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Background

Increase and diversification of profiles of female migrants to France -> independent female migration (Beauchemin et al. 2013)

High prevalence of single parenthood among immigrants, especially of Sub-Saharan African origin (Mainguené 2013)

Few studies linking the two processes: transformation of migration flows and characteristics of immigrant families

Research questions

What is the role of international migration in the phenomenon of single parent families in France?

Do profiles of single parent families differ by migrants' origins and family and migration trajectories?

Data and Methods

DATA: Trajectories and Origins survey conducted in metropolitan France in 2008 (Beauchemin et al. 2010)

SAMPLE: Single mothers living with at least one child under the age of 18

- 430 immigrants and 639 non-immigrants

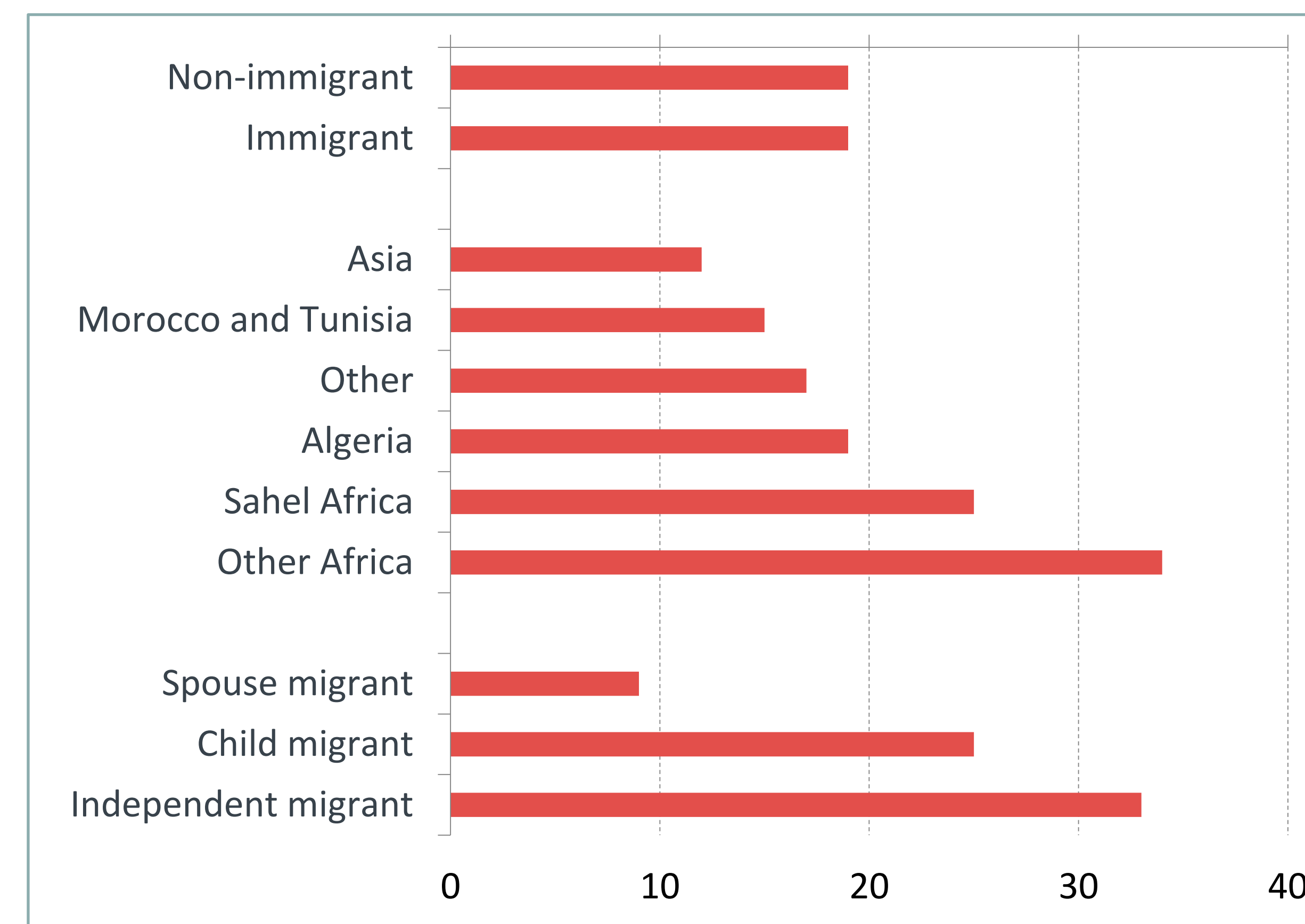
DEFINITIONS: Migratory trajectories of single immigrant mothers:

- Child migrant: migrates with / joins a parent
- Spouse migrant: migrates with / joins a spouse
- Independent migrants: single at time of migration or first migrant of couple

METHODS: Descriptive statistics and construction of a typology of single mother families through a combination of multiple correspondence analysis and classification

Prevalence of single mothers

Proportion of single mothers by migratory history (%)



Union and childbearing history

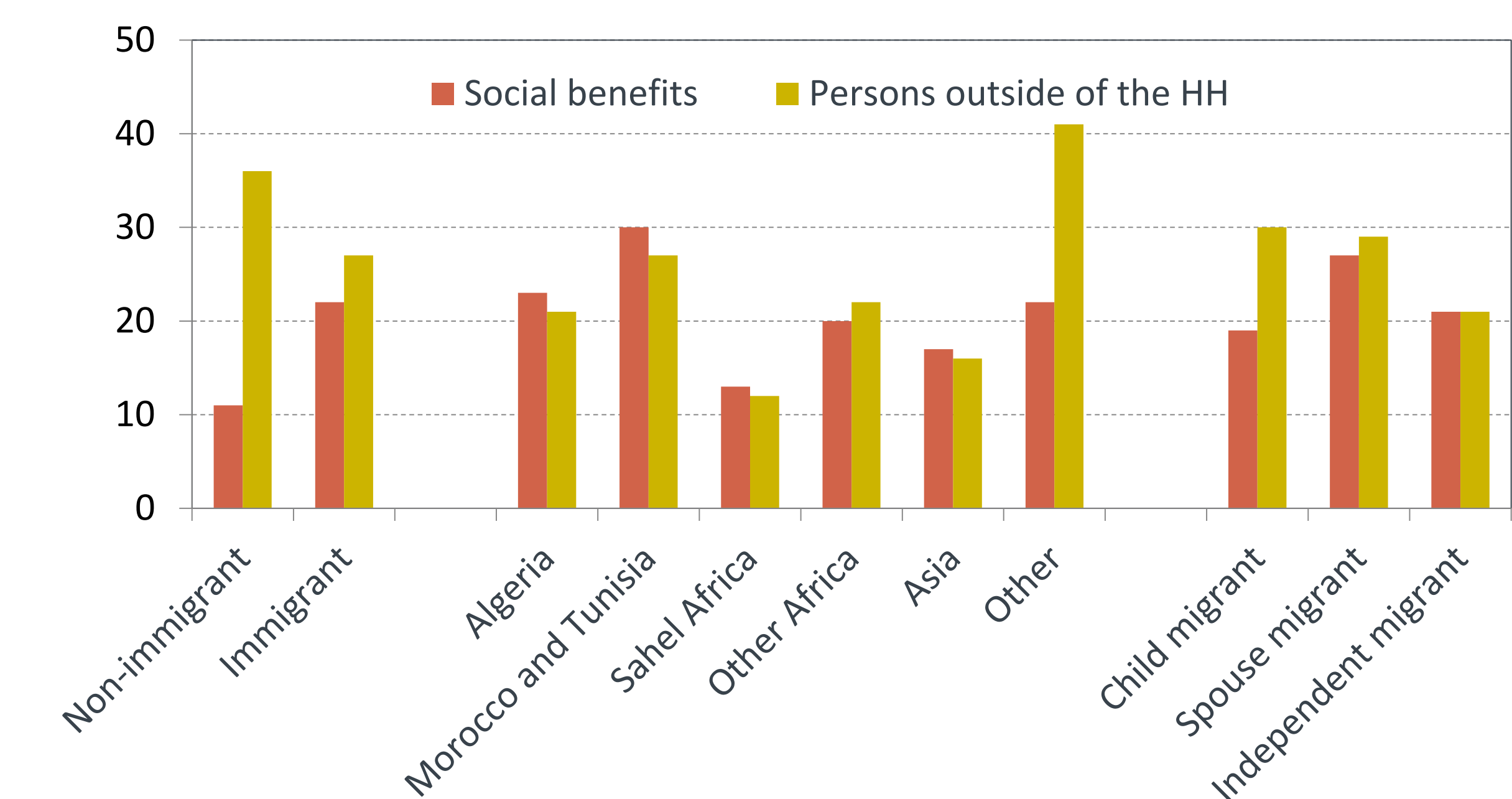
Characteristics of single mothers by migratory history (%)

	Previously married	Previously cohabited	No previous union	1 st child before age 22	Youngest child under age 6	3 or + children
Non-immigrant	46	46	8	21	25	11
Immigrant	58	28	14	25	36	26
Algeria	67	16	17	19	34	35
Morocco & Tunisia	85	13	3	25	30	25
Sahel Africa	51	34	14	48	58	37
Other Africa	33	37	29	32	54	30
Asia	72	23	5	24	30	23
Other	56	35	10	19	24	15
Child migrant	50	34	16	28	42	24
Spouse migrant	80	20	-	28	24	37
Indep. migrant	53	25	22	21	39	20

Socio-economic status

Immigrants more often reside in extended households than non-immigrants (9% vs 4%), but these situations remain rare

Proportion of single mothers receiving financial help (%)



Discussion

Diversity of single mother families: prevalence and characteristics of these families vary by origin and migratory trajectory

The role of migration in the formation of the single parent family is:

- *Negligible*: formed following a separation -> "majority" group route
- *Indirect*: family formed following death of partner or parents having never lived together -> family norms and structures (age differences between spouses, non cohabiting couples) or socio-political context (wars, conflicts) in origin countries
- *Direct*: migrant families formed in country of origin and parents separated during process of migration, single mothers migrating independently

Importance of taking into account family and migration trajectory when considering living conditions of families and children in destination countries.

Typology of single immigrant mothers

