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WORKSHOP OF EXPERT ON
GENDER STATISTICS

CITIZENS' ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS: A GENDER-BASED APPROACH

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Outline

- The relevance of a gender-based approach
- Relationships between population and environment: the Istat main sources
- Concerns for environmental issues
- Eco-friendly behaviours
- Some remarks



The relevance of a gender-based approach

- **Link between gender and environmental statistics:** not yet fully explored
- There are some **international initiatives** aimed to develop gender-disaggregation of environmental data especially in developing countries where data availability is more limited
- **The lack of data** is a key challenge to overcome also in developed countries
- **Citizens and households are one of the major source of environmental pressure** in modern societies. Studying citizens' sensitivity to environmental issues, the factors related to it and how it is put into practice, is very important for environmental sustainability policies
- **Long commitment at Istat** to measure the attitudes of citizens towards the environment



Population and environment: the Istat main sources

- **Survey on Household energy consumption:** a comprehensive picture of energy consumption and energy characteristics of the residential sector. Household interview: results are not suitable for a gender analysis

Multipurpose survey Aspects of daily life

Carried out yearly since 1993

Important source to monitor the changes in everyday life, also with regard to environmental issues

Since 2012 several environmental issues are included in the questionnaires:

- individual level (14+): satisfaction with the environmental situation of the neighborhood (air, water, noise...) and opinions on the landscape degradation; **Concerns about environmental issues;**
Transport/mobility habits; Eco-friendly behaviours
- household level: Electricity and gas (quality of supply services); Water (quality of supply services, mineral water consumption...); Waste (separate collection/composting).

Concerns for environmental issues

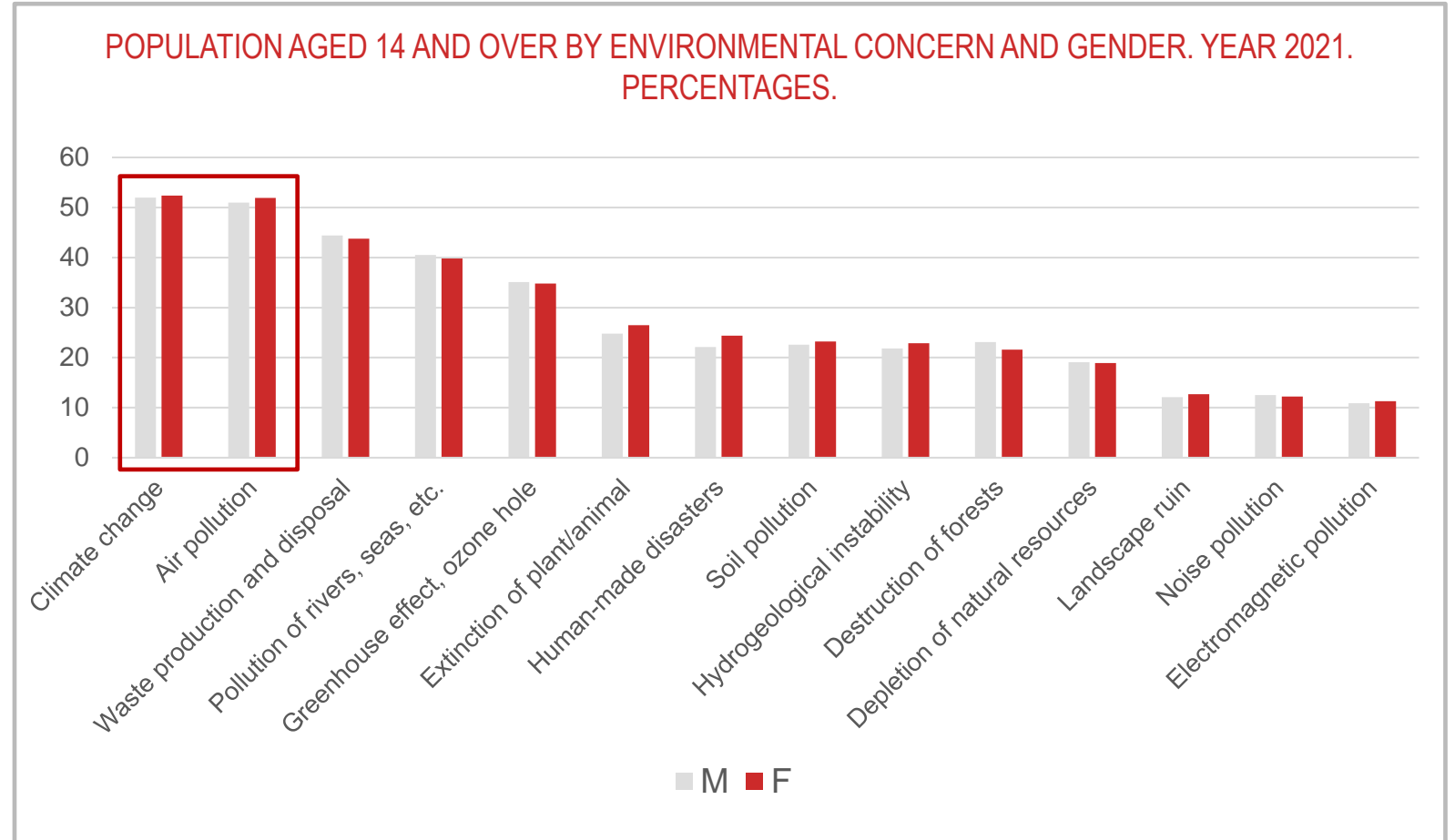
Climate change and air pollution at the top of environmental concerns (more than **50%** of the population)

No significant gender differences in the perception of environmental problems

Youngsters up to 34: biodiversity loss, forest destruction and depletion of natural resources

Over 50: hydrogeological instability and soil pollution

Gender differences wider among youngest people: young women are more worried

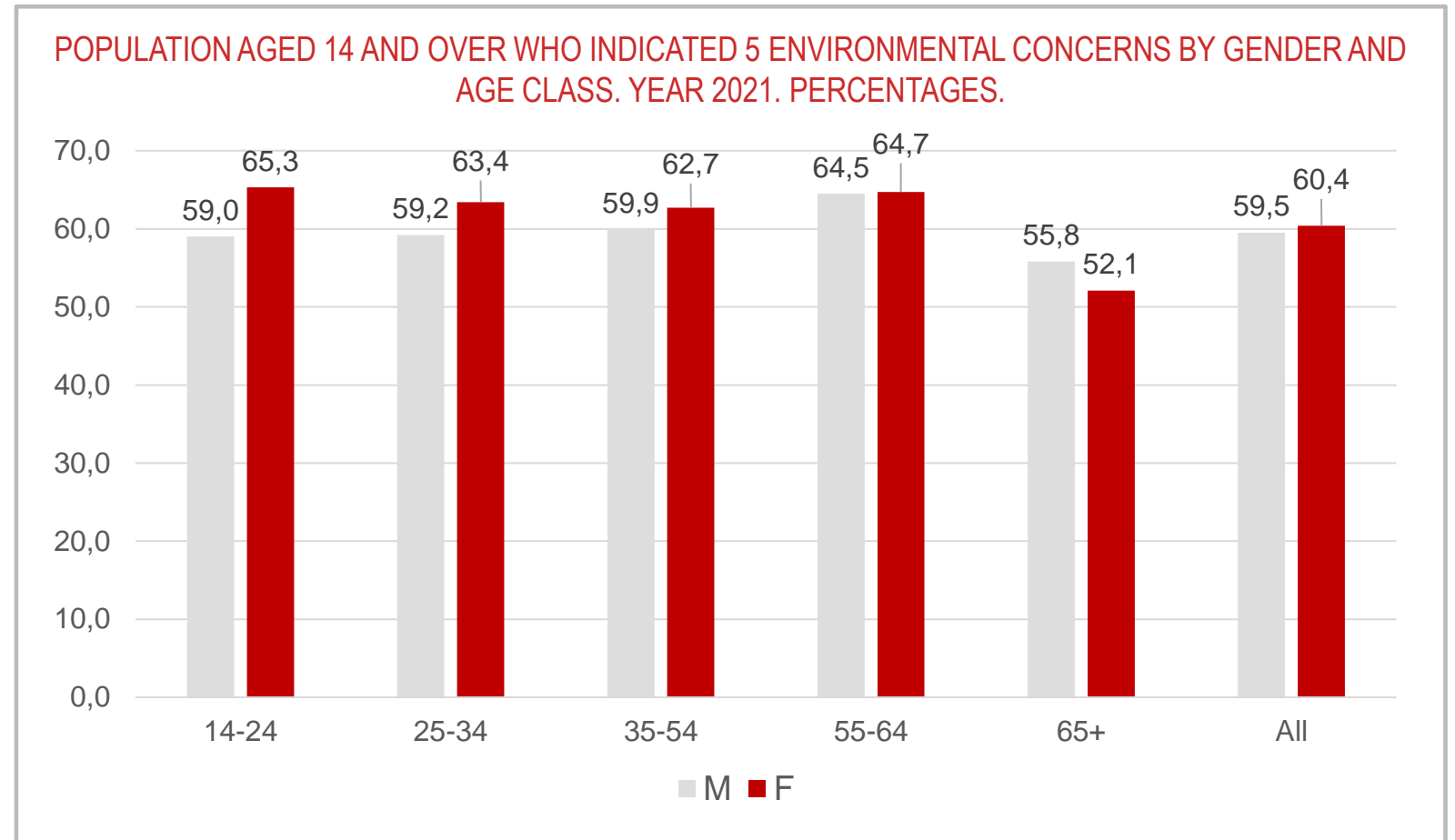


Concerns for environmental issues

Citizens express concern about various environmental problems: the majority of men and women (**59.5%**, **60.4%**) indicates 5 problems

Some gender differences by age:

- Women under 55 more often than men in the same age class indicate 5 issues of concerns
- Young women are again the most worried group: **65.3%** of women aged 14-24 years indicate 5 environmental problems (compared to **59%** of peers)

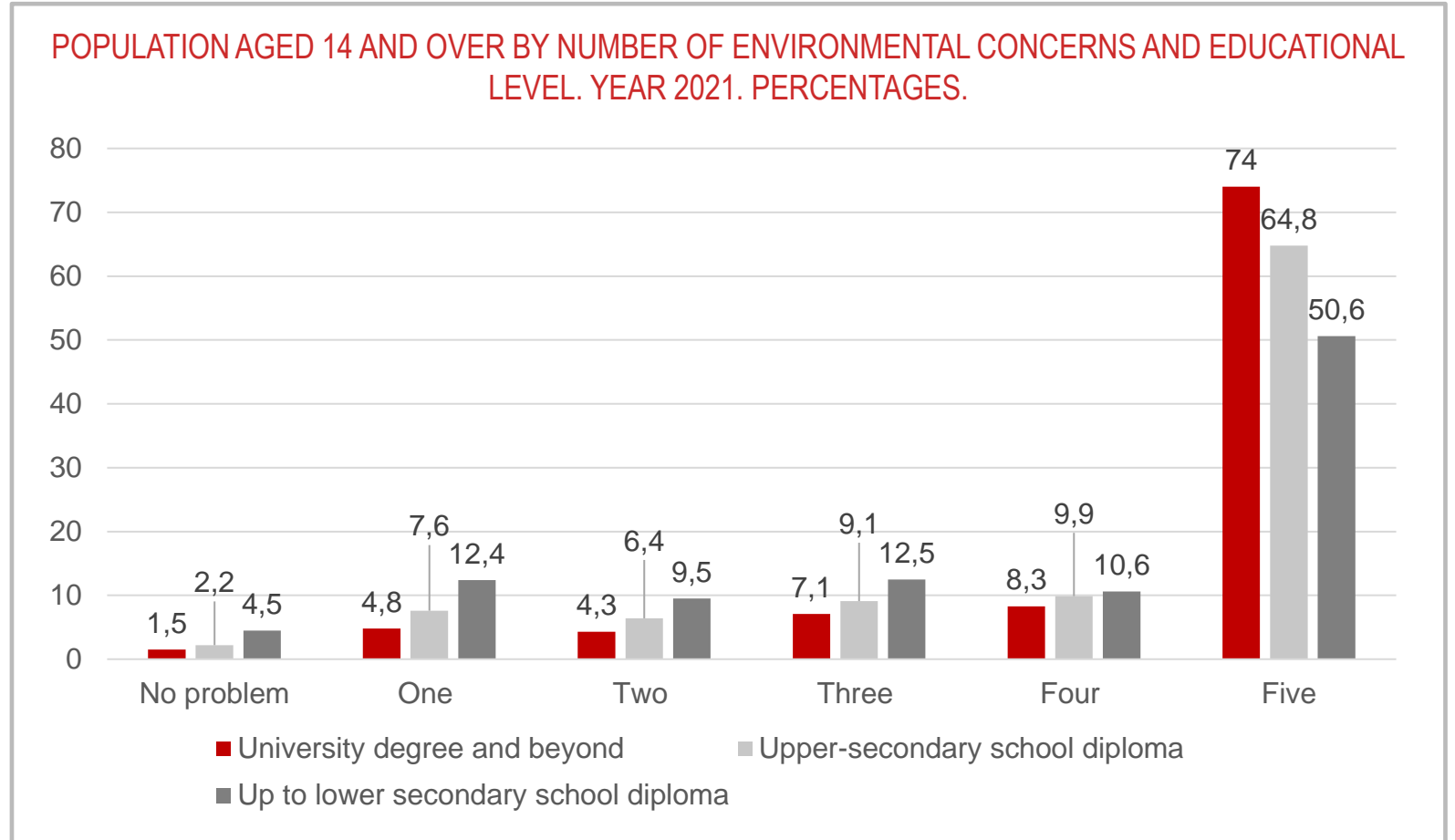


Concerns for environmental issues

Environmental concerns grow with increasing educational level

- **1.5%** of graduates do not express any concern against **4.5%** of those with at most a lower secondary level of education
- **74%** of graduates indicate five problems against **50.6%** of less educated people

Territorial differences emerge between people living in the cities and in small municipalities, and across the North and South of Italy



Environmental concerns in brief

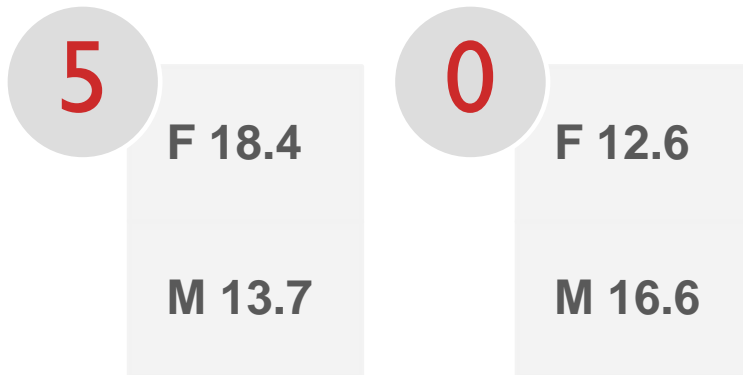
- In short, **women and men share environmental concerns** without significant differences. Even dynamics of concerns over time (2012-2021) are similar for men and women
- However young and adult women indicate more concerns than men
- Girls aged between 14 and 24 appear to be particularly sensitive to environmental issues
- The widespread of the concerns changes according to territory and, mainly, educational level
- But only climate change and air pollution worry the majority of the population, the other problems are indicated by a minority of citizens. **We still need to build environmental awareness**



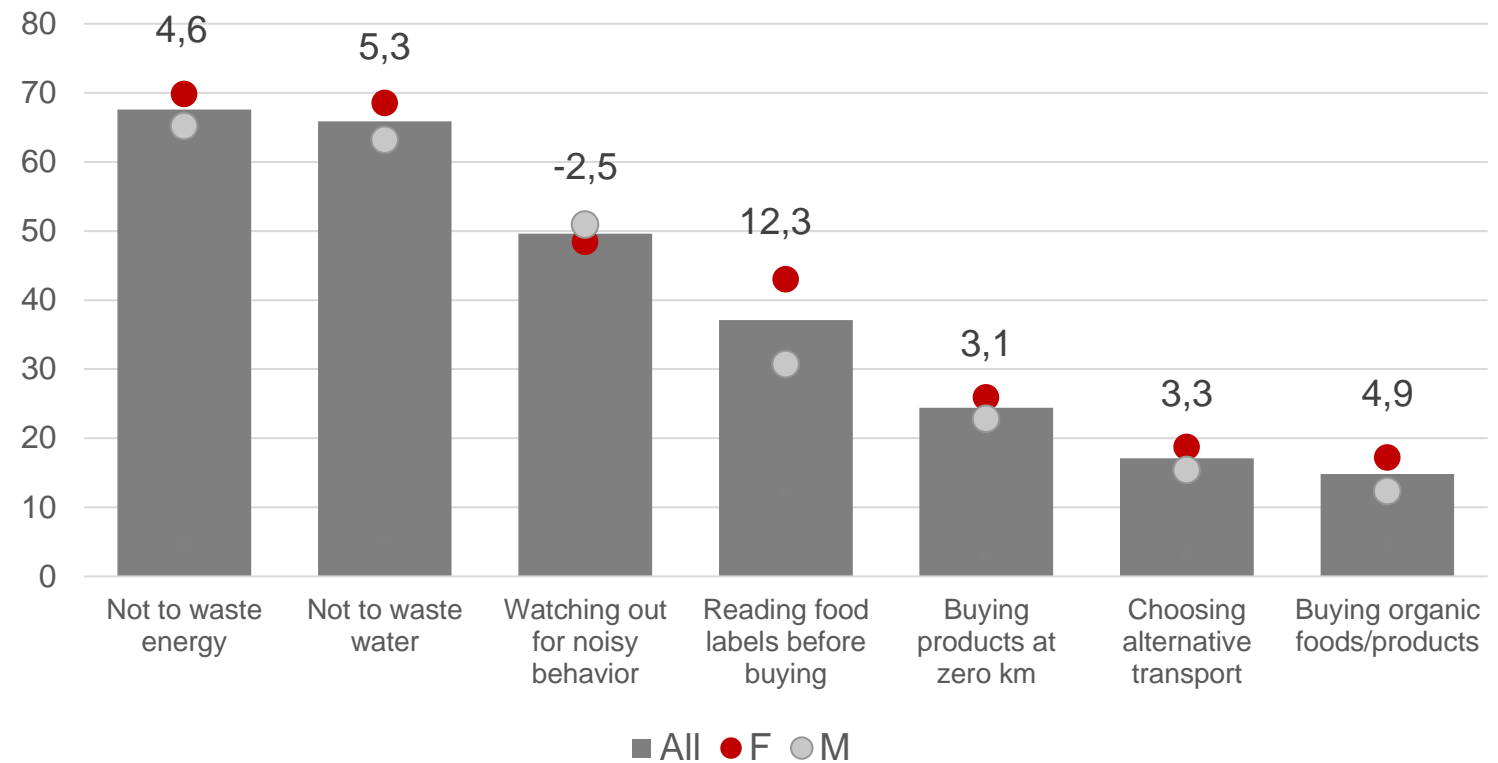
Eco-friendly behaviours

In 2021 most citizens were careful not to waste energy (**67.6%**) or water (**65.9%**). **49.6%** never adopts noisy driving behaviour, **37.1%** reads the labels of food products and **24.4%** buys zero km products

Women show more often and a higher number of eco-sustainable behaviours



PERSONS AGED 14 AND OVER BY ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY BEHAVIOURS USUALLY ADOPTED AND GENDER. YEAR 2021. PERCENTAGE



Eco-friendly behaviours

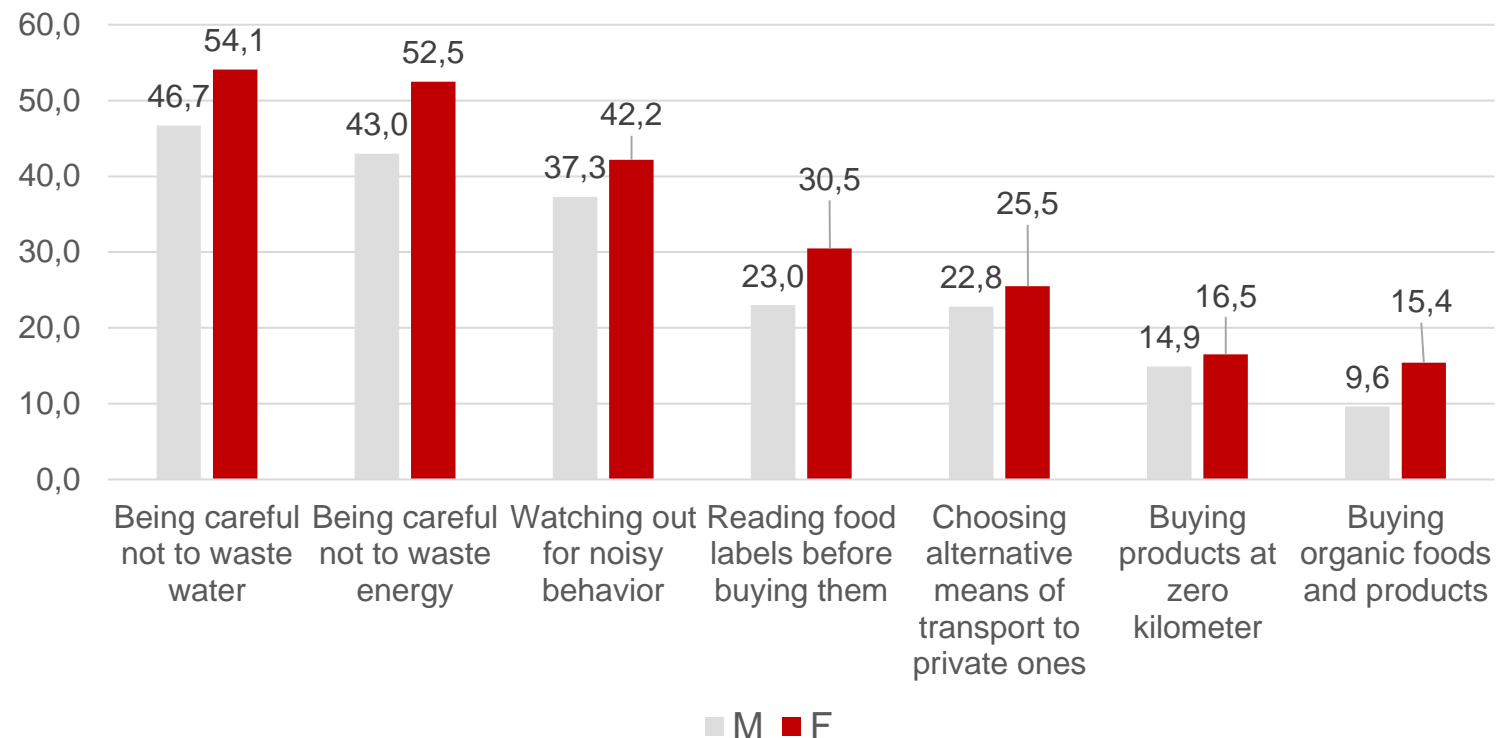
Gender differences in all age groups

Young girls (14-24) are more respectful of natural resources like water (+7.4 points) and energy (+9.5 points)

Greater sensitivity of girls also in spending behaviours, such as reading product labels before buying them (+7.5 points) or buying organic food and products (+5.8 points)

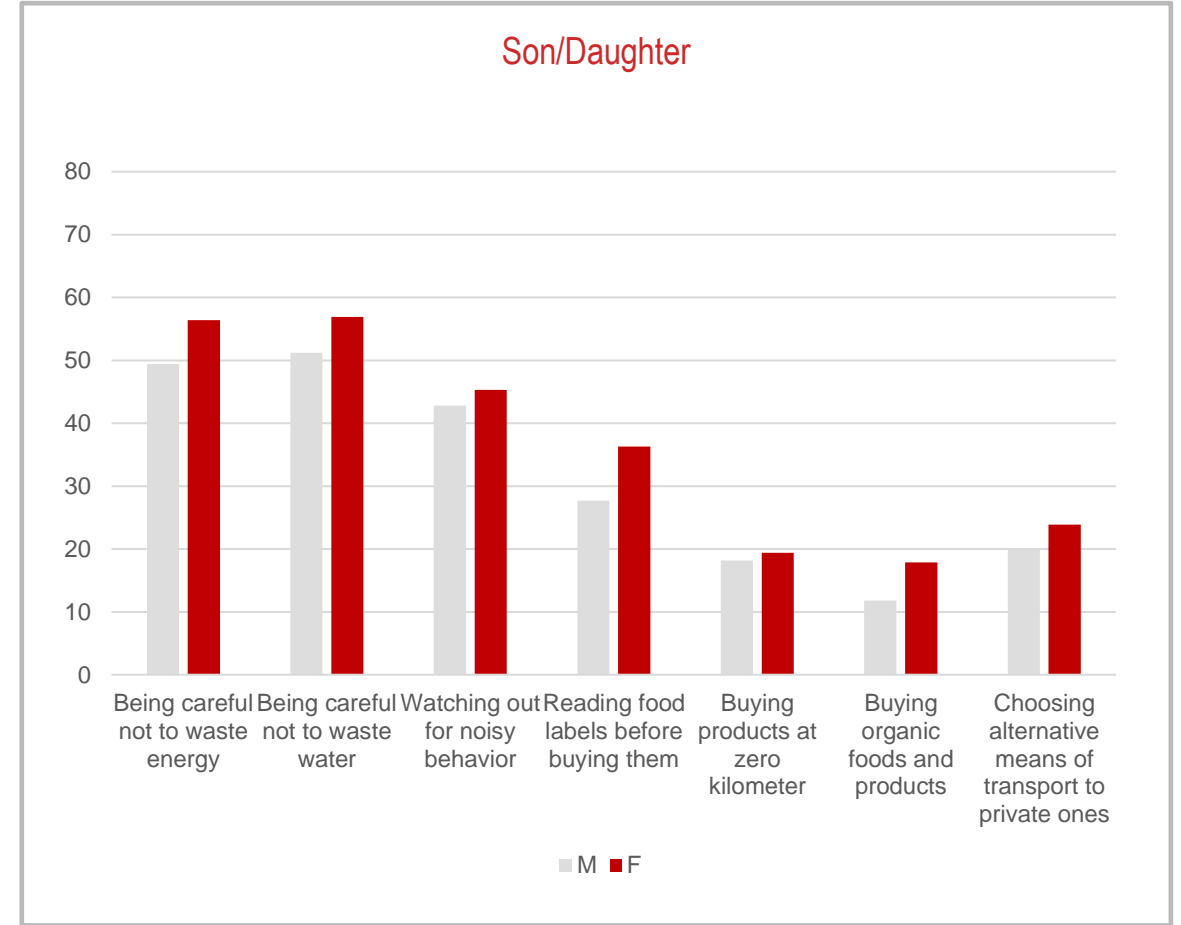
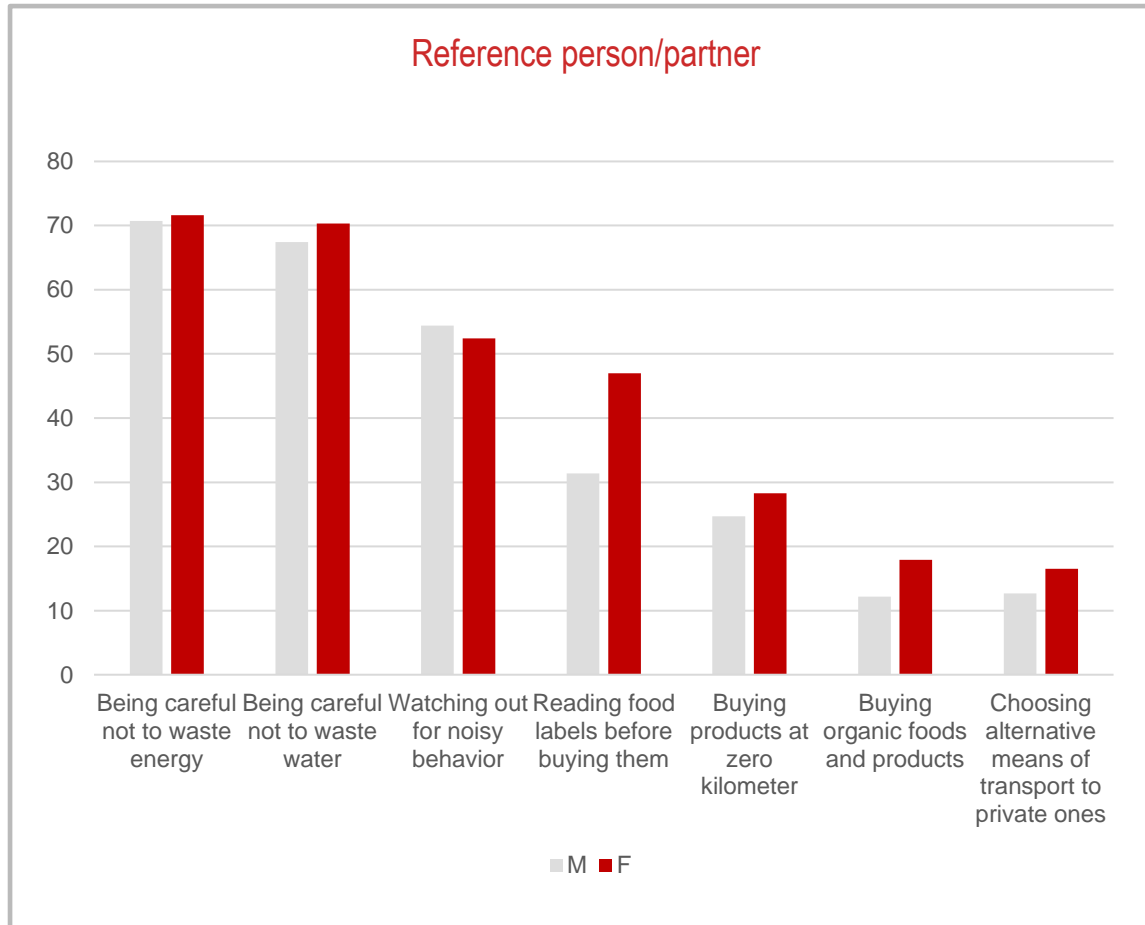
Eco-friendly behaviours are more widespread among those aged 35 and over (except for the use of alternative means of transport)

PERSONS AGED 14-24 BY ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY BEHAVIOURS USUALLY ADOPTED AND GENDER. YEAR 2021. PERCENTAGE



Eco-friendly behaviours

PERSONS AGED 14 AND OVER BY ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY BEHAVIOURS USUALLY ADOPTED, GENDER AND HOUSEHOLD POSITION. YEAR 2021. PERCENTAGE



Eco-friendly behaviours: sustainable mobility

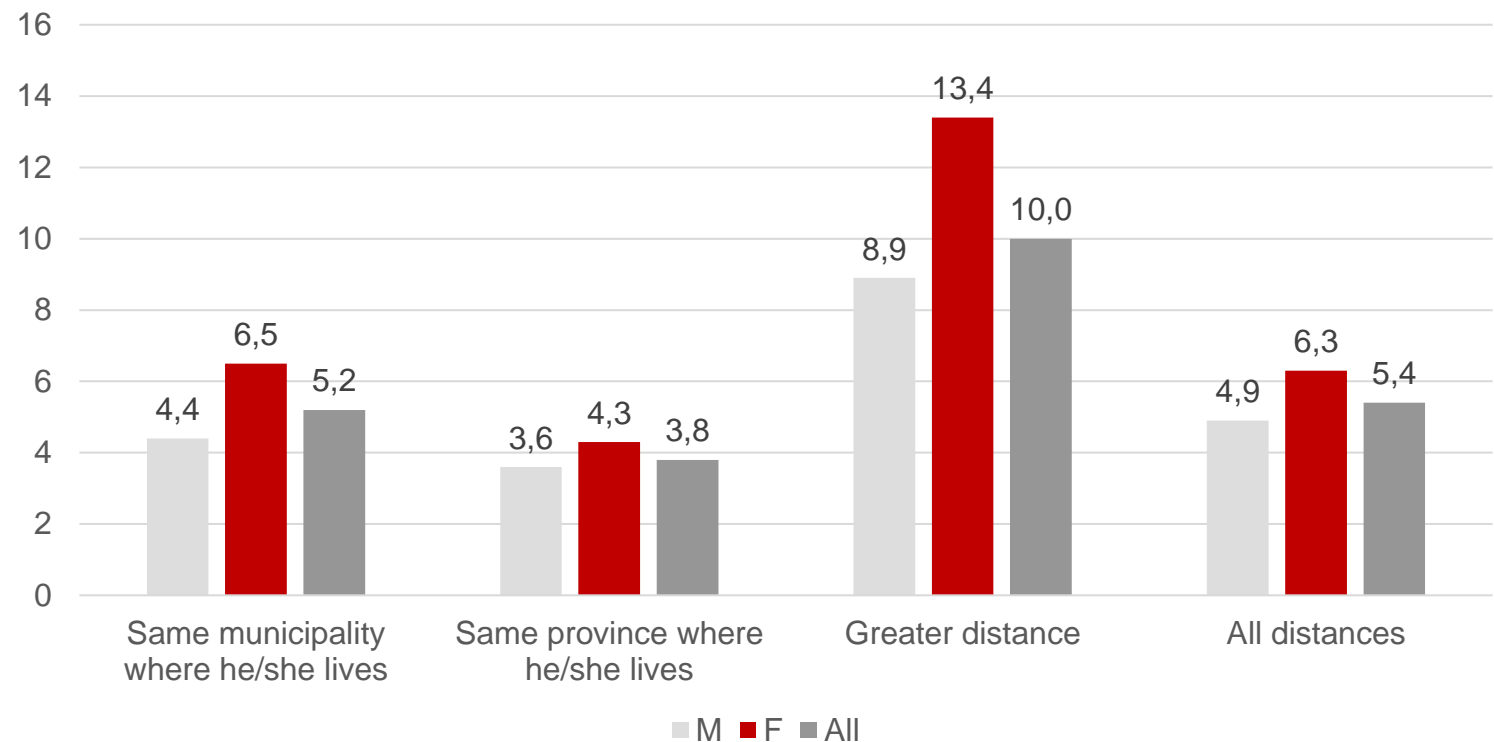
In 2021 about 30 millions of people moved every day to study or work.

Employed women go to work on foot more often than employed men (27.6% against 17.4%) and use public transport more, regardless of the distance (**6.3%** against **4.9%**)

But 84.6% of employed people use private means, with not significant gender differences

More sustainable mobility also among female students

EMPLOYED PEOPLE AGED 18 AND OVER WHO USE PUBLIC MEANS OF TRANSPORT BY DISTANCE FROM THE WORKPLACE AND GENDER. YEAR 2021. PERCENTAGES.

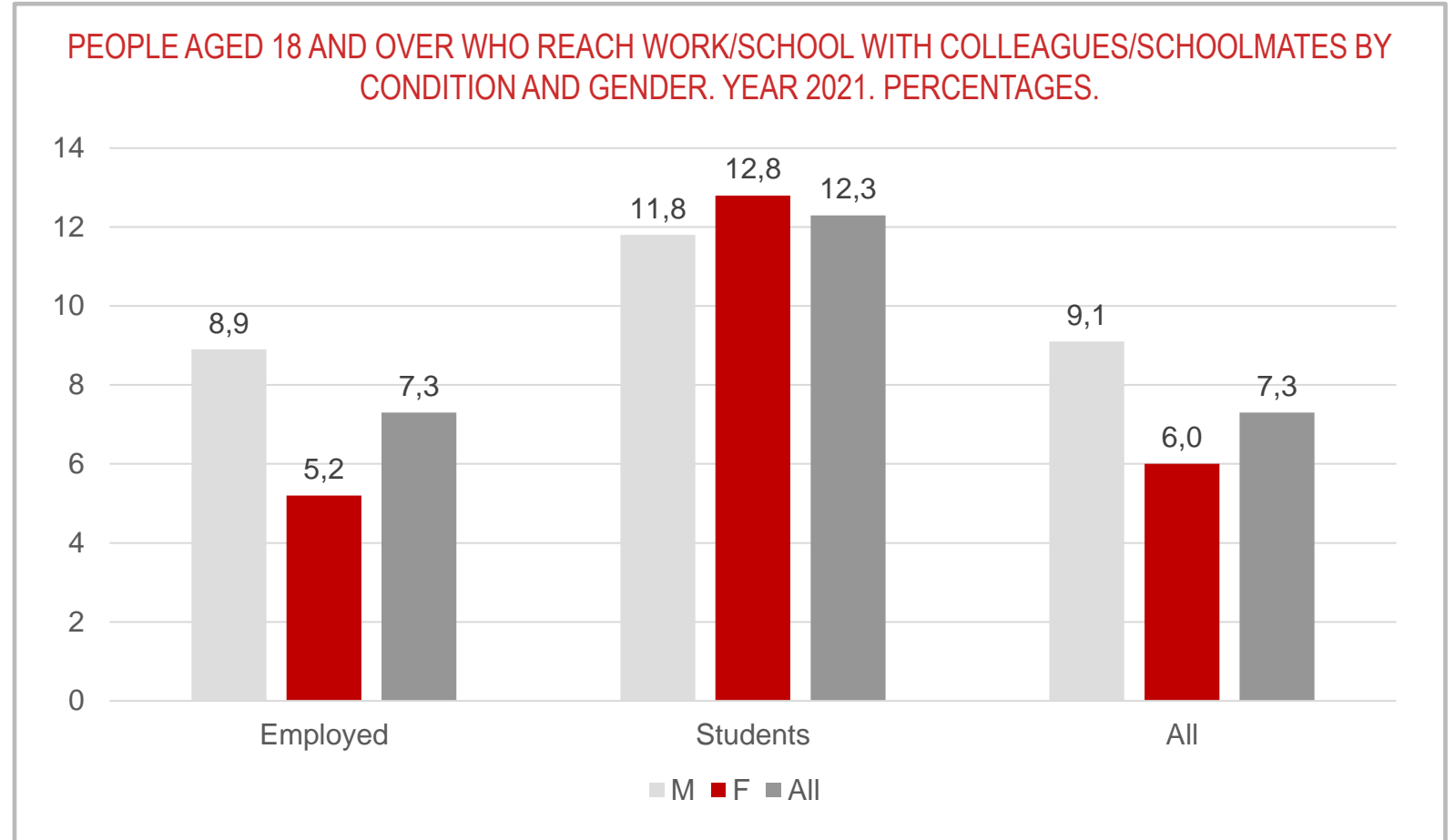


Eco-friendly behaviours: sustainable mobility

Sustainable and shared mobility: carpooling is more used by men (**9.1%** against **6%**), especially if employed (**8.9%** compared to **5.2%** of women)

In 2021, 1.3% of the population used bike sharing: 1.6% of men, 2.2% of employed men

1.2% of the adult population used car sharing services (1.6% among men)



Eco-friendly behaviours and sustainable mobility in brief

- As other studies claim, women engage more in pro-environmental behavior
- Gender differences are clear in all age classes, especially among the youngsters
- There are still groups of population where environmental sensitivity must be built also through awareness-raising policies
- One third of population usually does not pay attention to waste energy or water
- Young people less frequently adopt pro-environment behaviours. So it is very important to invest in order to increase their awareness of environmental emergencies
- Too many people use private cars to reach the workplace, still too few people use public transport. Shared mobility is not yet widespread



Some remarks

- The data confirm the importance to study the interaction between gender and environmental sustainability
- Women can contribute to raising awareness of the new generations within the household and train them to respect the environment
- The next steps include: i) multivariate analysis for a more complete investigation of the factors that shape eco-friendly behaviours and ii) intra-household analysis for studying the sensitivity to environmental issues among family members and the relationships between parents' and children's behaviours
- Male and female different commuting habits induce further analysis to shape mobility policies more adequate and careful to citizens needs
- Istat aims to invest more in exploiting the available data and producing new ones according to a gender-based approach. More in general, statistical offices can play an important role to support policymakers in identifying key actors and factors that can foster the creation of an environmental culture



Thank you

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