

IN-CLASS EXERCISE: ANALYZING THE SECOND SHIFT

The goal of this exercise is two-fold:

- (1) to determine how the division of labor is split between homes, both in reality and in perception, and
- (2) to determine which status (gender, marital, or parental) is most important for how we divide household chores.

To answer these questions, we must consider various factors:

- (1) According to our sample, what is the reported *reality* of who does what at home? This type of question can be answered by comparing respondents' answers about what they do to their answers regarding what their partners do (ie. respondents compared to partners).
- (2) According to our sample, what is the *perception* of how household work is divided? To answer this question, we can compare the answers reported by respondents within the same status (ie. men compared to women, marrieds compared to cohabitators, and parents compared to non-parents).
- (3) According to our sample, how *satisfied* are respondents with the division of labor in their household? Respondents were asked to report on a scale of 1-5, with 1=Very Dissatisfied and 5=Very Satisfied. We can assume that any satisfaction score over 2.5 errs on the side of Satisfaction.

The questions below are intended to help you to explore the questions stated above. In analyzing this data, we shall use two guidelines as a standard of difference:

- (1) Percentages differences equal to or greater than 4% shall be considered meaningful.
- (2) Satisfaction level differences equal to or greater than .2 shall be considered meaningful.

4. Compare the men's average percentages of work with the corresponding work levels reported by women. Are there tasks where these percentages are discrepant?
 (EXAMPLE: On average, men report that **they** do 78% of auto maintenance and on average, while women report that **their partners** do 76% of auto maintenance. This means that either men overestimate their contributions to auto maintenance or women underestimate it.)

Task	Men	Women
Auto maintenance	78%	76%
Household cleaning	15%	18%
Child care	10%	12%
Meal preparation	12%	15%
Shopping	8%	10%
Transportation	5%	7%
Home repairs	3%	4%
Financial management	2%	3%
Education	1%	2%
Health care	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%

5. Compare the men's average percentages of work with the corresponding work levels reported by women. Are there tasks where these percentages are discrepant?
 (EXAMPLE: On average, women report that **they** do 26% of auto maintenance and on average, while men report that **their partners** do 21% of auto maintenance. This means that either women overestimate their contributions to auto maintenance or men underestimate it.)

Task	Men	Women
Auto maintenance	26%	21%
Household cleaning	15%	18%
Child care	10%	12%
Meal preparation	12%	15%
Shopping	8%	10%
Transportation	5%	7%
Home repairs	3%	4%
Financial management	2%	3%
Education	1%	2%
Health care	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%

6. Compare the men and women's average levels of satisfaction with the division of labor in the household. Are there tasks where men are more satisfied? Are there tasks where women are more satisfied?

Task	Men	Women
Auto maintenance	78%	76%
Household cleaning	15%	18%
Child care	10%	12%
Meal preparation	12%	15%
Shopping	8%	10%
Transportation	5%	7%
Home repairs	3%	4%
Financial management	2%	3%
Education	1%	2%
Health care	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%

