# Article information:

Family Disruption and Parenting During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Kammi K. Schmeer, Britt Singletary, Kelly M. Purtell, Laura M. Justice, 2023  
<https://journals-sagepub-com.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/doi/full/10.1177/0192513X211042852>

# Article summary:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant social and economic impacts on families with young children, leading to disruptions in parenting activities.

2. Caregivers reported extensive social and economic challenges during the stay-at-home period, but also increased their time spent in play/learning activities with their children.

3. Economic distress and low socioeconomic position may have contributed to stress, lowered parent/child well-being, and compromised parenting, particularly for economically vulnerable families. However, changes in economic conditions, particularly caregiver job loss, were associated with higher odds of increases in reading/telling stories time across household income groups.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "Family Disruption and Parenting During the COVID-19 Pandemic" by Kammi K. Schmeer, Britt Singletary, Kelly M. Purtell, and Laura M. Justice provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on parenting activities among caregivers with young children in Ohio. The study draws on two theoretical perspectives, the Family Stress Model (FSM) and Family Investment Model (FIM), to assess family disruption and parenting during the stay-at-home period.

The article presents a detailed background of the COVID-19 pandemic as a social and economic crisis for families with children in Ohio. It highlights how the movement of work and school into the home environment caused social and economic shocks to families of unparalleled proportions. The article also discusses how younger children are highly dependent on their caregivers, and need stable, nurturing family environments to support their physical, mental, and emotional health.

The study found that caregivers reported extensive social and economic challenges during this time while also increasing their time spent in play/learning activities. Time spent in discipline was less likely to increase during this period. The authors found significant associations among disadvantaged social conditions/experiences and parenting, and that some effects were moderated by 2019 household income status.

However, there are some potential biases in this study that need to be considered. Firstly, the sample size is relatively small (448 caregivers), which may limit its generalizability to other populations or regions. Secondly, the study only focuses on one state (Ohio), which may not represent other states' experiences during the pandemic.

Additionally, while the article acknowledges that economic distress can cause family economic pressure, parental stress, more negative parenting behaviors leading to disrupted family relations affecting child outcomes; it does not explore how these disruptions could have long-term consequences for children's development beyond this specific period.

Furthermore, while the article notes that caregiver job loss was associated with higher odds of increases in reading/telling stories time across household income groups, it does not explore why this may be the case. It is possible that caregivers who lost their jobs had more time to spend with their children, leading to an increase in reading/telling stories time.

Overall, the article provides valuable insights into how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected parenting activities among caregivers with young children in Ohio. However, there are potential biases and limitations that need to be considered when interpreting the study's findings.

# Topics for further research:

* Long-term effects of family disruption on child development
* Economic distress and parenting behaviors
* Impact of COVID-19 on children's mental health
* Parental stress and child outcomes
* Stay-at-home orders and family dynamics
* Parenting interventions during the pandemic

# Report location:

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