

Shared residence of children in France

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*Post-separation families and shared residence:
setting the interdisciplinary research agenda for the future
Meeting 1, Thursday 6th January 2011, University of Birmingham*

Outline of the presentation

- ◆ **I - Definitions of shared residence in France**
 - a. Residence at census
 - b. Residence in the Labour force survey
 - c. Residence in the French EU-SILC survey
- ◆ **II - How many children with a shared residence?**
 - a. Double counting of children living in two dwellings
 - b. Shared residence by age and sex
 - c. Families with children sharing residence
- ◆ **III - A new survey on shared residence**
 - a. A 2% survey in conjunction with the census
 - b. with many questions on sharing residence
- ◆ **Conclusions**

I - a. residence at census

- ◆ **Single residence rule: one residence for each individual**
 - Each child is supposed to be counted at his/her "usual" residence
 - where s/he lives most of the time
- ◆ **Double counting of children sharing residence is very likely to occur**
 - Both parents are keen to report that their child is living with them
 - Separated parents may not discuss the matter
 - Census surveys may not take place the same year in both dwellings
- ◆ **A large overestimation of lone-parent families**
 - Children counted twice
 - Couples whose members answer in different dwellings
- ◆ **Stepfamilies cannot be identified**

I - b. Labour force survey

- ◆ Single residence rule: one residence for each individual
 - Based on permanent residence
 - no incentive to include the child
- ◆ Double counting of children sharing residence is very unlikely to occur
 - The survey is dealing with parental employment
 - The interviewers are not very interested in the children
- ◆ Stepfamilies can be identified
 - For each adult, a question on living as a couple
 - (with a partner living in the same household)
 - And the list of his/her own children
 - Some errors may occur (stepchildren counted as own children)

I - c. The French EU-SILC survey

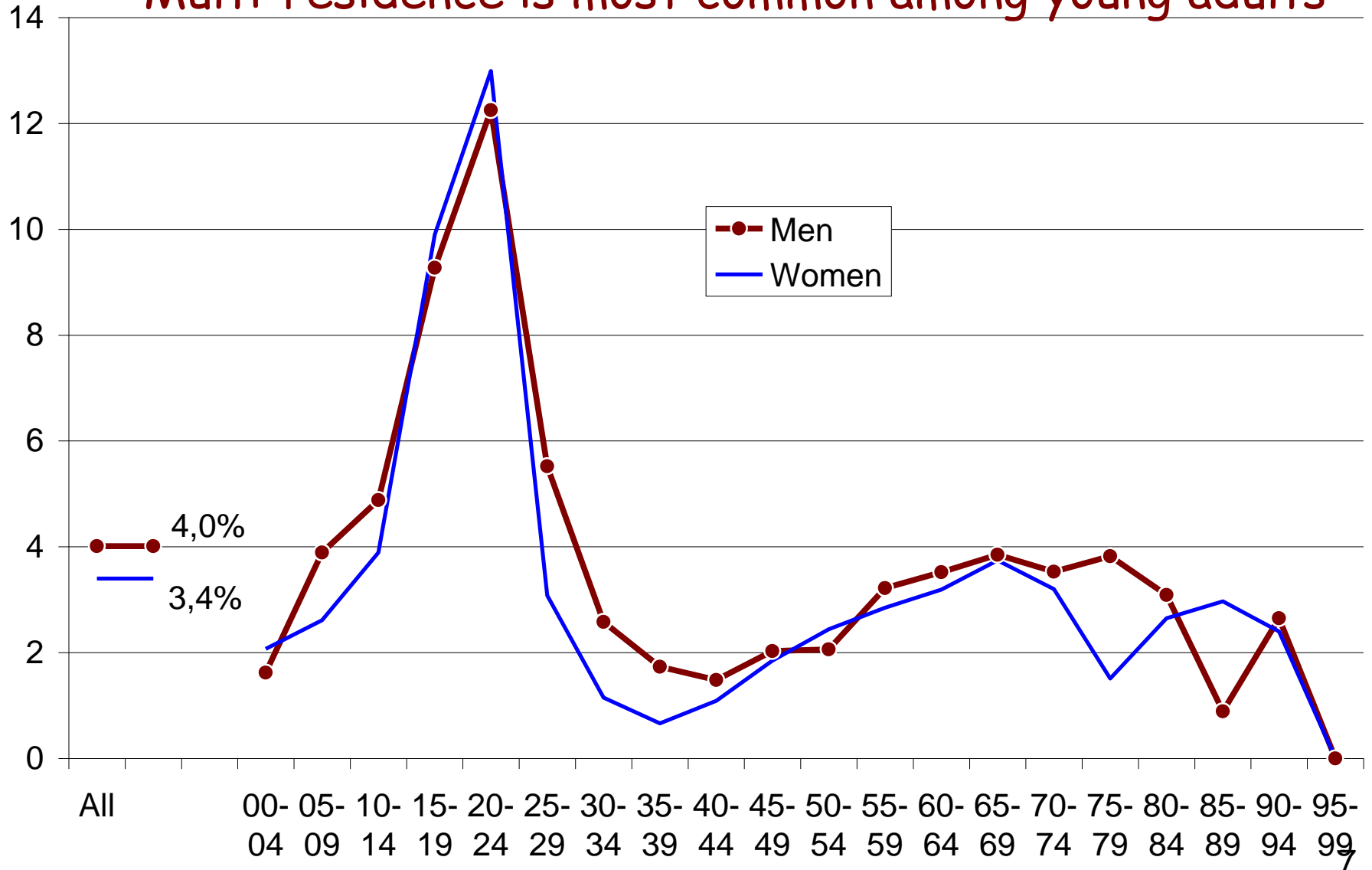
- ◆ Multiple residence rule: each individual may have several "usual residences"
 - The household grid is very exhaustive
 - All people who live "usually" in the household, even if they also live elsewhere
- ◆ Double counting of children sharing residence is very likely to occur
- ◆ Stepfamilies are well identified
 - For each adult, a question on living as a couple:
 - (even with a partner not living in the same household)
 - For each child, two questions on his/her own father and mother:
 - Are they living in the household? If not, are they alive?
- ◆ A panel survey
 - With one-ninth of the sample renewed each year (respondents are followed during nine years, even if they move)

II - How many children with a shared residence?

- ◆ a. Double counting of children living in two dwellings
 - In the EU-SILC survey, it is necessary to divide the weight of children with a shared residence
 - Because they are counted twice
- ◆ This is not always the case
 - For instance, the proportion of children living with their mother may be estimated
 - directly, from women's answers (irrespective of multi-residence)
 - or by also counting children in shared residence included at their father's home (then all children with a shared residence must have their weight halved)
- ◆ The numbers of children sharing residence must be the same in fathers' and mothers' homes
- ◆ Now let us look at some basic results

Multi-residence by sex and age in France

Multi-residence is most common among young adults



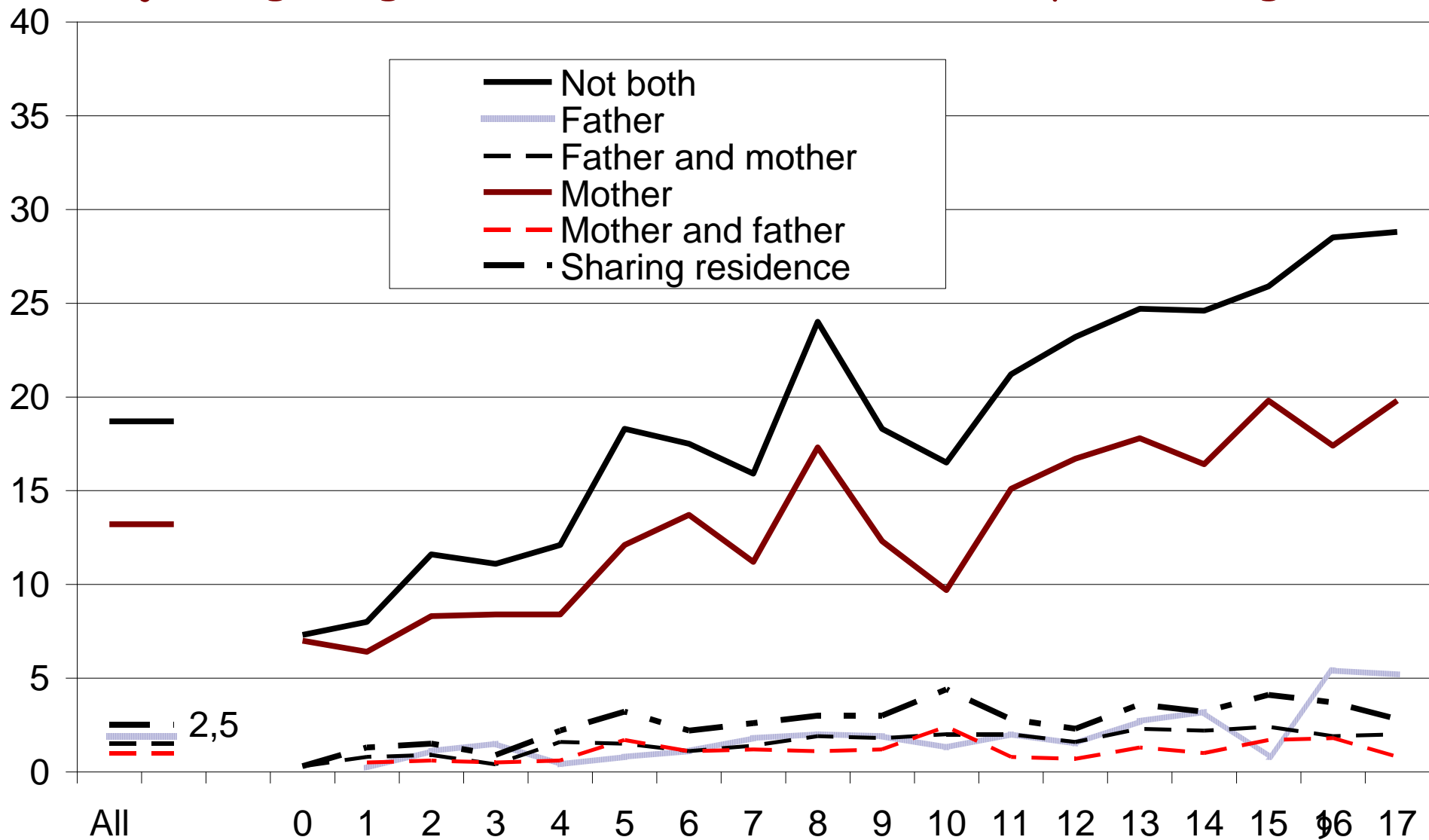
The impact is large for the distribution of children by family situation

Distribution of French children by family situation, and proportion of children living in several households, by family situation (%)

Situation of parents in the dwelling	Raw Distribution in SILC	Corrected Distribution in SILC	Distribution In the Employment survey	Distribution At Census
Both parents	79.1	80.9	81.8	81.4
One-parent family, mother	10.4	10.1	10.8	14.1
Stepfamily, mother	4.6	4.4	4.1	
One-parent family, father	4.7 2.3	3.5 1.6	2.6 1.3	2.1
Stepfamily, father	2.4	1.9	1.3	
Living with no parent	1.3	1.2	0.7	2.4
All children	100	100	100.0	100.0
One parent	19.6	17.9	17.5	
Two parents	79.1	80.9	81.8	
No parent	1.3	1.2	0.7	2.4

Proportion of children whose parents are separated

Adjusting weights for the number of "family" dwellings



Basic results on shared residence

◆ Comparison with INED previous surveys

- On much smaller samples
- A large increase in shared residence

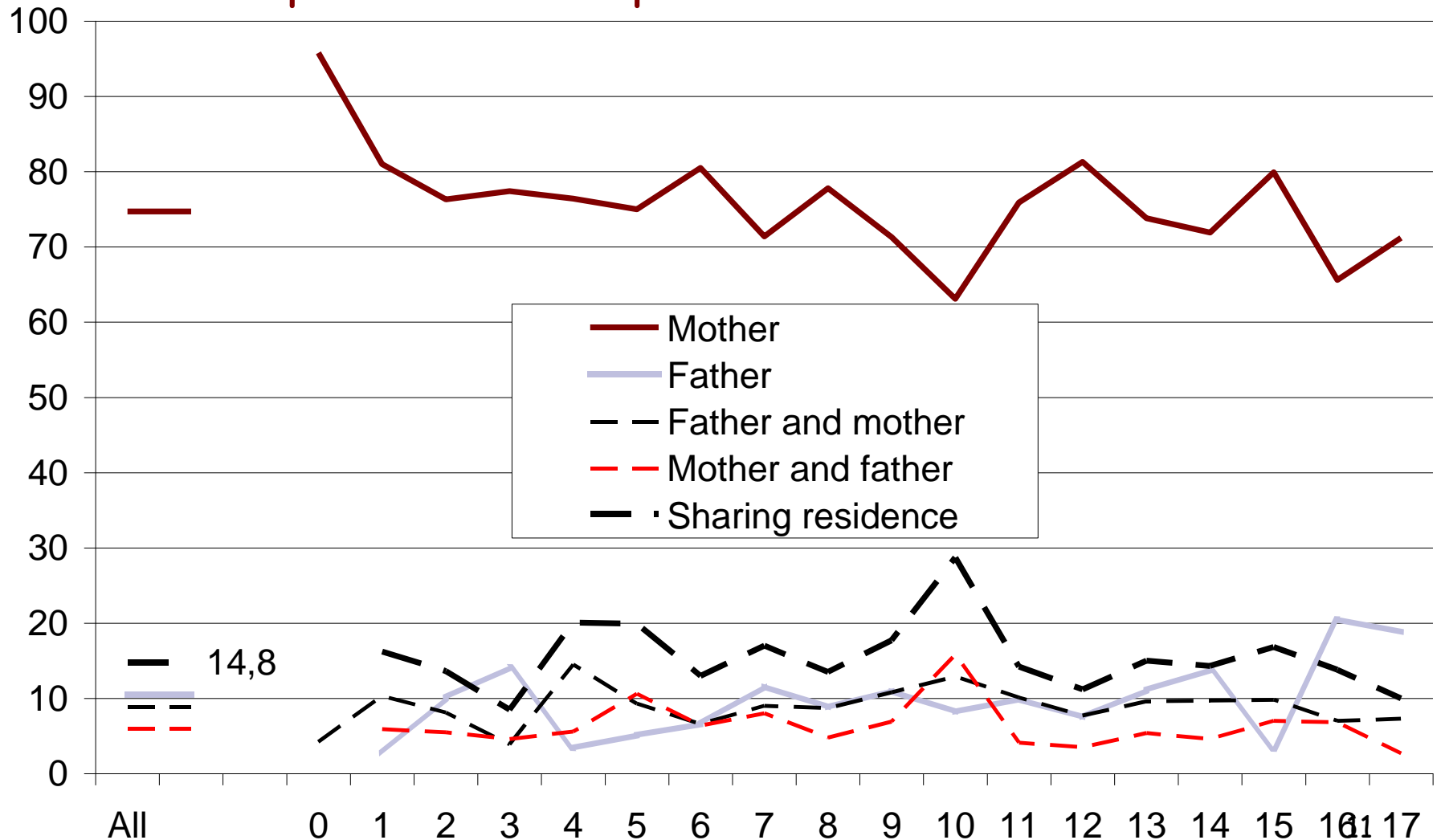
Proportion of children Living with...	Year of survey			Increase 1986-2004
	1986	1994	2004	
- father only	1.7	0.9	2.1	+0.4
- mother only	11.7	14.0	13.6	+1.9
- shared residence	0.9	1.3	2.2	+1.3
- Total (separated parents)	4.4	16.1	17.9	+3.5
- Total (with double counts)	15.0	17.1	19.7	+4.7

◆ Comparison between men's and women's answers

- More children sharing residence according to fathers (+50%)
- Even more so in 1986
 - (twice as many multi-resident children according to men in 1986)

Residence of children with separated parents

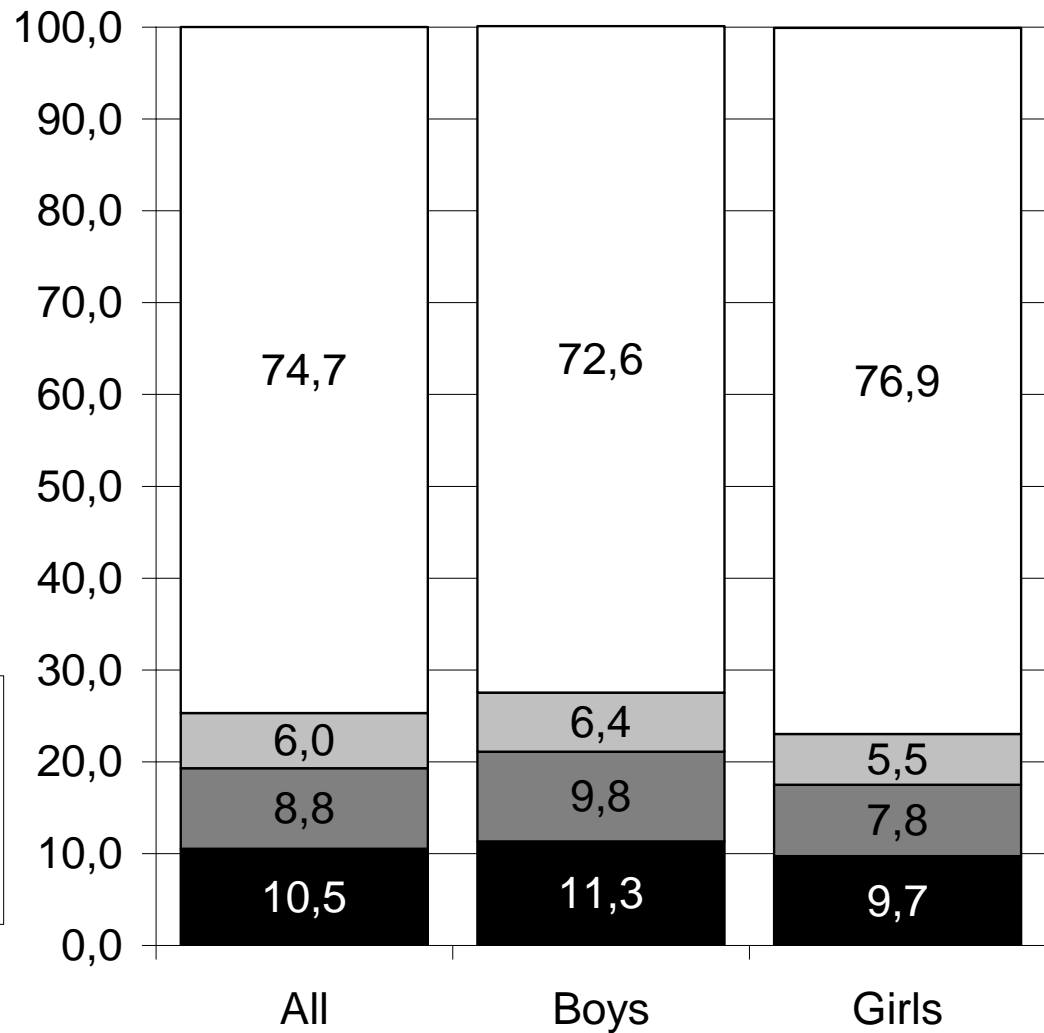
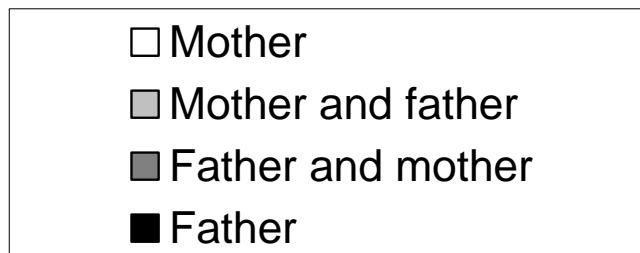
No major change with age: almost 15% of children whose parents are separated share residence



Girls more often live with their mother

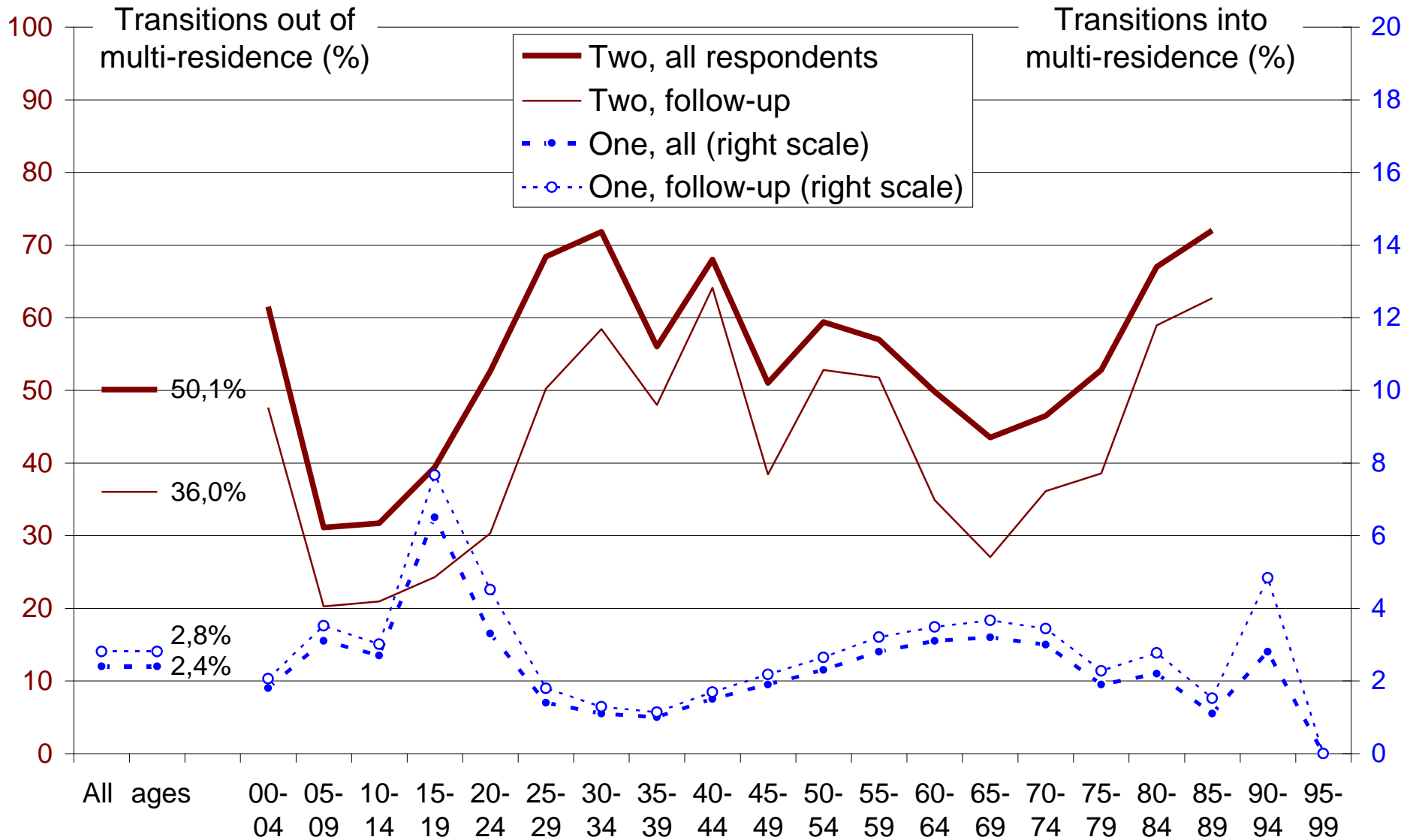
Separated mothers less often report that their children also live elsewhere (or fathers overestimate sharing...)

14.8% of children with separated parents live in shared residence (16.2% of boys and 13.3% of girls).
19.3% live with their father (21.1% and 17.5%).



Sharing residence is a transient state, even for children

Transition probabilities into and out of multi-residence, by age



Families with children sharing residence

- ◆ a. Among all families
 - Distribution of families by number of children sharing residence
 - All families and by size of sibship (children under 18)
- ◆ b. Among families with at least one child living with one parent only
- ◆ When considering families children may be counted twice
 - Because they belong to both parental families

Families with children sharing residence (all families)

a. Column percent

	Number of children					All
	1	2	3	4	5+	
0	93,0	95,1	92,5	87,0	87,1	93,6
1	7,0	2,5	2,6	2,2	4,2	4,6
2		2,4	2,4	6,6	4,6	1,4
3			2,5	2,2	0,0	0,3
4				2,1	4,2	0,1
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

b. Percent on all

	Number of children					All
	1	2	3	4	5+	
0	42,2	38,8	10,4	1,8	0,4	93,6
1	3,2	1,0	0,3	0,1	0,0	4,6
2		1,0	0,3	0,1	0,0	1,4
3			0,3	0,1	0,0	0,3
4				0,0	0,0	0,1
All	45,4	40,8	11,3	2,1	0,5	100

- ◆ 6.4% of families include at least one child sharing residence
- ◆ Families with 2 children are less likely to include children sharing residence
- ◆ The most common sharing situation is among only children

Families with children sharing residence (families with at least one child with one parent only)

a. Column percent

	Number of children					All
	1	2	3	4	5+	
0	73,7	72,9	69,9	64,3	67,3	72,7
1	26,3	13,8	10,4	6,0	10,6	19,6
2		13,3	9,6	18,2	11,6	6,1
3			10,1	5,9	0,0	1,4
4				5,6	10,5	0,3
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

b. Percent on all

	Number of children					All
	1	2	3	4	5+	
0	38,4	23,2	8,5	2,1	0,5	72,7
1	13,7	4,4	1,3	0,2	0,1	19,6
2		4,2	1,2	0,6	0,1	6,1
3			1,2	0,2	0,0	1,4
4				0,2	0,1	0,3
All	52,0	31,8	12,2	3,3	0,8	100

- Only 27.3% of these families include at least one child sharing residence

- This probability increases with sibship size

- For each parity, the situations are diverse (with 2 children, 1 or 2 sharing; with 3 children, 1, 2 or 3 sharing)

III - A new survey on shared residence

- ◆ a. A 2% survey in conjunction with the census
 - 350,000 respondents (instead of 30,000 in SILC)
 - From the EU-SILC survey, 241 children with more than one residence, and 116 living with their father
- ◆ A self-administred form
 - Men and women, aged 18 plus
- ◆ Questions about family life
 - Couple, including same-sex couples and LAT
 - Children, including stepchildren
 - Questions on children sharing residence
 - ... and on multi-residence of adults
 - Location of children and parents
- ◆ Bridging census and survey results
- ◆ Available for comparative research

Conclusions

- ◆ The proportion of children living “usually” in both of their separated parents’ dwellings is not negligible
 - and is probably increasing with time in France
- ◆ Multi-residence poses a challenge for censuses and surveys
 - Enumeration errors, inaccurate family situations
- ◆ The answers could become more accurate
 - But different response consistencies are involved
 - Children having a room, coming often, permanently living, etc.
 - And dissension between parents may increase the likelihood of inaccurate answers
 - Parents reluctant to report that their child is “also” living with the other parent (or to answer questions about this “other dwelling”)
- ◆ Shared residence is a transient state
 - At ages 5-14, one episode out of 3 to 5 ends each year

References

- ◆ On multi-residence of children and adults in France and Australia
 - Toulemon Laurent, Pennec Sophie, 2010, "Multi-residence in France and Australia: Why count them? What is at stake? Double counting and actual family situations", *Demographic Research* 23(1): 1-40.
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Thank you

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