This report draws on a recent survey—the 1997 National
Survey of America's Families (NSAF)—to examine child care arrangements and
expenses for working families with children under age 13 in the state of
Minnesota. Key components of the project include a household survey, studies
of policies in 13 states, and a database with information on all states and
the District of Columbia. This report provides data on the types of child
care arrangements families use, the number of arrangements they use, the
hours children spend in child care, and the amount families spend on child
care. The report begins by describing key facts related to child care in
Minnesota and defining relevant terms. Findings regarding the types and
number of child care arrangements and the hours spent in care are examined
for children under 5 years of age. Findings on the numbers of school-age
children in supervised arrangements, self-care, and parent/other care follow.
Child care expenses are examined for all families overall and for two
particular groups of families: those with older versus younger children, and
families with different earnings levels. Costs in Minnesota are then compared
to those nationwide. Findings of this report reveal that more than two-thirds
of mothers with children under age five and more than three-fourths of
mothers with school-age children are employed. Almost 75 percent of children
under age 5 with employed mothers are in a form of nonparental care, with
almost 40 percent in full-time care. One-quarter of 6- to 9-year-olds with employed mothers are in before- and after-school programs, compared to fewer than 10 percent of 10- to 12-year-olds. The use of self-care increases as children get older. Low-income families spend more than twice as much on child care as a percentage of their earnings as do higher-earning families. (KB)
State Child Care Profile for Children with Employed Mothers: Minnesota
Kathleen Snyder
Gina Adams
01-25

February 2001

State Profiles

Assessing the New Federalism
An Urban Institute Program to Assess Changing Social Policies

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
Assessing the New Federalism

Assessing the New Federalism is a multiyear Urban Institute project designed to analyze the devolution of responsibility for social programs from the federal government to the states. It focuses primarily on health care, income security, employment and training programs, and social services. Researchers monitor program changes and fiscal developments. Alan Weil is the project director. In collaboration with Child Trends, the project studies changes in family well-being. The project provides timely, nonpartisan information to inform public debate and to help state and local decisionmakers carry out their new responsibilities more effectively.

Key components of the project include a household survey, studies of policies in 13 states, and a database with information on all states and the District of Columbia. Publications and database are available free of charge on the Urban Institute’s Web site: http://www.urban.org. This paper is one in a series of discussion papers analyzing information from these and other sources.


The nonpartisan Urban Institute publishes studies, reports, and books on timely topics worthy of public consideration. The views expressed are those of the authors and should not be attributed to the Urban Institute, its trustees, its funders, or other authors in the series.

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Child care is a critical issue for families, particularly for families with working parents. The large number of mothers in the workforce has made America’s families more dependent on nonparental care and raised public awareness of early care and education as a subject of policy concern. In Minnesota, 75 percent of mothers with children younger than 13 were employed in 1997 (table 1). These parents must decide who will care for their children while they work.

This report provides data on

- The types of child care arrangements families use
- The number of child care arrangements families use
- The hours children spend in child care
- The amount families spend on child care

These data reflect the choices families make, but not the extent to which these choices reflect parental preferences (e.g., whether families are using the care options they want) or parental constraints (e.g., whether they cannot find or afford options they prefer). Data tables 2-7 are at the end of the profile.

**TABLE 1. Percentage of Employed Mothers in Minnesota and the United States, by Age of Child**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Child</th>
<th>MN</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 6 and 12</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 13</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America’s Families.*
Minnesota Key Facts

Child care in Minnesota for children younger than 5 with employed mothers

- More than two-thirds of mothers with children under 5 are employed.

- Almost three out of four children under 5 with employed mothers are in a form of nonparental child care such as center-based care, family child care, or relative care.

- Almost two out of five children under 5 with employed mothers are in full-time (35 hours or more per week) nonparental care.

- More than two out of five children under 5 who have employed mothers and who are in nonparental care are in more than one nonparental arrangement each week.

Child care in Minnesota for school-age children with employed mothers

- More than three out of four mothers with children between the ages of 6 and 12 are employed.

- As children get older, the percentage who are in a supervised arrangement as their primary arrangement decreases. For example, one-quarter of 6- to 9-year-olds whose mothers are employed are in before- and after-school programs, compared with fewer than one-tenth of 10- to 12-year-olds.

- The use of self-care (children are alone or with a sibling under 13) increases as children get older. Fewer than one-fifth of 6- to 9-year-olds spend any time in self-care on a regular basis, compared with more than one-half of 10- to 12-year-olds.

Child care expenses in Minnesota for working families with at least one child under 13

- More than half of working families with children under 13 pay out-of-pocket for child care.

- Working families who pay for care spend approximately 1 out of every 12 dollars they earn on child care.

- Of families who pay for care, those with earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or "low-earning families," spend more than 1 out of every 7 dollars they earn on child care. These families spend more than twice as much on child care as a percentage of their earnings as do "higher-earning families."
**Definition of Terms**

**Types of Care:**

*Primary child care arrangement* – the arrangement in which the child spends the greatest number of hours each week while the mother is at work.

The following are types of nonparental child care:

- *Center-based child care (only for age 4 and under)* – care in child care centers, Head Start, preschool, prekindergarten, and before- and after-school programs.
- *Before- and after-school programs (only for age 6 and older)* – programs designed to care for children before school starts or after school is over. These programs can also be located within schools, community centers, and youth development agencies. The survey did not specifically ask about sports, lessons, or other recreational activities that may sometimes be used as child care arrangements by parents.
- *Family child care* – care by a nonrelative in the provider’s home.
- *Babysitter or nanny* – care by a nonrelative in the child’s home.
- *Relative care* – care by a relative in either the child’s or the provider’s home.

In addition, the following are other types of child care:

- *Parent care (called parent care/other care for age 6 and older)* – care given to those children whose mother did not report a nonparental child care arrangement while she worked. This type of care could be provided by the other parent, the mother while she works, or a self-employed mother at home. For school-age children, this may also include enrichment activities such as lessons or sports. Because of the way data were collected in the National Survey of America’s Families, these activities are not defined as child care in this profile.
- *Self-care* – regular amounts of time each week in which the child is not being supervised while the mother works. This includes time spent alone or with a sibling younger than 13.
- *Any hours in self-care* – children regularly spending some time in unsupervised settings each week, regardless of whether it is the primary arrangement (i.e., used for the greatest number of hours or while the mother is at work).

**Income Groups:**

- *Higher-income families* – families with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- *Low-income families* – families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (e.g., $25,258 for a family of two adults and one child in the United States in 1997).
CHILDREN UNDER 5

More than two-thirds of Minnesota mothers with children under 5 are employed (table 1). Consequently, many children in Minnesota spend at least some time in child care during the critical developmental years before they start school.

Type of Child Care Arrangements

- Almost three out of four children under 5 in Minnesota are in primary child care arrangements with someone other than a parent while their mothers are working (table 2).

- More than half of Minnesota’s children under 5 are in group settings (38 percent in center-based care and 17 percent in family child care). The remaining children are in relative care (13 percent), the care of a babysitter or nanny (6 percent), or parent care (26 percent) (figure 1).

  > Minnesota has a higher percentage of children under 5 in center-based care than the United States as a whole (38 percent compared with 32 percent), and a lower percentage in relative care (13 percent compared with 23 percent). The state does not differ significantly from the nation in the percentage of children in other child care arrangements.

By age:

- Among Minnesota’s infants and toddlers, more than one-quarter are in center-based care and almost one-fifth are in family child care. The remaining children are in relative care (14 percent), the care of a babysitter or nanny (9 percent), or parent care (29 percent).

  > Infants and toddlers in Minnesota are more likely to be in center-based care than similar children nationwide (29 percent compared with 22 percent) and less likely to be in relative care (14 percent compared with 27 percent). These Minnesota children do not differ significantly from their counterparts nationwide in the use of other arrangements.

- Half of Minnesota’s 3- and 4-year-olds are in center-based care and approximately one-seventh are in family child care. The remaining children are in relative care (11 percent), the care of a babysitter or nanny (2 percent), or parent care (22 percent).

  > Minnesota’s 3- and 4-year-olds are less likely to be in relative care than their counterparts nationwide (11 percent compared with 17 percent), but they do not differ significantly from similar children in the United States as a whole in the use of other arrangements.
Minnesota's infants and toddlers are less likely to be in center-based care than the state's 3- and 4-year-olds (29 percent compared with 50 percent).

The differences between these two age groups reflect national patterns. However, Minnesota differs from the United States as a whole in that, nationally, infants and toddlers are also significantly more likely to be in parent care and relative care than 3- and 4-year-olds, which is not the case in Minnesota.

By income:

- One-fifth of Minnesota's low-income children under 5 are in center-based care and one-eighth are in family child care. In addition, nearly one-third are in relative care and relatively few are in the care of a babysitter or nanny. Almost one-third of the state's low-income children under 5 are in parent care.
  
  The child care arrangement patterns of Minnesota's low-income children under 5 are consistent with those of similar children nationwide.

- More than two out of five of Minnesota's higher-income children under 5 are in center-based care and almost one out of five are in family child care. The remaining children are in relative care (6 percent), the care of a babysitter or nanny (6 percent), or parent care (24 percent).
  
  Higher-income children under 5 in Minnesota are more likely to be in center-based care than similar children nationwide (44 percent compared with 35 percent) and less likely to be in relative care (6 percent compared with 20 percent). These Minnesota children are similar to their counterparts in the United States as a whole in the use of other arrangements.

- Minnesota's low-income children under 5 are more likely to be in relative care than the state's higher-income children under 5 (32 percent compared with 6 percent) and less likely to be in center-based care (20 percent compared with 44 percent).
  
  This pattern is consistent with the United States as a whole, although nationally, low-income children under 5 are also significantly more likely to be in parent care than higher-income children under 5. In Minnesota, the difference between low- and higher-income children under 5 in the use of parent care is not significant.
FIGURE 1. Primary Child Care Arrangements for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Minnesota, 1997

Hours Spent in Care

- In Minnesota, almost two out of five children under 5 are in full-time care (35 hours or more per week) (table 3).
- The percentage of Minnesota's children under 5 in full-time care increases to more than half when only mothers who are employed full time are considered.
- The use of full-time care by children under 5 in Minnesota is consistent with that for similar children nationwide.

By age:
- Although it appears that Minnesota's infants and toddlers are less likely to be in full-time care than the state's 3- and 4-year-olds, the difference between these two groups is not statistically significant (35 percent and 45 percent, respectively). Nationally, these two age groups are equally likely to be in full-time care.
  - Individually, neither age group in Minnesota differs significantly from its counterpart nationwide.

By income:
- Minnesota's low- and higher-income children under 5 are equally likely to be in full-time care (34 percent and 41 percent, respectively), which is consistent with national patterns.
  - The use of full-time care by Minnesota's low- and higher-income children under 5 does not differ significantly from that of their counterparts in the United States as a whole.
Number of Arrangements

- More than two-fifths of Minnesota’s children under 5 in nonparental care are in multiple nonparental child care arrangements (34 percent are in two arrangements and 12 percent are in three or more arrangements) (table 4; figure 2).

  ➢ The number of arrangements used each week by children under 5 in Minnesota is consistent with the number of arrangements used by children in the same age group nationwide.

By age:

- Among Minnesota’s infants and toddlers in nonparental care, almost two-thirds are in one nonparental arrangement each week, approximately one-third are in two arrangements, and fewer than one-tenth are in three or more arrangements.

  ➢ The number of arrangements used by infants and toddlers in Minnesota is consistent with that of similar children nationwide.

- Fewer than half of Minnesota’s 3- and 4-year-olds are in one nonparental arrangement each week, more than one-third are in two arrangements, and almost one-fifth are in three or more arrangements.

  ➢ Minnesota’s 3- and 4-year-olds are less likely to be in one arrangement each week than similar children nationwide (45 percent compared with 56 percent).

- Minnesota’s infants and toddlers are more likely to be in one nonparental arrangement each week and 3- and 4-year-olds are equally likely to be in one arrangement each week, but infants and toddlers are significantly less likely to be in three or more arrangements.

By income:

- In Minnesota, slightly fewer than three-fifths of low-income children under 5 in nonparental care are in one arrangement each week, more than one-quarter are in two arrangements, and more than one-eighth are in three or more arrangements.

  ➢ The number of arrangements used by Minnesota’s low-income children under 5 is consistent with that of similar children nationwide.
Among Minnesota’s higher-income children under 5 in nonparental care, more than half are in one arrangement each week, more than one-third are in two arrangements, and slightly more than one-tenth are in three or more arrangements.

➢ The number of arrangements used by higher-income children under 5 in Minnesota is consistent with that of similar children nationwide.

➢ No difference exists in the number of arrangements used by Minnesota’s low- and higher-income children under 5.

➢ The similarity between low- and higher-income children under 5 in Minnesota is consistent with national patterns for these income groups.

FIGURE 2. Number of Nonparental Arrangements for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Minnesota, 1997*

Note: Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding.  
*Children in nonparental care only.
Many children continue to need child care once they start school. More than three-fourths of Minnesota’s mothers with children between the ages of 6 and 12 are employed (table 1). For those parents who cannot arrange work schedules around school, child care plays an important role in filling the gap between school and when a parent returns home from work. High quality before- and after-school programs can also provide school-age children with activities that will potentially enhance academic and social development (Posner and Vandell 1999). However, under some circumstances, unsupervised care can put children at risk of harm and poor physical, social, and intellectual development (Kerrebrock and Lewit 1999; Peterson 1989).

**Supervised Arrangements**

- In Minnesota, more than half of 6- to 9-year-olds are in one of the supervised primary care arrangements analyzed here while their mothers are working (table 5).
  - Minnesota’s 6- to 9-year-olds are less likely to be in relative care than similar children nationwide (13 percent compared with 21 percent) and more likely to be in family child care (15 percent compared with 8 percent).

- In Minnesota, fewer than one-quarter of 10- to 12-year-olds are in one of the supervised primary arrangements analyzed here while their mothers are working.
  - Minnesota’s 10- to 12-year-olds are less likely to be in relative care than similar children nationwide (8 percent compared with 17 percent), but these two groups are similar in their use of other supervised arrangements.

- Minnesota’s children are less likely to be in a supervised arrangement as a primary arrangement as they get older (figure 3).
  - Minnesota’s older school-age children are less likely to be in before- and after-school programs (9 percent) and family child care (4 percent) than the state’s younger school-age children (25 percent and 15 percent, respectively).
**Self-Care**

- Six percent of Minnesota's 6- to 9-year-olds are reported to be in self-care as their primary child care arrangement while their mothers are working.
  - The use of self-care almost triples to 17 percent in Minnesota if children who spend *any* hours in self-care are included.
  - The percentage of Minnesota's 6- to 9-year-olds primarily in self-care while their mothers are at work is consistent with the national average. However, the percentage of Minnesota's 6- to 9-year-olds spending *any* hours in self-care is higher than the national average for this age group (17 percent compared with 10 percent).
- Approximately two out of five of Minnesota's 10- to 12-year-olds are reported to be in self-care as their primary child care arrangement while their mothers are working.
  - The use of self-care in Minnesota increases to more than one in two if 10- to 12-year-olds who spend *any* hours in self-care each week are included.
  - The percentage of Minnesota's 10- to 12-year-olds primarily in self-care while their mothers are at work (40 percent) and the percentage spending *any* hours in self-care (56 percent) are higher than the national averages for this age group (24 percent and 35 percent, respectively).
- In Minnesota, as in the country as a whole, the use of self-care increases as children get older.

**Parent Care/Other Care**

- In Minnesota, no significant difference exists between 6- to 9-year-olds and 10- to 12-year-olds in the use of parent care/other care. In both cases, approximately two out of five children are reported to be in this form of care.
FIGURE 3. Primary Child Care Arrangements for 6- to 9-Year-Olds and 10- to 12-Year-Olds with Employed Mothers in Minnesota, 1997

Note: Parent Care/Other Care category includes the proportion of children whose mother did not report using any of the supervised or unsupervised forms of care analyzed here while she worked. For children in this category, parents are arranging their work schedules around the school day to care for their children or using enrichment activities such as lessons or sports. Percentages may not add to 100 as a result of rounding.
* Differences are not statistically significant.
CHILD CARE EXPENSES

Child care expenses can consume a large portion of a working family's budget, although not all families pay for child care. Some do not use child care, while others look for free child care alternatives. For those that do pay for care, child care expenses can be significant. These data show out-of-pocket expenses for all children under 13 in a family regardless of the type or amount of care the family purchases.

Child Care Expenses for All Working Families

- More than half (54 percent) of Minnesota's working families with children under 13 pay for child care. Among these working families paying for care, the average monthly child care expense is $315, or approximately 1 out of every 12 dollars they earn (table 6).

  - Minnesota's working families are more likely to pay for care than similar families nationwide (54 percent compared with 48 percent).

  - Minnesota's working families tend to pay more in average monthly child care expenses than families in the United States as a whole ($315 compared with $286). This difference is not surprising because Minnesota's average monthly family earnings for those families paying for care in 1997 were higher than the national average ($4,862 compared with $4,433).

  - In Minnesota, the average percentage of earnings spent on child care for those families paying for care is consistent with the national average.

The data presented here

- focus on working families that have at least one child under 13.

- are based on the net out-of-pocket expenses of the National Survey of America's Families respondents and not necessarily the full cost of their children's care. These expenses underestimate the full cost of care if the cost is subsidized by the government or by an employer, or if a portion of the cost is paid by a nonresident parent or by a relative or friend. These data are based on the combined experiences of many different types of families. All families (for example, families using one hour of care per week and those using 40 hours of care per week; families with one child and those with several children; and families receiving help paying for child care and those that are not) are included in the average child care expenses for Minnesota's working families.

- focus on the earnings of families instead of income. Earnings include only wages, not other sources of income, such as child support, earned income tax credits, and interest from bank accounts.
By Age

- Two-thirds of Minnesota’s working families with at least one child under 5 pay for care. Among those families paying for care, families with at least one child under 5 spend an average of $361 per month on child care, or approximately 1 out of every 10 dollars of their earnings.

  - Minnesota’s working families with at least one child under 5 are more likely to pay for child care than their counterparts nationwide (66 percent compared with 60 percent).

  - No significant difference exists between families with at least one child under 5 in Minnesota and the United States as a whole in terms of the average monthly child care expenses and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

- Slightly more than two-fifths of Minnesota’s working families with only school-age children pay for care. Of those families that pay for care, families with only school-age children spend on average $241 per month on child care, or 6.5 percent of their earnings.

  - No significant difference exists between families with only school-age children in Minnesota and the United States as a whole in terms of the likelihood of paying for care, average monthly child care expenses, and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

- Minnesota’s working families with at least one child under 5 are more likely to pay for child care than families with only school-age children (66 percent compared with 42 percent). Working families with at least one child under 5 also tend to pay more for that care ($361 per month compared with $241 per month) and spend a higher percentage of their earnings on child care (9.8 percent compared with 6.5 percent).

  - The differences between families with children of different ages in Minnesota in terms of the likelihood of paying for care, the average monthly child care expenses, and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care are seen nationally as well.
By Family Earnings

- Fewer than half of Minnesota’s families with earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal minimum-wage levels, "pay for care. Among those families paying for care, low-earning families spend on average $218 per month on child care, or almost 1 out of every 7 dollars they earn.

  - The proportion spent on child care is even higher for some low-earning families in Minnesota; more than one-quarter of Minnesota’s low-earning families spend more than 20 percent of their earnings on child care (table 7).

  - No significant difference exists between Minnesota and the United States as a whole in the percentage of low-earning families paying for care, as well as the average monthly child care expenses and average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

- More than half of Minnesota’s higher-earning families pay for care. These families spend an average of $340 per month in child care expenses, or 6.6 percent of their earnings, when they do pay for care.

  - No significant difference exists between Minnesota and the United States as a whole in the percentage of higher-earning families paying for care, average monthly child care expenses, and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

- Minnesota’s low-earning families are less likely to pay for child care than higher-earning families (45 percent compared with 57 percent), and they generally pay less in child care expenses when they do pay for child care ($218 per month compared with $340 per month). On the other hand, low-earning families spend a higher percentage of their earnings on child care than do higher-earning families (15.7 percent compared with 6.6 percent) (figure 4).

  - These differences between low- and higher-earning families in Minnesota in the likelihood of paying for care, average monthly child care expenses, and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care are seen nationally as well.
FIGURE 4. Average Monthly Child Care Expenses and Average Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care by Low- and Higher-Earning Families with Children under 13 in Minnesota, 1997*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Monthly Child Care Expenses</th>
<th>Average Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care per Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Low-Earning Families</td>
<td>Higher-Earning Families</td>
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<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Earning Families</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher-Earning Families</td>
<td>6.6</td>
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</table>

*Of those families paying for care.
TABLE 2. Primary Child Care Arrangements for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Minnesota and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINNESOTA</th>
<th>Child's Age</th>
<th>Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Children under 5 %</td>
<td>Younger Than 3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based Care</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Care</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Care</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babysitter/Nanny</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sample Size)</td>
<td>(383)</td>
<td>(206)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNITED STATES</th>
<th>Child's Age</th>
<th>Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Children under 5 %</td>
<td>Younger Than 3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center-Based Care</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>22+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Care</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Care</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babysitter/Nanny</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sample Size)</td>
<td>(4,853)</td>
<td>(2,588)</td>
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</table>

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Notes: Actual percentages may vary on average +/- 3 percentage points from national estimates, +/- 5 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/- 7 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. The NSAF's questions focused on nonparental arrangements and did not include questions about care provided by another parent, care for the child while the parent was at work, or care for the child at home by a self-employed parent. Those respondents not reporting a child care arrangement are assumed to be in one of these forms of care and are coded into the parent care category. Bold numbers in the state table indicate that the state estimate is significantly different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income.
TABLE 3. Number of Hours in Nonparental Care for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Minnesota and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Child's Age</th>
<th></th>
<th>Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Children under 5</td>
<td>Mothers Working Full Time</td>
<td>Younger Than 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINNESOTA</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Hours in Care</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-15 Hours</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-35 Hours</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 35 Hours</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sample Size)</td>
<td>(378)</td>
<td>(258)</td>
<td>(205)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| UNITED STATES            | %           | %         | %                                              | %                                              | %                         | %                        |
| No Hours in Care         | 18          | 17        | 21+                                            | 13+                                            | 23+                       | 16+                      |
| 1-15 Hours               | 16          | 12        | 17                                             | 14                                             | 16                        | 15                       |
| 16-35 Hours              | 25          | 18        | 23+                                            | 28+                                            | 21+                       | 27+                      |
| Over 35 Hours            | 41          | 52        | 39                                             | 44                                             | 40                        | 42                       |
| (Sample Size)            | (4,823)     | (3,399)   | (2,572)                                        | (2,251)                                        | (2,290)                   | (2,533)                  |


Notes: Actual percentages may vary on average +/- 3 percentage points from national estimates, +/- 5 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/- 7 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. The NSAF's questions focused on nonparental arrangements and did not include questions about care provided by another parent, care for the child while the parent was at work, or care for the child at home by a self-employed parent. Those respondents not reporting a child care arrangement are assumed to be in one of these forms of care and are coded as having no hours in nonparental care. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income in a state.
TABLE 4. Number of Nonparental Arrangements for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Minnesota and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Children under 5</th>
<th>Younger Than 3</th>
<th>3- and 4-Year-Olds</th>
<th>200 Percent and Below</th>
<th>Above 200 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MINNESOTA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Arrangement</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>63+</td>
<td>45+</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Arrangements</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or More Arrangements</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5+</td>
<td>19+</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sample Size)</td>
<td>(318)</td>
<td>(160)</td>
<td>(158)</td>
<td>(134)</td>
<td>(184)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNITED STATES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Arrangement</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Arrangements</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or More Arrangements</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4+</td>
<td>13+</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sample Size)</td>
<td>(3,974)</td>
<td>(2,009)</td>
<td>(1,965)</td>
<td>(1,812)</td>
<td>(2,162)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: These percentages are for children in nonparental child care only. A sizable percentage of children with employed parents, however, are not placed in nonparental child care. See, for example, table 1. Actual percentages may vary on average +/- 3 percentage points from national estimates, +/- 6 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/- 8 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. **Bold** numbers in the state table indicate that the state estimate is significantly different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income in a state.
**TABLE 5. Child Care Arrangement Patterns for Children Age 6 to 12 with Employed Mothers in Minnesota and the United States, by Age Group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>6- to 9-Year-Olds</th>
<th>10- to 12-Year-Olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MINNESOTA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Out-of-School Arrangement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervised Care</td>
<td>55+</td>
<td>23+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before- and After-School Programs</td>
<td>25+</td>
<td>9+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>15+</td>
<td>4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babysitter/Nanny</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Care</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self-Care</strong></td>
<td>6+</td>
<td>40+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Care/Other Care</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sample Size)</td>
<td>(300)</td>
<td>(225)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any Self-Care</strong></td>
<td>17+</td>
<td>56+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sample Size)</td>
<td>(298)</td>
<td>(223)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                     |                   |                    |
| **UNITED STATES**   |                   |                    |
| **Primary Out-of-School Arrangement** |                   |                    |
| Supervised Care     | 55+               | 35+                |
| Before- and After-School Programs | 21+              | 10+                |
| Family Child Care   | 8                 | 5                  |
| Babysitter/Nanny    | 5                 | 4                  |
| Relative Care       | 21                | 17                 |
| **Self-Care**       | 5+                | 24+                |
| **Parent Care/Other Care** | 40    | 40                  |
| (Sample Size)       | (3,992)            | (2,753)            |
| **Any Self-Care**   | 10+               | 35+                |
| (Sample Size)       | (3,998)            | (2,749)            |

**Source:** Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

**Note:** Bold numbers in the state table indicate that the estimate is different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between age groups within the state. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding.

1 Primary arrangement is where the child spends the greatest number of hours during the week.

2 Percentages of individual types of care may not add to total percentage of children in supervised care as a result of rounding.

3 "Parent Care/Other Care" indicates that the respondent reported that the child was not using any of the supervised or unsupervised forms of care analyzed here while she worked. For children in this category, parents are arranging their work schedules around the school day to care for their children or using enrichment activities, such as lessons or sports.

4 "Any self-care" means that the child regularly spent some time in an unsupervised setting each week, although it was not the form of care in which he or she spent the most hours each week or necessarily while the mother was at work.
### TABLE 6. Child Care Expenses for Working Families with Children under 13 in Minnesota and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage of Working Families Paying for Child Care</th>
<th>Average Monthly Cost of Care for Families Paying for Care</th>
<th>Average Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care for Families Paying for Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MN</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Families</strong></td>
<td>54</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Sample Size)</em></td>
<td>(802)</td>
<td>(10,398)</td>
<td>(403)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Type</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>52+</td>
<td>256+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>47+</td>
<td>329+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Children under 13</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Child</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>46+</td>
<td>251+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Children</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>52+</td>
<td>361+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age of Youngest Child</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>66+</td>
<td>60+</td>
<td>361+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 or Over</td>
<td>42+</td>
<td>37+</td>
<td>241+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Monthly Earnings (relative to family size)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Earnings</td>
<td>45+</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>218+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Earnings</td>
<td>57+</td>
<td>53+</td>
<td>340+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MKA Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School or Less</td>
<td>44+</td>
<td>43+</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or More</td>
<td>58+</td>
<td>52+</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent's Work Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>38+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>52+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metropolitan Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmetropolitan</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Monthly Family Earnings</strong></td>
<td>$4,862</td>
<td>$4,433</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: Bold indicates that the state estimate is different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between paired subgroups within the state.

1For sample sizes of all subgroups, see Giannarelli and Barsimantov 2000.

2Low earnings are defined as current earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

3MKA is the "most knowledgeable adult." Interviews were conducted with the person most knowledgeable about each child. The mother was the "most knowledgeable adult" for a majority of the children in the national sample. For more on "most knowledgeable adult," see Dean et al. 1999.

4The work status of the MKA.

5The race/ethnicity category has only two categories because of sample sizes.

6For those families paying for care.

*Sample sizes are too small to break down data for average monthly cost of care and average percentage of earnings spent on child care.
TABLE 7. Distribution of Low- and Higher-Earning Families with Children under 13 by Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care in Minnesota and the United States*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low-Earning Families</th>
<th>Higher-Earning Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MINNESOTA</strong></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 5%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 5% and 10%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 10% and 15%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 15% and 20%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 20%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Sample Size)</em></td>
<td><em>(130)</em></td>
<td><em>(273)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low-Earning Families</th>
<th>Higher-Earning Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNITED STATES</strong></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 5%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 5% and 10%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 10% and 15%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 15% and 20%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 20%</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Sample Size)</em></td>
<td><em>(1,943)</em></td>
<td><em>(2,967)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: Low-earning families are families with earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Higher-earning families are families with earnings above 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

*Only families who are paying for care.
6. The focus is on the type of primary arrangement in which children under 5 with employed mothers are placed.

5. This analysis focuses only on children under 5 whose mothers are employed and were interviewed during the
   nonsummer months. In addition, the NSAF asks respondents only about regular child care arrangements.
   For information on types of child care arrangements, number of hours in care, and number of nonparental
   arrangements for all of the 12 states and the United States, see Capizzano and Adams 2000a, Capizzano and

4. Sample sizes for children under 5: 668 (MN), 9,571 (US); sample sizes for children between 6 and 12: 855
   (MN), 11,947 (US); sample sizes for children under 13: 1,315 (MN), 18,905 (US).

3. This analysis focuses only on children under 5 whose mothers are employed and were interviewed during the
   nonsummer months. In addition, the NSAF asks respondents only about regular child care arrangements.
   For information on types of child care arrangements, number of hours in care, and number of nonparental
   arrangements for all of the 12 states and the United States, see Capizzano and Adams 2000a, Capizzano and

2. The NSAF is a national survey of more than 44,000 households and is representative of the noninstitutionalized,
   civilian population under age 65 in the nation as a whole and in 13 focal states (Alabama, California, Colorado,
   Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington, and
   Wisconsin). The survey focuses primarily on health care, income support, job training, and social services,
   including child care. Data from the 1997 NSAF are used here to examine child care characteristics for preschool
   and school-age children. The NSAF collected child care information on a nationally representative sample of
   children above and below the federal poverty level, as well as on a representative sample of children in 12
   states (Colorado is not included in these analyses because of the small size of the nonsummer sample for this
   state. Because of the late addition of Colorado to the Assessing the New Federalism project, responses to the
   child care questions from a large number of Colorado respondents were received during the summer months and
   did not provide information on nonsummer child care arrangements, which are the focus of this analysis.)

1. For randomly selected children in the sample households, interviews were conducted with the person most
   knowledgeable about each child. Because the mother was the "most knowledgeable adult" for a majority of the
   children in the national sample, the term "mother" is used here to refer to this respondent. From these
   interviews, data were collected about the types of care used, the number of hours the child spent in each form of
   care, and the child care expenses for the family. For more on the National Survey of America's Families (NSAF)
   survey methods, including the "most knowledgeable adult," see Dean Brick et al. 1999.

Notes

1. For randomly selected children in the sample households, interviews were conducted with the person most
   knowledgeable about each child. Because the mother was the "most knowledgeable adult" for a majority of the
   children in the national sample, the term "mother" is used here to refer to this respondent. From these
   interviews, data were collected about the types of care used, the number of hours the child spent in each form of
   care, and the child care expenses for the family. For more on the National Survey of America's Families (NSAF)
   survey methods, including the "most knowledgeable adult," see Dean Brick et al. 1999.

2. The NSAF is a national survey of more than 44,000 households and is representative of the noninstitutionalized,
   civilian population under age 65 in the nation as a whole and in 13 focal states (Alabama, California, Colorado,
   Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington, and
   Wisconsin). The survey focuses primarily on health care, income support, job training, and social services,
   including child care. Data from the 1997 NSAF are used here to examine child care characteristics for preschool
   and school-age children. The NSAF collected child care information on a nationally representative sample of
   children above and below the federal poverty level, as well as on a representative sample of children in 12
   states (Colorado is not included in these analyses because of the small size of the nonsummer sample for this
   state. Because of the late addition of Colorado to the Assessing the New Federalism project, responses to the
   child care questions from a large number of Colorado respondents were received during the summer months and
   did not provide information on nonsummer child care arrangements, which are the focus of this analysis.)

3. This profile focuses only on data that are statistically different from data on other subgroups within the state or
   those that are statistically different from the United States. Data not presented in the text may or may not be
   statistically significant. One should be cautious in interpreting the actual point estimates because of the sizes of
   the samples. For the data on types of child care arrangements and hours in care for children under 5, confidence
   intervals around the national point estimates averaged +/-3 percentage points, and the confidence intervals around
   subpopulation point estimates within states were larger (+/- 7 percentage points for the state estimates of age and
   income subpopulations). For the data on number of child care arrangements, confidence intervals around the
   national point estimates averaged +/-3 percentage points, and the confidence intervals around subpopulation point
   estimates within states were larger (+/- 6 percentage points for the state estimates of age and income
   subpopulations). For confidence interval information for school-age and child care expense data, see

4. Sample sizes for children under 5: 668 (MN), 9,571 (US); sample sizes for children between 6 and 12: 855
   (MN), 11,947 (US); sample sizes for children under 13: 1,315 (MN), 18,905 (US).

5. This analysis focuses only on children under 5 whose mothers are employed and were interviewed during the
   nonsummer months. Respondents using a complicated array of arrangements that would not qualify as “regular”
   would not be identified in this study as using a child care arrangement. For more information on types of child
   care arrangements, number of hours in care, and number of nonparental arrangements for all of the 12 states and
   the United States, see Capizzano and Adams 2000a, Capizzano and Adams 2000b, and Capizzano, Adams, and
   Sonenstein 2000.

6. The focus is on the type of primary arrangement in which children under 5 with employed mothers are placed.

7. For this analysis, the hours that each child spent in care across all reported nonparental arrangements were totaled
   and the child was then placed in one of four categories: “full-time care” (35 or more hours per week), “part-time
   care” (15 to 34 hours per week), “minimal care” (1 to 14 hours per week), and “no hours in chi
   hours in a nonparental arrangement). This analysis focuses on nonparental arrangements. Although data for
   hours in care are broken down by full-time care, part-time care, minimal care, and no hours of care, this
   discussion will focus only on full-time care. Table 3 provides data on the remaining categories.

8. To capture child care arrangements, mothers were asked if the child attended any of three separate categories of
   center-based care: 1) Head Start; 2) a group or day care center, nursery preschool, or prekindergarten program; or
   3) a before- or after-school program. Mothers were also asked about babysitting in the home by someone other
   than a parent and questioned about “child care or babysitting in someone else’s home.” A child can be cared for
   by two different providers within the same category. In these cases, the NSAF captures only one of the
   arrangements and therefore undercounts the number of arrangements used by that parent. Based on comparisons
   with other national data sources, however, these undercounts are small.

9. Because school is the arrangement in which children spend the most hours each week, the focus is on child care
   patterns during the child’s out-of-school time. This profile focuses on the category of primary care in which
   children between the ages of 6 and 12 with employed mothers are placed and the percentage of children in any

Assessing the New Federalism
regular self-care. The child care arrangement patterns of 5-year-olds are not discussed in this profile because of the complexity of the arrangements for this age group. Age 5 is a transitional age when some children are in school and others are not. The child care patterns for families with a child in this age group, therefore, can vary substantially depending on whether or not the child is in school. For more information about school-age child care and the methods used to calculate this information, see Capizzano, Tout, and Adams 2000.

10. For more information about child care expenses in the 12 focal states or the nation as a whole, see Giannarelli and Barsimantov 2000.

References


About the Authors

Kathleen Snyder is a research associate in the Urban Institute’s Population Studies Center. Her research focuses on child care-related issues and she is currently working on a project examining the interconnections between state child care and welfare systems.

Gina Adams is a senior research associate in the Urban Institute’s Population Studies Center, where she is responsible for directing research on child care and early education. Her research efforts focus on policies and programs that affect the affordability, quality, and supply of child care and early education, as well as on the child care arrangements of families.
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