

## Effects of Intergenerational Proximity on Married Women's Employment in Japan

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Recent research has revealed that parents' geographic proximity contributes to married women's labor force participation and full-time employment. However, how the effect differs between wife's parents and husband's parents has not been fully investigated.

In this paper, I analyzed the effect of proximity to wife's mother and husband's mother separately, on wife's employment. I used two data sets: the Fourth National Survey on Family (NSFJ4) conducted in 2008, and the Third National Family Research of Japan (NFRJ08) conducted in 2009. In order to make the results comparable, I applied the same restrictions, used the same variables and analyses for the two data sets. I also pooled the data sets and checked whether the impact of proximity differs between the two. I found that proximity to wife's mother contributes to wife's labor force participation, especially full-time employment. The impact of proximity to husband's mother is less clear but there is a possibility that it contributes to wife's part-time employment. The result implies that support from wife's parents is extremely important for married women in Japan to work full-time. Child care policy should place more emphasis on women who have migrated from other regions and for whom support from their own parents is less accessible.