Network analysis of England's single parent household COVID-19 control policies: a proof-of-concept study

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INTRODUCTION

Policy 1: Children of single parent households (SPHs) were permitted to move between parental homes.

Policy 2: SPHs permitted to form a support bubble with another SPH/other household.

Related work:

Network analyses of social and support bubbles look only at bubble impact and assumed exclusivity – no additional actors entering or leaving homes.

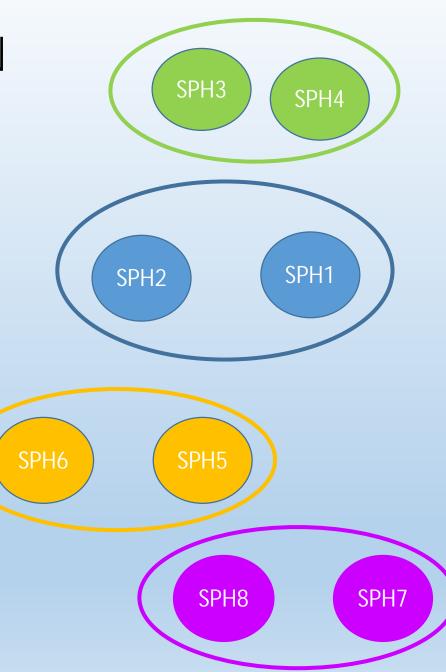
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STUDY AIM

Aim: To explore the putative combined impact of these policies on Covid-19 household transmission dynamics

Percolation theory

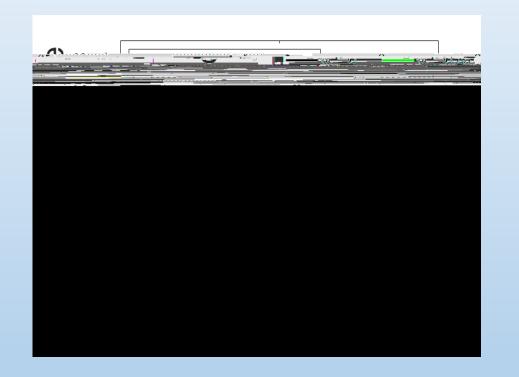
- Mathematical approach to understanding connectivity
- Examines network changes from small disconnected clusters to a 'giant component' likely to affect a large number of people

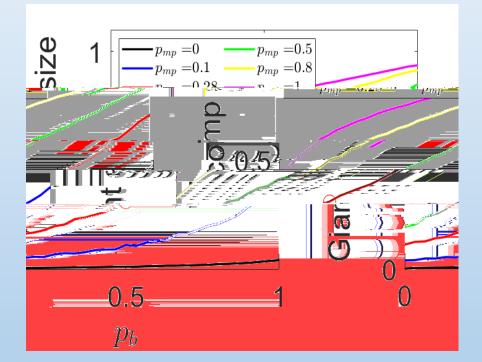
DEFINITIONS

Single parent - a primary care-giver who does not live with the other primary caregiver of their child/children, *irrespective of whether they are living with a new partner or not*

Discordant-Parentage Single Parent Household (DSPH) – a SPH that includes 2+ children

VARYING EXTENT OF BUBBLING & DSPHs





Growth of the giant component is much slower for bubbling without DSPHs than for DSPHs without bubbling.

CONCLUSIONS

• Support bubbles between SPHs have little impact on formation of giant components that may accelerate Covid-19 transmission, even when children are moving between SPHs, *except* where one or more are DSPHs

LIMITATIONS

- Limited estimates available
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