

## National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)

Sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) will document the nation's current utilization and availability of early care and education, and permit better understanding of how well families' needs and preferences coordinate with provider's offerings and constraints. The NSECE samples households and providers in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. The experiences of low-income families are of special interest as they are the focus of a significant component of early care and education/school-age (ECE/SA) public policy. The Household Survey collects information about every children under age 13 in each sampled household, including all their regular ECE arrangements. Providers represented in the study include all non-parental care arrangements, such as center-based programs (pre-schools, day care centers, Head Starts, public pre-kindergarten), regulated home-based providers such as family day cares, and the family, friend, neighbor and nanny sector of informal providers. In addition,

The NSECE design includes four survey components and five related questionnaires.

- The **Household Survey** to be conducted with a parent or guardian of a child or children under age 13. Eligible respondents will be identified through the **Household Screener**. The Household Questionnaire data will include 15,600 interviews with adults in households with children under age 13.
- The **Family, Friend, Neighbor and Nanny (FFNN) Survey** to be conducted with individuals who care in a home-based setting for children under age 13 who are not their own (and who do not appear on an administrative list of ECE providers). Eligible respondents are identified through the **Household Screener**, and will complete the **Home-Based Provider Questionnaire**. We estimate approximately 4,500 completed interviews with FFNN providers.
- The **Formal Provider Survey** is to be conducted with directors of ECE providers who can be identified from administrative lists such as state licensing lists, Head Start program records, or pre-K rolls. These providers will include regulated, license exempt or registered home-based providers who appear on state-level administrative lists. The Formal Provider Survey data will include 8,800 **Center-Based Provider Questionnaire** interviews and 4,500 **Home-Based Provider Questionnaire** interviews.
- The **Workforce Provider Survey** is conducted with staff members of sampled formal providers. After each Center-based Provider interview is completed, one staff member from that organization will be sampled and administered the workforce interview. Interviews are expected with 6,600 members of the ECE Workforce.

### Project Update

To date

- The NSECE project has completed a field test of all questionnaires and data collection operations,
- Constructed a national sampling frame of providers who can be identified from national and state-level lists, such as licensing, license-exempt, Head Start, pre-K, and other regulated.
- Begun mail-based screening of households for the Household and FFNN questionnaires, and web-based data collection from center-based and home-based providers.
- Notified all CCR&Rs in sample areas of the study and study activities, as well as begun outreach to school districts, professional organizations, and other stakeholders in the early care and education domain.

Field data collection begins in January 2012. An interim report from the project will be available August 2013. Public use data files will be made available beginning July 2014. A final report will be available September 2014.

The NSECE is led by Federal Project Officer Ivelisse Martinez-Beck (OPRE), Principal Investigator Bob Goerge (Chapin Hall) and Project Director A. Rupa Datta (NORC). **Questions about the project may be addressed to [nseceprov@norc.org](mailto:nseceprov@norc.org).**

## Analysis and Reporting

The NSECE will produce a series of reports and papers as well as public-use data sets that examine the current state of ECE/SA usage and availability at the local and national levels. The products of this study will offer an initial summary of findings, fundamental information about ECE/SA availability and utilization for the government, public and researchers.

- Who is caring for America’s children when they are not with their parents? Do families with different income levels, racial and ethnic backgrounds, geographic locations, or other characteristics have different preferences or different patterns of usage?
- What kind of early care and education is available across communities throughout the country?
- How do families search for care; how does this vary by age of children, characteristics of parents, location, availability of licensed slots per population?
- How and how much do families pay for care?
- How well does the available supply of early care and education support parents’ employment?
- How do different types of providers vary in their characteristics of care and affordability?
- Who are the individuals working in early care and education classrooms? What are their experiences in terms of employment characteristics, classroom activities, and professional development?

## NSECE Sample Design

The NSECE uses the concept of a provider cluster to generate nationally representative estimates while capturing the very local nature of how families seek and use ECE/SA, how providers seek and serve children, and how these things together affect the context in which ECE utilization occurs. The map below depicts a cluster in Dallas, Texas. The central yellow area represents the cluster’s core of households, while the gray shaded areas depict the remainder of the cluster. Households in the yellow core will be sampled for inclusion in the Household Survey and the Survey of FFNN Providers. Formal providers, including center-based programs and regulated family day care, will be sampled from throughout the gray and yellow portions of the cluster, approximating the locations from which the central households might seek ECE services. The Household and FFNN surveys use an address-based sample and multi-mode data collection, while the Formal Provider and Workforce Surveys are drawn from administrative lists. Nationally, 755 clusters are selected.

### Dallas County 0006.01

