



Using Administrative Data to Address
Policy-Relevant Research Questions
in
Early Care and Education

Acknowledgements

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 - *Ivelisse Martinez-Beck, CCEEPRA Project Officer*
- *The primary purpose of the Child Care Administrative Data Analysis Center (CCADAC) is to support the use of administrative data to address policy-relevant early care and education research questions for state child care administrators and their research partners.*
 - *Kathleen Dwyer, CCADAC Project Officer*



Overview

- Highlight three resources and hear examples from researchers
 1. Developing partnerships with state agencies
 - Isabel Bradburn, Virginia Tech
 2. Determining the feasibility of using administrative data
 - Elizabeth Davis, University of Minnesota
 3. Considerations in preparing to analyze administrative data
 - Amy Claessens, University of Chicago
- Time for questions built into the webinar

Resources

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource/supporting-use-administrative-data-early-care-education-research-resource-series>

Research Brief OPRE 2017-16
February 2017

Developing Collaborative Partnerships with State Agencies to Strengthen Research Using Early Care and Education Administrative Data



Research Brief OPRE 2017-17
February 2017

Determining the Feasibility of Using State Early Care and Education Administrative Data



Research Brief OPRE 2017-18
February 2017

Considerations in Preparing to Analyze Administrative Data to Address Child Care and Early Education Research Questions



Resources on the OPRE Website

Supporting the Use of Administrative Data in Early Care and Education Research: Resource Series | Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation | ACF - Google Chrome

Secure | <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource/supporting-use-administrative-data-early-care-education-research-resource-series>

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Supporting the Use of Administrative Data in Early Care and Education Research: Resource Series

Published: February 28, 2017

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These three resources provide information to help state and territory child care administrators and their research partners use administrative data. The resources specifically focus on how to address policy-relevant early care and education research questions using administrative data.

The resources can help:

- Researchers who are new to administrative data analysis
- Researchers who are seasoned users of administrative data but expanding their research to include new types of administrative data
- Research staff in state agencies.

Directly Related Research

Best Practices in Creating and Adapting Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Rating Scales - Brief & Report
July 11, 2016

Proposed Revisions to the Definitions for the Early Childhood Workforce in the Standard Occupational Classification
July 7, 2016

Describing the Preparation and Ongoing Professional Development of the Infant/Toddler Workforce: An Analysis of the National Survey for Early Care and Education Data
May 9, 2016

Examining the Associations Between Infant/Toddler Workforce Preparation,

Research Connections Resource

- <http://www.researchconnections.org/content/childcare/understand/administrative-data.html>
- Organizes resources by topic:
 - Managing administrative data
 - Analyzing administrative data
 - Linking and integrating administrative data
 - Data confidentiality/security

Research Connections

Child Care and Early Education Research Connections - Google Chrome

www.researchconnections.org/childcare/welcome

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CITY UNIVERSAL PREK INITIATIVES
Check out this comprehensive list of city universal preschool initiative evaluations and research

ASSESSING RESEARCH QUALITY
[Research Methods](#)
[Child Care and Early Education Glossary](#)
[Research Glossary](#)
[Working with Administrative Data](#)
[ACF Common Framework for Research and Evaluation](#)

NATIONAL SURVEY OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION
Check out our NSECE resources page for tutorials, webinars, reports, and user guides.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
New Data: Oklahoma School Readiness Reach-by-Risk Report, 2016
31-May-2017

Attend a Webinar: Using Administrative Data to Address Policy-Relevant Research Questions in Early Care and Education, Child Care Administrative Data Analysis Center (CCADAC)
31-May-2017

Apply for a Grant: Behavioral Interventions Scholars, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)

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RECENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR COLLECTION
Jun 12, 2017

- What does a field experiment reveal about the demand for teacher characteristics in the market for child care?
- How does excessive absenteeism in Head Start affect children's academic learning?
- How do special education courses prepare preschool teacher candidates to work in inclusive settings?
- How does child care impact Louisiana's workforce productivity and the state economy?

FEDERALLY FUNDED

Research & Meetings

- Office of Planning Research and Evaluation (OPRE)
- Research Supported by Administration for Children and Families/OPRE
- Child Care and Early Education Policy Research

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Working with Administrative Data

The term administrative data refers to information about individual children, families, and/or providers of early care and education and other family benefits that is collected and maintained as part of the operation of government programs. The resources on this page were selected from a collection of resources about acquiring, using, managing, linking, and analyzing administrative data in early childhood or related fields. The current resources were selected because they:

1. highlighted advantages and disadvantages to using administrative data;
2. detailed steps or procedures about how to use administrative data;
3. provided state examples about administrative data use; or
4. were tools or toolkits that housed information about administrative data.

Linking and Integrating Administrative Data

Resources related to integrating data systems or combining two or more administrative datasets either within the same organization or between different organizations.

Resource	Type	State Example?	Description (author abstract if available)
10 fundamentals of coordinated state early care and education data systems: Inaugural state analysis . Early Childhood Data Collaborative. (2011). Washington, DC: Early Childhood Data Collaborative.	Fact sheets and briefs	No	This brief presents highlights of an analysis of a survey of 48 states and the District of Columbia on state implementation of ten essential components of (more) ↓
2013 State of States' Early Childhood Data Systems (Publication No. 2014-06) . Early Childhood Data Collaborative. (2014). Bethesda, MD: Early Childhood Data Collaborative.	Reports and papers	No	In July 2013, the ECDC surveyed 50 states and the District of Columbia to assess state early childhood data systems. The survey, completed by state education, (more) ↓
Answering key questions with an early childhood data system .			This brief discussed how states are going about building

Developing Collaborative Partnerships
with State Agencies to Strengthen
Research Using Early Care and Education
Administrative Data



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Developing Collaborative Partnerships with State Agencies

Developing Collaborative Partnerships

- Collaborative partnerships between researchers and agency staff
 - Improve the quality of research
 - Strengthen the applicability of research to inform policy and practice
- Benefits of a collaborative research partnership
 - Develop useful, compelling research questions
 - Facilitate deeper understanding & interpretation of the data
 - Strengthen state capacity to use administrative data

Developing Collaborative Partnerships

- Strategies for meeting state agency staff
 - National, state, regional meetings
 - State task forces or committees
 - Early childhood advisory council
- Building a strong partnership
 - Mutual respect
 - Be strategic about requests to staff
 - Make it as easy as possible for staff



Perspective of a Researcher: Isabel Bradburn

Prior work history

Problem: No state-wide information on child care subsidy patterns or outcomes

Enthusiastic stakeholders; created regular meetings to share information, progress, brainstorm

Governor's Advisory Council (ECAC) created holding infrastructure

Discovery

Design

Test and evaluate



The image shows the cover of a report titled "Project Child HANDS". At the top, the title "Project Child HANDS" is displayed in a blue box. Below it, there are two handprints, one blue and one green. To the right, the tagline "Helping analyze needed data securely" is written in a smaller font. Below the title, the subtitle "Virginia's Early Childhood Integrated Data System" is written in a blue box. The central part of the cover features a photograph of two young children wearing red hard hats and building with wooden blocks. At the bottom left, there are logos for the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Virginia Department of Education, and Virginia Tech. At the bottom right, the text "Summary and Recommendations" is written in a blue box, followed by the date "June, 2013" and the names "Isabel S. Bradburn" and "Aaron D. Schroeder".

Project Child HANDS

Helping analyze needed data securely

Virginia's Early Childhood Integrated Data System

Summary and Recommendations

June, 2013

Isabel S. Bradburn
Aaron D. Schroeder

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Virginia Tech

Research Brief OPRE 2017-17
February 2017

Determining the Feasibility of Using State Early Care and Education Administrative Data



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Determining the Feasibility of Using Administrative Data

Determining the Feasibility of Using Administrative Data

- Data policies and procedures
 - Data availability and stewardship
 - Data sharing
 - Data storage
 - Data security
- Data contacts and coordination
 - Identifying contacts
 - Coordination

Determining the Feasibility of Using Administrative Data

- Data usability
 - Data collection and quality
 - Appropriateness of data for the research question
 - Availability of information about the data (e.g., codebook)
 - Use by others



Perspective of a Researcher: Elizabeth Davis

Data Policies, Data Sharing and Data Contacts

- Whose data is it?
 - Why should they share the data with you?
- Barriers to data access
 - Logistical, legal, political, technological
- Data security and human subjects protections
 - Know the rules to protect yourself, your partners who provide the data, and the people you are studying

Data Usability and Understanding the Policy Context

Some considerations when making a data request:

- Agency view of data versus researcher view
- Policy context shapes administrative data in important ways
 - How the data are collected (when and by whom).
 - How variables change in different policy contexts or over time.
 - With administrative data, those in the dataset are typically not a random sample – policy affects the composition of the caseload and thus who is in the dataset.

Considerations in Preparing to Analyze Administrative Data to Address Child Care and Early Education Research Questions



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Considerations in Preparing to Analyze Administrative Data

Considerations in Preparing to Analyze Administrative Data

- Understand the scope and limitations of the administrative dataset when developing an analysis plan
- Selecting variables to analyze
- Assessing the feasibility of the project
- Preparing the data request
- Creating a research-ready analysis dataset
- Documenting



Perspective of a Researcher: Amy Claessens

THANK YOU

*If you have any questions about CCADAC
please contact the Project Officer:*

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