

Childcare Access and Attaining Desirable Employment*

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Abstract

This paper presents a geographical and empirical study on childcare accessibility and the importance of access to childcare in attaining preferred employment by women with preschool-aged children. The study area is Tokyo's ward area, where long childcare waiting lists are the norm. Visualized accessibility reveals a considerable geographic mismatch between the supply and demand of childcare centers, especially for children aged 2 years or younger. Empirical results show that access to childcare is closely associated with a higher probability of attaining preferred employment among women with preschool-aged children. The association does not differ significantly depending on the status of preferred employment (full-time versus part-time) but does by the presence of a child aged 0-2 years, particularly when the childcare center is the desired one. Providing adequate childcare, particularly for children under age 3, would clearly promote women's active participation in the labor market

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