

# Sex or Sexuality?

## Exploring Household Labor and Travel Among Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Households

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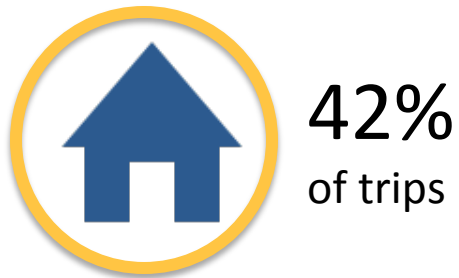
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# A Nation of Schleppers

- We tend to focus most on the journey to work
- Household-serving travel constitutes a far larger share of personal trip-making



- We need to understand what's behind trends in household travel
  - To plan intelligently for the future

# Modern Family

- Much travel behavior research focuses on traditional nuclear families
  - And almost all on heterosexual households
- But family demographics have been diversifying for decades
  - And at an accelerated rate in recent years
- Examining time use and travel in gay and lesbian households
  - Offers insight on how the gendered division of household travel may be expected to change in the years ahead

# Gender, Paid Labor, & Housework

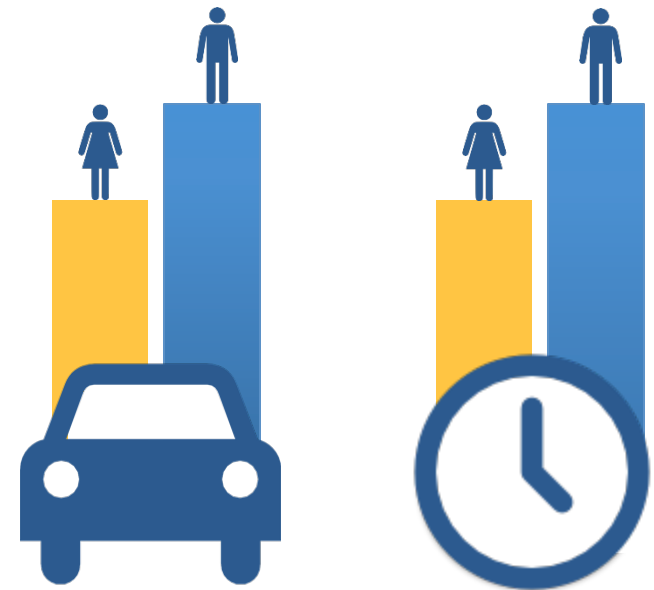
- Men are doing more housework
  - But, women still do 60% more household labor and make more household serving trips than men



- Lesbians divide labor more equally than either heterosexual or gay households
  - Gender roles are more fluid in same-sex couples

# Gender & the Commute

- Women make shorter commutes in both distance and time compared to men
- Married heterosexual women have shorter commute time compared to partnered lesbians
- Gay men and lesbians work closer to home than heterosexual counterparts



# Our Study

- Current literature focuses primarily on heterosexual households
- **Objective**
  - How do gay and lesbian households' division of household-serving labor and travel differ from straight households'?
- **Findings**
  - Gay and lesbian households represent a middle ground between men and women in straight households.
  - Sex, more than sexuality, defines the division of household-serving labor and travel

# Data & Methods

- **Data**

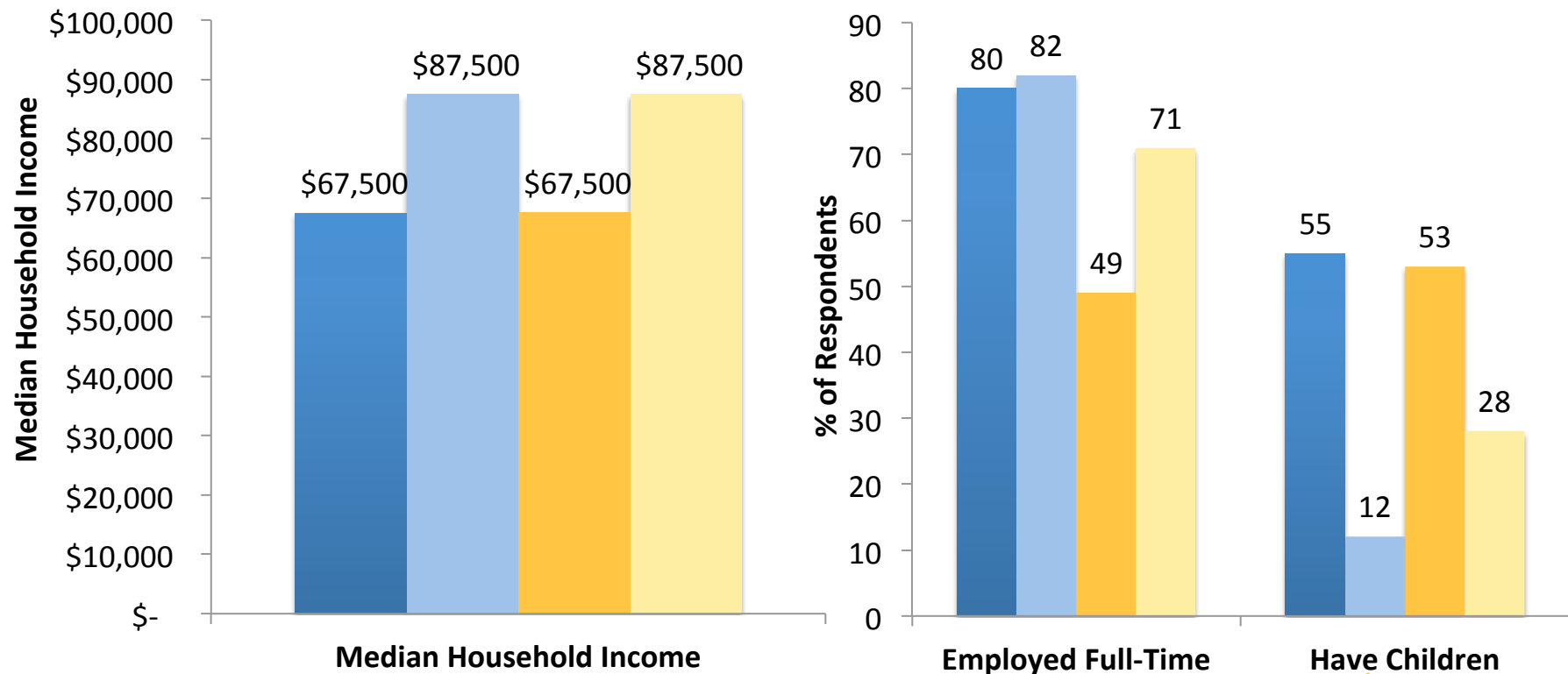
- 2003-2012 American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and 2003-2012 Current Population Survey (CPS)
- Sample limited to respondents 1) ages 18-65; 2) employed full-time; 3) in a couple
- Identifying sexuality within the ATUS
- Limitations: aspatial data; unable to examine exact tradeoff between members of households

- **Methods**

- Mean and median comparisons between groups

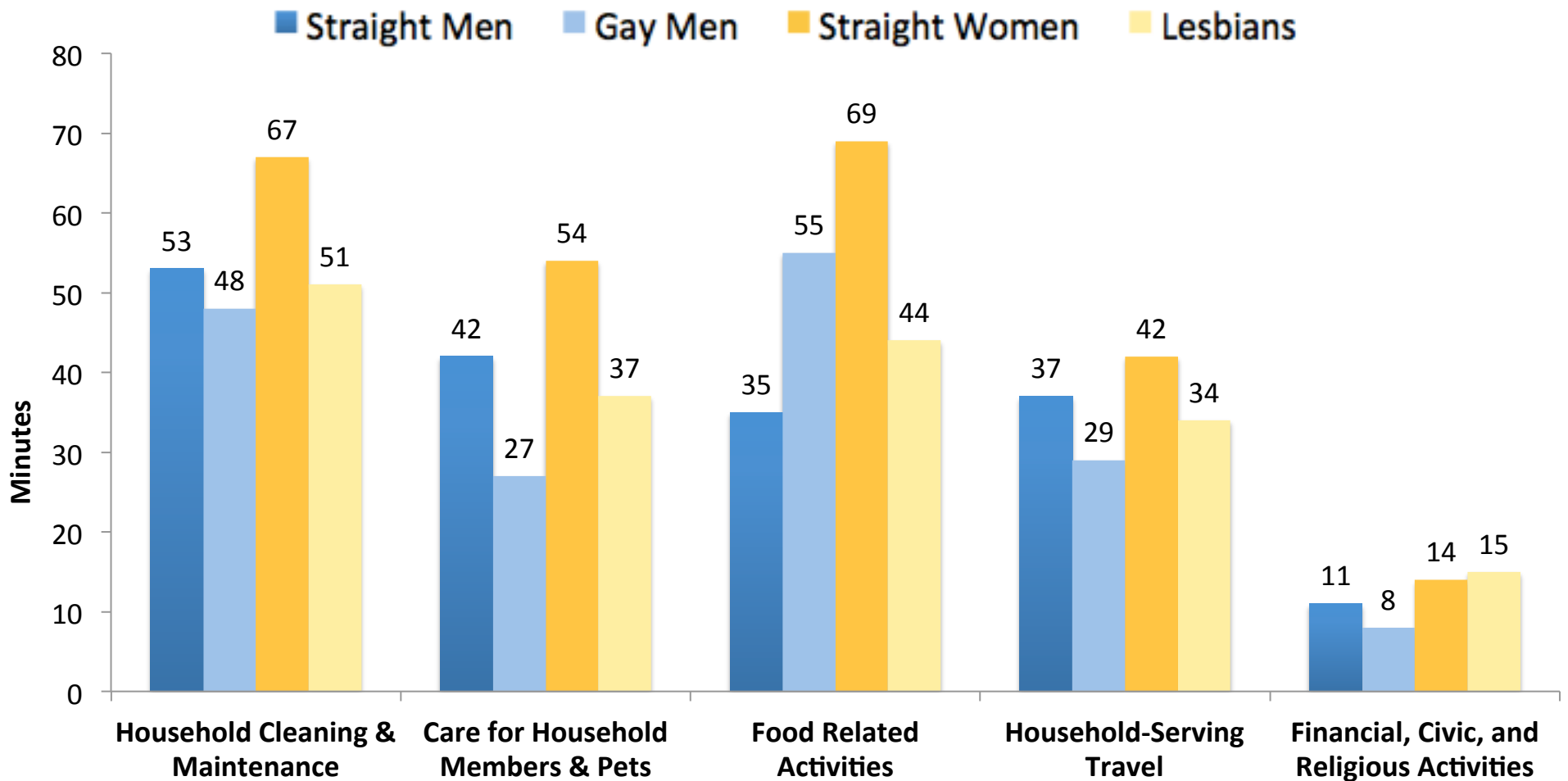
# Household Characteristics

■ Straight Men   ■ Gay Men   ■ Straight Women   ■ Lesbians

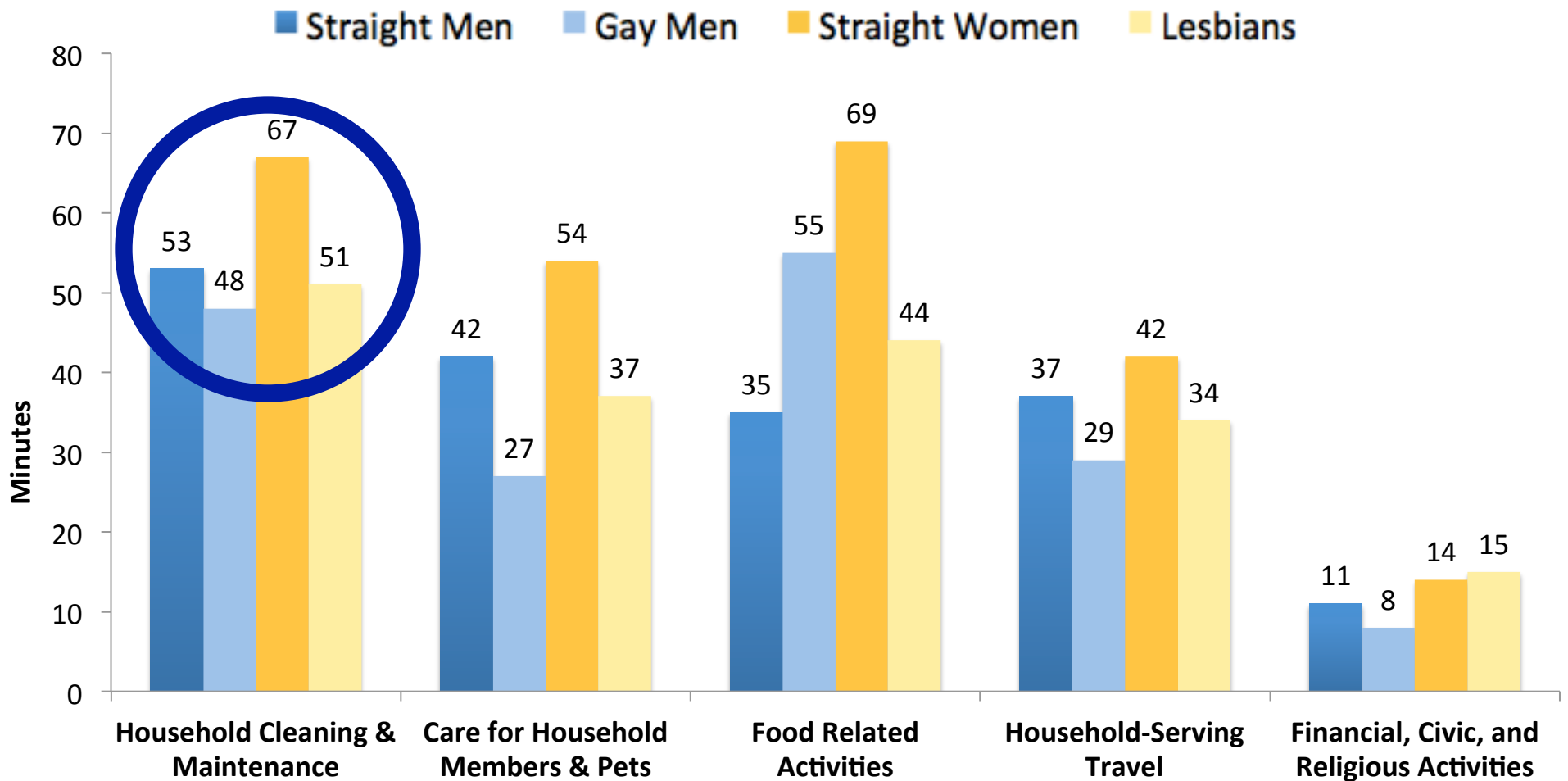




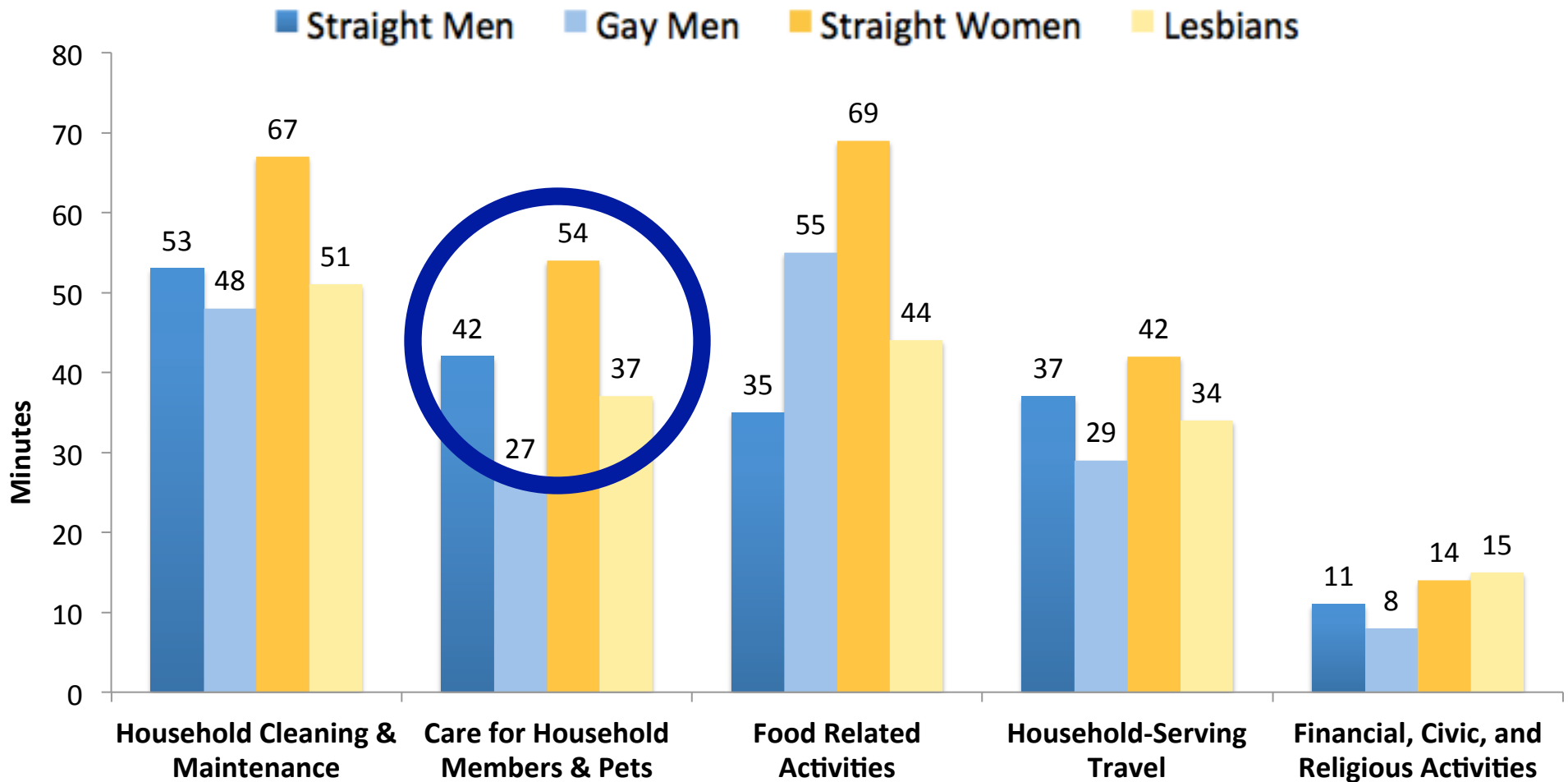
# Household-Serving Labor & Travel



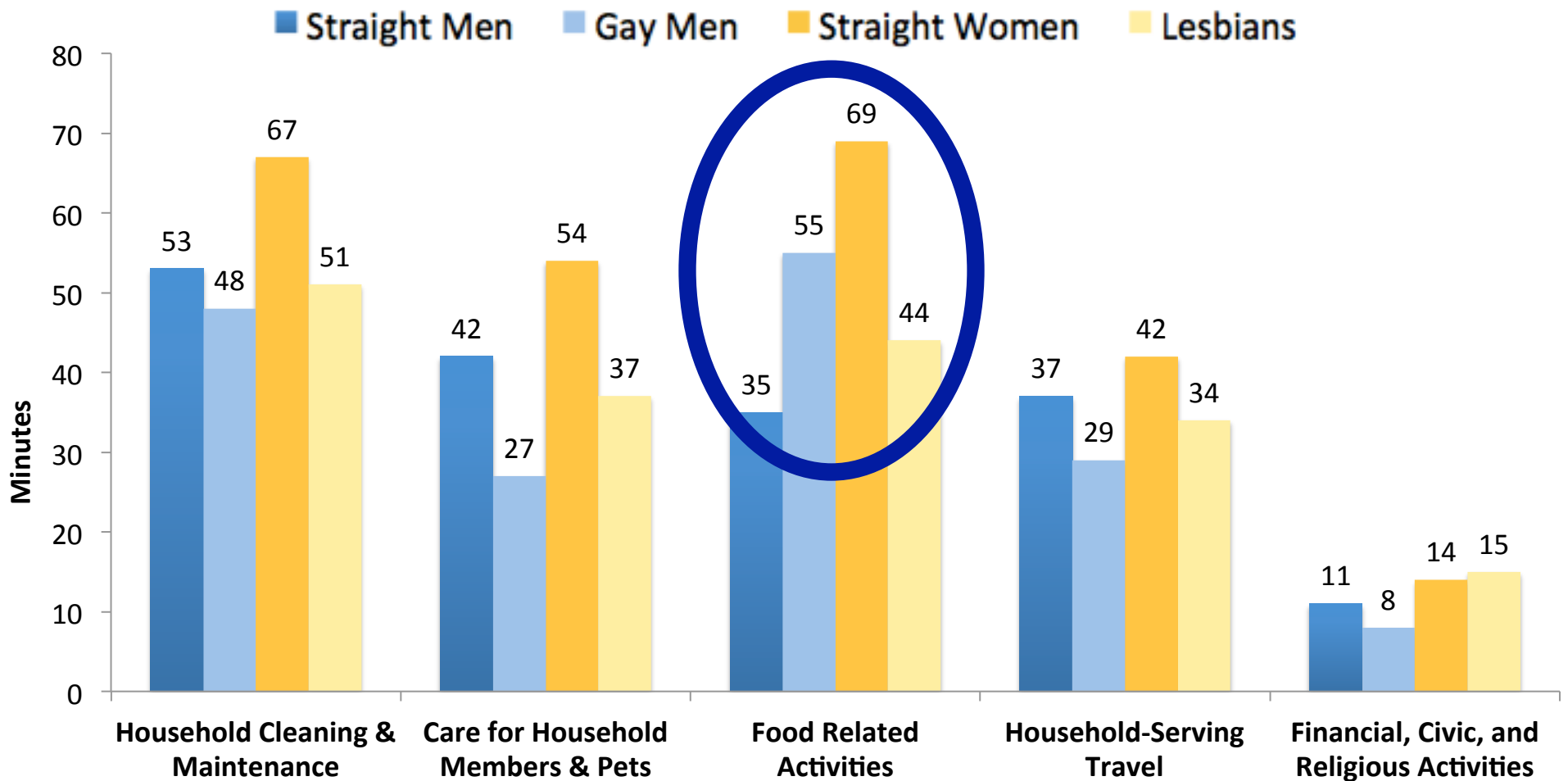
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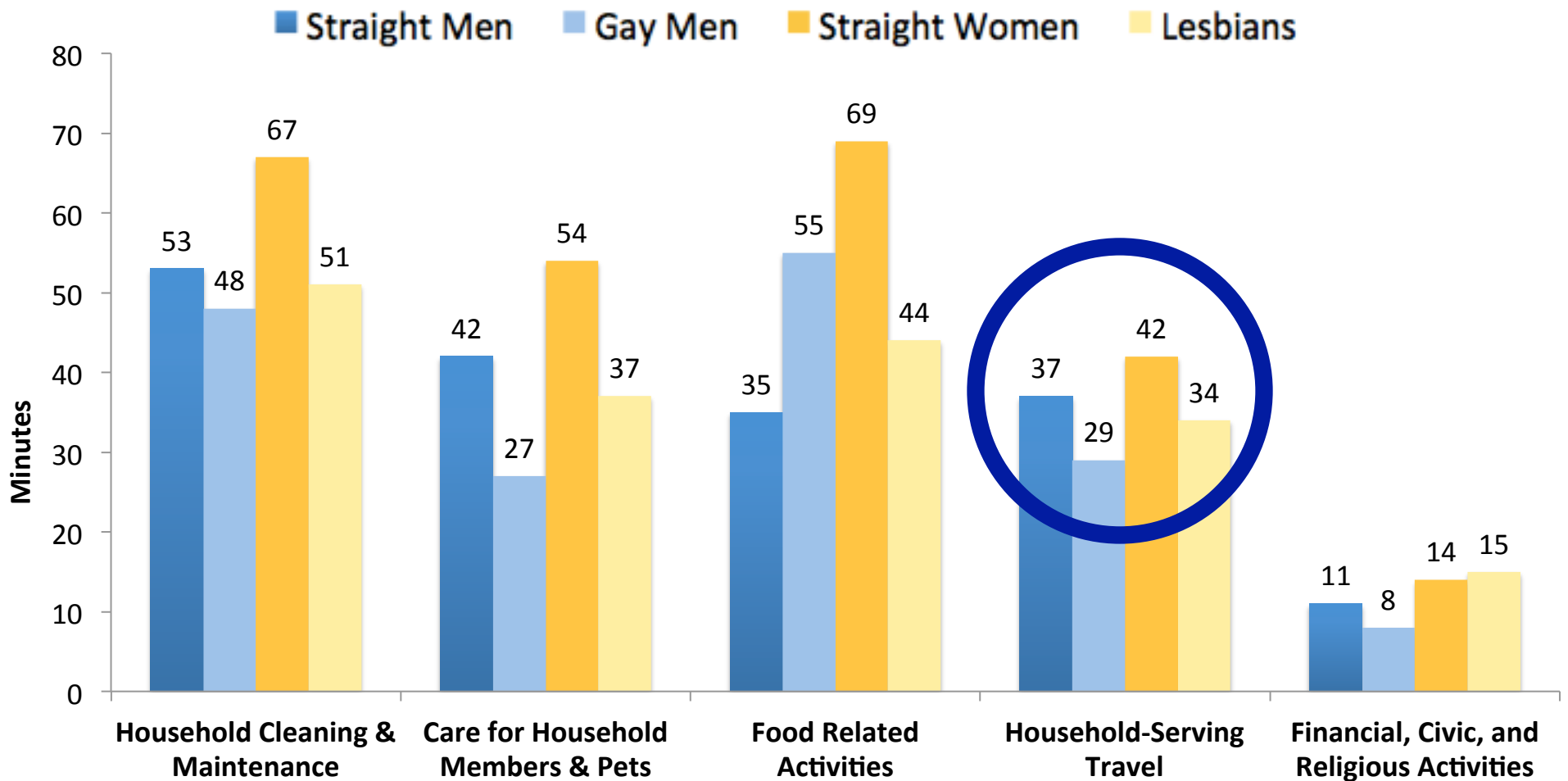
# Household-Serving Labor & Travel



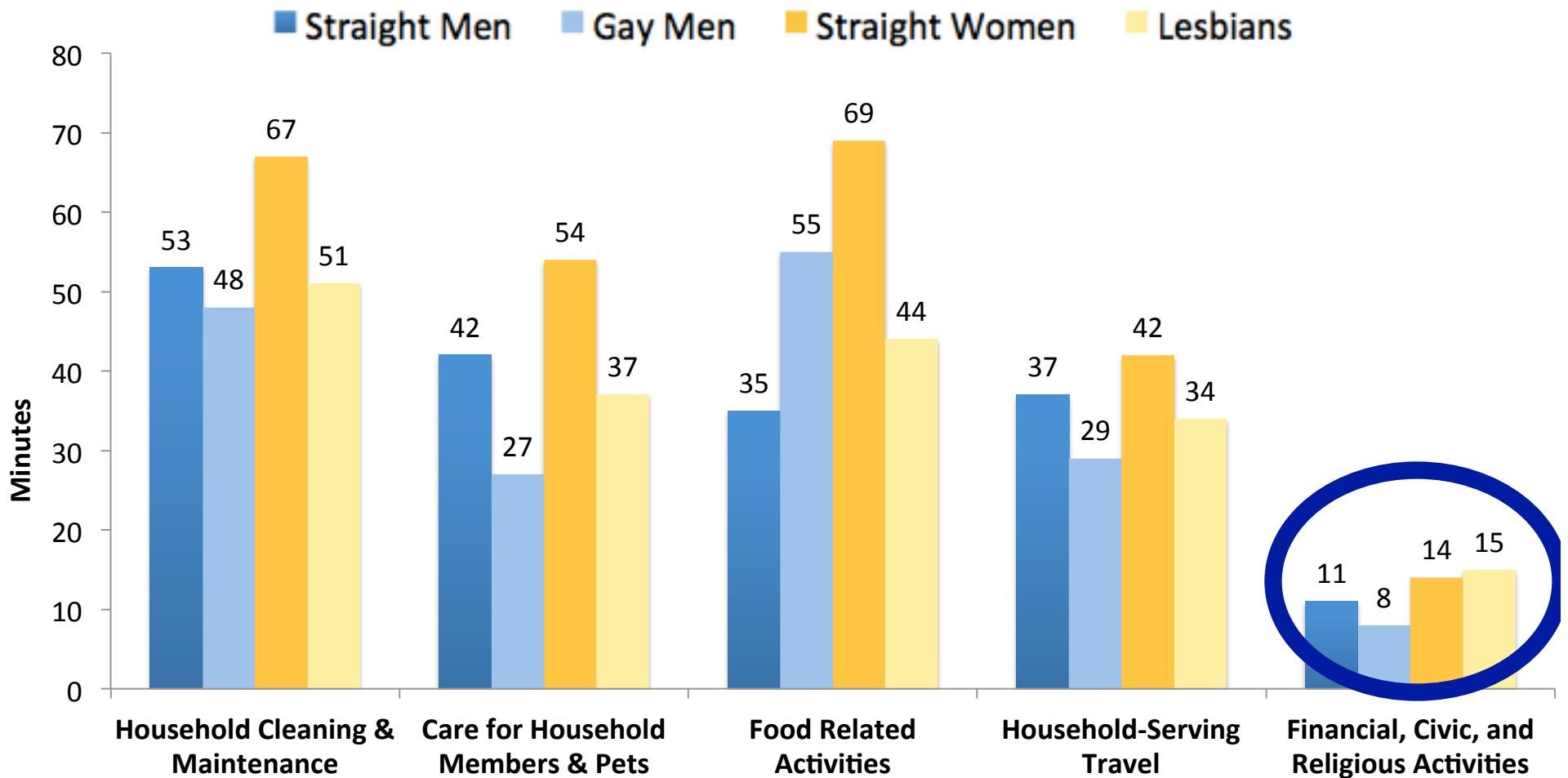
# Household-Serving Labor & Travel



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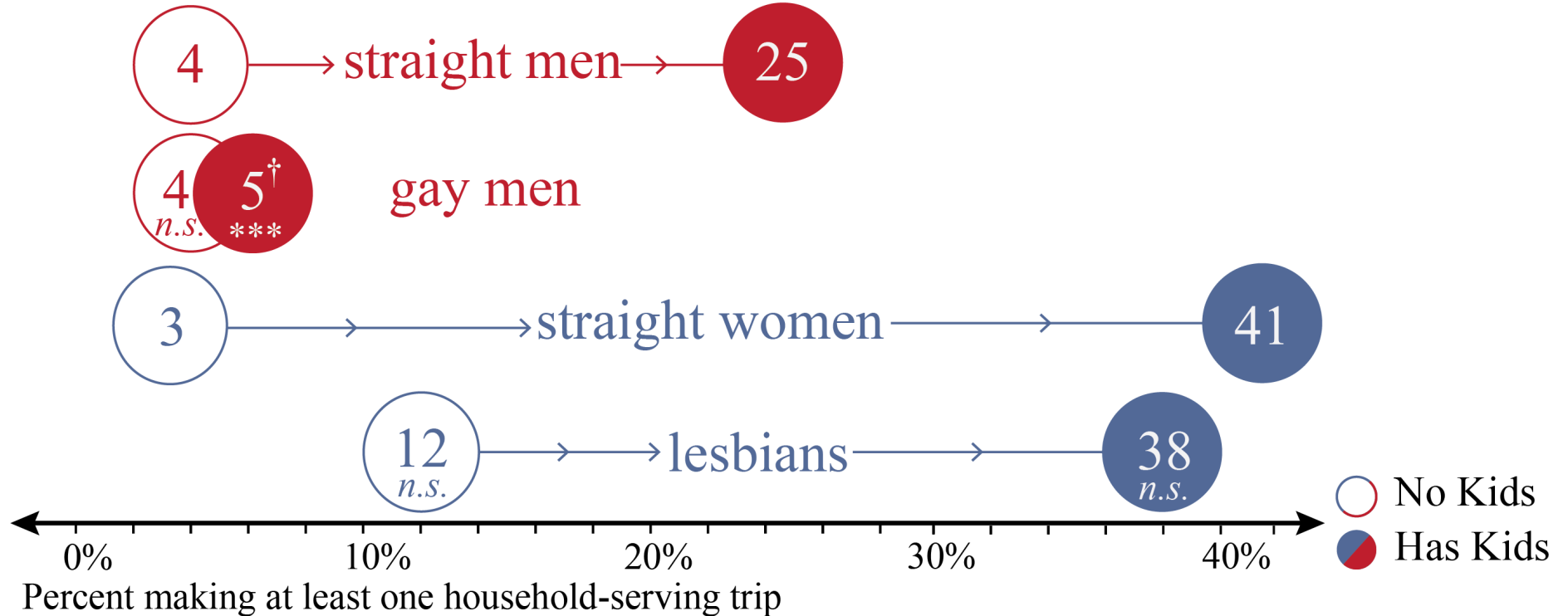


# Household-Serving Labor & Travel



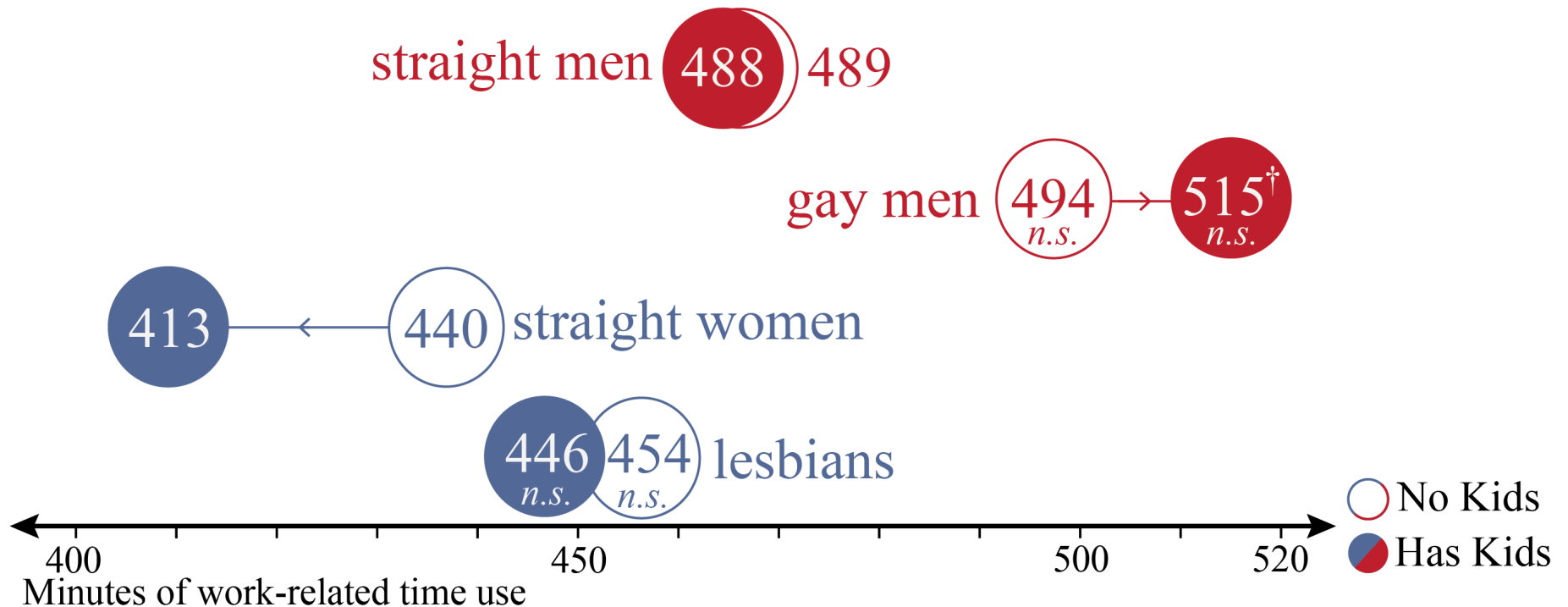
# Findings: Household-Serving Travel

- Across all groups, having children increases the percent of respondents making at least one household-serving trip



# Findings: the Journey to Work

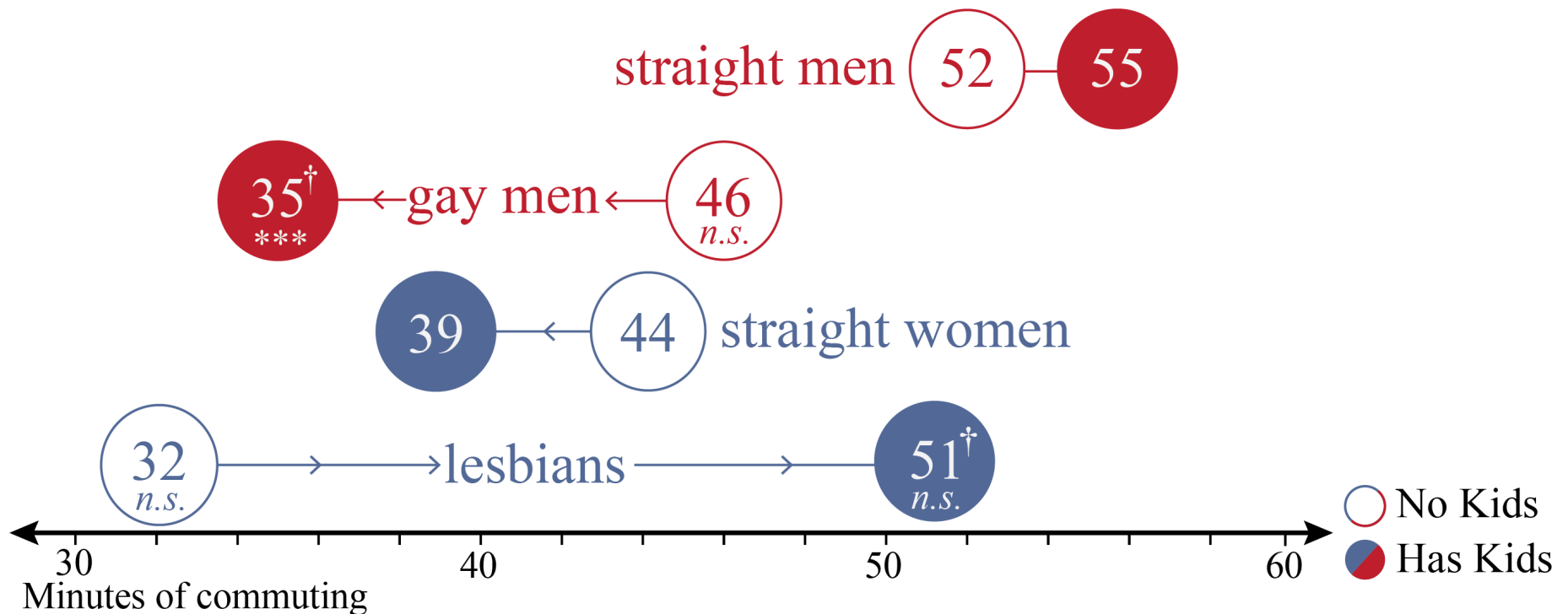
- Having children most reduces the time straight women spend on work-related activities, including travel





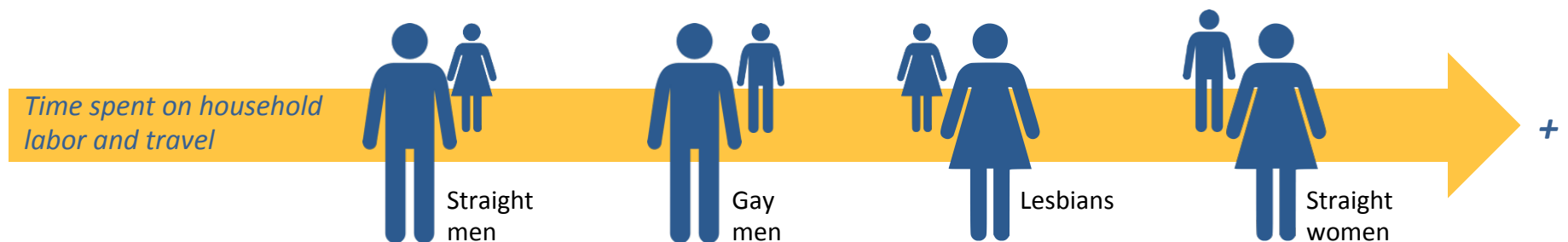
# Findings: the Journey to Work

- Straight men and lesbians' commute times increase when children are present, while gay men and straight women's commute times decrease



# Discussion

- Gendered division of labor and travel persists in straight households
  - Gay and lesbian households occupy a middle ground
  - Same-sex households may divide household serving labor and travel more equally than heterosexual households



# Discussion

- Embedded gender roles persist regardless of sexuality; gay and lesbian households more egalitarian because men behave like other men and women behave like other women
  - In other words, it's sex, more than sexuality, that largely defines the division of household-serving labor and travel
- When forecasting, planning, or researching travel, must consider the growing diversity of household structures and the trips they generate

# Thank you

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