

Child Care and Early Education Policy and Research Analysis (CCEEPRA) Project
Child Trends
2013 - 2020

Project Description

The purpose of the CCEEPRA project is to perform research activities that will address high-priority early care and education issues and questions while also building the capacity for new research and evaluation efforts. Child Trends' work on CCEEPRA provides the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) with timely, high-quality research products to inform early care and education policies and programs serving low-income, at risk children and families. The work is developed in collaboration with national research and policy experts to ensure that OPRE has access to the most current research findings and innovative methodologies in the field, and to provide a venue for jointly identifying gaps and opportunities in the early care and education research and policy agenda.

Progress Update

The CCEEPRA project supports a variety of research activities. This section provides a sample of work and products from each activity.

Supporting CCEEPRC workgroups:

Child Trends supports Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium (CCEEPRC) learning communities by developing agendas, convening group meetings (web-supported and in-person), facilitating discussion and supporting the preparation of papers and presentations produced by working group members. Workgroups are currently active on the following topics: ECE Access and Choices; Professional Development; Quality (through INQUIRE - the Quality Initiatives Research and Evaluation Consortium); Home-based Child Care; and, Children with Disabilities. CCEEPRC workgroups collaborate on presentations at national conferences, research briefs, literature reviews and journal articles. Workgroup members have the opportunity to play a variety of roles in workgroup products including lead author, co-author, reviewer and/or discussion participant.

Convening meetings of experts

Child Trends brings together technical experts to support identification of research and policy issues and gaps, questions for further research, new methods and analytic strategies and resources needed by policymakers to support decision-making. Members of CCEEPRC and other nationally-known research and policy experts are attendees and/or presenters at these working meetings or national conferences during which cutting-edge topics in the early care and education field are thoughtfully discussed. Expert meetings were recently held on the following topics:

- Measuring and Comparing ECE Access for Families, August 2017
- State Investments in ECE Quality Improvement, February 2019

Developing compendia, guidebooks and toolkits

With the support and collaboration of experts, Child Trends leads the compilation and profiling of measures important for research and evaluation in the early childhood field. Child Trends also develops resources that provide practical assistance in translating research into practice or in recommending common data collection strategies to address key policy questions. The resulting compendia of measures, guidebooks and toolkits are useful to CCEEPRC as well as other researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Recent products include:

- Implementing Parenting Interventions in Early Care and Education Settings: A Guidebook for Implementation, OPRE Report 2015-94
- Defining and Measuring Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education (ECE): A Guidebook for Policymakers and Researchers, OPRE Report 2017-08

Child Trends also directs the Child Care Administrative Data Analysis Center (CCADAC) to support the use of child care and early childhood administrative data to address policy-relevant

research questions. The work includes strengthening the ability of state child care administrators and their research partners to a) utilize their own state's administrative data, and b) combine data with other states to conduct cross-state analysis. A resource series is available from CCADAC with six briefs on the use of administrative data in ECE research.

Writing literature reviews

Child Trends leads the development and dissemination of literature reviews in collaboration with national experts. Literature reviews provide a summary of the status of the field and help inform the development of new research questions, decisions about implementation, and new methodological designs and data analysis techniques for future studies. Recent literature reviews include:

- Examining the Associations between Infant/Toddler Workforce Preparation, Program Quality and Child Outcomes: A Review of the Research Evidence., OPRE Report 2016-15
- Child Care Subsidy Stability Literature Review, OPRE Report 2019-17

Producing research/policy analyses and reports

Child Trends collaborates with experts in the field to produce timely, accessible reports on topics relevant to policymakers, program developers and researchers. The work may involve secondary data analysis (including analysis of the National Survey of Early Care and Education), new data collection, or syntheses of relevant issues. Recent reports include:

- A Conceptual Model for Quality in Home-Based Child Care, OPRE Report 2019-37
- The Role of Licensing in Supporting Quality Practices in Early Care and Education, OPRE Research Brief 2019-31
- Understanding and Measuring Program Engagement in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, OPRE Research Brief 2018-84
- Supporting the Psychological Well-Being of the Early Care and Education Workforce: Findings from the National Survey of Early Care and Education, OPRE Report 2018-49
- Market Rate Surveys and Alternative Methods of Data Collection and Analysis to Inform Subsidy Payment Rates, OPRE Report 2017-115
- Validation of the Quality Ratings Used in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS): A Synthesis of State Studies, OPRE Report 2017-92

Implications for policy/practice

CCEEPRA activities provide policymakers, program developers and practitioners with resources and guidance to support their work. Multiple dissemination strategies are used including webinars, presentations at conferences, web-based tools, and reports that provide easy access to information. Policymakers and practitioners are also included in expert panels so that their perspectives are represented in the identification of new research questions and development of resources.

Implications for research

CCEEPRA activities are designed to make direct contributions to research and scholarships on topics that are of highest priority to OPRE and other federal and state policymakers. Activities engage national experts as well as junior scholars who are early in their careers. The work identifies gaps in existing research and new methods and strategies for addressing new research questions.

For more information and links to products:

See the Research Connections website (www.childcareresearch.org) and the CCEEPRA tab on OPRE's website for more information. (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/research/project/child-care-and-early-education-policy-and-research-and-technical>)

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