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Home based work during Covid-19 pandemic and fertility intentions

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Motivation

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Covid-19 pandemic → substantial **changes** to the **TFR**

2020/2021 - sharp decline

later in 2021 - recuperation in some countries

(see e.g. Aassve et al., 2021; Sobotka et al 2021; Zeman & Sobotka 2021)

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**Sudden termination of
fertility treatments**
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**Disrupted access to
childcare**
(e.g. Aassve et al. 2020)

Motivation

No study has looked at HBW and fertility (intentions)

Relevance

Why studying **HBW** and **fertility (intentions)** during **Covid-19**?

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HBW affects work & family
reconciliation

HBW impact on work & family (nexus)

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PROS

- saves time (less commuting) & saves money (Hill et al., 2003, Bailey and Kurland, 2002)
- allows for organizing paid work flexibly around childcare duties (Crosbie and Moore, 2004)
- allows for being more present in children's lives (Callister and Singley, 2004)
- allows minimizing work-related interruptions (Arntz et al. 2019, Chung and van der Horst 2018)

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CONS

- blurs the boundaries between paid work and family life (Glavin and Schieman 2012)
- fragmented work time, stress, home/family – related interruptions (Powell and Craig 2015)
- longer work hours & evening work (Felstead and Henseke, 2017)
- negative consequences for work career:
 - less networking (Martinez and Gómez, 2013)
 - lower visibility at work (Richardson and Kelliher, 2015)
 - flexibility stigma (Munsch 2016)

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Pandemic specificity



HBW – FI during pandemic: main hypothesis

H1 (a): The **overall relationship** between HBW and fertility intentions among parents during the Covid-19 pandemic will be **negative..**

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H1 (b): particularly among **mothers**

Moderators **counterbalancing** negative effect HBW-FI

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Prepandemic division of
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H2 : negative HBW – FI **weaker** for women from **traditional model**

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H3 : negative HBW – FI **weaker** for those whose **financial situation deteriorated**

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Occupational position

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H4 : negative HBW – FI weaker for those mothers whose career prospects did
not deteriorate

Occupational position

H5 : negative HBW – FI **weaker** for those mothers **holding non-professional or
non-managerial positions**

Data

Familydemic Survey in **PL** CA, DE, IT, SE & USA

Time: June 2021

Method: CAWI

Subsample size: 2505
(total sample in PL 9586)

Employed and partnered
individuals

Model

Multinomial Logistic Regression with interactions (by gender & children)

DV:

Change in FI – no change (ref), increase, decrease

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1. [Access to] HBW: Feb NA-Jun NA; NA-A; A-A; A-A+

2. Number of months working from home (0-15)

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Childcare & housework division of labour; change in financial situation; career prospects and occupation

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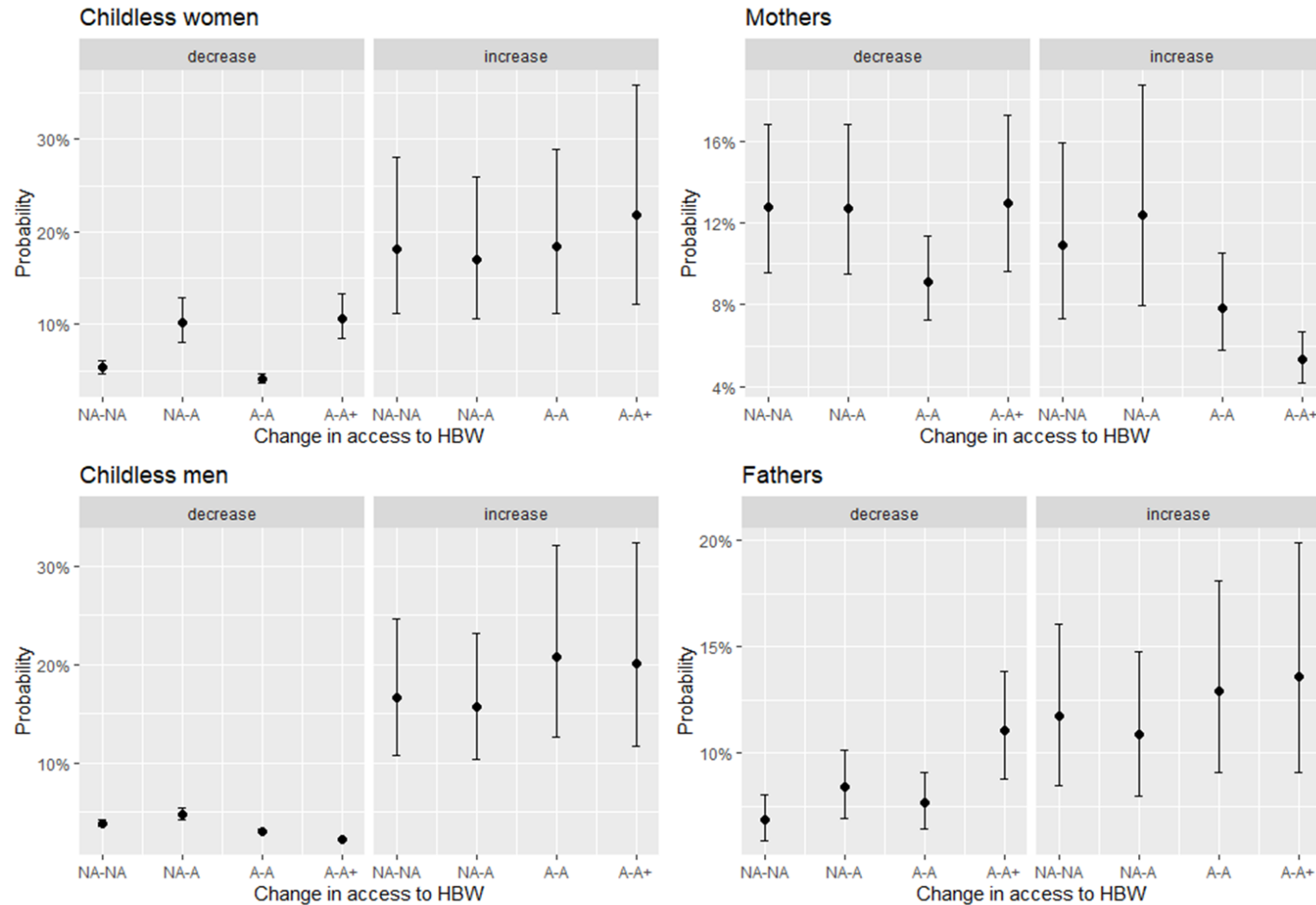
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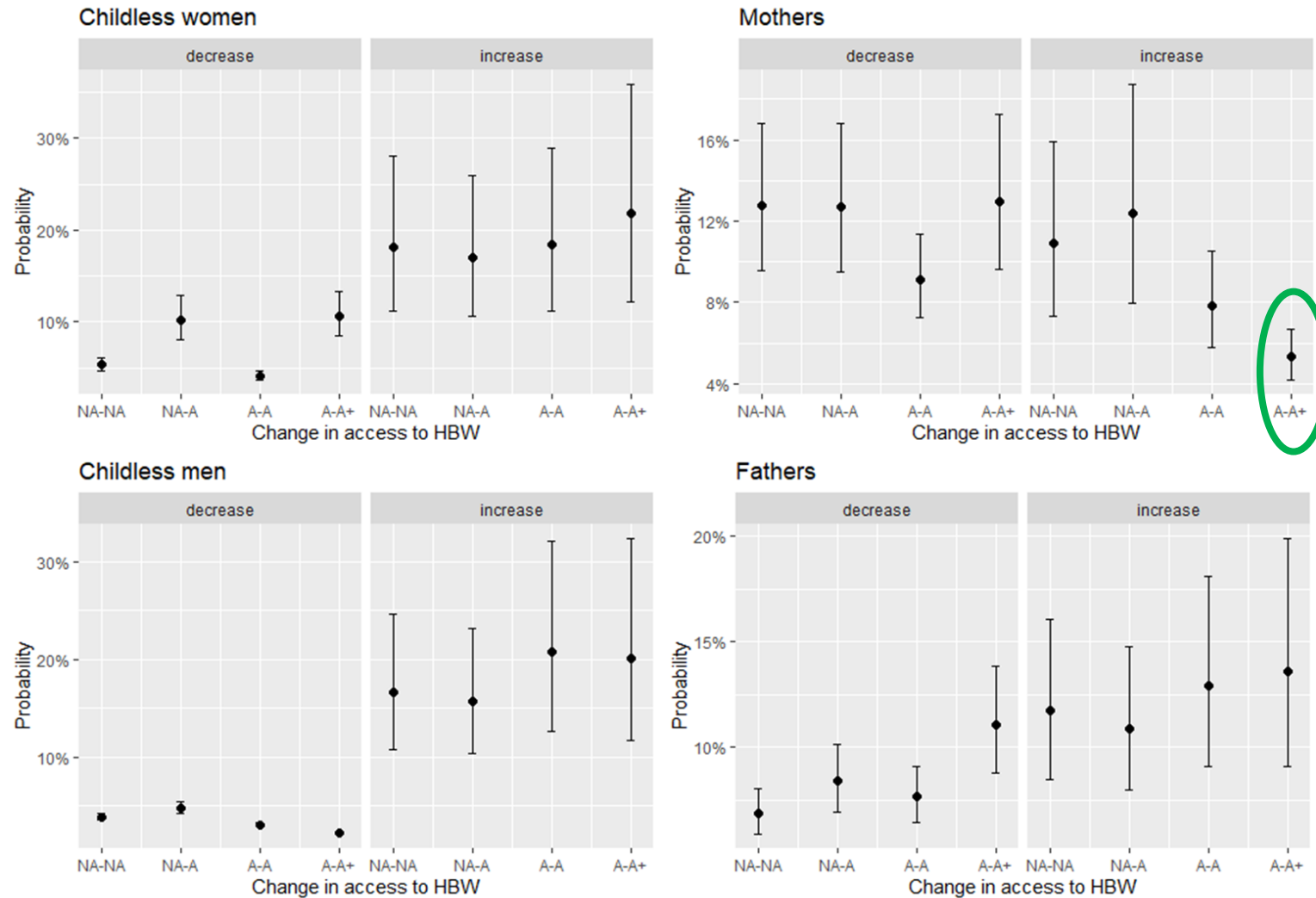
C:

change in partnership & partnership quality; partner use of HBW; housing conditions; R's education, age, presence of children aged 0-1 in HH

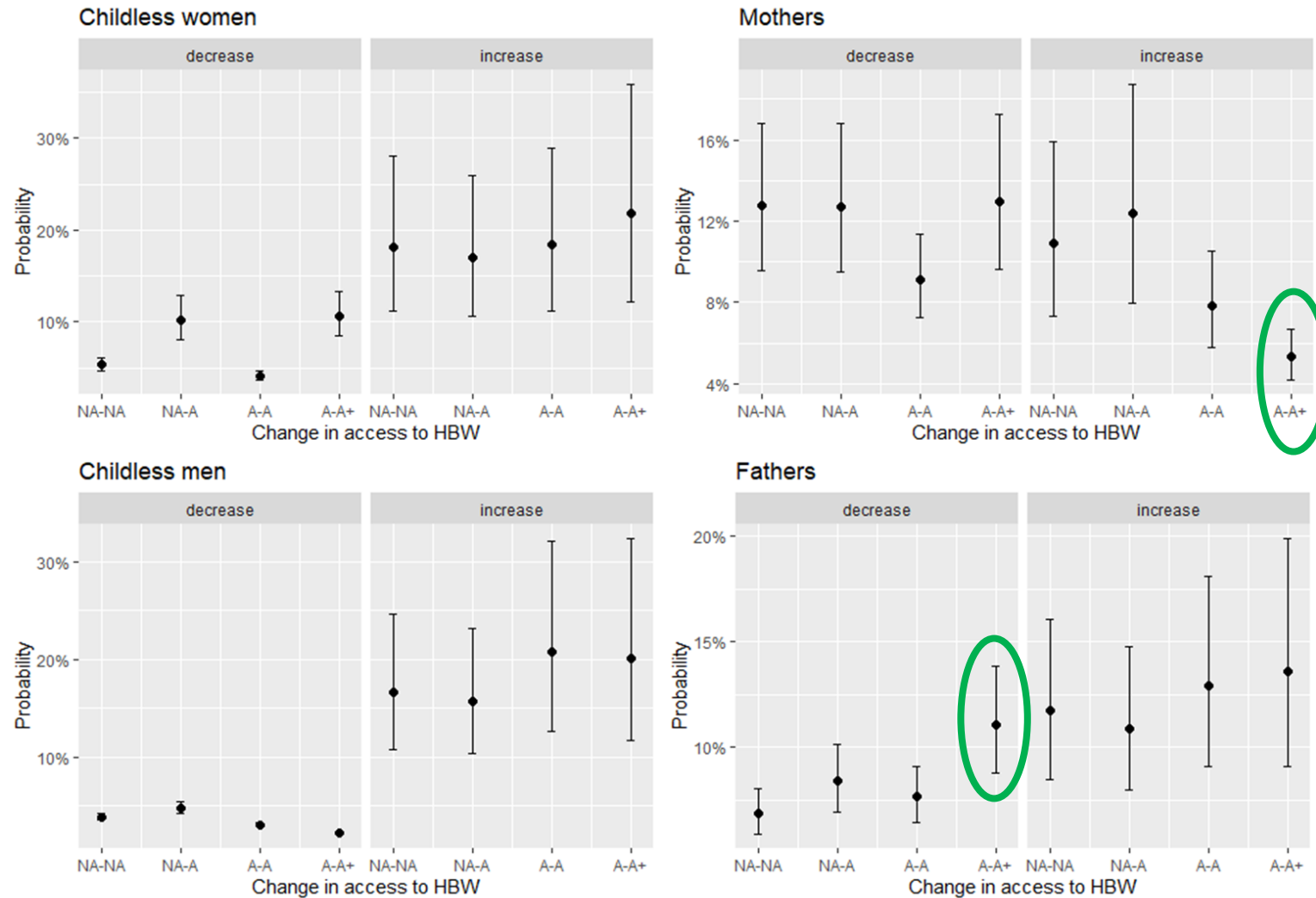
Results: H1 and beyond



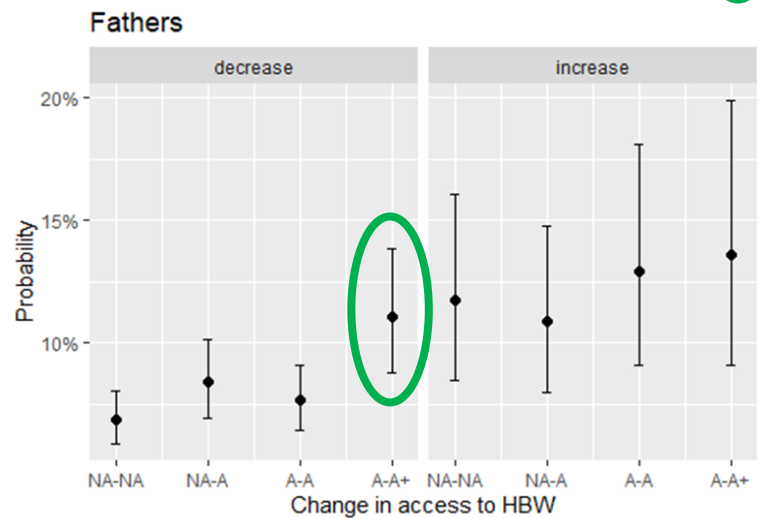
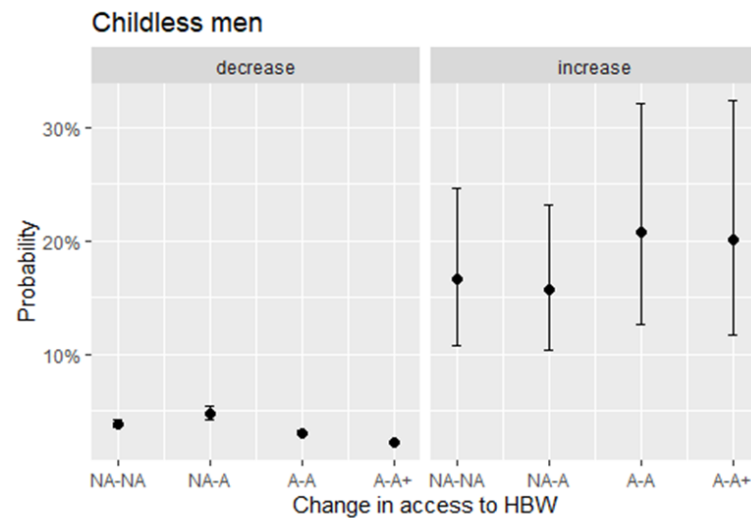
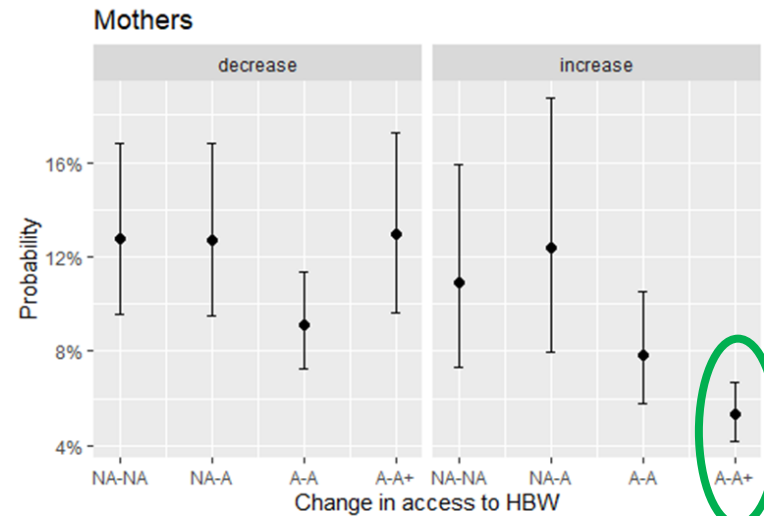
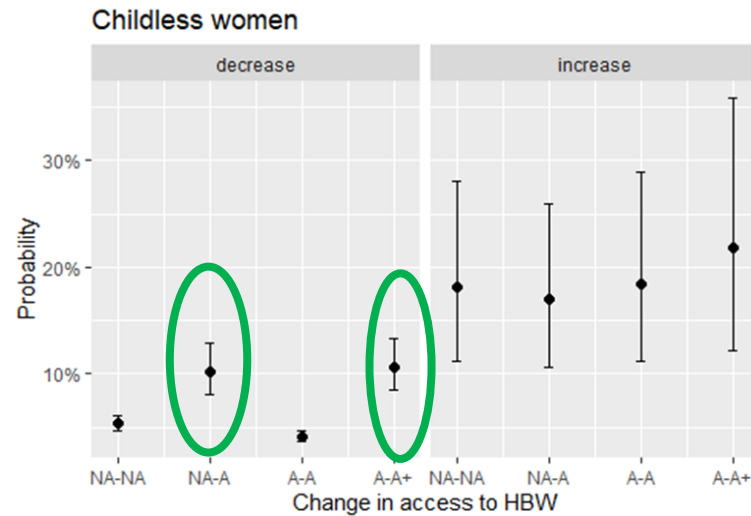
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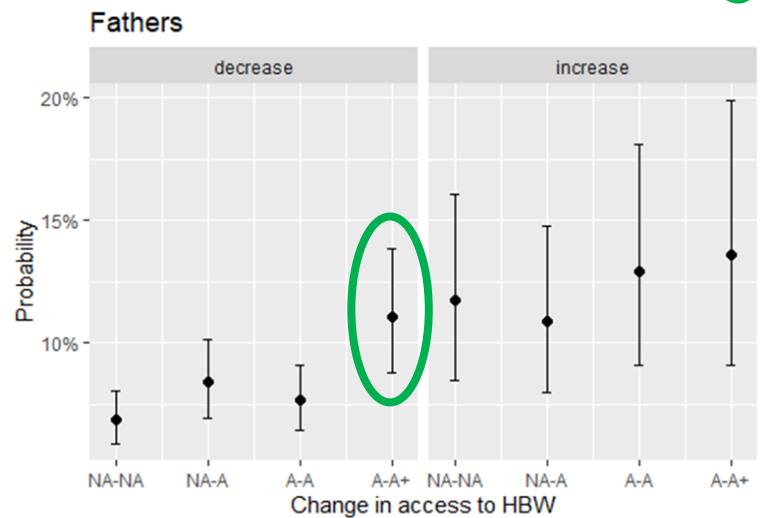
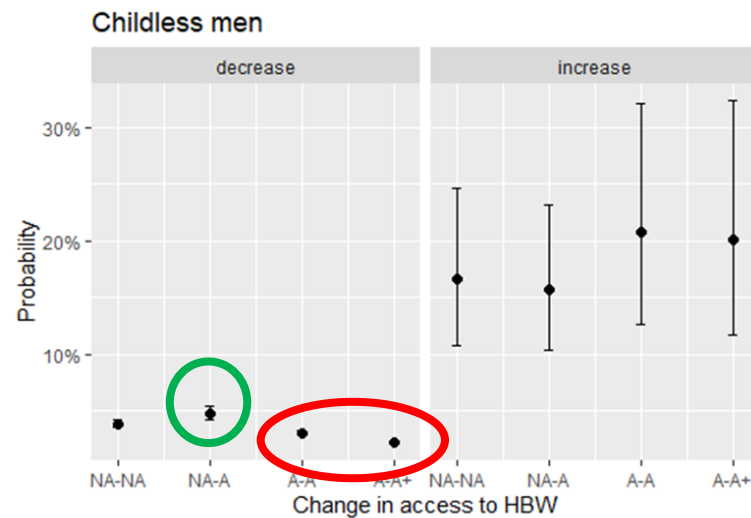
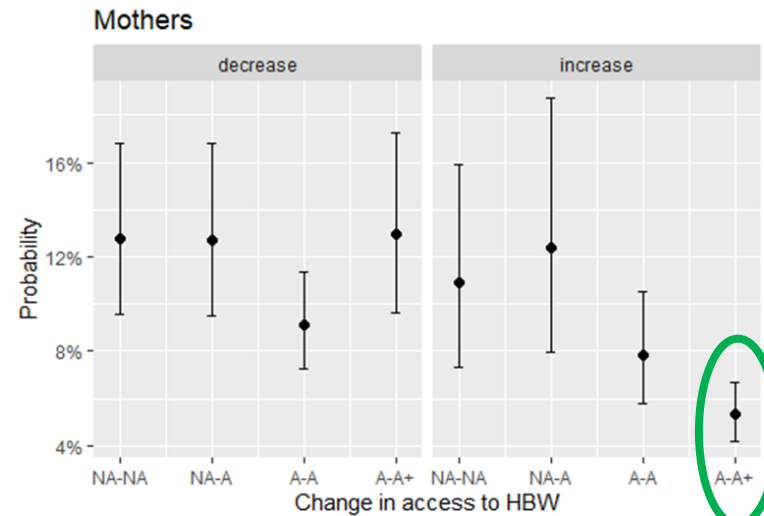
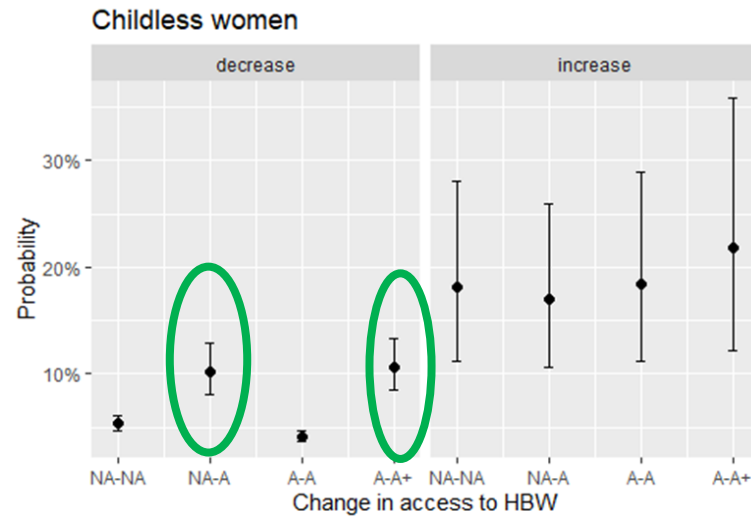
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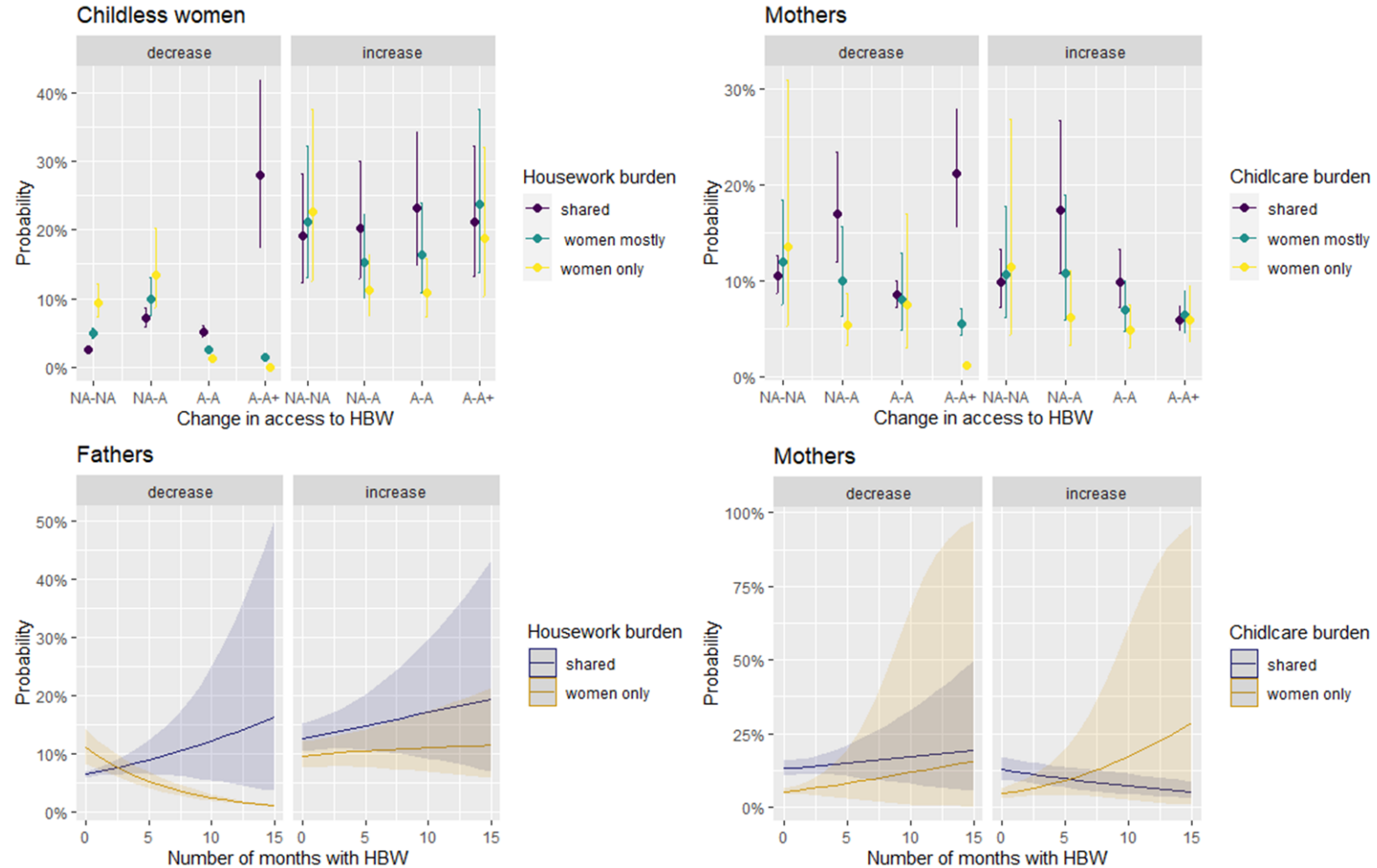
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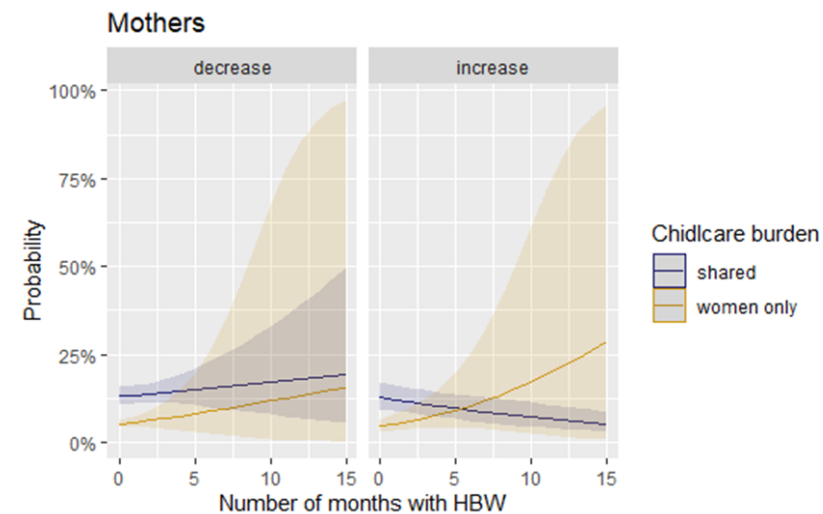
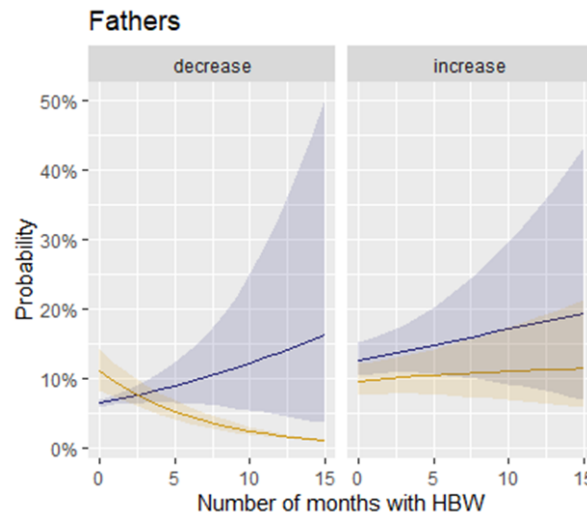
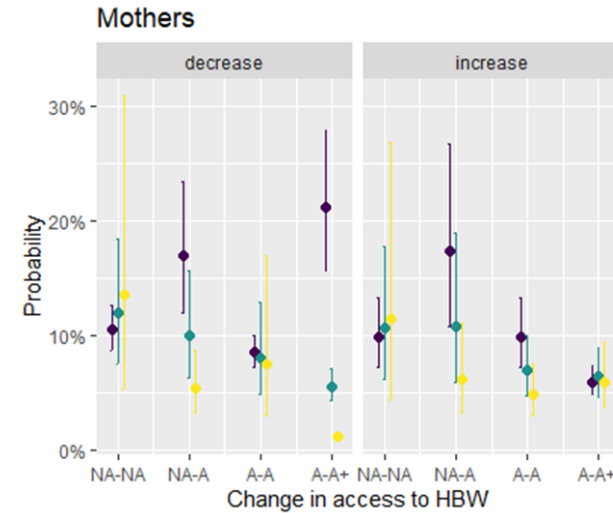
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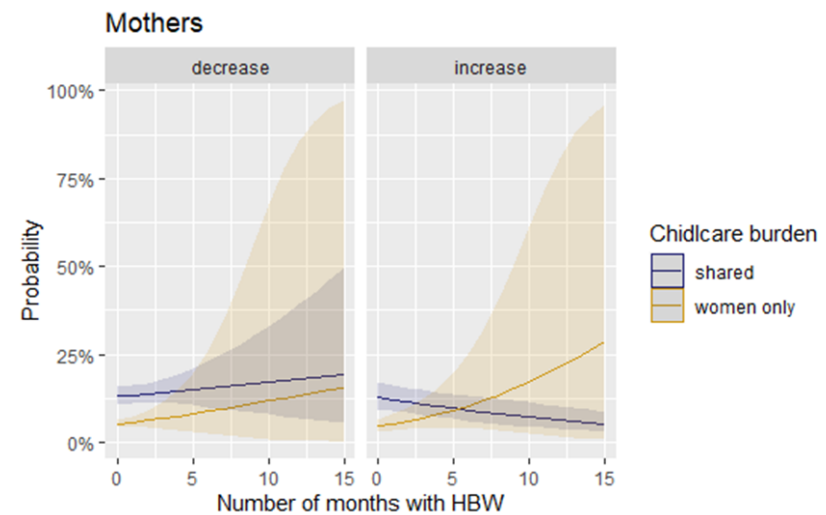
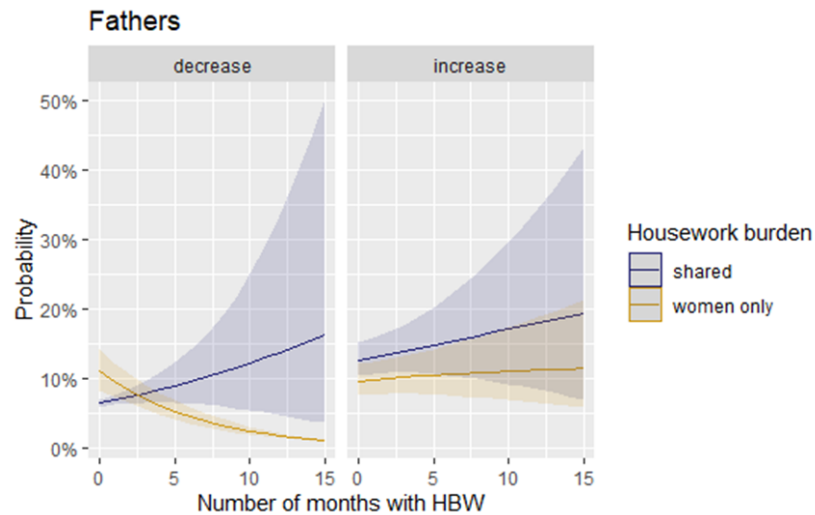
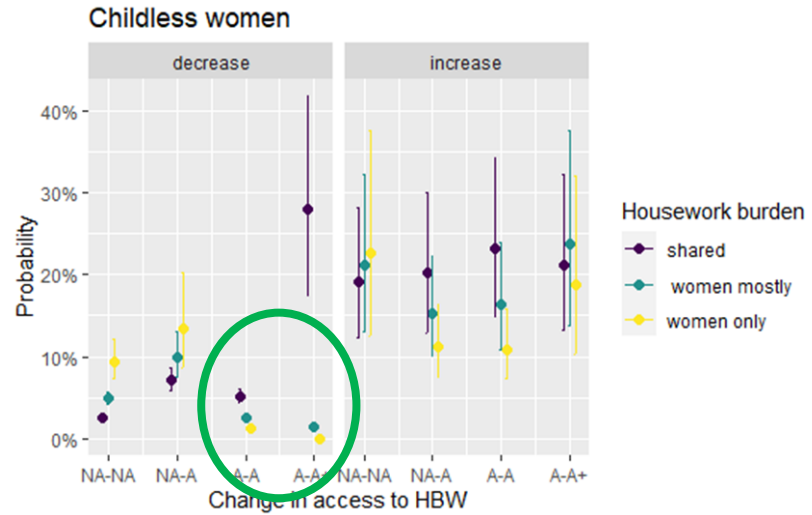
Results: H2 and beyond



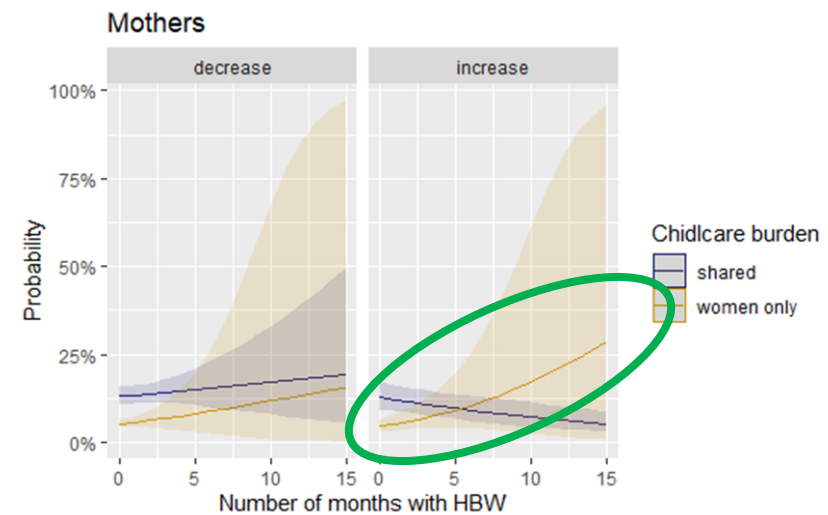
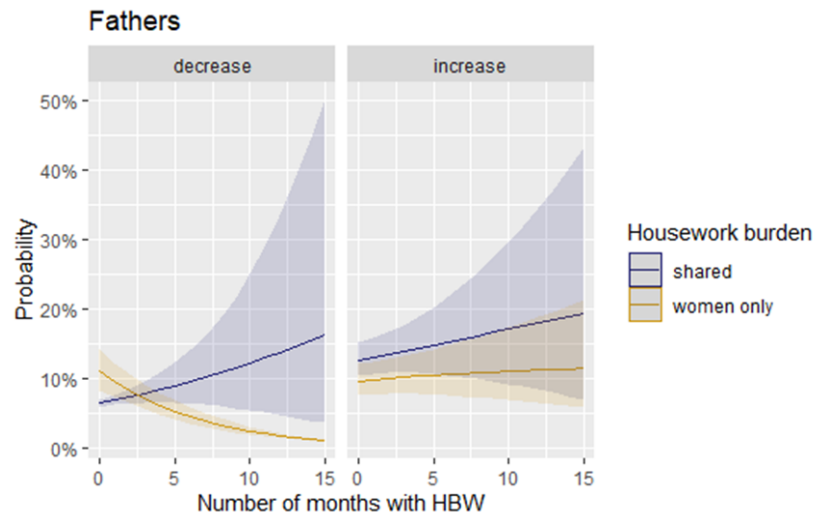
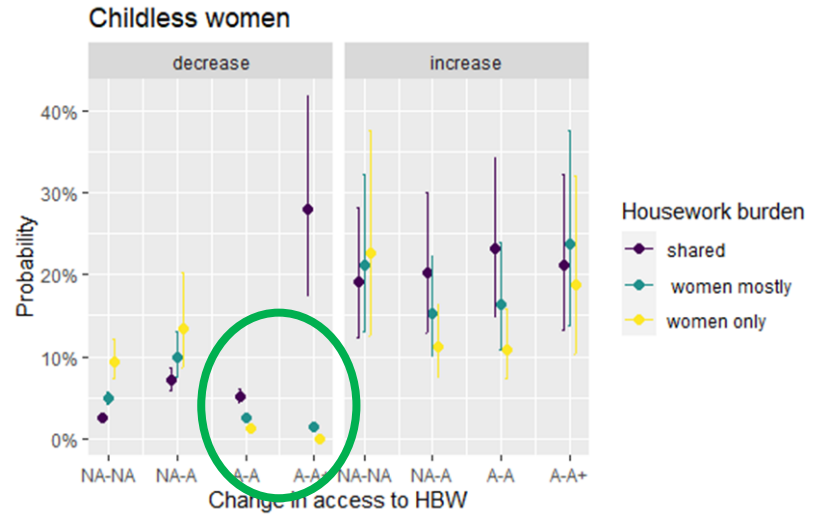
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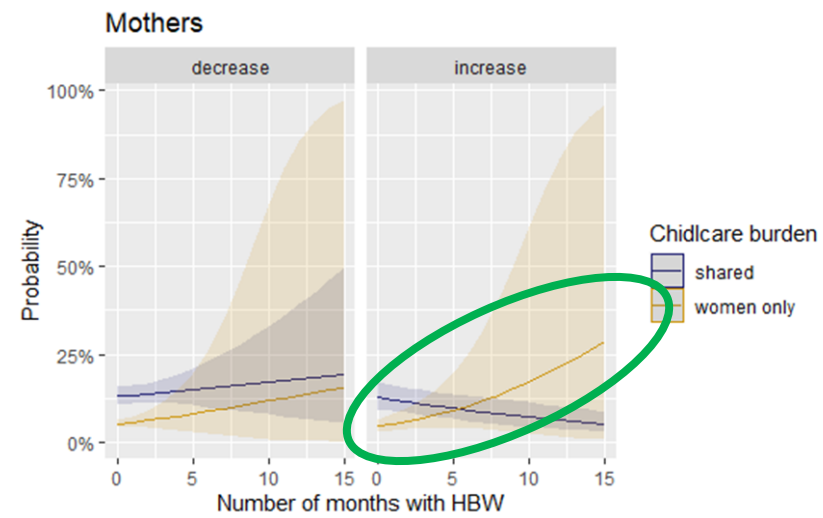
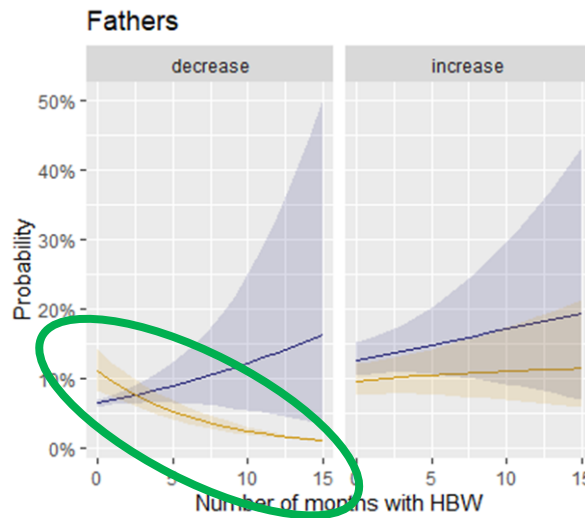
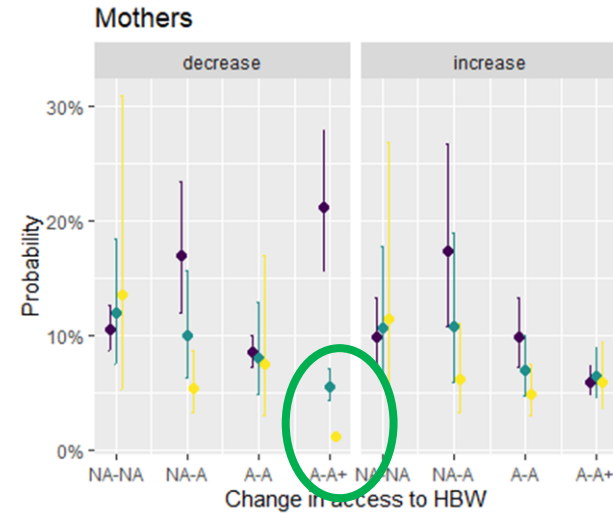
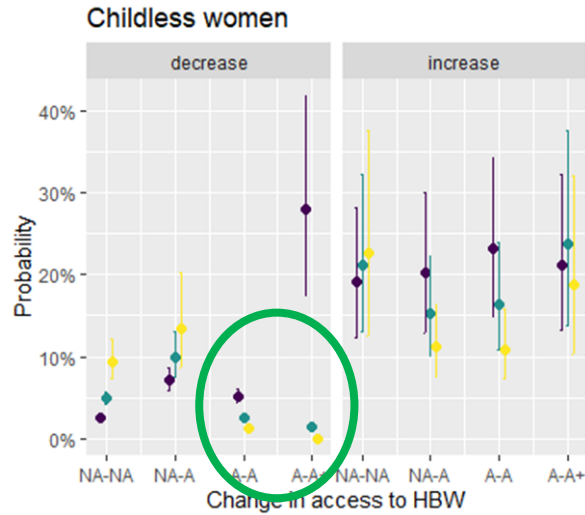
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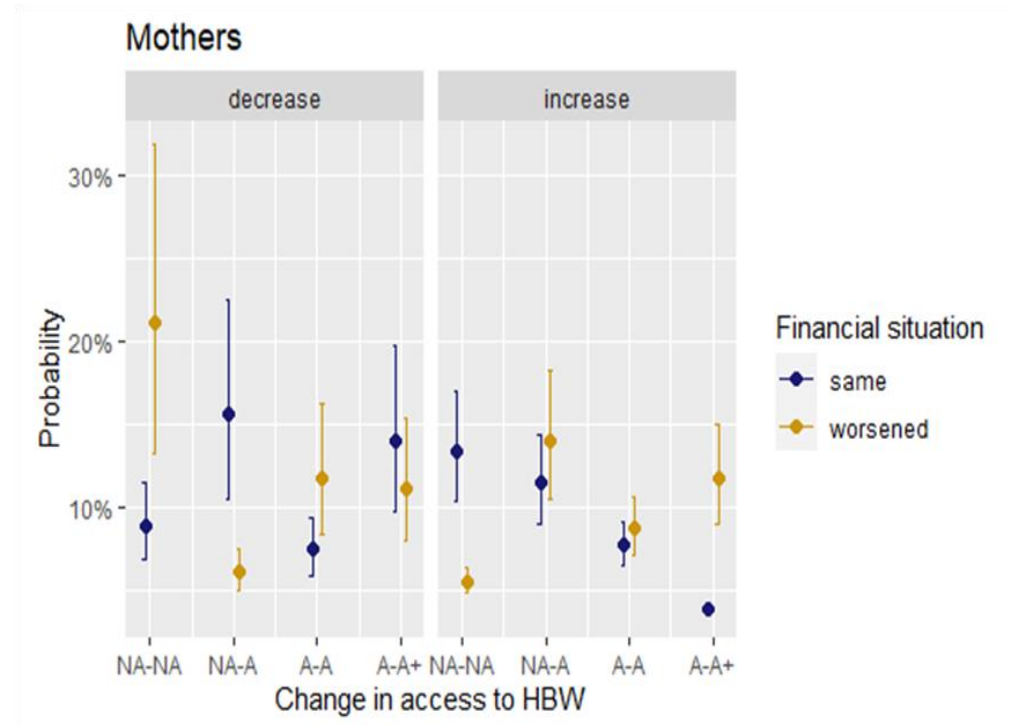
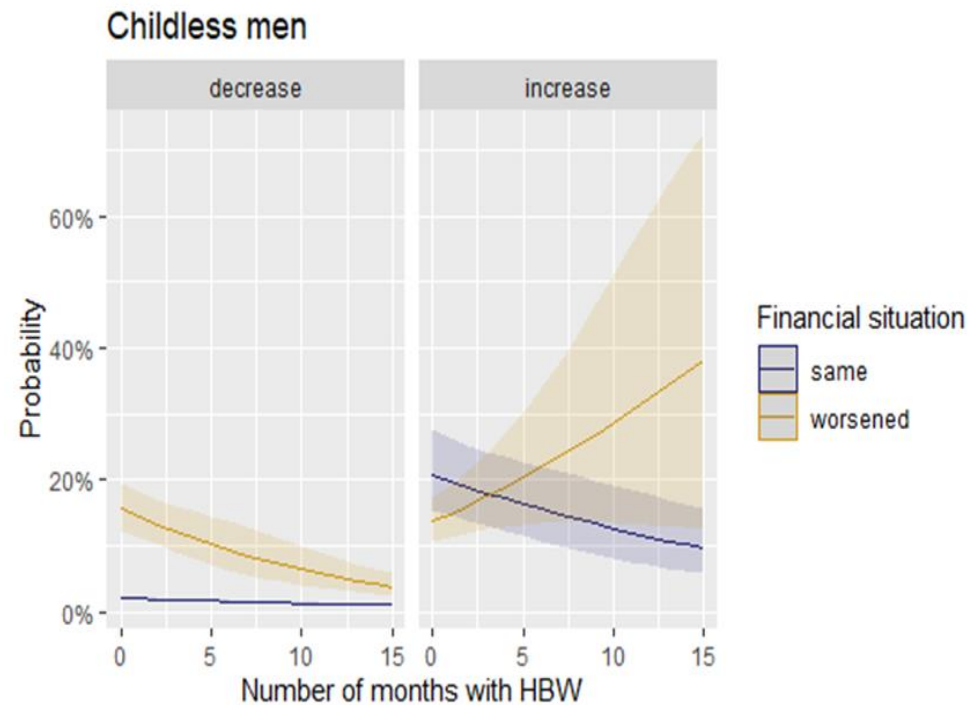
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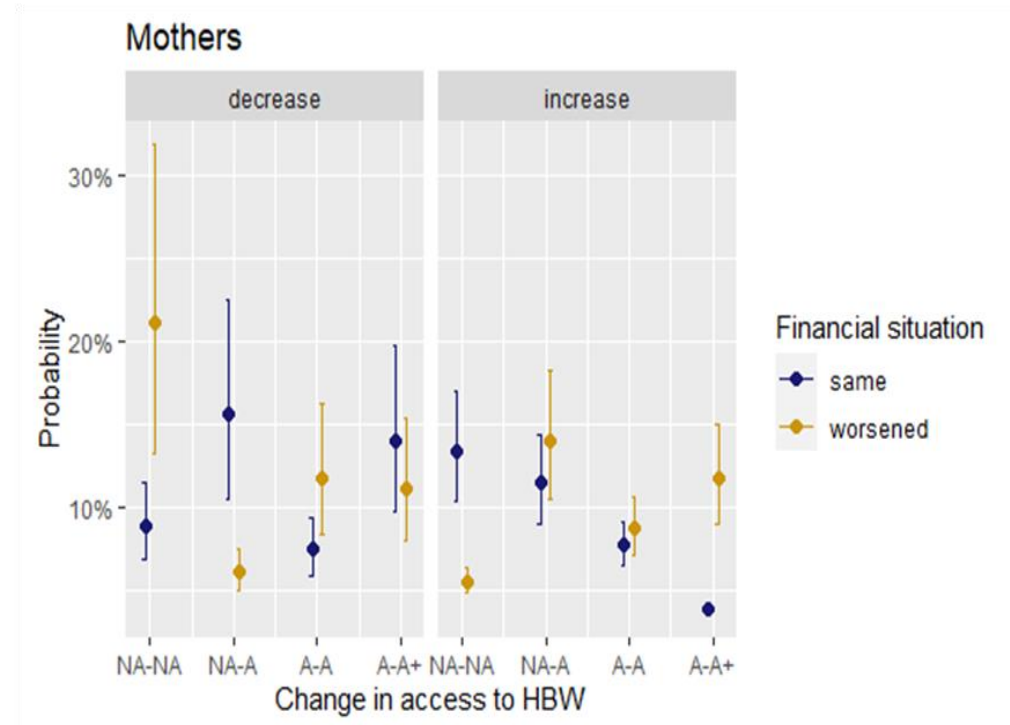
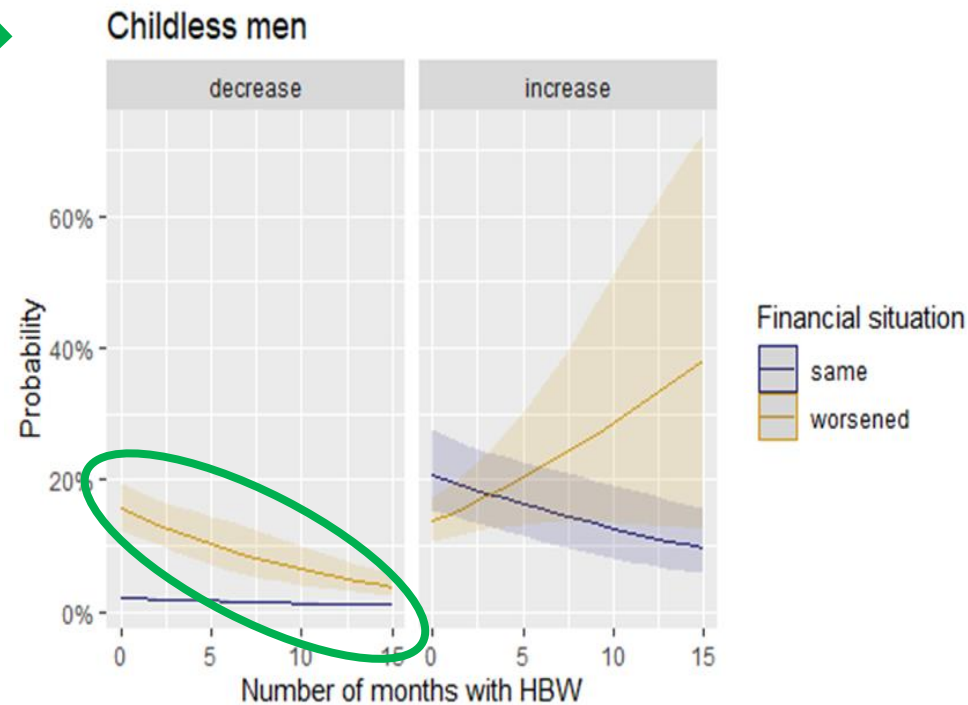
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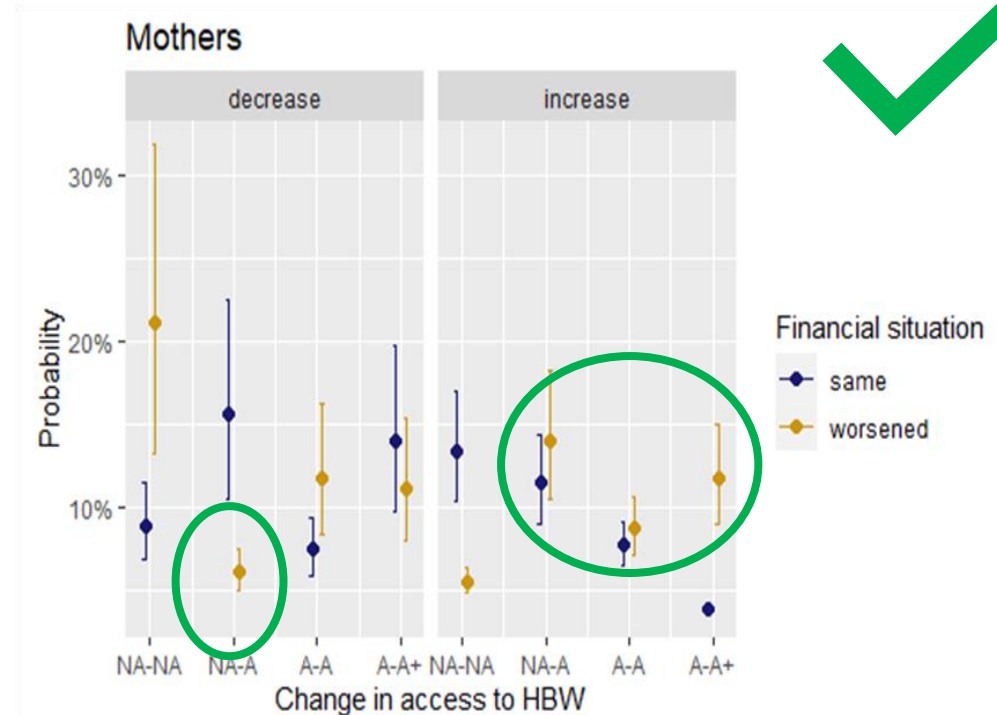
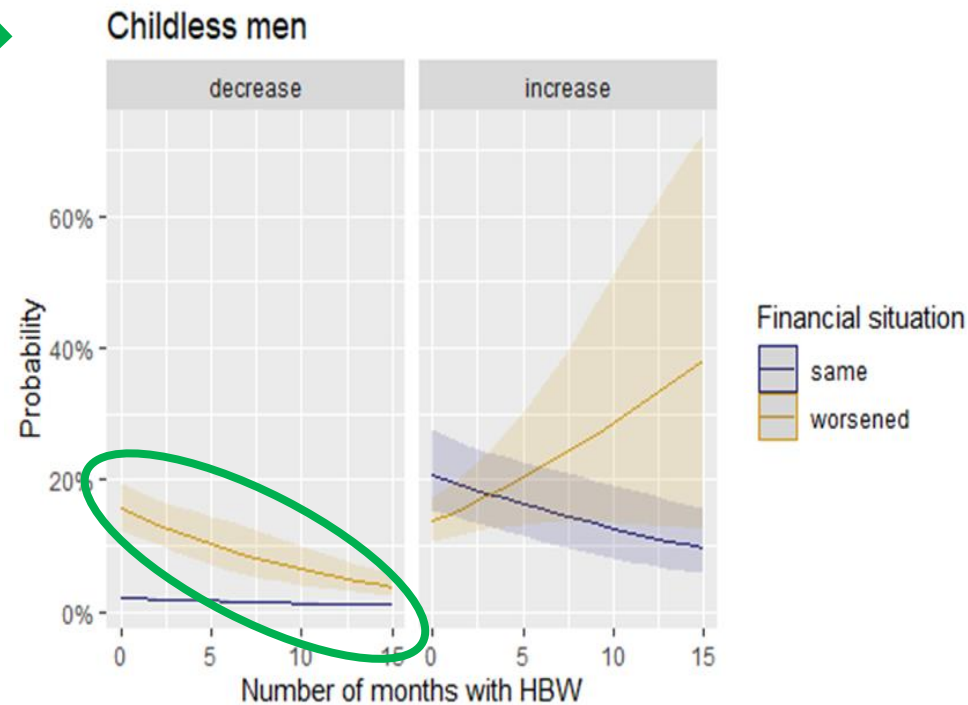
Results: H3 and beyond



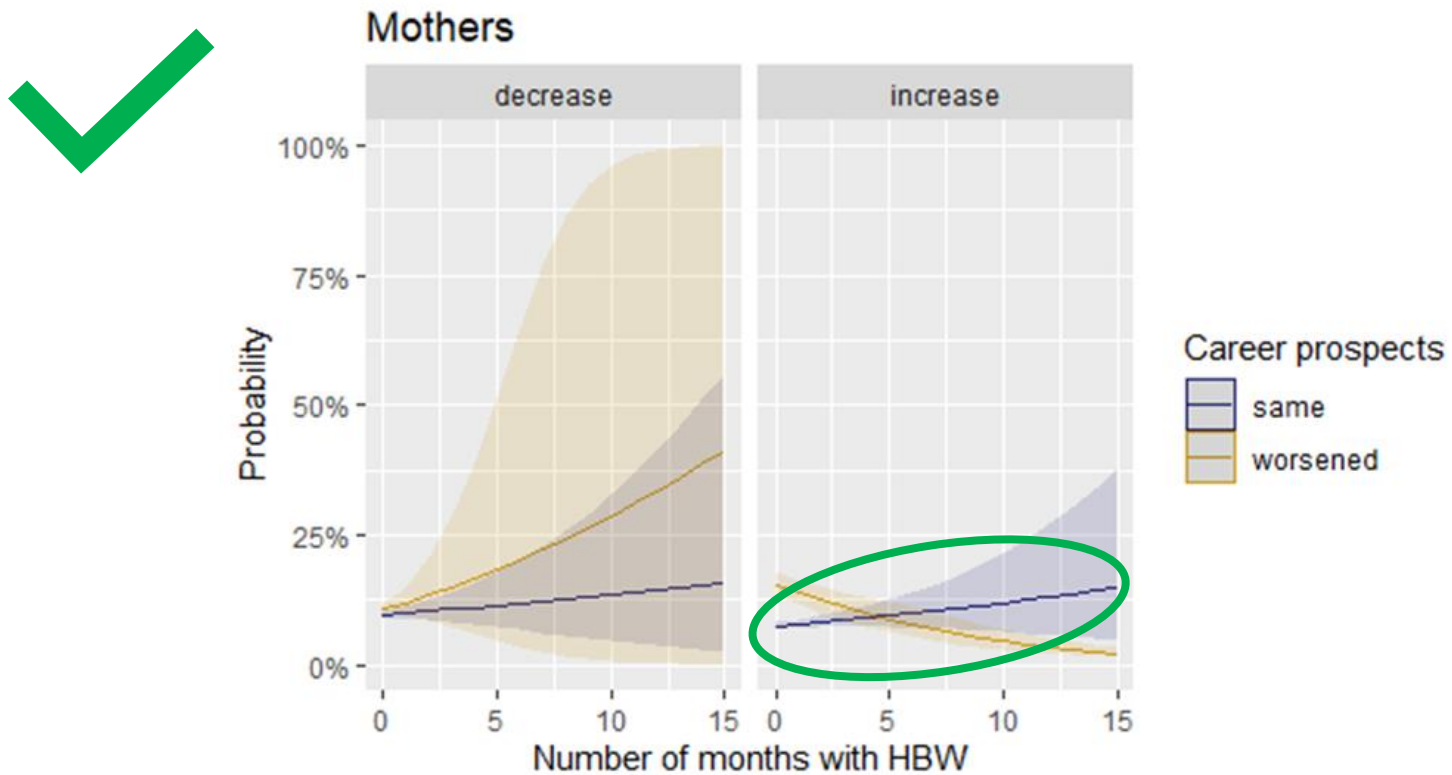
Results: H3 and beyond



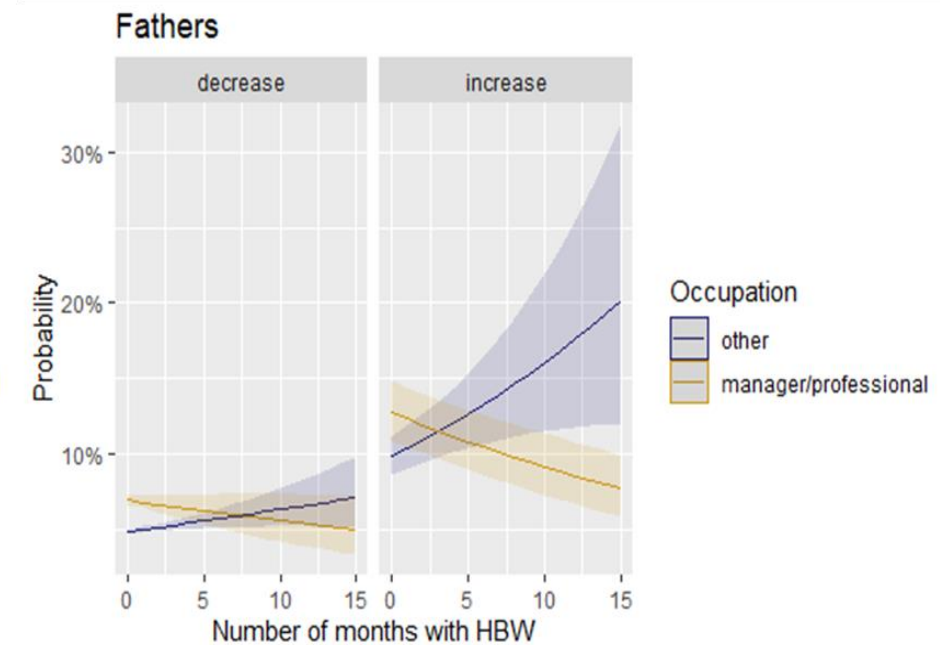
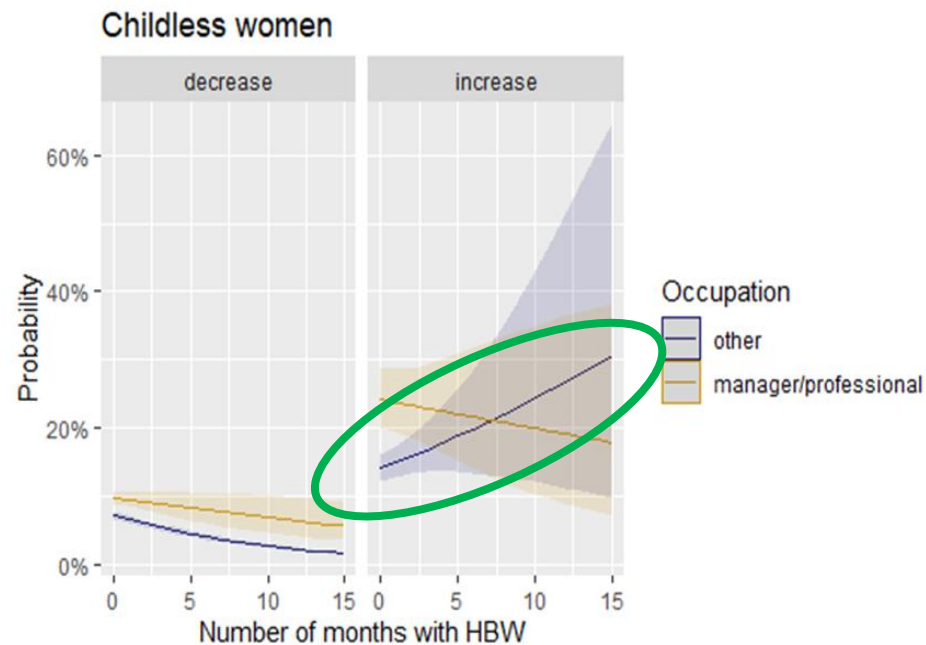
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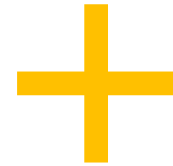
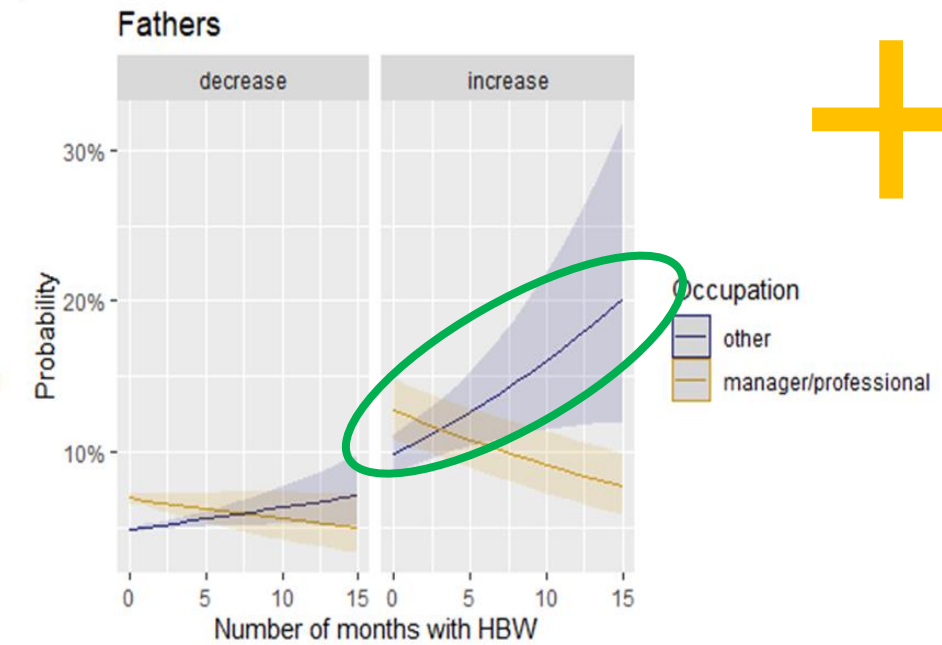
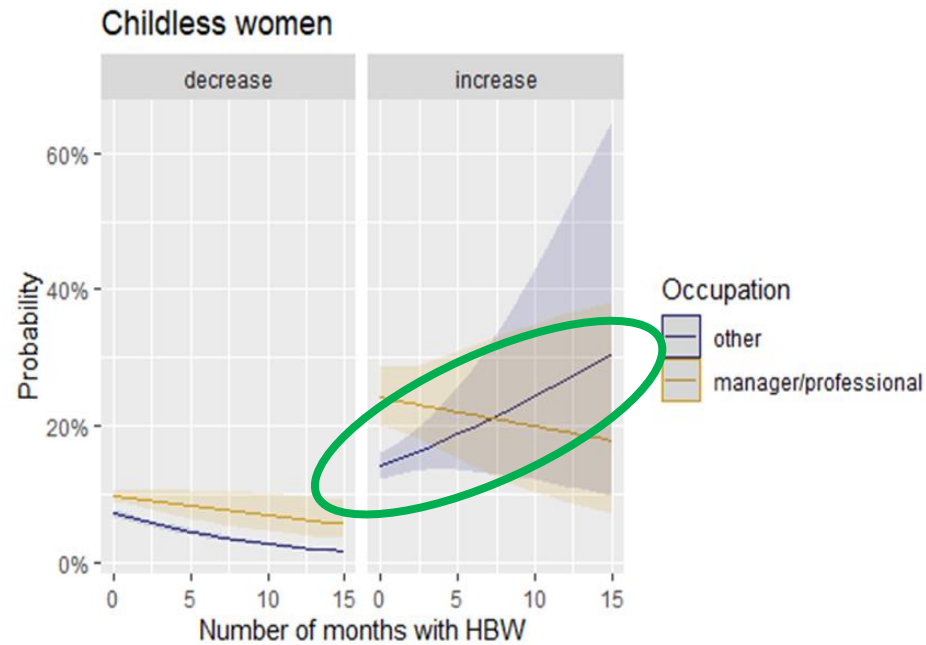
Results: H4 and beyond



Results: H5 and beyond



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Evidence of the overall **negative impact of HBW on fertility intentions** among parents and childless women during the Covid-19 pandemic

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... one holds non-managerial/non-professional occupation

Limitations

No strong causal conclusions possible; selection effects

No hypotheses related to different conceptualizations of HBW

Extending directly to other countries not possible (parents with children up to 11)

Complex theoretical framework

THANK YOU!

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