

The Intersection of Health and Early Care and Education: Policy Pitfalls and Potential

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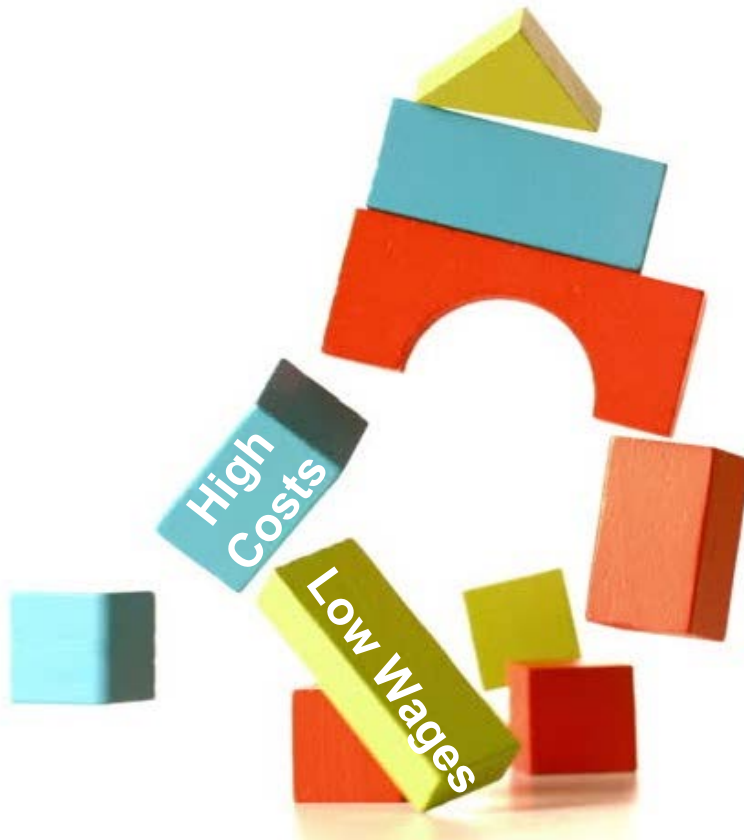
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Collaboration between Health and ECE: Challenges to Progress

- Siloed disciplines and policy development
 - Complexity of each discipline
 - Different professional socialization and terminology
 - Distinct institutions
 - Different status and assumptions
- Child policy divorced from environment of relationships
 - Single versus multiple generation approach predominates
 - Services not co-located
 - Single discipline approach



US ECE SYSTEM: Shaky foundation for child, family and educator health and well-being



Limited public subsidy

In 2014, **6.4 million** children under age six lived in low-income working families.¹

In 2014, Only **1.41 million** children received child care subsidy.



In 2016, nearly **two-fifths of the states** had waiting lists or frozen intake for at least some families applying for child care subsidy

Limited public provision

State-Funded Public Preschool

In 2015, there were **57 state-funded preschool programs** in 42 states and D.C.

In 2015, almost **five percent of 3-year-olds** and **29 percent of 4-year-olds** were served in state funded pre-K

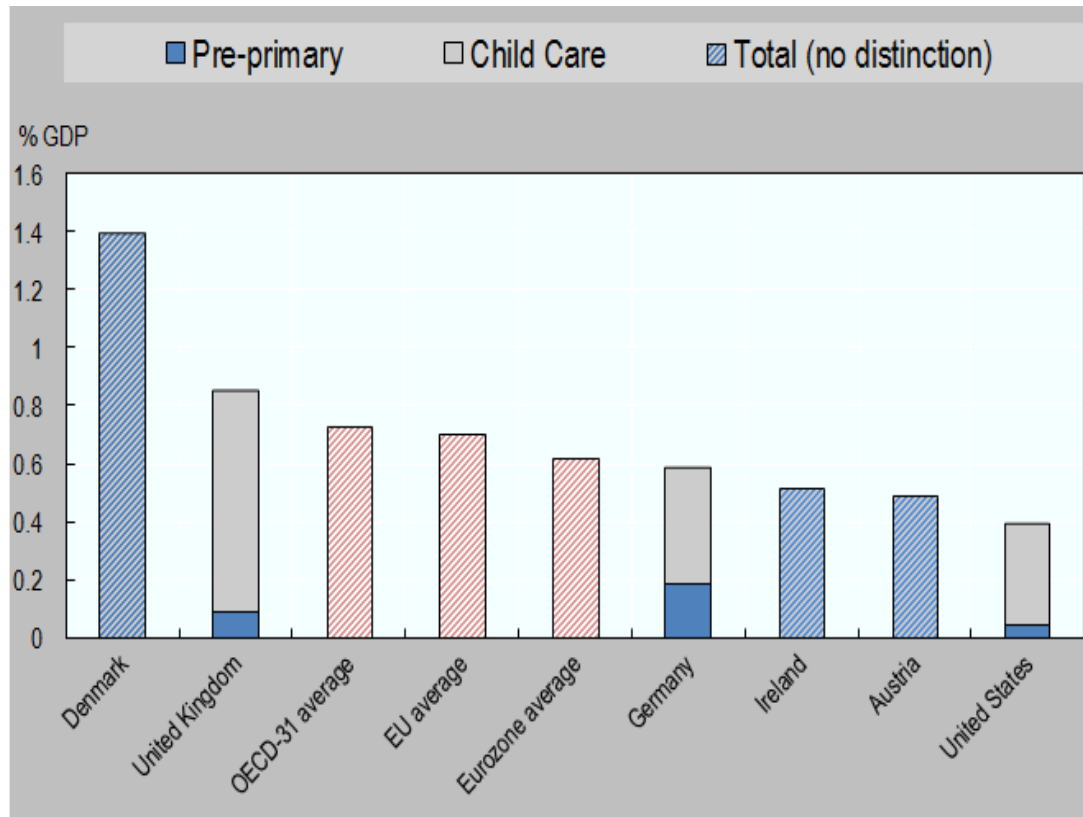
Head Start

Nationally, about **42 percent** of eligible children were served by Head Start in 2014



In 2015, **eight percent of 3-year-olds** and **nine percent of 4-year-olds** were served in federally funded Head Start

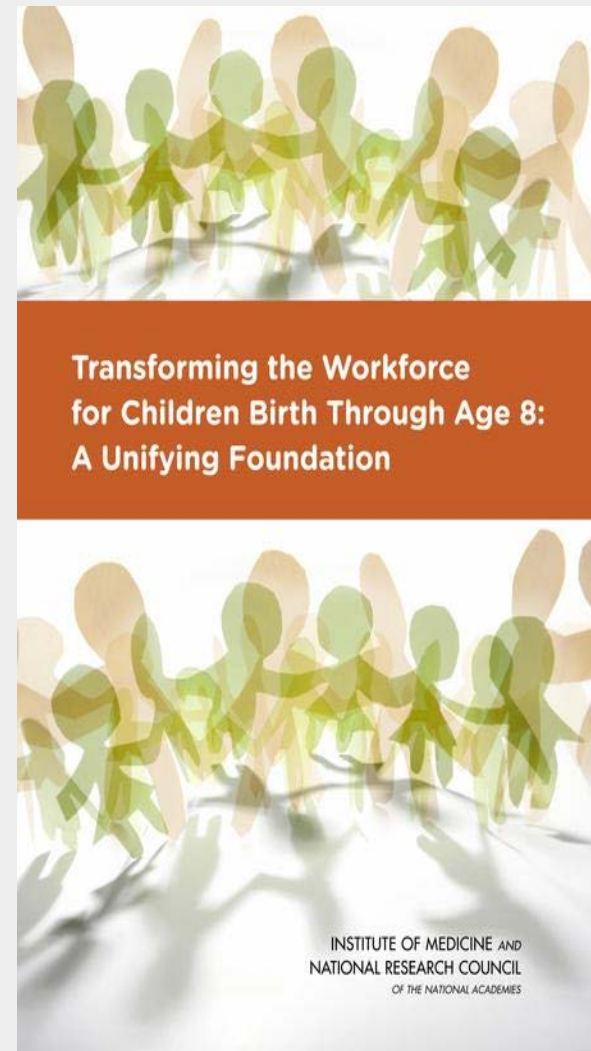
Public spending on early childhood education and care



U.S. not only ranks low in public spending, but falls in the bottom third of enrollment rates for OECD nations.

Source: OECD Family Database, 2013.

“Adults who are under-informed, underprepared, or subject to chronic stress themselves may contribute to children’s experiences of adversity and stress and undermine their development and learning.”



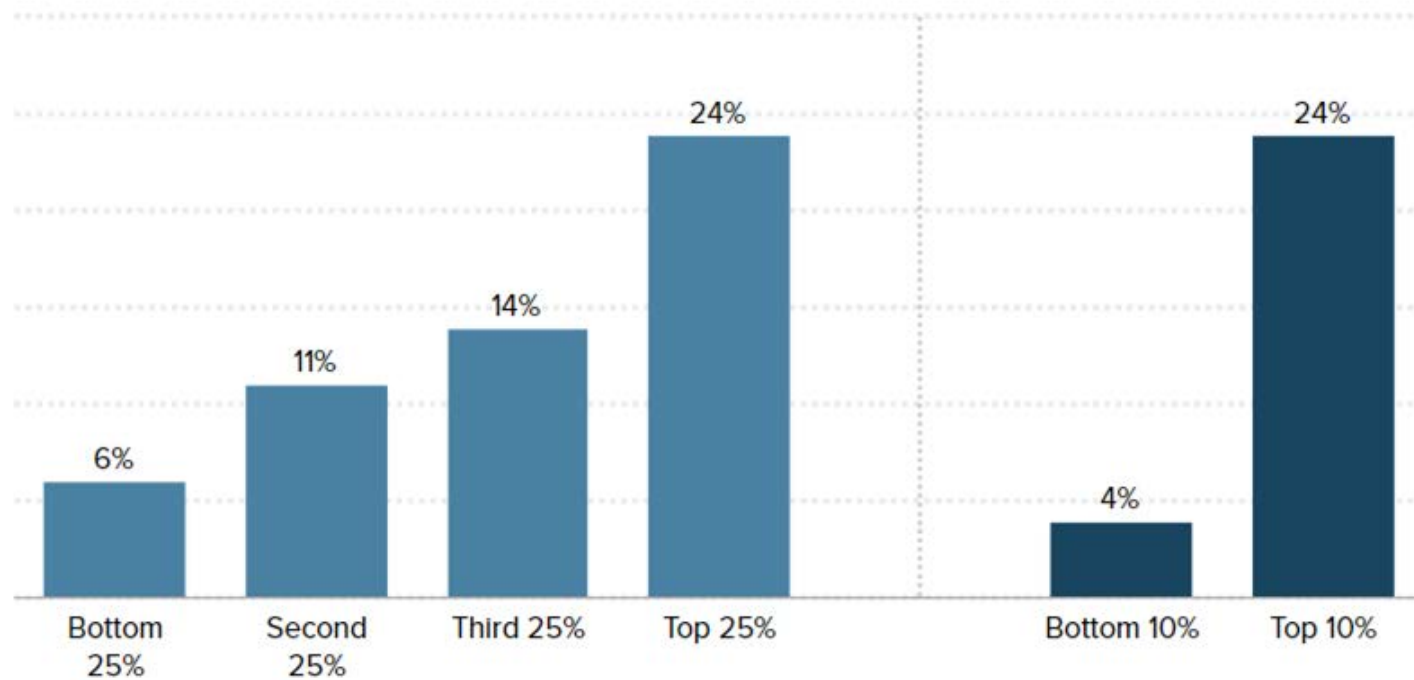
Source: Institute of Medicine and National Research Council. *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8*. (2015)

ECE policy and family well-being



High-wage workers are more likely to have paid family leave

Percent of private-industry workers with access to paid family leave, by wage group, March 2016



Source: DC Paid Leave Bill is a Step in the Right Direction, Gould 2016.

ECE cost burden for families

Infant care can cost as much as college

Preschool care is somewhat cheaper, but still expensive



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54 percent of families pay more than 10% of their income on child care.⁷



Understanding the early care and education system

Government funding	Family payment 54% of families pay more than 10% of their income for child care
Public PreK	
Head Start	
Child care subsidy	



1,000,000

Center-based staff



115,000

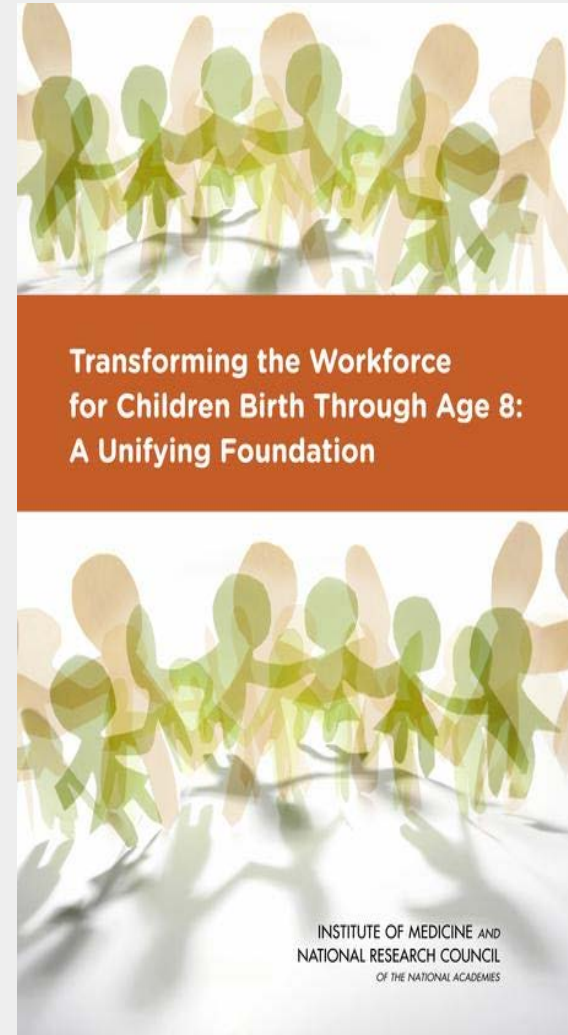
Home-based listed
Typically small businesses



919,000

Home-based unlisted
Typically individual providers

“It is through the quality work of these adults that the nation can make it right from the very beginning for all of its children...”



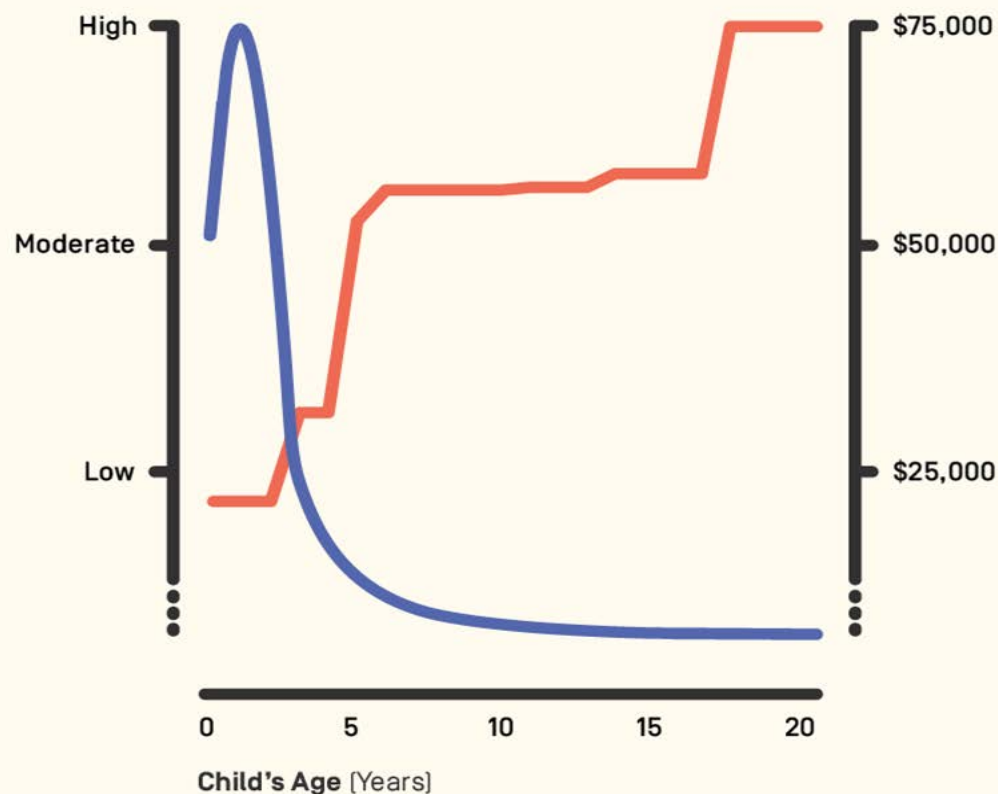
Source: Institute of Medicine and National Research Council. *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8*. (2015)

Worthy Work, Still Unlivable Wages

How We Pay The Least to the Teachers We Need the Most

Sensitive Periods
in Children's Brain
Development

2014 Salaries
of Children's
Teachers



Sources

Whitebook, Phillips, and Howes (2014) *Worthy Work, Still Unlivable Wages*. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment

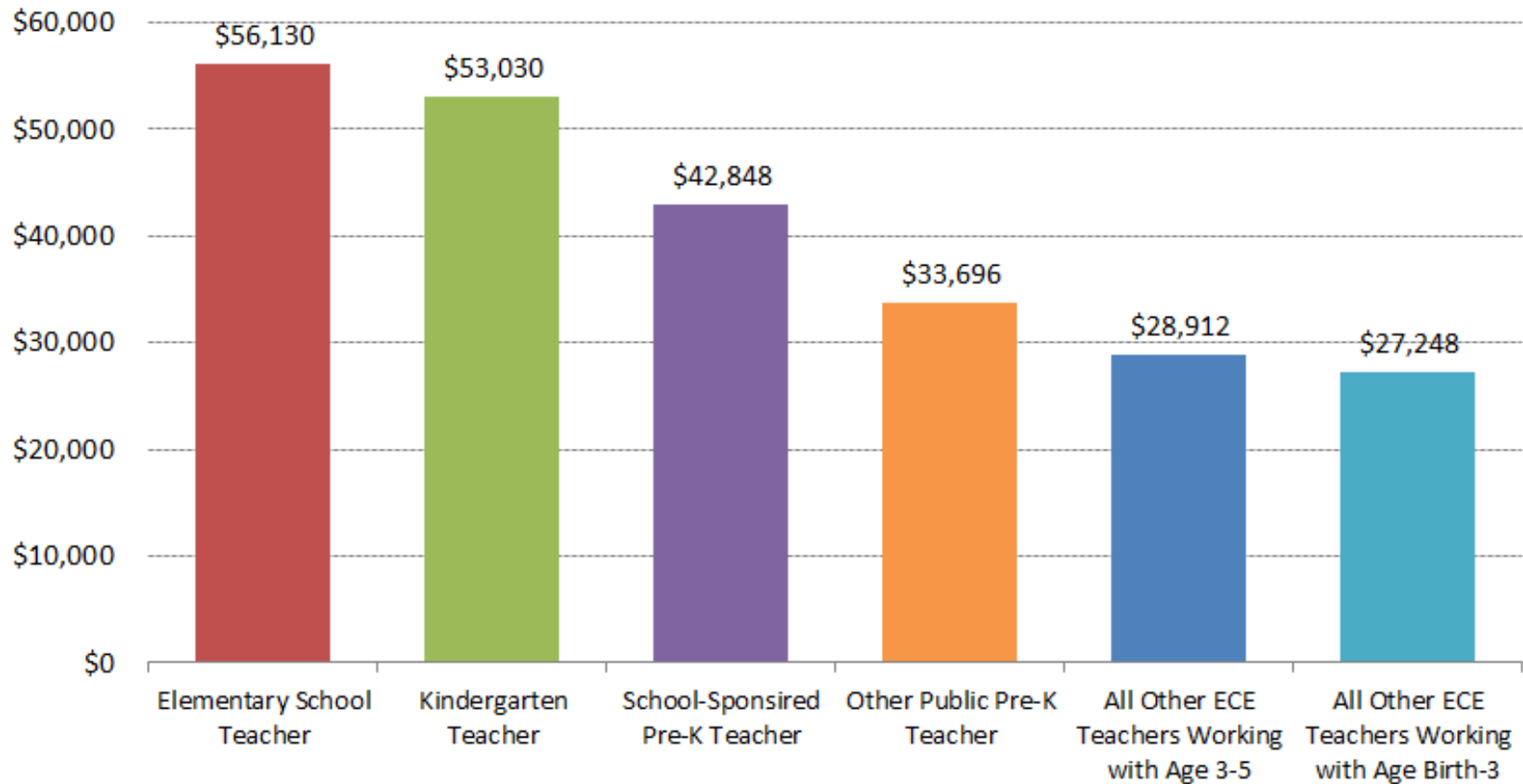
Thompson and Nelson (2001) *Developmental Science and the Media: Early Brain Development*. American Psychologist



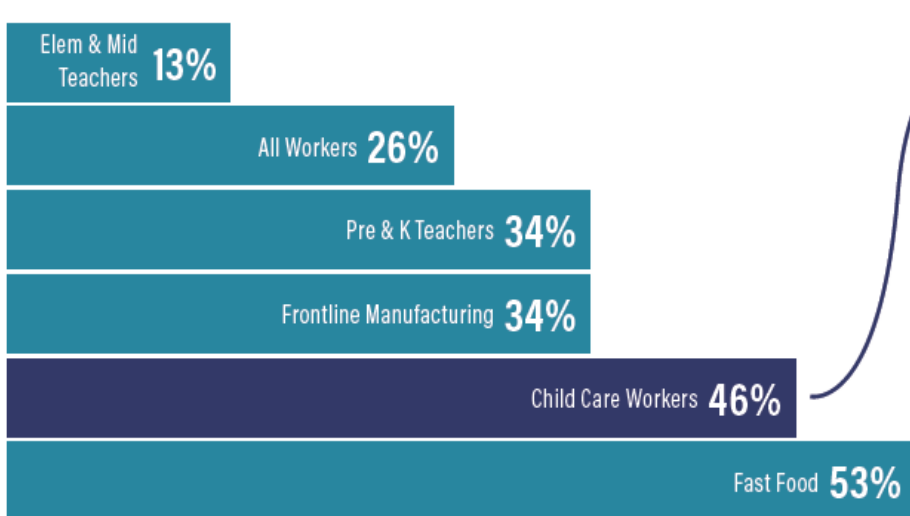
NEW
AMERICA

Absence of Rational Wage Structure + Low Value Accorded to Educational Attainment

Average Annual Salaries for U.S. Teachers with Bachelor's Degree or Higher in 2012



Economic insecurity

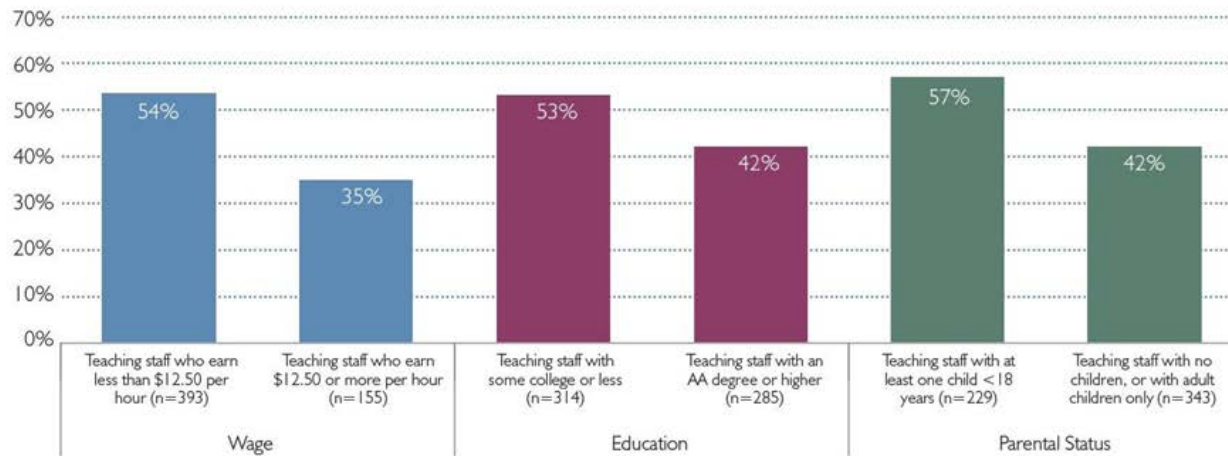


46% OF CHILD CARE WORKERS, nearly two thirds of whom work full-time, and their families participate in public support programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit, Medicaid, or food stamps.

This is **nearly double** the rate for all families and **more than triple** the rate for elementary and middle school teachers.

Economic insecurity

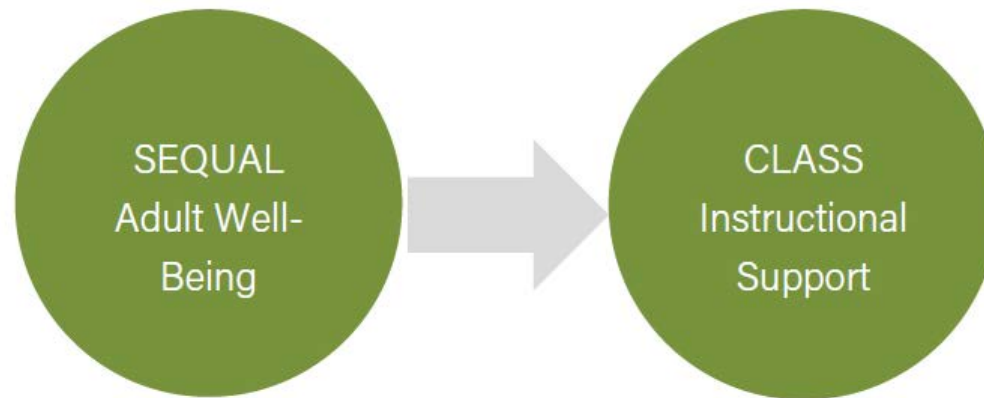
Percentage of Teaching Staff Worried¹ about having Enough Food for Their Families, by Wage, Educational Level, and Parental Status²

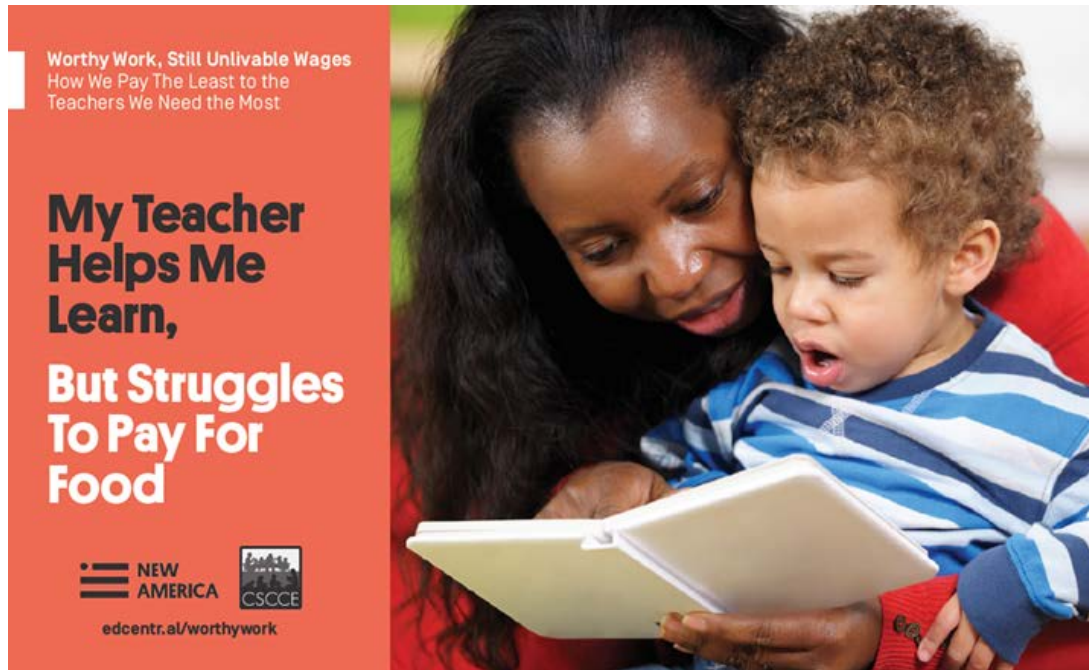


¹Teaching staff classified as "worried" about a particular item indicated that they somewhat to strongly agreed with a given statement, as represented by a 4 or higher on the Likert Scale.

²The sample was drawn from one state's for-profit, non-profit, and public early care and education programs. See endnote # 12.

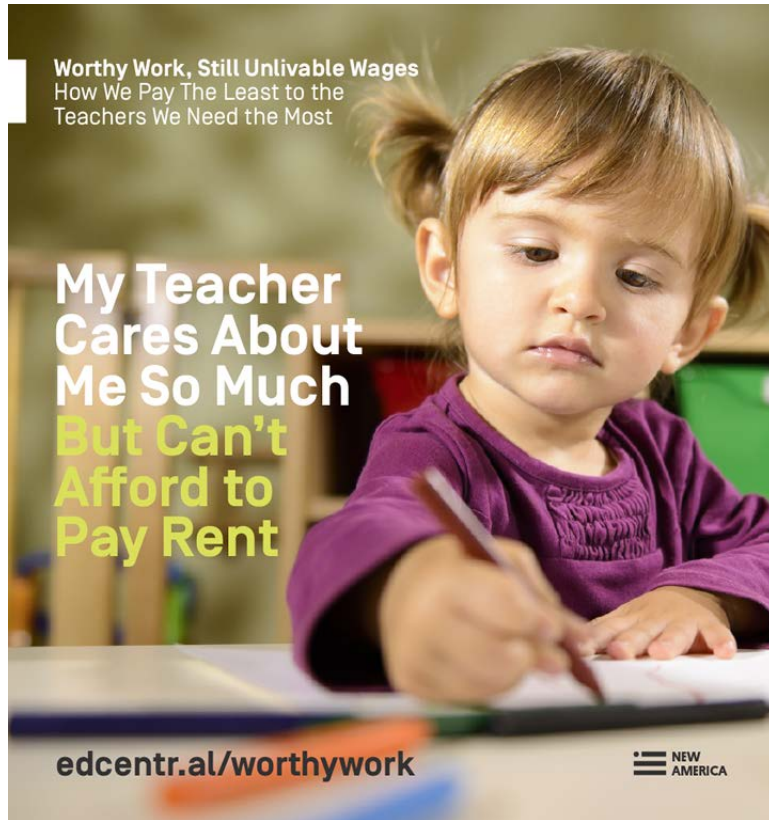
Connecting Adult Well-being to Child Outcomes





Signs of poor health among Head Start teachers in PA were 35 percent more common than the U.S. population.

Whitaker, et al., 2013, Temple University.



A system-wide lack of support for early educators has caused many, including their families, to rely on public benefits to stay afloat, to the tune of approximately \$1.5 billion per year.

THANK YOU!



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