

Views of the 22-35 years old population concerning parental leaves and childcare in Hungary

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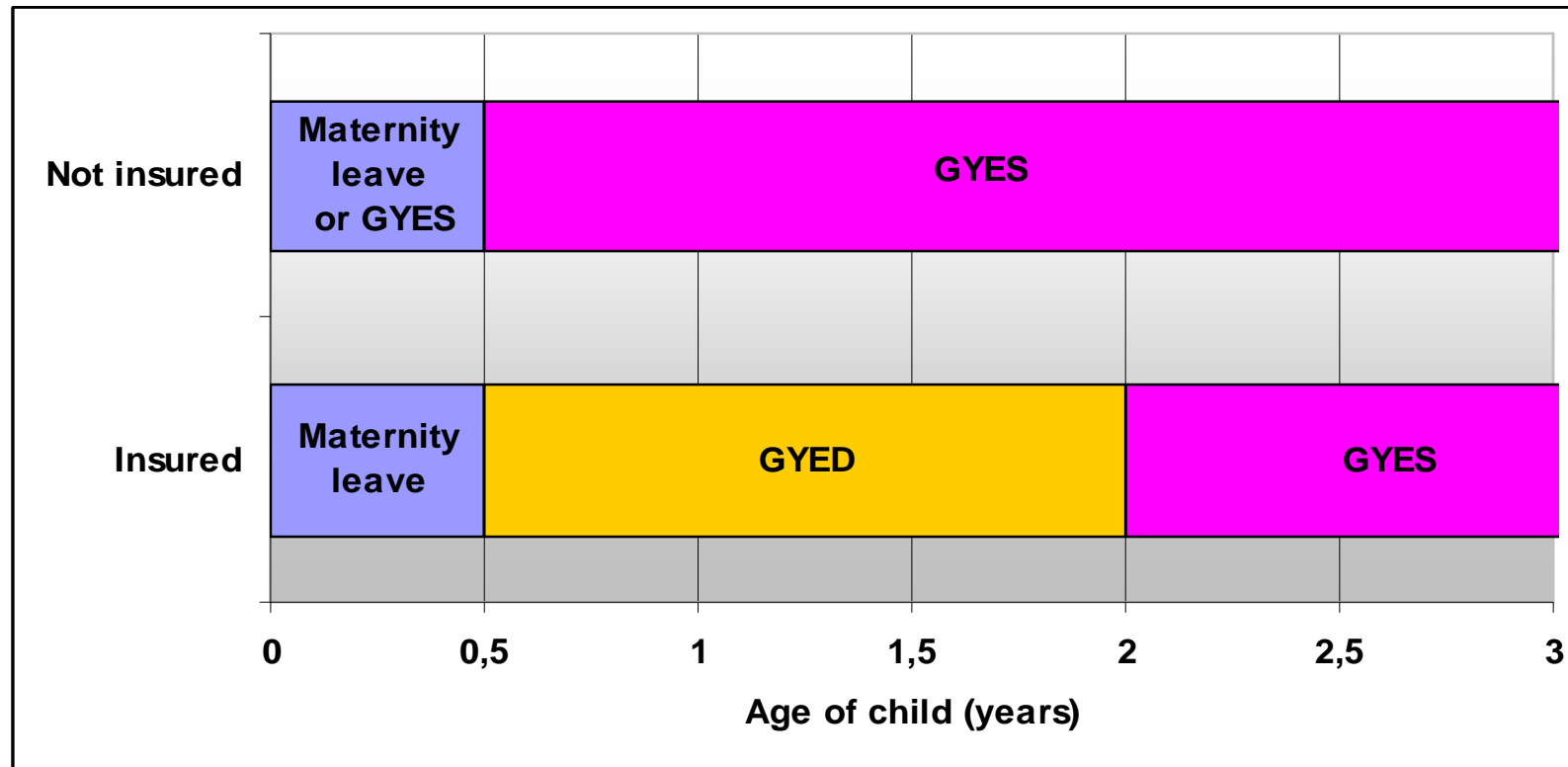
The system

- Services for children
 - Bölcsőde (childcare centers for children under 3)
 - Family day care
 - Óvoda (kindergartens for children between 3-6)
- Leaves for parents to care for their children

Types of leave

- **Maternity leave:** 24 weeks, up to 4 weeks before birth. 70% of earnings.
- **GYED:** from the end of the maternity leave period until the child's 2nd birthday. 70% of earnings up to a ceiling.
- **GYES:** Until the child's 3rd birthday. Flat rate payment. About 110 euro/month in 2006
- **GYET:** Flat rate payment. About 110 euro/month in 2006

Types of leave



The study and the sample

- Omnibus survey in 2005 to assess the views concerning childcare
- 850 adults
- Ages 22-35
- 42% not married yet
- 53% has no children
- 55.2% plans to have (at all, or more) children

All the sample

- Q: How suitable/good are the following forms of childcare for a child under the age of 3?
(on a 4 point scale)
 - Mother is at home with the child: 3.87
 - Father is at home with the child: 2.68
 - Grandparents with the child: 2.61
 - Bölcsőde: 2.35
 - Family day care: 2.1
 - Friends look after the child: 1.7
 - Babysitter: 1.68

All the sample

- Q: Why do you think someone uses bölcsőde?
(more than 1 response allowed)
 - Income from mother's work is needed: 96.8%
 - Mother is afraid of losing job: 88.1%
 - Mother is afraid of breaking her career: 61.3%
 - Child needs the company of other children: 41%
 - Trained staff in bölcsőde: 37.3%
 - Bölcsőde compensates for deprived household: 32.8%

All the sample

- Q: What would the wife do if the husband earned enough for the family to live on?
 - Part time work: 46.5%
 - No work: 42.2%
 - Full time work: 11.3%

Parents with children under 3

- Which type of provision they use:
 - GYES, GYED, GYET
 - Bölcsőde
 - Family day care
- Why not bölcsőde? (more than 1 response allowed)
 - Mother can stay home with the child: 84.1%
 - No bölcsőde nearby: 34.4%
 - Does not approve of child attending bölcsőde: 26.7%

Implications

- Leaves are more popular
- Parents' interests are more important than those of the child
- The need to work is a strong motive
- Part-time work would be a favorable choice
- Generally, the knowledge about leaves is better than about children's services

Questions instead of conclusions

- Are leaves really more popular than childcare?
- If yes, why:
 - No other options in many places
 - Take up comes with payment
 - Not much experience with and knowledge about children's services
 - Low opinion of existing services
 - Strong traditional belief that it is best for children under 3, to be at home with the mother

Effects of leaves ?

- Promoting childbirth
- Emphasizing the value of children for society
- Alleviating child poverty
- Social transfers – including the payments for leaves - can effectively decrease child poverty