



ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

Is Early Head Start/Head Start the Answer? Planning for Young Children and Their Families in Your State

February 1, 2021

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Partners



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UPLAN

**UNITED PARENT LEADERS
ACTION NETWORK**



**PARTNERSHIP
FOR AMERICA'S
CHILDREN**

State and local child advocates
working together for a better future

Agenda



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- Making the case for EHS/HS – Rapid EC Project <https://www.uorapidresponse.com/>
- Panel
 - **Kaylah Dessausure** is a mother from Wilmington, DE with two boys. Both Kodah, now 4.5, and Rio, just 10 months, have been involved in Early Head Start and Kaylah was involved with leadership with that program.
 - **Martin Juarez** is a father from Garden City, Kansas. Martin and his wife Teresa four busy and active girls, three of whom have been enrolled in Early Head Start and/or Head Start.
 - **Tracey Campanini**, Deputy Secretary in the Office of Child Development and Early Learning in Pennsylvania.
 - **Katy Warren**, Deputy Director of the Washington State Association of Head Start and the Early Childhood Assistance and Education Program.



- What the data is showing:
 - **Parent Well-Being**
 - Across all households, anxiety, depression, and stress levels have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic began.
 - Low-income households continue to have higher anxiety, depression, and stress levels compared to middle- and high-income households, pre- and “post-pandemic” (i.e., since the onset of the pandemic).
 - **Health and Health Care**
 - 34.78% of families have missed well-baby check-ups since the pandemic began
 - The rate of missed well-baby check-ups is higher for below 100% FPL than for above 100% FPL.
 - The most common reason for missing well-baby/child visits was due to concern about COVID-19.
 - 16.68% of families missed vaccines during the pandemic.



- **Employment**
 - Employment status --
 - 50.4% of caregivers were working, 21.79% of caregivers were unemployed or laid off, and 6.85% of caregivers were temporarily out of work or furloughed.
 - Low-income caregivers were particularly impacted by job loss. For below 100% FPL caregivers, 32.33% were working, 33.88% were unemployed, and 8.97% were temporarily out of work or furloughed.
 - Employment decrease --
 - 37.09% of caregivers reported a decrease in employment status from pre-pandemic levels.
 - Job loss also affected low-income families more than middle- and high-income families.
- **Child Behavior**
 - Child behavior problems increased during the pandemic (caregivers rated the frequency of child's behavior as fussy/defiant in the last week)
 - Child distress was higher for low-income families, both pre- and post-pandemic.



- **Child Care**
 - Before the pandemic, 52.3% of caregivers used some type of non-parental childcare.
 - Post-pandemic (as of 12/24/20) only 34% of caregivers were using non-parental childcare.
 - Families above poverty level (100% FPL) were more likely to use non-parental childcare, pre and post pandemic. The same was true for families above 200% FPL.
 - Middle- and higher-income households were more able or willing to return to non-parental childcare compared to families below 100% FPL. This may be due to rising childcare costs. As the weeks went on, the percentage of families using non-parental childcare did not increase as much for families below 100% FPL as for families above 100% FPL.



- **Types of Child Care**

- Pre-COVID, center-based childcare was the most popular option, with 50.9% of families using this type of childcare.
- Post-COVID, all forms of childcare decreased except for unpaid care from a family member/relative/friend, which increased to 37%.
- Unpaid family member/relative/friend care increased overall during COVID, but especially for low-income families



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In the chat box:

We know that some of you are very familiar with Early Head Start/Head Start. For you, what do you value most about Head Start/Early Head Start?





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Thank You!



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Please join us for our next webinar:

**Engaging Families in Advocacy: Strategies,
Practices, and Lessons from the Field**

February 10, 4:00-5:00 PM ET

Registration link in the chat!