

Couples' Childcare Patterns

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Background

- Interest in couple childcare patterns:
 - Gender equality
 - Work-life balance
- Time-use surveys from the 1960's to the start of the 21st century show increasing involvement of parents in childcare (Bianchi 2000; Gauthier, Smeeding & Furstenberg 2004; Sayer, Bianchi & Robinson 2004).

Past Research

- Few quantitative studies have analysed couples' childcare
 - Exception: Craig & Mullan (2011): Father's and mother's relative amounts of childcare time
- Instead most studies analyse the childcare by one parent and include some attributes of the partner in the analyses, but not partner's childcare
 - e.g Hook & Wolfe (2013); Raley, Bianchi & Wang (2012), England & Srivastava (2013); Bittman, Craig, Folbre (2004)

Research Questions

Here: couple perspective

timing of childcare involvement

1. How do UK couples jointly provide childcare in the course of the day? Which main patterns can be identified?
2. How are these patterns related to particular characteristics of the parents and children?

Analytical Focus

Childcare involvement as outcome of childcare demands, couples' resources & constraints, and their values, in UK context

- Identify childcare strategies – main patterns
 - Liberal welfare state – expect diversity of patterns
- Work schedules
 - Atypical schedules as opportunity for increased childcare involvement or as restraining parental time
- Use of non-parental childcare
 - Different childcare patterns associated with preferences for particular types of non-parental childcare?

UK Time-Use Surveys

- **UK Time-Use Survey 2000-01 (UKTUS 2000)**
 - 6,414 households with 11,664 individuals aged 8+ providing 19,898 diaries; two diaries per individual.
- **UK Time-Use Survey 2014-15 (UHTUS 2015)**
 - 4,733 households with 10,190 individuals aged 8+ providing 16,533 diaries; two diaries per individual.

Here: Co-resident couples with at least one child aged 0-5 years

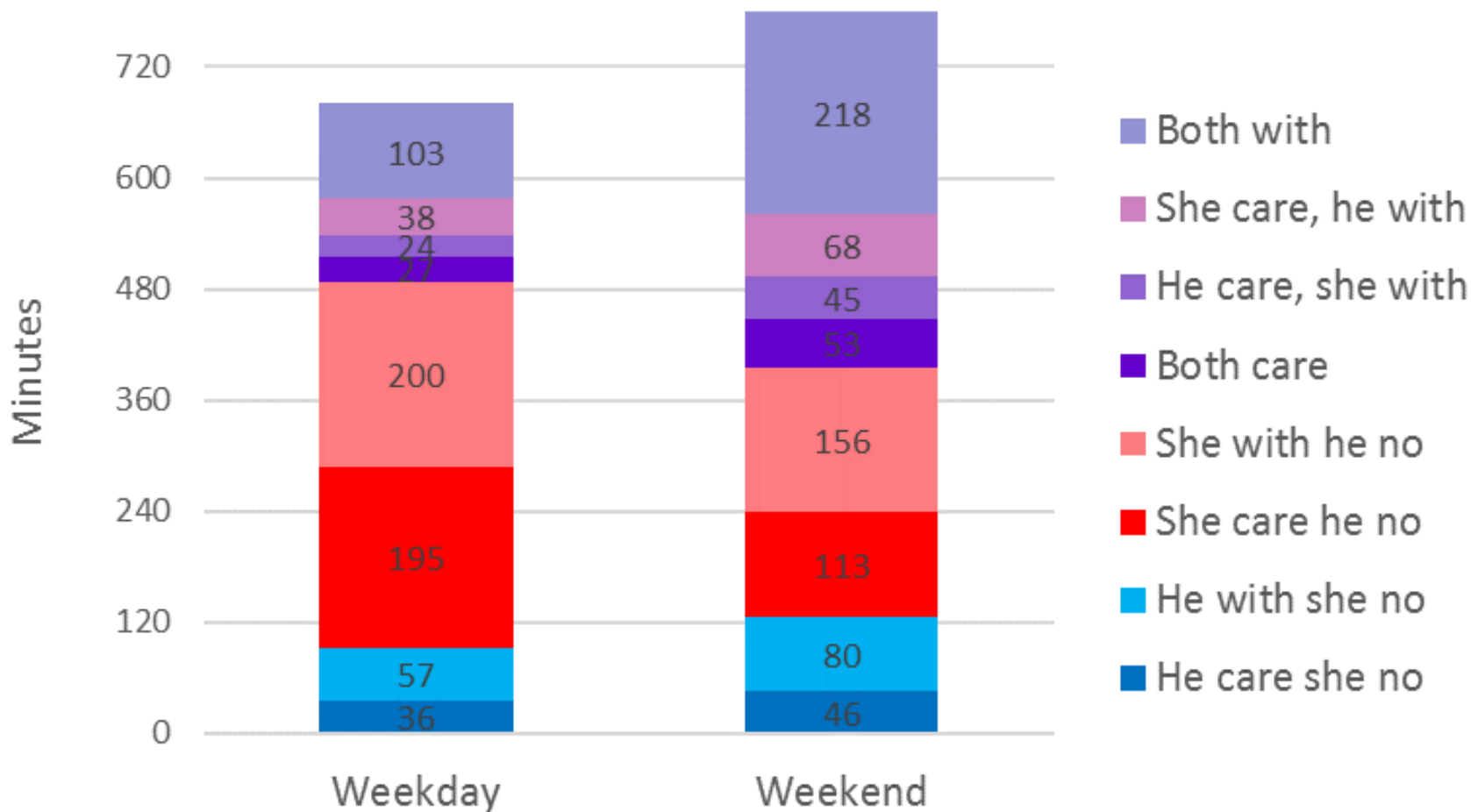
- Eligible couples: 685 in UKTUS 2000 + 546 in UKTUS 2015
- Missing individual interviews, missing diaries, etc.
- Final sample for analysis: **456** (2000) + **421** (2015)
- **796** couples on weekdays & **786** couples on weekend days

Conceptualising and Measuring Parent Involvement

Parent involvement conceptualised as the time a parent spends with children. Here 2 types (following Lamb et al. (1985)):

- **Engaged:** care activities, shared activities
 - Measure: Childcare activities (primary & secondary combined)
- **Accessible:** supervision
 - Measure: Being 'with' a child or in same location as a child (net of time in childcare activities)

Average Minutes of Couples' Childcare Involvement (2000 & 2015 combined)



Analysis Strategy

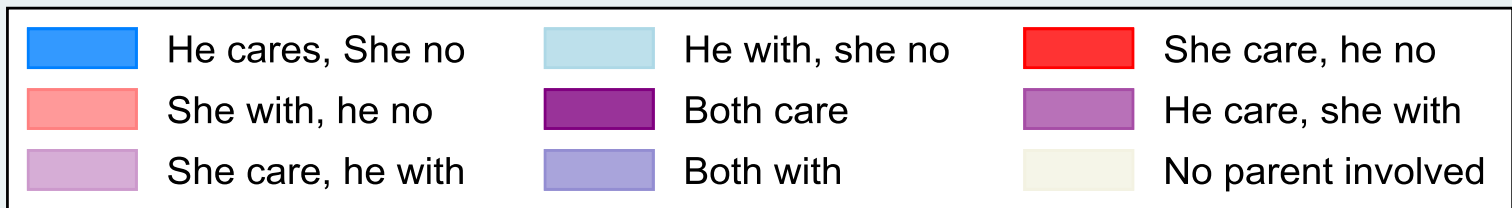
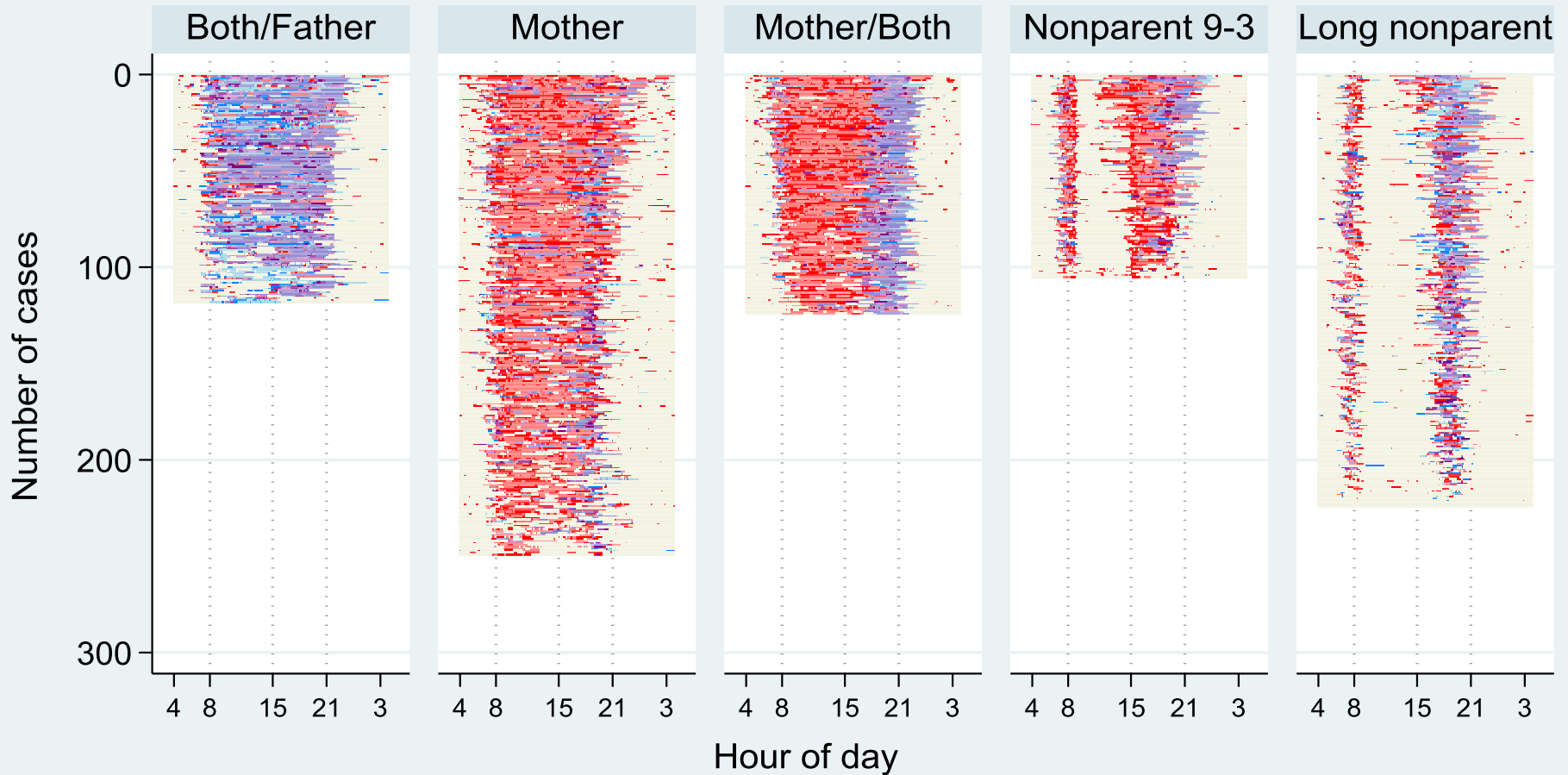
Step 1:

- Derive patterns of couple childcare involvement
 - Sequence analysis
 - Levenshtein with tailored substitution costs
 - Cluster analysis
 - 5 weekday clusters, 3 weekend clusters

Step 2:

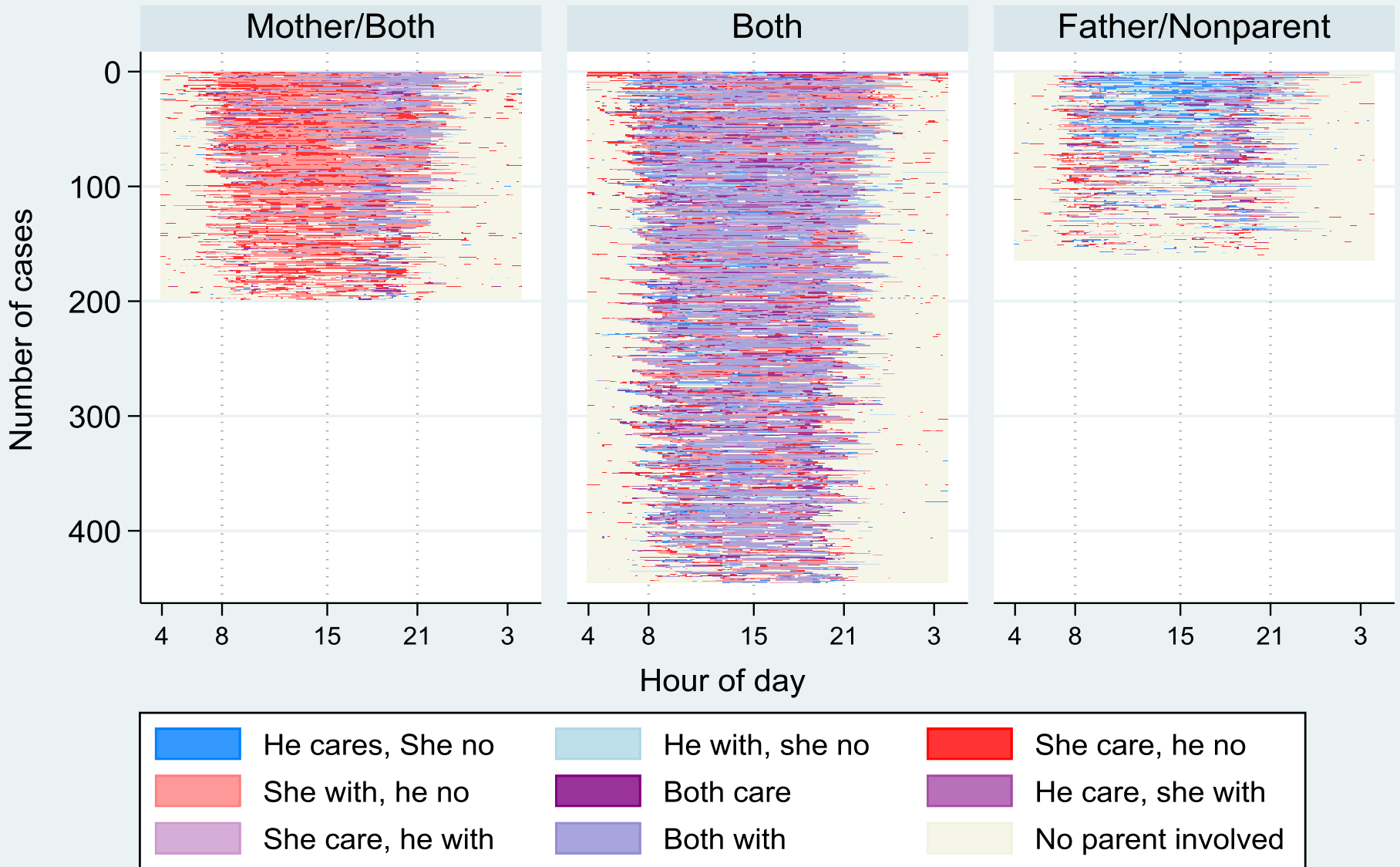
- Multinomial logit models
 - Weekly work schedule missing for about 12% of parents
 - Multiple imputation

Schedules of Couples' Childcare Involvement on Weekdays



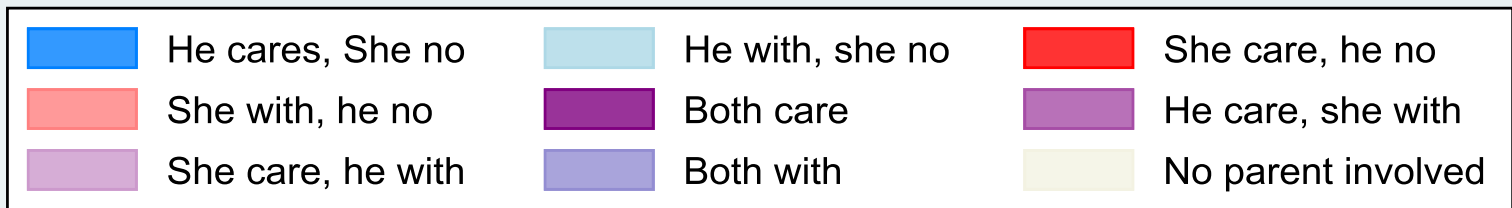
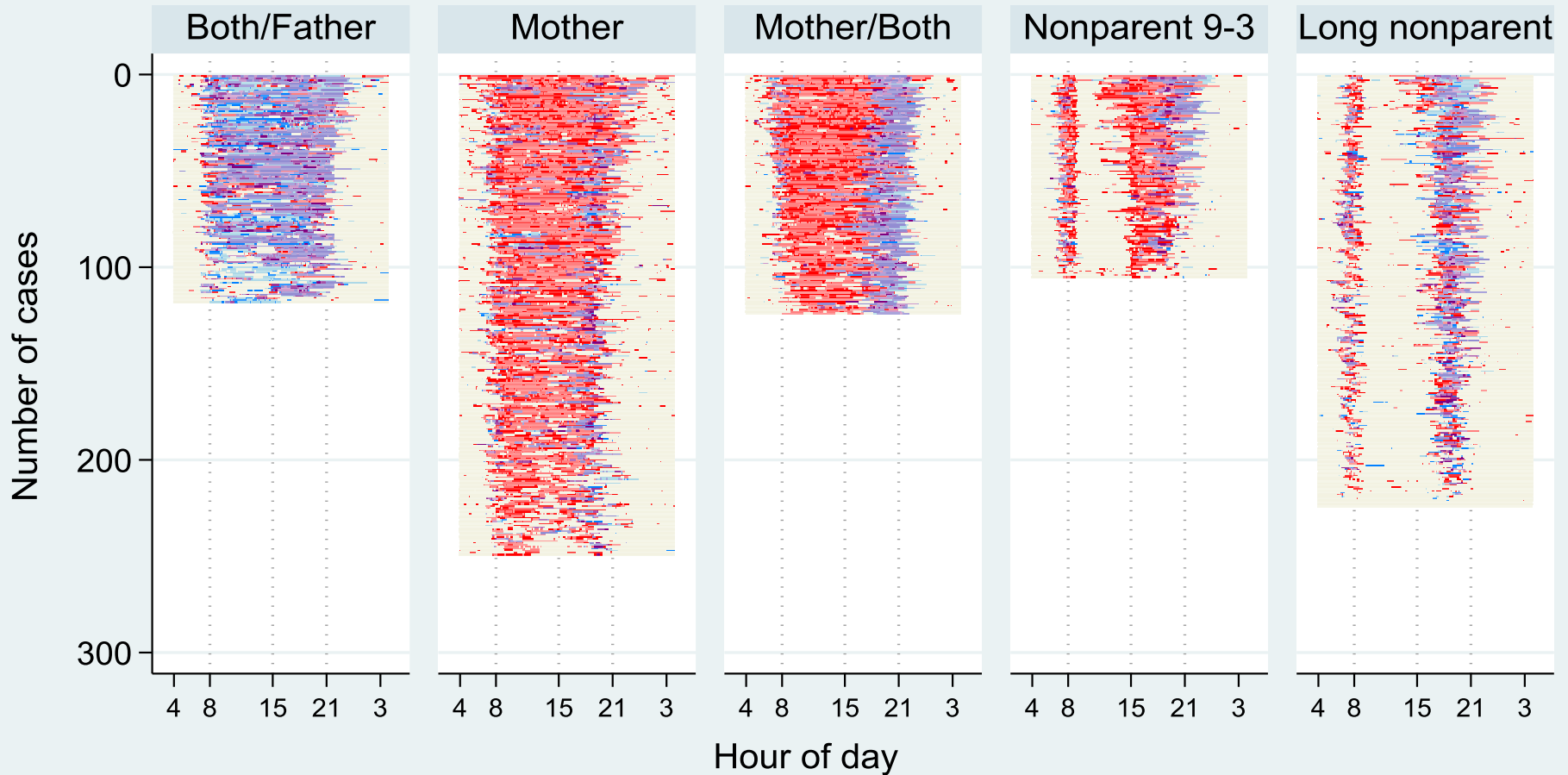
Source: UK HETUS 2000 & 2015

Schedules of Couples' Childcare Involvement on Weekends



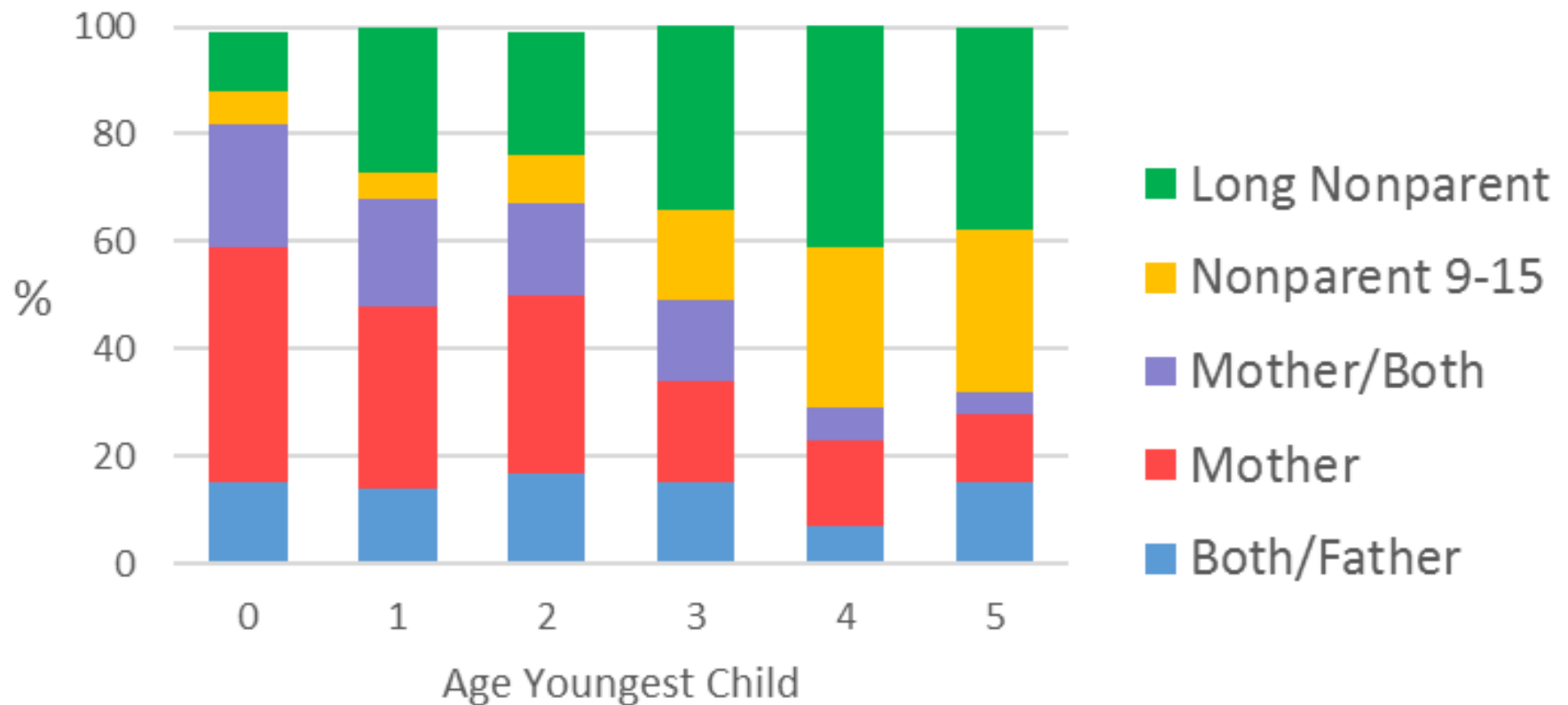
Source: UK HETUS 2000 & 2015

Schedules of Couples' Childcare Involvement on Weekdays

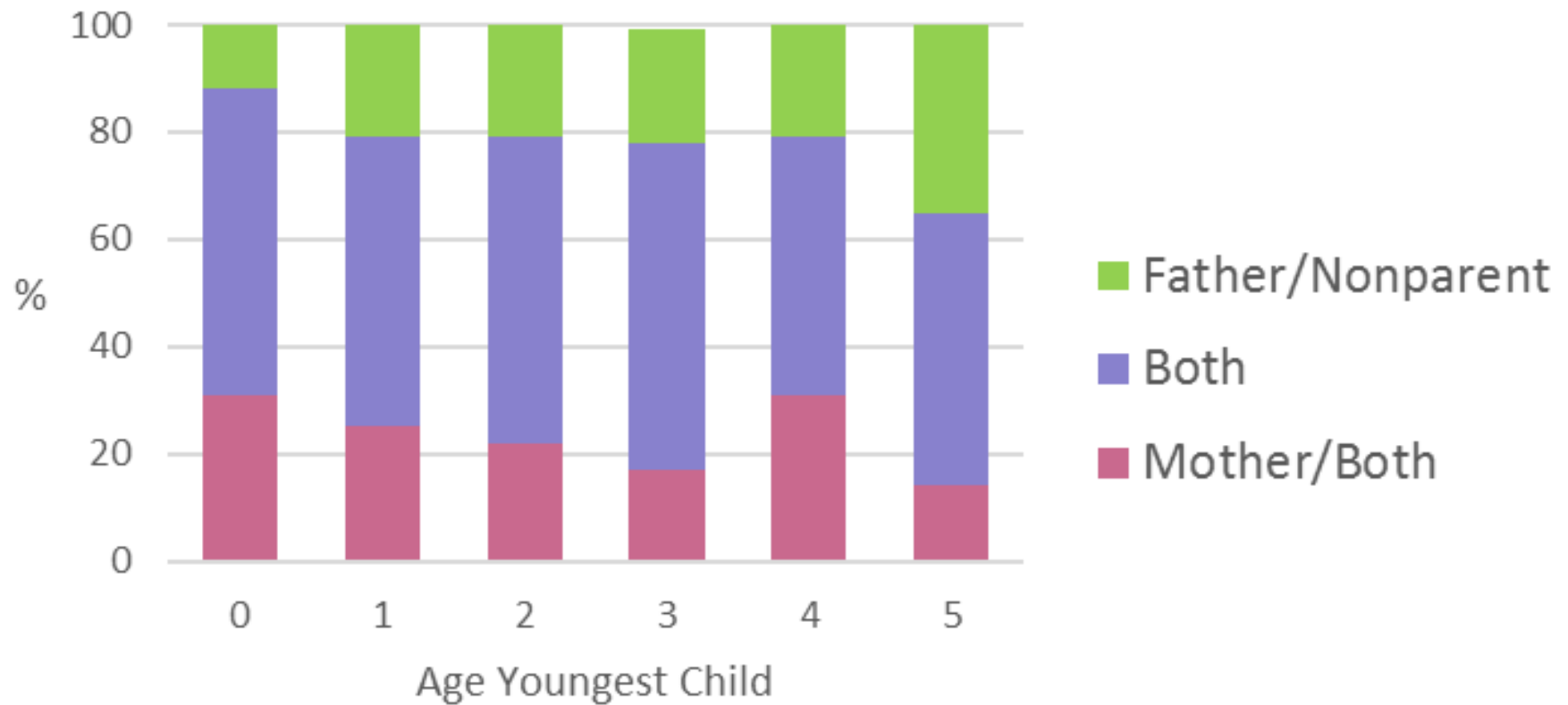


Source: UK HETUS 2000 & 2015

Cluster Distribution by Age of Youngest Child: Weekdays



Cluster Distribution by Age of Youngest Child: Weekend Days



Weekday & Weekend Patterns

W/e cluster	Weekday Cluster					<i>Total</i>
	Both/Father	Mother	Mother/Both	Nonparent 9-15	Long Nonparent	
Mother/Both	22	24	26	31	20	<i>24</i>
Both	64	55	63	48	52	<i>56</i>
Father/Non-parent	13	21	11	21	28	<i>20</i>
<i>Total (%)</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Note: weighted, $\text{Chi}^2(8)=21.8$, $F=2.29$ $p=0.02$

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Multinomial Logit Models - Covariates

- Year 2015
 - Age youngest child
 - Number of children
 - During school holidays
 - Couple employment
 - Male breadwinner
 - 1.5 breadwinner (ref)
 - Dual full-time earner
 - Father little/no work
 - Father profess/manag. occup
 - Mother profess/manag occup
 - Mother flexible working
 - Father flexible working
 - Nonparental childcare
 - Care at home
 - Institutional care
 - Relatives or friends
- Weekly work schedule:
- N. of weekdays on which
 - ... Mother works bef. 8:30
 - ... Mother works aft. 17:30
 - ...Father works bef. 8:30
 - ...Father works aft. 17:30
 - Father works 5 days (Mo-Fri)
 - Mother works for ≥ 6 h on w/e
 - Father works for ≥ 6 h on w/e

Key Findings Weekday

	Both / Father	Mother (Ref)	Mother / Both	Nonpar 9-15	Long Nonpar
Nonparental care:					
Care at home					+
Institutional care	-		-		
Relatives or friends					
Couple employment:					
Male breadwinner				-	--
1.5 breadwinner (ref.)					
Dual full-time earner					++
Father little/no work	++				

Key Findings Weekday

	Both / Father	Mother (Ref)	Mother / Both	Nonpar 9-15	Long Nonpar
Father profess/manag					-
Mother profess/manag					+
Father flexible working					
Mother flexible working					+
Schedule:					
Father works 5 days	--				
Schedule: N days that:					
Mother works bef. 8:30	+				
....after 17:30					
Father works bef. 8:30	-		-		--
....after 17:30	-				

Key Findings Weekend

	Mother / Both	Both (Ref.)	Father Nonparent
			Fewer & older kids
Nonparental care:			
Care at home			-
Institutional care			
Relatives or friends	-		
Father profess/manag occup	--		
Mother profess/manag occup			
Mother works >=6h on w/e			
Father works >=6h on w/e	++		

Main Findings

1. New perspective on couple childcare
2. Most equal clusters on weekdays: Both/Father & Long Nonparent
3. Majority of parents flexibly adapt their caring to childcare needs
4. Long non-parental care more common among mothers with flexible schedule and fathers without evening work
5. Little evidence of compensatory childcare on weekend
6. Weekend work is not associated with weekday pattern and vice versa
7. No strong SES differences

Conclusions

1. Couple childcare strategies are highly adaptive in the UK
2. Two different 'equal' clusters
3. Sample too small to identify and analyse small groups and finer differences

Next Steps

- Include information about paid work in sequence analysis

Thank-you!

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Minutes of Couples' Childcare Involvement

