



## Improving Health and Safety in Child Care Settings

In December 2012, States and Territories reported CCDF quality data for the first time through the annual Quality Performance Report (QPR). These data offer a window into current quality initiatives and their results. However, readers should keep in mind that this first-ever reporting may contain errors, duplications, and other common data quality errors. States and Territories reported a mixture of actual data and estimates. Some could only report on a portion of their programs or providers and definitions and requirements related to these indicators vary across States and Territories. The Office of Child Care looks forward to working with States and Territories on goal setting and continuous quality improvement.

### *Health and Safety Indicators*

The data in the table below is based on the numbers of States/Territories that were able to report on program level data for the QPR 2012. The data does not reflect the number of States that are implementing health and safety requirements and policies in the areas identified below.

#### Number of licensed programs

- 56 States/Territories reported a combined total of 116,451 licensed center-based programs
- 54 States/Territories reported a combined total of 160,247 licensed home-based programs; 1 State/Territory reported that it does not license home based programs and 1 State/Territory reported no licensed homes

Nearly all States/Territories reported on percentage of programs receiving monitoring visits and at what frequency in FY 2012 for licensed centers and homes; and 22 States/Territories reported on percentage of programs receiving monitoring visits and at what frequency in FY 2012 for license-exempt providers. Some States reported monitoring data based on their policies and some provided estimates.

- Licensed Centers – Monitoring Visits
  - 30 States/Territories reported that 100% of centers were visited, as required by State regulations
  - 9 States/Territories reported between 90-99% of centers were visited
  - 6 States/Territories reported between 70-89% of centers were visited
  - 5 States/Territories reported between 40-69% of centers were visited
  - 2 States/Territories reported between 10-39% of centers were visited
  - 4 States/Territories reported that the data was not available
- Licensed Centers Frequency
  - 18 States/Territories reported an average of 1 monitoring visit
  - 18 States/Territories reported an average of 2 monitoring visits
  - 8 States/Territories reported an average of 3 monitoring visits
  - 7 States/Territories reported an average of 4 or more monitoring visits
  - 5 States/Territories reported that the data was not available
- Licensed Homes – Monitoring Visits
  - 24 States/Territories reported 100% of homes were visited, as required by State regulations
  - 5 States/Territories reported between 90-99% of homes were visited

- 7 States/Territories reported between 70-89% of homes were visited
- 7 States/Territories reported between 40-69% of homes were visited
- 5 States/Territories reported between 10-39% of homes were visited
- 8 States/Territories reported that the data was not available
- **Licensed Homes Frequency**
  - 18 States/Territories reported an average of 1 monitoring visit
  - 21 States/Territories reported an average of 2 monitoring visits
  - 4 States/Territories reported an average of 3 monitoring visits
  - 3 States/Territories reported an average of 4 or more monitoring visits
  - 1 State/Territory reported no licensed homes
  - 1 State/Territory reported that they do not license home-based programs
  - 8 States/Territories reported that the data was not available
- **License-Exempt Providers – Monitoring Visits**
  - 10 States/Territories reported 100% of license-exempt providers were visited, per requirements
  - 4 States/Territories reported 20% or less of license-exempt providers were visited
  - 5 States/Territories reported that they do not permit license-exempt providers to receive CCDF funds
  - 4 States/Territories reported that they only visit license-exempt providers if there is a complaint
  - 33 States/Territories reported that they did not provide data either because it was not available or visits are not required for license-exempt providers
- **License-Exempt Providers – Frequency**
  - 10 States/Territories reported an average of 1 monitoring visit
  - 1 State/Territory reported an average of 2 monitoring visits
  - 2 States/Territories reported an average of 3 monitoring visits
  - 43 States/Territories reported that they did not provide data either because it was not available or visits are not required for license-exempt providers

#### Number programs that had their licenses suspended or revoked due to licensing violations in FY 2012

- **Centers**
  - 22 States/Territories reported suspending the licenses of 102 licensed centers (n = 45)
  - 11 States/Territories reported that the data was not available
  - 38 States/Territories reported revoking the licenses of 219 licensed centers (n = 55)
  - 1 State/Territory reported that data on revoked licenses was not available
- **Homes**
  - 29 States/Territories reported suspending the licenses of 844 licensed homes (n = 45)
  - 11 States/Territories reported that the data was not available
  - 36 States/Territories reported revoking the licenses of 950 licensed homes (n = 49)
  - 7 States/Territories reported that data on revoked licenses was not available

#### Injuries that occurred in child care in FY 2012

- 29 States/Territories reported a total of 9,058 injuries
- 24 States/Territories reported that the data was not available
- 3 States/Territories reported that no injuries occurred

## Number of fatalities that occurred in child care in FY 2012

- 28 States/Territories reported a total of 97 deaths
- 10 States/Territories reported that the data was not available
- 18 States/Territories reported no fatalities

## Progress on State and Territory Goals

Since the submission of the 2012-2013 CCDF Plans, States have made some significant progress on their goals. The following is a brief summary of progress on health and safety goals, as reported in the 2012 QPR:

- Twenty-eight States/Territories reported reviewing, revising and strengthening licensing requirements. Sometimes this review and revision involved a broad approach to streamline requirements or reduce redundancies while other revisions targeted specific areas (e.g., preservice and ongoing training; background checks; obesity prevention; and safe sleep practices).
- Six States/Territories reported updating their use of technology through the use of mobile technology (remote data entry) for licensors, improved reporting, improved data access, e-licensing, and paperless training records.
- Six States/Territories reported providing support (training or resources) for providers to prevent obesity in children through increased physical activity and reducing screen time.
- Five States/Territories reported developing new approaches to emergency preparedness including statewide plans, support or resources to providers.
- Four States/Territories reported exploring ways to support license-exempt or non-licensed providers to become licensed.

### Results

- In 2010, **Kansas** enacted Lexie's Law resulting in the first significant changes to the State's child care law in 30 years. The law eliminated the category of "registered family day care home", requiring approximately 2,500 homes to become licensed and inspected. In addition, new and amended health and safety regulations were implemented in 2012 and addressed supervision of children; orientation for applicants and new staff; and additional training requirements including certification in first aid/CPR, safe sleep, child development, and identifying/reporting abuse and neglect. The law also called for the development of an online information dissemination system that includes an online child care application for both licensing and subsidy participation, eliminating the need to submit separate applications to two agencies. The ability to submit an application online will significantly reduce the length of time necessary to process an application and issue a license. The online availability of facility compliance history will increase the ability of Kansas families to research their child care options and make more informed child care choices.
- As part of an effort to include **Ohio's** small family child care homes in the Step Up to Quality QRIS, all participants in the CCDF subsidy program will be required to be licensed by January 1, 2014 and will continue to be visited twice a year. Small family child care homes caring for six or fewer children are currently county-certified if participating in the subsidy program. In working toward this goal, Ohio has developed regulations regarding licensing small homes and is combining program requirements so they apply to both small and large homes in 2015. The Lead Agency is exploring ways to communicate and implement these changes with county-level staff and providers, investigating staffing models for monitoring visits, and upgrading their data systems. The inclusion of small family child care homes in the licensing and QRIS systems will enhance the safety and quality of care in these programs and support families in choosing the best care for their children.

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## *Technical Assistance in Support of State and Territory Goals*

Since October 2011, the Office of Child Care supported 50 TA activities -- including 22 intensive and targeted TA activities -- to strengthen standards to ensure safety, health, and well-being of children in child care. Examples of intensive TA activities include:

- **Massachusetts'** technical assistance goal focuses on supporting the State to complete a licensing risk assessment tool. To support their work, a variety of resources were provided, including a webinar, two peer-to-peer calls with four other states, written resources, and an on-site presentation to all licensing staff. The State's goal is to better target resources based on programs' licensing history. They plan to support this goal by implementing the risk assessment process for approximately 11,000 licensed family, group, and school-age child care providers. Increasing the frequency of visits to programs that are not meeting critical licensing requirements will help to ensure that over 50,000 children receiving child care assistance are being cared for in healthy and safe child care settings.
- **Vermont's** Child Care Licensing Regulation Revision Project involved parents, providers, and community members working together over 18 months to help the Department for Children and Families create regulations that are child centered and family friendly. Key proposed changes that will impact approximately 1,577 licensed providers include: public access to licensing violations, limitations on screen time for young children, safe sleep practices, and increasing standards on nutritional foods and immunizations. The project was supported by technical assistance that included remote and on-site resources. With final promulgation expected for late 2013, the new regulations will create comparable standards across provider types to ensure that children's safety is consistently addressed while respecting the unique characteristics of each child care setting. It will also reduce the administrative burden on providers so that they can focus on improving the quality of care children receive.