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Unpacking Parent Demand and Quality Priorities for Nontraditional Hour Child Care: Fostering Economic and Cultural Equity

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CCEEPRC 2023

Panel and Session Overview

- *Setting the Context** -- Gina Adams, Urban Institute
- *Parents Use of NTH Care to Support Employment: Findings from NSECE 2019** – Sarah Jiyeon Kwon, University of Chicago
- *Nontraditional Hour Child Care: Perspectives from Parents, Providers, Policymakers, and Employers in the Context of National Findings*– Diane Schilder, Urban Institute
- *Understanding Unique Features of Quality in NTH Child Care: A Cross-Cultural Perspective** – Juliet Bromer, Erikson Institute
- *Implications for Policy and Research* – Discussant: Gina Adams, Urban Institute

*Reporting research supported by OPRE

What are “nontraditional hours?” Definitions vary

- Presumption is traditional work schedules are 9-5, Monday-Friday
- Less clear as to how to define nontraditional schedules in terms of child care needs – definitions often vary
 - Hours vary -- particularly in terms of the start of the day (?), may be more consistency in end of traditional day being 6:00 pm (?), likely to be local market variations in how child care programs/licensing systems define
 - How they determine need – parents working/commuting at least one hour during NTH hours, both parents working/commuting same hour? Any parent works any hours during NTH hours?
 - Vary in whether the term implicitly or explicitly includes irregular schedules, and in whether data capture this issue

Understanding the Potential Demand

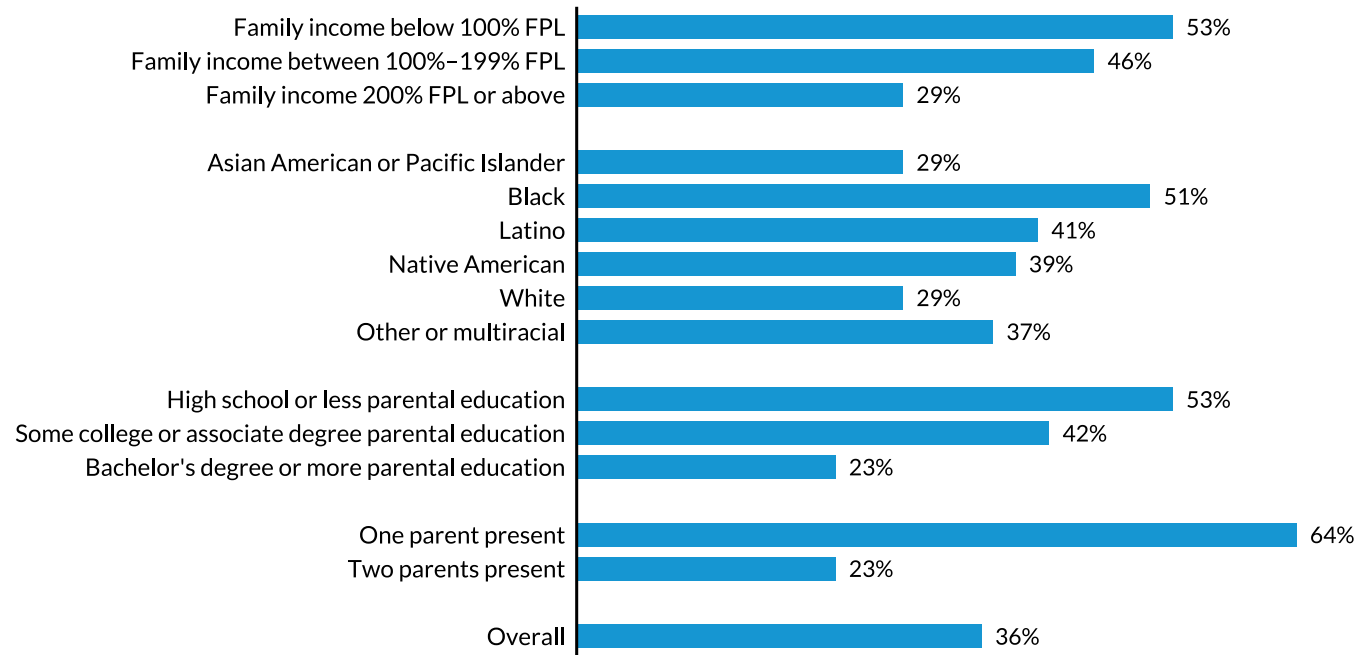
- Following tables from work done by Urban Institute researchers (Schilder et al) – some of which was supported by OPRE
 - Defined as hours between 6:00 pm-6:59 am weekdays and anytime Saturday or Sunday – did not include irregular schedules, ad hoc, seasonal care
 - Focus on children below age 6 with **all parents working** or commuting during at least one hour during a weekday NTH time period or any time on weekends. In 2 parent families, both parents had to work the same weekday NTH or during the weekend for a child to be counted as having parents working during NTH.

Key issues to understand about NTH demand

- NTH work is common across the US
 - Analysis of ACS (2015-2019) and SIPP (2016), finds that more than one in three (36%) children in working parent families have parents who work NTH hours
- NTH work is most common for families who face structural barriers to opportunity
 - Incidence highest for many communities of color, families with lower-incomes, lower levels of parental education, single parents
- Parent work schedules do not fit tidily into traditional or nontraditional schedules, can have work hours that cut across these categories
- NTH hours are NOT homogenous in terms of child and family needs, parental preferences, or incidence/potential demand – important to disaggregate, explore distinctions, and not generalize

Families Facing Structural Barriers to Opportunity Most Likely to Need NTH Care

Share of United States Children Younger than Age 6 in Working Families that have NTH-Working Parents, by Selected Personal and Family Characteristics



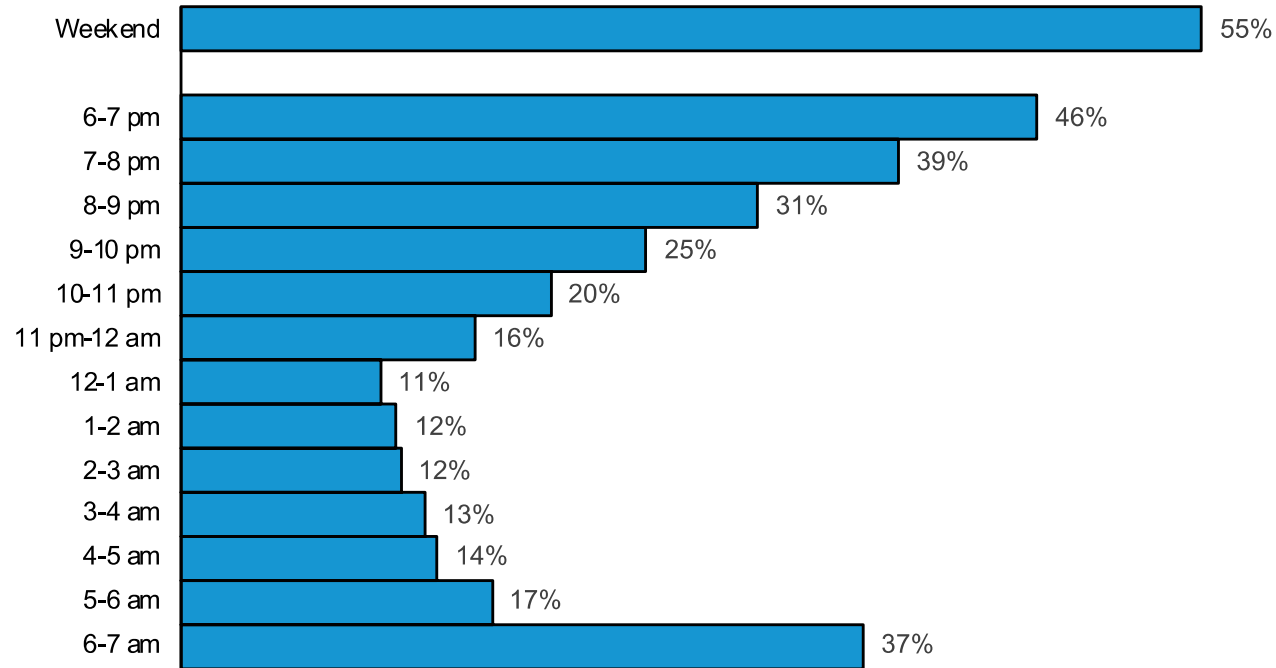
Sources: Urban Institute analysis of Census Bureau microdata from the 2015–19 American Community Survey downloaded from IPUMS-USA and the 2016 Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Notes: FPL = federal poverty level (poverty thresholds). For family income, a small group of children living with unrelated household members or in group quarters falls into a not applicable category. Poverty status is not calculated (and not shown here) for these children. The other or multiracial group includes children identified as another race outside these categories or more than one race. Parental education level reflects the highest level of attainment between both parents for children living with two parents. A small group of children not living with their parents falls into a no parents category (not shown here).

Potential Demand for NTH Care Varies by Time

Young Children in NTH Care Are Most Often in Care Immediately before and after Traditional Weekday Hours and on Weekends

NTH period (weekend and weekday hours)



Share of children in NTH care in care during hour

Source: Urban Institute analysis of National Survey of Early Care and Education 2019 household survey data.

Notes: Figures are estimates, and percentages are rounded to the closest 1 percent. Children can be in NTH care during multiple periods, so the categories sum up to more than 100 percent.