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**Wife Breadwinning and Implications for Husband's and Wife's
Health: A Life Course and Cohort Approach**

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The rising share of wife-breadwinning families represents a profound change in U.S. heterosexual family dynamics. Despite growing research on the consequences of wife breadwinning on housework division and marital outcomes, little is known regarding its health consequences. To fill this gap, I draw on the Panel Study of Income Dynamics data to examine the relationship between wife breadwinning and husband's and wife's self-reported health across two cohorts. First, health selection plays an important role in explaining the relationship between earning arrangements and health for the Boomer but not the GenX cohort. Specifically, for Boomers who are not the primary breadwinner-men and women alike-it is not that their lower relative earnings lead to poor health but that poor health constrains their ability to contribute more to the household. Second, after adjusting for health selection, being a breadwinner is associated with lower odds of poor health among Boomer women, but this relationship has shifted significantly for GenXer women such that it ceases to hold. No such cohort difference is observed for men. Although this finding is open to multiple explanations, it is consistent with a large body of the literature showing that women nowadays find it increasingly difficult to combine demands from the work and home domains. To fulfill both the "ideal worker" and the "intensive mothering" norm, many breadwinning women may have cut back on their leisure time-time they could have spent on exercise or sleep-to take care of the family, which in turn may take a toll on their health. If this trend continuous, women from future cohorts may see even adverse health consequences associated with wife breadwinning.