

THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

By: Melissa Casey

ABSTRACT

This study sought to examine the relationship between having a child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and maternal employment status. Specifically, how does the presence of a child diagnosed with ASD relate to a mother's choice to pursue employment outside the home and what factors are associated with making this decision. Additionally, the impact on the household as a result of the choice to pursue or forgo employment was investigated. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews with mothers of children diagnosed with ASD in two parent households located in the state of Georgia. Through the study, insight and implications for employers and financial planners can be drawn.