

Appendix table 1: Sensitivity analyses of effects of a 1-month increase in length of paid maternity leave policy on the prevalence of early initiation of breastfeeding among children born in the last 24 months

	Estimate	95% LCL	95% UCL
1-month increase in legislated length of paid maternity leave			
Lagged one year, t-1	7.40	3.15	11.65
Concurrent, t	5.38	0.76	9.99
Lead, t+1	2.60	-2.64	7.84
Lead two years, t+2	1.62	-3.96	7.20
Lead three years, t+3	0.90	-4.51	6.30
1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave			
Lagged one year, t-1	6.85	2.93	10.76
Concurrent, t	5.10	0.79	9.40
Lead, t+1	2.44	-2.52	7.40
Lead two years, t+2	1.56	-3.92	7.04
Lead three years, t+3	0.90	-4.51	6.30

Reported estimates are marginal effects at the means, which were multiplied by 100 in order to be interpreted as the percentage point difference in prevalence

Models includes country and year fixed effects and additionally controlled for country-level characteristics

Appendix table 2: Sensitivity analyses of effects of a 1-month increase in length of paid maternity leave policy on the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding among infants 0–5 months of age

	Estimate	95% LCL	95% UCL
1-month increase in legislated length of paid maternity leave			
Lagged one year, t-1	5.86	1.95	9.77
Concurrent, t	-0.12	-5.92	5.67
Lead, t+1	-1.63	-7.92	4.67
Lead two years, t+2	0.57	-5.52	6.67
Lead three years, t+3	-1.44	-7.10	4.22
1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave			
Lagged one year, t-1	5.32	1.65	9.00
Concurrent, t	-0.16	-5.82	5.50
Lead, t+1	-1.63	-7.92	4.67
Lead two years, t+2	0.57	-5.52	6.67
Lead three years, t+3	-1.44	-7.10	4.22

Reported estimates are marginal effects at the means, which were multiplied by 100 in order to be interpreted as the percentage point difference in prevalence

Models includes country and year fixed effects and additionally controlled for country-level characteristics

Appendix table 3: Sensitivity analyses of effects of a 1-month increase in length of paid maternity leave policy on breastfeeding duration (months) among children under five years of age

	Estimate	95% LCL	95% UCL
1-month increase in length of paid maternity leave policy			
Lagged one year, t-1	2.21	1.05	3.38
Concurrent, t	0.93	-0.28	2.13
Lead, t+1	0.13	-1.12	1.38
Lead two years, t+2	0.42	-0.86	1.70
Lead three years, t+3	0.29	-1.56	2.14
1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave policy			
Lagged one year, t-1	2.00	0.78	3.17
Concurrent, t	0.84	-0.29	1.97
Lead, t+1	-0.12	-1.31	1.07
Lead two years, t+2	0.10	-1.23	1.44
Lead three years, t+3	0.00	-1.85	1.85

Models includes country and year fixed effects and additionally controlled for country-level characteristics

Appendix table 4: Effect of a 1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave policy on the prevalence of early initiation of breastfeeding among children born in the last 24 months

	Model 1 (n = 397,406)	Model 2 (n = 387,288)	Model 3 (n = 387,288)
Exposure			
1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave policy	8.49 (4.77, 12.21)	7.77 (4.33, 11.21)	6.85 (2.93, 10.76)
Household- and individual-level covariates			
Number of listed household members		-0.05 (-0.27, 0.17)	-0.06 (-0.27, 0.16)
Household wealth			
poorest		Ref	Ref
poorer		0.39 (-0.80, 1.58)	0.42 (-0.78, 1.62)
middle		0.48 (-1.36, 2.33)	0.49 (-1.35, 2.34)
richer		1.51 (-0.88, 3.91)	1.51 (-0.88, 3.90)
richest		1.85 (-0.84, 4.54)	1.81 (-0.86, 4.48)
Place of residence			
urban		Ref	Ref
rural		0.29 (-1.11, 1.69)	0.26 (-1.21, 1.73)
Mother's age at childbirth (years)		-0.08 (-0.26, 0.10)	-0.08 (-0.26, 0.10)
Mother's number of living children		2.79 (2.05, 3.54)	2.75 (1.99, 3.50)
Maternal education			
no education		Ref	Ref
incomplete primary		1.20 (-1.32, 3.72)	1.14 (-1.34, 3.63)
complete primary		3.98 (0.90, 7.06)	4.03 (1.02, 7.03)
incomplete secondary		1.58 (-1.48, 4.64)	1.65 (-1.33, 4.62)
complete secondary		-1.49 (-5.59, 2.61)	-1.39 (-5.37, 2.59)
higher		-5.80 (-11.19, -0.40)	-5.59 (-10.87, -0.31)
Mother's current marital status			
never in union		Ref	Ref
married		2.43 (0.70, 4.16)	2.52 (0.76, 4.28)
living with partner		3.00 (1.33, 4.67)	3.00 (1.33, 4.68)
separated/divorced/widowed		1.88 (0.42, 3.35)	1.99 (0.53, 3.46)
Mother worked in the last 12 months			
did not work		Ref	Ref

	worked in the past year	-3.98 (-6.36, -1.59)	-4.29 (-6.46, -2.12)
	currently working	-2.36 (-4.02, -0.70)	-2.38 (-3.99, -0.77)
	have a job, but on leave last 7 days	-9.29 (-12.16, -6.42)	-10.53 (-14.41, -6.64)
	Child's birth order	-1.47 (-2.02, -0.92)	-1.43 (-1.96, -0.89)
	Child's sex		
	Male	Ref	Ref
	Female	1.23 (0.69, 1.76)	1.23 (0.69, 1.77)
Country-level covariates			
	GDP per capita		1.87 (-0.70, 4.44)
	Health expenditure per capita (PPP)		-0.58 (-1.44, 0.28)
	% Females aged 15-64 participating in the labor force		0.00 (0.00, 0.00)
	Unemployment female (% of female labor force)		0.41 (-0.26, 1.08)

Reported estimates are marginal effects at the means, which were multiplied by 100 in order to be interpreted as the percentage point difference in prevalence

95% confidence intervals are in parentheses

Model 1 includes country and year fixed effects

Model 2 additionally controlled for measured individual and household characteristics

Model 3 additionally controlled for country-level characteristics

Appendix table 5: Effect of a 1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave policy on the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding under six months among infants 0–5 months of age

	Model 1 (n = 84,593)	Model 2 (n = 82,081)	Model 3 (n = 82,081)
Exposure			
1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave policy	5.63 (1.83, 9.44)	5.58 (1.71, 9.45)	5.32 (1.65, 9.00)
Household- and individual-level covariates			
Number of listed household members		0.14 (0.02, 0.25)	0.14 (0.02, 0.26)
Household wealth			
poorest		Ref	Ref
poorer		-0.32 (-1.11, 0.46)	-0.35 (-1.13, 0.44)
middle		-0.12 (-1.42, 1.18)	-0.12 (-1.43, 1.18)
richer		-0.97 (-2.56, 0.61)	-0.99 (-2.58, 0.60)
richest		-1.96 (-3.84, -0.07)	-1.95 (-3.79, -0.11)
Place of residence			
urban		Ref	Ref
rural		-0.06 (-1.54, 1.41)	-0.07 (-1.55, 1.42)
Mother's age at childbirth (years)		0.04 (-0.06, 0.13)	0.04 (-0.06, 0.13)
Mother's number of living children		0.22 (-0.58, 1.01)	0.24 (-0.53, 1.01)
Maternal education			
no education		Ref	Ref
incomplete primary		-1.25 (-3.09, 0.59)	-1.22 (-3.05, 0.61)
complete primary		-0.41 (-2.24, 1.42)	-0.46 (-2.29, 1.37)
incomplete secondary		-0.78 (-2.65, 1.08)	-0.83 (-2.70, 1.05)
complete secondary		1.97 (-0.88, 4.82)	1.93 (-0.89, 4.75)
higher		3.92 (0.40, 7.45)	3.87 (0.41, 7.33)
Mother's current marital status			
never in union		Ref	Ref
married		2.39 (-0.07, 4.86)	2.31 (-0.19, 4.81)
living with partner		3.06 (1.34, 4.77)	3.1 (1.35, 4.86)
separated/divorced/widowed		-0.23 (-2.59, 2.13)	-0.28 (-2.63, 2.07)
Mother worked in the last 12 months			
did not work		Ref	Ref

	worked in the past year	0.49 (-1.06, 2.03)	0.63 (-0.90, 2.16)
	currently working	-2.57 (-3.62, -1.51)	-2.50 (-3.56, -1.44)
	have a job, but on leave last 7 days	5.00 (3.27, 6.73)	5.44 (3.59, 7.28)
	Child's birth order	-0.39 (-1.10, 0.32)	-0.41 (-1.09, 0.27)
	Child's sex		
	Male	Ref	Ref
	Female	0.39 (-0.16, 0.94)	0.4 (-0.15, 0.95)
Country-level covariates			
	GDP per capita		-0.38 (-1.78, 1.02)
	Health expenditure per capita (PPP)		-0.01 (-1.01, 1.00)
	% Females aged 15-64 participating in the labor force		0.00 (0.00, 0.00)
	Unemployment female (% of female labor force)		-0.44 (-1.23, 0.36)

Reported estimates are marginal effects at the means, which were multiplied by 100 in order to be interpreted as the percentage point difference in prevalence

95% confidence intervals are in parentheses

Model 1 includes country and year fixed effects

Model 2 additionally controlled for measured individual and household characteristics

Model 3 additionally controlled for country-level characteristics

Appendix table 6: Effect of a 1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave policy on breastfeeding duration (months) among children under five years of age

	Model 1 (n = 750,107)	Model 2 (n = 728,541)	Model 3 (n = 727,236)
Exposure			
1-month increase in FTE length of paid maternity leave policy	1.45 (0.23, 2.67)	1.51 (0.36, 2.66)	2.00 (0.78, 3.17)
Household- and individual-level covariates			
Number of listed household members		-0.10 (-0.15, -0.05)	-0.10 (-0.15, -0.05)
Household wealth			
poorest		0.00 (ref)	0.00 (ref)
poorer		-0.02 (-0.21, 0.18)	-0.01 (-0.20, 0.18)
middle		-0.16 (-0.41, 0.09)	-0.16 (-0.41, 0.09)
richer		-0.38 (-0.69, -0.07)	-0.37 (-0.68, -0.06)
richest		-0.96 (-1.44, -0.48)	-0.93 (-1.41, -0.45)
Place of residence			
urban		0.00 (ref)	0.00 (ref)
rural		0.23 (0.03, 0.43)	0.24 (0.05, 0.44)
Mother's age at childbirth (years)		0.02 (0.00, 0.05)	0.02 (0.00, 0.05)
Mother's number of living children		0.30 (0.12, 0.49)	0.28 (0.08, 0.48)
Maternal education			
no education		0.00 (ref)	0.00 (ref)
incomplete primary		-0.22 (-0.52, 0.08)	-0.18 (-0.48, 0.12)
complete primary		-0.29 (-0.70, 0.12)	-0.26 (-0.67, 0.15)
incomplete secondary		-0.59 (-1.03, -0.15)	-0.56 (-1.00, -0.12)
complete secondary		-0.89 (-1.40, -0.37)	-0.91 (-1.41, -0.40)
higher		-1.81 (-2.32, -1.30)	-1.86 (-2.33, -1.38)
Mother's current marital status			
never in union		0.00 (ref)	0.00 (ref)
married		0.44 (0.16, 0.71)	0.41 (0.12, 0.71)
living with partner		0.42 (0.15, 0.69)	0.36 (0.08, 0.64)
widowed		2.11 (1.64, 2.57)	2.05 (1.58, 2.52)
divorced		1.47 (0.89, 2.05)	1.42 (0.83, 2.01)
no longer living together/separated		0.93 (0.60, 1.26)	0.88 (0.53, 1.22)

Mother worked in the last 12 months		
did not work	0.00 (ref)	0.00 (ref)
worked in the past year	0.21 (-0.22, 0.64)	0.28 (-0.22, 0.77)
currently working	1.13 (0.87, 1.39)	1.13 (0.86, 1.39)
have a job, but on leave last 7 days	-1.46 (-2.13, -0.80)	-1.34 (-2.33, -0.35)
Child's birth order	-0.08 (-0.21, 0.05)	-0.06 (-0.20, 0.08)
Child's sex		
Male	0.00 (ref)	0.00 (ref)
Female	0.02 (-0.10, 0.14)	0.02 (-0.10, 0.14)
Country-level covariates		
GDP per capita		-0.67 (-1.14, -0.21)
Health expenditure per capita (PPP)		-0.04 (-0.30, 0.21)
% Females aged 15-64 participating in the labor force		0.00 (0.00, 0.00)
Unemployment female (% of female labor force)		-0.02 (-0.21, 0.17)
Age of infant (months) until which mother is guaranteed breastfeeding breaks at work		0.18 (0.04, 0.33)

95% confidence intervals are in parentheses

Model 1 includes country and year fixed effects

Model 2 additionally controlled for measured individual and household characteristics

Model 3 additionally controlled for country-level characteristics