

Partnership living arrangements of young adult migrants in Germany

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Extended Abstract

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Immigration is a common phenomenon in European societies and raises questions of whether migrants adapt their behaviors to the behaviors of non-migrants. A large body of literature has addressed ethnic disparities with respect to education (see Kuhnt, 2017), labor market (Kogan, 2011), health (Carnein, Milewski, Doblhammer, & Nusselder, 2015; Milewski & Doblhammer, 2015), and family outcomes (Krapf & Wolf, 2015; Kulu, Milewski, Hannemann, & Mikolai, 2019) in the last decades. However, we know only little about young migrants' partnership status, i.e. in how far they differ from non-migrants with respect to having a living-apart-together relationship (LAT), living in cohabitation or being married. This is mainly due to data limitations with respect to the (insufficient) collection of information with respect to migration background (country of origin, migration generation) or living arrangement in official statistics or social surveys. Nevertheless, partnership behavior of first- and second-generation migrants is important, because it allows us to assess one dimension of social integration. To analyse the magnitude of social integration is particularly interesting in Germany, where more than 20 percent of the resident population are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants.

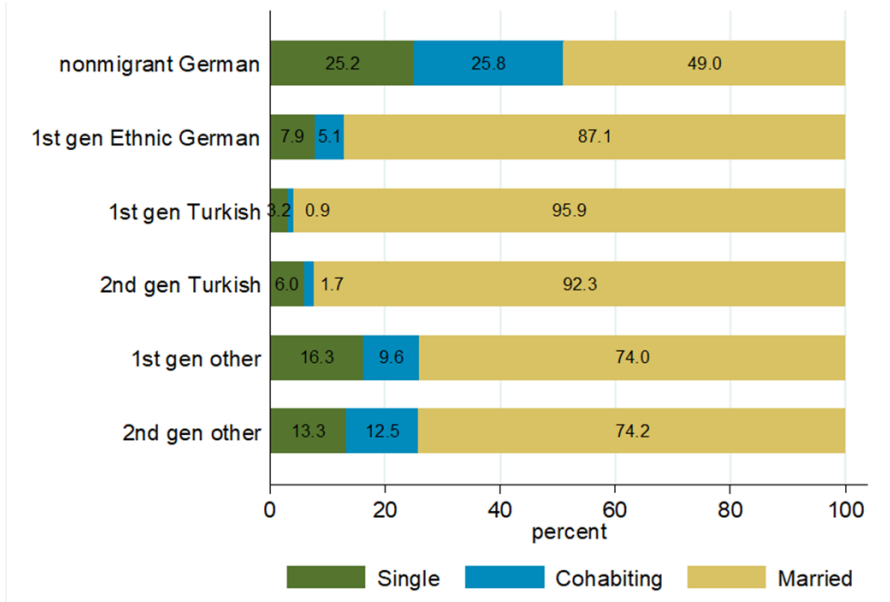
Based on this research gap, we analyse and compare the living arrangement patterns of young adult migrants and non-migrants in Germany, where about 24 percent of the resident population are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants (Destatis, 2019). To be more precise, we distinguish between Ethnic German migrants (Spätaussiedler) and Turkish migrants, who represent the two largest migrant groups in Germany. The first and the second generation of Turkish migrants are investigated separately in our analysis, while the second-generation Ethnic German migrants are too young to enter our sample of individuals aged 18 to 40 years.

We draw on data from the German Microcensus 2009 and 2013. The Microcensus is conducted with a sampling fraction of 1% of the persons and households in Germany. This representative dataset contains information on socio-demographic such as living arrangements and migration background of women and men living in Germany. A central advantage of this data

set is the relatively large sample size, which allows us to compare the living arrangements of about 26,000 first- and second-generation migrants with about 113,000 non-migrants in Germany. Our sample includes partnership living arrangements of young adult immigrants (N=16,052), immigrants descendants (N=13,092) and non-migrants (N=113,333) aged 18 to 40 years.

Descriptive statistics presented in Figure 1 show that the vast majority of Turkish migrants is married while cohabitation is virtually inexistent. The second-generation Turkish migrants have a similar pattern while non-migrants were less likely to be married and cohabitation is a common phenomenon. The pattern of first-generation Ethnic German migrants lies in-between.

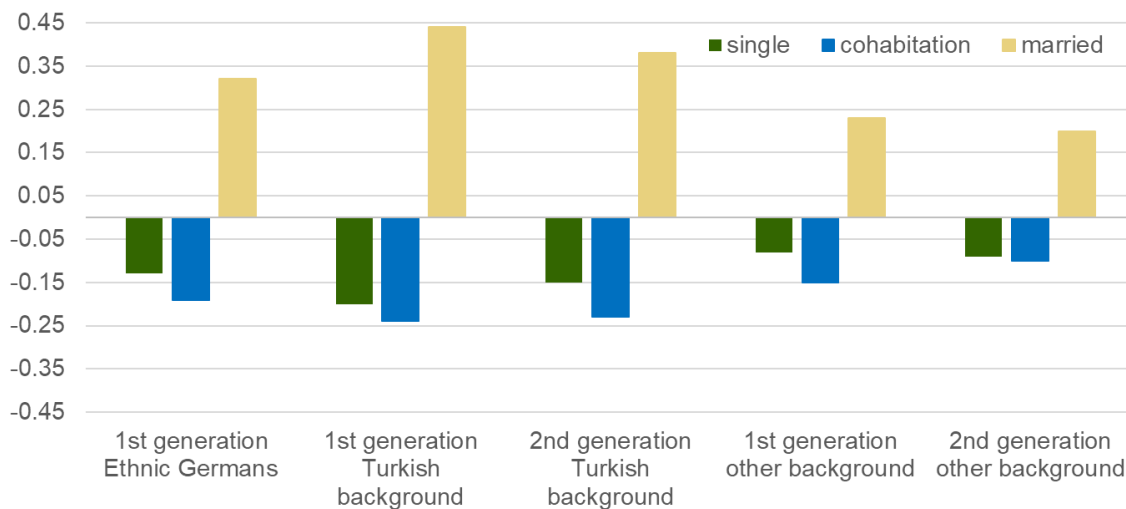
Figure 1 Partnership living arrangements of migrants living in Germany by origin and migration generation, age 18-40 (in %)



Source: German Microcensus 2009, 2013, own calculations

Our multiple regression results underline this pattern based on descriptive findings. We calculated Average Marginal Effects (AME) based on multinomial logistic regression models. With our depended variable, we distinguish between three different living arrangements: single (including living apart together), cohabitation, and marriage. Findings represented in Figure 2 show that single status and cohabitation is significantly less common among migrants compared to non-migrants living in Germany. This applies in particular to first- and second-generation migrants with a Turkish background, but is also evident for Ethnic German migrants.

Figure 2 Probability of partnership living arrangements by migration status (AMEs, reference: non-migrants)



All presented findings are highly significant (≤ 0.01); $N = 142,528$; controlled for age, education, and wave
Source: German Microcensus 2009, 2013, own calculations

We can conclude that cohabitation and living as single are infrequent living arrangements among young adult migrants in Germany compared to the behaviour of non-migrants. Moreover, our findings show that partnership behaviour of young first- and second-generation migrants is relatively similar to each other. These observed patterns indicates that differences in family values, probably related to norms with regard to marriage age, seem to be strong and unmarried cohabitation is less accepted among migrants.

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