



Generations & Gender Programme

GENERATIONS AND GENDER PROGRAMME

How often do adult children see their parents in France?

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5th GGP IWG meeting, Ljubljana, 18-20 January 2007

French GGS: outline

- Survey conducted in December 2005
- 10,079 persons interviewed, men and women aged 18-79
- Some adaptations with respect to the Core Questionnaire
- Mean duration of questionnaire: 65 minutes

French GGS: outline

- 88 % of respondents agreed to be interviewed again in 2008
- Pilot survey to be completed at end of 2007
- To maintain contact with respondents, two letters sent so far:
 - letter of thanks
 - first survey results (presented now)

The questions

1. In what month and year did you for the first time start living separately from your parents for at least three months?
 - month, year
2. How often do you see your father / mother ?
 - number of hours, number of minutes
3. How long does it take to get from your home to where your mother / father / are living at present?
 - number of times, frequency (week-month-year)

The indicator used

- Indicator used:
 - we do not calculate the average number of visits...
 - ... but the fact of seeing one's parents at least once a week vs less than once a week (median)
- Usual indicator (eg. Grundy and Shelton, 2001)
- Nevertheless, the averages reveal the same tendencies

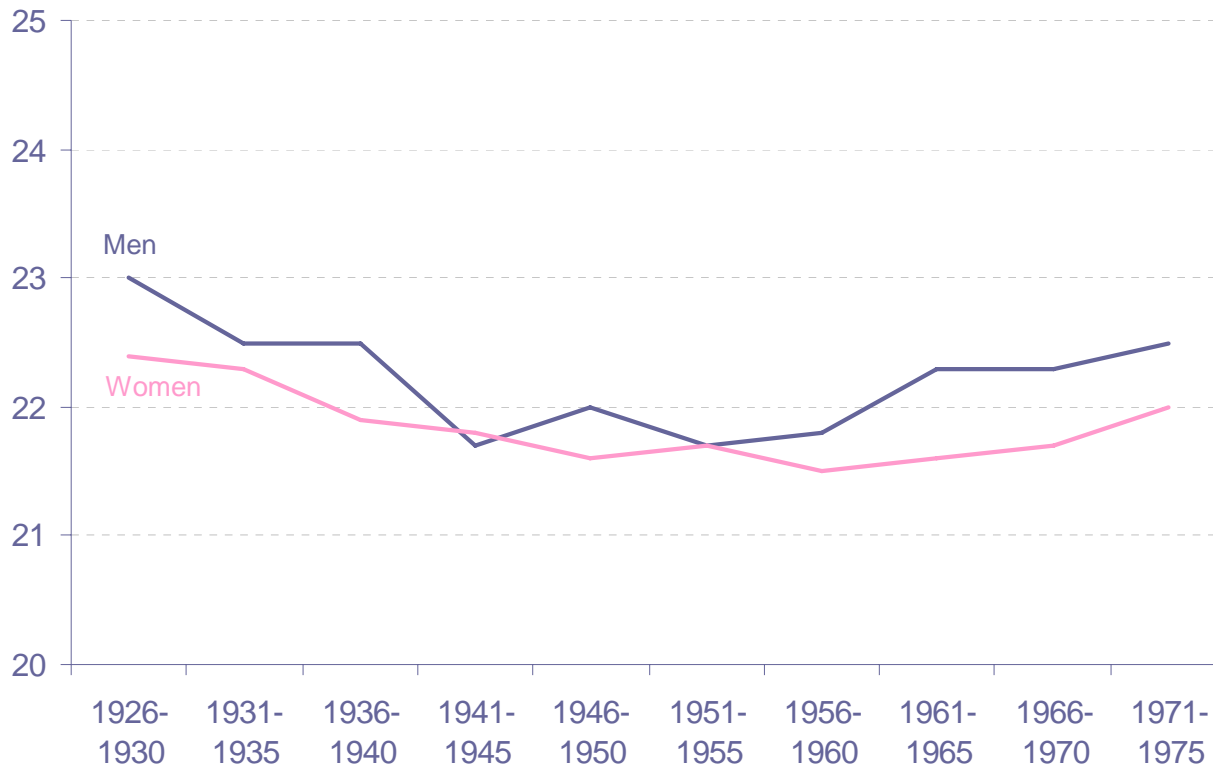
Program

1. Age at leaving home
2. The factors which influence the frequency of children/parent visits:
 - age at leaving home
 - family environment during childhood and sibship
 - the period in the life cycle (age)
 - social category
3. To conclude: results confirmed, "all other things being equal"

Children leave the parental home
at the same
age as 40 years ago, on average

Age at leaving home

Fig. 1. Change in the average age at leaving home



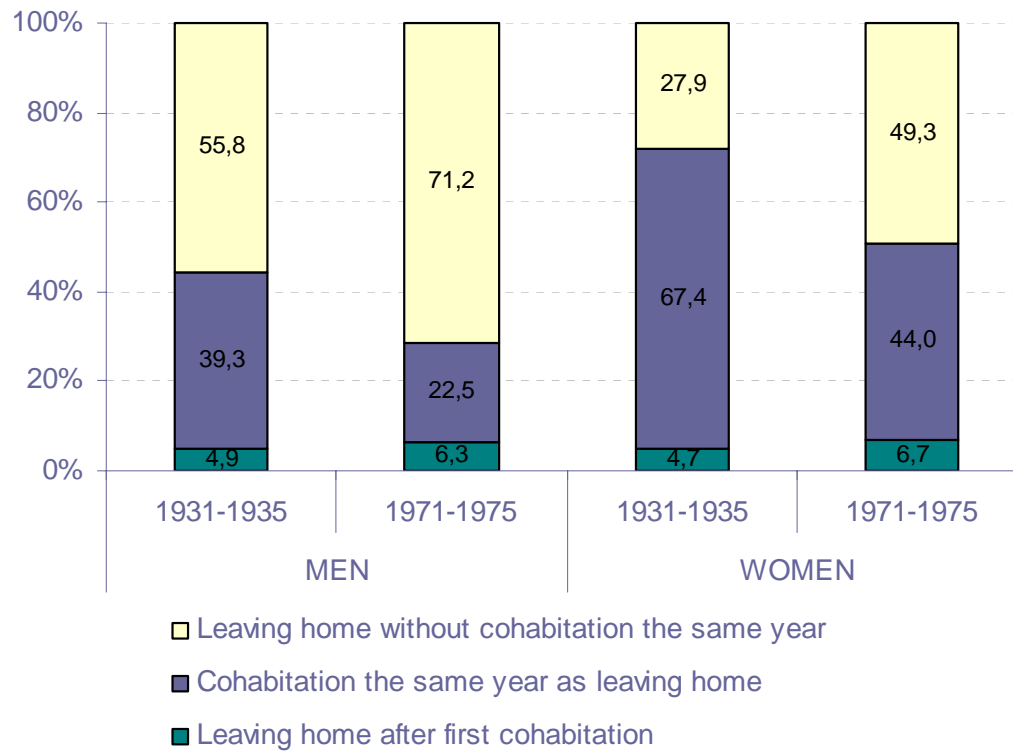
Population: men and women aged 30-79

Note: children who left home at ages 18-29

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Reasons for leaving home

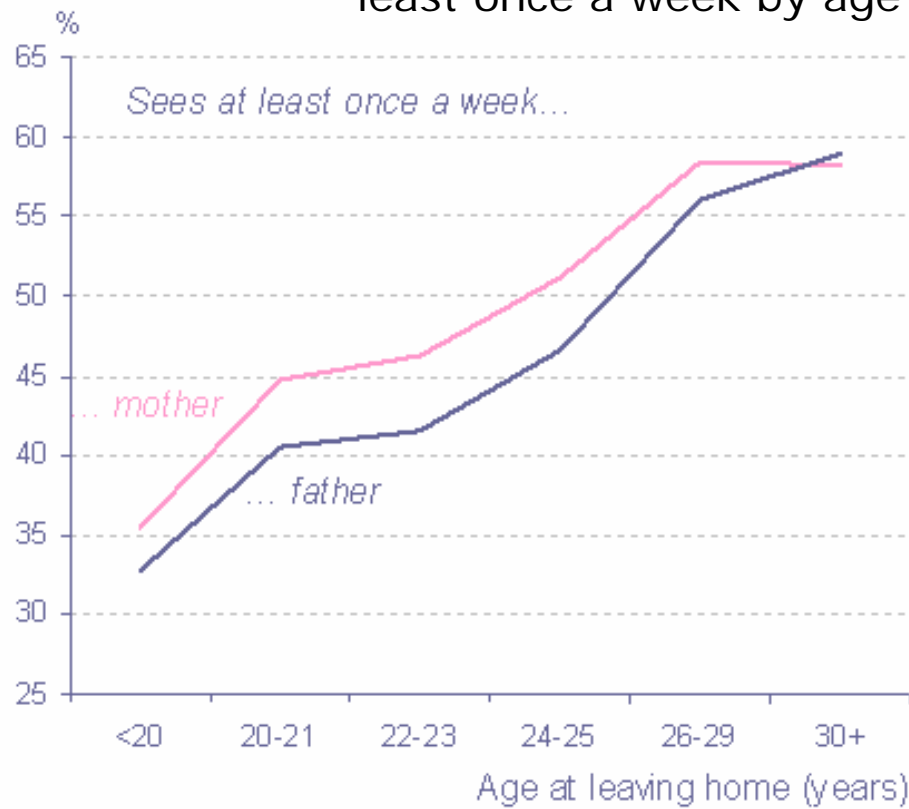
Fig. 2. Comparison of the year of leaving home and the first cohabitation



The frequency of children/parent visits after departure

Age at leaving home

Fig. 3. Percentage of children who see their parents at least once a week by age at leaving parental home



Population: men
and women aged
30-79
whose parents
are both still alive

Age at leaving home

- The earlier people leave the parental home, the less often they see their parents afterwards...
- ... partly because they move further away
 - 54% of children who leave before age 20 live more than 30 minutes away, compared with 35% of those who leave at ages 26-29
- ... and children living far from their parents see them less often:
 - 85% of children living less than 15 minutes from their parents' home see them at least once a week compared with 41% of those living between 30 minutes and an hour away and 3% of those living more than two hours away.

Age at leaving home

In particular, the distance...

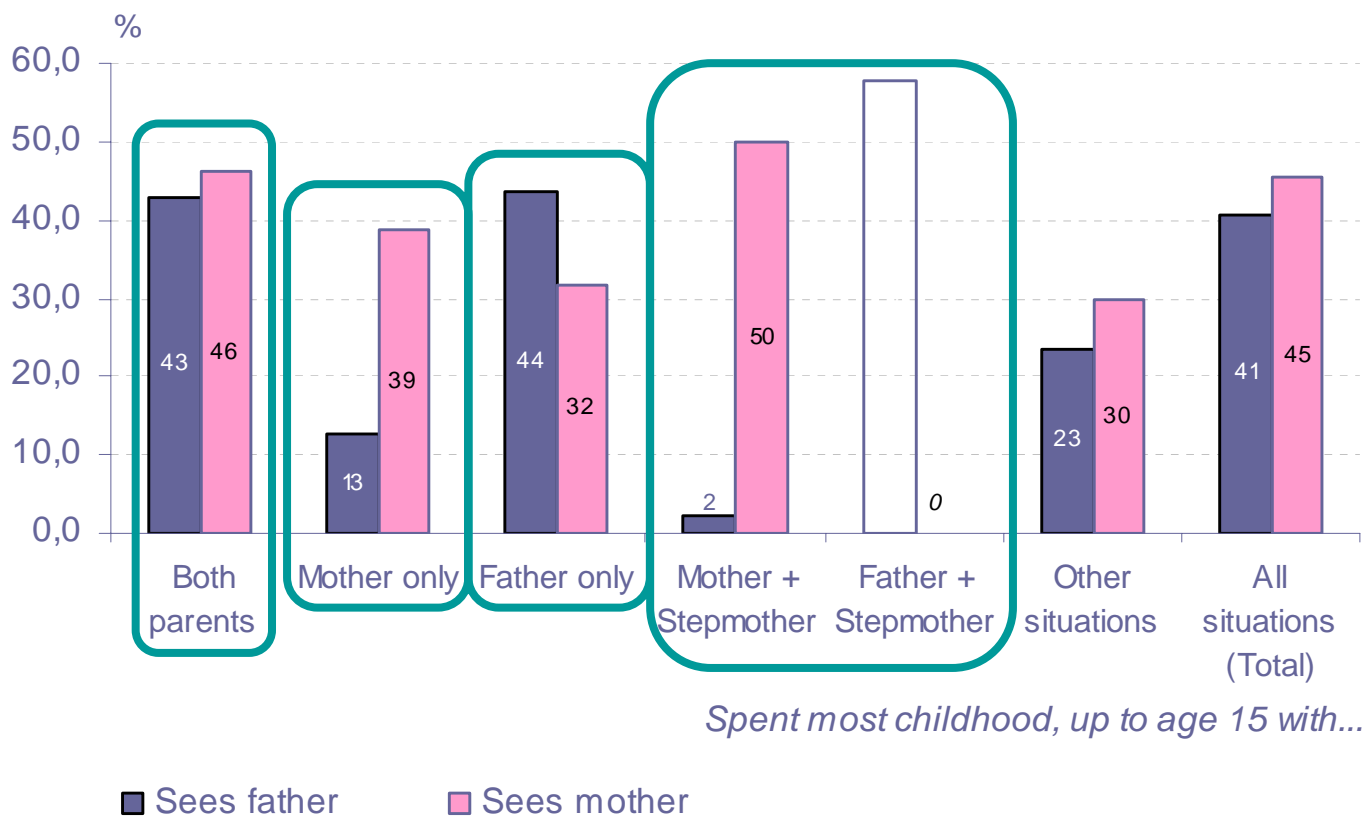
- is imposed by children's occupational constraints (eg. farmers live close to their parents unlike the higher-level occupations);
- but it also reflects the closeness of bonds between parents and children (eg. those raised by just one of their parents tend to move further away, on average)

Childhood

- The frequency of contacts also depends on the childhood family environment
- When the parents are separated, children see their mother twice as often as their father (39% at least once a week compared with 19%)
- This is partly due to the fact that when parents are separated, children are more often raised by their mother (in about 80% of cases)

Childhood

Fig. 4. Percentage of children who see their parents at least once a week by childhood family environment



Population: men and women aged 18-59 whose parents are both still alive

The sibship

Children with no siblings see their parents more often:

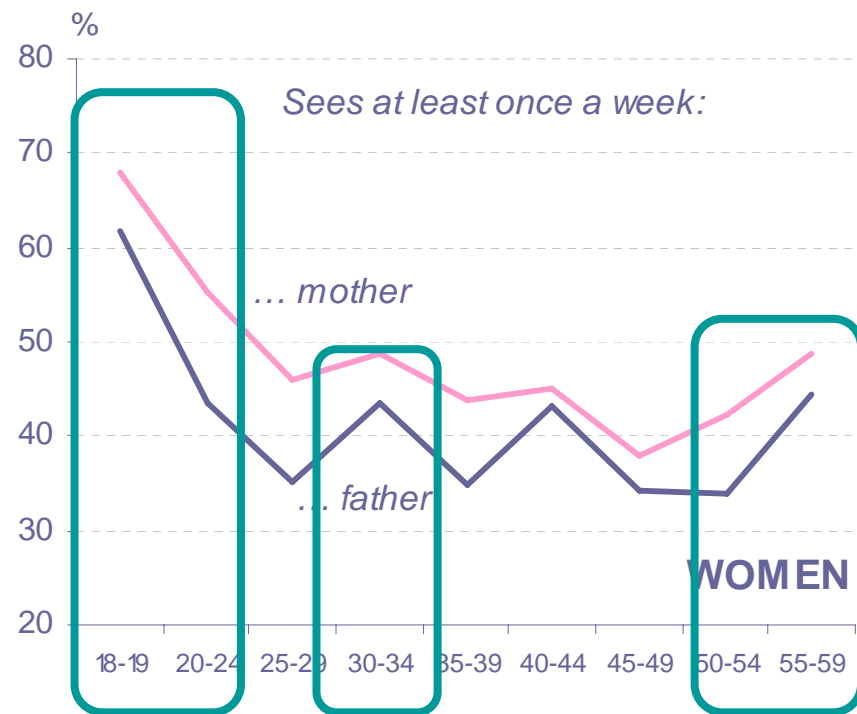
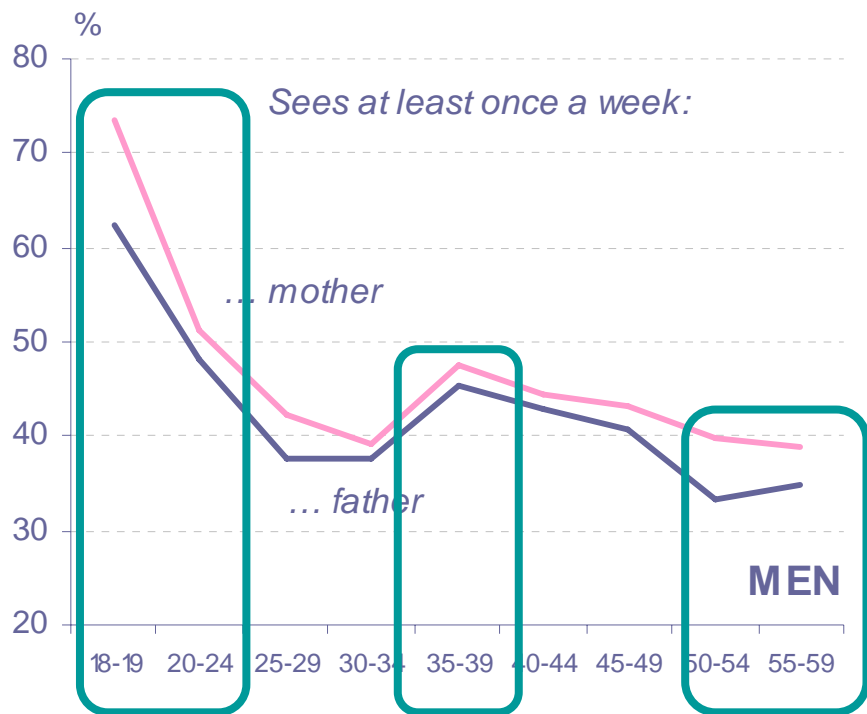
- 51% of only children see their mother at least once a week compared with 42% of those who have at least 3 brothers and sisters

The sibship composition plays a role:

- women who only have brothers see their parents more often than those who have at least one sister (for an equal family size)
- for men, there are no differences

Age of respondent

Fig. 5. Percentage of children who see their father/mother at least once a week by age



Population: men and women aged 18-59 whose parents are both still alive

Social category

Managers and professionals see their parents less often, farmers more often

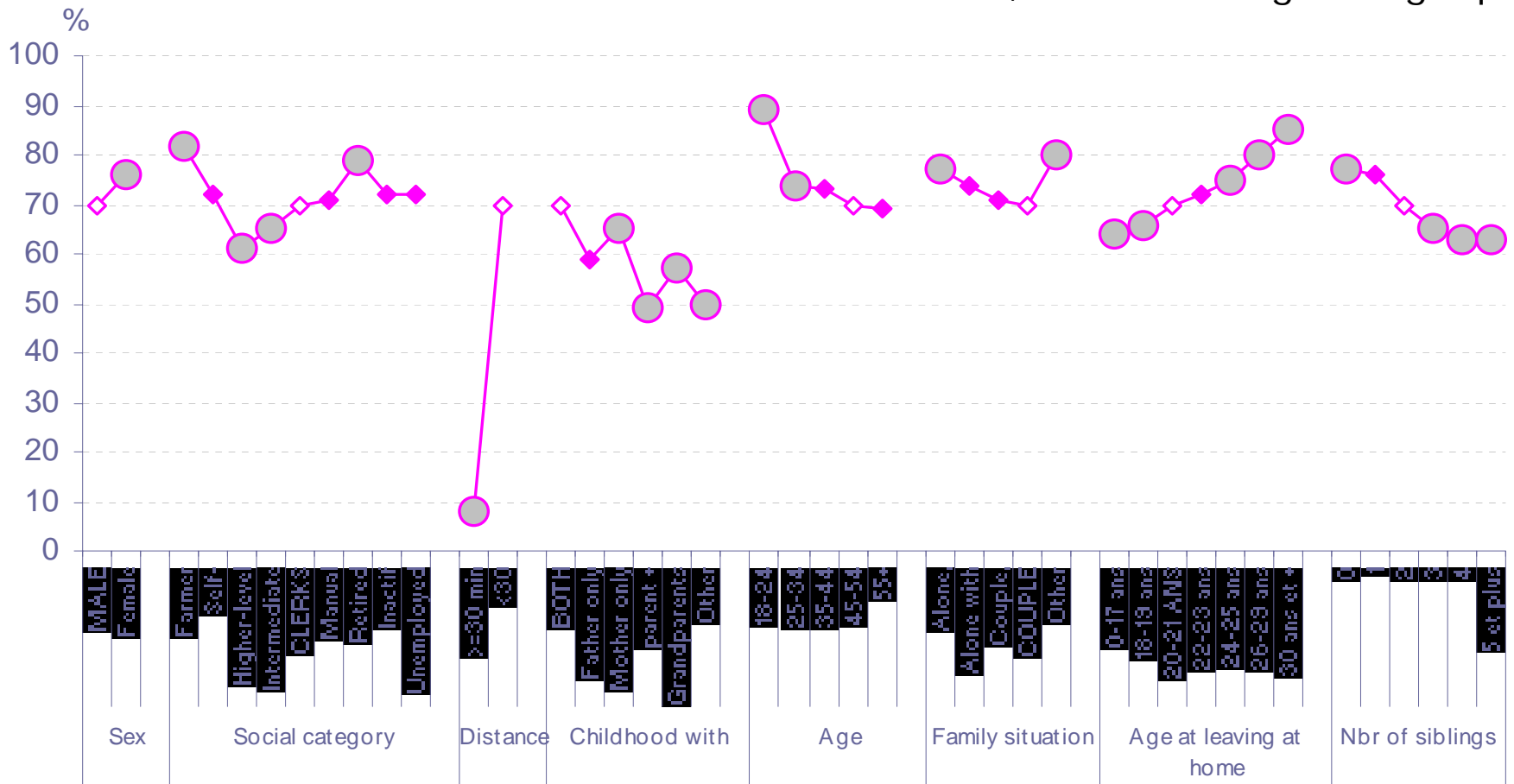
- 77% of farmers see their mother at least once a week...
- ... compared with 52% of manual workers and 49% of clerical workers
- ... and 29% of managers and professionals

The average distance doesn't explain everything: differences remain large among children living less than 30 minutes away

Results confirmed "all other things being equal"

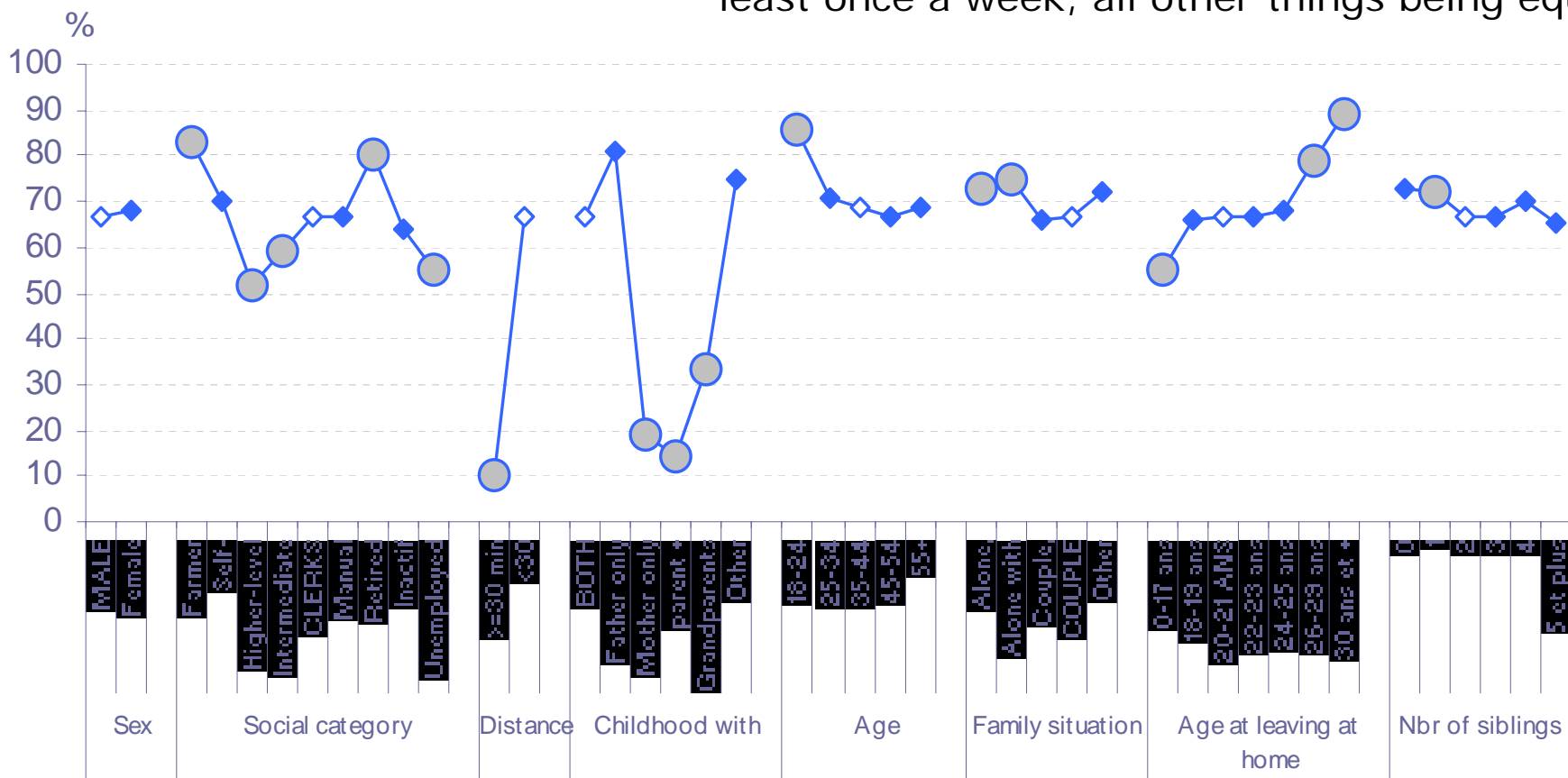
Conclusion

Fig. 6a. Estimated probability of seeing one's mother at least once a week, all other things being equal



Conclusion

Fig. 6b. Estimated probability of seeing one's father at least once a week, all other things being equal





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For information...

This results are published in *Population & Societies* No. 427, Ined, October 2006

To download: <http://www.ined.fr>

For more information about the French GGS:

French GGS Contact:
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French GGS WebSite:
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Thank you !

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