



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

# Understanding Different Components of Access: New Georgia Research Focused on Family Child Care Learning Homes and Exemptions

Bentley Ponder

Randy Hudgins

Georgia Department of Early Care and  
Learning

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- **Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is the lead agency for Georgia's CCDF.**
- DECAL also includes:
  - Georgia's Pre-K
  - Child Care Licensing
  - Child and Adult Care Food Program
  - Head Start Collaboration
  - Quality Rated
  - Strong Administrative Support (including a small, robust research team).





## Enrollment in Early Learning Programs

Age	Population	Enrollments	Percent Served
6 weeks to 12 months	129,104	20,218	15.7%
1 year old	129,915	32,168	24.8%
2 years old	132,990	33,166	24.9%
3 years old	133,811	58,367	43.6%
4 years old	136,855	118,497	86.6%





# Defining Access

Access to early care and education means that families, with reasonable effort and affordability, can enroll their child in an arrangement that supports the **child's development** and meets the **families' needs**.

-OPRE Research Brief  
2017



# Measuring Access

- Part of Georgia's CCDF Plan and DECAL's strategic Plan.
- Key component of Georgia's Phase One CCDF Research Grant.
- Includes analysis of administrative data, stakeholder feedback, and use of internal/external research.
- Focus today on an internal analysis of family child care learning home data and a partnership study of exemptions.
  - Both are related to requests DECAL has received from outside groups and partners.





# Child Care Closure Analysis

# Child Care Providers in Georgia *Dec. 2017*



Provider Type	Count	% Licensed	% of All Programs
CCLC	3,128	65%	55%
FCCLH	1,672	35%	29%
Other	147		3%
LSS	790		14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,737</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Findings

- *Displayed during presentation*





# Next steps?

- Are there similar trends in License-Exempt programs?
- What is the demand for childcare?
  - Georgia vs. Nationally
  - Center-based vs. Family vs. License-Exempt
- What policy changes may be influencing this change?



A close-up photograph of a child's hands stacking colorful wooden blocks. The child is wearing a plaid shirt. The blocks are in various colors including yellow, orange, green, and blue. The text "Exemption Analysis: Child Trends & DECAL" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

# Exemption Analysis: Child Trends & DECAL

The purpose of the project is to gather data about basic health & safety practices in license - exempt programs.

## Research Questions:

- Are exempt programs operating within their approved exemption guidelines?
- How different are they from basic licensing **health & safety** standards? (Health/Safety Analysis)





# Study Approach

- **DECAL recruited 492 license-exempt programs to participate in the study**
  - Examples: government owned/operated, day camps, part-day programs
- **DECAL hired consultants to visit the sample of license-exempt programs**
  - Completed checklist that measured several different health and safety practices
  - Visits completed between June and December 2016
- **Child Trends analyzed the data**
  - License-exempt programs
  - Licensed programs that were visited during same time period

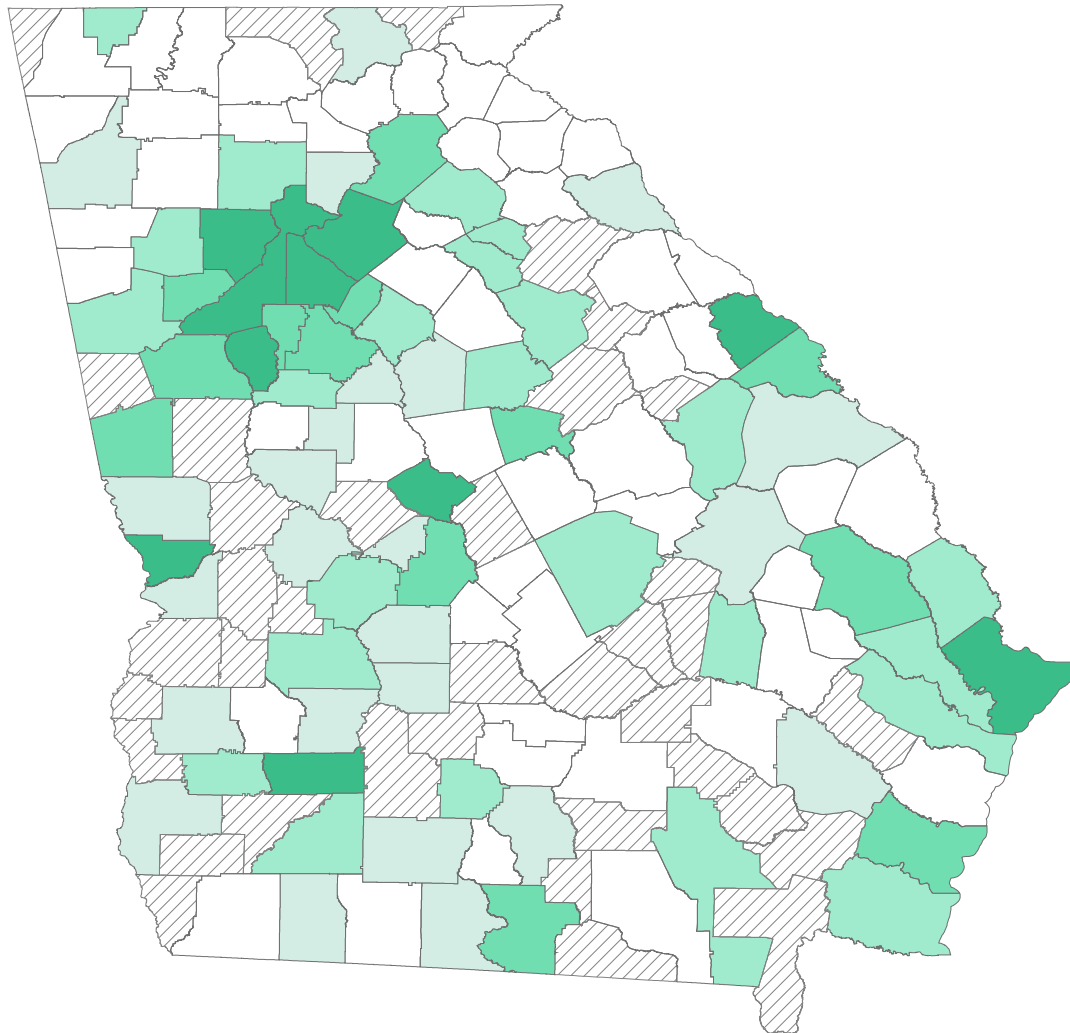




## Study Approach (cont.)

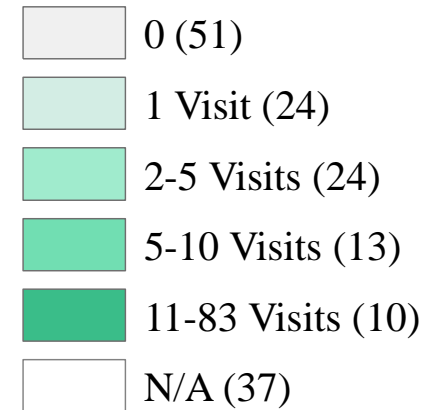
- Identified 38 basic health and safety practices that were measured in the license-exempt programs *and* were included in licensing regulations
- Determined % met for each of the 38 practices
  - Licensed-exempt and licensed programs

# Visited 14% of the 3,332 Exemptions



## EVP Geographic Distribution

### Count of Visits





- *To be released late February 2018*



# Questions?

