

Fact Sheet: Percent of All Non-Parental Child Care Hours by Type of Child Care

Sixty percent of U.S. children under 6 years of age are cared for regularly—at least once a week—by someone other than a parent.ⁱ The percent of children in regular, non-parental care is higher for older children (73% of preschool children age 3 to 5 years) than infants and toddlers (51% of children birth to 2 years).

This fact sheet details the child care arrangements of children birth through 5 years (B-5) and presents the proportion of all non-parental care hours spent in each of three types of care.

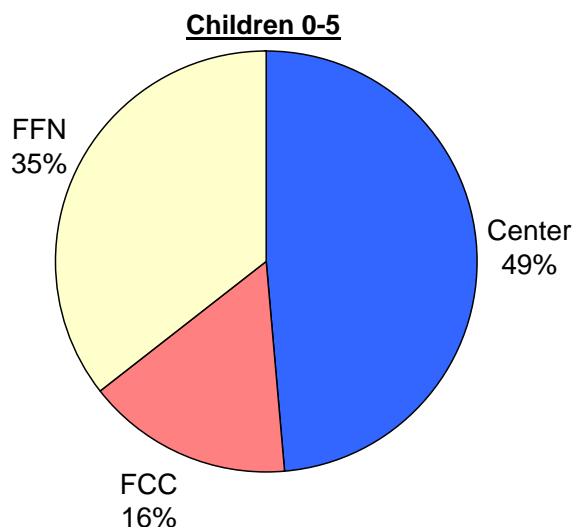
Center Care includes child care centers, day care centers, preschools, pre-kindergarten, and Head Start programs. **Thirty-six percent of all children B-5 are in center care for an average of 29 hours per week.**

Family Child Care (FCC) is paid care from a non-relative, outside the child's home. **Nine percent of all children are in FCC for 36 hours a week on average.**

Family, Friend & Neighbor Care (FFN) includes relative care; non-relative unpaid care outside the child's home; non-relative paid care inside the child's home (e.g., babysitters, nannies); and non-relative unpaid care inside the child's home. **Twenty-four percent of all children are in FFN care for an average of 31 hours a week.**

Figure 1 presents the percent of all non-parental care hours in each type of care.ⁱⁱ Almost half of all non-parental child care hours for children B-5 are spent in centers; more than a third in FFN care; and 16% in FCC.

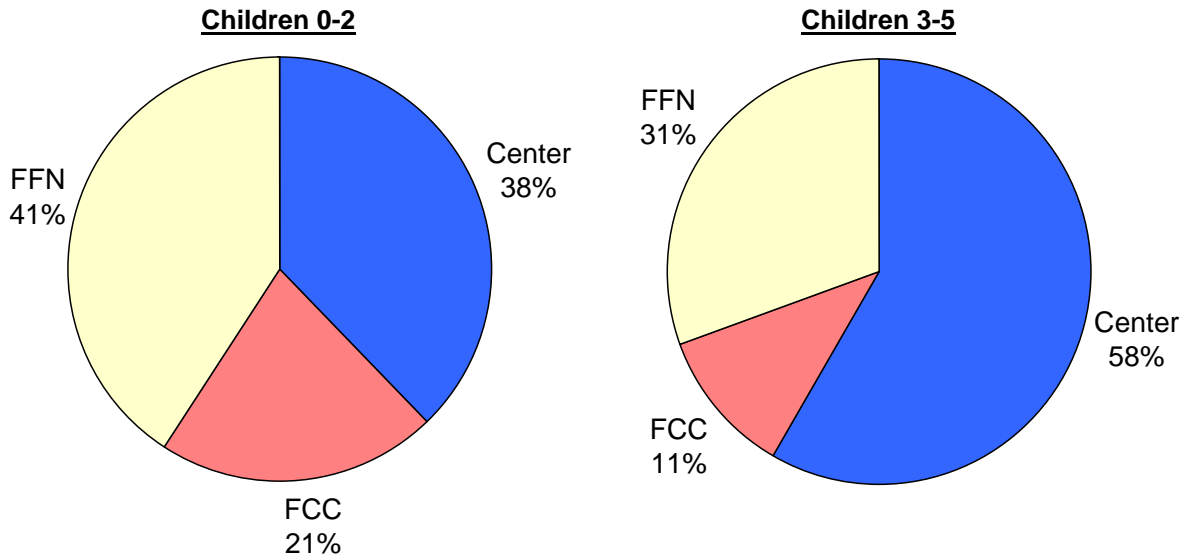
Figure 1. % of All Non-Parental Hours in Each Type of Care



Source: Early Childhood Program Participation Supplement, National Household Education Survey, 2005

Figure 2 illustrates the different patterns of child care use for younger and older children. For infants and toddlers, the highest proportion of non-parental hours (41%) is spent in family, friend, & neighbor care; with a slightly lower percentage (38%) in center care; and about one-fifth in family child care. For preschool children, a much greater proportion (58%) of non-parental care hours is spent in center care; followed by family, friend, & neighbor care (31%); and family child care (11%).

Figure 2. % of All Non-Parental Hours in Each Type of Care



Source: Early Childhood Program Participation Supplement, National Household Education Survey, 2005

ⁱ Early Childhood Program Participation Supplement, National Household Education Survey, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 2005

ⁱⁱ We calculated the percent of all non-parental care hours in each type of care by calculating the total number of child care hours in the population for each care type and dividing by all non-parental child care hours in the population.