Marital and family behaviors of Russians have changed significantly during Andreev (2006).

Variability across regions (Andreev, 2006).

Why?

Shotgun weddings behavior of partners?

Characteristics in comparison to the parent sample

Birth statistics data regional differences?

How common are shotgun weddings among current Russian women?

Have always been popular in Russia with the heyday in the

Getting Pregnant, Registering a Marriage: Still a Widespread Order of Life Events?

Analyze key differences between couples registering their marriages after birth, and study their survival to higher prevalence of second and consequent partnerships among them.

Shots Marriages—what are the main reasons for choosing such a marriage strategy?

Modern high proportions of births are registered in advance and a moderate proportion of weddings during pregnancy (St. Petersburg).

Traditional conception often coincides with the registration of the union or marriage, while at the same time a relatively high number of women are unmarried at the time of giving birth (Primorye Krai and majority of regions).

The last model is the most typical for shotgun marriages, more common in rural areas.

The data proves such a pattern to be common for men and women of all ages, but most of all for young couples where both partners are under 25. Older partners more often plan pregnancy after marriage or ultimately have their child born out-of-wedlock.

Taking into account absence of economic incentives for registering marriage or social penalties for having children in an unregistered union in Russia, we attribute high marriage rates during late pregnancy to preserving Soviet social norms rather than to emerging modern ones.

RESULTS: DIFFERENCES BY MOTHER’S AGE

On Figures 3 and 4:

Before the age of 20:

- 72% go through both events (marriage and birth) within a year;
- none of them is married a year before conception;
- 45% not married at the time of birth.

Age 23-29:

- 68% go through marriage and first birth within one year.
- 25% a result of postponement in an already officially registered marriage;
- 12% prefer to register marriage at all.

RESULTS: PREVALENCE OF SHOTGUN WEDDINGS

On average more than half of women in Russia conceive their first baby out of wedlock (Figure 3).

75% of these women end up registering a shotgun marriage. This means that over 50% of all Russian births to unmarried parents are registered when the woman is pregnant.

Approximately every two non-married mothers is married after the fifth month of the birth’s period.

The proportion of unmarried married women 2 years before the conception of first child ranges from 18.6% to 7.0% (Figure 4).

Figure 1: By the third months of pregnancy the pace of transition to marriage starts growing rapidly. As a result, the 10 month period has a maximum at the sixth month (among Tatar women at the seventh).

According to Russian legislative registration take place a month after submitting the application to the registry office. Thus, the majority of shotgun weddings seen in current statistics are likely to have been planned after pregnancy.

Marriages have been planned after pregnancy month after submitting an application to the registry office. Thus, the majority of shotgun weddings seen in current statistics are likely to have been planned after pregnancy.

Marriages have been approximated conception date birth. Thus,

 childbirth ranges from 16.2% to 27.1% (baby out of wedlock (75%) of these women end up registering a shotgun marriage. This is a result of postponement in an already officially registered marriage, and the majority of them is married a year before conception, and none of them is married a year after conception.

RESULTS: DIFFERENCES BY PARTNERSHIP TYPE

The extent to which marriage and birth of the first child are connected is different by age as well as by age difference between them (Figures 3 and 4).

- Among women under 25 who marry the male of same age shotgun wedding strategy is extremely popular, even demanded.
- Among older age groups the relation of age difference with number of marriages contracted in a year's time, or even less than a year ago, which is a matter of remarriage.
- The smaller the difference in age between partners, the lower the proportion of women that a registered marriage to the birth of birth.
- Overall, only 4% of couples without age differences are not officially married when they have a child.
- When the father is older than the mother by 10 years or more, and when the mother is older than the father by 10 years or less, the proportion of out-of-wedlock births exceeds 10%.

Marriage registered 1-2 years after conception.

A year before conception.

50% of married women

10% of married women

Women aged 30 and older refrain from marriage during pregnancy in favor of non-married births which might partially contributed to higher prevalence of second and consequent partnerships among them.

As birth registration is compulsory in Russia, incomplete or false data may lead to a percentage of real births being underestimated.