Strangers in the Homeland?

The Academic Performance of Children of Return Migrants in Mexico

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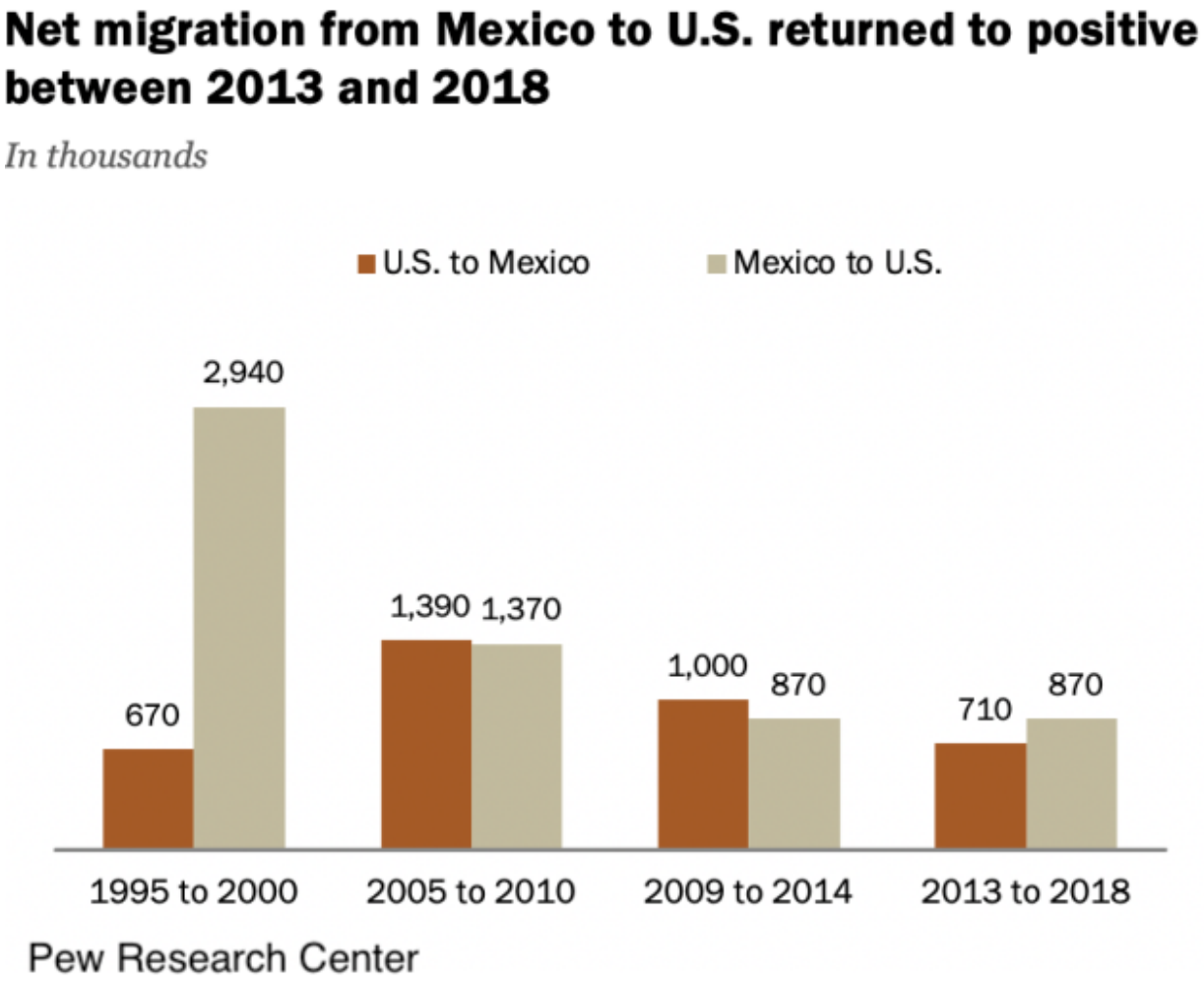
Introduction



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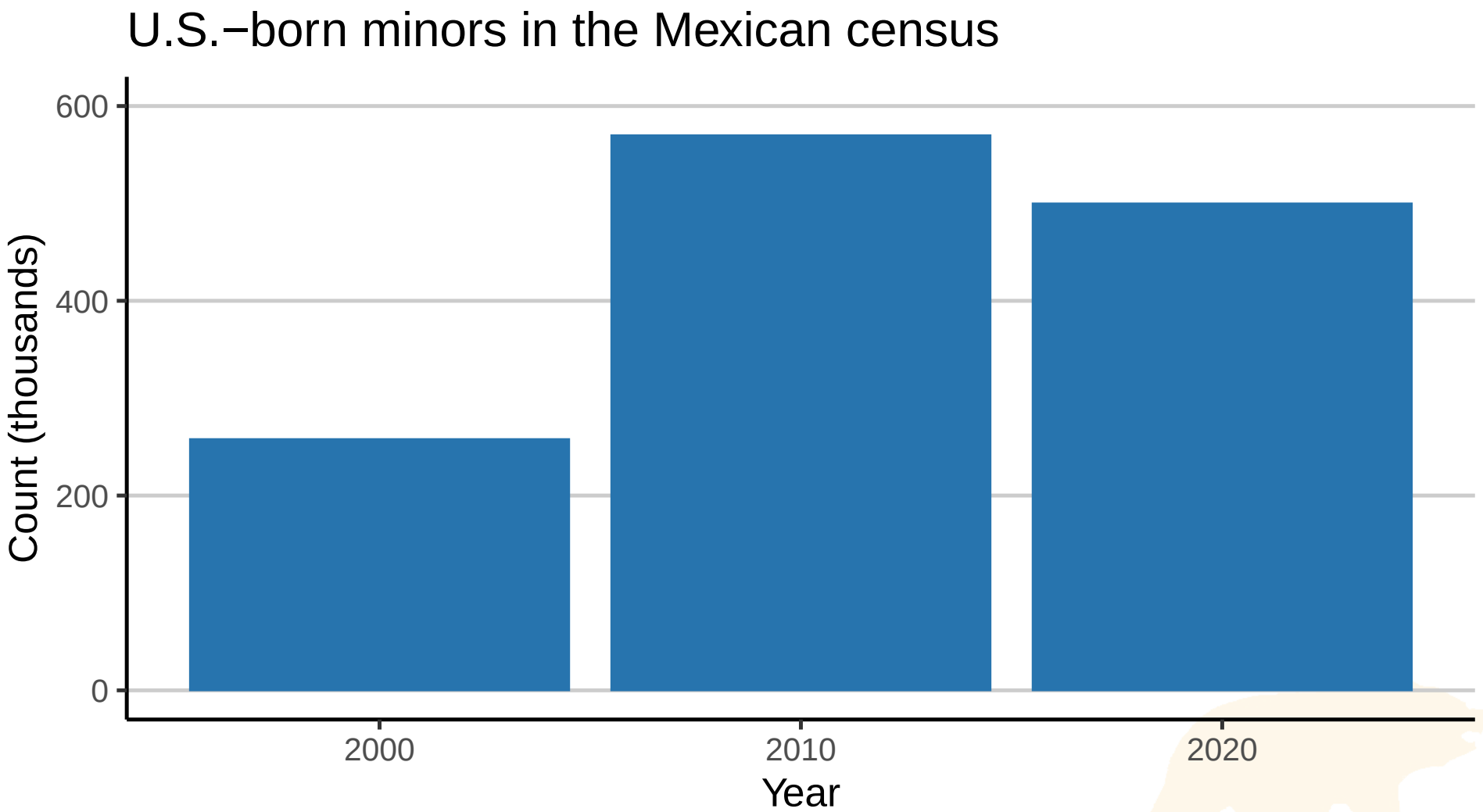

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- About 500,000 American-born minors live in Mexico (~2 percent of school enrollment) (Masferrer 2021, 39)
- *0.5 generation*: children of Mexican immigrants who are born in the U.S. and later migrate to Mexico (Zúñiga and Giorguli Saucedo 2018)

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Empirical Expectations

Why might these adolescents be *disadvantaged*?

- Neoclassical economics: Parents return due to negative factors, such as unemployment, deportation
- Transnationalism: Alienation and exclusion in the "home" society
- Institutionalism: lack of infrastructure for investment (Hagan and Wassink 2020, 539).
- Cassarino (2004): deportation means that migrants not "ready and willing" to migrate
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  - reading, math, and science
  - mean of 500, sd of 100
  - each analysis performed once for each of 5 plausible values
- Pre-migration variables: mother's and father's education (6-category ISCED), cultural possessions, home educational resources, age (15 for most respondents), early childhood education and care (ECEC), two-category gender
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- Main sample: 465 children born to two Mexican parents in the U.S., now living in Mexico
- Mexico comparison: 40,710 children of non-immigrants in Mexico
  - Descriptive assessment of Mexican educational context
- U.S. comparison: 926 Spanish-speaking children of two immigrants in the U.S.
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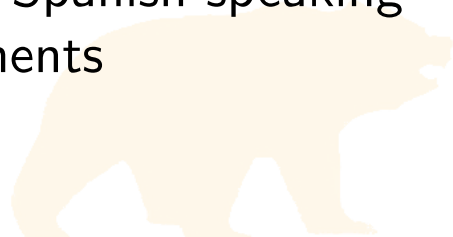

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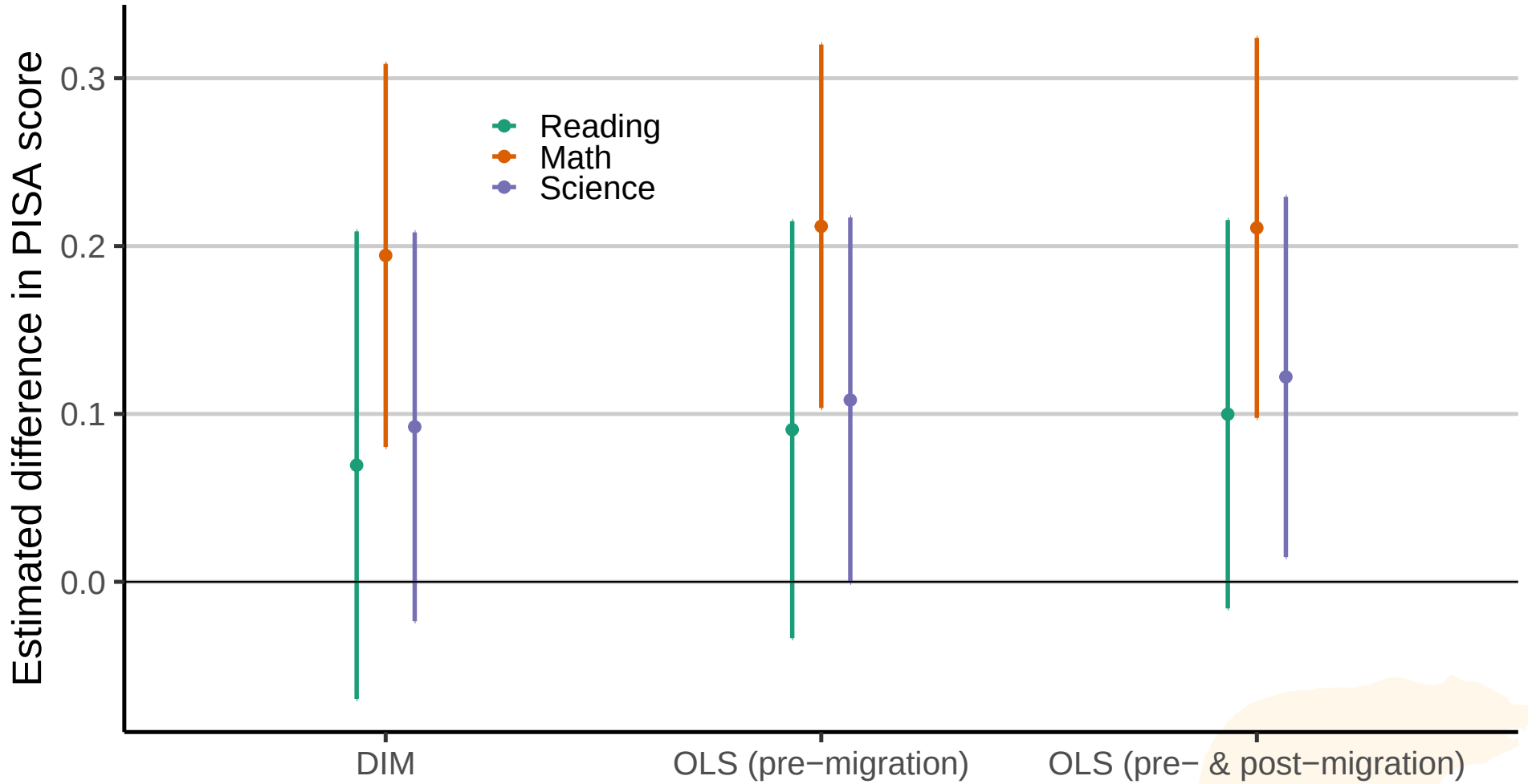

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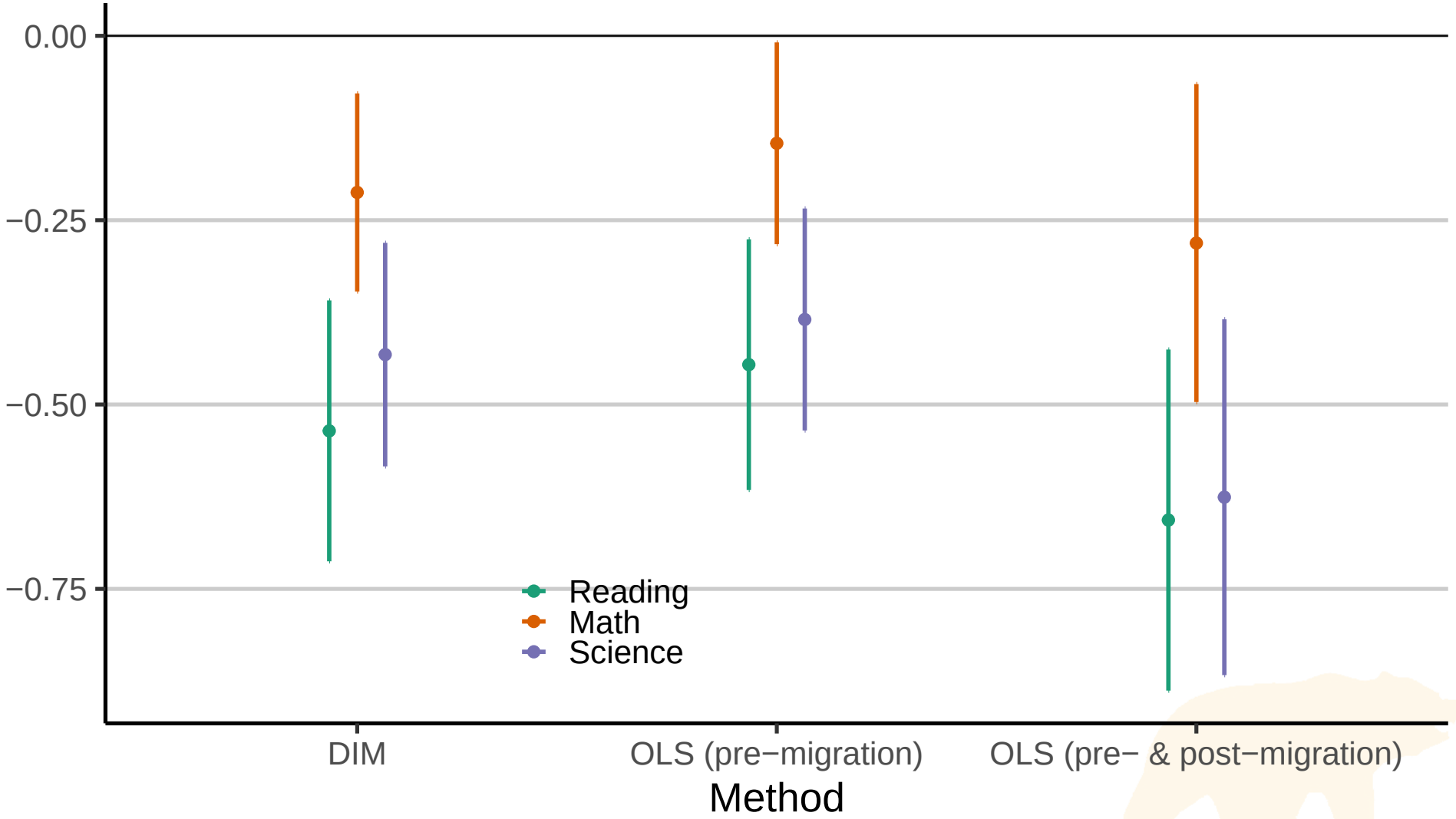

Moderators

- How are results moderated by gender, age at migration, and rural vs. urban locality?
- For within-Mexico comparisons, results do not vary
  - even when excluding 1/3 of the main sample migrated before the age of 1
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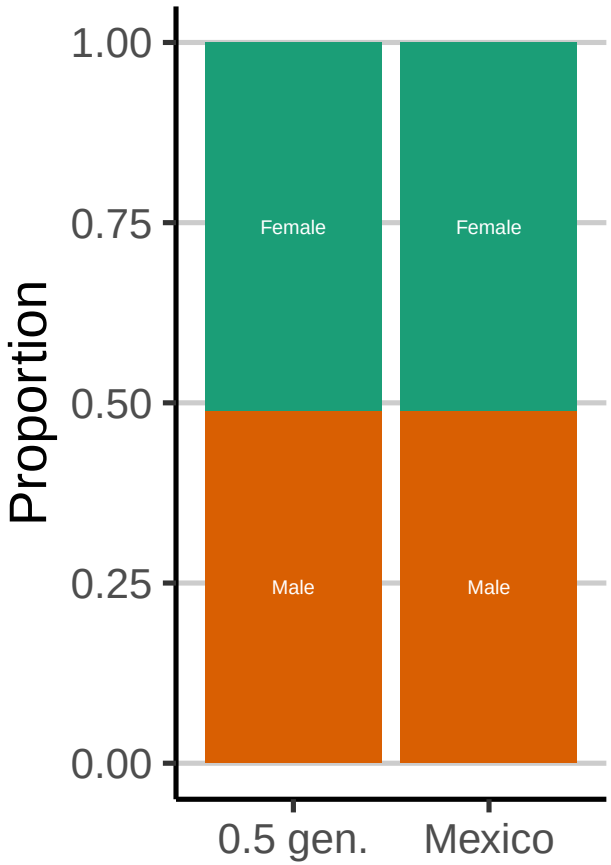
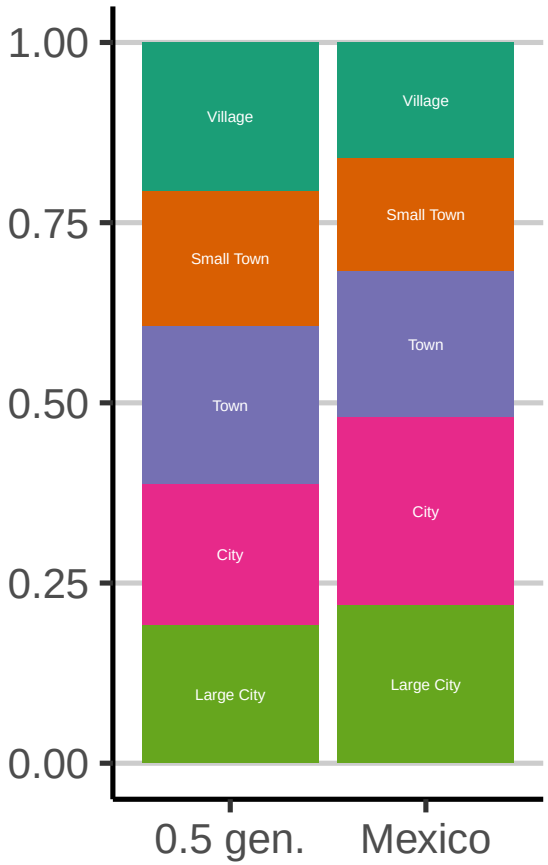
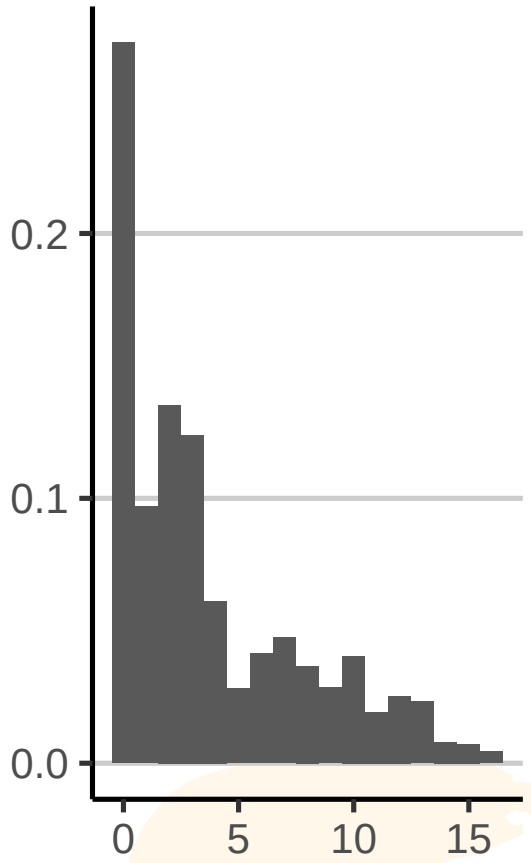


School Location



Age at Arrival



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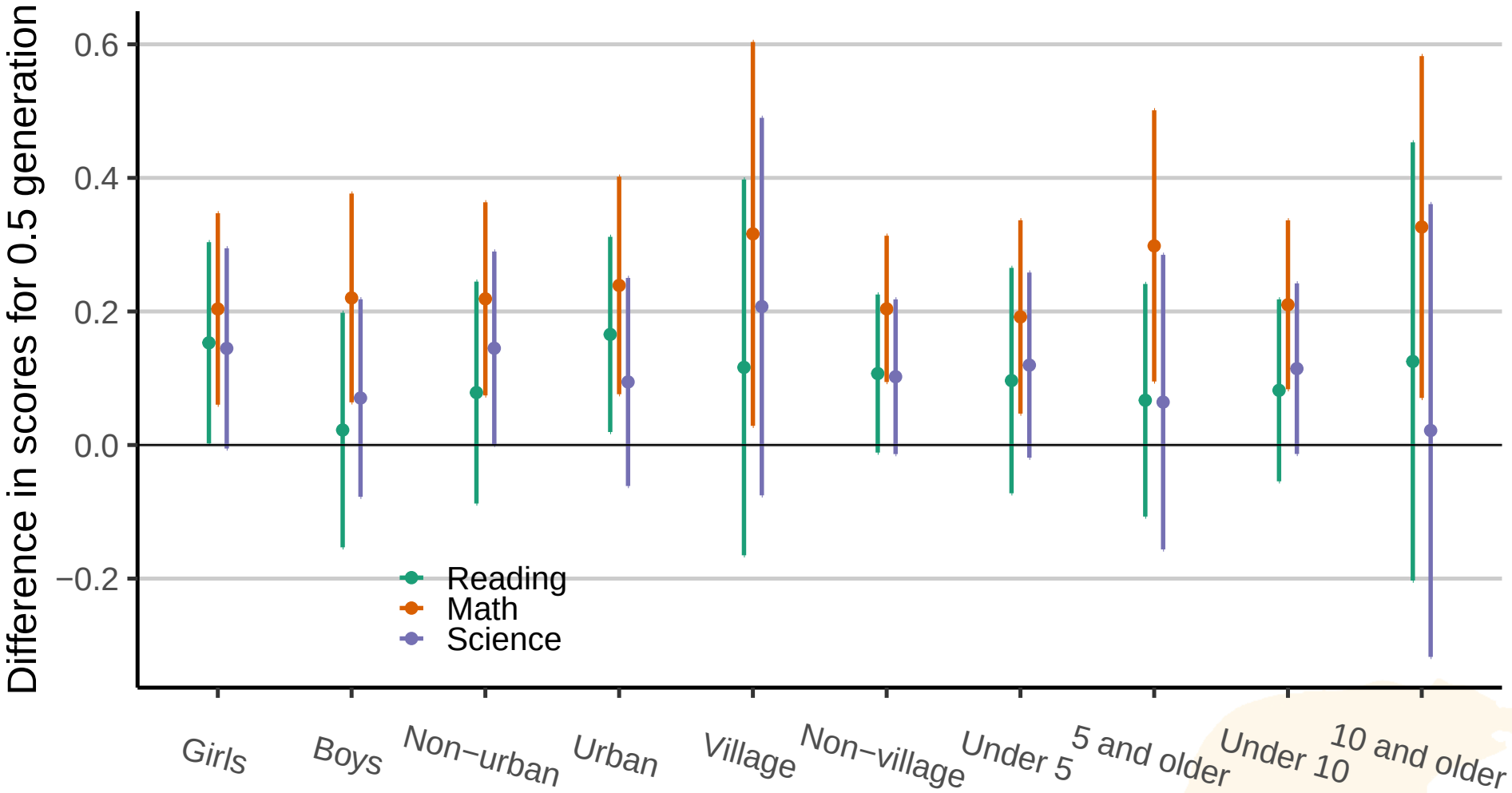
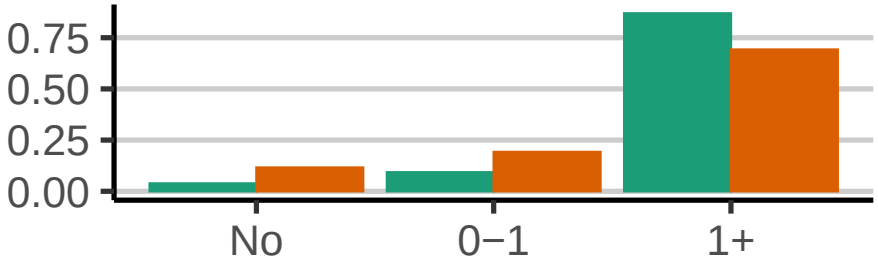
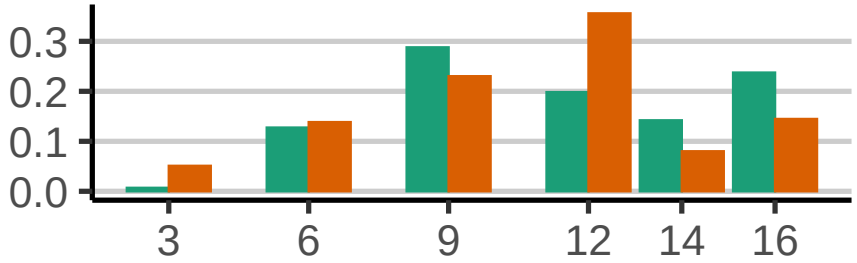


U.S. Comparisons

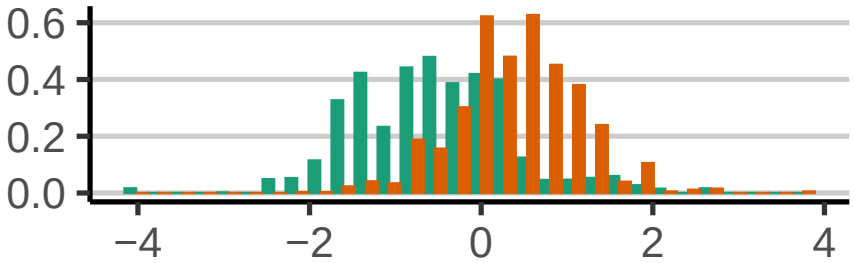
Early Childhood Education



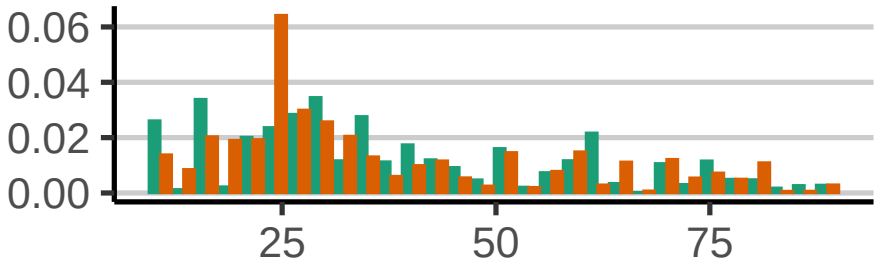
Parent's Years of Education



Wealth Composite

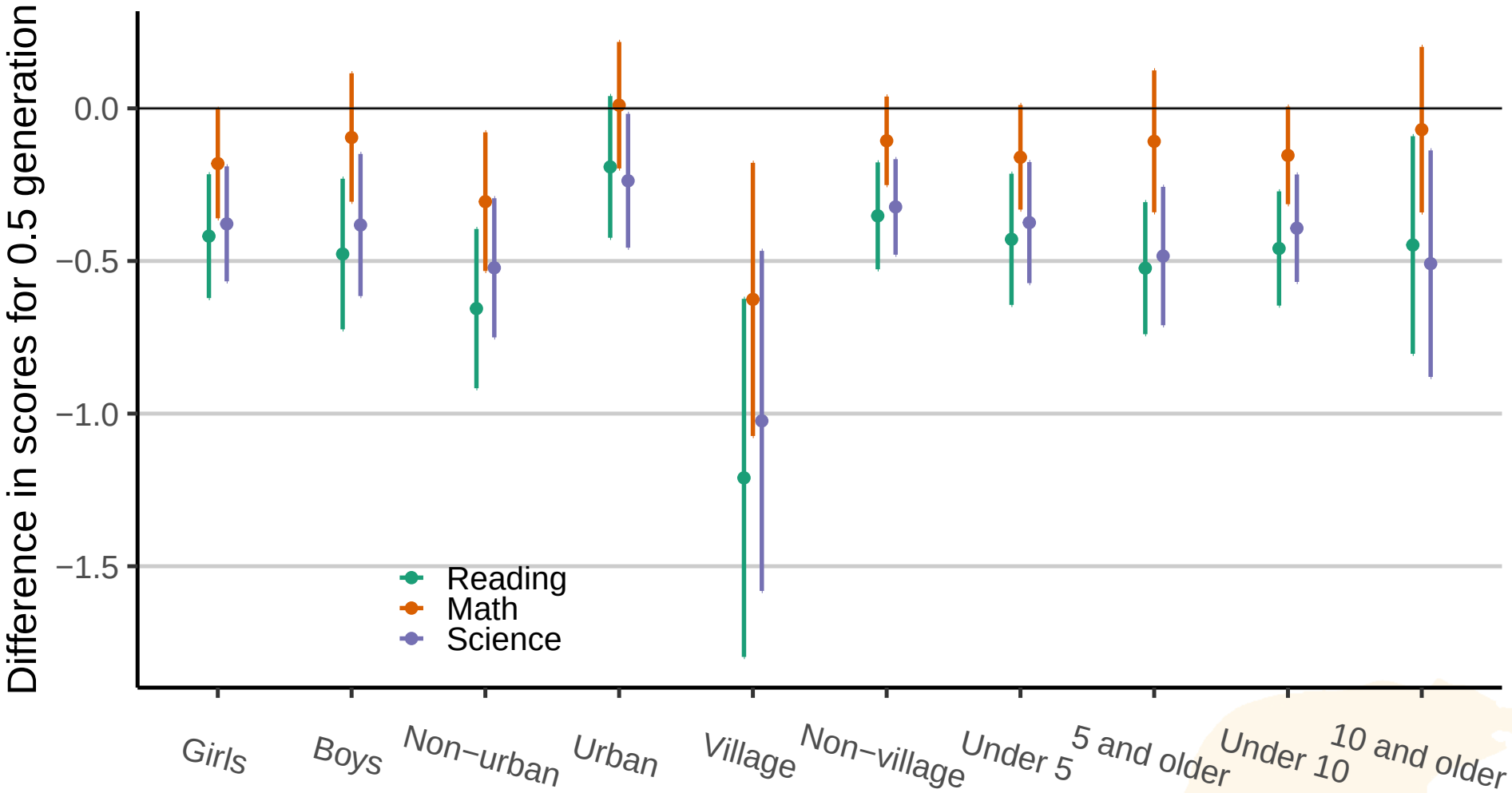


Parent's Occupation (ISEI)

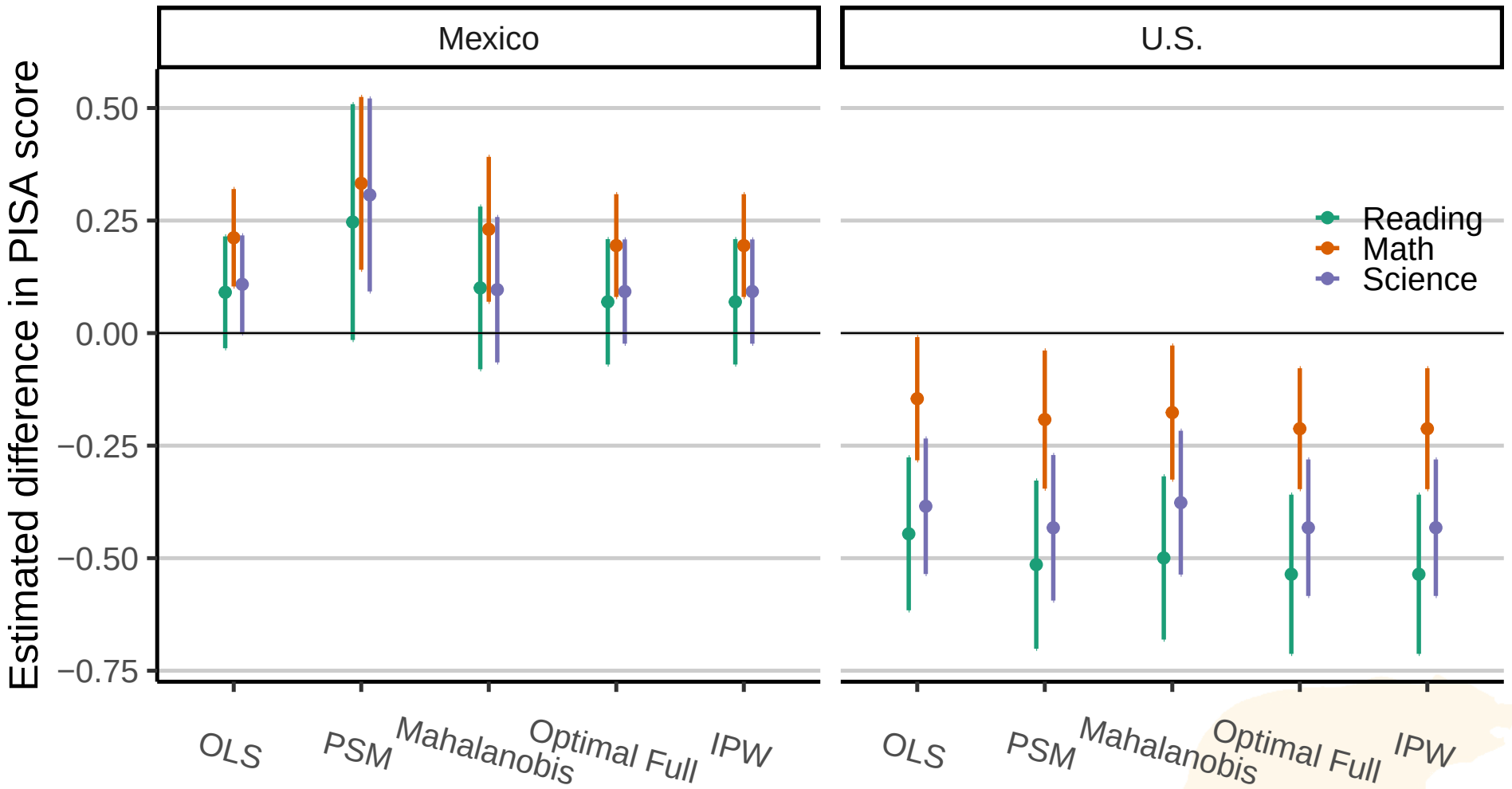


0.5 Generation U.S. Spanish−Speaking

U.S. Comparisons



Sensitivy Analysis



Conclusion

Why the slight advantage compared to Mexican students?

- Bicultural resources or prestige bestowed by experience in the U.S.
- Facility with standardized tests
- Parental resource advantage: benefits of migration
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Why the disadvantage compared to U.S. students?

- In 2014, Mexico spent 2,000 USD per pupil, while the U.S. spent 18,000 USD (Santibañez 2021, 25)
- Short school day (4.5 hours in elementary and 7 hours in secondary school)
- Few extracurricular or enrichment programs exist
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