

Why was I selected?

The center where you work was selected for our study from a list of providers based on geographic and program criteria. An administrator or other leader at your facility has already provided us with valuable information. You have been randomly selected from a list of classroom staff to help us better understand the experiences of individuals working with children. It is important for us to hear from you to get a complete picture of early care and education (ECE) classroom staff. You represent many other providers across the nation.

Your participation will help to ensure that policy makers, practitioners, and parents have an accurate understanding of our nation's early care and education 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. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. In an effort to make this as convenient for you as possible, NORC offers multiple ways for you to complete your survey. Contact us at nsece24prov@norc.org or at 1-877-390-3653 and we will find the best option to suit your schedule.

What questions this study will help to answer?

- Who is caring for and teaching America's children when they are not with their parents?
- How do teachers plan activities for the children in their care?
- What opportunities are available for classroom staff to build knowledge and skills?
- How can we better support the early care and education workforce and help them improve the care they provide children?

Questions about NSECE?

1-877-390-3653 or nsece24prov@norc.org

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

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Para español por favor llámenos al
1-877-390-3653



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 individuals working directly with children in the classroom, describing who they are, their qualifications, their compensation, and what motivates them to do this work. Information collected by the NSECE in both 2012 and 2019 has highlighted what a critical role teachers, aides, and assistants play in ECE programs and what challenges they face. This has been used to inform initiatives to better support the ECE workforce, from professional development programs to improved pay and benefits.

It has been five years since the NSECE was last conducted. A lot has happened since then that affects work in the classroom (inflation, pandemic, economic downturn). We need updated information to help show what families and caregivers most need now.

Who are you surveying?

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

1. **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 pre-school providers.
2. **Classroom staff:** Teachers, assistant teachers, or aides working in early care and education ECE classrooms will be selected to provide information about their professional experiences and classroom activities.
3. **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.
4. **Families with children:** Parents or guardians of children under age 13 will be interviewed to learn more about their early care and education use and needs.

Why should I participate?

Your survey responses will be combined with others to produce 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 description of the range of individuals working directly with children in the classroom, describing who they are, their qualifications, their compensation, and what motivates them to look after children.
- Help develop initiatives to support caregivers through such things as educational assistance, training, and improved pay and benefits.
- Better understand the experiences of the early care and education workforce and offer opportunities for them to improve their knowledge and skills.

