

# The CoViD-19 crisis and the gender division of market and household work

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## Introduction

- Data from the Netherlands
  - Hours of work: February – September 2020
  - Time use: November 2019, April 2020
- On average, women reduce one hour extra during lockdown, effect vanishes by June
- No additional effect of children being present in the household on either parent!
- Allocation of additional childcare depends on hours of work pre-CoViD:
  - If both parents work full-time before pandemic: roughly equal shares
  - Combinations FT / PT or FT / no work: Gender care gap increases

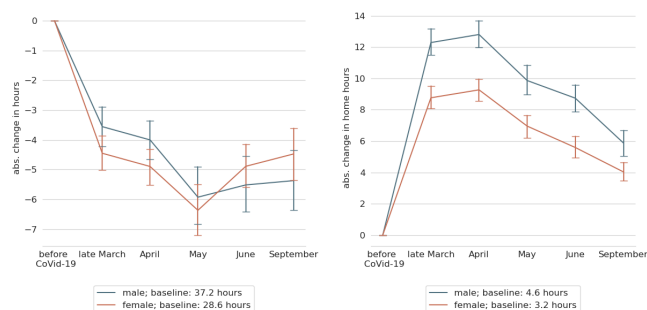
## Data: Background

- LISS: Online Panel in the Netherlands, running since 2007
- Sibling of UAS
  - Descendant of CentERpanel
  - Joint usage via Open Probability-Based Panel Alliance
- Roughly 5,000 households / 7,500 individuals
- Each month, respondents get 30 minutes of questionnaires
- Around 85% of respondents can be linked to administrative microdata (not today)

## Data: CoViD-19 surveys, Time Use

- CoViD-19 questionnaires
  - March 20-31 (mild lockdown), April 6-28 (mild lockdown), May (day-care / primary schools started reopening), June, September
  - See <https://liss-covid-19-questionnaires-documentation.readthedocs.io/>
  - Will mostly use hours of work
- Time use & consumption questionnaires
  - November 2019: Baseline
  - April 2020: Similar to November 2019 edition, adapted to lockdown situation
  - November 2020: Similar to November 2019, adapted to current situation

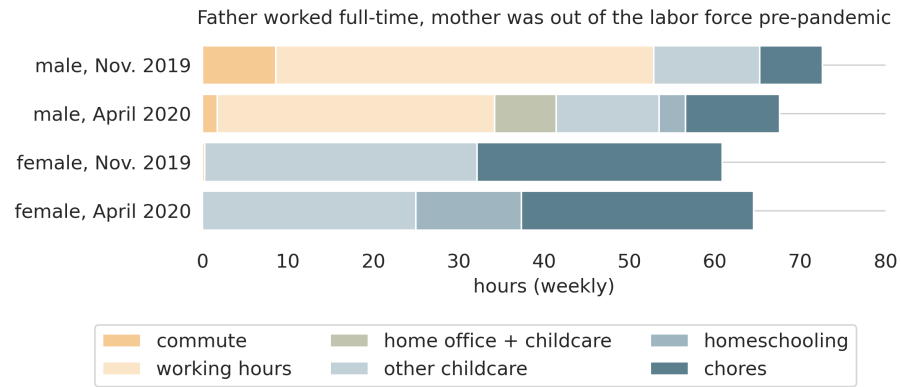
## Hours worked / worked from home



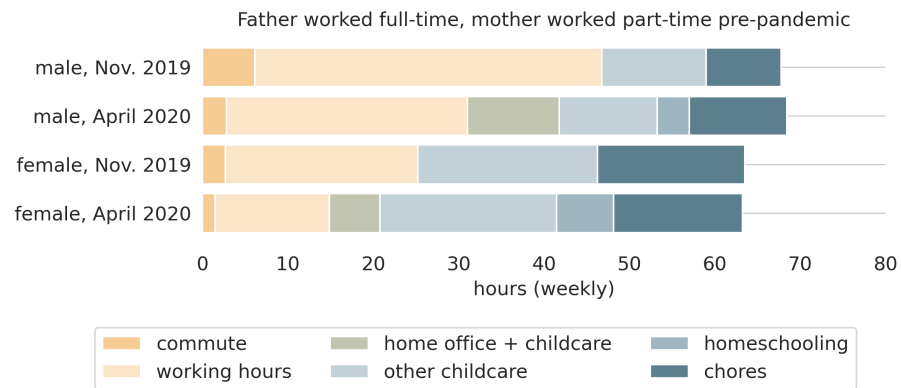
## Fixed effects regressions

- Hours of work on gender  $\times$  month, controls
- Large heterogeneity
  - Non-essential FT women reduce **3 more** hours during lockdown than non-essential men
  - Essential FT women reduce 1.5 hours **less** than non-essential men
- Rich controls on RHS, exact set does not matter:
  - month  $\times$  gender  $\times$  (1, part time, essential worker, age)
  - month  $\times$  (age, percentage of work doable from home, self-employment, profession, sector)
- Add gender  $\times$  month  $\times$  school children at home
  - No change (precise zero or hours slightly **better** preserved among parents)
  - Coefficients very similar when restricting sample to 2-parent families

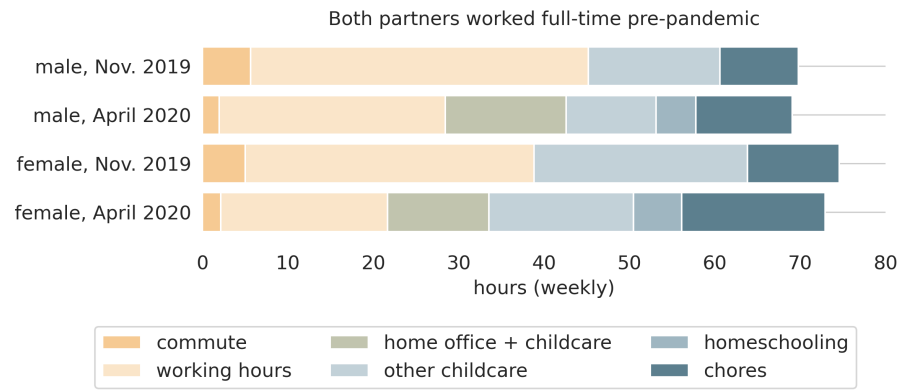
## Full-time / Non-working couples



## Full-time / Part-time couples



## Full-time x2 couples



## Takeaways

- Gender division of tasks during CoViD-19: Very heterogeneous
  - Not back to the 1950s
  - Not the great equalizer
  - Pre-existing patterns re-inforced
- Western Europe: Work hours of women (relatively) well preserved
  - Consequence of highly subsidised daycare with comparably short hours?
  - Short school closures ( 2-3 months) very likely key
- Glimpse of hope in the long run via changed norms?
  - Home office acceptance rises for men, less hindrance on career path
  - No long commute on 2-3 days → available for childcare / emergencies