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Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is an independent public benefit corporation created in 2004 by First 5 LA. LAUP’s goal is to make voluntary, high-quality preschool available to every 4-year-old child in Los Angeles County, regardless of their family’s income. First 5 LA is the primary funding source for LAUP & oversees the Universal Preschool Child Outcomes Study (UPCOS) presented in this poster symposium.

Los Angeles County Context

LA County is the most populous county in the US, with a population of approximately 10 million people.
- If LA County were a state unto itself, it would be the 9th largest state in the country.
- LA County is also one of the most linguistically & culturally diverse areas in the country.
- Approximately 80% of children in LA County under age 18 are non-white & 59% are of Hispanic origin.
- It is estimated that over 65% of children entering kindergarten in LA County have a primary home language other than English.

Universal Preschool Child Outcomes Study

**Phase 1: Measurement Pilot Study**

**Purpose**
Focus on measurement feasibility issues, including:
- Reliability & validity of direct child assessment measures with diverse population of 4-year-olds in LA County.
- Appropriateness of parent and teacher report measures with culturally & linguistically diverse population of LA County.

**Sample**
- Convenience sample of 418 children
- 60% Latino, 24% Black, 9% White, 5% Asian
- 51% only English spoken in the home;
- 49% some other language spoken in the home either exclusively or in combination with English

**Methods**
- Direct Child Assessments
- Teacher Ratings of Children
- Teacher Background Questionnaires
- Parent Focus Groups & In-depth Interviews

**Phase 2: Child Outcomes Study**

**Purpose**
Assess children’s fall to spring gains using a comprehensive set of child outcome measures and examine how child, family, & provider characteristics & program quality relate to children’s fall to spring gains.

**Sample**
- Representative sample of 98 centers and 1,724 children
- 74% Latino, 8% Black, 7% White, 7% Asian, 4% Other/Multiethnic
- 32% only English spoken in the home
- 68% some other language only or in combination with English

**Methods**
- Direct Child Assessments
- Teacher Ratings of Children
- Teacher & Parent Interviews

**Overview of Poster Symposium**

Summary
- This poster session examines the challenges faced in an evaluation of a newly developed UPK initiative being implemented in a culturally & linguistically diverse urban context as well as approaches used to resolve those challenges.
- Limitations of current assessment approaches for use with diverse populations (Posters 4 & 5)
- Strategies to address and/or overcome some methodological, measurement, and analytic challenges (Posters 2, 3, 6, 8)
- Benefits of using parental ratings of their children’s behavior when examining program and family influences on children’s development (Poster 7)
- Description of the ethnic/racial and linguistic diversity among children and teachers within preschool programs, the match/mismatch, and implications for supporting the preschool workforce (Poster 9)

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