First-Time Mothers at Work (Infographic)

Women's Bureau
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Abstract
Now and then: How first-time mothers have changed their employment and leave patterns.

Keywords
women, motherhood, employment, leave

Comments
Suggested Citation

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First-time mothers at work: How first-time mothers have changed their employment and leave patterns

Percentage of first-time mothers who worked during pregnancy

- **1961-1965**
  - 44.4% of first-time mothers worked during pregnancy
  - Distribution: 39.7% full time, 4.7% part time

- **2006-2008**
  - 65.6% of first-time mothers worked during pregnancy
  - Distribution: 56.1% full time, 9.5% part time

When did first-time mothers stop working during pregnancy?

- **1961-1965**
  - 81.6% stopped working 1 month or less before due date
  - 17.1% stopped working 2 months before due date
  - 6.6% stopped working 3-5 months before due date
  - 6.5% stopped working 6 months or more before due date

- **2006-2008**
  - 34.6% stopped working 1 month or less before due date
  - 17.1% stopped working 2 months before due date
  - 6.5% stopped working 3-5 months before due date
  - 5.5% stopped working 6 months or more before due date

More women are working sooner after first birth

- **1961-1965**
  - 9.9% of mothers returned to work within 3 months of giving birth
  - 44.2% of mothers returned to work within a year of giving birth

- **2005-2007**
  - 44.2% of mothers returned to work within 3 months of giving birth
  - 63.8% of mothers returned to work within a year of giving birth

More women are working sooner after first birth:

- 80% of mothers who returned to work within 12 months of giving birth returned to their same employer (2005 - 2007)

Leave arrangements used by first-time mothers who worked during pregnancy:

- **1981-1985**
  - 33.7% left for disability leave
  - 37.3% left due to unpaid leave
  - 35.7% left for paid leave

- **2006-2008**
  - 4.7% left for disability leave
  - 9.5% left due to unpaid leave
  - 42.4% left for paid leave

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Income and Program Participation Survey

Revised July 2015