

How family changes affect the health and well-being of older populations in LMICs?

Workshop: Developing an Agenda for Population Aging and Social Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Pablo Ibararán

**Social Protection and Health Division Chief
Interamerican Development Bank**

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Trends that define the care environment in LAC



Reliance in family care



Dependent adults



Family care network

- Smaller families

- + Women in the labor market



Most of the care is done at home by family



Only **0.5%** of older people in the region
live in long term institutions



~80% of older people

being cared at home

receive family care



Professional care is uncommon



ARGENTINA



Most of the care is done by women

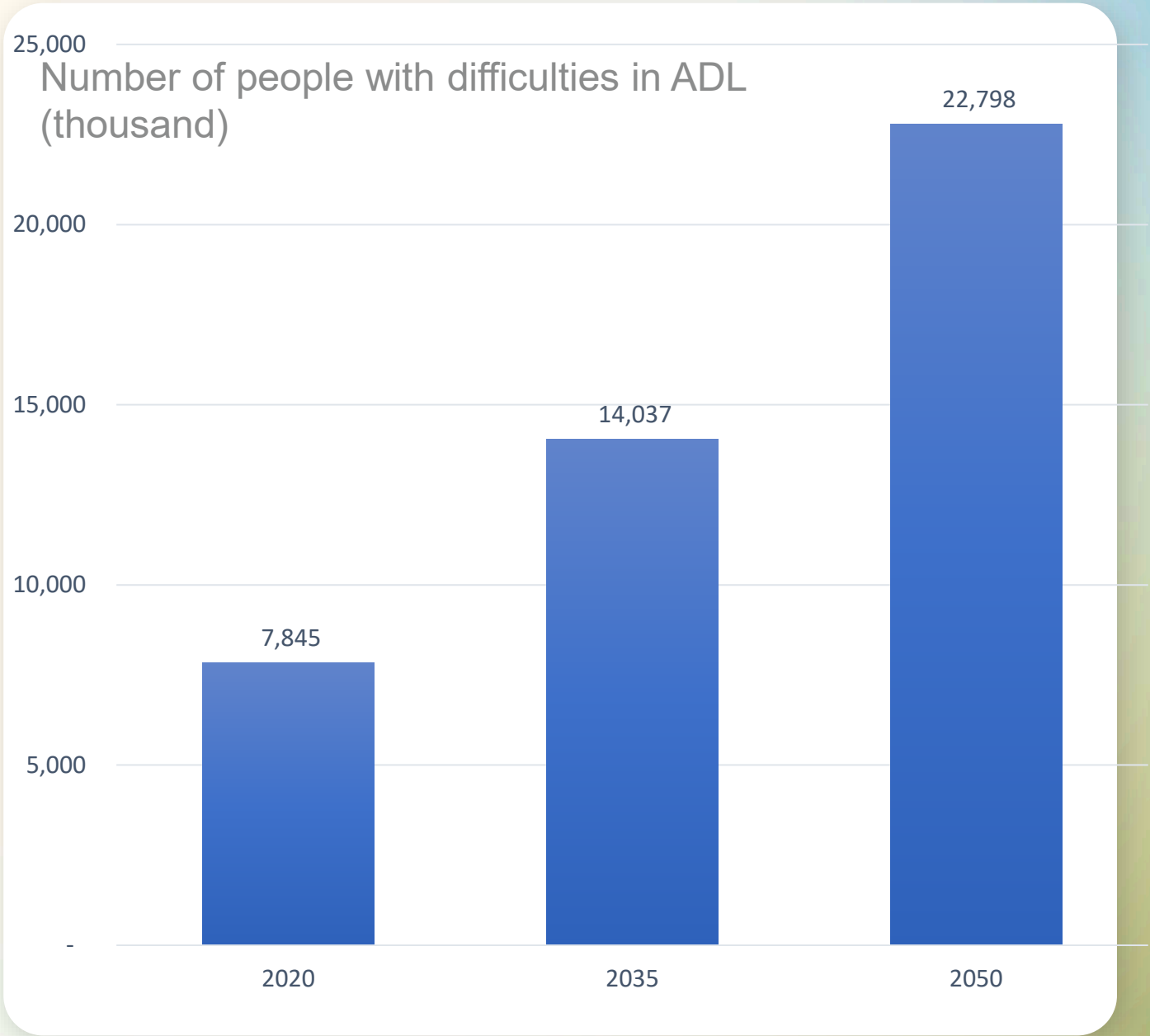
% of caregivers that are women



And women spend **6 to 9 hours a week** more than men in caring activities, which has consequences in terms of **poverty rates** and **health status**



Care needs are increasing




And the network of family caregivers is shrinking

Low fertility rates
and migration
patterns mean
smaller families

Women
participation in
the **labor force** is
rising

**Long-term care
systems** in the
region are
incipient

 **20%** of dependent **older people**
do not receive any type of care

25%
in Mexico
and Argentina

Sources of data in LAC are scarce and heterogeneous (I)



Surveys on health and aging

Examples:

Brazil (2018) Chile (2015) Colombia (2015)
Paraguay (2015) El Salvador (2013) Argentina (2012)
Uruguay (2013, 2016, pr. comparability)
Mexico (6 rounds since 2001, latest 2021)

- Level of dependence
- Care arrangements
- Basic caregiver characteristics



Time use surveys

Examples:

Brazil (2019) Guatemala (2019) Mexico (2019) Costa Rica
(2017) El Salvador (2017) Paraguay (2016) Chile (2015)
Uruguay (2013, 2022)

- Time spent in paid and unpaid work
- Time spent caring for others
- Caregivers characteristics

Sources:

Prevalence of care dependence among older persons in 26 Latin American and the Caribbean countries, BID (2022) <https://publications.iadb.org/en/prevalence-care-dependence-among-older-persons-26-latin-american-and-caribbean-countries>

Time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC (2021) https://oig.cepal.org/sites/default/files/c2100830_web.pdf

Sources of data in LAC are scarce and heterogeneous (II)

Other surveys

- Gender and generations surveys
Cultural changes regarding family and gender representations
Uruguay (2022), Buenos Aires (*forthcoming*)
- Disability surveys
- Household surveys, census

Comparability across countries and time trend analysis is challenging

- Differences in the **population** considered
- Differences in the number and types of **activities** considered
- Differences in the type and range of **possible answers**
- Differences in **wording**
- Few countries with **multiple rounds** (*Mexico an exception*)



Even less is known about paid care workers

~ 8.9 million paid care workers in the region

take care of **dependent people**

Most are women in their early forties with secondary-level education and limited access to social protection benefits.

35%

Personal care workers as a percentage of employed people

0.3% 2.7%

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The IADB is trying to fill some gaps



Regional survey on paid and unpaid caregivers in the region

Population: ~330 unpaid caregivers + 550 paid caregivers (home and insitutions)

Participating countries: Argentina, Barbados, Brasil, Bolivia, Mexico, Dominican Republic



Next steps...

- Extend to other countries
- Longitudinal survey of paid care workers in home setting

We need to understand more so we can promote better policies

- ❖ How has the **gender division** of care responsibilities evolved?
- ❖ How do care strategies affect the **quality of life of dependent persons**?
- ❖ How do care strategies affect the **quality of life of family caregivers**?
- ❖ How are the **working conditions of paid care workers** and how that affect their quality of life and the care provided?

Thank you