

# Does child care availability raise maternal employment?

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## Abstract

This paper examines the effects of childcare centers by using an original questionnaire survey. Currently, numerous studies in Japan use macro-data to focus on the marginal average effects of the availability of publicly provided childcare centres. However, although it might not observe significant effects on average, it may support some mothers. In this paper, we take advantage of an original micro-dataset to determine whether the availability of daycare centers affects maternal employment promotion. Furthermore, if daycare centers do have such an effect, the study determines what population categories are supported by them and what types of paths exist for working after childbirth. The results indicate the availability of daycare centers does not significantly affect the maternal employment rate on average, but significantly increases maternal employment for mothers who have a significant possibility to continue work after childbirth. The results also show that the effect of encouraging mothers to enter the workforce is mostly due to the mothers who do not quit their jobs rather than those who start a new job after childbirth.

Keywords: Childcare, Daycare center, Maternal employment, Parental leave

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