

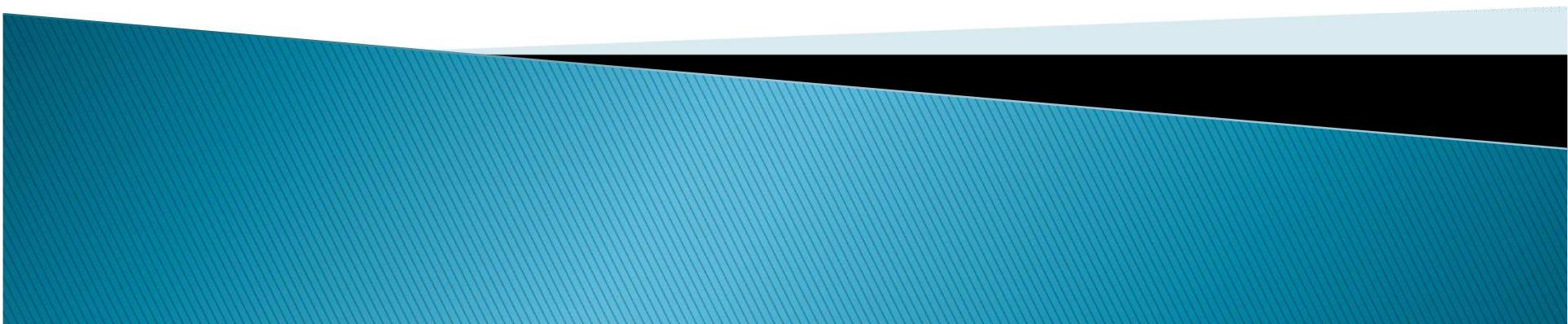
You are my favourite! Parent-child relationship and satisfaction in later life

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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?



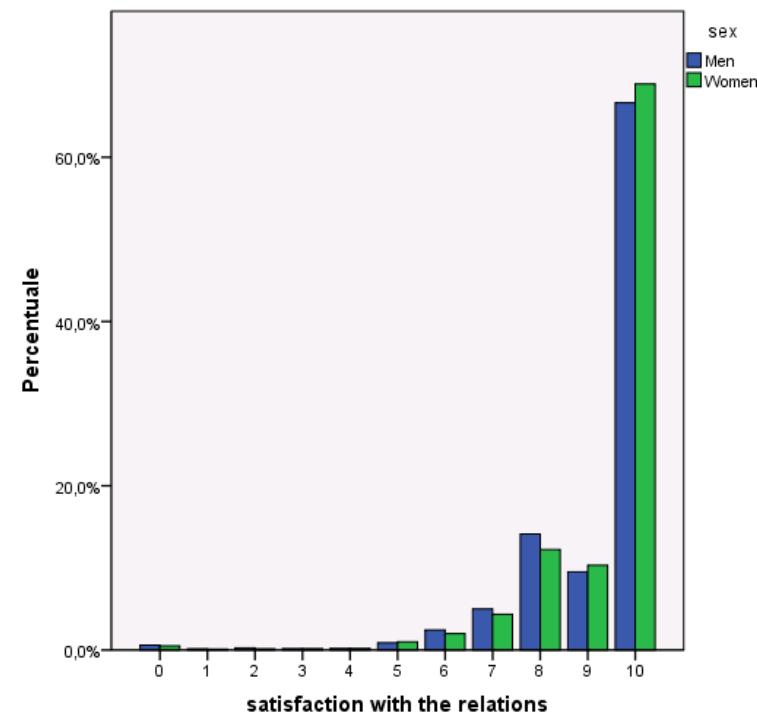
Data and methods

- ▶ 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 correlate within family. The standard errors are corrected for intragroup correlation.



Independent variables

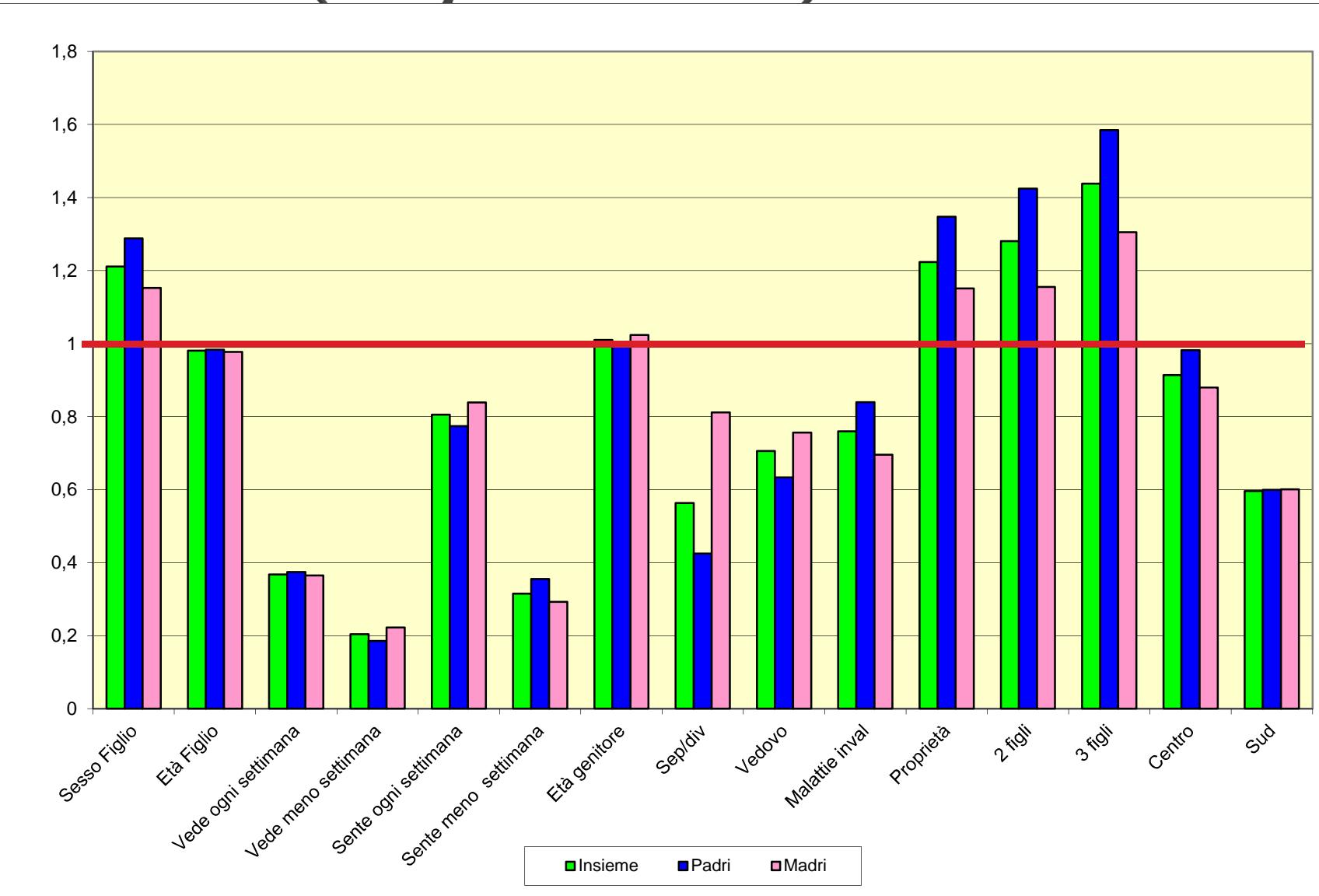
- ▶ Child level:
 - Sex
 - Age (continuous)
 - Face to face contact (3 classes ref category less than once a week)
 - Phone contact (3 classes ref category less than once a week)
- ▶ Parent level:
 - Sex (for the joint model)
 - Age (continuous)
 - Marital status (sep/div, widowed vs married)
 - Number of living children (3+, 2 vs 1 child)
 - Presence of limiting illnesses (vs no illnesses)
 - Tenure (ownership vs other tenure)
 - Geography (vs Northern Italy)



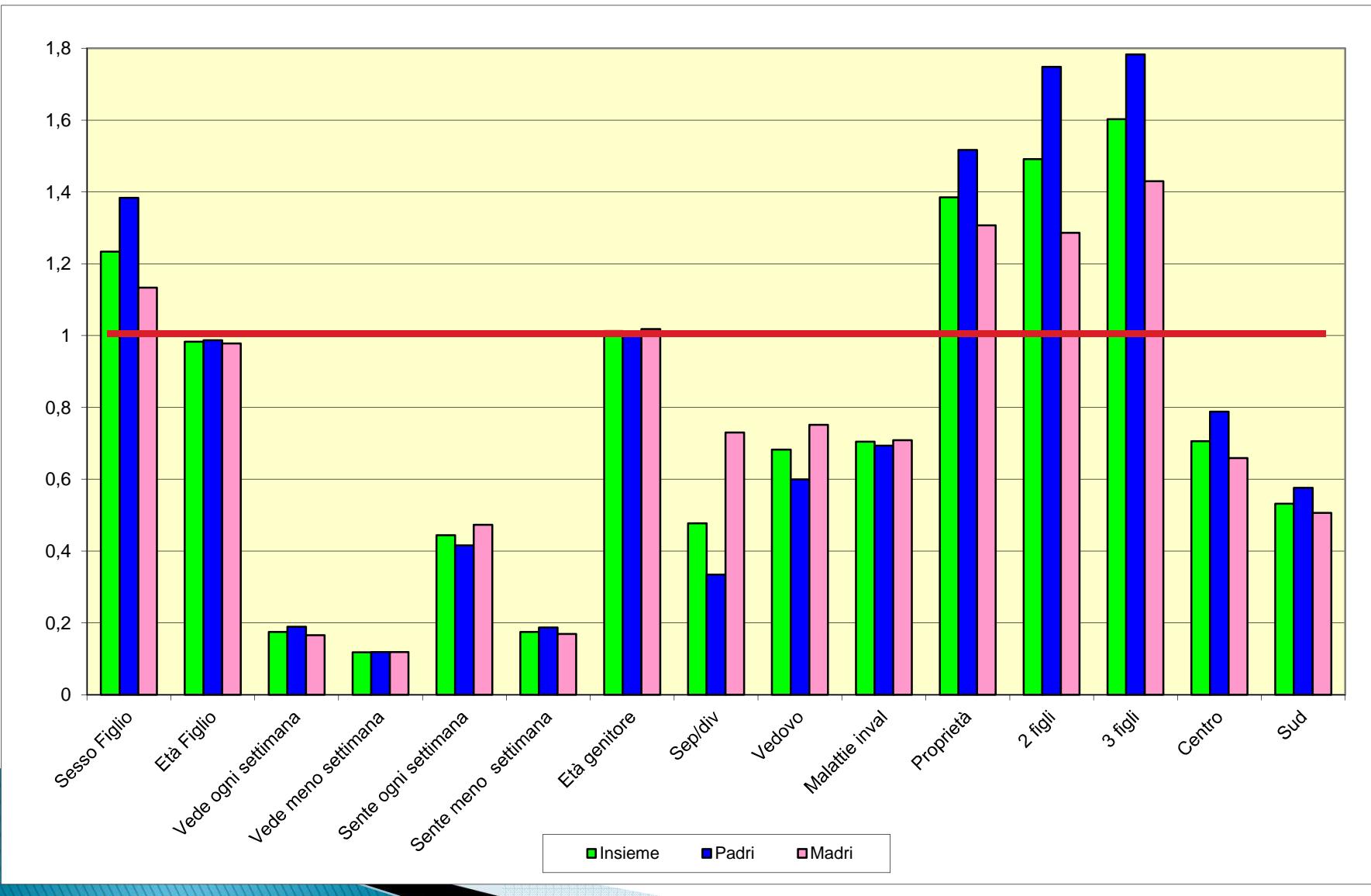
Sample characteristics

	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

