

Approaches to Defining and Measuring ECE Access

CCEEPRC Virtual Session: August 17, 2020



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Introductions



Presentations



Reflections



Questions

What is your role in the ECE field?



Poll

- Kathryn Tout, Child Trends
- Anna Johnson, Georgetown University
- Dana Thomson & Gabi Guerra, Child Trends
- Herman Knopf, University of Florida
- Benjamin Case, WI Dept of Children and Families
- Aaron Sojourner, University of Minnesota
- Elizabeth Davis, University of Minnesota
- Lyn Rhodes, MN Dept of Human Services
- Zelda Boyd, NCECQA



Introductions



Key Themes from a Comprehensive Literature Scan on ECE Access



Increased focus on improving ECE access requires metrics

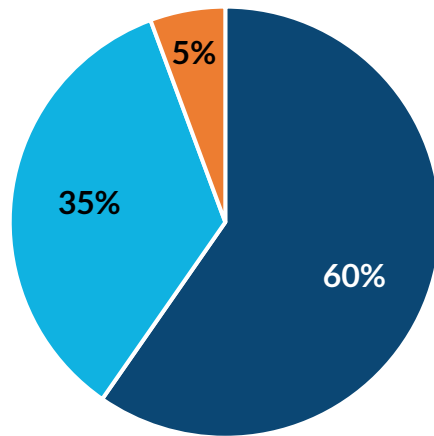
- Efforts to improve ECE access rely on access metrics to:
 - Demonstrate ability of families to access the care that meets their needs
 - Monitor and track progress over time
 - Make comparisons within or across different settings or geographies

- **Literature Review of:**

- Local, state, and federal reports and U.S.-based research published in peer-reviewed journals during the past 5 years that attempted to conceptualize and/or define access or a key dimension of access.

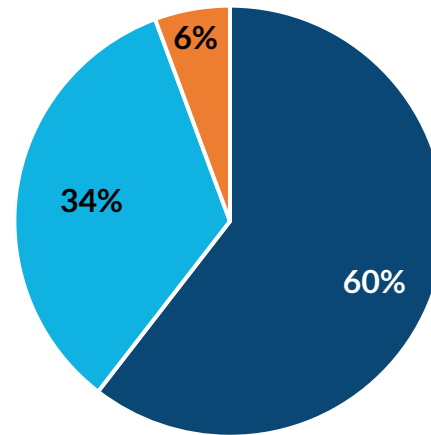
- A total of **124 articles and reports** were catalogued.

Percent of Each Type of Article Meeting Search Criteria



■ Reports/briefs ■ Academic articles ■ Other

Sampling Level of Articles



■ State-level ■ National ■ Other



Search methods



Approach

“Access to early care and education means that parents, with reasonable effort and affordability, can enroll their child in an arrangement that supports the child’s development and meets the parents’ needs.”

- We examined the extent to which definitions and measures of access in the literature reflect multiple dimensions of access:
 - the degree to which families are able to secure ECE with **reasonable effort**,
 - the **affordability** of ECE,
 - whether ECE **supports the child’s development**,
 - whether ECE **meets the parents’ needs**,
 - the degree to which ECE reaches underserved or disadvantaged children, or supports **equity**

Today's focus

- How often do specific access dimensions and subdimensions, as described in the Guidebook, appear in the literature?
- To what extent does the literature approach access from multiple dimensions?
- How are indicators across multiple dimensions combined?
- To what extent do current ways of measuring access incorporate a family-centered perspective?
- What are the implications of this work?

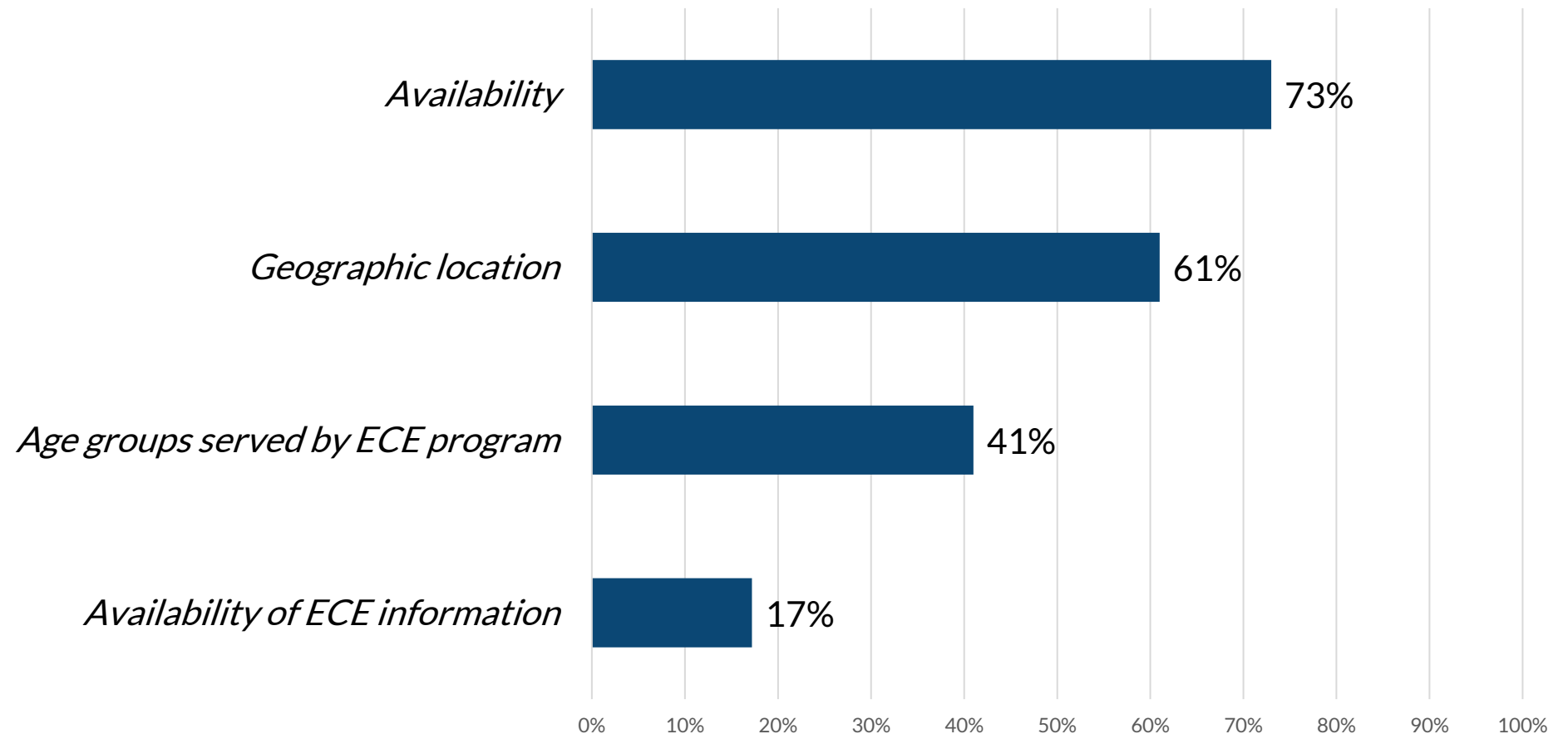


Reasonable Effort

Reasonable effort:

- Sufficient availability
- Near parents' homes or workplaces
- Age-appropriate ECE slots
- Information about those ECE options readily available

Percentage of Articles that Address Each Subdimension of Reasonable Effort



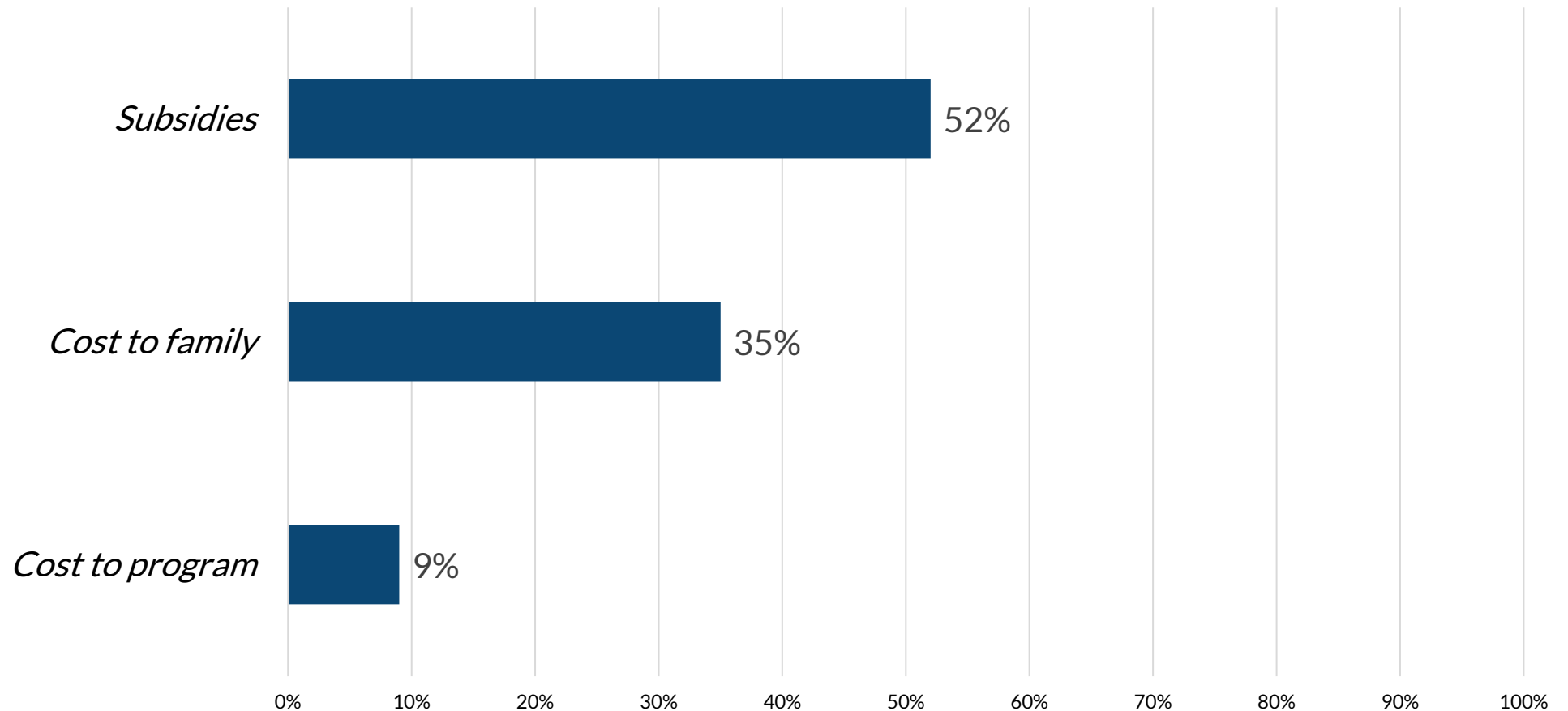


Affordability

Affordability:

- Subsidies or financial assistance
- Cost to family
- Costs incurred by ECE programs for providing services.

Percentage of Articles that Address Each Subdimension of Affordability



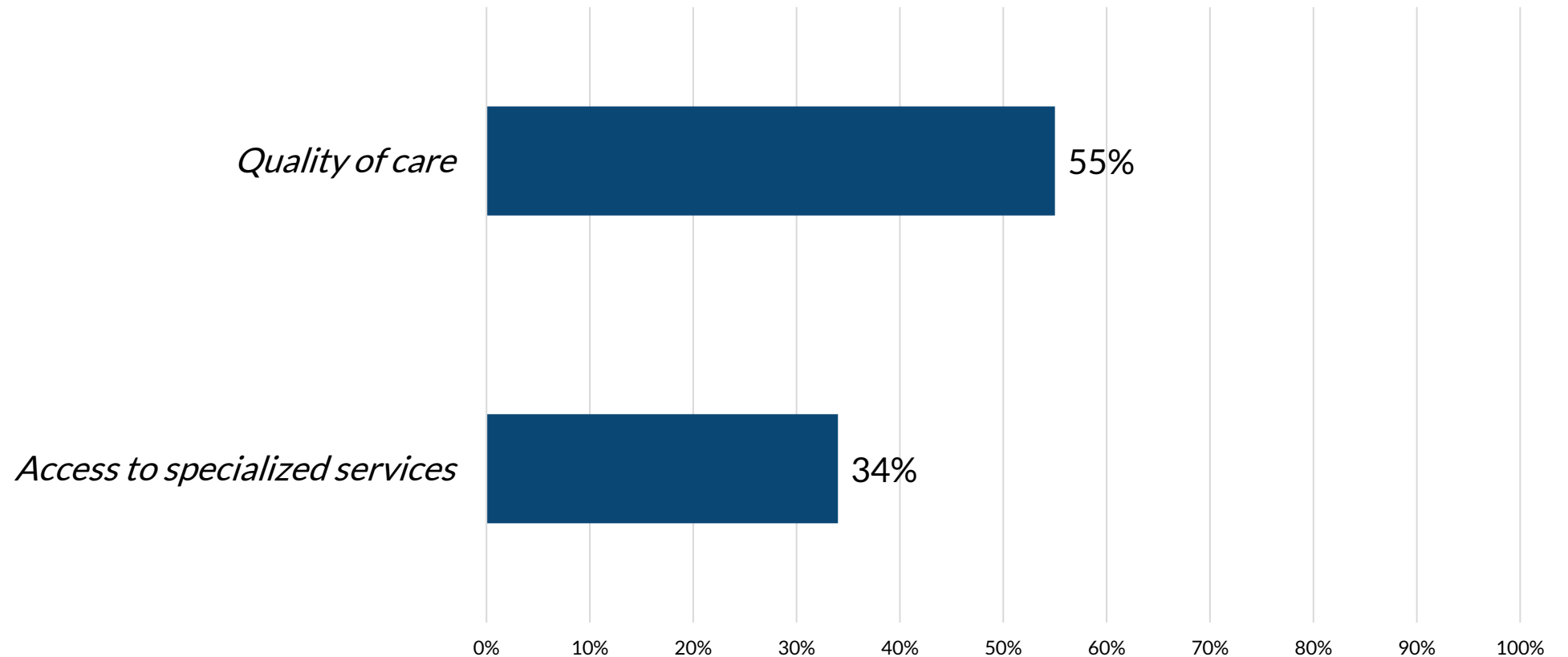


Supporting Children's Development

Supporting children's development:

- Care that is high quality
- Care that provides access to specialized services

Percentage of Articles that Address Each Subdimension of Supporting Children's Development



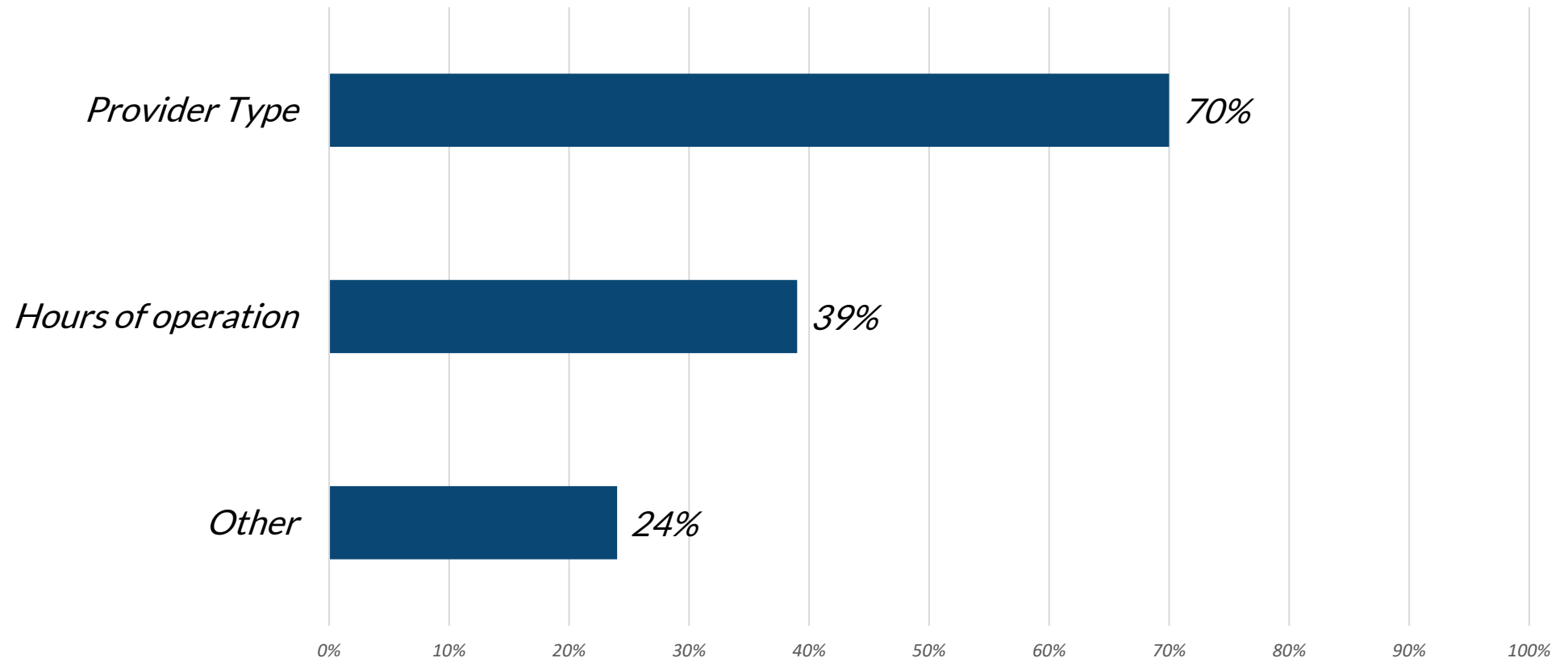


Meeting Parents' Needs

Meets the parents' needs:

- Parental preferences for specific program types or features
- The need for extended care or care during non-traditional hours
- Other factors such as care for multiple children and cultural match between family and provider

Percentage of Articles that Address Each Subdimension of Meeting Parents' Needs





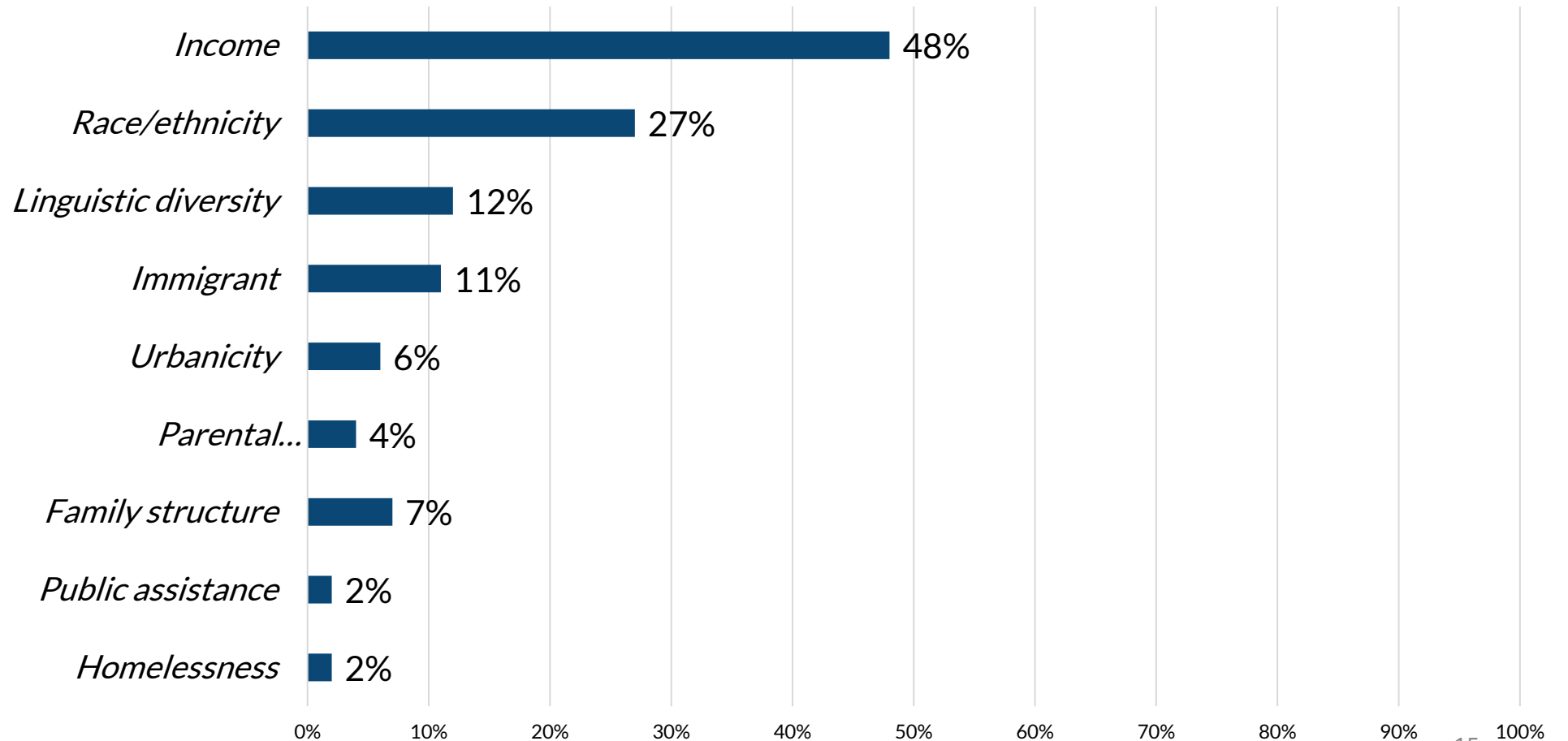
Equity

Equity:

Ability to reach underserved or disadvantaged children, including:

- Low-income households
- Children of color
- Linguistic and culturally diverse learners
- Rural households

Percentage of Articles that Address Components of Equity

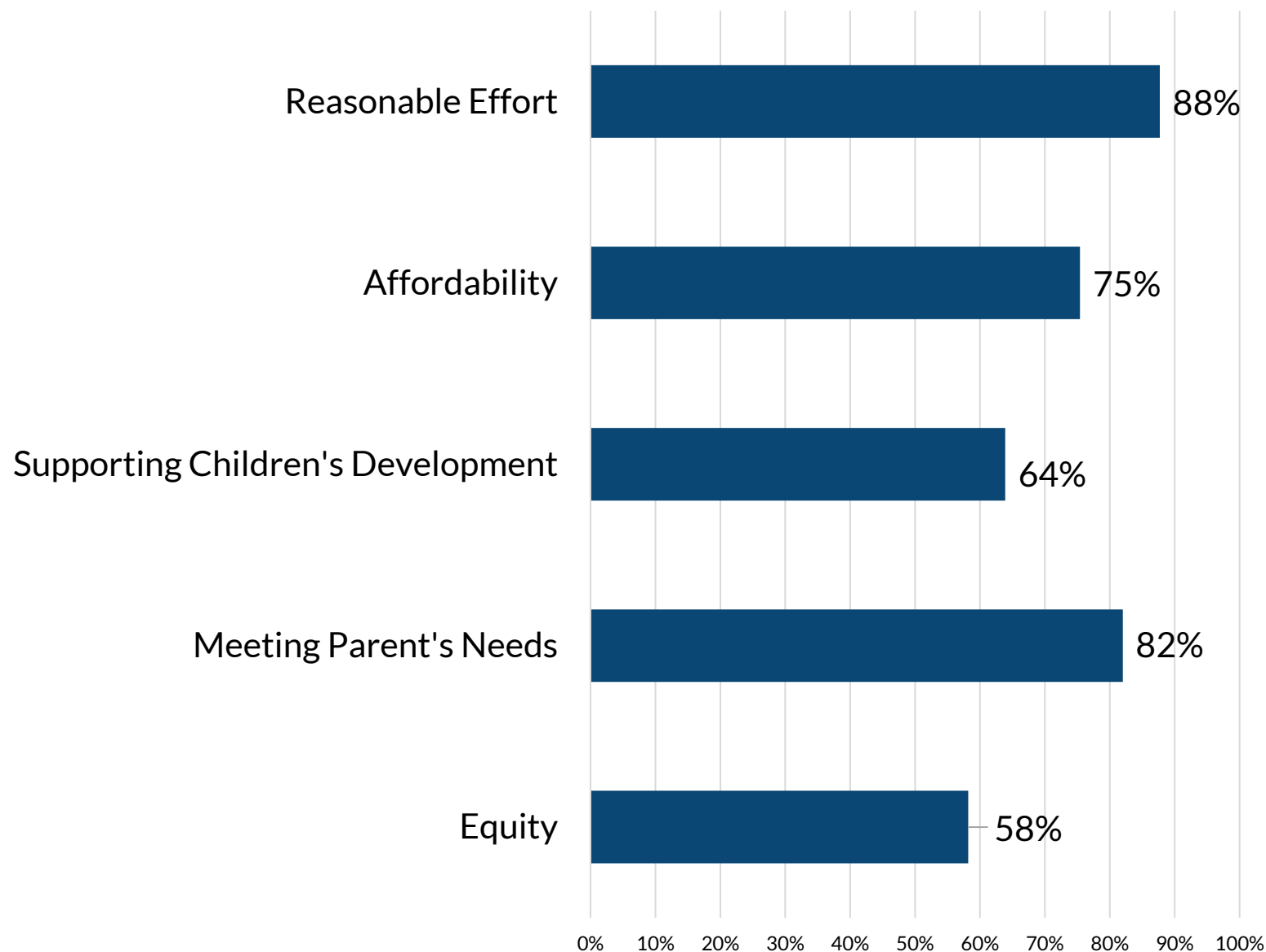




Key Finding #1:

Reasonable effort is a foundation of most definitions of access, but other dimensions are also critical.

Percentage of Sources that Address Each Access Dimension

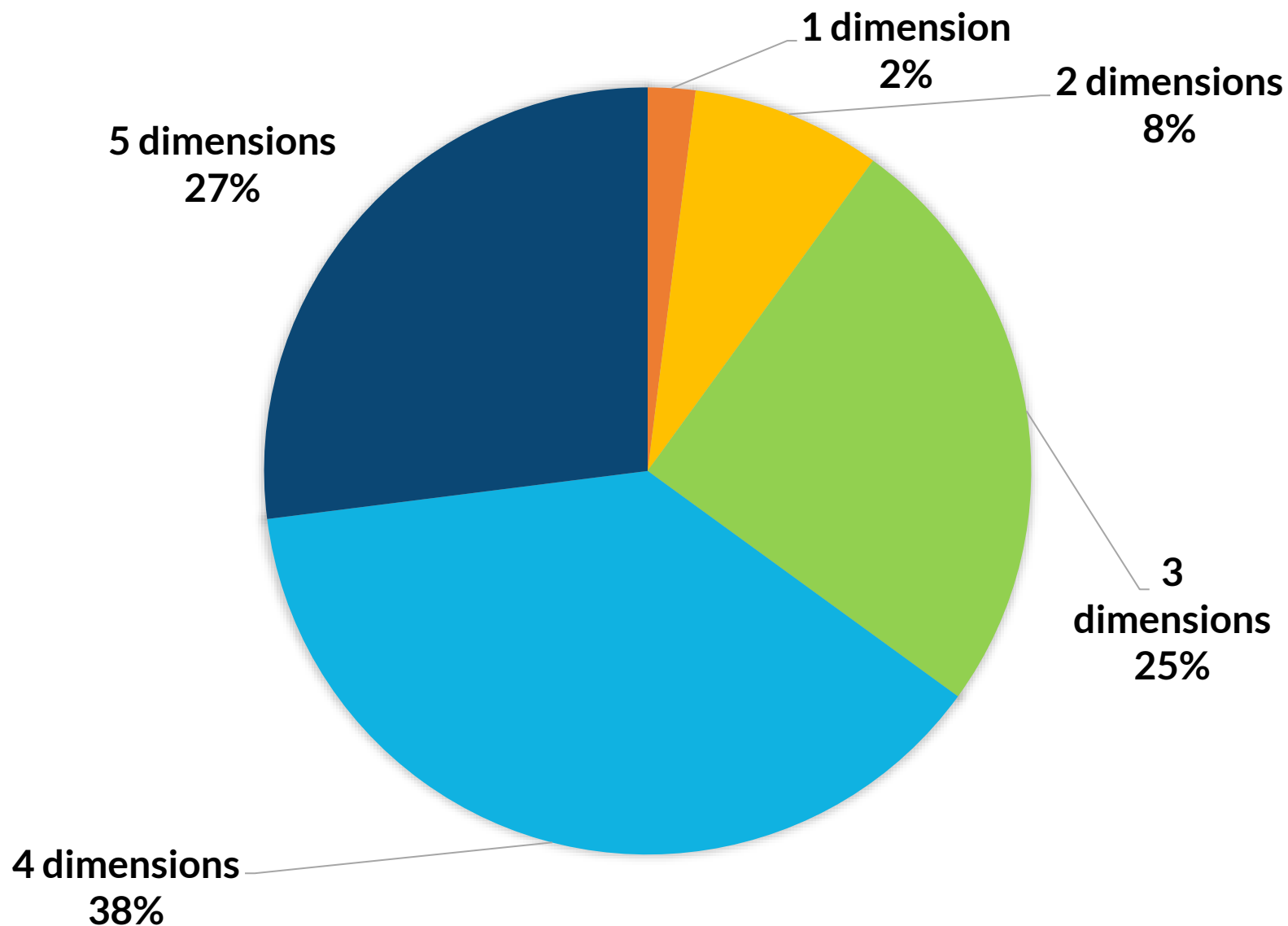




Key Finding #2:

Access tends to be conceptualized in a multi-dimensional way.

PERCENT OF SOURCES THAT DEFINE ACCESS IN WAYS THAT SPAN MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS





Key Finding #3:

Few sources
combine indicators
across dimensions in
a way that provides
an *overall*
characterization of
access

- Some reports combined multiple dimensions of access in a sequential fashion, first reporting on one dimension, then another.
 - E.g., a report might present a series of maps with a region divided by zip code; one map might depict zip codes with the largest unmet need while another depicts average cost of care in each region
- Other reports examined the intersection of, or overlap between, multiple dimensions of access.
 - E.g., a report might look at availability of high-quality care, cost of care by program type, or supply of providers who offer non-standard hours and accept subsidies
- Two reports created composite indexes for access to summarize multiple dimensions to provide an overall characterization of access.
 - E.g., one report gives equal weight to quality, affordability, and availability, and combines them based on each state's distance from the mean using a Z-transformation



Key Findings Related to Measurement Of Access

A **systems-level perspective** takes into account factors and constraints on the supply side, such as availability and cost.

A **family-level perspective** takes into account demand-side factors related to characteristics of families and issues related to family needs.

- Key finding #4: The availability of family-level data is limited, which inhibits the field's ability to understand access from a family's perspective
 - *System-level data* is typically collected by local, state, or national agencies or departments about attributes of the programs, providers, or populations within its jurisdiction.
 - *Family-level data*: is typically collected about individual families that reflects family beliefs and attitudes, characteristics of family decision-making, and perceived barriers to accessing childcare.
- Key finding #5: Current research rarely applies *both* a systems perspective and a family perspective to measuring access.



Considerations

There is a need for future work that:

- Moves the field toward achieving greater consistency in defining and measuring access and clarifies the assumptions that go into the selection of one indicator over another
- Explores how to best merge together, combine, or weigh different indicators of access across multiple dimensions
- Includes indicators of access that incorporate demand-side factors related to *the expressed needs of families*
- Applies an “*equity lens*” to the conceptualization and measurement of access by intentionally examining the issue in ways that can inform a more equitable picture of ECE access

THANK YOU!

The planning for this webinar was funded through the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and managed through a contract with Child Trends.





Florida's Index of Child Care Access



Mapping ECE Access in Wisconsin

A child is playing in a shallow stream, with their hands in the water. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The word "HELLO!" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the top half of the image.

HELLO!

I'm Benjamin Case

I am a Research Analyst in the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families



Comparing Average Drivetimes for Families Served in Wisconsin Shares in October 2019

BACKGROUND

WHAT WE KNOW

- Families served by *Wisconsin Shares* work a wide-variety of shifts/hours
- Finding child care during nonstandard working hours is hard
- Lack of availability during nonstandard working hours is a barrier to access and affordability

WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

Do families served during nonstandard hours, on average, drive longer to access child care than those served during standard hours?

1 METHODOLOGY

REQUIREMENTS

- All families served in October 2019
- Residential and Provider Addresses
- Work Schedules of Families Served
- Data Source: Cares Worker Web (CWW)

SOLUTION

- Second and Third Shift Flag Report
- First Shift: 6:00AM-1:59PM
- Second Shift: 2:00PM-9:59PM
- Third Shift: 10:00PM-5:59AM

Random Number	Residential Line 1 Address	Residential Line 2 Address	City	State	ZIP	Provider Location Line Address 1	Provider Location Line Address 2	City	State	ZIP	Second Shift Child Care Flag	Third Shift Child Care Flag
0.979704048229573			MILWAUKEE	WI	53209-5037	5520 W Burleigh St		Milwaukee	Wi	53210-1547	N	N
0.793712354165484			MILWAUKEE	WI	53209-5037	5520 W Burleigh St		Milwaukee	Wi	53210-1547	N	N
0.988675986081216			JANESVILLE	WI	53546-2325	1735 S Washington St		Janesville	Wi	53546	N	N
0.620893934780608			KENOSHA	WI	53143-1302	1612 63rd St		Kenosha	Wi	53143-4475	N	N
0.812316894974968			MILWAUKEE	WI	53218-4203	3862 N 54th Blvd		Milwaukee	Wi	53216-2206	N	N
0.521997495694501			MILWAUKEE	WI	53218-4203	3862 N 54th Blvd		Milwaukee	Wi	53216-2206	N	N
0.973801416830841			MILWAUKEE	WI	53209-5710	4502 N Teutonia Ave		Milwaukee	Wi	53209-6227	N	N
0.927170985353827			GREEN BAY	WI	54303-3359	1101 S Taylor St		Green Bay	Wi	54304	N	N
0.067264735508128			GREEN BAY	WI	54303-3359	1101 S Taylor St		Green Bay	Wi	54304	N	N
0.228373934139117			RANDOLPH	WI	53956-1408	410 E Edgewater St		Cambria	Wi	53923-8808	N	N

What was done?

- File extract of all WI Shares participants served in October 2019 (43,212)
- Removed addresses with PO boxes or “unverified” (42,474)
- Geocoded all residential addresses
- Removed addresses with zip-level codes (41,987)
- Drivetime Analysis “solve”
- Removed failed solves (41,262)

What was mapped?

- FIRST STOP: All WI Shares participants residential addresses
- LAST STOP: All WI Shares participants provider addresses

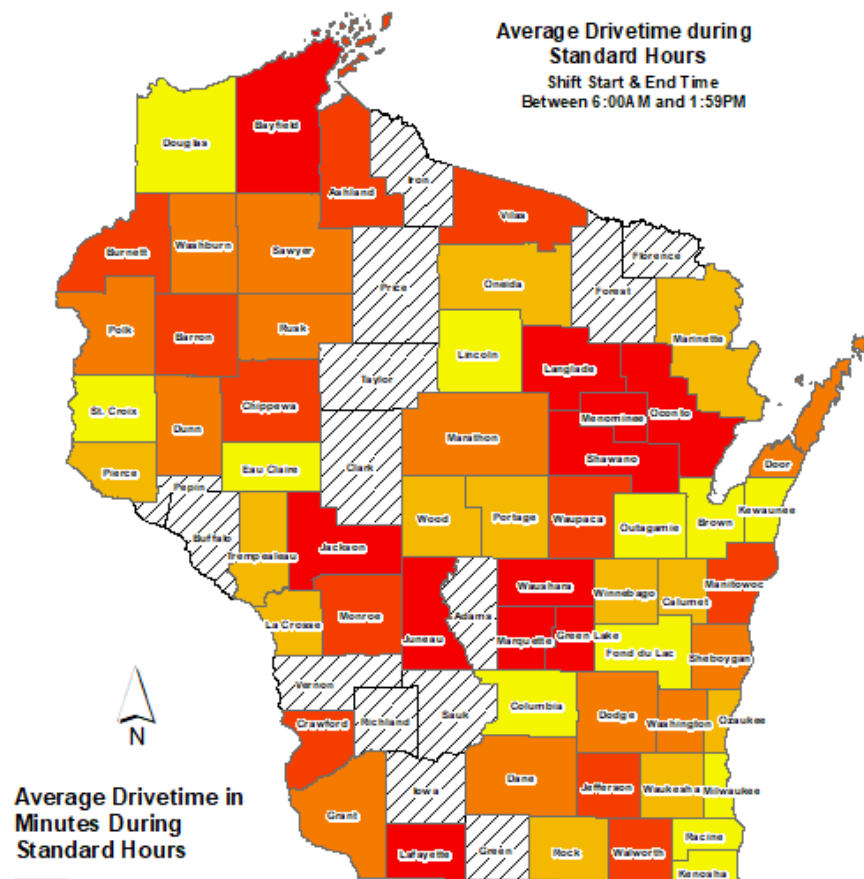
Sample Output

Name	FirstStopID	LastStopID	StopCoun	Total_Time
0.315838429	18045	60518	2	66.06330105
0.181219136	18046	60519	2	66.06330105
0.659699672	14282	56755	2	58.11583654
0.525575727	14283	56756	2	58.11583654
0.390097445	2314	44787	2	43.48078986
0.579136674	2315	44788	2	43.48078986
0.854106605	17634	60107	2	36.47816635
0.910658298	17635	60108	2	36.47816635

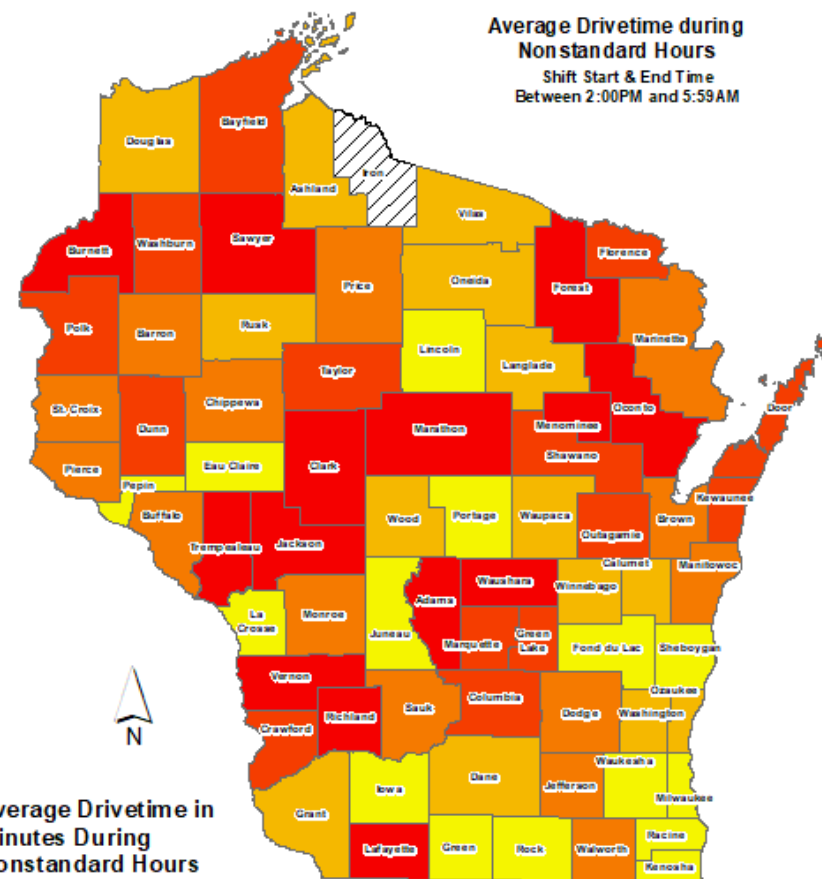
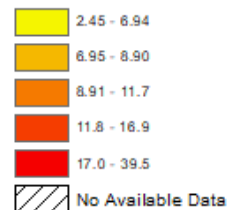
2

RESULTS

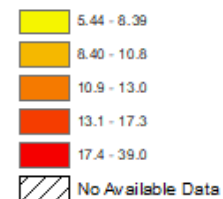
Average Drivetimes from Residence to Childcare for Families Receiving Subsidized Childcare



**Average Drivetime in
Minutes During
Standard Hours**



**Average Drivetime in
Minutes During
Nonstandard Hours**



On average,
families served
during nonstandard
hours drove longer
than families
served during
standard hours

Shift Flag	Number of Records	Average Drivetime	Standard vs Non Standard
1 st Shift Only	5,012	7.5 minutes	7.5 minutes
2 nd Shift Only	386	8 minutes	8.03
2 nd & 3 rd Shift	31,439	7 minutes	

Limitations

- Standard vs Nonstandard Hours
- Residential Addresses
 - Verification
 - Homelessness
 - Duplicate addresses
- Method of Transportation
 - Public transportation
- Access and Affordability

Next Steps

- Comparing averages across census tracts
- Establish new shift hours and generate new file extract
- Control for:
 - Inaccurate addresses
 - Duplicate addresses
 - Methods of transportation
- Overlay with child care deserts
- Family vs group child care provider

Access to Child Care for Tribal Nations



BACKGROUND

WHAT WE KNOW

- 38% of ZIP codes considered child care deserts
- Difficult to pinpoint which child care providers are located on Tribal land
- All children deserve access to culturally responsive and high quality child care options near their homes

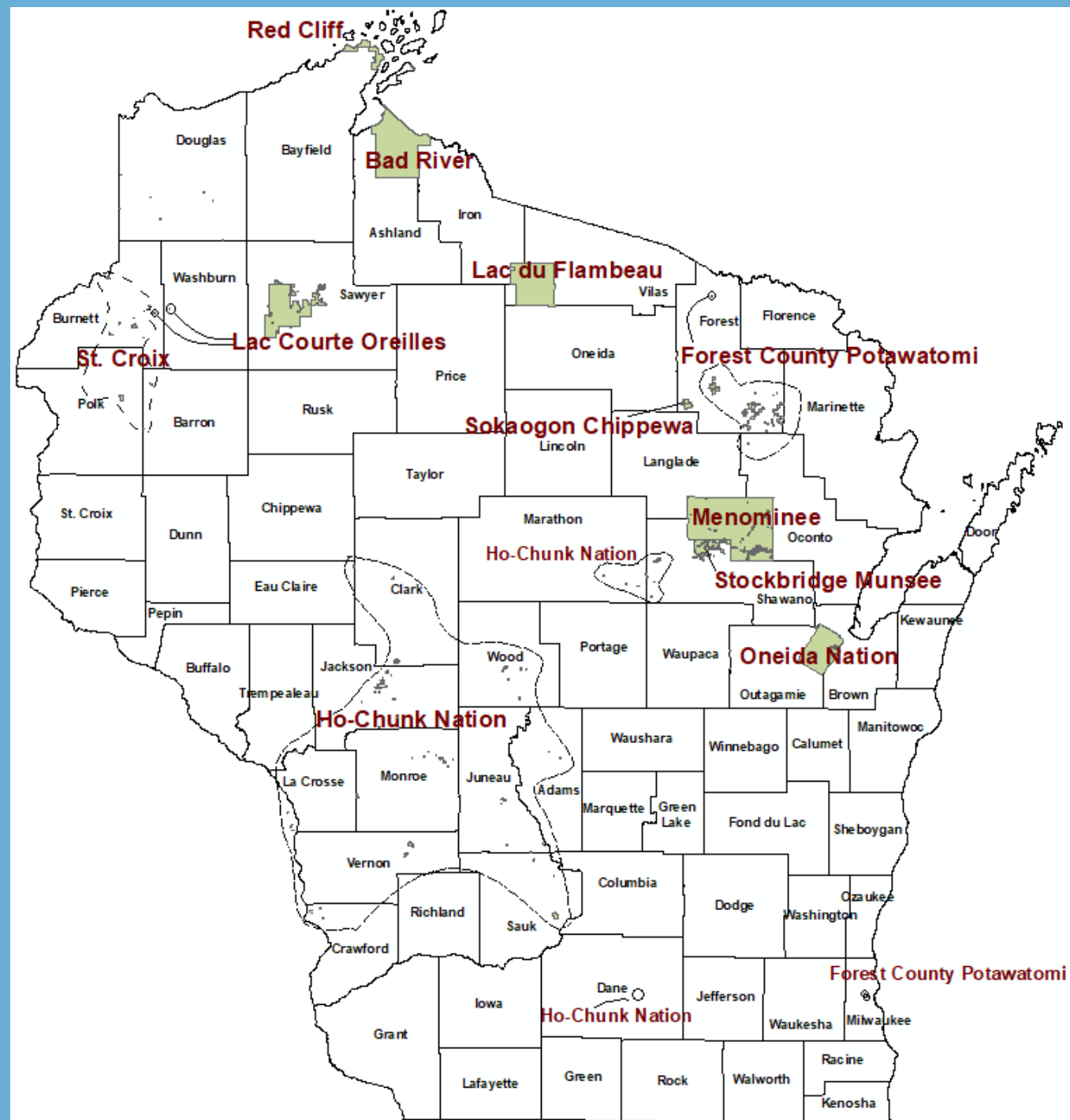
WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

- What does access look like for children who are tribal members
- Which regulated child care providers are located on or near Tribal land
- What are the characteristics of these providers

Location of Tribal Nations in Wisconsin

11 Federally Recognized Tribal Nations

- Bad River
- Forest County Potawatomi
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Lac Courte Oreilles
- Lac du Flambeau
- Menominee
- Oneida Nation
- Red Cliff
- Saint Croix
- Sokaogon Chippewa
- Stockbridge Munsee



1 METHODOLOGY

Data

- Administrative data from 12.2019
- Latitude and longitude of all regulated child care providers.
- Provider characteristics: YoungStar rating, regulation type, preferred language, self-reported race/ethnicity, ages served, etc.

Analysis

- Geospatial analysis of active providers on and near Tribal Nations
- Included only Nations with a child care contract
 - Bad River
 - Forest County Potawatomi
 - Lac Courte Oreilles
 - Lac du Flambeau
 - Menominee
 - Oneida Nation
 - Red Cliff
 - Sokaogon Chippewa
 - Stockbridge Munsee

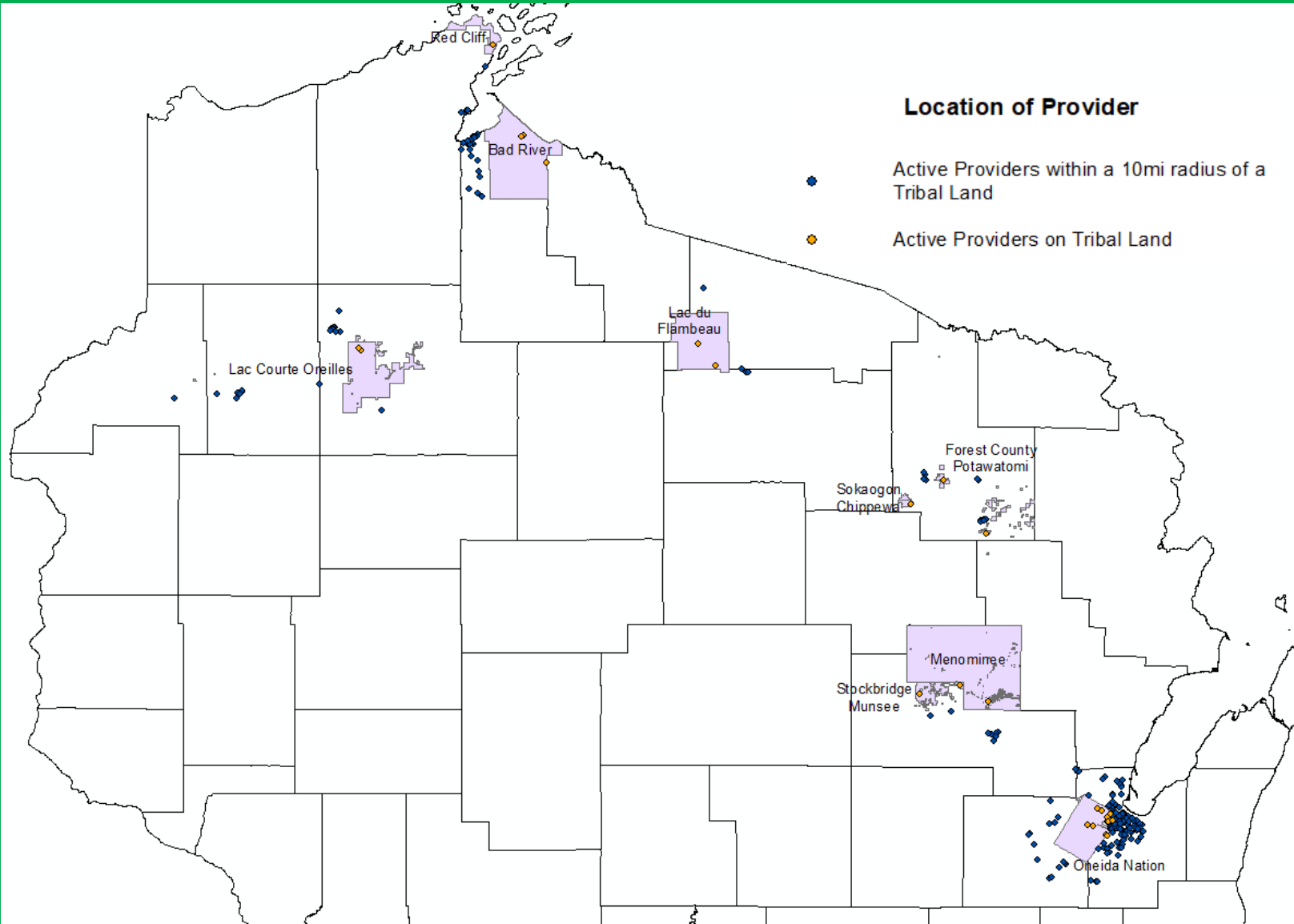


*Forest County Potawatomi locations within Milwaukee County were excluded.

2

RESULTS

All Regulated Child Care Providers On or Near Tribal Land



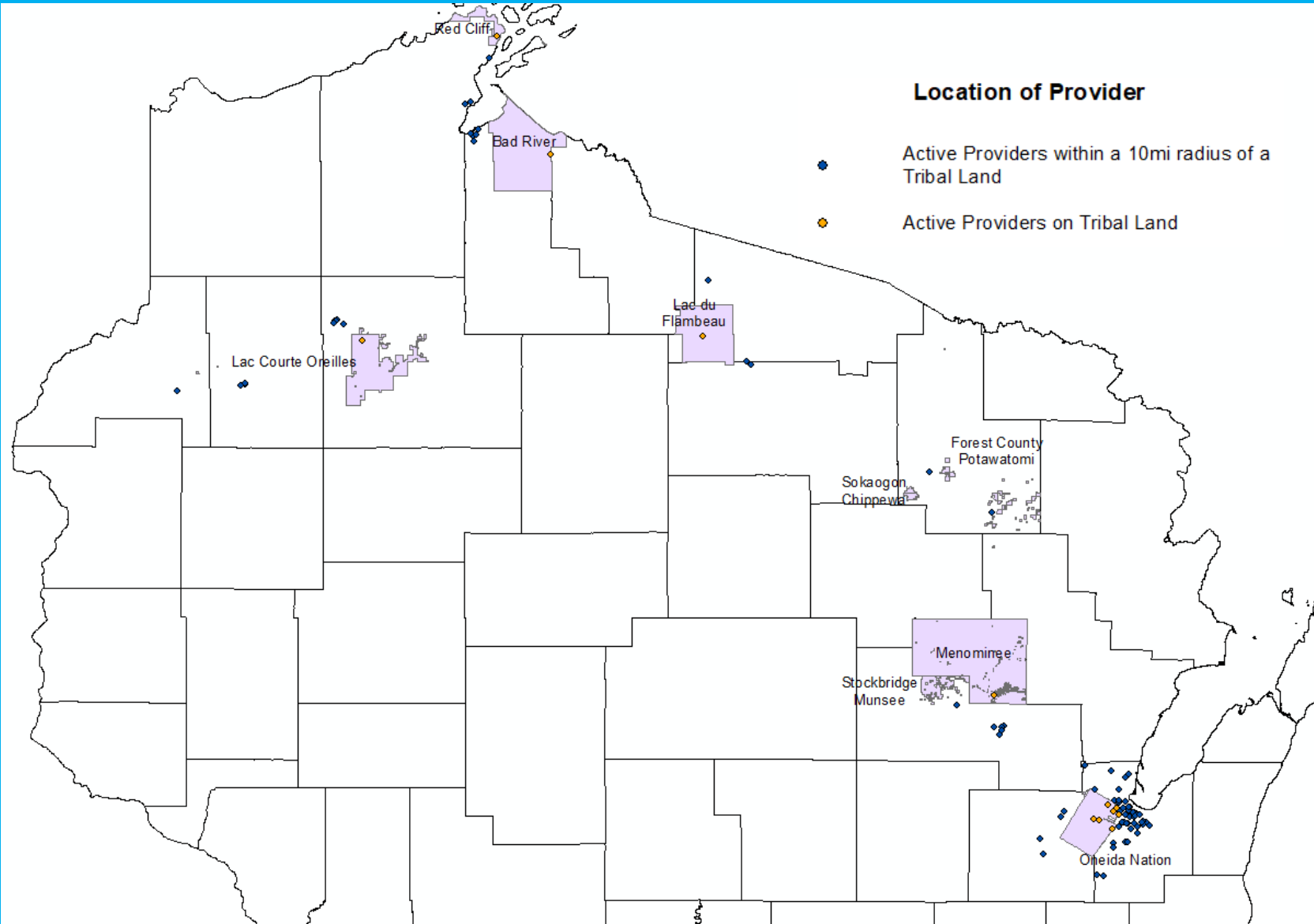
239 out of the **4,539**

active providers in December 2019 are located on/near tribal land

Count of Child Care Providers

Tribal Nation	In Tribal Boundary	Within 10 Miles	Grand Total
Bad River	4	34	38
Forest County Potawatomi	2	11	13
Lac Courte Oreilles	2	18	20
Lac du Flambeau	2	5	7
Menominee	3	7	10
Oneida Nation	14	130	144
Red Cliff	1	1	2
Sokaogon Chippewa	1		1
St. Croix		1	1
Stockbridge Munsee	1	2	3
Grand Total	30	209	239

High Quality Child Care Providers On or Near Tribal Land

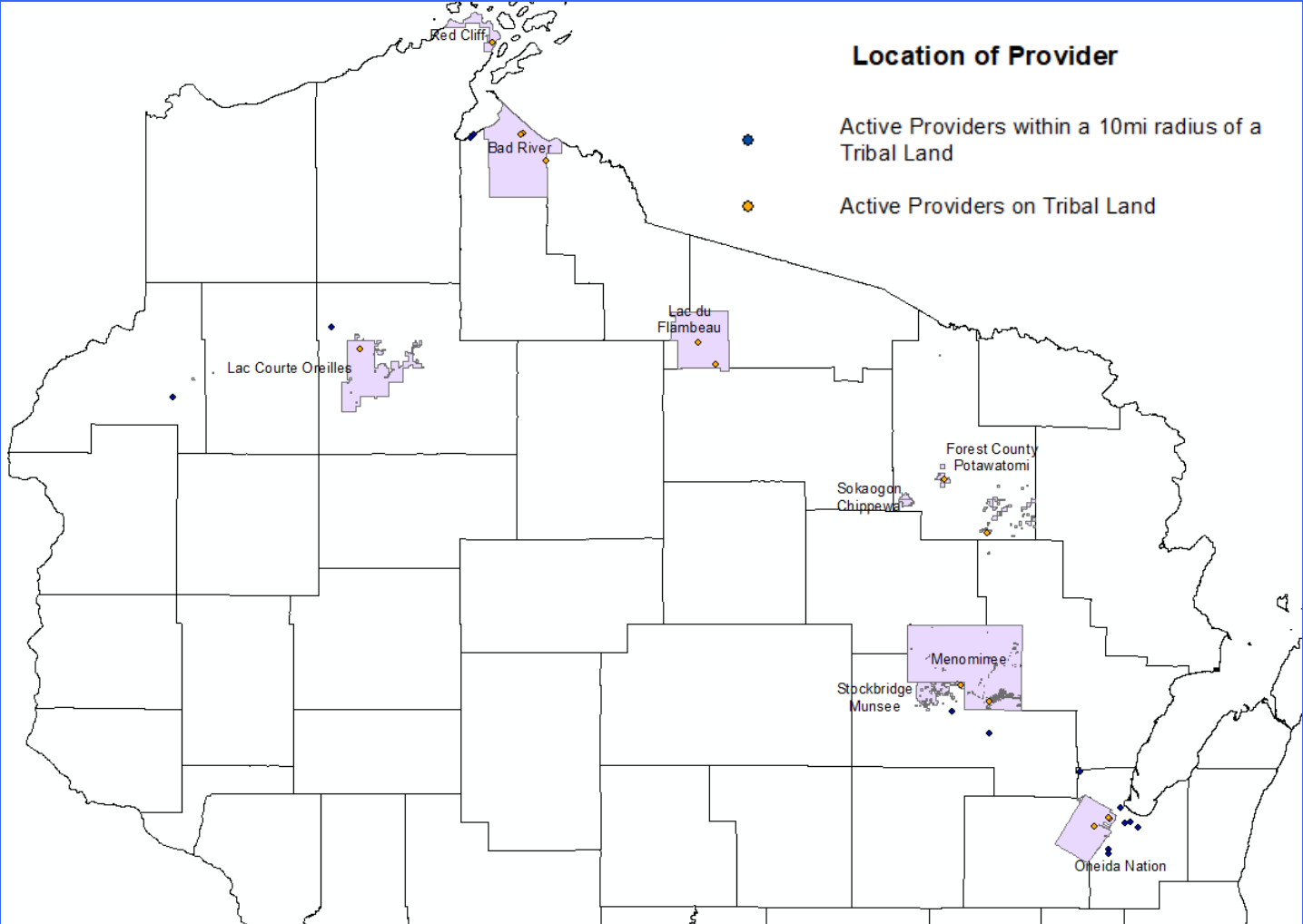


40% of child care providers located on tribal land are considered high quality with a Star rating of 3, 4, or 5 Star.

Count of Child Care Providers

Tribal Nation	In Tribal Boundary	Within 10 Miles	Grand Total
Bad River	1	7	8
Forest County Potawatomi		2	2
Lac Courte Oreilles	1	9	10
Lac du Flambeau	1	4	5
Menominee	1	6	7
Oneida Nation	7	50	57
Red Cliff	1	1	2
Sokaogon Chippewa			
St. Croix		1	1
Stockbridge Munsee		1	1
Grand Total	12	81	93

Child Care Providers On or Near Tribal Land with at least One Program Staff Person Identifying as Native American or American Indian



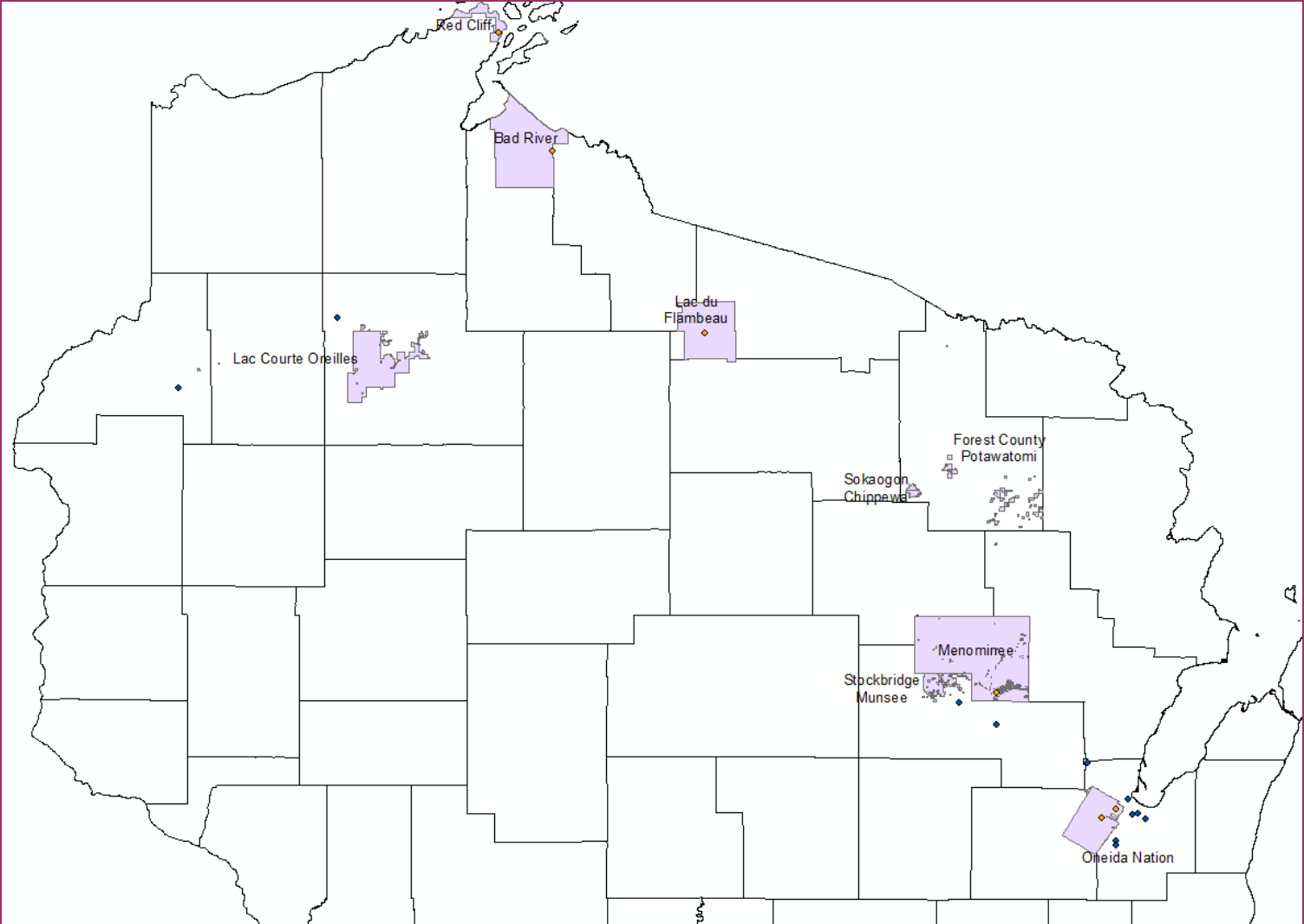
57% of child care providers located on tribal land are have at least one staff who identified as either Native American or American Indian.

Count of Child Care Providers

Tribal Nation	In Tribal Boundary	Within 10 Miles	Grand Total
Bad River	4	2	6
Forest County Potawatomi	2		2
Lac Courte Oreilles	1	1	2
Lac du Flambeau	2		2
Menominee	3	1	4
Oneida Nation	4	7	11
Red Cliff	1		1
Sokaogon Chippewa			
St. Croix		1	1
Stockbridge Munsee		1	1
Grand Total	17	13	30

High Quality Child Care Providers with at least One Program Staff Person Identifying as Native American or American Indian On or Near Tribal Land

20% of child care providers located on tribal land are considered high quality and have at least one staff who identified as either Native American or American Indian.



Count of Child Care Providers

Tribal Nation	In Tribal Boundary	Within 10 Miles	Grand Total
Bad River	1		1
Forest County Potawatomi			
Lac Courte Oreilles		1	1
Lac du Flambeau	1		1
Menominee	1	1	2
Oneida Nation	2	7	9
Red Cliff	1		1
Sokaogon Chippewa			
St. Croix		1	1
Stockbridge Munsee		1	1
Grand Total	6	11	17

3

The Future

What's Next?

- Continue to map Tribal Nations
- Regularly discuss the characteristics of child care available near tribal lands
- Incorporate Wisconsin Shares Child Care subsidy data
- Identify the count of tribal members birth to 5 years to accurately assess child care access
- Data can now drive discussions on improving access to child care for tribal members



Estimating Wisconsin Shares Eligibility for Children Under the Age of Five

BACKGROUND

WHAT WE KNOW

- 11.8% decline in families receiving WI Shares¹
- 2.4% fewer births in 2017 than in 2016²
- 11.3% of families still live in poverty,³ and may qualify for WI Shares

WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

Areas in the state of WI that have potentially high eligibility for WI Shares, but low uptake

¹ 2016 and 2018 ACF 800

² DHS 2017 Birth Rates Report

³ “Five Charts That Tell the Story of Poverty in Wisconsin” <http://kidsforward.net/five-charts-that-tell-the-story-of-poverty-in-Wisconsin/>

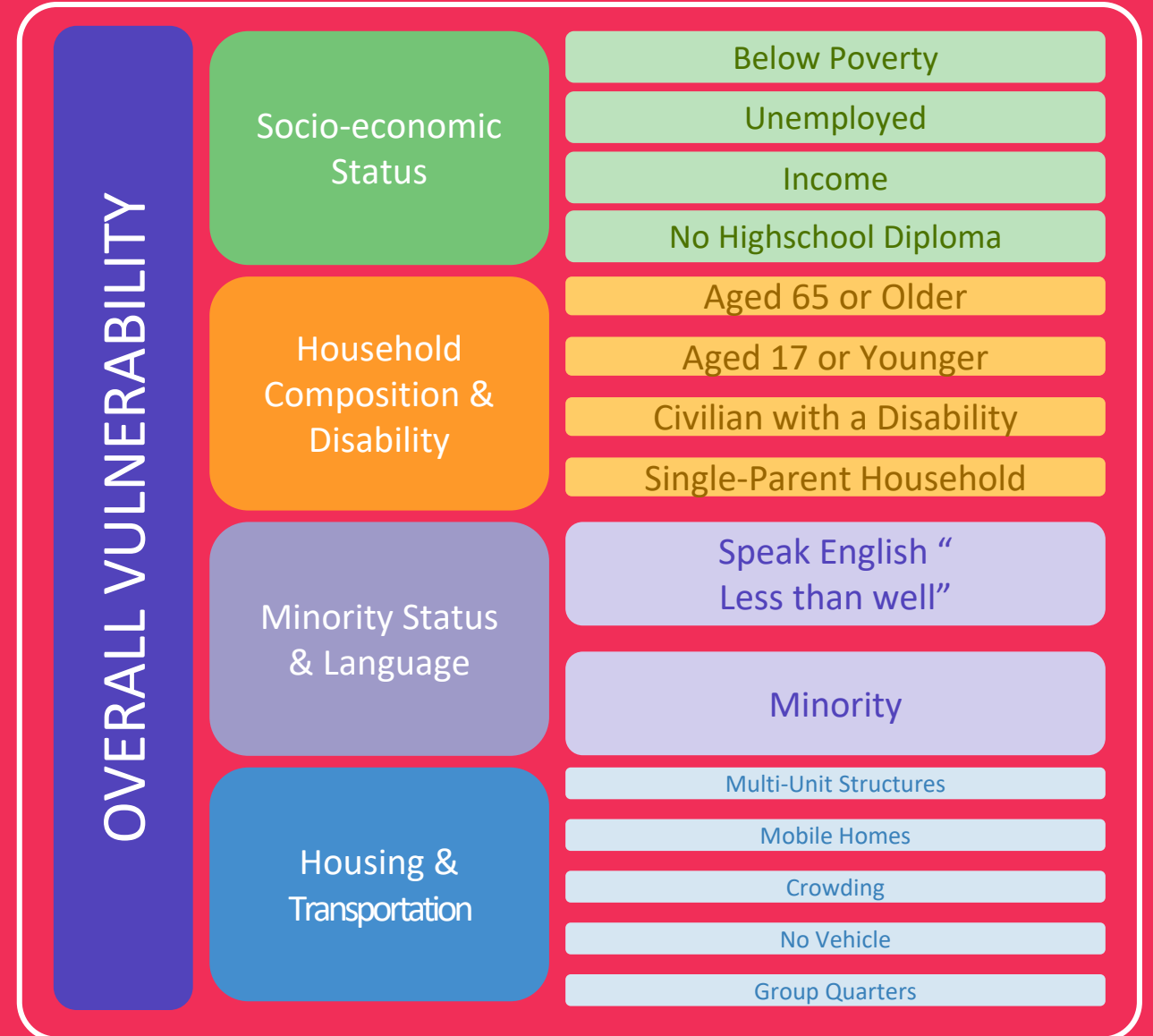
1 METHODOLOGY

American Community Survey (ACS)

- Estimated percent of population of birth to 5
- Data source: ACS 2017 1-Year Estimate

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

- 4 themes
- 15 factors of vulnerability
- 1 overall score
- Data source: ACS 2012-2016 (5 year data)

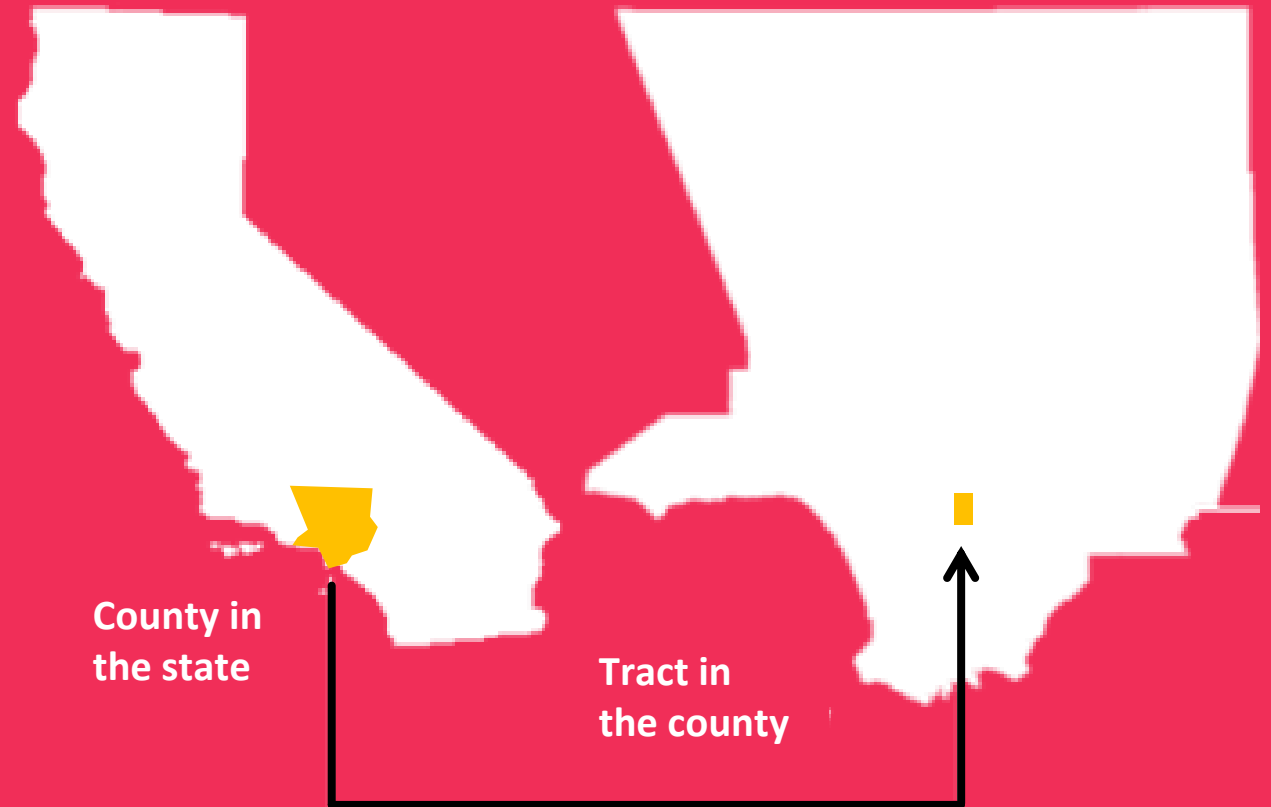


Census tracts

- Similar to a neighborhood
- Approx. 4000 people
- Falls within county boundaries

What was mapped?

- Census tracts with high vulnerability (top 10%) and pop. Above the mean (5.85% of total population)
- All WI Shares participants served in September 2019

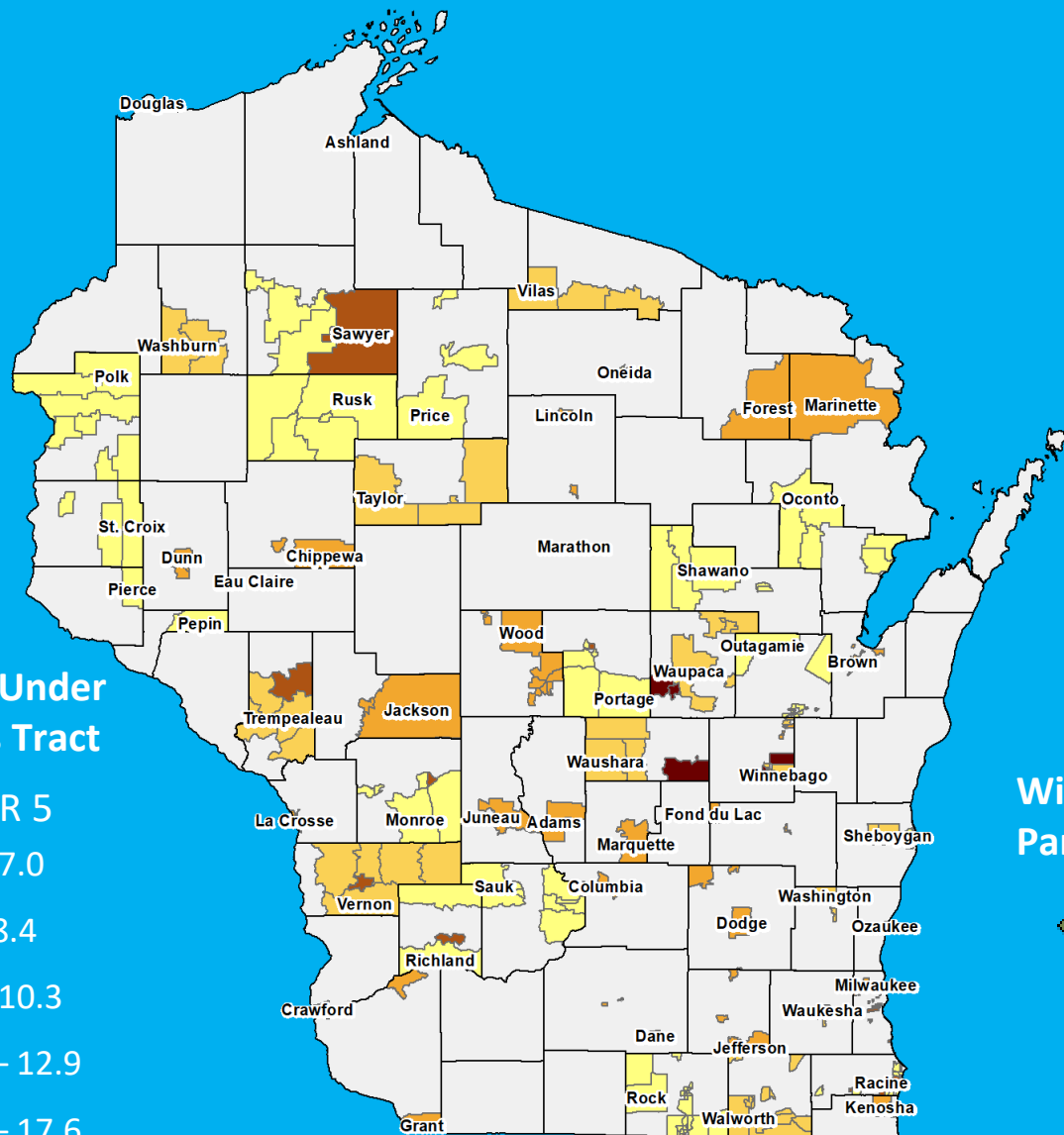


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RESULTS

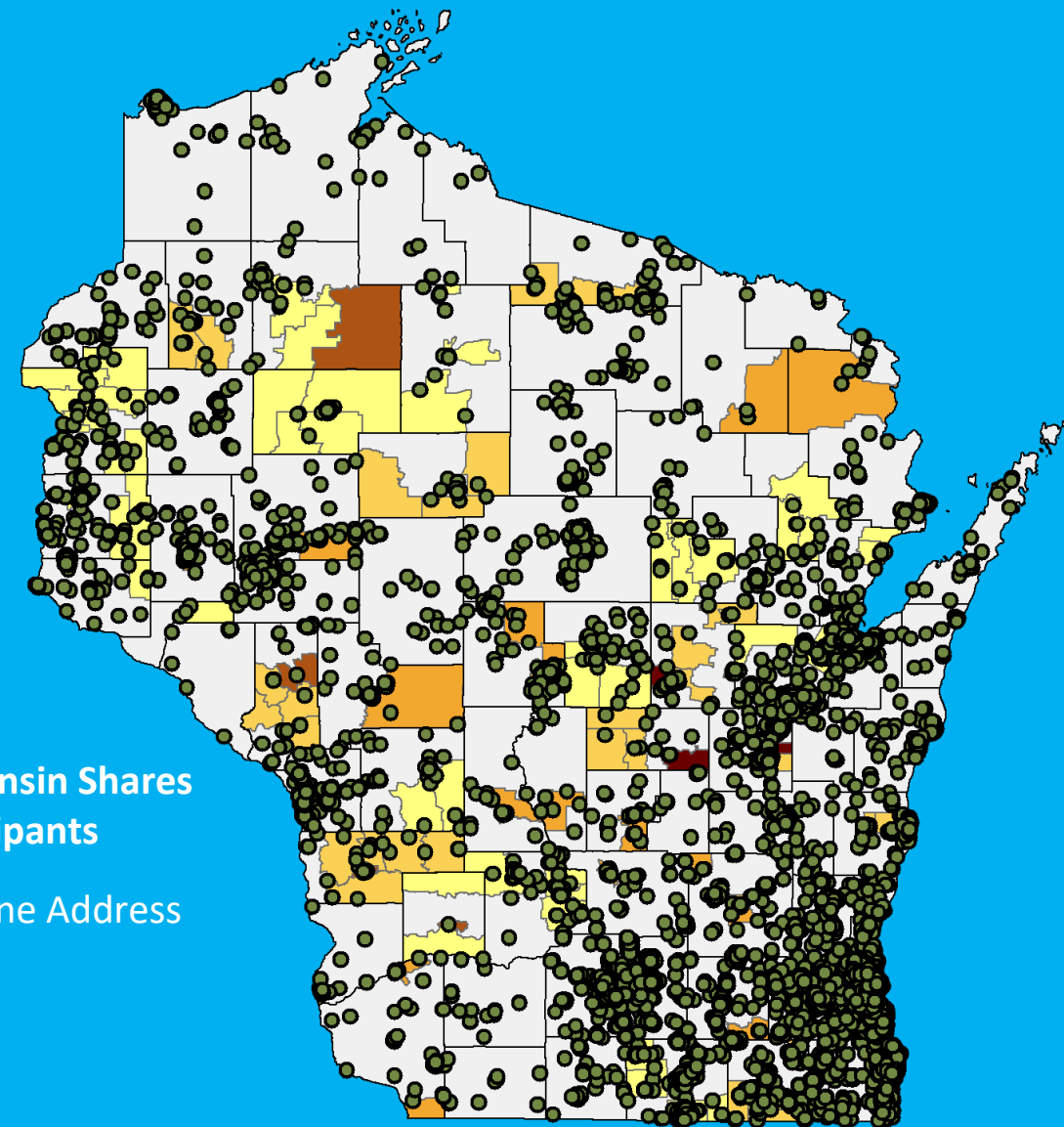
Population Under 5 by Census Tract

POP UNDER 5



Wisconsin Shares Participants

 Line Address



¹ Data Source: center for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) Overall Vulnerability, ACS 2012-2016 (5 year data)

* Census Tracts in the top 10% or 90th percentile are shown in the map (high vulnerability areas)

² Data Source: American Community Survey, Population Under 5, 2010

* Population values above the mean of 5.85 are colored on the map.

291 Census Tracts
within 55 Counties
have potentially
high eligibility for
WI Shares



Legend

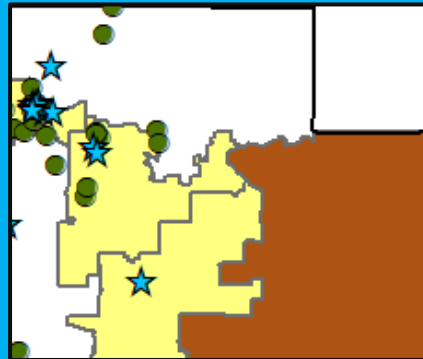
POP UNDER 5



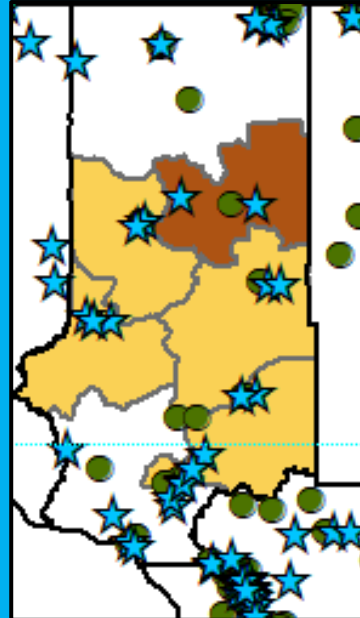
☆ Provider Address

● WI Shares Participants Addresses

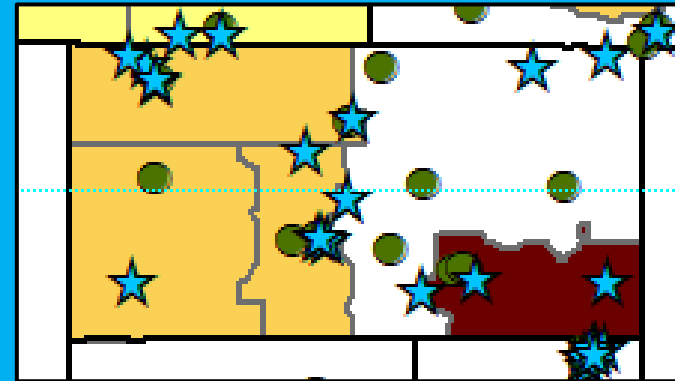
Sawyer County



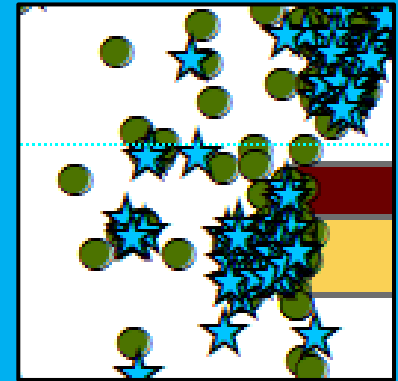
Trempealeau County



Waushara County



Winnebago County



Social Vulnerability Index: Socioeconomic Status

Socio-economic
Status

County	Below Poverty	Unemployed	Income	No High School Diploma	Socioeconomic Status Sum
Milwaukee	12	9	12	9	42
Rock	6	7	6	6	25
Racine	5	7	5	7	24
Kenosha	1	3	2	1	7
Sheboygan	0	2	2	2	6
Dane	3	0	3	0	6
Winnebago	1	1	0	2	4
La Crosse	2	0	2	0	4
Walworth	1	0	1	1	3
Portage	2	0	1	0	3
Vilas	1	1	0	0	2
Marathon	1	1	0	0	2
Eau Claire	1	0	1	0	2
Dunn	1	0	1	0	2

Social Vulnerability Index:

Household Composition & Disability

County	Ages 65 or Older	Aged 17 or Younger	Civilian with a Disability	Single Parent Households	Household Comp. Status Sum
Racine	3	6	4	8	21
Milwaukee	5	3	8	4	20
Rock	0	4	6	4	14
Waukesha	1	1	2	1	5
Sawyer	1	1	2	1	5
Winnebago	1	1	2	0	4
Vilas	3	0	1	0	4
Sheboygan	1	1	2	0	4
Kenosha	0	1	2	1	4
Dane	2	0	2	0	4
Vernon	1	2	0	0	3
Rusk	2	0	1	0	3
Price	2	0	1	0	3
Outagamie	1	0	1	1	3
Oconto	2	0	1	0	3
Wood	2	0	0	0	2
Monroe	0	1	1	0	2
Marinette	1	0	1	0	2
Lincoln	2	0	0	0	2
La Crosse	0	0	2	0	2
Fond du Lac	1	0	1	0	2
Chippewa	0	0	1	1	2

Social Vulnerability Index: Minority Status & language

Minority Status
& Language

County	Minority	Speak English "Less than Well"	Minority Status Sum
Milwaukee	10	4	14
Racine	3	6	9
Walworth	0	6	6
Rock	1	3	4
Trempealeau	0	2	2
Sheboygan	0	2	2
Marathon	0	2	2

Social Vulnerability Index: Housing and Transportation

County	Multi-Unit Structures	Mobile Homes	Crowding	No Vehicle	Group Quarters	Housing & Transportation Status Sum
Milwaukee	12	0	9	15	21	57
Dane	5	0	1	5	6	17
Racine	5	0	2	4	5	16
Rock	2	2	5	3	1	13
Brown	3	0	1	2	5	11
Winnebago	6	1	0	1	2	10
Waukesha	3	0	1	2	3	9
La Crosse	4	0	0	1	4	9
Kenosha	1	0	0	2	4	7
Vernon	0	3	1	1	1	6
Sheboygan	2	1	1	1	1	6
Outagamie	1	0	3	1	1	6
Fond du Lac	1	0	0	1	4	6
Dodge	0	0	0	1	4	5
Walworth	2	0	1	0	1	4
Sawyer	0	1	2	0	1	4
Sauk	0	3	1	0	0	4
Dunn	0	1	0	0	3	4
Taylor	0	3	0	0	0	3
Rusk	0	3	0	0	0	3
Polk	0	3	0	0	0	3
Marathon	0	0	0	1	2	3
Juneau	0	1	0	0	2	3
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	3	3
Jackson	0	1	0	0	2	3
Eau Claire	1	0	0	1	1	3

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Family-Centered Measures of Access in Minnesota



A National Portrait of Access using the NSECE

Measuring and Comparing Access with a Family-Centric, Multidimensional Methodology: Analysis of the 2012 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)

KATIE PASCHALL, LIZ DAVIS, KATHRYN TOUT

CCEEPRC VIRTUAL SESSION

AUGUST 17, 2020

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The views expressed in this poster do not necessarily represent the views or policies of OPRE, ACF, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Making access measurable

Definition of access

Research Brief OPRE 2017-08
February 2017

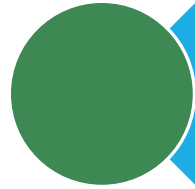
Defining and Measuring Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education (ECE):
A Guidebook for Policymakers and Researchers



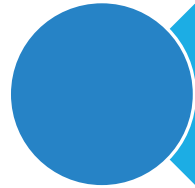
Nationally-representative data



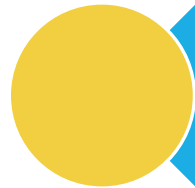
Defining Access



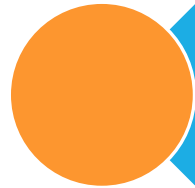
Reasonable effort



Affordability



Meets the parents' needs



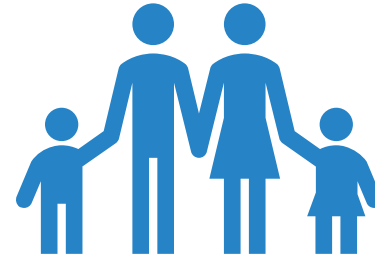
Supports the child's development

Measuring access

Within an area, what are the characteristics of available care?



Family needs, use of care, and characteristics



Research Questions:

1. Describe overall access based on the four dimensions
 - What is the median level of access for each dimension?
 - How much variation in access is there across local areas?
2. Compare access for families of different income levels and different races and ethnicities
3. Examine the association between access and the type of primary care used by families with young children

Data and Methods

2012 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)

- Data from all four surveys: Center-based providers; Center-based workforce, home-based providers; and households with young children.
- Analysis conducted at the household level
- Local area defined based on the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) of NSECE
 - Typically a county or set of contiguous counties

Research Approach: “Tots per slot” type measure:

- Define “tots”: Number of children in the area (PSU) in two age groups
 - Infants and toddlers age zero to 35 months
 - Preschoolers age 36 to 72 months (and not in kindergarten)
 - Further refine count based on family characteristics like income
- Define “slots”: Number of slots at center-based and listed non-relationship-based home-based providers.
 - Current enrollment numbers were used due to the availability and quality of the survey data; Further refine to count slots based on characteristics like low price or nonstandard hours.

Measure of each dimension: Access ratios

1. Reasonable Effort: Overall tots per slot in the area
2. Affordability: Tots per slot at different price points (for all families and for families with incomes below 200%FPL)
3. Meets Parents' Needs: Number of children with parents working nonstandard hour compared to number of slots at providers offering NSH
4. Supports Child Development: Tots per slot with structural quality indicators like a teacher with a two- or four-year degree or a CDA

Example of Method: Affordability

- We looked at the supply of care at different “price points” including:
 - Free (to families)
 - Annual price: $\leq \$2,500$, $\leq \$5,000$ and $\leq \$10,000$
 - Count of slots at providers with annual price at or below each price point (and not free).
- Compared the number of children in low-income families to the number of slots based on each price point

Preliminary findings: Affordability for families with income below 200% FPL

Median low-income tots-per-slot	Infants and Toddlers	Preschoolers
Overall availability (tots per slot)	4.4	1.6
Availability of slots that are not free to parents and are priced at:		
\$10,000 or less	8.3	4.5
\$5,000 or less	63	21
\$2,500 or less	235	107
Availability of free slots	64	5.1

Quantifying “low^{er}” access

- Child care “deserts” defined by some researchers as areas with three or more children per child care slot.
- We estimate the median “tots per slot” ratio (the experience of the median family in the U.S.) and examine the range of the ratio values. We don’t use the fixed threshold like the deserts definition for all dimensions
- Instead of a fixed threshold which is the same for each access dimension, we define low^{er} access by the 75th percentile of the distribution of each measure. Thus it is a relative, not an absolute measure of access.

Preliminary results: What percentage of families of different demographic groups live in lower access areas?

Infants and toddlers	All	White	Black	Hispanic
Median tots per slot	4.3	4.0	4.1	5.0*
Percent of families in lower access areas	33%	31%	27%	37%*

A larger share of Hispanic families (37%) live in areas with lower access, that is, areas with an overall access ratio greater than 6.4 children per slots than White (31%) or Black families (27%).

Comparison of methods with previous studies

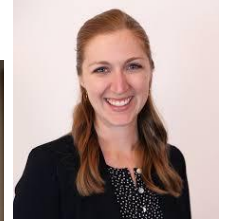
- By using a continuous measures of access (rather than a binary threshold), we can examine variation in levels of access across areas and types of families.
- Multiple dimensions considered (one at a time)
- Family-focused definition: compare families with certain characteristics with local supply that pertains to those characteristics:
 - Parents working non-standard hours (providers open NSH)
 - Number of families below 200% FPL and availability of lower-priced providers
 - Also examined provider characteristics related to quality (teacher credentials)

Challenges in Measuring Access

- Defining the relevant local market
- Need better measures of supply capacity and demand
- Binary thresholds versus continuous measures of access
 - How to determine what is “enough”?
- Importance of considering multiple dimensions in order to understand parent decision-making.
 - Access appears low across dimensions in many locations
 - Combinations of characteristics results in even lower access

Report forthcoming in September

THE ACCESS GUIDEBOOK IS AVAILABLE AT: [CHILDTRENDS.ORG](https://childtrends.org)
BE IN TOUCH: KSPASCHALL@CHILDTRENDS.ORG





Reflections from a State Perspective



Reflections from a Technical Assistance Perspective



Questions

- **Dimensions of access**
- **New tools for mapping access**
- **Methods for assessing access dimensions**

THANK YOU!

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