



TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORKS OF OLDER PERSONS IN TAIWAN AND THE PHILIPPINES

Emily M. Agree and Elizabeth Costenbader
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA

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Approaches to Intergenerational Transfers of Support

- ◆ Most sociological and economic studies of intergenerational transfers in Western countries focus on motivations for transfers
- ◆ Social network approaches have tended to focus only on actively supportive links rather than the larger social network

Benefits of a Network Approach

- ◆ Comparative data on intergenerational transfers can be difficult to present & interpret
- ◆ Empirical understanding of how the extended family operates in developing & newly developed countries is still weak

Changes in Older Persons' Personal Networks

- ◆ Older people's social networks are largely stable over time
- ◆ However, with increasing age, networks become smaller, more localized, & are increasingly dominated by relatives
- ◆ The importance of family members, especially adult children and grandchildren, increases in response to adverse events (e.g. ill health, widowhood)

Goals

- ◆ To compare changes in family structure and support exchanges over a four year period in 2 different settings in Asia
 - Taiwan & the Philippines
- ◆ To examine the extent to which the family network is providing support & whether the activation has changed over time
- ◆ To examine the extent to which changes in the older person's health needs affect the number & type of generations involved in support provision

Exchanges in Taiwan and the Philippines

- ◆ In both countries, children & grandchildren are important providers of support, however
- ◆ Structure of support differs across the two countries:
 - Exchanges in Taiwan tend to be concentrated within the lineal kin network, with parents, adult children, & grandchildren
 - In the Philippines, the most common exchange pathways are with adult children & with older person's siblings

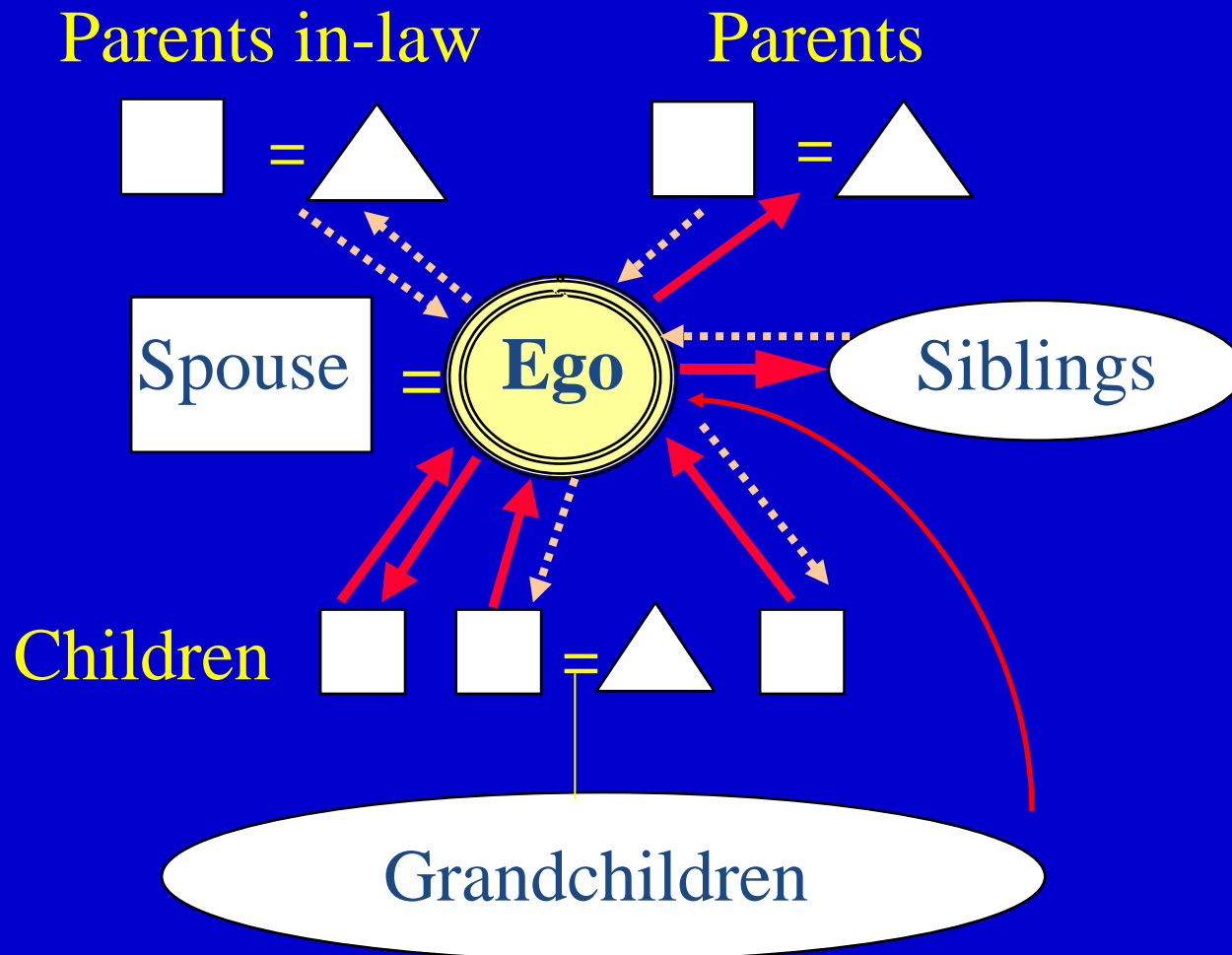
Data

- ◆ Philippines: 1996 and 2000 Philippine Surveys of the Near Elderly and Elderly
- ◆ Taiwan: 1996 and 1999 Surveys of Health and Living Status of the Elderly (TES) and the Middle-Aged (TMS)
- ◆ Longitudinal National Probability Samples
- ◆ Population aged 50+ at baseline

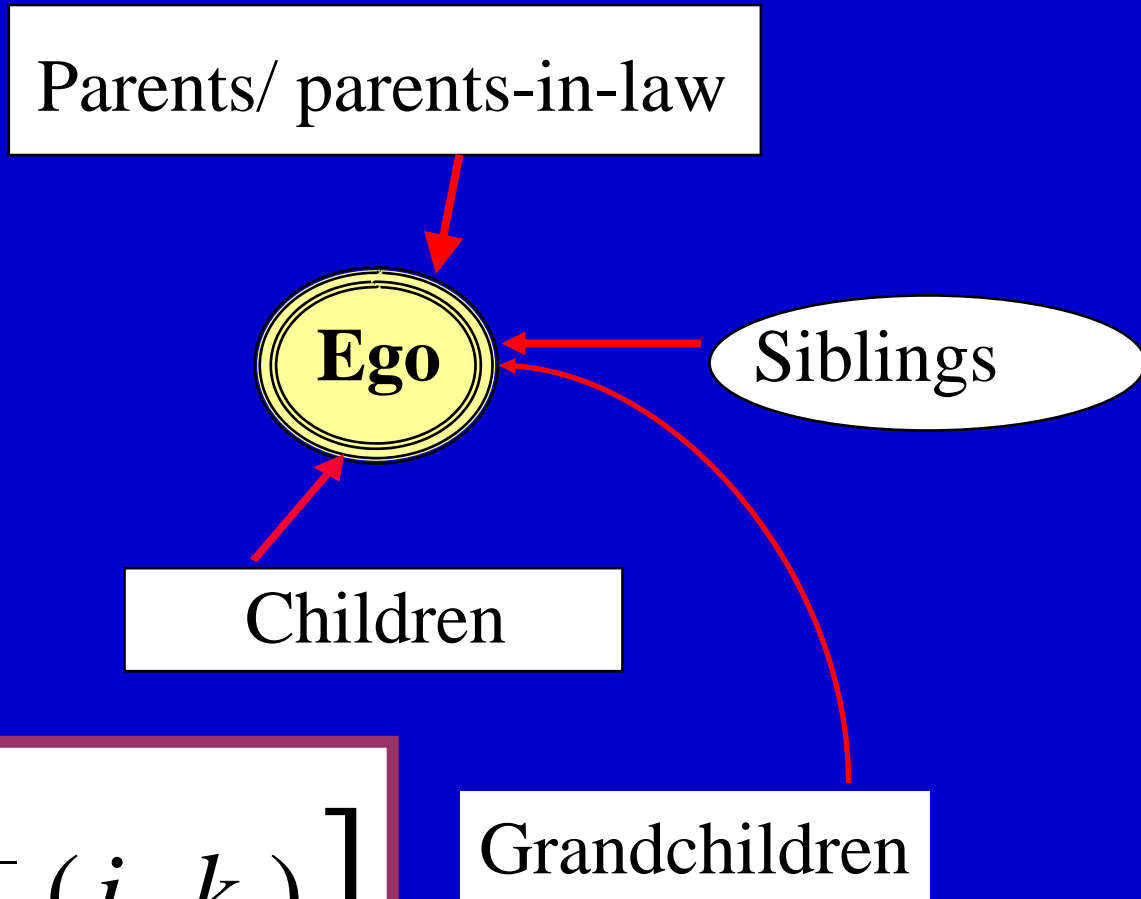
Data

- ◆ Analytic samples:
 - Taiwan: N= 4,284 persons
 - Philippines: N= 637 persons
- ◆ Data are egocentric
- ◆ Adjusted for attrition through weighting

Schematic of Kin Structure and Active Exchanges



Generational Support Activation



$$\frac{\sum_{k=1}^n [T^{-}(i, k)]}{N}$$

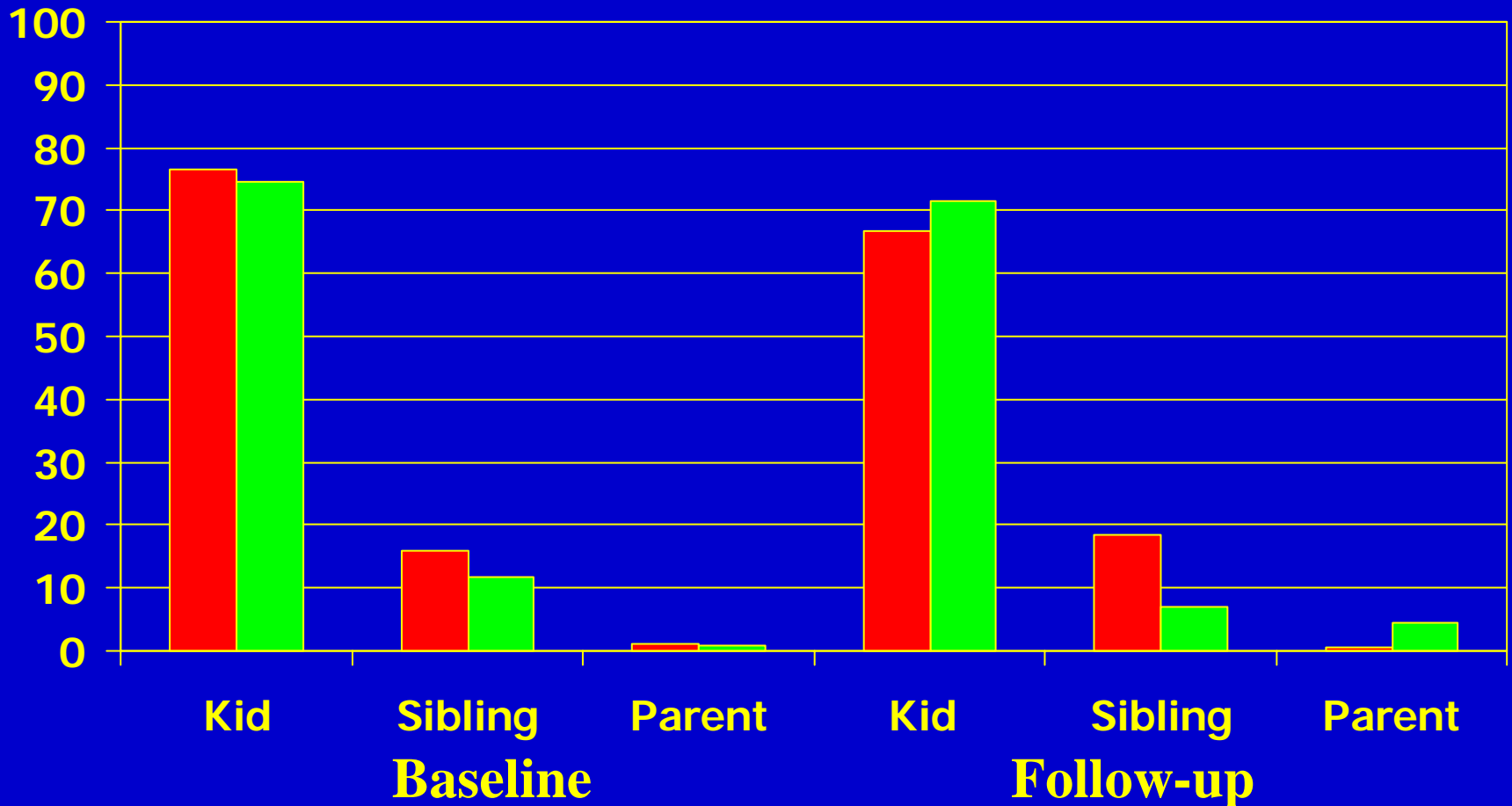
Family Availability by Country & Year

% with living kin by type	Taiwan		Philippines	
	1996	1999	1996	2000
Parent	29.3	24.9	28.1	18.7
Sibling	86.3	83.8	89.8	86.5
Child	96.5	96.6	94.7	86.5
Grandchild	83.7	87.3	83.5	94.0

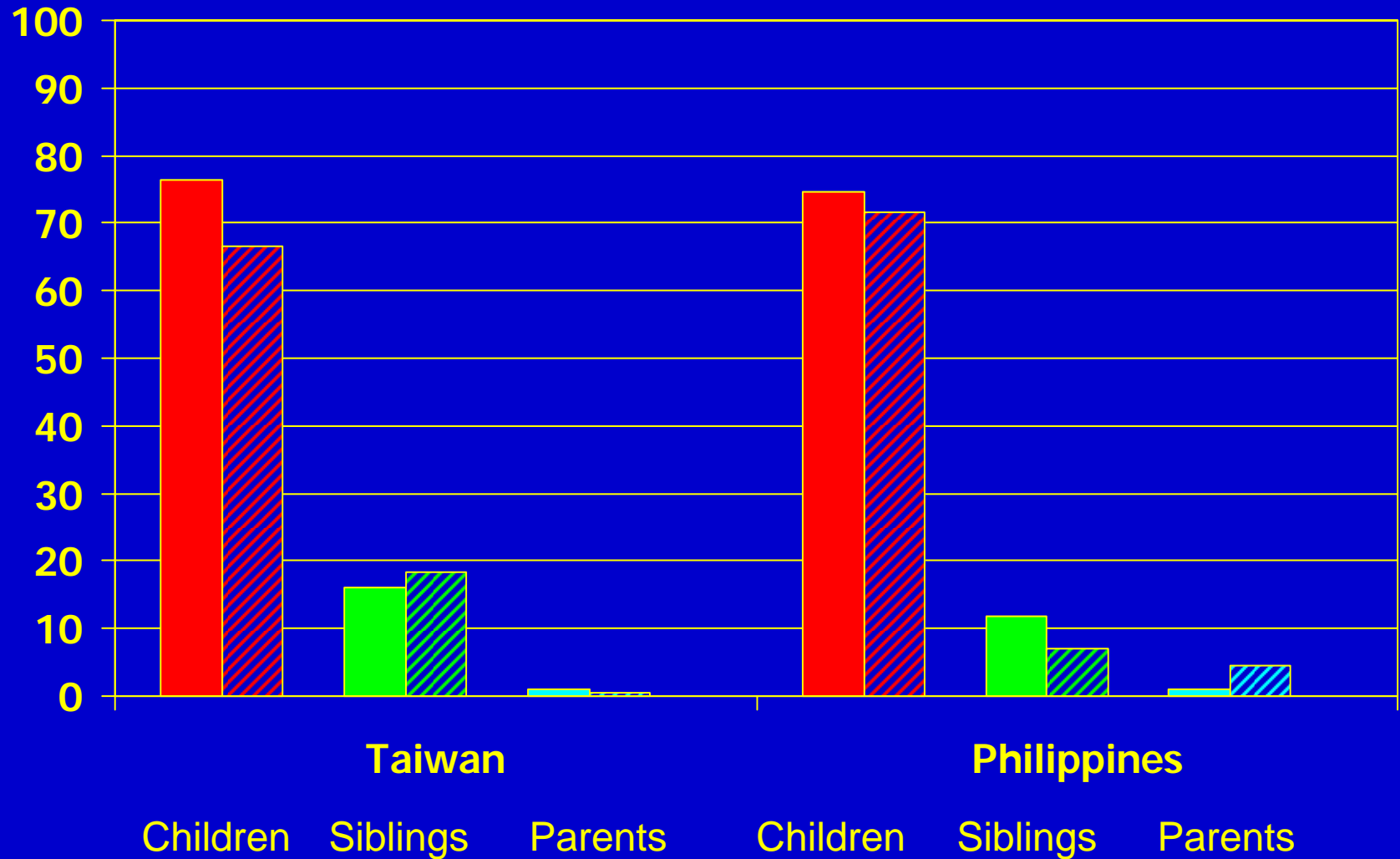
Sources: 1996 and 2000 Philippine Survey of Near Elderly and Elderly; 1996 and 1999 Taiwan Survey of Health and Living Status of the Elderly (TES)

% of Living Kin Coresiding over time by country

Taiwan Philippines



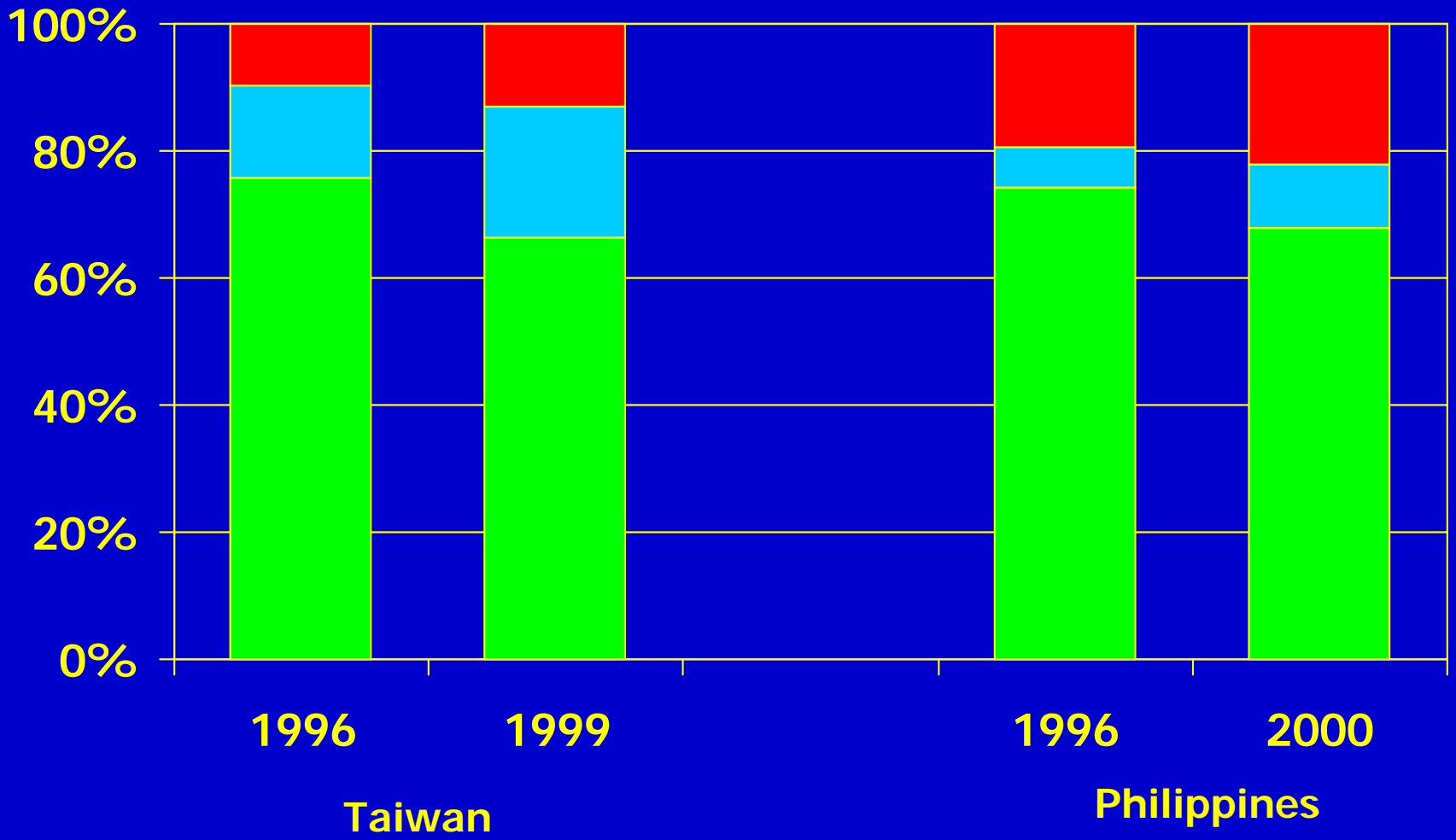
% of Kin Coresiding over time by country



Solid colors represent 1996 data & stripes represent follow-up data

Proximity to nearest child: Taiwan and Philippines 1996-2000

■ Co-resident ■ Near ■ Far



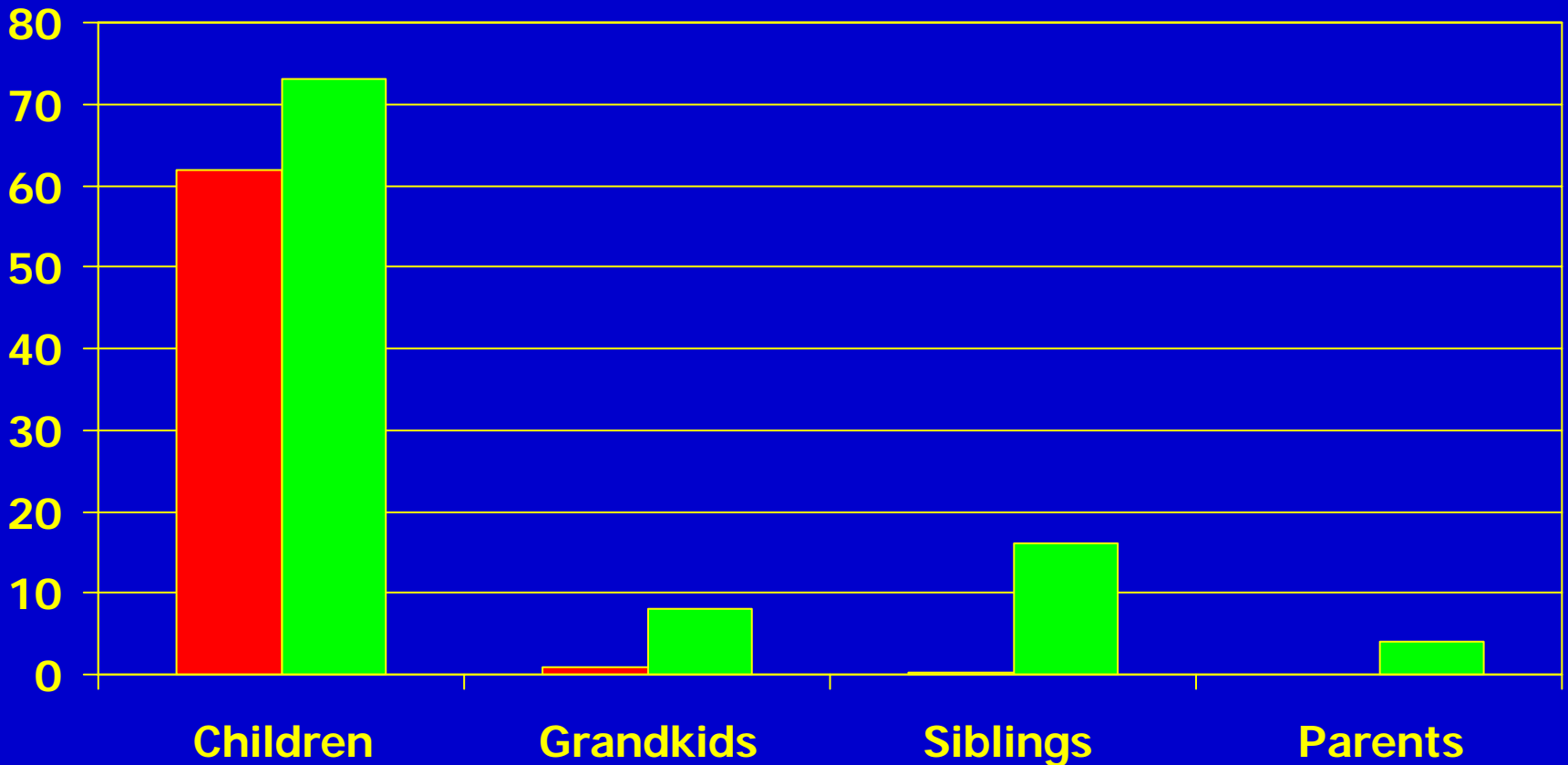
Definition of Support

- ◆ Financial support
- ◆ Material support
- ◆ Service support
 - Assistance with ADLs & IADLs

Financial Support

% of baseline support received by source

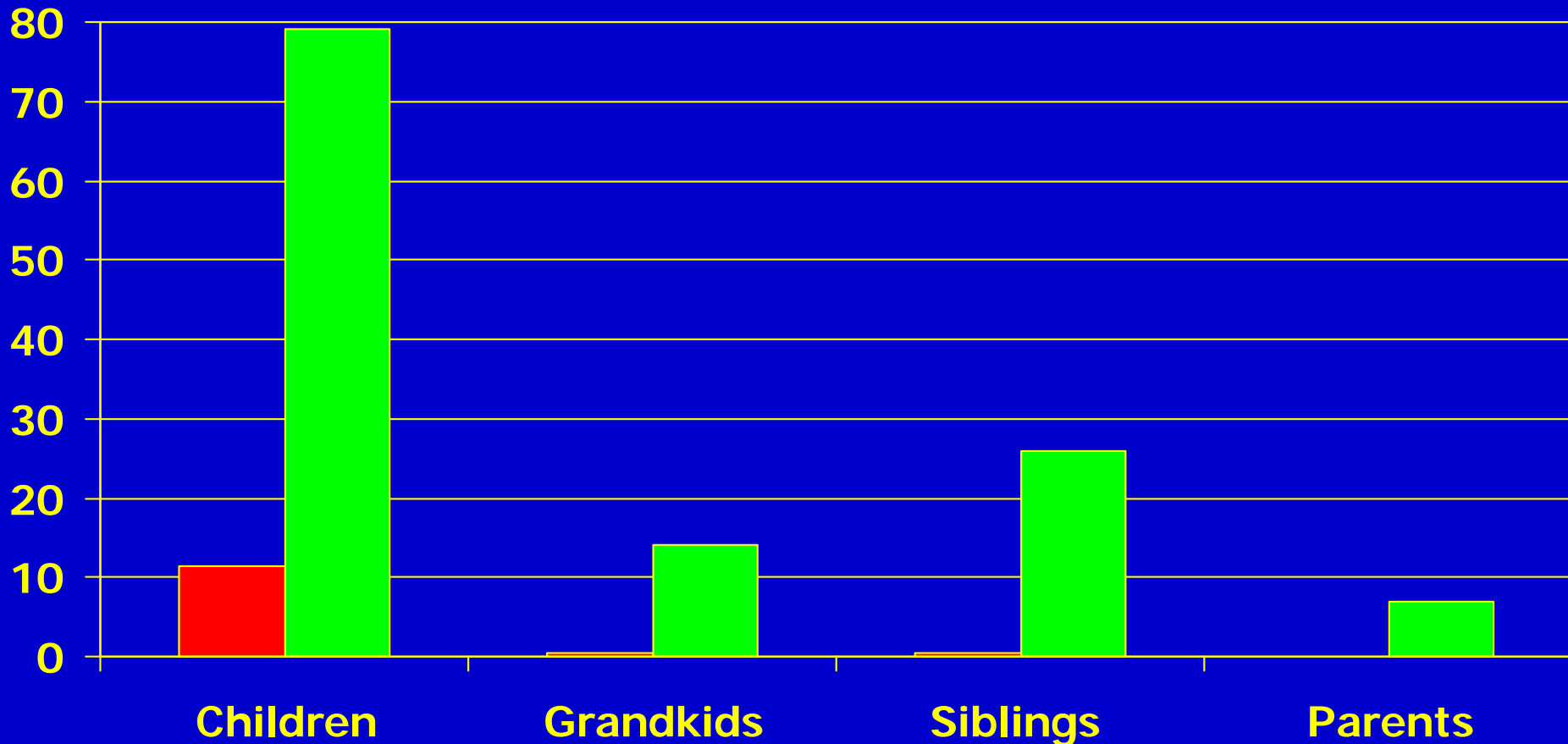
Taiwan Philippines



Material Support

% of baseline support received by source

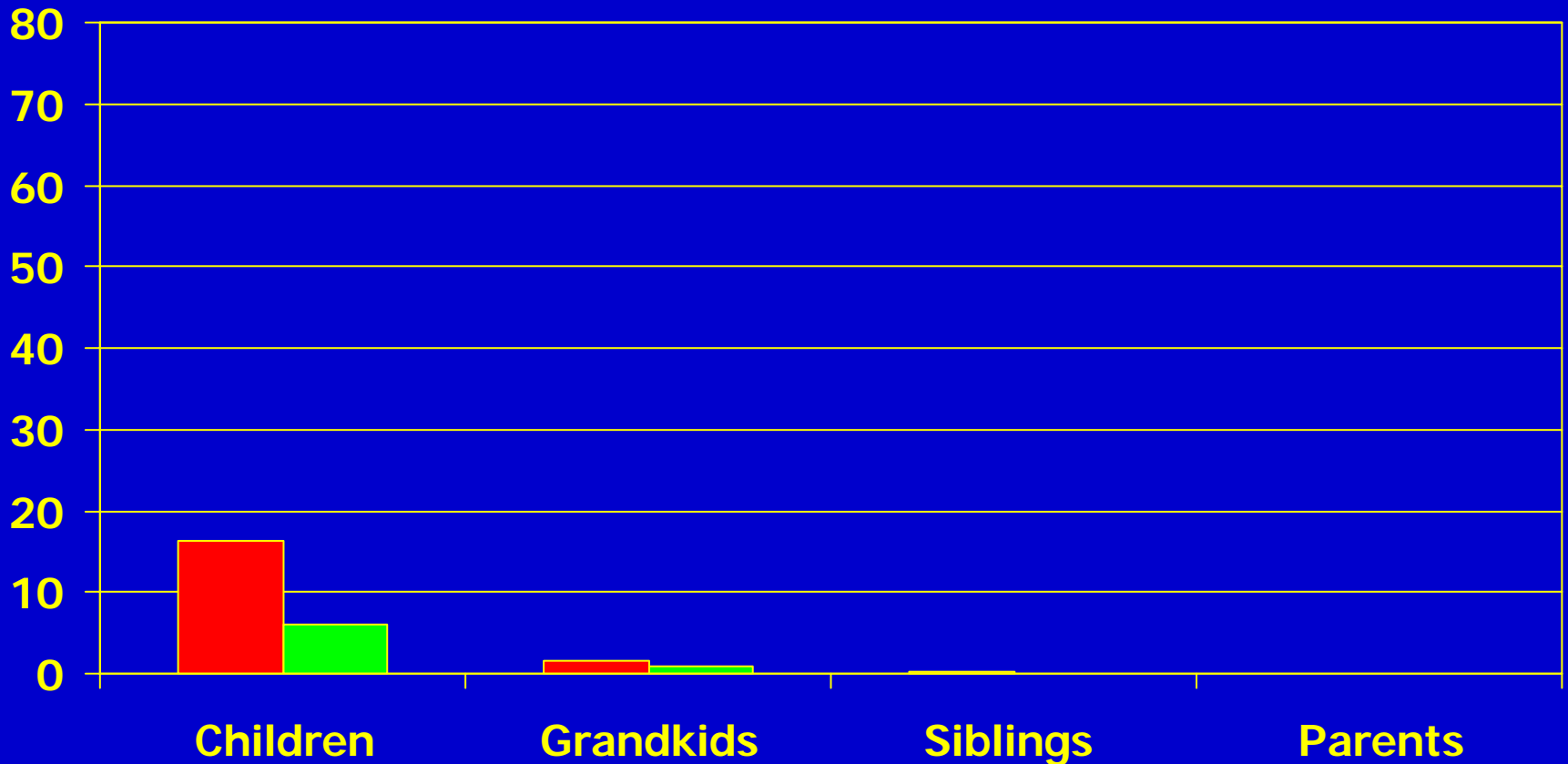
Taiwan Philippines



Service Support

% of baseline support received by source

Taiwan Philippines



Average number of generations providing support by country, year & baseline characteristics

		Taiwan		Philippines	
		1996	1999	1996	2000
Age	Less than 60	0.53	0.52	1.26	1.37
	60 - 69	0.70	0.66	1.34	1.32
	70 +	0.86	0.82	1.45	1.29
Gender	Male	0.60	0.57	1.22	1.26
	Female	0.83	0.79	1.39	1.39
Residence	Rural	0.75	0.67	1.34	1.28
	Urban	0.69	0.68	1.30	1.41
Education	None	0.83	0.80	1.41	1.44
	Primary	0.70	0.66	1.35	1.30
	Secondary	0.51	0.48	1.25	1.37

Sources: 1996 and 2000 Philippine Survey of Near Elderly and Elderly; 1996 and 1999 Taiwan Survey of Health and Living Status of the Elderly (TES)

Generational support activation scores by country, year & baseline characteristics

		Taiwan		Philippines	
		1996	1999	1996	2000
Age	Less than 60	0.17	0.16	0.41	0.45
	60 - 69	0.24	0.23	0.47	0.49
	70 +	0.32	0.32	0.56	0.51
Gender	Male	0.21	0.20	0.41	0.44
	Female	0.29	0.28	0.49	0.50
Residence	Rural	0.24	0.24	0.45	0.51
	Urban	0.25	0.23	0.46	0.45
Education	None	0.29	0.29	0.50	0.52
	Primary	0.24	0.23	0.46	0.46
	Secondary	0.18	0.17	0.45	0.50

Sources: 1996 and 2000 Philippine Survey of Near Elderly and Elderly; 1996 and 1999 Taiwan Survey of Health and Living Status of the Elderly (TES)

Conceptual Framework

Time 1

Time 2

Availability of Kin

Number of generations
Living Arrangement

Functional Health

Functional Limitations
Instrumental Activities
Basic Activities

Socio-Economic Status

Education
Residence

Demographic Characteristics

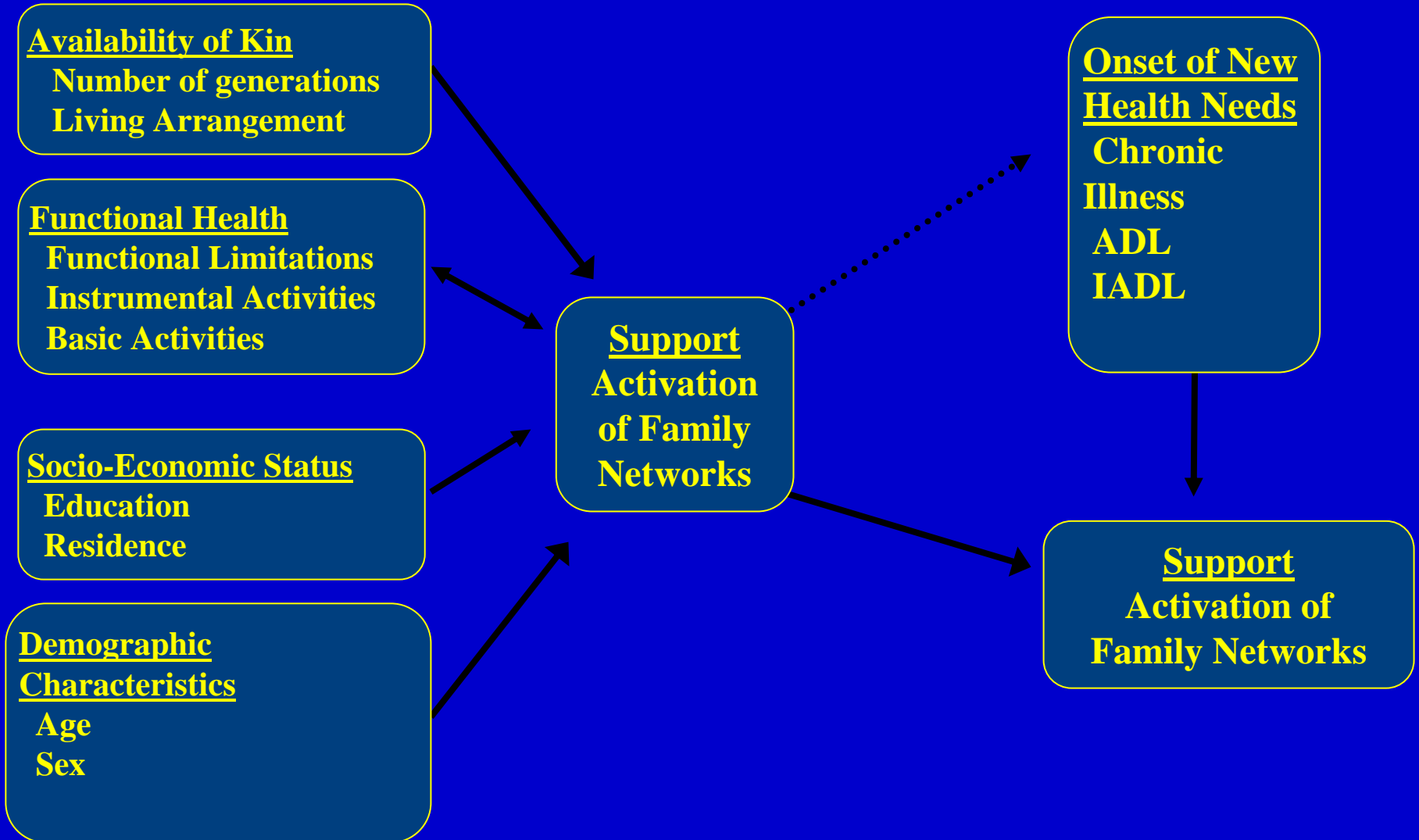
Age
Sex

Support
Activation
of Family
Networks

Onset of New
Health Needs

Chronic
Illness
ADL
IADL

Support
Activation of
Family Networks



Health events

- ◆ IADL decline - decrease in the sum of functioning
- ◆ ADL decline - decrease in the sum of functioning
- ◆ Functional Limitations - decrease in the sum of functioning
- ◆ New onset illness – reporting did not have at baseline but had at follow-up any of 11 diseases:
 - high blood pressure, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, lung disease (including tb), arthritis, hip fracture, stroke, ulcer, cataract, liver disease

Health events

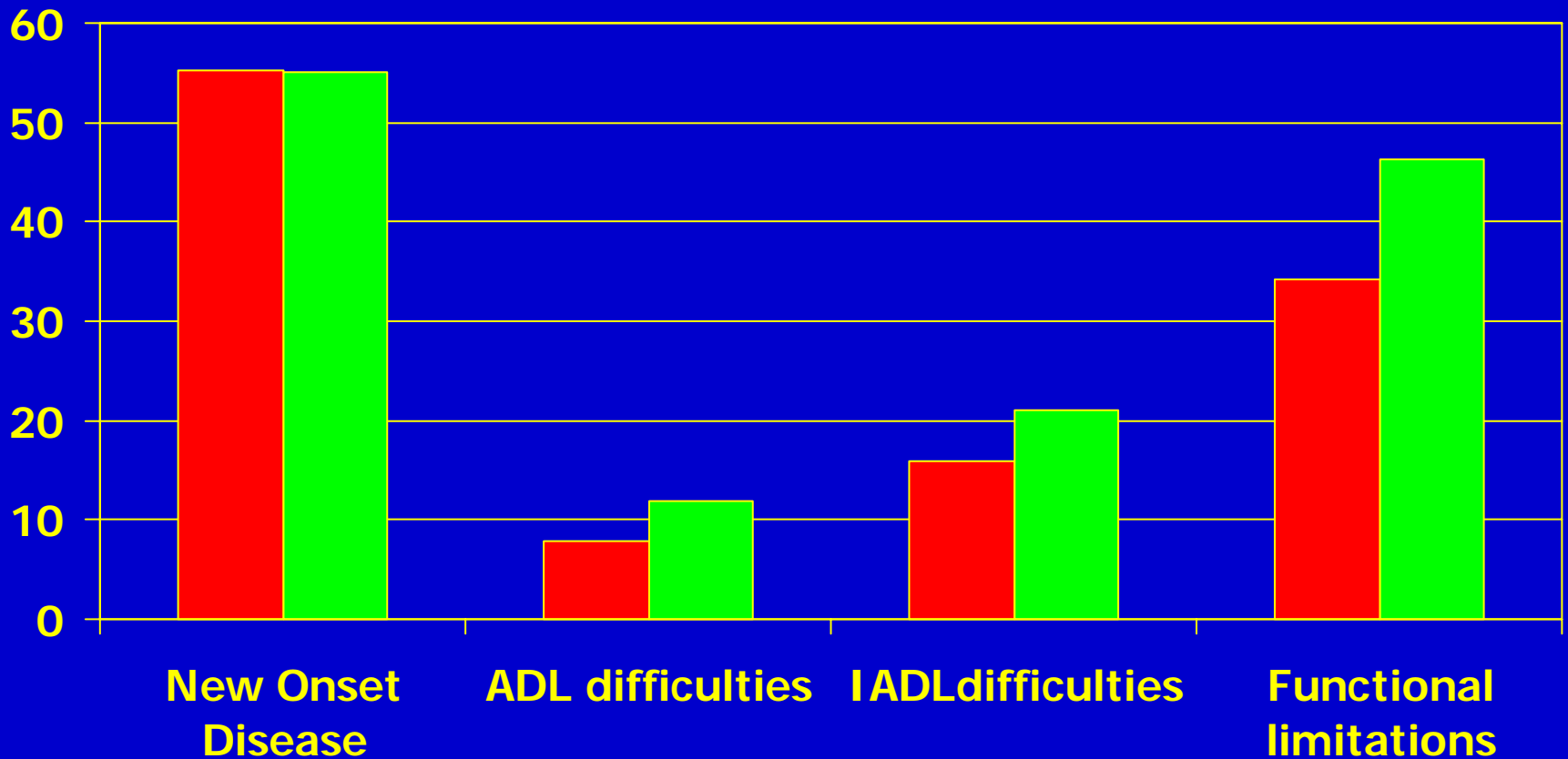
- ◆ IADL decline - decrease in the sum of functioning for activities, such as:
 - Buying personal use items, managing your money, riding the bus, doing work around the house, preparing own meals
- ◆ ADL decline - decrease in the sum of functioning for activities, such as:
 - Bathing, eating, going to the bathroom, dressing & undressing, getting out of bed, moving about the house

Health events

- ◆ Functional Limitations - decrease in the sum of functioning on the following activities:
 - squatting, grasping, lifting and walking
- ◆ New onset illness – reporting did not have at baseline but had at follow-up any of 11 diseases:
 - high blood pressure, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, lung disease (including tb), arthritis, hip fracture, stroke, ulcer, cataract, liver disease

Percent of Respondents Experiencing a Decline in Health

Taiwan Philippines



Odds Ratios of baseline characteristics predicting more support activation at follow-up

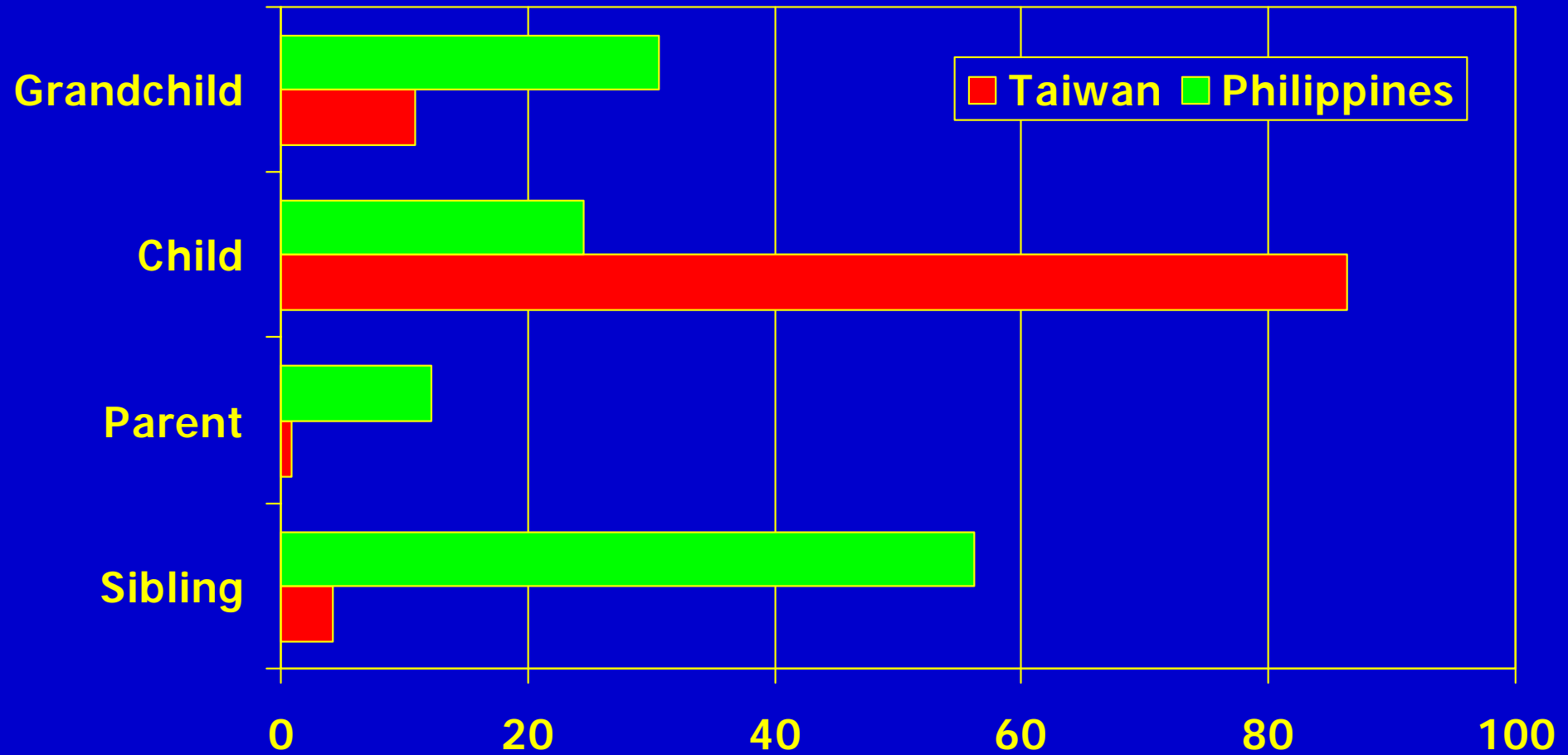
		Taiwan	Philippines
	Baseline Support Activation	***	***
Age	Age 60-69	**	
	Age 70 +	***	
Gender	Male	**	*
Residence	Urban		+
Education	Primary education only		
	Secondary education and higher	***	
Health	Functional Limitations only	*	
	IADL or Functional limitations	*	
	Any ADL limitations		
Living arrangement	Living with children	***	+
	Living with others		

Odds Ratios for health decline measures

	IADL difficulties	ADL difficulties	Functional decline	New onset illness
Taiwan	1.48*	1.55*	1.37*	0.87
Philippines	1.49	0.78	1.23	1.05

* Controlling for baseline characteristics

Who is brought in?



General Conclusions

- ◆ Family support of older persons was consistent & stable over the four year period observed
- ◆ As anticipated, health declines lead to increased levels of family support, controlling for availability of generations in the family
- ◆ In the Philippines the type of kin most likely to be added when additional support is recruited is siblings, while in Taiwan children are employed

Limitations

- ◆ It was not possible to quantify the amounts of transfers
- ◆ Information on transfers is limited to the past year
- ◆ Differences in Operationalization of key measures across settings

Next Steps

- ◆ Develop network measures that incorporate both generational status and person-level information where possible
- ◆ Examine provision of support by the elderly
- ◆ Develop measures that take into account directionality of flows
- ◆ Examine multiplexity – density and type of currencies transferred