

**THE EFFECTS OF FERTILITY  
DECLINE ON FAMILY STRUCTURE  
AND SUPPORT FOR OLDER PERSONS  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA**

**Karen Glaser**

Institute of Gerontology, King's College  
London UK

**Emily M. Agree and Elizabeth Costenbader**

Population and Family Health Sciences,  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health,  
Baltimore, U.S.A

# Goals of the Analysis:

- How does intergenerational support change in the course of socio-economic development and to what extent is this change associated with demographic transformations?
- In today's presentation we explore variation in family structures and support across settings experiencing fertility transitions at different times

# DATA:

- **Latin America**
  - ◆ 2001 PAHO surveys on Salud, Bienestar y Envejecimiento en América Latina y el Caribe (SABE)
  - ◆ Urban Samples
- **Asia**
  - ◆ 2000 Philippine Survey of the Near Elderly and Elderly
  - ◆ 1999 Survey of Health and Living Status of the Elderly (TES) in Taiwan

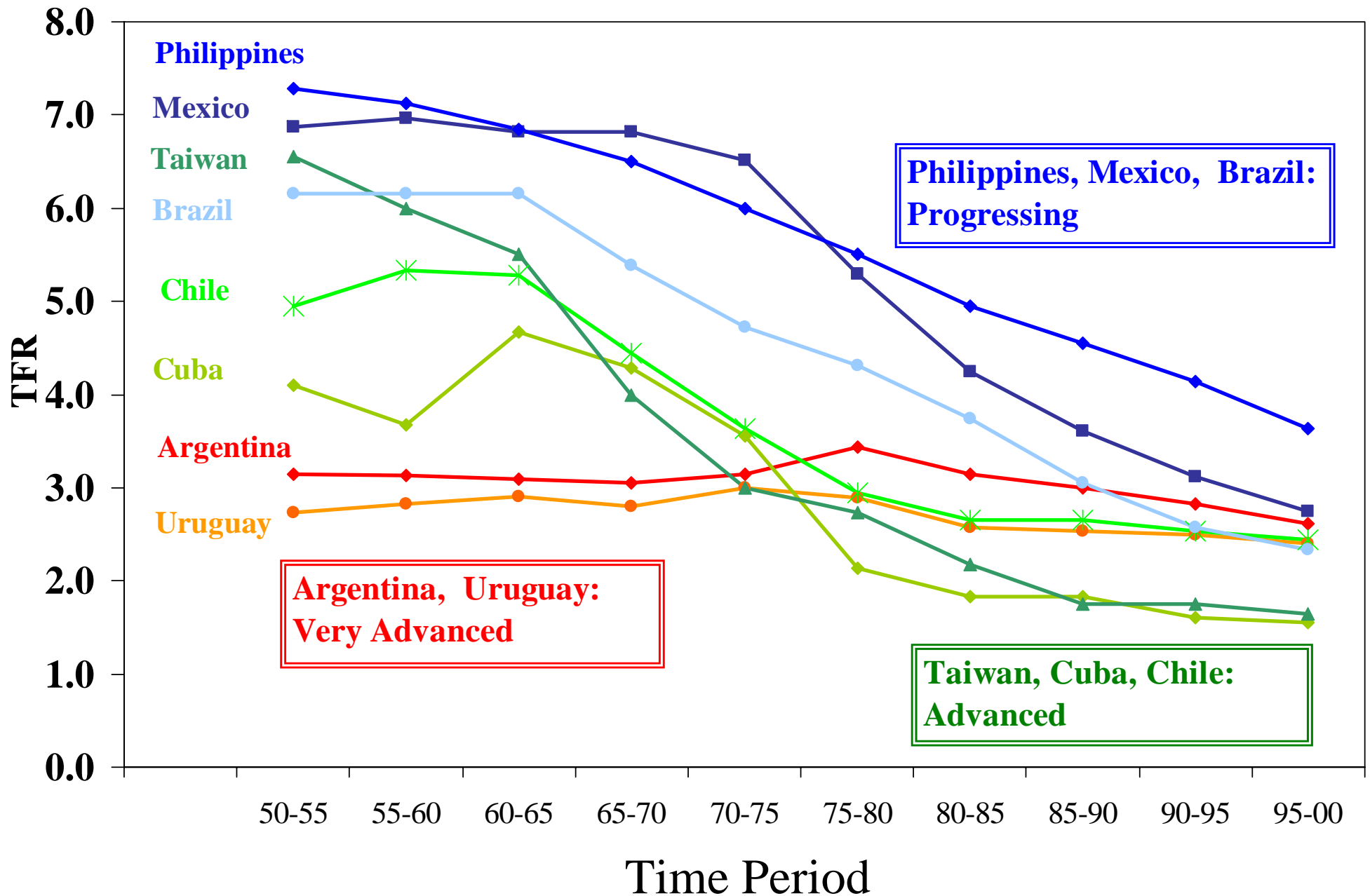
# SAMPLES

- Cross-sectional
- Sample Sizes range from 469 in Philippines to 3373 in Taiwan (SABE samples between 1039 and 2143)
- All data are weighted for sampling and attrition

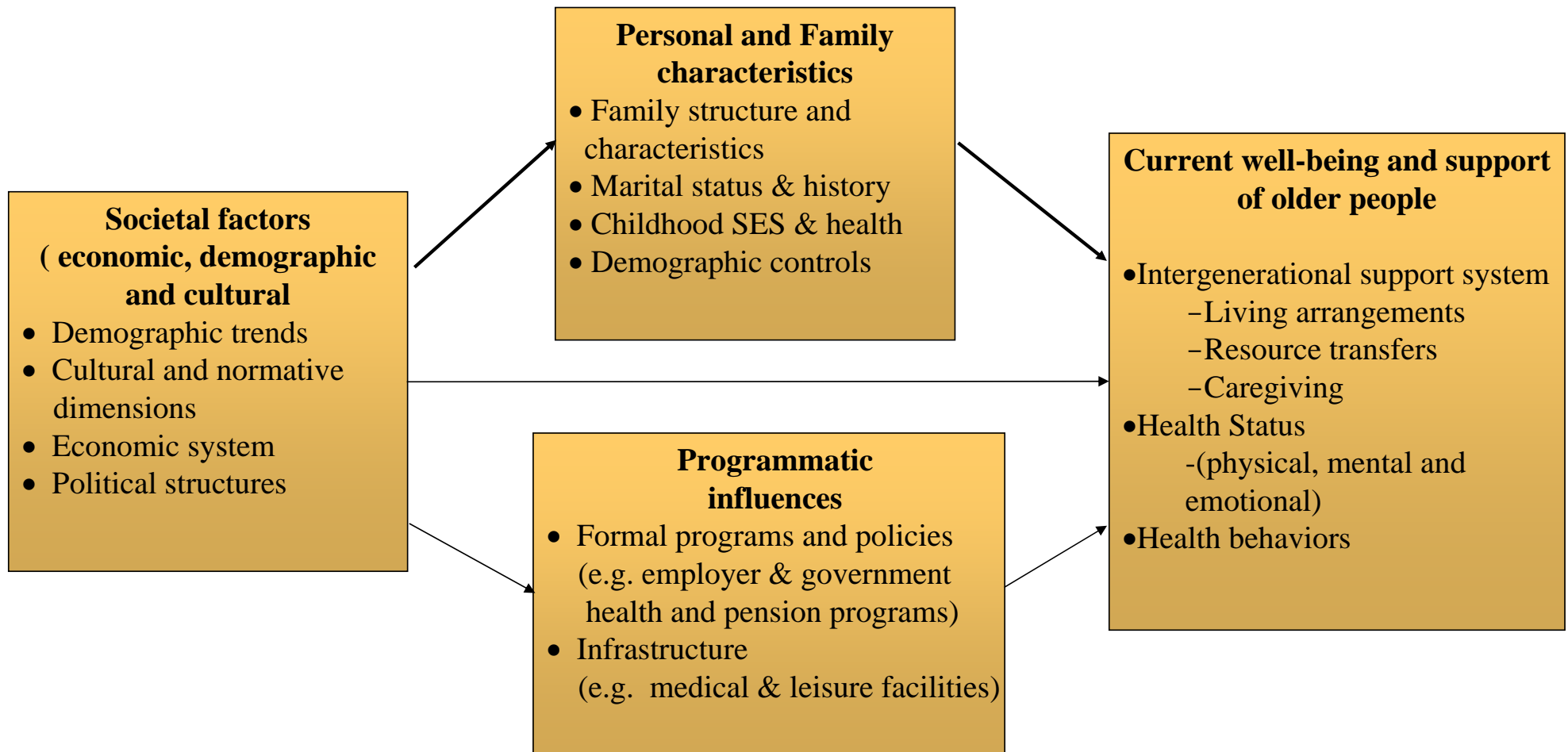
# BACKGROUND

- Multiple demographic changes lead to transformation of family structure
- Caldwell's theory asserts shift in intergenerational support with development

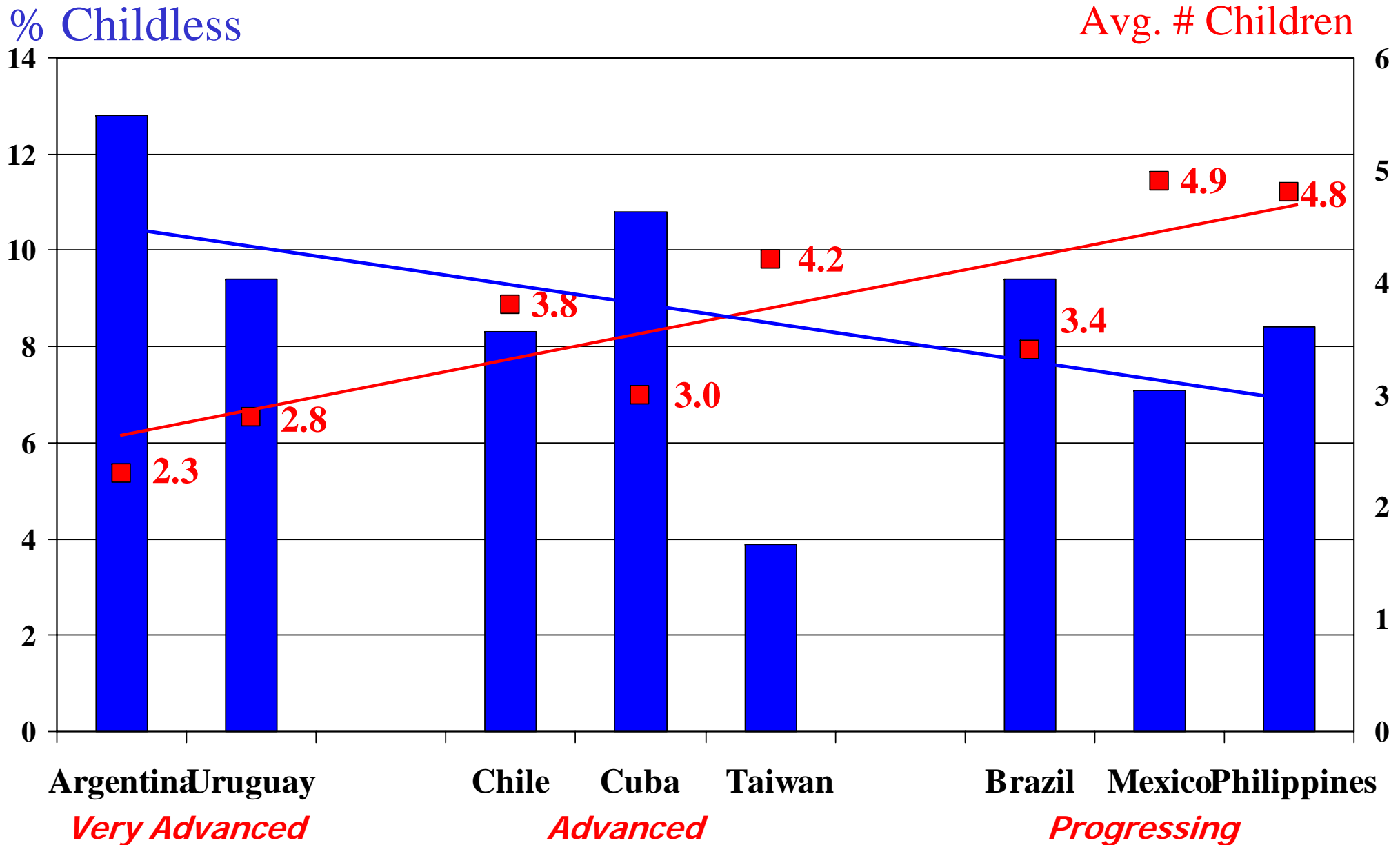
# Typologies of Fertility Transitions



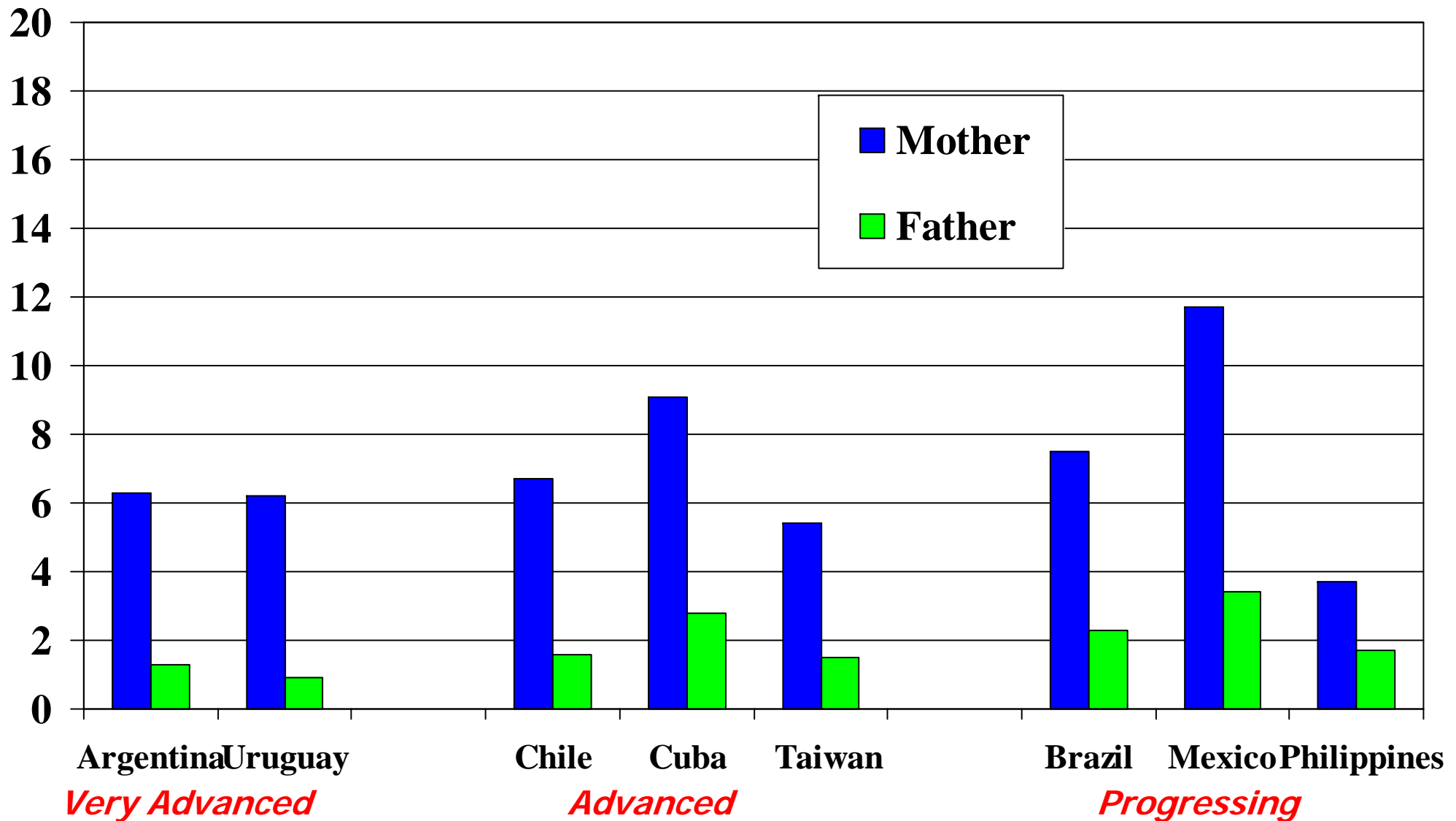
# Conceptual framework of factors affecting health and support of older people



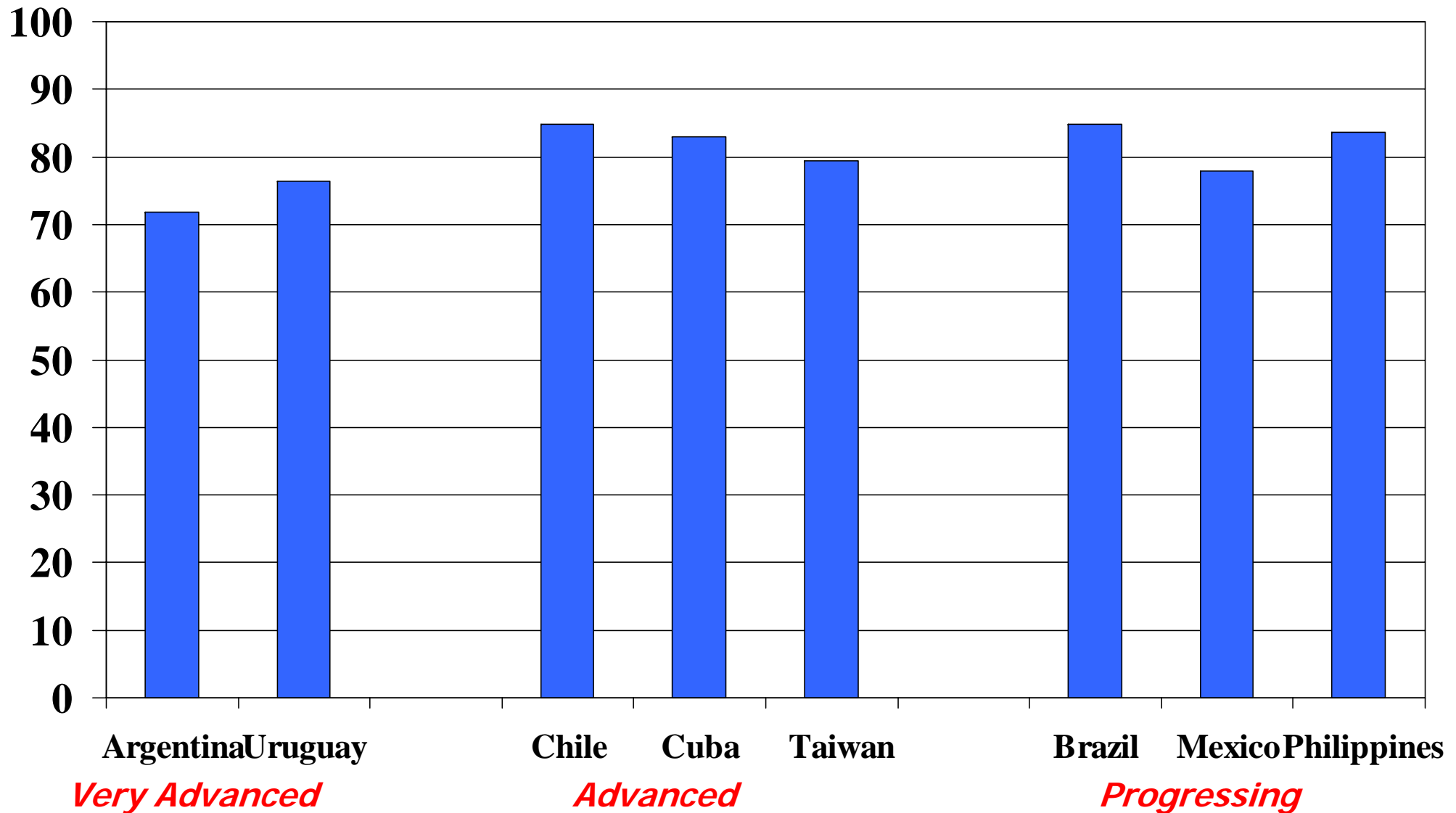
# Fertility Characteristics: Percent Childless and Average Number of Children



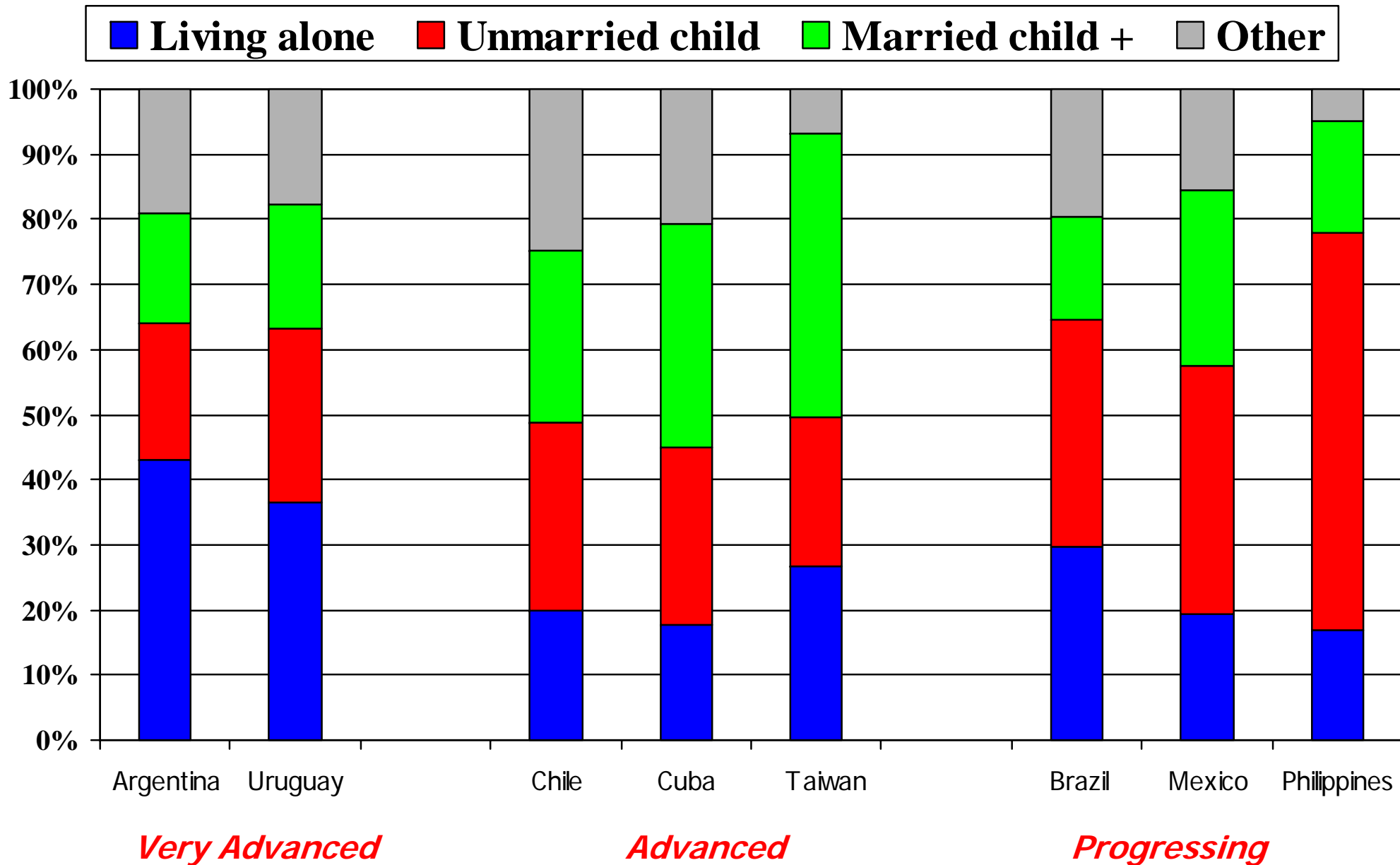
# Other living Kin: Percent of Persons Aged 60 and over with Surviving Mother or Father



# Other Living Kin: Percent of Persons Aged 60 and Over with one or more Surviving Siblings

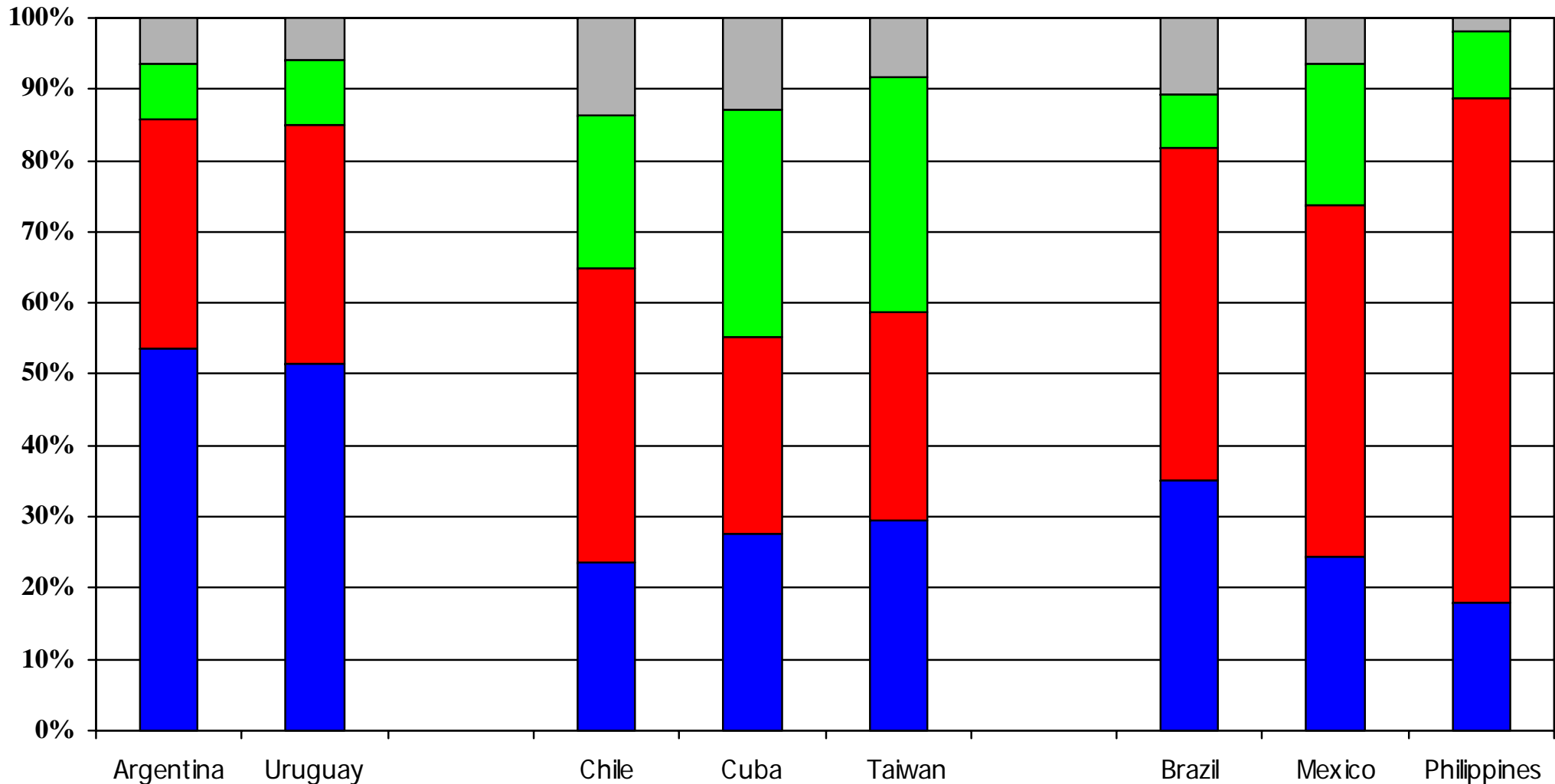


# Living Arrangements: Unmarried Persons aged 60 and Older, 1999-2001



# Living Arrangements: Married Persons aged 60 and Older, 1999-2001

■ Spouse Only    
 ■ Unmarried child    
 ■ Married child +    
 ■ Other



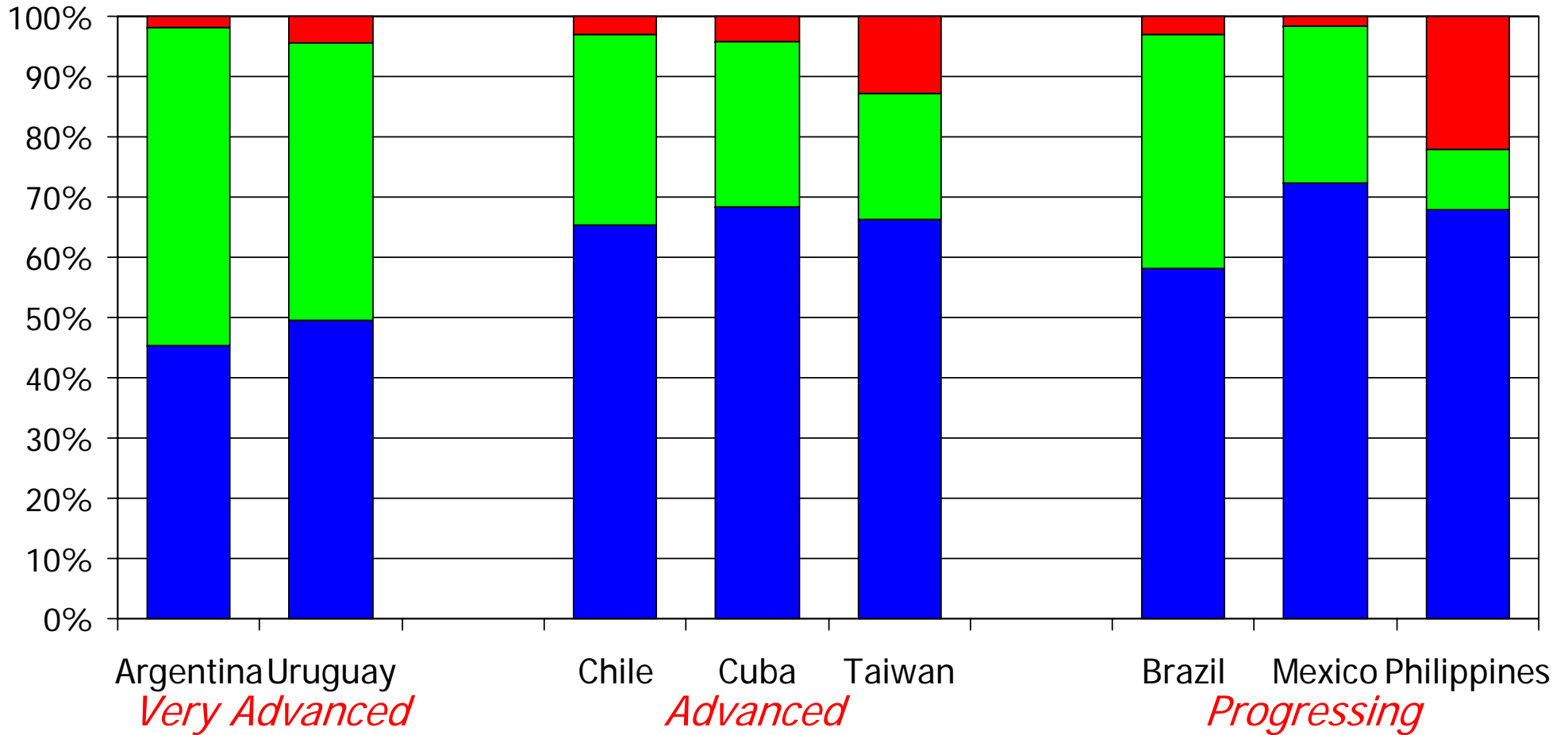
*Very Advanced*

*Advanced*

*Progressing*

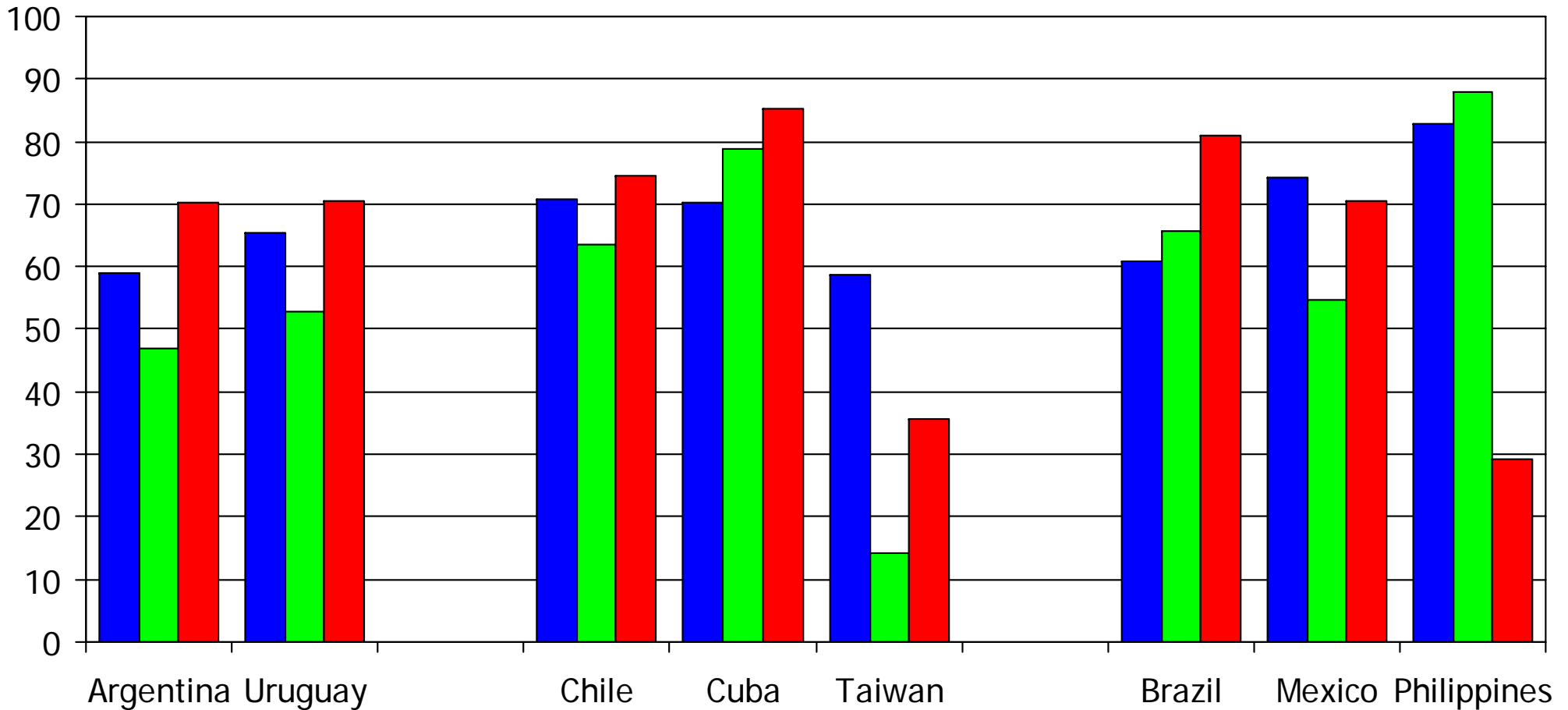
# Proximity to Nearest Child: Persons aged 60 and older ,1999-2001

■ Co-resident ■ Near ■ Far



# Percent Receiving Family Support by Type of Support & Transition Stage

■ Financial
 ■ Goods
 ■ ADL/IADL



*Very Advanced*

*Advanced*

*Progressing*

# Conclusions

- **Timing of fertility transitions affects the kin availability and support of older people in developing countries. At more advanced stages:**
  - ◆ Childlessness increases and family size decreases
  - ◆ Fewer report mothers alive
  - ◆ Fewer co-reside with children but have children nearby.
  - ◆ Financial/material support is less common, but ADL/IADL about the same.
  - ◆ Support from children is greater for unmarried than married elders, but support of all types from children (coresident or non-coresident) is lower.

# Conclusions

- **Regional Differences also matter:**
  - ◆ Latin Americans more likely to report a living mother, potentially due to different ages at childbearing
  - ◆ Proportions with their nearest child long distance is higher in Taiwan and the Philippines than Latin America, possibly reflecting migration patterns.
  - ◆ More Latin Americans receive IADL/ADL help than other types of support, while in Taiwan and the Philippines, it is the least commonly reported type.