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**How French parents working on non-standard hours are facing their parental responsibilities? Results from the French national inquiry on caring arrangements**

Work / life balance has become a main political issue in European countries. It is also the case in France, where the government intends to create a public childcare service, as in Nordic countries. As a matter of fact, France is in a quite paradoxical situation: a high level of fertility, a good level of female employment, a good level of childcare services and yet a high level of stress due to the difficulty to combine work and family life. The French national inquiry on caring arrangements ("enquête modes de garde" INSEE/DREES) led in 2002 gives elements to analyse these difficulties by focusing on the different solutions adopted by parents to care for their children between 0 and 7 years and a half. Our objective is to present and analyse the caring arrangements of parents with flexible and non-standard hours of work (long days of work, shift work, work during nights and weekends, fragmented time-schedules). During these periods where are the children cared for and by whom? Is this need of service and help is occasional, marginal or frequent? Do the parents resort to professionals or informal network? What do we know about the characteristics of these families?

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