



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COLLABORATION: METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

Diane Schilder, Ed.D.
Education Development Center, Inc.

Description of Studies

- ◎ Child Care/Head Start Partnership Study
 - Survey research
 - Randomly selected child care centers in partnership with Head Start and matched comparison centers
 - Data from center directors, teachers and parents
- ◎ PreK Study
 - Survey research
 - Randomly selected child care centers offering preK services
 - Data from center directors and R&Rs
- ◎ Closer Look: Secondary Analysis Study
 - Secondary analysis of survey and administrative data
 - Analysis of differences depending upon types of collaboration

Definitions

Collaboration defined as

- ⦿ Contractual agreement between two or more agencies to jointly offer services
- ⦿ Example of collaborations with two partners
 - Child Care/Head Start collaboration
 - Child Care/preK collaboration
- ⦿ Example of multi-partner collaboration
 - Child Care/Head Start/preK

Methodological Challenge: Sample Selection

- ⦿ Possible sources
 - Child care licensing database
 - State Department of Education database
 - Specific program database (such as preK provider or Head Start partner databases)
- ⦿ Sources do not use comparable naming structures or ID's
- ⦿ Providers are often listed in multiple sources
- ⦿ Providers might not be aware that they are part of a collaboration

Methodological Challenge

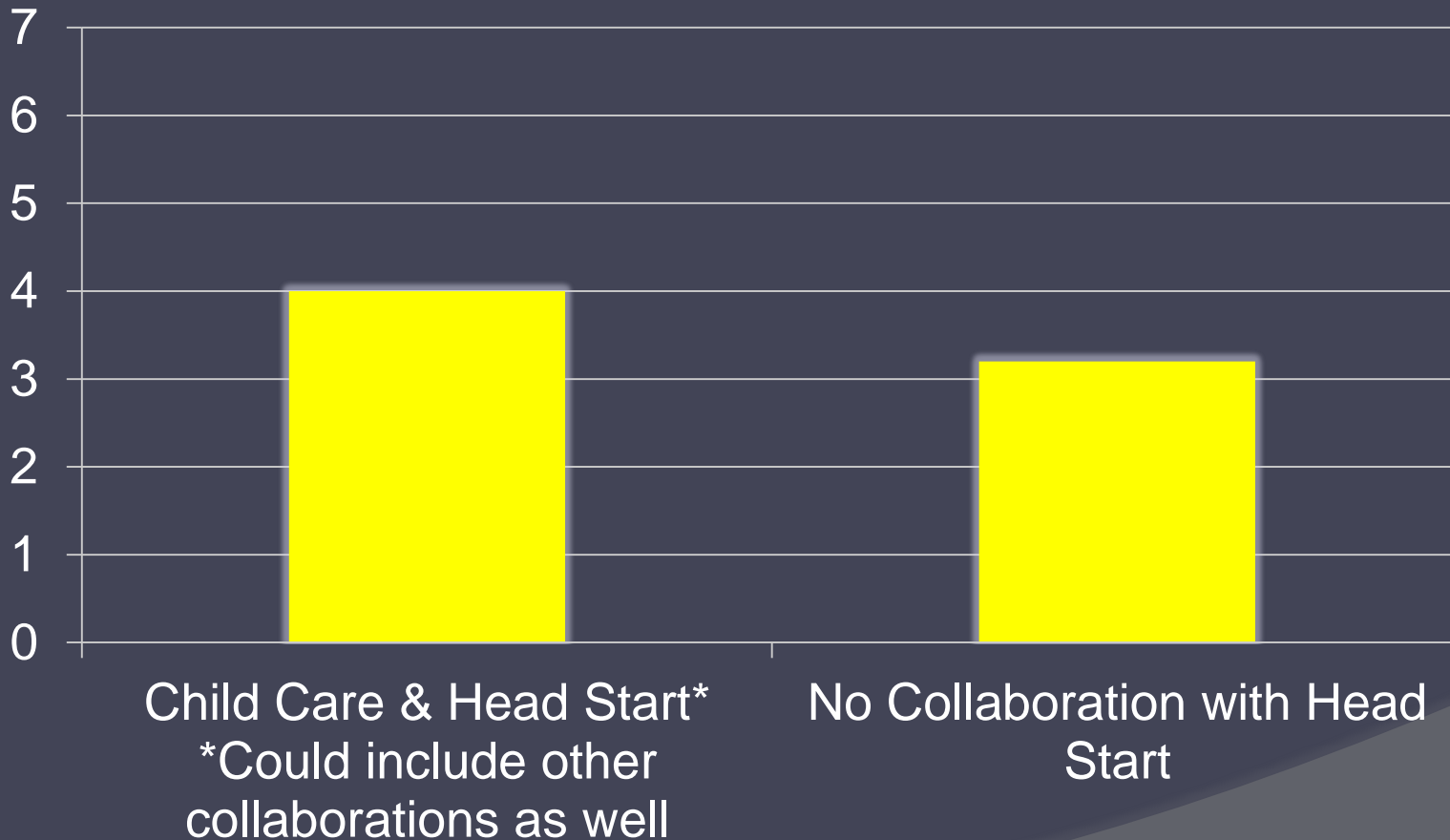
Selecting comparison group

- Are centers that are in no collaborations the comparison or centers in different types of collaboration?

Reference Group	Comparison 1	Comparison 2	Comparison 3
Child Care Center Partnering with Head Start	Child Care Centers with no other collaborating partners	Child Care Centers collaborating with preK but not Head Start	Child Care Centers Collaborating with any other source including foundations

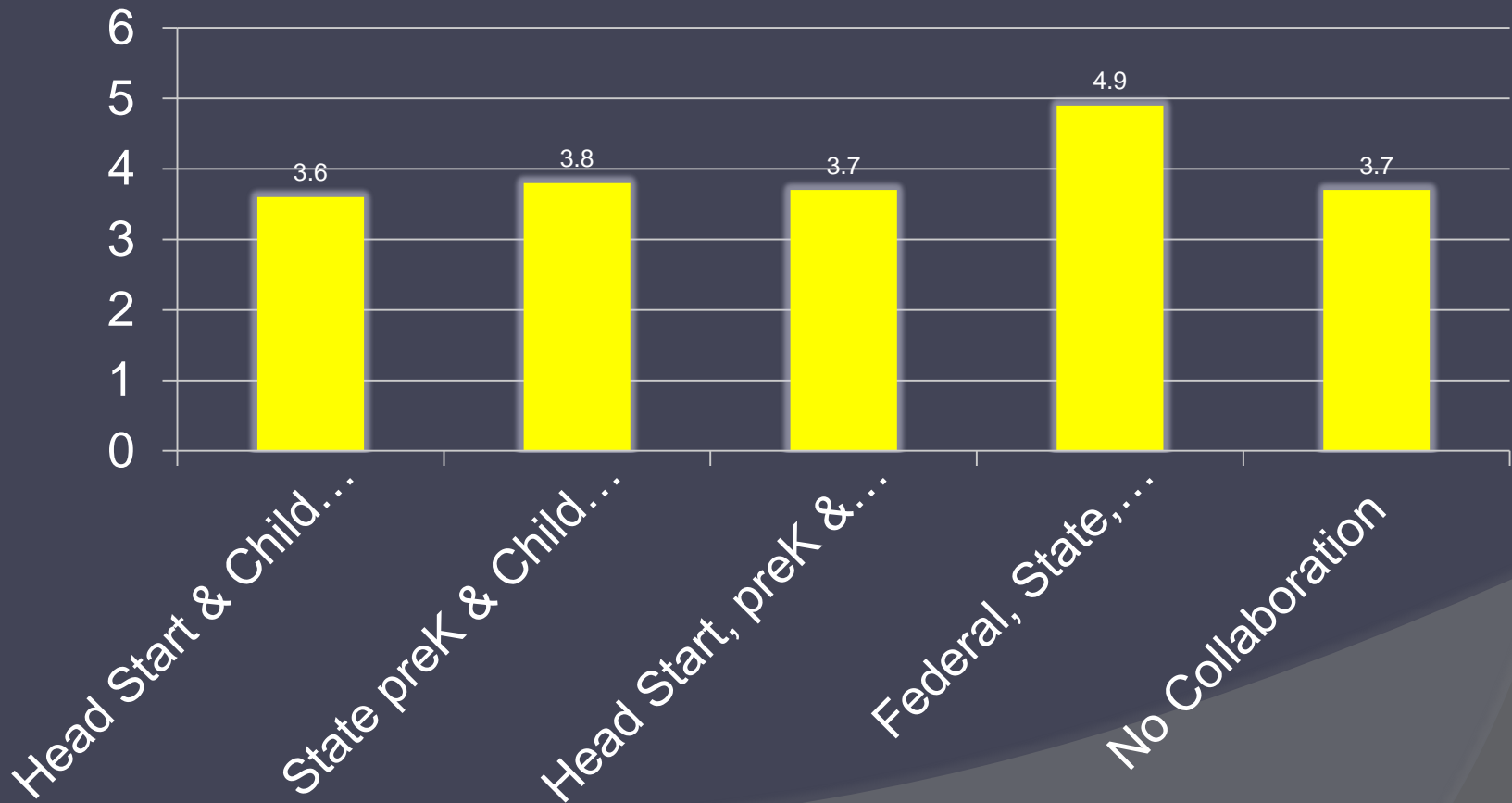
Child Care Centers Collaborating with Head Start Compared with those Not Collaborating with Head Start

ECERS-R



Comparing Different Types of Collaboration

AVERAGE ECERS-R



Methodological Challenge

- ◎ Defining collaborative approach and appropriate unit of analysis
 - Program-level collaboration
 - Classrooms within programs
 - Teachers within programs
 - Children or families receiving services

Methodological Challenge: Unit of Analysis

	Comprehensive approach	Selective collaboration	Targeted approach
Program	Two programs collaborating to jointly deliver all services to meet highest standard	Programs collaborate to deliver selected services	Target services are delivered such as part-day preschool for eligible children
Classroom	All classrooms participate in collaboration	Some classrooms participates in collaboration	One classroom participates in collaboration
Teacher	All teachers and assistant teachers deliver joint services	Some lead teachers or some assistant teachers participate	One group of teachers is targeted
Child	All children receive collaborative services	Children in one classroom receive collaborative services	Target children receive collaborative services

Methodological Challenge: Taking into Account Intensity and Duration

- ◎ Defining intensity of collaboration
 - Agreement on goals/philosophy, communication, resource exchange
 - Possible tools: Partnership Impact surveys and Hicks surveys
- ◎ Defining duration of collaboration

Methodological Challenge: Defining Outcomes

- ⦿ Outcomes required by all collaborating programs
- ⦿ Outcomes required by selected collaborating programs
- ⦿ Outcomes defined by researchers

Defining Outcomes: Example of Possible Outcomes

Outcomes as Measured by Each Collaborating Program	Outcomes as Measured by Selected Collaborating Programs	Researcher Defined Outcomes
<p>Child Care program: Get it, Got it, Go</p> <p>PreK program: Kindergarten Readiness Assessment</p>	<p>PreK program: Kindergarten Readiness Assessment</p>	<p>Language/literacy measures (e.g., PPVT, PLS, PALS,)</p> <p>Socio-emotional measures</p> <p>Service receipt measures</p>

Contact Information

Diane Schilder, Ed.D.

Education Development Center, Inc.

dschilder@edc.org

617-816-2026

<http://ccf.edc.org/pubs/partnerships.asp>