Overview of Early Child Care and Education in the United States of America

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United States of America

- People in the United States: 301 million
- U.S. residents in the work force: 151 million
- U.S. women in the work force: 72 million
- U.S. women in the work force who use child care: 34 million
Races in the United States

2008 Population of the United States by Race
304 million

White* 79%

Hispanic or Latino 15.4%
Two or more races 1.7%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander* 0.2%
Asian* 4.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native* 1.0%
Black or African American* 12.8%

* Sum of five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race. Data compiled by the US Census Bureau.
Demographics of Early Care and Education in the United States

20 million children are under 5.

11.3 million children under 5 have working mothers.

5 million children under 5 live in poverty.

10-11 million children under 5 live in or near poverty.

1 out of every 2 children live in or near poverty.
Examples of Early Childhood Program Approaches

Primary Child Care Arrangements for Children Under 5

- Parent
- Grandparent
- Sibling
- Other Relative
- Day Care Center
- Nursery, Preschool
- School
- Head Start
- Family Day Care
- Other Non-Relative
- No Regular Arrangement

Percent

U.S. Census Bureau
Survey of Income and Program Participation
2006 Data
www.census.gov
Key Issues

- **Children** need quality child care and education.

- **Early childhood programs** need leaders who understand and implement quality business practices and viable business models to serve all families—including those with low incomes.

- **The early childhood field** needs recognition and funding from private and public sectors.

- **Business and community members** need to become more engaged in early childhood.

- **State and national advocacy** needs to address the supply of quality early care and education.