

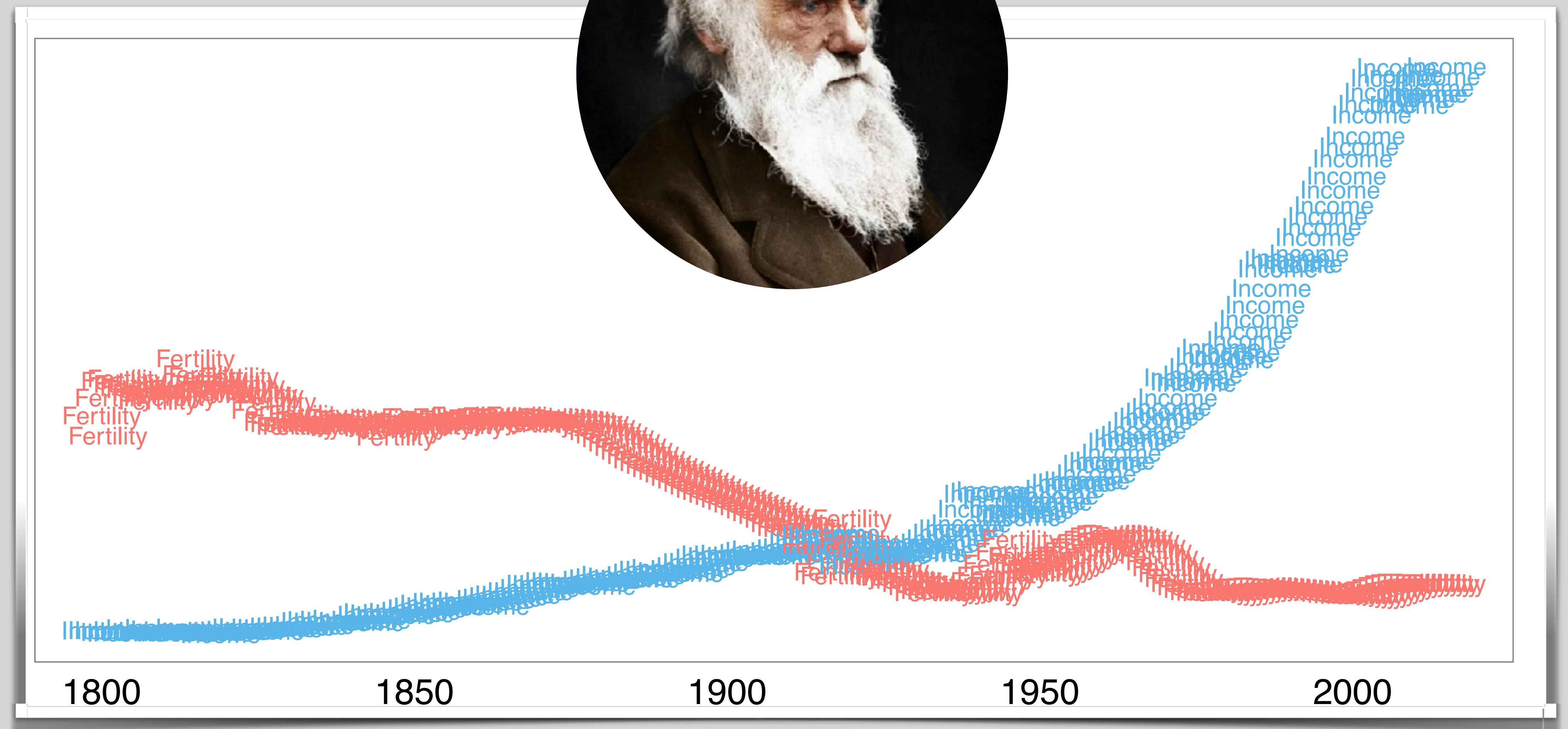
Do Data from Large Personal Networks Support Cultural Evolutionary Ideas about Kin and Fertility?



Gert Stulp



Louise Barrett



Plenty of Evolutionary Ideas

maladaptive

preference for
sex not babies

**fewer
pro-natal
kin**

adaptive

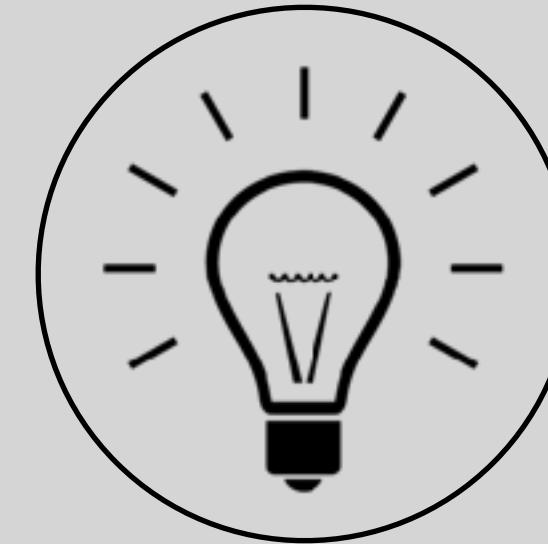
quantity
versus
quality

Pro-natal Kin

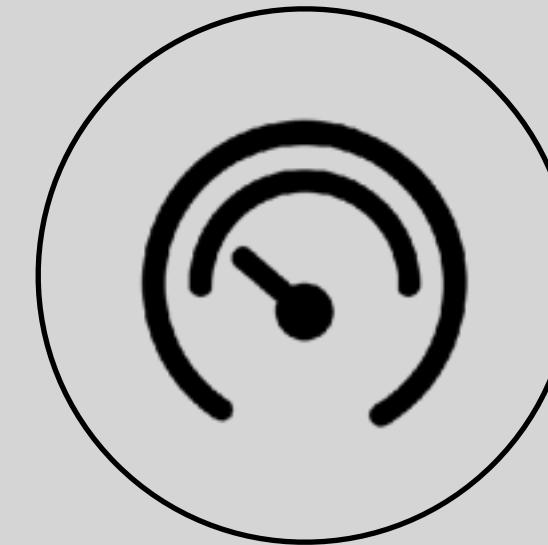
kin might give ...



support



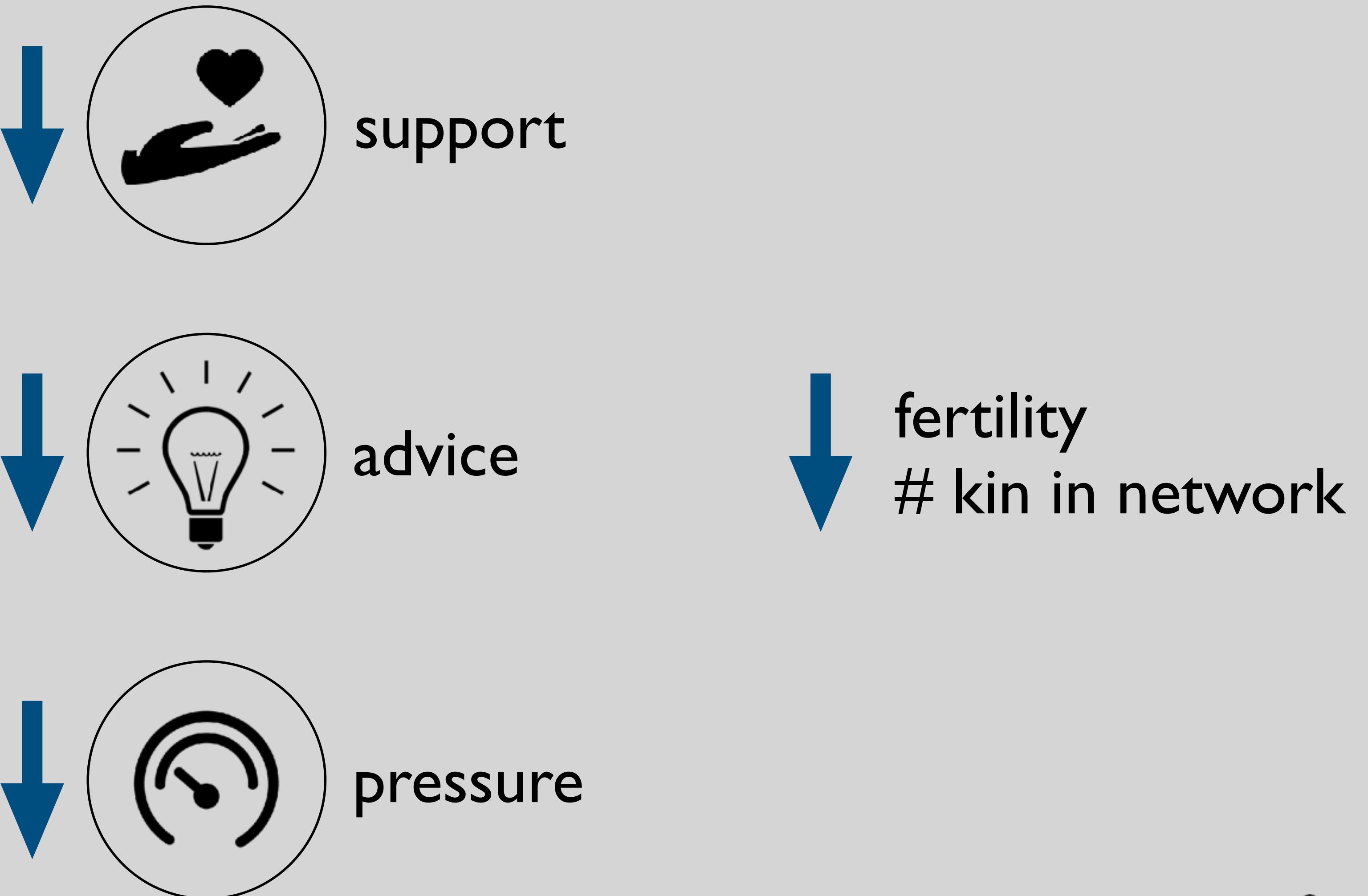
advice



pressure

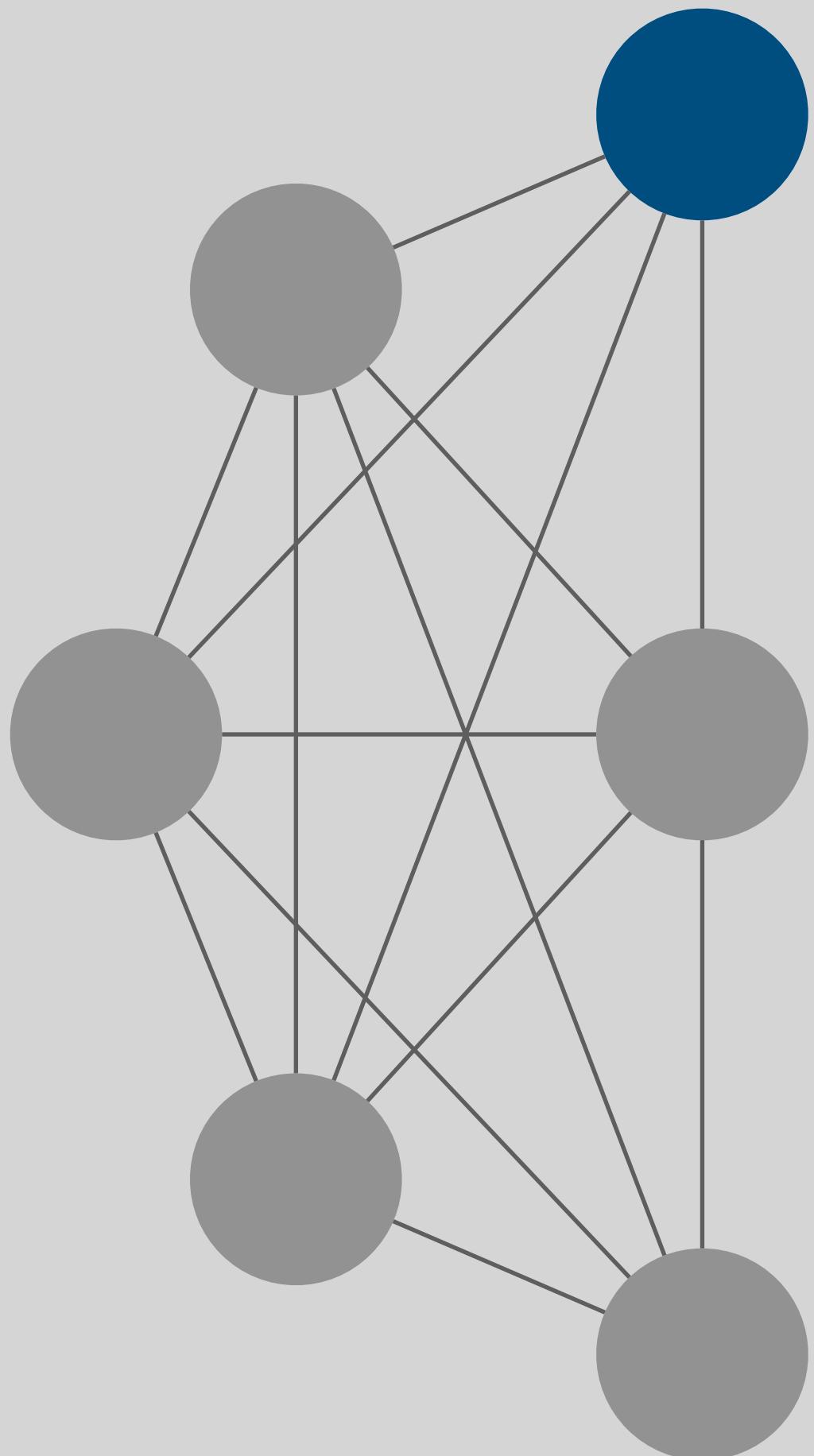
The Idea

increasing modernisation,
means fewer kin around,
less support available,
fewer pro-natal sentiments,
anti-natal norms more likely

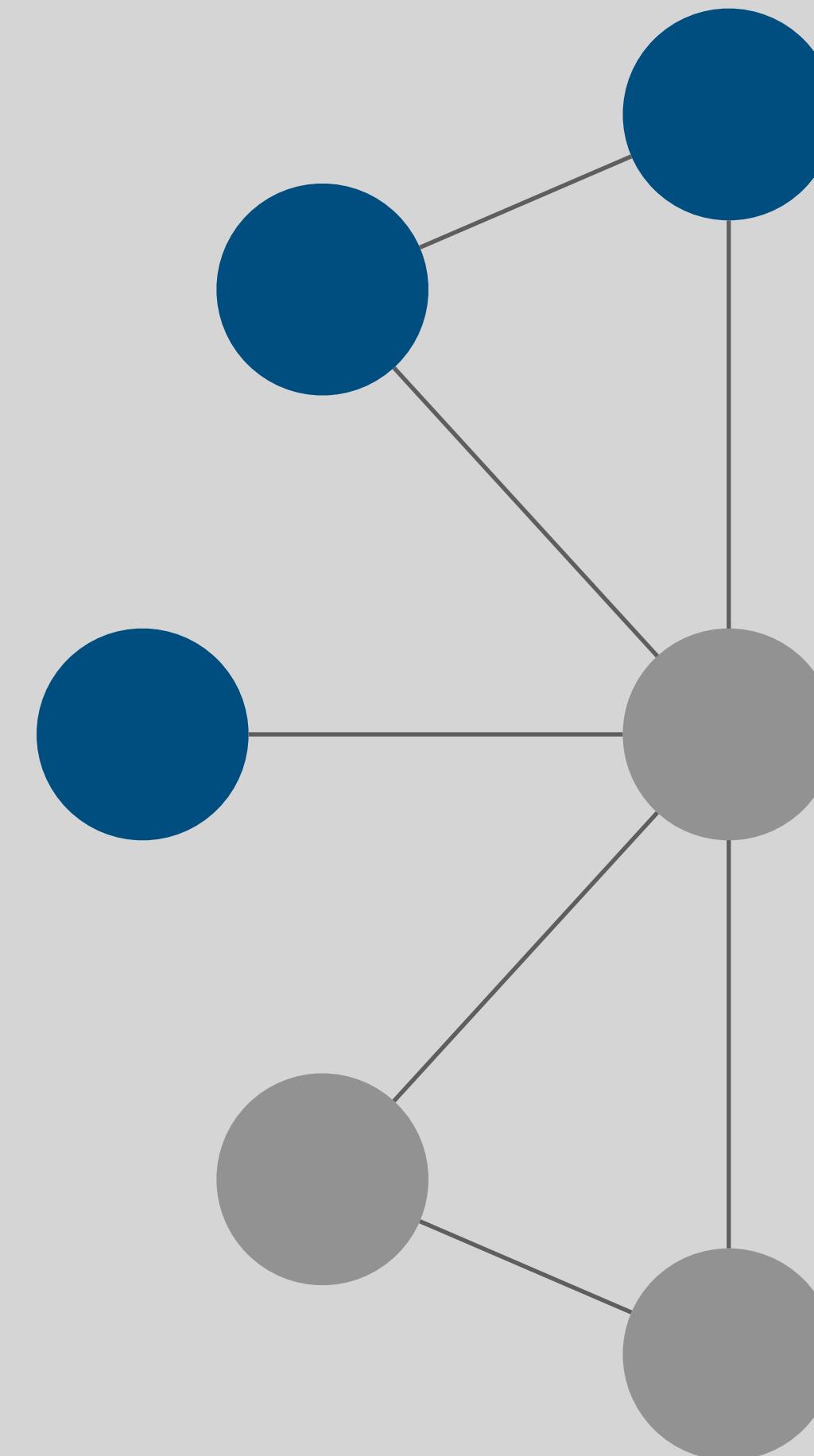


Modernisation & Kin-networks

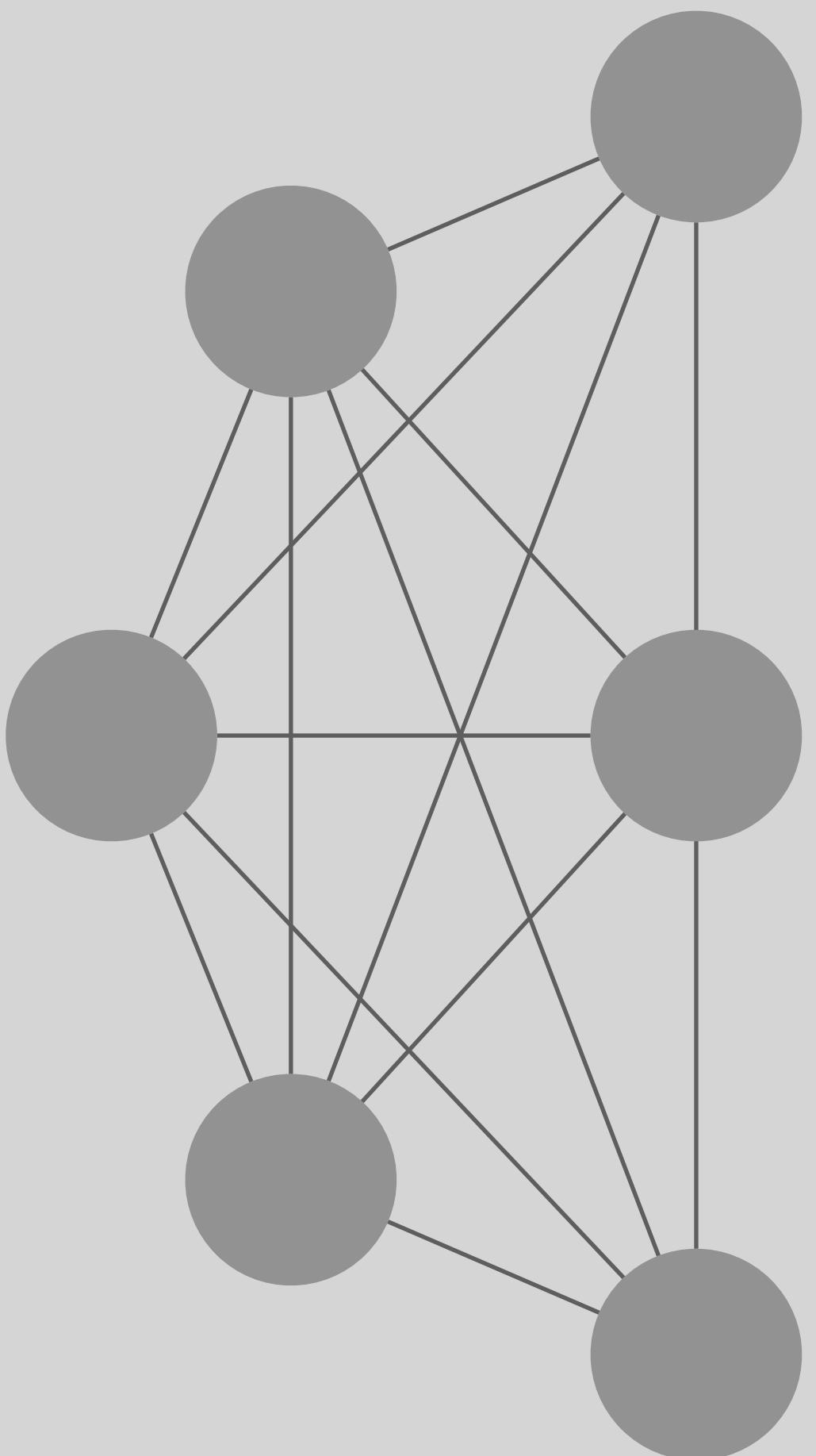
kin-rich, dense networks



sparse networks, low on kin

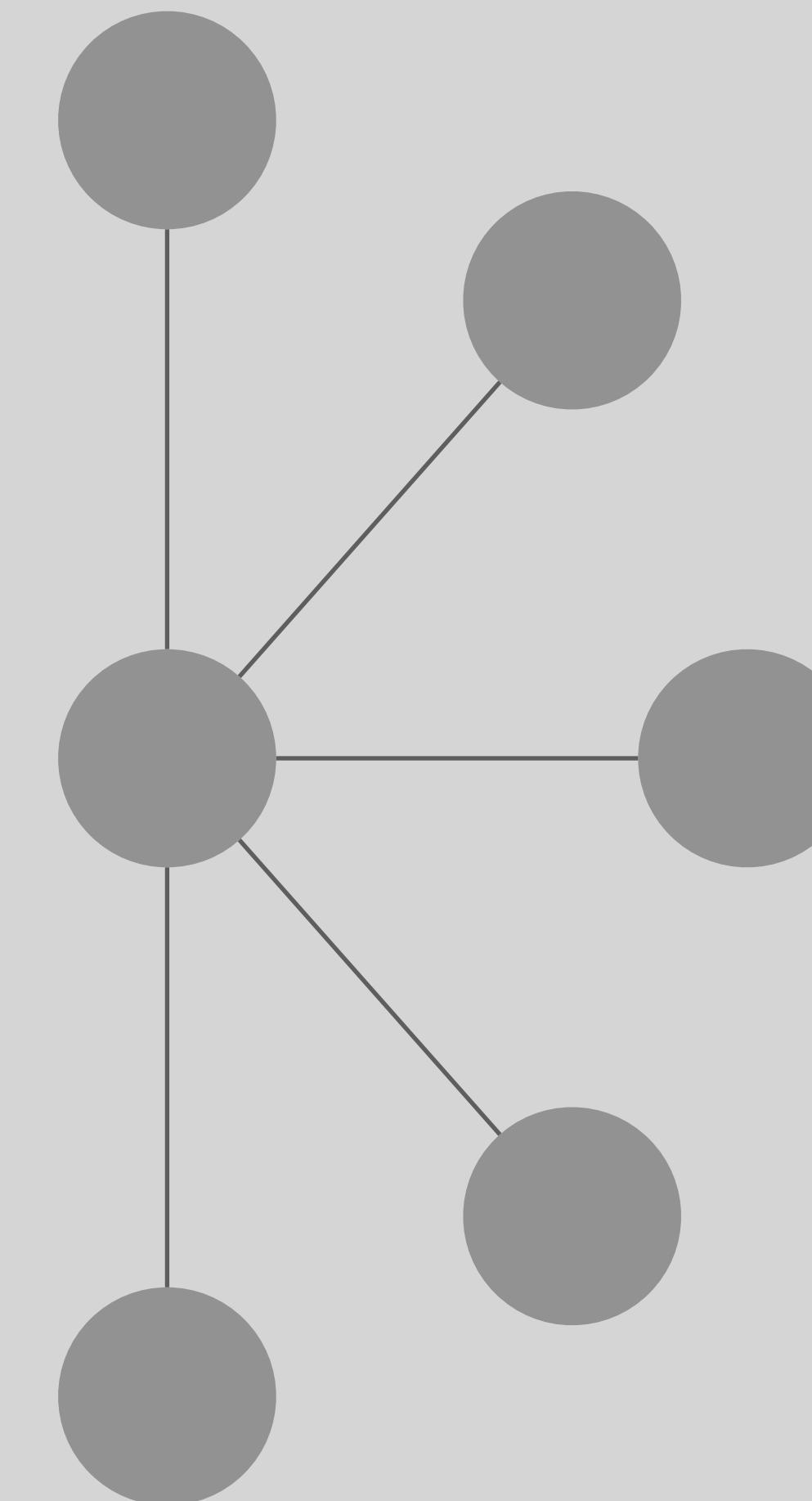


Why Would Density Matter?



**close monitoring
exert control
resist outside influence**

**less control
novel information flows**

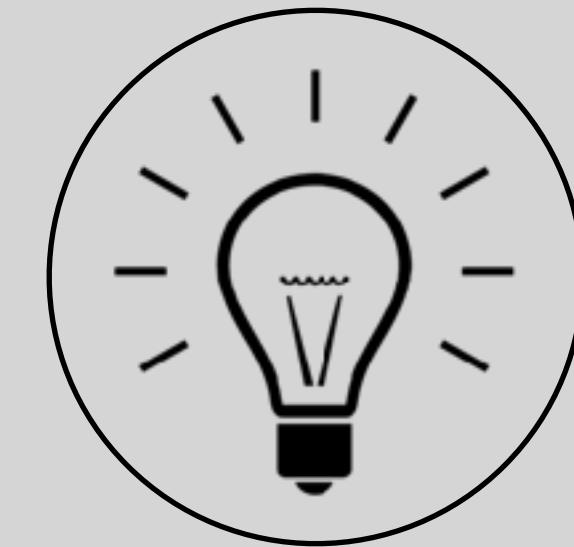


Aims

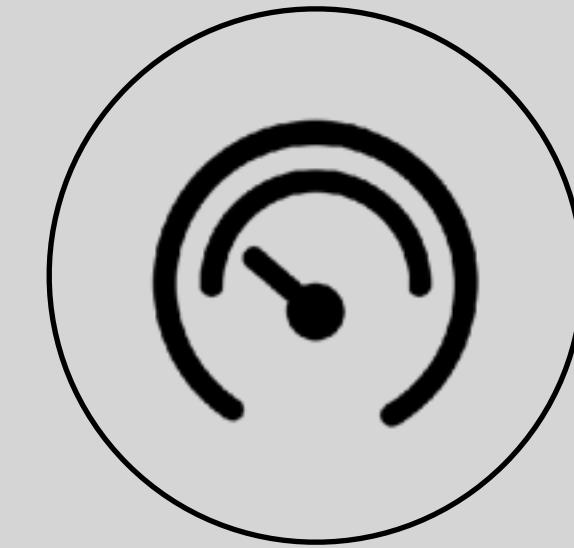
do kin-rich, dense networks
provide more ...



support



advice



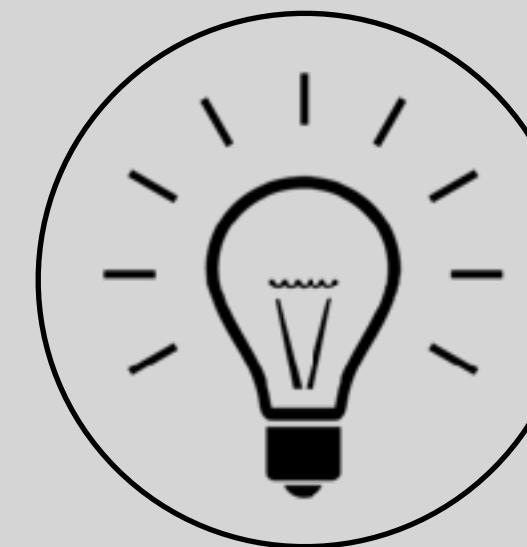
pressure

Methods

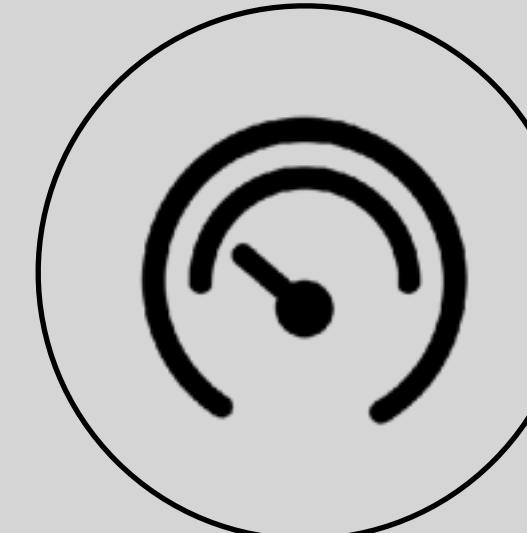
Representative sample
706 Dutch women
ages 18 - 41
25 alters
kin/non-kin



Which of these 25 individuals
could you ask for help with care
for a child?



With whom of these 25 individuals
do you discuss having children?



[My parents/caretakers] [Most of
my friends] think I should have
(more) children

25 alters

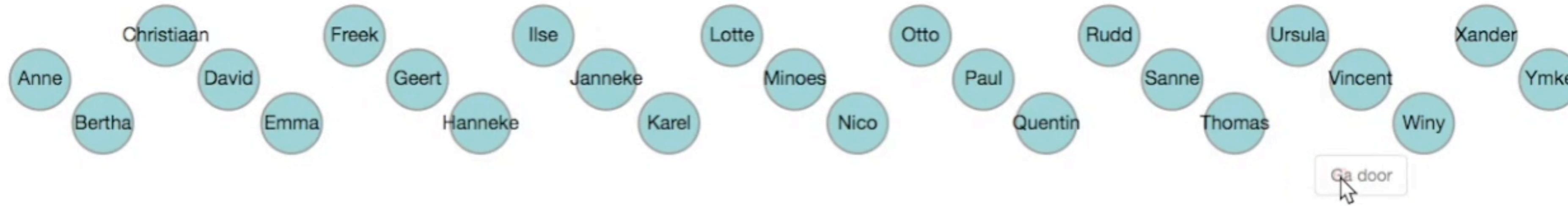
Please list 25 names of individuals 18 years or older with whom you have had contact in the last year. This can be face-to-face contact, but also contact via phone, internet, or email. You know these people and these people also know you from your name or face (think of friends, family, acquaintances, et cetera). You could reach out to these people if you would have to. Please name your partner in case you have one.



The form consists of a grid of 25 numbered circles (1-25) for entering names. A 'Naam' button is at the top left, and a 'Voeg toe' button is at the top right. A large empty input field covers most of the center, with a 'Ga door' button at the bottom right.

Alter Characteristics

Which of these 25 individuals could you ask for help with care for a child?



Ties Between Alters

powered by
Screencastify

Als het gaat om ANNE

Met wie heeft ANNE contact? Met contact bedoelen we alle vormen van contact, zoals face-to-face contact, contact via (mobiele) telefoon, post, email, sms, en andere manieren van online en offline communicatie.

Selecteer de personen die contact met elkaar hebben door met de muis op het bolletje te klikken. Er zal een lijn ontstaan die aangeeft dat de personen contact met elkaar hebben. Druk nogmaals op het bolletje om de lijn weer te laten verdwijnen, als de personen geen contact met elkaar hebben.



Study Design: Summary

respondents

706 Dutch women

17,650 alters
consanguineal kin
affinal kin
friend
not a friend

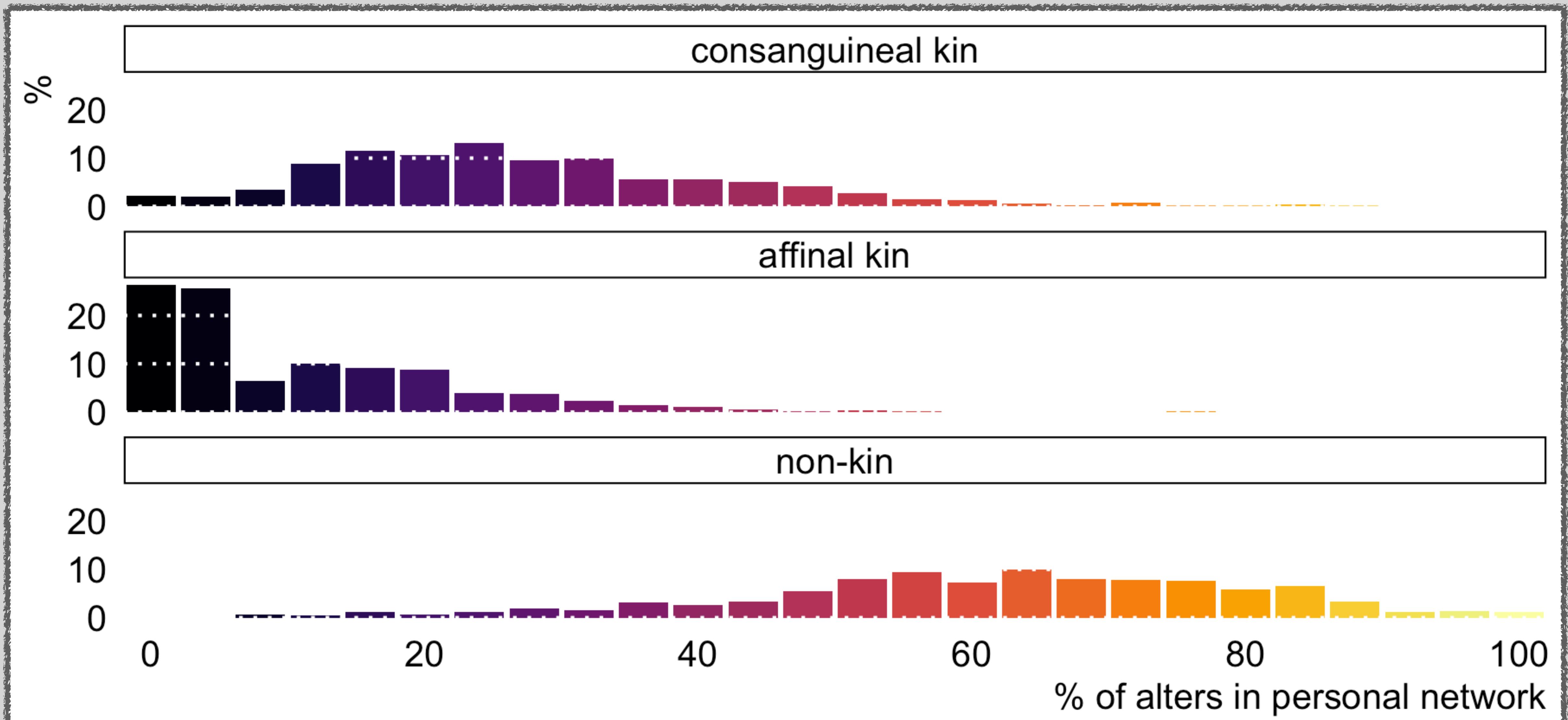
network

composition
density

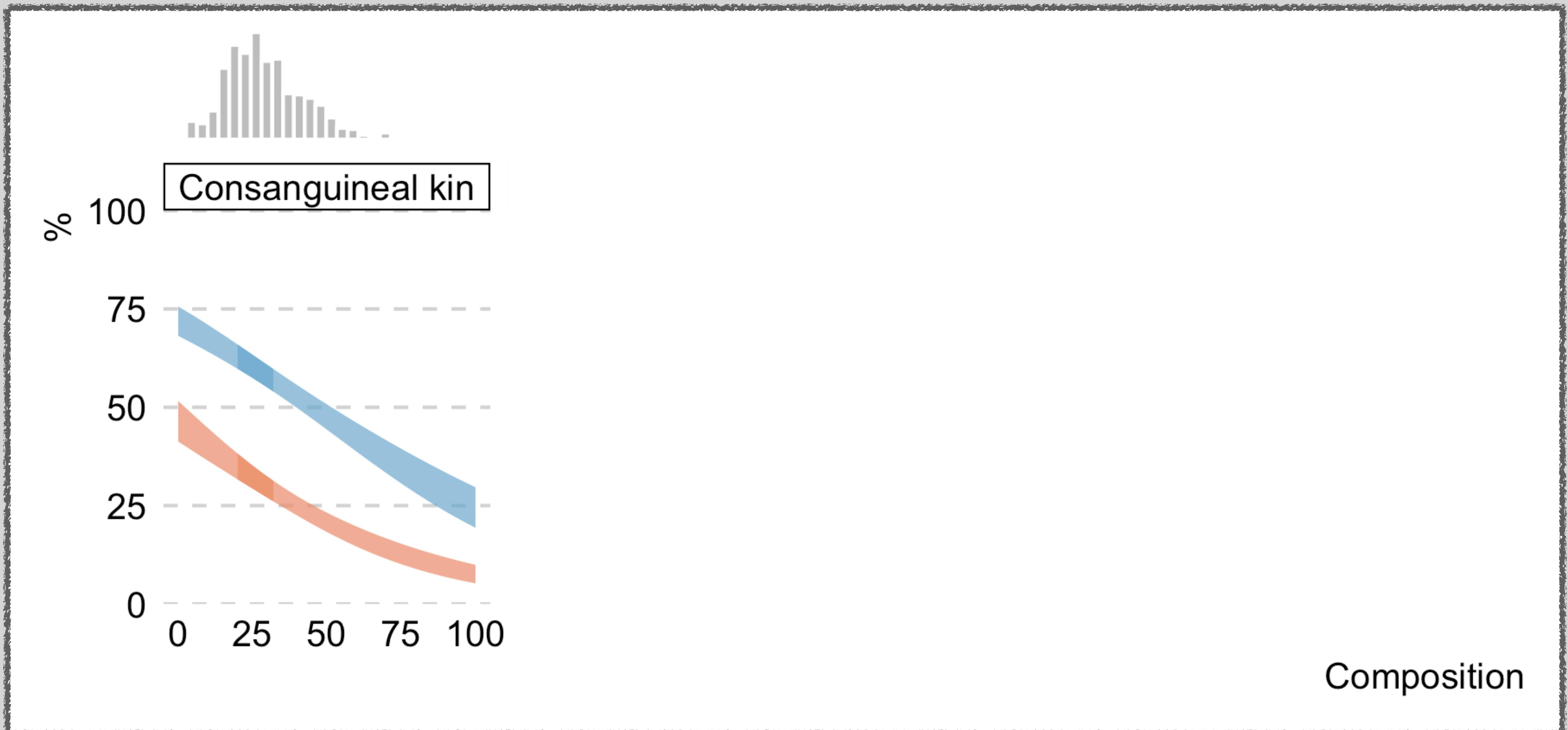
outcomes

help with childcare
talk about having children
pressure parents
pressure friends

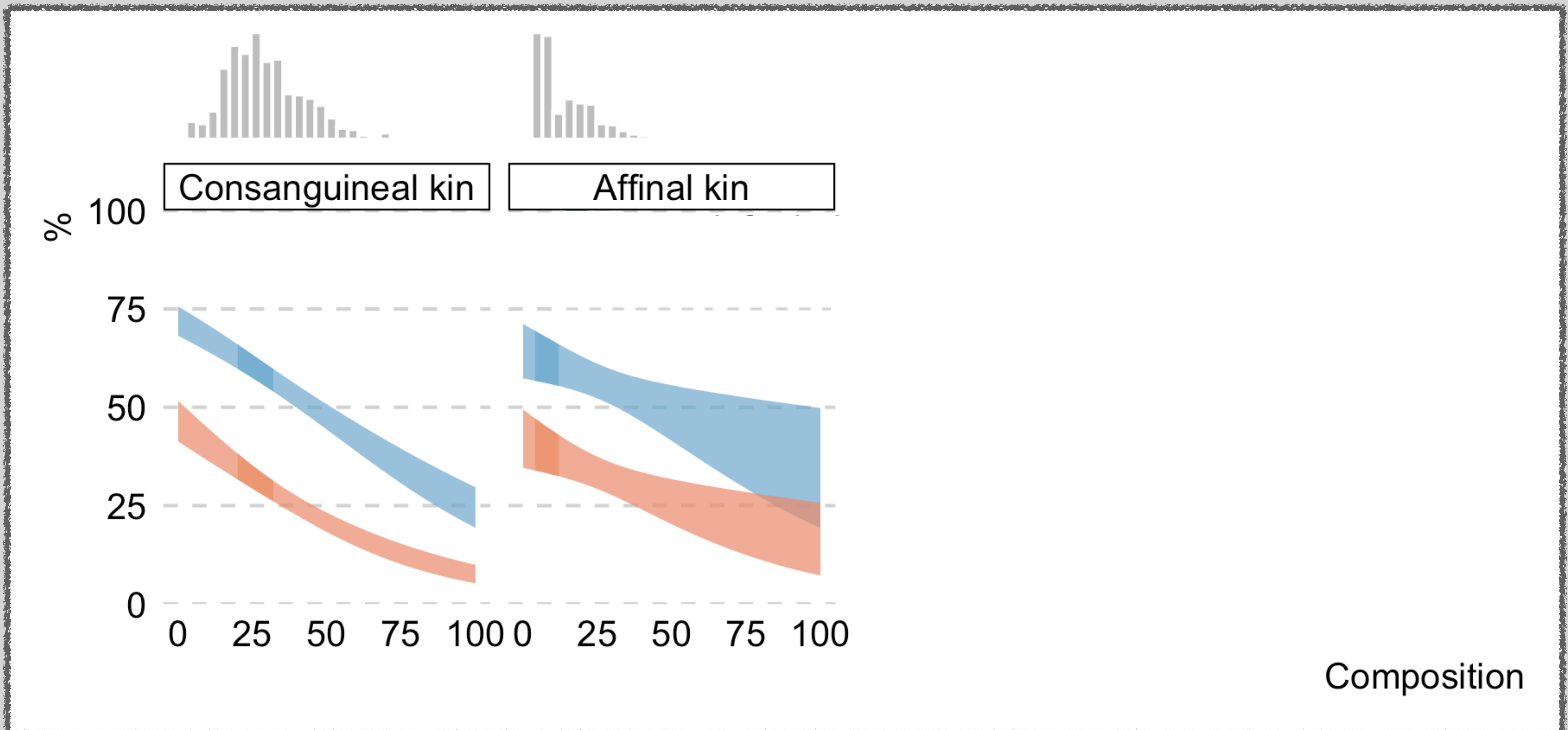
Women had on average 30% consanguineal kin, 10% affinal kin, and 60% non-kin in their personal networks



- can ask for help with childcare
- can talk to about having children

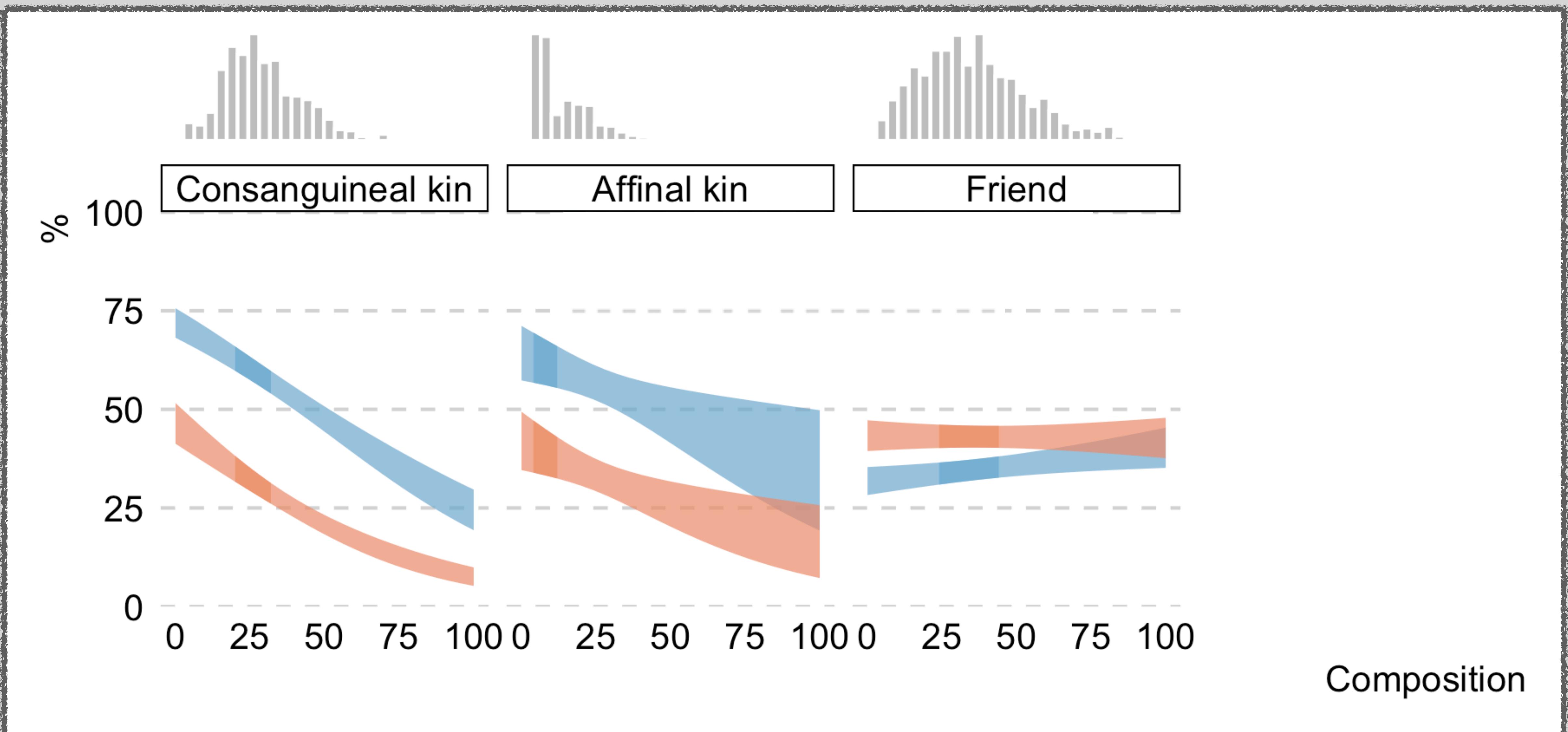


can ask for help with childcare
can talk to about having children



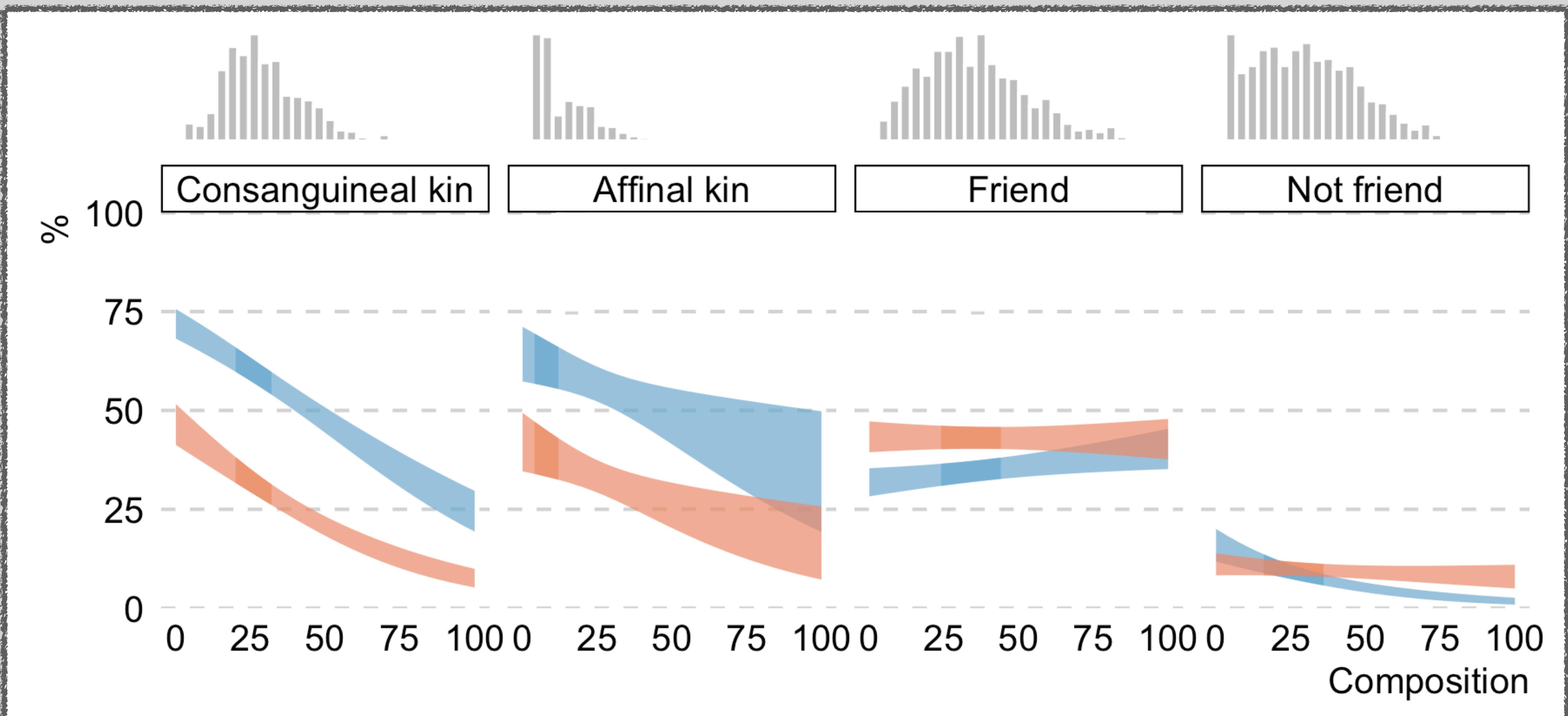
Reporting more kin decreases “pro-natal” perceptions,
more friends raises perceptions of help slightly

- can ask for help with childcare
- can talk to about having children

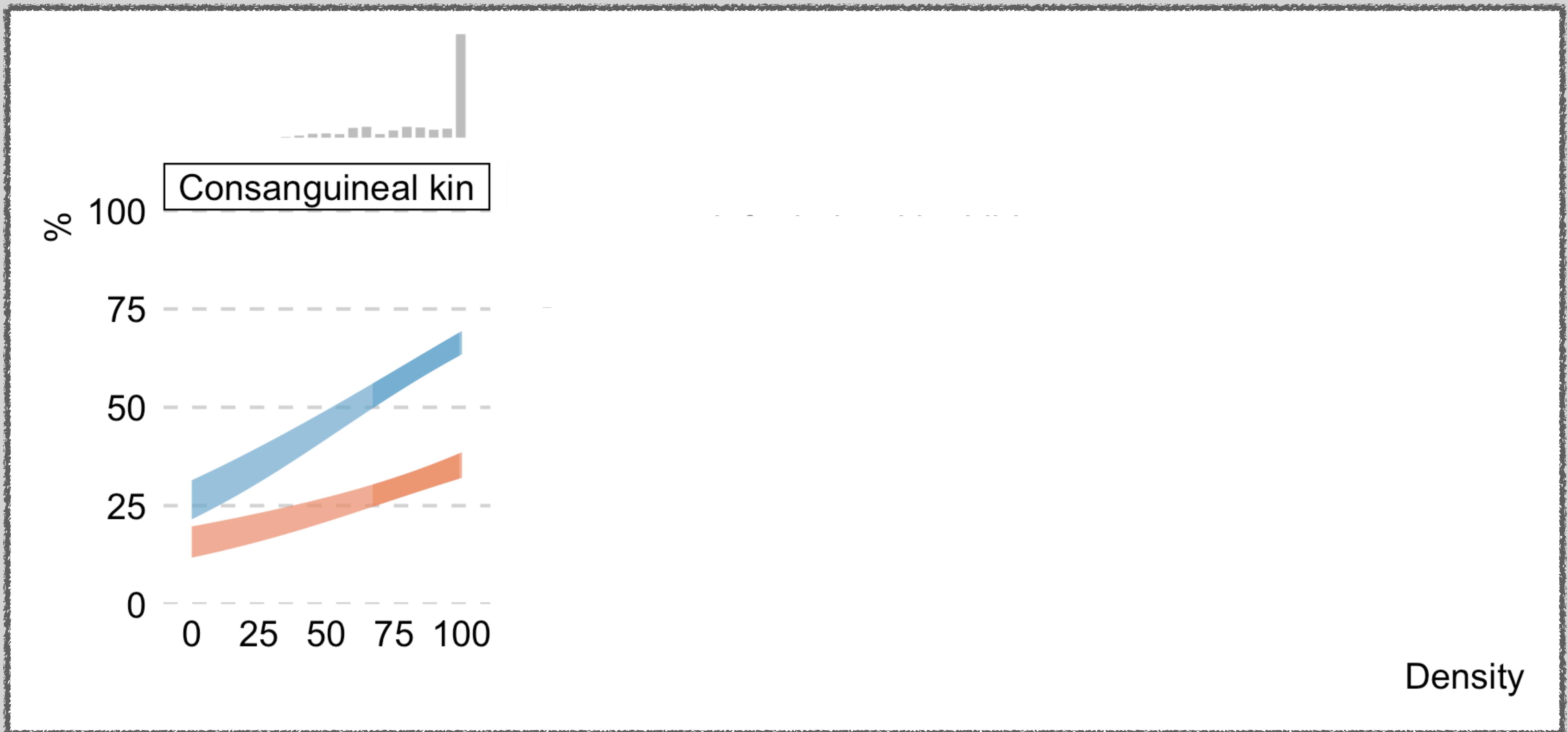


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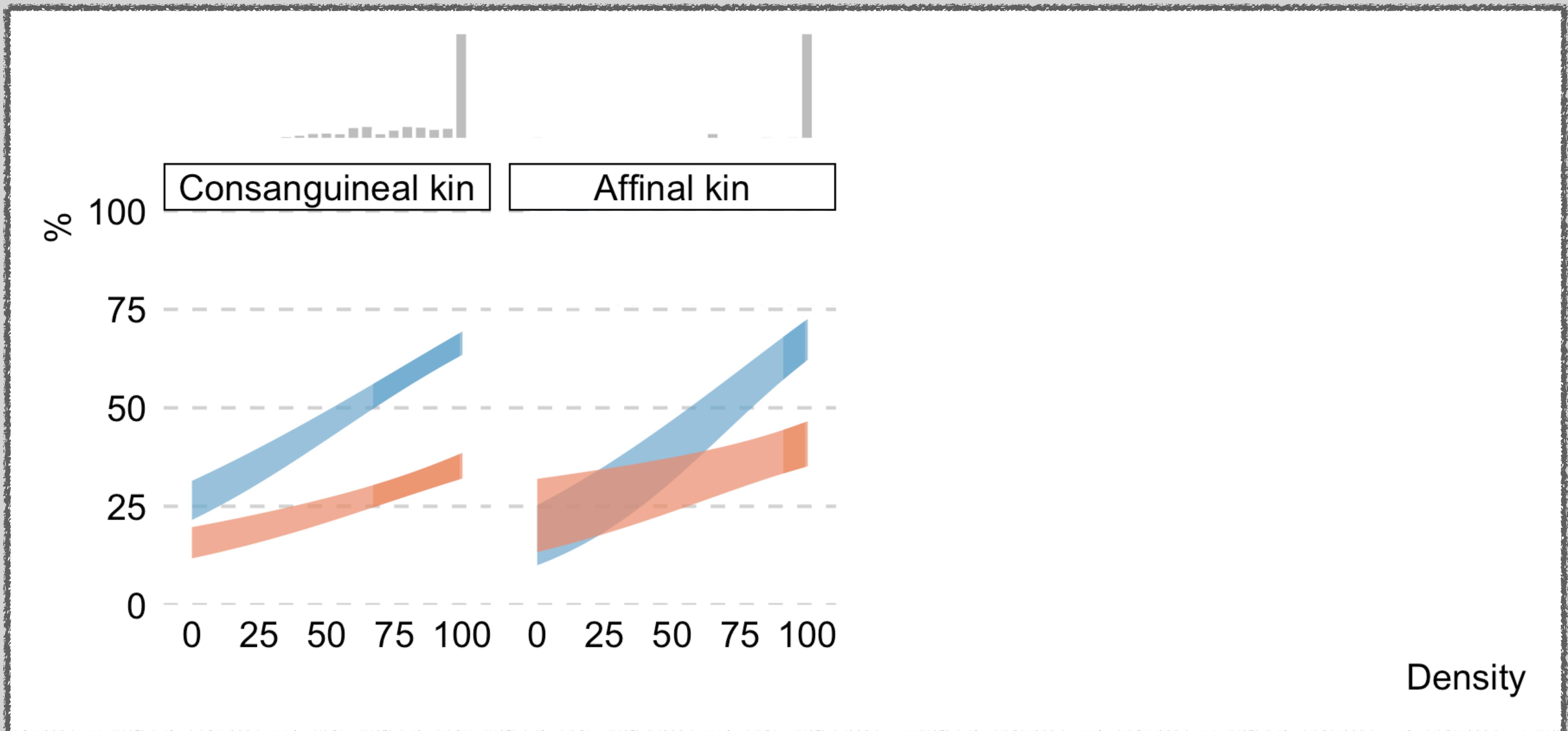
- can ask for help with childcare
- can talk to about having children



- can ask for help with childcare
- can talk to about having children

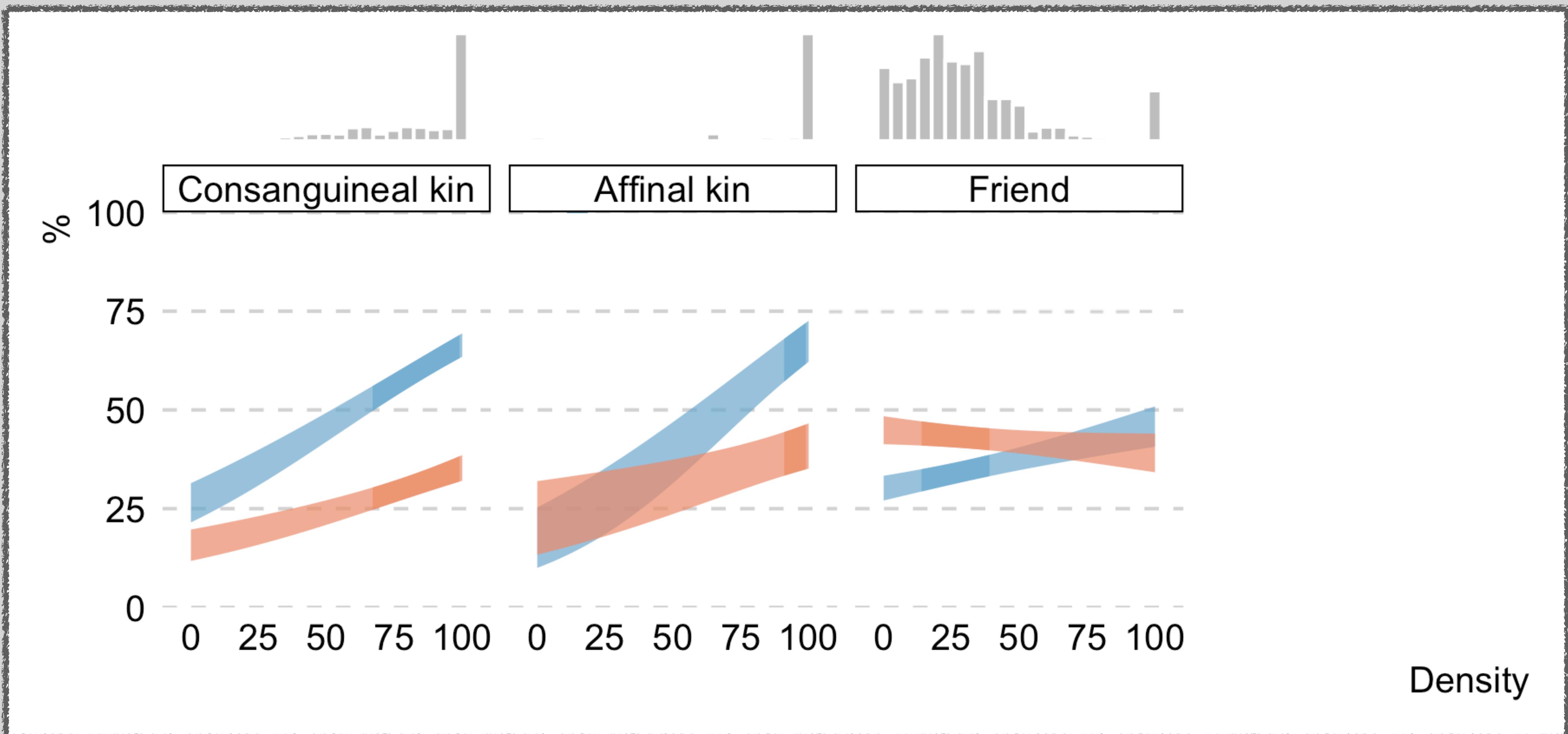


- can ask for help with childcare
- can talk to about having children



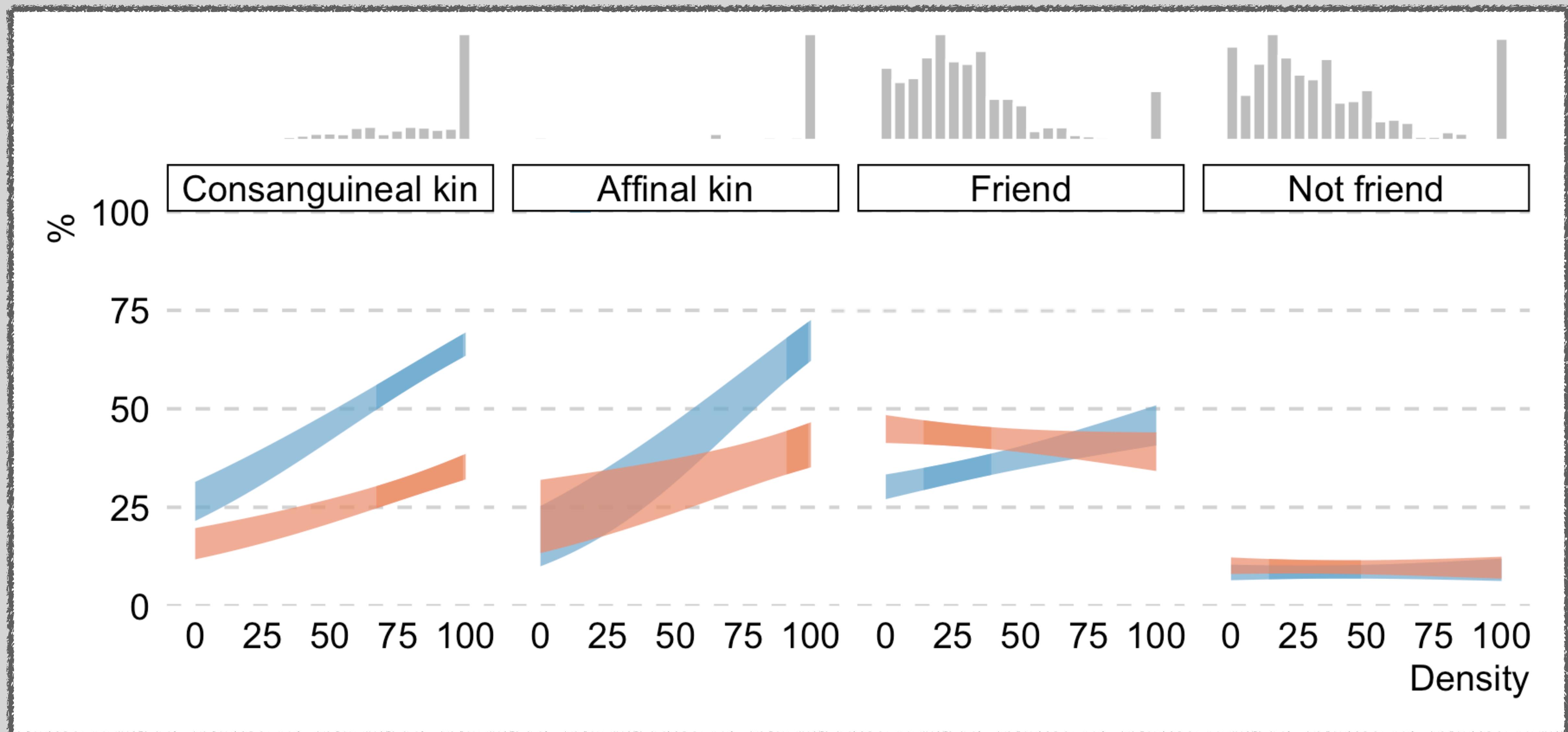
Density among kin increases “pro-natal” perceptions,
density among friends decreases talking about children

- can ask for help with childcare
- can talk to about having children



Density among kin increases “pro-natal” perceptions,
density among friends decreases talking about children

- can ask for help with childcare
- can talk to about having children



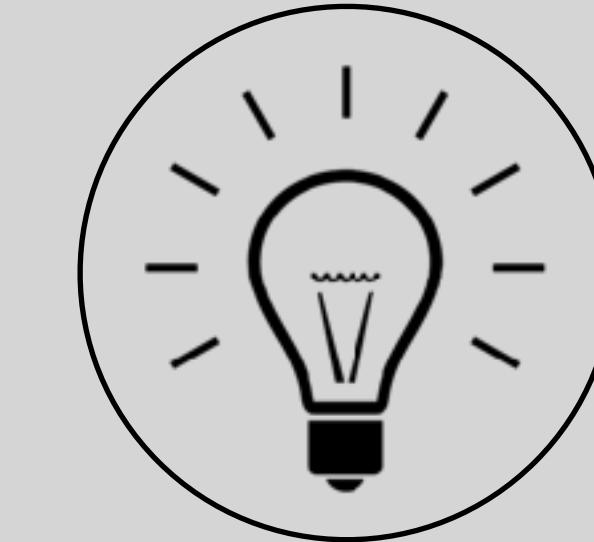
Is Kin More Pro-Natal?

- (kin most, friends often
- (more kin, less support per-capita
- (denser networks, more support



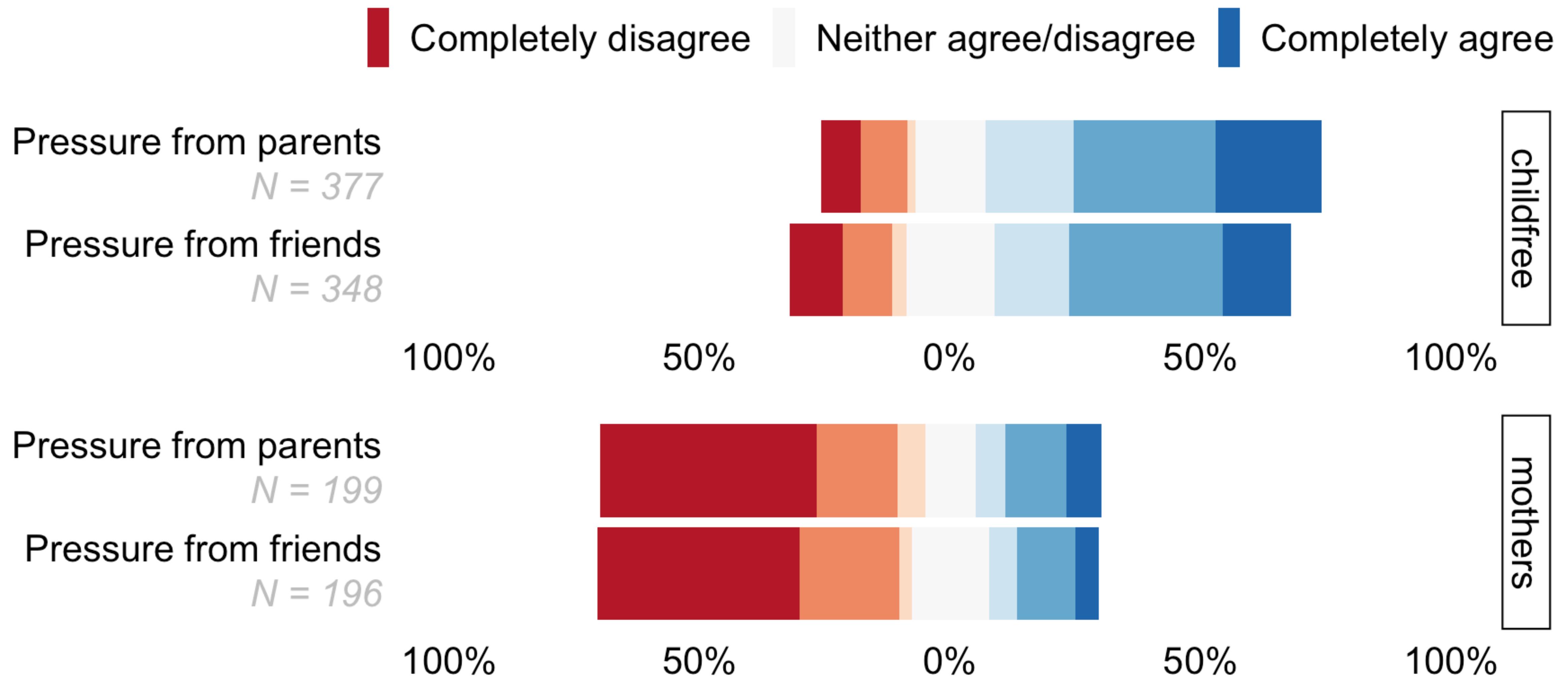
support

- ((friends more likely than kin
- (more kin, less advice per-capita
- (denser networks, more advice

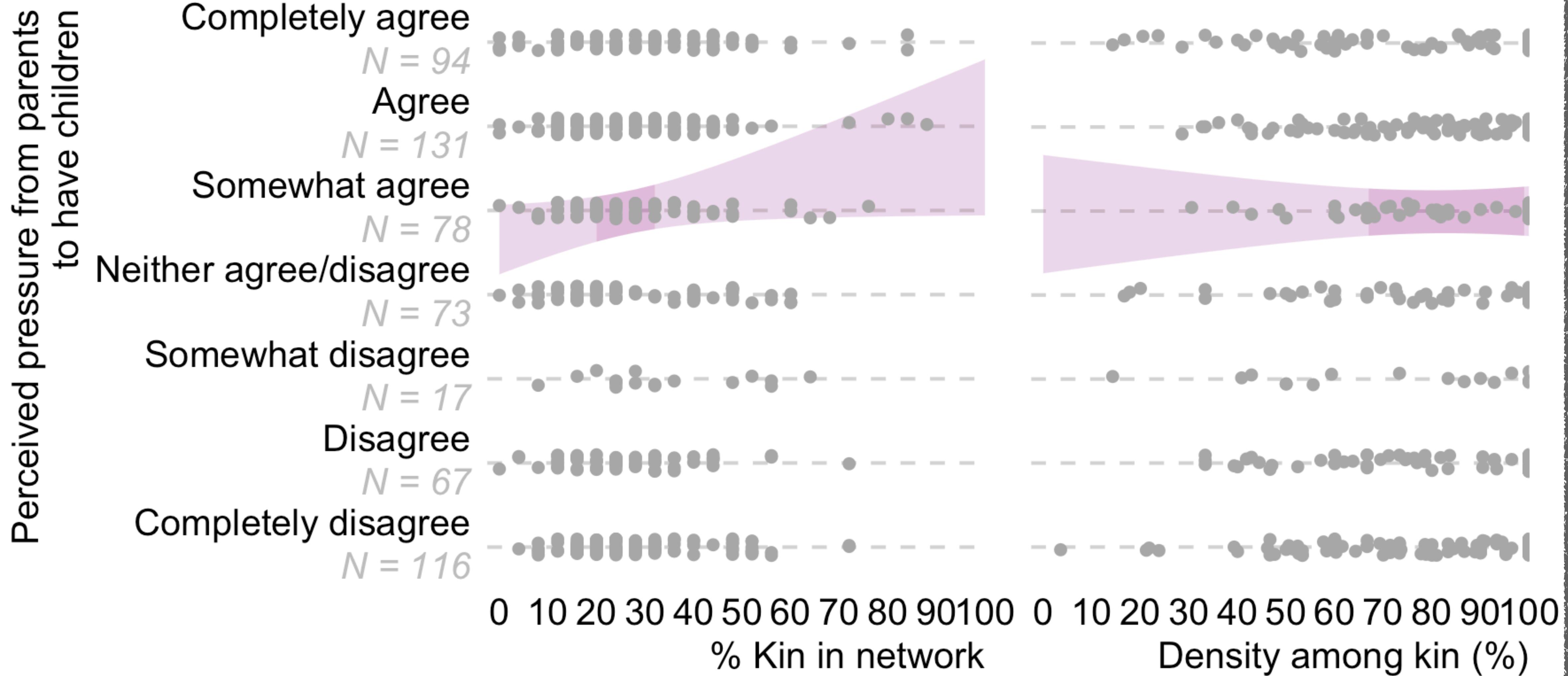


advice

Childfree women perceived more pressure than mothers, pressure from parents similar yet slightly higher than from friends



More kin in the network increased pressure but the effect was negligible, density was even more weakly related



Is Kin More Pro-Natal?

✓✓ kin most, friends often

✗ more kin, less support per-capita

✓ denser networks, more support



support

✗✗ friends more likely than kin

✗ more kin, less support per-capita

✓ denser networks, more advice



advice

✓ slightly more pressure from kin

✗ more kin, hardly more pressure

✗ denser networks, no extra pressure



pressure

Conclusion

kin does not seem to be overwhelmingly pro-natal

network characteristics important for fertility outcomes

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Networks with more consanguinal kin were denser ($r = 0.3$),
and those with more non-kin sparser ($r = -0.35$)

