Disabled Development:
Where are Disabled Women amid the Sustainable Development Agenda in Costa Rica?
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Highlights

- Costa Rica *is* a development success story
- Costa Rica also has a lot of disabled people
- Both are true
- Sustainable development will require changes to include disabled Afro-Costa Rican women in this national progress, especially in Limón
- This study fills a data gap in country, adding to the 2018 National Survey on Disability data and underscoring the importance of disability-disaggregated life satisfaction data

Methods

- Comparative analyses made possible by IPUMS MICS

Outcome Measure
- **Life satisfaction outcome measure** in this study is a *Cantril ladder* (0-10) item from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)
- Cross validation checks for life satisfaction were done using The Gallup World Poll and were affirming

Disability Indicator
- **Binary disability indicator** was constructed from six IPUMS MICS 4-level ordinal variables covering six domains of functioning: seeing, hearing, walking, communicating, self-care, and remembering or concentrating. An individual was coded *disabled* if they had at least some difficulty in 1+ functional domain.

Ordered Logit Model
- An **ordered logistic regression model** was fit to regress life satisfaction on disability, geographic province, and their interaction, controlling for known predictors of life satisfaction
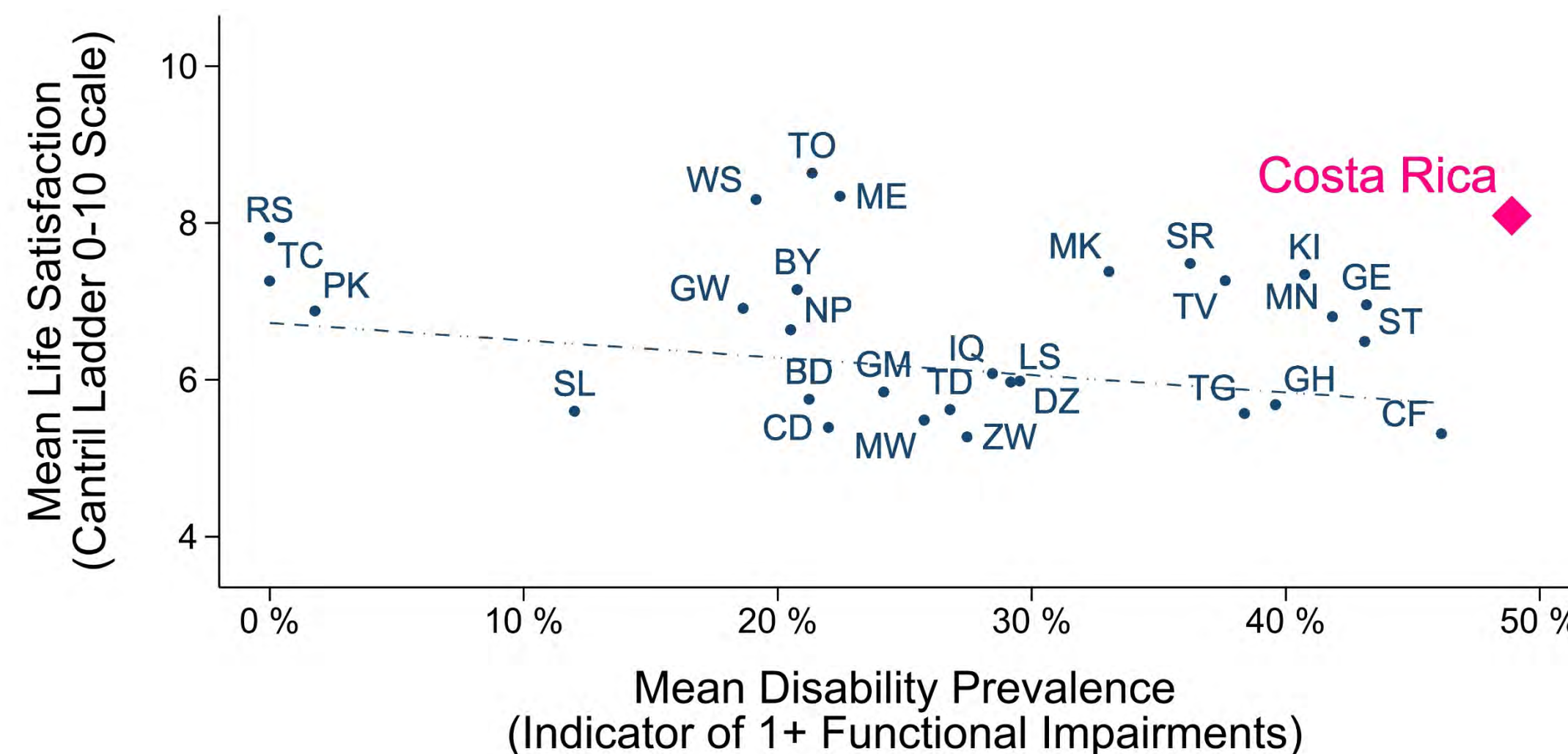
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All Surveyed Countries' Life Satisfaction and Disability (IPUMS MICS)

By viewing *aggregated* data, we see Costa Rican women had seemingly contradictory experiences of very high life satisfaction and the highest disability prevalence of all surveyed countries.

Figure 1. Life Satisfaction by Disability Prevalence for Women by Country 2017-2019 (n = 513,744, in 29 national samples)

Descriptives for Costa Rica

Table 1. Disability Percentages by Gender

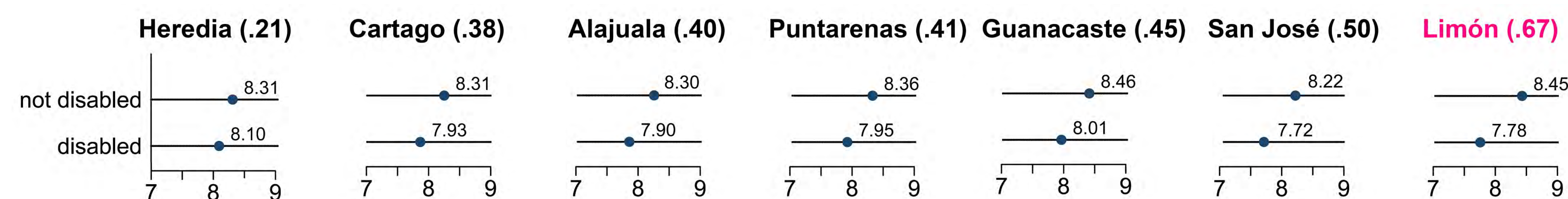|	Overall Disabled	Mild-to-Moderate Disability	Severe Disability
Men	39.1	49.3	36.4
Women	60.9	50.7	63.6

Source: National Survey on Disability (INEC-Costa Rica, 2018)

Table 2. Ethnicity Percentages by Province

	Limón	Puntarenas	Guanacaste	Alajuela	Cartago	San José	Heredia
Black/Afro-Costa Rican	55	15	3	6	4	3	2
Indigenous	2	3	5	2	1	1	1
White/Mestizo	36	69	75	79	81	78	84
Other/multiple	7	13	17	13	14	18	13

Source: INEC-Costa Rica National Census

Figure 2. Women's Life Satisfaction Disaggregated by Disability in each Geographic Province (LS gap)

Heredia (.21) / Cartago (.38) / Alajuala (.40) / Puntarenas (.41) / Guanacaste (.45) / San José (.50) / Limón (.67)

When life satisfaction data are *disaggregated* by disability, a disability gap is clear, and disabled Black/Afro-Costa Rican women are categorically left behind from the "development success story" (i.e., World Bank, UN) experienced by much of Costa Rica.

Results

Figure 3. Life Satisfaction and Disability for Women by Province
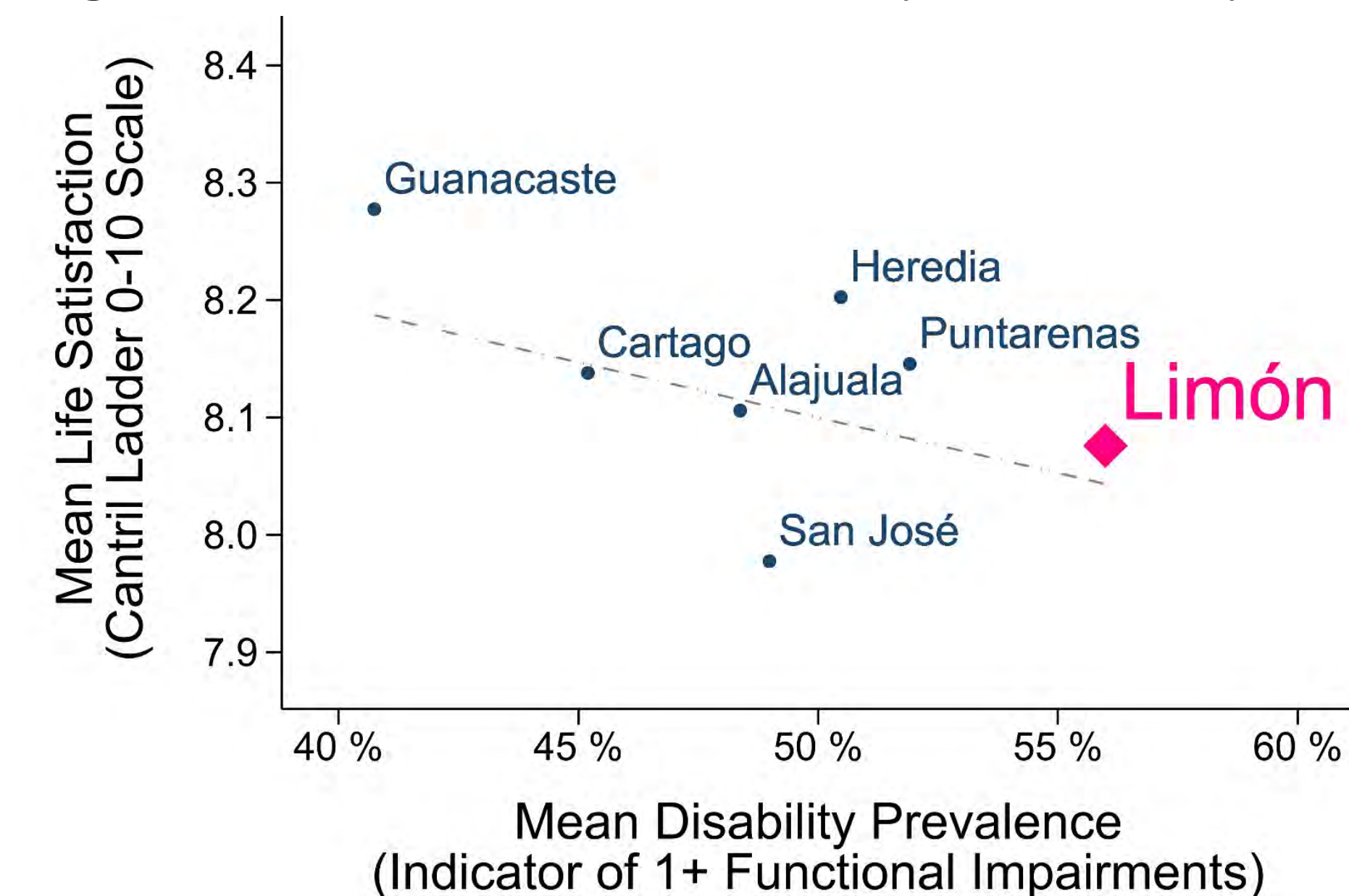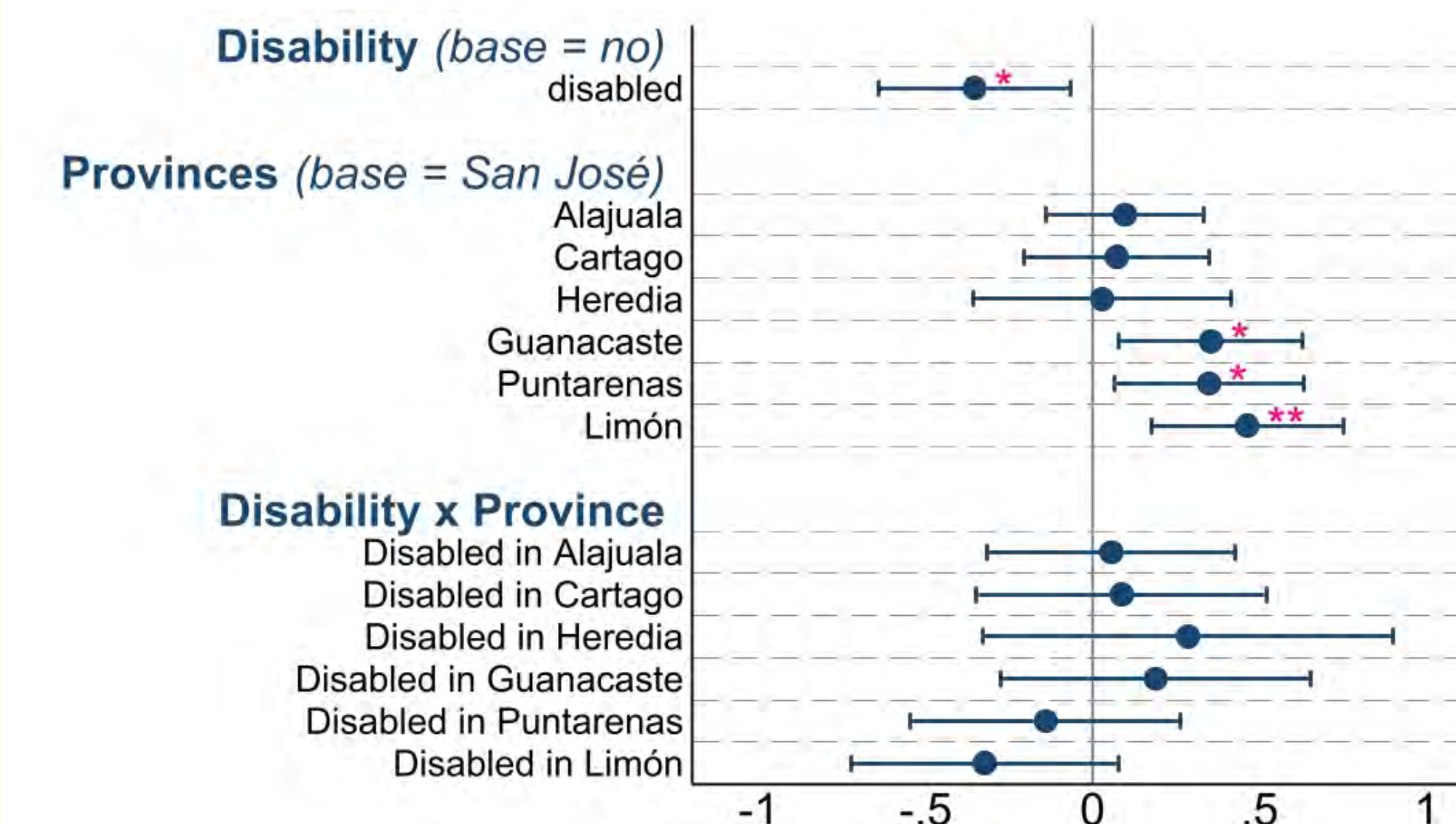

Figure 4. Women's Life Satisfaction Ordered Logit Model Coefficients – Predictors Only (controls not graphed)

* p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001; Capped lines represent 95% CIs.

Acknowledgements