



National Survey of  
Early Care & Education

# Characteristics of Minnesota Home-based Early Care and Education Providers in 2019

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**NORC**  
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## Selected Findings on Minnesota’s Home-Based Providers

This report presents information on home-based providers from the 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) for cases fielded in the state of Minnesota. Only Minnesota data are presented here. The report features:

- ▶ Counts of providers and children served
  - Number of home-based providers
- ▶ Characteristics of care provided in home-based early care and education (ECE)
  - Prior relationships to children; Receipt of public funds
- ▶ Characteristics of the individuals providing home-based ECE
  - Age; Years of experience; Main reason for caring for children

Selected key findings include:

- ▶ The number of individuals providing home-based ECE to children under age 13, not their own, declined from 2012 to 2019 in Minnesota. The number of home-based providers appearing on state administrative lists—referred to here as *listed providers*—went from 9,400 in 2012 to 7,500 in 2019. The number of home-based providers that did not appear on state or national lists—called here *unlisted providers*—went from 96,500 in 2012 to 82,700 in 2019.
- ▶ In Minnesota, 77,300 children under age 13 received care from listed providers in 2012 and 71,900 children under age 13 received care from listed providers in 2019. In 2019, about a third of the children served by listed home-based providers were children under 3 years of age; about 40 percent of the children served by listed home-based providers were children age 3 through 5 years, not yet in kindergarten, and the remaining 26 percent were school-aged.
- ▶ Virtually all listed providers cared for at least one child with whom they have no prior personal relationship in both 2012 and 2019 in the state of Minnesota.
- ▶ In 2019, 76 percent of listed home-based providers in Minnesota reported having received some government reimbursements in 2018. Providers did not specify the type of reimbursement in responding to this question.

## Overview and Study Background

The primary purpose of the 2019 NSECE was to provide a comprehensive snapshot of both the availability and utilization of early care and education in the United States.

The NSECE is a set of four integrated, nationally representative surveys conducted in 2019. These were surveys of: 1) households with children under 13; 2) home-based providers to children under age 13; 3) center-based providers to children age 5 years and younger, not yet in kindergarten; and 4) the center-based provider workforce. Together, they characterize the supply of and demand for early care and education in America and permit better understanding of how well families' needs and preferences coordinate with providers' offerings and constraints.

The study is funded by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The project team is led by NORC at the University of Chicago, with a team of partner organizations and individuals.<sup>1</sup> This document is based on a portion of the national study, which was supplemented by Minnesota's federal child care Development Block Grant. This report uses data from the 2012 and 2019 NSECE data files. Because the state of Minnesota supplemented 2019 NSECE data collection but not 2012 NSECE data collection, more estimates can be generated for the state using 2019 data than are feasible using 2012 data.

This summary documents key aspects of the 2019 NSECE and provides a brief overview of the Home-Based Provider Survey. Note that tabulations presented in this report are only based on data captured from the survey of home-based providers in Minnesota. More information about sample design and data set descriptions can be found in Appendices A and B, respectively.

## Home-Based Provider Survey

Data collection for the 2019 NSECE took place beginning November 2018 through July 2019 and consisted of four surveys: Household, Home-Based Provider, Center-Based Provider, and Workforce. Additional details about the surveys can be found in Appendix C. All data collection was completed in 2019, providing a baseline of data prior to the pandemic.

The **Home-based Provider Survey** was conducted with individuals who provide care at least five hours weekly in a home-based setting to children under age 13 who are not their own. Two sample sources contributed providers. Home-based providers (listed) appeared on state

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<sup>1</sup> Please see [www.nsece.norc.org](http://www.nsece.norc.org) for a full list of 2019 NSECE team members.

or national lists of ECE services, such as licensed, regulated, license-exempt, or registered home-based providers. States use these terms with varying definitions and attach varying levels of program and professional standards, oversight, and monitoring. Unlisted individuals did not appear on state or national lists but were identified in households through the household questionnaire screener, when someone reported regularly caring for children not their own at least five hours per week in a home-based setting. This category includes providers who may or may not be paid for the care they provide, as well as family and friends who may or may not live in the same household as the children they regularly look after.

Key questionnaire topics in the home-based provider questionnaire include enrollment and the characteristics of the children served, rates charged for care, participation in government programs, household composition, qualifications for and attitudes toward early childhood education, use of curricula, and activities conducted with children. Portions of the home-based provider questionnaire contribute to analyses of the ECE workforce and mirror the content of the workforce questionnaire administered to classroom-assigned instructional staff at center-based providers. Other portions of this questionnaire closely mimic the center-based provider questionnaire (see below), so that enrollment, program participation, perceptions of the subsidy system, provider charges for care, attitudes, orientation, and activities data can be accurately compared across all different categories of provider. These data will answer such questions as: 1) What kind of early care and education is available across communities throughout the country? 2) How well does the available supply of early care and education support parents' employment? 3) How do different types of providers vary in their characteristics of care and affordability? and 4) Who are the individuals working in early care and education? What are their experiences in terms of employment characteristics, classroom activities, and professional development? What are their attitudes, orientations, and stress and depression levels?

The 2019 instrument also includes a screener with a few questions for sampled addresses where home-based ECE is no longer provided. Within the main questionnaire, new questions include perceptions of the subsidy system and additional pathing within the instrument to expand the information available on providers' receipt of professional development, revenues, and other support services.<sup>2</sup>

The inclusion of providers identified through the household screener offers nationally representative data on the broad spectrum of home-based providers, whether or not they are known to the state licensing system, and is one of the distinctive features of the NSECE. The data offer insights about both paid and unpaid care, including how they differ in their characteristics and their availability to families.

Tabulations in this report include frequencies, percentages, means, medians, and

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<sup>2</sup> The 2019 NSECE home-based provider questionnaire is available at: [www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/national-survey-of-early-care-and-education-2019](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/national-survey-of-early-care-and-education-2019)

percentiles. All estimates are properly weighted so that they represent the population of home-based providers in Minnesota in 2012 and 2019.<sup>3</sup> Please refer to Appendix A for additional details on the design of the NSECE.

## Tabulations

### COUNTS OF HOME-BASED PROVIDERS AND CHILDREN SERVED

In 2012, the state of Minnesota had 9,400 listed home-based providers of ECE that served at least one child under age 13. In 2019, the number of these listed home-based providers was 7,500.

The number of unlisted home-based providers of ECE that served at least one child under age 13 in Minnesota went from 96,500 in 2012 to 82,700 in 2019. These estimates include providers that served at least one child under age 13 who are not their own for at least five hours a week.

**Table 1. Counts of Listed and Unlisted Home-based Providers**

Provider numbers	Weighted Frequency 2012 NSECE	Weighted Frequency 2019 NSECE
Number of Listed Home-based Providers	9,400	7,500
Number of Unlisted Home-based Providers	96,500	82,700

† Value suppressed due to small n.

Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Home-based Provider Survey.

State-level estimates for Minnesota.

Listed home-based providers served 77,300 children under age 13 in 2012 and 71,900 children under age 13 in 2019. In 2019, about a third of the children served by listed home-based providers were under age 3 years; about 40 percent of the children served by listed

<sup>3</sup> This report uses disclosure guidelines the NSECE has in place for reporting state-level estimates. These guidelines are applied consistently to all NSECE dissemination products, for all states, and for all data users. These guidelines are intended to avoid inadvertent disclosure of: (i) NSECE study subjects, (ii) the sample size of any specific state included in the NSECE, (iii) the presence or absence of any sub-state geographic unit in the NSECE sample, such as a county, city or school district, or (iv) the location of a center-based or home-based provider, workforce member, or household in the sample. The requirements apply to the reporting of unweighted and weighted estimates and include frequencies, means, percentages, and percentiles, among others. Early care and education providers for whom information about their location and characteristics is publicly available have high disclosure risk, with center-based providers exhibiting the highest disclosure risk. The guidelines require the suppression of estimates based on the number of cases used to generate each estimate. The thresholds used to suppress estimates vary across data files.

- Listed home-based estimates are suppressed if they are based on 20 or fewer providers.
- Unlisted home-based estimates are suppressed if they are based on 10 or fewer providers.

These guidelines were applied consistently across all tables. Suppressed estimates are denoted with the following symbol † and a footnote indicating that the value was suppressed due to small n.

home-based providers were age 3 through 5 years, not yet in kindergarten, and the remaining 26 percent were school-age children.

**Table 2. Children Served by Listed Home-based Providers**

Ages of Children	Weighted Frequency of Children 2012 NSECE	Weighted Frequency of Children 2019 NSECE
Listed home-based providers		
Under age 3	33,700	22,700
Age 3 through 5 years, not yet in kindergarten	28,400	29,600
School-age	15,200	18,700
Total children under age 13 years	77,300	71,900

† Value suppressed due to small n.

Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Listed Home-based Provider Survey. State-level estimates for Minnesota.

Listed home-based providers can serve children in three different age groups: children under 3 years, children 3 through 5 years not yet in kindergarten, and school-age children up to age 13. Table 3 reports the combinations of these three age groups served. In 2012, 62 percent of listed home-based providers in Minnesota served at least one child from each of these three age groups. In 2019, 83 percent of listed providers were serving all three age groups. Also in 2019, 10 percent of listed providers were serving at least one child under age 3 years and at least one child 3–5 years, but no school-age children.

**Table 3. Combinations of Age Groups Served by Listed Home-based Providers, by Year**

Age Group	2012 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2012 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers
All three age groups served	5,800	61.7	6,250	83.5
Served 0-3 years and 3-5 years	†	†	765	10.2
Other combinations of age groups served	†	†	†	†
Total	9,400	100	7,480	100

† Value suppressed due to small n. Note: Values may not sum due to missing responses for some providers.  
Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Listed Home-based Provider Survey.  
State-level estimates for Minnesota.



Listed home-based providers reported the number of children they had enrolled at the time of the interview. All children served under age 13 were included in the enrollment count. Because children may attend home-based care at different times during the week, these are not necessarily counts of how many children the provider cares for at once. In 2012, the average enrollment in listed home providers in Minnesota was 8.2 children. In 2019, the average enrollment was 9.6 children.

**Table 4. Listed Home-based Providers’ Total Number of Enrolled Children under age 13, by Year**

Average number of children enrolled	2012	2019
Total	8.2	9.6

† Value suppressed due to small n.

Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Listed Home-based Provider Survey. State-level estimates for Minnesota.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF CARE PROVIDED IN HOME-BASED ECE

NSECE data can describe each person who provides regular home-based care based on whether or not that person has a prior personal relationship with the children he or she cares for. Prior personal relationships could include family, friends, and neighbors, as well as colleagues, acquaintances from church, or other social ties. Providers caring for at least one child without a prior personal relationship are designated as “non-prior-relationship-based,” while “prior-relationship-based” providers care only for children with whom they had prior personal relationships. Relationship-based providers may not be appropriate to fully include in measures of local supply because they may only be willing to care for children they have prior relationships to.

Table 5 shows the percentages of those who care for at least one child with whom the provider has no prior relationship. Virtually all listed providers care for at least one child with whom they have no prior personal relationship in both 2012 and 2019 in the state of Minnesota.

**Table 5. Listed Home-based Providers’ Provision of Relationship-based Care, by Year**

Relationship type	2012 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2012 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers
Non-relationship based	94,00	100	7,420	99.1
Relationship-based	†	†	†	†
Missing response	†	†	†	†
Total	9,400	100	7,480	100

† Value suppressed due to small n. Note: Values may not sum due to missing responses for some providers.  
 Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Listed Home-based Provider Survey.  
 State-level estimates for Minnesota.

Providers reported whether or not they had received any reimbursements from government agencies during the prior calendar year (2011 and 2018, respectively). While examples provided in the question text included vouchers/certificates, contracts, pre-K, public school districts, and Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA), respondents did not respond about each of these individually. Rather, they selected yes or no to the general question of whether or not they received any reimbursements from government agencies. Table 6 reports these data. Data from 2012 had many missing responses and so are difficult to interpret. In 2019, about 76 percent of listed home-based providers in Minnesota reported having received some government reimbursements in 2018. This would include participation in the federal child care subsidy program, for example.

**Table 6. Listed Home-based Provider Receives Reimbursements from Government Agencies, by Year**

Reimbursements	2012 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2012 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers
Any reimbursements from government agencies	4,520	48.1	5,650	75.5
No reimbursements from government agencies	429	4.6	1,440	19.2
Missing response	4,450	47.3	†	†
Total	9,400	100	7,480	100

† Value suppressed due to small n. Note: Values may not sum due to missing responses for some providers.  
Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Listed Home-based Provider Survey.  
State-level estimates for Minnesota.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING HOME-BASED ECE

In this section, we report personal characteristics of individuals providing listed home-based care, such as their age, years of experience in ECE, and their main reason for caring for children.

Table 7 gives the ages of listed home-based providers in 2012 or 2019, respectively. Approximately 26 percent of providers were age 40 or under in 2019, compared with 59 percent in 2012.

**Table 7. Age of Listed Home-based Provider, by Year**

Ages	2012 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2012 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Percentage of Listed Home-based Providers
Under 40 years	5,430	57.8	1,930	25.8
40-59 years	2,330	24.8	4,410	59.1
Age 60+	†	†	1,020	13.7
Total	9,400	100	7,480	100

† Value suppressed due to small n. Note: Values may not sum due to missing responses for some providers.

Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Listed Home-based Provider Survey. State-level estimates for Minnesota.

Table 8 below reports years of experience providing paid ECE (whether in a center-based or home-based setting). The listed home-based provider workforce in Minnesota was more experienced in 2019 than in 2012. For example, in 2012, 48 percent of listed home-based providers had fewer than 10 years of paid ECE experience. That had declined to 30 percent by 2019. However, in 2012, 17 percent of providers had more than 20 years of experience in paid ECE, and that had increased to 40 percent of providers in 2019.

**Table 8. Listed Home Based Provider’s Years of ECE Experience, by Year**

Years of Experience	2012 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2012 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers
Under 10 years	4,510	48.0	2,280	30.4
10-20 years	2,220	23.7	2,220	29.7
More than 20 years	1,550	16.5	2,970	39.7
Total	9,400	100	7,480	100

† Value suppressed due to small n. Note: Values may not sum due to missing responses for some providers.  
 Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Listed Home-based Provider Survey.  
 State-level estimates for Minnesota.

Listed home-based providers reported their main reason for working with children, including considering early care and education their career; conditions of the job such as convenient work arrangements or to earn money; and other reasons such as to help children and their parents. Table 9 shows that in 2012, 53 percent of listed home-based providers gave a career-related main reason, compared to 66 percent in 2019.

**Table 9. Main Reason Listed Home-based Providers Work with Children, by Year**

Reason	2012 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2012 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Frequency of Listed Home-based Providers	2019 Weighted Percent of Listed Home-based Providers
Career-related	4,960	52.7	4,930	65.0
Convenient work arrangement or to earn money	3,400	36.2	2,040	27.3
Other reason, including children/parents, or no response	1,040	11.1	506	6.8
Total	9,400	100	7,480	100

† Value suppressed due to small n. Note: Values may not sum due to missing responses for some providers.  
 Source: 2012 and 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education, Listed Home-based Provider Survey.  
 State-level estimates for Minnesota.

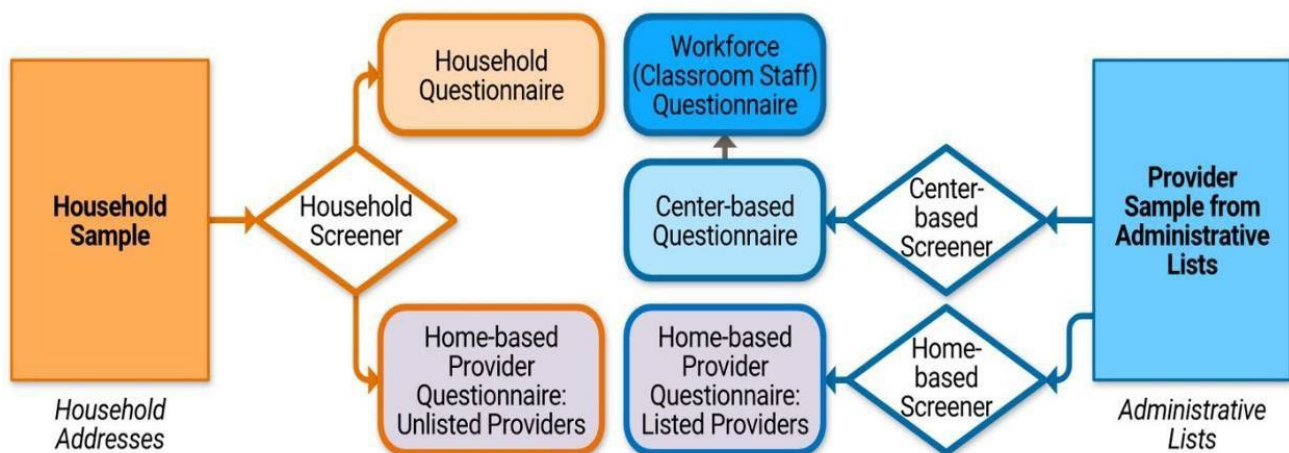
# Appendix A: Sample Design

## 2019 Sample Design<sup>4</sup>

Exhibit 1 provides an overall schematic of the NSECE sample types and questionnaires. The NSECE is a coordinated set of four nationally representative surveys pertaining to the supply of and demand for ECE in the United States, including the individuals working directly with children. There are two primary sources of sample for these four surveys. A household sample was an address-based sample of housing units selected from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). Using a household screener with this sample, eligible households were identified for the household questionnaire and for the (unlisted) home-based provider questionnaire.

In order to draw a nationally representative sample of the supply of early care and education, the project also constructed a sampling frame of “listed” providers from administrative lists. This frame was built through compiling and geo-coding all available state-level and national lists of ECE providers collected from various agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. These lists of providers included licensing, regulation, and license-exempt lists, as well as lists of providers in specific programs, such as Head Start or public pre-kindergarten. Three different surveys used this sample source. A center-based screener allowed for selection of center-based ECE providers to children not yet in kindergarten for the center-based provider questionnaire. Respondents were then selected for the workforce questionnaire from the center-based providers who had completed a center-based provider interview. Home-based providers for the home-based provider survey were also selected from the administrative lists. Note that the home-based provider survey includes sample from both sample sources: the household (for unlisted providers) and the administrative lists (for listed providers).

**Exhibit 1. 2019 NSECE Sample Types and Questionnaires**



<sup>4</sup> A description of the sample design of the 2012 NSECE is available at: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/nsece\\_summarymethodology\\_toopre\\_102913.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/nsece_summarymethodology_toopre_102913.pdf)

The NSECE sample design is a multistage probability design. In the first stage, 219 primary sampling units (PSUs) were selected across all 50 states and DC. PSUs were allocated to states by size, based on the population of children under age 18 within each state. In the second stage, secondary sampling units (SSUs) were selected for the household sample. Because the experiences of low-income families are of special interest in public policy addressing early care and education/school-age (ECE/SA), the NSECE sample design included a low-income oversample. SSUs were selected disproportionately from areas in which at least 40 percent of households had income below 250 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Altogether, 747 SSUs were selected, with 508 SSUs in these high-density lower-income areas and 239 in areas with lower densities of low-income households. The large majority of PSUs in the 2019 NSECE were also part of the 2012 NSECE, although SSUs were newly sampled for 2019 within the PSUs, so census tracts overlap in the two years only by chance.

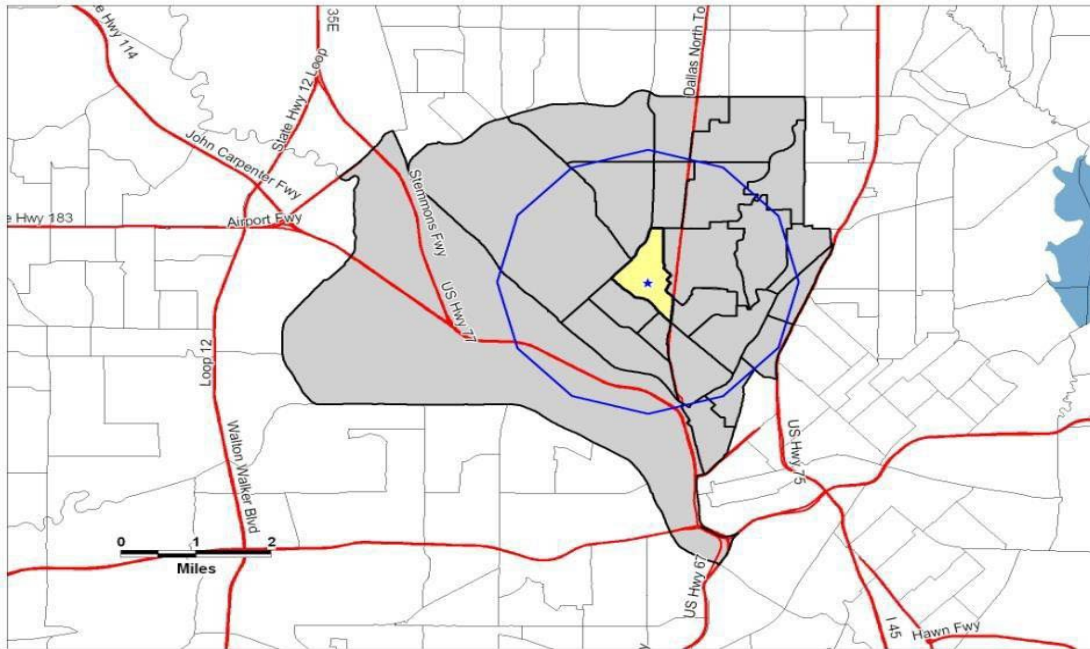
The 2012 NSECE sample design introduced the concept of a provider cluster to generate nationally representative estimates while capturing the very local nature of how families seek and use ECE/SA, how providers seek and serve children, and how these things together affect the context in which ECE utilization occurs. The map in Exhibit 2 below depicts a hypothetical cluster using a location in Dallas, Texas. The SSU is the central yellow area, which represents the cluster's core of households, while the gray shaded areas depict the remainder of the cluster. Households in the yellow core (generally one or a small number of adjacent census tracts) were sampled for inclusion in the household and home-based provider questionnaires. The provider sampling frame built from administrative lists was used to sample listed providers—including center-based programs and home-based ECE providers—from throughout the gray and yellow portions of the cluster, approximating the locations from which the centrally located households might seek ECE services. The gray portion comprises all census tracts that overlap within a circle of two miles centered at the population centroid of the yellow core. The use of the provider cluster allows us to document the interaction of the supply of and the demand for ECE where it occurs—in local communities—while simultaneously capturing data that efficiently construct national estimates.

OPRE made available to the states the opportunity to supplement their NSECE samples for the purpose of increasing state-specific sample sizes and analytic power. The state of Minnesota exercised this option to supplement the federal data collection. The 219 PSUs and 747 SSUs in the final 2019 sample reflect a shift of fewer than 10 PSUs relative to 2012. All SSUs were re-sampled for 2019 within the selected PSUs.



## Exhibit 2. Hypothetical Provider Cluster

### Dallas County 0006.01



*Provider sampling.* The NSECE team built a comprehensive file of ECE programs serving children under age 13 in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In each state, the child care licensing unit, division, or department was contacted and asked to provide all available lists of licensed, registered, or otherwise compiled child care providers. The team also confirmed inclusion of tribal providers during the list request process. To supplement state lists and cover common exemptions, we also collected the following national lists:

- Department of Defense child care
- General Services Administration child care on federal property
- National Association for the Education of Young Children–accredited programs
- Office of Head Start national list of programs

We also included a proprietary list of all elementary schools in the nation offering at least one grade K through 8 and any early childhood program operated by a public school district. These were included as potential providers of ECE (for example, pre-kindergarten or school-age care), although regular elementary school itself was not sufficient to qualify for the center-based provider survey.

From the comprehensive file, we extracted a sampling frame consisting of all unique addresses housing at least one provider on the sampling frame within the pool of selected provider clusters within each PSU. The ultimate sampling unit for the center-based providers was the organization operating an ECE program at an address. For locations/addresses with

multiple programs, we rostered the programs and a single organization operating one or more eligible programs was randomly selected for interview.

*Household Sampling.* We used a delivery sequence file (DSF) maintained by the USPS as the sampling frame for housing units (HUs) at the third stage of sampling. The DSF is known to be incomplete in some areas of the country, especially in some rural areas. With the exception of four SSUs, our address-based file had sufficient city-style addresses from which to sample. In the four SSUs where there was insufficient sample, we appended an adjacent census tract confirmed to meet the study's sampling needs.

## Appendix B: Data Set Descriptions

Data training resources for the NSECE provide extensive additional information about the design of the NSECE sample and the content of the NSECE instruments and data files and are available at:

<https://www.childandfamilydataarchive.org/cfda/pages/cfda/nsece.html>

For the home-based provider main data file and documentation, click [here](#).

For the quick-tabulation listed home-based provider data file and documentation, click [here](#).

For the quick-tabulation unlisted home-based provider data file and documentation, click [here](#).

## Appendix C: Survey Descriptions

## Household Survey

The **Household Survey** documents the nation's demand for ECE. Key questionnaire topics include details on usage of non-parental care, expenditures on non-parental care, parental search behavior for early care and education, the age of children in the household, and the balance of parental employment with child care needs and availability. These data answer such research questions as: 1) Who is caring for America's children when they are not with their parents and do families with different demographic characteristics have different preferences or different patterns of usage? 2) How do families search for care and how does this vary by age of children, characteristics of parents, location, and availability of licensed slots per population? 3) How and how much do families pay for care? and 4) How many families of different characteristics receive public financial support for ECE, and how does this vary by age of child and type of care utilized?

Distinctive features of the household questionnaire include collection of data on all children under age 13 (not just a focal child) and collection of child care payment data at the child-provider pair level rather than in aggregate. The NSECE data offer larger samples of low-income children than do many other sources. The NSECE data are also valuable for more intensively investigating some of the patterns observed in other data. For example, the NSECE data expand the possibilities for understanding how parents coordinate work and school schedules with early care and education usage and the extent to which different types of care solve or present schedule coordination problems. The 2012 household questionnaire featured such innovations as data from multiple children, details of parental searches for care, and innovative approaches for determining likely participation in government programs (such as CCDF, Head Start, or public pre-K).

The 2019 household questionnaire builds on the 2012 questionnaire with edits intended to improve the ability to identify publicly funded center-based ECE arrangements and the source of that funding; specific identification of non-custodial parents as caregivers; and additional questions about children using individual providers, which were created to improve researchers' ability to associate individual providers with known types of home-based care. The 2019 household questionnaire also included items that asked respondents about non-custodial parent's financial contributions to children's basic needs; households' prior receipt of child care subsidies; identification of 5-year-olds enrolled in kindergarten; and usual commute duration for every parent of children in the household.

Because the 2012 household survey data have been intensively used to study households with young children, the project team and OPRE worked to increase relative availability of data on young children: for example, emphasizing search and preferences for ECE for young children within the interview. We also sought to interview approximately 60 percent of screened households with youngest children 6 years or older while 100 percent of screened households with children under 6 years of age were sought for the household interview. In 2019, adult calendar data are collected only for parents and their spouses in the household,

omitting the non-parent regular caregivers, whose calendars were also documented in the 2012 data. To continue data collection into July, some revisions were made to the household questionnaire at the end of data collection; detailed calendar data are not available for these last household interviews, although key created variables on care usage and parental employment will be available.

The household survey was conducted with a parent or guardian of a child or children under age 13 in households with at least one member child under age 13. Eligible respondents were identified through a **Household Screener** based only on the presence of an age-eligible child. Screening was completed by mail, by Internet, by phone, and in person. Household survey interviews were conducted by an interviewer, primarily in person, with a small fraction by telephone.

## Center-based Provider Survey

The **Center-based Provider Survey** collected no observational data on care provided; however, as with the 2012 survey, it did include a variety of measures at both the program and individual staff levels that have been found in the literature to predict observed quality of care. The 2012 NSECE data was the first nationally representative data on the available supply of ECE since the 1990 Profile of Child Care Settings. The NSECE data update those data in many ways but also reflect many contemporary issues, including the blending of public funding sources (sometimes with private funds), the provision of public prekindergarten in school-based and community-based settings, and targeted accommodations, such as comprehensive services and services for English-language learners and their families. In addition, selected segments of the center-based provider questionnaire were designed in parallel with the home-based provider questionnaire so that comparable data would exist for more formal home-based providers as well as for centers.

Meanwhile, the center-based provider questionnaire data answers such questions as: 1) What kind of early care and education is available across communities throughout the country? 2) How well does the available supply of early care and education support parents' employment? 3) How do different types of providers vary in their characteristics of care and affordability? and 4) How many and what types of providers participate in quality improvement efforts such as staff quality ratings and professional development?

Data collection was conducted by Internet, in person, and by telephone with field interviewers interviewing directors of ECE programs that provide care to children not yet in kindergarten. They were identified from the provider sampling frame built from state or national administrative lists such as state licensing lists, Head Start program records, or pre-K rolls. The providers included regulated, licensed, and other private providers as well. The questionnaire was preceded by a **Center-based Provider Screener** that determined eligibility for the center-based provider questionnaire and sampled a responding organization when multiple organizations were serving children 5 and under not yet in kindergarten at the

address. Topics covered by the questionnaire include enrollment and characteristics of children served including age and race, staffing, prices charged, schedules of service, participation in government programs, and staff compensation and professional development policies. The questionnaire also includes the selection of a representative classroom, about which more detailed staffing and compensation information were collected.

The 2019 NSECE involved a substantive expansion of questions collecting information on a center's revenues—a key change from 2012. Such topics included blending of funding at the center, classroom, and child level; self-reported mix of public/private funding; and center practices for using subsidies. The 2019 questionnaire also included additional questions covering the center's food offerings and participation in the federal food program, and the respondent's training on aspects of operating and managing a child care center. Finally, some 2012 staffing questions were edited to focus more specifically on ECE for children age 5 and under, not yet in kindergarten.

## **Workforce Survey**

The **Workforce Survey** questionnaire closely mirrors portions of the home-based provider questionnaire, so that the two data sources together can paint a rich portrait of the paid ECE workforce, including center-based and home-based paid providers. (Individuals who were not paid will be profiled as described in the unlisted home-based provider section above.) Topics include information about the work setting (age group of the classroom, activities in the classroom, interactions with parents and other staff, availability of professional development and other supports); roles and responsibilities (lead teacher, teacher, assistant teacher, aide); compensation (wages and benefits); and perceived leadership and morale, as well as personal information about qualifications, attitudes toward ECE, and stress, depression, and demographic information.

Some of the workforce questionnaire data allow tabulation by provider program characteristics (such as enrollment size, type of care, geographic location, for-profit/not-for-profit status, and participation in government programs) of factors that have been found in the literature to predict observed quality. These factors include staff qualifications and compensation, use of curricula, availability of professional development, and children's activities while in care. The data answer such questions as, 1) Who are the individuals working in early care and education and 2) What are their experiences in terms of employment characteristics, classroom activities, and professional development?

The 2019 questionnaire includes a section regarding staff and children in the selected classroom, including their number, race/ethnicity, languages spoken other than English, and children's food insecurity. These data describe a nationally representative sample of classrooms. The 2019 questionnaire also expanded the section on staff's professional development, including additional items on coursework, format of health or safety training, professional development plan, and time spent on professional development.



The 2019 sample also includes a randomly selected sub-sample of centers for whom two instructional staff members were selected, if available, from the randomly selected classroom for fielding the workforce survey. The presence of two staff members' data for some classrooms will allow for explorations of within-classroom collaborations of instructional staff and comparison of wages, skills, and attitudes of workers within the same classroom.

While the workforce questionnaire is the simplest of the NSECE survey instruments, these data represent a signal contribution of the study.

Questionnaires for each survey are available at:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/national-survey-of-early-care-and-education-2019>