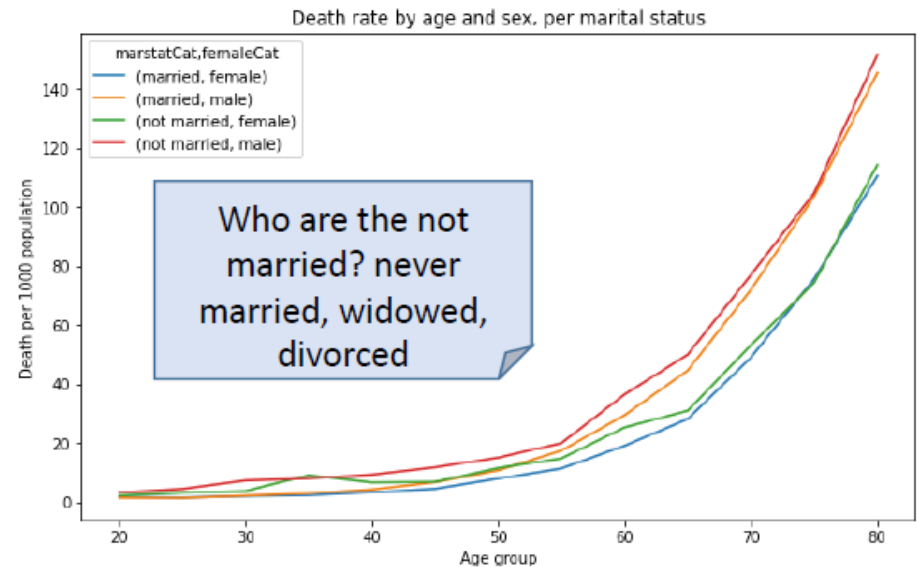
- female
- Han ethnicity
- urban residence
- years of school
- age

Contextual level control:

- spousal years of schooling gap
- household size
- death rate (vil)
- % of population married (vil)
- women education (vil)
- Income per capita (county)

Controlling for covariates, probability of death is 22.2% lower for the married than the not married.

Result: death rate



Result: more discoveries

- Female never-married population experience the highest odds of death compared to married females across different contexts.
- Mortality differentials wane as people pass age 60, especially for males.
- The never married group experience higher odds of death in villages with high percentage of population married.



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