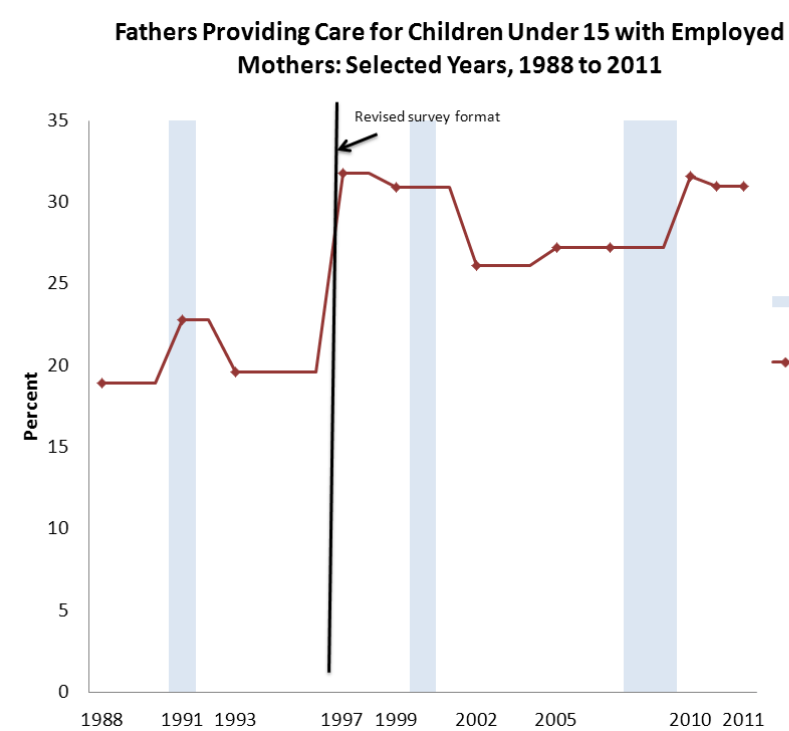


Continuity or Change in Father Provided Child Care Among Employed Mothers?

Lynda Laughlin, PhD (Lynda.L.Laughlin@census.gov)
SEHSD, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce
Annual Population Association of America Meeting, New Orleans, LA April 11-13, 2013

Background and Objectives

Changes in maternal employment, periods of economic decline, shifting work schedules, and the changing role of fatherhood are all associated with the use of father provided child care while the mother is at work.



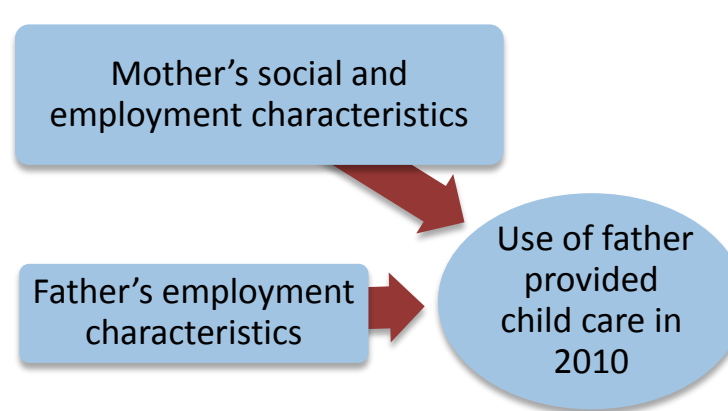
Shifts in father provided child care appear to be related to fluctuations in the economy. In 2005, a non-recession year, 27 percent of fathers provided care compared to 32 percent in 2010 (a recession year).

How consistent is father provided child care?

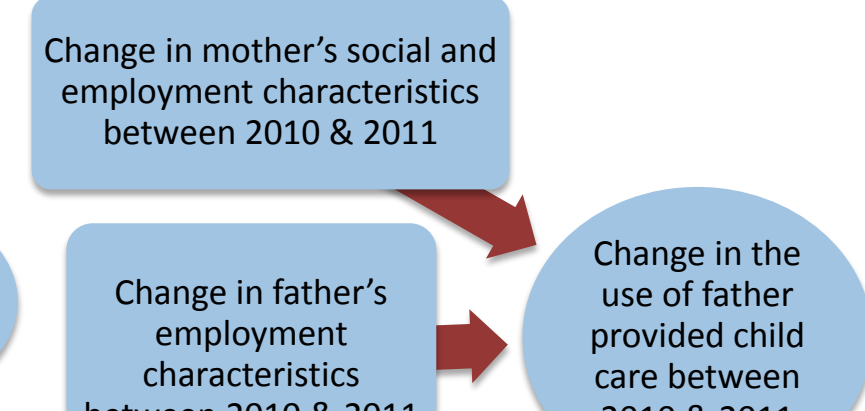
Using longitudinal data, this study examines factors associated with father provided child care in 2010 and how changes in employment, living arrangements, income and other factors impact the use of father care in 2011 among the same sample of mothers.

Conceptual models

Model 1



Model 2



Are changes in father provided child care related to changes in the father's employment situation?

Data and Methods

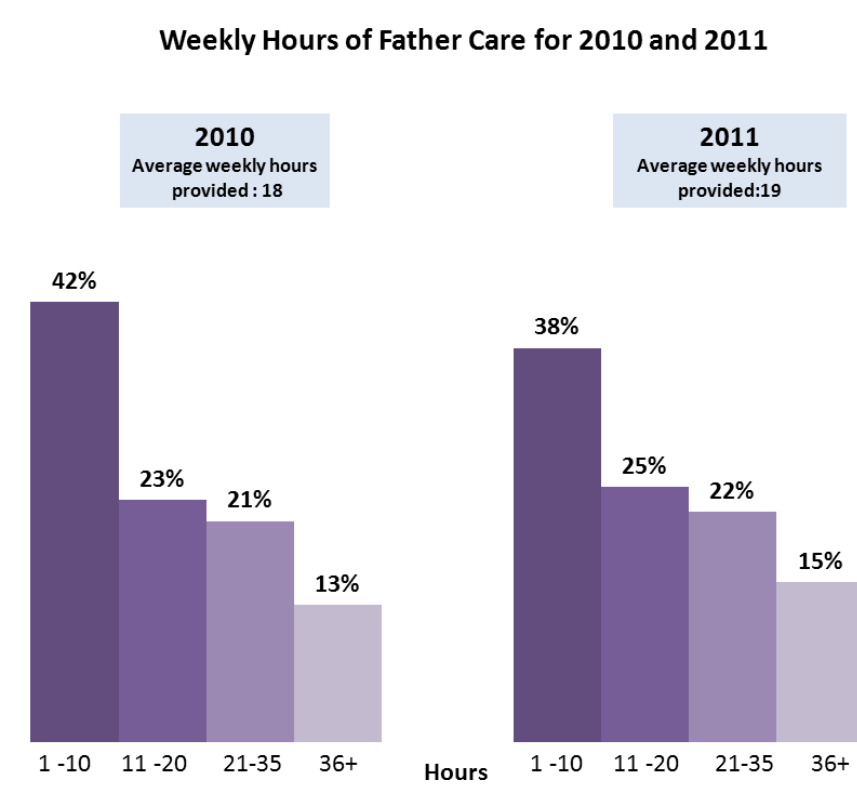
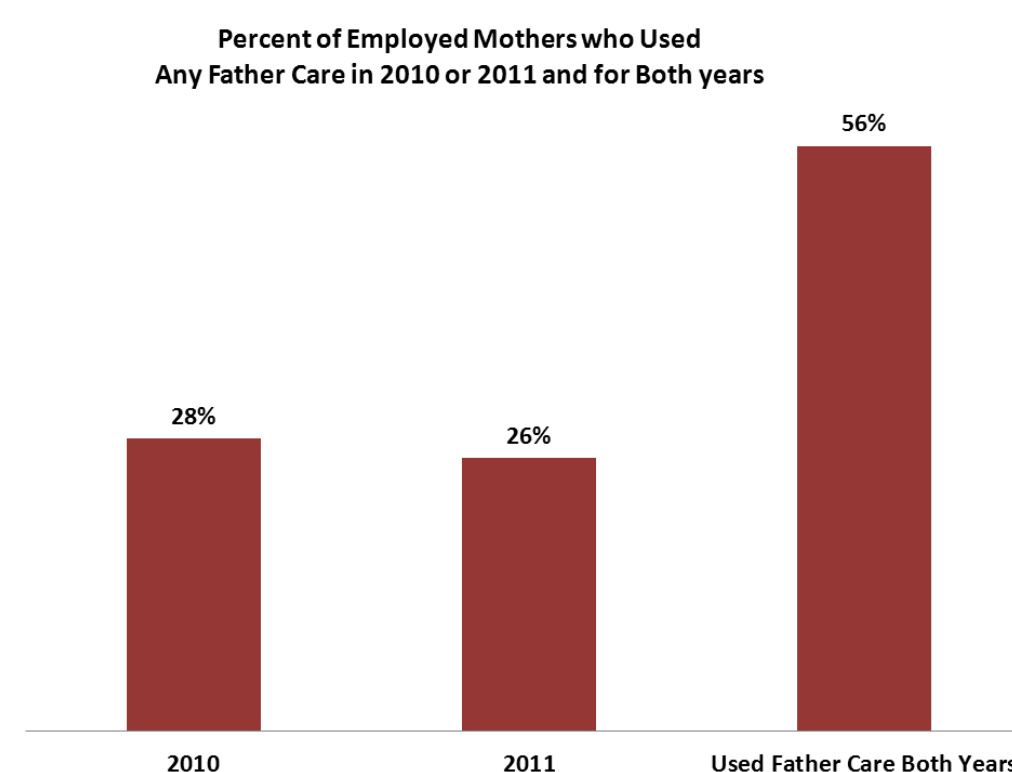
- Data:** 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), Waves 5 & 8.
- Sample:** Married, cohabiting, or single mothers who were employed in 2010 and 2011 and live with at least one child under 15.
 - Previous studies focus on married couples. SIPP data provides the opportunity to include mothers who cohabit with the father and single mothers.
- Measures and Methods:**
 - Dependent variable: Father provided child care while mother was at work. Measured as "Any father care" and "No father care".
 - Fixed-effects logistic regression is used to measure changes in the use of father provided child care between 2010 and 2011.

Continuity of Care and Who Uses Father Provided Child Care

Continuity of care

Between 2010 and 2011 father care was fairly consistent and overlapped with the mothers' work.

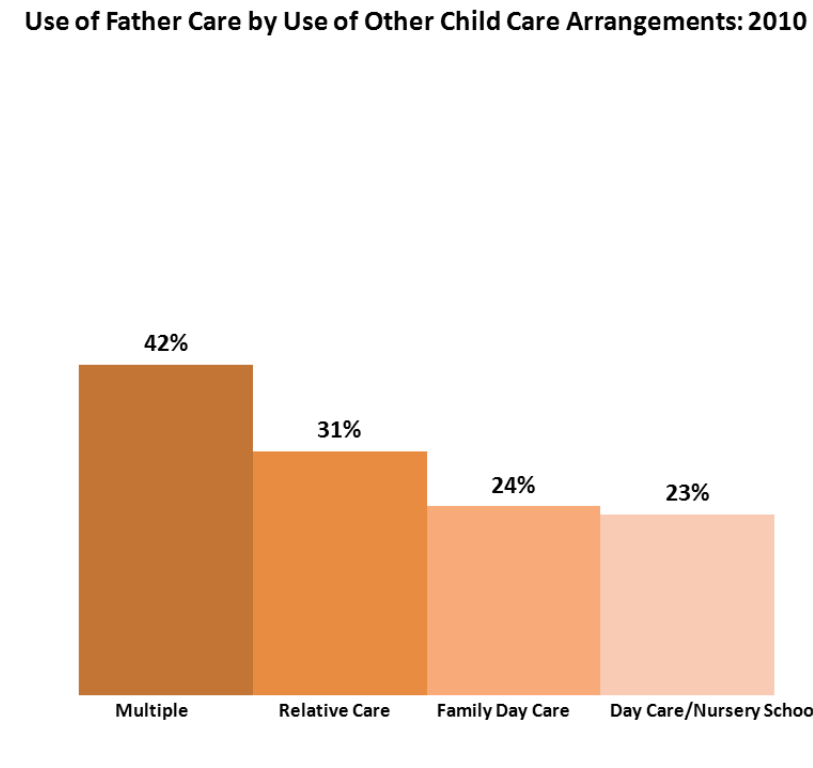
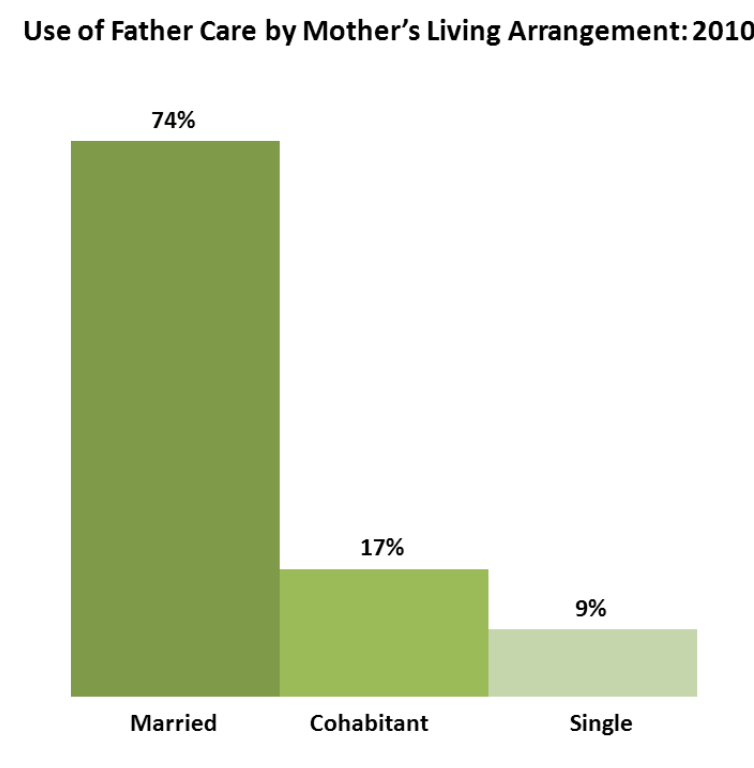
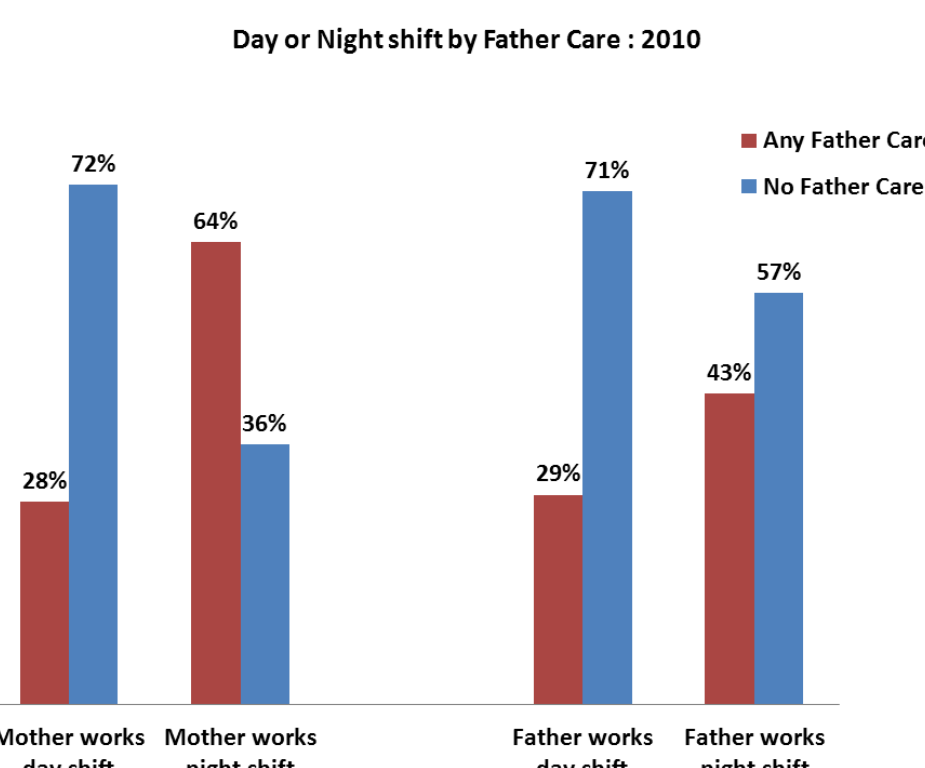
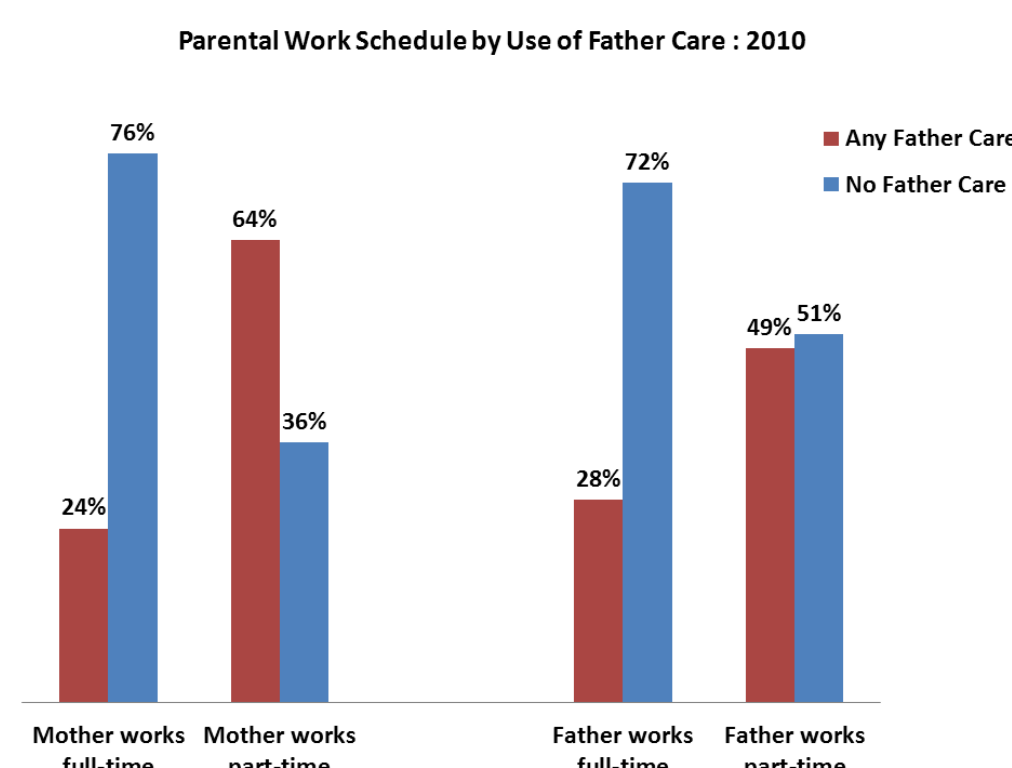
- Over half (56%) of mothers using father care in 2010 were still using father care in 2011.
- For both years, the distribution of hours of care provided by fathers is negatively skewed.
- On average, in both years, fathers covered around 60% of mothers' work hours when they provided care.



Household Characteristics

The presence of the father in the household is associated with the use of father care. Mothers who use father care also rely on other types of arrangements.

- Married mothers are more likely to use father care than cohabiting mothers (74% and 17%, respectively). Despite no father being present in the household, 9% of single mothers report using any father care in 2010.
- Mothers who use father provided child care are more likely to also use care provided by a relative than a day care facility.
- Forty-two percent reported using multiple child care arrangements while working.



Parental Employment

The number of hours worked and the time of day determine if fathers provide care.

- Half of fathers who work part-time report providing child care while the mother is at work.
- Mothers who work night shifts are more likely to use father care than mothers who work during the day (64% and 24%, respectively).
- Forty-three percent of fathers who reported they regularly worked a night shift provided child care.

Father Care in 2010 and 2011

Predicting Use of Father Provided Child Care in 2010

More likely to use Father Care	Odds Ratio
Mom works nightshift***	4.63
Dad not employed***	4.24
Dad works nightshift***	2.18
Dad works part-time*	1.79
Child under 5 in household***	1.67
Relative care*	1.25
Less likely to use Father Care	
Black***	.58
Cohabiting***	.19
Single***	.22
Day care/Nursery school**	.63

***p<.001, **p<.01, *p<.05. Full model controlled for: race, Hispanic origin, mother's education, mother's living arrangement, mother and father's work hours, mother and father's work shift, father's employment status, other child care usage, children under 5 in household, monthly family income, and father's proportion of the monthly family income.

- Black mothers are less likely to use father care than White mothers.
- Single and cohabiting mothers are less likely to use father care than married mothers.
- Mothers who use a day care center are less likely to use father care.
- Mothers who work a night shift are 4.6 times more likely to use any father care than those who work a day shift. Fathers who work a night shift are 2.2 more likely to provide care than those who work a day shift.

Change in the Use of Father Provided Child Care in 2011

Fixed-Effects Logistic Regression for Any Use of Father Provided Child Care in 2011: Selected Time Varying Variables

More likely to use Father Care	Odds Ratio
Dad not employed***	3.42
Relative care**	1.70
Less likely to use Father Care	
Cohabiting**	.23
Single*	.26

***p<.001, **p<.01, *p<.05. Full fixed-effects model controlled for: change in the mother's living arrangement, change in mother or father's work hours, change in mother or father's work shift, change in father's employment status, change in use of child care, change in the number of children under 5 in the household, change in monthly family income, change in father's proportion of the monthly family income.

- The odds of using father care was 3 times as high in 2011 when dad was not employed compared to 2010 when he was employed.
- For mothers who cohabit with the father, the odds of father care was only 23 percent as large as when they were married.

Changes in the father's employment situation is associated with changes in the use of father provided child care.

Summary

Several important conclusions can be drawn from the current examination of the use of father provided child care among employed mothers.

- Fifty-six percent of mothers who used father care in 2010 also used father care in 2011.
- Households where parents lived together and where parents work non-standard hours are more likely to use father provided child care.
- Changes in the fathers employment characteristics influence father care, but not the mother's.
- Changes in the mother's living arrangements (such as cohabitation or single, rather than married) are associated with a decrease in father care between 2010 and 2011.
- Future research should consider changes in father's employment and child care.