

# Glossary of Terms for the Illinois Nontraditional Hour Child Care Study (INCCS)

**Nontraditional hour child care (NTH CC)** – Child care that takes place outside of standard daytime, weekday hours when formal child care programs are not typically open for business. This includes care during early morning, evening, overnight, and all hours of the weekend, as well as variable hour care. The particular times that are used to operationalize these types of nontraditional hour care vary across studies depending on purpose and availability of data.

- **Early morning care** – Care that begins in the early morning hours, prior to the opening hours of a child care program. Early morning care often but not always includes breakfast.
  - Examples of early morning care: 4am-6am
- **Evening care** – Care that takes place in the evening hours, after a traditional-hours child care program has closed for business. Evening care often but not always includes dinnertime meals and may include sleep time for children.
  - Examples of evening care: 6pm-11pm
- **Overnight care** – Care that takes place overnight and includes sleep time for children. Overnight care typically also includes early morning hours.
  - Examples of overnight care: 11pm-4am
- **Weekend care** – Care that takes place any time on Saturdays or Sundays.
  - Examples of weekend care: 6pm Friday until 6am Monday; 4am-11pm Saturday or Sunday
- **Variable care** – Care where hours, times, and days may vary from week-to-week (e.g., flexible drop-off or pickup according to families’ work schedules); includes both predictable and unpredictable variable hours such as care on holidays as well as care in emergencies to accommodate short-notice or unexpected needs for care.

**Child care sectors.** Nontraditional hour care may be offered across an array of child care settings and arrangements. Families may also use more than one arrangement. Families may have previous relationships with child care providers regardless of setting and these prior relationships may influence parental choice of child care.

- **Center-based child care** – Care that takes place in a non-residential community setting (e.g., a community-based child care center, a faith-based institution, a community center). It is often but not always licensed or regulated by state/local government.

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- **Home-based child care (HBCC)** – Care that takes place in a residential setting including licensed family child care and unlicensed or license-exempt family, friend or neighbor child care. It may take place in the child’s home and/or the home of the provider.
  - **Licensed family child care (FCC)** – Care that is licensed or regulated by state/local government and takes place in a residential setting, typically the provider’s own home, where a provider(s) care for small groups of children with or without a previous relationship, typically for some pay.
- **Unlicensed child care** – Any care (center- or home-based) that is either exempt from state licensing requirements or does not have a license. Settings that are legally-exempt from licensing may be eligible for subsidy receipt and subject to federal CCDF regulatory requirements such as monitoring visits and health and safety training.
  - **Family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care** – A type of unlicensed care provided in a residential setting (e.g., child’s or provider’s home), most likely by an individual with a previous relationship with the child/family. Includes providers without a previous relationship who may be exempt from licensing requirements because small group sizes do not reach minimum thresholds for licensing. Care in the child’s home by a non-relative provider may be referred to as “nanny care.”
  - **Faith-based child care** - Typically license-exempt child care that takes place in a church, synagogue, mosque, or other religious institutional center-based setting.
- **Listed HBCC** – In the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE), HBCC settings that appear on state lists, including but not limited to licensed FCC and license-exempt FFN who receive child care subsidies. Listed HBCC is often used as a proxy for Licensed FCC. As of 2019, approximately 82% of listed HBCC providers share characteristics with licensed FCC (providers are paid, care is in provider’s home, care for four or more children where at least one child does not have a prior relationship).
- **Unlisted HBCC** – In the NSECE, HBCC settings that do not appear on state lists and therefore are likely to be license-exempt or unlicensed FFN and nanny providers. The NSECE distinguishes between unlisted paid (e.g., nannies, neighbors) and unlisted unpaid (e.g., relatives) providers.

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