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Replication of *Jahagirdar D, Harper S, Heymann J, et al The effect of paid maternity leave on early childhood growth in low-income and middle-income countries BMJ Global Health 2017;2:e000294.*

Data sources

Analyses utilized three sources of data, specifically: (1) child and household level information collected from respondents surveyed as part of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in 37 countries (Table 1); (2) measures of maternity leave policies; and (3) country level covariates including gross domestic product (GDP) per capita based on purchasing power parity, female labour force participation among women aged 15–64, total health expenditure (as a % GDP), per cent living in an urban environment, government effectiveness rating and per capita government health expenditure based on purchasing power parity.

The DHS data are publicly available, but users must first register with the DHS program. Registration can be completed at: http://www.dhsprogram.com/data/new-user-registration.cfm.

Data on current maternity leave policies for each sampled country were provided by UCLA's World Legal Rights Data Centre (WoRLD) and then collected retrospectively to 1995 by McGill University's Maternal and Child Health Equity (MACHEquity) research program. The policy data are freely available through the website, www.machequity.com, without any restriction. We provide a ready-to-used dataset with country, year and maternity leave mat_leave_country_year.dta.

The country level covariates listed above can be downloaded from the World Bank indicators website at: http://data.worldbank.org/indicator.

Instructions

1. Download data. Complete DHS Program registration at http://dhsprogram.com/data/Access-Instructions.cfm, and download once granted access. Also download mat_leave_country_year.dta, from this dataverse.
2. Run the code in the script to generate the estimates from the paper.