



# Parental Disability and Teenagers' Time Allocation

**Charlene Marie Kalenkoski, Ph.D., CFP®**

**Texas Tech University and IZA**

**Sabrina Wulff Pabilonia, Ph.D.**

**U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**

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# Background



- ❑ 1 in 5 male household heads experiences a work-limiting disability by age 30 (Meyer and Mok 2019).
- ❑ 19% of persons with a disability were employed in 2019 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2020).
- ❑ Disability is associated with lower educational attainment.
- ❑ A parent's work-limiting disability negatively impacts girls' intergenerational economic mobility (but not boys') (Jajtner 2020).

# Mechanisms



- ❑ Children may be asked to help more in the home.
  - Direct caregiving to disabled parent
  - Household chores – cooking, cleaning, laundry, pet care
  - Caring for younger siblings
- ❑ Teenagers may work to supplement household income or fund their own spending.
- ❑ A decrease/increase in parental supervision?

# Mechanisms



- ❑ Stress due to parental illness may reduce students' abilities to concentrate on cognitive tasks.
- ❑ Lower family incomes could result in lower parental monetary investments on enriching extracurricular activities.
- ❑ Decrease in time and effort spent on schooling-related activities (Attending class, doing homework, playing sports)



- ❑ Lower educational attainment of children
  - Less time spent on schooling activities
  - Lower household incomes reduce the ability of households to pay for post-secondary schooling
- ❑ Lower future earnings

# Research Questions



- How is teenagers' time use related to living with a disabled parent?
- Do teenagers take on additional caregiving and household responsibilities at the expense of their education?
- Do parents with disabilities spend less time with their teenagers?
- Does gender matter given gendered social norms about caregiving and household responsibilities?



- ❑ 2003–2019 American Time Use Survey diaries
- ❑ Teenagers aged 15–17 (N = 6,296)
- ❑ School-year months only
- ❑ 5% have at least one parent with a work-limiting disability severe enough to prevent the parent from doing any kind of work for the next 6 months

# Time-Use Outcomes



- Major uses of time: school, work, household production, leisure, sleep
- Specific time-use subcategories: class, homework, sports/extracurricular activities, housework, shopping, food preparation, caring for household children, caring for or helping household adults, and pet care
- Time with a parent (Parental supervision measure)



# Econometric Models



- ❑ Tobit model – time use outcomes in which some teens may never participate
  - school, work, household production
- ❑ Linear model – time use outcomes where all teens participate on a regular basis
  - leisure, sleep, time with a parent

**Controls:** #siblings<age15, #siblings age 15–18, age, nonwhite, Hispanic, single mother, single father, parent bachelor’s degree, extra adult age 19+, household income, MSA, Census region, weekday, month, year



# The Relationship between a Parent's Work-Limiting Disability and Teen Time Use, by Teen Gender

<i>Activities (minutes per average day)</i>	<u>GIRLS</u> M.E. (S.E.)	<u>BOYS</u> M.E. (S.E.)
Schooling activities	<b>-59.531***</b> (22.347)	13.508 (24.267)
Class	<b>-34.223*</b> (19.919)	-4.374 (16.039)
Homework	<b>-19.045**</b> (8.165)	8.187 (9.143)
Sports/Extracurricular activities	-4.200 (7.248)	1.385 (9.820)
Work and work-related activities	<b>15.812**</b> (7.264)	7.548 (8.192)

\*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

# The Relationship between a Parent's Work-Limiting Disability and Teen Time Use, by Teen Gender



<b>Activities</b> ( <i>minutes per average day</i> )	<b><u>GIRLS</u></b>	<b><u>BOYS</u></b>
	<b>M.E. (S.E.)</b>	<b>M.E. (S.E.)</b>
Household production	-2.158 (7.094)	-1.755 (5.002)
Housework	2.655 (3.130)	-1.289 (2.099)
Shopping	<b>-7.752**</b> (3.944)	-1.406 (2.347)
Food preparation and cleanup	-2.581 (2.653)	2.690 (1.683)
Caring for household children	1.060 (2.205)	-1.307 (1.178)
Pet care	<b>2.968**</b> (1.203)	1.050 (0.828)

\*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

# The Relationship between a Parent's Work-Limiting Disability and Teen Time Use, by Teen Gender



<b>Activities</b> ( <i>minutes per average day</i> )	<b><u>GIRLS</u></b> <b>M.E. (S.E.)</b>	<b><u>BOYS</u></b> <b>M.E. (S.E.)</b>
Leisure	<b>30.517*</b> (16.671)	20.554 (22.541)
Sleep	5.950 (15.344)	<b>-29.529**</b> (12.426)
Time with Parent	8.553 (19.823)	-6.463 (14.701)

\*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

# The Relationship between a Parent's Work-Limiting Disability and Teen Girls' Time Use in Two-Parent Households, by Gender of the Disabled Parent (N = 2,072)



<b>Activities</b> ( <i>minutes per average day</i> )	<b>Mother disability</b>	<b>Father disability</b>
Schooling activities	<b>-72.867*</b>	-18.487
	(43.601)	(39.608)
Class	-39.714	11.320
	(43.22)	(32.006)
Homework	-13.569	-14.958
	(14.740)	(16.652)
Sports/Extracurricular activities	-26.272	-4.967
	(16.428)	(12.151)
Work and work-related activities	<b>21.261*</b>	18.035
	(11.130)	(11.633)

# The Relationship between a Parent's Work-Limiting Disability and Teen Girls' Time Use in Two-Parent Households, by Gender of the Disabled Parent (N = 2,072)



<b>Activities</b> ( <i>minutes per average day</i> )	<b>Mother disability</b>	<b>Father disability</b>
Household production	14.911 (13.110)	-10.927 (12.281)
Housework	8.039 (4.957)	-4.208 (6.392)
Shopping	-12.337 (8.105)	-11.133 (7.490)
Food preparation and cleanup	3.207 (4.353)	<b>-7.373*</b> (4.357)
Caring for household children	3.163 (4.221)	0.110 (5.282)
Pet care	<b>7.415***</b> (2.026)	2.273 (1.829)



# The Relationship between a Parent's Work-Limiting Disability and Teen Boys' Time Use in Two-Parent Households, by Gender of the Disabled Parent (N = 2,303)

<b>Activities</b> ( <i>minutes per average day</i> )	<b>Mother disability</b>	<b>Father disability</b>
Schooling activities	26.947 (54.927)	13.346 (35.319)
Class	-14.339 (32.827)	4.219 (21.966)
Homework	<b>41.551*</b> (22.540)	-8.986 (12.233)
Sports/Extracurricular activities	-17.155 (17.366)	13.024 (14.802)



# The Relationship between a Parent's Work-Limiting Disability and Teen Boys' Time Use in Two-Parent Households, by Gender of the Disabled Parent (N = 2,303)

<b>Activities (minutes per average day)</b>	<b>Mother disability</b>	<b>Father disability</b>
Household production	-3.034 (7.896)	-1.602 (7.599)
Housework	<b>-12.977***</b> (4.128)	1.161 (2.871)
Shopping	2.390 (4.409)	-5.912 (3.903)
Food preparation and cleanup	-1.394 (2.743)	<b>5.723**</b> (2.592)
Caring for household children	<b>-31.451***</b> (4.715)	-1.571 (2.351)
Pet care	1.964 (1.361)	0.676 (1.251)
Time with mother	5.791 (31.803)	<b>-37.316**</b> (14.841)



# The Relationship between a Parent's Work-Limiting Disability and Teen Time Use in Single Mother Households, by Teen Gender



<b>Activities</b> ( <i>minutes per average day</i> )	<b>GIRLS (N=800)</b>	<b>BOYS (N = 786)</b>
	<b>M.E. (S.E.)</b>	<b>M.E. (S.E.)</b>
Schooling activities	<b>-82.275**</b>	-6.086
	(34.233)	(30.484)
Class	<b>-70.339**</b>	-7.774
	(31.717)	(25.974)
Homework	<b>-20.968**</b>	-4.500
	(9.402)	(9.128)
Sports/Extracurricular activities	3.558	-13.209
	(8.127)	(15.218)
Leisure	<b>47.798*</b>	33.594
	(24.425)	(30.530)

\*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

# Conclusions



- Gender of teen and disabled parent matters.
- Girls spend less time on schooling-related activities.
- Girls spend more time on market work, pet care, and leisure activities.
- Boys spend less time sleeping.
- Boys in two-parent households spend more time on homework and less time on housework and child care if mother is disabled.
- Boys in two-parent households spend less time with mother if their father is disabled.



# Contact Information

**Charlene Marie Kalenkoski**

**Texas Tech University**

**[charlene.kalenkoski@ttu.edu](mailto:charlene.kalenkoski@ttu.edu)**