

# Mothers at work: Nonstandard-hour work schedules and childcare for low-income families <sup>[1]</sup>

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**Format:** Report

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## AVAILABILITY

PDF available online <sup>[2]</sup>

## Key Points

- Nonstandard-hour work schedules are necessary in today's economy but can be challenging for parents who need childcare.
- Research suggests that parents working nonstandard hours can negatively affect children, but questions remain about whether it is the work schedule itself or something else.
- Using unique time-diary data on low-income mothers with young children, this report found that work schedule instability — meaning transitioning between standard- and nonstandard-hour schedules — was associated with childcare instability in ways that nonstandard-hour schedules alone were not, suggesting that work schedule instability might be more important than nonstandard hours in explaining child outcomes.
- Policymakers should consider how the federal childcare subsidy program and tax policy can support parents who work nonstandard-hour schedules by limiting schedule and childcare instability.

## Related link:

**Region:** United States <sup>[3]</sup>

**Tags:** non-standard hours <sup>[4]</sup>

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**Source URL (modified on 27 Jan 2022):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/18/10/%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BCmothers-work-nonstandard-hour-work-schedules-and-childcare-low>

## Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/18/10/%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BC%EF%BF%BCmothers-work-nonstandard-hour-work-schedules-and-childcare-low> [2] <http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Mothers-at-Work.pdf> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7865> [4] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/non-standard-hours>