

## Germany

**Distinctive Features:** Constitutional commitment to the family; explicit family policies in most social policy domains; policies designed to encourage and sustain the traditional two-parent family with an at-home mother caring for the children and to protect the economic circumstances of children. Sociodemographic and economic differences continue to exist between formerly western and eastern Germany.

### Maternity / Parental Leave

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Benefit:                           | Cash benefit and job-protected leave   |
| Eligibility Criteria:              | Maternity and Parental: universal for all working mothers;<br>Parental: universal.   |
| Duration of Leave Maternity Leave: | 14 weeks (paid); Parental (child-rearing) Leave: Up to 3 years   |
| Compensation Rate Maternity:       | 14 weeks – up to 100% of wages; Parental: 12 months income-tested flat rate, or 2 years with reduced payments, 3 <sup>rd</sup> year unpaid |

### Early Childhood Education and Care

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Age Group Served:     | Child Care (CC): 0 – 3; Preschool (PS): 3 – 6                 |
| Eligibility Criteria: | CC: special needs, poverty, working parents; PS: universal    |
| Fees:                 | CC and PS: income-related parent fees (max 14% of costs)      |
| Locus of Care:        | CC: centers and family day-care homes; PS: preschools         |
| Funding Strategies:   | CC and PS: state and local govt. + income-related parent fees |
| Access/Coverage (%):  | CC: 0-3 (8.5%); PS 3-6 (90%) place guaranteed.                |

### Family and Child Allowances

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Benefit & Eligibility: | Integrated system of tax benefits or universal allowances for families with one or more children under age 18 <sup>1</sup> , depending on income level. |
| Benefit Level:         | Benefits are generous; vary by ordinal position and number of children.   |

### Child Support

|          |   |
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| Benefit: | Guaranteed, income-tested maintenance payments advanced by government for a maximum of 72 months until child's 12th birthday. |
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### Child and Family Tax Benefits - Other

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| Tax Deductions/Relief: | Tax deductions for employing in-home help to care for children under 14 for lone parents and dual wage-earners, and ages 3-6 for all other parents. |
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### Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

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| Benefits: | Pension coverage credit equal to up to 3 years of work per child computed at an average wage for a mother or father who spends up to 3 years at home in child rearing |
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<sup>1</sup> Under age 21, if unemployed, 25 if continuing education or training.

The Clearinghouse on International Developments in Child, Youth and Family Policies at  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**Child and Adolescent Health**

Access to Coverage:

Mandated Health Insurance Systems cover 85  
% of the population.

**Housing Benefits**

Benefit:

Child-conditioned tax benefits and subsidies for home ownership  
and rent assistance.

Eligibility:

Criteria Means-tested; geared towards low-income families with  
children and large families.

**School-Age Children Policies**

Compulsory School:

6 – 18

School Hours:

half-day; the federal government is investing in  
increasing full day schooling, however  
Various forms of financial aid for post-secondary, technical, and  
vocational students.