

State of the World's Fathers 2023

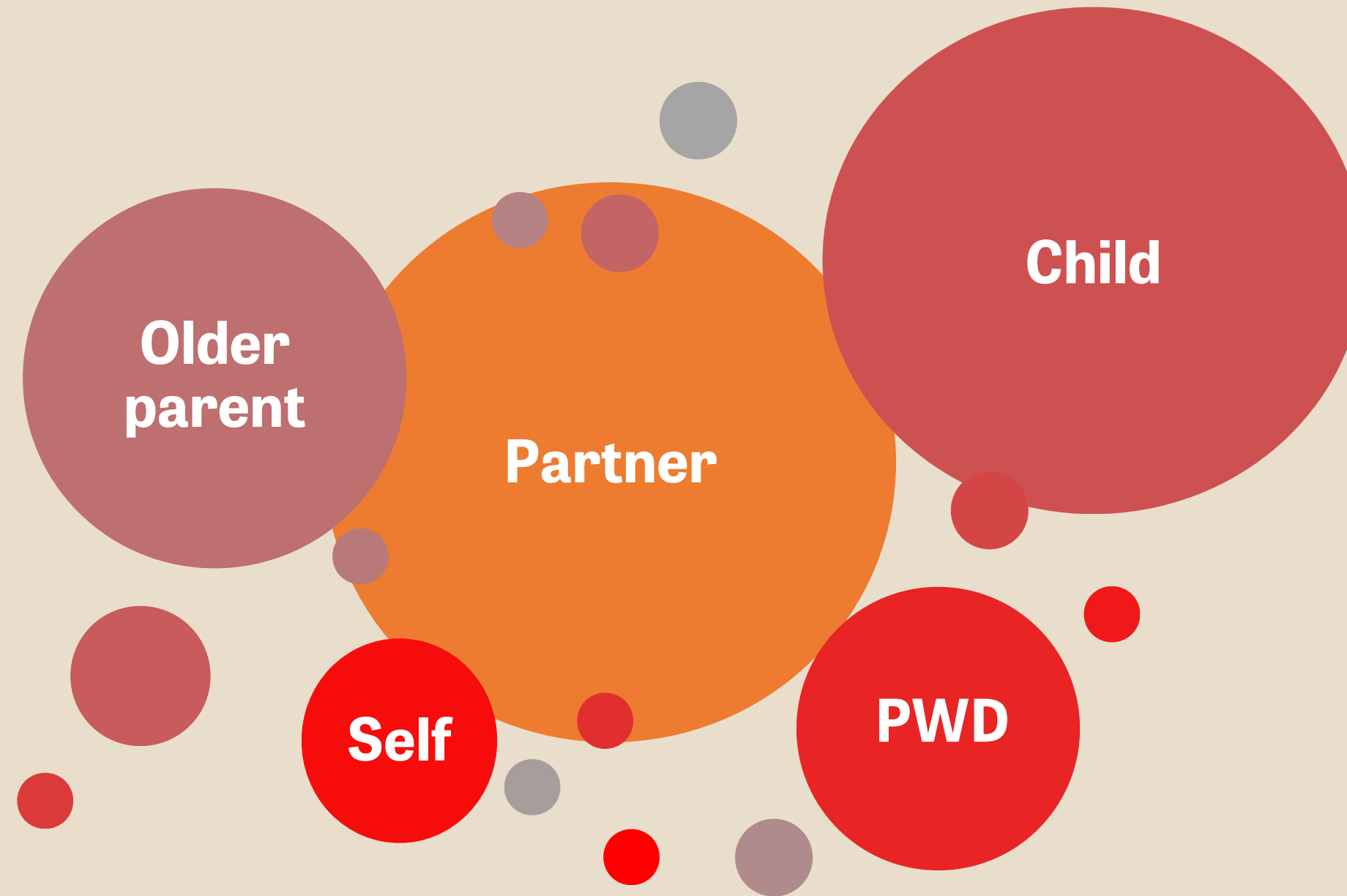
First International Day of Care and Support

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WOMEN 



We are all enmeshed in multiple care responsibilities





Everyone cares about care; they do care and benefit from it

70% to 90% of men across 17 countries agreed that “I feel as responsible for care work as my partner.”

**Yet across 17 countries,
mothers are still doing
more care than fathers
... but the gap is
narrowing**

1.36 **TIMES** house cleaning

1.32 **TIMES** physical childcare

1.26 **TIMES** emotional childcare

1.17 **TIMES** cooking

1.16 **TIMES** care for their partner

1.11 **TIMES** household logistics

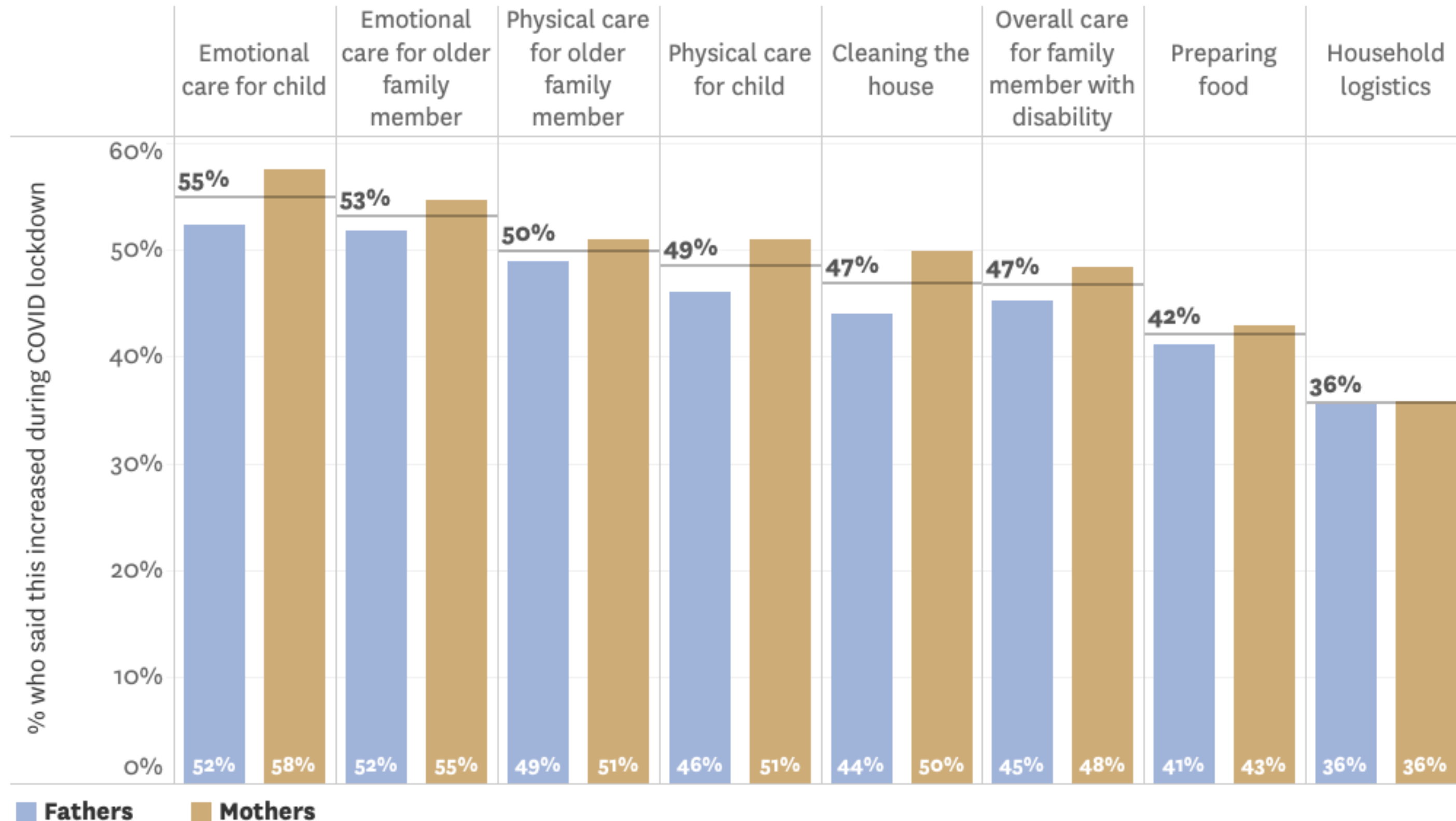
1.08 **TIMES** physical care for elders

1.08 **TIMES** emotional care for elders

1.07 **TIMES** care for persons with disabilities

Parents reported widespread increases in care work during COVID lockdown periods.

Mothers and fathers reporting increases in care tasks during COVID lockdowns



Caregiving brings us happiness...

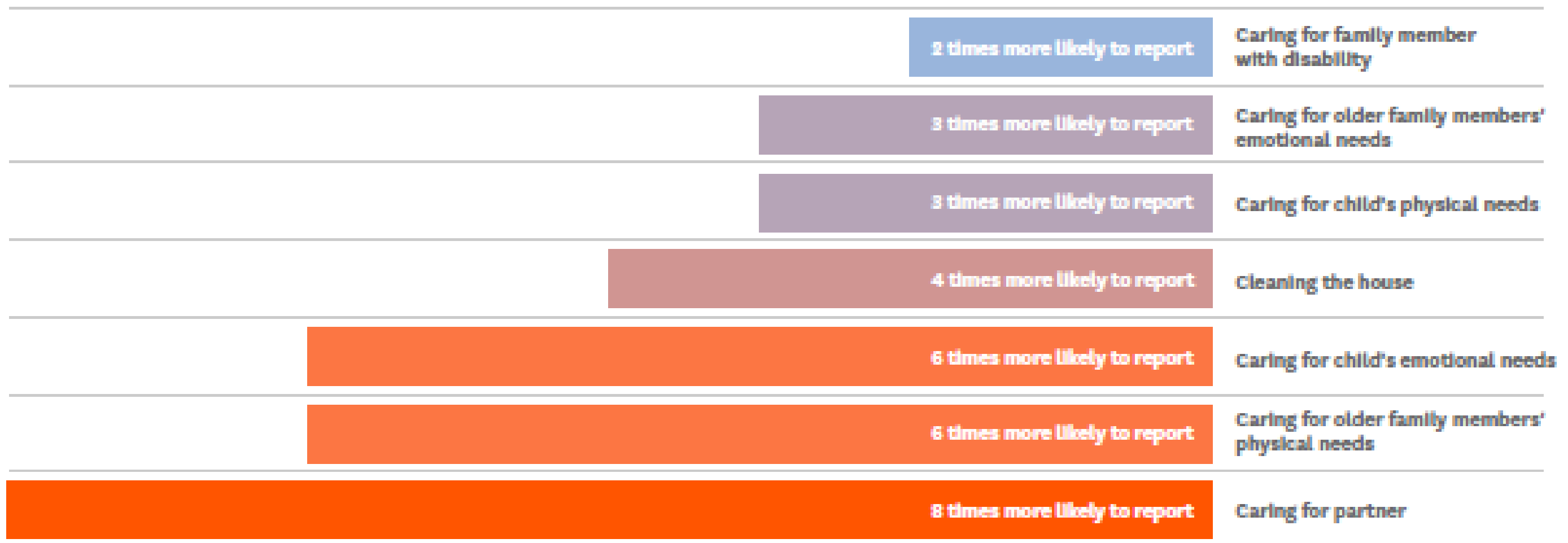
Men and women who said they were satisfied with how involved they were in raising their children were **1.5 times** as likely to agree that “I am the person I always wanted to be” - and to feel a sense of gratitude.



A key way forward: Men's emotional self care is connected to care for others

When men are engaged in emotional self-care for themselves, they are also this many times more likely to engage in these other forms of care:

Those who report spending time on emotional self care are:

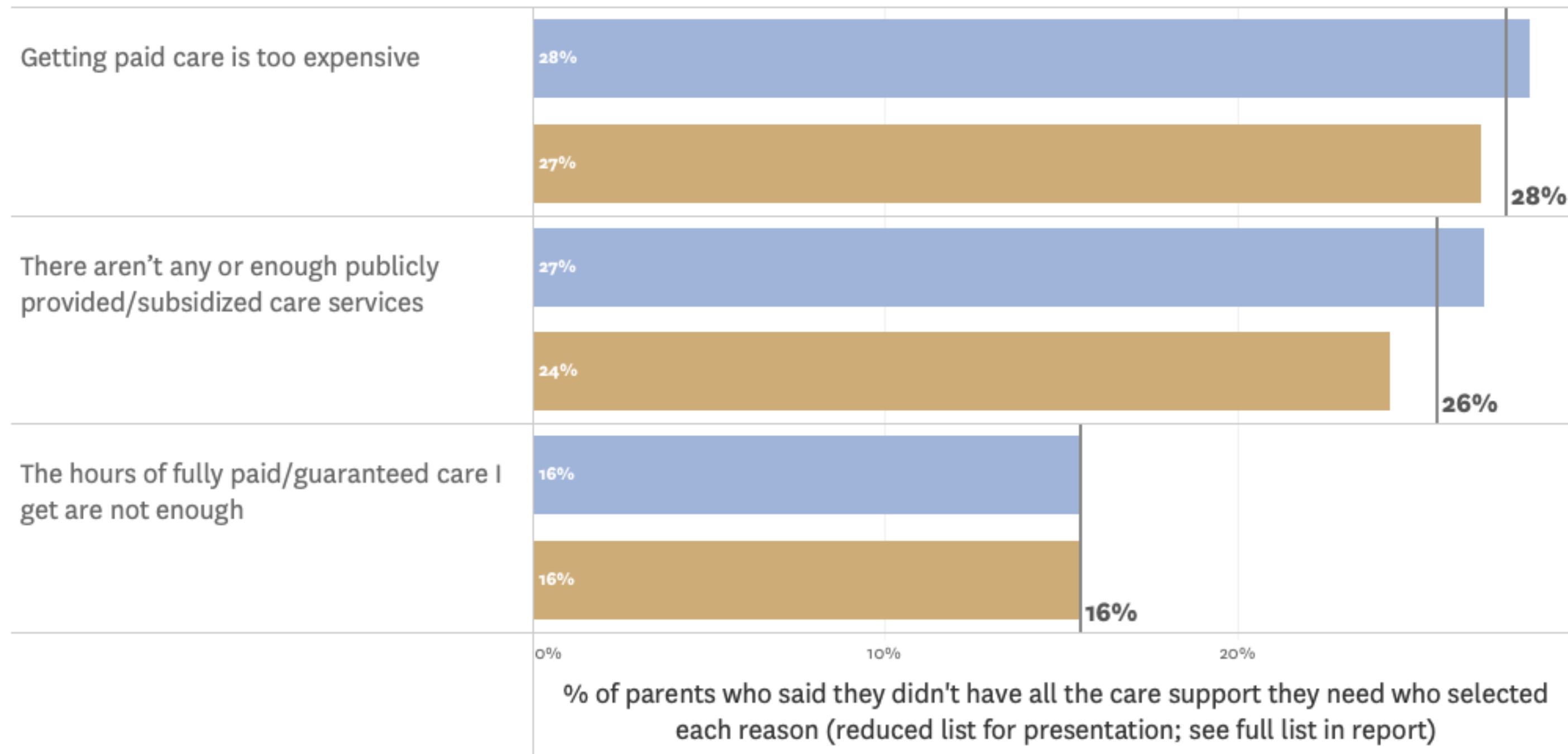


**Change must
be structural
as well as
individual**



Numerous barriers - especially in cost and poor public offerings - in the support parents receive for care work.

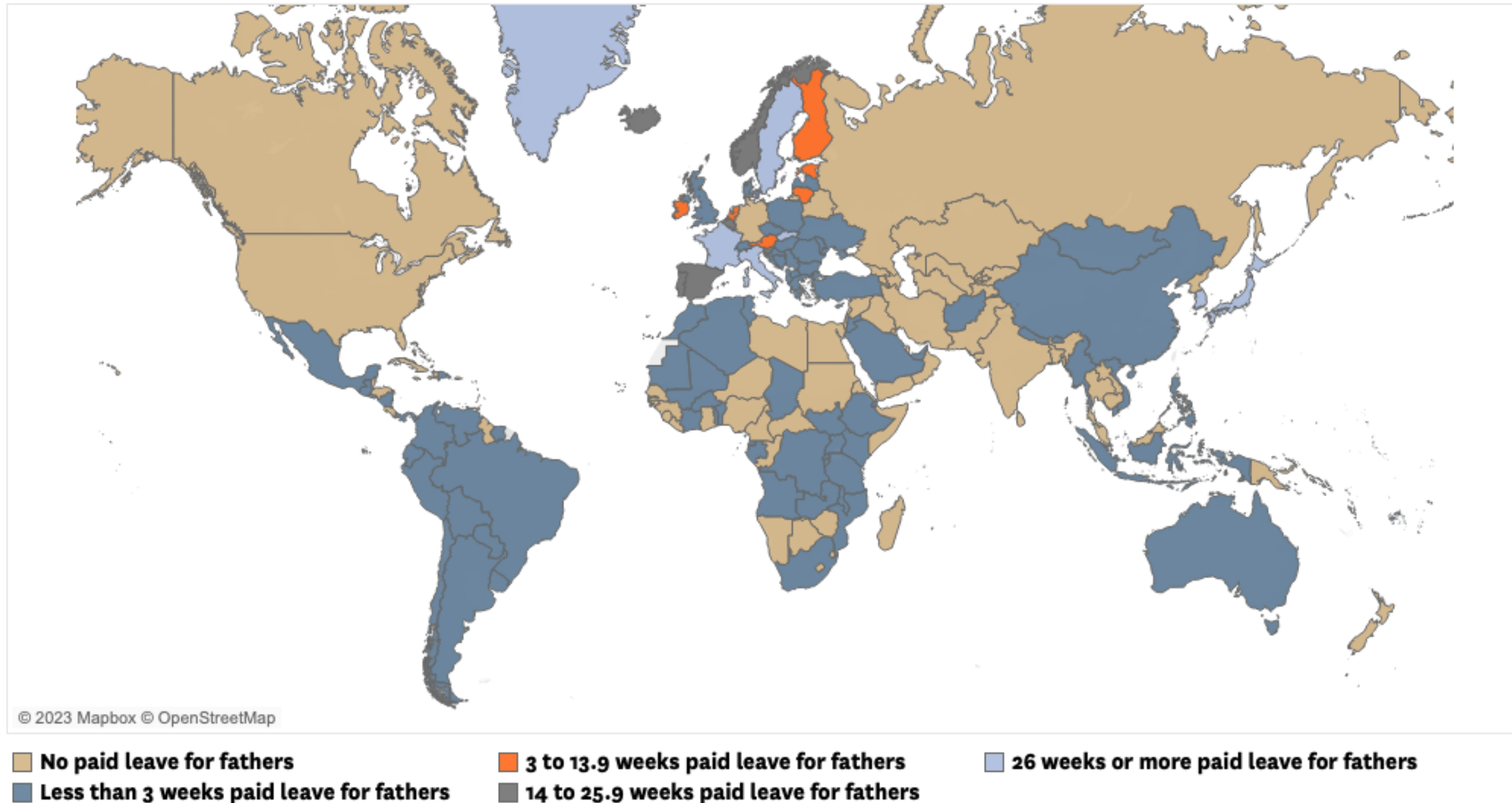
Reasons why some parents say they don't have all the care support they need, by fathers and mothers



■ Fathers ■ Mothers

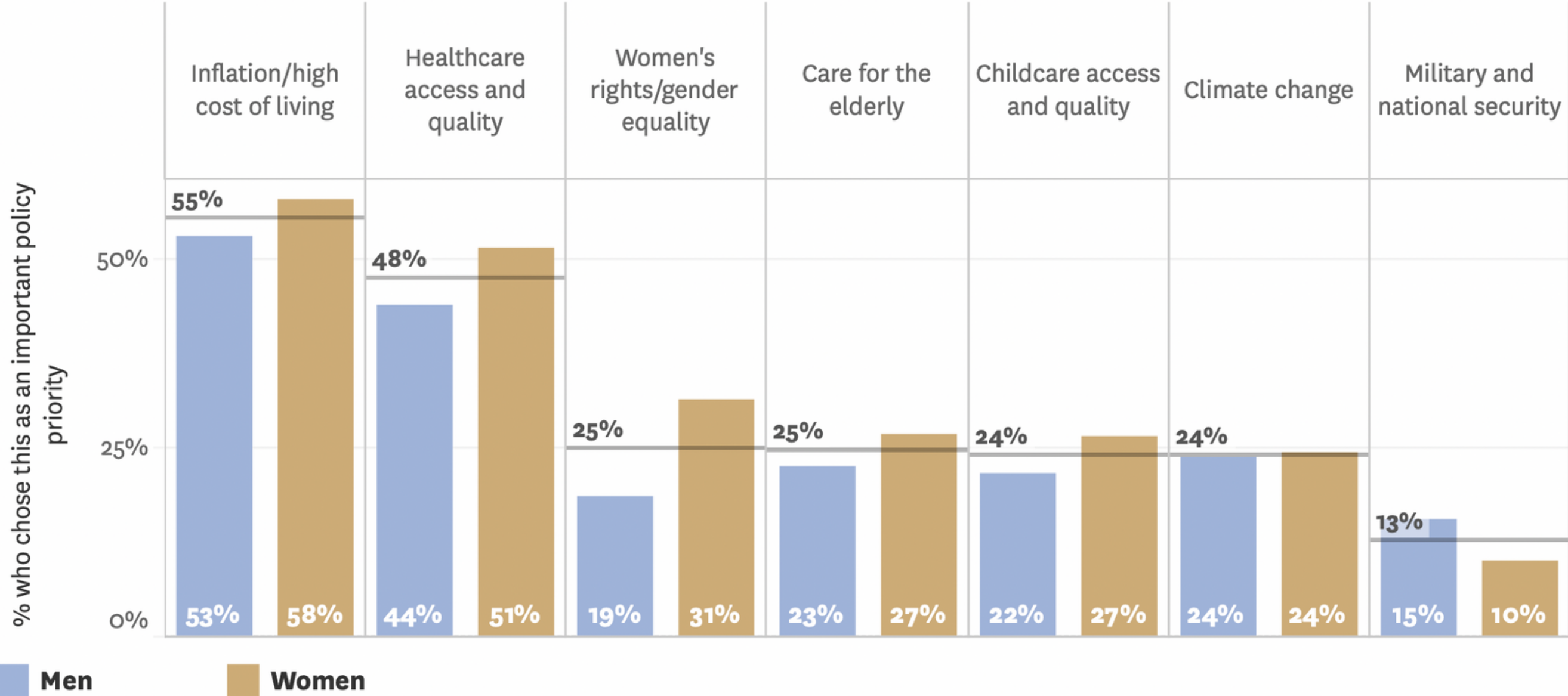
Paid paternity leave is becoming more available, most often under three weeks.

Availability of nationally guaranteed, paid paternity leave for fathers according to latest data aggregation from WORLD Policy Analysis Center



What is important to voters? Income stability, health care, childcare rank highest for women and men

FIGURE 17 - Top policy priorities, for men and women



Note: in the US nearly ¾ of fathers support key care policies (at nearly the same rates as women) – across the political divide

Respondents were asked, "Thinking of all the problems that political leaders in your context are working to address, which is the most important to you?," followed by a list of 14 options. Each respondent chose up to five as their own priorities.

Engaging Men in Advocacy for Care Policies

More than half of both mothers and fathers said that political activism for care leave policies was important to them.

This ranged from 57% for fathers and 66% for mothers in India, to 92% for fathers and 94% of mothers in Rwanda.



Centering care in economic policies

- Care economy is 11.5% of global workforce
- Care represents up a quarter of GDP in some countries
- Investing in care is not instead of investing in the productive economy; it is the productive economy
- Care policies consistently demonstrate positive returns on investment

Why aren't we investing?

The barrier is not technical; it's political.



Our recommendations for a CARING world

- **C**enter care systems in policies and public institutions, focusing on the most marginalized
- **A**dvocate for a culture of care in all workplaces
- **R**evolutionize the way boys are taught about care
- **I**vest in care, measure it, and disaggregate by gender, social class, and age
- **N**ormalize equal parental leave for mothers, fathers, and all caregivers, and for care of all kinds
- **G**enerate and disseminate mainstream media that portrays men and boys as caring and competent caregivers

