

Survey Questionnaire for “Parents’ Earnings and the Returns to Universal Pre-Kindergarten.”

This document provides the survey questionnaire used in “Parents’ Earnings and the Returns to Universal Pre-Kindergarten” by John Eric Humphries, Christopher Neilson, Xiaoyang Ye, Seth Zimmerman. The working paper is available at <https://www.nber.org/papers/w33038>

Survey Questionnaire

Dear Parent,

We are inviting you to take this survey as New Haven Public School records indicate that your child previously participated in the pre-kindergarten choice process for the New Haven Public Schools. If eligible, you will be entered into a sweepstakes for the chance to receive one of 25 \$100 rewards for taking our survey.

Your feedback is important and will be used to improve the pre-k programs in the New Haven Public Schools. Thank you very much for taking the survey!

Your responses are CONFIDENTIAL meaning that your individual responses will not be shared. Neither your name nor your child’s name will be shared with anyone outside of the research team.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Yale’s NHPS pre-k survey team at (203) 432-5820 or nhps_prek_survey@yale.edu.

Sincerely,

New Haven School Choice Research Team Yale University

Do you consent?

(a) Yes

(b) No

1. Please describe your relationship to (child name)

(a) Mother

- (b) Father
- (c) Stepmother
- (d) Stepfather
- (e) Grandmother
- (f) Other, please specify:

2. Can you confirm that, in [PROCESSYEAR], your child

[IF STATUS=1: participated in the New Haven Public Schools' School Choice Process and applied to at least one New Haven Public School free magnet pre-k program, but did not get offered a slot]

[IF STATUS=2: enrolled in a New Haven Public School free magnet pre-k program]

[IF STATUS=3: was offered a New Haven Public School free magnet pre-k program slot, but did not enroll]?

(a) Yes,

IF STATUS=1: my child applied to an NHPS pre-k program in [PROCESSYEAR], but was not offered a slot

IF STATUS=2: my child enrolled in an NHPS pre-k program in [PROCESSYEAR]

IF STATUS=3: my child applied to an NHPS pre-k program in [PROCESSYEAR] and was offered a slot, but we chose not to enroll

(b) No, to my knowledge, this information is not correct.

If answer to question 2. was (b), then

3. Which best applies:

- (a) My child enrolled in an NHPS magnet pre-k program
- (b) My child applied to an NHPS magnet pre-k program, but was not offered a slot
- (c) My child applied to an NHPS magnet pre-k program and was offered a slot, but I chose not to enroll
- (d) To my knowledge, my child did not apply for a slot at an NHPS magnet pre-k program.

If answer to question 3. was (d), the following message was displayed

Thank you for your time today. Unfortunately you are not eligible for this study. We appreciate your participation.

Otherwise, respondents were re-classified in three categories:

1. **Enrolled** if answer to question 3 was (a)
2. **Applied but no offer** if answer to question 3 was (b)
3. **Received offer but chose not to enroll** if answer to question 3 was (c)

If **Enrolled**:

We would now like to ask you about your experiences with NHPS's pre-k program.

4. Thinking back to when your child was enrolled in NHPS's pre-k, how satisfied were you with your child's experience?

1. Overall

- (a) Very dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Very satisfied
- (f) Not applicable

2. The quality of the teachers and instruction

- (a) Very dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Very satisfied
- (f) Not applicable

3. The quality of the facilities

- (a) Very dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Very satisfied
- (f) Not applicable

4. The quality of communication between the program and your family

- (a) Very dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Very satisfied

- (f) Not applicable
5. The other children and families enrolled in the program
- (a) Very dissatisfied
 - (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
 - (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 - (d) Somewhat satisfied
 - (e) Very satisfied
 - (f) Not applicable

The next few questions ask you to think back to when your child was enrolled in New Haven Public Schools' pre-k program, and to think about what options for pre-k or childcare you would have used *if you had not been able to enroll your child in the NHPS pre-k program.*

5. If your child had not enrolled in the NHPS pre-k program, what best describes the childcare or pre-k option that you would have used for the child?

Select the best option available. If you are uncertain or don't recall, please choose the option you think would have been most likely.

- (a) I would have **not enrolled** my child in any pre-k or daycare program
- (b) I would have **enrolled** my child in a pre-k or daycare program or service

If answer to question 5. was (a), the following question was displayed:

6. If you had not enrolled in the NHPS pre-k program, who would have most likely watched over the child during the day prior to kindergarten?

Select the best option available. If you are uncertain or don't recall, please choose the option you think would have been most likely.

- (a) The mother, father, or other legal guardian would have taken care of the child
- (b) Another family member would have taken care of the child
- (c) A family friend or neighbor would have taken care of the child
- (d) A babysitter or other childcare provider would been paid to take care of the child
- (e) Other, please specify:

If answer to question 5. was (b), the following question was displayed:

7. If you had not enrolled in the NHPS pre-k program, what best describes the type of pre-k or child-care program you think your child would have likely enrolled in?

- (a) Head Start or Early Head Start programs
- (b) Another childcare center or pre-k (not Head Start)
- (c) A paid childcare provider operating out of their home (not Head Start)
- (d) Another town's public pre-k or childcare program
- (e) Babysitter, nanny, or another private option
- (f) Other, please specify:

If answer to question 5. was (b), the following question was also displayed:

8. What was the name of the program your children would have likely enrolled in if you had not enrolled in the NHPS pre-k program ?

- (a) Program name:
- (b) I didn't have a specific program in mind
- (c) I don't remember
- (d) I prefer not to say

9. Thinking back to when your child was enrolled in an NHPS pre-k program, do you think enrolling resulted in:

1. You or other adults in your household being able to work more

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

2. Less stress about money

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

3. Better pre-kindergarten education for your child

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

If answer to question 9.1. is (a), the following question was displayed:

10. In the previous question, you said that enrolling your child in the NHPS pre-k program allowed you or another adult in your household to work more. Which of the options below describes how it changed your situation?

Select all that apply

- (a) I got a part time job
- (b) I got a full-time job
- (c) I switched from working part time to full time
- (d) I increased the number of hours I worked
- (e) Another member of the household got a part time job
- (f) Another member of the household got a full-time job
- (g) Another member of the household switched from working part time to full time
- (h) Another member of the household increased the number of hours they worked
- (i) Other, please specify:
- (j) None of the above

If Applied but no offer

NHPS pre-k programs cannot offer a slot to every family that applies. The following questions aim to help us better understand what childcare and daycare options families use when they are not able to enroll their child in the NHPS pre-k program.

11. After your pre-k application in [PROCESSYEAR], was your child ever enrolled in a pre-k or daycare program?
 - (a) Yes, I enrolled my child in a pre-k or daycare program
 - (b) No, I did not enroll my child in a pre-k or daycare program

If answer to question 11 was (b), the following question was displayed

12. Who watched over the child during the day prior to kindergarten?

Select the best option available. If more than one option was used, please select the one used most frequently that year.

- (a) The mother, father, or other legal guardian took care of the child
- (b) Another family member took care of the child
- (c) A family friend took care of the child
- (d) A babysitter or other childcare provider was paid to take care of the child
- (e) Other, please specify:

If answer to question 11 was (a), the following questions were displayed

13. What type of pre-k or child-care program was your child enrolled in?

Select the best option available. If more than one option was used, please select the one your child was enrolled in for the longest time.

- (a) Head Start/Early Head Start
- (b) Another childcare center or pre-k (not Head Start)
- (c) A paid childcare provider operating out of their home (not Head Start)
- (d) Another town's public pre-k or childcare program
- (e) Babysitter, nanny, or another private option
- (f) Other, please specify:

14. How satisfied were you with your child's experience at their pre-k or childcare program?

1. Overall

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

2. The quality of the teachers and instruction

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

3. The quality of the facilities

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

4. The quality of communication between the program and your family

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

5. The other children and families enrolled in the program

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

15. What was the name of the program that your child enrolled in?
- (a) Program name:
 - (b) I don't remember
 - (c) Prefer not to say
16. Do you believe that receiving an NHPS pre-k slot would have resulted in:
- 1. You or other adults in your household being able to work more
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
 - 2. Less stress about money
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
 - 3. Better pre-f education for the child
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No

If answer to question 16.1 was (a), the following question was displayed

17. In the previous question you said that if your child had received a slot in the NHPS pre-k program, you or another adult in your household would have been able to work more. Which of the options below describes how it would have changed your household's work situation?

Select all that apply

- (a) I would have gotten a part-time job
- (b) I would have gotten a full-time job
- (c) I would have switched from working part-time to full-time
- (d) I would have increased the number of hours I worked
- (e) Another member of the household would have gotten a part-time job
- (f) Another member of the household would have gotten a full-time job
- (g) Another member of the household would have switched from working part-time to full-time
- (h) Another member of the household would have increased the number of hours they worked
- (i) Other, please specify:

If received offer but chose not to enroll

We see that your child was offered a slot but did not end up enrolling in a NHPS pre-k program. We would now like to ask you about your decision to not enroll in the NHPS pre-k program and what childcare or daycare options your family chose instead.

18. What best describes your reason for not enrolling?
- (a) I found a better option, such as being moved off a waitlist at another program
 - (b) I moved and attending the NHPS pre-k program was no longer feasible
 - (c) Upon learning more, I decided that the NHPS pre-k program was not a good fit
 - (d) Other, please specify:
19. After your pre-k application in [PROCESSYEAR], was your child ever enrolled in a pre-k or daycare program?
- (a) Yes, I enrolled my child in a pre-k or daycare program
 - (b) No, I did not enroll my child in a pre-k or daycare program

If answer to question 19 was (b), the following question was displayed

20. Who watched over the child during the day prior to kindergarten?
- Select the best option available. If more than one option was used, please select the one used most frequently that year*
- (a) The mother, father, or other legal guardian took care of the child
 - (b) Another family member took care of the child
 - (c) A family friend took care of the child
 - (d) A babysitter or other childcare provider was paid to take care of the child
 - (e) Other, please specify:

If answer to question 19 was (a), the following three questions were displayed

21. What type of pre-k or child-care program was your child enrolled in?
- Select the best option available. If more than one option was used, please select the one your child was enrolled in for the longest time.*
- (a) Head start/Early head start
 - (b) Another childcare center or pre-k (not Head Start)
 - (c) A paid childcare provider operating out of their home (not Head Start)

- (d) Another town's public pre-k or childcare program
- (e) Babysitter, nanny, or another private option
- (f) Other, please specify:

22. How satisfied were you with your child's experience at their pre-k or childcare program?

1. Overall

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

2. The quality of the teachers and instruction

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

3. The quality of the facilities

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

4. The quality of communication between the program and your family

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied
- (e) Extremely satisfied

5. The other children and families enrolled in the program

- (a) Extremely dissatisfied
- (b) Somewhat dissatisfied
- (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- (d) Somewhat satisfied

(e) Extremely satisfied

23. What was the name of the program your child attended?

- (a) Program name:
- (b) I don't remember
- (c) I prefer not to say

If respondents were classified as either **applied but no offer** or **received offer but chose not to enroll**, they were asked the following questions:

24. Thinking back to when you applied to the NHPS pre-k program in [PROCESSYEAR], were you aware of any other programs that could have helped pay for alternative childcare options?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

If answer to question 24. was (a), the next question was displayed

25. In [PROCESSYEAR], did you or anyone else in your household apply to a program to help pay for childcare or pre-k?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

If answer to question 25. was (a), the next question was displayed

26. In [PROCESSYEAR], did you or anyone else in your household get help paying for childcare or pre-k from one of these programs?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

If answer to question 25. was (b), the next question was displayed

27. What best describes your reason for not applying?

Select all that apply

- (a) I was not interested in enrolling my child in childcare or pre-k
- (b) I did not think my household would be eligible

- (c) I did not know enough about the programs to know how to apply
- (d) I did not have the time to apply
- (e) The application process was too complicated or involved too many steps
- (f) I did not need the subsidy

If answer to question 11 or 19 was (a), the next question was displayed

28. After your pre-k application in [PROCESSYEAR], approximately how much did your family pay out of pocket each month for pre-k or childcare for your child?
- (a) \$0
 - (b) \$1-\$200
 - (c) \$201-\$500
 - (d) \$501-\$1,000
 - (e) \$1,001 - \$1,500
 - (f) \$1,501 - \$2,000
 - (g) More than \$2,000
 - (h) I don't remember
 - (i) I prefer not to say

Respondents were asked the following questions regardless their re-classification

29. Thinking back to when you applied to the NHPS pre-k program in [PROCESSYEAR], what was important to you when you were making your childcare or pre-k decisions?
- 1. Affordability
 - (a) Not important
 - (b) A little important
 - (c) Somewhat important
 - (d) Important
 - (e) Very important
 - 2. Convenient location (such as close to home or close to work)
 - (a) Not important
 - (b) A little important
 - (c) Somewhat important
 - (d) Important
 - (e) Very important

3. Convenient schedule (such as full day program, or flexible drop-off hours)
 - (a) Not important
 - (b) A little important
 - (c) Somewhat important
 - (d) Important
 - (e) Very important
4. Class size (i.e. how many other children were in the same group as your child)
 - (a) Not important
 - (b) A little important
 - (c) Somewhat important
 - (d) Important
 - (e) Very important
5. The quality of the teachers or childcare providers
 - (a) Not important
 - (b) A little important
 - (c) Somewhat important
 - (d) Important
 - (e) Very important
6. The other children and families enrolled in the childcare or pre-k program
 - (a) Not important
 - (b) A little important
 - (c) Somewhat important
 - (d) Important
 - (e) Very important

Parent - Family Demographics

To better understand who applies to the NHPS pre-k program, we would now like to ask you a few questions about your household.

30. What is your highest level of education?
 - (a) Some high school, no diploma
 - (b) High school graduate, diploma or the equivalent (for example: GED)
 - (c) Some college credit, no degree
 - (d) Trade/technical/vocational training
 - (e) Associate degree

- (f) Bachelor's degree or more.
- (g) Prefer not to say

31. When you applied to the NHPS pre-k program in [PROCESSYEAR], was there another parent or legal guardian for the child in the household?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Prefer not to say

If answer to question 31 was (a), the following question was displayed.

32. What is the highest level of education of the child's other parent or legal guardian?

- (a) Some high school, no diploma
- (b) High school graduate, diploma or the equivalent (for example: GED)
- (c) Some college credit, no degree
- (d) Trade/technical/vocational training
- (e) Associate degree
- (f) Bachelor's degree or more.
- (g) Prefer not to say

33. In [PROCESSYEAR], how many adults and children, including you, were in your household?

- (a) Range [0 - 20]
- (b) Prefer not to say

Parents' Employment

We would now like to ask a few questions about your household's work situation in [PROCESSYEAR+1], the year after you applied to the NHPS pre-k program.

34. Thinking back to [PROCESSYEAR+1], what was your total household income?

- (a) Less than \$5,000
- (b) 5,000 to 7,499
- (c) 7,500 to 9,999

- (d) 10,000 to 12, 499
- (e) 12,500 to 14, 999
- (f) 15,000 to 19,999
- (g) 20,000 to 24,999
- (h) 25,000 to 29,999
- (i) 30,000 to 34,999
- (j) 35,000 to 39,999
- (k) 40,000 to 49,999
- (l) 50,000 to 59,999
- (m) 60,000 to 74,999
- (n) 75,000 to 99,999
- (o) 100,000 to 149,999
- (p) 150,000 or more
- (q) Prefer not to say

35. What best describes your employment situation in [PROCESSYEAR+1]?

- (a) I was employed full time most of the year
- (b) I was employed part time most of the year
- (c) I was in and out of work that year
- (d) I was not employed and was searching for a job
- (e) I was not employed, and I was not looking to be employed
- (f) Prefer not to say

36. In [PROCESSYEAR+1], when working, how many hours did you usually work per week?

RANGE [0 - 120] hours per week

You are halfway done!

If answer to question 35 was (c), the following question was displayed

37. In [PROCESSYEAR+1] approximately how many weeks do you think you worked (for example, working the whole year with two weeks of vacation would be 50 weeks).

RANGE [0 - 52] weeks

If answer to question 31 was (a), the following question was displayed

38. What best describes the employment situation of the child's other parent or legal guardian in [PROCESSYEAR+1]?

- (a) They were employed full time most of the year
- (b) They were employed part time most of the year
- (c) They were in and out of work that year
- (d) They were not employed and were searching for a job
- (e) They were not employed, and weren't looking to be employed
- (f) Prefer not to say

If answer to question 35 was (a), (b) or (c) or answer to question 38 was (a), (b) or (c), the following question was displayed

39. When you applied to the NHPS pre-k program, were you or someone in your household working in the city of New Haven?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Prefer not to say

Financial

We would now like to ask you some questions regarding your household's current financial situation. These questions will help us better understand who applies to the NHPS pre-k program, and the potential benefits of that program.

40. What best describes your current employment situation?

- (a) I am employed full time (30 hours or more per week on average)
- (b) I am employed part time (less than 30 hours per week on average)
- (c) I am not employed and am searching for a job
- (d) I am not employed, and I am not looking to be employed
- (e) Prefer not to say

If answer to question 40 was (a) or (b)

41. How many hours do you usually work per week?

- (a) *RANGE* [0 - 120] hours per weeks

- (b) Prefer not to say
42. Thinking back to last year, what was your total household income?
- (a) Less than \$5,000
 - (b) 5,000 to 7,499
 - (c) 7,500 to 9,999
 - (d) 10,000 to 12, 499
 - (e) 12,500 to 14, 999
 - (f) 15,000 to 19,999
 - (g) 20,000 to 24,999
 - (h) 25,000 to 29,999
 - (i) 30,000 to 34,999
 - (j) 35,000 to 39,999
 - (k) 40,000 to 49,999
 - (l) 50,000 to 59,999
 - (m) 60,000 to 74,999
 - (n) 75,000 to 99,999
 - (o) 100,000 to 149,999
 - (p) 150,000 or more
 - (q) Prefer not to say

Educational history

This section asks a few brief questions about where your child went to elementary school and their experiences since then.

43. What best describes the type of school your child attended for first grade?
- (a) Traditional Public School
 - (b) Magnet Public School
 - (c) Charter School
 - (d) Private School
 - (e) Home School
 - (f) My child has not attended first grade yet
 - (g) Other, please specify: [TEXTBOX]

(h) Prefer not to say

If answer to question 43. was (a) or (b)

44. Where did your child attend first grade?

- (a) New Haven Public Schools
- (b) A district near New Haven Public Schools (for example, East Haven, West Haven, North Haven, Hamden, Woodbridge, or Orange)
- (c) A district in Connecticut, but not near New Haven Public Schools
- (d) Outside Connecticut
- (e) Prefer not to say

If the respondent's child participated in the process in 2010 or before

45. Is your child currently enrolled in 1st through 12th grade?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

If answer to question 45 was (b), the following question was displayed

46. Did your child graduate from high school?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No, they left school without a diploma
- (c) Other, please specify: [TEXTBOX]
- (d) Prefer not to say

If answer to question 46 was (a), the following question was displayed

47. Is your child currently enrolled in:

Select all that apply

- (a) A 4-year college degree program
- (b) A 2-year college degree program
- (c) Trade school or another training program
- (d) None of the above

(e) Prefer not to say

Other questions

48. Does your child currently live in Connecticut?

(a) Yes

(b) No

If answer to question 48. was (b), the following question was displayed

49. When did your child move out of Connecticut?

(a) *[Dropdown: 2000 - 2022]*

(b) *[Text Entry: 2000 - 2022]*

(c) Prefer not to say

You will be entered into a sweepstakes for the chance to receive one of 25 \$100 rewards for taking our survey

Those are all of the questions we have. You will be entered into a sweepstakes for the chance to receive one of 25 \$100 rewards for completing the survey. If you have any questions at all for us, you can email us at nhps_prek_survey@yale.edu or call us toll-free at (203) 432 5820.

Thank you for participating in this survey!

You can close your browser window now.