Using Administrative Data to Address Policy-Relevant Research Questions in Early Care and Education
Acknowledgements

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  – Ivelisse Martinez-Beck, CCEPRA Project Officer

• The primary purpose of the Child Care Administrative Data Analysis Center (CCADAC) is to support the use of administrative data to address policy-relevant early care and education research questions for state child care administrators and their research partners.
  – Kathleen Dwyer, CCADAC Project Officer

The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, the Administration for Children and Families or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Overview

• Highlight three resources and hear examples from researchers

1. Developing partnerships with state agencies
   • Isabel Bradburn, Virginia Tech

2. Determining the feasibility of using administrative data
   • Elizabeth Davis, University of Minnesota

3. Considerations in preparing to analyze administrative data
   • Amy Claessens, University of Chicago

• Time for questions built into the webinar
Supporting the Use of Administrative Data in Early Care and Education Research: Resource Series

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Topics: Child Care, Family & Youth Services
Projects: Child Care and Early Education Policy and Research Analysis Project, 2006-2018 | Learn more about this project
Types: Reports

These three resources provide information to help state and territory child care administrators and their research partners use administrative data. The resources specifically focus on how to address policy-relevant early care and education research questions using administrative data.

The resources can help:

- Researchers who are new to administrative data analysis
- Researchers who are seasoned users of administrative data but expanding their research to include new types of administrative data
- Research staff in state agencies.
Research Connections Resource

- [http://www.researchconnections.org/content/childcare/understand/administrative-data.html](http://www.researchconnections.org/content/childcare/understand/administrative-data.html)

- Organizes resources by topic:
  - Managing administrative data
  - Analyzing administrative data
  - Linking and integrating administrative data
  - Data confidentiality/security
Working with Administrative Data

The term administrative data refers to information about individual children, families, and/or providers of early care and education and other family benefits that is collected and maintained as part of the operation of government programs. The resources on this page were selected from a collection of resources about acquiring, using, managing, linking, and analyzing administrative data in early childhood or related fields. The current resources were selected because they:

1. highlighted advantages and disadvantages to using administrative data;
2. detailed steps or procedures about how to use administrative data;
3. provided state examples about administrative data use; or
4. were tools or toolkits that housed information about administrative data.

Linking and Integrating Administrative Data

Resources related to integrating data systems or combining two or more administrative datasets either within the same organization or between different organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>State Example?</th>
<th>Description (author abstract if available)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answering key questions with an early childhood data system.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This brief discussed how states are going about building</td>
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Developing Collaborative Partnerships with State Agencies to Strengthen Research Using Early Care and Education Administrative Data

Collaborative partnerships between researchers and agency staff
  • Improve the quality of research
  • Strengthen the applicability of research to inform policy and practice

Benefits of a collaborative research partnership
  • Develop useful, compelling research questions
  • Facilitate deeper understanding & interpretation of the data
  • Strengthen state capacity to use administrative data
Developing Collaborative Partnerships

• Strategies for meeting state agency staff
  • National, state, regional meetings
  • State task forces or committees
  • Early childhood advisory council

• Building a strong partnership
  • Mutual respect
  • Be strategic about requests to staff
  • Make it as easy as possible for staff
Prior work history

Problem: No state-wide information on child care subsidy patterns or outcomes

Enthusiastic stakeholders; created regular meetings to share information, progress, brainstorm

Governor’s Advisory Council (ECAC) created holding infrastructure
Determining the Feasibility of Using State Early Care and Education Administrative Data

Determining the Feasibility of Using Administrative Data

- Data policies and procedures
  - Data availability and stewardship
  - Data sharing
  - Data storage
  - Data security
- Data contacts and coordination
  - Identifying contacts
  - Coordination
Determining the Feasibility of Using Administrative Data

• Data usability
  • Data collection and quality
  • Appropriateness of data for the research question
  • Availability of information about the data (e.g., codebook)
  • Use by others
Perspective of a Researcher: Elizabeth Davis
• Whose data is it?
  – Why should they share the data with you?

• Barriers to data access
  – Logistical, legal, political, technological

• Data security and human subjects protections
  – Know the rules to protect yourself, your partners who provide the data, and the people you are studying
Some considerations when making a data request:

• Agency view of data versus researcher view
• Policy context shapes administrative data in important ways
  – How the data are collected (when and by whom).
  – How variables change in different policy contexts or over time.
  – With administrative data, those in the dataset are typically not a random sample – policy affects the composition of the caseload and thus who is in the dataset.
Considerations in Preparing to Analyze Administrative Data to Address Child Care and Early Education Research Questions


Considerations in Preparing to Analyze Administrative Data
• Understand the scope and limitations of the administrative dataset when developing an analysis plan
• Selecting variables to analyze
• Assessing the feasibility of the project
• Preparing the data request
• Creating a research-ready analysis dataset
• Documenting
Perspective of a Researcher: Amy Claessens
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