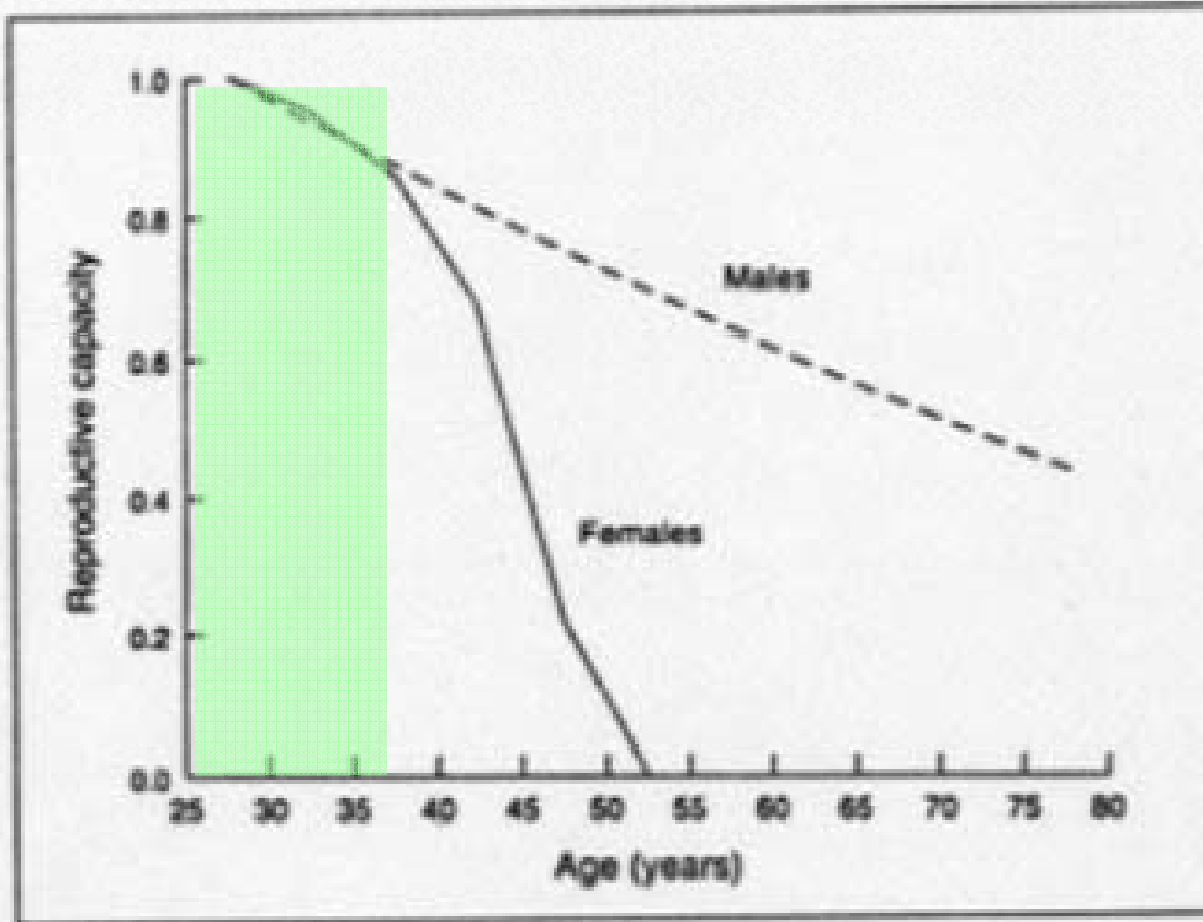


Personal, academic, and local reflections on challenges in motherhood

Crystal L. Patil, PhD

University of Illinois at Chicago

Fertility & Age



Education Equation

$$\begin{aligned} & 22 \text{ (ave. age at college graduation)} \\ + & 8 \text{ (ave. time to finish anthropology PhD)} \\ + & 6 \text{ (ave. time to tenure)} \\ \hline = & 36 \text{ years} \end{aligned}$$

The myth of prolonged childbearing years...

- Amy, 29, is just embarking on her career. “I figure I’ve got 14, 15 years before I need worry about making babies,” she e-mailed Hewlett...
Go doctors!”

Defining oneself; being defined

- Science or Feminism v. Science and Feminism

Marriage, Family & Feminism

Western Academia

- “Short” or “Long” path?
- Inconvenience

Marriage, Family & Feminism

Western Academia

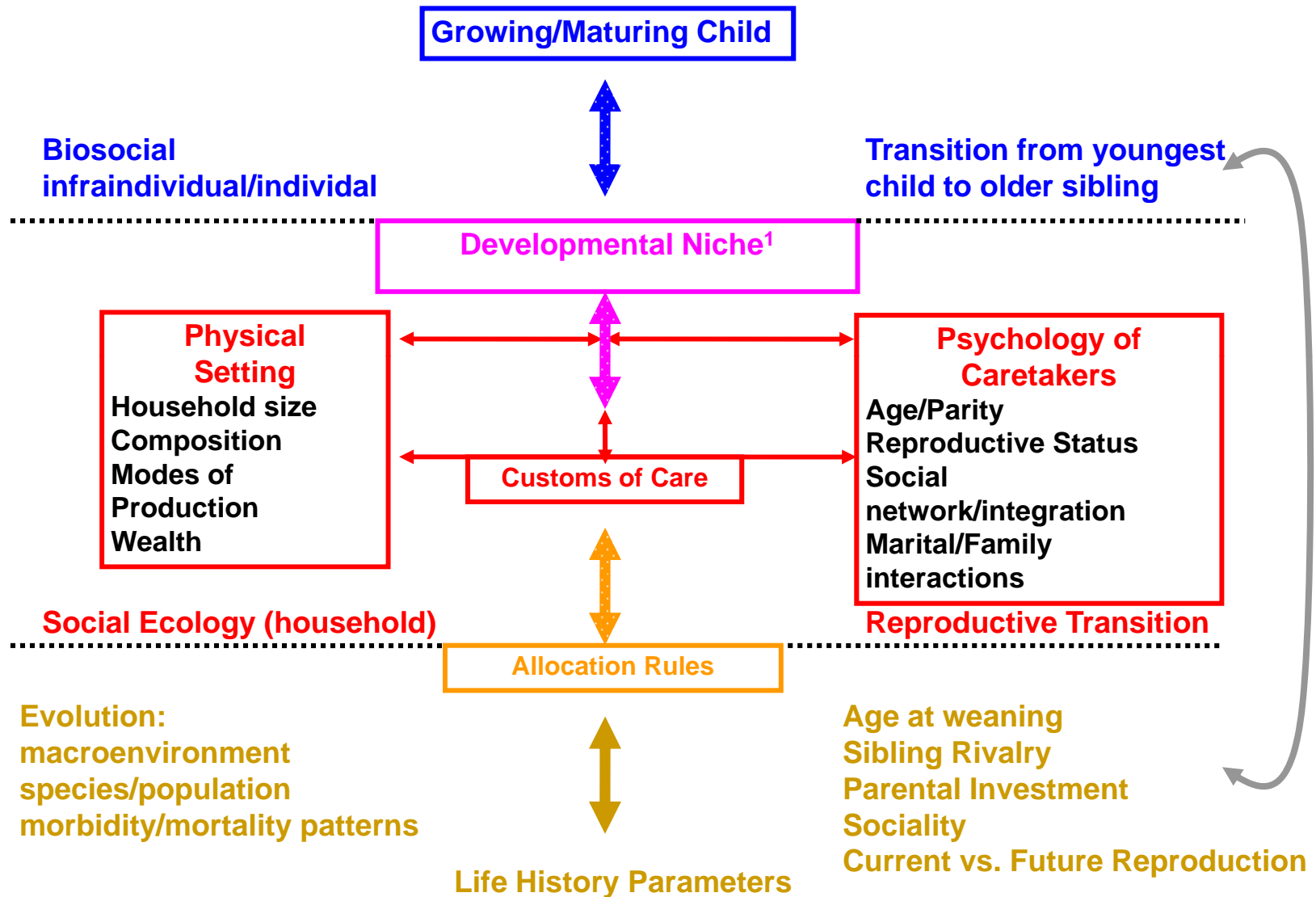
- “short” or “long” path?
- Inconvenience
- Fieldwork

Marriage, Family & Feminism

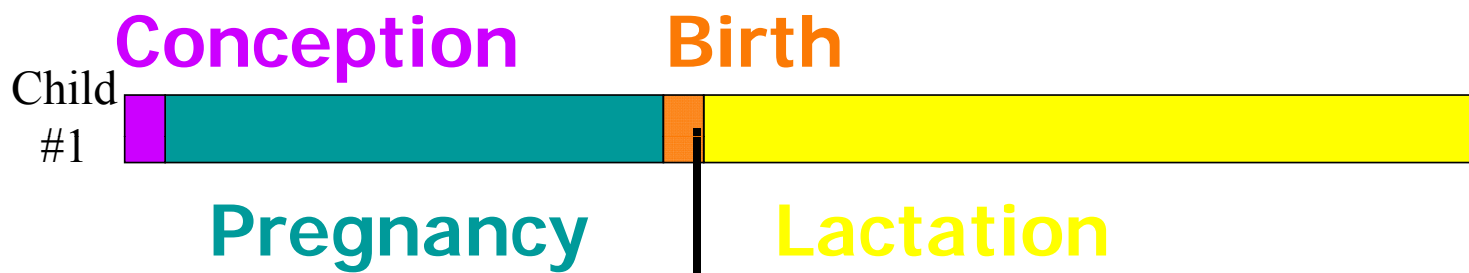
Tanzania

- Reproductive ecology

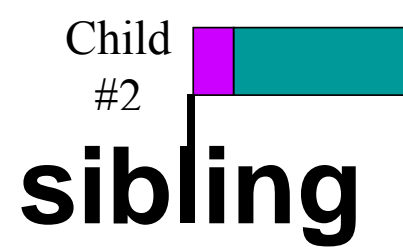
The Birth Transition



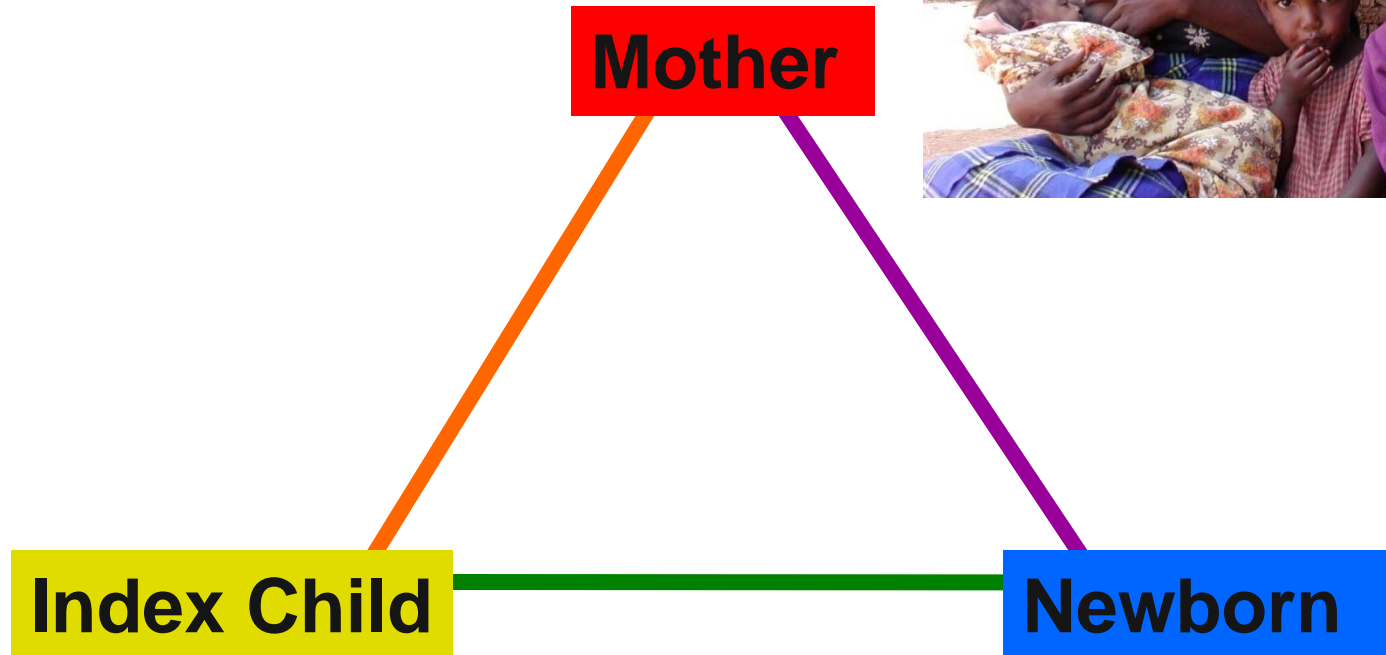
¹ Harkness and Super (1994)



weaning



Reproductive Strategies



The negotiation of multiple dependent children

Anthropology & Global Health

■ Bridge

- Science
- Critical

■ Voices

- Men
- Women

■ Population Health

- Mixed methods



Public Health Shift

■ Murry and Lopez (1996)

■ The Global Burden of Disease

- Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY)
- 5 out of top 10 mental health
- 14 on top half of disease burden list are on bottom half of mortality
- 28% of disability BUT only 2% of mortality
- Depression ranks high, largely ignored

■ WHO (2001) prioritizes mental health

■ Physical health → Mental health

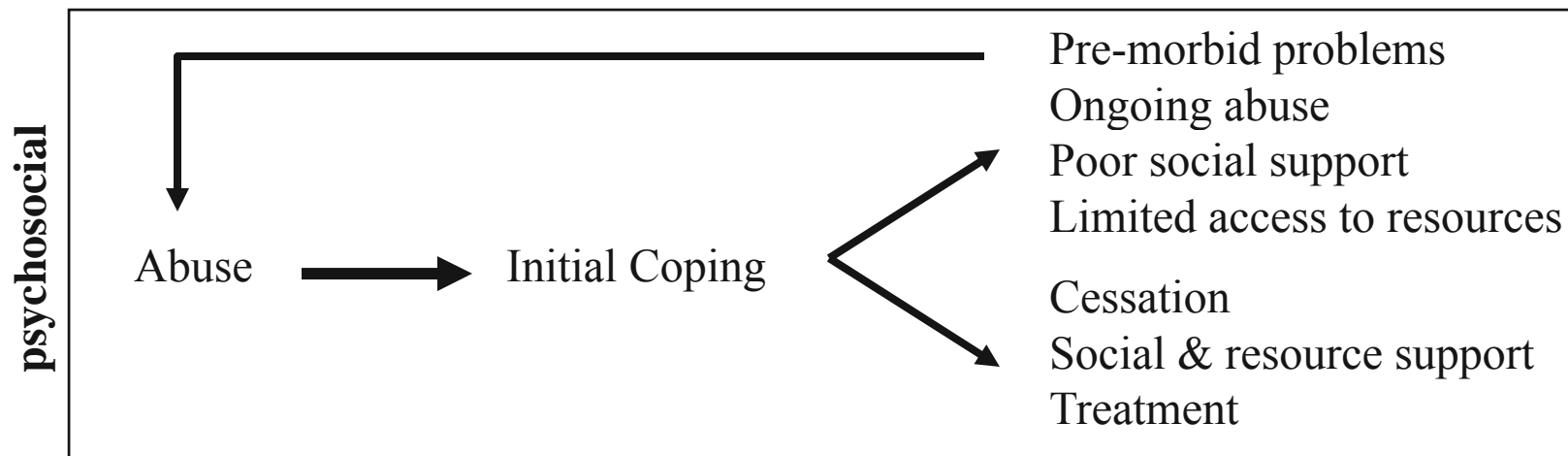
- Survival/mortality → Well-being

Gender-based Violence

- 30 years of research
- United Nations (1990s)
 - Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1994)
 - World Conferences on Women (Beijing, 1995)
 - UNICEF 2000
- WHO (2001)
- Demographic and Health Surveys (2004)
 - 2003 – domestic violence surveys in 11 countries

GBV

- Endemic
- Morbidity/mortality
- Psychiatric morbidity (Fischback and Herbert, 1997)
 - Widespread (associated with depression and suicide)



AMA 1995 – Guidelines on Mental Health Effects of Family Violence

Methods

- Longitudinal – maternal and child health
- Focus groups (age/gender matched)
- Identify stressors and distress idioms
- Hopkins symptoms checklist-25
 - culturally appropriate tool
 - marginalized populations
- Functional consequences

Biodemographics

	Datoga n = 49			Iraqw n = 124		
	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
Age, years	47	33.5	12.8	115	40.1	17.4
Parity	49	4.8	3.0	124	4.1	6.1
Household size	49	6.6	2.6	66	6.1	2.1
Marital Status:	49			120		
Married	33			96		
Abandoned	3			4		
Widowed	13			15		

Free-list - worries

Datoga			Iraqw		
<u>Stressor:</u>	<i>n</i>	%	<u>Stressor:</u>	<i>n</i>	%
Disease/Illness	44	89.7	Hunger	55	93.2
Hunger	38	77.5	No cattle	51	86.4
No cattle	26	53.0	Disease/Illness	38	64.4
No money	26	53.0	Taxes	32	54.2
Taxes	22	44.8	Uncertainty	16	27.1

Domestic Violence

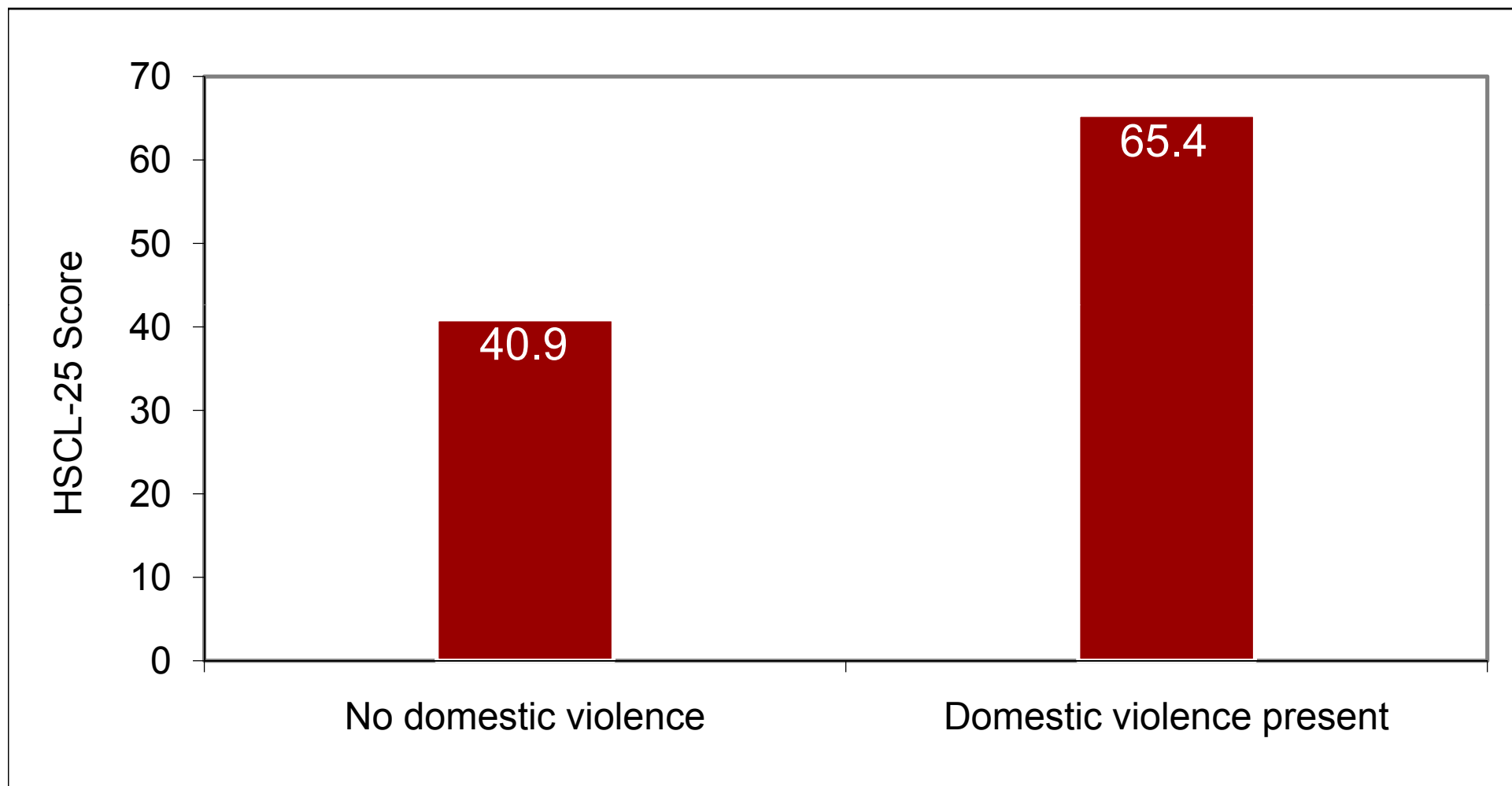
- Iraqw
- Reluctant
- Specific inquiry → acknowledged
 - Focus groups (50%)
- 20% of sample acknowledged
- BUT, 12% independently
 - Why the discrepancy?
- Women's marches/protests for children
- None for women

Case	Birth Interval	Contextual Information
1	66.1	Husband is an alcoholic and very ill; she worries that cursing and witchcraft are responsible
2	34.1	Husband is an alcoholic
3	35.6	Widow, husband's brother's son, her husband, he is an alcoholic and extremely violent; situation taken to government authorities
4	20.0	She has epilepsy which is often associated with witchcraft and her husband is an alcoholic
5	50.4	She believes that her husband has been cursed and that witchcraft is involved because when her husband began sleeping outside the marriage he became violent toward her.

Iraqw – 5 case studies

- Women – commonalities:
 - Violent husbands
 - Alcoholism
 - Witchcraft
 - Poverty
 - Limited social networks
 - “Nothing to lose”

Symptoms of anxiety & depression



U = 16, chi-square = 9.227 with 1 df, p = 0.002

Functional Consequences

- Maternal mental health assessments
- Maternal nutritional status
- Child/Infant growth patterns

Maternal Nutritional Status

1 month postpartum

- BMI:
 - 22 v. 21.2
- Summed skinfolds (mm)
 - 57.2 v. 49.9
- Bioimpedance (%)
 - 31.5 v. 26.8

4 months postpartum

- BMI:
 - 22.4 v. 20.4
- Summed skinfolds (mm)
 - 67.7 v. 52.1
- **Bioimpedance** (%)
 - 31.5 v. 22.9
 - U=160.5, chi=5.436, df=1, p=0.02

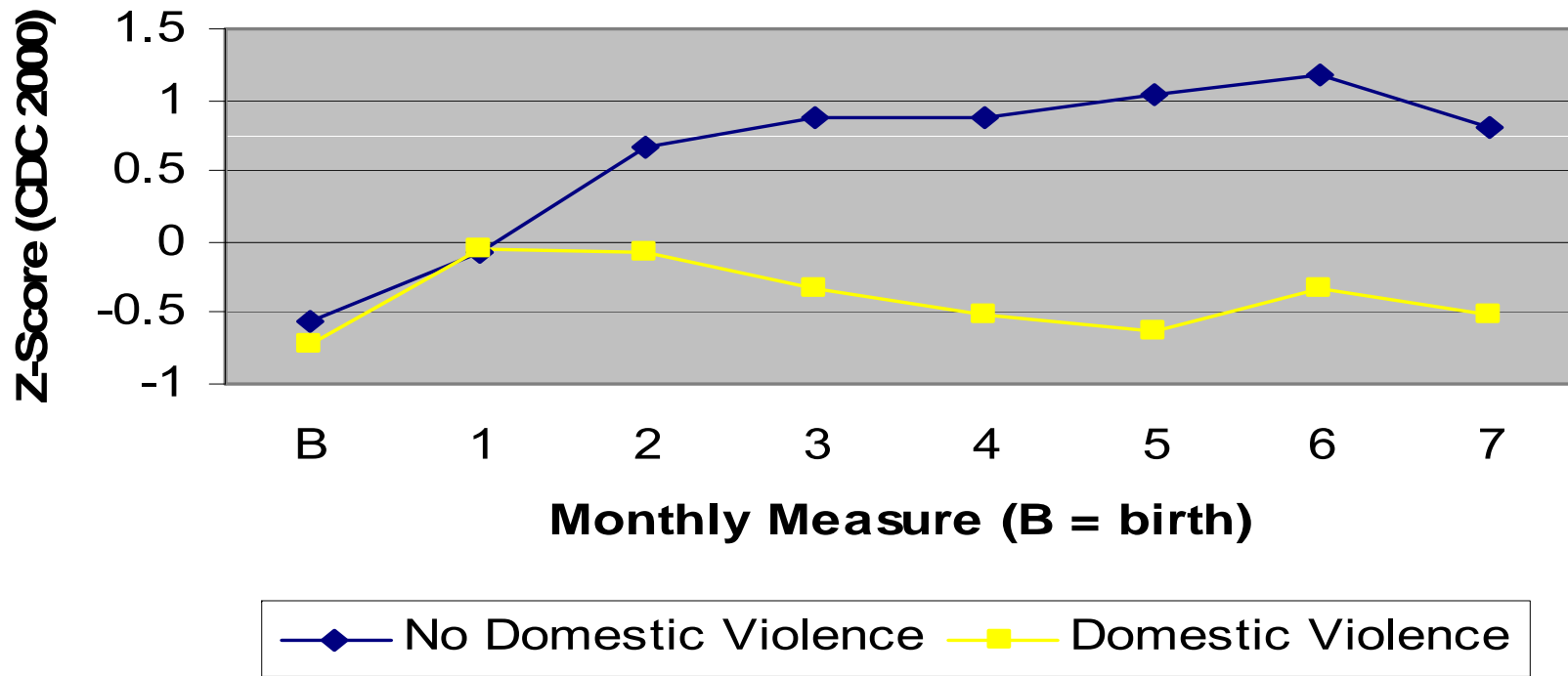
GBV & **Newborn** Birth Outcomes

	No N = 40	Yes N = 5	p ≤
Birth weight (kg)	3.22	2.7	.05
Weight-for-age (CDC 2000)	- 0.55	- 1.30	.05
Mid upper arm circumference (cm)	10.6	9.7	.05
Calf circumference (cm)	10.9	9.9	.01

Mann-Whitney U-statistic

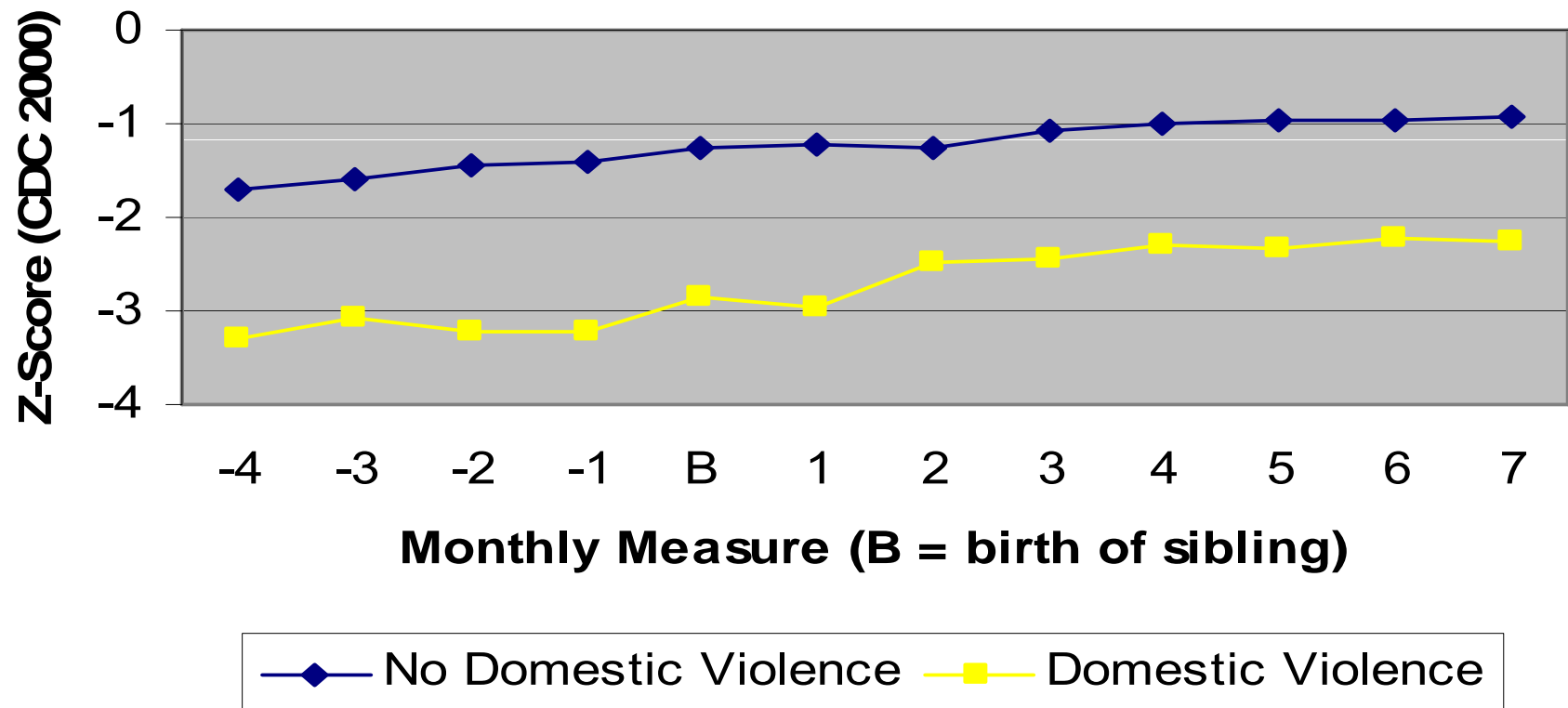
GBV & Newborn

Weight-for-Length for Newborn/Infant



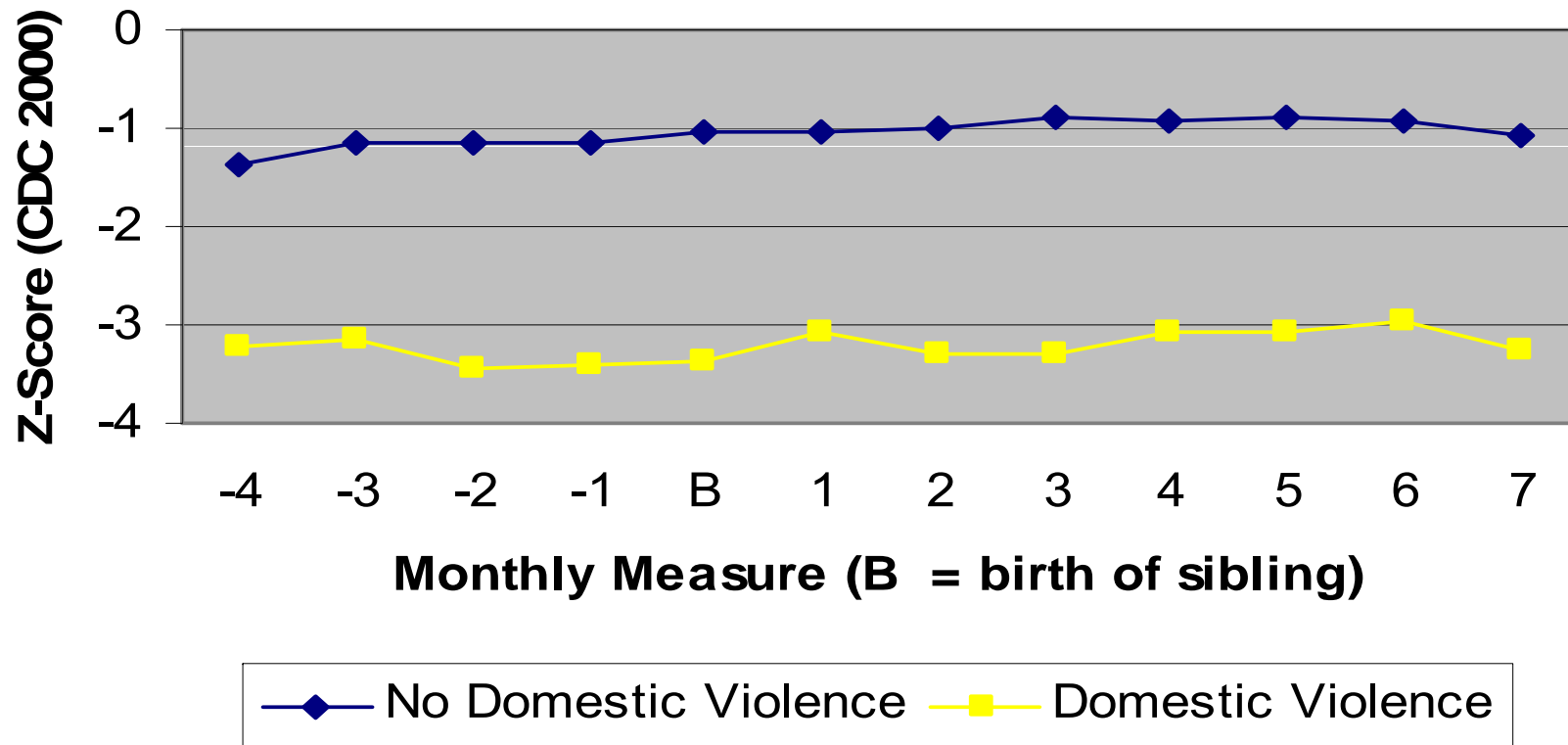
U5

Height-for-Age for Index Children



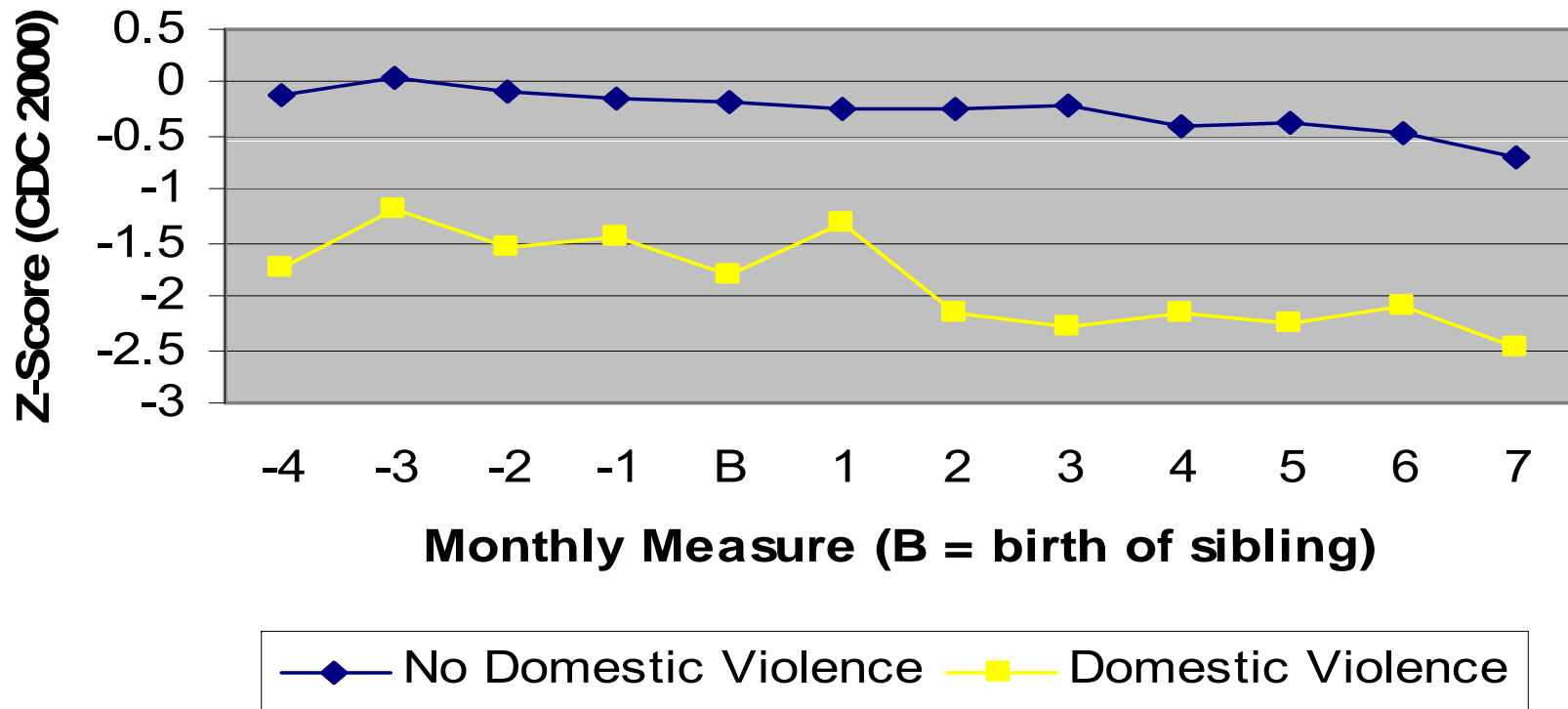
U5

Weight-for-Age for Index Children



Children under age five

Weight-for-Height for Index Children



Mental Health, Developmental & Health Outcomes

- Growing body of literature
- Two (or more) pathways:
 1. Direct neurobiological effects
 2. Indirect behavioral

Major Limitation

- Small (highly contextualized) sample
 - Growth
 - BUT, indicates that domestic violence is part of a larger suite of problems

Growing Body of Literature

- Hong Kong (Lau, 2005)
 - 11% experience abuse during pregnancy 49% sexual abuse
- Uganda (Koenig et al., 2003)
 - 30% reported abuse
 - 70% of men, 90% of women said justifiable under some circumstances
- Costa Rica (Nunex-Rivas et al., 2004)
 - Newborns average 449 g less if mother abused
 - 3x as likely to have LBW infant
- Nicaragua (Valladares et al., 2002; Asling-Monemi et al., 2003)
 - 61% reported lifetime experience of violence
 - 31% were pregnant when beaten
 - Associated with greater risk for <5 mortality of their children
 - 3.9 x as likely to give birth to LBW infant is abused
 - 16% of LBW in infant population attributed to abuse in pregnancy

Conclusions:

Need of a Community-based Study

- Partner abuse could be considered as an independent risk factor for poor health outcomes
- Local context protocols
- Marginalization of men

Future

- DHS data set to test for behavioral associations with infant feeding

Population Health



Human Biology

Development
Growth
Life history
Reproductive ecology

Psychology

Psychosocial
Life event

Anthropological Approaches

Political-economic
Ideologies
Context of behavior
Evolutionary

Glucocorticoids

Neurobiological pathways

Biosocial pathways

Reproductive Outcomes

Many Thanks

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