**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

**Title:** Age and gender differences in social network composition and social support among older rural South Africans: Findings from the HAALSI study

Included in this appendix are supplementary tables and figure, which space did not allow us to include in the full paper. They are listed below for ease of reference; the full tables and figure follow. Please see the main text for context and their relation to our main findings.

- Supplementary Table 1: Association between age & gender and number of unique at-least monthly alters stratified by contact type

- Supplementary Table 2: Association between age & gender and approximate monthly frequency of communication

- Supplementary Table 3: Impact of marital and employment status by gender on number of unique at-least monthly alters

- Supplementary Table 4: Association between age & gender and network density and tie multiplexity of at-least monthly contacts between alters

- Supplementary Table 5: Association between age & gender and number of unique providers of at-least monthly social support, stratified by type of support

- Supplementary Table 6: Association between age & gender and frequency of provision of social support per month, stratified by type of support

- Supplementary Table 7: Association between age & gender and unique at-least monthly alters, stratified by alter kinship

- Supplementary Figure 1: Sample of ego-centered cognitive social structures

- Supplementary Figure 2: Distribution of monthly communication contacts from important others

1

**Supplementary Table 1: Association between age & gender and number of unique at-least monthly alters stratified by contact type**

| | In-person | | | | Remote | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male 40-49 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Male 50-59 | 1.00 | [0.93 - 1.08] | 0.97 | [0.89 - 1.05] | 1.03 | [0.95 - 1.11] | 0.99 | [0.91 - 1.07] |
| Male 60-69 | 1.02 | [0.95 - 1.10] | 0.99 | [0.91 - 1.07] | 1.05 | [0.97 - 1.13] | 1.00 | [0.92 - 1.09] |
| Male 70-79 | 0.93 | [0.86 - 1.02] | 0.93 | [0.85 - 1.01] | 0.93 | [0.85 - 1.01] | 0.92 | [0.84 - 1.01] |
| Male 80+ | 0.88 | [0.79 - 0.97] | 0.89 | [0.80 - 1.00] | 0.80 | [0.72 - 0.89] | 0.82 | [0.73 - 0.92] |
| Female 40-49 | 0.94 | [0.87 - 1.02] | 0.93 | [0.85 - 1.01] | 1.06 | [0.98 - 1.15] | 1.03 | [0.95 - 1.11] |
| Female 50-59 | 0.96 | [0.89 - 1.03] | 0.99 | [0.91 - 1.07] | 1.03 | [0.96 - 1.11] | 1.05 | [0.97 - 1.14] |
| Female 60-69 | 0.88 | [0.82 - 0.95] | 0.97 | [0.89 - 1.05] | 0.95 | [0.88 - 1.03] | 1.03 | [0.95 - 1.13] |
| Female 70-79 | 0.79 | [0.73 - 0.87] | 0.93 | [0.84 - 1.03] | 0.81 | [0.74 - 0.89] | 0.95 | [0.86 - 1.05] |
| Female 80+ | 0.72 | [0.65 - 0.79] | 0.89 | [0.80 - 1.00] | 0.67 | [0.61 - 0.74] | 0.84 | [0.75 - 0.94] |
| No formal education | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Some primary (1-7 years) | | | 1.06 | [1.01 - 1.11] | | | 1.09 | [1.05 - 1.14] |
| Some secondary (8-11 years) | | | 1.09 | [1.02 - 1.17] | | | 1.16 | [1.09 - 1.24] |
| Secondary or more (12+ years) | | | 1.13 | [1.05 - 1.23] | | | 1.18 | [1.09 - 1.27] |
| South Africa | | | 1.00 | [1.00 - 1.00] | | | 1.00 | [1.00 - 1.00] |
| Mozambique/other | | | 0.97 | [0.93 - 1.02] | | | 0.99 | [0.94 - 1.03] |
| Not working | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Employed (part or full time) | | | 1.05 | [1.00 - 1.11] | | | 1.06 | [1.00 - 1.12] |
| Homemaker | | | 1.09 | [1.01 - 1.18] | | | 1.16 | [1.08 - 1.25] |
| Living alone | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Living with one other person | | | 1.05 | [0.97 - 1.14] | | | 1.04 | [0.96 - 1.13] |
| Living in 3-6 person household | | | 1.07 | [0.99 - 1.14] | | | 1.06 | [0.99 - 1.13] |
| Living in 7+ person household | | | 1.10 | [1.02 - 1.18] | | | 1.07 | [0.99 - 1.15] |
| Wealth asset index=1 | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Wealth asset index=2 | | | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.11] | | | 1.06 | [1.00 - 1.12] |
| Wealth asset index=3 | | | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.11] | | | 1.09 | [1.02 - 1.15] |
| Wealth asset index=4 | | | 1.02 | [0.96 - 1.08] | | | 1.08 | [1.02 - 1.14] |
| Wealth asset index=5 | | | 1.04 | [0.98 - 1.11] | | | 1.12 | [1.05 - 1.19] |
| Currently married | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Never married | | | 0.66 | [0.60 - 0.72] | | | 0.59 | [0.54 - 0.65] |
| Separated / divorced | | | 0.79 | [0.74 - 0.84] | | | 0.74 | [0.70 - 0.79] |
| Widowed | | | 0.75 | [0.71 - 0.78] | | | 0.75 | [0.71 - 0.78] |
| Gender differences ($\chi_1^2$) [†] | | | | | | | | |
| 40-49 | 2.0 | 0.159 | 3.3 | 0.070 | 1.9 | 0.165 | 0.4 | 0.516 |
| 50-59 | 1.7 | 0.196 | 0.3 | 0.593 | 0.0 | 0.913 | 3.6 | 0.057 |
| 60-69 | 18.3 | 0.000 | 0.4 | 0.512 | 9.2 | 0.002 | 0.8 | 0.382 |
| 70-79 | 14.2 | 0.000 | 0.0 | 0.932 | 10.1 | 0.001 | 0.6 | 0.449 |
| 80+ | 11.6 | 0.001 | 0.0 | 0.996 | 9.3 | 0.002 | 0.1 | 0.753 |
| Age differences ($\chi_4^2$) [††] | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 13.8 | 0.008 | 6.8 | 0.146 | 35.8 | 0.000 | 19.2 | 0.001 |
| Female | 59.6 | 0.000 | 6.7 | 0.151 | 137.9 | 0.000 | 26.8 | 0.000 |

These results are from two-level Poisson regression models also containing indicator variables for month of interview.  N=5059 for unadjusted models; N=5025 for adjusted models

**Supplementary Table 2: Association between age & gender and approximate monthly frequency of communication**

| | All | | | | In-person | | | | Remote | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male 40-49 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Male 50-59 | 0.96 | [0.87 - 1.05] | 0.93 | [0.85 - 1.02] | 0.95 | [0.85 - 1.07] | 0.91 | [0.81 - 1.02] | 0.99 | [0.87 - 1.13] | 1.04 | [0.91 - 1.19] |
| Male 60-69 | 0.99 | [0.90 - 1.08] | 0.95 | [0.87 - 1.05] | 0.95 | [0.85 - 1.06] | 0.90 | [0.80 - 1.01] | 1.06 | [0.93 - 1.21] | 1.12 | [0.97 - 1.28] |
| Male 70-79 | 0.92 | [0.83 - 1.02] | 0.91 | [0.82 - 1.01] | 0.92 | [0.81 - 1.05] | 0.89 | [0.78 - 1.01] | 0.91 | [0.79 - 1.05] | 1.01 | [0.87 - 1.17] |
| Male 80+ | 0.82 | [0.72 - 0.93] | 0.84 | [0.74 - 0.95] | 0.82 | [0.70 - 0.95] | 0.82 | [0.70 - 0.96] | 0.77 | [0.65 - 0.92] | 0.90 | [0.75 - 1.07] |
| Female 40-49 | 0.96 | [0.87 - 1.05] | 0.94 | [0.86 - 1.04] | 0.80 | [0.71 - 0.90] | 0.80 | [0.71 - 0.90] | 1.13 | [0.98 - 1.30] | 1.16 | [1.01 - 1.33] |
| Female 50-59 | 0.96 | [0.88 - 1.06] | 1.01 | [0.92 - 1.10] | 0.85 | [0.76 - 0.95] | 0.87 | [0.77 - 0.97] | 1.08 | [0.95 - 1.22] | 1.24 | [1.09 - 1.42] |
| Female 60-69 | 0.90 | [0.82 - 0.99] | 1.01 | [0.92 - 1.12] | 0.78 | [0.70 - 0.88] | 0.86 | [0.76 - 0.98] | 0.96 | [0.84 - 1.10] | 1.22 | [1.06 - 1.41] |
| Female 70-79 | 0.75 | [0.68 - 0.83] | 0.92 | [0.82 - 1.03] | 0.68 | [0.60 - 0.77] | 0.81 | [0.71 - 0.94] | 0.73 | [0.63 - 0.84] | 1.03 | [0.88 - 1.21] |
| Female 80+ | 0.67 | [0.60 - 0.75] | 0.87 | [0.78 - 0.99] | 0.63 | [0.55 - 0.72] | 0.81 | [0.69 - 0.94] | 0.62 | [0.53 - 0.72] | 0.96 | [0.81 - 1.14] |
| No formal education | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Some primary (1-7 years) | | | 1.08 | [1.02 - 1.13] | | | 1.04 | [0.97 - 1.10] | | | 1.17 | [1.09 - 1.26] |
| Some secondary (8-11 years) | | | 1.11 | [1.03 - 1.20] | | | 1.02 | [0.93 - 1.12] | | | 1.34 | [1.20 - 1.50] |
| Secondary or more (12+ years) | | | 1.15 | [1.04 - 1.26] | | | 1.03 | [0.91 - 1.15] | | | 1.54 | [1.35 - 1.76] |
| South Africa | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Mozambique/other | | | 1.02 | [0.97 - 1.07] | | | 0.98 | [0.92 - 1.05] | | | 1.02 | [0.95 - 1.10] |
| Not working | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Employed (part or full time) | | | 1.09 | [1.02 - 1.16] | | | 1.08 | [1.00 - 1.17] | | | 1.06 | [0.97 - 1.16] |
| Homemaker | | | 1.09 | [1.02 - 1.17] | | | 0.91 | [0.84 - 0.99] | | | 1.01 | [0.91 - 1.11] |
| Living alone | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Living with one other person | | | 1.17 | [1.07 - 1.28] | | | 1.17 | [1.05 - 1.31] | | | 1.16 | [1.02 - 1.31] |
| Living in 3-6 person household | | | 1.17 | [1.09 - 1.26] | | | 1.24 | [1.13 - 1.36] | | | 1.14 | [1.03 - 1.27] |
| Living in 7+ person household | | | 1.20 | [1.11 - 1.30] | | | 1.29 | [1.17 - 1.43] | | | 1.13 | [1.01 - 1.26] |
| Wealth asset index=1 | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Wealth asset index=2 | | | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.12] | | | 1.02 | [0.94 - 1.10] | | | 1.05 | [0.96 - 1.15] |
| Wealth asset index=3 | | | 1.06 | [0.99 - 1.13] | | | 1.00 | [0.92 - 1.09] | | | 1.17 | [1.07 - 1.29] |
| Wealth asset index=4 | | | 1.02 | [0.96 - 1.09] | | | 0.95 | [0.87 - 1.03] | | | 1.10 | [1.00 - 1.21] |
| Wealth asset index=5 | | | 1.08 | [1.00 - 1.16] | | | 0.99 | [0.90 - 1.08] | | | 1.23 | [1.11 - 1.36] |
| Currently married | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Never married | | | 0.65 | [0.59 - 0.71] | | | 0.66 | [0.59 - 0.75] | | | 0.56 | [0.49 - 0.64] |
| Separated / divorced | | | 0.73 | [0.68 - 0.78] | | | 0.73 | [0.67 - 0.80] | | | 0.68 | [0.61 - 0.75] |
| Widowed | | | 0.70 | [0.66 - 0.74] | | | 0.67 | [0.63 - 0.72] | | | 0.70 | [0.64 - 0.76] |
| Gender differences ($\chi^2_1$) [†] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40-49 | 0.8 | 0.362 | 1.6 | 0.210 | 13.4 | 0.000 | 13.9 | 0.000 | 2.9 | 0.090 | 4.7 | 0.031 |
| 50-59 | 0.0 | 0.887 | 3.6 | 0.057 | 5.6 | 0.018 | 0.9 | 0.356 | 2.2 | 0.141 | 9.5 | 0.002 |
| 60-69 | 4.5 | 0.033 | 2.1 | 0.144 | 14.5 | 0.000 | 0.6 | 0.440 | 2.9 | 0.087 | 2.4 | 0.124 |
| 70-79 | 15.7 | 0.000 | 0.0 | 0.890 | 24.9 | 0.000 | 1.9 | 0.166 | 10.1 | 0.001 | 0.2 | 0.694 |
| 80+ | 9.7 | 0.002 | 0.4 | 0.528 | 10.9 | 0.001 | 0.0 | 0.887 | 6.0 | 0.014 | 0.5 | 0.477 |
| Age differences ($\chi^2_4$) [††] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 12.4 | 0.015 | 8.3 | 0.080 | 7.1 | 0.132 | 6.7 | 0.151 | 16.2 | 0.003 | 8.4 | 0.077 |
| Female | 80.6 | 0.000 | 13.6 | 0.009 | 34.4 | 0.000 | 4.4 | 0.358 | 104.3 | 0.000 | 18.8 | 0.001 |

These results are from two-level negative binomial regression models also containing indicator variables for month of interview. N=5059 for unadjusted models; N=5025 for adjusted models. All coefficients are incidence rate ratios and 95% confidence intervals, except for [†] and [††], which are Z-scores and p-values. Tests of difference for age by gender interaction terms: [†] across gender (e.g. Male 50-59 vs Female 50-59); and [††] across age (i.e. are all five Male coefficients equal to one-another).

3

**Supplementary Table 3: Impact of marital and employment status by gender on number of unique at-least monthly alters**

| | Model 1 | | Model 2 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male 40-49 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Male 50-59 | 0.98 | [0.91 - 1.06] | 0.98 | [0.91 - 1.06] |
| Male 60-69 | 1.00 | [0.93 - 1.08] | 1.00 | [0.92 - 1.08] |
| Male 70-79 | 0.94 | [0.86 - 1.02] | 0.93 | [0.85 - 1.02] |
| Male 80+ | 0.90 | [0.81 - 1.00] | 0.90 | [0.80 - 1.00] |
| Female 40-49 | 1.02 | [0.93 - 1.12] | 1.00 | [0.92 - 1.09] |
| Female 50-59 | 1.07 | [0.98 - 1.17] | 1.04 | [0.96 - 1.13] |
| Female 60-69 | 1.07 | [0.98 - 1.17] | 1.03 | [0.95 - 1.12] |
| Female 70-79 | 1.01 | [0.92 - 1.12] | 0.97 | [0.89 - 1.07] |
| Female 80+ | 0.95 | [0.85 - 1.05] | 0.91 | [0.82 - 1.01] |
| No formal education | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Some primary (1-7 years) | 1.06 | [1.01 - 1.10] | 1.05 | [1.01 - 1.10] |
| Some secondary (8-11 years) | 1.09 | [1.03 - 1.16] | 1.09 | [1.03 - 1.16] |
| Secondary or more (12+ years) | 1.11 | [1.03 - 1.19] | 1.12 | [1.04 - 1.20] |
| South Africa | 1.00 | [1.00 - 1.00] | 1.00 | [1.00 - 1.00] |
| Mozambique/other | 1.00 | [0.96 - 1.05] | 1.00 | [0.96 - 1.04] |
| Not working | 1.00 | | | |
| Employed (part or full time) | 1.05 | [1.00 - 1.10] | | |
| Homemaker | 1.16 | [1.08 - 1.24] | | |
| Living alone | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Living with one other person | 1.03 | [0.96 - 1.12] | 1.05 | [0.97 - 1.14] |
| Living in 3-6 person household | 1.03 | [0.97 - 1.11] | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.12] |
| Living in 7+ person household | 1.05 | [0.98 - 1.13] | 1.07 | [1.00 - 1.15] |
| Wealth asset index=1 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Wealth asset index=2 | 1.04 | [0.98 - 1.09] | 1.04 | [0.98 - 1.09] |
| Wealth asset index=3 | 1.05 | [1.00 - 1.11] | 1.06 | [1.00 - 1.11] |
| Wealth asset index=4 | 1.02 | [0.96 - 1.07] | 1.02 | [0.96 - 1.07] |
| Wealth asset index=5 | 1.06 | [1.00 - 1.12] | 1.06 | [1.00 - 1.12] |
| Currently married | | | 1.00 | |
| Never married | | | 0.65 | [0.60 - 0.71] |
| Separated / divorced | | | 0.77 | [0.73 - 0.82] |
| Widowed | | | 0.76 | [0.73 - 0.79] |
| Currently married & male [†] | 1.39 | [1.31 - 1.48] | | |
| Currently married & female [†] | 0.94 | [0.87 - 1.02] | | |
| Employed vs not employed | | | 1.05 | [0.98 - 1.12] |
| Employed & female | | | 0.94 | [0.85 - 1.03] |

These results are from two-level Poisson regression models also containing indicator variables for month of interview. N=5025. [†] Compared to same-gender respondents who were never married, separated, divorced or widowed.

**Supplementary Table 4: Association between age & gender and network density and tie multiplexity of at-least monthly contacts between alters**

| | Network density | | | | Tie multiplexity | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male 40-49 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Male 50-59 | 0.98 | [0.95 - 1.02] | 0.98 | [0.94 - 1.02] | 1.00 | [0.92 - 1.09] | 0.99 | [0.90 - 1.08] |
| Male 60-69 | 0.99 | [0.95 - 1.03] | 0.98 | [0.94 - 1.02] | 0.92 | [0.84 - 1.01] | 0.91 | [0.83 - 1.00] |
| Male 70-79 | 1.03 | [0.99 - 1.07] | 1.01 | [0.96 - 1.05] | 1.02 | [0.92 - 1.12] | 1.02 | [0.92 - 1.13] |
| Male 80+ | 1.04 | [0.99 - 1.10] | 1.02 | [0.96 - 1.07] | 0.93 | [0.82 - 1.05] | 0.95 | [0.84 - 1.08] |
| Female 40-49 | 0.95 | [0.91 - 0.99] | 0.95 | [0.91 - 0.99] | 1.00 | [0.91 - 1.10] | 1.00 | [0.91 - 1.09] |
| Female 50-59 | 0.98 | [0.95 - 1.02] | 0.97 | [0.94 - 1.01] | 1.02 | [0.94 - 1.11] | 1.04 | [0.95 - 1.13] |
| Female 60-69 | 1.01 | [0.97 - 1.05] | 1.00 | [0.96 - 1.04] | 0.95 | [0.87 - 1.05] | 0.99 | [0.90 - 1.09] |
| Female 70-79 | 1.01 | [0.97 - 1.06] | 1.00 | [0.96 - 1.05] | 0.95 | [0.86 - 1.05] | 1.02 | [0.91 - 1.14] |
| Female 80+ | 1.01 | [0.96 - 1.06] | 1.00 | [0.95 - 1.05] | 1.02 | [0.92 - 1.14] | 1.13 | [1.00 - 1.28] |
| Unique contacts | | | | | | | | |
| Two | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | | | | |
| Three | 0.98 | [0.96 - 1.00] | 0.97 | [0.95 - 0.99] | | | | |
| Four | 0.97 | [0.94 - 1.00] | 0.96 | [0.93 - 0.99] | | | | |
| Five | 0.96 | [0.92 - 0.99] | 0.95 | [0.91 - 0.98] | | | | |
| Six | 0.92 | [0.88 - 0.96] | 0.92 | [0.88 - 0.95] | | | | |
| Seven | 0.95 | [0.90 - 1.00] | 0.93 | [0.89 - 0.98] | | | | |
| No formal education | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Some primary (1-7 years) | | | 0.99 | [0.97 - 1.02] | | | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.10] |
| Some secondary (8-11 years) | | | 0.97 | [0.94 - 1.00] | | | 1.02 | [0.95 - 1.10] |
| Secondary or more (12+ years) | | | 0.97 | [0.93 - 1.01] | | | 0.99 | [0.91 - 1.09] |
| South Africa | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Mozambique/other | | | 1.00 | [0.98 - 1.02] | | | 0.99 | [0.94 - 1.04] |
| Not working | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Employed (part or full time) | | | 0.98 | [0.95 - 1.00] | | | 0.99 | [0.93 - 1.06] |
| Homemaker | | | 0.96 | [0.92 - 1.00] | | | 0.84 | [0.76 - 0.92] |
| Living alone | | | 1.00 | [1.00 - 1.00] | | | 1.00 | |
| Living with one other person | | | 1.06 | [1.02 - 1.10] | | | 1.08 | [0.99 - 1.18] |
| Living in 3-6 person household | | | 1.05 | [1.02 - 1.09] | | | 1.13 | [1.04 - 1.21] |
| Living in 7+ person household | | | 1.06 | [1.02 - 1.10] | | | 1.13 | [1.05 - 1.23] |
| Wealth asset index=1 | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Wealth asset index=2 | | | 1.00 | [0.97 - 1.03] | | | 0.98 | [0.92 - 1.04] |
| Wealth asset index=3 | | | 1.00 | [0.97 - 1.03] | | | 0.97 | [0.91 - 1.04] |
| Wealth asset index=4 | | | 1.00 | [0.97 - 1.03] | | | 0.96 | [0.90 - 1.02] |
| Wealth asset index=5 | | | 0.98 | [0.95 - 1.01] | | | 1.01 | [0.94 - 1.08] |
| Currently married | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Never married | | | 0.98 | [0.94 - 1.03] | | | 0.93 | [0.85 - 1.02] |
| Separated / divorced | | | 0.98 | [0.95 - 1.01] | | | 0.91 | [0.85 - 0.97] |
| Widowed | | | 0.98 | [0.95 - 1.00] | | | 0.89 | [0.84 - 0.94] |
| N | 4098 | | 4075 | | 4792 | | 4765 | |

These results are from two-level linear regression models also containing indicator variables for month of interview. [*] All density models only include respondents reporting >1 alter, since a minimum of two alters is required for calculation.

**Supplementary Table 5: Association between age & gender and number of unique providers of at-least monthly social support, stratified by type of support**

| | Informational | | Emotional | | Financial | | Physical | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male 40-49 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Male 50-59 | 0.96 | [0.89 - 1.04] | 0.94 | [0.86 - 1.02] | 0.96 | [0.87 - 1.05] | 0.97 | [0.89 - 1.06] |
| Male 60-69 | 0.97 | [0.89 - 1.06] | 0.97 | [0.90 - 1.06] | 0.90 | [0.81 - 0.99] | 0.98 | [0.89 - 1.07] |
| Male 70-79 | 0.91 | [0.83 - 1.00] | 0.89 | [0.81 - 0.98] | 0.89 | [0.80 - 1.00] | 0.94 | [0.85 - 1.04] |
| Male 80+ | 0.86 | [0.76 - 0.96] | 0.84 | [0.75 - 0.95] | 0.85 | [0.74 - 0.98] | 0.88 | [0.77 - 0.99] |
| Female 40-49 | 0.96 | [0.88 - 1.04] | 0.97 | [0.89 - 1.05] | 0.95 | [0.86 - 1.06] | 0.95 | [0.87 - 1.04] |
| Female 50-59 | 1.01 | [0.93 - 1.09] | 1.02 | [0.94 - 1.10] | 1.08 | [0.98 - 1.19] | 0.99 | [0.91 - 1.08] |
| Female 60-69 | 1.01 | [0.92 - 1.10] | 0.99 | [0.90 - 1.08] | 0.99 | [0.89 - 1.10] | 0.97 | [0.88 - 1.07] |
| Female 70-79 | 0.95 | [0.86 - 1.05] | 0.93 | [0.84 - 1.03] | 0.99 | [0.87 - 1.11] | 0.94 | [0.84 - 1.05] |
| Female 80+ | 0.91 | [0.81 - 1.02] | 0.90 | [0.80 - 1.00] | 0.99 | [0.86 - 1.13] | 0.91 | [0.81 - 1.03] |
| No formal education | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Some primary (1-7 years) | 1.07 | [1.02 - 1.12] | 1.09 | [1.04 - 1.14] | 1.09 | [1.03 - 1.15] | 1.08 | [1.03 - 1.13] |
| Some secondary (8-11 years) | 1.12 | [1.05 - 1.20] | 1.14 | [1.07 - 1.22] | 1.09 | [1.00 - 1.18] | 1.10 | [1.02 - 1.18] |
| Secondary or more (12+ years) | 1.11 | [1.02 - 1.20] | 1.10 | [1.01 - 1.19] | 1.04 | [0.95 - 1.15] | 1.13 | [1.03 - 1.23] |
| South Africa | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Mozambique/other | 1.00 | [0.96 - 1.05] | 0.99 | [0.94 - 1.03] | 1.00 | [0.94 - 1.05] | 0.99 | [0.94 - 1.04] |
| Not working | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Employed (part or full time) | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.11] | 1.03 | [0.98 - 1.09] | 1.02 | [0.95 - 1.09] | 1.03 | [0.97 - 1.09] |
| Homemaker | 1.18 | [1.09 - 1.28] | 1.06 | [0.97 - 1.15] | 0.92 | [0.82 - 1.03] | 0.96 | [0.87 - 1.05] |
| Living alone | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | [1.00 - 1.00] | 1.00 | [1.00 - 1.00] |
| Living with one other person | 1.04 | [0.96 - 1.14] | 1.06 | [0.97 - 1.15] | 1.08 | [0.98 - 1.20] | 1.07 | [0.98 - 1.18] |
| Living in 3-6 person household | 1.05 | [0.98 - 1.13] | 1.05 | [0.98 - 1.13] | 1.11 | [1.02 - 1.21] | 1.10 | [1.01 - 1.19] |
| Living in 7+ person household | 1.07 | [1.00 - 1.16] | 1.06 | [0.98 - 1.14] | 1.12 | [1.02 - 1.23] | 1.14 | [1.05 - 1.24] |
| Wealth asset index=1 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Wealth asset index=2 | 1.03 | [0.98 - 1.09] | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.11] | 1.02 | [0.95 - 1.10] | 1.06 | [0.99 - 1.13] |
| Wealth asset index=3 | 1.03 | [0.97 - 1.09] | 1.03 | [0.97 - 1.09] | 1.03 | [0.96 - 1.10] | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.12] |
| Wealth asset index=4 | 0.99 | [0.94 - 1.06] | 1.01 | [0.95 - 1.07] | 0.97 | [0.90 - 1.04] | 1.00 | [0.94 - 1.07] |
| Wealth asset index=5 | 1.05 | [0.99 - 1.12] | 1.05 | [0.98 - 1.11] | 1.03 | [0.96 - 1.11] | 1.08 | [1.01 - 1.16] |
| Currently married | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Never married | 0.63 | [0.57 - 0.69] | 0.62 | [0.56 - 0.68] | 0.64 | [0.57 - 0.71] | 0.62 | [0.56 - 0.69] |
| Separated / divorced | 0.75 | [0.71 - 0.80] | 0.75 | [0.70 - 0.80] | 0.72 | [0.67 - 0.78] | 0.75 | [0.70 - 0.80] |
| Widowed | 0.74 | [0.71 - 0.78] | 0.75 | [0.71 - 0.79] | 0.68 | [0.64 - 0.72] | 0.72 | [0.69 - 0.76] |
| Gender differences ($\chi^2_1$) [†] | | | | | | | | |
| 40-49 | 1.1 | 0.30 | 0.6 | 0.44 | 0.8 | 0.36 | 1.2 | 0.270 |
| 50-59 | 2.1 | 0.15 | 5.5 | 0.02 | 8.7 | 0.00 | 0.4 | 0.547 |
| 60-69 | 1.0 | 0.32 | 0.2 | 0.70 | 5.2 | 0.023 | 0.0 | 0.941 |
| 70-79 | 0.7 | 0.39 | 1.1 | 0.30 | 3.5 | 0.06 | 0.0 | 0.993 |
| 80+ | 1.0 | 0.31 | 1.0 | 0.31 | 4.0 | 0.04 | 0.3 | 0.56 |
| Age differences ($\chi^2_4$) [††] | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 9.4 | 0.05 | 13.8 | 0.01 | 7.7 | 0.10 | 5.2 | 0.27 |
| Female | 7.9 | 0.09 | 9.0 | 0.06 | 10.0 | 0.04 | 3.7 | 0.45 |

These results are from two-level Poisson regression models also containing indicator variables for month of interview. N=5025. All coefficients are incidence rate ratios and 95% confidence intervals, except for [†] and [††], which are Z-scores and p-values. Tests of difference for age by gender interaction terms: [†] across gender (e.g. Male 50-59 vs Female 50-59); and [††] across age (i.e. are all five Male coefficients equal to one-another).

**Supplementary Table 6: Association between age & gender and frequency of provision of social support per month, stratified by type of support**

| | Informational | | Emotional | | Financial | | Physical | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Unadjusted models** | | | | | | | | |
| Male 40-49 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Male 50-59 | 0.98 | [0.85 - 1.12] | 1.02 | [0.88 - 1.18] | 0.98 | [0.82 - 1.17] | 1.02 | [0.88 - 1.18] |
| Male 60-69 | 1.09 | [0.95 - 1.26] | 1.16 | [1.00 - 1.34] | 1.08 | [0.90 - 1.29] | 1.05 | [0.90 - 1.21] |
| Male 70-79 | 0.91 | [0.78 - 1.05] | 1.01 | [0.86 - 1.18] | 1.01 | [0.83 - 1.23] | 1.03 | [0.88 - 1.21] |
| Male 80+ | 0.87 | [0.72 - 1.05] | 0.87 | [0.72 - 1.06] | 1.07 | [0.84 - 1.36] | 0.93 | [0.76 - 1.13] |
| Female 40-49 | 0.99 | [0.85 - 1.14] | 1.11 | [0.95 - 1.30] | 0.74 | [0.61 - 0.89] | 0.81 | [0.69 - 0.94] |
| Female 50-59 | 0.92 | [0.81 - 1.06] | 1.02 | [0.89 - 1.18] | 0.87 | [0.73 - 1.03] | 0.81 | [0.70 - 0.93] |
| Female 60-69 | 0.91 | [0.79 - 1.05] | 0.91 | [0.78 - 1.05] | 0.71 | [0.59 - 0.85] | 0.71 | [0.61 - 0.83] |
| Female 70-79 | 0.67 | [0.58 - 0.79] | 0.72 | [0.61 - 0.84] | 0.61 | [0.49 - 0.74] | 0.58 | [0.49 - 0.68] |
| Female 80+ | 0.65 | [0.55 - 0.77] | 0.74 | [0.62 - 0.88] | 0.72 | [0.58 - 0.89] | 0.70 | [0.59 - 0.83] |
| **Adjusted models** | | | | | | | | |
| Male 40-49 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Male 50-59 | 0.94 | [0.81 - 1.08] | 0.96 | [0.82 - 1.12] | 0.97 | [0.81 - 1.16] | 0.97 | [0.84 - 1.12] |
| Male 60-69 | 1.01 | [0.87 - 1.18] | 1.06 | [0.90 - 1.25] | 0.97 | [0.81 - 1.18] | 0.97 | [0.83 - 1.13] |
| Male 70-79 | 0.87 | [0.74 - 1.03] | 0.95 | [0.79 - 1.13] | 0.98 | [0.80 - 1.21] | 1.01 | [0.86 - 1.20] |
| Male 80+ | 0.87 | [0.71 - 1.06] | 0.91 | [0.73 - 1.12] | 1.08 | [0.84 - 1.38] | 0.97 | [0.80 - 1.19] |
| Female 40-49 | 0.96 | [0.83 - 1.11] | 1.00 | [0.86 - 1.18] | 0.75 | [0.62 - 0.90] | 0.80 | [0.68 - 0.93] |
| Female 50-59 | 0.97 | [0.85 - 1.12] | 1.04 | [0.89 - 1.21] | 0.96 | [0.80 - 1.16] | 0.86 | [0.74 - 0.99] |
| Female 60-69 | 1.02 | [0.88 - 1.20] | 1.00 | [0.84 - 1.18] | 0.85 | [0.70 - 1.04] | 0.85 | [0.73 - 1.00] |
| Female 70-79 | 0.86 | [0.72 - 1.02] | 0.85 | [0.70 - 1.02] | 0.87 | [0.70 - 1.08] | 0.78 | [0.65 - 0.94] |
| Female 80+ | 0.91 | [0.76 - 1.10] | 0.96 | [0.78 - 1.18] | 1.19 | [0.93 - 1.51] | 1.09 | [0.90 - 1.33] |
| No formal education | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Some primary (1-7 years) | 1.11 | [1.01 - 1.21] | 1.09 | [1.00 - 1.18] | 1.14 | [1.03 - 1.26] | 1.17 | [1.08 - 1.27] |
| Some secondary (8-11 years) | 1.15 | [1.00 - 1.31] | 1.28 | [1.12 - 1.45] | 1.10 | [0.95 - 1.28] | 1.17 | [1.04 - 1.32] |
| Secondary or more (12+ years) | 1.17 | [1.00 - 1.38] | 1.07 | [0.92 - 1.25] | 1.08 | [0.90 - 1.30] | 1.22 | [1.05 - 1.41] |
| South Africa | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Mozambique/other | 1.11 | [1.02 - 1.20] | 1.14 | [1.04 - 1.24] | 0.99 | [0.90 - 1.10] | 1.00 | [0.92 - 1.08] |
| Not working | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Employed (part or full time) | 1.08 | [0.98 - 1.18] | 1.05 | [0.95 - 1.16] | 0.90 | [0.80 - 1.02] | 1.02 | [0.93 - 1.13] |
| Homemaker | 1.24 | [1.12 - 1.38] | 1.11 | [0.99 - 1.25] | 0.40 | [0.34 - 0.46] | 0.68 | [0.62 - 0.76] |
| Living alone | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Living with one other person | 1.28 | [1.11 - 1.47] | 1.34 | [1.15 - 1.56] | 1.51 | [1.26 - 1.81] | 1.26 | [1.09 - 1.45] |
| Living in 3-6 person household | 1.19 | [1.07 - 1.33] | 1.31 | [1.16 - 1.48] | 1.56 | [1.34 - 1.80] | 1.41 | [1.25 - 1.59] |
| Living in 7+ person household | 1.22 | [1.08 - 1.37] | 1.29 | [1.13 - 1.47] | 1.58 | [1.35 - 1.85] | 1.50 | [1.32 - 1.70] |
| Wealth asset index=1 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Wealth asset index=2 | 0.93 | [0.84 - 1.02] | 1.00 | [0.90 - 1.11] | 1.03 | [0.91 - 1.17] | 0.97 | [0.88 - 1.07] |
| Wealth asset index=3 | 0.97 | [0.88 - 1.07] | 1.00 | [0.90 - 1.12] | 0.97 | [0.85 - 1.10] | 0.99 | [0.90 - 1.10] |
| Wealth asset index=4 | 0.96 | [0.87 - 1.06] | 0.90 | [0.80 - 1.00] | 0.97 | [0.85 - 1.10] | 0.95 | [0.85 - 1.05] |
| Wealth asset index=5 | 1.03 | [0.92 - 1.14] | 0.99 | [0.88 - 1.11] | 1.01 | [0.88 - 1.16] | 1.04 | [0.93 - 1.16] |
| Currently married | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Never married | 0.57 | [0.49 - 0.66] | 0.66 | [0.56 - 0.77] | 0.72 | [0.60 - 0.87] | 0.52 | [0.45 - 0.60] |
| Separated / divorced | 0.67 | [0.61 - 0.75] | 0.69 | [0.62 - 0.77] | 0.58 | [0.51 - 0.66] | 0.62 | [0.56 - 0.70] |
| Widowed | 0.63 | [0.58 - 0.69] | 0.67 | [0.61 - 0.74] | 0.52 | [0.47 - 0.58] | 0.57 | [0.52 - 0.62] |

These results are from two-level Poisson regression models also containing indicator variables for month of interview. N=5059 for unadjusted and N=5025 for adjusted models.

**Supplementary Table 7: Association between age & gender and unique at-least monthly alters, stratified by alter kinship**

| | Kin | | | | Non-kin | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age & gender** | | | | | | | | |
| Male 40-49 | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | | 1.00 | |
| Male 50-59 | 1.08 | [0.99 - 1.18] | 1.02 | [0.93 - 1.12] | 0.86 | [0.72 - 1.03] | 0.88 | [0.73 - 1.06] |
| Male 60-69 | 1.17 | [1.07 - 1.27] | 1.07 | [0.98 - 1.18] | 0.73 | [0.61 - 0.88] | 0.78 | [0.64 - 0.96] |
| Male 70-79 | 1.04 | [0.95 - 1.14] | 0.98 | [0.89 - 1.09] | 0.71 | [0.58 - 0.86] | 0.77 | [0.62 - 0.96] |
| Male 80+ | 1.03 | [0.92 - 1.15] | 0.99 | [0.88 - 1.11] | 0.53 | [0.41 - 0.70] | 0.59 | [0.45 - 0.79] |
| Female 40-49 | 1.09 | [1.00 - 1.20] | 1.06 | [0.97 - 1.16] | 0.77 | [0.64 - 0.94] | 0.77 | [0.64 - 0.94] |
| Female 50-59 | 1.10 | [1.01 - 1.19] | 1.10 | [1.01 - 1.20] | 0.76 | [0.64 - 0.91] | 0.80 | [0.66 - 0.96] |
| Female 60-69 | 1.08 | [0.99 - 1.17] | 1.15 | [1.04 - 1.26] | 0.61 | [0.50 - 0.73] | 0.66 | [0.54 - 0.82] |
| Female 70-79 | 0.99 | [0.90 - 1.09] | 1.14 | [1.02 - 1.26] | 0.44 | [0.35 - 0.55] | 0.49 | [0.38 - 0.62] |
| Female 80+ | 0.92 | [0.83 - 1.01] | 1.12 | [1.00 - 1.26] | 0.32 | [0.24 - 0.41] | 0.35 | [0.26 - 0.47] |
| **Education level** | | | | | | | | |
| No formal education | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Some primary (1-7 years) | | | 1.05 | [1.00 - 1.10] | | | 1.05 | [0.94 - 1.18] |
| Some secondary (8-11 years) | | | 1.09 | [1.02 - 1.17] | | | 1.12 | [0.95 - 1.32] |
| Secondary or more (12+ years) | | | 1.10 | [1.01 - 1.20] | | | 1.15 | [0.95 - 1.40] |
| **Country of origin** | | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Mozambique/other | | | 1.01 | [0.97 - 1.06] | | | 0.97 | [0.87 - 1.09] |
| **Marital status** | | | | | | | | |
| Currently married | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Never married | | | 0.57 | [0.51 - 0.63] | | | 0.95 | [0.78 - 1.15] |
| Separated/divorced | | | 0.71 | [0.67 - 0.76] | | | 1.01 | [0.88 - 1.18] |
| Widowed | | | 0.70 | [0.67 - 0.74] | | | 1.01 | [0.90 - 1.14] |
| **Employment status** | | | | | | | | |
| Not working | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Employed (part or full time) | | | 1.03 | [0.97 - 1.10] | | | 1.10 | [0.96 - 1.25] |
| Not working outside the home | | | 1.23 | [1.13 - 1.32] | | | 0.85 | [0.70 - 1.04] |
| **Household composition** | | | | | | | | |
| Living alone | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Living with one other person | | | 1.08 | [0.99 - 1.18] | | | 0.93 | [0.76 - 1.14] |
| Living in 3-6 person household | | | 1.04 | [0.97 - 1.13] | | | 1.09 | [0.93 - 1.29] |
| Living in 7+ person household | | | 1.09 | [1.00 - 1.17] | | | 1.01 | [0.85 - 1.21] |
| **Wealth index** | | | | | | | | |
| Least wealthy quintile | | | 1.00 | | | | 1.00 | |
| Quintile 2 | | | 1.03 | [0.97 - 1.09] | | | 1.08 | [0.94 - 1.24] |
| Quintile 3 | | | 1.09 | [1.02 - 1.15] | | | 0.94 | [0.81 - 1.08] |
| Quintile 4 | | | 1.06 | [1.00 - 1.13] | | | 0.86 | [0.74 - 1.00] |
| Most wealthy quintile | | | 1.07 | [1.00 - 1.14] | | | 1.05 | [0.90 - 1.22] |

These results are from two-level Poisson regression models also containing indicator variables for month of interview. N=5059 for unadjusted and N=5025 for adjusted models.

**Supplementary Figure 1: Sample of ego-centered cognitive social structures**
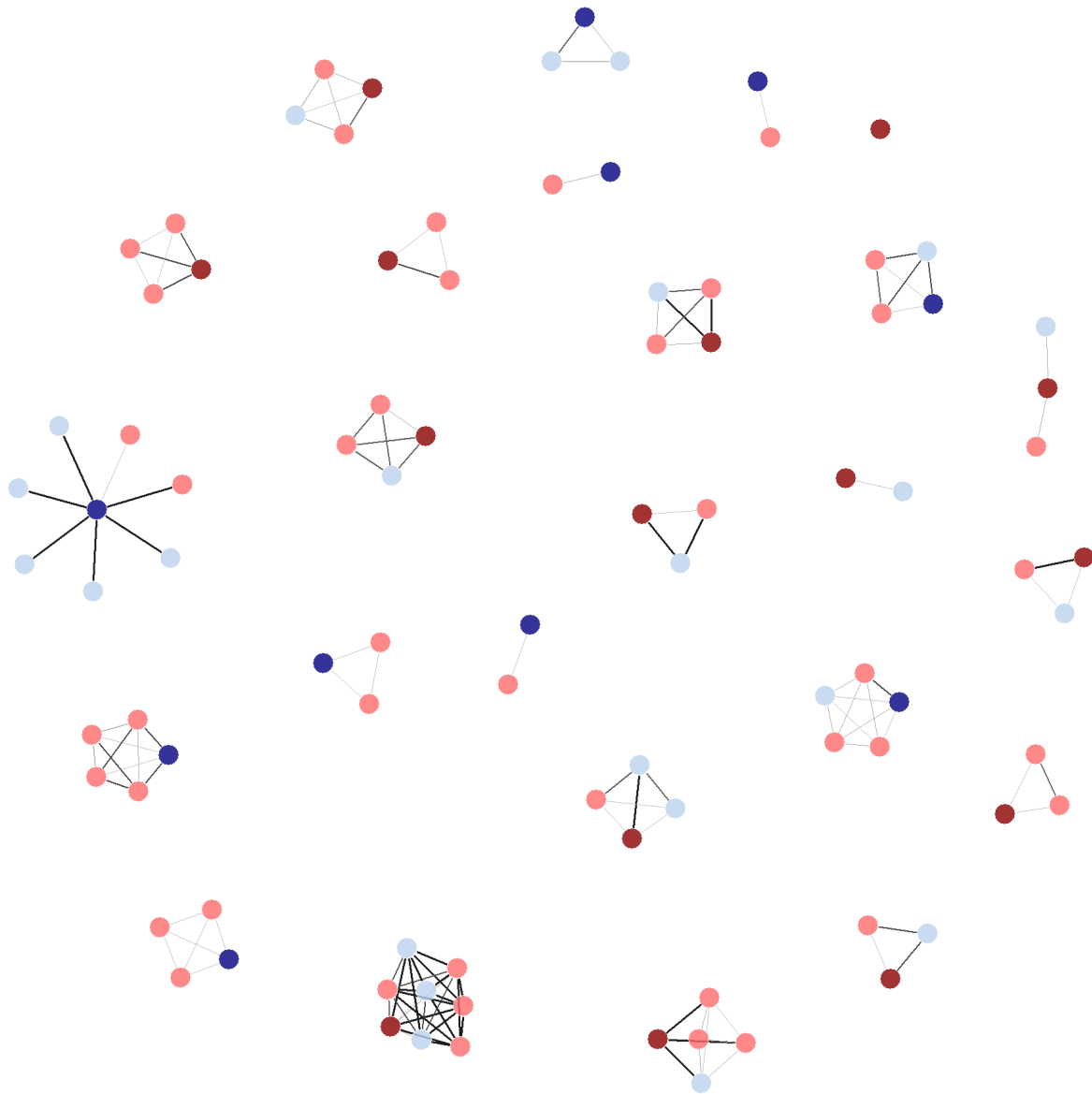


Each of the 25 connected sets of nodes represents the *ego-centered cognitive social structure*, or "egonet", of one respondent. Nodes are colored by gender (blue for male, red for female) and dark nodes represent the respondent in each egonet. Edges here represent frequency of face-to-face contact, with darker lines representing more-frequent contact.

**Supplementary Figure 2: Distribution of monthly communication contacts from important others**
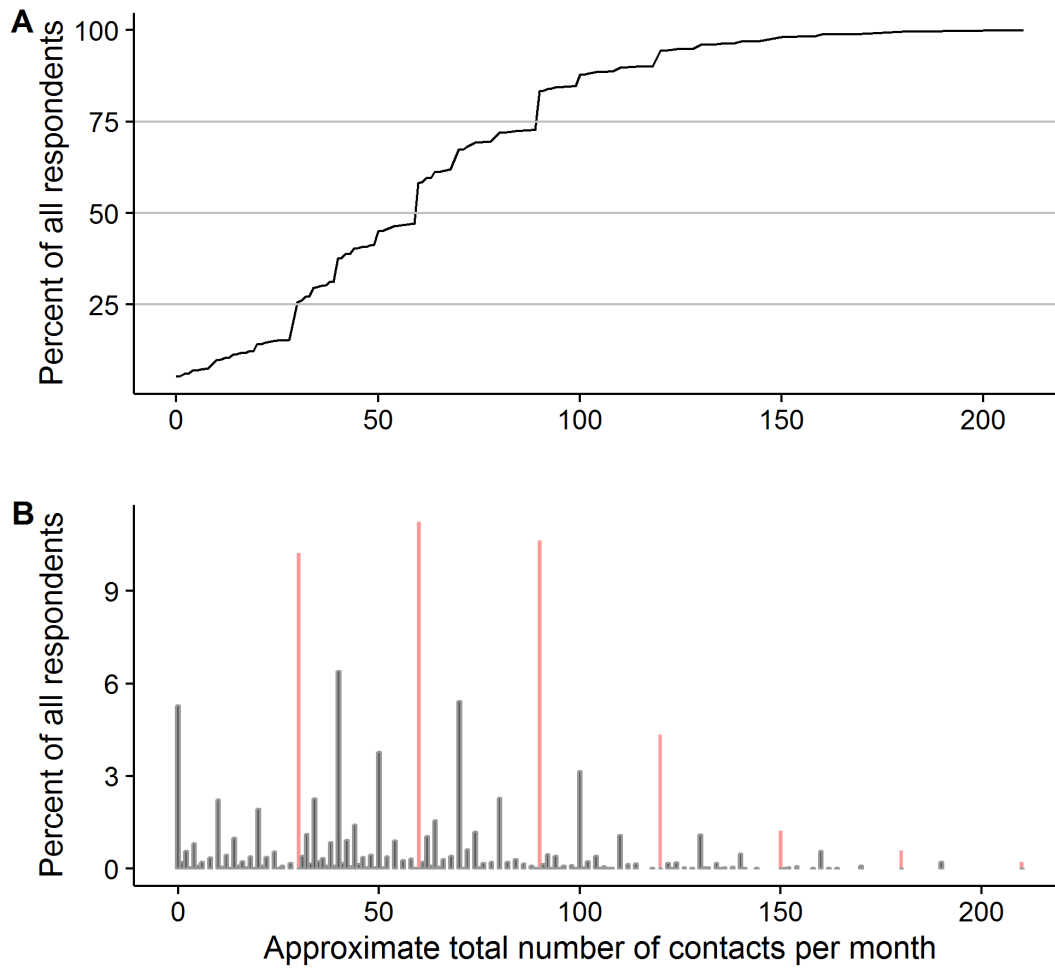


Cumulative distribution (panel A) and point frequency (B) of number of average monthly communication contacts with important others. Pale red bars in panel B are at multiples of 30 contacts.