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Unmarried Midlife Adults and Economic Well-Being

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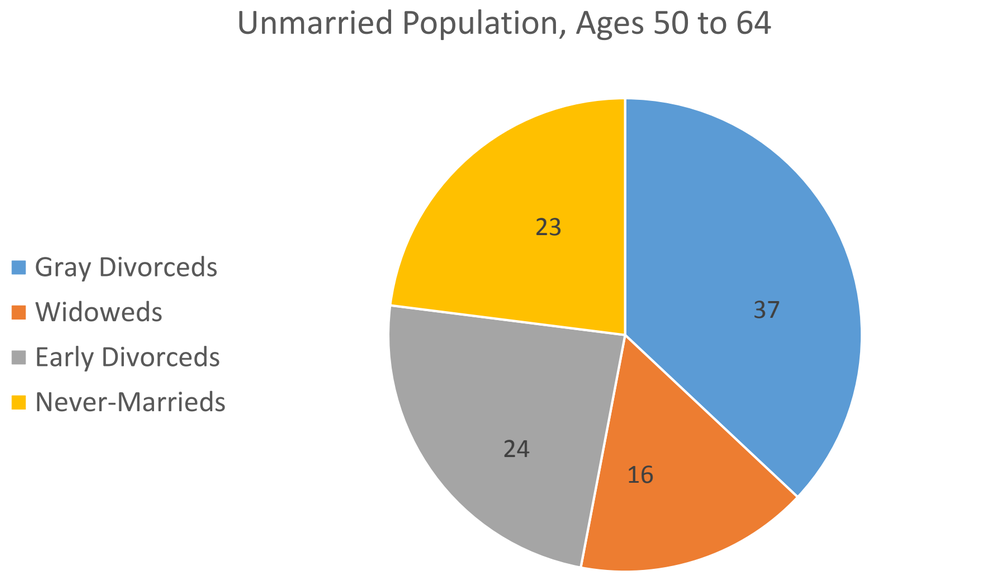
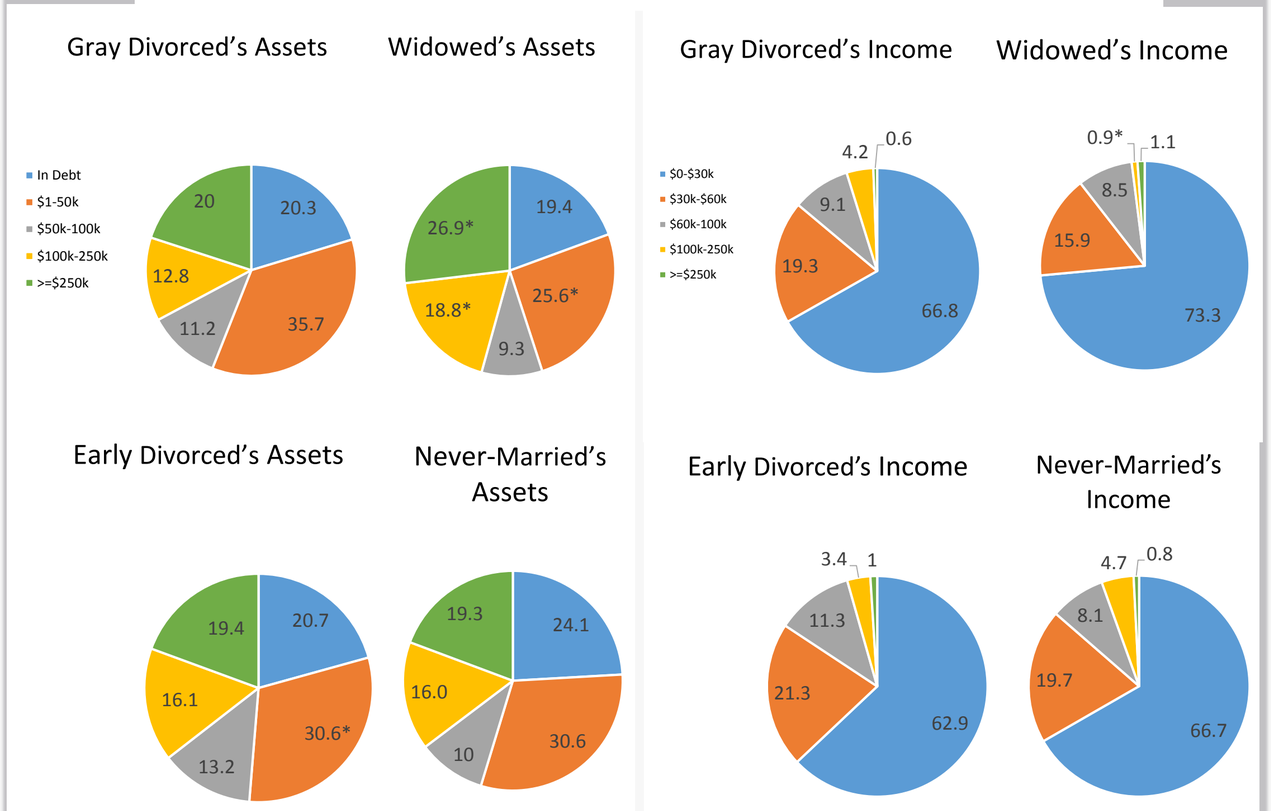
Background

- An increasing proportion of the older adult population is unmarried (Lin & Brown, 2012).
- Researchers have seen an escalation in the prevalence of gray divorce, which is a term that describes divorce that occurs after age 50 as well as a surge in the never-married population (Brown & Lin, 2012).
- The goal of this study is to compare the economic well-being of four groups: gray divorceds, early divorceds, widoweds, and never-marrieds.

Data

- Data were collected from the 2012 wave of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS).
- Total sample size is 3,614 respondents.
- All analyses were conducted in Stata using *svy* commands to adjust for complex sample design.





* Indicates statistical significance in comparison with the Gray Divorce category

Assets

- The highest population in debt were those who never-married.
- Widows, on average, had the highest assets.
- The divorce groups fell in the middle with little difference in their numbers.

Income

- Great differences were found between the widoweds and gray divorceds.
- The widowed had the greatest population making the lowest income but also had the greatest population for highest income.

References

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