

Why was I chosen?

You have been chosen for this study from a list of providers in your area. It is important for us to hear from every selected provider to get a complete picture of the availability of ECE in your area. You represent many other providers across the nation and cannot be replaced.

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

Will my responses be private?

All the information you and your staff provide will be used for statistical purposes only. 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. In an effort to make this as convenient for you as possible, NORC offers multiple ways for you to complete your interview. Contact us at nsece24prov@norc.org or at 1-877-390-3653 and we'll 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?
- What are the characteristics of care available to families?
- What sources of revenue do 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?

ECE researchers have and continue to use public data files (with no identifying respondent information) from the 2012 and 2019 NSECE survey to inform important ECE public policy decisions. The data continues to be accessed daily!

Questions about NSECE?

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

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

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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 early care and education 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 more children in low-income families access high-quality care and supports coordination efforts across multiple early childhood development programs throughout HHS and across 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 early care and education 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 center-based providers and make quality care more accessible to all families.

Since the NSECE was last conducted, a lot has happened (inflation, pandemic, economic downturn) that affects both what ECE programs are available to families and how they are run. We need updated information to help show what providers and families most need now.

Who are you surveying?

The study focuses on ECE 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 samples 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. The survey will take about 45 minutes.
2. **Classroom staff:** Teachers, assistant teachers, or aides working in 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 ECE use and needs.

Why should I participate?

Your 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 institutional and individual providers in the U.S., including community-based care, for-profit providers, Head Start programs, school-based settings, and home-based child care providers.
- Provide detailed information on the ways in which ECE providers operate - like what curriculum they use, how they staff and organize classrooms, and what 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.

