Reflections and Discussion

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Overview

• Policy relevance of access: supply/demand fit

• Contributions of each paper:
  • New access measures
  • Use of mapping and geospatial analyses

• Opportunities related to mapping and geospatial analyses

• Challenges related to mapping and geospatial analyses
Access to High Quality Child Care and Education

• Policy relevance:
  • 2014 Reauthorization Act put emphasis on access to quality
  • Lack meaningful measures
  • Interest in use of contracting to assist in ensuring quality for targeted populations

• Shared approaches to measuring access:
  • All spatially locate low-income families & available care
  • Each incorporates measures of quality into measures of access
  • Each addresses a geographical aspect of unmet need
Contributions to Measuring Access

• Davis and colleagues created new access measures that:
  • Incorporate distance, price, and quality
  • Demonstrate difference between access and availability for key populations
  • Calculate the added cost of accessing quality—the quality premium
• Claessens and colleagues create measures of “mismatch”
  • Focus on challenges of low-income families who need infant/toddler care or care during nontraditional hours—show challenges to finding quality
  • Map the mismatch between needs of subsidy eligible families and available supply
• Massachusetts research team explores match between need and subsidized care:
  • Combine ACS & subsidy data to create measure of unmet need
  • Compare percentage of unmet need by community
  • Examine if community with greater percentage of contracted slots serve higher percentage of parent need
Use of Mapping and Geospatial Analyses

• Davis and colleagues:
  • Map supply and demand
  • Create and geocode “synthetic” families
  • Use “Hotspot” analysis to identify spatial clusters with high or low values of variables such as affordable high quality care

• Claessens and colleagues:
  • Map supply and demand and degree of unmet needs (“child care deserts”)
  • Map demand for nontraditional hour care
  • Use Census PUMA statistical geographic areas

• Massachusetts research team:
  • Geocode children and providers to town-level
  • Use Census Tigerline files
Opportunities of Geospatial Analysis

• Ideally suited to identifying needs such as amount of access
  • Can analyze multiple subject characteristics at the same time (map layers)
  • Visualization is more than a picture—engages intuition
  • Not tied to administrative organization boundaries (e.g., county) (area)
• Geospatial analysis is more than mapping
  • Starts with research question and appropriate data
  • Findings appear on map
• Value depends on importance of question, and appropriateness of data
Challenges

• GIS knowledge and skills

• Appropriate data:
  • Data collected for same areas or is designed to aggregate to larger areas
  • New set of data quality issues

• Demand data
  • Privacy and data collection concerns for geocoding actual families
    • When using participants clearly distinguish use from need
    • Explore availability of TRIM data for measuring subsidy eligibility
  • Alternative methods for getting addressed-based families
  • Use counts of children or families with specific characteristics instead of addresses