

*Objective:* As the proportion of both mothers of young children in the workforce and mothers who begin breastfeeding continues to increase, more and more women are facing the decision of whether and how to combine the behaviors. The purpose of this study was to determine whether 1) the expectation of work after the baby's birth is associated with the decision to breastfeed; 2) the timing of the return to work and weaning are linked; and 3) the type of occupation matters for breastfeeding duration.

*Methods:* The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study offers a unique opportunity to study this issue, with its diverse sample of mostly low-income, unmarried mothers in the United States. A logistic regression is used to determine the relationship between the expectation of work and breastfeeding initiation, and discrete-time logit models are used to determine the relationship between the timing of the return to work and weaning, and between breastfeeding duration and occupation type.

*Results:* Expecting to work in the year after the baby's birth has a negative impact on breastfeeding duration. The timing of weaning and the return to work are closely linked, and mothers in administrative positions wean earlier than other women.

*Conclusion:* This research demonstrates that women are still having difficulty combining work and breastfeeding, which has important health implications for their infants.