

Family migration trajectories and the health of the 1.5 generation

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At a glance

- How **family migration trajectories** of child migrants relate to their **health outcomes** in early adulthood
 - **Family migration trajectories** timing of migration relative to parents (joint migration, separation length, order of arrival)
 - **Health outcomes** mental disorders based on hospitalisations, diagnoses and prescriptions
- Swedish population register data

Child migrants or the 1.5 generation

- Largely overlooked in migration research, which tends to focus on adult migrants or on the second generation
 - Different experience of migration *compared to adult migrants*
 - Limited agency throughout the migration process
 - Different experience of childhood *compared to the 2gen*
 - Separation from extended family and peers, and sometimes parents
 - Parents more recently arrived → lower language proficiency, higher employment and residential instability, lower ability to support children's insertion in school etc.
- Particularly vulnerable group that deserve separate attention

Child migrants or the 1.5 generation

Heterogeneous experiences of family migration, each with potential risk and protective factors:

- Joint migration of the family unit
- First-mover parent then family reunification
- Long versus short separation from parents

Sample

Swedish population registers (until 2021)

Whole population of:

- Foreign born with foreign-born parents
- Born 1990-1995
- Arrived by age 16 (Migration period 1990-2011)
- Excl. unaccompanied minors (arrived before both parents or neither parent ever lived in Sweden)

Dependent variable

- Ever diagnosed with or prescribed medications for a **mental disorder**
- From age 16 until year 2022 (age 27-32)
- Information on **diagnoses** from hospitalisations and out-patient visits and on **prescriptions**

Diagnoses: ICD-10 codes F20-F69

Prescriptions: ATC codes N05, N06

Control variables

- Sex (binary), birth cohort, age at first arrival, number of years lived in Sweden between age 16 and 2022 (accounts for outmigration)
- Geographic area of origin (birth country of mother[father])
- First mover's situation at arrival:
 - Highest recorded educational attainment
 - Employed in the year of arrival
 - Marital status in the year of arrival
 - Number of coresident minor children in the year of arrival
 - Ever lived in Sweden before child's birth

Independent variable

Family migration trajectories, combines info on:

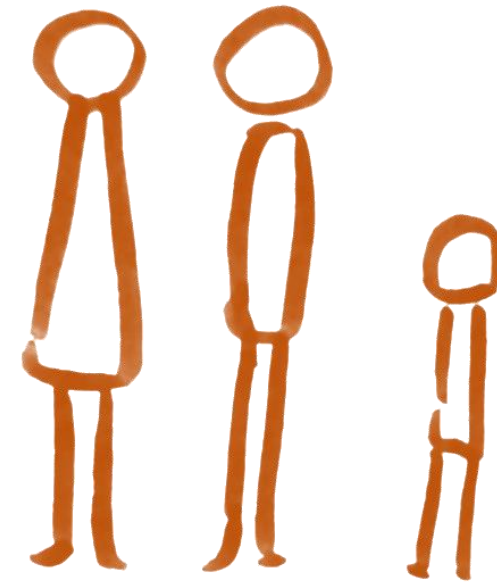
- Joint migration versus separation from either or both parents
- Length of separation (12 months cut-off)
- Order of arrival (with the first mover or in following steps of family migration)

Only considers time until child's **first** arrival to Sweden

Family migration trajectories

Family migration trajectories

Joint migration



Family migration trajectories

Joint migration



First-mover parent

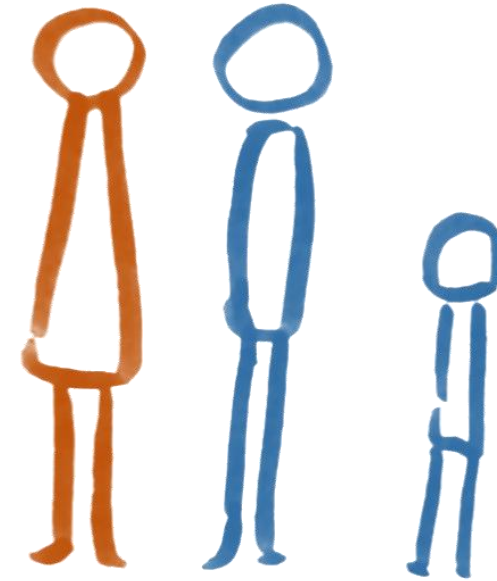


Family migration trajectories

Joint migration



First-mover parent



Family migration trajectories

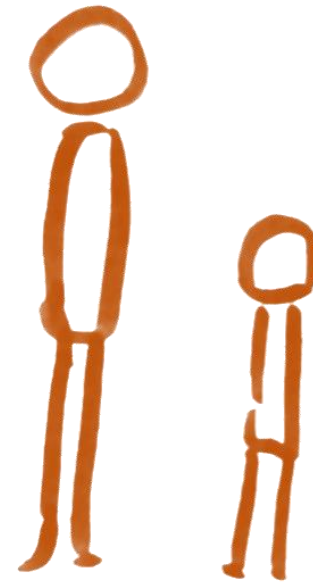
Joint migration



First-mover parent



Moved with the first mover



Family migration trajectories

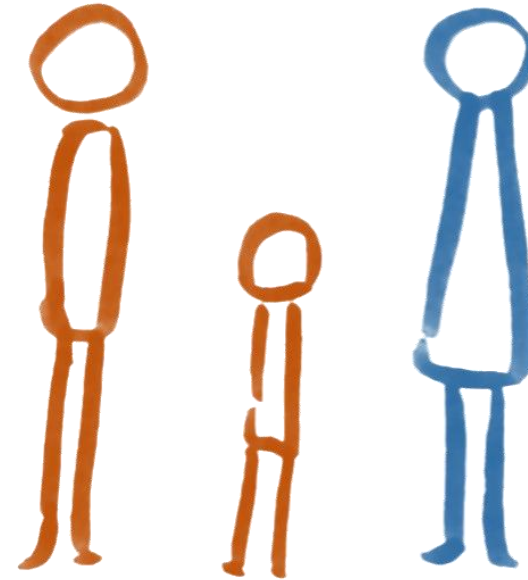
Joint migration



First-mover parent



Moved with the first mover



Family migration trajectories

Joint migration



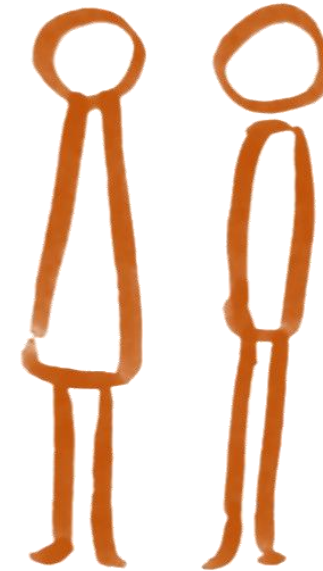
First-mover parent



Moved with the first mover



Separated from both parents



Family migration trajectories

Joint migration



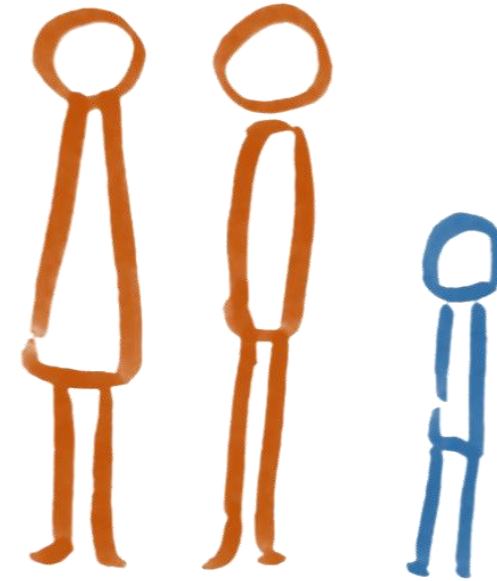
First-mover parent



Moved with the first mover



Separated from both parents



Family migration trajectories

Joint migration



First-mover parent



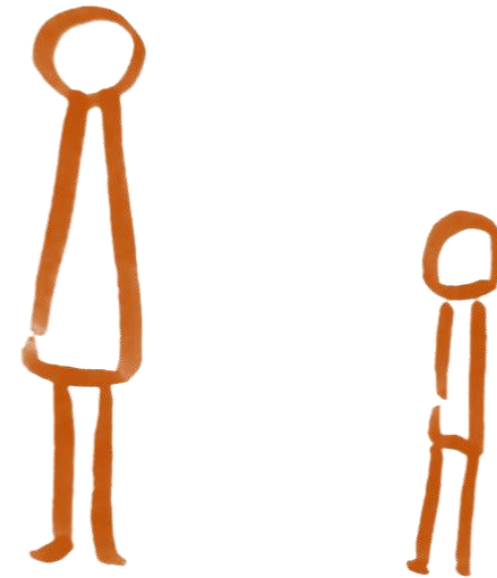
Moved with the first mover



Separated from both parents



One parent never moved



Family migration trajectories

	Child timing of migration rel.	
	First mover	Other parent
Joint migration	Joint migration	Joint migration
First-mover parent	Short separation + Joint migration	
	Long separation + Joint migration	
Moved with the first mover	Joint migration + Short separation	
	Joint migration + Long separation	
Separated from both parents	Short separation + Short separation	
	Short/Long separation + Short/Long separation	
One parent never moved	Joint migration + No Father	
	Separation + No Father	
	Joint migration + No Mother	
	Separation + No Mother	

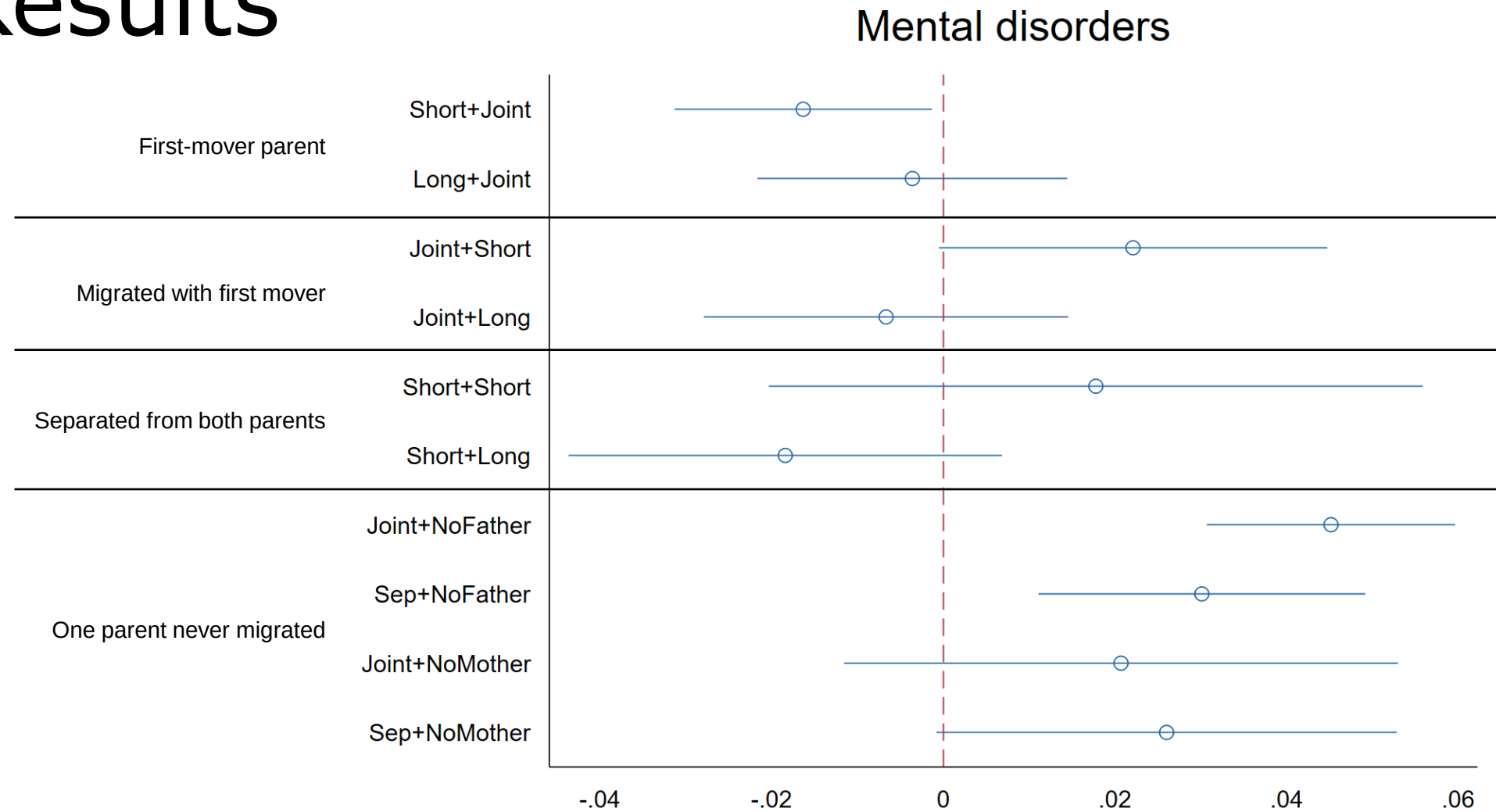
Results

	Family migration trajectory	%	N
Joint mig.	Joint migration	34.0	15554
First-mover parent	Short separation + Joint migration	13.1	5980
	Long separation + Joint migration	13.0	5948
Migrated with first mover	Joint migration + Short separation	3.5	1574
	Joint migration + Long separation	3.8	1739
Separated from both parents	Short separation + Short separation	1.1	512
	Short/Long separation + Short/Long separation	2.4	1117
One parent never migrated	Joint migration + No Father	16.7	7636
	Separation + No Father	8.6	3916
	Joint migration + No Mother	1.3	605
	Separation + No Mother	2.5	1145
	Total	100	45726

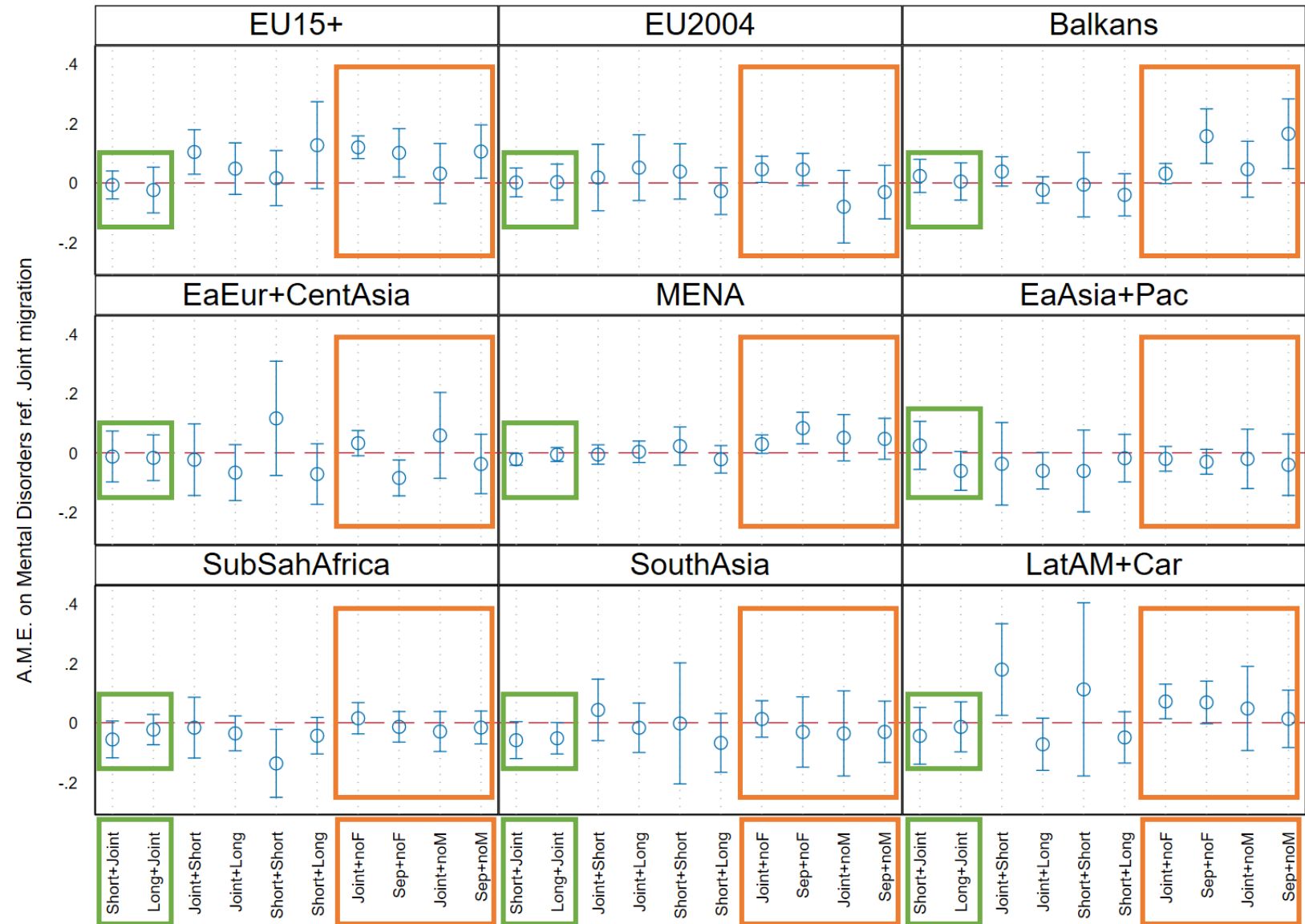
Results

	EU15+	EU2004	Balkans	EastEurope + CentAsia	MENA	EastAsia + Pacific	SSA	South Asia	LatAm+Car
Joint	40	23	76	32	28	12	8	23	17
Short+Joint	10	15	3	4	27	2	5	13	4
Long+Joint	3	9	2	6	22	3	22	27	8
Joint+Short	5	2	3	2	5	1	1	3	2
Joint+Long	3	2	3	3	4	2	7	7	5
Short+Short	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Short+Long	1	4	1	2	2	2	5	3	5
Joint+NoFather	26	27	8	38	7	35	17	17	37
Sep+NoFather	4	13	1	8	2	39	20	3	14
Joint+NoMother	2	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	2
Sep+NoMother	3	2	1	3	1	1	11	2	5
Observations	3366	3090	8908	2523	15305	3909	4605	2190	1829

Results



Results



Conclusions

1.5gen exhibit highly heterogeneous immigration trajectories, with only 1/3 having migrated as a nuclear family.

No straightforward association between separation from a parent during migration and mental disorders in young adulthood.

Higher risk of mental disorders is associated with permanent separation from a parent

Thank you!

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Higher risk of mental disorders is associated with permanent separation from a parent