

Social capital and civic engagement in transition to early adulthood: a cohort study

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Context: Epiteen Project

Longitudinal study: cohort born in 1990 (Oporto, ISPUP, UP – ISCSP, UL)

Waves: (surveys & medical exams)

13yo (2003/4) – n=2160



17yo (2007/8) – n=2512



21yo (2011/13) – n= 1761



24yo (2014/15) – ongoing



Social Capital

- **Resources** that are potentially available *and can be mobilized* from our **social ties** (Bourdieu, 1980; Lin, 2001).

- **Dimensions:** bonding
bridging

Affects young people **differently**, depending on social class or ethnicity (McDonald et al., 2005; Holland, 2007; Reynolds, 2007)

Civic Engagement

- Individual and collective **involvement** in **public affairs** and in the **life** of their **communities** (Putnam, 1995; Park & Perry, 2008)
- Are **young** people **civically disengaged**? Or are we only considering **traditional** engagement processes? (Furlong, 2009)
- **Opportunities** for civic engagement are **not** evenly **distributed** across social class, race, ethnicity, & education (Flanagan & Levine, 2010)

Research Questions

1. Does **social capital** change in **transition** to **early adulthood**?
2. Does **civic engagement** change in **transition** to **early adulthood**?
3. Which **socio-demographics** predict **social capital & civic engagement**?

Methods

Epiteen project: 17 (n=2512) & 21 years old (n = 1761)

Mixed-methods approach:

- Survey (Wave 2 & 3, n = 1650, 52% F)
- Semi-structured interviews (n = 70)

Preliminary Results: Social Capital

- **Expressive Resources** (Lin, 2001)

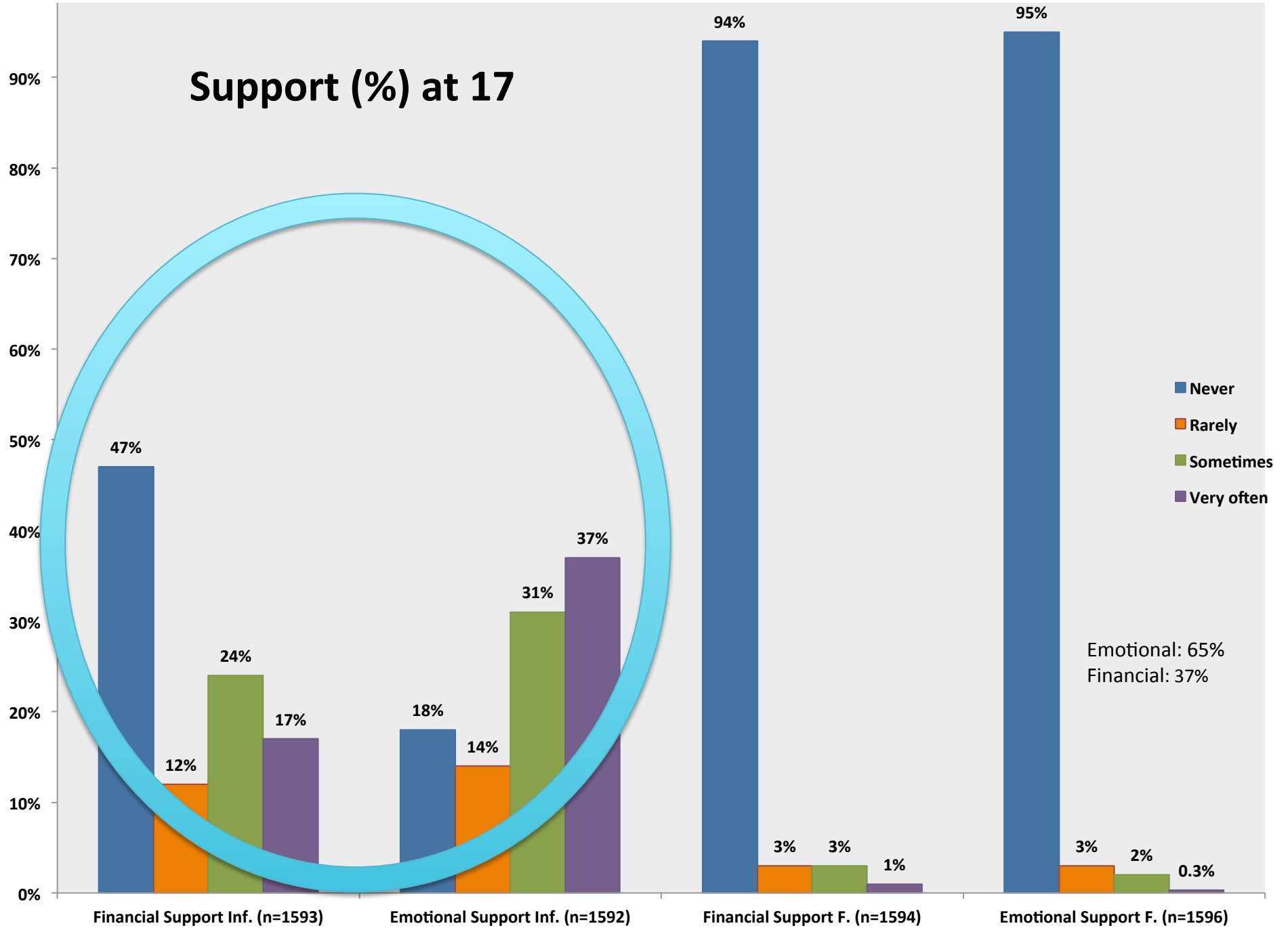
Emotional Support: informal & formal networks

- **Instrumental Resources** (Lin, 2001)

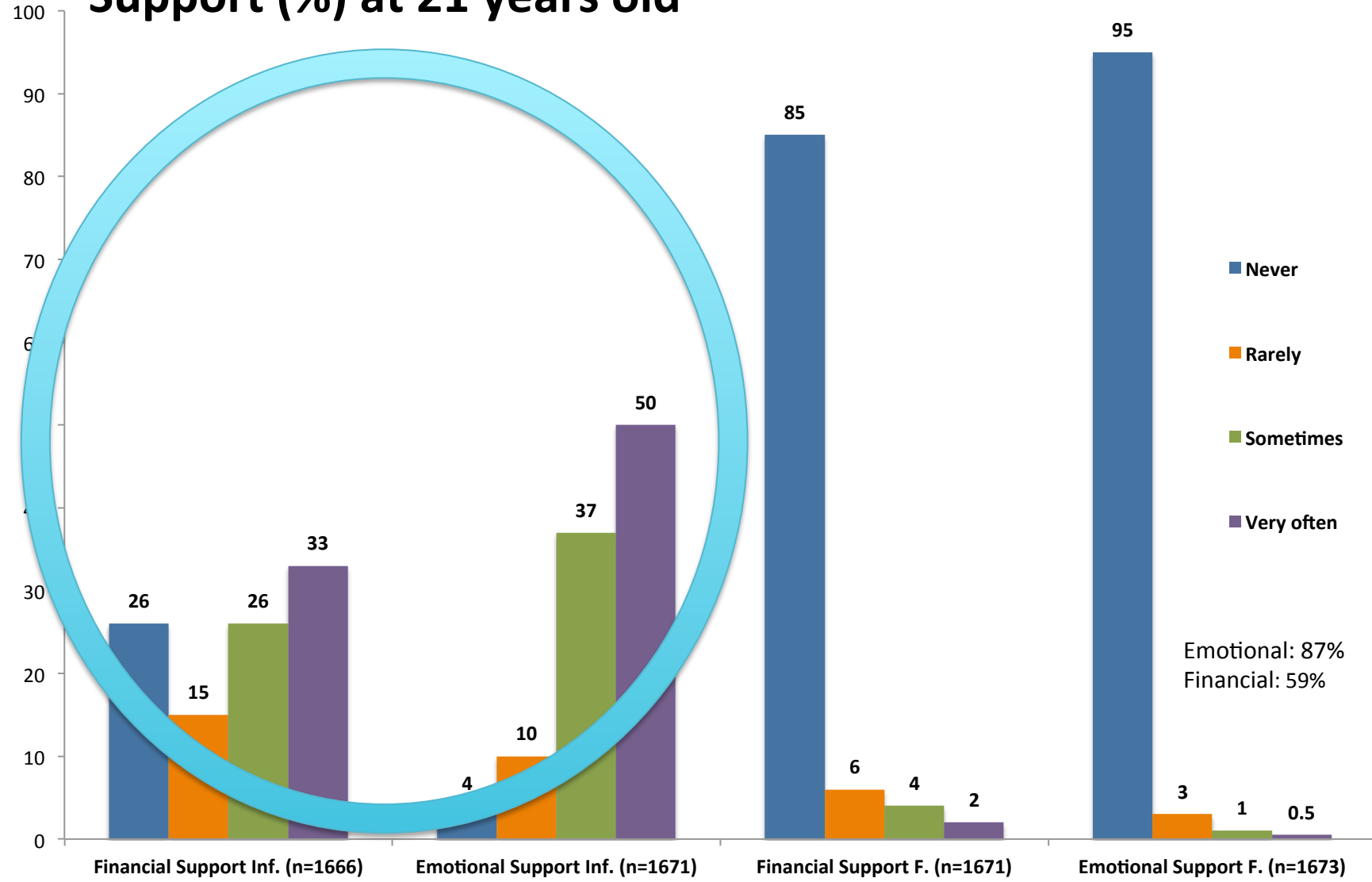
Financial Support: informal & formal networks

- **Bonding & bridging**

Support (%) at 17



Support (%) at 21 years old



Resources across time

- **Change in emotional** support received from **informal** networks in transition to adulthood: $Z = -14.095, p \leq 0.001$.
- **Change in financial** support received from **informal** ($Z = -13.223, p \leq 0.001$) & **formal** networks ($Z = -4.904, p \leq 0.001$).
- Do expressive & instrumental resources **increase** over time?

Latent dimensions: Bonding

	17 years old		21 years old		
	Low	High	Low	Medium	High
Class size	0.4907	0.5093	0.0466	0.7156	0.2378
Financial S.					
Never	0.8458	0.1611	0.9056	0.3036	0.002
Rarely	0.1013	0.1279	0.0784	0.2053	0.012
Sometimes	0.0471	0.3942	0.0148	0.3028	0.1538
Frequently	0.0057	0.3168	0.0012	0.1883	0.8322
Emotional S.					
Never	0.345	0.0154	0.6424	0.0053	0
Rarely	0.2394	0.0531	0.3232	0.1126	0.0003
Sometimes	0.3087	0.3415	0.0339	0.5	0.0398
Frequently	0.1069	0.59	0.0006	0.3822	0.9599

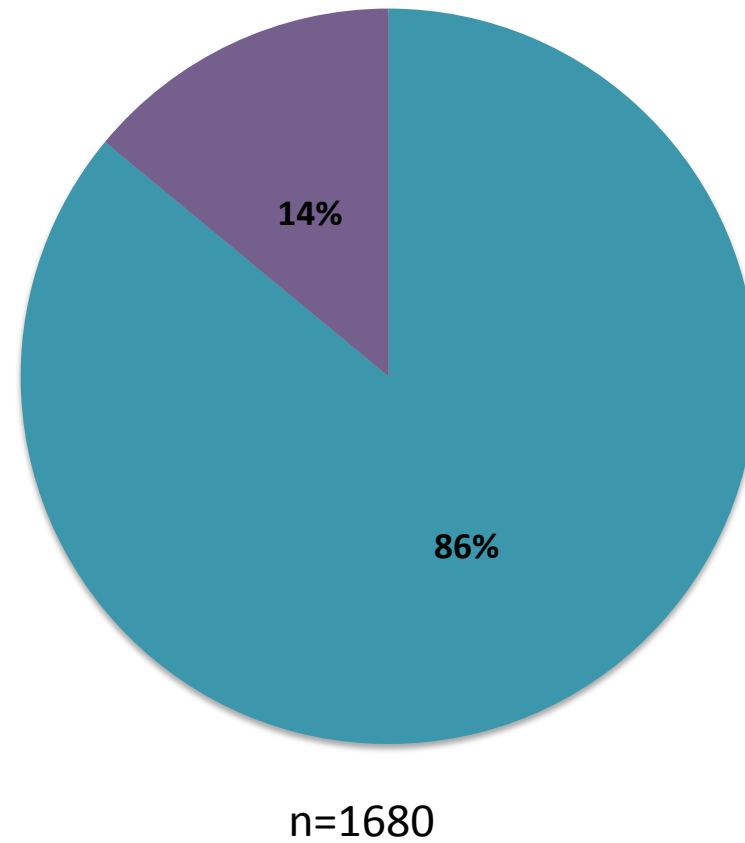
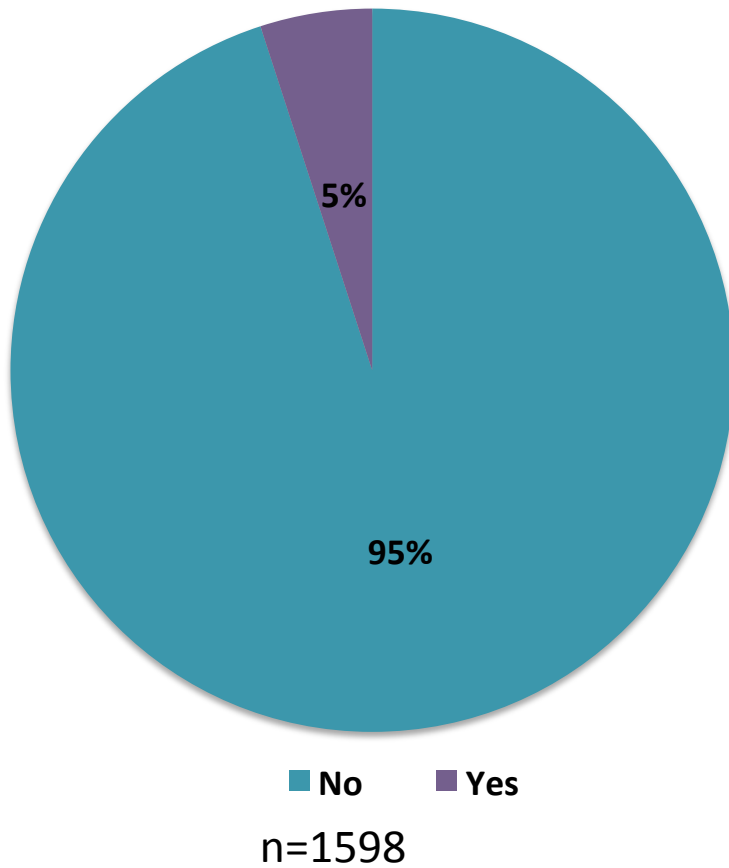
$$\pi_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_P} = \sum_{s=1}^S \pi_X(s) \pi_{Y_1|X=s}(i_1) \pi_{Y_2|X=s}(i_2) \dots \pi_{Y_P|X=s}(i_P)$$

Bonding & Bridging

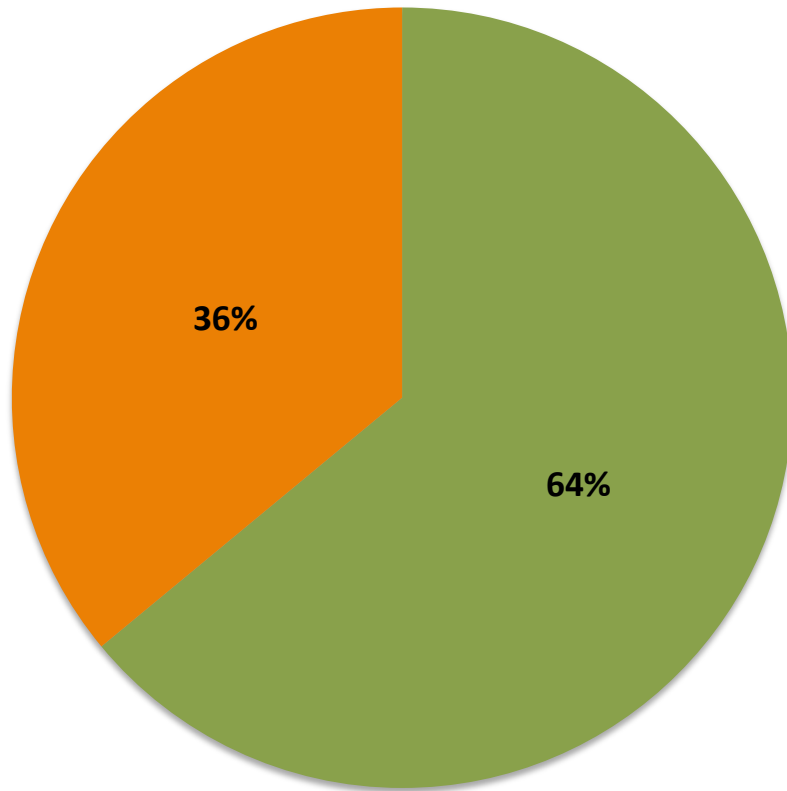
- **Change (>)** in levels of bonding in transition to adulthood: $Z = -13.547$, $p = 0.001$.
- **Change (>)** in levels of bridging: $Z = -22.876$, $p \leq 0.001$
- **Predictors (17):** Household > high bonding ($p < 0.01$)
- **Predictors (21):** Employed > high bridging ($p < 0.05$)

Civic engagement

Civic & Political Membership (17 & 21)

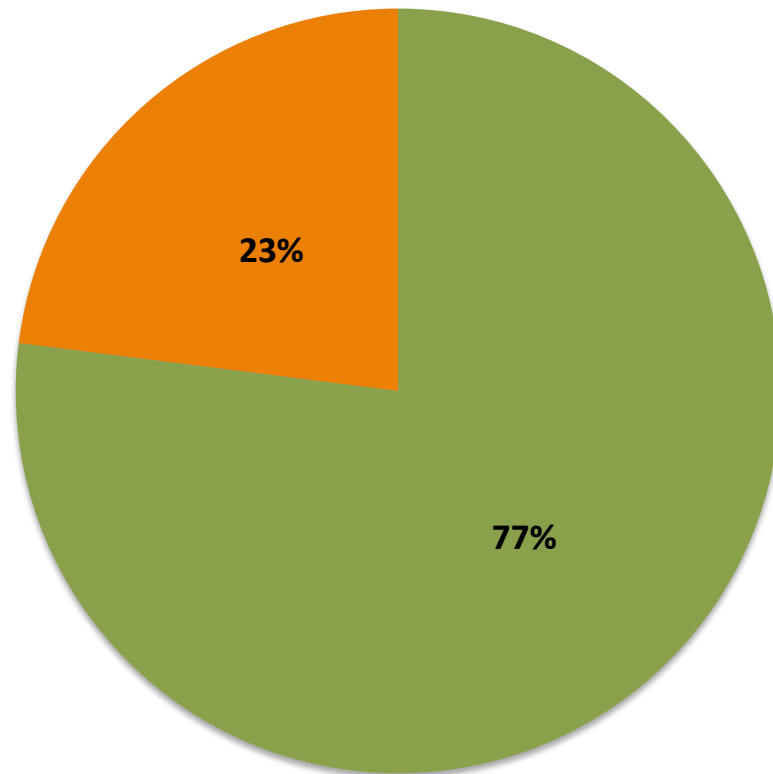


Sports & leisure organizations (17 & 21)



■ No ■ Yes

n=1599



n=1680

Changes in civic engagement

- Membership in **civic & political organizations** >:
 $Z = -13.401, p \leq 0.001.$
- Membership in **sports & leisure organizations** <:
 $Z = -3.197, p = 0.001.$
- No significant predictors.

Conclusion

- Findings show **changes** in social capital & civic engagement in **transition** to early adulthood (problem of over-coding).
- Young people as **active agents** and as **passive** recipients of social capital: how do they generate, control, negotiate, and use their social capital?
- How do they perceive civic engagement?

Thank you!

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EPITeen 24

Reproducing or going against social destiny?

A longitudinal study of a cohort born in the
90s of the XX century in Portugal

