

Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Spring 2005/Summer 2006

Household Economic Studies

Issued August 2010

P70-121

INTRODUCTION

Parents in the labor force face numerous decisions when balancing their work

and home life. Including choosing the type of care to provide for their children while they work. Deciding which child care arrangement to use has become

CHILD CARE DEFINITIONS

The universe of respondents in the Survey of Income and Program Population (SIPP) child care module consists of adults who are the parents of children under 15 years old. In households where both parents are present, the mother is the *designated parent*. Questions on child care arrangements for each child are asked of the designated parent. If the mother is not available for an interview, the father of the child can give proxy responses for her. In single-parent families, the resident parent is the designated parent. If neither parent is in the household, the guardian is the designated parent. Designated parents include biological, step, and adoptive parents, or other relatives/nonrelatives acting as guardians in the absence of parents. In this report, unless otherwise noted, the term *parent* is used to refer to the designated parent.

Child care providers can be broadly classified as relatives or nonrelatives of children. *Relatives* include mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, *other relatives* are individuals such as aunts, uncles, and cousins. *Nonrelatives* include in-home babysitters, neighbors, friends, and other nonrelatives providing care in either the child's or the provider's home. Another subcategory

of nonrelative care is *family day care providers* who care for two or more children outside of the child's home. *Organized child care facilities* include day care or child care centers, nursery schools, preschools, and Head Start programs. Kindergarten/grade school is also included in the organized care total for children 0 to 4 years of age. To present a comprehensive view of the regular weekly experiences of children under 15 years old, this report also shows the incidence of children enrolled in school and enrichment activities (such as sports, lessons, clubs, and before- and after-school care programs), and the time children are in self-care situations. These later arrangements may not actually be interpreted or reported by parents as child care arrangements and hence, should not be used as measures of child-related activities or compared with other estimates of children's daily activities in other Census Bureau reports on child well-being. The child care questions are available on the Internet at <www.census.gov/lpp/topmod/2004/quests/2004w4tm.pdf>

For information on the number of children participating in extracurricular activities, regardless of their status as a child care arrangement, see Jane Lawler Dye and Taliese Johnson, *A Child's Day, 2003* (Selected Indicators of Child Wellbeing), U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P70-1109, Washington, DC, 2003.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

JUN 24 2011

Table 4.

Grade School-Aged Children in Types of Child Care Arrangements by Employment Status and Selected Characteristics of Mother: Spring 2005—Con.

(Percent of children)

Characteristic	Number of children (in thousands)	Relative care				Nonrelative care			Other arrangements			Other	
		Mother ¹	Father ¹	Grandparent	Sibling/other relative	Organized care facility ²	Non-relative in child's home	Non-relative in provider's home ³	School	Enrichment activity ⁴	Self-care	No regular child care ⁵	Multiple arrangements ⁶
MOTHER NOT EMPLOYED¹³	12,162	(NI)	(NI)	6.7	8.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	91.2	8.4	8.5	78.2	6.3
Race and Hispanic Origin													
White alone	9,517	(NI)	(NI)	6.0	7.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	90.3	8.7	8.7	79.5	5.9
Non-Hispanic	6,797	(NI)	(NI)	6.8	7.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	90.1	10.4	10.1	77.1	6.9
Black alone	1,686	(NI)	(NI)	11.2	12.2	2.3	1.5	2.8	94.7	8.1	7.6	69.6	9.1
Asian alone	561	(NI)	(NI)	5.7	5.7	—	(B)	—	94.2	6.9	7.5	84.1	5.0
Hispanic (any race)	2,868	(NI)	(NI)	3.9	7.1	(B)	(B)	(B)	90.7	4.5	5.0	85.2	3.5
Marital Status													
Married ¹⁰	9,123	(NI)	(NI)	4.7	7.1	1.2	1.0	(B)	90.6	9.0	7.9	80.7	5.7
Separated, divorced, widowed	1,705	(NI)	(NI)	12.5	10.8	2.0	1.4	3.1	93.5	8.1	12.3	70.2	8.1
Never married	1,334	(NI)	(NI)	12.4	11.3	1.8	2.2	2.6	92.8	5.2	8.2	71.6	8.1
Poverty Status¹¹													
In poverty	3,548	(NI)	(NI)	7.9	9.6	1.3	1.0	2.6	92.4	5.4	7.4	77.4	6.8
Not in poverty	8,087	(NI)	(NI)	6.3	7.3	1.4	1.3	(B)	90.6	10.0	9.1	78.4	6.3
Child's Age													
5 to 8 years	5,077	(NI)	(NI)	8.4	7.6	2.7	1.8	1.7	83.7	7.5	1.2	76.2	7.2
9 to 11 years	3,643	(NI)	(NI)	7.0	8.1	(B)	(B)	1.1	96.3	10.4	6.7	77.9	7.1
12 to 14 years	3,442	(NI)	(NI)	3.8	8.7	(B)	(B)	(B)	96.9	7.8	21.3	81.6	4.0

(—) Represents or rounds to zero. (NI) Not included, see footnote 1. (B) Base less than 75,000 or numerator too small for comparison.

¹ Care in parental arrangements was only calculated for the time the designated parent was working as an employee.² Includes care in day care centers, nursery or preschools, or federal Head Start programs.³ Includes care by a family care provider and other nonrelatives in the provider's home.⁴ Organized sports, lessons (such as music, art, dance, language, and computer), clubs, and before- or after-school programs located either at school or other locations.⁵ Also includes children only in school or only in self-care. For employed mothers, not having a regular arrangement during work hours may indicate instability in child care arrangements or difficulty in identifying what is regularly used. It does not necessarily indicate that no one looked after the child.⁶ Children in two or more child care arrangements, excluding school and self-care.⁷ Mother not present in the household so father is the designated parent. Child care arrangements are not shown by father's employment status due to small sample size.⁸ Mother present in the household, father may or may not be present. Mother is the designated parent.⁹ Includes mothers with wage and salary jobs and employment arrangements other than self-employed.¹⁰ Includes married spouse present and spouse absent (excluding separated).¹¹ Excludes those with missing income data.¹² Those who work 35 or more hours per week are considered working full-time.¹³ Includes children of mothers in school (834,000), mothers not in school and looking for work (1,793,000), and mothers not in school and not in the labor force (9,534,000).

Note: Numbers of children in specified arrangements may exceed the total because of multiple arrangements.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel Wave 4. For information on sampling and nonsampling error see <www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_W1toW12(S&A-9).pdf>.

those children who were identified as talking care of themselves by the designated parent.

Estimates of Self-Care

In spring 2005, 5.3 million (14 percent) of the 37.8 million grade

school-aged children living with a mother cared for themselves on a regular basis during a typical week in the month preceding the interview. Children are shown in Table 5 in two age groups that generally correspond to elementary and

middle school ages (5 to 11 years old and 12 to 14 years old). Among all children who lived with their mother and were in self-care, 74 percent were in the older age group. Within each age group, 5 percent of elementary school-aged children and