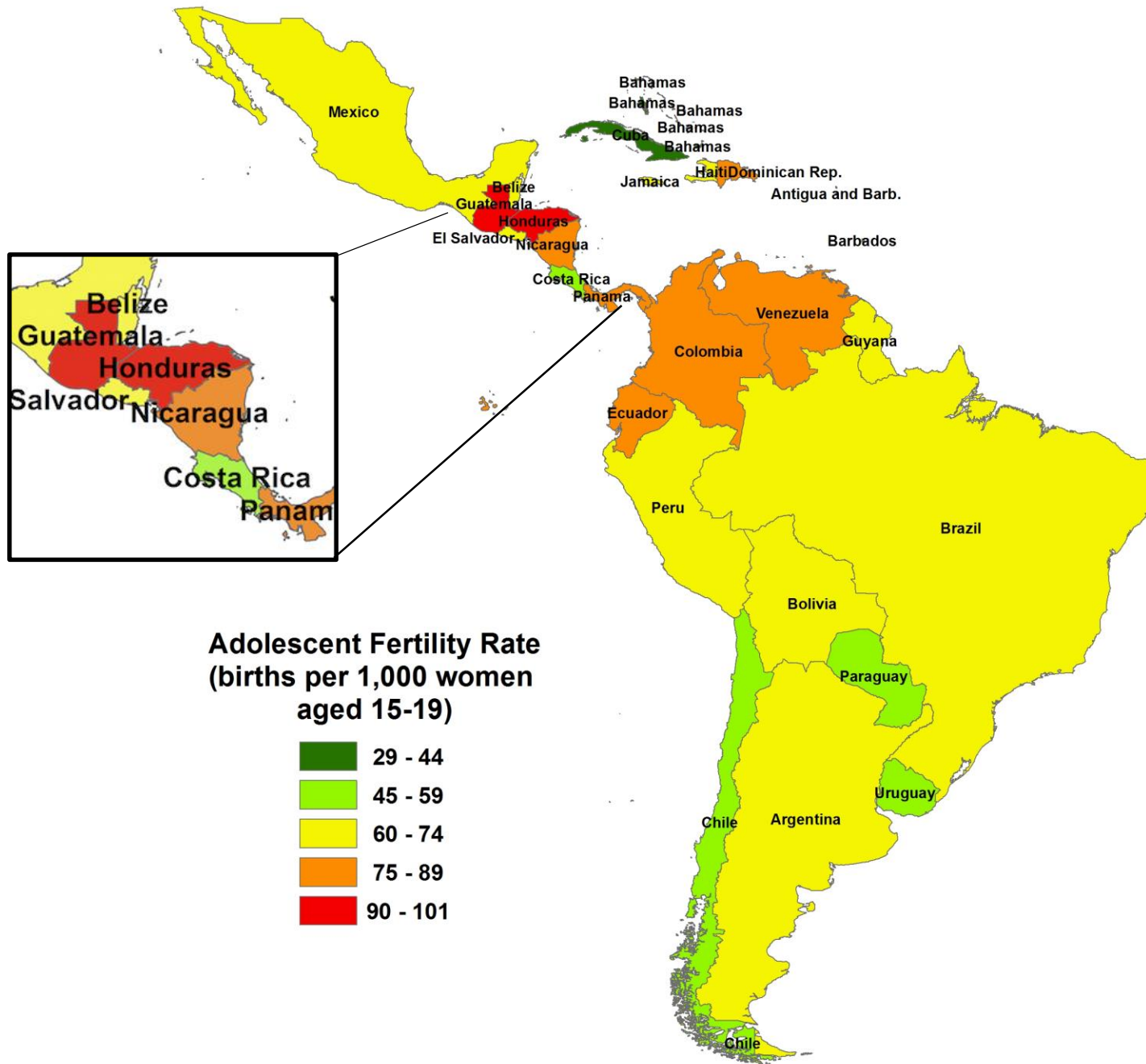


Social normative and social network factors associated with adolescent birth: a cross-sectional study of 176 villages in rural Honduras

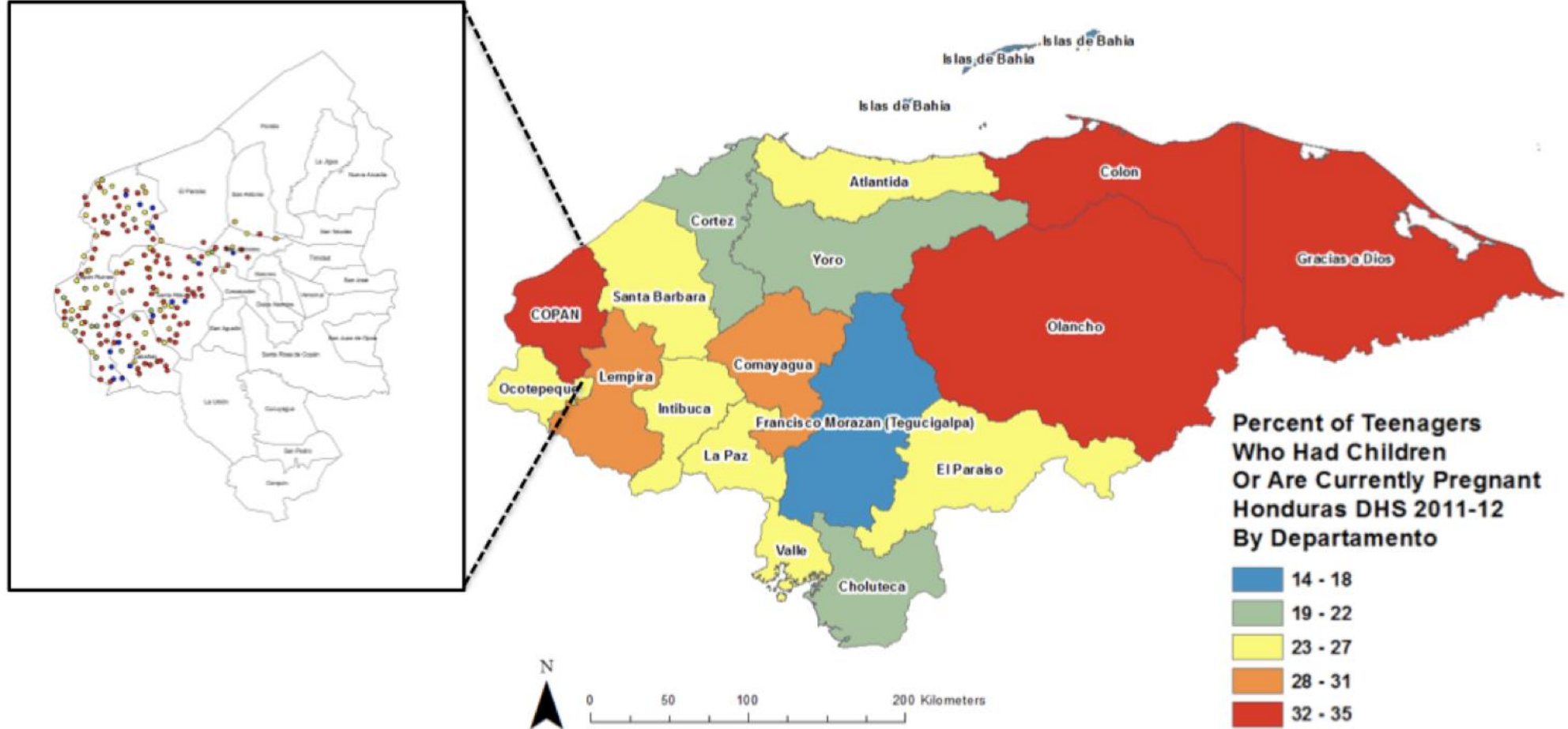
Holly B. Shakya¹, Gary Darmstadt, Kathryn Barker, John Weeks, Nicholas A. Christakis

¹Associate Professor Global Public Health , Center on Gender Equity and Health , University of California San Diego

Third Linea Biennial Meeting, 2020



For comparison:
Denmark 4
China 7
USA 21



Adolescent motherhood: high normative and social control



India, Pakistan, Niger, Ethiopia

Adolescent motherhood: low normative and social control



Latin America, Cameroon, United States

Adolescent motherhood: strong social control

social norms, family and community stability
internal and external social control



Adolescent motherhood: weak social control social norms, family and community stability internal and external social control





Rural Copan, Honduras

**176 villages
Complete village
census and survey**



**~24,000 participants
Full network data
Reproductive health**

Social networks

- Mother
- Father
- Sibling
- Partner
- Provider
- Closest friend
- Personal private
- Free time
- Health advice give
- Health advice get
- Money lend
- Money borrow
- Town leaders



Unit of analysis: girls/women <21 N=2990



Outcome: gave birth before age 20, 31%



Attitude: optimal age for first birth



Egos



Alters

Norms: community supports adolescent birth: injunctive norms proximal



Egos



Alters

Actual practice: had an adolescent birth: descriptive norms proximal



Egos



Alters

Village level aggregate norms: community supports
adolescent birth: injunctive norms distal



Village level aggregate: women who have had an adolescent birth: descriptive norms distal



Girls attitudes and alters attitudes towards optimal age at first birth are predictive



Egos



Alters

Girls norms and alters norms on community approval of adolescent birth predictive



Egos



Alters

Alter's adolescent birth is predictive



Egos



Alters



Village level aggregate norms: community supports adolescent birth predictive



Controlling for community aggregate, alter norms lose significance



Egos



Alters

Village level aggregate: women who have had
an adolescent birth predictive



Controlling for village aggregate, alters adolescent birth is still predictive



Egos



Alters

The association between alters adolescent birth and a girls is strong across many relationships



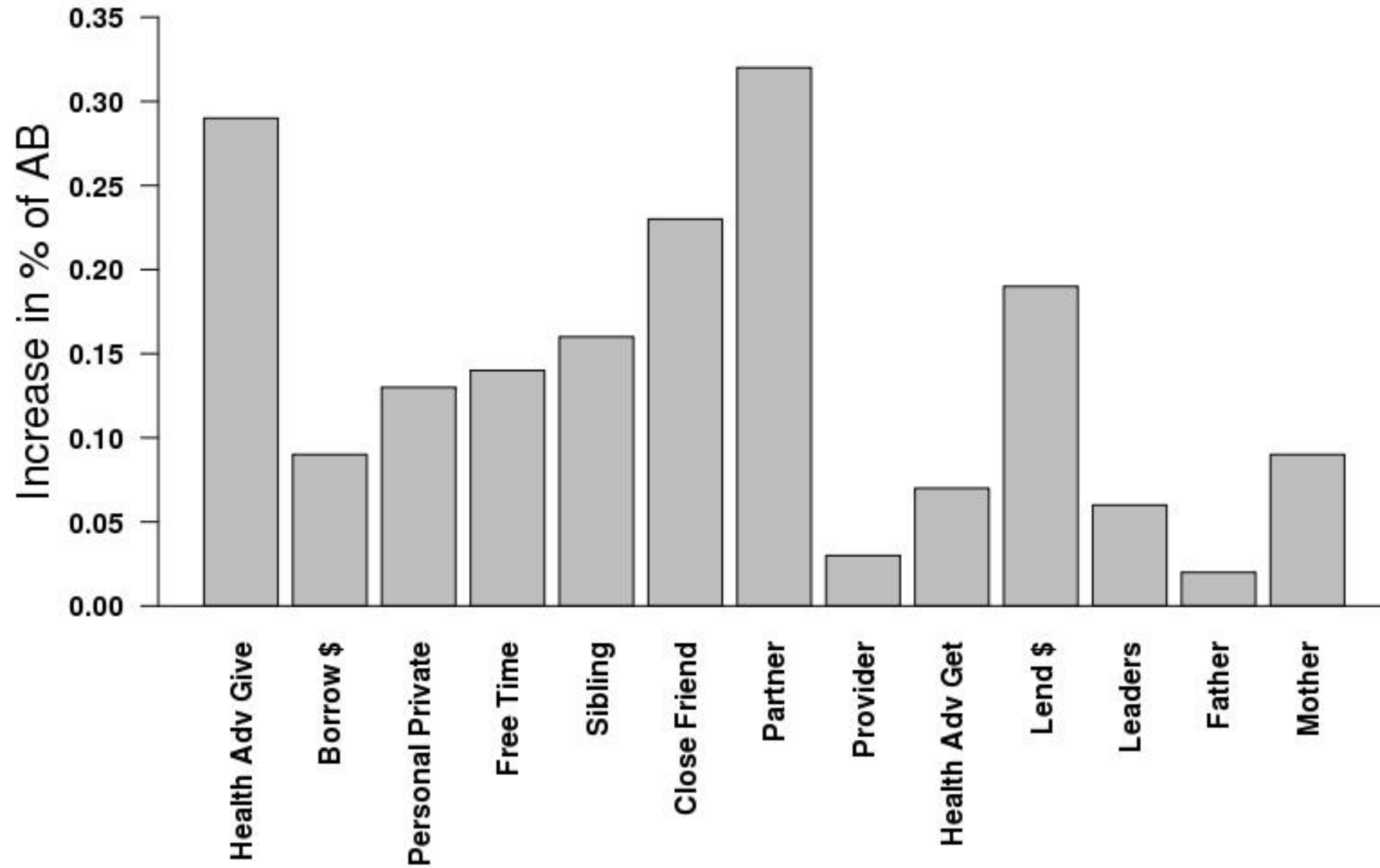
Egos



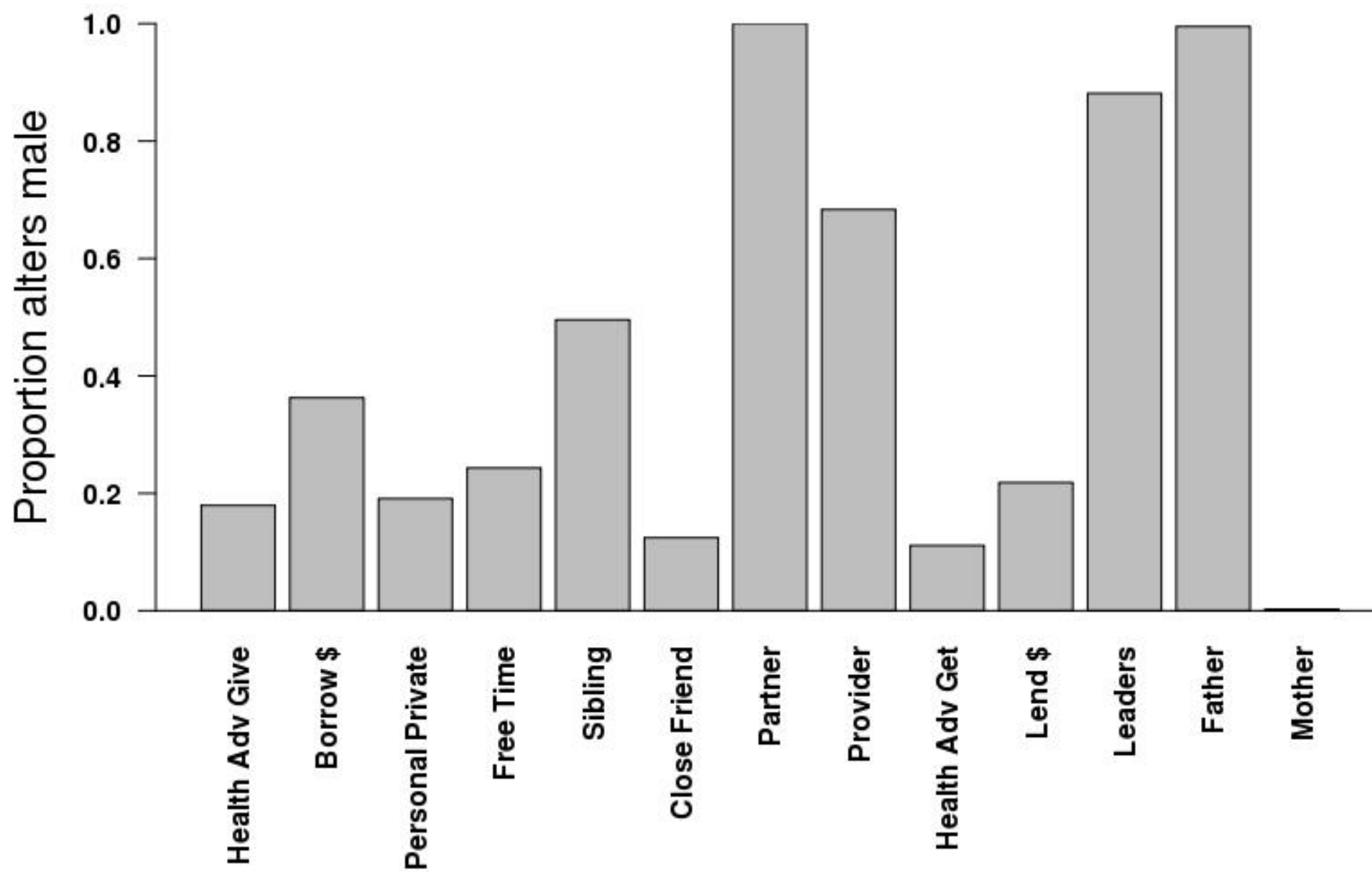
Alters



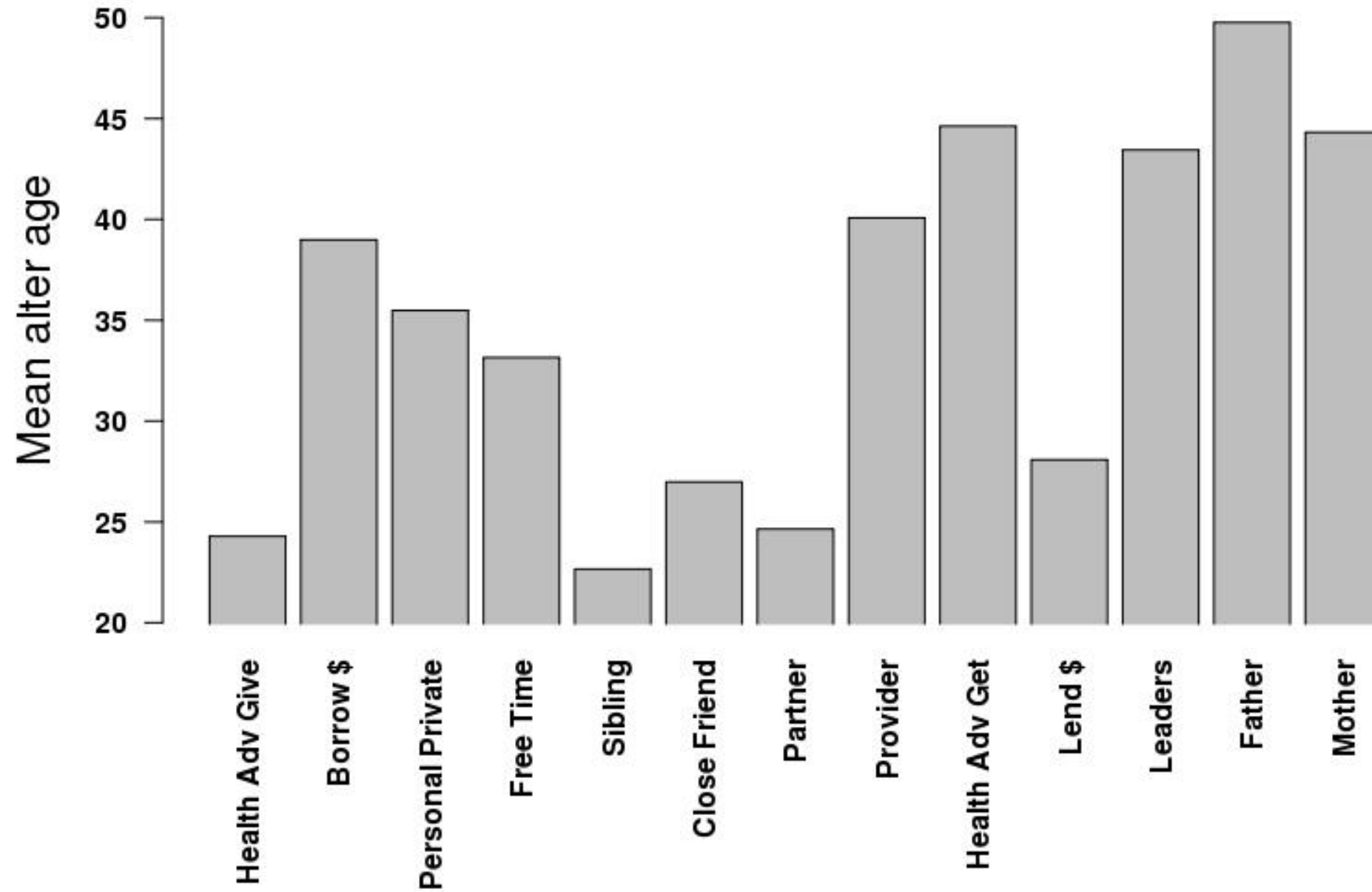
% increase in girls AB conditional on alter's



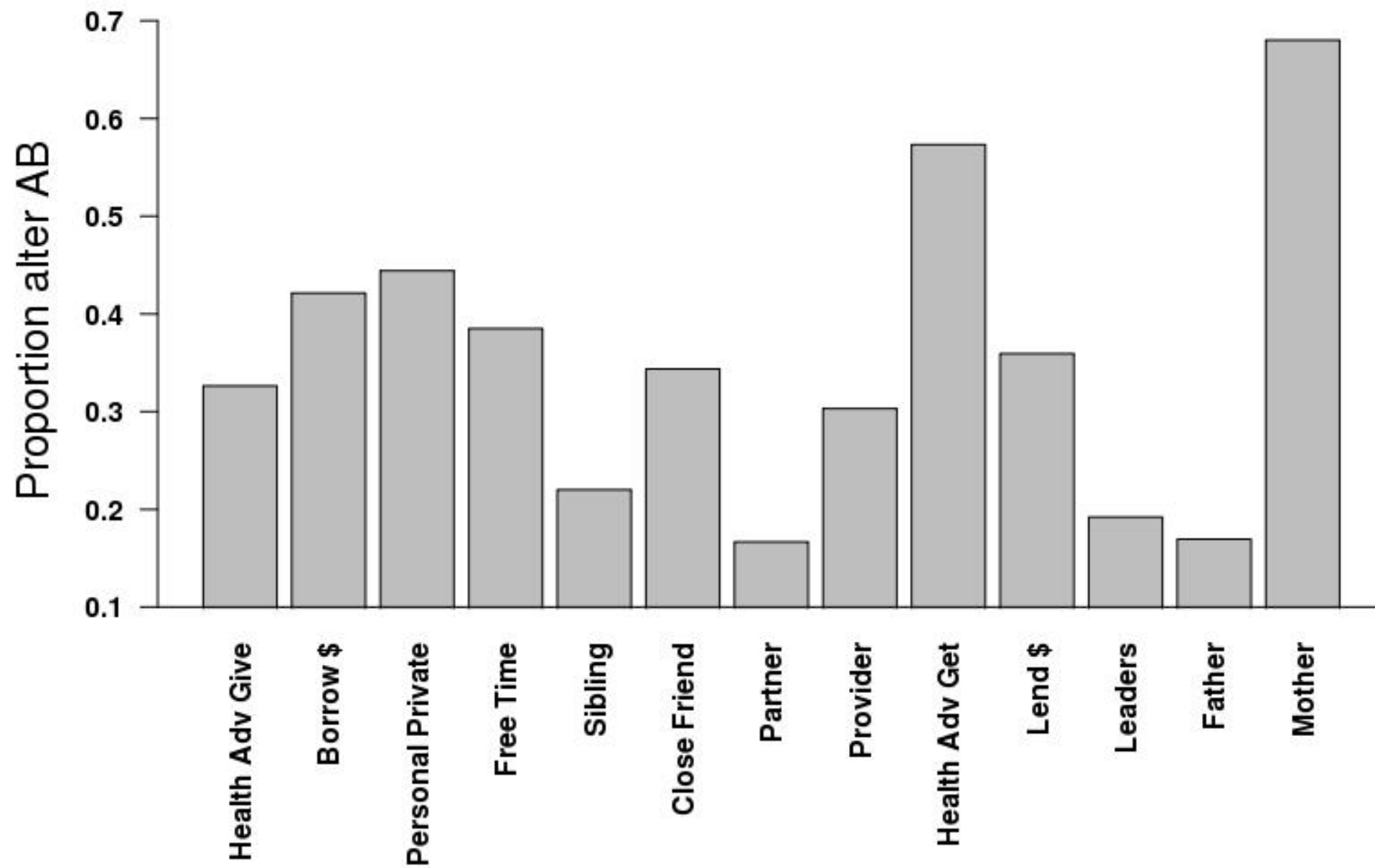
% of girls alters that are male



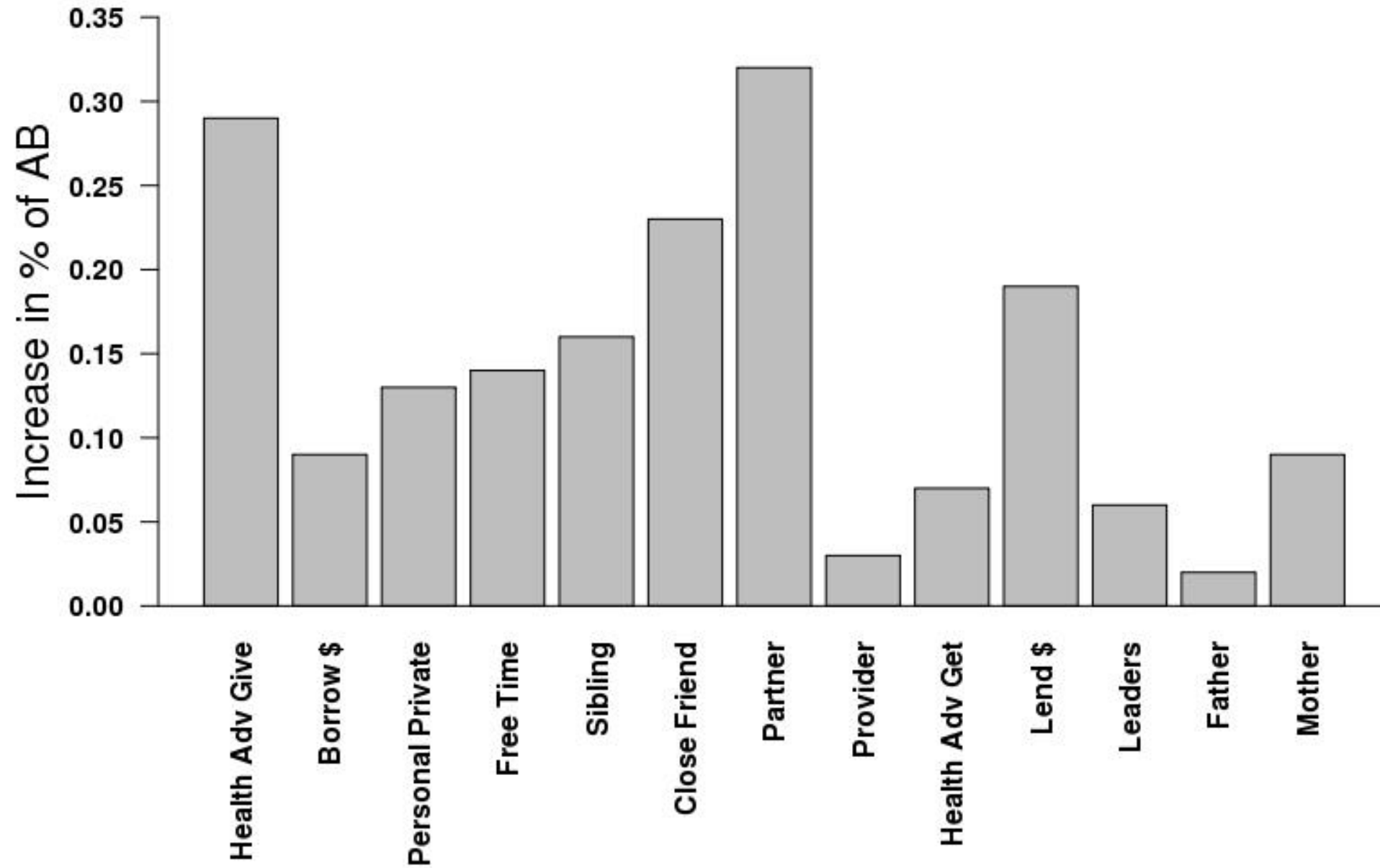
Mean age of girl's alters



% of alter's who had an AB



% increase in girls AB conditional on alter's



Conclusions

- In cases of low social control, descriptive norms play a big role
- Girls are more likely to have had an adolescent birth in communities where people believe the community is supportive
- Girls are more likely to have had an adolescent birth in communities where it is more common
- A girl is far more likely to have had an adolescent birth if people in her proximal network have, while perceived norms in the proximal network seem to be less salient

Thank you to funders

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