

## Why was I selected for this survey?

Your household was scientifically selected in the U.S. to participate in the 2024 NSECE Household Follow-up because you participated in the 2024 NSECE. Your participation last year was very valuable, and with the NSECE Household Follow-up, we aim to deepen our knowledge about challenges in finding affordable child care. It is important for us to hear from every selected household to get a complete picture of the availability and use of child care in your area. You represent many other households like yours across the nation and cannot be replaced.

Your participation will help policy makers, local agencies, and other key decision makers better understand the need for child care and ways to support working families that rely on it more effectively.

## Will my responses be private?

Anything you tell us will be used for statistical purposes **only**. Identities of individuals and the programs that you discuss will not be disclosed except as required by law. All project staff who handle information collected for the study must sign a privacy agreement that provides for criminal and civil penalties if privacy is not kept.

The NSECE has also obtained a federal Certificate of Confidentiality from the Department of Health and Human Services to further protect your privacy. With this Certificate, NORC at the University of Chicago cannot be forced (for example, by court order or subpoena) to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, local, civil, criminal, legislative, administrative, or other proceedings.

## How can I participate?

Participating in the 2024 NSECE Household Follow-up Survey is easy. You can respond online at **FamilyUpdate.NORC.org**. You will need to enter your unique PIN to access the questionnaire. Alternatively, NORC at the University of Chicago interviewers will work with your schedule to find a convenient time to reach you by phone. Contact us at [nsece24survey@norc.org](mailto:nsece24survey@norc.org) or at 1-800-487-4609 and we can help you set up an appointment.

## Questions about NSECE Household Follow-up?

1-800-487-4609

or

[nsece24survey@norc.org](mailto:nsece24survey@norc.org)

Participation is voluntary. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is 0970-0391 and the expiration date is 10/31/2027. Please send comments regarding the time required for this survey or any other aspect of the described information collection to: NORC at the University of Chicago, 55 E Monroe St, Ste 3000, Chicago, IL, 60603, Attention: A. Rupa Datta



NATIONAL SURVEY OF EARLY CARE & EDUCATION | 2024



## What is the NSECE?

The 2024 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) Household Follow-up Survey is funded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

When the NSECE was conducted in 2024, we heard from over 6,000 households with young children across the U.S. who told us about their needs and choices for child care services. The information helped provide policy makers and public agencies information to understand better how much families need child care that is affordable and flexible. The 2024 NSECE Household Follow-up is building on that work and will look more closely at the challenges families face finding affordable care. This new information will help inform policies and programs that support families in need of child care and the individuals who provide these important services.

## What is the Administration for Children and Families?

ACF is a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that administers Head Start and the Child Care and Development Fund (which funds child care subsidy programs) and sponsors early care and education research. ACF helps children in low-income families access high-quality child care and helps coordinate efforts across Head Start, child care, pre-K, home visiting, and other early childhood development programs throughout the federal government. The NSECE will assist ACF in its mission to improve the availability of high-quality child care programs.

## Why is the NSECE Follow-up so important?

The 2024 NSECE provides an up-to-date national picture of supply and demand for child care. The Household Follow-up to the 2024 NSECE allows us to understand details about how families look for and select care. This additional information will help policy makers, government officials, and local agencies better understand how parents make decisions about how their children are cared for, and whether they have access to high quality and affordable child care that fits their needs.

Your participation in the 2024 NSECE was highly beneficial. The 2024 Household Follow-up will dive more deeply into selected topics, such as challenges in finding affordable care. It is critically important that we collect these additional details so we can examine the child care needs of families with children.

## Who are you surveying?

The 2024 NSECE Household Follow-up will be interviewing households in selected communities that participated in the 2024 NSECE. Our goal is to measure how well families' child care needs match early care and education resources that are available to them. The study will collect information from:

- **Families with children.** Parents or guardians of children under age 13 will be interviewed to learn more about their child care use and needs. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes. Questions will cover:
  - Searching for and selecting child care arrangements for fall 2024
  - Parents not interested in child care
  - The type of care families use for their children
  - Parents' work schedules
  - Seeking financial assistance for child care
  - What parents look for as they search for child care
  - Parents' relationships with their child care providers

## Why should I participate?

By collecting information from parents and caregivers in selected areas across the nation, the NSECE will be able to describe how well the supply of child care meets the needs of families. This description can help national, state, and local governments and other organizations identify areas where families and providers may be mismatched. Some questions the NSECE will address are:

- How do parents balance work and school with child care?
- How many families are not interested in arranging child care from someone other than parents or guardians?
- How do parents choose providers, people, or organizations to care for their children? What decisions do parents make as they seek this care?
- What types of child care do parents most need? Is this care available in their area? Is it affordable?
- What characteristics of care are hardest for parents to find (such as evening hours, meals, or affordability)?
- What early care education programs are families aware of in their local area?
- What percentage of families consider new arrangements with the start of a school year?
- How do families' child care search, selection, and participation differ when they have children with special needs?
- What steps did families take to find affordable child care?

