The National Survey of Early Care and Education Center-Based Provider Screening

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OPRE
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Rationale for method

- **There are a wide variety of options available to parents of all income brackets, but it is unknown if needs match availability**
  - Early Care and Education (ECE) resources are fragmented
  - Funding from multiple, often indirect, sources (e.g. Federal to State to County)
  - Parents may choose multiple options
- **Variety makes building an all-inclusive provider sample frame challenging.**

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Sample Frame Construction

- **Created a comprehensive list of ECE programs serving children under age 13 in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.**

- **State-level administrative records used to compile the frame**

  – Listable providers supplied by child care licensing unit, division, department in each state, including licensed Pre-K and before/afterschool designations.

  – State department of education Pre-k land before/afterschool designations

  – State-level before/after-school lists through afterschool networks and Alliance

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Sample Frame Construction

- **Various national lists to supplement**
  - Department of Defense child care
  - General Services Administration child care on federal property
  - National Association for the Education of Young Children accredited programs
  - Boys and Girls Clubs of America
  - YMCA child care and afterschool programs
  - Office of Head Start national list of programs
  - QED proprietary data on all schools offering at least one grade K through 8 and any early childhood program operated by a public school district.

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Sampling of Center-based Providers

- **Programs geocoded to address (sampling unit)**
- **Address could have multiple programs**
- **Addresses were assigned to stratum and sampled for inclusion in the NSECE**
  - Ia: Community-based Child Care
  - Ib: Home-based
  - Ic: Head Start/Pre-K
  - Id: School-age only care
- **Multiple-program addresses classified into one and only one of these categories based on the first category, in order of *Ic, Ia, Ib, and Id*, in which it is qualified.**

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Sample Size by Stratum

Stratum from Sampling Frame	Sampled (Address count)
Ia. Community Based	6,909
Ib. Home-Based	6,857
Ic. Head Start/Pre-K	5,757
Id. School-age only	6,073

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Screening Data Collection

- **Screening of sampled addressed conducted before interview to:**
  - Confirm status of programs from sample frame
  - Add new programs not included in frame
  - Determine eligibility of all programs
  - Identify organizations running programs
  - Sample organization to interview
- **Screening conducted by Web, phone & CAPI**

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Preloaded Programs

- **Programs identified at address through sample frame were verified as offering ECE services:**
  - Operating ECE program at location
  - Duplicate of other preloaded program
  - Part of other preloaded program
  - Not providing ECE care at location

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Adding New Providers

- **Add any additional programs offering ECE services at the address not included in sampling frame, including**
  - Type of program
  - Enrollment requirement
  - Type of activities offered

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Verification of Frame Providers
(Program counts)

Stratum	Program Providing ECE services	Duplicate Program	Part of another program	Program not providing ECE services	Don't Know / Refuse	Total
Community-Based	5,828	36	14	74	7	5,959
Head Start/Pre-K	4,706	621	223	496	13	6,059
School-age	49	0	0	7	0	56
Total	10,583	657	237	577	20	12,074

Verification of Provider frame
(Address counts)

Stratum	All preloaded programs operating	Some preloaded programs operating	No preloaded programs operating	Total
Community-Based	5,611	25	95	5,731
Head Start/Pre-K	3,003	36	926	3,965
School-age	46	5	1	52
Total	8,660	66	1,022	9,748

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Frequency of Adding New Providers
(Address counts)

Stratum	Only Eligible Programs added	Only Ineligible programs added	Both Eligible and Ineligible programs added	Total
Community-Based	1,747	177	93	2,017
Head Start/Pre-K	1,182	70	64	1,316
School-age	1,414	1	122	1,537
Total	4,343	248	279	4,870

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Types of Eligible new programs added
(Program counts)

Stratum	Head Start	Public Pre-K	Other Preschool	Before/ Afterschool	Other	Total
Community-Based	99	316	899	797	463	2,574
Head Start/ Pre-K	274	394	376	459	271	1,774
School-age	71	696	631	681	362	2,441
Total	444	1,406	1,906	1,937	1,096	6,796

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Analysis of these data

- **This operational work already shows the dynamic nature of ECE, including:**
  - The overlap of programs are specific sites
  - The closing of programs
- **It also shows that careful survey work needs to get done in order to have an accurate picture of ECE**

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In conclusion

- **We believe that we have been successful in collecting data about the complicated set of center-based options.**

- **The challenge is to properly describe the supply in a way that makes the complex picture of ECE care accurate and understandable so that we can inform policy makers well**

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