

Compatibility between work and family for all?

Parental leave use among Swedish-born and foreign-born parents

Ann-Zofie Duvander

Swedish Social Insurance Agency

Ann-zofie.duvander@forsakringskassan.se

Why would Swedish-born and foreign-born parents differ in parental leave use?

- Labour market attachment and income
- Knowledge
- Preferences

This study

- Descriptive study on immigrants' use of parental leave
- Analysis of benefit levels of immigrant and Swedish parents

Parental Benefit

Introduced 1974

Goals:

- Gender equality
- Combine family and working life
- Emphasize shared responsibility of child raising

Parental Benefit

- 240 days for each parent – 480 per child
- 60 days non-transferable
- 390 days income related, 80%
- 90 days flat rate
- Time frame: 8 years
- Flexibility – full / part time

Data

- Administrative register
- Children born in Sweden in 1999
- Exclusions: adoptions, twins, not entitled, not two parents in Sweden, not joint custody

Sample exclusions

Children born 1999 measured at 48 months	101 057
Adopted, multiple births, not eligible	11 556
Parents with too many or few days	254
Children born abroad	2813
Parents not joint custody	4390
Parents immigration date after 1999	1127
Country unknown of does not exist	14
Faulty coding of benefit level	82
Sample	80 821

Sample

	Mothers	Fathers
Africa	1,7 %	1,8 %
Asia	3,0 %	2,3 %
EU15	0,9 %	1,3 %
Europa other	3,2 %	2,9 %
Mena	4,3 %	5,0 %
North America	0,2 %	0,3 %
Nordic countries	2,2 %	2,2 %
Oceania	0,1 %	0,1 %
Sweden	83,7 %	83,4 %
South America	0,8	0,8 %



Parental leave use, %

	Mothers	Fathers
Africa	97,2	57,7
Asia	96,0	57,1
EU15	91,9	71,8
Europe other	96,3	65,8
Mena	96,4	50,8
North America	93,6	60,9
Nordic countries	97,2	78,8
Oceania	90,5	68,9
Sweden	99,3	83,6
South America	97,7	68,8

Number of days used

	Mothers	Fathers
Africa	365	58
Asia	336	69
EU15	318	62
Europe other	351	53
Mena	359	71
North America	315	51
Nordic countries	340	57
Oceania	296	73
Sweden	341	54
South America	336	61

Parental leave use flat rate, %

	Mothers	Fathers
Africa	64,0	9,6
Asia	39,6	7,5
EU15	17,7	2,3
Europe other	45,9	8,9
Mena	66,1	12,4
North America	33,8	3,9
Nordic countries	6,3	1,2
Oceania	18,4	2,0
Sweden	3,6	0,7
South America	27,9	4,2

Mean benefit per day in SEK

	Mothers	Fathers
Africa	143	374
Asia	208	369
EU15	331	466
Europe other	193	397
Mena	134	348
North America	263	434
Nordic countries	350	474
Oceania	322	480
Sweden	361	483
South America	243	404

Mean parental leavebenefit by mothers' origin. OLS.

	Model 1	Model 2 (control of fathers' origin, education of father and mother)
Sweden	ref	ref
Africa	-206,68	-115,94
Asia	-129,77	-74,52
EU 15	-16,42	-20,92
Europe	-154,03	-100,97
Mena	-214,91	-126,56
North America	-64,13	-54,78
Nordic	-6,58	-1,30
Oceania	-12,15	-15,83
South America	-97,98	-61,56
R2	0,2165	0,3335

Mean parental leavebenefit by fathers' origin. OLS.

	Model 1	Model 4 (control of mothers' origin, education of father and mother)
Sweden	ref	ref
Africa	-195,70	-77,82
Asia	-147,10	-69,54
EU 15	-12,44	-15,01
Europe	-146,70	-63,17
Mena	-196,42	-82,13
North America	-55,73	-45,89
Nordic	-12,87	-5,37
Oceania	9,01	-5,90
South America	-97,16	-60,30
R2	0,2165	0,3335

Conclusion

- Swedish parental leave is suitable for dual-earners established in the labour market
- Large differences between groups
- Will larger immigrant groups lead to larger variations in use?
- Long, flexible, generous leave will lead to marginalized groups?