

the condition of education 2008



INDICATOR 2

Early Education and Child Care Arrangements of Young Children

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Preprimary Education

Early Education and Child Care Arrangements of Young Children

A greater percentage of 4-year-olds from the 2001 birth cohort were in a center-based setting (including Head Start) as their primary type of early education and care (57 percent) than in other arrangements.

The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort of 2001 (ECLS-B) has followed a nationally representative cohort of children from birth through preschool age. This indicator presents findings on these children's early education and child care arrangements in 2005–06, when most of the children were about 4 years old.¹

A greater percentage of 4-year-olds from the 2001 birth cohort were in a center-based setting (including Head Start) as their primary type of early education and care (57 percent) than in other arrangements such as home-based relative care² (13 percent), home-based nonrelative care (8 percent), or multiple arrangements (2 percent) (see supplemental table 2-1). The overall percentage of children in center-based settings includes children in Head Start (13 percent) as well as those in other center-based settings (45 percent). Twenty percent of children had no nonparental care and education arrangements.

Differences in the percentage of children who were in a center-based setting as their primary type of early education and care were observed

by race/ethnicity. A smaller percentage of Pacific Islander children (20 percent) and Hispanic children (49 percent) were in a center-based setting as their primary type of early education and care than their White, Black, Asian, or American Indian/Alaska Native peers (60 to 62 percent).

Racial and ethnic differences in the use of Head Start as the primary type of early education and child care were observed. A larger percentage of Black children (25 percent) and American Indian children (31 percent) were in Head Start as their primary type of early education and care than their White (7 percent) and Asian peers (5 percent).

The percentage of children who were in a center-based setting increased as parents' highest level of education increased. For example, 43 percent of children about 4 years old whose parents' highest level of education was less than high school were enrolled in a center-based setting, compared with 71 percent of their peers whose parents' highest level of education was any graduate or professional school.

¹ Findings are based on all children who participated in the ECLS-B. Although most of the children in the sample were about 4 years old during the 2005–06 interview (74.6 percent were between 48 and 57.9 months), some 16 percent were younger than 4 years old (between 44 and 48 months), and 9 percent were between 58 and 65 months. Findings are representative of the approximately 4 million children born in the United States in 2001.

² Care provided in the child's home or in another private home by a relative (excluding parents).

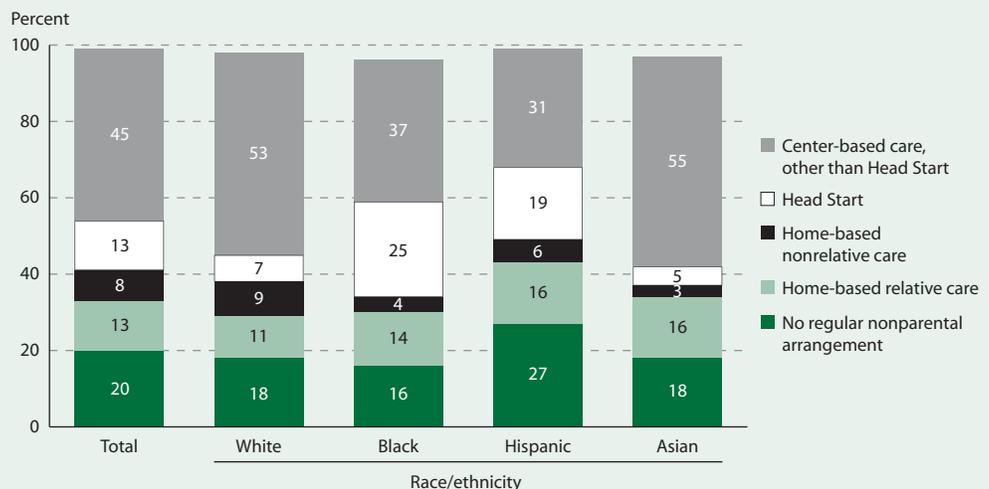
NOTE: Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Not all racial/ethnic groups are shown in the figure due to small sample sizes and relatively large standard errors. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and suppression of care arrangement cells that do not meet standards. Children who were in multiple arrangements are not included in the figure. *Center-based care* includes day care, preschool, and prekindergarten programs. *Nonrelative care* in a private home includes family day care. Estimates weighted by W3RO. Primary type of care arrangement is the type of nonparental care in which the child spent the most hours each week. See *supplemental note 3* for more information about the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort, Longitudinal 9-Month–Preschool Restricted-Use Data File.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 3
Supplemental Table 2-1

CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS: Percentage distribution of the early education and child care arrangements of the 2001 birth cohort at about 4 years old, by race/ethnicity: 2005–06



Early Education and Child Care Arrangements of Young Children

Table 2-1. Percentage distribution of the early education and child care arrangements of the 2001 birth cohort at about 4 years old, by type of arrangement and selected child and family characteristics: School year 2005–06

Child or family characteristic	Percentage distribution of population ¹	Percentage distribution by primary type of care arrangement ²						
		No regular nonparental arrangement	Home-based care		Center-based care ³			Multiple arrangements ⁴
			Relative care	Nonrelative care	Total	Head Start	Other than Head Start	
Total	100.0	20.0	13.1	7.6	57.5	12.7	44.8	1.9
Sex of child								
Male	51.2	19.3	13.1	7.5	58.0	12.9	45.1	2.1
Female	48.8	20.7	13.1	7.6	56.9	12.4	44.5	1.7
Race/ethnicity of child								
White	53.8	17.9	11.0	9.2	60.1	6.8	53.3	1.9
Black	13.8	16.0	13.9	4.3	62.4	25.4	37.1	3.3
Hispanic	25.1	27.2	15.9	6.2	49.4	18.6	30.9	1.2
Asian	2.6	17.5	16.0	3.4	60.7	5.5	55.3	2.3!
Pacific Islander	0.2	22.3!	45.0!	‡	19.9!	5.0!	14.9!	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.5	20.0	14.0	5.3	59.6	31.1	28.5	1.1!
More than one race	4.0	17.8	17.5	8.9	53.9	12.2	41.7	1.8!
Age of child								
Less than 48 months	16.4	27.3	13.9	8.7	48.0	10.6	37.4	2.2
48.0 to 52.9 months	38.1	19.9	13.0	8.3	56.8	12.0	44.8	2.0
53.0 to 57.9 months	36.5	16.5	13.1	6.7	62.2	14.4	47.8	1.5
58.0 or more months	9.0	20.9	12.0	6.3	58.1	12.0	46.1	2.7
Mother's employment status								
Full-time (35 hours or more)	39.4	8.5	18.5	13.4	57.4	11.4	46.1	2.1
Part-time (less than 35 hours)	19.7	13.4	15.9	8.5	59.3	10.1	49.2	2.9
Looking for work	5.8	28.5	12.6	2.1!	54.7	24.3	30.4	2.0!
Not in labor force	34.3	35.6	4.6	1.5	57.3	13.7	43.7	1.0!
No mother in household	0.8	9.6!	36.0	9.5!	41.1	14.4!	26.7	3.8!
Parents' highest level of education								
Less than high school	10.4	34.0	16.5	4.0	43.4	22.2	21.2	2.1!
High school completion	25.0	22.6	17.1	6.7	51.7	21.4	30.3	2.0
Some college/vocational	31.6	20.6	14.9	7.3	55.5	13.0	42.5	1.7
Bachelor's degree	16.8	16.0	8.4	8.1	65.7	3.3	62.4	1.8
Any graduate/professional school	16.2	9.7	6.2	11.2	70.8	2.0	68.8	2.0
Poverty status ⁵								
Below poverty threshold	24.8	27.6	15.0	4.4	51.0	26.3	24.7	2.0
At or above poverty threshold	75.2	17.4	12.5	8.6	59.6	8.2	51.4	1.9

See notes at end of table.

Early Education and Child Care Arrangements of Young Children

Table 2-1. Percentage distribution of the early education and child care arrangements of the 2001 birth cohort at about 4 years old, by type of arrangement and selected child and family characteristics: School year 2005–06—Continued

Child or family characteristic	Percentage distribution of population ¹	Percentage distribution by primary type of care arrangement ²						
		No regular nonparental arrangement	Home-based care		Center-based care ³			Multiple arrangements ⁴
			Relative care	Nonrelative care	Total	Head Start	Other than Head Start	
Socioeconomic status ⁶								
Lowest 20 percent	20.0	30.5	15.0	5.0	47.1	24.7	22.4	2.3
Middle 60 percent	60.0	19.6	15.0	7.4	56.2	12.5	43.7	1.8
Highest 20 percent	20.0	10.3	5.5	10.7	71.6	1.0	70.6	1.9

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹ Distribution of weighted Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) survey population between 44 and 65 months of age with data on primary care arrangements.

² Primary type of care arrangement is the type of nonparental care in which the child spent the most hours.

³ Care provided in places such as early learning centers, nursery schools, and preschools, including Head Start.

⁴ Children who spent an equal amount of time in each of two or more arrangements.

⁵ Poverty status based on Census Bureau guidelines from 2002, which identify a dollar amount determined to meet a household's needs, given its size and composition. In 2002, a family of four was considered to live below the poverty threshold if its income was less than or equal to \$18,392.

⁶ Socioeconomic status (SES) was measured by a composite score on parental education and occupations and on family income.

NOTE: Estimates weighted by W3R0. Estimates for children at about 4 years old pertain to children assessed between 44 and 65 months. See *supplemental note 3* for more information about the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and suppression of cells that do not meet standards.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort, Longitudinal 9-Month–Preschool Restricted-Use Data File.

Early Education and Child Care Arrangements of Young Children

Table S2-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of the early education and child care arrangements of the 2001 birth cohort at about 4 years old, by type of arrangement and selected child and family characteristics: School year 2005–06

Child or family characteristic	Percentage distribution of population	Percentage distribution by primary type of care arrangement						
		No regular nonparental arrangement	Home-based care		Center-based care			Multiple arrangements
			Relative care	Nonrelative care	Total	Head Start	Other than Head Start	
Total	†	0.65	0.61	0.32	0.80	0.64	0.71	0.21
Sex of child								
Male	0.11	0.80	0.79	0.51	0.99	0.80	1.02	0.33
Female	0.11	0.90	0.86	0.52	1.00	0.74	0.91	0.20
Race/ethnicity of child								
White	0.59	0.98	0.74	0.49	1.04	0.61	1.00	0.28
Black	0.26	1.37	1.49	0.73	2.08	1.97	1.87	0.66
Hispanic	0.42	1.37	1.14	0.78	1.58	1.22	1.65	0.29
Asian	0.09	1.75	1.41	0.67	2.06	0.90	2.16	1.05
Pacific Islander	0.05	6.82	14.27	†	7.94	3.24	6.47	†
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.05	2.41	2.07	1.46	3.58	4.72	5.63	0.95
More than one race	0.28	2.13	2.44	2.06	3.41	2.33	3.27	0.85
Age of child								
Less than 48 months	0.57	1.63	1.48	0.95	1.76	1.24	1.90	0.55
48.0 to 52.9 months	0.55	1.01	0.87	0.60	1.29	0.79	1.31	0.37
53.0 to 57.9 months	0.57	0.93	0.83	0.52	1.32	1.01	1.22	0.25
58.0 or more months	0.41	2.00	1.66	1.09	2.84	1.66	2.52	0.74
Mother's employment status								
Full-time (35 hours or more)	0.72	0.73	1.01	0.71	1.21	0.94	1.05	0.31
Part-time (less than 35 hours)	0.54	1.06	1.30	1.04	1.84	1.10	1.91	0.56
Looking for work	0.30	2.55	2.15	0.94	2.86	2.88	3.01	0.83
Not in labor force	0.76	1.31	0.52	0.26	1.31	0.97	1.27	0.30
No mother in household	0.12	4.50	7.05	4.19	7.47	5.29	6.56	2.78
Parents' highest level of education								
Less than high school	0.37	2.10	1.80	1.07	2.63	2.12	2.06	0.80
High school completion	0.58	1.23	1.14	0.64	1.69	1.37	1.35	0.31
Some college/vocational	0.63	1.18	0.99	0.57	1.47	1.05	1.28	0.33
Bachelor's degree	0.45	1.57	1.02	0.93	1.88	0.75	1.98	0.48
Any graduate/professional school	0.36	0.83	0.90	1.16	1.57	0.52	1.67	0.51
Poverty status								
Below poverty threshold	0.63	1.28	1.19	0.54	1.61	1.45	1.18	0.40
At or above poverty threshold	0.63	0.71	0.64	0.39	0.85	0.57	0.86	0.22

See notes at end of table.

Early Education and Child Care Arrangements of Young Children

Table S2-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of the early education and child care arrangements of the 2001 birth cohort at about 4 years old, by type of arrangement and selected child and family characteristics: School year 2005–06—Continued

Child or family characteristic	Percentage distribution of population	Percentage distribution by primary type of care arrangement						
		No regular nonparental arrangement	Home-based care		Center-based care			Multiple arrangements
			Relative care	Nonrelative care	Total	Head Start	Other than Head Start	
Socioeconomic status								
Lowest 20 percent	0.52	1.27	1.34	0.68	1.80	1.56	1.46	0.57
Middle 60 percent	0.67	0.88	0.81	0.49	1.10	0.81	0.91	0.23
Highest 20 percent	0.47	0.93	0.73	0.90	1.39	0.23	1.42	0.42

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort, Longitudinal 9-Month–Preschool Restricted-Use Data File.