

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS: HOW TWO POLICIES MAY SUPPORT FATHERS AND PREVENT CHILD MALTREATMENT

In this brief, we highlight key points from our literature review published in the *International Journal of Child Maltreatment*.



### WHAT WE KNOW

Paid family leave (PFL) and childcare subsidies (CCS) are associated with reducing child maltreatment.<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, fathers were perpetrators in 44% of confirmed child maltreatment cases.<sup>1</sup> Yet there are few interventions designed to support fathers.<sup>1</sup>



### WHAT WE FOUND

Fathers are an under-studied and overlooked group in child maltreatment prevention and policymaking. But they can play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect.

PFL and CCS policies increase access to a variety of resources for caregivers. This access can reduce parental financial stress and reduce child maltreatment.

PFL increases fathers' engagement and bonding with their child. This policy may also create a more equal distribution of household labor.

CCS may promote caregiver— including father — employment and earnings. It also provides them a break from parenting stress.



### WHAT THIS MEANS

Policies like PFL and CCS must be intentional in supporting fathers following their child's birth.

This support may help prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. But more research is needed to understand how these policies can support fathers and improve family well-being.<sup>1</sup>

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### References

1. Pace, G. T., Lee, J. Y., Schneider, W. & Klika, J. B. (2022). Supporting fathers to prevent child maltreatment: How paid family leave and child care subsidies are part of a public health approach. *International Journal of Child Maltreatment*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42448-022-00124-x>

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