

Return to work, family functionality, and social support in women who experienced pregnancy after age 35 in Antioquia, Colombia

Retorno al trabajo, funcionalidad familiar y apoyo social en mujeres que fueron gestantes después de los 35 años en Antioquia, Colombia

Retorno ao trabalho, funcionalidade familiar e apoio social em mulheres que engravidaram após os 35 anos em Antioquia, Colômbia

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Pregnancy after the age of 35 is an increasingly common trend in the contemporary world; however, aspects such as returning to work and its relationship with family functionality and social support remain underexplored. **Objective:** To assess work reentry, family functionality, and social support in women who experienced pregnancy after the age of 35 in Medellín and the metropolitan area of Antioquia, Colombia. **Materials and methods:** A descriptive study measuring sociodemographic characteristics, social support, family functionality, and satisfaction with work reentry following pregnancy in 106 women from the department of Antioquia, Colombia. **Results:** Of the participants, 82.1 % had an education level higher than secondary school, and over half belonged to the upper-middle class. No participant with normal family functionality reported unsatisfactory work reentry, and approximately 80 % of these women were still employed. 75 % of the participants reported not experiencing postpartum depression; however, only 43.8 % self-reported normal family functionality. **Conclusion:** For a pregnant woman over 35 years of age, a functional family and a positive perception of social support play a beneficial role in work reentry.

Keywords: Pregnant women; women's health; return to Work; social support; family relations. (Source: DeCS, Bireme).

Sustainable development goals: Good Health and well-being.

RESUMEN

Introducción: La gestación luego de los 35 años es una tendencia creciente en el mundo contemporáneo, sin embargo, aún no han sido suficientemente explorados aspectos como el retorno al trabajo y su relación con la funcionalidad familiar y el apoyo social. **Objetivo:** Evaluar el retorno laboral, la funcionalidad familiar y el apoyo social en mujeres que fueron gestantes después de los 35 años, en Medellín y el área metropolitana, en Antioquia, Colombia. **Materiales y métodos:** Estudio descriptivo en el que se midieron características sociodemográficas, el apoyo social, la funcionalidad familiar y la satisfacción con el retorno laboral después de la gestación, a 106 mujeres del departamento de Antioquia, Colombia. **Resultados:** El 82,1 % de las participantes tenía un título superior al bachiller y más de la mitad pertenecía a una clase media-alta. Ninguna participante con funcionalidad familiar normal tuvo un retorno laboral poco satisfactorio y aproximadamente el 80 % de estas aún se encontraba activa laboralmente. El 75 % de las participantes negó haber presentado depresión posparto, sin embargo, solo el 43,8 % autorreportó una funcionalidad familiar normal. **Conclusión:** Para una mujer gestante mayor de 35 años, una familia funcional y una buena percepción de apoyo social actúan positivamente en el retorno laboral.

Palabras clave: Mujeres embarazadas; salud de la mujer; reinserción al trabajo; apoyo social; relaciones familiares. (Fuente: DeCS, Bireme).

Objetivos de desarrollo sostenible: Salud y bienestar.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Elsa María Vásquez-Trespalacios | | |
| María Alejandra Rodríguez-Calderón | | |
| Susana Uribe-Herrera | | |
| Ana Sofía Dávila-Zuluaga | | |
| Juana Valentina Rodríguez-Joya | | |
| Natalia Ramos-Arcila | | |

1. Clinical postgraduate division, CES University. Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia.
2. Faculty of medicine, CES University. Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia.

Citation:

Vásquez-Trespalacios EM, Rodríguez-Calderón MA, Uribe-Herrera S, Dávila-Zuluaga AS, Rodríguez-Joya JV, Ramos-Arcila N. Return to work, family functionality, and social support in women who experienced pregnancy after age 35 in Antioquia, Colombia. Univ Salud. 2025; 27(1):e8569. DOI: 10.22267/rus.252701.340

Received: February 22 - 2024
Revised: October 08 - 2024
Accepted: October 28 - 2024
Published: February 12 - 2025



ISSN: 0124-7107 - ISSN (Online): 2389-7066
Univ.Salud 2025 Vol 27 No 1
<https://doi.org/10.22267/rus>

<https://revistas.udnar.edu.co/index.php/usalud>

REFERENCES

1. Metcalfe A, Ahmed SB, Nerenberg K. Age-period-cohort effects in pre-existing and pregnancy-associated diseases amongst primiparous women. *Biol Sex Diff* [Internet]. 2020; 11(1):19. DOI: 10.1186/s13293-020-00293-9
2. Berger BO, Jeffers NK, Wolfson C, Gemmill A. Role of Maternal Age in Increasing Severe Maternal Morbidity Rates in the United States. *Obstet Gynecol* [Internet]. 2023; 142(2). DOI: 10.1097/AOG.00000000000005258
3. Beaujouan É, Sobotka T. Late motherhood in low-fertility countries: Reproductive intentions, trends and consequences. In: Stoop D, editores. Preventing age related fertility loss [Internet]. Cham (CHE); Springer: 2018:11-29. Available from: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-14857-1_2
4. Esteve A, López-Ruiz LÁ, Spijker J. Disentangling how educational expansion did not increase women's age at union formation in Latin America from 1970 to 2000. *Demogr Res* [Internet]. 2013; 28:63-76. Available from: <https://www.demographic-research.org/articles/volume/28/3>
5. Batyra E. Fertility and the changing pattern of the timing of childbearing in Colombia. *Demogr Res* [Internet]. 2016; 35:1343-1472. Available from: <https://www.demographic-research.org/articles/volume/35/46>
6. Yopo-Díaz M. The postponement of motherhood in chile: between autonomy and precarity. *Universum* [Internet]. 2023; 38(2):591-616. DOI: 10.4067/S0718-23762023000200591
7. Ospina-Díaz JM, Manrique-Abril FG, Herrera-Amaya GM. Pregnancy and birth in women with advanced maternal age from Tunja, Colombia 2011-2015. *Rev Fac Med* [Internet]. 2018; 66(1):9-12. Available from: <https://revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/revfacmed/article/view/55677/65629>
8. Mills M, Rindfuss RR, McDonald P, te Velde E, ESHRE Reproduction and Society Task Force. Why do people postpone parenthood? Reasons and social policy incentives. *Hum Reprod Update* [Internet]. 2011; 17(6):848-860. DOI: 10.1093/humupd/dmr026
9. Stumbitz B, Lewis S, Rouse J. Maternity Management in SMEs: A Transdisciplinary Review and Research Agenda. *IJMR* [Internet]. 2018; 20(2):500-522. DOI: 10.1111/ijmr.12143
10. Martins GDF, Leal CL, Schmidt B, Piccinini CA. Motherhood and Work: Experience of Women with Established Careers. *Trends Psychol* [Internet]. 2019; 27(1):69-84. DOI: 10.9788/TP2019.1-06
11. Sherbourne CD, Stewart AL. The MOS social support survey. *Soc Sci Med* [Internet]. 1991; 32(6):705-714. DOI: 10.1016/0277-9536(91)90150-b
12. Ribeiro CSZ, Gondim EC, Scorzafave LGDS, Gomes-Sponholz FA, Dos Santos DD, De Mello DF. Parental stress during pregnancy and maternity. *Rev Esc Enferm USP* [Internet]. 2023; 57:e20220351. DOI: 10.1590/1980-220X-REEUSP-2022-0351en
13. Ma D, Sun S, Qian J, Wang M, Gu H, Lou J, et al. Predictors of pregnancy stress and psychological birth trauma in women undergoing vaginal delivery: a cross-sectional study in China. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth* [Internet]. 2023; 23(1):596. DOI: 10.1186/s12884-023-05890-1
14. Ni PK, Lin SKS. The role of family and friends in providing social support towards enhancing the wellbeing of postpartum women: A comprehensive systematic review. *JBI Libr Syst Rev* [Internet]. 2011; 9(10):313-370. DOI: 10.11124/01938924-201109100-00001
15. Lebow J, Stroud CB. Assessment of effective couple and family functioning: Prevailing models and instruments. In: Walsh F, editor. *Normal family processes: Growing diversity and complexity*. 4ta ed. The Guilford Press; 2012. Available from: <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2012-02536-021>
16. Smilkstein G. The family APGAR: a proposal for a family function test and its use by physicians. *J Fam Pract* [Internet]. 1978; 6(6):1231-1239. Available from: https://cdn.mdedge.com/files/s3fs-public/jfp Archived issues/1978-volume_6-7/JFP_1978-06_v6_i6_the-family-apgar-a-proposal-for-a-family.pdf
17. Arredondo NHL, Rogers HL, Tang JFC, Gómez SLP, Arizal NLO, Pérez MÁJ, et al. Validation of the Colombian MOS social support survey. *Int J Psychol Res* [Internet]. 2012; 5(1):142-150. Available from: <https://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=299023539016>

18. Baranda-Nájera N, Patiño-Rodríguez DM, Ramírez-Montiel ML, Rosales-Lucio J, Martínez-Zúñiga M, Prado-Alcázar JJ, et al. Edad materna avanzada y morbilidad obstétrica. Evid Med Invest Salud [Internet]. 2014; 7(3):110-113. Available from: <https://www.medicgraphic.com/pdfs/evidencia/eo-2014/eo143c.pdf>
19. Waldenström U. Postponing parenthood to advanced age. UJMS [Internet]. 2016; 121(4):235-243. DOI: 10.1080/03009734.2016.1201553
20. Christoffersen M, Lausten M. Early and Late Motherhood: Economic, Family Background and Social Conditions. Finnish Yearb Popul Res [Internet]. 2009; 44:79-96. DOI: 10.23979/fypr.45046
21. Contreras-García Y, Rodríguez PS, Manríquez-Vidal C. Caracterización del apoyo social percibido durante el posparto y la presencia de depresión materna. Rev Cuba Obstet Ginecol [Internet]. 2017; 43(1):1-13. Available from: <https://pesquisa.bvsalud.org/portal/resource/pt/biblio-901283>
22. Lafaurie MM, Antolinez P. Gendered approach to pregnancy after 35 years: women's experiences at the health network in Bogotá D.C. Rev Colomb Enferm [Internet]. 2014; 9:95-107. Available from: <https://revistas.unbosque.edu.co/index.php/RCE/article/view/569>
23. Carvalho FF, Petersen AGP, Tronco CS, Casagrande D, Rodrigues FO, Griep RH, et al. Social support among puerperal at risk: association with sociodemographic and clinical characteristics. Cogitare Enferm [Internet]. 2024; 29:e91561. DOI: 10.1590/ce.v29i0.91561
24. Thomas-Hilarón WD, Fuentes-Vanegas LV, Gallo-Barrera YD, Ramos-De La Cruz E. Social support perceived by pregnant women in Santa Marta, Colombia: A comparative analysis. Rev Cuid [Internet]. 2022; 13(3). DOI: 10.15649/cuidarte.2448
25. Apeña Achilla DN. Apoyo social percibido y resiliencia en mujeres con/sin relaciones de pareja disfuncionales atendidas en un hospital de Lima provincias, 2023 [Tesis de Grado]. Lima (PER): Universidad César Vallejo; 2024. Available from: <https://repositorio.ucv.edu.pe/handle/20.500.12692/148214>
26. Vargas-Herrera A, Florez-Domínguez LC, Baquero-Guerrero JC, Téllez SS, Neira-Acevedo D, Rodriguez-Lopez M. Estimation of the perceived family function in pregnant women who attend prenatal care in a primary care center after the COVID -19 social isolation period in Cali, Colombia. Medicina [Internet]. 2023; 45(3):450-463. Available from: <https://revistamedicina.net/index.php/Medicina/article/view/2272>
27. Hawkins M, Misra D, Zhang L, Price M, Dailey R, Giurgescu C. Family involvement in pregnancy and psychological health among pregnant Black women. Arch Psychiatr Nurs [Internet]. 2021; 35(1):42-48. DOI: 10.1016/j.apnu.2020.09.012
28. Alipour Z, Kazemi A, Kheirabadi G, Eslami AA. Relationship between marital quality, social support and mental health during pregnancy. Community Ment Health J [Internet]. 2019; 55(6):1064-1070. DOI: 10.1007/s10597-019-00387-8
29. Ahmad M, Sechi C, Vismara L. Advanced Maternal Age: A Scoping Review about the Psychological Impact on Mothers, Infants, and Their Relationship. Behav Sci [Internet]. 2024; 14(3):147. DOI: 10.3390/bs14030147
30. Aasheim V, Waldenström U, Hjelmstedt A, Rasmussen S, Pettersson H, Schytt E. Associations between advanced maternal age and psychological distress in primiparous women, from early pregnancy to 18 months postpartum. BJOG [Internet]. 2012; 119(9):1108-1116. DOI: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2012.03411.x
31. Mori E, Maehara K, Iwata H, Sakajo A, Tsuchiya M, Ozawa H, et al. Comparing older and younger Japanese primiparae: Fatigue, depression and biomarkers of stress. Int J Nurs Pract [Internet]. 2015; 21(Suppl 1):10-20. DOI: 10.1111/ijn.12392
32. Kang LS, Kaur G. Contextual Support and Career Aspirations of Working Women. SAJHRM [Internet]. 2020; 8(1):54-78. DOI: 10.1177/2322093720967803
33. Ajzen I. The theory of planned behavior: Frequently asked questions. Hum Behav Emerg Tech [Internet]. 2020; 2(4):314-324. DOI: 10.1002/hbe2.195
34. Manukure JM, Annor F, Gyasi-Gyamerah AA. 'Leaving the child behind was not easy': lived experiences of mothers returning to work after maternity leave in Ghana. Community Work Fam [Internet]. 2024;1-24. DOI: 10.1080/13668803.2024.2309367
35. Abdulwadud OA, Snow ME. Interventions in the workplace to support breastfeeding for women in employment. Cochrane Database Syst Rev [Internet]. 2012; 10(10):CD006177. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD006177.pub3

36. Patiño P, Lara MA, Benjet C, Alvarez-del Río A, Solís FB. Postpartum depression in adolescent mothers before and during COVID-19 and the role of self-esteem, maternal self-efficacy, and social support. *Salud Mental [Internet]*. 2024; 47(1):23-33. DOI: 10.17711/SM.0185-3325.2024.004
37. Vásquez-Trespalacios EM, Oliveros-Riveros LM, Mercado-González DC. Perceived work self-efficacy, and characteristics of return to work in women survivors of breast cancer at two reference centers in Colombia. *APRL [Internet]*. 2024; 27(2):140-156. DOI: 10.12961/aprl.2024.27.02.03
38. Wallace M, Saurel-Cubizolles MJ, EDEN mother-child cohort study group. Returning to Work One Year After Childbirth: Data from the Mother-Child Cohort EDEN. *Matern Child Health J [Internet]*. 2013; 17(8):1432-1440. DOI: 10.1007/s10995-012-1147-z