



# The chore divide: How gender equality at home shapes baby plans

**Amir Erfani**

*Nipissing University*

**Leandra Pilon**

*University of Ottawa*

## Datasets used

General Social Survey -  
Family

## Policy areas this research can inform

Families, households  
and marital status

Government

Population and  
demography

Statistical methods

## Context

There is limited research on how women's employment and education affect the relationship between household labor division and fertility intentions. This study aims to address this gap by analyzing recent survey data from Canada. We explore whether the distribution of routine (cooking, cleaning, dishes, and laundry) and intermittent (grocery shopping, social organization, finance, and bill paying) household tasks impacts women's fertility plans. The findings will offer insights into the factors driving low fertility, especially within the Canadian context. This research will also contribute to ongoing discussions on the complex connections between gender equality, employment, education, and fertility.

## Key finding

Employed women who didn't equally share household chores with their partner were less likely to want children, while education didn't affect this relationship.

## Policy implications

This study shows that women who handle most household tasks are less likely to have more children. To address this, policies should encourage men's involvement in domestic duties, including childcare. Programs like Canada's maternity leave, Quebec's Parental Insurance Plan, and Germany's universal childcare have been linked to higher fertility rates. These policies allow both parents to share caregiving responsibilities, easing the burden on women. Expanding such initiatives can help create a more balanced division of labor at home, potentially boosting fertility rates and supporting gender equality in family life.

## Read the full article here

Erfani, A., & Pilon, L. (2024). Gender equality in the division of housework and fertility intentions in Canada: The moderating effect of employment and education. *Journal of Family Issues*, 46(5), 784-804.

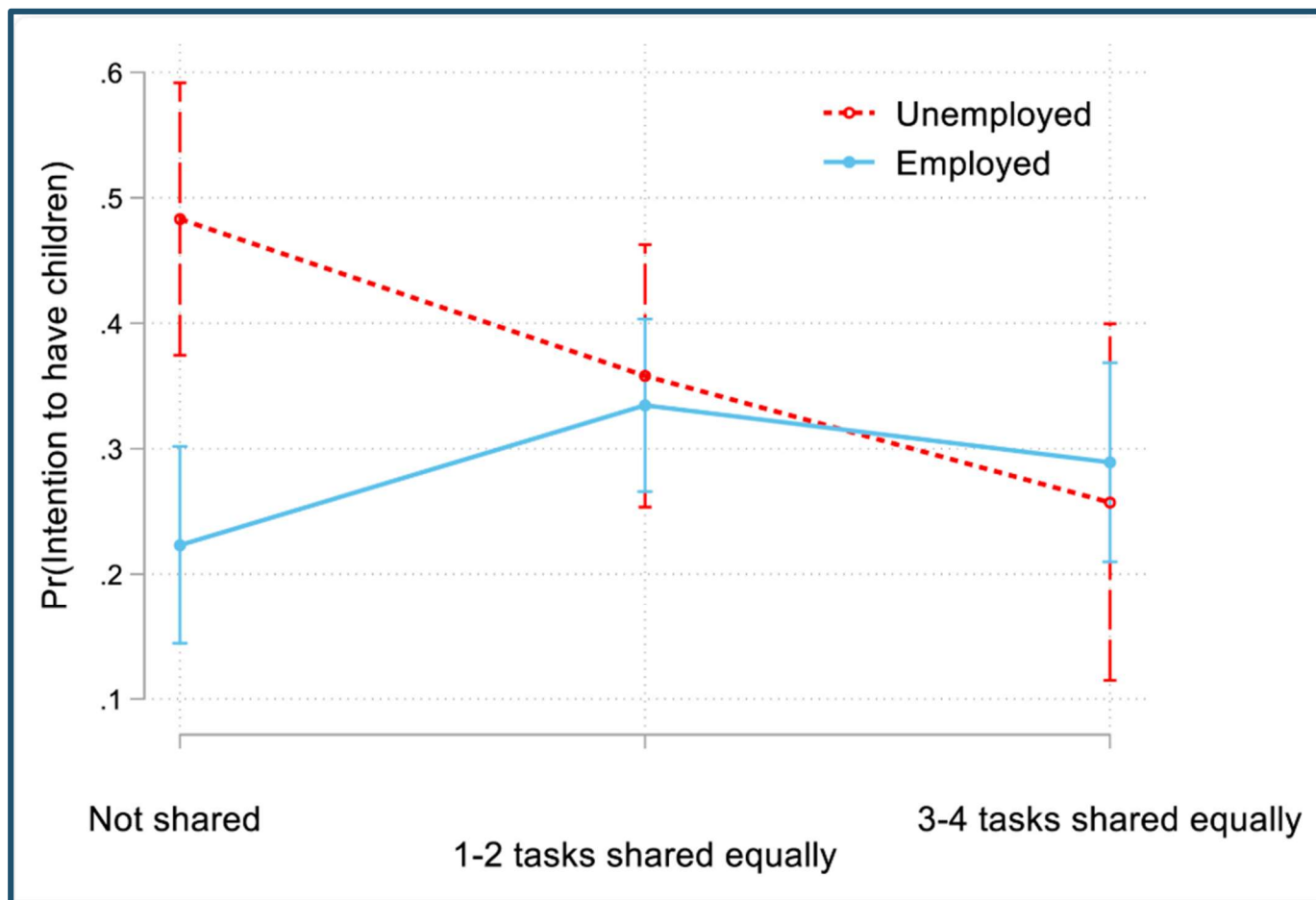
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X241299419>

---

## Citation

Erfani, A., & Pilon, L. (2025). The chore divide: How gender equality at home shapes baby plans. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2), 4-5.





Adjusted predicted probability of intention to have children (CI 95%) by gender division of household routine tasks.

### Citation

Erfani, A., & Pilon, L. (2025). The chore divide: How gender equality at home shapes baby plans. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshot Digest*, 4(2).