

Roadmap to NSECE Resources for Data Users

What do you need help with?	Documentation Type	Resource Description
A wide range of tutorials, user guides, and training resources are available to support researchers in using data from the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE). These materials, published by ACF and hosted by the Child and Family Data Archive, are designed to help users work with the NSECE data to construct informative and accurate estimates. In addition to describing the basics of the design, the tutorials and resources cover topics such as incorporating geography into analyses, making comparisons across survey years and subgroups, understanding the sampling design, and applying statistical techniques. Because the 2012, 2019, and 2024 surveys share highly similar designs, most of the available resources are broadly relevant and applicable across all three rounds. This overview is designed to help data users identify the tutorials, documentation, or other resources that best meet their research needs. Access to the full list of resources can be found at the following links Analytic products at: https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/series/2060/publications User's Guides, Questionnaires, and Tutorials at: https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/sites/cfdata/nsece-data-training-resources-from-the-nsece.	High-Level and Basic Design • Methodology • Survey Overview • Data Available	Ideal for users first orienting themselves to the NSECE. This category includes resources that explain the overall design of the NSECE study, including its sampling strategy, survey questionnaires, and data collection methods. These resources can help users determine if NSECE data may be relevant to their research. They include survey sample-specific overview presentations, general overviews, and methodology overviews.
	Data File Contents • Data File Manuals • User's Guides • Constructs • Restricted Data Access • Questionnaires	Ideal for new users or those seeking a comprehensive orientation to the NSECE data files. This set of resources provides foundational guidance on navigating the NSECE data files. They explain the structure, content, and intended use of each file type—Quick Tabulation, Public Use, and Restricted Use—helping users understand what data is available and how to access it. These guides exist for each year of NSECE data collection.
	Specific Topical Areas • Type of Care • Cost and Price of Care • Counts of Providers and Children	These tutorials and analytic products are ideal for researchers with targeted questions or policy interests. These written documents and videos focus on particular themes within the NSECE data, such as types of care, pricing, cost, or child age. There are also analytic products on topics that may interest researchers as a reference or to build on. These resources are valuable for understanding the logic behind the data and ensuring accurate interpretation of results.
	Statistical Approaches and Complex Strategies • Disclosure • Calendar Data • Data Linkage • Geography	Designed for users at different levels, these tutorials and written documents cover basic statistical approaches such as correcting estimates for the complex survey design as well as advanced analytical techniques such as linking to administrative data, constructing cluster-level metrics, or managing disclosure risks. They often include programming examples and step-by-step guides for implementing complex research designs using NSECE data.



Questions?

Contact the NSECE team at
nsece@norc.org

Links to Resources

High-Level and Basic Design

- [Getting To Know the 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education \(NSECE\)](#)
- [2012 Data Collection and Sampling Methodology Report](#)
- [2019 Data Collection and Sampling Methodology Report](#)
- [Looking forward to the proposed 2019 NSECE overview: A state perspective](#)
- [History of the National Survey of Early Care and Education: A Research Brief Series](#)

Survey Specific Overview Presentation

- [Household Survey](#)
- [Home-based Provider Survey](#)
- [Center-based Provider Survey](#)
- [Workforce Survey](#)

Data File Contents

- [Data Files and Documentation](#)
- [Data File Overview](#)
- [\(NSECE\) Level-2 Restricted-use \(L2\) Data Application and Information Packet](#)

2012 User’s Guides¹

- [Household \(QT, PU, L1\)](#)
- [Home-based Provider \(QT, PU, L1\)](#)
- [Center-based Provider \(QT, PU, L1\)](#)
- [Classroom Staff \(Workforce\) \(QT, PU, L1\)](#)

2019 User’s Guides¹

- [Household \(PU, L1\)](#)
- [Home-based Provider \(QT, PU, L1\)](#)
- [Center-based Provider \(QT, PU, L1\)](#)

- [Classroom Staff \(Workforce\) \(QT, PU, L1\)](#)
- 2019 COVID-19 Longitudinal Follow-up User’s Guides

- [Home-based Provider \(PU, L1\)](#)
- [Center-based Provider \(PU, L1\)](#)
- [Classroom Staff \(Workforce\) \(PU, L1\)](#)

2024 User’s Guides³

- [Household](#)
- [Home-based Provider](#)
- [Center-based Provider](#)
- [Classroom Staff \(Workforce\)](#)

Questionnaires

- [2012 Household](#)
- [2012 Home-based Provider](#)
- [2012 Center-based Provider](#)
- [2012 Classroom Staff \(Workforce\)](#)

- [2019 Household](#)
- [2019 Home-based Provider](#)
- [2019 Center-based Provider](#)
- [2019 Classroom Staff \(Workforce\)](#)

- [2019 COVID-19 Home-based Provider](#)
- [2019 COVID-19 Center-based Provider](#)
- [2019 COVID-19 Classroom Staff \(Workforce\)](#)

Specific Topical Areas

Tutorials

- [Defining Type of Care in the NSECE](#)
 - [Prices and Cost in the NSECE](#)
 - [ECE Arrangements in the NSECE](#)

- [Schedules of Work and Child Care in the NSECE](#)
- [Using Household and Provider Data to Measure Enrollment and Usage in the NSECE](#)
- [Age of Child in the NSECE](#)

Analyses²

- [Children’s Participation in Child Care and Early Education in 2012 and 2019: Counts and Characteristics](#)
- [Center-based Early Care and Education Providers in 2012 and 2019: Counts and Characteristics](#)
- [Home-based Early Care and Education Providers in 2012 and 2019: Counts and Characteristics](#)
- [Workers in Center-based Early Care and Education Classrooms in 2012 and 2019](#)
- [Counts and Characteristics of Classrooms in Center-based Child Care and Early Education Settings](#)
- [2019 NSECE Snapshot: Parent Work Schedules in Households with Young Children](#)
- [2019 NSECE Snapshot: Child Care Cost Burden for U.S. Households with Children Under Age 5](#)
- [2019 NSECE Snapshot: The Role of Faith-based Organizations in Center-based Child Care and Early Education](#)
- [Employment Experiences of the 2019 Center-Based Child Care Workforce during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Key Findings by Role, Education, and Certification](#)
- [How Much of Children’s Early Care and Education Participation in 2012 Was Publicly Funded?](#)

Statistical Approaches and Complex Strategies

- [Constructing Center-Based Cluster-Level Metrics](#)
- [NSECE Calendar Data Tutorial](#)
- [Design-corrected Variance Estimation Brief](#)
- [PSU and Cluster Weights User Guide](#)

Linking Administrative Data

- [Linking Administrative and Survey Data](#)
- [Understanding Administrative Data, DUA's, Informed Consent](#)
- [Analytic purpose of linkage, determining feasibility](#)
- [Units of linkage and analysis, measurement issues](#)
- [Linkage and Disclosure Protection](#)
- [Planning, Sampling Implications and Tradeoffs](#)
- [Measuring Supply Capacity at Center-based CCEE Programs](#)

2019 NSECE Making Comparisons Webinar Series

- [Comparing Across Survey Years](#)
- [Comparing Subgroups](#)
- [Comparing Across Sample Types](#)

Geography

- [Incorporating Geography into NSECE Analyses](#)
- [Linking Geography-based External Data](#)
- [Defining Communities in the NSECE](#)
- [Levels of Geography in the NSECE](#)
- [Geographic Distribution of Children and Child Care and Early Education Providers in 2012 and 2019](#)

¹ User’s Guides are available for Quick Tabulation (QT), Public Use (PU), and Restricted Use (L1) as indicated.

² Selected Analyses

³ User’s Guides for 2024 document both public use and restricted-use variables.