

SWAA March 2022 Updates

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1 March 2022



Latest survey wave included: February 2022

To sign up for regular results updates, please sign up [here](#).

- **Source of all data (unless noted):** Survey of Working Arrangements and Attitudes (SWAA), see www.wfhresearch.com

- **When referring to these results please cite:**

Barrero, Jose Maria, Nicholas Bloom, and Steven J. Davis, 2021. “Why working from home will stick,” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 28731.

www.wfhresearch.com

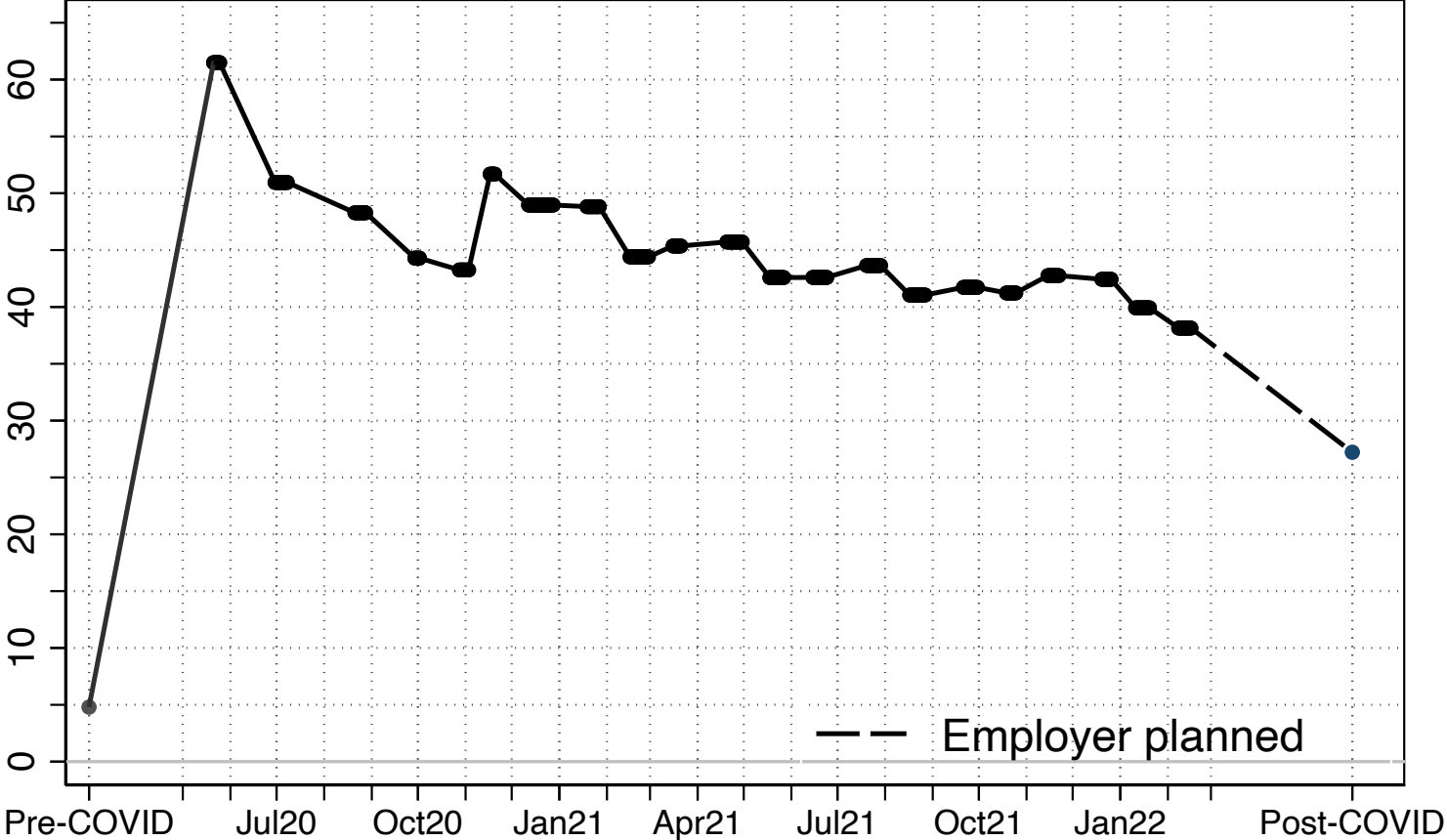
Introduction & Methodology (2/2)

- **Target population:** US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$20k or more in 2019. Between April and September 2021 we gradually moved to include individuals who earned \$10k to \$20k in 2019.
 - Each survey wave goes into the field on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and data collection typically takes 10 to 12 days.
 - Each wave collects 2,500 or 5,000 responses.
 - April 2021 and later waves collect 5,000 responses
 - Prior to April 2021 most waves collected 2,500 responses, but August 2020, December 2020, and January 2021 collected 5,000.
 - We drop respondents who “speed” through the survey, so the actual usable number of responses in each wave is somewhat less than the number we collect.
- **Representativeness:** Commercial providers field the survey on our behalf, drawing from a variety of sources for potential respondents.
 - We reweight the raw survey data to match the share of the population in a given {age x sex x education x earnings} cell in a pooled sample of 2010-2019 Current Population Survey data. See Figure 2 in Barrero, Bloom, and Davis (2021).
 - Unless noted, all statistics and charts use reweighted data.

The share of full paid working from home days declines in early 2022 after much stability in 2021



Percentage of paid full days worked from home



*Pre-COVID estimate taken from the 2017-2018 American Time Use Survey

**Post-COVID estimate based on the latest survey wave

- Source:** Responses to the questions:
- **Currently (this week) what is your work status?**
 - **How many full paid working days did you work from home this [last] week?**
 - **After COVID, in 2022 and later, how often is your employer planning for you to work full days at home?"**

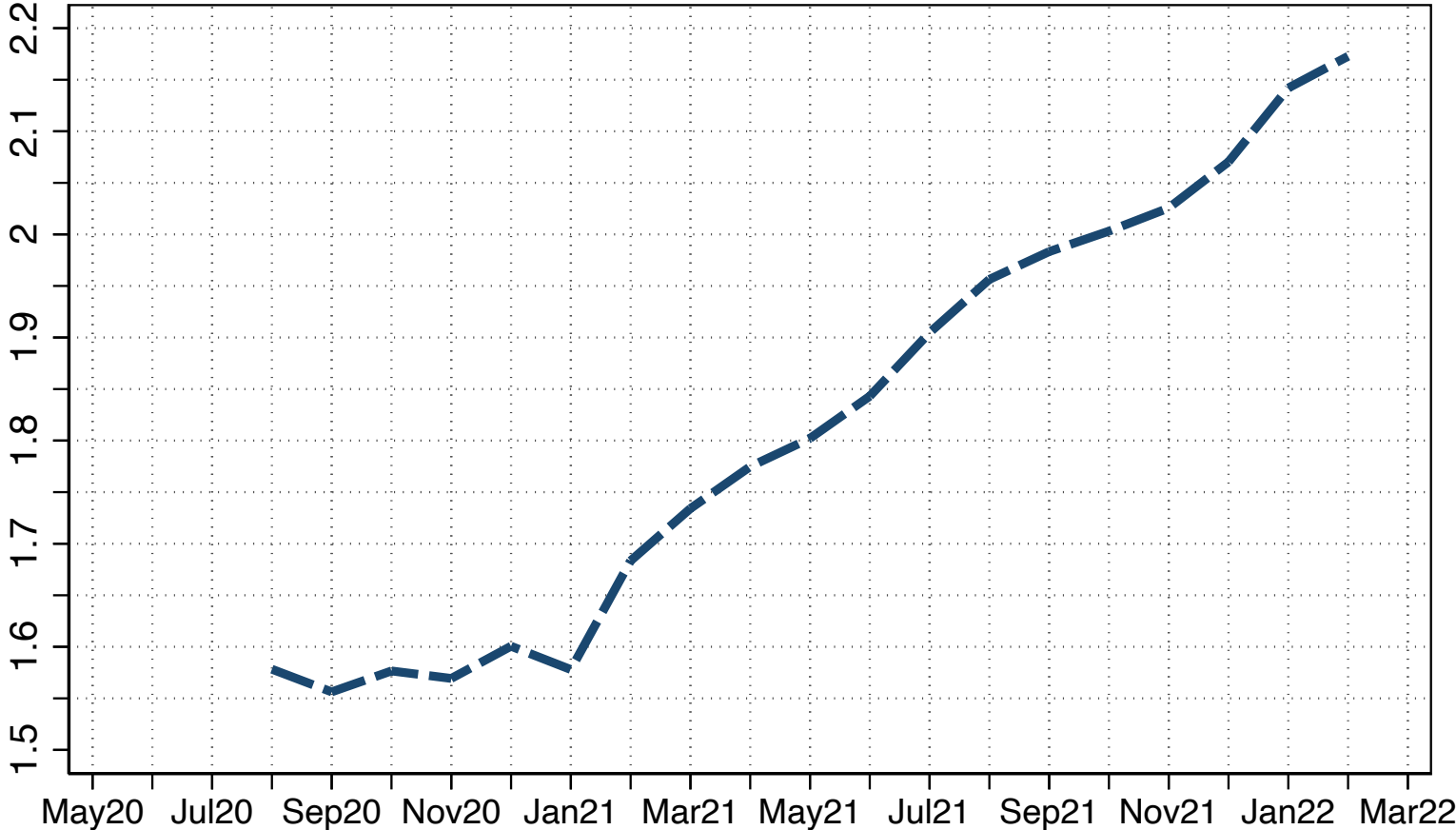
Notes: For each survey wave, we compute the average percentage of paid full days worked from home and plot it on the vertical axis against the days during which that wave was in the field on the horizontal axis. The pre-COVID estimate comes from the 2017-2018 American Time Use Survey and the post-COVID estimate uses data from the February 2022 wave. We re-weight the sample of US residents aged 20 to 64 earning \$10,000 or more in 2019 to match Current Population Survey on age, sex, education, and earnings.

N = 61,238 (May20 to Feb22)
N = 4,759 (post-COVID estimate from Feb22 data)

Employer plans for working from home post-COVID



Average Days per Week Working From Home After the Pandemic Ends: Employer Plans



Sample: Workers able to work from home

Responses to the question:
- *After COVID, in 2022 and later, how often is your employer planning for you to work full days at home?*

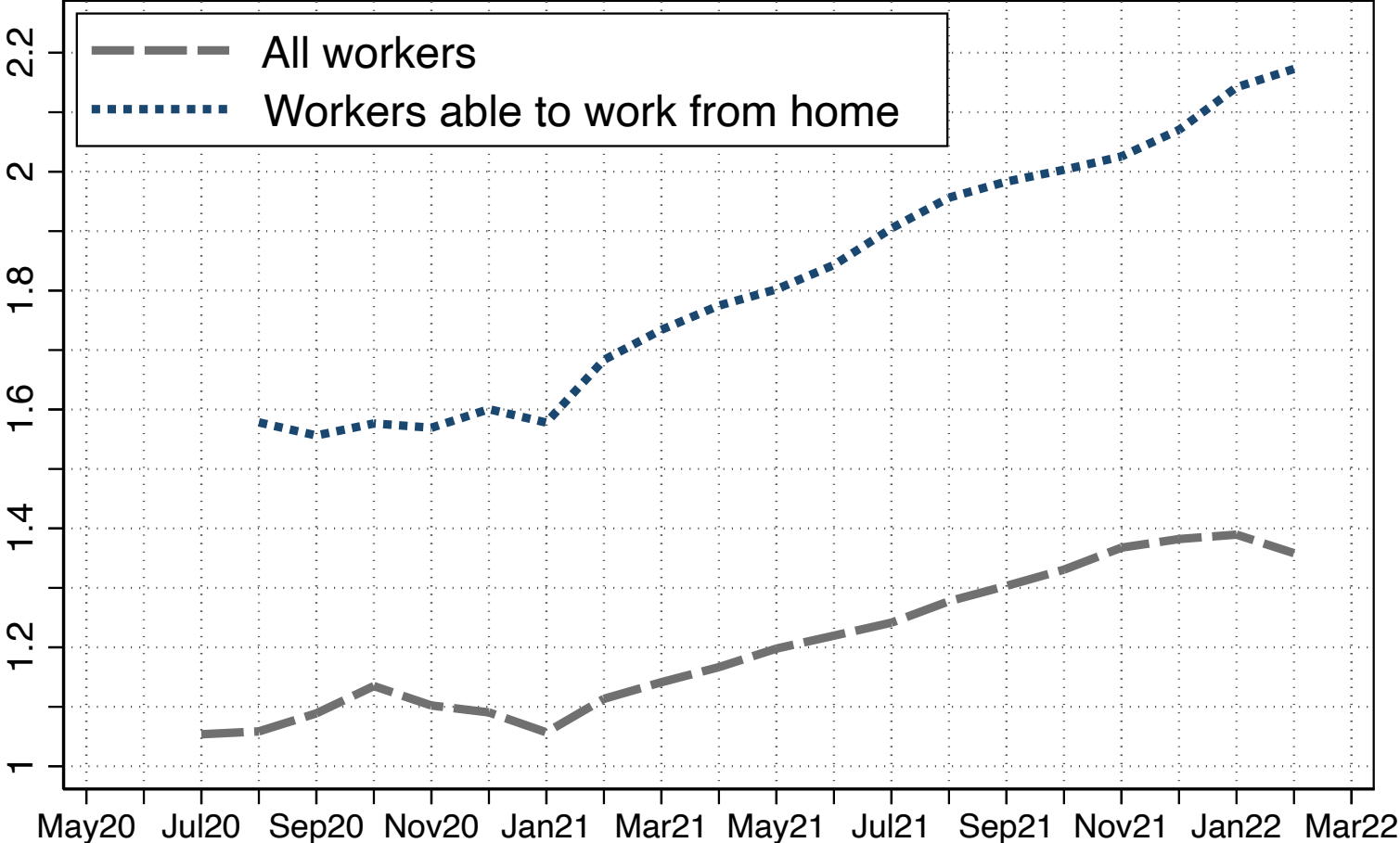
Sample: Data are from all SWAA waves, covering July 2020 to February 2022. The sample includes all respondents who reported their employer’s plans for post-COVID WFH and who have work-from-home experience during the pandemic (thus able to work from home). We exclude respondents who report having no employer.

N = 46,345 (able to work from home)

Employer plans for working from home post-COVID: all workers vs. those able to work from home



Average Days per Week Working From Home
After the Pandemic Ends: Employer plans



Responses to the question:

- *After COVID, in 2022 and later, how often is your employer planning for you to work full days at home?*

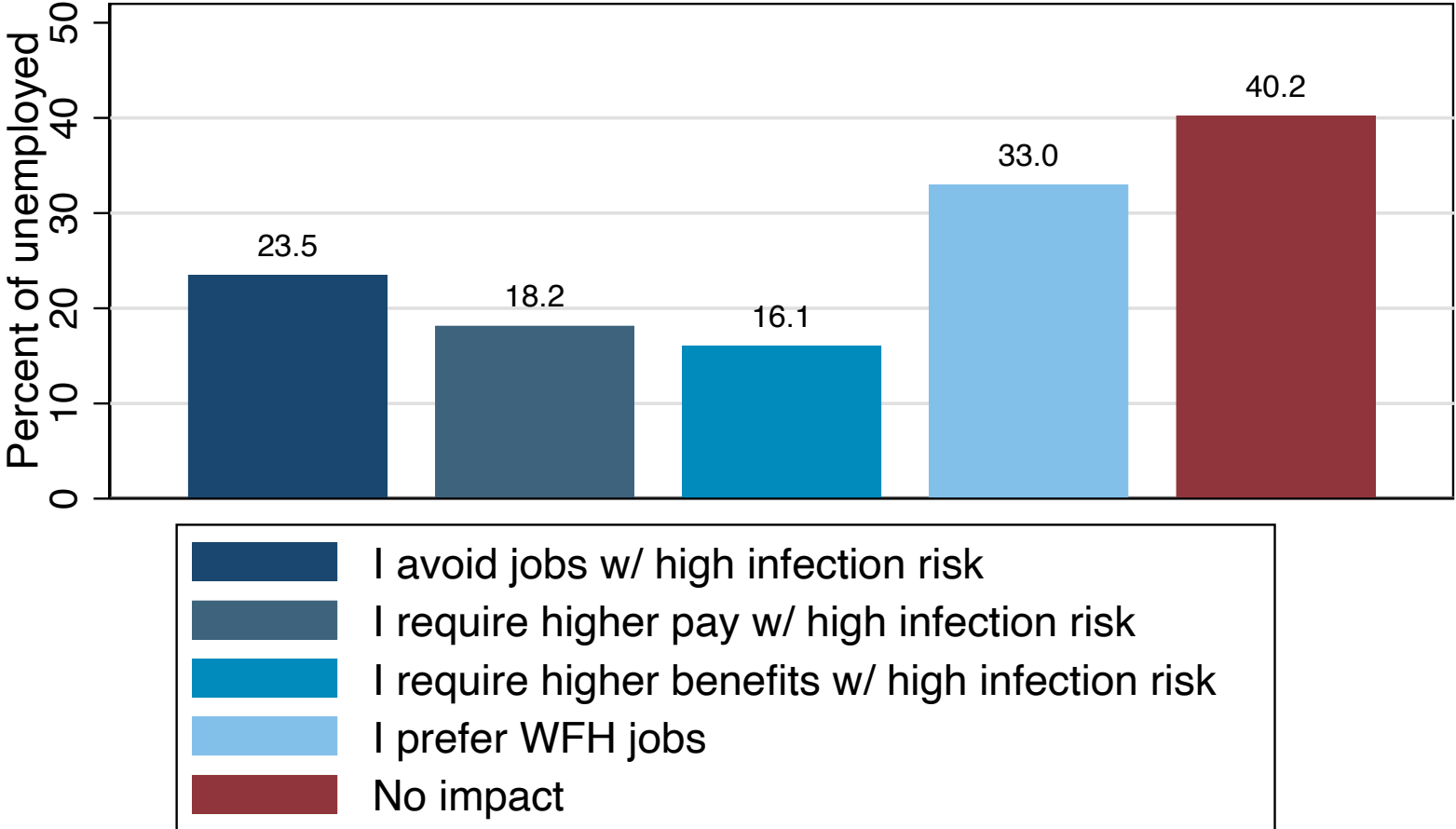
Sample: Data are from all SWAA waves, covering July 2020 to February 2022. The sample includes all respondents who reported their employer’s plans for post-COVID WFH (“All workers” series), restricting attention to workers who have work-from-home experience during the pandemic for the series labeled “Workers able to work from home.” In particular, we exclude respondents who report having no employer.

N = 66,438 (all respondents) and 46,345 (able to work from home)

60% of unemployed respondents cite worries about infection as impacting their job search



Have worries about catching COVID or other infectious diseases affected the type of jobs you are looking for?
(Please select all that apply)

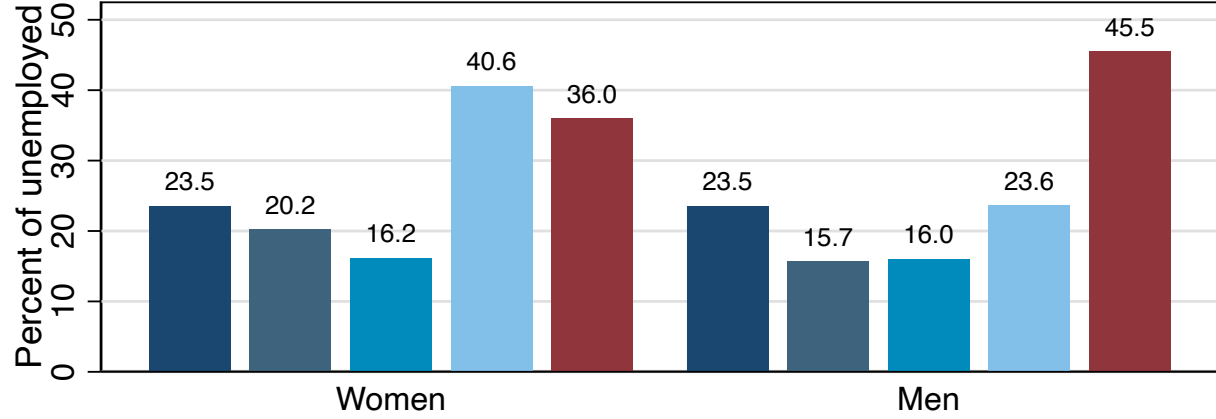


Notes: The sample includes respondents to the February 2022 SWAA who passed the attention check questions and indicated their working status in the week prior to the survey was “Unemployed, looking for work” or “Unemployed, awaiting recall to my old job” but were searching for a job anyway. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 353.**

64% of unemployed women cite worries about infection as impacting their job search compared to 54.5% of men

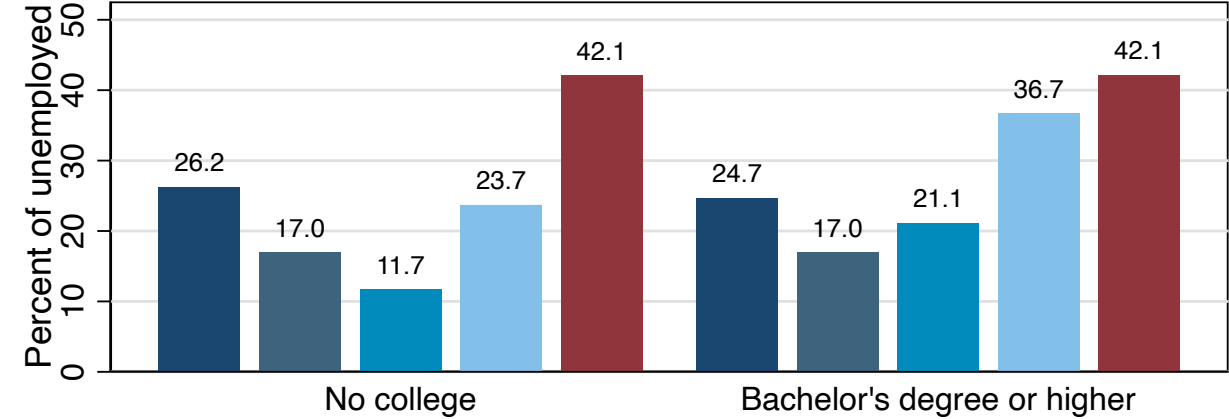


Have worries about catching COVID or other infectious diseases affected the type of jobs you are looking for?
(Please select all that apply)



- I avoid jobs w/ high infection risk
- I require higher pay w/ high infection risk
- I require higher benefits w/ high infection risk
- I prefer WFH jobs
- No impact

Have worries about catching COVID or other infectious diseases affected the type of jobs you are looking for?
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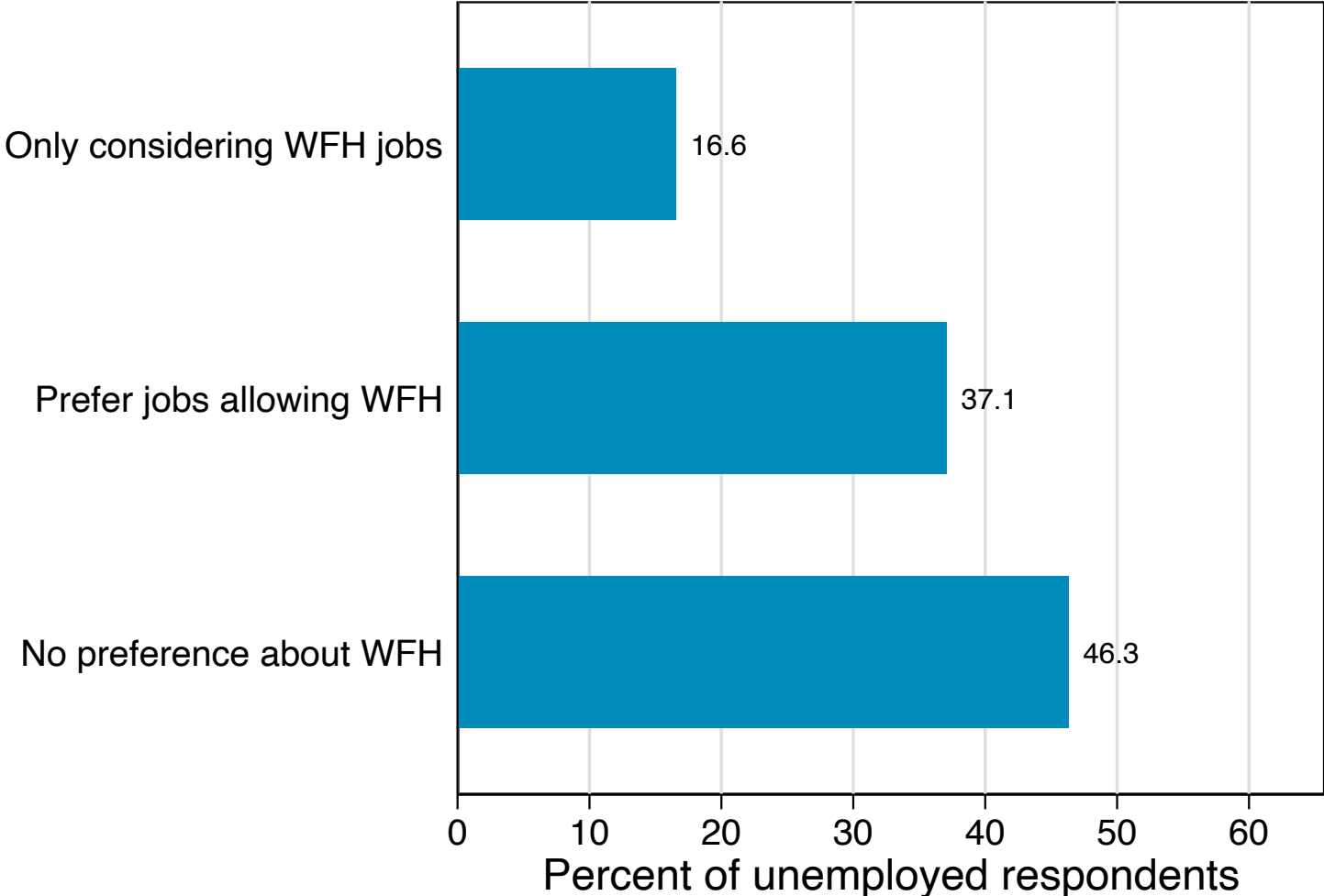
- I avoid jobs w/ high infection risk
- I require higher pay w/ high infection risk
- I require higher benefits w/ high infection risk
- I prefer WFH jobs
- No impact

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54% of unemployed respondents are exclusively considering or prefer jobs allowing them to work from home



Which of the following best describes your job search?

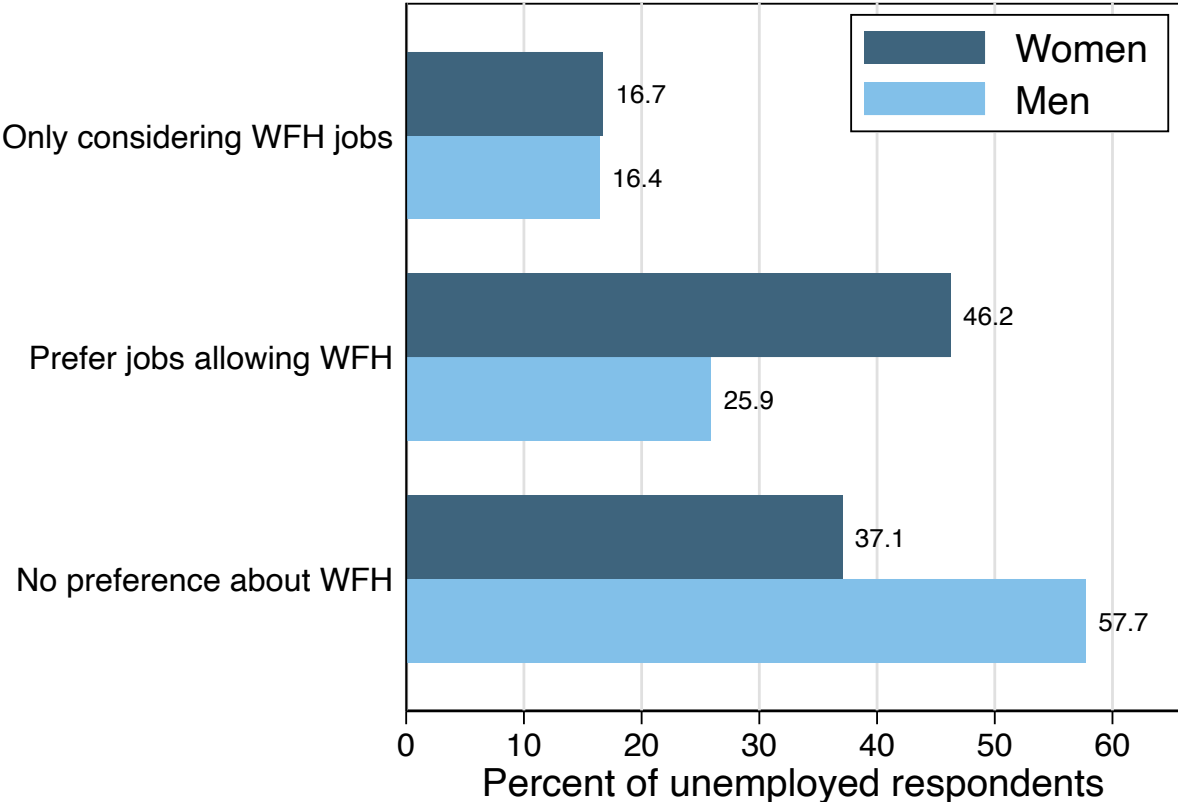


Notes: The sample includes respondents to the February 2022 SWAA who passed the attention check questions and indicated their working status in the week prior to the survey was “Unemployed, looking for work” or “Unemployed, awaiting recall to my old job” but were searching for a job anyway. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 358.**

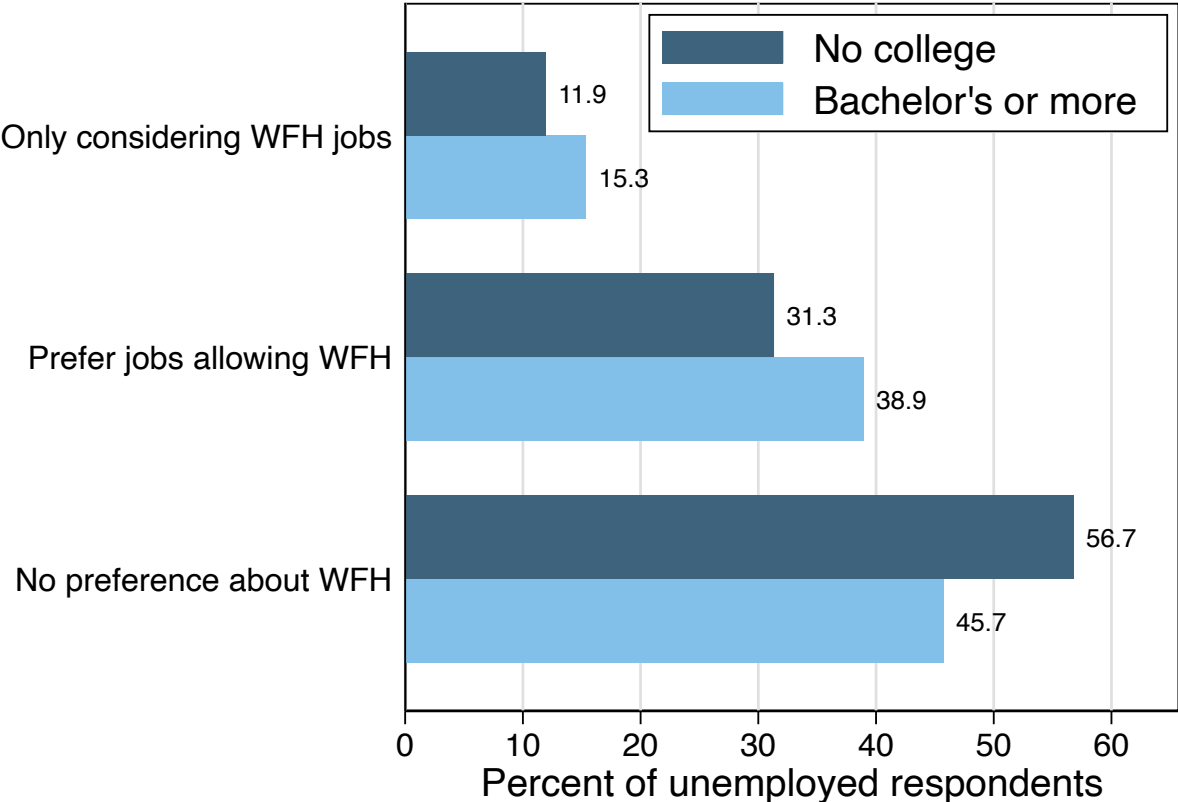
Unemployed women are more likely to say they prefer jobs allowing them to work from home



Which of the following best describes your job search?



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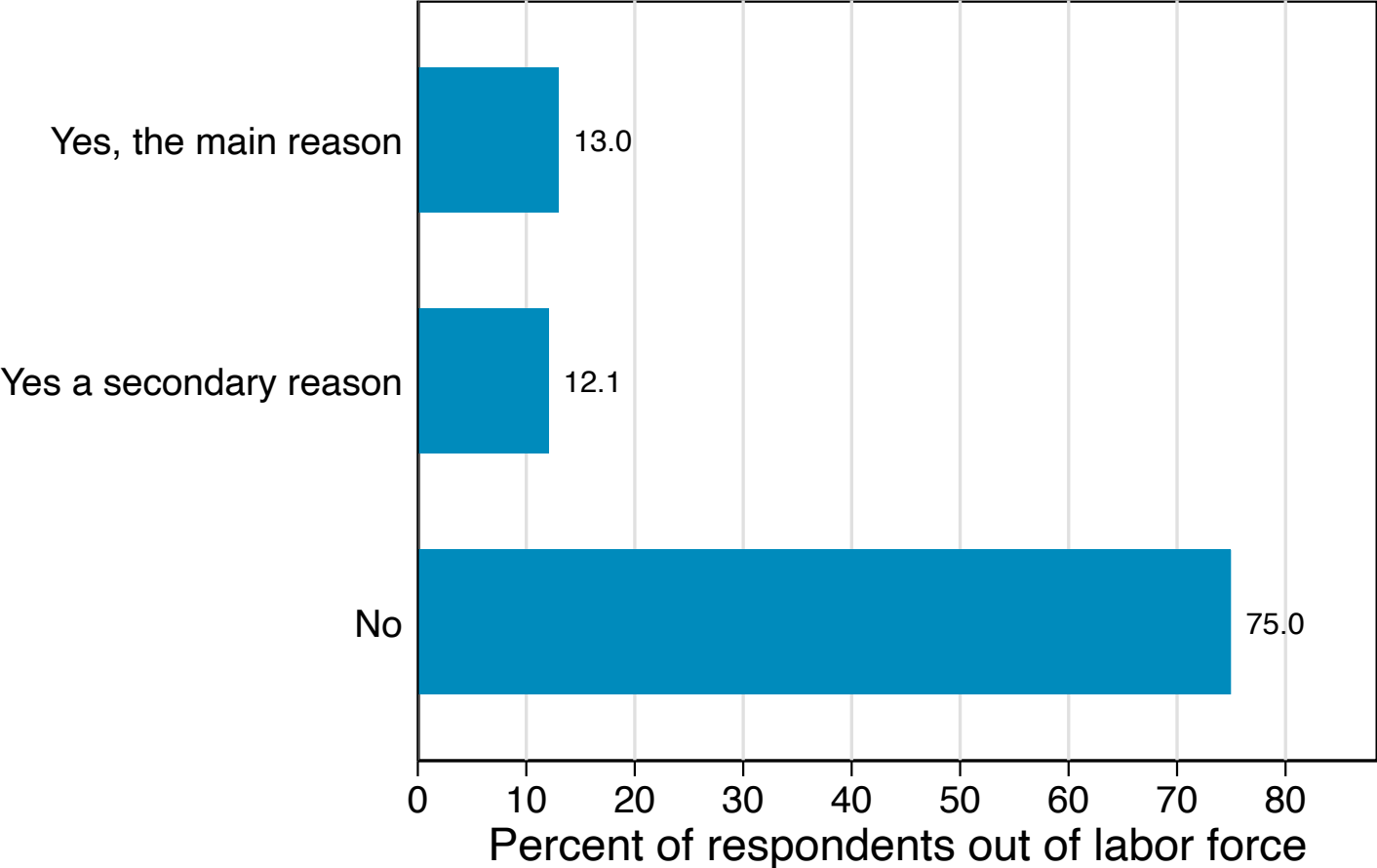


Notes: The sample includes respondents to the February 2022 SWAA who passed the attention check questions and indicated their working status in the week prior to the survey was “Unemployed, looking for work” or “Unemployed, awaiting recall to my old job” but were searching for a job anyway. The right figure excludes respondents with 1 to 3 years of college. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 353 (left) N = 249 (right).**

25% of sampled persons not working and not looking for work cite infection concerns as a reason



Are worries about catching COVID or other infectious diseases a factor in your decision not to seek work?

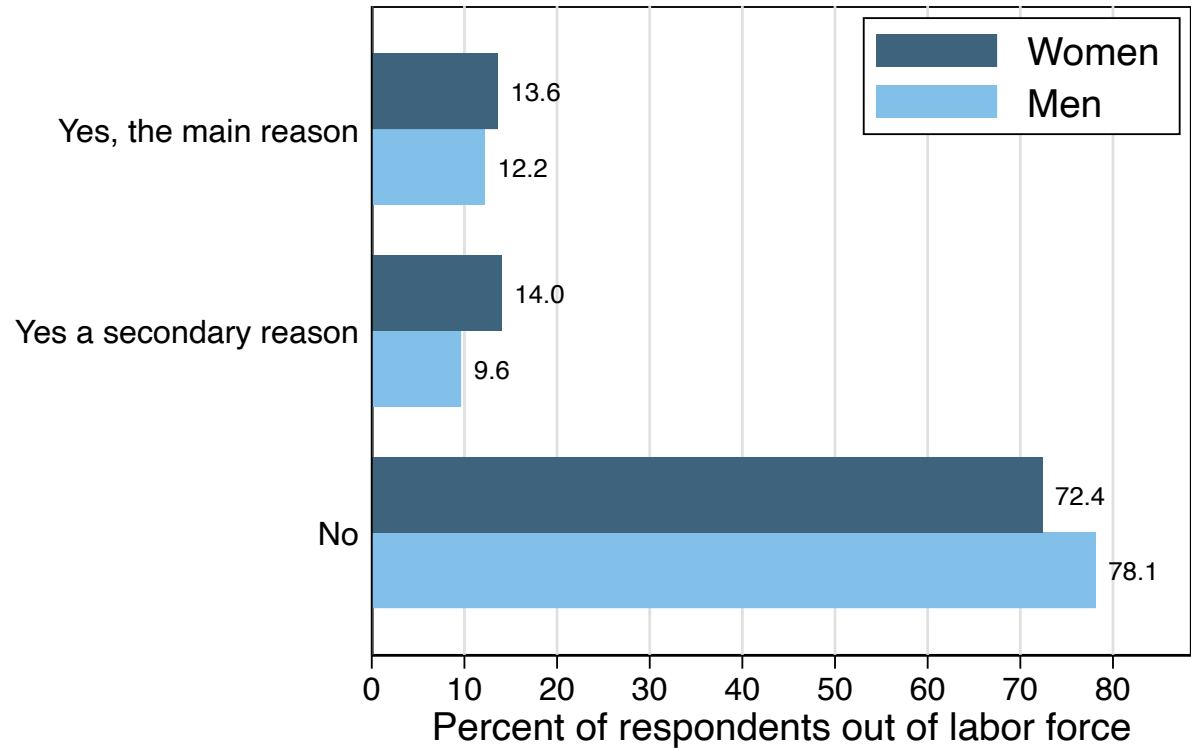


Notes: The sample includes respondents to the February 2022 SWAA who passed the attention check questions and indicated their working status in the week prior to the survey was “Not working, and not looking for work”. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 461.**

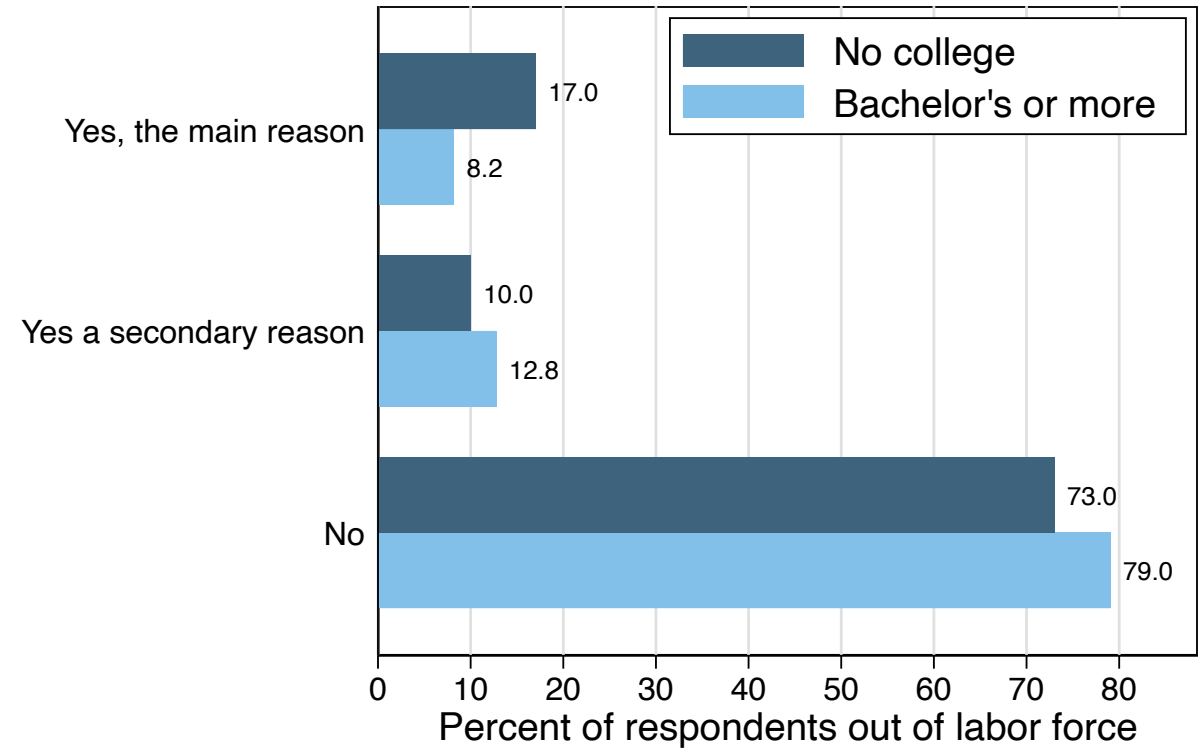
Women and non-college persons who are not working and not looking for work cite infection concerns at higher rates



Are worries about catching COVID or other infectious diseases a factor in your decision not to seek work?



Are worries about catching COVID or other infectious diseases a factor in your decision not to seek work?

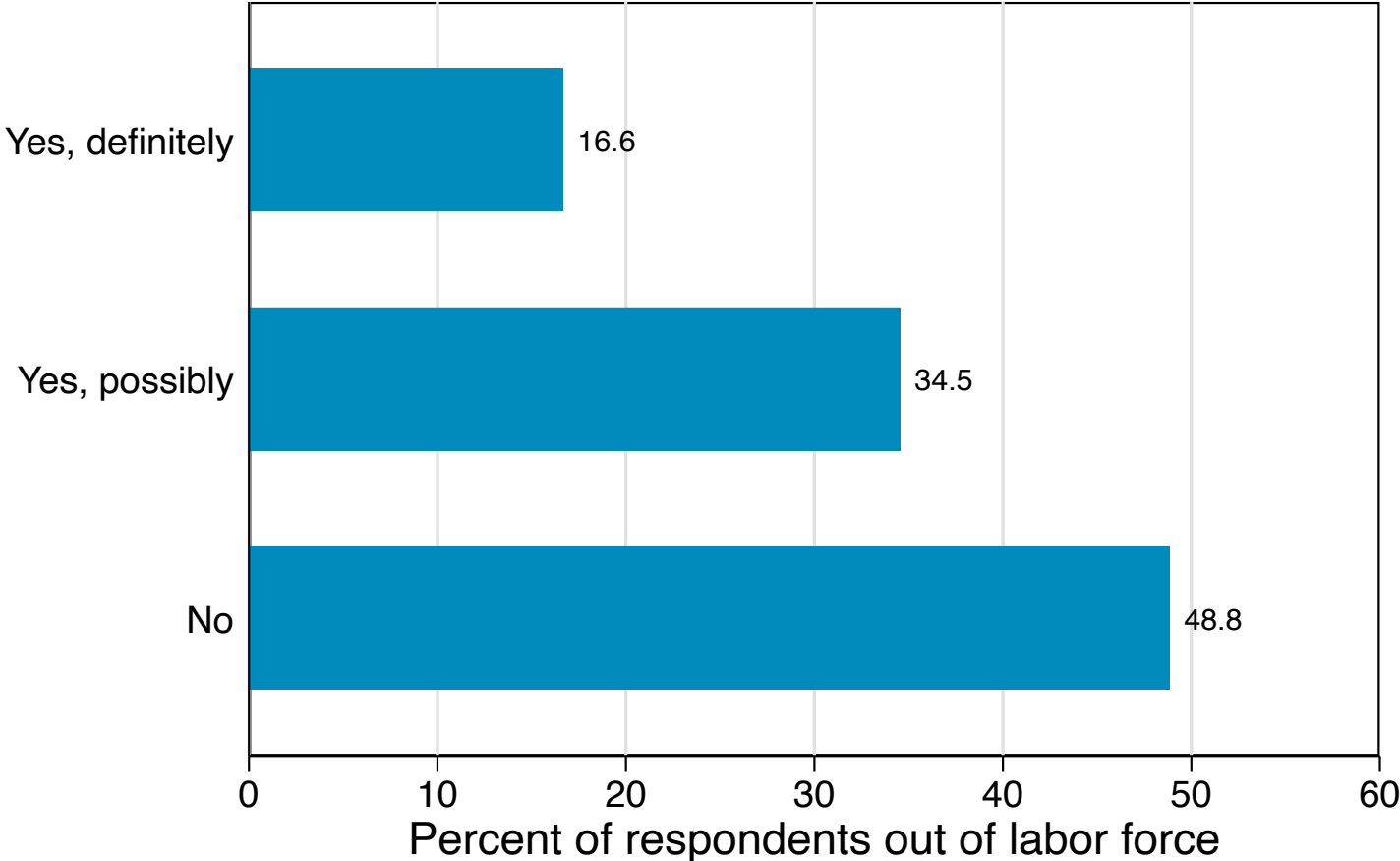


Notes: The sample includes respondents to the February 2022 SWAA who passed the attention check questions and indicated their working status in the week prior to the survey was “Not working, and not looking for work”. The right figure excludes respondents with 1 to 3 years of college. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 458 (left). N = 283 (right)**

51% of sampled persons who are not working and not looking for work would seek work if they were guaranteed to find a job allowing them to work from home



Would you start seeking work if you were guaranteed to find a job allowing you to work from home?

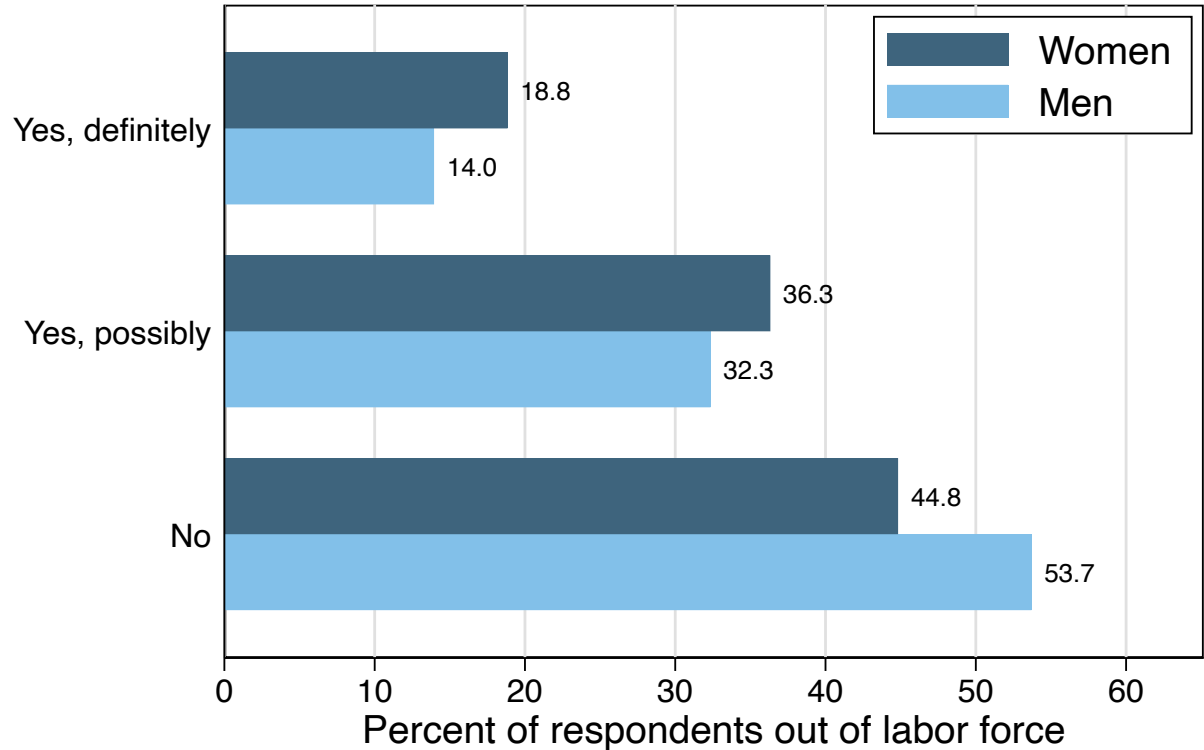


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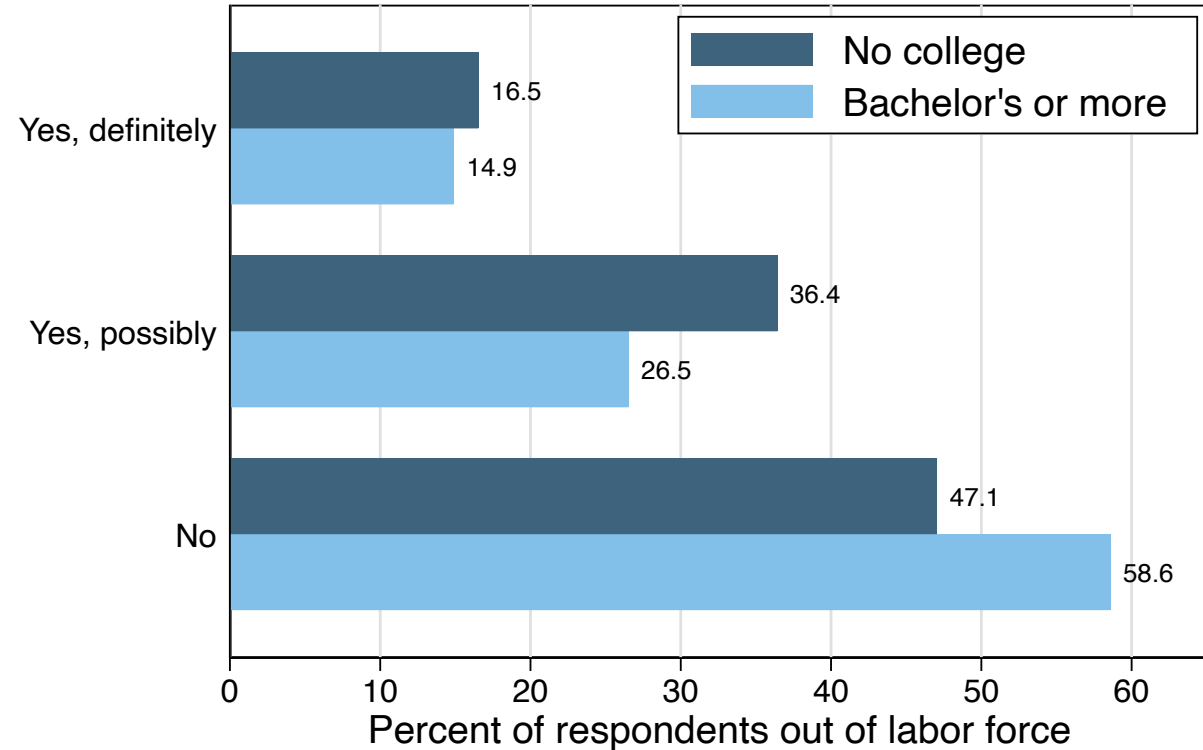
Women and those with no college who are not working and not looking for work would seek work in greater numbers if they were guaranteed a job allowing them to work from home



Would you start seeking work if you were guaranteed to find a job allowing you to work from home?



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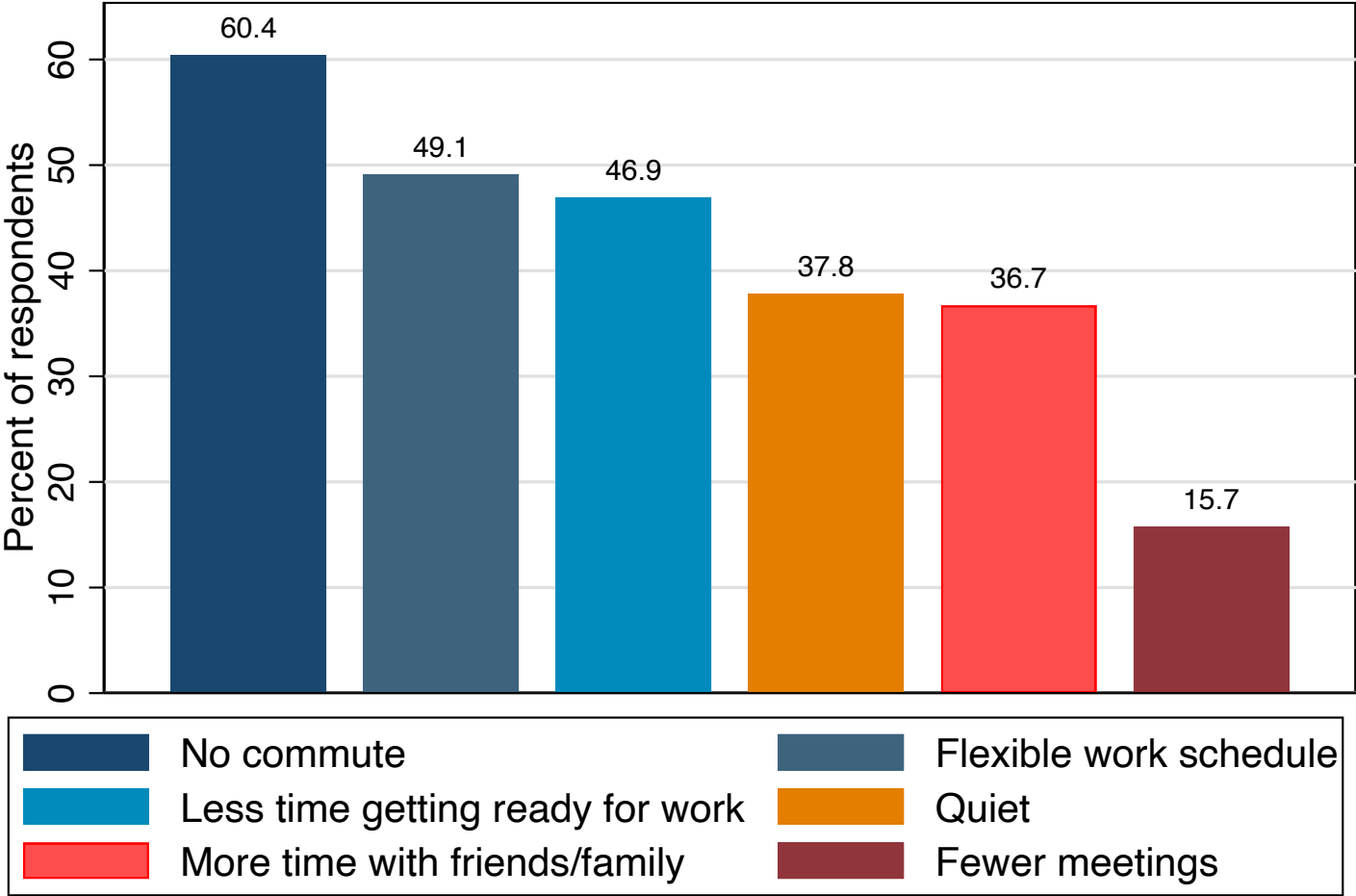


Notes: The sample includes respondents to the February 2022 SWAA who passed the attention check questions and indicated their working status in the week prior to the survey was “Not working, and not looking for work”. The right figure excludes respondents with 1 to 3 years of college. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 458 (left). N = 283 (right)**

Commuting, flexitime, and less time getting ready for work are most often among the top 3 benefits of working from home

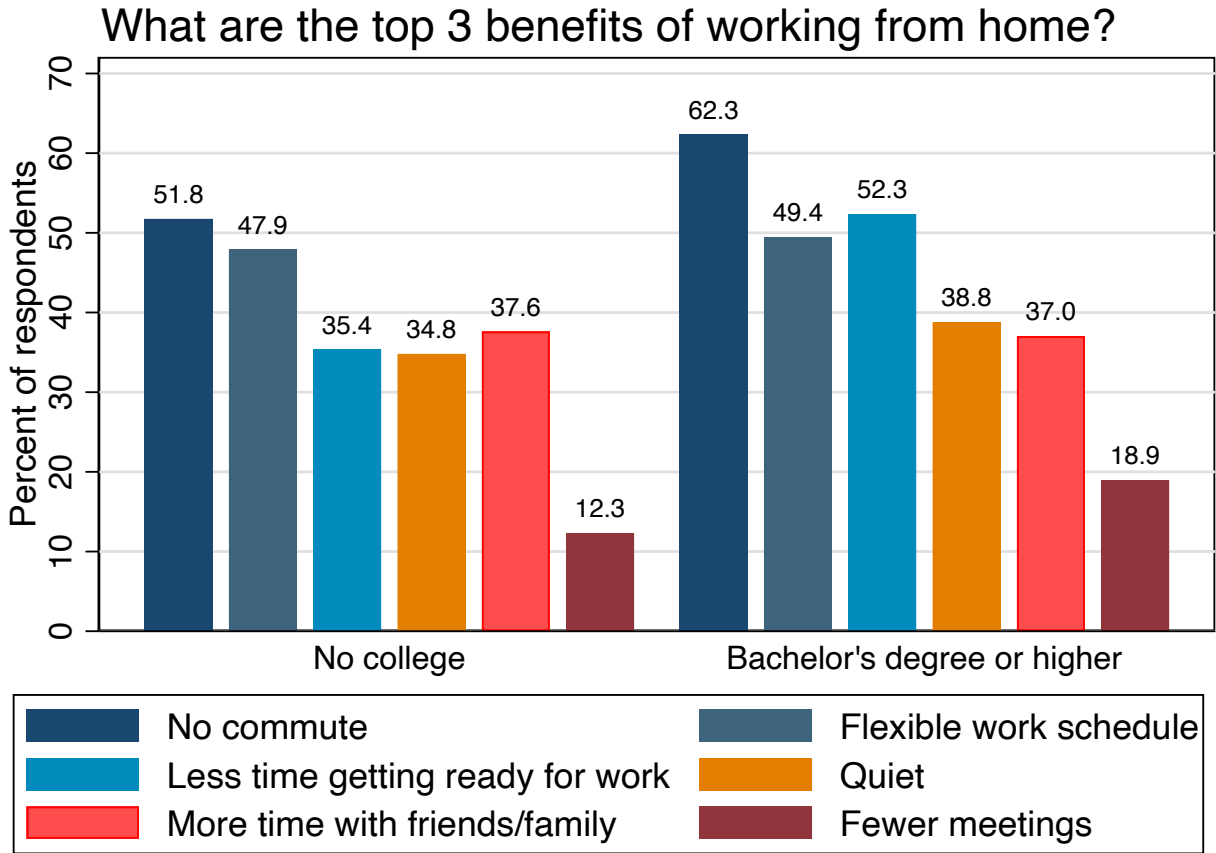
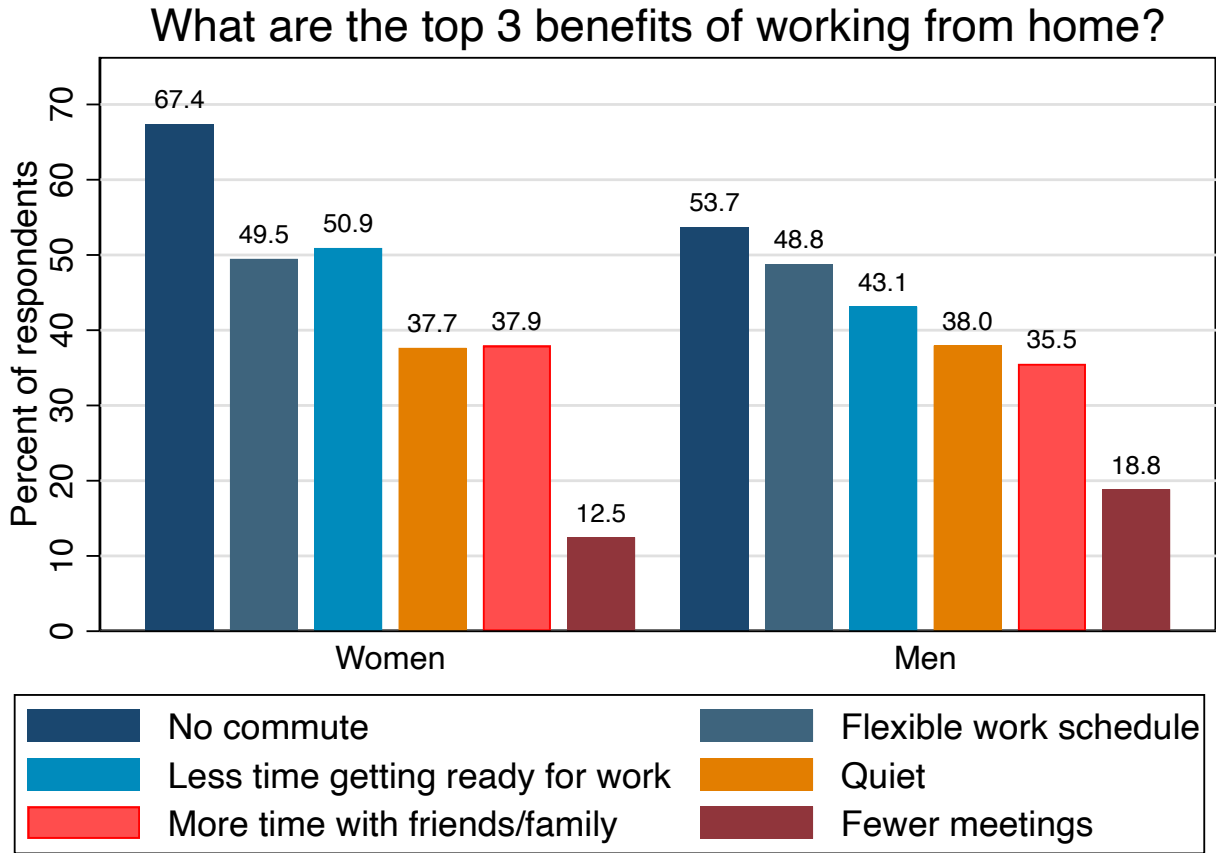


What are the top 3 benefits of working from home?



Notes: The sample includes respondents to the February 2022 SWAA who passed the attention check questions and worked from home at some point since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 2,973.**

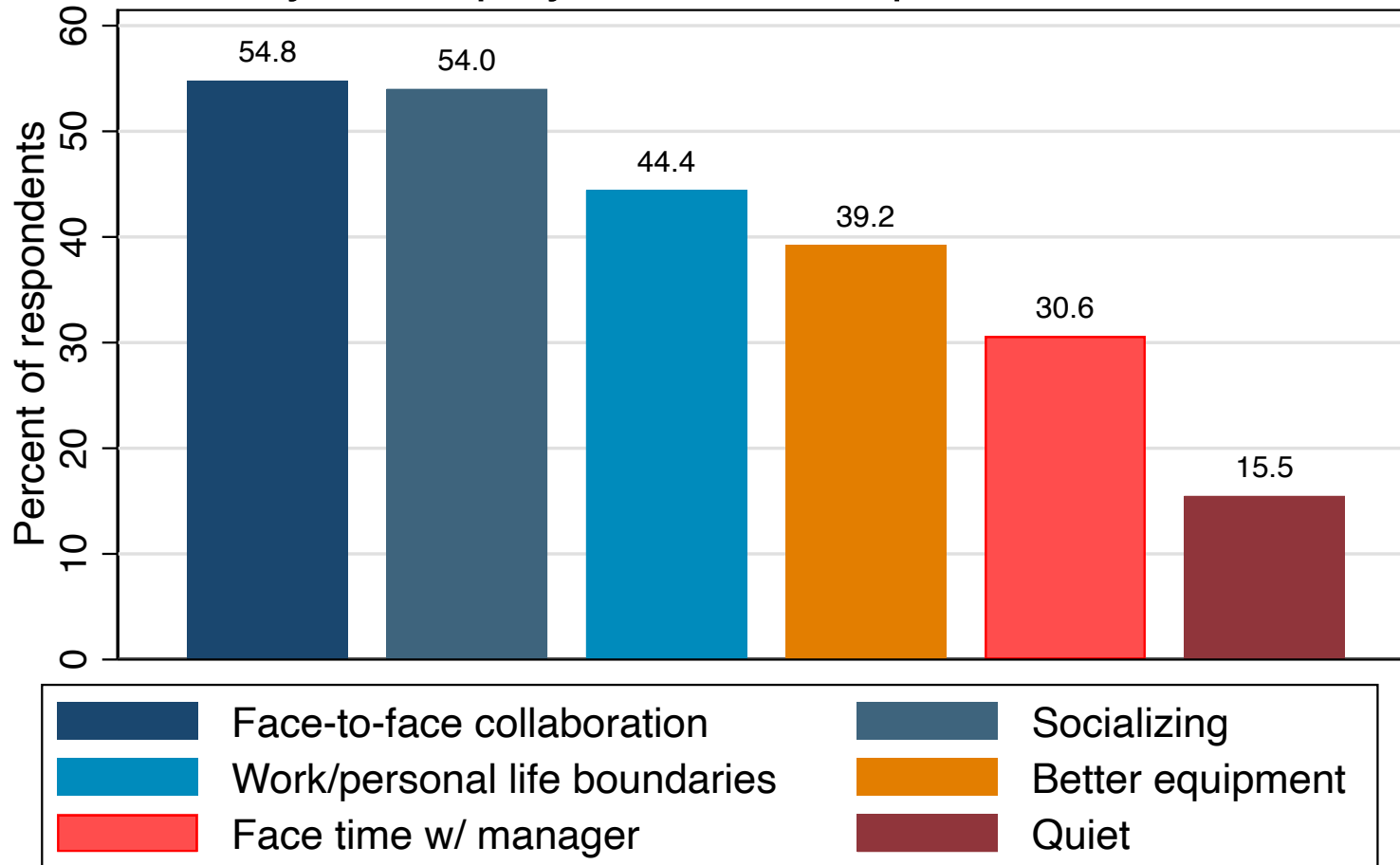
Commuting and time saved getting ready for work are more often cited as top benefits of working from home by women and workers with Bachelor's degrees or more



Notes: The sample includes respondents to the February 2022 SWAA who passed the attention check questions and worked from home at some point since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The right figure excludes respondents with 1 to 3 years of college. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 2,973 (left). N = 2,313 (right).**

Collaboration and socializing are most often among the top 3 benefits of going to employers' worksite

What are the top 3 benefits of working on your employer's business premises?

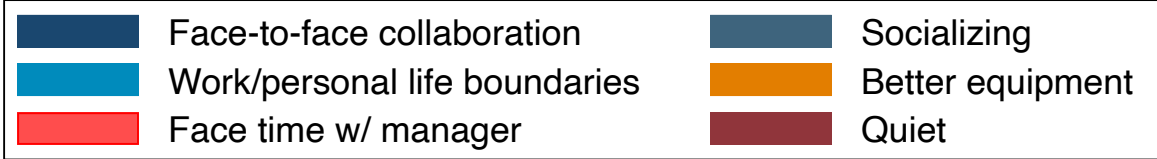
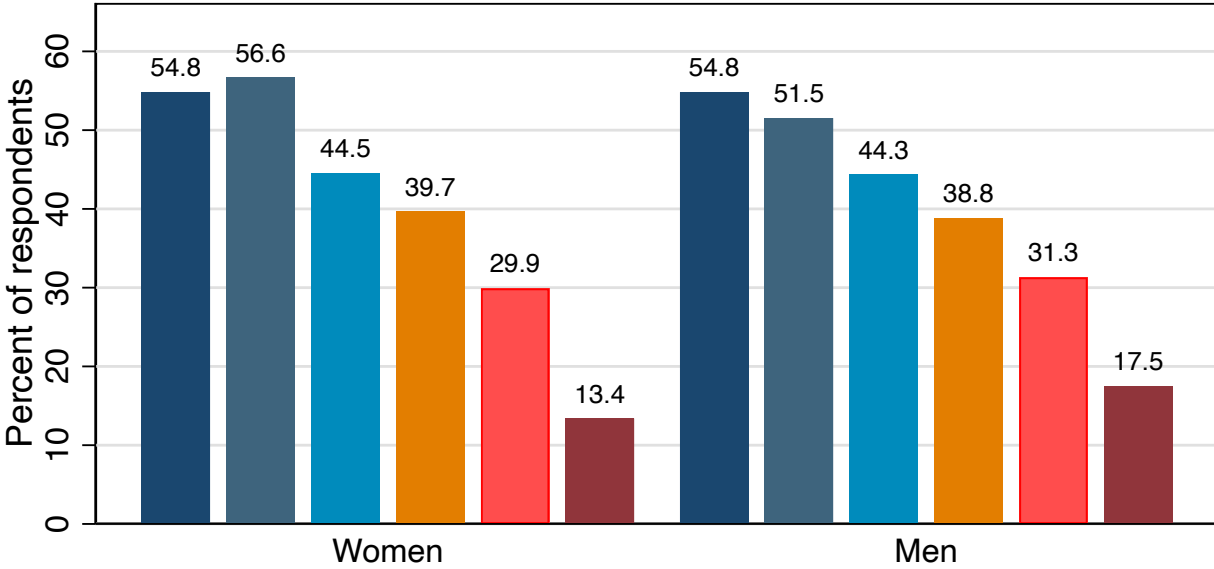


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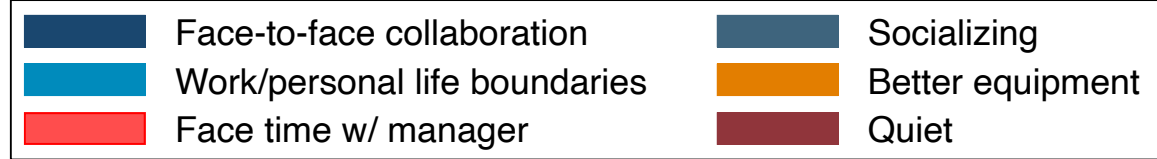
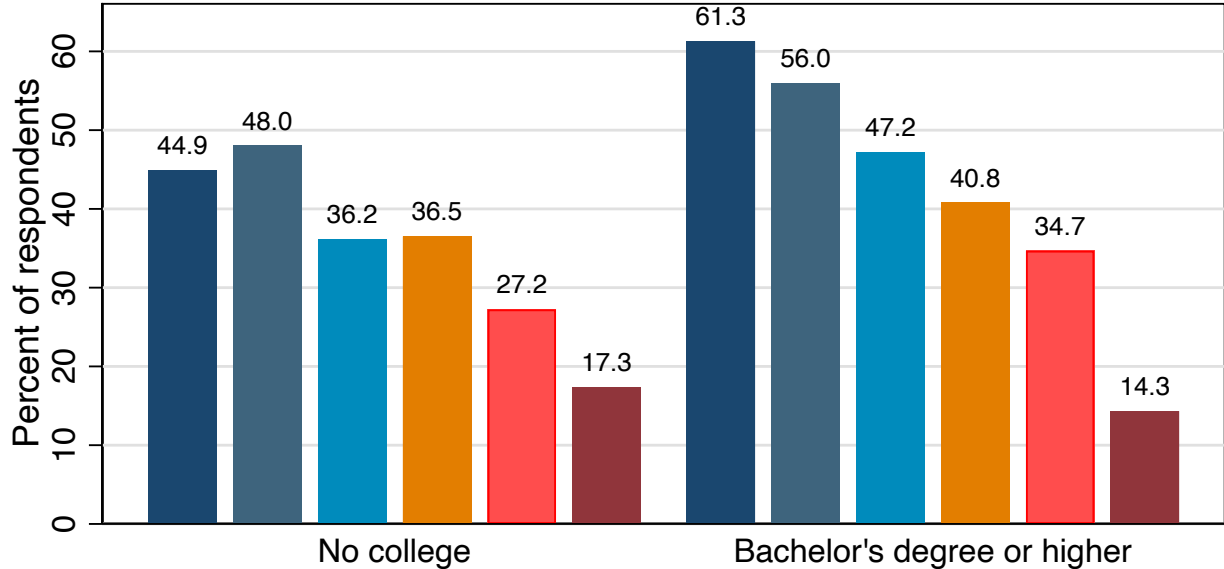
Collaboration and socializing are most with Bachelor's degrees cite face-to-face most often among the top benefits of working from home.



What are the top 3 benefits of working on your employer's business premises?



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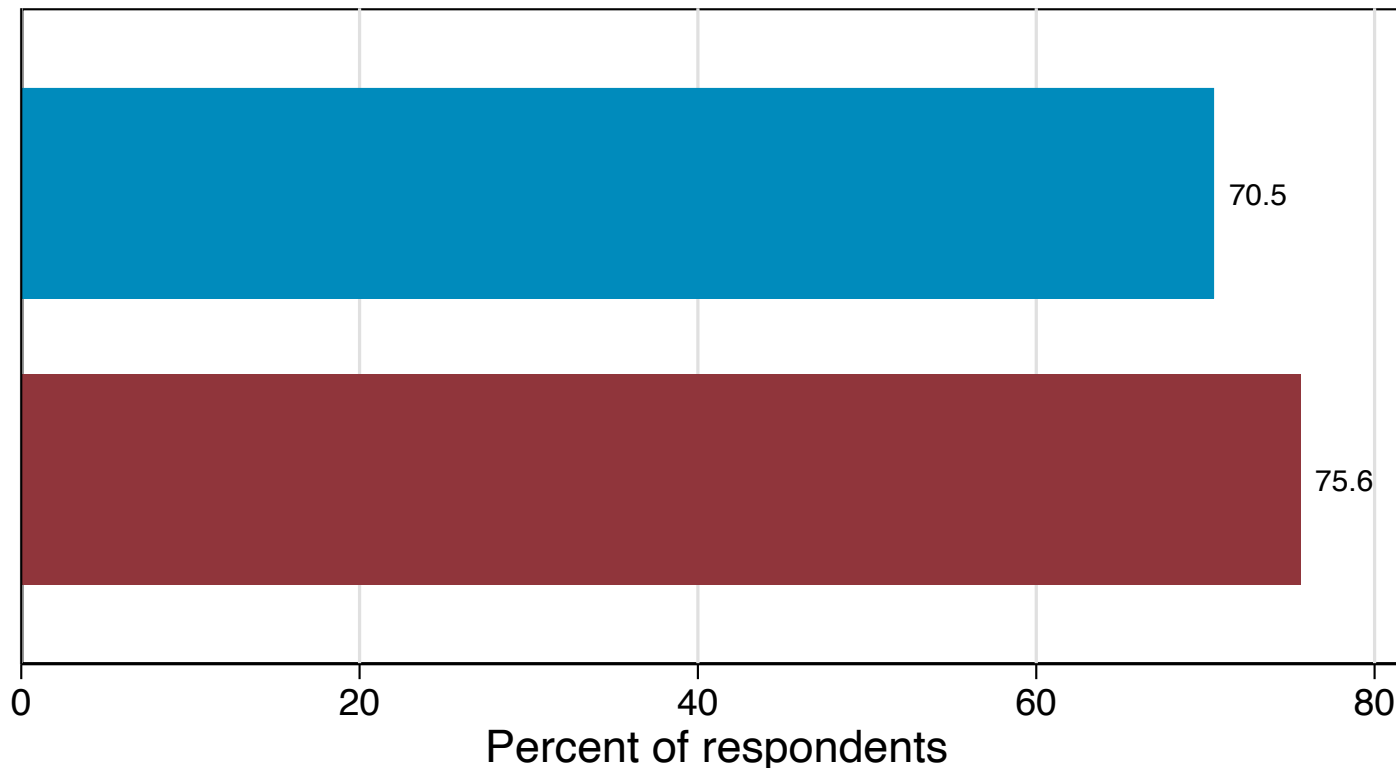
70% or more of respondents who will be in hybrid mode after the pandemic ends would like to:

- choose when they come into work, AND
- coordinate with their coworkers on worksite days



Share of workers who would like to:

- Choose their own WFH days
- Coordinate with coworkers on worksite days



Responses to the questions:

- Which of the following would you prefer?
 - Being able to choose which days you work from home (if any)
 - Your employer sets a policy that determines who works from home on which days
- Would you like your co-workers to come into work on the same days as you?

Notes: The sample for the blue bar includes employed respondents from the July and December 2021 SWAA waves who passed the attention check questions (for December respondents) and worked from home at some point since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 3,949 (blue bar).**

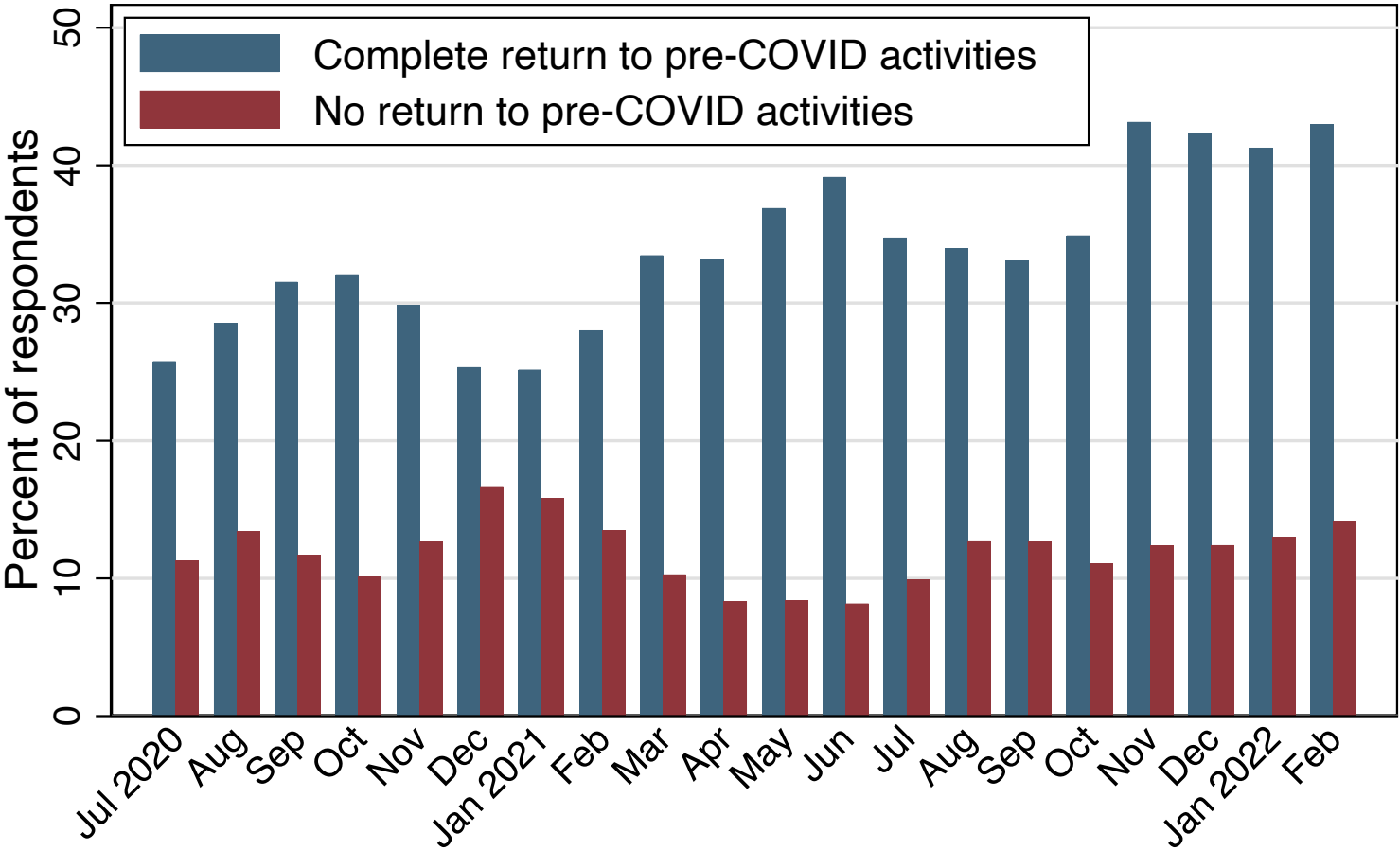
The sample for the red bar includes employed respondents from the February 2022 SWAA who reported their employer is planning them to work from home 1 or more days per week after the end of the pandemic. **N = 1810 (red bar).**

As of February 2022 only a minority of respondents say they would return to pre-COVID activities completely.

A persistent 10 to 15% say they would not return to them at all.



Once the COVID-19 pandemic has ended, which of the following would best fit your views on social distancing?



Notes: The title of the chart shows the latest version of the survey question underlying the data. In 2020 we initially asked respondents about the possibilities of vaccine discovery, then vaccine approval and wide availability, and then in 2021 to a scenario when most of the population would be vaccinated. The sample includes respondents from the July 2020 to December 2021 SWAA The SWAA samples US residents aged 20 to 64 who earned \$10,000 or more in 2019. **N = 74,375.**

References



- Barrero, Jose Maria, Nicholas Bloom, and Steven J. Davis, 2021. “Why working from home will stick,” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 28731.