

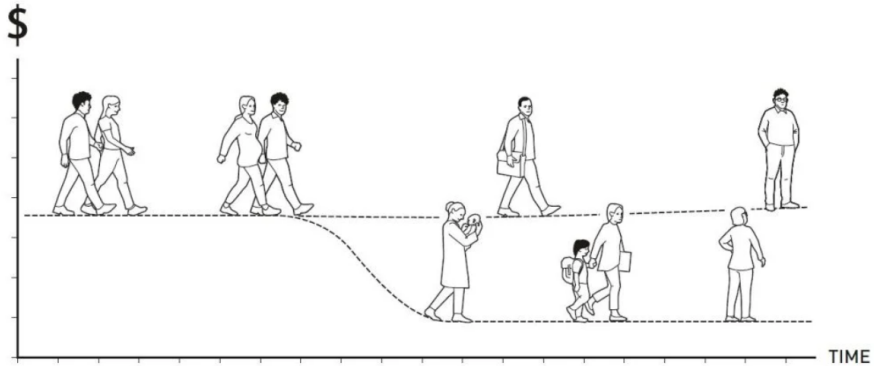
# Child Penalties in Labour Market Skills

Jonas Jessen (*WZB, IAB, IZA*), Lavinia Kinne (*DIW*), **Michele Battisti** (*University of Glasgow*)

University of Dundee

6 November, 2024

# Motivation



The parenthood effect. © Johan Jarnestad/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

- Sizeable gender gaps in labour market outcomes despite decades of convergence → Role of parenthood decisive factor (Kleven et al., 2024a; Cortes, Pan, 2023)

# Child Penalties

**Idea:** Quasi-experimental approach based on event studies around birth of first child to investigate effect of parenthood on labour market outcomes (Kleven et al., 2019)

**Child penalty:** Long-run difference between outcomes of mothers and fathers due to children.  
We should probably call them 'parenthood effects for mothers and fathers'

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Large body of evidence on child penalties...

- ...in various countries (Kleven et al., 2024a)
- ...and the role of gender norms (Jessen, 2022; Andresen, Nix, 2022; Kleven et al., 2021)
- ...and mediating effects of policies (Kleven et al., 2024b; Ciasullo, Uccioli, 2024; Heckl, Wurm, 2023)

# This Paper

**What we do:** Add evidence on effect of parenthood on **labour market skills**

- as *outcome* in itself
- as potential *mechanism* for penalties in wages / employment (lower returns)
- potentially can offer insights to inform policy makers about parental leave, training and labour market policies

**Main challenge:** no panel data available for adult skills → build upon method proposed by Kleven (2023) for estimating child penalties in repeated cross sections to single cross section

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Approach:

- ① validate single cross section version with German household panel (SOEP)
- ② apply new method to PIAAC data for adult skills

## Data: Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC)

▸ descriptive table

- *Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies* (PIAAC)
- International data collection 2012-2017 (37 countries, individuals aged 16-65)
- Short German panel PIAAC-L 2012-2016 including other household members

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- Short German panel PIAAC-L 2012-2016 including other household members
  
- **Skills:** "Competencies necessary to successfully navigate demands in everyday life and in the workplace" (<https://www.gesis.org/en/piaac/piaac-an-overview>), not innate ability
- **Skill measures:** numeracy [▶ example](#), literacy [▶ example](#), and problem-solving in technology-rich environments [▶ example](#) [▶ correlation scores](#)
- Additionally: rich set of labour market information and personal characteristics



## Adult Skills and Parenthood

► skill evolution

Some evidence on skill depreciation during unemployment (Cohen et al., 2023; Dinerstein et al., 2022), but **unemployment  $\neq$  parenthood** (without employment)

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### **Evidence on adult skills:**

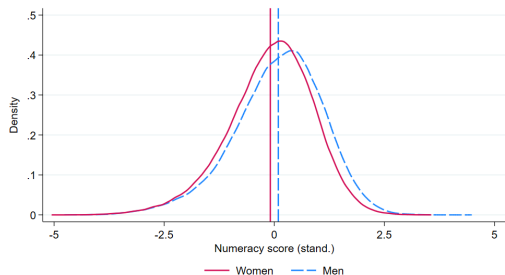
- Gender differences (Battisti et al., 2023; Christl, Köppl-Turyana, 2020; Rebollo-Sanz, Rica De la, 2022)
- Returns to skills, especially numeracy (Hanushek et al., 2015)

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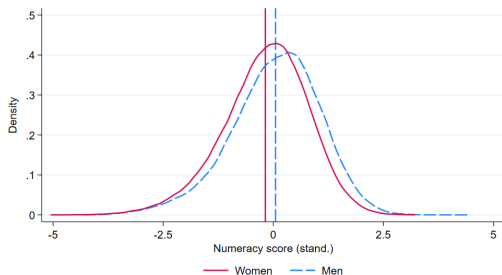
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- Returns to skills, especially numeracy (Hanushek et al., 2015)

A: Numeracy score distributions men/women



B: Only parents



## 'Standard' Child Penalty Approach

**Requirement:** panel data on individual outcome for men and women before and after childbirth

Estimation as in Kleven et al. (2019), separately by gender:

$$Y_{ist}^g = \sum_{j \neq -1} \alpha_j^g \mathbb{I}[j = t] + \sum_k \beta_k^g \mathbb{I}[k = age_{is}] + \sum_y \gamma_y^g \mathbb{I}[y = s] + \nu_{ist}^g$$

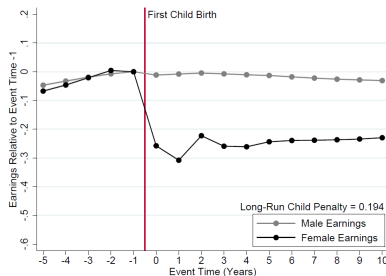
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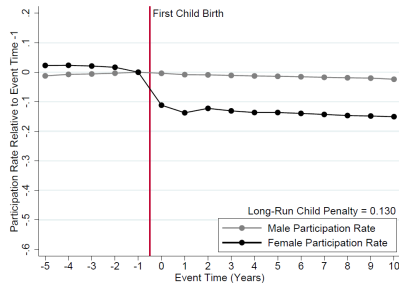
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A: Earnings



C: Participation Rates



## Adaptation to Repeated Cross Sections (Kleven, 2023; Kleven et al., 2024a)

**But:** panel data not always available → exploit rich information from repeated cross sections

## Adaptation to Repeated Cross Sections (Kleven, 2023; Kleven et al., 2024a)

observation	event time															
	t-5	t-4	t-3	t-2	t-1	t=0	t+1	t+2	t+3	t+4	t+5	t+6	t+7	t+8	t+9	t+10
	survey year															
	s-5	s-4	s-3	s-2	s-1	s	s+1	s+2	s+3	s+4	s+5	s+6	s+7	s+8	s+9	s+10
	age															
	a-5	a-4	a-3	a-2	a-1	a	a+1	a+2	a+3	a+4	a+5	a+6	a+7	a+8	a+9	a+10
1																
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[illegible]



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[illegible]

## Adaptation to Repeated Cross Sections (Kleven, 2023; Kleven et al., 2024a)

► empirics

[illegible]

► validation SOEP

[illegible]

## Child Penalties in PIAAC (Single Cross Section)

► with controls

► first-time parents

Estimation from Kleven et al. (2019) adapted to international setting with single cross section:

$$Y_{it}^g = \sum_{j \neq -2} \alpha_j^g \mathbb{I}[j = t] + \sum_k \beta_k^g \mathbb{I}[k = age_i] + \mu_c + \nu_{it}^g$$

**Challenge:** single cross-section does not allow to account for time trends in outcomes (cohort differences)

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- Match on **gender**, **education** (lower sec./upper sec./post-sec./tert. prof. degree/tert. bachelor/tert. master or research degree), **live with partner** (yes/no), **born in country** (yes/no), **country**

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Figure: Any employment, PIAAC 2012

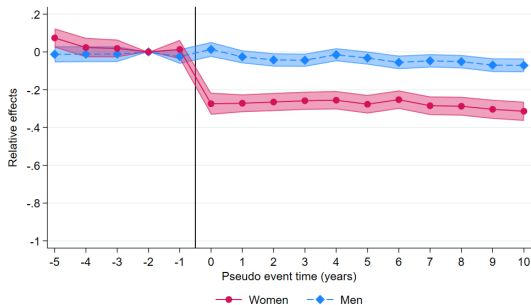
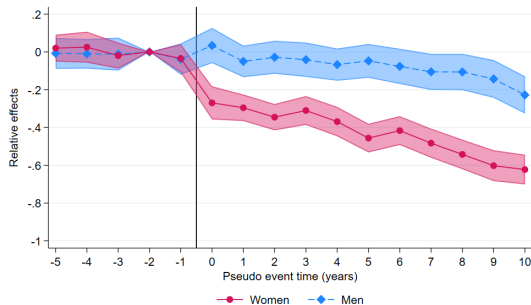


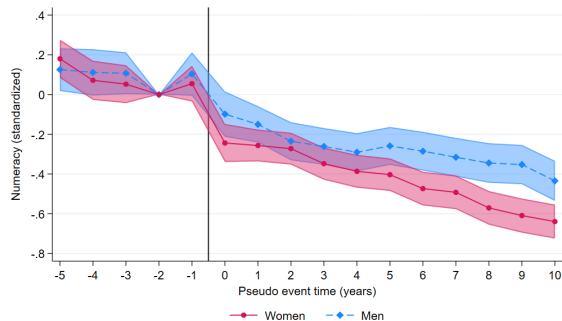
Figure: Monthly Gross Earnings, PIAAC 2012



# Numeracy Skills (standardized) around Childbirth

► literacy and problem-solving

Figure: Without controls, PIAAC 2012

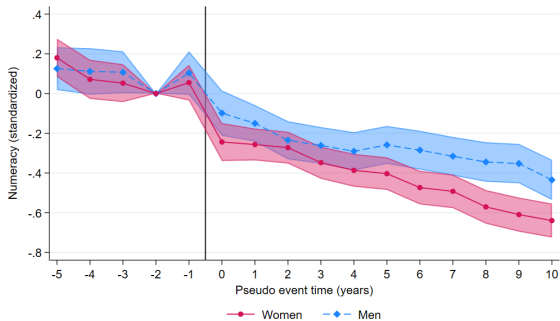


► estimation table

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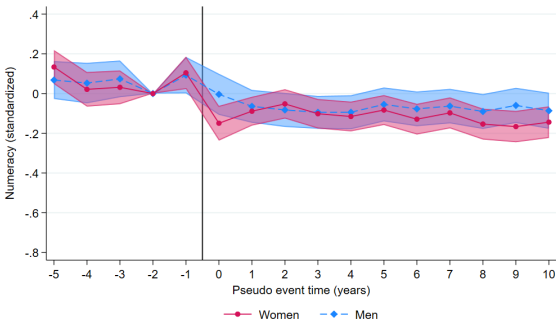
► literacy and problem-solving

Figure: Without controls, PIAAC 2012



► estimation table

Figure: With controls, PIAAC 2012



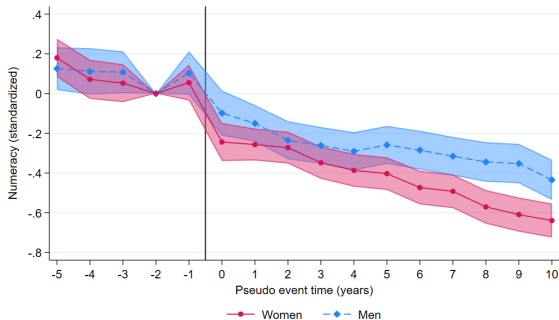
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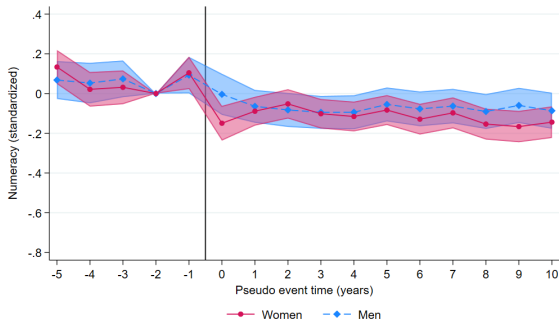
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► estimation table

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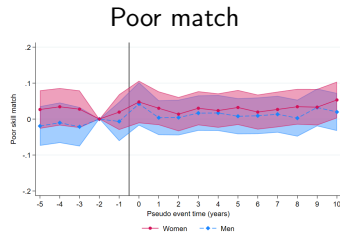
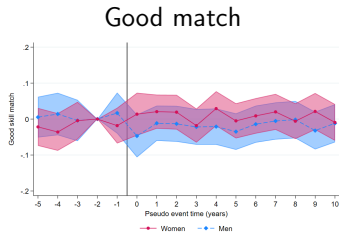
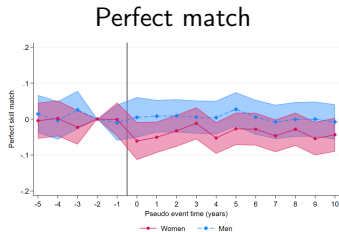
- seem to be picking up time trends in education ► education cohorts
- selection into survey of young parents, differences in ages at first childbirth (Melentyeva, Riedel, 2023)
- results related to those of Hanushek et al. (2024) ► cps edu

## Implications on skill (mis)match

- Build on Bandiera et al. (2024) to construct measures of skill requirements in occupations
- How does alignment of skill requirements and actual skills change?

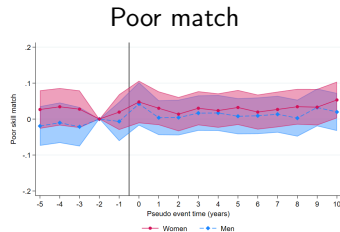
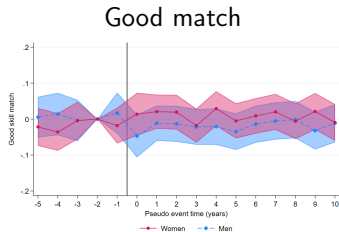
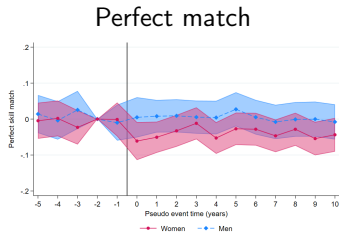
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→ Weak evidence of a relative shift from *perfect* (same skill quintile) to *good* (one quintile apart) at the expense of mothers

## How is numeracy use changing?

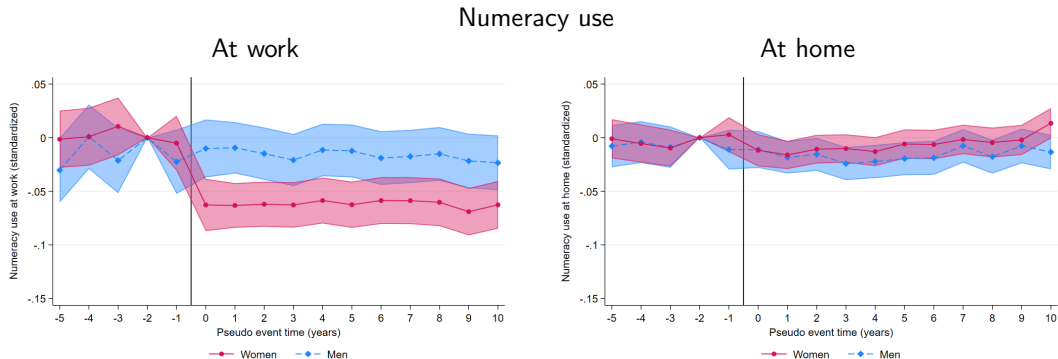
▶ employed only

- PIAAC data captures to what degree skills are used at work and at home

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→ Despite reduced skill use at work for mothers, their skills don't deteriorate

## Conclusion and Other Results

### Takeaways:

- ➊ No evidence for pronounced child penalties in labour market skills (despite employment drop)
- ➋ Child penalties in labour market after childbirth cannot be explained by loss of general labour market-relevant human capital → role of occupation- and firm-specific skills?
- ➌ Estimation of child penalties in labour market skills depends heavily on inclusion of control(s)

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## Other Results/Robustness:

- **Time-use data** to better understand mechanisms around survey behaviour (non-response, answer time potentially driven by stress/effort) [▶ graphs](#)
- **Numeracy components:** actual responses [▶ graph](#); (non-)work-related [▶ graph](#)
- Limited power to detect differences across countries



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Thanks a lot for listening  
and for your feedback!

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## Descriptive Table PIAAC (I)

[▶ back](#)

Country	Numeracy score		Age at first childbirth	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Belgium	289	271	28	26
Chile	217	197	25	23
Czech Republic	280	270	26	23
Denmark	283	273	28	26
Ecuador	190	182	25	22
Estonia	276	270	25	23
Finland	288	277	28	26
France	260	249	28	25
Greece	256	249	30	25
Hungary	273	272	27	24
Ireland	262	250	28	26
Israel	258	246	28	25
Italy	253	241	30	26
Japan	294	283	30	27
Kazakhstan	247	247	26	24

## Descriptive Table PIAAC (II)

[▶ back](#)

Country	Numeracy score		Age at first childbirth	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Korea	268	258	29	26
Lithuania	269	266	26	24
Mexico	215	207	25	23
Netherlands	288	272	30	27
New Zealand	278	266	28	26
Norway	286	271	28	25
Peru	187	172	26	22
Poland	259	258	27	24
Singapore	265	252	30	27
Slovak Republic	277	274	26	23
Slovenia	260	256	27	24
Spain	252	240	29	26
Sweden	284	272	28	26
United Kingdom	270	255	28	25
Total: 29	262	251	27	25

## First-time Parents in PIAAC (I)

[▶ notes](#)[▶ back](#)

Country	Survey year	First-time parents	First-time mothers	First-time fathers	Median education	Live with partner	Born in country
Belgium	2011/12	29	14	15	4	0.95	0.90
Chile	2014/15	65	41	24	2	0.68	0.98
Czech Republic	2011/12	31	25	6	2	0.81	0.97
Denmark	2011/12	41	15	26	4	0.92	0.71
Ecuador	2017	25	17	8	2	0.73	1.00
Estonia	2011/12	35	21	14	2	0.93	0.86
Finland	2011/12	52	26	26	2	0.91	0.95
France	2011/12	62	36	26	4	0.93	0.95
Greece	2014/15	29	12	17	2	0.91	0.86
Hungary (A,W)	2017	100	66	34	2	0.71	0.86
Ireland	2011/12	15	8	7	2	0.92	0.93
Israel	2014/15	21	9	12	2	0.89	0.97
Italy	2011/12	37	24	13	3	0.78	0.78
Japan	2011/12	12	5	7	4	0.96	0.82
Kazakhstan	2017	28	15	13	2	0.92	0.92



## First-time Parents in PIAAC (II)

[notes](#)
[back](#)

Country	Survey year	First-time parents	First-time mothers	First-time fathers	Median education	Live with partner	Born in country
Korea	2011/12	58	31	27	4	0.93	1.00
Lithuania	2014/15	26	16	10	3	0.79	0.95
Mexico	2017	43	22	21	4	0.90	0.98
Netherlands	2011/12	34	22	12	3	0.80	0.99
New Zealand (A)	2014/15	75	38	37	1	0.77	1.00
Norway	2011/12	44	17	27	2	0.95	0.93
Peru (W)	2017	28	12	16	4	0.89	0.83
Poland	2011/12	30	18	12	3	0.77	0.71
Singapore (A,W)	2014/15	8	3	5	2	0.72	1.00
Slovak Republic	2011/12	49	31	18	2	0.89	1.00
Slovenia	2014/15	14	7	7	4	0.95	0.49
Spain	2011/12	19	14	5	2	0.92	0.99
Sweden (W)	2011/12	26	12	14	2	0.95	0.91
United Kingdom	2011/12	43	26	17	3	0.93	0.81
Total	29	1,079	603	476	2	0.85	0.90

*Notes:* Education levels: 1-lower secondary or less, 2-upper secondary, 3-post-secondary/non-tertiary, 4-tertiary - professional degree, 5-tertiary - bachelor degree, and 6-tertiary - master/research degree; (A) denotes countries where individual age is only available in 5-year intervals, (W) indicates missing monthly earnings (Hungary, Peru, and Singapore) or monthly earnings only reported in deciles (Sweden).

Unit 5 - Question 2/2

Look at the graph about the number of births. Click to answer the question below.


During which period(s) was there a decline in the number of births? Click all that apply.

- ☐ 1957 - 1967
- ☐ 1967 - 1977
- ☐ 1977 - 1987
- ☐ 1987 - 1997
- ☐ 1997 - 2007



The following graph shows the number of births in the United States from 1957 to 2007. Data are presented every 10 years.




Section \_42

Unit 1 - Question 1/3

Look at the list of preschool rules. Highlight information in the list to answer the question below.

What is the latest time that children should arrive at preschool?




## Preschool Rules

Welcome to our Preschool! We are looking forward to a great year of fun, learning and getting to know each other. Please take a moment to review our preschool rules.

- Please have your child here by 9:00 am.
- Bring a small blanket or pillow and/or a small soft toy for naptime.
- Dress your child comfortably and bring a change of clothing.
- Please no jewelry or candy. If your child has a birthday please talk to your child's teacher about a special snack for the children.
- Please bring your child fully dressed, no pajamas.
- Please sign in with your full signature. This is a licensing regulation. Thank you.
- Breakfast will be served until 7:30 am.
- Medications have to be in original, labeled containers and must be signed into the medication sheet located in each classroom.
- If you have any questions, please talk to your classroom teacher or to Ms. Marlene or Ms. Tree.

▶ back



**PIAAC**


# Section 1


**You want to copy some music files to your portable music player.**

**The music player has room for 20 MB and you want as many files as possible. You want to include only jazz and rock music.**

**Select the files to include.**

**Once you have selected the files, click Next to continue.**



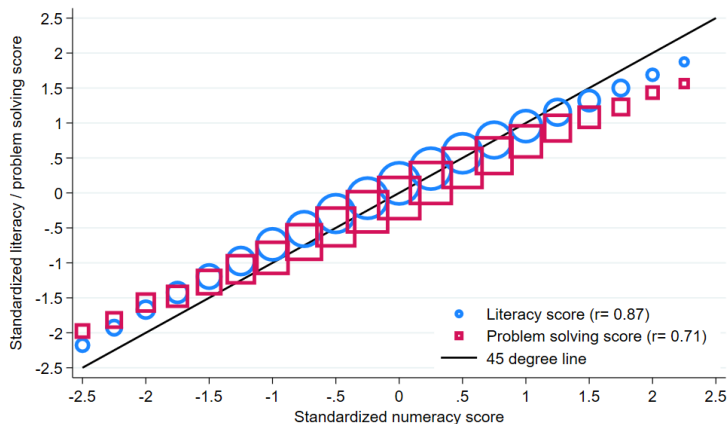


The spreadsheet shows a list of music files with columns for Title, Size, Time, Artist, and Genre. The files are sorted by size. The selected files (jazz and rock) are highlighted in yellow.

	Title	Size	Time	Artist	Genre
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Foreign Affair	14.8 MB	11:40	Don Rader Quartet	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	About the Blues	4.3 MB	3:08	Julie London	Blues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Another Mind	7.8 MB	8:44	Hiroshi Uehara	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Trane	10 MB	9:03	John Coltrane	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't Give up on Me	3.5 MB	3:45	Solomon Burke	Blues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Far Out	5.3 MB	5:25	Antonio Farao	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire and Water	5.3 MB	4:00	Free	Blues
<input type="checkbox"/>	If	4.9 MB	5:48	Myriam Alter	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	Imagine	2.2 MB	3:04	John Lennon	Rock
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inclined	7.1 MB	5:59	Carol Welsman	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	On an Island	16 MB	6:47	David Gilmore	Blues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pass it On	3.1 MB	3:36	Albert Calvo	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raindrops, Raindrops	5.2 MB	3:46	Karin Krog	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	Say You Will	8.8 MB	3:47	Fleetwood Mac	Rock
<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin Deep	7.1 MB	4:28	Buddy Guy	Blues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Speak No Evil	6.9 MB	5:13	Flora Purim	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Other Side of Blue	6.5 MB	5:08	Jean Stry & Jobo	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Rise	7.3 MB	7:28	Julien Lourau	Jazz
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Rising	4.5 MB	4:50	Bruce Springsteen	Rock

**Total Size Selected (MB)**

# Correlation of PIAAC scores

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*Notes:* Size of scatters indicates number of observations per bin. The correlation coefficient refers to the correlation between standardised numeracy score and the respective measures. If the scores were perfectly correlated ( $r = 1$ ) all observations would lie on the 45 degree line. Source: PIAAC international PUF

**Skills:** competencies you need to advance in a certain environment, e.g. the workplace, rather than innate ability

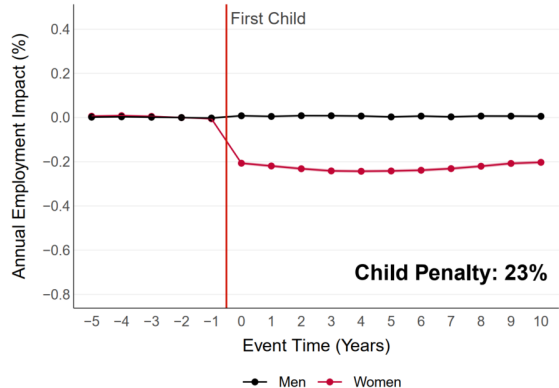
- Skill production during education influenced by many factors (Hanushek, 1986; Woessmann, 2016)
- Depreciation of skills if not used (Edin, Gustavsson, 2008; Ortego-Marti, 2017; Dinerstein et al., 2022)
- Parenthood affects stress & sleep (Parfitt, Ayers, 2014) which has impact on cognitive functioning (Pilcher, Huffcutt, 1996; Minkel et al., 2012; Duarte-Guterman et al., 2019; Orchard et al., 2023)

**Child penalties** in adult skills not as obvious since skill depreciation might/should not be immediate

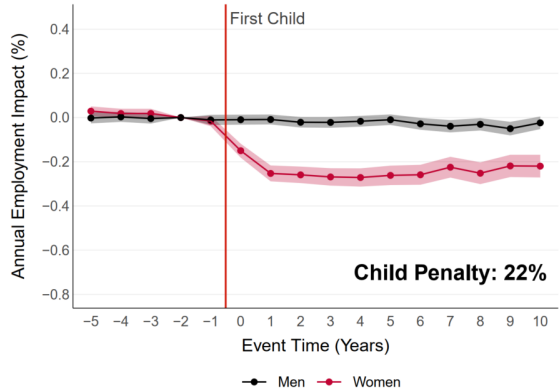
- Some evidence on skill depreciation during unemployment (Cohen et al., 2023; Dinerstein et al., 2022), but **unemployment**  $\neq$  **parenthood** (without employment)

# Results for Repeated Cross Sections (Annual Employment, Source: Kleven (2023))

A. Annual Employment



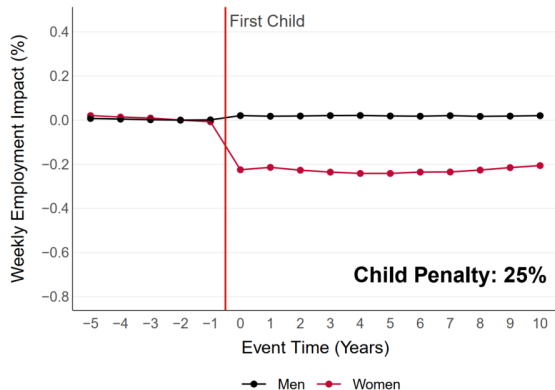
B. Annual Employment



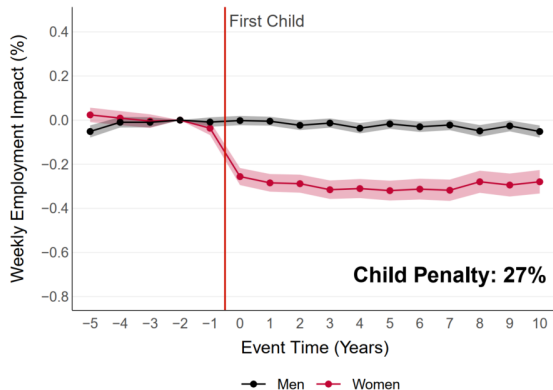


# Results for Repeated Cross Sections (Weekly Employment, Source: Kleven (2023))

## C. Weekly Employment

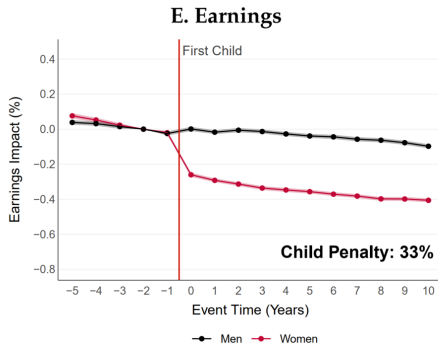


## D. Weekly Employment

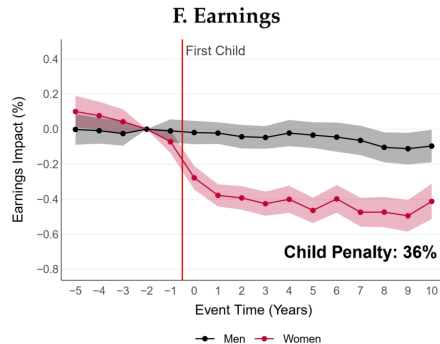


# Panel vs Repeated Cross-Section

▶ back



▶ annual employment



▶ weekly employment

# Expansion to Single Cross Section

[▶ back](#)

## Validation with German SOEP data

- matching on **gender**, **Abitur** (yes/no), **married** (yes/no), **born in Germany** (yes/no), **East Germany** (yes/no) *in the same survey year*
- estimate event study regression with event and age dummies only, by gender; cluster SEs on individual level

Figure: Monthly Gross Earnings, SOEP 1995-2020

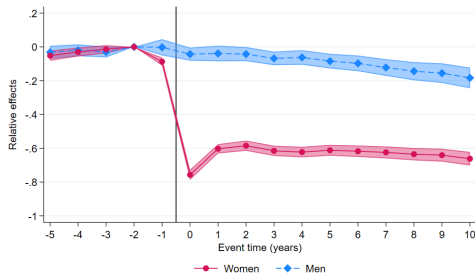
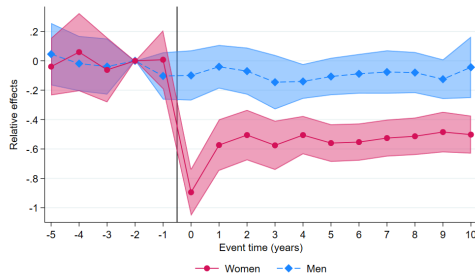
[▶ Employment](#)

Figure: Monthly Gross Earnings, SOEP 2014

[▶ Pseudo-Panel Earnings](#)[▶ Pseudo-Panel Employment](#)

# Expansion to Single Cross Section

[▶ back](#)

## Validation with German SOEP data

- matching on **gender**, **Abitur** (yes/no), **married** (yes/no), **born in Germany** (yes/no), **East Germany** (yes/no) *in the same survey year*
- estimate event study regression with event and age dummies only, by gender; cluster SEs on individual level

Figure: Monthly Gross Earnings, SOEP 1995-2020

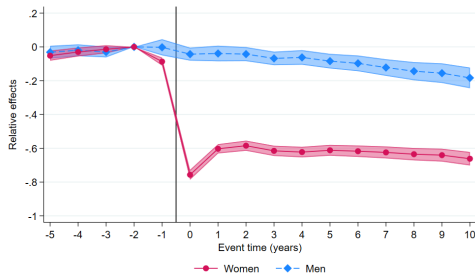
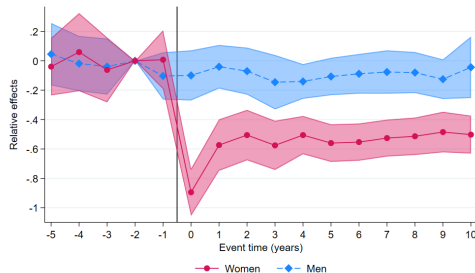
[▶ Employment](#)

Figure: Monthly Gross Earnings, SOEP 2014

[▶ Pseudo-Panel Earnings](#)[▶ Pseudo-Panel Employment](#)

# Validation for Repeated Cross Sections (Monthly Gross Earnings, SOEP)

Figure: SOEP 1995-2020 as panel

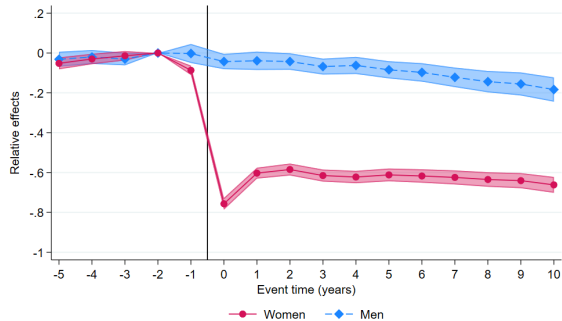
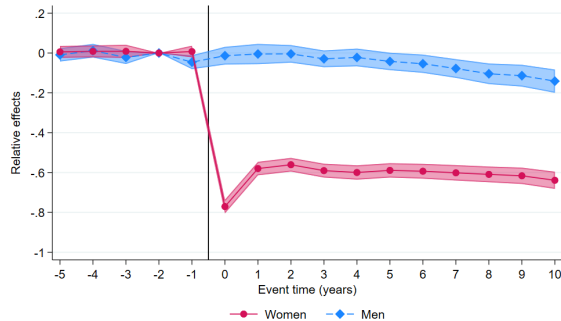


Figure: SOEP 1995-2020 as repeated cross-sections



# Validation for Repeated Cross Sections (Employment, SOEP)

Figure: SOEP 1995-2020 as panel

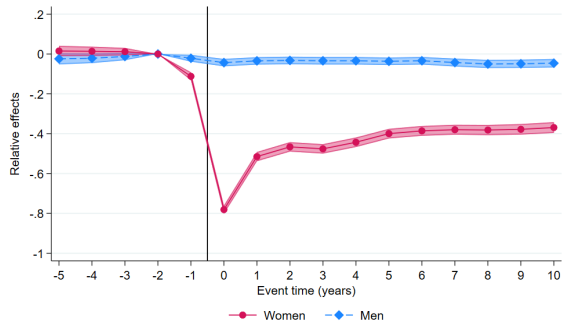
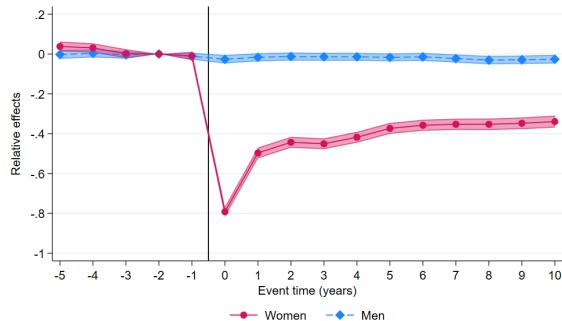


Figure: SOEP 1995-2020 as repeated cross-sections



# Validation of Single Cross Section with SOEP data, Any Employment

Figure: Any Employment, SOEP 1995-2020

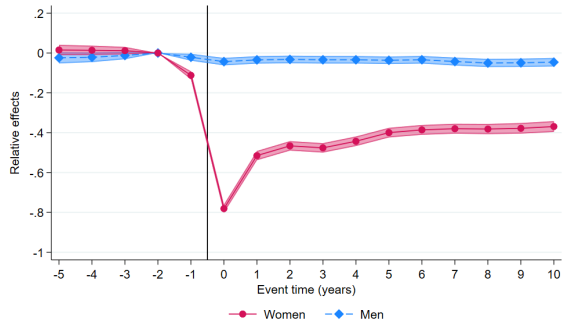
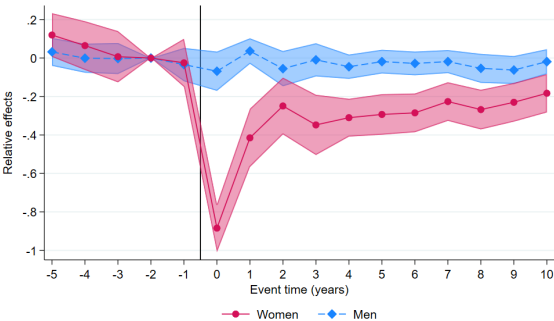


Figure: Any Employment, SOEP 2012



# Validation with PIAAC, including controls

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Figure: Any employment, PIAAC 2012

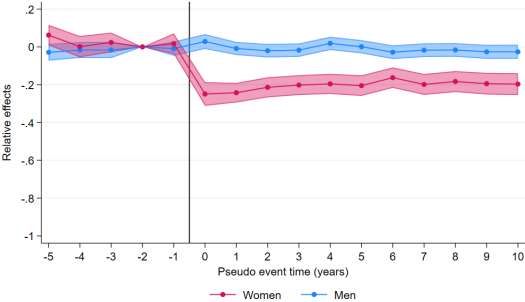
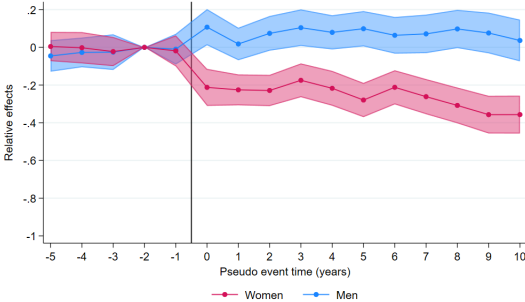


Figure: Monthly Gross Earnings, PIAAC 2012





## Summary estimates for effect on numeracy skills (no controls)

[▶ back](#)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Men	Women	Men-Women
Pre-birth	0.0711* (0.0366)	0.0525* (0.0310)	-0.0186 (0.0480)
Short-term effect	-0.2536*** (0.0321)	-0.3403*** (0.0264)	-0.0867** (0.0415)
Long-term effect	-0.3536*** (0.0337)	-0.5476*** (0.0278)	-0.1940*** (0.0437)
Observations	14,824	18,700	33,524

*Notes:* Table shows summary estimates for child penalties in numeracy scores corresponding to event-time coefficients. The pre-birth periods covers event-time  $-5$  to  $-3$ , the short term effect is 0 to 4 years, and the long-term effect 5 to 10 years. The two years before birth is the omitted category. Source: PIAAC international PUF

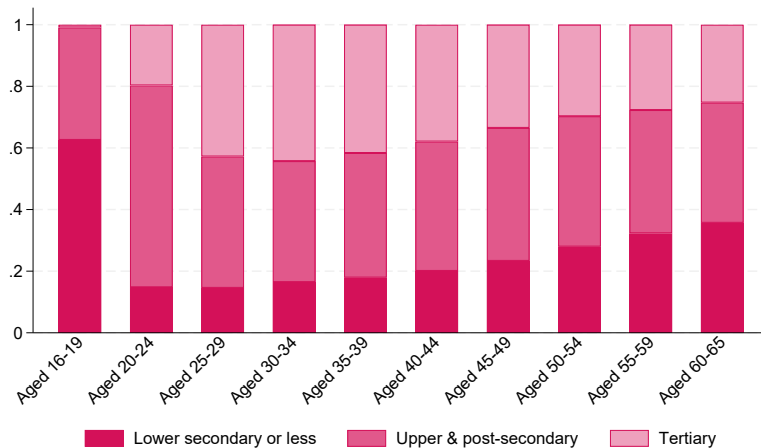
## Summary estimates for effect on numeracy skills (with controls)

[▶ back](#)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Men	Women	Men-Women
Pre-birth	0.0287 (0.0320)	0.0162 (0.0283)	-0.0125 (0.0426)
Short-term effect	-0.1408*** (0.0281)	-0.1566*** (0.0247)	-0.0158 (0.0374)
Long-term effect	-0.1406*** (0.0297)	-0.1980*** (0.0265)	-0.0574 (0.0398)
Observations	13,624	17,689	31,313

*Notes:* Table shows summary estimates for child penalties in numeracy scores corresponding to event-time coefficients controlling for education, living with the partner, and being born in the country. The pre-birth periods covers event-time -5 to -3, the short term effect is 0 to 4 years, and the long-term effect 5 to 10 years. The two years before birth is the omitted category. Source: PIAAC international PUF

## Cohort differences in education

[▶ back](#)

# Literacy and problem-solving skills (standardized) around childbirth

Figure: Literacy, PIAAC 2012

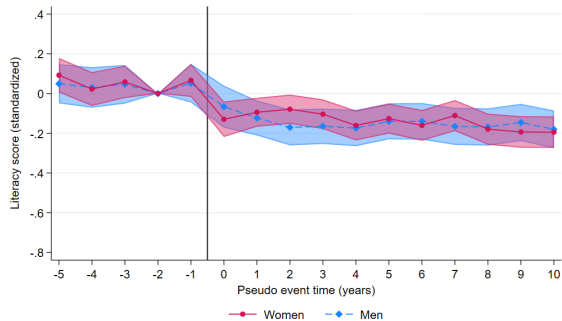
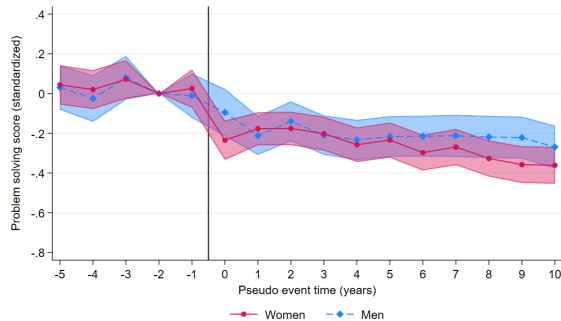


Figure: Problem-solving, PIAAC 2012



# Child Penalty in Education

[▶ live with partner](#)[▶ back](#)

Figure: Education secondary or less, PIAAC 2012

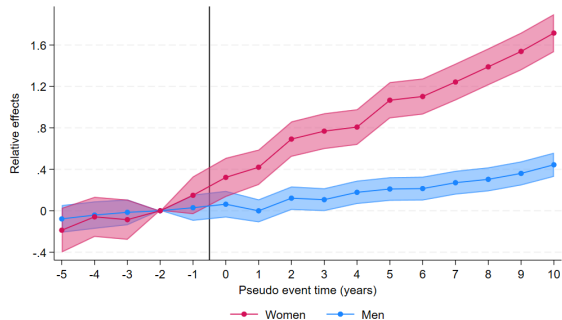


Figure: Tertiary education (bachelor or master), PIAAC 2012

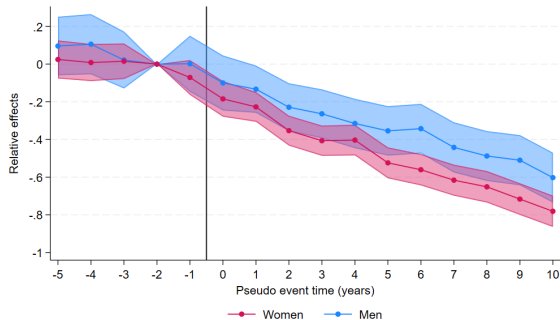
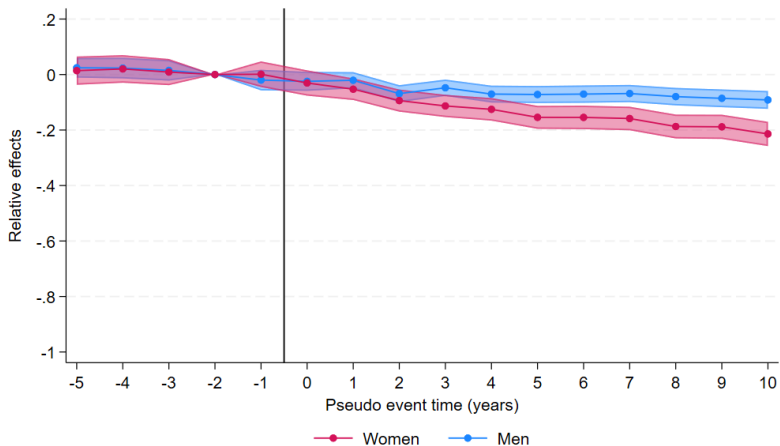
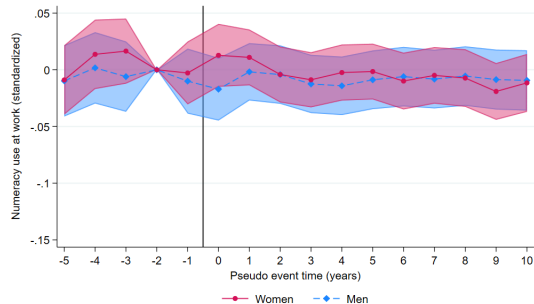


Figure: Living with their partner (0/1), PIAAC 2012

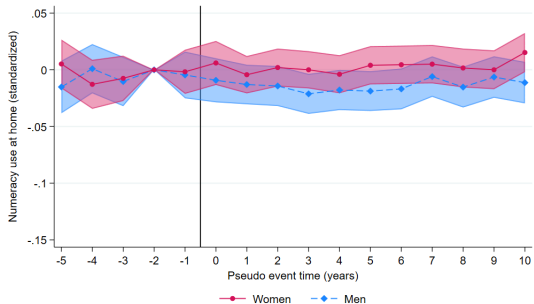


# Child Penalty in Numeracy Skill Use – Employed

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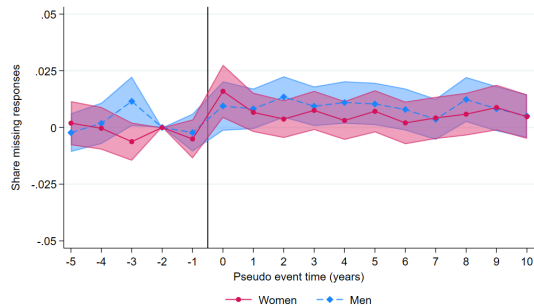
Numeracy use at work (employed, with controls)



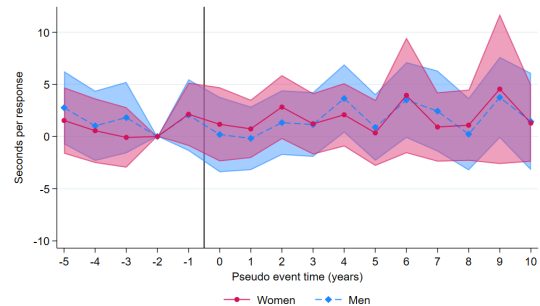
Numeracy use at home (employed, with controls)

# Child Penalty in Response Behavior

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Share of numeracy questions left unanswered (with controls)



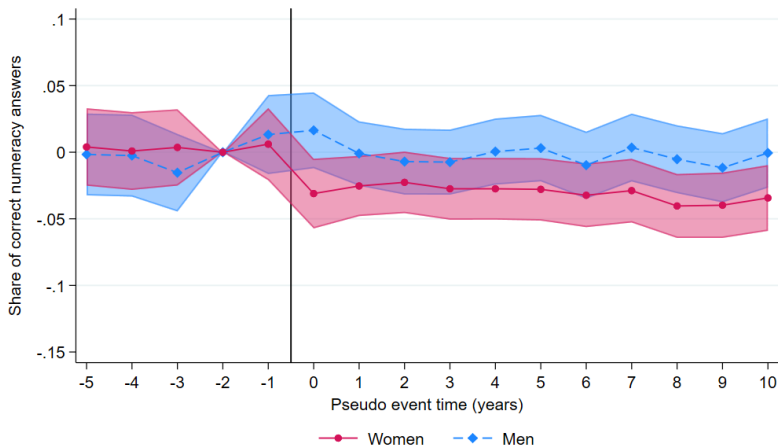
Average time per numeracy question (in seconds, with controls)



# Child Penalty in Actually Answered Numeracy Questions

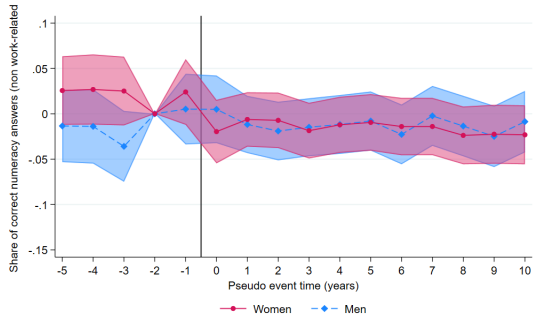
[▶ back](#)

Figure: Numeracy score of actual responses (with controls)

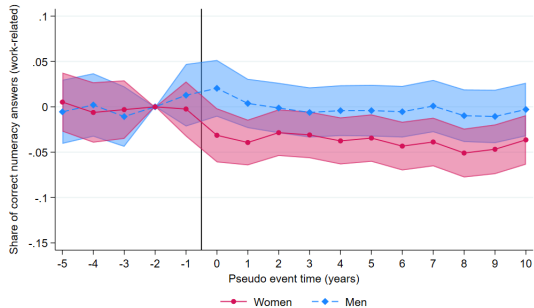


# Child Penalty in Numeracy Score Components

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Numeracy score in non-work related questions (with controls)



Numeracy score in work-related questions (with controls)