

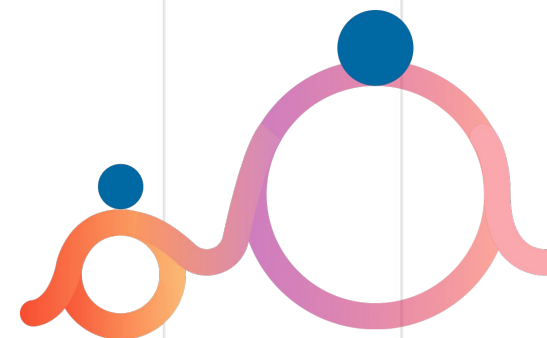


# THE ROLE OF MEN IN PARENTHOOD during the full-scale war

Prepared for UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund

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# Methodology

## RESEARCH METHOD IN 2020:

Personal interviews at the respondent's home, November 2020

## COMPATIBILITY OF DATA BEFORE AND AFTER

**FEBRUARY 24, 2022:** We believe that it is possible to compare these data at the level of trends. At the same time, the surveys are not completely comparable, firstly, because they were conducted using different methods, and secondly, because the telephone survey does not take into account the opinion of Ukrainians who have gone abroad and the opinion of residents of the territories occupied in 2022 without Ukrainian mobile communications. A telephone survey better covers active people who are difficult to "catch" at home. At the same time, we found no evidence of the method's impact on increasing the time parents spend with their children. These positive changes are most often explained by the loss of a job, strengthening of emotional ties, the deterioration of the condition of children, the transition to distance learning due to the war

## RESEARCH METHOD

**IN 2023:** Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI), based on a random sample of mobile phone numbers, May 2023

## GEOGRAPHY OF RESEARCH:

Ukraine except for Crimea, Sevastopol and ORDLO [the uncontrolled territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions]. In 2023, the survey also does not cover Ukrainians who went abroad, as well as the territories occupied in 2022, where there is no Ukrainian mobile communication

## TARGET AUDIENCE:

The population of Ukraine aged over 16 years old

## SAMPLE SIZE:

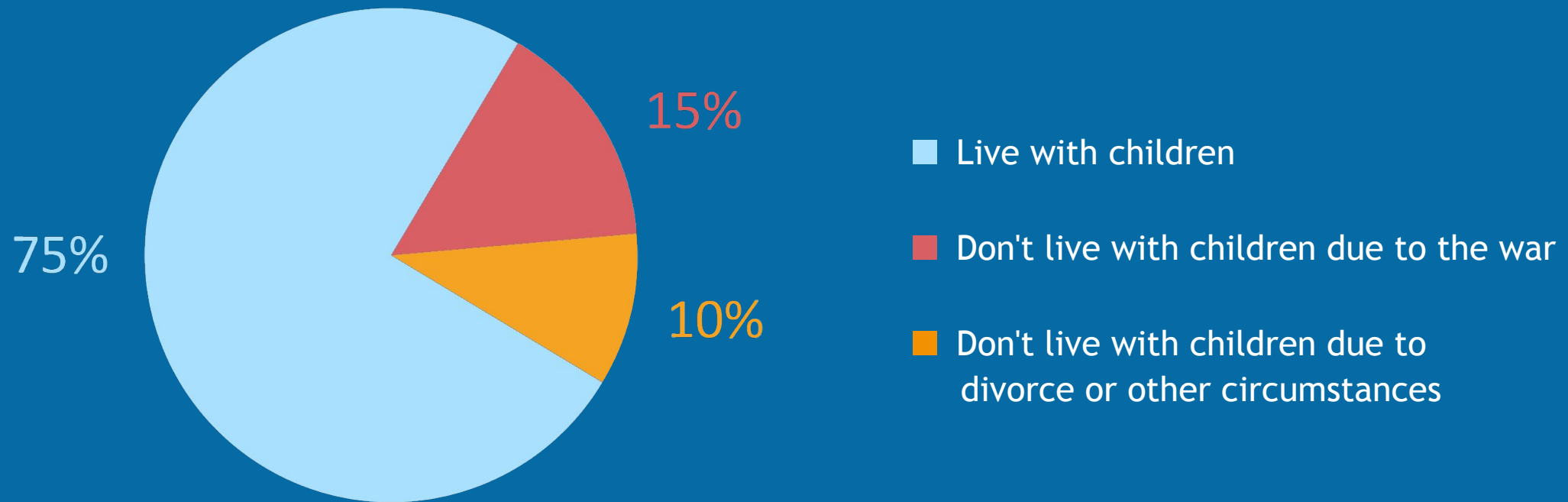
1000 respondents. The maximum theoretical error does not exceed 3.1%





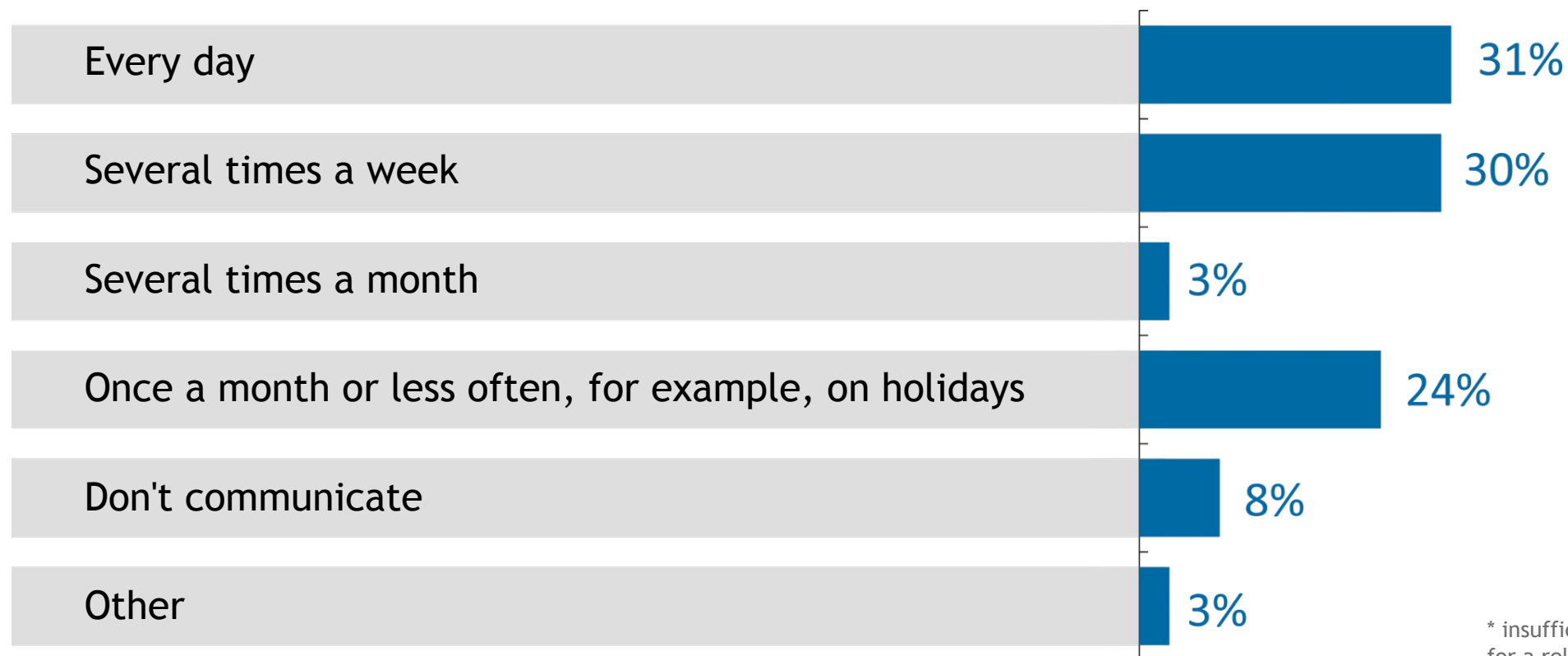
# KEY RESULTS

**75% of fathers live with children aged under 18 years old, 15% do not live with children due to the war, 10% do not live with children due to divorce or other circumstances** (fathers of minor children, n=131)



## 61% of dads who live separately, communicate with their children at least several times a week

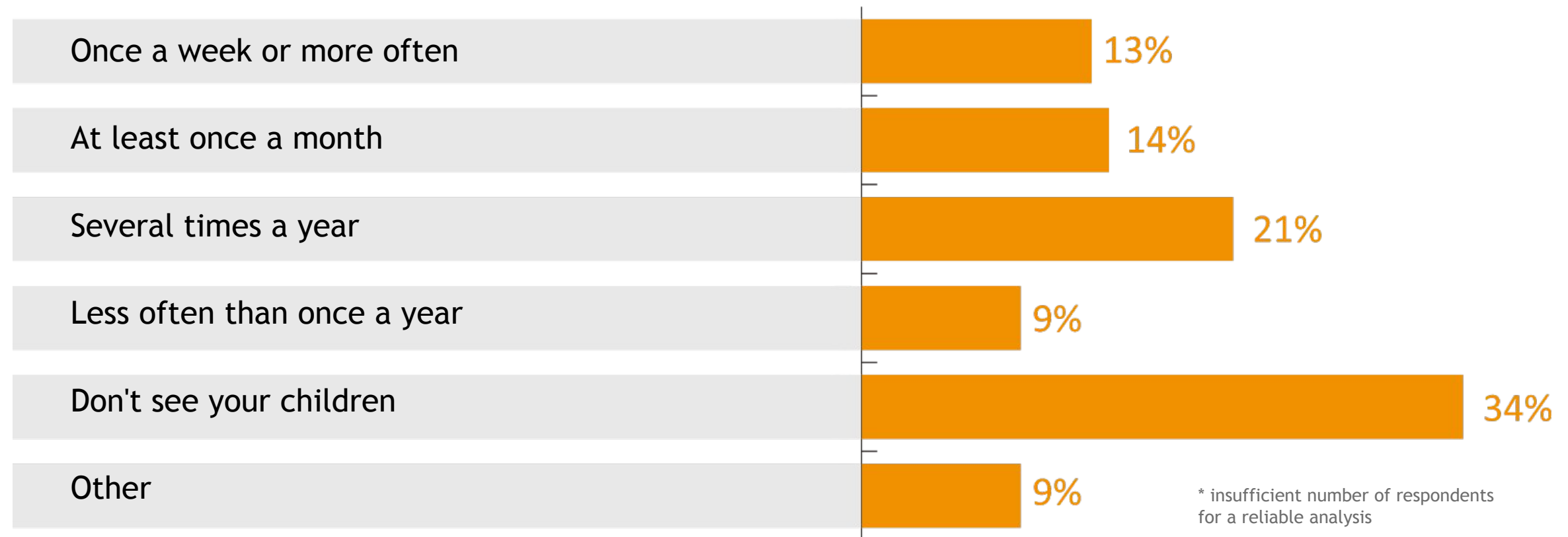
➤ *How often do you communicate with your child/children (including by phone or online)?*  
(fathers of minor children, n=33\*)



\* insufficient number of respondents for a reliable analysis

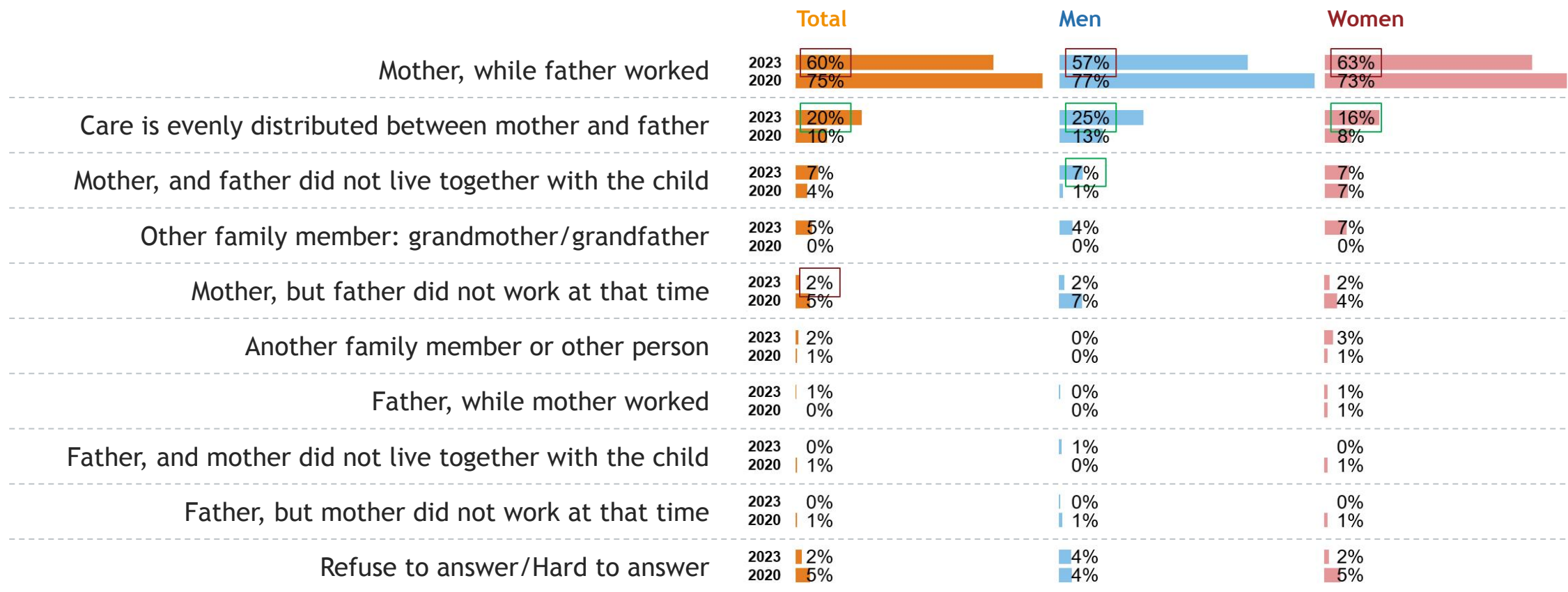
## 27% of fathers living separately, visit their children at least once a month

➤ *How often do you visit your child/children, or they visit you?*  
(fathers of minor children, n= 33\*)



A father mainly took care of children aged under 3 years old in only 1% of the families, and the mother – in 69%. In 2% of the families, father did not work, but mother still took care of the children. At the same time, 20% (16% of mothers and 25% of fathers) indicate an even distribution of responsibilities

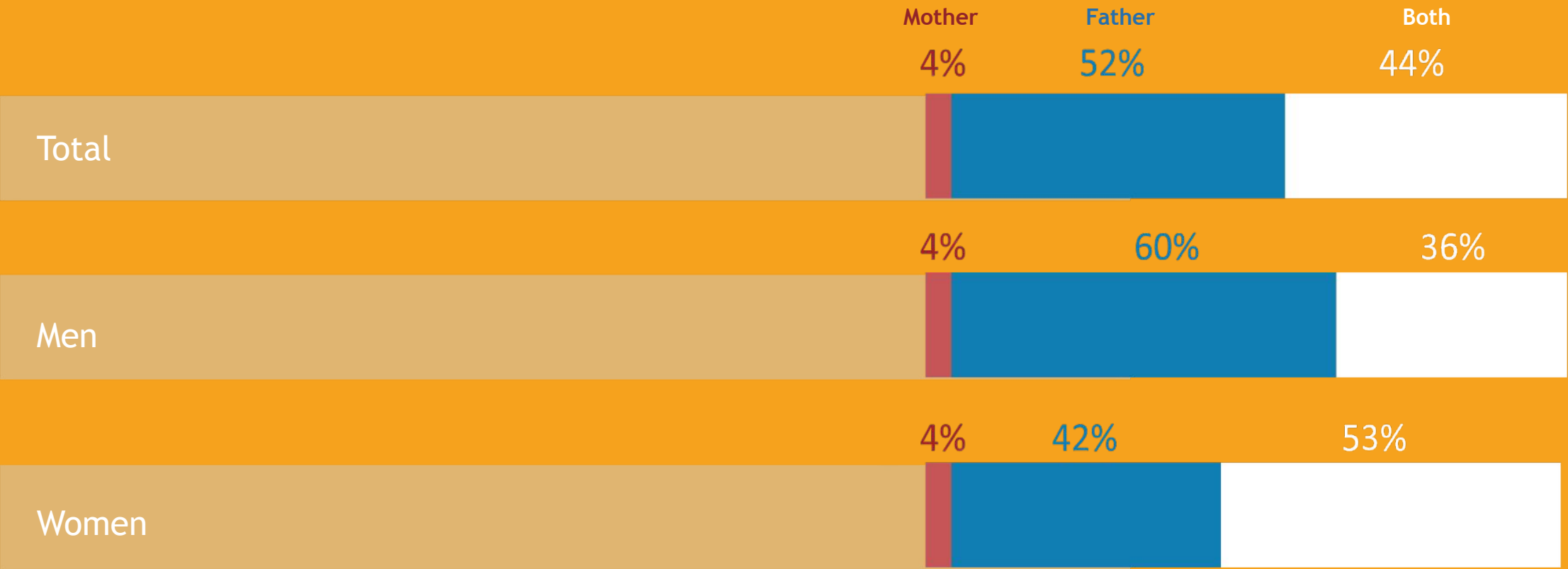
➤ Which parent mainly took care of (or is currently taking care of, if there are children aged under 3 years old) the child/children aged under 3 years old? (among those who have children aged under 18 years old, 2023 n=295; 2020 n=131)



□ □ — statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

# In half of the families with equal distribution of childcare responsibilities, only a father worked

➤ Which parent worked while caring for a child aged under 3 years old?  
(among the respondents who evenly distributed childcare, n=60)





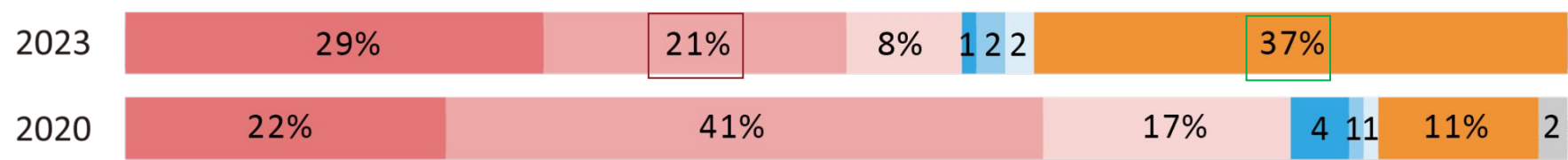
# Compared to 2020, the participation of fathers in caring for a child aged under 3 years old has significantly increased: cooking, bathing, changing diapers

➤ Who in your family... (Total)

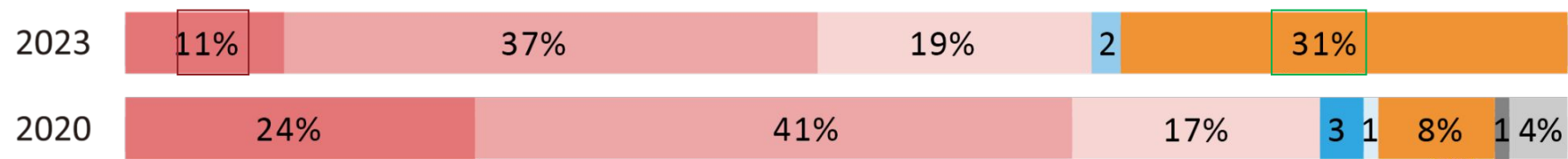
*Cooks complementary food / food for a child/children aged under three years old*



*Bathes a child/children aged under three years old*



*Changes the diapers of a child/children aged under three years old*

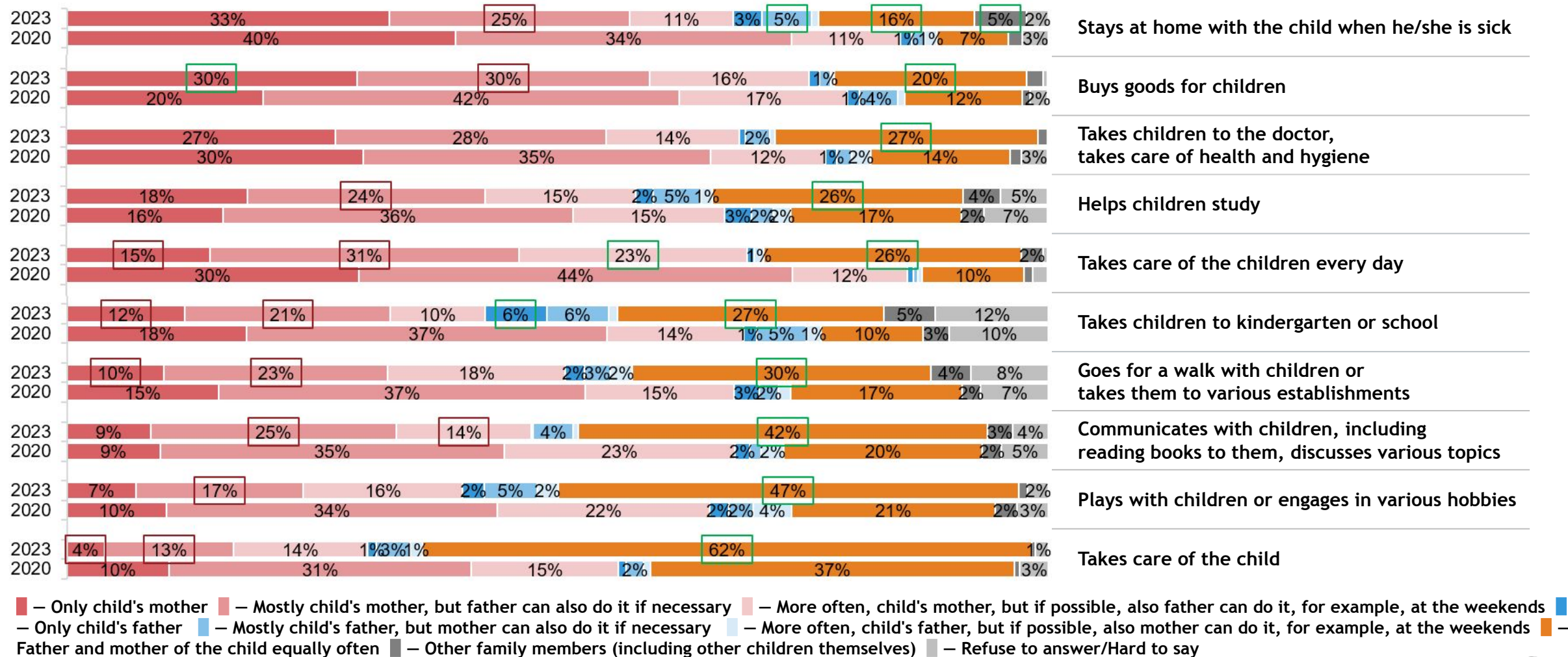


□ — statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

- Only child's mother
- Mostly child's mother, but father can also do it
- More often, child's mother, but if possible, also father can do it, for example, at the weekends
- Only child's father
- Mostly child's father, but mother can also do it
- More often, child's father, but if possible, also mother can do it, for example, at the weekends
- Father and mother of the child equally often
- Other family members (including other children themselves)
- Refuse to answer/Hard to say

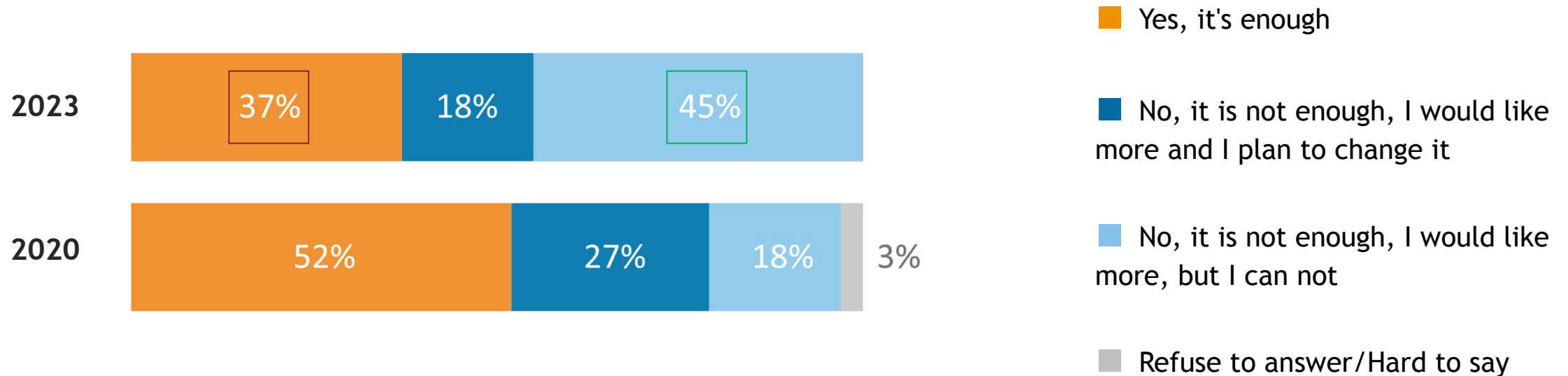
Also, compared to 2020, the participation of fathers in caring for children of all age categories has significantly increased: in daily care, including taking care of sick children, buying goods for children, taking to kindergarten and school, studying, going for a walk, communicating, etc.

➤ *Who in your family...(In general)* □ — statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave



## Although the amount of time dads spend with their children has increased, their satisfaction with this time decreased: 63% believe they do not spend enough time with their children, compared to 45% in 2020

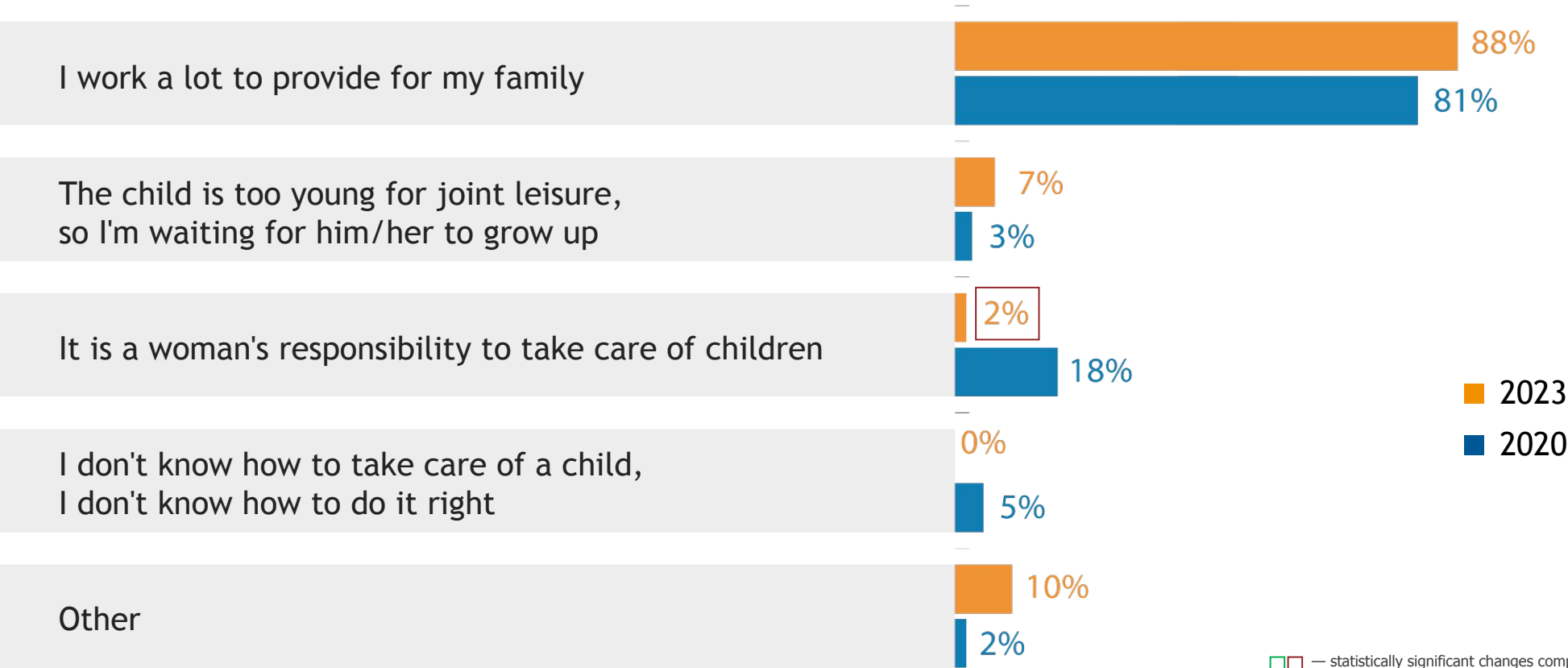
➤ *In your opinion, do you spend enough time with your child?*  
(fathers of minor children, 2023 n=112; 2020 n=115)



□ — statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

When explaining the insufficient time spent with a child, most men blame it on being too busy and only 2% express gender stereotypes that it is a woman’s responsibility, compared to 18% in 2020

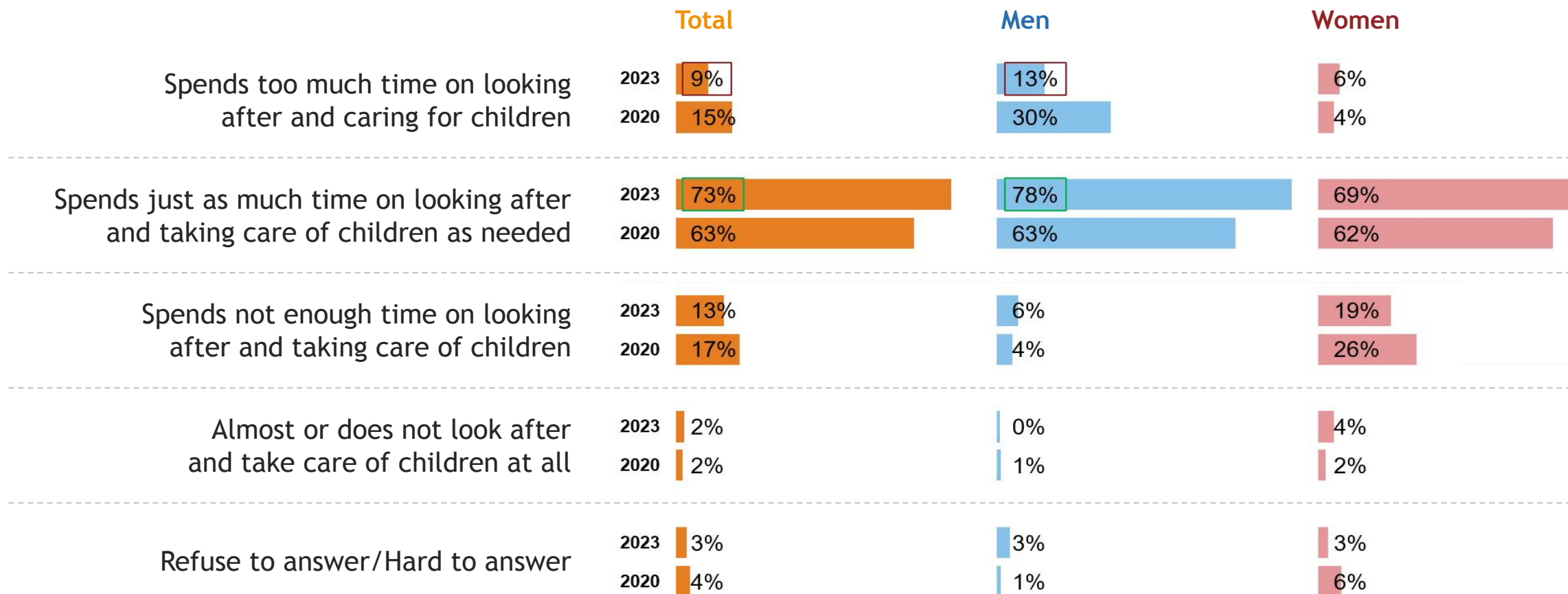
➤ In your opinion, what prevents you from spending more time with your child?  
(fathers of minor children, who do not spend enough time with their own child according to self-evaluation, 2023 n=70; 2020 n=51)



— statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

## 23% of mothers believe that a father spends not enough time with children (versus 28% in 2020). Among the fathers, the similar indicator for mothers is 6%

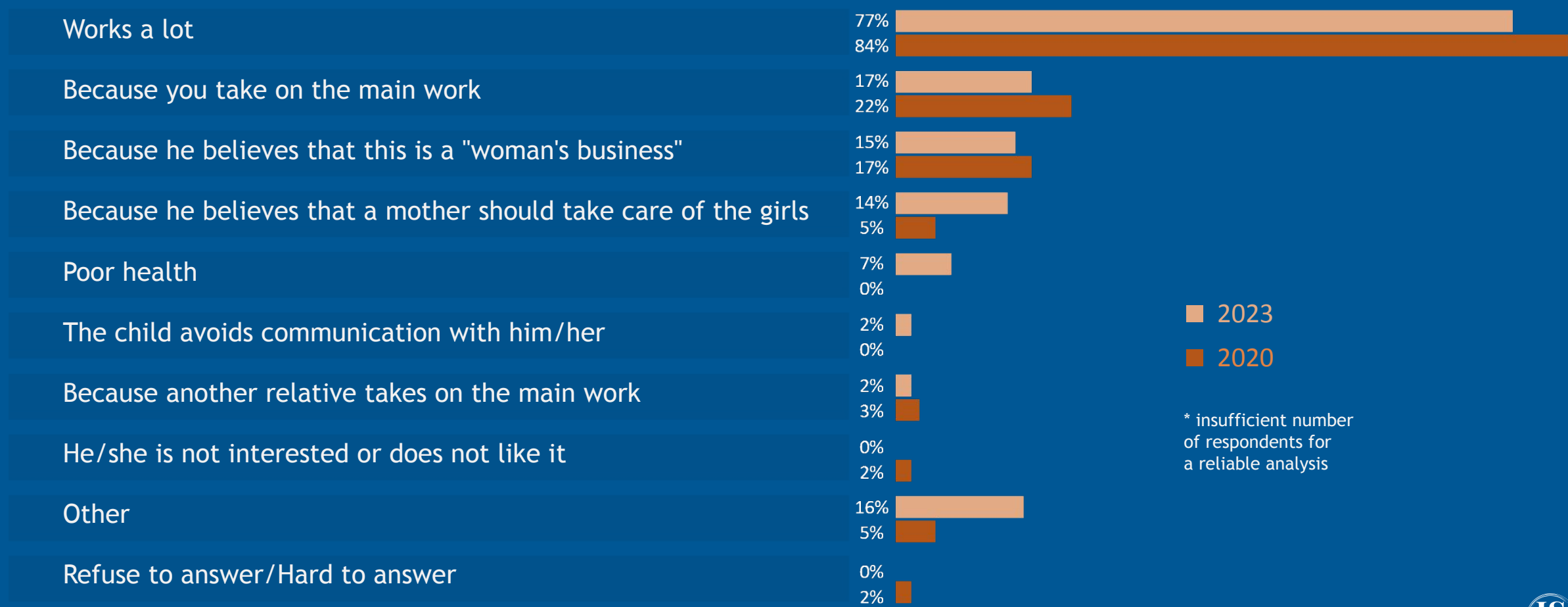
➤ *Your partner...*(among those who have children and live with a partner, n 2023=217; n 2021=261)



□ — statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

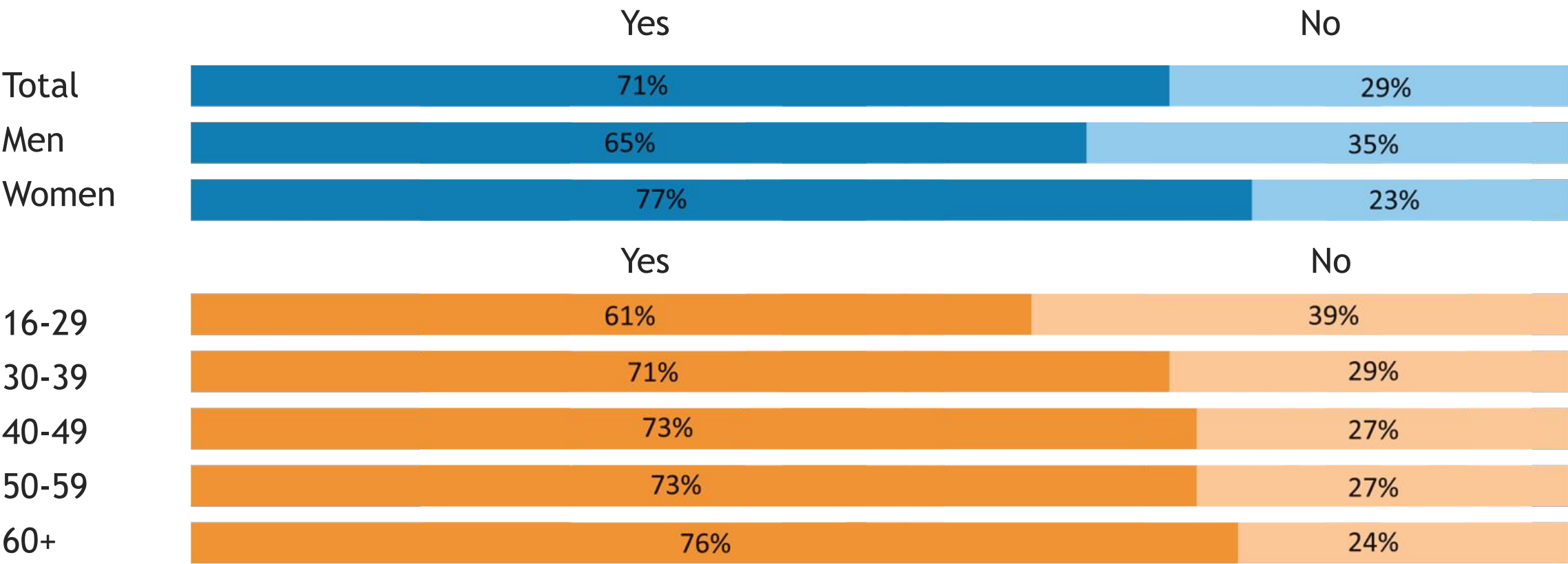
# Most mothers explain father's lack of attention to children by being very busy. 14% said it was because “a mother should take care of the girls”, which was three times more than in 2020

➤ You’ve said that your partner spends not enough time on looking after and taking care of the children. Why is it so, in your opinion? (among women who believe that their partner spends not enough time on looking after and taking care of children, 2023 n=27\*; 2020 n=43\*)



# 77% of women and 65% of men know that a father has the right to take paid leave when a child is born

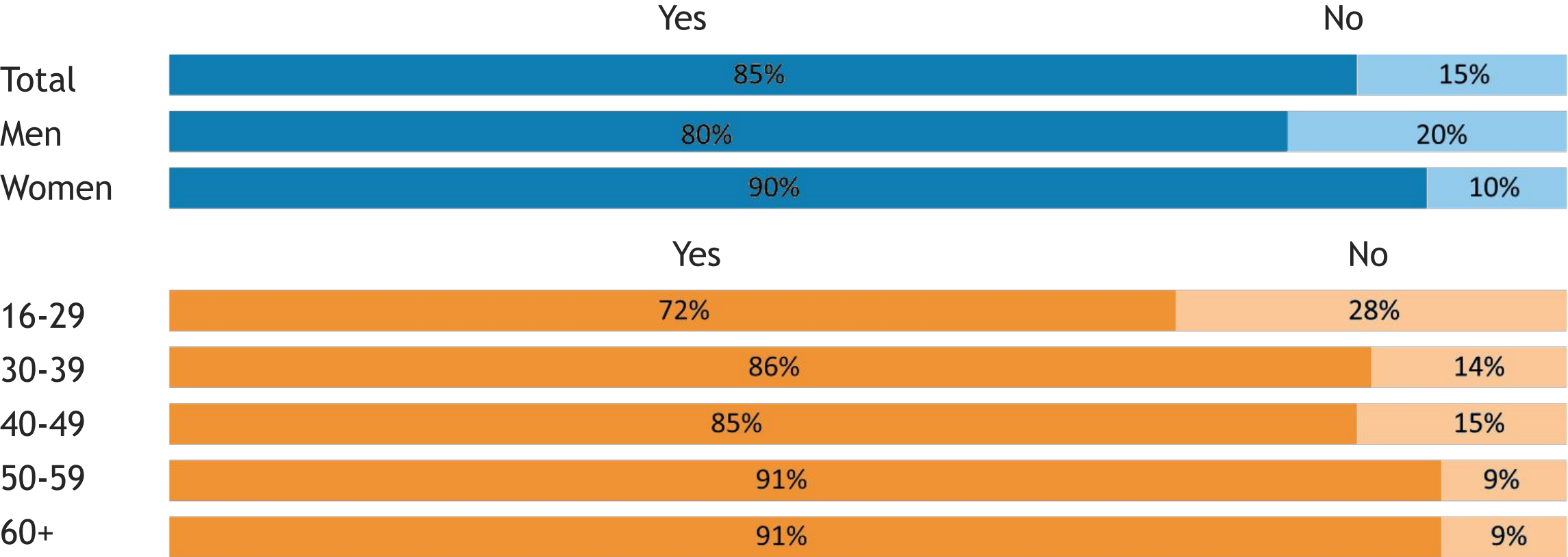
➤ Do you know that a child's father has the right to take up to 14 days of paid leave when the child is born?





# 90% of women and 80% of men know that a father has the right to take a leave to take care of children aged under 3 years old

➤ Do you know that a child's father has the right to take a leave to take care of children aged under 3 years old instead of child's mother?

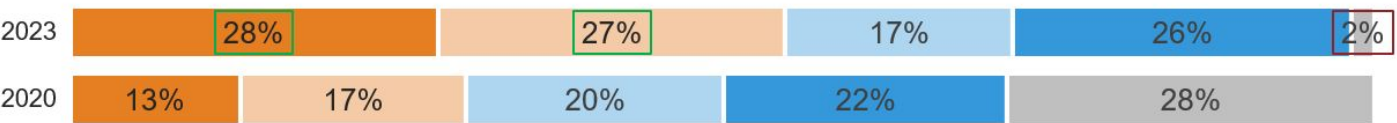




# The desire to take such a leave has significantly increased since 2020

➤ *Would you like a child’s father to take leave to care for a child aged under 3 years old instead of you, at least for a period starting with 1 month?*

Women



- Yes
- Rather yes
- Rather no
- No
- Refuse to answer/Hard to say

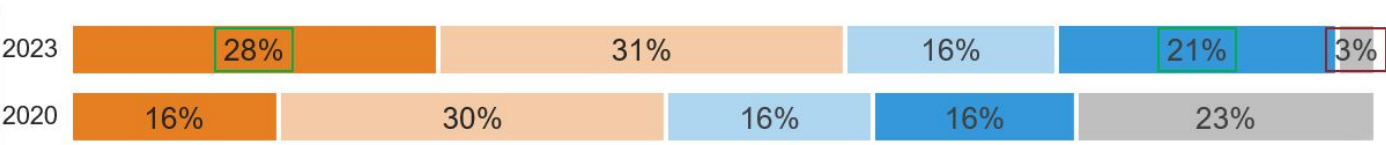
➤ *Would you like to take leave to take care of a child aged under 3 years old instead of the mother of your child, at least for a period starting with 1 month?*

Men



➤ *Imagine that if you go to work soon after the birth of your child, you will earn significantly more than the father of the child. Would you want child’s father to take maternity leave instead of you in this case?*

Women



➤ *Imagine that if the mother of the child goes to work shortly after the birth of the child and earns significantly more than you. Would you take maternity leave instead of the child's mother in this case?*

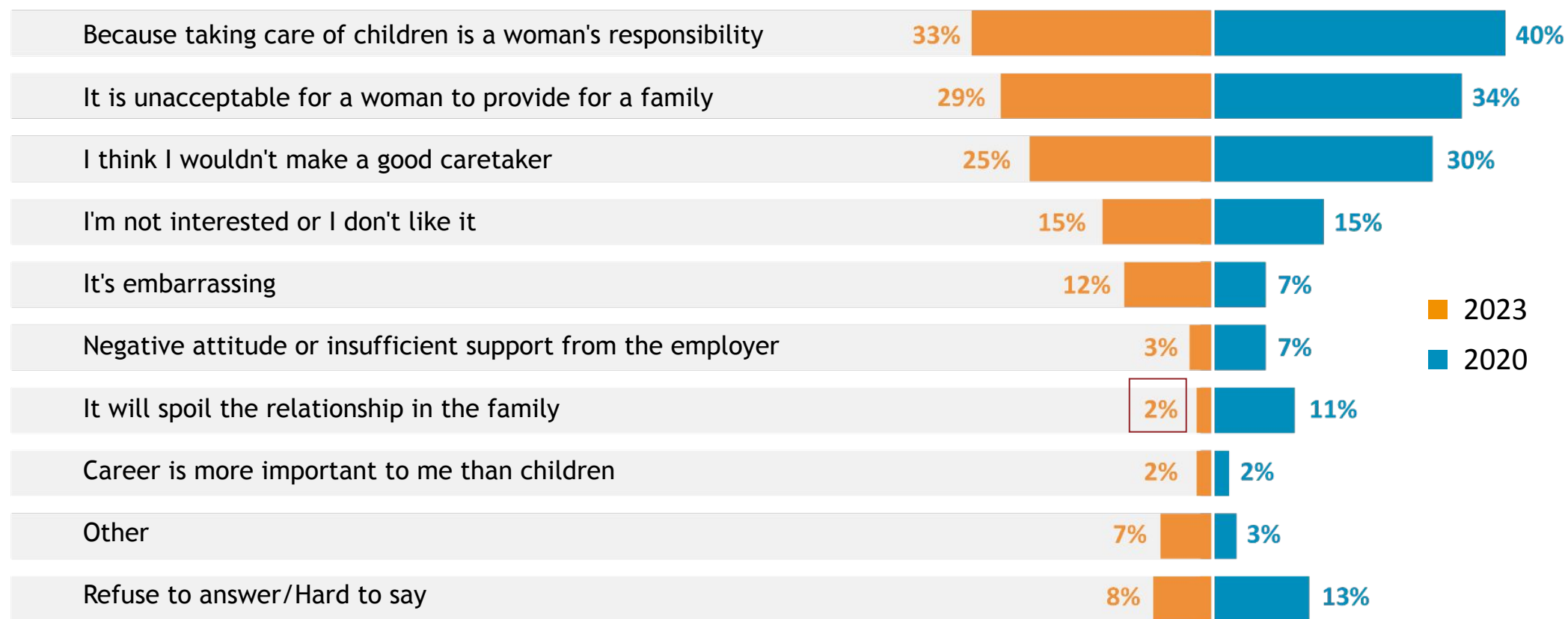
Men



— statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

# The majority of men who do not consider the possibility of taking maternity leave even if it is economically beneficial, explain it by gender stereotypes

➤ *Why wouldn't you consider taking maternity leave even if it would be economically beneficial for your family?* (among men who do not consider taking maternity leave even if it would be economically beneficial for the family, 2023 n=129; 2020 n=296)

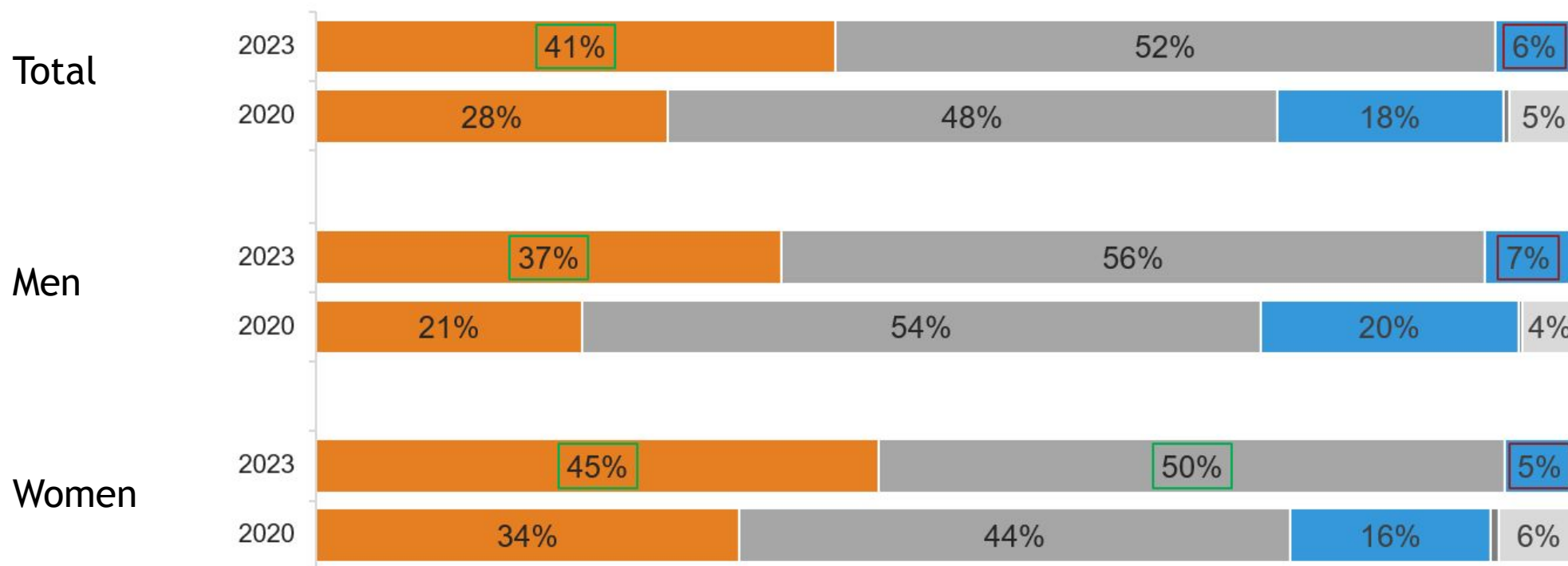


□ — statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

# Only 6% of the population has a negative attitude towards men who take leave to care for children, in 2020 there were 18% of them

➤ *What is your attitude towards men who take leave to care for children aged under 3 years old while the child's mother goes to work*

- Positive if it's best for everyone
- Neutral, it is a personal matter of the couple
- Negative, because it is a woman's duty, and a man should provide for the family
- Other
- Refuse to answer/Hard to say

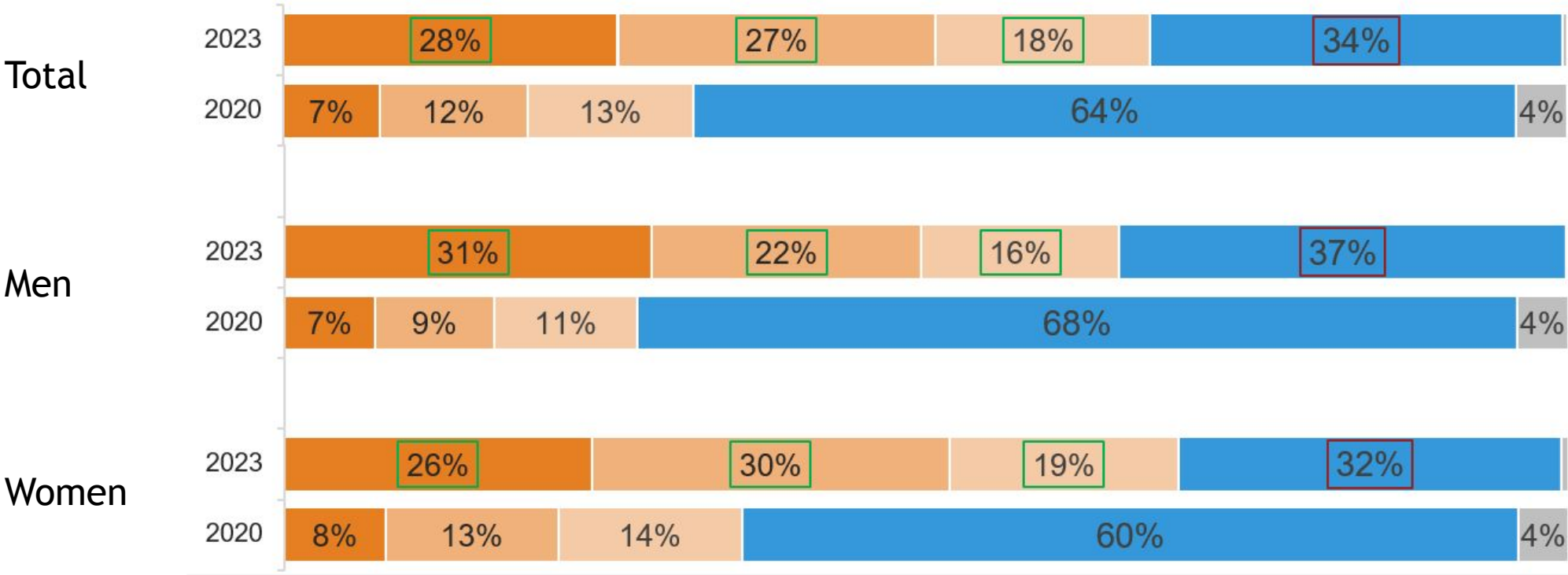


□ — statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

# Knowledge about such men has doubled since 2020

➤ Do you know or have heard of such families where the husband took paternity leave?

- Yes, I know personally
- Yes, I know, but from the stories of acquaintances, friends, relatives
- Yes, I know from stories in the media
- No, I don't know of such cases
- Refuse to answer/Hard to say

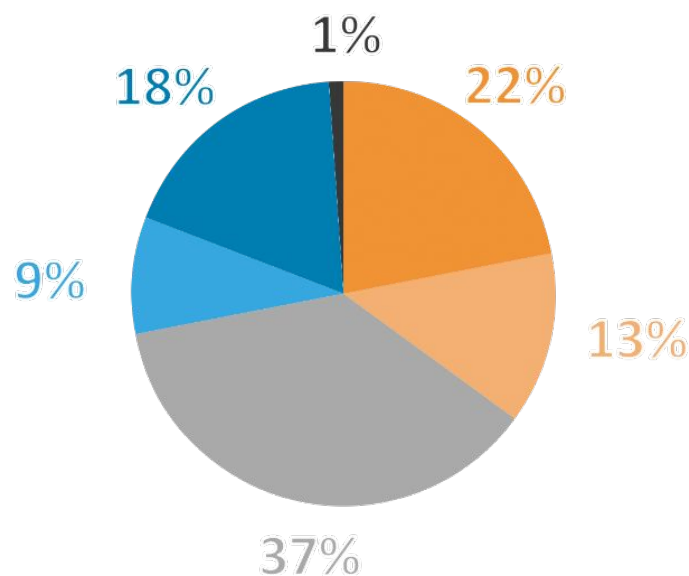


— statistically significant changes compared to the previous wave

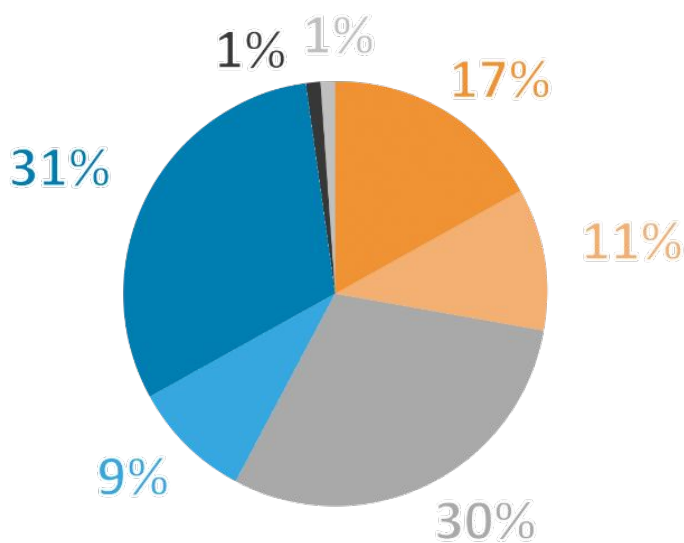
A relative majority (35% vs. 27%) of parents said they spent more time with their child as a result of the war. However, a relative majority of men said that they began to spend less time with a child

➤ *How has the full-scale war affected the time you spend with your child/children?*

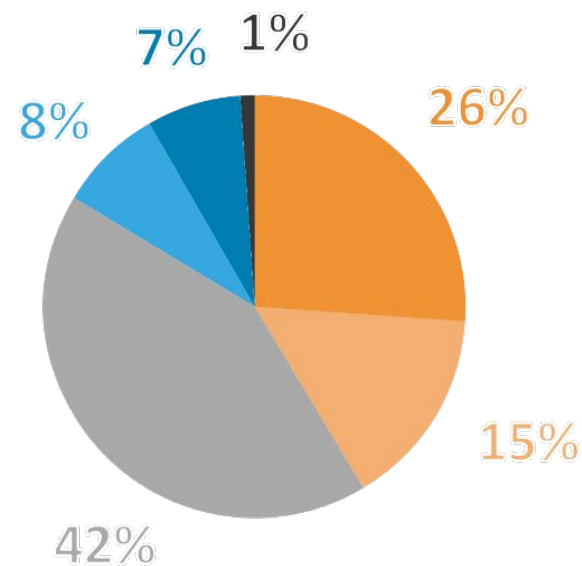
■ Time spent with child/children has significantly increased ■ Time spent with child/children increased ■ Time has not changed compared to 2021  
■ Time spent with child/children decreased ■ Time spent with child/children has significantly decreased ■ Other ■ Refuse to answer/Hard to say



Total



Men

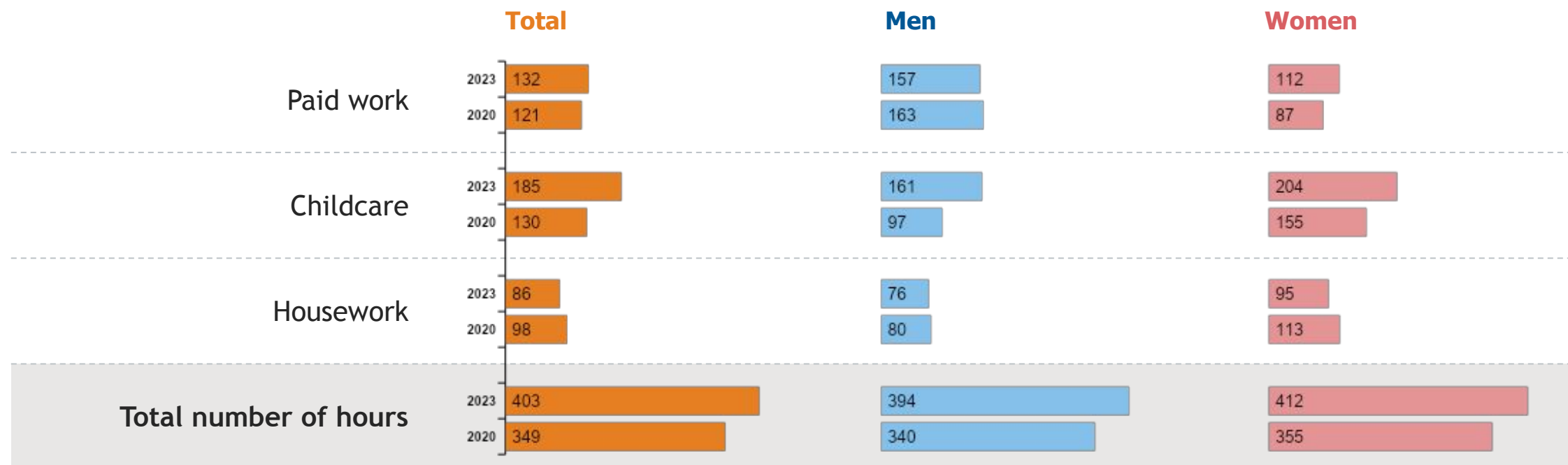


Women

The overall subjective assessment of the increase in time spent with children is confirmed by objective data of counting hours: parents began to spend 42% more time with their children. However, men began to spend 67% more time with children, but subjectively believe that they began to spend less time, probably due to a greater need for this time

- *How many hours a week do you usually spend on paid work?*
- *How many hours a day on weekdays and weekends do you usually spend on childcare?*
- *How many hours a day on weekdays and weekends do you usually spend on housework?*

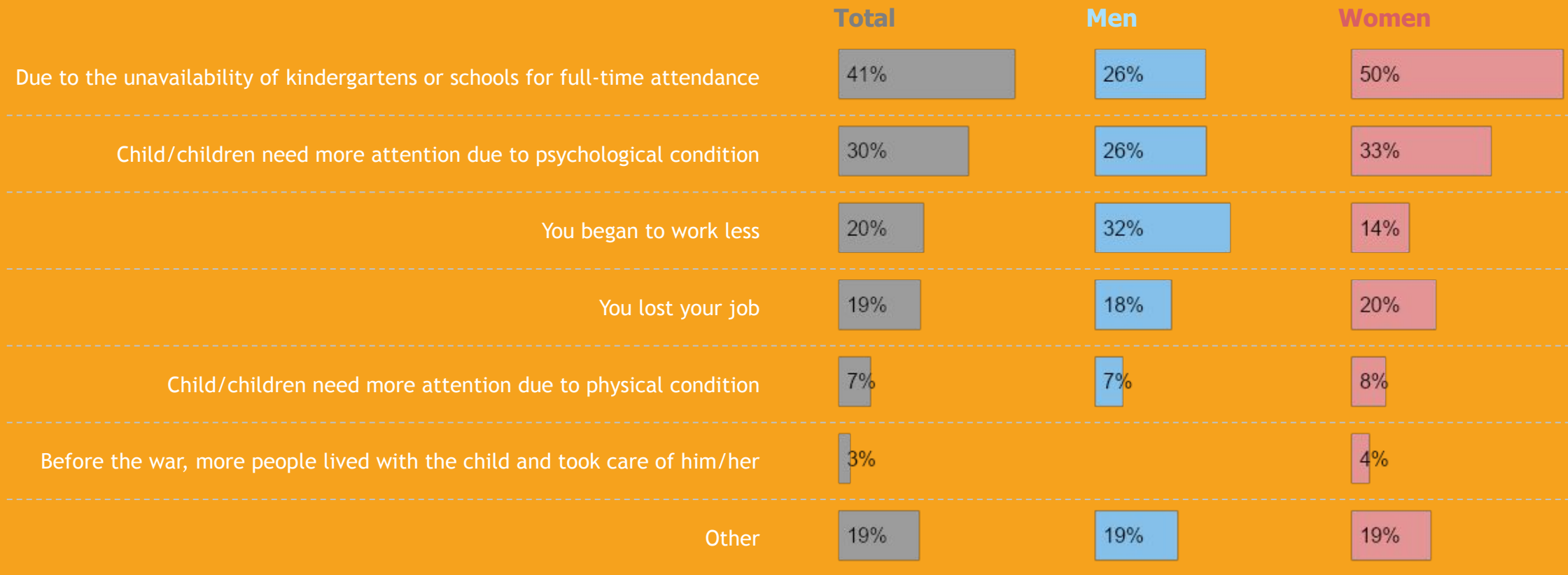
JUST AS IN 2020, THE WEEKLY/DAILY NUMBER OF HOURS WAS CALCULATED PER MONTH WITH 21 WORKING DAYS AND 9 WEEKENDS



# The relative majority of parents who have increased time spent with their children as a result of the war, explain this by the unavailability of kindergartens and schools for full-time attendance, the loss or partial loss of work, and poor psychological condition of children

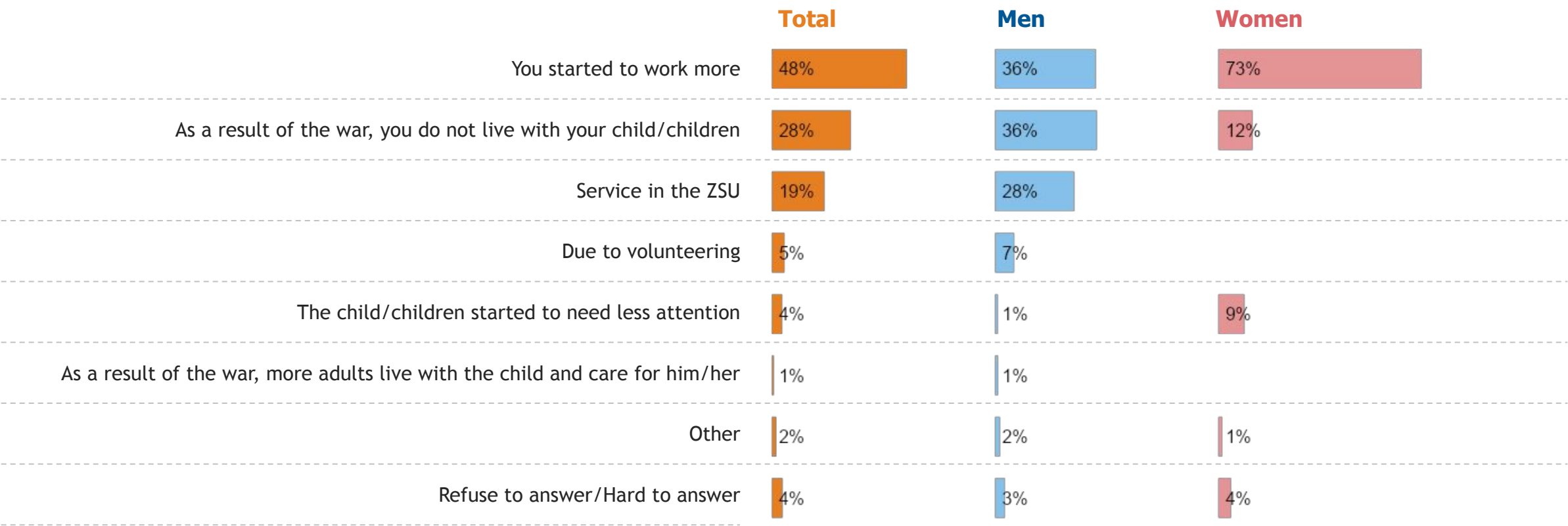
## ➤ Why has the time spent with the child/children increased?

(among the respondents who began to spend more time with children after the start of the full-scale war, n=295)



# The relative majority of parents whose time with their children has decreased as a result of the war explains this by being busy at work – women mentioned this factor twice as often as men

➤ *Why has the time spent with the child/children decreased?*  
(among the respondents who began to spend less time with children after the start of the full-scale war n=78)

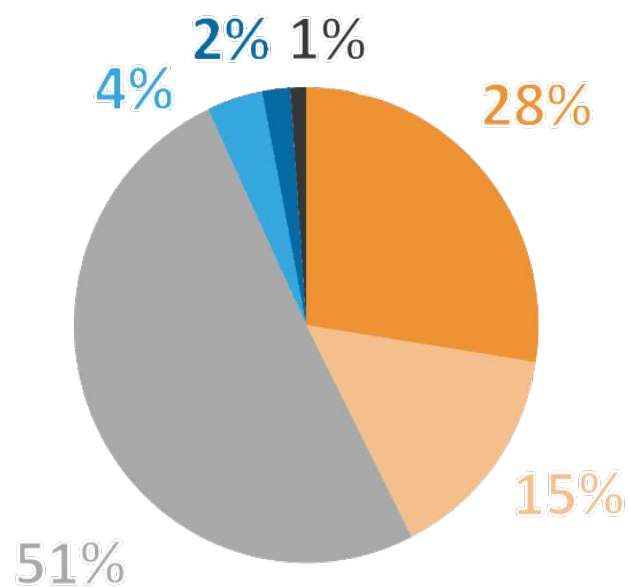




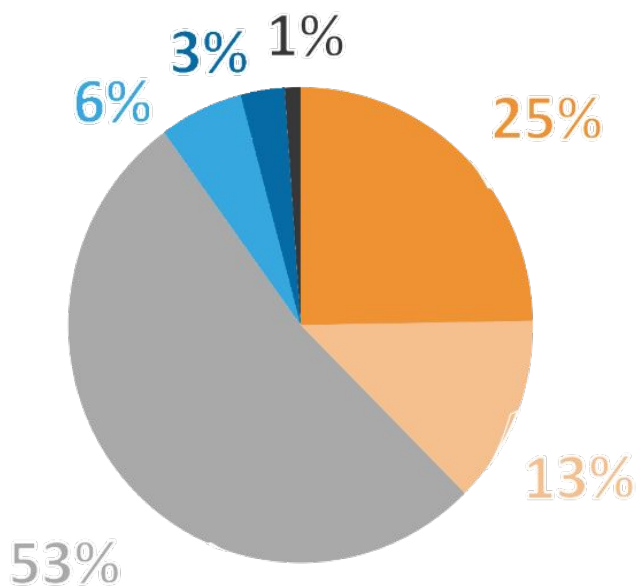
**A relative majority (43% versus 6%) of parents said that they became closer to their children as a result of the war (43%). Women mentioned it more often than men**

➤ *How has the full-scale war affected the time you spend with your child/children?* (n=295)

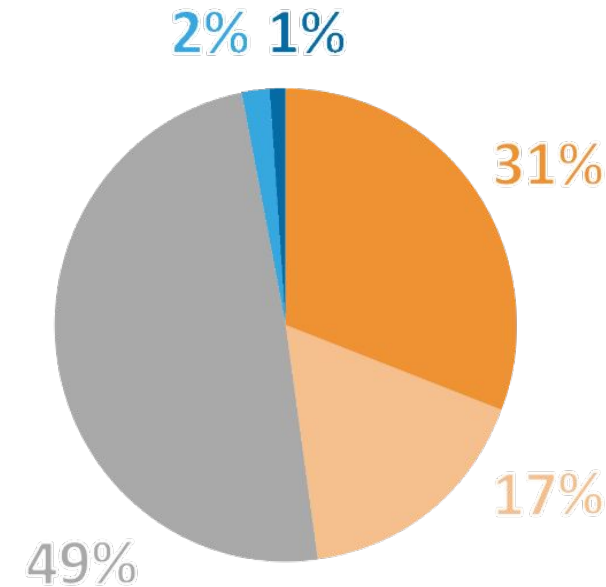
- You have become much closer
- You have become a little closer
- Emotional contact has not changed compared to 2021
- You have somewhat distanced
- You have significantly distanced
- Refuse to answer/Hard to say



Total



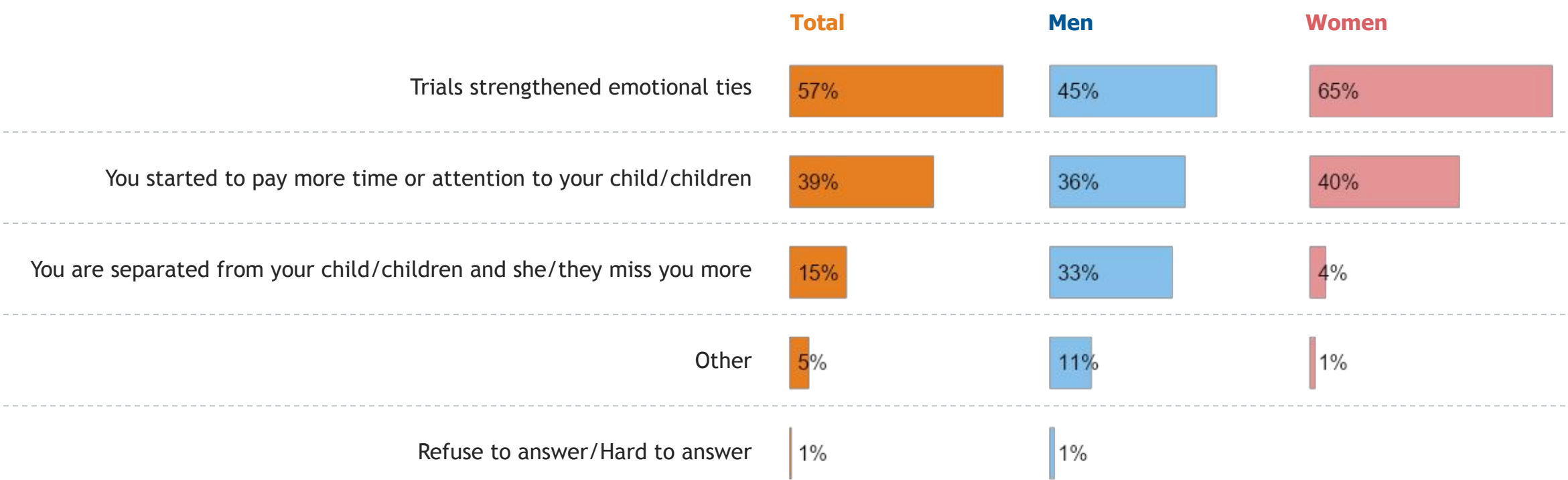
Men



Women

A relative majority of parents who became closer to their children as a result of the war, explain this by the fact that the trials strengthened emotional ties. Those who distanced (there are not enough of them for a reliable analysis) most often explain this by separation, separate living

➤ *Why did you become closer?* (among the respondents who became closer to their children after the start of the full-scale war, n=127)





The survey has been conducted by the Info Sapiens Research Agency upon commission of the UNFPA Ukraine within the framework of the “Springboard to Equality: Project on Social Norms Change and Gender Stereotypes Elimination for Better Resilience and Prosperity of Women and Men in Ukraine” implemented with the financial support of Sweden. Conclusions belong to the authors of this publication and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Government of Sweden or UNFPA.

