



**Prevent Child Abuse  
America®**

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE POLICIES & FAMILY VIOLENCE

In this brief, we highlight key points from our literature review published in the *Children and Youth Service Review*.



### WHAT WE KNOW

Experiencing family violence (e.g., child abuse and neglect and intimate partner violence) is common. Strengthening household financial support may reduce or prevent family violence.<sup>1,2</sup>

States vary in if or how they provide early childhood education and care (ECEC) policies.<sup>3</sup> Examples of variations include how much funding is available, who is eligible, and the number of hours an individual must work to qualify.



### WHAT WE FOUND

We conducted a rapid literature review and found little research on evaluating these policies. This is interesting because many of these policies have been around for decades.

Research highlights related to reducing or preventing child maltreatment<sup>1</sup>:

- Receiving childcare subsidies are associated with decreases in child maltreatment.
- Most research on childcare subsidies focuses on employment outcomes.
- The program Head Start is linked with improved parenting behaviors.



### WHAT THIS MEANS

ECEC policies may reduce family violence and support families.<sup>1</sup> But, more research on this topic is needed.

Suggested citation: Maguire-Jack, K., Hardi, F., Stormer, B., Lee, J. Y., Feely, M., Rostad, W., Ford, D. C., Merrick, M. T., Murphy, C. A., & Klika, J. B. (2022). Early childhood education and care policies in the U.S. And their impact on family violence. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 142, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilcyouth.2022.106653>

### References

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3. Maguire-Jack, K., Hardi, F., Stormer, B., Lee, J. Y., Feely, M., Rostad, W., Ford, D. C., Merrick, M. T., Murphy, C. A., & Klika, J. B. (2022). Early childhood education and care policies in the U.S. And their impact on family violence. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 142, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilcyouth.2022.106653>

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