Divorce-Risk Patterns in Same-Sex "Marriages" in Norway and Sweden

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Abstract:

The present study provides an investigation of patterns in divorce risks of partners in same-sex marriages, or *registered partnerships* ("registrerade partnerskap"), in Norway and Sweden. A comparison with patterns in divorce risks in heterosexual marriages is provided. Our study is based on longitudinal information from the population registers of the two countries covering all persons in partnerships. Our demographic analyses involve information on characteristics such as age, sex, geographical background, experience of previous opposite-sex marriage, biological parenthood, and educational attainment of the partners involved. We find that to a large extent patterns in divorce are quite similar in same-sex and opposite-sex marriages, but that interesting differences nevertheless occur between the family types considered. If we only compare levels in union dissolution, divorce risks are considerably higher in same-sex than in opposite-sex marriages. The divorce risk in female partnerships is practically double that of the risk in partnerships of men.

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