

Women's Partnership and Labour Trajectories and Late Transitions to First and Second Births in Spain. The Role of Stability Over the Life Course on the Recuperation of Births

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MOTIVATION

1. Trend of **motherhood postponement** in Europe.
2. Some women are able to **recuperate births** after a late entry into motherhood.
3. **Highly educated women** are more likely to experience delays in motherhood and recuperation of births.
4. Highly educated women are more likely to experience **more stable partnership and labour trajectories** than the lower educated.

What is the role of **partnership and labour stability** in the **occurrence and timing** of late transitions to the first child? And on the subsequent recuperation of births?

THE CONTEXT

1. Women's **age at first birth**: 31. in 2018.
2. Births over the maternal age of 40: 9.8%
3. Instability in the **labour market** -> contracts of limited duration among young individuals (50% among 25-29 years).
4. Increasing proportion of **women with high education** (50% among women aged 25-34).

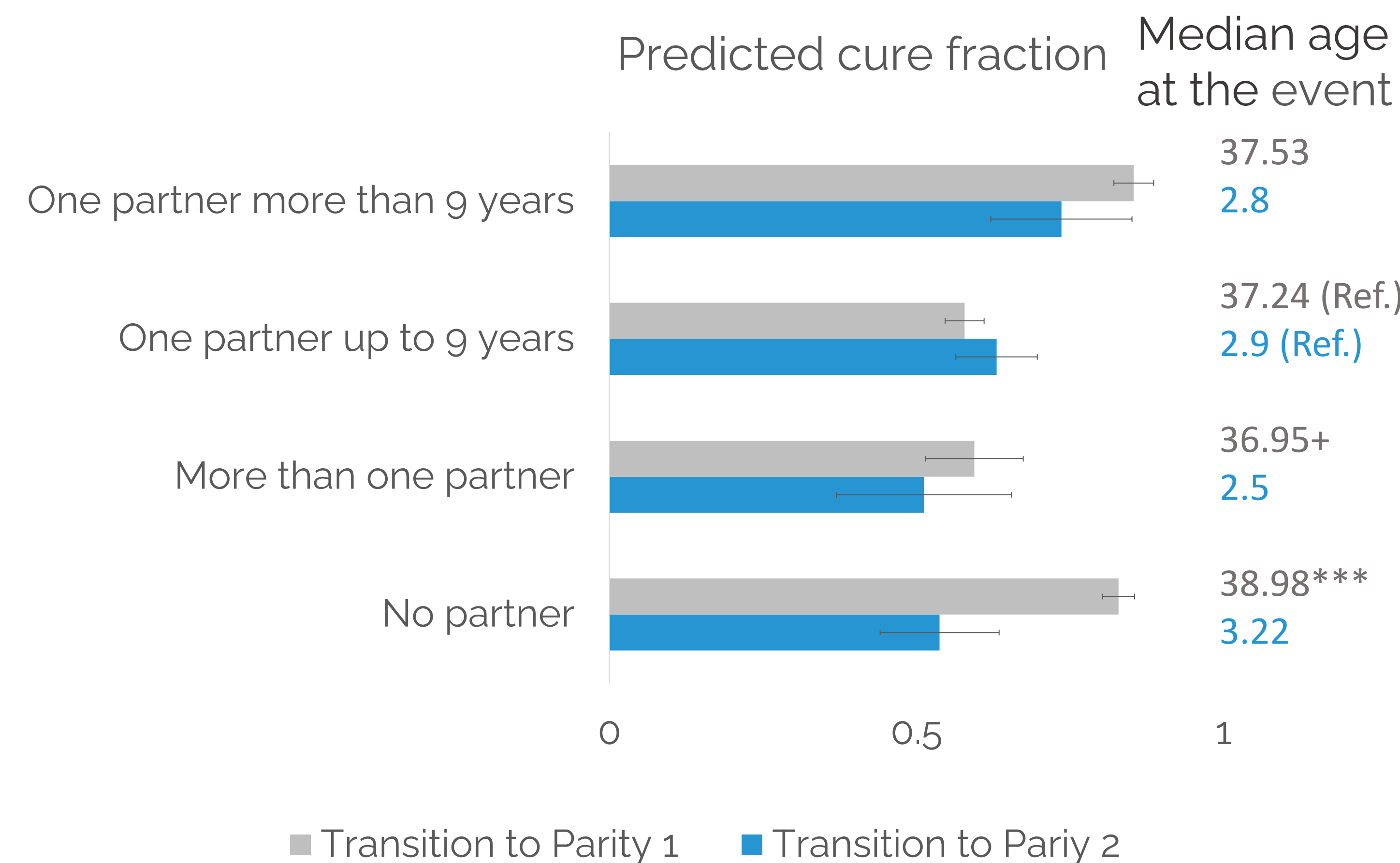
DATA AND METHODS

2018 **Spanish Fertility Survey** (INE) -> longitudinal retrospective survey with information about women's partnership and labour history (n=14,556).

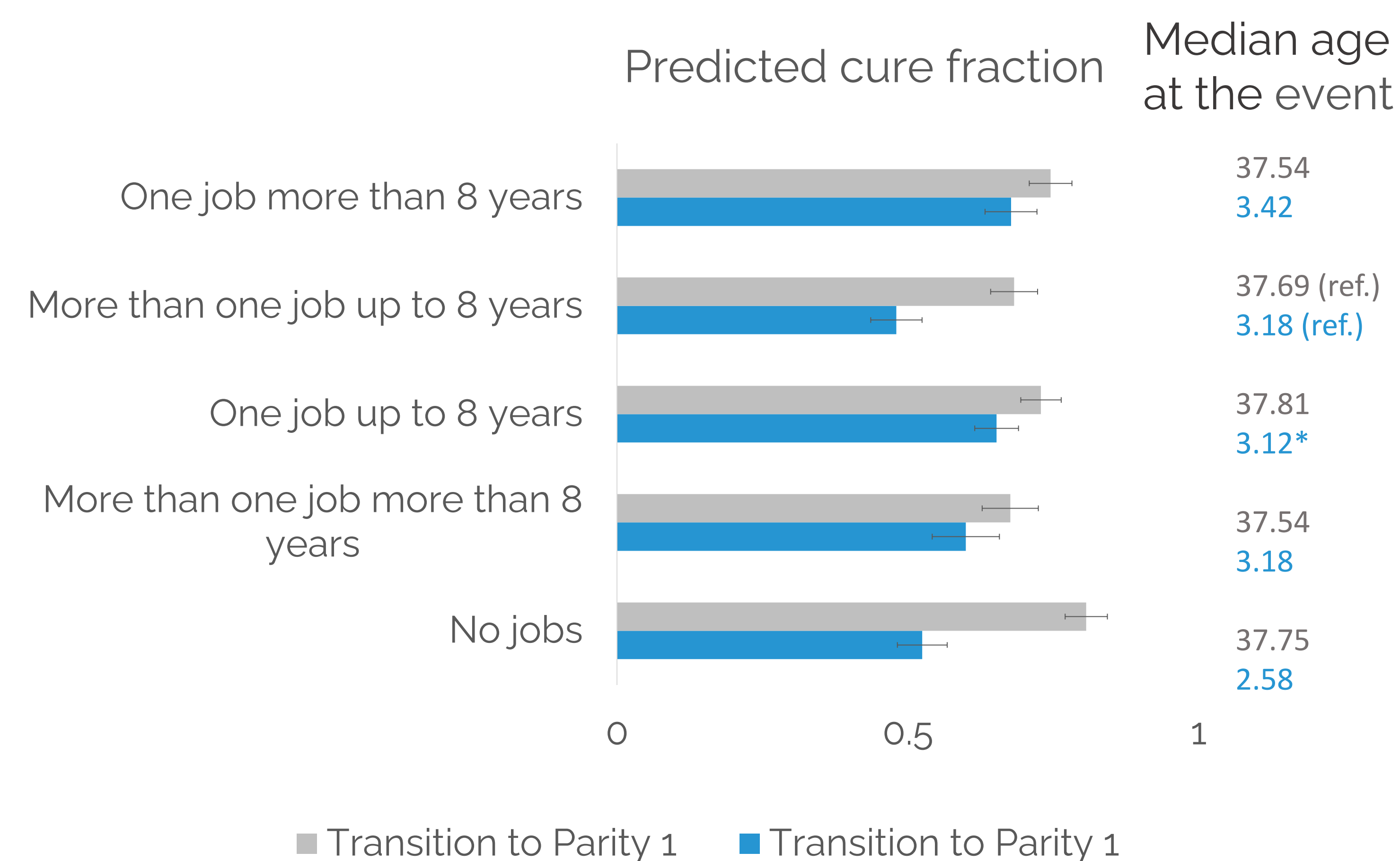
Cure models among childless women at age 35 (transition to parity 1) and among late mothers (transition to parity 2).

Measurements: Partnership and labour stability up to age 35.

Results of the mixture cure models. Partnership stability.



Results of the mixture cure models. Labour stability.



Controls: educational level, country of birth.
Confidence intervals: 95%.

BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:

1. University-educated women are **more likely to become mothers after the age of 35**, and **more likely to have a second child when they had the first one later than 35**.
2. If they have **unstable partnership trajectories**, they are more likely to have **late first births** as compared to the lower-educated women, and **more likely to have a second child**.
3. After stable partnership trajectories, they tend to **reduce the spacing** between births more than the lower-educated.
4. University-educated women with **unstable job trajectories** are **more likely to have a late first birth** than the lower-educated, but are **more likely to have a second child if they had stable labour trajectories**.
5. They tend to **reduce birth spacing** when they had **unstable labour conditions** more than the lower-educated.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

1. **Unstable partnership trajectories:**
 - High probability of having a first birth after age 35.
 - High probability of having a second child after having a late first birth.
 - Highly educated women are more likely to have a late first birth after unstable partnership trajectories and more likely to have a second under stable partnership trajectories (increasing spacing).
2. **Unstable labour trajectories:**
 - Do not significantly affect the probability of having a late first child.
 - High probability of having a second child when the first was delayed.
 - Highly educated women are more likely to have a late first child when they had stable labour trajectories, and are also more likely to have a second child than non-university educated (increasing the spacing).

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