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**Centre de recherche
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Groupe de recherche et d'intervention
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Early Childcare Enrollment and the Pursuit of Higher Education : A Canadian Longitudinal Study

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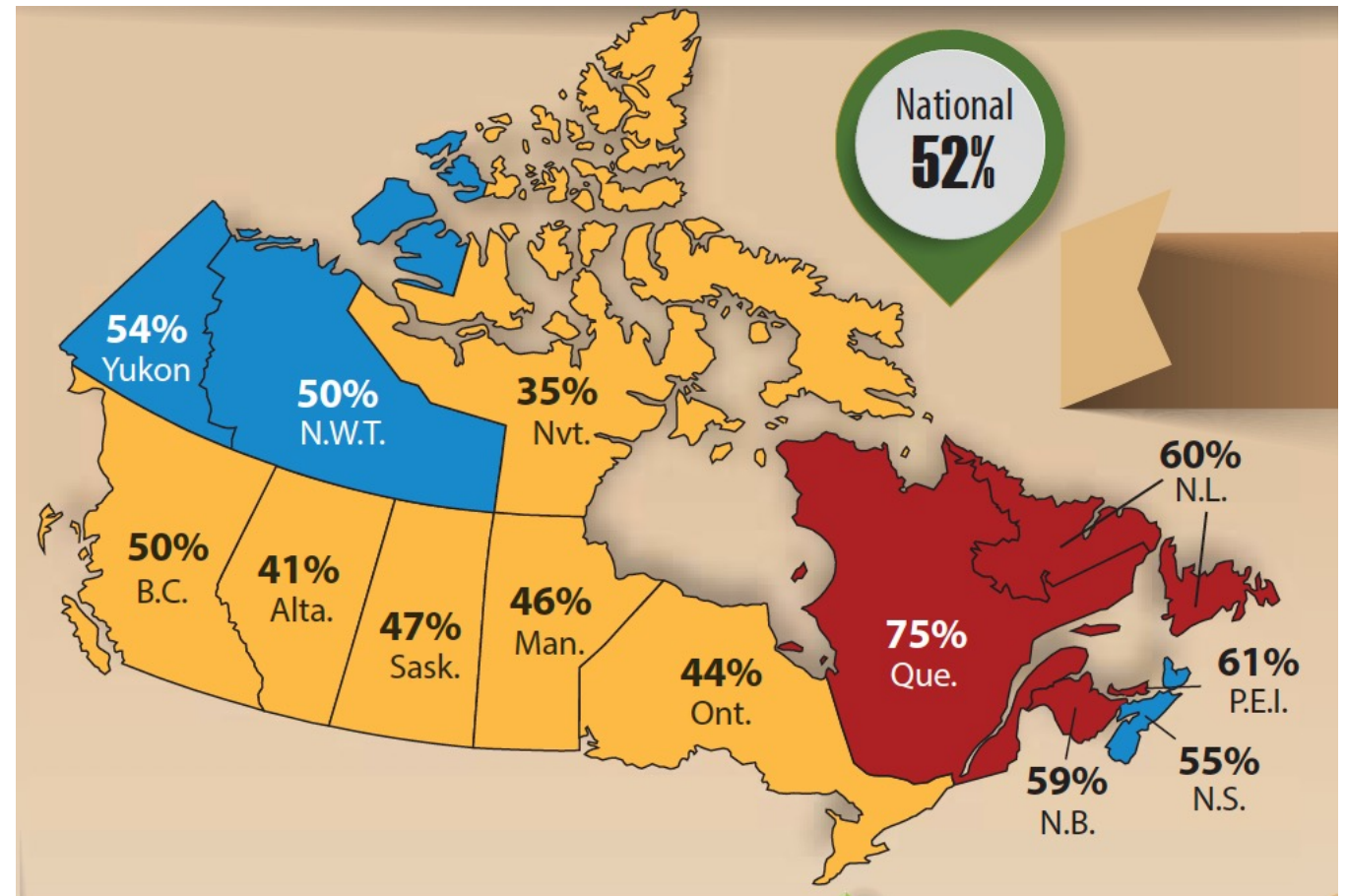
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**Tier II CRC on school readiness, inclusion and social
adjustment**

Early Learning and Child Care in Canada

- ▶ Announcement of \$30 billion over the next 5 years
- ▶ No increase in coverage or use of childcare since the mid-1990s



Long-term outcomes of ELCC

Reduce early inequalities

Women on the labor market



Reduce crime and promote health outcomes



Promote the development of early cognitive and social skills



Increase high school graduation and annual earnings



Formal vs Informal childcare

Who benefits from childcare?

- ▶ **Compensatory hypothesis**
 - ▶ Provide opportunities for learning that may not be available in the home
- ▶ **Loss of resource hypothesis**
 - ▶ Deprive of the stimulation provided by the family by being away of the parents



Objectives & Methodology

- 1) Estimating the causal effect of childcare attendance from 24 to 36 months to postsecondary enrollment
- 2) Exploring the heterogeneity in childcare effects as a function of both childcare arrangements and family characteristics



NLSCY Cycle 1 (N= 1,123)
with data on childcare
attendance at 24-36 months

- 1) Formal childcare (62%)
- 2) Informal childcare (38%)



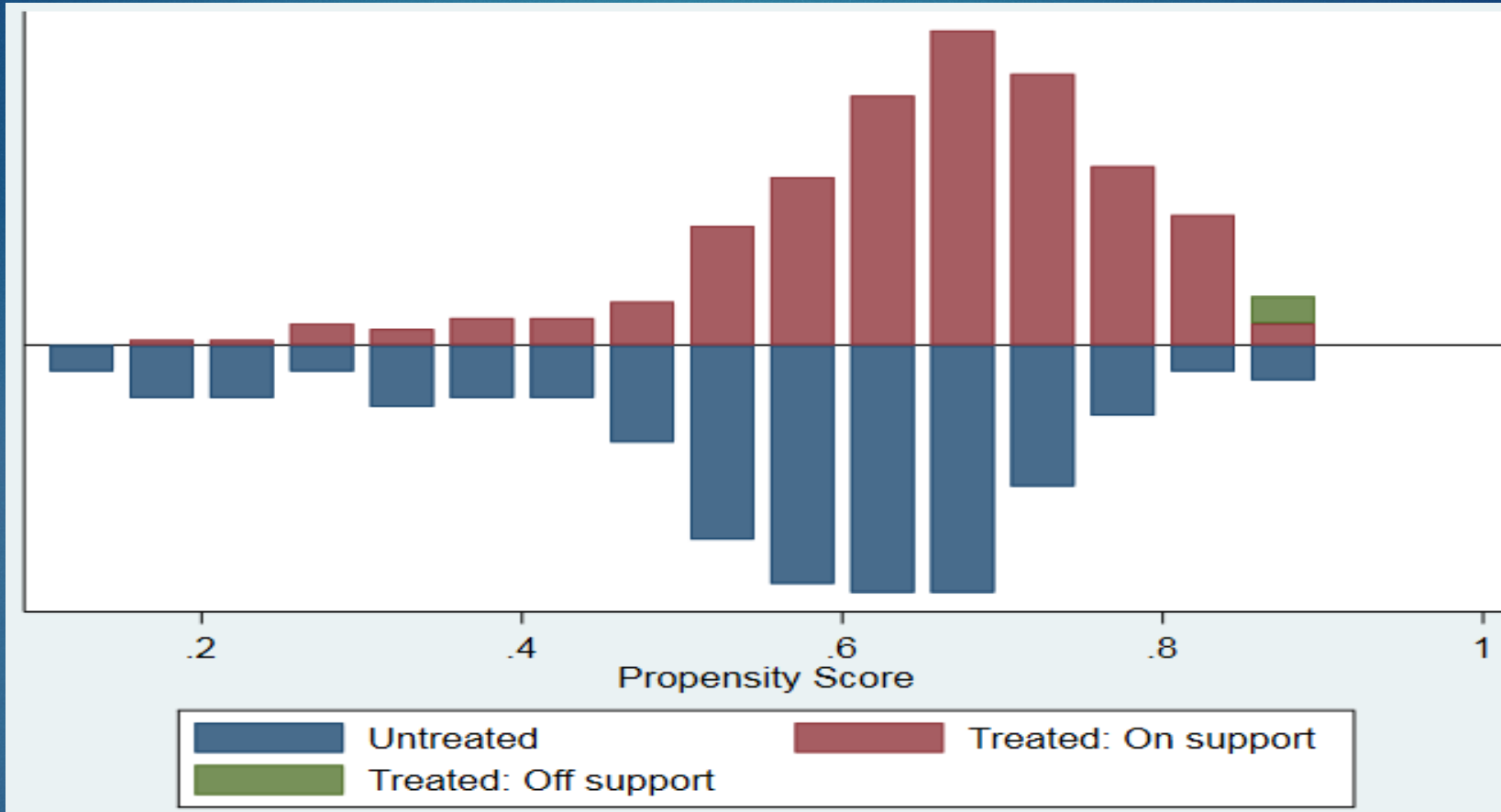
Postsecondary
education from
T1FF from
2010 (19-20) to
2015 (24-25)



Controls for
demographics,
family and child
features

Variables	Age at data collection	Scales	Items
Main childcare arrangement	2–3	--	1 item
Postsecondary education	19 to 25 years (yes/no)	Tax deduction for part-time or full-time studies	
Hyperactivity/ inattention	2–3	Child Behavior Checklist,	7 items
Depression/anxiety	2–3	Ontario Child Health Survey,	6 items
Disruptive behaviors	2–3	Children Behavior Questionnaire	8 items
Separation anxiety	2–3		5 items
Family dysfunction	2–3	General Functioning Scale of the Family	12 items
Sex of the child	2-3	--	1 item
Household income	2–3	--	1 item
High school diploma	2–3	--	1 item
Irregular work schedule	2–3	--	1 item
Work < 25 weeks	2–3	--	1 item
Work on weekend	2–3	--	1 item
Urban area of living	2–3	--	1 item
Childcare dosage	2–3	--	1 item

Propensity score matching



Average treatment effect for the treated (ATT)

The average treatment effect for the treated (ATT)

- ▶ The ATT is typically used to estimate the causal effect of a program.
- ▶ It estimates the average benefit of participating in formal childcare.
- ▶ We bootstrapped the sample 1,000 times to derive design-based variance estimates of the ATT.

A significant positive ATT estimate would indicate that formal childcare attendance increases the probability of enrollment in higher education in comparison to informal childcare.

Is childcare attendance predict the pursuit of higher education?

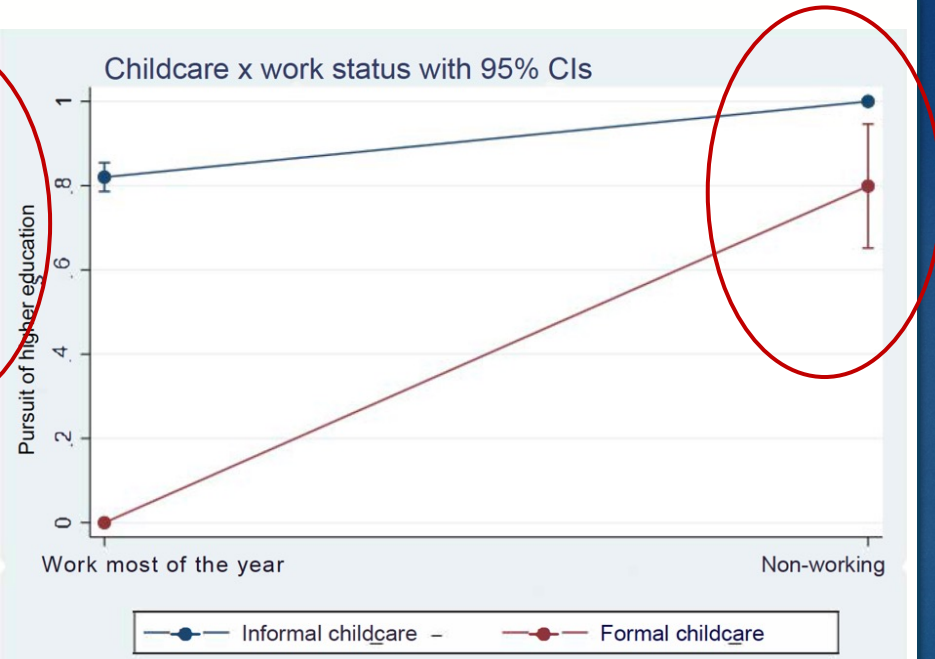
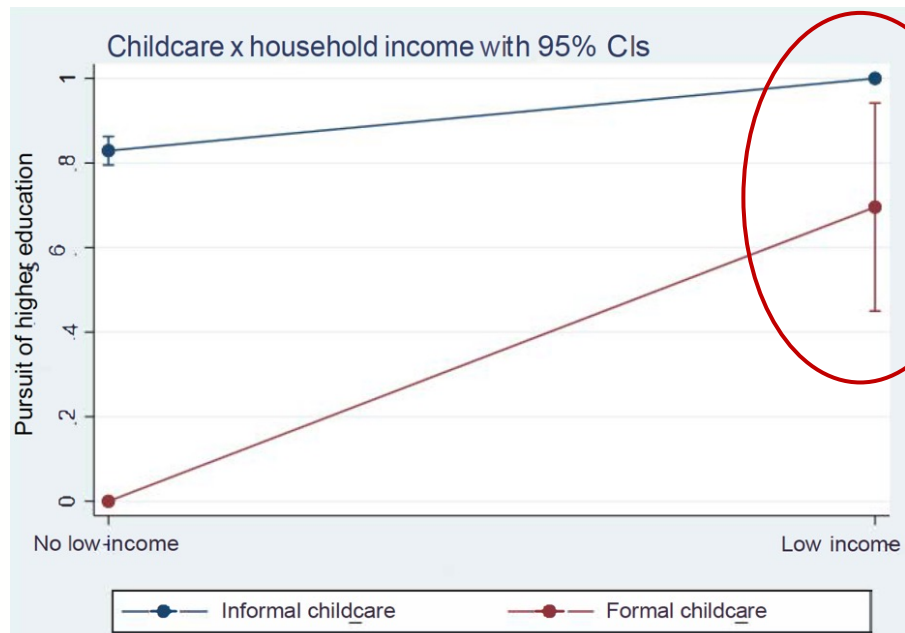
- ▶ Children in formal childcare compared with children attending informal childcare



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ATT= -2.89; β = -0.100 [CI: -0.165; -0.035], p= .003



Who benefits from childcare?

Discussion

Ensuring that youth pursue higher education is a promising strategy for promoting the economic, personal, and societal wellbeing. It remains the primary means for individuals to secure employment and increase their participation in the economy.

- ▶ Formal childcare attendance mitigated disparities in pursuit of higher education
- ▶ supports the need for available, affordable, high-quality formal childcare for families with young children

Limitations & Future studies

- ▶ **Childcare attendance measured in mid 1990's**
- ▶ **Current diversity of the Canadian population?**
- ▶ **The measure of pursuit in higher education was limited** : no information on program type, academic grades, graduation or highest degree completed

Other mechanisms?

- ▶ the supportiveness of the family social network
- ▶ levels of parenting stress



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