

THE RISE AND PROMINENCE OF SKIP-GENERATION HOUSEHOLDS IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Zachary Zimmer^a & Emily Treleaven^b

^aGlobal Aging and Community Initiative, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS, Canada; ^bPopulation Studies Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA



OBJECTIVES

Evaluate trends in the proportion of households that are skip-generation and the proportion of children <15 and adults 60+ in skip-generation households in low- and middle-income countries (see map). Assess the degree to which country-level characteristics, such as AIDS mortality and migration rates, explain these trends.

BACKGROUND

- Demographic and sociological theories forecast that as socioeconomic development occurs, households become smaller and less complex.¹⁻³
- In contrast, some evidence suggests *skip-generation households*, which consist of **grandchildren and grandparents without the middle generation present**, are growing in proportion across low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).⁴⁻⁶
- Socioeconomic forces across many LMICs increasingly encourage skip-generation households, e.g. AIDS mortality and labor-related migration.^{7,8}
- Emergent literature implicates skip-generation households in some unfavorable outcomes for children and older persons.⁹⁻¹²
- Yet, investigations into how household formations in LMICs are changing rarely consider skip-generations.

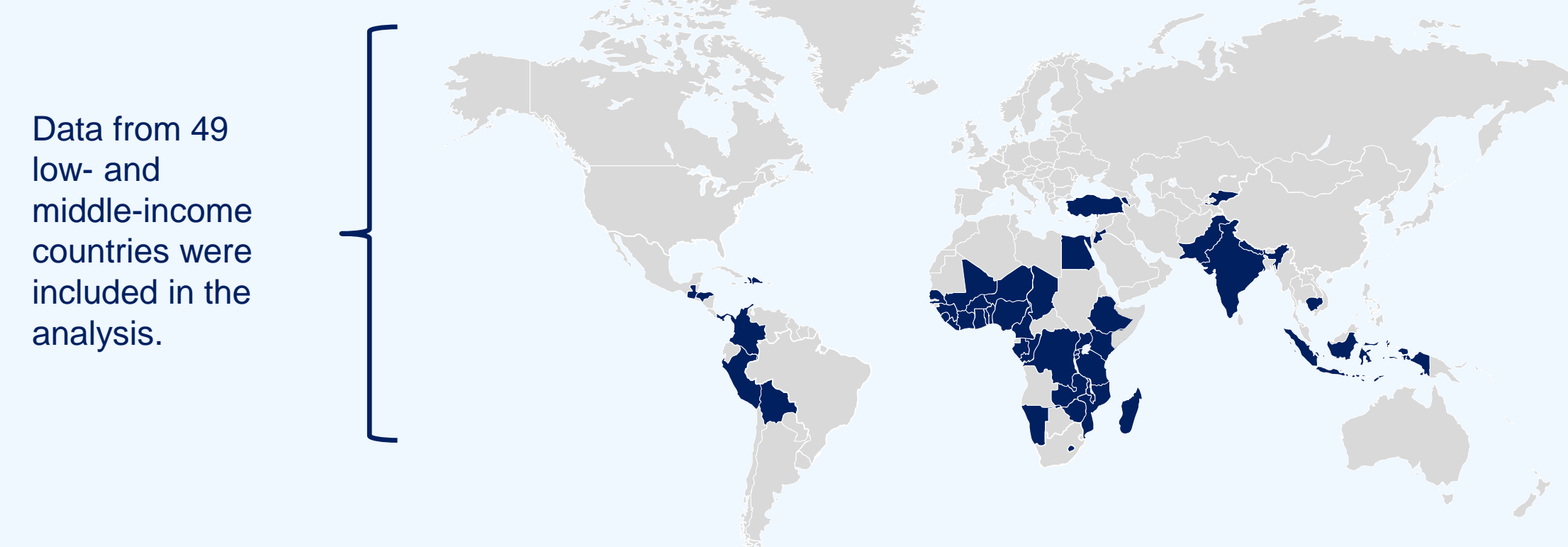
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the trends in skip-generation households across low- and middle-income countries?
- To what degree can trends be explained by country-level characteristics that promote or discourage such living arrangements?

METHODS

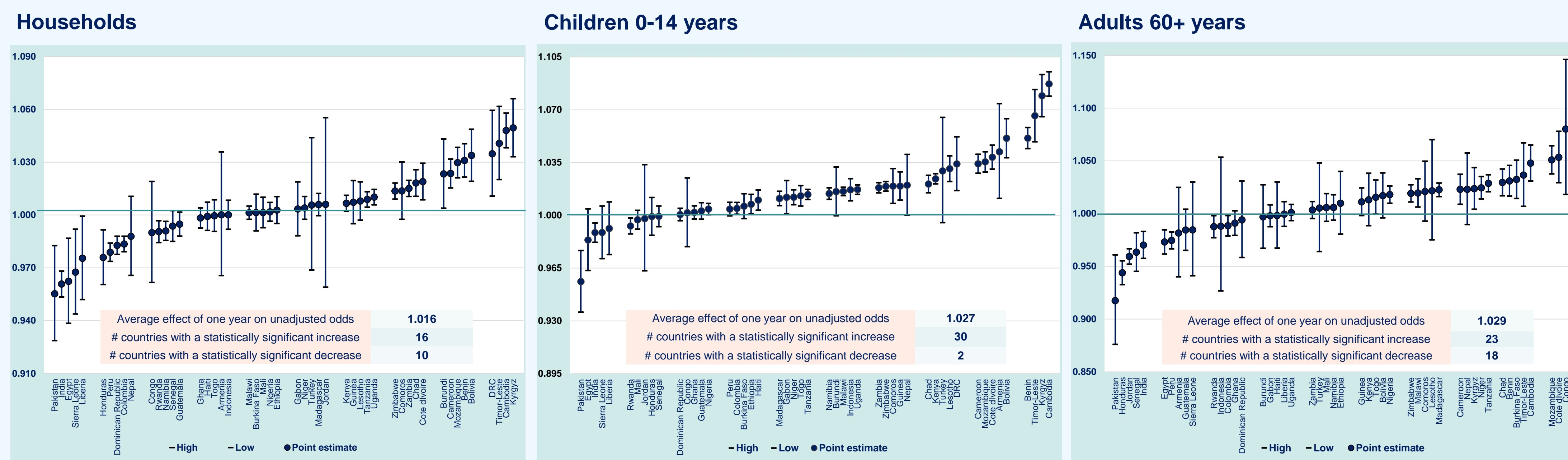
- Skip-generation defined as** households with only grandchild(ren) and grandparent(s). We measure:
 - Whether a household is skip-generation.
 - Whether a child aged 0 to 14 years lives in a skip-generation household.
 - Whether an adult aged 60+ lives in a skip-generation household.
- Data:
 - DHS household-level from countries with 2+ waves of data between 1990 – 2017;
 - Most recent data collection taking place in 2004 or later; and
 - Minimum of five years between the first and last data collection years.
- Two-step analysis:
 - Calculate effect of one year on country-specific odds of skip-generation.
 - Use multilevel models to:
 - Assess the average trend across low- and middle-income countries; and
 - Examine which country-level (time-varying) factors influence the trend.

MAP



RESULTS

What is the unadjusted effect of one year of time on the odds of skip-generation household in each specific country?



Multilevel logistic regressions showing effect of one year of time on log-odds of skip-generation household in 49 countries, controlling for unit- and country-level variables

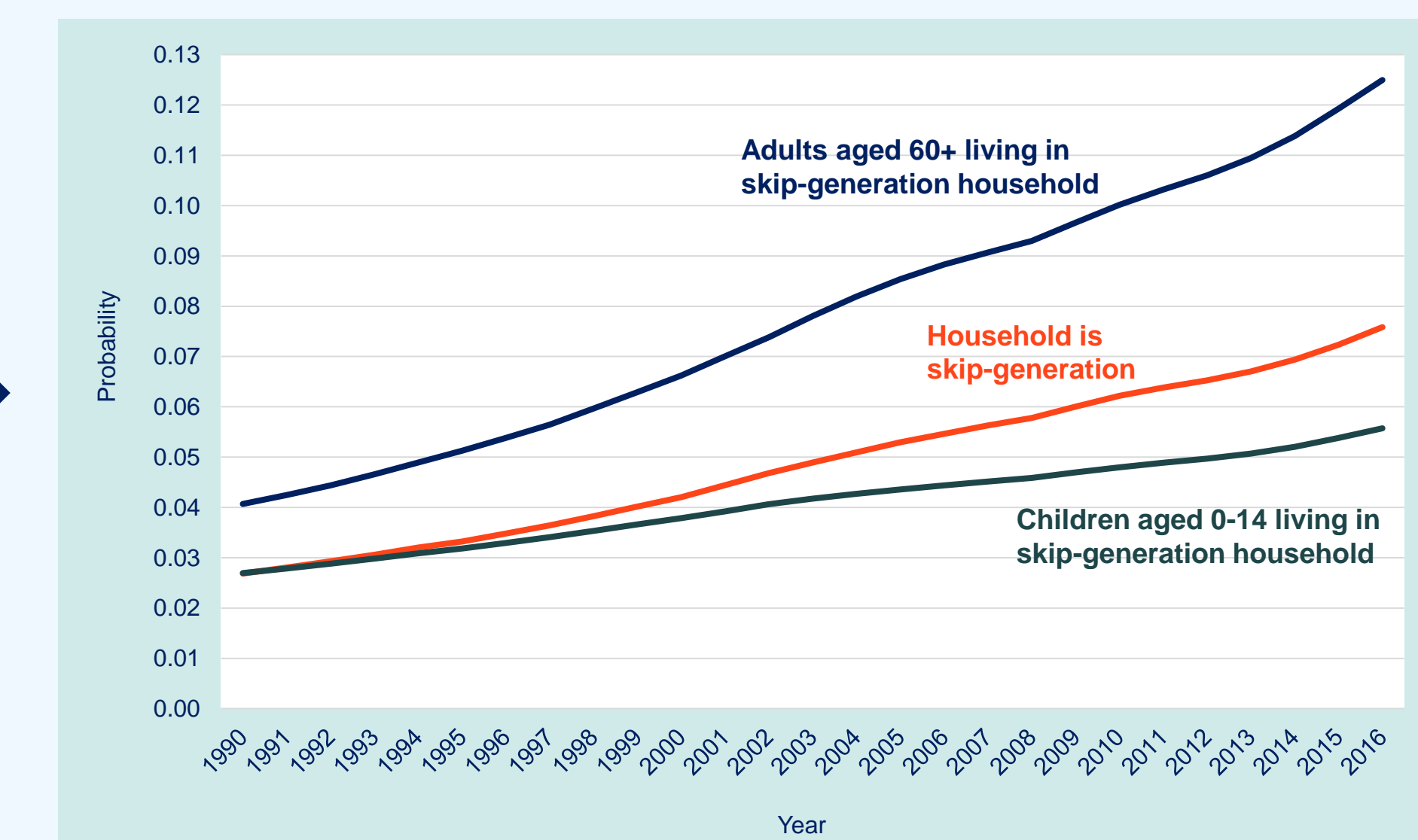
	Households	Children aged 0-14	Adults aged 60+
One year of time	0.029***	0.029***	0.032***
Individual-level			
Age centered	0.068***	0.060***	0.001
Sex (Male = 1)	-0.938***	-0.084**	-0.506***
Location of household (Rural = 1)	0.434***	0.405***	0.542***
Country-level			
Crude AIDS Death Rate	0.089***	0.067***	0.058***
Crude non-AIDS Death Rate	0.046	0.037	-0.049
Total Labor Force Participation Rate	0.164*	0.032	0.025
GNI per capita/1000	-0.101*	-0.085*	-0.112**
International Migration Rate	0.064***	0.036	0.022
Total Dependency Ratio	0.337***	0.080	0.264***
Intercept			
	-3.395	-3.645	-3.291
Random components			
Intercept (S.E.)	0.519***	0.589**	0.563***
Slope (S.E.)	0.00044***	0.00063*	0.00025*

Notes. *** p < .01, ** .01 < p < .05, * .05 < p < .10
Time interactions are not significant. Time quadratic is not significant.
For household model, age and male refers to household head. Other models refer to individual.
Country-level variables are standardized.

Translating log-odds into probabilities



Adjusting for covariates, are skip-generation households increasing, on average, in low- and middle-income countries?



CONCLUSIONS

- The underlying global trend is a **steady rise** in skip-generation households.
- The trend affects the probability that a household is skip-generation and the probability children <15 and adults 60+ live in skip-generation households.
- Despite the trend, there is variation across countries. Examples:
 - Pakistan: Prevalence of skip-generation households has remained <1%.
 - Uganda: Beset by AIDS mortality, skip-generation households increased rapidly and now comprise 10.3% of all households.
 - Cambodia: Labor out-migration is common, and the proportion of households that are skip-generation doubled from 2000 to 2014.
- Country-level variables are associated with the formation of skip-generation households, but on balance the **trend** is not well-explained by macro-level variables such as AIDS mortality and migration rates.
- We find no evidence that the underlying rising trend in skip-generation households will curtail, underscoring the importance of understanding the implications and consequences of this living arrangement globally.

CITATIONS

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