Mapping Policy Landscapes to Improve Child Nutrition in Child Care Settings

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Agenda

★ What is policy visualization and policy mapping?
★ Why use policy visualizations/maps?
★ How to design effective visualizations/maps?
★ An example from Washington State
★ An example from Minnesota
★ Future directions
What is policy visualization and policy mapping?
Why use them?

147/day

The average person is inundated with the information equivalent of 147 newspapers daily.
Nearly 50% of the brain is involved in processing vision. The human visual system can process a scene *in less than one-tenth of a second*. 

Visual processing is the brain’s most dominant capacity.
Why use them?

- Makes data accessible
- Provides rapidly available information
- Compelling
- Takes advantage of the power of stories
How to design them? Follow the scientific process!

- Define hypothesis or research questions
- Investigate using high-quality methods or data (e.g. trustworthy data sources/datasets)
- Rigorous analysis of the data collected
- Logical sequence of data presentation
- Presentation of main results
- Addresses potential counterpoints and limitations
- Conclusion or call to action
- Publish with full citations and funding disclosure
A Washington ECE example
Define audience and research questions

What is the nutrition policy landscape for ECE centers? How do the policies relate to nutrition best practices/outcomes? Do they duplicate one another? Are there gaps in what is funded? How are the ECE centers experiencing these policies?
Use trustworthy data to conduct the policy/legal analysis.

Try to identify categories or ways to organize the data.
Take a stab at various visuals.
Getting feedback from experts and stakeholders.
Rigorous Analysis of the Data
Rigorous Analysis of the Data
Rigorous Analysis of the Data → Logical Sequence of Presentation
Rigorous Analysis of the Data → Logical Sequence of Presentation
Take advanced drafts to larger stakeholder group for even more feedback to create a final product.
Otten et al., Arcade 2017
Lessons Learned

● Give stakeholders starter visuals.
  ○ Record the discussion if possible. Take close notes.

● No one person will have a grasp of all the relevant policies. No single shared understanding.
  ○ Thus, it is important to have the research aims up front! What questions are you trying to answer with these visuals? What do you want to know?
  ○ Use data to back everything up.

● The process can be as important as the outcome.
  ○ Creating these maps facilitated incredible dialogues amongst those “in the system”.

● There was a high demand for this type of work but no funding streams.

● Treat data visualizers as part of the team.
  ○ That means learning each other’s language, the time and resources it takes to do the work and build the relationships.
• **WHAT:** Mapping of Policy Environment Using Food as the Frame

• **WHERE:** Minnesota Child Care

• **WHY:** Streamline Efforts, Pool Resources, and Align Systems for Healthy Minnesotan Children
STATE OF ECE IN MINNESOTA

- Governor's Children’s Cabinet
- Task Force on Affordable Child Care
- Focus Under Five Working Group
- MN Office of Legislative Auditors – Assessment on Early Childhood Programs
PROCESS & PROTOCOL

• Interviewed select key informants in the Early Care and Education (ECE) field
  – Discussion framed around desire to understand the role of their organization in the food environment for licensed child care in Minnesota

• Analyzed relationships, legal requirements, & programmatic standards

• “Ground-tested” Phase I
  – accuracy and usefulness

Phase II and next steps
PHASE I
FIRST ATTEMPT: CDC’S SPECTRUM OF OPPORTUNITIES
QUALITY RATING & IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS)

INTRODUCTION  LICENSING & REGULATIONS  CHILD & ADOPTIVE CARE PROGRAM  QUALITY \ & IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM  FUNDING \ FINANCE  PRE-SERVICE \ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  FACILITY-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS  TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  ACCESS TO HEALThY ENVIRONMENTS  EARLY LEARNING \ STANDARDS  FAMILY ENGAGEMENT  EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

USDA  Office of Head Start  Minnesota Executive Branch  Minnesota Legislative Branch  Minnesota Department of Education

Sponsors  Local Public Health Agency  Licensed Family Child Care Provider

Office of Child Care  Minnesota Department of Health  Minnesota Department of Human Services  Child Care Aware  Parent Aware

19 agencies across the state  "A-marking, earning potential"

Financial Assistance  County Licensing Agency

Food Environment in Minnesota Family Child Care Homes
Draft December 5, 2016
CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD
FUNDING & FINANCE WAS HARDER TO FLESH OUT
ACCESS TO HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS REQUIRED MORE EXPLANATION
Mapping the Food Policy Environment in Minnesota Child Care

Child care providers are a vital part of healthy, thriving communities. Over half of children between the ages of zero and five spend significant time in non-parental child care. These early years are critical for healthy brain development and establishing the habits that last a lifetime.

Laws and policies shape how we think of “quality” in child care settings. One key aspect of quality is the food environment. The Public Health Law Center is mapping the early care and education (ECE) food policy environment, beginning with licensed home-based child care settings in Minnesota. This policy map will enable us to research other aspects of quality across the range of ECE settings. To learn about our methodology, click here.

Research for this policy map was provided through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Healthy Eating Research Program grant 72262. Additional support was provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota’s Center for Prevention. For more information, please contact Kathryn Getz.

Click the tabs above to begin.
Child Care Aware of Minnesota, District and Regional Offices

Child Care Aware of Minnesota, formally known as the Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network, is a program dedicated to helping families find quality child care and to offering professional development to child care providers. Child Care Aware of Minnesota provides families access to information about the different types of available child care.

Child Care Aware of Minnesota operates through a coordinating office and partner agencies located throughout the state. These agencies are responsible for referring families to child care programs, professional development of child care providers, enrollment with accreditation processes and ensuring credentials, distribution of grants to providers. Additionally, Child Care Aware has a contractual relationship with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to run the Project Aware Program: the Minnesota Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). As part of this, Child Care Aware district offices administer money, assist in recruitment, and support professional development. Regional offices provide coaching, training, professional development, and credentials.

Child Care Aware of Minnesota offers online and in-person trainings. Online trainings are offered through EngageLearn. Child Care Aware of Minnesota’s training program, EngageLearn trainings, can be accessed through Develop Minnesota’s registry of trainings for child care providers. One of EngageLearn’s training series is called Anytime Learning, Anytime Learning (ALTL), which allows training at their own speed and at times that are convenient for them. In-person trainings conducted by Child Care Aware of Minnesota can also be found using Develop. All trainings listed on the Develop website, including those offered by Child Care Aware of Minnesota, EngageLearn, and Anytime Learning have been approved by Achieve (the Minnesota Center for Professional Development).

For providers interested in pursuing certain credentials and appreciation, Child Care Aware of Minnesota can provide financial assistance, coaching, support, and trainings that meet the requirements of the sponsoring organizations.
REMINDER: EQUITY AS CORE
KEY TAKEAWAYS – PROCESS

- Start with a legal analysis
- Record interviews
- Layer
- Have visual to react to
- Separate “hearsay”
- Ask for contracts, reports
KEY TAKEAWAYS – CONTENT

• Mapping appropriations – old as soon as you do it
• Disconnect between “hearsay” and reality
• Office of Early Learning
• Incredible enthusiasm and report of need
Featured resources are below. Other relevant resources in right sidebar (desktop/tablet), or end of page (mobile).

Mapping the Food Policy Environment in Minnesota Child Care

The Public Health Law Center is mapping the early care and education (ECE) food policy environment, beginning with licensed home-based child care settings in Minnesota. This interactive policy visualization will evolve as we research other aspects of quality across the range of ECE settings.

50 State Review – Healthy Eating, Active Play, Screen Time Best Practices

This interactive map compares scientifically-based best practices with states’ child care licensing regulations on healthy eating, active play and screen time limits. Click through the child care settings and best practices to see states change colors based on whether they meet best practices. This analysis does not address implementation, or how regulations affect the priorities of providers and children from socially disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

Child Care Licensing Laws and State-Specific Resources

Each state regulates the child care setting differently, depending on the type of child care facility and provider. The Public Health Law Center has developed a 50-state analysis of child care licensing laws, including state statutes and licensing regulations. We have compiled and highlighted the laws in each state for easy review by advocates and policy makers.

Quality in Family Child Care

Child care provided in the homes of the provider (“family child care”) is vitally important for addressing issues of equity and health equity in the lives of millions of children. The Public Health Law Center recently completed a project seeking to understand how quality is defined, assessed, and measured in family child care settings through policy. These settings are diverse, and create both challenges and opportunities for defining and implementing quality.

Healthy Child Care Local Authority

Regulatory standards play a critical role in establishing norms and important baseline protections for the health and safety of children receiving non-parental care. Recent studies found that state regulations generally do not provide adequate nutrition or physical activity standards. Local governments represent untapped potential for improving child care nutrition and physical activity standards where states have failed to do so.
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RESOURCES


• Public Health Law Center policy visualization page. www.publichealthlawcenter.org/ece

• Public Health Law Center child care page. www.publichealthlawcenter.org/childcare
QUESTIONS

Have you used policy visualization before?

Are there other useful visualization models that you have used or seen?

Are people interested in creating a Policy Visualization Learning Collaborative?