

Slide 1



National Survey of **Early Care & Education**

NSECE Downloadable Presentation III: Center-Based Provider Survey



NSECE Purpose: Address Key Policy Needs

- Comprehensive national data
- Match parental needs and preferences and availability of providers at the local level
- Profile all families with age-eligible children in a location
- Document all care in that location
 - Center-based providers to children not yet in kindergarten
 - Home-based providers to children under age 13 years
- Characterize early care and education (ECE) teachers and caregivers
- Describe place-based aspects of child care provision/use



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National Survey of Early Care and Education

- An integrated set of surveys conducted in 2012 with
 - Households with children under 13
 - Home-based providers regularly providing early care and education to children under 13
 - Center-based programs providing early care and education to children not yet in kindergarten
 - Center-based classroom-assigned staff
- Sponsored by Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



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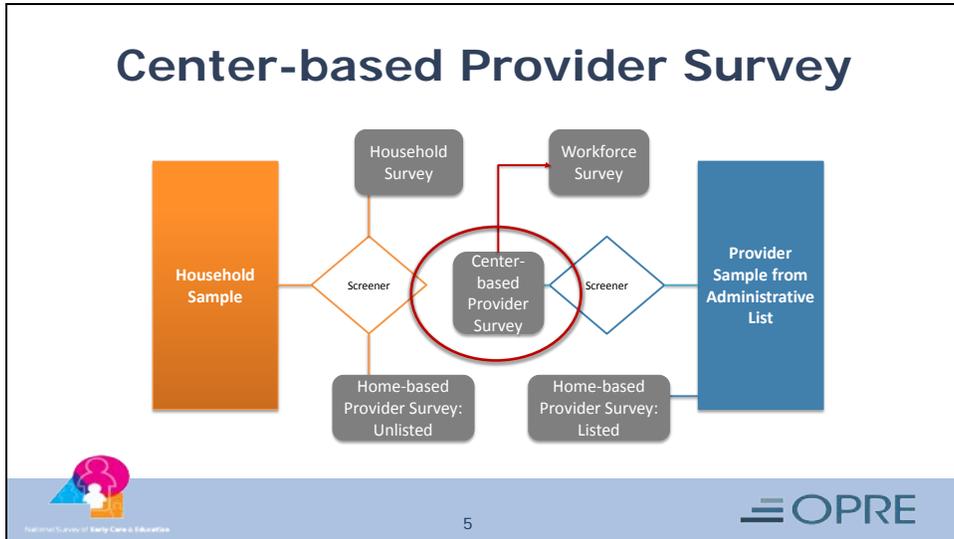
Slide 4



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Center-based Provider Survey





The figure on the slide depicts the interrelationship among the two sample sources and the four NSECE surveys at the foundation of the NSECE data collection design. The two long rectangles on the right and left sides represent the two NSECE sample sources; each of the gray boxes in the middle indicates a survey, and the diamond shaped boxes stand for screening instruments.

This presentation will focus on the Center-based Provider Survey, circled in red in the figure above. The Center-based Provider Survey was conducted with centers selected from the provider sample developed from administrative lists. To determine eligibility for the survey, sampled centers were first screened.

Center-based Data Collection

- Directors or instructional leaders provided data about 8,265 centers.
- Data collection by web, phone or in-person. Many respondents contacted in-person or by phone, but more than 80 percent completed the interview itself by web. All interviews in English.



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- Data collection took place in 2012.
- Center-based providers from the provider sample were screened to determine eligibility for the interview. See the next slide for how the NSECE defined center-based program.
- For most programs, screening took place at the same time the interview was completed, but some time could elapse between screening and the interview.

Definition of a Center-Based Program

- Serving at least one child age 5 years or under, not yet in kindergarten
- All services to children under age 13
- Provided by a single organization
- At a single location

This may include multiple activities (e.g., a Head Start program and after-school care)



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Of the 8,265 center-based providers who completed interviews, 7,771 cases were serving children birth through five years old, not yet in kindergarten at the time of the interview. The other 556 providers were licensed to serve children five and under but did not have any enrollment in these age groups when they completed the survey.

**Topics covered –
Center-based Survey**

- Workforce size and characteristics
- Funding sources (Blended/
Collaborative funding)
- Comprehensive service provision
- Quality-related measures (e.g,
professional development of staff, staff
child ratios, group sizes, supports to
families)
- Prices charged



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Selected segments of the center-based provider questionnaire were designed in parallel with the home-based provider questionnaire so that NSECE data could be easily used to create a comprehensive picture of listed providers caring for children across settings. The center-based provider quick tabulation codebook indicates these correspondences in the field labeled “Counterpart in the Home-based Quick Tab Files”.



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Center-based Provider Data



Center-based Respondent

- 8,265 center-based providers of ECE to children age 5 years and under
- Directors or instructional leaders knowledgeable about staffing and enrollment of ECE activities
 - Director in a standalone preschool
 - ECE coordinator in a multi-use facility
 - Pre-K lead teacher in an elementary school
 - Site director in a multi-unit program



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Levels of Observation

- Self-reported age groups; constructed age categories: prices, enrollment
- Center-level: funding sources, enrollment characteristics, hours of care
- Selected classroom: staffing, curriculum, enrollment
- Personnel in selected classroom: qualifications, recent PD, wages
- Respondent: qualifications, wage



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- Respondents were asked to list the age groups they cared for in months. These age groups were later transformed into age categories to help facilitate analysis work.
- The questionnaire randomly selected a classroom for one of the age groups the provider reported earlier in the interview. This classroom served as the focus of a series of questions on staffing and enrollment.
- The instrument also collected detailed information on the individuals who worked in this classroom including their wages, role, time spent in the classroom along with their qualifications and experience. The respondent for the workforce survey was selected from the roster of individuals working in this classroom at least five hours a week.
- A classroom weight is available in the Main Public Use data file for use with the classroom and individual classroom worker variables.

Center-based Provider Survey Data Files

	Sample Size	Topics Covered	Type of Added Information
Quick Tab	7771	Many	
Main Public Use	8265	All	Cases (Centers not currently serving children 0 through 5 years), Levels (classroom, age category, staff, respondent),
Restricted Use L1 Questionnaire	8265	Most	Detailed low-incidence codes, unmasked values



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Note that the Main Public Use file includes cases not included in the

Key Differences Across Center-based Data Files

- Quick tabulation: restricted to programs serving children not yet in kindergarten (n=7771).
- Public use: Additional cases for centers only serving school-age (n=8265), and many add'l variables.
- Restricted use: Variables with disclosure risk (wages, prices, enrollment counts, rare cells, etc.)



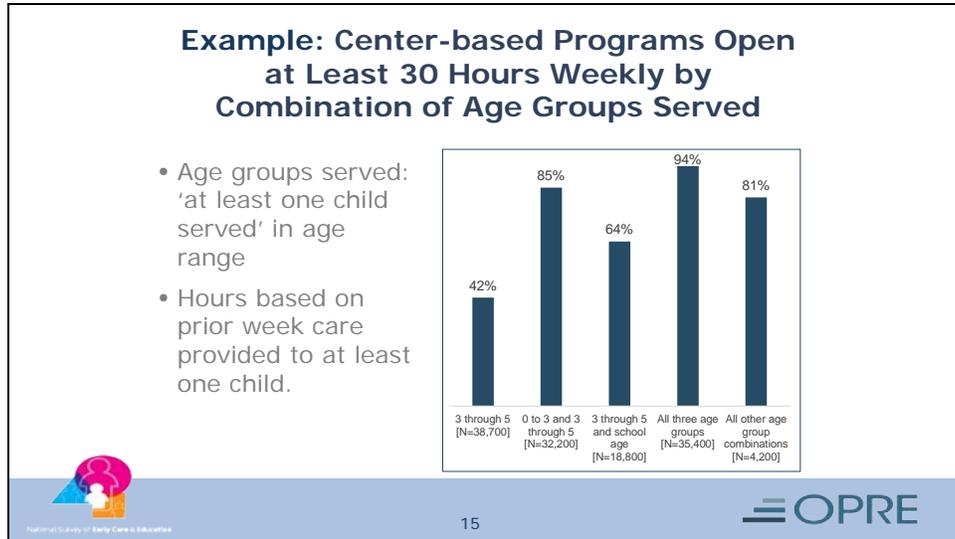
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Public Use Variables not in the Center-based Quick Tab

- Classroom-level data (randomly selected); has a classroom weight
- Workers in randomly-selected classroom; use classroom weight
- Respondent data (director or instructional leader)
- Self-defined age groups' data



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This example comes from the Characteristics of Center-based Early Care and Education Programs Factsheet (Figure 4).

The bars in this chart each represent centers serving one of five combinations of 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.

The height of each bar indicates the percentage of centers that are open at least 30 hours weekly. About three in ten centers serving children birth through age five years, not yet in kindergarten, offer fewer than 30 hours per week of care, thus limiting their usefulness for parental employment support. (Many centers, like half-day Head Start or pre-k programs, may not have parental employment support as an objective). Centers serving only children age three through five years are least likely to be open 30 hours or more hours weekly; 42 percent as compared to 94 percent of centers serving all three age groups.

Example: Auspice and Funding

Shares of Program Auspice Across Public/Private Mix in Top Two Revenue Sources

Row Percent	Private	Public	Mixed
For profit	31.9	10.2	57.9
Nonprofit	38.6	32.3	29.1
Run by government agency	7.6	72.0	20.4
Other	‡	‡	‡
Total	31.5	31.4	37.1

This is an example from the NSECE brief Characteristics of Center-based Early Care and Education Programs (Table A14. Shares of Program Auspice Across Public/Private Mix in Top Two Revenue Sources). Row percentages are shown.

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.

We can use information on centers’ top two sources of revenue to classify providers as having predominantly **public** funding, **mixed** funding sources, or no reported public (**private**) money. This classification is defined as follows.

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.

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.

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



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Questions about using the
NSECE data?

Please write **NSECE@NORC.ORG**

