The Impact of Child Care Subsidy Utilization on Parental Employment and Family Well-Being: What Do We Know? Where Do We Go From Here?

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# The Impact of Subsidy Receipt on Parental Work and Earnings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study (year)</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Impact on Work and Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blau &amp; Tekin</td>
<td>NSAF</td>
<td>Single mother, child ages 0-12</td>
<td>• 23% ↑ in employment rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2001)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tekin</td>
<td>NSAF</td>
<td>Single mother, child ages 0-5</td>
<td>• 15% ↑ in employment rates</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2005)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 33% ↑ in working/using center care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guzman</td>
<td>NSAF</td>
<td>Single mother, child ages 0-12</td>
<td>• 31% ↑ in employment rates (ages 0-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2007)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 7% ↑ in employment rates (ages 6-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zanoni</td>
<td>3-City</td>
<td>Income &lt;200% of poverty line</td>
<td>• 20% ↑ in employment rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2010)</td>
<td>Study</td>
<td></td>
<td>• 6 additional hours of work/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ha (2009)</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Wisconsin single mothers</td>
<td>• Longer subsidy spells are associated with higher earnings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NSAF: National Study of Adaptive Families*
## The Impact of Subsidy Receipt on Child Well-Being

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| Herbst/Tekin (2010a) | ECLS K | 5-year-olds of single mothers | • 3 point ↓ in reading test scores  
                            • 2.6 point ↓ in math test scores  
                            • 0.74 point ↑ in externalizing behaviors  
                            • 0.98 point ↑ in internalizing behaviors |
| Herbst/Tekin (2010b) | ECLS K | 5-year-olds of single mothers | • 5 percentage point ↑ in overweight rate  
                            • 3 percentage point ↑ in obesity rate |
| Herbst/Tekin (2010c) | ECLS K | 5-year-olds of single mothers | • 4.9 point ↓ in reading test scores  
                            • 3.7 point ↓ in math test scores  
                            • 7.1 point ↑ in externalizing behaviors  
                            • 2.9 point ↑ in internalizing behaviors |
Directions for Future Research on *Parental Work and Earnings*

- **Make greater use of longitudinal data**
  - Shift focus from short- to long-term employment outcomes
  - How many parents are working prior to subsidy utilization?
- **Emphasize parental earnings**
- **Expand list of work-related outcomes**
  - Full-time versus part-time work
  - Educational attainment
  - Job training activities
- **Understand the deeper qualities of parental work**
  - Standard versus nonstandard work hours
  - Occupational category
  - Work conditions
Directions for Future Research on *Family Well-Being*

**Child well-being**
- Focus on building a systematic body of knowledge
- Long-term effects: Can school experiences mediate?
- Shift focus from preschool- to school-age children
- Explore whether the age and intensity of subsidy receipt matter
- Different children, different effects?

**Parental well-being**
- Explore physical and mental health outcomes
- Child-parent interactions and parenting behavior
- Substance abuse and risky behaviors
- Does job- and child care-type mediate these effects?