Early Care and Education (ECE) Among Non-Parental Households

MEGAN PRATT
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

SHANNON LIPSCOMB
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY - CASCADES
Non-Parental Households

**Definition:** Child’s biological/adoptive/step parent does not live in household (e.g. foster care, kinship care)

**Key population to understand**
- Children ages 0-5 are at greatest risk for child maltreatment
- Early Care & Education (ECE) helps to support this population (e.g., Green et al., 2014; Lipscomb et al., 2013; see Klein, 2016 for review)
- Efforts are underway to strengthen access to supportive ECE

**We need to understand how non-parental households use ECE**
Research Questions

How do non-parental households with children ages 0-5 yrs. approach ECE?

How does that compare with parental households?

1) Perceptions of different types of ECE
2) Searches for ECE
3) Type of care utilized
National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)

- Household Survey – subset with child(ren) ages 0-5 yrs.
  - Non-parental households \((n = 180)\)
    At least one of the children age 0-5 did not have a biological/adoptive/step parent residing in the household.
  - Comparison sample \((n = 6860)\)
    All children in household were biological/adoptive/or step-children.
Analysis

• Household sampling weights & cluster variables used to generate representative estimates.

• Linear & logistic regression
  Covariates: use of public assistance, minority race/ethnicity, community urban density, community poverty density

• Strict reporting requirements for NSECE
## Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Parental Households with at least one child age 0-5 ($n = 6860$)</th>
<th>Non-Parental Household with at least one child age 0-5 ($n = 180$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong># children age 0-5</strong></td>
<td>• 1 child - 68%</td>
<td>• 1 child - 65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2 children – 27%</td>
<td>• 2 children – 28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td>• White – <strong>52%</strong></td>
<td>• <strong>White 25%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Black/AA – 11%</td>
<td>• Black – 36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Multiracial – 13%</td>
<td>• <strong>Multiracial – 21%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Hispanic/Latino – 19%</td>
<td>• Hispanic/Latino – 16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Assistance?</strong></td>
<td>• Yes - 45%</td>
<td>• <strong>Yes – 68%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Poverty Density (using FPL)</strong></td>
<td>• Low – 57%</td>
<td>• Low - 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Moderate – 22%</td>
<td>• <strong>Moderate – 29%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• High – 21%</td>
<td>• High – 31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Urban Density</strong></td>
<td>• High – 69%</td>
<td>• High – 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Moderate – 22%</td>
<td>• Moderate – 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rural – 10%</td>
<td>• Rural – 14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Measurement for Research Questions 1 & 2
Perceptions of ECE & Searches

Based on one randomly selected child from each household.

Age of randomly selected child in household

Parental Households ($n = 6860$)
- 0-36 months: 36%
- 36-60 months: 39%
- 60+ months: 25%

Non-Parental Households ($n = 180$)
- 0-36 months: 32%
- 36-60 months: 33%
- 60+ months: 35%
Perceptions of ECE Types
Proportion of households reporting that Center Care is “Excellent” or “Good” in the following areas

- Nuturing
- Helping children be ready for school
- Getting along with others
- Safety
- Affordability
- Flexibility

- Parental care (n = 6860)
- Non-parental care (n = 180)
Proportion of households reporting that Relative or Friend Care is “**Excellent**” or “**Good**” in the following areas:

- Nuturing
- Helping children be ready for school
- Getting along with others
- Safety
- Affordability
- Flexibility

†
Proportion of households reporting that Family Day Care is “Excellent” or “Good” in the following areas:

- Nuturing
- Helping children be ready for school
- Getting along with others
- Safety
- Affordability
- Flexibility

For parental care (n = 6860) and non-parental care (n = 180).
Proportion of households reporting that Parental Care is "Excellent" or "Good" ... in the following areas
Searches
### Reasons for Search

"What is the main reason that you were looking for care at the...time"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Parental Households $(n = 2500)$</th>
<th>Non-Parental Households $(n = 60)$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>So that I could work/change in work</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational/Social Enrichment for child</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The odds of searching for ed/enrichment reasons are almost 2 times larger among non-parental than parental households. (Odds ratio = 1.970, $p = .08$)
Did Search Result in Change in Provider?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Parental Households $(n = 2500)$</th>
<th>Non-Parental Households $(n = 60)$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No change in provider</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, change in provider</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The odds of changing providers was .50 times smaller for non-parental than parental households.

(Odds ratio = .47, $p = .047$)
Measurement for Research Question 3
Use of ECE

• Calendar Data: who is caring for each child every 15-minutes during the prior calendar week

• Household-level:
  ◦ Total numbers of unique providers identified
  ◦ Total number of hours in care by type of care
## Use of ECE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of ECE</th>
<th>Avg. hours per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-parental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual, unpaid</td>
<td>13.60*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual, paid, prior relationship</td>
<td>5.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, unknown</td>
<td>4.23*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular</td>
<td>3.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual, paid, no prior relationship</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

Non-parental households:

• **Perceive**
  - family care more favorably for helping children be ready for school
  - parental care as less favorable for nurturing, safety, and affordability.

• Are more likely to **search** for care children’s social & educational enrichment ... yet are less likely to change providers after search.

• **Utilize** more hours from unpaid individuals, and “all others, unknown”, and fewer hours from paid individuals with no prior relationship.
Concluding thoughts

Supporting non-parental households requires attending to the complexities of their preferences and needs.

e.g. why do they:

- More often rate family child care as “good” or “excellent” to help children be ready for school ... and search for care for children’s education and enrichment... yet often don’t change care?

- Use more hours of unpaid care, and fewer hours of paid individuals with no prior relationship (e.g. family child care)?

Possibilities from other research to investigate: access to care & subsidies, instability, adverse experiences and stress