

Highlights: The Netherlands

Distinctive Features: Long concern with family policies. In transition from stress on traditional family to policies supportive of diversity and individuality; married and lone mothers employment rates about equal, most working mothers work part-time.

Maternity / Parental Leave

Benefit	Cash benefit and job-protected leave, covers adoptions.
Eligibility Criteria	Maternity Leave: all working women; Parental Leave: all working parents
Duration of Leave	Maternity Leave: 16 weeks; Parental Leave: 6 months (part-time)
Benefit Levels	Maternity Leave: 100% wage replacement ¹ ; Parental Leave: unpaid, may be taken until child is 8.

Early Childhood Education and Care

Age Group Served	6 weeks to 4 years
Eligibility Criteria	By sliding scale
Locus of Care	Informal care most prevalent among younger children, center-based for older, educated more likely to use
Fees	Income-related fees
Funding Strategies	Public subsidies, parent fees
Access/Coverage (%)	Ages 0 – 4, 14% (1999); age 4, 98% (Compulsory education begins at 5)

Family and Child Allowances

Eligibility	Universal benefit for all residents with one or more children under age 18.
Benefit Level	Varies by number and age of children. Benefits indexed to price system.

Child and Family Tax Benefits

Tax Deductions/Relief	Special tax adjustments for single parents, for child care (limited).
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Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

Benefits	Survivor's Benefits
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Child and Adolescent Health

Access to Coverage	Universal health coverage via insurance systems. Children under age 5 served in "maternity agencies" (well-baby clinics). Then coverage by school-based doctors. One of 5 top countries among 150, low teen out-of-wedlock pregnancy.
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School-Age Children Policies

Compulsory School	Ages 5 – 16, most attend ATY.
School Hours	8:30 – 12:00 and 13:15 – 15:30; most children must be home for lunch.

¹ Lower rate for unemployed.