

A Comparison of Single and Cohabiting Mothers' Utilization of the Temporary Parental Leave Insurance

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In this study, the utilization of the temporary parental leave insurance by single and cohabiting women is compared, both as regards the probability of taking temporary parental leave and the number of days taken. Since cohabiting women have the possibility of sharing the number of days of temporary parental leave with their partners, we would expect them to have a lower utilization. However, this is not the case.

On the contrary, we find that being single has a negative effect on the utilization of temporary parental leave. In addition, we find that single and cohabiting women differ substantially regarding the effect of various socio-economic factors on the utilization. We find that the differences between cohabiting and single women to a large extent can be explained by bargaining between the spouses within cohabiting households.