CCDF Policies Database

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Project Description
The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Policies Database provides a single source of detailed information on CCDF policies across time and across the fifty States, Territories, outlying areas, and the District of Columbia.

The database includes policies regarding family eligibility, application and redetermination, priorities and waiting lists, family payments, provider requirements, and reimbursement rates.

The database captures programs funded in whole or in part by CCDF funds, policies that can be coded with acceptable consistency across the States/Territories, and policies that have been implemented. It captures changes across time, key county-level variation, and different treatment for different subsets of families.

Data are made available to the public in the form of the annual Book of Tables, capturing a subset of policies for a specific point in time. The full database detail is also made available to the public.

Research Questions
- How do CCDF policies vary across States/Territories?
- How have State/Territory CCDF policies changed over time?

Sample
The database captures State/Territory policies, coded from caseworker documents, for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 5 Territories and outlying areas.

Methods
- The database is coded primarily from the State/Territory policy manuals used by caseworkers.
- The data for the Book of Tables are sent to State/Territory staff for verification.

Progress Update
Books of Tables with selected policies as of October 1 of each year have been released for 2009 through 2012, with the 2013 Book of Tables due to be released this year. Data files, with the full detail of the database, have been released through 2012, and the 2013 data files will be released this year.

Policies in effect through October 1, 2014 are currently being coded. Preparations are underway for the 2014 Book of Tables.

Implications for policy/practice
The database can be used by administrators and policymakers to determine current policy variations across States/Territories and inform future policy decisions.

Implications for research
Policy analysts and both qualitative and quantitative researchers can use the full detail of the database to analyze State/Territory child care subsidy policies. Examples of research questions that may be answered using the database include:
- How much would a family with specific amounts of earnings have to pay for CCDF-subsidized care in different States/Territories?
- Used with CPS data or ACS data, in a cross-state analysis, what state policy choices appear related to the level of labor force participation by single mothers?

For more information:
The CCDF Policies Database OPRE project website contains links to the Books of Tables:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/research/project/child-care-and-development-fund-ccdf-policies-database-2008-2013.

The CCDF Policies Database Urban Institute project website contains additional links to the data files, presentations, and related products:
http://www.urban.org/center/ibp/Projects/The-CCDF-Policies-Database.cfm

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