

# Characteristics of Center-based Early Care and Education Programs: Initial Findings from the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)



NSECE TECHNICAL REPORT  
OPRE Report #2014-73a | NOVEMBER 2014



National Survey of **Early Care & Education**

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## OVERVIEW

In this report we exploit newly available data from the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) to construct the first nationally representative estimates of all center-based care to children birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten. We describe center-based early care and education (ECE) programs by such key characteristics as enrollment size, ages of children served, revenue sources, auspice and sponsorship and hours of operation. We also provide national estimates of total children enrolled in these programs.

The NSECE is a set of four integrated, nationally representative surveys conducted in 2012 on behalf of the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The four are surveys of: 1) households with children under 13, 2) home-based providers of ECE, 3) center-based providers of ECE, and 4) the center-based provider workforce. Together they characterize the supply of and demand for early care and education in America and permit better understanding of how well families' needs and preferences coordinate with providers' offerings and constraints. The data for this report come from 7,770 Center-based Provider questionnaires completed by directors or other instructional leaders of center-based ECE programs serving children birth through age 5 years, not yet in kindergarten.

This report provides the first nationally representative portrait of center-based ECE in more than 20 years. The 129,000 center-based programs described here serve 6.98 million children birth through age five years not yet in kindergarten, and another 3.03 million school-age children (including kindergartners). (Only programs serving at least one child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten, are included in these data, so the estimate of enrolled children only partially covers center-based ECE enrollment of school-age children.)

We classify these programs as to whether or not they serve any children birth to age three years, age three through five years, or who are school-age. We find that 30 percent of these programs serve only children ages three through five years old, while another 27 percent serve children in all three age groups. Fifty-six percent of programs serve children under age 3 years.

We find considerable diversity in the enrollment sizes of programs, with one quarter serving 25 or fewer children and almost a third serving more than 75 children. About three in ten programs offer fewer than 30 hours per week of care, thus limiting their usefulness for parental employment support. (Many programs, like half-day Head Start or pre-k programs, may not have parental employment support as an objective). Programs that only serve children age three through five years are least likely to be open at least 30 hours weekly; 42 percent as compared to 94 percent of programs serving all three age groups.

Program auspice data indicate that a bare majority (52 percent) of ECE programs are not-for-profit operations, with almost one third (32 percent) for-profit, and almost all the remaining (16 percent) run by government agencies. Across all three auspices, we see widespread receipt of tuitions from parents (68 percent of all programs) and funds from state, local or federal government sources (73 percent).

Fifty-five percent of children in center-based ECE programs attend programs that are not sponsored by a public school district, and do not receive Head Start or public pre-K funds.

## INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE AND APPROACH

This report exploits newly available data from the National Survey of Early Care and Education to construct the first nationally representative estimates of all center-based care to children birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten. We describe center-based early care and education (ECE) programs by such key characteristics as enrollment size, ages of children served, revenue sources, auspice and sponsorship, and hours of operation. We also provide total numbers of children enrolled for selected program attributes.

## DATA

The NSECE is a set of four integrated, nationally representative surveys conducted in 2012. These were surveys of: 1) households with children under 13, 2) home-based providers of ECE, 3) center-based providers of ECE, and 4) the center-based provider workforce. Together they characterize the supply of and demand for early care and education in America and permit better understanding of how well families' needs and preferences coordinate with providers' offerings and constraints. The study is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The NSECE used a multistage probability design and two independent samples. Because the experiences of low-income families are of special interest in public policy addressing early care and education and school-age care (ECE/SA), the NSECE oversampled low-income areas. The study used a provider-cluster approach for sampling all four surveys from the same small geographic areas. This approach allowed the survey to document the interaction of the supply of and demand for early care and education where it occurs—in local communities—while simultaneously capturing data that efficiently construct national estimates.<sup>1</sup>

This report draws from data collected in the **NSECE Center-based Provider Survey**, which was conducted with directors or other instructional leaders of ECE providers to children not yet in kindergarten that were identified from a provider sampling frame built from state and national administrative lists such as state licensing lists, Head Start program records, and pre-K rolls. These providers included regulated, licensed, and other private providers as well (including license-exempt). In the NSECE, a center-based program is defined as the set of all ECE services to children birth through five years, not yet in kindergarten, provided by an organization at a single location. There may be multiple types of services offered by a single program (for example, an after-school program and a pre-school), and a center-based program may be independent or part of a larger entity, such as a school district, a community service organization, or a chain. The data come from 7,770 questionnaires completed in 2012 by directors or other instructional leaders of center-based ECE programs.

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<sup>1</sup> See National Survey of Early Care and Education Team (2013), for a detailed discussion of the NSECE methodology.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CENTER-BASED ECE PROGRAMS

### Enrollment

Approximately 6,980,000 children birth through 5 years (not yet in kindergarten) are enrolled in center-based programs that provide care and education for children age birth through five years and not yet in kindergarten (Exhibit 1). There are 129,000 programs that provide care to these children, including 1,000 for whom enrollment cannot be calculated. The exhibit shows the number of children enrolled by single-year age categories as well as the number of programs that currently serve children in each of those age categories. While all programs reported in Exhibit 1 serve children birth through 5 years (not yet in kindergarten), 54,000 of these programs also serve a total of 3,030,000 school-age children (including children in kindergarten).

In Exhibit 1, we estimate that 438,000 children under the age of one are currently enrolled in the 36 percent of center-based ECE programs that serve children of this age group. The largest number of enrolled children in a single year of age is the 2.3 million four-year-olds who are served by 88.5 percent of these programs (114,000). The exhibit shows that the number of programs serving a particular age group increases significantly at age 3, but drops again for 5 year-olds, some of whom are attending kindergarten.

**Exhibit 1. Programs and Children Enrolled by Single-year Age of Child**

	Children Enrolled			Programs		
	Count	Standard Error	Percent of Enrolled Children Birth through 5 Years	Count of Programs Serving Age Group	Standard Error	Percent of Programs Serving Age Group
<1 year old	438,000	37,700	6.3	46,500	2,600	36.0
1 year old	635,000	51,600	9.1	55,600	2,800	43.1
2 year old	928,000	58,500	13.3	67,500	3,000	52.4
3 year old	2,200,000	112,000	31.5	108,000	4,300	83.9
4 year old	2,310,000	110,000	33.0	114,000	4,500	88.5
5 year old (not yet in kindergarten)	475,000	39,500	6.8	48,800	2,600	37.9
Total children birth through 5 years (not yet in kindergarten)	6,980,000	334,000	100.0	128,000	4,800	†
School-age (including kindergarten)	3,030,000	743,000	†	54,000	2,900	41.9

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Note: An additional approximately 1,000 programs serve children birth through age five years, but we are unable to estimate their enrollment.

### ***Combinations of Ages Served***

We classify programs according to whether or not they serve each of three age groups: (i) birth to under three year old children, (ii) three through five year old children (not in kindergarten), and (iii) school-age children (in kindergarten and above).

Exhibit 2 shows the numbers of programs that serve five different combinations of these age groups. Approximately one third of programs (38,700) serve children age 3 through 5 years only. Some of these programs may only serve a portion of that age group, for example, only four year olds. Another approximately one fourth of programs (32,200) serve children in both the 0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years age groups, but not school-age children. One quarter of programs (27 percent; 35,400) serve all three age groups. Programs serving only school-age children were not sampled.

**Exhibit 2. Programs by Combination of Age Groups Served**

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>	<b>Column Percent</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>
Ages 3 through 5 years only	38,700	2,900	29.9	1.76
Ages 0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	32,200	1,700	24.9	1.26
Ages 3 through 5 years and school age only	18,800	1,600	14.5	1.02
All three age groups served	35,400	2,000	27.4	1.24
All other age group combinations	4,200	900	3.3	0.65
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Exhibit 3 shows the number of children birth through age five enrolled in programs serving different combinations of age groups served. Approximately one quarter of children (24 percent; 1,670,000) are enrolled in programs serving 3 through 5 years only. About one-third of children age birth to five in center-based ECE (34.9 percent; 2,430,000) are enrolled in programs serving children 0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years, but not school-age. The very few programs serving all other age group combinations include programs serving only infants and toddlers, or those serving both infants and toddlers and school-age children, but not those age 3 through 5 years. Altogether, these 'other' combinations account for only 3.3 percent (4,200) of all programs.

**Exhibit 3. Enrolled Children Birth through Age Five Years by Combination of Age Groups Served**

Combinations of Age Groups Served by Program	Count	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Age 3 through 5 years only	1,670,000	120,000	23.9	1.73
Ages 0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	2,430,000	200,000	34.9	1.98
Ages 3 through 5 years and school age only	629,000	61,300	9.0	0.80
All three age groups served	2,110,000	155,000	30.2	1.50
All other age group combinations	147,000	43,200	2.1	0.61
Total	6,980,000	334,000	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Enrollment Size**

Approximately 28,000 programs (21.7 percent) have fewer than 25 children enrolled (Exhibit 4). We estimate that 35,300 programs have between 25 and 50 children enrolled in their programs (27.3 percent), 23,600 programs have between 50 and 75 children (18.2 percent), and 41,100 programs have 75 or more children enrolled (31.8 percent). Therefore, about half of the programs have 50 or fewer children. Note that enrollment size counts all children birth to age 13 years enrolled in the programs.

**Exhibit 4. Program Enrollment Size**

	Count of Programs	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Fewer than 25 children	28,000	2,100	21.7	1.38
Between 25 and 50 children	35,300	2,200	27.3	1.36
Between 50 and 75 children	23,600	1,500	18.2	0.94
75 or more children	41,100	2,500	31.8	1.56
Undetermined	1,300	300	1.0	0.24
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Note: Enrollment size counts all children age birth to 13 years enrolled in the program.

**Hours of Operation**

The vast majority of programs providing care and education for children from birth through age five and not yet in kindergarten are open at least 30 hours weekly (69.6 percent). (See Exhibit 5). Programs providing less than 30 hours per week of care are limited in their usefulness for parental employment support, which may not be their objective.

**Exhibit 5. Programs Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly**

	Count	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Open less than 30 hours weekly	35,200	2,400	27.2	1.49
Open at least 30 hours weekly	89,900	3,800	69.6	1.57
Undetermined	4,100	900	3.2	0.66
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Exhibit 6 shows programs' hours of operation by the combination of age groups they serve. Among programs serving children age three through five years only, 42.3 percent are open at least 30 hours weekly; the majority of programs serving only 3-5 year olds, then, are open fewer than 30 hours per week.. Programs serving infants and toddlers are more likely to operate at least 30 hours weekly (for example, 85.2 percent of programs serving 0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years, and 93.6 percent of those serving all three age groups).Across all combinations of age groups, 71.9 percent of programs are open at least 30 hours per week.

**Exhibit 6. Programs Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly, by Combination of Age Groups Served**

Combinations of Age Groups Served	All Programs	Programs Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly	
	Count	Row Percent	Standard Error
Age 3 through 5 years only	38,700	42.3	3.08
Ages 0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	32,200	85.2	1.81
Ages 3 through 5 years and school age only	18,800	64.2	3.33
All three age groups served	35,400	93.6	1.01
All other age group combinations	4,200	81.4	8.23
All combinations of age groups served	129,000	71.9	1.53

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

### Auspice and Sponsorship

There are two concepts that speak to the organizational context in which programs operate. Center-based providers were asked the question, “Is your program for profit, not for profit, or is it run by a government agency?” We identify their response as their *auspice*. The NSECE Center-based Provider sample includes a broad range of ECE providers, including for-profit and not-for-profit child care programs and preschools, as well as Head Starts and public pre-Kindergarten programs; all of these can be school-based or community-based. For-profit programs include both small owner-proprietor programs with only a few employees and programs affiliated with large for-profit chains. Not-for-profit programs include independent entities whose sole purpose is ECE, individual programs run or sponsored by not-for-profit entities that also have other social service or faith-based missions, or multi-activity enterprises sponsored by not-for-profit entities such as universities or community organizations like the YMCA or the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The programs reporting their status as ‘run by a government agency’ will most often be facilities operated by school districts, state pre-K programs, or human services agencies running Head Start programs.

The second concept related to organizational context is *sponsorship*, which refers to whether the program has an additional level of oversight. Not-for-profit programs and those run by government agencies reported if they were sponsored by another organization. The questionnaire stated that, “a sponsoring organization may provide funding, administrative oversight or have reporting requirements; however, organizations that are solely funding sources should not be considered sponsors.” For-profit programs indicated if they were individually owned and operated, a franchise, or part of a chain<sup>2</sup>.

**Exhibit 7. Program Auspice and Sponsorship**

	Count of Programs	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
For-profit, independent	35,300	2,100	27.3	1.28
For-profit, franchise/chain	6,300	800	4.8	0.59
Not-for-profit, independent	38,900	2,300	30.1	1.32
Not-for-profit, sponsored	26,100	1,800	20.2	1.17
Run by government agency, independent	7,500	900	5.8	0.66
Run by government agency, sponsored	10,900	1,300	8.5	0.99
Other	4,400	900	3.4	0.65
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Considering auspice and source of sponsorship, we estimate that 38,900 programs are nonprofit independent (30.1 percent), 35,300 are for-profit independent (27.3 percent), and 26,100 and not-for-profit sponsored (20.2 percent). In addition to these categories (reported in Exhibit 7), we present other categories which individually represent less than 10 percent of programs; namely, 8.5 percent of the programs are run by a government agency and are

<sup>2</sup> Among those reporting being a franchise or owned by a chain, approximately one-third were franchised. Of those owned by a chain, approximately two-thirds were owned by a chain of 40 or more programs. These non-independent for-profit programs are a very small proportion of all ECE programs.

sponsored, 5.8 percent are run by a government agency and are independent, and 4.8 percent are for-profit programs which belong to a chain or franchise. It is not possible to classify 3.4 percent of the programs in any of the previously mentioned categories.

Both not-for-profit programs and those run by government agencies were asked about sponsorship. Exhibit 8 shows sponsorship reports by auspice. As indicated in the footnote to the exhibit, programs could report multiple sponsors, but most reported only one.

Among the 26,100 not-for-profit programs that reported sponsors, about one-third (32.1 percent) reported sponsorship by church (or religious groups), or religiously-affiliated private school. Almost one-fifth of sponsored not-for-profit programs (19.9 percent) are sponsored by state or local government entity other than a public school district (for example, a state pre-K administration or county human service agency). Likewise, about one-fifth (19.6 percent) reported sponsorship by a public school district. Similarly, one out of five (21.3 percent) reported having federal government sponsorship (including military). A quarter (25.5 percent) of not-for-profit programs reporting sponsorship identified a private entity, such as a social service organization, private school (nonreligious), college or university, private company (or individual employer), or non-government community organization.<sup>3</sup> As indicated in the footnote to the exhibit, about 18 percent of sponsored not-for-profit programs reported two or more sponsors.

Government-run programs may have one or more sponsors as well. For example, a program run by a public-school district may also be sponsored by the state pre-kindergarten agency. Among the 10,900 government-run programs that have sponsors, 40 percent are sponsored by state or local government, including Head Start grantees or pre-K sponsors. Fifty-two percent of sponsored programs run by government agencies have sponsorship from a public school district. Another 42 percent are sponsored by the federal government (including the military). About 12 percent reported sponsorship from a private source, including sources such as a social service organization, private (nonreligious) school or college, or a non-governmental community organization. About one-third of sponsored government-run programs reported two or more sponsors.

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<sup>3</sup> Although many programs reported multiple sponsors, there were no high-frequency sponsorship combinations.

**Exhibit 8. Sponsors of Sponsored Not-for-Profit and Government Agency-Run Programs**

	Not-for-profit and Sponsored		
	Count	Column Percent	Standard Error
Church/Private school-religious	8,400	32.1	2.86
State or local government, Head Start grantee or pre-K sponsor	5,200	19.9	2.66
Public school district	5,100	19.6	2.91
Federal government	5,500	21.3	2.79
Other private sponsor, including private school or college, or community organization	6,700	25.5	2.60
	Run by Government and Sponsored		
	Count	Column Percent	Standard Error
Church/Private school-religious	‡	‡	‡
State or local government, Head Start grantee or pre-K sponsor	4,300	39.5	5.76
Public school district	5,700	52.0	5.94
Federal government	4,600	41.7	5.91
Other private sponsor, including private school or college, or community organization	1,300	12.2	3.93

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Note: The number of programs that reported 2 sponsors and reporting 3 or more sponsors of not-for-profits are 3,000 and 1,800 respectively. The number of programs that reported 2 sponsors and reporting 3 or more sponsors of programs run by government agencies are 2,200 and 1,400 respectively.

**Exhibit 9. Enrolled Children by Program Auspice**

	Count	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
For profit	2,200,000	145,000	31.5	1.72
Not-for-profit	3,610,000	232,000	51.7	2.05
Run by government agency	1,110,000	136,000	15.9	1.71
Other	20,400!	9,100!	0.3!	0.13!
Total	6,980,000	334,000	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n. † Not applicable.

Note: Children birth to age 5 years, not yet in kindergarten, enrolled in center-based ECE.

Exhibit 9 shows the numbers and shares of children birth through age five, not yet in kindergarten, enrolled in center-based ECE programs of each auspice. We estimate that almost one-third (31.5 percent) of all enrolled children are in for-profit programs (2.2 million children). Slightly more than half of all children (51.7 percent, 3.6 million) enrolled in center-

based ECE are in not-for-profit programs. Less than one-sixth (15.9 percent, 1.1 million children) are enrolled in programs run by government agencies.

### Sources of Revenue

Center-based providers were asked to report whether they receive revenue from each of several sources (Exhibit 10). For centers providing care and education for children birth through age five and not yet in kindergarten, we found that two-thirds (68.3 percent) reported receiving revenues from tuitions and fees paid by parents. Slightly more than half (53.7 percent) reported receiving revenues from tuitions paid by state governments. Four in every ten providers (44.2 percent) reported receiving revenues from the federal government, and more than a third (36.5 percent) reported that fundraising activities, cash contributions, gifts, bequests, and special events are sources of revenue. Approximately one fifth of providers (20.3 percent) mentioned local governments as a source of revenue. Exhibit 10 shows the exact wording and associated examples from the questionnaire.

**Exhibit 10. Programs Reporting Receipt of Revenue Types**

	Count	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
<b>Tuitions and fees paid by parents</b> - including parent fees and additional fees paid by parents such as registration fees, transportation fees from parents, late pick up/late payment fees.	88,300	3,500	68.3	1.66
<b>Tuitions paid by state government</b> (vouchers/certificates, state contracts, transportation, pre-K funds, grants from state agencies)	69,400	3,100	53.7	1.44
<b>Local government</b> (e.g., pre-K paid by local school board or other local agency, grants from county government)	26,200	1,700	20.3	1.15
<b>Federal government</b> (e.g., Head Start, Title I, Child and Adult Care Food Program)	57,100	3,300	44.2	1.54
<b>Revenues from community organizations</b> or other grants (e.g., United Way, local charities, or other service organizations, not including anything you've mentioned earlier)	20,300	1,600	15.7	1.09
<b>Revenues from fund raising activities</b> , cash contributions, gifts, bequests, special events	47,100	2,400	36.5	1.38
<b>Other</b>	1,700	400	1.3	0.30

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Center-based programs could report receiving monies from more than one of these revenue sources. As shown in Exhibit 11, 22.8 percent of programs had one source of revenue, while more than forty percent of programs (totaling about 42 percent) reported three or more sources of revenue.

**Exhibit 11. Number of Revenue Sources Reported by Programs**

	Count	Percent	Standard Error
Revenue information not reported	4,500	3.5	0.73
1 source of revenue	29,500	22.8	1.22
2 sources of revenue	40,700	31.5	1.22
3 sources of revenue	30,000	23.2	1.06
4 sources of revenue	15,700	12.2	0.85
5 or more sources of revenue	8,900	6.9	0.63
Total	129,000	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

We can determine the fraction of programs that are receiving any public funds. We consider as government funds: (i) Tuitions paid by state government (vouchers/certificates, state contracts, transportation, pre-K funds, grants from state agencies), (ii) Revenues from local government (e.g., pre-K paid by local school board or other local agency, grants from county government), and (iii) Revenues from the federal government (e.g., Head Start, Title I, Child and Adult Care Food Program). Exhibit 12 shows that 7 out of 10 programs (94,100 programs, 72.8 percent) reported at least some government revenue while 23.7 percent (30,600 programs) reported no government revenue.

**Exhibit 12. Programs' Receipt of Any Public Funding**

	Count	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Any public funding reported	94,100	3,900	72.8	1.32
No public funding reported	30,600	1,900	23.7	1.16
Missing	4,600	800	3.5	0.58
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Top Two Revenue Sources Reported**

After they had reported whether or not they received any dollars from each revenue source, programs were asked to report their top two sources of revenue (Exhibit 13). If they had previously reported only one source of revenue, that source is indicated in this exhibit. The most commonly reported combination is tuitions paid by parents and tuitions paid by state government, which was reported by 31,400 programs (24.3 percent). About 18,500 programs (14.3 percent) report tuitions paid by parents as their only major revenue source. Another

16,000 programs (12.4 percent) report a combination of tuitions paid by parents and fundraising activities, cash contributions, gifts, bequests, and special events, as their two top sources of revenue. Less than one percent of the programs (approximately 1,000 programs) did not provide information on their top sources of revenue.

**Exhibit 13: Programs' Top Two Revenue Sources Reported**

	Count of Programs	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
No sources indicated	4,500	1,000	3.5	0.73
Tuitions, no second top source	18,500	1,300	14.3	0.84
Federal government, no second top source	11,900	1,400	9.2	0.98
State or local government, no second top source	7,200	900	5.6	0.60
Nongovernment source, no second top source	600!	200!	0.5!	0.12!
Tuition & state government	31,400	1,800	24.3	1.17
Tuition & local government	2,900	400	2.3	0.31
Tuition & federal government	6,300	900	4.9	0.66
Tuition & fundraising	16,000	1,300	12.4	0.90
Tuition & community organizations	2,300	400	1.8	0.32
State & local government	3,400	500	2.7	0.36
State & federal government	11,300	1,200	8.8	0.83
Federal & local government	4,900	800	3.8	0.60
Fundraising & state government OR state government & community organizations	1,300	400	1.0	0.29
Other nongovernment, no second top source	1,500	300	1.2	0.23
Other nongovernment & other government	3,900	700	3.0	0.53
Missing	1,000!	400!	0.7!	0.35!
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable. ! Interpret data with caution due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

We can use these top two sources of revenue to classify providers as having predominantly public funding, mixed funding sources, or no reported public money. This classification is defined as follows.

- 1) Predominantly public funding. This category includes programs that have only government categories among their top two revenue sources. Some of these programs include the federal government or a public school district as their only major source of revenue. Other programs report various combinations of federal, state or local funds.
- 2) Mixed funding. This category includes programs that report at least some public funding, but also at least one private revenue source among their top two.

- 3) No public funding reported. This category includes programs that did not indicate receiving funds from any government revenue source.

Exhibit 14 shows that about 30 percent of programs (38,800) reported predominantly public funding. A somewhat larger proportion, 42.7 percent (55,300 programs), have at least one private top revenue source but also some public funding. Finally, 25.9 percent of programs (33,400) reported no public funding at all.

**Exhibit 14. Programs by Receipt of Public Funding**

	Count	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Predominantly public funding	38,800	2,600	30.0	1.50
Mixed funding	55,300	2,700	42.7	1.70
No public funding reported	33,400	2,000	25.9	1.20
No sources indicated/missing	1,800	800	1.4	0.59
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

### **School Sponsorship and Funding**

For current national policy discussions, understanding the sources of funding and relationship to such major policy initiatives as Head Start and public pre-kindergarten programs is often important. At the same time, there may be overlap between these initiatives. For example, school systems sometimes fund public pre-K directly and sometimes provide funding to Head Start or other community-based programs. As a result, it is not possible to provide an exhaustive, mutually exclusive set of categories. We therefore adopt a practical strategy of sequential categorization. We first identified center-based programs that were public-school-sponsored. These could include programs receiving Head Start or public pre-K funding. Among those not sponsored by public schools, we identified those reporting Head Start funding, then those reporting public pre-K funding (but not Head Start funding). The remaining center-based programs were not sponsored by school systems and did not report Head Start or public pre-K funding (although they might receive other government funding). The resulting center-based program categories are described below:

- **School-sponsored:** A public school district had administrative oversight or reporting requirements or funds the program.
- **Head Start-funded:** At least one child was funded by Head Start dollars, but the center-based program was not school-sponsored.
- **Public Pre-K-funded:** At least one child was funded by public pre-K dollars, but the center-based program was not school-sponsored, and no Head Start funding was reported.
- **Other:** All remaining programs offering ECE.

Exhibit 15 indicates that just over 10,000 (10,900) center-based ECE programs are sponsored by a public school district. Almost twice as many, 19,700, report some Head Start funding but

no school-sponsorship. A slightly greater 23,500 center-based programs report public pre-K funding, although they are neither school-sponsored nor do they receive Head Start funding. The remainder are the majority of programs: 75,300 center-based programs that are not public-school sponsored and do not receive Head Start or Public pre-K funds.

**Exhibit 15. Programs’ School Sponsorship and Funding**

	Count	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
School-sponsored	10,900	1,400	8.4	1.08
Head Start–funded, not school-sponsored	19,700	1,900	15.2	1.27
Public pre-K– funded, not school-sponsored or Head Start–funded	23,500	1,600	18.2	1.07
All other ECE	75,300	3,300	58.2	1.58
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

We estimate that approximately 506,000 children (7 percent) are enrolled in programs sponsored by a public school district (Exhibit 16). About 1,300,000 children are enrolled in programs with some Head Start funding but no school-sponsorship. Approximately the same number of children (1,300,000) are enrolled in programs that report public pre-K funding, although they are neither school-sponsored nor do they receive Head Start funding. Note that both the prior numbers include children who are enrolled in programs receiving Head Start or public pre-K dollars, even though not all children in those programs are receiving Head Start or public pre-K services. Over half of children in center-based ECE (3.87 million) are enrolled in programs that are not public-school sponsored and do not receive either Head Start or public pre-K funding. This and other results show the degree to which ECE is a mixed public/private system.

**Exhibit 16. Enrolled Children by School Sponsorship and Funding**

	Count	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
School-sponsored	506,000	65,400	7.2	0.93
Head Start–funded, not school-sponsored	1,300,000	153,000	18.6	1.89
Public pre-K– funded, not school-sponsored or Head Start–funded	1,300,000	95,100	18.7	1.20
All other ECE	3,870,000	241,000	55.5	2.04
Total	6,980,000	334,000	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Children birth to age 5 years, not yet in kindergarten, enrolled in center-based ECE.

Note: A child who is enrolled in two different programs (for example, a morning public pre-K and an afternoon private Montessori) would be counted twice in these numbers.

## CONCLUSION

This report provides the first portrait in more than 20 years of the nation's supply of center-based ECE serving children birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten. The 129,000 center-based programs described here serve 6.98 million children birth through age five years not yet in kindergarten, and another 3.03 million school-age children (including kindergartners). (Only programs serving at least one child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten, are included in these data, so the estimate of enrolled children only partially covers center-based ECE enrollment of school-age children.)

The data indicate substantial diversity of ECE programs on such measures as enrollment size, age groups served, and weekly hours of operation. Program diversity is even greater with regard to program auspice and revenue sources. A majority of children enrolled in center-based ECE programs are receiving care in a not-for-profit program. Both the not-for-profit and for-profit sectors (51.7 and 31.5 percent of enrolled children, respectively) are substantially larger than the sector of programs run by government agencies, which accounts for 16 percent of children's enrollment.

Public funds touch a large proportion of programs; 30 percent are predominantly publicly funded, and another 43 percent have at least some public revenues. More than forty percent of programs reported three or more different sources of revenue.

Although Head Start and public pre-K are major public investments in early childhood, a majority of children in center-based ECE (55.5 percent) are enrolled in programs that are not Head Start-funded, not public pre-K funded, and not sponsored by a public school district.

## References

National Survey of Early Care and Education Project Team. (2013). *National Survey of Early Care and Education: Summary Data Collection and Sampling Methodology*. OPRE Report #2013-46, Washington DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Appendix I. Detailed Tables

**Table A1. Counts and Shares of Programs Serving Children Age Birth to 3 Years**

	Count of Programs	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Serves 0 to 3 years	71,900	3,100	55.6	1.82
Does not serve 0 to 3 years	57,400	3,600	44.4	1.82
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A2. Counts and Shares of Programs Serving Children Age 3 through 5 Years, Not Yet in Kindergarten**

	Count of Programs	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Serves 3 through 5 years	125,000	4,800	96.7	0.65
Does not serve 3 through 5 years	4,200	900	3.3	0.65
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A3. Counts and Shares of Programs Serving School-age Children**

	Count of Programs	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Serves school age	54,300	2,900	42.0	1.42
Does not serve school age	75,000	3,200	58.0	1.42
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A4. Counts and Shares of Enrolled Children by Program Enrollment Size**

Program Characteristic	Count of Children Enrolled in Programs with Characteristic	Standard Error	Column Percent of Children Enrolled in all programs	Standard Error
Fewer than 25 children	392,000	31,500	5.6	0.51
Between 25 and 50 children	1,110,000	67,700	16.0	1.07
Between 50 and 75 children	1,200,000	79,300	17.1	1.08
75 or more children	4,280,000	302,000	61.3	1.91
Total	6,980,000	334,000	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Children birth to age 5 years, not yet in kindergarten, enrolled in center-based ECE.

Note: Enrollment size counts all children age birth to 13 years enrolled in the program.

**Table A5. Counts of ECE Center-based Programs by Community Poverty Densities and Enrollment Size**

Enrollment Size	Low Poverty Density		Moderate Poverty Density		High Poverty Density		All Locations
	Number	Standard Error	Number	Standard Error	Number	Standard Error	Total Number
Fewer than 25 children	16,400	1,900	6,800	900	4,900	700	28,000
Between 25 and 50 children	18,900	1,800	8,500	900	7,900	1,200	35,300
Between 50 and 75 children	14,100	1,300	4,600	500	4,900	600	23,600
75 or more children	25,300	2,100	8,000	900	7,800	1,200	41,100
Undetermined	1,000!	300!	200!	0!	200!	100!	1,300

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n. † Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Note: Enrollment size counts all children age birth to 13 years enrolled in the program.

**Table A6. Shares of Program Enrollment Size within Community Poverty Densities**

Enrollment Size	Low Poverty Density		Moderate Poverty Density		High Poverty Density	
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Fewer than 25 children	21.6	2.05	24.2	2.01	19.2	2.54
Between 25 and 50 children	25.0	1.73	30.5	1.98	30.8	3.08
Between 50 and 75 children	18.7	1.34	16.2	1.52	19.0	2.02
75 or more children	33.4	2.22	28.5	2.04	30.4	2.83
Undetermined	1.3!	0.40!	0.6!	0.17!	0.7!	0.23!
Total	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n. † Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Note: Enrollment size counts all children age birth to 13 years enrolled in the program.

**Table A7. Shares of Program Enrollment Size across Community Poverty Densities**

Enrollment Size	Low Poverty Density		Moderate Poverty Density		High Poverty Density		All Locations
	Percent	Standard Error	Percent	Standard Error	Percent	Standard Error	Total Percent
Fewer than 25 children	58.4	3.94	24.1	3.16	17.5	2.45	100.0
Between 25 and 50 children	53.5	3.51	24.2	2.44	22.3	2.89	100.0
Between 50 and 75 children	60.1	3.21	19.3	2.03	20.6	2.51	100.0
75 or more children	61.6	2.94	19.5	2.09	18.9	2.53	100.0
Undetermined	75.0!	7.15!	11.8!	4.35!	13.1!	4.82!	100.0

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n. † Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

Note: Enrollment size counts all children age birth to 13 years enrolled in the program.

**Table A8. Counts and Shares of Enrolled Children by Programs' Weekly Hours of Operation (Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly/Open Less than 30 Hours Weekly)**

Program Characteristic	Count of Children Enrolled in Programs with Characteristic	Standard Error	Column Percent of Children Enrolled in All Programs	Standard Error
Open less than 30 hours weekly	1,370,000	91,900	19.7	1.28
Open at least 30 hours weekly	5,430,000	303,000	77.8	1.39
Undetermined	180,000	41,900	2.6	0.59
Total	6,980,000	334,000	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A9. Counts and Shares of Programs, by Combination of Age Groups Served and Weekly Hours of Operation**

Combinations of Age Groups Served	Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly		Open Less than 30 Hours Weekly		Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly	
	Count	Standard Error	Count	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error
Age 3 through 5 years only	15,500	1,500	21,100	2,000	42.3	3.08
Ages 0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years	26,800	1,500	4,600	600	85.2	1.81
Ages 3 through 5 years and school age	11,800	1,200	6,500	800	64.2	3.33
All three age groups served	32,900	2,000	2,200	400	93.6	1.01
All other age group combinations	3,100	500	700!	400!	81.4	8.23
Total	89,900	3,800	35,200	2,400	71.9	1.53

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A10. Counts and Shares of Center-based ECE Programs by Weekly Hours of Operation and Auspice**

	Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly		Open Less than 30 Hours Weekly		Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly	
	Count	Standard Error	Count	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error
For profit	36,400	2,000	4,600	700	88.8	1.56
Not-for-profit	42,600	2,300	22,200	2,000	65.7	2.23
Run by government agency	10,000	1,300	8,300	1,100	54.9	4.19
Other	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Total	89,900	3,800	35,200	2,400	71.9	1.53

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A11. Counts and Shares of Center-Based ECE Programs, by School-Sponsorship and Funding and Weekly Hours of Operation**

	Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly		Open Less than 30 Hours Weekly		Open at Least 30 Hours Weekly	
	Count	Standard Error	Count	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error
School-sponsored	5,000	700	4,900	1,100	50.1	6.61
Head Start-funded, not school-sponsored	11,100	1,400	7,700	1,300	59.0	5.15
Public pre-K-funded, not school-sponsored or Head Start-funded	17,700	1,400	5,300	700	77.1	2.52
All other ECE	56,100	2,700	17,300	1,600	76.4	1.83
Total	89,900	3,800	35,200	2,400	71.9	1.53

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A12. Counts and Shares of Programs' Public/Private Mix in Top Two Revenue Sources**

	Count of Programs	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Top two sources: Private only	39,000	2,100	30.2	1.28
Top two sources: Government only	38,800	2,600	30.0	1.50
Top two sources: Mixed private and government	45,900	2,300	35.5	1.45
No sources indicated	5,500	1,100	4.2	0.81
Total	129,000	4,800	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

**Table A13. Shares of Programs' School-Sponsorship and Funding across Public/Private Mix in Top Two Revenue Sources**

	Private Only		Government Only		Mixed	
	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error
School-sponsored	13.6!	4.20!	60.2	5.63	26.2	5.38
Head Start-funded, not school-sponsored	‡	‡	77.5	3.15	21.5	3.08
Public pre-K-funded, not school-sponsored or Head Start-funded	6.2	1.10	46.9	3.42	46.9	3.22
All other ECE	51.2	1.76	8.9	0.88	39.9	1.85
Total	31.5	1.30	31.4	1.57	37.1	1.45

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n. ‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A14. Shares of Program Auspice Across Public/Private Mix in Top Two Revenue Sources**

	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error
	Private Only		Public Only		Mixed	
For profit	31.9	1.78	10.2	1.22	57.9	1.84
Nonprofit	38.6	1.98	32.3	2.13	29.1	1.90
Run by government agency	7.6	2.37	72.0	4.08	20.4	3.20
Other	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Total	31.5	1.30	31.4	1.57	37.1	1.45

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A15. Counts and Shares of Enrolled Children Not Yet in Kindergarten by Public/Private Mix in Top Two Revenue Sources of Programs**

	Count of Children Enrolled	Standard Error	Column Percent of Children Enrolled	Standard Error
Private only	2,170,000	152,000	31.1	1.58
Government only	2,050,000	163,000	29.4	1.95
Mixed private and government	2,540,000	168,000	36.4	1.52
No sources indicated/Missing	213,000	46,500	3.0	0.66
Total	6,980,000	334,000	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A16. Shares of Programs' School-Sponsorship and Funding within Community Poverty Densities**

Sponsorship and Funding	Low Poverty Density		Moderate Poverty Density		High Poverty Density	
	Percent	Standard Error	Percent	Standard Error	Percent	Standard Error
School-sponsored	8.7	1.67	8.6	1.32	7.4	1.93
Head Start-funded, not school-sponsored	10.3	1.76	19.4	1.96	25.4	2.31
Public pre-K-funded, not school-sponsored or Head Start-funded	17.1	1.48	20.7	1.95	18.5	2.11
All other ECE	64.0	2.16	51.3	2.58	48.8	3.08
Total	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A17. Shares of Programs' School-Sponsorship and Funding across Community Poverty Densities**

Sponsorship and Funding	Low Poverty Density		Moderate Poverty Density		High Poverty Density		Total Percent
	Percent	Standard Error	Percent	Standard Error	Percent	Standard Error	
School-sponsored	60.3	5.99	22.3	4.27	17.4	4.31	100.0
Head Start-funded, not school-sponsored	39.6	5.29	27.5	3.86	32.9	4.38	100.0
Public pre-K-funded, not school-sponsored or Head Start-funded	55.2	3.67	24.7	3.06	20.1	3.09	100.0
All other ECE	64.3	2.40	19.1	1.79	16.6	1.55	100.0
Total	58.6	2.37	21.7	1.79	19.8	1.79	100.0

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A18. Counts of ECE Center-based Programs by Community Poverty Densities and Combinations of Age Groups Served**

Combinations of Age Groups Served	Low Poverty Density		Moderate Poverty Density		High Poverty Density		All Areas
	Count	Standard Error	Count	Standard Error	Count	Standard Error	Total Count
3 through 5 years only	22,200	2,400	7,900	1,100	8,500	1,200	38,700
0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	19,500	1,500	7,000	700	5,700	500	32,200
3 through 5 years and school age only	10,700	1,300	5,000	800	3,000	500	18,800
All three age groups served	21,100	1,600	7,100	800	7,200	1,000	35,400
All other age group combinations	2,200	800	900	200	1,100	300	4,200

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A19. Shares of Programs' Combinations of Age Groups Served within Community Poverty Densities**

Combinations of Age Groups Served	Low Poverty Density		Moderate Poverty Density		High Poverty Density		All Areas	
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
3 through 5 years only	29.3	2.39	28.4	2.60	33.4	3.06	29.9	1.76
0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	25.7	1.93	25.0	2.00	22.3	1.82	24.9	1.26
3 through 5 years and school age only	14.2	1.42	17.8	2.27	11.8	1.44	14.5	1.02
All three age groups served	27.9	1.68	25.4	2.23	28.2	2.29	27.4	1.24
All other age group combinations	2.9	0.98	3.4	0.67	4.2	0.98	3.3	0.65
All Combinations of Ages Served	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A20. Shares of Programs' Combinations of Age Groups Served across Community Poverty Densities**

Combinations of Age Groups Served	Low Poverty Density		Moderate Poverty Density		High Poverty Density		All Areas
	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent
3 through 5 years only	57.3	3.66	20.6	2.57	22.1	2.88	100.0
0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	60.5	2.79	21.8	2.11	17.7	1.64	100.0
3 through 5 years and school age only	57.3	4.41	26.6	3.83	16.1	2.51	100.0
All three age groups served	59.6	2.92	20.1	2.22	20.3	2.48	100.0
All other age group combinations	52.1	9.95	22.4	5.31	25.5	6.59	100.0
All Combinations of Ages Served	58.6	2.37	21.7	1.79	19.8	1.79	100.0

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A21. Counts of ECE Center-based Programs by Urbanicity and Combinations of Age Groups Served**

Combination of Age Groups Served	High Urban Density		Moderate Urban Density		Rural		All Areas
	Count	Standard Error	Count	Standard Error	Count	Standard Error	Total Count
3 through 5 years only	15,400	1,100	10,900	1,800	12,400	2,200	38,700
0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	21,900	1,400	7,200	1,000	3,100!	800!	32,200
3 through 5 years and school age only	10,100	900	4,400	800	4,200!	1,100!	18,800
All three age groups served	21,100	1,600	9,700	1,200	4,700	800	35,400
All other age group combinations	2,100	300	1,700!	800!	‡	‡	4,200

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A22. Shares of Programs' Combinations of Age Groups Served within Urbanicity**

Combinations of Age Groups Served	High Urban Density		Moderate Urban Density		Rural		All Areas All Areas	
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
3 through 5 years only	21.7	1.26	32.1	3.46	50.1	4.57	29.9	1.76
0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	31.0	1.26	21.1	2.64	12.6!	2.92!	24.9	1.26
3 through 5 years and school age only	14.3	0.99	13.1	1.99	17.0!	3.50!	14.5	1.02
All three age groups served	29.9	1.32	28.6	2.78	18.8	2.72	27.4	1.24
All other age group combinations	3.0	0.38	5.1!	2.08!	‡	‡	3.3	0.65
All Combinations of Ages Served	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

† Not applicable. ‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

**Table A23. Shares of Programs' Combinations of Age Groups Served across Urbanicity**

Combinations of Age Groups Served	High Urban Density		Moderate Urban Density		Rural		All Areas
	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent
3 through 5 years only	39.7	3.51	28.1	4.10	32.1	4.38	100.0
0 to 3 years and 3 through 5 years only	68.1	3.08	22.2	2.83	9.7!	2.42!	100.0
3 through 5 years and school age only	53.9	4.90	23.6	3.47	22.5!	4.57!	100.0
All three age groups served	59.6	3.31	27.3	2.92	13.2	2.23	100.0
All other age group combinations	51.0	10.81	40.7!	11.58!	‡	‡	100.0
All Combinations of Ages Served	54.6	2.75	26.2	2.50	19.2	2.49	100.0

Source: NSECE center-based provider questionnaire.

! Interpret data with caution due to small n. ‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

Note: Programs with at least one enrolled child birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten.

## Appendix II. Technical Notes

### AGE GROUPS OF CHILDREN SERVED: CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS

Age groups were identified first at the level of center-based programs, then applied to individual staff members by referring to the age of children enrolled in the classroom/group to which they were primarily assigned.

- **Age Groups:** age groupings that Center-based Provider respondents reported. Age Groups may have overlapping lower bounds and/or upper bounds. There may also be gaps between the upper bound of one Age Group and the lower bound of a subsequent Age Group.
- **Age Group Lower Bound:** the youngest age that a Center-based Provider respondent indicated for an Age Group.
- **Age Group Upper Bound:** the oldest age that a Center-based Provider respondent indicated for an Age Group.

Under 3 years old (Lower Boundary $\geq 0$ months and Upper Boundary $< 36$ months)
Infants (identified within the Under 3 category): Lower Boundary $\geq 0$ months and upper bound $\leq 12$ months;
3 through 5 years old (Lower Boundary and $\geq 36$ and Upper Boundary $< 60$ months) and not enrolled in kindergarten. The share of all five-year-olds enrolled in kindergarten was estimated and applied probabilistically to reported age groupings.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS

All sampled programs completed a center-based screener to confirm eligibility. The screener verified several criteria for inclusion in the center-based provider survey:

- Program serves children birth to age 5 years, not yet in kindergarten,
- Program offers multiple activities,
- Program serves children at least 3 hours per day at least 2 days per week,
- Program is not exclusively drop-in and does not require parents to be present while children participate,
- Program serves children during the school year and not exclusively during the summer.

Programs not meeting all of these criteria were deemed ineligible to complete the center-based provider questionnaire. Even so, there are almost 500 programs in the data file which were licensed to serve children birth to age 5 years, not yet in kindergarten, but did not have any currently enrolled children in these ages at the time of interview completion. These programs are excluded from analyses presented in this report.

# Glossary of Terms

**Center-based program:** all ECE services to children age birth through thirteen years provided by an organization at a single location. There may have been multiple types of services offered at a single center-based program, and a center-based program may have been freestanding or part of a larger entity, such as a community service organization or a chain. Only programs serving children five years and under, not yet in kindergarten, were sampled.

**Receipt of public funding.** Programs' reports of their top two sources of revenue as well as the sources from which they receive any funds allow us to characterize their receipt of public funds into three categories:

- 1) **Predominantly public funding.** This category includes programs that have only government categories among their top two revenue sources. Some of these programs include the federal government or a public school district as their only major source of revenue. Other programs report various combinations of federal, state or local funds.
- 2) **Mixed funding.** This category includes programs that report at least some public funding, but also at least one private revenue source among their top two.
- 3) **No public funding reported.** This category includes programs that did not indicate receiving funds from any government revenue source.

**School-sponsorship and funding.** Center-based programs were divided into the following categories.

**School-sponsored programs:** A public school district has administrative oversight or reporting requirements over the center-based program.

**Head Start-funded:** The center-based program reports funding for at least one child from Head Start dollars, but is not school-sponsored.

**Public Pre-K-funded:** The center-based program reports funding for at least one child from public pre-K dollars, but is not school-sponsored and no Head Start funding was reported.

**Other:** All remaining center-based programs offering ECE.

Note that because of the sequentially applied definitions, there are center-based programs reporting Head Start and public pre-K funding in the school-sponsored category, as well as center-based programs reporting public pre-K funding in the Head Start category.