



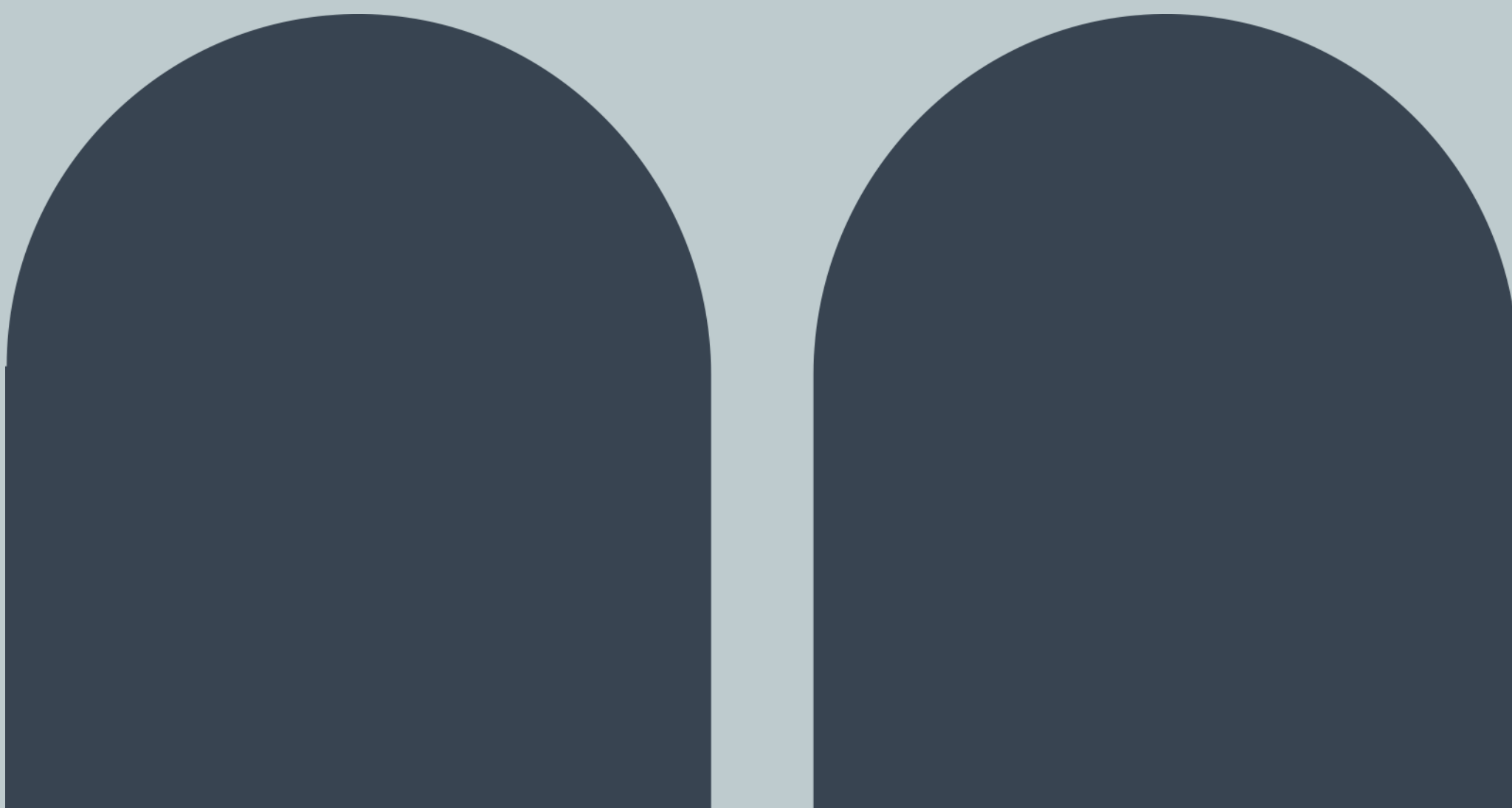
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Caption

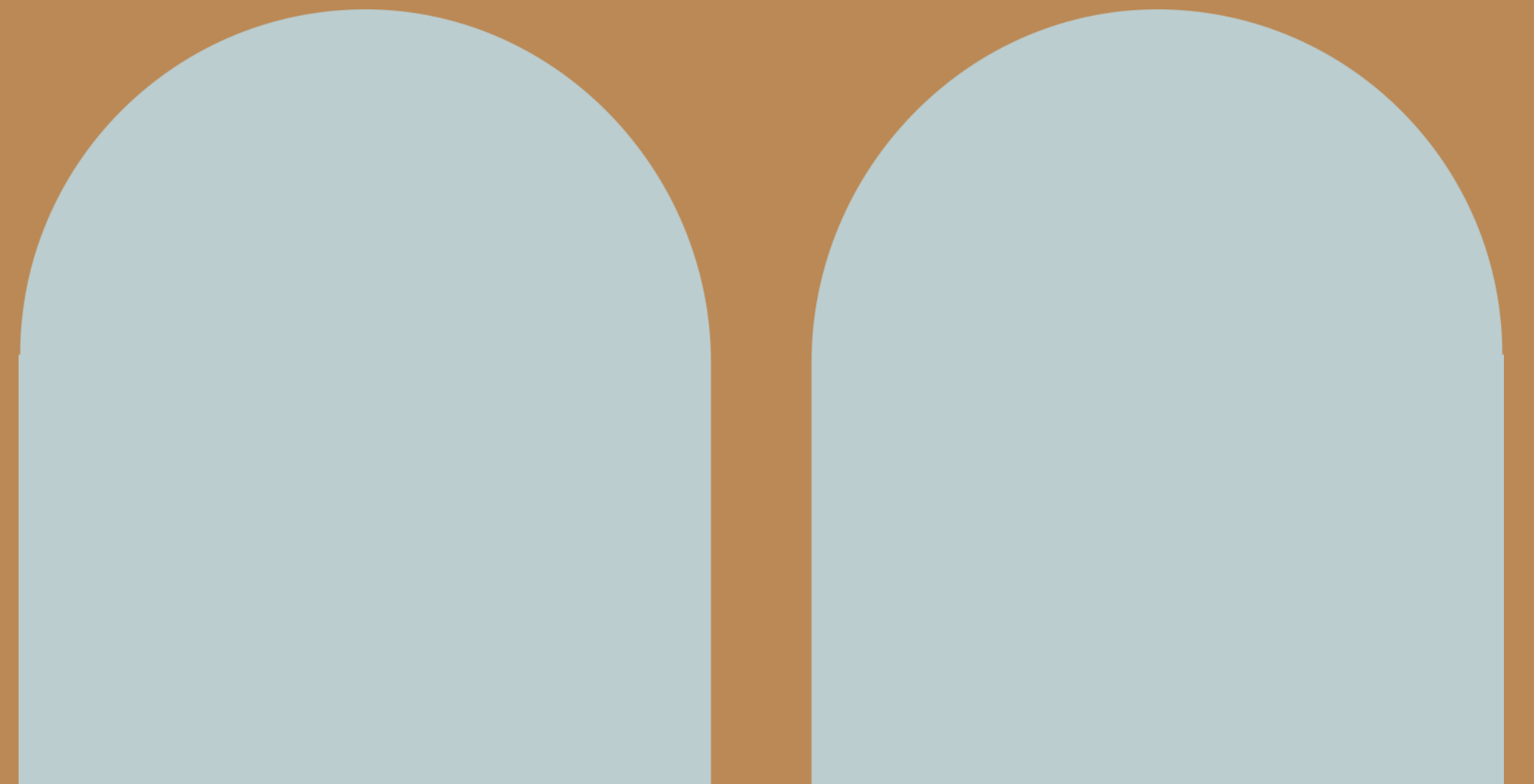
From Expectations to Reality: The Dynamics of First-Time Mothers' Attitudes Towards Gender Norms in Relation to the Childcare and Its Implications for Family Policy in the Context of (De)Familialism

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Work-Life Balance Strategies in Family Policy
2024 09 25

Contents of the Presentation

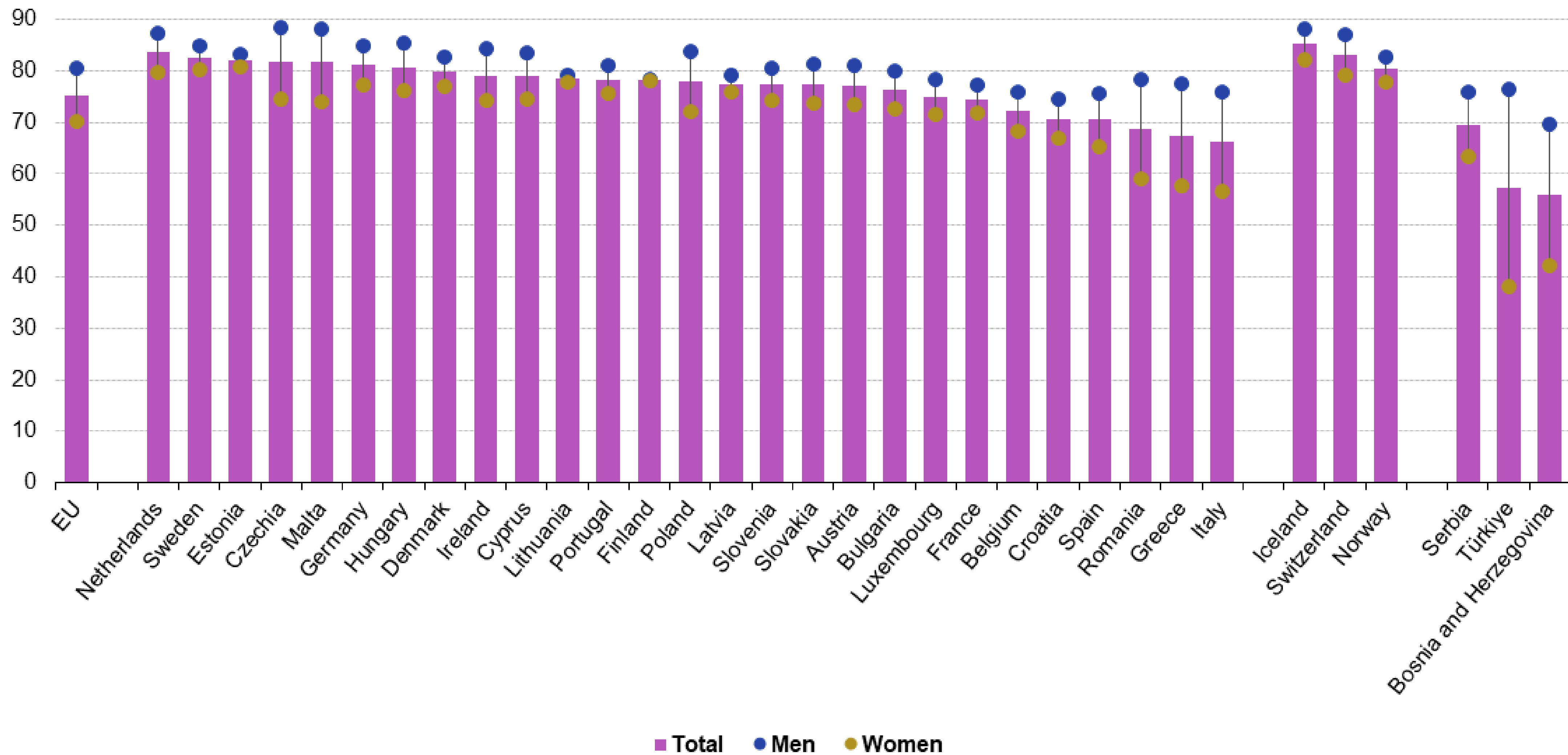
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Perpetuating Inequalities Between Men and Women
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First-time Mothers
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1. Setting the Context



Employment rate by sex, 2023

(%, aged 20 to 64)

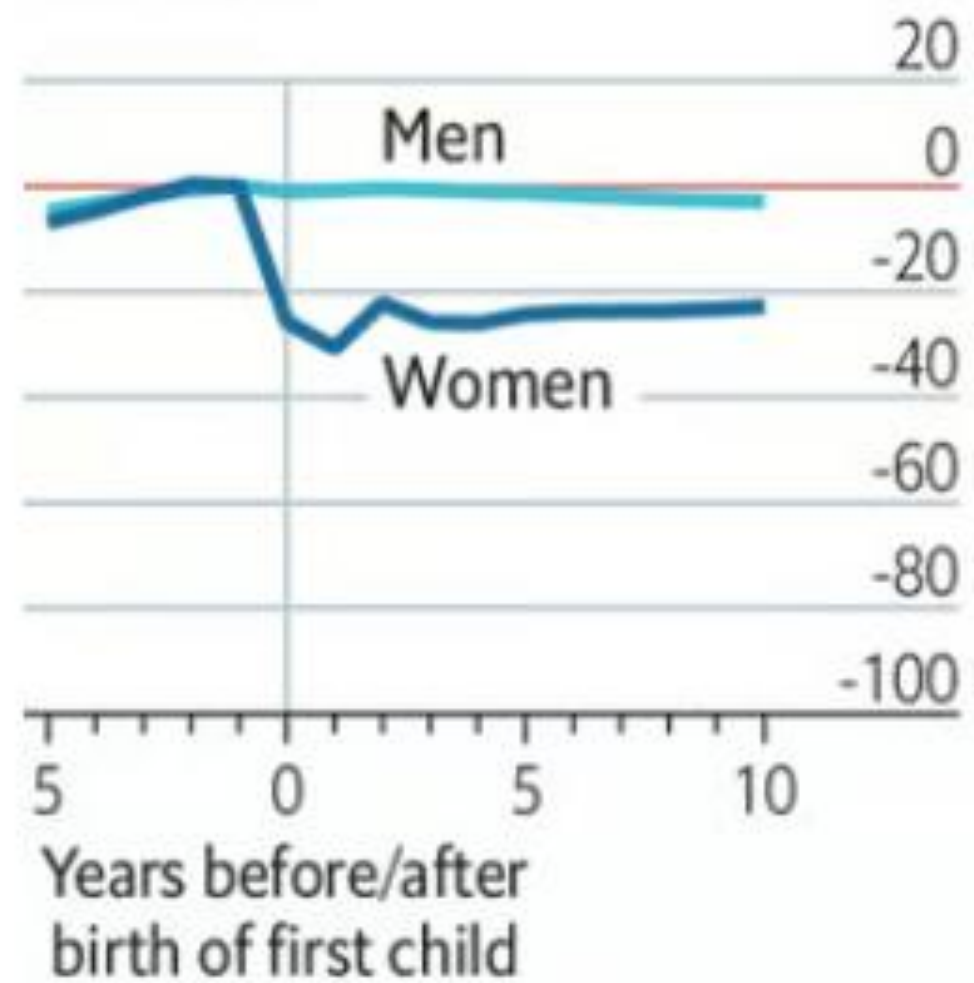


Source: Eurostat (dataset code lfsi_emp_a)

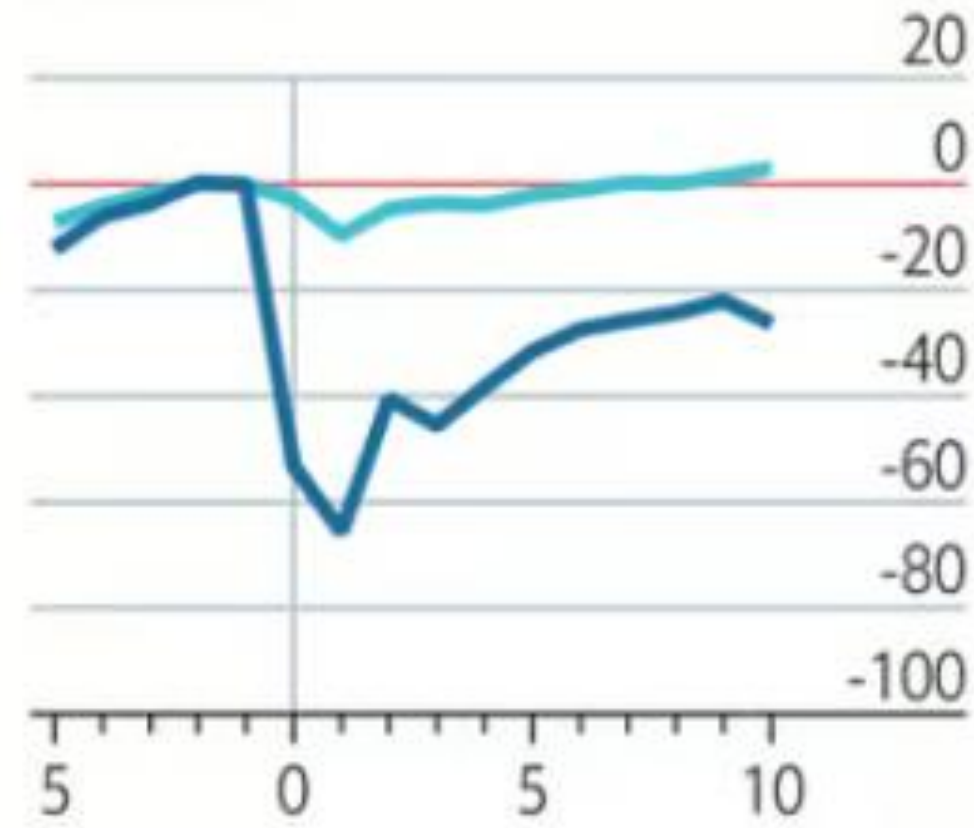
Labour costs

Earnings relative to pre-child earnings, 2015 or latest %

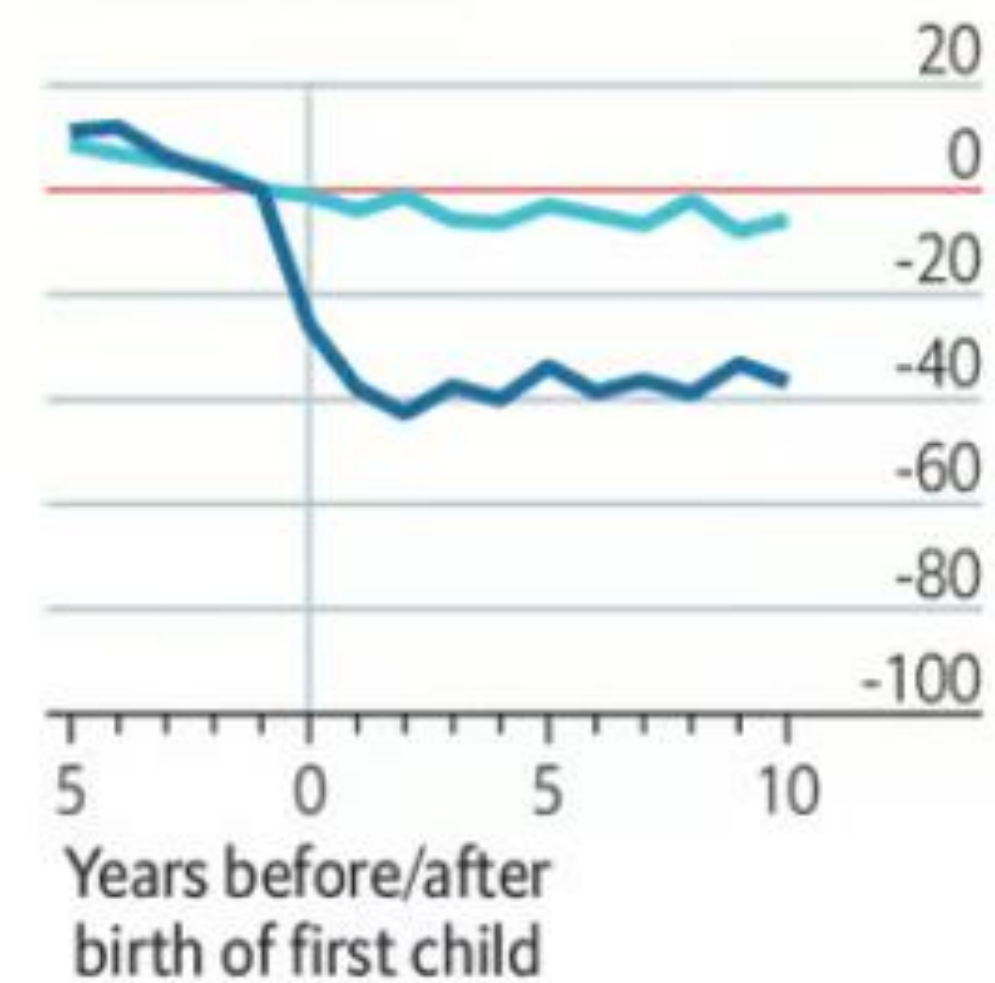
Denmark



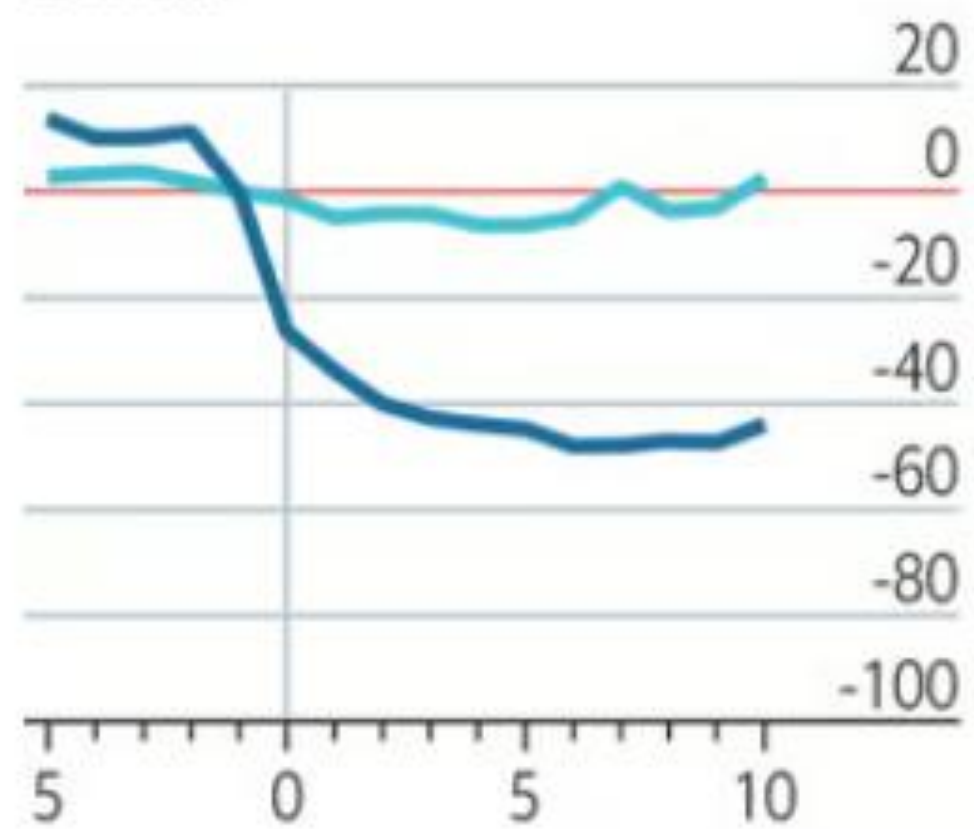
Sweden



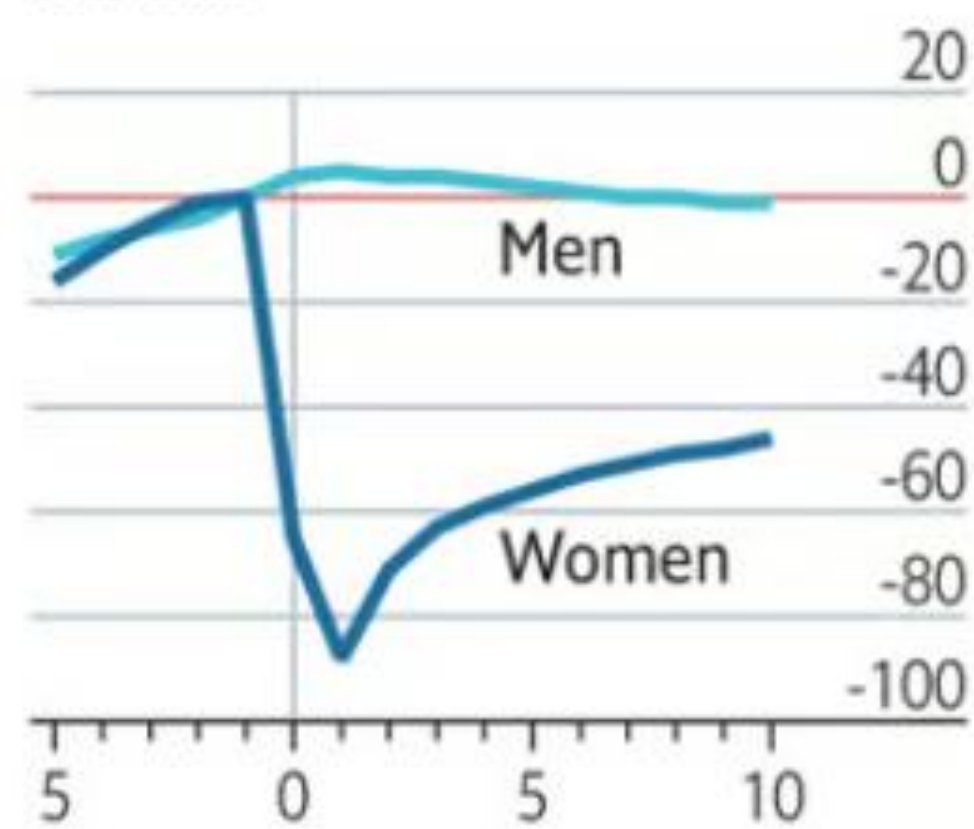
United States



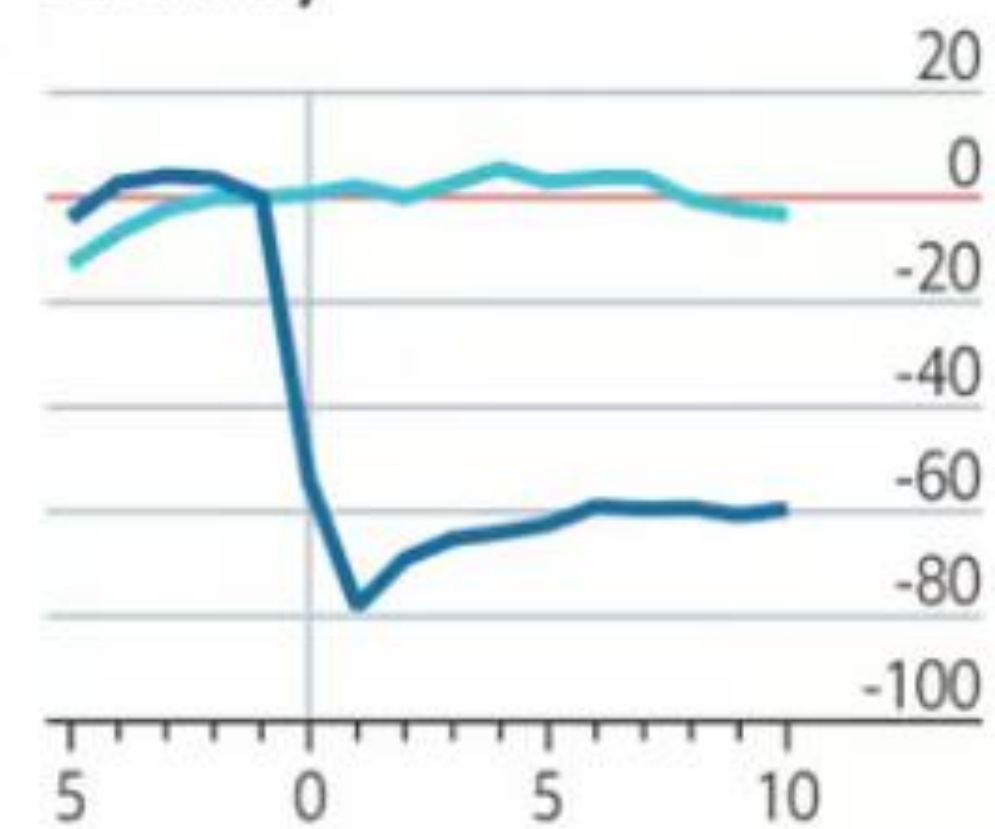
Britain



Austria



Germany



Source: "Child Penalties Across Countries: Evidence and Explanations", 2019, by H. Kleven, C. Landais, J. Posch, A. Steinhauer and J. Zweimüller

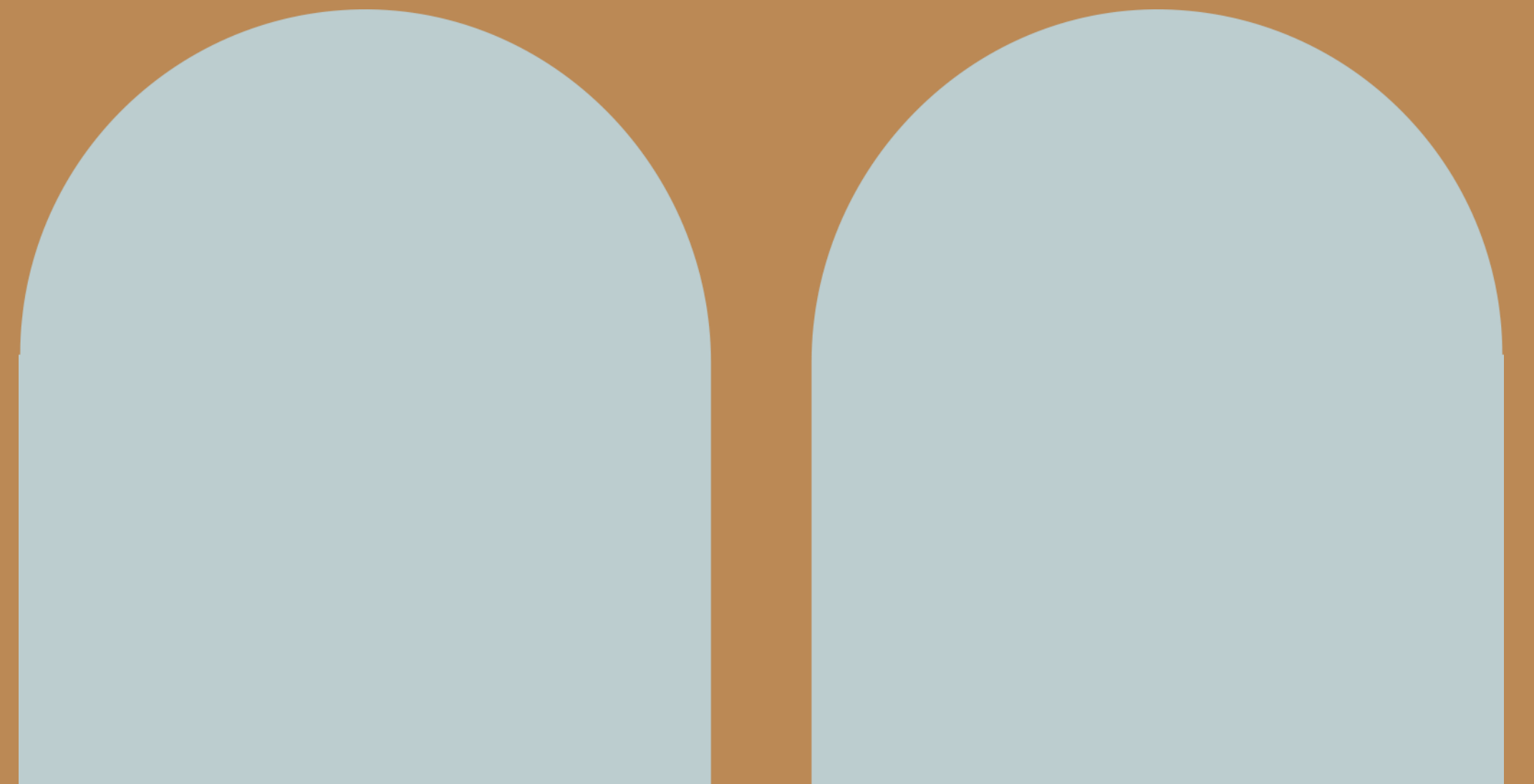
The Economist

2. Attitudes Towards Gender Norms as a Factor Perpetuating Inequalities Between Men and Women





3. Measuring the Attitudes Towards Gender Norms



European Social Survey (ESS)

"A man's job is to earn money; a woman's job is to look after the home and family."

"Men should have more right to a job than women when jobs are scarce."

"Do you think women should be prepared to cut down on paid work for the sake of the family?"

"A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work."

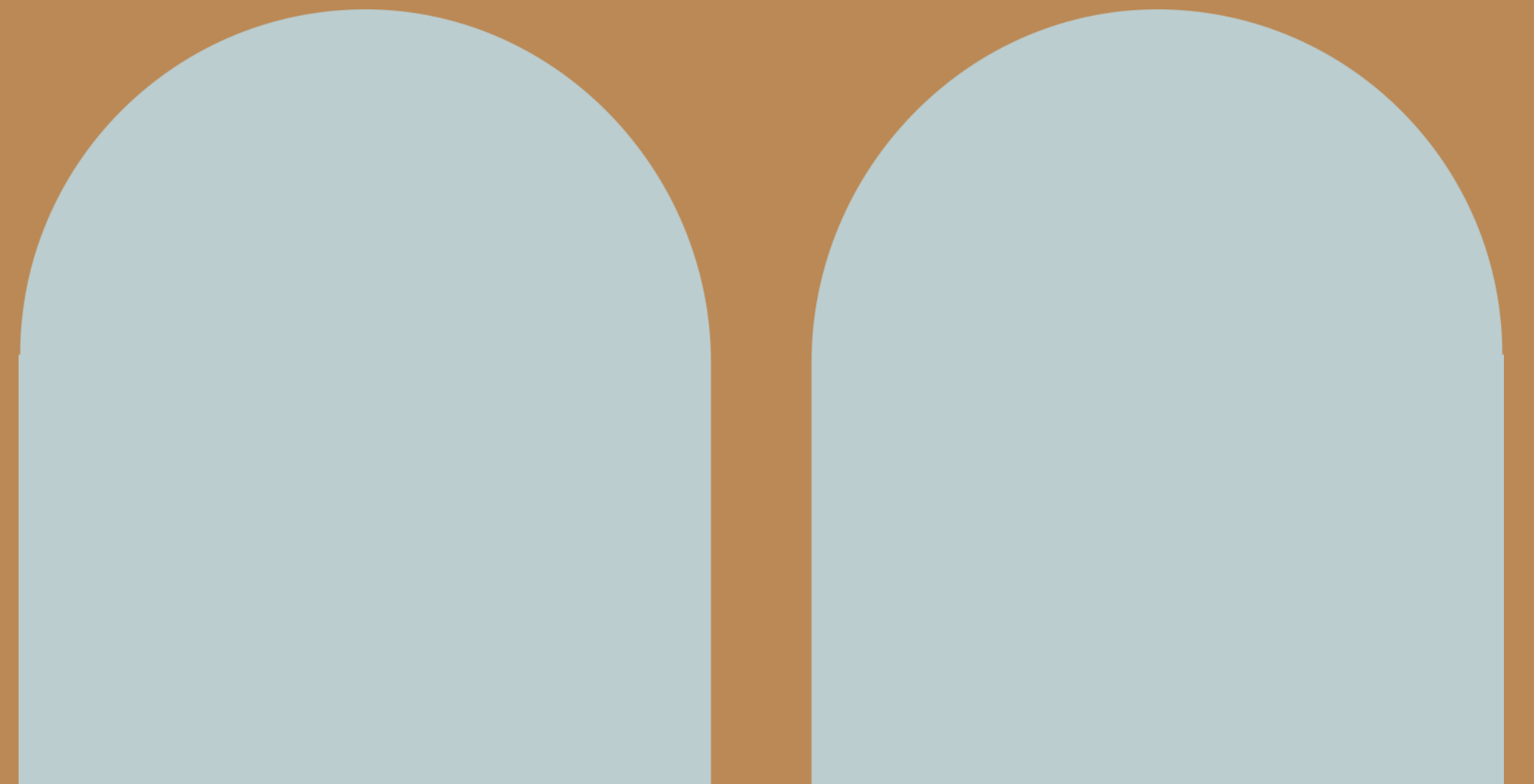
"Men should take as much responsibility as women for the home and children"

Response scale: Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree

‘...most items that have been measured are phrased in a general form and, for example, do not specify parents’ employment or the ages of children. A specification of these aspects of measurement would help to clarify the conceptual meaning of the results and increase the possibility of more accurately analyzing gender role attitudes over time’. Walter (2018)



4. The Longitudinal Study with First-time Mothers



Aim of the research

To examine changes in attitudes towards gender roles in childcare during pregnancy and postpartum, in relation to the age of the child.

Research method

Longitudinal qualitative research

Data collection and data analysis

Semi-structured interviews at three points in time: during pregnancy, 4-6 months postpartum, and two years after giving birth. Analysed using MAXQDA 2022.

THE KEY QUESTION:

‘Who, in your opinion, should be considered to be the PRIMARY carer of a child: is it the mother, the father, or both of the parents equally?’

- ...of an infant (up to one year old)
- ...of a toddler (one to three years old)
- ...of a child of four years old and older



The characteristics of the research participants

Changed name (age)	The place of residence	The number of children born	Level of education	The marital status	Breastfeeding
Clara (28)	Urban area, LT	1	BA	Married	Yes
Iris (28)	Urban area, LT	2	MA	Married	Yes
Julia (44)	Urban area, LT	1	MA	Married (for the 2 nd time)	Yes
Victoria (23)	Urban area, LT	1 (had an experience of being a guardian of a child)	MA	Married	Yes
Kate (31)	Urban area, Norway	1	High School	Married	Yes
Lydia (41)	Urban area, LT	1	PhD	Married (for the 2 nd time)	Not directly but extracting breastmilk with a breast pump
Nina (28)	Urban area, LT	1	BA	Married	No
Gloria (26)	Urban area, LT	1	BA	Married	Yes
Edith (33)	Rural area, UK	1	BA	Cohabiting	Yes
Tiffany (25)	Urban area, LT	1	BA	Married	Yes

THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

FOUR research participants *changed* their opinion regarding the childcare of an infant after they became mothers;

ONE research participant *changed* her opinion regarding the childcare of a toddler (1 – 3 yo);

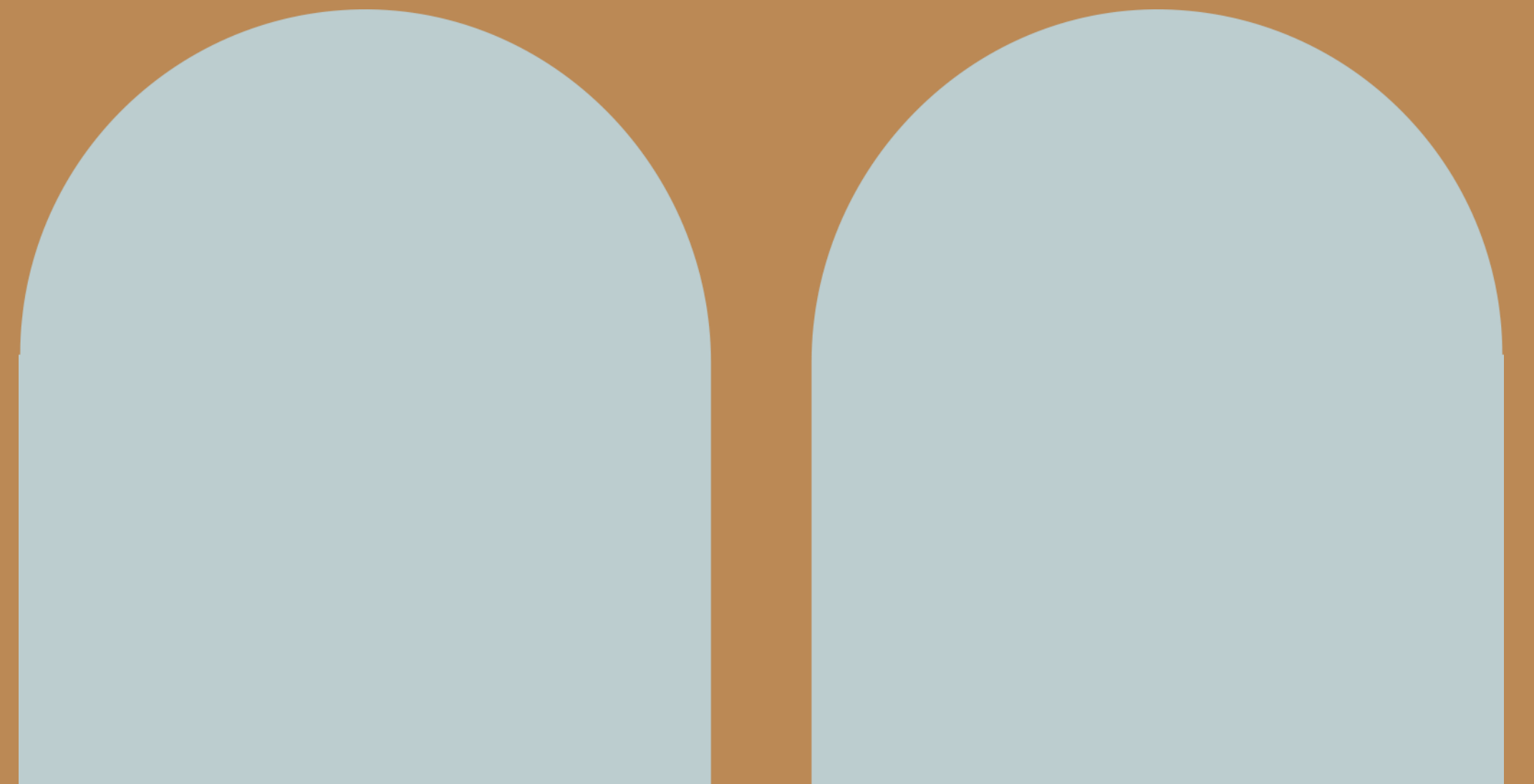
NONE changed their opinion regarding the care of a child of four years old and older.





Why is it relevant?

5. Four types of (de)familialism



Leitner (2003) outlined four types of **(de)familialism**, which describe how welfare states handle care responsibilities

Explicit familialism:

Strong reliance on family for care without state support or market alternatives.

Implicit familialism:

Family is responsible, but state policies provide indirect support (e.g., tax benefits).

De-familialism:

State or market provides services, reducing family responsibilities for care.

Optional familialism:

Families are offered choices between state or market services and family-provided care.







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Caption

Thank you for
your attention!