



## children, elderly with chronic conditions, and immigrants

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The aim of this project is to explore the integration of vulnerable groups in the Swiss health care system. We identify three vulnerable groups (children, elderly with chronic illnesses, immigrants) and focus on the following research questions:

1. To what extent do inequalities in health status and health service use and non-use exist among vulnerable groups?
2. What are the risk factors for inadequate health care among vulnerable groups?
3. What are the underlying factors and mechanisms?

### Children

#### Background

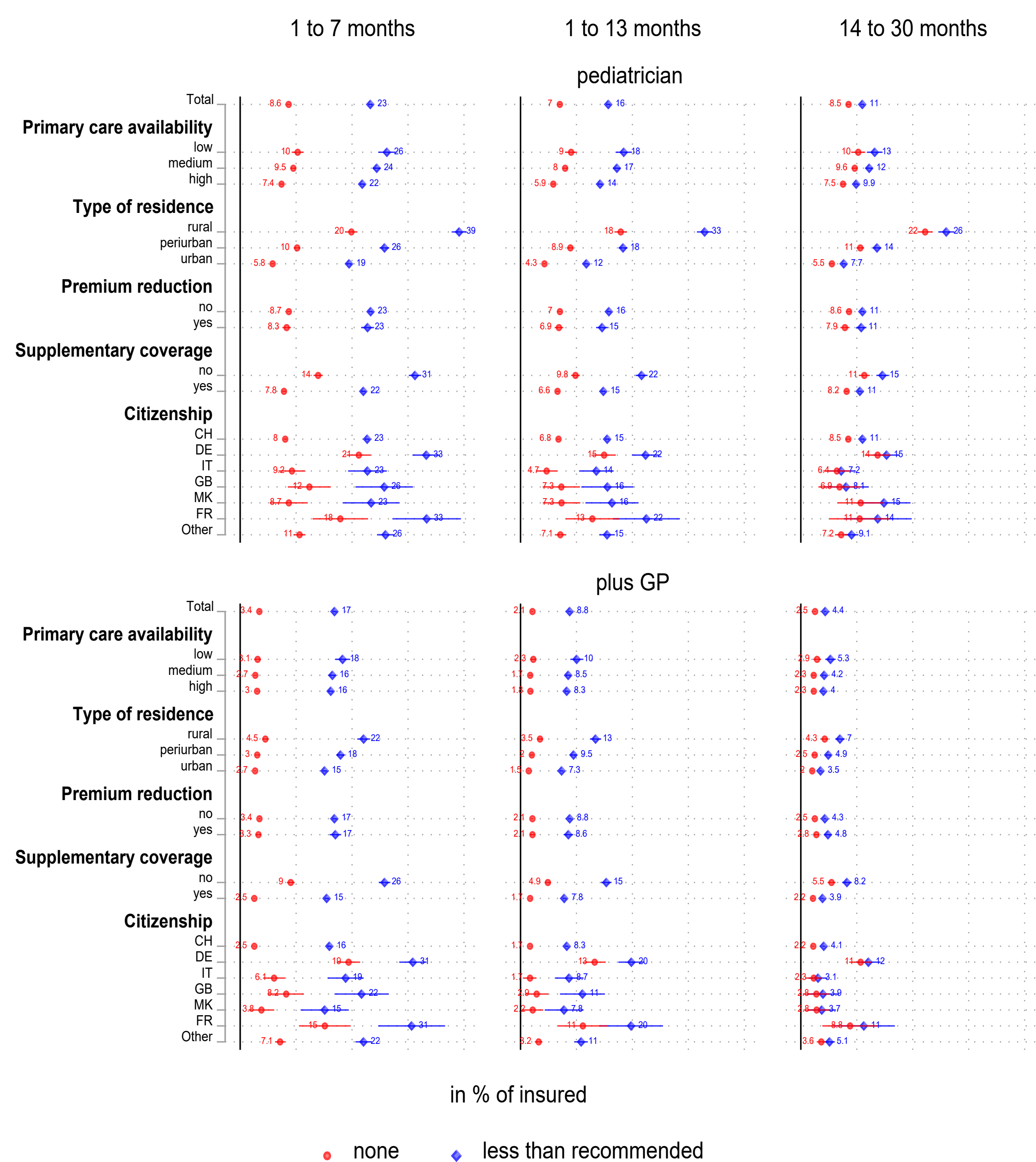
Regular pediatric primary care consultations are important for early detection of diseases and cognitive impairments. Health service use influenced by socioeconomic status (SES).

Aim: to investigate to what extent pediatric primary care is used and differences between SE groups in early childhood

#### Methods

- Health care claims data from a large health insurer from 2012-2019
- Consultations in primary health care (pediatrician or GP; TarMed tariff) during the age of 0-7 months (M), 0-13M and 14-30M. Not possible to distinguish between preventive and sick-child consultations.

#### Results



#### Conclusion

- Although most children have an adequate amount of health care consultations in early childhood there are socioeconomic barriers which need to be addressed.

### Elderly with chronic conditions

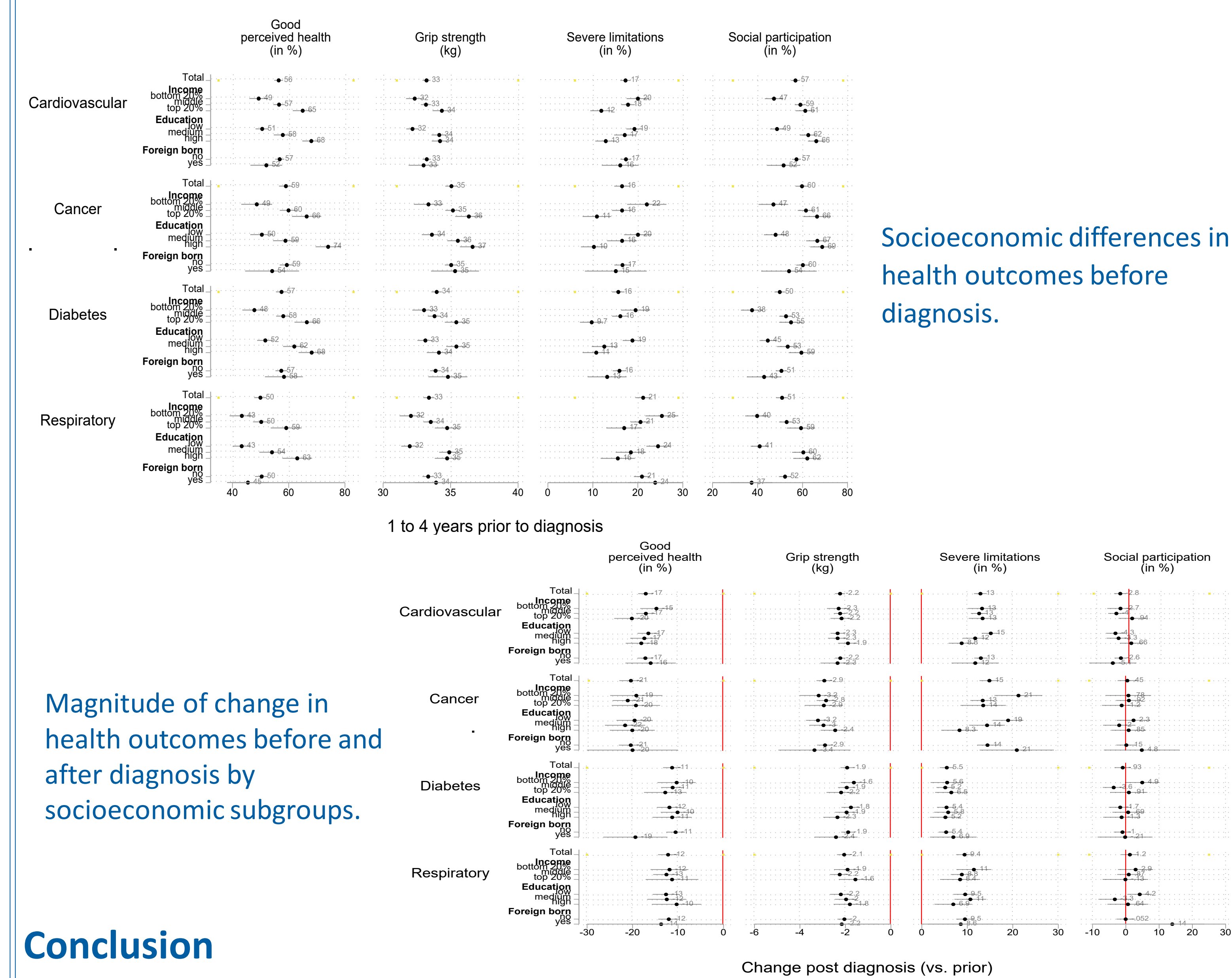
#### Background

Risk of falling ill, access to health care and coping capabilities are influenced by social determinants of health (SDH). Aim: to describe the consequences of NCDs on various health outcomes over time according to the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in elderly and assess the impact of SDH on these aspects.

#### Methods

- Data from 9 European countries from the longitudinal SHARE- survey study. Operationalization of SDH using SHARE-questions on income, education, and migration background. Impact on SDH on NCDs was modelled according to ICF.
- Outcomes: self-perceived general health, grip strength, Global Activity Limitation Index (GALI), SHARE-question on involvement in various social activities

#### Results



#### Conclusion

- Small impact of SES on life with NCD
- Further studies on the possible double burden of the underprivileged, i.e., higher prevalence of NCDs and more negative consequences when suffering from them, needed.

### Immigrants

#### Background

There are significant differences in health care use between some immigrant groups and non-migrants in Switzerland, little is known about the importance of immigrant-specific factors. The aim of this study is to identify the immigrant-specific factors that are associated with health care utilization in culturally different immigrants in Switzerland and examine their importance relatively to other well-established factors and to each other.

#### Methods

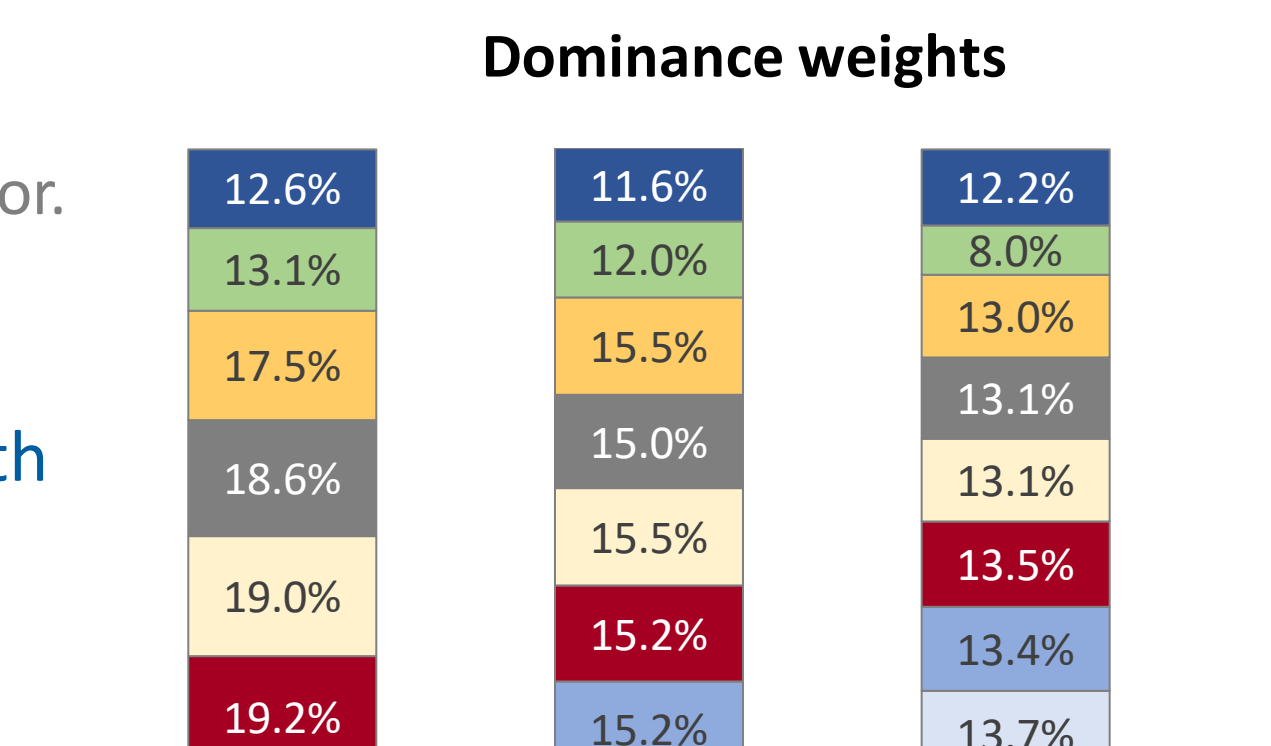
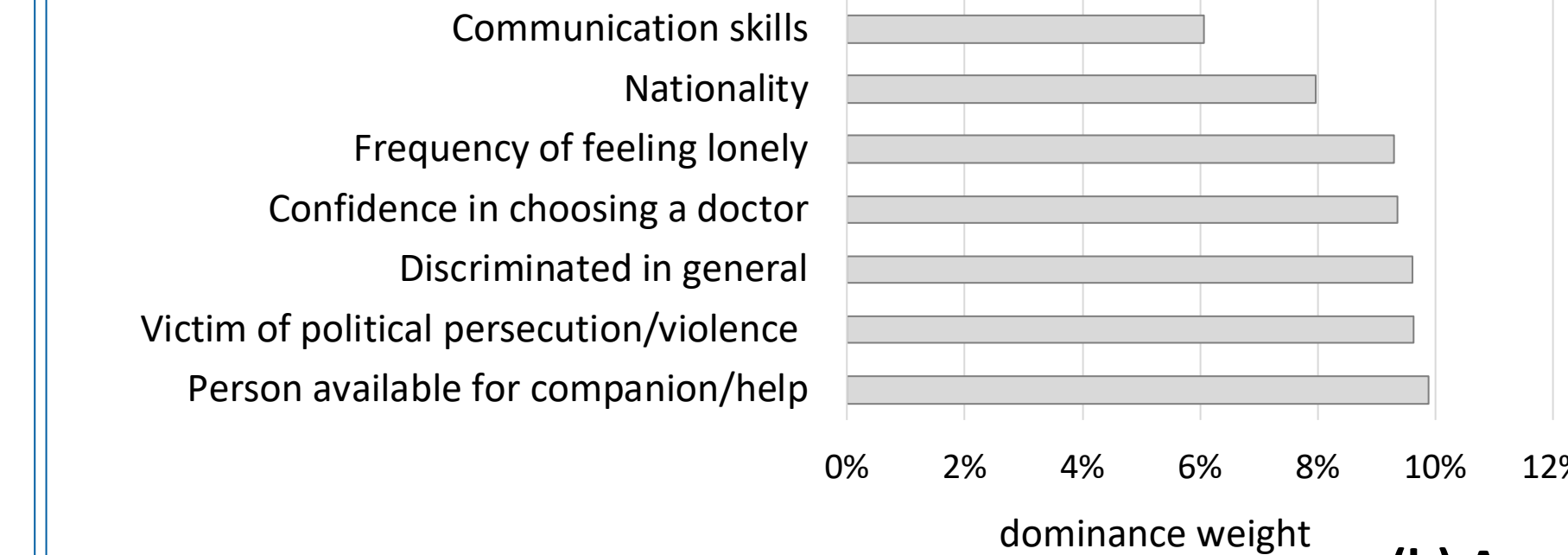
- Data source: Second Health Monitoring of the Migrant Population in Switzerland 2010 (GMM II)
- We empirically apply a theoretical framework for describing health care use in immigrants and test the framework by applying a data-driven approach.
- We estimate the relative importance of the identified factors by applying dominance analyses.

#### Results

Different immigrant-specific factors are statistically relevant depending on the indicator of health care utilization.

The smaller the dominance weight the more important the factor. Immigrant-specific factors are the most important group of factors in describing the probability of doctor and ED visits and the second most important group of factors, after health status, in describing the intensity of doctor visits.

#### (a) Any doctor visit



Nationality, communication skills, confidence in choosing a doctor and self-inefficacy are the most important factors.

#### Conclusion

Immigration-specific factors are very important in describing health care utilization. Understanding their statistical relevance can be particularly informative for policies aiming at addressing inefficiencies of the health care system.