

Factors influencing the use of regional childcare support services by mothers raising infants

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Background

The isolation of mothers with infants is a problem in Japan. Therefore, mothers should appropriately use regional childcare support services (services).

Aim of the study

To identify factors influencing the use of services by mothers raising infants

Methods

Mothers with infants in City A were asked to respond to a self-administered questionnaire survey. A total of 1556 questionnaires were mailed. The survey consisted of respondents' attributes, and 33 questions related to factors influencing service use. Influencing factors were developed from interviews with mothers. Logistic regression analysis was performed with the presence or absence of service use as the dependent variable and the influencing factors as independent variables. The study was conducted from April to August 2021. This survey was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of Showa University (approval no. 556).

Results

A total of 889 questionnaires were returned (response rate, 57.1%). Results of logistic regression analysis showed the following nine influencing factors: "I am exhausted from childcare," "I want to have connections with other mothers," "I want more information about services," "I want more information about childcare," "I can imagine services," "I can easily use services," "My partner understands the use of services," "I have received information from professionals," "I have received support from professionals for using services," and "I have more than two children."

Conclusions and implications

Professionals, such as public health nurses, should be involved in helping mothers recognize their needs for service use and provide information on specific services that suit their needs.