

Why was I selected?

You have been selected to participate in this study from a list of child care providers in your area based on geographic and program criteria. It is important for us to hear from you so we can paint a complete picture of the availability of ECE in your area. You represent many other providers across the nation.

Your participation in this study will help to ensure that policy makers, practitioners, and parents have an accurate understanding of our nation's ECE landscape.

Will my responses be private?

Anything you tell us will be used for statistical purposes **only**; no individuals or organizations can be identified directly or indirectly in research findings. Identifiers such as your name, your organization's name or addresses will be considered private and can only be accessed for the study's research purpose by authorized personnel associated with the study. All project staff who handle information collected for the study must sign a privacy agreement that provides for criminal and civil penalties if privacy is not kept.

The NSECE has also obtained a federal Certificate of Confidentiality from the Department of Health and Human Services in order to further protect your privacy. With this Certificate, NORC cannot be forced (for example by court order or subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, local, civil, criminal, legislative, administrative, or other proceedings.

How can I participate?

Participating in the NSECE is easy. NORC interviewers will work with your schedule to find a convenient time to reach you in person or by phone. Contact us at nsece24prov@norc.org or at 1-877-390-3653 and we can help you set up an appointment.

What questions this study will help to answer?

- Who is caring for and teaching America's children when they are not with their parents?
- What are the characteristics of home-based care available to families?
- What sources of revenue do home-based providers rely on, and how are those sources related to the care offered?
- How can we better support the ECE workforce and offer opportunities to help them improve the care they provide children?

Questions about NSECE?

1-877-390-3653

or

nsece24prov@norc.org

Para español por favor llámenos al

1-877-390-3653

Participation is voluntary. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is 0970-0391 and the expiration date is 6/30/2026. Please send comments regarding the time required for this survey or any other aspect of the described information collection to: NORC at the University of Chicago, 55 E Monroe St, Ste 3000, Chicago, IL, 60603, Attention: A. Rupa Datta



NATIONAL SURVEY OF EARLY CARE & EDUCATION | 2024



What is the NSECE?

The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) is funded by the Administration for Children and Families, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

The NSECE interviews both providers of early care and education (ECE) and households with young children to better understand the relationship between what families need and the ECE options available to them in their communities. The NSECE was first conducted in 2012 and then again in 2019. The NSECE is collecting new information in 2024. We will be contacting close to 20,000 providers and 80,000 households across all 50 states to participate in the study beginning in late 2023.

What is the Administration for Children and Families?

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that administers Head Start and the Child Care and Development Fund (which funds child care subsidy) programs, and sponsors ECE research. ACF helps children in low-income families access high-quality care and helps coordinate efforts across Head Start, child care, pre-K, home visiting, and other early childhood development programs throughout the federal government. Through its direct work and in coordination with others, ACF supports efforts to build professional development systems and workforce initiatives to help ECE professionals pursue better training and higher education, moving up career ladders to higher compensation. The NSECE will assist ACF in its mission to improve the availability of high-quality ECE programs.

Why is the NSECE so important?

The NSECE provides reliable information about families' needs and preferences for ECE and the individuals and organizations caring for children. Information collected by the NSECE in both 2012 and 2019 has been used to inform policy decisions to better support families and providers of care.

The NSECE has helped public and local agencies better understand how many home-based child care providers are looking after children across the nation, what led them to care for children, and what kinds of care they offer related to hours, prices, and other factors). The study also helped illuminate the vital role home-based providers play in their communities and how diverse home-based providers are, making it critical to create support programs that can be tailored to their unique circumstances.

It has been five years since the NSECE was last conducted. A lot has happened since then that has impacted the availability of ECE services. We need updated information to further examine the impact on ECE services in general and on home-based providers in particular.

Who are you surveying?

The study focuses on early care and education providers and the workforce, as well as the working families they support. We will implement four integrated surveys of:

1. **Providers of home-based care:** Individuals who provide care for children under age 13 (who are not their own) in a home-based setting will be surveyed. Participants will include:
 - Regulated, licensed, or registered home-based providers (such as family day care). This survey will take about 40 minutes.
 - Individuals who provide informal care at home, for example, grandmothers, other friends and relatives, neighbors, or baby-sitters who regularly watch children under age 13. This survey will take about 20 minutes.

2. **Centers, schools, and other programs:** The survey will sample all types of organizational providers including license-exempt providers, Head Start and providers in school-based settings, and for-profit and non-profit community-based preschool providers.
3. **Classroom staff:** Teachers, assistant teachers, or aides working in ECE classrooms will be selected to provide information about their professional experiences and classroom activities.
4. **Families with children:** Parents or guardians of children under age 13 will be interviewed to learn more about their ECE use and needs.

Why should I participate?

Your survey responses will be combined with those of everyone else who completes the 2024 NSECE producing a rich data source that has the potential to benefit federal, state, and local or community-level child care policies. The data collected from this survey will be used to:

- Create a comprehensive catalog of the range of home-based care that is offered across the country, including how many children providers serve, the hours during which they provide care, and what motivates them to look after children.
- Provide detailed information on the ways in which home-based providers operate, including what curriculum they use, how they staff and organize groups of children, and what amount they charge.
- Help develop initiatives to support caregivers through such things as educational assistance, training, and improved pay and benefits.
- Better understand the experiences of the ECE workforce and offer opportunities for them to improve their knowledge and skills.

