The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on gender equality in Finland – the Finnish example

Marjut Pietiläinen, 29.9.2021 Work Session on Gender Statistics
The project

• Funded by the Prime Minister’s Office
• A joint collaboration between
  • the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare
  • Social Insurance Institution Finland
  • Statistics Finland
  • University of Tampere
• The project is divided into four work packages
  1. Health, wellbeing and services
  2. Employment, labour market and working conditions
  3. Gender impacts of economic policy
  4. Families, children and youth

The aim of the research project

• Provide information for policy makers to help to minimize the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on gender equality.

• Provide information for labour organizations and companies on gendered impacts of COVID-19 at work place.

• Disseminate knowledge on questions related to COVID-19 and gender equality for a wider public audience.

29 September, 2021

Statistics Finland
The project utilizes various data

**Administrative data**
- Crime statistics
- Police records
- Social Insurance Institution Finland (Kela)

**Surveys**
- Citizens’ Pulse 2020
- The Impact of Covid-19 crisis on work life survey
- LFS 2020-2021
- School Health Promotion study
- FinSote
- MIG-COVID (foreign-born citizens in Finland)
- EU Gender-based Violence Survey (national survey)
- Use of information and communications technology by individuals
- Early childhood education and COVID-19 pandemic-survey

**Qualitative data**

**Other data sources**
- Helplines
- Other data sources
- Shelters
- Enterprise subsidies
- Business Finland
- Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY centre)
Impact of the coronavirus on everyday life in 2020, %

- 65% of women and 59% of men had reduced their communication with friends and relatives.
- Working remotely had increased for 53% of women and 44% of men.
- Alcohol use among men had increased slightly more often than among women.
- The feeling of loneliness had increased clearly.

Source: National Institute for Health and Welfare, FinSote preliminary data
Helpline calls and calls on domestic disturbance

• The Nollalinja violence helpline calls
  • grown clearly compared with previous years.
  • in 2019, nearly 15,000 and in 2020 as many as 19,000.

• Domestic disturbance calls to the police in 2019 to 2020
  • Number 71,422 → 90,010
  • Increase 26%

Number of phone calls made and answered on the Nollalinja helpline in 2017 to 2020

Source: Finnish Institute for health and welfare, Nollalinja
Impact of Covid-19 crisis on one’s own work in general, wage and salary earners, %

- The crisis had affected work a lot or quite a lot
  - Women: 48%; Men: 33%
- Both positive and negative impacts.
- Women experienced rather negative changes in their work.
- The rather positive experiences are about equally common for both sexes.

Source: The Impact of Covid-19 crisis on work life, Statistics Finland
Effect of communications by authorities and by the Government on sense of safety on 28 October to 2 November 2020, %

- Communications by authorities and by the Government strengthened the sense of safety more among women than men.
- For men, communications weakened the sense of safety more than for women.

Source: Statistics Finland, Citizens' Pulse 2020
The power of the project

• Strong commitment of stakeholders.
• The importance of collaboration between different data producers, decision-makers, researchers and parallel projects.
• The impact of the project
  • Dissemination of the results for decision-making
  • Information for service suppliers, wide audience etc.
  • Data for research
  • To show that gender matters
Thank you!