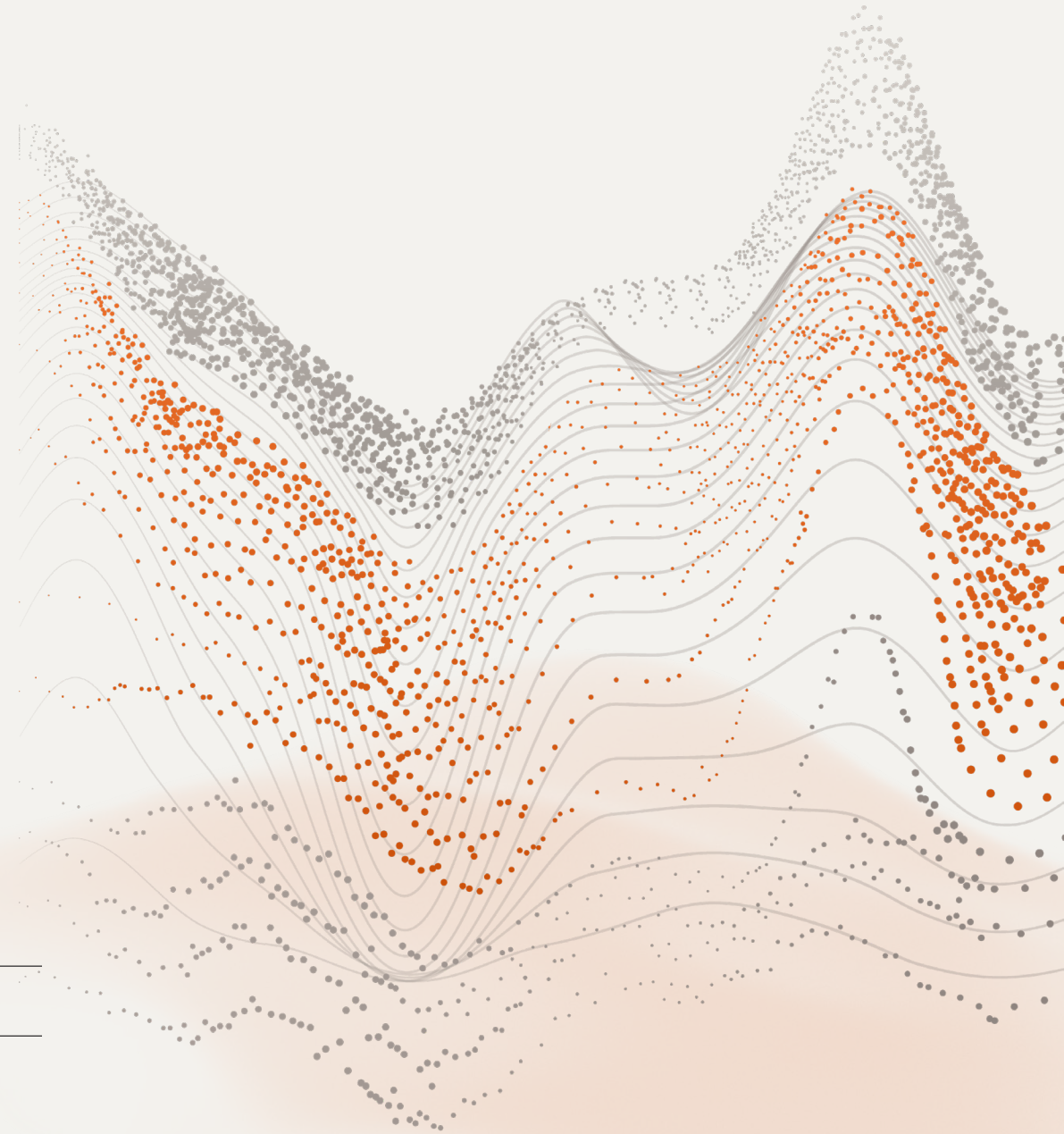


Remarks on Measuring the Care Economy

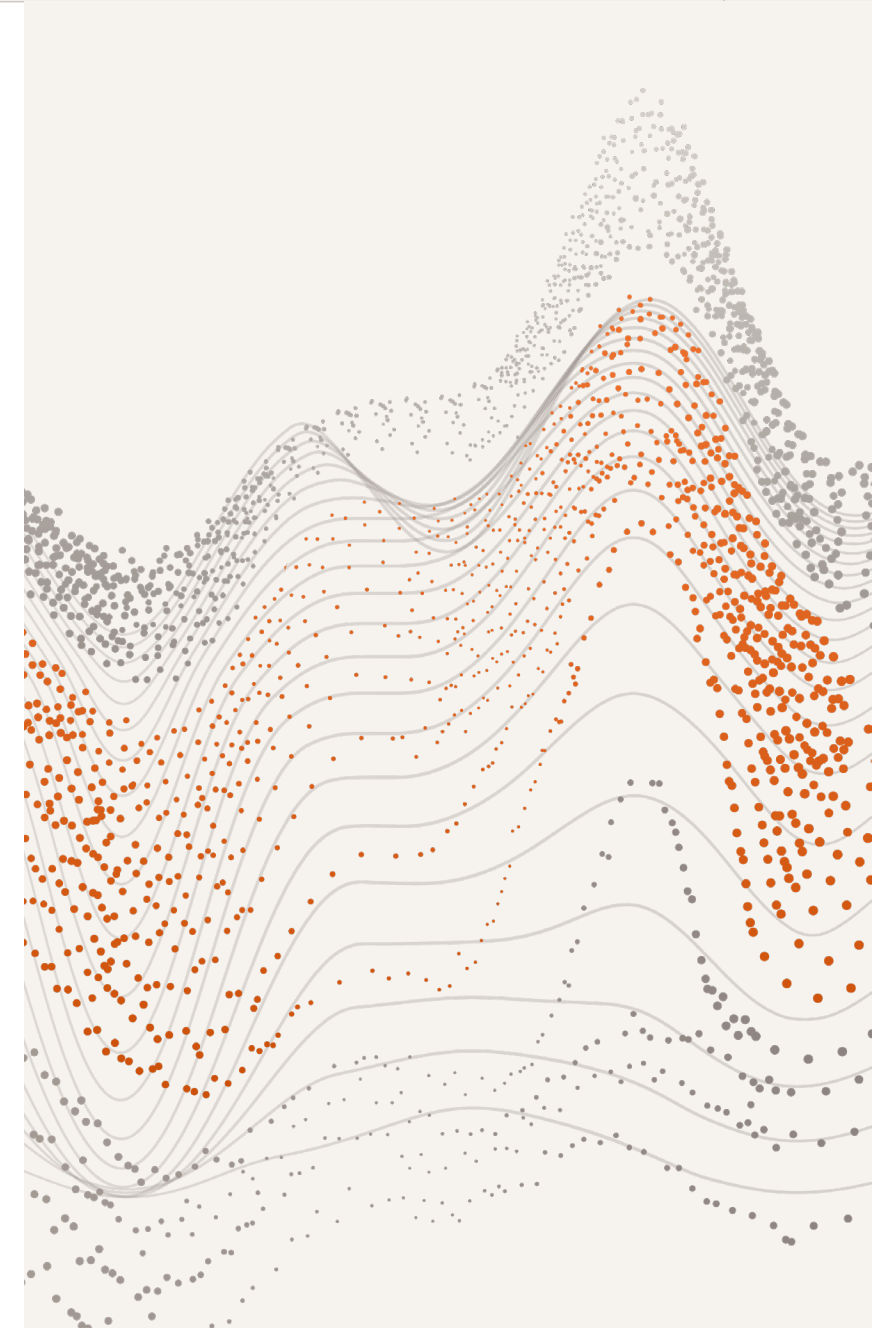
07.15.2025

A Rupa Datta, Distinguished Senior Fellow
NORC at the University of Chicago



Lessons from measuring the supply of and demand for early care and education in the U.S.

- Brief description of the [National Survey of Early Care and Education](#)
 - funded by the Administration for Children and Families, US DHHS
- Flexible and modular approach to definitions
- Integrating administrative data and survey data
- Selected limitations



National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)

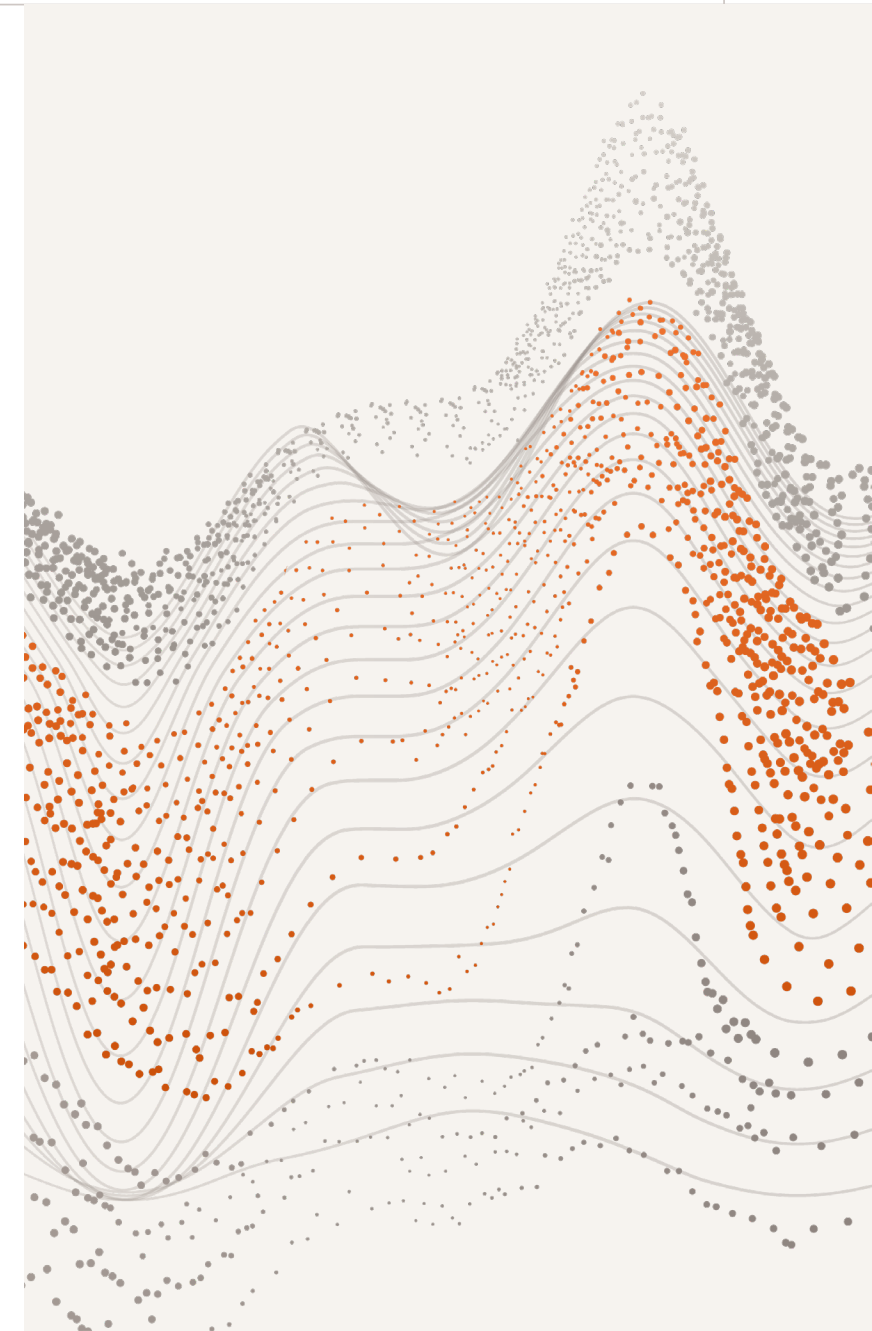
Provides nationally-representative information on:

- **early care and education (ECE) services available to families in settings that are**
 - home-based (for children under age 13) and
 - center-based (for children ages birth through age 5, not yet in kindergarten);
- **characteristics of the workforce providing these early care and education services; and**
- **households with children under age 13.**

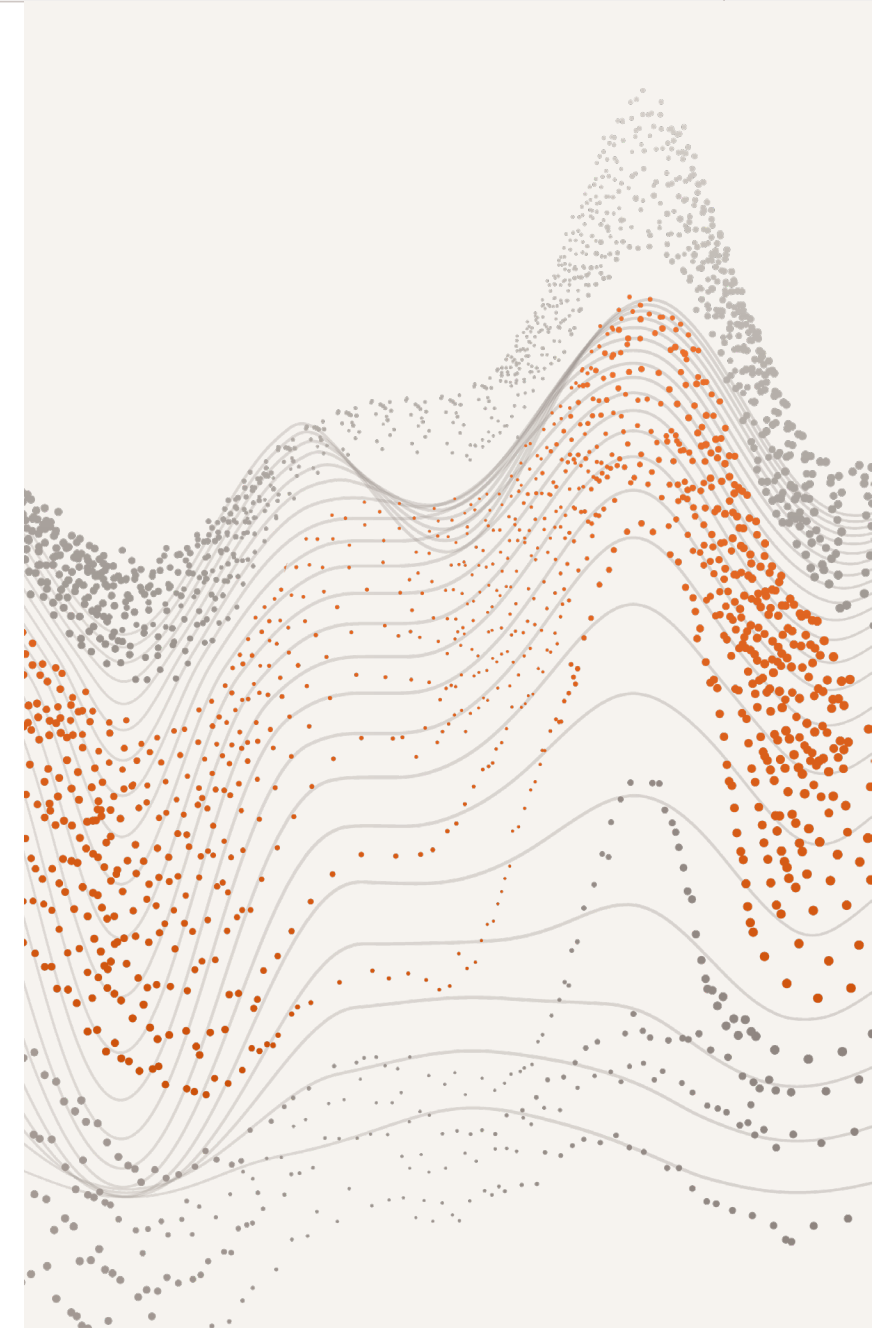
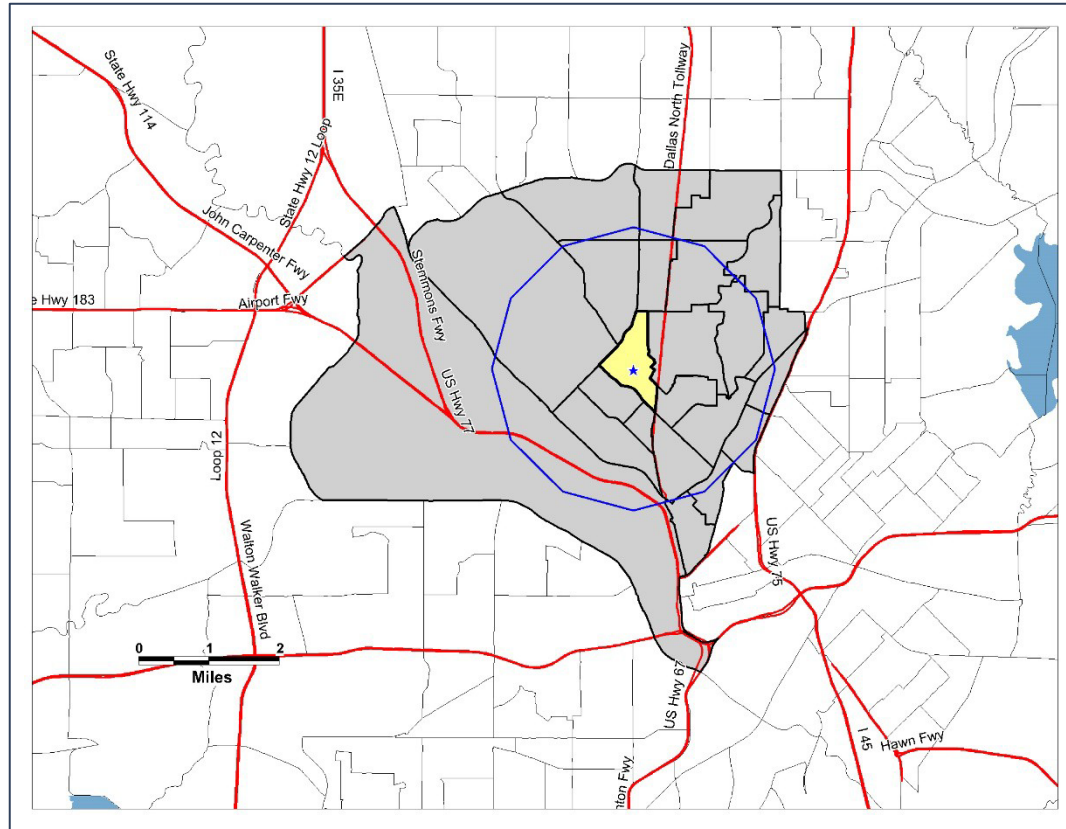
Data were collected in 2012, 2019 and 2024.



National Survey of **Early Care & Education**

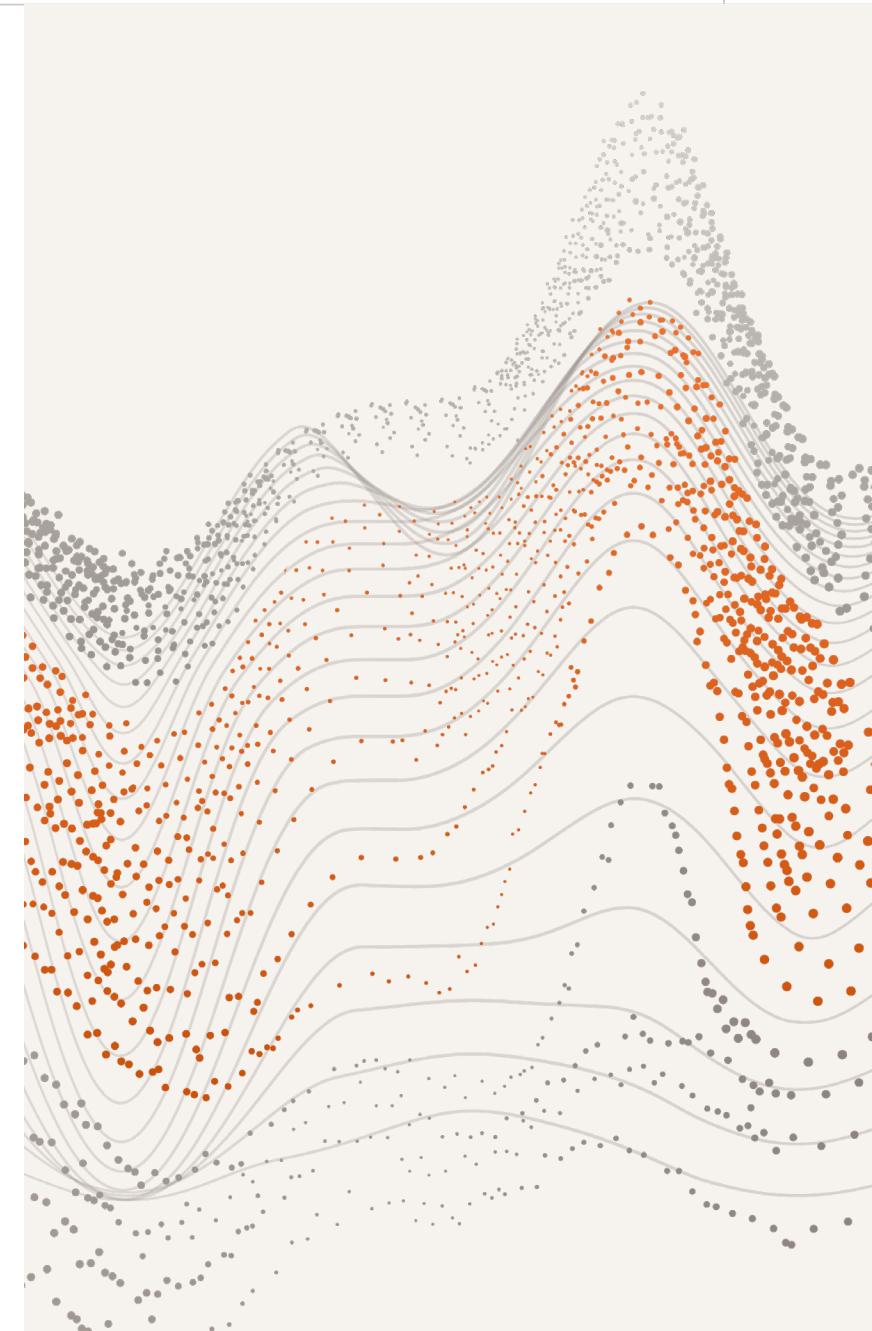


The NSECE provider cluster samples ECE providers near households, supporting analyses of supply and demand.



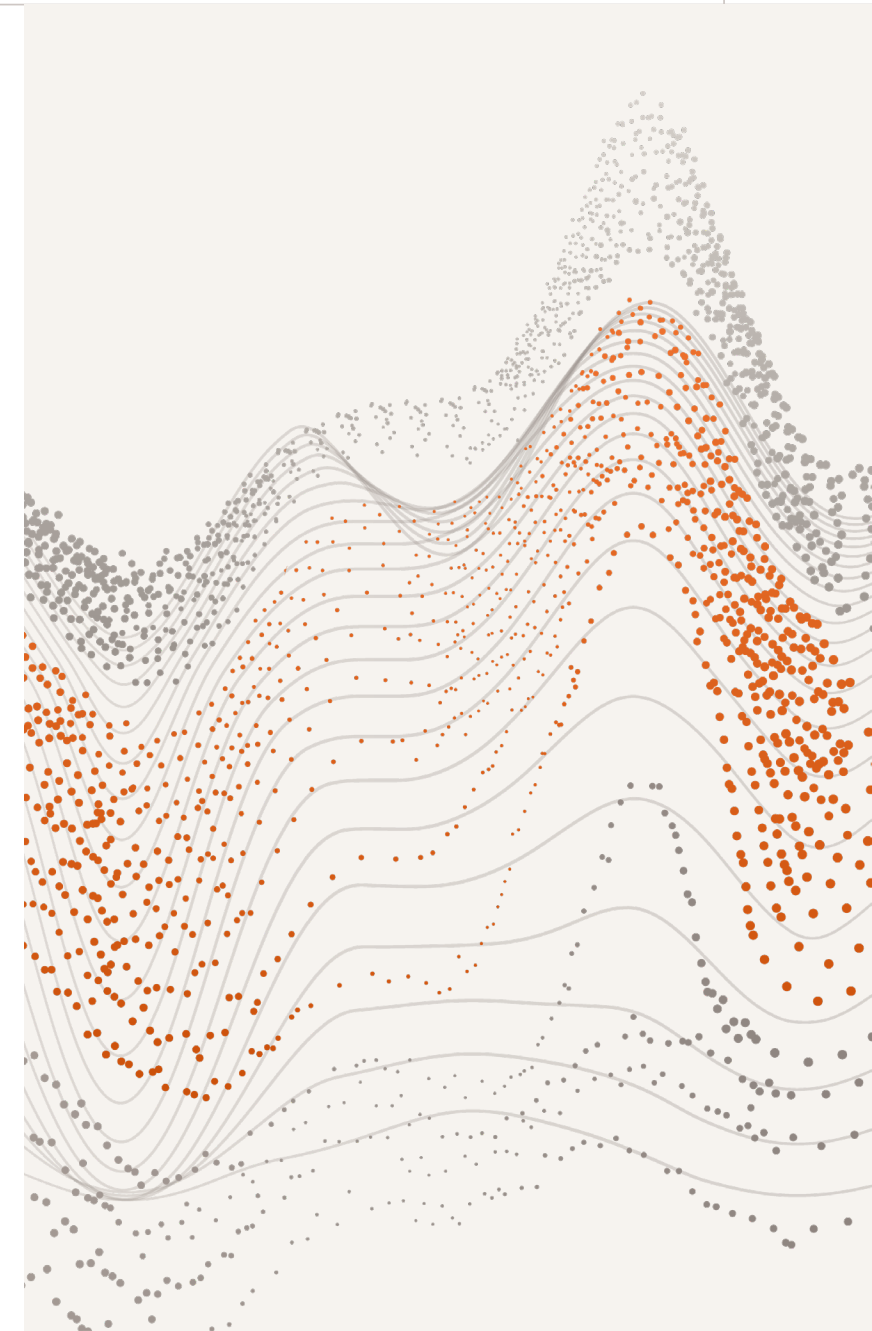
Flexible and modular caregiving definitions meet more research needs with less confusion

- **Minimalist definition of home-based care in the NSECE:**
 - at least five hours per week, in a home-based setting, to a child not your own
- **Additional possible features:**
 - Location (child's home, provider's home, other)
 - Provider is paid for care
 - Prior personal relationship between the provider and the child
 - Licensed or regulated
 - Subsidized
 - Child also receives other regular non-parental care



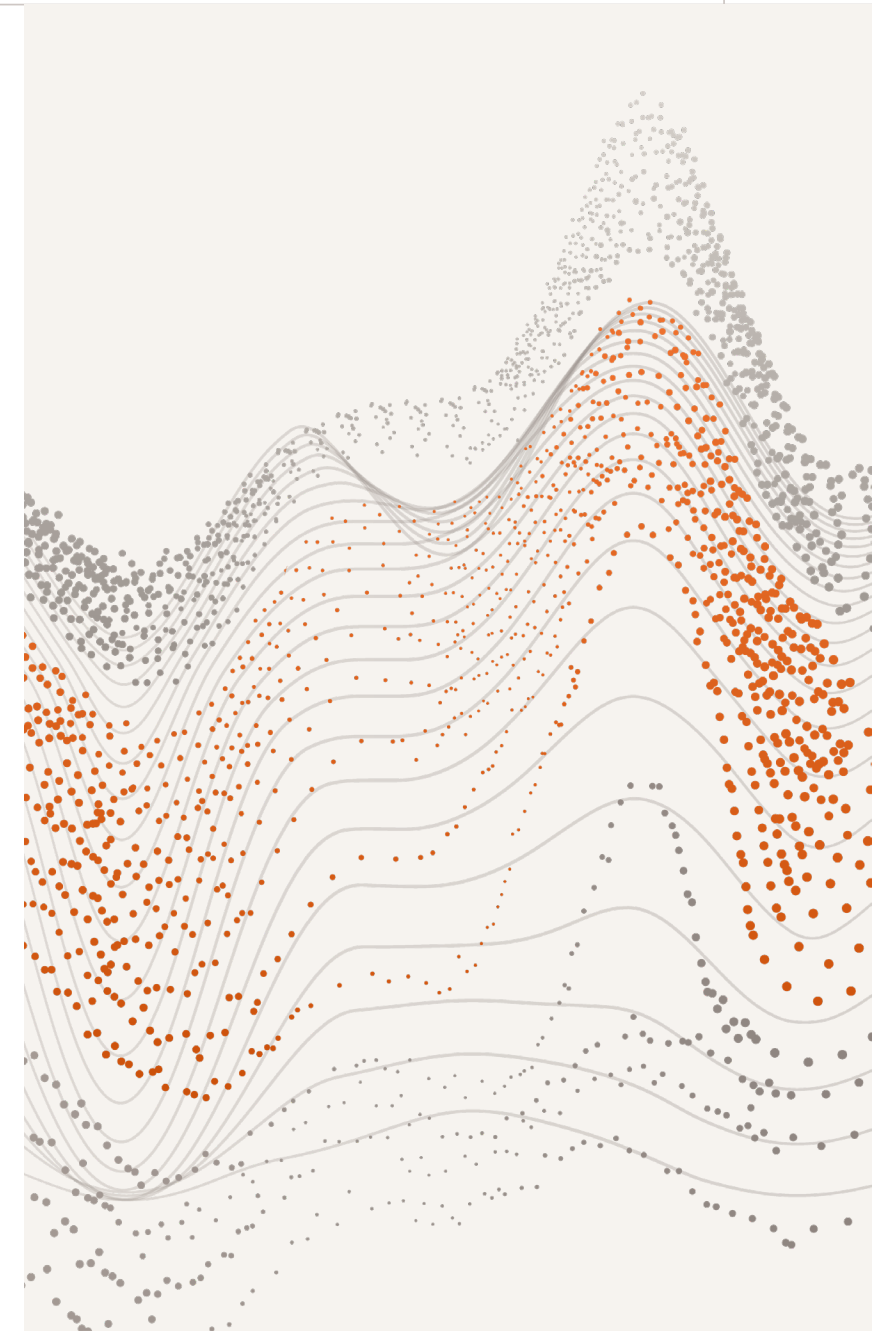
Integrating administrative and survey data

- **No previous nationally-representative data existed for**
 - Centers not publicly funded
 - Home-based providers who were not licensed or regulated
- **Survey data are invaluable for**
 - Attitudes, perceptions, descriptions of search
 - Informal activities
 - Documenting patchworks (care, payments, family members)
- **Administrative data make the survey data possible**
 - Generate the provider sample frame
 - Scaffold data quality in the questionnaire
 - Fill in topical gaps respondents are unable to report

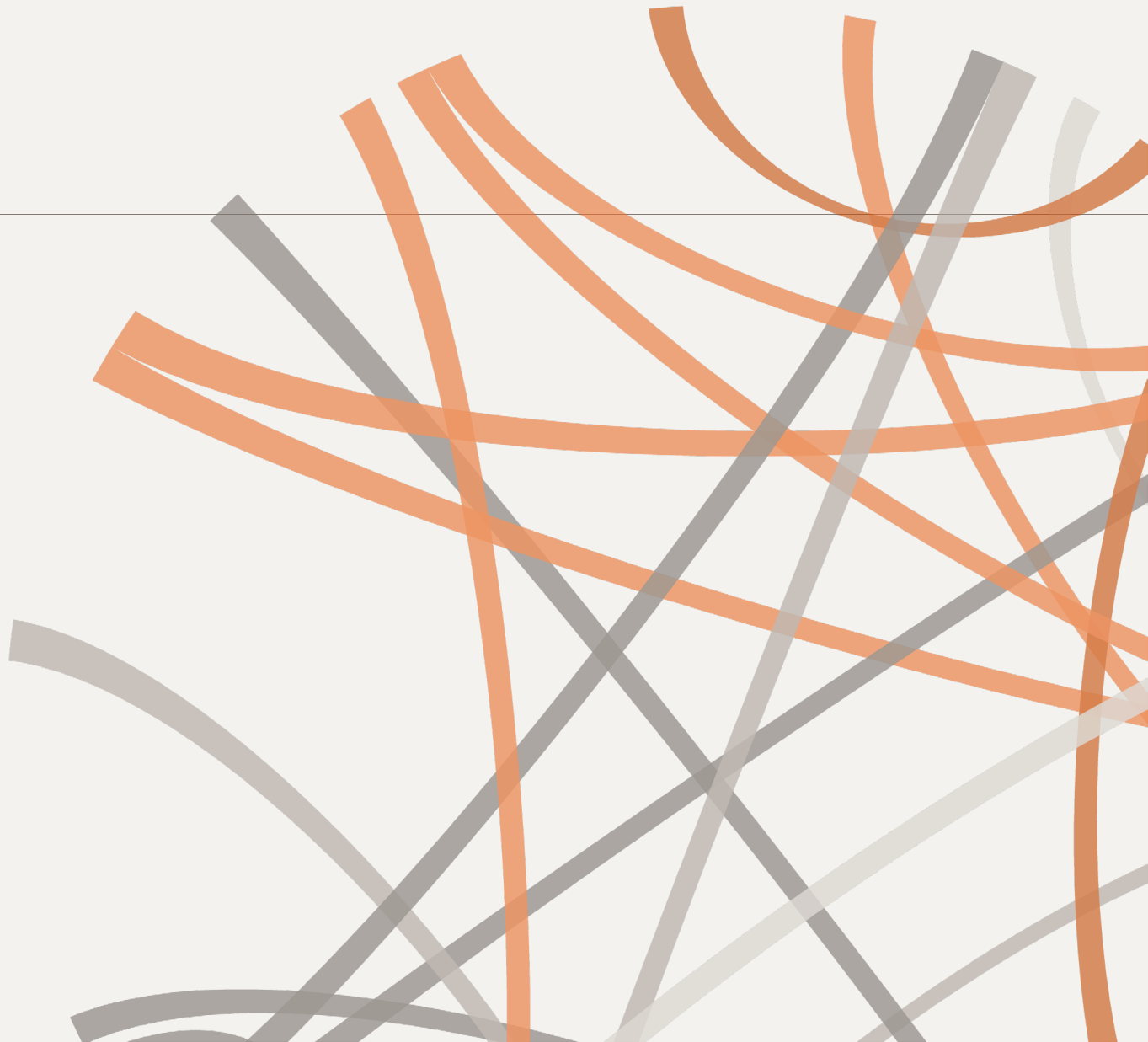


Key limitations of data and methods to date

- **Survey respondents' cognition**
 - Complexity of funding and finance
 - Nature of care and need for care
- **Sample sizes for selected populations of interest**
 - “unlisted paid” providers of home-based care
- **How to estimate demand**
- **Estimating “risk” of caregiving: predicting who will step up and why**
- **Modeling ‘what if’ policy scenarios**



Questions?



Thank you.

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