



**NEWS RELEASE
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**FIRST LARGE-SCALE STUDY FINDS CHILD CARE
IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH SPREAD OF COVID-19**

Yale University study found no association between child care and the spread of COVID-19 to providers; Children’s Forum available to discuss recommendations for local providers, parents, and policymakers

TALLAHASSEE, FL (October 16, 2020) -- A new study conducted by researchers at Yale University shows that child care programs that remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic did not contribute to the spread of the virus to providers.

The study, which was supported by the efforts of the National Workforce Registry Alliance (NRWA) and workforce registries throughout the country, was [published this week on the website for *Pediatrics*, the peer-reviewed journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics](#), and is the first large-scale assessment of the risk to child care providers working throughout the pandemic.

The findings showed that exposure to child care was not associated with an elevated risk of spreading COVID-19 from children to adults, provided the child care programs took multiple safety measures, including disinfecting, handwashing, symptom screening, social distancing, mask-wearing, and limiting group size.

In total, Yale researchers surveyed 57,000 child care providers in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, which represented 71.3% of America’s counties (2,241 of 3,141).

“Although the impact of COVID-19 on the early childhood field has been devastating, we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel,” said Phyllis Kalifeh, President and CEO of the Children’s Forum. “Now that we know early

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educators in child care settings did not contribute to the spread of COVID-19, we need to work on reopening child care programs so that families can return to work. The pandemic has demonstrated that early educators are essential workers and are vital for our economic infrastructure.”

The study comes as policymakers are weighing the implications of reopening businesses and community institutions, sometimes without crucial data needed to assess risks and benefits. Fortunately, registries provide an important link to the workforce as well as workforce data. When tapped into, it can be used to inform policy decisions, put a finger on the pulse of workforce needs, and inform the field on workforce equity and pipeline demographics.

No differences in COVID-19 outcomes were observed between workers who continued to provide in-person care for young children and those who did not. These findings suggest that child care providers assume no heightened risk from their work – assuming that workplaces keep following core health and safety practices.

“Until now, decision makers had no way to assess whether opening child care centers would put staff at greater risk of contracting COVID-19,” Dr. Gilliam said. “This study tells us that as long as there are strong on-site measures to prevent infection, providing care for young children doesn’t seem to add to the provider’s risk of getting sick.”

The Yale Child Study Center at the Yale School of Medicine improves the mental health of children and families, advances understanding of their psychological and developmental needs, and treats and prevents childhood mental illness through the integration of research, clinical practice, and professional training. To learn more, visit medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/.

The Children’s Forum is a statewide, nonprofit organization with an uncompromising vision to make Florida a state where children grow and thrive in quality environments and where families have access to information, resources, and options to assist them in their parenting roles. Through a broad array of programs, services, research and advocacy, the Forum is committed to achieving our vision and expanding opportunities for success. Visit www.flchild.com to learn more about our efforts.

For more information or to set up an interview, please contact:

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