

Abstract

This thesis investigates the impact of childcare costs and other determinants on the employment of mothers of young children across various years, using data from the IPUMS USA database. The study employs logistic regression and Tobit models to analyze employment status and hours worked for mothers in 2008, 2013, and 2018, as well as in a combined full dataset. Results highlight that rising childcare costs reduce maternal employment but not as significantly as other factors are able to affect maternal employment, with variations observed over time. Additionally, factors such as the number of children, age, marital status, and education level play crucial roles. The findings underscore the importance of addressing not only work flexibility but also childcare affordability and its influence on maternal workforce participation.

Keywords Childcare costs, USA, labor market

Title Do Current Childcare Costs Cause Women to Leave their Jobs? A Workforce Retention Regression Analysis

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