

# Similar or different?

## Partnership and fertility amongst immigrants and descendants

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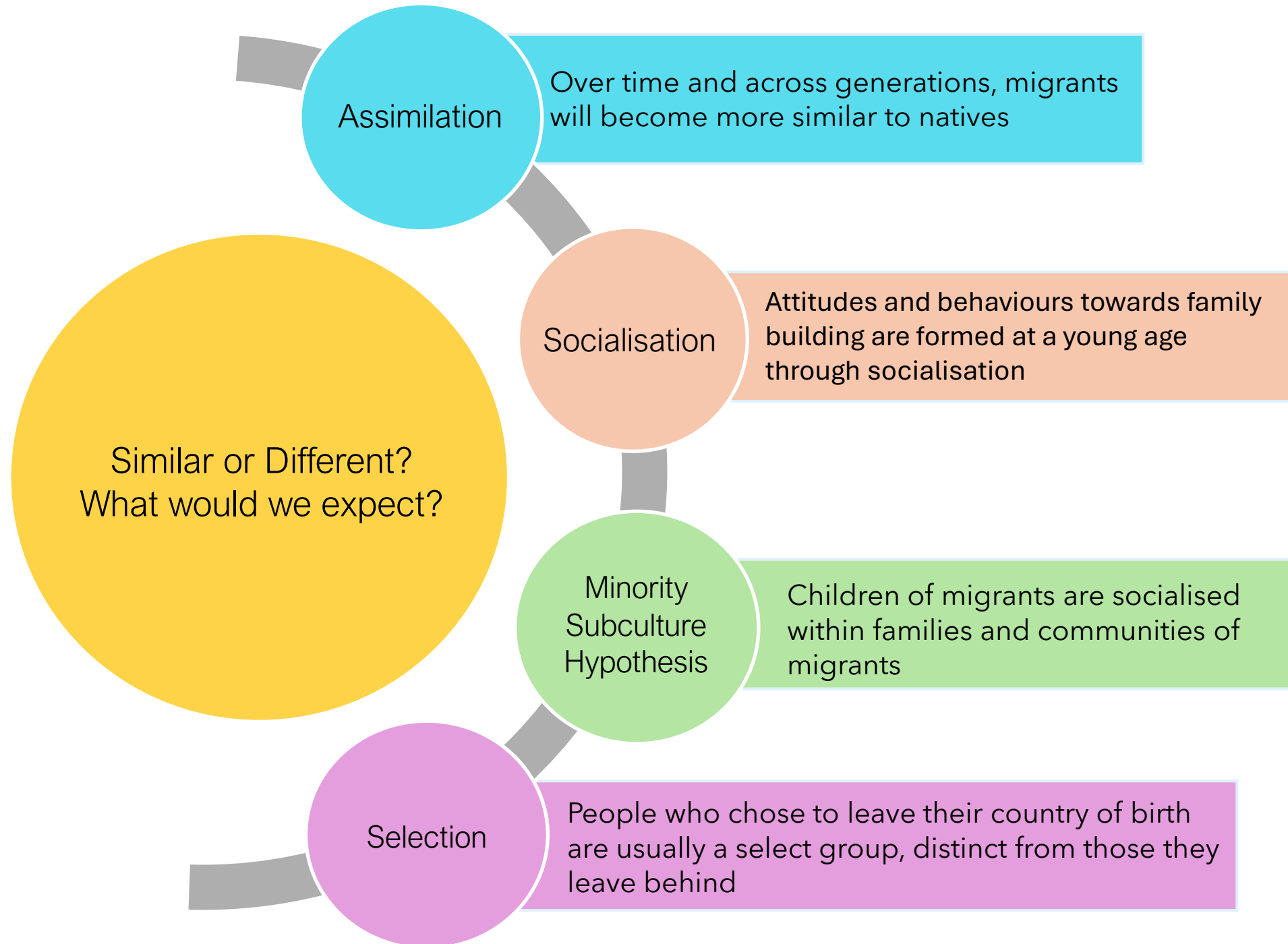
## Why study migrant fertility?



- UK has a long history of migration with migrants and their descendants making up an increasing proportion of the UK population
- Debates surrounding demographic challenges focus on fertility v. migration, but little is known about migrant fertility
- Studying the fertility and partnerships of migrants can :-
  - Help our understanding of how migrants contribute to the population composition and shape trends
  - Be useful for population projections
  - Explain factors which influence fertility and partnership behaviours



# Competing Theories



# Migrant Groups and Generations

- Three groups of interest:-
  - Natives – British born to two British born parents
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Gen Migrants – Born overseas
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen Migrants – UK born to at least one foreign born parent. Migrant origin assigned using mother's country of birth

Sample

- Migrant Origin Groups:-
  - Europe and the West
  - India
  - Pakistan
  - Bangladesh
  - The Caribbean
  - Africa



## Data and Methods



### Data

- Understanding Society waves 1-9 (2009-2019)
- Collects retrospective histories related to births and partnerships
- Covers a representative sample of the UK population, including an ethnic minority boost sample which allows us to include the UK's largest migrant groups
- Sample made up of women aged 16 to 50

### Methods

- Use event history analysis techniques to model the likelihood of a birth by migrant group and generation
- Employ a competing risks approach to explore differences in transitions between partnership states

Violet

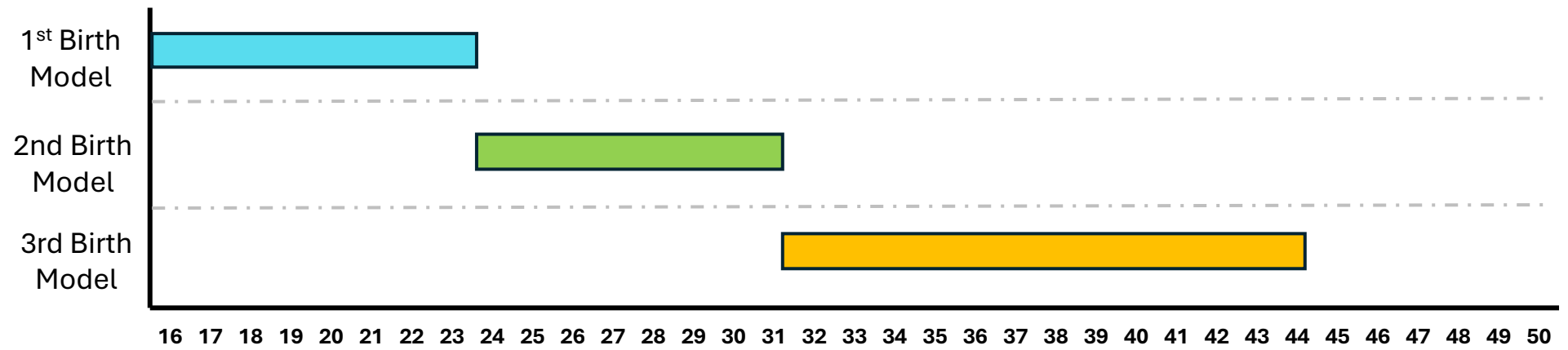


Born: 1975

First Birth: Age 24

Second Birth: Age 31

Left Study: Age 44



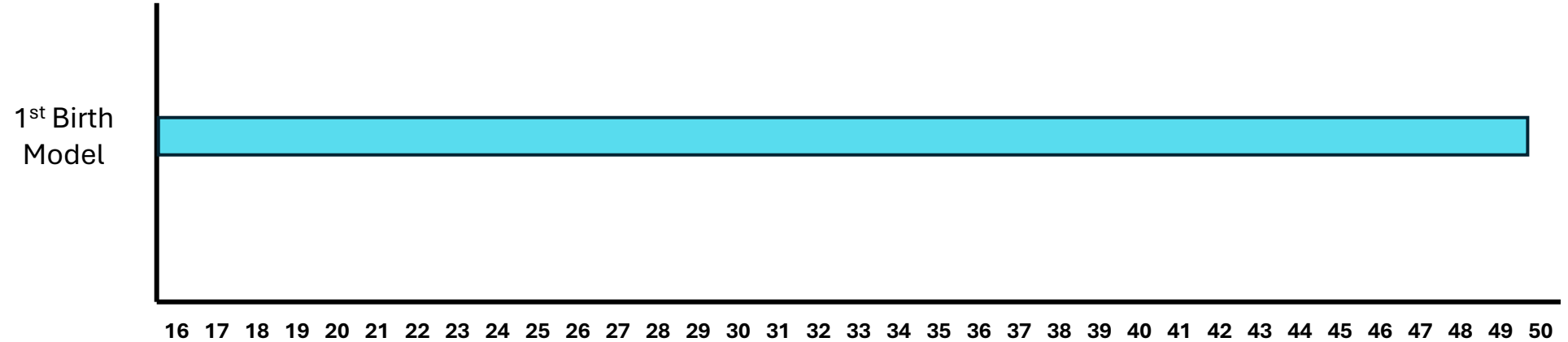
Rose



Born: 1962

First Birth: None

Left Study: Age 63

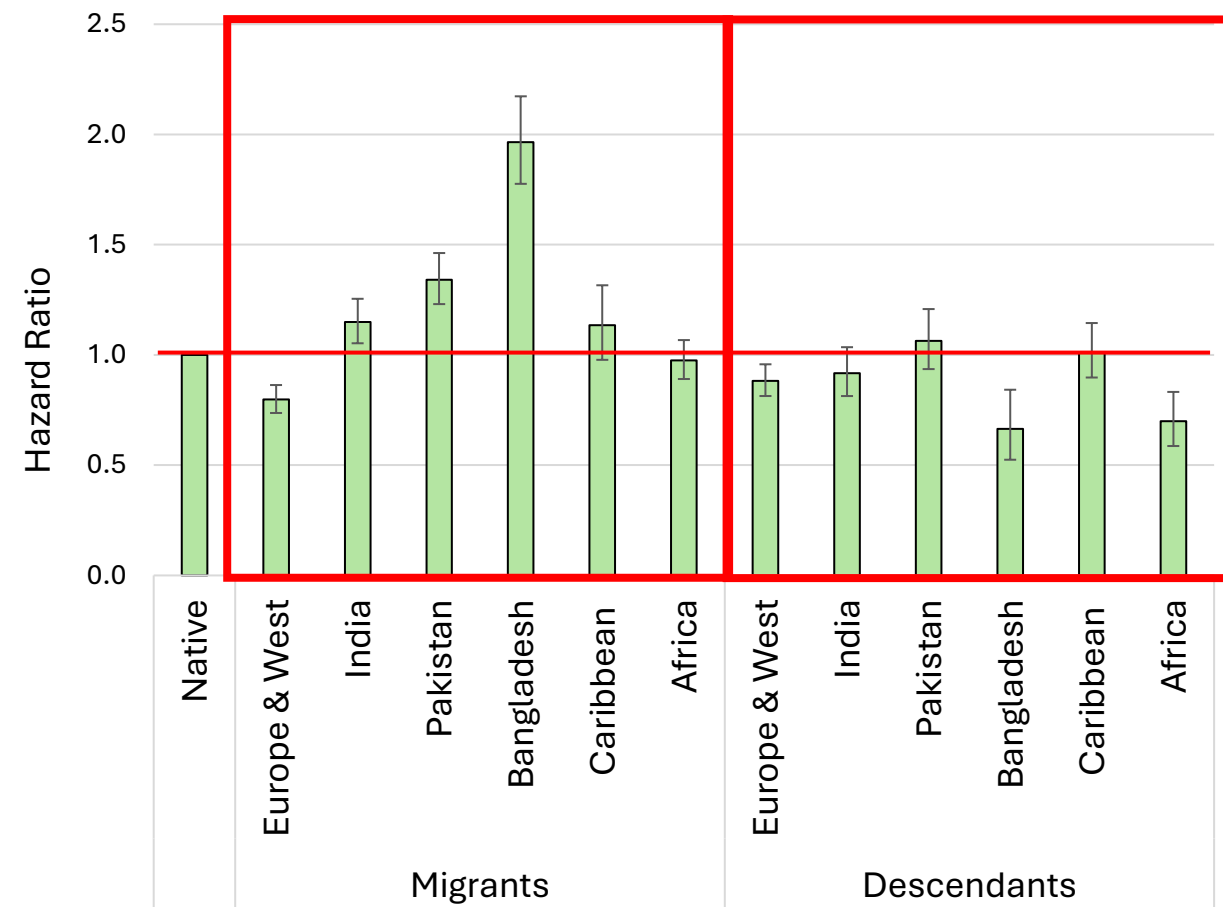


Results

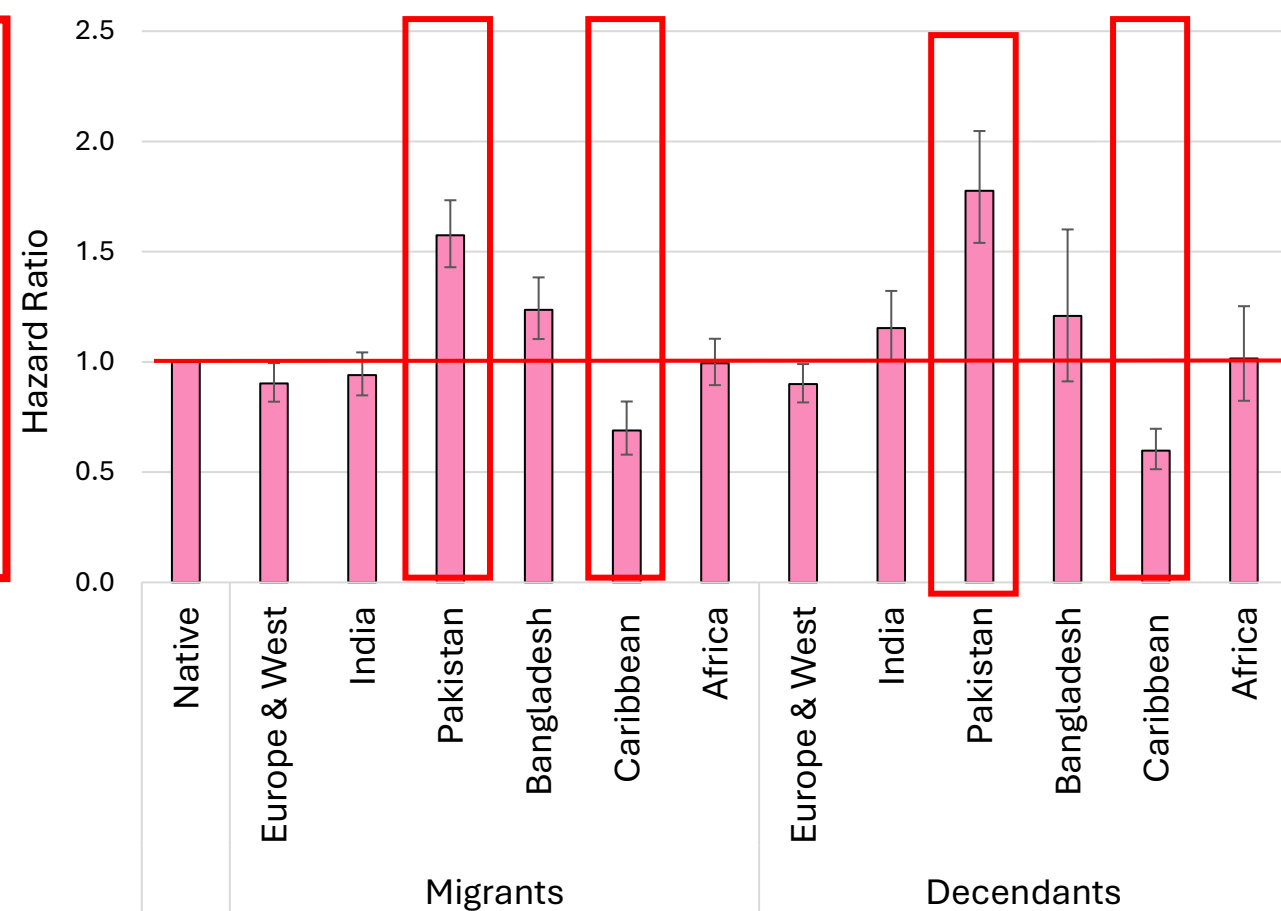


# Part 1: Fertility Analysis

### Relative First Birth Rates

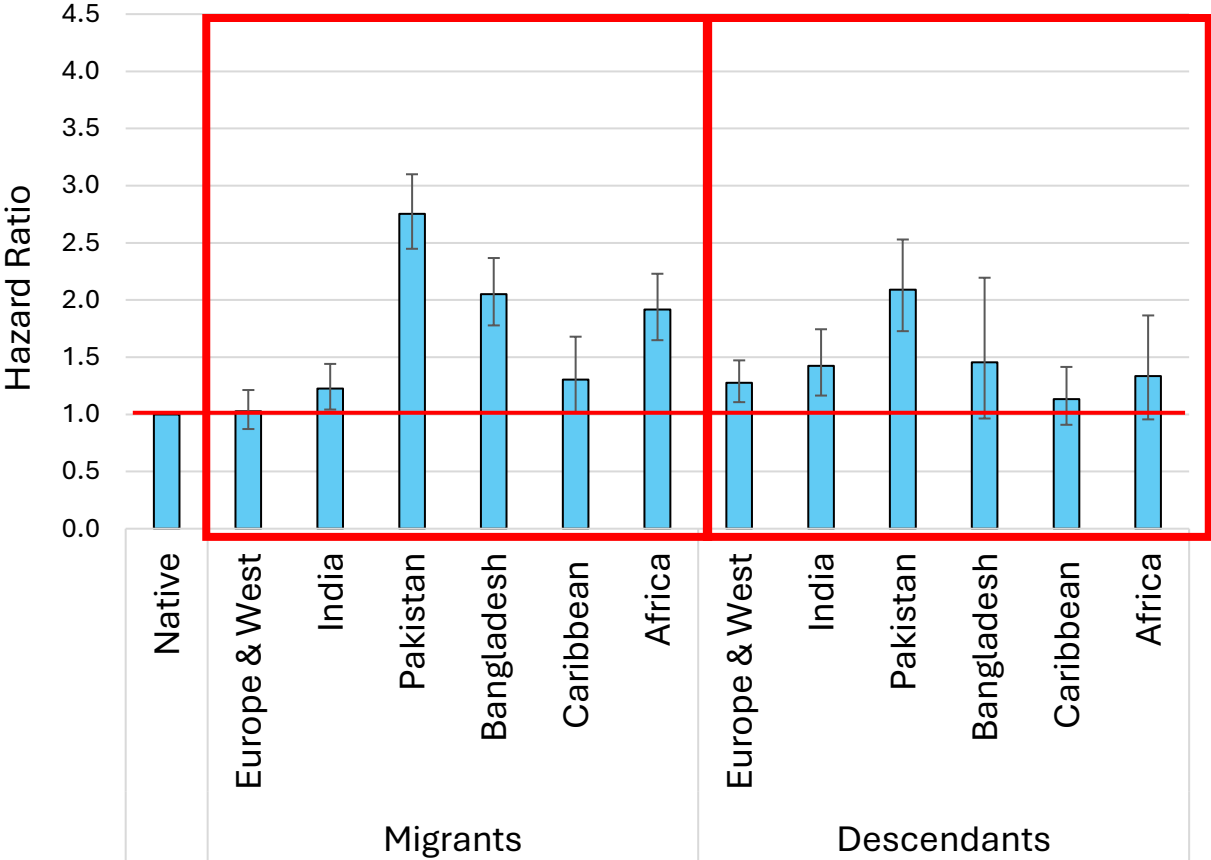


### Relative Second Birth Rates

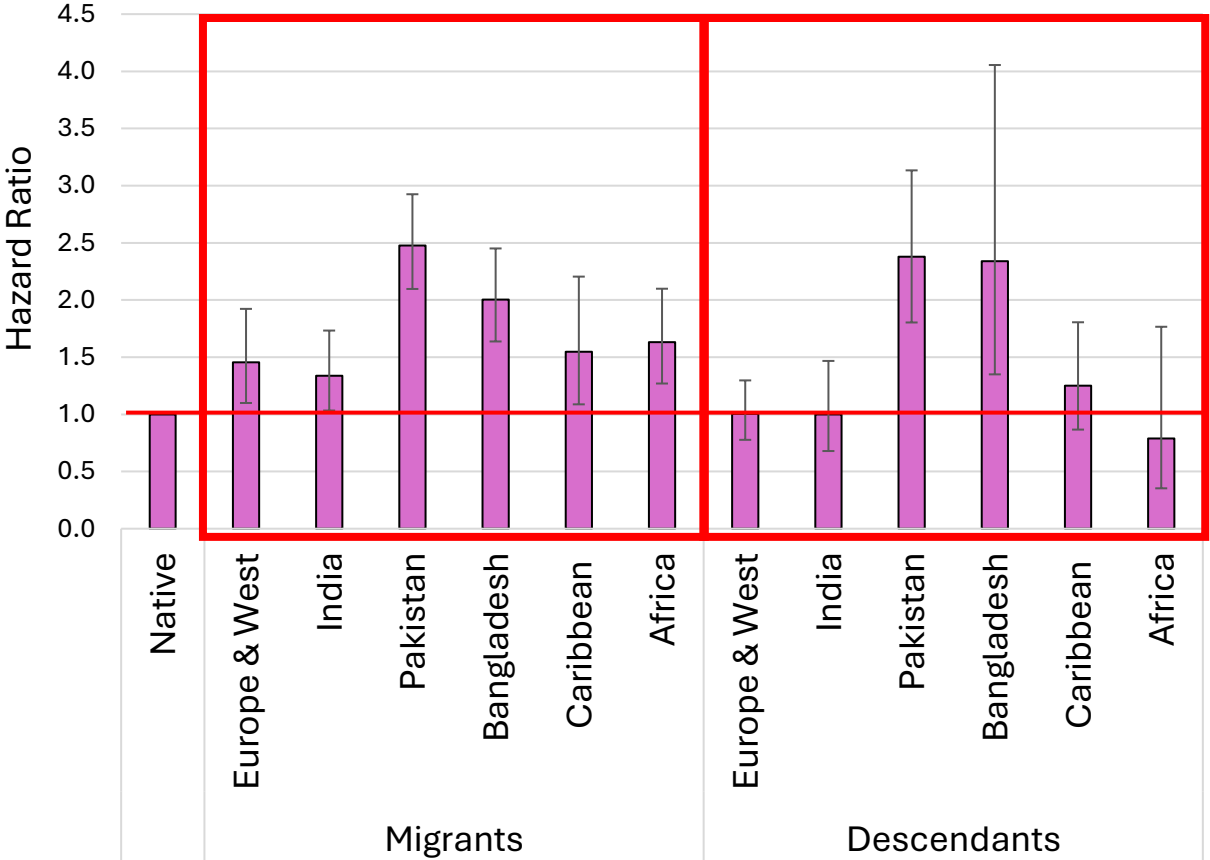




Relative Third Birth Rates



Relative Fourth Birth Rates

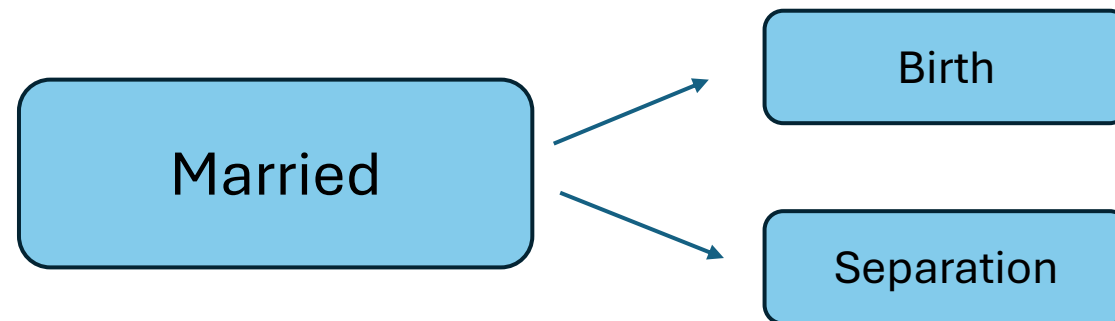
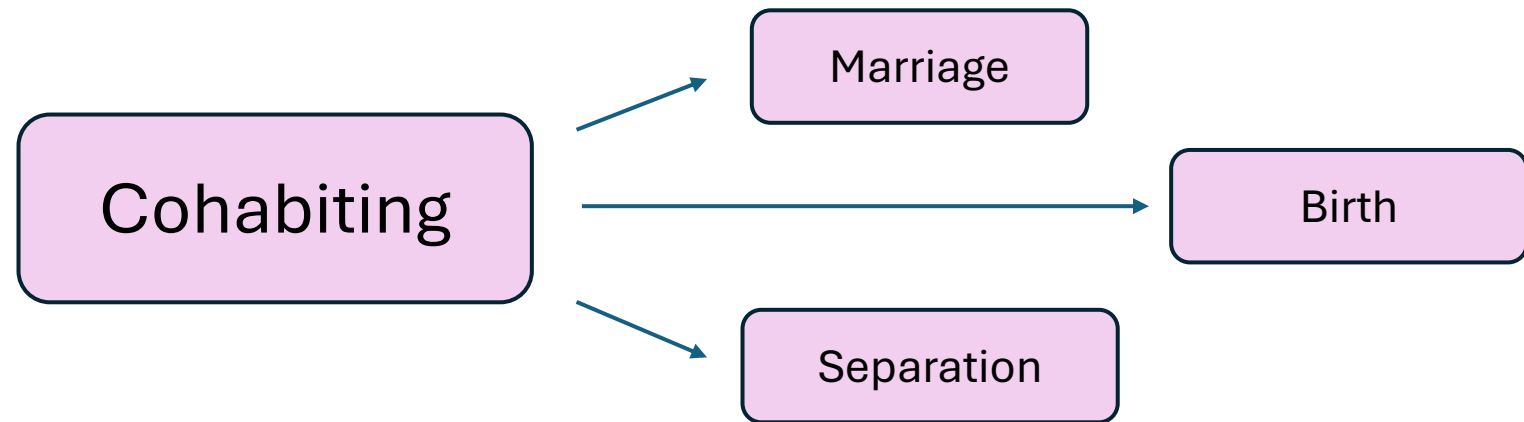
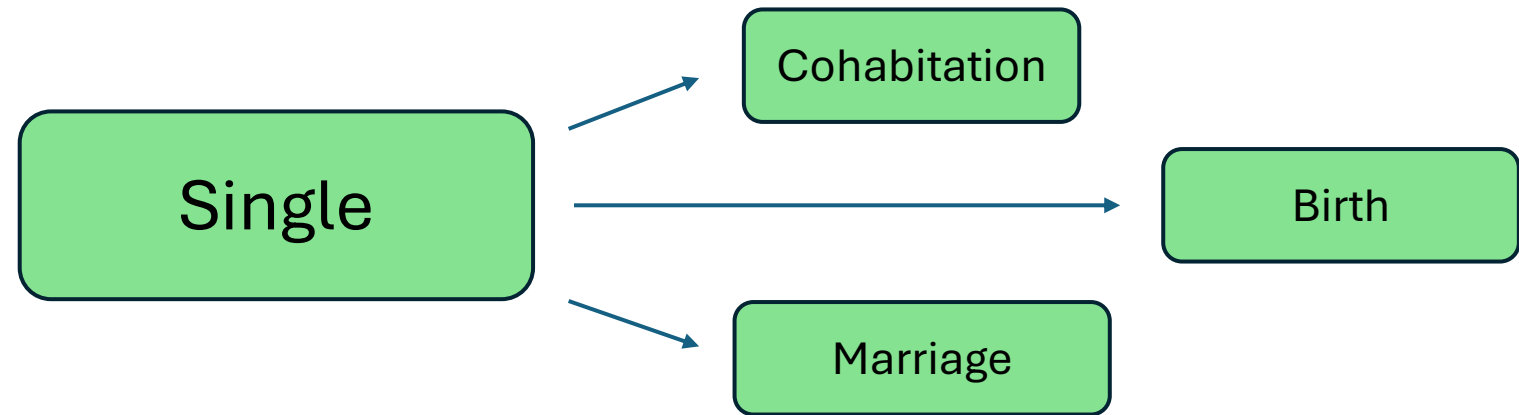


Results

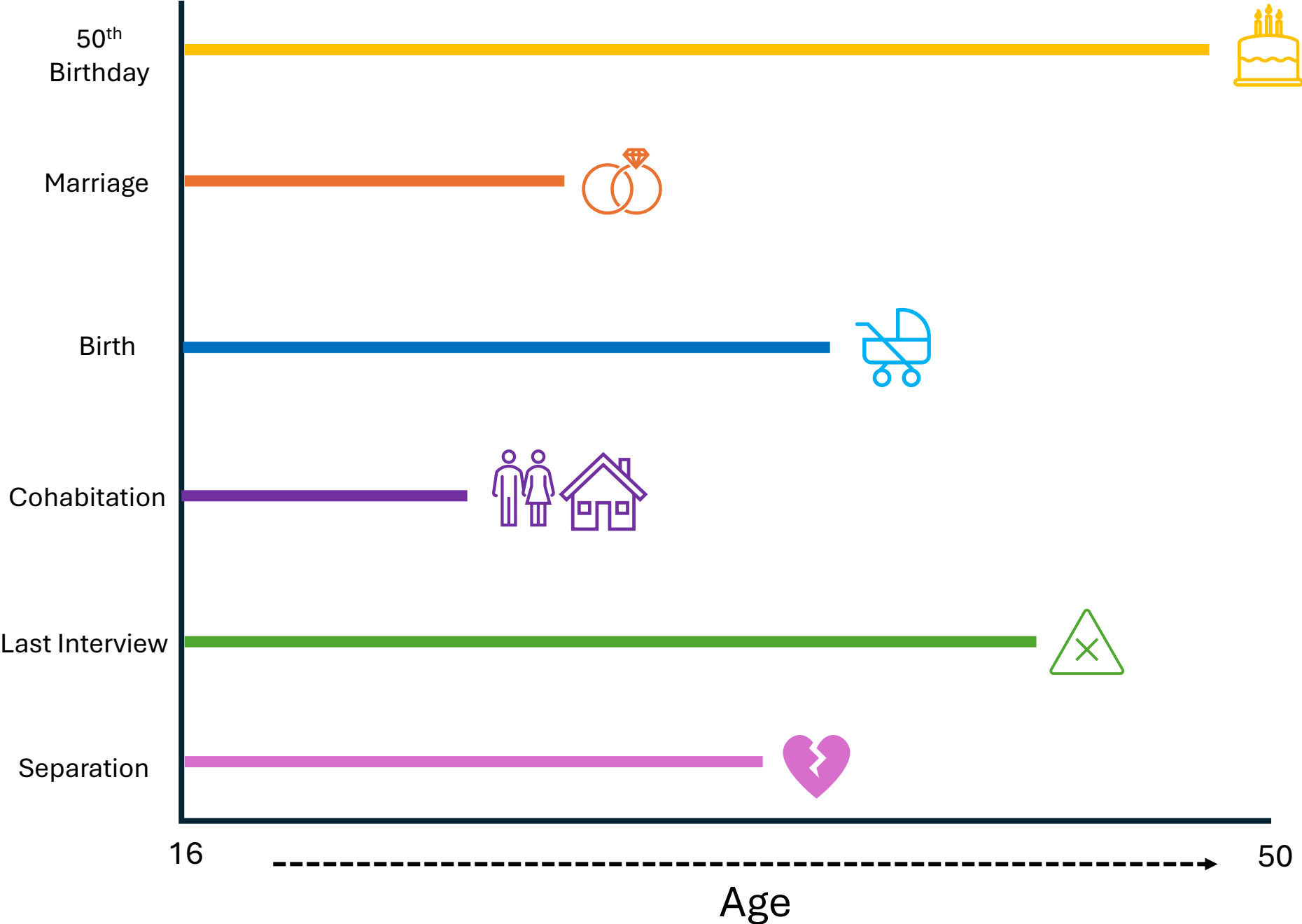


## Part 2: Partnership Analysis

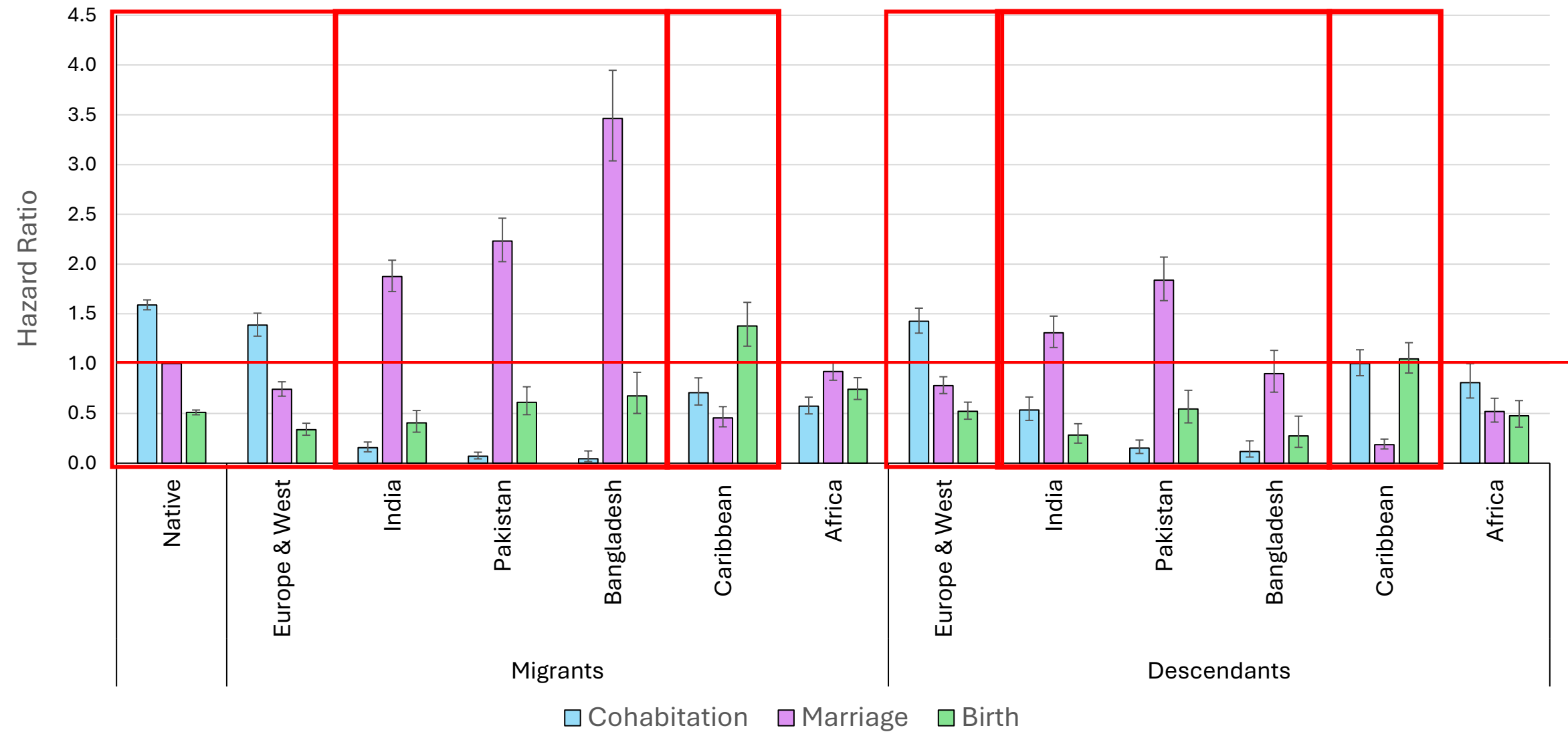
# Model Structure



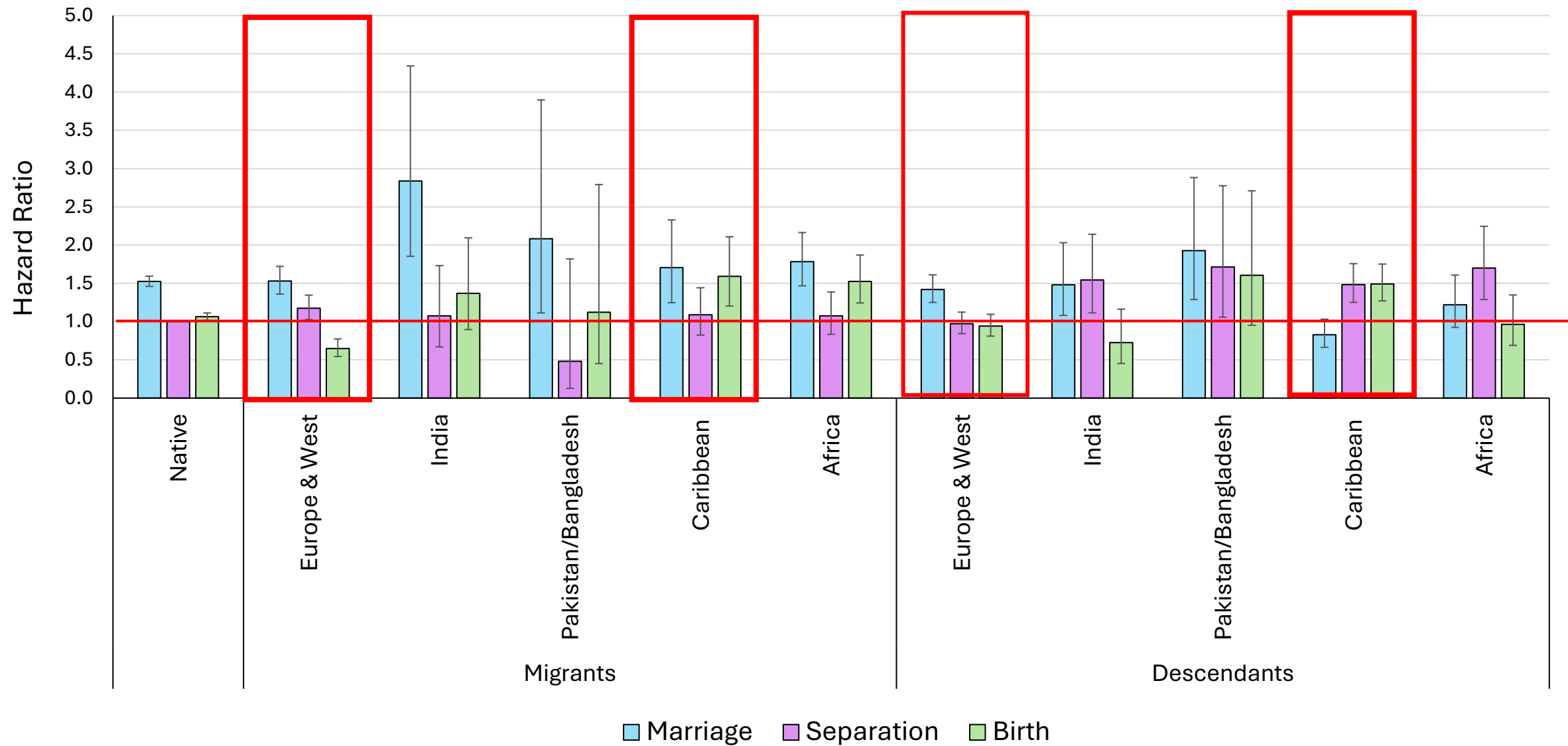
# Analytical Strategy



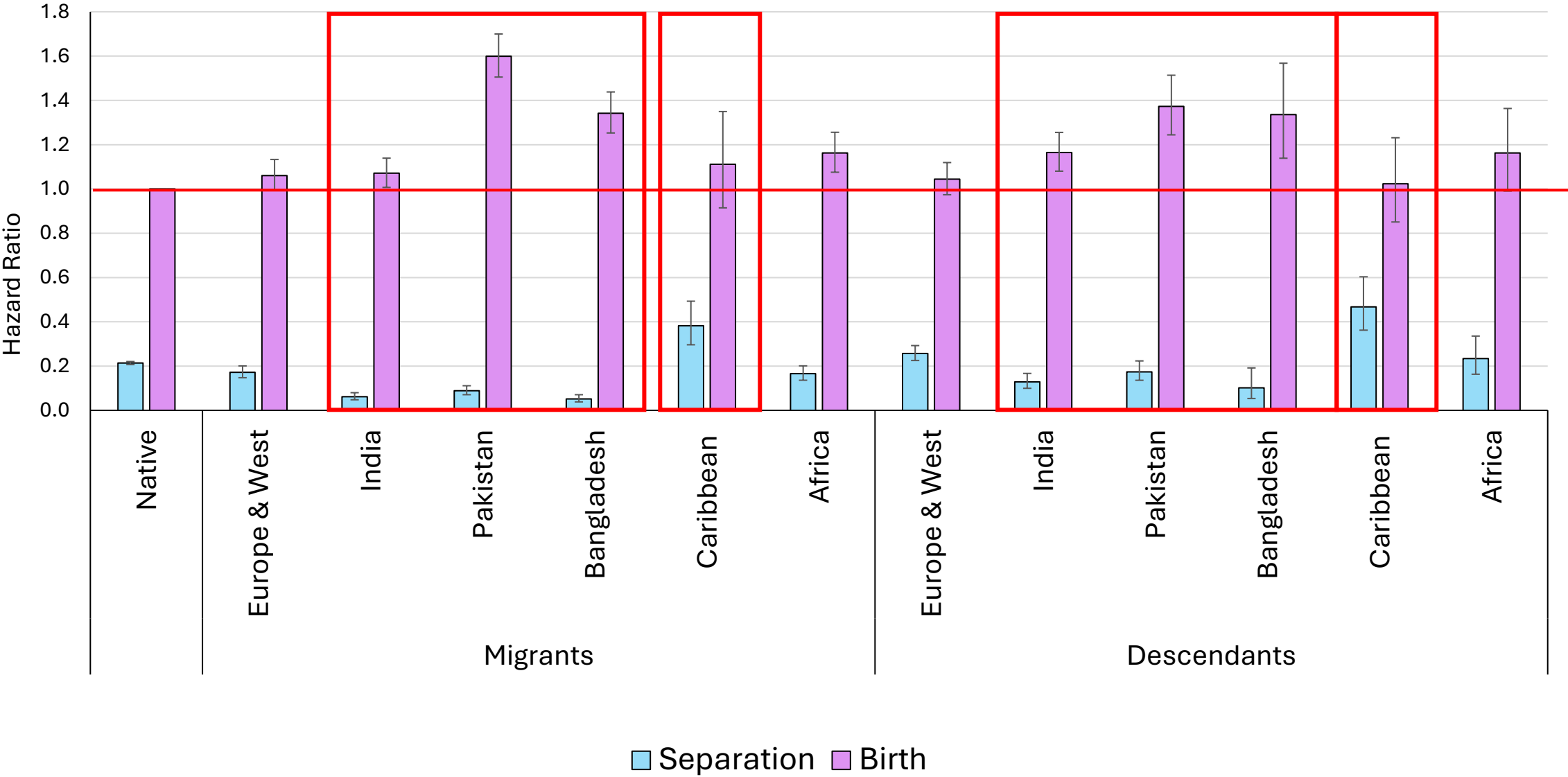
# Single Outcomes



# Cohabiting Outcomes



# Married Outcomes



## Key Findings



### Fertility

- Fertility does appear to vary by migrant group
- We find some differences between generations, with some evidence of convergence
- Pakistani and Bangladeshi women show distinct fertility patterns with higher birth rates across all parities

### Partnerships

- For native and Europe and Western women family formation begins with cohabitation, whereas among South Asians the main pathway is via direct marriage
- However, 2G South Asian and African women show higher rates of cohabitation and lower rates of direct marriage compared to 1G
- Marriage is the most common outcome for most cohabiting women. Childbearing within cohabitation is more common for Caribbean and African women
- Birth was the most common outcome for married women overall, but some variation in separation rates which were lowest for South Asian women and highest for Caribbean women
- We see generational differences in separation rates, with 2G South Asian women more likely to separate than 1G



## Conclusions



- Migrants from geographically and culturally similar countries have fertility and partnership patterns most similar to natives
- This lends support for the socialisation theory whereby behaviours are shaped by social norms experienced at a young age. Migrant's patterns more closely resemble those which are more common in their country of birth
- Analysis of descendants reveal their partnership and separation patterns fall between those of natives and migrants suggesting some degree of assimilation
  - More cohabitation and separation among second generation South Asian and African women
- Fertility patterns for some descendants closely resemble their migrant counterparts, suggesting that childbearing behaviour may be shaped by family or community socialisation, providing some evidence of the Minority Subculture hypothesis

# Thank You!

## Any Questions?



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