



Utrecht University

CoGIS-NL: COVID-19 Gender (In)equality Survey Netherlands

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COVID19 lockdown in the Netherlands

- Country context crucial for understanding social processes (Ciccio and Javornik, 2019)
 - Cross-national variation in lockdown measures. Dutch case?
- Comparatively lenient approach: “intelligent” lockdown
 - Restrict spread of COVID19, & minimize economic, social, and psychological impact of pandemic
 - Emphasizes individual responsibility over state enforcement
- Mix of strict and lenient measures

Dutch “intelligent” lockdown

- Strict:
 - Closing of childcare centres, schools and universities; limited emergency care
 - Prohibition of public gatherings and events
 - Bars, restaurants, hairdressers, gyms, and saunas were closed
- Lenient/open to interpretation:
 - Maintain social distancing? Then shops/businesses open (own discretion)
 - ‘Stay at home’ but public spaces accessible

Gender inequality in times of COVID19?

High gender inequality among parents in NL

COVID19 measures place double or triple burden on families

Potential for **increase** in gender inequality among parents

But also potential for **decrease** in gender inequality among parents

CoGIS-NL study (1)

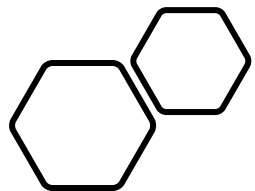
- Longitudinal study: LISS panel (CentERdata, Tilburg University)
 - **Wave 1: Fieldwork 13-28 April 2020**
 - Wave 2: Fieldwork July (retrospective June data)
 - Wave 3: ongoing (September)
 - Wave 4: November 2020
- Sampling frame (wave 1):
 - Households with at least 1 person in paid employment
 - Child(ren) under 18 in the home
 - Wave 2: supplemented with panel members without children

CoGIS-NL study (2)

- Sampling frame: 1,234 panel members
- Response rate 71.3%
- Final sample 868 respondents (643 households)
- Final analytic sample: 852 parents

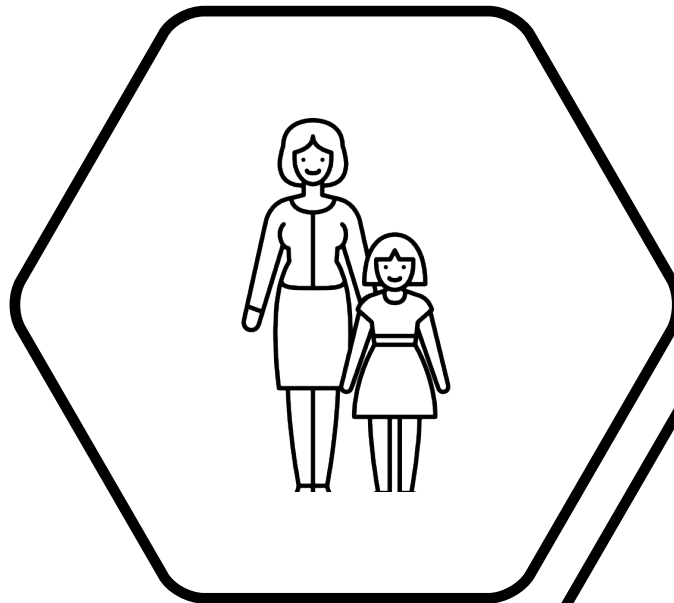
Measures

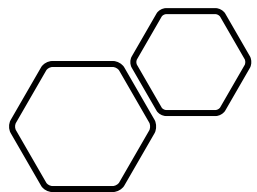
- Paid work
 - Work location
 - Timing of work
 - Perceived work pressure
- Division of care and household tasks (relative)
- Quality of life
 - Leisure time
 - Perceived work-life balance
 - Relationship dynamics
- All measures before and during lockdown



The mothers and fathers in our study: key occupations

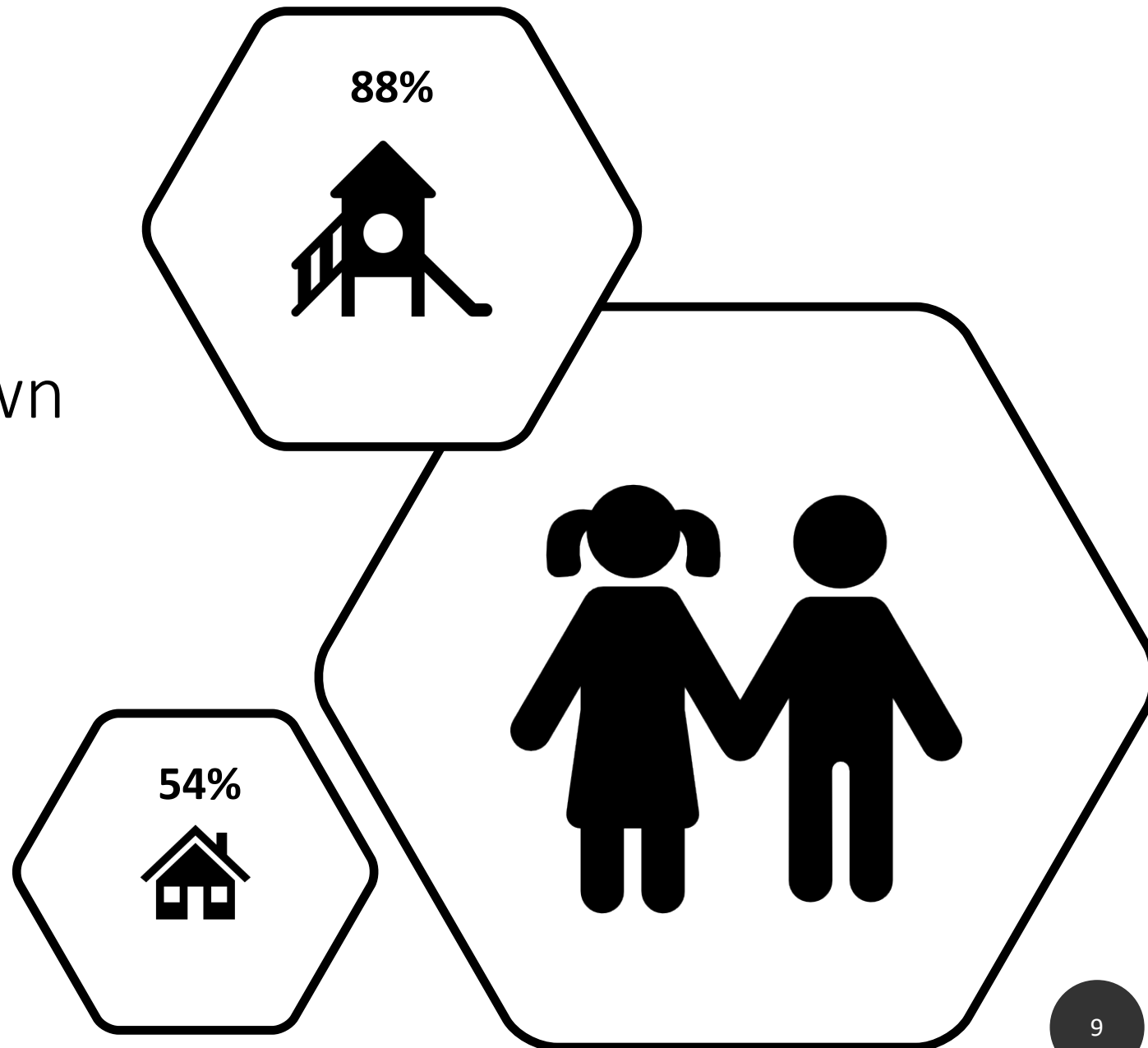
- 56% of the mothers works in an essential occupation versus 34% of the fathers
- 28% of the households consist of two people in an essential occupation
- 10% of the households are single-parent households with an essential occupation breadwinner

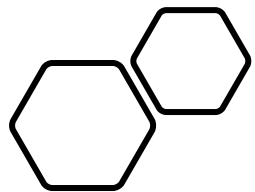




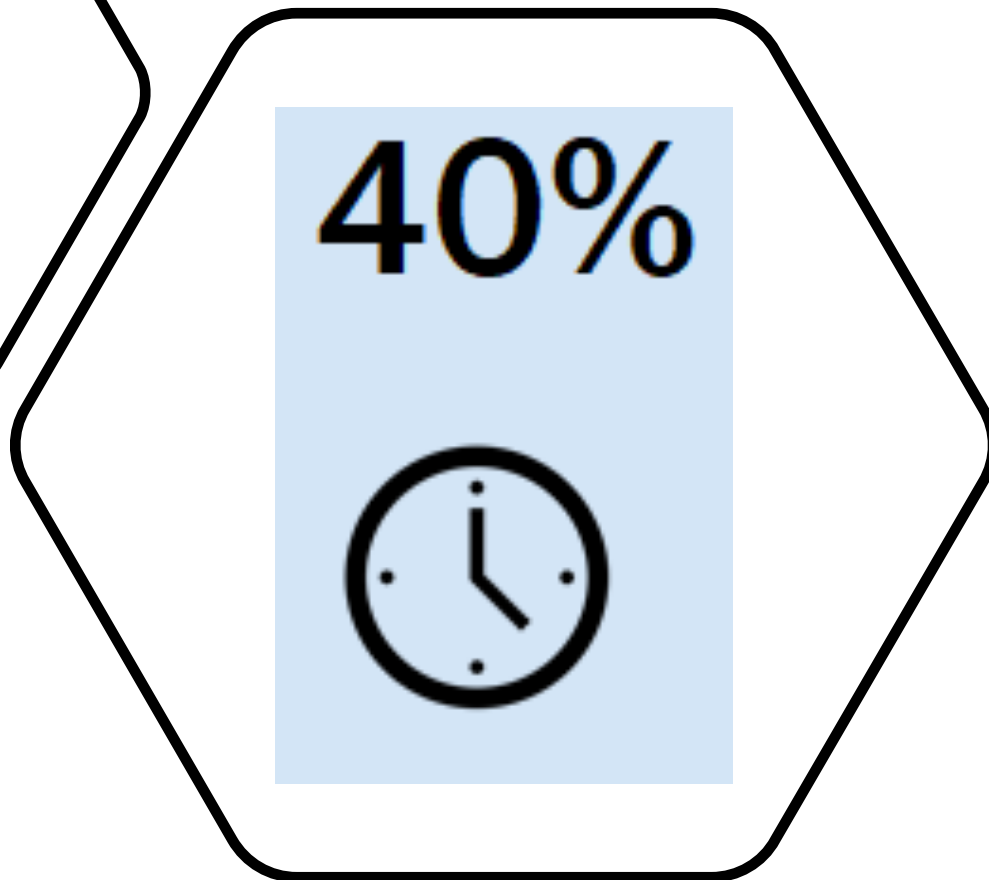
Changed family/household context in the lockdown

- More than half of parents worked from home
- Most (88%) children home from school or daycare; 6% attended normal school/daycare hours.

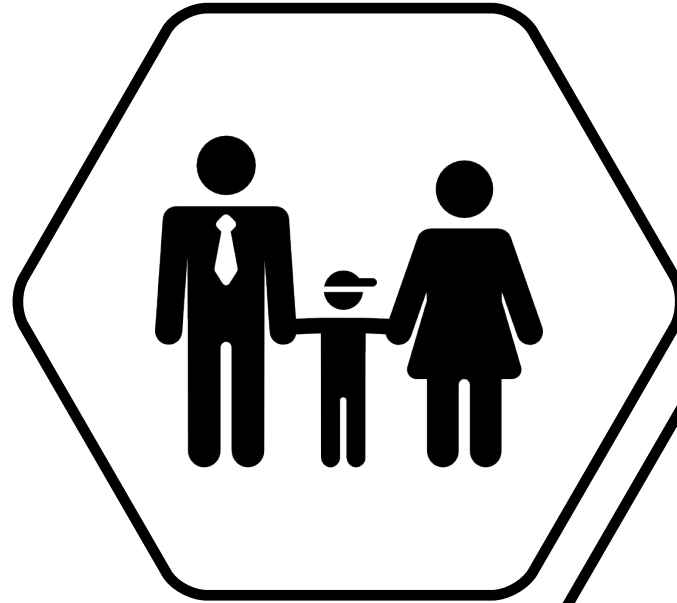
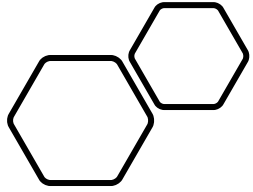




Work hours and work pressure

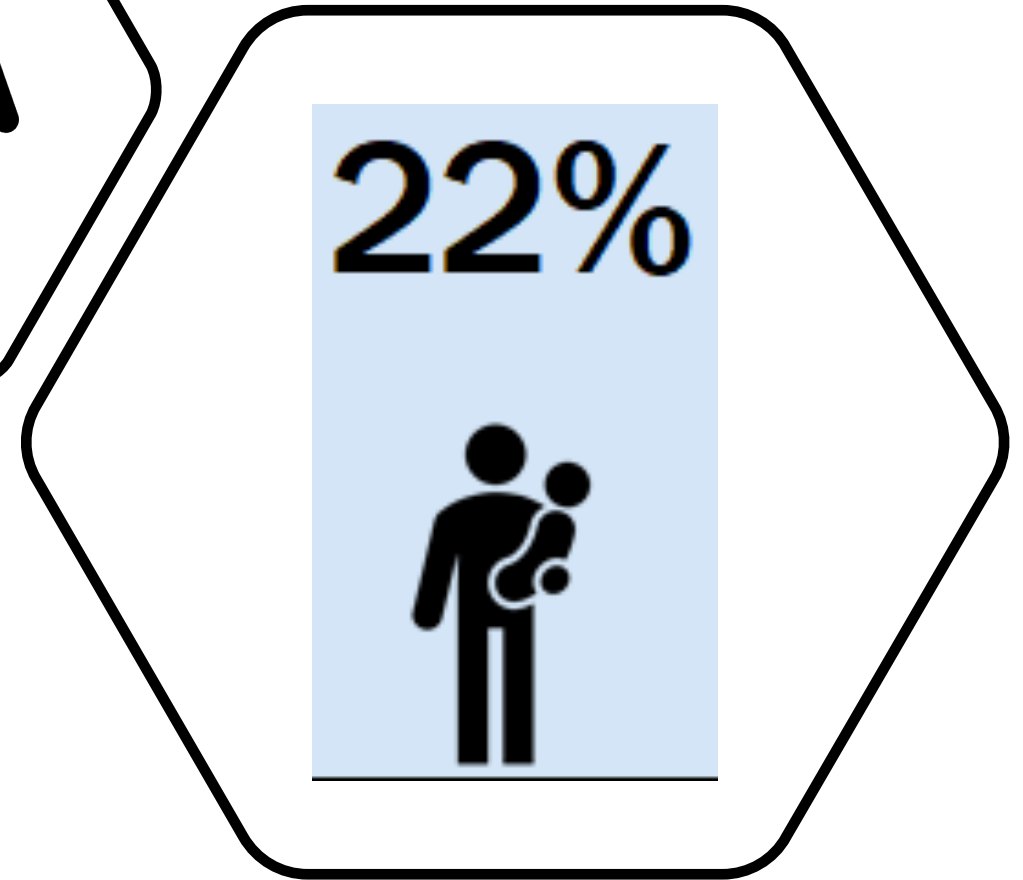


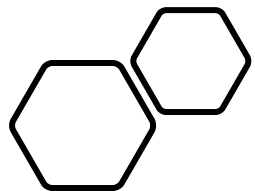
- 40% of parents worked more in the evenings; 43% of the mothers and 38% of the fathers
- Having to take care of the children, home schooling and work increases work pressure for many parents:
 - 39% of the mothers: more work pressure; 25% less work pressure
 - 31% of the fathers: more work pressure; 19% feels less work pressure



Division of care

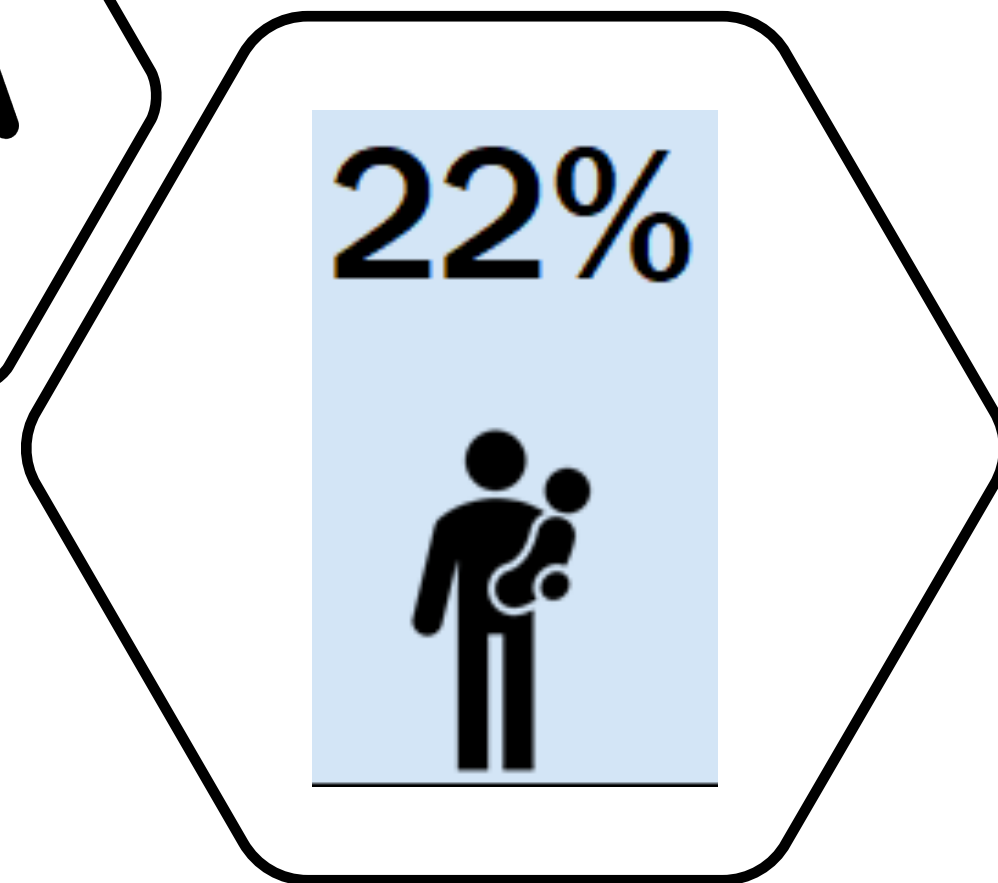
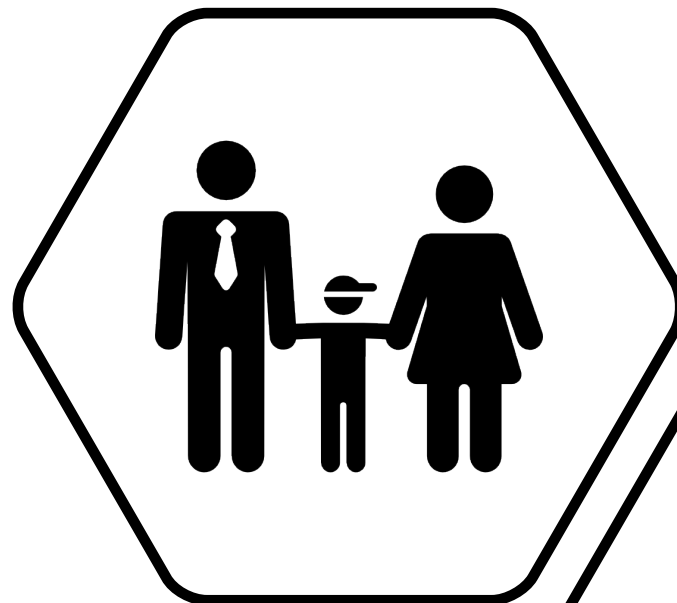
- Mothers indicated doing more care work than fathers (60% during lockdown; 64% before the lockdown).
- Fathers indicated doing more care work than mothers in 10% of the households (6% before the lockdown).
- Some change: 22% of fathers increase in care (12% of mothers).

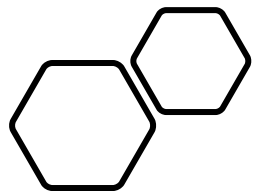




Division of housework

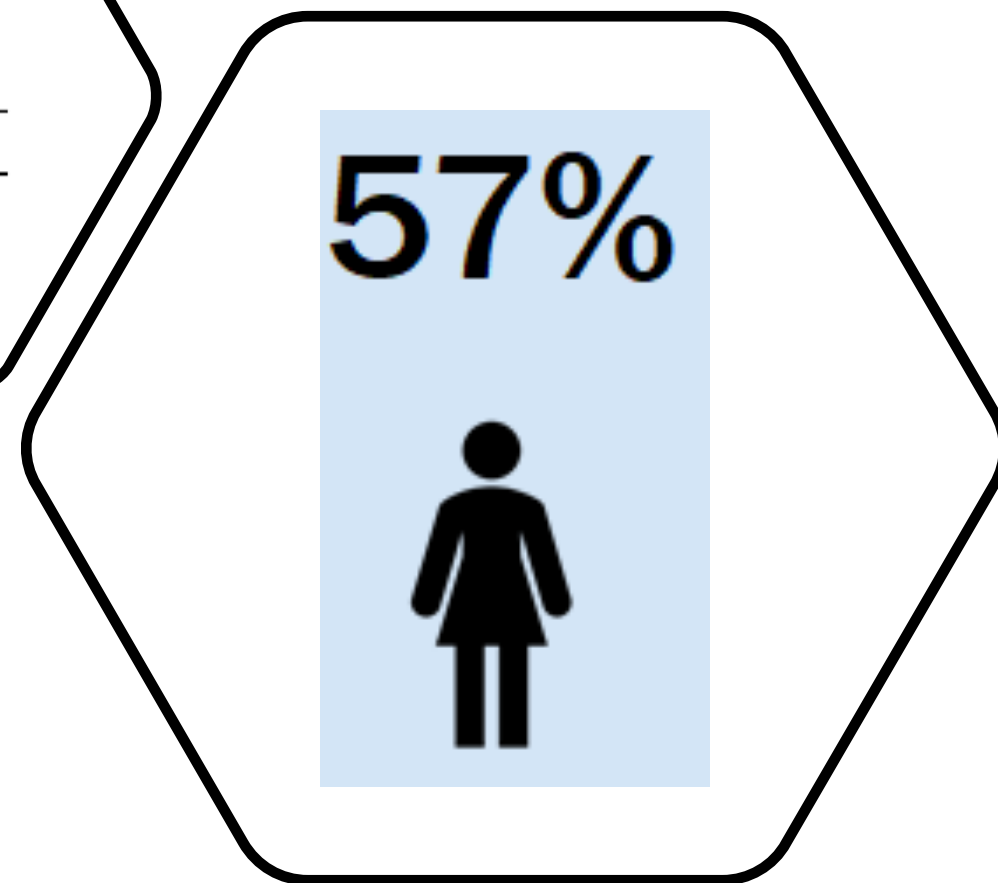
- Mothers indicated doing more housework than fathers in 65% of the households (70% before the lockdown).
- Most fathers indicated their partner did more (47% during the lockdown; 54% before the lockdown).
- Some change: 17% of fathers increase in household work (7% of mothers).





Increased leisure gap

- Half (48%) of parents reported a decrease in leisure
 - 57% of mothers reported less leisure time
 - 36% of fathers reported less leisure time



Deteriorating work-life balance

- One-third (29%) of parents perceived WLB to be (very) difficult (11% prior to lockdown)
 - No gender differences
 - Educational level
 - Stage of schooling of children




Stable relationship dynamics

- Majority of parents reported no change in frequency of disagreements
- Exception? Division of care:
 - 51% of parents experienced monthly (or more frequent) disagreements about care prior to lockdown
 - One-fifth experienced increase in disagreements



Summary

- Under COVID19, the lockdown significantly affected Dutch parents in gendered ways:
 - Mothers experienced more work pressure than fathers
 - Mothers sacrificed more leisure time than fathers
 - Mothers adjusted their working times more often
 - Fathers doing more care and household work than prior to COVID19

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- Future data collection
 - Limitations:
 - People's experiences of these changes
 - Absolute vs. relative measures
 - Focus on heterosexual couples
 - Focus on childcare
 - Follow the CoGIS-NL project on OSF:
<https://osf.io/mu7jg/>
 - Data publicly available through LISS panel
 - Syntax available 1 November



Moving
forward

Thanks for listening!

- M.A.Yerkes@uu.nl
- Full paper:
<https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/uq2pf/>

