Child Care Policy Research Grants: 2001 Grantees

Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, Institute for Child and Family Policy

Project Title:
Child Care and Special Needs Children: Challenges for Low-income Families

Principle Investigator:
Helen D. Ward

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
A study of child care for special needs children which also examines related issues of welfare reform and coordination with early intervention services at the community level. The research is based on focus groups and in-depth interviews with low-income parents of children with special needs in six communities in Maine and Connecticut, as well as interviews with welfare caseworkers, early intervention case managers, child care providers, and low-wage employees, to provide a context for parents' perspectives.

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12427/related

Education Development Center

Project Title:
Partnering for Quality: The Impact of Partnerships on Child Care Quality and Accessibility

Principle Investigator:
Diane Schilder

Project Funding Years:
2001-2004

Project Abstract:
An examination of the approaches to child care partnerships in existence across the country, and the impact of child care/Head Start partnerships on quality and access. Phase 1 analyzes an existing database of quantitative and qualitative data to describe current approaches. Phase 2 involves a correlational study of data from a random sample of child care centers and a

comparison group not engaged in partnerships, using surveys of parents, teachers, and directors of child care and Head Start programs over three points in time.

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12364/related

Illinois, Department of Human Services

Project Title:
A Study of Informal Child Care

Principle Investigator:
Linda Brumleve

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
A multi-method, descriptive study of informal care, analyzing data (including State subsidy data) to assess utilization of subsidized informal care statewide. Data are gathered from focus groups and interviews conducted in three diverse Illinois communities to gain the perspectives of parents, providers, and staff of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, including comprehensive interviews with 300 parents and 300 informal providers. The study develops strategies for providing services and supports to informal caregivers.

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12375/related

National Bureau of Economic Research

Project Title:
Impacts of Child Care Policy and Welfare Reform on Child Care Markets and Low-income Parents and Children

Principle Investigator:
Ann D. Witte

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
A study of child care needs in local areas, particularly low-income communities and those with large numbers of ethnic minority families, using 1994-2003 longitudinal data for Florida, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Three key questions addressed are: (1) What does child care look like today?; (2) How do variations in child care and child care policy affect children?; and (3) How do variations affect parents? The study examines variation in availability, quality, and price of care for different age groups.

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12382/related

Purdue University

Project Title:
Community Variations in Child Care for Working Poor Families: Contributions to Child Development and Parental Employment Opportunities

Principle Investigator:
Susan Kontos

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
A description and comparison of the "child care landscapes" in four communities with diverse subsidy policies, employing an integrated design and using existing data, qualitative data, and quantitative data to identify the community-level variables that are most strongly associated with quality of care and child and family outcomes, and to determine the linkages between child care characteristics and parental work outcomes. The first phase includes 500 parent surveys, 30 community informant interviews, 15 parent focus groups and an analysis of existing community data. The second phase includes assessments of 300 children (30 infants/toddlers and 30 preschoolers in each of 5 communities), their parents, and their child care providers, using measures of child care structural quality, process quality, child development, and parent employment.

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12389/related

Sphere Institute

Project Title:
Child Care Price Dynamics in California

Principle Investigator:
Margaret O'Brien-Strain

Project Funding Years:
2001-2004

Project Abstract:
A California child care market study with the following objectives: (1) tracing trends in price; (2) relating price changes to characteristics of supply and demand in county and sub-county markets; (3) understanding how providers set prices; and (4) assessing the effect of vouchers, reimbursement rate ceilings, or other policies on the overall price of care in the private market. Sub-study 1 is a trend analysis of provider prices from Regional Market Rate Surveys over the past decade. Sub-study 2 is a longitudinal study of 25 providers in urban San Mateo County and rural Kern County.

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12397/related

Temple University

Project Title:
Influence of Welfare Reform and Child Care Problems on the Detailed Employment Experiences of Low-income Mothers

Principle Investigator:
Julie E. Press

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
A project concentrating on the hypothesis that child care is responsible, in part, for disrupting the employment and economic self-reliance of low-skilled mothers. The study is based on the Philadelphia Survey of Child Care and Work--a one hour, quantitative, door-to-door survey of 707 Black, White and Hispanic mothers of children under age 13. Key questions include: (1) how do child care characteristics and constraints affect success at work; (2) what are the effects of policies associated with welfare, work, and child care; (3) how are work outcomes different for TANF mothers compared with a control group of working mothers; and (4) how are the answers to these questions

different for mothers from different racial/ethnic groups, neighborhoods, family characteristics, and social resources?

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12399/related

Texas Tech University

Project Title:
Child Care Use in Mexican American Families

Principle Investigator:
Yvonne M. Caldera

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
An examination of factors that may influence child care practices of Mexican American families, including: community and employment factors; cultural beliefs and caregiving practices; extended family and non-kin networks; family characteristics; and child care characteristics. The study uses an integrative process-oriented model of minority children's development, and follows two cohorts of Mexican American families: a group with one-month old infants (N=80), and a group with 24-month old toddlers (N=80), for one year. This cross-sectional cohort design focuses on 3 issues: (1) factors associated with parental child care choices; (2) assessment of the features and quality of child care; and (3) factors associated with the effect of child care on family and child outcomes.

University of Georgia

Project Title:
America Cares for Children and Youth: School-Age Care Needs Assessment and Training Project

Principle Investigator:
Todd, Christine M.

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
A project documenting the demand and supply of formal and informal school-age care, particularly for ethnic minority or low-income youth, in inner city and remote rural areas of Georgia. The project also develops and evaluates community needs assessment tools and training protocols for informal caregivers.

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12408/related

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Project Title:
A Longitudinal Study of Legal, Unregulated Family Child Care Providers Who Participate in the Child Care Subsidy Program

Principle Investigator:
Kelly Maxwell

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
A study following legal, unregulated family child care providers for three years, focusing only on providers who participate in the subsidy system, and assessing the quality of care, the continuity of care, and the effects of participating in quality improvement activities on quality of care over time. Providers are interviewed every three months in order to provide accurate information on variables such as continuity of service provision and continuity of care for children.

University of Texas at Austin

Project Title:
Devolution of Subsidized Child Care in Texas

Principle Investigator:
Deanna Schexnayder

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
A study of the relationship between child care subsidy management policies and the supply, usage, and quality of subsidized care for low-income families in 28 local workforce regions. The study employs a detailed statistical analysis plan to guide increasingly sophisticated analyses throughout the project, and uses administrative data from several state agencies, in combination with other public data, to develop a summary profile for each region, including key policies, demographics, economic characteristics, and child care measures.

Project Publications and Resources:
http://researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/12429/related

Wellesley College

Project Title:
Family Income, Infant Child Care, and Child Development

Principle Investigator:
Wendy W. Robeson

Project Funding Years:
2001-2005

Project Abstract:
An exploration of links among poverty, quality and cost of child care, family outcomes, other key family characteristics, and infant development at 12 and 24 months, using a random sample of 200 infants (100 girls, 100 boys) and their families from 100 centers that care for infants. This project is a collaboration among the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, the Wellesley College Psychology Department, and Abt Associates, and is part of a larger research program addressing important issues of quality and cost in early care and education.