



Single Mother Labor Market

Jessica Chen, Dr. David Rosenbaum

MOTIVATION

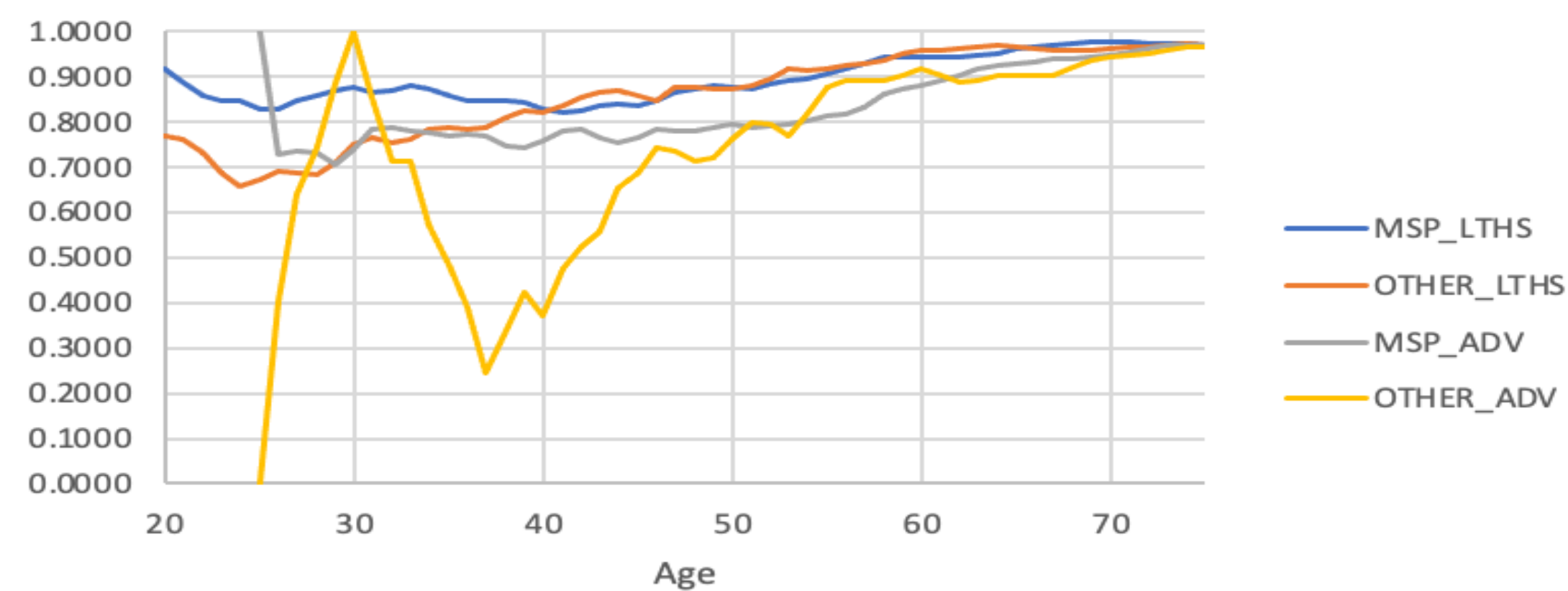
Welfare of children depends on parents' income. Income depends on participation in the labor market. We examine one factor that influences participation among mothers with young children.

QUESTION

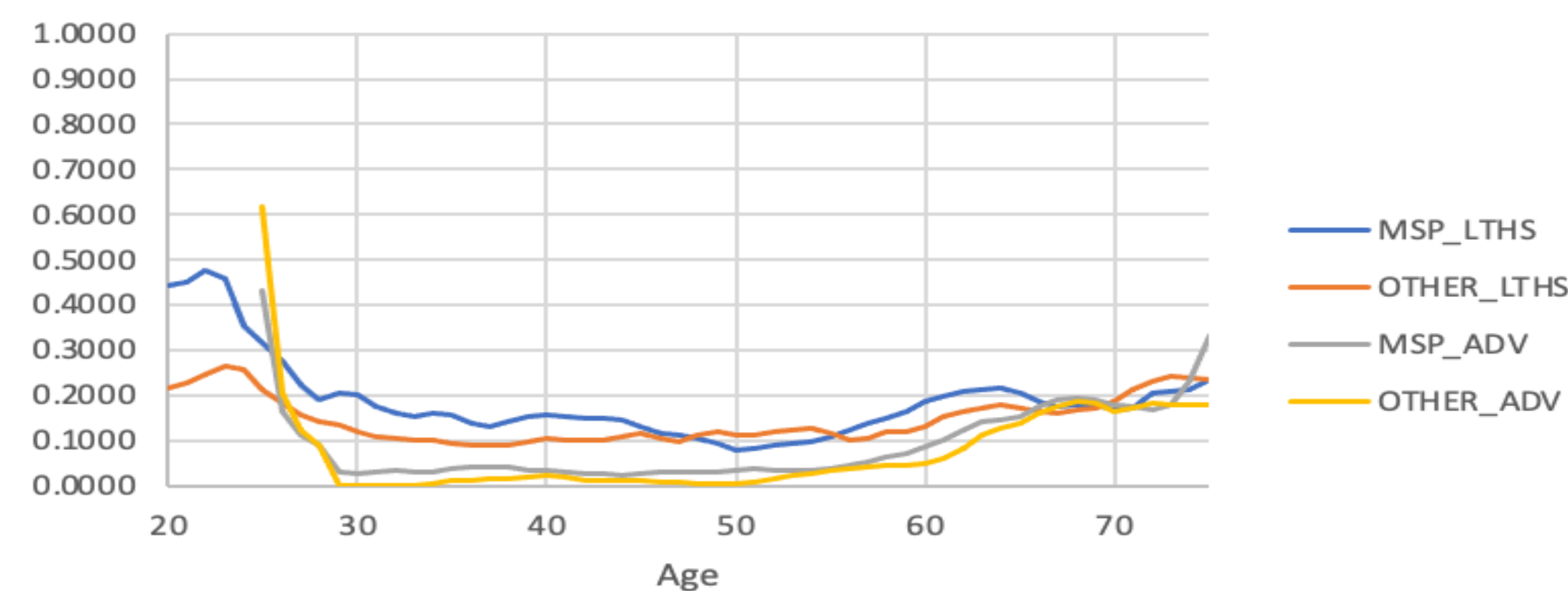
Do single mothers work more throughout their lifetimes than married mothers? If so, do these differences vary by level of education?

TRANSITION PROBABILITIES

Inactive to Inactive Probabilities



Active to Inactive Probabilities



DATA

Used the Current Population Survey (2009-2018) from IPUMS. Data were filtered for only the female population in the workforce, 485,388 observations. To identify mothers, we included women with a youngest child under 17, which had 124,879 observations. Observations were partitioned by education and marital status. To conduct the analysis, after the age 50, we combine the female population to calculate the transition probabilities.

METHOD

Created a 3-state Markov model to calculate worklives for each group. The model estimates the probability of transitioning from the active or inactive states in one year to either state the next year. Transition probabilities are then used to estimate worklives. A worklife shows the number of years someone will be active in the labor market over their remaining life.

CONCLUSIONS/DISCUSSIONS

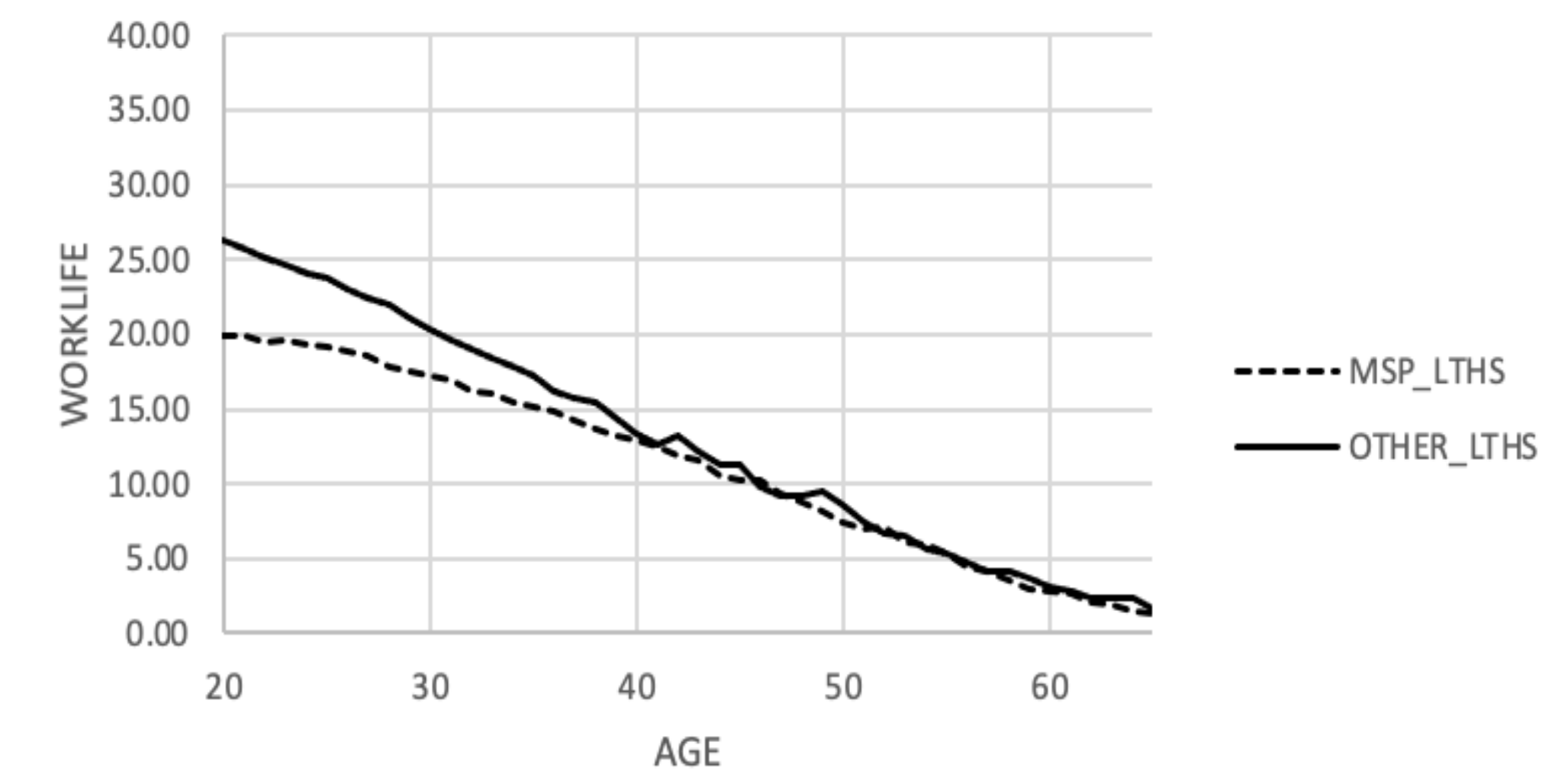
From the worklife graphs, mothers with a spouse present are more likely to stay in the workforce than single mothers. More educated mothers are more likely to stay in the workforce than less educated mothers. The gap between worklives closes for spouse present mothers and other mothers as education levels increase.

CONTACT INFORMATION

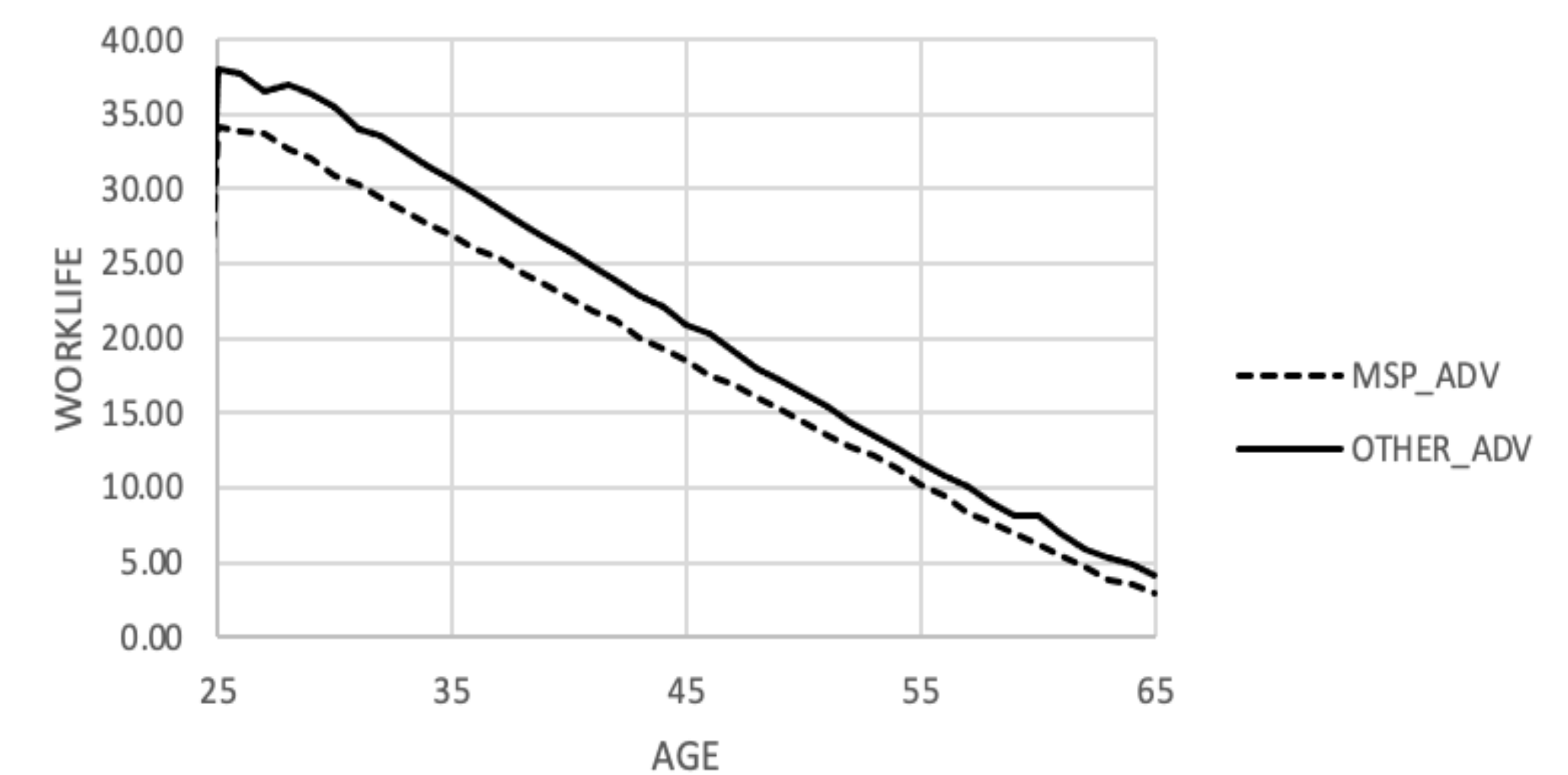
Jessica Chen
jchen60@huskers.unl.edu
www.linkedin.com/Jessica-chen-0403

RESULTS

Worklives LTHS



Worklives ADV



DEFINITIONS

MSP – Married with Spouse Present in household
Other – All others that are not in MSP category
LTHS – Less Than High School
ADV – Advanced Degrees