

# You are my favourite!

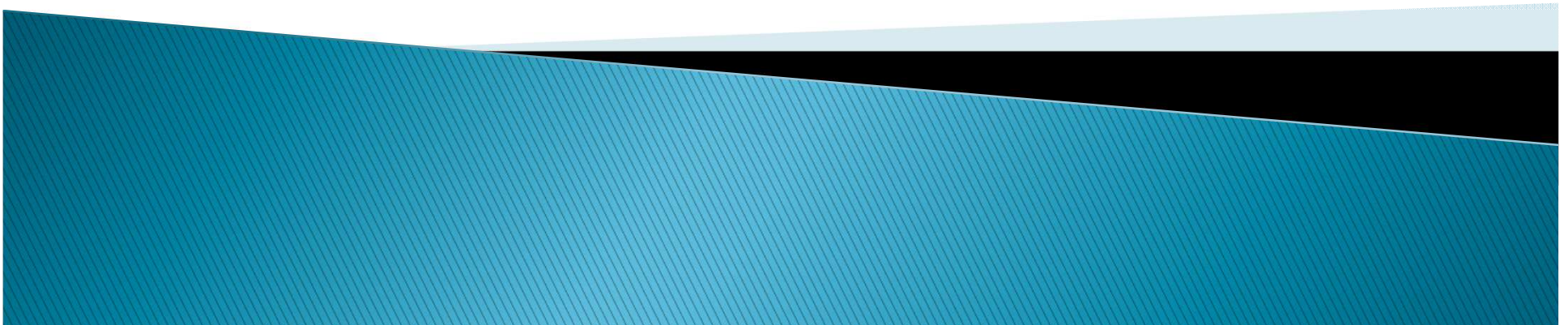
## Parent-child relationship and satisfaction in later life

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# Background

- ▶ Intergenerational transfers (measured with different currencies) are crucial to several aspects of later life
  - Care and its organisation
  - Emotional wellbeing
  - Physical Health
  - Satisfaction?
- ▶ The importance of the emotional component in intergenerational family relations to the well-being of the older population



# Previous studies

- ▶ Older parents and their relation with children: coresidence, money transfers, face to face and phone contacts, care and support (structure)
- ▶ Less is known on the satisfaction level of the relation with a specific child taking into account several demographic and socio-economic variables (functional)
- ▶ Family gerontologists have called for more attention to the "influence of family structure on family relationship quality"



# Research questions

- ▶ What is the relation between structure and satisfaction indicators?
- ▶ What is associated with the satisfaction of the parent–child relations?
- ▶ Having a coresident child is affecting the relation with a child living outside the household?
- ▶ Are there gender differences in the satisfaction of the relations?
- ▶ Are relations with daughters better rated compared to sons?



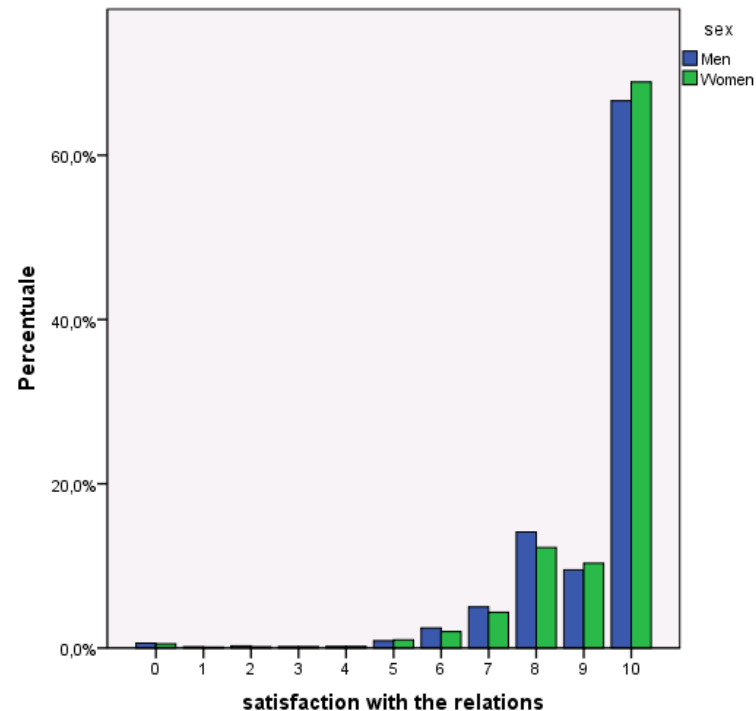
# Data and methods

- ▶ The Italian 2009 Multiscopo Survey. All parents aged 65+ reporting having at least a child living outside the household (N=8964, 5089 women, 3875 men)
- ▶ Multinomial logit with robust option with the family as unit
- ▶ Models with both parents and for mothers and fathers only



# Dependent variable

- ▶ Satisfaction in the relation with a specific child is asked for children living outside the HH only.
- ▶ Scale from 0 to 10 recoded in three classes:
  - 10
  - 8–9
  - 0–7 (ref category)



# Multinomial Logistic Regression

- ▶ The outcome variable has a natural ordering among the levels and could be modeled using an Ordinal Logistic Regression. But it makes an important assumption: under this model, the odds ratio assessing the effect of an exposure variable for any of these comparisons must be the same for each subsequent category.
- ▶ In our data, the condition is not verified, so we decide to use a Multinomial Logistic Regression.
- ▶ Since the children are not independent, we use the cluster option in Stata to specify that the observations are correlated within family. The standard errors are corrected for intragroup correlation.

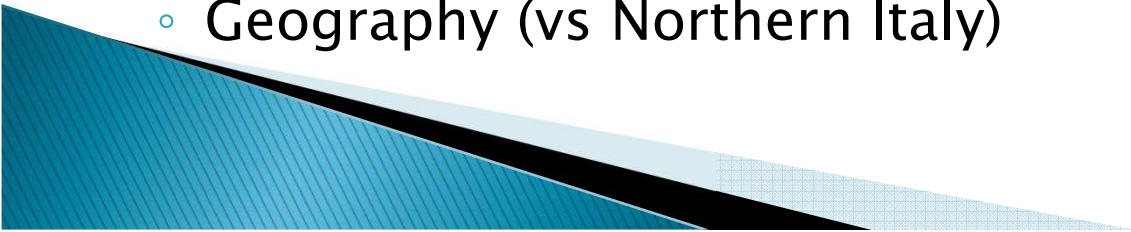


# Independent variables

## ▶ Child level:

- Sex
- Age (continuous)
- Face to face contact (3 classes ref category less than once a week)
- Phone contact (3 classes ref category less than once a week)

## ▶ Parent level:

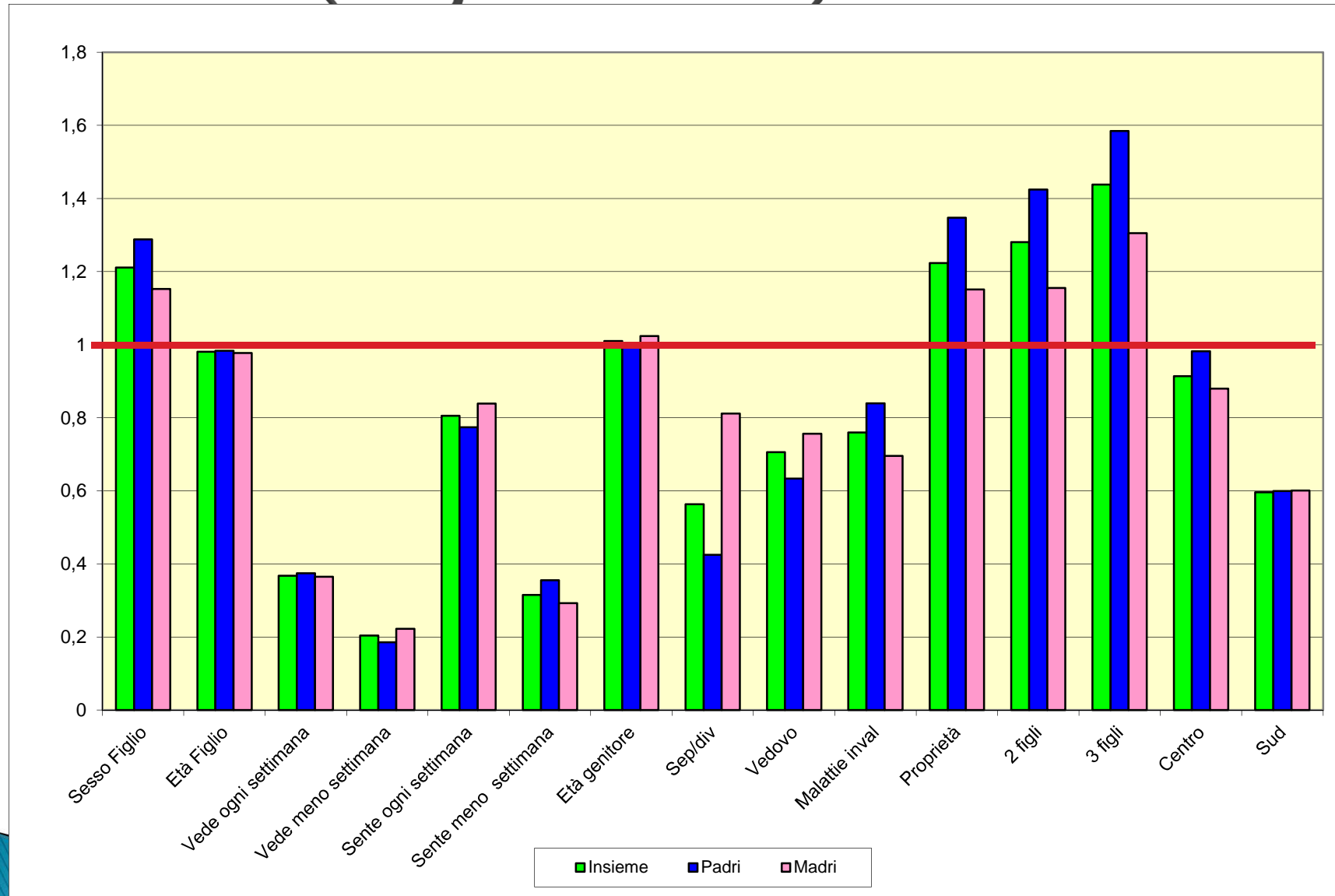
- Sex (for the joint model)
  - Age (continuous)
  - Marital status (sep/div, widowed vs married)
  - Number of living children (3+, 2 vs 1 child)
  - Presence of limiting illnesses (vs no illnesses)
  - Tenure (ownership vs other tenure)
  - Geography (vs Northern Italy)
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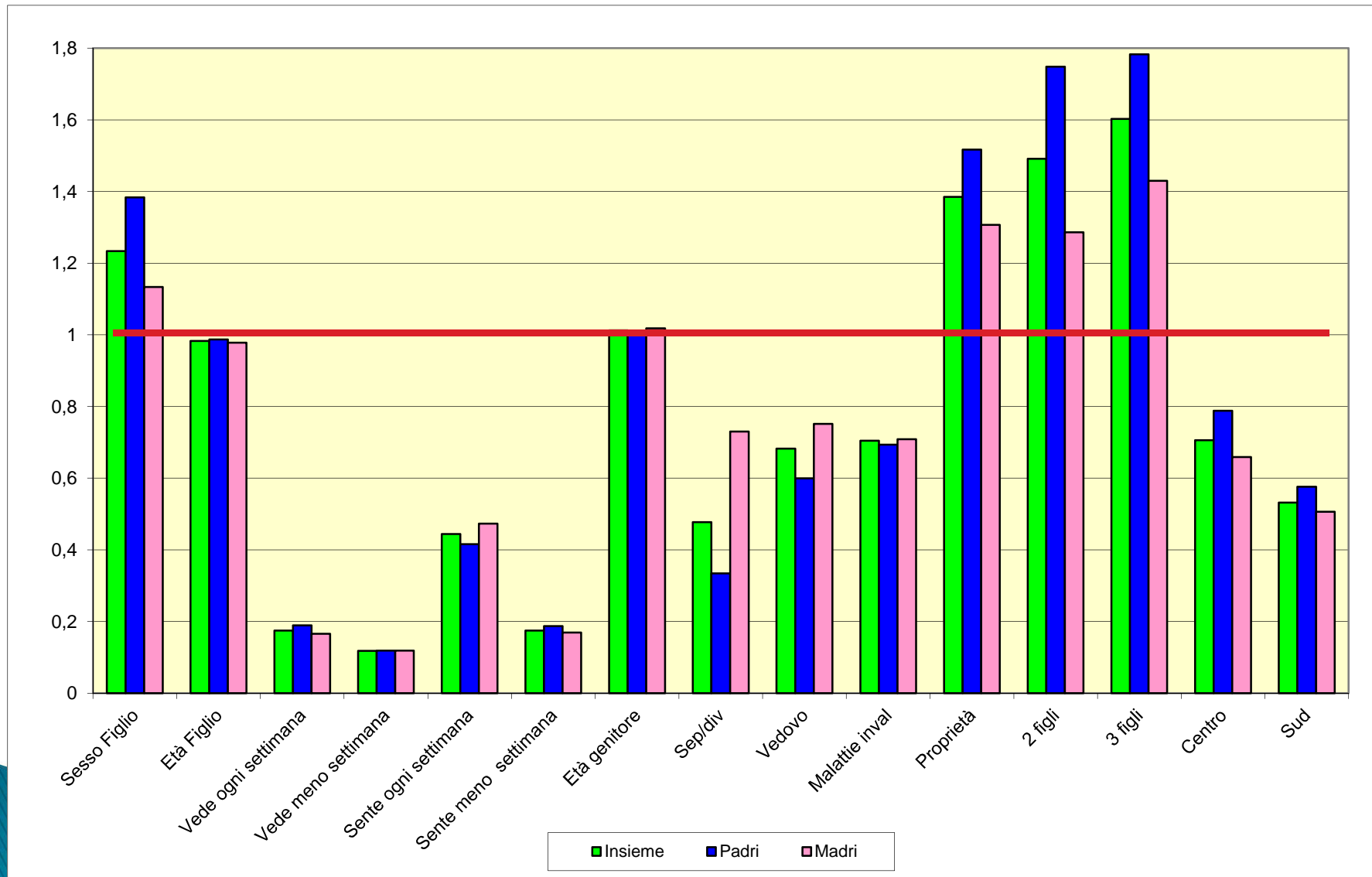
# Sample characteristics

	Italy (2009)	
	Mothers	Fathers
Mean age	75.5	74.5
% Married	47.3	83.2
Mean number of children	2.5	2.4
Has a coresident child	30.2	28.5
% Weekly face to face contacts	78.0	77.3
% Weekly Phone contacts	82.3	83.1
Centre	21.6	20.9
South	30.7	32.4
Presence of limiting illnesses	55.1	45.6
% with high education	12.3	22.7

# Results (high vs low)



# Results (top vs low)



# Conclusions

- ▶ High satisfaction of Italian older parents in their relation with their children
- ▶ The relation between structure (e.g contact) and satisfaction indicators is not very strong but significant ( $-0.2 < \rho < -0.3$ )
- ▶ Satisfaction is positively associated with being mothers, married, living in Northern Italy, number of children
- ▶ Variables such as marital status, geography, tenure, having a daughter have different impact for fathers and mothers
- ▶ Relations with daughters are better rated than those with sons especially by fathers



# Discussion

- ▶ Education and having a coresident child do not affect significantly the satisfaction with other children living outside the household.
- ▶ Unmet expectations may be the explanation for the negative association of having limiting illnesses and living in the South with satisfaction (but not with age)
- ▶ Frequent contact may be endogenous (correlation between the two measures)
- ▶ We do not know the satisfaction of the relation from the child's perspective
- ▶ Maybe a multilevel analysis using the children as primary level and the parents as secondary level

