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You've come a long way, baby. Husbands' commuting time and family labour supply *

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Abstract

This paper explores the effects of husbands' commuting time on wives' employment and family time allocation. We develop a unitary family model, and we show that in the presence of household production, a longer husband's commuting time might decrease his wife's employment and increase his own working hours. We estimate these effects using employer-induced changes in home-to-work distances. We find that a 1% increase in the husband's commuting distance reduces his wife's employment probability by 0.016 percentage points and has a slight positive effect on his own working hours. The effects are stronger for couples with children and for highly educated husbands.

Keywords: Household Production; Gender economics; Time allocation and labour Supply; Commuting time.

JEL Classification: D13; J16; J21; J22.

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