

Child Care Research Partnerships: 2000 Grantees

Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service

Project Title:

New England Workforce Partners for Early Care and Education (NEW Partners)

Principal Investigator:

Julie Dennehy

Project Funding Years:

2000-2004

Project Abstract:

A partnership focusing on child care workforce issues, developing an infrastructure for routine data collection and analysis in each State, describing the child care workforce in New England, and helping to translate data and findings into policy development, refinement and implementation. Questions addressed include: (a) What does the workforce look like? (b) How do key variables interact? (c) What types of professional supports are available and used by caregivers? (d) What effects do policy innovations have on workforce quality and stability? (e) What are the State-by-State variations?

Project Publications and Resources:

<http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12426/related>

Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning

Project Title:

Minnesota Child Care Research Partnership

Principal Investigator:

Deb Swenson-Klatt

Project Funding Years:

2000-2004

Project Abstract:

A partnership exploring how child care affordability, quality, and accessibility affect outcomes for families and children, with a key objective of understanding the effect of State policies such as level of subsidies, tiered

reimbursement, and quality regulations. Questions addressed include: (a) How does quality vary for different subgroups, including families who receive subsidies and families from different cultural groups?; (b) How do subsidies affect parents' choice of care, the quality of that care, family earnings, and employment stability?; (c) How does tiered reimbursement affect quality?; and (d) How do subsidies affect the child care market in terms of supply, cost, and quality? Both quantitative and qualitative methods are used. Data from a statewide survey of representative households provides a unique picture of families' child care arrangements, including informal care. Longitudinal analyses of administrative data examine the effect of child care subsidies on employment and earnings.

Project Publications and Resources:

<http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12381/related>

University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Center on Children, Families, and the Law

Project Title:

Midwest Child Care Research Partnership

Principal Investigator:

Helen Raikes

Project Funding Years:

2000-2004

Project Abstract:

A partnership formed to establish a baseline of child care quality in the Midwest region using performance indicators, and to track changes in quality over time. The study addresses, in a large representative sample, questions concerning the quality of care that child care subsidies are buying, and includes parent surveys and focus groups conducted to better understand parent perceptions of child care quality. The work is linked with Early Head Start research and evaluation in three States (Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri) as well as to a Missouri study of quality in over 500 early childhood settings, and builds on small but important studies within the Midwest region. The performance indicators, data collection strategy and technology are intended for transfer to the States so that they can track quality of care through their subsidized child care programs.

Project Publications and Resources:

<http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12416/related>

University of Wisconsin-Extension

Project Title:

Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership

Principal Investigator:

Mary A. Roach

Project Funding Years:

2000-2004

Project Abstract:

A project for the analysis of State data from Wisconsin's Child Care Data Warehouse, and data from the Statewide Child Care Resource & Referral Data Base, to understand the population of families who receive child care subsidies, as well as the supply of care from which they choose. The project examines child care quality in relationship to State child care policies, focusing on shifts in usage of subsidies, changes in the child care marketplace, and assessments of child care quality over time. It includes an examination of the quality of subsidized and non-subsidized child care to identify indicators of quality and beneficial policies, through observations of child care facilities and interviews with 200 programs to assess structural features and processes in subsidized and non-subsidized care.

Project Publications and Resources:

<http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12432/related>