# 2019 NSECE Snapshot: Parent Work Schedules in Households with Young Children 

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By Joshua Borton, A. Rupa Datta, and Ilana Ventura


Parents' work schedules can affect how families use public and private early care and education and non-parental care services, as well as families' work-life balance and wellbeing. When and how much parents work affects their earnings, their ability to care for their families, and their likelihood of furthering their education or training to help them in the workplace, among other things. The work schedules of parents with young children ( 0 to 60 months) are intertwined with their child care decisions, with non-standard hours of employment and irregular work schedules posing particular challenges for finding child care that meets families' needs.

This research snapshot describes characteristics of households with young children, including the work schedules of parents during a reference week in 2019. We also compare statistically significant differences in findings between parental work schedules in 2012 and 2019. We describe how work schedules differ for households of different income levels; between one-parent and two-parent families; and in households where neither, one, or both parents work. One group of particular focus is 'fully-employed' households; these are households where all parents work -a one-parent/one-working-parent household or a two-parent/two-working-parents household.

[^0]Adults participating in the 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) reported on their own and, if applicable, their spouse/partner's work schedules during the week prior to their interview. ${ }^{1}$ The data allow researchers to count, for each hour of the week (for example, Monday 10-11 a.m.), the number of parents in each household who were in work-related activities. This research snapshot reports information from these data about each parent's work schedule in households with young children (under 60 months). ${ }^{2}$ Because we are interested in how children experience their parents' work schedules, this analysis presents child-level estimates describing the parental work schedules. ${ }^{3}$

Key findings about the work schedules of parents of young children include, on average:

- Each parent in fully-employed one- and two-parent households worked similar numbers of hours per week.
- Among two-parent households with only one working parent (and one non-working parent), the sole working parent worked more hours per week compared to the average hours worked by each individual parent in households with two working parents.
- Among fully-employed households (either one-parent or two-parent), the number of hours per week that both parents in fully-employed two-parent households were simultaneously working per week was fewer than those of the sole parent in oneparent fully-employed households.
- Across fully-employed one- and two-parent households, each parent worked similar numbers of non-standard work hours each week, but very few twoparent fully-employed households had any non-standard hours when both parents were working. (We designate hours outside of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays as non-standard.)
- Among fully-employed households, the proportion of non-standard hours per week that both parents in fully-employed two-parent households were simultaneously working per week was fewer than those of the sole parent in one-parent fully-employed households.
- Findings for 2019 are very similar to those for 2012. Notable differences are:
- Parental work hours increased from 2012 to 2019, especially for children in households with incomes below the poverty level and for children in one-parent fully-employed households,
- However, hours when all parents were working in fully-employed one- or twoparent households were less likely to happen during non-standard times in 2019 relative to 2012.

[^1]
## Household Composition, Income, and Employment

Exhibits 1 and 2 provide an overview of the household composition-including parental employment characteristics-of the 18.8 million children under 60 months living with one or two parents in 2019, by household income. Household income is classified in a ratio to the 2018 federal poverty level (FPL), which was \$20,780 for a single parent with two children and $\$ 25,100$ for two parents with two children. ${ }^{4}$ Almost one third (29.5\%) of the total population of young children lived in single-parent households. As the percentage of FPL increased, the proportion of children in two-parent households increased, so that only 13\% of children in the highest-income households (300\% or greater FPL) lived in a single-parent household (See Exhibit 1). About half of all children under 60 months (51\%) had at least one parent who did not have any work-related activities in the prior week. ${ }^{5}$ (See Exhibit 2.) These could be children in two-parent households with two non-working parents, in two-parent households with one non-working parent, or in one-parent households with a non-working parent.

## Exhibit 1 <br> Number and Percentage of Children in 1 or 2 Parent Households, by Household Income, in 2019

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey


| Children living <br> in 1 parent HH | $56.7 \%$ | $34.4 \%$ | $21.4 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Children living <br> in 2 parent HH | $43.3 \%$ | $65.6 \%$ | $78.6 \%$ | $86.9 \%$ |
| Number of <br> Children | $4,330,000$ | $4,340,000$ | $3,330,000$ | $6,810,000$ |

Note: Statistics calculated for children 0 to 60 months living in households $(\mathrm{HH})$ with one or two parents. Income levels expressed as ratio to 2018 Federal Poverty Level (FPL). All estimates are child-weighted; a parent with more than one child age 0 to 60 months is counted once for each child.

[^2]
## Exhibit 2 Percentage of Children Living with at Least One Parent Who Had No Work-related Activities in the Prior Week, by Number of Parents and Household Income, in 2019

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey


Note: Statistics calculated for children 0 to 60 months living in households $(\mathrm{HH})$ with one or two parents, and show presence of parents within the household having no work-related activities during the prior week. Income levels are expressed as a ratio to 2018 Federal Poverty Levels.

In 2019, how many children under 5 years old lived in households with
...zero working parents
6,360,000
...one working parent and one non-working parent 5,890,000
...all parents in the household are working parents 9,280,000 (e.g., single working parent or two working parents in two parent household)

## Parents' Work Characteristics

Exhibit 3 shows the total number of hours spent in work-related activities across all parents in the household during the week. The sole parent in a one-parent fully-employed household worked on average 39 hours per week. Both parents in a two-parent fully-employed household had a combined 81 hours of work-related activity each week, for an average 40.5 hours per week per parent. (It is possible that each parent's actual number of hours worked differed: one may have worked more, the other less). The sole working parent in a two-parent/one-working-parent household worked on average 49 hours per week; this is more than the average number of hours worked by each working parent in one-parent or twoparent fully employed households. Households with one working parent (whether they were in one-parent or two-parent households) had similar numbers of parental work hours across income categories. Households with higher incomes had more parental work hours, but primarily because the higher income households were most likely to have two working parents.

## Exhibit 3 Average Total Hours of Parental Work in Prior Week, by Number of Parents and Household Income, in 2019

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey


[^3]
## Exhibit 4 Average Total Parental Non-Standard Work Hours in Prior Week, by Number of Parents and Household Income, in 2019

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey


Note: Statistics calculated for children 0 to 60 months living in households $(\mathrm{HH})$ with one or two parents reporting work-related activities in prior week. Income levels expressed as ratio to 2018 Federal Poverty Levels.

Exhibit 4 shows the total number of parental non-standard work hours by number of parents, number of working parents and household income. We define non-standard hours as times outside of Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., that is, early morning, evenings, nights and weekends ${ }^{6}$. Working parents in fully-employed households each worked, on average, similar numbers of non-standard hours. Parents from one-parent fully-employed households worked an average of 9 non-standard hours per week; in two-parent fully-employed households, both parents worked a combined average of 17 non-standard hours (about twice as much). Parents may work a combination of standard and non-standard hours. For example, a parent who worked from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on a weekday worked 8 standard hours and one non-standard hour that day. Another way some families might combine standard and non-standard hours of work-related activity would be to work a standard 40hour work week (i.e., working 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) and take an evening college course.

[^4]
## Exhibit $5 \quad$ Average Number of Hours per Week All Parents in Household Were Working, by Number of Working Parents and Household Income, in 2019

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey


Note: Statistics calculated for children 0 to 60 months living in fully-employed households (HH; where ALL parents in the HH have some work-related activities). Hours pertain to week prior to interview. Income levels expressed as ratio to 2018 Federal Poverty Levels.

Not only do the number of work hours matter, but also whether a child experiences time when all parents in the household are at work can be important as this can suggest that nonparental care may be needed. This is especially true for parents of young children, who usually require non-parental care arrangements when all parents are at work. ${ }^{7}$ Exhibits 5 through 7 explore features of hours in the prior week that all parents in the household were in work-related activities at the same time.

In a single-parent fully-employed household, any time that the parent is in work-related activities is a time when all parents in the household are at work. If a household is not fullyemployed, there is no time during the week that all parents in the household are at work. The situation is more complex in fully-employed two-parent households. In these households with two working parents, at one extreme, if both parents worked exactly the same schedules, then a workweek with 80 hours of parental work would translate to 40 hours per week when they were both working at the same time. On the other extreme, if the two parents had completely different work schedules, there would be zero hours when they were working at the same time despite working 40 hours each. Exhibit 5 shows that, in two-parent fullyemployed households, both parents were at work-at the same time-an average of 23 hours per week. This indicates that work schedules of working parents from two-parent fullyemployed households were staggered in such a way as to fall between the two possible extremes.

[^5]Exhibit 5 shows that two-parent fully-employed households work staggered schedules so that the time that all parents were at work was much less than for one-parent fully-employed households, even though each working parent in these fully-employed households tended to work similar numbers of hours per week on average.


Note: Statistics calculated for children 0 to 60 months living in one-worker/one parent or two-worker/two parent households (HH). Income levels expressed as ratio to 2018 Federal Poverty Levels.

Exhibit 6 explores this pattern further by looking at the percent of non-standard hours among all hours when all parents were at work. In one-parent fully-employed households, the parent worked on average 39 hours per week, of which 23\% (9 hours) were non-standard. On average in two-parent fully-employed households, the parents had 23 hours when they were both at work, and $8 \%$ of those (2 hours) were non-standard.

## Exhibit $7 \quad$ Percent of Children from Households with Two Working Parents Where Both Parents Were Never at Work at the Same Time, in 2019

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey


Note: Statistics calculated for children 0 to 60 months living in households with two working parents, but 0 hours when both parents are working. Income levels expressed as ratio to 2018 Federal Poverty Levels.

One example of staggered schedules is when parents from two-parent fully-employed households both have work-related activities over the course of the week, but at no time are they both at work. This can happen, for example, if one parent works only nights or weekends, while the other only works standard hours shifts. Exhibit 7 focuses only on children in two-parent fully-employed households. Among these children, 12\% never had a time in the prior week that both parents were working at the same time.

About $\mathbf{7 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ children lived in two-parent households where both parents worked but at no time in the prior week were both parents working at the same time.

## Comparison of 2019 with 2012

In this section, we compare the tabulations of 2019 data reported above to previously reported, parallel tabulations of 2012 data (NSECE Project Team, 2017). Findings in 2019 are very similar to the findings in 2012. Some notable differences are highlighted below.

## Exhibit $8 \quad$ Number of Children 0-60 Months, by Household Income, in 2012 and 2019

Source: 2019 and 2012 NSECE Household Survey


Note: $p$-values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1 ;{ }^{*} p<0.05$. **p<0.01. Children living in households with one or two resident parents.

From 2012 to 2019, the distribution of children across income groups changed for children in one and two parent households, as shown in Exhibit 8. Specifically, the number of children in each income group is statistically significantly different, between 2012 and 2019, in three of the four income ratio categories. In 2019, fewer children were living in households below the poverty line and more children were living in households with incomes above $300 \%$ of FPL, compared to 2012.

## Exhibit $9 \quad$ Average Total Hours of Parental Work in Prior Week, by Number of Parents, for All Households and Households <100\% FPL, in 2012 and 2019

Source: 2019 and 2012 NSECE Household Survey


Note: p-values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1$; ${ }^{*} p<0.05 .{ }^{* *} p<0.01$

Meanwhile, Exhibit 9 shows the total hours of parental work in the prior week, by number of parents, for all households and households with incomes below FPL, in 2012 and 2019. (The three income categories above FPL are not shown in the graph.) Most notably, there is an increase in work hours in 2019. As Exhibit 3 displayed earlier, increased working hours among lower income households is associated with similar numbers of hours worked across income levels among one-parent fully-employed households in 2019.

## Exhibit $10 \quad$ Average Number of Hours per Week All Parents in Household Were Working, by Number of Working Parents, for All Households and Households <100\% FPL, in 2012 and 2019

Source: 2019 and 2012 NSECE Household Survey


Note: p -Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} \mathrm{p}<0.1$; * $\mathrm{p}<0.05 .{ }^{* *} \mathrm{p}<0.01$
Exhibit 10 shows that the total number of hours per week that all parents were working in fully-employed households was greater in 2019 than it had been in 2012 for children living in households with income below poverty and for the subset of these children in one-parent fully-employed households. While total work-related hours increased from 2012 to 2019, working parents' total non-standard work hours in the prior week were the same across years in the majority of categories (not shown).

## Exhibit 11 Average Percent of Non-Standard Hours among All Hours That All Parents in the Household Are in Work-Related Activities, for All Children and Single-Parent Households by Household Income, in 2012 and 2019

Source: 2019 and 2012 NSECE Household Survey


- $2012 \quad 2019$

Note: $p$-Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1$; ${ }^{*} p<0.05 .{ }^{* *} p<0.01$

Exhibit 11 shows that the share of non-standard work hours among all parental work hours decreased for children in fully-employed households and for the subset of these children in one-parent fully-employed households in 2019. The percent of non-standard hours among all hours that all parents in the household were in work-related activities was not statistically significantly different between 2012 and 2019 for most categories.

## Conclusion

This snapshot uses detailed work hours data from the 2019 NSECE to compare parental work schedules for a nationally-representative sample of young children, and to compare these to similar tabulations for 2012. Overall, patterns were very similar across the two years. Parents from one-parent and two-parent fully-employed households each worked similar numbers of standard and non-standard hours weekly, but parents from two-parent fullyemployed households had significantly staggered schedules that greatly reduced the number of hours that both parents in the household were simultaneously working or in work-related activities. Moreover, although working parents in two-parent fully-employed households worked similar numbers of non-standard hours each week compared to working parents in one-parent fully-employed households, there were fewer non-standard hours when both parents were at work at the same time for two-parent fully-employed households.

The work schedules of fully-employed households can provide information about when and who may require non-parental care to support parental employment. Parents from one-parent fully-employed households had more hours per week that they may have needed nonparental care to support parental employment than did two-parent fully-employed households. Among two-parent fully-employed households, low-income households had the most staggered work schedules, partly due to non-standard hours of work. These tabulations do not indicate how much control these families may have had over their work schedules.

The need for non-parental care to support parental employment during non-standard hours occurred primarily for one-parent fully-employed households, and more for those with lower incomes. While these disparities in non-standard hours were smaller in 2019 than in 2012, they continue to persist, and imply a need to continue supporting working parents with young children.

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## Project Director

A. Rupa Datta

Contract \#
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## Project Officers

Ivelisse Martinez-Beck, Ph.D.
Ann Rivera, Ph.D.

NORC at the University of Chicago
55 E Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois, 60603

Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services acf.hhs.gov/opre

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## Appendix

## Exhibit A1

Number of U.S. Children 0-60 months by Number of Parents, Working Status, and Household Income to Poverty Ratio

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

|  | Number of Children (in thousands) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Number of <br> Parents | Working <br> Parents |  |  |  |  |  |

[^6]Table A2. Percentage of Children in 1 or 2 Parent Households, by Household Income, in 2019

|  | <100\% FPL | <100\% FPL | 100-199\% <br> FPL | 100-199\% <br> FPL | 200-299\% <br> FPL | 200-299\% <br> FPL | 300\% or <br> greater FPL | 300\% or <br> greater FPL |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error |
| Children living in <br> 1 parent HH | $56.7 \%$ | $2.22 \%$ | $34.4 \%$ | $2.24 \%$ | $21.4 \%$ | $2.32 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $1.45 \%$ |
| Children living in <br> 2 parent HH | $43.3 \%$ | $2.22 \%$ | $65.6 \%$ | $2.24 \%$ | $78.6 \%$ | $2.32 \%$ | $86.9 \%$ | $1.45 \%$ |

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

Table for Exhibit 2.

Table A3. Percentage of Children Living with at Least One Parent Who Had No Work-related Activities in the Prior Week, by Number of Parents and Household Income, in 2019

|  | All HH <br> Incomes | All HH <br> Incomes | <100\% <br> FPL | < $100 \%$ <br> FPL | $100-199 \%$ <br> FPL | $100-199 \%$ <br> FPL | 200-299\% <br> FPL | 200-299\% <br> FPL | $\mathbf{3 0 0 \%}$ or <br> greater <br> FPL | $\mathbf{3 0 0 \%}$ or <br> greater <br> FPL |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percent | Standard <br> Error | Percent | Standard <br> Error | Percent | Standard <br> Error | Percent | Standard <br> Error | Percent | Standard <br> Error |
| All Children in 1 or <br> 2 parent HH | $50.6 \%$ | $1.18 \%$ | $65.1 \%$ | $1.89 \%$ | $58.5 \%$ | $2.45 \%$ | $48.1 \%$ | $2.91 \%$ | $37.7 \%$ | $2.07 \%$ |
| Children living in 1 <br> parent HH | $44.6 \%$ | $1.93 \%$ | $56.9 \%$ | $2.54 \%$ | $45.5 \%$ | $3.80 \%$ | $28.1 \%$ | $3.59 \%$ | $23.4 \%$ | $4.23 \%$ |
| Children living in 2 <br> parent HH | $53.2 \%$ | $1.45 \%$ | $75.7 \%$ | $2.73 \%$ | $65.5 \%$ | $2.85 \%$ | $53.6 \%$ | $3.33 \%$ | $39.9 \%$ | $2.26 \%$ |

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

Table for Exhibit 3.

Table A4. Average Total Hours of Parental Work in Prior Week, by Number of Parents and Household Income, in 2019

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { All } \\ \text { Children } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { All } \\ \text { Children } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { <100\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200-299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200-299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | 300\% or greater FPL | 300\% or greater FPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error |
| All Children in HH with working parents | 60 | 0.68 | 49 | 1.17 | 55 | 1.20 | 61 | 1.44 | 67 | 1.12 |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | 39 | 0.70 | 38 | 1.07 | 39 | 1.25 | 38 | 1.67 | 40 | 1.7 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 1 working | 49 | 0.70 | 47 | 1.64 | 49 | 1.50 | 49 | 1.04 | 49 | 1.13 |
| Children in HH with <br> 2 parents, 2 working | 81 | 0.84 | 78 | 3.12 | 79 | 2.54 | 82 | 1.65 | 82 | 1.16 |

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

Table A5. Average Total Parental Non-Standard Work Hours in Prior Week, by Number of Parents and Household Income, in 2019

|  | All HH Incomes | All HH Incomes | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200-299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200-299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | 300\% or greater FPL | 300\% or greater FPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error |
| All Children in HH with working parents | 13 | 0.38 | 14 | 0.62 | 14 | 0.82 | 15 | 0.91 | 12 | 0.58 |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | 9 | 0.54 | 11 | 0.86 | 9 | 0.79 | 8 | 1.18 | 8 | 1.41 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 1 working | 12 | 0.50 | 14 | 0.97 | 13 | 1.17 | 10 | 0.87 | 10 | 0.91 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 2 working | 17 | 0.73 | 23 | 1.94 | 21 | 1.69 | 23 | 1.69 | 13 | 0.83 |

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

Table A6. Average Number of Hours per Week All Parents in Household Were Working, by Number of Working Parents and Household Income, in 2019

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { All } \\ \text { Children } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { All } \\ \text { Children } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100-199 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200-299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200-299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $300 \%$ or greater FPL | $300 \%$ or greater FPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error |
| All Children in fully employed HH | 28 | 0.56 | 32 | 1.23 | 28 | 1.30 | 24 | 1.20 | 29 | 0.84 |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | 39 | 0.71 | 38 | 1.07 | 39 | 1.27 | 38 | 1.67 | 40 | 1.70 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 2 working | 23 | 0.68 | 18 | 2.27 | 19 | 1.55 | 18 | 1.15 | 27 | 0.94 |

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

Table A7. Average Percent of Non-Standard Hours Among All Hours That All Parents in the Household Were in Work-Related Activities, by Number of Working Parents and Household Income, in 2019

|  | All <br> Children | All <br> Children | < $100 \%$ <br> FPL | < $100 \%$ <br> FPL | $100-199 \%$ <br> FPL | $100-199 \%$ <br> FPL | 200-299\% <br> FPL | 200-299\% <br> FPL | $\mathbf{3 0 0 \%}$ or <br> greater <br> FPL | 300\% or <br> greater <br> FPL |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percent | Standard <br> Error | Percent | Standard <br> Error | Percent | Standard <br> Error | Percent | Standard <br> Error | Percent | Standard <br> Error |
| All Children in fully <br> employed HH | $13.5 \%$ | $0.99 \%$ | $23.4 \%$ | $1.87 \%$ | $17.1 \%$ | $1.66 \%$ | $13.6 \%$ | $1.56 \%$ | $8.6 \%$ | $1.70 \%$ |
| Children in HH with <br> 1 parent, 1 working | $23.4 \%$ | $1.47 \%$ | $27.0 \%$ | $2.17 \%$ | $24.1 \%$ | $2.39 \%$ | $18.6 \%$ | $2.65 \%$ | $20.5 \%$ | $3.98 \%$ |
| Children in HH with <br> 2 parents, 2 <br> working | $8.0 \%$ | $1.28 \%$ | $12.4 \%$ | $3.35 \%$ | $9.9 \%$ | $2.14 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ | $2.04 \%$ | $6.2 \%$ | $1.93 \%$ |

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

Table A8. Percent of Children from Households with Two Working Parents Where Both Parents Were Never at Work at the Same Time, in 2019

|  | Percent | Standard Error |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| All Children | $12.2 \%$ | $1.24 \%$ |
| $<100 \%$ FPL | $25.7 \%$ | $4.81 \%$ |
| $100-199 \%$ FPL | $18.0 \%$ | $3.11 \%$ |
| $200-299 \%$ FPL | $19.4 \%$ | $3.28 \%$ |
| $300 \%$ or greater FPL | $6.3 \%$ | $1.24 \%$ |

Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

Table A9a. Number of Children 0-60 Months, by Household Income, in 2012

|  | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 200-299\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 200-299\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 300 \% \text { or } \\ & \text { greater FPL } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 300 \% \text { or } \\ & \text { greater FPL } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Count | Standard Error | Count | Standard Error | Count | Standard Error | Count | Standard Error |
| Number of Children | 6,150,000** | 273,000 | 4,780,000** | 247,000 | 3,020,000 | 198,000 | 6,590,000* | 385,000 |

Note: $p$-Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1$; ${ }^{*} p<0.05$. ** $p<0.01$ Source: 2012 NSECE Household Survey

Table A9b. Number of Children 0-60 Months, by Household Income, in 2019

|  | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { <100\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 100-199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200-299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 200-299\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $300 \%$ or greater FPL | $300 \%$ or greater FPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Count | Standard Error | Count | Standard Error | Count | Standard Error | Count | Standard Error |
| Number of Children | 4,330,000** | 247,287 | 4,340,000** | 265,000 | 3,330,000 | 223,000 | 6,810,000* | 464,000 |

[^7]Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

Table A10a. Average Total Hours of Parental Work in Prior Week, by Number of Parents, for All Households and Households <100\% FPL, in 2012

|  | All Children | All Children | $<\mathbf{1 0 0 \% ~ F P L}$ | $<100 \%$ FPL |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error |
| All Children in HH with working parents | $58^{\star}$ | 0.69 | $43^{* *}$ | 0.96 |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | $37^{*}$ | 0.65 | $33^{* *}$ | 1.07 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 1 working | $47^{\top}$ | 0.77 | $42^{* *}$ | 1.31 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 2 working | 80 | 0.93 | $71^{* *}$ | 2.51 |

Note: $p$-Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1$; ${ }^{*} p<0.05$. ** $p<0.01$
Source: 2012 NSECE Household Survey

A10b.
Average Total Hours of Parental Work in Prior Week, by Number of Parents, for All Households and Households <100\% FPL, in 22019

|  | All Children | All Children | <100\% FPL | <100\% FPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error |
| All Children in HH with working parents | 60* | 0.68 | 49** | 1.17 |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | 39* | 0.70 | 38** | 1.07 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 1 working | 49 | 0.70 | 47** | 1.64 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 2 working | 81 | 0.84 | 78** | 3.12 |

Note: p -Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} \mathrm{p}<0.1$; ${ }^{*} \mathrm{p}<0.05$. **p<0.01
Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

| A11a. <br> Average Num Parents, for A | Average Number of Hours per Week All Parents in Household Were Working, by Number of Working Parents, for All Households and Households < 100\% FPL, in 2012 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | All Children | All Children | <100\% FPL | <100\% FPL |
|  | Hours | Standard Error | Hours | Standard Error |
| All Children in fully employed HH | 27 | 0.55 | 28* | 1.14 |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | 37 | 0.65 | $33^{* *}$ | 1.06 |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 2 working | 22 | 0.69 | 14 | 1.52 |

Note: $p$-Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1 ;{ }^{*} p<0.05$. ** $p<0.01$
Source: 2012 NSECE Household Survey

## A11b. Average Number of Hours per Week All Parents in Household Were Working, by Number of Working Parents, for All Households and Households <100\% FPL, in 2019

|  | All Children | All Children | $<100 \% \mathrm{FPL}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Hours | Standard Error | Hours |
| All Children in fully employed HH | 28 | 0.56 | $32^{*}$ |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | 39 | 0.71 | $38^{* *}$ |
| Children in HH with 2 parents, 2 working | 23 | 0.68 | 1.23 |

[^8]A12a.
Average Percent of Non-Standard Hours among All Hours That All Parents in the Household Are in Work-Related Activities, for All Children and Single-Parent Households by Household Income, in 2012

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { All } \\ \text { Children } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { All } \\ \text { Children } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { <100\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { <100\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | 100- <br> 199\% <br> FPL | $\begin{gathered} 100- \\ 199 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200- \\ \text { 299\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200- \\ \text { 299\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $300 \%$ or greater FPL | 300\% or greater FPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error |
| All Children in fully employed HH | 16.5\%* | 0.88\% | 27.7\% | 1.86\% | 22.5\%* | 2.11\% | 12.7\% | 1.43\% | 8.0\% | 0.75\% |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | 27.3\% ${ }^{\top}$ | 1.49\% | 31.2\% | 2.15\% | 30.2\% | 2.89\% | 23.1\% | 3.44\% | 14.9\% | 2.10\% |

Note: $p$-Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1 ;{ }^{*} p<0.05$. ** $p<0.01$ Source: 2012 NSECE Household Survey

A12b.
Average Percent of Non-Standard Hours among All Hours That All Parents in the Household Are in Work-Related Activities, for All Children and Single-Parent Households by Household Income, in 2019

|  | All Children | $\begin{gathered} \text { All } \\ \text { Children } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} <100 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100- \\ \text { 199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 100- \\ \text { 199\% } \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200- \\ 299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 200- \\ 299 \% \\ \text { FPL } \end{gathered}$ | 300\% or greater FPL | $300 \%$ or greater FPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error | Percent | Standard Error |
| All Children in fully employed HH | 13.5\%* | 0.99\% | 23.4\% | 1.87\% | 17.1\%* | 1.66\% | 13.6\% | 1.56\% | 8.6\% | 1.70\% |
| Children in HH with 1 parent, 1 working | 23.4\% ${ }^{\top}$ | 1.47\% | 27.0\% | 2.17\% | 24.1\% | 2.39\% | 18.6\% | 2.65\% | 20.5\% | 3.98\% |

Note: $p$-Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1$; ${ }^{*} p<0.05$. ${ }^{* *} p<0.01$
Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

## References

National Survey of Early Care and Education Project Team (2017). Snapshot: Parent Work Schedules in Households with Young Children. OPRE Report No. 2017-48. Washington DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.


[^0]:    The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) is a set of four integrated, nationally representative surveys conducted in 2019 and 2012. These were surveys of 1) households with children under age 13, 2) home-based providers of ECE, 3) center-based providers of ECE, and 4) the centerbased provider workforce. Together they characterize the supply of and demand for early care and education in America and permit better understanding of how well families' needs and preferences coordinate with providers' offerings and constraints. The study 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. This snapshot uses data for 6,132 children in the 2019 Household Survey, and for comparisons to 2012, 7,918 children in the 2012 Household Survey.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ NSECE data on schedules include time spent on work-related activities such as work, schooling, job training, and commuting time between these activities and home. All of these activities are included in work schedules in this analysis; the number of hours spent in school or training is very small and does not affect estimates reported here.
    ${ }^{2} 2019$ sample includes children 0-60 months as of September 2019, the most common month for kindergarten enrollment.
    ${ }^{3}$ For example, a parent with three children under 60 months is counted three times in these estimates, while a parent is counted once in the estimates if $\mathrm{s} / \mathrm{he}$ has one child under 60 months.

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ See Exhibit A1 in the Appendix for counts of children by parental work status and income.
    ${ }^{5}$ Non-working parents had no work-related activities in the reference week. They are generally not employed or in the labor force, but some could have been on leave from a job, searching for a job, or disabled during that week. Students and trainees are counted as having work-related activities and therefore 'working' in the reference week.

[^3]:    Note: Statistics calculated for children 0 to 60 months living in households $(\mathrm{HH})$ with one or two parents reporting work-related activities in prior week. Income levels expressed as ratio to 2018 Federal Poverty Levels.

[^4]:    ${ }^{6}$ Non-standard hours are from midnight to 8a.m. on weekdays, 6 p.m.to midnight on weekdays, or at any time on Saturdays or Sundays.

[^5]:    ${ }^{7}$ In some cases, parents work or attend school at home or in a setting where the child can be with them.

[^6]:    Note: Weighted survey estimates for children 0 to 60 months living in households with one or two parents and classified by 2018 ratio of household income to poverty. Work status includes work-related activities such as work, school, training, and commuting to these. Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

[^7]:    Note: $p$-Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1$; ${ }^{*} p<0.05$. ** $p<0.01$

[^8]:    Note: p-Values indicate statistically significant differences between 2012 and 2019: ${ }^{\top} p<0.1$; ${ }^{*} p<0.05 .{ }^{* *} p<0.01$
    Source: 2019 NSECE Household Survey

