

Highlights of Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Child Care Survey



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As a background for deliberations of the Financing Universal Early Care and Education Project, this paper highlights information collected on current utilization of early care and education in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The survey was conducted by the Social and Economic Survey Research Center at Washington State University, under direction of the Human Services Policy Center (HSPC) at the University of Washington. The survey was sponsored by the Cleveland Foundation.

Percent of Children in Child Care

The percent of all children using any amount of each type of child care each week are presented in Charts 1a, 1b, 1c, and 2 and summarized below:

- ✓ **Center care** is used by just over a quarter of children age 0-5 [Chart 1c]. Less than 10% of children age 6-12 are in center care. This translates to approximately 29,000 children age 0-5 and 13,000 children age 6-12 in center care each week.
- ✓ **Family child care (FCC)** is used by about 10% of children in each age group; approximately 13,000 children age 0-5 and approximately 12,000 children age 6-12 are in FCC for some amount of time each week [Chart 1c]. However, only a fraction of these children are in certified FCCs.¹ According to administrative records, approximately 3,000 0-5 year olds and 1,400 6-12 year olds receive care from about 2,800 certified FCC facilities in Cuyahoga County.
- ✓ **Family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care** is utilized by 61% of children age 0-5 and 57% of children age 6-12. Approximately 67,000 children age 0-5 and 82,000 children age 6-12 use some amount of FFN care each week.
- ✓ Only a small percent of children (0-2%) **combine FCC** with center care, Head Start or ECEAP; 4-8% combine FCC with FFN care [Chart 2].

Thus, while there may have been substantial increases in the availability and use of certified FCC in Cuyahoga County, there remains a potentially large unmet demand since

¹ Certification status of FCCs is based on parent reports. Parents are often not aware, and this may report incorrectly, the certification and license status of FCCs.

approximately 149,000 children age 0-12 are in FFN care who might switch to FCC if supply and access were expanded.

There are no significant differences in rates of use of different types of care for children in Cleveland's urban center compared to the suburban ring.²

Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care by Detailed Type

The percent of children in FFN care by detailed type are presented in Chart 1c and summarized below:

- ✓ **Grandparents** provide the largest share of FFN care, caring for 43% of children age 0-5 and 32% of children age 6-12.
- ✓ **Other relatives** care for 13% of children age 0-5 and 21% of children age 6-12.
- ✓ **Friends and neighbors**, babysitters or nannies, and other non-relatives provide the remaining amount of FFN care.
- ✓ Only a small percent (8%) of school-age children are in **before-after school programs**, but a majority (56%) are engaged in **lessons, clubs or sports**.

Primary Care Arrangements

Information on children's primary non-parental care arrangements is presented in Charts 3a and 3b. Primary care is defined as the arrangement used at least five hours a week and more than any other type of non-parental care.

- ✓ **Center, Head Start, or ECEAP** is the primary care arrangement for about one in five children between 0 and 5 years old and for about one in sixteen children between 6-12 years old [Chart 3a].
- ✓ **FCC** is the primary care arrangement for between 1% and 4% of children in each detailed age group, except infants where the percent of children in FCCs is higher (7%) [Chart 3b].
- ✓ **FFN care** is the primary arrangement for about 30% of young children and 40% of school-age children [Chart 3a].

Differences in primary care arrangements between children in Cleveland's urban center and the suburban ring are not statistically significant for either age group.

Hours per Week in Care

The number of hours per week that children are in each type of care are summarized in Charts 4a, 4b, and 4c.

- ✓ For **young children** (age 0-5) in center care, the median number of care hours is about 25 hours per week, while the median for FCC is about 9 hours per week

² The zip code breakdown to represent the urban center and suburban ring was provided to us by the Cleveland Foundation.

[Chart 4c]. The median hours in care for young children in FFN care is between 3 and 6 hours per week.

- ✓ For **school-age children** (age 6-12) in center care, the median number of care hours is about 30 hours per week, while the median for FCC is about 20 hours per week [Chart 4c]. The median hours in care for school-age children in FFN care is between 5 and 20 hours per week.
- ✓ Hours in care vary by specific age groups, with infants spending fewer hours in center care but more in FCC than their older pre-school counterparts. Toddlers and children age 6-8 spend more time in center care than children in any other age group. The amount of time in FFN care increases for school-age children [Chart 4a].

We found no significant differences in average hours of care between Cleveland's urban center compared to the suburban ring.

Percent of All Care Hours in Each Type of Care

Taking into account how many children use each type of care and how much time they spend in that care, we computed the proportion of all care hours provided by each type. These results are presented in Charts 5a and 5b and summarized below:

- ✓ **Centers and Head Start** provide more than a quarter of the care for all children and 41% of all care for 0-5 year olds, mostly for toddlers (39%) and pre-schoolers (51%). Center care comprises 20% of all care hours for 6-8 year olds and 13% of all care hours for 9-12 year olds [Charts 5a and 5b].
- ✓ **FCC** provides 11% of all care for all children, with the highest proportion of FCC hours being for infants (31%). FCC provides about 5-9% of all care hours for children age 1 to 2, 3 to 5, and 9-12. For children age 6-8, it provides 14% of all care [Chart 5a].
- ✓ **FFN care** accounts for 61% of all non-parental care and is highest for children age 9-12 (78%). Grandparents provide more than a third of all non-parental care hours [Charts 5a and 5b].

Use of Evening and Weekend Care

The percent of children participating in evening and weekend care is detailed in Chart 6a and summarized below:

- ✓ About 40% of children age 0-5 and more than half of children 6-12 in **FCCs** receive some of this care during evening or weekend hours, primarily uncertified FCCs.
- ✓ A majority of children cared for by **grandparents** (71% for ages 0-5 and 54% for ages 6-12) and **other relatives** (56% for ages 0-5 and 60% for ages 6-12) are in this care for at least some time in the evening or on weekends. Approximately half (48%-57%) of children in **friend or neighbor** and **sitter or nanny care** spend some time in evening or weekend care.
- ✓ Across all care types, over half (about 62%) of all children in non-parental care are in care at least some on evenings or weekends.

The amount of time spent in evening and weekend care and the proportion of care during evenings are detailed in Charts 6b, 6c, and 6d and summarized below:

- ✓ For **children in centers** during evening and weekend hours, the median number of care hours is about 8 hours per week for 0-5 year olds and 6-12 year olds during these times [Chart 6b]. Evening or weekend center care hours account for a very small percentage of all **center hours**: 3% for 0-5 year olds and 14% for 6-12 year olds due to the small number of children using center care on the evenings or weekends [Chart 6c].
- ✓ The median number of care hours per week children spend in evening and weekend **FCC** is about 4 hours for 0-5 year olds and 6 hours for 6-12 year olds [Chart 6b]. Evening or weekend **FCC hours** account for about 17% of all FCC care for young children (0-5) and about a third of all FCC hours for school-age children (6-12 year olds) [Chart 6c].
- ✓ For care by **grandparents and other relatives**, the median number of hours children spend in care on evenings or weekends ranges from 3 to 8 hours [Chart 6b]. Between 33 to 59% of all relative care is during these non-standard hours, depending on the type of relative and age of child.
- ✓ Summing across **all the evening and weekend care hours** for children that receive evening and weekend care, the median number of care hours is 4 to 10 hours of evening or weekend care per week, depending on the child's age group [Chart 6b].
- ✓ For most children in evening and weekend care, the majority of their care hours are spent in care during this time, with the exception of care by friends or neighbors [Chart 6d].

Based on the above data, a major consideration in choosing FFN care over FCC for children age 0-5 may involve the availability or desirability of that care during evening or weekend hours.

Children with Special Needs

Information on care for children with special needs is presented in Chart 7 and summarized below:

- ✓ Approximately one in sixteen children age 0-5 and one in thirteen children age 6-12 are reported by their parents to have a special physical, emotional or developmental condition that affects decisions about their care.
- ✓ There are **no significant differences** between the percent of children with and without special needs in each type of care.

In summary, children with special needs use each type of care at equal rates as other children and a significant number of providers are serving children with special needs and should have appropriate training and support.

Type of Care by Family Income and Marital Status

Information on childcare utilization by family income and marital status are presented in Charts 8a, 8b, and 8c and summarized below.

- ✓ Children age 0-5 in households with incomes above 2 times the federal poverty line are significantly more likely to be in **FCC** and children age 6-12 are significantly less likely to be in this type of care. In other words, the significant association between income and the use of FCC is reversed for children of different ages. Other differences in the likelihood of using each type of care by household income are not significant.
- ✓ The average hours per week children age 0-5 spend in **center care** is significantly higher for low-income families than for higher income families (39 hours per week compared to 25 hours per week) [Chart 8c]. We found no other significant differences in the time spent in other types of care for children of either age group by household income.
- ✓ Children of single parents are significantly more likely to be in **center care** among 0-5 year olds and **FCC** among 6-12 year olds than children with married parents [Chart 8b]. No other differences in the likelihood of being in each type of care were found.

Child:Adult Ratios

Child:adult ratios for the different types of care are presented in Chart 9 and summarized below:

- ✓ **Centers and Head Start** average 8.5 children per adult for children 0-5 years old and 8.2 children per adult for children 6-12 years old.
- ✓ **FCC** averages 2.2 children per adult for young children (age 0-5) and 1.4 children per adult for school-age children (6-12).
- ✓ **FFN care** averages 1.4 children per adult for young children, and 1.1 children per adult for school-aged children.

Payments for Care

Information on payments for care are presented in Charts 10a, 10b, and 10c and summarized below:

- ✓ The price parents pay for **FCC** averages \$3.75 for children age 0-5 and \$2.79 for children age 6-12 [Chart 10a].
- ✓ The price parents pay for **center care** averages \$4.66 for children age 0-5 and \$2.95 for children age 6-12 [Chart 10a].
- ✓ **Three quarters of parents using FFN care pay nothing.** For those who do pay, the prices paid are close to that of center care: \$4.67 per hour for younger children and \$2.82 for school-age children [chart 10a].
- ✓ Only 26% of eligible households report receiving a government subsidy for children 0-5 and only 9% of eligible households report receiving a subsidy for children age 6-12 [Chart 10b].

- ✓ **Most subsidies are for center care**, for which 63-82% of all eligible households using center care report receiving subsidies (excluding Head Start, which is subsidized for all participants) [Chart 10b].
- ✓ No households with children 0-5 using FCC report receiving a subsidy, which is similar to the 3% for children of the same age group in paid family, friend and neighbor care [Chart 10b].

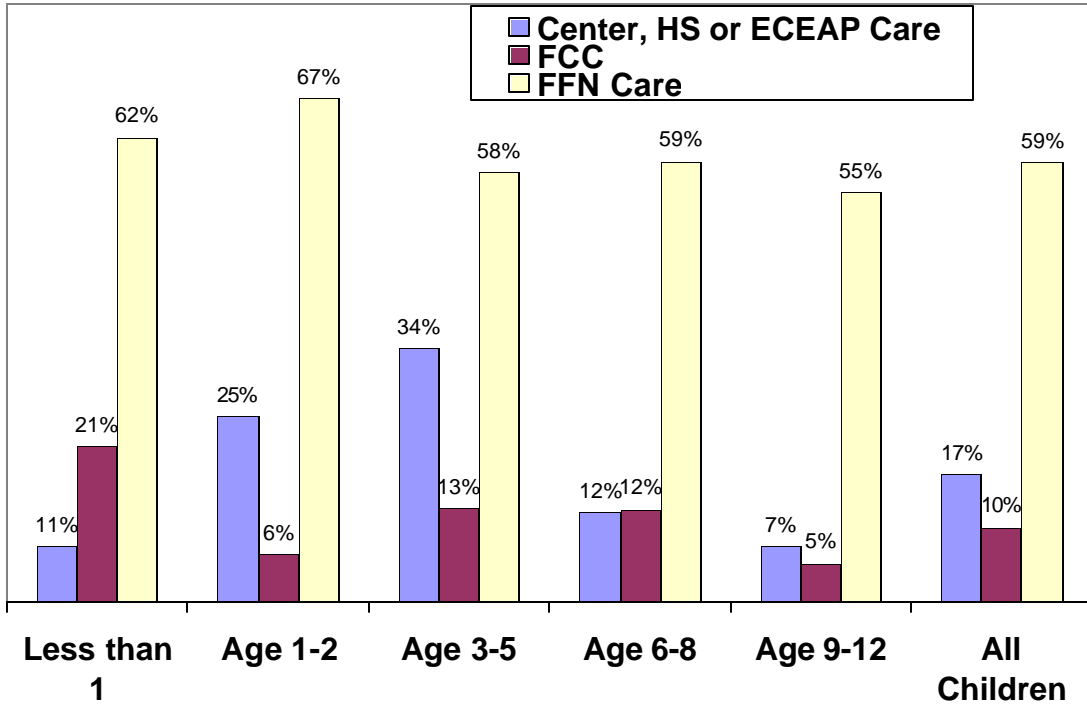
It is important to note that supplementary analysis reveals that subsidy participation varies by income *within* eligible households. The percent of children receiving subsidies reported here represent an average across all eligible incomes.

Parent Values and Reasons for Selecting Primary Care Arrangement

Information on parent's childcare values and reasons for selected their primary care arrangement are provided in Charts 11a, 11b, and 12 and summarized below. Parents report a diversity of reasons for choosing their primary care arrangement for their child.

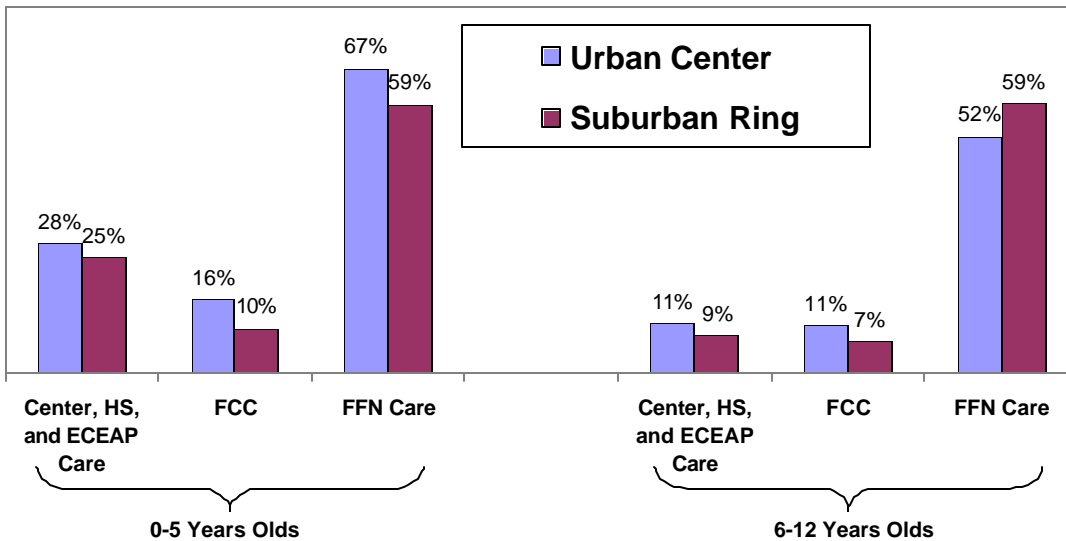
- ✓ **For children age 0-5** [Chart 11a]:
 - Familiarity with the provider/recommendation is the top reason for choosing FCC and FFN care. This finding is especially true for FFN care.
 - Location and staff training and credentials are most prevalent reasons for the selection of center care.
 - Child:adult ratios and caregiver's discipline styles are more likely to be a reason for choosing FCC as primary than for other types of care.
- ✓ **For children age 6-12** [Chart 11b]:
 - Familiarity/recommendation, location, and liking aspects of the care are the main reasons reported by parents selecting center care.
 - Familiarity/recommendation, child:adult ratio, and discipline style are the most prevalent reasons for FCC choice;
 - Familiarity/recommendation, location, aspects of the care, and convenient hours are most relevant to the selection of FFN care.
- ✓ **Overall**, a warm and loving teaching style, a known and trusted caregiver, the caregiver's discipline style, and stimulating and enriching activities are the features of child care valued by the most parents in Cuyahoga County [Chart 12]. They are considered very important by 80-90% of parents.
- ✓ The training and credentials of the provider, physical facilities, providers with similar values, and the number of children per caregiver are highly valued by 71-79% of the parents [Chart 12].
- ✓ Convenient location and cost are given relatively low values overall (39-60%), but seem to play a large role in parent's specific choices [Chart 12].
- ✓ Similar racial, ethnic or language background receive the lowest scores, being important to only 10-19% of parents [Chart 12].

Chart 1a: Percent of All Children in Non-Parental Care at Least Some Time Each Week by Detailed Age Groups, Cuyahoga County



Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Chart 1b: Percent of All Children in Non-Parental Care at Least Some Time Each Week Within Cuyahoga County*



*Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Note: No differences between Cleveland and the balance of the county are significant at $p < .05$.

Chart 1c: Percent of All Children in Non-Parental Care at Least Some Time Each Week by Detailed Types, Cuyahoga County

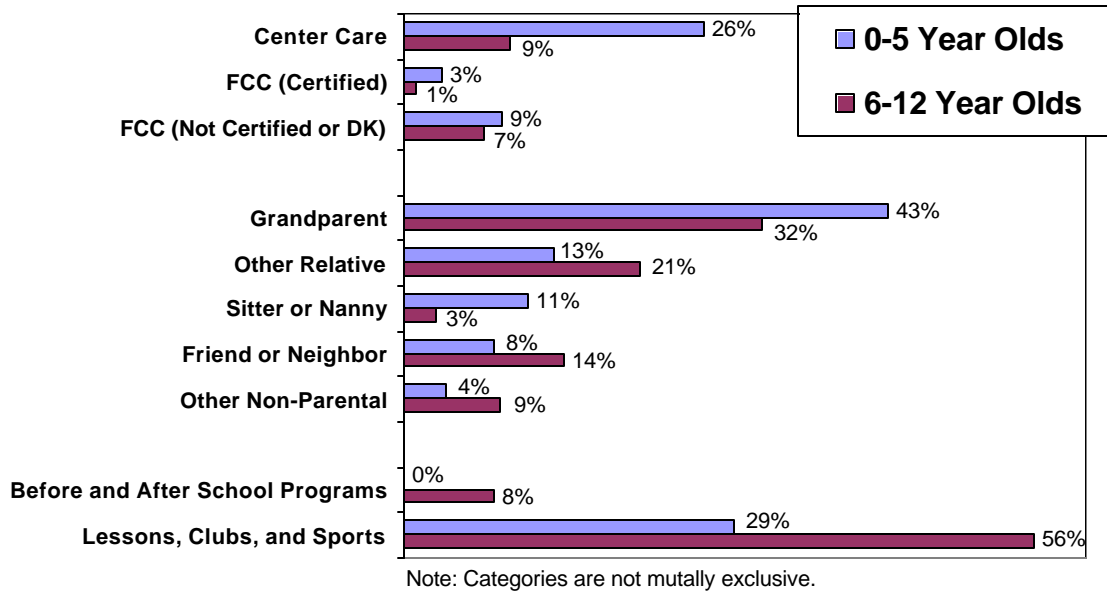


Chart 2: Percent of Children in Each Combination of Center Care, FCC, and FFN Care at Least Some Time Each Week, Cuyahoga County

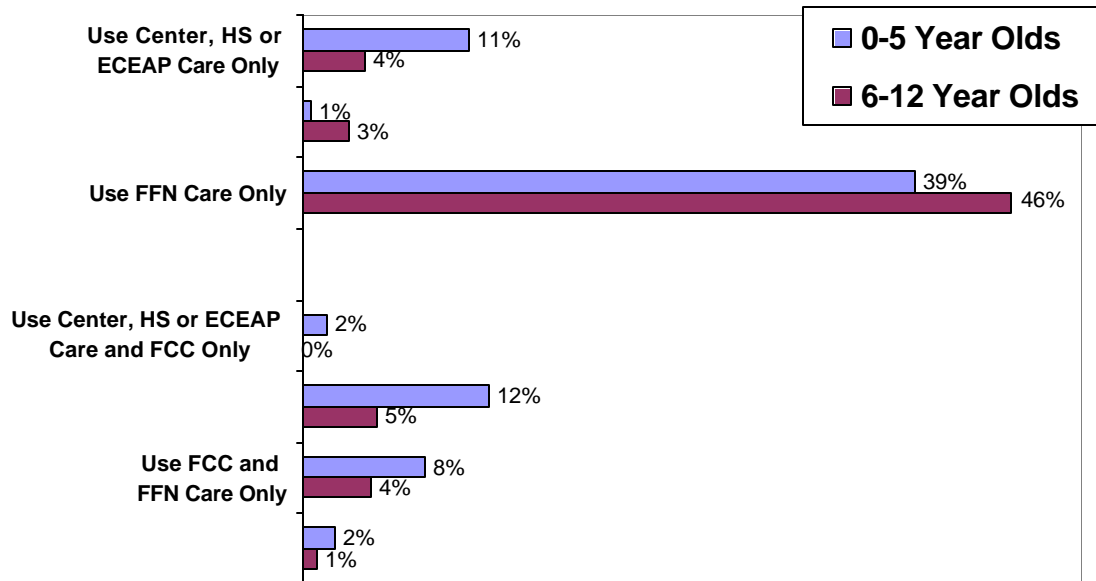


Chart 3a: Percent of All Children with Each Type of Primary Care Arrangement by Detailed Age Groups, Cuyahoga County*

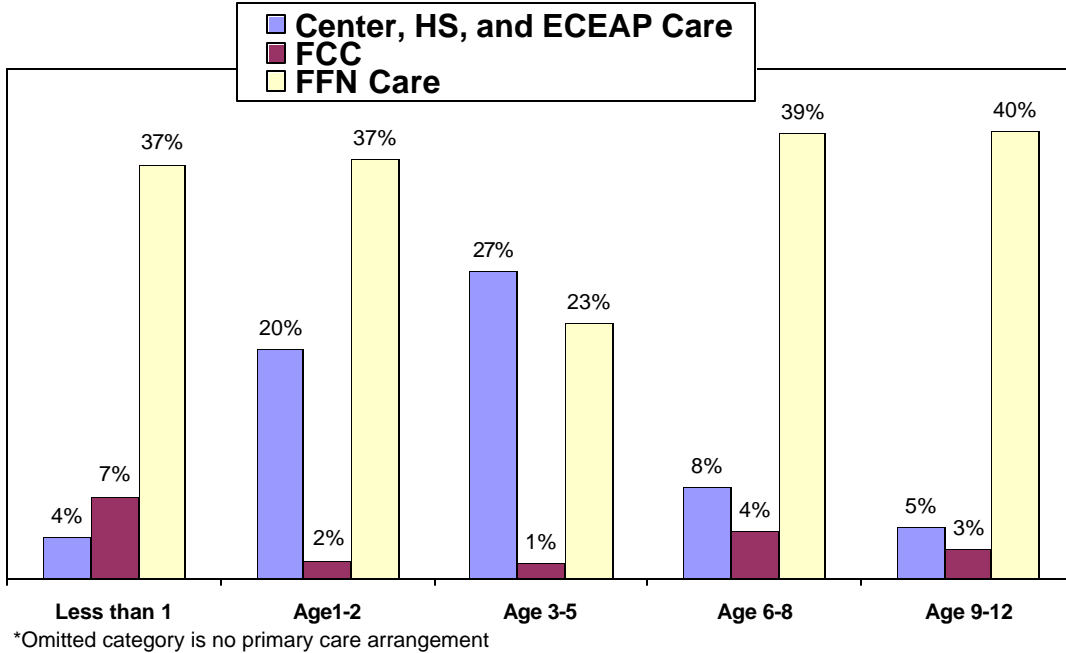
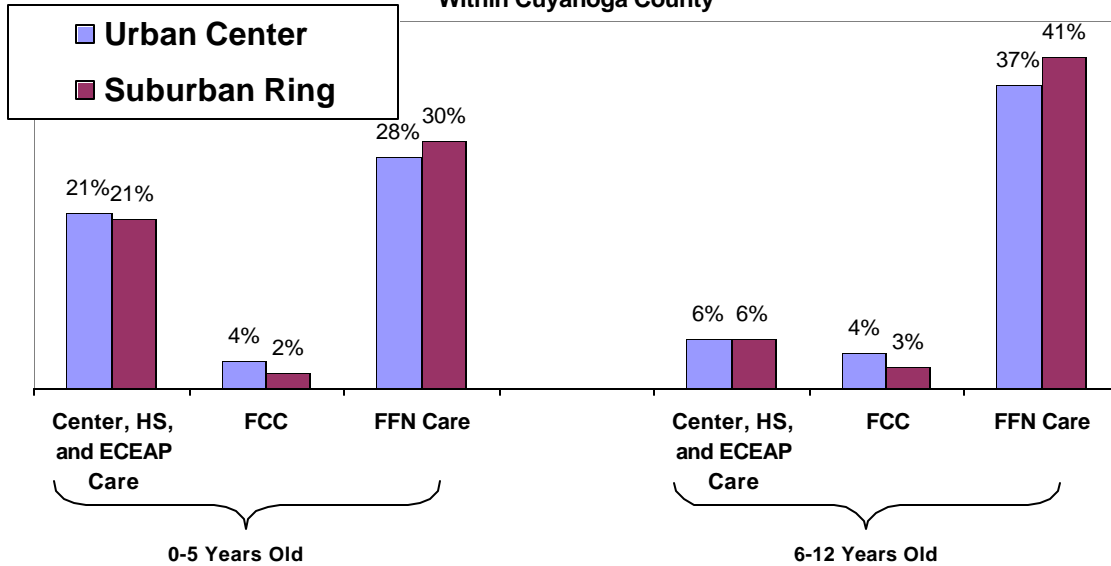
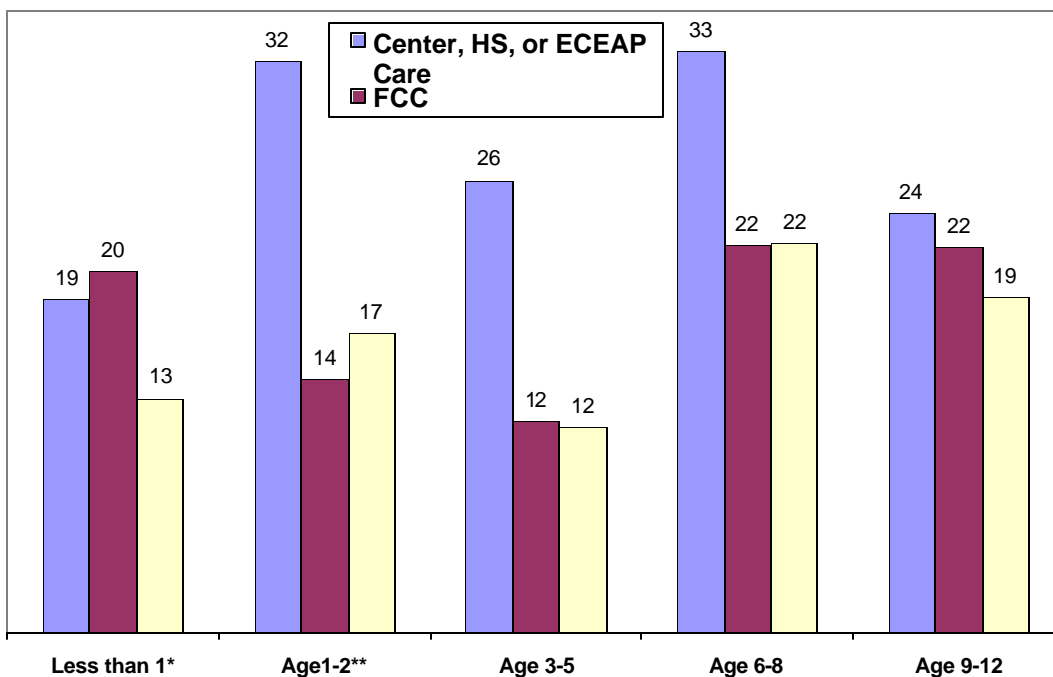


Chart 3b: Percent of Children with Each Type of Primary Care Arrangement Within Cuyahoga County



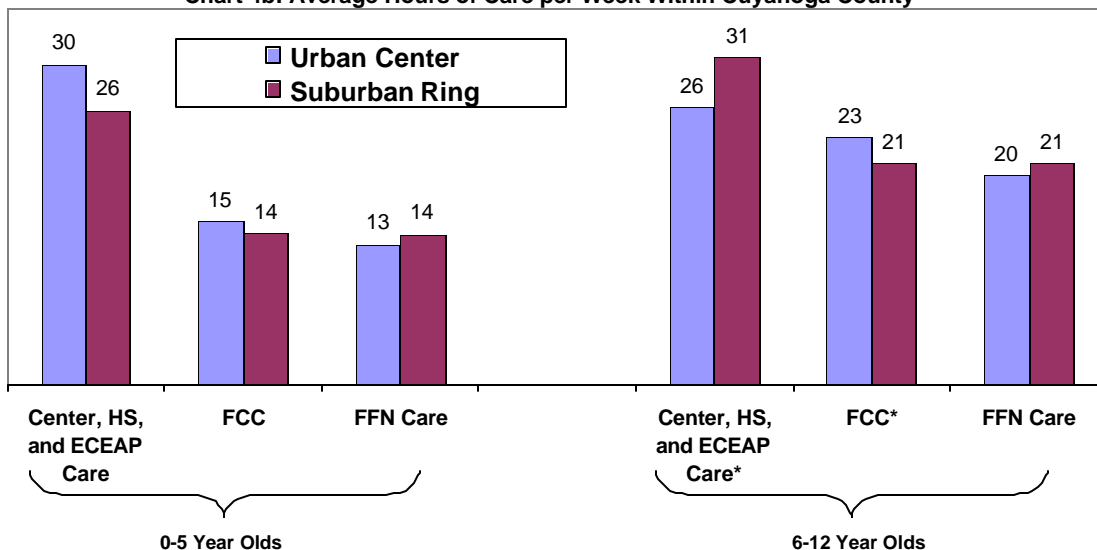
Note: No differences are significant at

Chart 4a: Average Hours of Care per Week for Children in Each Type of Care by Detailed Age Groups, Cuyahoga County



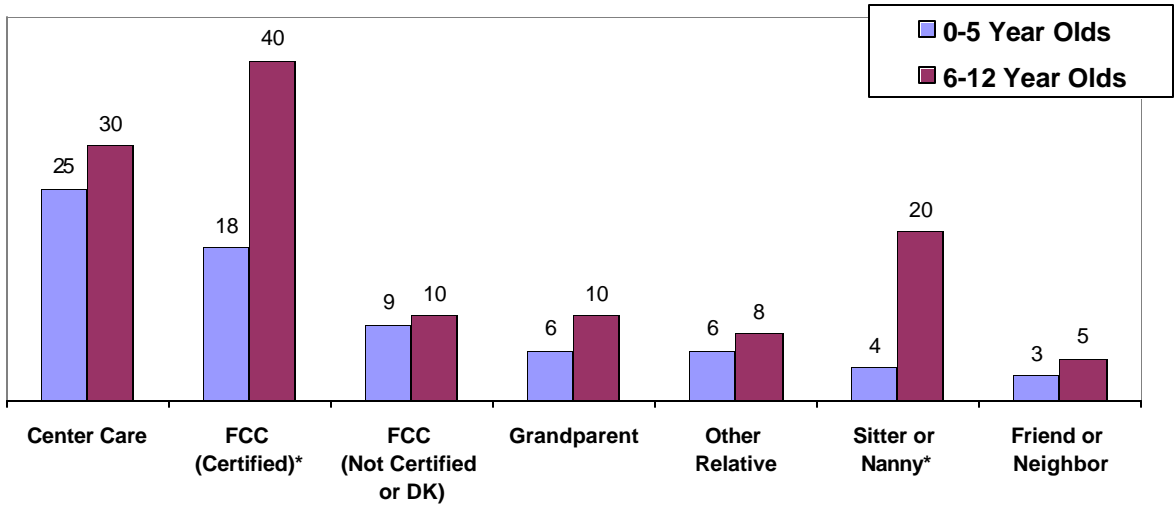
*Based on less than 10 cases for center care estimate.
 ** Based on less than 10 cases for FCC estimate.

Chart 4b: Average Hours of Care per Week Within Cuyahoga County*



Note: No differences are significant at $p < .05$.
 * Based on less than 10 observations for the urban center estimate.

Chart 4c: Median Hours of Care per Week for Children in Each Type of Care by Detailed Type, Cuyahoga County



*Based on less than 10 cases for estimates for both age groups.

Chart 5a: Percent of Aggregate Care Hours in Each Type of Care by Detailed Age Groups, Cuyahoga County

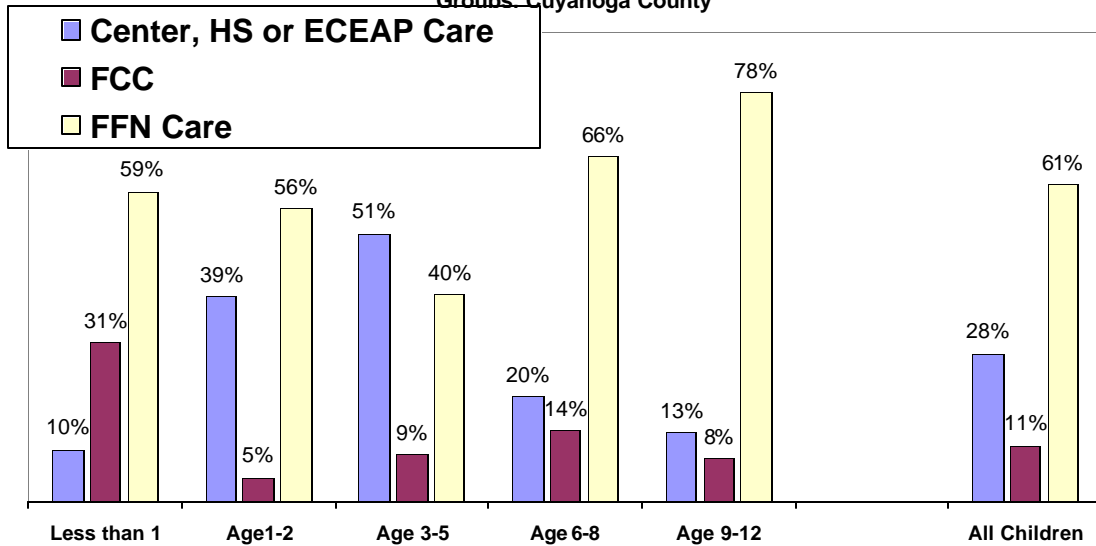


Chart 5b: Percent of Aggregate Care Hours In Each Type of Care by Detailed Types, Cuyahoga County

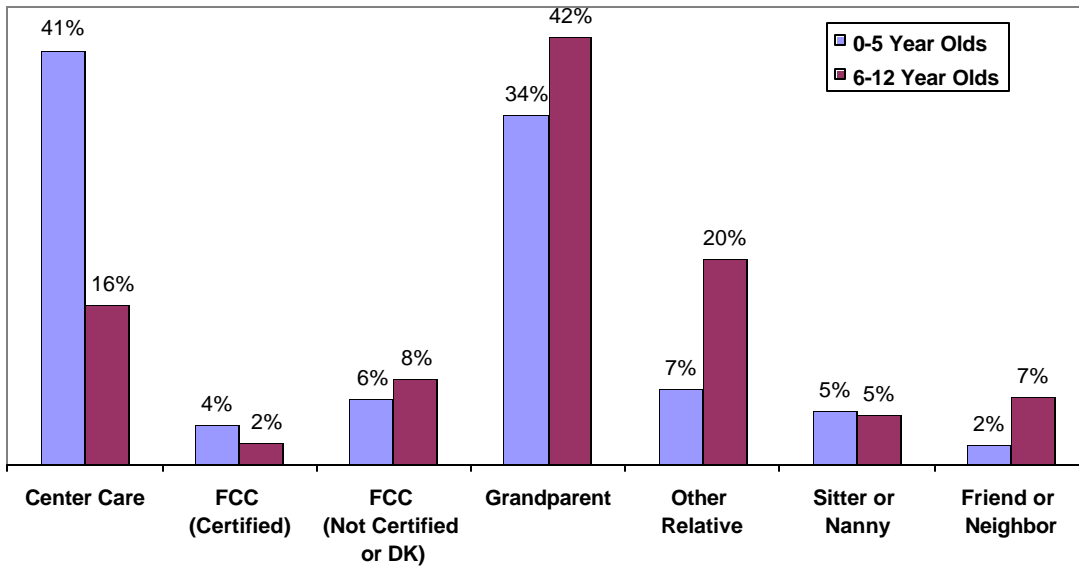
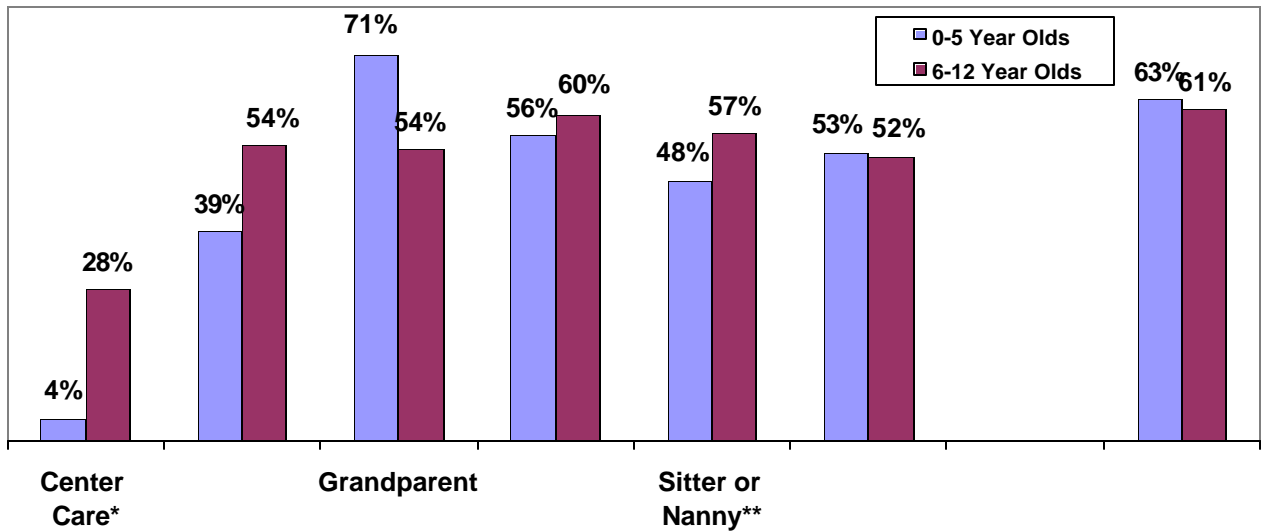


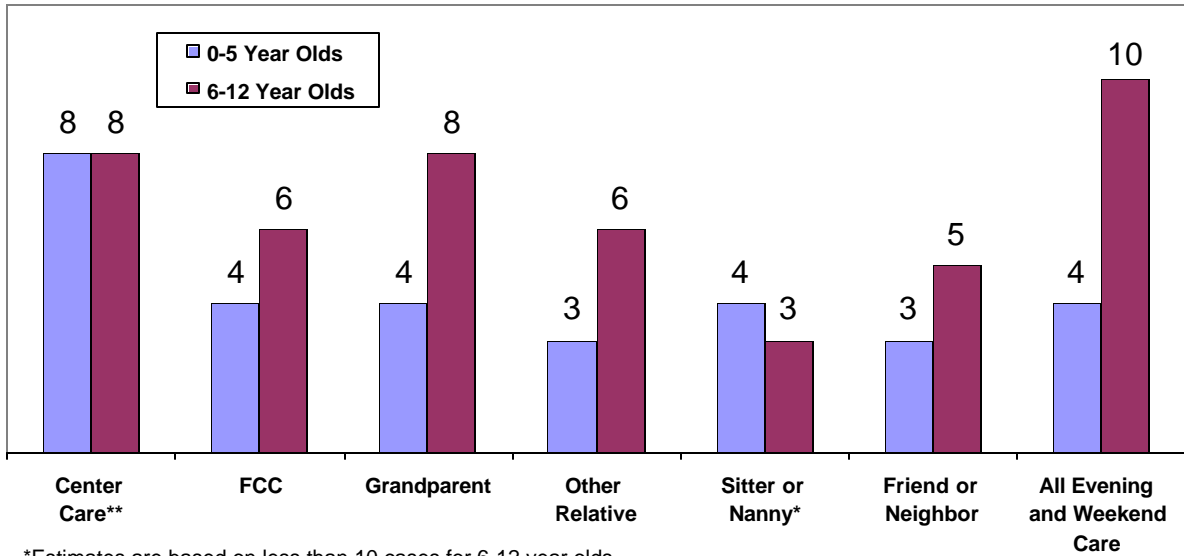
Chart 6a: Percent of Children In Some Evening and Weekend Care for Those Using Each Type of Care, Cuyahoga County



* Based on less than 10 observations for the 0-5 year old age group.

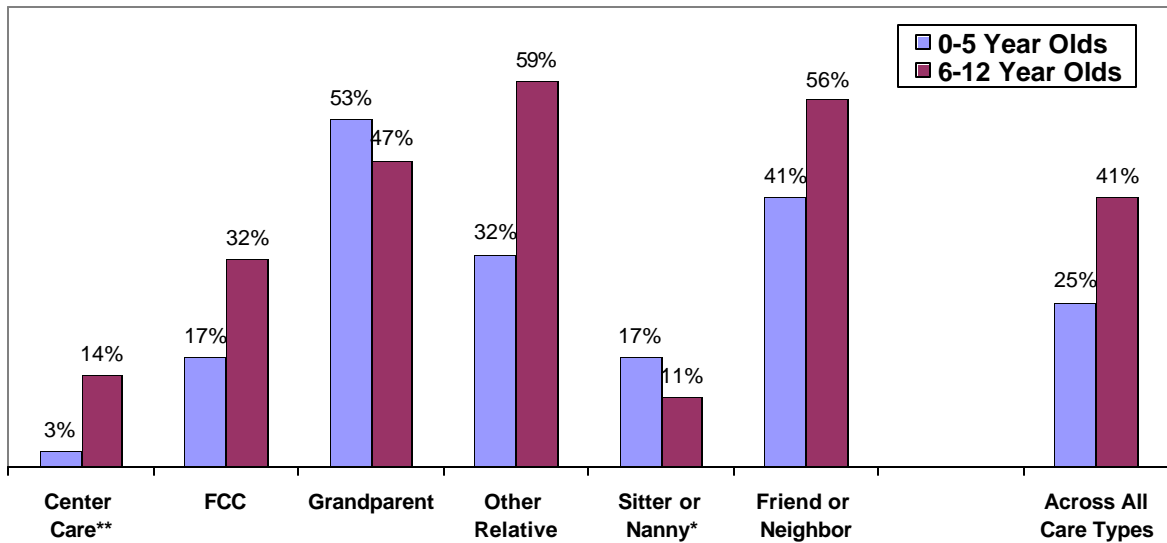
** Based on less than 10 observations for the 6-12 year old age group.

Chart 6b: Median Hours per Week Spent in Evening and Weekend Care for Children in at Least Some Evening and Weekend Care, Cuyahoga County



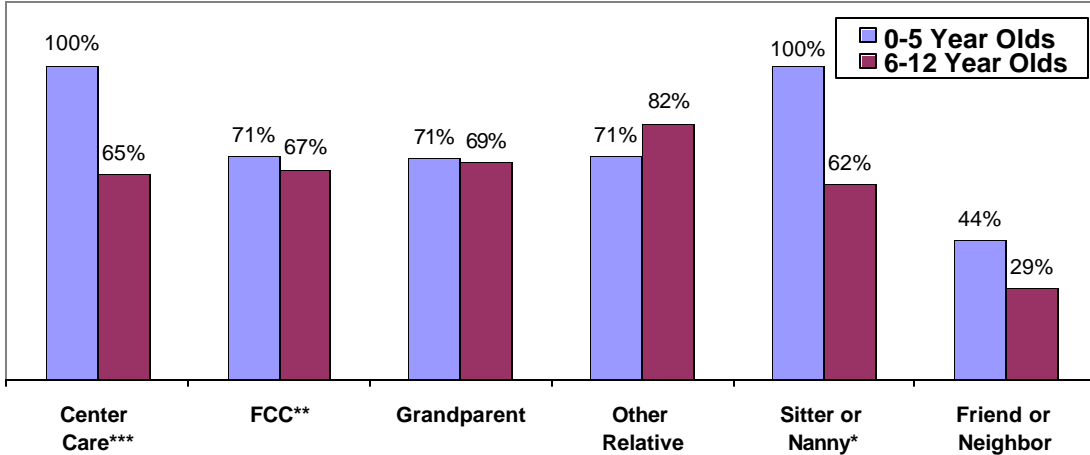
*Estimates are based on less than 10 cases for 6-12 year olds.
 **Estimates are based on less than 10 cases for both age groups.

Chart 6c: Percent of All Care Hours per Week Spent in Evening and Weekend Care, Cuyahoga County



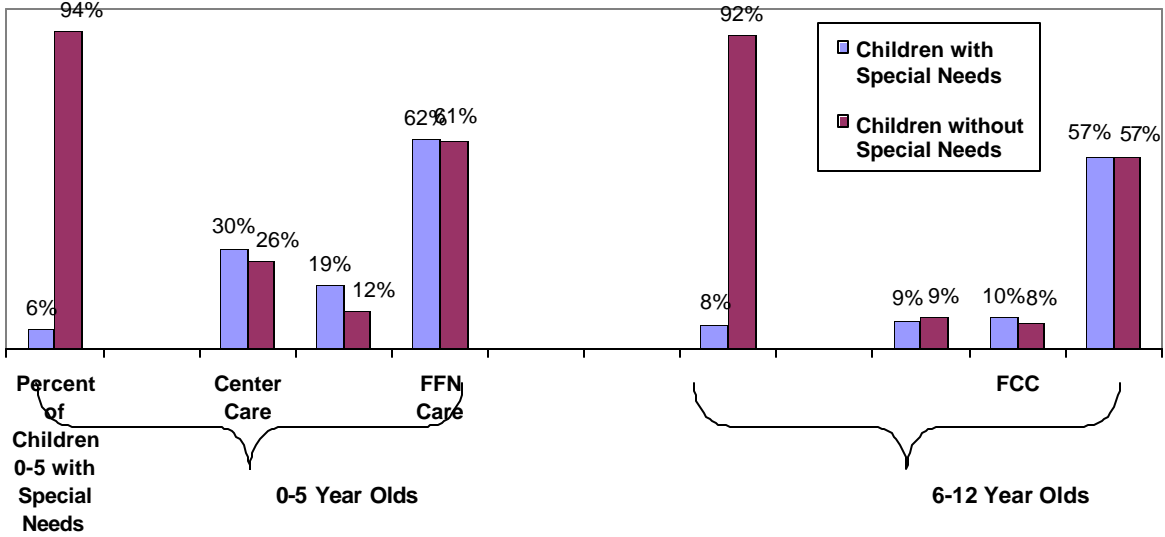
*Estimates are based on less than 10 cases for 6-12 year olds
 **Estimates are based on less than 10 cases for both age groups

Chart 6d: Percent of All Care Hours That are Evening and Weekend Hours Among Children in Evening and Weekend Care, Cuyahoga County



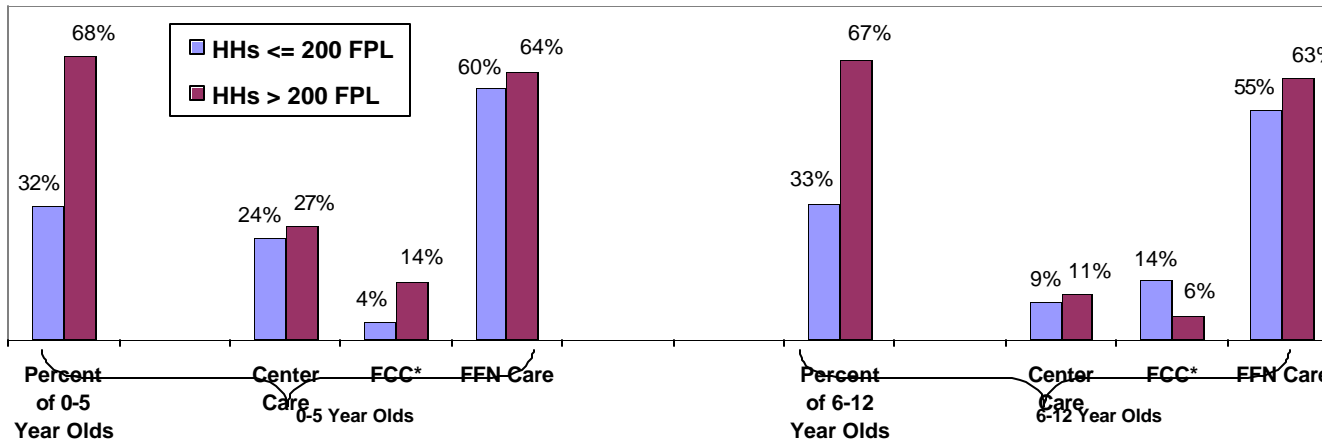
*Estimates are based on less than 10 cases for 6-12 year olds.
 **Estimates are based on less than 10 cases for 0-5 year olds
 ***Estimates are based on less than 10 cases for both age groups

Chart 7: Percent of Children in Each Type of Care among Children with and without Special Needs, Cuyahoga County



Note: No differences are significant at $p < 0.05$.
 In Cuyahoga County, 6% of 0-5 year old children and 8% of 6-12 year old children have special needs.

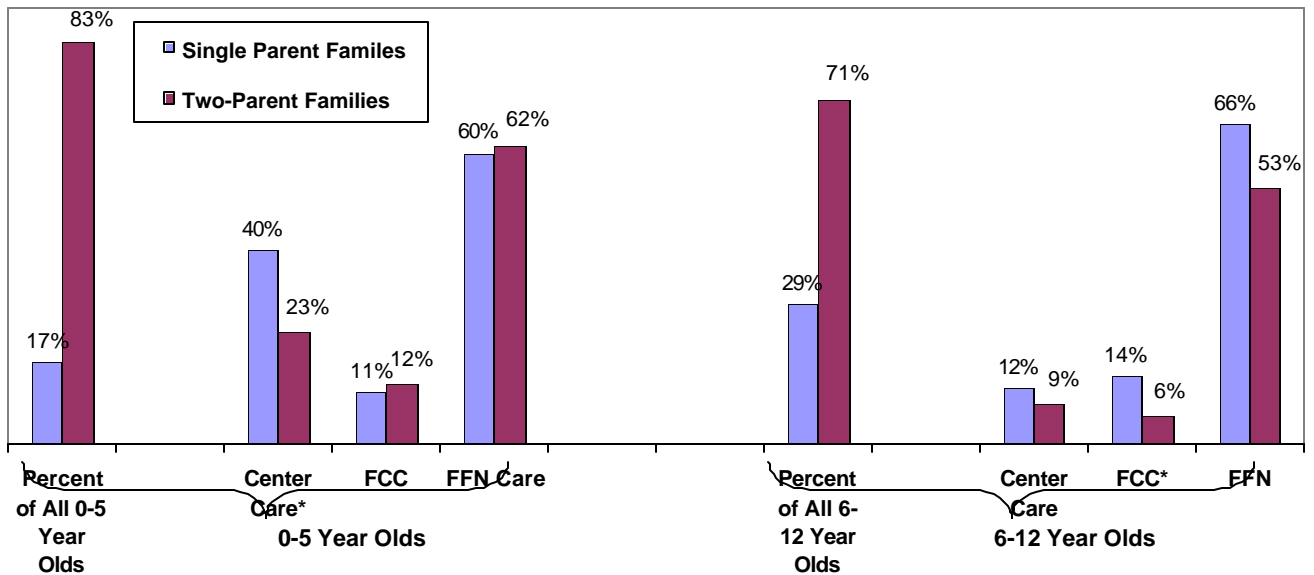
Chart 8a: Differences in the Percent of Children in Each Type of Care for Households Below and Above 2 x FPL, Cuyahoga County



*Differences are significant at $p < .05$.

In Cuyahoga County, 32% of children 0-5 years old and 33% of children age 6-12 have household incomes below the Federal Poverty Level.

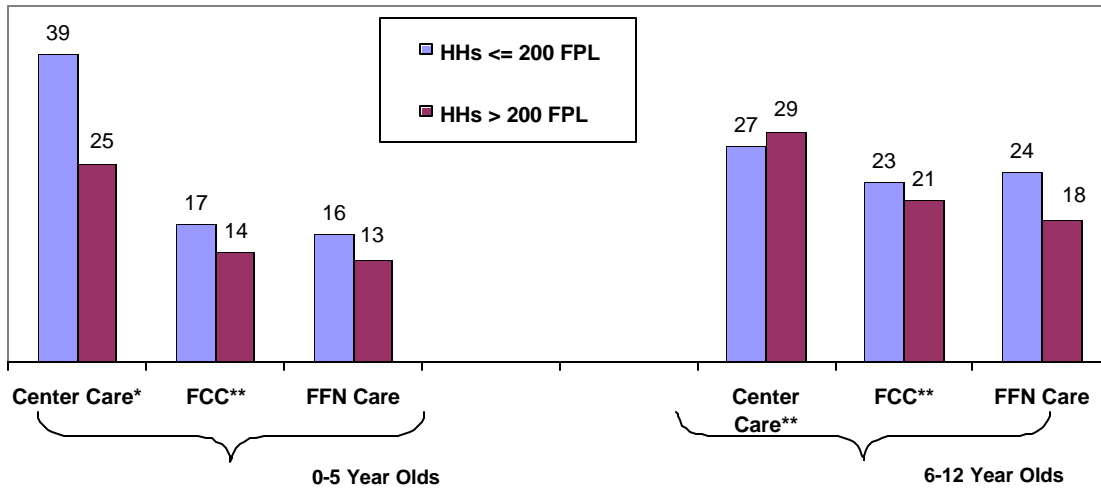
Chart 8b: Percent of Children in Each Type of Care by Parents Marital Status, Cuyahoga County



*Differences are significant at $p < .05$ - check this for 6-12 when you get all of output.

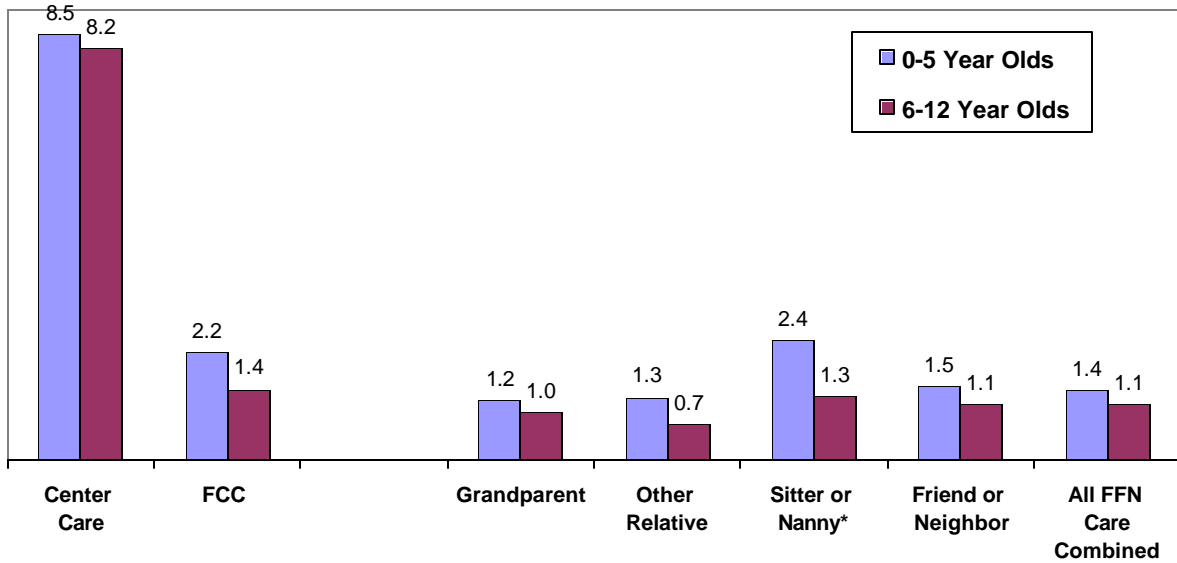
In Cuyahoga County, 18% of children 0-5 years old and 29% of children age 6-12 have live in single parent households.

Chart 8c: Differences in Average Hours of Care per week for Households Below and Above 2 x FPL, Cuyahoga County



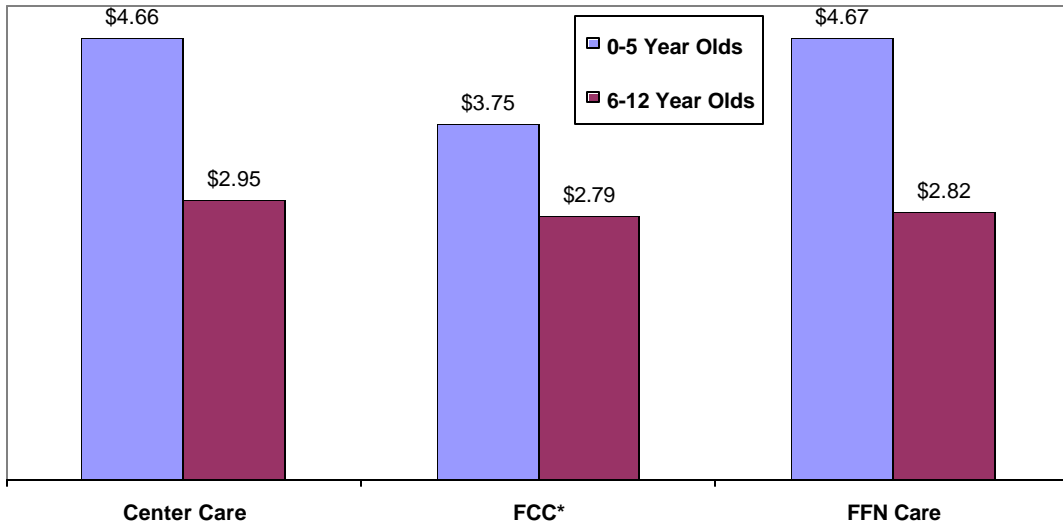
*Difference is significant at $p < .05$.
 **Based on less than 10 cases for low-income group.

Chart 9: Average Child:Adult Ratios, Cuyahoga County



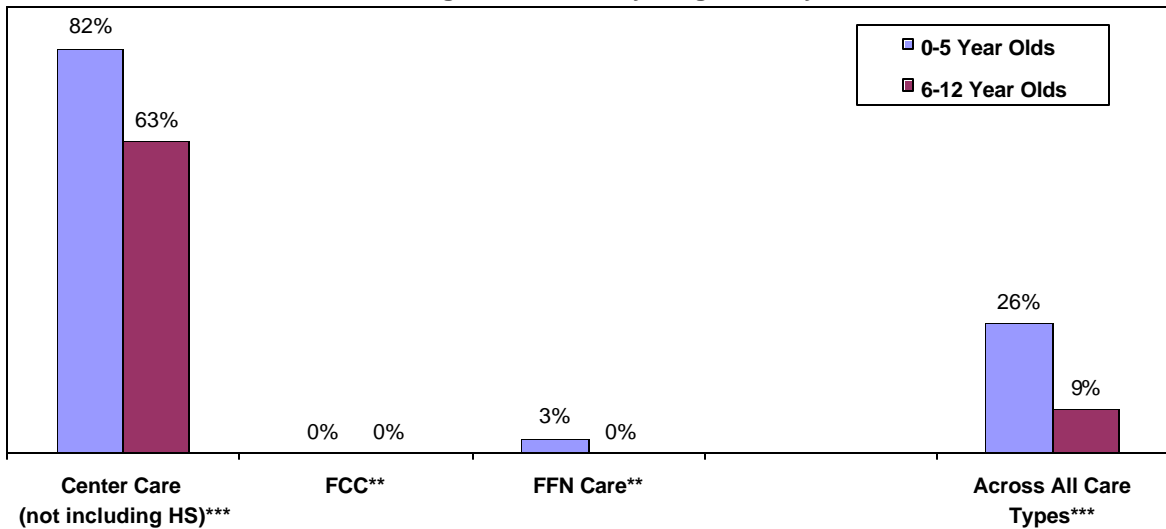
*Based on less than 10 cases for 6-12 year old group estimate.

Chart 10a: Average Price Paid for Care per Hour, Cuyahoga County



*Based on less than 10 cases for 6-12 year old group estimate.

Chart 10b: Percent of Eligible Households* Using Each Type of Care Receiving Subsidies, Cuyahoga County



*Eligible households are defined as those whose income is less than or equal to 1.85 x FPL and the mother is employed or in school or training.

**Based on less than 10 cases for both age group estimates.

***Based on less than 10 cases for the 6-12 year old age group estimate.

Chart 10c: Percent of Parents Not Paying for FFN Care, Cuyahoga County

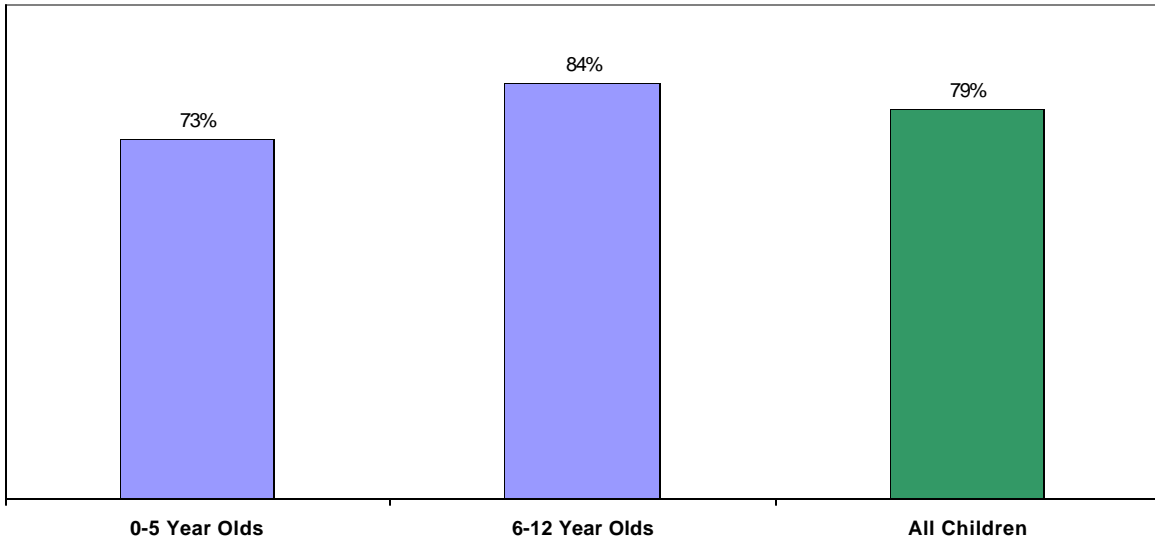


Chart 11a: Percent of Parents Selecting Each as the Main Reason for Choosing Each Care Type as Primary Care Arrangement for Children Age 0-5, Cuyahoga County*

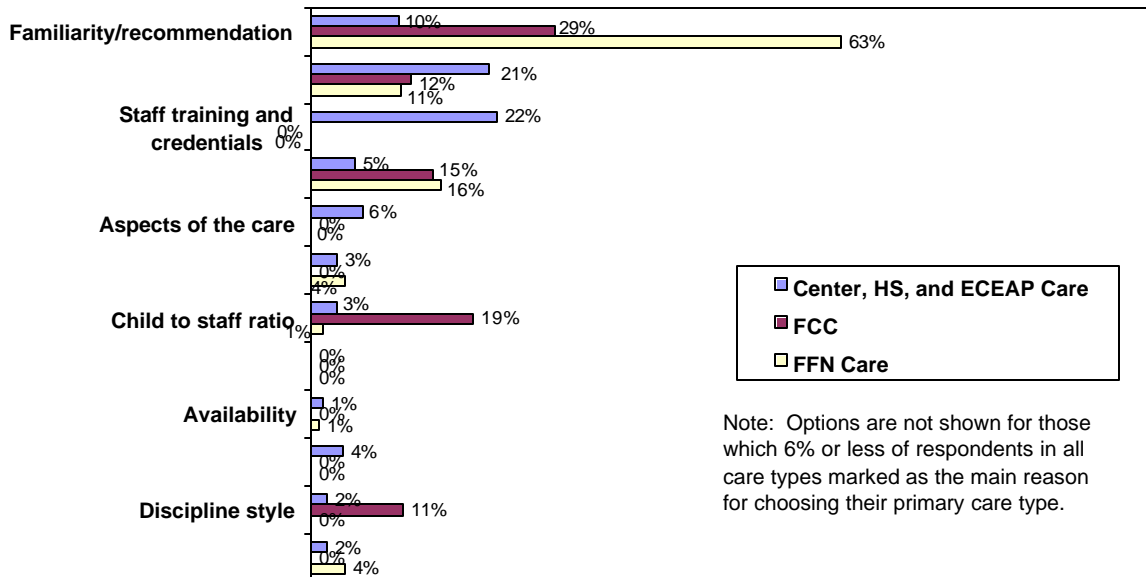


Chart 11b: Percent of Parents Selecting Each as the Main Reason for Choosing Each Type of Care as the Primary Care Arrangement for Children Age 6-12, Cuyahoga County

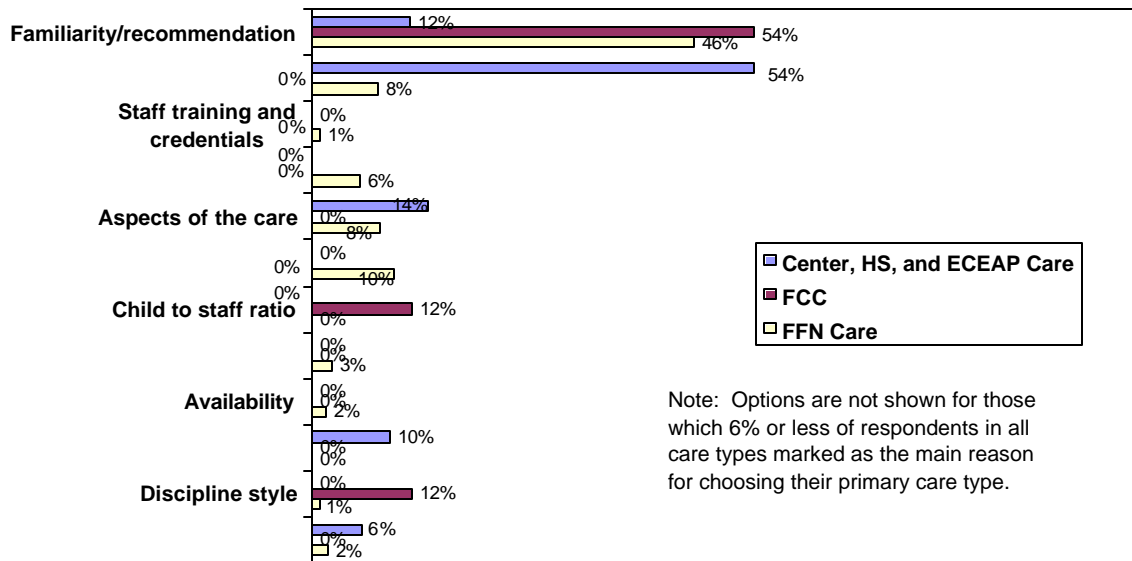


Chart 12: Parent's Values Regarding Child Care, Cuyahoga County: Percent of Parent's Responding Element is "Very Important"

