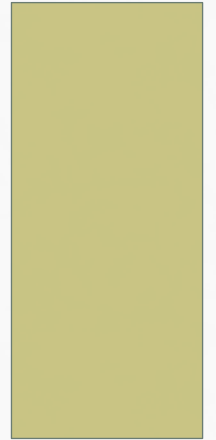


CONTINUITY

BUILDING A SUBSIDY RESEARCH AGENDA



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ACROSS STUDIES

SUBSIDY RECEIPT AND SUBSIDIZED ARRANGEMENTS

CONTINUITY OF SUBSIDY RECEIPT:

1. Median spells of subsidy receipt are relatively short, typically about 6 months.
2. Many children and families have more than one spell of subsidy receipt. “Cycling” is common.
3. Exiting the subsidy program is sometimes related to policy (e.g., redetermination month).
4. Exiting the subsidy program is often related to events, particularly to employment changes.

CONTINUITY OF SUBSIDIZED CARE ARRANGEMENTS

- There are many reasons why a parent may change a child's care arrangement. Some changes are predictable and related to the child's changing needs, while others are unplanned.
- Concern about the stability of care arrangements while on subsidy is related in part to the finding of relatively short subsidy spells.
- We generally don't know what happens to the provider-child relationship when subsidy ends.

RESEARCH NEEDS

AREAS IN NEED OF FURTHER STUDY

CONTINUITY OF SUBSIDY RECEIPT

Are subsidy spells longer in states that use policies recommended in the Office of Child Care Information memo such as:

- 12-month redetermination periods
- Inclusion of job search in the definition of work, training, or education
- Eligibility policies and practices that take family circumstances into account (i.e., tiered eligibility or temporary income changes)

Given that multiple short spells are common across states, what is the impact of exits followed by returns?

- How soon do parents return to a new spell after the end of a spell?
- Does the child return to the same provider after the parent returns for another spell?
- Does the likelihood of return to the same provider vary by type of care?

How much do low-income parents pay out of pocket for child care?

- How much does it vary for those receiving and not receiving a subsidy?
- Does it vary by type of care?
- Does the amount for subsidy participants vary across states that do and do not allow providers to charge the differential?

CONTINUITY OF SUBSIDIZED ARRANGEMENTS

- What is the continuity of care for low-income children of employed parents?
 - Does it differ by subsidy receipt?
- Are spells in highly rated care of greater duration than those in unrated facilities or facilities with low ratings?.
- To what extent does the child's arrangement end when the subsidy ends?
- What are the characteristics of families whose children experience multiple changes in providers while receiving a subsidy?

METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Some duration findings are not comparable due to methods used.
- Some research questions are best addressed with the use of multiple data sources such as a combination of survey and administrative data.
- Some questions can best be addressed using qualitative methods.
- Many questions would be most effectively addressed by using mixed methods research designs.