LABOR MARKET ENTRY OF IMMIGRANT YOUTH IN ITALY: TIMING, GENDER DISPARITIES AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

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RQ

Does the timing of labour market entry vary across different generations of migrants and by gender?

1 Theoretical Background

Research shows that **young people with a migration background** do not necessarily follow the **transition timelines** of the non-immigrant majority. Timelines vary not only between different generations but also among different ethnic groups (Ferrari and Pailhé, 2017). **The timing of entry into the labour market** is important because it often coincides with the end of schooling and it is the first step toward independence.

- **Life course transitions** (Elder, 1985).
- **Ethnic penalty** (Heath & Cheung, 2007)
- **Downward assimilation** (Portes and Zhou, 1993).

Hypothesis 2

1. Youths with a migration background enter in the labour market **earlier** than Italians;
2. Women enter the labour market **later** than men.

Methodology & Sample 3

DATA SOURCE	Italian Labour Force Survey **(LFS)** 2021 ad hoc module from **ISTAT**
METHODS	**Event History Analysis** for discrete time & **logistic regression model**
SAMPLE	**9.502 observations** individuals aged between **25** and **34**

DEFINITIONS

Italian Natives (83.64% of the sample).
Migrants arrived at preschool age: (G 2) Born in Italy & (G 1.75) arrived up to the age of 6, with at least one foreign parent (4.02%).
Migrants arrived at school age: (G 1.50 & G 1.25) Born aboard with foreign parents and arrived between the ages of 6 and 17 (2.58%).
Migrants arrived at post-school age: (G 1) Born abroad with foreign parents and arrived after the age of 18 (9.77%).

Retrospective question
Year of starting the first job

Event
Finding the first job

Individuals exposed to the risk
Observed from ages 14 to 34

Italian Context 4

Figure 1* – Percentage of young adults, aged 25-34, with migration background in Italian provinces
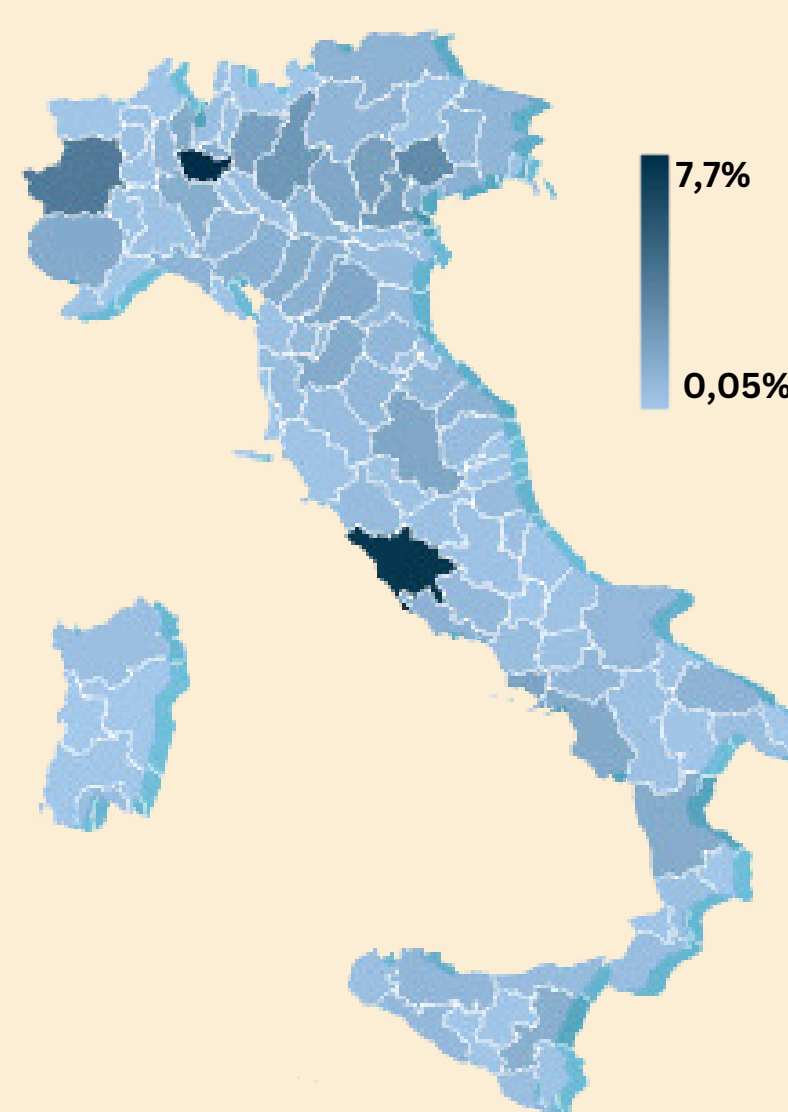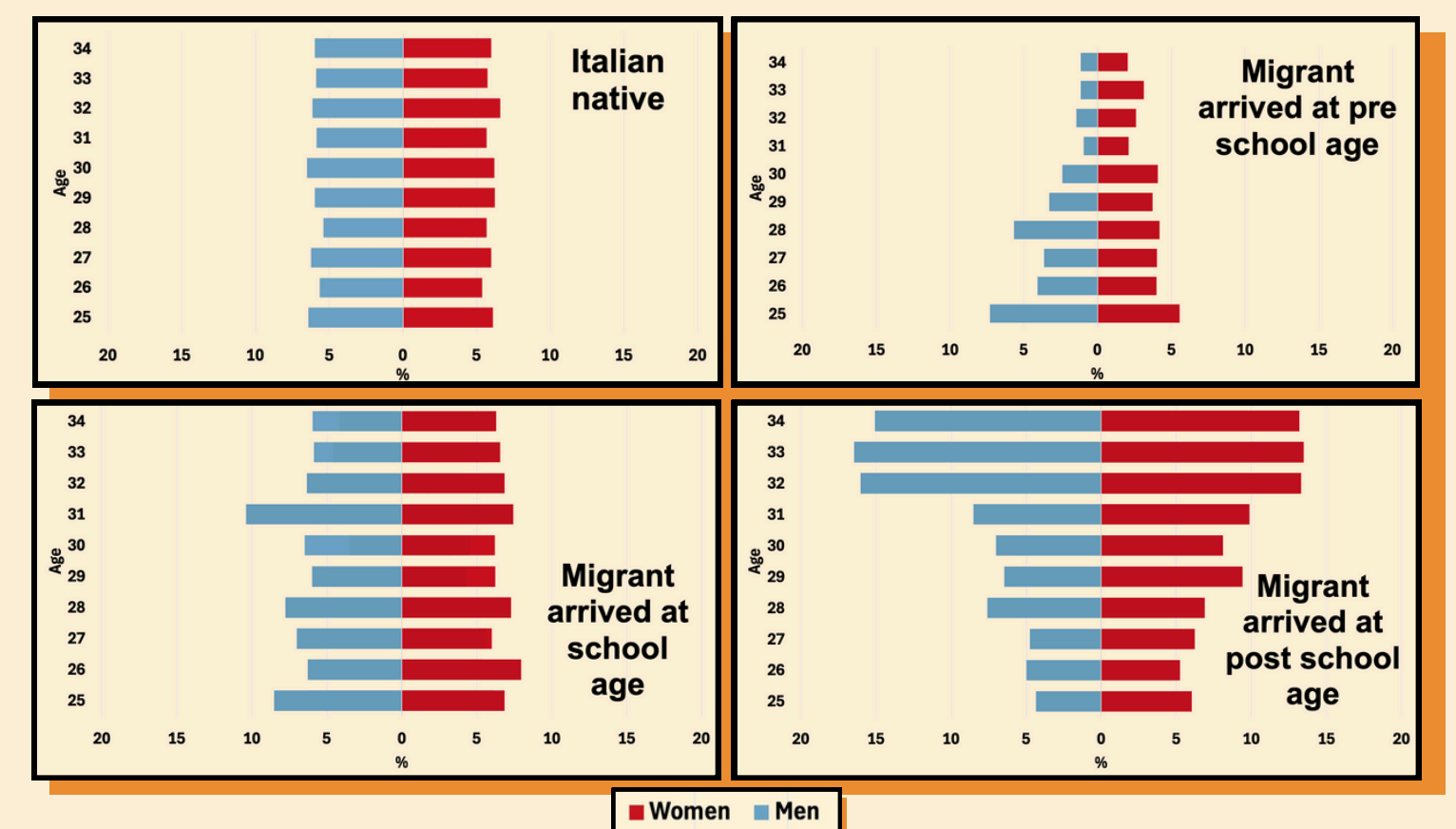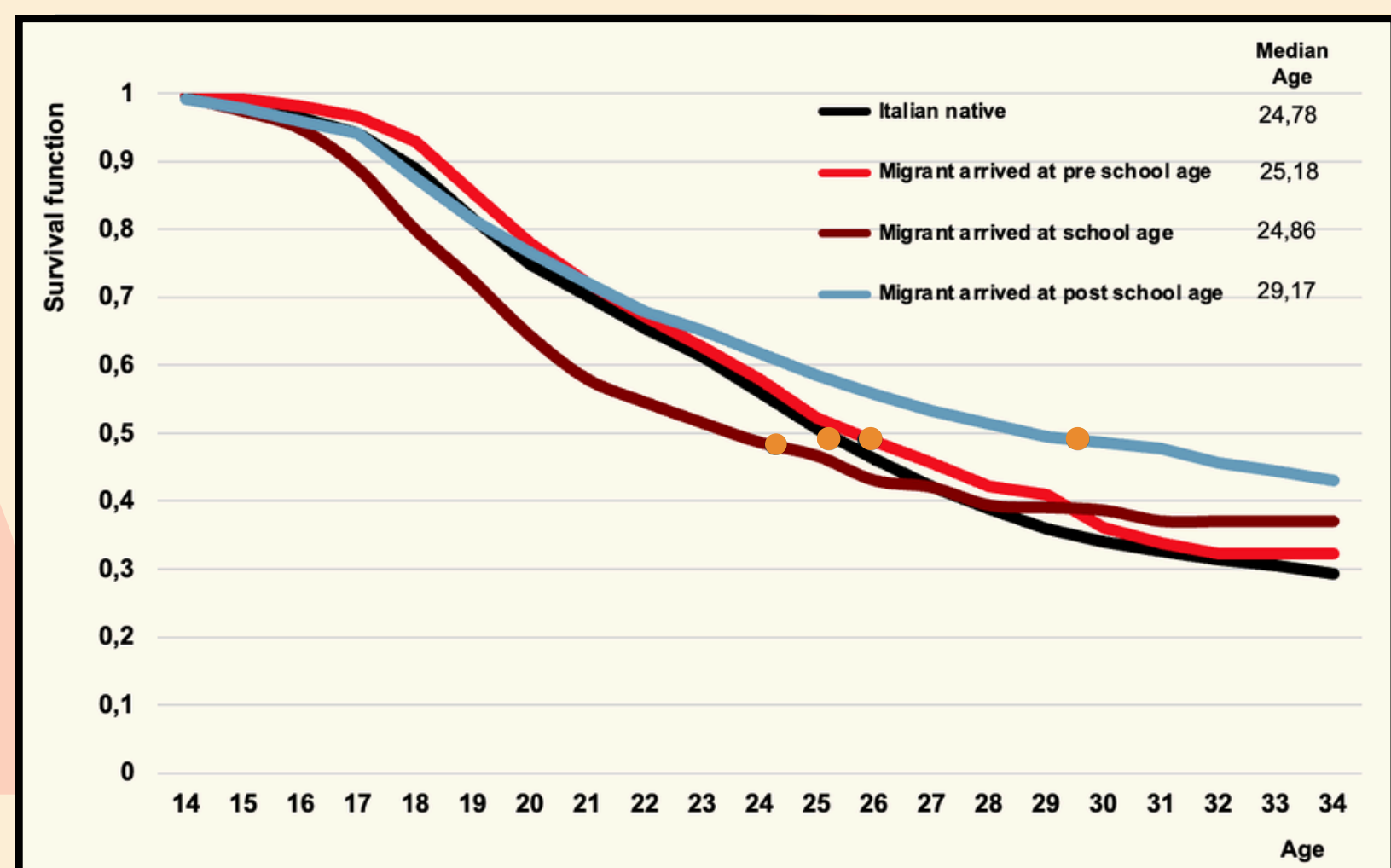

7,7%
0,05%

Figure 2* – Age and Gender Pyramid of Selected Groups from the Weighted Sample in the 25-34 Age Bracket

Italian native

Migrant arrived at pre school age

Migrant arrived at school age

Migrant arrived at post school age

Women   Men

In Italy, regular immigrants primarily reside in the provinces of Milan and Rome. There are significant differences in age distribution, particularly as immigrants who arrived at a preschool age are still relatively few, very young, predominantly under 18 years old.

Results 5

Figure 3* – Survival curve and median age for the first job in the identified groups from 14 to 34 years old

	Median Age
Italian native	24,78
Migrant arrived at pre school age	25,18
Migrant arrived at school age	24,86
Migrant arrived at post school age	29,17

The older immigrants are when they arrive in Italy, the younger they tend to enter the labour market. This trend is evident when the data is disaggregated by gender.

Figure 4* – Survival curve and median age for the first job of immigrants arrived post school age by gender in the 25-34 Age Bracket
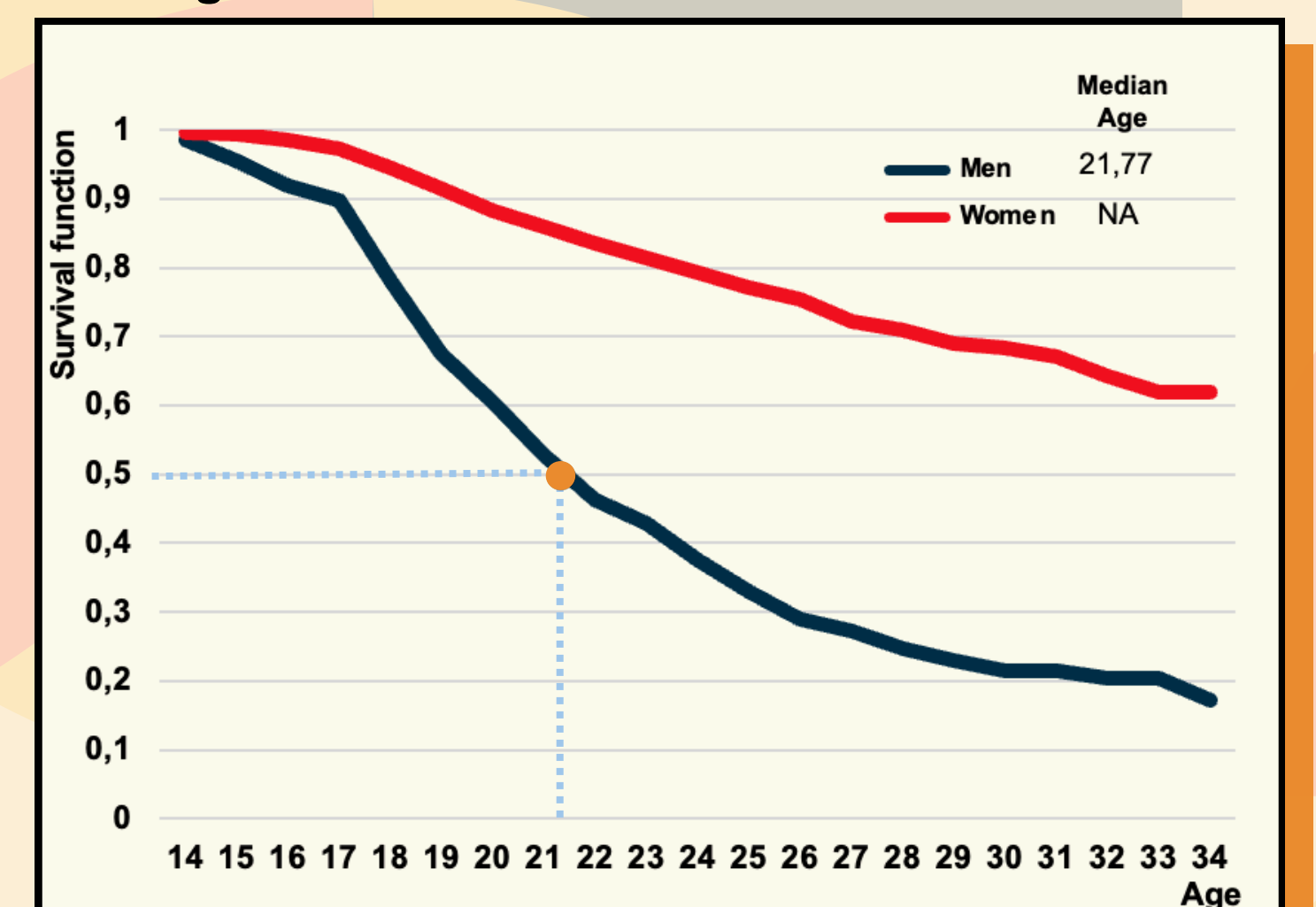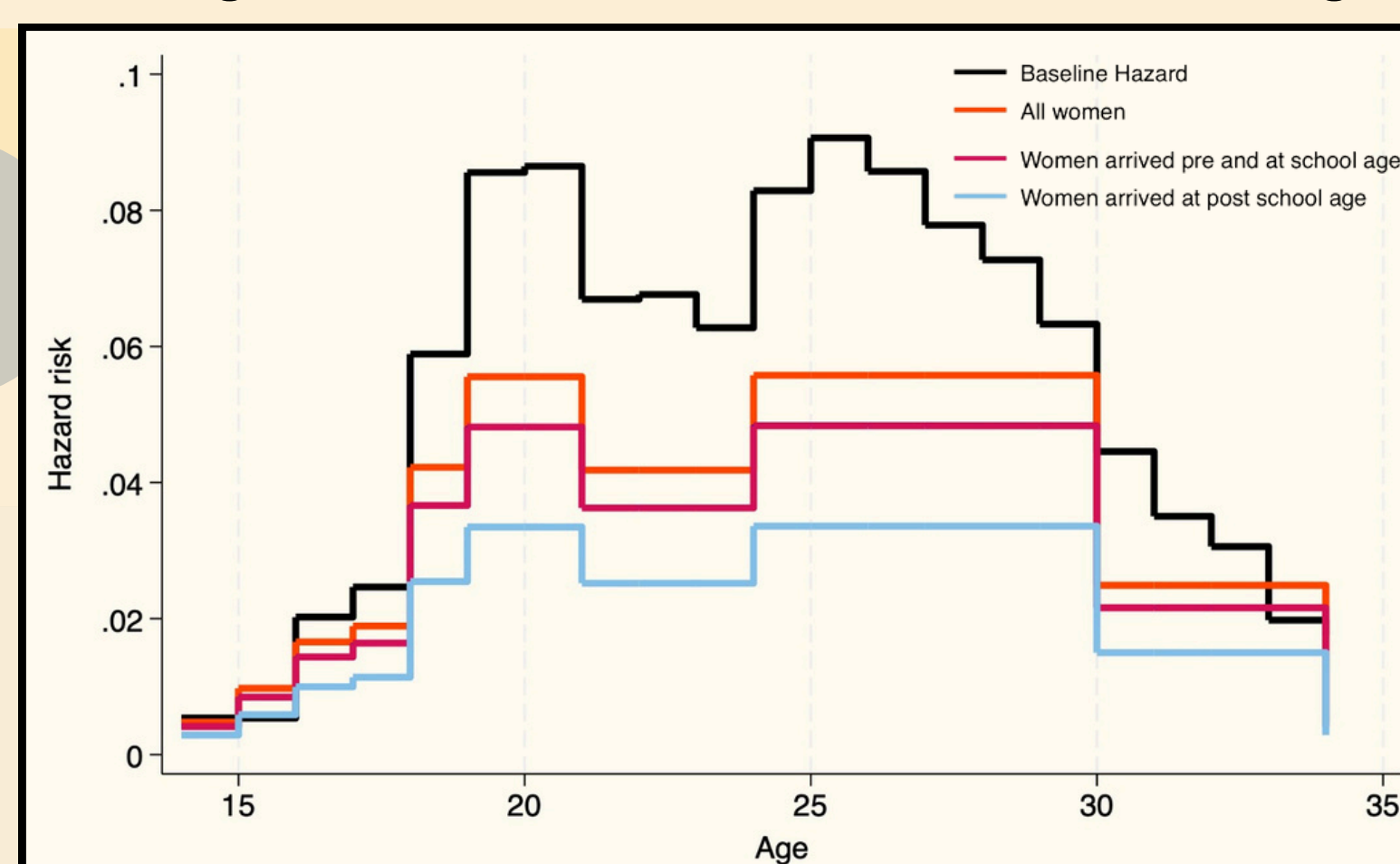

	Median Age
Men	21,77
Women	NA

Women enter the labor market later than men, highlighting pronounced gender differences in the age of workforce entry, and face a lower "risk" of finding their first job, despite their higher educational qualifications.

Figure 5* – The hazard curve obtained for the event finding the frist job from the logistic model for women in the different identified groups

Baseline Hazard
All women
Women arrived pre and at school age
Women arrived at post school age

Logistic Model

- **Dependent variable:** finding the first job
- **Independent:** gender, age, identified groups, education level, parents education level, internship, place of residence

6 Conclusion & Discussion

These findings highlight the specificities of the Italian context, where older immigrants' workforce transitions are driven by immediate **economic pressures and rapid adaptation** (Piccitto, 2023). While similar phenomena exist in Europe (Brinbaum, 2018), the Italian labor market is marked by **segmentation**, **structural barriers, and gender disparities**, further hindering migrants' workforce integration.

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*Source: our elaborations on LFS 2021 data