

# **Time use in South Africa**

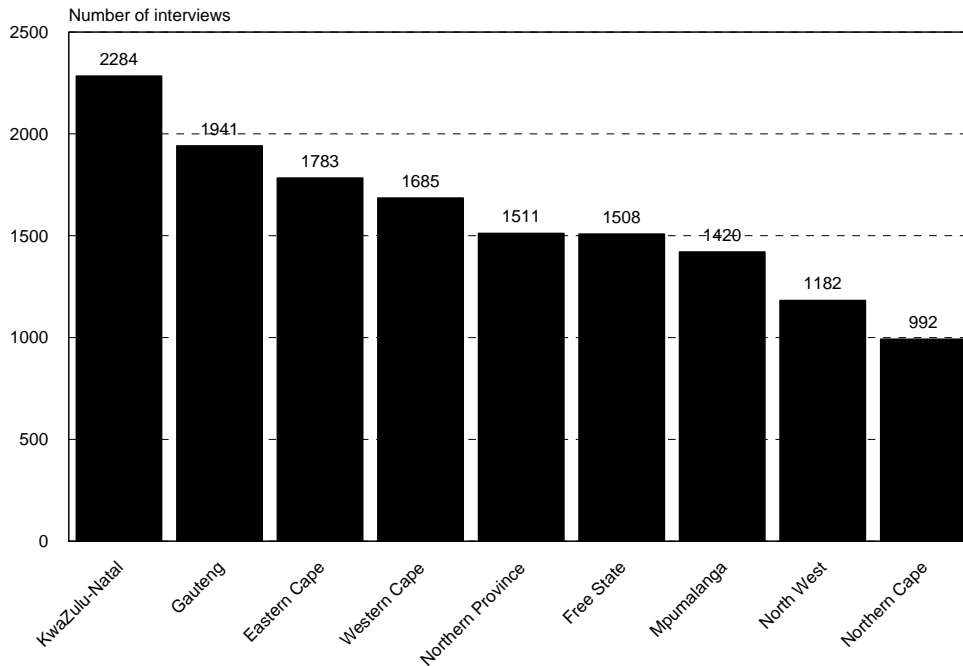
## **Finding out how South Africans spend time**

- On work for pay
- On unpaid work such as housework, child care and collecting fuel and water
- On learning
- On leisure

- During 2000, Statistics South Africa conducted the first national time use study in the country.
- Fieldworkers visited 8 564 households and interviewed 14 553 women and men aged ten years or older.
- Each person interviewed was asked what they did every half-hour between 4 am the day before and 4 am on the morning of the interview.
- They were asked to report up to three activities for every half-hour period.
- The interviewers filled in the activities in a diary.

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Description of activities</i>	<i>Code</i>
	<i>1 to 3 activities per time period</i>	
09h00	Prepared food for lunch & put on stove to cook	410
to	Listened to the radio	930
09h30		
09h30	Cleaned the house	420
to	Listened to the radio	930
10h00		
10h00	Cleaned the house	420
to	Listened to the radio	920
10h30		
10h30	Set up stall to sell fruit and vegetables	350
to	Sat and waited for customers	350
11h00		
11h00	Waited for customers	350
to		
11h30		

- There are 1 440 minutes in a 24-hour day.
- By adding everybody's diaries together, Stats SA calculated the average number of minutes per day spent on different activities.

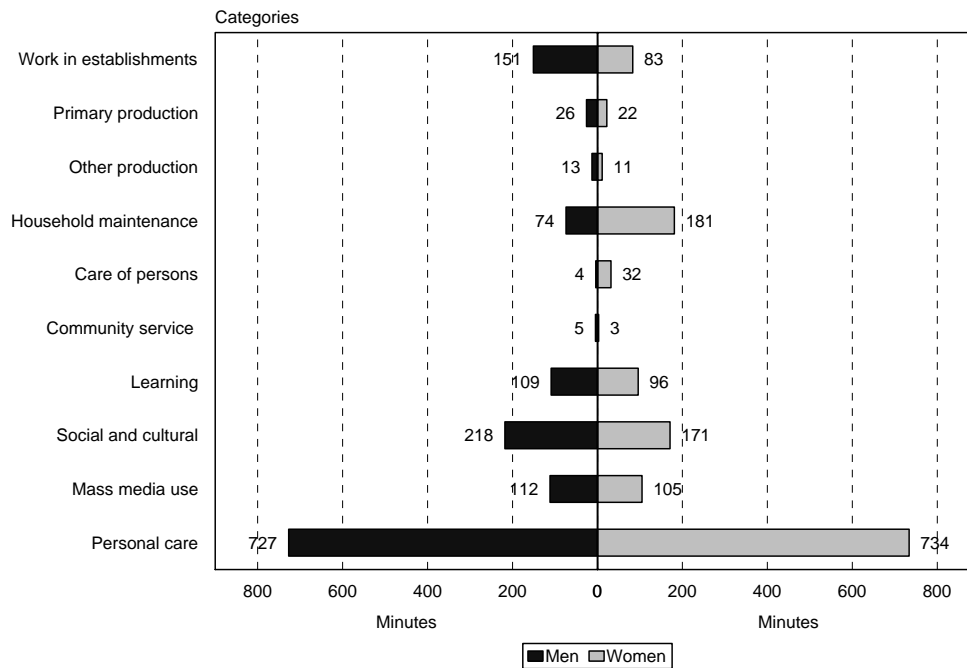


**Number of interviews by province**

- Interviews were conducted in each of the nine provinces, and in rural and urban areas.
- KwaZulu-Natal has the biggest population and had the most interviews - 2 284 in total.
- Stats SA thanks all the people who agreed to be interviewed. Without you, the survey would not have been possible.

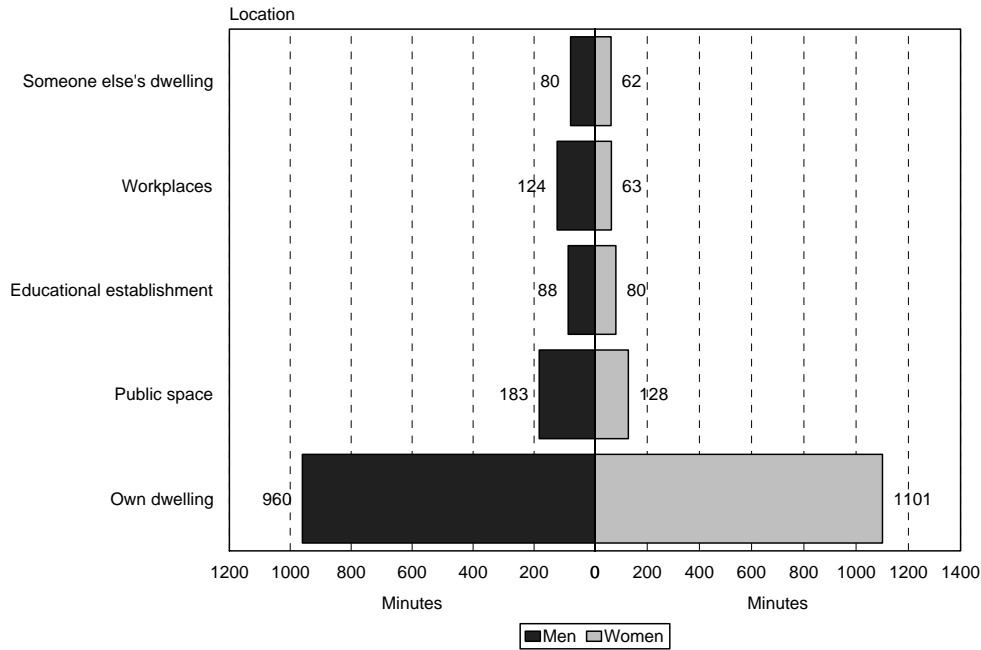
Ten categories of activity were identified:

- Work in establishments, e.g. working for government, in a factory or mine
- Primary production, e.g. growing maize on a household plot or collecting fuel and water
- Work in non-establishments, e.g. doing hairdressing at home
- Household maintenance, e.g. cooking and cleaning the house
- Care of persons, e.g. looking after children or the elderly
- Community service, e.g. attending a political meeting or helping other households
- Learning, e.g. attending school or doing homework
- Social and cultural, e.g. socialising with family or friends
- Mass media use, e.g. watching TV or listening to the radio
- Personal care, e.g. sleeping, eating, drinking, dressing, washing



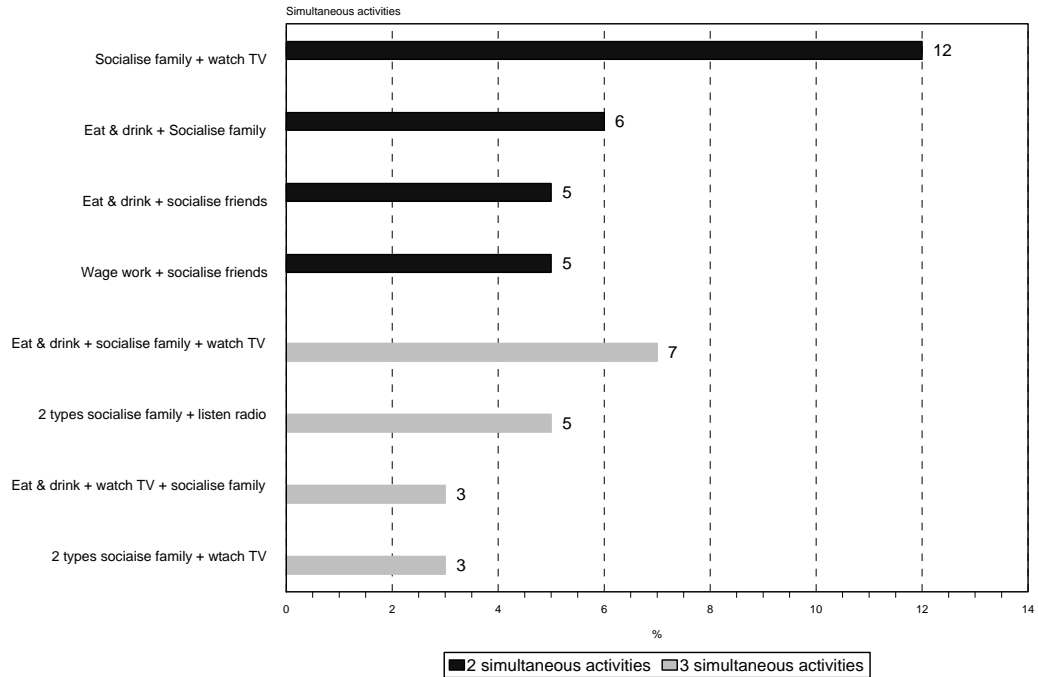
**Mean minutes per day spent on activities by type of activity and sex**

- Overall, personal care accounted for the biggest chunk of daily time. Both women and men spent more than twelve hours per day on average on this activity.
- The next most common activities for men were social and cultural ones. The next most common activity for women was household maintenance
- Men spent more time per day, on average, than women on paid work, and in particular on work in establishments.



**Mean minutes per day spent in particular locations by sex**

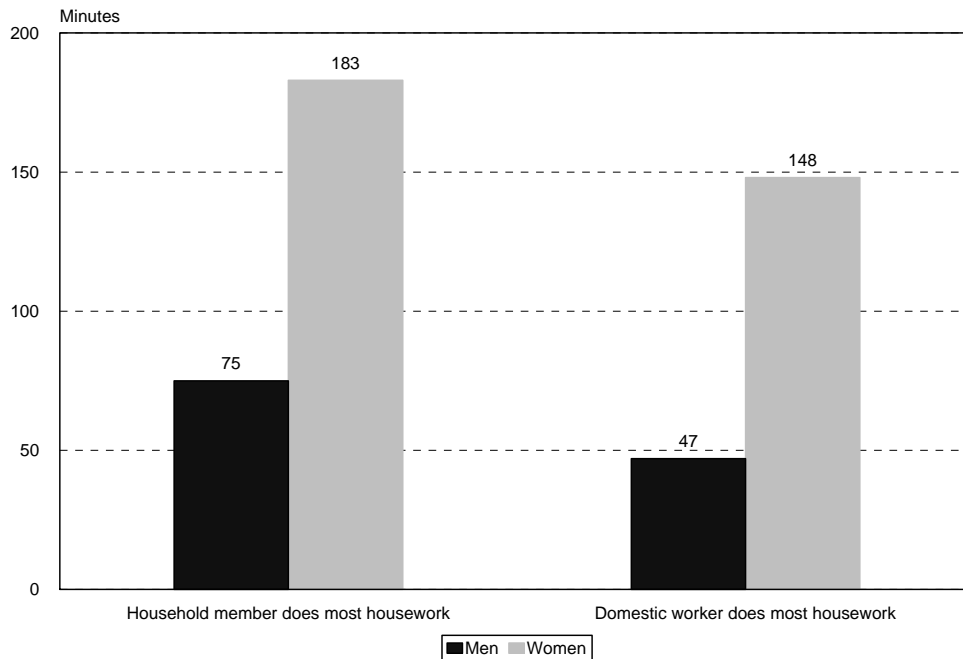
- On average, both women and men spent the biggest part of the day in their own homes. Women spent more than 18 hours per day on average at home, and men 16 hours.
- Men spent two hours per day on average in workplaces, while women spent one hour.
- Men also spent more time per day on average than women in public spaces such as streets, shops, and shebeens.



#### **Most common combinations of simultaneous activities**

- Some people reported that they did two, or even three, activities at the same time.
- Socialising with family and watching television accounted for 12% of all times per day when two simultaneous activities were reported.
- Socialising with family, watching television, and eating and drinking accounted for 7% of all times per day when three simultaneous activities were reported.

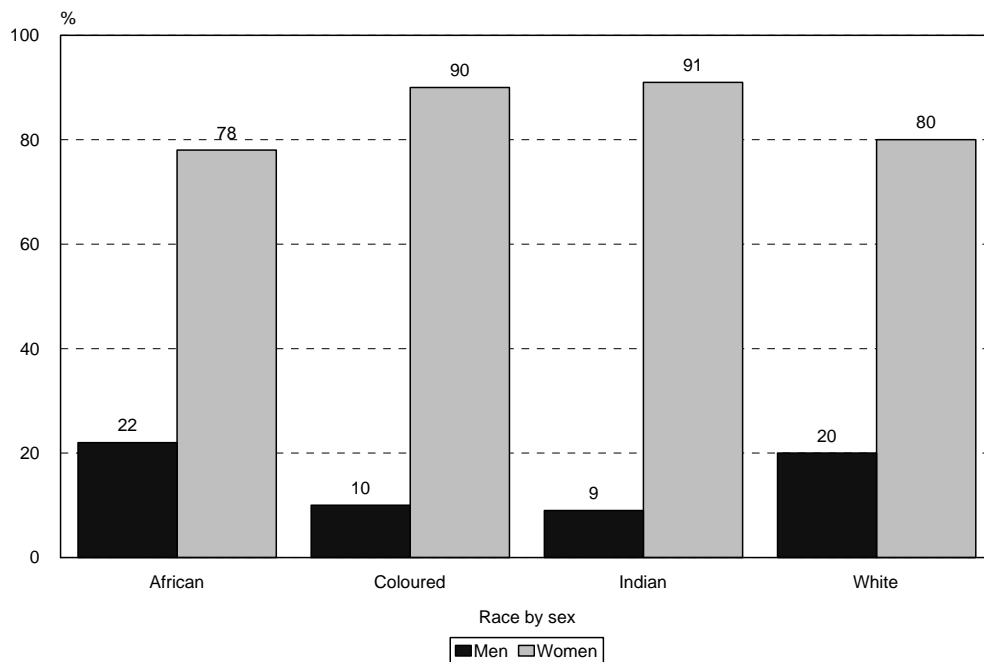




**Mean minutes per day spent on housework by whether or not a domestic worker does most of the housework and sex of respondent**

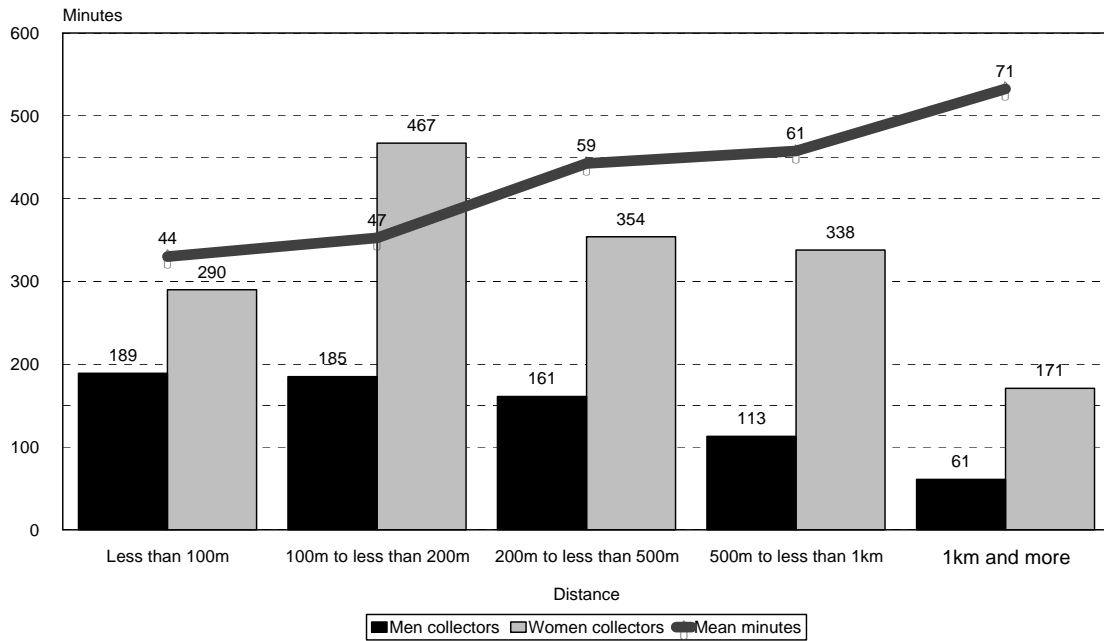
- Six per cent of the people interviewed lived in households where a domestic worker did most of the housework. These interviewees spent less time, on average, per day on housework than others.
- On average, women spent more time per day on housework than men, whether or not a domestic worker did most of the housework.

### Most housework by race and sex



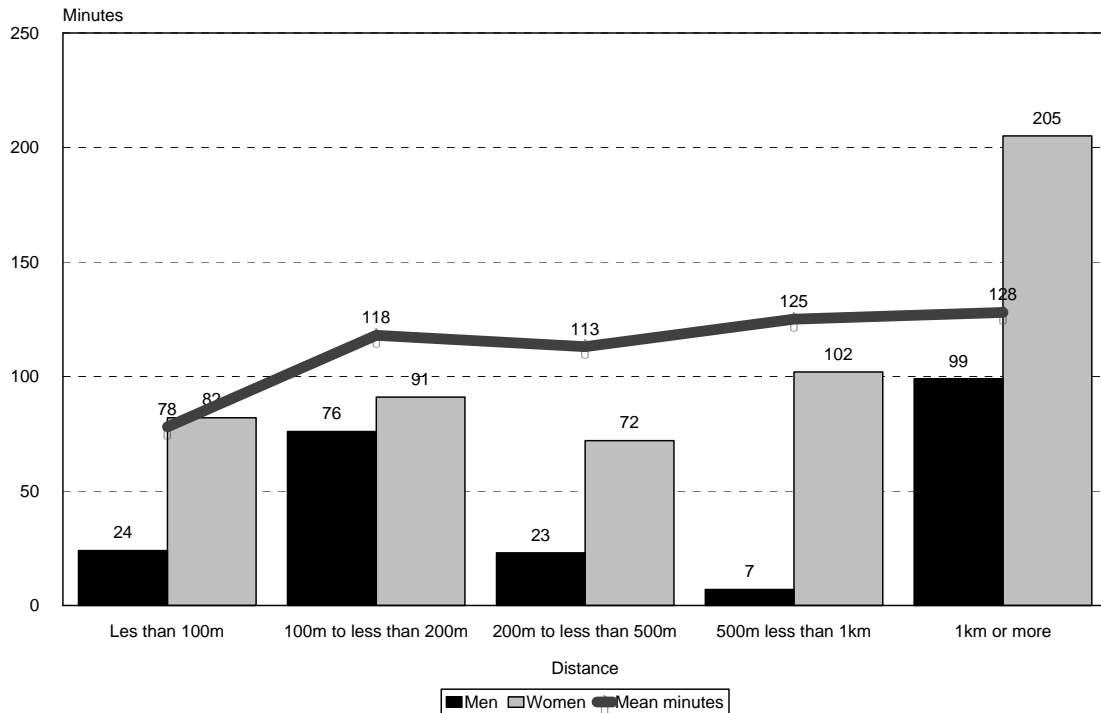
**Person with most responsibility for housework by population group and sex**

- In households where a domestic worker did not do most of the work, women household members bore most responsibility for the housework.
- In Indian and coloured households, women bore the main responsibility in about nine out of ten cases.
- In African and white households, women had the main responsibility in about eight out of ten cases.



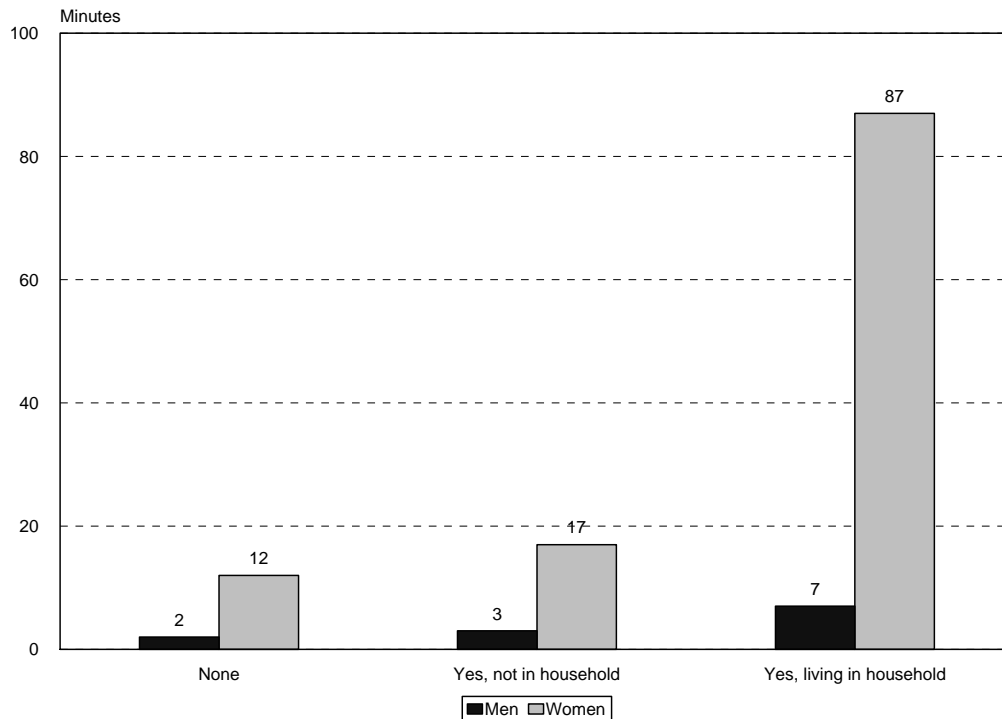
**Usual collectors of water and mean minutes per day spent collecting water**

- The bars in the graph show how many women and how many men spent time in the reported day collecting water. They show that women were more likely than men to perform this task.
- The line in the graph shows that the average time spent fetching water increased with the distance from the source.
- Water collectors who were one kilometre or more distant from the source spent an average of 71 minutes per day doing this task.



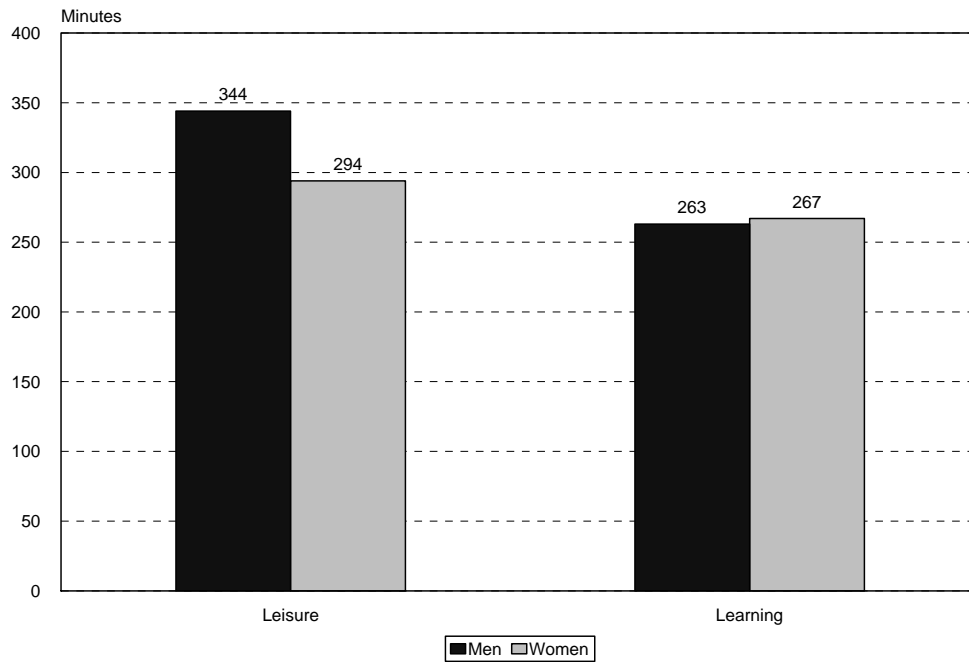
**Usual collectors of fuel and mean minutes per day spent collecting fuel**

- Women were also more likely than men to collect fuel, no matter what the distance from the source.
- Collectors who were a kilometre or more distant from the source, spent 126 minutes on average per day on this task.
- Overall, more people reported collecting fuel than water, and the fuel was further away from their dwellings.



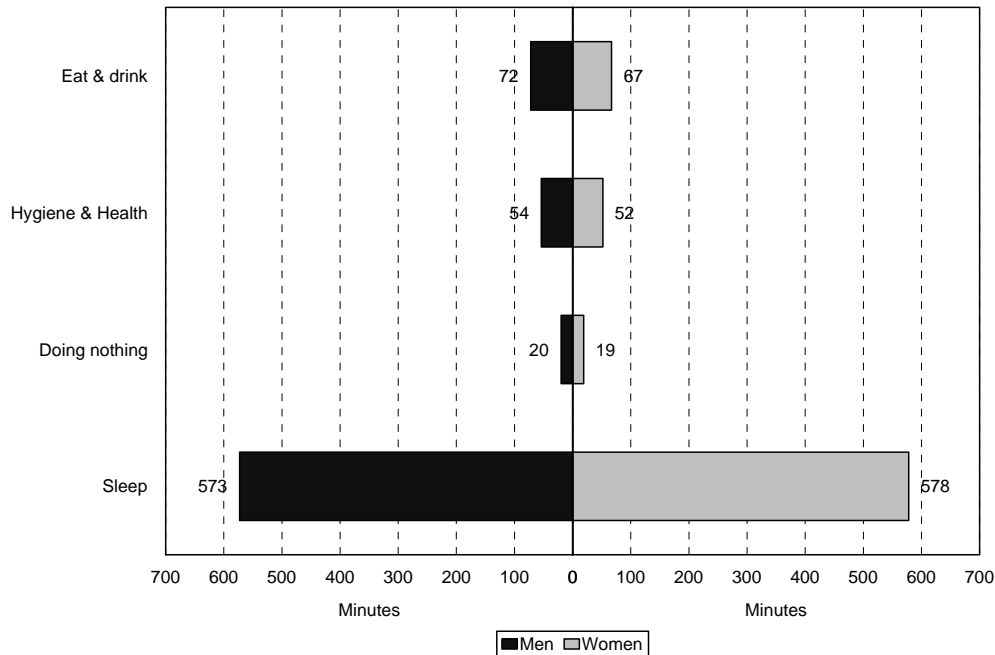
**Mean minutes per day spent on childcare by whether or not the person had children under 7 years living in the household or living elsewhere, and sex**

- Over three-quarters of the people interviewed did not have any children under seven years of age. Four percent had children, but the children were not living with them.
- Women with a young child living with them spent, on average, nearly an hour and a half each day on child care. Men with a young child living with them spent an average of only seven minutes.
- Women with no children spent more minutes per day, on average, on child care than men living with a child.



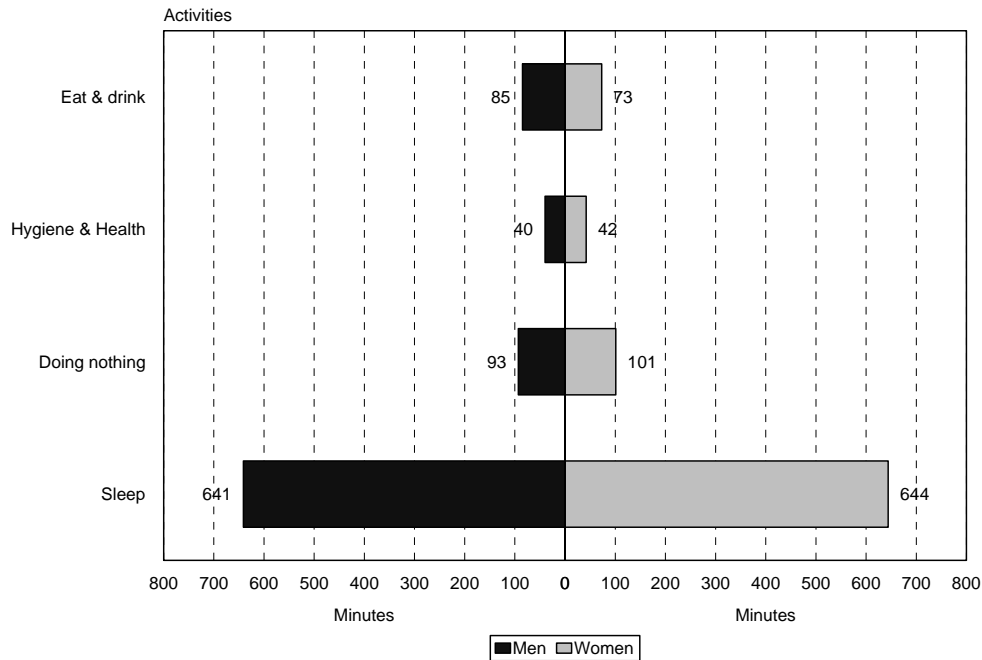
**Mean minutes per day spent by teenagers on learning, play and leisure by sex**

- Teenage boys spent 50 minutes more minutes per day, on average, than girls on leisure activities such as socialising, watching television and playing.
- On average, boys and girls spent the same amount of minutes learning each day.
- Both boys and girls spent more minutes per day, on average, on leisure activities than on learning.



**Mean minutes per day spent by teenagers on personal care by sex**

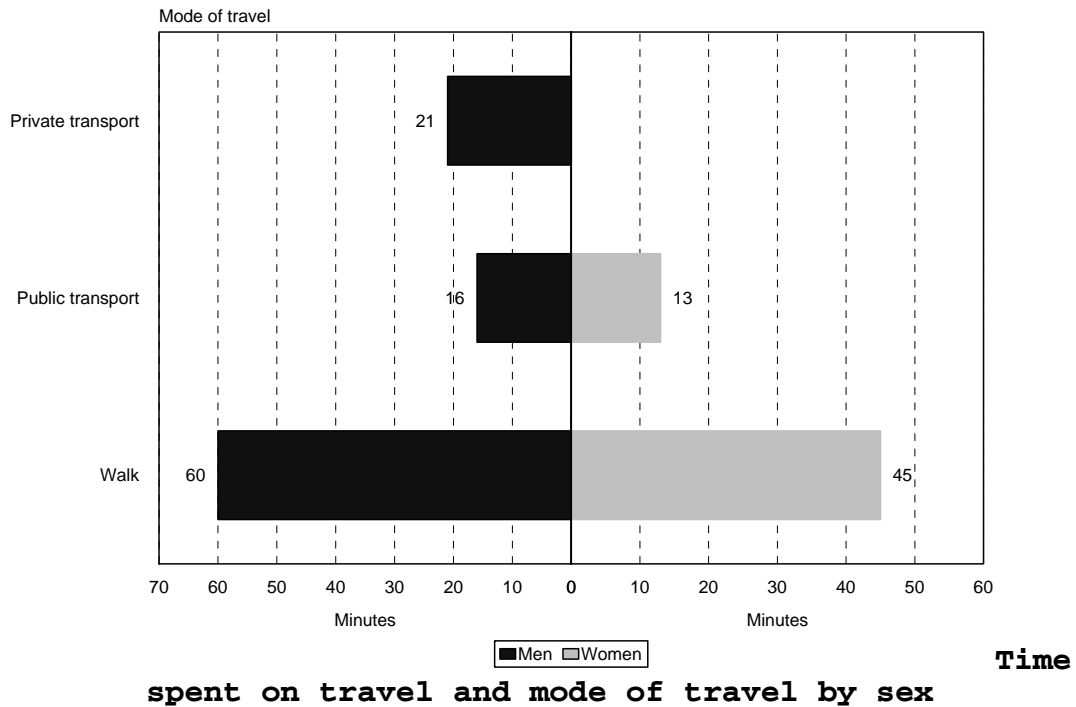
- On average, boys and girls spent more than nine and a half hours sleeping per day, and over an hour eating and drinking.
- Teenagers also spent an average of nearly one hour per day on hygiene and health activities, such as dressing and washing.
- There were very small differences between girls and boys in how they spent their time on personal care.



**Mean minutes per day spent by elderly people on personal care activities by sex**

- Elderly women and men spent close on eleven hours a day on average sleeping, and well over an hour eating and drinking.
- Elderly people also spent an hour and a half per day on average resting or relaxing while doing nothing else.
- On average, the time spent by elderly people on sleeping, eating and drinking is longer than for younger people.





- Overall, men spent an average of 100 minutes per day travelling, while women spent 72 minutes.
- For both women and men, walking was the most common mode of travel.
- Of those people using vehicles, men were more likely than women to use private transport. Women were more likely to use public transport.