



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Domestic work - Domestic equality and sickness absence

PhD Carin Staland Nyman

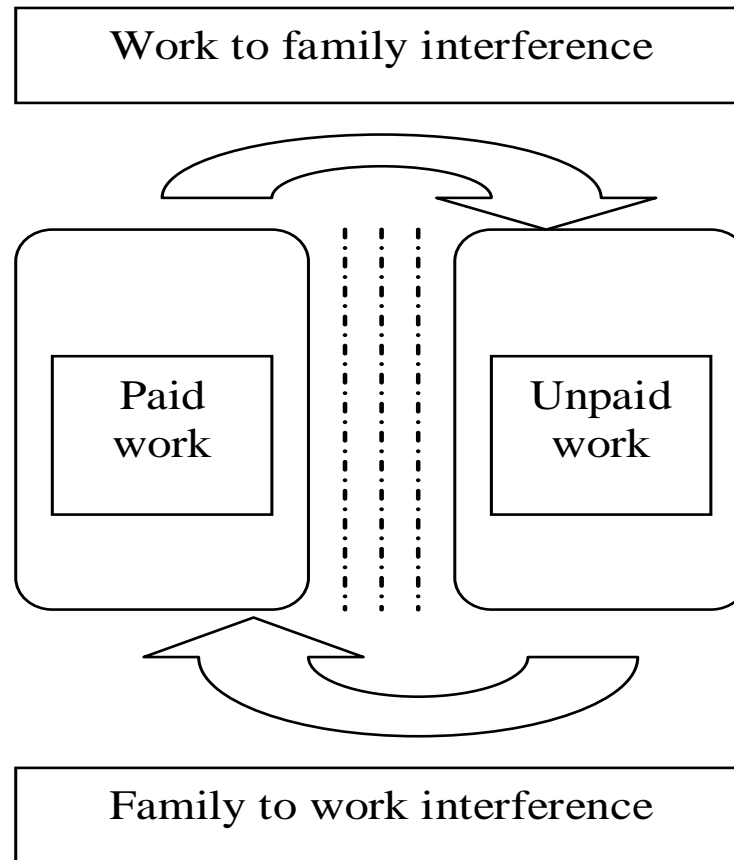
Dep of Public Health and Community Medicine

The Sahlgrenska Academy

Background

- Sickness absence in women – domestic work part of the explanation?
- Division of domestic work by gender
- Few studies on the specific impact of domestic work on sickness absence
- Measures that capture the complexity of domestic work and domestic equality are requested

Background



Source: Staland Nyman 2008



Domestic work

- Children	Inside	Outside
- Work hours		
- Work hours + stress	Daily	Non Daily
- Work tasks		
- Practical	Low scheduled	High scheduled
- Caring		
- Division of work tasks		
- 'Fairness'	Routine	Occasionally

Building a framework

A practical side

- All these work-tasks.....
- To organize daily life/work-family life
- 'Constant preparedness'

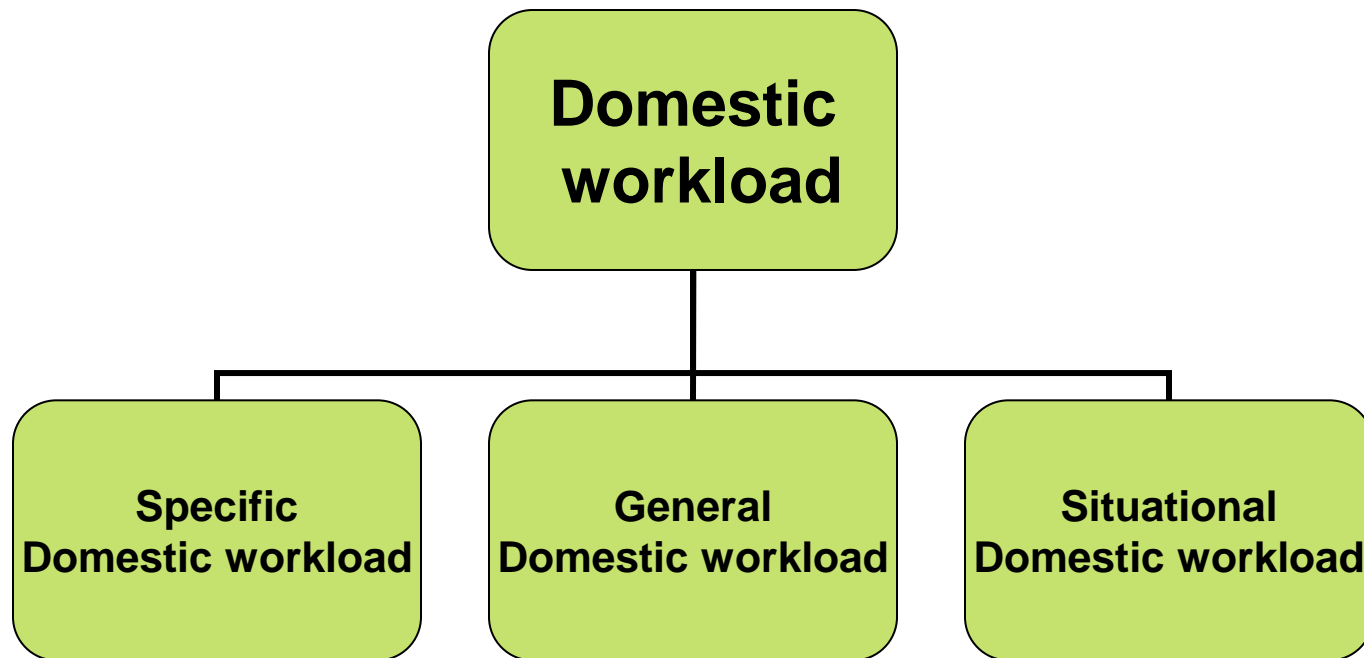
An emotional side

- Relationships, caring
- 'Constant preparedness'

Division - Negotiation

- Domestic equality
- Strategies for division of domestic work
 - Partner, children

.....?.....



Source: Staland Nyman 2008



Domestic workload

Specific

Caring activities

- Children special needs
- Adults special needs

General

Domestic work

- 'job strain'

Parental responsibility

- Children (number/age)

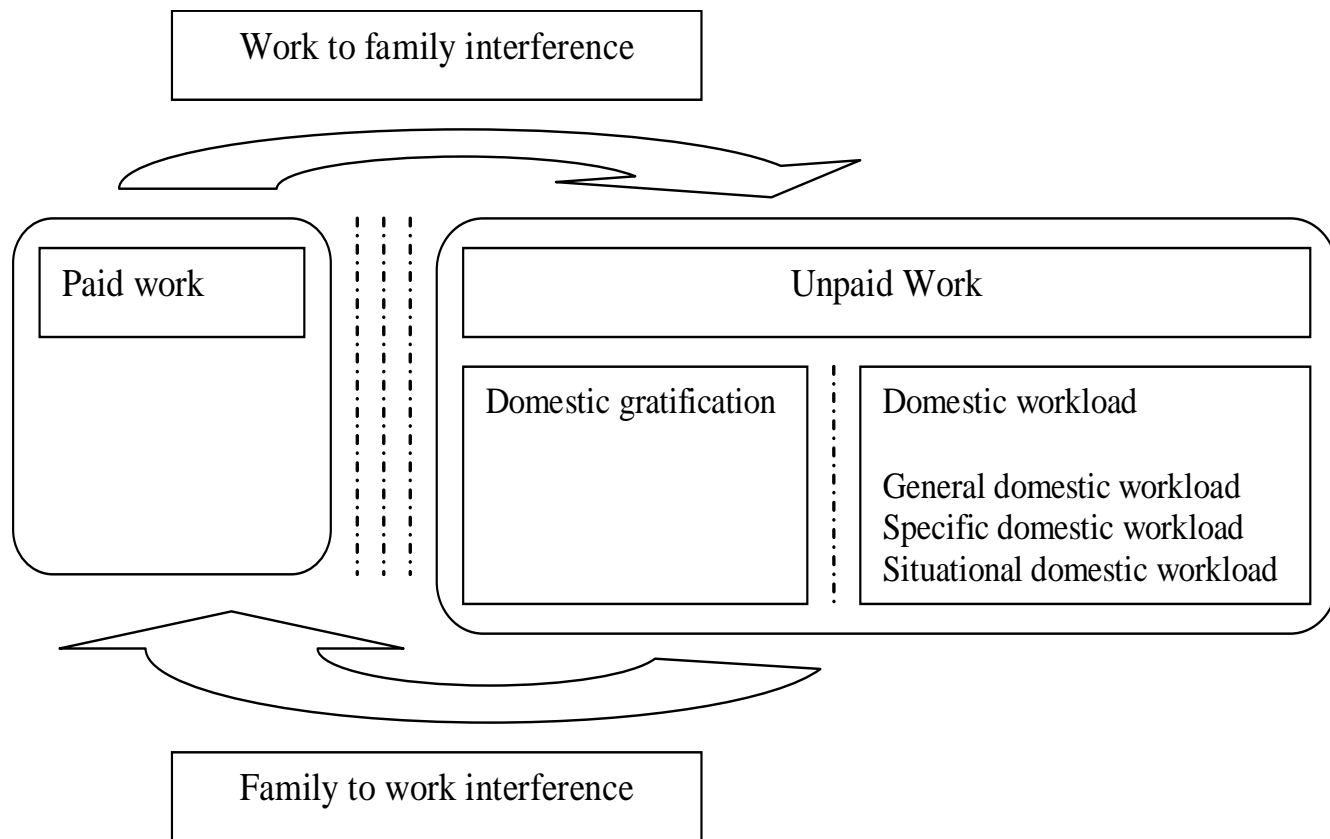
Domestic responsibility

Domestic work equity and satisfaction in partner relationship

Situational

'Domestic life events or difficulties'

- Financial problems
- Divorce/separation
- Serious illness/disease
- Death of close person
- Child exposed to violence/abuse



Source: Staland Nyman 2008



Domestic equality and sickness absence – Data from the Health Assets Project

Social Medicine, Department of Public Health and Community
Medicine, The Sahlgrenska Academy at Gothenburg University,
Sweden

Social Medicine, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences,
Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Aim

To study associations between aspects of domestic equality and sickness absence in women and men

Design and Data

The Health Assets Project

- Questionnaire and registered based
- Women and men, 19-64 years of age
- Three cohorts; Population cohort, two sick-listed cohorts
- N = 15114 (N=7835)
- Sickness absence data; self-reported and register
- Data collection: Baseline 2008 – follow-up 2009

Study population

The Health Assets Project

	Participants n (%)	
	Women	Men
General population cohort	2234 (57)	1793 (44)
<i>Sick-listed cohorts</i>		
Employer-reported cohort	2196 (58)	1114 (47)
Self-reported cohort	325 (54)	173 (44)
<i>Total</i>	4755 (60)	3080 (40)

Study group - Characteristics

Characteristics	Women n (% within sex)	Men n (% within sex)
Partner		
Married/cohabiting with a man	1603 (99)	24 (2)
Married/cohabiting with a women	16 (1)	1223 (98)
Age groups		
19 – 30	257 (16)	131 (10)
31 – 40	393 (24)	273 (22)
41 – 50	398 (25)	341 (28)
51 – 64	571 (35)	502 (40)
Educational level		
Compulsory school	274 (17)	249 (20)
Upper secondary school	630 (39)	557 (45)
University or college	703 (44)	438 (35)
Occupational class		
Manual	554 (36)	445 (37)
Non-manual	687 (44.)	362 (29.6)
High level	307 (19)	397 (33)
Students	12 (1)	5 (0.4)

Domestic equality

Equality in partner relationship

Division in planning domestic work

Division in performing domestic work

Satisfaction division planning/performing

Conflict between paid and unpaid work

'Domestic equality'

Sickness absence

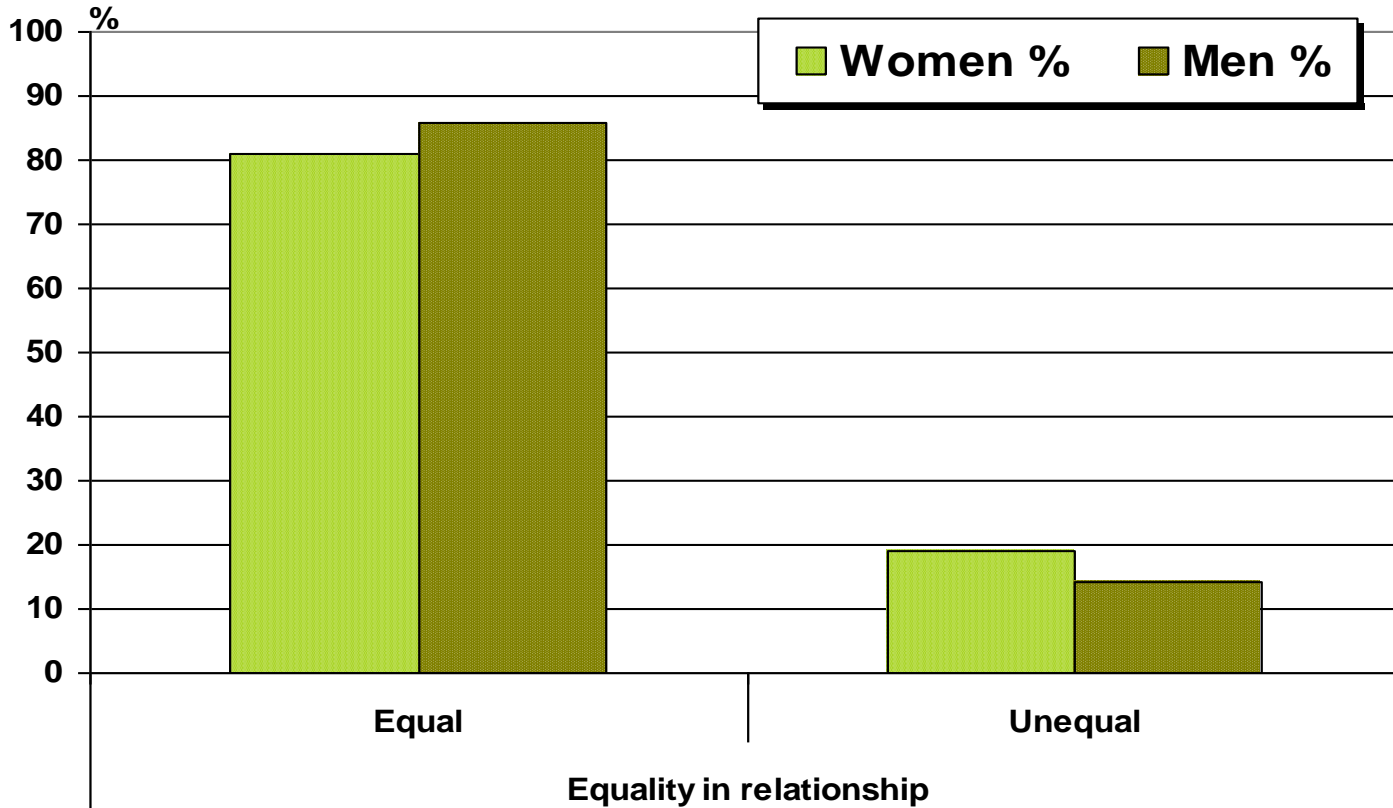
Self-reported sickness absence during last 12 months

- (0 days)
- 1-7 days
- 8-30 days
- > 30 days

Equality in partner relationship

General population cohort

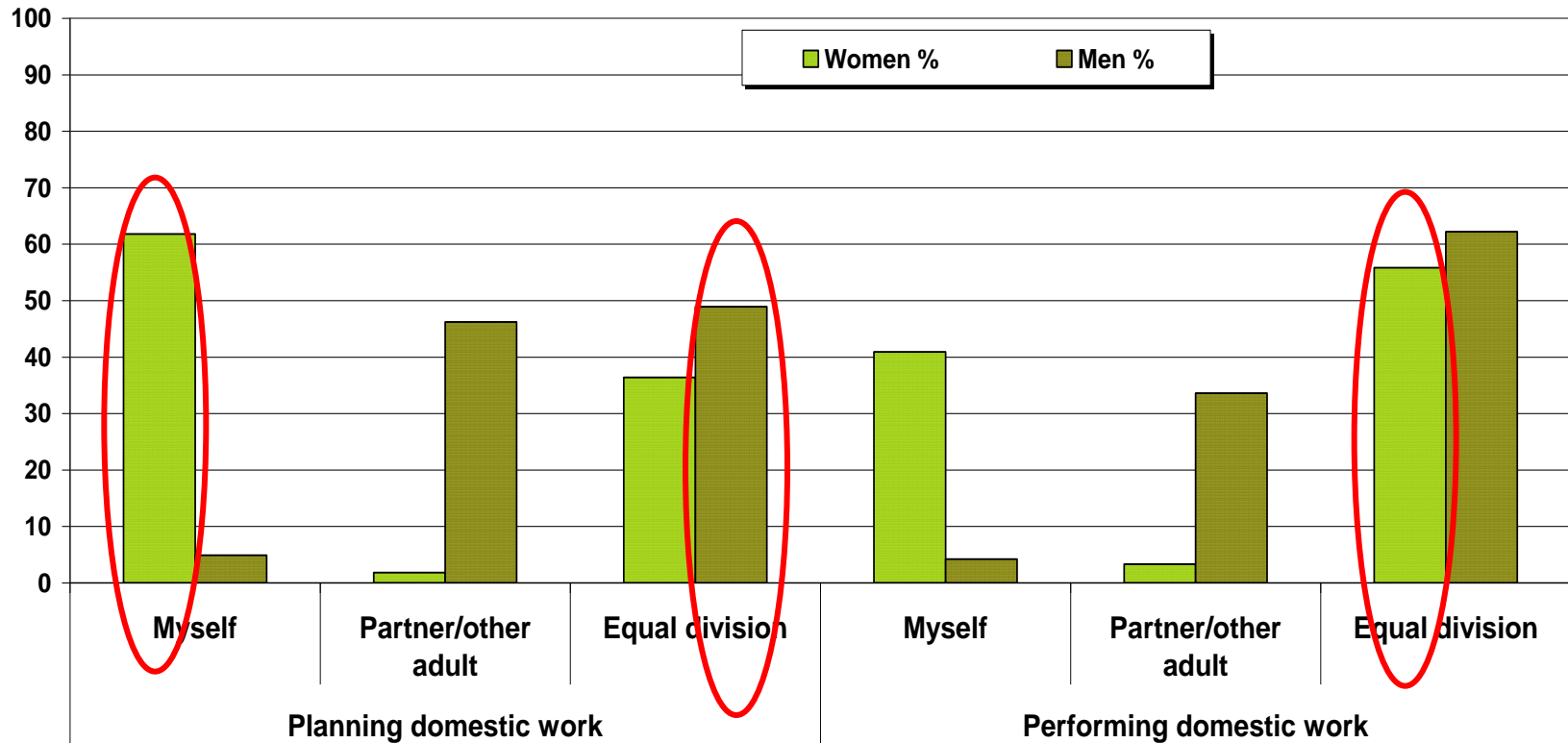
Preliminary results



Responsibility for domestic work

General population cohort

Preliminary results

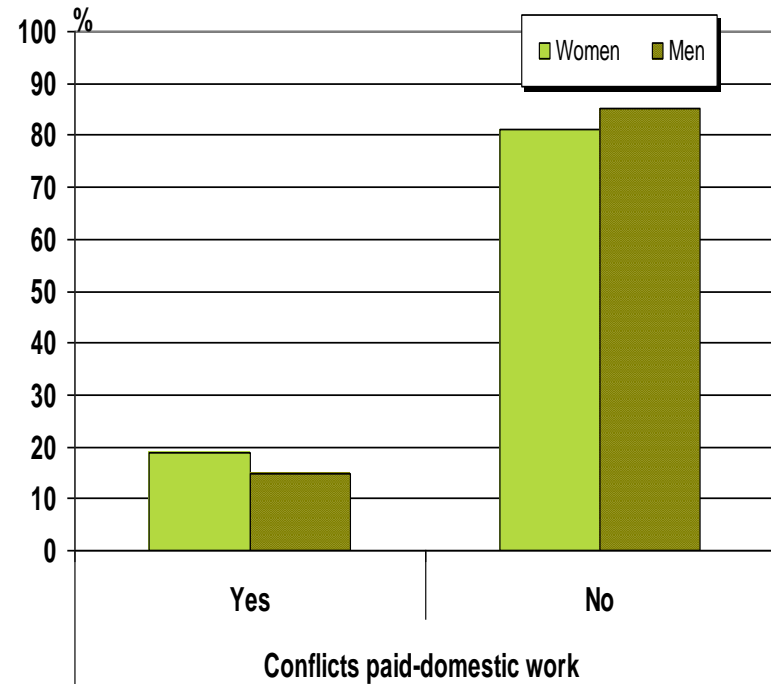
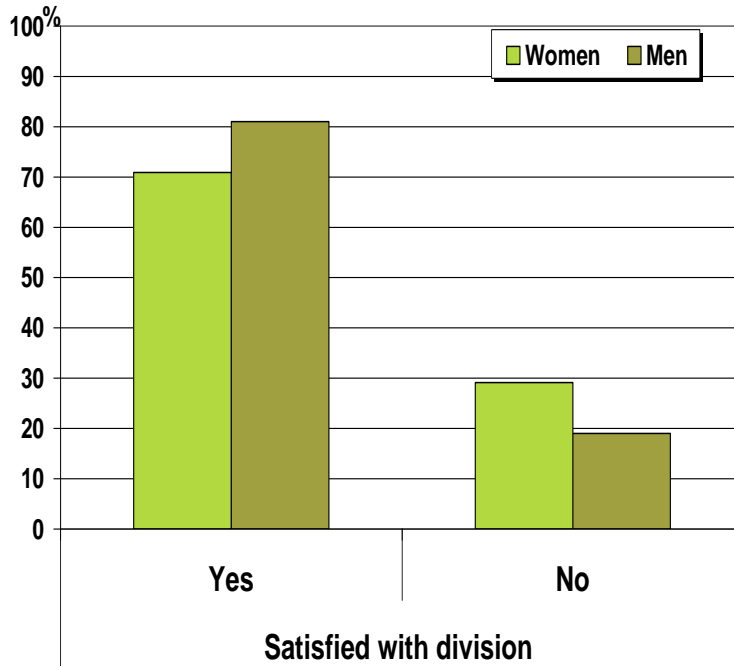


Satisfaction division

Conflict paid-domestic

General population cohort

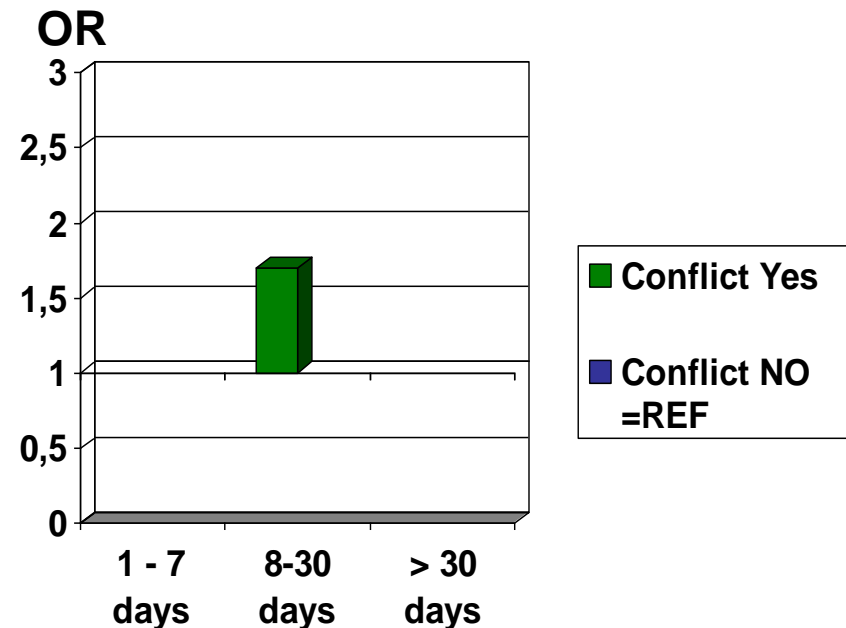
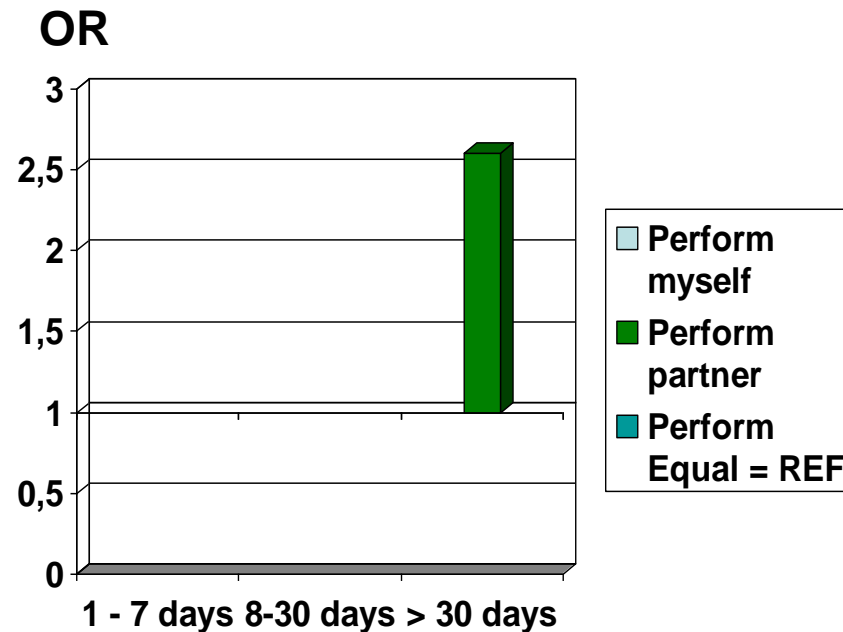
Preliminary results



Domestic equality and sickness absence

General population cohort – *Women*

Preliminary results

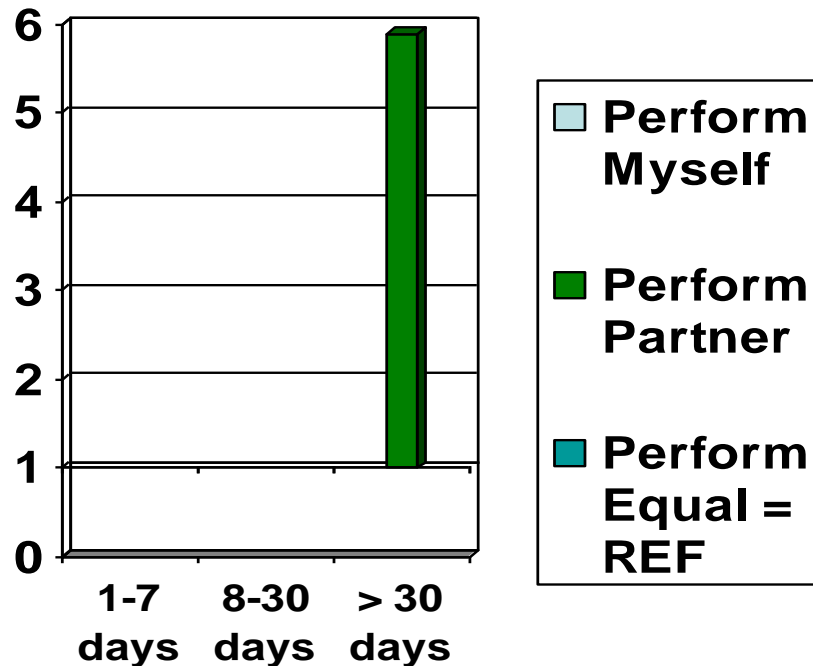


Domestic equality and sickness absence

General population cohort – *Women children <12*

Preliminary results

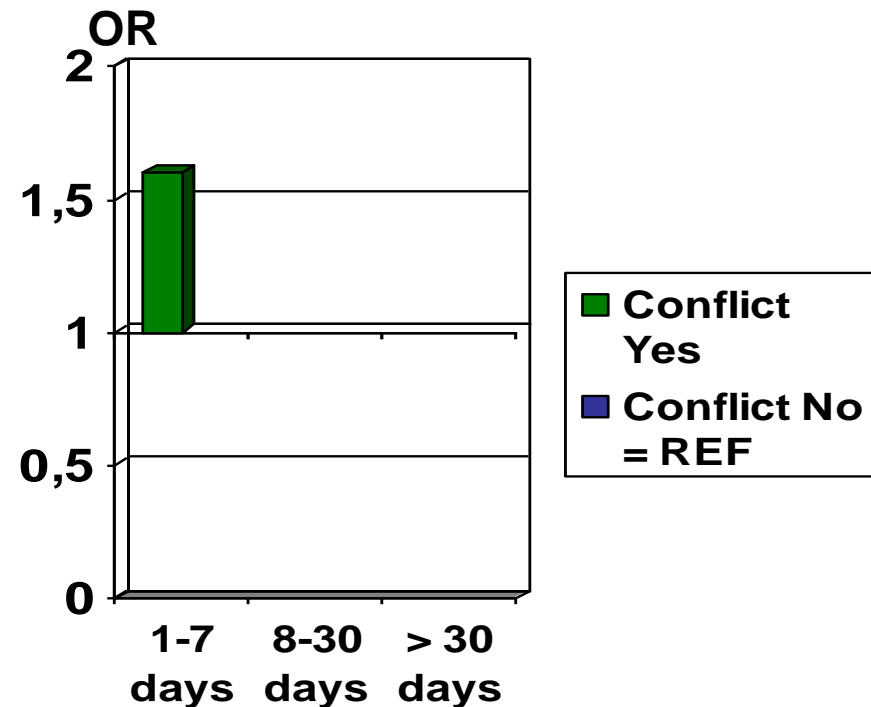
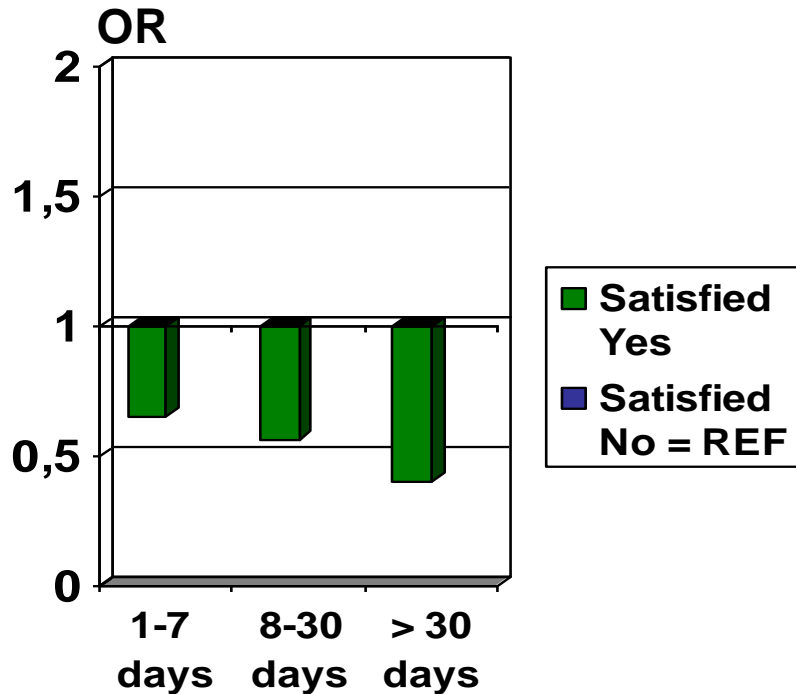
OR



Domestic equality and sickness absence

General population cohort – Men

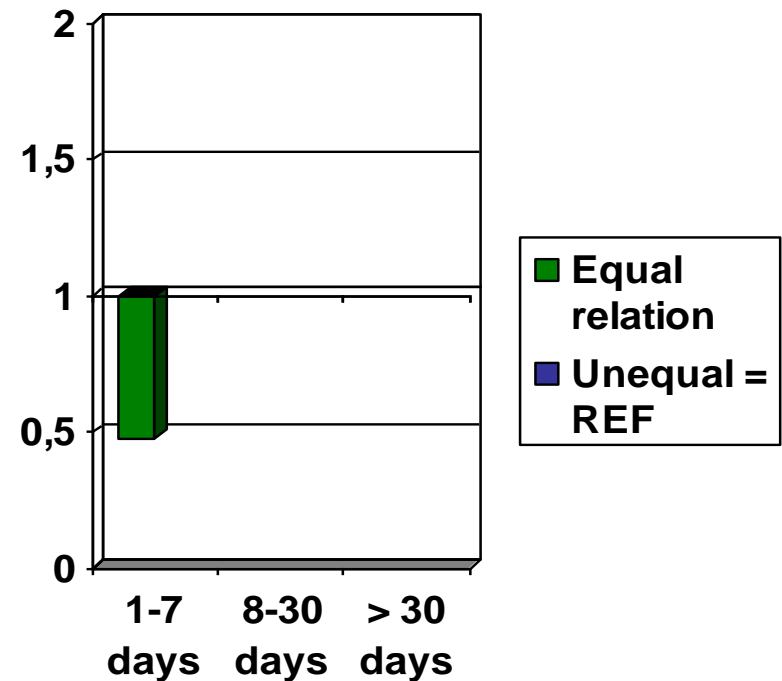
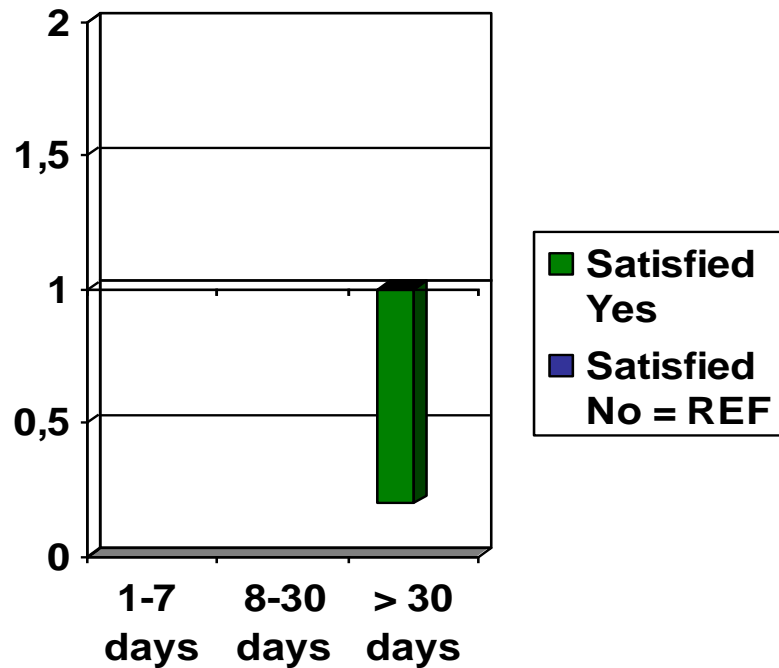
Preliminary results



Domestic equality and sickness absence

General population cohort – *Men children <12*

Preliminary results



Summery

Preliminary results

- Men who are satisfied with the division of domestic work had a smaller chance on sick-leave days during last 12 months
- Women with a partner doing a major part of the domestic work had a higher chance on sick-leave days during last 12 months
- Reporting a conflict between paid and domestic work was associated with a higher chance on sick-leave days during last 12 months for both women and men

Conclusion

A multidimensional assessment contributed to identify aspects of domestic work and domestic equality that might affect sickness absence

What important aspects of domestic work and domestic equality are 'invisible' in sickness absence research?

How could measures on domestic work and domestic equality be more sensitive to socio-cultural constructions of gender?

