The Impact of Mexico-U.S. Migration on the School and Work Status of Youth in Mexico

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Linking Education and Migration

- Importance of family background in educational attainment
- Migrant remittances and household economy

- Conflicting explanations
  - Migration may have a positive effect on education because of increased family resources
  - Migration may discourage education and create an orientation towards U.S. labor markets.

Research Questions

- Is U.S. migration in the family and the community associated to the activity status of youth in Mexico?

- And, is this relationship influenced by the level of development of the municipality of residence?

Recent Findings

- Most are centered on the economic impact of migration
- Males, rural areas, small samples

- Some results:
  - Children and youth living in households with migrants complete significantly more years of schooling, and the impact is greater on those children living in poorer households (Borraz, 2005; Hanson and Woodruff, 2003)
  - Other studies find evidence of a negative effect of migration on the school enrollment and attainment of youth (McKenzie and Rapoport, 2006; Miranda 2007)

Measures of Migration

Measure	Nature of the effect	Direction
Father's Migration	Socialization\economic	-\+
Number of migrants in the household	Socialization\economic	-\+
Remittances receipt in the household	Economic	+
Migration intensity in the community	Socialization	-

Data

- 2000 Mexican Census of Population
- 10% sample from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series-International (IPUMS-I)
- 2.3 million households, 10 million individuals
- Sample of youth 13 to 20 years old, who live with at least one of their parents (1.3 millions)
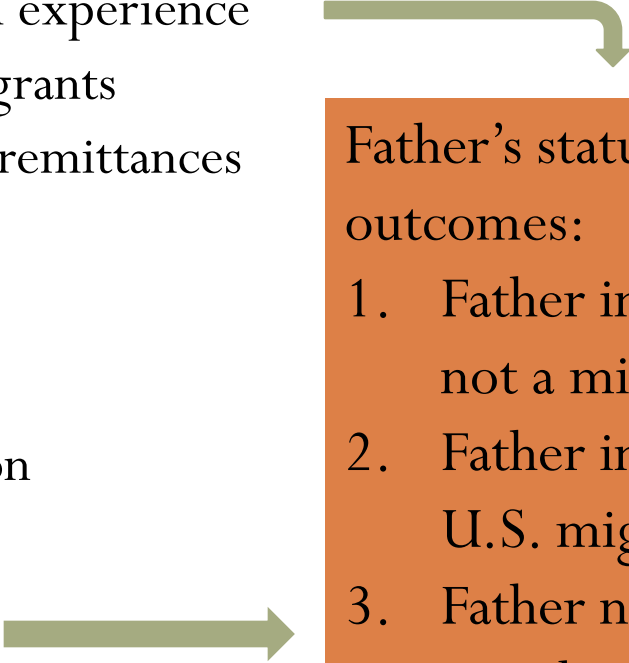
- Municipality level measures from Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO)

Methods

- Multinomial logistic regression models
- 4 categories:
  - In school only (reference category)
  - At work only
  - Combining school and work
  - Inactive (no school, no work)
- Different models for males and females

Covariates

- Migration
  - Father has U.S. migration experience
  - Family has other U.S. migrants
  - Household receives U.S. remittances
- Background
  - Age
  - Ethnicity
  - Highest parental education
  - Father in the household
- Context
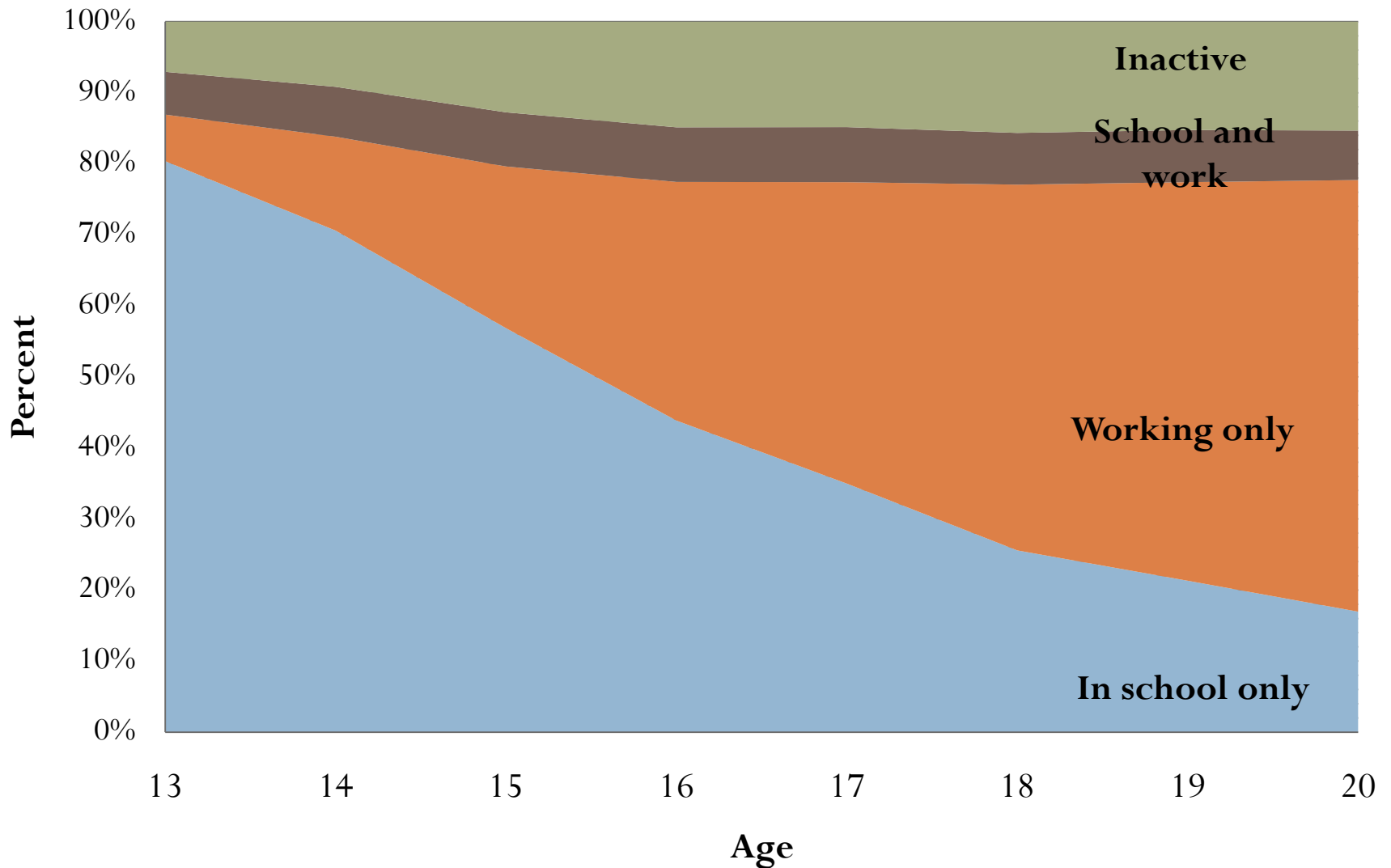 - Economic development index
  - Migration Intensity index

Father's status with 3 outcomes:
1. Father in household, not a migrant
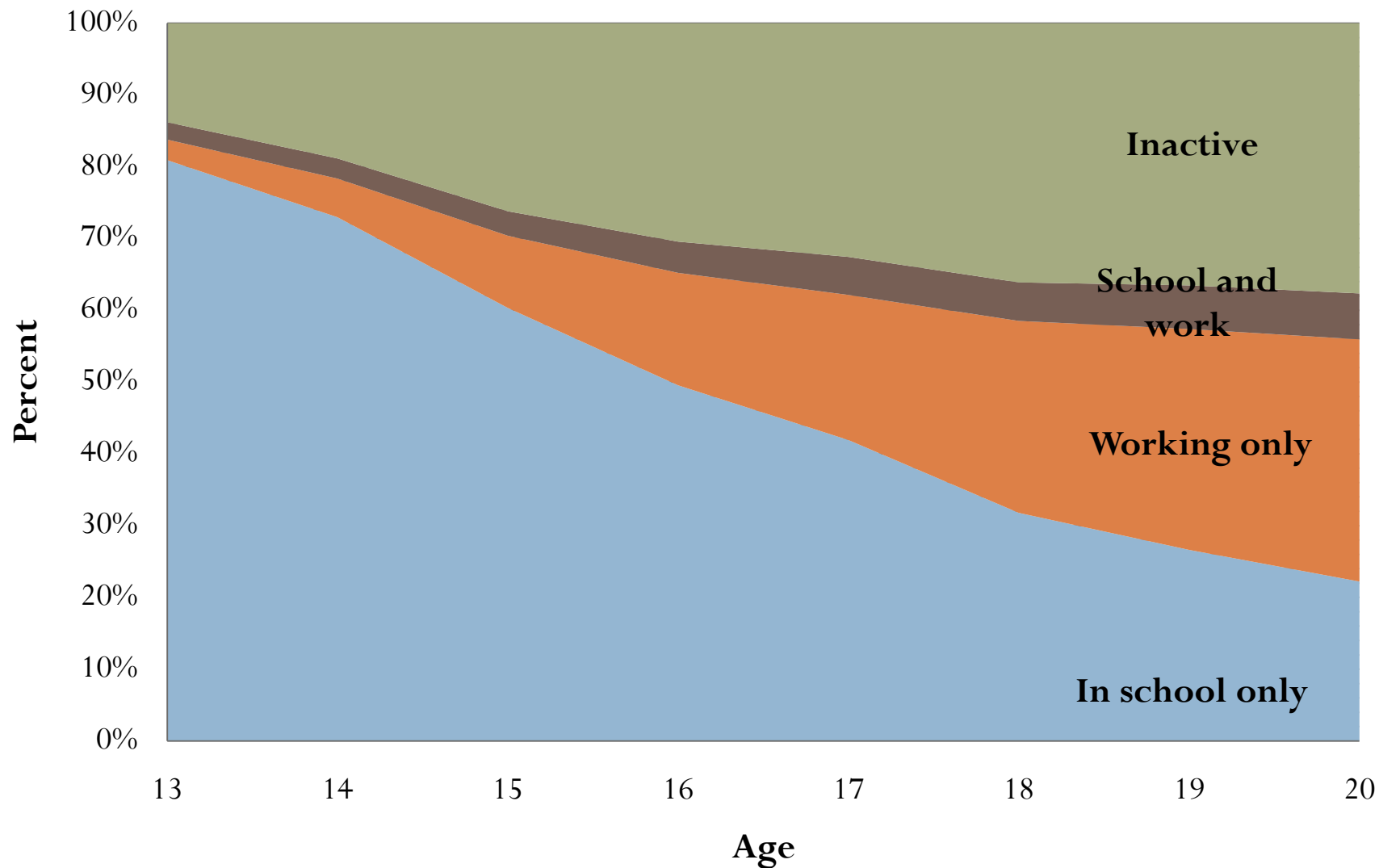2. Father in household, U.S. migrant
3. Father not household member

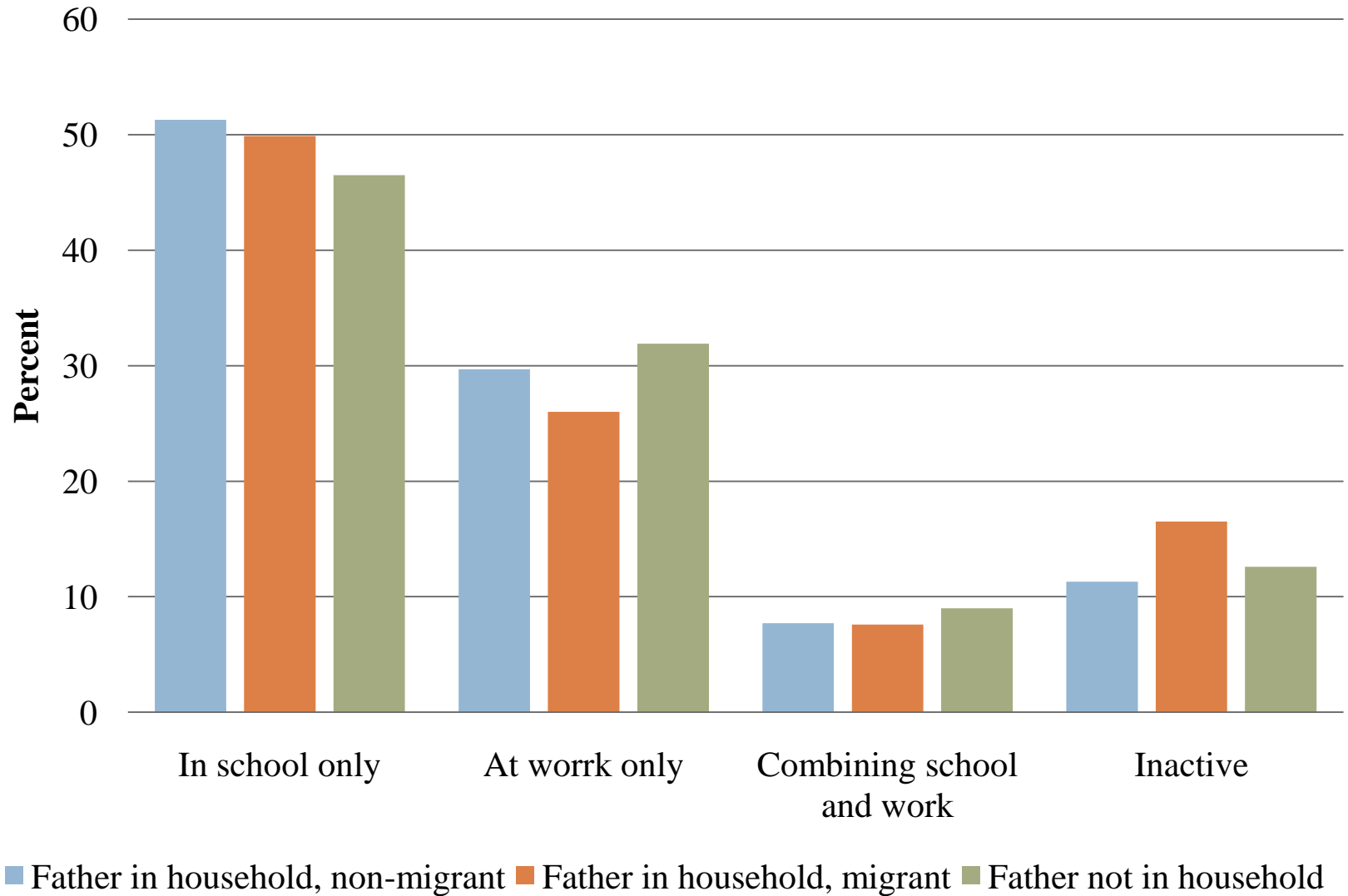# Work and School Status, Males
Mexico, 2000

School and Work Status, Females
Mexico, 2000

School and Work Status by Father's Status, Boys, Mexico, 2000

Father in household, non-migrant ■ Father in household, migrant ■ Father not in household

School and Work Status by Father's Status, Girls, Mexico, 2000

Percent

Legend: Father in household, non-migrant ■ Father in household, migrant ■ Father not in household

Categories: In school only, At worrk only, Combining school and work, Inactive
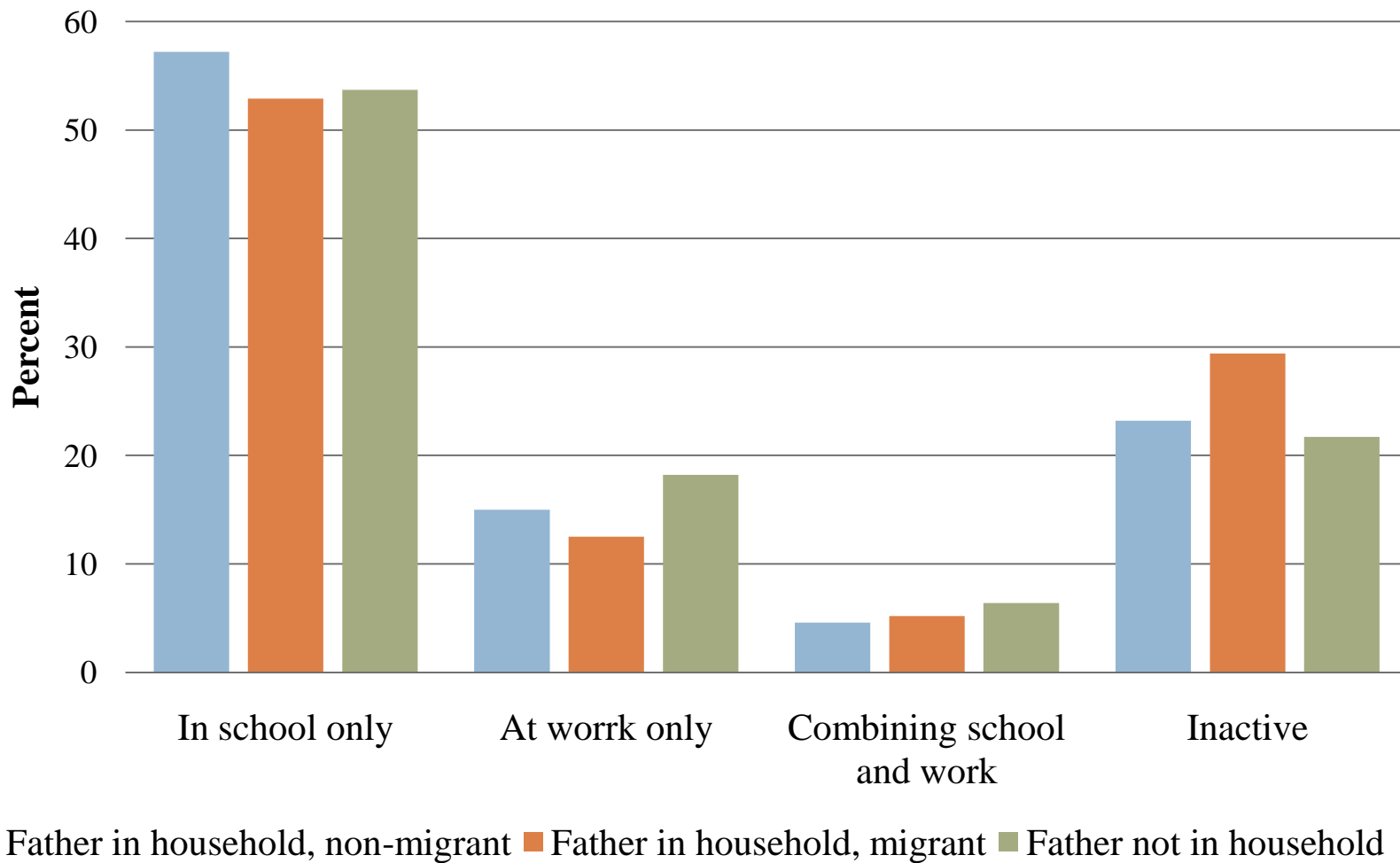
Impact of Migration on Work and School Status
(relative to "in school only")

	At work only		School and work		Inactive	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Migration in the Household						
Father has mig. experience	-0.105	-0.115	-0.077	0.143	0.075	0.063
HH has migrants	0.001	-0.017	**0.065**	0.054	**0.056**	**0.036**
HH receives remittances	**–0.111**	**–0.169**	**0.076**	0.002	**–0.075**	-0.030
Community Characteristics						
Development level	**–0.036**	**0.100**	**0.066**	**0.189**	-0.018	**–0.202**
Migration Intensity	**0.268**	**0.183**	**0.160**	**0.111**	**0.423**	**0.265**

Significant coefficients in **bold.**

Models control for age, ethnicity, father's HH membership, parents' education.

Standard errors adjusted for clustering at the municipality level

Source: 2000 Mexican Census Subsample, IPUMS International

Migration's impact is stronger in poorer communities.
(relative to "in school only")

|	At work only		School and work		Inactive	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Interactions with Level of Development in Community						
Father has mig. experience	**0.244**	**0.274**	**0.251**	0.162	**0.224**	0.165
HH has migrants	**0.227**	**0.256**	**0.098**	**0.107**	**0.094**	0.145
HH receives remittances	**0.213**	**0.251**	**0.076**	**0.112**	**0.113**	0.137

Significant coefficients in **bold.**

Models control for age, ethnicity, father's HH membership, parents' education.

Standard errors adjusted for clustering at the municipality level

Source: 2000 Mexican Census Subsample, IPUMS International

Probability of being at work only, males
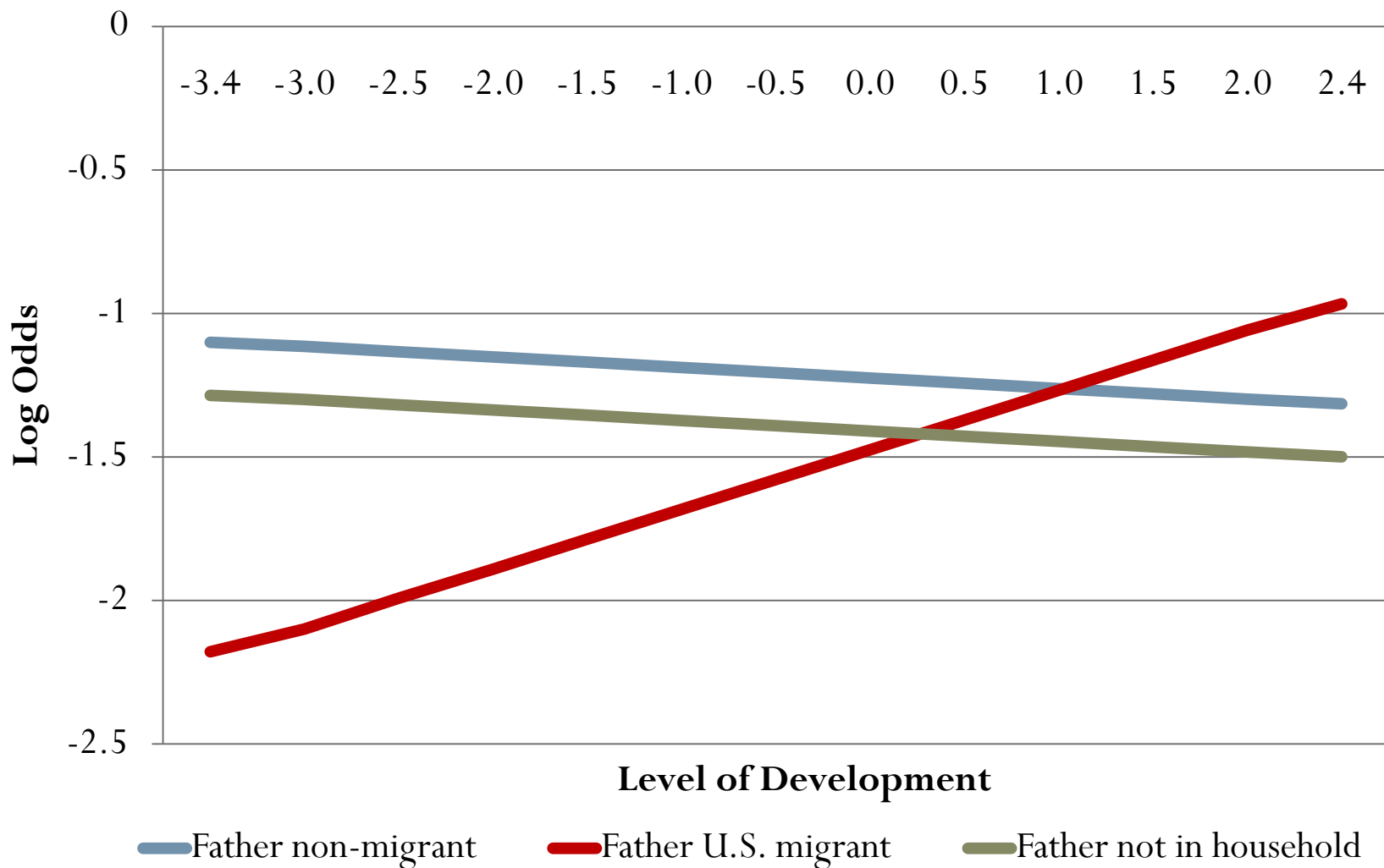
Source: 2000 Mexican Census Subsample, IPUMS International

Conclusions

- Evidence of effects on two directions
  - Lower probability of working only if they receive remittances
  - But higher probability of inactivity if there are migrants in the household
- Higher migration intensity in the community is associated to a higher probability of working and of being inactive
- Interesting results for females
  - Lower probability of working if the household receives remittances
  - But higher probability of inactivity if there are migrants in the household
- Results are consistent with my previous research on educational attainment