

The Pluralization of Families and Sustainable Development



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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

Outline of presentation



1) Pluralization of Families report

- Importance of families and public policies for social progress/sustainable development
- Flourishing families are **key** to meeting sustainable development goals (esp. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10)

2) Global: Massive socioeconomic changes

- Different adaptive strategies of families across countries, regions and classes

3) Focus on Latin America

- Social changes
- → policy responses and challenges

4) Conclusions

Families



- Closely knit social groups bounded by kinship
- Based on expectations of reciprocity, obligation and obedience
- Balance production and reproduction; ie. income and care
- At best, give us meaning and fulfillment; at worst, are sites of deprivation or abuse
- → the most fundamental unit of society, in which the vast majority of us live, for the majority of our lives

Key challenge (IPSP Families Report):



- How can societies support conditions for the 21st century that allow **families to flourish**, *and* promote individual agency, equality and dignity?
 - How to support families' important functions (caregiving, human development, belonging)
 - How to minimize socio-economic and other inequalities that families may reproduce, within and between them
- **Flourishing families** are an essential link in meeting **SDGs**

How are families an essential link?



- Flourishing families ensure human wellbeing more broadly
 - Gender equality (SDG 5)
 - Child wellbeing (SDG 3)
 - Lower poverty and hunger (SDG 1, 2)
- Broader effects:
 - Economic: human capital (SDG 4 & 8)
 - Social: healthy, well-adjusted behavior (eg lower crime) (SDG 10 & 18)

The key role of the state



- States address social risks
- Families are at the forefront
 - Interstice of production and reproduction
 - Birth, childrearing, care for the elderly
- The state mediates family production and reproduction through
 - Laws and regulations (e.g. work hours)
 - Transfers (e.g. family allowances, parental leaves)
 - Services (e.g. early childhood education and care services)
- → directly impacts adaptive strategies of families and their wellbeing

The last half century



- Economic development, urbanization, technological advances, and globalization
- Massive social changes
 - Women's education and labor force participation
 - Smaller family sizes (less children)
 - Changes in family types: move away from traditional marital families where father works, mother cares for children
 - → dual-career families
 - → increased cohabitation, separation, divorces
 - → rise in single mother families

Different adaptive strategies



- **Nordic countries**
 - Strong state support, reduction of inequalities and increasing paternal co-responsibility → flourishing families (low inequalities)
- **The United States**
 - Market-based adaptive strategies → high economic inequalities between families
- **Germany, Japan, South Korea, Southern Europe**
 - Male breadwinner model → high gender inequalities → 'fertility strike'

Let's look at Latin America

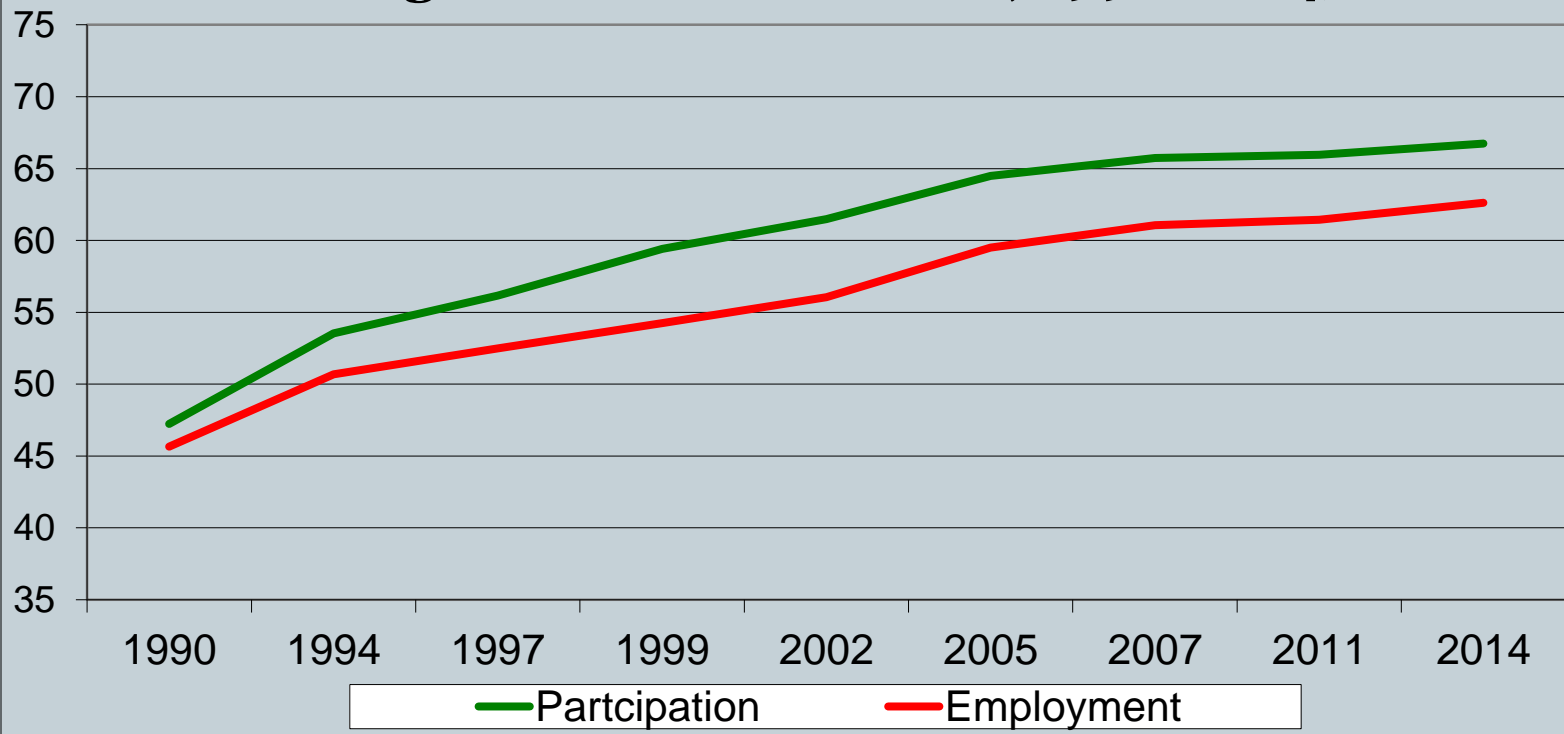


**HIGH ECONOMIC
INEQUALITIES, RAPID
CHANGES, STATE RESPONSES**

Massive social changes in Latin America (UN Women 2017)



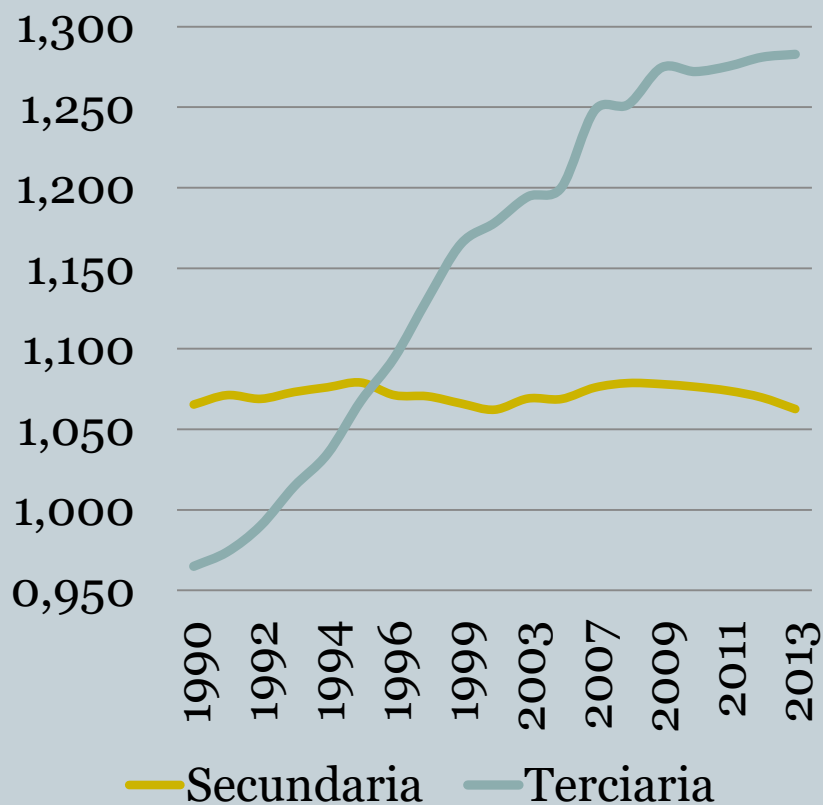
Labor Force Participation and employment rates for women aged 25-54 (Unweighted averages for Latin America, 1990-2014)



Education gap and fertility rates

(UN Women 2017)

Education Gap, women over men enrollment rates



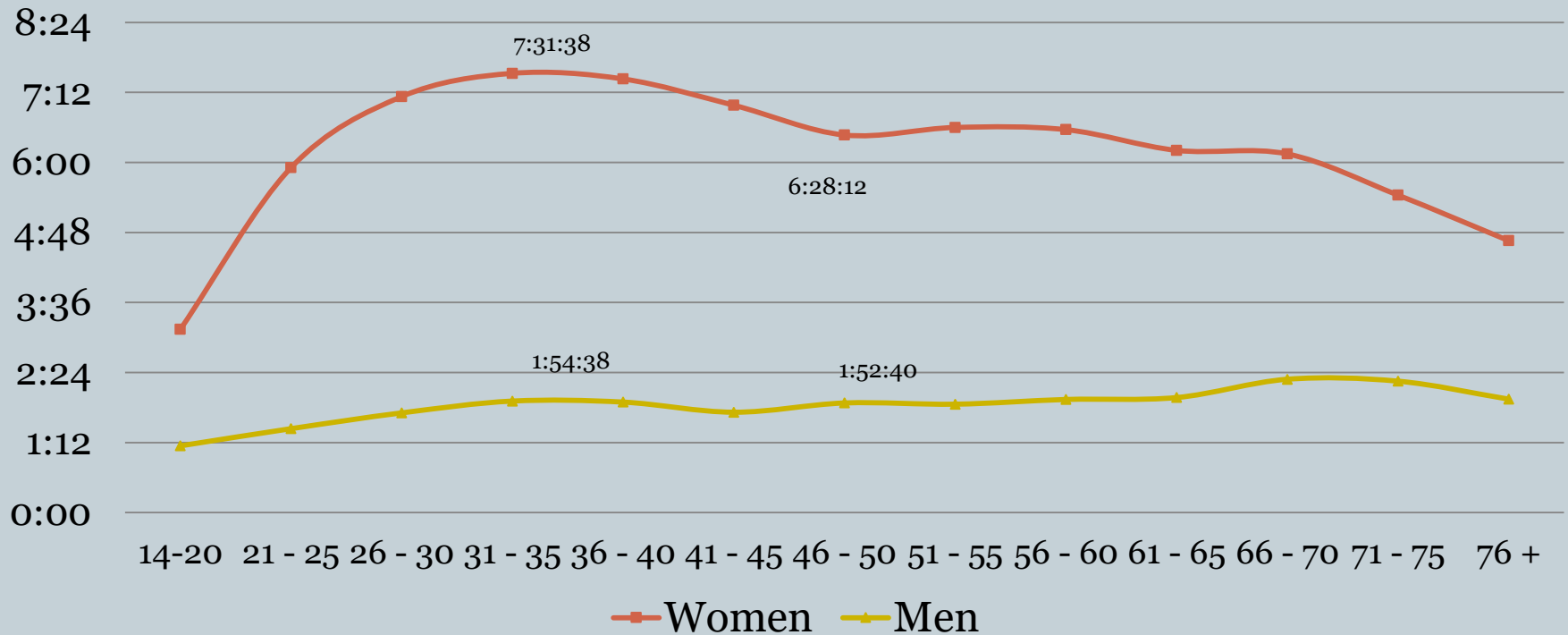
Latin America and the Caribbean: total fertility rates



Yet...not much has changed **inside** the families

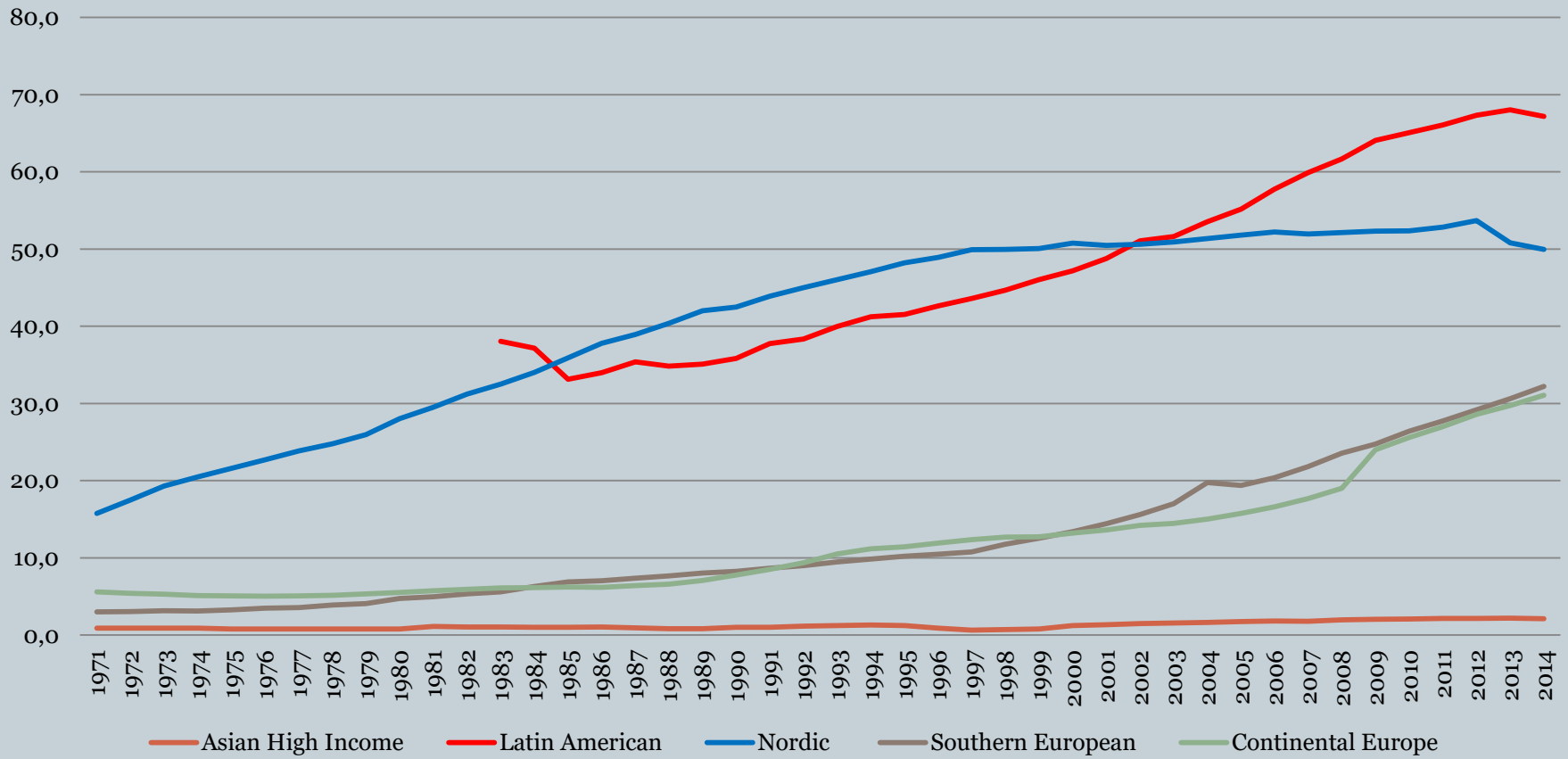


Average daily time allocated to childcare and housework by sex and age (Four Lat Am countries, 2007)



At the same time, traditional marital families are becoming less common

Out of wedlock births



Chile is an extreme example



NIÑOS NACIDOS FUERA DEL MATRIMONIO

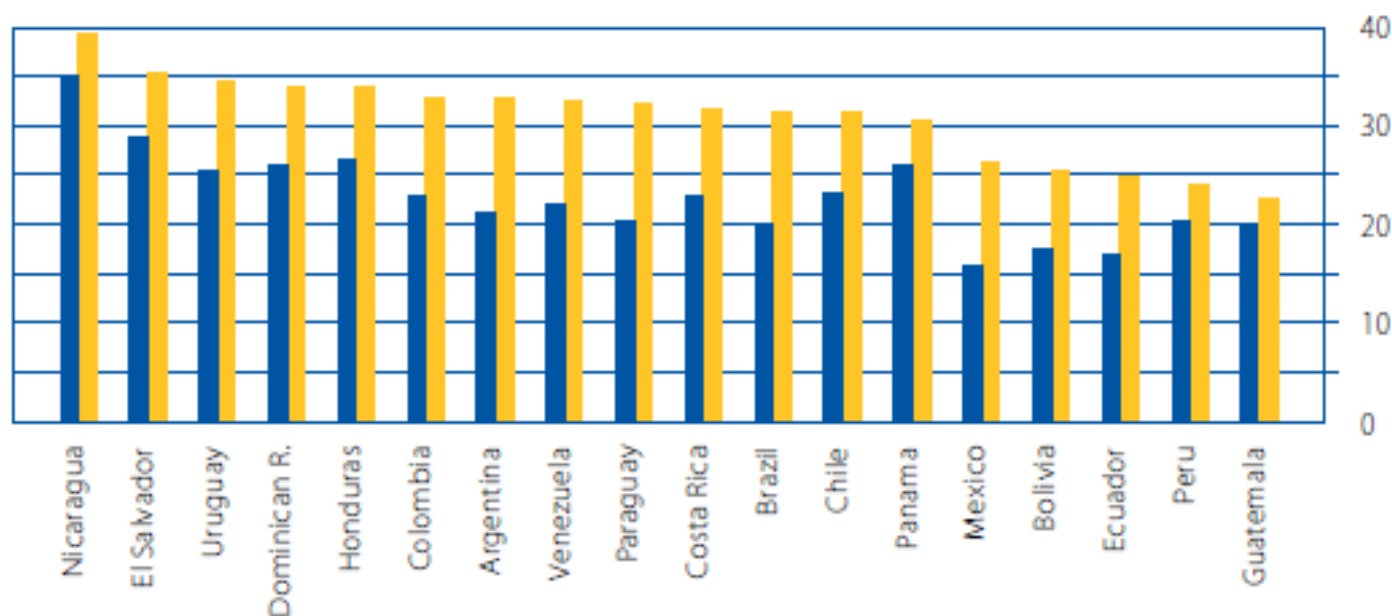
Porcentaje del total de nacimientos



Rise in female-headed households



LATIN AMERICA (18 COUNTRIES): URBAN HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY WOMEN, 1990-2006/2007
(PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS)



Source: ECLAC (2008a).

Latin America today: “Care crisis” with burden on mothers → impact on children



Three ways to respond to this problem



- Historical: market/private solution
- Direct state involvement
- Bringing fathers in

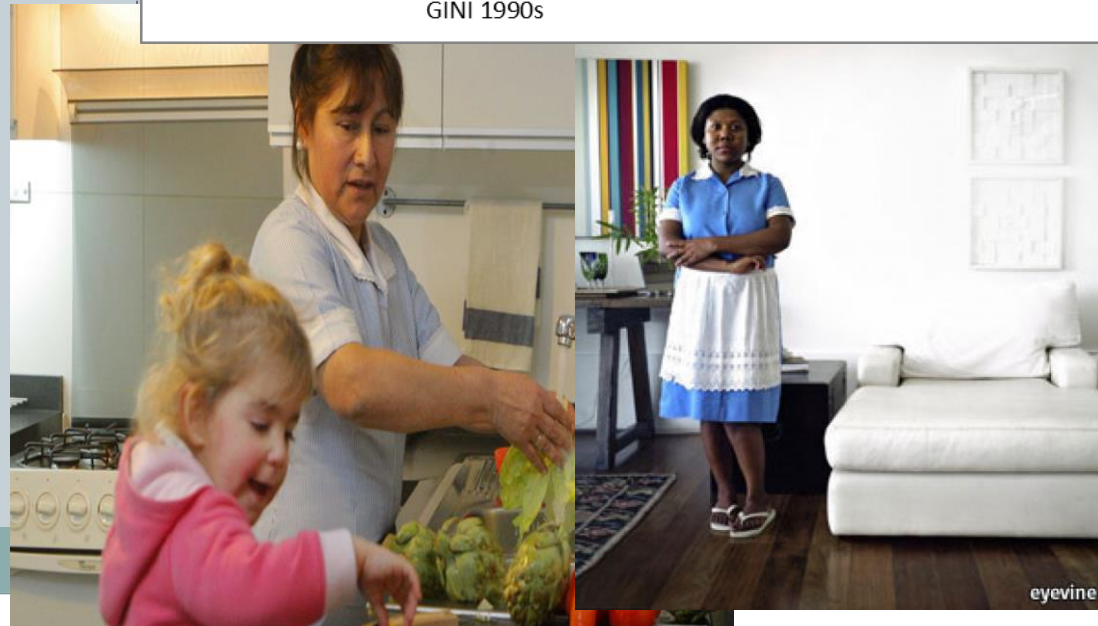
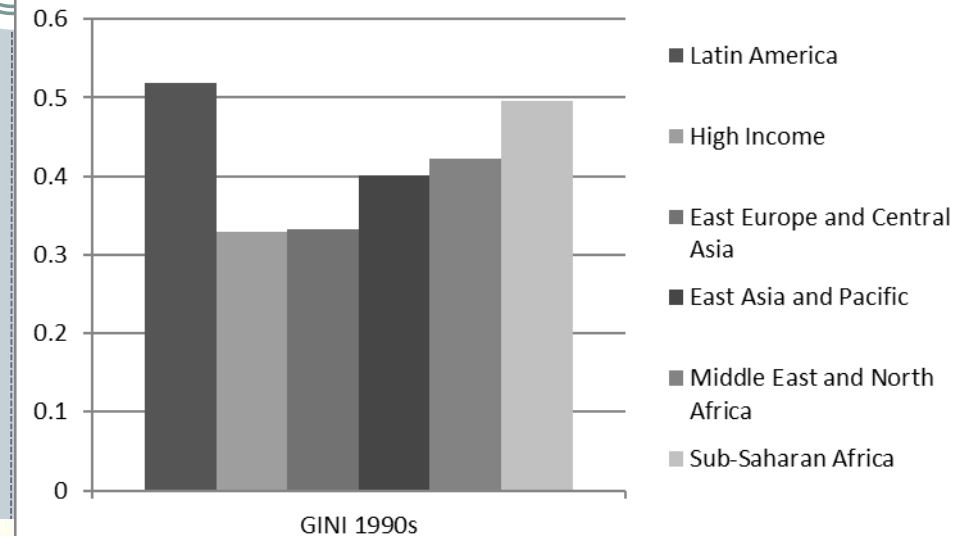
Historical, market solution

Given high inequalities,

1) The well-off:

- Paid domestic work (Empregadas domesticas)
- 30% of households in region part of this economic exchange

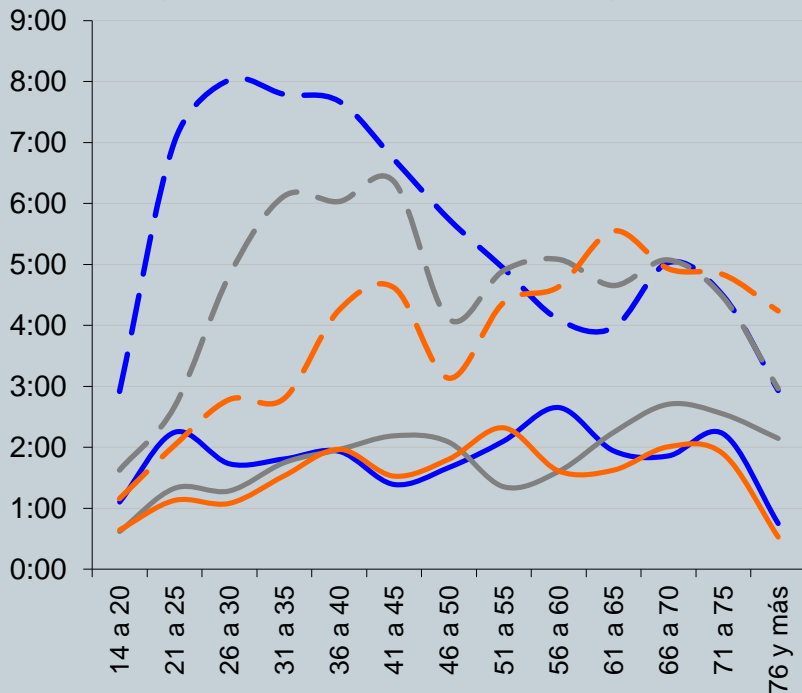
2) Lower-income: Informal networks



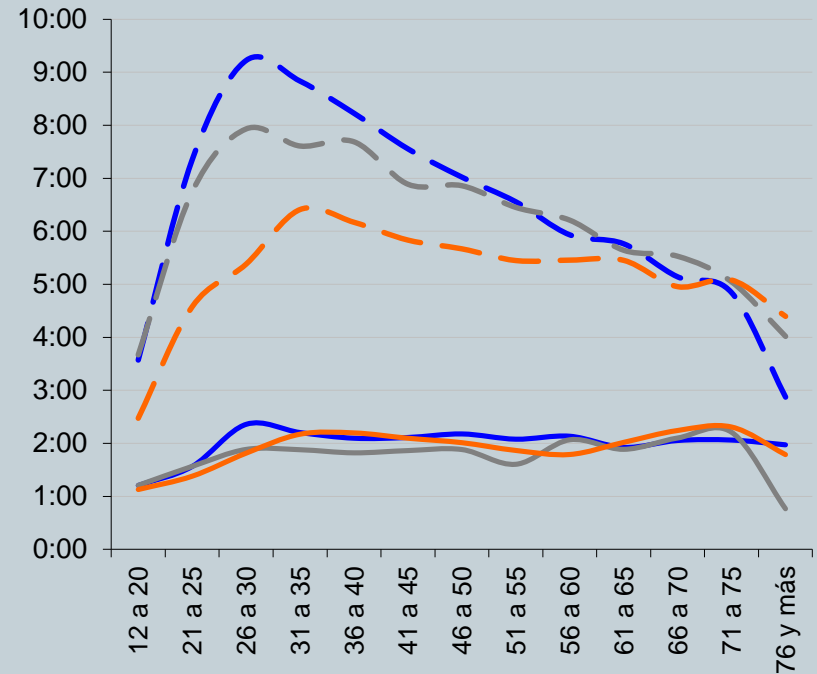
The effects of outsourcing-housework/childcare by class



Average hours allocated to non paid labor by age sex and income quintile, Uruguay



Average daily hours allocated to unpaid labor by sex, age and income quintiles Ecuador, 2007

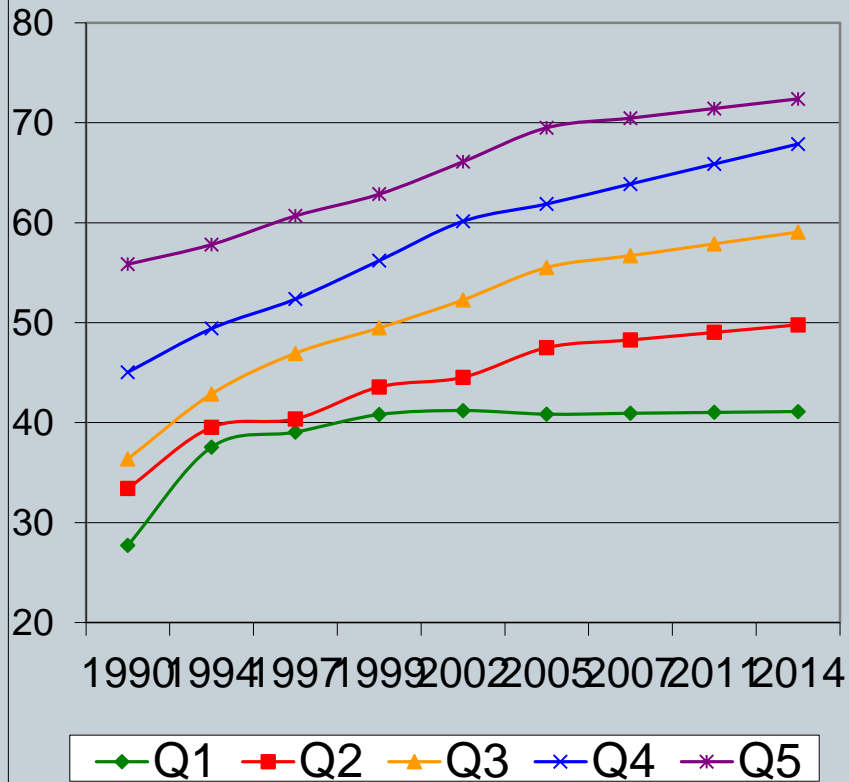


— Quintil I - Hombres
 — Quintil V - Hombres
 - - Quintil III - Mujeres
 - - Quintil I - Mujeres
 - - Quintil V - Mujeres

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 - - Quintil V - Mujeres

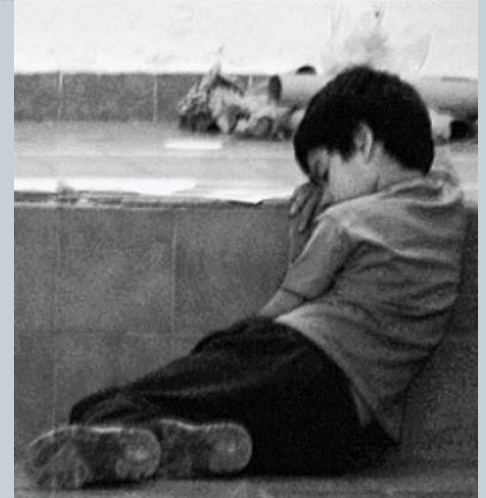
Paid labor among women, by class

Labor Force Participation rates of mothers 25 to 54 years with children under 6 years by quintiles (UN Women 2017; weighted avg for Lat Am)



Care burden exacerbated among low-income mothers

- Informal networks: mostly female, often unpaid
 - ideal case: grandma
 - worst case: left alone
- Drop out of labor force
- → material deprivation, lack of care, and tremendous stress
- Strong feminine component to poverty → cost to children



What has the state done, post-millennium?



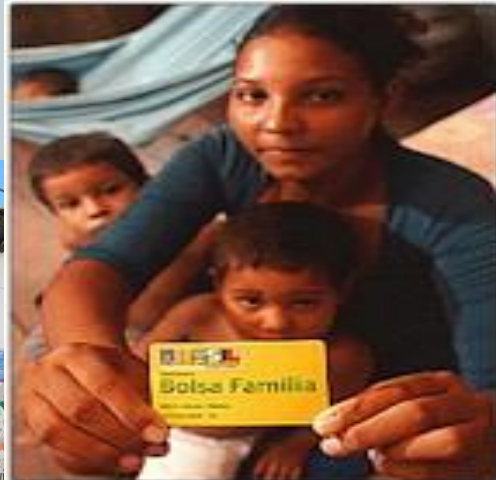
1) State involvement post-millennium: Expansion in transfers and services

Social policy expansion

By 2015,

- Help moms feed their children
- Conditional cash transfer programs

- 27 million of the poorest households in the region reached
- Extreme poverty cut in half
- → material wellbeing of families and children



Childcare (ECEC) services

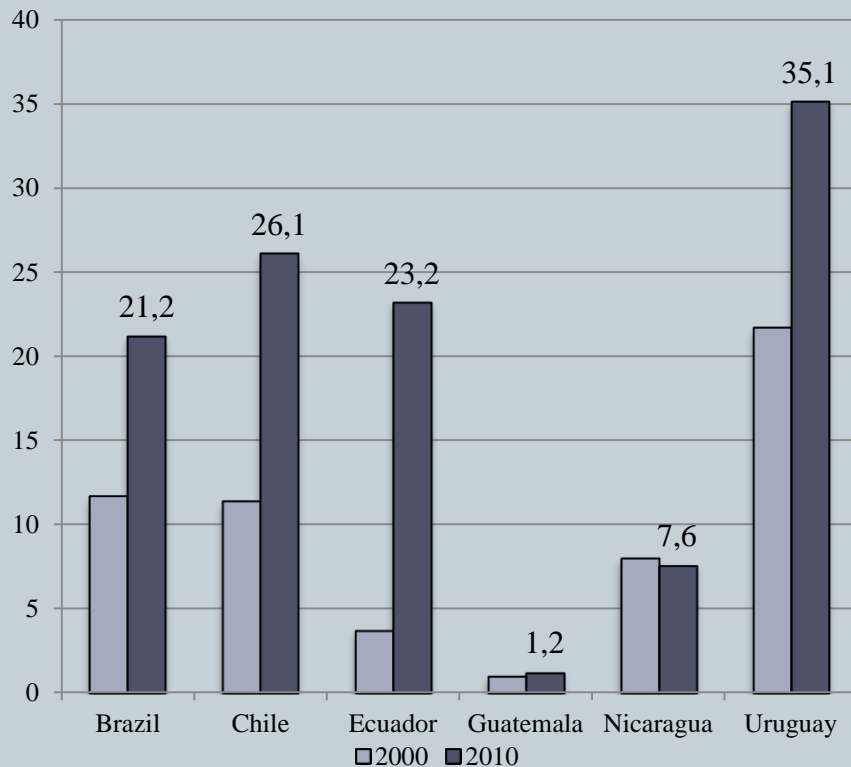
- Help parents (mothers) work
- Key for human capital and equal opportunity
- Slower, picks up post 2005
- Targeted focus on low-income working mothers



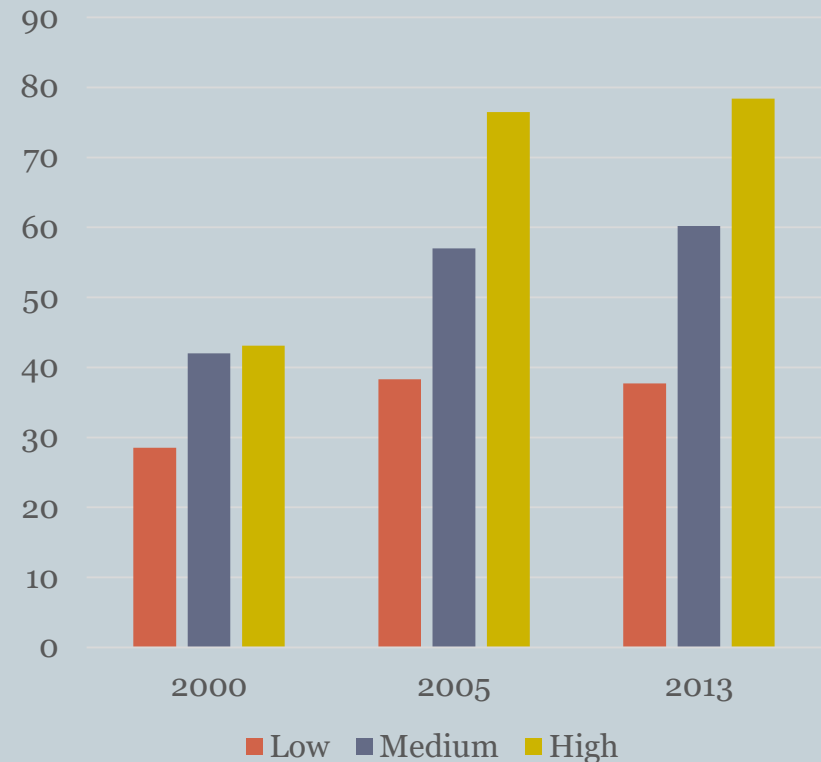
The advance is significant but **stratified by class**

(UN Women 2017)

ECEC coverage children under 3 years

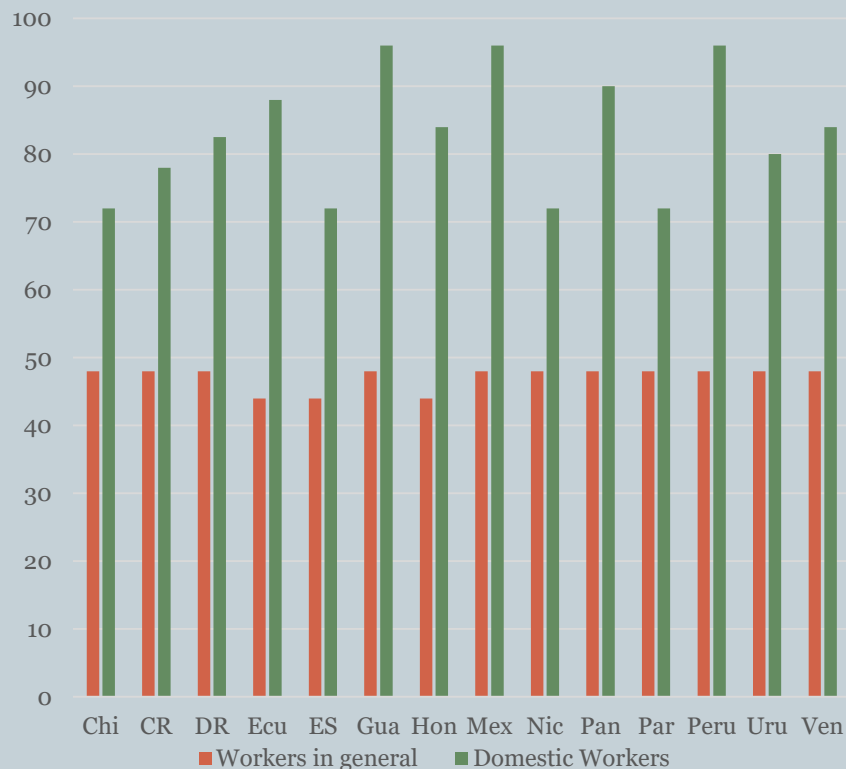


ECEC coverage 4 year olds by socio-economic status

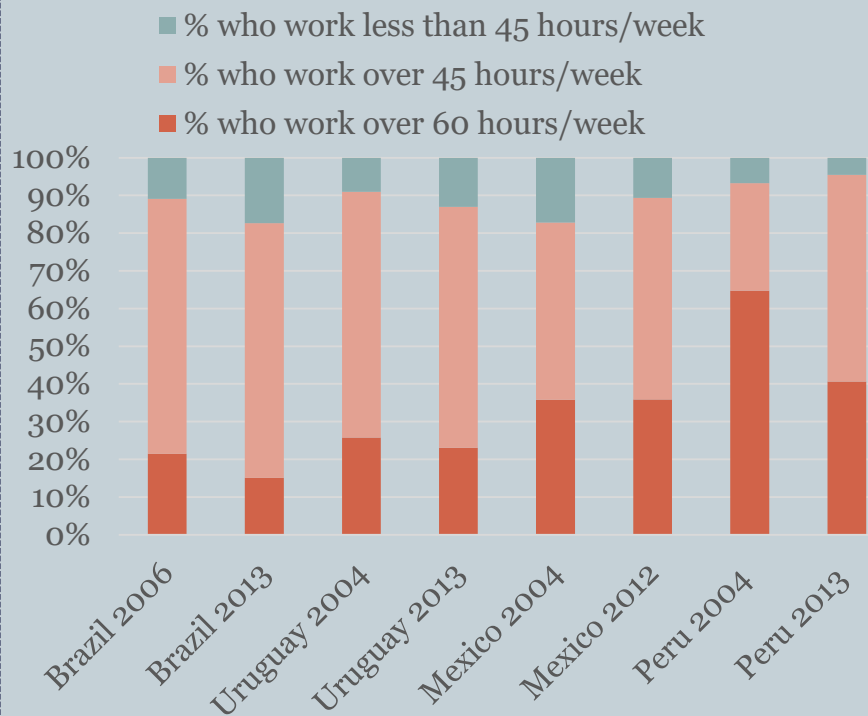


2) State involvement: Efforts to improve working conditions (Blofield and Jokela 2018)

Weekly legal work hours of empleadas domésticas, 2000



Equal rights reforms correlate with better working conditions





40º ministro

Encarregado da propaganda,
João Santana é o homem
forte do Bitch

México

O país foi todo diferente
de Brasil na economia
e está lambendo



veja

VOCÊ AMANHÃ

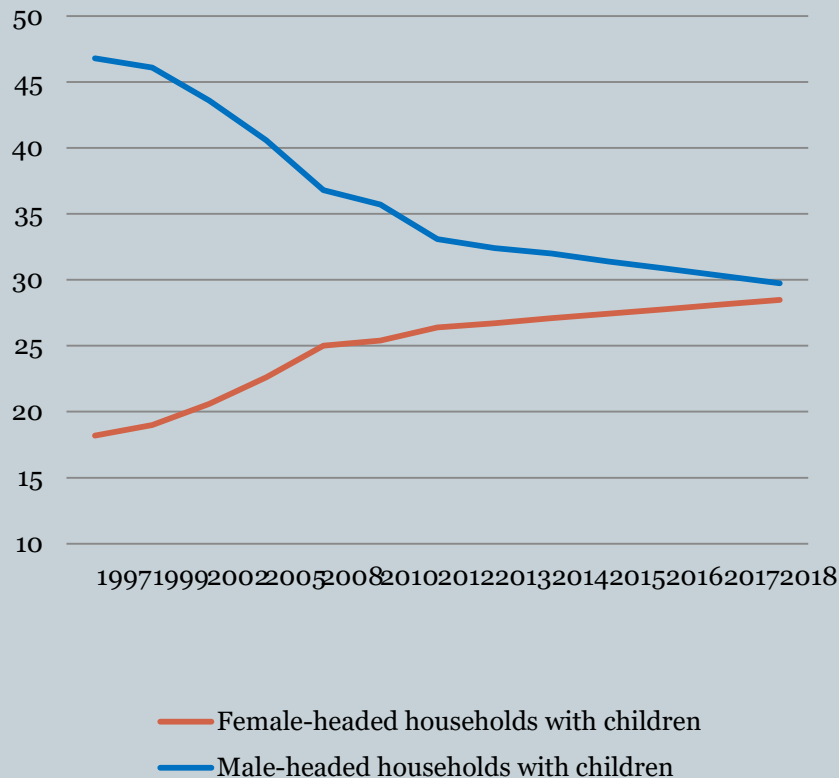
As novas regras
trabalhistas
das empregadas
são um marco
civilizatório para
o Brasil — e um sinal
de que em breve
as tarefas domésticas
serão divididas entre
toda a família

GUIA COMPLETO

O QUE MUDA JÁ E O QUE
FALTA DEFINIR NA NOVA LEI

3) What about the fathers?

Changes in Household type in Latin America (CEPAL/ECLAC; own elaboration)



- 1) Largest group:
 - Resident fathers with working wives/partners
- 2) Growing group:
 - Non-resident fathers
- → the groups have different dynamics

3) How to increase paternal involvement?

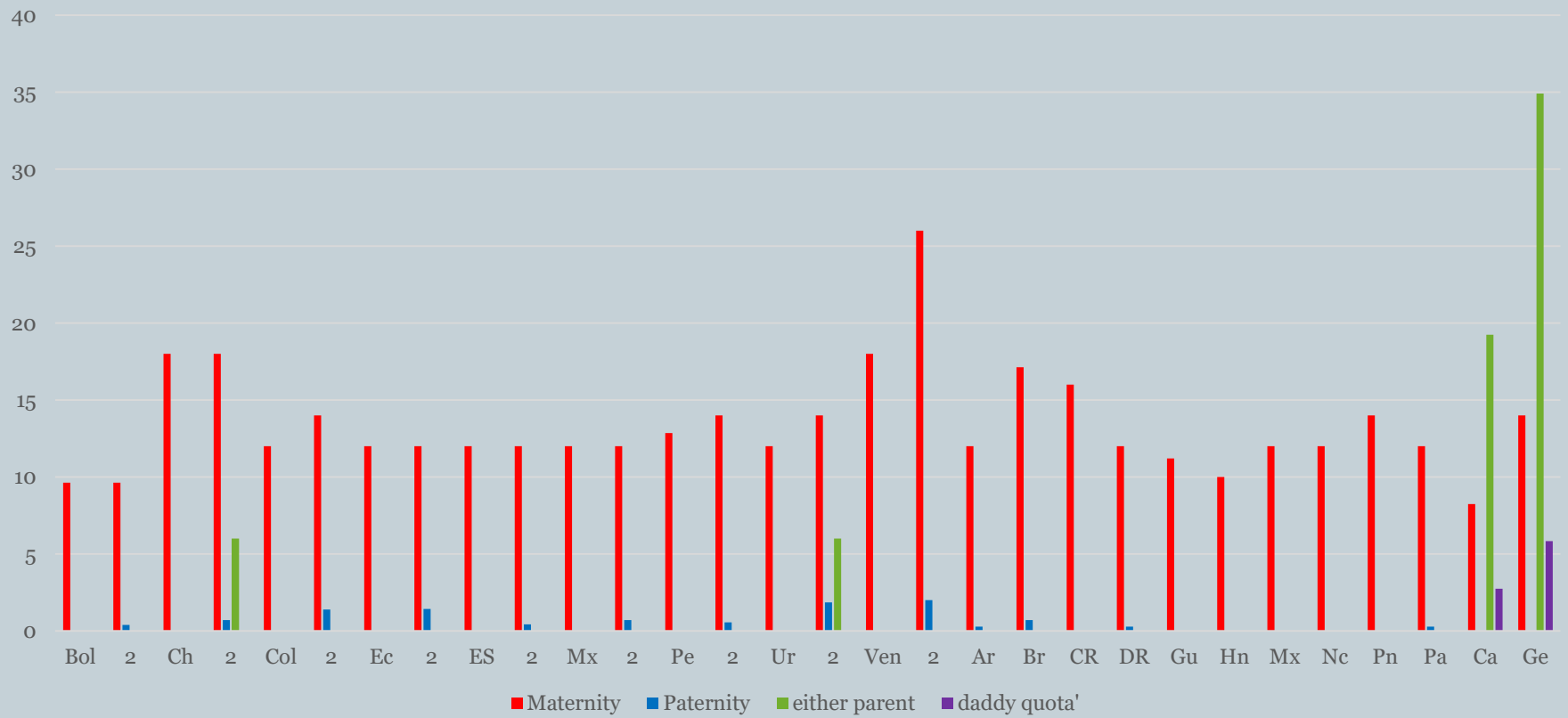
- Group 1) they live with their kids
 - → get them to do more childcare
 - → shared parental and paternity leaves
-
- Group 2) they don't live with their kids
 - → How to establish and maintain income and care support



Group 1: Parental leaves for mothers vs fathers: How much has happened?



Fully paid employment based leaves, 2000 and 2018, in weeks, for salaried workers



Group 2: Fathers who do not live with their kids

Different initial levels of involvement

→ Different policies

- 1) Paternity recognition
- 2) custody
- 3) child support
- Most states lack proactive, comprehensive policies



1) Paternity recognition

- High rates of unrecognized paternity
 - eg Brazil \approx 10-20% of children born today
- Recent legal equalization of children (Brazil, 1988; Chile, 1998)
- Technological advance: accurate, easy DNA testing



What has the state done

- Costa Rica
- Paternal responsibility
Law of 2001
- Proactive



- Brazil
- Reactive, but....



2 & 3) Post-separation child support and contact

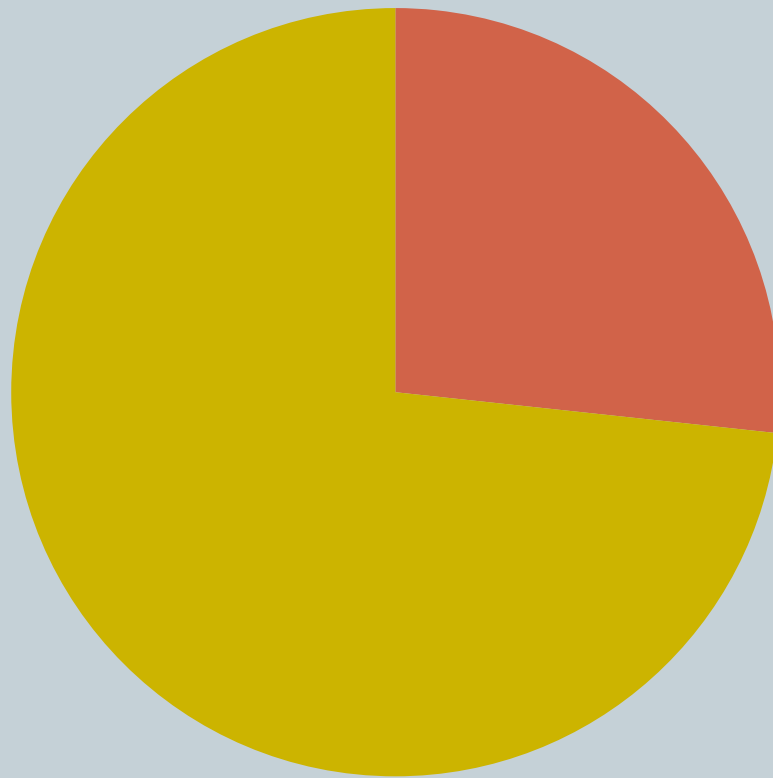


- Overall, in Latin America
 - vast majority of children stay with mothers
 - low levels of regular, formal child support from fathers
- The state **can** do a lot
- Proactive vs reactive
- The goal can be to protect the child or to punish the father
- Proactive, protective role → lower poverty, better child wellbeing, better paternal wellbeing

Single mother low-income families in São Paulo (Survey, Blofield and Madalozzo 2012)



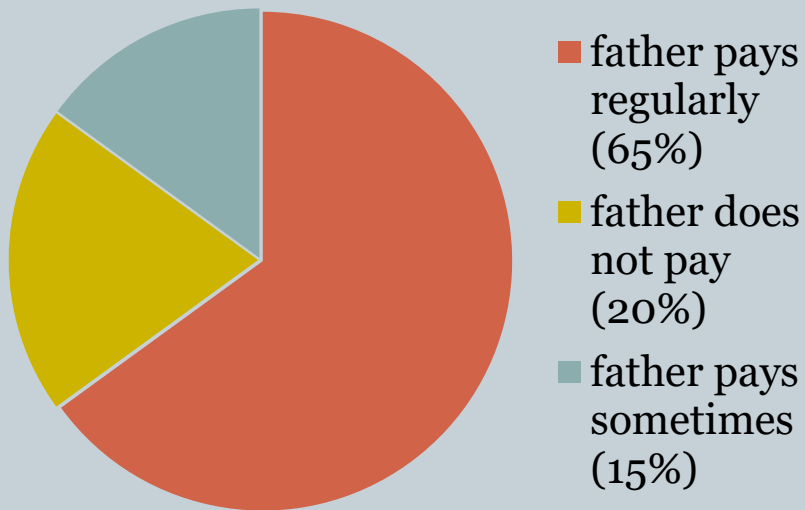
Of children whose father does not live with them (37.5% of families)



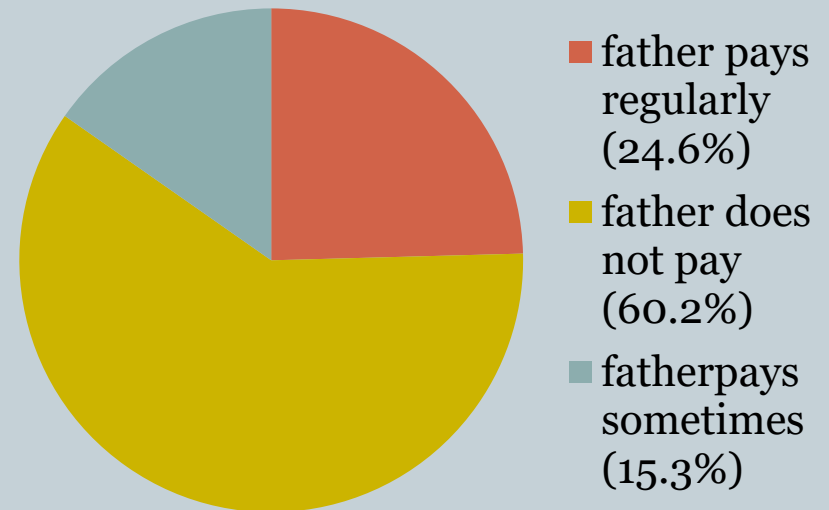
- have legal accord for child support (26.7%)
- do not have legal accord for child support (73.3%)

Non-resident fathers

Of those who have legal accord for child support



Of those who do not have legal accord for child support



Equally crucially,



- Less than 5% of the non-resident fathers saw their children at least once a week
- → need proactive policies

Conclusions



- **Flourishing families → sustainable development**
- **Latin America:** high inequalities, massive changes (working mothers, 'absent' fathers), child poverty
- The importance of **the state** in promoting flourishing families
 - transfers, care services, labor regulations, family regulations, e.g. paternal involvement
- The importance of bringing **fathers** in
→ Concentrated, integrated **effort** is needed to support flourishing families
- High investment **pays off**