

Gender roles and the division of childcare and housework

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Þórsdóttir. REASSESS workshop,
University of Iceland, 24.4.2010

Acknowledgements

- This presentation was made possible through the support of:
 - EDDA (Equality, Diversity, Development, Advancement) centre of excellence
 - REASSESS. Nordic Centre of Excellence, Reassessing the Welfare State
 - Council for Gender Equality



Data

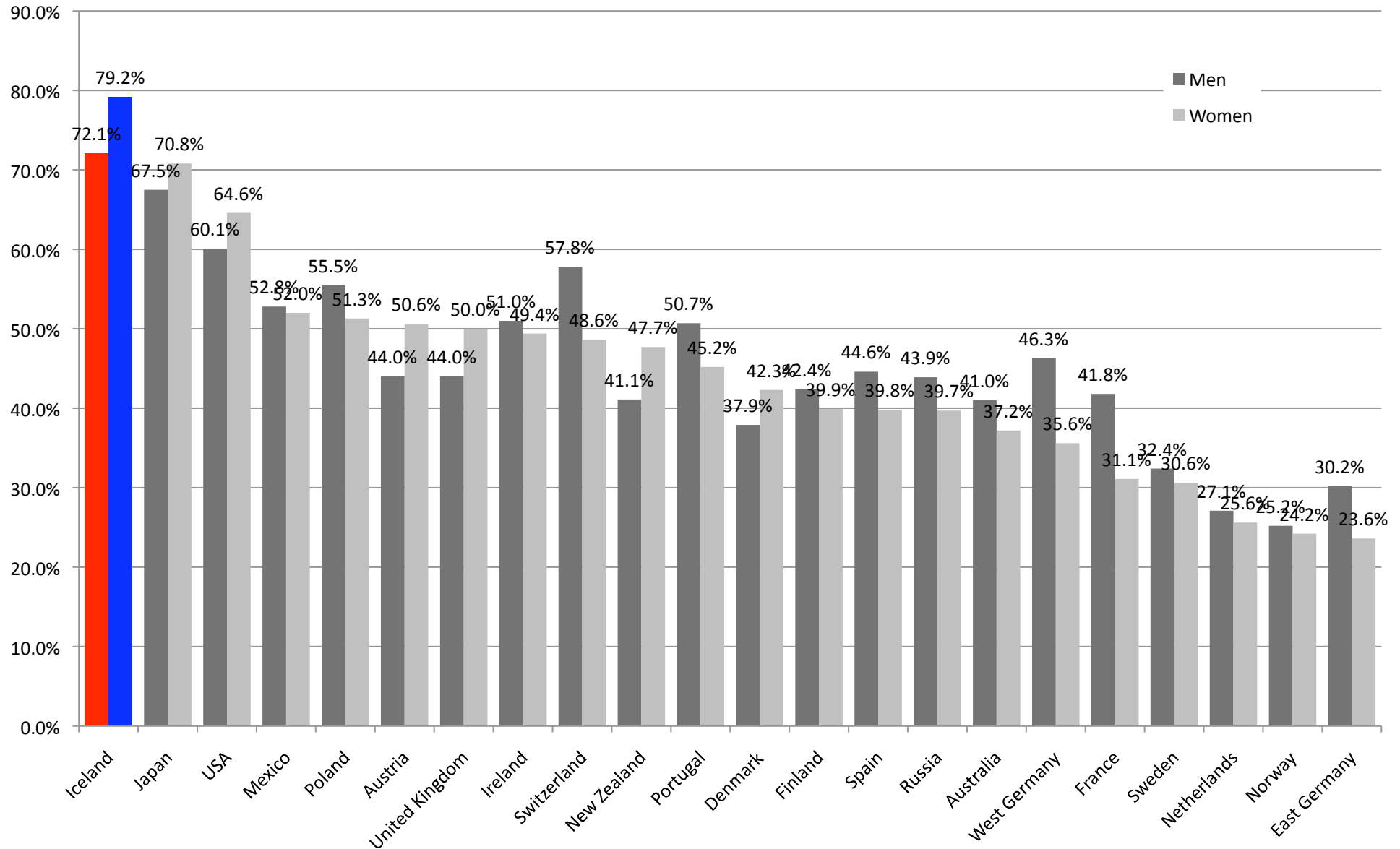
- ISSP 2002, module on Family and Gender Roles
- Icelandic replications of ISSP 2002, collected in 2005 and 2010

The torment that so many young women know, bound hand and foot by love and motherhood, without having forgotten their former dreams.

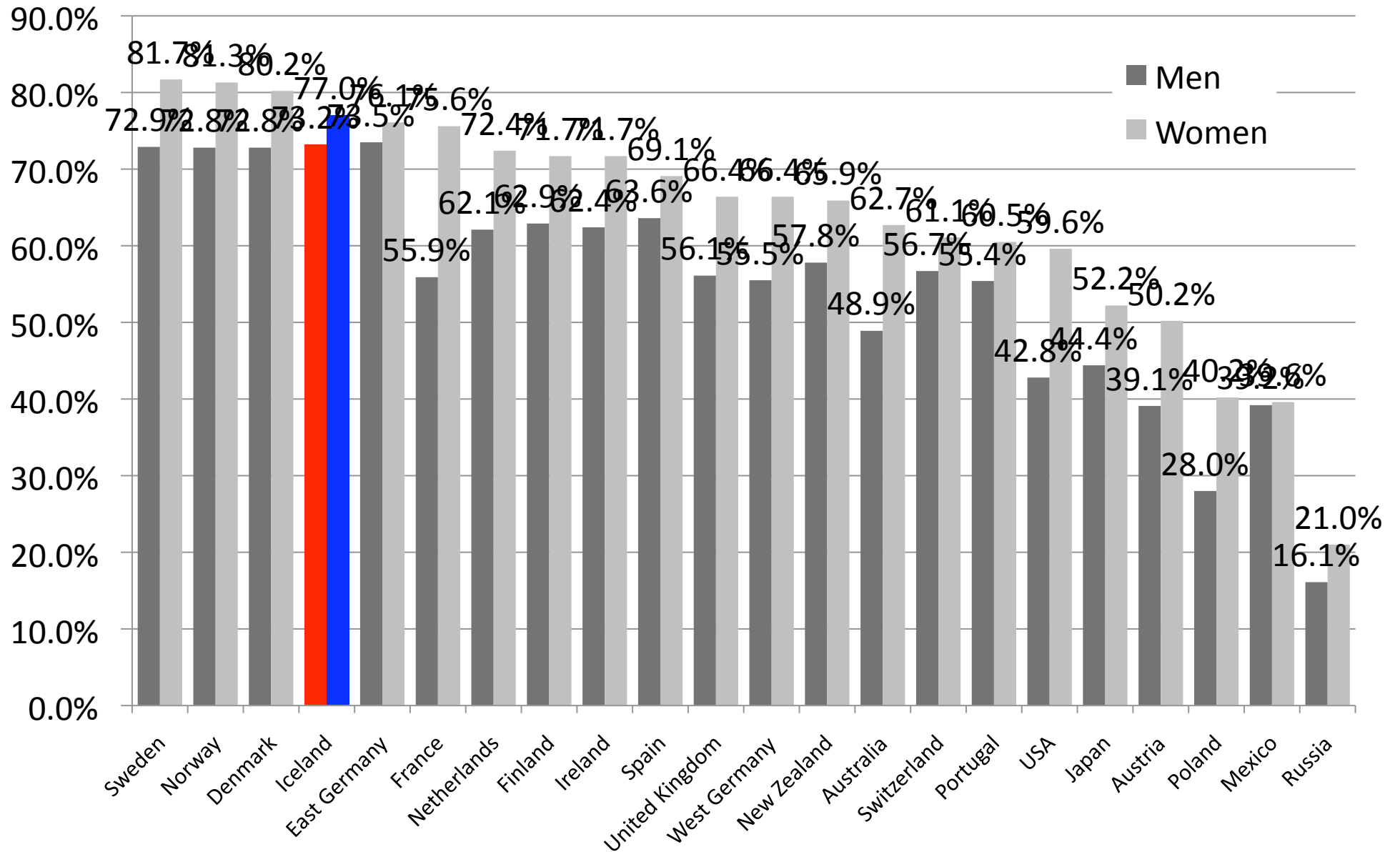
~Simone de Beauvoir

GENDER ROLES AND ESSENTIALISM

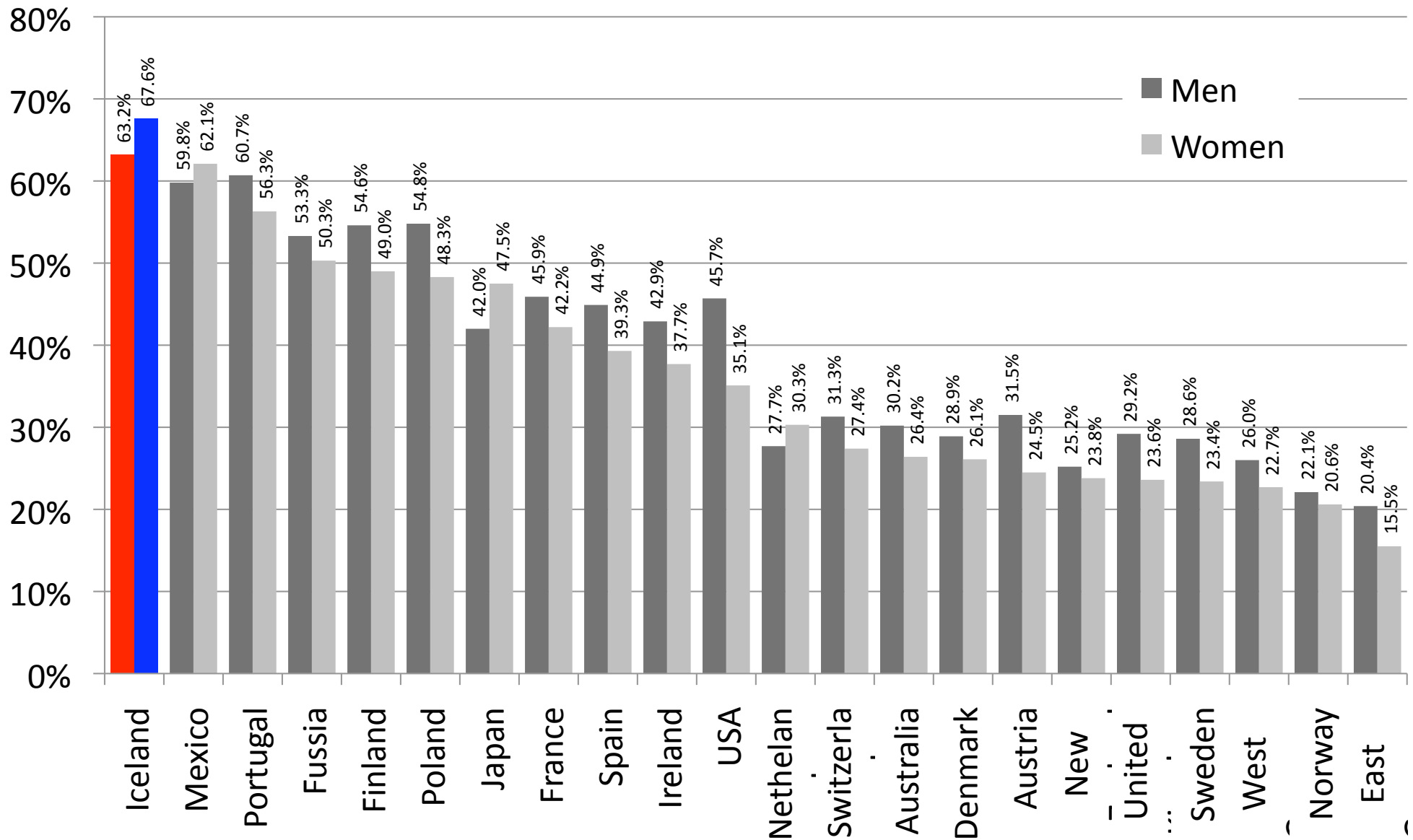
Both the man and the woman should contribute to the household income. Proportion of respondents who agree or strongly agree



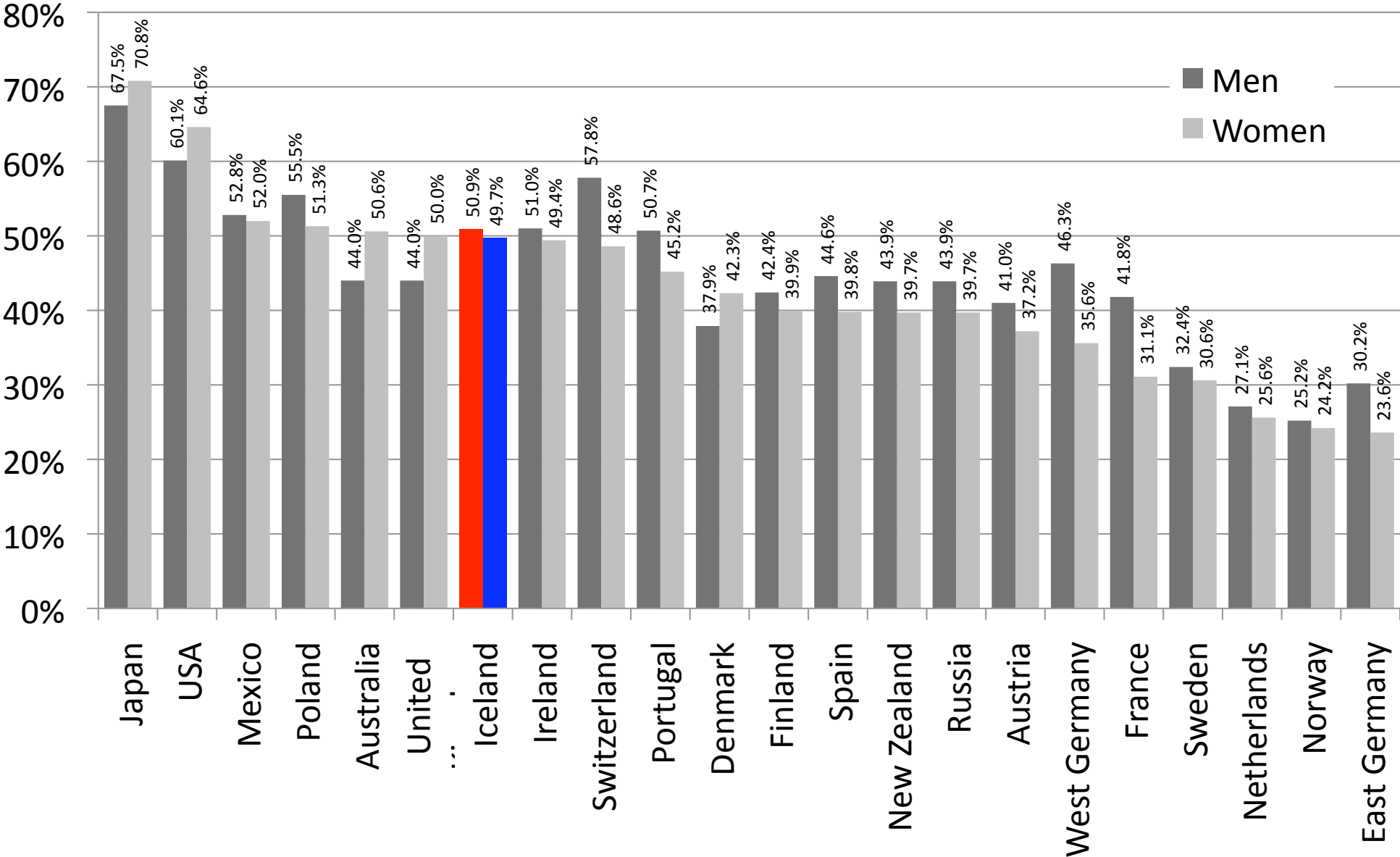
A man's job is to earn money; a woman's job is to look after the home and family - proportion of respondents that disagree or strongly disagree



A job is alright but what most women really want is a home and children - Proportion of respondents that agree or strongly agree



Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay - proportion of respondents that agree or strongly agree



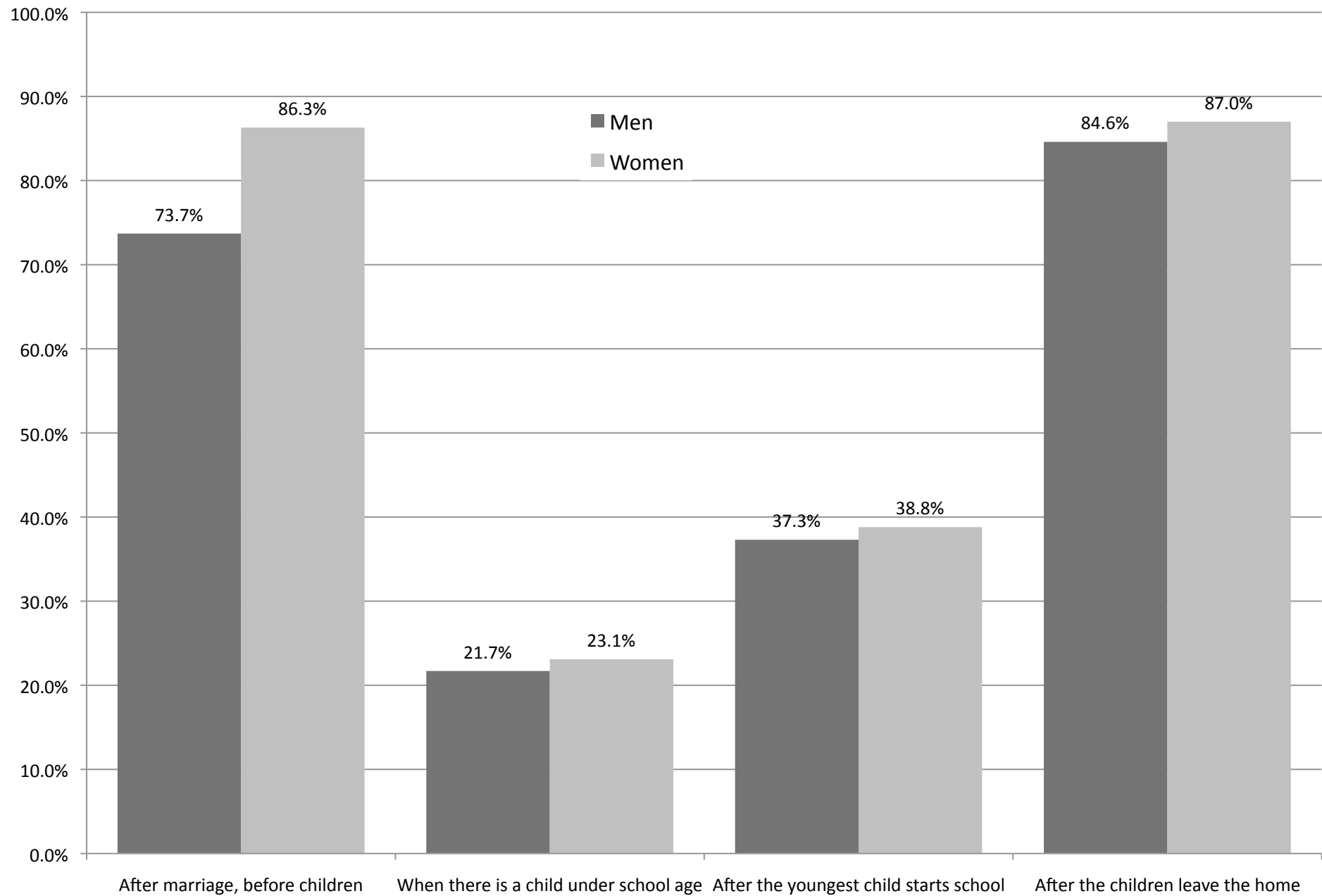
In Sum

- While Icelanders do not necessarily see it as women's role or duty to prioritise the home above a labour market career ...
- ... gender essentialism appears to be widespread in Iceland
- Gender essentialism operates in the context of “free” choice

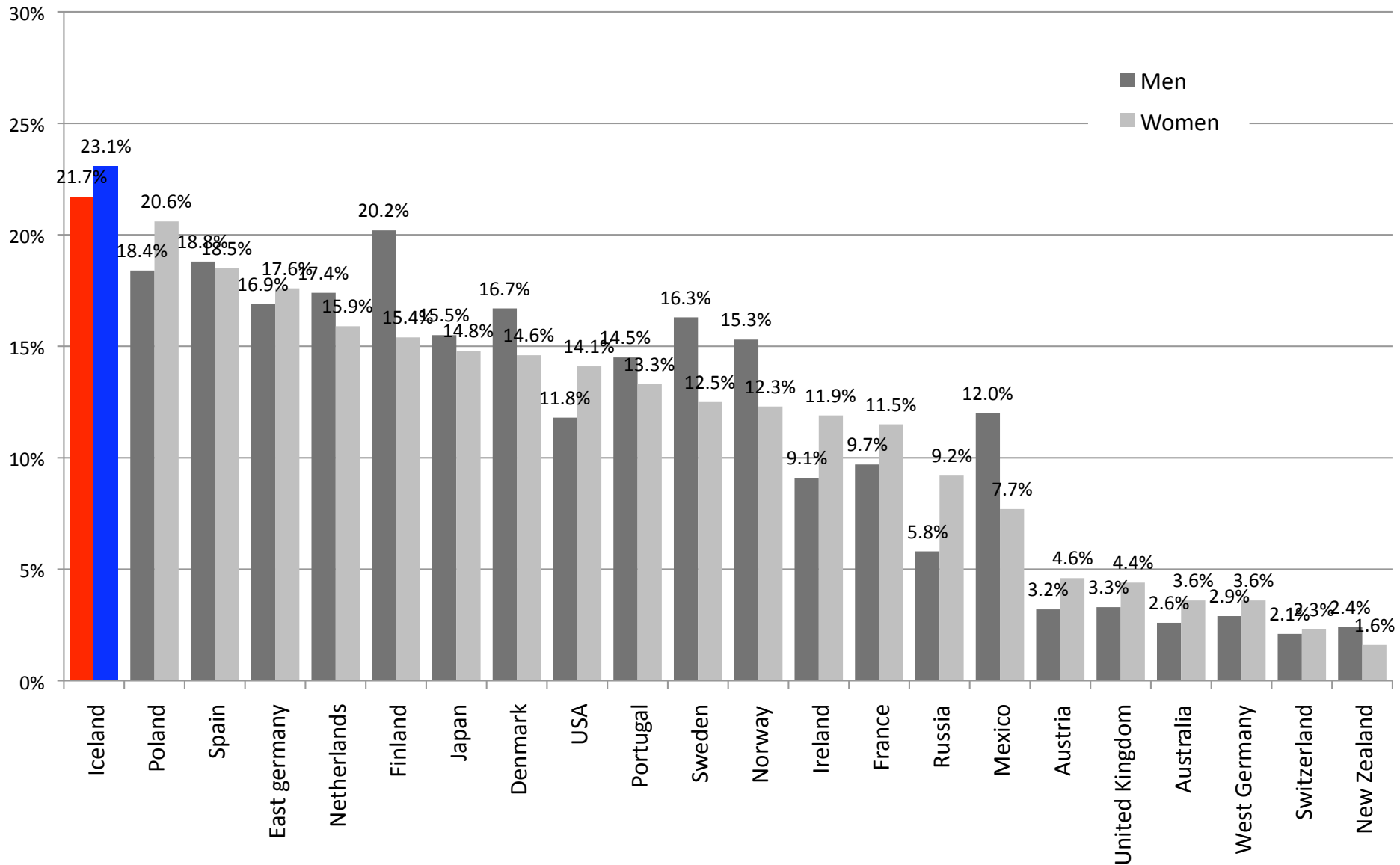
There was never a child so lovely but his mother was glad to get him to sleep. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE SMALL FOLK

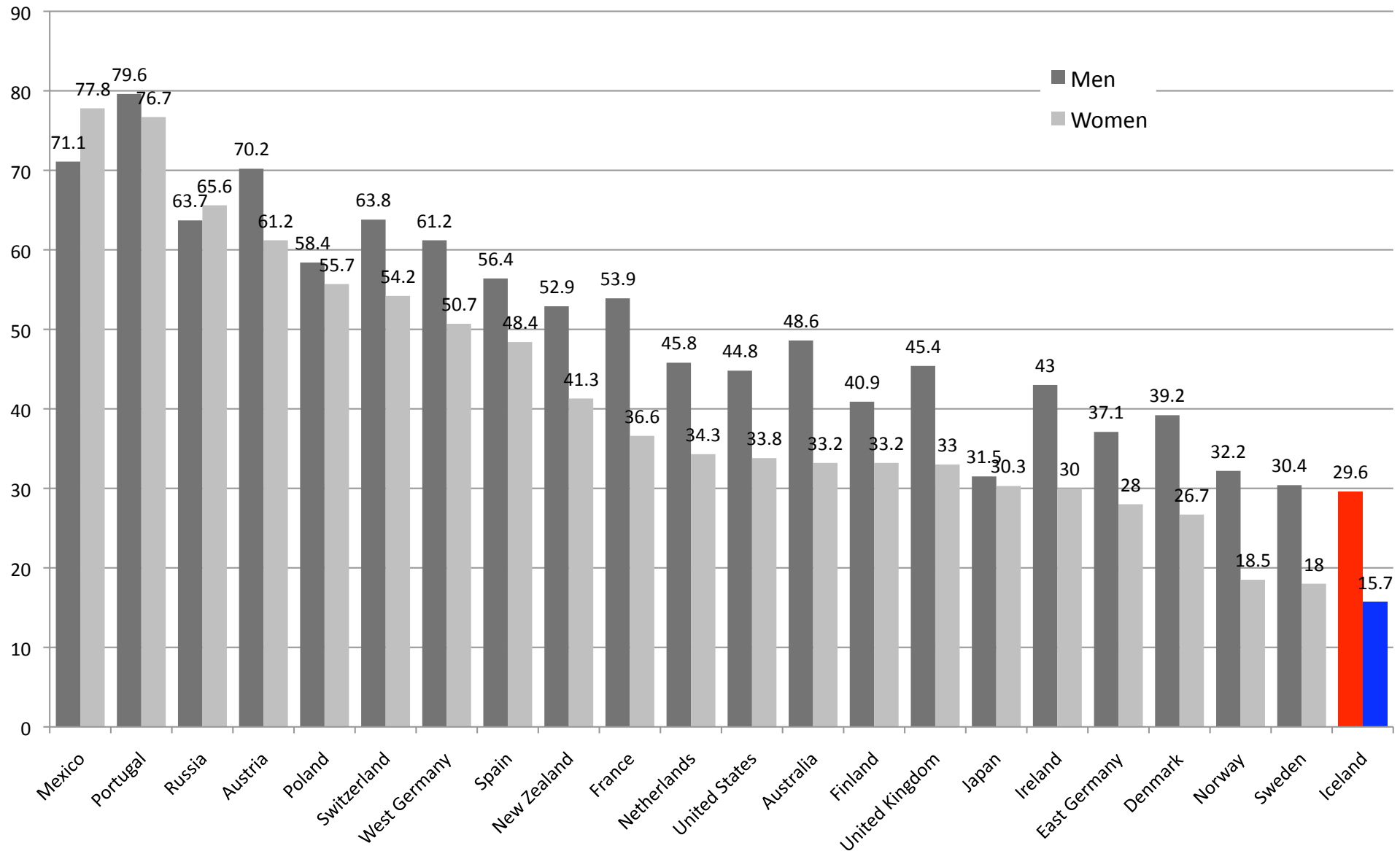
Do you think that women should work (full time) outside the home full-time, part-time or not at all under the following circumstances?



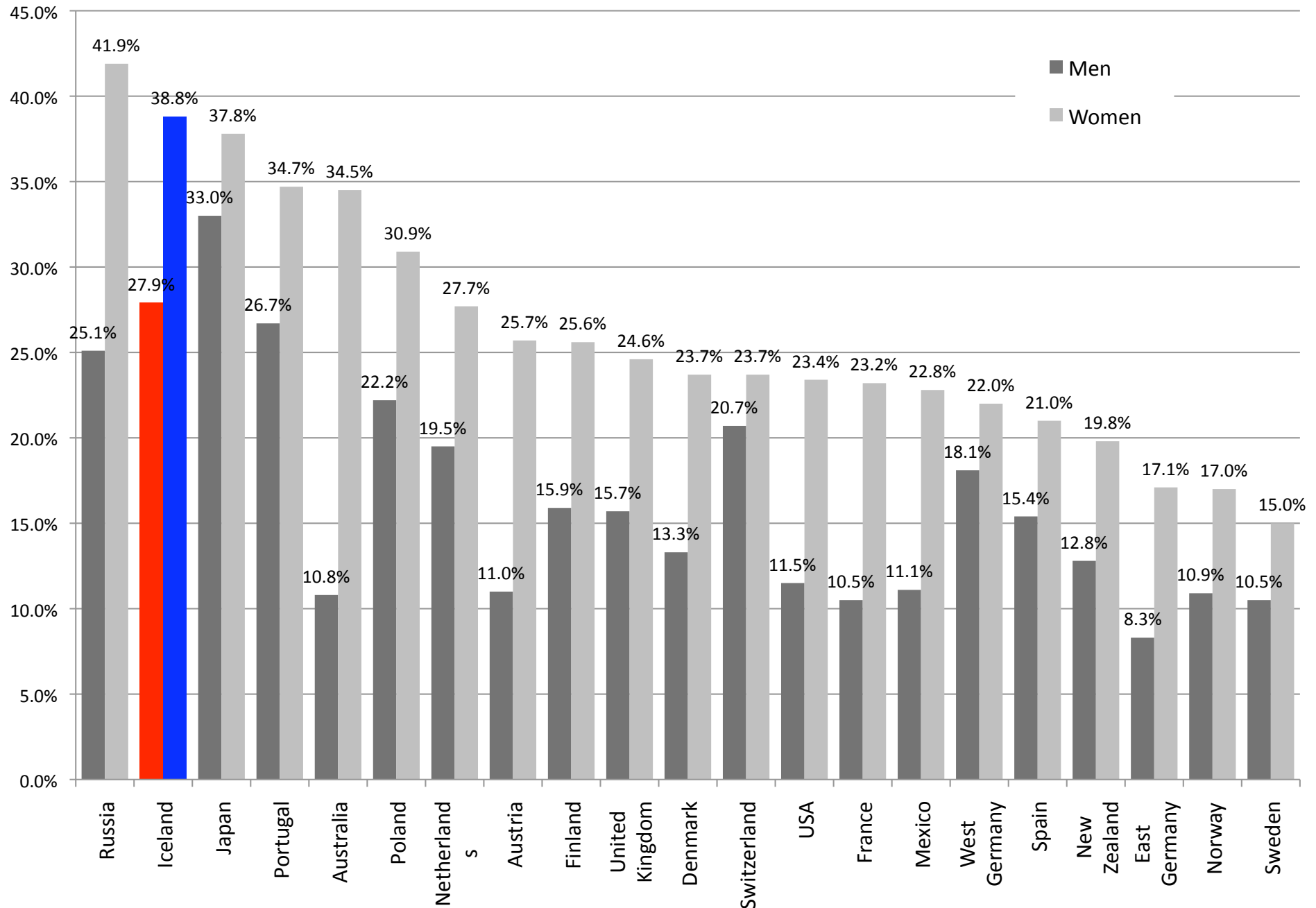
Do you think that women should work (full time) outside the home full-time when there is a child under school age



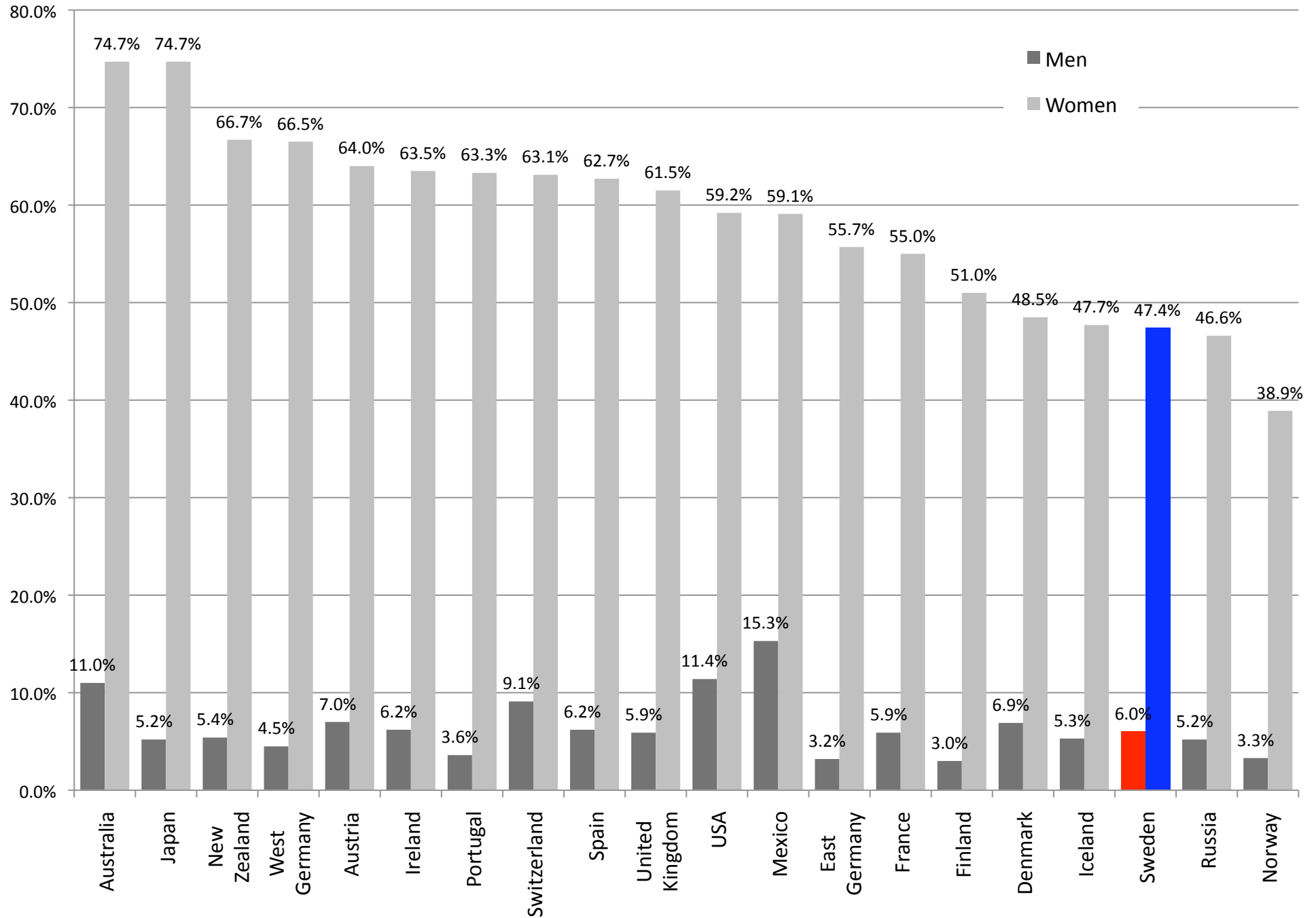
A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works. Proportion of respondents who agree or agree strongly



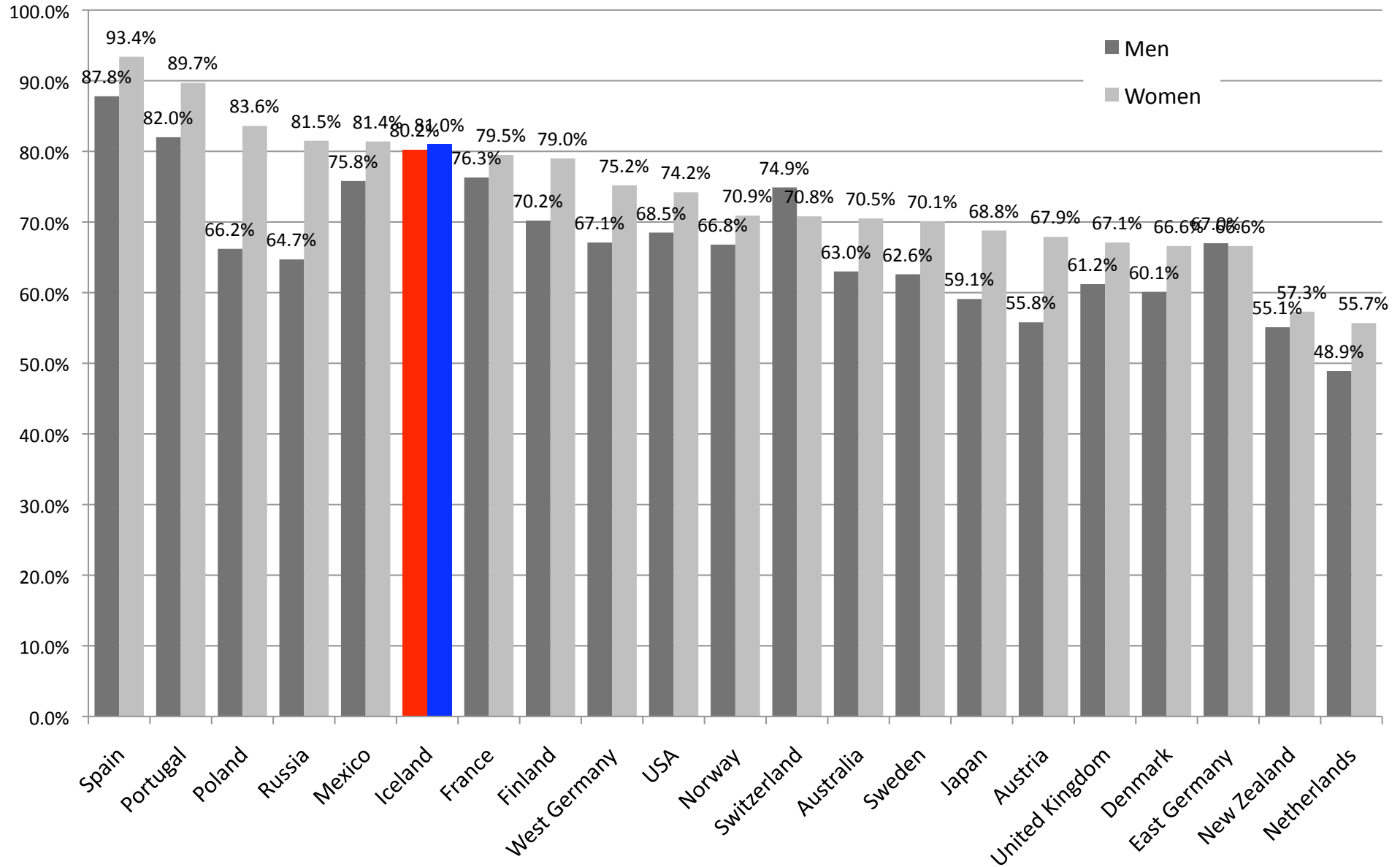
Who usually makes / made the decisions about how to bring up your children (women=themselves; men=spouse)



In your household who cares for sick family members



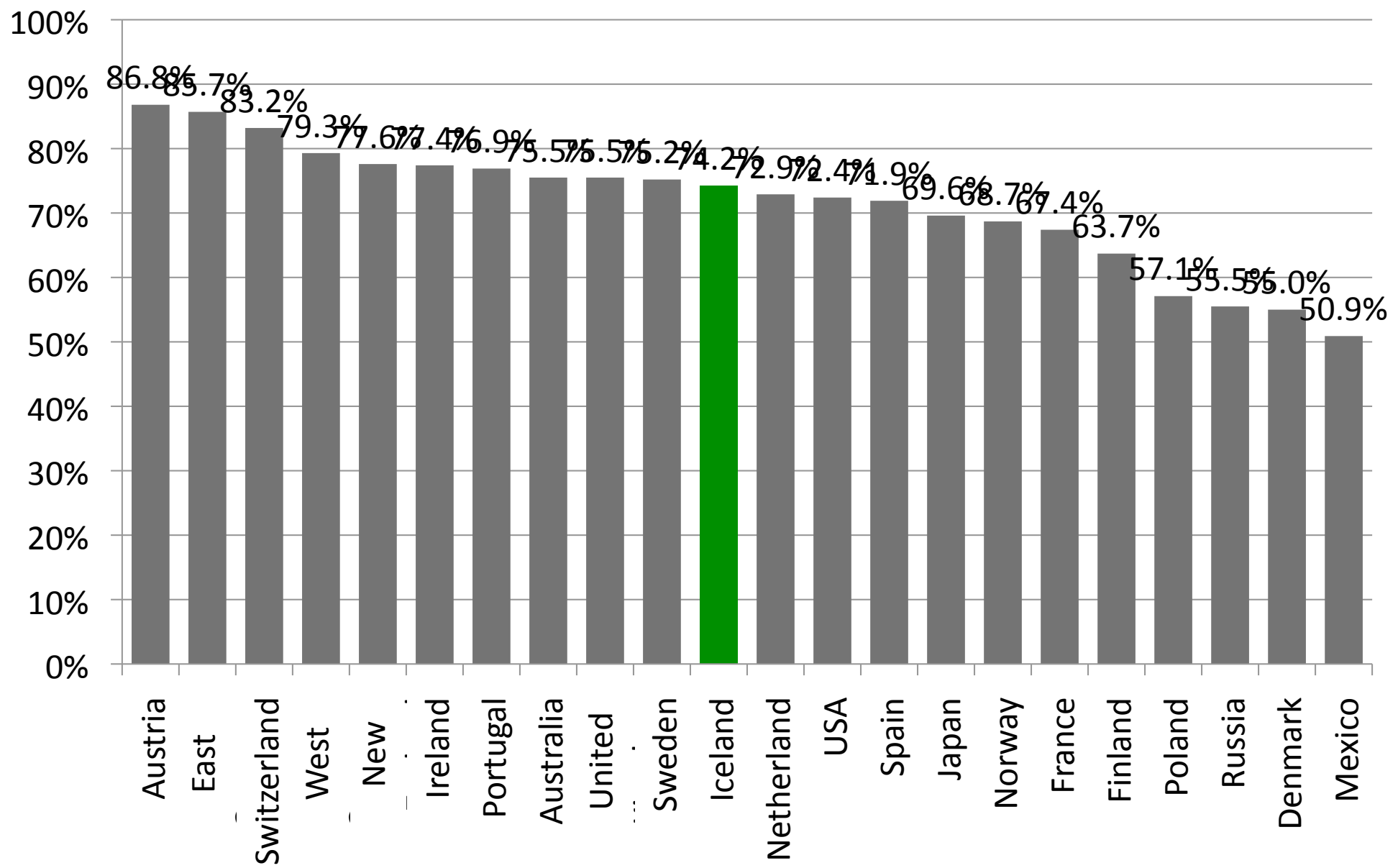
Men ought to do a larger share of childcare than they do now. Proportion of respondents who agree or strongly agree.



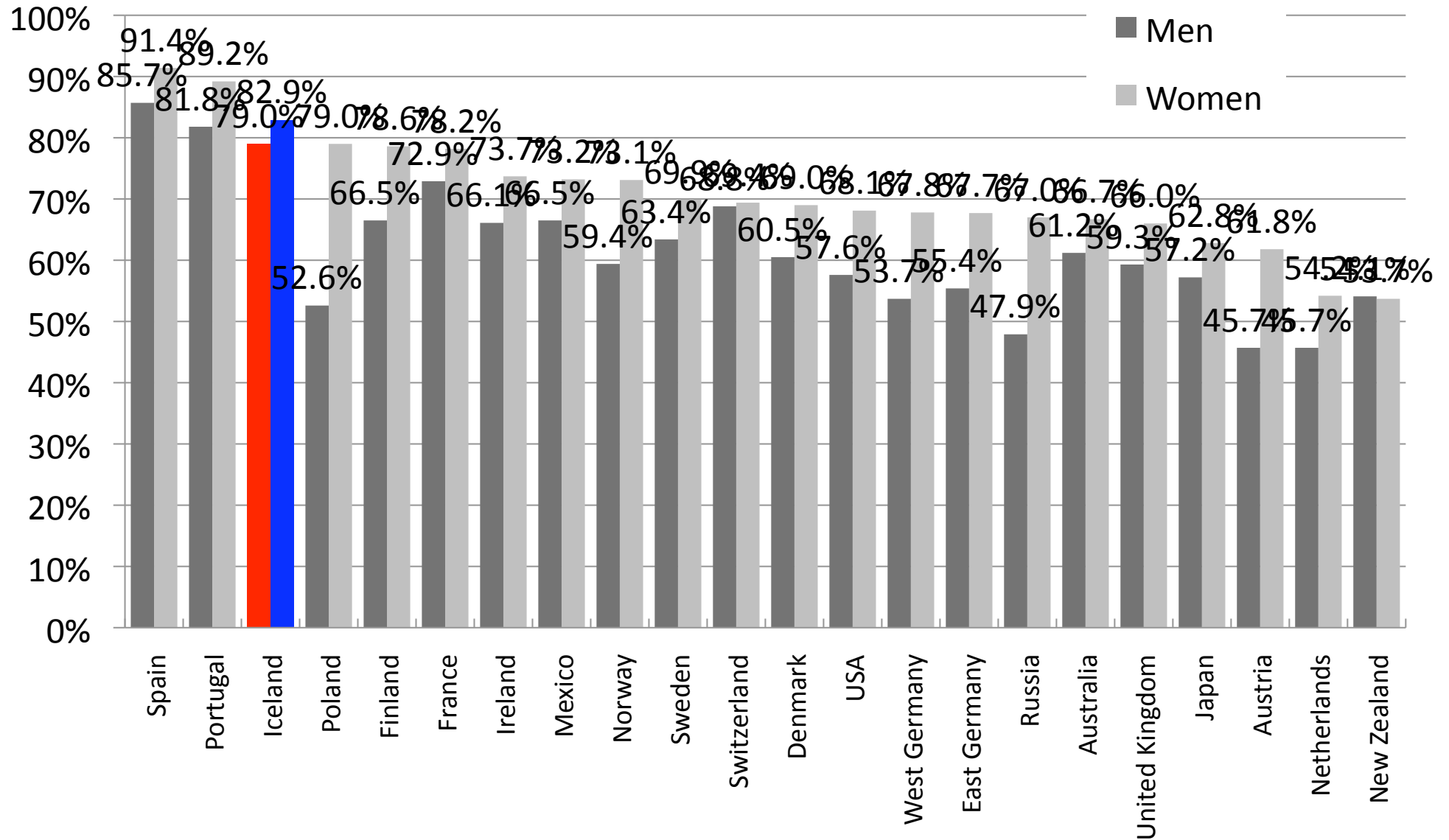
Worst of all, it is women who usually have to do, usually alone, all the dirty work of the kitchen and household, work that is unimportant, hard, tiresome, and soul-destroying. ~Nikolai Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

HOUSEHOLD LABOUR

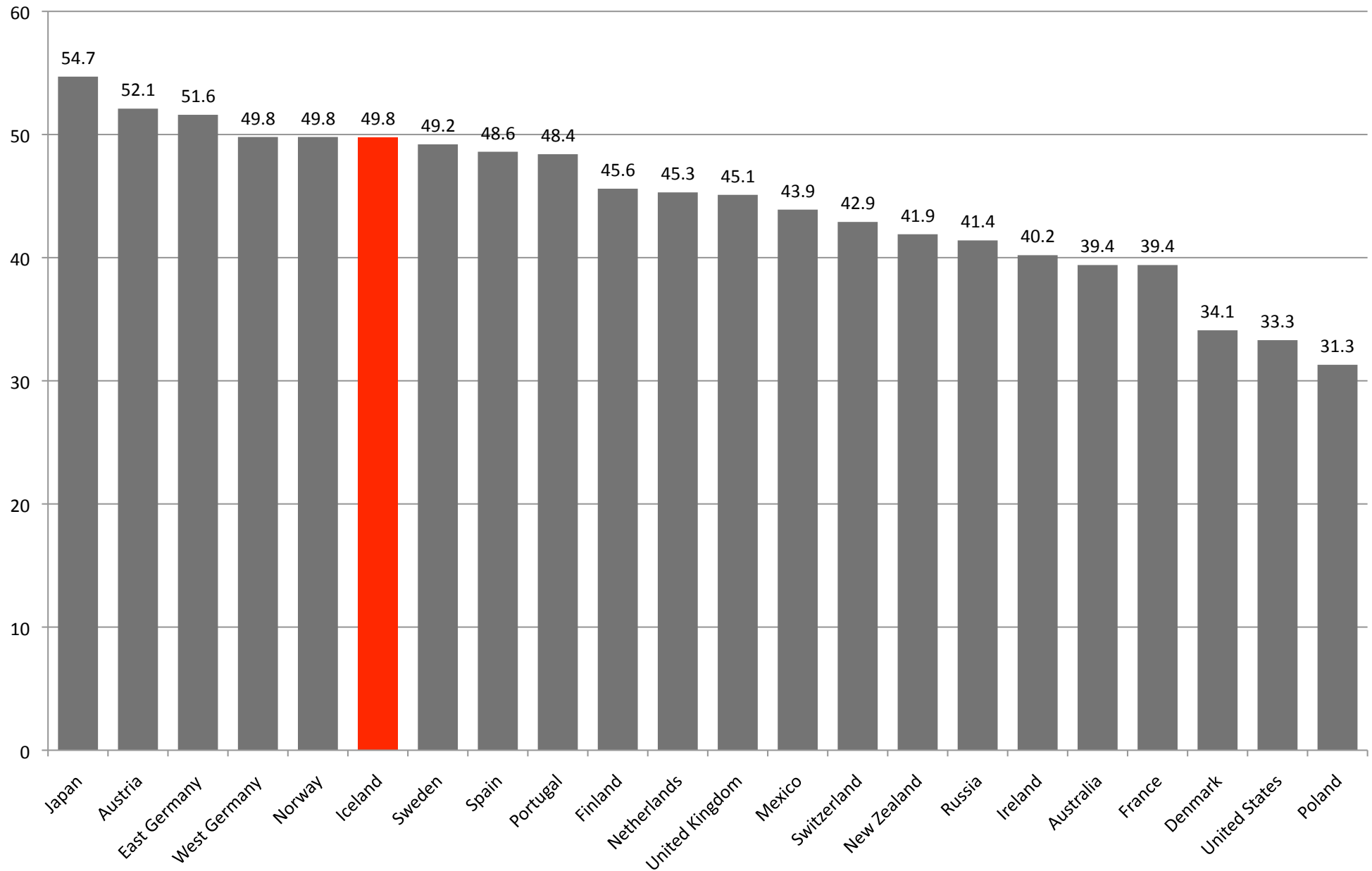
How often do you and your spouse/partner disagree about the sharing of household work? Proportion of respondents who replies "seldom" or "never"



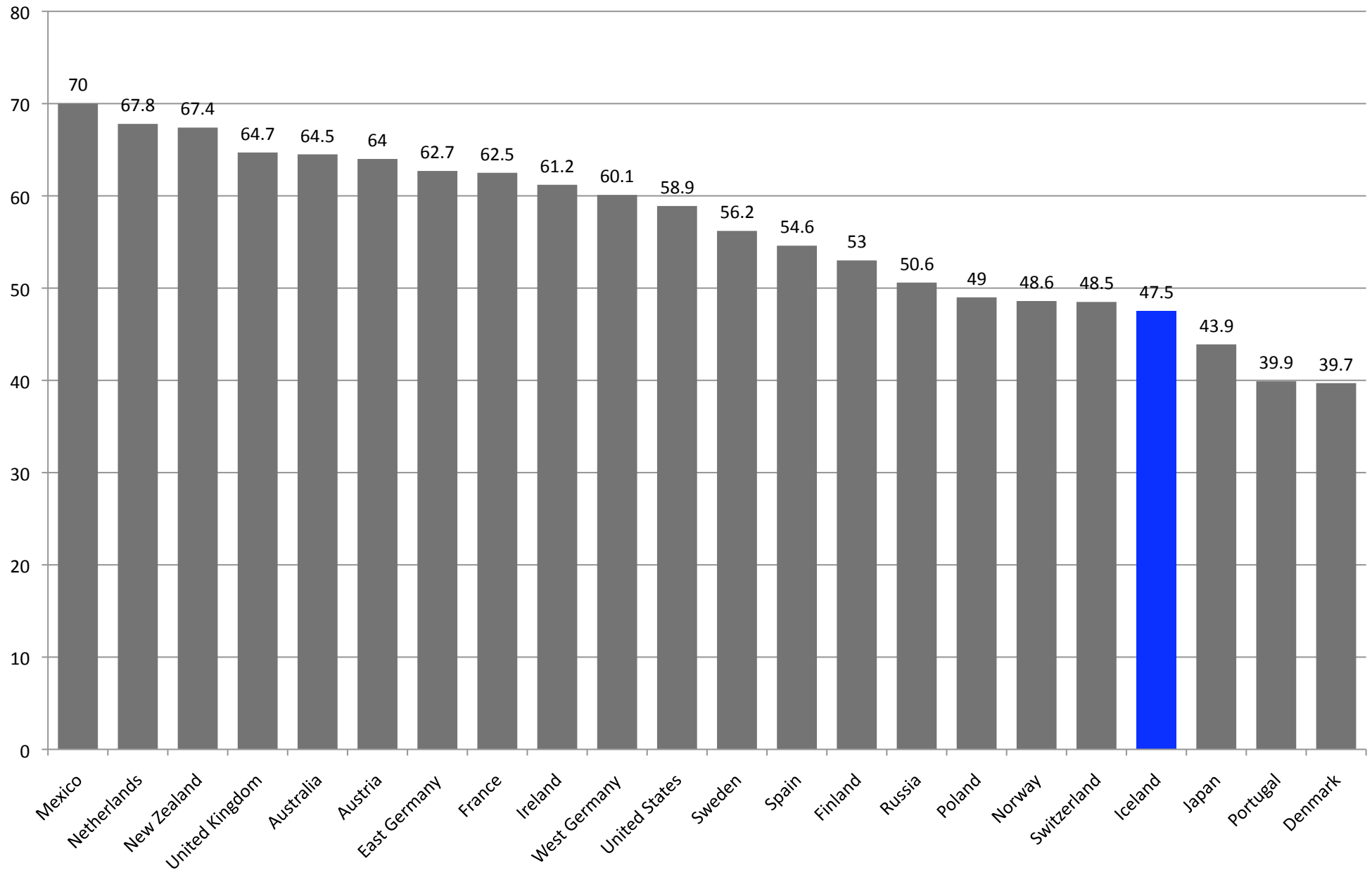
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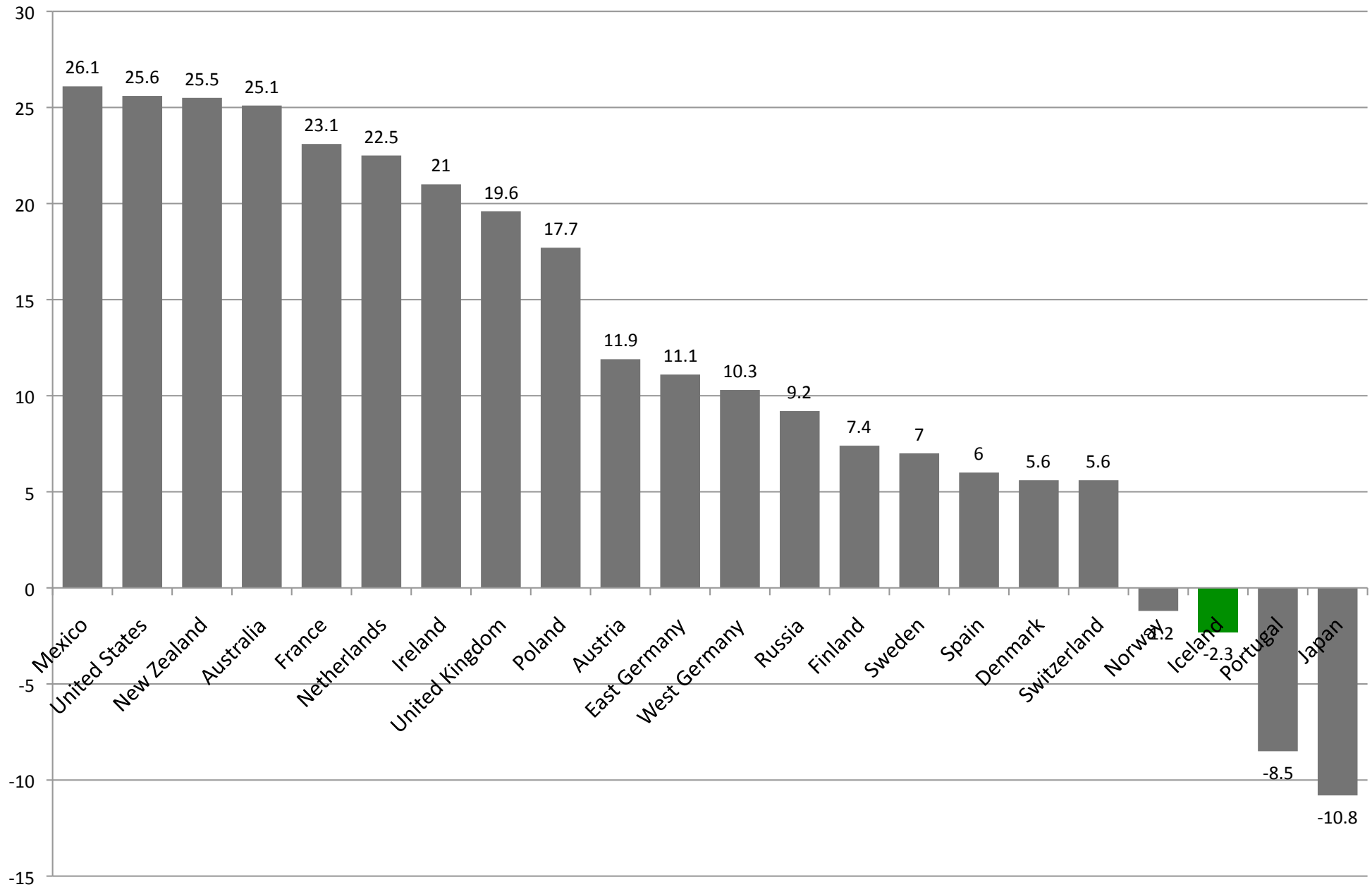
Which of the following best applies to the sharing of household work between you and your spouse/partner? (Proportion of men who did less than their fair share)



Which of the following best applies to the sharing of household work between you and your spouse/partner? (Proportion of women who did more than their fair share)



Which of the following best applies to the sharing of household work between you and your spouse/partner? (Gender gap in perception of fairness)



The puzzle

- There is a broad agreement that men should be more involved in childcare
- There is broad agreement that men should be doing more housework
- Yet women shoulder the lion's share of both
- Very little has changed since the late 90s
- Despite that, there is very little conflict over the issue

Gender essentialism as a self-fulfilling prophecies

- The Thomas Theorem
 - **If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences**
- Gender essentialism
 - Expectations of employers
 - Expectations of society
 - Women's behaviours

THE 2010 SURVEY

Additions

- More information of children
 - Time spent on child-related chores
 - Division of care for children
- More information on jobs
- Variables to test the validity of the measurement of gender essentialism

Thank you