

Description of the Center's Programmatic Areas

- **Early care and education.** Research in this area seeks to advance the field's understanding of low-income Hispanic families' access to, and utilization of, early care and education (ECE) services, which includes using data from the National Survey of Early Care and Education to describe ECE use among infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; ECE cost and affordability; predictors of quality of care; characteristics of the ECE workforce serving Hispanic children; and the intersection of ECE and parents' work. We are currently conducting a mixed-methods study of the implementation of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) across several states, and how variation in policy and practices may shape Hispanic families' use of CCDF subsidies to support child care utilization. The goal of research in this area is to improve the quality of ECE services and coordination across ECE systems to support early learning for the heterogeneous population of Hispanic children and to increase access to and promote informed ECE choices among Hispanic parents. Click [here](#) for publications and resources in this area.
- **Poverty reduction and self-sufficiency.** Research in this area aims to advance the field's understanding of the socioeconomic context of Hispanic children and families by describing Hispanic families' economic well-being, including parents' employment and job characteristics; the level of poverty experienced by Hispanic families; income (in)stability; families' use of public assistance programs; and variation in how states design and implement social policies like the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) that intend to help families move out of poverty. Projects in this area have drawn from large, nationally representative data, including the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), and the American Community Survey (ACS), as well as qualitative reviews of state policies. The goal of research in this area is to learn how programs and policies can promote Hispanic families' socioeconomic mobility and economic self-sufficiency. Click [here](#) to see our publications and resources in this area.
- **Cross-cutting topics.** Research in this area leverages the multi-disciplinary nature of our work and team to examine cross-cutting, emerging issues related to the Administration for Children and Families' programmatic and policy priorities. Cross-cutting topics examine the intersection of family economics, family structure, and early care and education that have implications across research and program priorities. Examples of projects in this area include statistical profiles describing variability in the experience of poverty among Hispanic children across key features of Hispanic diversity (e.g., parents' country of heritage, parental nativity status, household English language proficiency), the educational profiles of Hispanic children's parents, and the mental health status of Hispanic parents. Other topics of interest in this area include the effect of COVID-19 on Hispanic families, housing, and food insecurity.