

Household Search for and Perceptions of Early Care and Education: Initial Findings from the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)



NSECE RESEARCH BRIEF
OPRE Report #2014-55a | OCTOBER 2014



National Survey of **Early Care & Education**

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OVERVIEW

This brief uses new, nationally representative data from the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)—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—to describe critical elements in the decision-making process of parents and other caregivers regarding the nonparental care of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

The NSECE is comprised of four nationally representative surveys that were conducted in 2012. These coordinated surveys were designed to provide in-depth data on multiple dimensions of early care and education (ECE) in the United States, including the availability of ECE, preferences and needs for ECE and school-age care, the use of ECE and school-age care, and a description of the ECE workforce.

One of the four surveys—the Household Survey—gathered data from households with young children, while the other three collected data from center- and home-based ECE providers. The NSECE oversampled from low-income areas because the experiences of low-income families are of critical public policy interest.

This brief uses data from the Household Survey to provide insight into how parents perceive the ECE arrangements available to them, how and why they search for care, and when searches result in a change in arrangement. In addition to providing estimates for all children between birth and less than 60 months of age, comparisons were made for a few characteristics of interest. These include child age when the interview was conducted (infants/toddlers: birth to under 36 months; and preschoolers: 36 to under 60 months), household poverty threshold (less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level, 100 percent to less than 200 percent of the poverty level, 200 percent to less than 300 percent of the poverty level, or 300 percent or more of the poverty level), race/ethnicity of the child (non-Hispanic white or “white,” non-Hispanic black or “black,” and Hispanic), and community poverty density (high-, moderate-, low-poverty-density communities). Below, we provide key findings related to each of the topics addressed in this brief, as well as differences by child age, household race/ethnicity, and household poverty level.

Perceptions

- ❖ Households reported on three types of care—center-based care, relative or friend care, and family day care.¹ Among respondents with children under age 60 months, relative or friend care was most often highly rated in terms of a nurturing environment, safety, affordability, and flexibility for parents. These respondents were also most likely to rate center-based care high in educational preparedness and social interaction.
 - Households reporting for infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) less often rated center-based care as excellent or good than those reporting for preschoolers (36 to 60 months). The greatest differences were seen in nurturing and affordability. There were no apparent differences in the rating of family day care or care by a relative or friend by child age.

¹ The questionnaire defined “family day care” as a situation “where an individual has a child care business in his or her own home and cares for a few or several children there.” In other NSECE analyses about this type of care, we more commonly use the term “home-based provider” and distinguish between providers with or without a prior personal relationship to the child’s family. In this brief, we use the terms used in the questionnaire for each topic.

- Households below the federal poverty level and those with incomes more than 300 percent of the poverty level rated center-based care as excellent or good more often than those with incomes in between. This pattern is true for all of the characteristics, but most notably for nurturing and affordability.
- Perceptions of relative and friend care as providing a nurturing environment and as being affordable were lowest among households with incomes less than the federal poverty level. In contrast, households with incomes below the poverty level were more likely to rate relative or friend care as good or excellent in providing social interactions for children than were households with incomes at or more than 300 percent of the poverty level.

The Search for Care

- ❖ Almost half (47 percent) of households reporting about a child under age five searched for care in the past 24 months; almost two-thirds (62 percent) of those households considered more than one provider, while just over one-third considered only one (38 percent).
- ❖ Households that considered more than one provider most commonly relied on information from family and friends (63 percent) for their search, followed by “other” methods (39 percent), which were predominantly web-based searches. Similarly, households that considered only one provider commonly either already knew the provider, or the respondent, their friends, or their family members had worked with or used the provider in the past (71 percent).
 - The methods used for conducting the search were similar regardless of whether the child was an infant or toddler (birth to 36 months) or a preschooler (36 to 60 months).
 - Households that considered one provider typically relied on prior connections with the provider, regardless of household income. However, the second most common method varied by household income: households with incomes less than 100 percent of the poverty level relied on resource and referral agencies, and those at 100 percent or more of the poverty level relied on the provider’s reputation or reported that there was only one provider of that type in their area.
- ❖ Parental employment and goals for child development are key triggers in searching for care. Four in 10 households began a child-care search because of a change in employment, and three in 10 to find a better environment for their children’s development.
- ❖ Reasons for child-care searches varied by the age of the child. Half (51 percent) of respondents searching for infant or toddler care did so for work reasons compared to just over one-quarter of those searching for preschooler care. Conversely, 41 percent of respondents reporting about preschoolers identified educational and social enrichment as the reason for a search compared to 19 percent of parents reporting about infants or toddlers.
- ❖ Employment continued to be the main reason given for ECE searches across all household income levels. Almost half of households below 100 percent of the poverty level gave such a reason (49 percent), while 36 percent of those at 300 percent or more of the poverty level mentioned work-related reasons. Educational and social enrichment was consistently given as the second reason across all household income levels.
- ❖ Among households reporting about a child under five years of age and that had considered more than one provider, fees (39 percent), type of care (36 percent), and available hours (35 percent) were the top provider characteristics they had asked about in their search. Additionally, the type of care most seriously considered was center-based programs, particularly for households that considered multiple providers (80 percent). Care provided by a relative or family member was the second most common type of care that households seriously considered in their search.
 - Households with incomes less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level were more likely to ask about type of care than were households with higher incomes; they were also less likely to ask about fees.

- When households that considered more than one provider conducted a search for ECE, they were interested in similar kinds of information regardless of the age of the child. Households searching for infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) most often considered fees (42 percent), hours of care (38 percent), and the type of care (37 percent). Households searching for preschool care (36 to 60 months) were interested in the type of care (35 percent), fees (33 percent), and the content of the program (31 percent).
- ❖ Among those who considered multiple providers, households in communities with high poverty density were somewhat more likely to have seriously considered relative or friend care (29 percent) than those in low-poverty-density communities (20 percent).

Change in Care

- ❖ Just 58 percent of households that searched for care in the prior 24 months reported a change in care as a result of the search (66 percent among households that considered one provider and 54 percent among households that considered more than one provider).

INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE AND APPROACH

Two policy-relevant topics that historically have received little attention in nationally representative datasets are: 1) what families perceive to be their options in choosing an early care and education (ECE) arrangement, and 2) how they search for such an arrangement. While some federal and state initiatives and systems are already in place to support families in their search for and selection of ECE providers (including Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, consumer education programs, and scholarship programs), a better understanding of these issues will provide useful information for further developing and refining those initiatives.

This brief provides a first look at the perceptions of families of the various ECE opportunities as well as how they conduct a search for ECE. This first look is purely descriptive, although future work will put these findings in the context of the use of ECE, parental employment, characteristics of ECE providers, and the local availability of ECE.

KEY QUESTIONS

This brief uses new, nationally representative data from the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) to describe critical elements in the decision-making process of parents and other caregivers regarding the nonparental care of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. These elements include:

Perceptions of ECE

How do parents perceive or rate the qualities of center-based care, family day care, and relative or friend care?

The search for ECE

How many households search for care for their young children?

Why do they search for care?

When do they search for care?

How do they search for care?

What type of information about ECE providers do parents collect and what types of care do they consider?

Change in ECE

How many searches for care result in a change in ECE arrangement?

DATA

The data used for this brief come from the NSECE, which 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 NSECE is comprised of four nationally representative surveys that were conducted in 2012. These coordinated surveys were designed to provide in-depth data on multiple dimensions of ECE in the United States, including the availability of ECE, preferences and needs for ECE and school-age care, the use of ECE and school-age care, and a description of the ECE workforce.

One of the four surveys—the Household Survey—gathered data from households with young children, while the other three collected data from center- and home-based child-care providers. The NSECE oversampled from low-income areas because the experiences of low-income families are of critical public policy interest. The NSECE is a unique dataset in many ways. It

provides highly detailed child-care information and is the first national data with a full seven-day work and nonparental care calendar. Additionally, it collects intra-week and intra-household patterns of work and nonparental care schedules, allowing researchers to see how and when ECE is being used in relation to parents' work schedules. Importantly for this brief, it provides the first national information on the search for nonparental care.

The analyses in this brief are based on data from the Household Survey. The survey, drawing from households in 755 communities across all 50 states and the District of Columbia, gathered information from 11,629 households with at least one child under the age of 13. It includes detailed data for every child under the age of 13 in the household and more limited data on other household members. Key topics of the survey include details on the use of nonparental care, expenditures on nonparental care, parental search behavior for ECE, and the balance of parental employment with child-care needs and availability.

In this brief, we present descriptive statistics on the perceptions of and search processes for ECE for young children by households. Each household respondent (94 percent of whom were a parent or guardian of at least one child in the household) reported on these topics with respect to a randomly selected child within that household ("selected child"). Specifically, we report on households' perceptions of types of ECE, search for ECE, priorities for ECE, and changes in the use of ECE for the 4,340 households in which the "selected child is age birth to 60 months (less than five years).

Most of the perception questions distinguished between *center-based care*, *family day care* (i.e., home-based care, often from individuals with no prior personal relationship to the child's family), and *relative or friend care*. Respondents were given a description and examples of each type of care. Examples of center-based care included preschool, Head Start, an after-school program at school, or a child-care center. Family day care was described as care provided by an individual who has a child-care business in his or her own home and cares for a few or several children there. Relative or friend care was described as care provided by a relative or close family friend in the relative's or friend's home or the child's home.

When possible, we present results separately by age of selected child (infants/toddlers: birth to 36 months; preschoolers: 36 to 60 months), by race/ethnicity of the household (non-Hispanic white or white, non-Hispanic black or black, and Hispanic), by household poverty status (2011 household income is less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level, 100 to less than 200 percent of the poverty level, 200 to less than 300 percent of the poverty level, or more than 300 percent of the poverty level), and by community poverty density (high-, moderate-, low-poverty-density communities). See glossary for detailed descriptions of these measures (NSECE, 2013-46).

Differences between estimates that are presented in this brief were not tested for statistical significance. However, comparisons are discussed in the text if there is at least a 5-point difference in weighted percentages or proportions.

HOUSEHOLD PERCEPTIONS OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

As of November 2013, there were an estimated 20.0 million children less than five years old in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013). How parents and other caregivers think and feel about ECE options can set the stage for how they search for and select their child care. We

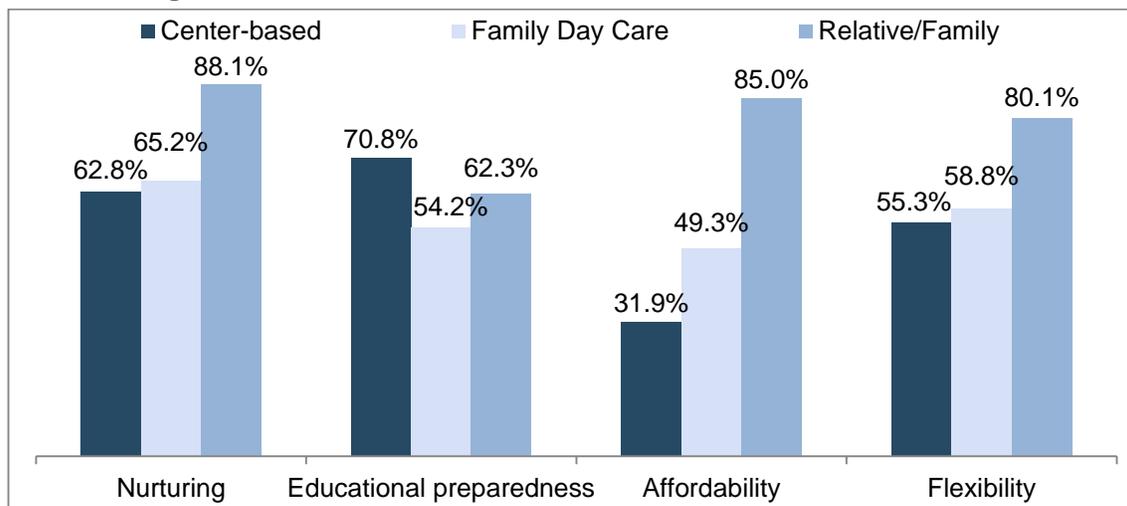
provide a national overview of how parents perceive different ECE options—separately for center-based care, family day care, and care provided by a relative or friend.

For each type of ECE setting, respondents—most often a parent—were asked to rate the quality of care on each of the following characteristics: 1) nurturing environment, 2) educational preparedness (helping children prepare to learn in school), 3) social interactions (teaching children how to get along with other children), 4) safety, 5) affordability, and 6) flexibility for parents. They were asked to rate the quality for children who are similarly aged as a randomly selected child from their household (but not necessarily for that specific child). Responses ranged from “Excellent” to “Poor,” or respondents could select “No opinion.”

Perceptions of Center-based Care

In some cases, households rated center-based care less highly than other types of care. In particular, only 63 percent of respondents rated center-based care as good or excellent for providing a nurturing environment, 32 percent for affordability, and 55 percent for flexibility [see Figure 1 and Table A1B]. In contrast, center-based care was better rated than other types of care on educational preparedness (71 percent) and the provision of social interaction (74 percent). Sixty-eight percent of respondents rated center-based care as good or excellent in safety [see Table A1B].

Figure 1. Percentage of Households that Perceive Different Types of Care to be Excellent or Good for Children Aged Birth to 60 Months



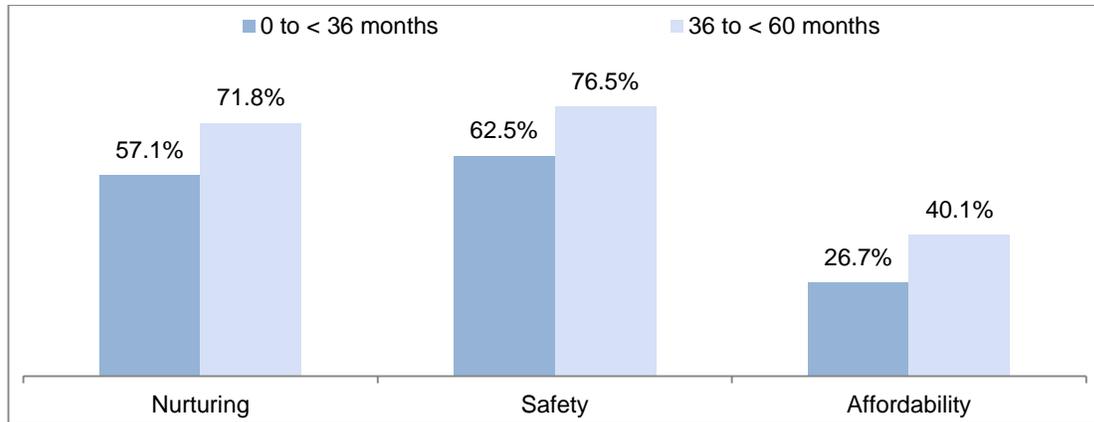
Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: The tabulation sample includes households with a selected child aged birth to 60 months.

Infants and Toddlers vs. Preschoolers

For preschoolers, center-based care was rated excellent or good more often than for infants and toddlers, particularly in nurturing, safety, and affordability. Indeed, while 72 percent of households rated center-based care as good or excellent in nurturing for preschoolers, only 57 percent did so for an infant. Similarly, 77 percent of households rated center-based care as good or excellent in safety for preschoolers, compared to 63 percent for an infant or toddler. Finally, while 40 percent of households rated center-based care as excellent or good in affordability for preschoolers, just 27 percent did so for younger children [see Figure 2].

Figure 2. Percentage of Households that Perceive Center-based Care to be Excellent or Good by Child's Age

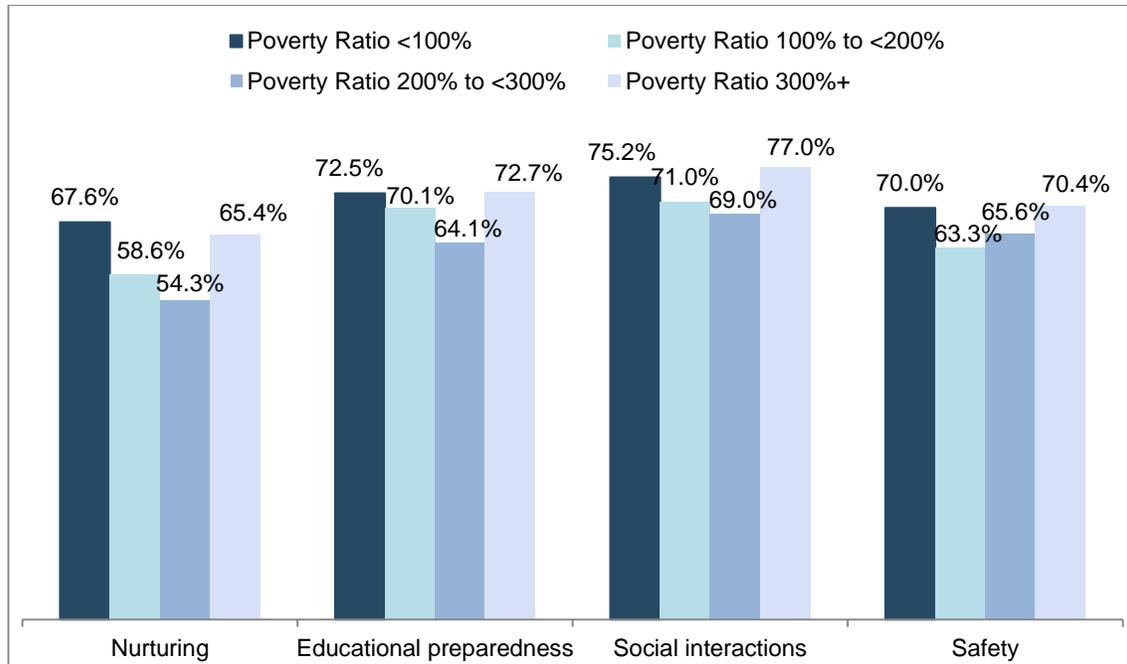


Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Household Poverty Status

Ratings of center-based care tended to follow a U-shaped pattern across poverty status. Households at the lowest and highest end of the scale rated center-based care as excellent or good more often than those with incomes in between. This pattern is most notable for nurturing, educational preparedness, and affordability [see Figure 3 and Table A2B].

Figure 3. Percentage of Households that Perceive Center-based Care to be Excellent or Good, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio



Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: This tabulation has been calculated for children aged birth to 60 months using a sample of households with a selected child aged birth to 60 months.

Race/Ethnicity

Compared to other households, black households rated center-based care particularly highly on a nurturing environment and educational preparedness. For example, three-quarters (74 percent) of black households rated center-based care as excellent or good in nurturing compared to 62 percent of white and 64 percent of Hispanic households [see Table A3B].

Perceptions of Relative or Friend Care

For all young children, relative or friend care was most often rated as good or excellent for a nurturing environment (88 percent), being safe (86 percent), affordable (85 percent), and flexible for parents (80 percent). This was higher than center or family day care. Conversely, fewer respondents rated relative or friend care as good or excellent in educational preparedness (62 percent) or in social interactions (64 percent) [see Table A1B].

Infants and Toddlers vs. Preschoolers

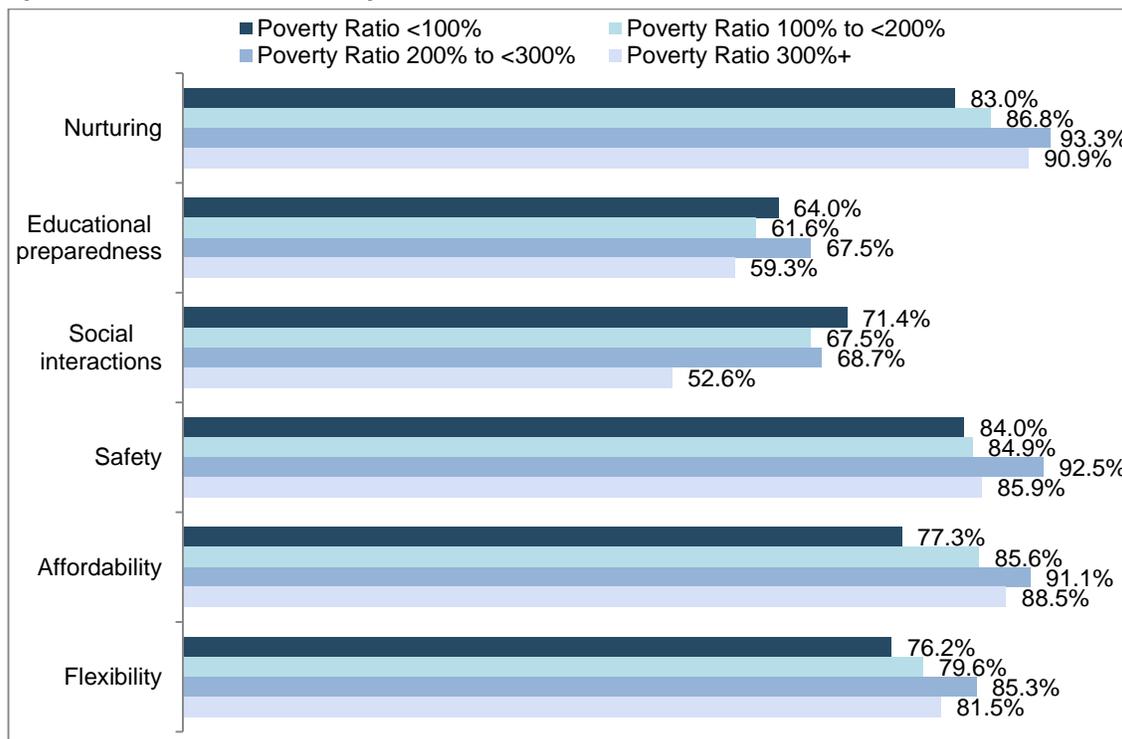
There were no substantial differences in the perception of relative or friend care by the age of the child.

Household Poverty Status

Perceptions of relative or friend care did vary by household poverty status. For example, fewer households below the federal poverty level perceived friend or relative care as nurturing (83 percent) than households above 200 percent of the poverty level (91 to 93 percent). Poor households were also less likely to perceive relative or friend care to be affordable (77 percent) than were households above the poverty level (86 to 91 percent). In contrast, households with incomes below 300 percent of the poverty

level rated relative or friend care as good or excellent in providing social interactions for children (68 to 71 percent) more often than households with incomes at or more than 300 percent of the poverty level (53 percent). Households with incomes between 200 percent and 300 percent of the poverty level were most likely to rate the safety of relative or friend care as good or excellent [see Figure 4].

Figure 4. Percentage of Households that Perceive Relative or Friend Care to be Excellent or Good, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio



Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: This tabulation has been calculated for children aged birth to 60 months using a sample of households with a selected child aged birth to 60 months.

Race/Ethnicity

With the exception of social interactions, white households rated relative or friend care most highly. Ninety-two percent of white households perceived relative or friend care as affordable, compared to 74 percent of black and Hispanic households. Similarly, 94 percent of white households rated relative or friend care as nurturing compared to 81 percent of black and 80 percent of Hispanic households [see Table A3B]. White households also rated relative or friend care more highly in educational preparedness, safety, and flexibility than did black or Hispanic households [see Table A3B].

Perceptions of Family Day Care

With the exception of safety, ratings for family day care fell in between those for relative or friend and center-based care. Family day care was perceived as the least safe (64 percent) compared to other types of care [see Table A1B]. In terms of the other characteristics, family day care was rated higher in nurturing (65 percent) and providing social interactions (69 percent) and lower on affordability (49 percent) and educational preparedness (54 percent) [see Table A1B].

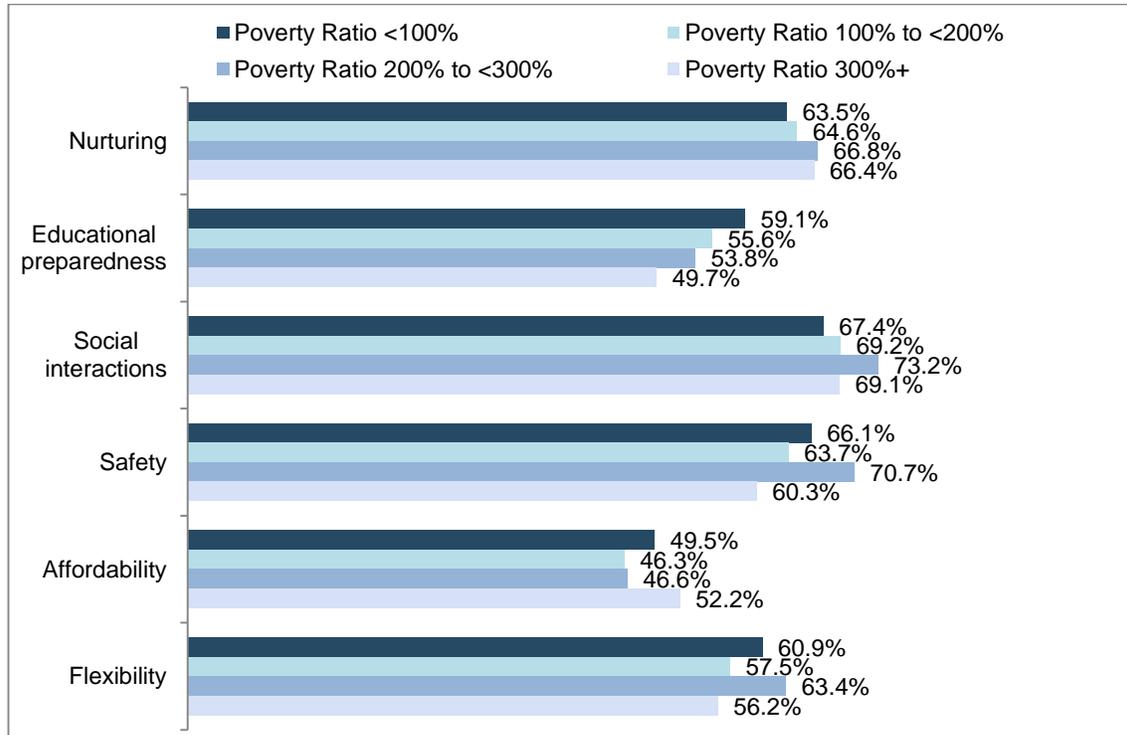
Infants and Toddlers vs. Preschoolers

There were no substantial differences in the perception of family day care by the age of the child.

Household Poverty Status

While 59 percent of households with incomes below the poverty level rated family day care as good or excellent in educational preparedness, only 50 percent of households with incomes at or more than 300 percent of the poverty level did so [see Figure 5]. Other factors did not vary substantially by poverty.

Figure 5. Percentage of Households that Perceive Family Daycare to be Excellent or Good, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio



Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: This tabulation has been calculated for children aged birth to 60 months using a sample of households with a selected child aged birth to 60 months.

Race/Ethnicity

No consistent pattern emerged by race/ethnicity. Hispanic households were less likely to rate family day care as excellent or good in safety (61 percent) and nurturing (62 percent) than were white (68 percent and 69 percent, respectively) or black households (71 percent and 68 percent, respectively) [see Table A3B]. At the same time, black households were more likely to rate family day care as excellent or good for educational preparedness (61 percent) and flexibility (69 percent) than were white (54 percent and 58 percent, respectively) or Hispanic households (56 percent and 60 percent, respectively) [see Table A3B].

THE SEARCH FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The Household Survey data indicate that, as of 2012, almost half (47 percent) of the estimated 11.4 million households in the United States with children under the age of five had searched for ECE in the past 24 months [see Tables A4 and A1A]. Among households that reported such a search, nearly two-thirds (62 percent) considered more than one provider, although this was somewhat higher in households searching for children aged birth to 36 months (65 percent) than for those searching for children aged 36 to 60 months (57 percent) [see Table A4]. In this section of the brief, we document respondents' reasons why, when, and how they search. We do this for all households in our search sample, as well as separately by child age, number of providers considered in the search, race/ethnicity, and poverty status, when possible.

Why Do Families Search for Care?

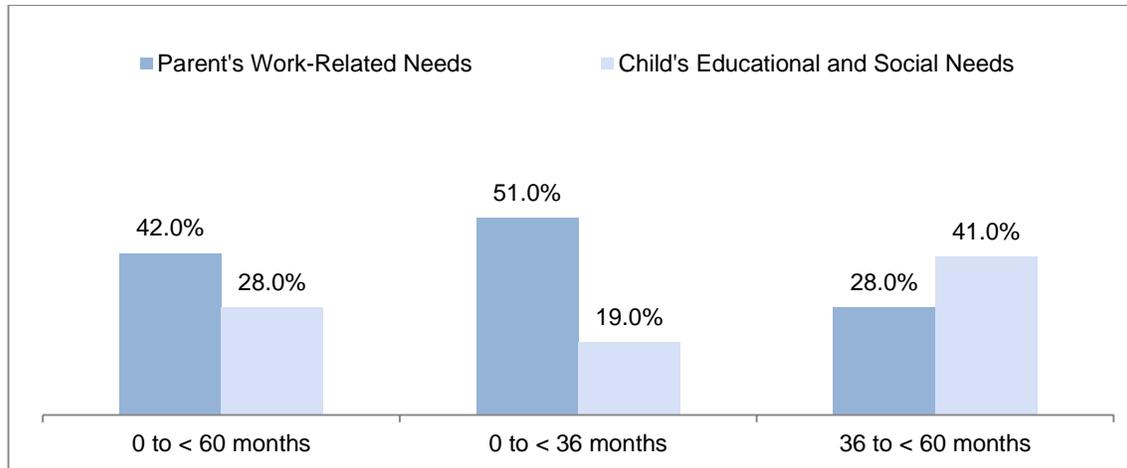
Among households that had conducted a search for care in the past 24 months, respondents were asked about their main reason for initiating the search. The interviewer then coded the respondent's response into one of the following options: "So that I could work/change in work schedule," "To provide my child educational or social enrichment," "To give me some relief," "To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school," "Wasn't satisfied with care," "Wanted to reduce child-care expenses," "Provider stopped providing care," "Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)," or recorded the verbatim response, which was designated as "Other."

Among all households reporting about children less than five years of age, the first option, for work (which may be capturing changes in hours or schedule, a new job, or a loss of job), was the most common reason given for a search (42 percent). Somewhat less, 27.5 percent, wanted to provide the child with educational or social enrichment [see Figure 5B]. The remaining responses were split among the other categories, with no one answer dominating [see Table A5B]. Households that considered only one provider were more likely to search in order to provide educational or social enrichment (33 percent) compared with households that considered more than one provider (24 percent) [see Table A5B].

Infants and Toddlers vs. Preschoolers

Fifty-one percent of parents searching for care for an infant or toddler indicated that a change in their work was the primary reason for initiating a search compared to just 28 percent of those with preschool-age children. Conversely, 41 percent of parents with preschoolers identified educational and social enrichment as the reason for the search compared to 19 percent of parents with infants or toddlers [see Figure 6].

Figure 6. Percentage of Households that Report “Parent’s Work-Related Needs” and “Child’s Educational and Social Needs” as the Main Reason for their Most Recent Search, by Child’s Age



Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: The tabulation sample includes households that conducted a search in the past 24 months for a randomly selected child aged birth to 60 months and considered any number of providers.

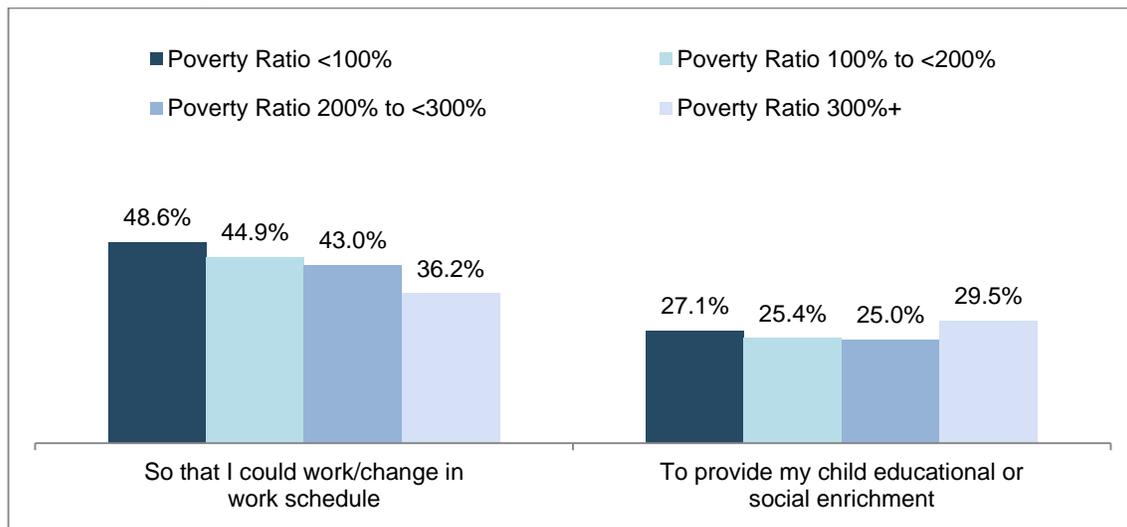
Household Race/Ethnicity

There were few differences among households in the main reason given for initiating a search for care regardless of the household’s race/ethnicity [see Table A8B].

Household Poverty Status

There was one difference by household poverty status. Nearly half (49 percent) of respondents in households with income below the poverty level identified work as the main reason for searching for care compared to just over one-third (36 percent) of parents in households with incomes at or above 300 percent of the poverty level [see Figure 7].

Figure 7. Percentage of Households that Report “Parent’s Work-Related Needs” and “Child’s Educational and Social Needs” as the Main Reason for their Most Recent Search, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio



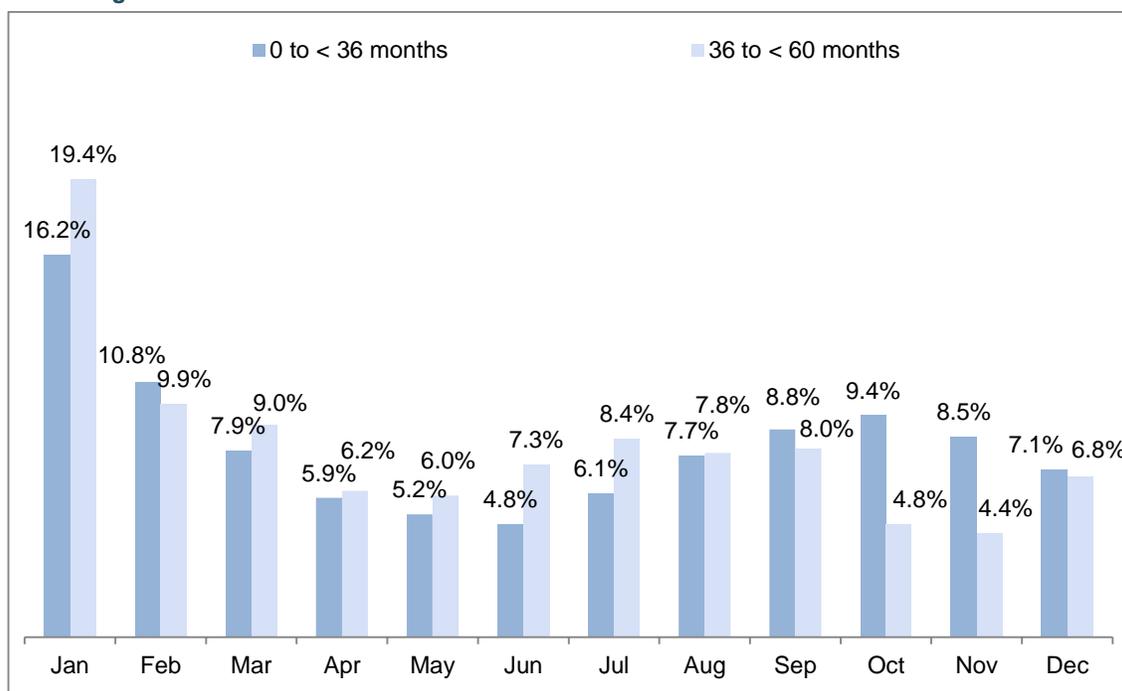
Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: The tabulation sample includes households that conducted a search in the past 24 months for a randomly selected child aged birth to 60 months and considered any number of providers.

When Do Searches Typically Occur?

The most common time of the year to search for care was in the winter; 18 percent of searches occurred in January, followed by 11 percent in February. The least common months for a search were May and June (just under 6 percent) [see Table A10B]. Searches for care were least likely in late spring and early summer for households reporting about infants and toddlers and in the fall for households reporting about preschoolers [see Figure 8]. Search patterns were similar for infants and toddlers, with one exception: among households reporting on infants (birth to 12 months), January was a much more common month for a search (24 percent), followed by November (15 percent), while among households reporting about toddlers (12 to 36 months), 14 percent of searches were in January, 12 percent were in February, and 10 percent were in September and October [see Table A11].

Figure 8. Percentage of Households that Conducted their Most Recent Search in a Given Month by Child's Age



Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: The tabulation sample includes households that conducted a search in the past 24 months for a randomly selected child aged birth to 60 months.

How Do Parents Search for Care?

The Household Questionnaire included a series of questions about how households had searched for ECE providers. Developmental work for the study had indicated that a substantial fraction of families consider only one provider in their searches (Bowman et al., 2010), and that the nature of the search process differed in these cases from searches considering multiple options. The questionnaire therefore included one set of questions for families that considered just one provider in their search (37 percent), while families that considered more than one provider (63 percent) answered a slightly different set of questions. Below we present results separately by the number of providers considered.

More than One Provider

Almost two-thirds of respondents who searched for ECE for a child less than five years of age in the past 24 months considered two or more providers. These respondents were asked to report up to two ways they had searched for care from the following list: “Asked friends and family with children,” “Asked potential contacts who are providers,” “Community service, resource, and referral lists,” “Posted an ad/responded to an ad,” “Yellow Pages/newspapers/bulletin boards,” “Welfare or social services,” “Health-care provider,” and “Other.” For these respondents, the most common method of search was “Asked friends and family with children” (63 percent), followed by “Other” (39 percent), which notably includes searches conducted on the internet. Fewer than 5 percent selected “Health-care provider” or “Posted an ad/responded to an ad” [see Table A12].

Infants and Toddlers vs. Preschoolers

Responses varied little for households reporting on older (36 to 60 months) versus younger children (birth to 36 months) [see Table A12].

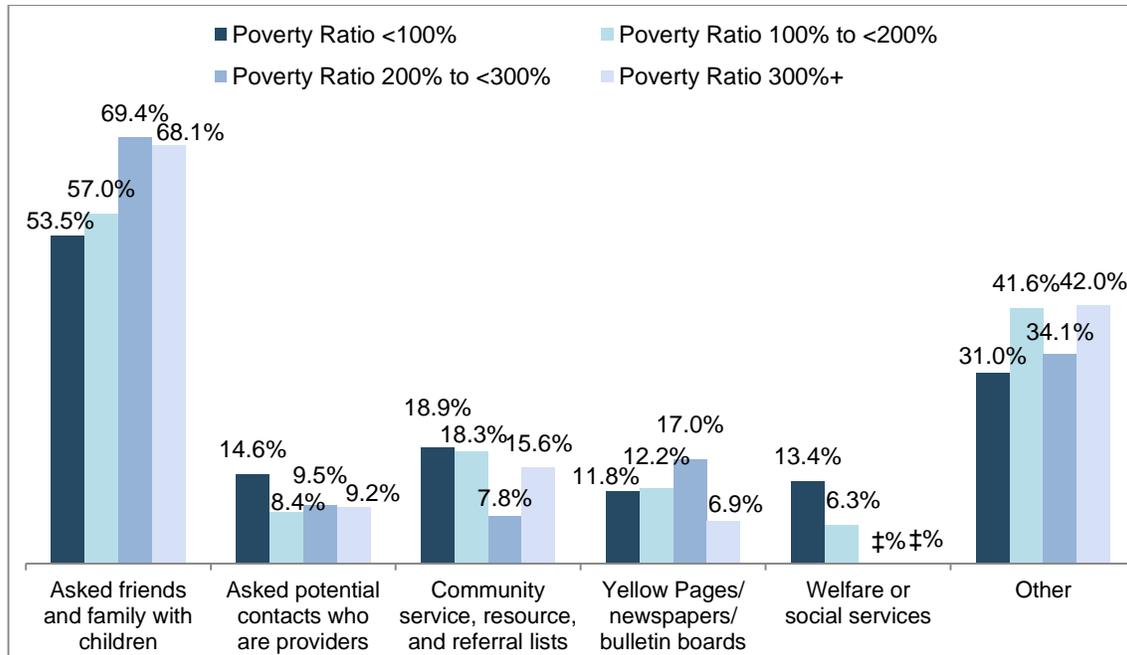
Household Poverty Status

Responses did vary by poverty status. Almost seven in 10 households with incomes in the two top categories (200 percent or more of the federal poverty level) reported that they asked friends and family with children compared to fewer than six in 10 of those with incomes in the two lower categories (0 to <200 percent). Additionally, households below the federal poverty level (<100 percent) were more likely to report that they asked potential contacts who are providers (15 percent) than were other respondents (fewer than 10 percent) [see Figure 9].

Community Poverty Density

There are no strong patterns in the method of search based on differences in community poverty density [see Table A14B].

Figure 9. Percentage of Households that Used a Given Method of Search in their Most Recent Search, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio



Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Notes: The tabulation sample includes households that conducted a search in the past 24 months for a randomly selected child aged birth to 60 months and that considered more than one provider. Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive.

‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

One Provider

Just over one-third (37 percent) of households had considered only one provider in their search for ECE; of those households, respondents who had considered an option other than family or friend care were asked how they searched for or knew about that provider.² We combined all responses into the following four categories: 1) “Self/friends/family members worked in/used this provider, or know the provider,” 2) “Provider has a good reputation in the community” or “No other providers of this type in the area,” 3) “Saw advertisement online or elsewhere,” and 4) “Resource and referral agency.”

The first category listed above was the most common search method for respondents who considered only one provider; seven in 10 (71 percent) reported that they or their friends or family had worked in, used, or otherwise knew this provider; and no more than one in 10 of these households fell into any other category [see Table A15].

Infants and Toddlers vs. Preschoolers

Responses varied little for households reporting on older versus younger children, although households with younger children (birth to 36 months) were somewhat more likely than those with older children (36 to 60 months) to report that they or their friends or family had worked in, used, or otherwise knew this provider (74 percent and 68 percent, respectively) [see Table A15].

² Households that considered only one provider were asked the follow-up question “What type of provider is this?” If a household indicated a home-based provider with whom they had a prior personal relationship, additional questions about how they knew the provider were not asked because the instrument had already established a personal relationship between the household and provider.

Household Poverty Status

There was no clear pattern in the search process by household poverty status, though there were some notable differences. For example, about three-quarters of households with incomes below the federal poverty level (76 percent) and those with incomes from 200 to 300 percent of the poverty level (74 percent) reported that they or their friends or family worked with, used, or knew the provider compared with 64 percent of households with income from 100 to 200 percent of the poverty level [see Table A16B].

Community Poverty Density

There were, however, some clear patterns in the method of search based on community poverty density. Almost eight in 10 households in high-poverty communities relied on themselves, friends, or family who worked with or used this provider, or knew the provider (77 percent) compared with seven in 10 in lower-poverty communities (70 percent) [see Table A17B].

Type of Information Collected

Households that conducted an ECE search for the selected child in the past 24 months and considered more than one provider were asked about the type of information they gathered about those providers. Interviewers selected the first three mentions from the following list: “Type of care,” “Hours of care,” “Willingness to accept or availability of subsidies,” “Financial aid available,” “Fees charged,” “Geographic location,” “Public transportation accessibility,” “Content of program,” “Year-round care,” “Services provided (e.g., transportation, meals, etc.),” “Languages spoken,” “Curriculum/philosophy (including religion),” “Licensing status,” “Teacher tenure/turnover,” and “Other.” In this section of the brief, we document these responses for households reporting on children aged birth to 36 months and 36 to 60 months, and by household poverty status and community poverty density.

For all households in which the selected child is under age five years, respondents reported collecting information most frequently on fees charged (39 percent), type of care (36 percent), and hours of care (35 percent). Twenty-six percent collected information on the content of the program and 18 percent on the curriculum or philosophy of the program. There were notable differences, however, in the information gathered by child age, household poverty status, and community level poverty as detailed below [see Table A12].

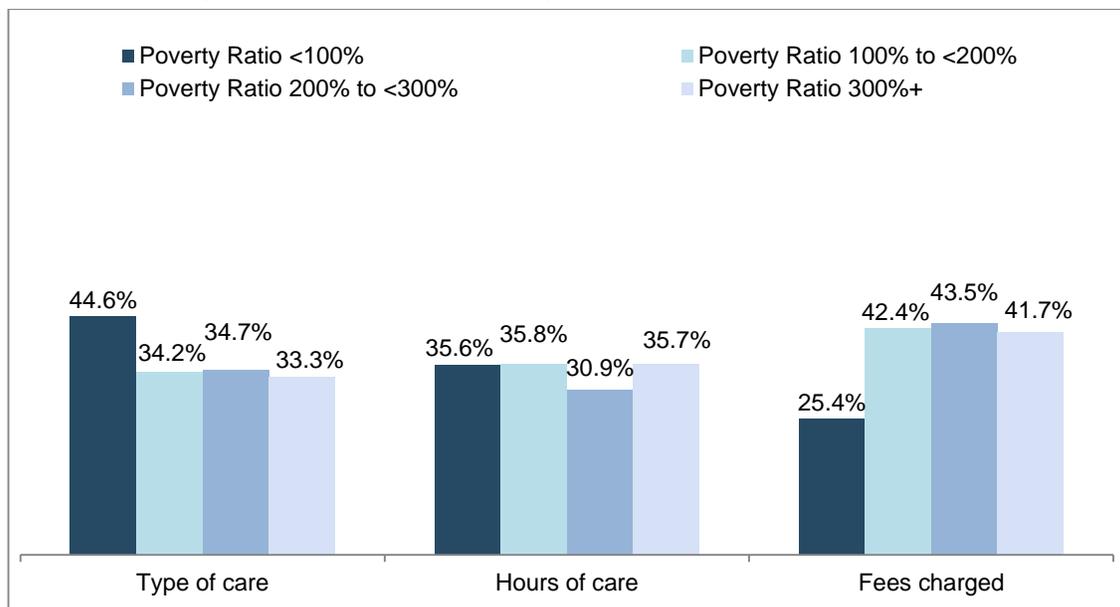
Child Age

Households searching for care for children aged birth to 36 months were more likely to collect information on fees charged and hours of care (42 percent and 38 percent, respectively) than were households searching for children aged 36 and 60 months (33 percent and 29 percent, respectively). Conversely, searches for the older children more often collected information on the content of the program and the curriculum/philosophy (31 percent and 24 percent, respectively) compared to searches for the children aged birth to 36 months (24 percent and 14 percent, respectively) [see Table A12].

Household Poverty Status

Households below 100 percent of the federal poverty level were more likely to gather information on type of care (45 percent) than were households at other income levels (less than 35 percent). However, households below 100 percent of the federal poverty level were less likely to gather information on fees charged (25 percent) than were other groups (greater than 40 percent) [see Figure 10]. Child-care subsidies or publicly funded programs like Head Start for low-income families may contribute to how households with different income levels search for care.

Figure 10. Percentage of Households that Collected Given Characteristics of Care in their Most Recent Search, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio



Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: The tabulation sample includes households that conducted a search in the past 24 months for a randomly selected child aged birth to 60 months and considered more than one provider.

Community Poverty Density

Households in high-poverty-density communities were less likely to consider fees charged (32 percent) than were households in communities with moderate (37 percent) and low poverty densities (42 percent) [see Table A14B]. Additionally, households in communities with high densities of poverty were less likely to consider information on the type of care (31 percent) than were those in communities with moderate or low levels of poverty (37 percent). Households in high-poverty-density communities were less likely to consider the content of the program (15 percent) than were households in communities with moderate (27 percent) or low levels of poverty density (29 percent) [see Table A14B].

Providers Most Seriously Considered: Type of Care

Households that conducted an ECE search for the selected child in the past 24 months and considered more than one provider classified the two providers they considered most seriously into one of four types of care: “Home-based provider I had prior personal relationship with,” “Home-based provider I didn’t have prior personal relationship with,” “Center-based care,” or “Other.” Those who had considered only one provider were asked to classify that provider’s type of care from the same list. In this section of the brief, we present information on the types of care of providers most seriously considered by households undertaking both types of search, as well as by household-level poverty and community poverty density. Results for households that considered more than one provider are not directly comparable to those that considered only one provider, as the questions differed somewhat, so they are presented separately.

More than One Provider

Of households reporting on young children aged birth to 60 months that considered more than one provider, 80 percent reported at least one center-based care provider among the two most seriously considered. In contrast, only about one-quarter reported a home-based provider with whom they had no prior personal relationship (25 percent) or care with any

relative/family/someone familiar (23 percent), and less than 5 percent reported some other type of care [see Table A12].

Child Age

Patterns differed somewhat by the age of the selected child. Households reporting for children aged birth to 36 months were more likely to report seriously considering a home-based provider with whom they had no prior personal relationship (30 percent) or care with any relative/family/someone familiar (26 percent) than were households reporting on children aged 36 to 60 months (15 percent and 17 percent, respectively). Conversely, households reporting for preschoolers were more likely to report that a center-based care provider was among the two most seriously considered (87 percent) than were those reporting for infants and toddlers (76 percent).

Household Poverty Status

All households, regardless of poverty status, were similarly likely to include center-based care among their most seriously considered providers. However, households with incomes over 300 percent of poverty were less likely to consider relative or friend care (15 percent) than those with lower incomes (between 25 percent and 37 percent). In contrast, higher income households were more likely to consider a home-based provider with whom they had no prior relationship. Households with incomes more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level (31 percent) were more likely to consider such care than households with incomes from 200 percent to 300 percent of the federal poverty level (25 percent) or those with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level (17 percent and 18 percent, respectively, for those above and below the poverty level) [see Table A13B].

Community Poverty Density

There was also some variation by community poverty density in the care types most seriously considered. Seventy-three percent of households in communities with high levels of poverty identified center-based care compared to 80 and 83 percent, respectively, in moderate- and low-poverty-density communities [see Table 14B]. In contrast, more households in high-poverty-density communities reported relative or friend care (29 percent) compared with those in low-poverty-density communities (20 percent) [see Table A14B].

One Provider

For households reporting on young children aged birth to 60 months that considered only one provider, almost six in 10 (58 percent) said that that provider offered center-based care. In comparison, only two in 10 (22 percent) households classified their most seriously considered provider as a relative or home-based provider they were familiar with, and fewer than one in 10 (8 percent) classified that provider as a home-based provider with whom they had no prior personal relationship [see Table A18].

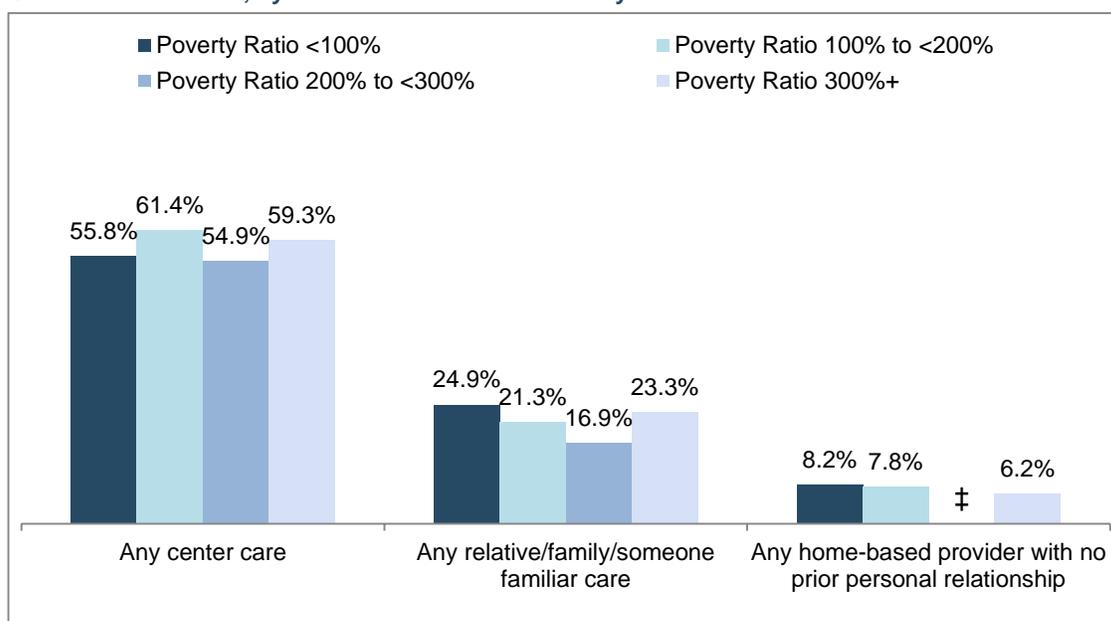
Child Age

Households reporting for children aged birth to 36 months were more likely to seriously consider care with any relative/family/someone familiar (29 percent) than were households reporting on children aged 36 to 60 months (15 percent). Conversely, households reporting for preschoolers were more likely to seriously consider center-based care (67 percent) than were those reporting for infants and toddlers (51 percent).

Household Poverty Status

Households were most likely to have seriously considered a center-based care provider, generally followed by care with any relative/family/someone familiar. There were some differences by household poverty status, although no clear pattern emerged. Sixty-one percent of households at 100 percent to 200 percent of the poverty level most seriously considered a center-based care provider compared to 56 percent of those with incomes below 100 percent of the poverty level and 55 percent of households at 200 percent to 300 percent of the poverty level. Conversely, 25 percent of households with incomes below 100 percent of the poverty level reported having seriously considered care with any relative/family/someone familiar compared to 17 percent of those at 200 percent to 300 percent of the poverty level [see Figure 11].

Figure 11. Percentage of Households that Report a Given Type of Care for their Most Seriously Considered Provider, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio



Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

Note: The tabulation sample includes households that conducted a search in the past 24 months for a randomly selected child aged birth to 60 months and considered only one provider.

‡ Value suppressed due to small n.

Community Poverty Density

As was the case for those who considered more than one provider, fewer households in high-poverty-density communities most seriously considered a center-based care provider (52 percent) than did households in low-poverty-density communities (62 percent) [see Table A20B]. Additionally, roughly one-quarter of households in high-poverty-density communities (25 percent) or moderate-poverty-density communities (27 percent) most seriously considered relative or friend care, compared to 20 percent of households in low-poverty-density communities [see Table A20B].

DID SEARCH LEAD TO A CHANGE IN CARE?

Households that searched for care in the past 24 months for the selected child were asked about the results of their most recent search (i.e., Specifically, did they find care, stay with an existing provider, decide to use only parental care, or give up their search for another reason?).

Child Age

Overall, 58 percent of respondents reported that their search resulted in a change of care. A change was more likely among households that considered just one provider (66 percent) than among those that considered more than one (54 percent) [see Table A21B]. Searches were also more likely to result in a change in care for preschool-age children than for infants and toddlers. While two-thirds of searches for preschoolers resulted in a change in care (65 percent), just over half of searches for infants and toddlers did so (54 percent) [see Table A21B].

CONCLUSIONS

This brief provides the first national look into how parents perceive child-care options available to them, how and why they search for care, what they prioritize in selecting an arrangement, and when searches result in a change in arrangement. The data suggest that parents' perceptions, as well as the search process for nonparental care, vary by household income, child's age, and household race/ethnicity, and that these patterns may shed light on ways in which programs and policies can be targeted to better serve families with young children.

Not surprisingly, data from the NSECE suggest that the cost of care shapes parents' perceptions of type of nonparental care arrangement, and that public programs may have increased the perceived affordability of center care for low-income families. Specifically, households below 100 percent of the poverty level and those 300 percent and above are more likely to report affordability and fees as perceived characteristics for preferring center-based care arrangements as compared with households between 100 and 300 percent of the poverty level, which often fall outside the income eligibility for many government programs. In particular, this pattern in the perceptions of affordability may reflect, on the one hand, the child-care subsidies lower-income families receive or other opportunities for free or subsidized care—such as Head Start or public pre-kindergarten—and on the other hand, the greater purchase power of families with higher incomes.

There has been a surge in policy and public focus on the educational benefits of early education, and this appears to have influenced household perceptions. Data from the NSECE provide evidence that parents and caregivers are responsive to the developmental needs of children and consider this when weighing the appropriateness of nonparental care arrangements. Households reporting on three- to five-year-olds are more likely to rate centers higher on all characteristics (nurturing, educational preparedness, social interactions, safety, affordability, and flexibility) than households reporting on infants and toddlers.

Likewise, center care was seriously considered by a substantial majority of households reporting searches for infant and toddler care. Even more households searching for preschool care seriously considered at least one center-based care provider. Moreover, while one in five households searching for nonparental care for an infant or toddler searched to find a better social or educational environment for their child; this proportion increased to two in five among households with preschool-age children.

Prior research notes some differences in the type of care used by racial/ethnic group. The patterns here do not tend to support perceptions or search behaviors distinctive to one or more racial/ethnic group. Reports by Hispanic households look very similar to those by white

households. Black households tend to rank center-based arrangements slightly higher on some characteristics versus other racial/ethnic groups.

These analyses are a first look at the information on household perceptions of and search for ECE. Future analyses can make use of additional data on the household context for search (such as parental employment or current use of ECE), the search process itself (including characteristics of the providers, most seriously considered providers, and the result of the search), and the local availability of ECE (from NSECE data on ECE providers).

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Appendix I. Detailed Tables

Table A1A. Number of Households with a Selected Child Aged <60 Months that Perceive Types of Care to be Excellent or Good for Children of the Selected Child's Age, by Age of Selected Child: Count

Quality by Care Type	Household's Selected Child 0 to <60 Months	Household's Selected Child 0 to <60 Months	Household's Selected Child 0 to <36 Months	Household's Selected Child 0 to <36 Months	Household's Selected Child 36 to <60 Months	Household's Selected Child 36 to <60 Months
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Total respondents	11.42	0.370	6.97	0.270	4.45	0.172
Center-based care						
Nurturing	7.18	0.268	3.98	0.195	3.20	0.148
Educational preparedness	8.08	0.294	4.60	0.212	3.48	0.152
Social interactions	8.45	0.308	4.97	0.227	3.48	0.160
Safety	7.76	0.282	4.36	0.196	3.41	0.161
Affordability	3.65	0.166	1.86	0.114	1.78	0.093
Flexibility	6.32	0.245	3.55	0.172	2.77	0.139
Family day care						
Nurturing	7.45	0.278	4.62	0.209	2.83	0.136
Educational preparedness	6.20	0.231	3.89	0.182	2.32	0.117
Social interactions	7.91	0.286	4.93	0.212	2.98	0.140
Safety	7.34	0.274	4.47	0.200	2.86	0.133
Affordability	5.63	0.232	3.42	0.172	2.21	0.117
Flexibility	6.72	0.256	4.08	0.193	2.64	0.122
Relative/friend care						
Nurturing	10.06	0.341	6.17	0.252	3.89	0.165
Educational preparedness	7.12	0.259	4.43	0.205	2.69	0.133
Social interactions	7.27	0.250	4.34	0.184	2.93	0.136
Safety	9.84	0.341	6.03	0.251	3.81	0.163
Affordability	9.71	0.335	5.99	0.250	3.73	0.156
Flexibility	9.15	0.316	5.70	0.238	3.45	0.154

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero.

Notes: These outcomes are constructed from the following household survey item and other similar items asked of the adult respondent: “These next questions are about how you view different types of child care or after-school care for children of the same age as [SELECTED CHILD]. Please think about each type of care in general, not any specific program you know of. The types of care I will ask you about are: center care, relative or friend care, family day care, and parental care. Now how would you rate it on having a nurturing environment for children of the same age as (SELECTED CHILD IN C14_SELECT)? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, poor?”

Table A1B. Percentage of Households with a Selected Child Aged <60 Months that Perceive Types of Care to be Excellent or Good for Children of the Selected Child's Age, by Age of Selected Child: Percent

Quality by Care Type	Household's Selected Child 0 to <60 Months	Household's Selected Child 0 to <60 Months	Household's Selected Child 0 to <36 Months	Household's Selected Child 0 to <36 Months	Household's Selected Child 36 to <60 Months	Household's Selected Child 36 to <60 Months
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total respondents	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Center-based care						
Nurturing	62.8	1.21	57.1	1.62	71.8	1.73
Educational preparedness	70.8	1.11	66.0	1.51	78.3	1.46
Social interactions	74.0	1.07	71.2	1.44	78.2	1.49
Safety	68.0	1.15	62.5	1.50	76.5	1.62
Affordability	31.9	1.17	26.7	1.38	40.1	1.76
Flexibility	55.3	1.32	50.9	1.64	62.3	1.90
Family day care						
Nurturing	65.2	1.28	66.3	1.57	63.5	1.65
Educational preparedness	54.3	1.24	55.7	1.69	52.0	1.78
Social interactions	69.2	1.10	70.7	1.28	66.9	1.73
Safety	64.2	1.19	64.2	1.55	64.3	1.73
Affordability	49.3	1.15	49.0	1.48	49.7	1.82
Flexibility	58.8	1.23	58.6	1.60	59.2	1.79
Relative/friend care						
Nurturing	88.1	0.79	88.5	0.96	87.4	1.27
Educational preparedness	62.3	1.11	63.5	1.41	60.5	1.85
Social interactions	63.6	1.14	62.3	1.46	65.7	1.71
Safety	86.1	0.82	86.5	0.92	85.6	1.25
Affordability	85.0	0.85	85.9	1.06	83.7	1.31
Flexibility	80.1	0.88	81.7	1.11	77.6	1.52

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero.

Notes: These outcomes are constructed from the following household survey item and other similar items asked of the adult respondent: "These next questions are about how you view different types of child care or after-school care for children of the same age as [SELECTED CHILD]. Please think about each type of care in general, not any specific program you know of. The types of care I will ask you about are: center care, relative or friend care,

family day care, and parental care. Now how would you rate it on having a nurturing environment for children of the same age as (SELECTED CHILD IN C14_SELECT)? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, poor?”

Table A2A. Count of Households with a Selected Child Aged <60 Months that Perceive Types of Care to be Excellent or Good for Children of the Selected Child's Age, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Count

Quality by Care Type	IPR PFPL	IPR PFPL						
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Count (in millions)	Standard Error						
Total respondents	3.22	0.149	2.64	0.127	1.64	0.110	3.93	0.232
Center-based care								
Nurturing	2.17	0.115	1.54	0.093	0.89	0.080	2.57	0.178
Educational preparedness	2.33	0.127	1.85	0.108	1.05	0.082	2.85	0.189
Social interactions	2.42	0.126	1.87	0.105	1.13	0.090	3.02	0.194
Safety	2.25	0.118	1.67	0.094	1.08	0.091	2.77	0.183
Affordability	1.20	0.078	0.72	0.059	0.41	0.053	1.32	0.115
Flexibility	1.83	0.101	1.36	0.092	0.89	0.085	2.24	0.160
Family day care								
Nurturing	2.04	0.112	1.70	0.109	1.10	0.085	2.61	0.167
Educational preparedness	1.90	0.106	1.46	0.098	0.88	0.077	1.95	0.137
Social interactions	2.17	0.116	1.82	0.111	1.20	0.096	2.72	0.176
Safety	2.13	0.119	1.68	0.104	1.16	0.091	2.37	0.160
Affordability	1.59	0.096	1.22	0.085	0.76	0.071	2.05	0.151
Flexibility	1.96	0.115	1.51	0.096	1.04	0.085	2.21	0.157
Relative/friend care								
Nurturing	2.67	0.126	2.29	0.123	1.53	0.103	3.57	0.218
Educational preparedness	2.06	0.110	1.62	0.096	1.11	0.097	2.33	0.158
Social interactions	2.30	0.115	1.78	0.104	1.13	0.095	2.06	0.144
Safety	2.71	0.131	2.24	0.121	1.52	0.105	3.38	0.215
Affordability	2.49	0.121	2.26	0.121	1.49	0.102	3.47	0.213
Flexibility	2.45	0.125	2.10	0.117	1.40	0.098	3.20	0.206

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero.

Notes: These outcomes are constructed from the following household survey item and other similar items asked of the adult respondent: "These next questions are about how you view different types of child care or after-school care for children of the same age as [SELECTED CHILD]. Please think about each type of care in general, not any specific program you know of. The types of care I will ask you about are: center care, relative or friend care, family day care, and parental care. Now how would you rate it on having a nurturing environment for children of the same age as (SELECTED CHILD IN C14_SELECT)? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, poor?"

Table A2B. Percentage of Households with a Selected Child Aged <60 Months that Perceive Types of Care to be Excellent or Good for Children of the Selected Child's Age, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Percent

Quality by Care Type	IPR PFPL							
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Column Percent	Standard Error						
Total respondents	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Center-based care								
Nurturing	67.6	1.60	58.6	2.42	54.3	3.57	65.4	2.33
Educational preparedness	72.5	1.65	70.1	2.13	64.1	3.05	72.7	2.03
Social interactions	75.2	1.42	71.0	2.04	69.0	3.06	77.0	2.01
Safety	70.0	1.74	63.3	2.39	65.6	3.08	70.4	2.04
Affordability	37.2	1.63	27.3	2.10	25.1	2.97	33.6	2.21
Flexibility	56.8	1.84	51.6	2.60	54.2	3.49	57.1	2.46
Family day care								
Nurturing	63.5	1.68	64.6	2.48	66.8	3.17	66.4	2.14
Educational preparedness	59.1	1.76	55.6	2.60	53.8	3.14	49.7	2.27
Social interactions	67.4	1.69	69.2	2.14	73.2	2.99	69.1	1.96
Safety	66.1	1.80	63.7	2.32	70.7	2.87	60.3	2.17
Affordability	49.5	1.79	46.3	2.42	46.6	3.24	52.2	2.21
Flexibility	60.9	1.84	57.5	2.37	63.4	3.57	56.2	2.26
Relative/friend care								
Nurturing	83.0	1.33	86.8	1.50	93.3	1.53	90.9	1.21
Educational preparedness	64.0	1.69	61.6	2.02	67.5	3.00	59.3	2.06
Social interactions	71.4	1.63	67.5	2.15	68.7	3.15	52.6	2.24
Safety	84.0	1.23	84.9	1.68	92.5	1.48	85.9	1.63
Affordability	77.3	1.52	85.6	1.76	91.1	1.64	88.5	1.33
Flexibility	76.2	1.56	79.6	1.85	85.3	2.15	81.5	1.80

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero.

Notes: These outcomes are constructed from the following household survey item and other similar items asked of the adult respondent: "These next questions are about how you view different types of child care or after-school care for children of the same age as [SELECTED CHILD]. Please think about each type of care in general, not any specific program you know of. The types of care I will ask you about are: center care, relative or friend care, family day care, and parental care. Now how would you rate it on having a nurturing environment for children of the same age as (SELECTED CHILD IN C14_SELECT)? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, poor?"

Table A3A. Number of Households with a Selected Child Aged <60 Months that Perceive Types of Care to be Excellent or Good for Children of the Selected Child's Age, by Household Race/Ethnicity: Count

Quality by Care Type	Household Race/Ethnicity*					
	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Total respondents	5.98	0.271	1.40	0.134	2.09	0.127
Center-based care						
Nurturing	3.70	0.214	1.04	0.106	1.33	0.090
Educational preparedness	4.27	0.225	1.07	0.111	1.47	0.102
Social interactions	4.53	0.234	1.06	0.113	1.53	0.103
Safety	4.15	0.211	1.00	0.098	1.39	0.093
Affordability	1.82	0.132	0.48	0.049	0.77	0.059
Flexibility	3.29	0.185	0.82	0.084	1.24	0.087
Family day care						
Nurturing	4.14	0.218	0.94	0.101	1.29	0.096
Educational preparedness	3.26	0.178	0.85	0.087	1.18	0.089
Social interactions	4.37	0.224	0.95	0.100	1.41	0.099
Safety	4.05	0.211	0.99	0.113	1.27	0.089
Affordability	2.99	0.181	0.76	0.085	1.03	0.083
Flexibility	3.45	0.187	0.96	0.103	1.24	0.090
Relative/friend care						
Nurturing	5.59	0.262	1.13	0.105	1.66	0.108
Educational preparedness	3.95	0.205	0.85	0.099	1.17	0.083
Social interactions	3.74	0.187	0.97	0.098	1.39	0.097
Safety	5.42	0.254	1.17	0.111	1.63	0.110
Affordability	5.50	0.257	1.04	0.090	1.55	0.102
Flexibility	5.01	0.238	1.06	0.101	1.57	0.106

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero.

*Includes the race/ethnicity of the respondent and all children under age 13. The sample for this analysis includes only single-race/ethnicity White, African American, and Hispanic households.

Notes: These outcomes are constructed from the following household survey item and other similar items asked of the adult respondent: "These next questions are about how you view different types of child care or after-school care for children of the same age as [SELECTED CHILD]. Please think

about each type of care in general, not any specific program you know of. The types of care I will ask you about are: center care, relative or friend care, family day care, and parental care. Now how would you rate it on having a nurturing environment for children of the same age as (SELECTED CHILD IN C14_SELECT)? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, poor?"

Table A3B. Percentage of Households with a Selected Child Aged <60 Months that Perceive Types of Care to be Excellent or Good for Children of the Selected Child's Age, by Household Race/Ethnicity: Percent

Quality by Care Type	Household Race/Ethnicity*					
	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total respondents	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Center-based care						
Nurturing	61.8	2.00	74.3	2.70	63.7	2.03
Educational preparedness	71.3	1.80	76.3	2.39	70.6	2.21
Social interactions	75.6	1.63	75.9	2.10	73.4	2.13
Safety	69.3	1.62	71.4	2.38	66.4	2.11
Affordability	30.4	1.87	34.1	2.17	36.9	1.93
Flexibility	54.9	1.96	58.4	2.71	59.2	2.30
Family day care						
Nurturing	69.1	1.95	67.6	3.05	61.9	2.11
Educational preparedness	54.4	1.81	60.9	2.89	56.4	2.29
Social interactions	73.0	1.69	67.8	2.99	67.7	2.12
Safety	67.8	1.75	70.8	3.10	60.8	2.25
Affordability	50.0	1.74	54.4	3.00	49.2	2.44
Flexibility	57.6	1.96	68.6	2.86	59.6	2.27
Relative/friend care						
Nurturing	93.5	0.94	80.5	2.75	79.6	1.74
Educational preparedness	65.9	1.63	60.7	3.33	56.3	2.38
Social interactions	62.5	1.61	69.2	2.92	66.7	2.31
Safety	90.6	1.05	83.9	2.21	78.2	1.95
Affordability	91.9	0.97	74.4	2.68	74.1	1.94
Flexibility	83.7	1.28	75.6	2.52	75.3	1.90

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Includes the race/ethnicity of the respondent and all children under age 13. The sample for this analysis includes only single-race/ethnicity White, African American, and Hispanic households.

Notes: These outcomes are constructed from the following household survey item and other similar items asked of the adult respondent: “These next questions are about how you view different types of child care or after-school care for children of the same age as [SELECTED CHILD]. Please think about each type of care in general, not any specific program you know of. The types of care I will ask you about are: center care, relative or friend care, family day care, and parental care. Now how would you rate it on having a nurturing environment for children of the same age as (SELECTED CHILD IN C14_SELECT)? Would you say: excellent, good, fair, poor?”

Table A4. Number of Providers Considered in the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Age of Selected Child

Characteristics of Search	Age of Household's Selected Child											
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households	5.32	0.237	3.24	0.189	2.08	0.113	100	†	100	†	100	†
Number of Providers Considered												
Considered more than one provider	3.29	0.176	2.1	0.144	1.19	0.085	61.8	1.68	64.7	2.15	57.4	2.64
Considered only one provider	1.98	0.122	1.1	0.092	0.88	0.073	37.3	1.66	34	2.11	42.5	2.63
Missing	0.05	0.014	0.04	0.014	‡	†	0.9	0.27	1.4	0.42	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search.

Table A5A. Main Reason for Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for A Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Number of Providers Considered: Count

Characteristics of search	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered
	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered More than One Provider	Considered More than One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Missing	Missing
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error
Total Households	5.32	0.237	3.29	0.176	1.98	0.122	0.05	0.014
Main Reason for Search								
So that I could work/change in work schedule	2.24	0.141	1.43	0.107	0.79	0.083	‡	†
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	1.46	0.102	0.8	0.076	0.64	0.07	‡	†
To give me some relief	0.17	0.031	0.1	0.023	0.07	0.023	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	0.12	0.029	0.06	0.021	0.06	0.019	—	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	0.2	0.031	0.13	0.026	0.07	0.016	—	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	0.12	0.032	0.11	0.031	‡	†	—	†
Provider stopped providing care	0.34	0.05	0.25	0.043	0.08	0.025	‡	†
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	0.09	0.03	0.07	0.026	‡	†	—	†
Other**	0.56	0.062	0.34	0.049	0.22	0.036	‡	†

Characteristics of search	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered
	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered More than One Provider	Considered More than One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Missing	Missing
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A5B. Main Reason for Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for A Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Number of Providers Considered: Column Percent

Characteristics of search	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered
	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered More than One Provider	Considered More than One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Missing	Missing
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households	100	†	100	†	100	†	100	†
Main Reason for Search								
So that I could work/change in work schedule	42.1	1.76	43.4	2.4	40	2.9	‡	†
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	27.5	1.55	24.3	1.97	32.5	2.96	‡	†
To give me some relief	3.2	0.6	2.9	0.69	3.7	1.15	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	2.3	0.53	1.8	0.64	3.1	0.93	#	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	3.8	0.56	4.1	0.78	3.4	0.82	#	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	2.3	0.58	3.2	0.91	‡	†	#	†
Provider stopped providing care	6.3	0.89	7.7	1.22	4.1	1.23	‡	†
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	1.7	0.55	2.1	0.79	‡	†	#	†
Other**	0.56	0.062	0.34	0.049	0.22	0.036	‡	†

Characteristics of search	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered
	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered More than One Provider	Considered More than One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Missing	Missing
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A6A. Main Reason for Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for A Randomly Selected Child Aged <36 Months*, by Number of Providers Considered: Count

Characteristics of search	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered
	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered More than One Provider	Considered More than One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Missing	Missing
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error
Total Households	3.24	0.189	2.1	0.144	1.1	0.092	0.04	0.014
Main Reason for Search								
So that I could work/change in work schedule	1.65	0.124	1.06	0.098	0.57	0.066	‡	†
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	0.6	0.069	0.36	0.057	0.23	0.041	‡	†
To give me some relief	0.08	0.019	0.05	0.017	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	0.09	0.025	0.04	0.018	0.05	0.018	—	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	0.1	0.025	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.012	—	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	0.08	0.024	0.07	0.024	‡	†	—	†
Provider stopped providing care	0.22	0.04	0.2	0.039	0.03	0.01	—	†
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	—	†	—	†
Other**	0.39	0.053	0.23	0.04	0.16	0.033	‡	†
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A6B. Main Reason for Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for A Randomly Selected Child Aged <36 Months*, by Number of Providers Considered: Column Percent

Characteristics of search	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered
	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered More than One Provider	Considered More than One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Missing	Missing
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Percent Column Percent	Standard Error	Percent Column Percent	Standard Error	Percent Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households	100	†	100	†	100	†	100	†
Main Reason for Search								
So that I could work/change in work schedule	50.8	2.28	50.7	3.12	51.8	3.71	‡	†
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	18.6	1.89	17.3	2.48	20.5	3.3	‡	†
To give me some relief	2.5	0.61	2.5	0.8	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	2.8	0.74	2	0.82	4.5	1.54	#	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	3	0.74	3	0.93	3.2	1.11	#	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	2.3	0.71	3.4	1.09	‡	†	#	†
Provider stopped providing care	6.9	1.13	9.3	1.69	2.6	0.9	#	†
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	#	†	#	†
Other**	12.1	1.53	10.9	1.77	14.7	2.84	‡	†
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A7A. Main Reason for Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for A Randomly Selected Child Aged 36 to <60 Months*, by Number of Providers Considered: Count

Characteristics of search	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered
	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered More than One Provider	Considered More than One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Missing	Missing
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error
Total Households	2.08	0.113	1.19	0.085	0.88	0.073	‡	†
Main Reason for Search								
So that I could work/change in work schedule	0.59	0.052	0.37	0.042	0.22	0.036	—	†
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	0.86	0.072	0.44	0.048	0.42	0.051	‡	†
To give me some relief	0.09	0.026	0.04	0.016	‡	†	—	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	0.03	0.011	‡	†	‡	†	—	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	0.1	0.022	0.07	0.019	0.03	0.011	—	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	0.05	0.021	‡	†	‡	†	—	†
Provider stopped providing care	0.11	0.029	0.06	0.019	0.05	0.022	‡	†
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	0.07	0.022	0.05	0.017	‡	†	—	†
Other**	0.17	0.026	0.11	0.026	0.06	0.013	—	†
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	—	†	—	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A7B. Main Reason for Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for A Randomly Selected Child Aged 36 to <60 Months*, by Number of Providers Considered: Column Percent

Characteristics of search	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered	Number of Providers Considered
	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered Any Number of Providers	Considered More than One Provider	Considered More than One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Considered Only One Provider	Missing	Missing
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households	100	†	100	†	100	†	‡	†
Main reason for search								
So that I could work/change in work schedule	28.3	2.07	30.6	2.91	25.3	3.58	#	†
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	41.2	2.45	36.7	3.12	47.4	4.18	‡	†
To give me some relief	4.4	1.24	3.6	1.32	‡	†	#	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	1.5	0.53	‡	†	‡	†	#	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	5	1.04	5.9	1.55	3.7	1.28	#	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	2.3	0.98	‡	†	‡	†	#	†
Provider stopped providing care	5.4	1.37	4.8	1.59	6	2.37	‡	†
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	3.5	1.01	4.4	1.32	‡	†	#	†
Other**	8.3	1.19	9.4	2.07	6.8	1.44	#	†
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	#	†	#	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A8A. Main Reason for Search among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Household Race/Ethnicity: Count**

Main Reason for Search	Household Race/Ethnicity**					
	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Total households	2.90	0.181	0.71	0.079	0.80	0.063
So that I could work/change in work schedule	1.22	0.112	0.31	0.041	0.37	0.042
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	0.75	0.067	0.22	0.042	0.22	0.031
To give me some relief	0.09	0.027	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	0.08	0.022	‡	†	‡	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	0.09	0.022	0.05	0.017	‡	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	0.08	0.029	‡	†	‡	†
Provider stopped providing care	0.21	0.042	‡	†	0.05	0.015
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other***	0.32	0.051	0.07	0.019	0.09	0.017
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	—	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Includes the race/ethnicity of the respondent and all children under age 13. The sample for this analysis includes only single-race/ethnicity White, African American, and Hispanic households. ***Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A8B. Main Reason for Search among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Household Race/Ethnicity: Column Percent**

Main Reason for Search	Household Race/Ethnicity**					
	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
So that I could work/change in work schedule	42.0	2.56	44.2	3.99	45.5	3.75
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	25.9	1.97	30.4	4.92	28.1	3.11
To give me some relief	3.2	0.91	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	2.6	0.74	‡	†	‡	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	3.2	0.76	7.6	2.08	‡	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	2.9	0.99	‡	†	‡	†
Provider stopped providing care	7.4	1.35	‡	†	5.9	1.83
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other***	10.9	1.62	9.4	2.28	11.1	2.09
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	#	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Includes the race/ethnicity of the respondent and all children under age 13. The sample for this analysis includes only single-race/ethnicity White, African American, and Hispanic households. ***Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A9A. Main Reason for Search among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Count

Main Reason for Search	IPR PFPL	IPR PFPL						
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error						
Total households	1.30	0.084	1.12	0.078	0.74	0.075	2.16	0.159
So that I could work/change in work schedule	0.63	0.057	0.50	0.045	0.32	0.054	0.78	0.093
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	0.35	0.046	0.29	0.044	0.19	0.034	0.64	0.070
To give me some relief	0.02	0.007	0.06	0.018	‡	†	0.06	0.020
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	0.02	0.008	‡	†	‡	†	0.06	0.021
Wasn't satisfied with care	0.05	0.013	0.06	0.020	0.02	0.008	0.07	0.018
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	0.07	0.026
Provider stopped providing care	0.04	0.016	0.05	0.017	‡	†	0.22	0.043
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other**	0.14	0.024	0.14	0.033	0.08	0.023	0.20	0.039
Missing	—	†	‡	†	—	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A9B. Main Reason for Search among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Column Percent

Main Reason for Search	IPR PFPL							
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Column Percent	Standard Error						
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
So that I could work/change in work schedule	48.6	3.09	44.9	3.30	43.0	5.12	36.2	3.25
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	27.1	3.09	25.4	3.34	25.0	4.11	29.5	2.76
To give me some relief	1.8	0.58	5.1	1.54	‡	†	2.6	0.89
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	1.5	0.57	‡	†	‡	†	2.8	0.96
Wasn't satisfied with care	3.9	0.98	4.9	1.71	2.9	1.03	3.4	0.82
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	3.2	1.18
Provider stopped providing care	3.0	1.19	4.2	1.50	‡	†	10.3	1.79
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other**	11.1	1.70	12.0	2.71	11.5	2.98	9.3	1.65
Missing	#	†	‡	†	#	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A10A. Month of Most Recent Search, Among Households that Searched for Care in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Age of Selected Child: Count

Month of Last Search	Age of Household's Selected Child					
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Any month	5.32	0.237	3.24	0.189	2.08	0.113
January	0.93	0.078	0.53	0.054	0.40	0.057
February	0.56	0.059	0.35	0.049	0.21	0.037
March	0.44	0.052	0.26	0.040	0.19	0.031
April	0.32	0.045	0.19	0.037	0.13	0.026
May	0.29	0.048	0.17	0.039	0.13	0.028
June	0.31	0.041	0.16	0.029	0.15	0.029
July	0.37	0.058	0.20	0.044	0.17	0.035
August	0.41	0.049	0.25	0.043	0.16	0.027
September	0.45	0.066	0.28	0.051	0.17	0.036
October	0.41	0.052	0.31	0.048	0.10	0.018
November	0.37	0.050	0.28	0.045	0.09	0.020
December	0.37	0.043	0.23	0.031	0.14	0.028
Missing	0.09	0.022	0.05	0.018	0.04	0.011

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search.

Table A10B. Month of Most Recent Search, Among Households that Searched for Care in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Age of Selected Child: Column Percent

Month of Last Search	Age of Household's Selected Child					
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Any month	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
January	17.5	1.28	16.2	1.49	19.4	2.38
February	10.5	1.01	10.8	1.31	9.9	1.69
March	8.4	0.94	7.9	1.19	9.0	1.45
April	6.0	0.79	5.9	1.08	6.2	1.20
May	5.5	0.83	5.2	1.13	6.0	1.29
June	5.8	0.73	4.8	0.87	7.3	1.31
July	7.0	1.00	6.1	1.28	8.4	1.59
August	7.8	0.87	7.7	1.26	7.8	1.25
September	8.5	1.15	8.8	1.45	8.0	1.69
October	7.6	0.92	9.4	1.37	4.8	0.86
November	6.9	0.90	8.5	1.31	4.4	0.98
December	7.0	0.80	7.1	0.98	6.8	1.32
Missing	1.7	0.41	1.6	0.56	1.9	0.55

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search.

Table A11. Month of Most Recent Search, Among Households that Searched for Care in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <36 Months*, by Age of Selected Child

Month of last search	Age of Household's Selected Child							
	0 to <12 Months	0 to <12 Months	12 to <36 Months	12 to <36 Months	0 to <12 Months	0 to <12 Months	12 to <36 Months	12 to <36 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households	0.72	0.078	2.52	0.156	100	†	100	†
January	0.17	0.033	0.35	0.044	23.9	3.82	14	1.7
February	0.05	0.016	0.3	0.047	7.6	2.13	11.8	1.61
March	0.02	0.007	0.24	0.039	2.8	0.91	9.4	1.47
April	0.05	0.02	0.14	0.03	6.5	2.52	5.7	1.12
May	0.03	0.013	0.14	0.035	4.5	1.81	5.4	1.28
June	‡	†	0.13	0.026	‡	†	5.2	1.02
July	0.06	0.024	0.14	0.031	8.4	2.98	5.4	1.2
August	0.05	0.021	0.2	0.039	7.4	2.8	7.9	1.47
September	‡	†	0.26	0.05	‡	†	10.3	1.82
October	0.06	0.022	0.25	0.044	8.2	2.78	9.7	1.6
November	0.11	0.032	0.17	0.033	14.9	3.93	6.7	1.27
December	0.06	0.016	0.17	0.027	8.3	2.29	6.7	1.06
Missing	‡	†	0.05	0.018	‡	†	1.9	0.71

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

† Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search.

Table A12. Characteristics of the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered More than One Provider, by Age of Selected Child

Characteristics of Search	Age of Household's Selected Child											
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households	3.29	0.176	2.1	0.144	1.19	0.085	100	†	100	†	100	†
Methods of Search**												
Asked friends and family with children	2.08	0.137	1.33	0.116	0.75	0.072	63.1	2.21	63.3	2.88	62.7	3.32
Asked potential contacts who are providers	0.34	0.044	0.23	0.037	0.1	0.023	10.2	1.22	11	1.65	8.6	1.84
Community service, resource and referral lists	0.52	0.058	0.34	0.05	0.18	0.029	15.8	1.62	16.3	2.27	14.9	2.27
Posted an ad/responded to an ad	0.14	0.032	0.08	0.025	0.05	0.02	4.1	0.93	3.9	1.17	4.4	1.57
Yellow pages/newspapers/bulletin boards	0.34	0.041	0.17	0.03	0.17	0.03	10.3	1.24	8.2	1.4	13.9	2.39
Welfare or social services	0.2	0.036	0.14	0.031	0.06	0.015	6.1	1.05	6.6	1.41	5.2	1.27
Healthcare provider	0.04	0.013	0.02	0.009	‡	†	1.3	0.4	1.1	0.44	‡	†
Other	1.27	0.115	0.84	0.092	0.43	0.055	38.6	2.56	40	3.18	36.1	3.36
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Characteristics of Search	Age of Household's Selected Child											
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Information Considered***												
Type of care	1.18	0.104	0.77	0.085	0.41	0.051	36	2.59	36.8	3.17	34.6	3.58
Hours of care	1.15	0.091	0.81	0.081	0.35	0.04	35	2.2	38.4	2.93	29.1	3.09
Willingness to accept or availability of subsidies	0.08	0.021	0.05	0.016	0.03	0.01	2.4	0.64	2.3	0.77	2.6	0.85
Financial aid available	0.08	0.017	0.04	0.012	0.03	0.011	2.3	0.51	2	0.57	2.8	0.96
Fees charged	1.28	0.098	0.88	0.086	0.4	0.051	38.7	2.16	41.9	2.98	33.2	3.36
Geographic location	0.46	0.057	0.3	0.048	0.15	0.03	13.9	1.46	14.5	1.93	12.9	2.27
Public transportation accessibility	0.05	0.017	‡	†	‡	†	1.6	0.52	‡	†	‡	†
Content of program	0.86	0.082	0.5	0.062	0.36	0.049	26.1	2.03	23.6	2.54	30.5	3.21
Year round care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Services provided (e.g., transportation, meals, etc.)	0.31	0.056	0.2	0.042	0.11	0.026	9.6	1.57	9.6	1.93	9.5	2.06
Languages spoken	0.05	0.016	‡	†	‡	†	1.4	0.47	‡	†	‡	†
Curriculum/philosophy (including religion)	0.59	0.078	0.3	0.058	0.29	0.045	17.9	2.06	14.2	2.42	24.4	3.17

Characteristics of Search	Age of Household's Selected Child											
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Licensing status	0.24	0.043	0.18	0.037	0.07	0.019	7.4	1.19	8.4	1.62	5.7	1.49
Teacher tenure/turnover	0.14	0.028	0.1	0.025	0.04	0.013	4.3	0.83	4.9	1.19	3.3	1.06
Other	0.69	0.072	0.48	0.064	0.2	0.031	20.9	1.83	22.9	2.47	17.2	2.41
Missing	0.04	0.015	‡	†	‡	†	1.2	0.46	‡	†	‡	†
Total Households												
Care Type Considered ****												
Any center care	2.54	0.149	1.55	0.117	0.99	0.078	80.3	1.68	76.4	2.4	87.2	2.04
Any relative/family/ someone familiar care	0.72	0.064	0.53	0.059	0.2	0.026	22.8	1.81	25.9	2.42	17.3	2.21
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	0.78	0.08	0.6	0.076	0.17	0.029	24.5	2.07	29.7	2.9	15.3	2.34
Other	0.11	0.03	0.1	0.029	‡	†	3.3	0.91	4.7	1.38	‡	†
Missing	0.12	0.024	0.07	0.015	0.05	0.019	3.7	0.71	3.3	0.73	4.4	1.53

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses. **Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive. ***First three responses recorded, categories not mutually exclusive. ****Responses regarding first and second reported providers combined, categories not mutually exclusive.

Table A13A. Characteristics of the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered More than One Provider, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Count

Characteristics of Search	IPR PFPL	IPR PFPL						
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error						
Total households	0.68	0.066	0.65	0.056	0.44	0.054	1.52	0.128
Methods of search**								
Asked friends and family with children	0.36	0.044	0.37	0.043	0.31	0.048	1.03	0.109
Asked potential contacts who are providers	0.10	0.022	0.05	0.013	0.04	0.014	0.14	0.035
Community service, resource and referral lists	0.13	0.030	0.12	0.023	0.03	0.013	0.24	0.042
Posted an ad/responded to an ad	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	0.06	0.020
Yellow pages/newspapers/bulletin boards	0.08	0.020	0.08	0.020	0.08	0.025	0.10	0.023
Welfare or social services	0.09	0.020	0.04	0.010	‡	†	‡	†
Healthcare provider	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other	0.21	0.040	0.27	0.045	0.15	0.033	0.64	0.080
Missing	‡	†	—	†	—	†	‡	†
Information considered***								
Type of care	0.30	0.044	0.22	0.032	0.15	0.035	0.50	0.077
Hours of care	0.24	0.036	0.23	0.033	0.14	0.029	0.54	0.068
Willingness to accept or availability of subsidies	0.02	0.009	0.03	0.012	‡	†	‡	†
Financial aid available	0.02	0.007	0.03	0.010	‡	†	‡	†
Fees charged	0.17	0.025	0.28	0.039	0.19	0.036	0.63	0.073
Geographic location	0.07	0.018	0.07	0.019	0.04	0.011	0.28	0.049
Public transportation accessibility	‡	†	‡	†	—	†	‡	†
Content of program	0.16	0.031	0.15	0.029	0.12	0.030	0.44	0.061
Year round care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Characteristics of Search	IPR PFPL	IPR PFPL						
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error						
Services provided (e.g., transportation, meals, etc.)	0.08	0.020	0.06	0.015	‡	†	0.15	0.043
Languages spoken	‡	†	‡	†	—	†	‡	†
Curriculum/philosophy (including religion)	0.09	0.019	0.12	0.030	0.07	0.024	0.31	0.054
Licensing status	0.02	0.009	0.05	0.020	0.06	0.021	0.11	0.032
Teacher tenure/turnover	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	0.06	0.016
Other	0.12	0.027	0.13	0.028	0.08	0.021	0.35	0.060
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Total households	0.68	0.066	0.65	0.056	0.44	0.054	1.52	0.128
Most seriously considered provider(s) type****								
Any center care	0.51	0.057	0.50	0.053	0.32	0.045	1.21	0.106
Any relative/family/someone familiar care	0.16	0.027	0.23	0.033	0.11	0.027	0.22	0.042
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	0.11	0.024	0.11	0.024	0.10	0.028	0.45	0.061
Other	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	0.05	0.023
Missing	0.04	0.010	0.02	0.009	‡	†	0.04	0.015

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive. ***First three responses recorded, categories not mutually exclusive. ****Responses regarding first and second reported providers combined, categories not mutually exclusive.

Table A13B. Characteristics of the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered More than One Provider, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Column Percent

Characteristics of Search	IPR PFPL							
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Column Percent	Standard Error						
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Methods of search**								
Asked friends and family with children	53.5	3.90	57.0	4.69	69.4	5.54	68.1	3.68
Asked potential contacts who are providers	14.6	2.76	8.4	2.02	9.5	3.16	9.2	2.08
Community service, resource and referral lists	18.9	3.86	18.3	3.07	7.8	2.87	15.6	2.51
Posted an ad/responded to an ad	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	3.7	1.35
Yellow pages/newspapers/bulletin boards	11.8	2.85	12.2	3.08	17.0	5.22	6.9	1.46
Welfare or social services	13.4	2.74	6.3	1.65	‡	†	‡	†
Healthcare provider	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other	31.0	4.66	41.6	4.79	34.1	6.28	42.0	3.95
Missing	‡	†	#	†	#	†	‡	†
Information considered***								
Type of care	44.6	4.33	34.2	4.62	34.7	6.14	33.3	4.15
Hours of care	35.6	4.52	35.8	4.16	30.9	5.93	35.7	3.47
Willingness to accept or availability of subsidies	3.6	1.38	5.0	1.76	‡	†	‡	†
Financial aid available	3.2	1.04	4.3	1.54	‡	†	‡	†
Fees charged	25.4	3.33	42.4	4.37	43.5	6.39	41.7	3.09
Geographic location	10.6	2.41	10.4	2.70	8.3	2.43	18.7	2.78
Public transportation accessibility	‡	†	‡	†	#	†	‡	†

Characteristics of Search	IPR PFPL							
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Column Percent	Standard Error						
Content of program	23.7	3.95	22.4	4.14	26.5	5.54	28.7	3.25
Year round care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Services provided (e.g., transportation, meals, etc.)	11.2	2.79	8.5	2.23	‡	†	9.6	2.66
Languages spoken	‡	†	‡	†	#	†	‡	†
Curriculum/philosophy (including religion)	13.3	2.67	17.7	4.11	16.3	5.04	20.5	3.16
Licensing status	3.4	1.27	7.9	2.85	13.9	4.33	7.1	2.02
Teacher tenure/turnover	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	3.8	1.03
Other	18.3	3.41	20.4	3.76	17.2	4.58	23.3	3.27
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Most seriously considered provider(s) type****								
Any center care	80.4	3.23	80.4	3.47	75.1	5.15	81.6	2.75
Any relative/family/someone familiar care	25.3	3.78	36.9	4.37	26.1	5.63	14.8	2.63
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	17.7	3.28	17.1	3.65	24.5	5.55	30.5	3.17
Other	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	3.7	1.46
Missing	5.8	1.47	3.4	1.28	‡	†	2.6	0.99

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive. ***First three responses recorded, categories not mutually exclusive. ****Responses regarding first and second reported providers combined, categories not mutually exclusive.

Table A14A. Characteristics of the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered More than One Provider, by Community Poverty Density: Count

Characteristics of Search	Community Poverty Density					
	Low Poverty	Low Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Moderate Poverty	High Poverty	High Poverty
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Total households	1.97	0.164	0.71	0.082	0.61	0.087
Information considered**						
Type of care	0.73	0.093	0.26	0.050	0.19	0.028
Hours of care	0.70	0.085	0.25	0.041	0.19	0.032
Willingness to accept or availability of subsidies	‡	†	0.03	0.012	0.02	0.007
Financial aid available	0.03	0.012	0.01	0.006	0.03	0.011
Fees charged	0.82	0.095	0.26	0.041	0.19	0.033
Geographic location	0.29	0.050	0.09	0.021	0.08	0.032
Public transportation accessibility	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Content of program	0.57	0.074	0.19	0.038	0.09	0.022
Year round care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Services provided (e.g., transportation, meals, etc.)	0.22	0.050	0.06	0.017	0.04	0.011
Languages spoken	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Curriculum/philosophy (including religion)	0.32	0.058	0.16	0.035	0.11	0.038
Licensing status	0.16	0.037	0.06	0.019	0.03	0.012
Teacher tenure/turnover	0.09	0.024	0.02	0.007	‡	†
Other	0.41	0.062	0.11	0.019	0.17	0.041
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Methods of search***						
Asked friends and family with children	1.26	0.120	0.44	0.063	0.37	0.068
Asked potential contacts who are providers	0.20	0.041	0.08	0.017	0.06	0.013
Community service, resource and referral lists	0.29	0.049	0.13	0.025	0.10	0.020
Posted an ad/responded to an ad	0.08	0.026	‡	†	0.04	0.015
Yellow pages/newspapers/bulletin boards	0.21	0.038	0.08	0.017	0.05	0.013
Welfare or social services	0.10	0.028	0.07	0.022	0.03	0.010

Characteristics of Search	Community Poverty Density					
	Low Poverty	Low Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Moderate Poverty	High Poverty	High Poverty
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Healthcare provider	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other	0.83	0.106	0.25	0.043	0.19	0.040
Missing	‡	†	—	†	—	†
Most seriously considered provider(s) type****						
Any center care	1.57	0.141	0.55	0.074	0.42	0.059
Any relative/family/someone familiar care	0.38	0.052	0.18	0.026	0.17	0.035
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	0.48	0.072	0.16	0.030	0.13	0.035
Other	0.05	0.021	0.04	0.016	‡	†
Missing	0.07	0.021	0.01	0.006	0.04	0.011

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **First three responses recorded, categories not mutually exclusive. ***Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive. ****Responses regarding first and second reported providers combined, categories not mutually exclusive.

Table A14B. Characteristics of the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered More than One Provider, by Community Poverty Density: Column Percent

Characteristics of Search	Community Poverty Density					
	Low Poverty	Low Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Moderate Poverty	High Poverty	High Poverty
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Information considered**						
Type of care	37.2	3.43	37.3	5.19	30.5	4.48
Hours of care	35.8	3.14	36.0	4.19	31.5	3.69
Willingness to accept or availability of subsidies	‡	†	4.3	1.73	3.0	1.07
Financial aid available	1.6	0.63	1.9	0.83	5.1	1.75
Fees charged	41.6	3.28	36.8	4.13	31.8	2.74
Geographic location	14.5	2.10	13.1	2.43	13.2	4.47
Public transportation accessibility	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Content of program	29.1	2.88	27.3	3.84	15.2	2.97
Year round care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Services provided (e.g., transportation, meals, etc.)	11.1	2.35	7.9	2.22	6.4	1.89
Languages spoken	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Curriculum/philosophy (including religion)	16.4	2.44	22.0	4.00	18.0	4.82
Licensing status	8.0	1.70	8.4	2.46	4.6	1.81
Teacher tenure/turnover	4.4	1.19	3.0	1.09	‡	†
Other	20.9	2.57	15.5	2.14	27.0	4.62
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Methods of search***						
Asked friends and family with children	63.9	3.09	62.7	3.85	60.8	5.30
Asked potential contacts who are providers	10.2	1.76	11.0	2.14	9.1	2.14
Community service, resource and referral lists	14.8	2.25	18.4	2.94	15.7	3.01
Posted an ad/responded to an ad	4.3	1.26	‡	†	5.7	2.26
Yellow pages/newspapers/bulletin boards	10.6	1.84	10.7	2.32	8.7	1.95
Welfare or social services	5.1	1.37	9.6	2.72	5.1	1.66
Healthcare provider	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Characteristics of Search	Community Poverty Density					
	Low Poverty	Low Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Moderate Poverty	High Poverty	High Poverty
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Other	42.3	3.71	35.4	3.77	30.3	4.27
Missing	‡	†	#	†	#	†
Most seriously considered provider(s) type****						
Any center care	82.7	1.91	79.40	3.280	73.3	5.10
Any relative/family/ someone familiar care	20.0	2.35	25.40	3.140	29.1	4.61
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	25.3	2.98	23.20	3.580	23.3	4.03
Other	2.4	1.06	5.30	2.200	‡	†
Missing	3.5	1.03	2.10	0.820	6.3	1.80

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **First three responses recorded, categories not mutually exclusive. ***Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive. ****Responses regarding first and second reported providers combined, categories not mutually exclusive.

Table A15. Method Used During the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Age of Selected Child

Characteristics of search	Age of Household's Selected Child											
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households**	1.98	0.122	1.09	0.092	0.88	0.073	100	†	100	†	100	†
Methods of search**												
Self/friends/family members worked in/used this provider, or know the provider	1.4	0.095	0.81	0.075	0.6	0.058	71	2.46	73.7	3.09	67.5	4.03
Resource and referral agency	0.18	0.038	0.08	0.028	0.1	0.028	9	1.77	7.5	2.45	10.9	2.98
Saw advertisement online or elsewhere	0.16	0.03	0.08	0.018	0.08	0.024	7.9	1.39	7	1.61	9	2.55
Provider has good reputation in the community, or no other providers of this type	0.2	0.034	0.12	0.028	0.08	0.02	10.1	1.65	10.6	2.4	9.5	2.07
Missing	0.04	0.014	‡	†	0.03	0.013	2.1	0.72	‡	†	3.1	1.42

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses. ***Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive.

Table A16A. Method Used During the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Count

Characteristics of Search	IPR PFPL	IPR PFPL						
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error						
Total households	0.61	0.054	0.45	0.052	0.29	0.046	0.63	0.084
Methods of search**								
Self/friends/family members worked in/used this provider, or know the provider	0.46	0.049	0.29	0.043	0.22	0.041	0.44	0.058
Resource and referral agency	0.07	0.019	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Saw advertisement online or elsewhere	0.03	0.008	0.04	0.009	‡	†	0.05	0.023
Provider has good reputation in the community, or no other providers of this type	0.04	0.010	0.05	0.022	‡	†	0.08	0.021
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Method of search was not asked of respondents who considered only one provider and those who did not specify the type of provider considered.

Table A16B. Method Used During the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Column Percent

Characteristics of Search	IPR PFPL							
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Column Percent	Standard Error						
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Methods of search**								
Self/friends/family members worked in/used this provider, or know the provider	76.0	3.45	64.1	5.53	73.7	6.45	69.7	5.18
Resource and referral agency	11.1	2.99	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Saw advertisement online or elsewhere	4.8	1.25	8.9	2.17	‡	†	8.6	3.16
Provider has good reputation in the community, or no other providers of this type	6.8	1.72	11.5	4.61	‡	†	12.8	3.16
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Method of search was not asked of respondents who considered only one provider and those who did not specify the type of provider considered.

Table A17A. Method Used During the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Community Poverty Density: Count

Characteristics of Search	Community Poverty Density					
	Low Poverty	Low Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Moderate Poverty	High Poverty	High Poverty
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Total Households**	1.15	0.115	0.42	0.046	0.41	0.047
Methods of search**						
Self/friends/family members worked in/used this provider, or know the provider	0.80	0.087	0.28	0.037	0.32	0.040
Resource and referral agency	0.13	0.037	0.03	0.009	‡	†
Saw advertisement online or elsewhere	0.07	0.025	0.05	0.013	0.03	0.008
Provider has good reputation in the community, or no other providers of this type	0.12	0.031	0.05	0.014	0.03	0.008
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Method of search was not asked of respondents who considered only one provider and those who did not specify the type of provider considered.

Table A17B. Method Used During the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Community Poverty Density: Column Percent

Characteristics of Search	Community Poverty Density					
	Low Poverty	Low Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Moderate Poverty	High Poverty	High Poverty
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households**	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Methods of search**						
Self/friends/family members worked in/used this provider, or know the provider	69.9	3.83	67.8	4.06	77.2	3.35
Resource and referral agency	11.3	2.87	7.0	2.07	‡	†
Saw advertisement online or elsewhere	6.4	2.00	11.4	2.92	8.4	1.74
Provider has good reputation in the community, or no other providers of this type	10.1	2.50	13.1	3.25	7.0	1.96
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Method of search was not asked of respondents who considered only one provider and those who did not specify the type of provider considered.

Table A18. Types of Care Most Seriously Considered in the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Age of Selected Child

Characteristics of Search	Age of Household's Selected Child											
	Count (Millions)	Column Percent										
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total Households	1.98	0.122	1.1	0.092	0.88	0.073	100	†	100	†	100	†
Type of care												
Any center care	1.15	0.098	0.56	0.063	0.59	0.061	58	2.88	50.9	3.43	67	4.1
Any relative/family/someone familiar care	0.44	0.054	0.32	0.044	0.13	0.026	22.4	2.43	28.6	3.27	14.6	2.71
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	0.15	0.031	0.09	0.021	0.06	0.019	7.7	1.49	8.5	1.81	6.7	2.12
Other	0.23	0.036	0.13	0.026	0.1	0.028	11.5	1.82	11.4	2.23	11.7	2.99
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	—	†	‡	†	‡	†	#	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search.

Table A19A. Type of Care Most Seriously Considered in the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Count

Characteristics of Search	IPR PFPL	IPR PFPL						
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error						
Total households	0.61	0.054	0.46	0.052	0.29	0.046	0.63	0.084
Type of care								
Any center care	0.34	0.039	0.28	0.044	0.16	0.033	0.37	0.065
Any relative/family/someone familiar care	0.15	0.027	0.10	0.028	0.05	0.018	0.15	0.034
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	0.05	0.014	0.04	0.016	‡	†	0.04	0.015
Other	0.06	0.018	0.04	0.012	0.05	0.021	0.07	0.023
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	—	†	—	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search.

Table A19B. Type of Care Most Seriously Considered in the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Column Percent

Characteristics of Search	IPR PFPL							
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Column Percent	Standard Error						
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Type of Care								
Any center care	55.8	4.46	61.4	6.32	54.9	7.90	59.3	5.42
Any relative/family/someone familiar care	24.9	3.79	21.3	5.41	16.9	5.35	23.3	5.02
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	8.2	2.20	7.8	3.42	‡	†	6.2	2.05
Other	10.5	2.69	8.8	2.56	18.6	6.69	11.2	3.54
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	#	†	#	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search

Table A20A. Type of Care Most Seriously Considered in the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Community Poverty Density: Count

Characteristics of Search	Community Poverty Density					
	Low Poverty	Low Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Moderate Poverty	High Poverty	High Poverty
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Total households	1.15	0.115	0.42	0.046	0.42	0.047
Type of Care						
Any center care	0.71	0.090	0.22	0.030	0.22	0.033
Any relative/family/someone familiar care	0.23	0.045	0.11	0.022	0.11	0.018
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	0.07	0.027	0.04	0.009	0.04	0.012
Other	0.14	0.031	0.05	0.013	0.05	0.014
Missing	—	†	—	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search.

Table A20B. Type of Care Most Seriously Considered in the Most Recent Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months* and Considered Only One Provider, by Community Poverty Density: Column Percent

Characteristics of Search	Community Poverty Density					
	Low Poverty	Low Poverty	Moderate Poverty	Moderate Poverty	High Poverty	High Poverty
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
Type of care						
Any center care	62.0	4.14	53.2	4.17	51.8	4.79
Any relative/family/someone familiar care	19.7	3.50	26.8	4.25	25.2	3.62
Any home-based provider with no prior personal relationship	6.4	2.22	8.9	2.25	10.0	2.76
Other	11.8	2.69	11.1	2.78	11.2	3.09
Missing	#	†	#	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search.

Table A21A. Result of the Most Recent Search by Age of Selected Child, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Number of Providers Considered and Method of Search: Count

Methods of search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error
Total Households	3.1	0.175	1.74	0.143	1.36	0.093	2.22	0.132	1.5	0.107	0.72	0.064
HHs that Considered More than One Provider	1.79	0.13	1.05	0.107	0.74	0.065	1.5	0.106	1.05	0.088	0.45	0.053
Methods of search**												
Asked friends and family with children	1.18	0.099	0.69	0.079	0.48	0.055	0.9	0.081	0.64	0.072	0.26	0.041
Asked potential contacts who are providers	0.14	0.026	0.09	0.022	0.06	0.013	0.19	0.037	0.14	0.03	0.05	0.019
Community service, resource and referral lists	0.22	0.034	0.14	0.03	0.07	0.017	0.3	0.045	0.2	0.038	0.1	0.022
Posted an ad/responded to an ad	0.08	0.024	0.04	0.015	‡	†	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.02	‡	†
Yellow pages/newspapers/bulletin boards	0.18	0.031	0.07	0.02	0.1	0.024	0.16	0.03	0.1	0.024	0.06	0.019
Welfare or social services	0.1	0.028	0.06	0.022	0.04	0.013	0.1	0.023	0.08	0.021	‡	†

Methods of search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error
Healthcare provider	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other	0.68	0.082	0.44	0.072	0.24	0.036	0.59	0.073	0.4	0.057	0.19	0.037
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	—	†	—	†	—	†
HHS that Considered Only One Provider	1.3	0.092	0.68	0.072	0.62	0.062	0.68	0.067	0.42	0.052	0.27	0.039
HHS that Considered Only One Provider and specified type	1.3	0.092	0.68	0.072	0.62	0.062	0.68	0.066	0.41	0.052	0.27	0.039
Methods of search***												
Self/friends/family members worked in/used this provider, or know the provider	0.97	0.077	0.53	0.059	0.44	0.052	0.44	0.05	0.28	0.042	0.16	0.026
Resource and referral agency	0.1	0.028	‡	†	0.07	0.023	0.08	0.026	0.05	0.023	‡	†
Saw advertisement online or elsewhere	0.07	0.017	0.04	0.013	0.03	0.011	0.08	0.024	0.04	0.01	0.05	0.021

Methods of search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error	Count (Millions)	Standard Error
Provider has good reputation in the community, or no other providers of this type	0.13	0.031	0.07	0.025	0.06	0.017	0.07	0.018	0.04	0.013	0.02	0.011
Missing	0.03	0.013	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
HHS that Considered Only One Provider and did not specify type	—	†	—	†	—	†	‡	†	‡	†	—	†
Did not specify number of providers	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive. ***Method of search was not asked of respondents who considered only one provider and did not specify the type of provider considered.

Table A21B. Result of the Most Recent Search by Age of Selected Child, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Number of Providers Considered and Method of Search: Percent by Result of Search

Methods of search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error
Total Households	58.2	1.8	53.7	2.56	65.3	2.52	41.6	1.81	46.1	2.55	34.6	2.53
HHs that Considered More than One Provider	54.3	2.38	50.0	3.18	61.9	3.38	45.7	2.39	50.0	3.18	38.0	3.4
Methods of search**												
Asked friends and family with children	56.7	2.79	52.2	3.67	64.9	4.16	43.2	2.81	47.8	3.67	35.0	4.2
Asked potential contacts who are providers	42.4	6.59	37.2	7.77	54	11.67	57.6	6.59	62.8	7.77	46.0	11.67
Community service, resource and referral lists	42.1	5.14	42.3	6.68	41.7	7.44	57.9	5.14	57.7	6.68	58.3	7.44
Posted an ad/responded to an ad	59.0	11.44	45.7	14.49	‡	†	41.0	11.44	54.3	14.49	‡	†
Yellow pages/newspapers/bulletin boards	52.2	6.56	42.1	9.18	62.8	9.26	47.8	6.56	57.9	9.18	37.2	9.26
Welfare or social services	50.0	9.39	41.9	11.47	68.1	11.65	50.0	9.39	58.1	11.47	‡	†
Healthcare provider	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Methods of search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error
Other	53.5	4.1	51.9	5.43	56.5	5.65	46.5	4.1	48.1	5.43	43.5	5.65
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	#	†	#	†	#	†
HHS that Considered Only One Provider	65.5	2.49	61.9	3.69	70.0	3.81	34.5	2.49	38.1	3.69	30.0	3.81
HHS that Considered Only One Provider and specified type	65.8	2.48	62.3	3.68	70.0	3.81	34.2	2.48	37.7	3.68	30.0	3.81
Methods of search***												
Self/friends/family members worked in/used this provider, or know the provider	68.9	2.85	65.6	4.05	73.3	3.95	31.1	2.85	34.4	4.05	26.7	3.95
Resource and referral agency	55.8	10.94	‡	†	69.6	13.75	44.2	10.94	60.3	16.36	‡	†
Saw advertisement online or elsewhere	47.0	9.01	53.4	9.15	40.8	13.83	53.0	9.01	46.6	9.15	59.2	13.83

Methods of search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <60 Months	0 to <36 Months	0 to <36 Months	36 to <60 Months	36 to <60 Months
	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error	Row Percent	Standard Error
Provider has good reputation in the community, or no other providers of this type	65.8	8.19	61.5	11.25	71.8	11.39	34.2	8.19	38.5	11.25	28.2	11.39
Missing	75.4	12.4	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Hhs that Considered Only One Provider and did not specify type	#	†	#	†	#	†	‡	†	‡	†	#	†
Did not specify number of providers	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Up to two responses recorded, categories are not mutually exclusive. ***Method of search was not asked of respondents who considered only one provider and did not specify the type of provider considered.

Table A22A. Main Reason for Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Result of Search and Age of Selected Child: Count

Main Reason for Search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care						
	0 to < 36 months	0 to < 36 months	36 to < 60 months	36 to < 60 months	0 to < 36 months	0 to < 36 months	36 to < 60 months	36 to < 60 months
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Total households	1.74	0.143	1.36	0.093	1.50	0.107	0.72	0.064
So that I could work/change in work schedule	0.97	0.105	0.37	0.042	0.68	0.074	0.22	0.035
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	0.17	0.036	0.55	0.061	0.43	0.059	0.31	0.037
To give me some relief	0.02	0.007	0.07	0.024	0.06	0.018	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	0.07	0.023	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	0.08	0.022	0.08	0.018	‡	†	0.03	0.013
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Provider stopped providing care	0.17	0.034	0.07	0.024	0.05	0.021	0.04	0.017
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	0.05	0.019	‡	†	‡	†
Other**	0.22	0.040	0.12	0.020	0.17	0.031	0.05	0.017
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	—	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A22B. Main Reason for Search, Among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Result of Search and Age of Selected Child: Column Percent

Main Reason for Search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care						
	0 to < 36 months	0 to < 36 months	36 to < 60 months	36 to < 60 months	0 to < 36 months	0 to < 36 months	36 to < 60 months	36 to < 60 months
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
So that I could work/change in work schedule	55.5	3.56	27.3	2.54	45.6	3.61	30.2	3.91
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	10.0	1.94	40.7	3.10	28.7	3.21	42.3	4.18
To give me some relief	1.3	0.44	5.2	1.75	3.9	1.21	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	3.8	1.29	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	4.7	1.23	5.6	1.31	‡	†	3.8	1.73
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Provider stopped providing care	9.7	1.74	5.5	1.71	3.6	1.38	5.4	2.23
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	3.6	1.40	‡	†	‡	†
Other**	12.5	2.12	8.8	1.42	11.6	1.98	7.4	2.19
Missing	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	#	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A23A. Main Reason for Search among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Result of Search and Household Race/Ethnicity: Count**

Main Reason for Search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Total households	1.87	0.146	0.35	0.058	0.41	0.041	1.03	0.096	0.36	0.049	0.39	0.044
So that I could work/change in work schedule	0.79	0.094	0.18	0.032	0.19	0.031	0.43	0.067	0.14	0.022	0.17	0.028
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	0.44	0.054	0.07	0.020	0.09	0.016	0.31	0.044	0.14	0.034	0.13	0.026
To give me some relief	0.07	0.023	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	0.06	0.021	—	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	—	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	0.07	0.019	0.04	0.016	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Main Reason for Search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error
Provider stopped providing care	0.16	0.037	‡	†	0.03	0.014	0.05	0.020	‡	†	‡	†
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other***	0.21	0.040	0.04	0.016	0.04	0.010	0.10	0.028	0.03	0.009	0.05	0.013
Missing	‡	†	—	†	—	†	‡	†	‡	†	—	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Includes the race/ethnicity of the respondent and all children under age 13. The sample for this analysis includes only single-race/ethnicity White, African American, and Hispanic households. ***Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A23B. Main Reason for Search among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Result of Search and Household Race/Ethnicity: Count**

Main Reason for Search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Total households	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
So that I could work/change in work schedule	42.1	3.33	51.1	6.04	46.5	5.53	41.7	4.99	37.6	5.25	44.3	4.99
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	23.7	2.45	20.6	5.25	23.1	3.71	29.9	3.66	39.8	6.65	33.5	5.00
To give me some relief	3.5	1.27	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	3.3	1.10	#	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	#	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	3.8	1.01	11.9	3.66	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Main Reason for Search	Resulted in Change of Care	Did Not Result in Change of Care										
	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino	White	White	Black / African American	Black / African American	Hispanic / Latino	Hispanic / Latino
	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error	Column Percent	Standard Error
Provider stopped providing care	8.8	1.79	‡	†	7.8	3.28	4.9	1.95	‡	†	‡	†
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other***	11.5	2.03	11.2	3.75	8.9	2.43	9.9	2.50	7.7	2.50	13.4	3.24
Missing	‡	†	#	†	#	†	‡	†	‡	†	#	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Includes the race/ethnicity of the respondent and all children under age 13. The sample for this analysis includes only single-race/ethnicity White, African American, and Hispanic households. ***Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A24A. Main Reason for Search among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Result of Search and Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Count

Main Reason for Search	IPR PFPL	IPR PFPL						
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error						
Total households	1.30	0.084	1.12	0.078	0.74	0.075	2.16	0.159
Search resulted in a change of care	0.62	0.058	0.59	0.061	0.44	0.061	1.45	0.119
So that I could work/change in work schedule	0.31	0.043	0.29	0.035	0.18	0.042	0.55	0.073
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	0.12	0.020	0.16	0.033	0.08	0.020	0.37	0.053
To give me some relief	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	0.05	0.021
Wasn't satisfied with care	0.04	0.012	‡	†	‡	†	0.07	0.018
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Provider stopped providing care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	0.17	0.038
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	—	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other**	0.07	0.020	0.06	0.023	0.06	0.020	0.14	0.031
Missing	—	†	‡	†	—	†	‡	†
Search did not result in a change of care	0.68	0.057	0.53	0.052	0.30	0.045	0.70	0.084
So that I could work/change in work schedule	0.32	0.038	0.21	0.030	0.13	0.035	0.23	0.051
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	0.23	0.039	0.13	0.029	0.11	0.028	0.26	0.042
To give me some relief	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†

Main Reason for Search	IPR PFPL	IPR PFPL						
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Count (in Millions)	Standard Error						
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	—	†	‡	†
Provider stopped providing care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	0.05	0.021
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other**	0.07	0.015	0.07	0.022	‡	†	0.06	0.020
Missing	—	†	‡	†	—	†	—	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Table A24B. Main Reason for Search among Households that Conducted a Search in the Past 24 Months for a Randomly Selected Child Aged <60 Months*, by Result of Search and Household Income to Poverty Ratio, Percent of Federal Poverty Level (IPR PFPL): Column Percent by Result of Search

Main Reason for Search	IPR PFPL							
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Column Percent	Standard Error						
Total households								
Search resulted in a change of care	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
So that I could work/change in work schedule	50.5	4.56	49.3	4.41	41.8	6.70	37.9	3.73
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	19.2	3.13	26.5	4.69	17.6	4.24	25.8	3.21
To give me some relief	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	3.8	1.40
Wasn't satisfied with care	6.7	1.96	‡	†	‡	†	4.8	1.20
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Provider stopped providing care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	12.0	2.29
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	#	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other**	11.8	3.00	10.9	3.67	13.0	4.19	9.9	1.94
Missing	#	†	‡	†	#	†	‡	†
Search did not result in a change of care	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†	100.0	†
So that I could work/change in work schedule	46.9	4.24	40.5	4.76	44.6	8.14	32.8	6.10
To provide my child educational or social enrichment	34.3	4.47	24.4	4.68	36.1	7.97	37.4	4.90

Main Reason for Search	IPR PFPL							
	<100	<100	100 to <200	100 to <200	200 to <300	200 to <300	300+	300+
	Column Percent	Standard Error						
To give me some relief	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
To fill in gaps left by my main provider or before/after school	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Wasn't satisfied with care	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Wanted to reduce child-care expenses	‡	†	‡	†	#	†	‡	†
Provider stopped providing care	‡	†	5.9	2.93	‡	†	6.8	2.89
Child no longer eligible for previous care (e.g., aged out or summer break)	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†	‡	†
Other**	10.4	2.07	13.3	3.93	9.3	4.53	8.1	2.68
Missing	#	†	‡	†	#	†	#	†

Source: NSECE household questionnaire.

— Not available. † Not applicable. ‡ Reporting standards not met. # Rounds to zero. *Age of child reflects age at the time of the interview, not necessarily age at time of last search. **Other category includes all open-ended responses.

Appendix II. Technical Notes

This brief presents estimates regarding searches for child care at the household level, not the child or search level. The data are based on an estimated 11.4 million households that conducted at least one search for care for a child aged birth to 60 months at the time of interview. In this way, the 11.4 million represents the lower bound for the number of searches, as each of the respondents conducted at least one search for care in the age range of interest. Using methods appropriate for the comparison of non-normally distributed values from correlated samples, we found the sample of selected children used to characterize search characteristics to be representative, by age, of all children under 13 years identified in the study.

Glossary of Terms

Community poverty density: Service to low-income or other communities was identified by the “density” of low-income population in the communities where centers are located; that is, as the percentage of the total population with income below certain levels. The categories are based on poverty-density categories developed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Weighted percentage of households (HH) in the local community below Federal Poverty Level (FPL): 1) high poverty (>20 percent of HH <FPL), 2) moderate-poverty (13.9–20 percent of HH <FPL), and 3) low-poverty (0-13.8 percent of HH <FPL). Weights reflect distance between tracts and child population of tracts.

Child Age: The age of the “selected child” is measured in months at the date of the interview, which took place between January and May 2012. For this brief, the following age groups are examined: young children (birth to 60 months); infants (birth to 12 months); infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months); and preschoolers (36 to 60 months).

Household Poverty Status: Poverty status identified households whose combined income from all sources was equal to less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level; one to two times the poverty level (100 percent to <200 percent); two to three times the poverty level (200 percent to <300 percent); or more than three times the poverty level (300 percent+). This measure was created by first estimating 2011 household income (based on responses to income-related questions) and then comparing this income to the 2011 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for the relevant household size. In 2011, the poverty level was \$18,123 a year for a family of three with two children (more detail is available [here](#)).

Race/Ethnicity

Household race was based on the races of the respondent and all children in the household younger than 13. If all are identified as non-Hispanic White, the household was classified as a non-Hispanic White household for the purposes of this report. If all are identified as non-Hispanic Black, it was classified as a non-Hispanic Black household. If all are identified as Hispanic, it was classified as a Hispanic household. Mixed race or other race households were not included in analyses by race (unweighted n=330).