

Off-farm work and wellbeing

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Off-farm work on Australian farms

- Limited data available from usual sources (ABS)
- Many farmers work off-farm
- RWS collected some data on off-farm work in 2015
- This presentation based on RWS

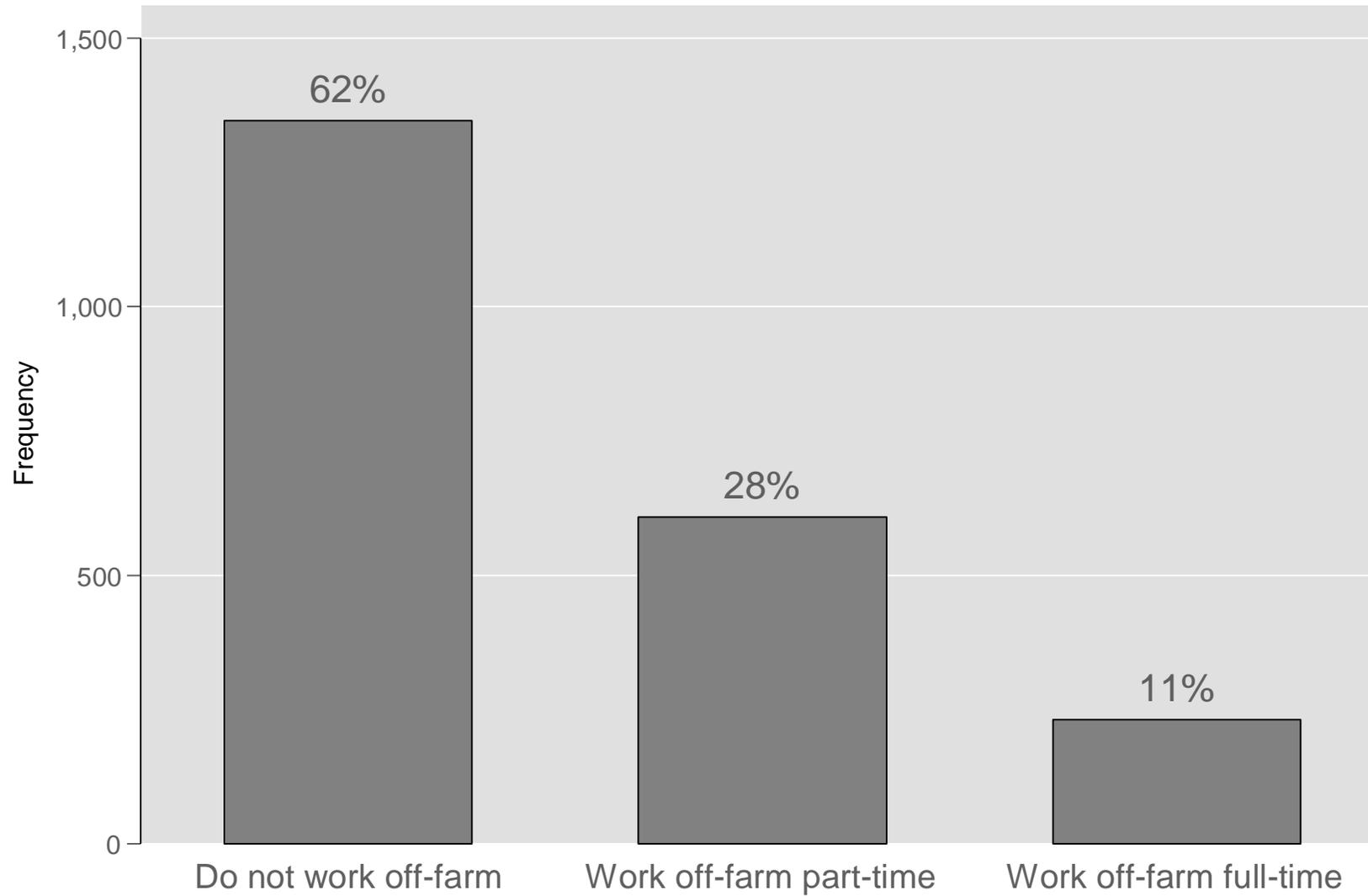
Off-farm work on Australian farms

- Reasonable sample size
 - 1,018 to 2,188 farmers depending on variable
 - Approximately 2/3 male and 1/3 female
 - Aged from 18 to 96, median age 60

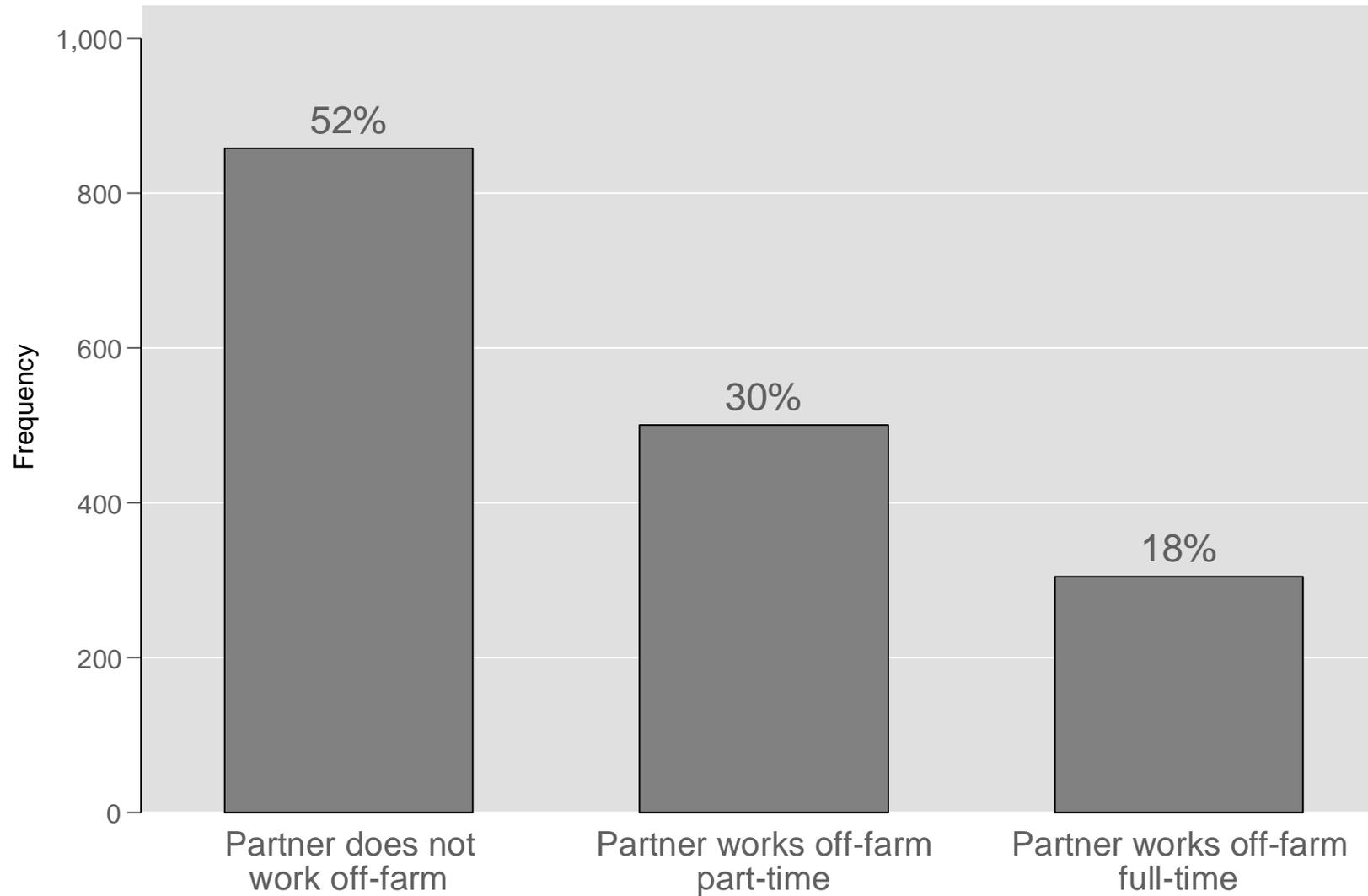
Off-farm work on Australian farms

- Exploratory work
 - Limited literature on off-farm work and health/wellbeing
 - Not clear which questions we should be asking
 - Results are tentative

Off-farm work on Australian farms

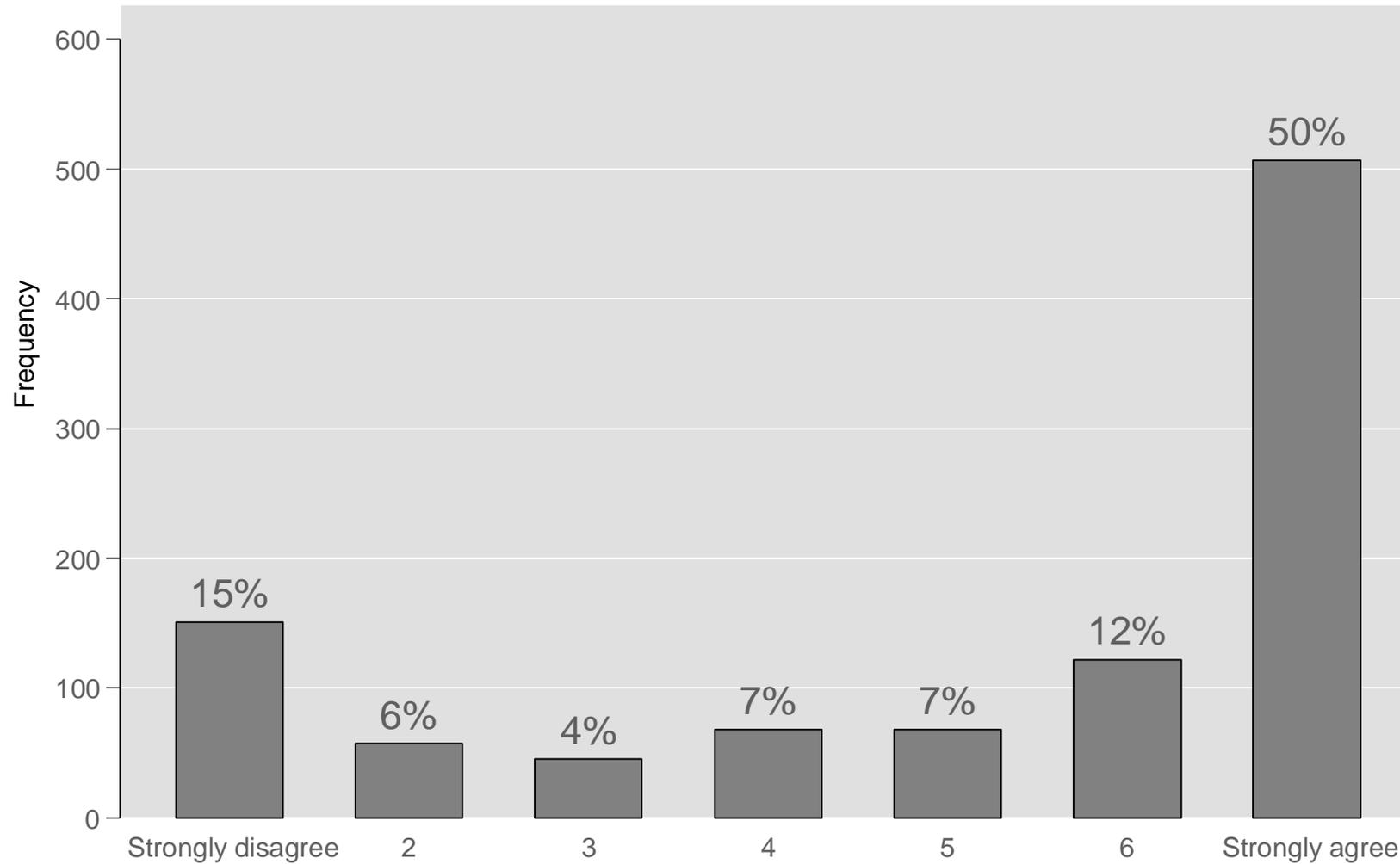


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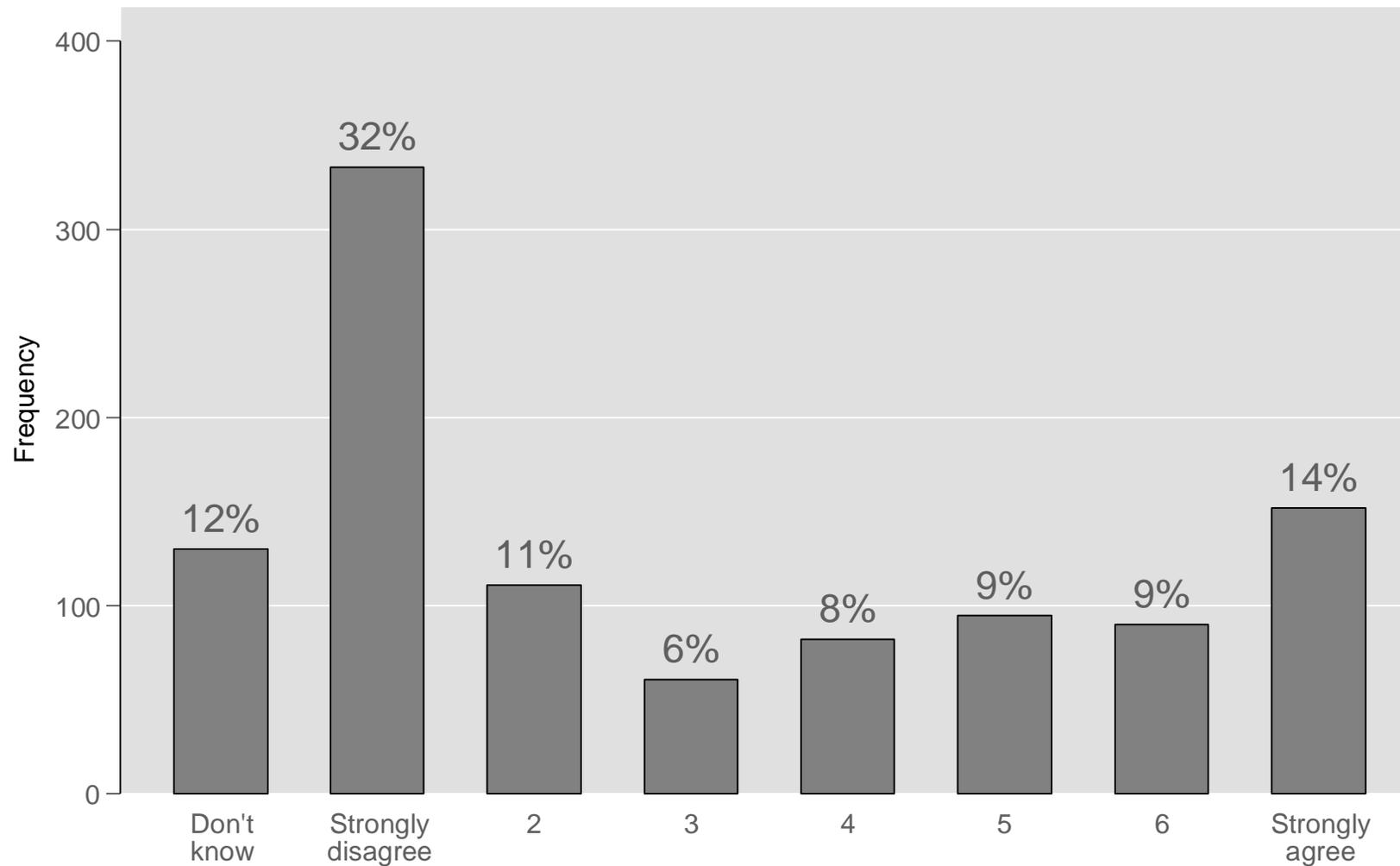
Off-farm work on Australian farms

Off-farm income essential for day-to-day expenses

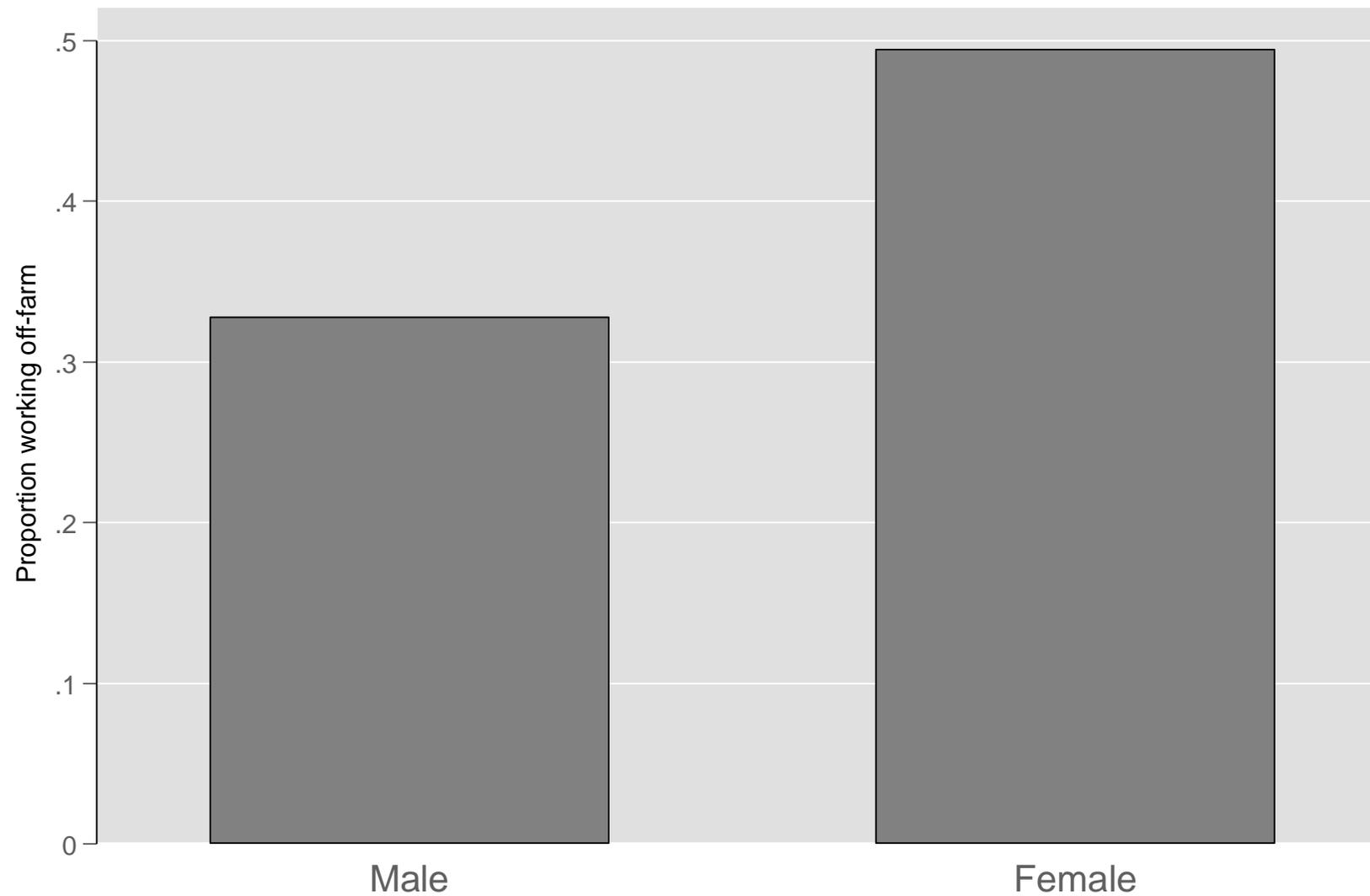


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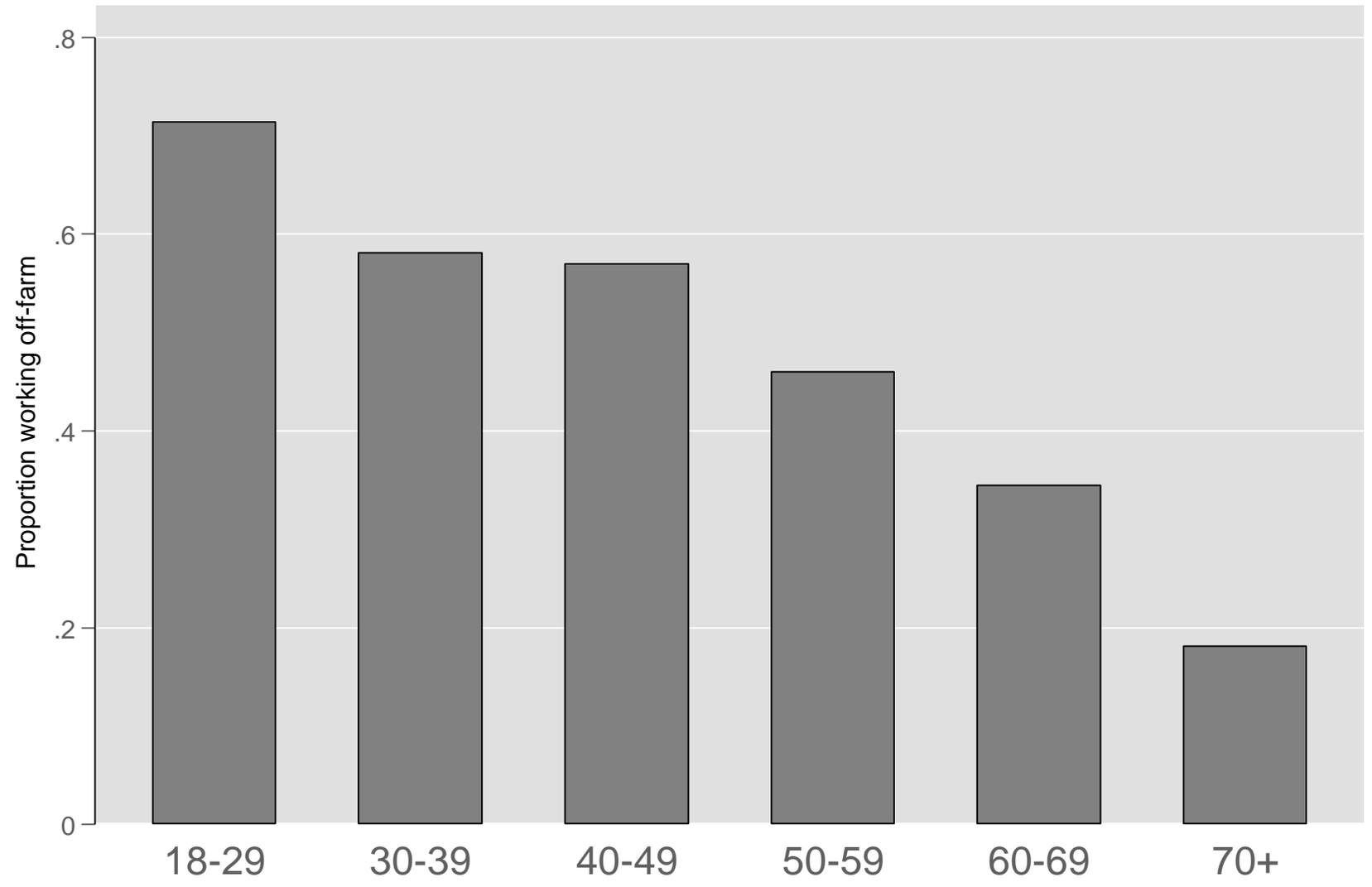
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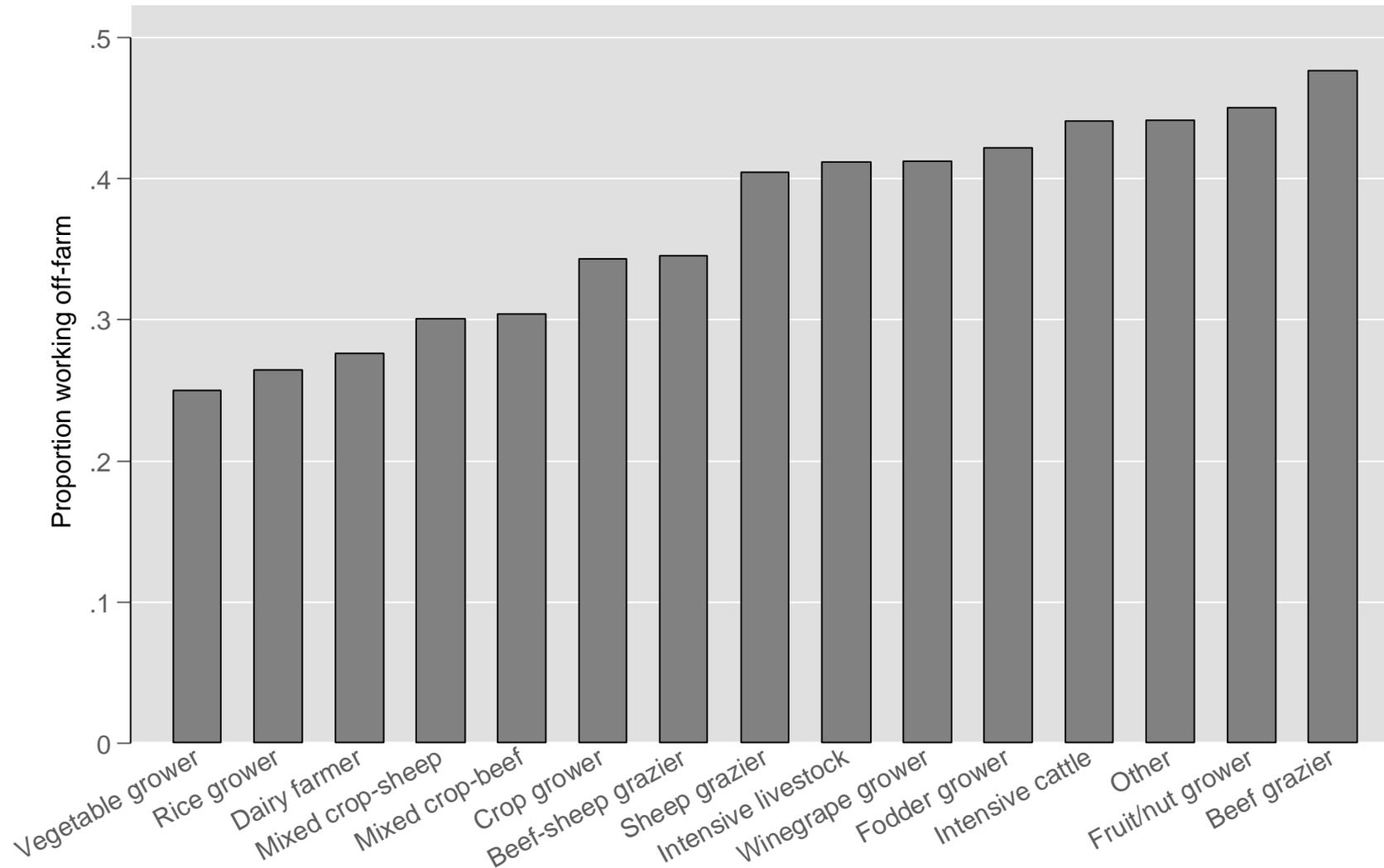
Off-farm work by gender



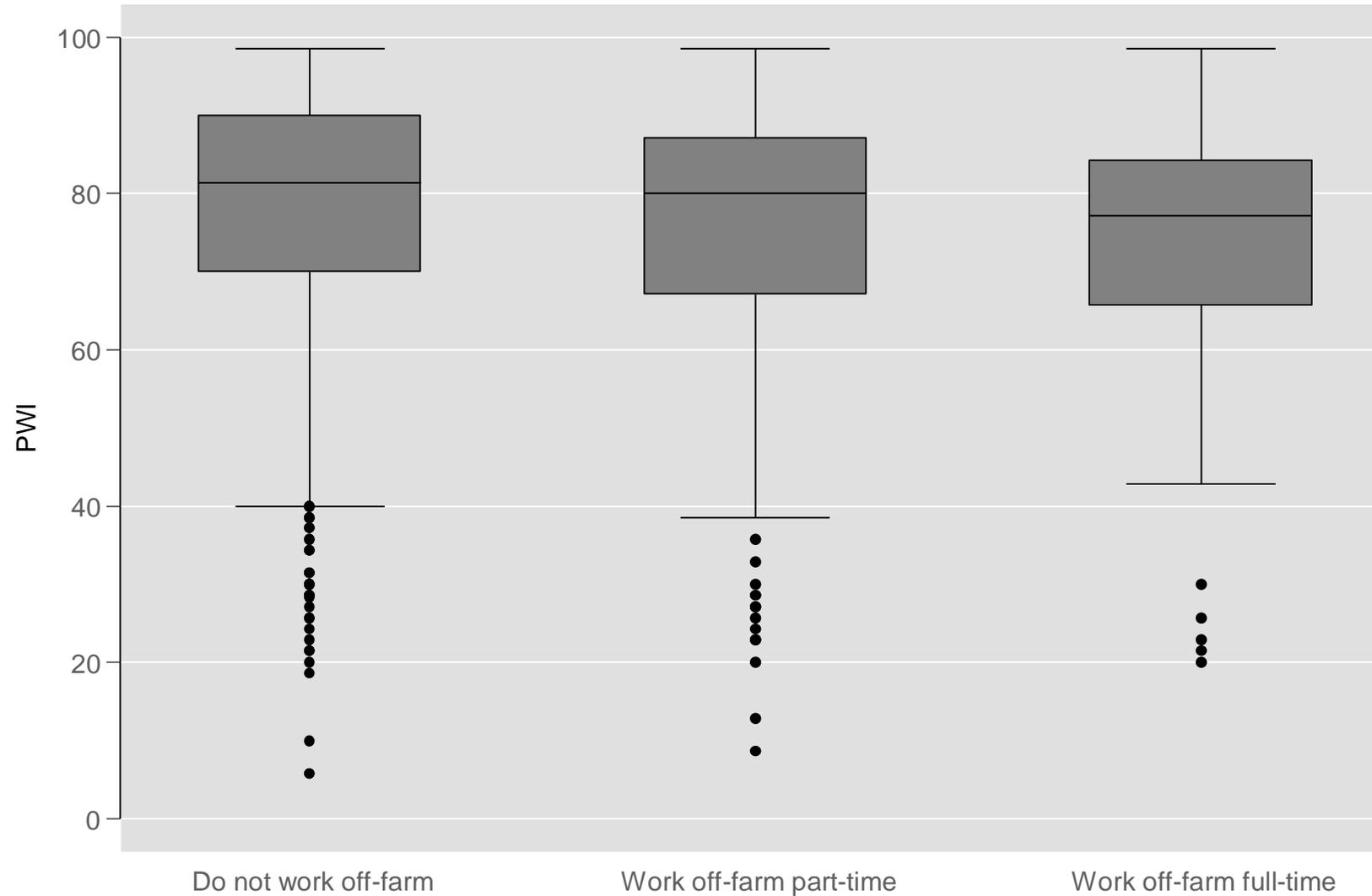
Off-farm work by age



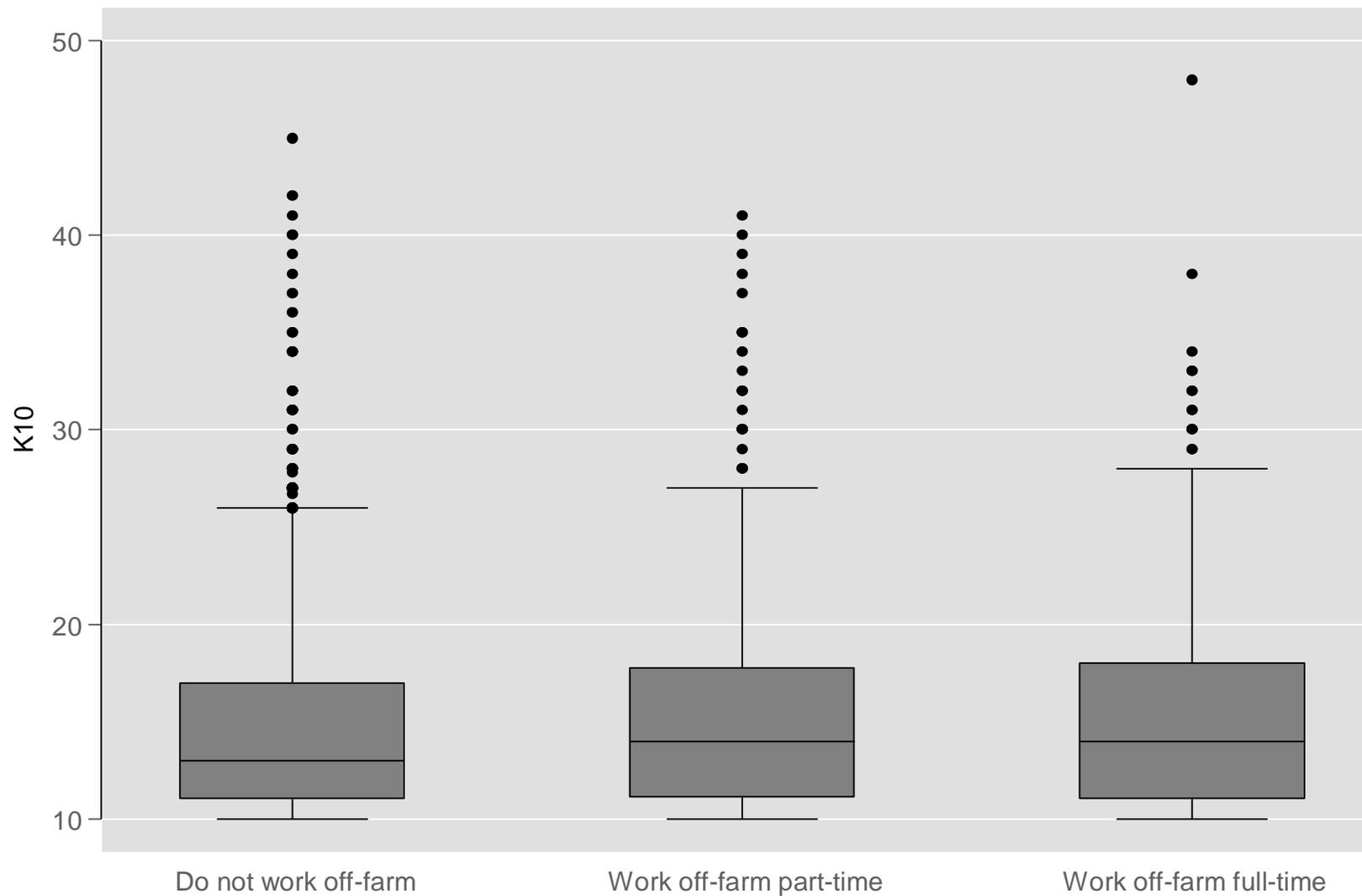
Off-farm work by farm-type



Wellbeing and off-farm work

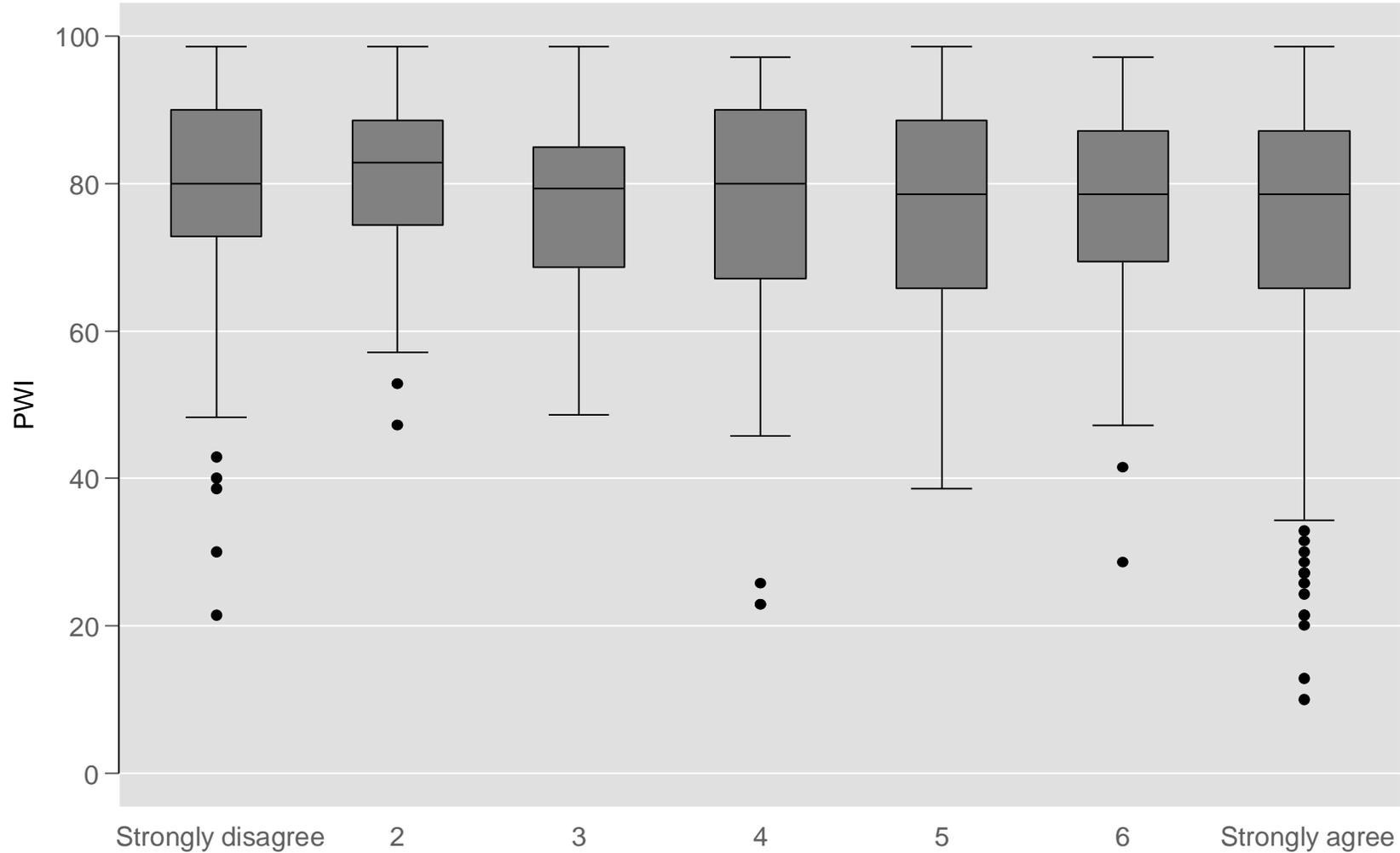


Wellbeing and off-farm work



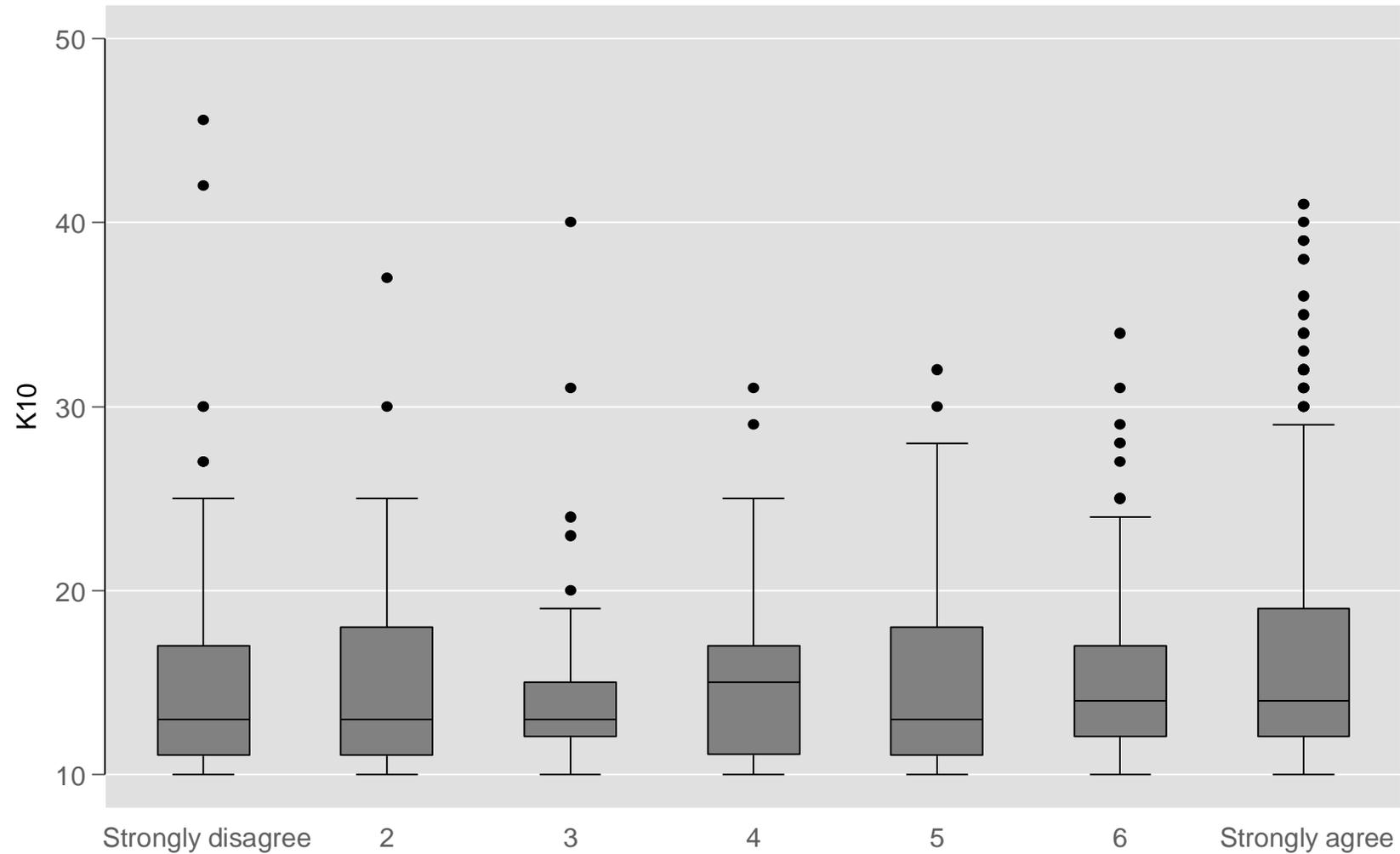
Wellbeing and off-farm work

Off-farm work essential for day-to-day expenses



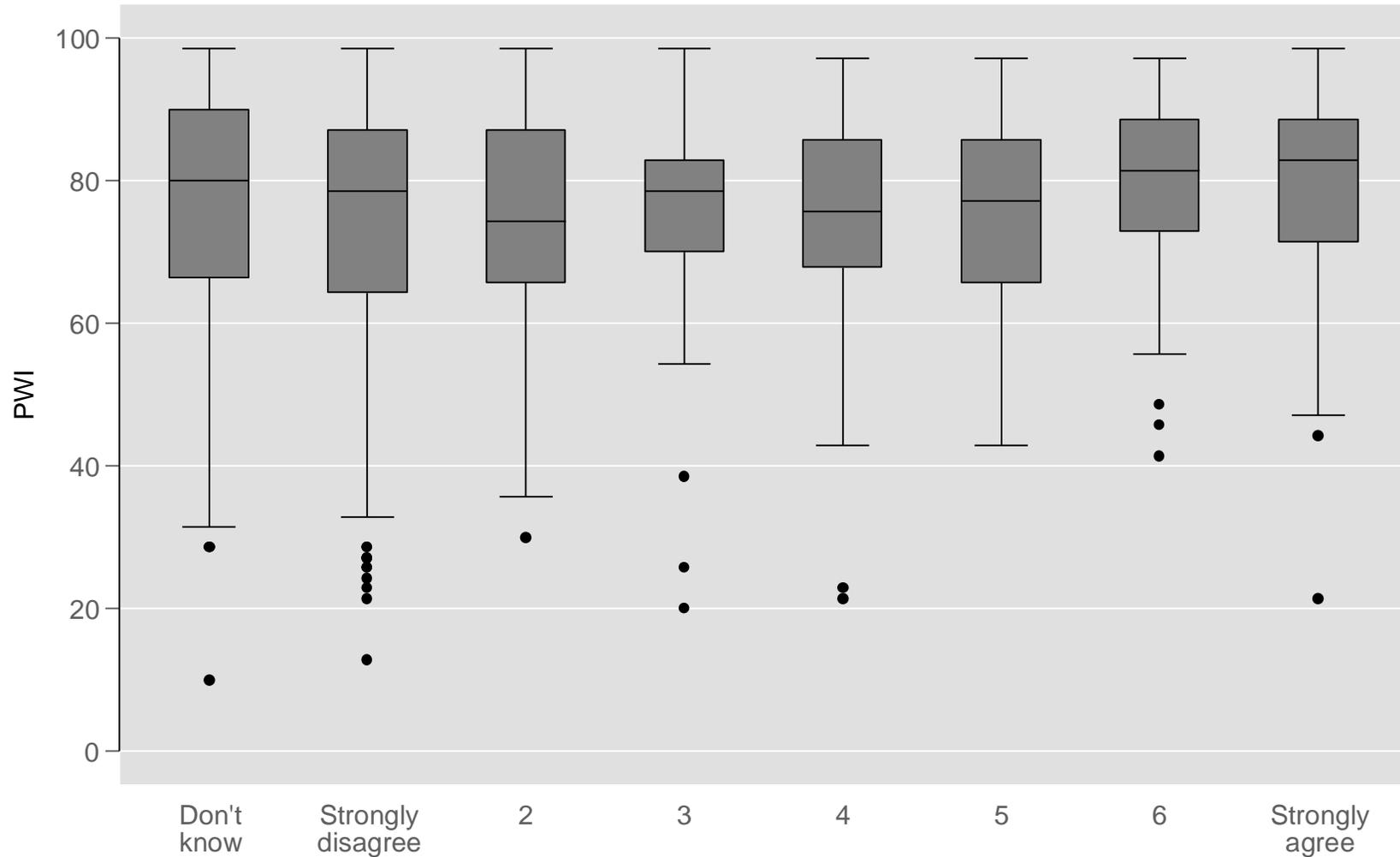
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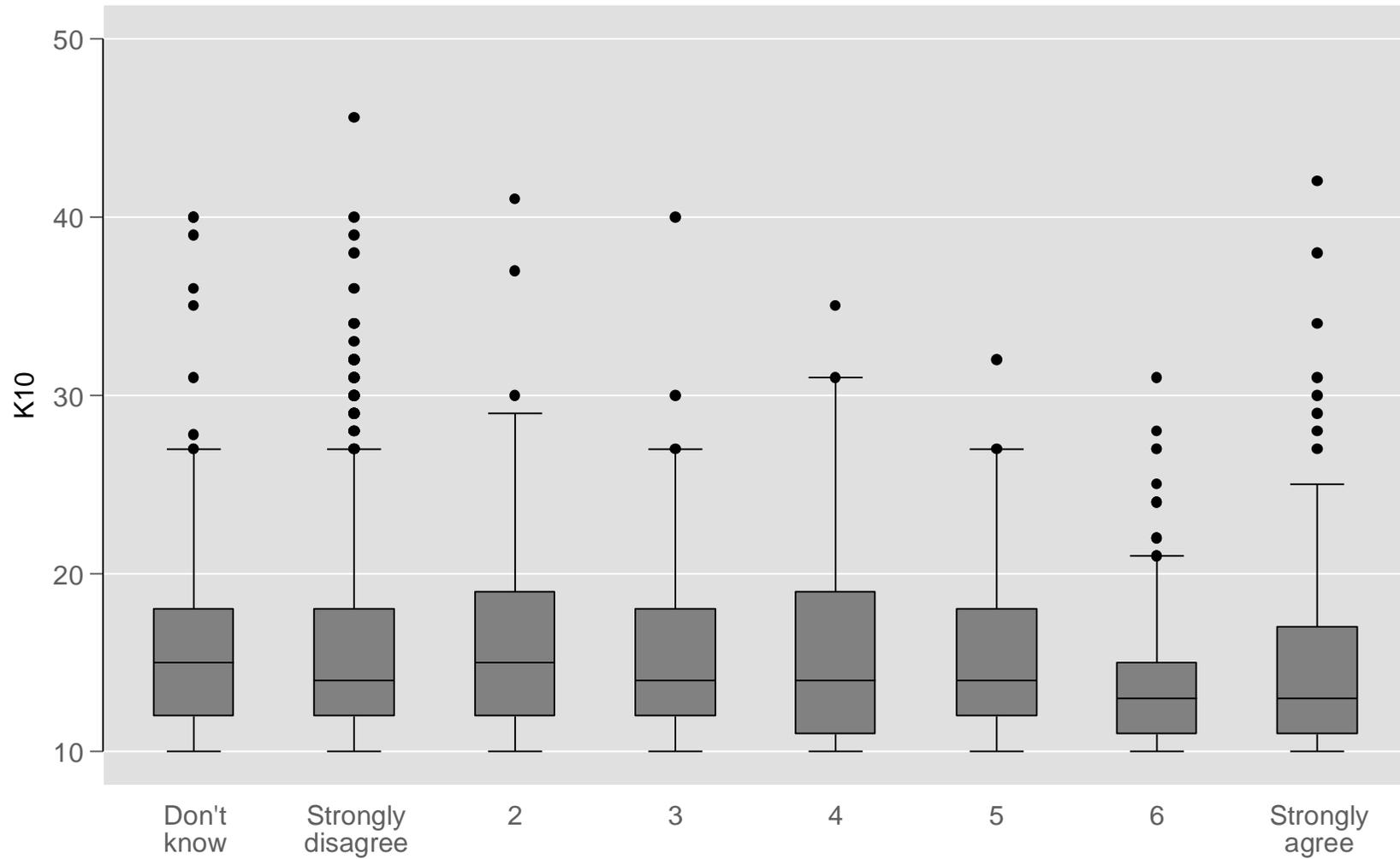
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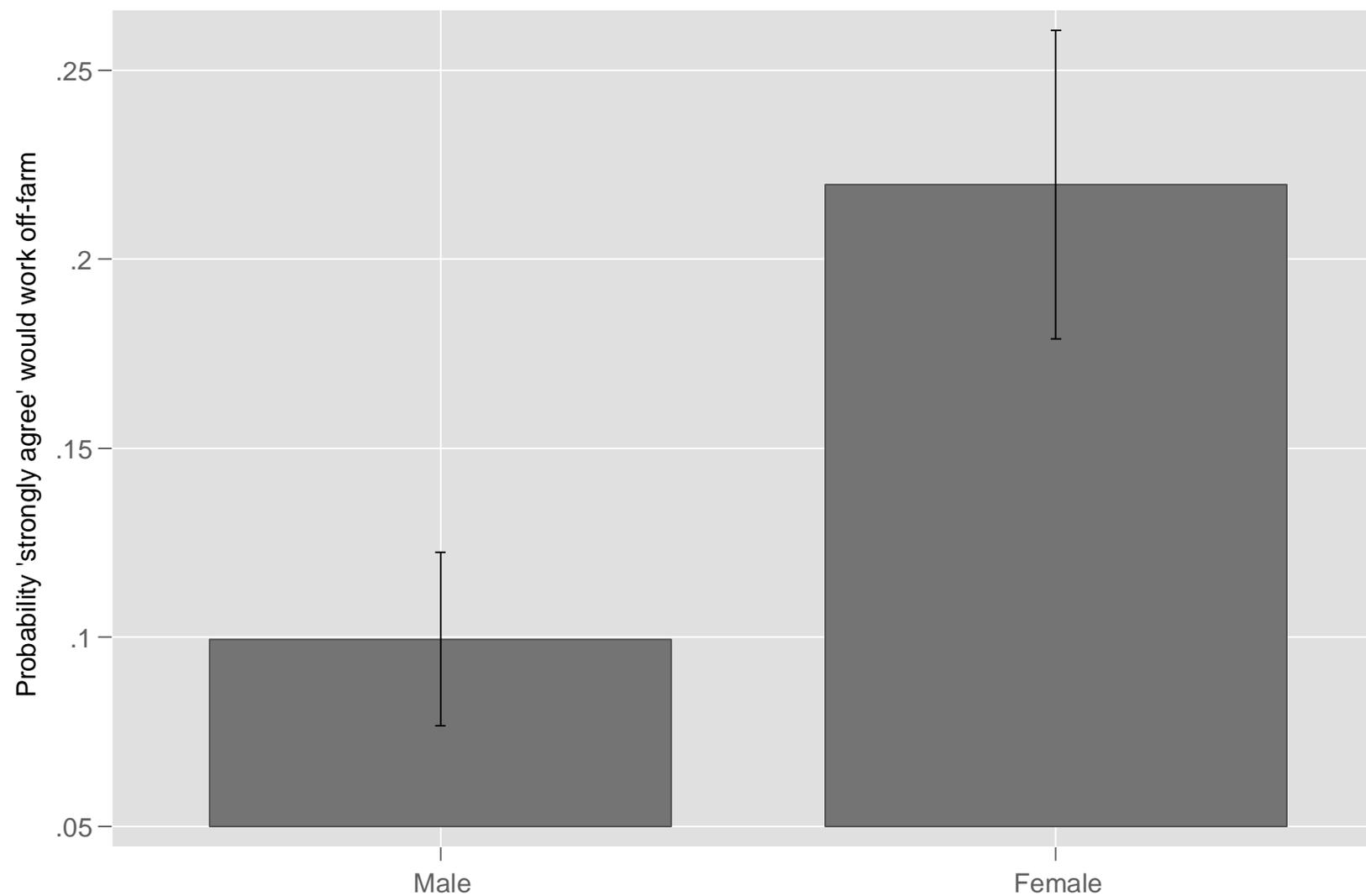


Wellbeing and off-farm work

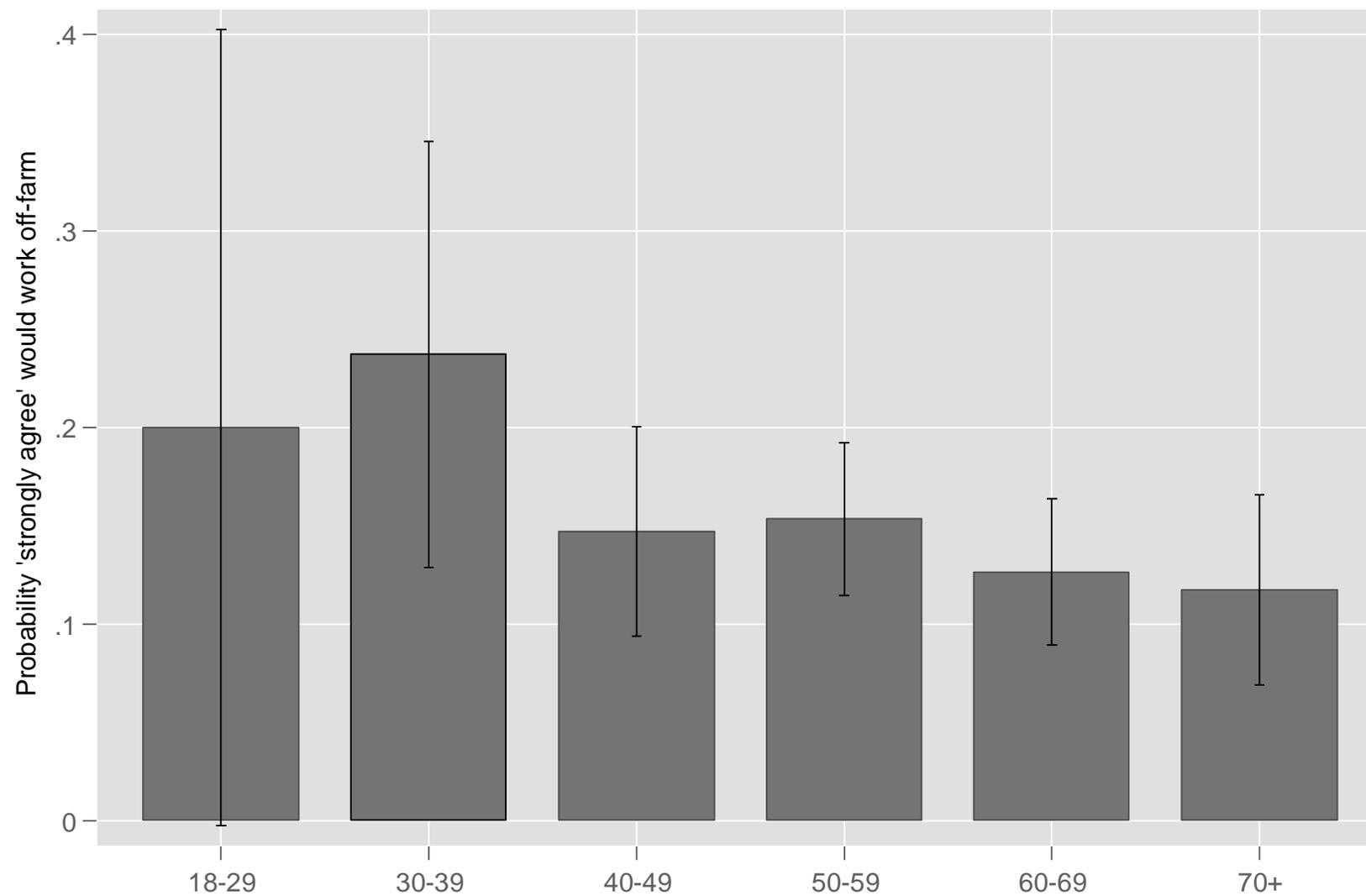
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Who would continue to work off-farm?



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Observations

- Off-farm work essential to half of farm households in the RWS for covering day to day expenses
- A third of farmers who work off-farm strongly disagree that they would continue to work off-farm if they didn't need to
- Younger and female farmers more likely to agree they would continue to work off-farm

Next steps

- Refine survey items to tap into features of off-farm work that are important to farmers
 - Develop survey items (interviews?)
 - Test items in future RWS

Questions and comments