

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

FINANCIAL TIMES

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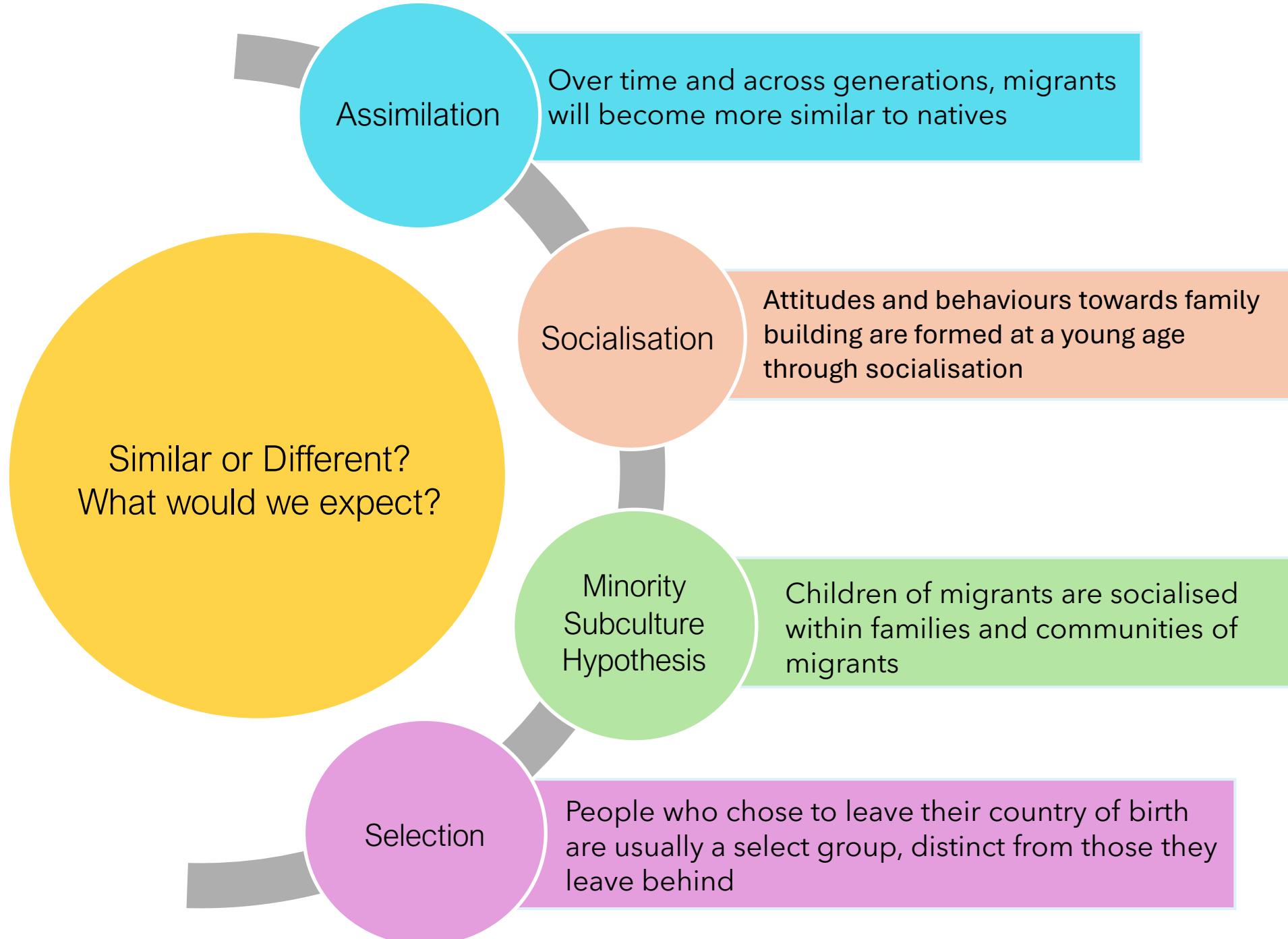
Opinion Demographics and population

Why the rich world's fertility problem will force a rethink on immigration

Keeping a stable population means being more generous to families or attracting people from other countries

STEPHEN BUSH + Add to myFT

Competing Theories



Sample



Migrant Groups and Generations

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

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



Data and Methods



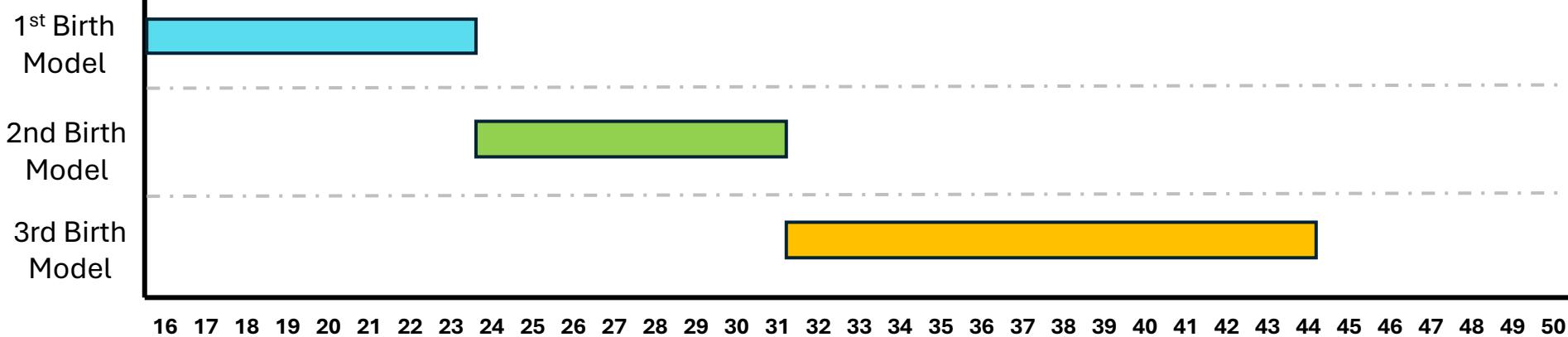
Data

- 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

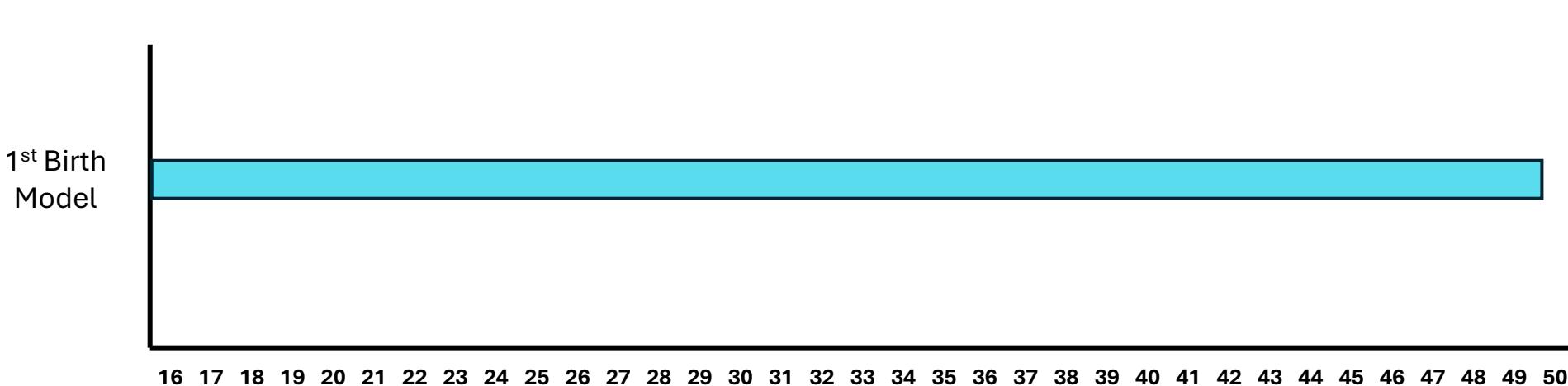
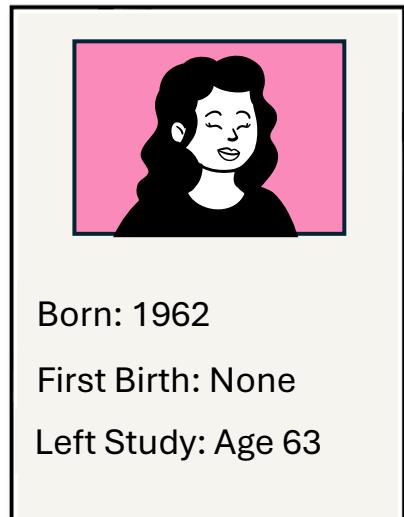
Methods

- 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



Rose

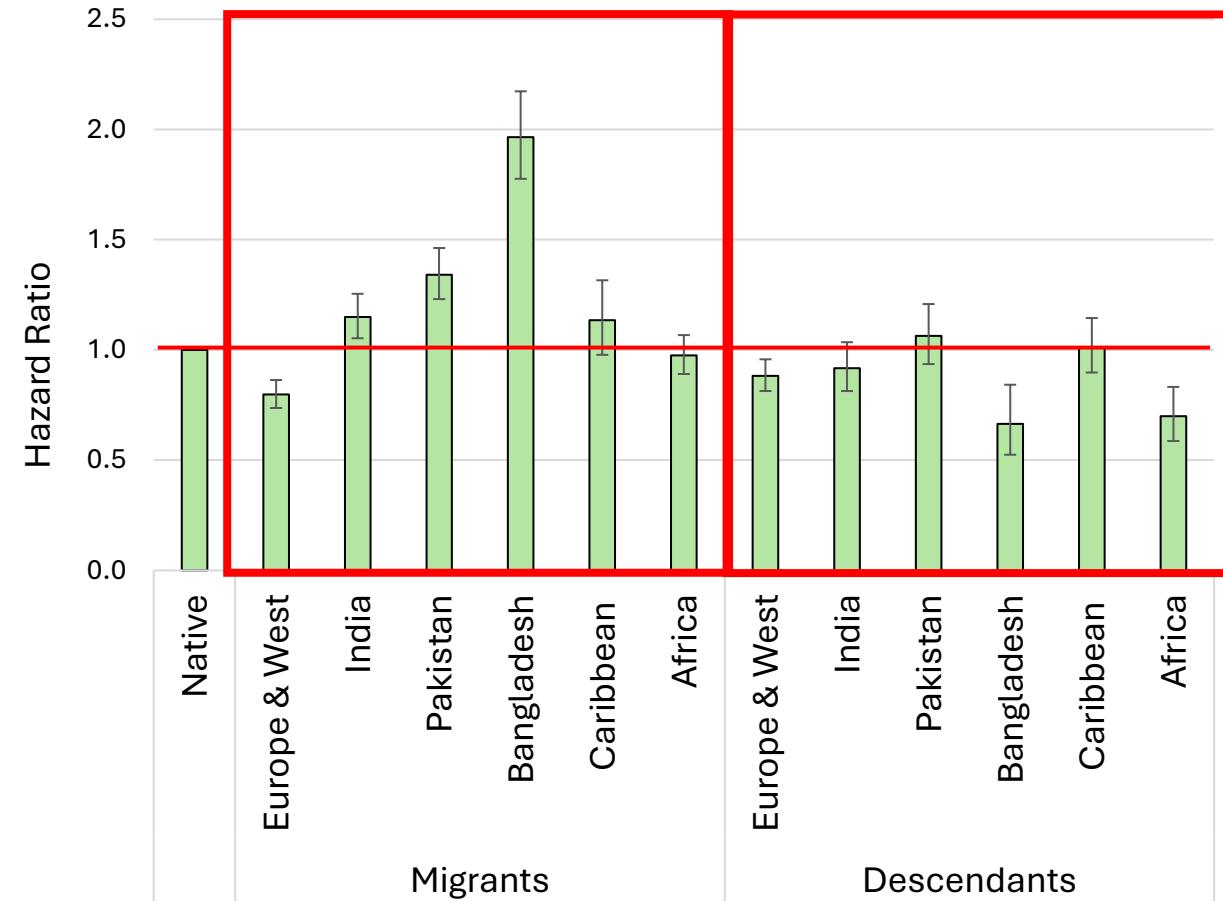


Results

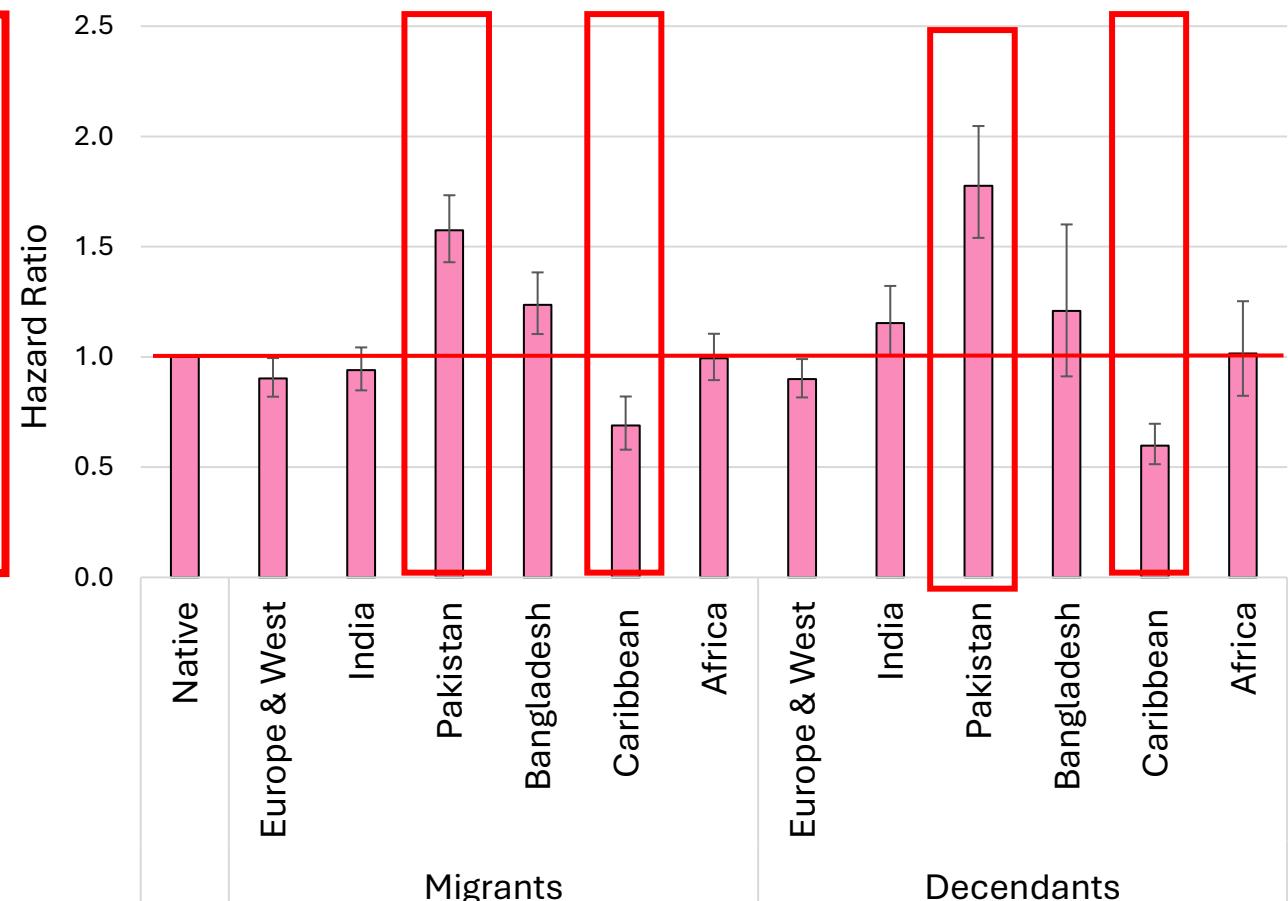


Part 1: Fertility Analysis

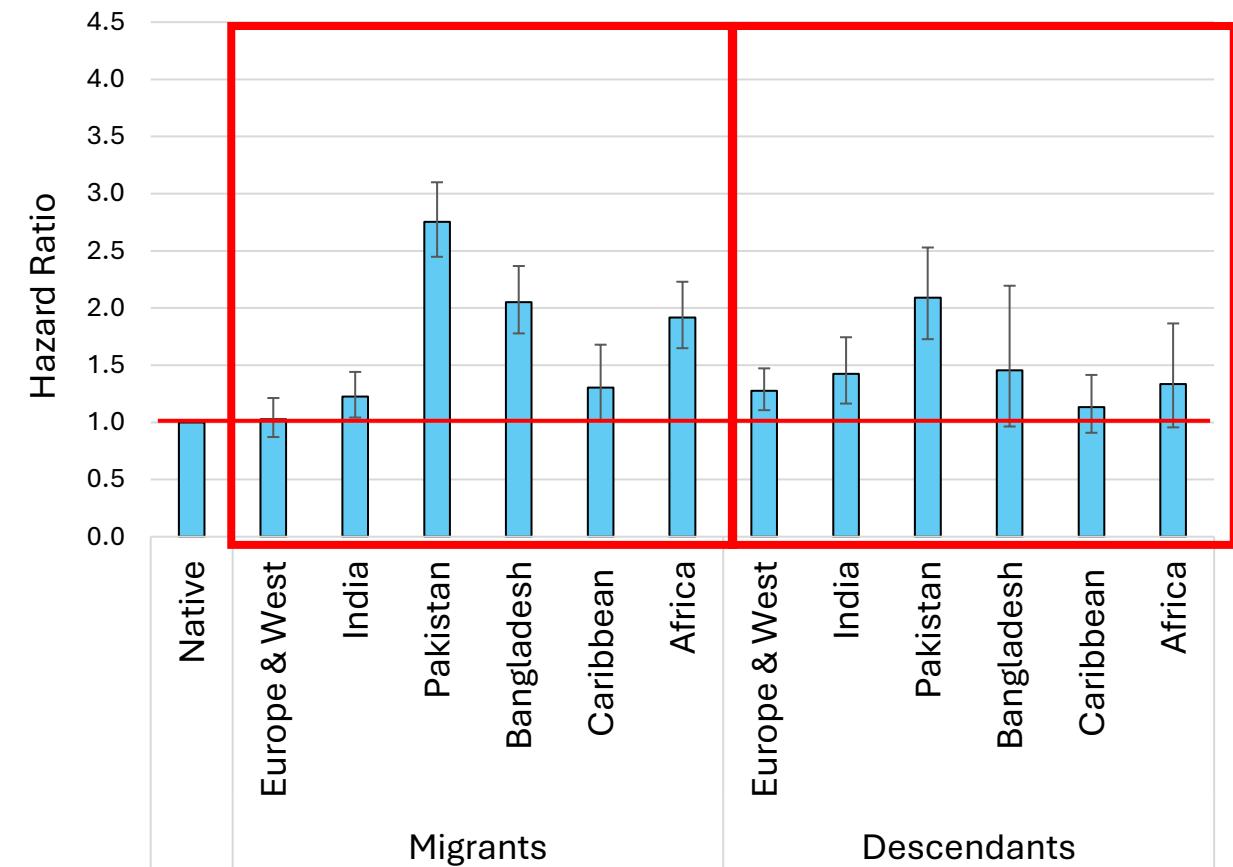
Relative First Birth Rates



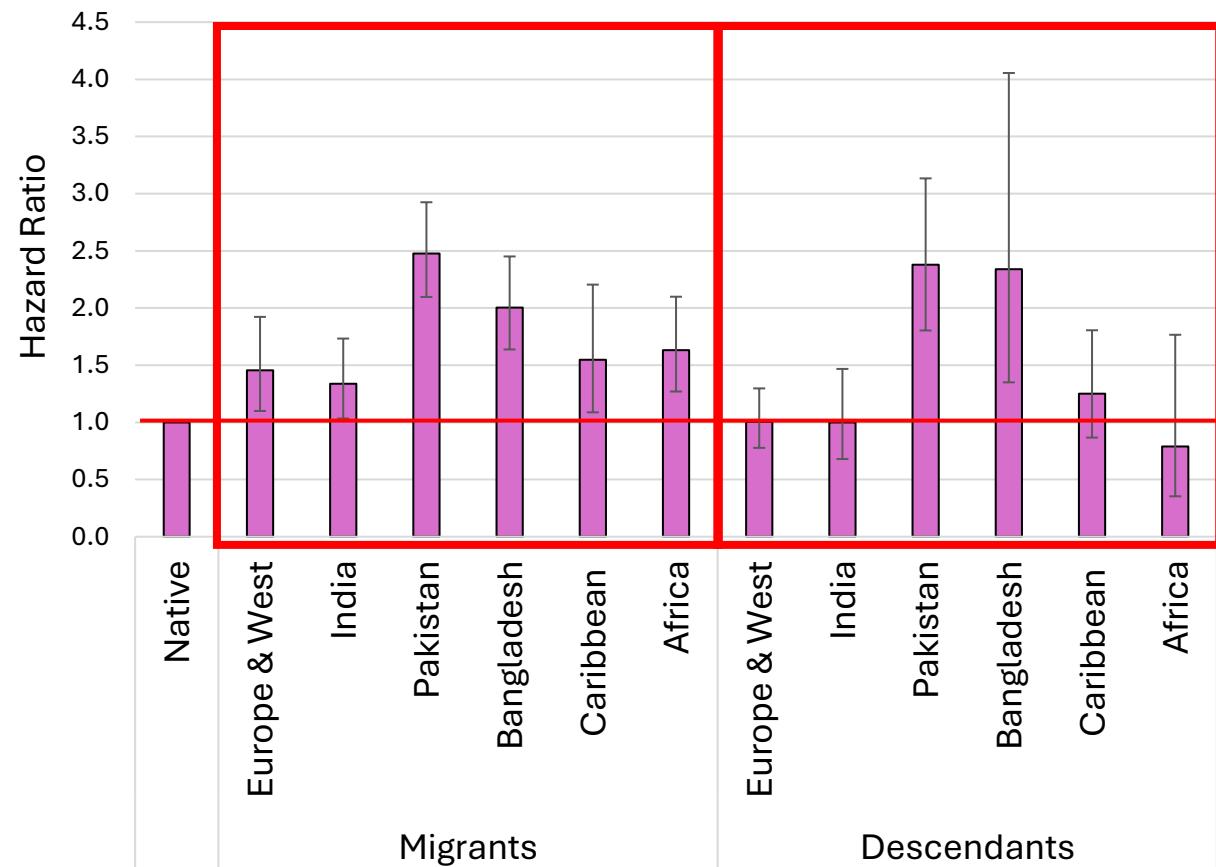
Relative Second Birth Rates



Relative Third Birth Rates



Relative Fourth Birth Rates

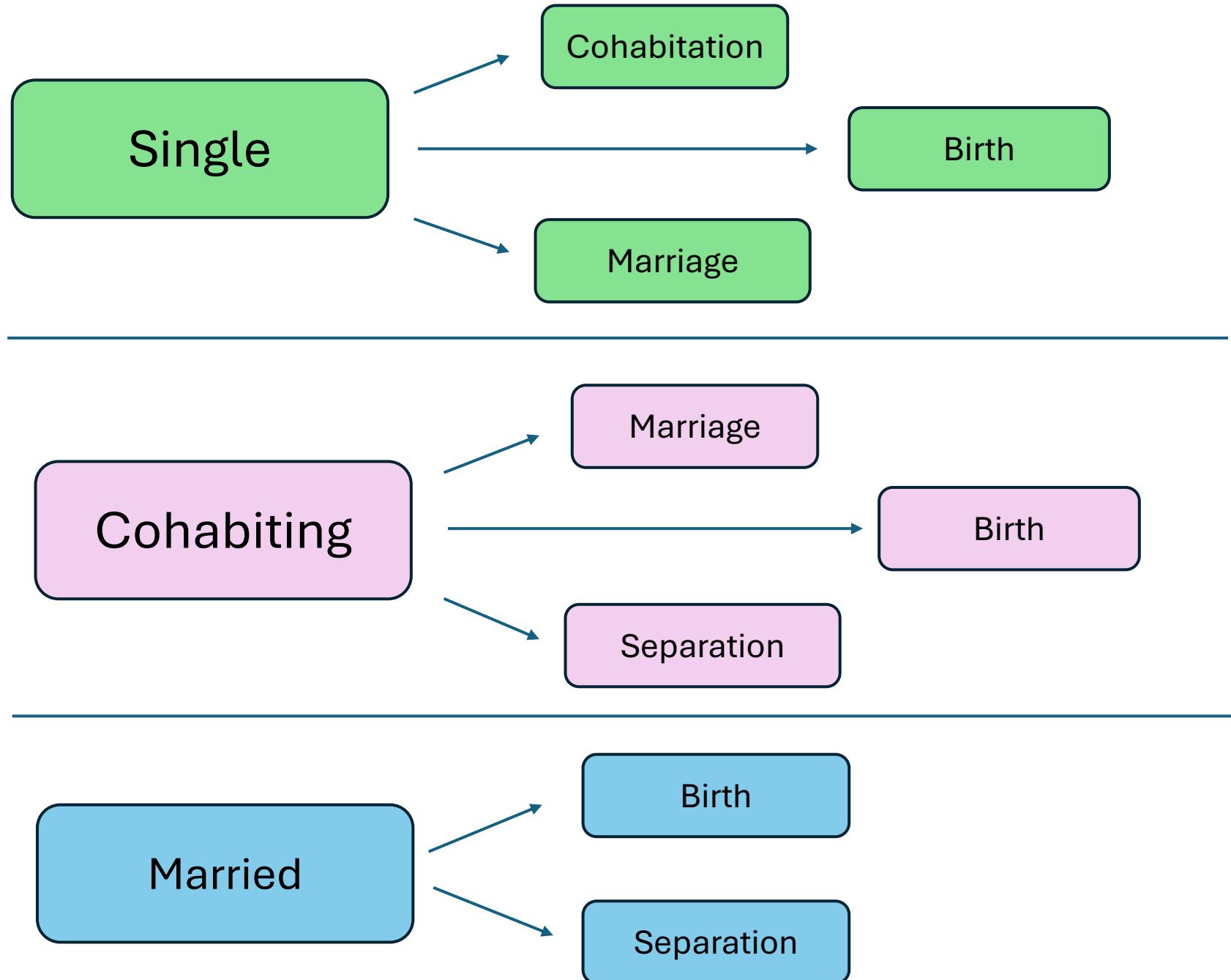


Results

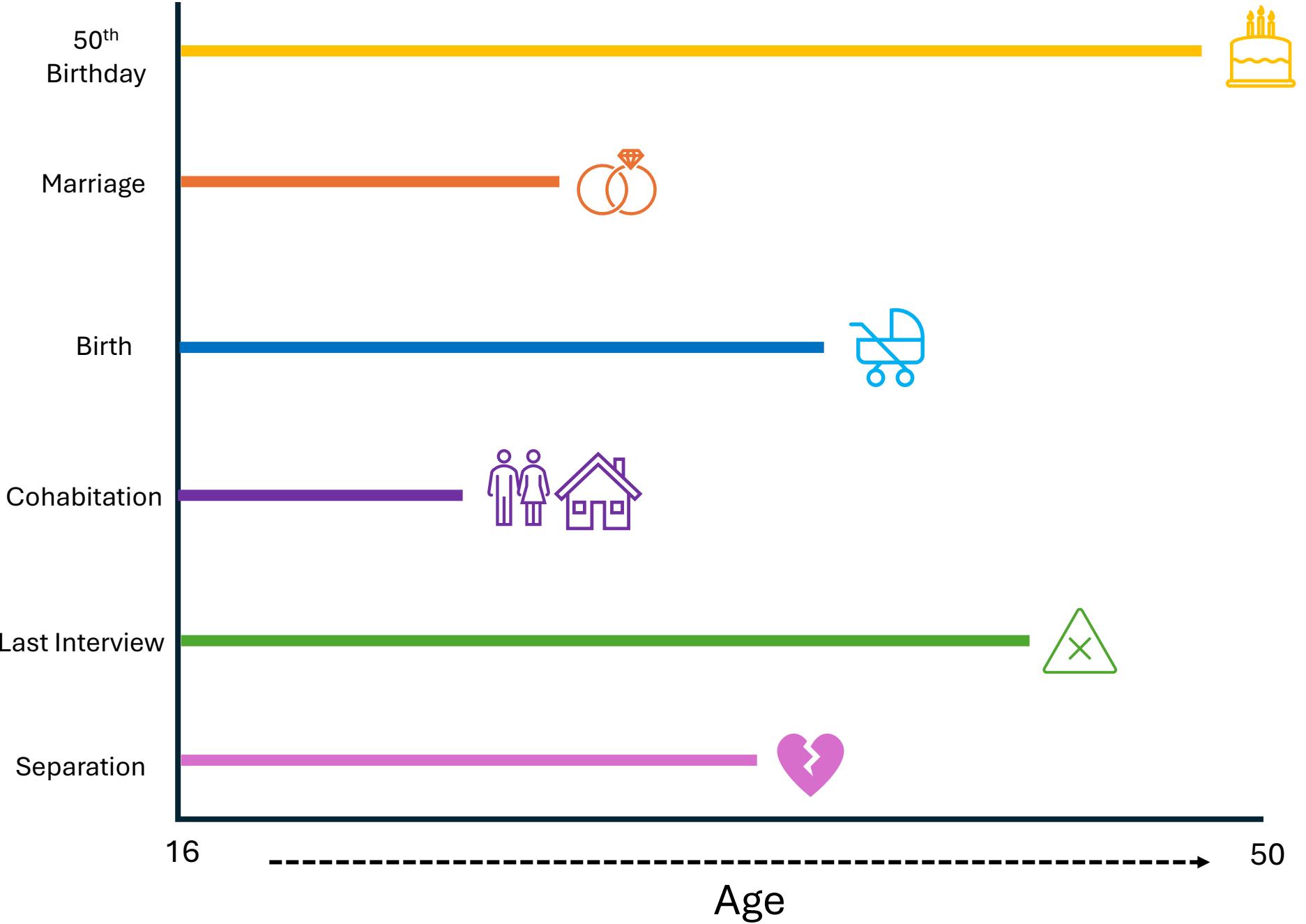


Part 2: Partnership Analysis

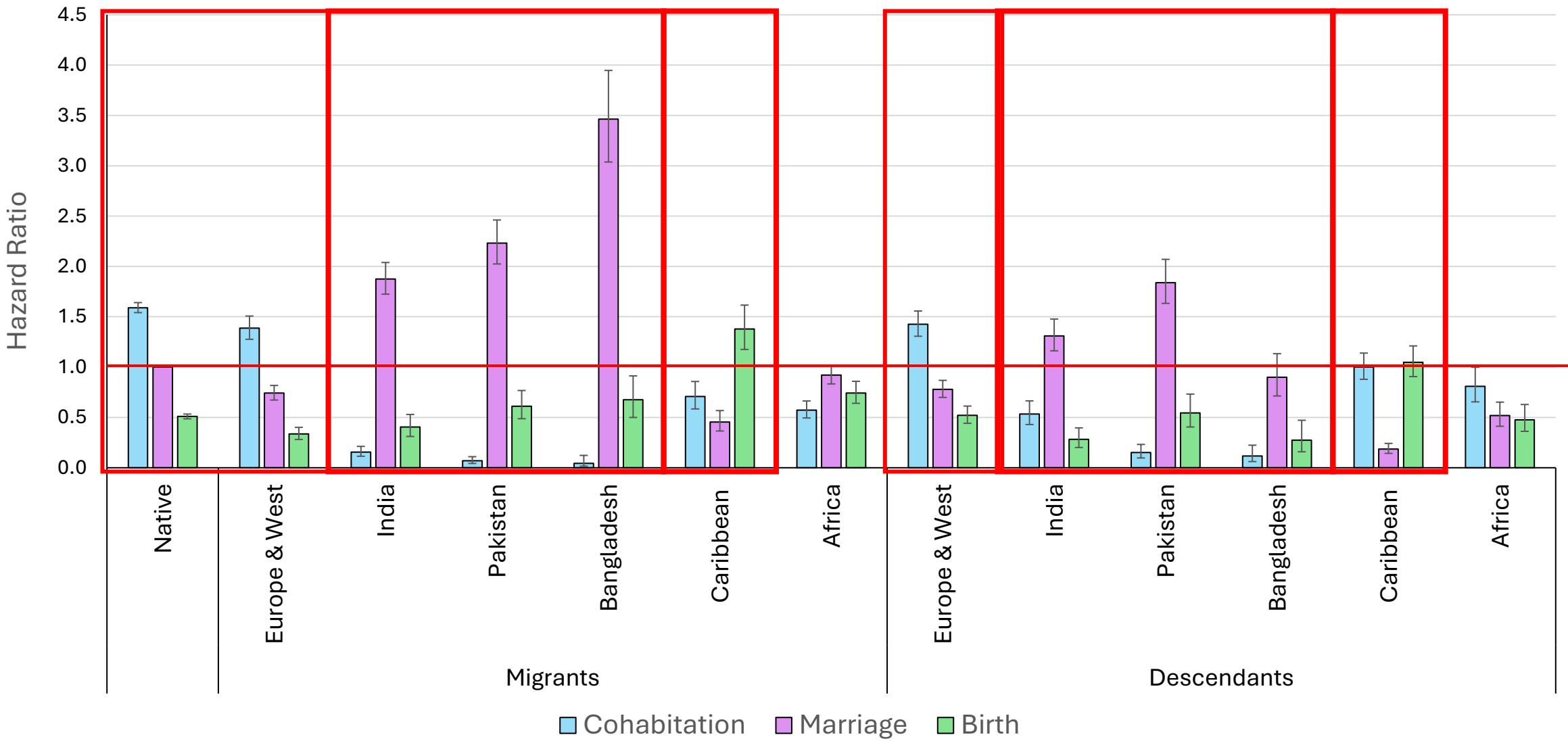
Model Structure



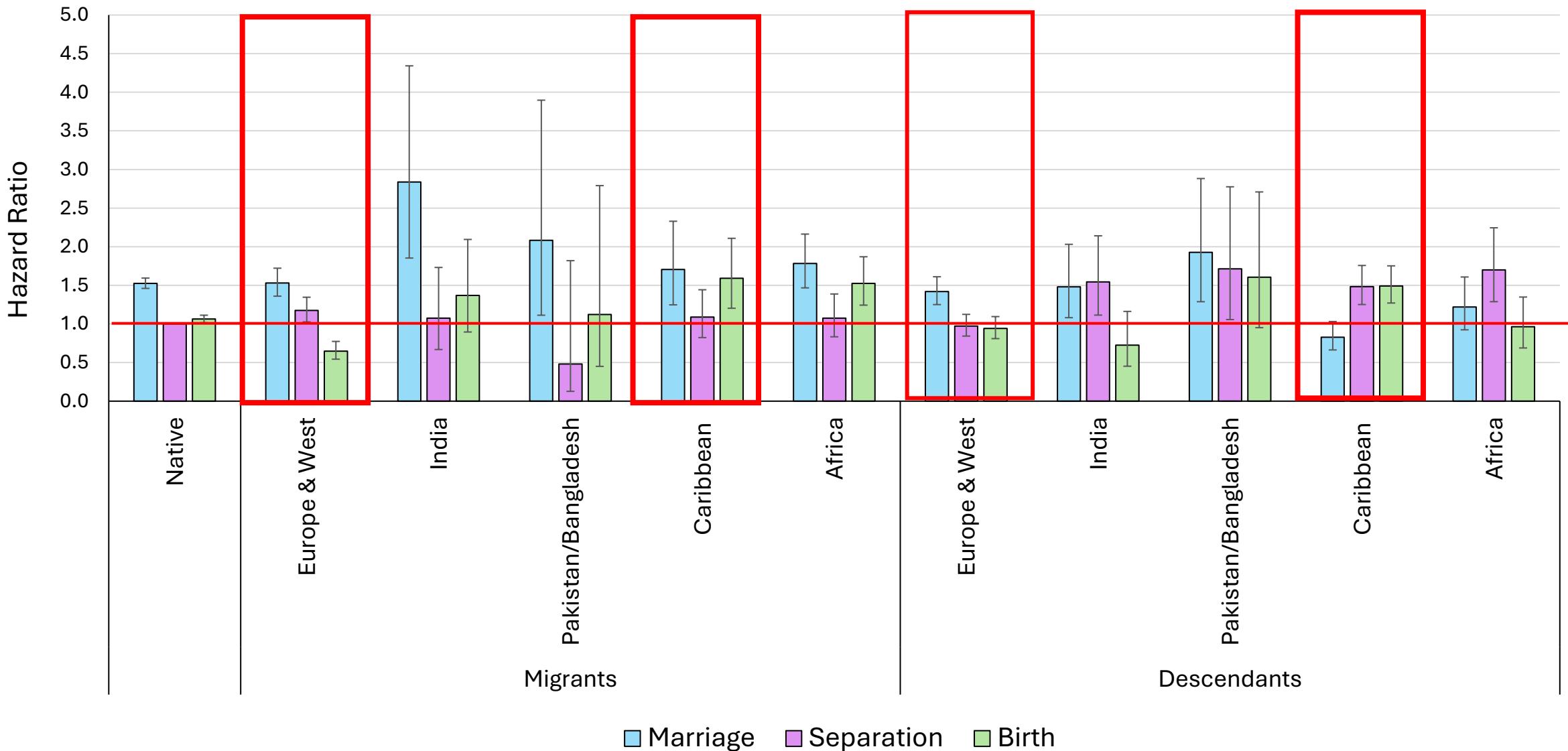
Analytical Strategy



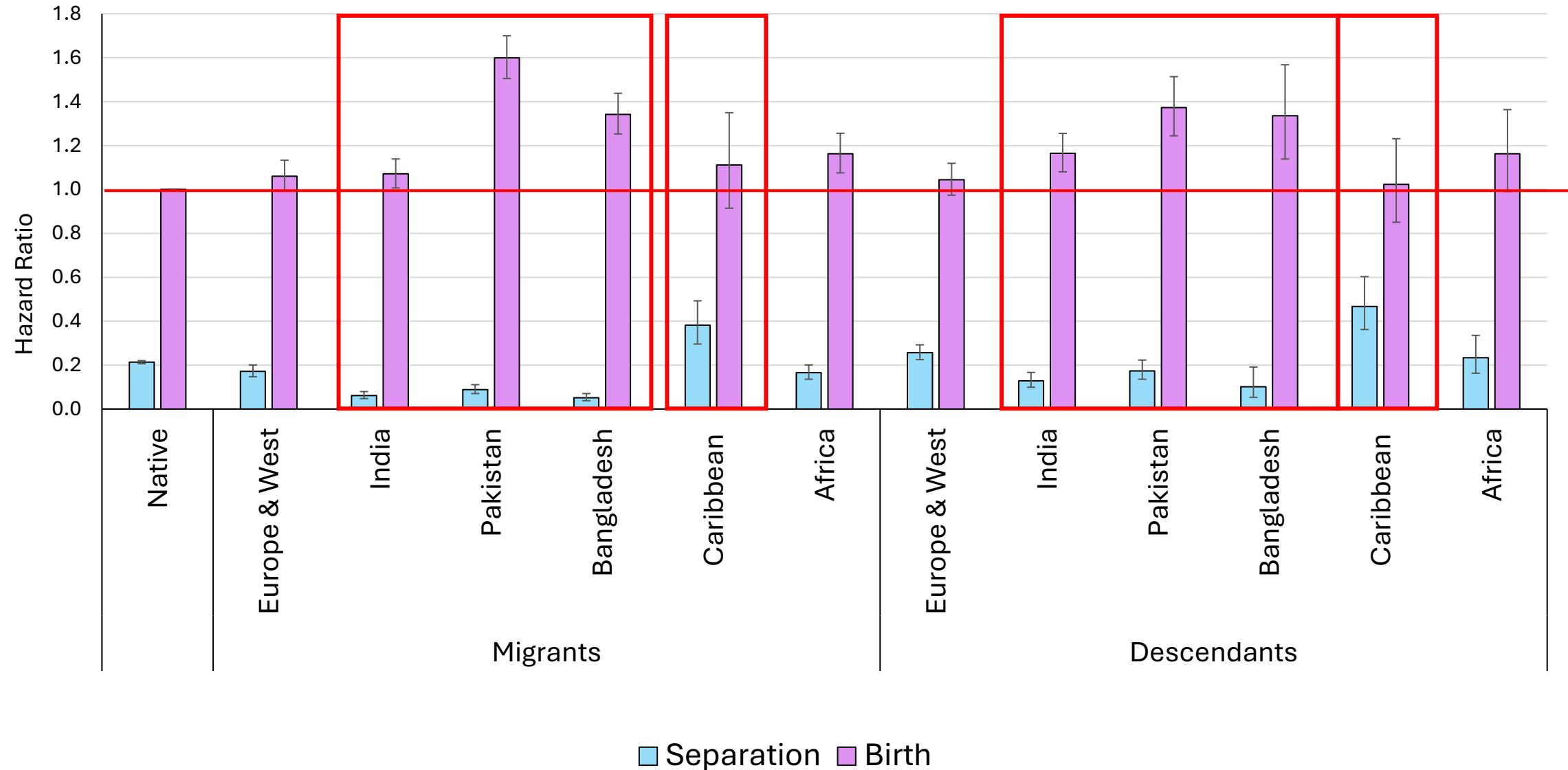
Single Outcomes



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 European 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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