

# What causes the child penalty and how can it be reduced? Evidence from same-sex couples and policy reforms (working paper) <sup>[1]</sup>

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## AVAILABILITY

Access full PDF online <sup>[2]</sup>

Attachment	Size
 <a href="#">What causes the child penalty and how can it be reduced.pdf</a> <sup>[3]</sup>	4.6 MB

Excerpts from abstract:

New parenthood causes large decreases in labor market incomes for mothers but not fathers, a stylized fact known as the “child penalty.” We use a simple household model combined with a comparison of child penalties in heterosexual non-adopting, heterosexual adopting, and same-sex couples to better understand what causes the child penalty. Our results largely rule out giving birth and comparative advantage within the household as mechanisms, leaving preferences and gender norms as the main explanations, although we cannot disentangle these last two mechanisms. Building on these results we also provide causal estimates of two policies aimed at reducing the child penalty. We find small and insignificant impacts of paternity leave use on the child penalty, but find a 25% reduction in the child penalty from a large Norwegian reform that expanded access to child care.

**Related link:** [Women’s salaries plummet after giving birth. Here’s one way to restore their earning power](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

**Region:** Europe <sup>[5]</sup>

**Tags:** gender <sup>[6]</sup>

mother's labour force participation <sup>[7]</sup>

work/life balance <sup>[8]</sup>

**Source URL (modified on 17 Sep 2020):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/20/07/what-causes-child-penalty-and-how-can-it-be-reduced-0>

## Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/20/07/what-causes-child-penalty-and-how-can-it-be-reduced-0> <sup>[2]</sup>

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/1f0g8kza4ozkd89/child\\_penalty\\_samesex\\_latest.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/1f0g8kza4ozkd89/child_penalty_samesex_latest.pdf?dl=0) <sup>[3]</sup>

<https://childcarecanada.org/sites/default/files/What%20causes%20the%20child%20penalty%20and%20how%20can%20it%20be%20reduced.pdf> <sup>[4]</sup>

<https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/20/07/women%E2%80%99s-salaries-plummet-after-giving-birth-here%E2%80%99s-one-way-restore> <sup>[5]</sup>

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