Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project

Research Connections data files

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The Early Head Start Program

- Two-generation program
- Child development with parenting education and self-sufficiency
- Follows the Head Start Program Performance Standards
- Program models fit community needs—center-based, home-based or mixed approach
- Any program can apply to become a Head Start program; most are affiliated with Head Start programs to begin with
- Over 700 programs serving about 62,000 children
The Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project

- Began in 1995; reports to Congress in 2001 and 2002
- Led by Mathematica Policy Research and National Center for Children and Families (at Columbia University)
- Local researchers in 15 universities involved
- In 17 Early Head Start programs—about 1/3 center-based, 1/3 home-based, and 1/3 mixed-approach
- Followed 3,001 children and families from enrollment in program until child age 3
- Used random assignment—program and control group
Research Conducted by
Early Head Start Research Consortium

The Consortium consists of representatives from 17 programs participating in the evaluation, 15 local research teams, the evaluation contractors, and ACF/ACYF.

Research institutions in the Consortium (and principal researchers) include ACF (Rachel Chazan Cohen, Judith Jerald, Esther Kresh, Helen Raikes, and Louisa Tarullo); Catholic University of America (Michaela Farber, Lynn Milgram Mayer, Harriet Liebow, Christine Sabatino, Nancy Taylor, Elizabeth Timberlake, and Shavaun Wall); Columbia University (Lisa Berlin, Christy Brady-Smith, Jeannette Brooks-Gunn, and Alison Sidle Fuligni); Harvard University (Catherine Ayoub, Barbara Alexander Pan, and Catherine Snow); Iowa State University (Dee Draper, Gayle Luze, Susan McBride, Carla Peterson); Mathematica Policy Research (Kimberly Boller, Ellen Eliason Kisker, John M. Love, Diane Paulsell, Christine Ross, Peter Schochet, Cheri Vogel, and Welmoet van Kammen); Medical University of South Carolina (Richard Faldowski, Gui-Young Hong, and Susan Pickrel); Michigan State University (Hiram Fitzgerald, Tom Reischl, and Rachel Schiffman); New York University (Mark Spellmann and Catherine Tamis-LeMonda); University of Arkansas (Robert Bradley, Mark Swanson, and Leanne Whiteside-Mansell); University of California, Los Angeles (Carollee Howes and Claire Hamilton); University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (Robert Ernde, Jon Korfmacher, JoAnn Robinson, Paul Spicer, and Norman Watt); University of Kansas (Jane Atwater, Judith Carta, and Jean Ann Summers); University of Missouri-Columbia (Mark Fine, Jean Ispa, and Kathy Thornburg); University of Pittsburgh (Carol McAllister, Beth Green, and Robert McCall); University of Washington School of Education (Eduardo Armijo and Joseph Stowitschek); University of Washington School of Nursing (Kathryn Barnard and Susan Spieker); and Utah State University (Lisa Boyce and Lori Roggman).
Many Measures Used in the Project

- Implementation data, including ratings
- Baseline Demographic Data
- Family service use data 6, 15, and 26 months after enrollment (both program and control)
- Child and family data collected when children were 14, 24, and 36 months old
  - Videotaped observations of parent-child interaction
  - Interviewer observations
  - Parent interview
  - Child assessments
Additional Measures (Most Available Later)

- Father Data at 24 and 36 Months (n = approx. 650)
  - Videotaped Observations of Father-Child Interactions
  - Father Interview
  - Qualitative Interviews

- Child Care Observations at 14, 24, and 36 Months

- Staff Surveys during 1997 and 1999 Site Visits

- Local Research: Attachment; Language Development; Nutrition; Home Visiting and more
Reports Written

Interim Impacts

Final Impacts; chapter for *Beacon of Hope*

Child Care Policy Report (in clearance); FAP for *Child Development; Child Care 4 Page Summary Report*

Health Policy

Implementation (including descriptions of child care use)

Working Groups-Scholarly Papers: Fathers; Disabilities; Parenting Processes; Child Care; Program Process; Measurement; Risk and Protective Factors; School Readiness

Special Issues: *Infant Mental Health Journal*; fathers journals
Findings

- Early Head Start was broadly effective with modest impacts across a wide array of child and parent outcomes.
- Effects were found in 27 program and family subgroups.
- In several subgroups, impacts were larger, demonstrating potential of the program for the future.
- Child Care Relevant: Early Head Start increased the probability of children receiving child care and increased the probability of children receiving good quality center-based care.
CCEERC Public Use File

Constructed variables used in Interim and Final Reports (source data available later)

- Baseline Data: Health; Family Composition; Demographic; Employment; Dunst Scale; Depression in 8 sites.
- Service Use Data: Parent Services Interview (PSI) at 6, 15, 26 months after random assignment: Health; Child Care Needs and Use; Dunst Scales; Goals Met in Dunst Areas.
Documentation Files at CCEERC (PDF)

- **Codebook (cb3804.pdf)**
  - Metadata (in each volume; also on web page)
  - Introduction to study (design, data collection, file preparation, etc.)
  - EHSRE Public Use File Variable List (by data source and topic)
  - Codebook (detail on each variable)

- **Appendices, Volume I (cb3804ap.vol1.pdf)**
  - User’s Guide (more detail on study design, data collection, and especially on file preparation, specific data sources)
  - BR (“Birthday Related”) Parent Interview Cross Walk (14-, 24-, 36-months)

- **Appendices, Volume II (cb3804ap.vol2.pdf)**
  - Baseline HSFIS Application/Enrollment Forms
  - Three Parent Interviews (for parents of 14-month, 2- and 3-year old children)
Data Files at CCEER CCEER CCEER

2,977 observations, 680 variables

- ASCII Data File (da3804)
  - SAS Data definition statements (sa3804)
  - SPSS Data definition statements (sp3804)
- SAS Transport file (sa3804.trans) (rename to sa3804.xpt)
- SPSS export or portable file (sp3804.port) (rename to sa3804.por)

Download compressed (*.gz – like *.zip) files: individual files or entire study

- ICPSR file naming conventions: “Please note that the file names do not conform to the DOS 8.3 file name conventions. Users on platforms that adhere to the DOS 8.3 filename conventions will, in most cases, need to rename files upon downloading them from the Web site.”
# Variables in Public Use File

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Service Constructs 6,15, 26 Months After Enrollment</th>
<th>Birthday Related 14, 24, 36 Months of Child Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographic data for primary caregiver and child</td>
<td>Employment; education; public assistance by quarter</td>
<td>Child: cognitive, language, social emotional, temperament (14), health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other household members</td>
<td>Married or cohabitiing</td>
<td>Parent: discipline practices, safety, routines, conflict, HOME (factors); supportiveness; activities; paternal involvement, parent health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunst Scale</td>
<td>Home visits, case management, EHS services, health services; other services; Dunst Scale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; child birth status</td>
<td>Child care hours used, # of caregivers, costs, subsidy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 sites: depression</td>
<td>Social support 6 Months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Child Care Measures in Public Use File

#### Intake-based measures (cumulative through 6, 15, and 26 months after random assignment)

- Any regular child care
- Any regular center child care
- Ever in concurrent arrangements
- Total number of child care arrangements
- Average hours/week in child care
- Average hours/week in center care
- Average cost/week for child care
- Used any subsidy for care
- Used any subsidy for center care

#### Age based measures

- Any regular child care
- Any regular center care

#### from Service Interview (calculated when child was 14 & 24 months old)

- Any regular child care
- Any regular center care

#### from Parent Interview (targeted when child 14 & 24 months old)

- Any current regular child care
- Number of current regular arrangements reported
- No. of current regular arrangements described (in grid)
### Program Families in Child Care at 24 Months, by Family Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Characteristics at Enrollment</th>
<th>Total Sample Size</th>
<th>Percent in Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Is Firstborn</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Is Later Born</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s Education Is Less than 12 years</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s Education Is 12 years or GED</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents Education Is More Than 12 Years</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Lives with Spouse</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Lives with Other Adults</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Lives Alone with Child</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Child Care Used by Early Head Start Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Approach</th>
<th>Full Sample</th>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>Home-Based</th>
<th>Mixed-Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Children:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who received any child care</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who received center-based child care</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Children Who Received Care by Number of Arrangements:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of arrangements used</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Child Care Expenses & Subsidies, EHS Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Approach</th>
<th>Full Sample</th>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>Home-Based</th>
<th>Mixed-Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Total Out-Of-Pocket Child Care Expenses</td>
<td>$513</td>
<td>$481</td>
<td>$469</td>
<td>$584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Families Who Ever Received a Subsidy to Pay for the Focus Child’s Care In:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any child care arrangement</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any child care center</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Size</td>
<td>731 - 988</td>
<td>165 - 206</td>
<td>309 - 459</td>
<td>257 - 323</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use of Child Care by Early Head Start Children at 14, 24, and 36 Months of Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Any Child Care Arrangement</th>
<th>Any Child Care Center</th>
<th>Early Head Start Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 M</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 M</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 M</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 955  n = 786  n = 683  n = 966  n = 850  n = 515  n = 971  n = 888  n = 445
Impacts on Child Care Use at 14, 24, and 36 Months of Age

- **14 Months***: Program Group = 66.4, Control Group = 56.5, n = 997
- **24 Months***: Program Group = 60.5, Control Group = 51.3, n = 820
- **36 Months***: Program Group = 84.4, Control Group = 77.7, n = 715

*Note: Percentage values are approximate.*
Impacts on Use of Center Child Care at 14, 24, and 36 Months of Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Program Group</th>
<th>Control Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Months***</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Months***</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Months***</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n = 1,009 n = 942 n = 888 n = 811 n = 540 n = 443
For More Information…

EHS Evaluation:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/core/ongoing_research/ehs/ehs_intro.html

EHSRE data at CCEE Research Connections:
http://www.childcareresearch.org/location/ccrca2925