

Factors behind the family child care decline : What does the research say?

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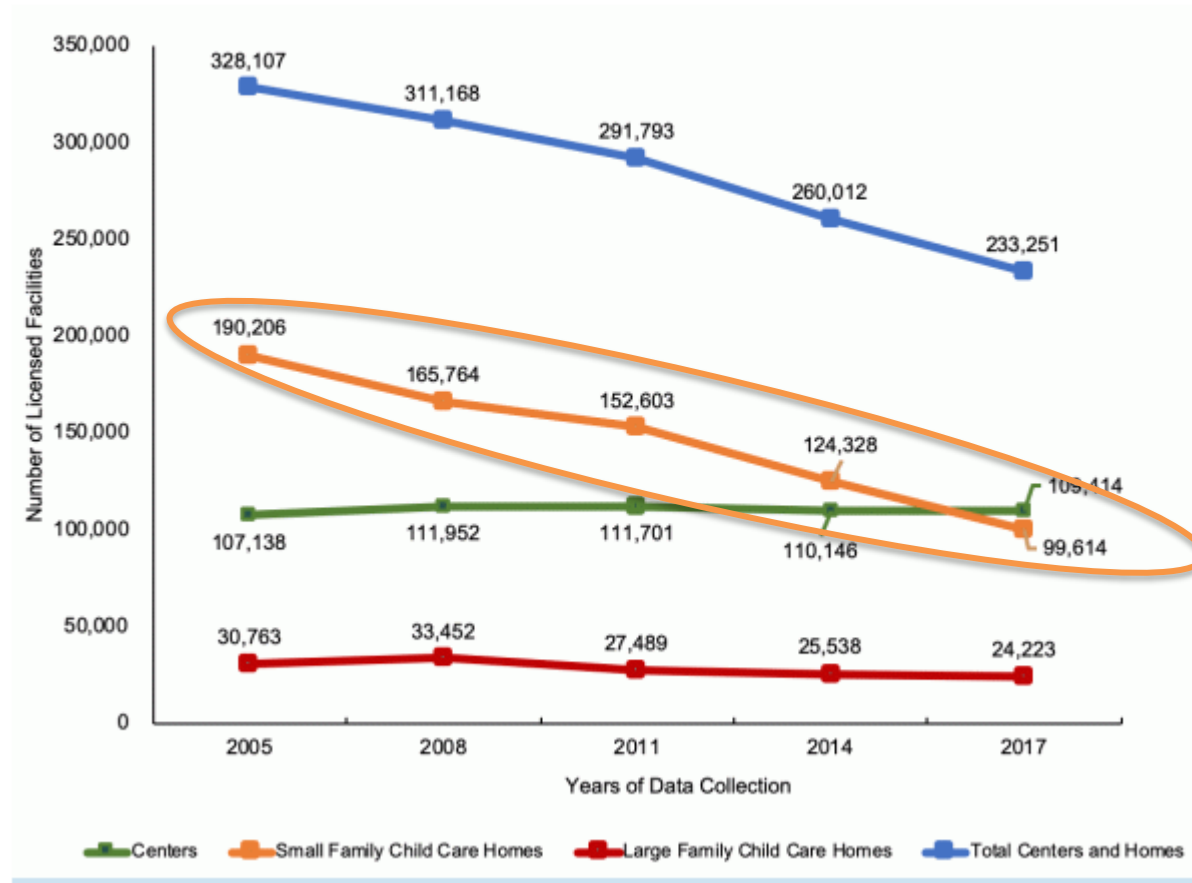
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Background on decline

Decrease in Child Care Facilities



Source: National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance. (2019). Data analysis of data from the 2011, 2014, and 2017 Child Care Licensing Studies. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/news/the-decreasing-number-of-family-child-care-providers-in-the-united-states>

Multi-State Study of Family Child Care Decline

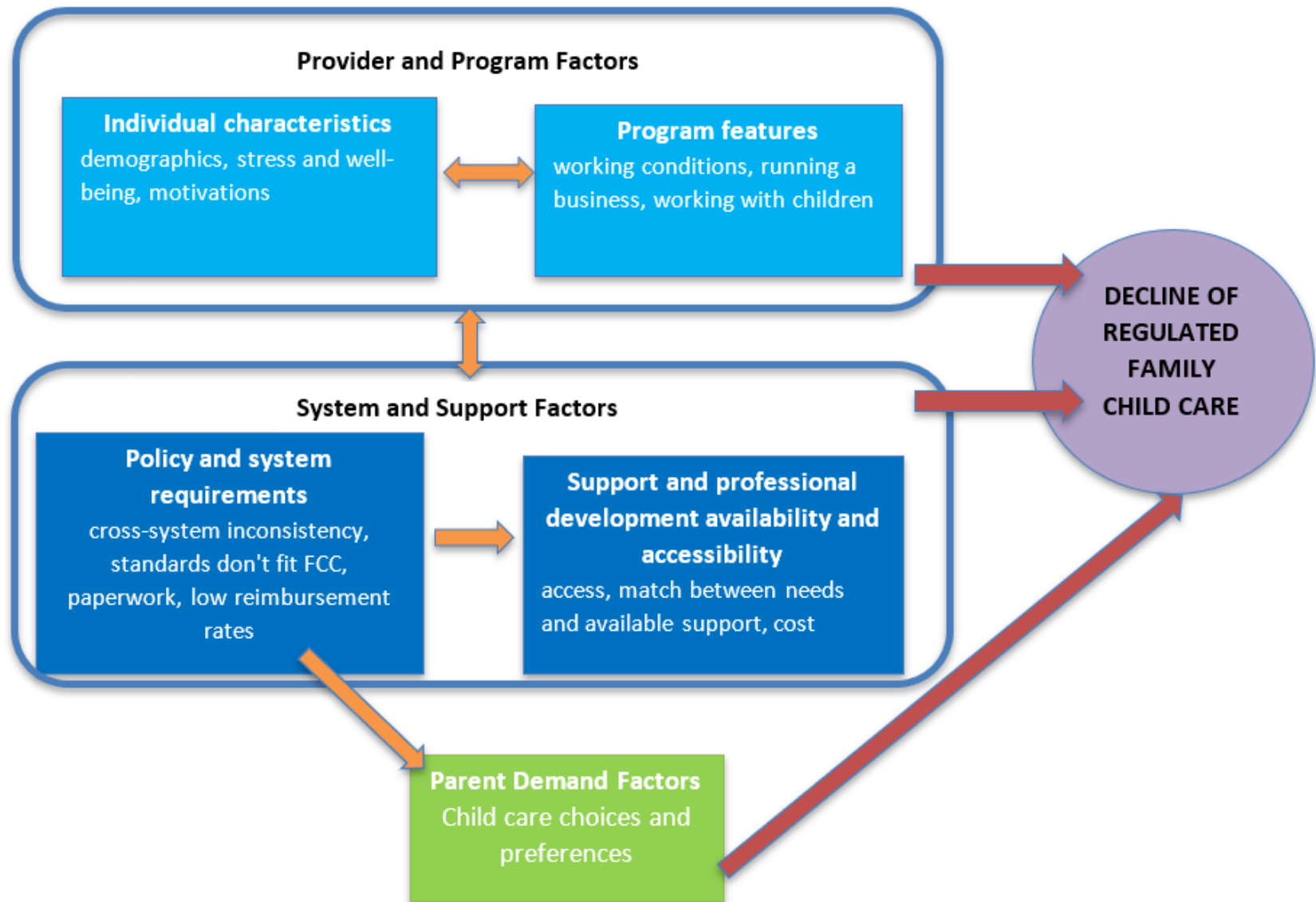
- Exploratory study to examine reasons licensed providers enter the field, stay in the field, leave the field
- Four states: CA, FL, MA, WI
- **Comprehensive literature review on factors behind the decline**
- Primary data collection
 - 24 focus groups with current providers
 - 40 interviews with providers who have left the field
 - Interviews with stakeholders (licensing, QRIS)

Literature Review

Overview

- 85 articles reviewed
- Focus on five factors:
 - individual provider characteristics
 - provider program features
 - regulatory and quality system requirements;
 - available professional development supports
 - parent demand for child care

Figure 1. Conceptual model for factors shaping the decline of regulated family child care



Findings

Individual provider characteristics

- Demographics
 - Income
 - Education
 - Age
- Stress and psychological well-being
- Motivations

Findings

Program characteristics

- Working conditions
- Running a business
 - Policies that limit enrollment
 - Business skills and limited administrative capacity
 - Nurturing and making money
- Working with children
 - Mixed-age groups of children
 - Own children in care
- Working with families

Findings

Regulatory and quality system requirements

- Cross-system inconsistency
- Paperwork burden
- Standards that do not align with family child care
- Language barriers
- Low reimbursement rates

Findings

Available professional development supports

- Transportation
- Fit with provider needs and interests
- Cost of support and training
- Access to support – language and education

Findings

Parent demand

- Developmental preferences
- Cultural preferences
- Cost of child care

Program and policy implications

- Initiatives that offer opportunities for peer support and professional development
- Funding to support quality of care and sustainable working conditions
- Business and financial management supports
- Alignment and coordination across systems
- Increased access for linguistically diverse workforce
- Increased inclusion of FCC in universal pre-K initiatives, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

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