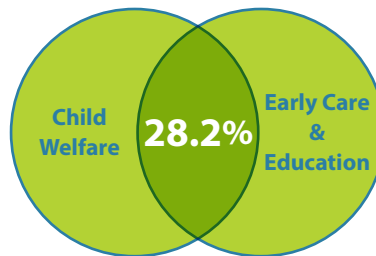# Linking Data to Inform Policy for Vulnerable Children

Do children in the **Child Welfare** system have access to quality **Early Care and Education (ECE)** programs?
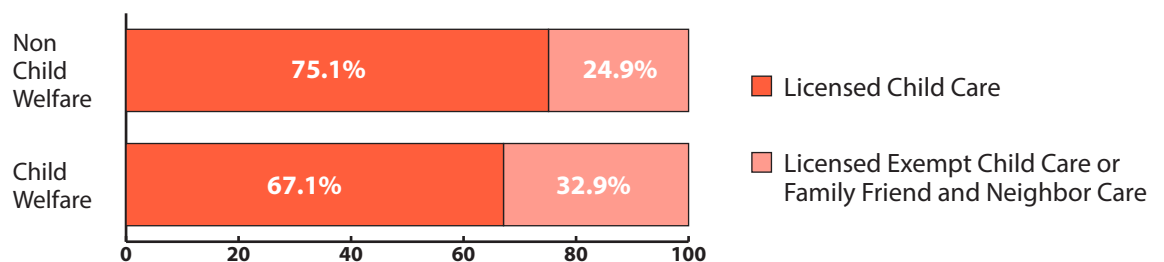

To determine the extent of overlap between children who participate in ECE programs and those who are known to Child Welfare, Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) recently partnered with the Children's Data Network.

Of the 20,049 children age 0-5 years old born after 1/1/06 and enrolled in a CCRC voucher-based or Head Start program between 2011-2014, they found that 5,652 or **greater than 1 in 4 (28.2%) children in ECE settings were involved with the Child Welfare system**.

Child Welfare — **28.2%** — Early Care & Education

They also found that children known to Child Welfare are more likely to be in **non-licensed child care, also known as Family Friend and Neighbor Care**.
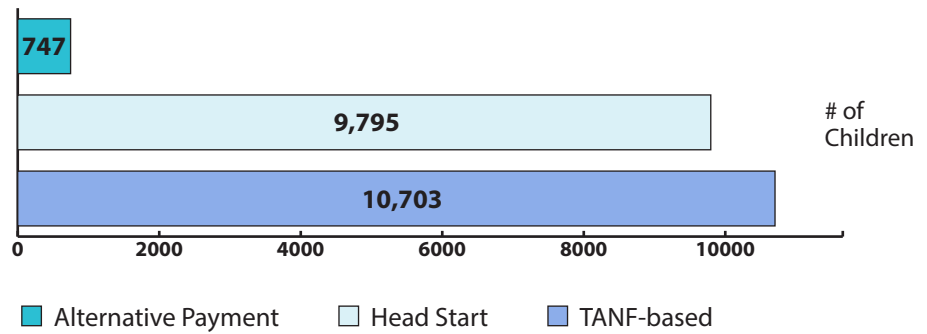

	Licensed Child Care	Licensed Exempt Child Care or Family Friend and Neighbor Care
Non Child Welfare	75.1%	24.9%
Child Welfare	67.1%	32.9%

Of the children known to both systems:

➡ Greater than 1 in 3 (35.6%) were served concurrently (some amount of overlap)

➡ 3 out of 4 children had ECE experience prior to involvement with Child Welfare

➡ 1 out of 4 children had contact with Child Welfare prior to experience with ECE

Percent of Children in Each Funding Stream Who are Also Served by Child Welfare

More than 1 in 5 children in Head Start and more than 1 in 3 children in TANF-based child care are known to Child Welfare. Although greater than 1 in 4 children in Alternative Payment programs are known to child welfare, these numbers are strikingly small compared to the numbers served in TANF-based child care and Head Start.

747

9,795

10,703

# of Children

0   2000   4000   6000   8000   10000

☐ Alternative Payment   ☐ Head Start   ☐ TANF-based

What does this mean?

We know that early trauma can have long-term negative consequences for brain, cognitive and social development and that high quality early care can help mitigate the effects of child maltreatment.

This initial research illustrates the need for more effective collaboration between and across systems in all of Los Angeles County.

Obtaining access (through secure methods) to relevant ECE data for all of Los Angeles County would increase our collective ability to identify service gaps and strategic design of appropriate policies and programs.

For example, biological and resource parents may have a need for full-time care due to employment, and voucher-based programs may serve this need. However, given the need for a wider variety of services, Head Start may be the best option for children but may not be a good fit for parents who work full-time. A child care navigator could help parents assess the best situation for their needs as well as their eligibility.

Children's Data Network

Child Care Resource Center™
Quality · Support · Development · Education

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Giving kids the best start