Sick of squabbling? Household division of labor, disagreement, and health among men and women in Sweden 2000-2010

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Abstract

Individual health and work are closely connected in both positive and negative ways. We investigate the impacts of paid work, unpaid work, and the perception of how work is shared, on subjective and objective health measures in contemporary Sweden. The focus is on how gender, workload, and disagreement regarding work shape health impacts among partnered men and women. We perform multivariate regression analysis on data from the 2000 and 2010 waves of the Swedish Level-of-Living Survey (LNU), making use of information on married and cohabiting individuals in dual-earner couples (age 25-65). Results show that the division of housework and disagreement over paid work time are associated with lower subjective health, but associations differ according to age. Disagreement over own paid work is associated with lower self-rated health among younger women (25-44). Mirroring this, disagreement regarding partner's paid work is associated with lower self-rated health among younger men. Among older women and men (45-65), doing a larger share of housework is associated with less good subjective health. Disagreement over own paid work reduces the risk for receipt of sickness allowance among older women, and is associated with lower psychological well-being among older men. The results indicate that interpersonal conflict regarding hours and organization of work matter for both men's and women's subjective health in a context where dual-earning is the norm.

Introduction

It is well-established that individual health and paid work are closely connected, both positively and negatively. While good health facilitates work, paid work provides resources that may be used in a health-promoting way. On the other hand, some aspects of work, such as the physical and psychosocial working environment, may be harmful. A large literature documents significant health effects of work characteristics including workload and the perceived "balance" (or lack thereof) of demands and own effort and control in relation to the benefits gained from work (Karasek & Theorell 1990). Another factor associated with health is the individual family situation. There is a well-documented positive association between marriage and health with married people, on average, being healthier and living longer than the unmarried (Lillard & Panis 1996, Waite & Gallagher 2000, Zhang & Hayward 2006). Family members are important in the production of health within the household (Berman et al. 1994). Extant research shows that the impacts of marriage operates more strongly for men than for women, who seem to be more instrumental in the production of health within the family in line with gendered specialization of household labor (Becker 1981). Many unpaid activities, which are performed within the household, contribute to the health and well-being of family members, and women on average do more unpaid work than men. In particular, women do more housework and caregiving, even among dual-earner couples, irrespective of country context (Treas & Drobnic 2010).

Studies of the association between work and health, however, often analyze workers as independent individuals, even though they are married, and their lives are linked to other family members. Given its salience for decisions regarding household division of labor, the couple context should not be ignored. Moreover, while a large literature has addressed intrapersonal work-family conflict and role strain (Greenhaus & Beutell 1985), less attention has been paid to how interpersonal conflict relating to work hours and effort devoted to various activities impacts health (see Umberson et al. 2006, Stolzenberg & Williams 2008 for exceptions).

In this paper, we study how household division of labor, and disagreement over how work is shared within the couple, impact health among working men and women. We consider work hours (own and partner's), how work is shared among partners, and whether there is disagreement over how paid work and housework is shared within the couple. We analyze three different health outcomes that are subjective (self-rated health (SRH) and psychological

well-being) as well as objective (receipt of sickness allowance, which is a proxy for temporary illness, conditional on a diagnosis statement of a GP). The context is Sweden 2000-2010. The issue is topical and highly policy relevant. Recently, there has been a dramatic increase in receipt of sickness allowance, especially among women due to psychosocial diagnoses. This development is associated with large individual and social costs. Some argue that this is related to women suffering from a double burden of paid and unpaid work. While the combination of paid and unpaid work is part of the Swedish work-family model, the goal is a more equitable division of labor because reality contrasts with ambitions regarding both paid and unpaid work. In this paper, we are particularly interested in the association between disagreement over the division of paid and unpaid work within the couple and individual health, and whether this association is gendered. We contribute to the literature on gender and work-family balance, and provide policy-relevant recommendations.

Theoretical considerations and previous research

The health of partnered individuals is determined by their underlying propensities toward good health, by exposure to health-modifying factors, and by their behavior. Some health determinants relate to actions on behalf of the partner, or to couple interaction. For example, spouses can promote each other's health by providing income to buy goods and services that improve health, or by helping each other to earn and manage income to obtain those goods and services (Preston & Taubman 1994, Taubman & Rosen 1982). Spouses can enhance well-being and health within the family through care and other unpaid activities (Umberson 1992), and by providing social support to one another (House et al. 1988). Conversely, husbands and wives can increase each other's stress, and thereby reduce both well-being and health. This works partly through interaction with the other partner for which both quantity and quality have been proven important.

Economic models of household division of labor emphasize the rational and efficient allocation of resources in order to optimize output and utility. In a family, the optimization problem is about determining the most efficient allocation of each family member's time, given existing marginal values, which means agreeing on household division of labor and the quantity of each individual's leisure time. This commonly takes place through specialization of one partner in paid market work, and the other in unpaid non-market work, according to their comparative advantages (Becker 1981). Typically, women are assumed to be more productive in non-market activities, such as childcare and housework, and thus the model

predicts a gender-based division of labor, but economic theory also implies that the degree of specialization may vary between couples depending on the comparative advantage of the partners. The traditional neoclassical household model does not allow for conflicting interest and different utility functions of the spouses. In order to allow for such interactions, bargaining models were developed (Manser & Brown 1980, McElroy & Horney 1981, Konrad & Lommerud 1995, Lundberg & Pollak 1996). The outcome of bargaining over intra-household time allocation is affected by the partners' relative earnings potential, and similar to that of specialization and also to the predictions from the sociological theory of relative resources. Thus, the different perspectives result in the same predictions regarding household division of labor, but through different mechanisms.

Economic bargaining bears resemblance to the relative resource perspective (Blood & Wolfe 1960) in that both emphasize couples' negotiations over how to divide market and housework, and presume that housework is something individuals generally want to avoid. Individuals use their resources in terms of income, education, work hours, or status as bargaining tools to resolve conflict (Breen & Cooke 2005). From the relative resource perspective, the distribution of resources between spouses is key. The more resources, and thereby power, an individual has in relation to his/her partner, the greater are the possibilities of bargaining away housework with underperformance as a realistic threat. Men generally have more resources than women, even within couples, though educational homogamy has increased from the 1960s in many societies (Kalmijn 1991, Mare 1991, Schwartz & Mare 2005). Relative resources have received empirical support based on Swedish data (e.g. Evertsson & Nermo 2007) and data from other countries (Treas & Drobnic 2010). Women's relative earnings and education are positively associated with husbands' housework participation (Bianchi et al. 2000), and these relative resources extend to subjective considerations as women who depend on their husbands' earnings are less likely to consider an unequal division of household labor as unfair or engage in conflict over it (Lennon & Rosenfield 1994, DeMaris & Longmore 1996).

An alternative approach is that of social exchange within marriage, in which the paid and unpaid labor performed by spouses together with their perceptions of the equality of these contributions, are central (Thompson 1991, Thompson & Walker 1989). Social exchange theory holds that all exchange relationships are guided by reciprocity that leads exchange partners to expect returns to what they contribute to their partners (Blau 1964). Fairness and

equity evaluations are made individually and subjectively, by each partner, but partners need not agree. Believing that one receives insufficient returns is aversive enough to have detrimental health impacts, including psychological distress (Walster et al. 1978, Sprecher, 1986), depression (Glass & Fujimoto 1994), and lower marital quality (Pina & Bengtson 1993). Exchange inequity may result in conflict and in separation, but may also result in re-evaluation of the exchange relationships, or in re-negotiations over household division of labor where even gratitude on behalf of the partner may be considered an important aspect of the exchange (Hochschild & Machung 1989, Thompson 1991, Thompson & Walker 1989).

The context within which individuals live and work may be associated with household division of labor and conflict over paid work and housework. Sweden has been a socio-demographic frontrunner since the 1970s, featuring relatively low levels of inequality, a high degree of gender equality, and new family dynamics (Dribe & Stanfors 2010) with extensive work-family support policies targeting both men and women. Many theories, including the specialization model and relative resources were, however, developed against the background of the male breadwinner household. The greater tendency to buy goods and services in the market shifted the role of partners, and is believed to have shifted the gains from negative to positive assortative mating on productivity traits (Oppenheimer 1997). It has also been argued that family solidarity, in combination with a concern for status maintenance and enhancement, promotes, rather than minimizes, the wives' economic role in contexts where the male breadwinner model is losing foothold (Oppenheimer 1977). Women will be more likely to work when their potential occupational status can enhance the family's socio-economic status, meaning that status consistency, but not necessarily equality, should support women's labor market participation, and even gender-neutral specialization. Today, the dual-earner family is the norm in Sweden and many other countries, which implies that both men and women are in the labor force, and that there are more couples where both spouses possess resources in terms of education, income and status, with implications for the division of labor within the household. For example, housework is more equally divided in couples where both partners have higher education (Bernhardt, Noack och Lyngstad 2008; Evertsson och Nermo 2007; Stanfors & Sayer 2018). Highly educated couples are also more prone to make use of publicly provided daycare and other services provided by the welfare state than are other couples (Stanfors 2003, Försäkringskassan 2011). This may be explained by their stronger work orientation, better information, or that highly educated individuals have more gender equal attitudes (Bernhardt & Goldscheider 2006). We may assume that disagreements

regarding paid and unpaid work tend to decrease as the division of unpaid work become more equally divided, though the shift from male breadwinner to dual-earner families, may entail that both partners face difficulties combining paid and unpaid work, particularly if they are in skilled occupations or professions. High-demanding and inflexible jobs are particularly difficult to combine with family responsibilities (Goldin & Katz 2011, 2016) even in contexts like Sweden with extensive work-family policies and public support for families (Stanfors 2014, Magnusson & Nermo 2017). Thus, dual-earning families and more gender equality may lead to new challenges for men's and women's health and well-being and, over the longer term, also for levels of sick leave. Furthermore, these relationships may vary with age and life course in that different life stages are associated with different workloads, and more or less pressing combinations of paid and unpaid work. In particular, the period of life when most individuals have young children, and need to prove themselves at the workplace (25-40) may be stressful. The implications for perceptions of time allocation and conflicts regarding paid and unpaid work among couples, and how this is related to men's and women's health are, however, unknown.

To summarize, in the present paper we investigate how the total workload (hours in paid work and housework), its division within the household, and disagreement over paid and unpaid work are related to health among men and women in contemporary Sweden. It should be noted that we do not intend to explain why men and women experience less good health or psychological distress in general, and neither do we intend to explain receipt of sickness allowance, because these phenomena are primarily determined by other factors than those that we can control for. It is also difficult to establish causal relationships because of issues of endogeneity and reverse causality Moreover, our sample consists of individuals, who are all employed and working at least 10 hours during the survey week, and thus they are not afflicted by severe health problems. This group, however, makes up the majority population. It is important to know whether and in what ways actual work, the division of work within the household, or perceptions of how work is shared and conflicts over this are associated with men's and women's health and well-being.

Data and methods

We make use of individual-level data from the Swedish Level of Living Survey (LNU) for our empirical analysis. The LNU surveys are based on a representative sample of Swedish adults between 18 and 75 years of age, and comprise both cross-sectional and panel data. The

survey was conducted in the years 1968, 1974, 1981, 1991, 2000 and 2010. Respondents have been asked a consistent set of questions about their living conditions and working lives. The surveys are complemented by data from administrative records, for example on household income. We use the two latest waves of the LNU that provide information on various aspects of paid and unpaid work, including the division of work within the household and on disagreement over this. These survey waves also include detailed information on self-reported health, psychological well-being, and registered sick leave/receipt of sickness benefit that we use as outcome variables. By utilizing LNU data, we have access to detailed information on paid and unpaid work hours, division hereof within the household, and conflict over paid and unpaid work, which enable us to study the extent to which these factors are related different health outcomes, net of other factors.

Our analytic sample consists of partnered (married or cohabiting) men and women. Respondents are aged 25 to 65, employed, and working at least ten hours per week at the time of survey. We excluded respondents with missing information on any variable of interest (i.e. list-wise deletion). We pooled data from the 2000 and 2010 waves of the LNU. The sample consists of 2,912 individuals (1,369 in 2000 and 1,543 in 2010) of which 50 per cent are women.

The LNU has been extensively investigated for many research purposes. Related to the present paper, the material has been used to study couples' division of housework (Evertsson & Nermo 2004, 2007, Evertsson & Boye 2014, Nermo 1994, Nermo & Evtersson 2004, Tåhlin 1984); to assess the relationship between paid work, housework, and psychological distress (Boye 2010); and for the study of the importance of job strain for class-specific gender gaps in health (Kjellsson 2018). Here, we combine the division of paid and unpaid work with job strain, and add a conflict perspective, i.e. within-couple disagreement over paid and unpaid work hours, in order to assess the importance of these factors for both subjective and objective health, and whether these associations are gendered.

We applied linear probability models (LPM) to explore the associations between work hours, household division of labor, disagreement over this, and subjective health, psychological well-being, and receipt of sick allowance. We prefer LPM over logit for ease of interpretation and for reasons of stepwise modelling. For a general discussion on the advantages of linear probability models, see Mood (2006). Health outcomes ($Health_i$) are modelled as a function

of personal characteristics ($\mathbf{X}_i$), job-related factors ($\mathbf{Z}_i$), and household division of labor, including disagreement over work hours. In the fullest models, we estimate:

$$\text{Health}_i = \alpha_0 + \beta_1\mathbf{X}_i + \beta_2\mathbf{Z}_i + \beta_3\text{Total workload}_i + \beta_4\text{Partner's paid work hours}_i + \beta_5\text{Share of housework}_i + \beta_6\text{Disagreement}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

We estimate pooled models (including both survey year 2000 and 2010) in a stepwise manner, separately for women and men. Robust standard errors (clustered at the individual level) were estimated in the multivariate regressions.

Outcome variables

We use three health measures; subjective health (SRH), psychological well-being, and receipt of sickness allowance. Both subjective health and psychological well-being are self-rated by the respondent, who was asked about overall health and psychological problems. *Subjective health* is a dummy variable where respondents who rated their overall health less than good, i.e. bad/something in between, are assigned value 1. *Psychological well-being* is a dummy variable based on five indicators, i.e. experiencing tiredness, sleeping problems, anxiety, depression, and overexertion. Respondents were asked about to assess prevalence and severity of these symptoms during the past 12 months. Respondents that indicate at least one psychiatric symptom, indicating lower psychological well-being, are assigned value 1.[1] *Sickness allowance receipt* is based on administrative data. The variable is a dummy where respondents who received any sickness benefits during survey years are coded as 1.[2]

Independent variables

The main independent variables are related to time allocation and perceptions of, particularly conflict over, time use. *Total work hours* measure the total time (hours) the respondents spend in paid and unpaid work during a week. Unpaid work measures the number of hours spent on housework during a normal week, including the grocery shopping, cooking, washing

[1] Analyses using an index of lower psychological well-being (ranging from 0 to 15, based on the same five indicators were also performed. The results are similar to those reported here, and are found in Appendix (tables A1-A4).

[2] Since 1991, the employer provides compensation for the initial phase of an employee's period of sick leave. Sickness allowance is only provided after two weeks of sick leave, and upon presentation of a medical certificate from a GP. Thus, shorter periods of sick leave are not included in this measure.

dishes, cleaning, doing laundry, repairs, and maintenance.[3] *Partner's work hours* indicate how many hours the partner spends in paid work per week. *Share of housework* captures the respondent's share of housework and is calculated by dividing respondent's housework hours with total housework.

Three variables are used to capture disagreement regarding work: *disagreement over own paid work*, *disagreement over partner's paid work* and *disagreement over housework*. The measurements are based on the items "How often do your opinions and those of your partner differ with respect to how much you work your partner works//with respect to how housework is shared?" There are four response options: often, sometimes, seldom and never. Here, we use dummy variables where 1 equals disagreement often or sometimes.

We also include a number of controls in our model specifications to adjust for individual characteristics, family conditions, social class and working conditions, and income; factors that are correlated with time allocation, and potentially also with perceptions of time use. Individual *age* is categorized into four categories: 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, and 55-65. As for family conditions, *years cohabitating* is a continuous variable indicating years since start of current partnership of relevance for division of labor as well as for couple interaction. *Number of children* living in the household at the time of the survey is measured as one, two, and three or more. We also control for having a preschooler (under 6 years of age) in the household because young children may impact both workload and household division of labor. Social class is coded according to the socioeconomic classification scheme (SEI) and categorized into *higher non-manual, intermediate non-manual, assistant non-manual*, and *manual workers*. Related to occupation and working conditions, and as *job strain* is documented related to health outcomes, we include a measurement of Karasek's classic model of demand-control with having a job with high demands but low autonomy coded as 1. In some of the model specifications, in order to see whether the results are driven by income effects or access to economic resources, we include a control for *disposable household income*. This variable indicates total post-tax income of all members of the household, according to tax registers, and is adjusted for family size. Due to skewness of the distribution of income, this measure was divided into quintiles. To capture partners' relative resources,

[3] Respondents were asked about the total number of hours spent on housework per week in their household and were also asked to state how many hours were performed by themselves or by their partner.

we include *Relative occupational status*, which is measured as respondent having higher occupational status than partner; both partners having the same occupational status, and respondent having lower occupational status.[4] All models include a control for survey year to capture change over time.

Results

Descriptive results

Table 1 displays descriptive statistics by gender. There are statistically significant gender differences in subjective health and psychological well-being to the disadvantage of women, but there is no gender difference in receipt of sickness allowance. 18 per cent among female respondents state that they have less than good overall health, compared with 14.5 per cent among men. On average, 44 percent of all women, but only 28 percent of men, report that they have at least one psychiatric symptom resulting in lower psychological well-being. 8 percent of both men and women have had more than one day with sickness allowance in the survey year. Worth remembering, the sample analyzed consists of relatively healthy cohabiting individuals who are working at least ten hours per week, and are not representative of the general population that include more individuals with health problems that reduce their ability to perform paid work.

Table 1 about here

There are also clear gender differences in paid and unpaid work. Though the total work hours are similar (circa 50 hours per week) for men and women, women spend less time in paid work than men, but perform more unpaid work. When it comes to disagreement, there are gender differences in experiencing disagreement over paid work, but not over housework. Primarily, there are gender differences in the report of disagreement over men's paid work. A larger share of the men (20.6%) report that they often have disagreement over own work, while a larger share of women state that they often have disagreements about the partner's (i.e. the man's) paid work (19,5%). It is far more common to have disagreements over housework (more than a third of all men and women state this) than over paid work, but there is no significant gender difference in this respect. There are statistically significant gender

[4] We use this measure of relative resources because information on partner's education is lacking for one survey year, otherwise relative education would have been ideal, and because income measures are highly endogenous to working time and time spent on housework.

differences when it comes to job strain, in that a much larger share of women have jobs where they experience mental strain.

Table 2 shows a more limited set of descriptive statistics by gender divided by age groups reflecting different life course stages (25-44 and 45-65). There is a statistical significant gender difference in subjective health among younger men and women. A larger share of women report lower psychological well-being, both among both younger and older ages. Of note, a larger share of young men (32.4%) report lower psychological well-being compared to older men (23.6%). There are no significant gender difference in sickness allowance receipt. It is more common to report disagreement over housework among men and women in the younger age group, 24-44, but there are no significant gender difference in this respect. Like the statistics reported for the full sample, is it more common among men to, on average, report disagreement over own paid work, while women rather report conflict regarding the partner's paid work. This is true for both younger and older respondents. Experiencing job strain is, on average, more common among women than among men, irrespective of age group.

Table 2 about here

Turning to the results from the multivariate analysis, Tables 3-8 present estimates from linear probability models. A number of model specifications were estimated to assess whether time in paid and unpaid work, division of labor, and disagreement over how time is spent, were related to three different health measures, net of controls. The analyses were made separately for men and women, for all ages (25-65), and divided by two age categories, 25-44 and 45-65, respectively.

Table 3 displays results for women, 25-65 years old. Total work hours (i.e. paid and unpaid work combined) are not related to women's subjective health[5], and neither is partner's paid work in any real sense. More noticeable, doing a larger share of housework is associated with lower subjective health, i.e. it seems to be bad for women's subjective health. In a similar

[5] Additional analyses (not shown, but available upon request) indicate that the association between share of housework and subjective health is curvilinear, with doing a very large share of housework being negatively related to women's subjective health. However, we find no statistically significant curve-linear relationship among older women. Among younger women, the relationship between share of housework and subjective health is only significant when measured as curvilinear.

manner, disagreements regarding own paid work is strongly associated with the probability of experiencing lower subjective health. Thus, women who report that they often have disagreements regarding own work tend to report lower subjective health than women who do not experience this kind of conflict. Of note, these results are robust and not sensitive to the inclusion of income and other factors of relevance for individual health, like family situation and social class, indicating that this is a general phenomenon.

Table 3 about here

Job strain is, as expected, associated with experiencing lower subjective health. There is also a social gradient in subjective health with manual workers being more likely to report lower subjective health than other social classes. This association persists when controlling for household income and other factors of relevance for subjective health. Models 7 and 8 aim to account for relative occupational status net of other controls. For women, being in a relationship where they have higher occupational status than their partner is associated with lower subjective health. Including this measure of relative resources does not affect the majority of associations, but make the social gradient in health even stronger.

Turning to the second health measure of health; psychological well-being, we find that disagreements regarding housework and partner's paid work are associated with lower psychological well-being; i.e. women who state that they often have disagreement regarding housework or partner's work are more likely to report one or more psychiatric problems. Disagreement regarding housework is also positive associated with lower well-being. Total workload, partner's paid work hours, share of housework are not significantly associated with women's psychological well-being. Of note, there are no job-related or social class-related impacts in the case of psychological well-being. Neither are there any statistically significant associations between relative occupational status and women's psychological well-being.

Regarding receipt of sickness allowance, which is more of an objective measure of health, Table 3 shows that the experience of disagreement regarding own paid work tend to reduce the likelihood to receive sickness allowance. Other than that, only the well-established finding that women in manual occupations are more likely to receive sickness allowance compared to women in other occupations, net of controls, is significant.

The corresponding analyses for men (age 25-65) are displayed in Table 4. The results are highly similar to those reported for women. Estimates indicate that disagreement regarding partner's work is associated with the probability of experiencing lower subjective health. This is mirroring the results for women. In line with the results for women, this association is independent of income or other factors that generally are related to health outcomes (Models 2-8). Also in line with the results for women, job strain is related to lower subjective health. When it comes to psychological well-being, experiencing disagreements regarding housework or own work are significantly associated with lower psychological well-being among men. As for receipt of sickness allowance, Table 4 shows that men in intermediate and higher non-manual occupations are less likely to receive sickness allowance, net of controls. Results are highly robust to model specifications and independent of income. In contrast to the results for women, relative resources are not associated with any of the subjective health measures, though men in relationships where they have lower occupational status than their partner are less likely to receive sickness allowance than other men.

Table 4 about here

Considering that both workload and family situation, and the interplay between the two, varies over the life course, we conducted the analyses separately for two sub-samples consisting of younger (age 25-44) and older (age 45-65) men and women. Apart from capturing different life course stages, these age groups also manifest cohort differences.

When comparing Table 5, displaying coefficients for younger women, with Table 6, displaying the corresponding analysis for older women, we find some important differences. To begin with, partner's paid work is negatively associated with the probability of experiencing lower subjective health among younger women, but not for older women. Moreover, disagreement over own paid work is positively associated with lower subjective health among younger women, while it is significantly related to older women's subjective health. Of note, there is a statistically significant positive association between share of housework and lower subjective health among older women, which is not found among younger women. While disagreement over own paid work is associated with younger women experiencing lower subjective health, the division of labor and doing a larger share of the housework is even more strongly associated with older women experiencing lower subjective

health. There are also differences between younger and older women regarding the role of paid work. Job strain is associated with younger women's subjective health, in that experiencing mental strain on the job is associated with lower subjective health. This is, however, not the case for older women. For older women, social class is more important than job strain, and it is more strongly related to subjective health in that there is a clear social gradient with higher social classes reporting better subjective health than manual workers. Dividing the full sample into two, reflecting different ages and life course stages, we found that association between relative resources and subjective health is entirely driven by older women.

Tables 5 and 6 about here

When it comes to psychological well-being, there are also noticeable differences between younger and older women. Disagreement regarding partner's paid work is associated with lower psychological well-being among younger women (Table 5). Thus, disagreements regarding partners work tend to be related with a larger likelihood of experience lower psychological well-being among younger women, though this is not the case among older women. On the other hand, disagreements regarding housework is associated with a higher likelihood of experiencing lower psychological well-being among older women, but insignificant among younger women. This is similar to what we found for subjective health; there seems to be a stronger association between own paid work and younger women's subjective health and well-being, while there is a stronger association between housework and the subjective health and well-being among older women. When it comes to receipt of sickness allowance, all women, both younger and older, who work in higher non-manual occupations are less likely to get this benefit. Disagreement over own work is negatively related to the risk of being on sick leave among older women. While it is unlikely that disagreements regarding own paid work decrease the risk of receiving sickness allowance, the reverse is more likely.

Turning to men, Table 7 and 8 display the estimates for younger and older men, respectively. Again, we find important differences according to age. Disagreement regarding partner's paid work is strongly associated with lower subjective health among younger men, which is mirroring the results for younger women who featured that disagreement over their own work was associated with lower subjective health. Disagreement regarding partner's paid work is

not statistically significantly associated with older men's subjective health. Among the older age group, doing a larger share of housework is strongly associated with lower subjective health, while this has no statistically significant relation with younger men's subjective health. This is similar to the results for women. As was the case for younger women, job strain is associated with lower subjective health among younger men and there are indications of a social gradient in subjective health similar to that we found for women. Job-related factors, are however, not really associated with older men's subjective health, net of controls, which is quite interesting. For all men, household income is significantly associated with better subjective health. The results indicate that some class-based differences among men are captured by income.

Tables 7 and 8 about here

When it comes to psychological well-being, there is a surprisingly strong statistically significant association between share of housework and psychological well-being among young men, implying that those men who do a larger share of housework experience higher psychological well-being. Disagreement regarding housework is, however, associated with lower psychological well-being among younger men. Among older men, division of housework, and perceptions about how this activity is carried out, matter little for older men's psychological well-being. Instead, disagreement regarding own paid work is associated with lower psychological well-being among older men. This relationship is statistically significant even when we restrict the analysis to individuals who work maximum 40 hours per week, which indicates that the result is not due to disagreement over older men's extremely long work hours.

When it comes to sickness allowance receipt, there is an indication that social class is related to receipt of sickness allowance among older men in that having a higher non-manual occupation is associated with lower risk of sickness allowance receipt.

Concluding discussion

Taken together, results from full models, netting out factors of relevance for individual health measures (such as age, job strain, social class, and family situation) show that disagreements regarding work hours, effort, and organization of work within the household are related with health and well-being in a gendered way, but that these associations also differ according to

age and life course stage. While disagreement over own paid work is negatively related to self-rated health among younger women, older women's subjective health is related to the actual division of housework with a larger share of housework being associated with lower subjective health. There is also a strong negative association between share of housework and subjective health among older men. Mirroring the results for younger women, disagreement regarding the partner's (i.e. the woman's) paid work is bad for younger men's subjective health. This indicates that subjective health among younger men and women is related to conflicts regarding woman's paid work and potential spillovers from this, while the actual division of housework matters for older men's and women's subjective health. Disagreement over housework is, however, related to younger men's psychological well-being as well, as men who report disagreement regarding housework experience lower psychological well-being than others. On the other hand, among younger men, doing a larger share of housework is strongly associated with better psychological well-being that clearly sets of this negative association in magnitude.

It is interesting to note that the results for men are contrasting to what we found for women. While disagreement over own paid work is associated with older men experiencing lower psychological well-being, this was a significant association for younger women's subjective health, again showing the importance of paid work for these groups. While the division of housework and conflicts over this were important for younger men's psychological well-being, these factors mattered significantly for older women experiencing lower subjective health and psychological well-being. That paid work and occupational prestige is more important for older men is further supported by the fact that relative resources matter for this group's psychological well-being in that respondents who have higher occupational status than their partner are significantly less likely to experience psychiatric problems than other comparable men aged 45-65. Among older women, this category was more likely to report lower subjective health. For younger men and women, relative resources do not seem to be an important part of the story; there are odd results but these do not moderate the associations between disagreement/division of housework and subjective health and well-being in any meaningful way.

Job strain is clearly negatively associated with subjective health among both men and women, but only for younger ages (25-44) when both work and family demands are high. There are, however, surprisingly weak associations between social class and subjective health

and well-being among our study population. When it comes to sickness allowance, which is more of an objective measure of ill-health, there are few significant results, and the associations are less clear, though disagreement regarding own work matters for older women but not for older men. We did not expect conflicts and division of labor within the household to be significantly associated with people's health, but the escalating psychiatric diagnosis leading to sickness allowance receipt, not least for partnered women in Sweden called for this to be investigated and contrasted to more subjective health and well-being measures that clearly may be affected by workload, division of household labor (i.e. both paid and unpaid work), and how work is valued and respected by partners. Taken together, the results indicate that interpersonal conflict regarding hours and organization of work matter for women's and men's health and well-being even in a context where dual-earner couples is the norm and there is generous state support for work/family balance. Policy-makers should consider that balancing two roles are not easy, that the gender revolution is not yet over in Sweden though being a frontrunner in this respect, and that partner interaction may be stressful, not least during the years when both men and women have jobs to do and families to take care of. Policy measures should consider coping strategies for this in order to remedy negative experiences in terms of health and well-being.

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Table 1. Descriptive statistics. Means and shares (%) by gender.

	Men		Women		Gender diff.
		St. dev.		St. dev.	
Lower subjective health	14.5		18.0		**
Lower psychological well-being	27.9		43.6		***
Sickness allowance receipt	7.9		7.9		
Total work hours	50.0	6.9	51.00	8.8	**
Partner's paid work hours	35.8	7.9	41.6	8.6	***
Own paid work hours	39.7	4.2	36.2	6.6	***
Own housework hours	10.3	5.9	14.8	7.6	***
Share of housework	43.8		65.9		***
Disagreement re housework	35.7		38.1		
Disagreement re own paid work	20.6		12.7		***
Disagreement re partner's paid work	8.2		19.5		***
Job strain	16.9		31.3		***
Household income (quintile)	3.9	1.1	3.8	1.2	
Years cohabiting	16.3	11.23	17.0	11.2	
No children in household	36.5		36.3		
One child in household	20.3		20.7		
Two children in household	30.6		31.1		
Three or more children in household	10.6		10.4		
Pre-schooler in household	26.3		24.6		
Manual worker	34.7		31.4		
Assistant non-manual worker	11.7		18.7		***
Intermediate non-manual worker	26.1		30.8		**
Higher non-manual worker	27.5		19.1		***
Age 25-34	20.6		22.3		
Age 35-44	28.5		33.5		
Age 45-54	29.6		28.6		
Age 55-65	21.4		15.7		
Respondent higher occupational status	28.0		22.1		***
Respondent lower occupational status	22.2		20.2		***
Respondent and partner same occupational status	49.8		57.7		
N	1,450		1,462		

Note: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05.
Source: The Swedish Level-of-Living Survey (LNU)
(https://www.sofi.su.se/english/2.17851/research/three-research-units/lnu-level-of-living)

Table 2. Descriptive statistics. Means and shares (%) by gender and age group.

	25-44		45-65	
	Men	**Women**	**Men**	**Women**
Lower subjective health	12.6	17.8**	16.3	18.2
Lower psychological well-being	32.4	44.7***	23.6	42.1***
Sickness allowance receipt	5.8	8.2	10.0	7.4
Total work hours	50.5	51.1	49.5	50.8**
Partner's paid work hours	35.7	41.5***	35.8	41.8
Own paid work hours	39.8	36.2***	39.6	36.1***
Own housework hours	10.6	14.9***	14.7	9.9***
Share of housework	46.1	64.2***	41.5	68.0***
Disagreement re housework	41.6	42.9	30.0	32.0
Disagreement re own paid work	23.0	13.1***	18.3	12.2**
Disagreement re partner's paid work	9.0	20.2***	7.5	18.6***
Job strain	19.7	31.3***	14.2	31.4***
N	712	816	738	646

Note: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05
Source: See Table 1.

Table 3. Linear probability model estimates of the determinants of lower subjective health, lower psychological well-being, and sickness allowance receipt for women age 25-65 (N=1,462).

Lower subjective health	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Partner's paid work hours	**-0.00 *****	**-0.00 ****	**-0.00****	**-0.00****	**-0.00****	**-0.00 ****	**-0.00****	**-0.00****
Share of housework	**0.19 *****	**0.21****	**0.16***	**0.21****	**0.16***	**0.14†**	**0.16***	**0.15***
Disagreement re housework		0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Disagreement re own paid work		**0.08***	**0.09***	**0.08***	**0.09***	**0.09***	**0.09***	**0.09***
Disagreement re partner's paid work		-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03
Job strain			**0.05†**		**0.04†**	**-0.04†**	**0.04†**	**-0.04†**
Assistant non-manual worker			**-0.06†**		**-0.06†**	**-0.05†**	**-0.08***	**-0.08***
Intermediate non-manual			**-0.09****		**-0.09****	**-0.08 ****	**-0.10 *****	**-0.09****
Higher non-manual			**-0.09****		**-0.09****	**-0.07***	**-0.12 *****	**-0.10****
Household income						**-0.03***		**-0.03***
Respondent higher occupational status							**0.05†**	**0.05†**
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.02	-0.02
Constant	-6.46	-6.38	-6.22	**-7.11†**	**-6.74†**	**-11.00 ***	**-6.31**	**-10.29***
Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	-0.05	-0.08	-0.08	-0.08	-0.08	-0.09	-0.08	-0.08
Disagreement re housework		**0.06†**	**0.06†**	**0.05†**	**0.05†**	**0.05†**	**0.05†**	**0.05†**
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disagreement re partner's paid work		**0.08***	**0.08***	**0.08***	**0.08***	**0.08***	**0.08***	**0.08***
Job strain			0.04		0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Assistant non-manual workers			0.00		0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02
Intermediate non-manual			0.00		0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02
Higher non-manual			-0.01		-0.01	-0.00	0.01	0.02
Household income						-0.01		-0.02

Respondent higher occupational status							-0.01	-0.01
Respondent lower occupational status							0.06	0.06
Constant	**19.12 *****	**18.24 *****	**18.52 *****	**19.08 *****	**19.44 *****	**17.40 ****	**19.33 *****	**16.75 ****
Sickness allowance	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Disagreement re housework		-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Disagreement re own work		**-0.04***	**-0.04***	**-0.04***	**-0.03†**	**-0.04†**	**-0.04†**	**-0.04†**
Disagreement re partner's work		0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Job strain			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.03		-0.03	-0.03	**-0.04†**	**-0.04†**
Intermediate non-manual			**-0.04†**		**-0.04***	**-0.04†**	**-0.05***	**-0.05***
Higher non-manual			**-0.07 *****		**-0.07 *****	**-0.07 *****	**-0.08****	**-0.08 *****
Household income						-0.01		-0.00
Respondent higher occupational status							0.03	0.03
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.01	-0.00
Constant	-0.54	-0.68	-0.75	-0.73	-0.69	-1.60	-0.48	-1.26

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

Table 4. Linear probability model estimates of the determinants of lower subjective health, lower psychological well-being, and sickness allowance receipt for men age 25-65 (N=1,450).

Lower subjective health	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	**-0.00†**	**-0.00†**	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Partner's paid work hours	0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00
Share of housework	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05
Disagreement re housework		0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Disagreement re own work		0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Disagreement re partner's work		**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**
Job Strain			**0.08****		**0.07***	**-0.07***	**0.07***	**0.06***
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.03		-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02
Intermediate non-manual			-0.03		-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01
Higher non-manual			**-0.08 *****		**-0.08 *****	**-0.05†**	**-0.08***	-0.04
Household income						**-0.05 *****		**-0.05 *****
Respondent higher occupational status							-0.01	-0.02
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.01	-0.00
Constant	3.72	2.65	3.03	1.94	2.42	-5.89	2.41	-5.93
Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	-0.14	-0.13	-0.14	-0.13	-0.14	-0.14	-0.14	-0.14
Disagreement re housework		**0.07****	**0.07****	**0.07****	**0.07****	**0.07****	**0.07****	**0.07****
Disagreement re own paid work		**0.10****	**0.10****	**0.10****	**0.09****	**0.10****	**0.10****	**0.10****
Disagreement re partner's paid work		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Job strain			**0.07***		**0.07†**	**0.06†**	**0.07†**	**0.06†**
Assistant non-manual workers			0.01		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Intermediate non-manual			0.02		0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Higher non-manual			-0.00		-0.00	0.01	-0.01	0.01
Household income						-0.02		-0.02

Respondent higher occupational status							0.02	0.01
Respondent lower occupational status							0.01	0.01
Constant	**18.03 *****	**16.59 *****	**17.26 *****	**16.57 *****	**17.26 *****	**13.62***	**17.21 *****	**13.63***
Sickness allowance	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.05
Disagreement re housework		-0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.02	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Disagreement re partner's paid work		-0.03	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.03	0.03	-0.03
Job strain			0.00		0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.01		-0.01	-0.01	-0.04	-0.04
Intermediate non-manual			**-0.03†**		**-0.03†**	-0.03	**-0.06****	**-0.06****
Higher non-manual			**-0.04***		**-0.04***	**-0.04†**	**-0.08 *****	**-0.09 *****
Household income						-0.00		-0.00
Respondent higher occupational status							0.03	-0.03
Respondent lower occupational status							**-0.05****	**-0.05****
Constant	**-5.56***	**-5.08†**	**-5.303†**	**-5.39†**	**-5.57***	**-5.95†**	**-6.12***	**-5.80†**

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

Table 5. Linear probability model estimates of the determinants of lower subjective health, lower psychological well-being, and sickness allowance receipt for women age 25-44 (N=816).

Lower subjective health	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	**-0.01****	**-0.01****	**-0.01***	**-0.01***	**-0.01***	**-0.01***	**-0.01***	**-0.01***
Share of housework	0.13	0.14	0.11	0.15	0.11	0.10	0.12	0.10
Disagreement re housework		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Disagreement re own paid work		**0.10†**	**0.09†**	**0.10†**	**0.10†**	**0.09†**	**0.10***	**0.10†**
Disagreement re partner's paid work		-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Job strain			**0.08****		**0.08***	**0.08***	**0.08***	**0.08***
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.03		-0.03	-0.03	-0.05	-0.04
Intermediate non-manual			**-0.08***		**-0.08***	**-0.07†**	**-0.09***	**-0.08†**
Higher non-manual			-0.05		-0.04	-0.03	-0.07	-0.05
Household income						**-0.03***		**-0.03†**
Respondent higher occupational status							0.03	0.02
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.04	-0.04
Constant	**-15.85 ****	**-16.13 ****	**-15.82 ****	**-16.69 ****	**-16.01 ****	**-21.61 *****	**-16.30 ****	**-21.49 *****
Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	**0.00†**	**0.00†**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	**-0.00†**	**-0.00†**	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	-0.12	-0.13	-0.11	-0.13	-0.12	-0.11	-0.12	-0.12
Disagreement re housework		0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Disagreement re own paid work		0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06
Disagreement re partner's paid work		**0.10***	**0.10***	**0.10***	**0.10***	**0.10***	**0.10***	**0.10***
Job strain			0.05		0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05
Assistant non-manual workers			0.02		0.02	0.02	0.04	0.04
Intermediate non-manual			0.04		0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05
Higher non-manual			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04
Household income						0.00		-0.00
Respondent higher occupational status							-0.01	-0.01

Respondent lower occupational status							**0.10***	**0.10***
Constant	**29.84 *****	**28.60 *****	**29.01 *****	**29.71 *****	**30.17 *****	**30.60 *****	**30.99 *****	**30.72 *****
Sickness allowance	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00
Share of housework	0.07	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Disagreement re housework		-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.03	-0.03
Disagreement re partner's paid work		0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Job strain			0.02		0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.03		-0.03	-0.03	-0.05	-0.04
Intermediate non-manual			-0.05		-0.04	-0.04	**-0.06†**	**-0.06†**
Higher non-manual			**-0.06***		**-0.06***	**-0.06***	**-0.08****	**-0.08****
Household income						-0.01		-0.00
Respondent higher occupational status							**0.04†**	**0.04†**
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.01	-0.01
Constant	-0.31	-0.380	-0.59	-0.41	-0.38	-1.44	-0.31	-1.10

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

Table 6. Linear probability model estimates of the determinants of lower subjective health, lower psychological well-being, and sickness allowance receipt for women age 45-65 (N=646).

Lower subjective health	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	**-0.00***	**-0.00***	**-0.00†**	**-0.00***	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Partner's paid work hours	**-0.00†**	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	**0.26****	**0.29***	**0.20***	**0.29****	**0.20***	**0.19†**	**0.21***	**0.21***
Disagreement re housework		0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Disagreement re own paid work		0.07	0.08	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Disagreement re partner's paid work		**-0.07†**	**-0.07†**	-0.07	-0.07	-0.07	-0.06	-0.07
Job strain			-0.01		-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Assistant non-manual workers			**-0.11***		**-0.11***	**-0.10***	**-0.13****	**-0.13****
Intermediate non-manual			**-0.11***		**-0.11***	**-0.09***	**-0.12****	**-0.11***
Higher non-manual			**-0.16****		**-0.16 *****	**-0.14 ****	**-0.19 *****	**-0.18 ****
Household income						-0.02		-0.02
Respondent higher occupational status							**0.08†**	**0.08†**
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.01	-0.00
Constant	5.45	5.99	6.67	4.95	5.77	2.56	6.88	3.78
Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	0.03	-0.03	-0.04	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.03
Disagreement re housework		**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**	**0.08†**
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.09
Disagreement re partner's paid work		0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Job strain			0.02		0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.01		-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Intermediate non-manual			-0.03		-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02
Higher non-manual			-0.01		-0.01	0.02	-0.00	0.03
Household income						-0.03		-0.03

Respondent higher occupational status							-0.00	-0.00
Respondent lower occupational status							0.02	0.03
Constant	4.79	4.97	5.04	5.46	5.55	1.01	5.49	0.44
Sickness allowance	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	**-0.00†**	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	0.06	0.04	-0.00	0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.01
Disagreement re housework		0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Disagreement re own paid work		**-0.05***	**-0.08***	**-0.05***	**-0.05†**	**-0.04†**	**-0.05†**	**-0.04†**
Disagreement re partner's paid work		0.04	0.04	0.04	0.034	0.04	0.04	0.04
Job strain			-0.01		-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.03		-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03
Intermediate non-manual			-0.03		-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03
Higher non-manual			**-0.07***		**-0.08***	**-0.07†**	**-0.07***	**-0.07†**
Household income						-0.01		-0.01
Respondent higher occupational status							0.00	0.00
Respondent lower occupational status							0.01	0.01
Constant	-1.18	-1.40	-1.19	-1.80	-1.54	-2.40	-1.63	-2.60

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

Table 7. Linear probability model estimates of the determinants of lower subjective health, lower psychological well-being, and sickness allowance receipt for men age 25-44 (N=712).

Lower subjective health	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00
Share of housework	-0.06	-0.08	-0.06	-0.07	-0.05	-0.06	-0.05	-0.06
Disagreement re housework		0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Disagreement re partner's paid work		**0.16****	**0.15***	**0.15***	**0.13***	**0.13***	**0.13***	**0.13***
Job strain			**0.08***		**0.07†**	**0.07†**	**0.07†**	**0.07†**
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.04		-0.04	-0.03	-0.05	-0.03
Intermediate non-manual			-0.05		-0.05	-0.03	-0.05	-0.04
Higher non-manual			**-0.09***		**-0.08***	**-0.06†**	**-0.10***	-0.06
Household income						**0.04****		**-0.04***
Respondent higher occupational status							0.02	0.02
Respondent lower occupational status							0.01	0.01
Constant	-3.81	-6.10	-6.15	-7.10	-6.94	**-14.46***	-7.23	**-14.53***
Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.00	0.00	**0.01†**	0.01	**0.01†**	**0.01†**	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00
Share of housework	**-0.28***	**-0.29***	**-0.29***	**-0.29***	**-0.29***	**-0.30***	**-0.27†**	**-0.28†**
Disagreement re housework		**0.10†**	**0.10***	**0.10****	**0.10****	**0.10****	**0.10****	**0.10****
Disagreement re own paid work		0.04	0.03	-0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Disagreement re partner's paid work		0.10	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Job strain			**0.08†**		0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07
Assistant non-manual workers			0.03		0.03	0.04	-0.01	0.00
Intermediate non-manual			0.05		0.05	0.06	0.01	0.02
Higher non-manual			0.01		0.01	0.03	-0.07	-0.05
Household income						-0.03		-0.03
Respondent higher occupational status							**0.11***	0.10

Respondent lower occupational status							-0.01	-0.01
Constant	**16.21***	**13.88†**	**15.05***	**13.50†**	**14.68†**	8.67	**13.00†**	7.95
Sickness allowance	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.10
Disagreement re housework		-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Disagreement re partner's paid work		-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03
Job strain			0.01		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assistant non-manual workers			0.00		0.00	0.00	-0.02	-0.02
Intermediate non-manual			-0.03		-0.03	-0.03	**-0.04†**	**-0.04†**
Higher non-manual			-0.020		-0.02	-0.02	**-0.05†**	**-0.05†**
Household income						-0.00		0.00
Respondent higher occupational status							0.02	0.02
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.03	-0.03
Constant	-0.06	0.55	0.27	0.18	-0.09	-0.40	-0.71	-0.63

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

Table 8. Linear probability model estimates of the determinants of lower subjective health, lower psychological well-being, and sickness allowance receipt for men age 45-65 (N=738).

Lower subjective health	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	**-0.01***	**-0.01***	**-0.01***	**-0.01***	**-0.00***	**-0.00***	**-0.00***	**-0.00***
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Share of housework	**0.20†**	**0.21***	**0.19†**	**0.20†**	**0.18†**	**0.18†**	**0.19†**	**0.18†**
Disagreement re housework		0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Disagreement re own paid work		0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04
Disagreement re partner's paid work		-0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Job strain			0.06		0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.03		-0.03	-0.01	-0.03	-0.00
Intermediate non-manual			-0.02		-0.02	-0.0	-0.01	0.01
Higher non-manual			**-0.07***		**-0.06†**	-0.03	-0.05	0.00
Household income						**-0.05****		**-0.05****
Respondent higher occupational status							-0.05	-0.06
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.03	0.03
Constant	**10.79***	**10.66†**	**11.22***	**9.96†**	**10.61†**	1.45	**10.47†**	0.89
Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04	-0.04
Disagreement re housework		0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05
Disagreement re own paid work		**0.18*****	**0.17*****	**0.17*****	**0.17*****	**0.17*****	**0.17*****	**0.18*****
Disagreement re partner's paid work		**-0.10†**	-0.010	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	-0.11
Job strain			0.04		0.05	0.04	0.05	0.05
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.02		-0.02	-0.02	0.01	0.01

Intermediate non-manual			-0.01		-0.02	-0.02	0.02	0.07
Higher non-manual			-0.01		-0.01	-0.01	0.06	0.02
Household income						-0.01		-0.01
Respondent higher occupational status							**-0.08†**	**-0.09†**
Respondent lower occupational status							0.04	0.04
Constant	**19.91*** **	**18.58** **	**18.83** **	**19.06** **	**19.37** **	**18.11***	**19.39** **	**16.93***
Sickness allowance	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	0.00	0.01
Disagreement re housework		0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Disagreement re partner's paid work		-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.03	-0.03
Job strain			-0.00		-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.02		-0.01	-0.01	-0.04	-0.04
Intermediate non-manual			-0.03		-0.03	-0.02	**-0.06†**	**-0.06†**
Higher non-manual			**-0.06***		**-0.05†**	-0.05	**-0.11** **	**-0.11** **
Household income						-0.00		0.00
Respondent higher occupational status							0.04	0.04
Respondent lower occupational status							**-0.07***	**-0.07***
Constant	**-10.95***	**-10.45***	**-10.45***	**-11.12***	**-11.04***	**-11.37***	**-11.19 ****	**-10.60†**

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

APPENDIX

Table A1. OLS model estimates of the determinants of lower psychological well-being (index) for women age 25-44 (N=816).

Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	-0.65	-0.62	-0.61	-0.63	-0.62	-0.62	-0.64	-0.64
Disagreement re housework		0.02	-0.00	0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02
Disagreement re own paid work		0.29	0.27	0.29	0.28	0.27	0.25	0.25
Disagreement re partner's paid work		**0.45†**	**0.46***	**0.45†**	**0.46†**	**0.46†**	**0.46***	**0.46***
Job strain			**0.44***		**0.45***	**0.45***	**0.42***	**0.42***
Assistant non-manual workers			0.26		0.28	0.27	0.27	0.27
Intermediate non-manual			-0.14		-0.13	-0.13	-0.15	-0.15
Higher non-manual			0.05		0.06	0.06	0.15	0.16
Household income						0.01		-0.01
Respondent higher occupational status							0.20	0.20
Respondent lower occupational status							0.56	**0.57***
Constant	39.37	34.29	38.85	34.93	41.02	42.25	45.33	45.33

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

Table A2. OLS model estimates of the determinants of lower psychological well-being (index) for women age 45-65 (N=646).

Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00
Partner's paid work hours	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	0.46	0.27	0.29	0.29	0.24	0.18	0.26	0.21
Disagreement re housework		0.05	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.27	-0.27	-0.31	-0.29	-0.27	-0.28	-0.26
Disagreement re partner's paid work		0.24	0.24	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.26
Job strain			0.19		0.19	0.20	0.20	0.21
Assistant non-manual workers			0.12		0.13	0.15	0.06	0.09
Intermediate non-manual			-0.05		-0.04	0.03	-0.09	-0.01
Higher non-manual			-0.08		-0.06	0.04	-0.16	-0.05
Household income						-0.14		-0.13
Respondent higher occupational status							0.14	0.13
Respondent lower occupational status							-0.11	-0.07
Constant	18.99	17.97	17.97	13.71	13.96	-5.27	18.69	-0.48

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

Table A3. OLS model estimates of the determinants of lower psychological well-being (index) for women age 25-44 (N=712).

Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	**0.02†**	**0.02†**	**0.02†**	0.02	**0.02†**	**0.02†**	0.02	0.02
Partner's paid work hours	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Share of housework	**-1.14†**	**-1.18†**	**-1.15†**	-1.01	-0.98	-0.98	-0.94	-0.95
Disagreement re housework		0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.05
Disagreement re own paid work		-0.07	-0.08	-0.06	-0.07	-0.06	-0.09	-0.09
Disagreement re partner's paid work		0.42	0.39	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
Job strain			**0.48***		**0.45***	**0.45***	**0.49***	**0.49***
Assistant non-manual workers					0.16	0.16	0.05	0.05
Intermediate non-manual					0.24	0.25	0.12	0.13
Higher non-manual					-0.06	-0.04	**-0.36†**	-0.35
Household income						-0.03		-0.01
Respondent higher occupational status							**0.58****	**0.58****
Respondent lower occupational status							0.18	0.18
Constant	41.45	36.26	42.85	33.22	40.23	35.27	33.80	31.75

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.

Table A4. OLS model estimates of the determinants of lower psychological well-being (index) for women age 45-65 (N=738).

Lower psychological well-being	**M1**	**M2**	**M3**	**M4**	**M5**	**M6**	**M7**	**M8**
Total work hours	-0.0	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Partner's paid work hours	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00	-0.00
Share of housework	0.34	0.33	0.32	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.27	0.27
Disagreement re housework		0.14	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.16
Disagreement re own paid work		**0.54****	**0.52****	**0.53****	**0.50****	**0.50****	**0.51***	**0.52***
Disagreement re partner's paid work		-0.07	-0.05	-0.02	-0.00	-0.00	-0.03	-0.03
Job strain			0.26		0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Assistant non-manual workers			-0.04		-0.06	-0.06	0.01	0.02
Intermediate non-manual			-0.04		-0.06	-0.01	0.02	0.03
Higher non-manual			-0.01		-0.02	-0.01	0.15	0.17
Household income						-0.00		-0.02
Respondent higher occupational status							-0.19	-0.20
Respondent lower occupational status							0.09	0.10
Constant	**60.56***	**54.22***	**55.68***	**54.85***	**56.46***	**56.02†**	**56.50***	**53.38†**

Notes: ***p<0.001 **p<0.01 *p<0.05 †p<0.10
All models include controls for survey-year (ref cat year 2000), years cohabiting in relationship, age, no of children, and presence of pre-schooler in the household. Reference categories for variables displayed are: No job strain, Manual worker, and Respondent and partner having same occupational status. Standard errors clustered at the individual level.
Source: See Table 1.