Using Large-Scale Data for Examining Child Care Utilization and Experiences for Hispanic Children and Families

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Hispanics and ECE

• Despite evidence of benefits, estimates suggest that Hispanic children are under-represented in ECE, particularly in center-based care

• Understanding the complex process of access and utilization of ECE for Hispanics is emerging

• Hispanic children and families are a diverse group; yet, existing research fails to capture this heterogeneity
Project Overview

• To build capacity, we reviewed 15 large scale, publically available data sets with sizeable Hispanic samples

• Twelve data sets had sample sizes of at least 500 children under the age of 6 and were analyzed

• We produced 4 research briefs:
  1. Hispanic Elements in Large Scale Data Sets
  2. ECE Search and Decision Making
  3. ECE Utilization
  4. Experiences with ECE
Inclusion Criteria

• Nationally representative or large-scale national study
• Publicly available (with or without restricted access)
• Collected in the last decade (since 2000)
• Widely used, included in major ECE reports or papers, or considerable potential for use in examining ECE issues such as search, decision-making or utilization
• Sizable sample of Hispanics, in particular low-income Hispanic households raising young children as a possible subgroup analysis
Benefits and Challenges of Large-Scale Data

• While large-scale datasets offer unique opportunities, they also have limitations and present challenges
  • Not all datasets contain a comprehensive set of ECE data elements
  • Differential measurement of key constructs across studies yields inconsistent results
  • Key variables with relevance for Hispanics may go unmeasured
Priority Data Elements for Diversity of Hispanic Families

- Hispanic Elements
  - Hispanic Heritage
  - Child Country of Birth
  - Parent Country of Birth
  - Time in the U.S.
  - U.S. Citizenship/ Legal Status
- Home Language(s)
- Parent English Proficiency
- Parent Literacy in Any Language
- Parent Education Outside U.S.

Survey Data Elements to Unpack Diversity of Hispanic Populations (ACF, 2013)
Sample Data Elements: Utilization

• In our review, we include important ECE data elements grouped by two dimensions

• Characteristics of Current Arrangements
  • Care Arrangements - number, provider type, setting, cost, self-care with siblings
  • Provider variables: race/ethnicity, languages spoken

• ECE Retrospective/History
  • Time with current provider, child ever participated in ECE, child age at first care arrangement, continuity/instability
Sample Data Elements: Experiences with ECE

• In our review, we examined a range of variables that might characterize elements of parent satisfaction or experiences with the care more broadly

• ECE Quality Indicators
  • Ratios of adult/child, program services

• Parent Satisfaction
  • Satisfaction with child or family services, parent-provider relationship, would recommend provider

• Coordination with Employment, Work, and Family Life
  • ECE provider reliability, ECE-work decisions, family-friendly work policies, commute
Key Findings: Utilization and Experiences
Key Findings: Utilization

• Differences in study design produce data on primary arrangement of a focal child or data on a broader set of arrangements for multiple children in the household
  • Implications for financial costs and subsidies research

• Little data on ECE utilization patterns over time for Hispanic children, as few data sets ask about this

• Need for understanding of children’s experiences in self-care, care by older siblings, or with parents at the worksite

• Attendance is largely unmeasured in large-scale data sets
### Sample Coding: Utilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Current Arrangements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Arrangements</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHES-ECPP: 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSAF</td>
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<td>NSECE</td>
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<td>SIPP 2008</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Sample Coding:**

- NHES-ECPP: 2012
- NSAF
- NSECE
- SIPP 2008
Key Findings: Experiences

• Few large-scale studies have
  • observational measures of ECE quality
  • parent report of the flexibility and stability of their current ECE arrangements, two important dimensions with implications for parent and child well-being

• Data on parent satisfaction for studies with samples of preschool and older children, which limits understanding of care for infants/toddlers.

• New possibilities for research on ECE coordination with work and family life with more recent data sets like NSECE (2012).
## Sample Coding: Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECE Quality Indicators</th>
<th>Parent Satisfaction</th>
<th>Coordination with Employment, Education, and Family Life</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structural Quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Observed Process Quality</td>
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<td>Provider Rpt of Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfaction w/Child Experiences</td>
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<td>Satisfaction w/Support to Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent-Provider Relationship</td>
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<td>Would Recommend Provider</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECE Provider Flexibility</td>
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<td>ECE Provider Reliability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work/School Disruptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECE-Work Decisions</td>
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<td>Family-Friendly Work Policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work Schedule Difficulties</td>
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<td>Transport &amp; Commute</td>
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### FFCWS

**Age 1**

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**Age 3**

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- ✓
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### HS FACES 2009

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- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
Summary and Next Steps

• ECE Brief Series on Methodological Challenges and Opportunities can shed new light on possible strengths and limitations of large-scale data sets

• Many existing data sets were not explicitly designed to address issues of access, utilization and experiences

• New research is needed to inform supports for the coordination of work, family life, and ECE experiences for a diverse and fast-growing population of Hispanic families raising young children
Thanks to our Funders!
Thank you!

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