

## ATTITUDE TOWARD MATERNAL EMPLOYMENT

### Reference

Greenberger, E., Goldberg, W. A., Crawford, T. J., & Granger, J. (1988). Beliefs about the consequences of maternal employment for children. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 12, 35-59.

### Description

*Attitude Toward Maternal Employment* is an 11-item subset of the 24 items on Greenberger et al.'s (1988) *Beliefs about the Consequences of Maternal Employment for Children*. Each item is rated on a 6-point scale ranging from 1 = *disagree very strongly* to 6 = *agree very strongly*. The measure includes two subscales, Costs and Benefits. A Total score is computed after reversing the items on the Benefits scale.

Greenberger et al. (1988) reported validity data indicating that a measure of opposition to maternal employment is positively correlated with Costs and negatively correlated with Benefits. The authors also reported associations between the subscales and a number of variables such as employment status, weekly work hours, and gender.

### Administration: 6 months, 54 months

This measure was administered to mothers at 6 months ( $n = 108$ ) during the common protocol home visit and at 54 months ( $n = 90$ ) during the common protocol lab visit. The 11-item measure also was administered as part of the common protocol to mothers at 1 month and to fathers/partners at 1, 6, 15, 24, & 36 months.

### Scoring: NICHD Study of Early Child Care & Youth Development

#### Costs

Mean of 6 items: 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9. A higher score reflects stronger beliefs that maternal employment is costly to children.

6 months = **M6MECOS**

$N = 108, M = 2.93, SD = 0.94, \text{range} = 1-5.67, \alpha = .87$

54 months = **M54MECOS**

$N = 90, M = 2.67, SD = 1.01, \text{range} = 1-5.33, \alpha = .92$

#### Benefits

Mean of 5 items: 2, 4, 6, 10, 11. A higher score reflects stronger beliefs that maternal employment has benefits for children.

6 months = **M6MEBEN**

$N = 108, M = 3.90, SD = 0.70, \text{range} = 1.80-6, \alpha = .84$

54 months = **M54MEBEN**

$N = 90, M = 3.84, SD = 0.79, \text{range} = 1-5.60, \alpha = .86$

#### Total Costs

Mean of all items, with Benefits items reversed: 1, -2, 3, -4, 5, -6, 7, 8, 9, -10, -11. A higher score reflects stronger beliefs that maternal employment has negative consequences for children (high perceived costs, low perceived benefits). Note that the Total Costs score was not computed

in the NICHD common data set.

6 months = **M6METOT**

$N = 108$ ,  $M = 3.01$ ,  $SD = 0.71$ , range = 1-5.18,  $\alpha = .87$

54 months = **M54METOT**

$N = 90$ ,  $M = 2.89$ ,  $SD = 0.76$ , range = 1.36-5.18,  $\alpha = .89$

**Analysis Data Sets**

6 months: SS6MO

54 months: SS54MO

**Raw Data Sets**

6 months: M6AME

54 months: M54AME