

# **Children's economic and family circumstances: A world in motion**

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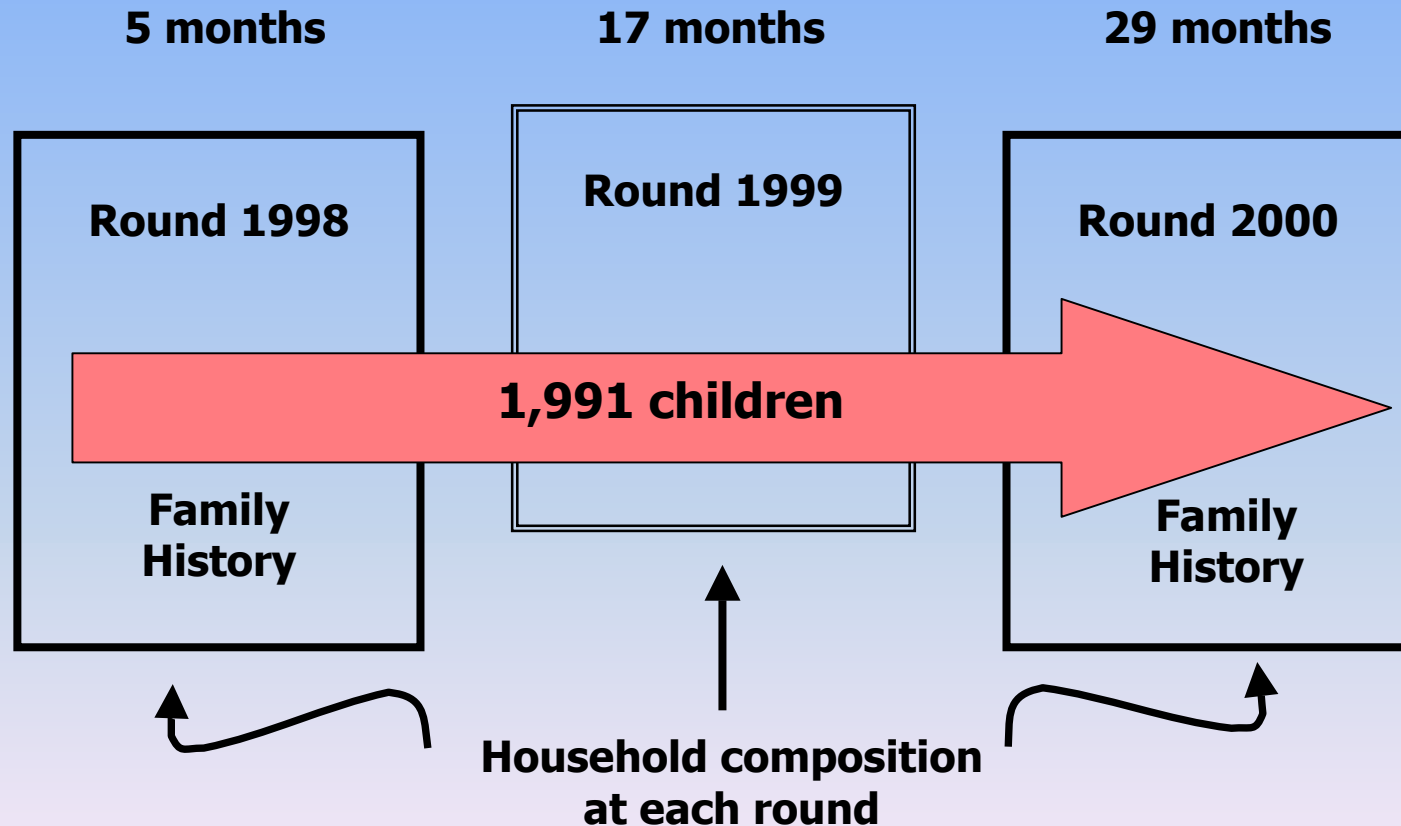
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# **Our questions**

- \* What are the family pathways taken by children from birth to 2 1/2 years of age?**
- \* What proportion of children and their families moved in and out of economic hardship?**
- \* What are the characteristics of families having lived with chronic financial difficulties?**

# Data

- \* Québec Longitudinal Study of Child Development 1998-2002 (QLSCD 1998-2002)
- \* Multi-round design at age 5, 17, 29, 41 months and about 4 years old



# Family typology

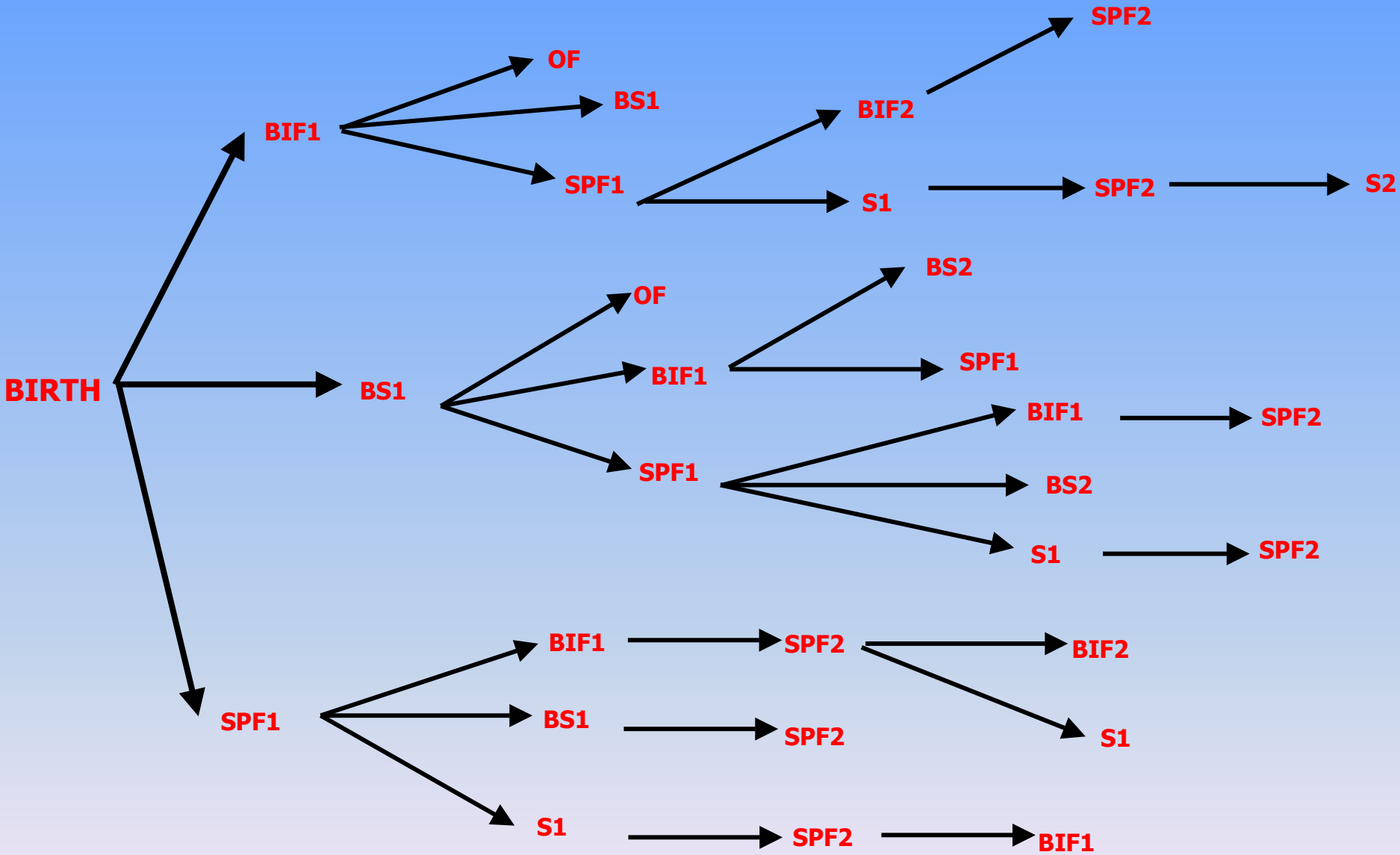
## At birth

- \* **Biological intact families (BIF)**: child(ren) + two biological or adoptive parents
- \* **Biological stepfamilies (BS)**: target child from the actual union + child(ren) from an earlier union
- \* **Single-parent families (SPF)**: target child + a single parent

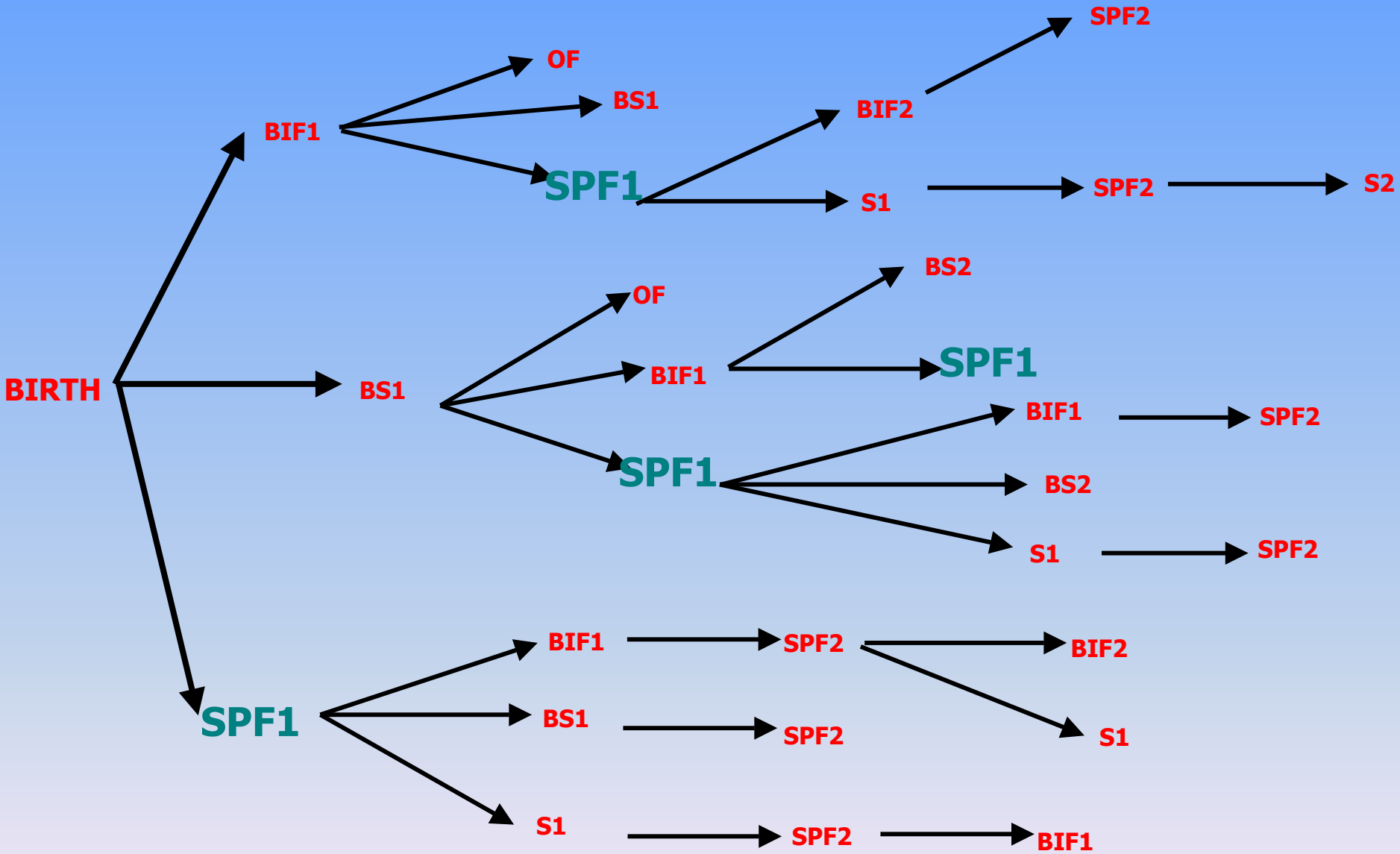
## After birth

- \* **Stepfamilies (S)**: biological parent + partner who has no biological link to the target child
- \* **Other families (OF)**: no biological parent

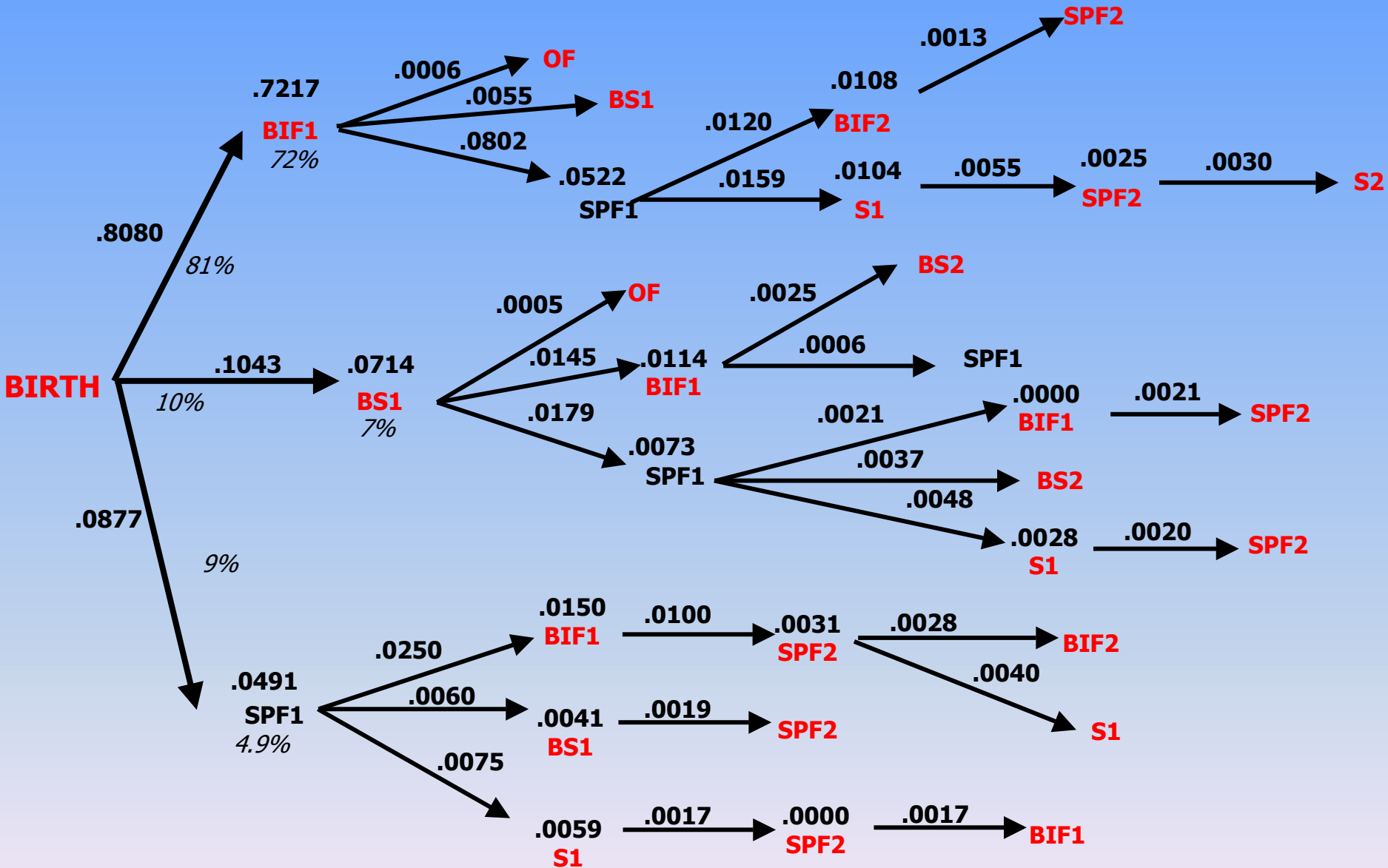
# Sequence probabilities



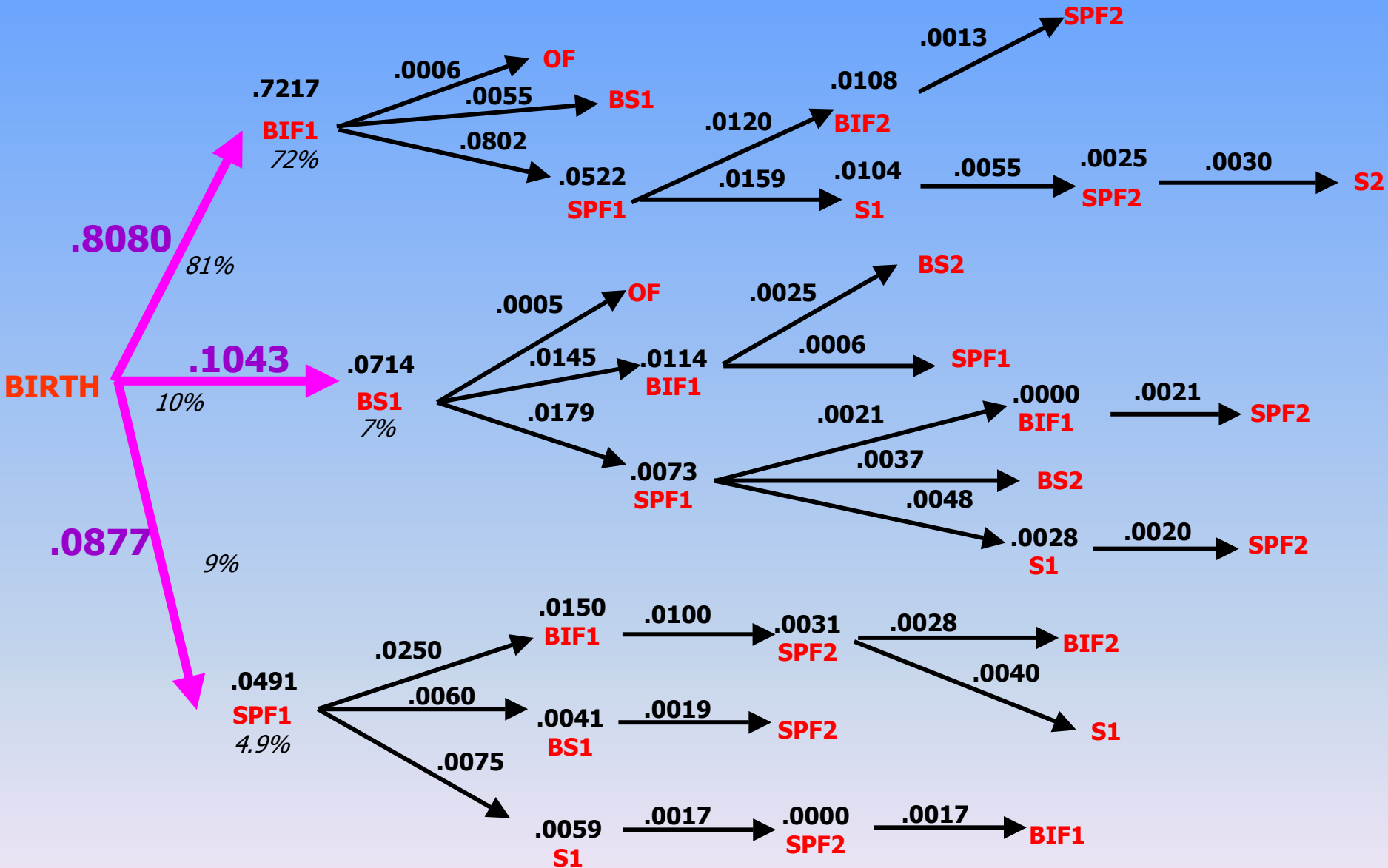
# Sequence probabilities



# Sequence probabilities

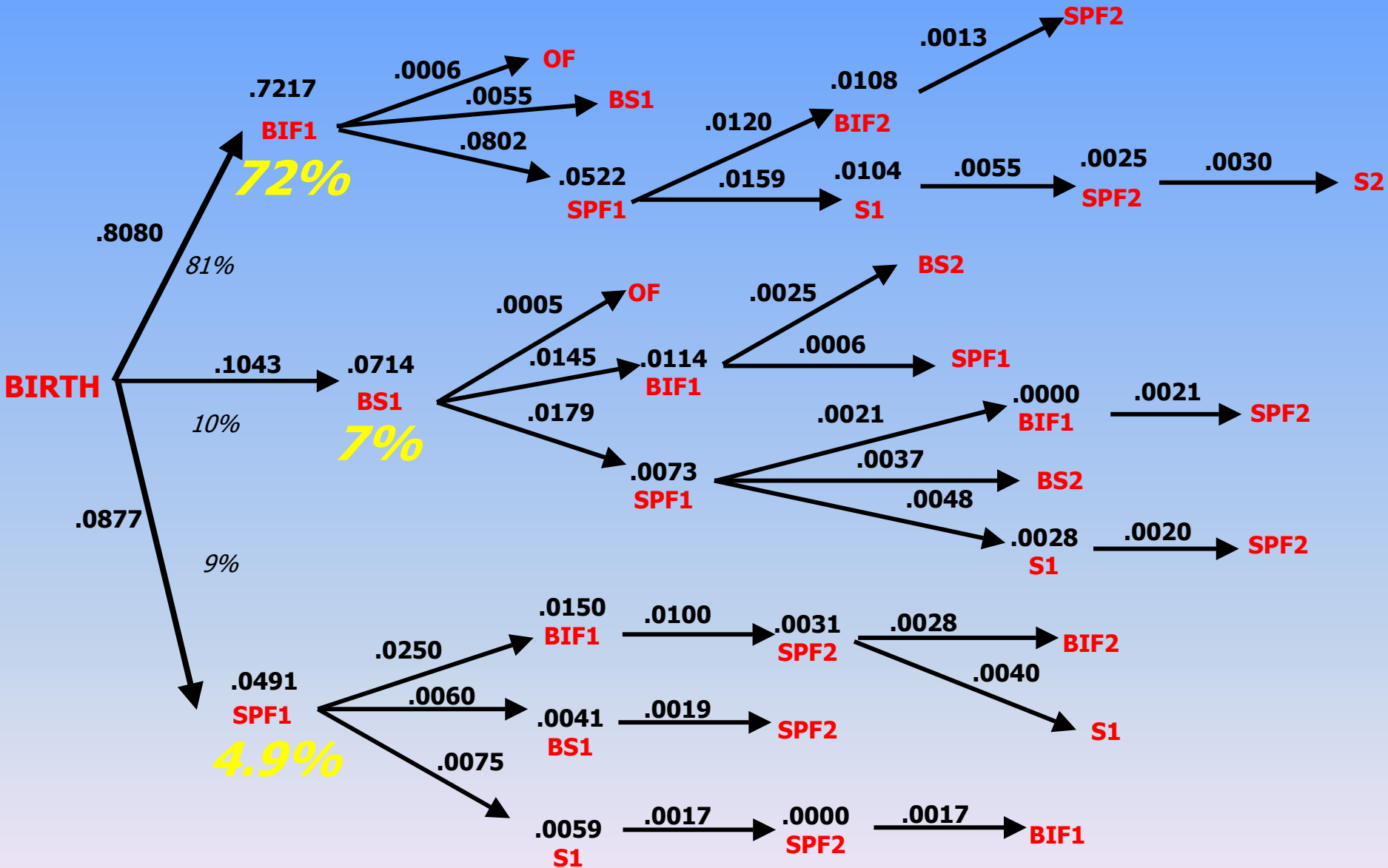


# Sequence probabilities

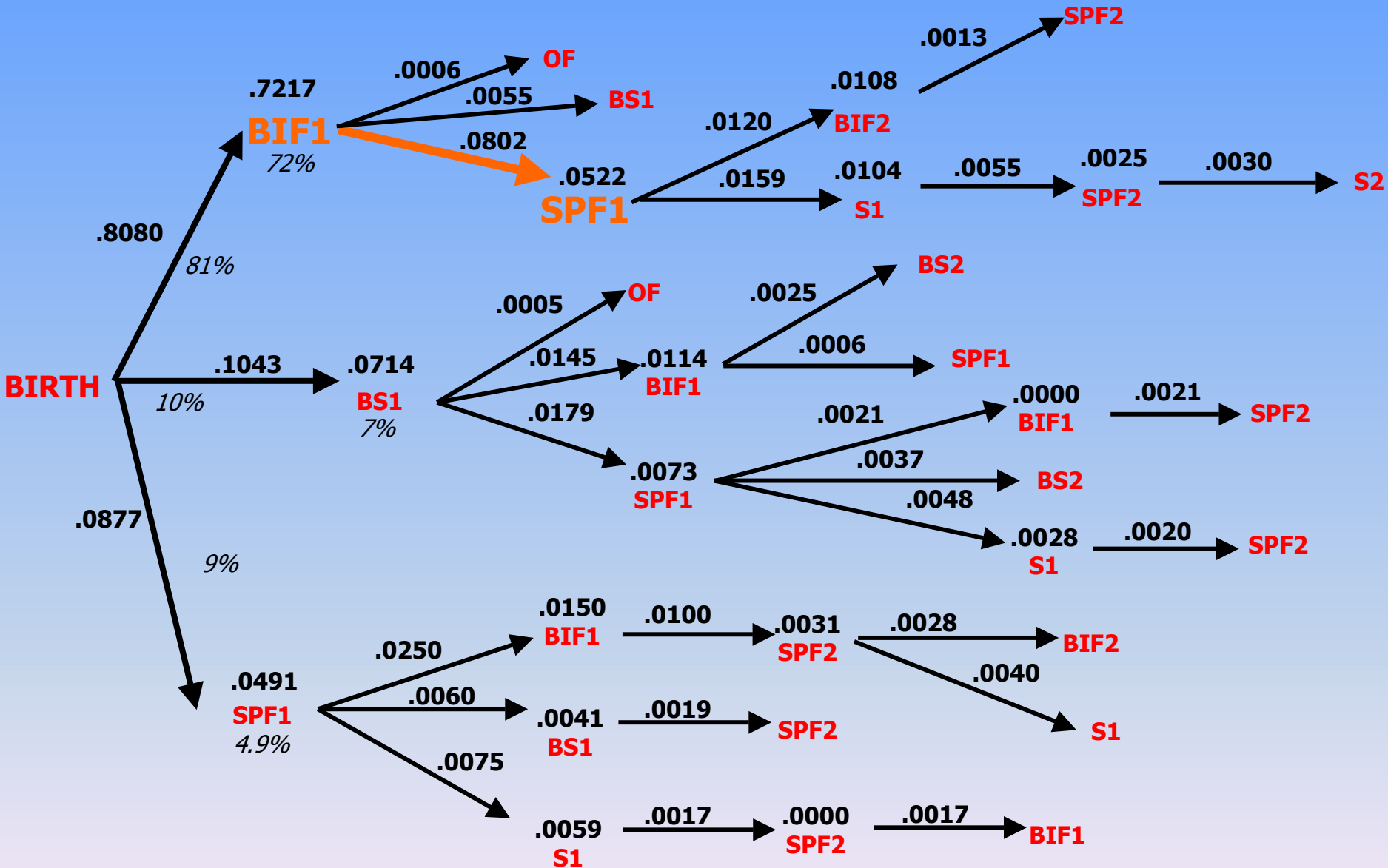




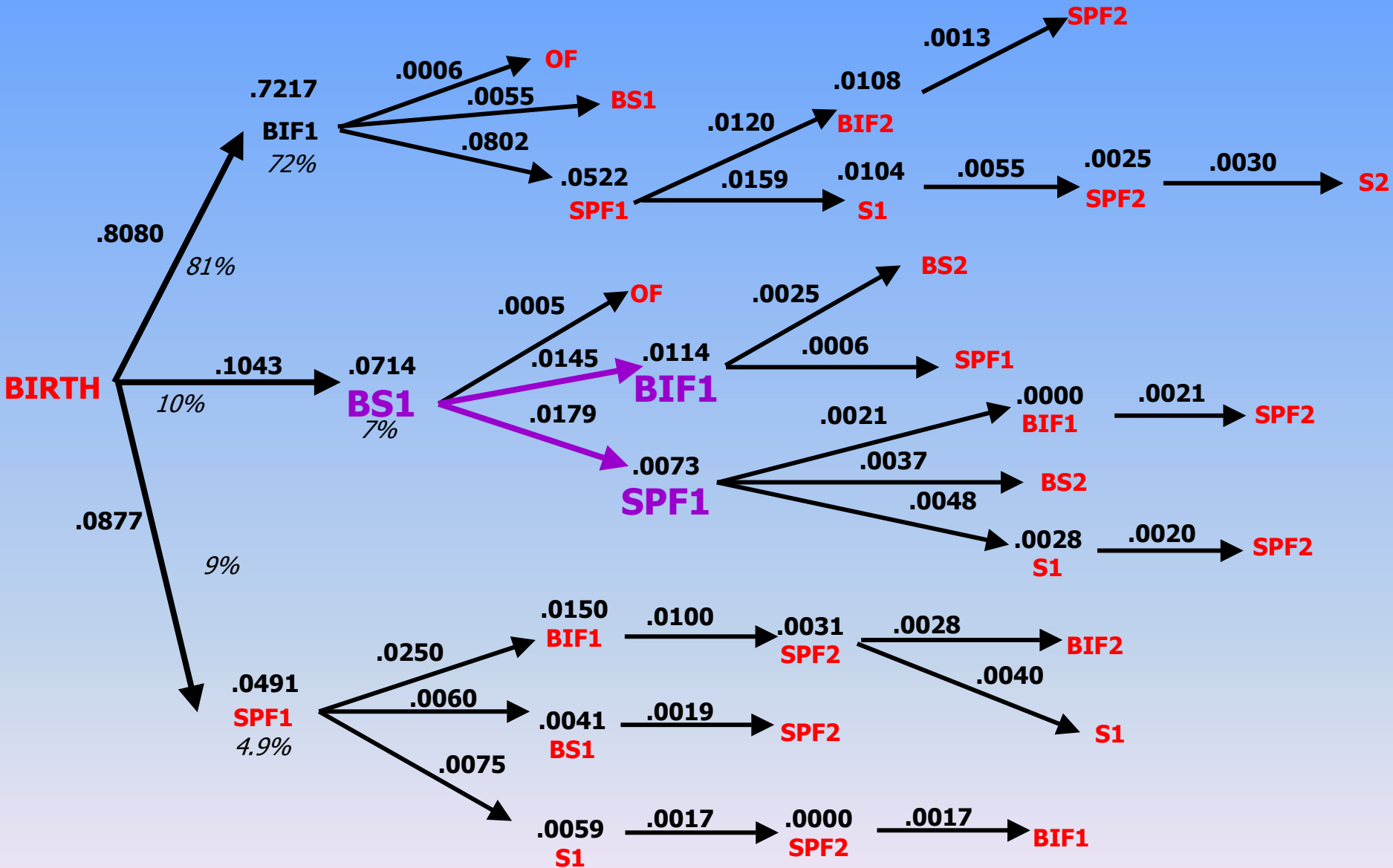
# Sequence probabilities



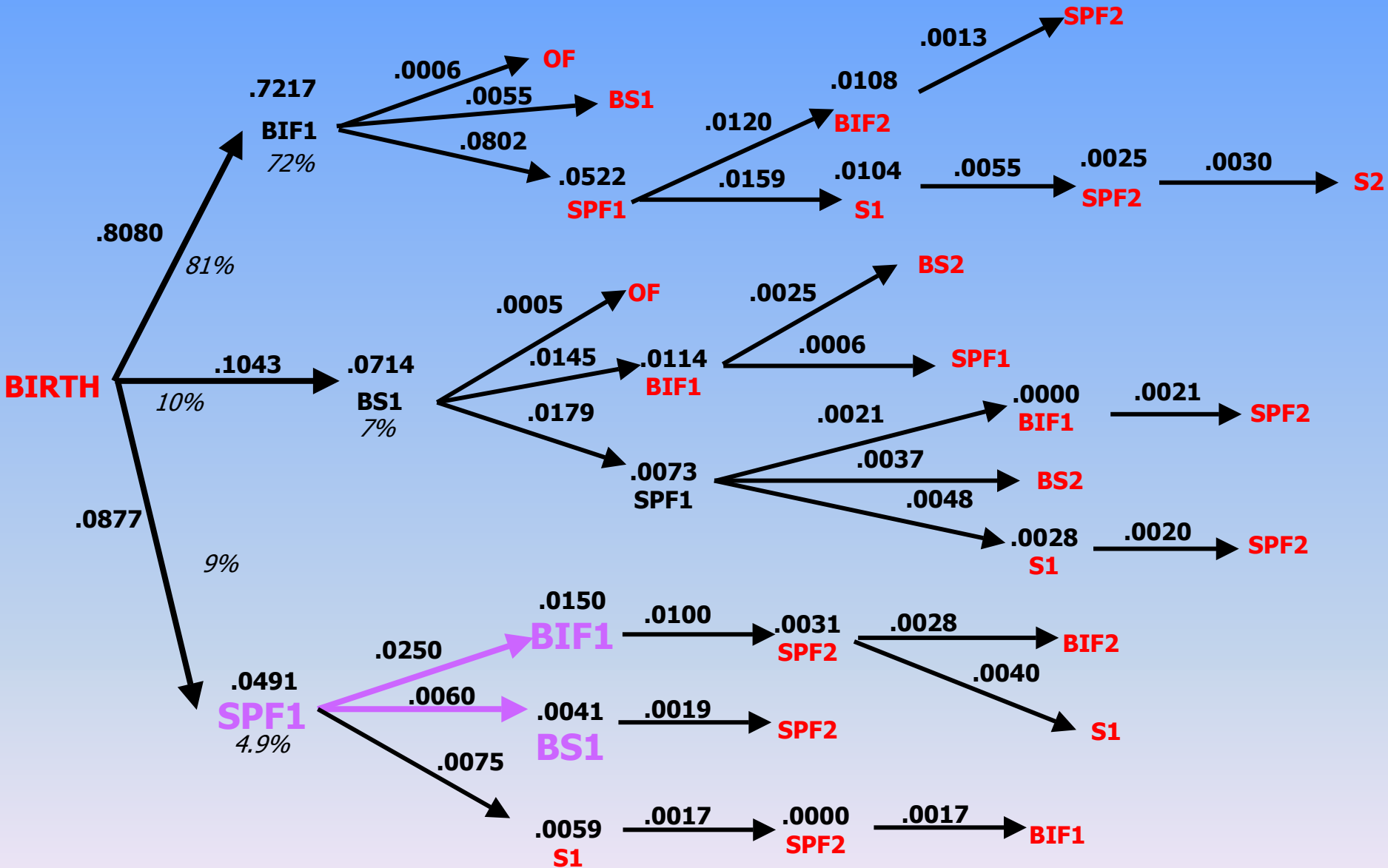
# Sequence probabilities



# Sequence probabilities



# Sequence probabilities



# Ending of a first single-parent episode according to family situation at birth

Single-parent family → New partner : **8.5%**  
→ Biological father: **35.3%**

Biological intact family → Single-parent family → New partner: **2%**  
→ Biological father: **1.5%**

Biological stepfamily → Single-parent family → New partner: **4.6%**  
→ Biological father: **5.6%**

# Proportion of children experiencing at least one transition according to family type at birth

**Biological intact families = 11%**

**Biological stepfamilies = 32%**

**Single-parent families = 44%**

- \* What proportion of children and their families moved in and out of economic hardship?**
- \* What are the characteristics of families having lived with chronic financial difficulties?**

# **Children living in a household whose income is inadequate, and the income deficit in relation to low-income cut-off (LICO)**

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	<b>1998 (5 months)</b>	<b>1999 (17 months)</b>	<b>2000 (29 months)</b>
	%		
<b>Percentage living in a low-income household</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>21.3</b>
<b>Income deficit/LICO (%)</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>36.1</b>

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# Proportion of children who:

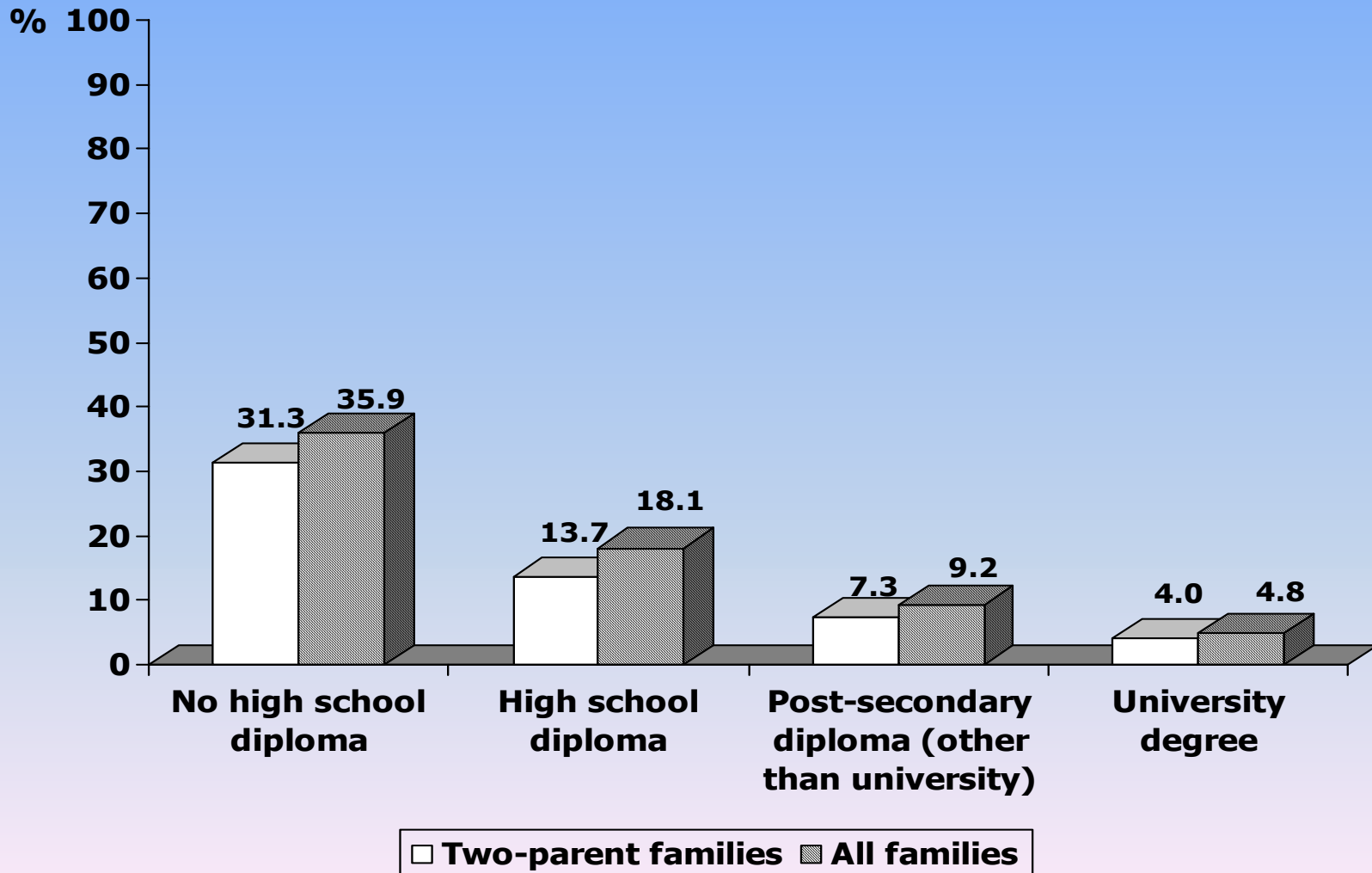
- \* Experienced at least one year below the LICO since birth = 32.7%
- \* Lived continuously below the LICO = 15.5%
- \* Moved out of low-income status after birth = 40%

**Median income variation for children leaving low-income category: \$13,500**

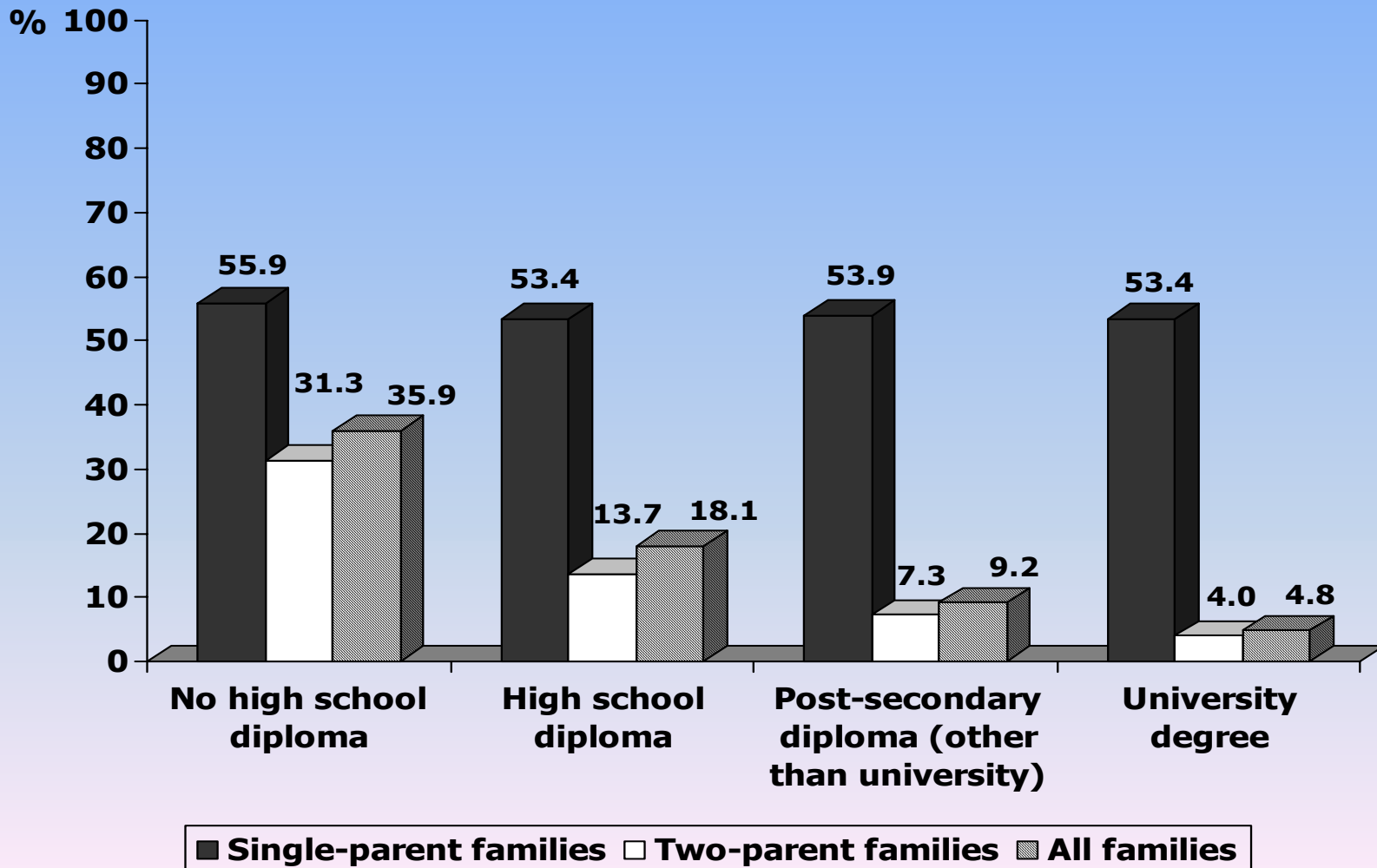
# **Households having lived with chronic financial difficulties**

- \* Single-mother (54%)**
- \* Teenage mother (50%)**
- \* Non-European (45%) or recent immigrant mother (less than 10 years) (44%)**
- \* Four children or more (36%)**
- \* Mother had no high school diploma (36%)**

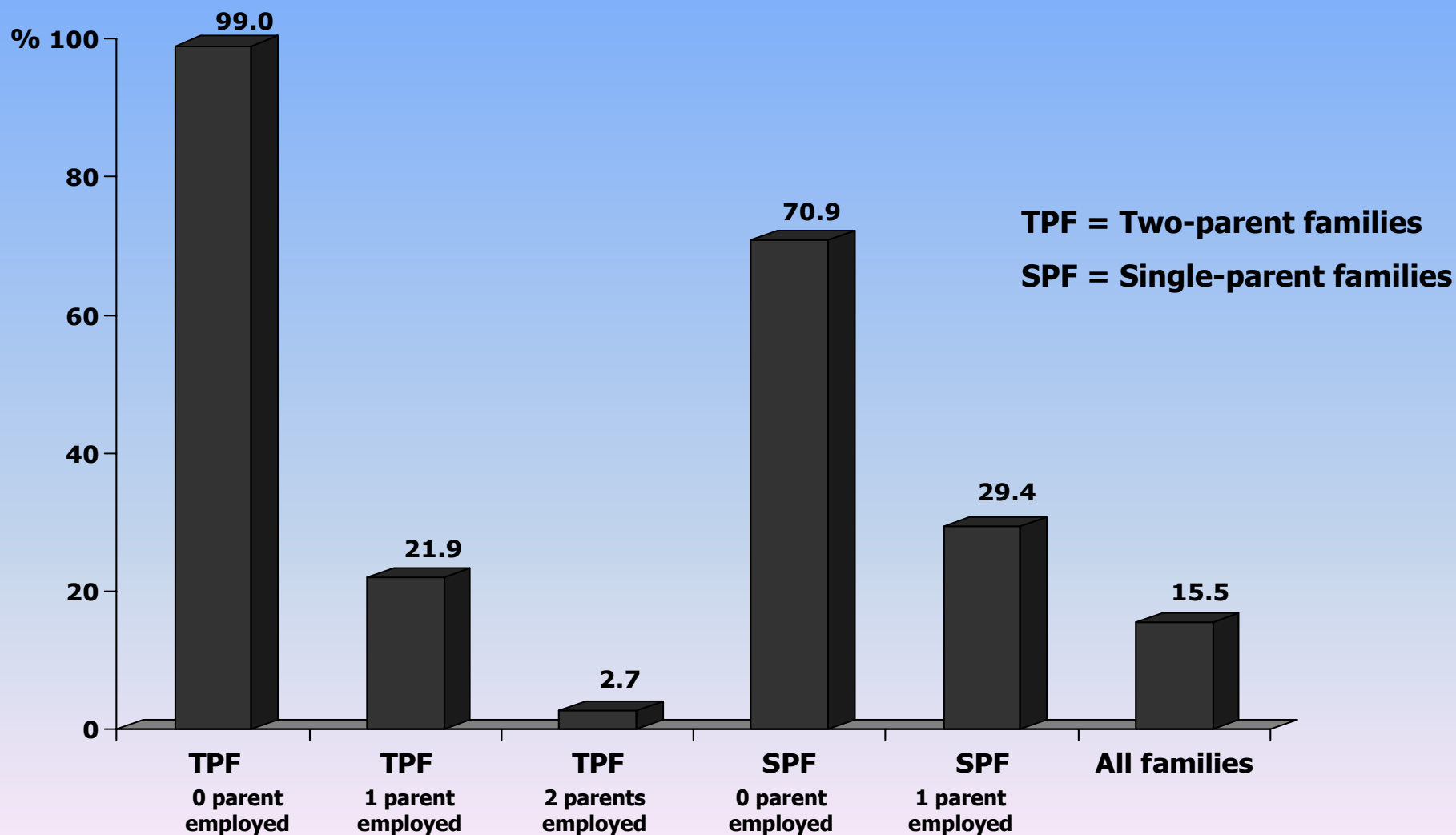
# Children living in a household with chronic financial difficulties according to mother's education and family situation at birth



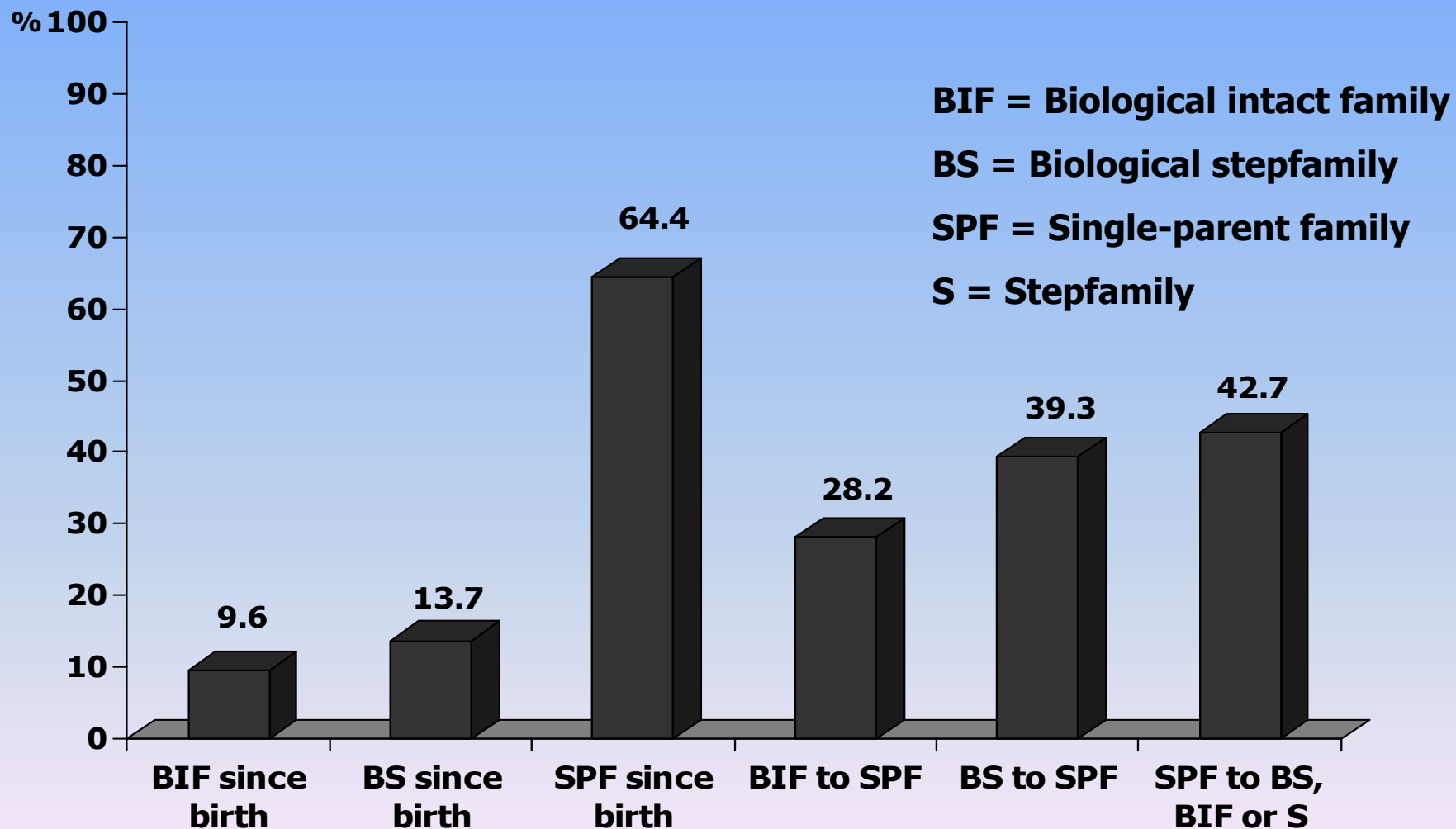
# Children living in a household with chronic financial difficulties according to mother's education and family situation at birth



# Children living in a household with chronic financial difficulties according to parents' employment status and family situation



# Children living in a household with chronic financial difficulties according to certain family trajectories



**\* Apart from movements below and above the low-income cut-off, what proportion of children experience a significant reduction in living standards when their parents separate?**

**\* What is the impact of an important change in living standards on the development and well-being of children of separated parents, once other factors, such as characteristics of the child and the context surrounding the separation are taken into account?**



**\* More generally, which factors make it possible to counter the negative influence of financial and social insecurity on preschool children's health and development?**