Linking CCAP Administrative Data Across Multiple States

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Outline

1. IL/NY Child Care Research Partnership

2. Potential challenges

3. Potential benefits

4. Summary of opportunities/challenges

IL/NY Child Care Research Partnership

- Partnership with Univ. of Chicago & Urban Institute & State Child Care Administrators
  - PI: Julia Henly; Co-PIs: Heather Sandstrom & Amy Claessens
  - Funded by OPRE/ACF, Grants #90YE0133 & #90YE0151-01-00

- To gain knowledge about child care subsidy dynamics and factors associated with subsidy (in)stability and its implications for child care quality and continuity

- 4 Targeted Regions
  - New York – Nassau and Westchester Counties
  - Illinois – Cook County and Southwestern IL

- Non-school aged new entrants in subsidy program

- Multi-component, mixed-method study, including admin. records over 18 months in 4 regions

ILLINOIS/
NEW YORK
CHILD CARE RESEARCH
PARTNERSHIP

Potential Challenges

Potential Challenges

<u>Level of the records across states</u>

- How do states collect and store the data?

- e.g., family vs. child

- Implications for:
  - making comparisons across states
  - research questions

Potential Challenges

Type of information

- Differences in state definitions of variables, in what is collected, and in reliability/validity.

- e.g., type of care

- Useful to consult with program administrators

- Recommend analyzing data from each state separately

Potential Challenges

Time Unit

- Weekly vs. Monthly Records
- Example from MN/MD Child Care Research Partnership (Liz Davis)

Spells with the same number of weeks may include a different number of months

CASE NUM	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	# Weeks	# Months
		Month 1				Month 2				Month 3					Month 4						
1	X	X	X	X																4	1
2				X	X	X	X													4	2
3										X	X	X	X	X	X	X				7	3
4													X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7	2

Potential Challenges

Interpreting results

- Inadequate control of contexts
  - state economy
  - influence of other state programs, e.g., TANF
- Programs vary in many ways
  - caseload composition
- Important to understand local context and also examine within state differences
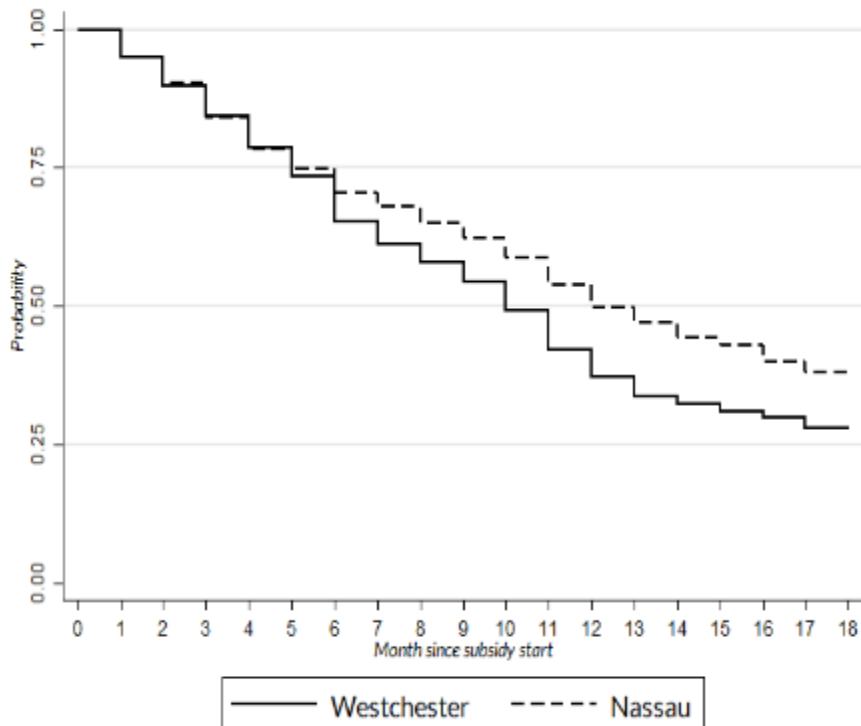
Potential Benefits

Benefits to using data from multiple states

- Administrative data is useful for comparing longitudinal patterns in program use
  - How do patterns of subsidy use vary across states?
  - How does the continuity of subsidized care arrangements vary across states?
  - How do caseload compositions vary across states?
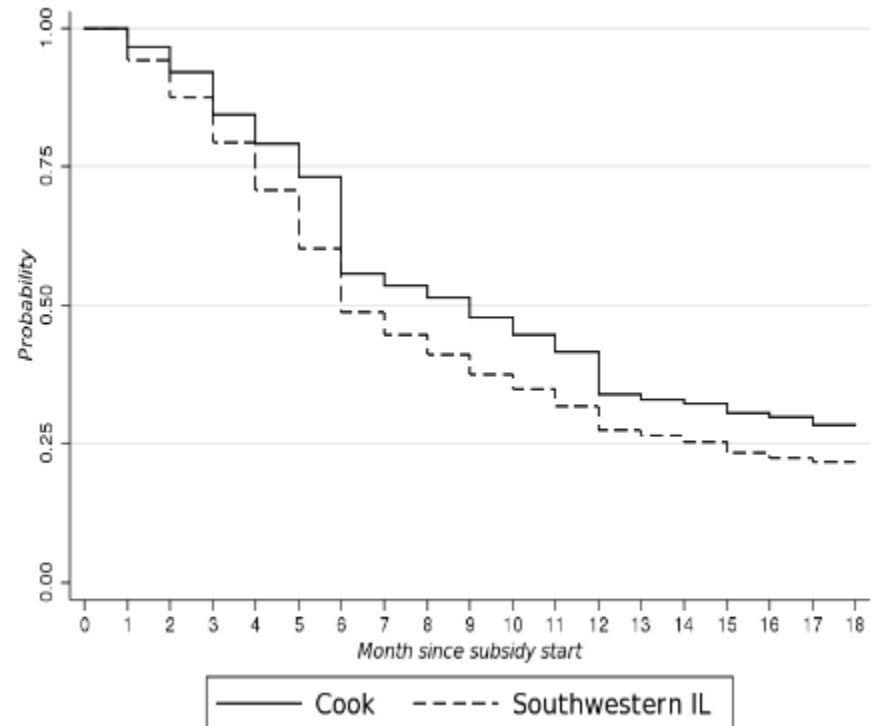- Advantages/Disadvantages

Kaplan-Meier Survival Curve of First Subsidy Spell, 18-month window

- New York

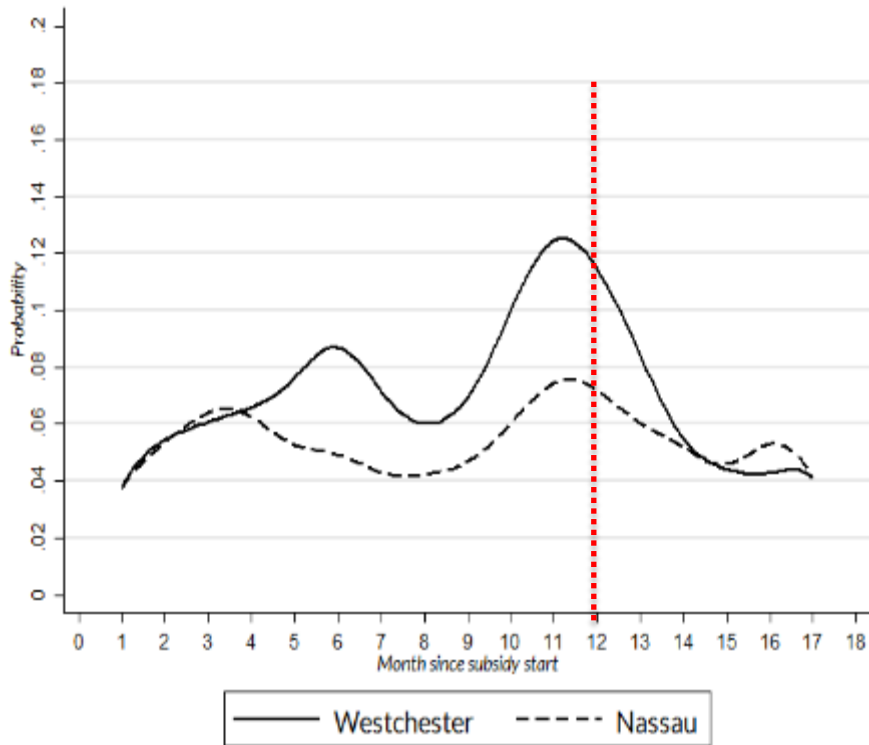- Illinois

Median spell
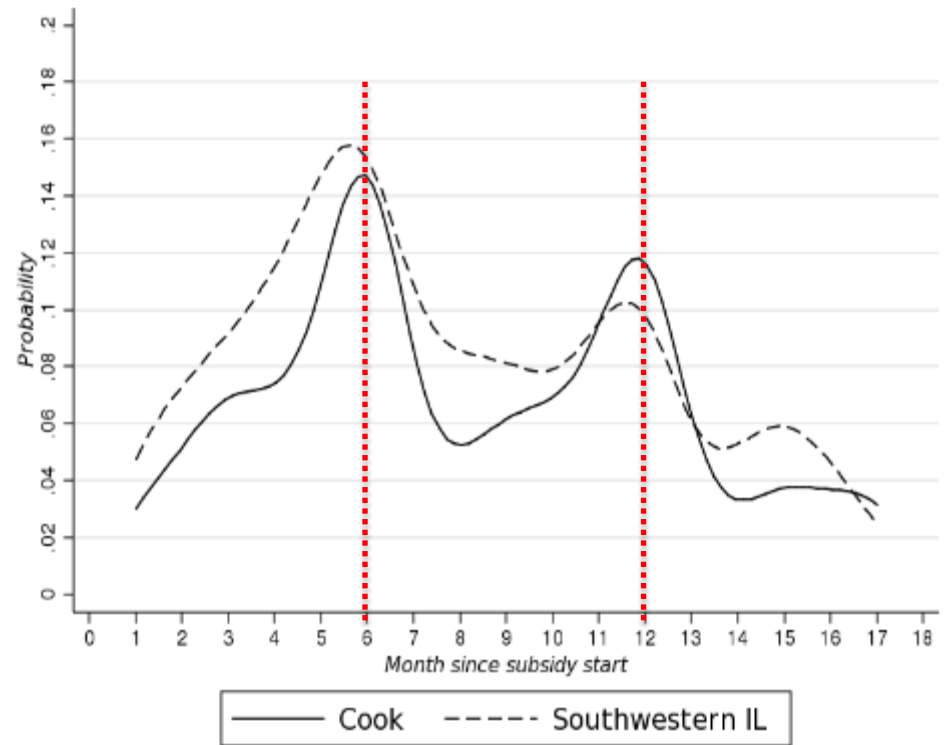Nassau: 12 months
Westchester: 10 months

Median spell
Cook County: 9 months
Southwestern IL: 6 months

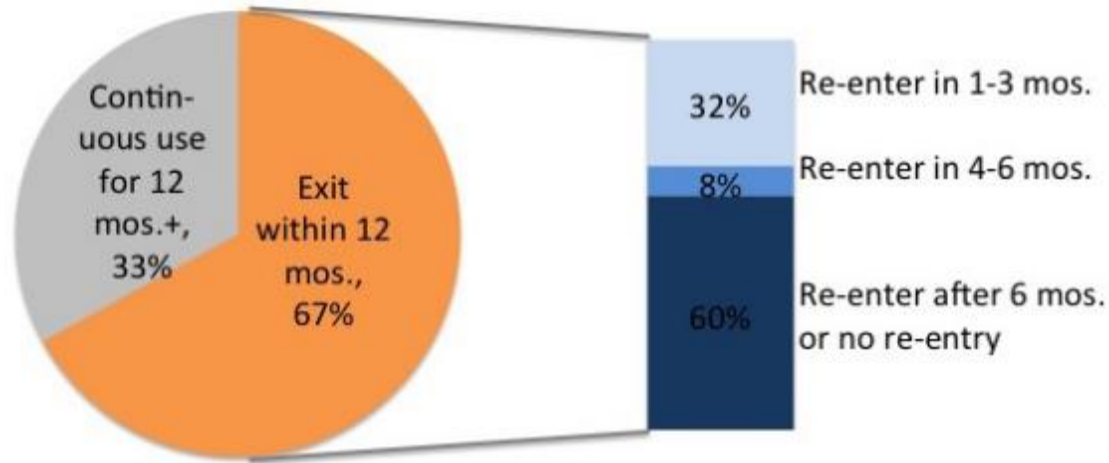# Smoothed Hazard Curve of the First Subsidy Spell, 18-month window

- New York

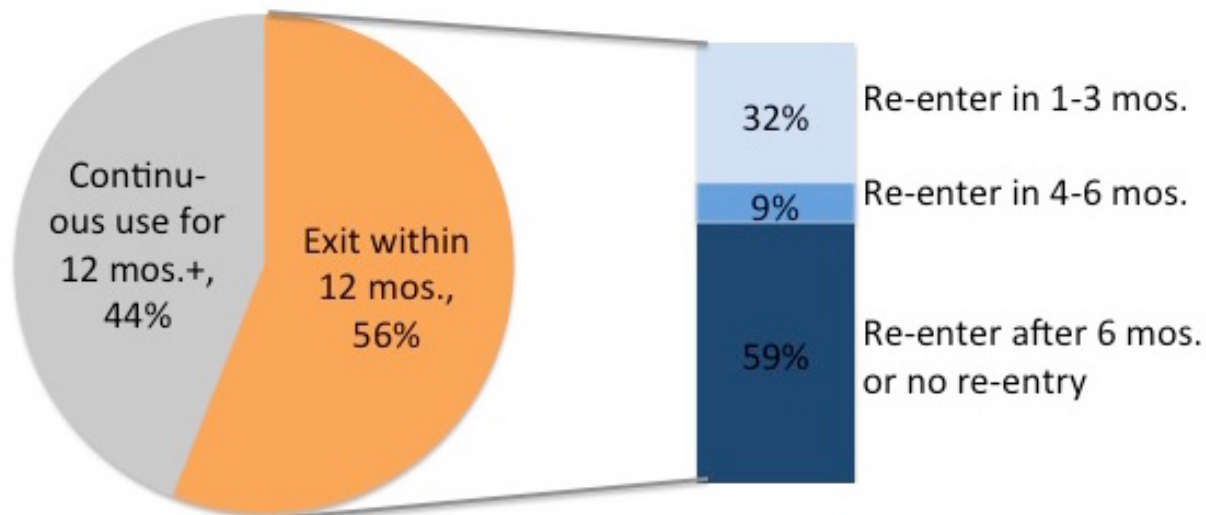- Illinois

Illinois: Exit and Re-entry Into Subsidy Program Over 18 months (N=5893)

Contin-uous use for 12 mos.+, 33%

Exit within 12 mos., 67%

32% — Re-enter in 1-3 mos.

8% — Re-enter in 4-6 mos.

60% — Re-enter after 6 mos. or no re-entry

New York: Exit and Re-entry Into Subsidy Program Over 18 months (N=1819)

Continu-ous use for 12 mos.+, 44%

Exit within 12 mos., 56%

32% — Re-enter in 1-3 mos.

9% — Re-enter in 4-6 mos.

59% — Re-enter after 6 mos. or no re-entry

Summary

- Multi-state comparisons can be interesting and useful
- But present challenges
  - Need to create comparable measures
  - Understand local context and consult with program administrators
  - Use caution in interpreting results

It takes a lot of people to do multi-state, multi-method research

- <u>Program Officers</u>: Susan Jekielek; Ivelisse Martinez-Beck; Ann Rivera

- <u>Investigators</u>. PI: Julia Henly; Co-PI's: Amy Claessens, UC-Harris & Heather Sandstrom, Urban Institute

- <u>State and Local Partners</u>: Linda Saterfield, Illinois Department of Human Services; Janice Molnar, New York State Office of Children and Family Services; Maria Whelan & David Alexander, Illinois Action for Children; SuzAnne Kollman Children's Home and Aid, Southern Region; Melinda Denham, NY Office of Children and Family Services.

- <u>Key Research Staff</u>: Alejandra Ros Pilarz, JaeSeung Kim, Carolyn Barnes, University of Chicago; Julia Gelatt & Olivia Healy, Urban Institute

Thank you!

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Extra Slides

Linking administrative data with additional data sources

- Admin data have advantage of telling story over time for large sample

- But story only as good as the data

- Several advantages to linking admin data to other sources
  - Surveys, qualitative interviews, participant observation, etc.

IL/NY Child Care Research Partnership:
Relationship between Data Components

Phase 1

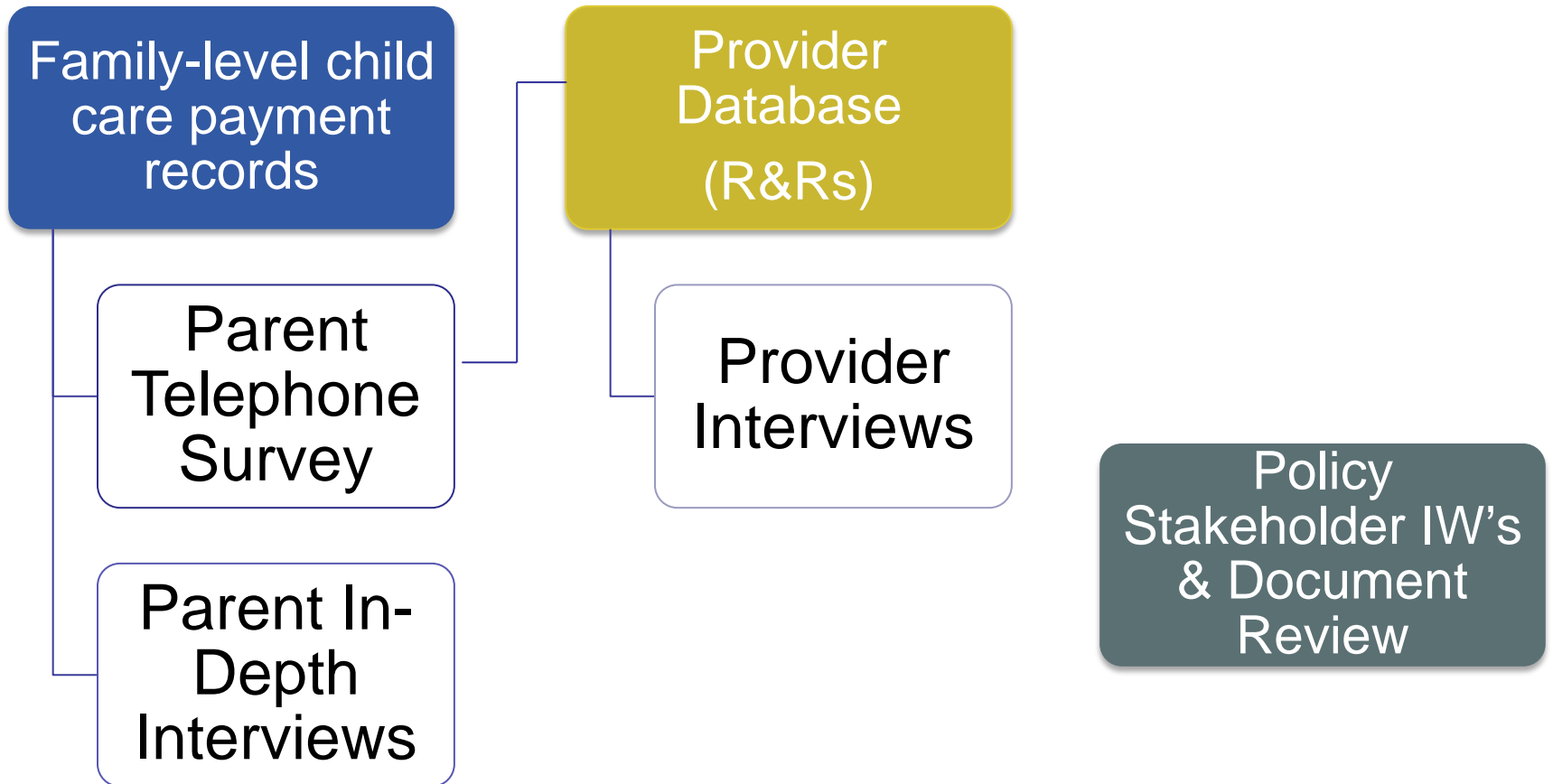**Family-level child care payment records**

Parent Telephone Survey

Parent In-Depth Interviews

Phase 2

Provider Database (R&Rs)

Provider Interviews

Policy Stakeholder IW's & Document Review

Continuity in Subsidized Child Care Providers over 18 months

Percentage	Illinois	New York
Number of total provider changes		
0	69.5	78.4
1	23.3	17.3
2	5.9	3.6
3 or more	1.3	0.7
Within spell change during first subsidy spell	17.3	12.5
Between spell change during first exit & re-entry (if 2+ spells)	35.8	29.9
N	5,092	1,819