



# Primary School Reopening and Parental Work

Haeck, Catherine & CRDCN. "Primary School Reopening and Parental Work." *CRDCN research-policy snapshots*. January 2023

## What the researcher(s) did

The researchers examine working trends of parents in response to primary school reopening using a household-level framework to observe impacts on single mothers and fathers and dual-parent mothers and fathers, separately. Trends in parental work are assessed from January 2017 to January 2021, based on three labour market outcomes: employed and at work, employed and absent from work and hours worked.

## What the researcher(s) found

This study shows that primary school reopenings in May 2020 and January 2021 had a positive impact on the employment status of parents, with single mothers seeing the highest increase in employment rates. Considering hours of work, this study observed a significant increase primarily among single mothers and fathers in dual-parent households.

## RDC Datasets used

**Labour Force Survey (LFS) between January 2017 and January 2021**

## Policy areas this research can inform

- Children and youth
- Education, training and learning
- Health
- Labour
- Population and demography

## Policy implications of this research

This research demonstrates that though different provinces used different strategies at different times, keeping schools open was consistently essential to parent's labour force participation. However, the risks and benefits are not experienced equally among mothers and fathers. These findings provide insight into the gender employment gap and the effects school closures can have on the labour market. While school reopening should not be based solely on the impact they have on parental work, these trends have implications for policy decisions around school closures and reopening, as well as policies around employment and wage supports for parents, namely single mothers.

## Read the full article

**Beauregard, P., Connolly, M., Haeck, C., & Molnár, T. L. (2022).** Primary School Reopenings and Parental Work. *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 55(1), 248-281. doi:10.1111/caje.12566

