



Stockholms
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For which fathers do reforms matter?

A study on the impact of three Swedish parental leave reforms

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Overview of reforms in the Swedish parental leave benefit



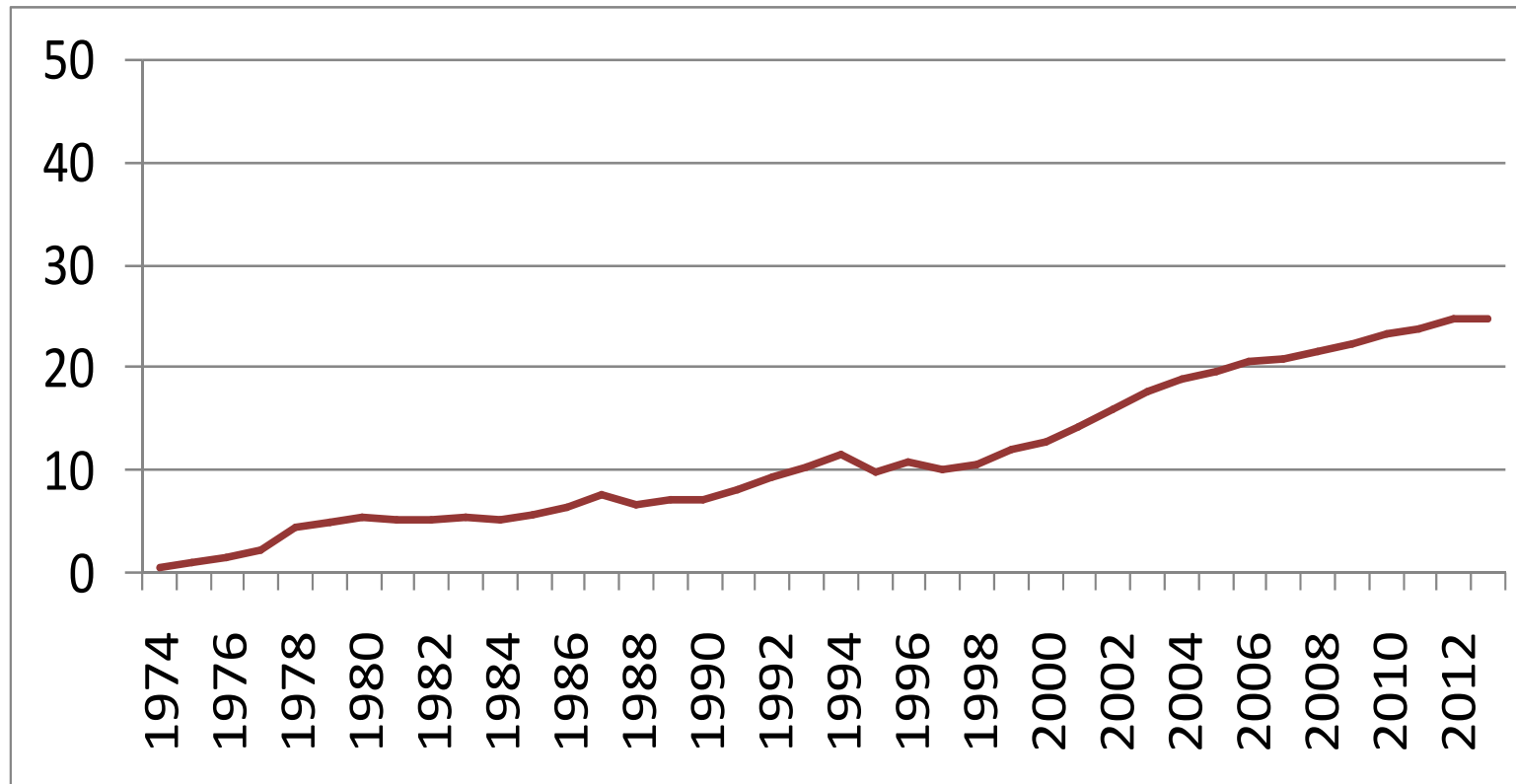
Year	
1974	Introduction of the parental leave for 6 months
1980s	Stepwise extension to 15 months
1995	First reserved month
2002	Second reserved month and extension to 16 months
2008	Gender equality bonus

Parental leave use



- **Present regulations:** 195 days to each parent, 80% income replacement, can be used also during preschool years. Also 3 months at low flat rate
- 90 % of fathers use leave but large variation in how much
- Fathers' parental leave vary by education, income, work place, birth order, attitudes

Fathers' share of parental leave



Earlier studies: Reserved months had
effect but not gender equality bonus

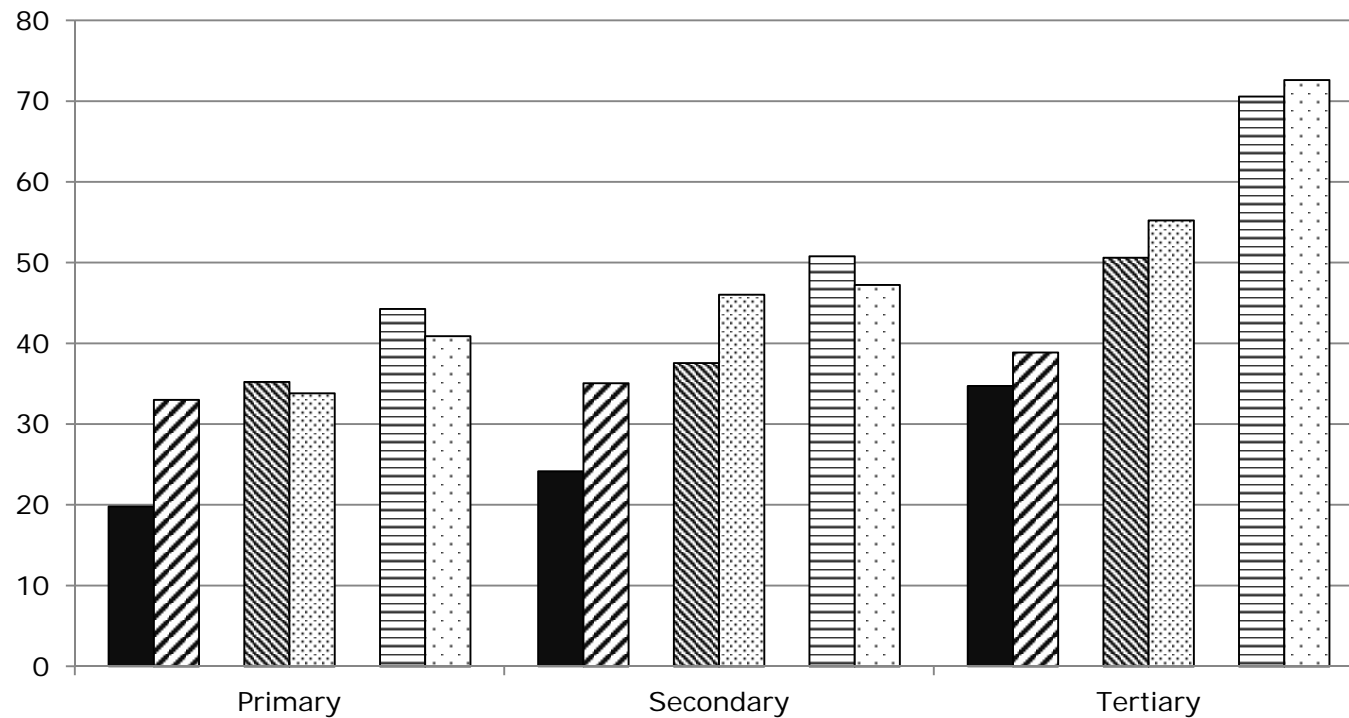
This study:

**Which fathers changed their leave use
at the time of reforms?**

Method of evaluating reforms

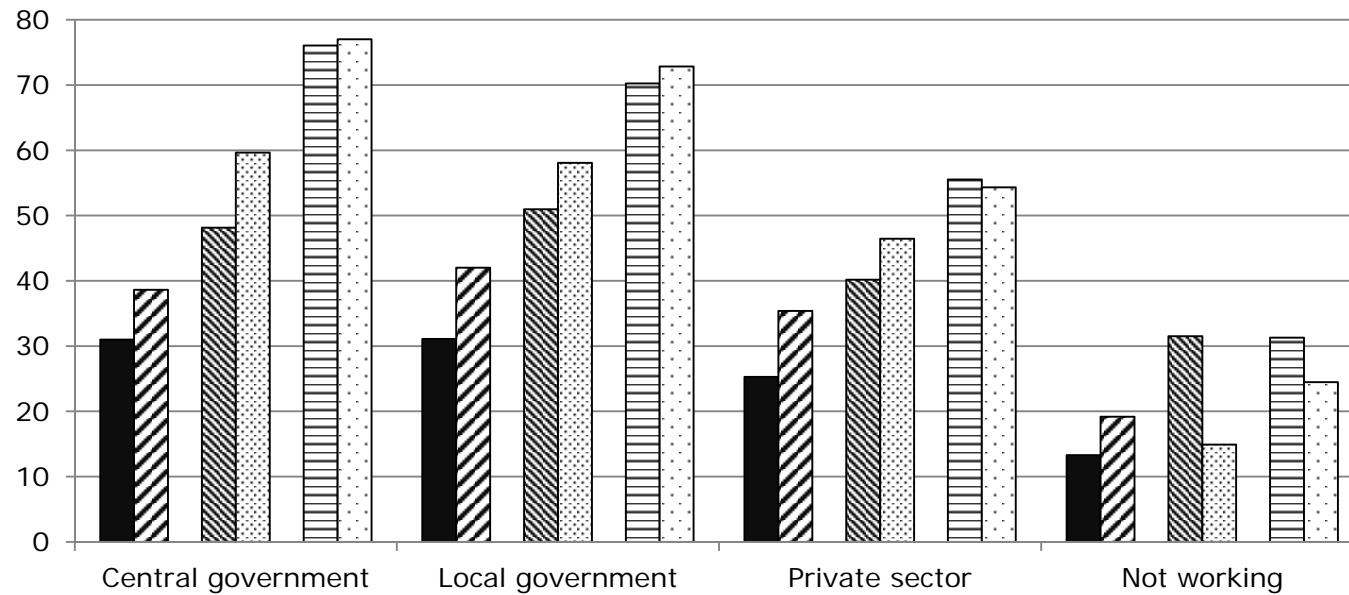
- Natural experiment
- Comparison of children born just before reform with children born just after
- Add children born same period one year before to control for seasonal variation
- Follow leave use for 24 months

Number of parental leave days, fathers' education



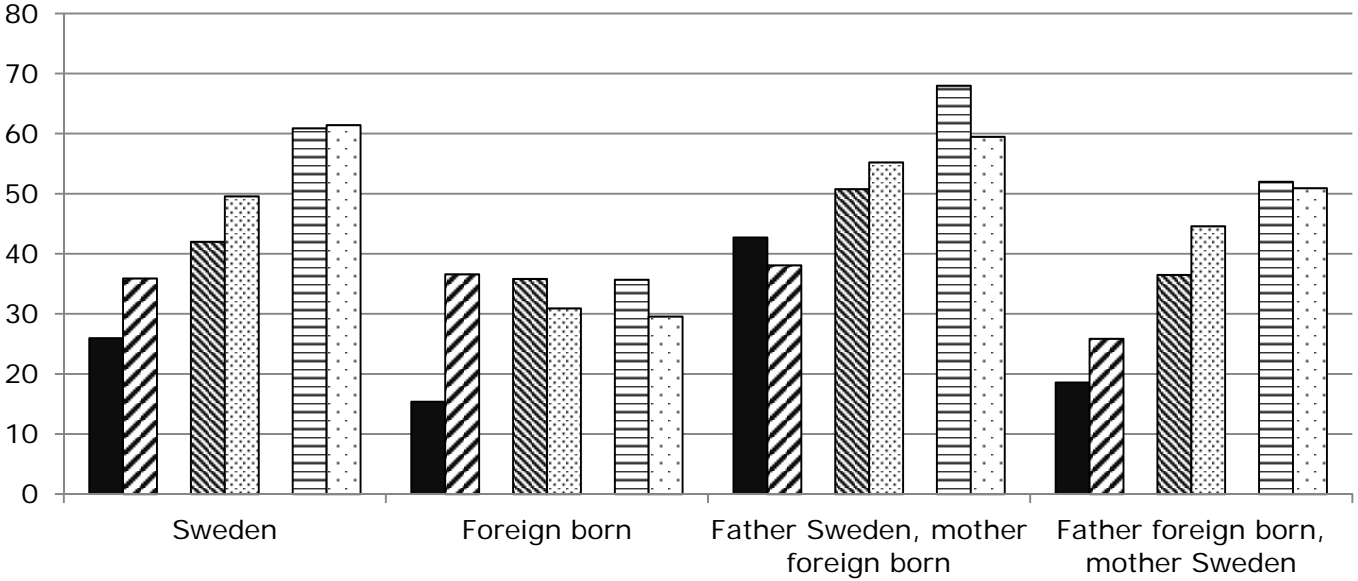
■ December 1994 ▨ January 1995 ▩ December 2001 ▤ January 2002 ▧ June 2008 ▩ July 2008

Number of parental leave days, work sector



■ December 1994 ▨ January 1995 ▩ December 2001 ▤ January 2002 ▧ June 2008 ▩ July 2008

Number of used parental leave days, parents' birth origin



■ December 1994
 ▨ January 1995
 ▩ December 2001
 ▪ January 2002
 ▫ June 2008
 □ July 2008

Conclusions

- First reserved month:
 - Reform reduced differences between subgroups of fathers
- Second reserved month:
 - Reform increased differences between subgroups of fathers
- Gender equality bonus:
 - No direct changes
- Trend of increased leave use over time but polarised pattern