Union dissolution(s) and multidimensional well-being
Evidence from the Health and Professional Itineraries Survey

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Introduction

- Increasing diversity and complexity of family trajectories
  - Decreasing marriage rates
  - Increasing divorce and remarriage rates
  - More and more people face the consequences of union dissolutions for wellbeing in terms of health, financial resources, social network (Amato 2010)
  - More and more people experience multiple transitions over their life-course
Evidence of impact of family trajectories and critical events on individuals’ wellbeing

- Married individuals usually found with better physical and mental health (Umberson et al 2010) and life satisfaction (Stutzer and Frez 2006)

- Experience of divorce and lone parenthood negatively affects health and life satisfaction (Amato 2010; Biotteau et al 2018; Gardner et al 2006)

- Individuals who remarry show better adjustment to dissolutions (Wang and Amato 2004)
Previous studies

• Heterogeneity of effects depending on gender and socio-economic characteristics

  → Women are usually affected more negatively by critical family transitions because of loss of financial resources and lone parenthood (Lacey et al 2016; Bonnet 2015; Biotteau et al 2018)

  → However, men experience decrease in well-being due to loss of social network

  → Individuals with less resources are more likely to experience critical events and suffer more their consequences (Burgard et al 2007; Mc Donough et al., 2015), while education, employment, income, social networks may help people cope with divorce-related stress (Wang and Amato 2004)
Evidence on multiple dissolutions:

→ “serial marriers” women show higher levels of psychological distress (Brody et al 1988)

→ married women who had multiple divorces have higher levels of distress (Kurdek 1990) and increased risk of developing a serious health condition (Dupre and Meadows 2007)

→ accumulation vs adaptation processes (Luhman and Eid 2008)

→ Negative health effects of divorce transitions diminish with time (Dupre and Meadows 2007)
Multidimensional wellbeing

• Importance of considering different dimensions of well-being
  → Little consensus on how to define and measure wellbeing (e.g. Pollard and Lee 2003)
  → Multidimensionality of wellbeing (Cronin de Chavez et al 2005): considering one unidimensional notion leads to the loss of valuable information (Keyes 2007)
This study

• Are past union dissolutions associated with different dimensions of well-being?
  → Does the association vary depending on the number of dissolutions experienced and the time from last dissolution?
  → Does the association vary depending on gender and resources?
Data and Methods

- **Santé et itinéraire professionnel (SIP):**
  - representative sample of French population aged 20-74
  - Collected in 2006 and 2010
  - Our sample: 9,037 individuals aged 25-65 with retrospective information on partnership histories and current well-being

- **Well-being:**
  - General self-reported health (1-5 scale, dichotomised)
  - Experience of depressive symptoms in the last 2 weeks
  - Sleep disorders (1-4)
  - Satisfaction with professional career (1-10)
Data and Methods

- Dissolutions: end of a union that lasted at least 1 year, or less but with children
  - Categorised by number and timing before 2006
  - One dissolution, <5 years before; one dissolution, >5 years; 2+ dissolutions of which last one <5 years; 2+ dissolutions of which last one >5 years
- Controls: age, education, father’s education, number of kids; household income; employment and partnership status in 2006
- Linear regression and logistic models
- Resources: educational level, income, employment status, social network (does the individual has anyone to rely on, yes/no), current partnership status
### Descriptive characteristics, by number of dissolutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No dissol</th>
<th>One dissol, &lt;5 years</th>
<th>One dissol, &gt;5 years</th>
<th>2+ dissol, &lt;5 years</th>
<th>2+ dissol, &gt;5 years</th>
<th>Never partnered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age (years)</strong></td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>47.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower secondary educ</strong></td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>45.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper secondary educ</strong></td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tertiary educ</strong></td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>40.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Father high educ</strong></td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother high educ</strong></td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low HH income (&lt;1350 E)</strong></td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>44.10</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle HH income</strong></td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High HH Income (&gt;3500 E)</strong></td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employed</strong></td>
<td>72.8</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student</strong></td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployed</strong></td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retired</strong></td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Has someone to rely on</strong></td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>81.8</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>78.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of kids</strong></td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single in 2006</strong></td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td>5438 (61.2%)</td>
<td>549 (6.7%)</td>
<td>1594 (17.9%)</td>
<td>239 (2.7%)</td>
<td>339 (3.8%)</td>
<td>684 (7.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results: dissolutions and wellbeing, by gender
Results: Dissolutions and wellbeing, by education

**Self-perceived health**

![Graph showing odds ratios for self-perceived health by education level and relationship status for women and men.]

- Tertiary education
- Low secondary education

**Depressive symptoms**

![Graph showing odds ratios for depressive symptoms by education level and relationship status for women and men.]

- Tertiary education
- Low secondary education
Results: Dissolutions and wellbeing, by education

Sleep disorders

Satisfaction with career
Dissolutions and wellbeing, by employment status

**Self-perceived health**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Not employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>someone_rely</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one dissoi, &lt;5 y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one dissoi, &gt;5 y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2+ dissoi, &lt;5 y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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**Sleep disorders**

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<tr>
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Dissolutions and wellbeing, by social network

Self-perceived health

Sleep disorders
Preliminary conclusions

- Past dissolution(s) and well-being associated net of current partnership status
- Associations vary depending on the number of dissolutions and the dimension of well-being considered
  - Experiencing more than one dissolutions is negatively associated with all dimensions of well-being
  - Experiencing one dissolution is associated to mental health in the short term. More varied is the association with physical health
- The associations vary by the socio-economic status of individuals
Next steps

- Analysis of union dissolutions occurring between 2006 and 2010 and change in wellbeing
- Consider separately number of events and timing (with interactions)
- Interactions btw dissolutions and gender and SES to test if differences are significant
- Inclusion of measures of the time spent by the individuals in a union
Thank you!
Dissolutions and well-being, by education

Self-perceived health

Depressive symptoms

Sleep disorders

Satisfaction with career
Results: Dissolutions and well-being, by income

Self-perceived health

Depressive symptoms

Sleep disorders

Satisfaction with career
Dissolutions and well-being, by employment status

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