

A Quantitative Analysis of the Economic Situation of Those Who Have Undergone Divorce

**The Gender Gap in Equivalent Household
Income, 1998-2008, in Japan**

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<http://www.sal.tohoku.ac.jp/~tsigeto/11x.html>

Background

Tohoku University Global COE:

A dark red square containing the white text "GEMC".

GEMC

**Gender Equality and Multicultural
Conviviality in the Age of Globalization**

With law/politics researchers, 2008-2012

<http://www.law.tohoku.ac.jp/gcoe/>

Micro-Macro Problem

Macro-level justice

= Impact on total system



Forecast

Micro-level justice

= norm / law controlling actors

Question

Gender equality



Look before leap

Equitable divorce

Japanese divorce system

Traditional: Unilateral no-ground

Modern: Bilateral no-ground
+ Unilateral ground-based

Debate for divorce reform

Currently:

90% by mutual consent

(no legal intervention)

9% mediated by court

1% judgement by court

→ **anti-liberal, equity-oriented** debates

Equitable Divorce

- **Restore any change**
- **Otherwise, monetary transfer**
- **Fifty-fifty rule**

Typical cases

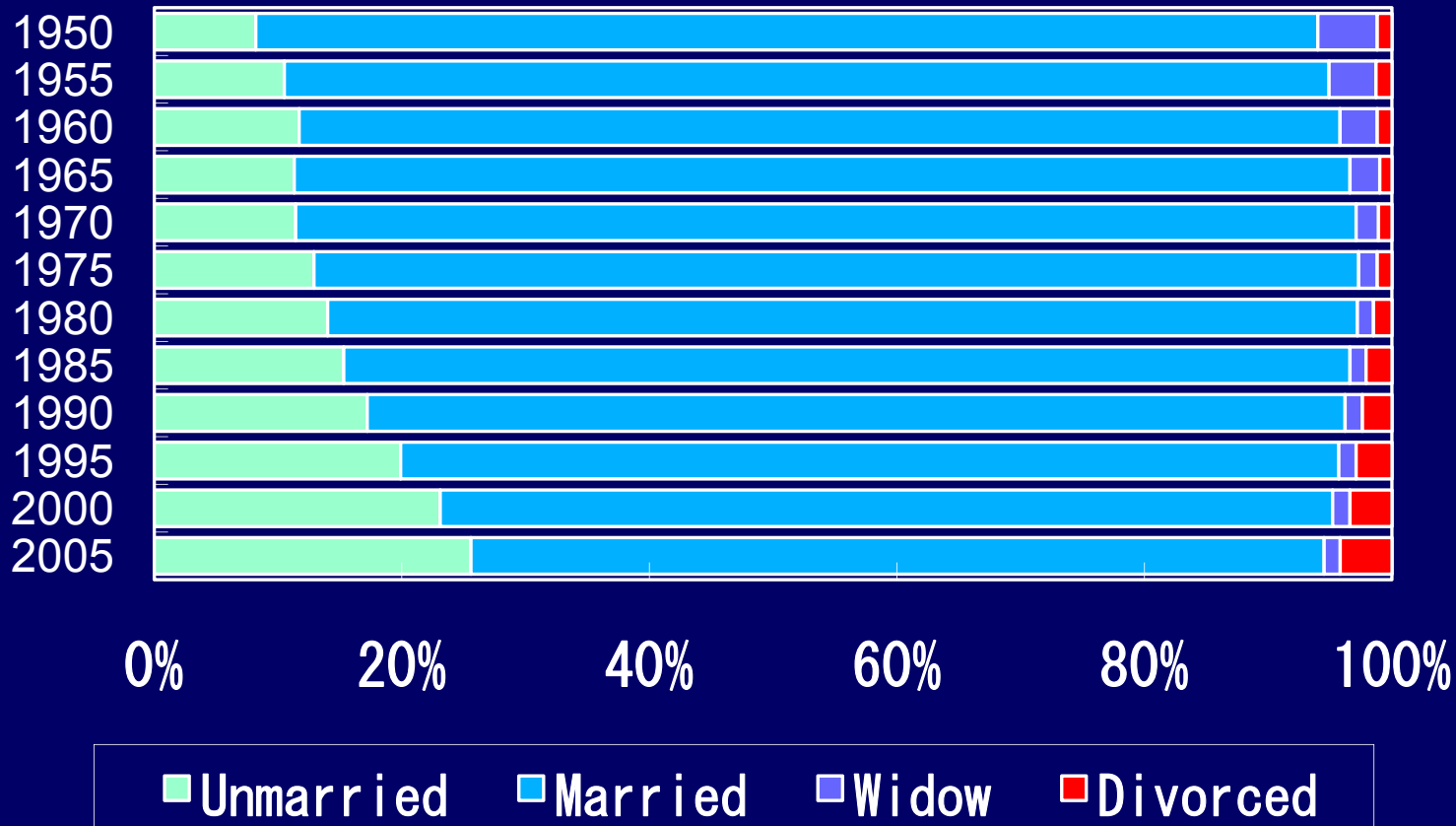
- Earning capacity due to specialization
- Burden to bring up legitimate child
- Disease caused/worsened by marital life

(Motozawa 1998)

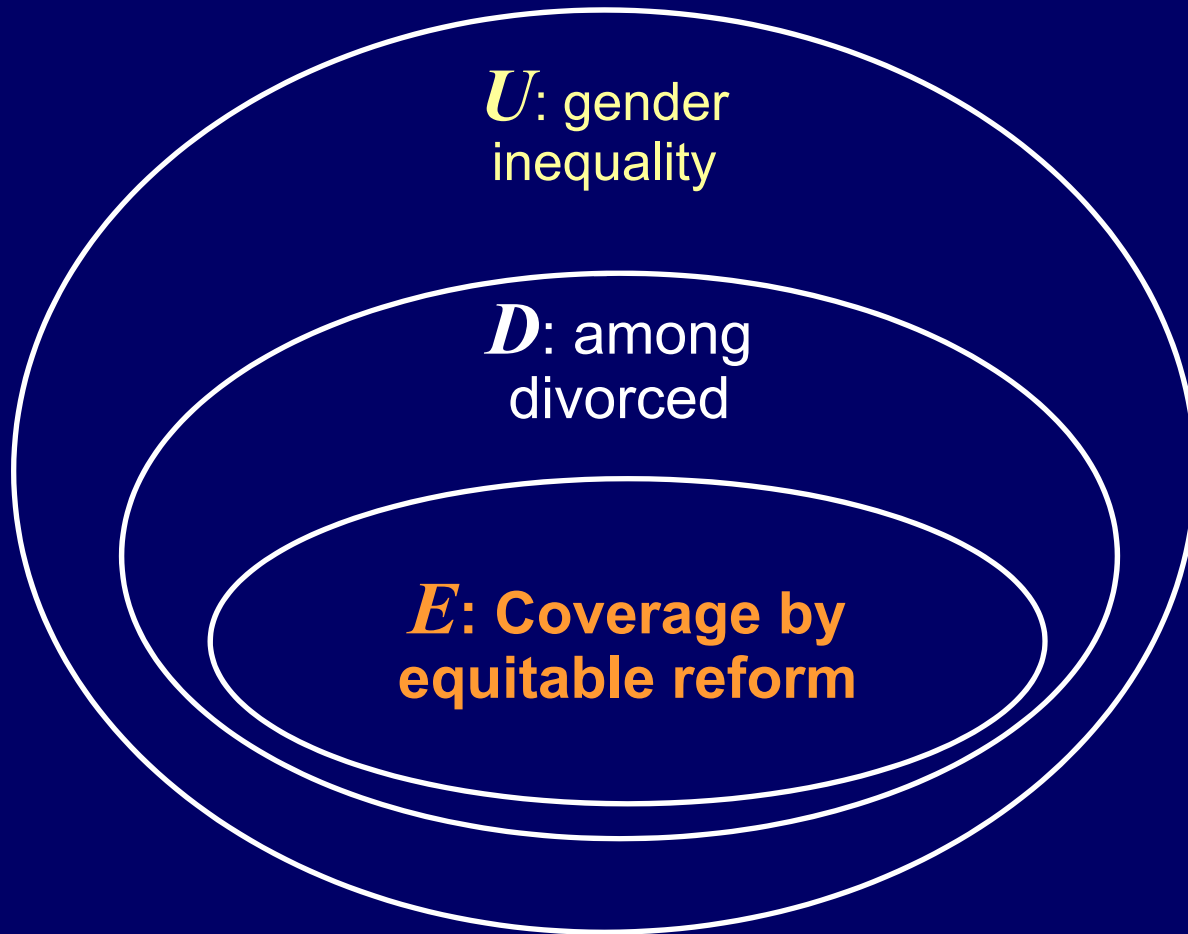
→ Coverage by these cases?

Trend in marital status

Population Census 1950-2005,
Women aged 25-69



Decomposition of gender inequality



$$\frac{E}{U} = \frac{D}{U} \times \frac{E}{D}$$

Two sub-questions

**Proportion covered by equitable divorce
(= E/U)**

SQ1: Contribution of divorced people to overall gender inequality (= D/U)

SQ2: Impact of equity-oriented reform on post-divorce gender gap (= E/D)

National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ)



By Japan Society of Family Sociology

- ★ Detailed information on kinship and life events
- ★ National representative samples: **1998, 2003, 2008**
- ★ Huge number: **473, 494, 463** divorced

Annual Household Income

NFRJ98: on page 5/25

問15 去年1年間のお宅の収入（生計をともにしている家族全員の収入の合計）は、税込みでは次の中のどれに近いでしょうか。

- | | | | |
|---|------------|----|--------------|
| 1 | 収入はなかった | 6 | 600～799万円台 |
| 2 | 100万円未満 | 7 | 800～999万円台 |
| 3 | 100～199万円台 | 8 | 1000～1199万円台 |
| 4 | 200～399万円台 | 9 | 1200万円以上 |
| 5 | 400～599万円台 | 10 | わからない |

NFRJ03: on page 5/18

問8 去年1年間のお宅（生計をともにしている家族）の収入は、税込みで
は次の中のどれに近いでしょうか。他の家族の方の収入も含めてお答え
ください。（○は1つだけ）

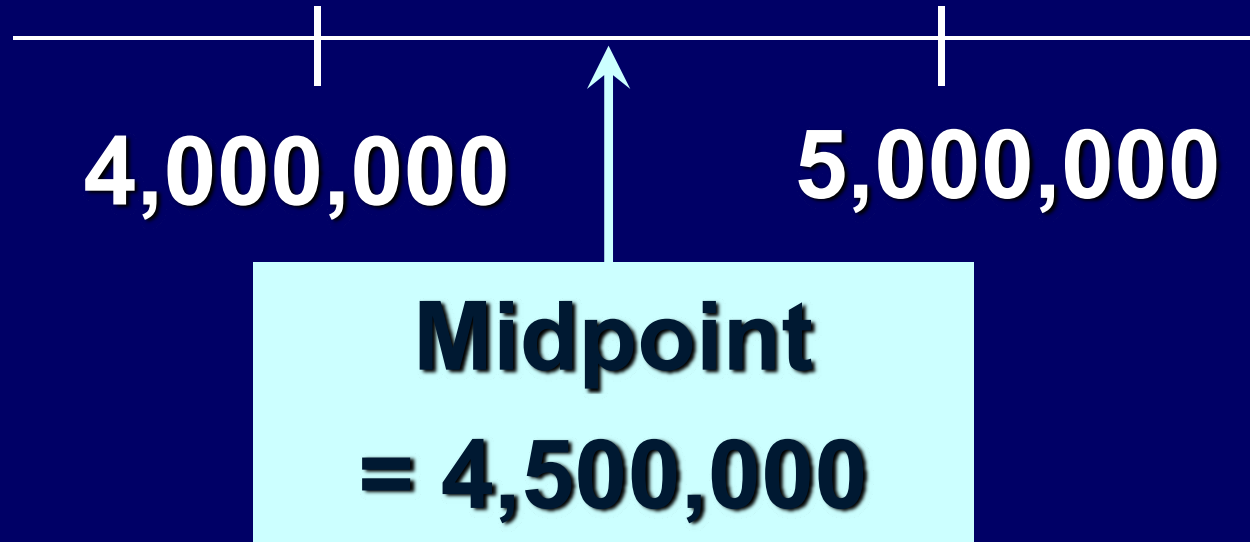
- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 収入はなかった | 7 500～599 万円台 | 13 1100～1199 万円台 |
| 2 100 万円未満 | 8 600～699 万円台 | 14 1200～1299 万円台 |
| 3 100～199 万円台 | 9 700～799 万円台 | 15 1300～1399 万円台 |
| 4 200～299 万円台 | 10 800～899 万円台 | 16 1400～1499 万円台 |
| 5 300～399 万円台 | 11 900～999 万円台 | 17 1500～1599 万円台 |
| 6 400～499 万円台 | 12 1000～1099 万円台 | 18 1600 万円以上 |

NFRJ08: on page 23/24

問18 去年1年間のお宅（生計をともにしている家族）の収入は、税込みでは次の中のどれに近いでしょうか。他の家族の方の収入も含めてお答えください。（○は1つだけ）

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 収入はなかった | 8 500～ 599 万円台 | 15 1200～1299 万円台 |
| 2 100 万円未満 | 9 600～ 699 万円台 | 16 1300～1399 万円台 |
| 3 100～129 万円台 | 10 700～ 799 万円台 | 17 1400～1499 万円台 |
| 4 130～199 万円台 | 11 800～ 899 万円台 | 18 1500～1599 万円台 |
| 5 200～299 万円台 | 12 900～ 999 万円台 | 19 1600 万円以上 |
| 6 300～399 万円台 | 13 1000～1099 万円台 | |
| 7 400～499 万円台 | 14 1100～1199 万円台 | |

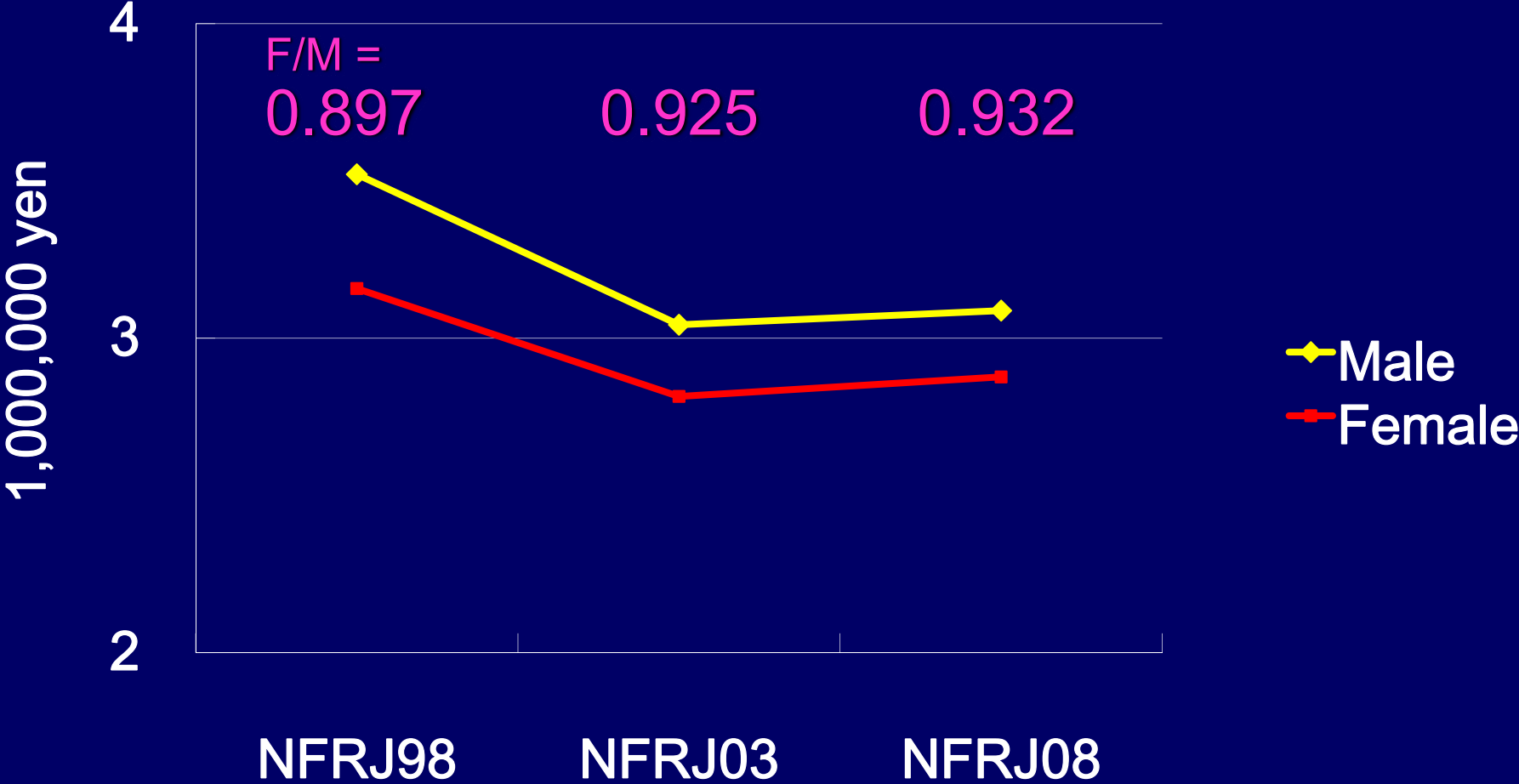
H.Inc. in the previous year



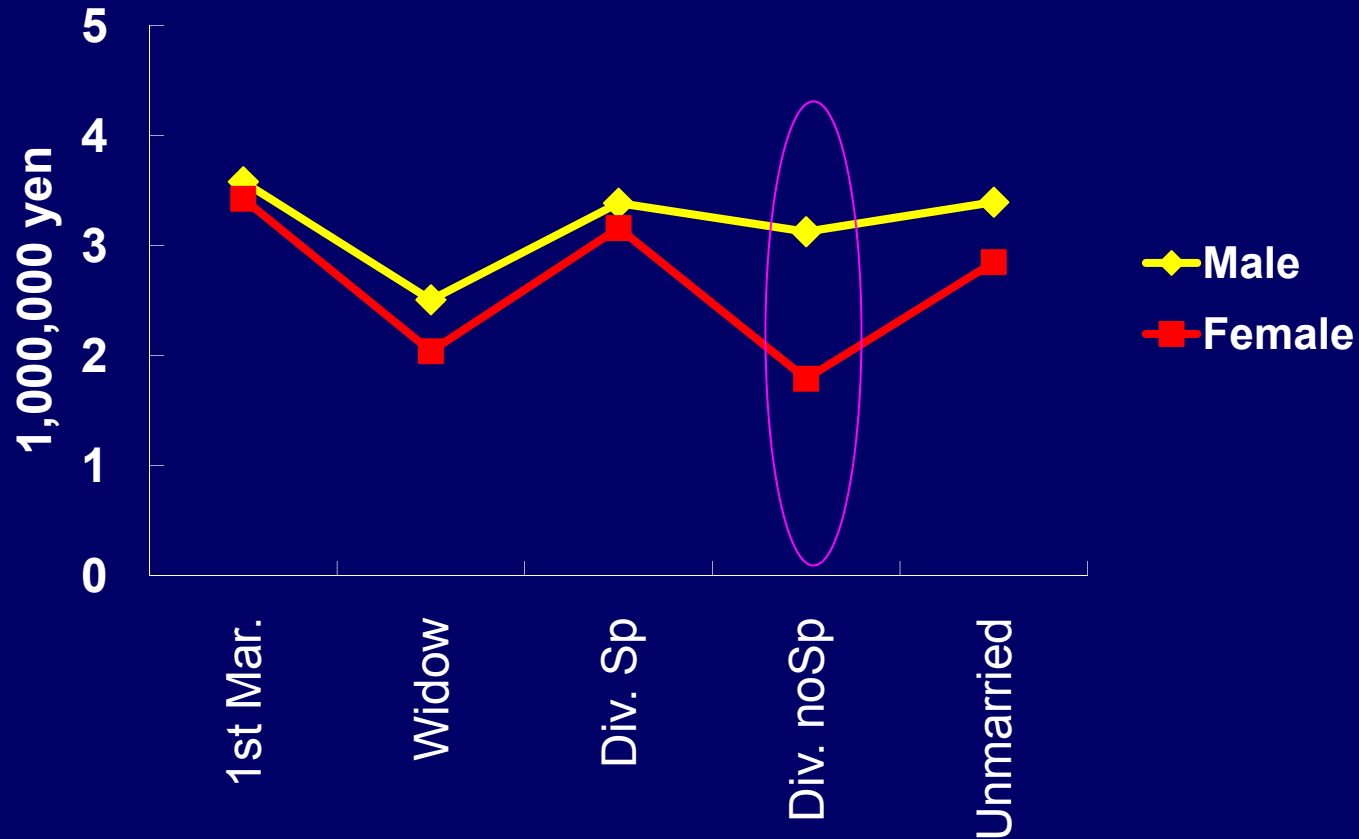
Equivalent Household Income

$$\frac{\text{Income}}{\sqrt{\text{Size}}}$$

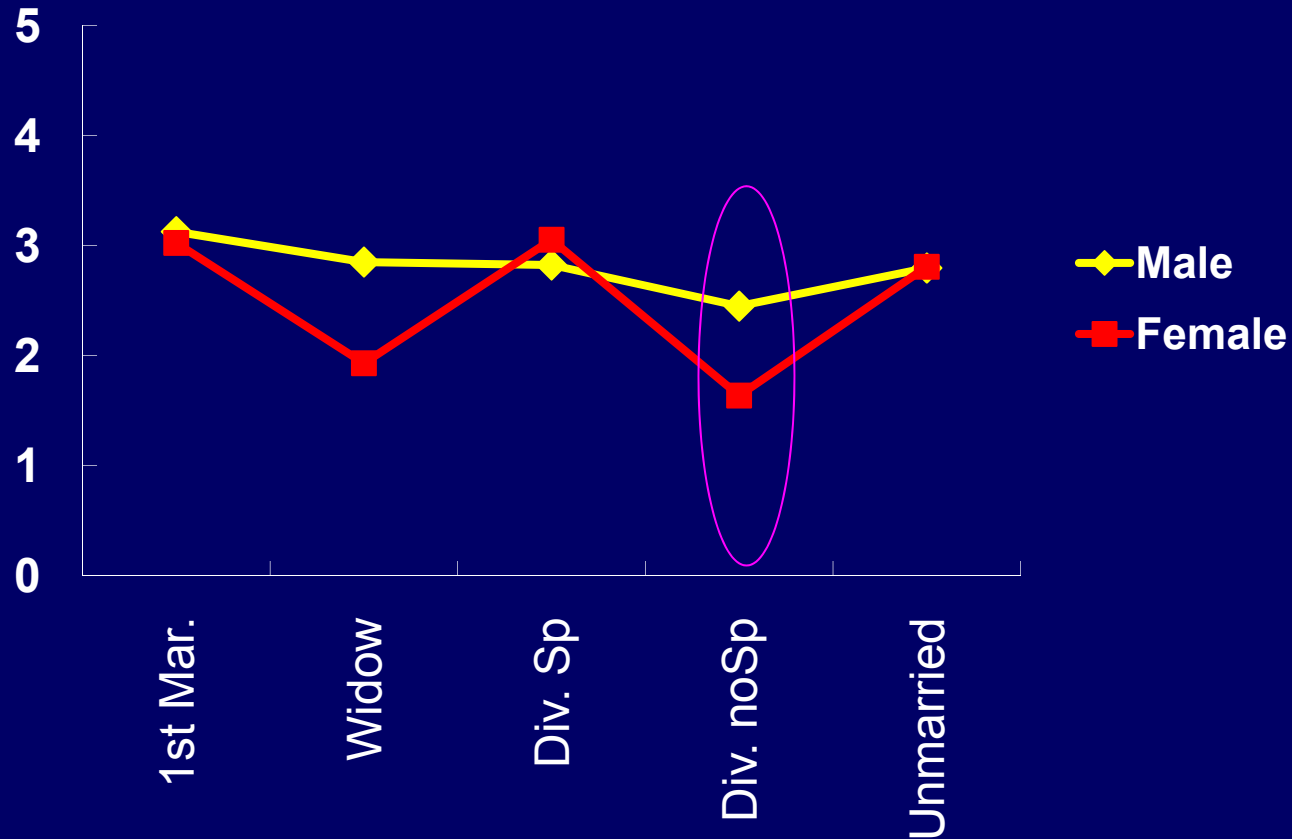
Gender Gap in EHI



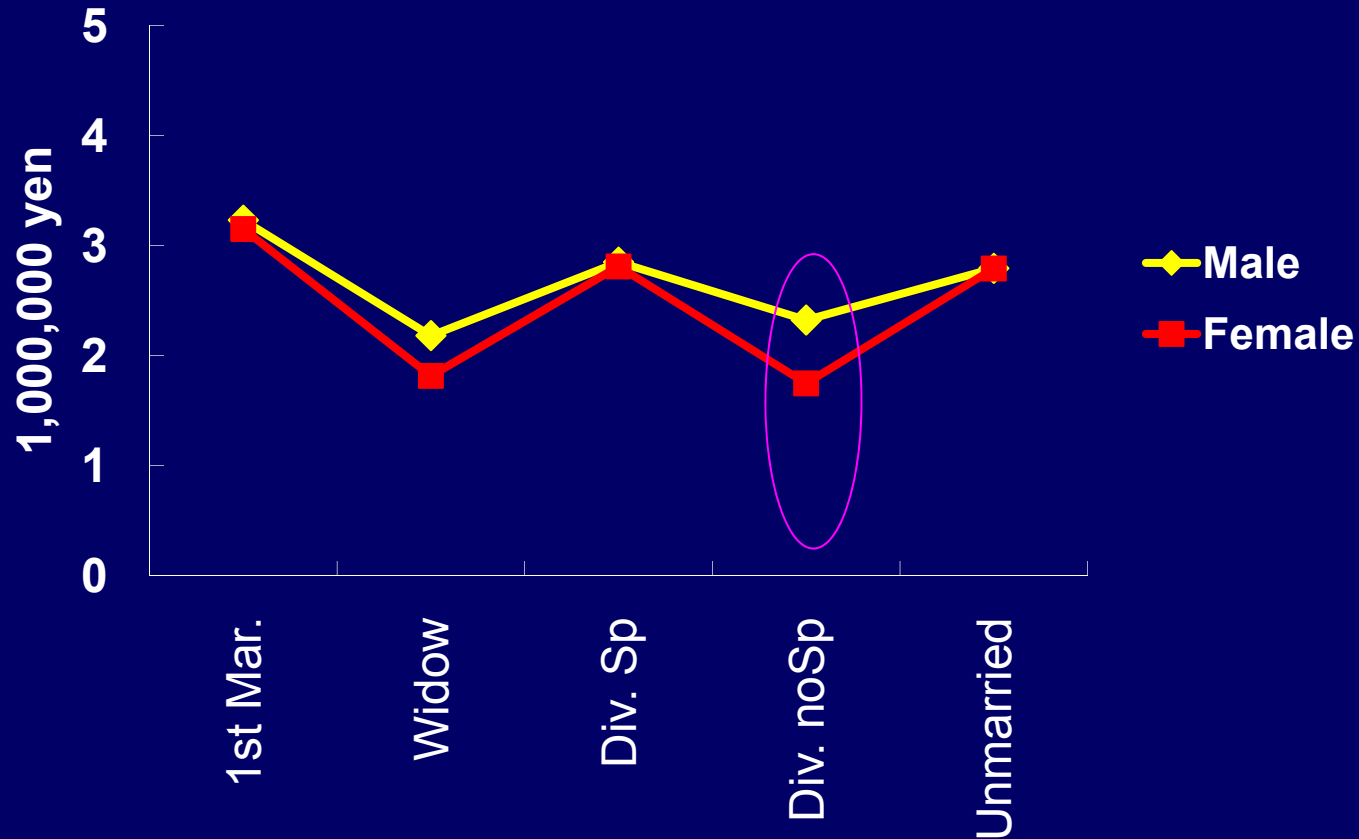
Marital history and EHI: NFRJ98



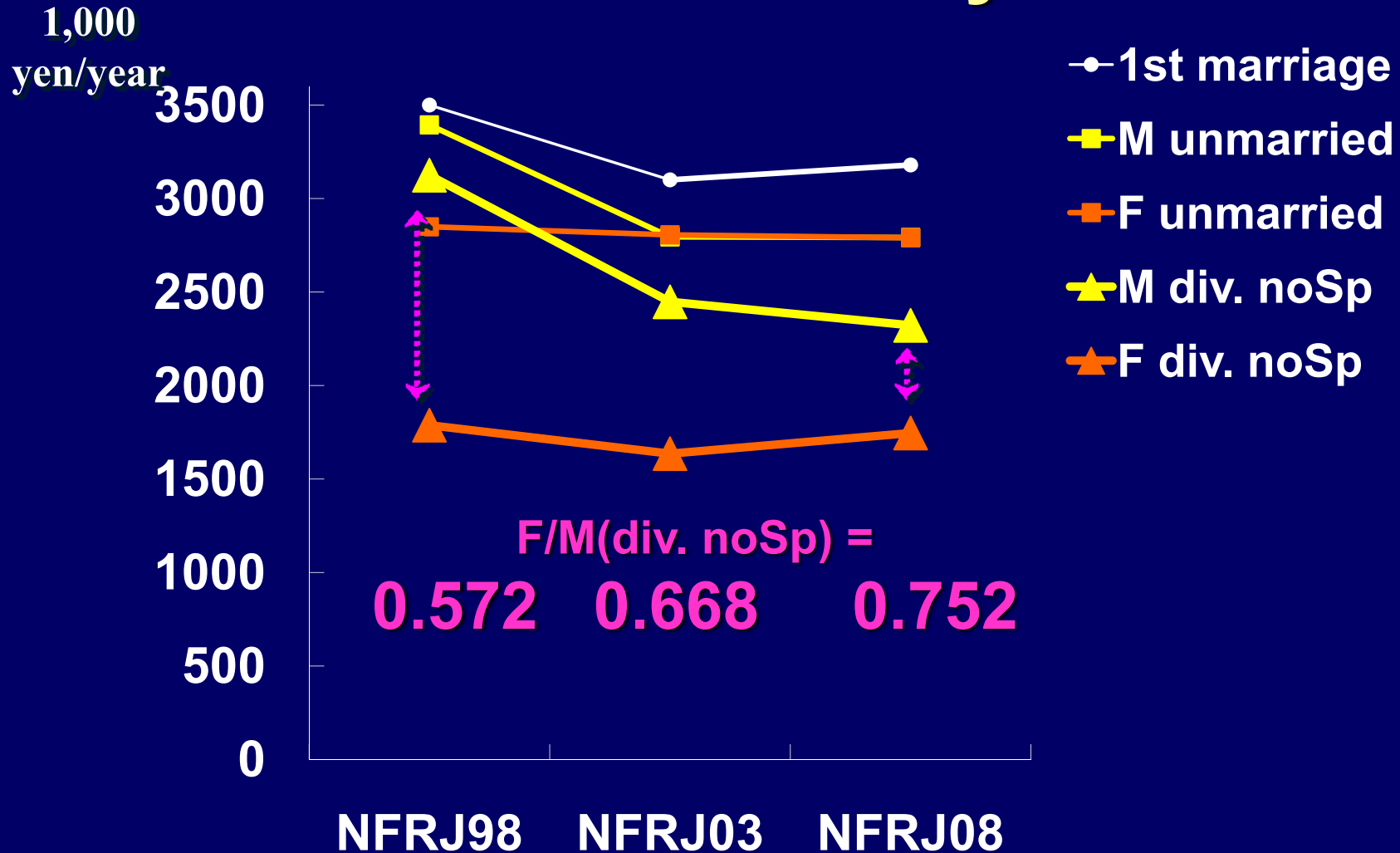
Marital history and EHI: NFRJ03



Marital history and EHI: NFRJ08



Summary



Marital History and Gender Gap

- **Unmarried / Married**
..... **No gap**

- **Divorced / Widowed**
..... **Great gap**

Regression (divorced)

Independent variables :

- Age
- Education
- Spouse
- One-person household
- Co-residing parent
- Co-residing child under 13
- Continuous regular employment

In Table 7

Model 1

Direct negative effect of “female”
after controlling age composition

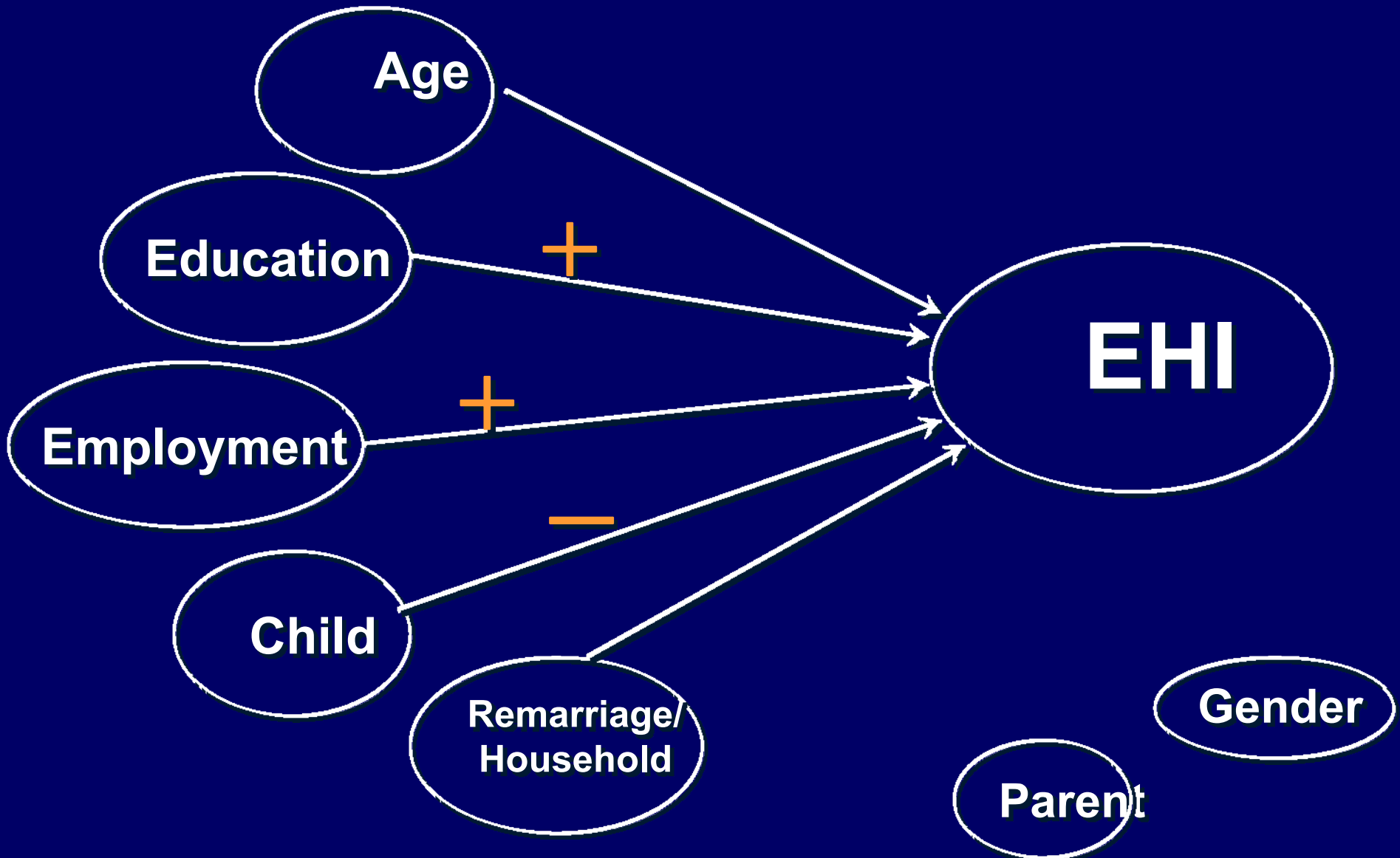
0.683 - 0.748 - 0.819

Model 2

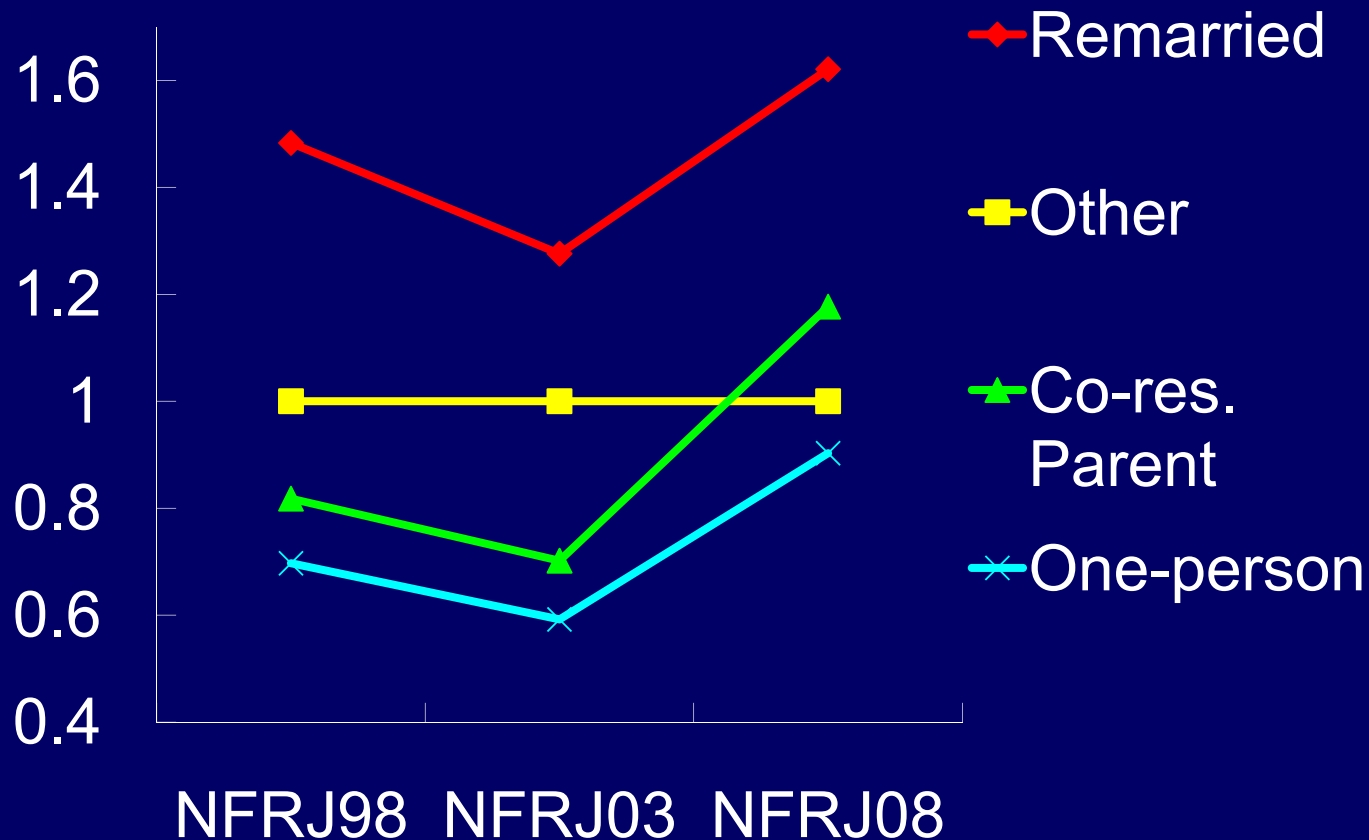
The effect is not significant

0.890 - 0.995 - 1.110

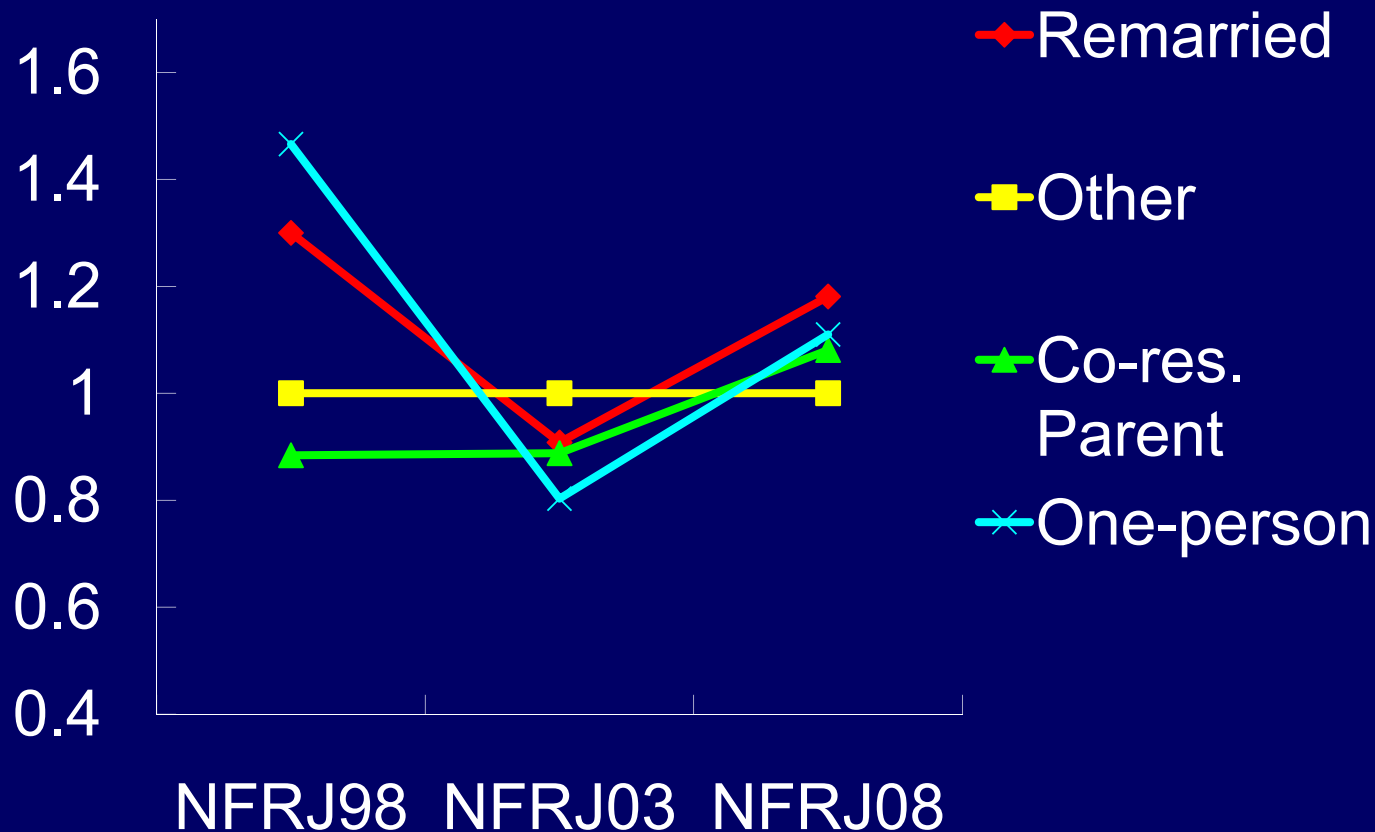
Result (Model 2)



Model 3: Effect of remarriage/household (female)



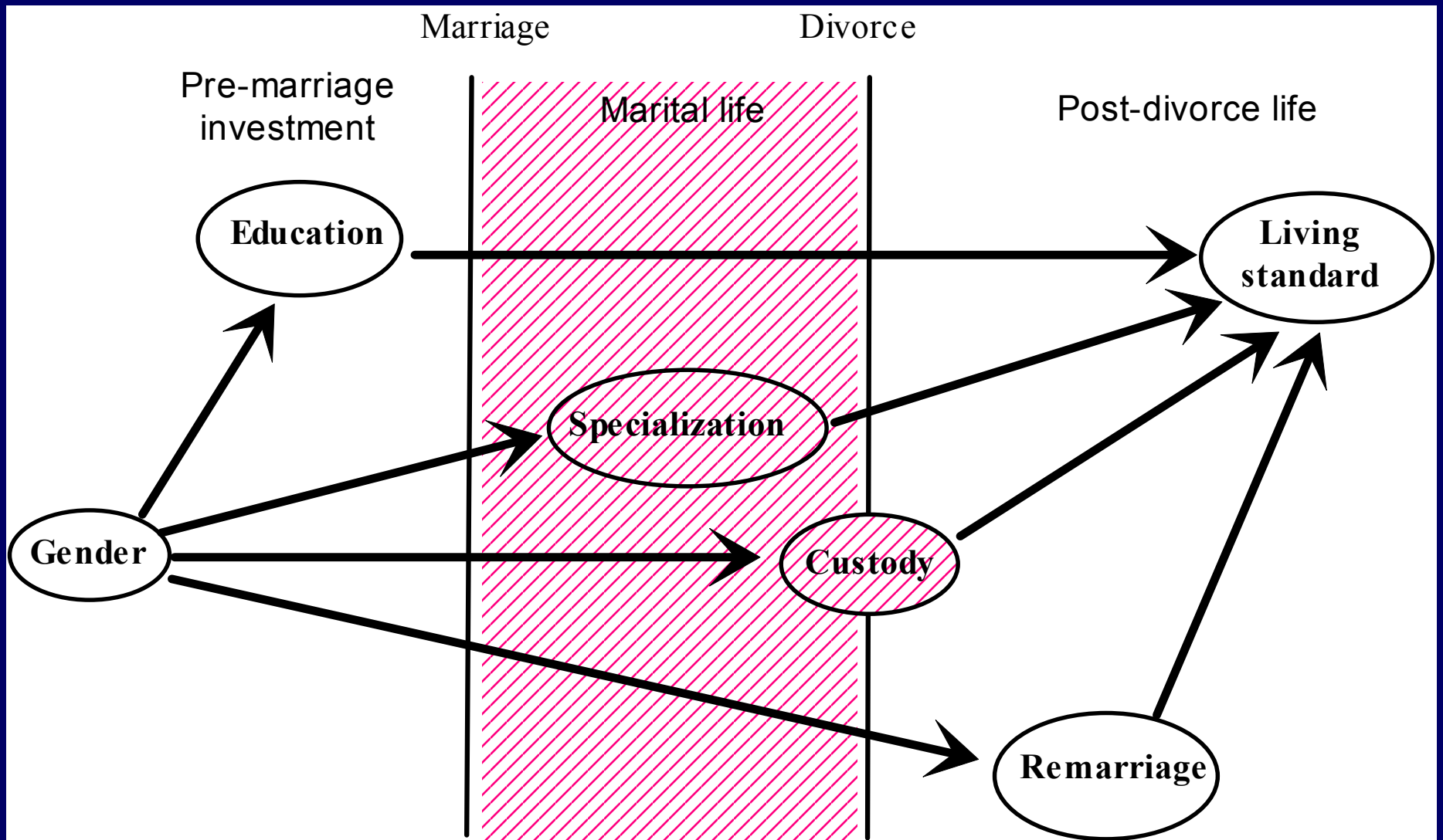
Model 3: Effect of remarriage/household (male)



Findings

- ✓ Female EHI is 10% lower than male
- ✓ Mainly caused by widowed/divorced
- ✓ 4 factors of gender gap after divorce

Factors of post-divorce gap



Conclusion

- Effect of employment / child
→ Coverage of the reform (E/D)
- Remarriage effect for women
→ ?
- Great gender gap for divorced
→ Impact on macro-level inequality (D/U)