

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS: HOW PAID FAMILY LEAVE MAY PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE

In this brief, we highlight key findings from our commentary published in the *Journal of Family Violence*.



WHAT WE KNOW

Family violence (e.g., child abuse and neglect and intimate partner violence) is common. Strengthening household financial support may reduce or prevent family violence.^{1,2}

Paid family leave (PFL) can help families during important life events like having or adopting a baby.³ PFL can relieve financial worries during this joyful, but stressful time.

The U.S. does not have federal PFL, but 14 states have passed or will soon have PFL laws. These laws can look different about how long someone can take leave, how much money they receive, and who qualifies.



WHAT WE FOUND

PFL may reduce family stress. In our commentary, we discuss how PFL can improve:

- Relationships between parent(s) and child(ren),
- Job security and financial stability,
- Active father engagement,
- Ability to handle conflict in the home, and
- Promotion of gender equality.



WHAT THIS MEANS

Having a baby is stressful for new caregivers. PFL provides families with financial support during this time. It allows them to bond with their baby and not worry about where their next paycheck will come from.

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References

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2. Niolon, P. H., Kearns, M., Dills, J., Rambo, K., Irving, S., Armstead, T., & Gilbert, L. (2017). *Intimate partner violence prevention resource for action: A compilation of the best available evidence*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
3. Han, W. J., Ruhn, C., & Waldfogel, J. (2009). Parental leave policies and parents' employment and leave-taking. *Journal of policy analysis and management: [the journal of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management]*, 28(1), 29–54. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.20398>