



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

PB02-208
10 October 2002
9:30 AM

Most couples happy with division of domestic tasks

In three-quarters of families in the Netherlands with at least one child under 12 years of age, both parents go out to work. According to Statistics Netherlands' *Family Monitor 2000*, a survey among families with young children, the more hours a woman works, the more time her partner spends on household chores. In families where the mother works for less than twelve hours a week, who does what at home hardly differs from families with a stay-at-home mother. Two out of ten women with a job for 12-29 hours a week are not happy with the division of domestic tasks.

More disagreement about tasks if women work 12 hours or more

Only a quarter of men in families with young children are sole breadwinners. As more hours spent on work outside the home mean fewer hours for household work, who does what at home is no longer a matter of course. According to this survey, the more hours women work, the more likely they are to have a difference in opinion with their partners on the division of household tasks. Fifty-seven percent of women working for between 12 and 29 hours said they had had a disagreement on this issue, compared with 39 percent of women without a job. In the case of care, too, women working more hours are more likely to disagree with their partners on who does what. Apparently the division of domestic tasks is not always self-evident and requires a degree of communication.

Half of women working more than twelve hours do most at home

Most women with young children are happy with the division of tasks at home, only one in ten are not really satisfied. For women working more than twelve hours two out of ten are not happy with the division of household tasks.

In four out of ten families with young children where the mother works for more than twelve hours, both partners spend about the same time on household tasks. In one out of ten families men do most and in the remaining half the women do clearly more than their partners.

Men cook and shop; women more care-oriented

In families where men do more household chores, they mainly do more

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cooking and shopping. One in three men in families where the mother works for more than twelve hours cooks regularly or most often. In households where the man is the sole breadwinner this is the case for only one in ten men.

In all families women spend more time on care than their husbands, such as tending to sick children, school runs etc. This hardly differs between women working for less and those working for more than twelve hours a week. In nine out of ten families women do the most in this area.

In families where the mother does work for more than twelve hours, men spend slightly more time on care tasks, but this remains limited. In only one in five families do men do the same amount in this area as women.