



CentERdata
Institute for data collection and research

Family Science: Possibilities and Limitations of Online Panels

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The LISS panel

- Probability sample of 5,000 households of the Dutch population
- Households without internet receive a broadband internet connection
- All household members aged 16 years and older have been completing questionnaires every month since 2007

1) Family and Household – Core questionnaire

2) Life History Questionnaire



Family and Household - Core Questionnaire

- Biological parents
- Partner
- Children
- Contact / support parents – frequency and quality
- Activities with partner
- Marital quality and conflicts
- Division of roles in household chores / childcare
- Child behavior
- Childcare



Life History Questionnaire (1)

- Overview history family situation
- Biological parents
 - condition: respondent has lived with biological parents till the age of four or longer
 - > if not: adoptive parents
- Alternative family situation
 - condition: respondent has lived in this situation for 1 year or longer
 - preferably parent and stepparent




Life History Questionnaire (2)

- Education and employment
- Religion and cultural consumption
- Division of roles – household chores and childcare
- Conflicts between parents
- Economic situation
- Relationship between parents and child
- Siblings

In case of divorce:

Relationship with parent living out of home



Survey research on family and household: main decision points

1. Sample structure
2. Longitudinal design vs single questionnaire
3. Data collection method (online vs face to face)
4. Retrospective vs prospective



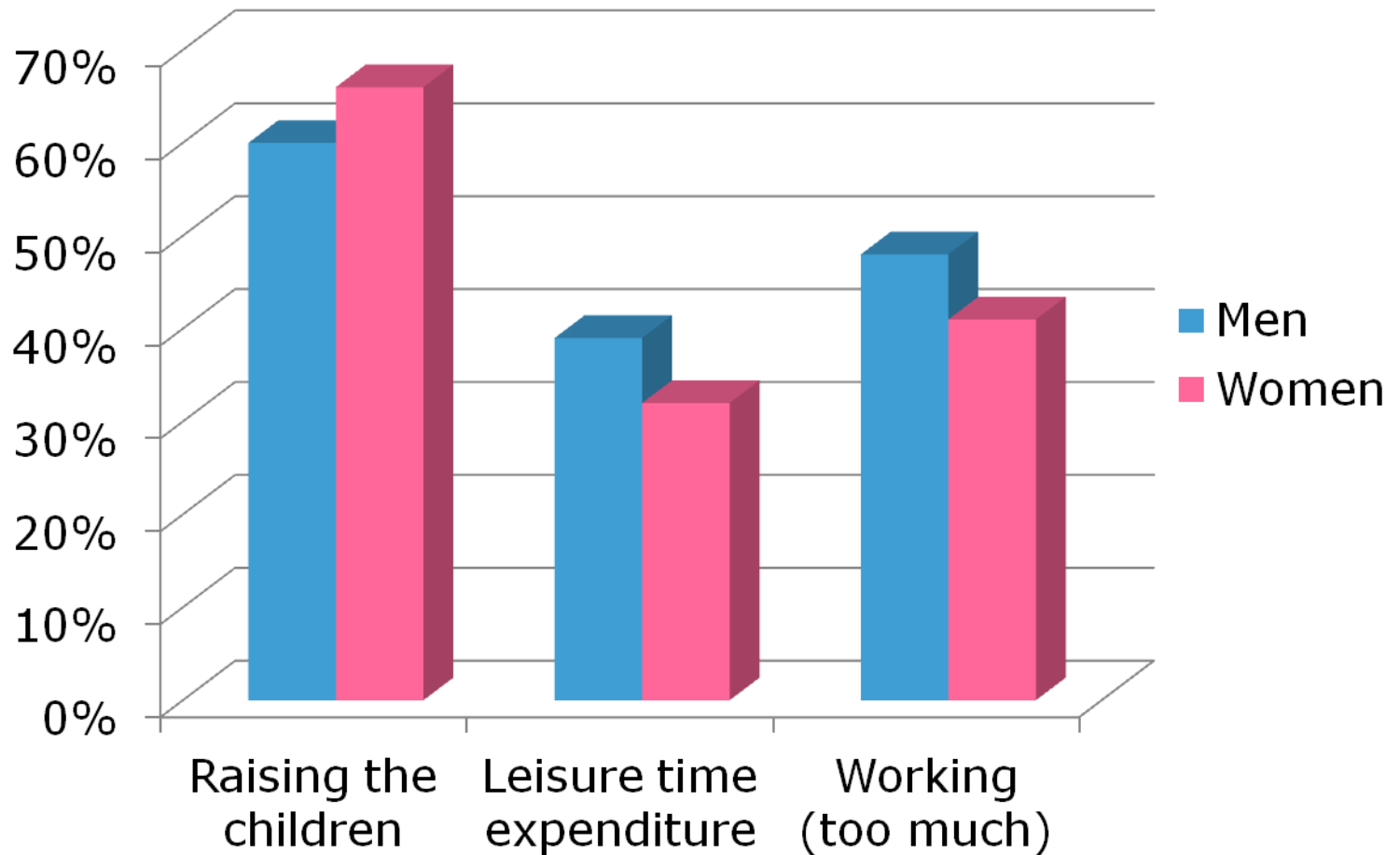
Sample structure

- Household sample or sample of individuals



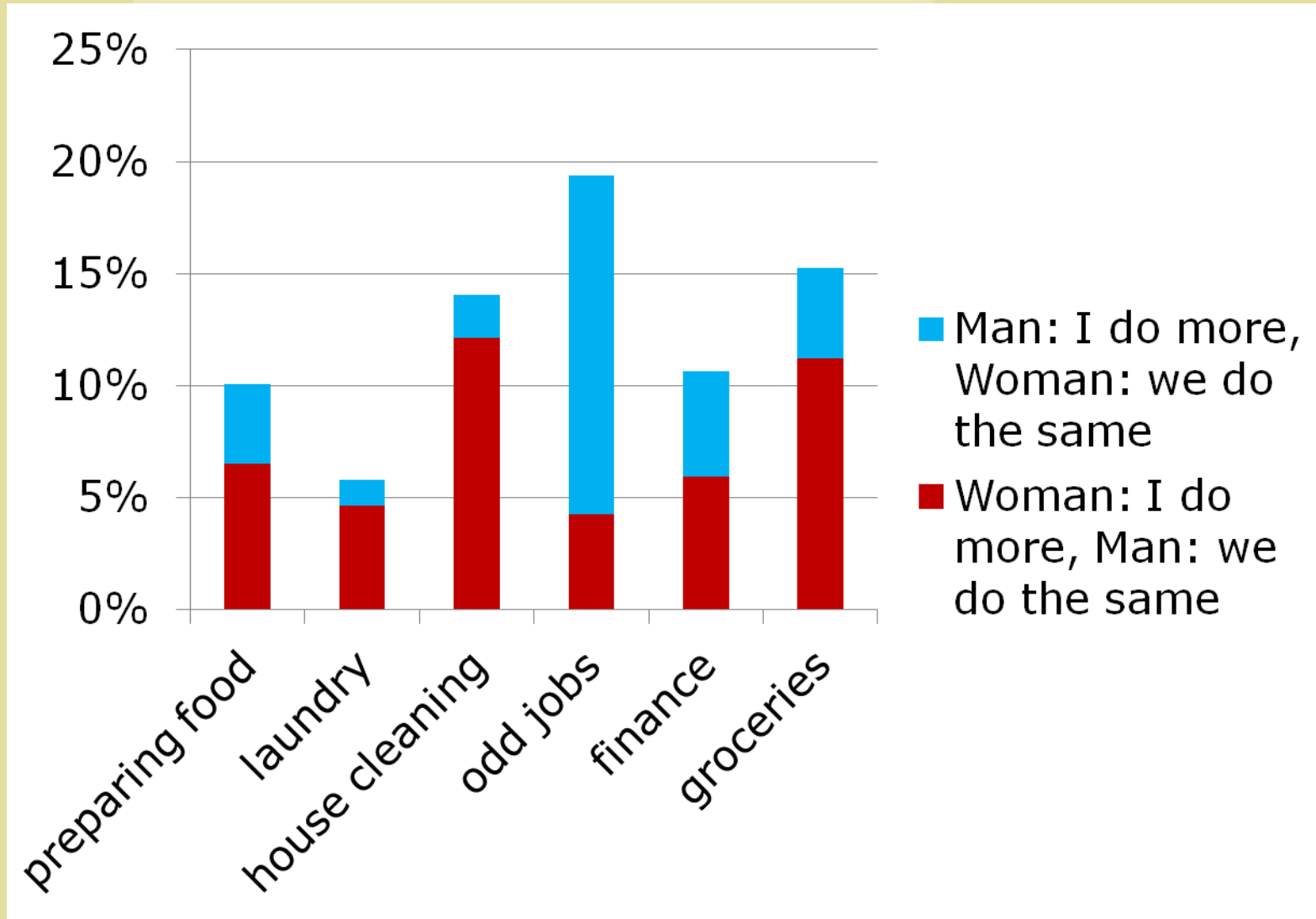
Sample structure

Differences of opinion





Sample structure

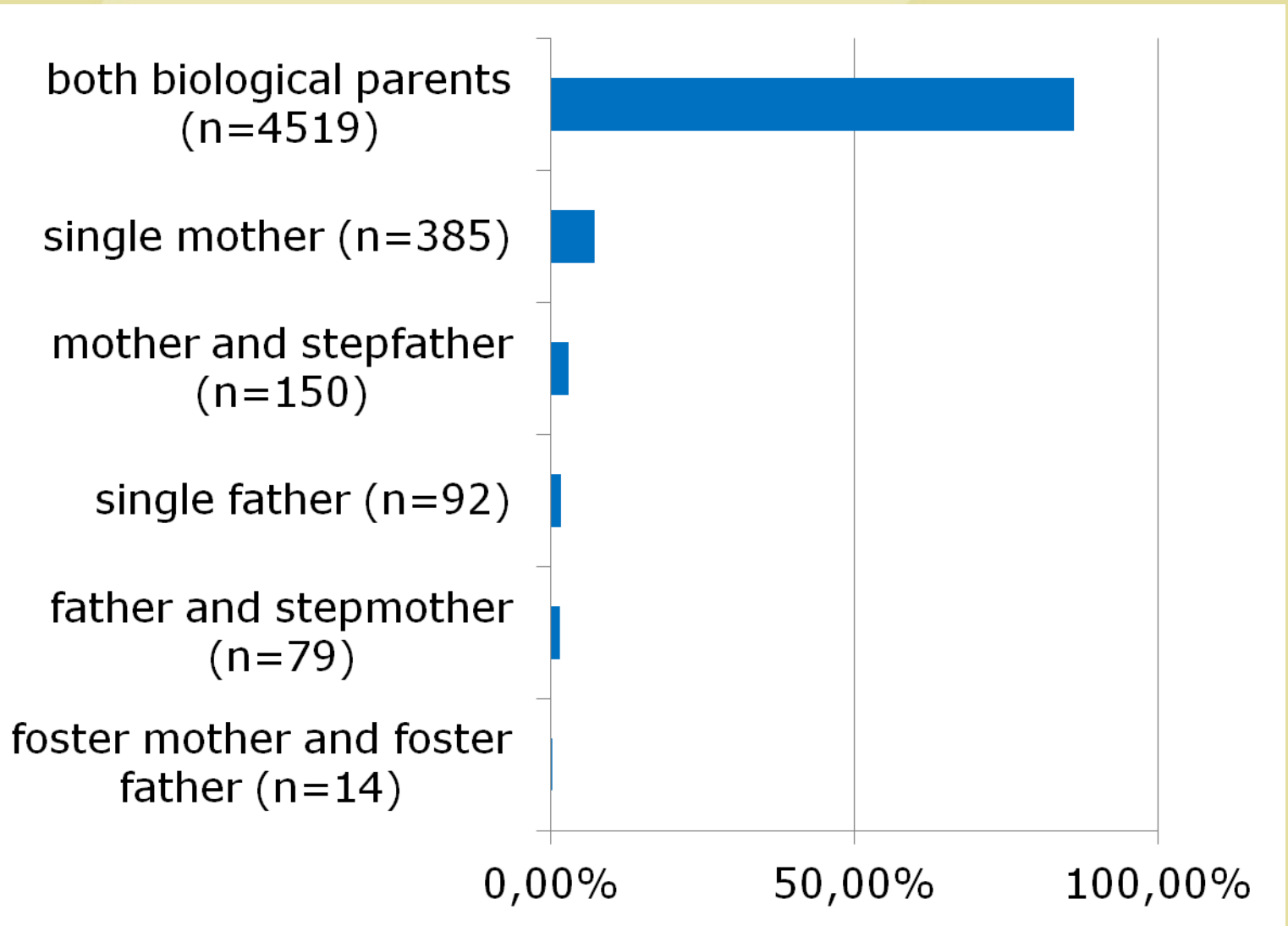





Sample structure

- Representative sample or focus on particular groups

Frequencies secondary households





Panel design

- Changes in time
- Long-term effects
- Data matching



Data collection method

- Best possible online panel
- Experiments
- High response rates



Data collection method

Online:

- Low costs
- No interviewer effect
- Panel members complete questionnaires in their own time

Face to face:

- Complex surveys
- Interaction
- Motivating respondents to participate



Retrospective vs Prospective

Retrospective: respondents are asked about events that happened in the past

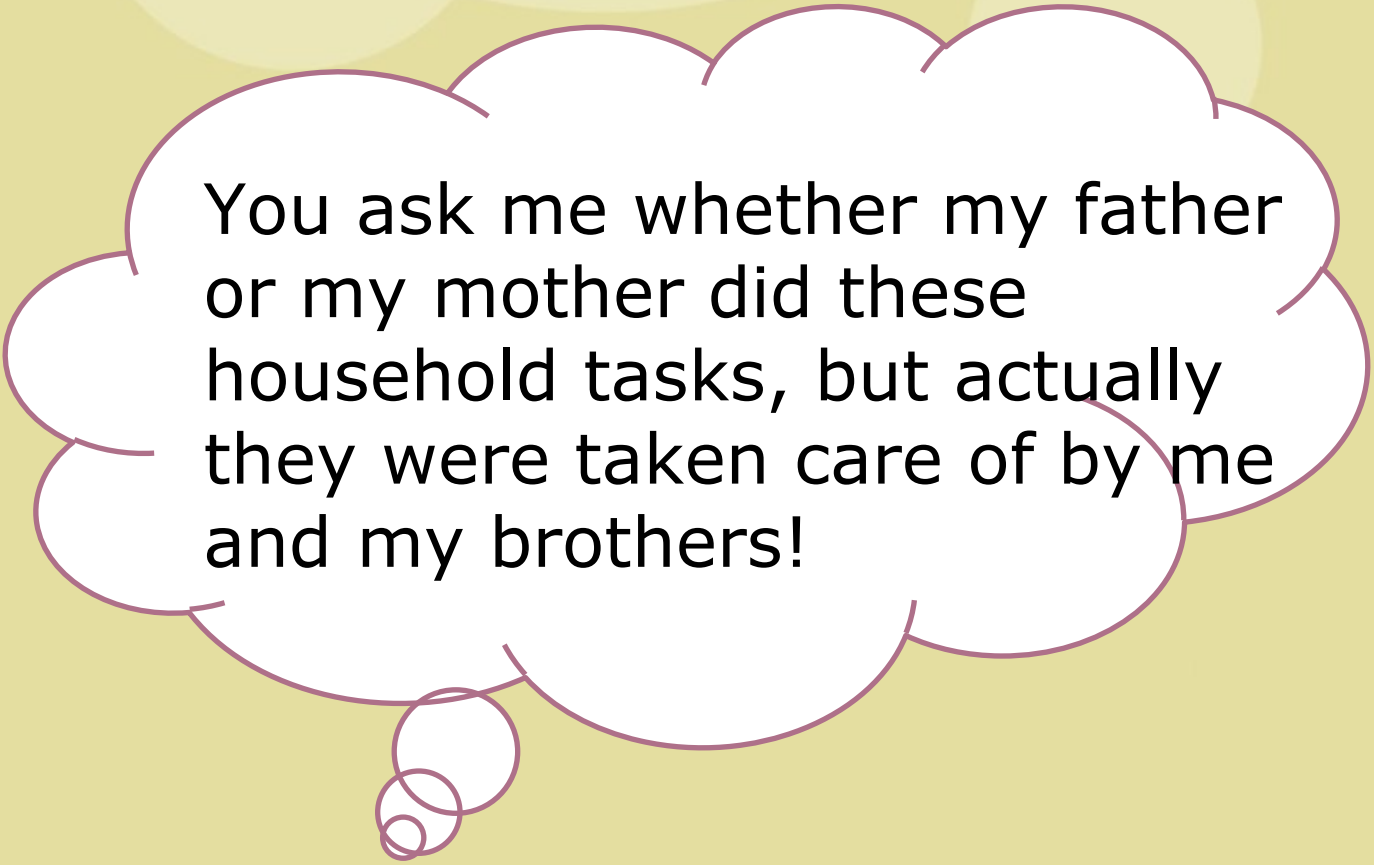
Prospective: the same respondents are interviewed at successive points in time on their current situation

Retrospective:

- More efficient
- Lower quality data



The Future



You ask me whether my father or my mother did these household tasks, but actually they were taken care of by me and my brothers!



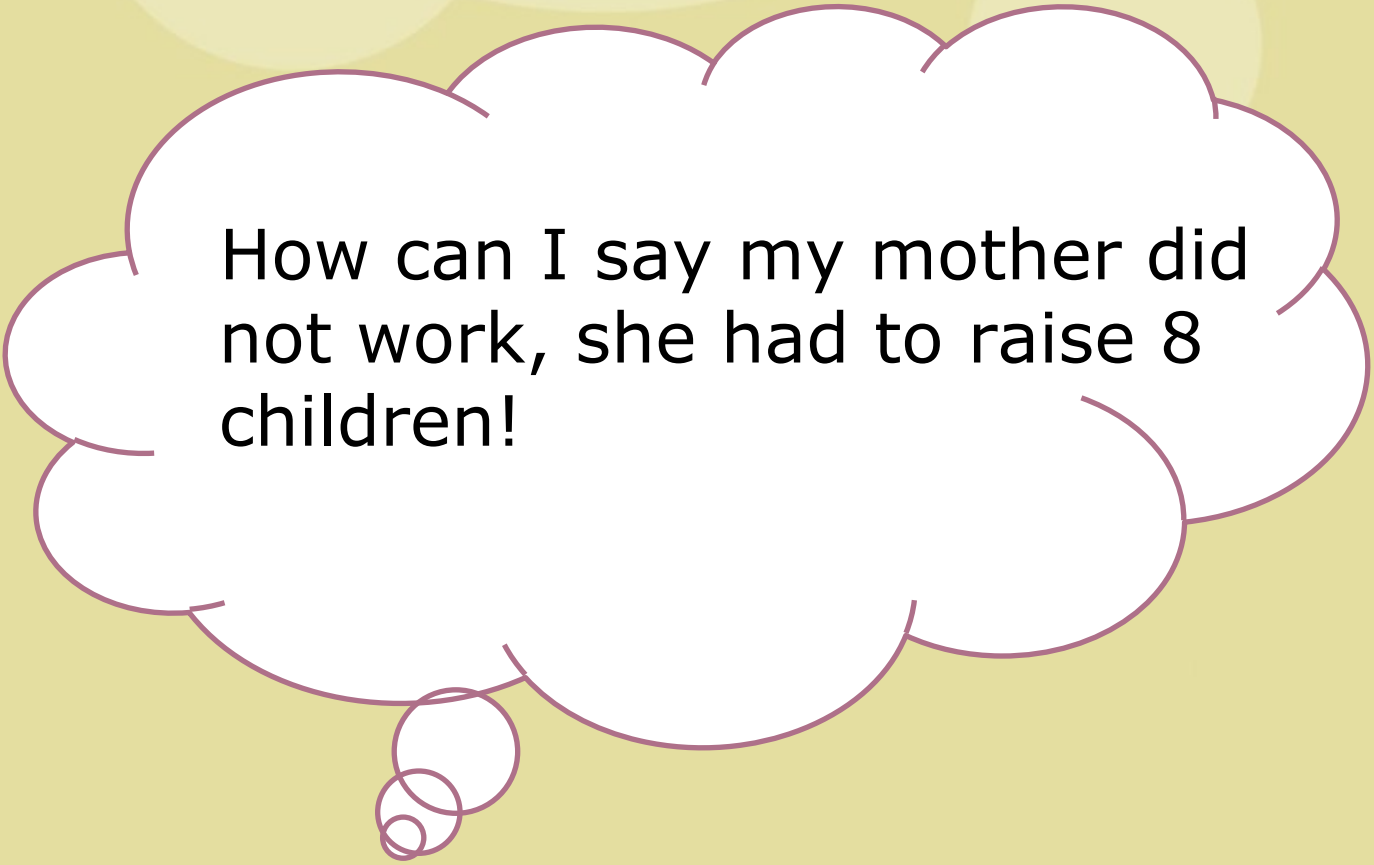
The Future



Our child behaves this way,
because he has been
diagnosed with ADHD.



The Future



How can I say my mother did not work, she had to raise 8 children!



The Future

Additional online qualitative data collection?

- Network focus groups
- More options to clarify answers



Thank you

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