Child Care Market Conditions and Low-Income Families' Needs: Identifying Mismatches in Four Select Communities

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Partnership between researchers at the University of Chicago and Urban Institute and Child Care Lead Agencies in IL and NY

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- Principal Investigator: Julia Henly
- Co-PIs: Heather Sandstrom and Amy Claessens
Phase 2: Subsidy instability and the intersection between subsidy program and quality initiatives in partnering states

Study Components

1. Key stakeholder interviews, including subsidy administrators and staff, CCR&Rs staff, and quality improvement program leaders
2. Local supply & demand analysis; mapping changes in quality, supply, and characteristics of subsidized care
3. Linking Phase 1 survey data to Phase 2 provider data
4. Qualitative study of subsidized providers of different care types
Motivation for Supply / Demand Study

Parents report facing challenges accessing quality child care & early education programs for young children:

- High quality child care that is affordable (accepts child care subsidies) and is:
  - Located near home and/or job
  - Open during parent’s work & commute hours, particularly outside of traditional daytime, weekday hours
  - Serves infants and toddlers
  - For many: in a regulated center-based setting.
Research Questions

1) How are child care programs with key characteristics distributed across each of the four sites of the larger study?

2) How does the supply of child care with these characteristics match the heterogeneous needs of subsidy-eligible families?

3) Do geographical child care data deepen the analysis of the parent survey in Study Phase 1?
Strategy of Descriptive Geography

In the 4 study sites: Determine whether relevant child care demand & supply factors match up geographically.

For example, in each site:

• Do child care centers that accept the child care subsidy offer sufficient infant care for subsidy-eligible parents with infants?

• With regard to child care during parents’ nonstandard work hours, how many parents have the need for this child care? What types of care and what levels of quality are available to them within the framework of the child care subsidy system?
Implications for Program Development or Policy Change in a Region

- Are there patterns of alignment or misalignment that suggest a need and an opportunity for program development or policy intervention?

- What additional information do we need to have before acting?
Data and Data Sources

Child care supply data
• Site-specific extracts from NACCRAware
  • Sources: Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) and Nassau and Westchester County Child Care Councils (2014)

• Site-specific subsidy payment records

• Supplemental data
  • Quality ratings collected from INCCRRA in IL; quality ratings, accreditation, Head Start, Pre-K, and breastfeeding friendly status collected from direct sources in NY

Potential subsidized child care demand data
• ACS 5-year estimates (2010-2014): number of children under age 6 in families with income below 200% FPL * share of children under 6 with all parents in the labor force, by census tract and PUMA
## Overview of Study Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nassau</th>
<th>Westchester</th>
<th>Cook</th>
<th>SW Illinois</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Centers</strong></td>
<td>204</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>1,379</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Served infants</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received subsidy payments</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had QRIS rating</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open full-time (35hrs+/wk)</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Child Care Homes</strong></td>
<td>121</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>3,534</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Served infants</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received subsidy payments</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had QRIS rating</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open full-time (35hrs+/wk)</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group Family Child Care</strong></td>
<td>545</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Served infants</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received subsidy payments</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had QRIS rating</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open full-time (35hrs+/wk)</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maps of 4 Study Sites

• New York
  • Nassau County
  • Westchester County

• Illinois
  • Service Delivery Area 6 (Cook County)
  • Service Delivery Area 14 (7 counties in southwestern Illinois)
Child Care Providers in the Study Sites

Type of care
- (FCC) Group Family Child Care
- Child Care Center
- Family Child Care

Map showing locations of child care providers in Westchester, Nassau, SDA 14, and Cook County.
Centers and Homes by Subsidy Receipt Status
Centers by Status of Licensing for Infant Care
Centers by Accreditation Status
Comparing Supply and Demand (Among Children 0-5)

Difference between the number of subsidy-eligible children and the number of subsidized slots

- Less than or equal to zero
- 1-60
- 61-273
Legally Exempt Providers and the Demand for Care during Non-Standard Hours: Early Morning

Counts of children under 6 below 200% FPL with all parents working any time between 4 and 7:59am
Legally Exempt Providers and the Demand for Care during Non-Standard Hours: Evening and Overnight

Counts of children under 6 below 200% FPL with all parents working any time between 6 and 11:59pm

Counts of children under 6 below 200% FPL with all parents working any time between 12 and 5:59am
## Assessing Unmet Need in Nassau County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Care Type</th>
<th>Total Full-Time Providers (35+ hrs/wk)</th>
<th>Accredited</th>
<th>Licensed for Infant Care</th>
<th>Provide Early Morning or Evening Care</th>
<th>Provide Weekend Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centers</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accept subsidies</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not accept subsidies</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group family child care</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accept subsidies</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not accept subsidies</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered family child care</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accept subsidies</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not accept subsidies</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

1. Child care programs are distributed unevenly around each of the study sites, with distinct “child care deserts” and widespread lack of access to care that is subsidized, high-quality, and available to families working nonstandard hours.

2. The supply of child care does not appear to be well-matched to the heterogeneous needs of subsidy-eligible families.
   
   a. Home-based settings are more likely to serve families with infants and to be open during nonstandard hours, but less likely to have a quality rating.
   
   b. Center-based providers are far less likely to open during non-standard hours (early morning, late evening, or overnight).
   
   c. By the measures available, relatively few full-time providers have demonstrated participation in quality initiatives.
Next Steps

1. In Illinois only, we’ll look at the expansion of quality child care options for subsidized children from 2011 to 2016, and in particular, at whether more subsidized children have access to a quality rated or accredited program within an average child care commuting distance.

2. In both sites, we are conducting provider interviews to better understand experiences in the subsidy program and efforts to improve quality.

3. We’ll be pulling together findings across mapping, interview, and other analytic components for a final report and dissemination efforts in 2017.
Thank You!

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