



Intercultural Marriage and Its Impact on Fertility in Taiwan

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Research Background



- The declining marriage rates is a function of a gradual ***postponement*** of marriage? or an ***abandonment*** of marriage?
- In 2006, one in 7.4 babies born in Taiwan is ***New Son of Taiwan***
- One in 4.1 couples is an ***intercultural union*** with a foreign or mainland Chinese spouse
- Possible solutions for Taiwan' s ***lowest-low fertility rate***

Organization of Presentation



- **The Changing Practices and Attitudes toward Union Formation**
- **The Emergence of Intercultural Marriage**
- **Reproductive Behaviors of Foreign and Mainland Chinese Spouses**
- **Conclusion and Discussion**

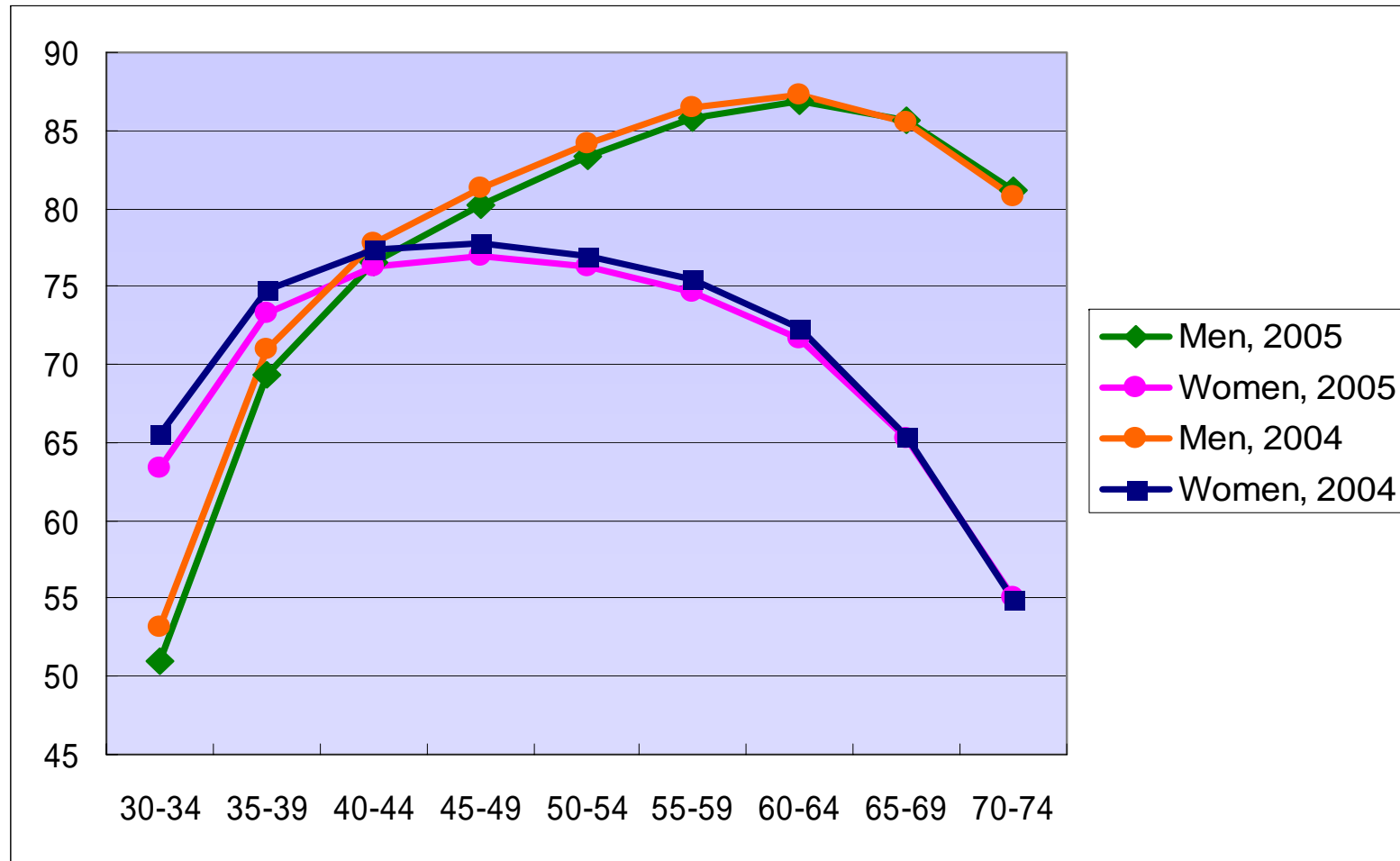
Major Changes in Union Formation

- Arranged marriage → Love marriage
 - Compatibility between **two families** in socioeconomic status, cultural background, and value system...
- Parents' approval is still important
- Early & universal marriage → Late & less marriage
 - While the proportion of single men decreases annually, the share of single women has been increasing from the beginning of 1990s.
 - The proportion of married Taiwanese decreases as well

The Marital Status of Aged 15 and Over Taiwanese by Sex: 1956-2005

	Single		Married		Divorced		Widowed	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
1956 ^a	40.1	29.5	55.1	58.3	1.0	0.9	3.7	11.3
1966 ^a	47.7	33.6	48.0	56.4	1.7	1.2	2.6	8.8
1976	42.5	31.2	54.3	60.7	0.9	0.9	2.3	7.2
1981	40.6	30.4	56.0	61.5	1.2	1.1	2.2	6.9
1986	39.0	27.7	57.0	61.7	1.7	1.6	2.3	6.9
1991	38.0	29.6	57.2	61.0	2.4	2.4	2.5	7.1
1996	38.3	30.0	56.4	58.9	3.1	3.3	2.2	7.8
2001	37.4	30.4	56.0	56.3	4.3	4.8	2.3	8.6
2005	37.5	31.1	54.7	53.6	5.5	6.1	2.3	9.2

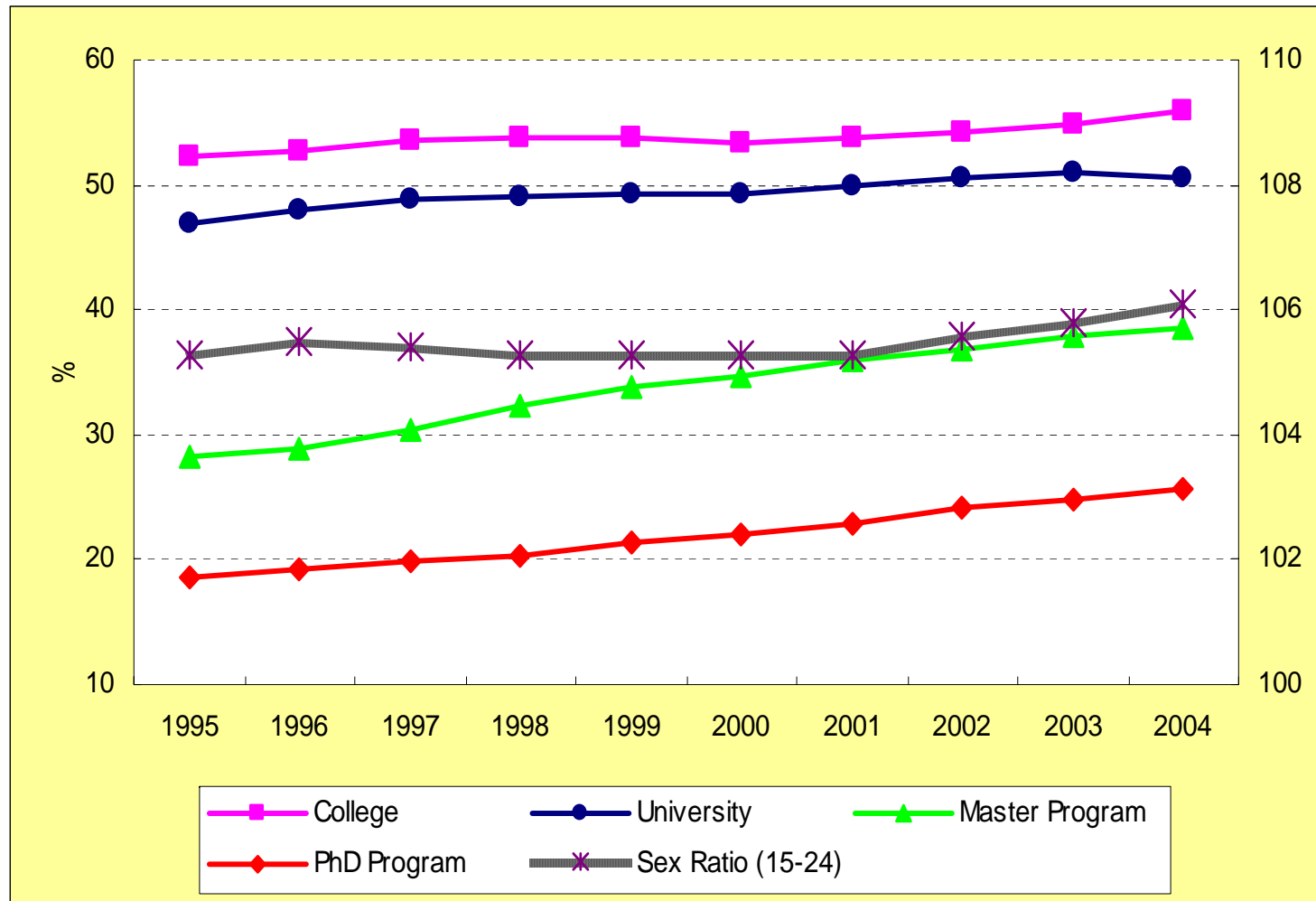
Married Rate (%) by Sex and Age Group, 2004 vs. 2005



Single Population by Sex and Age Group, 1971-2005

Age	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2005
	Men						
25-29	39.9	41.1	48.7	57.6	64.6	71.3	76.8
30-34	12.3	13.7	17.3	24.4	31.7	36.5	41.2
35-39	7.2	7.1	8.2	11.3	15.8	18.7	21.0
40-44	7.1	5.4	5.7	7.0	8.9	11.3	12.7
Women							
25-29	17.1	19.7	24.6	33.1	40.5	50.7	59.1
30-34	5.2	8.1	9.8	12.9	16.4	22.2	26.9
35-39	3.0	4.0	6.0	7.7	9.1	12.1	14.8
40-44	2.3	2.8	3.6	5.6	6.6	7.9	9.5

Proportion of Female Students in Higher Education and Sex Ratio of Aged 15-24 Taiwanese, 1995-2004



Changes in Education Homogamy

- In 1983

H>W: 38%

H=W: 40%

H<W: 22%



- In 2003

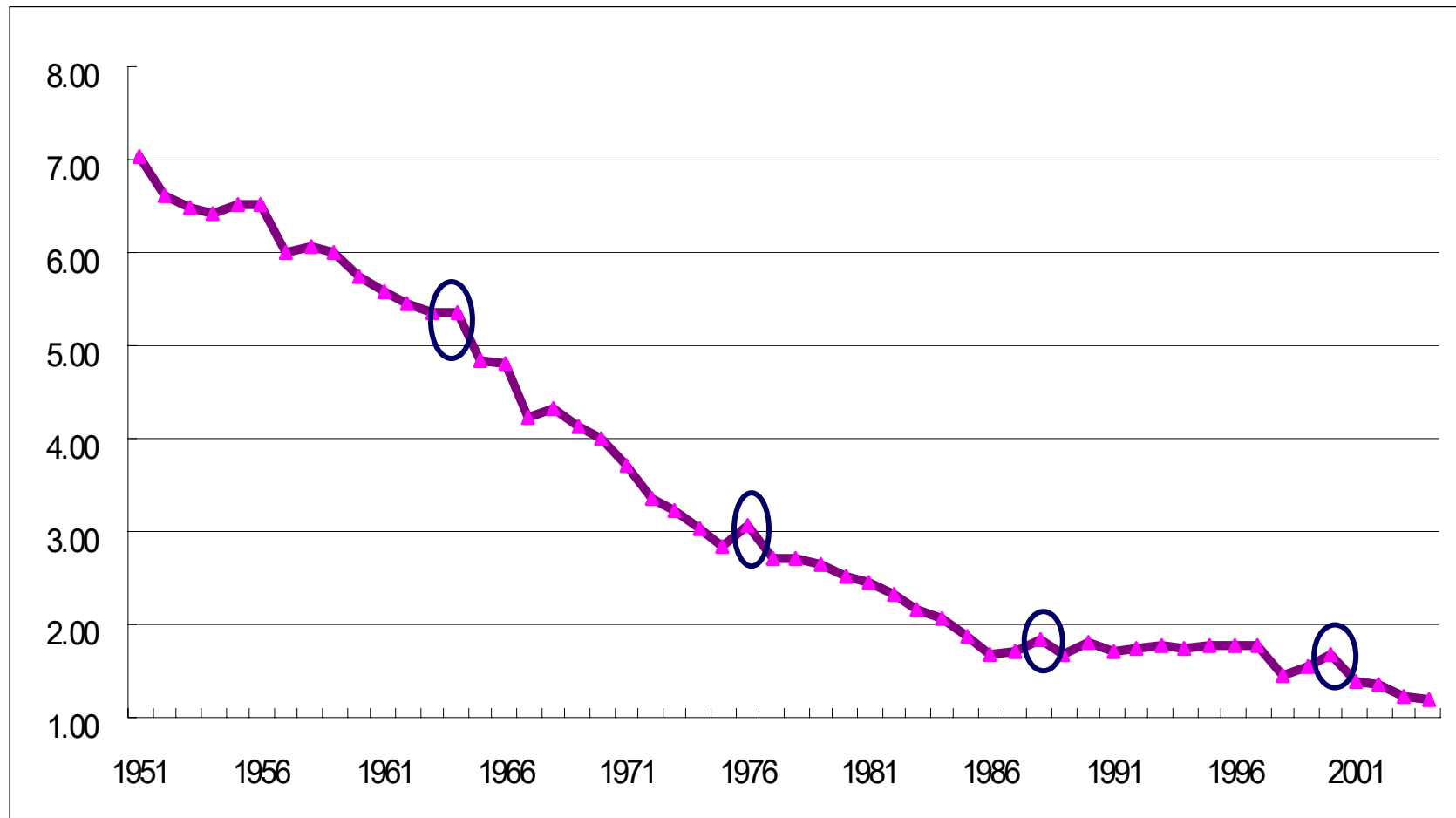
H>W: 31%

H=W: 42%

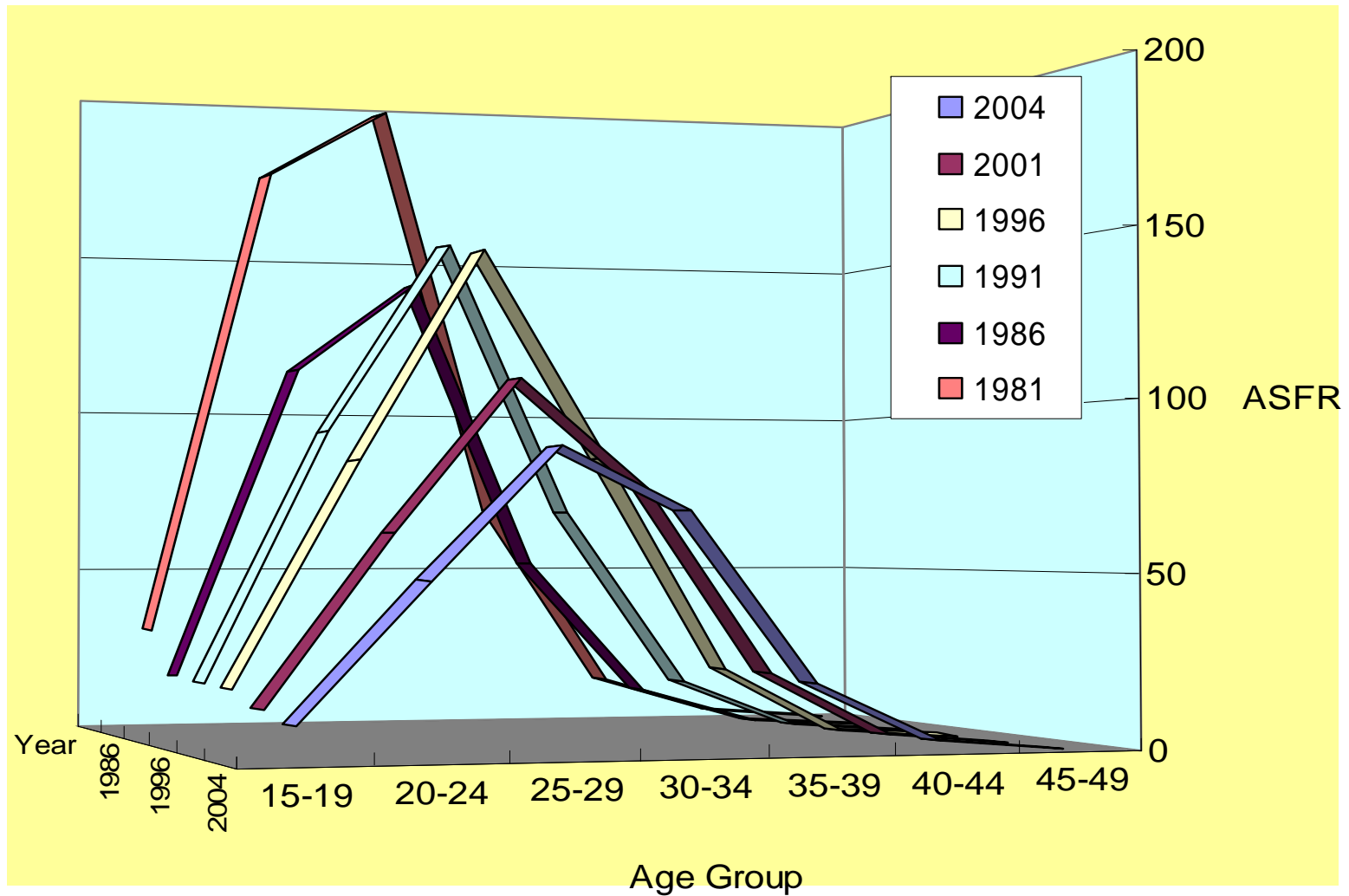
H<W: 27%



Declining Total Fertility Rates, 1951-2004



Age Specific Fertility Rates Per Thousand Childbearing Women Aged 15-49, 1981-2004



The Emergence of Intercultural Marriage

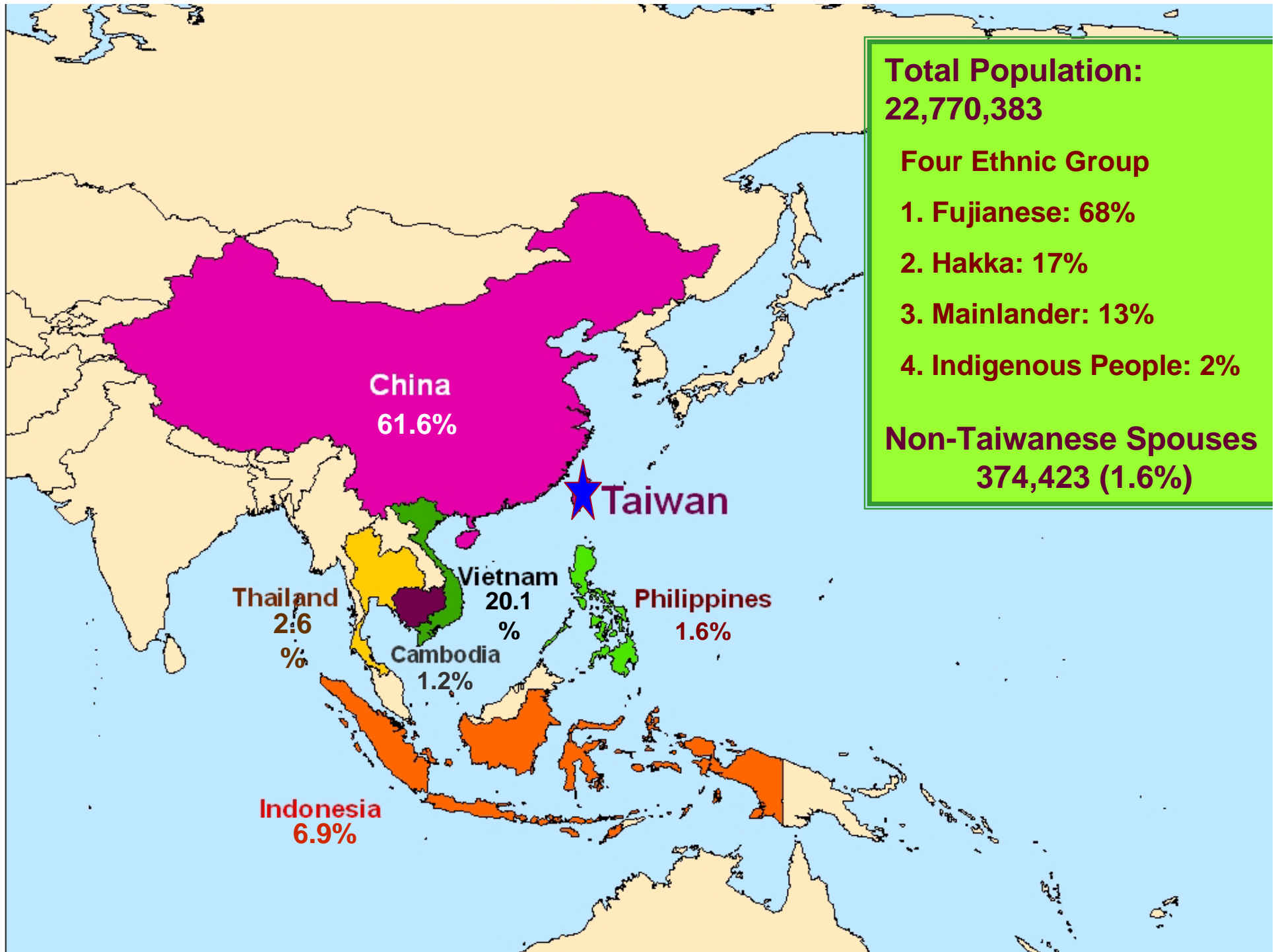
- Interethnic → intercultural marriages
- The lifting of martial law + open policy toward China → Mainland Chinese spouses
- First wave of foreign brides:
Hakka in Indonesia → Farming & rural areas
- *'Go-South Policy'* → Marriage brokers
More marriage migrants from Southeast Asia, Vietnam*

**Total Population:
22,770,383**

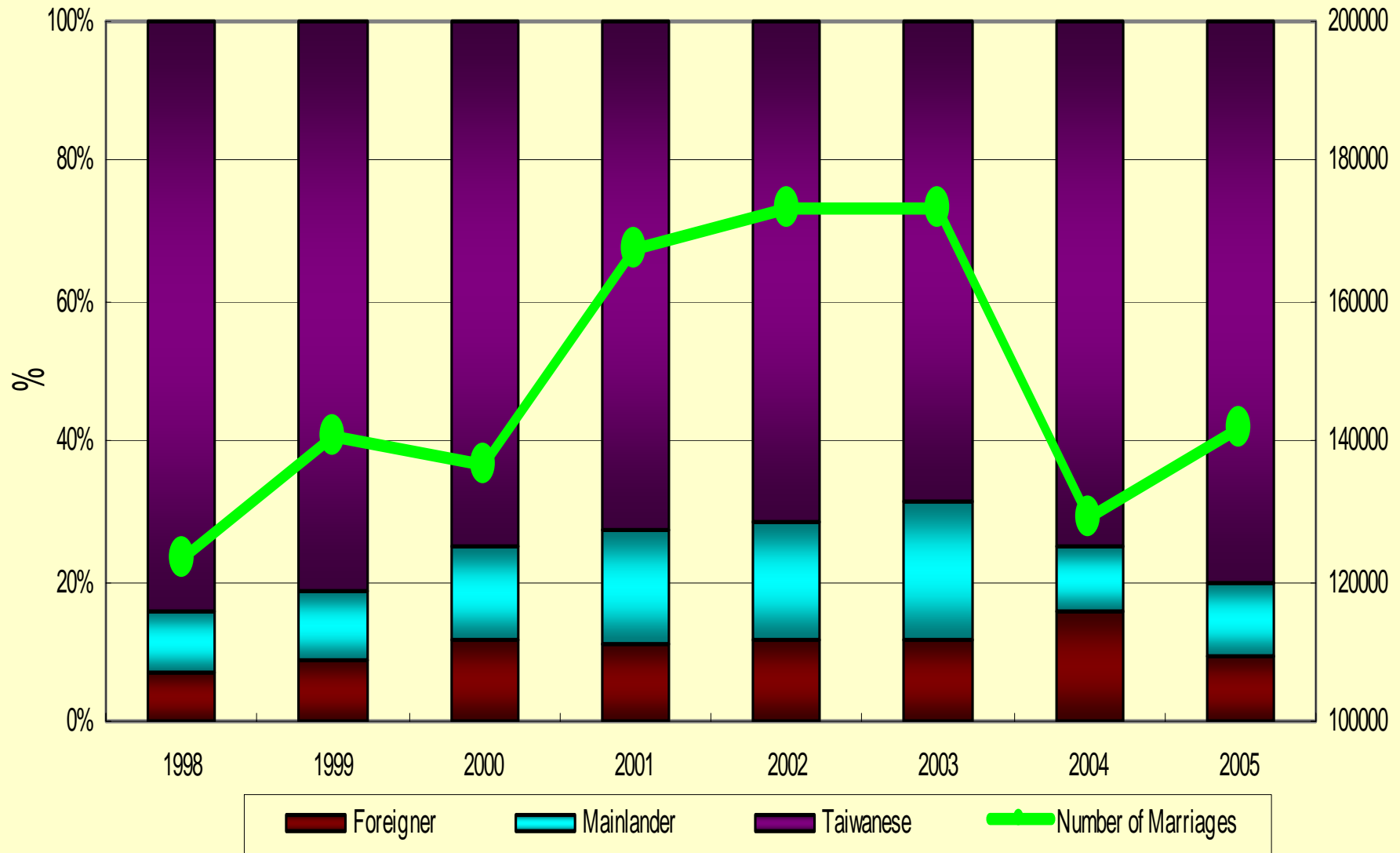
Four Ethnic Group

- 1. Fujianese: 68%**
- 2. Hakka: 17%**
- 3. Mainlander: 13%**
- 4. Indigenous People: 2%**

**Non-Taiwanese Spouses
374,423 (1.6%)**



Numbers of Marriages and Percentage of Intercultural Marriages by Spouse's Nationality: 1998-2005



Number and Percent of Foreign and Mainland Chinese Spouses by Selected Locations, 1987-2005

	All spouses	SE Asian	Mainlander	HK & Macao	Others
Taiwan	374,423	32.4	61.6	2.9	3.1
Taipei county	71,439	27.9	62.1	5.8	4.2
Taipei city *	39,486	15.5	68.8	7.3	8.4
Taoyuan county	38,284	34.8	59.9	2.5	2.8
Kaoshiung city	24,490	22.6	72.7	2.0	2.7
Taichung county	21,847	37.6	59.1	1.9	1.4
Kaoshiung county	21,393	32.3	65.8	0.7	1.2
Taichung city	16,355	20.6	72.1	2.5	4.8

Reproductive Behaviors of Foreign and Mainland Chinese Spouses



Research Objectives:

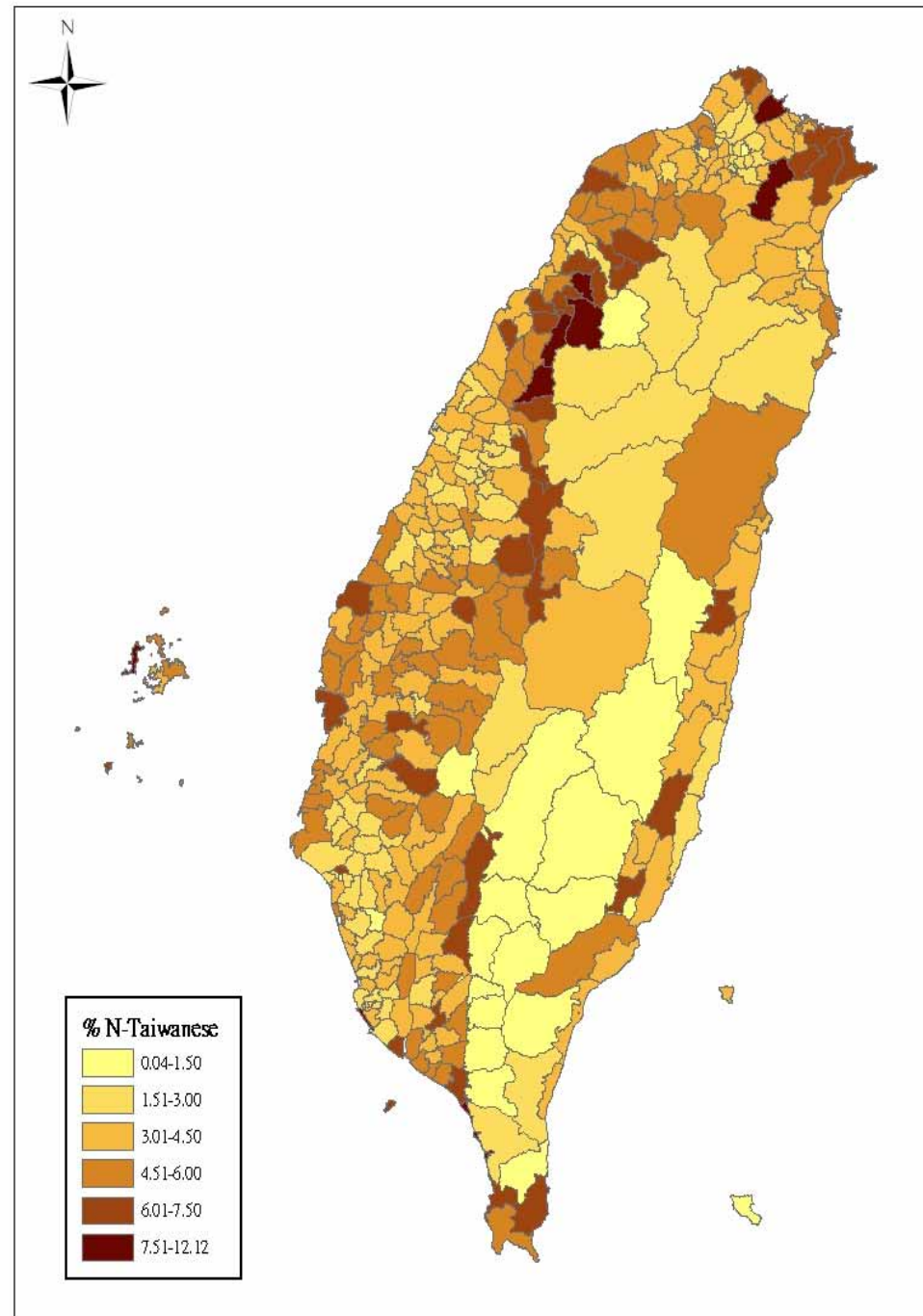
- By analyzing the first national survey data, I present major reproductive and productive roles and outcomes of foreign and mainland Chinese spouses in Taiwan.
- Is intercultural marriage a possible solution towards relatively low marriage and fertility rates of Taiwan population?

2003 Survey of Living Conditions of Foreign and Mainland Chinese Spouses

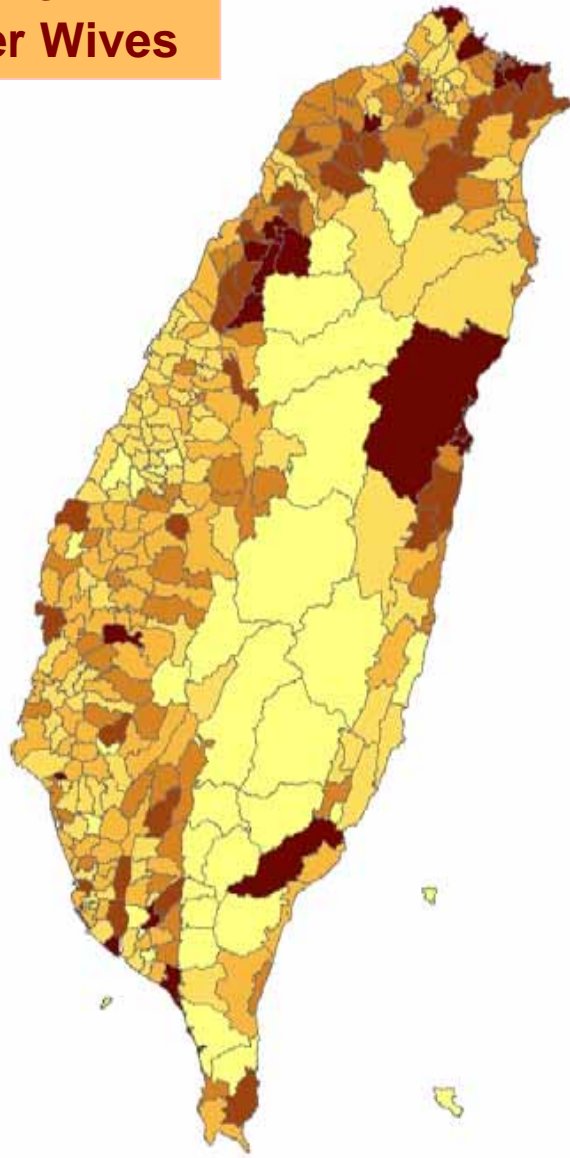
- In June 2004, the Ministry of the Interior published the initial results of this first national survey.
- The sample consists of 240,837 foreign (101,615) and Mainland Chinese (139,222) spouses who were granted citizenship or alien residency permits between Jan 1987 and Aug 2003.
- Survey period: Oct 17 to Nov 7, 2003
Interviewers: Civil Servants
- **Response rate: 73%**
81% of foreign spouses vs. 67% of Mainland Chinese spouses
- 57% respond by him/herself
15% by others due to language limitation
28% by others due to returning to home countries or employment

Proportion of Non-Taiwanese Wives at Township Level

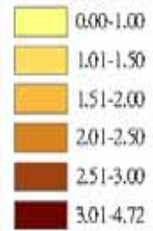
* Fully covered!



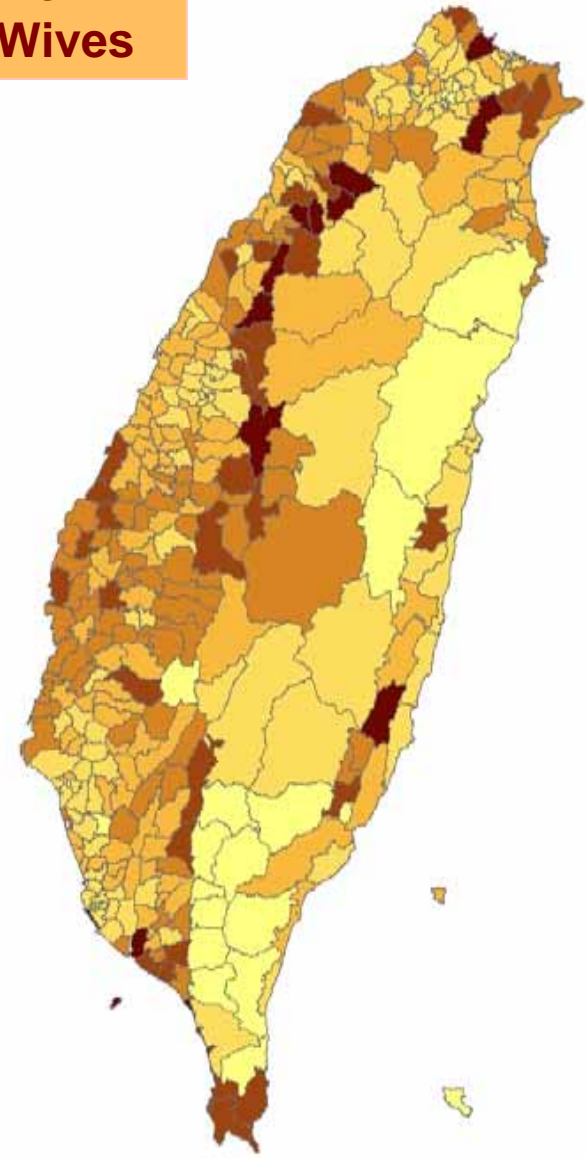
Proportion of Mainlander Wives



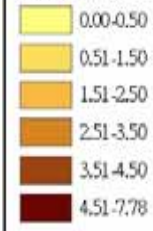
% M-China



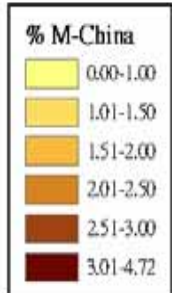
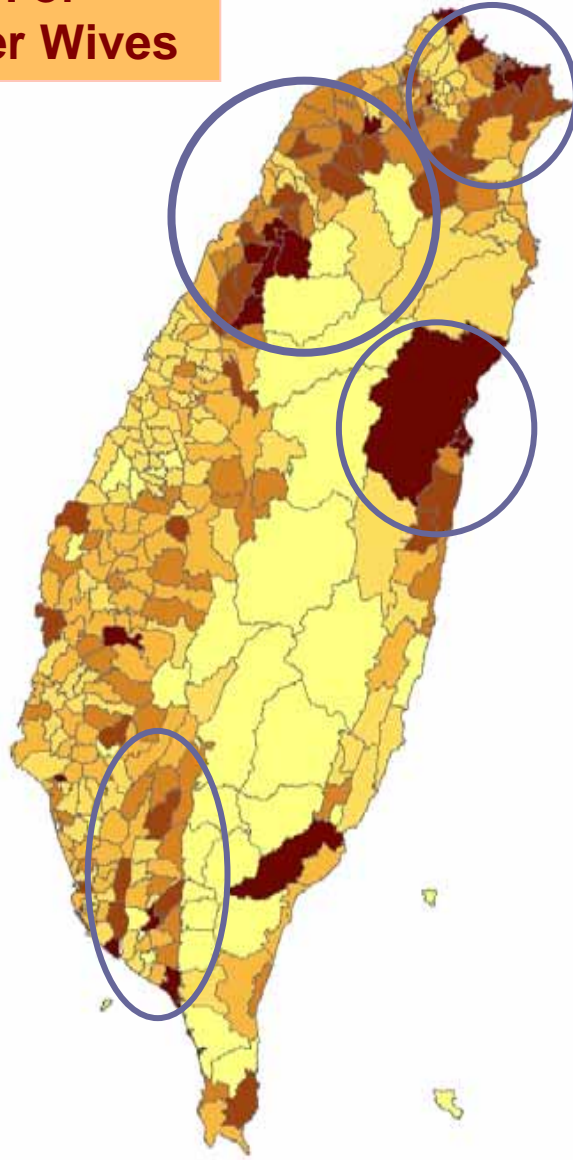
Proportion of SE Asian Wives



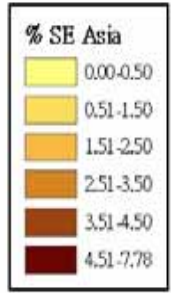
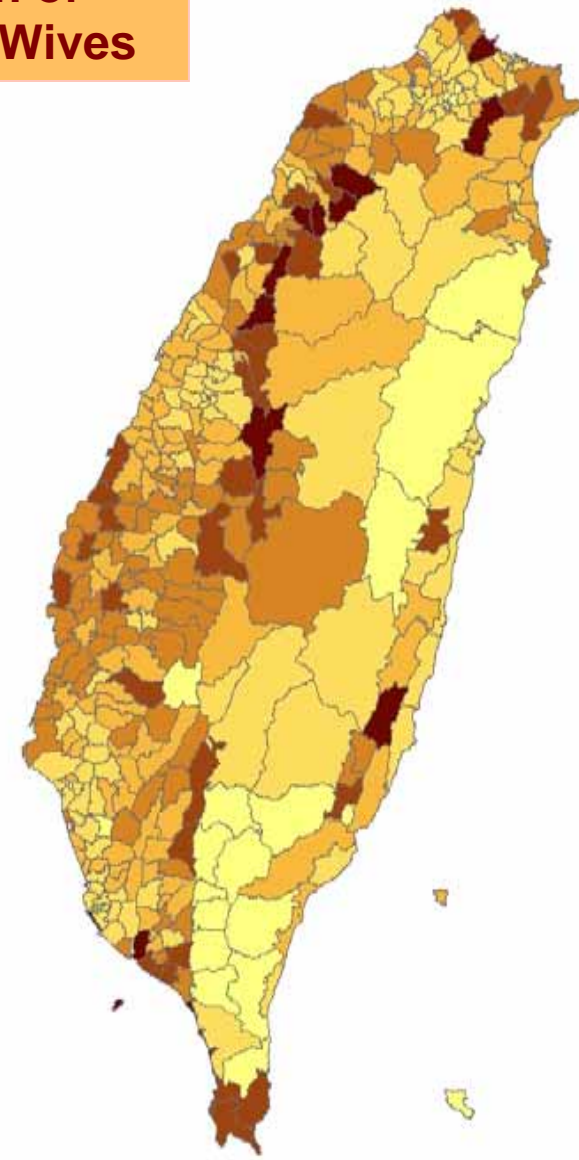
% SE Asia



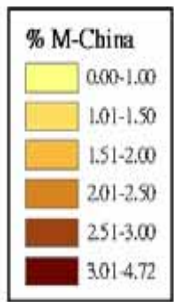
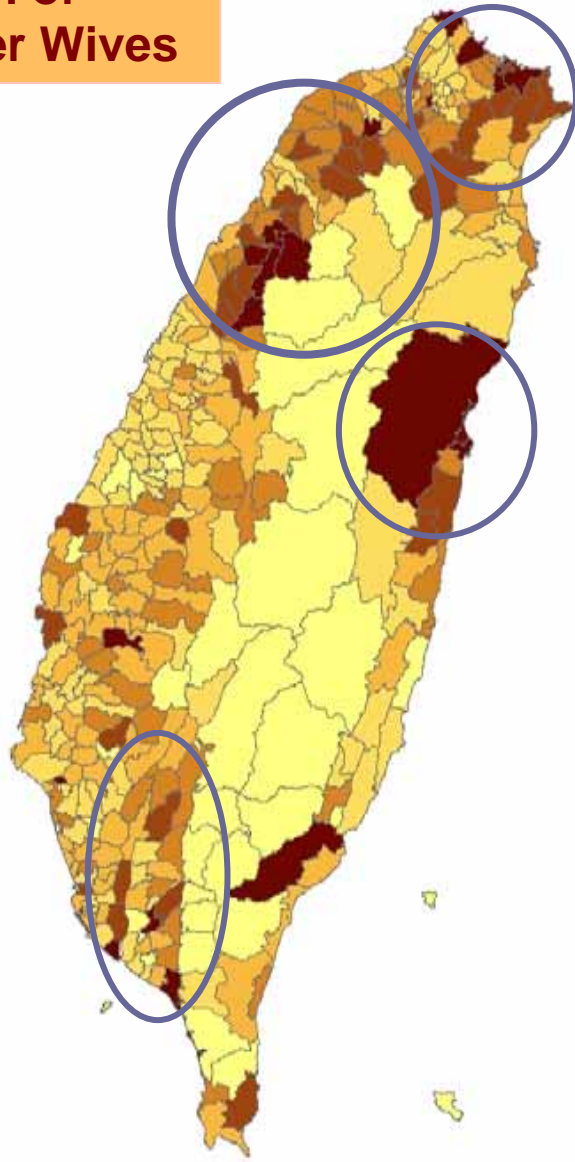
Proportion of Mainlander Wives



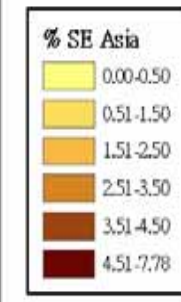
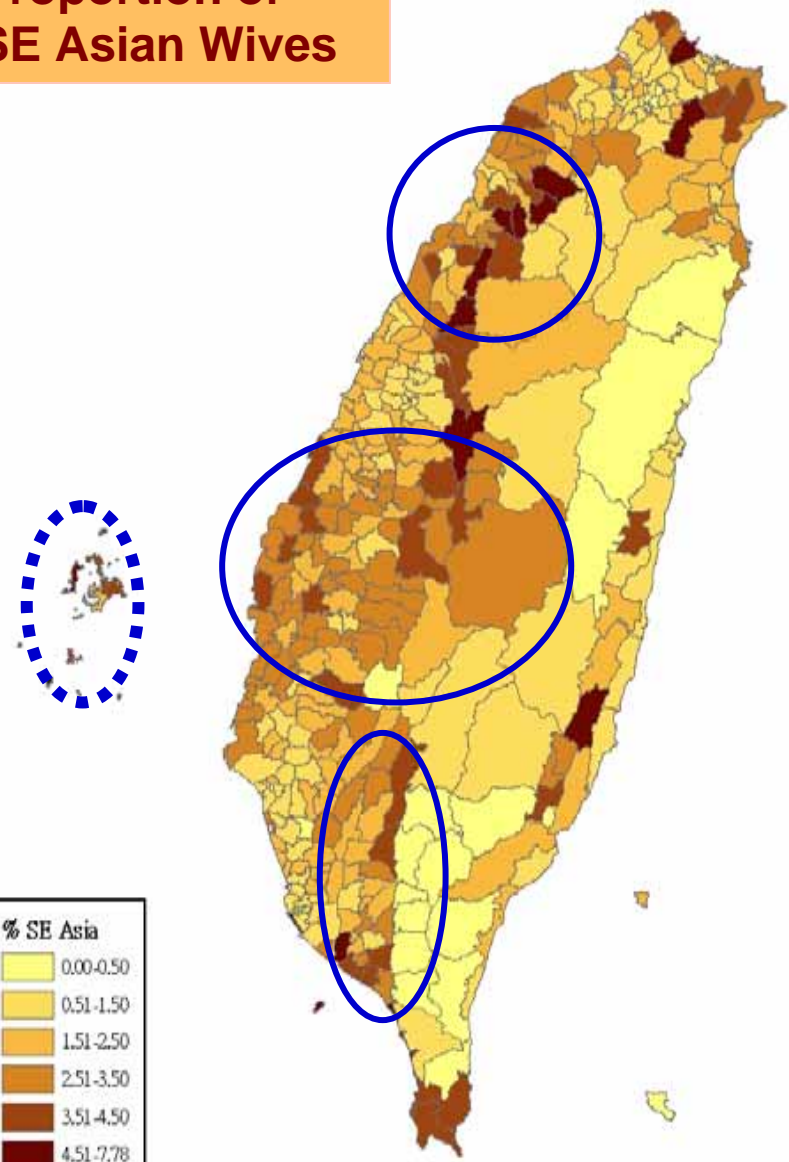
Proportion of SE Asian Wives



Proportion of Mainlander Wives



Proportion of SE Asian Wives



Foreign Wives "*breeding like rabbits*" and having children of "*low quality*" ?

- Relatively high proportion of Taiwanese men married to non-Taiwanese spouses have a high-school education.
- 11% of Taiwanese are classified as having a mental or physical impairment, or a low income.
- Low birthrate is found which is even lower than Taiwanese women's birthrate of 1.24.
- Only 0.1% of children of foreign and Mainland mothers suffer from developmental delay, which is also lower than the national average.

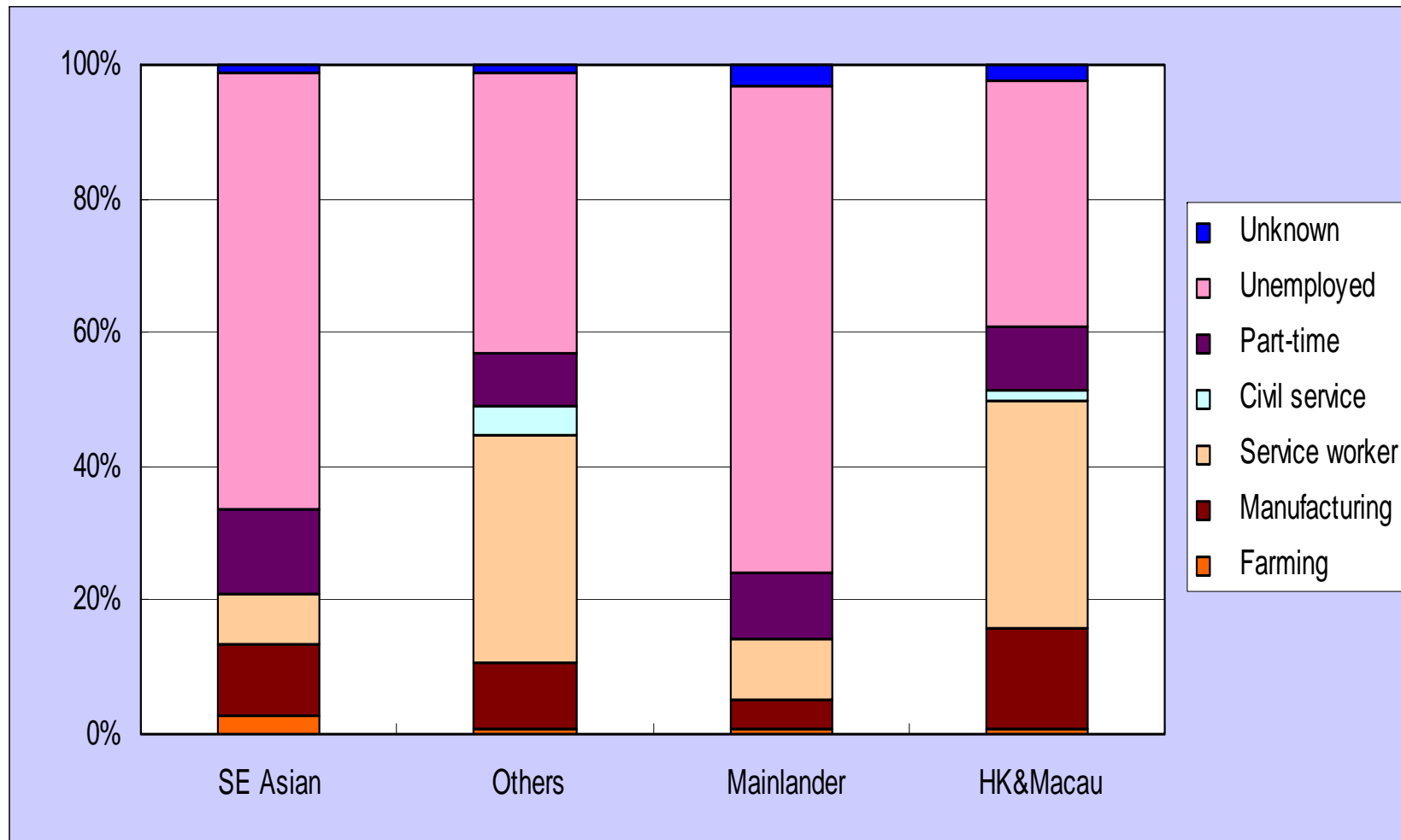
Reproductive Outcomes of Foreign and Mainland Chinese Spouses

	Foreigner		Mainlander	
	SE Asian	Others	Mainland	HK & Macau
0	30.0	37.2	<u>50.9</u>	29.3
1	40.5	29.1	29.4	27.3
2	25.1	26.0	17.4	29.6
3	4.0	6.6	2.1	10.0
4 +	0.4	1.1	0.2	3.8
Mean (all sample)	1.04	1.06	0.71	1.33
Mean (-childless)	1.49	1.68	1.45	1.88

Descriptive Statistics of Foreign and Mainland Chinese Spouses

		Foreigner		Mainlander	
		SE Asian	Others	Mainland	HK & Macau
Age	15-24	46.5	2.0	11.6	1.5
	25-34	41.3	29.3	56.5	18.5
	35-44	9.6	36.5	20.6	35.5
	45-54	2.2	17.3	8.0	24.6
	55-64	0.4	10.2	2.3	10.4
	65 +	0.1	4.6	1.1	9.5
Education					
	Illiteracy	3.0	0.3	2.3	3.0
	Elementary	33.1	5.6	18.8	18.7
	Junior high	35.7	10.3	40.9	28.3
	Senior high	21.3	19.0	27.5	30.7
	College	6.9	64.8	10.5	19.3

Descriptive Statistics of Foreign and Mainland Chinese Spouses: Employment Status



Logistic Regression Results of Reproductive Outcomes (1/4)

Variables	Childless		More than 2 Children	
	b	odds ratio	b	odd ratio
<i>Non-Taiwanese Wife</i>				
<u>SE Asian origin/Mainlander</u>	-0.613	0.542***	0.617	1.853***
<u>Age group</u>				
15-24	-1.592	0.203***	-3.192	0.041***
25-34	-1.792	0.167***	-1.393	0.248***
35-44	-1.160	0.314***	-0.897	0.408***
45 and over (ref.)	--	--	--	--
<u>Education level</u>				
Elementary (ref.)	--	--	--	--
Junior high	-0.110	0.896***	-0.290	0.749***
Senior high	-0.219	0.804***	-0.390	0.677***
College	-0.291	0.747***	-0.574	0.563***

Logistic Regression Results of Reproductive Outcomes (2/4)

<i>Difference between Couple</i>	Childless		More than 2 Children	
	b	odds ratio	b	odds ratio
<u>Age gap more than 10 yrs</u>	0.130	1.139***	-0.162	0.851***
<u>Education gap</u>				
Husband higher	-0.153	0.858***	-0.262	0.769***
Similar education	-0.100	0.905***	-0.116	0.891**
Wife higher (ref.)	--	--	--	--
<u>Husband's employment</u>				
Farming	-0.568	0.567***	0.308	1.360***
Manufacturing	-0.625	0.535***	-0.062	0.940
Service labor	-0.440	0.644***	-0.118	0.888*
Part-time	-0.424	0.654***	0.095	1.100
Unemployed (ref.)	--	--	--	--
<u>Husband's minority status</u>	0.373	1.452***	-0.316	0.729**
<u>Husband's disadvantage status</u>	0.088	1.092***	0.076	1.079

Logistic Regression Results of Reproductive Outcomes (3/4)

	Childless		More than 2 Children	
	b	odds ratio	b	odds ratio
<i>Marital Characteristics</i>				
<u>First marriage</u>	-1.725	0.178***	1.359	3.893***
<u>First year of marriage***</u>	2.350	10.488***		
<u>Co-residing w/parents-in-law</u>	-0.547	0.579***	0.075	1.078*

Logistic Regression Results of Reproductive Outcomes (4/4)

Variables	Childless		More than 2 Children	
	b	odds ratio	b	odds ratio
<i>Place of Residence</i>				
<u>Metropolitan area</u>	0.164	1.179***	-0.282	0.754***
<u>Geographic space</u>				
Northern region (ref.)	--	--	--	--
Central region	-0.003	0.997	0.141	1.151***
Southern region	-0.037	1.038*	-0.038	0.962
Eastern region	-0.088	1.092*	0.147	1.158
Kinmen & Matsu	-0.625	0.535***	1.158	3.182***

Total Births and Sex Ratio at Birth by Mother's Origin in Taiwan, 1998-2005

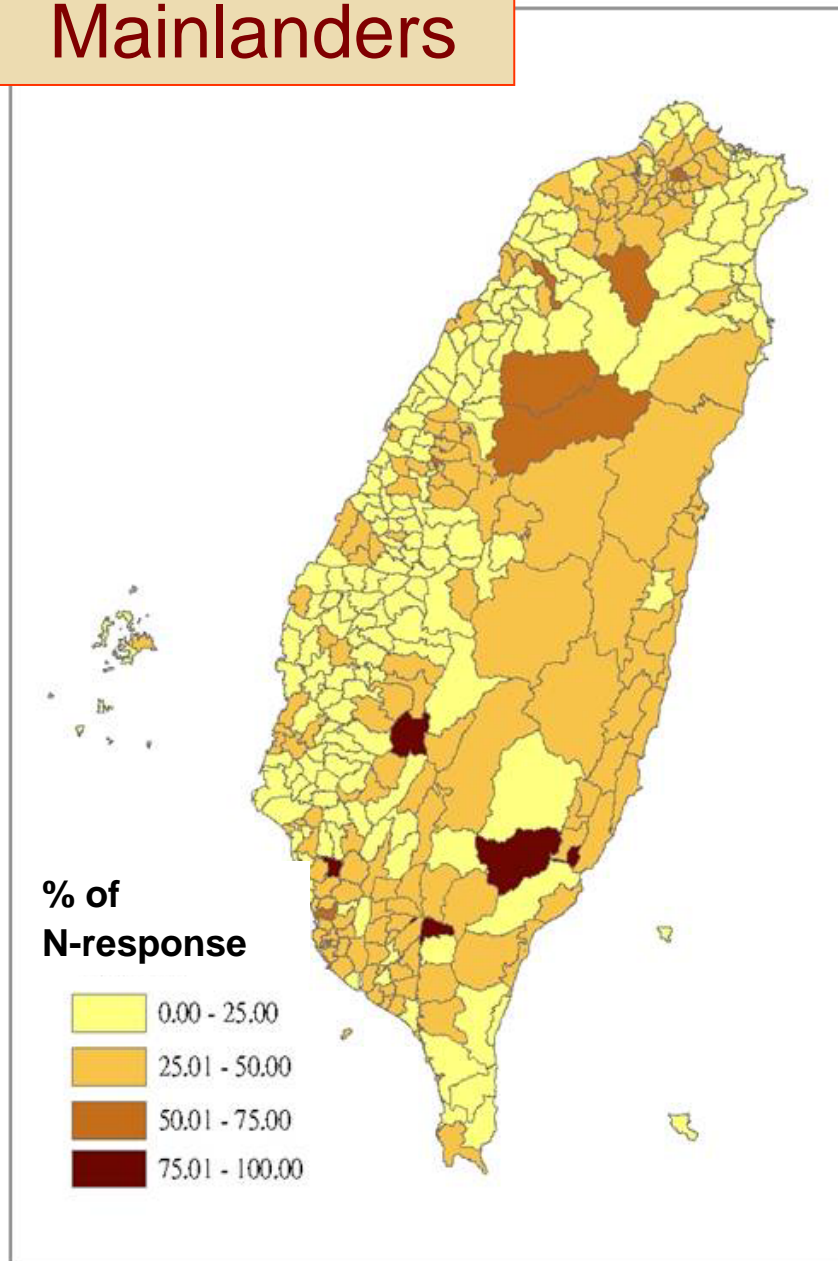
Year	Taiwan's Total Births ^a		Sex Ratio of 1st Birth ^b		Sex Ratio of 2nd Birth	
	Number	Sex Ratio	SE Asian	Mainlander	SE Asian	Mainlander
1998	254,776	1.088	1.154	1.174	1.141	1.163
1999	270,217	1.093	1.163	1.214	1.166	1.187
2000	292,724	1.096	1.125	1.175	1.132	1.171
2001	246,381	1.087	1.198	1.158	1.093	1.114
2002	236,687	1.098	1.234	1.209	1.184	1.200
2003	217,456	1.102	1.229	1.277	1.132	1.182
2004	216,419	1.106	1.076	1.106		
2005	205,854	1.090	1.099	1.087		

Conclusion and Discussion

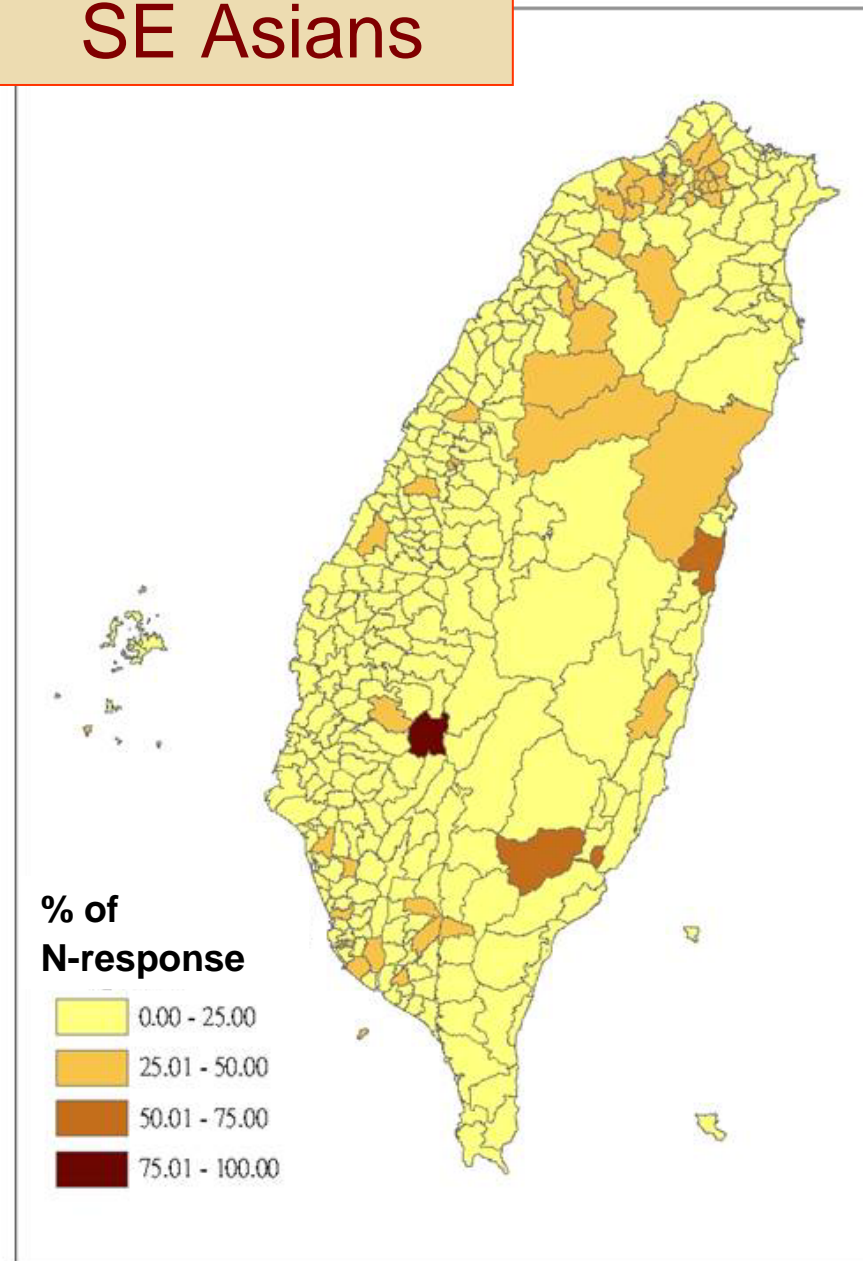


- Late marriage + Intercultural marriages
→ Timing and Form of marriages
- Lifelong singleness? Postponement of marriage?
 - Positive assortative matching on education and age
- Possible negative consequences of intercultural marriages on the family and the overall society?
 - Minority group status vs. Assimilationist hypothesis
- Quality of data set

Nonresponse Mainlanders



Nonresponse SE Asians



赴大陸相親結婚八天行程

專人辦理

專業規劃行程

HOT!! 視訊聯誼

大陸相親結婚八天行程

桂林百位佳麗

微連鎖經營

伴娘全套服務

hinet.net

8-day Match-Making Tour

Day1: Departure

Day2: Match-making

Day3: Decision-making

Day4: Document filing

Day5: Marital banquet

Day6: Visiting wife's kin

Day7: Relaxing time

Day8: Back to Taiwan

“Interview” at airports

大陸相親結婚八天行程

赴大陸相親結婚八天行程表

- 第一天:出發(小港機場)
- 第二天:相親(交往、了解)
- 第三天:相親、提親
- 第四天:辦理結婚各項手續
- 第五天:
 - 1.辦理結婚手續完成
 - 2.結婚典禮、宴客
 - 3.男、女雙方成為合法夫妻
 - 4.新婚之夜
- 第六天:拜訪女方親友
- 第七天:自由安排
- 第八天:男方回台灣(女方送機)

回台後需要辦理之手續

- 1.向「海基會」申請公證書驗證
- 2.管區派出所辦理對保手續
- 3.向「入出境管理局」申請大陸配偶入境
- 4.大陸配偶於中正或高雄機場國際線面談，通過者境管局在入出境許可證加蓋「通過面談，請憑証辦理結婚登記」章戳
- 5.向戶政事務所辦理結婚登記



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