



**Launch of Global Center of
Excellence on Gender Statistics
and the First Global Conference
on Gender Equality and the
Measurement of Unpaid Care and
Domestic Work**



CEGS
Global Center of Excellence
on Gender Statistics

**10 - 11
September 2018
Mexico City**

To Be Aware (Estar Pendiente) of Care for Dependents (and beware of how it is conventionally measured)

- **Activities versus responsibilities**
- **Time constraints and legal rules**
- **Inconsistent measurement**
- **Consequences for policy**

Diverse Terms Categorized in Diverse Ways...

- **Supervisory care**
- **Passive care**
- **“Looking after” children**
- **Children “in your care”**
- **Being “on-call”**
- **“Estar al pendiente”**



Primary activities?

Secondary activities?

Both?

**Distinct from but
overlapping activities?**

...and Operationalized in Diverse Ways

- **Included or not included on an “activity list”?**
- **Specifically incorporated into survey instrument?**
- **Included in instructions to enumerators?**
- **Left at the discretion of respondents?**

Empirical Consequences

Estimates of total time devoted to care of children
and other dependents—
and therefore, of total time devoted to unpaid work--
are **NOT COMPARABLE** across most national surveys.

NOT JUST “NOT HARMONIZED”—OFTEN NON-HARMONIZABLE!

Implications for Gender Equality

Men are much more likely to provide supervisory care than active care.

Ignoring supervisory care **understates** their contribution.

But treating supervisory care (often combined with leisure activities) the same as active care **overstates** their contribution relative to women.

Implications for Development Policy

- Difficult to accurately compare effects of public child care provision or other family policies on time use across countries.
- Difficult to even ascertain effects of public child care provision within countries:
- Australian and U.S. data suggest it reduces supervisory child care time significantly but has little effect on active care time.



Thanks for your attention!

For more information or details
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