Parenting under pressure and transition to second birth

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Costs and rewards of parenting

- Opportunity costs of childbearing (lost income, employment opportunities), tensions between paid work and care

- Much less attention paid to other costs such as lack of leisure, personal care or sleep

- Mothers are often deprived of sleep and personal time (Bianchi, 2000; Nomaguchi and Milkie, 2003) and their subjective well-being declines dramatically after birth (Margolis and Myrskyla 2015, Matysiak et al. 2016)

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Intensive mothering

- This ideology presribes mothers the right way of childcare

- Mothers as principal caregivers bearing responsibility for how their children turn out (Hays, 1996)

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FAMILY MEALS FOSTER EMOTIONAL BALANCE

Frequent family meals increase self-esteem, a sense of wellbeing, positive social behaviors and stronger family relationships.

Supported cognitive development

Daily routines for your family: four steps
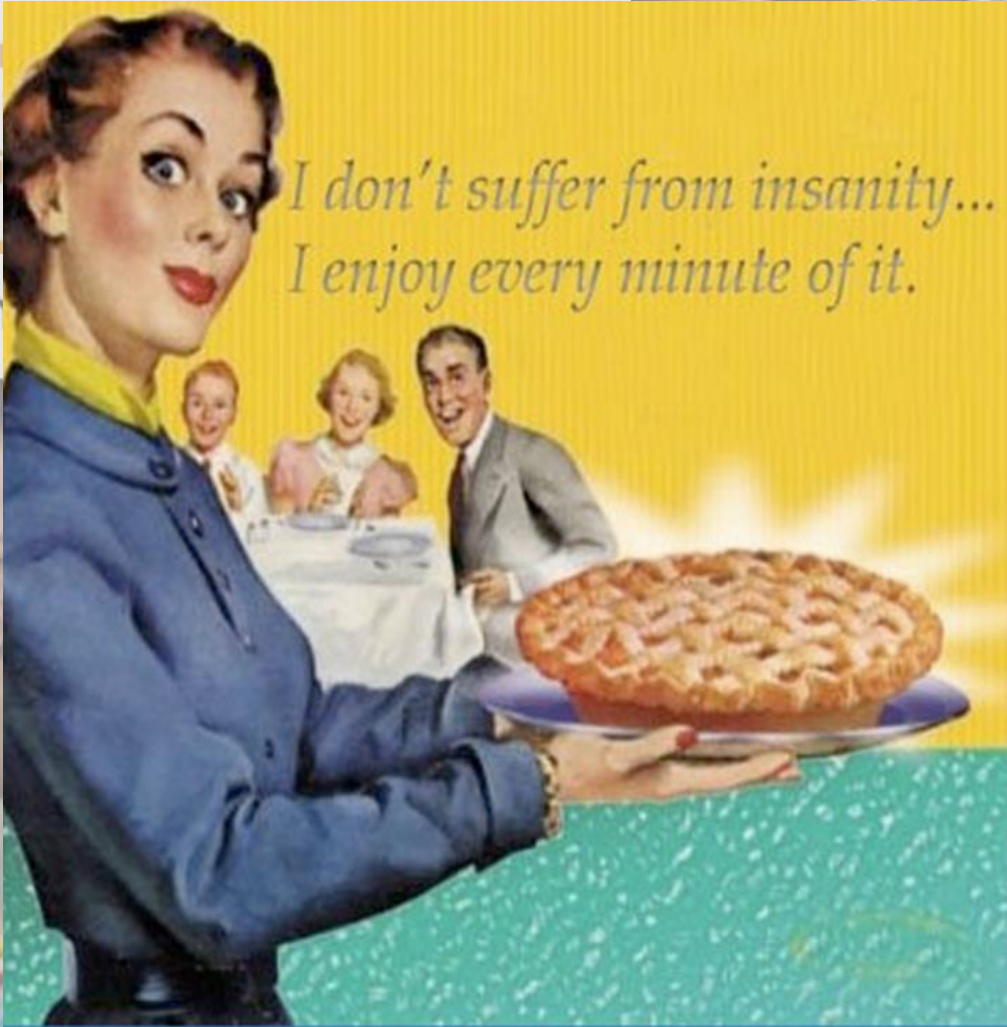
SHARE

How to Create Quality Time with Your Family As a Busy Mom or Dad

FAMILY MEALS
FOSTER EMOTIONAL BALANCE

Frequent family
a sense of wellbe
and stronger fami

Supported cogn

s for your family: four steps

SHARE

I don't suffer from insanity...
I enjoy every minute of it.

How to Create Quality Time with Your Family As a Busy Mom or Dad

Parental struggles

"Doing (good) parenting" (Smyth & Craig 2017)

Ideal mother vs ideal worker (Blair-Loy 2009)

Feelings of strain, stress, anxiety, and exhaustion (Rizzo et al., 2013; Wall, 2010; Warner, 2005)

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Are specific "good parenting" practices related to childbearing?

Are mothers who are strained / enjoy their everyday activities more likely to have the 2nd child?

Data

- Understanding Society 2010-2018
- Discrete time hazard model (complementary log-log)
- Partnered first-time mothers aged 18-43 at first birth
- Baseline (age of the first child) as piecewise constant function
- 5,816 person-years & 899 births
- All time-varying observations lagged by 2 years

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Key variables

Frequency of out-of-home leisure with child

Frequency of having dinner with child

Level of strain

(Job anxiety)

Level of enjoyment of everyday activities

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Control variables

Age of the 1st child

Maternal age at first birth

Education
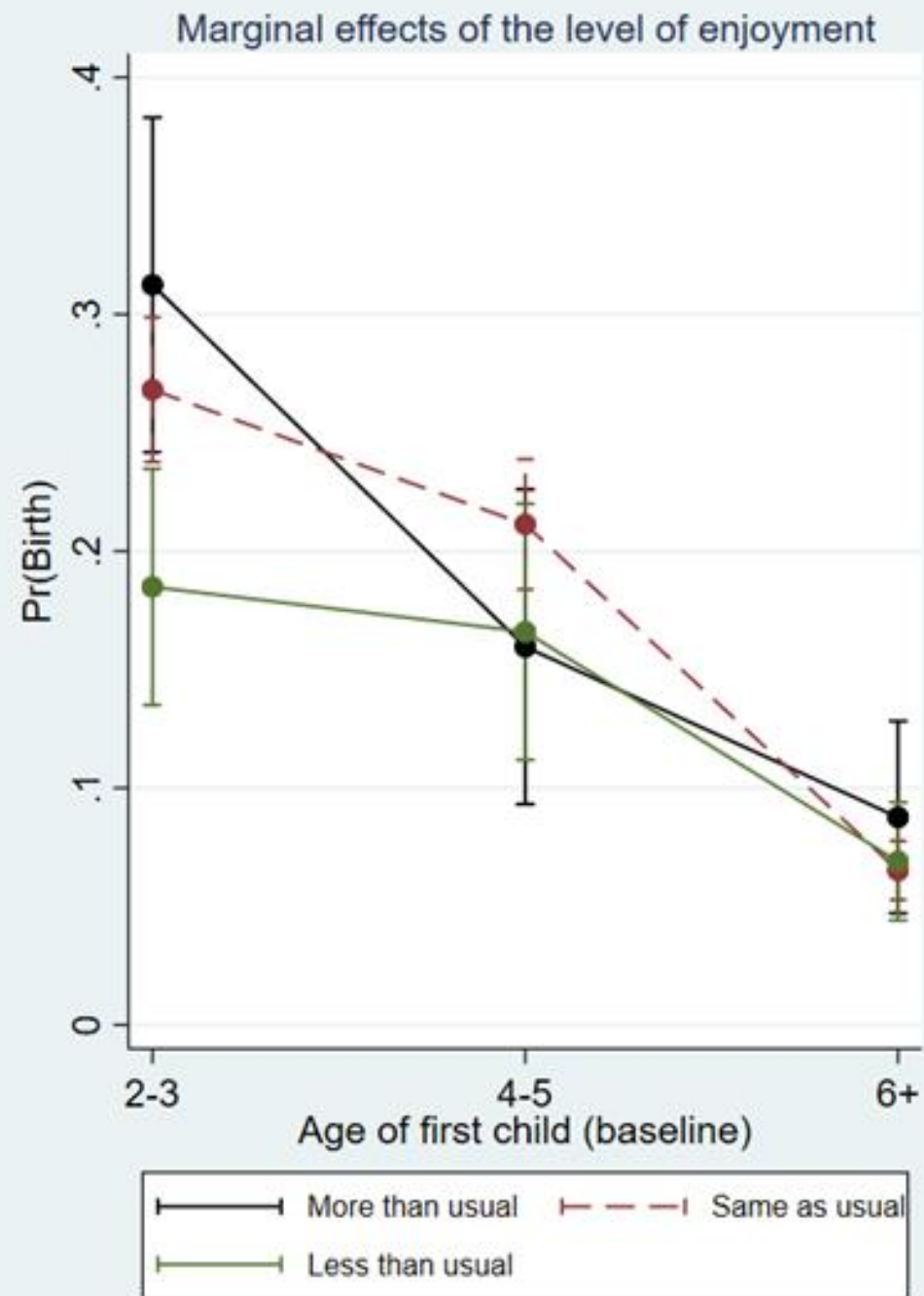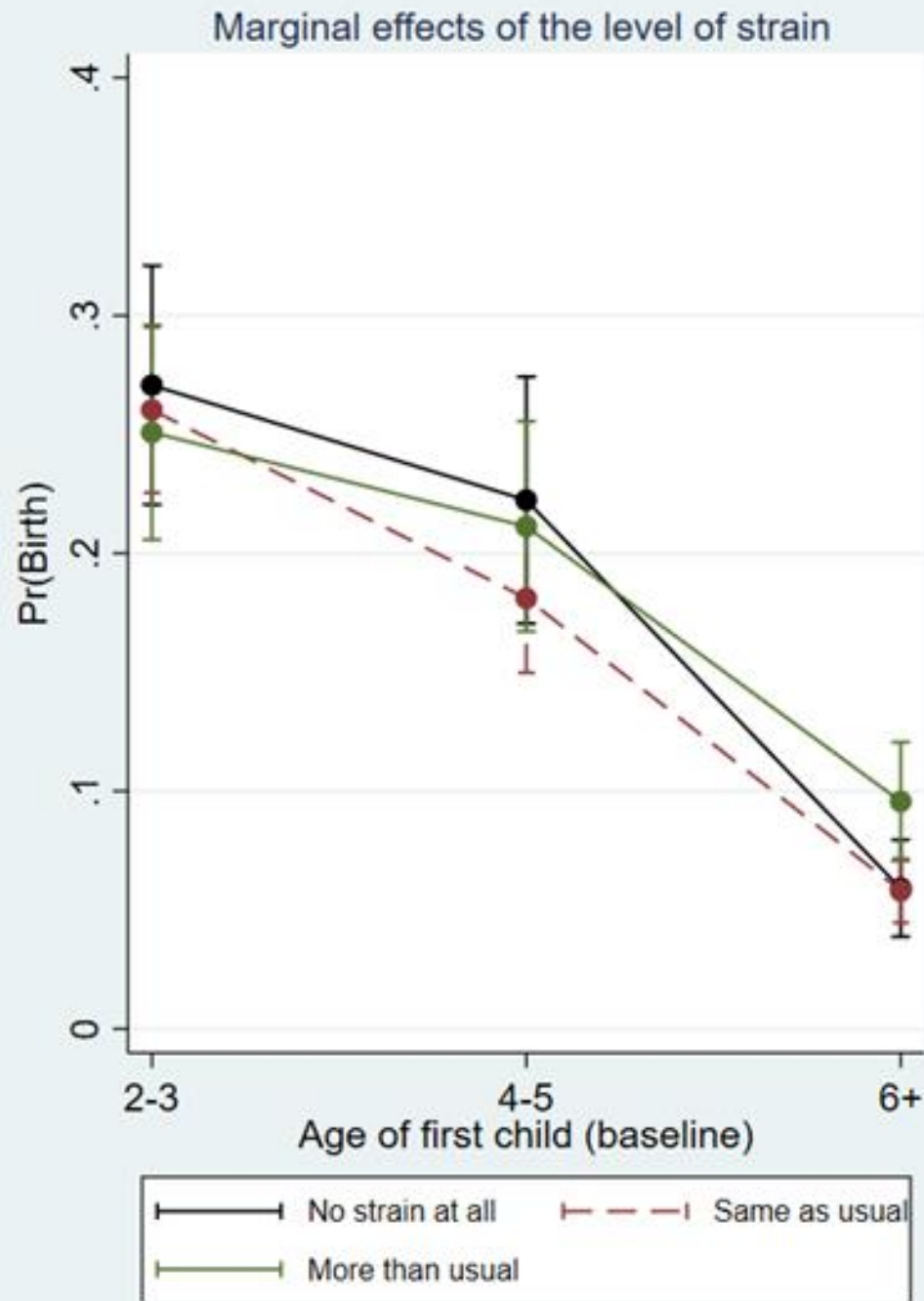
Work status & partner's work status

Ethnicity

Period

Childcare use (paid & unpaid)

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Results
(Odds-ratios)

	MODEL 1	MODEL 2
Out-of-home leisure with child *(ref. less than once per week)*		
About once per week	0.95 (0.13)	0.96 (0.13)
More than once per week	**1.26 (0.14)***	**1.28 (0.15)***
Dinner with child *(ref. not at all)*		
1-2 times per week	0.81 (0.12)	0.82 (0.13)
3-5 times per week	**0.65 (0.09)****	**0.65 (0.09)****
6-7 times per week	**0.73 (0.08)****	**0.73 (0.08)****
Feeling strained *(ref. same as usual)*		
Not at all		1.11 (0.10)
More than usual		1.15 (0.10)
Job anxiety *(ref. high)*		
Moderate		0.89 (0.10)
Low		1.03 (0.14)
Enjoy everyday activities *(ref. same as usual)*		
More than usual		1.09 (0.13)
Less than usual		**0.76 (0.08)***

Strain/ enjoy- ment by child's age

Marginal effects of the level of strain

Pr(Birth) vs. Age of first child (baseline): 2-3, 4-5, 6+

Legend:
- No strain at all
- Same as usual
- More than usual

Marginal effects of the level of enjoyment

Pr(Birth) vs. Age of first child (baseline): 2-3, 4-5, 6+

Legend:
- More than usual
- Same as usual
- Less than usual

Conclusions

- Different parenting behaviours = different progression to 2nd birth risk

- Mothers under an increased strain do not lower their risk of 2nd birth

- Mothers who enjoy everyday activities have lower birth risks, especially when the first child is 2-3 years old

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Thank you!