Finding Research to Answer Child Care and Early Education Policy Questions: A Webinar for CCDF Lead Agencies

February 16, 2023

Webinar Series on

Building Your Data and Research Skills to Answer Policy Questions

OPRE Report # 2023-164

Housekeeping

- The webinar is being recorded; the recording and slides will be posted online.
- We have enabled closed captioning. Hide captions or adjust settings with the **Live Transcript** button at the bottom of your screen.
- We encourage your **questions** or **comments** in the chat box at any time:
  - Feel free to say hello, with name and place in the chat now.
- We'll take questions after each of our two presentations.
  - You are muted now; raise hand during closing discussion to be unmuted.

Child Care Research and Evaluation Capacity Building Center

Supported through the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and managed through a contract with the Urban Institute, in partnership with Mathematica

Alysia Blandon, OPRE Project Officer

Teresa Derrick-Mills, Project Director

Goal: Support CCDF Lead Agencies in building research and evaluation capacity

Activities:

- Building Child Care Research Capacity through web events and written materials

Speakers

Teresa Derrick-Mills,
director and principal
investigator,
Child Care Research and
Evaluation Capacity Building
Center

Karen Ruprecht,
project director,
Research Connections

Meg Bredeson,
research communications
specialist II,
Child Trends

Our Focus Today

Finding child care and early education research to answer Child Care and Development Fund policy questions:

1. how to use research connections
2. learn about short reads

As you listen,

- think about how your team could use these resources, and
- post questions and reflections in chat.

Using Research Connections to Help You Find Answers to Policy Questions

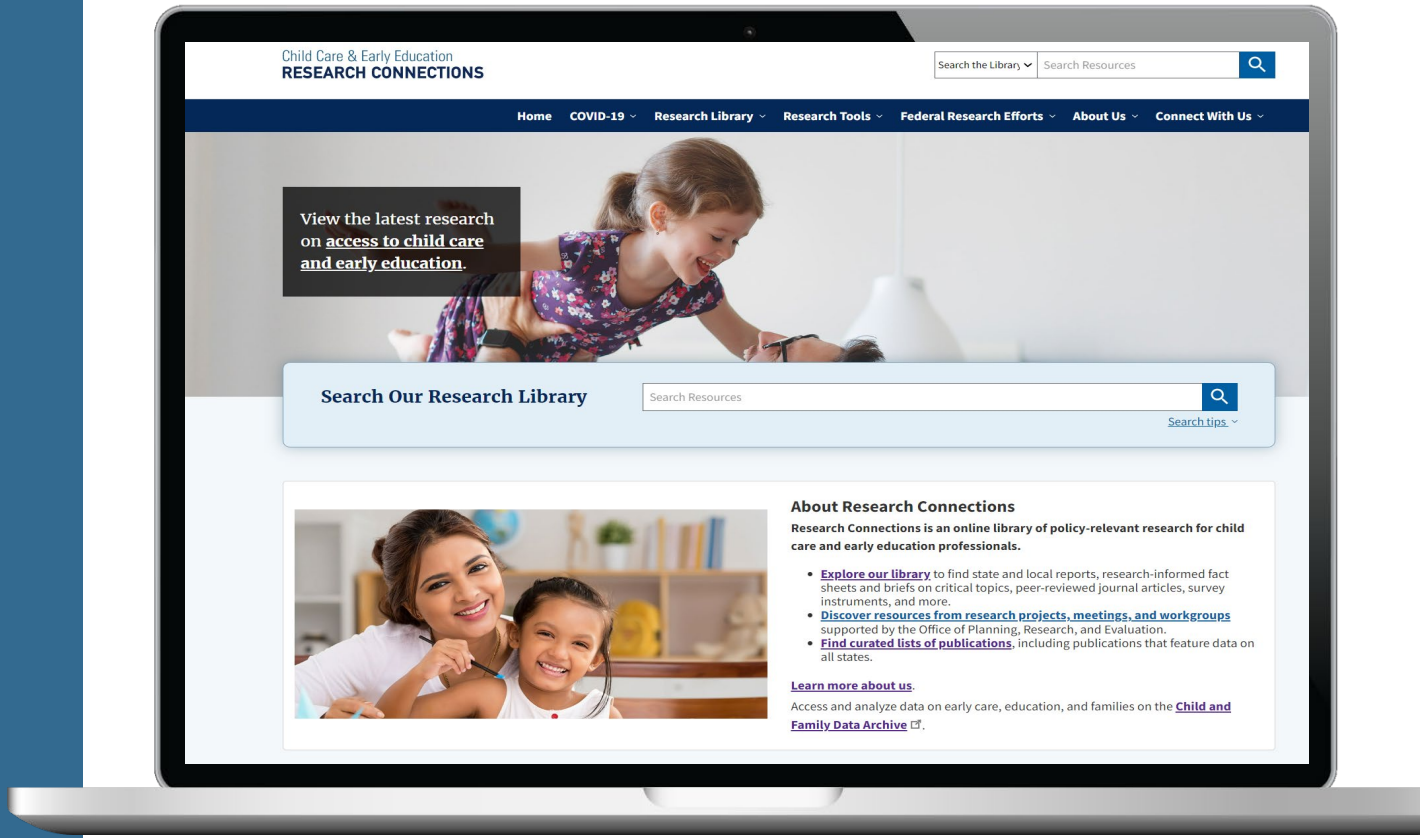
OPRE

Child Care & Early Education
RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Child Care & Early Education Research Connections

Research Connections is an online library database containing more than 39,000 child care and early education publications.

Most items are free to download.



How Can CCDF Leaders Use Research Connections?

Find research on a wide range of child care and early education topics, including CCDF topics.

Learn what other states are doing.

Ask a librarian to help you find the information you need.

What Resources Are Available on the Research Connections Website?

- The library contains peer reviewed research, survey instruments, and publicly available reports and briefs published by government agencies, and for-profit and nonprofit organizations.
- Resources cover information on:
  - Child care and early education (CCEE) experiences of children from birth through age 8 and school-age child care
  - CCEE settings
  - Child care workforce
  - National, state, and local child care and early education policies

How Is This Information Helpful to CCDF Lead Agencies?

- The Research Connections library is unique because its contents are specifically curated for CCEE. The topics are relevant to CCDF and easy to search.
- There are different filters you can use to find the information you need quickly.
- The website also has information that highlights research from other states.

How Can We Find Research from Other States?

- Find out what other states are doing in the Resources with Data from All States located on the navigation bar in the Research Library tab.

Resources With Data From All States

Research Connections includes many publications that compile information on all states (including the District of Columbia and, in some cases, United States territories). This may include, for example, data tables, state rankings, state profiles, and maps.

Explore the **full list** of publications with data on all states or view the most recent of these publications below.

Recently Added

Early childhood bill tracking database

Interactive Tools

Approved CCDF plans (FY 2019-2021)

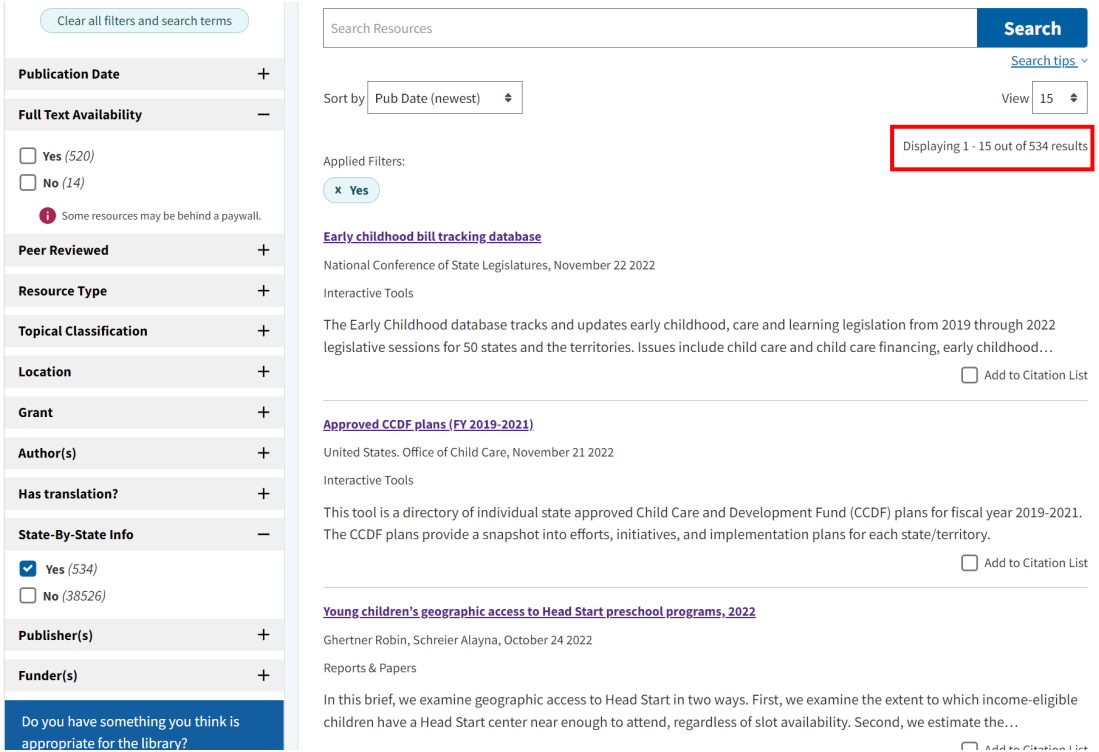
Interactive Tools

Young children's geographic access to Head Start preschool programs, 2022

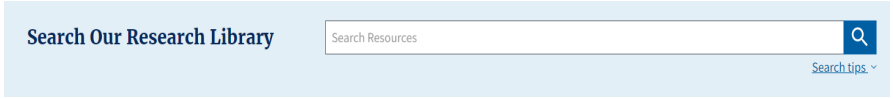
Reports & Papers

View All

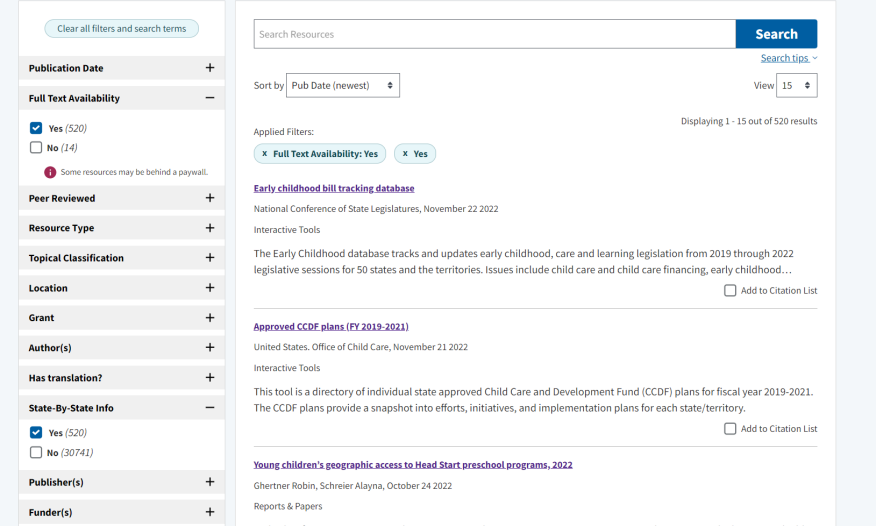
Search Results



Finding State Information

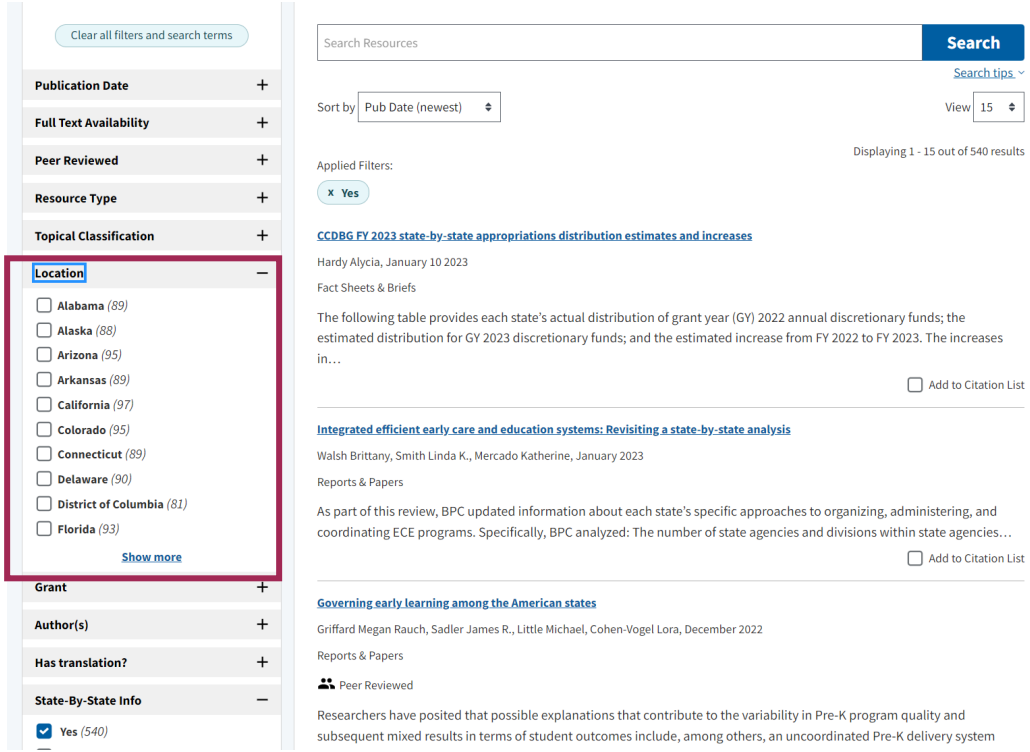


- Go to the “Search our Research Library” on the home page.
- Click on the magnifying glass.
- Using the filters, click on “yes” for full text availability and “yes” for state-by-state information.

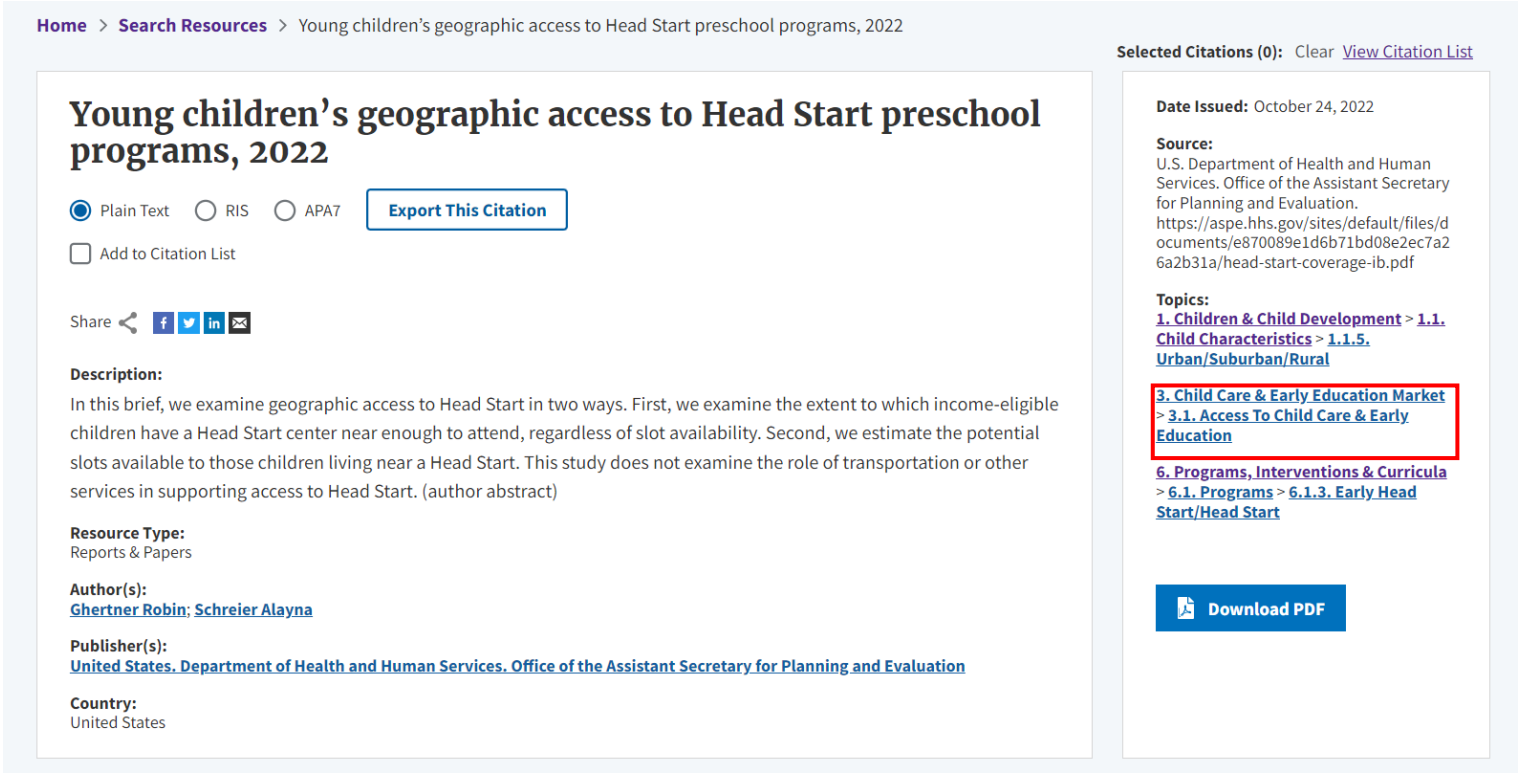


Finding Information on a Specific State

- You can also click on “Location” to find information from a specific state.



What Is the Information We See on Each Resource Record?



Home > Search Resources > Young children's geographic access to Head Start preschool programs, 2022

Selected Citations (0): Clear View Citation List

Young children's geographic access to Head Start preschool programs, 2022

Plain Text RIS APA7 Export This Citation

Add to Citation List

Share

Description:
In this brief, we examine geographic access to Head Start in two ways. First, we examine the extent to which income-eligible children have a Head Start center near enough to attend, regardless of slot availability. Second, we estimate the potential slots available to those children living near a Head Start. This study does not examine the role of transportation or other services in supporting access to Head Start. (author abstract)

Resource Type:
Reports & Papers

Author(s):
Ghertner Robin; Schreier Alayna

Publisher(s):
United States. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Country:
United States

Date Issued: October 24, 2022

Source:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/e870089e1d6b71bd08e2ec7a26a2b31a/head-start-coverage-ib.pdf

Topics:
1. Children & Child Development > 1.1. Child Characteristics > 1.1.5. Urban/Suburban/Rural

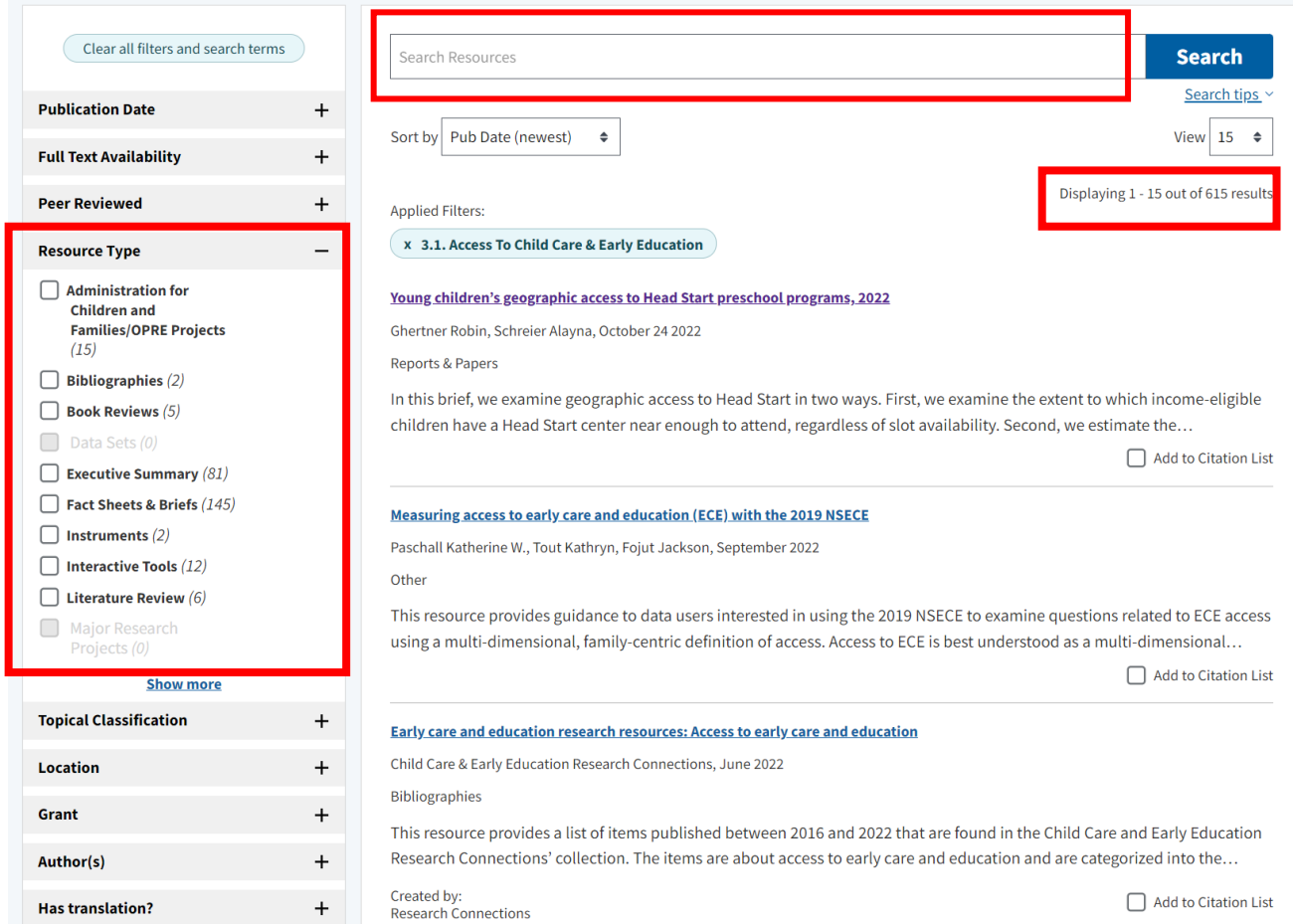
3. Child Care & Early Education Market > 3.1. Access To Child Care & Early Education

6. Programs, Interventions & Curricula > 6.1. Programs > 6.1.3. Early Head Start/Head Start

Download PDF

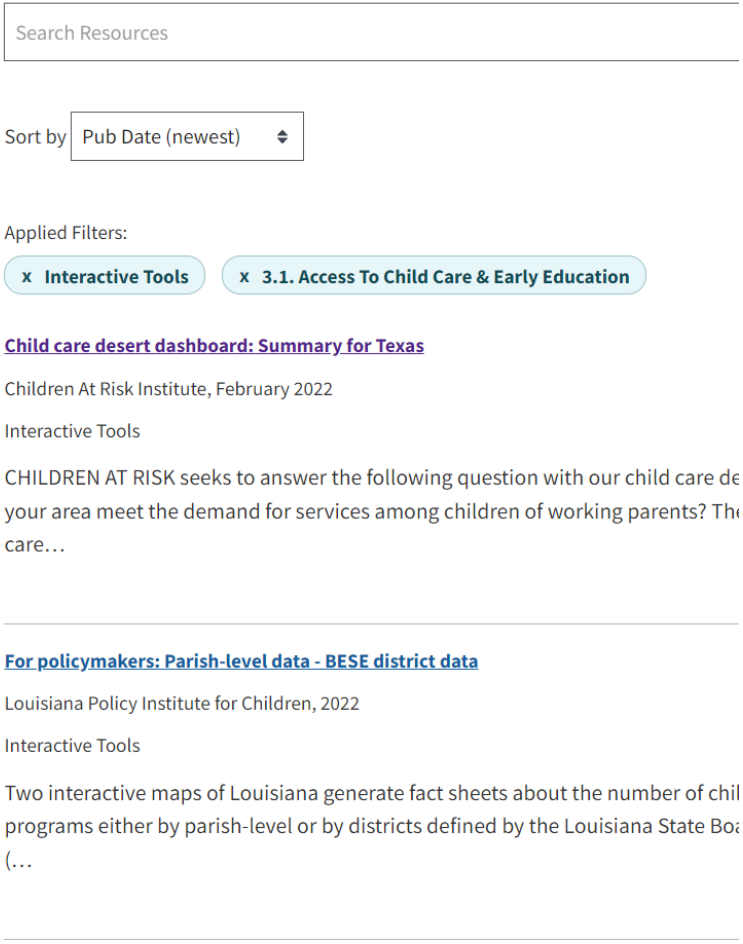
Search Results for Access to Child Care & Early Education

- This search produced 615 results.
- Notice the different resource types that are displayed.
- You can filter these results further by typing another term in the search bar.



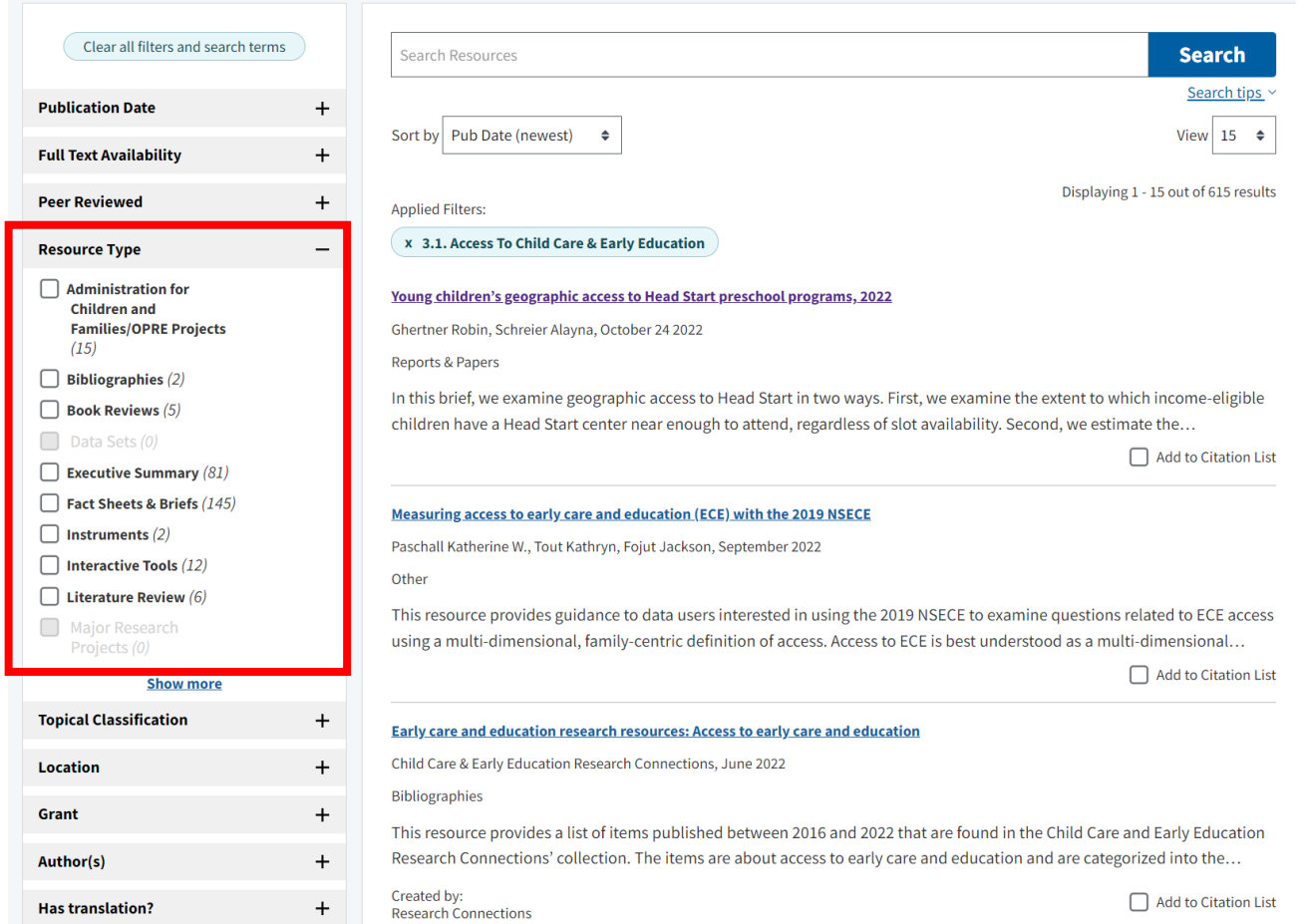
Interactive Tools Resource Type

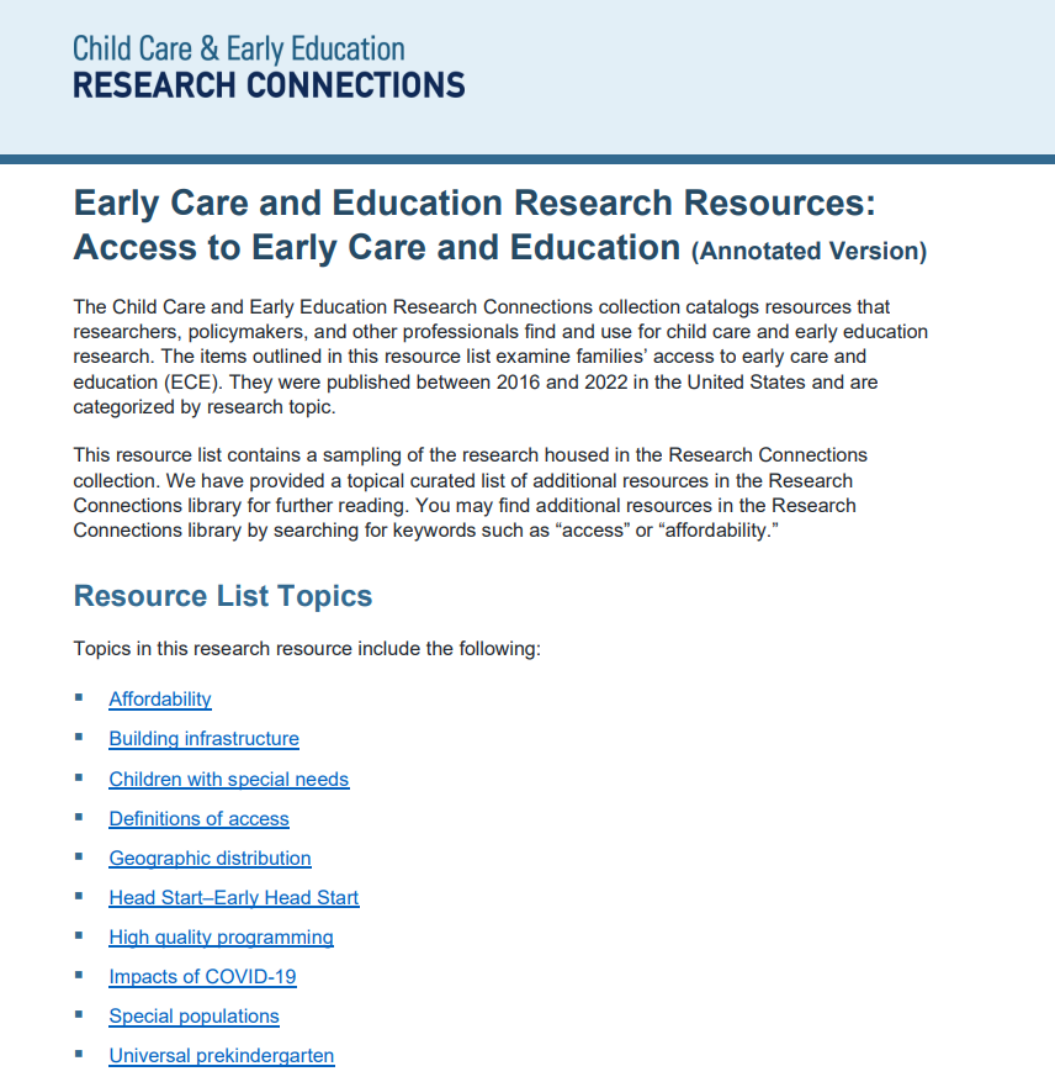
- This filter shows resources that have an interactive feature, such as a map or dashboard.
- We are adding to this resource type daily, so check back for more resources!



Search Results for Access to Child Care & Early Education

- Notice the different resource types that are displayed.
- You can check a certain resource type to further refine your search.





Early Care and Education Research Resources: Access to Early Care and Education (Annotated Version)

The Child Care and Early Education Research Connections collection catalogs resources that researchers, policymakers, and other professionals find and use for child care and early education research. The items outlined in this resource list examine families' access to early care and education (ECE). They were published between 2016 and 2022 in the United States and are categorized by research topic.

This resource list contains a sampling of the research housed in the Research Connections collection. We have provided a topical curated list of additional resources in the Research Connections library for further reading. You may find additional resources in the Research Connections library by searching for keywords such as "access" or "affordability."

Resource List Topics

Topics in this research resource include the following:

- Affordability
- Building infrastructure
- Children with special needs
- Definitions of access
- Geographic distribution
- Head Start–Early Head Start
- High quality programming
- Impacts of COVID-19
- Special populations
- Universal prekindergarten

Child Care & Early Education
RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Bibliographies

- Research Connections publishes research resources on topics of interest to the field.
- These resources include a sample of research in the database and are organized by topic to help users find information quicker.

How Do We Find the Bibliographies?

Finding Resources on Access Using the Browse Our Topic Feature

Librarians' Picks

Improving knowledge and attitudes about child trauma among parents and staff in Head Start programs
November 2022

Assistant teachers, workplace satisfaction, and the creation of a culturally competent workforce pipeline in Head Start
October 2022

Making sense of childcare instability among families with low incomes: (Un)desired and (un)planned reasons for changing childcare arrangements
August 2022

View All >>

Announcements

November Research Connections News & Resources Newsletter
November 17, 2022

October Research Connections News & Resources Newsletter
October 18, 2022

September Research Connections News & Resources Newsletter
September 14, 2022

View All >>

Browse Our Topics

View All Topics and Definitions

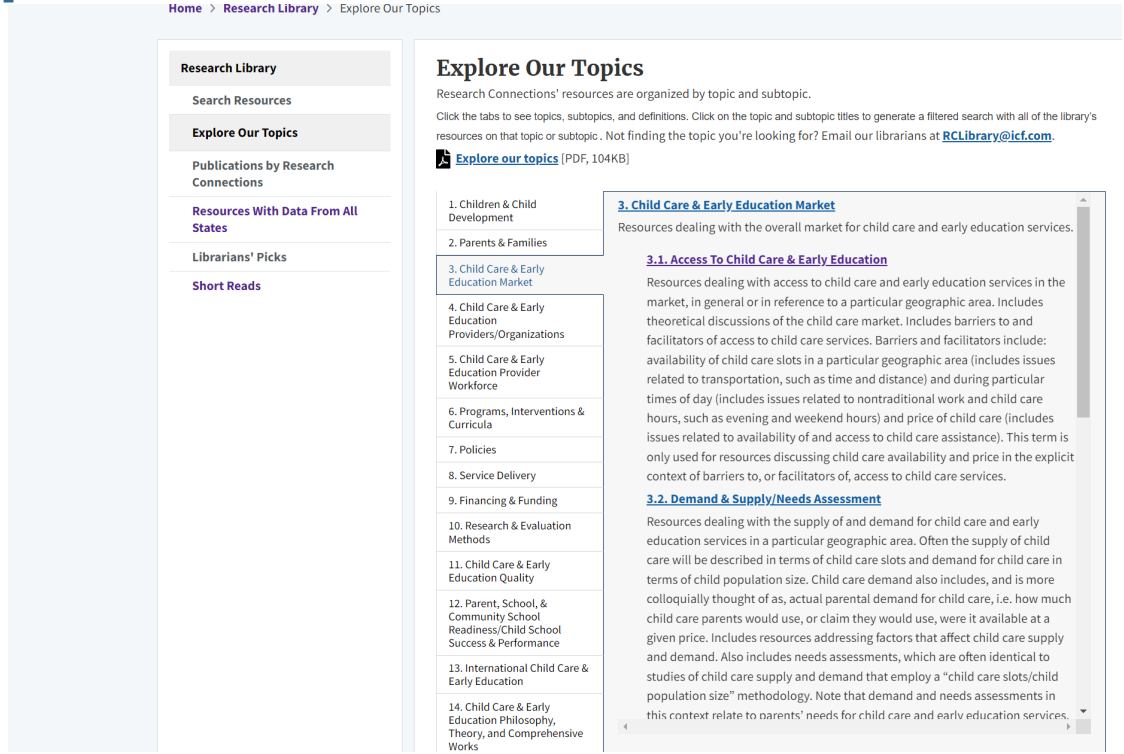
Select a topic

3. Child Care & Early Education Market

3.1. Access To Child Care & Early Education

Apply

Access to Child Care Using Explore Our Topics



Need help?
Ask a librarian!

Research Connections librarians can help you find what you need. Connect with us at:

RCLibrary@icf.com

What Other Tools Might Be Helpful to CCDF Lead Agencies?

- Use the Browse Our Topics to find other information related to CCDF.
- Check out the user guide for CCDF Lead Agencies: "Answering Policy Questions with Research Connections."
- Use the Short Reads feature!

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RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Research Connections News and Resources

November 2022

Stay connected to Research Connections!

- Sign up for the monthly newsletter
- Follow us on social media
  - Facebook - @CCEEResearchConnections
  - LinkedIn
  - Twitter: @ECE_Research

Acknowledgment

This project is supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (US) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award (Grant #: 90YE250) totaling $3,953,308 with 100 percent funded by ACF/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the US Government. For more information, please visit the ACF website, Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

Questions and Reflections

We welcome your **questions, reflections,** or **comments.**

Drop them in the chat or raise hand to be unmuted.

We would love to hear from all, especially CCDF Lead Agency staff!

Short Reads

Meg Bredeson | Child Trends

CCEEPRA
Child Care and Early Education Policy and Research Analysis

The Challenge:
It can be time consuming and difficult to understand research. And it can be hard to apply to real life.

The Opportunity:
Short, easy-to-use research products can help state leaders make research-informed decisions that support children and families.

What Are Short Reads?

- Short research summaries
- Cover relevant and timely topics
- Present information in various formats
- Have actionable considerations
- Vetted by experts
- Apply an equity lens

What CCEE Topics Are Covered?

Available now:

- defining and measuring families' access to CCEE
- families' search for CCEE
- barriers and solutions for interstate background checks

What CCEE Topics Are Covered?

Coming soon:

- trauma-informed approaches for CCEE systems
- analyzing access to CCEE
- family voices on CCEE access (video)
- professional development for the infant/toddler care workforce
- summaries from the 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education (slide decks)
- … and more!

Chat Question:

What topics or questions would you like addressed in a Short Read?

Where Can I Find Short Reads?

Short Reads Example: Research Highlight

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Defining and Measuring Access to Child Care and Early Education with Families in Mind

Katherine Paschall, Kelly Maxwell

Key Findings

- Child care and early education[a] (CCEE) access is multi-dimensional and best understood from the perspective of families. The four dimensions of CCEE access are: 1) reasonable effort to find care, 2) affordability of care, 3) care that supports the child's development, and 4) care that meets parents' needs.
- CCEE leaders who use a multi-dimensional definition of access that is centered on families may be better able to develop policies that support a variety of CCEE programs to meet the needs, preferences, and constraints of local families.

Introduction

What does access to child care and early education mean? Access is often measured in terms of supply (i.e., capacity) of licensed child care and early education (CCEE) centers and family child care (FCC) homes. Sometimes it is measured by counting the number of families who use different types of CCEE. In other cases, calculations are made based on the number of CCEE slots relative to the number of children in a given area. These metrics assume that a large supply of or high use of CCEE means it is accessible to families.

Recent research[1] shows that these types of calculations overestimate families' access to CCEE because they do not account for what families search for, prefer, and need. For example, some families prefer providers who speak Spanish or another language spoken at home, and some need care during the evenings. The Access Guidebook[2] introduced a definition of access that is centered on families[b] and acknowledges four dimensions that families consider when choosing CCEE:

[a] We use the term child care and early education to acknowledge both the care and education aspects of programs for young children, birth to five, as well as programs providing before- or after-school services for school-age children, birth through age 13.
[b] The access definition refers only to parents, but this publication uses the term families to reflect a more inclusive view of household CCEE needs and decision making.

CCEEPRA
Child Care and Early Education Policy and Research Analysis

The information in this publication was drawn from two sources:

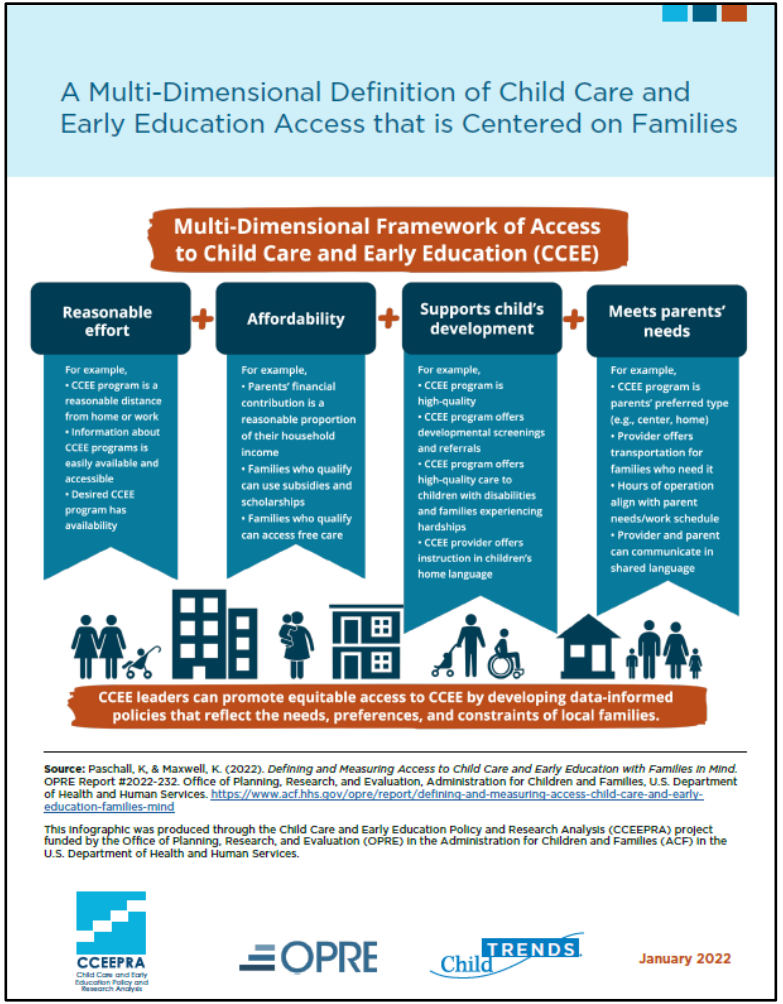
Defining and Measuring Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education (ECE): A Guidebook for Policymakers and Researchers
Referred to as the Access Guidebook, this report details the four dimensions of the access definition and indicators and data sources for each dimension.

Measuring and Comparing Multiple Dimensions of Early Care and Education Access

This report details the first application of the access definition to national data. Findings suggested that traditional methods of estimating access, including number of children for every available child care slot, underestimate the challenges families face finding care that meets their needs; this was especially true for low-income families and families with infants and toddlers.

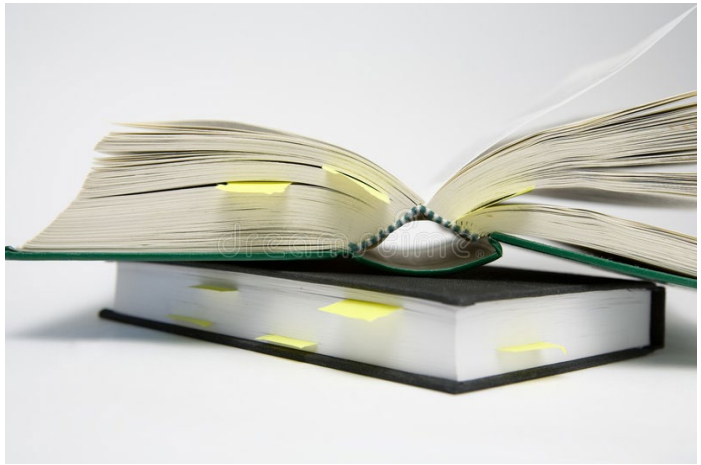
OPRE Report #2021-232 | January 2022

Short Reads Example: Infographic



Poll Question:

In what format do you like to learn about research?



More Short Reads coming soon!

Acknowledgements

The Research Translation work is part of a larger contract, The Child Care and Early Education Policy Research and Analysis (CCEEPRA), that is managed by Child Trends.
CCEEPRA is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services,
with funds set aside for research in the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act.
Contracting Officers Representative: Ivelisse Martinez-Beck
Project Officers: Tracy Carter Clopet and Shannon Warren

The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, the Administration for Children and Families or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Questions and Reflections

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Drop them in the chat or raise hand to be unmuted.

We would love to hear from all, especially CCDF Lead Agency staff!

Resources

Check out the Research Connections website and the Short Reads page.

Check out the OPRE website for slides, audio recordings, and transcripts of webinars (posted a few months after each webinar).

Check out the Building Child Care Research Capacity web page for slides from past webinars and other resources.

If you have questions, feel free to email Teresa Derrick-Mills at TDerrick-Mills@urban.org

Resources Shared in Chat During Webinar

- Building Child Care Research Capacity web page
- Research Connections website
- Resources with Data from All States on Research Connections
- Interactive Tools Resource Type on Research Connections
- Early Care and Education Research Resources on Research Connections
- Connect with Research Connections librarians at RCLibrary@icf.com
- Answering Policy Questions with Research Connections resource
- Research Connections newsletter
- Research Connections Facebook page
- Research Connections Twitter page
- Administrative and National Policy Requirements (from Research Connections acknowledgments slide)

Resources Shared in Chat During Webinar (cont.)

- The Short Reads page on the Research Connections website
- OPRE website