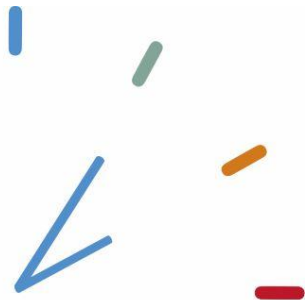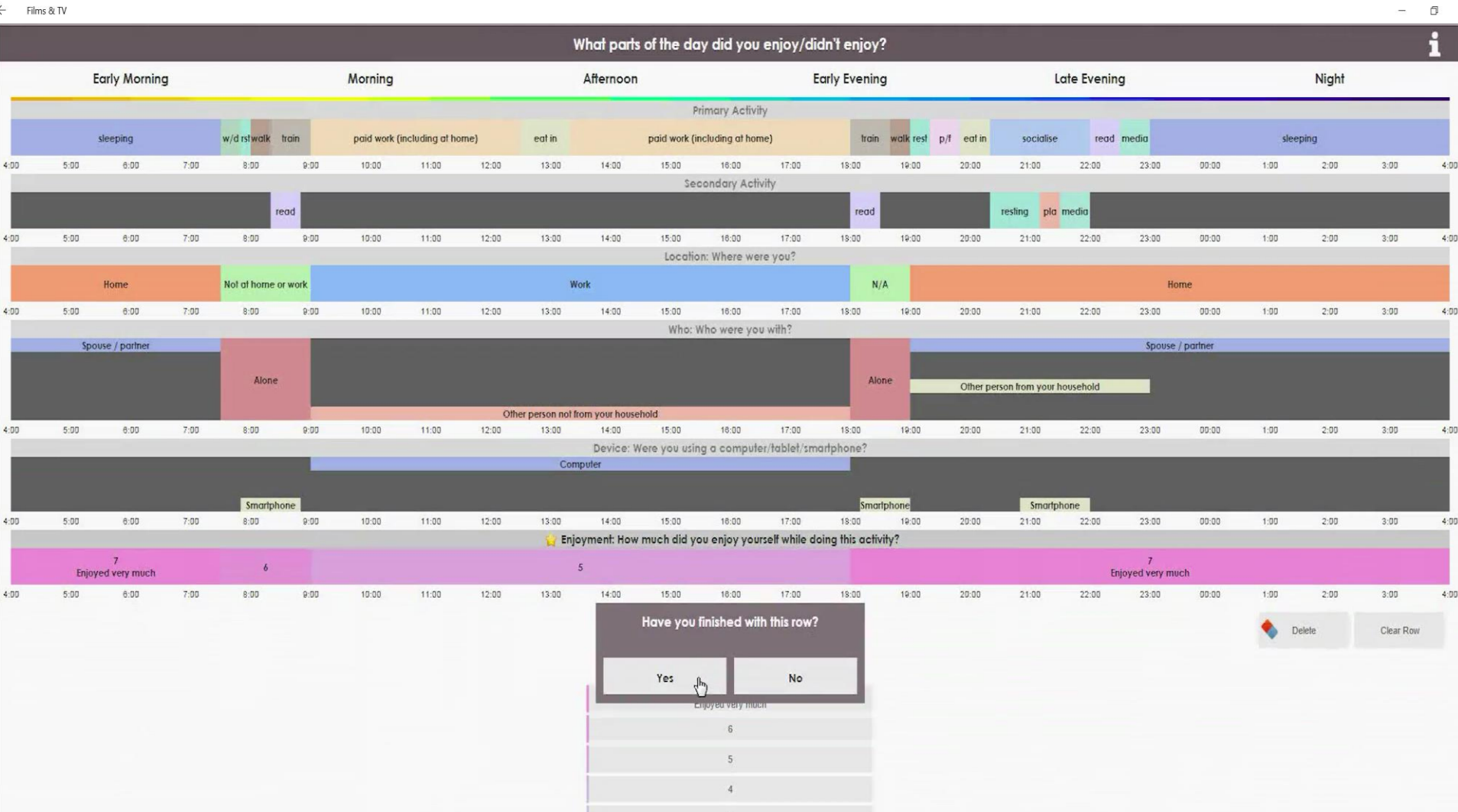# Child co-presence, gender and time use across 5 waves of the UK COVID-19 pandemic

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Completed 'Click and drag diary instrument' (CaDDI)

O. Sullivan, J. Gershuny, A. Sevilla, F. Foliano, M. Vega-Rapun, J. Lamote de Grignon, T. Harms, P. Walthery. 'Using time use diaries to track changing behavior across successive stages of COVID-19 social restrictions'. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2021).

Data

- Respondents were members of the large Dynata market research panel, who volunteered for the surveys and were selected on the basis of age, sex, social grade and region quotas that were nationally representative of the 2016 population.

- Respondents completed diaries for 1-3 days, giving a total across the six waves of nearly 7000 days. Weights were calculated to yield the correct mix of days-of-the-week for each sex by (10-year) age group, and to correct for the 2016 age group quotas within waves. All analyses were conducted using these weights.

- The software requires complete (1440 minute) responses to 4 fields; the primary activity, location, co-presence and enjoyment fields. The accompanying questionnaire includes standard demographics, economic circumstances, life-satisfaction and wellbeing (GHQ).

- The data is available from the core collection of the UK Data Archive, Study number 8741.

Dates and periods of survey

| CaDDI Wave	Period (Govt definition)	Year	Dates of survey	N of diaries
1	Pre-pandemic	2016	Feb 1-8; Oct 13-19; Dec 15-19	1011
2	1st national lockdown	2020	May 19-31; June 1-8	1004
3	Minimal restrictions	2020	July 31; Aug 1-28	987
4	2nd national lockdown	2020	Nov 19-26	1358
5	3rd national lockdown	2021	last week of January	1254
6	Restrictions lifted	2021	August-Sept	1282

Child-associated time, women and men aged 20-59 with children aged 0-16 in the household
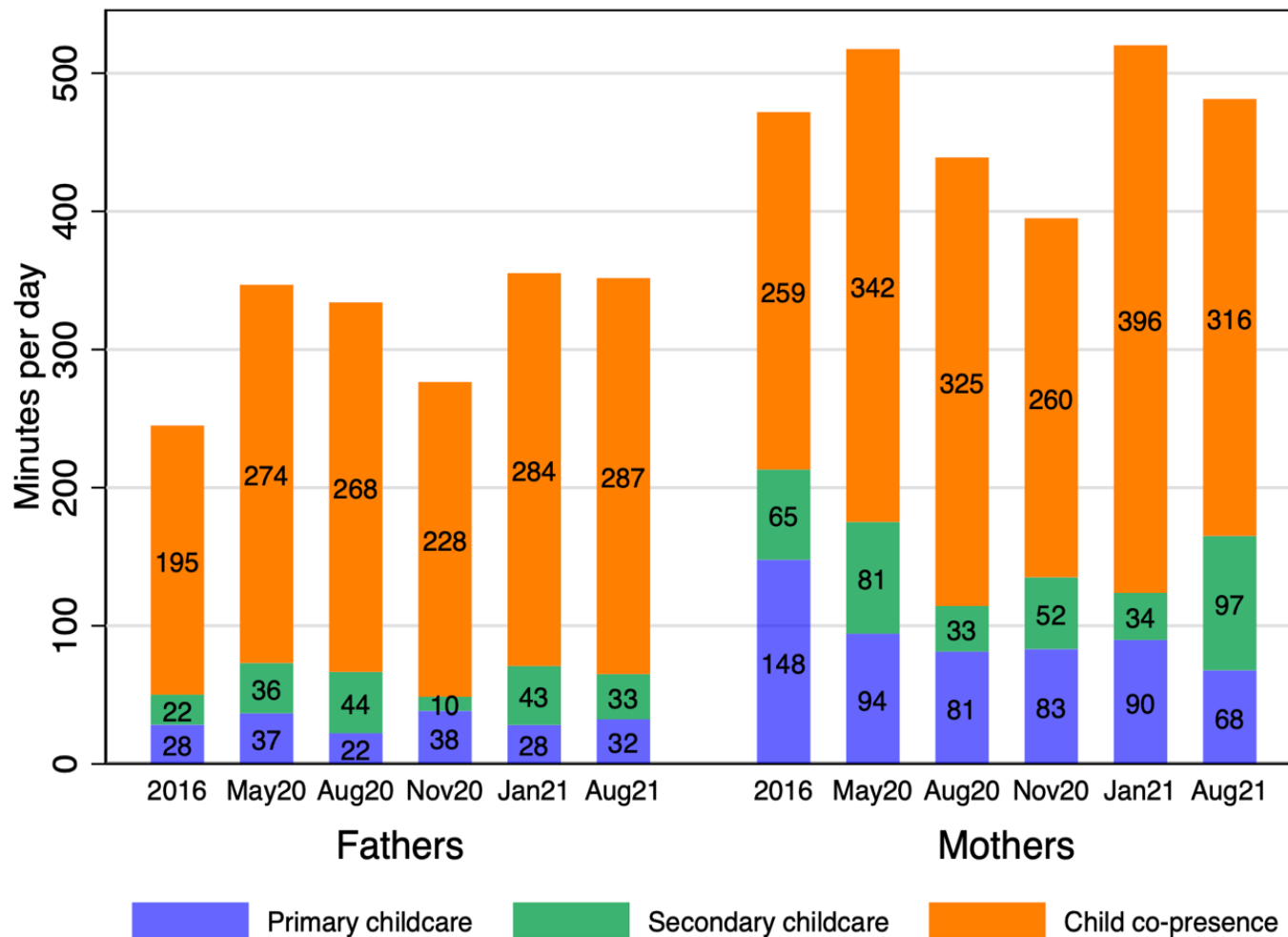
Fathers relative share (%) of child-associated time

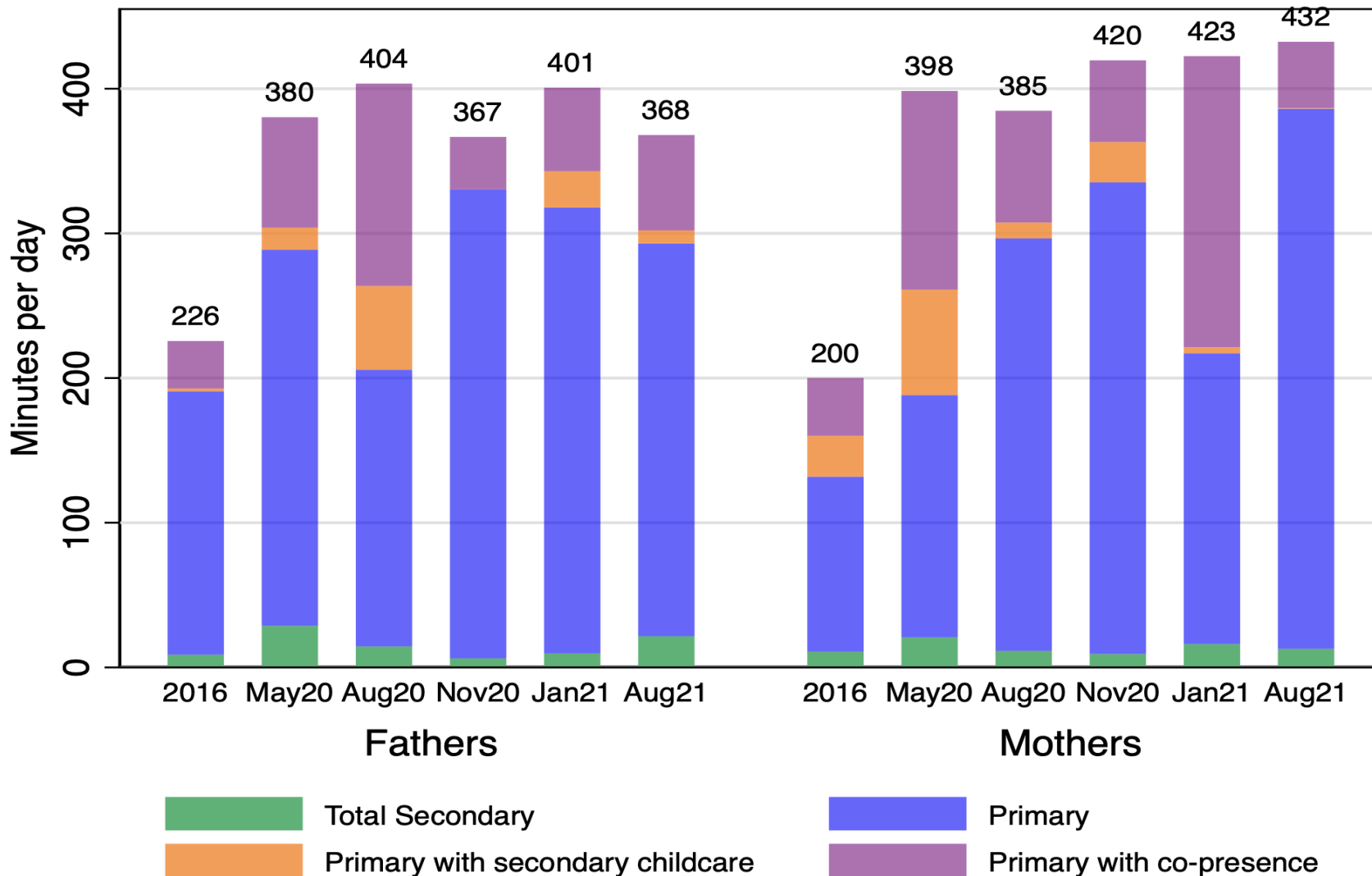|	Fathers' overall share	Fathers' share co-presence
2016	34%	43%
May-20	40%	44%
Aug-20	43%	45%
Nov-20	41%	47%
Jan-21	41%	42%
Aug-21	42%	48%

Changes in predicted childcare minutes/day across the pandemic: Women and men aged 20-59 with children aged 0-16
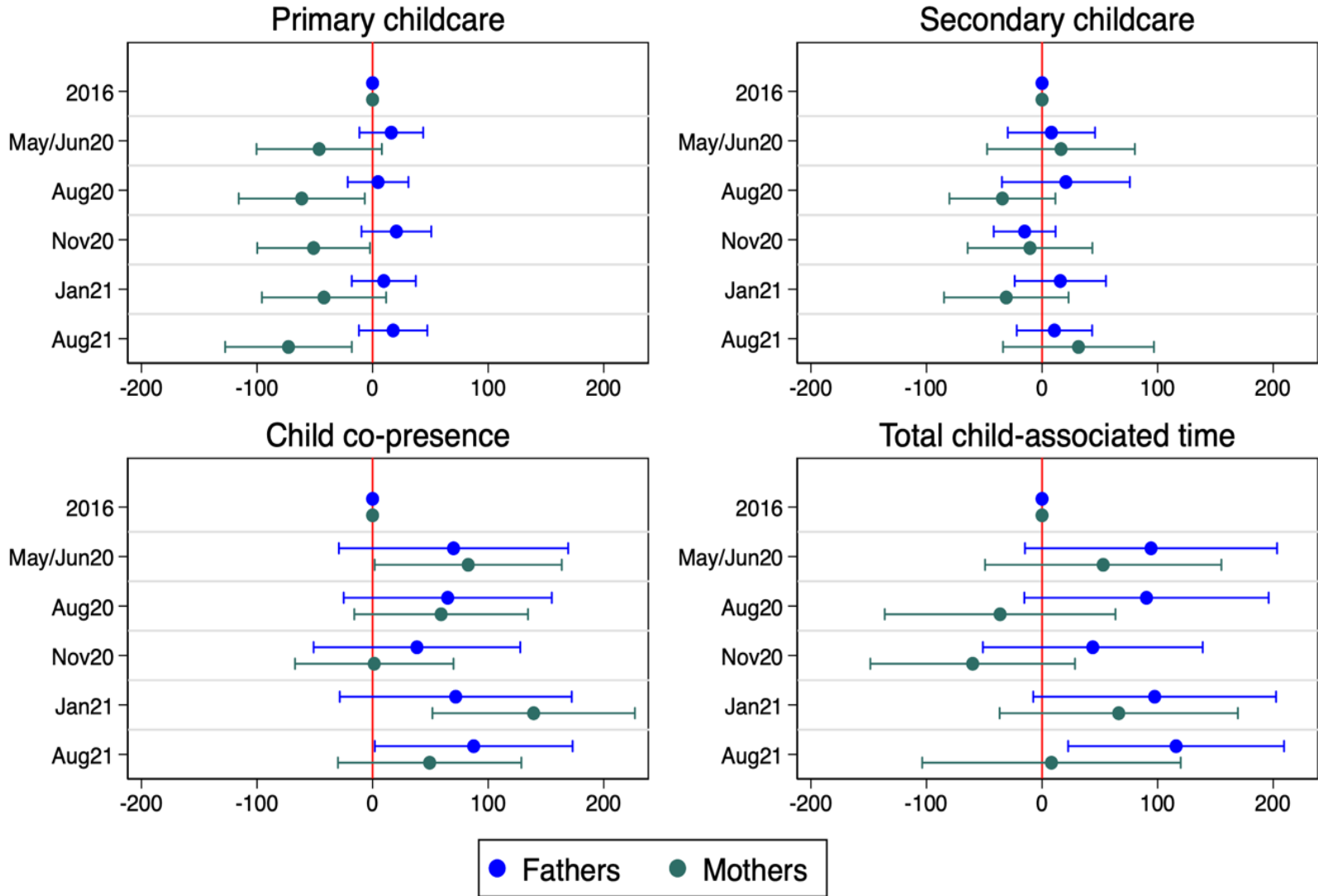
What were parents doing with copresent children?: Mean minutes/day recorded with child co-presence for primary activities

Primary activity	Mean mins/day	
	mothers	fathers
Eating at home	27	35
Unpaid work	69	26
Paid work at home	29	30
Other care	3	6
Paid work at workplace	6	1
Shopping from home	4	6
Leisure at home	117	119
Leisure away from home	25	25
Shopping at shops	3	6
Eating at restaurant etc.	1	3
Other eating out of home	2	1
Travel out from/back to home	12	14

Mean minutes/day in paid work at home – those recording some paid work at home: mothers and fathers aged 20-59 with children aged 0-16

Fathers: 2016: 226, May20: 380, Aug20: 404, Nov20: 367, Jan21: 401, Aug21: 368

Mothers: 2016: 200, May20: 398, Aug20: 385, Nov20: 420, Jan21: 423, Aug21: 432

Y-axis: Minutes per day (0, 100, 200, 300, 400)

Legend:
- Total Secondary
- Primary
- Primary with secondary childcare
- Primary with co-presence

Predicted minutes/day spent in paid work at home 'alone' (those recording some paid work at home), mothers and fathers aged 20-59 with children aged 0-16
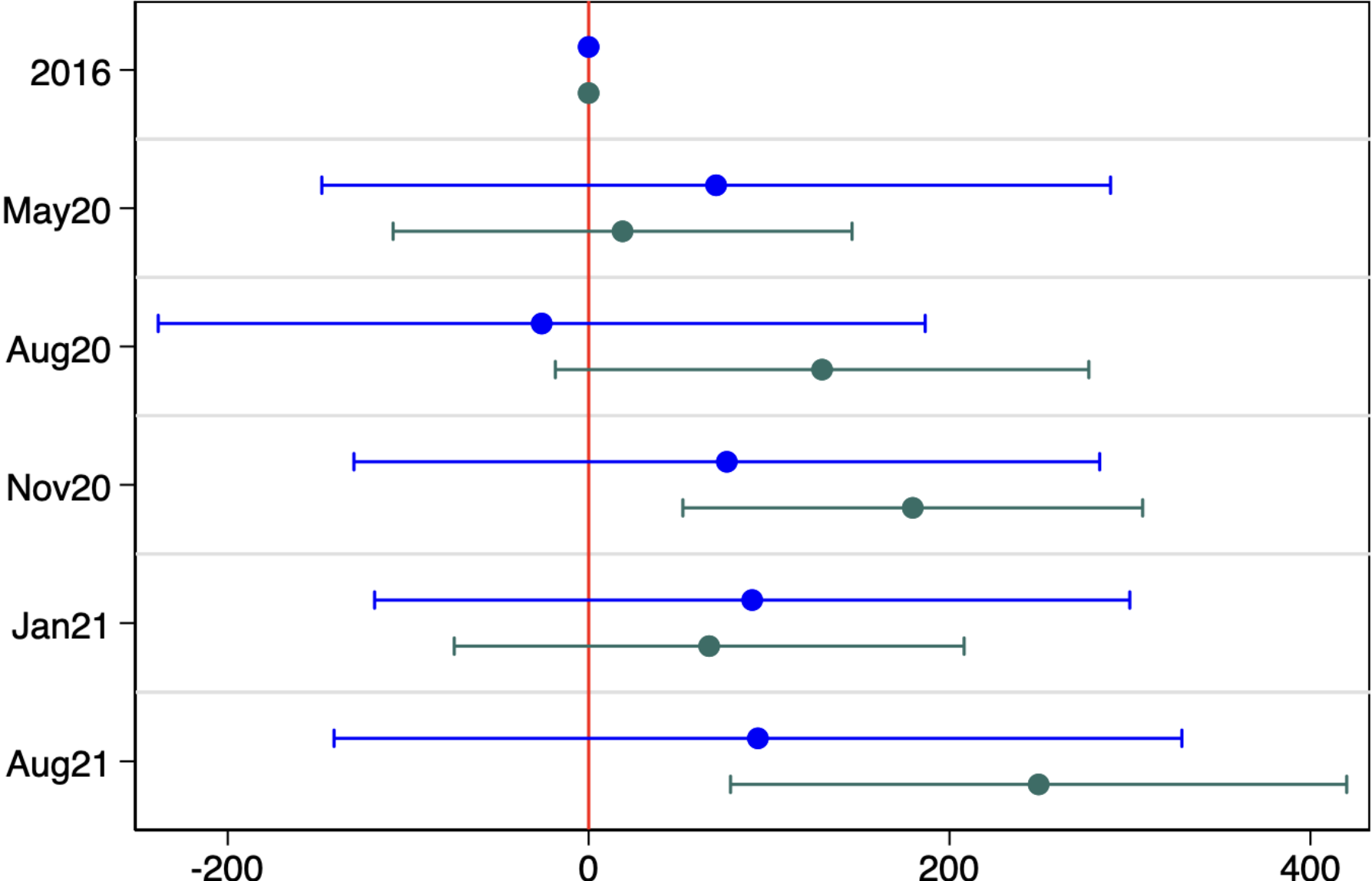
Conclusions

1. **Child co-presence** dominates the CaDDI recording of child associated time, particularly during the pandemic period.

2. Results for **primary child care** by gender were not as expected, with mothers reporting less primary child care during the pandemic than in 2016.

   - A puzzle, but probably connected to recording child associated time as child co-presence during other activities during the pandemic.

3. Fathers increased their share of **child-associated time** during the pandemic, and this share hadn't returned to pre-pandemic levels by late August 2021 after the end of all restrictions

4. **Child co-presence** for mothers and fathers whilst doing **paid work at home** showed some interesting differences across survey waves

5. Most **'alone' time doing paid work at home** was recorded by mothers during the lockdown in which children were in school, and after restrictions had ended – the least during the strict lockdowns when children were at home