

Working from home during Covid-19 pandemic and fertility intentions among parents

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Home-based work (HBW)

PROS

- **saves time & money**
- allows for **organizing paid work flexibly** around childcare duties

CONS

Pandemic specificity



- **blurs the boundaries** between paid work and family life
- fragmented work time, **stress**, home/family – related interruptions

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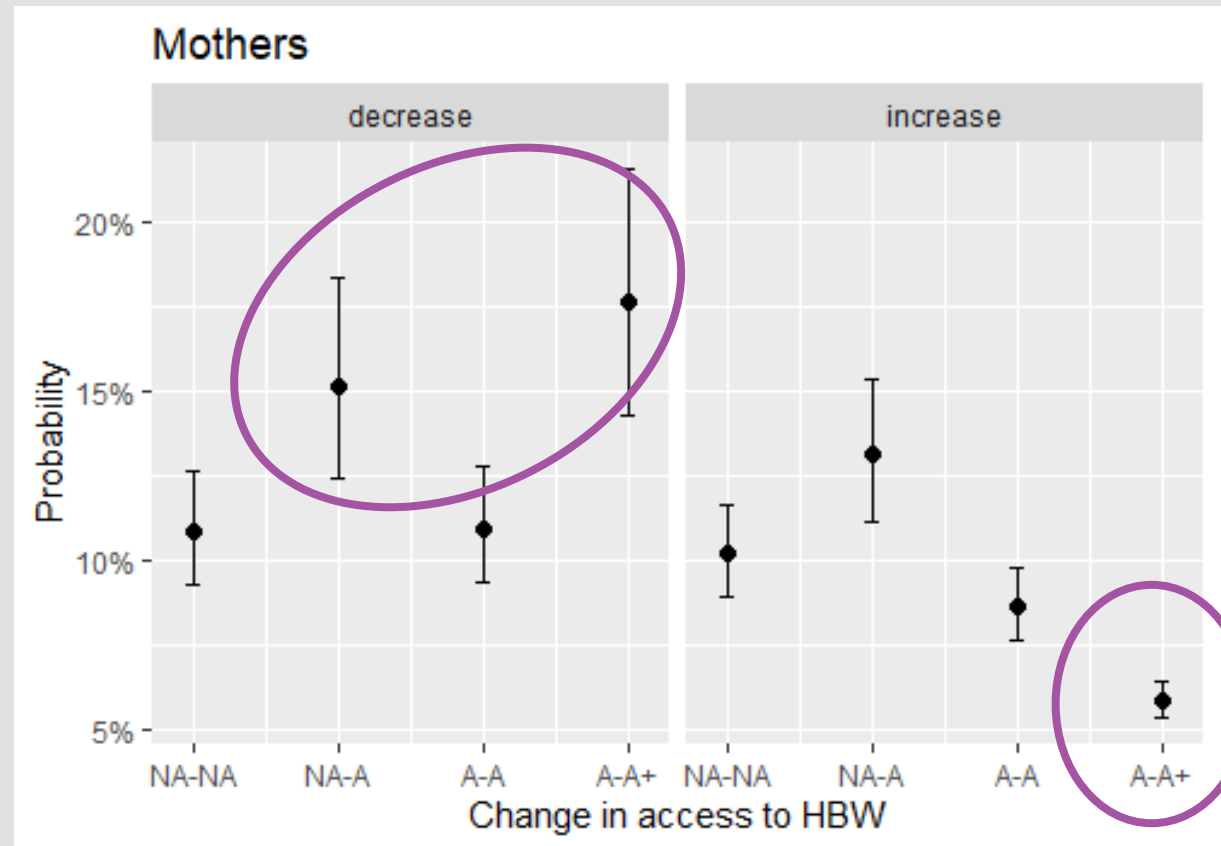
Did parents who obtained access to home-based work increased or decreased their fertility intentions?

Data and Method

- **Familydemic Survey** in **PL**, CA, DE, IT, SE & USA (June 2021)
- **Sample:** employed and partnered individuals (~2500)
- **Model:** multinomial logistic regression on the **change in FI** (decrease, increase, same)
- **Key explanatory variable:** [Access to] HBW: NA-NA; **NA-A**; A-A; **A-A+**
- **Controls:** change in partnership status & partnership quality; partner use of HBW; housing conditions; R's education, age, number of children, child aged 0-1, COVID-19 health risks

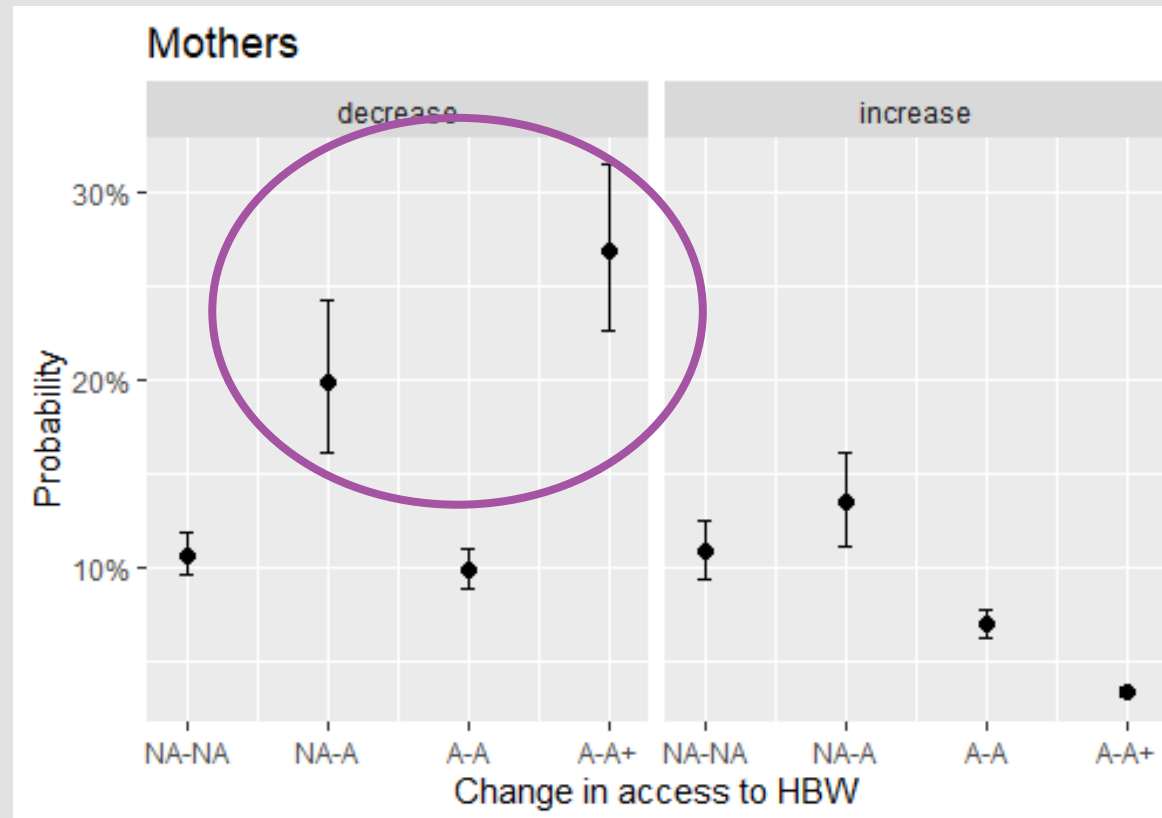
Results

Predicted probabilities of decreasing and increasing fertility intentions by change in access to and use of HBW.



What about the more egalitarian couples?

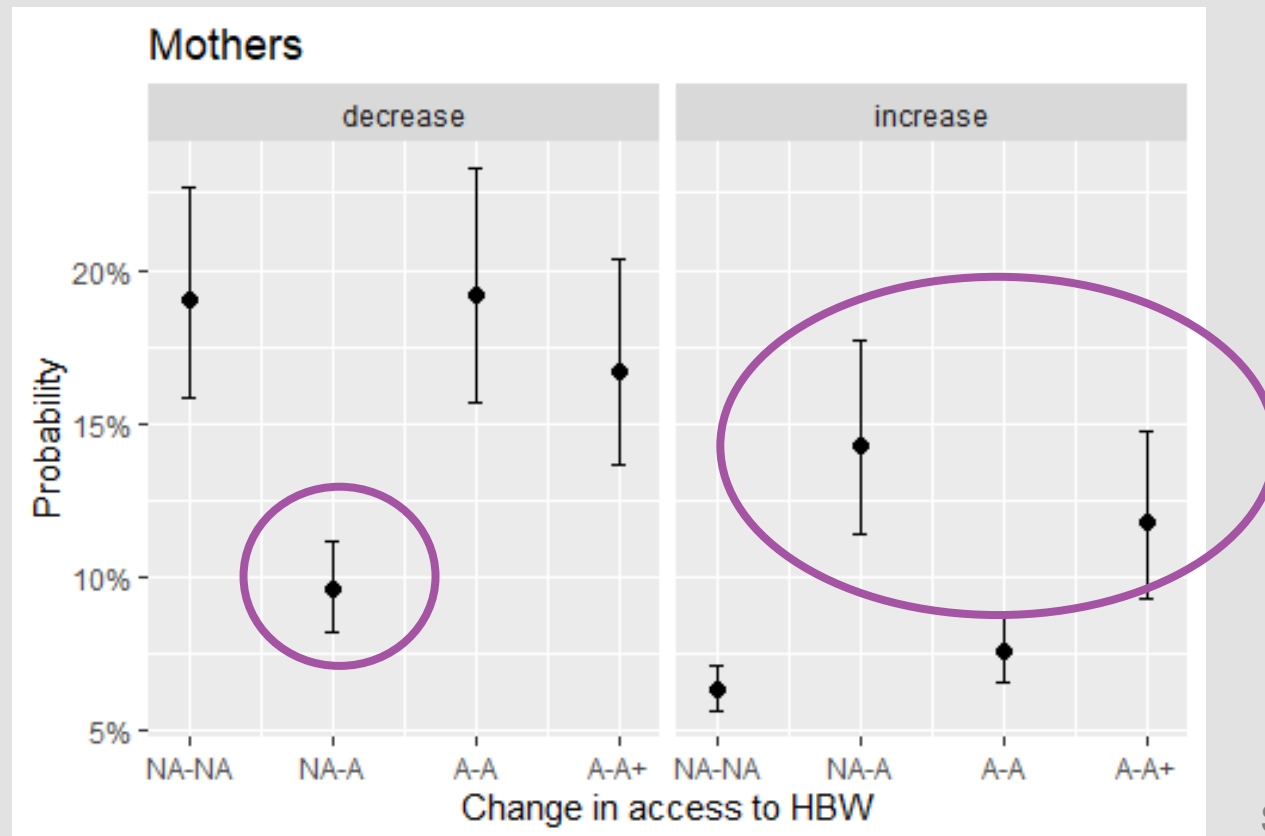
Predicted probabilities of decreasing and increasing fertility intentions by change in access to and use of HBW and **equal pre-pandemic division of childcare**



Source: Own calculations based on Polish Familydemic dataset.

What about those whose financial situation worsened during the pandemic?

Predicted probabilities of decreasing and increasing fertility intentions by change in access to and use of HBW and **worsened financial situation**.



Source: Own calculations based on Polish Familydemic dataset.

Conclusions

- Evidence of **the overall negative impact of HBW on fertility intentions** among mothers **during the Covid-19 pandemic**
- **BUT** weakened/ reversed if worsened financial situation
- Childless women: no effect of HBW on their fertility intentions

Thank you!

