

Valuing Women's Unpaid Care and Household Work

The Policy Potential of Time Use Data



What is unpaid care and household work? Unpaid care and household work is work that people do to take care of their households and others: cooking, cleaning, caring for children, the ill, and the elderly, and many other important tasks.

What is a time use survey? Time use (TU) surveys are quantitative summaries of how people spend their time over a specific period and how much time is spent doing each activity. TU surveys help collect data that can be used to improve economic and social policies and have been used to:



Advocate for policies that reduce the care burden including expanding care for preschool children, elderly people, and people with disabilities.



Inform and promote child protection policies by highlighting child labor and promoting broader child welfare systems.



Help countries better value the contribution of unpaid care work to an economy relative to GDP.



Drive public campaigns to promote shared responsibilities in the home.



Measure the impact of development interventions by highlighting impact on girls' time use.

DID YOU KNOW?

Around the world, women spend **two to ten times** more time on unpaid care work than men.¹

Countries have valued unpaid care work **between 15 and 39%** of national GDP.²

Data shows that women often have a **higher total work burden** than men when paid and unpaid work are combined.³

88 countries have conducted some type of time use analysis, helping to highlight the hidden burden of unpaid care work.⁴

Learn more at data2x.org/time-use-report

1. Ferrant, Gaëlle, Luca Maria Pesando, and Keiko Nowacka. 2014. "Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes." OECD Development Centre. www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf

2. HDRO Research Team. 2016. "Valuing Care Work." Human Development Reports. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/valuing-care-work>

3. United Nations. 2015. The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division. unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/downloads/worldswomen2015_report.pdf

4. Buvinic, Mayra and Elizabeth King. 2018. "Invisible No More? A Methodology and Policy Review of How Time Use Surveys Measure Unpaid Work." Data2X. www.data2x.org/time-use-report

WHAT'S NEXT?

If you work in a **National Statistics Office**, review *Invisible No More? A Methodology and Policy Review of How Time Use Surveys Measure Unpaid Work* by Data2X to learn about the methodological options and considerations when implementing a time use survey.

If you are a **government policymaker**, find out if your country has already carried out a time use survey in the UNSD time use portal. Read about how other countries have used time use surveys to influence policy by reading the Data2X case studies.

If you are a **development partner**, consider providing funding for time use surveys or research to identify best methods and practices.

If you are a **women's rights advocate**, use time use data to advocate for policies that reduce the unpaid care work burden and expand women's economic opportunities.