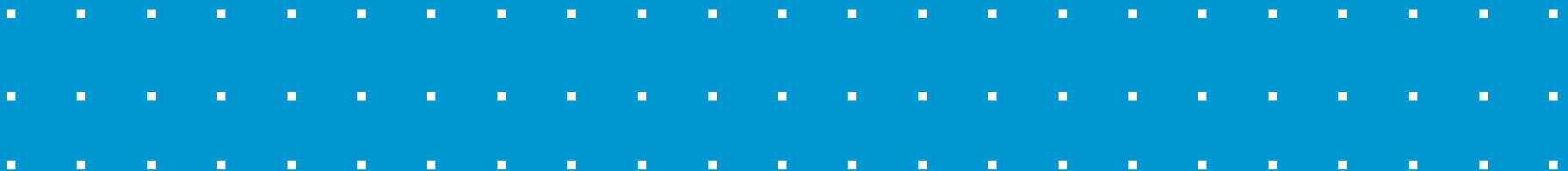


# Child Care Market Conditions and Low-Income Families' Needs: Identifying Mismatches in Four Select Communities

Amy Claessens  
University of Chicago

2017 CCPRC Meeting  
Washington, DC  
March 1-2, 2017



# IL-NY Child Care Research Partnership



Partnership between researchers at the University of Chicago and Urban Institute and Child Care Lead Agencies in IL and NY

- Funded by Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Grants #90YE0133 & #90YE0151
- Phase 1 (2010–2014); Phase 2 (2013–2017)
- Principal Investigator: Julia Henly
- Co-PIs: Heather Sandstrom and Amy Claessens



## **Phase 2:** Subsidy instability and the intersection between subsidy program and quality initiatives in partnering states

### **Study Components**

1. Key stakeholder interviews, including subsidy administrators and staff, CCR&Rs staff, and quality improvement program leaders
- 2. Local supply & demand analysis; mapping changes in quality, supply, and characteristics of subsidized care**
3. Linking Phase 1 survey data to Phase 2 provider data
4. Qualitative study of subsidized providers of different care types

# Motivation for Supply / Demand Study

Parents report facing challenges accessing quality child care & early education programs for young children:

- High quality child care that is affordable (accepts child care subsidies) and is:
  - Located near home and/or job
  - Open during parent's work & commute hours, particularly outside of traditional daytime, weekday hours
  - Serves infants and toddlers
  - For many: in a regulated center-based setting.

# Research Questions

- 1) How are child care programs with key characteristics distributed across each of the four sites of the larger study?
- 2) How does the supply of child care with these characteristics match the heterogeneous needs of subsidy-eligible families?
- 3) Do geographical child care data deepen the analysis of the parent survey in Study Phase 1?

# Strategy of Descriptive Geography

In the 4 study sites: Determine whether relevant child care demand & supply factors match up geographically.

For example, in each site:

- Do child care centers that accept the child care subsidy offer sufficient infant care for subsidy-eligible parents with infants?
- With regard to child care during parents' nonstandard work hours, how many parents have the need for this child care? What types of care and what levels of quality are available to them within the framework of the child care subsidy system?

# Implications for Program Development or Policy Change in a Region

- Are there patterns of alignment or misalignment that suggest a need *and an opportunity* for program development or policy intervention?
- What additional information do we need to have before acting?

# Data and Data Sources

## Child care supply data

- Site-specific extracts from NACCRRAware
  - Sources: Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) and Nassau and Westchester County Child Care Councils (2014)
- Site-specific subsidy payment records
  - Source: Illinois Department of Human Services and New York Office of Children and Family Services (2014)
- Supplemental data
  - Quality ratings collected from INCCRRA in IL; quality ratings, accreditation, Head Start, Pre-K, and breastfeeding friendly status collected from direct sources in NY

## Potential subsidized child care demand data

- ACS 5-year estimates (2010-2014 ): number of children under age 6 in families with income below 200% FPL \* share of children under 6 with all parents in the labor force, by census tract and PUMA



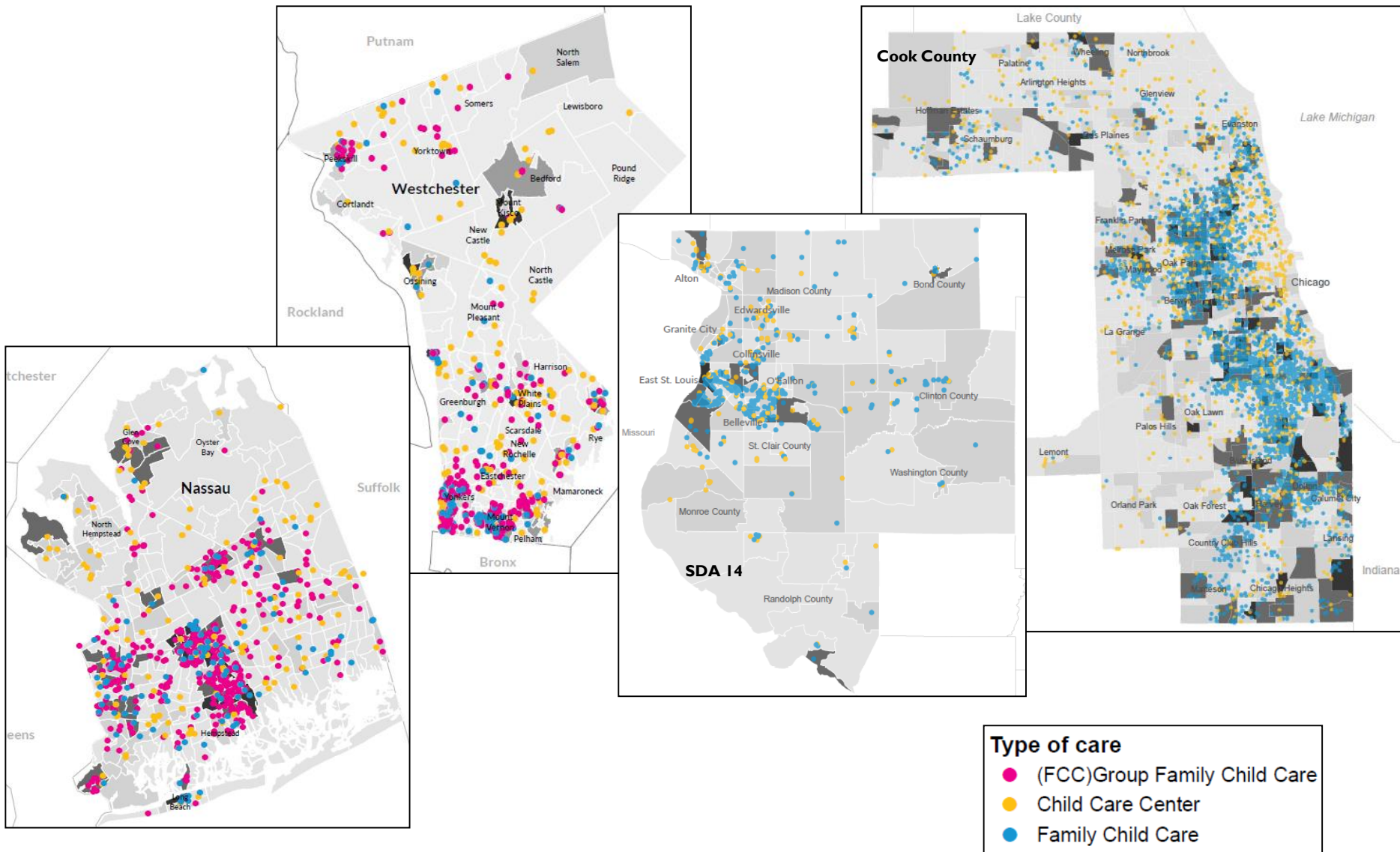
# Overview of Study Sites

	Nassau	Westchester	Cook	SW Illinois
<b>Centers</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>199</b>
Served infants	59%	63%	54%	60%
Received subsidy payments	35%	41%	74%	80%
Had QRIS rating	3%	8%	18%	19%
Open full-time (35hrs+/wk)	78%	82%	88%	80%
<b>Family Child Care Homes</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>3,534</b>	<b>435</b>
Served infants	95%	97%	98%	98%
Received subsidy payments	45%	47%	79%	62%
Had QRIS rating	2%	0%	6%	2%
Open full-time (35hrs+/wk)	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Group Family Child Care</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>281</b>	--	--
Served infants	95%	45%	--	--
Received subsidy payments	75%	53%	--	--
Had QRIS rating	5%	1%	--	--
Open full-time (35hrs+/wk)	99%	100%	--	--

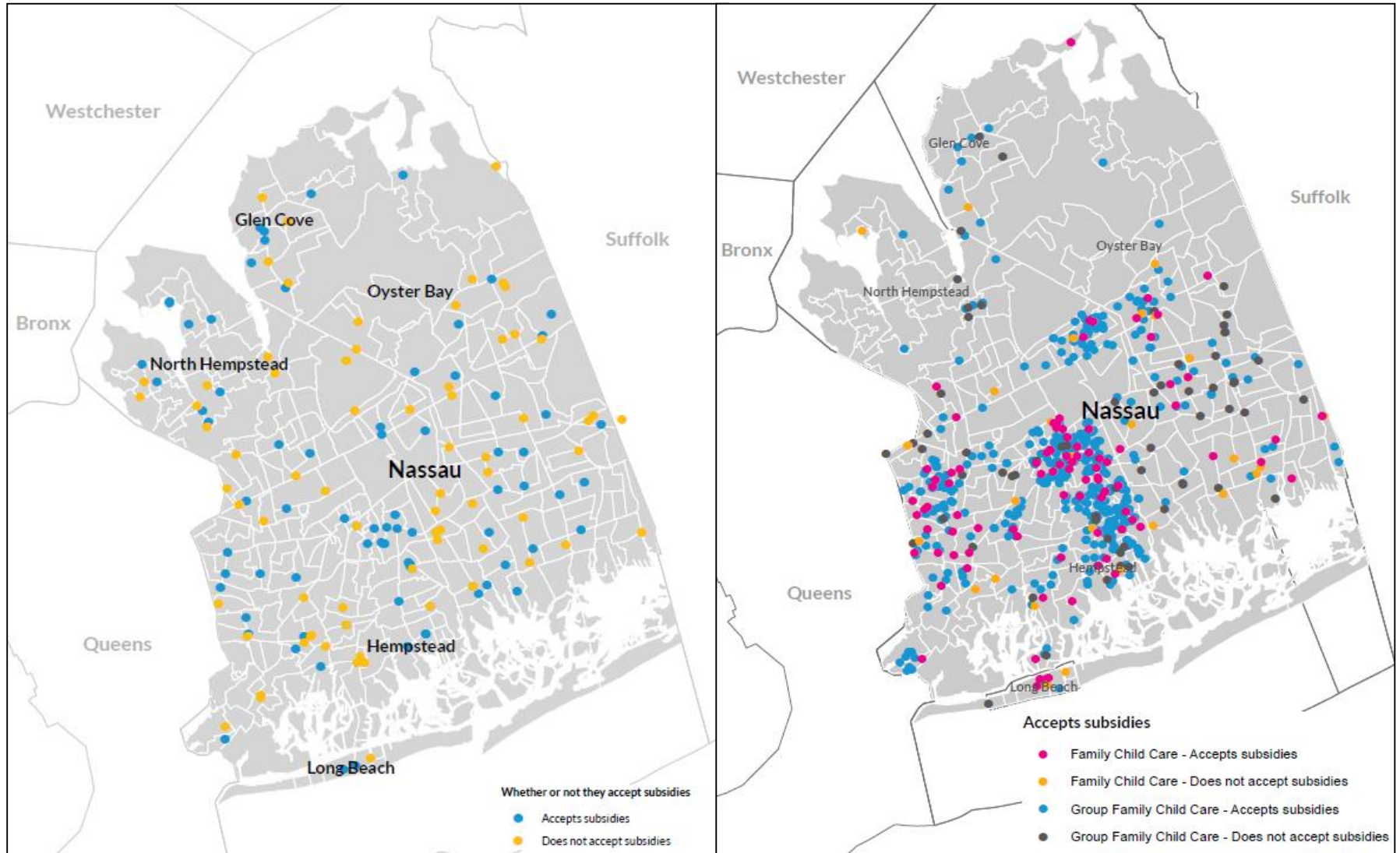
# Maps of 4 Study Sites

- New York
  - Nassau County
  - Westchester County
- Illinois
  - Service Delivery Area 6 (Cook County)
  - Service Delivery Area 14 (7 counties in southwestern Illinois)

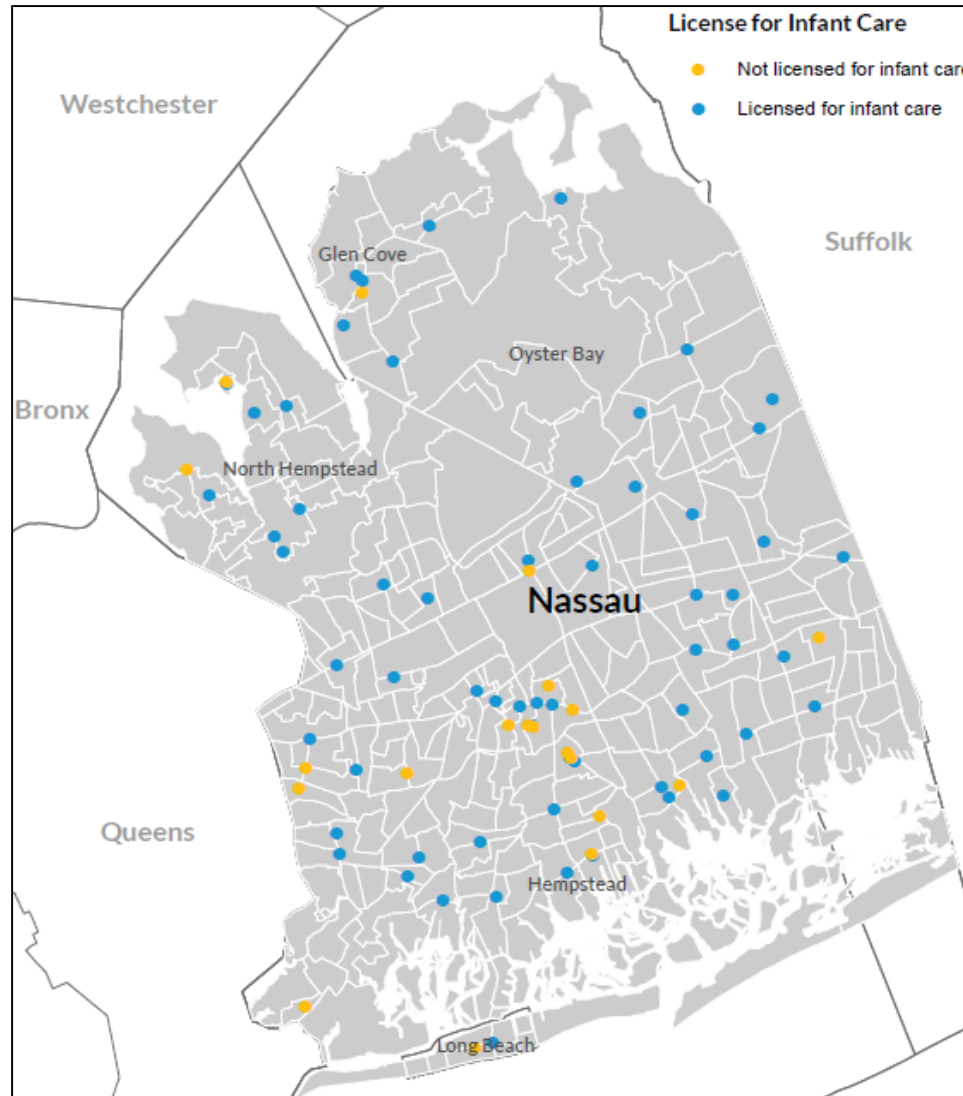
# Child Care Providers in the Study Sites



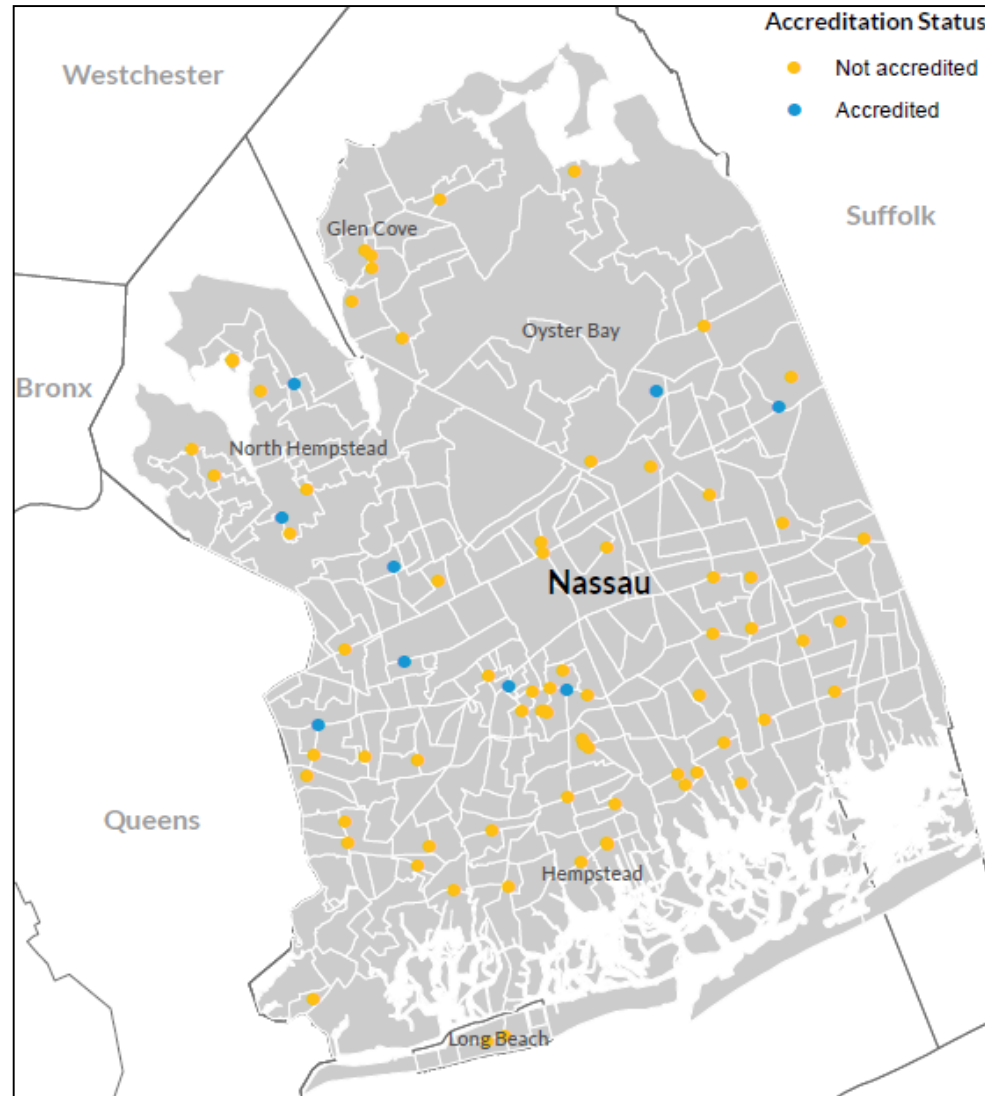
# Centers and Homes by Subsidy Receipt Status



# Centers by Status of Licensing for Infant Care

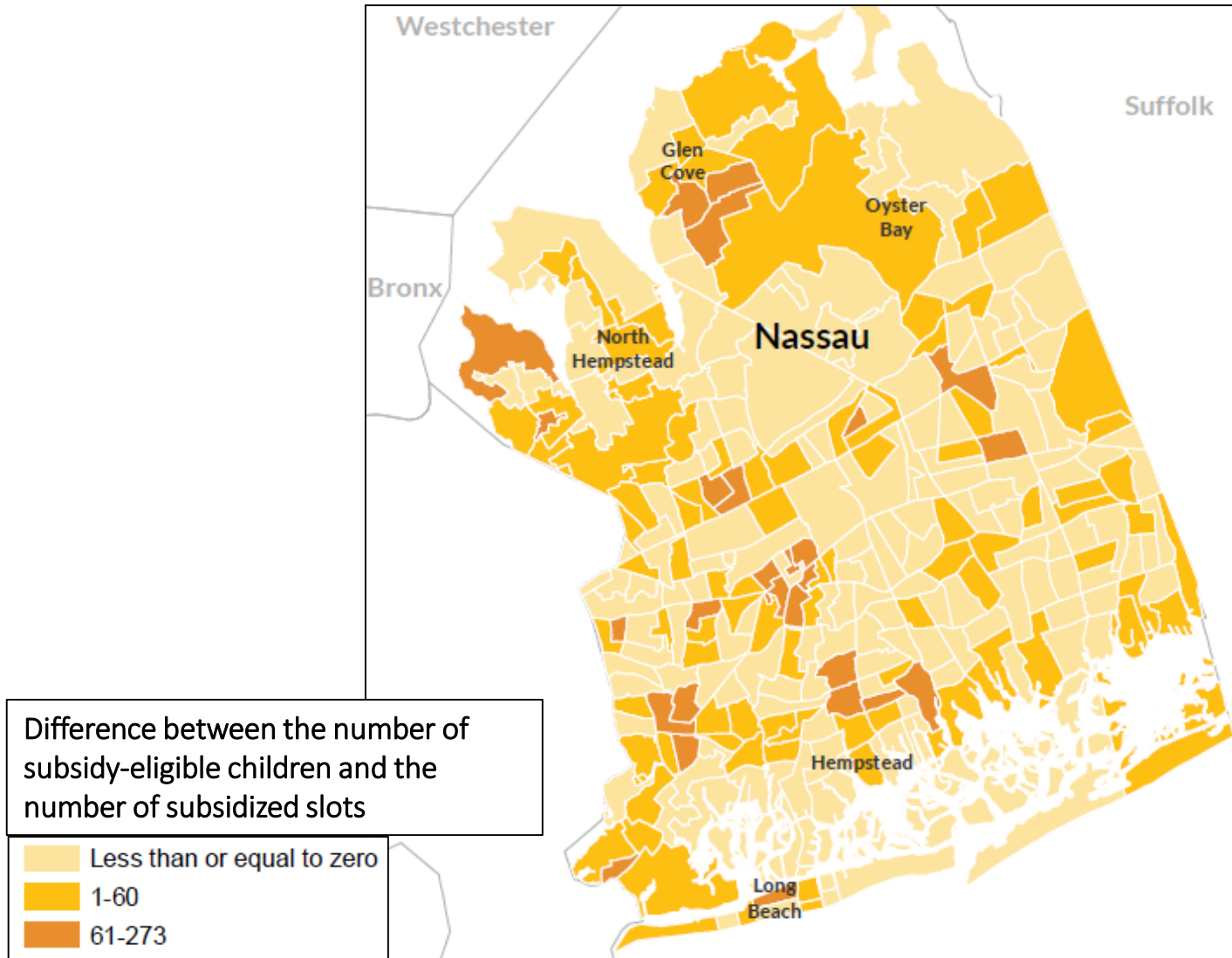


# Centers by Accreditation Status

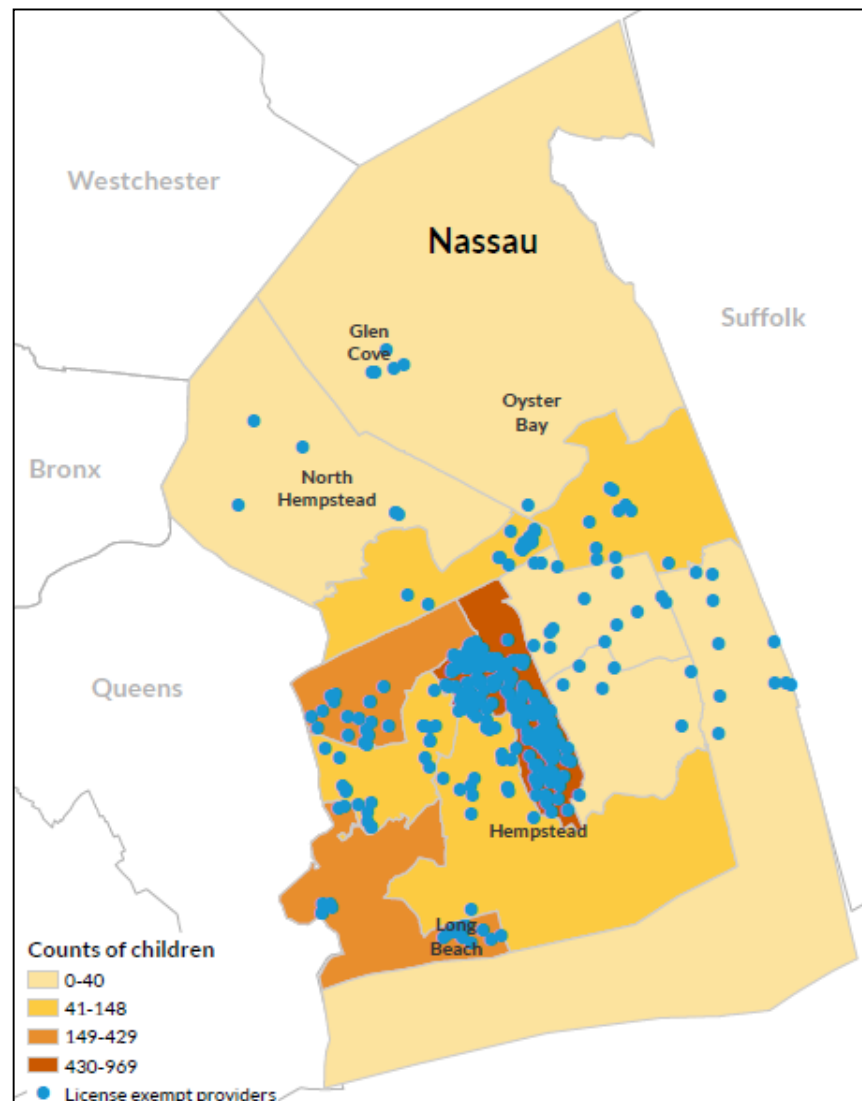




# Comparing Supply and Demand (Among Children 0-5)



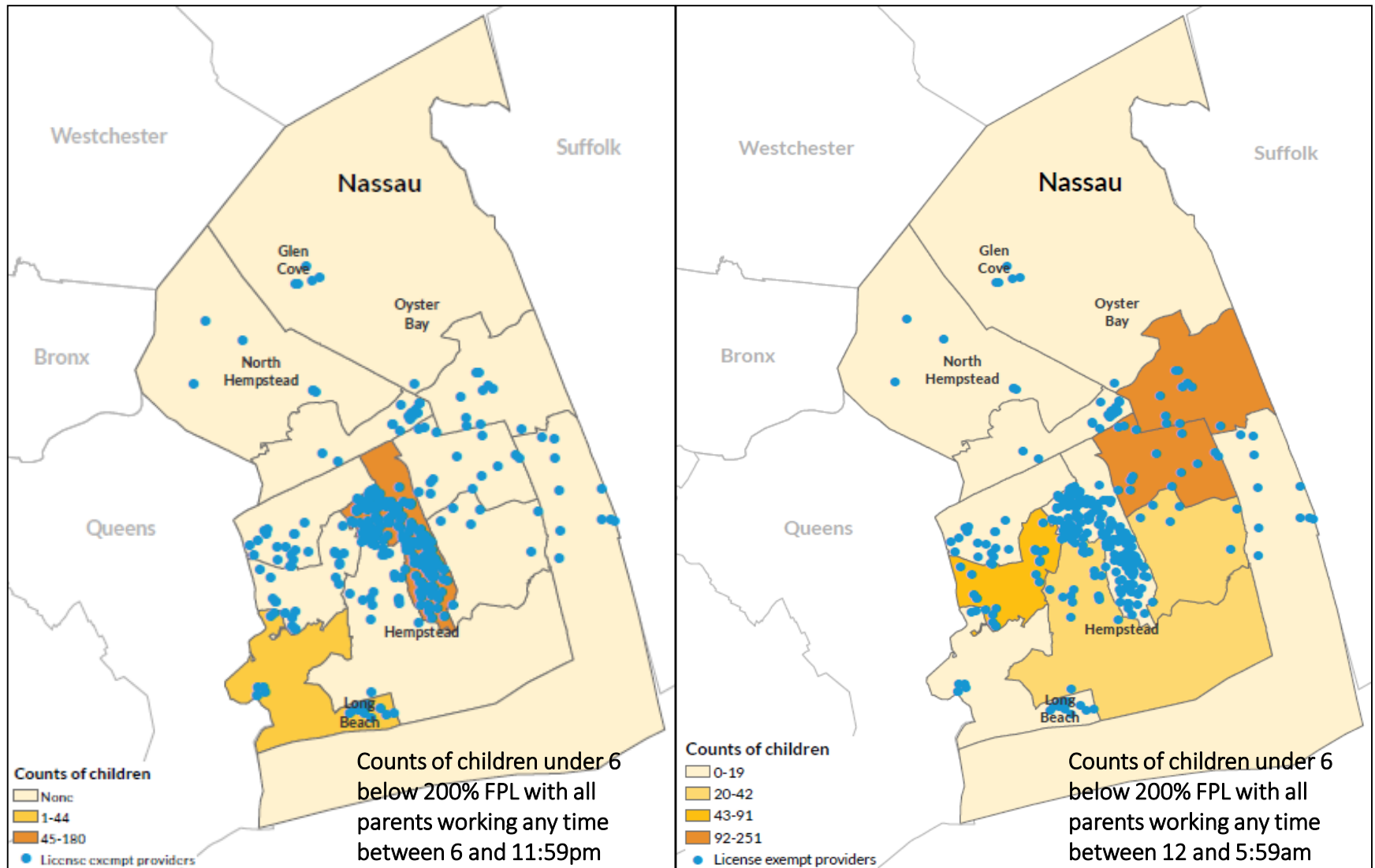
# Legally Exempt Providers and the Demand for Care during Non-Standard Hours: Early Morning



Counts of children under 6 below 200% FPL with all parents working any time between 4 and 7:59am



# Legally Exempt Providers and the Demand for Care during Non-Standard Hours: Evening and Overnight



# Assessing Unmet Need in Nassau County

Care Type	Total Full-Time Providers (35+ hrs/wk)	Accredited	Licensed for Infant Care	Provide Early Morning or Evening Care	Provide Weekend Care
Centers	100%	6%	67%	13%	2%
Accept subsidies	53%	6%	40%	10%	2%
Do not accept subsidies	47%	1%	28%	3%	0%
Group family child care	100%	1%	95%	34%	23%
Accept subsidies	87%	1%	83%	32%	22%
Do not accept subsidies	13%	0%	12%	1%	0%
Registered family child care	100%	0%	95%	22%	11%
Accept subsidies	76%	0%	71%	19%	11%
Do not accept subsidies	24%	0%	24%	3%	0%

# Conclusions

1. Child care programs are distributed unevenly around each of the study sites, with distinct “child care deserts” and widespread lack of access to care that is subsidized, high-quality, and available to families working nonstandard hours.
2. The supply of child care does not appear to be well-matched to the heterogeneous needs of subsidy-eligible families.
  - a. Home-based settings are more likely to serve families with infants and to be open during nonstandard hours, but less likely to have a quality rating.
  - b. Center-based providers are far less likely to open during non-standard hours (early morning, late evening, or overnight).
  - c. By the measures available, relatively few full-time providers have demonstrated participation in quality initiatives.

# Next Steps

1. In Illinois only, we'll look at the expansion of quality child care options for subsidized children from 2011 to 2016, and in particular, at whether more subsidized children have access to a quality rated or accredited program within an average child care commuting distance.
2. In both sites, we are conducting provider interviews to better understand experiences in the subsidy program and efforts to improve quality.
3. We'll be pulling together findings across mapping, interview, and other analytic components for a final report and dissemination efforts in 2017.

# Thank You!

Amy Claessens  
aclaessens@uchicago.edu

