

Highlights of Ohio Child Care Survey

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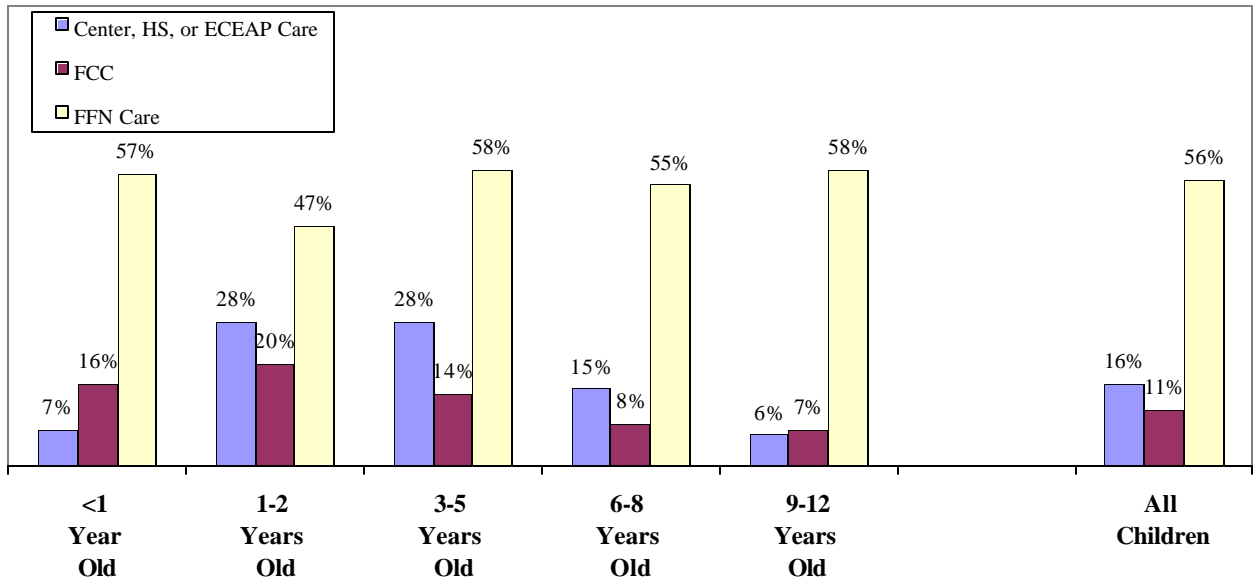
As background for deliberations of the Financing Universal Early Care and Education Project, this report highlights information collected on current utilization of early care and education in Ohio. The following text and attached charts summarize data collected by a general population survey designed to be representative of Ohio parents with children birth to 12 years old in Spring and Summer of 2001. The sample size consists of 1789 parents, containing two separate over-samples: 779 parents from high-density African-American areas in the state and 496 parents from Cleveland/Cuyahoga County. Responses were weighted to appropriately reflect probability of selection, age, and interview time period to result in representative population distributions and reflect child care utilization patterns annually. The survey was conducted by the Social and Economic Survey Research Center at Washington State University under direction of the Human Services Policy Center (HSPC) at the University of Washington. The state survey and African-American oversample was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education and the Cuyahoga County oversample was sponsored by The Cleveland Foundation.

Type of Care Used (Charts 1-3)

Chart 1 shows the percent of children using any amount of the major types of non-parental care in a given week.

- Center or Head Start care is used for more than a quarter (28%) of children age 3-5. It is used by a smaller percentage of infants (7%) toddlers (20%) and school-aged children.
- Family Child Care (FCC) is used for 11 percent of all children: by one in five toddlers and about one in 7 infants and pre-schoolers.
- Family, Friend or Neighbor care (FFN) is used for more than half (56%) of children, and the rate does not vary substantially by age of the child.

Chart 1: Percent of All Children in Any Amount of Center Care, FCC, or FFN Care by Detailed Age Groups

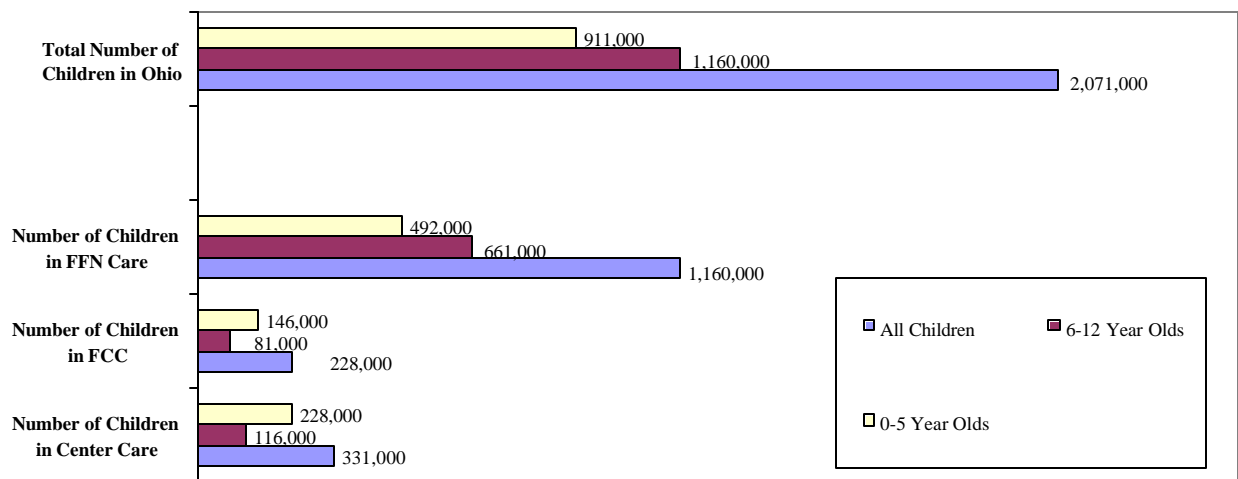


Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Chart 2 translates these percentages to the estimated number of Ohio children in each type of non-parental care for any amount of time in a typical week:

- Of 911,000 children age 0-5, 228,000 spend time in Center or Head Start Care, 146,000 in FCC and 492,000 in FFN care.
- Of the 1,160,000 children age 6-12, 116,000 spend time in Center or Head Start Care, 81,000 in FCC and 661,000 in FFN care.

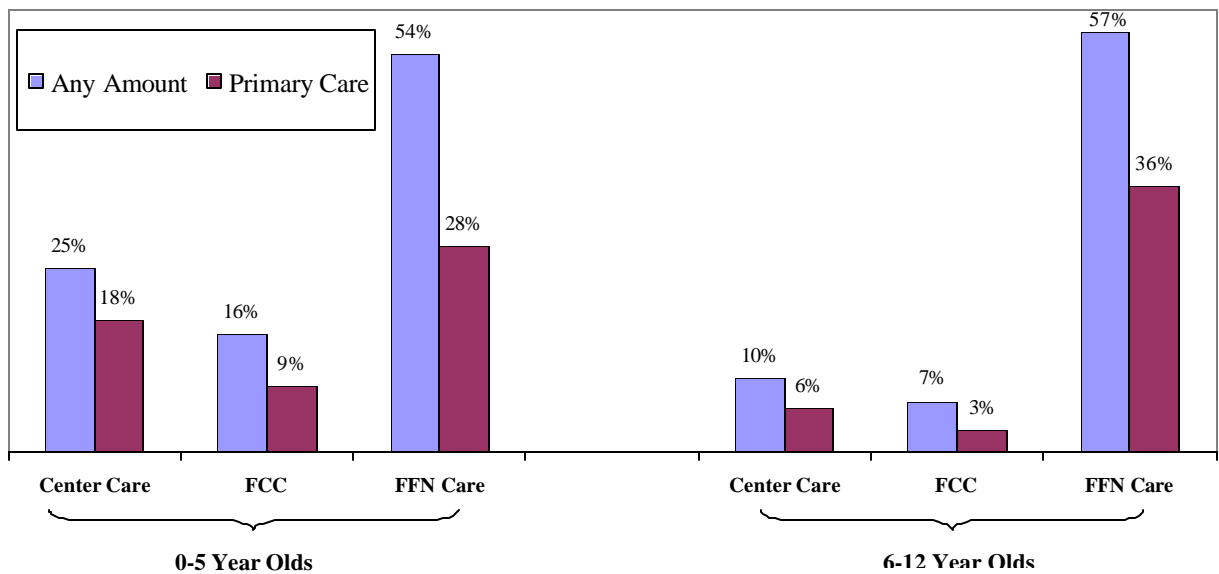
Chart 2: Population Totals for the Number of Children in Any Amount of Center Care, FCC, and FFN Care



Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Chart 3 compares the percent of children using any amount of each type of non-parental care, to the percent using each type as a primary care arrangement (at least five hours per week and more than any other type of non-parental care arrangement). Since many children regularly use multiple types of care, the percent using each type of care as primary is lower than those using any amount of care. In addition, some children might use certain types of care for less than five hours a week and not have a primary care arrangement by our definition. The percent of children with a primary FCC or FFN care arrangement is about half the percent of children in any amount of that care in a given week. Eighteen percent of children 0-5 have center-type care as their primary mode, and nine percent have FCC as primary.

Chart 3: Percent of All Children in Any Amount of Each Type of Care and in Each Type of Primary Care



Hours in Care (Charts 4-7)

These charts describe how many hours children of different ages spend in each type of care, and what share of those hours are provided during evenings or weekends.

Chart 4 shows that

- Children age 1-5 tend to be in center care or FCC nearly full-time, about 30 hours a week. However, infants are typically in center-type care about 16 hours a week, but are in FCC 32 hours a week.
- School-age children spend much less time in formal care than do younger children; 12-15 hours for center care, 8-10 hours for FCC.
- Children tend to spend about 10 hours a week in FFN care, with infants spending fewer (6) hours a week in this type of care.

Chart 4: Median Hours per Week of Center Care, FCC, and FFN Care for Children in Each Type of Care by Detailed Age Groups

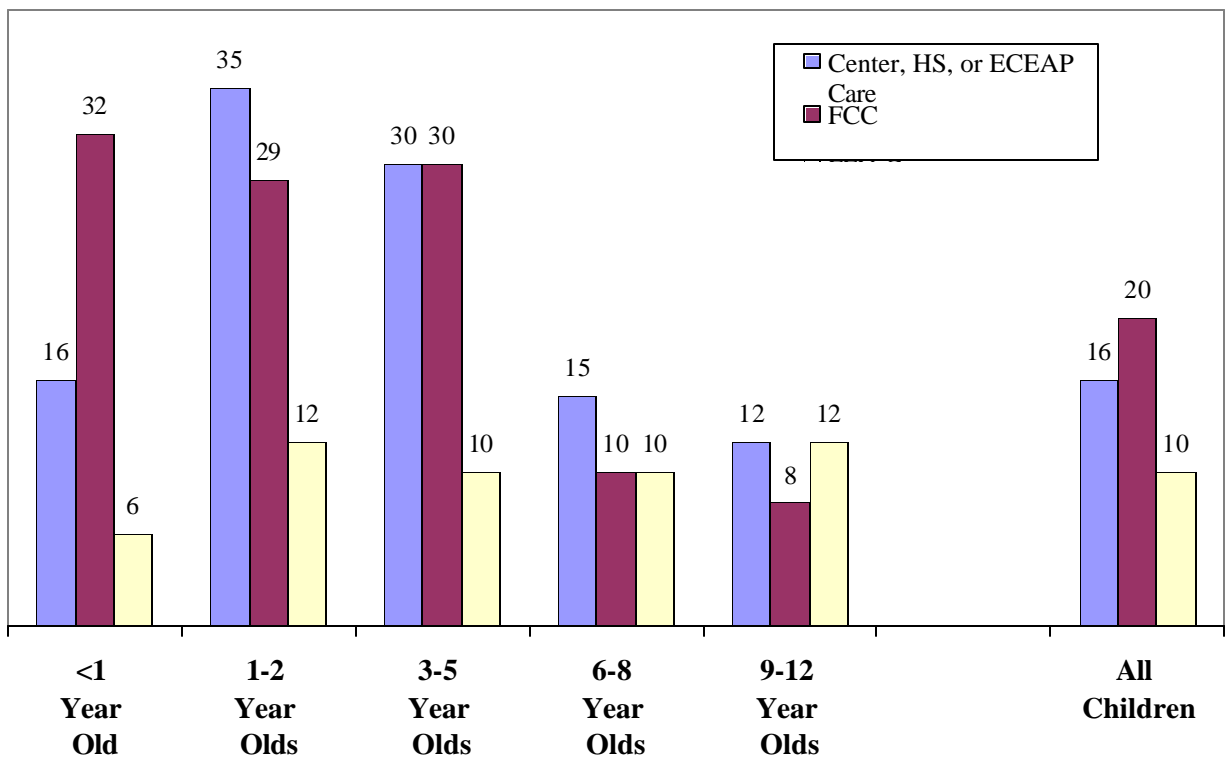
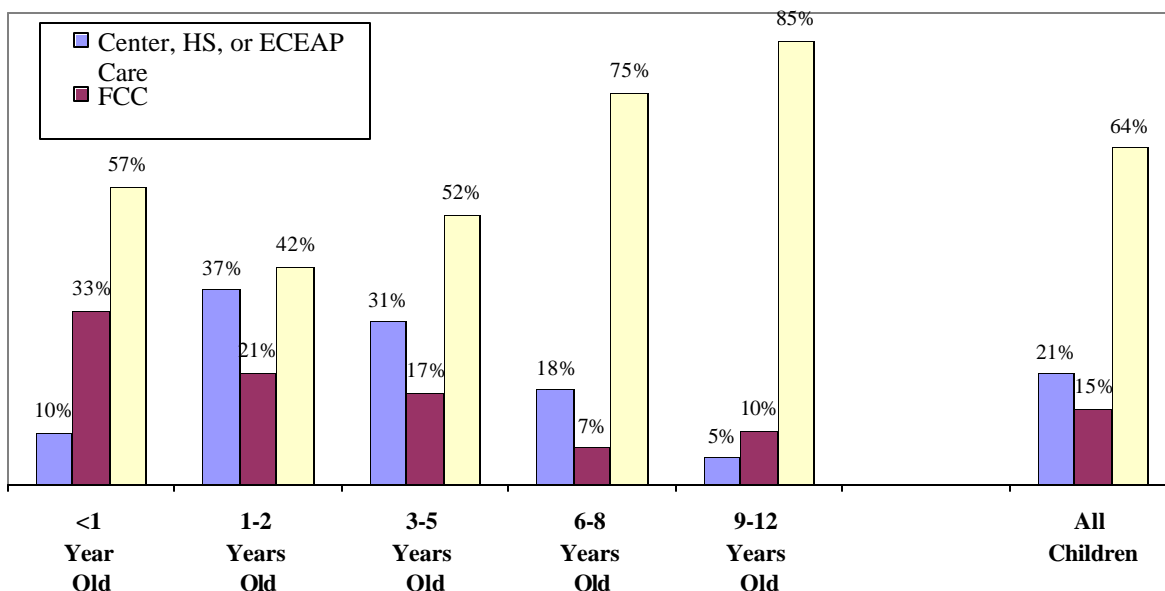


Chart 5 shows the percent of all hours currently spent in each type of non-parental care for each age group. This reflects the combination of how many children are in each type of care, with how many hours a week they attend.

- Center-type care (including Head Start for younger children) accounts for about one-third of all non-parental hours for children age 1-5; for children less than one year old or between 6 and 12, about 10% of all care hours are in centers.

- About one-third of all non-parental care hours for infants are in FCCs; looking across age groups, about one in five hours are spent in FCC for children age 1-5 and less than one in ten for school-aged children.
- FFN caregivers provide about half the non-parental care hours for children under age 6, and more than three fourths for school-age children.

Chart 5: Percent of All Care Hours in Each Type of Care by Detailed Age Groups



Charts 6-7 describe the rate at which children are cared for in evening or weekend hours. Chart 6 refers to the percent of *children* in each type of care evenings or weekends; chart 7 shows the percent of *hours* for each type of care that are evening or weekend.

- Almost half (44%) of *children* in FCC spend some of those hours during evening or weekends; this is higher (57-65%) for school-age than for pre-school children (29-37%). About a quarter of FCC *hours* for children age 0-5 are evening or weekend; about 60% of FCC hours are evening/weekend for school-age children.
- Almost two thirds (62%) of children in FFN care spend some of those hours during evenings or weekends and the share of FFN care *hours* occurring during the evening or weekends is also 62%. The share of FFN care evening/weekend hours is somewhat higher (73%) for infants.

- About one in six *children* in center or head start care are in that care evenings or weekends, and evening/weekend *hours* are a somewhat lower 13% of all center care hours.

Chart 6: Percent of Children in Each Type of Care in Some of That Care on Evenings or Weekends

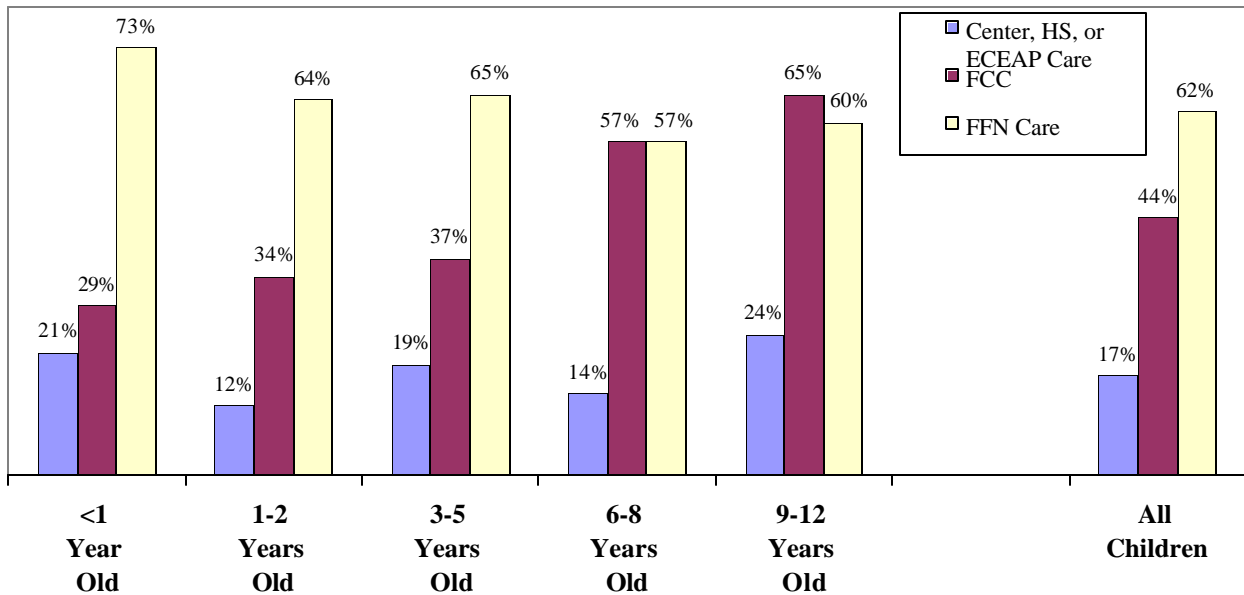
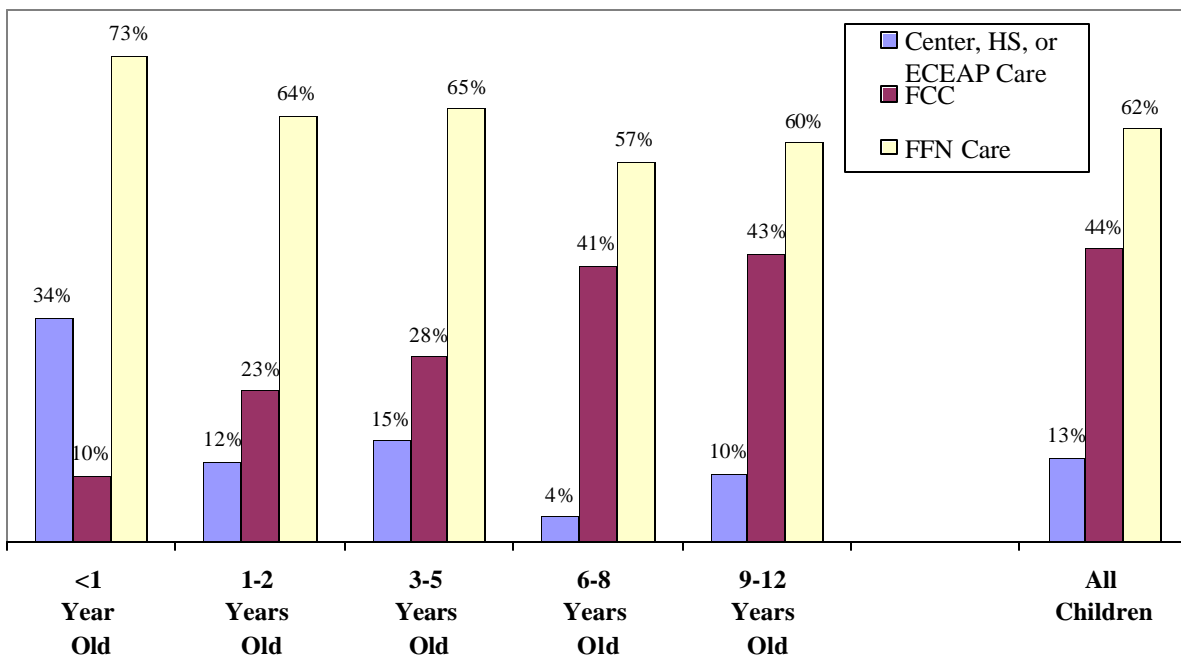


Chart 7: Percent of All Care Hours That Are Evening or Weekend Hours

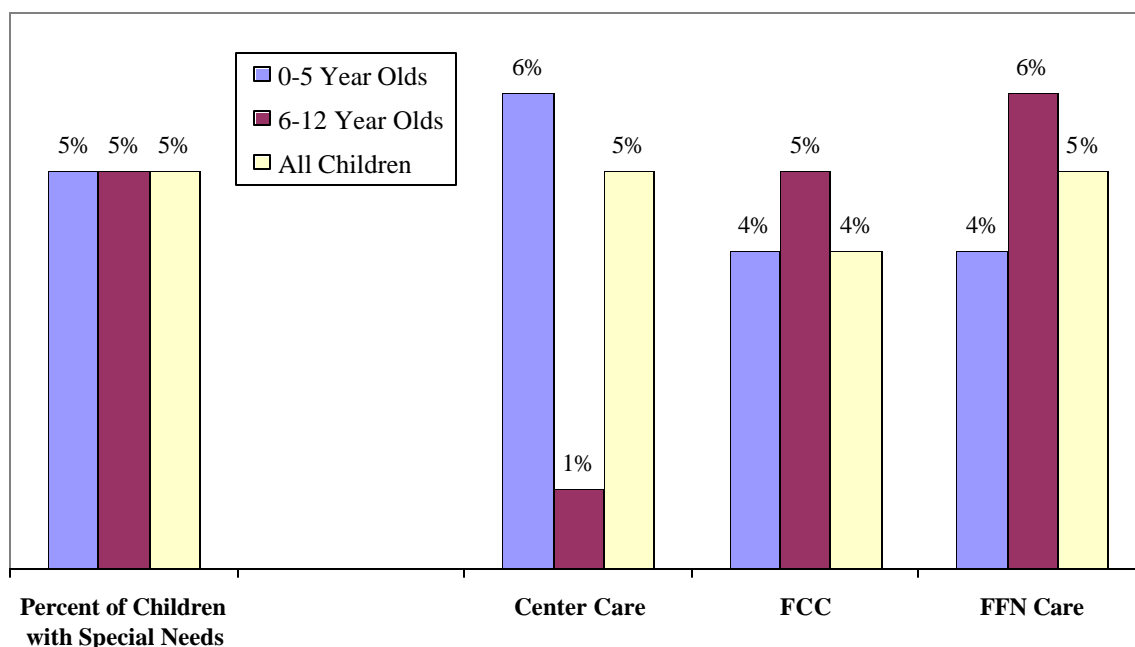


Children With Special Needs.

Chart 8 shows that

- About five percent of children in both 0-5 and 6-12 age groups are reported by their parents to have a special physical or emotional need that affects the care they receive.
- This finding does not vary much by age of child or type of care, with 4-6 % of children in each type of care reported to have a special need. One exception is that very few school-aged children with special needs are in center care.

Chart 8: Percent of Children in Center Care, FCC, or FFN Care with Special Needs

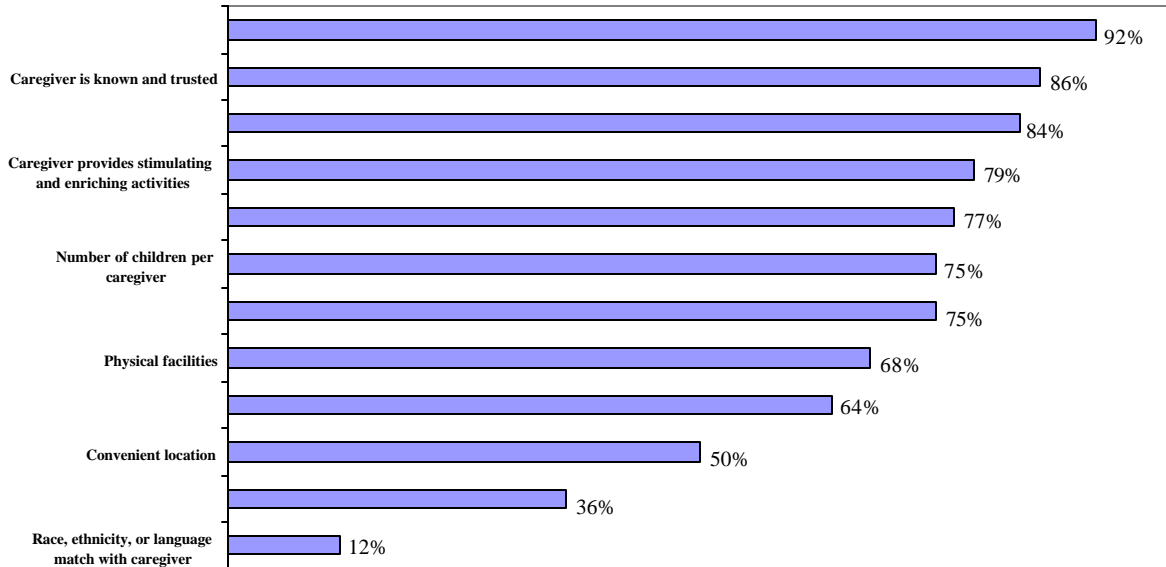


Parental Values and Preferences

Charts 9-11 report what attributes of ECE parents report are important to them when selecting the type of care for their children.

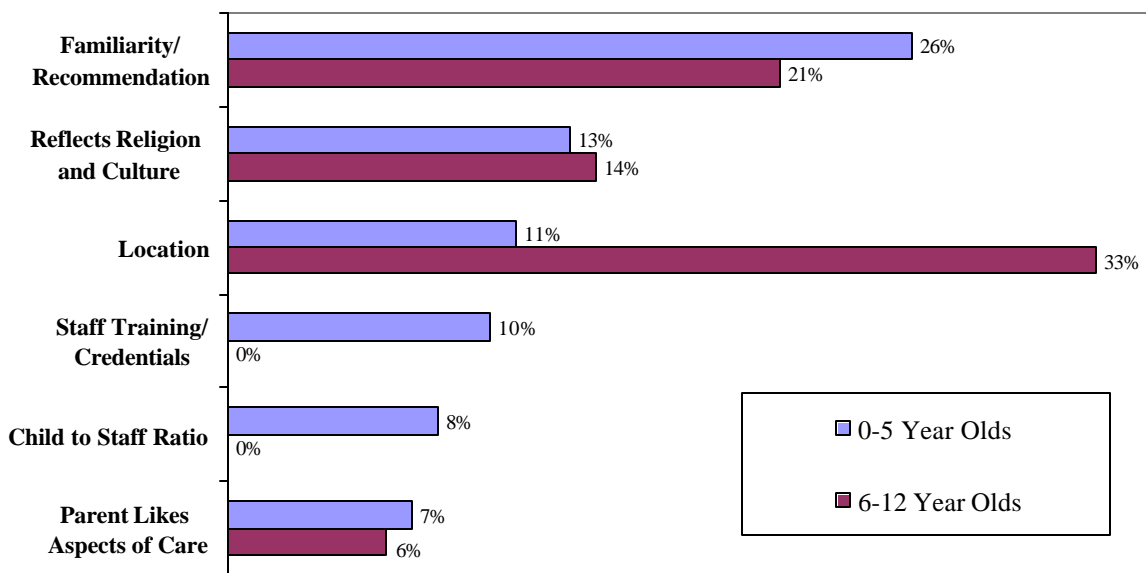
- Chart 9 shows that parents report many different attributes of care as very important to them, ranging from warm and loving teaching style to training or credentials of staff. Location, cost and matching race, ethnicity or language are given lower ratings.

Chart 9: Percent of Parents Responding that Each Quality of Child Care Is 'Very Important' to Them



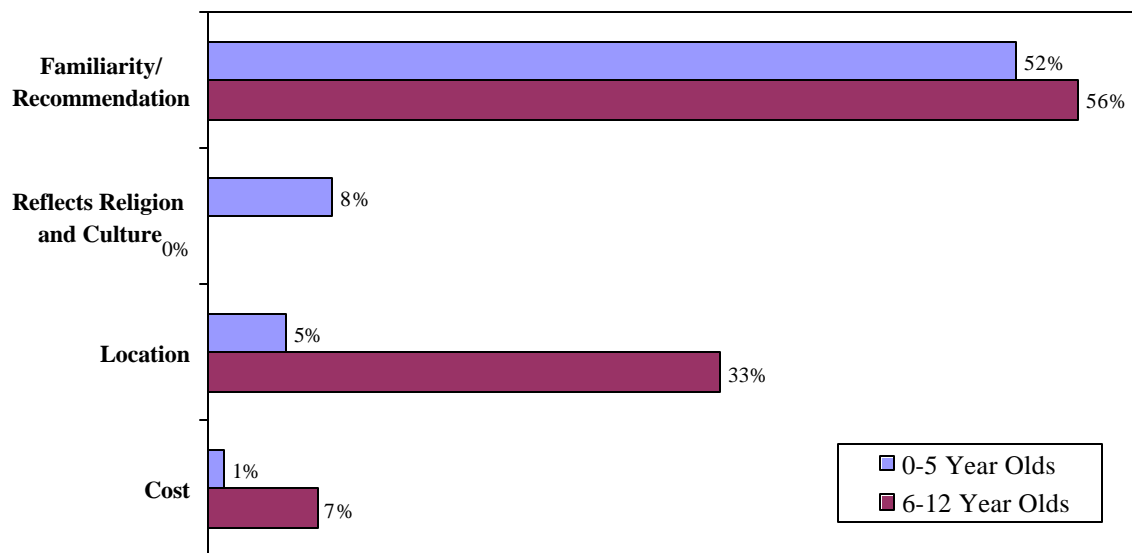
- Chart 10 shows that for parents choosing *center-type care as the primary care* arrangement, familiarity with the caregiver and personal recommendations are the greatest factor, with religion/culture, location, staff preparation and ratios playing important secondary roles. The patterns are similar for pre-school and school-age children, with the exception that location is extremely important when selecting care for school-age children.

Chart 10: Percent of Parents Reporting Each as a Main Reason for Choosing Center Care as the Primary Care Arrangement



- Chart 11 shows a very similar set of factors for the choice of *FCC* as a *primary* care arrangement as the choice of center care , with the exception that very few parents reported staff training and credentials or child:staff ratios as very important.

Chart 11: Percent of Parents Reporting Each as a Main Reason for Choosing FCC as the Primary Care Arrangement

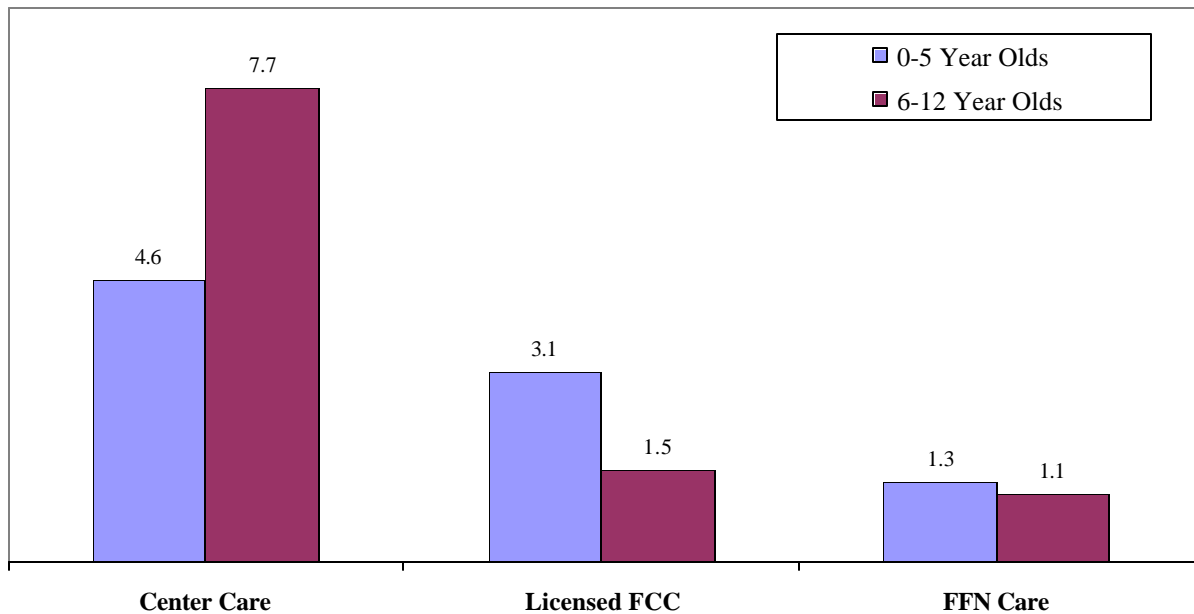


Child:Staff Ratios

Chart 12 shows that there is substantial variation among types of care in child:staff ratios for children in all age groups. It should be noted that the one major study to address the issue found that parents tend to report somewhat lower child:staff ratios than are reported by center directors, while they tend to report FCC ratios virtually the same as those reported by providers

- Center and Head Start have the highest ratios, rising from about 4 for toddlers, to 5 for preschoolers, then almost 8 children per adult for school aged children.
- FCC averages about 3 children per adult for children age 0-5, but only 1.5 for school age children.
- FFN care has the lowest ratios, about 1.2 children per adult, and this does not vary substantially by age.

Chart 12: Average Parent Reported Child:Adult Ratio for Each Type of Care by Age Groups

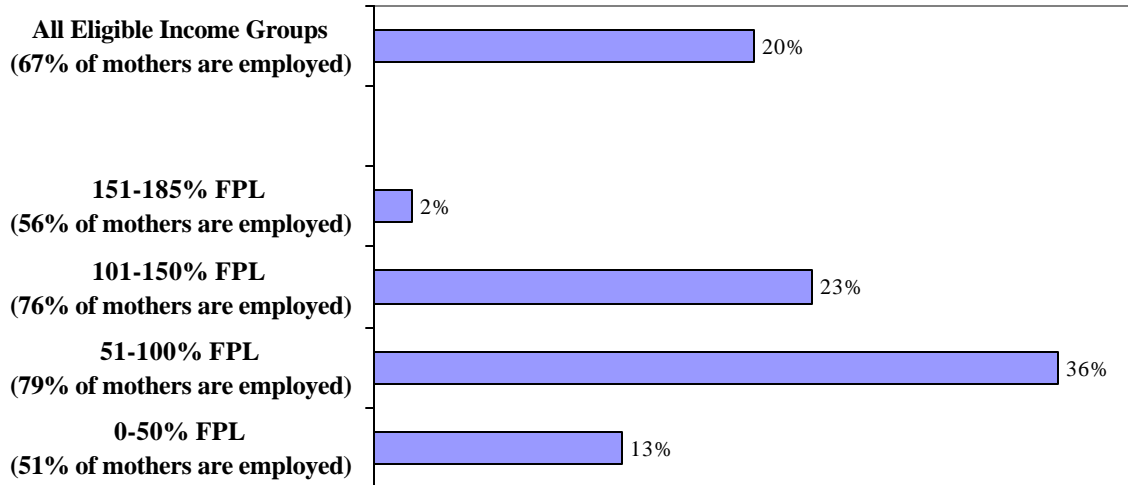


Subsidies and Payments

Chart 13 presents estimates of what percent of parents report receiving a government subsidy to help pay for the child care they use. We only calculate the percent of mothers who are employed or participating in or school or training, since that is a condition of receiving subsidies. The percent of the total population in each income groups receiving subsidies is therefore somewhat lower.

- Participation in the state subsidy program seems highest in the income ranges from 50 to 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Mothers at very low income levels may work only very part time, or have very young children, and thus be unlikely to use formal care and participate in subsidy programs.
- Parents at the upper end of the current eligibility range (150-185% of the Federal Poverty Level) have very little participation. It may be that the benefits are too low to be attractive, or they are given low priority by case workers.

Chart 13: Child Care Subsidy Participation Among Mothers Who are Employed or In School or Training by Detailed Income Groups



Note: Ninety-three percent of all mother's receiving child care subsidies report being employed or in work, school, or training.

Chart 14 shows that most (86%) care by relatives is currently unpaid. This varies somewhat by age of child, in an irregular pattern.

Chart 14: Percent of Parents Paying for the Relative Care They Use

