

Child Care Subsidies											
Title	Author(s)	Year	Publication Source	Sample Size (N)	Sample Composition	Data Source	Independent Variable(s)	Dependent Variable(s)	Summary of Findings	Limitations to Causal Inference	Exclusion Criteria
Child care subsidy, child care costs, and employment of low-income single mothers	Ahn, H.	2012	Children and Youth Services Review	7,891	Single mothers ages 16 to 54 with a child under 18, with average family income below 200% of the federal poverty level	1993, 1996, & 2001 Survey of Income and Program Participation panels	• Subsidy receipt	• Using paid care • Total cost of care • Maternal employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that child care costs increased after 1996 welfare reform when employment status was controlled • The study also found that subsidy receipt predicted an increase in the likelihood of using paid care (when employment was controlled) • Also predicted an increase in the probability of employment 		Does not disaggregate based on child age
School readiness among low-income, Latino children attending family childcare versus centre-based care	Ansari, A. & Winsler, A.	2011	Early Child Development and Care	5,254	Latino children whose families received subsidies for the child to attend either family childcare or center-based care in the community; number of observations varies by outcome metric (maximum 5,155 in center-based care and 99 in family childcare)	Miami School Readiness Project (MSRP): 2002–2007	• Type of child care	• Children's skills and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that children in center-based care improved over time in cognitive, language, and social skills • Children in family child care settings did not gain in these areas over time • Overall, the findings suggest that Latino children may benefit from center-based care to a greater degree than family child care settings 	Not experimental or quasi-experimental design, no comparison group	
Child care subsidy and program quality revised	Antle, B.F., Frey, A., Barbee, A., Frey, S., Grisham-Brown, J. & Cox, M.	2008	Early Education and Development	91	Stratified sample with participants across different geographic regions in the state, 47 infant/toddler classrooms & 44 preschool classrooms	Observations of 10 child care centers in Kentucky	• Subsidy density	• Child care quality (Scales such as ITERS-R, ECERS-R, & ELLCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that subsidy density (proportion of children in a child care setting who received subsidies) did not predict quality in infant/toddler classrooms • Subsidy density was predictive of quality in preschool classrooms • The study found that subsidy density explained up to one third of the variance in language and literacy scores for preschoolers • However, teacher salary was the strongest predictor of quality in infant/toddler classrooms 	Small sample size, limited to one state	
Child care policy reform and the employment of single mothers	Bainbridge, J., Meyers, M.K. & Waldfogel, J.	2003	Social Science Quarterly	52,847	Single mothers with and without children under the age of 13	1992 - 1997 March Current Population Survey	• Subsidy receipt	• Maternal employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that an increase in average state spending on all subsidies per single woman with a child under 13 was associated with an increase in women's employment. • For families receiving welfare, the subsidy predicted an increase in the probability of employment • Overall, the study estimated that the expansion of the Child Care and Development Block Grant would increase employment 		Effects not disaggregated for infants/toddlers
A dynamic analysis of the effect of child care costs on the work decisions of low-income mothers with infants	Baum, C.L.	2002	Demography	2,801	Women age 14-21 in 1979 from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth who gave birth 1988–1994; subsample of 694 mothers in poverty with infants	1988 -1994 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth	• Child care costs • Subsidy covering 30% of the cost	• Maternal employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that higher child care costs predicted lower maternal employment • A subsidy covering 30% of child care costs predicted higher maternal employment 		Data are prior to 1996 welfare reform

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Child care subsidies, quality of care, and the labor supply of low-income, single mothers	Berger, M.C. & Black, D.A.	1992	The Review of Economics and Statistics	527	Participants (77) and waitlisted individuals (70) in Louisville 4C day care subsidy program and participants (130) and waitlisted individuals (250) in the Kentucky Title XX subsidy program	Telephone surveys (July/August 1989) in Kentucky, and administrative records	• Subsidy receipt	• Parental employment • Parental satisfaction with care • Hours worked	• The study found that single mothers who received child care subsidies were more likely to be employed and satisfied with the care their children received (versus those on the waiting list). • Null effects on hours worked		Data are prior to 1996 welfare reform
Care or cash? The effect of child care subsidies on student [performance	Black, S.E., Devereux, P.J., Løken, K.V. & Salvanes, K.G.	2014	The Review of Economics and Statistics	367,836	Norwegian families with birth cohorts from 1986 to 1992	Administrative data covering the entire population of Norway	• Subsidy receipt	• Children's academic outcomes	• The study found significant positive effects of subsidy use at age 5 on children's later academic performance in junior high school		Only Norway, age 5 - no infants/toddlers
The demand for quality in child care	Blau, D.M. & Hagy, A.P.	1998	Journal of Political Economy	2,426	Households in which the youngest child is less than 7 years old and is not enrolled in school without missing data	National Child Care Survey (NCCS), Profile of Child Care Settings; both conducted Oct. 1989 - May 1990	• Child care costs • Income	• Primary child care arrangement	• The study found that a decrease in the price of child care was associated with a higher quantity of child care demanded but not higher quality child care used		Does not examine subsidy receipt; data prior to welfare reform
Fertility, employment, and child-care costs	Blau, D.M. & Robins, P.K.	1989	Demography	15,110	6,170 employed married women and 8,940 unemployed married women	1980 baseline household survey of the Employment Opportunity Pilot Projects	• Child care costs • Subsidy amount	• Employment • Fertility decisions	• The study found that each dollar increase in the average weekly cost of child care increased the rate of leaving employment • Increase in weekly cost of child care also associated with a decrease in unemployed women entering the workforce		Not disaggregated by child age; prior to welfare reform; admits subsidy amount is subject to significant measurement error
The determinants and consequences of child care subsidies for single mothers in the USA	Blau, D. & Tekin, E.	2007	Journal of Population Economics (Also NBER working paper in 2004)	2,461	All households headed by an unmarried mother with at least one child under age 13 in 12 states (with counties with a population over 250,000)	1999 National Survey of America's Families dataset, oversampled states	• Subsidy receipt	• Maternal employment • School attendance • Unemployment • Welfare participation	• The study found that subsidy receipt increased employment for single mothers • The study found no significant effects of subsidy receipt on mothers' educational attainment or welfare receipt		Does not disaggregate based on child age
Impacts of child care subsidies on family and child well-being	Brooks, F.	2002	Early Childhood Research Quarterly	102	Families receiving child care subsidies under the guidelines for working poor families, with preschool children aged 3-5	Data from the Department of Family and Children Services for all families in the two counties who were receiving child care subsidies under the guidelines for working poor families and waitlist	• Subsidy receipt	• Parental employment • Income spent on child care • Family poverty • Parental satisfaction with care • Type of care • Care stability • Ease of finding care • Child health • Cognitive and socioemotional development	• The study found that mothers receiving subsidies were more likely to be employed • Mothers receiving subsidies spent half as much of their income on child care as non-recipients • Also were less likely to be very poor • And were more likely to be satisfied with their child's care • Children were also more likely to be in a formal licensed child care center and have more stable care • No significant findings on child health or cognitive or socioemotional development	Small sample size, cross-sectional	Children 3-5 (no infants and toddlers)

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Child care subsidies and employment behavior among very-low-income populations in three states	Cochi Ficano, C.K., Gennetian, L.A. & Morris, P.A.	2006	Review of Policy Research	1,484	Single parents (including those who were separated or married and living apart) with children <18	1994 to 1998 quarterly administrative data from evaluations of welfare reform from Connecticut, Florida, Minnesota (unemployment insurance records, welfare records, child care subsidy records, and baseline information forms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted subsidy use • Actual subsidy use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental employment • Time to employment from unemployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that use of a child care subsidy was associated with a reduction in the time to finding employment in Connecticut and Florida during periods of parental welfare receipt • The study found that the positive effect of subsidies on finding employment was strongest for those with the lowest earnings before subsidy receipt 		Does not disaggregate based on child age
The effect of child care costs on the employment and welfare recipients of single mothers	Connelly, R. & Kimmel, J.	2003	Southern Economic Journal	1,523	Single mothers with children age five or younger	1992 and 1993 SIPP panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care costs • Subsidy receipt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that subsidies of 50% of the cost of child care increased maternal employment • Subsidies also reduced welfare reciprocity (AFDC) 		Data prior to welfare reform
The impact of child care on single mothers' work effort	Crawford, A.	2006	Review of Policy Research	451	Mothers with children under 5 receiving a child care subsidy (subsampling of single mothers)	2002 National Survey of America's Families (NSAF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidy receipt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that child care subsidies increased the likelihood of maternal employment and full-time employment • Single mothers receiving subsidies worked more hours per week than those who did not receive a subsidy 		Does not disaggregate for infants/toddlers
Child care assistance policies can affect the use of center-based care for children in low-income families	Crosby, D.A., Gennetian, L. & Huston, A.C.	2005	Applied Developmental Science	12,000	13 welfare and employment programs - children aged 3 to 9 (5-12 at follow-up)	7 experimental evaluation studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare • Employment • Childcare assistance programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of care • Duration of care • Stability of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that more generous or comprehensive child care assistance programs led to increased use of center-based care for all age groups • However, the results were most consistent across the sampled studies for pre-K children rather than infants and toddlers 	Comparing assistance programs with and without explicit childcare subsidy components	Children 3-5 (no infants and toddlers)
Childcare subsidies and the transition from welfare to work	Danziger, S.K., Ananat, E.O. & Browning, K.G.	2004	Family Relations	529	Single mothers ages 18-54 who had at least one child <age 14, income-eligible for Michigan subsidies	Women's Employment Study (WES)/face-to-face interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidy receipt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of care • Parenting stress • Problems with care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that subsidy receipt significantly predicted earnings and employment duration for women who have received welfare • Fewer subsidy users stopped using care in the past year compared to those without a subsidy • Null for parenting stress, problems with care, working disruptions 		

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Rural-urban differences in child care subsidy use and employment stability	Davis, E.E. Grobe, D. & Weber, R.B.	2010	Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy	27,628	Single-parent families with at least one child who entered the child care subsidy program between October 1998 and September 2000	Five Oregon state data systems: child care subsidy program data, Unemployment Insurance wage data, TANF program data, Food Stamp Program data, and the Client Maintenance System (10/1997-9/2001)	• County types	• Subsidy receipt	• The study found that families in rural counties exited the subsidy program at a higher rate even after controlling for demographic, economic, and policy factors	One state - no experimental or quasi-experimental design (and did not examine program impacts)	
Do child care subsidies increase employment among low-income parents?	Davis, E.E., Carlin, C., Krafft, C. & Forry, N.D.	2018	Journal of Family and Economic Issues	780	Low-income families with young children who were likely to be eligible for child care subsidies	Longitudinal parent survey conducted as part of the Minnesota Child Care Choices study, administrative data on subsidy receipt	• Subsidy receipt	• Parent employment	• The study found that subsidy receipt increased the likelihood of parental employment and full-time employment	No comparison group	
Effects of the CCDF subsidy program on the employment outcomes of low income mothers	Enchautegui, M.E., Chien, N., Burgess, K. & Ghertner, R.	2016	United States Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation	238,030	Women ages 18-45 whose family income was at most 85 percent of the state median income and had children 0-12, compared to those who did not have children 0-12	2003-2012 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement; CCDF expenditures	• CCDF expenditures per child 0-12	• Maternal employment	• The study found that higher subsidy expenditures increased women's employment rates		
Child care subsidies and care arrangements of low-income parents	Ertas, N. & Shields, S.	2011	Children and Youth Services Review	7,209	Parents with children not yet enrolled in Kindergarten (3,855 ages 0-2, 3,354 ages 3-6)	2005 National Household Education Survey, Early Childhood Program Participation survey	• Subsidy receipt	• Type of care	• The study found that subsidy receipt predicted use of center-based care rather than parental care	Cross-sectional study, not causal	

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The impact of child care subsidies on low-income single parents: An examination of child care expenditures and family finances	Forry, N.D.	2009	Journal of Family and Economic Issues	44 in WL 141 in FFCWB	Low-income single parents (Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing data set - FFCWB: single mothers with a single child) who were eligible for a child care subsidy; Wait list sample (54 observations no subsidy, 44 observations post-subsidy) and Fragile Families sample (499 no subsidy, 141 subsidy)	Wait List study and the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being study	• Subsidy receipt	• Child care costs • Family finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that subsidies reduced family child care costs by a small but statistically significant amount Half of the parents receiving a subsidy reported better financial well-being with the subsidy 	Small sample size; primarily a descriptive analysis	
Maintaining work: The influence of child care subsidies on child care-related work disruptions	Forry, N.D. & Hofferth, S.L.	2011	Journal of Family Issues	44 in WL 117 in FFCWB	Low-income single parents (Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing data set - FFCWB: single mothers with a single child) who were eligible for a child care subsidy; Wait list sample (54 observations no subsidy, 44 observations post-subsidy) and Fragile Families sample (342 no subsidy, 117 subsidy)	FFCWB (342 mothers) and Wait List Study (98 observations) datasets	• Subsidy receipt	• Child care related work disruptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that subsidy receipt predicted a reduction in child care-related work disruptions 	Authors acknowledge selection effects and measurement error	
Ready or not: Associations between participation in subsidized child care arrangements, pre-kindergarten, and head start and children's school readiness	Forry, N.D., Davis, E.E. & Welti, K.	2013	Early Childhood Research Quarterly	6,772	Low-income children under age 6 entering kindergarten in fall of 2009 or 2010 and who received a child care subsidy in the year prior to entering kindergarten	Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) fall kindergarten school readiness 2009/2010, Maryland's child care administrative data (2008-09), and pre-kindergarten enrollment data (2008-09)	• Various types of early care and education settings prior to kindergarten (including subsidized)	• Children's school readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that among low-income children, subsidized center-based child care for preschoolers predicted greater school readiness compared to home-based care 		Does not disaggregate for infants/toddlers

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Insights into the black box of child care supply: Predictors of provider participation in the Massachusetts child care subsidy system	Giapponi Schneider, K., Erickson Warfield, M., Joshi, P., Ha, Y. & Hodgkin, D.	2017	Children and Youth Services Review	7,432	Licensed private sector (i.e., non-governmental) child care providers that were operating in Massachusetts from May 2013 to April 2014 (3,880 subsidy participants, 3,553 non-subsidy participants)	Administrative data from Massachusetts	• Subsidy system and other local characteristics	• Provider participation in the subsidy system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that lower administrative capacity, higher private pay prices, and higher local market local household income predicted less participation in the subsidy market by providers • The total pool of accredited providers was found to be small, however, and accredited providers were found to have greater odds of participating in the subsidy system • The effect size of the subsidy reimbursement rate was small but statistically significant 	One state only	Examines providers rather than family outcomes
Employment outcomes for low-income families receiving child care subsidies in Illinois, Maryland, and Texas	Goerge, R.M., Harris, A., Bilaver, L.M., Franzetta, K., Reidy, M. Schexnayder, D., Schroeder, D., Staveley, J., Kreader, J.L., Obenski, S., Prevost, R.C., Berning, M.E. & Resnick, D.M.	2009	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Research, Planning and Evaluation	1,083,341	All families eligible for the child care subsidy in the three states according to the state employment and income-related eligibility rules	Social Services Analysis File (SSAF), linked individual-level data from the American Community Survey/ Supplemental Survey for 2001 (ACS/SS01) and state administrative data	• Child care subsidies	• Employment outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that child care subsidy receipt was associated with longer employment spells • Single parents with a child 0 or 1 were less likely to receive subsidies than parents with older children. 	Just one year of data - 2001, longitudinal analysis	
Assessing policy effects on enrollment in early childhood education and care	Greenberg, J.P.	2010	Social Science Review	14,480	Children who, at the time of the survey, were under 6 years of age and not yet in kindergarten	1991-2005 National Household Education Survey, Early Childhood Program Participation	• Increased public spending on ECE	• Child care type • Child care use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that subsidy funding (increased public expenditures) predicted more non-parental care and more center-based care for both children ages 0-2 and 3-5 in low-income families - particularly the bottom third of the income distribution • For both 0-2 and 3-5 age groups, found null effects for bottom third of income samples on use of relative care and nonrelative care, and found null effects for upper 2/3 of income samples on use of any non-parental care, center based care, relative care, nonrelative care 		Data are prior to 1996 welfare reform
Are higher subsidy payment rates and provider-friendly payment policies associated with child care quality?	Greenberg, E., Isaacs, J.B., Derrick-Mills, T., Michie, M. & Stevens, K.	2018	Urban Institute Research Report	3,800	Childcare centers (2,640), family/group family childcare homes (1,160) who reported serving at least one child with CCDF subsidy funding at the time of the survey	National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE), CCDF policies database, and ACF-800 dataset	• Payment rates • Provider-friendly policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six indicators of child care quality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnover • Provider education • Curriculum • Financial support for professional development • Quality rating • Quality composite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that for centers, an increase in the base reimbursement rate was associated with a higher likelihood that centers met the quality composite • Using contracts rather than individual vouchers also increased some indicators of quality • For homes, contracted care and higher payment rates both made a difference for quality, but reimbursement rate findings were not significant 	Examines policies and payment rates at a single time point	

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Evaluating the effects of child care policies on children's cognitive development and maternal labor supply	Griffen, A.S.	2019	Journal of Human Resources	9,200	Early childhood longitudinal study birth cohort	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort Bayley Short Form Research Edition - average of math and early reading scores at age 5 (but subsidies received 0-5)	Child care subsidy policy parameters: • Copays • Rate ceilings • Income cutoffs	• Maternal labor supply • Cognitive skills at age 5	• Generosity of subsidy policy increases maternal labor supply • Null impacts on cognitive skills.		
Why Do They Leave? Child Care Subsidy Use in Oregon	Grobe, D. Weber, R.B. & Davis, E.E.	2008	Journal of Family and Economic Issues	27,628	Single-parent families with at least one child who received a child care subsidy	1997 to 2001 administrative data from Oregon	• Subsidy policies	• Exits from use of subsidy	• The study found that parents were more likely to exit the subsidy program in the last month of the redetermination period	One state only, self-selection into subsidy program, descriptive, not causal	
Struggling to pay the bills: Using mixed-methods to understand families' financial stress and child care costs	Grobe, D., Weber, R.B., Davis, E.E. & Scott, E.K.	2012	Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research	42,026	Parents/families who received a child care subsidy with young children	10/2005-9/2009 Oregon administrative data; qualitative interviews, telephone surveys	• Subsidy receipt	• Child care decisions • Parental stress • Employment	• The study found that subsidy receipt increases the range of child care options that families have access to, • Subsidy receipt does little to reduce families' financial stress	Descriptive, qualitative	
Stability of child-care subsidy use and earnings of low-income families	Ha, Y.	2009	Social Service Review	6,405	Single mothers who entered Wisconsin's TANF program, W-2, between 10/1997-8/1998	Wisconsin administrative records 9/1997-12/2004	• Subsidy receipt	• Earnings	• The study estimated that mothers with at least 25 months of subsidy receipt earned more than those without a subsidy	One state, acknowledges missing some key controls related to the simultaneity of subsidy receipt and employment	
Child care subsidy patterns: Are exits related to economic setbacks or economic successes?	Ha, Y. & Meyer, D.R.	2010	Children and Youth Services Review	5,551	Single-mother families who began receiving subsidies between March 2000 and February 2001 with one child under the age of 13 in the beginning of subsidy receipt	2000-2005 administrative data from Wisconsin	• Cost of child care • Type of child care • Subsidy amount	• Subsidy spell length • Exit • Exit reason	• The study found that increased subsidy amounts predicted a lower likelihood of exiting the subsidy program, with a stronger effect for children under age 5 than those older	Longitudinal study	

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Are strong work-first welfare policies aligned with generous child care provisions? What states are doing and the implications for social work	Ha, Y. & Ybarra, M.	2013	Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services	216	State-year observations (including the District of Columbia)	2006-2010 Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database for TANF policies & National Women's Law Center reports on child care subsidies	• Work requirement of TANF policy	• Generosity of child care subsidy	• The study found that states with stricter work requirements for their TANF programs were more likely to have more restrictive income eligibility requirements for subsidies but higher reimbursement rates to providers and higher copayment requirements.		Does not measure impact of subsidy policy
Patterns of child care subsidy receipt and the stability of child care	Ha, Y., Magnuson, K. & Ybarra, M.	2012	Children and Youth Services Review	11,027	Children under 3 who began a subsidy receipt between March 2000 and February 2001	Administrative data from Wisconsin	• Pattern of subsidy use (number of spells)	• Stability of child care arrangement	• The study found that a higher number of subsidy spells (entering and exiting the subsidy program) was associated with children having a greater number of different child care providers (lower care stability)	Longitudinal study	
Child care costs and women's employment: A comparison of single and married mothers with pre-school-aged children	Han, W. & Waldfogel, J.	2001	Social Science Quarterly	41,118	Women with at least 1 child under the age of 6 who are employed and using paid child care (30,931 married mothers, 10,187 unmarried mothers)	Current Population Survey (March 1991 - 1994)	• Cost of child care • Generosity of subsidy	• Maternal employment	• The study estimated that reducing child care costs would increase the employment of married and unmarried mothers • The study also found that increasing the child care subsidy would increase married and unmarried women's employment		Does not disaggregate for infants/toddlers; data predates welfare reform
No child left behind: Subsidized child care and children's long-run outcomes	Havnes, T. & Mogstad, M.	2011	American Economic Journal: Economic Policy	499,026	Children whose mothers were married at the end of 1975 (from 318,367 families)	Administrative data from Statistics Norway covering the entire resident population of Norway (1967-2006)	• Subsidized child care	• Child outcomes	• The study found that subsidy receipt and the availability of public care increased families' care options and increased the use of formal and center-based care • Children's later earnings and educational outcomes were also improved for those who had received a subsidy		Geography may not be generalizable to US
The relationship between child care subsidies and children's cognitive development	Hawkinson, L.E., Griffen, A.S., Dong, N. & Maynard, R.A.	2013	Early Childhood Research Quarterly	5,650	Children who did and did not receive a subsidy during preschool, from Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS-B) dataset	ECLS-B dataset	• Subsidy receipt	• Reading skills in Kindergarten • Math skills in Kindergarten	• The study found that child care subsidy use during preschool was negatively associated with math skills in Kindergarten • Also had null effects for reading skills, when compared to non-recipients		No infants/toddlers
Who are the eligible non-recipients of child care subsidies?	Herbst, C.M.	2008	Children and Youth Services Review	19,066	Households with at least one child under age 13	National Survey of America's Families (NSAF) 2002	• Subsidy receipt	• Descriptive characteristics of those that take up subsidies	• The study found that eligible households with higher levels of education were more likely to receive subsidies, suggesting that state administrators may be rationing subsidies for those they perceive as more likely to achieve employment • Also found that subsidy recipients were more likely to receive public assistance but were also more likely to be employed than non-recipients		Does not disaggregate for infants/toddlers; does not look at outcomes
Child care subsidies and child development	Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E.	2010	Economics of Education Review	2,795	Children attending kindergarten in the fall of 1998 who live with a single mother in the fall of the kindergarten interview	ECLS-K dataset	• Subsidy receipt	• School readiness (math, reading, and behavioral scores)	• The study found that subsidy receipt was associated with some negative impacts for preschoolers on cognitive ability and behavioral problems in Kindergarten		No infants/toddlers

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Child care subsidies and childhood obesity	Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E.	2011	Review of Economics of the Household	3,113	Children attending kindergarten in the fall of 1998 who live with a single unmarried mother in the fall of the kindergarten interview	ECLS-K dataset	• Subsidy receipt	• Obesity (BMI - Body Mass Index)	• The study found that subsidy receipt in the year before Kindergarten was associated with an increased Body Mass Index in Kindergarten		No infants/toddlers
Child care subsidies, maternal health, and child-parent interactions: Evidence from three nationally representative datasets	Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E.	2014	Health Economics	3,100 (FFCW), 3,378 (ECLS-K), 5,669 (Lifestyle)	Children living with unmarried mothers	Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study (FFCW) dataset, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K) dataset, Lifestyle Survey dataset	• Subsidy receipt (at 36 months, FFCWS; year prior to kindergarten, ECLS-K) • Generosity of subsidy spending (lifestyle survey)	• Maternal health • Depression • Anxiety • Stress • Parenting behaviors	• The study found that subsidy receipt was associated with a decrease in reported maternal health • Subsidy receipt also associated with an increase in maternal depression incidence • Null effects on anxiety, depression, parenting stress, and spanking • The negative effects were stronger for those with older children, and the authors hypothesize that the work requirement of the subsidy is driving these results		Age focus is outside our window of interest (therefore excluded): FFCWS assess impact of subsidies at age 3, ECLS-K assess impact of subsidies in year prior to kindergarten (outcomes assessed at kindergarten), communications is pooled cross-sectional analysis
Contracts, vouchers, and child care subsidy stability: A preliminary look at associations between subsidy payment mechanism and stability of subsidy receipt	Holod, A., Johnson, A.D., Martin, A., Gardner, M. & Brooks-Gunn, J.	2012	Child Care Youth Forum	311	Families on cash assistance (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) whose child received care from a licensed provider receiving child care subsidies	Survey data from subsidy recipients in 2008 and 2009 in New York City	• Payment method (voucher versus contract)	• Childcare stability	• The study found that the subsidy payment mechanism was not predictive of interruptions in child care stability for family or center-based care • However, child age was found to be associated with interruptions in child care stability	Not experimental or quasi-experimental design, no comparison group	
Who uses child care subsidies? Comparing recipients to eligible non-recipients on family background characteristics and child care preferences	Johnson, A.D., Martin, A. & Brooks-Gunn, J.	2011	Children and Youth Services Review	2,300	Families who were likely eligible for subsidies at the time of the preschool interview	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort	• Family characteristics	• Subsidy receipt	• The study found that subsidy recipients were overall more economically advantaged than the eligible non-recipients of subsidies • The authors suggest that states should better target their subsidy outreach	More descriptive than causal	
Child-care subsidies and school readiness in kindergarten	Johnson, A.D., Martin, A. & Brooks-Gunn, J.	2013	Child Development	1,400	Subsidy-eligible families (400 subsidy recipients, 1,000 eligible non-recipients)	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort	• Child care subsidy use	• School readiness	• The study found that subsidy receipt for preschoolers was not associated with reading or social-emotional outcomes in Kindergarten after accounting for children's family background and earlier abilities		No infants/toddlers

Child Care Subsidies											
Title	Author(s)	Year	Publication Source	Sample Size (N)	Sample Composition	Data Source	Independent Variable(s)	Dependent Variable(s)	Summary of Findings	Limitations to Causal Inference	Exclusion Criteria
Child-care subsidies: Do they impact the quality of care children experience?	Johnson, A., Ryan, R.M. & Brooks-Gunn, J.	2012	Child Development	750	Families who were eligible for subsidies and participated in child care observations (data collected from birth; child care quality assessed at 4 years old); 200 subsidy recipients, 550 eligible non-recipients	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort	• Subsidy receipt	• Child care quality	• The study found that subsidy recipients used higher-quality care compared to nonrecipients who used no other publicly-funded care, but used lower quality care compared to those who instead used Head Start or public pre-K		Child care quality assessed at 4 years old (not for infants/toddlers)
Child care subsidy and quality	Jones-Branch, J.A., Torquati, J.C., Raikes, H. & Pope Edwards, C.	2004	Early Education and Development	34	Licensed subsidized (19)/unsubsidized (15) programs providing full day care for preschool children	Nebraska Dept. Health & Human Services list; assessed using Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Revised, directors survey	• Center subsidy receipt	• Quality of child care	• The study found that teacher salary was predictive of child care quality, but subsidy density was not	One county, small sample size	No infants/toddlers
The impact of availability and generosity of subsidized child care on low-income mothers' hours of work	Joo, M.	2008	Journal of Policy Practice	601	Mothers who received subsidized child care in 2004 and were employed as a condition of receipt	2005 March Current Population Survey	• Subsidy generosity	• Maternal employment	• The study found that mothers who lived in states with generous subsidy policies were more likely to be working full time than those in states with moderate and stringent policies		Examines children under age 6, but does not disaggregate for infants/toddlers
Child care subsidies and the stability and quality of child care arrangements	Krafft, C., Davis, E.E. & Tout, K.	2017	Early Childhood Research Quarterly	259	Families with at least one child age six or younger who had applied to receive financial assistance through Minnesota cash assistance programs. Of the 323 families (resulting in 1133 pooled observations) who completed the survey at baseline, 259 had at least two survey waves of data and were included in analyses (sample sizes for outcomes varied from 196-239 children w/multiple waves). For child care stability models, families with data for three survey waves or more were included.	Telephone survey	• Subsidy usage (child used subsidized care during that month)	• Stability of child care arrangement (binary change of primary provider, change in any provider) • Number of concurrent child care arrangements (within the past two weeks count of before/after school, summer, in home and out of care providers) • Perceived quality of care (factor based on factor analysis of parents responses to 17 scale-based items modeled after QRIS quality components)	• Subsidy usage associated with increased child care stability • Subsidy usage was not associated with number of child care arrangements Number of arrangements, multiple arrangements were very common in overall sample • Subsidy usage predicted higher perceived quality of care		

Bold studies indicate strong causal evidence.

Child Care Subsidies											
Title	Author(s)	Year	Publication Source	Sample Size (N)	Sample Composition	Data Source	Independent Variable(s)	Dependent Variable(s)	Summary of Findings	Limitations to Causal Inference	Exclusion Criteria
Child care subsidy use and employment outcomes of TANF mothers during the early years of welfare reform: a three-state study	Lee, B.J., Goerge, R., Reidy, M., Kreader, J.L., Georges, A., Wagmiller, R., Staveley, J., Stevens, D. & Witte, A.D.	2004	Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago	22,980	Single mothers with children younger than age 13 at the time they entered the TANF program	State's administrative databases on TANF, child care subsidy, and Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage reports	• Subsidy use	• Employment outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that take-up of a subsidy within 6 months of eligibility reduced the likelihood of becoming unemployed • Overall, low-income Black mothers and mothers with younger children were more likely to take up the subsidy than white mothers and those with children over 6 years • Family size did not predict subsidy take-up 	Selection biases/motivati on factors that might simultaneously affect subsidy use and employment	
Child care and the welfare to work transition	Lemke, R.J., Dryden Witte, A., Queralt, M. & Witt, R.	2000	NBER Working Paper Series	13,823	Child care voucher recipients who are also current or former TANF recipients in MA	July 1996 - August 1997 administrative data from Massachusetts (Office of Child Care Services and Department of Transition Assistance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidy amount • Stability • Cost of care 	• Parental employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that stability and quality of care were more strongly associated with maternal employment than the cost of care 		
Increasing access to quality child care for children from low-income families: Families' experiences	Lipscomb, S.T.	2013	Children and Youth Services Review	181	Families receiving subsidies and extra assistance for purchasing quality care	The Community Child Care Initiative (CCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capping copay at 10% of income • Increasing eligibility to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line 	• Access to quality care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that parents with the highest incomes within the eligibility range and those with children ages 5 and younger reported the greatest positive impacts of subsidies on access to quality care 	Small sample size, self-reported, observational (no comparison group)	
Subsidized child care, maternal employment and access to quality, affordable child care	Marshall, N.L., Wagner Robeson, W., Tracy, A.J., Frye, A. & Roberts, J.	2013	Early Childhood Research Quarterly	665	Families receiving subsidies (508) using centers, licensed family child care, Head Start, or public pre-K programs, or on waitlist for subsidies (157)	Cross-sectional survey data	• Subsidy use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal employment • Child care access and quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that families with subsidies reported more available options for child care in their neighborhoods than families on the waitlist for subsidies • In addition, families with subsidies were more likely to work full-time than similar low-income families on the waitlist 	Cross-sectional	
The performance of the child-care subsidy system	Meyers, M.K. & Heintze, T.	1999	Social Service Review	1,517	Families enrolled in Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) with at least one child < 14	AFDC Household Survey, California, 1994-1995	• Subsidy receipt	Economic well-being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target efficiency • Adequacy of coverage • Equity of the subsidy system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that families in which the mother was employed were least likely to receive a subsidy and were most burdened by child care costs • The most common reason for non-participation was a lack of information about the subsidy program 	One state	Data are prior to welfare reform
Child care in the wake of welfare reform: The impact of government subsidies on the economic well-being of single-mother families	Meyers, M.K., Bowling, W.J.H., Waldfogel, J. & Garfinkel, I.	2001	Social Service Review	956	Single-mother families with children	March 1996 CPS; 1990 National Child Care Survey (NCCS), Child Care Market Rate Survey (NY), NYC Human Resources Administration	• Subsidy receipt	Economic well-being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care costs • Income • Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study suggests that welfare reform will lead to a greater child care cost burden on single mothers, who will enter the workforce in greater numbers, and subsidy rates are insufficient to support mothers' employment. 	Does not disaggregate for infants/toddler s, pre-post study design	

Bold studies indicate strong causal evidence.

Child Care Subsidies											
Title	Author(s)	Year	Publication Source	Sample Size (N)	Sample Composition	Data Source	Independent Variable(s)	Dependent Variable(s)	Summary of Findings	Limitations to Causal Inference	Exclusion Criteria
Child care subsidies and the employment of welfare recipients	Meyers, M.K., Heintze, T. & Wolf, D.A.	2002	Demography	903	Single-mother families with at least one child under 14	AFDC Household Survey, California, 1994-1995	• Subsidy receipt	• Women's labor force participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that if a low-income single woman's probability of receiving a subsidy increased, her probability of being in the labor force increased Having children ages 3-5 was more predictive of subsidy receipt than having children under 3 	One state	Survey data prior to welfare reform
The dynamics of child care subsidy use: A collaborative study of five states	Meyers, M.K., Peck, L.R., Davis, E.E., Collins, A., Kreader, J.L., Georges, A., Weber, R., Schexnayder, D.T., Schoroeder, D.G. & Olson, J.A.	2002	National Center for Children in Poverty	250,255	Person-month observations of families receiving voucher-based subsidies	1997-1999 administrative data from Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility Generosity Copayment requirements of subsidy Family & child care arrangement characteristics 	• Continuity of subsidy receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that length of subsidy eligibility did not significantly predict the length of subsidy spells Copayments were not a significant predictor of subsidy continuity, and neither was generosity of payments Some factors that were predictive of longer subsidy spells included never having received cash assistance, having younger (non-school-aged) children, and use of center-based care 	Data did not offer insight into why families left the subsidy system, no comparison group	
Effects of reducing child care subsidy copayments in Washington State	Michalopoulos, C.	2010	United States Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation; MDRC	5,106	5,106 families in Washington approved to receive child care subsidies (adult parents, youngest child is younger than 11, household not headed by non-need adult). Random assignment to standard or alternative copayment schedules.	Washington administrative records - child care subsidy, unemployment insurance, and public assistance systems	• Reduced copayment levels (standard copayment schedule vs. alternative copayment schedule)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of subsidy receipt (months, % using for 7 and 13 consecutive months) Parental employment (quarters of employment, hours worked) Earnings Use of TANF and food stamps (months of receipt of either) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive, statistically significant impact on months of subsidy receipt at year (for full sample, impacts varied by tier) For the overall time period, positive statistically significant impact on months of subsidy receipt and a greater percentage of families received subsidies for 13 consecutive months Quarters of employment, earnings, hours worked, months of TANF/Food Stamps receipt null for all tiers 		Not disaggregated by child age (child under 11); one state and families enrolled in only one month

Child Care Subsidies											
Title	Author(s)	Year	Publication Source	Sample Size (N)	Sample Composition	Data Source	Independent Variable(s)	Dependent Variable(s)	Summary of Findings	Limitations to Causal Inference	Exclusion Criteria
The effects of child care subsidies for moderate-income families in Cook County, Illinois	Michalopoulos, C., Lundquist, E. & Castells, N .	2010	United States Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation; MDRC	1,884	All families in Cook County, IL who applied to receive child care subsidies with income just above state eligibility threshold (50-65 percent of SMI) and had valid SSN, did not work for subsidy agencies, and eligible to receive subsidies w/a 6-month redetermination period (this excluded parents who were self-employed, paid in cash, or receiving subsidies the last 6 mo. because they were in school/teaching/temping). Families had to be applying for vouchers, not contracted slots.	Baseline application forms; and administrative records from the child care subsidy system, unemployment insurance, TANF, and food stamp systems; and a survey administered between one and three years post entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy receipt Redetermination period 6 months or 12 months) Income eligibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of subsidy use Type of child care Stability of child care Parental satisfaction with child care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent, positive, statistically significant impacts on months of subsidy receipt and consecutive receipt for 7 and 13 months Compared to the control group, families in the program group received subsidies for 8 months more and were more likely to receive subsidies for 7 and 13 consecutive months Among families receiving subsidies under expanded income eligibility rules, there were also positive impacts of longer redetermination periods on subsidy receipt Finally, the combination of expanded income eligibility and a longer redetermination period led to more months of subsidy receipt and a difference in the share of families receiving subsidies for 7 and 13 consecutive months, relative to the control group. Employment, earnings, and TANF/Food Stamps receipt null for all tiers overall 		One county; not disaggregated by child age; difficulty recruiting families may limit generalizability to larger group of families just above the income eligibility threshold; high attrition and issues with parent survey
Taking the pressure off families: Child-care subsidies lessen mothers' work-hour problems	Press, J.E., Fagan, J. & Laughlin, L.	2006	Journal of Marriage and the Family	191	Low-income urban mothers with a child under the age 13, who received or applied for a child care subsidy in the last 12 months	Philadelphia Survey of Childcare and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy receipt Resources Work demands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work-hour problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that among subsidy recipients, likelihood of experiencing a change in work schedule, working fewer hours per week than desired, or being unable to work overtime because of child care was lower among subsidy recipients 	Small sample size; one city	
Regulation, subsidy receipt and provider characteristics: What predicts quality in child care homes?	Raikes, R.H., Raikes, H.H. & Wilcox, B.	2005	Early Childhood Research Quarterly	120	Randomly-selected family child care providers in four Midwestern states	State child care division files, telephone survey, classroom observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation Subsidy concentration Training and education of caregivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global quality in family child care homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that homes caring for more children who received subsidies were rated lower quality This was influenced largely by provider education level 	Small sample size; correlational	

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Child care subsidy programs and child care choices: Effects on the number and type of arrangements	Ros Pilarz, A.	2018	Children and Youth Services Review	18,900	Children who lived with their biological mother at the time of the interview and whose biological mother participated in the interview; children who died or were adopted before age 9 months and children who were born to mothers who were 15 years or younger were excluded. Parental education level is used as a proxy for subsidy eligibility; Washbrook (2011) and other studies use this method as well. Focuses on children ages 9 months and 2 years.	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort	• State subsidy program spending per low-income child	Number and types of child care arrangements: • Parent care only • Single home-based arrangement (i.e., care provided by relatives or non-relatives in a home-based setting) • Single center-based arrangement • Multiple arrangements (of any type, multiple home-based, or multiple home and center based)	Note: education used as proxy for subsidy receipt. Low-education households (high school or less) were counted as subsidy proxy families. High education (some college or more) were counted as non-subsidy. • The study found that an increase in state subsidy program spending per child was associated with higher odds of families using a single center-based arrangement rather than multiple arrangements among low-educated households • In states with low levels of subsidy program spending, households with lower educational attainment were more likely than higher-educated households to use parent care only, but at high levels of subsidy program spending, there were no statistically significant differences between the two groups • Null effects in the use of parent care or a single home-based arrangement versus multiple arrangements for low-educated households, no effect between higher and lower educated households use of parent care in high level subsidy states		
Patterns of child care subsidy use and stability of subsidized care arrangements: Evidence from Illinois and New York	Ros Pilarz, A., Claessens, A. & Gelatt, J.	2016	Children and Youth Services Review	6,911	New entrants to the subsidy program with at least one non-school age child	2011-2012 New York & Illinois Child Care Assistance Program administrative data	• Subsidy receipt • Subsidy program regulations	• Number of changes to provider	• The study found that shorter eligibility periods were associated with shorter subsidy spells • Greater subsidy interruption was associated with children experiencing more total care providers • This was not significant for infants and toddlers, however	Intends to be a descriptive study; sample may not be representative	
The impact of child care subsidy use on child care quality	Ryan, R.M., Johnson, A., Rigby, E. & Brooks-Gunn, J.	2011	Early Childhood Research Quarterly	456	Families eligible for Child Care and Development Fund subsidies in their state of residence (194 subsidy-users, 262 non-users)	Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing dataset, focal child at 3 years old	• Subsidy receipt • Care type	• Child care quality (ECERS-R, FDCRS)	• The study found that families who used subsidies chose higher quality care compared to families who did not use subsidies • This was driven by type of care - subsidy recipients were more likely to use center-based care • Subgroup analyses showed that subsidy recipients purchased higher quality home-based care but lower quality center-based care than comparable non-recipients • It's important to note, however, the center-based care was generally of higher quality than home-based care in this sample • Subsidy recipients were also more likely to choose formal home-based care, rather than kith or kin	Dataset selected families in large cities and oversampled unwed births; may limit generalizability; correlational	Focal child age is 3 years old (outside our focal ages)

Child Care Subsidies											
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Child care devolution in Texas: the relationship of child care policies to subsidy, employment, and market durations	Schexnayder, D. & Schroeder, D.G.	2008	Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources - Prepared for U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Resources, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation	867,773	Families using subsidies with at least one child	1997-2003 administrative data from Texas	• Local child care subsidy policy variation	• Duration of subsidy receipt • Duration of employment • Stability of child care arrangement	• Increased provider reimbursement rates and income eligibility limits were associated with greater child care stability	Correlational	
The impact of child care subsidies on mothers' education	Schochet, O.N. & Johnson, A.	2019	Journal of Family and Economic Issues	3,400	Low-income families who did not receive subsidies at child age 9 months, and either become subsidy recipients or continued to be non-recipients at child age 2 years	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort	Subsidy receipt when child was: • 9 months • 2 years • 4 years • in Kindergarten	• Mothers' self-reported changes in educational attainment/engagement	• The study found that subsidy receipt was associated with an increase in the likelihood that mothers would increase their educational level by the time the child was 4 years old • Maternal educational attainment effects null In child development phrase 2 (age 2 to kindergarten), effects on maternal education were not significant in matched sample in the second child development phase (2 years - kindergarten)		
Overdue for investment: State child care assistance policies 2018	Schulman, K.	2018	National Women's Law Center	51	State child care administrators (51 states including District of Columbia)	Surveys	• Various state subsidy policies and eligibility requirements	• Access to child care	• The report concludes that despite progress, states have a long way to go to improve access to child care for low-income families, including making changes to income eligibility limits, waiting lists, co-payments, provider payment rates, and work requirements	Descriptive, correlational	
Is subsidized child care associated with lower risk of grade retention for low-income children? Evidence from Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) administrative records linked to the American Community Survey (ACF)	Shattuck, R.M.	2017	U.S. Census Bureau Working Papers	2,284,857	CCDF-recipient children and non-recipient children who also appear in the ACS in the years 2008-2014	ACS 2008-2014 linked with CCDF records from 2004-2011	• CCDF subsidy receipt prior to kindergarten	• Grade retention in K-12	• The study found that subsidized child care was linked to lower risk of grade retention in K-12, especially for non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic children • Subsidized center care was also associated with a lower risk of retention than other types of care	Author acknowledges potential parent selection effects, correlational only, grade retention measurement was extrapolated from child age and grade in school	

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Barriers to subsidies: why low-income families do not use child care subsidies	Shlay, A.B., Weinraub, M., Harmon, M. & Tran, H.	2004	Social Science Research	196	Households with children who are subsidy-eligible but do not use subsidies	Telephone surveys collected from four focus groups	• Family characteristics	• Subsidy use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that child age was not a significant predictor of subsidy use • Barriers to take-up included lack of knowledge around eligibility, lack of interest, and administrative burden • Significant predictors of subsidy use included previous welfare experience, single parenthood, employment, use of formal care, and court-ordered child support receipt 	Qualitative, descriptive	
Child care subsidy receipt, employment, and child care choices of single mothers	Tekin, E.	2005	Economic Letters	2,226	Single mothers with at least one child under age 6	1999 National Survey of America's Families (NSAF)	• Subsidy receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Center-based care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that child care subsidy receipt increased the probability of maternal employment, increased the probability of using of center care and decreased the probability of using relative care 	Does not disaggregate for infants/toddlers	
Public policies, women's employment after childbearing, and child well-being	Washbrook, E., Ruhm, C.J., Waldfogel, J. & Han, W.J.	2011	B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy	10,000	Clustered stratified sample of births in 2001	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort dataset, baseline survey data and interviews, interviews at 9 months, and at the preschool wave, when 80% of the children were four years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity leave • Welfare work exemptions • Child care subsidy spending per low-income child under age 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child developmental outcomes • Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that greater subsidy expenditures were associated with higher rates of employment for the unrestricted sample (null for sample remaining at age 4 wave) • Subsidy spending was also associated with an percentage point increase in the Two Bags maternal parenting score (z-score) at 4 years old • Subsidy receipt was not associated with enrollment in formal care settings • Null effects were also found for maternal employment (unrestricted sample at 4 months, remaining sample at 4 years for all ages), breastfeeding duration (at 9 months), well-child visits (at 9 months), maternal depression (CES-D at 9 months and 4 years), parenting scores (NCATS maternal parenting score at 9 months), household income, language/literacy/math assessments (each at 4 years old), and behavior problems (overall, conduct, inattention, at 4 years) 		
Does policy matter? The effect of increasing child care subsidy policy generosity on program outcomes	Weber, R.B., Grobe, D. & Davis, E.E.	2014	Children and Youth Services Review	41,402	Families with at least one child who participated in the subsidy program for at least one month	2005-2009 administrative data from Oregon: child care subsidy program data, the Client Maintenance System (included additional family socioeconomic variables), and Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data	• Subsidy policy generosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuity of subsidy receipt • Type of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study found that reimbursement rates increased after 2007 in Oregon, co-payments decreased, income eligibility expanded, and re-determination periods increased in length from 3 to 6 months • In addition, as the value of the subsidy increased, families were slightly more likely to remain in the program 	One state only	Not disaggregated for infants/toddlers

Child Care Subsidies											
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Subsidizing child care: How child care subsidies affect the child care used by low-income African American families	Weinraub, M., Shlay, A.B., Harmon, M. & Tran, H.	2005	Early Childhood Research Quarterly	111	Low-income, subsidy-eligible adult Black parents with a child under age 4, who were employed at least 25 hours per week	Telephone survey, face-to-face interview, observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy receipt Subsidy policy generosity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found no significant association between subsidy receipt and quality of care 	Small sample size; correlational study	Average age of child was 3.5 years old
An examination of the child care choices of low-income families receiving child care subsidies	Witte, A.D. & Queralt, M.	2004	NBER	19,386	Households receiving subsidies between July 1998 and June 2002 (13,621 had received cash assistance, 5,765 had not received cash assistance)	1998-2002 administrative data from Rhode Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy policy changes: implemented age- and income-eligibility, increased reimbursement rates, instituted Comprehensive Child Care Services, began more strictly enforcing requirements, and separated eligibility determination from enrollment with a provider, and established portable vouchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of care Type of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that more generous subsidy policies increased the likelihood of using formal (licensed, regulated) care versus informal care over the study period. Note: effect sizes only reported for subgroups (families with one, two, or three children in subsidized care, have/have not received cash assistance), not in aggregate. Several subgroups analyses showed null effects on likelihood of choosing formal relative to informal care: current/former cash recipient families who have subsidies for infant and another child, families with a subsidized infant and never received cash with three child care subsidies, families with two or three children in subsidized care who have at least one subsidized toddler 		
Child care use and parental desire to switch care type among a low-income population	Wolfe, B. & Scrivner, S.	2004	Journal of Family and Economic Issues	915	Wisconsin Works subsidy recipients	1999 and 2000 wave of survey of Wisconsin Works subsidy recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy receipt Use of center-based care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parental satisfaction with care Use of center-based care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that parents were more satisfied with center-based care than other types of care Mothers receiving a subsidy were more likely to enroll their children in center-based care 	Not experimental or quasi-experimental design, no comparison group	
Child care subsidy and child maltreatment	Yang, M.Y., Maguire-Jack, K., Showalter, K., Kim, Y.K. & Slack, K.S.	2019	Child & Family Social Work	655	Low-income mothers with children 4 years old or younger in Illinois	Data from the Illinois Family Study - which encompasses families receiving TANF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous variable for the number of months the mother received a child care subsidy within a 12-month period before the baseline survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binary variables for whether a given mother had a CPS report for neglect or not Binary variable for physical abuse or not - within a 12-month period after the baseline survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that receipt of a subsidy was significantly associated with lower risk of physical abuse and lower risk of neglect In addition, subsidy receipt was associated with increased working hours, which predicted higher household income However, the authors did not confirm their hypothesis that the mediating path to reduced maltreatment was through parenting stress and income 	Not experimental or quasi-experimental design, no comparison group	

Child Care Subsidies											
Title	Author(s)	Year	Publication Source	Sample Size (N)	Sample Composition	Data Source	Independent Variable(s)	Dependent Variable(s)	Summary of Findings	Limitations to Causal Inference	Exclusion Criteria
Child care subsidies and the economic well-being of recipient families: a survey and implications for Kentucky	Ziliak, J., Hokayem, C. & Hardy, B.	2008	Kentucky Youth Advocates	19,090	Single mothers (332 in Kentucky, 18,758 in non-Kentucky states)	2005 to 2007 Current Population Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price of child care Subsidy expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maternal employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study estimated that a reduction in the price of child care would increase the employment rate of single mothers 	One state only, correlational design	