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.

References

This publication is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (R01CE003178) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $97,997 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.