Child Care Licensing Study

Methodology and Data Collected

Selected Key Findings

2020 CCEEPRC Meeting
Child Care Licensing Studies

- Studies are done by a partnership of the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center) and the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA).
- Data available in the Child & Family Data Archive.
- Their purpose is to track changes in child care licensing policies, practices, and requirements for providers.
Data Set: Licensing Practices and Policies

Licensing policies

- Facility monitoring, regulation enforcement, and licensing program staffing

- Results of the NARA survey of all licensing agencies
Survey Respondents

- NARA sent the survey to directors and managers of child care licensing agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia (DC), and 5 U.S. territories in March 2018.
- A full set of responses was received by January 2019.
  - The 2017 survey had 51 responses (including all states and DC).
- Respondents included licensing managers and directors (who are referred to as “states” in this presentation).
- The 2014 survey had 53 responses (including 2 territories and DC).

Source: National Association for Regulatory Administration, 2017
Data Set: Facility Requirements

Licensing regulations for child care facilities

- include requirements that programs must meet;
- are compiled from regulations posted on the National Database of Child Care Licensing Regulations; and
- include the following facility types—child care centers, family child care homes (FCCHs), and group child care homes (GCCHs).
Source of Regulations

Source: National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance, n.d.

https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/licensing
What Data Are Collected?
Topics Covered in Facility Requirements Data Set

- Types of licensing regulations
- Definitions of facility types
- Licensing exemptions
- Staff qualifications and training
- Child-staff ratios and group size (for centers)
- Number of children allowed (for family child care)
- Supervision of children
- Care of children
- Facility requirements
Staff Qualifications and Training Variables

- Staff roles regulated
- Minimum age requirements
- High school diploma requirements
- Preservice qualifications
- Orientation training
- Health and safety training
- Experience requirements
- Ongoing training
- Staff health requirements
- References
Care-of-Children Variables

- Health requirements
  - Physical exams
  - Immunizations
- Nutrition
- Guiding behavior and discipline
- Activities, equipment, and materials
  - Child developmental domains
Care-of-Children Variables

- Family involvement
- Child assessment
- Children with special needs
- Specialized care
  - Infant/toddler care; reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome
  - School-age care
  - Care of mildly ill children
  - Evening and overnight care
  - Drop-in care
Facility Requirement Variables

- Environmental tests
- Square footage
- Condition of facility and equipment
- Safety of equipment
- Outdoor space
- Fire safety and emergency preparedness
- Security
- Transportation
- Liability and automobile insurance

- Medical care and related issues; administration of medication
- Handwashing
- Diapering
- Smoking policies
- Hazardous materials
- Firearms
- Animals in facilities
Topics Covered in NARA Survey

- Number of licensed facilities and capacity
- Caseloads
- Types of inspections
- Frequency of inspections
- Frequency of licensing renewals
- Inspections and monitoring
- Risk assessment, defining compliance, and differential monitoring
- Technical assistance to licensees
- Use of technology and data
- Complaint investigations

Source: National Association for Regulatory Administration, 2017
Topics Covered in NARA Survey

- Enforcement actions
- Sharing licensing information
- Illegally operating providers
- Licensing fees
- Licensing staff qualifications and training
- Quality initiatives and resources for formulating regulations
- Fire, health, and building inspections
- Background checks

Source: National Association for Regulatory Administration, 2017
Key Findings from 2017 Study
Trends in Child Care Licensing for 2017

Key Findings and Trends, 2017

- Many states added health and safety topics to training requirements.
- More states require five types of background checks.
- More states regulate group size for centers.
- More states inspect at least once a year.

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c
## Health and Safety Training Topics, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health and Safety Training Topics</th>
<th>Center Staff (N = 51)</th>
<th>FCCH Providers (N = 44)</th>
<th>GCCH Providers (N = 38)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>Emergency preparedness and response planning</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention and control of infectious diseases</td>
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<td>Reduction of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, and child maltreatment</td>
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<td>Administration of medication</td>
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<td>Precautions in transporting children</td>
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<td>Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building and physical premises safety</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of biocontaminants</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c
Changes in Health and Safety Training

Several states added preservice or orientation training requirements in health and safety topics from 2014 to 2017:

- For centers, the largest increases were in
  - reducing sudden infant death syndrome (16 states to 29) and
  - preventing shaken baby syndrome (11 states to 26).

- For FCCHs, there were large increases in almost every topic.

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c
Types of Background Checks: Centers, 2014–2017


Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c
Five Types of Background Checks Are Required, 2014–2017

In 2017, 1/3 more states required five types of background checks than in 2014.

Source: ECQA Center, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c
More States Regulate Group Size in Centers, 2014–2017

- More states regulate group size.
- More states regulate group size for all age groups.
- Fewer states regulate group size for at least one age group.

Source: ECQA Center, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c
Frequency of Inspections, 2017

Note: $N = 51$ states (including DC) in 2017.

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c
Frequency of Inspections, 2014

Note: N = 53 states (including DC and 2 territories) in 2014.

Sources: ECQA Center, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c
https://nara.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/ChildCareLicensingStudies/2017CCStudy/2017%20Child%20Care%20Licensing%20Survey%20%281%29.pdf


References


