Peer Review Report

Review Report on Associations between Parental Employment and Children's Screen Time: A Longitudinal Study of China Health and Nutrition Survey

Original Article, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: Reviewer 1
Submitted on: 19 Oct 2022
Article DOI: 10.3389/ijph.2022.1605372

EVALUATION

Q 1 **Please summarize the main findings of the study.**

This study found a positive association between maternal employment and children's screen time. Formal employment predicted an increase of child screen time on weekdays whereas parental informal employment predicted weekends' screen time. There was an association between maternal paid work and children's screen time.

Q 2 **Please highlight the limitations and strengths.**

Limitations:

The discussion needs some order and a more cohesive structure. In the discussion there is relevant information that summarises the main results of the study, but it not always presents an optimal structure, as at parts there is a lot of information at the end of the paper. I ask the authors to revise their discussion and try to be more selective in the quantity of information they add in each paragraph and restructure it accordingly. That is, try to choose what information is the most relevant and then develop some of these ideas more into detail instead of adding too many ideas or findings without going much into detail for each.

The paper does not clarify (I think) if it focuses on different-sex couples and how old are them. If this information is in the paper, I have not found it. Crucially the role of lone-parent families would be particularly interesting for the paper. A justification of this choices is needed. In my opinion lone-parent families are a very interesting group to consider.

The authors should say why they do not focus on work schedules or at least why not weekend work and acknowledge the missing of this information in the limitations of their paper as work schedules and the level of flexibility around this is a very important source of information for this line of research.

The paper should discuss and model non-linearities more. Quantile regression or quadratic models can help to clarify if Y (ST) increases exactly together with X (paid work time) or if there are nonlinearities operating.

In the discussion, in line with what I mentioned above, the authors should engage with more thoughtful debates and propose potential mechanisms for future research to be studied.

Please discuss more the reason of the observed gender differences between mothers' paid work and fathers' paid work and implications this has for debates on gender inequalities in society.

Can the authors please discuss the observed difference by age of the child please? Why do we find this and what are the implications and meanings of this for family life and children's daily routines?

This is a high-quality descriptive paper but we need a deeper discussion of mechanisms as I imply above. It would be interesting if in the discussion if the authors discuss a potential model or type of mechanisms to be

explored in future research so that these could allow them to understand why they find what they find and understand processes further.

Please acknowledge the disadvantage of the stylised data used in the paper with time-diary data. Time-diary data with measures of ST are used and their interest is shown in the 2 papers mentioned below. I recommend the authors to engage with these literature and acknowledge that future studies should be conducted with other data that are very detailed at capturing young people's daily routines.

Gracia, P., Garcia-Roman, J., Oinas, T., & Anttila, T. (2020). Child and Adolescent Time Use: A Cross-National Study. Journal of Marriage and Family, 82(4), 1304–1325.

Mullan, K., & Hofferth, S. L. (2022). A comparative time-diary analysis of UK and US children's screen time and device use. Child Indicators Research, 15(3), 795–818.

Strengths:

This is a strong descriptive paper. I like the approach and have just spent more space above discussing the limitations and recommending improvements on an interesting paper.

The paper is well written, particularly the introduction, with a very nice literature review and description of the problem.

The topic is very relevant to public health scholars.

The authors use high-quality longitudinal data and the modelling is suitable, except some minor issues that I propose above as robustness checks.

The introduction is of high quality and it adds and interesting discussion of previous literature and concepts.

The results are communicated effectively.

This is overall a relevant paper that contributes significantly to the literature on a very important topic. I just ask the authors to consider my comments above to improve on their contribution.

Q 3 **Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.**

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PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 **Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?**

yes

Q 5 Are the keywords appropriate?

yes

Q 6 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

yes

Q 7 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

In general yes. I recommend some literature related to some methodological points highlighted above.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9	Originality	
Q 10	Rigor	
Q 11	Significance to the field	
Q 12	Interest to a general audience	
Q 13	Quality of the writing	
Q 14	Overall scientific quality of the study	

REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Minor revisions.