Research Connections conducted a comprehensive search of its collection for resources focused on the relationship between receipt of child care subsidies and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and employment outcomes.

From the many results, Research Connections selected a limited number of resources of various types— including reports and papers, fact sheets and briefs, summaries, and reviews. Selection criteria included policy relevance and relatively recent publication. The full results came from an advanced search on the exact phrases: “child care subsidies” and “employment.” (Note: much of the literature on this topic focuses on families receiving welfare given that a key subsidy policy is to help families transition from welfare to work, however the resources below also include research on the subsidy receipt and employment outcomes of former welfare recipients and low-income families.)

Resources are organized according to publisher type and publication date. Research Connection’s one-sentence description is included for each resource on the following list. For complete citations, which include abstracts and full text for some resources, click on the titles.
Government

  An analysis of data on industry employment patterns of parents receiving subsidized child care to increase understanding of the impact of child care subsidies on their labor force participation and on the local economies in which the parents are employed

  A summary and critique of three research reviews examining the effects of child care cost, quality, and flexibility on labor force participation among low income families

Journals

  A study of the relationship between child care subsidy receipt and mothers' work experiences of welfare recipients in an urban Michigan county

  An investigation of different welfare and employment programs with child care assistance policies and their effects on employment rates and child care decisions of low income families.

  An analysis of the coping strategies, including sources of support and child care arrangements, of unwed mothers with young children five years after the passage of PRWORA


  A study of the influence of child care costs on the work-related decisions of low-income mothers
An examination of the effects of child care subsidy receipt on low income mothers, comparing families receiving subsidies with families on waiting lists; factors examined included employment, income, percent of income spent on child care, and satisfaction with child care arrangements

• Han, Wen-Jui, & Waldfogel, Jane. (2001). Child care costs and women's employment: A comparison of single and married mothers with pre-school-aged children Social Science Quarterly, 82(3), 552-568

A study that examines the employment and earnings of current and former recipients of welfare benefits and child care subsidies and assesses the impact of increased funding for child care and other policy changes.

Universities and Research Organizations

• Reidy, Mairead, & George, Robert. (forthcoming). Employment and TANF Outcomes for Low-Income Families Receiving Child Care Subsidies in Illinois, Maryland, and Texas Child Care Policy Research Consortium
Through a unique collaboration between the U.S. Census Bureau and three state teams, this project is using blended individual-level census and administrative data records in Illinois, Maryland, and Texas to examine who is eligible for the child care subsidy, who uses it, and how the subsidy aids different groups of low-income families in their quest for economic independence

A policy brief presenting research findings on the relationship between child care subsidy receipt and mothers' employment

A review of research studies examining parent employment outcomes associated with the use of child care subsidies

• Davis, Elizabeth E., Jefferys, Marcie. (2005). Still working in Minnesota?: Follow-up study on parents' employment and earnings in the Child Care Assistance Program St. Paul: Minnesota: Child Care Policy Research Partnership
A study of the employment patterns and wage growth, from 2001 through 2003, of families in four Minnesota counties who received child care assistance in the first quarter of 2001
An analysis of the effects of child care subsidies on the entry of new mothers into the labor force, using data from the Fragile Families and Well-Being Study

An examination of patterns of child care use and employment stability among welfare recipients in Connecticut, Florida, and Minnesota

• Ananat, Elizabeth O., & Phinney, Robin. (2004). **Child care as a barrier to employment** Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Program on Poverty and Social Welfare Policy
An analysis of the relationship between labor market, health, family, and child care problems and work outcomes for a random sample of mothers receiving cash assistance in an urban Michigan county in February 1997

• Lee, B.J., George, R., Reidy, M., Kreader, J.L., Georges, A., Wamiller, R.L., Jr., et al. (2004). **Child care subsidy use and employment outcomes of TANF mothers during the early years of welfare reform: A three-state study** Chicago, IL: University of Chicago, Chapin Hall Center for Children.
An analysis of the child care subsidy take-up rate, type of child care chosen, and relation between child care subsidy use and employment outcomes for single working mothers receiving TANF in Illinois, Maryland and Massachusetts

A fourth year report of the Illinois Families Study examining the overall effectiveness of welfare reform in Illinois and attempting to determine which are the most effective supports and services.

A brief emphasizing the need for child care among low income families departing welfare-to-work programs, based upon findings from the Alameda County CalWORKs Needs Assessment and Outcomes Study.

An analysis of the impact that child care subsidies have on helping single mothers find jobs with standard schedules, and how this influence differs between welfare recipients and non-recipients.
An analysis of how actual child care subsidy receipt influences the employment status and child care choices of single mothers

An investigation into the effects of welfare reform policies and links between employment and child care choices, using data from random assignment pilot welfare programs begun between 1993 and 1996 in a variety of urban and rural areas in the United States

A summary of research on the relationship between high-quality child care, mothers' employment and child development

A summary of the findings of a study which assessed the impact of employment barriers on families receiving temporary public assistance

A quantitative study conducted with mothers on the relationship between child care and their employment outcomes

Third in a series of reports using measures of the employment outcomes and family well-being of a sample of 1998 TANF grantees to assess the ongoing value of Illinois’1997 welfare reforms

An assessment of the influence of expanded child care subsidy eligibility, and increased provider reimbursement rates, on demand for care, cash assistance receipt, and employment among current and former welfare recipients in Rhode Island
A study using longitudinal data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 1993 and 1996 Panels to examine the effects of child care access and job quality on the employment duration and wage growth of former welfare recipients and working women.

A study of the long-term effects of welfare reform on mothers’ employment, children’s development, and family well-being among a sample of mothers and preschool-age children who entered new welfare programs in California, Connecticut, and Florida

An analysis of the effects of changes in child care policies on the child care choices of families participating in pilot welfare and employment programs from the late 1980s to the early 1990s

• Tekin, Erdal, (2002). *Child care subsidies, wages, and employment of single mothers* Unpublished manuscript, Georgia State University, Atlanta.
An analysis of the effects of the price of child care and the wage rate on employment and child care decisions among single mothers in the early post-welfare reform period, using data from the National Survey of America’s Families

An analysis of the determinants of child care subsidy receipt and the effects of subsidy receipt on employment using the 1997 National Survey of America’s Families

An examination of the effects of welfare and employment policies on child care outcomes for single parents, and their preschool- to young school- aged children, using data from experimental programs implemented between the late 1980s and the mid-1990s

A summary of findings from seven studies of the employment patterns of low-income parents receiving child care subsidies.


• Pearlmutter, Sue, Katona, Michelle, Wang, Edward, Su, Marilyn, Gallagher, Peg. (1998) Child care subsidies for low-income and TANF families: Availability, access, and relationship to work force participation Cleveland, OH: Case Western Reserve University, Center on Urban Poverty and Social Change A paper on the projected supply of and demand for subsidized child care after welfare reform in Cuyahoga County, Ohio

To view and sort the full search results from which these resources were selected, you may use the Recreate Complete Search function.

This selected Resource List was developed by staff of Child Care & Early Education Research Connections. Special thanks to Patti Banghart.