

Demographic and Socio-Economic Profiles of Same-Sex Couples in Austria



download poster

Gwen Göttl

Vienna Institute of Demography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

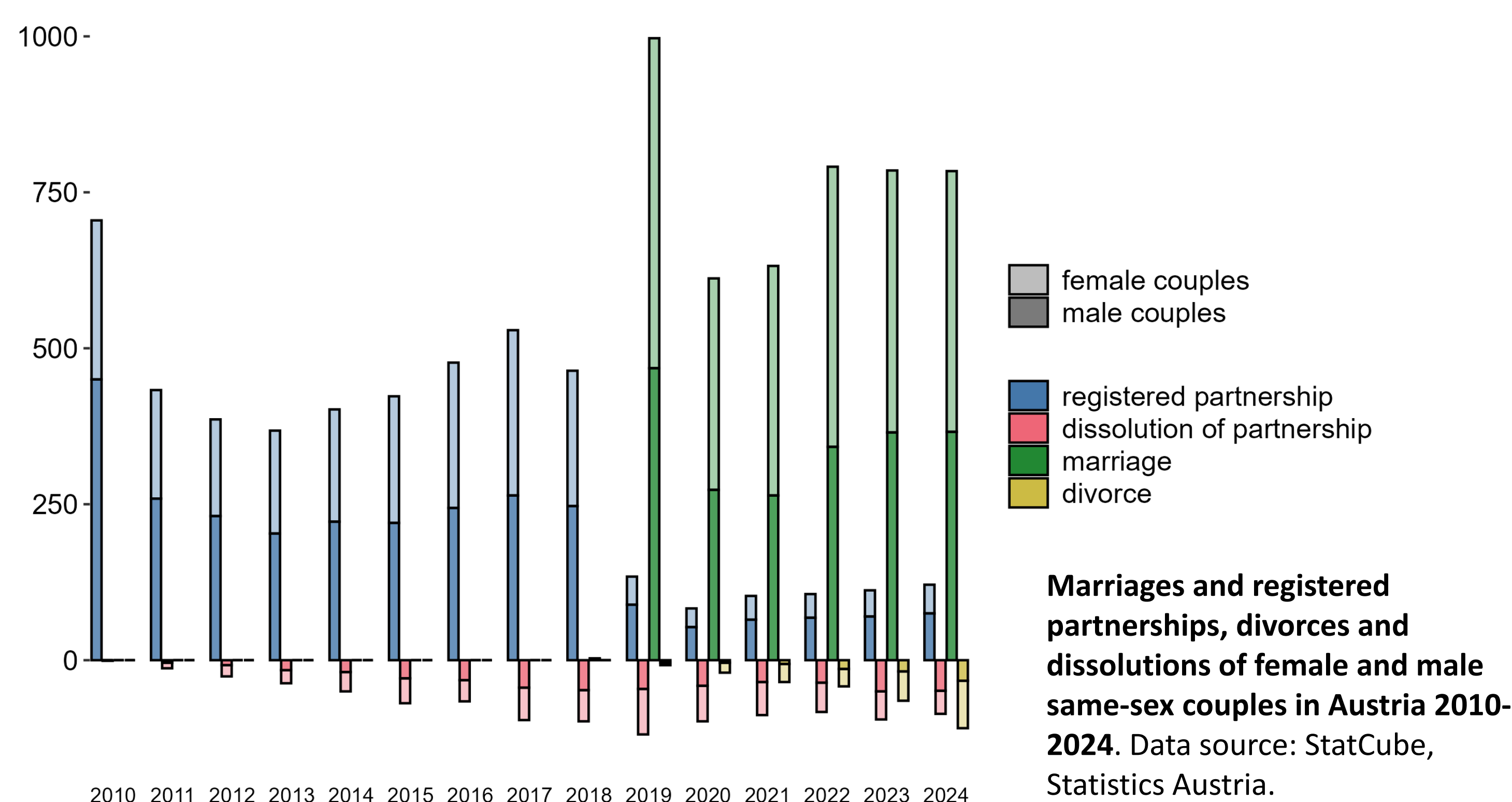
Background

- Building on **register-based research from Nordic countries** (e.g. Kolk & Andersson 2020, Möllborn & Kolk 2024, Zahl-Olsen & Thuen 2023)
- LGBTQ+ populations differ in relationship types and household composition** from majority populations (Julian et al. 2026)
- Same-sex registered partnership introduced in 2010, marriage in 2019
- Both parents in female couples are recognized on birth certificates when using fertility clinics since 2015, surrogacy is banned in Austria
- Limitations: Analysis does not cover unmarried cohabitation without children; no information on sexual and gender identity

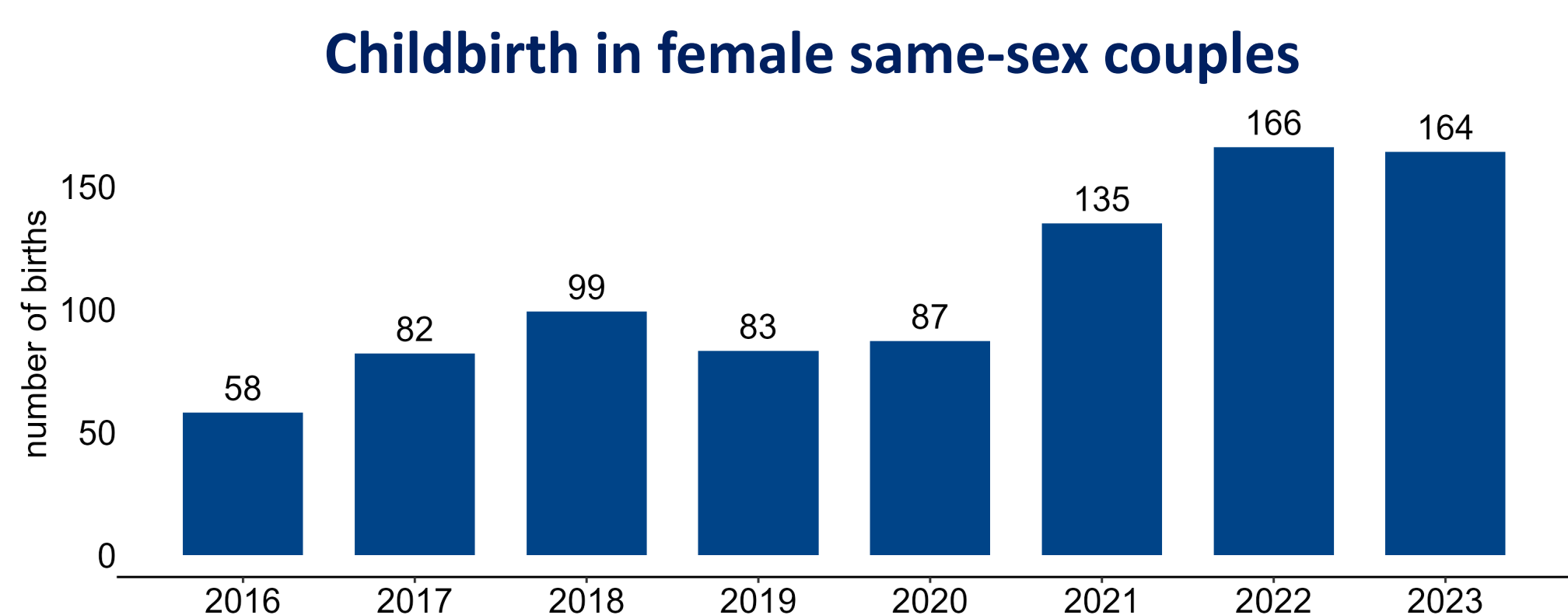
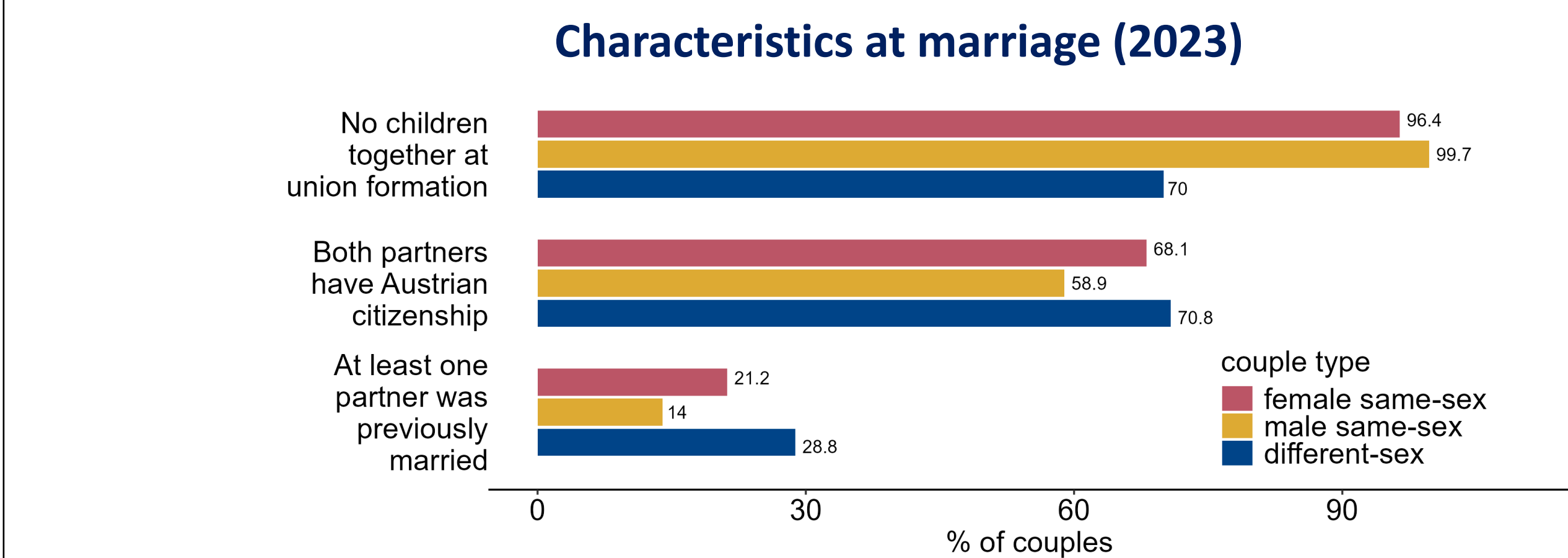
Data and method

- Austrian Register Data (AMDC, 2011-2023)**
- Three populations, with **different-sex couples as comparison**:
 - Same-sex couples **entering marriages and registered partnerships 2015-2023** (*STF marriage register*)
 - Same-sex parents** recorded on birth certificates of a child in 2016-2023 (*STF birth register*)
 - Same-sex partners married or in registered partnership in **shared household in 2022** (*AEST-REGZ register*)
- Descriptive exploratory analysis

Marriages, registered partnerships, divorces & dissolutions over time



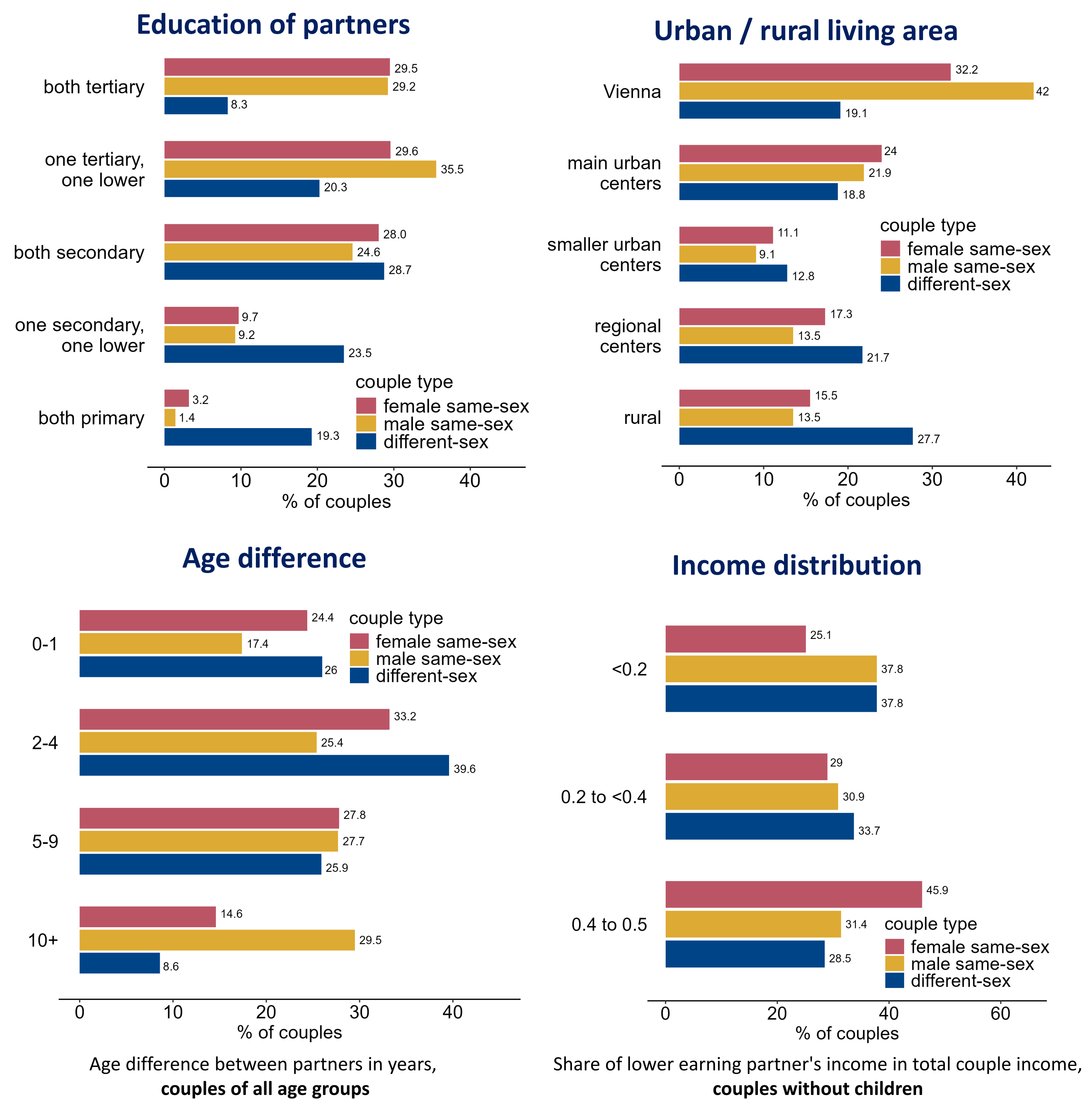
Marriage and childbirth



Project Same-sex families in Austria (SAMFA): More information on the project, publications and presentations can be found on the project webpage. www.oeaw.ac.at/vid/research/research-projects/samfa

Same-sex couple profiles

Married/registered-partnered couples living together, age 20-59



Discussion

- Same-sex couples more often than different-sex couples live in urban areas and include two highly educated partners
- Equal incomes are most common among female couples
- Marriage levels stable since 2022; few registered partnerships formed since 2019
- Close to threefold increase in childbirth in female couples over the 7-year observation period

References

Fuchs, R., T. Göllner, S. Hartmann & T. Thomas (2024) Fostering excellent research by the Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC). *Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik* 244(4), 433-445.
Julian, C. A., D. Compton & G. Kaufman (2026). Partnership patterns and living arrangements of LGBTQ+ identifying US adults: Estimates from a probability-based survey. *Demographic Research* 54, 351-370.
Kolk, M. & G. Andersson (2020). Two decades of same-sex marriage in Sweden: A demographic account of developments in marriage, childbearing, and divorce. *Demography*, 57(1), 147-169.
Möllborn, S., & M. Kolk (2024). Same-Sex marriage in Sweden 1995-2021: A research note on changing patterns in gender, parenthood, and socioeconomic composition. *Stockholm Research Reports in Demography*.
Zahl-Olsen, R., & F. Thuen (2023). Same-sex marriage over 26 years: Marriage and divorce trends in rural and urban Norway. *Journal of Family History*, 48(2), 200-212.

Acknowledgement

This work is funded by the DOC program of the OeAW.

VID gwen.goettl@oeaw.ac.at

This research project was conducted with data from the Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC). The AMDC is a research data infrastructure facility of Statistics Austria that enables research on micro data processed in compliance with data protection regulations (Fuchs et al. 2023).