

# Paid and Unpaid Work during COVID-19

A Study on the Effects of Lockdown Measures in Italy




SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



Minerva – Laboratory on diversity and  
gender inequality

Speaker: Erica Aloè (MinervaLab SAPIENZA)

- Study is based on a survey carried out on unpaid care work and COVID-19, starting from CWW project survey
  - Survey developed by a team based at MinervaLab Sapienza (Aloè, Corsi, De Rose, Zannella)
- 

## Background

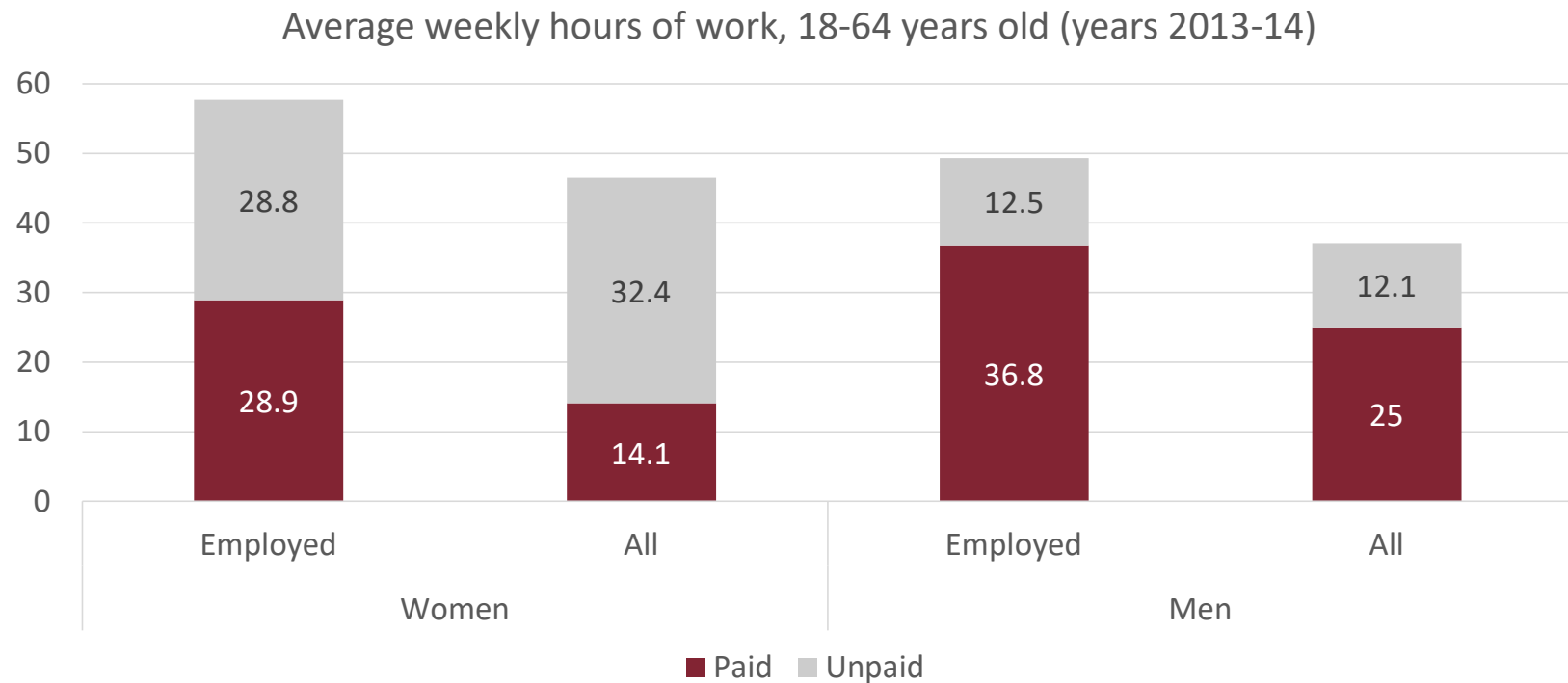
- On March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, Italy was the **first Western country to impose lockdown followed**, later, by social distancing measures. The lockdown lasted 69 days.
- Prior research has shown that women are shouldering much of the burden at home, given school and childcare facility closures
- At the same time, women also face high risks of job and income loss (OECD 2020)

## Background

The effects of the 'she-cession' are likely to be greater in Italy as compared to other countries for several reasons:

- Prior to Covid-19, Italy showed one of the **greatest gender gap in paid as well as unpaid work** among OECD countries (e.g., OECD 2017). ISTAT: between Nov and Dec 2020 101.000 jobs were lost, 99.000 were women
- **Schools have been closed for in-person nationwide from March 9th until the end of the school year (June)**, a relatively longer period compared to most OECD countries where schools began to re-open in April and May (OECD 2020)

## Background



Source: authors' calculations on Italian Time Use Survey data

## Survey

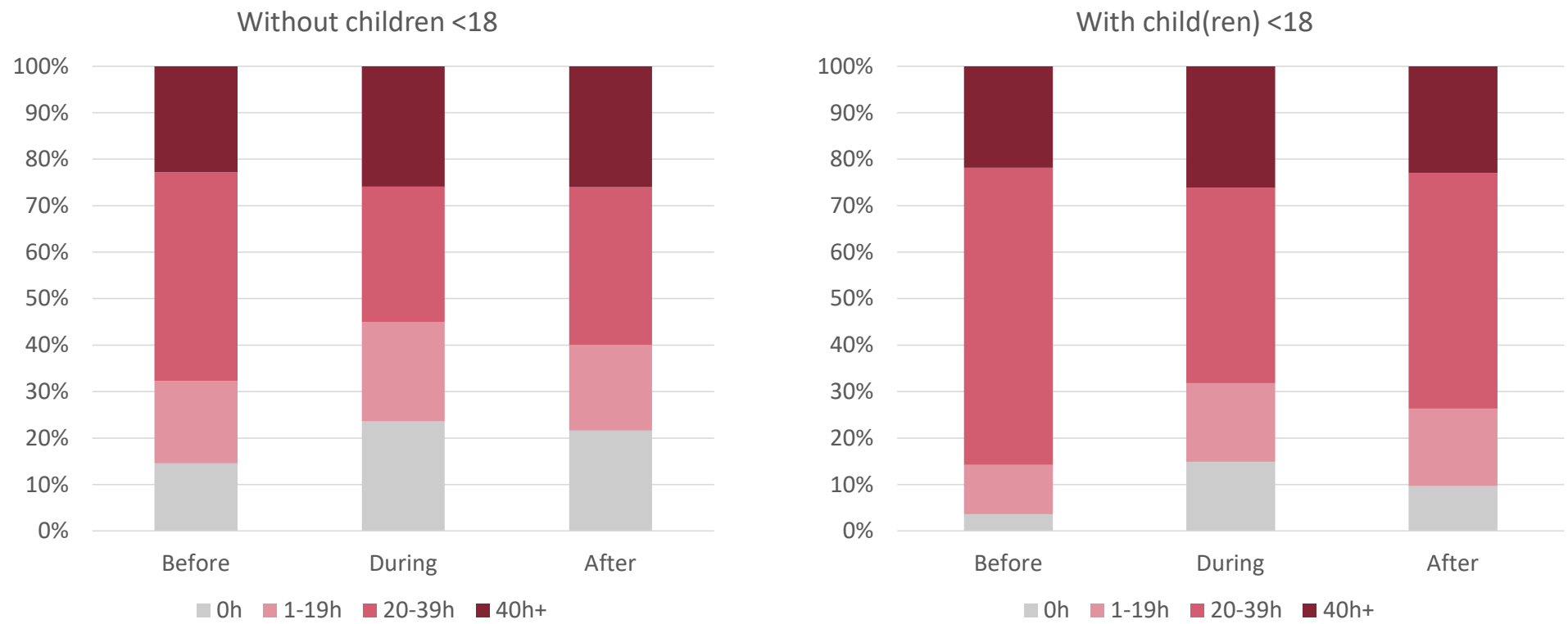
- Survey: **on-line questionnaire** open to anyone >18 that lives in Italy
- Time: between **May 22nd 2020 and June 12th 2020**
- Structure: **multiple choice** questions
- 9 sections: household composition, health status, paid work (including partner), **unpaid care work** (active and passive), **unpaid domestic work**, unpaid care work to/from other households, **division** of unpaid care work and unpaid domestic work within the household, **feelings**, socio-demographic information
- Information: **before lockdown, during lockdown, during social distancing phase**

## Survey

- Observations: 979 (1008)
- Sex: **810 W (82.7 %)** 169 M (17.3 %)
- Employed: 827 (**84.6 %**)
- Lives with partner: 727 (**74.3 %**)
- Lives with at least one child <18: 357 (36.5 %)
- Education: up to college degree 256 (26.1 %), bachelor degree 364 (**37.2 %**), higher than bachelor degree 358 (**36.6 %**)

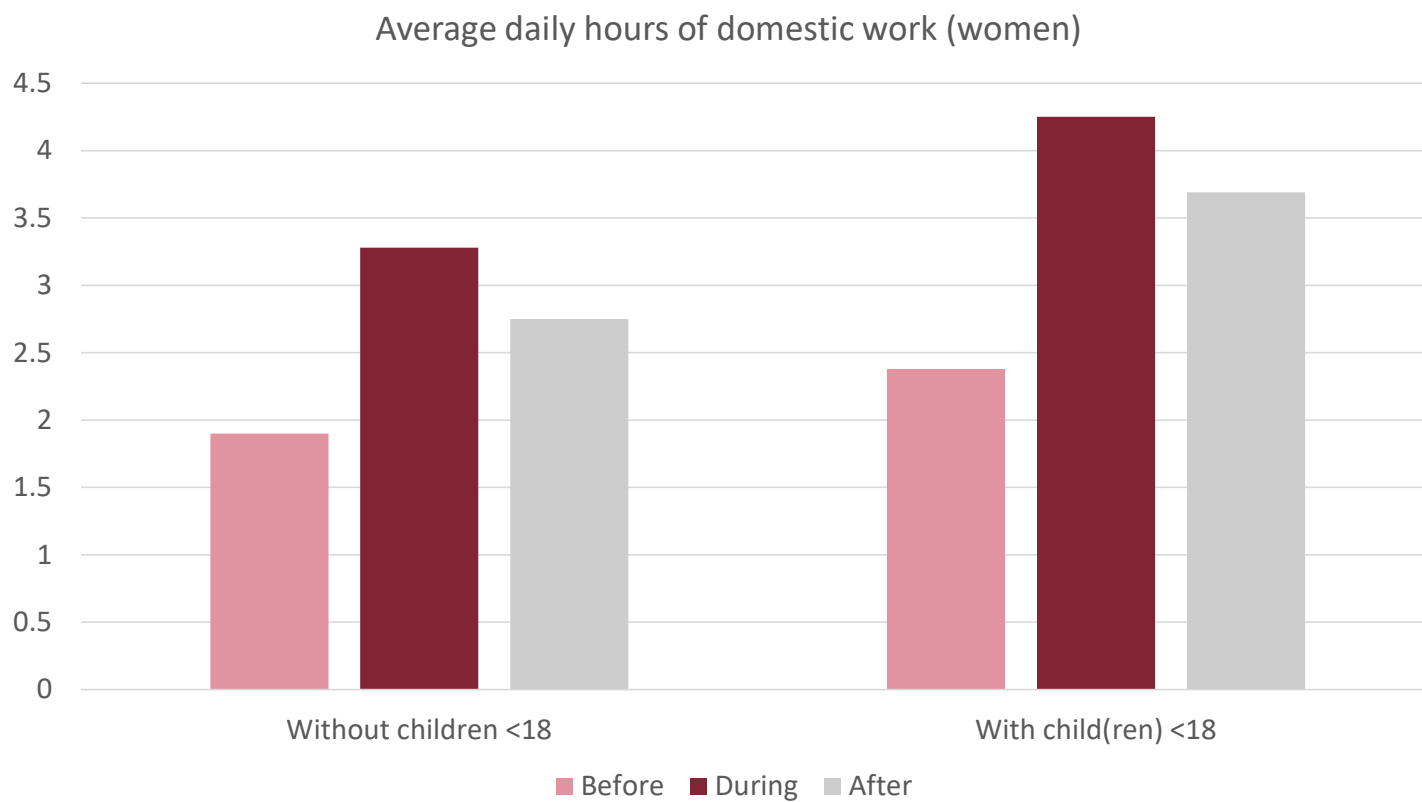
## Findings

### Hours of paid work (women %)

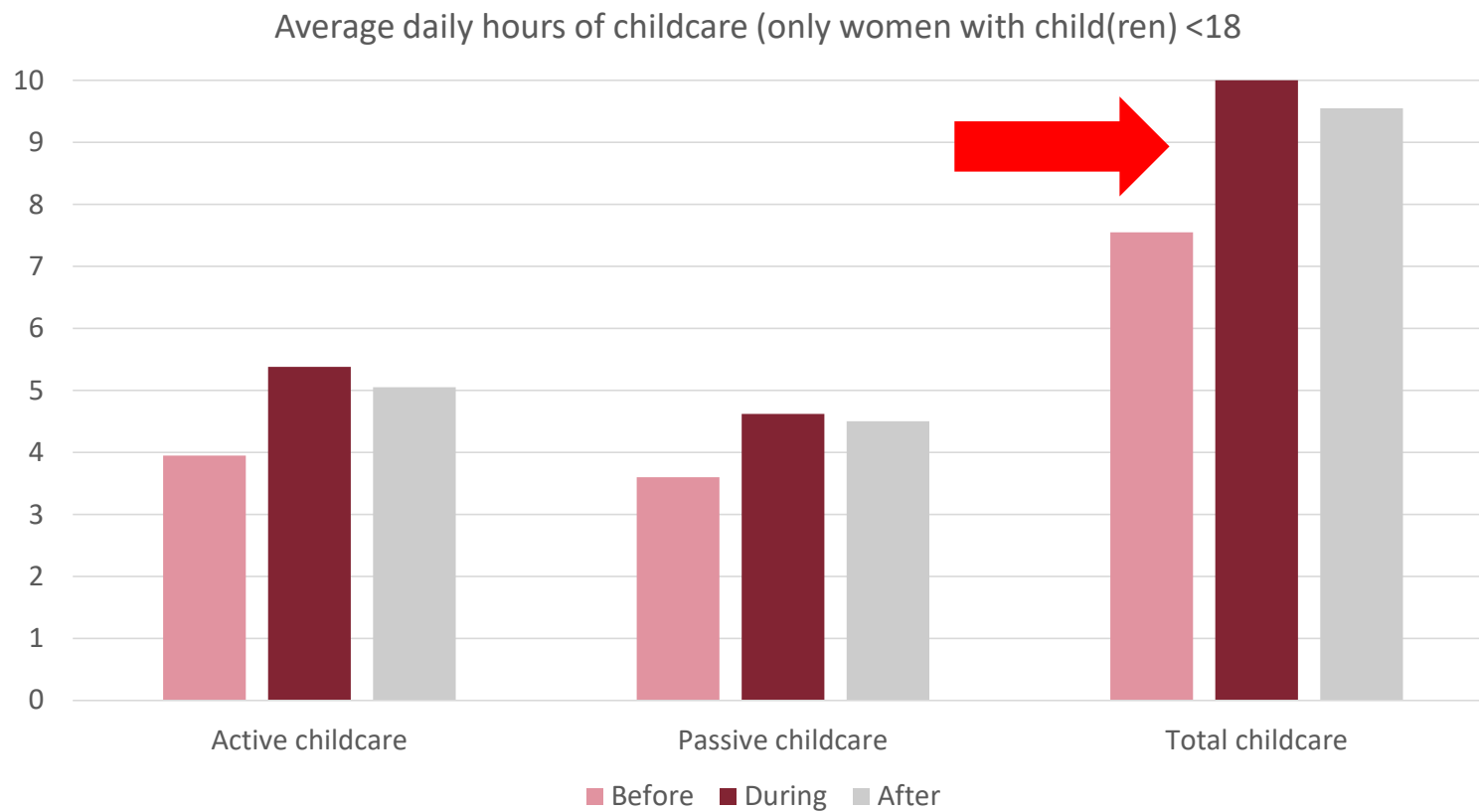




## Findings

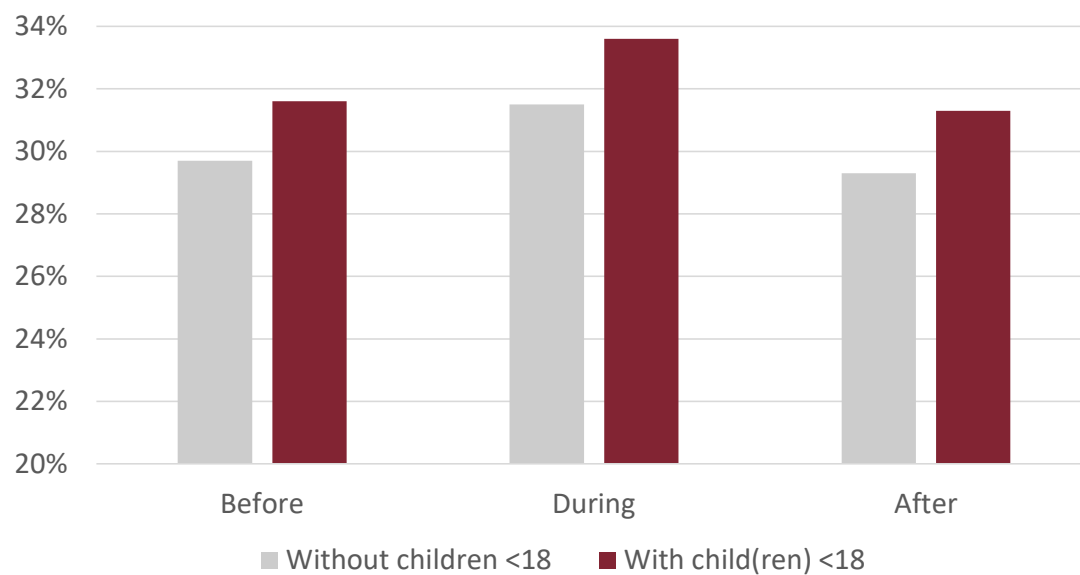


## Findings



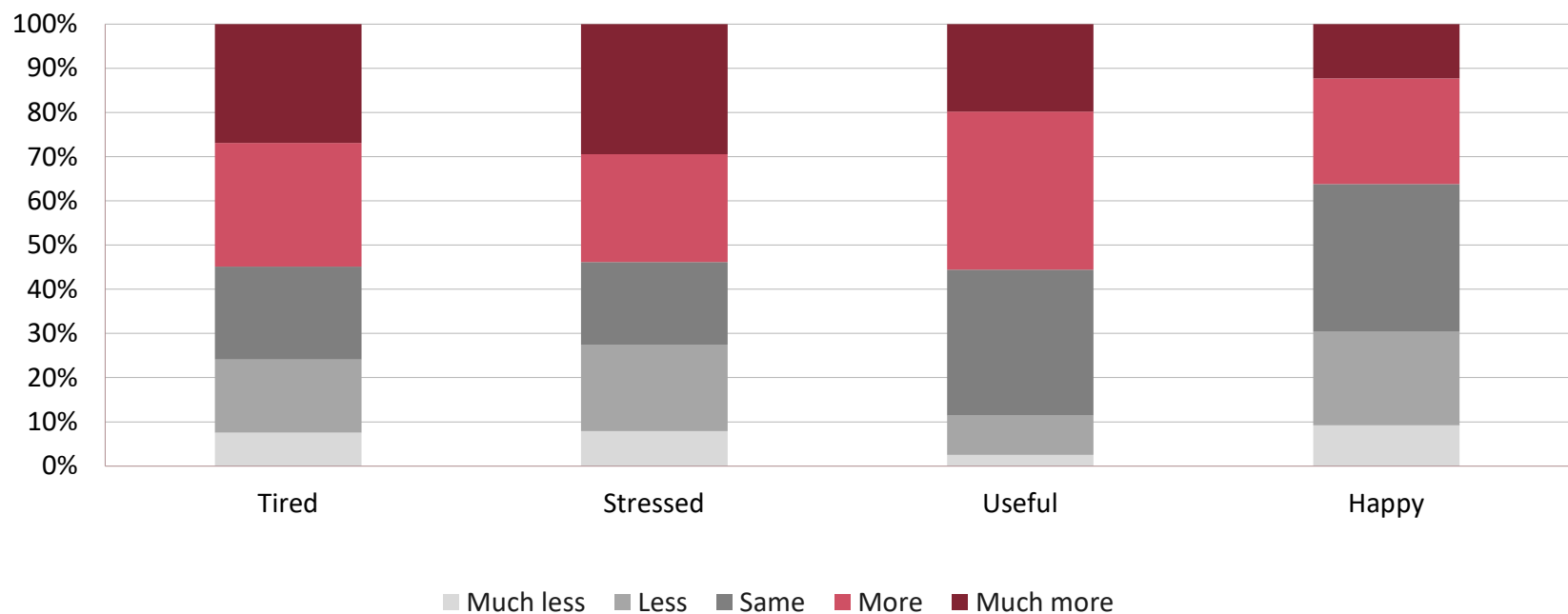
## Findings

Partner's average share of unpaid care and domestic work



## Findings

Did you feel more or less ... than usual while caring for children during the lockdown?



## Preliminary Findings

- Women became time and income poorer during the first phase of the pandemic. Women experienced a decrease of hours of paid work and of average salaries.
- Women were required to provide more unpaid care and domestic work (in particular women with children)
- Women reported that their partners only slightly increased their share of unpaid care and domestic work during the lockdown and that they returned to their pre-lockdown share soon after
- Women, especially those with minor children, reported to feel more stress and tiredness in association to paid and unpaid work activities while, only in relation to childcare, the majority of women highlighted to have experienced a greater sense of meaningfulness

# Thank you

Erica Aloè [erica.aloe@uniroma1.it](mailto:erica.aloe@uniroma1.it)

Marcella Corsi [marcella.corsi@uniroma1.it](mailto:marcella.corsi@uniroma1.it)

Alessandra De Rose [alessandra.derosé@uniroma1.it](mailto:alessandra.derosé@uniroma1.it)

Marina Zannella [marina.zannella@uniroma1.it](mailto:marina.zannella@uniroma1.it)

