

Low-income
Latina and
African
Immigrant

Mothers'
Experiences
Selecting and
Securing ECCE

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Research Questions

- How do immigrant mothers navigate the early childhood care and education (ECCE) system to select and secure care for their young children?
- What aspects of this process are unique to immigrant families compared to native-born families?
- How do aspects of this process vary based on mothers' regions of origin (Africa and Latin America)?

Sample

- 40 low-income first-generation immigrant mothers from Africa and Latin America
 - 21 Latin American (El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, Ecuador)
 - 19 African (Ethiopia, Ghana, Sudan, Egypt, Morocco, Somalia)
 - Focal children were between 3 and 5 years old
 - Avg. age: 32
 - Avg. time in US: 9 years
 - 1/3 less than high school education
 - 3/4 employed
 - 3/4 married or cohabiting

Methods

- Recruited mothers from three NAEYC-accredited ECCE programs in DC metro area
- In-depth interviews in mothers' homes
 - 90-180 minutes
 - Latina interviews in Spanish; African interviews in English
 - Audio recorded and transcribed
- 3 waves of coding:
 1. Open
 2. Axial
 3. Selective

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