

*Preliminary Paper*

**Catalysts or Competitors:**

**Siblings, Leaving the Parental Home, and Migration Background**

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**Abstract**

While much research has focused on the impact of parents on the transition to adulthood, the specific role of siblings has received relatively little attention. The current study examines the effect of siblings' transition out of the parental home on the individual's likelihood of leaving home along two pathways—to live alone or to live with a partner—with an added focus on the migration background of the individual. Drawing on longitudinal register micro-data from Statistics Netherlands, we followed young adults aged 16-28 between the years 2012 to 2023 (N = 1,165,709 person-years). The preliminary analysis used discrete-time event history modelling, with an interaction between the sibling's pathway of leaving home and migration background of the individual. The findings indicate that siblings act as a catalyst for the transition of leaving the parental home, wherein the departure of a sibling increases the likelihood of leaving home. The departure of a sibling to live with a partner also encouraged the other to follow the same pathway. Additionally, compared to the native Dutch population, the effect of siblings on leaving the parental home was more positive for people with a Turkish or Moroccan migration background. These findings have the potential to inform policies in supporting young adults' transition out of the parental home. Future research can be aimed towards exploring how these sibling effects relate with other actors, such as peers.

*Keywords:* leaving parental home, siblings, migration background.

## 1. Introduction

The transition from adolescence to adulthood represents a pivotal period in the life course, marked by significant social, economic, and psychological transformations. Traditionally, milestones such as completing education, entering the workforce, establishing independent households, and forming long-term partnerships have signalled the attainment of adult status. However, in contemporary societies, this transition has become increasingly prolonged and complex, giving rise to the concept of emerging adulthood—a distinct developmental stage characterized by exploration, instability, and delayed assumption of traditional adult roles (Arnett, 2000). Leaving the parental home is a pivotal developmental milestone within emerging adulthood. From the life-course perspective (Elder et al., 2003), the transition of leaving home is believed to have a strong influence on later life development, such as family formation and socio-economic status.

The timing of leaving the parental home is strongly shaped by family influences, which operate through socio-economic and relational channels (Goldscheider & Goldscheider, 1998). Family resources act as a primary determinant, where higher socioeconomic status often provides the financial support necessary for an earlier departure (De Jong Gierveld et al., 1991). Conversely, economic constraints within the family can necessitate a later departure. The timing and circumstances of the transition of leaving home can vary across cultures, reflecting a strong influence of sociocultural norms that shape young adults' pathways (Luetzelberger, 2014; Schwanitz, 2017; Zorlu & Mulder, 2011). Parental expectations are seen to play an important role in determining young adults' decisions around leaving home (Billari & Liefbroer, 2007). These expectations are largely guided by cultural norms, making cultural and ethnic differences an important variable in understanding the transition of leaving home.

While most research on leaving home has focused more on intergenerational effects between parents and children, it has been acknowledged that siblings also exert a significant influence on this transition (Conger & Little, 2010). A 'crowded nest' is seen to encourage young adults in leaving the parental home (Blake, 1981). Leaving of one sibling might facilitate the leaving of the other through a guidance to facilitate leaving (Her et al., 2022). At the same time, leaving of one sibling may also delay the leaving of another, as the limitations in parental resources needed to support residential independence may constrict the other sibling's opportunities (Stocker et al., 1997).

There is evidence to suggest that the role of siblings in leaving the parental home varies across cultures. In Southern European countries, young adults tend to leave earlier if they have a sibling at home. Studies in this region have shown that when one sibling moves out, it can also cause the other to stay at home longer, demonstrating a negative effect on the timing of the second sibling's departure (Aassve et al., 2002; Aparicio-Fenoll & Oppedisano, 2016). Conversely, research in the context of the United Kingdom has highlighted that having a sibling who has already left the parental home can have a positive effect on one's own leaving home. Here, siblings who have already left may serve as safety nets, offering emotional or practical support in the process of leaving home (Her et al., 2022; Liefbroer & Zoutewelle-Terovan, 2021). Within non-Western ethnic communities in the Netherlands, strong familial and cultural norms can lead to a collective delay in siblings leaving the parental home (Schans, 2007). However, such variations have been studied as an effect of intergenerational solidarity between parents and children. Cultural differences in the role played by siblings in the process of leaving the parental home have not yet been studied.

Despite siblings' potential to act as *catalysts* or *competitors* in the transition of leaving home, their influence remains understudied. Additionally, there is a gap in research regarding the effect of ethnic differences in the role played by siblings in this transition. Therefore, using the life-course perspective (Elder et al., 2003), this paper investigates how siblings influence the transition to residential independence, and how this process is affected by the ethnic background of the individual. In previous research, the pathways of leaving home to live alone and leaving home to live with a partner have been distinguished (Goldscheider et al., 2014; Hooimeijer & Mulder, 1999). Thus, we distinguish between leaving home to live alone or to live with a partner for both the egos and their siblings.

In the context of the Netherlands, we focus on two key questions. First, we explore how the timing of a sibling's leaving home affects the other sibling in their transition of leaving the parental home. Second, we explore how these sibling dynamics differ by ethnic background, considering that cultural norms and family obligations vary significantly between native Dutch families and those with immigrant origins. Using the Dutch register data from the System of Social and Statistical Datasets provided by Statistics Netherlands, we employ multilevel discrete-time event history analysis to model leaving home and the influence of siblings upon this transition. The analysis distinguishes three categories: (1) not yet left home, (2) leaving home to live alone, and (3) leaving home to live with a partner. The

findings will advance scholarly understanding of sibling dynamics and inform policies addressing the challenges of prolonged and unequal pathways to adulthood.

## **2. Theoretical Background**

The transition from the parental home to independent living is a fundamental developmental milestone in the life course, and its theoretical understanding has evolved significantly. Emerging adulthood is marked with a shift from playing the role of a dependent in relationships, towards relationships where power and care is shared, mutual, and reciprocal (Tanner, 2006). The life course perspective takes an integrative theoretical approach to understanding the various life course transitions by viewing developmental trajectories as a product of individual, interpersonal, social, and historical contexts (Elder, 1994; Elder et al., 2003). Through this perspective, we understand ‘linked lives’ where individuals’ trajectories are embedded in social relationships across the life span (Elder, 1994).

Moving out of the parental home includes taking on several adult roles, including being responsible for one’s own household and not being under permanent parental supervision (Mulder, 2009). The pathways out of the parental home are diverse, often reversible as in cases where children return to their parents’ house after moving out and then move out again (Vaskovics, 2001). There is also a distinction between leaving for union formation or independence, each with different implications (Goldscheider et al., 2014). The timing of leaving the parental home influences subsequent life trajectories, including career development, family formation, and socioeconomic stability (Elder et al., 2003).

### ***2.1 Family Influences***

#### ***2.1.1 The importance of family***

The decision to leave the parental home is rarely made by a young adult in isolation; it is profoundly shaped by the complex web of influences within the family. Parental expectations play a crucial role in the timing and the circumstances around the decision of leaving the parental home (Goldscheider & Goldscheider, 1998; Raab, 2016; van den Berg et al., 2018). Some parents actively encourage independence, while others prefer their children to remain at home longer, which has been shown to influence their behaviour (Billari & Liefbroer, 2007).

Family values exert a significant influence on the timing of and motivation for leaving the parental home. This is evident because in families where interdependence is emphasized,

children may delay departure, whereas individualistic values often encourage earlier independence (Aassve et al., 2002; Aparicio-Fenoll & Oppedisano, 2016; Billari & Liefbroer, 2007; Luetzelberger, 2014). The quality of relationships between the parents and children also determines motivations for leaving the parental home. A close parent-child relationship can support children in achieving autonomy and leaving the parental home (Gillespie et al., 2020). A parent-child relationship riddled with conflict can also motivate children to leave the parental home (Aquilino, 1991).

In summary, family is seen to influence children in various overt and covert ways. In analysing the transition of leaving the parental home, specific indicators of family influences have shown to be of significance. These include the structure of the family in terms of parental separation, household income, as well as the distribution of parental resources among children.

### ***2.1.2 Family structure***

Variations in family structure are seen to have effects upon young adults' home leaving patterns. Previous research demonstrates that young people from divorced or non-intact families leave the parental home at a significantly younger age than those from intact families (Aquilino, 1991; Goldscheider & Goldscheider, 1998). This pattern is linked to several consequences of divorce that make the parental home less attractive. Additionally, the introduction of a stepparent can also act as a "push" factor for young adults to leave home early.

### ***2.1.3 Parental income***

Parental resources can allow young adults to leave home earlier through the supplement of financial and material aid required for the move (De Jong Gierveld et al., 1991; Mulder et al., 2002). On the other hand, the presence of parental resources can also delay leaving home by creating a comfortable family housing situation as the 'feathered nest' (Avery et al., 1992; Blaauboer & Mulder, 2010). The effect of parental resources differs depending on the child's age and corresponding developmental stage, indicating an interaction effect between income and age.

### ***2.1.4 Number of siblings***

The distribution of parental resources among siblings reduces the quality of resources received by each sibling in a phenomenon that is termed as 'resource dilution' (Blake, 1981;

Sandberg & Rafail, 2014). Herein, a higher number of people in the house encourages young adults to leave the parental home in search for autonomy and independence (Buck & Scott, 1993).

## ***2.2 The role of Siblings***

Sibling relationships hold a great importance in the developmental stage of emerging adulthood (Arnett, 2000). Unlike parent-child relationships, which are inherently hierarchical and have a generational difference, or friendships, which are voluntary, sibling relationships exert a unique importance, as siblings spend around one-third of their lives together (Cicirelli, 1995). The peer-like quality of sibling relationships in emerging adulthood facilitates support that differs from parental or friendship networks.

Siblings play key roles by providing practical help, teaching life skills, and serving as role models. Research shows older siblings often assist with housing logistics, share financial knowledge, and demonstrate independent living strategies that younger siblings emulate (Conger & Little, 2010; Weaver et al., 2003). Adult siblings have also shown to provide support to each other across the life span, forming an important unit in an individual's social network (Conger & Little, 2010; Eriksen & Gerstel, 2002; Voorpostel & Blieszner, 2008). Such support is seen to have a positive and beneficial impact upon important developmental stages.

Siblings also influence each other's life transition behaviour. Siblings may catalyse transitions by modelling behaviours (e.g., an older sibling's early independence encouraging a younger sibling to move out) or providing direct support (e.g., co-residing or sharing financial resources) (Eriksen & Gerstel, 2002; Voorpostel & Van Der Lippe, 2007). Older siblings may also 'pave the way' for younger siblings in encouraging and supporting migratory behaviour (Mulder et al., 2020). Younger siblings often observe and emulate their older siblings' approaches to key transitions, such as the timing of leaving home, educational investments, or family formation (Buyukkececi & Leopold, 2021; Conger & Little, 2010; Her et al., 2022).

Conversely, competition for family resources and parental attention between siblings can also impact their life course transitions. As noted in the previous section, limitations in parental resources encourages competition among siblings, leaving fewer resources for the one left behind (Blake, 1981; Stocker et al., 1997). At the same time, leaving of one sibling can allow the other to enjoy the extra parental attention in their absence, delaying their

transition of leaving home (Aparicio-Fenoll & Oppedisano, 2016). In both these cases, there is a negative effect of one sibling's transition to residential independence upon the other.

Building on the complex patterns in the literature, we propose two competing hypotheses to explain sibling effects. The first hypothesis suggests a (1) *catalyst effect*, where a sibling's departure motivates the younger sibling to also leave home. In contrast, the second, alternative hypothesis proposes that siblings act as (2) *competitors*, whereby the residential departure of one sibling delays the other's own process of leaving parental home. We would also like to propose a (preliminary) hypothesis that (3) *a sibling's departure from the parental home to live alone or to live with a partner would encourage another sibling to follow the same pathway*. (In a later version of the paper, we will elaborate on the reasoning for this hypothesis)

### **2.3 Migration Background**

Ethnic differences in home-leaving patterns are shaped by the interplay of the ethnic groups' cultural frameworks, their standing as an ethnic minority, and their economic conditions. A migration background is a fundamental characteristic that typically defines a group as an ethnic minority within a host society. Values and norms of leaving the parental home are strongly influenced by the cultural background of parents. In the lives of immigrants, ethnic orientation plays an important role as immigrants orient themselves to the culture of their native countries. Their values and customs are also transmitted to their children across generations (Vollebergh et al., 2004). While intergenerational differences are found in all families, family values are given more importance in non-Western groups as compared to others (de Valk & Billari, 2007; Huijnk et al., 2012; Kwak, 2003).

Individuals belonging to ethnic minorities within a western majority are observed to have a comparatively stronger sense of familial duty during young adulthood (Fuligni & Pedersen, 2002). Such filial obligations and familism prescribe specific timelines and legitimate pathways for departure, often tying it to marriage (Aquilino, 1991). This is evident among Turkish communities in the countries of Denmark and Germany, where marriage was a common pathway in leaving the parental home (Skovgaard Nielsen, 2014; Windzio & Aybek, 2015).

A group's minority status and position as a social outgroup can delay leaving home, where the parental home can act as a protective space. In leaving the parental home, adolescents from non-Western ethnic groups that have settled in various Western countries

(including Canada and the United States) are seen to pursue autonomy from their families relatively later than their native counterparts (Boyd, 2000; Gillespie et al., 2020; Kwak, 2003; Mitchell et al., 2004). While norms of family obligations are seen to reduce in welfare-based states, immigrant communities in these states have shown a stronger endorsement of filial norms, making co-residence with parents more likely (de Valk & Schans, 2008; Dykstra & Fokkema, 2012).

Minority groups often occupy different positions in the economic structure of the host country, which directly impacts their ability to leave home. While limitations in parental resources are seen to delay leaving home, unfavourable socioeconomic conditions can also encourage leaving home by functioning as a "push" factor (Zorlu & van Gaalen, 2016). In the Netherlands, young adults with a migration background have a tendency to achieve residential independence earlier than their native counterparts (Zorlu & Mulder, 2011).

### ***2.3.1 Migration Background in the Dutch Context***

Within the Netherlands, 4.4 million people out of 17.5 million people have a migration background. Of the non-western population, the three largest ethnic groups are the Turkish the Moroccans (849,250), and Netherlands Caribbean and Suriname (366,030) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2021). The Turkish and Moroccan groups share a similar background, migrating to the Netherlands as guest workers in response to the labour shortage. Suriname and the Caribbean Netherlands were former Dutch colonies, from where people immigrated to the Netherlands in search for better lives (de Valk & Billari, 2007).

While the Dutch culture is characterised by higher levels of individualism and autonomy from family ties, these ties are considered to be stronger among ethnic minorities (Schans & Komter, 2010). Additionally, those belonging to ethnic minorities have stronger social connection with their siblings in comparison to the Dutch majority (Voorpostel & Schans, 2010). There also exists variations between different ethnic minority groups. Individuals with a background from the Suriname and the Caribbean Netherlands are considered to be more similar to the Dutch, as compared to those from Turkey and Morocco residing in the Netherlands (Arends-Tóth & Van de Vijver, 2008).

Drawing on the established literature and the Dutch context, we hypothesise that (4) *compared to the native Dutch population, the effect of siblings on leaving the parental home will be strongly positive for people with migration background of Turkey and Morocco and positive but weaker for those with a background from Suriname and Dutch Caribbean.*

### **3. Data and Methodology**

#### ***3.1 Data and Sample***

We use Dutch register data from the System of Social and Statistical Datasets provided by Statistics Netherlands (Bakker et al., 2014). This study utilizes data for individuals born between 1991 and 1999. We selected the birth cohort of 1996 as anchor persons, allowing us to capture older as well as younger siblings within the age gap of 5 years on either side. In other words, our analysis is based on children born in 1996, with their sibling/s born between 1991 and 1999.

#### ***3.2 Dependent Variable***

Our main event of interest, leaving the parental home, was available with a yearly precision. The occurrence of this event was constructed using information on household registration of the children as well as their parents, noting the event of leaving from either or both parents' households. Therefore, leaving the parental home is defined as changing registration from a household that included at least one parent to a separate household that includes neither parent.

For the event of leaving the parental home, we make a distinction between leaving (1) to live alone and (2) to live with partner, while (0) indicates that the event has not yet occurred. Information regarding living together with a partner was measured retroactively using auxiliary data (marriage, registered partnership, cohabitation agreement, fiscal partnership, shared children, joint pension funds, joint healthcare or housing benefits, co-ownership of a home, or a joint residential move.) to confirm a couple's coresidential partnership. Herein, there is an underestimation of coresidential partnerships that last over a shorter period. We checked whether living together with a partner coincided with leaving parental home, to compute the pathway of leaving home to live with a partner.

#### ***3.3 Independent Variables***

The study measures the siblings' event of leaving the parental home as leaving to live alone or to live with a partner. Migration background was measured using the country of origin. For people born in the Netherlands, migration background was determined by their parents' country of birth. If both the parents were born in the Netherlands, this was the country of origin. If one of the parents was born abroad, their country of birth was used to determine the country of origin. In cases where both parents were born abroad, country of

origin was determined based on the mother's country of birth. Migration background was measured along five categories, (0) Netherlands, (1) Europe (excluding Netherlands), (3) Turkey & Morocco, (4) Dutch Caribbean (including Aruba, Curaçao, St Maarten, Bonaire, St Eustatius, Saba) and Suriname, and (5) Other outside Europe. These categories were selected as the most prominent migration groups in the Netherlands, given the cultural differences and their distinct socio-economic profiles, which are often the focus of social policy in the Netherlands.

### **3.4 Control Variables**

Several key control variables were included in the analysis. These account for fundamental socio-demographic and economic factors that are known to influence the home-leaving process. Sex was measured as (0) male (reference) and (1) female. The controls measured at age 15 include *family structure* (categorized as (0) living with both parents, (1) living mother only, (2) living with mother and partner, (3) living with father only, or (4) living with father and partner) and *household income*<sup>1</sup> measured in percentile.

Furthermore, we incorporate time-varying controls to capture changing contexts. The *degree of urbanisation* is tracked from the origin household to the new independent household (categorized as (0) non-urban, (1) moderately urban, or (2) highly urban). This variable is measured based on the number of addresses per square km, where non-urban indicates less than 1000 addresses, moderately urban indicates between 1000 to 1500 addresses, and highly urban indicates more than 1500 addresses per square km. We also control for the individual's time-varying *activity status* (defined as (0) employed, (1) not employed, or (2) student)<sup>2</sup> during the observation year. The analysis controls for the individual's *age* to account for the baseline hazard of leaving home.

A time-varying categorical variable indicating the individual's highest level of completed education was included. In the current analysis, we included the categories (0) Basic or less (only primary school), (1) VMBO-bb/kb (practice oriented), (2) VMBO-g/t (theory oriented), (3) HAVO/VWO, (4) MBO, (5) HBO, and (6) WO.<sup>3</sup> This distinguished

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<sup>1</sup> Standardized household income refers to household disposable income adjusted to account for the number of household members.

<sup>2</sup> Employed: employee, director or majority shareholder, self-employed, employed in family business; Not employed: recipients of unemployment benefits, social assistance benefits, social security benefits, sickness benefits, pension benefits or others without income; Student: attending school with or without income.

<sup>3</sup> In the Netherlands, children enter secondary school at the age of 12, choosing from three educational tracks, namely VMBO (pre-vocational secondary education), HAVO (preparation for applied sciences university

between different tracks of secondary and tertiary education. In a later version, we hope to reduce the number of categories and keep the relevant ones.

For the final model, we will also add the variables of age gap between the siblings in the dyad and the sex composition of the dyad to understand how the characteristics of the dyad impact the effect of sibling. Additionally, we will also add an interaction between income and age.

### ***3.5 Censoring and Treatment of Missing Data***

For the study, we only included those individuals who have one or more siblings. The observation period for analysis begins at age 16. This starting point is selected to focus the study on the normative process of leaving the parental home. We delete the cases if the person is not living with either of the parents at the age of 15. We observe the population from when they are 16-17 years old until the age of 27-28, that is between the years of 2012 and 2023. For the current model, we have kept the year of 2020 as the final year of analysis. However, in the final model, we plan to extend it to the year 2023.

In principle, missingness occurs when a person is no longer registered in the Netherlands. This can be due to death or emigration to another country. Incorporating this information for right censoring, we censor the cases if one of the following situations occurs: 1) leaving the parental home (i.e. the event of interest), 2) death, 3) emigration, and 4) the information on residence becomes unknown.

Our final sample consisted of 1,165,709 person-year observations contributed by 170,591 individuals. Within this sample, variables of urbanity, achieved level of education, household income, and activity status contained missing values. For the preliminary analysis, we removed the missing values and performed the analysis on a reduced sample of 1,130,309 person-year observations across 163,876 individuals. In the final model, we aim to make further decisions on the treatment of missing values after conducting a missingness analysis.

### ***3.6 Analytical Strategy***

For the analysis, we employed a combination of event history and multilevel modelling techniques to account for the complex structure of the data. Event history models

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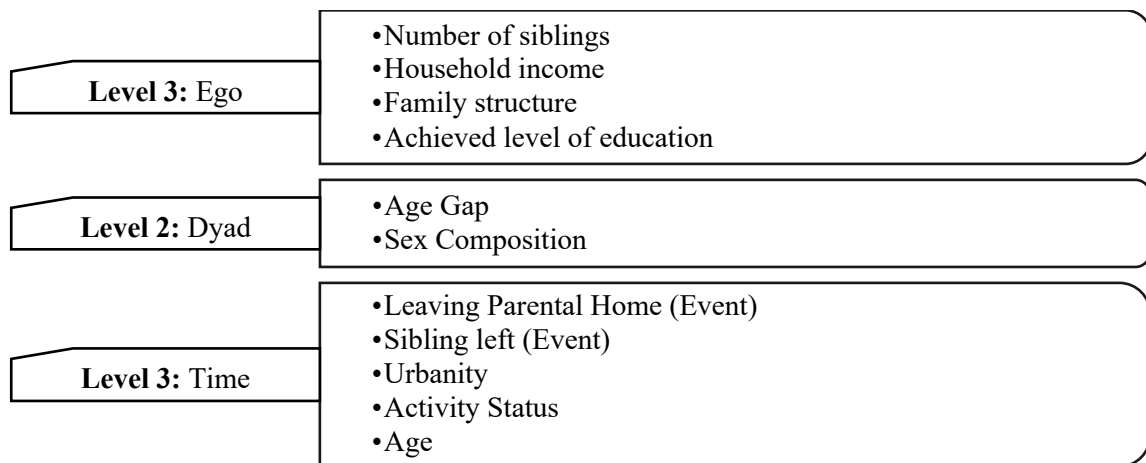
education), and VWO (pre-university education). For tertiary education, there is a distinction between vocational education (MBO), applied sciences university (HBO), and academic university (WO) Ministerie van Onderwijs, C. e. W. (2025, 2023). *Secondary education—Government.nl [Onderwerp]*. Ministerie van Algemene Zaken. <https://www.government.nl/topics/secondary-education>.

were used at the time level to analyse the hazard of home-leaving, incorporating both time-constant and time-varying covariates.

For the preliminary analysis, we first estimate a simple discrete-time event history model. Here, we employ robust clustering for standard errors at the individual level, to account for the nesting within the data. In the second model, we add an interaction between the variables of sibling’s pathway of leaving home and ethnic background of the individual.

In the final version of the analysis, we plan to estimate a three-level model, with time at the first level, sibling dyads at the second level, and the individuals at the third level (See Figure 1). The multilevel structure then models the nesting of time within sibling dyads, and dyads within individuals.

Figure 1. Multilevel framework for the analysis



## 4. (Preliminary) Results

### 4.1 Descriptive statistics

Table 1 depicts the descriptive statistics for the person-years within the selected sample after censoring (N = 1,165,709). These observations were spread across 170,591 persons. The average number of siblings was 2.177 (SD = 1.533), where the selected sample only included those with at least one sibling. In terms of leaving parental home, 12.8% of the individuals left to live alone, and around 2.8% left to live with a partner. While the majority of the sample consisted of individuals with Netherlands as country of origin (80.6%), a smaller proportion of the sample belonged to the categories of Turkey and Morocco (6.7%) and Dutch Caribbean and Suriname (2.1%).

### 4.2 Preliminary regression results

Table 2 depicts the results for the discrete-time event history models, reporting the coefficients and standard errors. In both the models, leaving the parental home was the dependent variable, with not yet left as the reference, and the two pathways of leaving to live alone or to live with a partner in comparison.

#### **4.2.1 Sibling influence: catalyst and pathway specific effects**

From the model, we can infer that siblings had a significant effect on the individuals' leaving their parental homes, depending on the pathway that was followed. The departure of a sibling to live alone ( $B = 0.693$ ,  $SE = 0.00980$ ) or to live with a partner ( $B = 0.414$ ,  $SE = 0.0195$ ) was a strong and significant catalyst for the remaining sibling's leaving home to live alone, and to a lesser extent for the pathway of leaving home to live with a partner. The departure of a sibling to live with a partner showed a targeted, pathway-specific effect. It significantly increased the ego's odds of leaving to live with a partner ( $B = 0.320$ ,  $SE = 0.0373$ ) but did not significantly influence their decision to leave to live alone.

These findings support the hypothesis for the *catalyst* effect, where an older sibling's departure motivates the younger sibling to also leave home. This contributes to the literature on siblings' effect on leaving the parental home, acting as catalysts for this transition (Buyukkececi & Leopold, 2021; Conger & Little, 2010; Her et al., 2022). The pathway specific effects for leaving home to live with a partner supports the notion that siblings 'pave the way' (Mulder et al., 2020).

#### **4.2.2 The persistent role of ethnic background**

Ethnic background was also a strong predictor of leaving home. Respondents from non-Dutch backgrounds showed a significantly lower likelihood of leaving home to live alone compared to the native Dutch population. In general, individuals with a migration origin from Turkey and Morocco had a lower likelihood of leaving home to live alone ( $B = -0.567$ ,  $SE = 0.0222$ ) or to live with a partner ( $B = -0.510$ ,  $SE = 0.0486$ ) than the Dutch population. The same held also for people with a background of Dutch Caribbean and Suriname, albeit a lesser effect.

In the second model, we added the interaction effect between the leaving home pathway of the sibling and the ethnic background. Having a sibling leaving home to live alone strongly influenced both groups of Turkey and Morocco ( $B = 0.507$ ,  $SE = 0.047$ ) as well as Dutch Caribbean and Suriname ( $B = 0.200$ ,  $SE = 0.062$ ) in leaving home to live alone.

Additionally, for individuals with origins from Turkey and Morocco, a sibling leaving home to live with a partner also significantly increased their likelihood of leaving home to live with a partner ( $B = 0.345$ ,  $SE = 0.147$ ) when compared to the native Dutch individuals. In contrast, this effect was not statistically significant for the Dutch Caribbean and Surinamese groups but also negative ( $B = -0.693^*$ ,  $SE = 0.361$ ).

The above results are in line with our third hypothesis, which stated that compared to the native Dutch population, the effect of siblings on leaving the parental home will be strongly positive for people with migration background of Turkey and Morocco and positive but weaker for those with a background from Suriname and Dutch Caribbean.

#### **4.2.3 Control variables**

The control variables, including gender, age, and income, all functioned as significant predictors of home-leaving timing and pathway, aligning with the literature. Females were more likely to leave parental home. Higher parental income decreased the odds of both pathways of leaving home to live alone ( $B = -0.000589$ ,  $SE = 0.000159$ ) and to live with a partner ( $B = -0.00558$ ,  $SE = 0.000416$ ). Educational enrollment was associated with a significantly lower likelihood of leaving for partnership ( $B = -2.145$ ,  $SE = 0.0222$ ). Having a higher number of siblings increased the likelihood of leaving home.

Young adults belonging to single parent families were also more likely to leave home to live alone, whether living with mother ( $B = 0.102$ ,  $SE = 0.0124$ ) or father ( $B = 0.121$ ,  $SE = 0.0253$ ). Having a stepparent in the household also increased the likelihood of leaving home for both living alone and living with partner. However, living with mother alone significantly decreased the likelihood of leaving home to live with a partner ( $B = -0.279$ ,  $SE = 0.0344$ ).

### **5. (Preliminary) Conclusion**

The current study aimed to analyse the complex dynamics of leaving the parental home and the effect of siblings upon this transition. We also added a specific focus on the under-explored interplay between sibling influences and ethnic background. Our findings clearly demonstrate that the transition to residential independence is not merely an individual decision but a socially embedded process, where siblings act as catalysts in this transition and ‘paving the way’ for the sibling still at home to undergo this transition.

The central conclusion is that sibling effects are not monolithic; they are profoundly pathway specific. The act of a sibling leaving functioned as a broad catalyst for departure,

significantly increasing the odds of the remaining sibling leaving for independent living. This suggests that a sibling's initial departure primarily serves to lower the general threshold for exiting the parental home. The effect of a sibling leaving to live with a partner was far more specific, significantly influencing only the same pathway for the ego.

Our analysis reveals that ethnic background is a powerful factor for these sibling dynamics. The catalytic effect of a sibling leaving to live alone was particularly strong for Turkish and Moroccan, Dutch Caribbean, and Surinamese respondents, highlighting the importance of siblings in contexts where familial bonds are central. The significant partnership effect observed specifically for the Turkish and Moroccan groups further highlights how cultural norms that strongly endorse marriage can channel sibling influence into this specific, socially approved pathway.

In conclusion, the transition out of the parental home is guided by a dual navigation: one must negotiate both the evolving structure of their family of origin, as siblings sequentially make their transitions, and the enduring cultural influences that define legitimate norms for departure. Future research should continue to explore how these sibling dynamics evolve over time and in relation with other actors, such as peers, to further shape our understanding of the unique role played by siblings in a more holistic way.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of the study population

		Freq	%	Mean	SD
Sex	Male	632,476	54.3		
	Female	533,233	45.7		
Number of siblings				2.177	1.533
Age				19.423	2.502
Income				53.448	26.881
Urbanity	Non-urban	420,049	36.1		
	Moderately urban	202,429	17.4		
	Highly urban	540,482	46.5		
Family structure at age 15	Living with legal parents	927,855	80.5		
	Mother alone	135,260	11.7		
	Father alone	24,744	2.1		
	Mother and partner	55,990	4.9		
	Father and partner	8,954	0.8		
Activity status	Employed	254,312	21.9		
	Not employed	53,208	4.6		
	Student	855,602	73.6		
Level of Education	Basic or less	19,419	1.7		
	VMBO-bb/kb	33,795	3.0		
	VMBO-g/t	25,522	2.2		
	HAVO/VWO	98,552	8.6		
	MBO	479,322	41.9		
	HBO	291,772	25.5		
	WO	195,859	17.1		
Ethnic background	Netherlands	939,099	80.6		
	Europe (excluding Netherlands)	44,974	3.9		
	Turkey and Morocco	71,173	6.1		
	Dutch Caribbean and Suriname	31,343	2.7		
	Other (Africa, Asia, America, Oceania)	79,120	6.8		
	Leaving parental home	Not left	983,415	84.4	
	To live alone	149,640	12.8		
	To live with partner	32,654	2.8		
<i>N</i> person-years		1,165,709			
<i>N</i> persons		170,591			

Table 2. Coefficient estimates of the multinomial logistic regression for leaving the parental home

Variable	Category	Model 1				Model 2			
		Leaving home to live alone		Leaving home to live with partner		Leaving home to live alone		Leaving home to live with partner	
		B	SE	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE
Sibling leaving parental home	Not yet left (reference)								
	To live alone	0.693***	0.010	0.039	0.027	0.655***	0.0106	0.0308	0.029
	To live with partner	0.414***	0.019	0.320***	0.037	0.391***	0.0210	0.301***	0.040
Ethnic background	Netherlands (reference)								
	Europe (excluding Netherlands)	-0.062***	0.020	-0.101	0.066	-0.059*	0.0232	-0.103	0.069
	Turkey and Morocco	-0.471***	0.019	-0.470***	0.045	-0.567***	0.0222	-0.510***	0.049
	Dutch Caribbean and Suriname	-0.337***	0.026	-0.257***	0.073	-0.384***	0.0302	-0.223***	0.079
	Other (Africa, Asia, America, Oceania)	-0.194***	0.017	-0.445***	0.054	-0.252***	0.0201	-0.456***	0.059
Sex	Female	0.349***	0.008	0.769***	0.020	0.348***	0.00758	0.769***	0.020
Number of siblings		0.032***	0.003	0.061***	0.005	0.031***	0.00253	0.061***	0.005
Age		0.052***	0.002	0.094***	0.004	0.053***	0.001	0.094***	0.004
Income		-0.001***	0.001	-0.005***	0.001	-0.001***	0.001	-0.006***	0.001
Urbanity	Non-urban (reference)								
	Moderately urban	0.045***	0.012	0.028	0.029	0.045***	0.012	0.028	0.029
	Highly urban	0.606***	0.009	0.417***	0.022	0.607***	0.009	0.417***	0.022
Family structure at age 15	Living with both legal parents (reference)								
	Mother alone	0.102***	0.012	-0.279***	0.034	0.101***	0.012	-0.279***	0.034
	Father alone	0.121***	0.025	-0.045	0.075	0.121***	0.025	-0.045	0.075
	Mother and partner	0.220***	0.017	0.127***	0.042	0.221***	0.017	0.128***	0.042
	Father and partner	0.355***	0.040	0.377***	0.127	0.356***	0.040	0.378***	0.127
Activity status	Employed (reference)								
	Not employed	-0.273***	0.018	-0.656***	0.039	-0.273***	0.018	-0.658***	0.039
	Student	-0.998***	0.009	-2.145***	0.022	-0.998***	0.009	-2.145***	0.022

Level of Education	Basic or less (reference)								
	VMBO-bb/kb	-0.042	0.040	0.629***	0.163	-0.038	0.041	0.630***	0.163
	VMBO-g/t	-0.057	0.043	0.436***	0.168	-0.054	0.043	0.437***	0.167
	MBO	-0.004	0.034	0.719***	0.151	-0.001	0.034	0.721***	0.151
	HAVO/VWO	0.164***	0.036	0.440***	0.157	0.169***	0.036	0.442***	0.156
	HBO	0.541***	0.034	1.012***	0.151	0.546***	0.034	1.014***	0.151
	WO	1.119***	0.035	0.939***	0.153	1.125***	0.035	0.941***	0.152
Interaction									
Sibling leaving parental home × Not yet left (reference)	Ethnic Background								
To live alone ×	Netherlands (reference)								
	Europe (excluding Netherlands)					-0.0175	0.044	-0.100	0.148
	Turkey and Morocco					0.507***	0.047	0.203*	0.115
	Dutch Caribbean and Suriname					0.200***	0.062	-0.074	0.175
	Other (Africa, Asia, America, Oceania)					0.222***	0.038	0.084	0.126
To live with partner ×	Netherlands (reference)								
	Europe (excluding Netherlands)					0.082	0.105	0.314	0.232
	Turkey and Morocco					0.194**	0.090	0.345**	0.147
	Dutch Caribbean and Suriname					0.112	0.137	-0.693*	0.361
	Other (Africa, Asia, America, Oceania)					0.151	0.094	-0.041	0.244
Constant		-3.934***	0.051	-6.085***	0.175	-3.938***	0.051	-6.087***	0.174
<i>N</i> person-years		1,130,309		1,130,309		1,130,309		1,130,309	
<i>N</i> persons		163,876		163,876		163,876		163,876	

Note: \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

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