

Table of Contents

Executive summary	11
Chapter 1. Families are changing	17
Introduction	18
Trends in fertility and family formation.....	18
Changes in household structure	23
Work life and family life	30
Child well-being	42
Summary.....	48
Notes	49
References.....	49
Annex 1.A1. Background Information to Chapter 1	51
Chapter 2. The balance of family policy tools – benefit packages, spending by age and families with young children	55
Introduction	56
Main findings	57
Spending and policy tools for families across OECD countries.....	58
Public spending on family benefits and education by the age of the child.....	65
Families with very young children: “missing earners” drive poverty risks	73
Notes	79
References.....	80
Annex 2.A1. Age-Spending Profiles, Methods, Sources and Limitations.....	82
Annex 2.A2. Dynamic Tax and Benefit Models in the Early Years: Methods and Assumptions	86
Chapter 3. Fertility trends: What have been the main drivers?	89
Introduction	90
Main findings	90
Fertility trends and underlying dynamics	91
What explains the fertility trends?	98
Policies to reduce barriers to family formation	107
Notes	115
References.....	117
Annex 3.A1. A Summary of Cross-National Evidence on the Effects of Policy on Fertility Patterns	126

Chapter 4. Reducing barriers to parental employment	129
Introduction	130
Main findings	130
Child-related leave	132
Childcare	141
Financial incentives to work	148
Flexible workplace practices	149
Notes	157
References	158
Annex 4.A1. Further Information on Parental Leave Arrangements	163
Annex 4.A2. Background Information on Financial Incentives to Work	166
Annex 4.A3. Availability and Use of Flexible Time Policies in France and the United Kingdom	170
Chapter 5. Promoting child development and child well-being	173
Introduction	174
Main findings	174
Income poverty among families and children, and child well-being	176
When is a good time for mothers to go back to work?	186
The effects of birth-related leave on child and maternal well-being	197
Notes	199
References	200
Annex 5.A1. Associations Between Child Poverty and Spending by Type	205
Annex 5.A2. Cohort Studies, Methods and Detailed Results	207
Chapter 6. Sole parents, public policy, employment and poverty	213
Introduction	214
Main findings	214
The evolving experiences of sole-parent families in the OECD	215
The policy stance towards sole-parent families	219
Child-support systems	225
Notes	234
References	235
Annex 6.A1. Sole-Parent Employment and Poverty Trends	237
Annex 6.A2. Sole-Parents and Childcare Costs	241
Chapter 7. Child maltreatment	245
Introduction	246
What is child maltreatment?	247
Economic analysis of causes and consequences of child maltreatment	251
Policy to reduce maltreatment and neglect	257
Conclusion	263
Notes	264
References	265
Annex 7.A1. Mortality Data and the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)	270

Tables

1.1. Distribution of children by household type, selected OECD countries, 2007	28
1.2. Selected labour market statistics for 25-54 year-olds, by gender, 2007-09	35
1.3. Children in sole-parent families face an elevated poverty risk, mid- to late-2000s	41
3.1. “Net contribution” of different population groups to total fertility rates (TFRs)	97
3.A1.1. The effect of family policies on fertility: results from cross-country analyses . . .	127
4.1. Extending paid parental leave has a negative effect on female employment . . .	140
4.2. Statutory rights for flexible work arrangements	153
4.A1.1. Statutory paid parental and child or home-care leave arrangements, 2008	164
4.A1.2. Statutory parental and childcare leave arrangements	165
4.A2.1. Marginal effective tax rates for part-time employees	167
4.A3.1. Part-time work is the most common form of flexible time policy offered in the United Kingdom	171
4.A3.2. Occasional working time arrangements are widely available in France	172
5.1. Parental employment reduces poverty in families with children	185
5.2. No significant effect is found for differences in job-protected paid parental leave on infant mortality	197
5.A2.1. An overview of cognitive outcome measures	208
5.A2.2. Effects of early maternal employment on child development	211
6.1. Many OECD countries have a multi-policy response to supporting sole parents	219
6.2. Policy often expects sole parents to look for work when children enter pre- or primary school	220
6.3. Public authorities make advance child-support payments in about half of the OECD countries	228
6.4. Coverage of child-support schemes varies widely across OECD countries	231
6.5. Child poverty rates (50% of median household equivalised income) and influence of child-support payments	233
6.A1.1. Trends in sole-parent families, employment and poverty	238
6.A1.2. Background information on sole-parent families, 2004/05	239
7.1. Abolition of corporal punishment against children	260
7.A1.1. Deaths due to maltreatment, <i>accidental injury</i>	270
7.A1.2. Deaths due to maltreatment, <i>intentional injury</i>	271

Figures

1.1. Families are changing	19
1.2. Fertility rates have dropped but are beginning to rebound, 1970 to 2009	21
1.3. Women with higher levels of education are more likely to live in households without children, selected OECD countries, 2008	22
1.4. Most households have no children, 2008	24
1.5. Marriage remains the most common form of partnership among couples, 2000-07	25
1.6. A sharp increase in the proportion of births outside marriage, 1980 and 2007	27
1.7. Proportion of divorces involving children, 2007	27

1.8. Women are increasingly participating in paid work, 1980 to 2009	33
1.9. Most mothers are in paid work, especially when children go to school, 2007.	37
1.10. Most couples are dual-earner families, selected OECD countries, 2008.	38
1.11. Public spending on family benefits in cash, services and tax measures, in percentage of GDP, 2007	42
1.12. Average incomes in households with children are rising steadily in absolute terms across the OECD, 1985 to 2005	43
1.13. In the past 20 years the numbers of infant deaths have fallen: there has been clear convergence on this front, 1987 to 2007	44
1.14. Low birth weights are increasing steadily across the OECD, only Hungary and Poland have seen notable falls, 1987 to 2007	45
1.15. In the past decade the likelihood of children being out of education and employment in the years following compulsory school has fallen, 1997 and 2007	46
1.16. A minority of countries have reported real gains relative to OECD average reading literacy levels since 2000.	47
1.17. The majority of OECD children report higher than median levels of life satisfaction, 2005-06	48
1.A1.1. Countries with high marriage rates also have high divorce rates, 2007.	52
1.A1.2. Countries with high cohabitation rates have a high proportion of births outside marriage, 2000-07	52
1.A1.3. Trends in the gender gap in earnings, 1980, 1996 and 2008.	53
2.1. Most public spending on family benefits in 2007 was delivered in the form of cash benefits.	61
2.2. In most countries spending on family benefits is around one-tenth of total net social spending and half of public spending on education	63
2.3. Since 1990 spending on in-kind benefits for families has almost doubled while cash benefits and education spending have remained constant; since 2002 the population of older children has fallen.	64
2.4. Average social expenditure by child by intervention as a proportion of median working-age household income, 2007	67
2.5. Adjusting for less than full take-up of benefits in the United Kingdom makes little difference to the profile shape or size.	73
2.6. Working families' poverty risks are highest when infants are at home	74
2.A1.1. Large shifts in spending patterns by age are seen in only a few countries; in most of these cases early years gains are seen.	85
3.1. Total fertility rates (TFRs) have rebounded in many countries from 1995 onwards.	92
3.2. Increasing fertility after 30 years of age	94
3.3. Many women have two children, but otherwise there is large cross-national variation in the number of children women have.	95
3.4. As income grows, its relationship with fertility patterns changes.	98
3.5. The proportion of births outside marriage is increasing	100
3.6. A fifth or more of household's budget is spent for housing.	103
3.7. Households contribute to less than one-tenth of education costs in most countries	104
3.8. Motherhood and employment are less incompatible now than in 1980	106

3.9. The fertility gap varies across countries, but exists everywhere	109
3.10. A positive effect of family-friendly policies on fertility	110
4.1. In contrast to parental leave, maternity leave is mostly paid in OECD countries	134
4.2. Nordic countries (except Denmark), Germany and Slovenia have the most generous leave entitlements for fathers	137
4.3. Lower employment rates for mothers with children below age 3 in countries with longer leave	139
4.4. Public investment in formal childcare generates high participation rates in childcare	143
4.5. Use of formal childcare services is lower among children in low-income families	144
4.6. Use of out-of-school-hours care services varies widely across countries	146
4.7. Formal childcare costs significantly reduce returns to paid employment in Anglophone countries, Japan, Israel and Switzerland	150
4.8. Most companies that facilitate flexible working time entitle more than two-thirds of their employees	154
4.9. In European countries at least one-third of employees have some say in their working times	155
4.10. Women are more likely to work part-time in countries with high childcare costs	156
4.A2.1. Components of net childcare costs, couple families, 2008.	168
5.1. Child poverty rates are seven times higher in Israel than in Denmark	176
5.2. Child poverty rates have edged up OECD-wide, with considerable variation across countries	179
5.3. There is no clear relationship between increases in average family incomes and relative income poverty among children	181
5.4. Overall age-related investment levels explain the most variation in poverty rates	184
5.5. About half of the mothers in Anglophone countries are in paid work on the first birthday of their child	192
5.6. British sole mothers are less likely to be in paid work by the time the child is 6 months old	192
5.7. Mothers with high levels of educational attainment are more likely to go back to work early	193
5.8. The effect of maternal employment on cognitive development is small, and only negative and statistically significant in the United Kingdom and the United States	194
5.9. Background characteristics play an important role on children's cognitive outcomes	196
5.A1.1. Childcare spending explains more variation in poverty rates than cash and tax-break spending	206
6.1. Across the OECD the majority of sole parents are in paid employment, mid- to late-2000s	216
6.2. Sole parents have fewer children on average and their children are generally older than those in couple families	218

6.3. Per worker, sole-parent households receive more public support in the majority of OECD countries	222
6.4. Sole parents moving into full-time employment: what is left over after childcare?	224
6.5. Many children live in sole-parent and step-parent families	227
6.A1.1. The proportion of children in families receiving child support payments, 1994 and 2004	240
6.A2.1. Components of childcare costs, sole-parent families, 2008.	242
7.1. In most countries child mortality is very rare	249
7.2. Child mortality rates declined in almost all OECD countries since the 1970s.	250
7.3. Richer, more equal and less poor countries have the lowest child mortality rates.	252
7.A1.1. Intentional and accidental child mortality rates, 1970 to latest year available	272

This book has...



Look for the *StatLinks* at the bottom right-hand corner of the tables or graphs in this book. To download the matching Excel® spreadsheet, just type the link into your Internet browser, starting with the <http://dx.doi.org> prefix. If you're reading the PDF e-book edition, and your PC is connected to the Internet, simply click on the link. You'll find *StatLinks* appearing in more OECD books.