

How the Provision of Childcare Affects Attitudes towards Maternal Employment

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Abstract

Do institutions in place in a country influence the attitudes of an individual? To tackle this question, I consider childcare services and their impact on voters' support of policies encouraging maternal employment. The inherent endogeneity between institutions and attitudes is addressed by exploiting cantonal variation in the regulations of municipal lunch- and after-school care supply in Switzerland. This variation along with federal ballots on policies targeting maternal employment allow the application of a difference-in-differences approach. My results indicate that provision of lunch tables and after-school care increase the support of additional policies towards the encouragement of maternal labor supply once the tax increase due to the expansion of public goods is considered.

Keywords: Childcare, Preferences, Maternal Employment, Public Economics

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