



## Research Brief

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# PRIMARY CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF U.S. INFANTS: PATTERNS OF UTILIZATION BY POVERTY STATUS, FAMILY STRUCTURE, MATERNAL WORK STATUS, MATERNAL WORK SCHEDULE, AND CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

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## OVERVIEW

A substantial proportion of children under the age of 3 are cared for by adults other than their parents. Recent analyses of the 2005 National Household Education Survey (NHES) indicate that 42% of infants under the age of 1, 53% of 1-year-olds, and 73% of 2-year-olds had at least one nonparental care arrangement that occurred on a weekly basis.<sup>1</sup> The large proportion of infants and toddlers in nonparental care reflects, in part, societal trends of increased maternal employment among families of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Labor force participation for mothers with children under the age of 3 increased steadily between 1975 and 2006, from 34% to 60%.<sup>2,3</sup> As of 2006, 56% of mothers with children under the age of 3 were actively employed.<sup>4</sup>

The use of child care arrangements, especially among low-income working parents, is of key interest to policy makers and others interested in understanding how child care can support employment among low-income families and families who are leaving welfare. Child care use is also of key interest to those interested in child development, since in addition to supporting employment among low-income families, high-quality child care has been linked to positive child outcomes.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

The purpose of this research brief is to examine patterns of primary child care arrangements among infants approximately 9 months of age, comparing those in households at or below 150% of the poverty threshold to those in households above 150% of the poverty threshold. Data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) provide a snapshot of patterns in primary child care arrangements using a nationally representative sample of infants born in the United States in 2001.

This research brief addresses four main questions for families who use nonparental care for their 9-month-old infants:

- What is the primary type of arrangement<sup>8</sup> used by families with 9-month-old infants?
- Are there differences in the types of primary care used based on demographic characteristics such as race/ethnicity, family structure, home language, and maternal education?
- Are there differences in the types of primary care used based on mothers' employment status and work schedule?
- Are there differences in the types of primary care used based on receipt of financial assistance for child care?<sup>9</sup>

For each of these questions, we further determine whether the patterns of child care use differ by family income. Patterns of primary child care arrangements are summarized and discussed in terms of their policy implications. A glossary at the end of this document provides definitions of terms frequently used in the brief.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Half of all 9-month-old infants are in some form of nonparental care on a regular basis.
- Of those infants in nonparental care, more than 80% are in some form of *home-based care* as their primary source of care, that is, the care they are in for the most hours per week. About 6% of infants in nonparental care are in their primary nonparental care arrangement for 5 hours a week or less.
- More than half of infants in nonparental care are primarily cared for by a relative, either in the child's home or in another home; another quarter are cared for by a nonrelative in another home; and fewer than one in five are cared for in centers. Therefore, center-based care is not a

common form of primary care for 9-month-old infants.

- Infants from low-income families in a regular care arrangement are more likely to be cared for by a relative and less likely to be cared for by a nonrelative than are infants from higher-income families. This pattern holds even when considering additional demographic factors, such as race/ethnicity and family structure. Even for infants who have mothers who are working full- or part-time or who are not in the labor force, and for infants with working mothers who work a regular daytime shift, this pattern holds true.

- Despite this consistent pattern of findings regarding family income and child care use, differences in patterns of nonparental care arrangements are evident by demographic and maternal employment characteristics. In particular:

*Relative care in the child's home* is a more common primary arrangement for infants:

- in households at or below 150% of poverty
- of Asian descent
- in single-parent households
- in families whose primary home language is Spanish
- of mothers who have a high school degree or less
- whose mothers are looking for work or not in the labor force

*Center-based care* is a more common primary arrangement among infants:

- who are Black or White
- who live in English-speaking households
- whose mothers have a bachelor's degree or more
- whose mothers are employed full-time or are looking for work
- Infants in families receiving some form of child care assistance for their care at 9 months of age are more likely to be in center-based care than their peers whose families are not receiving child care assistance. This pattern is supported by data from other national data sets, which find an increased use of center-based care among low-income families who receive subsidies.<sup>10</sup>

### ABOUT THE DATA SOURCE USED IN THIS BRIEF

The data used for this brief were obtained from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), gathered by the National Center for Education Statistics in the U.S. Department of Education. The ECLS-B is a nationally representative study of approximately 11,000 children born in 2001. The data for this brief were collected at the nine-month data wave, when infants ranged in age from 6 to 22 months, with a mean age of 10 months.

In order to produce national estimates of child care arrangements among infants, person-level weights constructed by ECLS-B were used for the analyses. The weights account for the probability of sampling the child in a given household, and adjust for the probability of sampling the child from among all eligible children in a given domain. All estimates and comparison tests (i.e., t-tests) were conducted using a statistical software package called SUDAAN as well as STATA in order to adjust for the complex sample design. Group differences discussed in the brief are statistically significant at the .05 level unless otherwise noted.

While ECLS-B provides researchers and policy makers with recent national estimates of child care use, several limitations are worth noting. A few of the estimates (noted by an exclamation point in the tables) should be interpreted with caution because their cell sizes are smaller than 30. Similarly, a few of the estimates (noted by “+” in the tables) were suppressed because the sample sizes of respective subgroups are smaller than 30.

- Infants from low-income families are less likely to be in relative care if their families are receiving some form of child care assistance for their care. This finding suggests that monetary support for child care expenses may be a particularly important factor in the choice of care among low-income families.

To provide context, the following shaded box presents a brief overview of race/ethnicity, family structure, and maternal education and employment characteristics, as well as receipt of child care assistance, for a nationally representative sample of infants born in the United States in 2001.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF INFANTS BORN IN 2001 IN PARENTAL AND NONPARENTAL CARE AT APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE\***

Overall, the majority of the infants born in 2001 were from two-parent families (80%) and the primary language spoken in their homes was English (81%). Fourteen percent of infants born in 2001 lived in homes in which Spanish was the primary home language. About half of the infants were White (54%), about one quarter were Hispanic (26%), and one in seven were Black (14%). The remaining infants were either Asian or from an "other" racial/ethnic background. Half of the 9-month-old infants were in parental care. The other half were in a variety of nonparental child care arrangements, including center-based care, care by a relative either in the child's home or in another home, and care by a nonrelative either in the child's home or in another home.

The 9-month-olds' mothers varied in terms of the amount of education they had received. Twenty-seven percent of infants had mothers with less than a high school degree, and 48% had mothers with a high school education or some college/vocational school. Almost half of the infants born in 2001 had mothers who were not employed when their child was approximately 9 months old: 40% of infants had mothers who did not identify as being part of the labor force and 8% had mothers who were looking for work. About one third of the infants (32%) had mothers who were working full-time, while one in five (20%) had mothers who worked part-time. Among infants with employed mothers, daytime work hours were most common (71%), though a sizeable proportion of infants had mothers who worked evenings and nights (16%) or did shift work (13%). Approximately 9% of 9-month-olds lived in families that were receiving some form of child care assistance (see Table 1).

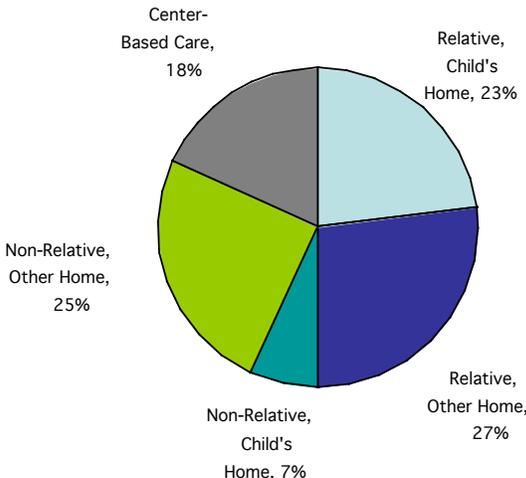
\* The sample for these analyses includes approximately 10,700 infants born in 2001 who range in age from 6 months to 22 months and average 10 months of age at the nine month data collection point. Nevertheless, we refer to infants at nine months of age in this brief. Data collection for this time point spanned the calendar years 2001 and 2002.

**CHILD CARE USE AMONG INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE**

**More than 80% of 9-month-old infants in nonparental care are in some form of home-based care.**

Over half of infants in nonparental care are primarily cared for by a relative, either in the child's home or in another home; another quarter of infants are cared for by a nonrelative in another home; and less than one in five are cared for in centers (see Figure 1 and Table 2).

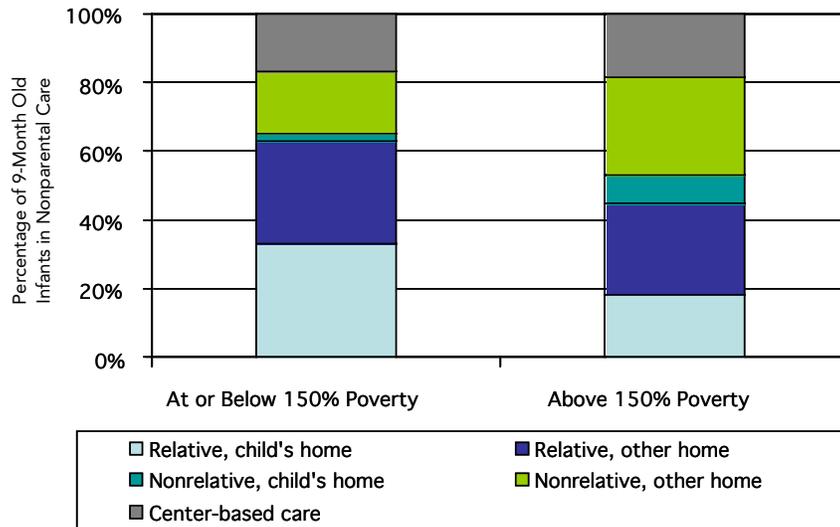
**FIGURE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE**



Infants from low-income families are more likely to be cared for by a relative and less likely to be cared for by a nonrelative than are infants from higher-income families.

Infants in households at or below 150% of poverty<sup>11</sup> who have a regular nonparental child care arrangement are more likely than infants in households above 150% poverty to be cared for by a relative in the child's home (33% compared to 18%), and less likely to be cared for by a nonrelative, either in the child's home or in another's home (see Figure 2 and Table 2).

**FIGURE 2: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY INCOME**



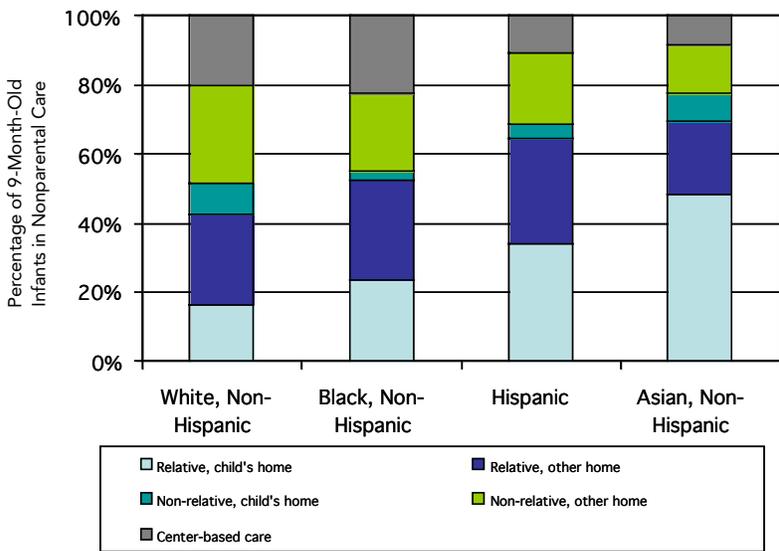
# DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS IN CHILD CARE USE AMONG INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE

## DIFFERENCES BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS

Hispanic and Asian infants in a regular nonparental child care arrangement are more likely to be in some form of home-based care provided by a relative than are White and Black infants.

Center-based care is more common for Black and White infants than for Hispanic and Asian infants (see Figure 3 and Table 3). White infants are most likely to use nonrelative care in another’s home. Asian infants are more likely to be in relative care in the child’s home than are infants of any other race/ethnicity.

**FIGURE 3: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE, BY RACE/ETHNICITY**



**Infants of all racial/ethnic backgrounds who are in low-income families and in nonparental care on a regular basis are more likely to be cared for by a relative in the child’s home than are infants of all racial/ethnic backgrounds from higher-income families.**

Specifically, infants in households at or below 150% of poverty are more likely than their peers in households above 150% of poverty to be in relative care in the child’s home. Among those regularly in nonparental care, the proportion of infants from low-income families in relative care in the child’s home ranges from 26% (for Black infants) to 62% (for Asian infants) (see Table 3). In contrast, the

proportion of infants from higher-income families in relative care in the child’s home ranges from 13% (for White infants) to 44% (for Asian infants). Indeed, all racial/ethnic groups (except for Black infants) followed a similar pattern of child care use by income, as illustrated in Figure 2 above.

**Black infants in regular nonparental care, regardless of family income, are equally likely to be in center-based care at 9 months of age.**

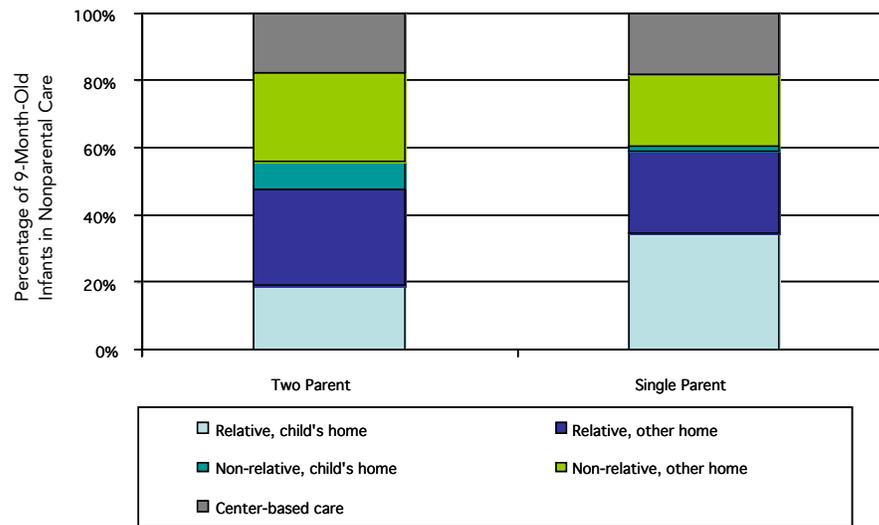
Specifically, about 22% of Black infants, regardless of family income, are in center-based care at 9 months of age (see Table 3).

## DIFFERENCES BY FAMILY STRUCTURE

Among infants in a regular nonparental care arrangement, relative care in the child’s home is more common among infants in single-parent households than among infants in two-parent households.

Conversely, infants in two-parent households are more likely than infants in single-parent households to be cared for by a relative in another’s home and by nonrelatives in another home or in the child’s home (see Figure 4 and Table 4).

**FIGURE 4: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY STRUCTURE**



**There are no measurable differences by family structure in the use of center-based care.** Specifically, about 18% of infants in a regular nonparental child care arrangement are in center-based care, regardless of whether they live in a single-parent or two-parent household (see Table 4).

**Similar to the pattern found in the overall sample, infants from low-income families in regular nonparental care, whether they are in two-parent or single-parent households, are more likely to be cared for by relatives in their own home or another’s home and less likely to be cared for by**

**a nonrelative in another’s home than are infants from higher-income families.**

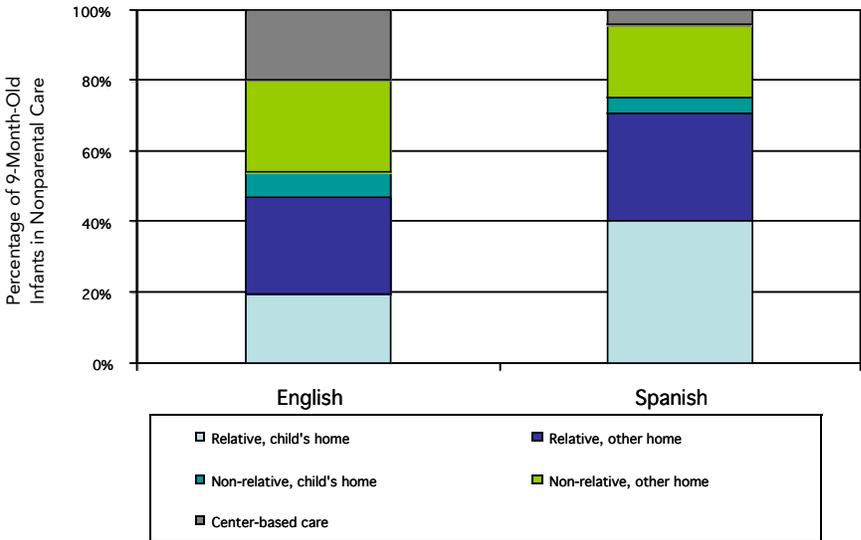
For example, 31% of infants in two-parent households at or below 150% of poverty are in relative care in their own home, compared to 16% of infants in two-parent households above 150% of poverty. In contrast, 18% of infants in single-parent households at or below 150% of poverty are cared for primarily by nonrelatives in another’s home, compared to 26% of infants in single-parent households above 150% of poverty (see Table 4).

### DIFFERENCES BY HOME LANGUAGE

Infants in primarily Spanish-speaking households who are in a regular nonparental care arrangement are more likely to be in some form of home-based care provided by a relative than are infants in English-speaking households.

Infants from primarily Spanish-speaking households are twice as likely as infants from English-speaking households to use relative care in the child’s home (40% compared to 20%; see also Table 5). Conversely, center-based care is more common for infants from English-speaking households than for infants from primarily Spanish-speaking households (see Figure 5).

**FIGURE 5: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE, BY HOME LANGUAGE**

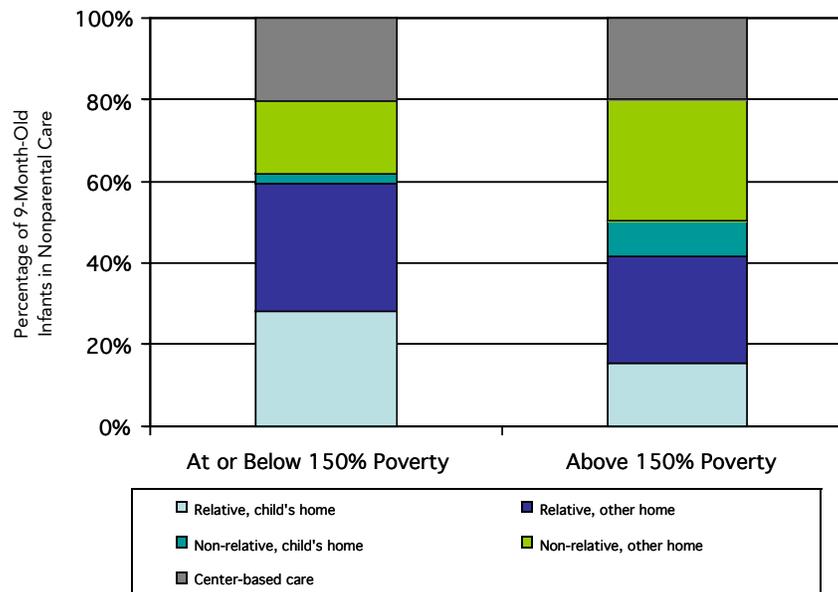


Similar to the overall pattern of findings by family income, infants in lower-income, English-speaking households who are in nonparental care are less likely than their peers from higher-income families to use nonrelative care in another's home and are more likely to use relative care in the child's home.

Compared to their counterparts in higher-income families, a lower percentage of infants in English-speaking households at or below 150% of poverty use nonrelative care in another's home (18% for infants from low-income English-speaking

households versus 30% for infants from higher-income English-speaking households). Yet infants in English-speaking households at or below 150% of poverty who use some form of child care regularly are more likely than infants in higher-income households to use relative care in the child's home (28% for infants from low-income English-speaking households versus 16% for those from higher-income English-speaking households). However, there are no differences by family income in the use of center-based care among English-speaking households (20% of English-speaking households in both low- and higher-income families; see Figure 6).

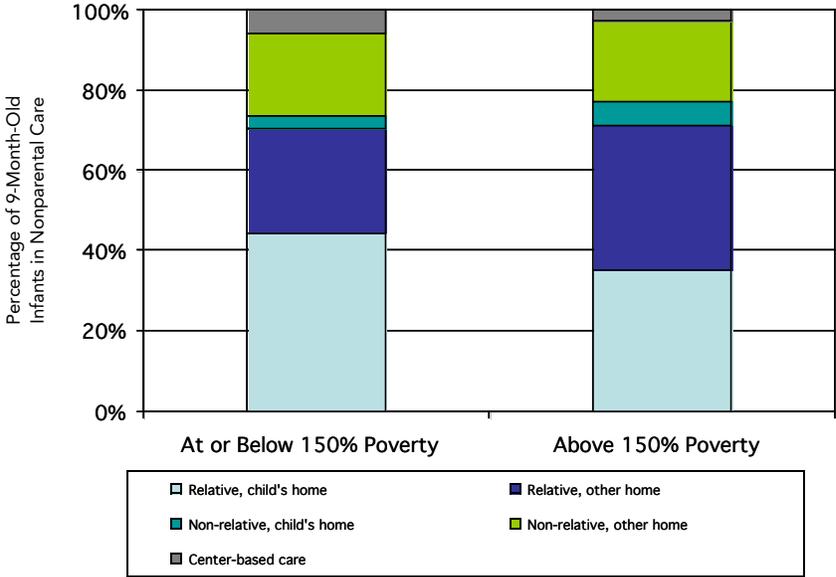
**FIGURE 6: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS ENGLISH, BY FAMILY INCOME**



In contrast, there are no differences by income in the use of different types of nonparental care for infants from non-English-speaking households.

Specifically, infants whose home language is something other than English (either Spanish or another language) are most likely to be in relative care in the child’s home and least likely to be in either center-based care or nonrelative care in the child’s home at 9 months of age, regardless of family income in relation to 150% of poverty (see Figure 7 and Table 5).

**FIGURE 7: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS SPANISH, BY FAMILY INCOME**

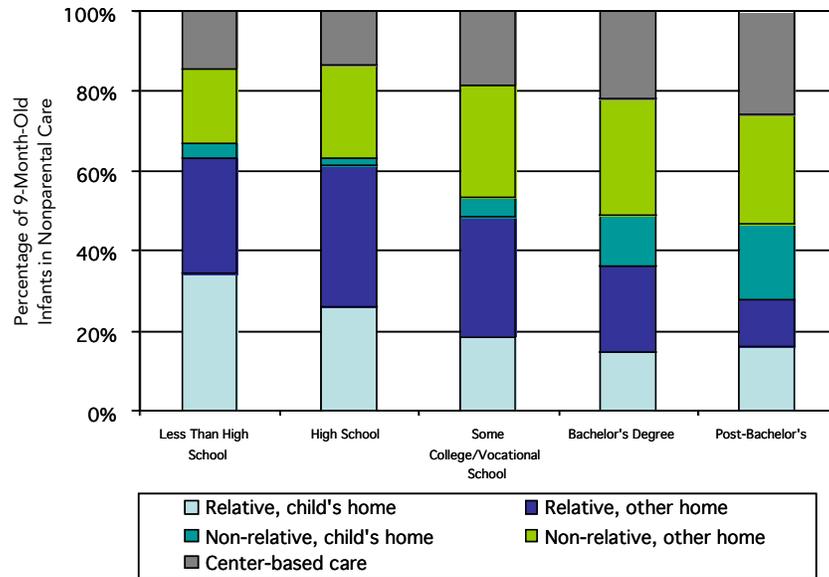


### DIFFERENCES BY MOTHERS’ EDUCATION

As maternal education increases, it becomes increasingly likely that infants who have a regular nonparental child care arrangement will be in nonrelative care or center-based arrangements rather than in relative care at 9 months of age.

Infants whose mothers have a Bachelor’s degree or higher are more likely to be in center-based care than infants whose mothers have a high school degree or less (see Figure 8 and Table 6). Conversely, relative care is more common for infants whose mothers hold a high school degree or less than it is for infants whose mothers have a Bachelor’s degree or more.

**FIGURE 8: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE, BY MOTHER'S EDUCATION**



**Regardless of family income, about two thirds of all 9-month-old infants in regular nonparental care whose mothers have less than a high school degree are cared for by a relative.**

Among families with mothers with less than a high school diploma, 62% of infants in households at or below 150% of poverty are cared for by a relative either in the child's home or in another's home, and 67% of infants in households above 150% of poverty are cared for by a relative either in the child's home or in another's home (see Table 6).

**Patterns of child care use by family income mirror the pattern found in the general population for infants whose mothers have a high school degree or some college.**

Infants in nonparental care whose mothers have a high school degree or some college in households at or below 150% of poverty are less likely to be in nonrelative care in another's home and more likely to be in relative care in the child's home than infants whose mothers have a high school degree or some college in households above 150% of poverty (see Table 6).

**Regardless of family income, about half of all 9-month-old infants in nonparental care whose mothers have a Bachelor's degree or more are cared for by a nonrelative in another's home or in child care centers.**

Among families with mothers with a Bachelor's degree, close to one in five 9-month-old infants are cared for in a child care center and another quarter are cared for by nonrelatives in another's home (see Table 6). Among families with mothers with more than a Bachelor's degree, about a quarter of 9-month-old infants are cared for in a child care center and another quarter are cared for by a nonrelative in another's home (see Table 6).

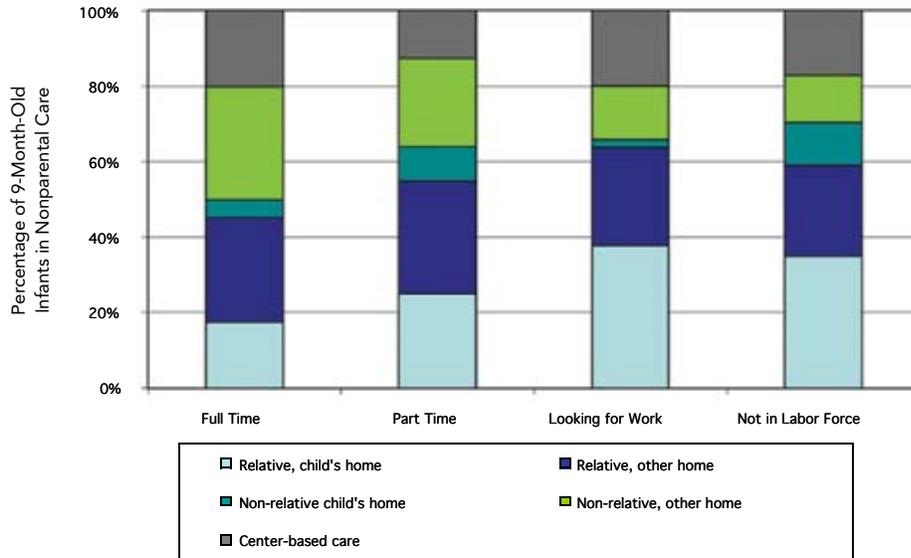
## VARIATIONS IN CHILD CARE USE AMONG INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE BY MOTHERS' EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND WORK SCHEDULE

### DIFFERENCES BY MOTHERS' EMPLOYMENT STATUS

**Infants of full-time employed mothers who have a regular nonparental child care arrangement are most likely to be cared for outside of their own homes.**

Seventy-eight percent of infants whose mothers work full-time are either cared for in someone else's home by relatives or nonrelatives, or in center-based care (see Figure 9).

**FIGURE 9: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS**



**In contrast, infants whose mothers are looking for work or are not in the labor force but who regularly put their children in nonparental care are most likely to be in relative care in the child's home.**

Thirty-eight percent of infants whose mothers are looking for work are in relative care in the child's home at 9 months of age, and 35% of infants whose mothers are not in the labor force are in relative care in the child's home at 9 months of age (see Table 7).

**Among infants in regular nonparental care, those whose mothers work part-time are less likely to be in center-based care than those whose mothers work full-time or who are looking for work.**

Specifically, only 13% of infants whose mothers work part-time are in center-based care at 9 months of age, compared to 20% of infants whose mothers work full-time and 20% of infants whose mothers are looking for work (see Figure 9 and Table 7).

**Within each category of mothers' employment status, infants in low-income families who are in nonparental care are more likely than their peers in higher-income families to be in relative care in the child's home and are less likely than those peers to be in nonrelative care in their home or in another's home.**

That is, the differences by family income in child care use for the overall sample is mirrored within each maternal employment category. Specifically,

within maternal employment categories (full-time, part-time, and not in the labor force),<sup>12</sup> infants in households at or below 150% of poverty are in relative care in the child's home at higher proportions (range: 26% to 43%) than their counterparts in households above 150% of poverty (range: 15% to 29%). Conversely, within each category of maternal employment status, infants in households above 150% of poverty were more likely than their peers from lower-income households to be cared for by a nonrelative either in their own home or in another's home at 9 months of age (see Table 7).

## DIFFERENCES BY MOTHER'S WORK SCHEDULE

*Please note that the denominator for the estimates in this section is based on infants in nonparental care with working mothers (82% of the full sample of infants in regular nonparental care).*

**Infants whose mothers work a regular daytime shift and who are in nonparental care are more likely to be in center-based care than infants whose mothers work an evening or nonstandard work shift.**

Specifically, 20% of infants whose mothers work a regular daytime shift and who are a regular nonparental child care arrangement are in center-based care, compared to no more than 10% of infants whose mothers work another type of shift (see Table 8).

**Over half of infants whose mothers work a regular daytime shift and who are in nonparental care are in either relative or nonrelative care in another's home at 9 months of age.**

Thirty-one percent of infants of mothers who work a regular daytime shift are in nonrelative care in another person's home, with an additional 26% in relative care in another person's home. One in five infants (20%) whose mothers work a regular daytime shift are in center-based care, and 16% are in relative care in the child's home. Only a small percentage of these infants are in nonrelative care in the child's home (6%; see Table 8).

**Relative care, either in the child's home or in another's home, is the most common care arrangement among infants in nonparental care whose mothers work evening or nonstandard work shifts.<sup>13</sup>**

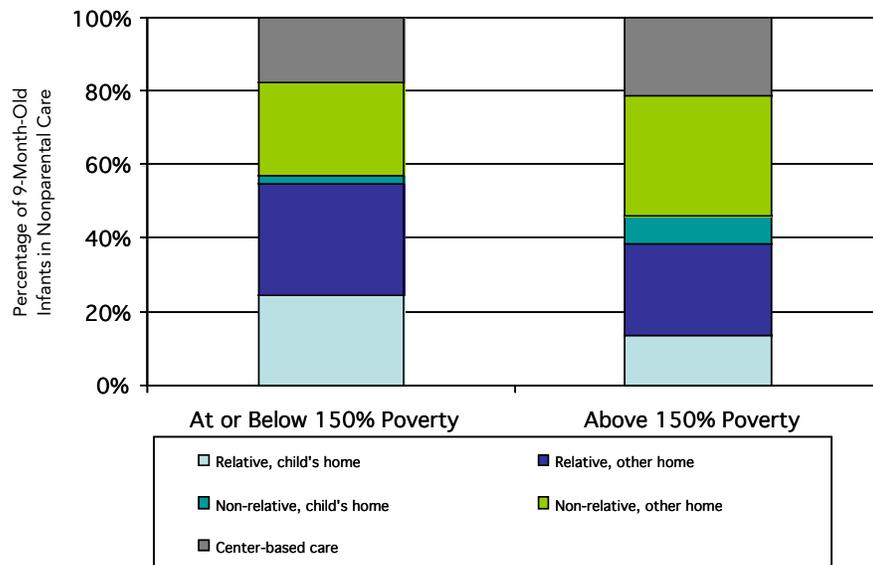
For example, almost 73% of infants whose mothers work a regular evening shift or a regular night shift are cared for by relatives either in the child's home or in another home (see Table 8).

*Due to small sample sizes within income groups, additional comparisons were examined only for infants whose mothers work a regular daytime shift.*

**Infants in low-income families who are in nonparental care whose mothers work a regular daytime shift are more likely to be in relative care in the child's home and less likely to be in nonrelative care in another's home than their counterparts from higher-income families.**

Again, this pattern mirrors the general pattern of child care use by family income found in the overall sample. Specifically, among infants whose mothers work a regular daytime shift, 24% of those who live in households at or below 150% of poverty are in relative care in the child's home, compared to 14% of infants who live in households above 150% of poverty (see Figure 10). In contrast, 26% of infants in low-income families are in nonrelative care in another's home, compared to 33% of infants in higher-income families. Apparent differences by family income and mother's work schedule in the use of center-based care were not significant.

**FIGURE 10: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE WHOSE MOTHERS WORK A REGULAR DAYTIME SHIFT, BY FAMILY INCOME**



### VARIATIONS IN CHILD CARE USE AMONG INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE BY RECEIPT OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

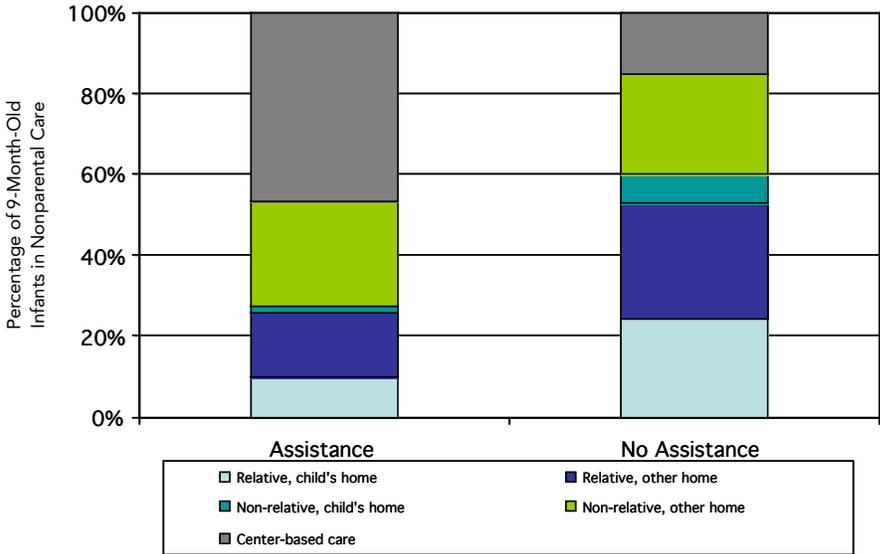
In the ECLS-B study, parents were given the opportunity to state whether a relative of the child outside the household, a social service or welfare agency, an employer, or another person provides them monetary assistance for their child’s care for each type of nonparental care arrangement. This information may be used to examine the use of different types of care arrangements by receipt of child care assistance. It should be noted that the wording of this question does not permit an examination of how government-provided child care subsidies *per se* are used. In the full sample of 9-month-old infants in the ECLS-B sample, only 9% are reported to be in families receiving any form of monetary assistance for nonparental care (see Table

1). Among those receiving some form of assistance, not surprisingly, more are in low-income families than higher-income families. Specifically, about 18% of infants living in households at or below 150% of poverty are in families receiving assistance, compared to 4% of infants in households above 150% of poverty (see Table 1).

**Among those in regular nonparental care, infants in families that report receiving child care assistance for their care at 9 months of age are more likely to be in center-based care than are their peers whose families do not report receiving child care assistance for their care.**

Center-based care, which is used by 47% of infants in nonparental care whose parents report receiving child care assistance, is used by only 15% of families who have infants and do not receive assistance for the infants’ care (see Figure 11).

**FIGURE 11: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE, BY RECEIPT OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR THE INFANT’S CARE**

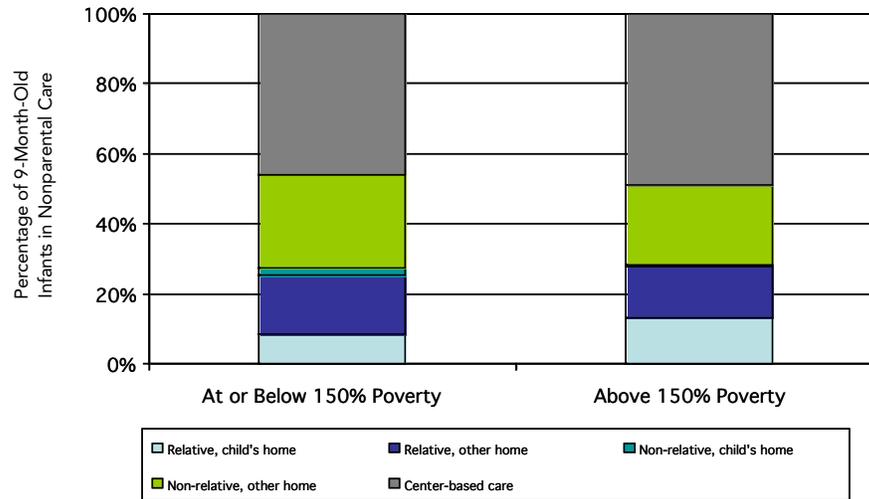


**Among families with infants in nonparental care who receive some form of child care assistance, both low- and higher-income families are more likely to use center-based care.**

Almost half (49%) of infants living in households above 150% of poverty and receiving child care assistance are in center-based care. Similarly, 46%

of infants living in households at or below 150% of poverty and receiving child care assistance are in center-based care (see Figure 12). In contrast, among families who do not receive child care assistance, differences by family income in the type of child care used mirrors that found in the general population (see Figure 13).

**FIGURE 12: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE WHO RECEIVE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE, BY FAMILY INCOME**

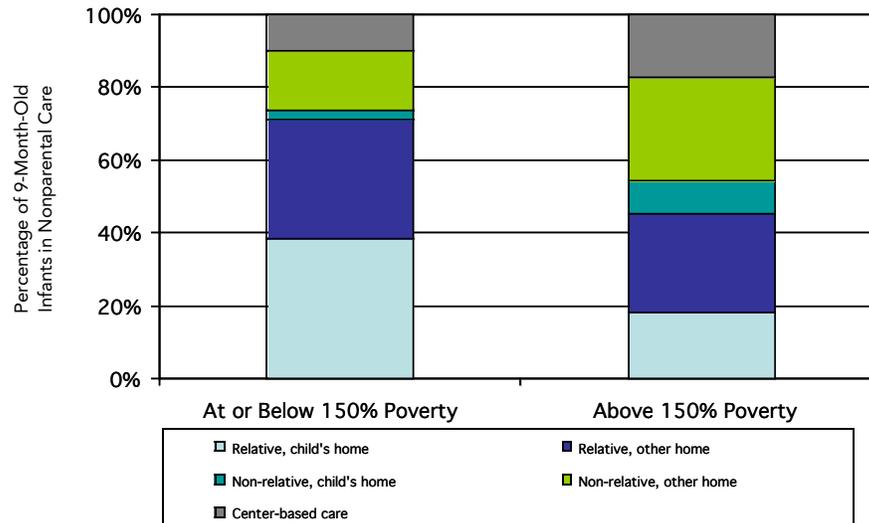


Infants in lower-income families who are in a regular nonparental child care arrangement are less likely to be in relative care if their families are receiving some form of child care assistance.

in relative care (25%). In comparison, almost three out of four infants from families at or below 150% of poverty who are not receiving assistance are in relative care (71%; see Table 9).

One in four infants in families at or below 150% of poverty who are receiving child care assistance is

**FIGURE 13: PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF 9-MONTH-OLD INFANTS IN NONPARENTAL CARE WHO DO NOT RECEIVE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE, BY FAMILY INCOME**



## CONCLUSIONS

Using data from a nationally representative cohort of children born in the United States in 2001, this research brief provides a snapshot of the use of nonparental care arrangements when children are approximately 9 months old.

In 2001, about half of all infants nationally were in some form of nonparental care at 9 months. Of those children in nonparental care, most were cared for by a relative either in the child's home or in another home, or by a nonrelative in another home (with about a quarter of the sample in each of these three primary care arrangements). Center-based care is not a common care arrangement for 9-month-olds, with less than one in five infants in nonparental care using this arrangement in 2001. Nonrelative care in the child's home (for example, a nanny or babysitter) is the least common form of primary care arrangement for 9-month-olds (less than 10% of the sample).

Of those children in nonparental care, the majority have mothers who are either working part-time (27%) or full-time (55%), and of those with working mothers, most have mothers who work a regular daytime shift (77%). When looking at the patterns of child care use for those infants in nonparental care whose mothers work either full-time or part-time, we see that over 50% of the infants are cared for by either relatives or nonrelatives in another's home. When looking at the pattern of primary care used by infants whose mothers work a regular daytime shift, we see the same pattern: More than 50% of the infants are cared for in another's home, either by a relative or a nonrelative.

However, differences in patterns of nonparental care use are evident for different demographic groups. For example, among infants regularly in nonparental care, relative care in the child's home is a more common arrangement for infants:

- in households at or below 150% of poverty, compared to those above 150% of poverty
- of Asian descent, compared to those from other racial/ethnic backgrounds
- in single-parent households, compared to those in two-parent households
- in families that speak primarily Spanish at home, compared to those in English-speaking households

- of mothers who have a high school degree or less, compared to those of mothers who have a Bachelor's degree or more
- whose mothers are looking for work or not in the labor force

Although no more than one in five infants with a regular nonparental care arrangement was in center-based care at 9 months of age in 2001, center-based care was found to be more common among infants:

- who are Black or White, compared to Hispanic or Asian
- who live in English-speaking households, compared to those in non-English-speaking households
- whose mothers have a bachelor's degree or more, compared to those whose mothers have a high school degree or less
- whose mothers were employed full-time or were looking for work, compared to those whose mothers were employed part-time
- whose mothers work a regular daytime shift, compared to those whose mothers work another type of shift
- whose families were receiving some form of monetary child care assistance, compared to those whose families were not receiving child care assistance

Although low-income families do seem to use relative care, either in the child's home or in another home, as noted above, it is still the case that about 50% of infants of working mothers in low-income families are cared for primarily in another's home, either by a relative or a nonrelative. Thus, care outside the child's home is the primary form of care used by working families, regardless of family income.

Compared with infants in higher-income families, among infants in families at or below 150% of poverty whose mothers are employed full-time or part-time, there is a higher use of relative care, specifically relative care in another's home. When comparing infants whose mothers vary in employment status, we find that infants whose mothers work part-time are less likely than those whose mothers work full-time or who are looking for work to be in center-based care. Further analyses should explore the parental decision-making

processes underlying these disparate utilization patterns among low-income, working parents.

The use of center-based care for 9-month-old infants is not common, especially for those in households at or below 150% of poverty. The main factor associated with use of center-based care among low-income families is the receipt of financial assistance to pay for child care. Indeed, the proportion of 9-month-old infants using center-based care reaches 46% among low-income families who receive financial assistance for care; we find that no more than about 20% of infants in low-income families were in center-based care when looking at patterns by race/ethnicity, family structure, maternal education, maternal employment, or maternal work schedule. In fact, receipt of some form of monetary assistance for child care tends to equalize the use of center-based care across income groups. There are limitations to the analyses of child care assistance reported here. We cannot distinguish federally funded support from other forms of support, and the overall proportion of children in the sample receiving support was only 9%. Further, we cannot untangle potentially complex paths of causation. For example, while monetary support for child care expenses may be an important factor in the choice of care among low-income families, it may also be the case that families who select center-based child care are more likely to seek or be directed toward such assistance.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The findings reported in this research brief suggest several avenues for further investigation and data development:

- **Increase the focus of research and population estimates for children in low-income households that are in family, friend, and neighbor care.** Repeatedly, these analyses showed that infants in households at or below 150% of poverty were most likely to be cared for by relatives, either in the child's home or in another home. Compared to more formal arrangements (for example, center-based care and family child care), much less is known about family, friend, and neighbor care. More targeted research with national samples of families who use family, friend, and neighbor care is needed to better understand the demographic characteristics of these families; the characteristics of the children in this type of care; and the level of quality of family, friend, and neighbor care and its relation to child outcomes.

- **Improve the amount and quality of national data on child care use for families who work nonstandard hours.** The number of infants in this national sample whose mothers worked during nonstandard hours was not high enough for detailed analyses. However, children in low-income families may be more likely than children in higher-income families to have parents who work nonstandard hours. A more targeted study of families who work nonstandard hours would help us understand their how they make decisions about child care arrangements.
- **Improve national survey data on the receipt of federally funded forms of child care assistance, and support research to determine the influence of child care subsidies on child care use.** These analyses showed that, when financial assistance is available, infants in low-income families are more likely to be in center-based care and less likely to be in relative care. As noted earlier, this pattern is supported by data from other national data sets, which find higher use of center-based care among low-income families who receive subsidies.<sup>14</sup> Unfortunately, the ECLS-B data do not permit us to determine the exact source of the financial support received by the families in this sample; it could be from government-based child care subsidies, relatives, employers, or other individuals. There is a clear need for population-based estimates that are detailed enough to determine the patterns of child care use by child care subsidy receipt and its relation to child and family functioning. However, parent surveys (such as those used in the ECLS-B) may not be the best way to obtain information about subsidy receipt. New efforts to link administrative data with other forms of survey data collection would address this need. Although targeted experimental studies of state-level child care subsidy programs exist, as do national administrative data on subsidy receipt, to date no population estimates are available that link patterns of child care use at the national level by subsidy receipt to other measures of family and child well-being. A new National Study of Supply and Demand for child care is currently in development and will likely address this gap in national survey data on subsidy receipt and its relation to the use of different types of nonparental care settings and to child and family outcomes.

The analyses presented in this brief provide descriptions of primary nonparental care arrangements at one point in time, and look at the patterns of child care use within specific demographic or employment characteristics.

Additional analyses of the ECLS-B and other national data sets could be conducted to examine:

- **Multiple care arrangements used by families for their infants and young children:** This brief focuses on the primary care arrangement, meaning the care arrangement in which an infant spends the greatest number of hours per week. Additional analyses of child care arrangements could extend this work by examining the prevalence and constellation of multiple care arrangements, and the associations between various combinations of arrangements and demographic characteristics, such as race/ethnicity, family structure, home language, maternal education, maternal work status, and income.
- **Patterns of child care use, taking into account the hours in care:** In these analyses, we examined the *type* of primary nonparental care arrangement that children were in at approximately 9 months of age. However, these analyses did not take into account the *extent* of time in this primary care arrangement. The amount of time infants spent in their primary nonparental care arrangement varied widely in this sample. Further examination of patterns of care, taking into account both type and extent of care, would provide a more nuanced picture of infants' care experiences.
- **Patterns of child care use for different thresholds of hours of employment:** The analyses in this brief revealed some interesting differences in child care use patterns by maternal employment status. However, these analyses were based on three broad categories of maternal employment (full-time work, part-time work, and looking for work) and did not take into account the number of hours worked. Further analyses could look more closely at the range of hours worked among those parents employed part-time or full-time. For example, patterns of child care use may differ among infants whose mothers work fewer than 10 hours per week, compared to those whose mothers work 10 to 20 hours a week, those who work 20 to 35 hours a week, and/or those who work more than 35 hours a week. It is possible that analyses based on hours of employment may reveal meaningful differences that are obscured in the current analyses based on employment status.
- **The relationships among multiple demographic and work-related factors that are associated with families' patterns of child care use:** More complex statistical analyses would allow for comparisons of multiple factors at the same time

(for example, employment status along with hours of employment and work shift), and examinations of child care use by one factor could be explored while taking into account, or controlling for, other characteristics. For example, patterns of child care use could be explored for low-income and higher-income families, taking into account the different constellations of family structure and work status combined (for example, both parents working full-time within a two-parent family, one parent working part-time within a two-parent family, one parent working full-time within a single-parent family, etc.), controlling for race/ethnicity and home language.

- **The stability of child care arrangements:** Longitudinal analyses that examine the child care arrangements of children over time would provide information on the relationships between demographic/employment characteristics (and also the receipt of child care assistance) and child care stability.
- **The decision-making process parents of infants use when selecting a type of nonparental care, especially among low-income parents who are adhering to work requirements for subsidy receipt:** New research that examines the values, preferences, and beliefs about child care, as well as the perceived constraints on resources, that are the basis for parents' decisions about child care arrangements for their infants or young children would be a valuable supplement to the information provided in this brief. Although the ECLS-B does not contain adequate data to explore these additional factors, the upcoming National Study of Supply and Demand may be able to address this important set of questions around parental decision-making processes that has implications for both policy makers and program administrators.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS BRIEF

**Infants** refer to a nationally representative sample of infants aged 6 to 22 months (averaging 10 months in age) who were part of the ECLS-B study at the nine-month data wave.

**Low-income or Families/parents/households at or below 150% of poverty** refer to those whose household income falls between 0 and 150% of the ECLS-B poverty thresholds, which are similar, but not identical, to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001.

**Higher income or Families/parents/households above 150% of poverty** refer to those whose household income is above 150% of the ECLS-B poverty thresholds, which are similar, but not identical, to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001.

**Part-time** workers refer to those working fewer than 35 hours per week.

**White** includes non-Hispanic Caucasians. **Black** includes non-Hispanic African Americans. **Hispanic** includes all those who identify as Hispanic or Latino. **Asian** includes non-Hispanic persons of Asian descent. **Other** includes Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, American Indian and Alaska Native, and infants of more than one race.

**Two-parent family/household** includes families with a biological mother and a biological father, a biological mother and other father, a biological father and other mother, and two adoptive parents. **Single-parent family/household** refers to families with a biological mother only, a biological father only, and a single adoptive parent.

**Parental care** refers to any care provided by parents or parental figures. **Nonparental care** refers to any care provided by nonparents such as home care provided by relatives, home care provided by nonrelatives, and center-based care.

**Primary care** refers to the regular nonparental care arrangement in which the infant spends the greatest number of hours per week. Please note that about 6% of the sample had a primary, nonparental care arrangement in which they spent 5 hours or less per week.

**Utilization pattern** refers to the patterns in using different types of care as a primary child care arrangement. Five types of care are included: center-based care, nonrelative care provided at a home other than the child's, nonrelative care provided at child's home, relative care provided at a home other than the child's, and relative care provided at the child's home. Survey respondents who did not specify the location of primary care or who use different types of care for an equal number of hours are not included in the analysis.

## ENDNOTES

- 1 Iruka, I.U., & P.R. Carver, *Initial results from the 2005 NHES Early Childhood Program Participation Survey*. (2006). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.
- 2 U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2006). *Current Population Survey, 1975-2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplements*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor.
- 3 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation & U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (1997). *Trends, Economic security: ES3.2 maternal employment*. Washington DC: Department of Health and Human Services Retrieved January, 2, 2009. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/HSP/97trends/Es3-2.htm>.
- 4 U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2006). *Current Population Survey, 2006 Annual social and economic supplement*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor.
- 5 Magnuson, K., Meyers, M.K., Ruhm, C.J., & Waldfogel, J. (2004). Inequality in preschool education and school readiness. *American Educational Research Journal*, 41, 115-157.
- 6 Peisner-Feinberg, E.S., Burchinal, M.R., Clifford, R.M., Yazejian, N., Culkin, M.L., Zelazo, J. et al. (1999). *The children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study go to school: Executive summary*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center.
- 7 Committee on Family and Work Policies. (2003). *Working families and growing kids: Caring for children and adolescents*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.
- 8 A child's nonparental care arrangement was considered "primary" if it was the setting in which the child spent the most hours per week. If the child was in two different settings for the same amount of time, he or she was not included in these analyses.
- 9 Child care assistance in the ECLS-B is gathered by asking parents if they receive monetary assistance from relatives, social service or welfare agencies, employers, and other people for their child's care for each type of nonparental care arrangement. This measure may include, but is not exclusive to, assistance received in the form of child care subsidies.
- 10 Kinukawa, A, L., Guzman, L., & Lippman, L. (2004). *National estimates of child care subsidy receipt for children ages 0-6: What can we learn from the National Household Education Survey?* Washington, DC: Child Trends; Weinraub, M., Shlay, A. B., Harmon, M., & Tran, H. (2005). Subsidizing child care: How child care subsidies affect the child care used by low-income African American families. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 20(4), 373-392.
- 11 "At or below 150% of poverty" and other terminology specific to this brief are described in the Glossary of Terms at the end of this brief.
- 12 Although there were no significant differences by family income in patterns of child care use among those infants whose mothers were looking for work, estimates for infants with mothers who were looking for work were based on small sample sizes and therefore should be interpreted with caution.
- 13 For a definition of nonstandard hours, see Presser, H. B., & Cox, A. G. (1997). The work schedules of low-educated American women and welfare reform. *Monthly Labor Review*, 120(4), 25-34.
- 14 See endnote 10.

**TABLE 1. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE PARTICIPATING IN PARENTAL AND NON-PARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup> AND CHILD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS: 2001**

Child and Family Characteristics	Full Sample (n = 10700)	Parental Care			Significance	Non-Parental Care			Significance
		Full Sample (n = 5350)	≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 2350)	>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3000)		Full Sample (n = 5350)	≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1900)	>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3450)	
<b>Child Characteristics</b>									
<b>Sex</b>					X <sup>2</sup> (N = 2600) = 0.08				X <sup>2</sup> (N = 2650) = 4.60*
Female	49.0	48.7	48.9	48.4		49.3	52.6	47.6	
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>					X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5350) = 377.72***				X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5300) = 295.86***
White, non-Hispanic	53.5	55.0	34.7	69.7		52.0	28.7	63.6	
Black, non-Hispanic	13.7	10.2	16.5	5.6		17.3	30.2	10.9	
Hispanic	25.5	27.7	42.6	17.0		23.3	33.4	18.3	
Asian, non-Hispanic	2.8	3.0	1.9	3.7		2.6	1.8	3.0	
Other, non-Hispanic	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.0		4.8	5.9	4.2	
<b>Family Characteristics</b>									
<b>Family Structure<sup>3</sup></b>					X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5350) = 350.21***				X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5300) = 446.33***
Two parent	79.8	86.0	73.7	95.0		73.6	45.8	87.4	
Single parent	19.7	13.5	25.6	4.6		25.9	53.8	12.2	
Other	0.5	0.5	0.7 !	0.4 !		0.4 !	0.4 !	0.4 !	
<b>Primary Home Language</b>					X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5350) = 144.16***				X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5350) = 53.62***
English	81.3	77.8	65.0	87.1		84.7	76.3	88.8	
Spanish	14.1	16.8	29.9	7.3		11.5	20.1	7.2	
Other	4.6	5.4	5.1	5.6		3.9	3.6	4.0	
<b>Mother's Education</b>					X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5300) = 555.38***				X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5300) = 496.87***
<High School	27.4	32.2	57.6	13.8		22.7	45.6	11.3	
\High School	21.8	22.4	23.8	21.3		21.2	28.4	17.6	
Some College/... Vocational School	26.3	23.6	15.0	29.9		29.0	22.9	32.0	
BA	15.4	14.4	2.8	22.8		16.3	2.2	23.2	
>BA	9.1	7.4	0.8	12.2		10.9	0.9 !	15.8	
<b>Mother's Work Status<sup>4</sup></b>					X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5300) = 141.18***				X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5300) = 151.12***
Full-Time (35+)	32.3	9.7	7.8	11.0		54.9	43.5	60.5	
Part-Time (<35)	19.8	12.9	8.3	16.2		26.8	26.4	27.0	
Looking for Work	8.2	10.6	16.7	6.3		5.8	11.6	2.9	
Not in Labor Force	39.7	66.8	67.2	66.5		12.6	18.5	9.6	
<b>Mother's Work Schedule (of those in the labor force)</b>					X <sup>2</sup> (N = 1150) = 66.42***				X <sup>2</sup> (N = 4150) = 61.03***
Regular daytime shift	70.9	49.2	50.0	48.9		76.9	68.0	80.4	
Regular evening shift	12.2	20.7	29.7	16.8		9.8	15.7	7.5	
Regular night shift	3.5	7.0	10.4	5.6		2.5	4.0	2.0	
Rotating shift	6.1	7.1	6.4	7.4		5.9	8.8	4.7	
Split shift	2.0	2.1 !	1.4 !	2.4 !		2.0	1.8 !	2.1	
Other shift	5.3	14.0	2.2 !	19.0		2.9	1.7 !	3.4	
<b>Child Care Assistance</b>									X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5300) = 91.73***
Assistance	8.5					8.5	18.4	3.7	
No assistance	91.5					91.5	81.7	96.3	
<b>Child Care Type</b>									
Parental Care	50.0								
Primary Non-Parental	50.1								

<sup>1</sup> Poverty categories are based on ECLS-B poverty thresholds which are similar, but not identical to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001. A household of four is at or below 150% of the poverty line in 2001 if household income is \$27,156 or less. The same household is above 150% of the poverty line if household income is above \$27,156.

<sup>2</sup> Black, non-Hispanic includes African American. Hispanic includes Latino. Other, non-Hispanic includes Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islanders, American Indian and Alaska Native, and children of more than one race.

<sup>3</sup> Two parent includes biological mother and biological father; biological mother and other father; biological father and other mother; and two adoptive parents. Single parent refers to biological mother only; biological father only; and single adoptive parent. Other refers to related and/or unrelated guardians.

<sup>4</sup> Mothers who are in training or mothers who are taking classes are included in all four work status categories.

++ Does not meet reporting standards

SOURCE: Child Trends' analyses of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9 month data.

**TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE PARTICIPATING IN NON-PARENTAL CARE BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup> AND CHILD CARE TYPE: 2001**

Child Care Type	Non-Parental Care						Significance
	Full Sample (n = 5100)		≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1800)		>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3300)		
	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	
Center-Based Care	17.9	1.0	16.7	1.3	18.5	1.3	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 5050) = 130.38***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	24.9	0.9	18.1	1.3	28.4	1.0	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	6.5	0.5	2.5	0.5	8.5	0.7	
Relative Care (Other Home)	27.6	0.9	29.8	1.4	26.5	1.1	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	23.1	0.9	32.9	1.5	18.1	1.0	

<sup>1</sup> Poverty categories are based on ECLS-B poverty thresholds which are similar, but not identical to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001. A household of four is at or below 150% of the poverty line in 2001 if household income is \$27,156 or less. The same household is above 150% of the poverty line if household income is above \$27,156.

NOTE: s.e. is standard error.

++ Does not meet reporting standards

SOURCE: Child Trends' analyses of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9 month data.

**TABLE 3. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE PARTICIPATING IN NON-PARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup> AND CHILD CARE TYPE WITHIN RACE/ETHNICITY CATEGORY: 2001**

	Non-Parental Care						Significance
	Full Sample (n = 5300)		≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1900)		>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3450)		
	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	
<b>Child Care Type within Race/Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>							
<b>White, non-Hispanic</b>							
Center-Based Care	19.9	1.4	15.5	2.3	20.9	1.6	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 2000) = 41.69***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	28.6	1.1	19.2	2.8	30.7	1.2	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	9.0	0.8	2.9 !	1.1	10.4	0.9	
Relative Care (Other Home)	26.1	1.2	32.7	2.9	24.6	1.3	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	16.4	1.2	29.6	2.9	13.4	1.1	
<b>Black, non-Hispanic</b>							
Center-Based Care	22.5	1.9	22.7	2.9	22.1	2.7	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 1000) = 9.07
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	22.4	1.6	17.6	2.3	28.9	3.0	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	2.6	0.5	2.5 !	0.7	2.8 !	1.0	
Relative Care (Other Home)	29.1	1.6	31.4	2.8	26.0	2.8	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	23.5	1.6	25.9	2.1	20.2	2.6	
<b>Hispanic</b>							
Center-Based Care	10.5	1.5	11.3	2.0	9.8	1.8	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 950) = 17.91**
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	20.7	1.6	19.8	2.0	21.6	2.3	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	4.4	0.7	2.6 !	0.9	6.0	1.2	
Relative Care (Other Home)	30.4	1.9	25.4	2.3	34.9	2.5	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	34.0	1.7	40.9	2.8	27.8	2.1	
<b>Asian, non-Hispanic</b>							
Center-Based Care	8.5	1.3	6.4 !	2.0	9.1	1.5	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 600) = 44.48***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	13.9	1.4	++	++	17.5	1.8	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	8.1	1.7	3.0 !	1.7	9.6	2.2	
Relative Care (Other Home)	21.2	2.2	27.0	4.6	19.5	2.2	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	48.3	2.2	61.9	5.1	44.3	2.6	
<b>Other, non-Hispanic</b>							
Center-Based Care	19.8	2.7	20.5	4.1	19.2	4.2	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 500) = 24.28***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	23.7	3.3	12.5 !	4.2	31.3	3.9	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	3.7 !	1.6	0.9 !	0.5	5.6 !	2.7	
Relative Care (Other Home)	28.3	2.8	36.7	5.7	22.5	3.0	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	24.6	3.2	29.3	5.3	21.3	4.0	

<sup>1</sup> Poverty categories are based on ECLS-B poverty thresholds which are similar, but not identical to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001. A household of four is at or below 150% of the poverty line in 2001 if household income is \$27,156 or less. The same household is above 150% of the poverty line if household income is above \$27,156.

<sup>2</sup> Black, non-Hispanic includes African American. Hispanic includes Latino. Other, non-Hispanic includes Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islanders, American Indian and Alaska Native, and children of more than one race.

NOTE: s.e. is standard error.

! The cell size in this category is small (n<30); estimate should be interpreted with caution.

++ Does not meet reporting standards.

SOURCE: Child Trends' analyses of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9 month data.

**TABLE 4. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE PARTICIPATING IN NON-PARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup> AND CHILD CARE TYPE WITHIN FAMILY STRUCTURE CATEGORY: 2001**

	Non-Parental Care						Significance
	Full Sample (n = 5050)		≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1800)		>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3300)		
	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	
<b>Child Care Type within Family Structure</b>							
<b>Two Parent</b>							
Center-Based Care	17.6	1.2	14.1	1.8	18.5	1.3	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 3700) = 76.85***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	26.6	1.0	18.1	2.0	28.8	1.1	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	8.1	0.7	3.2	0.8	9.4	0.8	
Relative Care (Other Home)	28.9	1.1	33.2	2.4	27.8	1.2	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	18.8	0.9	31.3	2.2	15.6	1.0	
<b>Single Parent</b>							
Center-Based Care	18.7	1.6	18.5	1.9	19.0	2.5	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 1350) = 15.93**
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	20.7	1.5	18.3	1.7	26.0	2.6	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	2.0	0.5	2.0 !	0.6	1.9 !	0.7	
Relative Care (Other Home)	24.3	1.5	27.3	1.7	17.6	2.7	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	34.4	1.8	33.9	1.9	35.6	3.6	

<sup>1</sup> Poverty categories are based on ECLS-B poverty thresholds which are similar, but not identical to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001. A household of four is at or below 150% of the poverty line in 2001 if household income is \$27,156 or less. The same household is above 150% of the poverty line if household income is above \$27,156.

NOTE: s.e. is standard error.

! The cell size in this category is small (n<30); estimate should be interpreted with caution.

SOURCE: Child Trends' analyses of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9 month data.

**TABLE 5. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE PARTICIPATING IN NON-PARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup> AND CHILD CARE TYPE WITHIN HOME LANGUAGE CATEGORY: 2001**

	Non-Parental Care						Significance
	Full Sample (n = 5100)		≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1800)		>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3300)		
	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	
<b>Child Care within Primary Home Language</b>							
<b>English</b>							
Center-Based Care	20.1	1.1	20.3	1.5	20.1	1.3	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 4100) = 119.20***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	26.1	0.9	17.9	1.4	29.6	1.1	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	6.7	0.6	2.2	0.5	8.6	0.8	
Relative Care (Other Home)	27.7	1.0	31.5	1.8	26.1	1.2	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	19.5	0.9	28.2	1.6	15.7	1.0	
<b>Spanish</b>							
Center-Based Care	4.4 !	1.3	5.6 !	1.6	2.6 !	1.6	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 400) = 8.81
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	20.4	2.0	20.6	2.6	20.2	3.3	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	4.5 !	1.1	3.3 !	1.3	6.0 !	2.1	
Relative Care (Other Home)	30.5	2.9	26.3	3.4	36.3	4.4	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	40.3	2.8	44.2	3.9	34.9	4.3	
<b>Other</b>							
Center-Based Care	9.7	3.1	4.6 !	2.9	12.2	4.3	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 550) = 6.96
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	14.0	3.1	8.6 !	3.8	16.7	3.8	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	8.9	2.4	5.5 !	3.0	10.6	3.2	
Relative Care (Other Home)	16.8	2.4	15.0	3.2	17.7	2.9	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	50.5	4.3	66.2	6.3	42.9	5.6	

<sup>1</sup> Poverty categories are based on ECLS-B poverty thresholds which are similar, but not identical to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001. A household of four is at or below 150% of the poverty line in 2001 if household income is \$27,156 or less. The same household is above 150% of the poverty line if household income is above \$27,156.

NOTE: s.e. is standard error.

! The cell size in this category is small (n<30); estimate should be interpreted with caution.

++ Does not meet reporting standards

SOURCE: Child Trends' analyses of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9 month data.

**TABLE 6. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE PARTICIPATING IN NON-PARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup> AND CHILD CARE TYPE WITHIN MATERNAL EDUCATION CATEGORY: 2001**

	Non-Parental Care						Significance
	Full Sample (n = 5050)		≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1800)		>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3250)		
	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	
<b>Child Care Type within Mother's Education</b>							
<b>&lt; High School</b>							
Center-Based Care	14.4	1.5	16.6	1.9	9.9	2.1	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 1100) = 7.79
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	18.7	1.5	18.1	1.9	20.0	2.5	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	3.5	0.7	3.6 !	0.9	3.3 !	1.2	
Relative Care (Other Home)	29.1	1.7	26.8	2.0	33.7	3.2	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	34.3	1.9	34.9	2.2	33.1	3.5	
<b>High School</b>							
Center-Based Care	13.6	1.3	14.4	2.1	12.9	1.6	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 1050) = 28.74***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	23.2	1.7	16.1	2.2	28.8	2.3	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	1.9 !	0.5	0.9 !	0.4	2.6 !	0.9	
Relative Care (Other Home)	35.5	1.9	36.2	3.3	35.0	2.5	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	25.9	1.6	32.4	2.6	20.8	2.2	
<b>Some College/Vocational School</b>							
Center-Based Care	18.5	1.9	18.2	2.6	18.6	2.1	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 1400) = 22.51***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	28.3	1.6	20.1	2.5	31.1	1.8	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	4.7	0.7	2.4 !	0.9	5.5	0.9	
Relative Care (Other Home)	29.9	1.8	30.1	3.1	29.8	1.9	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	18.7	1.3	29.1	3.3	15.0	1.3	
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>							
Center-Based Care	21.8	1.7	19.7 !	8.4	21.9	1.8	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 800) = 7.86
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	29.4	2.5	27.5 !	10.4	29.5	2.6	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	12.4	1.8	4.2 !	3.3	12.8	1.8	
Relative Care (Other Home)	21.8	2.2	18.7 !	7.2	22.0	2.2	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	14.7	1.5	29.9 !	8.7	13.9	1.6	
<b>Beyond Bachelor's Degree</b>							
Center-Based Care	25.8	3.5	++	++	26.4	3.6	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 650) = 9.02
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	27.4	3.5	++	++	27.5	3.6	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	18.9	2.1	++	++	19.4	2.1	
Relative Care (Other Home)	11.9	1.8	++	++	11.3	1.8	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	16.0	2.3	++	++	15.4	2.3	

**TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE WITH WORKING MOTHERS AND PARTICIPATING IN NON-PARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup> AND CHILD CARE TYPE WITHIN MOTHER'S EMPLOYMENT STATUS<sup>2</sup> CATEGORY: 2001**

	Non-Parental Care						Significance
	Full Sample (n = 5000)		≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1800)		>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3250)		
	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	
<b>Child Care Type within Mother's Employment Status<sup>2</sup></b>							
<b>Full Time (35 hours or more)</b>							
Center-Based Care	20.2	1.3	15.4	1.7	21.9	1.6	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 2800) = 38.76***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	29.9	1.3	25.7	2.3	31.4	1.5	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	4.9	0.6	1.7 !	0.5	6.0	0.8	
Relative Care (Other Home)	27.6	1.2	31.6	2.5	26.2	1.3	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	17.5	1.1	25.7	2.3	14.6	1.2	
<b>Part Time (Less than 35 hours)</b>							
Center-Based Care	12.6	1.3	14.0	2.1	11.9	1.7	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 1200) = 24.79***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	23.6	1.8	17.0	2.4	26.9	2.5	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	9.0	1.2	4.0 !	1.2	11.5	1.6	
Relative Care (Other Home)	29.7	2.2	32.1	3.1	28.5	2.9	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	25.1	1.9	32.9	3.2	21.2	2.2	
<b>Looking for Work</b>							
Center-Based Care	20.0	3.3	22.5	3.9	15.2 !	4.7	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 300) = 7.01
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	14.3	2.6	11.4 !	2.3	20.0 !	5.7	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	2.0 !	1.0	1.5 !	1.0	3.1 !	2.2	
Relative Care (Other Home)	26.0	3.7	22.4	4.2	33.1 !	6.2	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	37.7	4.1	42.3	4.8	28.7 !	6.3	
<b>Not in Labor Force</b>							
Center-Based Care	17.3	2.4	18.0	3.4	16.6	3.3	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 750) = 38.93***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	12.4	2.0	7.6 !	1.8	17.0	3.5	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	11.3	1.7	3.3 !	1.2	18.9	2.9	
Relative Care (Other Home)	24.2	2.2	28.6	3.5	19.9	2.8	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	34.9	2.7	42.5	4.2	27.6	3.2	

<sup>1</sup> Poverty categories are based on ECLS-B poverty thresholds which are similar, but not identical to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001. A household of four is at or below 150% of the poverty line in 2001 if household income is \$27,156 or less. The same household is above 150% of the poverty line if household income is above \$27,156.

<sup>2</sup> Mothers who are in training or mothers who are taking classes are included in all four work status categories.

NOTE: s.e. is standard error.

! The cell size is small (n<30); estimate should be interpreted with caution.

++ Does not meet reporting standards

SOURCE: Child Trends' analyses of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9 month data.

**TABLE 8. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE PARTICIPATING IN NON-PARENTAL CARE, BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup> AND CHILD CARE TYPE WITHIN MOTHER'S WORK SCHEDULE CATEGORY: 2001**

	Non-Parental Care						Significance
	Full Sample (n = 3950)		≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1200)		>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 2800)		
	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	
<b>Child Care Type within Mother's Work Schedule</b>							
<b>Regular Day-Time Shift</b>							
Center-Based Care	20.4	1.4	17.7	1.8	21.3	1.6	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 3100) = 50.92***
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	31.0	1.1	25.5	2.3	32.8	1.3	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	6.0	0.6	2.0 !	0.6	7.4	0.7	
Relative Care (Other Home)	26.4	1.0	30.6	2.1	25.0	1.2	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	16.2	1.0	24.3	2.0	13.6	1.2	
<b>Regular Evening Shift</b>							
Center-Based Care	7.6 !	1.6	7.2 !	2.6	8.0 !	2.9	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 350) = 3.98
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	15.5	2.0	14.8	3.5	16.1 !	3.6	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	4.3 !	1.2	2.9 !	1.7	5.5 !	1.9	
Relative Care (Other Home)	35.4	2.8	31.2	4.2	38.8	4.1	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	37.2	2.5	43.9	4.9	31.6	3.8	
<b>Regular Night Shift</b>							
Center-Based Care	7.3 !	4.5	6.7 !	4.5	7.8 !	6.9	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 100) = 1.42
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	13.8 !	4.2	12.1 !	5.4	15.2 !	6.0	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	7.4 !	3.2	11.5 !	6.3	4.0 !	2.2	
Relative Care (Other Home)	32.1	5.8	31.0 !	8.4	32.9 !	9.2	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	39.4	7.5	38.6 !	8.5	40.1 !	9.5	
<b>Rotating Shift</b>							
Center-Based Care	10.7 !	2.1	10.9 !	4.3	10.5 !	3.3	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 200) = 3.45
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	17.2	3.6	19.5 !	5.5	15.3 !	3.9	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	7.7 !	2.5	3.4 !	2.0	11.2 !	4.2	
Relative Care (Other Home)	37.2	5.0	34.8 !	6.3	39.1	6.5	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	27.3	3.9	31.4	6.1	24.0 !	5.3	
<b>Split Shift</b>							
Center-Based Care	10.3 !	6.0	++	++	++	++	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 50) = 4.53
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	22.2 !	5.6	++	++	21.4 !	7.7	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	13.0 !	5.6	++	++	17.2 !	7.2	
Relative Care (Other Home)	26.2 !	6.5	++	++	25.6 !	7.6	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	28.3 !	7.0	++	++	30.5 !	8.1	
<b>Other</b>							
Center-Based Care	8.4 !	3.7	++	++	10.4 !	4.5	X <sup>2</sup> (N = 100) = 11.10*
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	23.5 !	4.2	++	++	27.7 !	4.9	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	9.0 !	3.6	++	++	10.8 !	4.4	
Relative Care (Other Home)	34.5	5.8	++	++	26.4 !	5.9	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	24.6	5.3	++	++	24.8 !	6.1	

<sup>1</sup> Poverty categories are based on ECLS-B poverty thresholds which are similar, but not identical to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001. A household of four is at or below 150% of the poverty line in 2001 if household income is \$27,156 or less. The same household is above 150% of the poverty line if household income is above \$27,156.

NOTE: s.e. is standard error.

! The cell size in this category is small (n<30); estimate should be interpreted with caution.

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SOURCE: Child Trends' analyses of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9 month data.

**TABLE 9. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN APPROXIMATELY 9 MONTHS OF AGE IN NON-PARENTAL CARE BY CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE CATEGORY FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING IN NON-PARENTAL CARE AS THE PRIMARY CARE ARRANGEMENT, BY FAMILY INCOME<sup>1</sup>**

	Non-Parental Care						Significance
	Full Sample (n = 5050)		≤150% Poverty Threshold (n = 1800)		>150% Poverty Threshold (n = 3250)		
	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	Percent	(s.e.)	
<b>Child Care Type within Receipt of Child Care Assistance</b>							X <sup>2</sup> (N = 500) = 4.77
<b>Assistance</b>							
Center-Based Care	46.9	3.2	46.0	3.9	49.2	5.4	
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	25.6	2.4	26.8	3.2	22.6	4.5	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	1.6 !	0.7	2.0 !	0.9	0.5 !	0.3	
Relative Care (Other Home)	16.4	2.4	17.0	3.0	14.9 !	4.5	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	9.6	1.7	8.2	1.8	12.9 !	3.9	
<b>No Assistance</b>							X <sup>2</sup> (N = 4600) = 151.27***
Center-Based Care	15.1	1.0	10.2	1.2	17.2	1.2	
Non-Relative Care (Other Home)	24.9	0.9	16.1	1.5	28.6	1.0	
Non-Relative Care (Child's Home)	7.0	0.6	2.7	0.6	8.8	0.7	
Relative Care (Other Home)	28.7	0.9	32.7	1.6	27.0	1.1	
Relative Care (Child's Home)	24.3	1.0	38.3	1.7	18.3	1.0	

<sup>1</sup> Poverty categories are based on ECLS-B poverty thresholds which are similar, but not identical to Census weighted average thresholds for 2001. A household of four is at or below 150% of the poverty line in 2001 if household income is \$27,156 or less. The same household is above 150% of the poverty line if household income is above \$27,156.

NOTE: s.e. is standard error.

! The cell size in this category is small (n<30); estimate should be interpreted with caution.

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SOURCE: Child Trends' analyses of U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), 9 month data.