Household FAQs

What is the NSECE?
The National Survey of Early Care and Education is the only study aimed at better understanding the relationship between families’ needs for early care and education and what child care services are available to them. The study was first conducted in 2012, and seven years later we are collecting new information to learn how recent changes in programs and policies have affected families across the country.

Who is NORC at the University of Chicago?
NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC) is conducting this study. NORC is an independent, non-partisan research institution that helps federal agencies, decision-makers, and nonprofits make better decisions through data and analysis. For more information about us, please visit www.norc.org.

How long does the household survey take?
The survey takes about an hour to complete.

Why was I selected for the household questionnaire survey?
Your household was scientifically selected from all of the household addresses in the U.S. to participate in this study. It is important for us to hear from every selected household to get a complete picture of the availability and use of early care and education in your area. You represent many other households like yours across the nation and cannot be replaced.

Your participation will help the nation’s policy makers and local agencies get a clearer picture of families’ needs for child care and how to better support working families that rely on these services.

I was asked to participate in a survey for individuals who look after children, but I am not a child care provider. What does that mean?
Recently, a member of your household answered a few questions for this study and you were identified as someone who looks after children who are not your own. We want to hear from you whether you consider yourself a caretaker for children or not.

We know that family, friends, neighbors, and others play a critical role in helping working families meet their child care needs, so we would like to hear from you as well to get a complete picture of who is looking after children and how parents manage complex work, school, and family schedules to fill in gaps in child care.

The home-based survey takes about 20 minutes to complete.
Questions this study will help to answer:

- How do parents balance work and school with child care?
- What types of early care and education do parents most need? Is this care available in their area? Is it affordable?
- How do parents at different income levels pay for their children’s care? What kind of help do they need?
- Which families use care provided by family, friends, and neighbors most often and why?

How do I know my information will be kept safe and private?

All NORC staff, including interviewers, must sign a pledge to protect your information. If this pledge is broken an employee can lose his/her job and face legal action. Answers that could identify you in any way are separated from your other responses. Survey findings are put into summary reports that contain no names or other identifying information. Your name or any other identifying information will never be released to the public. Participation is voluntary and your responses will be kept private.

How do you protect my answers?

Your answers are used for research purposes only. All information that you provide will be kept private to the fullest extent provided by the law. If you have questions about your rights as a study participant, you may call the NORC Institutional Review Board Administrator at 1-877-309-0542.

How do I know this is legitimate?

Visit us online at http://nsece.norc.org. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey (0970-0391). Without this number we could not conduct this survey.

If you have any other questions, call us toll-free at 1-877-778-2973 or email us at nsece19@norc.org.