

## D5: Why Don't the Numbers Match? Understanding Different National Data Sources and What Information They Tell Us About Children's Participation in Child Care and Early Education

Thursday, June 29, 2023

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | *Gallery I*

### 1. Descriptive Information

#### D5: Why Don't the Numbers Match? Understanding Different National Data Sources and What Information They Tell Us About Children's Participation in Child Care and Early Education

Different child care and early education (CCEE) data sets can generate seemingly conflicting information about children's participation in CCEE. The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) team convened a roundtable of data experts across federal agencies to collectively dive into several commonly used data sets, revealing a wide variety of definitions and data collection approaches for collecting information such as child age, type of care, and public funding of care. The roundtable explored 9 different data sets, including education and household surveys (e.g., NSECE, The National Household Education Survey (NHES)), economic and population surveys (e.g., Current Population Survey (CPS), Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)), and administrative data sources (e.g., Head Start and Child Care and Development Fund administrative data sets).

This highly interactive Data Party will present information about the various approaches, then engage participants in thinking about how researchers and policymakers can best cope with differences across data sets, to avoid seemingly conflicting estimates and to make use of these data to learn more about children's CCEE participation.

This session is geared towards both researchers who work directly with these data sources to produce estimates and policymakers and others who use published estimates about CCEE participation to inform their work. Participants with no prior experience with any of the data sets should be able to fully engage with the session, while those who do have prior experience with any of these will be able to enrich the discussion and help think through ways that this information can be helpful for the field.

#### Presenters

**Joshua Borton**, NORC at the University of Chicago

**Jill Connelly**, NORC at the University of Chicago

#### Scribe

**Anna O'Connell**

**Number of Attendees: 19**

### 2. Documents/Presentations Shared (Please list any electronic documents, PowerPoint presentations, or web links used during the session.) **Collect presenter PowerPoints or other documents on the flash drive provided.**

- CCEEPRC 2023\_Why Dont The Numbers Match\_FINAL\_toOPRE\_06.21.23 (PPX File)

### 3. Brief Summary of Presentations

- Majority of the room consider themselves an analytic producer
- What is NSECE?
  - o Consists of four surveys that have been fielded twice already and will be fielded again in 2024
    - Household survey
    - Center based provider survey

- Home based provider survey
  - Those found on a sampling frame from state and federal lists
  - Unlisted homebased providers (often found through the household survey)
- Sampled workforce members from centers that complete the center based survey
- Estimates may not perfectly jive with estimates from other studies/surveys
  - Why?
  - How can we make our non-alignment more transparent/what should NSECE produce for?

#### 4. Brief Summary of Discussion

Exploring a Data Sample (30 Minute Roundtable Discussion followed by 10-minute full group discussion)

- NSECE and NHES
  - What is Similar and Different?
    - Differing definitions of provider types
      - Differing definitions within states licensing
        - Example: what may be considered home based care may be considered center based in a different state
    - Are sampling frames causing differences in estimates, particularly related to provider types?
  - What are the implications of the similarities and differences?
    - They should be understood as separate entities that have some overlap
  - What are practices that can be put in place to help consumers reconcile differences?
    - Add context to the data
    - Separate settings from regular/irregular classification for NSECE
    - Create agreed upon benchmarks across several surveys
- Administrative Data Sources:
  - CCDF
    - Case Level data for children and families served by CCDF
  - Head Start Program Information Report
    - Observation at grantee level

#### 5. Summary of Key issues raised (facilitators are encouraged to spend the last 3-5 minutes of sessions summarizing the key issues raised during the session; bullets below are prompts for capturing the kinds of issues we're looking for)

- Is it worth getting level 2 access to data sets? What are the Pros/Cons of this?
- Are there any ways which researchers/data collectors can standardize definitions of variables

#### Next Steps:

- After the session, please review your notes for typos, complete thoughts, etc.
- Send finalized notes to [CCEEPRC@icf.com](mailto:CCEEPRC@icf.com)