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Measuring Poverty and
Inequality
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What is the role of unequal sharing of resources within households?

Outline of the problem

“While income is usually received by individuals, it is normally shared with other household members present e.g. spouse and children.”

“This distribution reflects the assumption that household income is shared equally between all members of the household, and does not reflect the direct receipt of income by individuals. Because many household members receive no money income, e.g. younger children, such an assumption is hard to avoid in practice.”

(Canberra Handbook, UNECE, 2011).

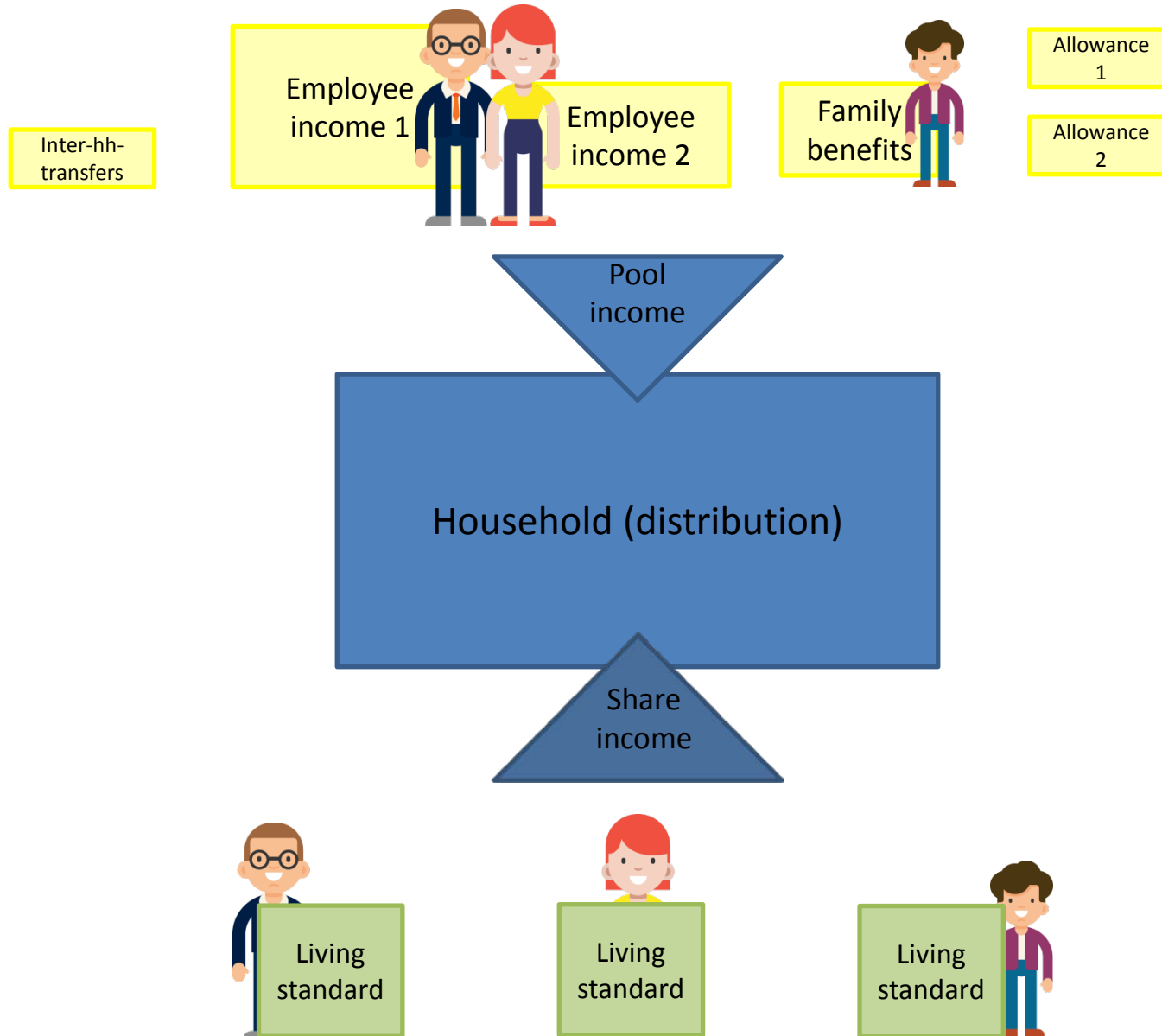
“...taking within-household factors into account in poverty measurement... [is an] agenda for action.”

(Jenkins, 1991).

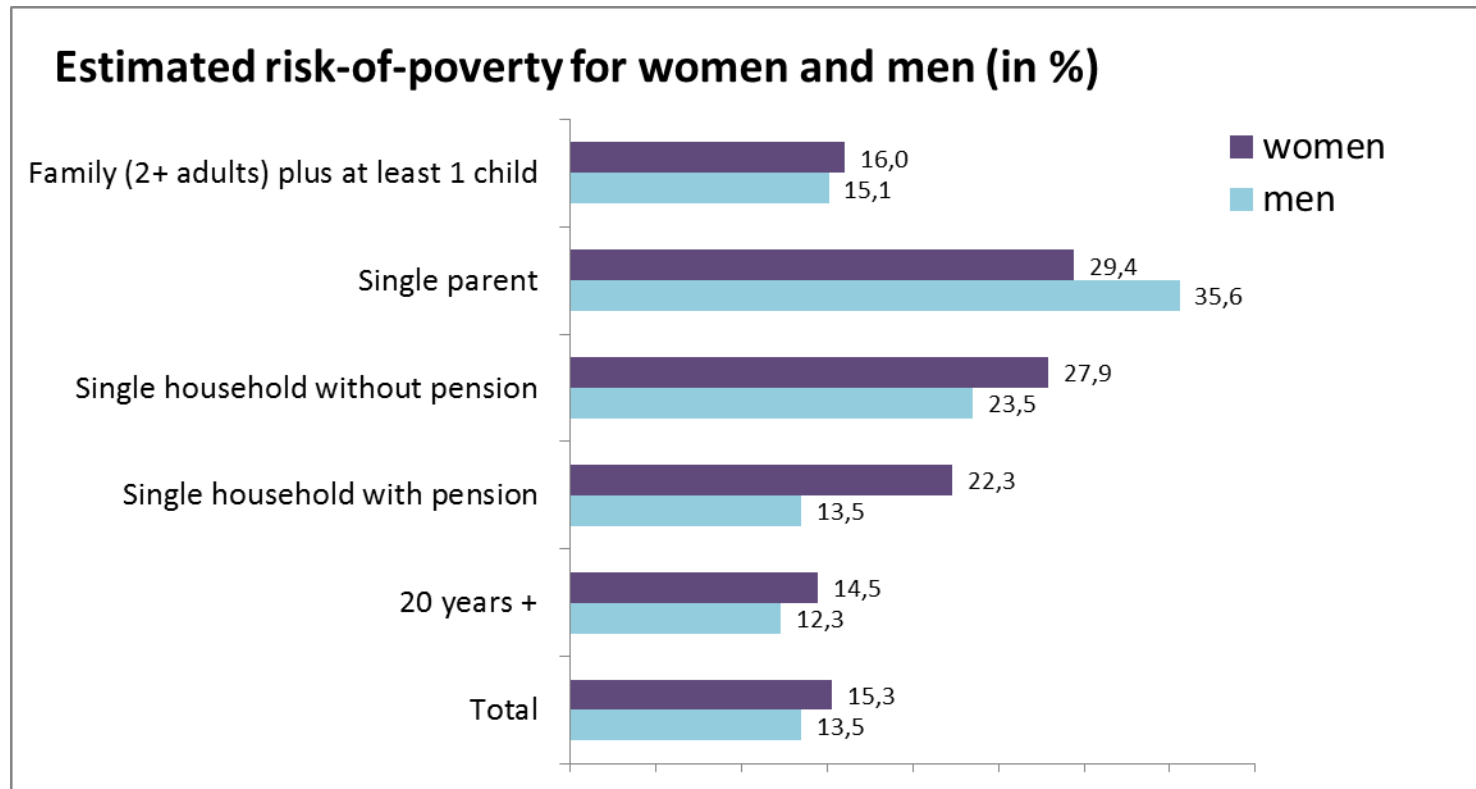
“There is widespread concern that both women and children are disproportionately represented among the global poor. The *Millennium Development Goals Report 2015* states that “women face a greater risk of living in poverty” (United Nations 2015a, 16).”

(Atkinson/ World Bank, 2017).

The [standard] household income model



Risk of poverty by gender using the [standard] hh income model



S: Statistics Austria, EU-SILC 2017.

Disaggregation of poverty measures

2 alternative approaches

➤ **Personal equivalised income approach** (Ponthieux 2017)

pooling regime

pooled vs. private income

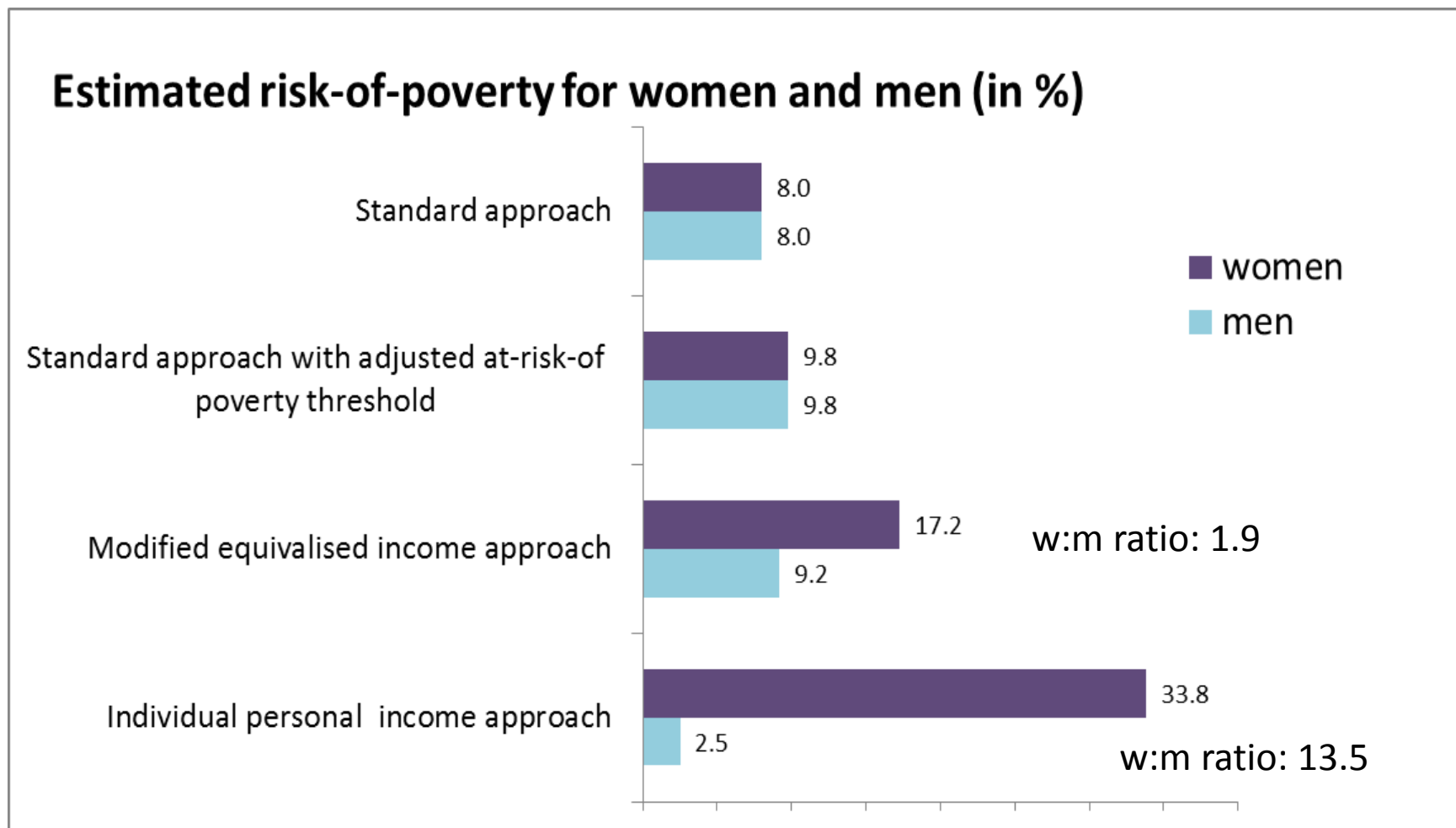
equivalised share of household income + private income

➤ **Individual personal income approach** (Heuberger/Knittler 2018)

personal income + equal share of household income

alternative at-risk-of-poverty threshold

Gender differences in poverty risk for couple hhs



S: Statistics Austria, EU-SILC 2010.

Couple households in the Austrian dataset of the EU-SILC module 2010 .

Recommendations

1. Do not ignore intra-household distributions!
2. Use personal income components (register or quest.)
3. OR have some (simple) survey questions and/or model on intra-hh distributions.
-> Use it to analyse income/wage based phenomena, monetary poverty, social transfer systems,...
4. Collect items on material well-being/deprivation on individual level.
-> Use it to analyse differences between household members absolute living standard and/or to validate results of intra-household income distribution.
5. Dissaggregate poverty by social characteristics and don't be afraid to show different poverty risks for persons living in the same households!
6. Remember the conceptual decisions behind your results.
-> Use those „new“ individual poverty profiles for social policy making where you aim at the personal level (not the household as a unit).

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Thank you for your attention!