

Child Care & Early Education RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

<http://www.researchconnections.org>

Child Care During Nonstandard Work Hours: Research to Policy Resources

In November 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 was signed into law, reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)--the federal child care subsidy program--for the first time since 1996. In December 2015, the U.S. Office of Child Care issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which updated CCDF regulations in light of the CCDBG Act of 2014 and research that has been published since the passage of the original 1996 law (Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program, 2015).

Included in the proposed rule are provisions to increase the supply and quality of child care during nontraditional hours. Nontraditional hours child care, often also referred to as nonstandard hours child care, has been defined as care provided outside of the standard working day, including during evening, overnight, and weekend hours (National Survey of Early Care and Education Project Team, 2015). Twenty percent of workers overall and 28 percent of low-income workers have nonstandard schedules, defined as work that includes those with more than 50 percent of their work hours outside of a 6 am to 6 pm weekday window or on weekends. Low-income women are more likely to have nonstandard work schedules if they have preschool-age children (Enchautegui, 2013). Care during these nonstandard hours is important for parents with nonstandard work schedules, and particularly so for single parents (Chaudry et al., 2011).

This **Topic of Interest** includes resources from the *Research Connections* collection on the supply of nonstandard hours child care, child care arrangements of parents working nonstandard hours, and access to child care subsidies of parents working nonstandard hours.



Supply of Nonstandard Hours Child Care

The most recent nationally representative estimates of the supply of nonstandard hours child care come from the National Survey of Early Care and Education. State-level estimates of the supply of nonstandard hours child care can sometimes be found in the market rate surveys that states conduct as part of their biennial CCDF Plans.

- National Survey of Early Care and Education Project Team. (2015). *Provision of early care and education during non-standard hours*. (OPRE Report No. 2015-44). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.
- State market rate survey search results can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

Child Care Arrangements and Nonstandard Hours Work

These resources all focus on the child care arrangements of parents with nonstandard work schedules.

- Enchautegui, M. E., Johnson, M. C., & Gelatt, J. (2015). *Who minds the kids when Mom works a nonstandard schedule?*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
- Han, W. (2004). Nonstandard work schedules and child care decisions: Evidence from the NICHD Study of Early Child Care. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 19(2), 231-256.
- Henly, J. R., Ananat, E. O., & Danziger, S. K. (2006). *Nonstandard work schedules, child care subsidies, and child care arrangements*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.
- Kimmel, J., & Powell, L. M. (2001). *Nonstandard work and child care choices of married mothers*. (Upjohn Institute Staff Working Paper No. 01-74). Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.
- Stoll, M., Alexander, D., & Nicpon, C. (2015). Chicago mothers on finding and using child care during nonstandard work hours. *Early Childhood Research & Practice*, 17(1).

Child Care Subsidies and Nonstandard Hours Work

These resources examine the relationship between child care subsidies and nonstandard hours work.

- Rachidi, A. (2015). *Child care assistance in the United States and nonstandard work schedules*. (AEI Economic Policy Working Paper 2015-13). Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.
- Scott, E. K., & Abelson, M. (2016). Understanding the relationship between instability in child care and instability in employment for families with subsidized care. *Journal of Family Issues*, 37(3), 344-368.
- Tekin, E. (2004). *Single mothers working at night: Standard work, child care subsidies, and implications for welfare reform*. (Upjohn Institute Working Paper No. 05-113). Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

Additional Resources

Explore these and other resources in the *Research Connections* collection on nonstandard hours child care.

References

Chaudry, A., Pedroza, J. M., Sandstrom, H., Danziger, A., Grosz, M., Scott, M., & Ting, S. (2011). *Child care choices of low-income working families*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program, 45 CFR Part 98 (2015).

Enchautegui, M. E. (2013). *Nonstandard work schedules and the well-being of low-income families*. (Low-Income Working Families Paper 26). Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

National Survey of Early Care and Education Project Team. (2015). *Provision of early care and education during non-standard hours*. (OPRE Report No. 2015-44). Washington, DC: U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Prepared by: Daniel Ferguson

Last updated: February 2016

Research Connections is a partnership between the National Center for Children in Poverty at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research at the Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan, supported by a grant from the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.