

SWAA February 2022 Updates

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22 February 2022



Latest survey wave included: January 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

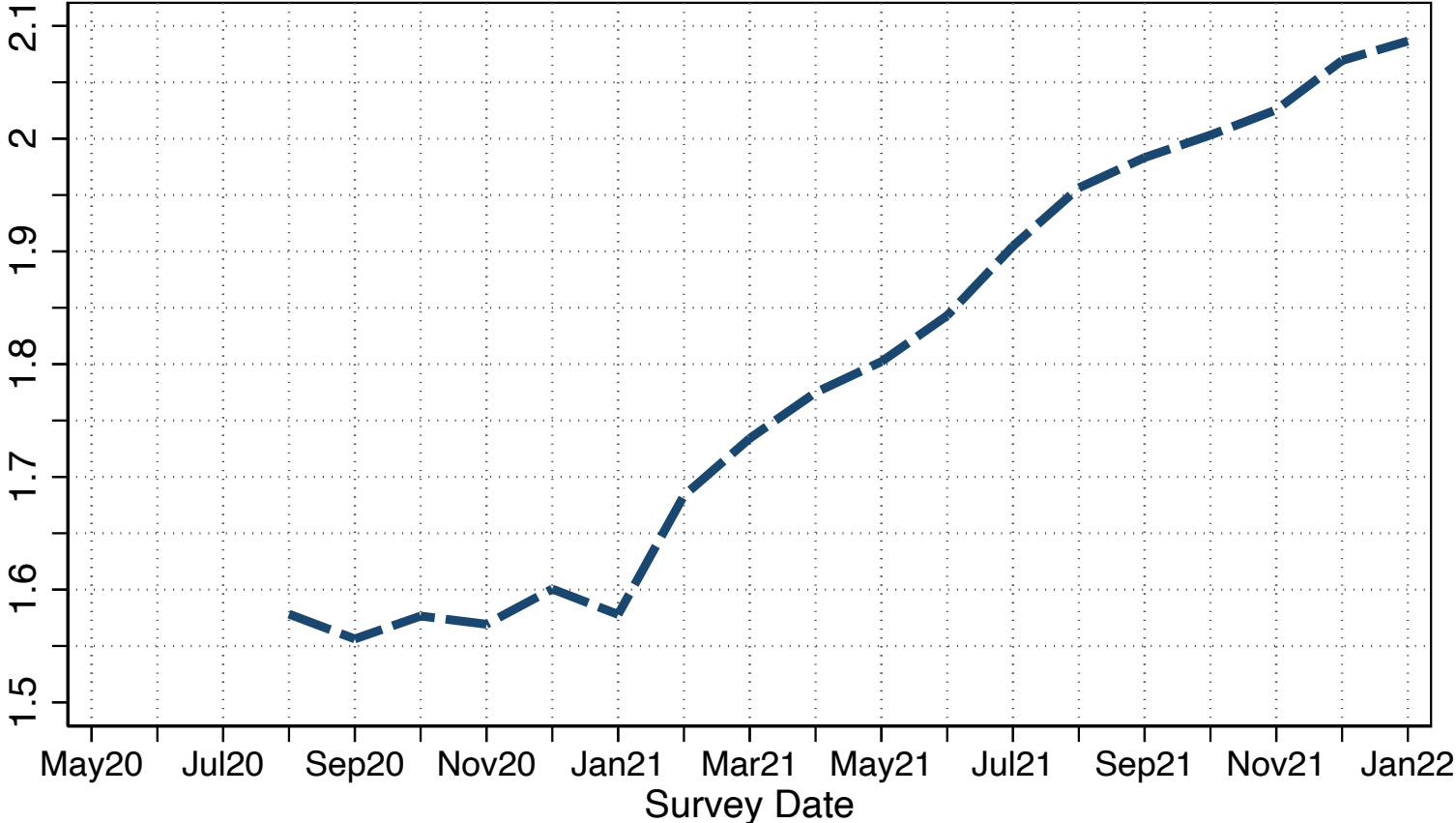
Introduction & Methodology (2/2)

- **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.

Employer plans for working from home post-COVID



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

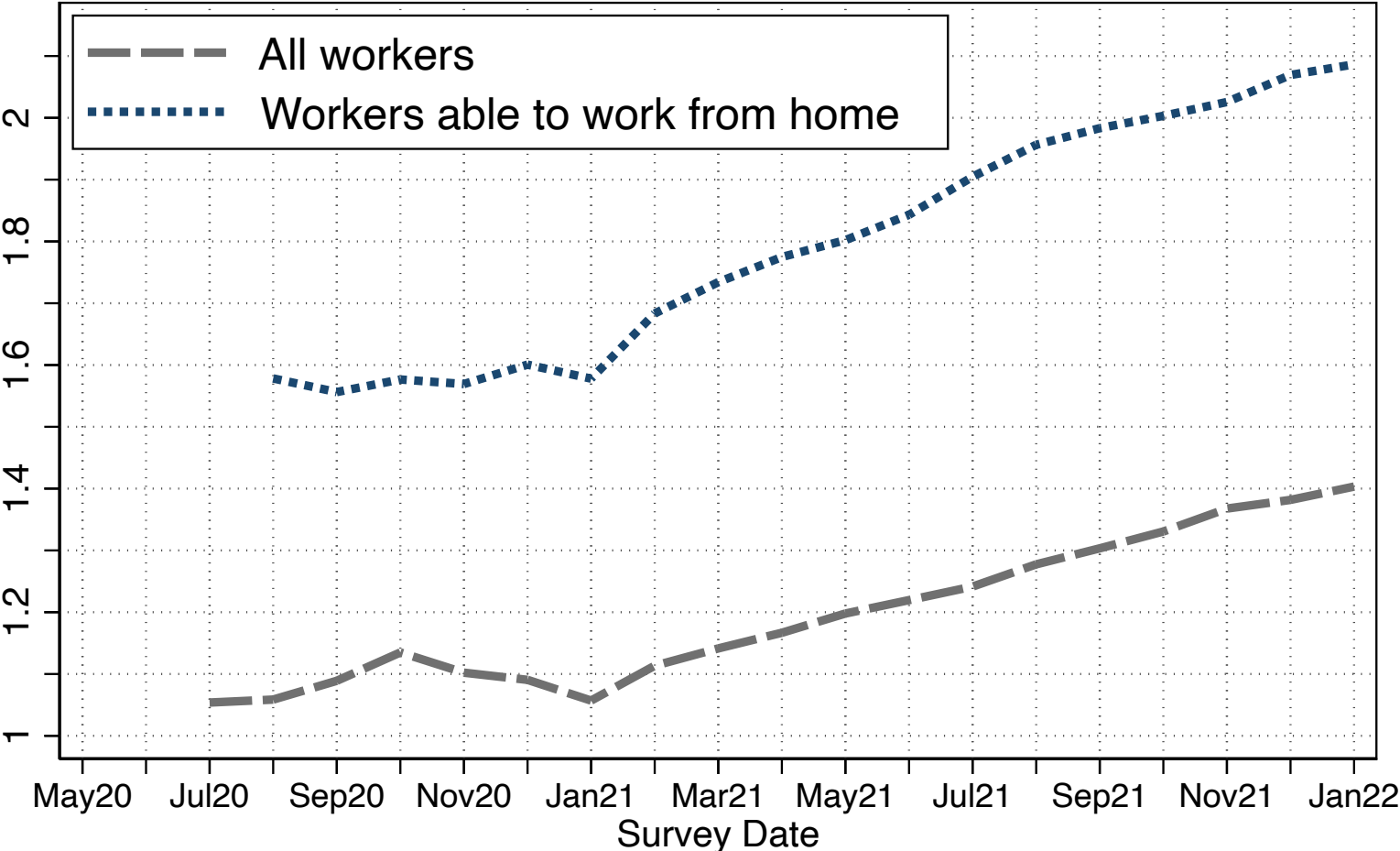
Sample: Data are from all SWAA waves, covering July 2020 to January 2022. The sample includes all respondents who reported their employer’s plans for post-COVID WFH and who have work-from-home experience during the pandemic. In particular, we exclude respondents who report having no employer.

N = 43,167 (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 January 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. In particular, we exclude respondents who report having no employer. **N = 61,679 (all respondents) and 43,167 (able to work from home)**

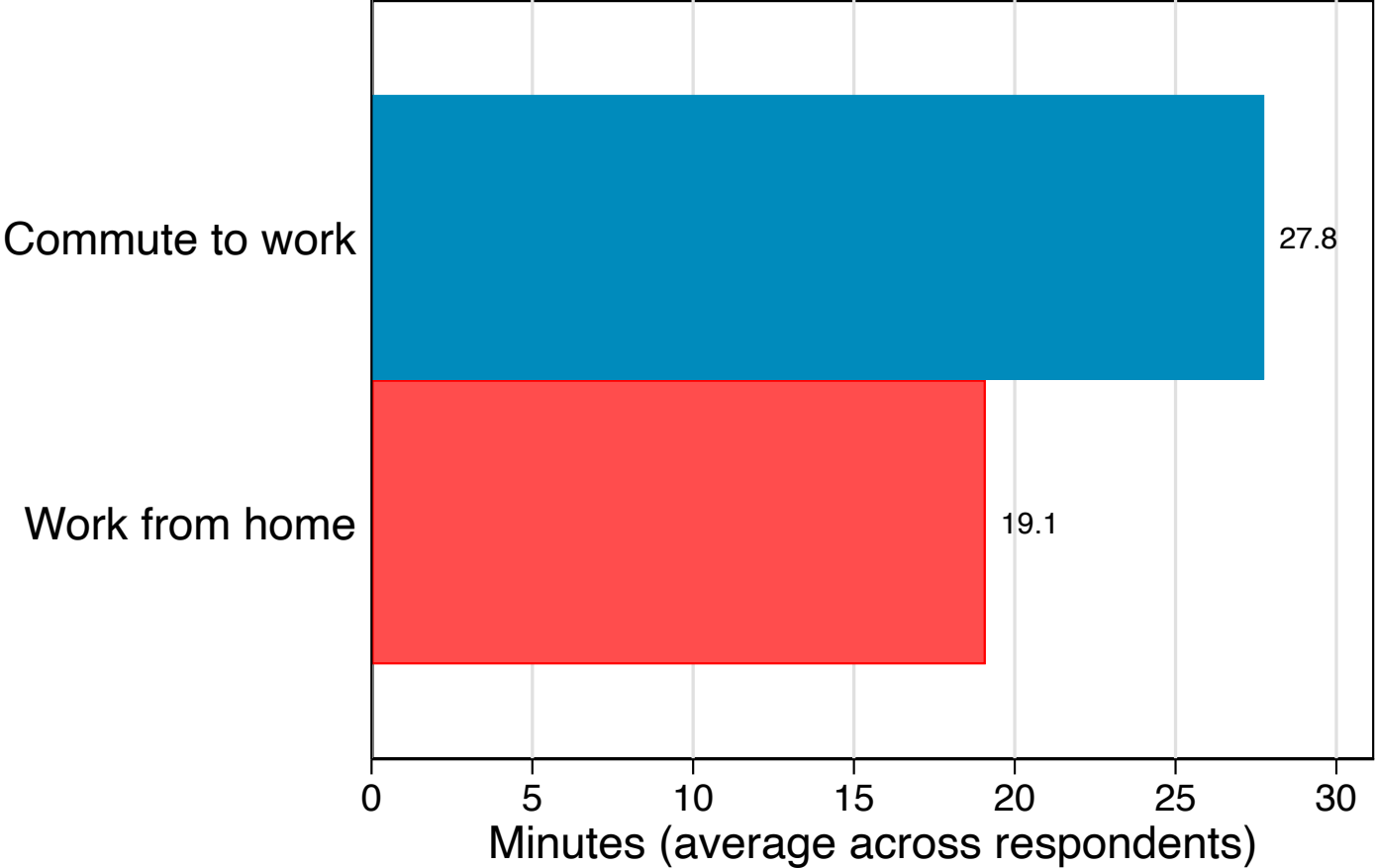
Methodological Note: From January 2022 onwards, we impute post-COVID WFH plans based on current working status for respondents who say their employer has not discussed post-COVID WFH plans.

- If not currently doing any WFH, impute plans as no WFH post-COVID
- If currently WFH 1+ days per week, give them the average of planned WFH days in the same survey wave among workers who are currently WFH 1+ day per week.

Respondents spend less time grooming and getting ready for work when they work from home



How much time do you spend on grooming and getting ready for work when you:



Responses to questions:

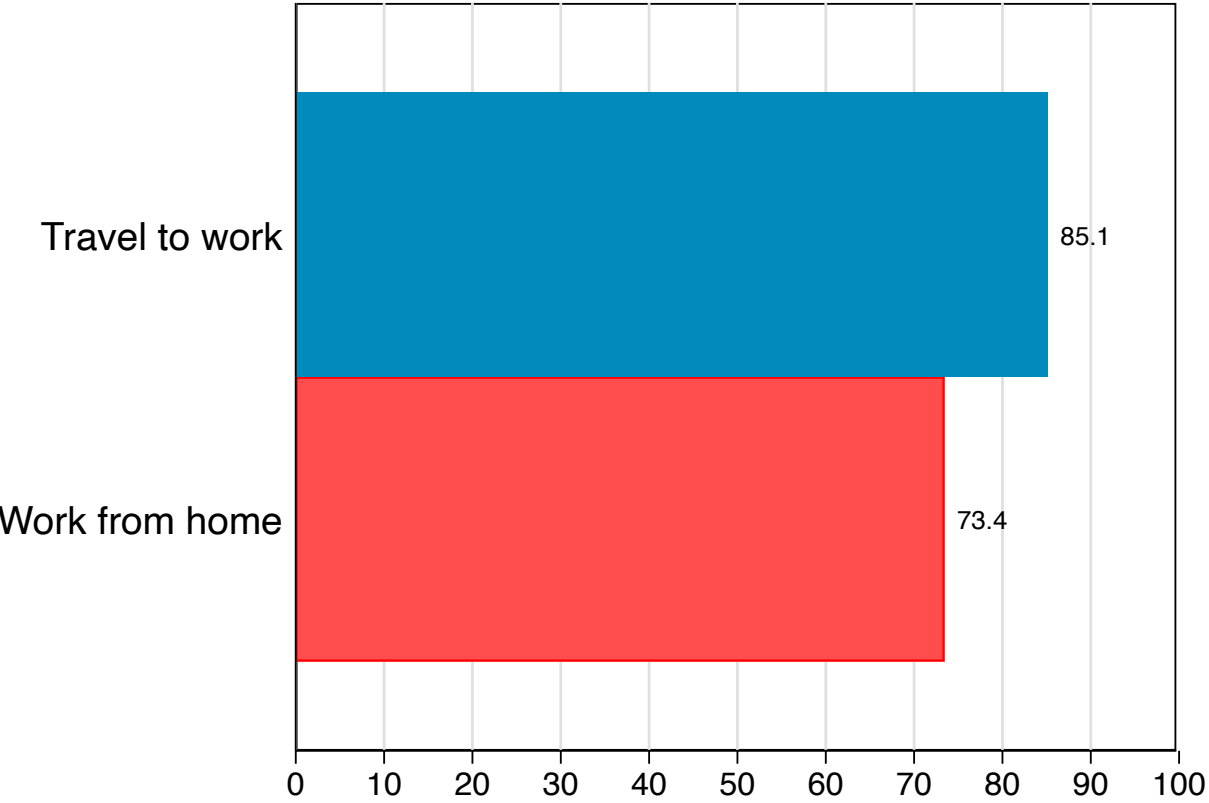
- Which of the following would you do each morning when you travel to work?
- Which of the following would you do each morning when you work from home?

Notes: Data are from the January 2022 wave of the Survey of Working Arrangements and Attitudes (www.wfhresearch.com). The sample includes all respondents who reported working full days at home at some point during COVID. We re-weight observations to match the US population on age, sex, education, and earnings. **N = 3979**

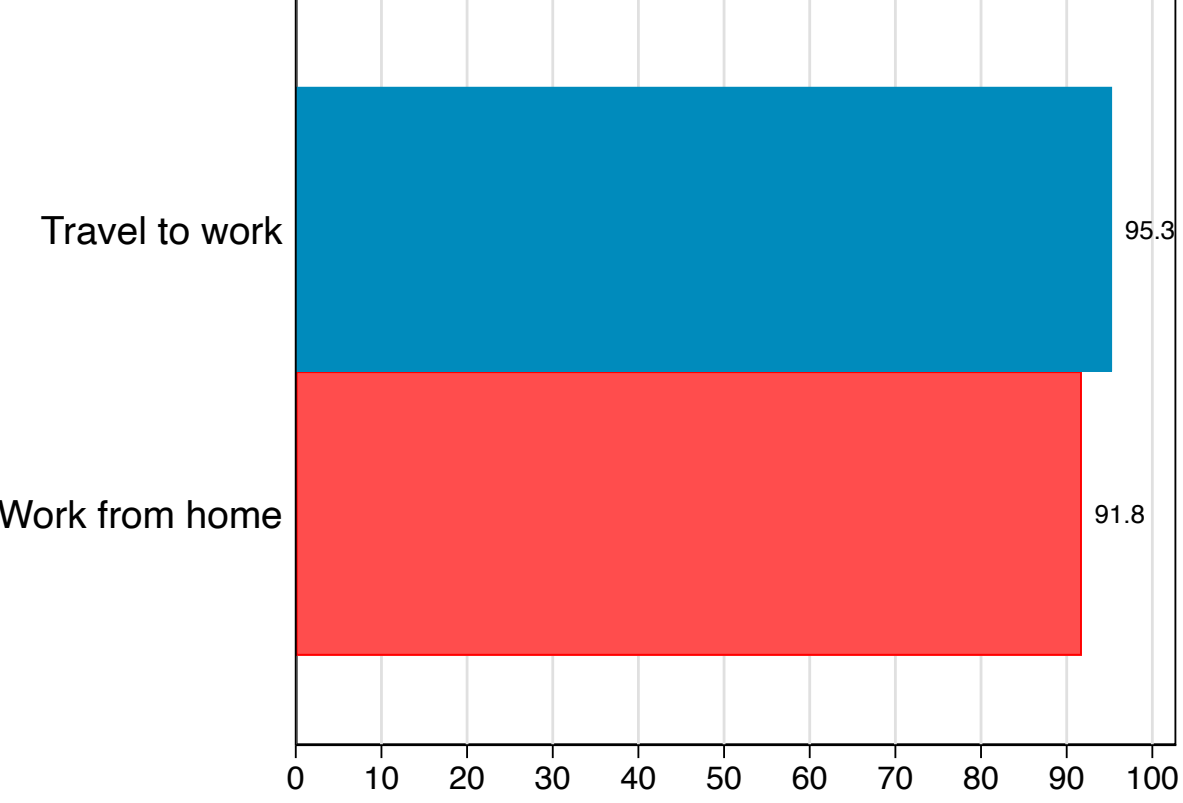
Fewer respondents shower/bathe or brush their teeth when they work from home than when they travel to work



Percent of respondents who shower or bathe when they:



Percent of respondents who brush their teeth when they:

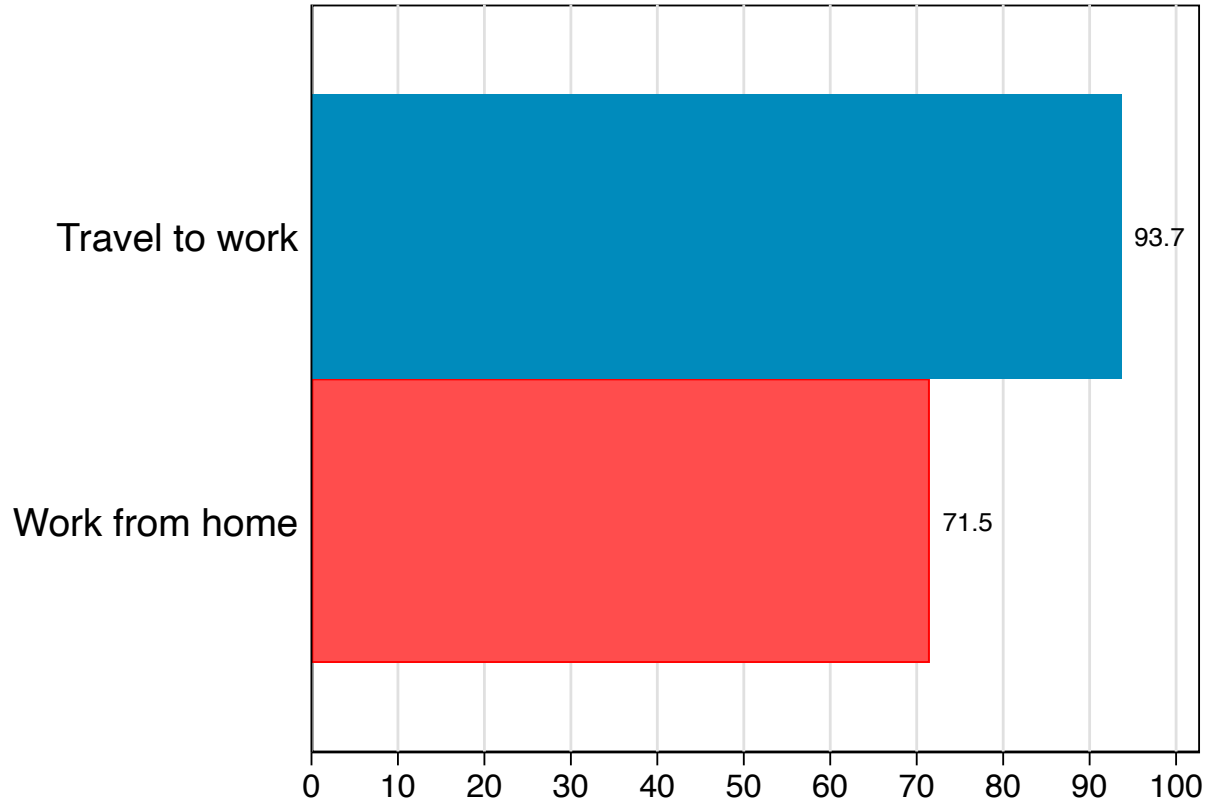


Responses to questions: *Which of the following would you do each morning when you travel to work? Which of the following would you do each morning when you work from home?*

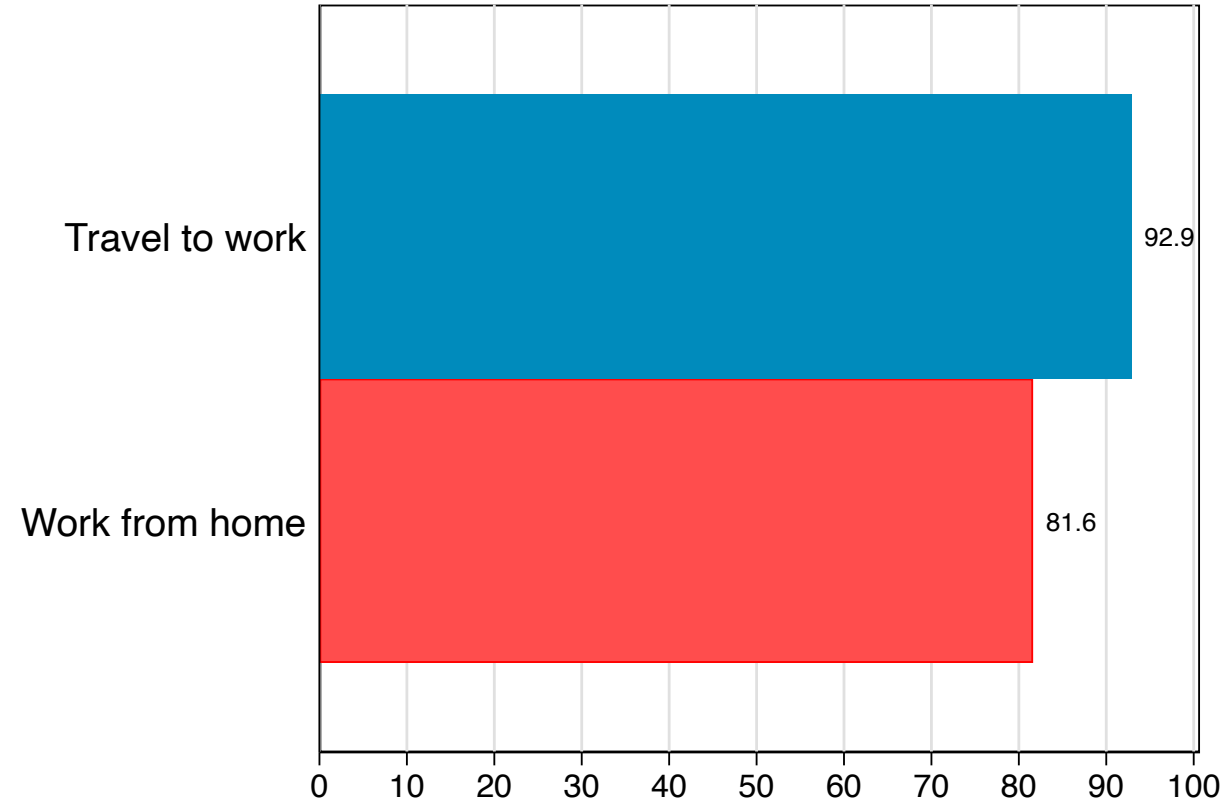
Notes: Data are from the January 2022 wave of the Survey of Working Arrangements and Attitudes (www.wfhresearch.com). The sample includes all respondents who reported working full days at home at some point during COVID. We re-weight observations to match the US population on age, sex, education, and earnings. **N = 3979**

Fewer respondents use deodorant or wear fresh clothes when they work from home than when they travel to work

Percent of respondents who wear fresh clothes when they:



Percent of respondents who use deodorant when they:

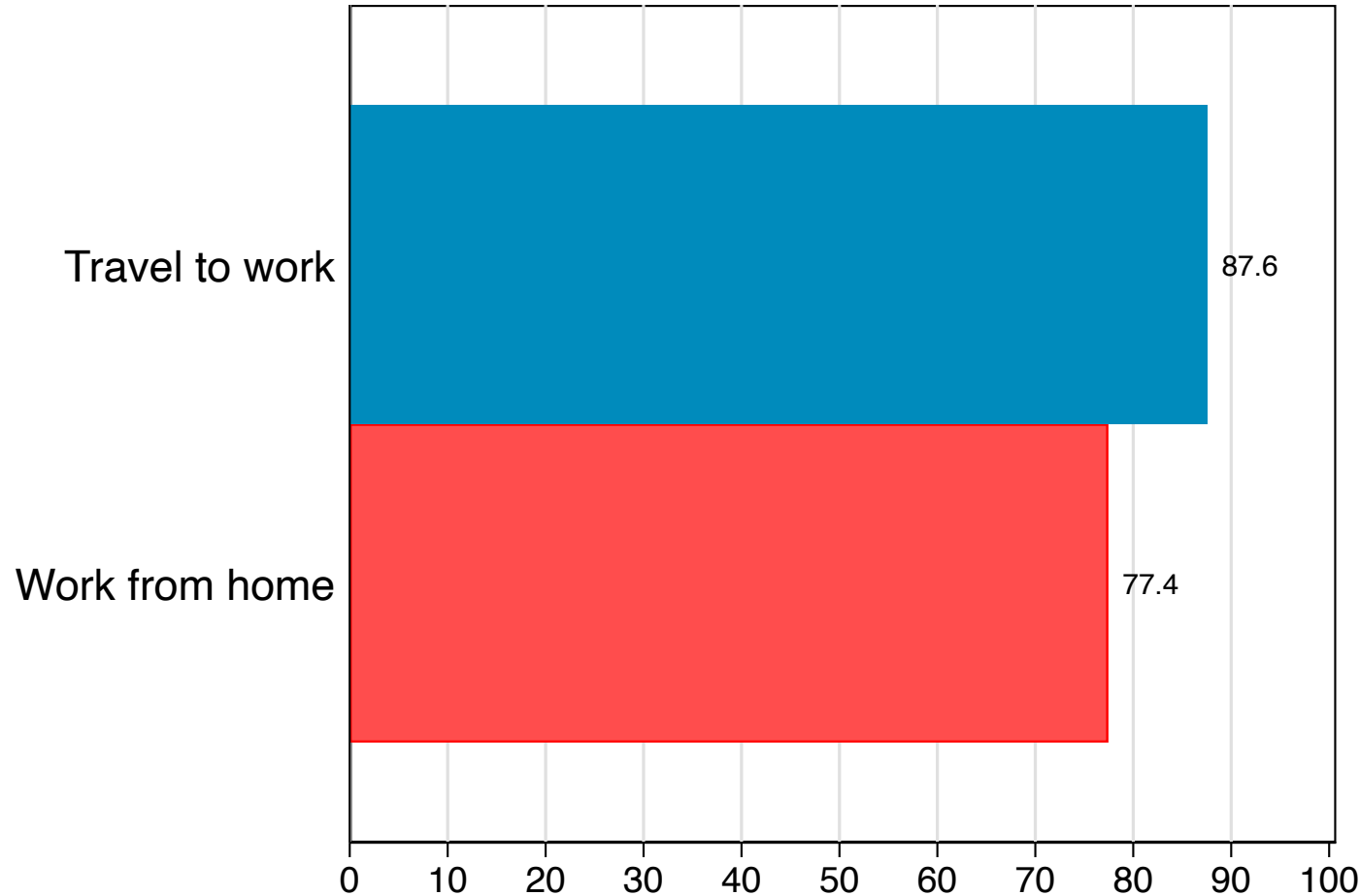


Responses to questions: *Which of the following would you do each morning when you travel to work? Which of the following would you do each morning when you work from home?*

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Fewer respondents set an alarm to wake up when they work from home than when they travel to work

Percent of respondents who set an alarm when they:



Responses to questions:

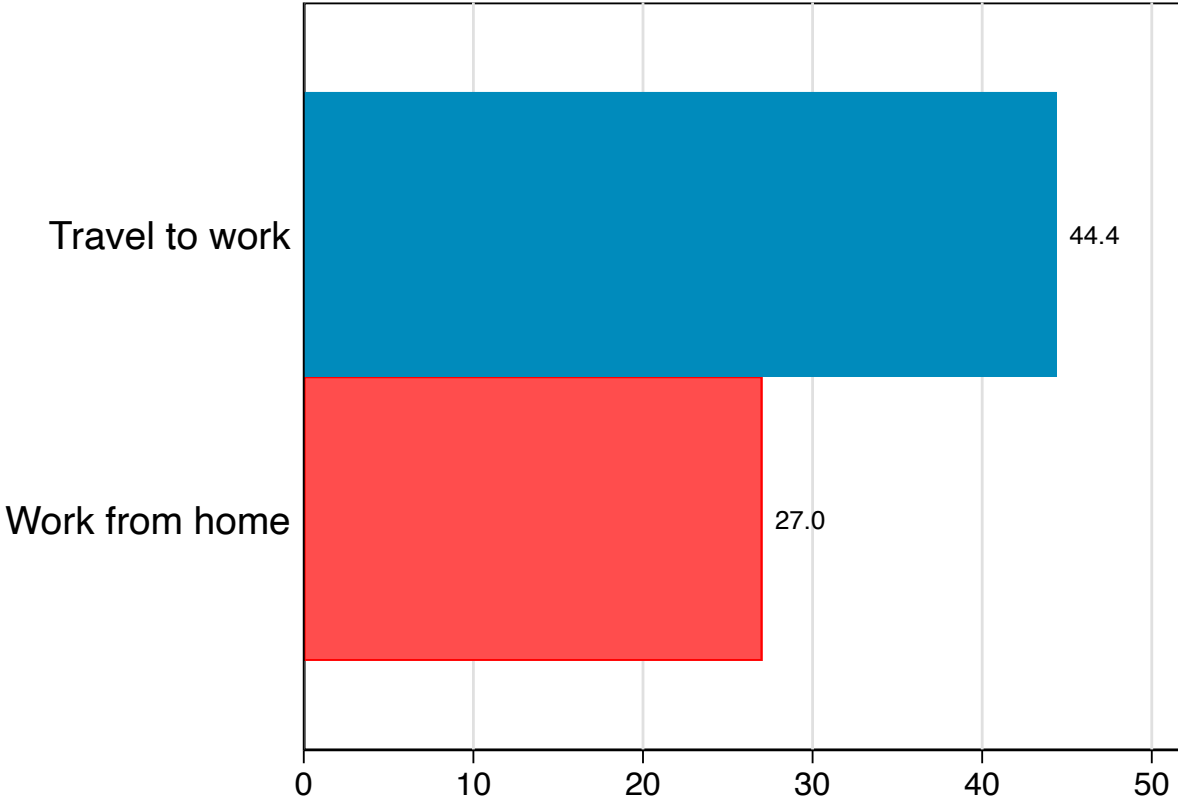
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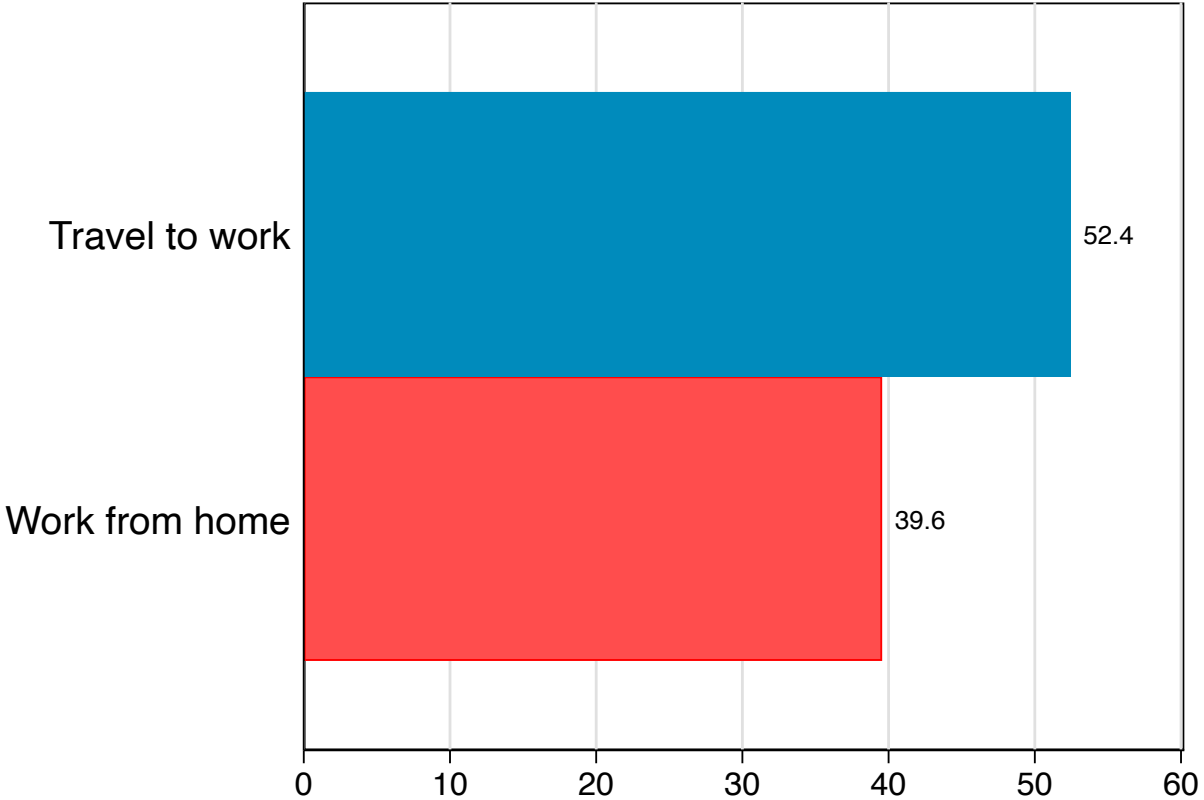
Fewer respondents put on makeup or shave when they work from home than when they travel to work



Percent of respondents who put on makeup when they:



Percent of respondents who shave when they:



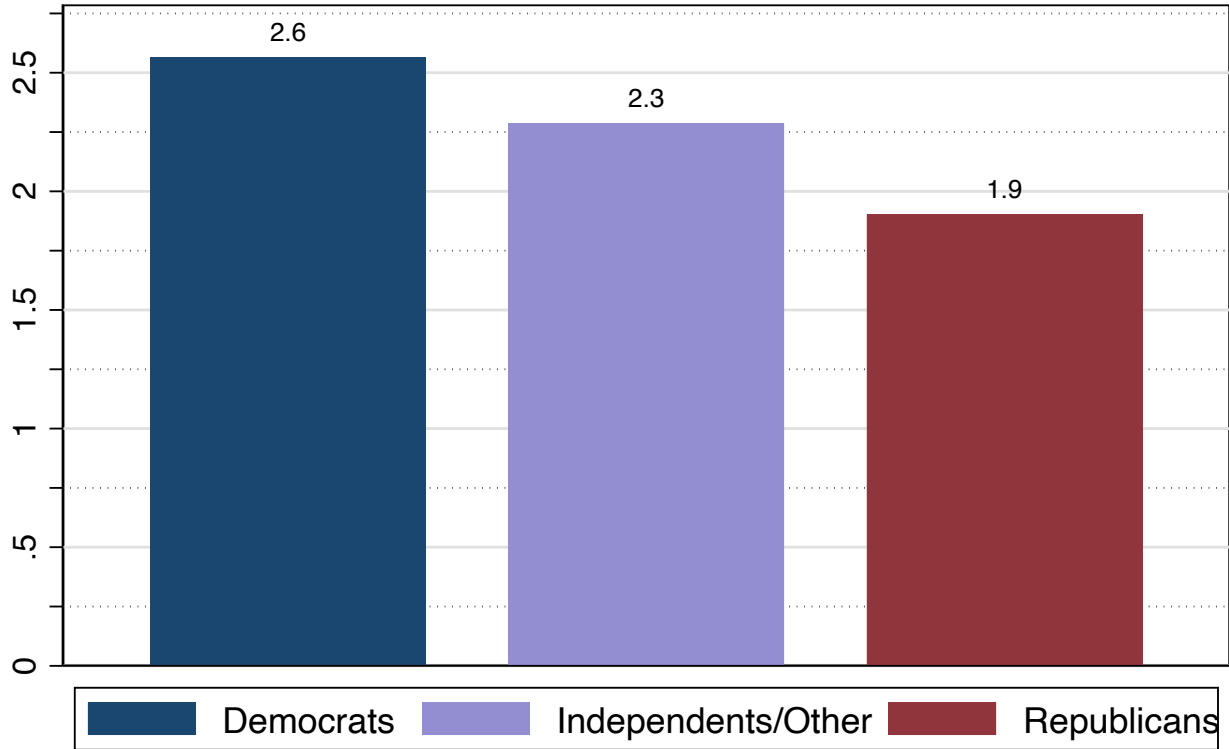
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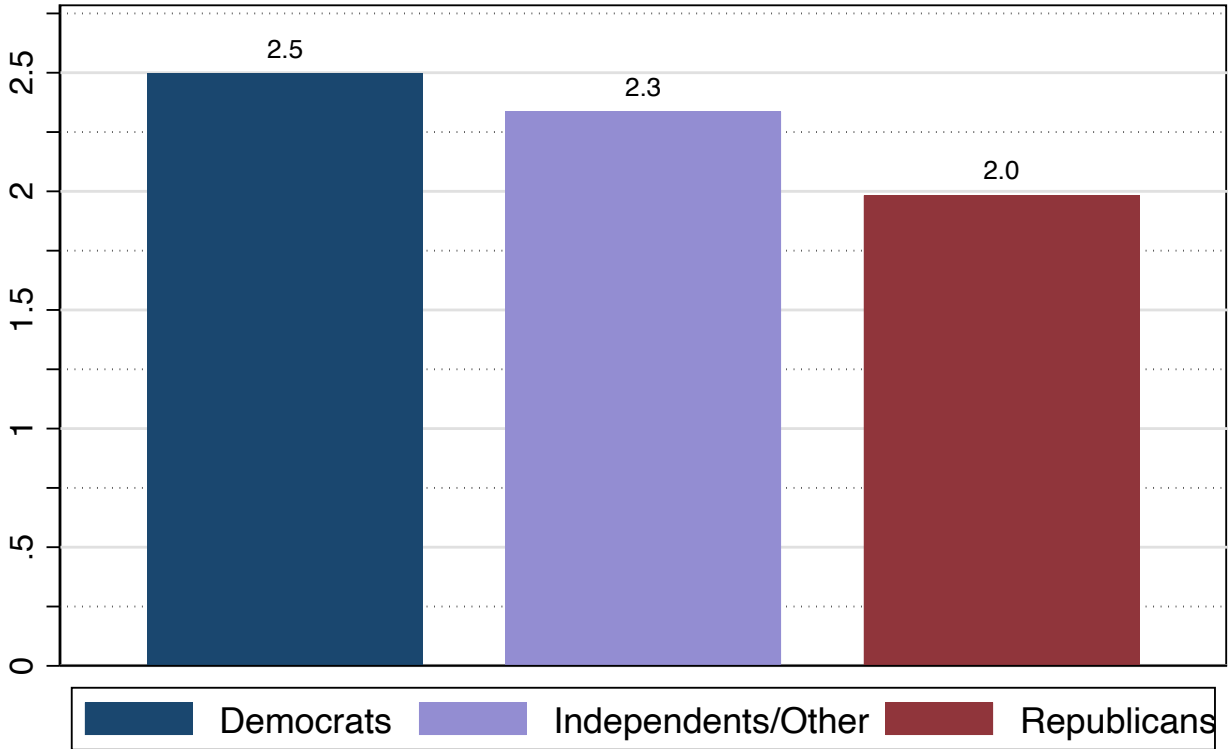
Party affiliation correlates with desires and plans for post-pandemic working from home, even after controlling for personal characteristics



Average desired working from home days per week after the pandemic ends (raw means)



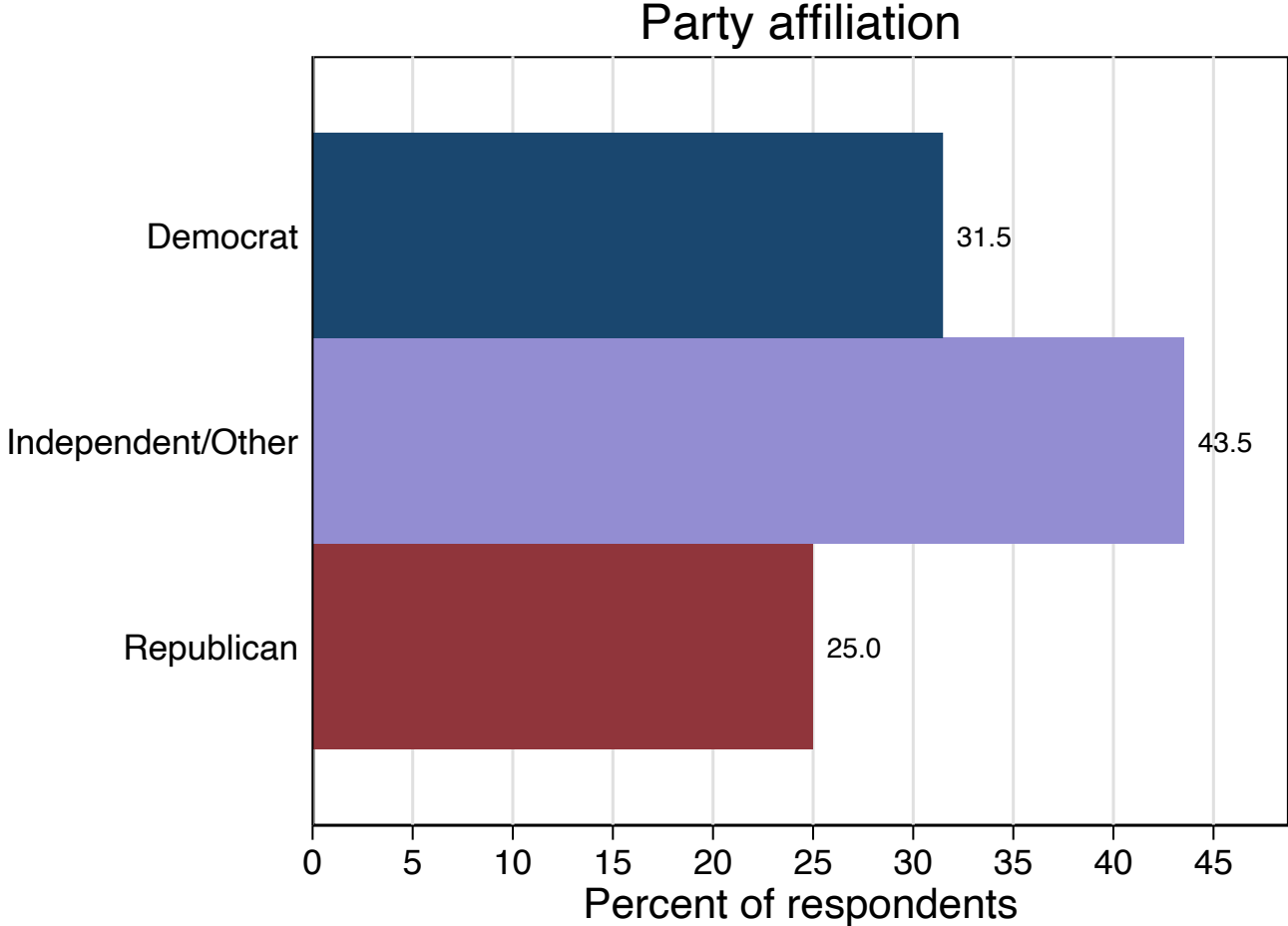
Average desired working from home days per week after the pandemic ends (with controls)



Responses to the questions: After the pandemic ends, how often would you like to have paid workdays at home? Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?

Sample: All respondents to the January 2022 wave of the SWAA for which we have party affiliation and population density of their zip code of residence. The right graph shows the marginal mean by party affiliation from a regression that controls for log(2019 earnings), years of education, log(population density of ZIP code of residence), gender, age, children, industry, and occupation. **N = 4,153 (left) and 3,987 (right).**

Our January survey wave looks roughly balanced with other national surveys (e.g. by YouGov/The Economist) in terms of party affiliation



Responses to the question:

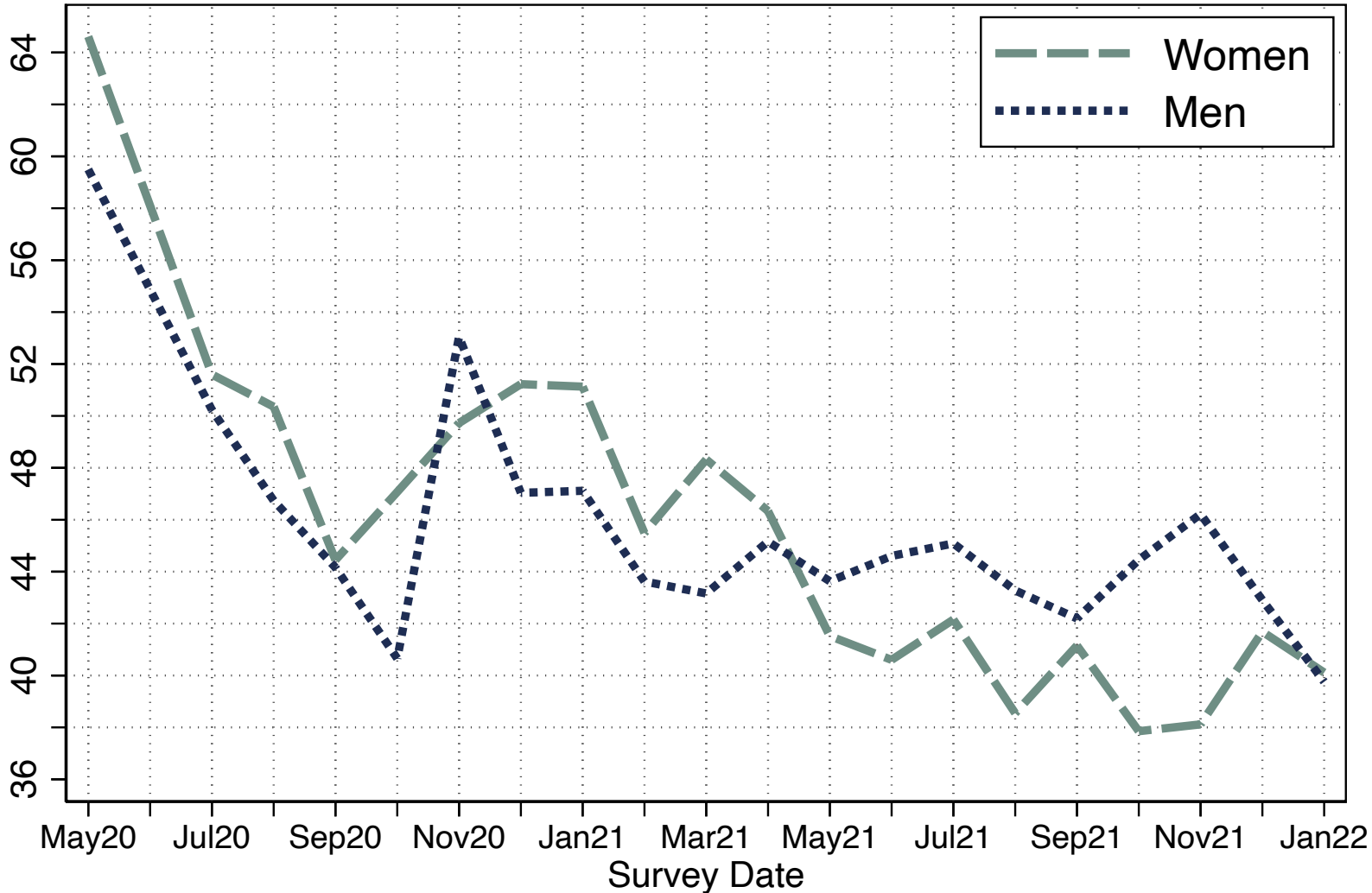
- *Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?*

Sample: All respondents to the January 2022 wave of the SWAA for which we have party affiliation. **N = 5,143**

Female and male WFH levels track each other over the pandemic



Percent of Full Paid Working Days Working From Home



Responses to the questions:

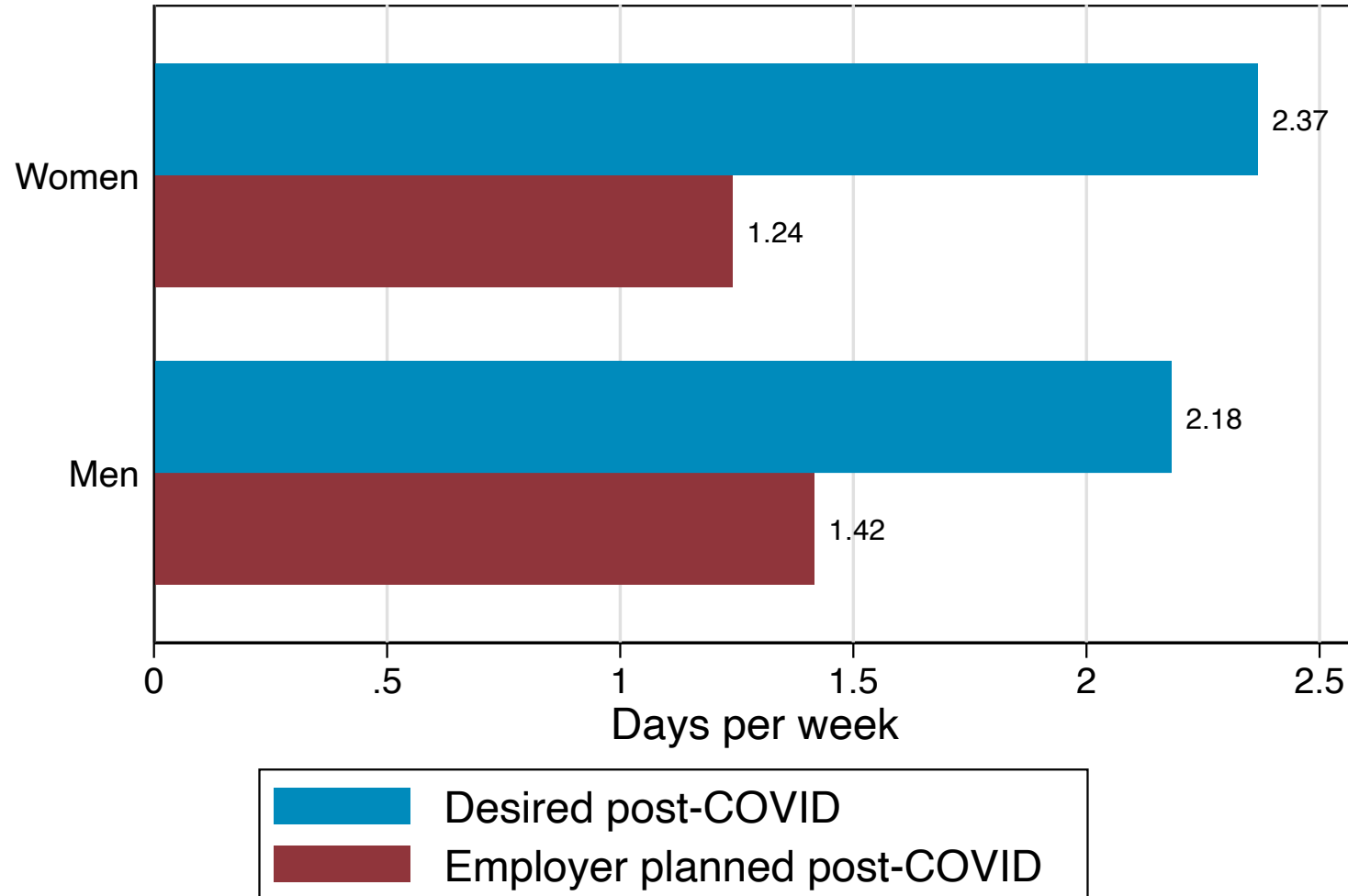
- *Currently what is your work status?*
- *How many full days did you work last week (whether at home or on business premises)?*
- *How many **full paid working days** did you work from home last week?*

Notes: In each survey wave corresponding to the months between May 2020 and January 2022 we estimate the share of full paid working days done from home separately for men and women. **N = 56,915**

Post-COVID WFH plans look less ideal for women – their gap between desired and actual WFH days is 1.1 days, versus 0.8 days for men



Post-COVID Working From Home for Men and Women



Responses to the questions:

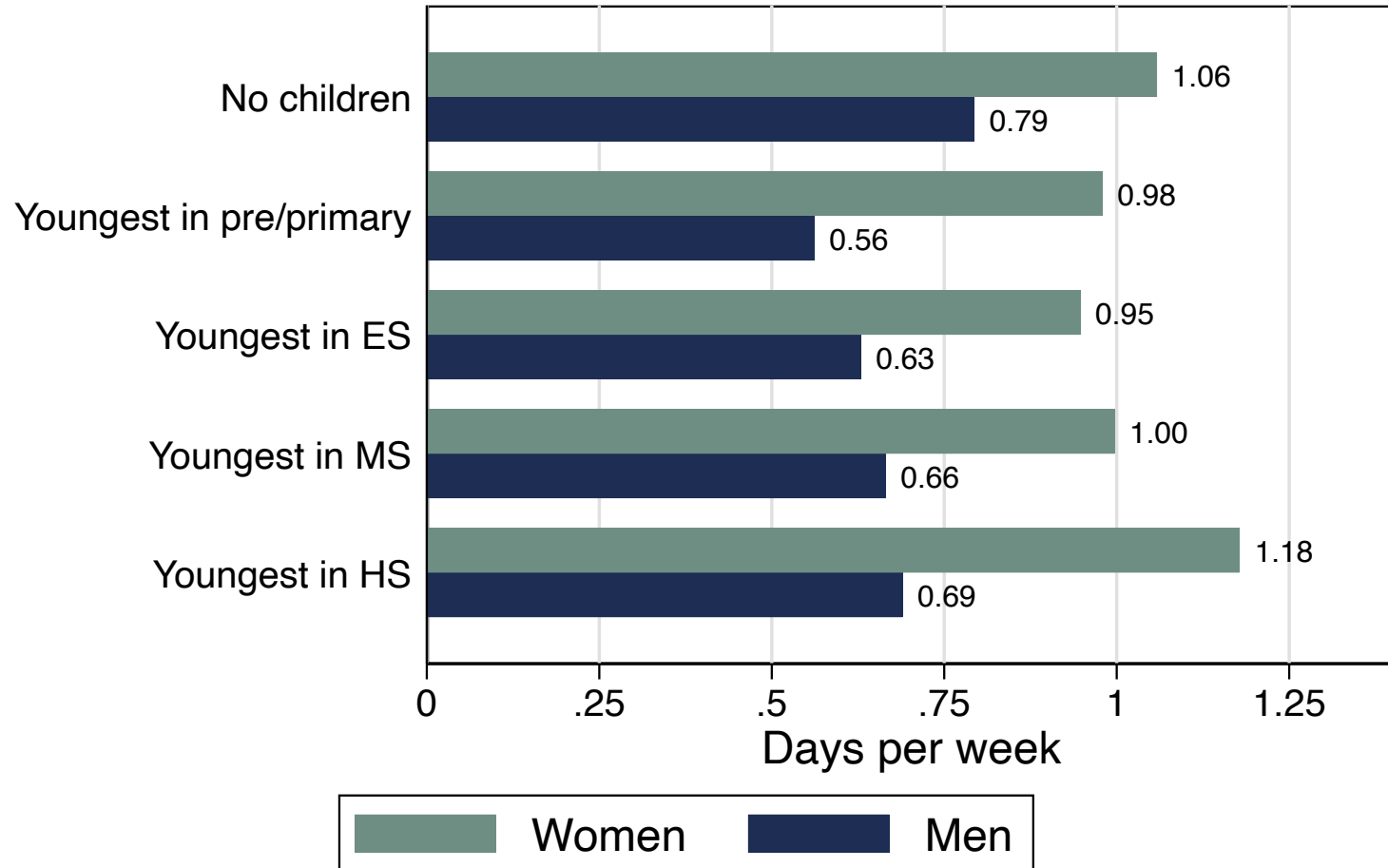
- *After the pandemic ends, how often would you like to have paid workdays at home?*
- *After the pandemic ends, how often is your employer planning for you to work full days at home?*

Sample: Data are from all SWAA waves covering August 2021 to January 2022 and excluding respondents who fail attention check questions in November 2021 to January 2022. **N = 22,048**

Gap between post-COVID working from home desires and plans for men and women as a function of children ages



Working From Home Post-COVID
Worker Desires - Employer Plans



Responses to the questions:

- *After the pandemic ends, how often would you **like to** have paid workdays at home?*
- *After the pandemic ends, how often **is your employer planning** for you to work full days at home?*

Sample: Data are from all SWAA waves covering August 2021 to January 2022 and excluding respondents who fail attention check questions in November 2021 to January 2022. For each worker we compute the difference between their desired amount of post-pandemic working from home and their employer's plans. The figure groups respondents based on the age of the youngest child, assuming children start Elementary School at 7, Middle School at 12, and High School at 15. **N = 22,048**

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.