Choice of Care Among Immigrant Families: Symposium Synergies

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Symposium Reflections

1. The power of well crafted and executed quantitative and qualitative studies to illuminate subjects of inquiry.
   – This is not a new lesson, but one worth being reminded about.
   – Quantitative studies show trends accessible through more complex statistical analyses, especially when there is sufficient sample to thoughtful examine model components.
   – Qualitative studies allow depth of inquiry to provide additional, novel views.
   – This is especially important for studies of immigrant families, which often do not present themselves in very large sample.
2. Reiteration of the diversity of families described as immigrant.
   – Illuminated by both qualitative and quantitative papers in the symposium
   – Analytically, we struggle with disentangling immigration status, refugee status, language minority use, and country of origin
   – Qualitative analysis presents this as a phenomena-related issue, not just an analytic and statistical issue
Symposium Reflections

2. Reiteration of the diversity of families described as immigrant.

   – Some areas of consideration raised by symposium papers:
     - Immigration status (legal status)
     - Immigration generation and enculturation
     - Legal and practical considerations due to refugee v. immigrant status
     - Language use in the home
     - Expectations for early care and education of young children
     - Discrimination due to race/ethnicity, immigration status, and/or country of origin
3. Must consider immigration-related factors in relation to other sociodemographic factors
   – Disentangling general sociodemographics from each other, and from cultural and linguistic factors
   – Construct models that consider complex inter-relations
     • For example - U.S. born children of immigrant families experience a complex interplay between legal status, enculturation, economic security, language use at home and out of home, and cultural considerations that may vary by country of origin and other factors.
Symposium Reflections

4. How are findings on choice of care to be used?
   - Immigrant families tend not to choose center-based care, and they can identify some barriers (or there are some implicated variables) to their use
   - Do we use these findings to address barriers, and support and encourage use of center-based care?
   
   And/or
   - Do we consider the choice patterns of families and seek to support the preferred settings to emulate best practices we have learned from early childhood center-based and other programs?