

Men Say "I Do" Once Again:

Remarriage and the Marital Histories of Puerto Ricans

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Yerís H. Mayol-García, Ph.D. & PMP
Center for Economic Studies
Brittany King, Ph.D.
Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics
U.S. Census Bureau

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Do remarriage rates differ between Puerto Rican men and women?
2. What characteristics are associated with Puerto Rican marital histories, particularly remarriage?
3. How do marital histories of Puerto Rican origin adults living in Puerto Rico compare to those living in the United States (U.S.)?

BACKGROUND

- Puerto Rico (P.R.) residents are an old population (median age of 45 years compared to 39 years in the U.S. in 2022) with high poverty levels (40.5% compared to 12.8% in the U.S. in 2021).^{1,2}
- Women marry younger than men on average, are more likely to outlive spouses, derive fewer health benefits from marriage, and face larger economic consequences when a marriage ends.^{3,4,5}
- Differing marital history trajectories may act as a buffer to vulnerability or exacerbate inequalities.
- Puerto Ricans are a distinct Hispanic group who are U.S. citizens by birth and move often between P.R. and the U.S.

DATA

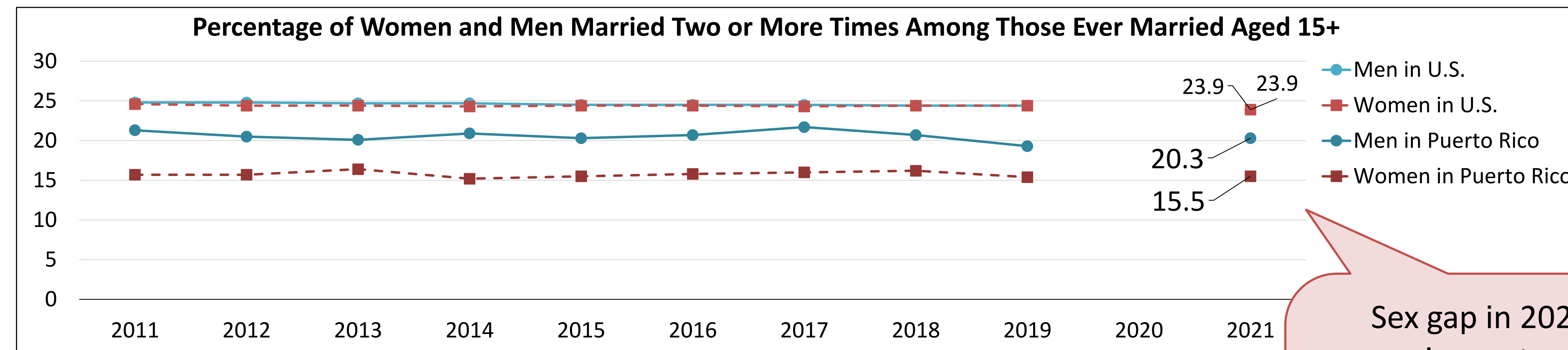
Descriptive analyses of:

- 2011 to 2021 1-year public-use data
 - American Community Survey (ACS)
 - Puerto Rico Community Survey (PCRS)
- 2017-2021 5-year ACS/PCRS public-use data

Key variable is **number of times ever married**

- 0: never married
- 1: ever married once
- **2+: ever married two or more times (remarried)**

1. MEN REMARRY MORE OFTEN THAN WOMEN IN P.R., BUT NOT IN THE U.S.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2021 1-year data and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2011-2021 1-year data
Note: 1-year ACS and PRCS data were not published for year 2020 due to data collection issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sex gap in 2021 remarriage rate was a 0.05 percentage point difference in U.S. vs. **4.8 percentage point difference in P.R.!**

	Number of times husband has been married			Total
	Married once	Married twice	Married three or more	
Total	100.0	79.0	17.6	3.4
Married once	84.0	73.1	9.5	1.4
Married twice	14.6	5.6	7.5	1.5
Married three or more	1.5	0.3	0.7	0.4

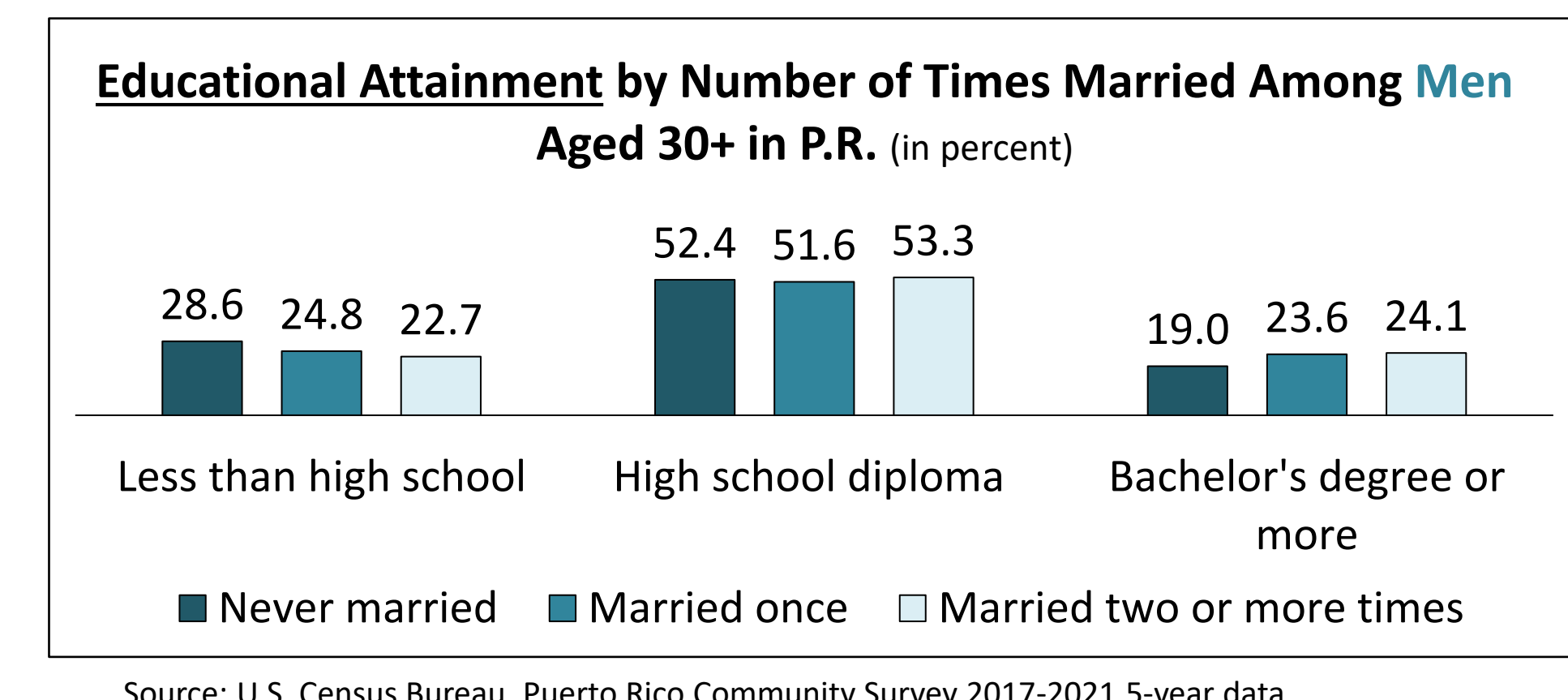
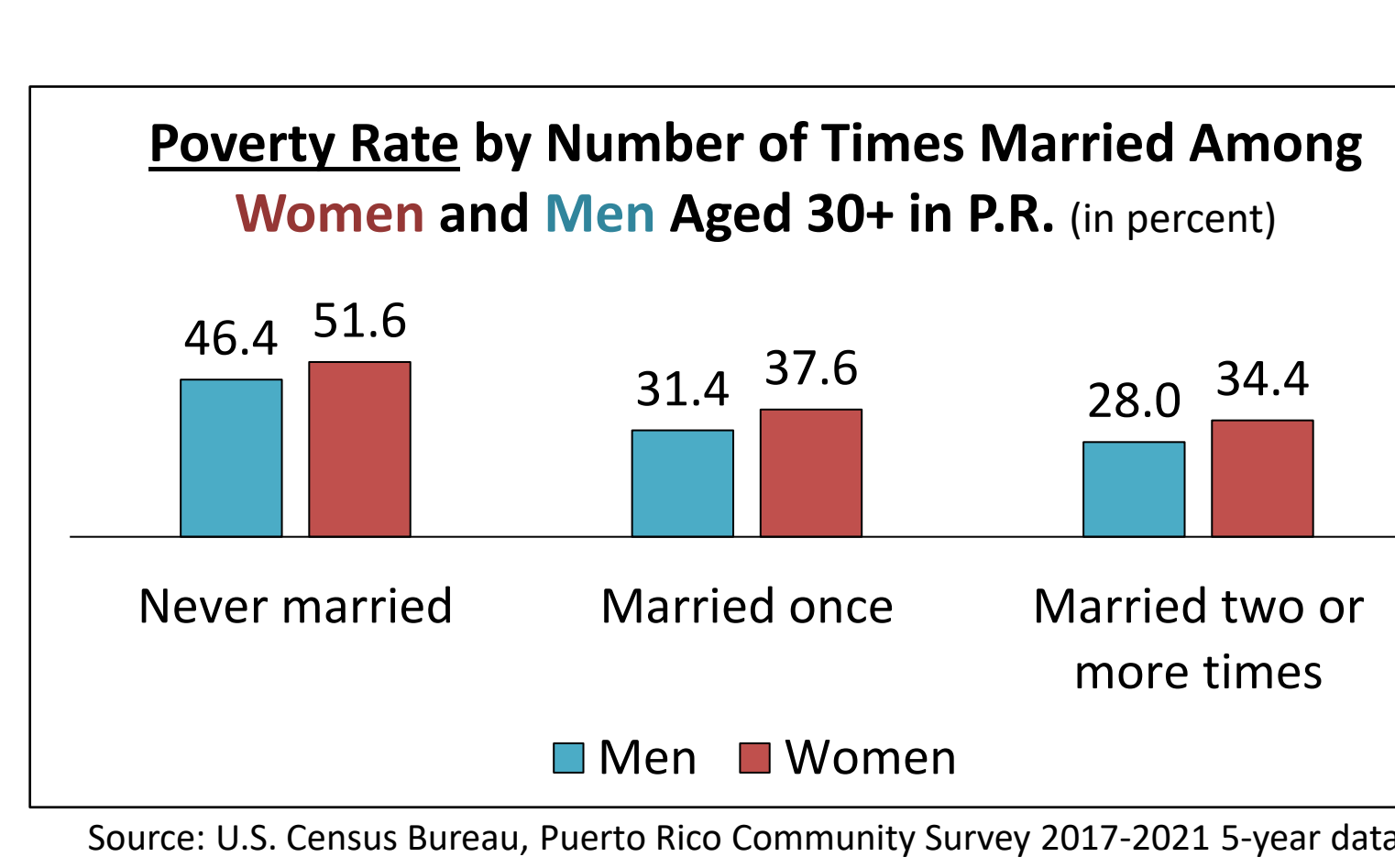
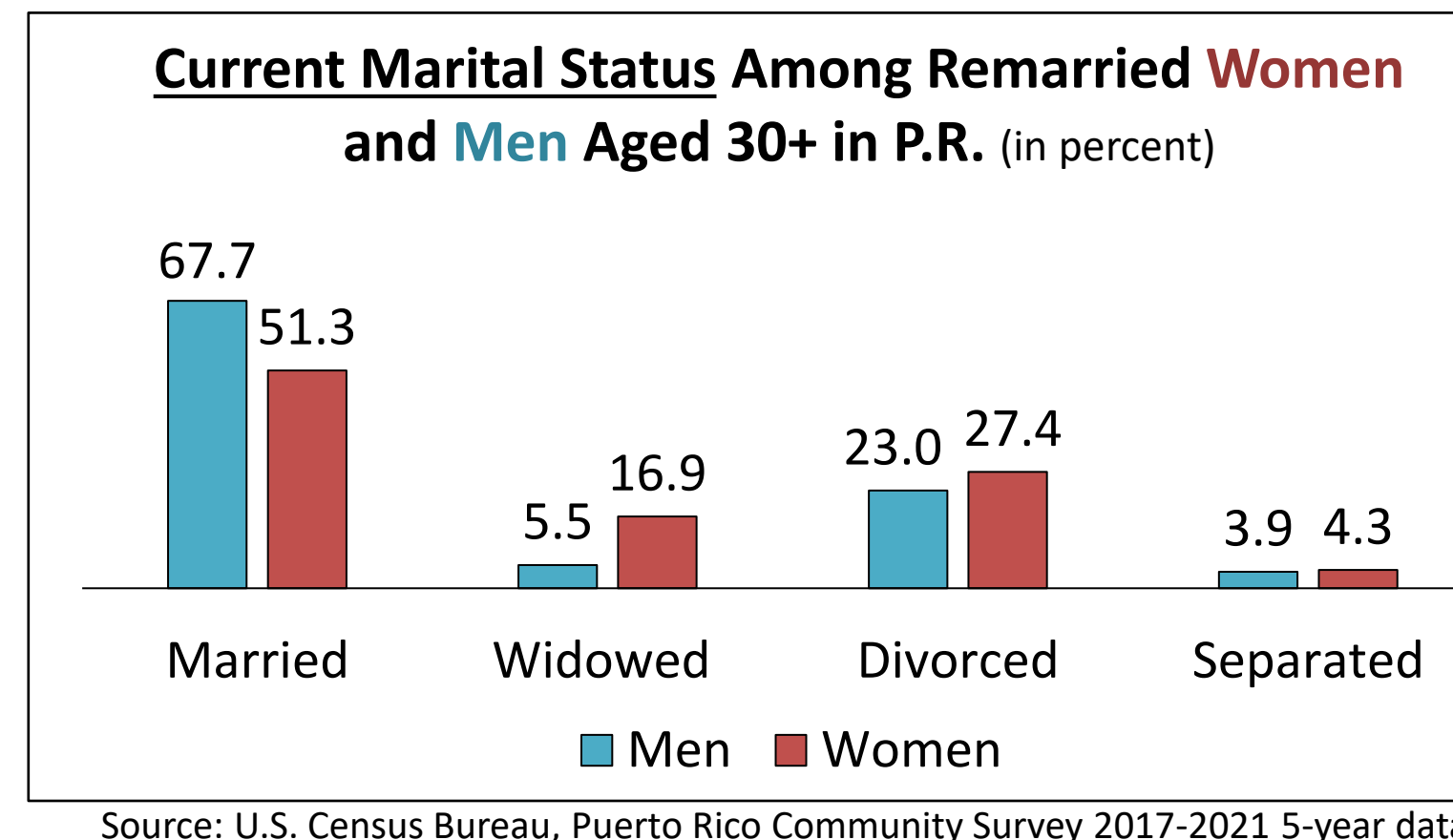
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Puerto Rico Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year data

Men	12.4
Women	6.6

12.4% of currently married men have married more times than their current wife.

2. WHAT CHARACTERISTICS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH REMARRIAGE IN P.R.?

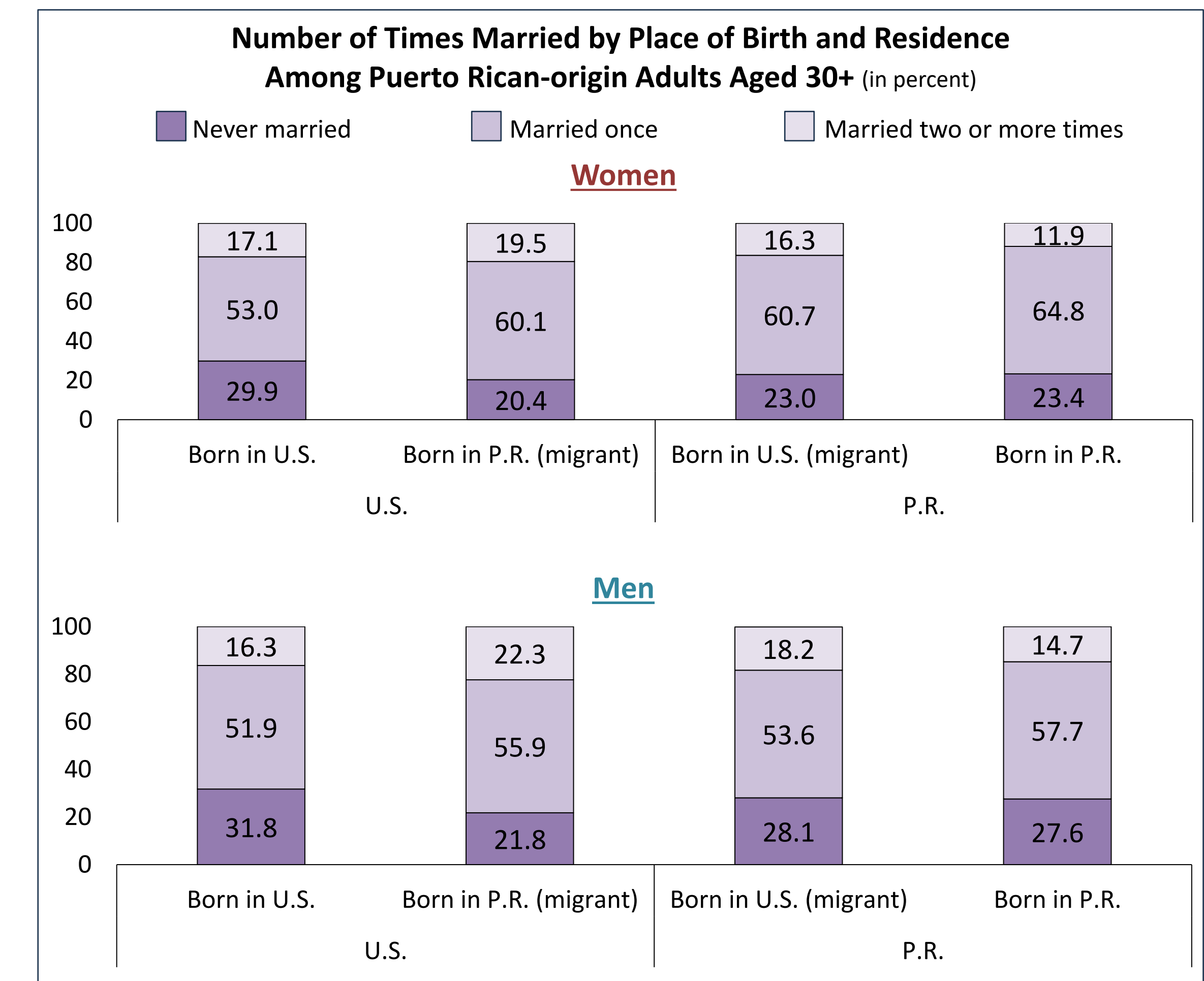
- Remarriage becomes prevalent (>2%) in P.R. at ages 30+.
- The majority of remarried men and over half of remarried women are currently married.
- Women and men married two or more times tend to be old on average (aged 60 and 62, respectively) and have a lower poverty rate than their counterparts.
- Women have higher poverty rates than men regardless of the number of times married.
- Remarried men (but not women) were more likely to have a high school diploma or higher than other males.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Puerto Rico Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year data

Only remarried men have a higher proportion with a Bachelor's degree or more (24.1%) than those with less than a high school education (22.7%).

3. PUERTO RICAN MIGRANTS IN P.R. OR U.S. MORE LIKELY TO BE REMARRIED



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey and the Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2017-2021 5-year data

Compared to all groups, nonmigrant Puerto Rican women and men living in P.R. are most likely to be married once (64.8% and 57.7% respectively).

CONCLUSIONS

- Marital history greatly varies among adults in P.R., with remarriage more common among men than among women.
- Remarried individuals in P.R., especially men, have access to more resources in the form of spouses, higher education and lower poverty levels.
- Migrants were more likely to be remarried than nonmigrants, among both women and men.
- Selection into marriage, remarriage and migration may shape results shown.

REFERENCES

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- ⁴ House, J. S., Landis, K. R., & Umberson, D. (1988). "Social relationships and health." *Science*, 241(4865), 540-545.
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