

Fathers, work and families in twenty-first century Britain: beyond the breadwinner model?

The findings in this presentation are preliminary – please do not reference without authors' permission

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Outline

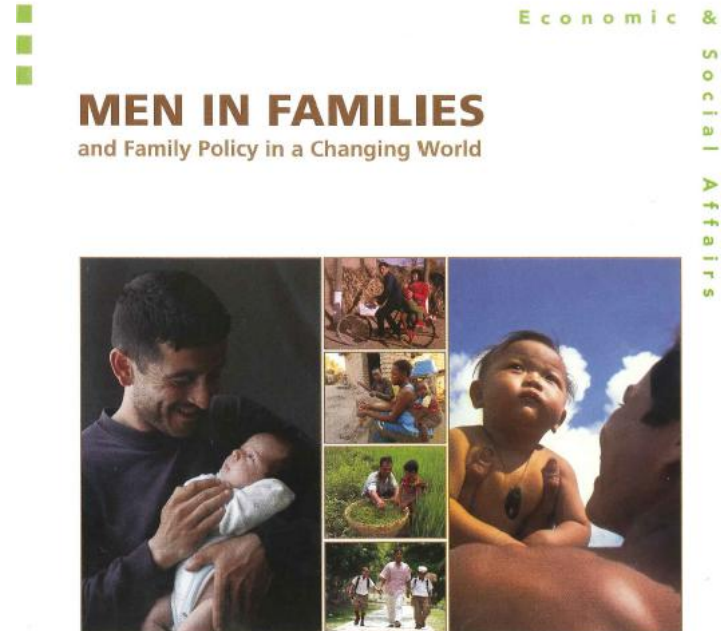
- Policy & research context
- Aims of project and data sources
- **Profiling of UK fathers' working patterns** Time trends in employment status and hours 2001-2011; continuity and change across different family types
- **Profiling UK Fathers:** fatherhood status and definitions. Dealing with Complexity: bio, social, non-resident

Policy & Research Context

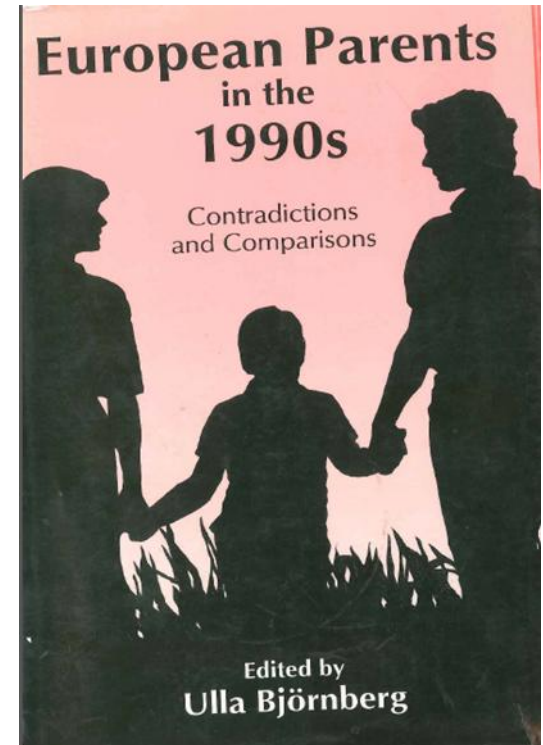
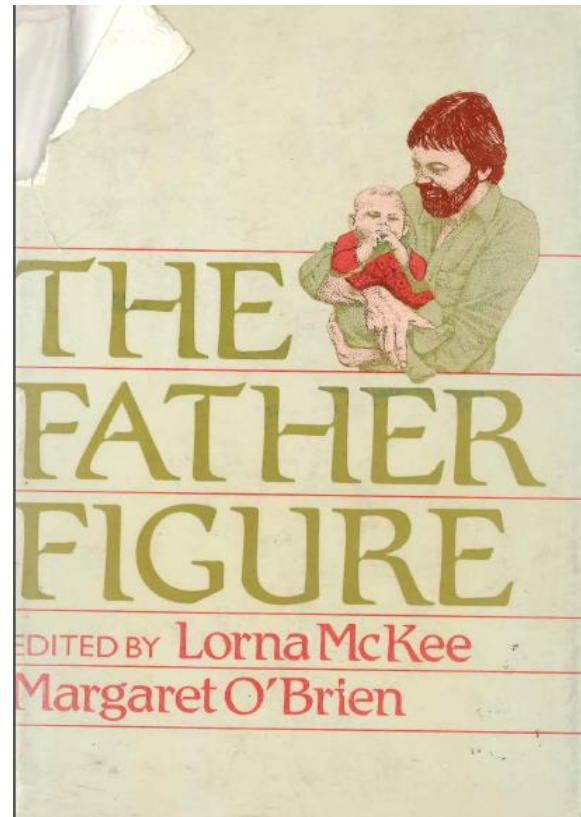
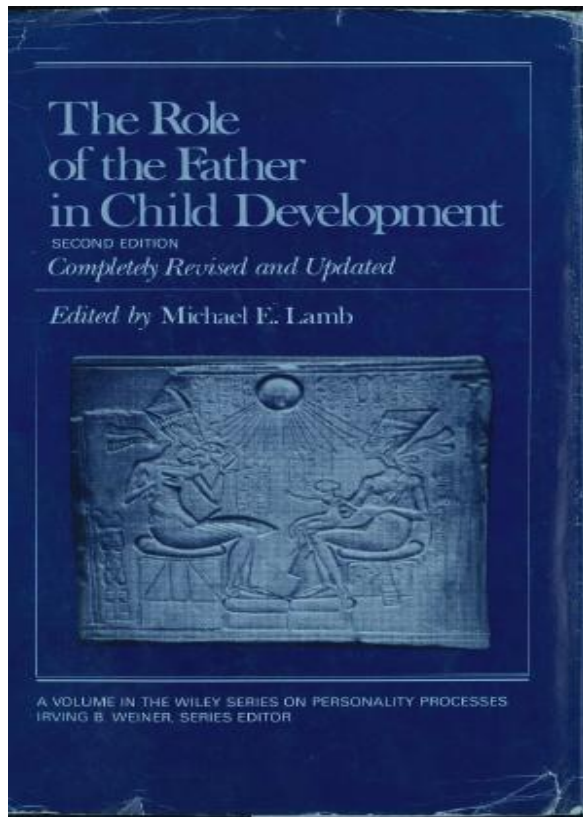
“ In a rapidly changing world, we will continue witnessing the growing momentum and recognition of the importance of men for gender equality, reconciling work-family life and impacting the future of their children”

Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World Report 2011 New York:
United Nations Department of
Economic and Social Affairs

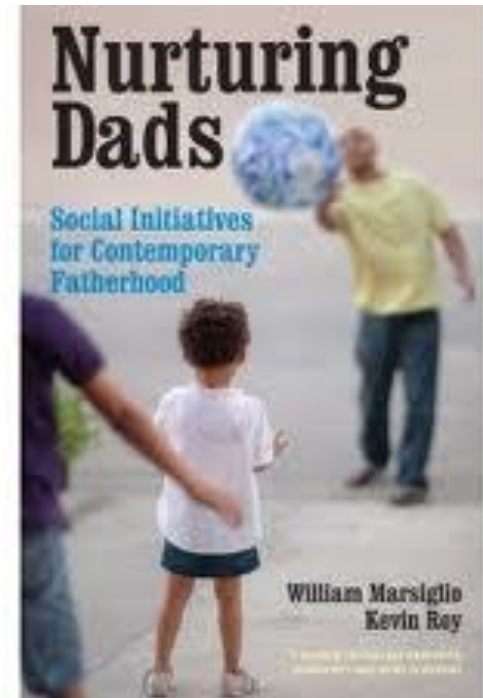
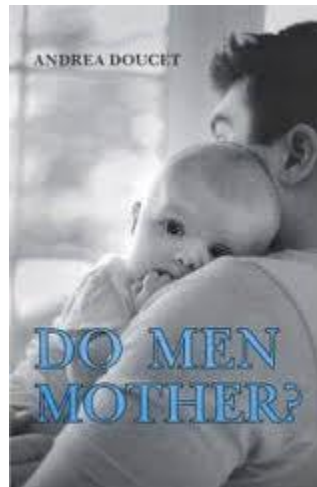
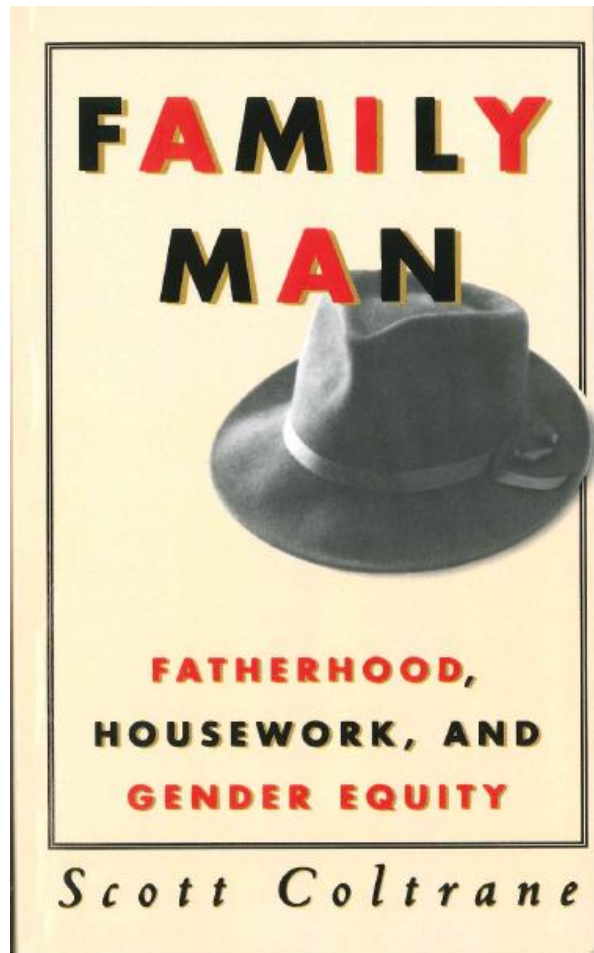
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/docs/men-in-families.pdf>



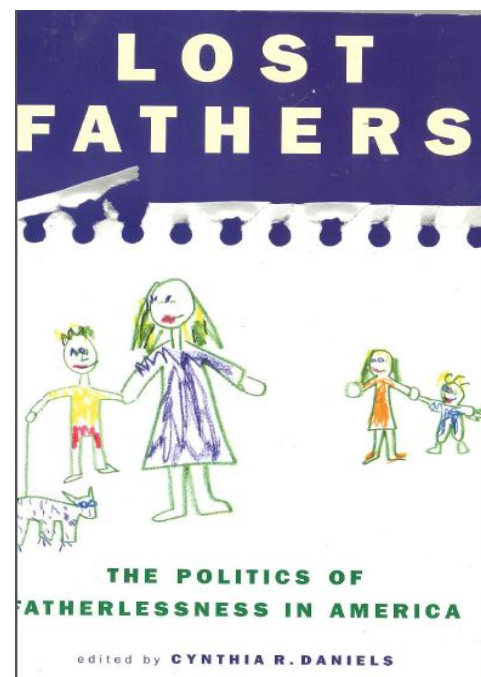
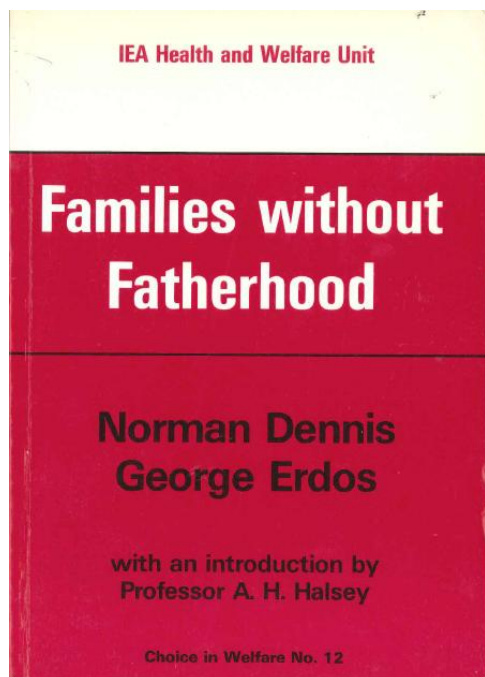
Research: 1970s, 1980s, 1990s



Fathers: partners, carers, involved, nurturers



Anxieties about absent fathers



Inter-disciplinary conceptual framework for understanding change and continuity in men's family and work roles

- Awareness that the family unit is undergoing a transition from a traditional unitary model based on a male dominant economic actor towards a different logic with less specialization of roles by gender (Becker, 1981; Browning *et al*, 2011).
- New norms redefining family life are emerging – “*a gender-equality equilibrium*” – but are unstable (Esping-Anderson, 2009).
- A multidimensional approach to men's parenting activities or “father involvement” with direct and indirect influences of *paternal capital* on child and family wellbeing (Pleck, 2010)
- Awareness that public policy measures, such as parental leave and flexible working schedules, have a profound effect on how much time children get to spend with their parents (Gornick & Meyers, 2009; Lewis, 2009).

Aims of the study

1. To provide a **comprehensive profiling** of fathers in 21st century Britain in terms of their paid work and family life.
2. To explore **factors** associated with differences in fathers' paid work and family life.
3. To analyse **time trends** in fathers' working patterns to explore effects of policy changes.
4. To explore the role of **institutional factors**, by comparing the UK with other European countries.

Data

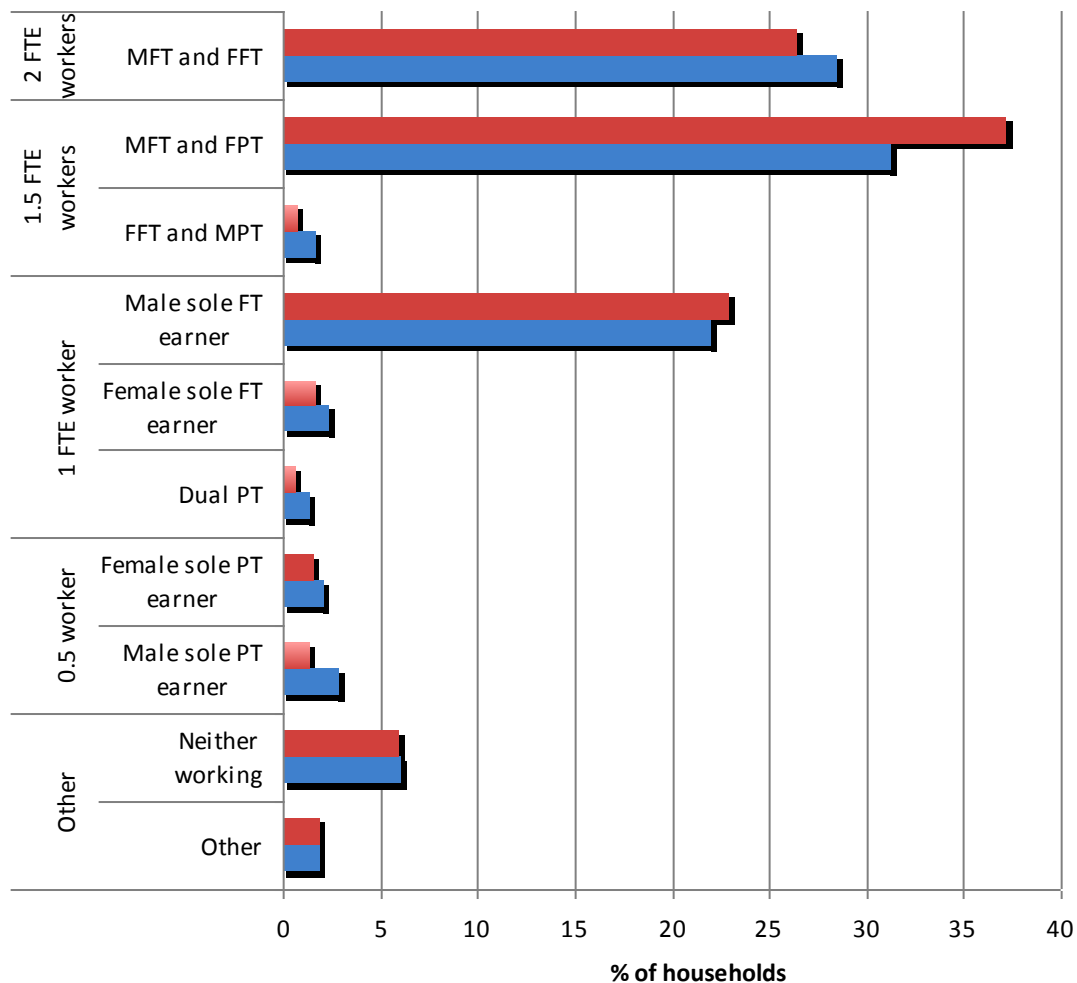
1. **Understanding society**, wave 1 (2009-10) and wave 2 (2010-11).
2. **EU Labour Force Survey** (late 1990s-current)
3. **European Social Survey**, round 2 (2004-05) and round 5 (2010-11)
4. **British Household Panel Survey**, all 18 waves (1991-2009)

Fathers' working patterns

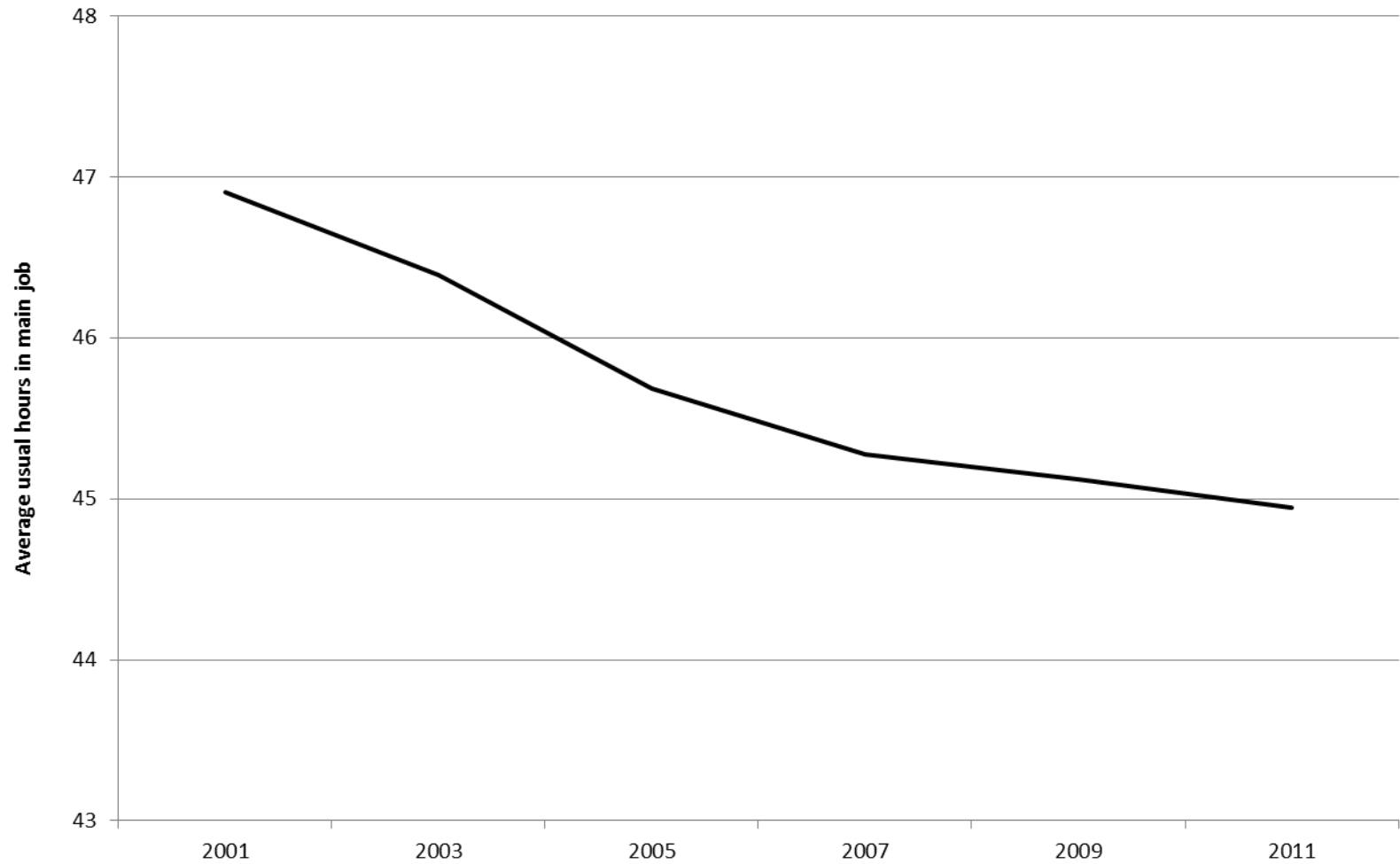
EU- LFS 2001-2011

- Adult couple households with dependent children (2011 20,569 couple households of which 6,092 have at least one child under the age of 15 living in the household)
- Age restriction on the household reference person – 16-64 years
- Employment status FT = 30 hours or more per week PT = <30 hours per week
- Definitions of working hours "usual" weekly hours

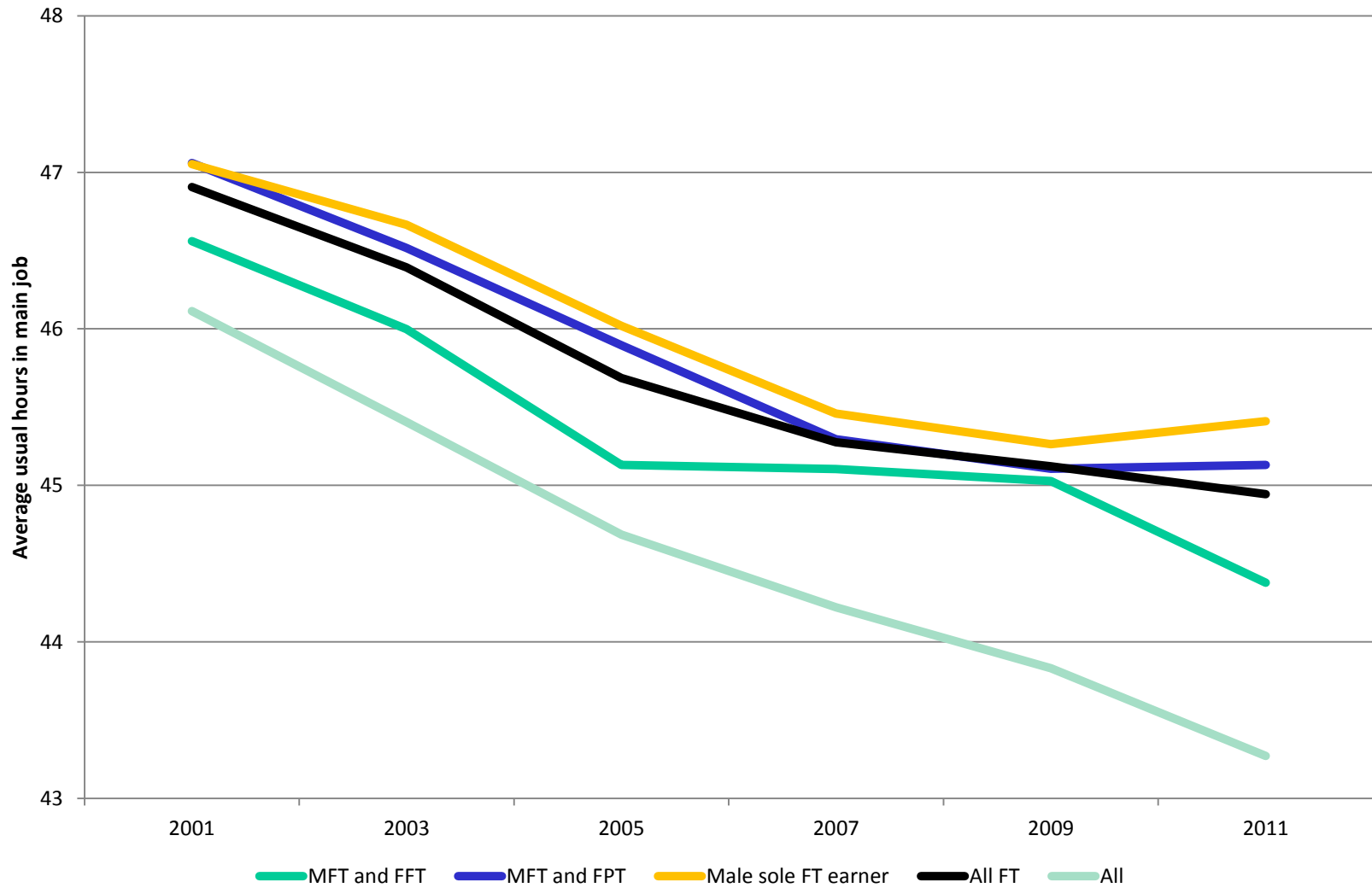
Working patterns of couple households with dependent children 2001-2011 (HRP 16-64)



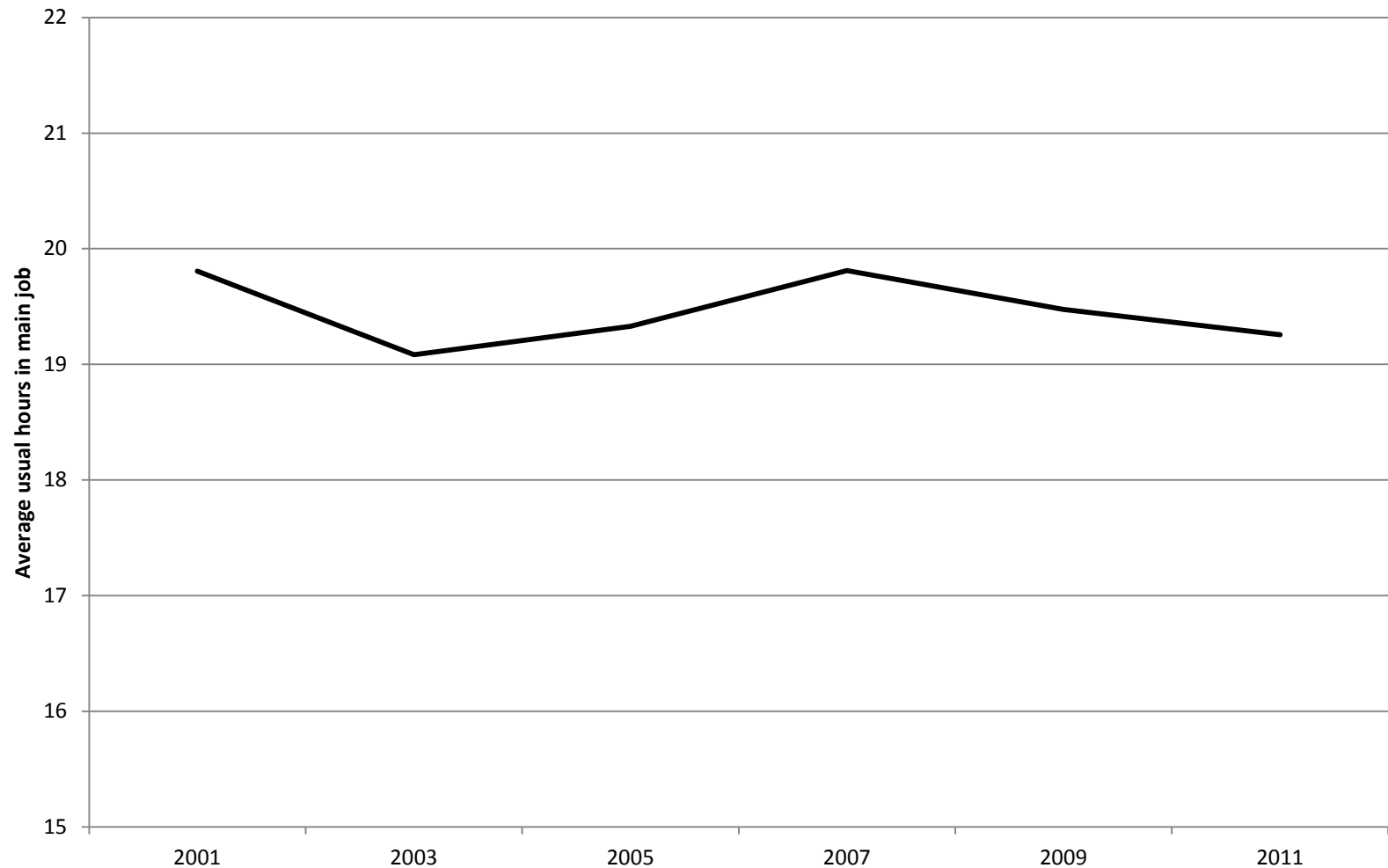
Working hours of men in households with children FT
(age 16-64)



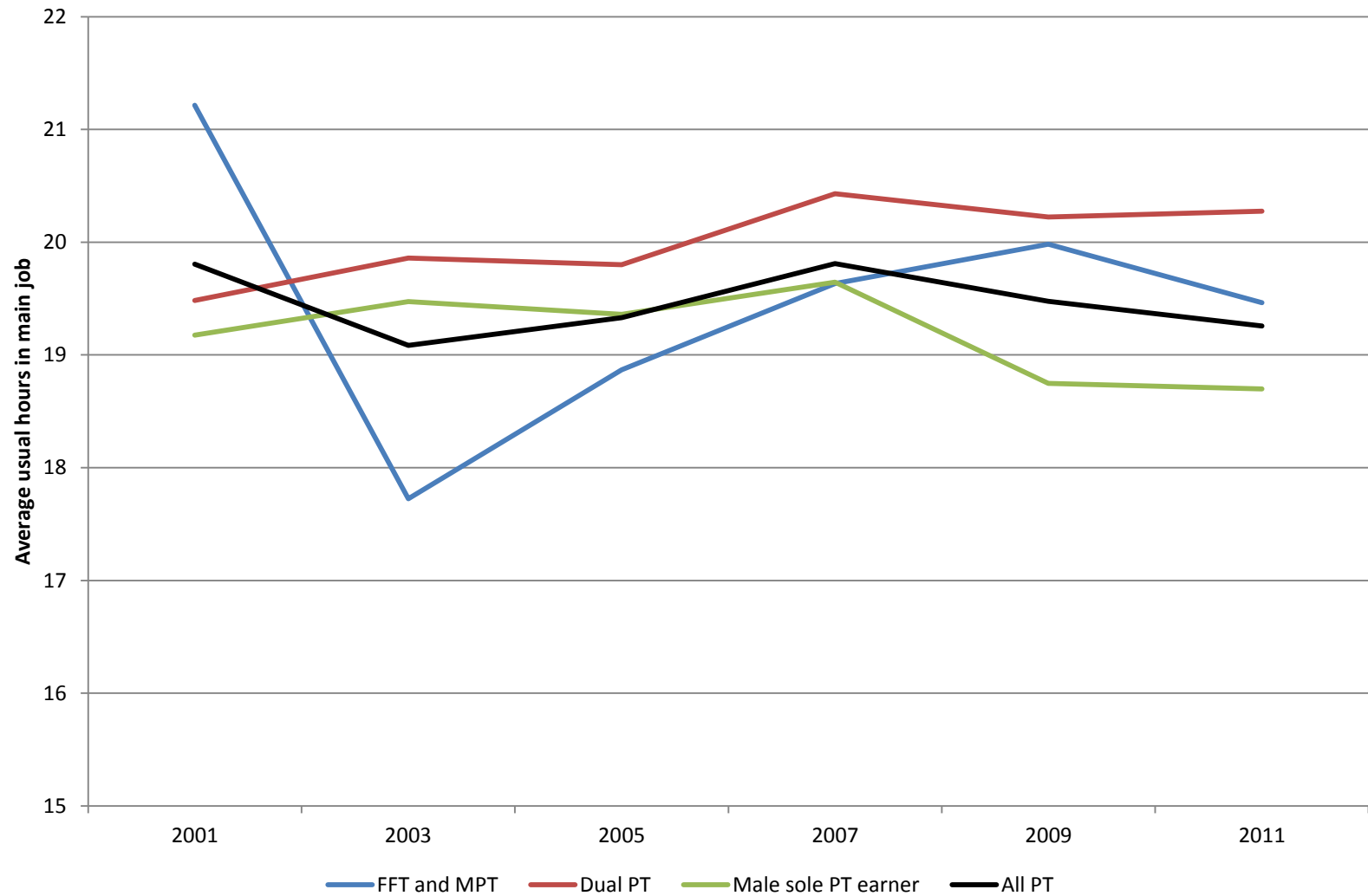
Working hours of men in households with children
(age 16-64)



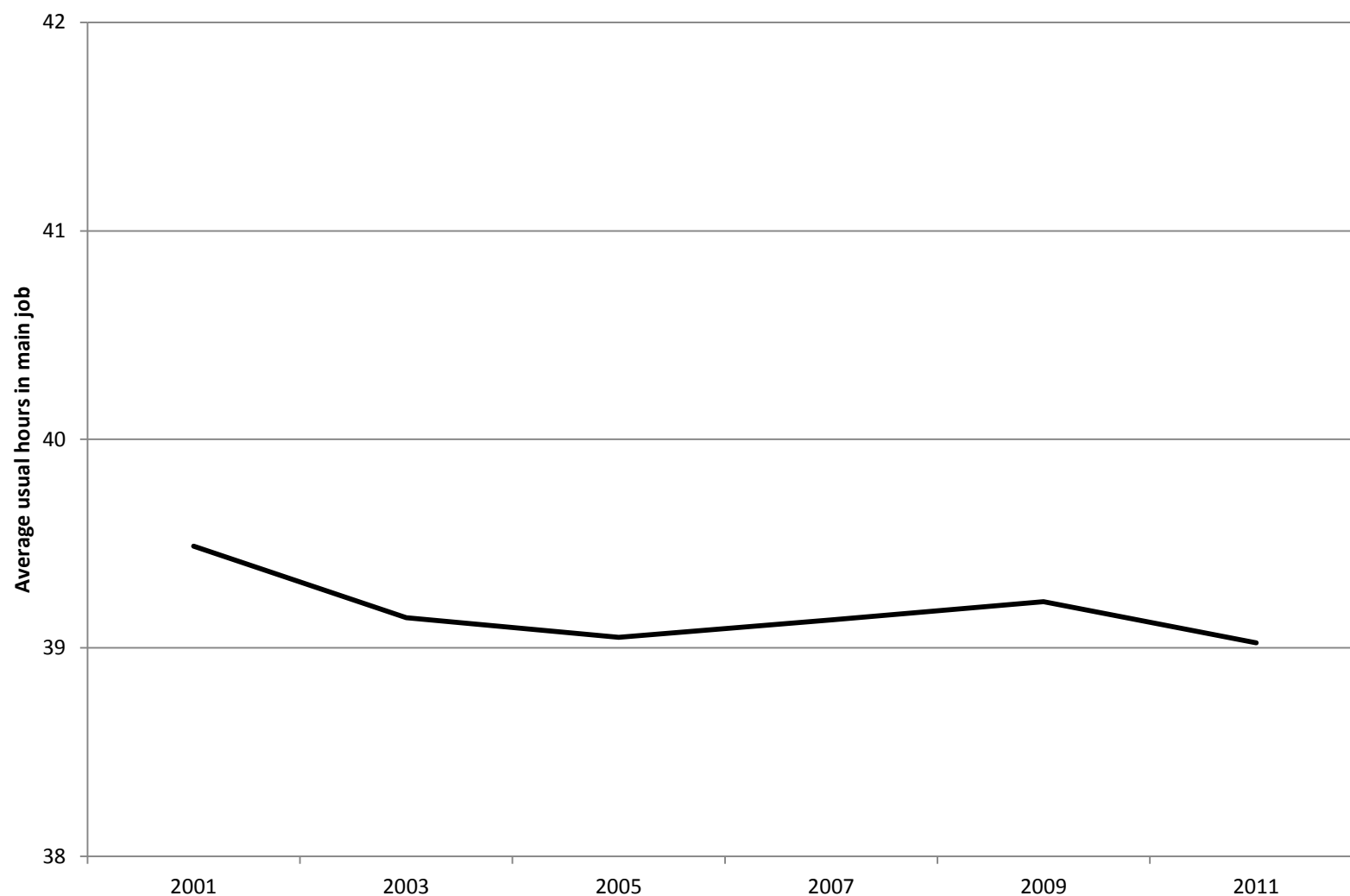
**Working hours of men in households with children PT
(age 16-64)**



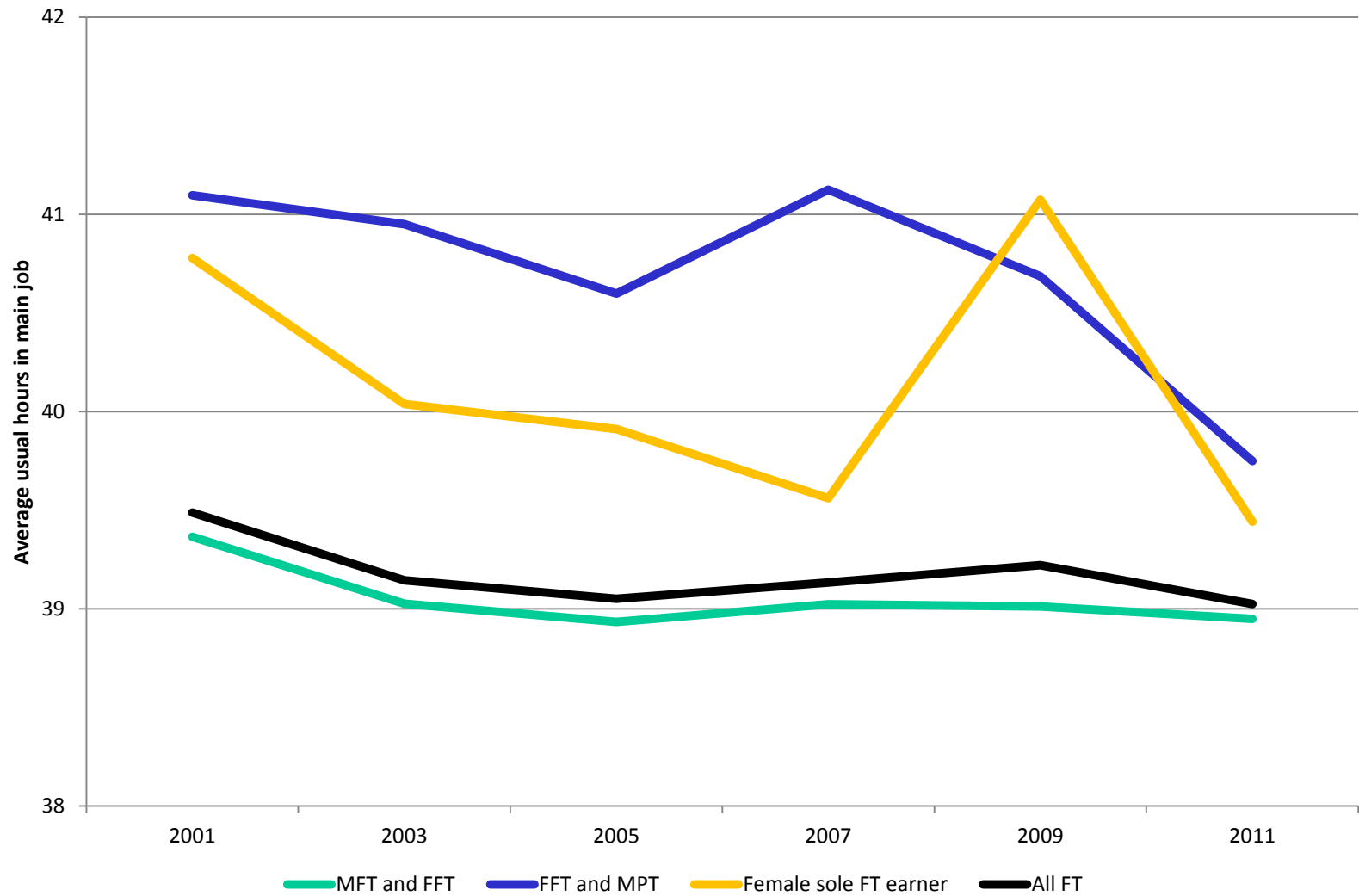
Working hours of men in households with children by family type PT (age 16-64)



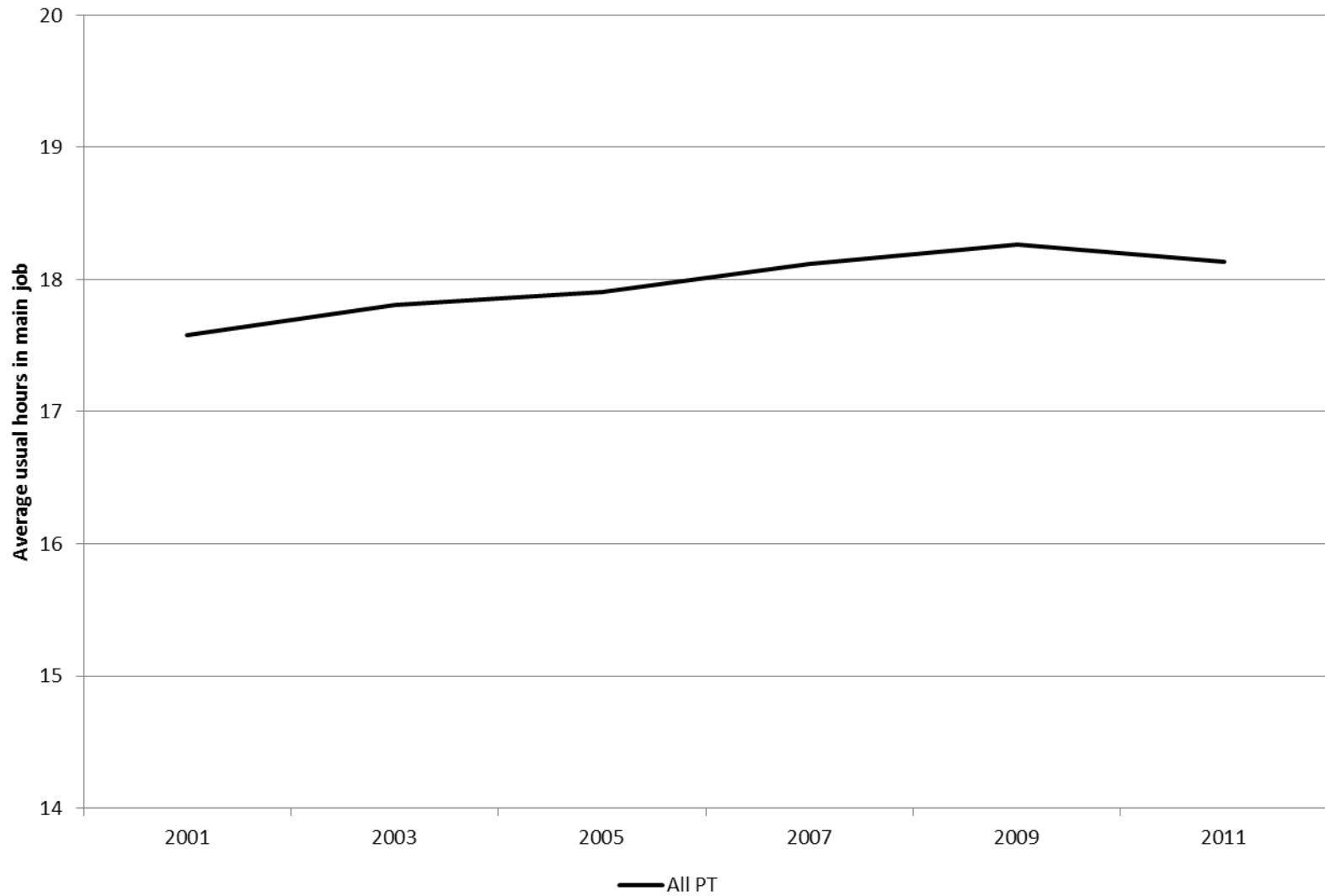
**Working hours of women in households with children FT
(age 16-64)**



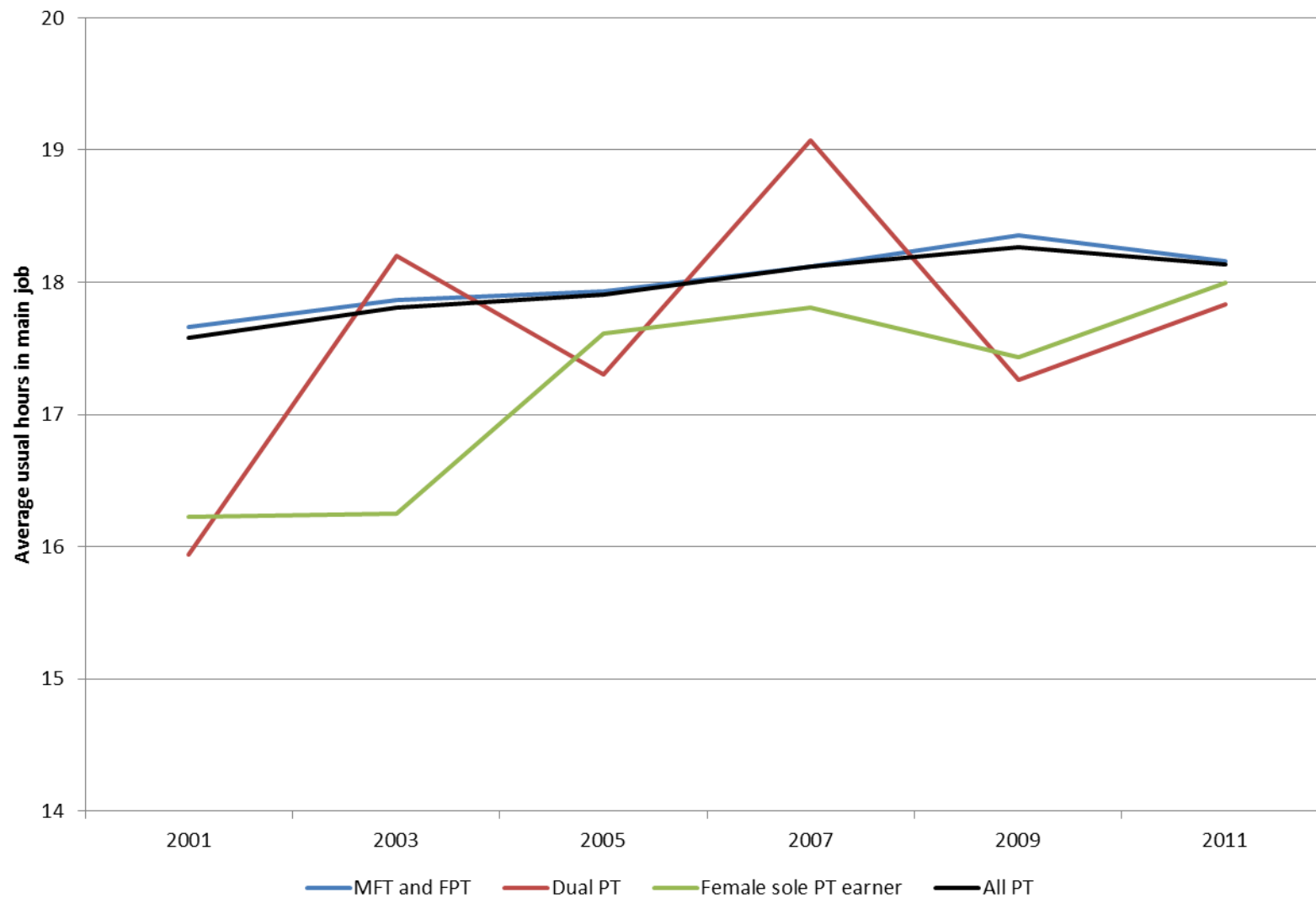
Working hours of women in households with children FT by family type
(age 16-64)



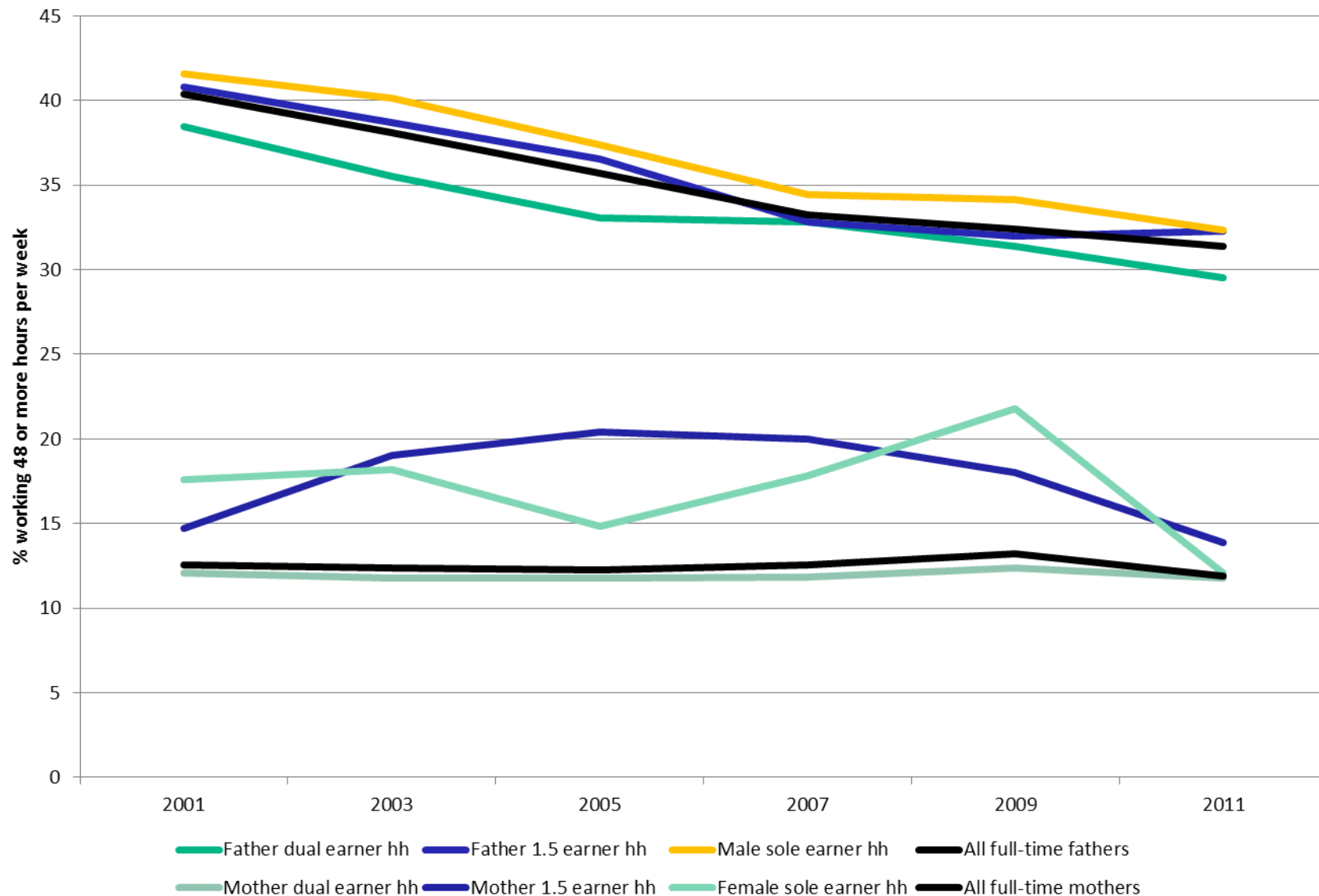
Working hours of women in households with children PT by family type (age 16-64)



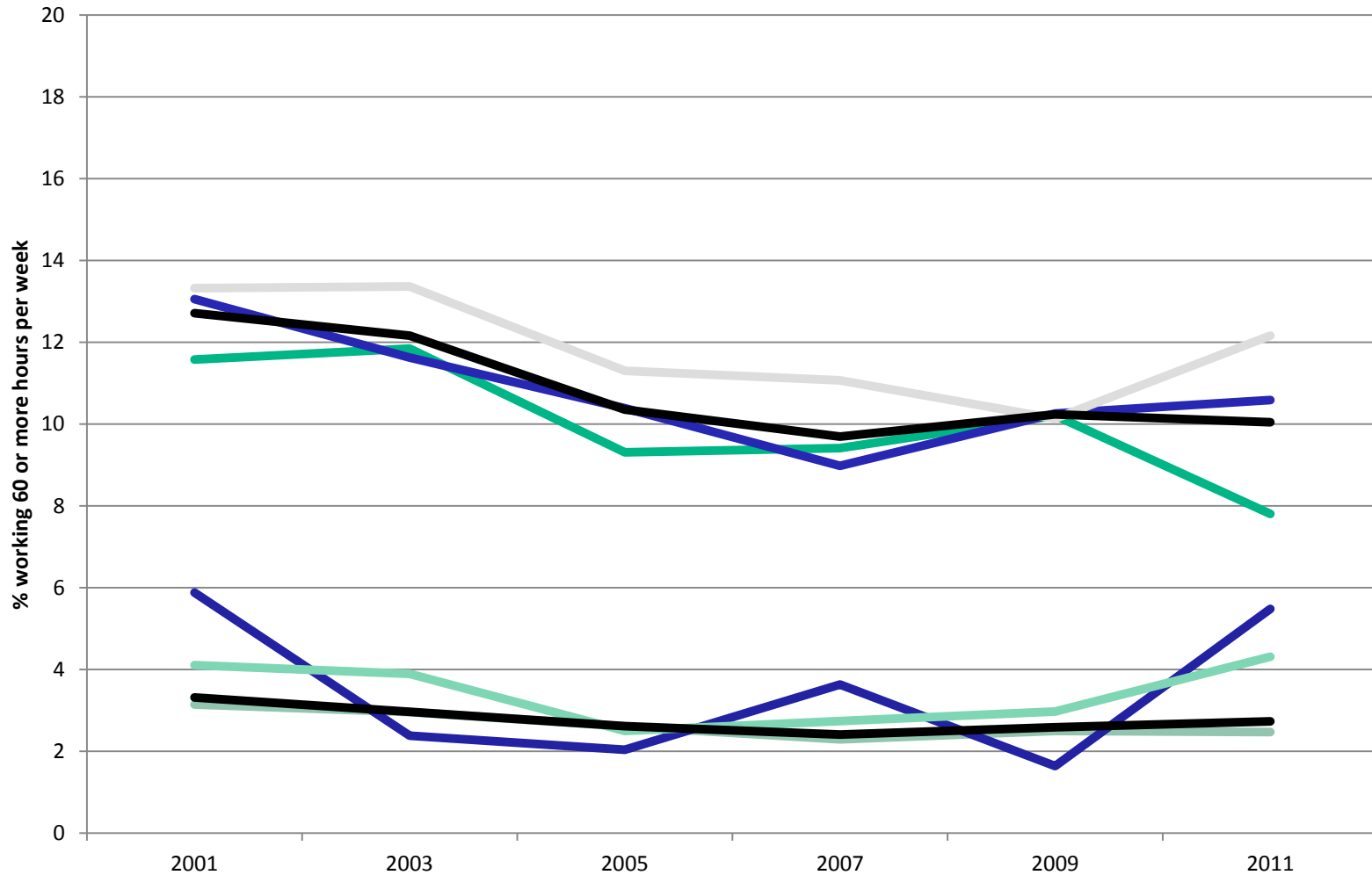
Working hours of women in households with children PT by family type (age 16-64)



Incidence of long working hours 48 + of parents (age 16-64)



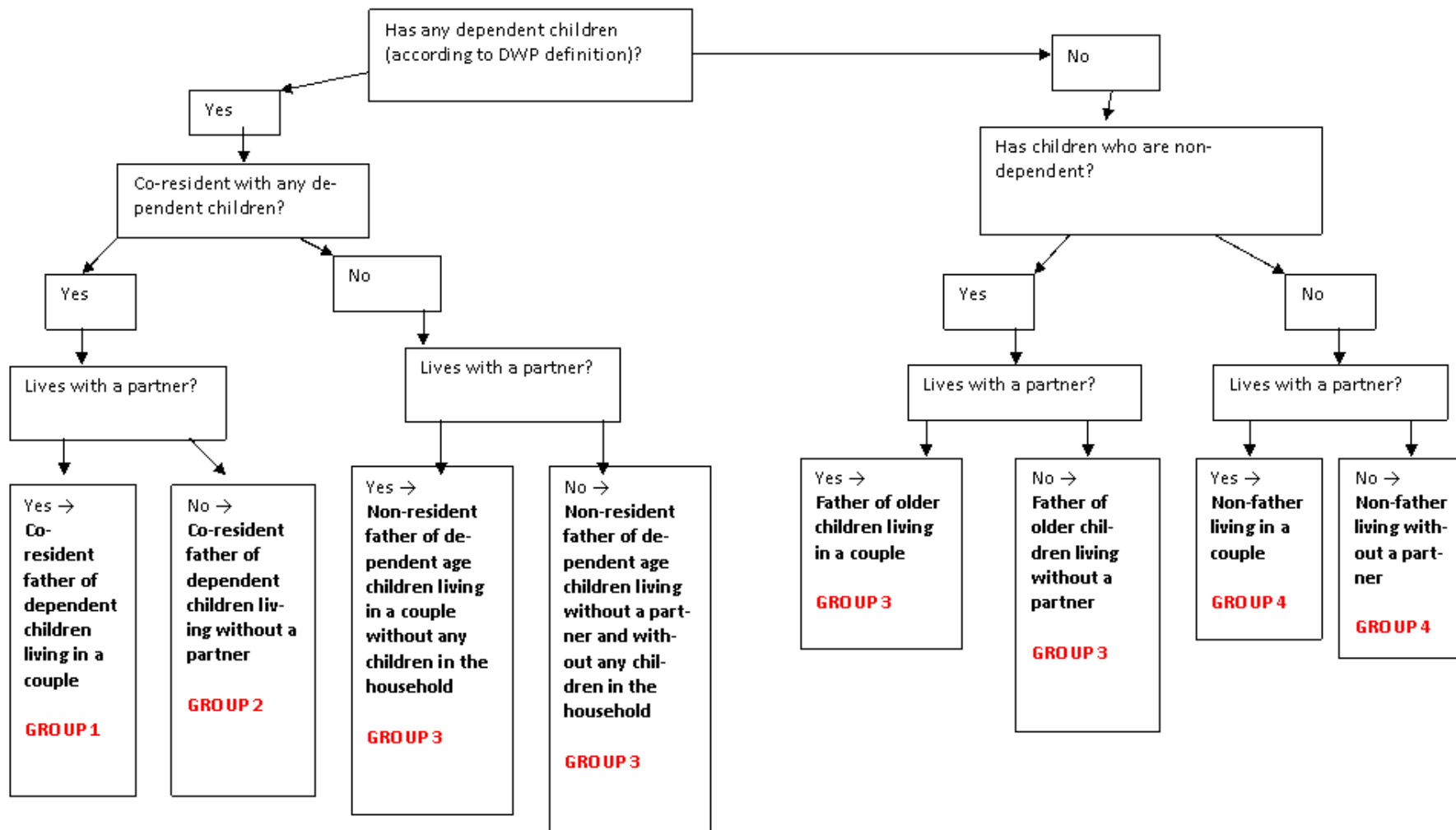
Incidence of long working hours 60+ of parents (age 16-64)



Fatherhood: concepts

Fatherhood

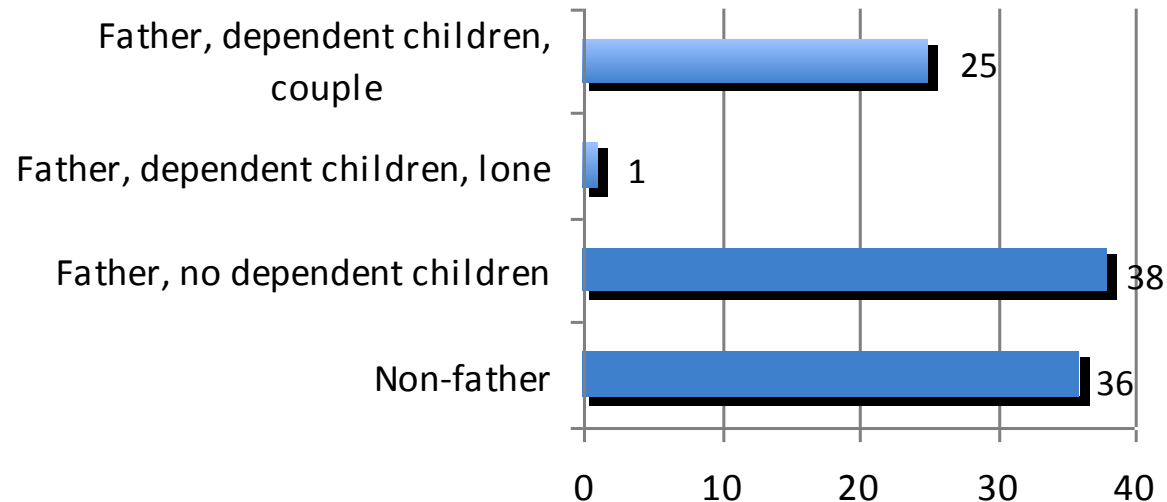
- Fathers v 'non-fathers'
 - Typology
- Biological v social father
- Resident v non-resident father



Fatherhood status

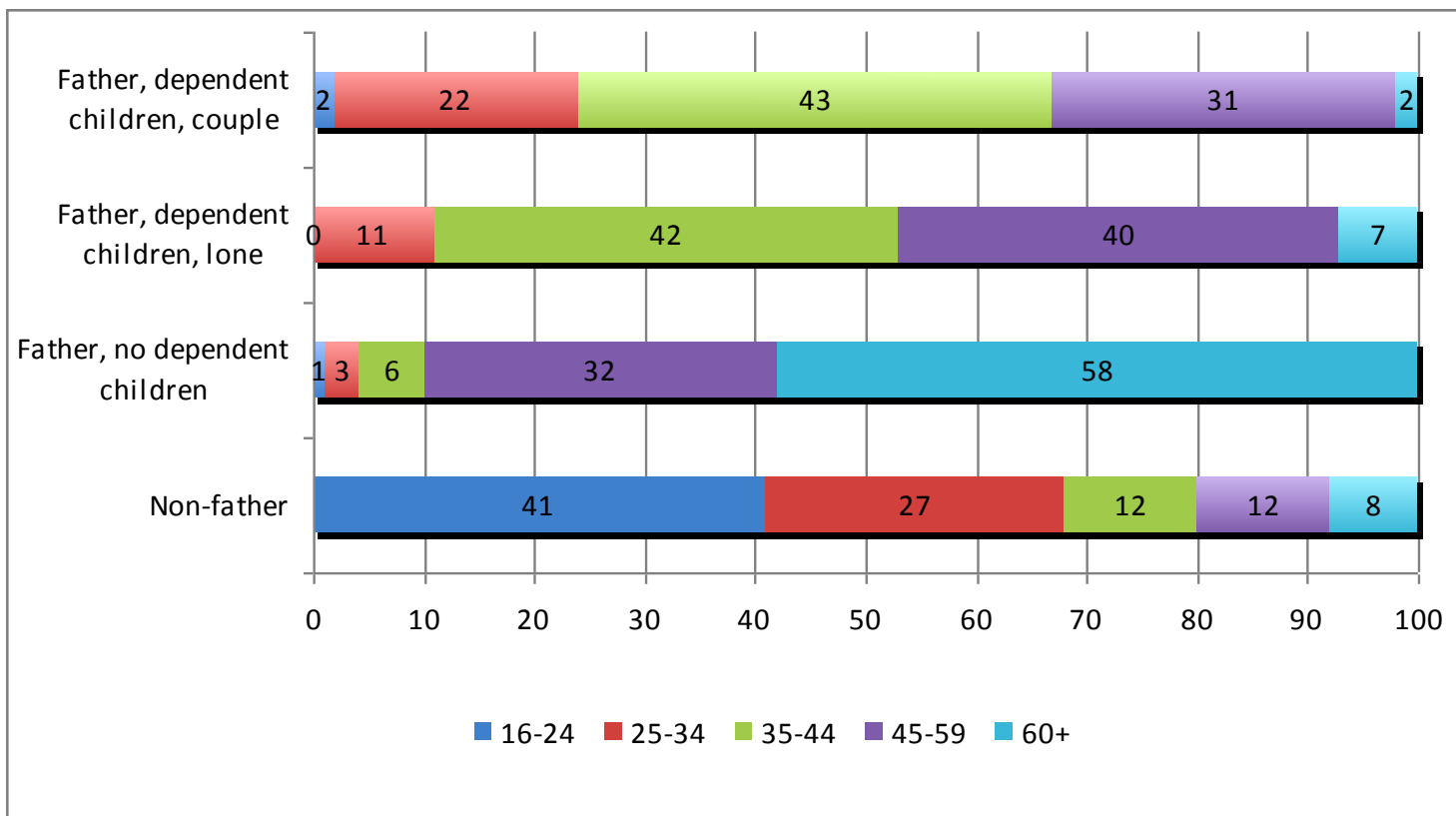
1. Fathers co-resident with dependent children: in couples
2. Fathers co-resident with dependent children: single parents
3. Fathers not living with any dependent children
4. Non-fathers

Fatherhood status, 2009/10

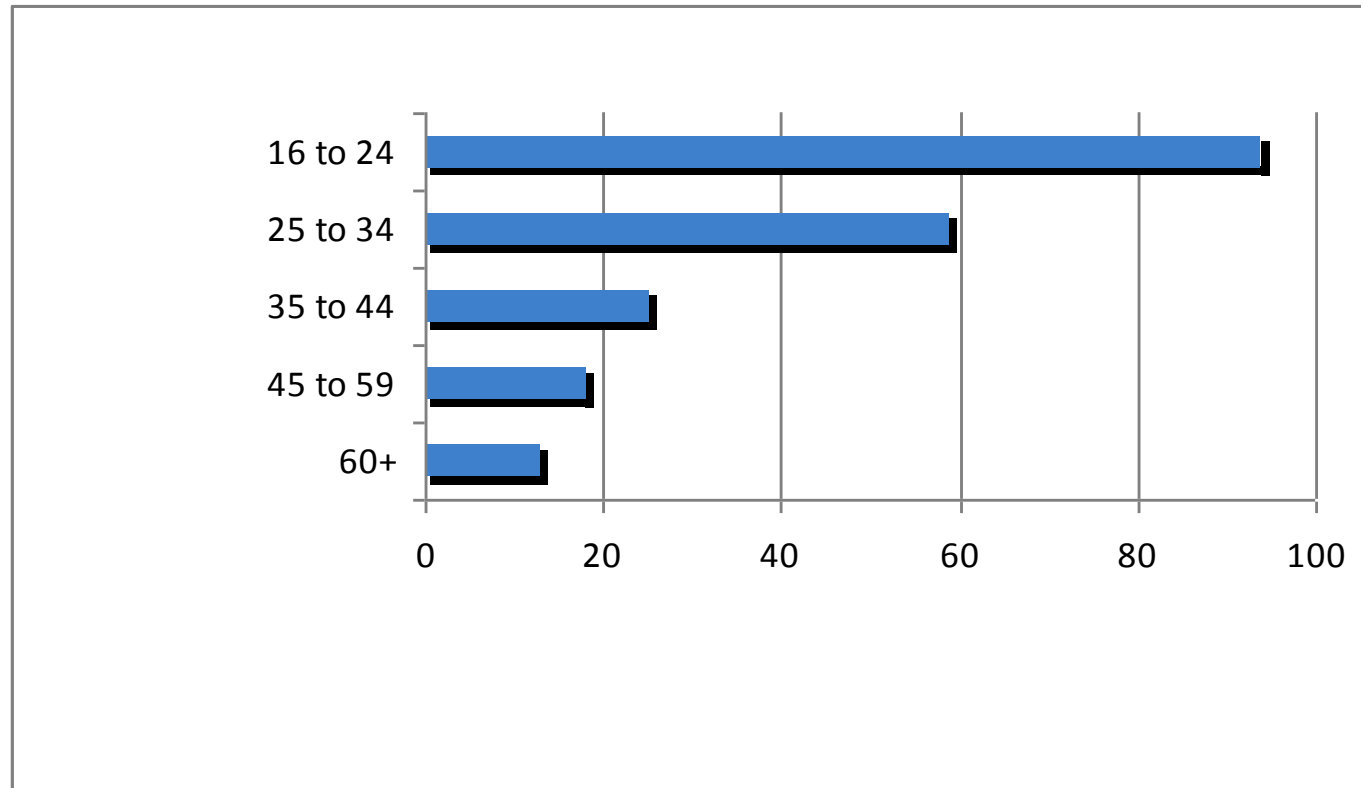


Base: men aged 16+ (n=20,741, *Understanding Society* survey)

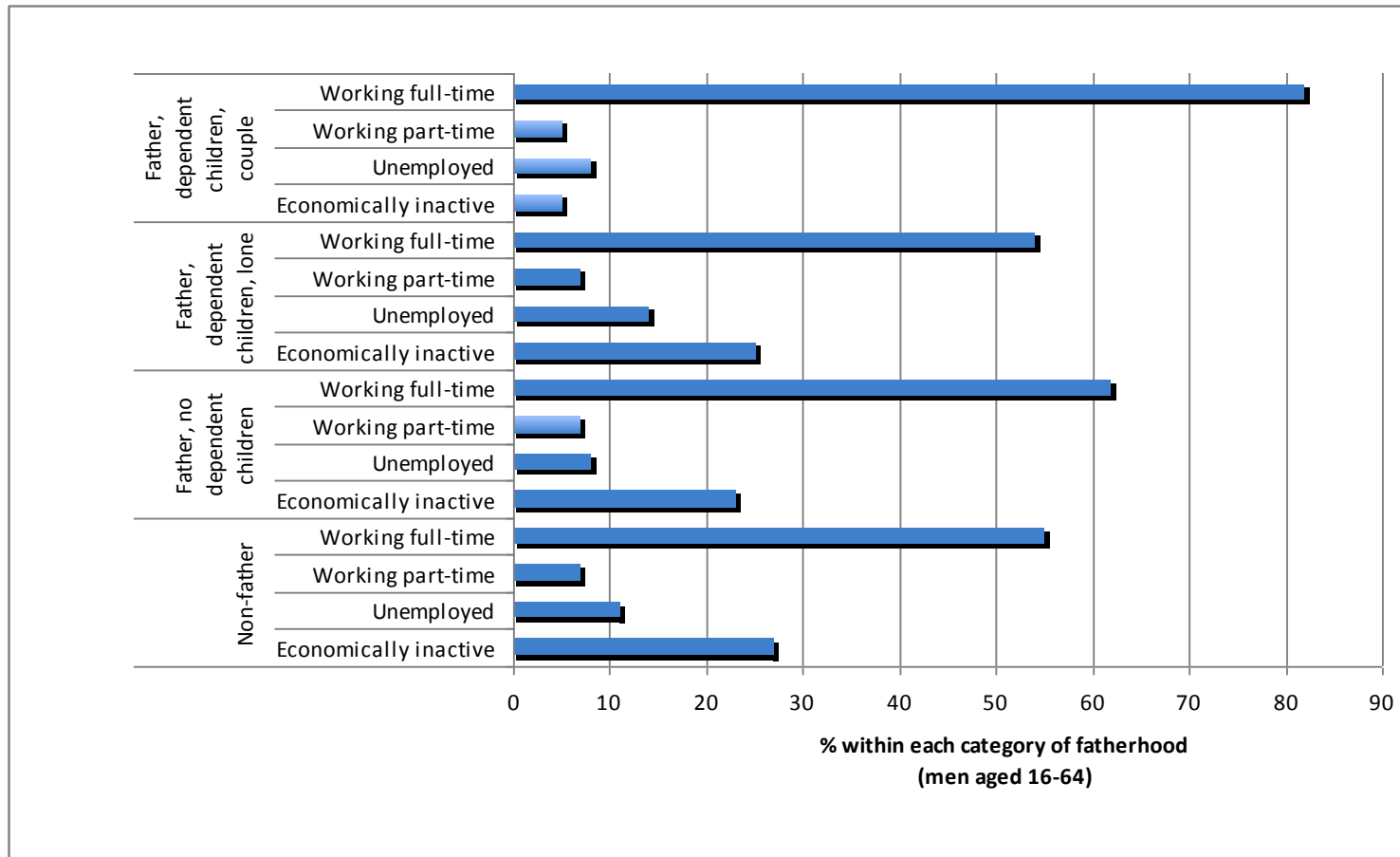
Age profile



Non-fathers, by age

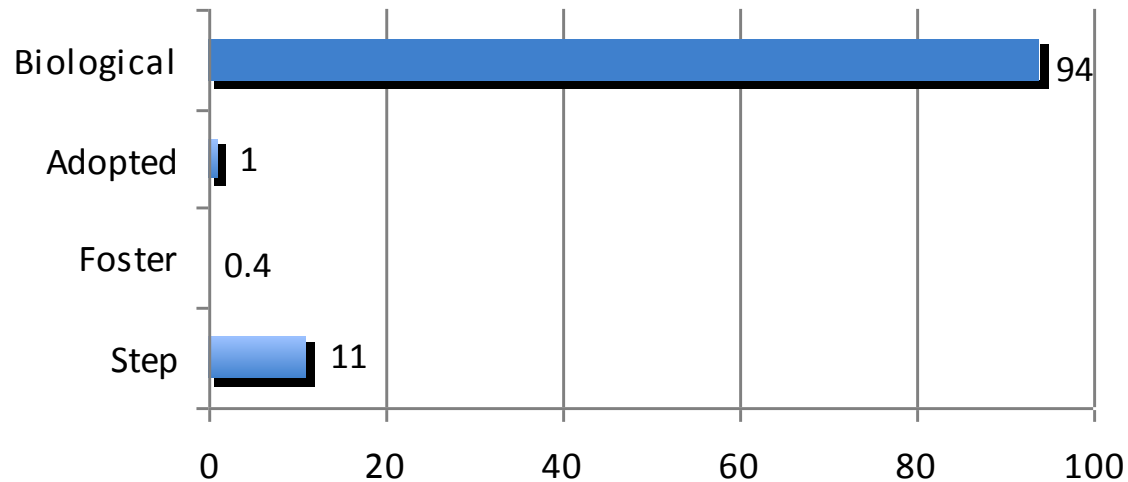


Economic status



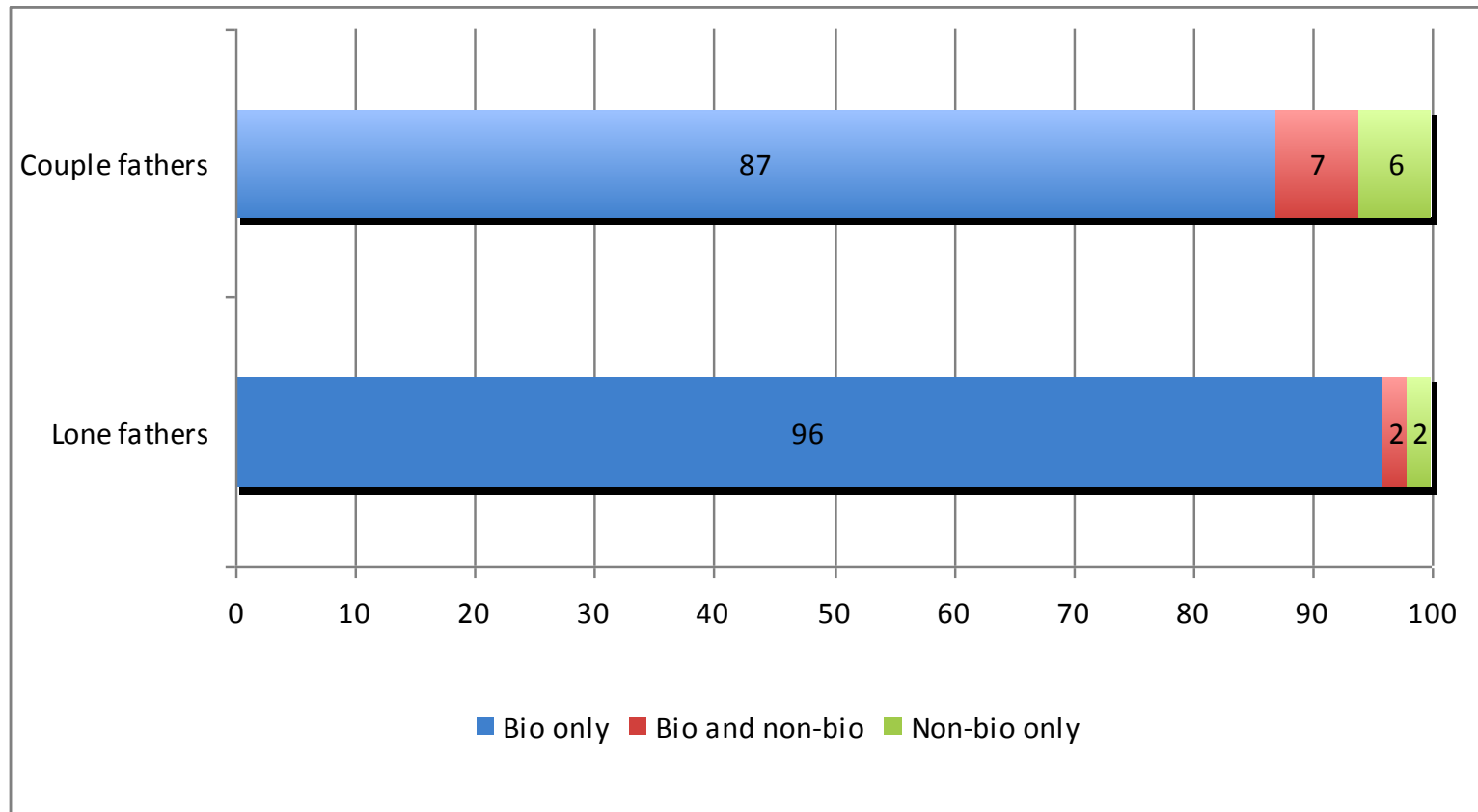
Biological v social father

Fathers co-resident with dependent children



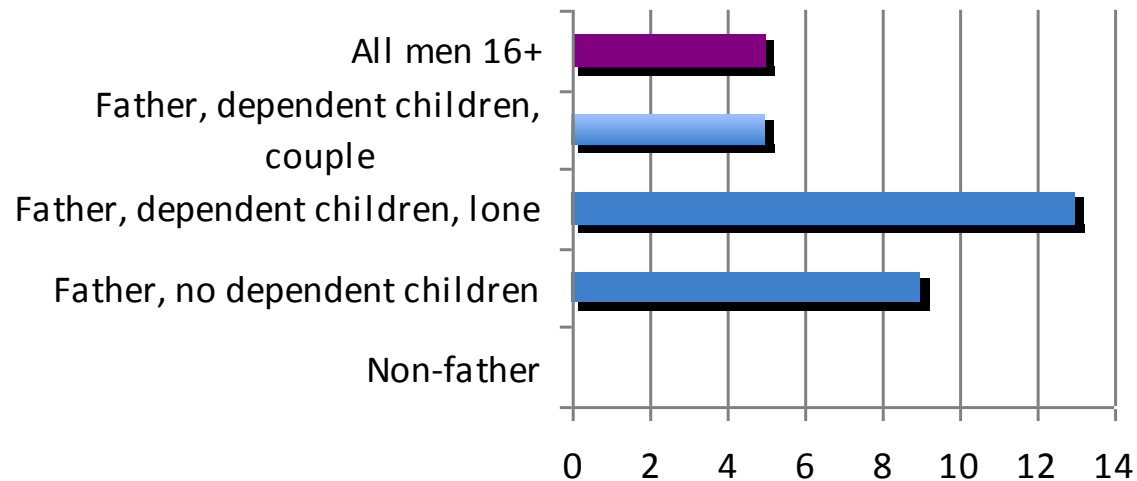
Base: fathers co-resident with dependent children (n=5,556)

Bio v non-bio



Resident v non-resident father

Whether has a non-resident child <16



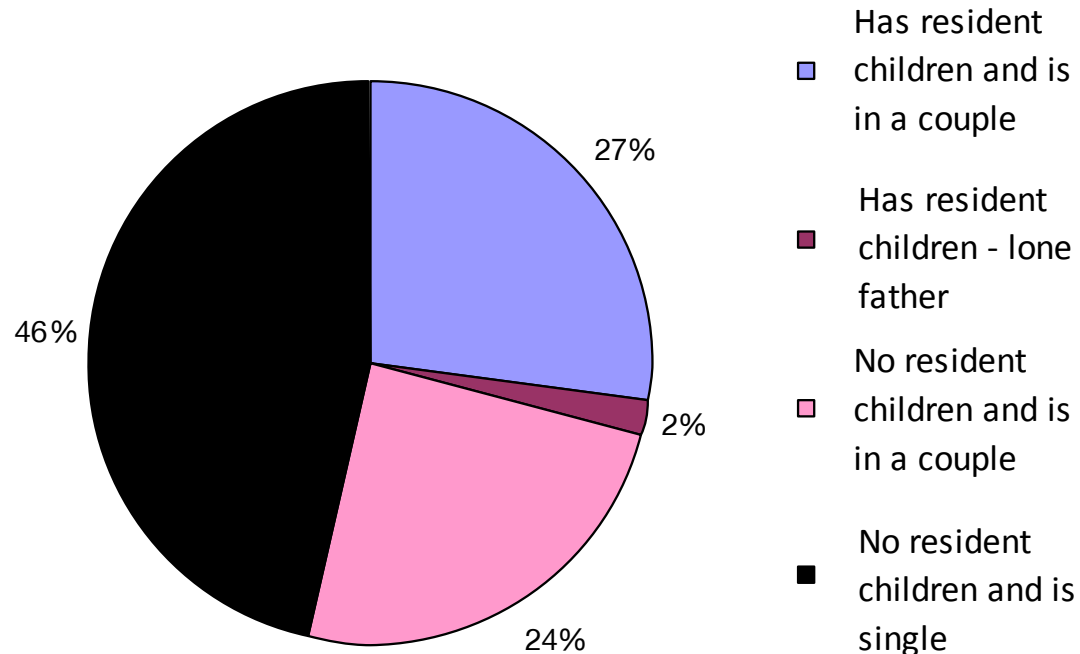
Base: all men aged 16+ (n=20,663)

Non-resident fathers

More likely to be:

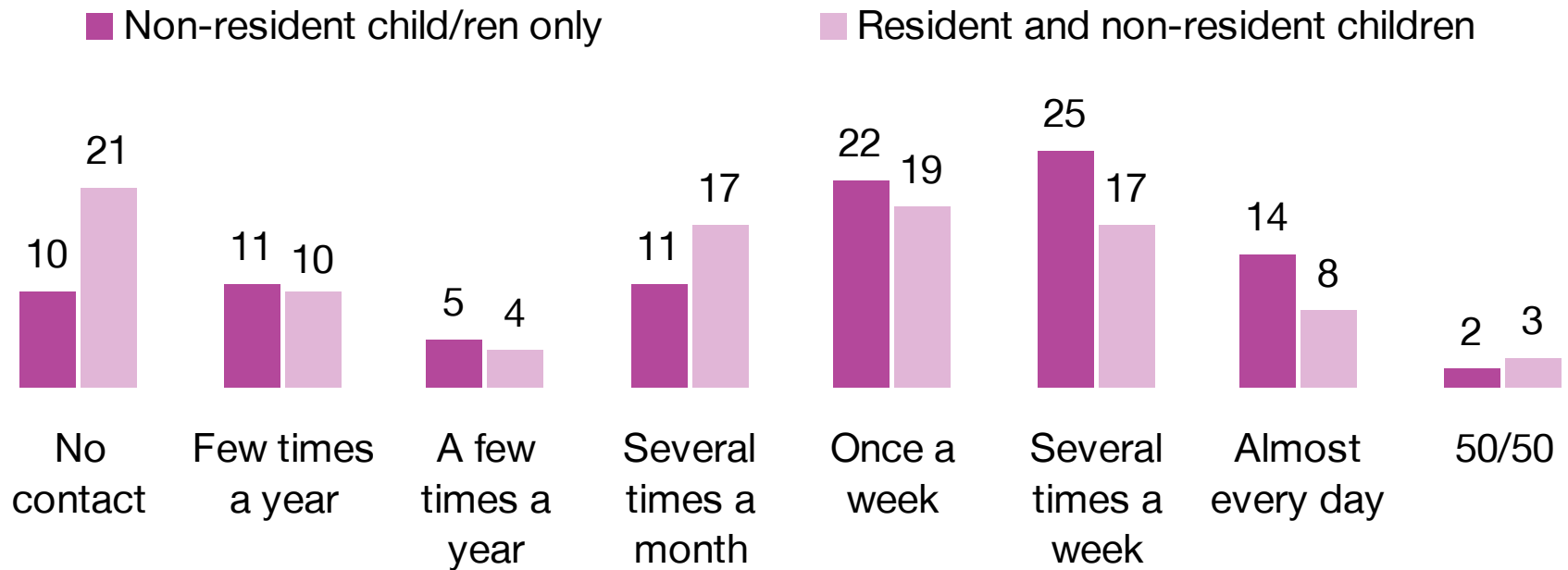
- <45 years old (compared with 45+)
- Living without a partner (OR: 28!)
- Less well educated
- Not in paid work
- NS-SEC group - routine occupations
- In rented accommodation

Whether non-resident fathers are co-resident with any dependent children



Base: fathers who have non-resident children under 16 (n=1,053)

Contact with non-resident children



Base: fathers who have non-resident children under 16 (n=1,050)

Thank you

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