

# Workforce Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## What is the NSECE?

The National Survey of Early Care and Education is the only study aimed at better understanding the people and programs throughout the country that care for America's children and the services they provide. The study was conducted in 2012, 2019, and again in 2024.

We are recontacting classroom staff who participated in the 2024 NSECE. We aim to learn important information about the experiences of staff over time like, where staff go if they leave the classroom, why they leave, and if they stay, why they stay.

## 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](http://www.norc.org).

## Why was I selected for this?

You have been selected because you participated in the 2024 NSECE last year. We are interested in hearing from you even if you no longer work in early care and education (ECE). You represent others like you and cannot be replaced.

## Who sponsors the study?

The NSECE is funded by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Administration for Children & Families administers the Head Start program, federally funded child care subsidies, and a variety of other programs to help regulate and improve child care across the country.

## How can I learn more about the NSECE and how the 2012, 2019, and 2024 survey data has been used?

More information about the 2012 and 2019 NSECE data and findings can be found at: <http://nsece.norc.org>.

## I do not provide care for young children any longer. Can I still complete a questionnaire?

We need to hear from you! The survey is interested in learning about what classroom staff do when they leave early care and education. The questionnaire will ask about topics like what you

are doing now and why you left the classroom. Your responses are critical in understanding the experiences of child care workers over time.

### **How long does the survey take?**

The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete.

### **What kinds of questions this study will help to answer?**

- How often do individuals leave jobs in center-based ECE classrooms? Who leaves, and where do they go?
- What practices at centers are associated with individuals staying longer in their jobs or seeking new jobs more frequently?
- How does ECE work fit into individuals' careers over time? What are typical sequences of work and schooling for individuals who were working in ECE classrooms in 2024?

### **What kinds of questions will you ask me?**

The questionnaire asks about your current employment, work experiences, education and training, and personal experiences with providing care.

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

Answers that could identify you or your program 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 identifying information will never be released to the public. This study also has a Federal Certificate of Confidentiality from the government, which protects researchers and other staff from being forced to release information that could be used to identify participants in court proceedings. Administrators at your facility will not be able to see your survey responses.

### **How do you protect my answers?**

We use computing systems, staff training, and strict data access requirements to protect your identity and keep your responses private.

- Questionnaire responses and respondent identifying information are stored on a secure server with restricted access.
- Only authorized personnel associated with the study will have access to questionnaire responses and respondent identifying information. This access is granted on a need-to-know basis. When this information is no longer needed, then access is shut off.
- NORC computing systems use two factor authentication. NORC staff must change their passwords on a regular basis to comply with security requirements.
- All NORC staff must pass annual trainings on data security and privacy.
- 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.

- Any data that could identify you is held by the project until the end of the contract and will be destroyed or transferred to a different contractor only at the request of OPRE. These data are used to answer important questions about how programs for workers in ECE are used

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?**

NSECE has a variety of resources available to verify the legitimacy of the study.

- 1 Visit us online at <http://nsece.norc.org> or at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/project/national-survey-early-care-and-education-2024>.
- 2 The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey 0970-0391. Without this number we could not conduct this survey.
- 3 Interviewers visiting in person will have a NORC badge with a hologram on the back.
- 4 Anyone may visit the web page below where the option 'How to Identify NORC Interviewers' allows them to type in the NORC interviewer's ID number to see a photograph of the interviewer: <http://www.norc.org/WorkingWithNORC/Pages/survey-participants.aspx>.