**His and Hers Jobs:**
When the Quality of Partners Jobs Matter

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**Working & Job Quality**

Jobs benefit families & deliver resources

Help sustain & support working parents wellbeing

Job quality = time + work conditions

Not all jobs are of equal quality

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**Job Quality Matters**

![Graph showing psychological distress (mean) vs. job quality for mothers and fathers. Source: Strazdins, Shipley & Broom (in press).](image)

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**Contagion & Spillover**

People are linked to others

Effects on one person 'spill over' and affect others in the family

Job demands
Work schedule
Major work stresses

Contagious within couples

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**Intergenerational Contagion**

![Graph showing SDQ (mean) vs. job quality for mothers and fathers. Source: Strazdins, Shipley, George, Rodgers & Sawyer (2006).](image)

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**Job Quality in Families**

Previous work examined associations between one parent's job & wellbeing

BUT

78% of families are dual parent
and
58% of couple families are dual earner

Family wellbeing may be affected by the quality of MULTIPLE jobs
Aim & Research Question

Start to extend concept of job quality to households and families

Is job quality ‘contagious’ within parent couples?

Hypothesis

![Diagram showing relationships between own job quality (JQ), partner job quality (JQ), partner wellbeing, and parent wellbeing.]

Sample

The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)
2 age cohorts – 12 months & 4 years

Sample: dual parent families with at least 1 parent working
- Mothers from Dual Earner families n=2673
- Fathers from Dual Earner families n=2693
- Mothers from Single Earner families n=1924

Measures

Psychological distress – K6
- Range 0-24

Job Quality - JQIP
- Paid Leave
- Flexibility
- Control
- Security
- Range 0-4
  - Poor job quality (JQIP = 0-2)
  - Moderate job quality (JQIP = 3)
  - High job quality (JQIP = 4)

Multiple Hierarchical Regression

Confounders
- Equivalised household income
- Own education
- Own age
- Infant in family
- Partner work hours
- Own work hours
- Mothers currently working or on leave
- Own self-employment status

Own JQIP*
- Partner JQIP
- Partner psychological distress

Dual Earner Families

Father wellbeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Model A</th>
<th>Model B</th>
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<tr>
<td>Own JQIP High</td>
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*p<.05, ***p<.001
Dual Earner Families
Mother wellbeing

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*p<.05, **p<.001

Single Earner Families
Mothers wellbeing

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<td>Father psychological distress</td>
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Job Quality & Partner Wellbeing

![Graph showing the relationship between job quality and partner wellbeing for single earner families.]

Selective Contagion
Dual earner families

![Diagram showing the relationship between mother and father wellbeing in dual earner families.]

Contagion
Single earner families

![Diagram showing the relationship between father and mother wellbeing in single earner families.]

Limitations

Cross-sectional data

Weak measures of job conditions

Unable to examine non-working fathers and partner job quality
Conclusions

Job quality is contagious within couples
Job quality also affects non-working mothers
BOTH parent jobs matter for family wellbeing
Future - implications for children?

References


Thank You

Questions?

Measures

Parent wellbeing - general psychological distress
KB (Kessler et al, 2002)
- Range 0-24
- >7-13 = psychological distress
- >13 = serious mental illness

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Mothers</td>
<td>60.2</td>
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Distribution of Job Quality

![Graph showing distribution of job quality for mothers and fathers.](Image)