

**The 'Generations and Gender Survey' Belgium (GGS) – first results available from
20 September 2011**

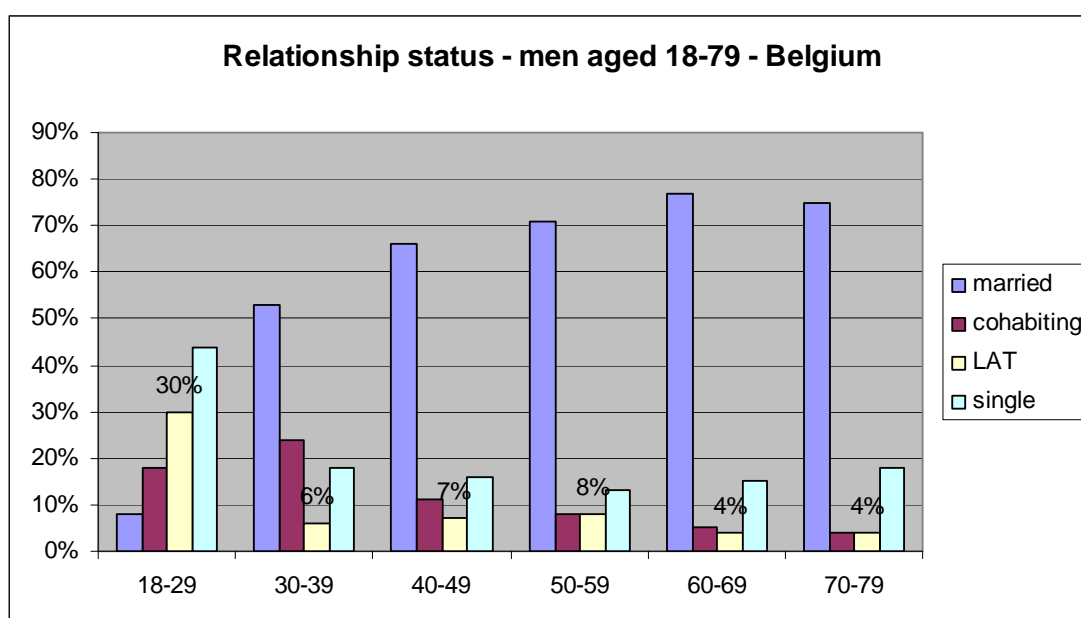
- GGS Belgium is a new, large-scale survey on the relationships between parents and their children ('generations') and on personal relationships ('gender'). The survey was held between 2008 and 2010 among over 7,000 people aged 18 to 79 living in Belgium. The GGS collected very detailed data on a wide range of socio-demographic issues on which no or little information is currently available but that are nevertheless high on the political and social agenda. Respondents were asked in great detail about topics such as:
 - Their relationships with their parents and their children: how do the different generations live together? How does this influence the way they get along? What are the care needs of the different generations? How do they help each other?
 - Their own relationship and life: what relationships have they had? How are the conjugal roles divided in the family? How is childcare handled? Do they want children?
 - Their professional and economic-financial situation.
 - The way they think about a number of issues, in other words: what are their values and norms?
 - Their health and well-being.
- GGS was brought into being as a result of a collaboration between the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office and Statistics Belgium for the Belgian federal government, the Research Centre of the Flemish Government (SVR) for the Flemish Region and Community, and the Institut Wallon de l'Évaluation, de la Prospective et de la Statistique (IWEPS) for the Walloon Region.
- The scientific framework and support was provided by researchers from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the University of Antwerp, Ghent University, the Université Catholique de Louvain, Studiedienst van de Vlaamse Regering, Institut Wallon de l'Évaluation, de la Prospective et de la Statistique and the Association pour le Développement de la Recherche Appliquée en Sciences Sociales.
- GGS is part of the international research programme *Generations and Gender Programme* launched by the United Nations (UNECE – PAU). The results are therefore internationally comparable.

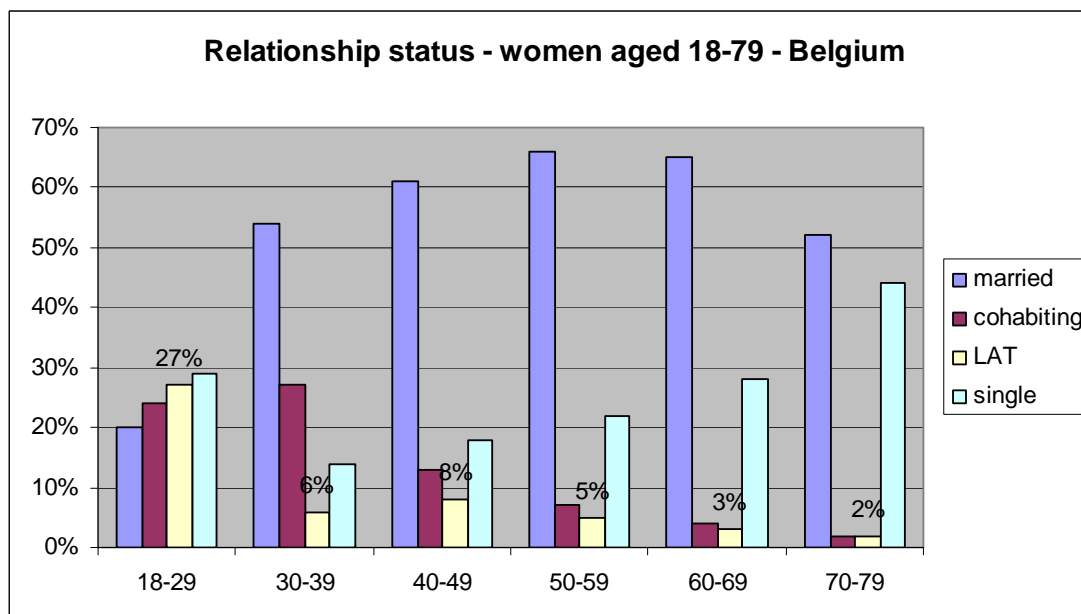
New insights into LAT relationships and singles

GGG offers many possibilities for further research. We highlight two of them. Up to now, LAT relationships were very difficult to trace. On the other hand, the survey offers many new insights on singles.

- **LAT relationships:**
 - People who do not live together with a partner but still have a stable relationship (Living Apart Together) have long been a grey area: they cannot be properly registered through administrative databases such as the National Register. In administrative statistics people in a LAT relationship are considered 'single'. However, LAT relationships are an important new form of cohabitation.

GGG now offers us more insight:





Source: Generations and Gender Survey Belgium – Wave 1

- Among people younger than 30, 30% of men and 27% of women state that they are in a LAT relationship.
- Above the age of 30 people who are in a LAT relationship make up a smaller group. However, 7% of men and 8% of women in their forties are in this kind of relationship.

- **Singles:**

Equally interesting is to investigate the life plan of singles, people who live alone and are not in a relationship.

- A large group, especially older respondents, indicates that they have no intention of living together with a partner in the future.
- Is it a sign of withdrawal or is it a more complex phenomenon? To what extent is this connected to the strengthening of family bonds (e.g. with children and grandchildren)? Is there a problem of loneliness?
- Or does the public acceptance of LAT relationships create an alternative for some elderly people instead of living together again?
- What are the consequences of these choices for their well-being? What is the impact on an ageing society?

More information

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Useful links

- <http://www.ggps.be>
- GGP Belgium Paper Series, 6 : Households and families: [Stability and fast developments go hand in hand.](#)