The Family Policy Database, Version 1 (1997)

Data were assembled by Janet Gornick, Marcia Meyers, and Katherin Ross, and were published in 1997.

The data contained in the first Family Policy Database describe key family policy provisions in fourteen countries -- related to family leave, child care, and school schedules -- as of the middle 1980s. These data were assembled to allow LIS researchers to link policy provisions to microdata outcomes, especially maternal employment, in the LIS wave II microdata (1984-1987).

The policy data included here -- which are presented in a single Excel workbook -- came from a variety of secondary sources and were checked by country experts.

Clarification: The table titled "public parental leave policies" should be titled "public family leave policies". The programs summarized in that table include maternity leave; paternity leave; and various forms of parental leave (referred to here as "extended leave").

Citation: If you use these policy data, please site their source as follows:

Gornick, Janet C., Marcia K. Meyers, and Katherin E. Ross. 1997. "Supporting the Employment of Mothers: Policy Variation Across Fourteen Welfare States." Journal of European Social Policy 7(1): 45-70.

Please note that that journal article contains these raw policy data and, in addition, a set of indexes that combine policy features across programs.