in infant mortality of 13%. Notably, the reduction in infant mortality with increased duration of paid maternity leave was concentrated in the post-neonatal period.

What Do These Findings Mean?

These findings suggest that policies that increase the duration of paid maternity leave could help to reduce infant mortality in the 20 LMICs included in this study. These findings may not be generalizable to all LMICs. Moreover, their accuracy may be limited by confounding. That is, unmeasured characteristics—rather than changes in paid maternity leave duration—could be responsible for the observed changes in infant mortality. Although the researchers adjusted for many possible confounders in their analysis, there may be some residual confounding from unmeasured time-varying confounders such as other policy changes made during the study period. Further work is now needed to determine the mechanisms that underlie the observed association between increased duration of paid maternity leave and reduction in infant mortality in LMICs. Paid maternity leave might, for example, improve infant health by giving new mothers time to breastfeed, care for ill babies, or ensure that their babies receive their childhood vaccinations. Finally, before LMICs introduce new policies on paid maternity leave, the optimal balance of paid leave from employment before and after delivery needs to be evaluated.

Additional Information

This list of resources contains links that can be accessed when viewing the PDF on a device or via the online version of the article at http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001985.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) provides information on child health and child mortality, and on global efforts to reduce child mortality (available in several languages); its 2009 publication *Home Visits for the Newborn child: A Strategy to Improve Survival* is available
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works for children's rights, survival, development, and protection around the world; it provides information about the failure to meet MDG4 and a link to a 2015 report on global levels and trends in child mortality; its UNICEF data website provides further detailed statistics about child health and mortality
- The *Millennium Development Goals 2015 Report* is available
- The Healthy Newborn Network is an online community of more than 80 partner organizations that addresses critical knowledge gaps in newborn health
- Wikipedia has pages on paid parental leave around the world, quasi-experiments, and the difference-in-differences analytical approach (note that Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia that anyone can edit; available in several languages)