Universität zu Köln

KIN MAT RIX

Beyond the nuclear family: New data on kinship networks reveal matrilineal tilts, ripple effects of divorce, and the importance of extended kin

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant agreement No. 848861).

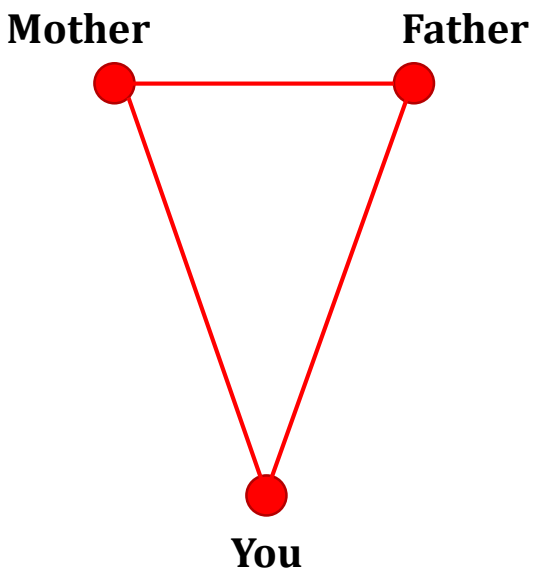
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

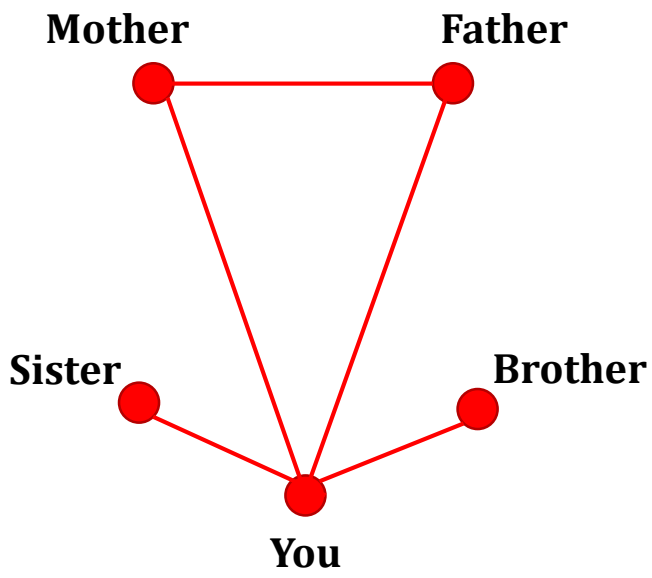
KINMATRIX Team

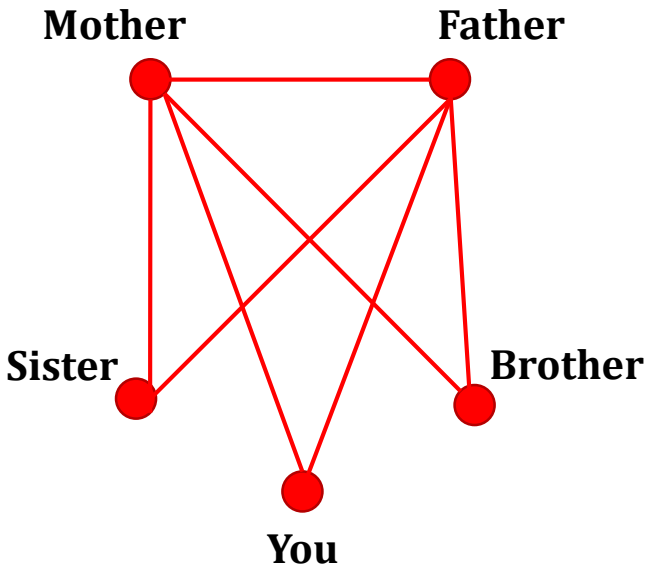


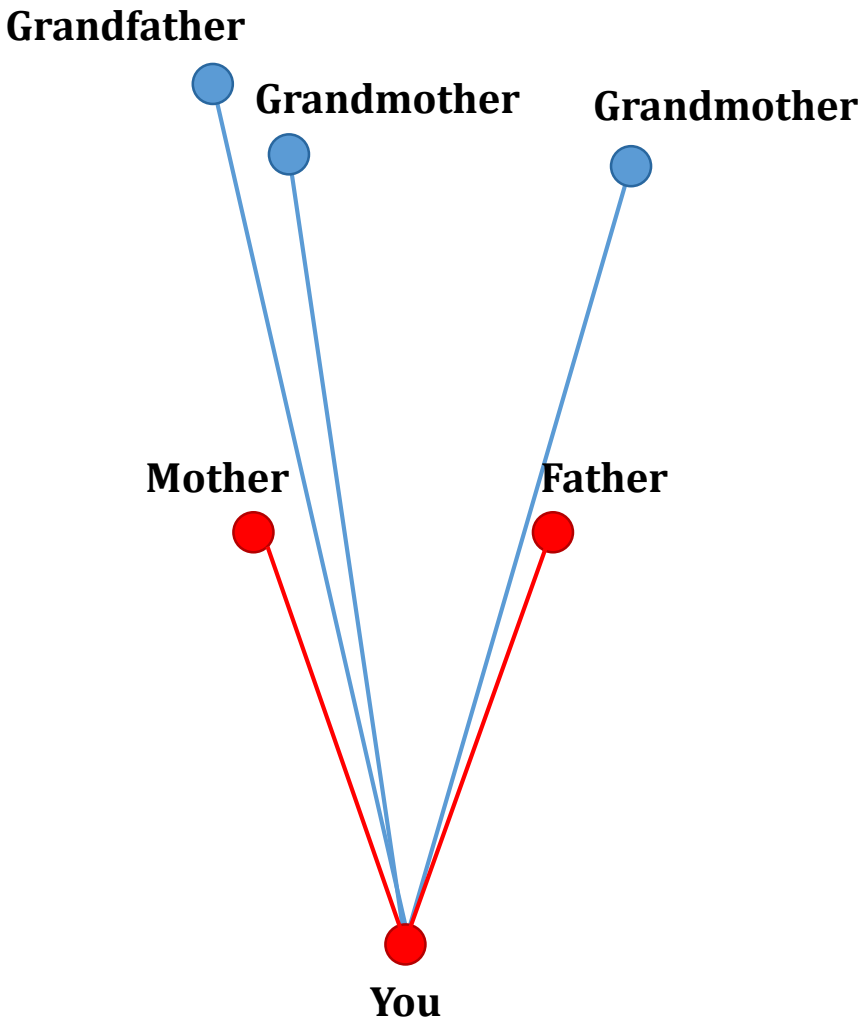


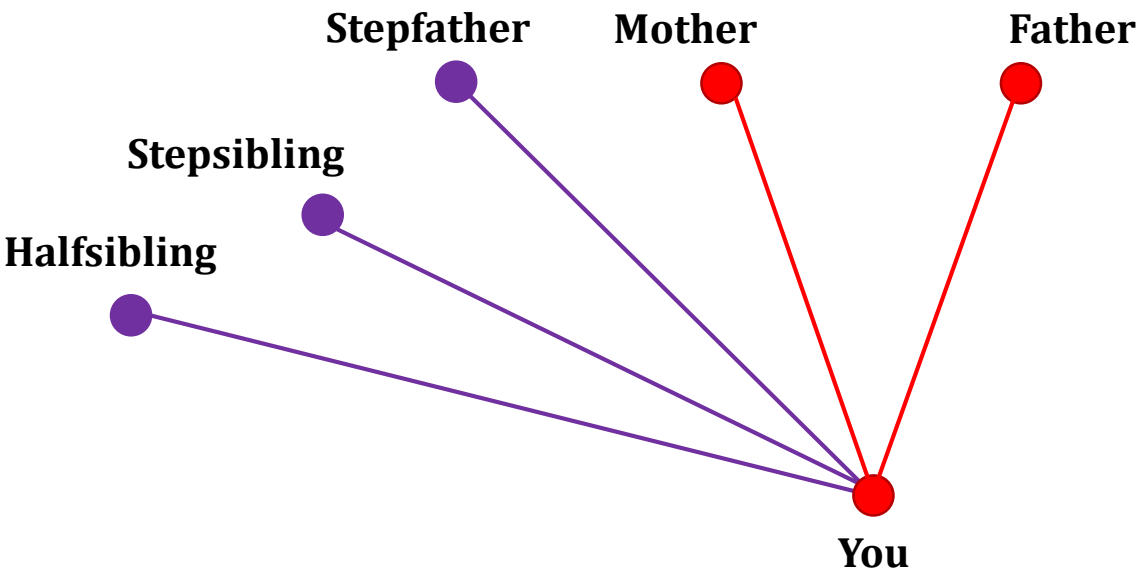


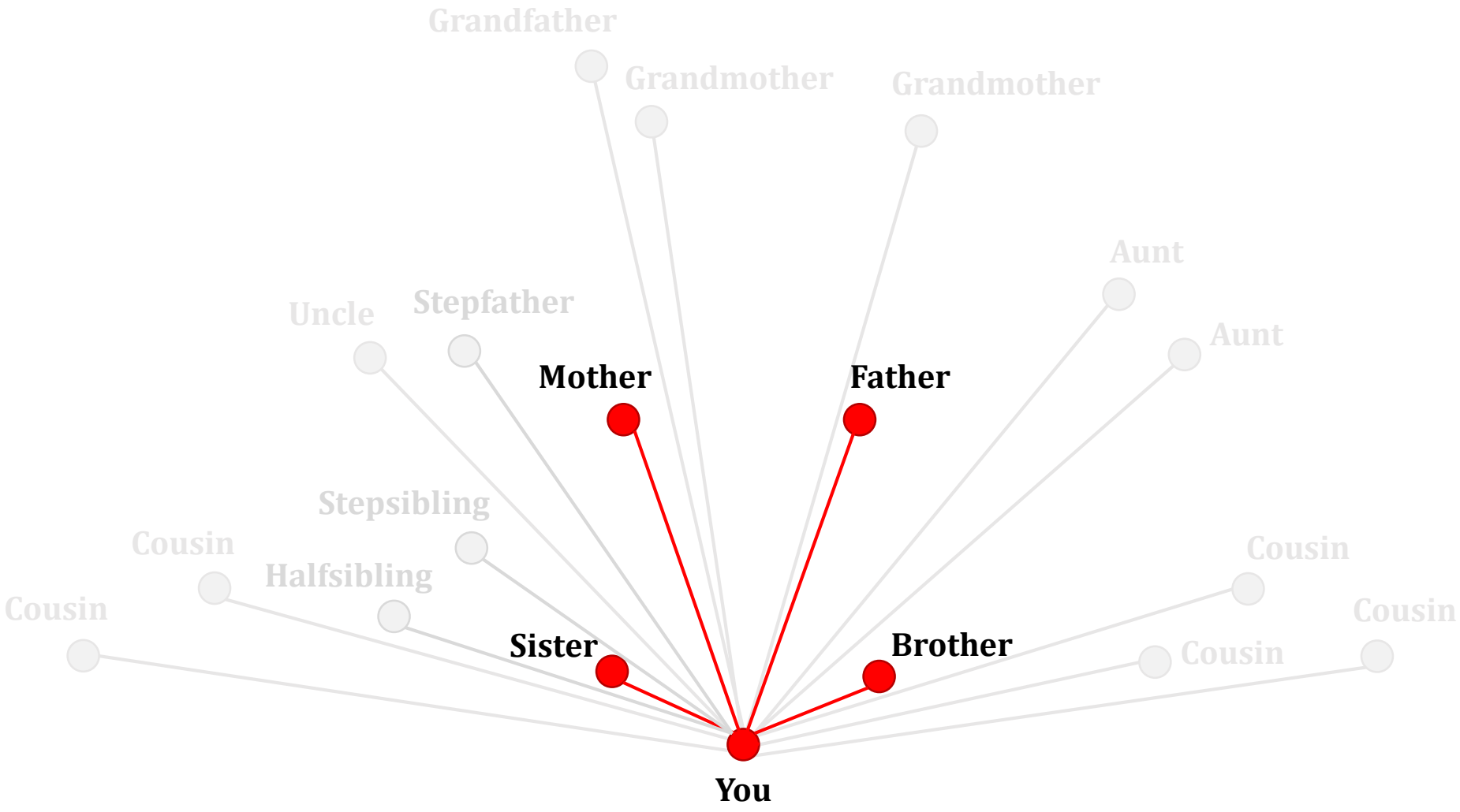


Mother
Father
You


Mother
Father
Sister
Brother
You

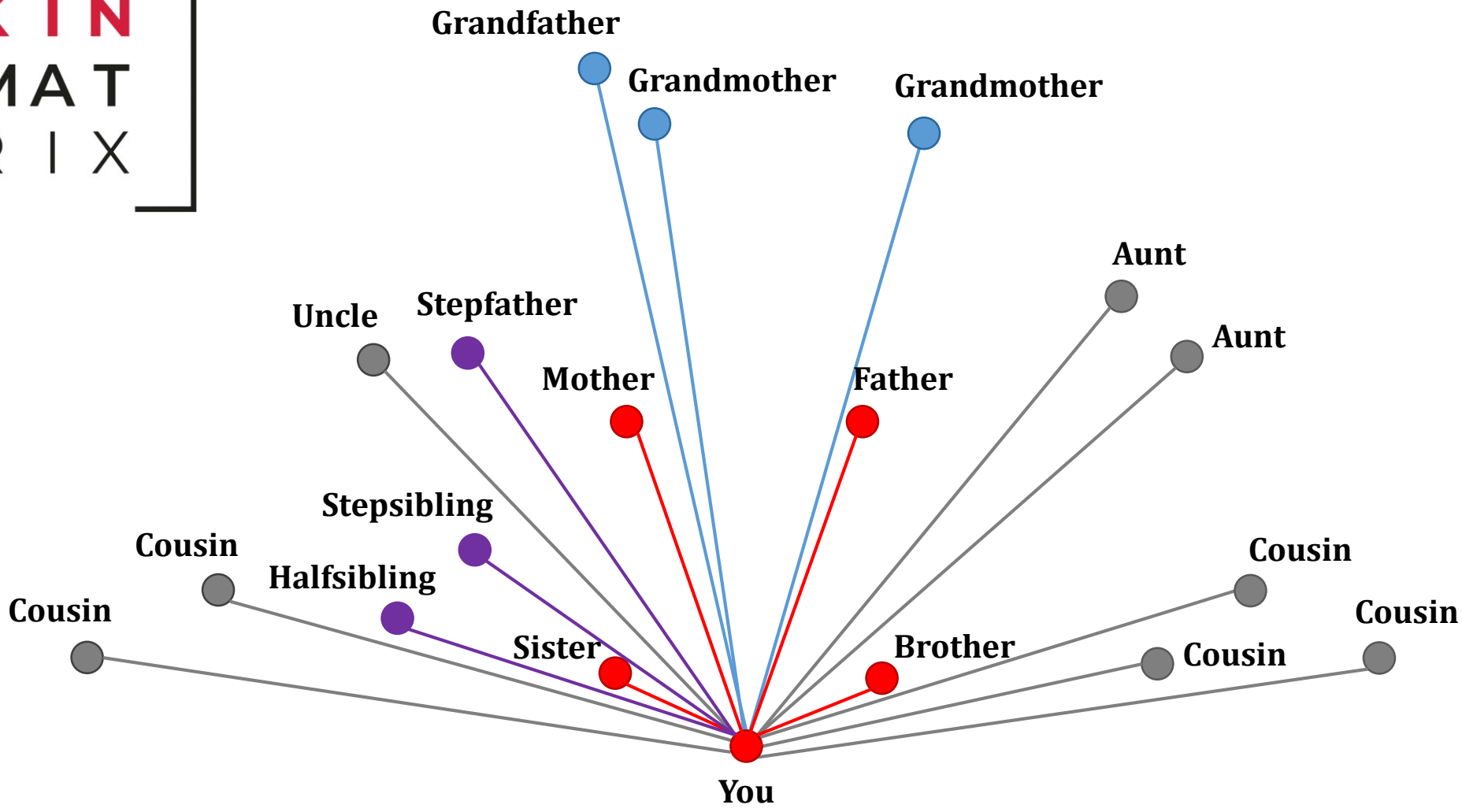

Mother
Father
Sister
Brother
You


Grandfather
Grandmother
Grandmother
Mother
Father
You


Stepfather
Mother
Father
Stepsibling
Halfsibling
You


Grandfather
Grandmother
Grandmother
Aunt
Uncle
Stepfather
Aunt
Mother
Father
Stepsibling
Cousin
Cousin
Halfsibling
Cousin
Cousin
Sister
Brother
Cousin
You

KIN
MAT
RIX


Grandfather
Grandmother
Grandmother
Aunt
Uncle
Stepfather
Aunt
Mother
Father
Stepsibling
Cousin
Cousin
Halfsibling
Cousin
Cousin
Sister
Brother
Cousin
You

Why family networks?

Why family networks?

Table 1. Items mentioned as most important in current life in priority order

	1st most important (n = 1968)		2nd most important (n = 1687)		3rd most important (n = 1113)		4th most important (n = 591)		5th most important (n = 243)	
	%	(No.)	%	(No.)	%	(No.)	%	(No.)	%	(No.)
Relationships with family/relatives	31	(602)	16	(264)	10	(112)	6	(38)	4	(11)
Relationships with other people	4	(69)	6	(103)	5	(54)	5	(31)	8	(18)
Own health	23	(460)	15	(246)	6	(71)	7	(41)	9	(22)
Health of someone close/responsible for	20	(397)	12	(197)	6	(62)	4	(23)	1	(3)
Finances/housing/standard of living	10	(192)	25	(430)	29	(322)	26	(156)	17	(41)
Environment (pollution, rubbish, noise, cleanliness, safety)	1	(16)	3	(53)	6	(62)	5	(28)	9	(21)
Conditions at work/job satisfaction	2	(36)	5	(81)	6	(69)	9	(52)	7	(21)
Availability of work/able to work	3	(59)	6	(101)	8	(95)	7	(42)	6	(14)
Social life/leisure activities	2	(43)	5	(88)	11	(119)	16	(92)	20	(48)
Religion/spiritual life	1	(21)	1	(19)	2	(21)	3	(15)	3	(8)
Education	1	(23)	2	(36)	3	(39)	3	(18)	4	(11)
Other*	2	(50)	4	(69)	8	(87)	9	(55)	12	(29)

*For example crime, politics/government, happiness/well-being, unspecified, etc.

Table 2. Most important items (all items from ranks 1–5) by sex and by age*

				Age						
Coded quality items	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)	16 < 2 5 (%)	25 < 4 5 (%)	45 < 5 5 (%)	55 < 6 5 (%)	65 < 7 5 (%)	75 and over (%)	Total %
Relationships with family/relatives	47	57	52	41	58	53	54	47	46	52
Relationships with other people	13	15	14	25	14	11	9	12	16	14
Own health	42	43	43	30	33	38	55	65	60	43
Health of someone close/responsible for	31	38	35	18	39	38	42	32	26	35
Financial security/housing/standard of living	61	55	58	56	67	63	52	48	35	58
Environment	9	9	9	5	11	7	12	7	10	9
Conditions at work/job satisfaction	16	11	13	16	20	14	7	2	0	13
Availability of work/able to work	18	13	16	23	19	22	12	4	4	16
Social life, leisure activities	24	16	20	37	17	16	14	22	20	20
Religion, spiritual	4	5	4	1	4	5	6	6	6	4
Education	6	7	6	20	7	4	3	1	1	6
Other†	14	16	15	10	13	18	20	14	15	15
Base	939	1029	1968	248	702	329	281	267	143	1968

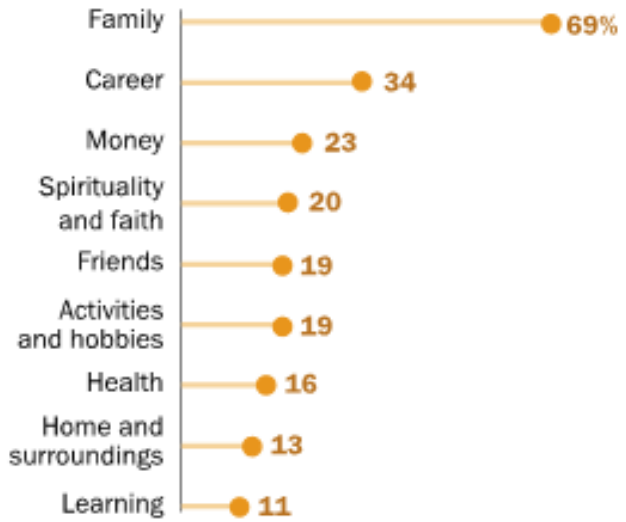
*Percentages may not add up to 100% as this question is multicoded.
†Crime, politics/government, happiness/well-being unspecified, etc.

Bowling 1995, UK, OPCS Omnibus Survey

Why family networks?

Americans most likely to mention family when describing what provides them with a sense of meaning

In an open-ended question, % of Americans who mention ____ when describing what provides them with a sense of meaning

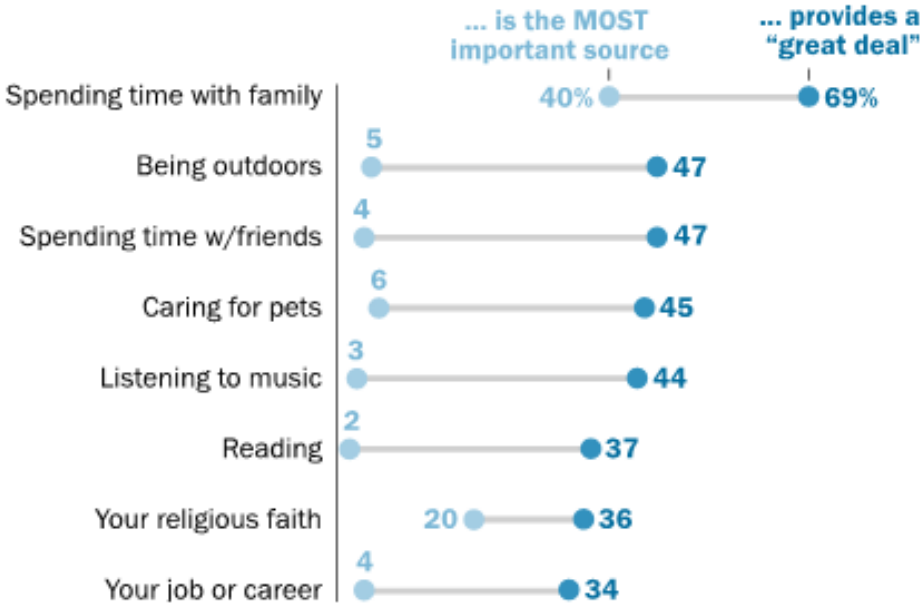


Source: Survey conducted Sept. 14-28, 2017, among U.S. adults.
"Where Americans Find Meaning in Life"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Religion second to family as 'most important' source of meaning in lives of American adults

In closed-ended questions, % of Americans who say each source ____ of meaning and fulfillment in their lives



Note: Respondents were first asked how much meaning and fulfillment they derive (a great deal, some, not much, or none at all) from each of 15 possible sources. Respondents could indicate they derive "a great deal" of meaning from more than one source. Subsequently, respondents were asked which of the sources that provide them with "a great deal" of meaning provides the *most* meaning and fulfillment in their lives. In this chart, only the sources most frequently mentioned as providing "a great deal" of meaning and fulfillment are shown. For additional details, including full question wording, see the topline accompanying Pew Research Center's report "The Religious Typology."
Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.
"Where Americans Find Meaning in Life"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Many Americans mention family when describing what makes life meaningful

In an open-ended question, % of U.S. adults who mention ...

Family	69
Children or grandchildren	34
Spouse or partner	20
Career	34
Finances and money	23
Faith and spirituality	20
Faith	17
Christianity	5
Friends	19
Activities and hobbies	19
Hobbies	12
Leisure	6
Creativity	4
Travel	6
Outdoors	4
Fitness	2
Health	16
Home and surroundings	13
Learning and education	11
Struggles	9
General	5
Health difficulties	5
Doing good	7
Making a difference	5
Community and belonging	7
Church community	3
Other types of community	5
Retirement	6
Security	6
Pets	5

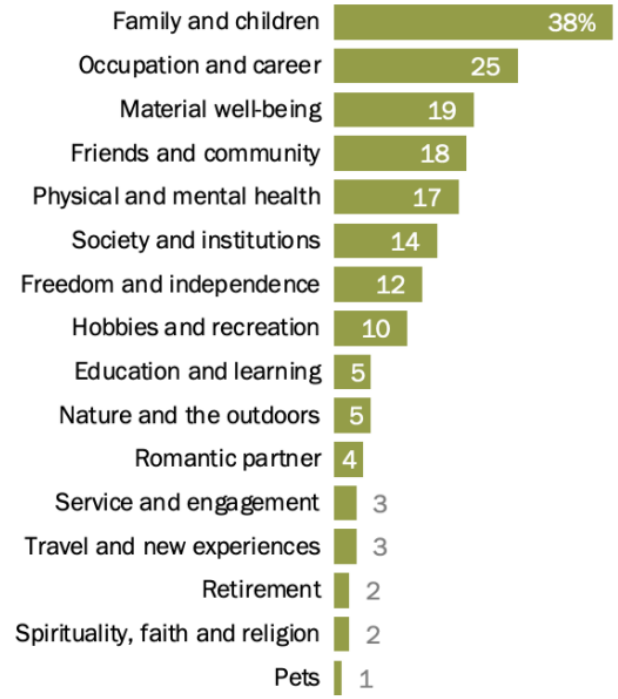
Note: Subtopic percentages do not sum to general topics' percentages. The "church community" subtopic is also a component of the "faith and spirituality" topic.
Source: Survey conducted Sept. 14-28, 2017, among U.S. adults.
"Where Americans Find Meaning in Life"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Why family networks?

Family, careers and material well-being are among the most cited factors for what makes life meaningful

Median % who mention ___ when describing what gives them meaning in life



Note: Percentages are medians based on 17 publics. Open-ended question. See Appendix A for more information.
Source: Spring 2021 Global Attitudes Survey. Q36.
"What Makes Life Meaningful? Views from 17 Advanced Economies"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

While family, careers, material well-being, friends and health are all top sources of meaning, they vary in importance across publics surveyed

Ranked choice among 17 topics coded as part of what gives people meaning in life

	1st choice	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Australia	Family	Occupation	Friends	Material well-being	Society
New Zealand	Family	Occupation	Friends	Material well-being	Society
Sweden	Family	Occupation	Friends	Material well-being/Health	
France	Family	Occupation	Health	Material well-being	Friends
Greece	Family	Occupation	Health	Friends	Hobbies
Germany	Family	Occupation/Health		Material well-being/General Positive	
Canada	Family	Occupation	Material well-being	Friends	Society
Singapore	Family	Occupation	Society	Material well-being	Friends
Italy	Family/Occupation		Material well-being	Health	Friends
Netherlands	Family	Material well-being	Health	Friends	Occupation
Belgium	Family	Material well-being	Occupation	Health	Friends
Japan	Family	Material well-being	Occupation/Health		Hobbies
UK	Family	Friends	Hobbies	Occupation	Health
U.S.	Family	Friends	Material well-being	Occupation	Faith
Spain	Health	Material well-being	Occupation	Family	Society
South Korea	Material well-being	Health	Family	General Positive	Society/Freedom
Taiwan	Society	Material well-being	Family	Freedom	Hobbies

Note: Open-ended question. Rank reflects where the topic fell in a list of 17 sources of meaning that were coded. See Appendix A for more information.
Source: Spring 2021 Global Attitudes Survey. Q36.
"What Makes Life Meaningful? Views From 17 Advanced Economies"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Why family networks?

- Integration in a kin network:
  Basic to human life & society
- Bilineal multigroup kin networks:
  Uniquely human and universal in humans
- Research on family relationships:
  Little on extended/collateral kin
  Little on kinship lines
  Little on non-Western contexts
- Reasons: Rise of the household survey, time constraints in multipurpose surveys, ignorance

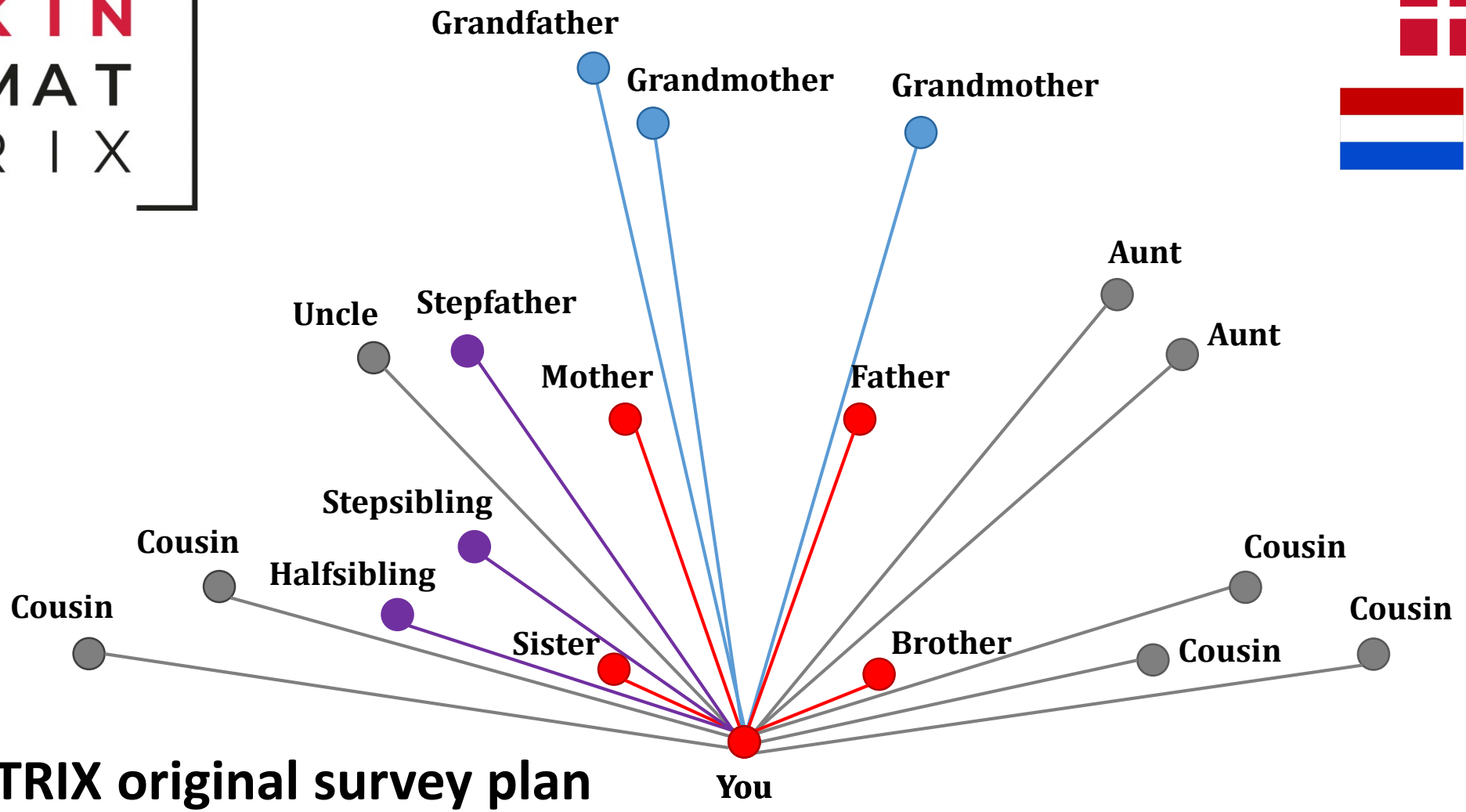
Kin neglect

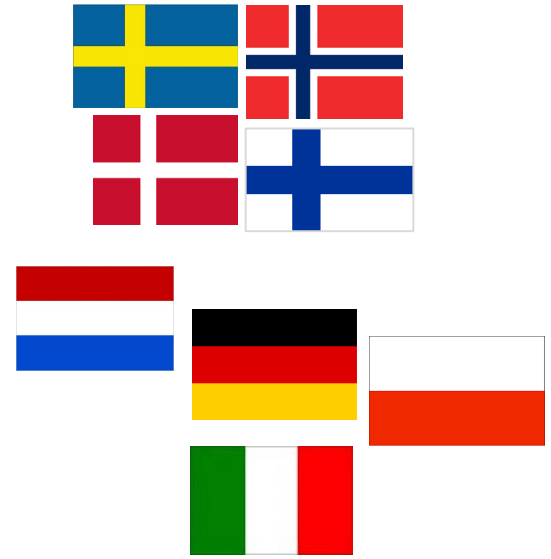
- Family models
  The isolated nuclear family (Parsons, Durkheim)
  The modern beanpole family (Bengtson et al.)
- SDT transformations: Cohesion, erosion, complexity
- < 0.1% of family research on collateral kin (Milardo 2010)
- Recent kinship review (Furstenberg 2020):
  "At this point, we can say very little about the workings of kinship networks because we do not really possess data on the scope of interactions…"

Extended kin as a resource

- For status attainment?
- As part of the safety net?
- Cultural/ethnic and SES variance in importance
- Extended kin ties are (increasingly) volatile and undermined by marital instability

KIN
MAT
RIX



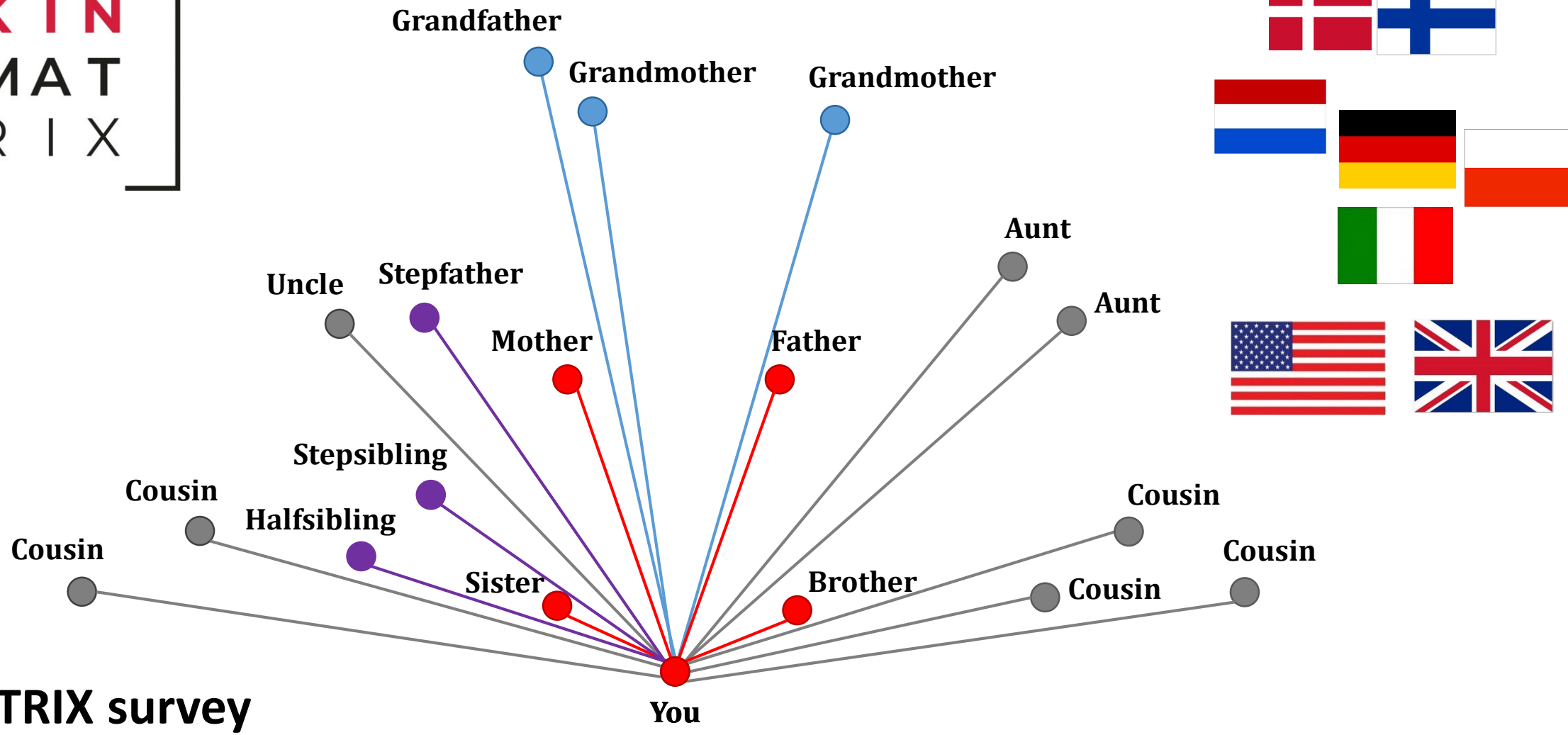


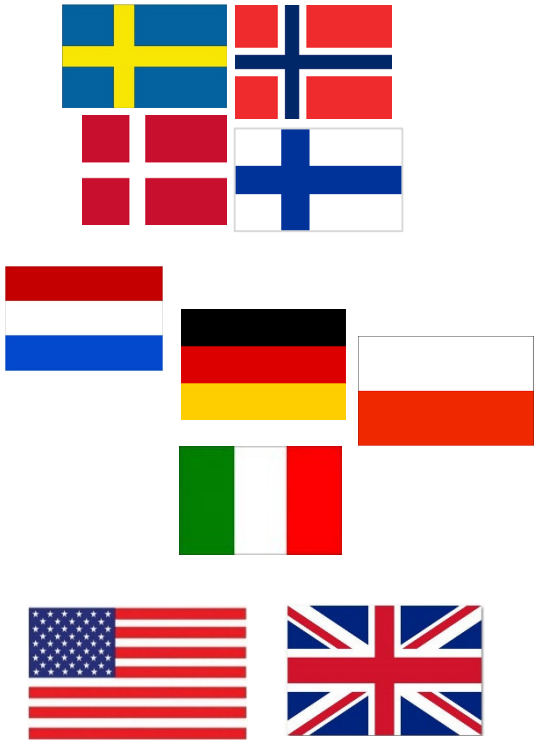
KINMATRIX original survey plan

N = 10,000 anchors aged 25-35. *N* = ? multi-actors (parents + full siblings)

Quota samples (from Dynata) in 8 European countries

KIN
MAT
RIX





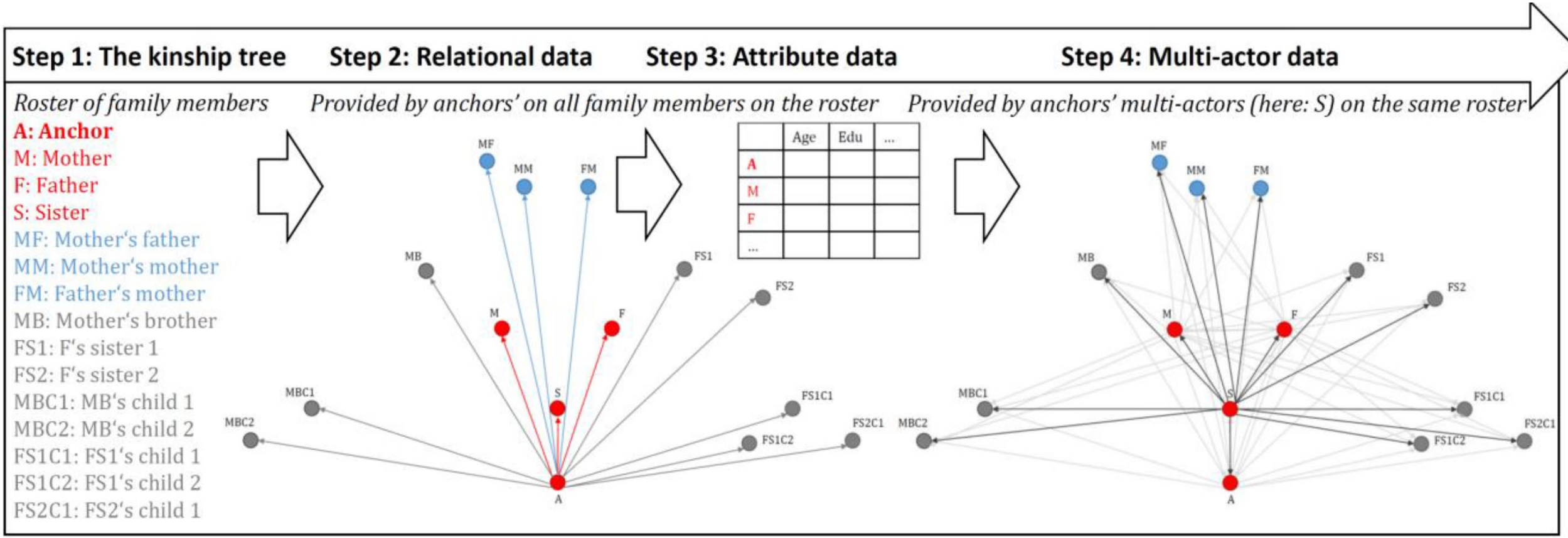
KINMATRIX survey

N = 12,500 anchors aged 25-35 (after cleaning). > 200,000 anchor-kin dyads.

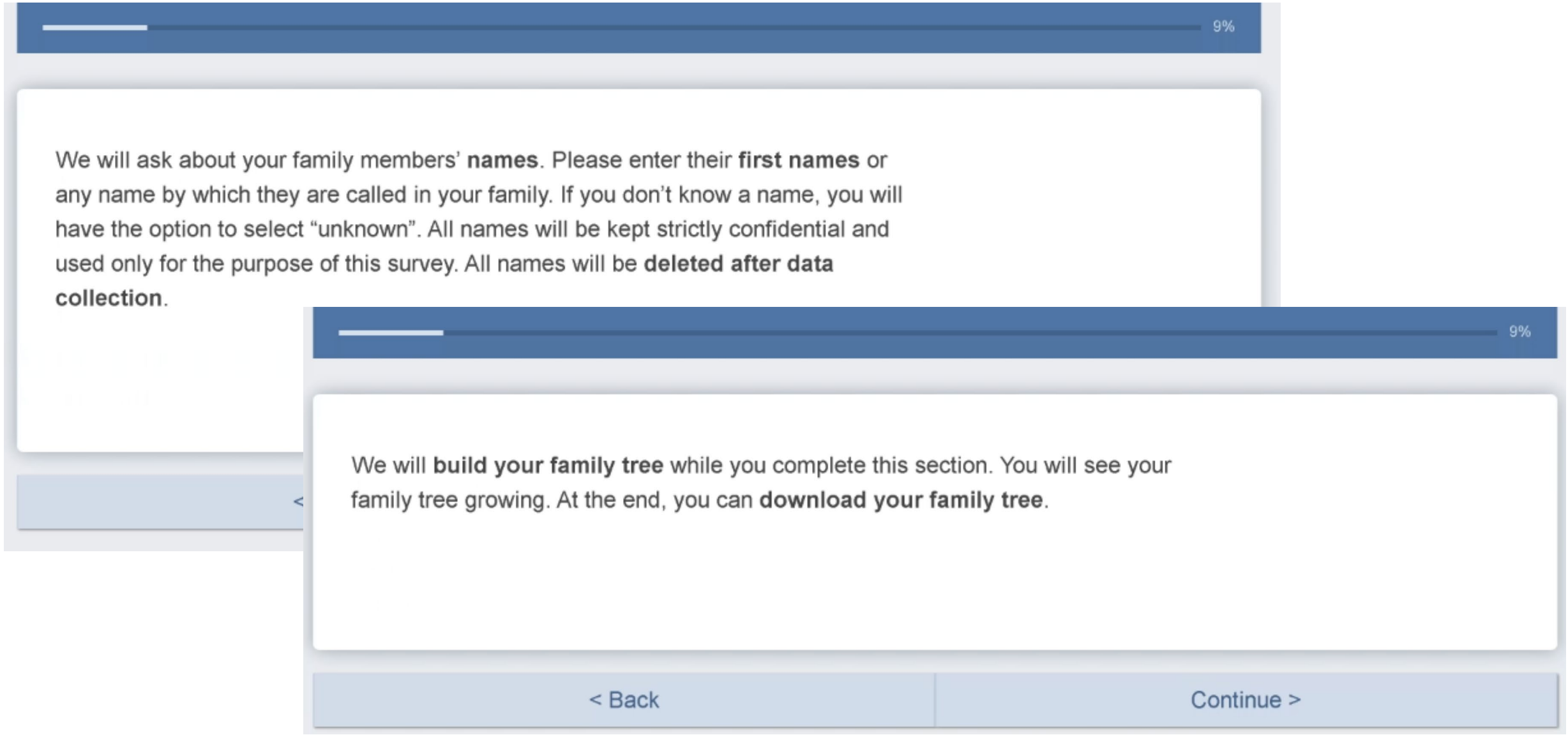
N = 1,887 multi-actors (parents + full siblings) sourced from 1,396 anchors.

Data collection

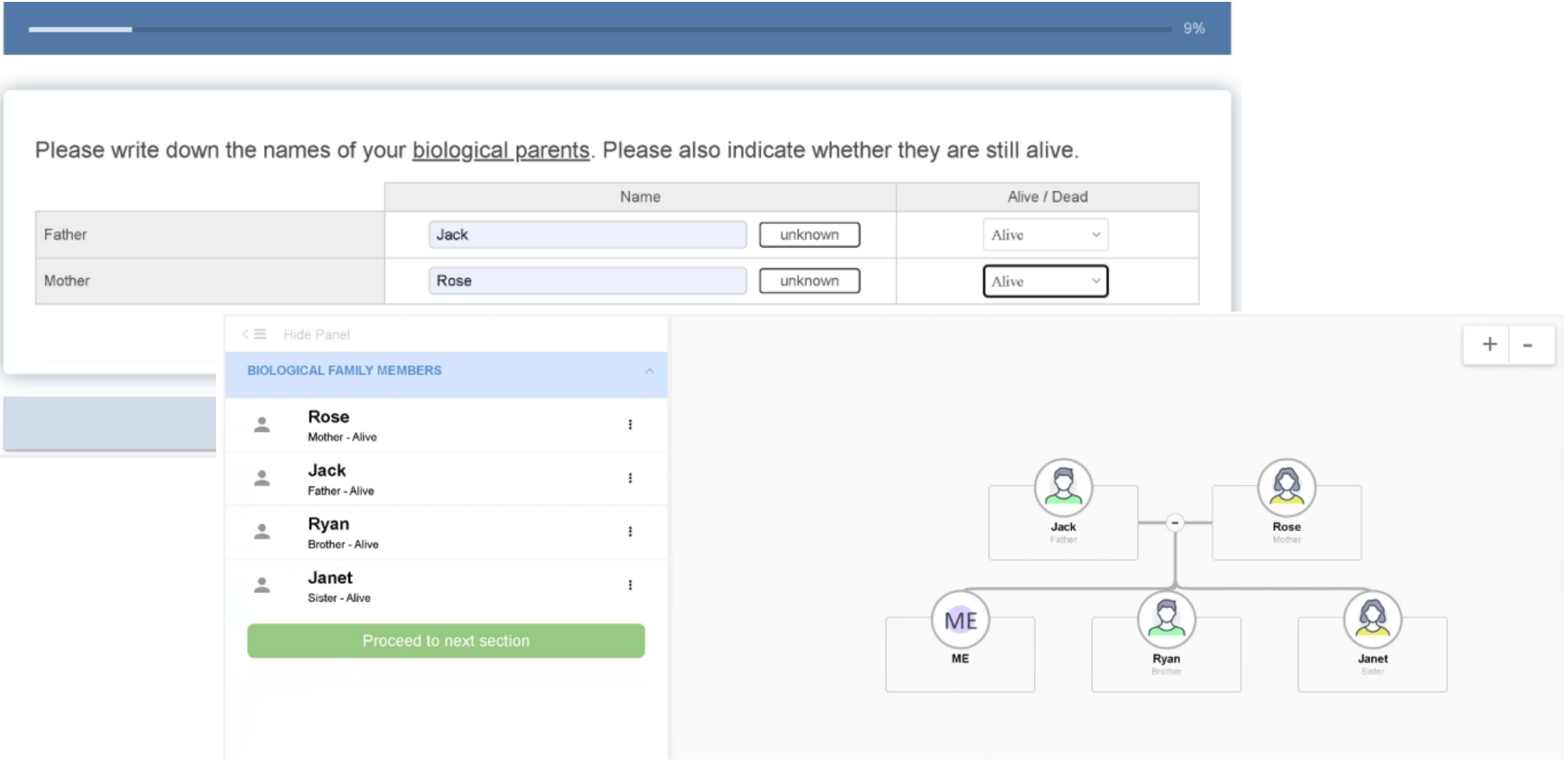
Data collection



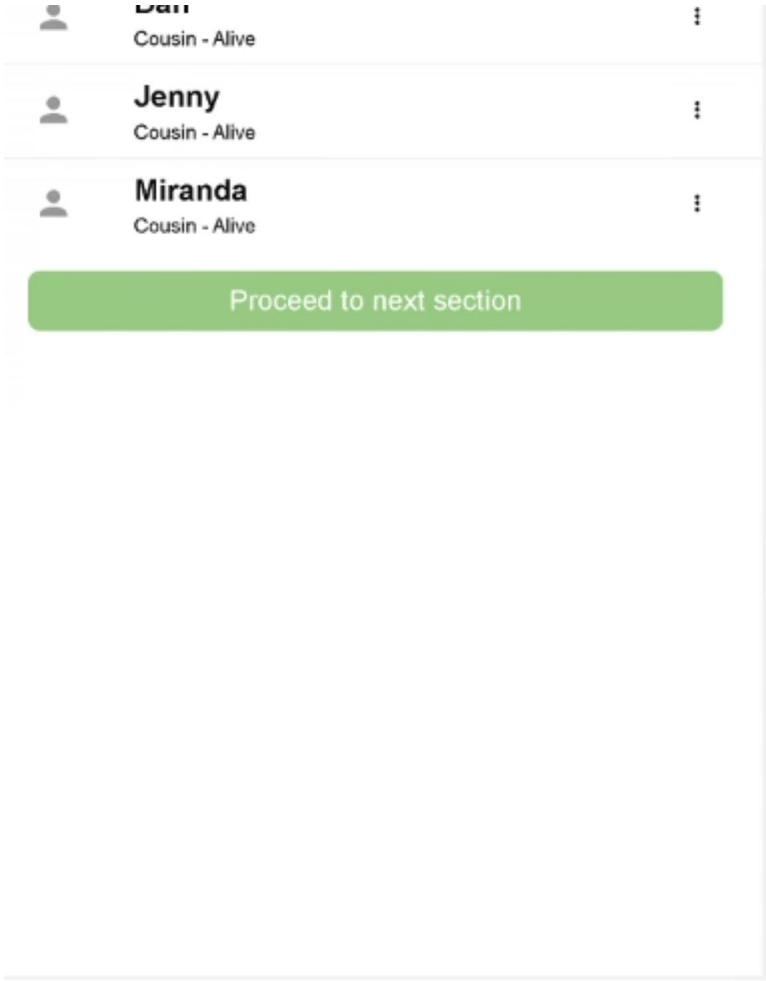
Name generator

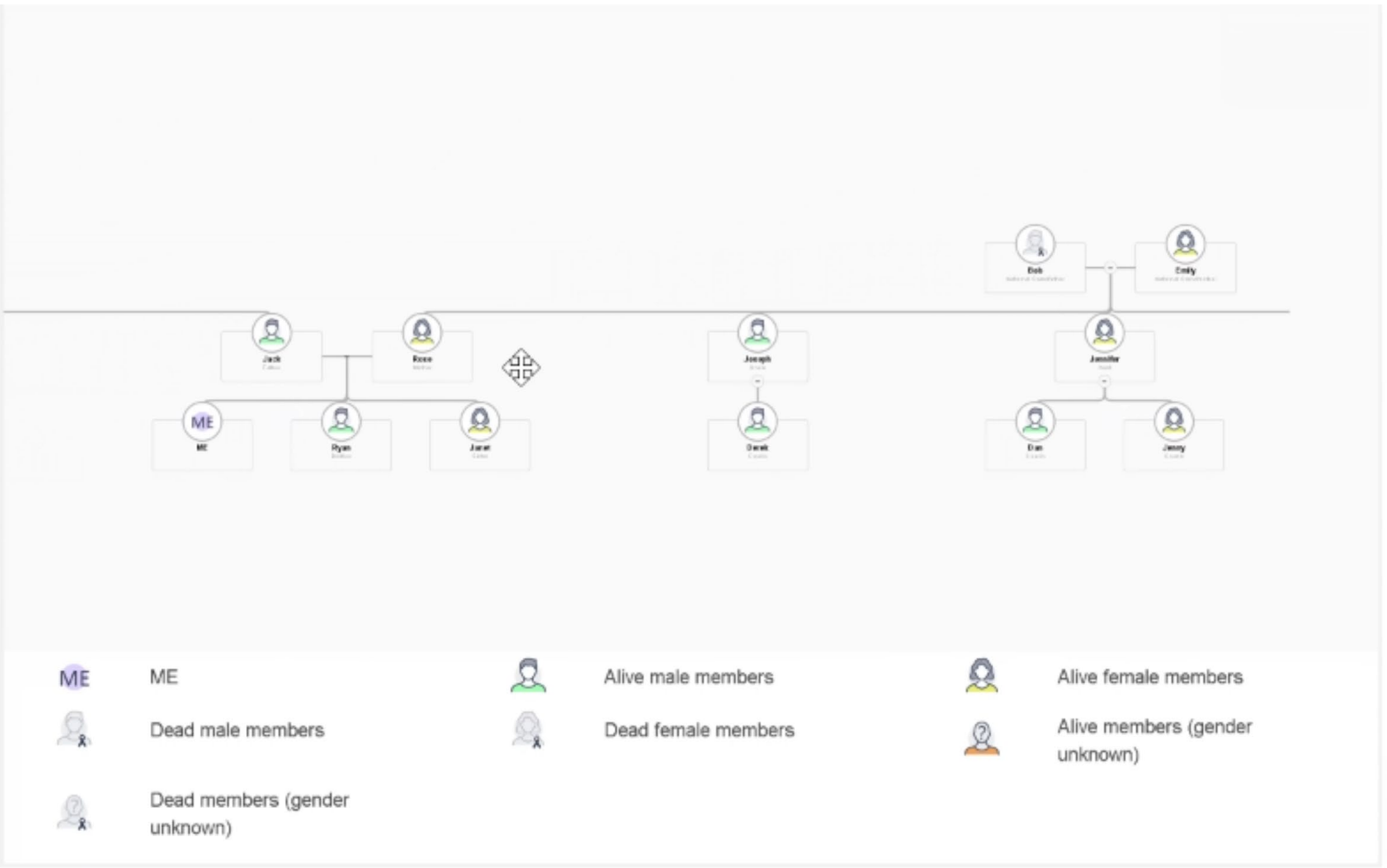


Building the family tree

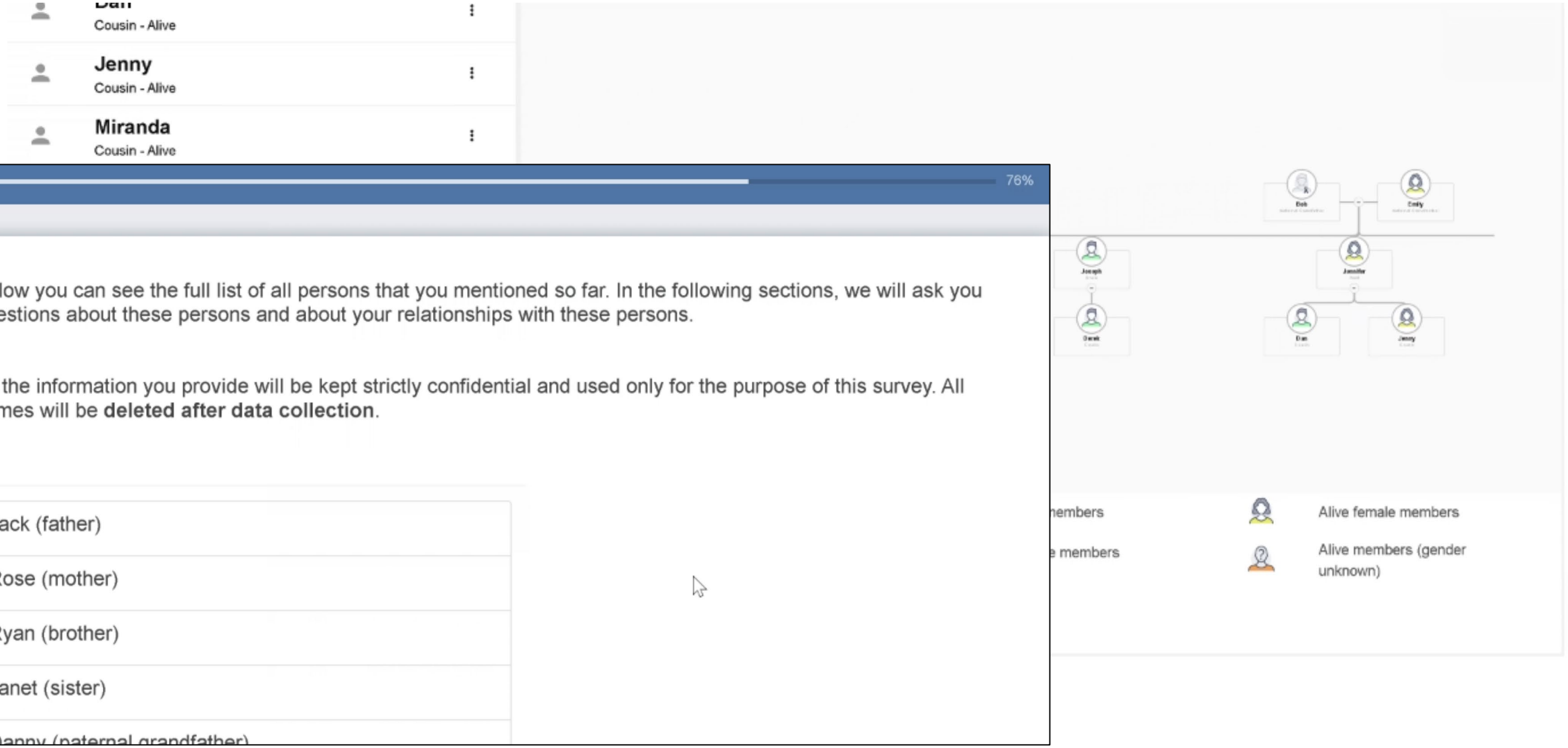


Building the family tree



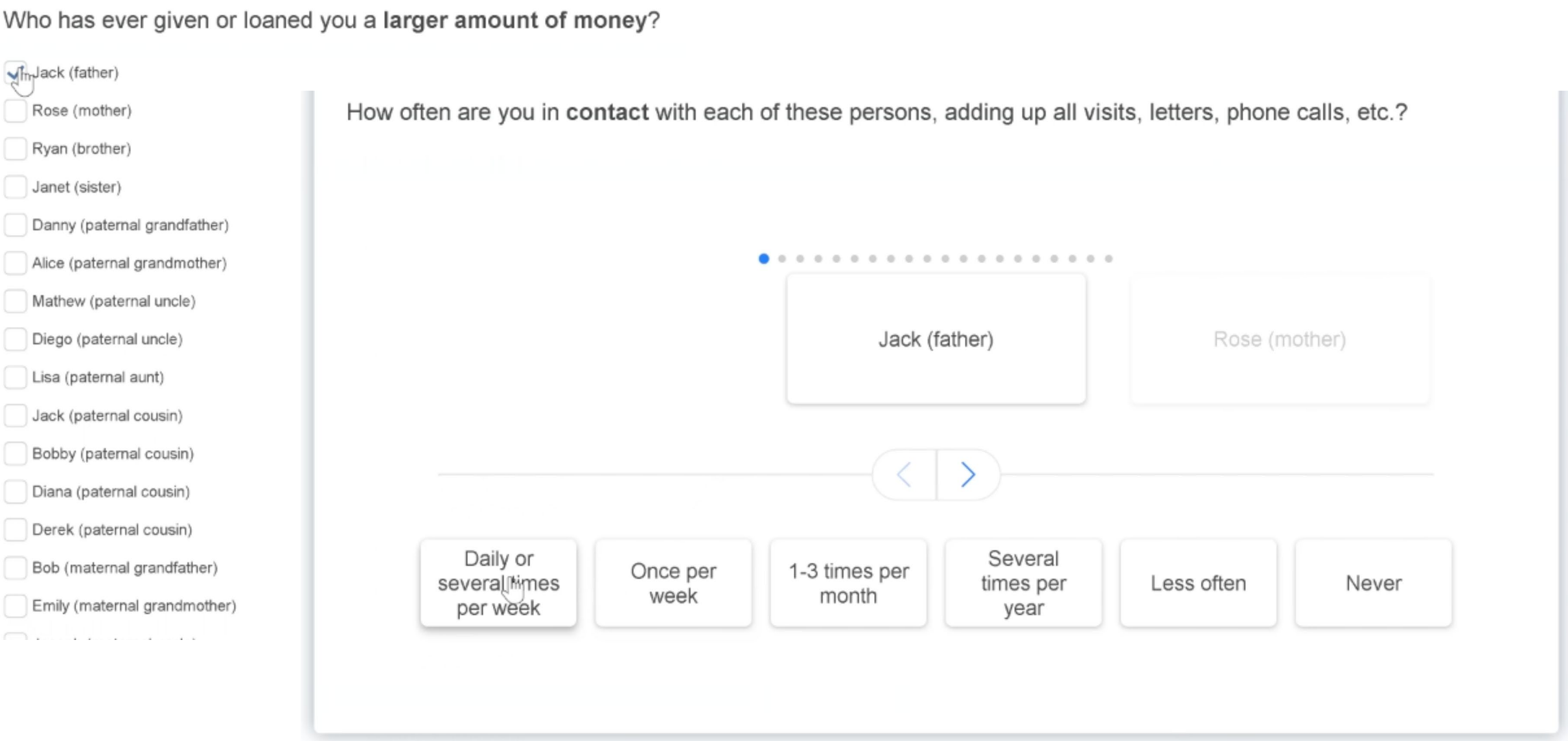


Family roster



Relational data

Relational data



Attribute data

How **old** are these persons?

If you don't know an exact age, please give us your best guess.

Jack (father)
60

Rose (mother)
61

Ryan (brother)

Janet (sister)

Alice (paternal grandmother)

Mathew (paternal uncle)

Diego (paternal uncle)

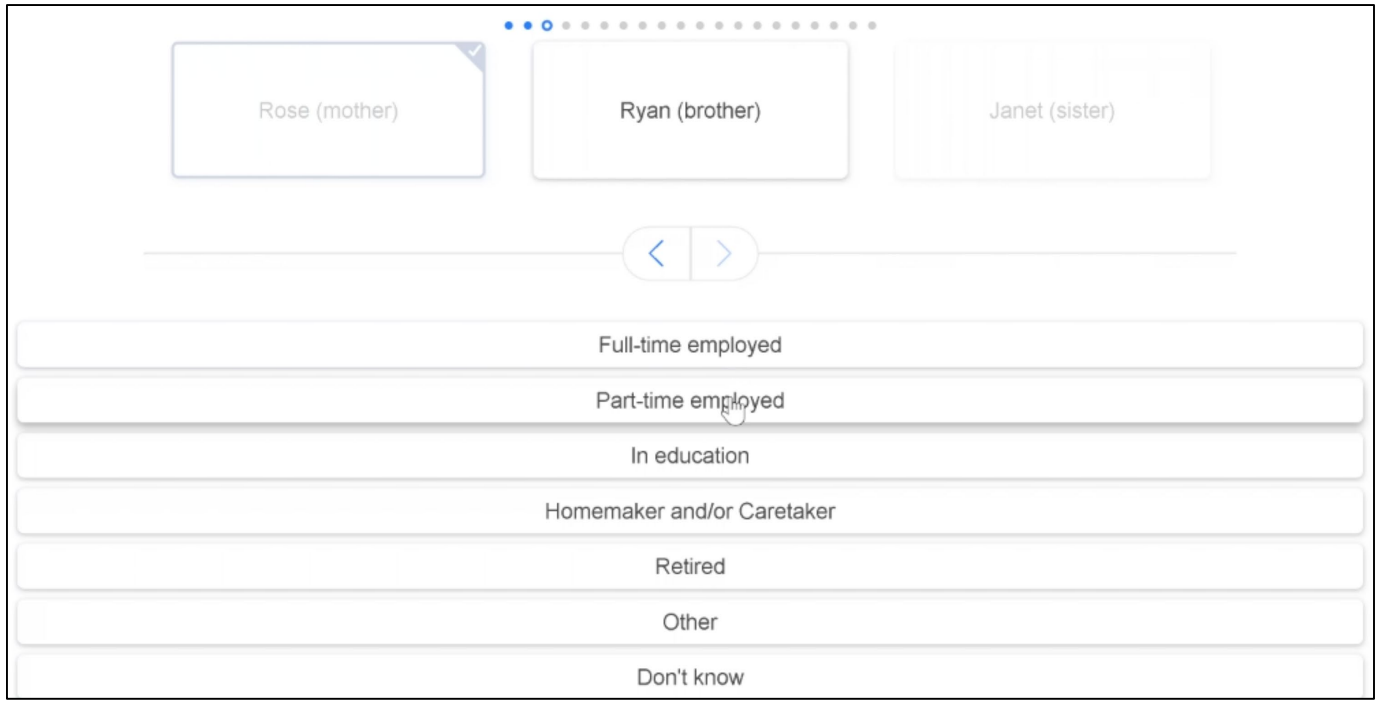
Lisa (paternal aunt)

Jack (paternal cousin)

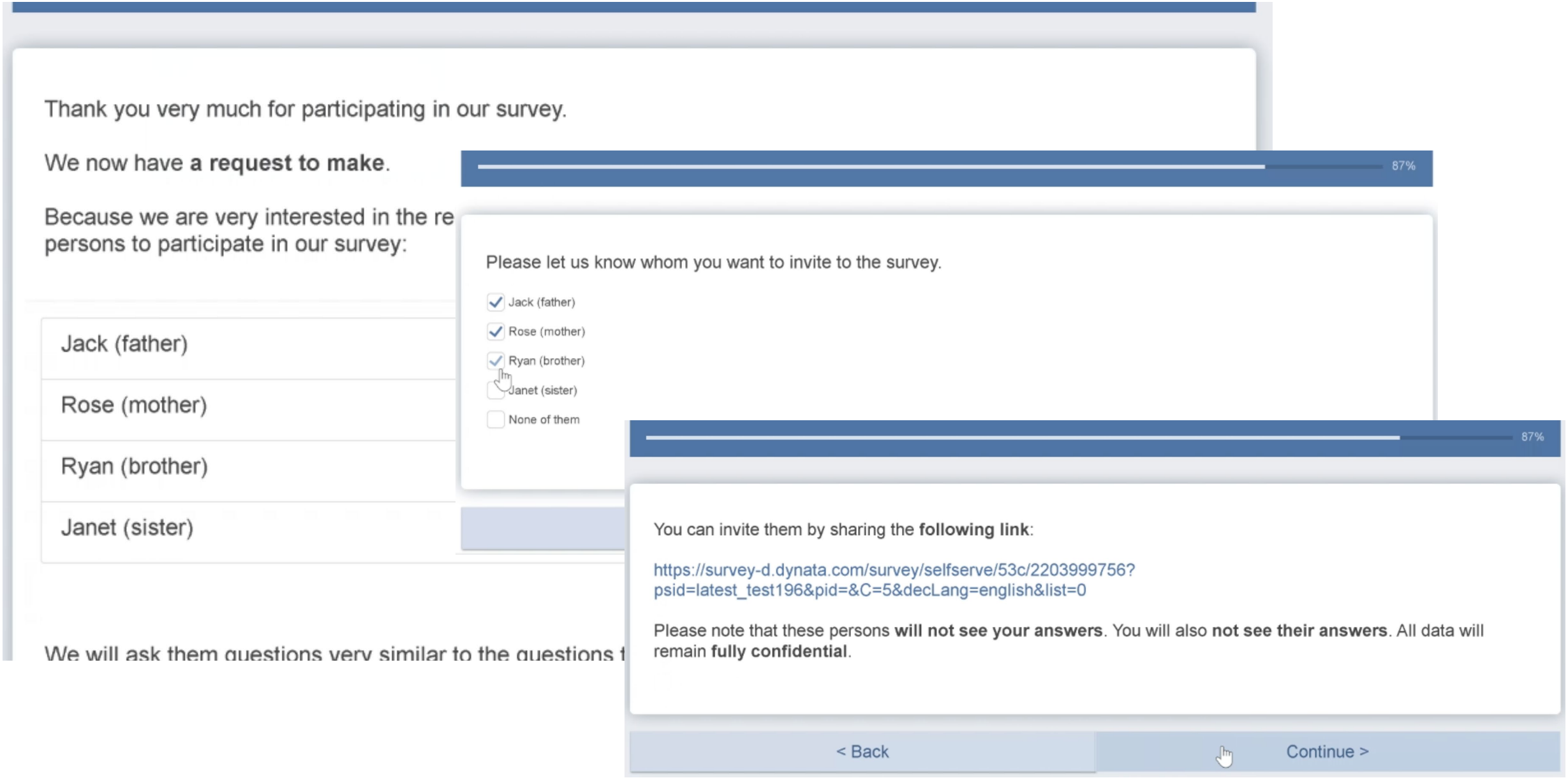
Please indicate the **birth year** and **death year** of the following persons.

If you don't know an exact year, please give us your best guess.

	birth year	death year
Danny (paternal grandfather)	1923	2006
Bob (maternal grandfather)	1933	2015



Snowballing to relatives

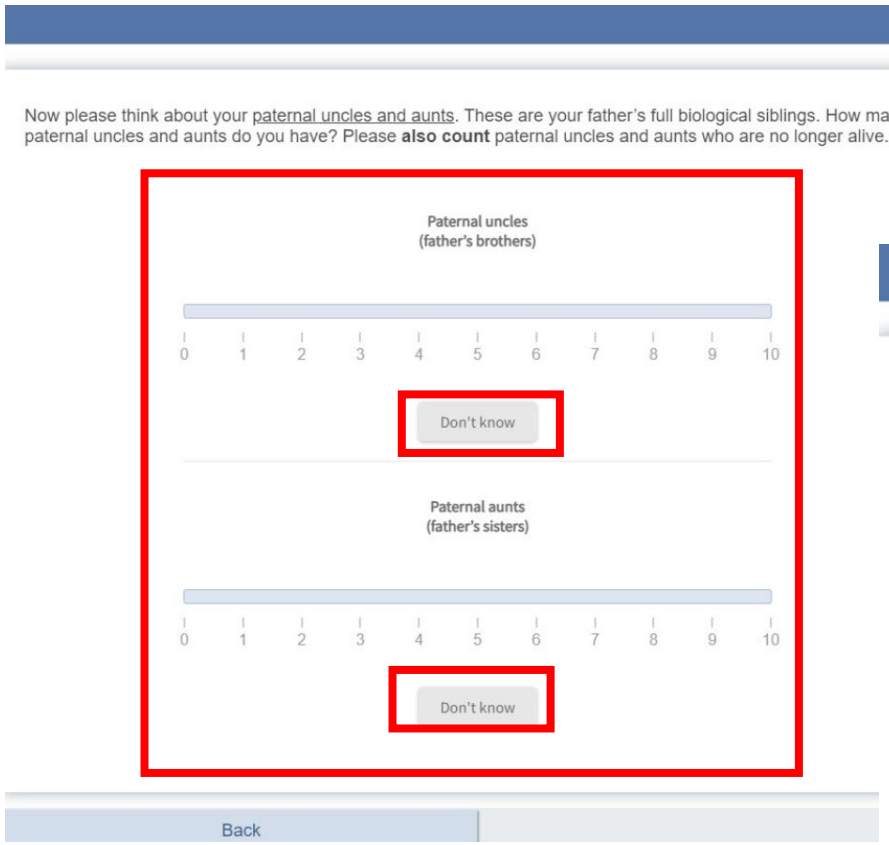


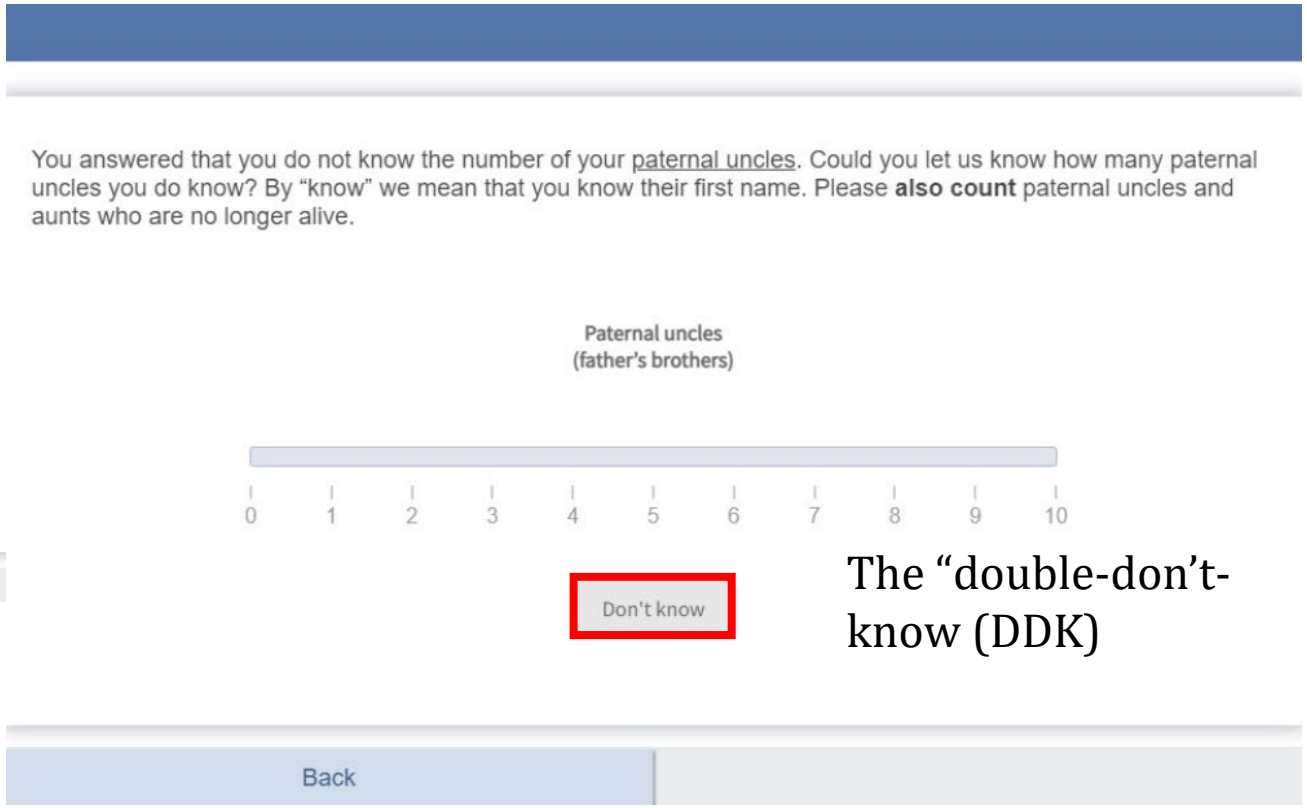
Data quality

Raw sample size for anchors and anchor-kin dyads

Country	Anchors	Dyads
UK	2,135	37,610
Germany	2,791	37,003
Poland	2,536	44,540
Italy	2,417	42,525
Sweden	571	10,325
Denmark	339	5,472
Finland	451	7,296
Norway	202	3,793
Netherlands	765	12,766
USA	4,695	91,566
Total	16,902	292,896

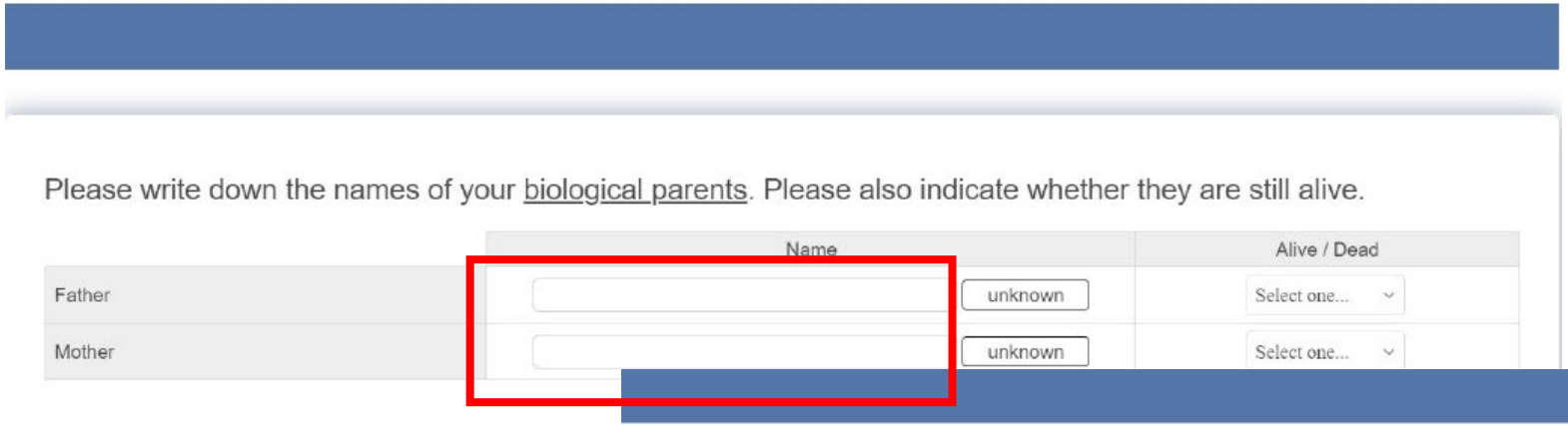
Response problems: Numbers

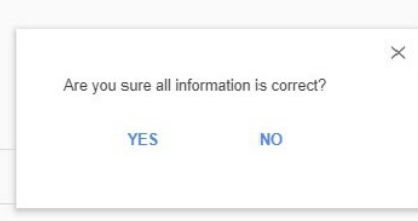




The "double-don't-know (DDK)

Response problems: Names





Response problems: Status

Causes of response problems

- Task difficulty (kin types, kin terminology)
- Recollection challenges (esp. extended family)
- Sensitive topics (family relations, death)
- Confidentiality concerns (real names)
- True absence of knowledge (especially in disrupted families)
- Lack of motivation
  - Many cases of strong satisficing (DK & DDK)

Consequences of response problems

- Underestimation of true kin numbers
- Incomplete representation of biological and complex family networks
- Potential bias towards positive relations / salient network members
- Disambiguation of kin in later questions hardly possible without names (unknown/invalid names dropped)

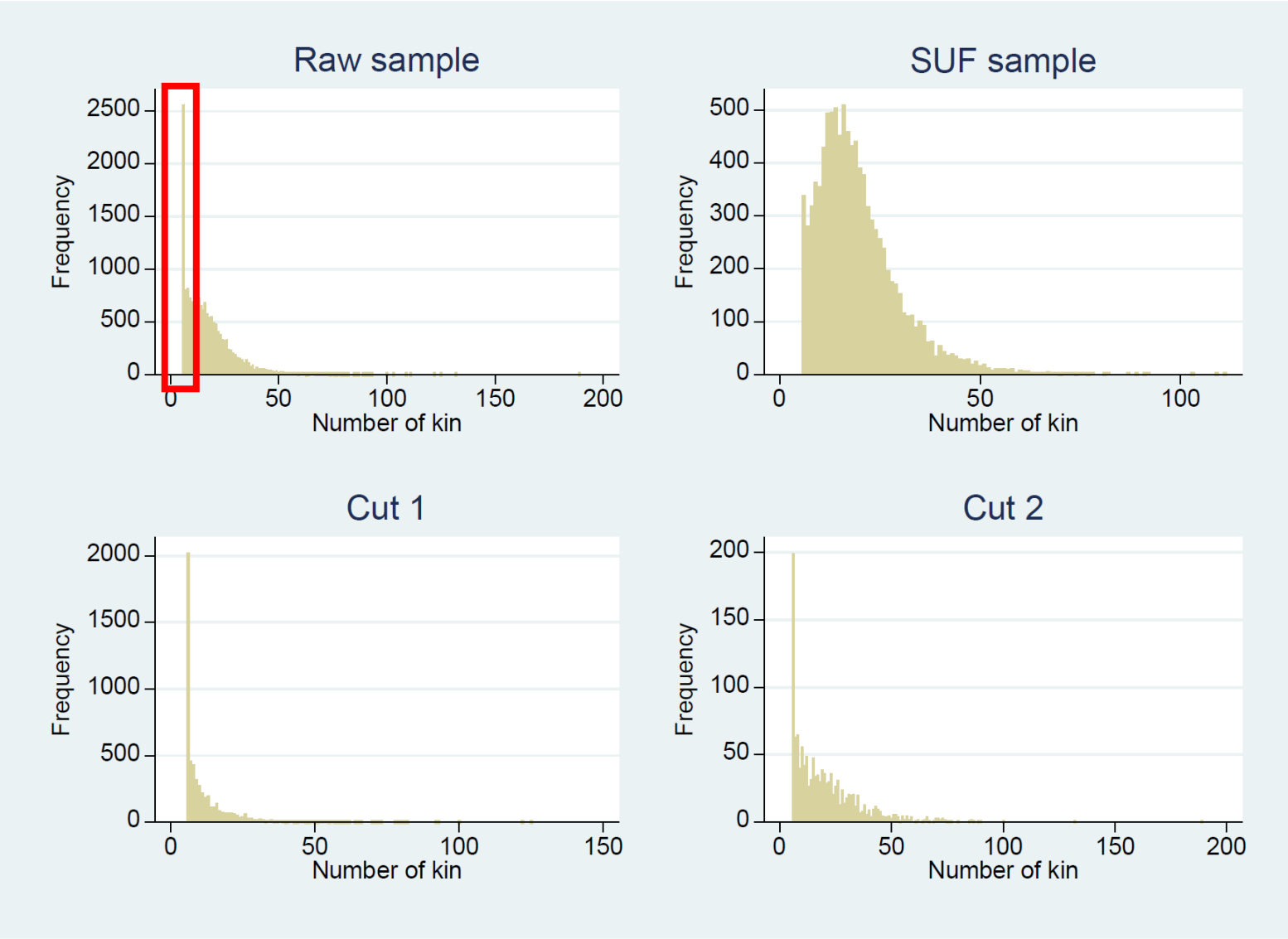
Cases lost from raw to SUF

Anchor sample size before and after cuts

Country	Raw sample	Sample cut 1	Sample cut 2	Total cut	SUF sample	% of raw
UK	2135	574	248	822	1313	.61
Germany	2791	1368	214	1582	1209	.43
Poland	2536	669	133	802	1734	.68
Italy	2417	388	119	507	1910	.79
Sweden	571	178	38	216	355	.62
Denmark	339	161	24	185	154	.45
Finland	451	141	69	210	241	.53
Norway	202	58	17	75	127	.63
Netherlands	765	290	81	371	394	.52
USA	4695	1691	370	2061	2634	.56
	16902	5518	1313	6831	10071	.60

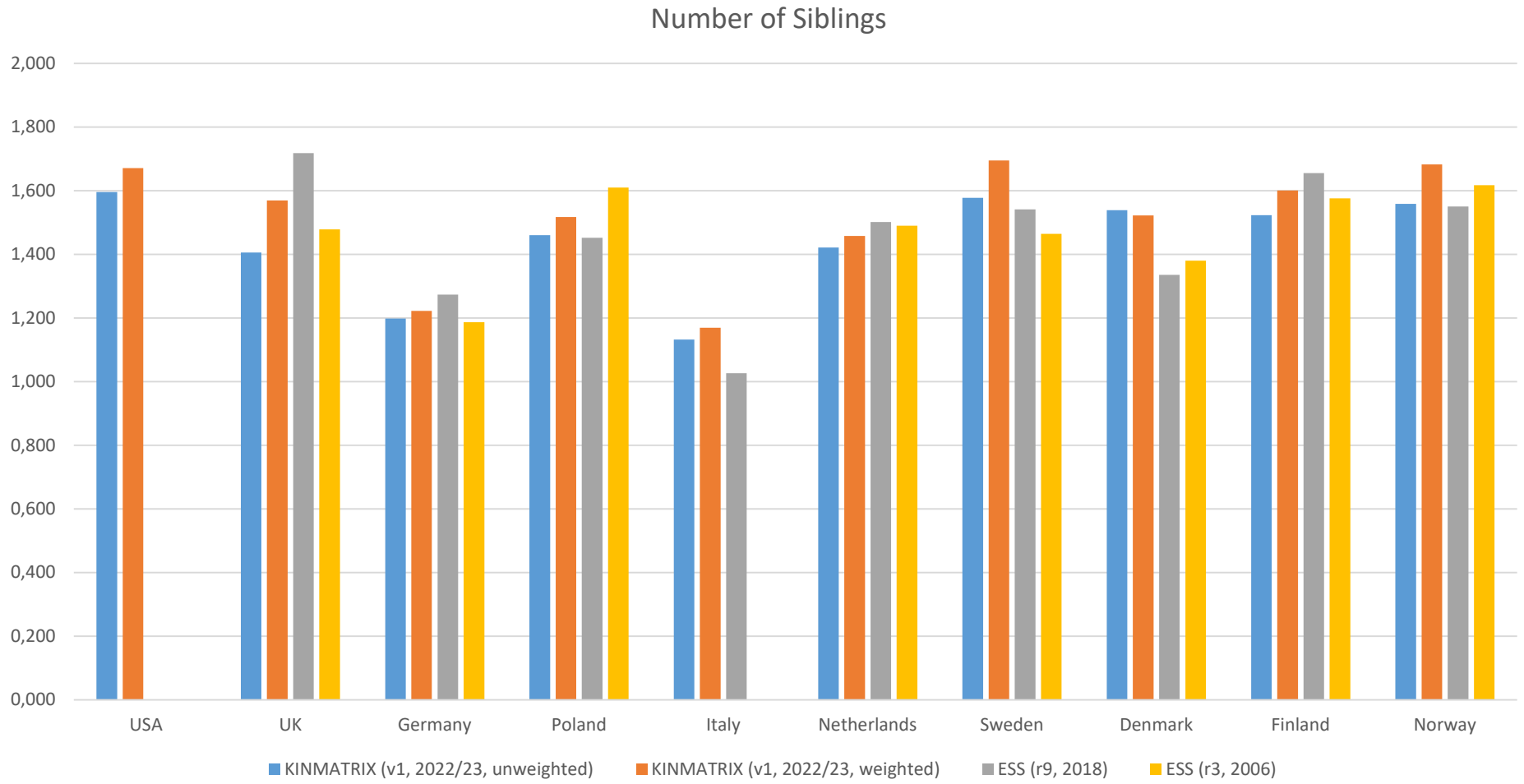
Number of kin before and after cuts

Spike at 6 – the minimum enforced by the questionnaire



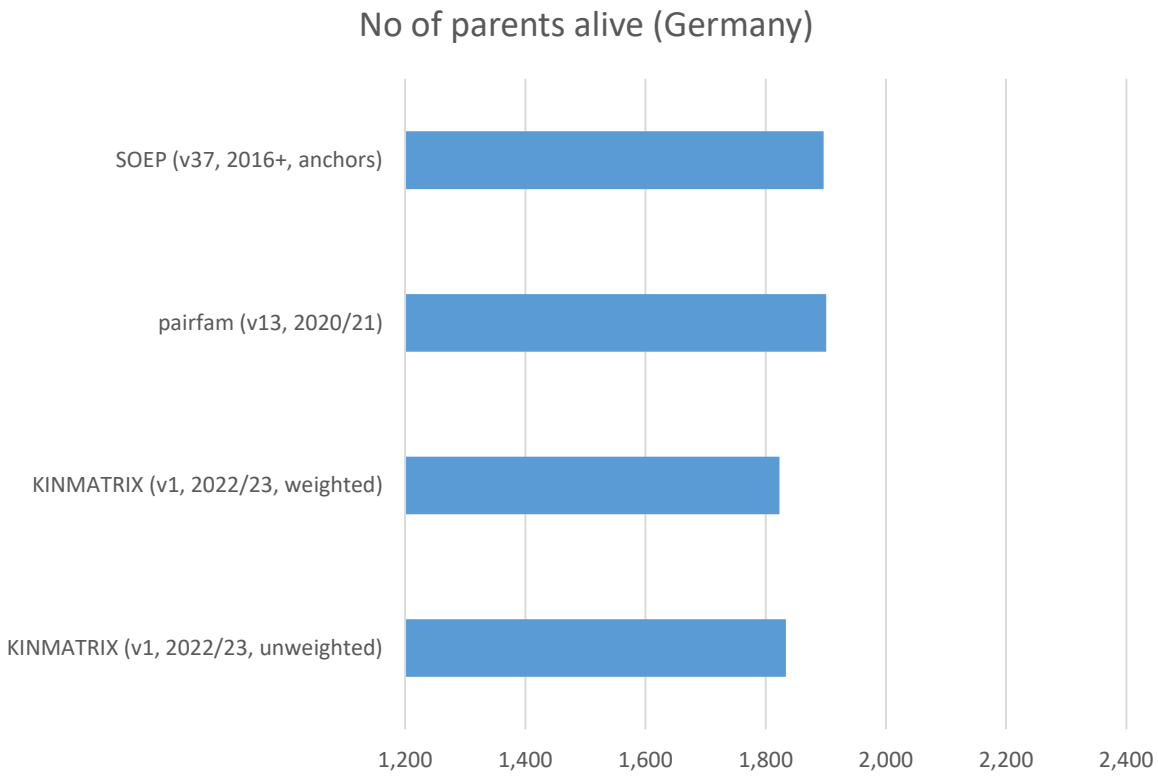
Some benchmarks

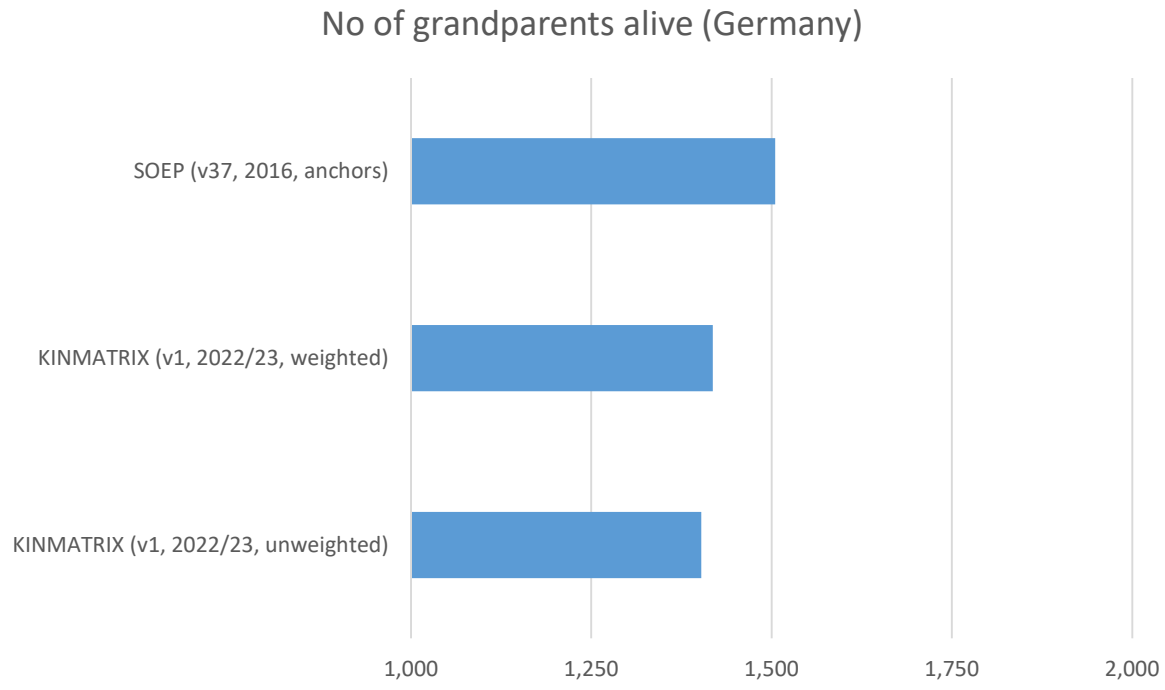
Number of siblings



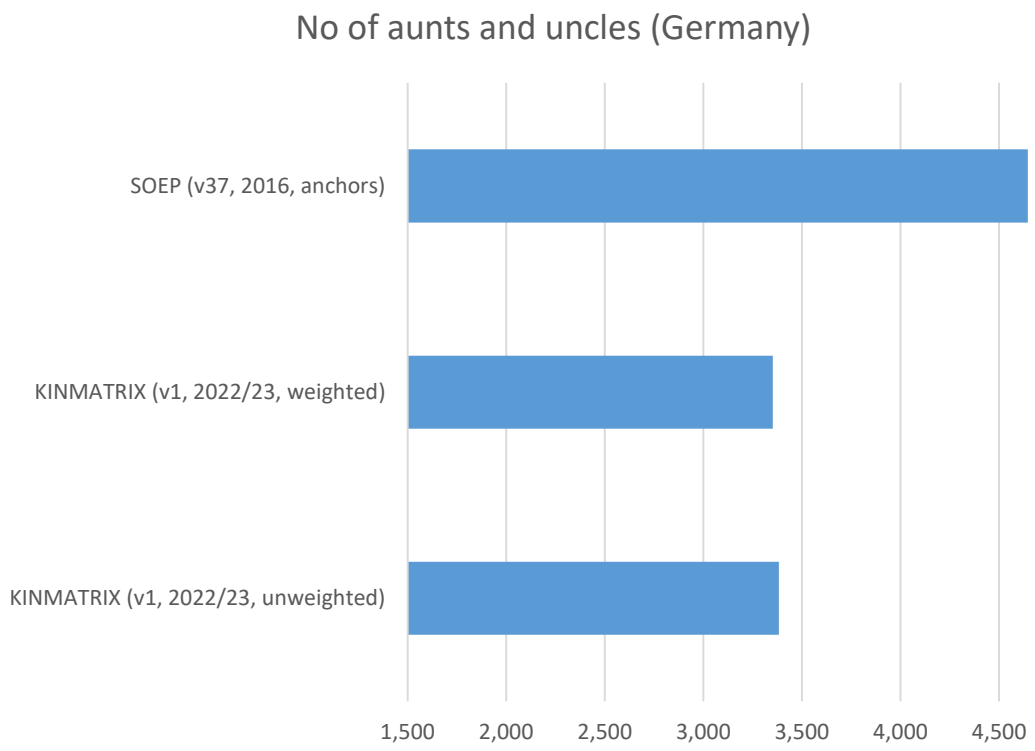
We restrict external sample to parents that at least have one child born between 1987 and 1997 (i.e., our cohorts) and identify our target groups number of siblings based on parental information

Number of living parents and grandparents

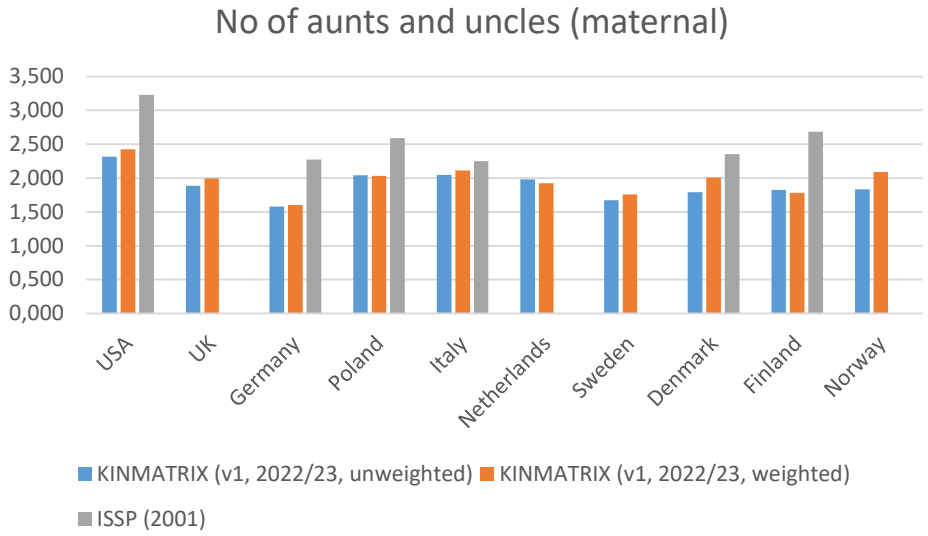


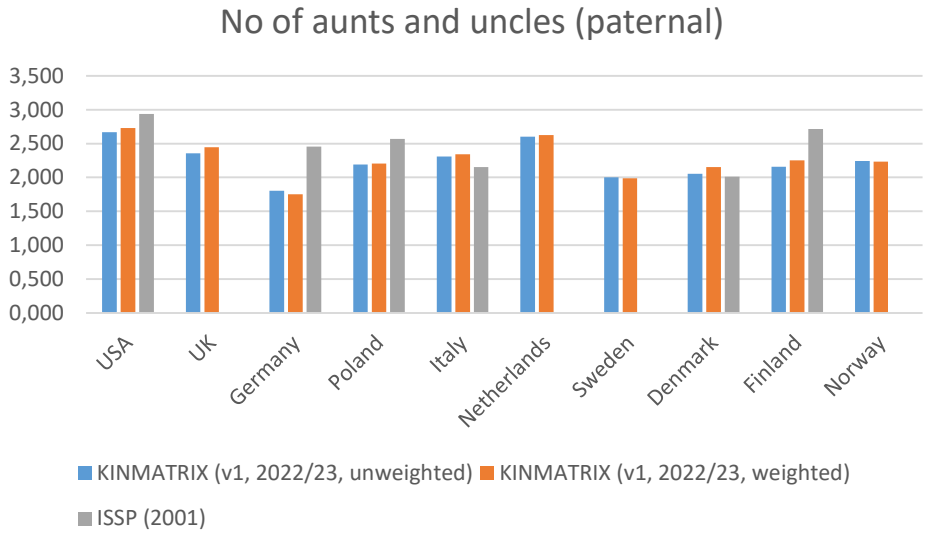


Number of aunts and uncles

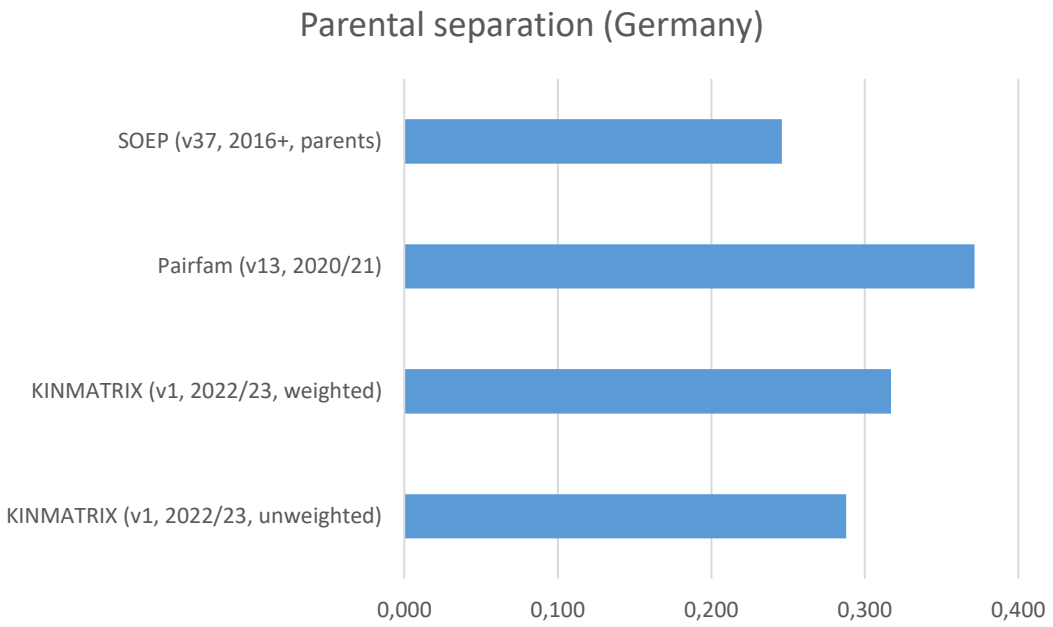


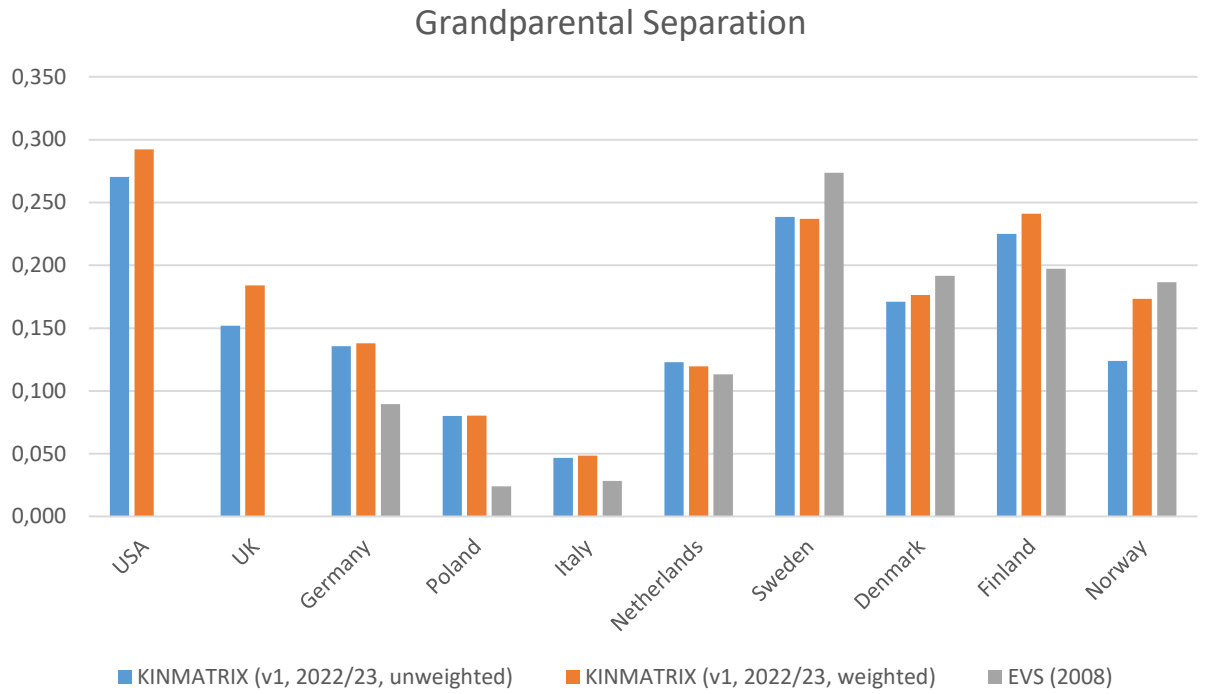
Bias stronger on maternal side





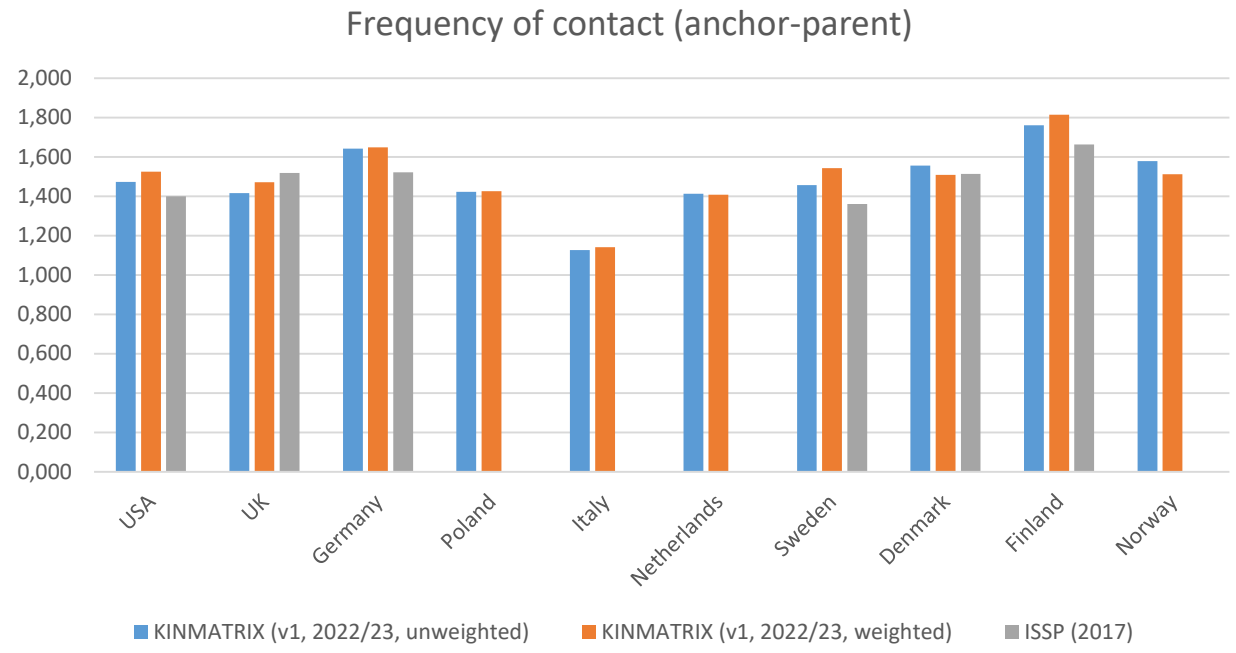
Parental and grandparental separation





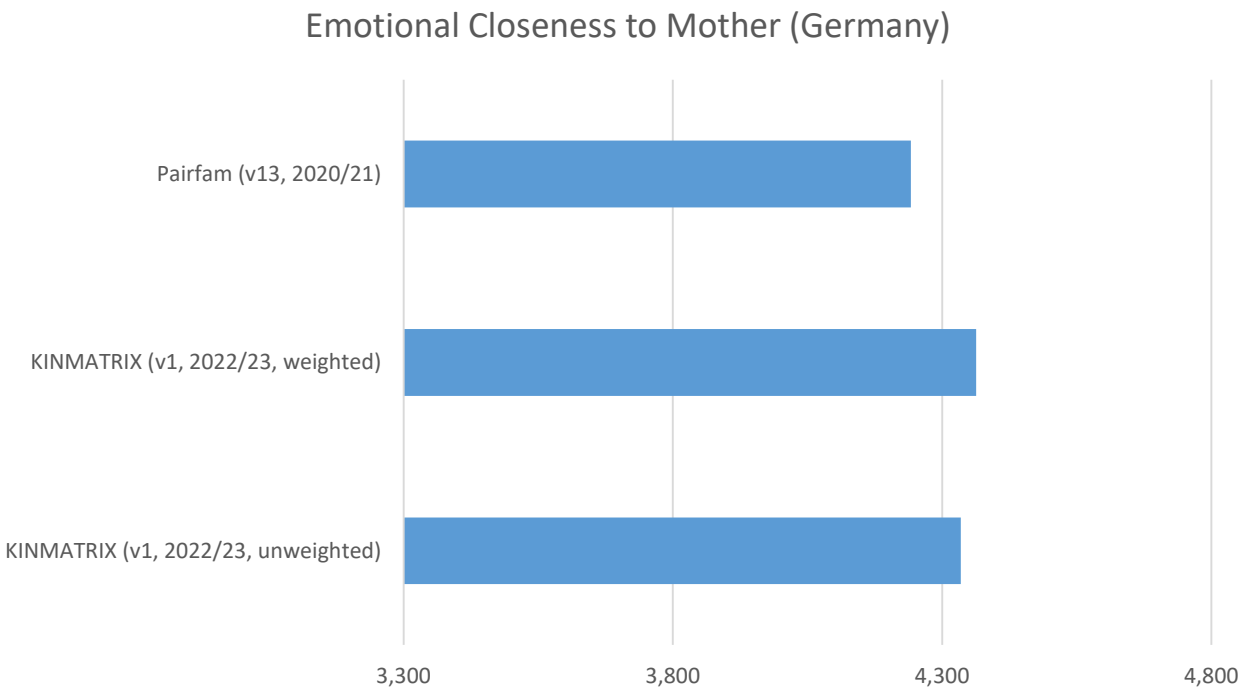
EVS 2008: Based on anchors' parents using an item indicating whether the parents are separated

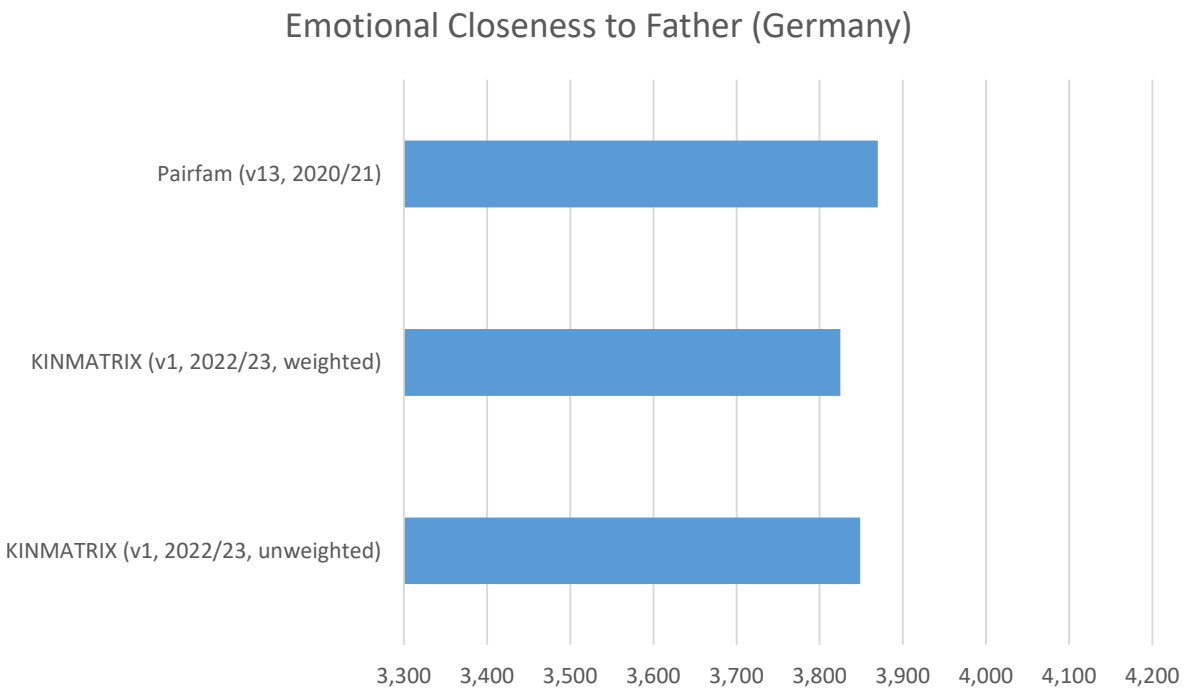
Family relationships



Contact frequency with the parent/sibling you have contact with most frequently: 1) Daily or several times per week, 2) Once per week, 3) 1-3 times per month, 4) Several times per year, 5) Less often, and 6) Never

Family relationships





How **close** do you feel emotionally to each of these persons today? 1) Not at all close, 2)Not too close, 3) Somewhat close, 4) Pretty close, and 5) Very close

Beyond the nuclear family: New data on kinship networks reveal matrilineal tilts, ripple effects of divorce, and the importance of extended kin

Outcomes studied

1. The family as a locus of attachment, nurturance, socialization, and transmission — Retrospective view
2. The family as a source of social integration — Present-day view
3. The family as a latent matrix / safety net — Prospective view

Outcome 1: Importance

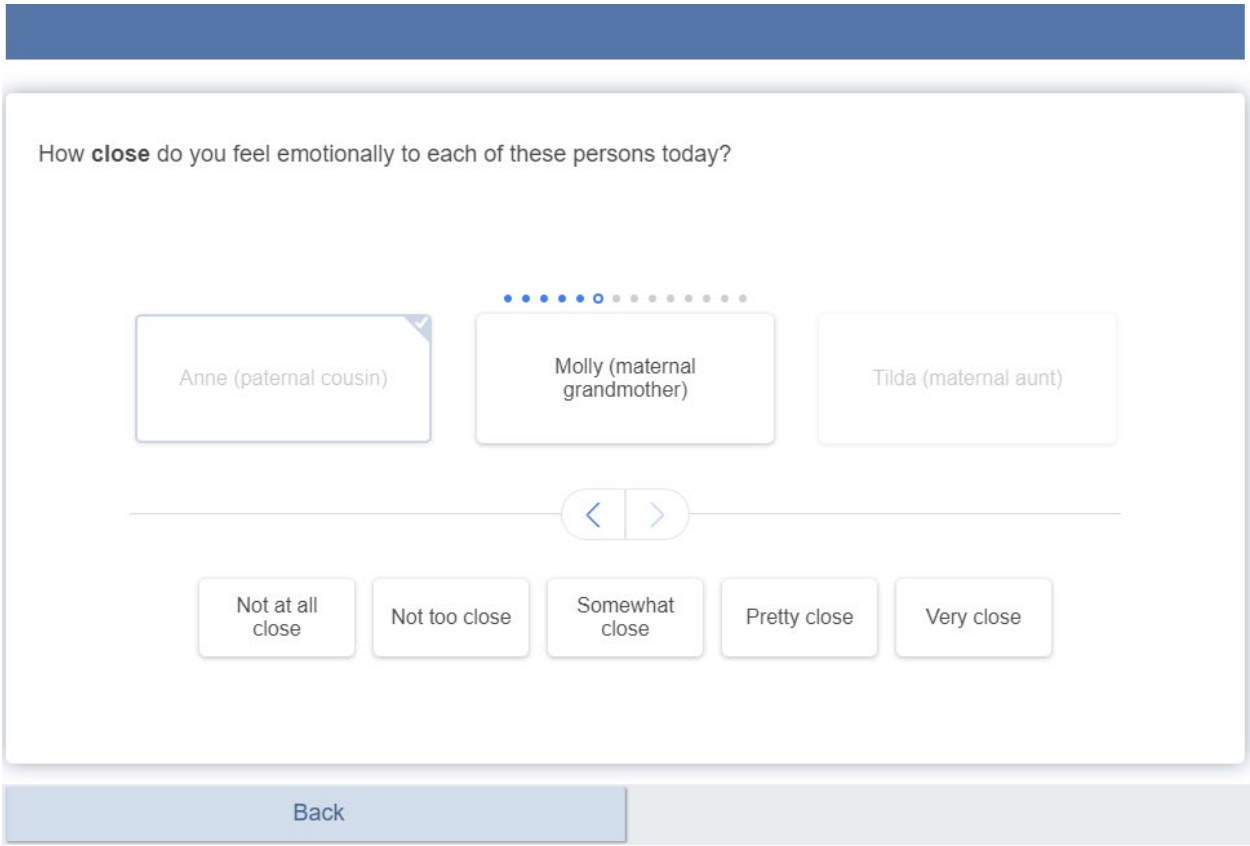
If you think about the role of these persons in **your life up to now**: Who was **important** to you?

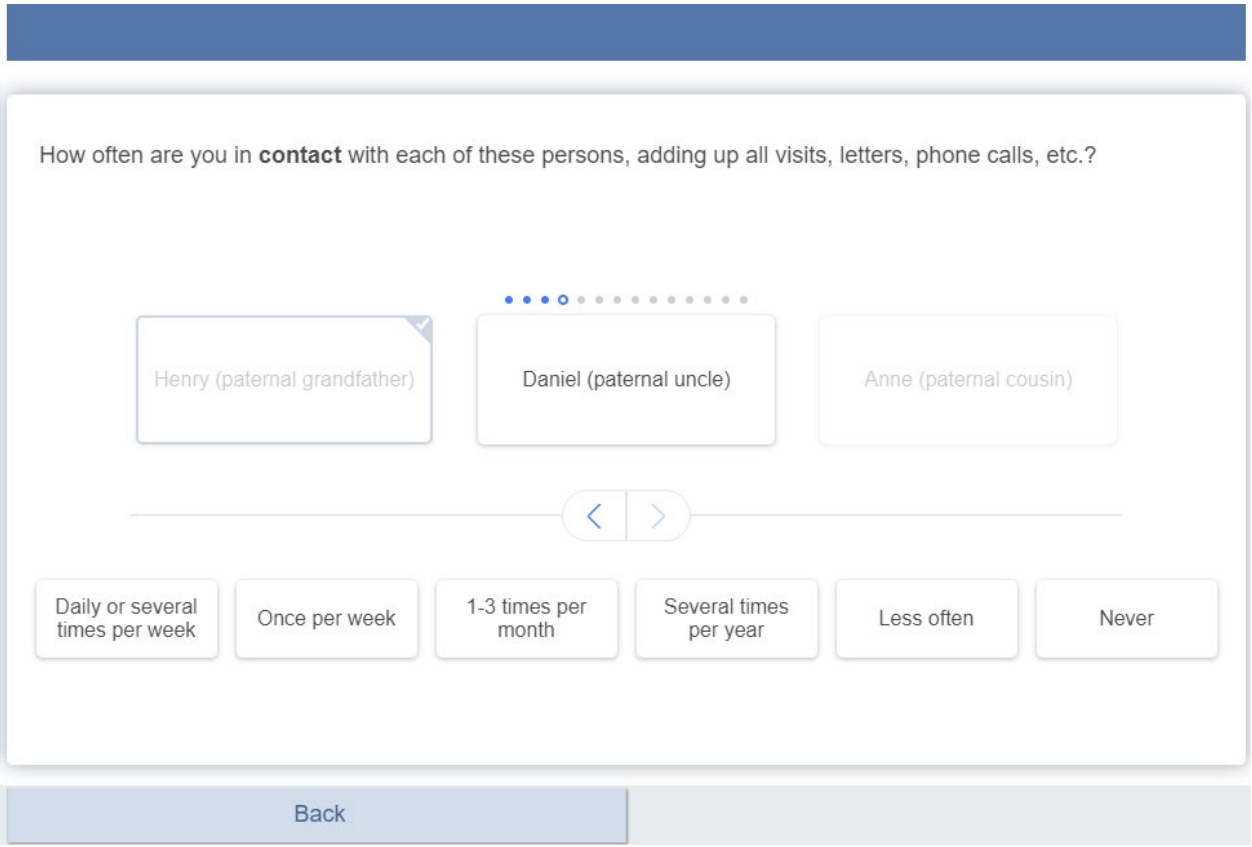
Please consider also persons who are no longer alive.

- [ ] George (father)
- [ ] Grace (mother)
- [ ] Jack (brother)
- [ ] Jane (sister)
- [ ] Henry (paternal grandfather)
- [ ] Hannah (paternal grandmother)
- [ ] Daniel (paternal uncle)
- [ ] Anne (paternal cousin)
- [ ] Max (maternal grandfather)
- [ ] Molly (maternal grandmother)
- [ ] Tyler (maternal uncle)
- [ ] Tilda (maternal aunt)
- [ ] Caroline (maternal cousin)
- [ ] Vanessa (father's partner)
- [ ] Ian (paternal partner's child)
- [ ] Oliver (mother's partner)
- [ ] Oscar (mother's partner)
- [ ] Freddie (maternal half-sibling)
- [ ] Freya (maternal half-sibling)
- [ ] Kate (maternal half-sibling)
- [ ] Lucas (mother's partner)
- [ ] None of them

Back | Continue

Outcomes 2: Closeness and contact





Outcome 3: Safety net

Who could you **really count on if you needed help**, today or in the future?

- [ ] George (father)
- [ ] Jack (brother)
- [ ] Henry (paternal grandfather)
- [ ] Daniel (paternal uncle)
- [ ] Anne (paternal cousin)
- [ ] Molly (maternal grandmother)
- [ ] Tilda (maternal aunt)
- [ ] Caroline (maternal cousin)
- [ ] Vanessa (father's partner)
- [ ] Oliver (mother's partner)
- [ ] Freddie (maternal half-sibling)
- [ ] Freya (maternal half-sibling)
- [ ] Kate (maternal half-sibling)
- [ ] Lucas (mother's partner)
- [ ] None of them

Back | Continue

Questions

How important are nuclear, extended, and complex kin?

- for (1), (2), (3)?

How does their importance vary

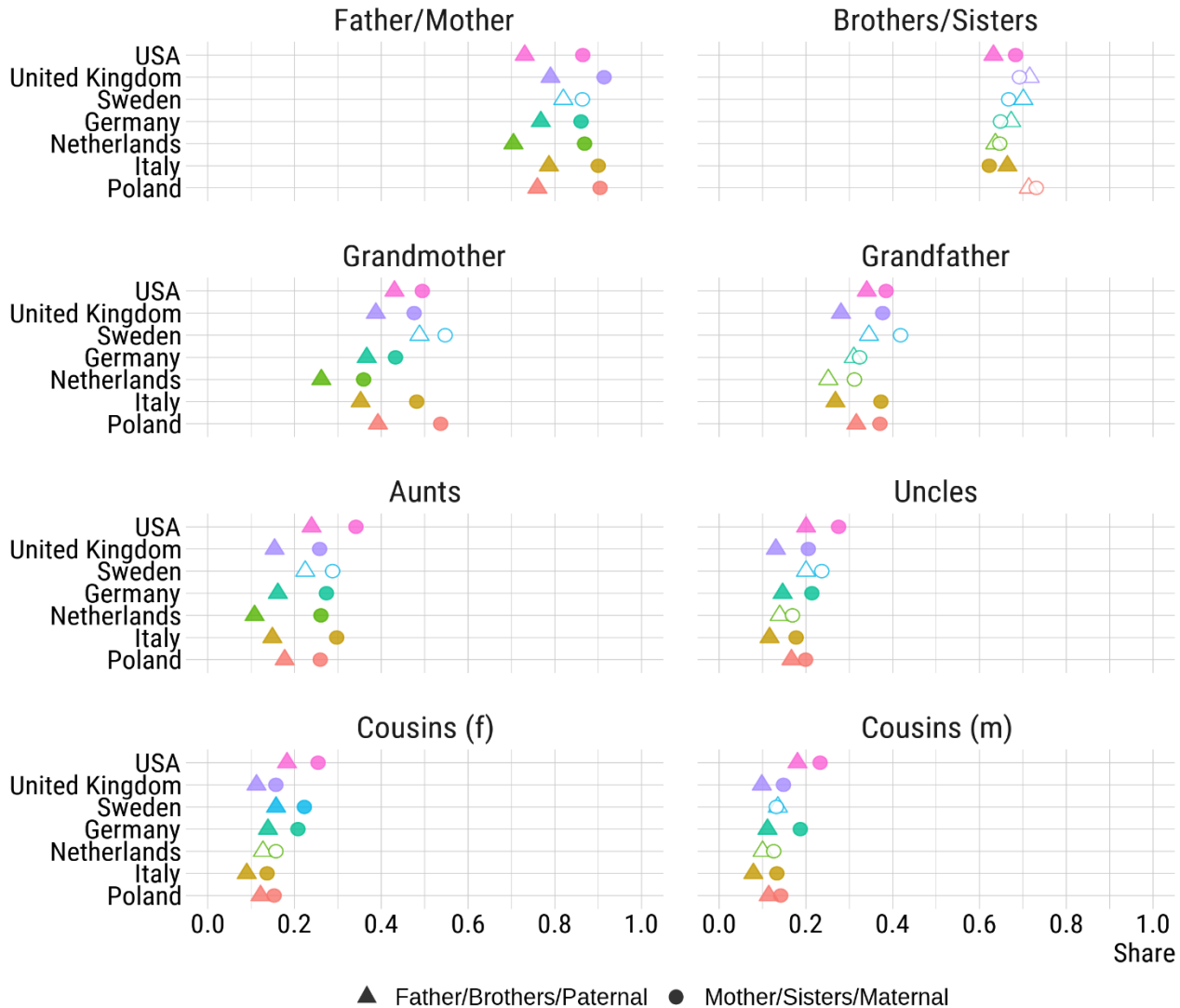
- between maternal and paternal lines?
- between “intact” and separated families?
- across countries?

Beyond the nuclear family: New data on kinship networks reveal **matrilineal tilts**, ripple effects of divorce, and the importance of extended kin

Importance of family members

Affirmative answers to the question:
"If you think about the role of these persons in your life up to now: Who was important to you?"

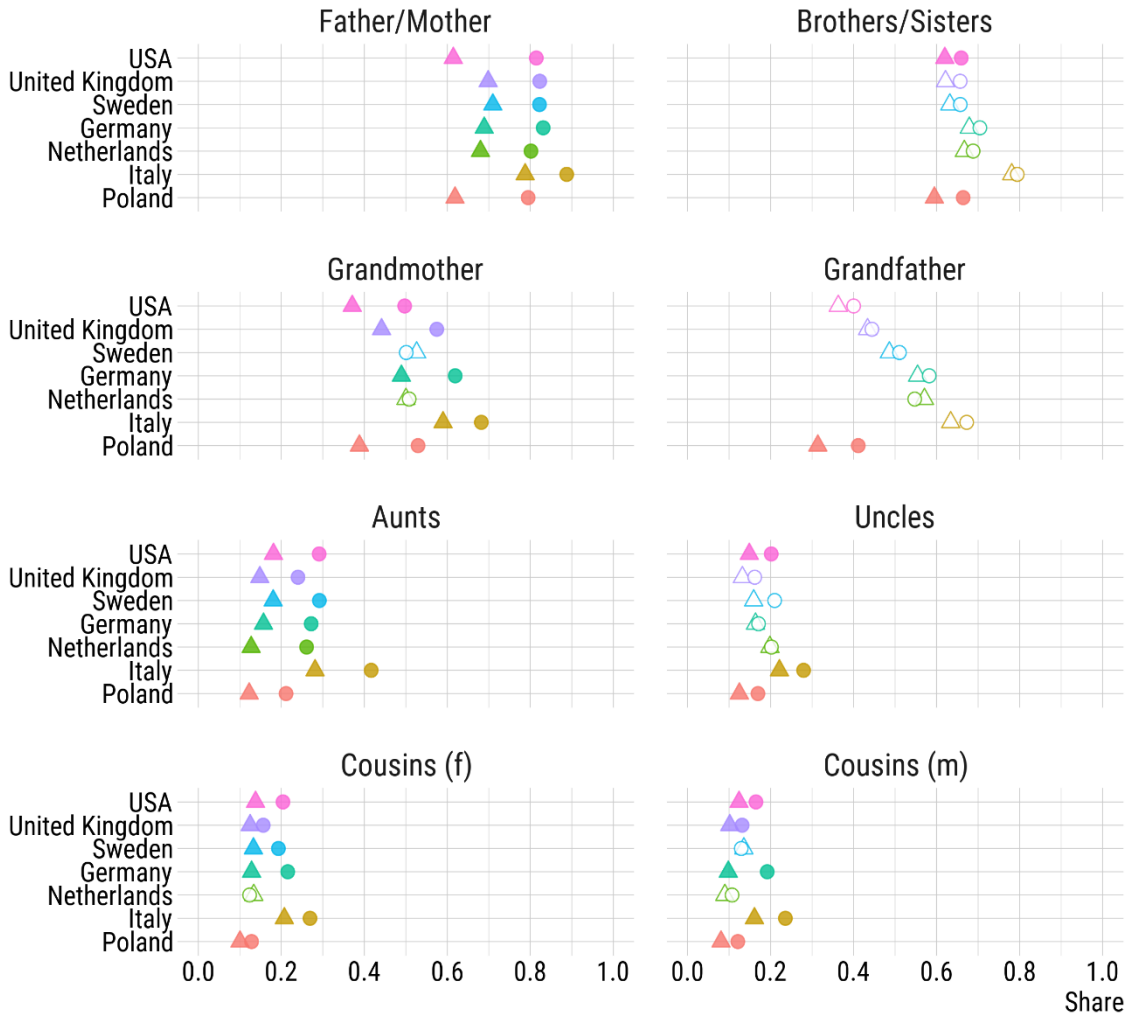
(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by kin type on dyadic level.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)



Closeness to family members

Respondents answering *pretty close* or *very close* to the question:
"How close do you feel emotionally to each of these persons today?"

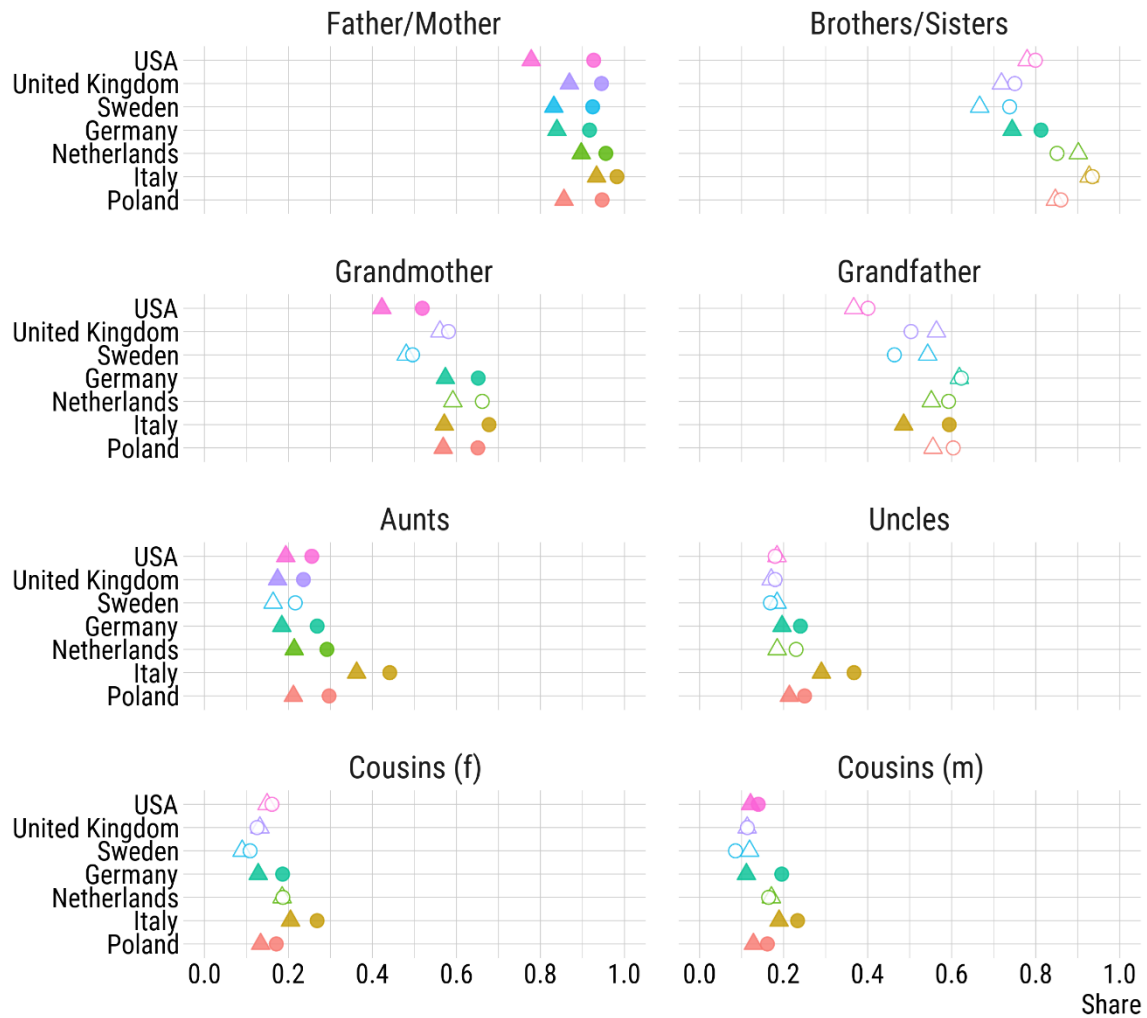
(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by kin type on dyadic level.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)



Frequency of contact with family members

Respondents answering *daily or several times a week*, *once per week*, or *1-3 times per month* to the question:
"How often are you in contact with each of these persons, adding up all visits, letters, phone calls, etc.?"

(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by kin type on dyadic level.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)



▲ Father/Brothers/Paternal ● Mother/Sisters/Maternal

Closeness to family member

Respondents answering *pretty close* or *very close* to
"How close do you feel emotionally to each of these

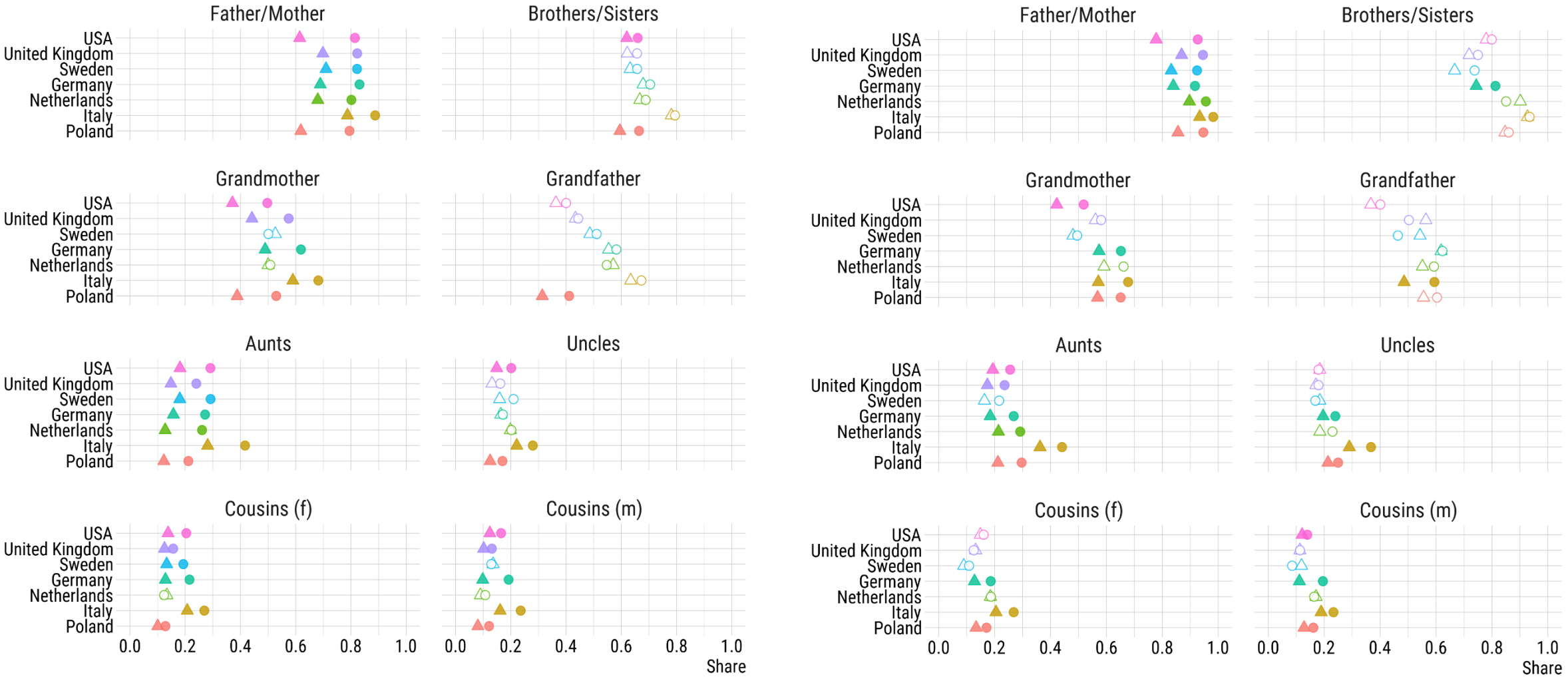
family members

week, *once per week*, or *1-3 times per month* to the question:
e persons, adding up all visits, letters, phone calls, etc.?"

(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by ki
Solid markers indicate statistically significant ef

nswers by kin type on dyadic level.
ignificant effects ($p \leq .05$)

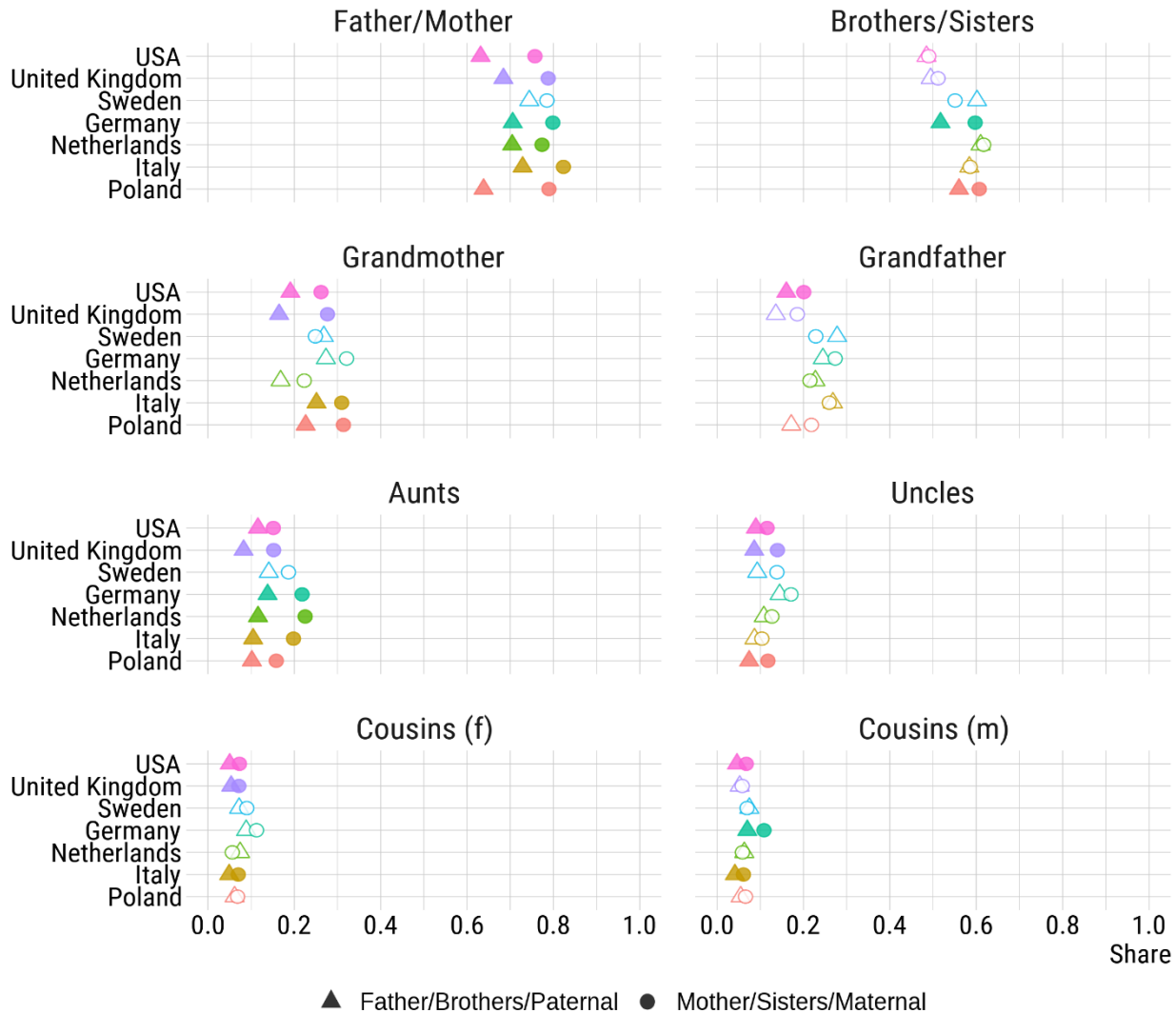
- Matrilineal tilt in kin importance close to universal across kin types & countries.
- Stronger in relations to female kin.



Family safety net

Weighted share of affirmative answers to the question:
"Who could you really count on if you needed help, today or in the future?"

(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by kin type on dyadic level.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)

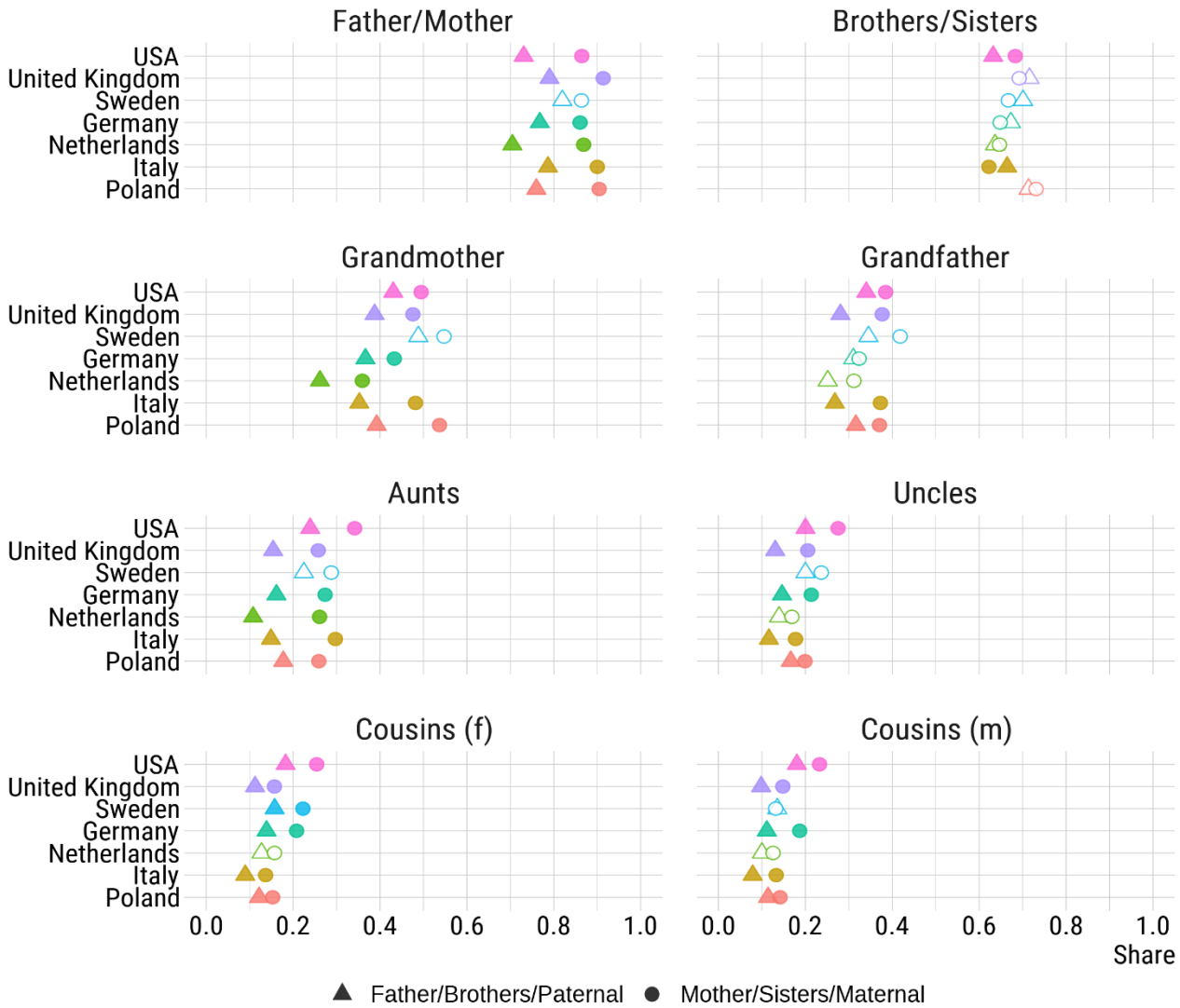


Beyond the nuclear family: New data on kinship networks reveal matrilineal tilts, ripple effects of divorce, and the **importance of extended kin**

Importance of family members

Affirmative answers to the question:
"If you think about the role of these persons in your life up to now: Who was important to you?"

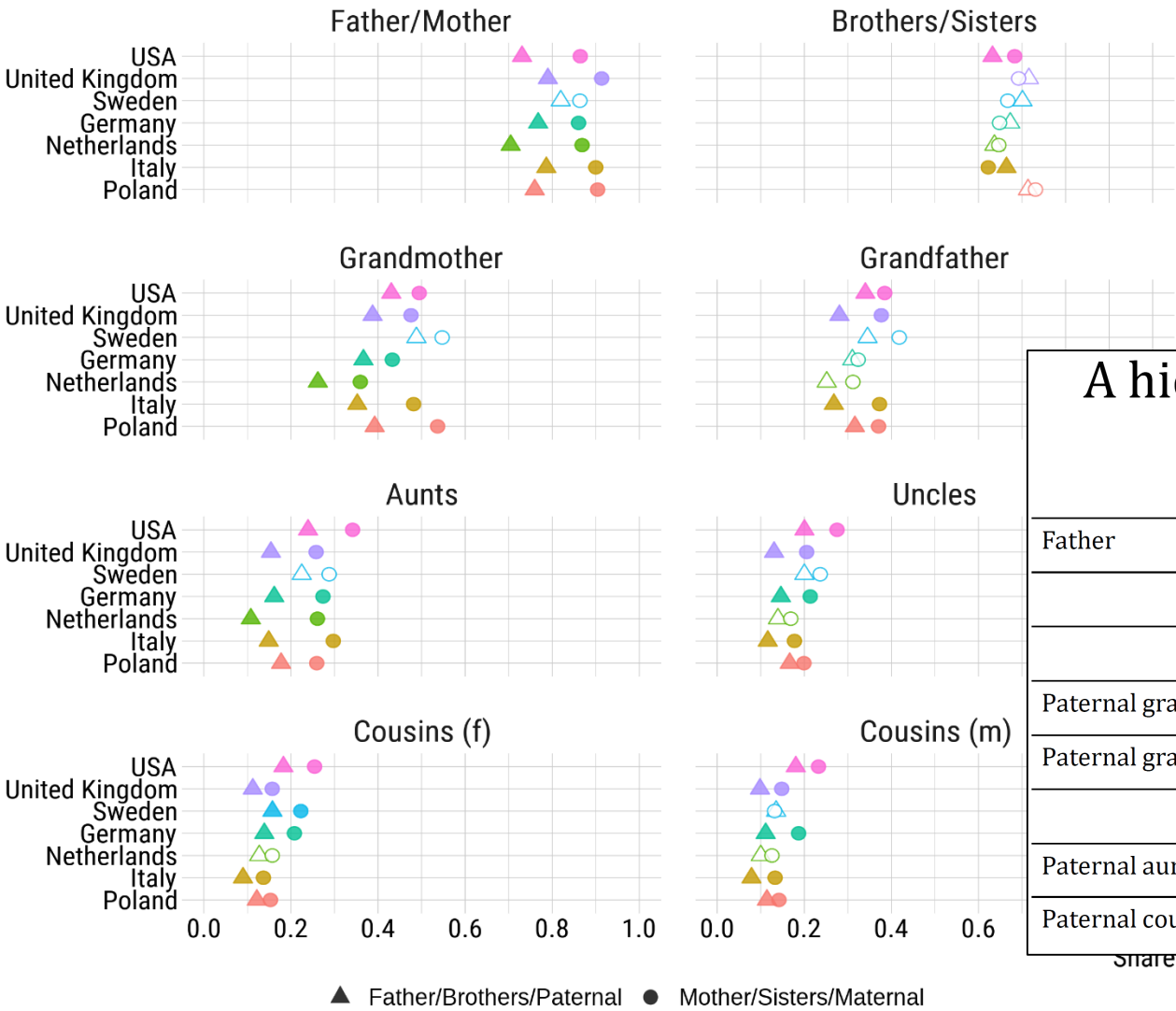
(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by kin type on dyadic level.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)



Importance of family members

Affirmative answers to the question:
"If you think about the role of these persons in your life up to now: Who was important to you?"

(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by kin type on dyadic level.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)



A hierarchy of the importance of family members

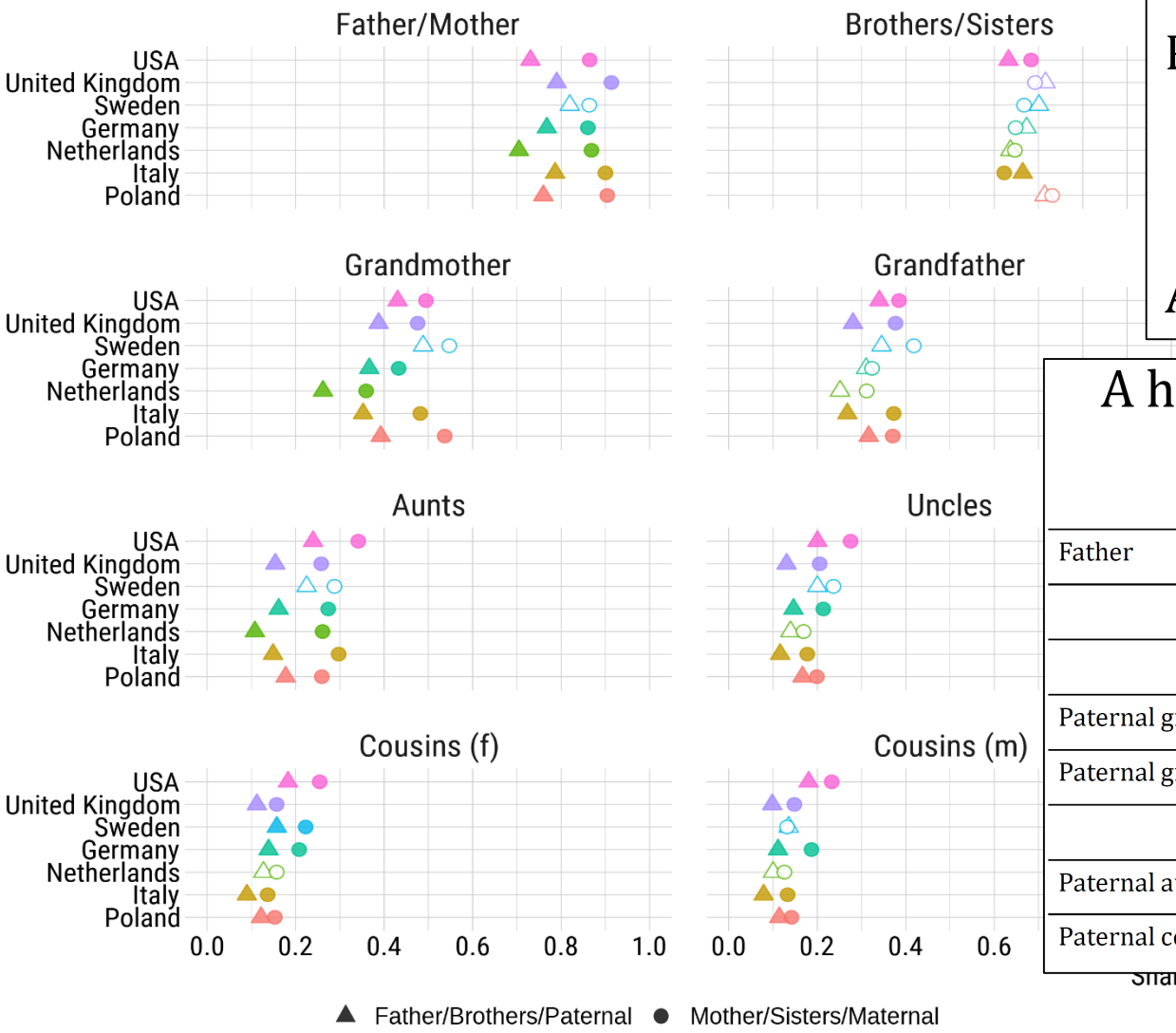
	Mother	85-90%
Father		70-80%
Brother, Sister		60-70%
	Maternal grandmother	45-55%
Paternal grandmother	Maternal grandfather	30-45%
Paternal grandfather	Maternal aunt	25-35%
	Maternal uncle	15-30%
Paternal aunt, Paternal uncle	Maternal cousin	10-20%
Paternal cousin		5-15%

Importance

Importance of family members

Affirmative answers to the question:
"If you think about the role of these persons in your life up to now: Who was importa

(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by kin type on dyadic level.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)



Hierarchy

- consistent across countries
- consistent with Parsons' onion, models of genealogical distance & related research (e.g., Rossi & Rossi 1990)

Primacy

- of nuclear kin
- of grandparents among extended kin
- of the maternal line

Aunts, uncles, cousins are secondary but important

A hierarchy of the importance of family members

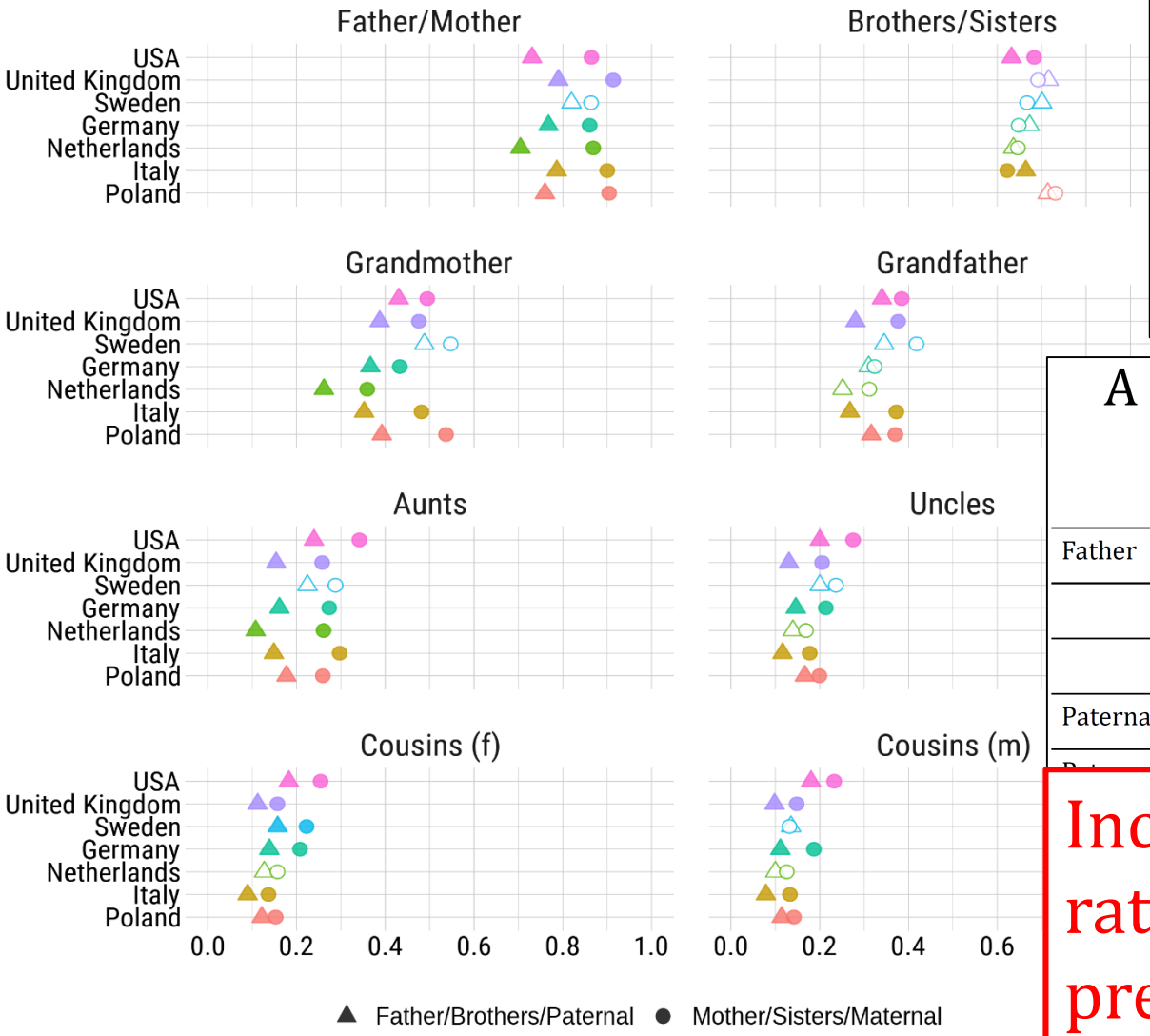
	Mother	85-90%
Father		70-80%
Brother, Sister		60-70%
	Maternal grandmother	45-55%
Paternal grandmother	Maternal grandfather	30-45%
Paternal grandfather	Maternal aunt	25-35%
	Maternal uncle	15-30%
Paternal aunt, Paternal uncle	Maternal cousin	10-20%
Paternal cousin		5-15%

Importance

Importance of family members

Affirmative answers to the question:
"If you think about the role of these persons in your life up to now: Who was importa

(a) Weighted shares of affirmative answers by kin type on dyadic level.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)



Hierarchy
- consistent across countries
- consistent with Parsons' onion, models of genealogical distance & related research (e.g., Rossi & Rossi 1990)

Primacy
- of nuclear kin
- of grandparents among extended kin
- of the maternal line

Aunts, uncles, cousins are secondary but important

A hierarchy of the importance of family members

	Mother	85-90%
Father		70-80%
Brother, Sister		60-70%
	Maternal grandmother	45-55%
Paternal grandmother	Maternal grandfather	30-45%
		25-35%
		15-30%
		10-20%
		5-15%

Importance

Incomplete view: Relative ratings, conditional on presence, ignoring numbers

An **absolute** view of important family members

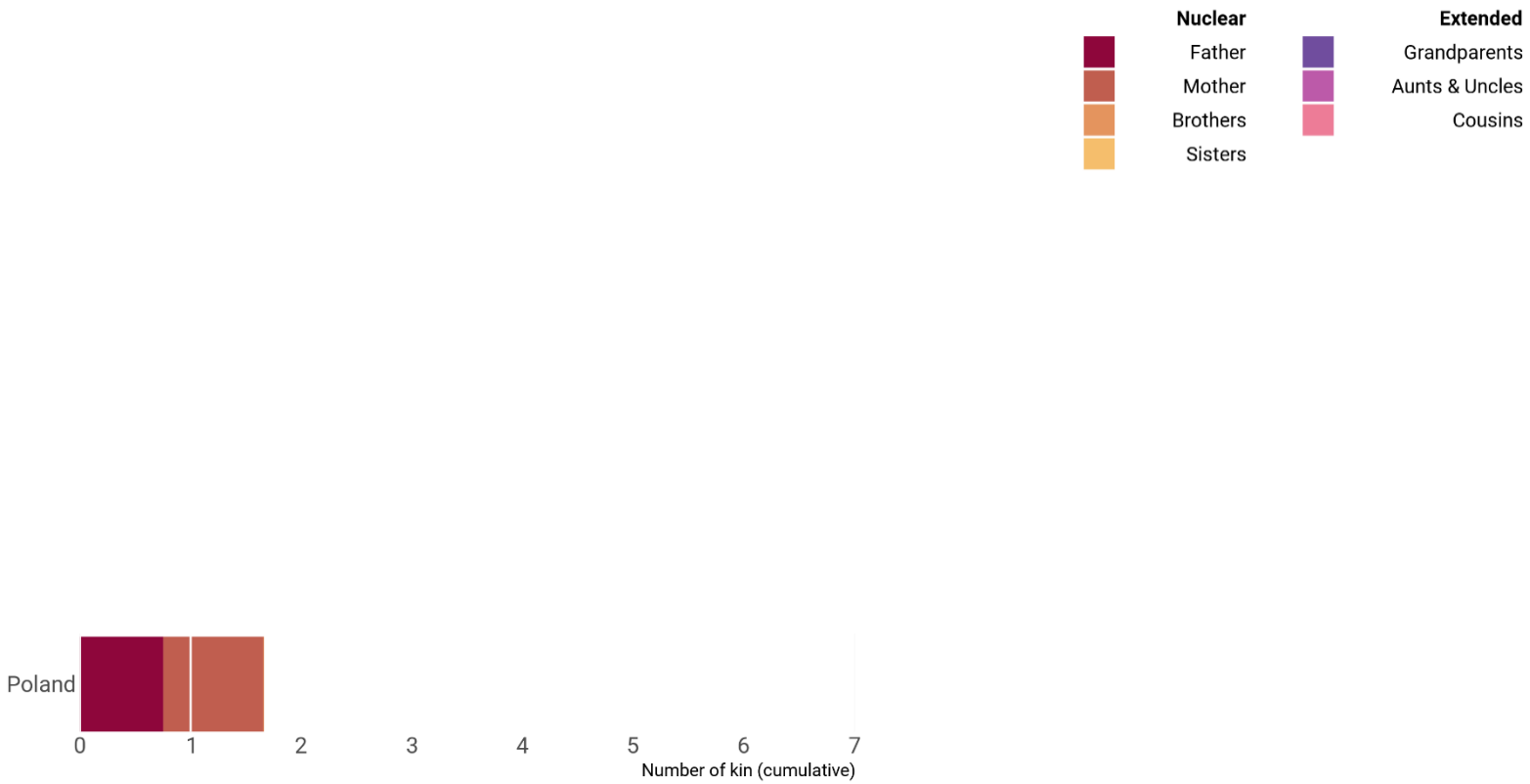
Importance of family members

Bars show cumulative absolute numbers calculated as shares (shown in Fig. 1) multiplied by absolute numbers of family members (dead or alive) reported for each type of kinship.

An **absolute** view of important family members

Importance of family members

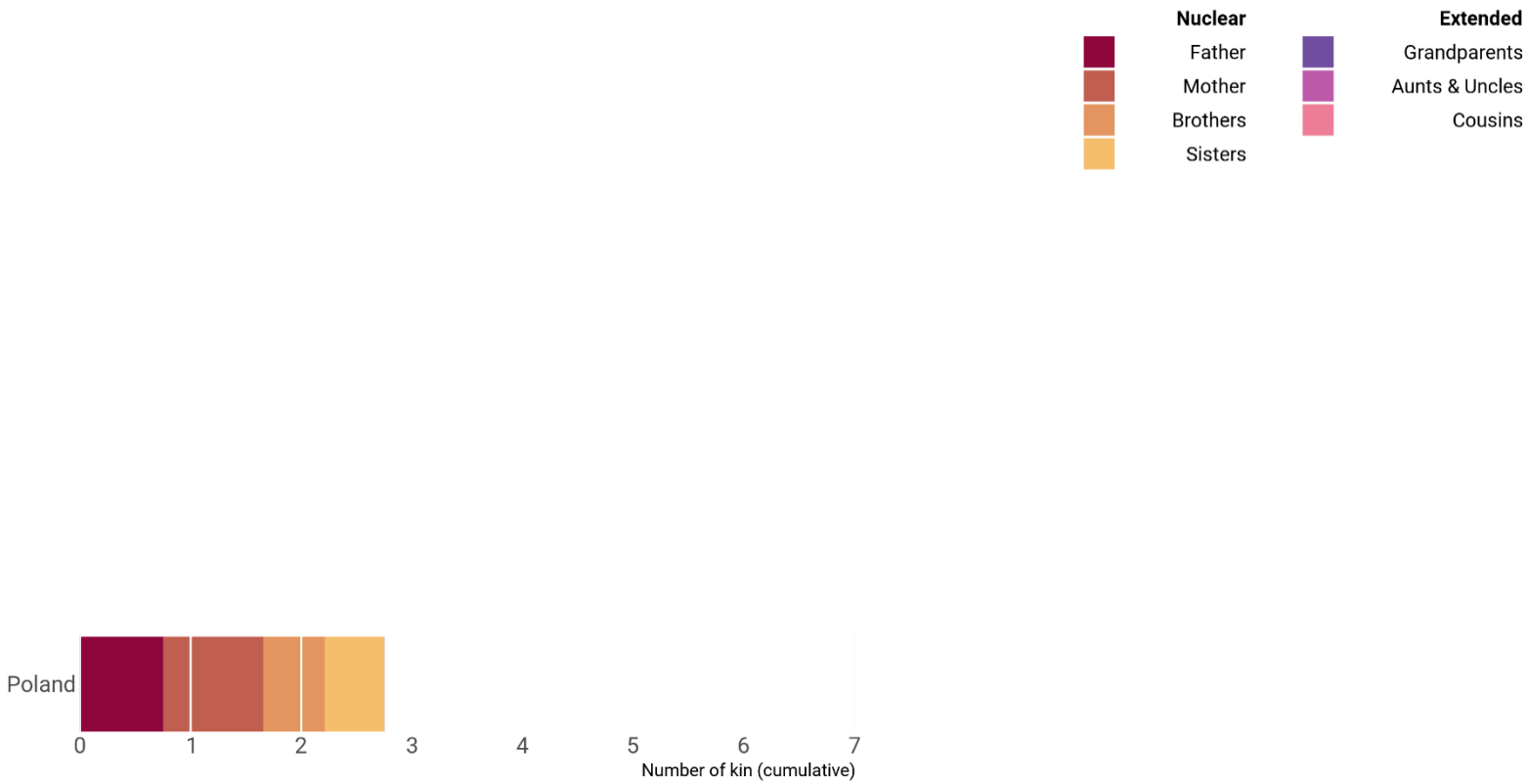
Bars show cumulative absolute numbers calculated as shares (shown in Fig. 1) multiplied by absolute numbers of family members (dead or alive) reported for each type of kinship.



An **absolute** view of important family members

Importance of family members

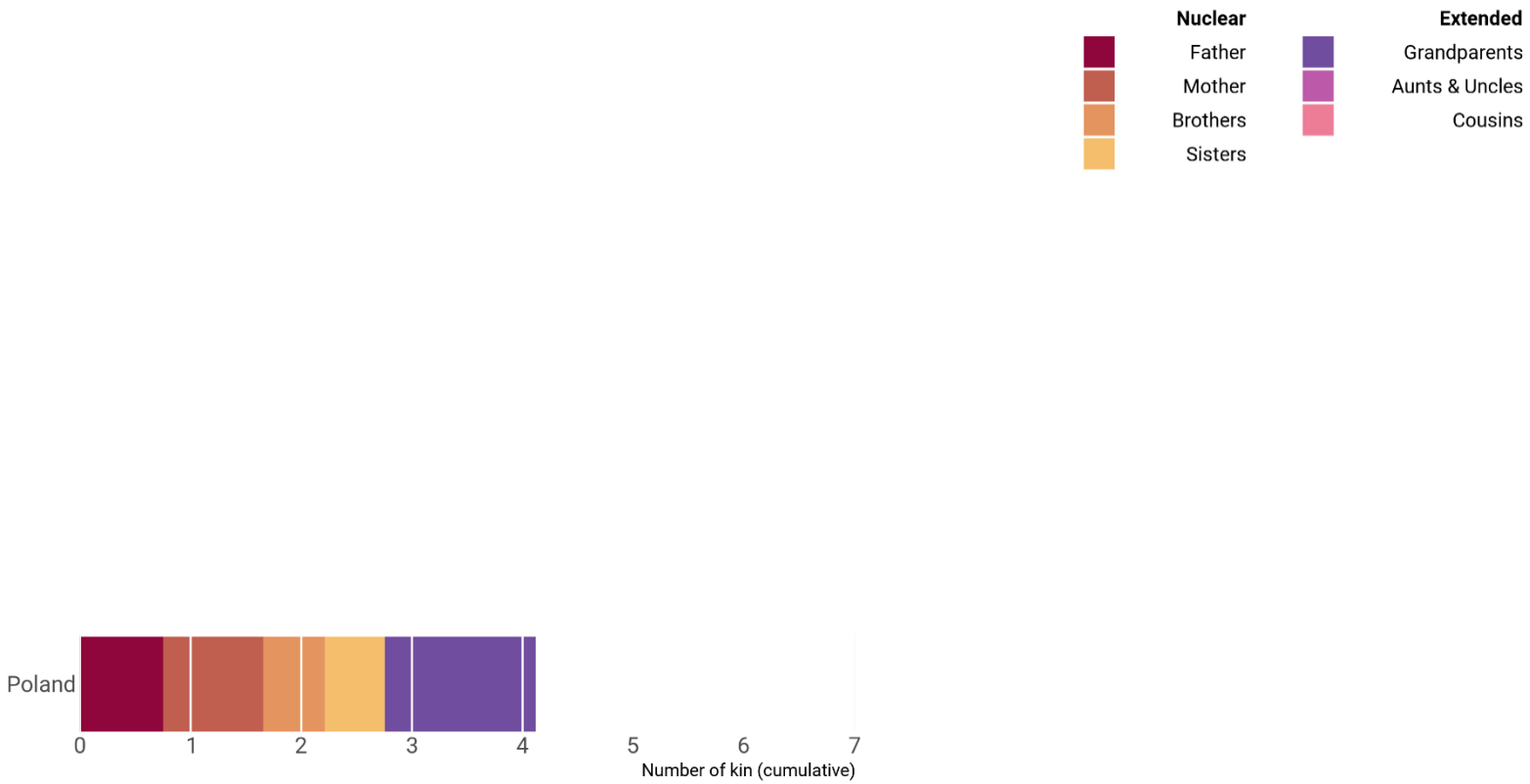
Bars show cumulative absolute numbers calculated as shares (shown in Fig. 1) multiplied by absolute numbers of family members (dead or alive) reported for each type of kinship.



An **absolute** view of important family members

Importance of family members

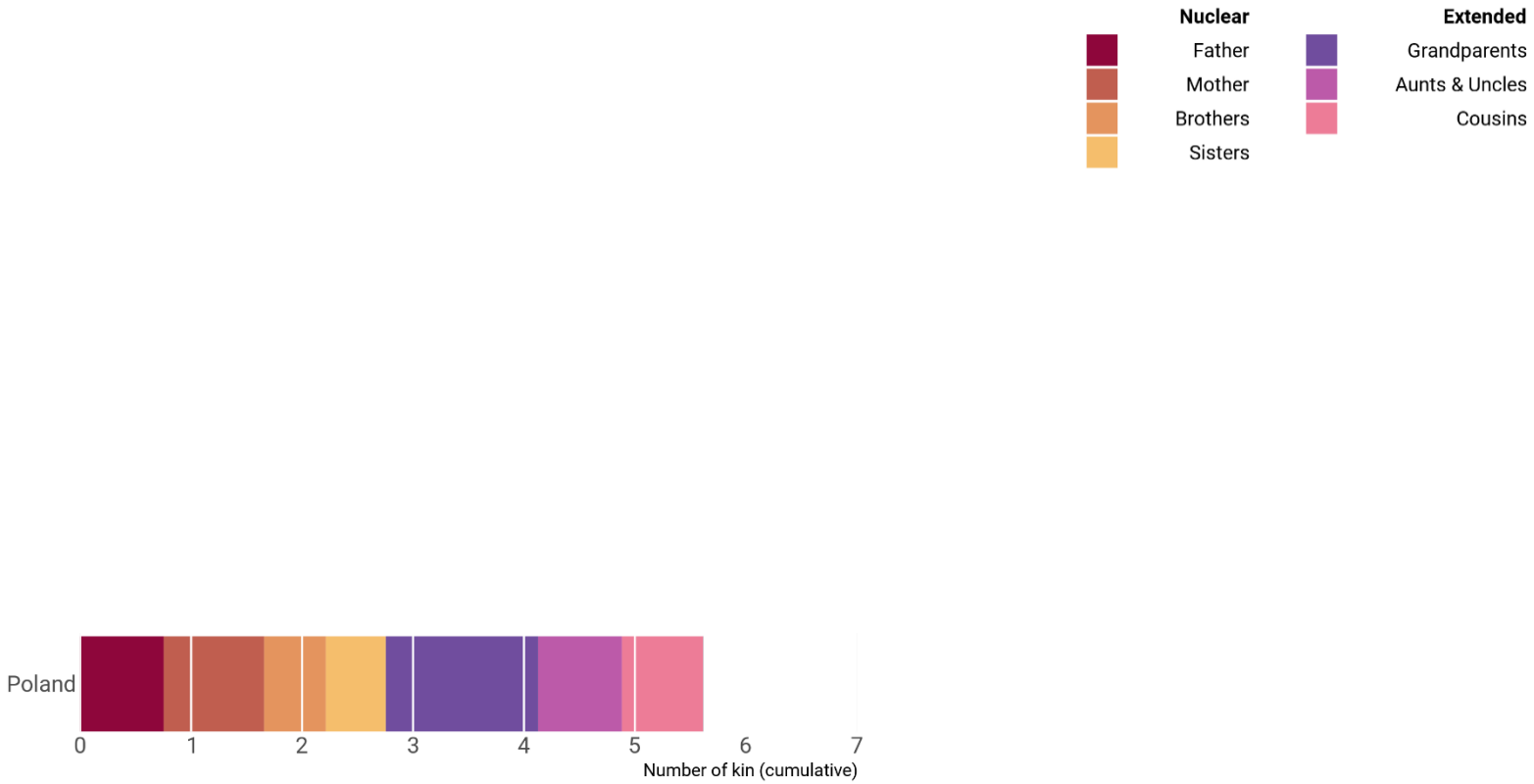
Bars show cumulative absolute numbers calculated as shares (shown in Fig. 1) multiplied by absolute numbers of family members (dead or alive) reported for each type of kinship.



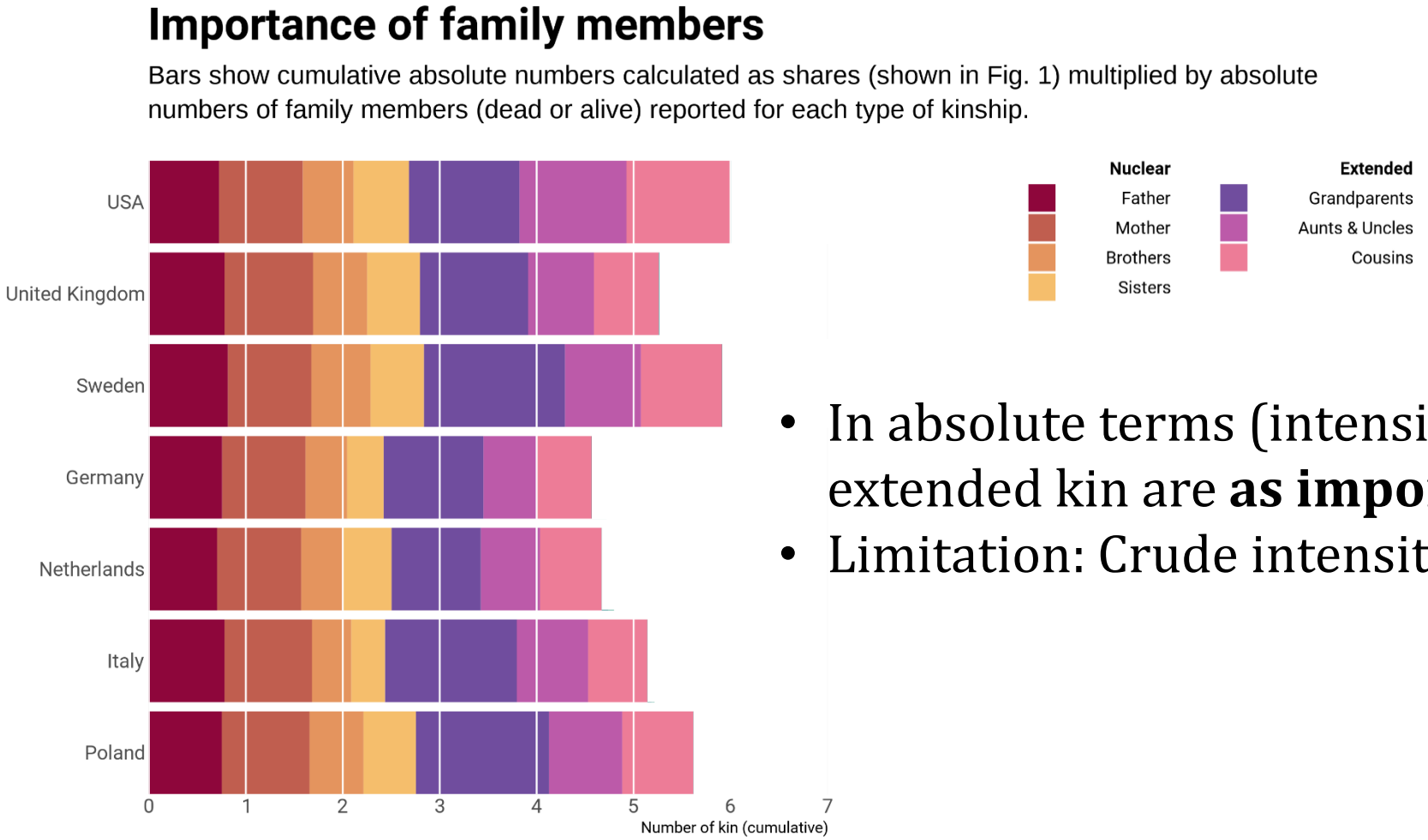
An **absolute** view of important family members

Importance of family members

Bars show cumulative absolute numbers calculated as shares (shown in Fig. 1) multiplied by absolute numbers of family members (dead or alive) reported for each type of kinship.

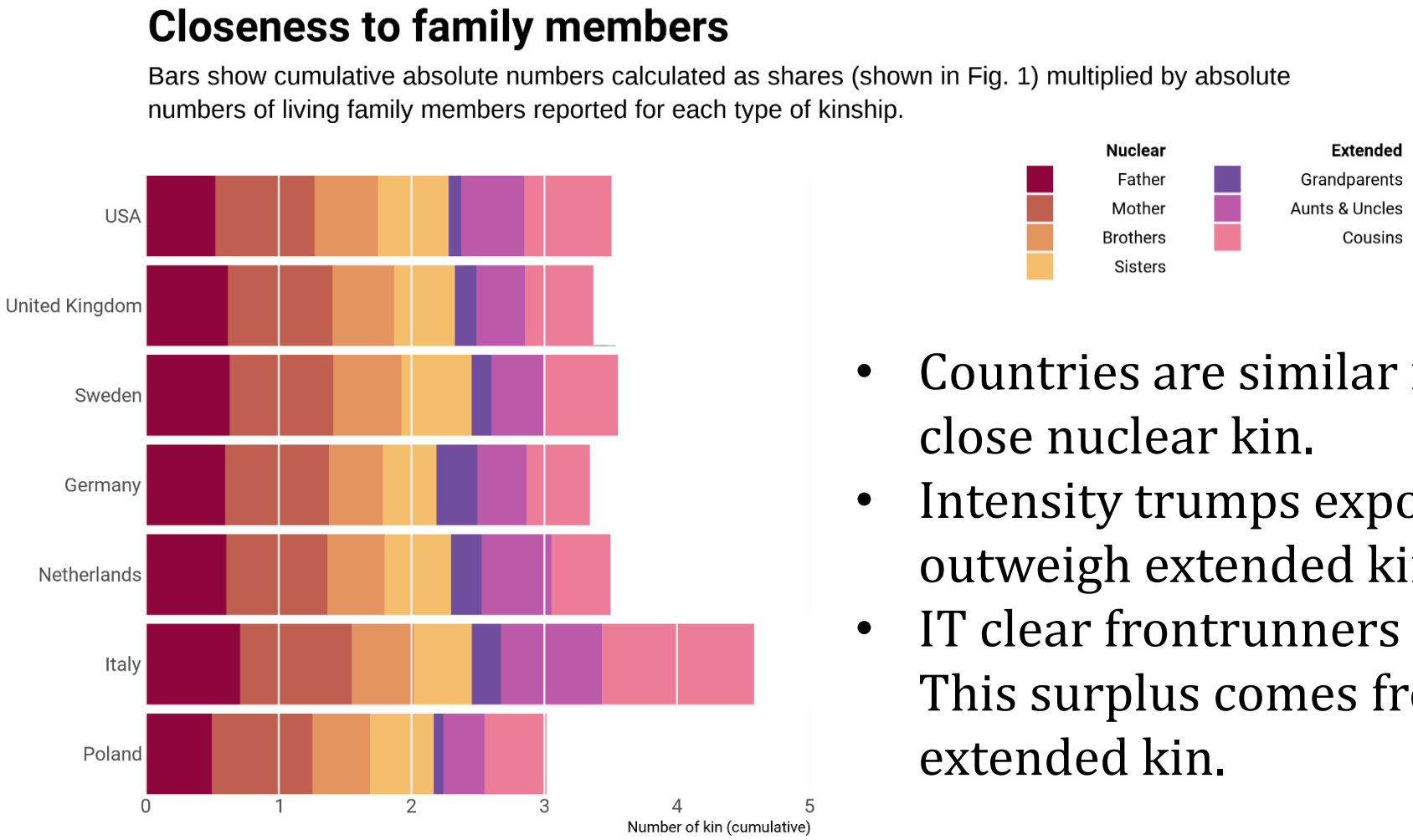


An **absolute** view of important family members



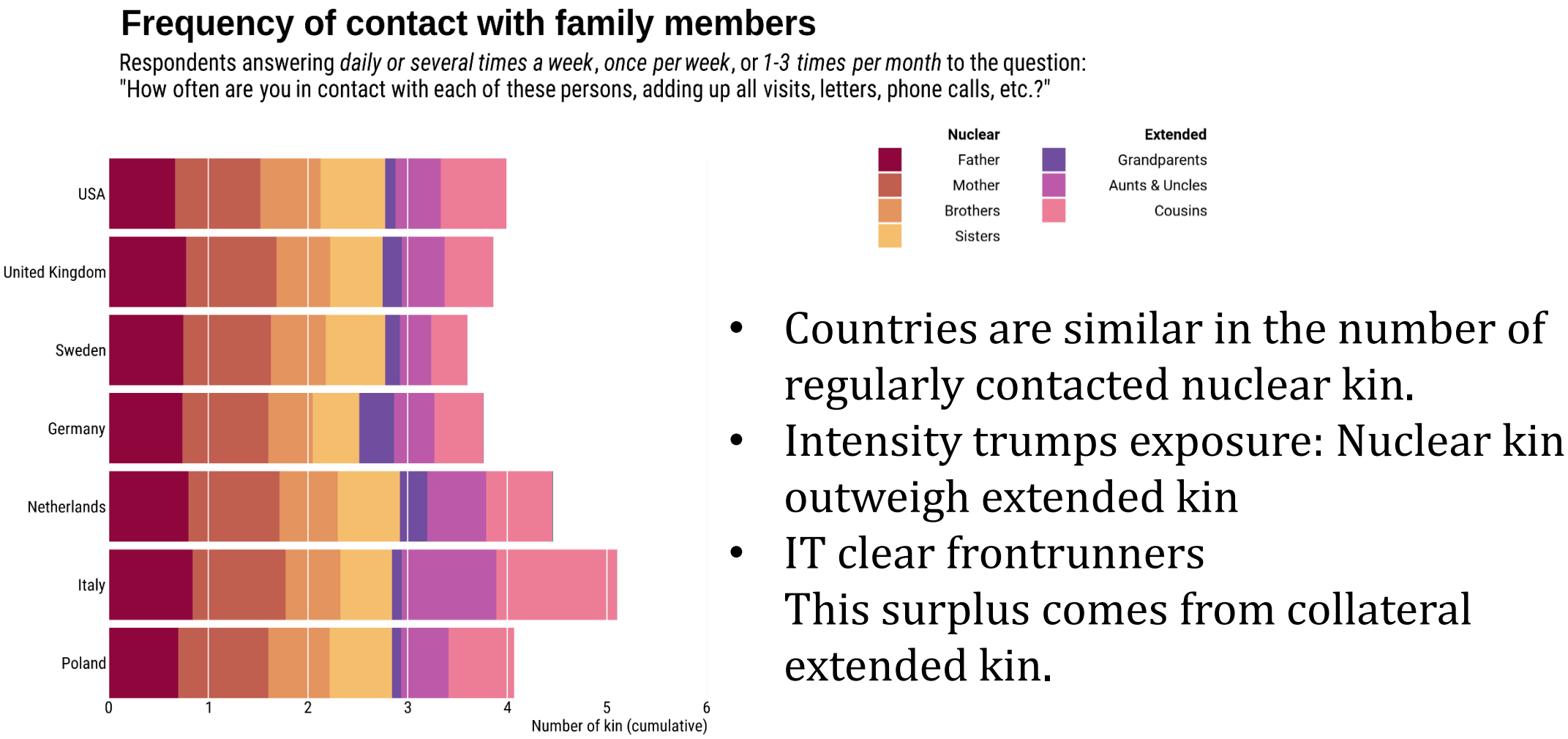
- In absolute terms (intensity * numbers) extended kin are **as important** as nuclear kin.
- Limitation: Crude intensity measure.

An absolute view of **closeness** to family members



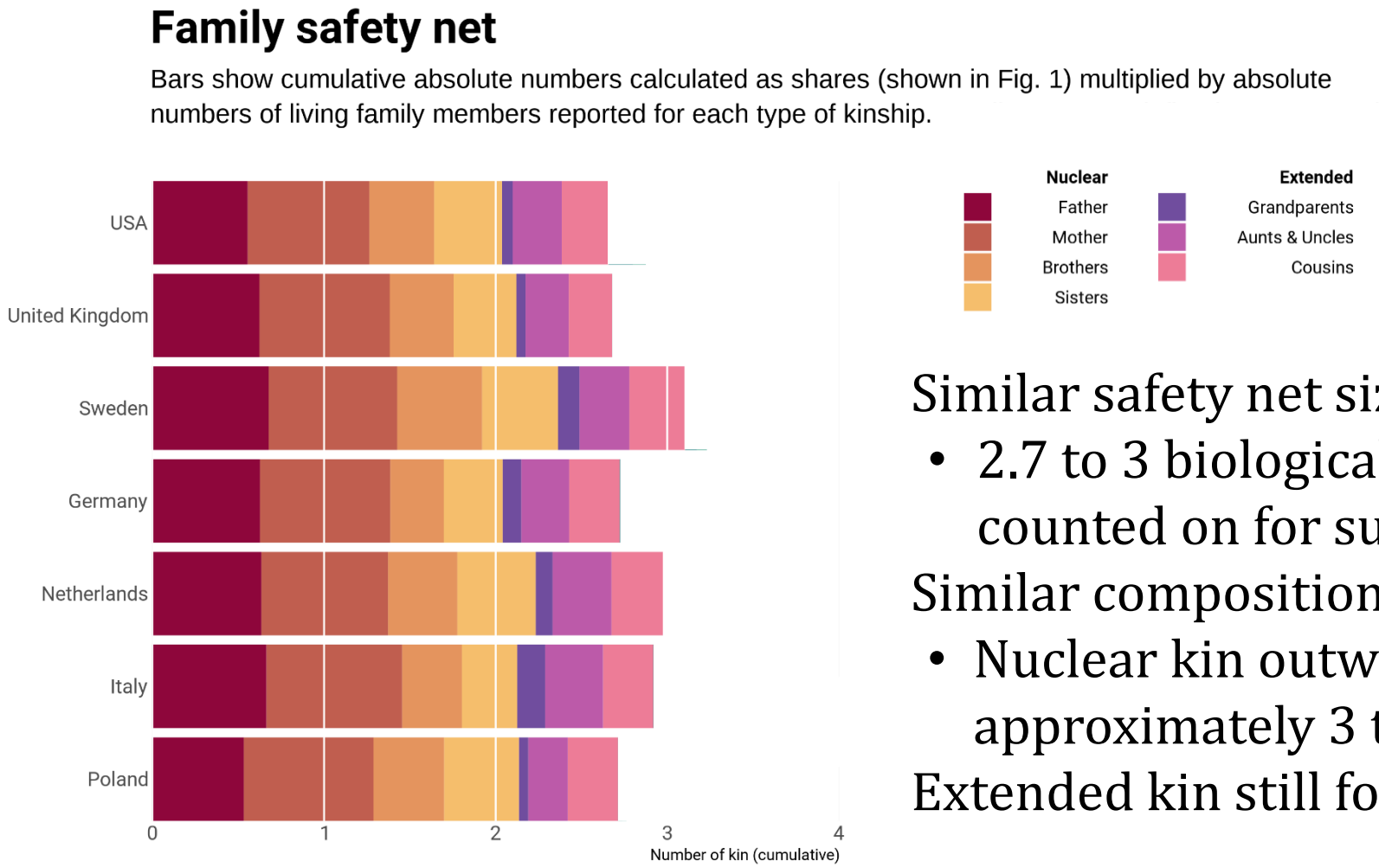
- Countries are similar in the number of close nuclear kin.
- Intensity trumps exposure: Nuclear kin outweigh extended kin (except IT).
- IT clear frontrunners
  This surplus comes from collateral extended kin.

An absolute view of **contact** to family members



- Countries are similar in the number of regularly contacted nuclear kin.
- Intensity trumps exposure: Nuclear kin outweigh extended kin
- IT clear frontrunners
  This surplus comes from collateral extended kin.

An absolute view on the **family safety net**



Similar safety net size across countries:

- 2.7 to 3 biological family members are counted on for support.

Similar composition across countries:

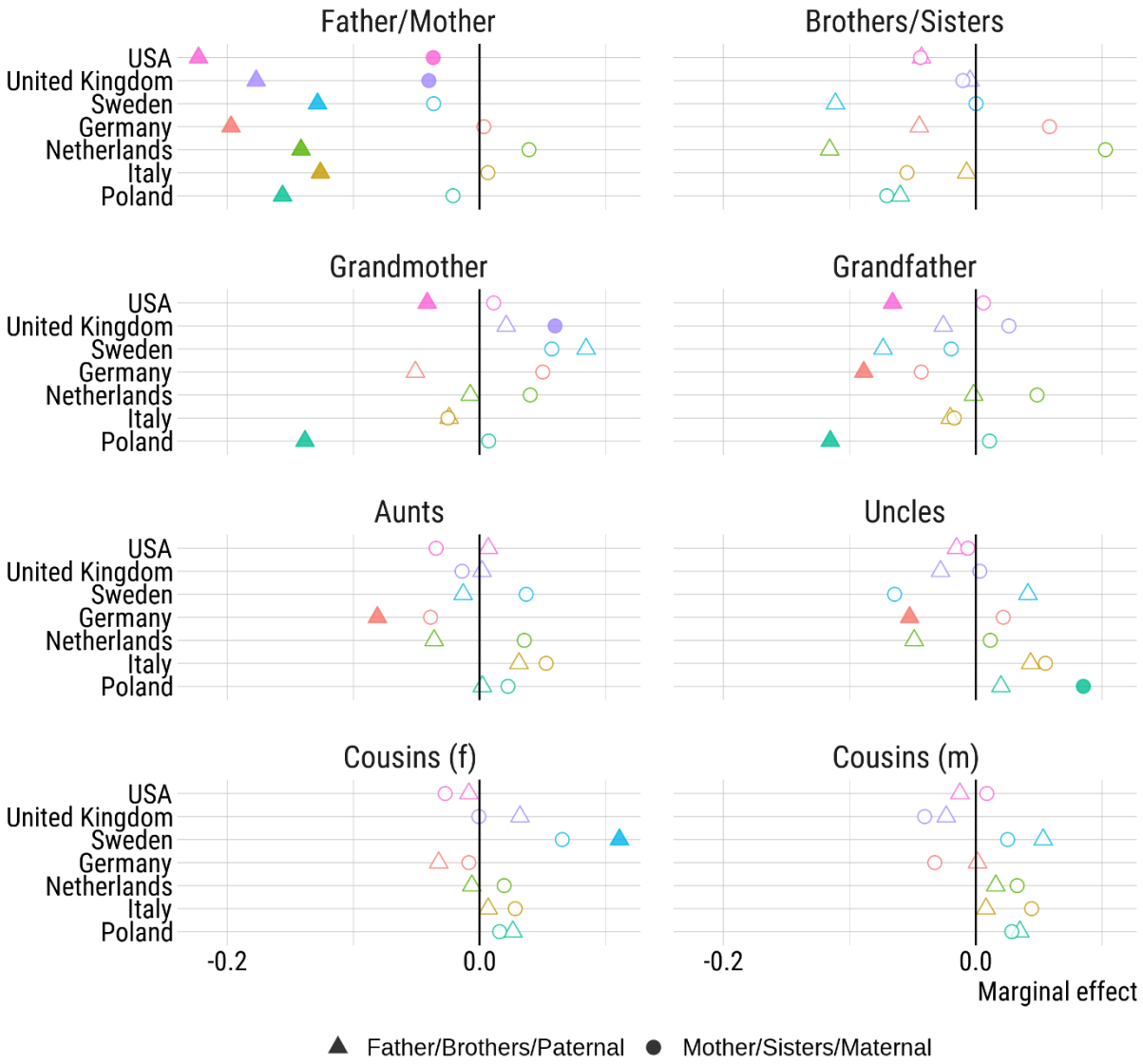
- Nuclear kin outweigh extended kin by approximately 3 to 1.

Extended kin still form a relevant part.

Beyond the nuclear family: New data on kinship networks reveal matrilineal tilts, **ripple effects of divorce**, and the importance of extended kin

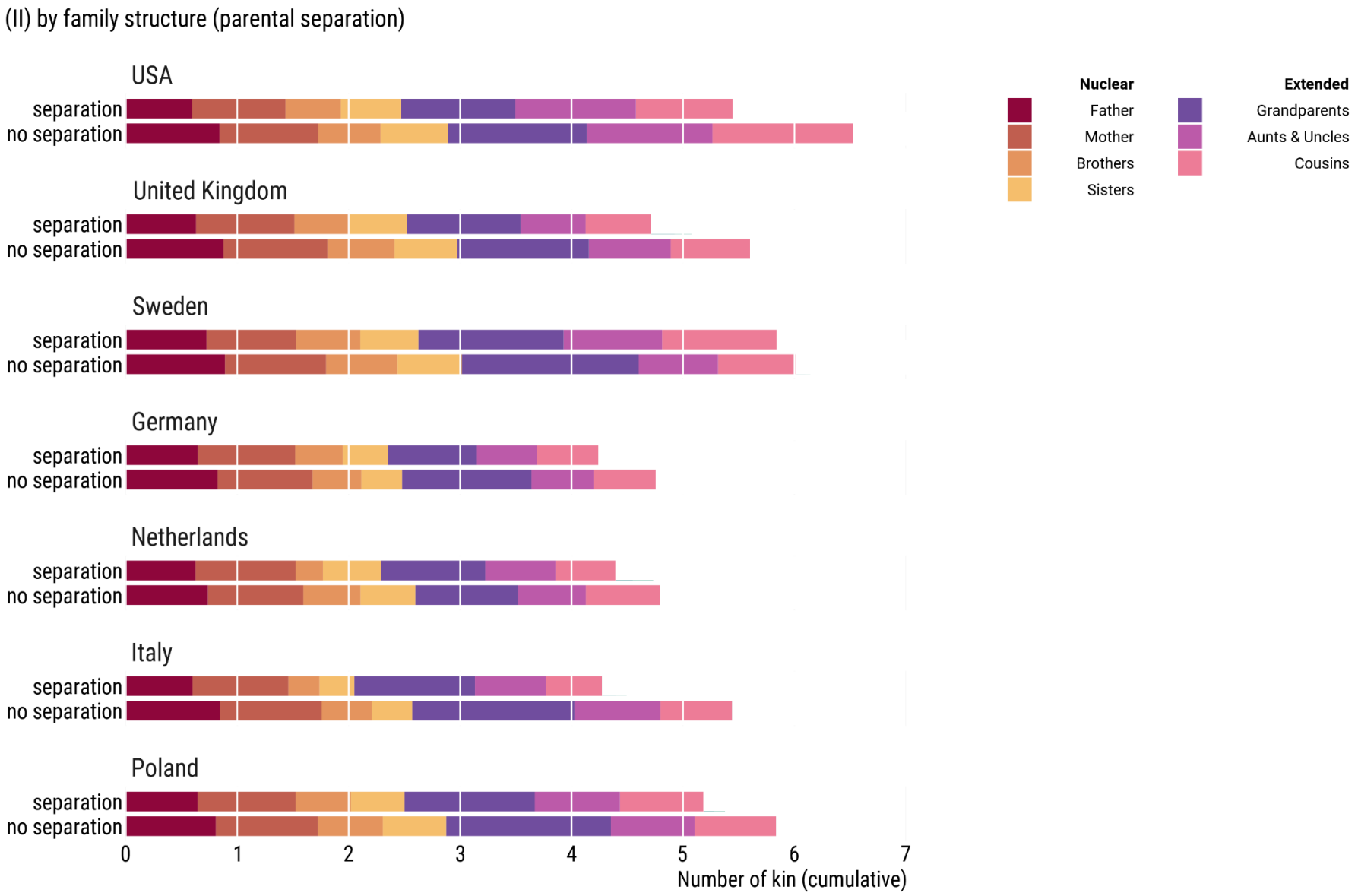
Separation effects on **kin importance**

(b) Marginal effects of parental separation. Effects shown on an absolute scale.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)

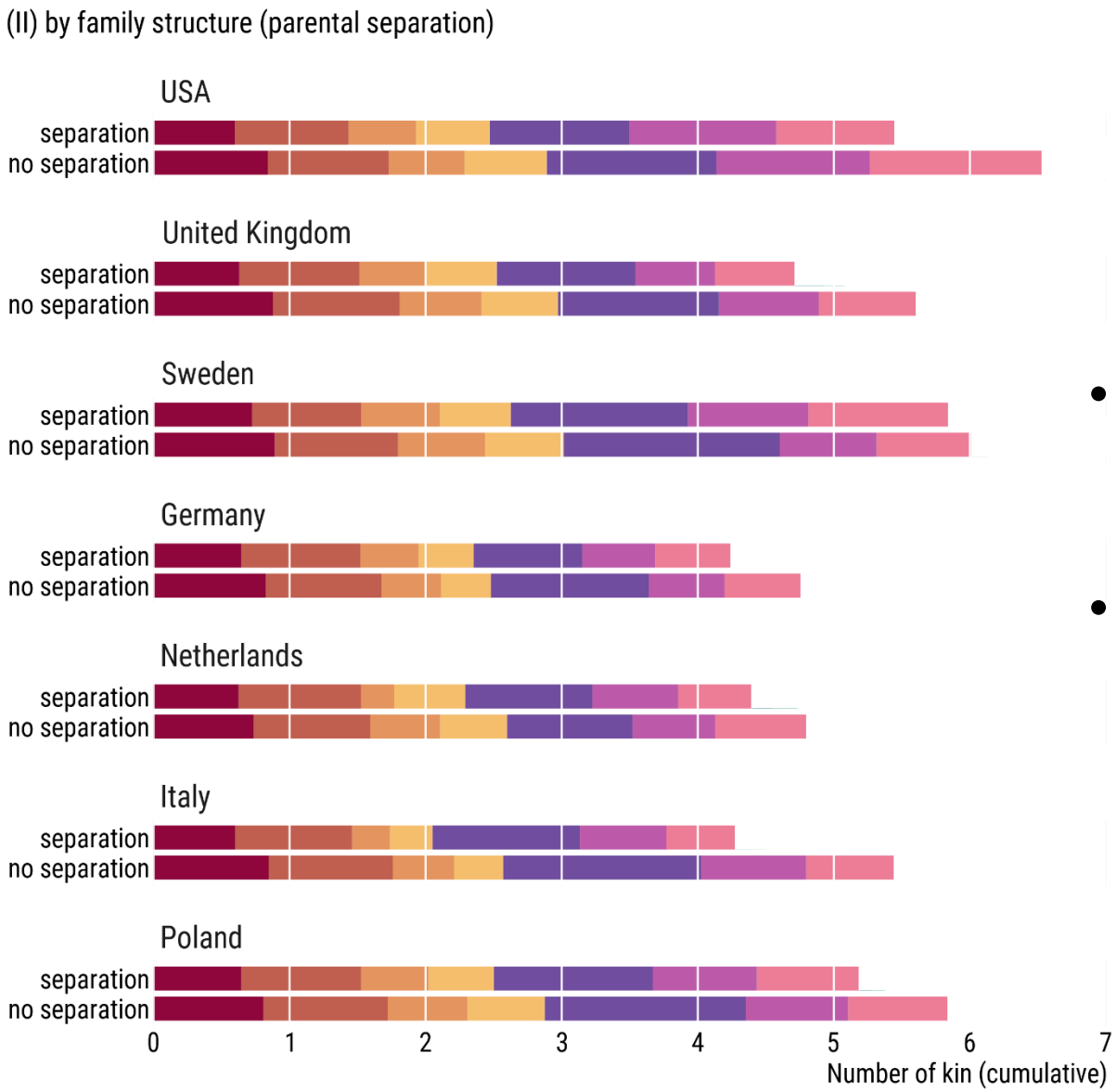


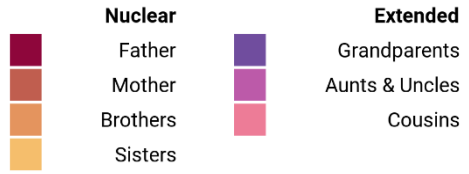

```
reg   rel_important                    ///
      i.parsep##i.kincat1              ///
      c.nkids                          ///
      c.kinnumber                      ///
      c.age i.gender i.education       ///
      c.lifesat c.health               ///
      i.parstatus                      ///
      i.pgparsep i.mgparsep            ///
      flag_nns                         ///
      , cluster(anchor id)
```

Separation effects on **kin importance**



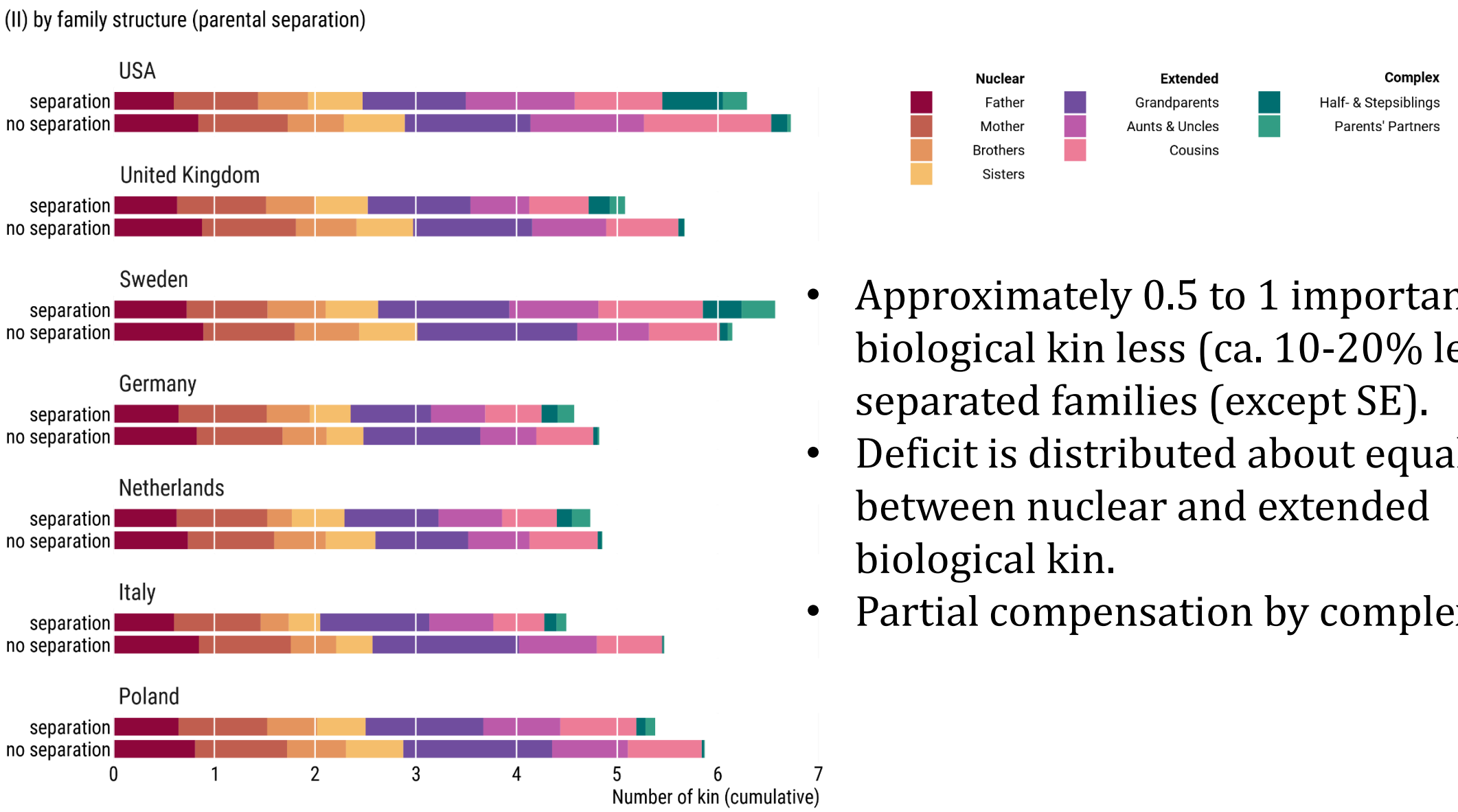
Separation effects on **kin importance**





- Approximately 0.5 to 1 important biological kin less (ca. 10-20% less) in separated families (except SE).
- Deficit is distributed about equally between nuclear and extended biological kin.

Separation effects on **kin importance**



- Approximately 0.5 to 1 important biological kin less (ca. 10-20% less) in separated families (except SE).
- Deficit is distributed about equally between nuclear and extended biological kin.
- Partial compensation by complex kin.

Separation effects on **contact and closeness**

Closeness to family members

Respondents answering *pretty close* or *very close* to the question:
"How close do you feel emotionally to each of these persons today?"

(b) Marginal effects of parental separation. Effects shown on an absolute scale.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)

Frequency of contact with family members

Respondents answering *daily or several times a week*, *once per week*, or *1-3 times per month* to the question:
"How often are you in contact with each of these persons, adding up all visits, letters, phone calls, etc.?"

(b) Marginal effects of parental separation. Effects shown on an absolute scale.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)

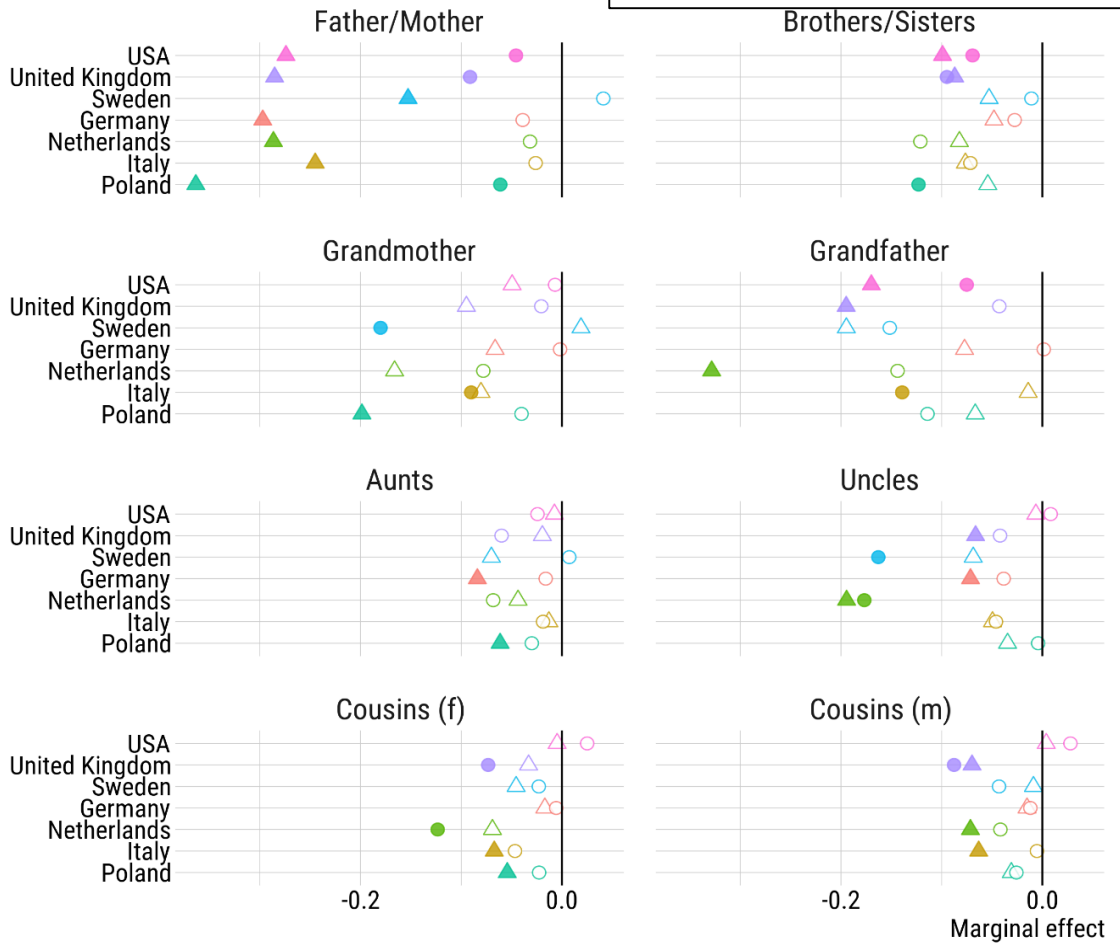
Separatio loseness

- Widespread erosion of closeness and especially contact
- For both nuclear and extended kin
- Stronger erosion for male kin and on paternal side

Closeness to family membe

Respondents answering *pretty close* or *very close* t
"How close do you feel emotionally to each of thes

(b) Marginal effects of parental separation. Ef
Solid markers indicate statistically significant



family members

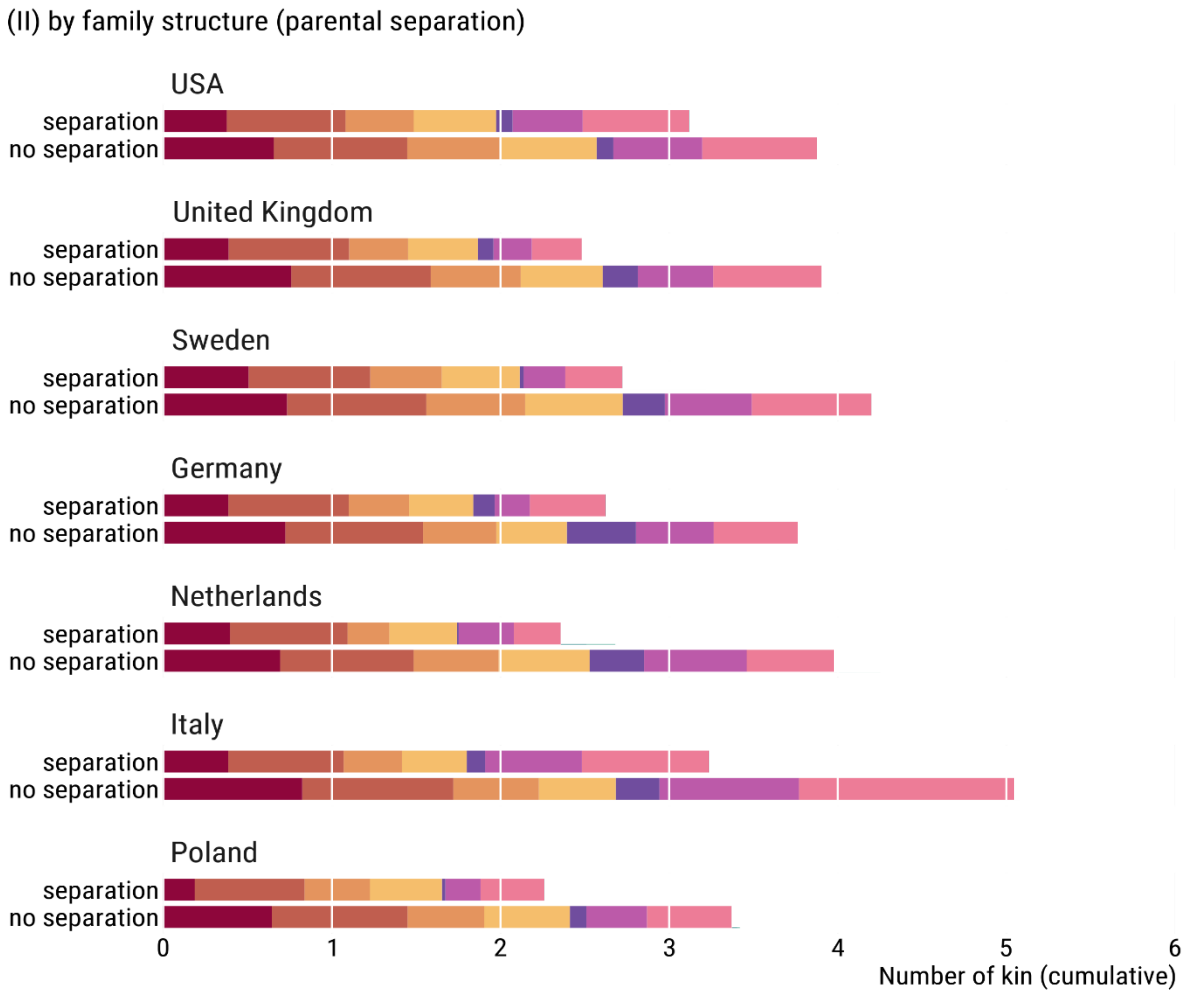
eek, *once per week*, or *1-3 times per month* to the question:
persons, adding up all visits, letters, phone calls, etc.?"

ration. Effects shown on an absolute scale.
gnificant effects ($p \leq .05$)

Separation effects on **contact and closeness**

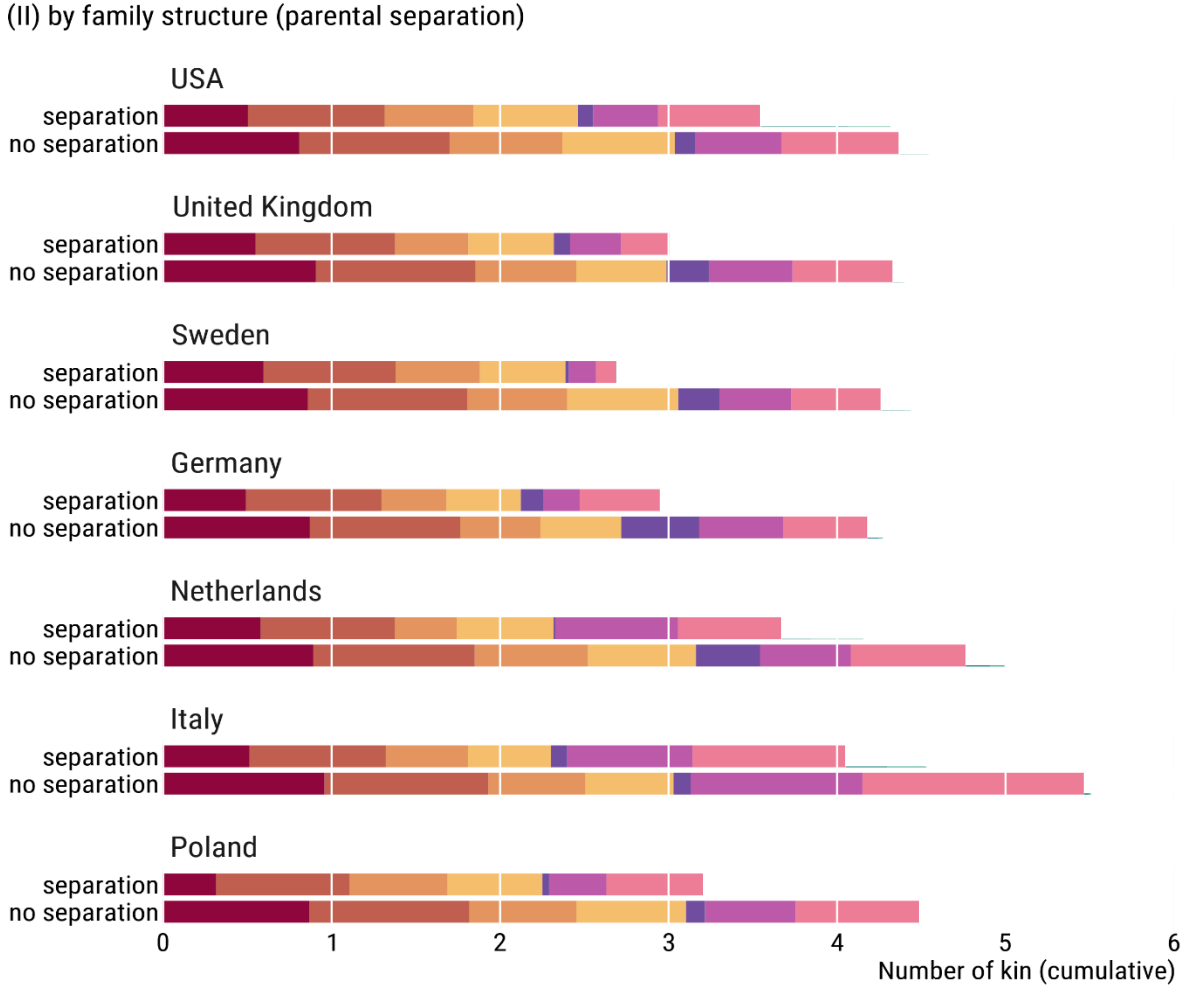
Closeness to family members

Respondents answering *pretty close* or *very close* to the question:
"How close do you feel emotionally to each of these persons today?"



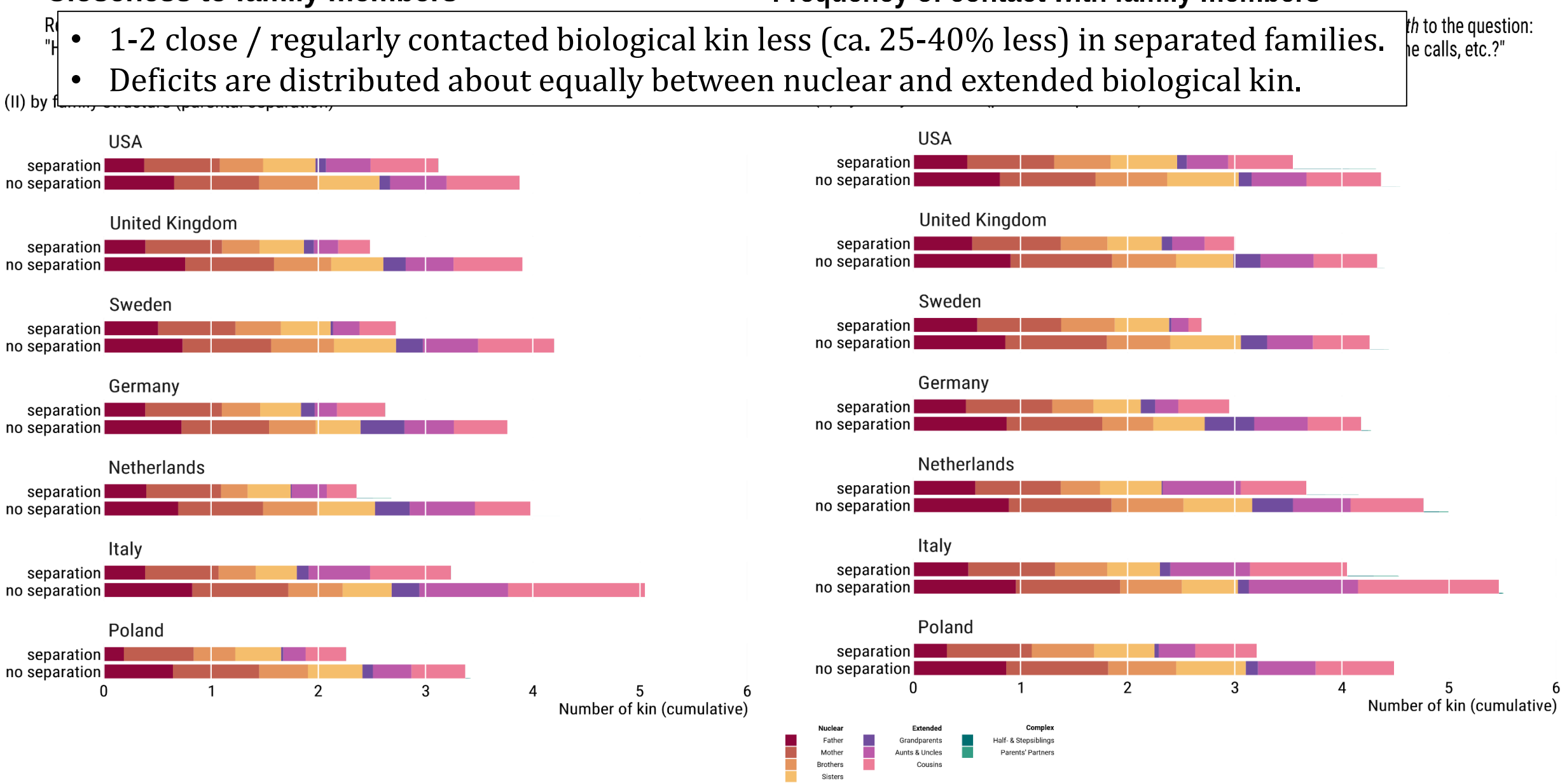
Frequency of contact with family members

Respondents answering *daily or several times a week*, *once per week*, or *1-3 times per month* to the question:
"How often are you in contact with each of these persons, adding up all visits, letters, phone calls, etc.?"



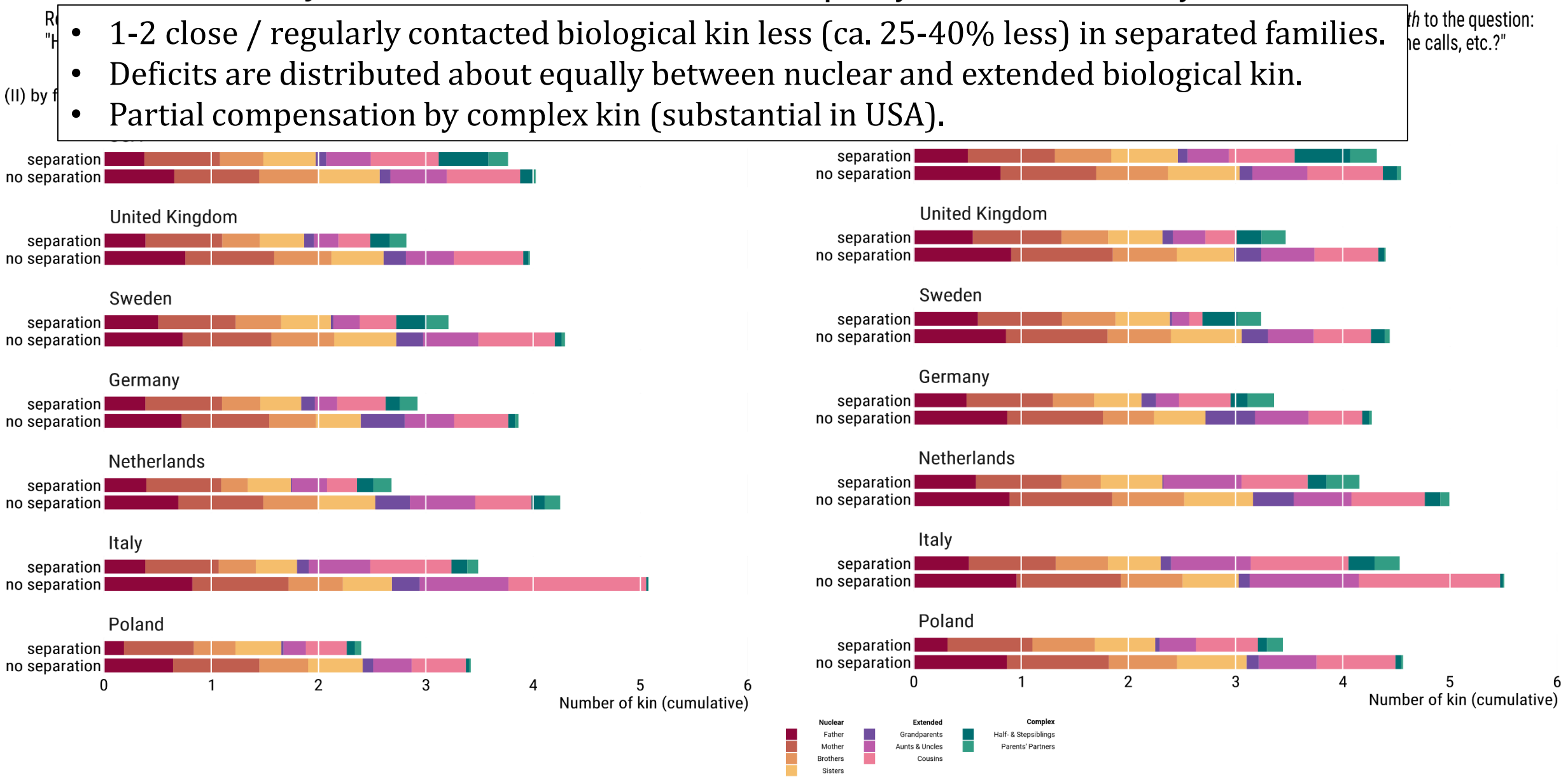
Separation effects on **contact and closeness**

- 1-2 close / regularly contacted biological kin less (ca. 25-40% less) in separated families.
- Deficits are distributed about equally between nuclear and extended biological kin.



Separation effects on **contact and closeness**

- 1-2 close / regularly contacted biological kin less (ca. 25-40% less) in separated families.
- Deficits are distributed about equally between nuclear and extended biological kin.
- Partial compensation by complex kin (substantial in USA).



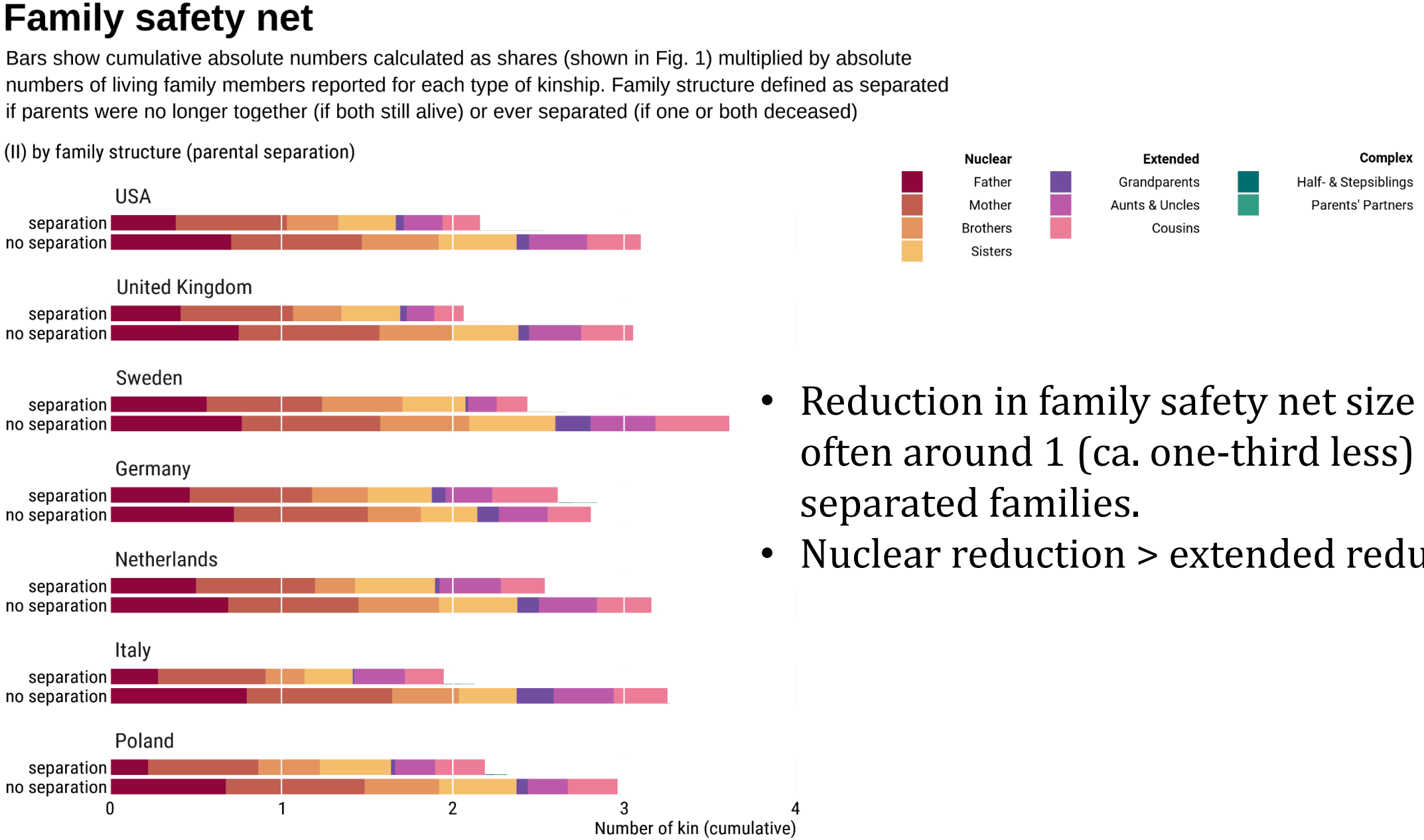
Separation effects on the **family safety net**

Family safety net

Weighted share of affirmative answers to the question:
"Who could you really count on if you needed help, today or in the future?"

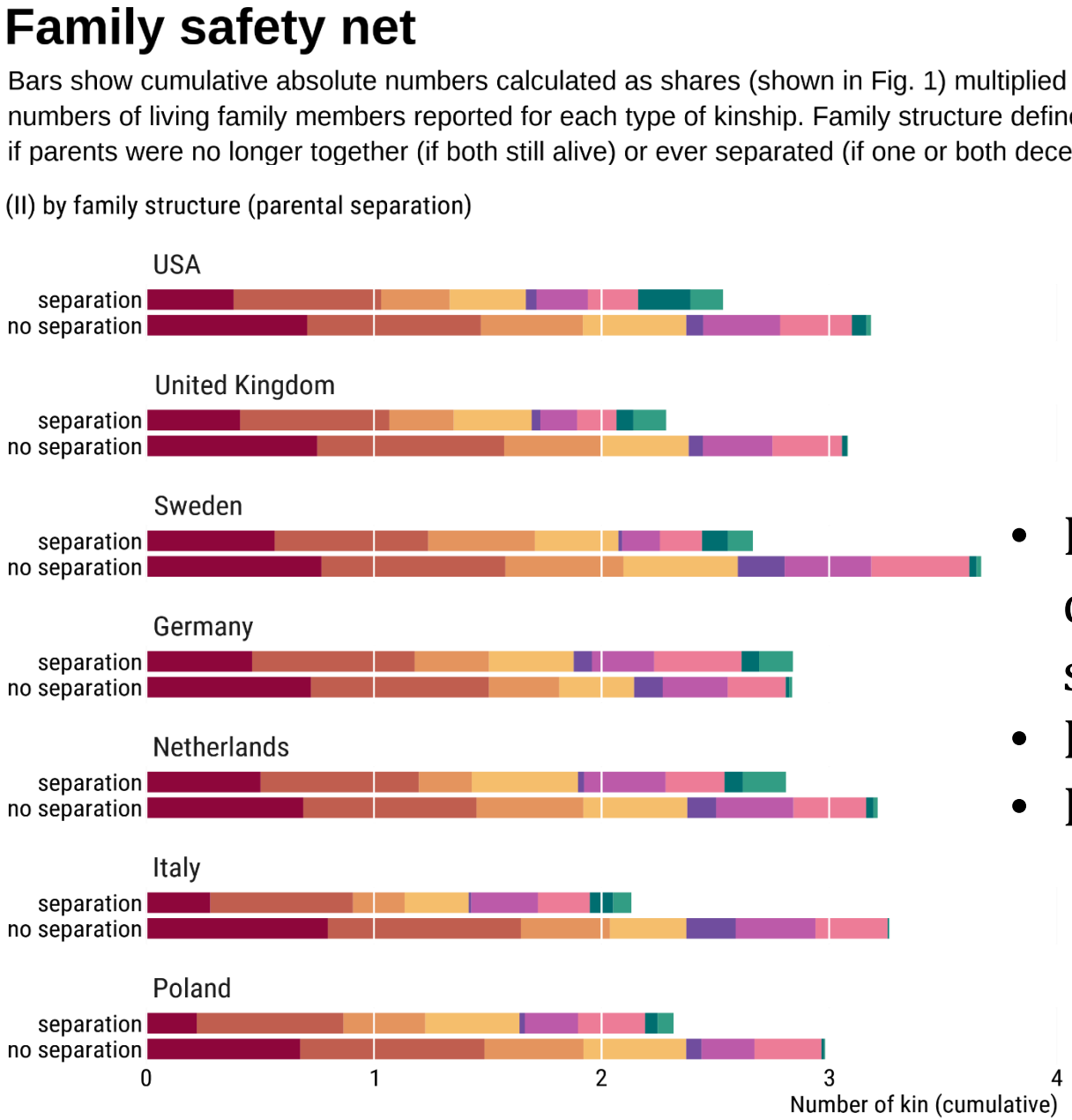
(b) Marginal effects of parental separation. Effects shown on an absolute scale.
Solid markers indicate statistically significant effects (p ≤ .05)

Separation effects on the **family safety net**



- Reduction in family safety net size is often around 1 (ca. one-third less) in separated families.
- Nuclear reduction > extended reduction.

Separation effects on the **family safety net**



- Reduction in family safety net size is often around 1 (ca. one-third less) in separated families.
- Nuclear reduction > extended reduction.
- Limited compensation by complex kin.

Conclusions

Beyond the nuclear family: New data on kinship networks reveal **matrilineal tilts**, ripple effects of divorce, and the importance of extended kin

Western families are matrilineally tilted

- Maternal kin are more important, more often contacted, emotionally closer, and overrepresented in people's safety nets.
- Consistently across countries.
- Explanations: Kinkeeping roles, tie strength (esp. mother-daughter, sister-sister), rise of divorce and separation.
- Western kinship is distinctly, perhaps increasingly, female-oriented.

Beyond the nuclear family: New data on kinship networks reveal matrilineal tilts, **ripple effects of divorce**, and the importance of extended kin

Divorce effects are far-reaching

- The consequences of parental separation extend to seemingly remote areas often overlooked.
- For children, disruptive at many levels: Relationships with parents; nuclear family cohesion; well-being, education; integration with & access to resources of extended kin.
- Erosion is most evident on the paternal side.
- Partial compensation through complex kin.

Beyond the nuclear family: New data on kinship networks reveal matrilineal tilts, ripple effects of divorce, and **the importance of extended kin**

The extended importance of extended kin

- Extended kin matter far more than what previous data & research could capture.
- Their strength is in their numbers.
- Relevance in retrospect and present-day, less as a safety net.

KIN MAT RIX

Work with us and our data