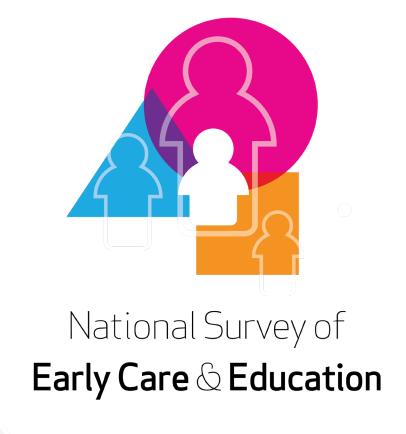# Why don't the numbers match?

Understanding different national data sources and what information they tell us about children's participation in CCEE

National Survey of **Early Care** & **Education**

CCEEPRC 2023 Data Party / Data Dialogue Session

Hosted by: OPRE and NORC

OPRE

Introductory Presentation

Agenda

► **Introductory presentation by NORC team**

► **Discussion part 1: Structured discussion of data example**

► **Discussion part 2: General discussion of ideas, next steps**

Purpose of this session

Have you ever wondered or had to explain why two different estimates about children's CCEE participation don't match?

► **Today's purpose:** Share information from a recent NSECE roundtable on this topic that will spark learning, discussion and brainstorming about ways this information can help researchers and policymakers

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Background about the roundtable

► In 2022, the NSECE team convened a roundtable of data experts across federal agencies to clarify *which* major national data sets measure *what* types of care, and *how* the measurement happens.

► The roundtable explored how different survey and administrative data sources collect and report information about:

1) the types of care and education that U.S. children receive,

2) key characteristics of the care and education children receive (e.g., public funding), and

3) different age groups of children (infant to school age).

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Why did the NSECE team convene the roundtable and which data sets were represented?

▶ Questions about how to reconcile estimates across data sets

▶ Opportunity to learn from methods and considerations across data sources

Data sets and agencies represented at the roundtable

• State of Preschool, National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)	• Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), Census
• Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies (ECLS) Program (National Center for Education Statistics [NCES])	• American Community Survey (ACS), Census
• National Household Education Survey (NHES), NCES	• Head Start Administrative Data, Office of Head Start
• National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)	• Child Care Development Fund Administrative Data, Office of Child Care, ASPE
• Current Population Survey (CPS), NCES	

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What information was collected from all data sets for the roundtable?

1. Background	4. Ages and other characteristics of children/families for which CCEE participation is collected
2. Child Age	5. Estimates of CCEE Usage
3. Types of CCEE	6. Extensions

See handout for more details

Data Discussion:
Part 1
Exploring a data example

Sample of information collected: Types of CCEE (Sample survey data sources)

National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE), Household Survey

Regular ECE, defined as non-parental ECE used at least 5 hours per week, includes the following types:

- **Center-based**
- **Home-based**
- **Other Organizational**
- **All other setting unknown**

Irregular ECE: Provider cares for child fewer than 5 hours weekly, may otherwise meet the requirements for any of categories above.

National Household Education Survey (NHES)

Relative care: non-parental childcare provided by someone related to the child either in the child's own home or another home

Non-relative care: non-parental childcare provided by non-relatives, either in the child's own home or another home

Center-based care: preschools, prekindergarten, daycares; including Head Start programs

See handout for more details

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Sample of information collected: Types of CCEE (Sample administrative data sources)

Child Care and Development Fund - ACF 801

Unit of observation: Case-level data for children and families served by CCDF

Providers are divided into two broad categories: "licensed/regulated" and "legally operating without regulation", the latter of which refers to providers that would not be subject to any State or local child care regulations if they weren't participating in CCDF.

Provider types for both categories:
- In-home
- Family home
- Group home
- Centers

Head Start Program Information Report

Unit of observation: Head Start Grantee level

Head Start Preschool

Early Head Start

Provider types:
- Center-Based
- Home-Based
- Family Child Care
- Locally Designed Option

See handout for more details

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Discussion questions: Group/table work

► **For survey datasets: What is similar and different in 'types of CCEE' data collected in NSECE vs. NHES?**

  ☐ What are some implications of these similarities and differences for the work of researchers and policymakers?

► **For administrative datasets: What is similar and different in 'types of CCEE' data collected in Head Start vs. CCDF?**

  ☐ What are some implications of these similarities and differences for the work of researchers and policymakers?

► **Across the 4 survey and administrative datasets (NSECE, NHES, Head Start, CCDF): What is similar and different in 'types of CCEE' data collected? Implications?**

Group/table work: Notes from Report Out

▶ **For survey datasets: What is similar and different in 'types of CCEE' data collected in NSECE vs. NHES?**

  □ Similar:_____

  □ Different:_____

  □ Implications:_____

▶ **For administrative datasets: What is similar and different in 'types of CCEE' data collected in Head Start vs. CCDF?**

  □ Similar:_____

  □ Different:_____

  □ Implications:_____

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Group/table work: Notes from Report Out (Cont'd)

► **Across the four survey and administrative datasets: What is similar and different in 'types of CCEE' data collected?**

    □ Similar:_____

    □ Different:_____

    □ Implications:_____

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Data Discussion: Part 2
General discussion

Discussion part 2: General discussion

▶ Q1: What did you learn that is new (and/or surprising) based on the summary findings of the roundtable and/or what we learned from the more detailed example?

▶ Q2: What do we anticipate to be the greatest challenges to analysts attempting to reconcile definitions and estimates across data sets?

▶ Q3: What information or technical materials would help audiences understand the differences across these data sources?