



Taking a QRIS to the Next Level

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Acknowledgements

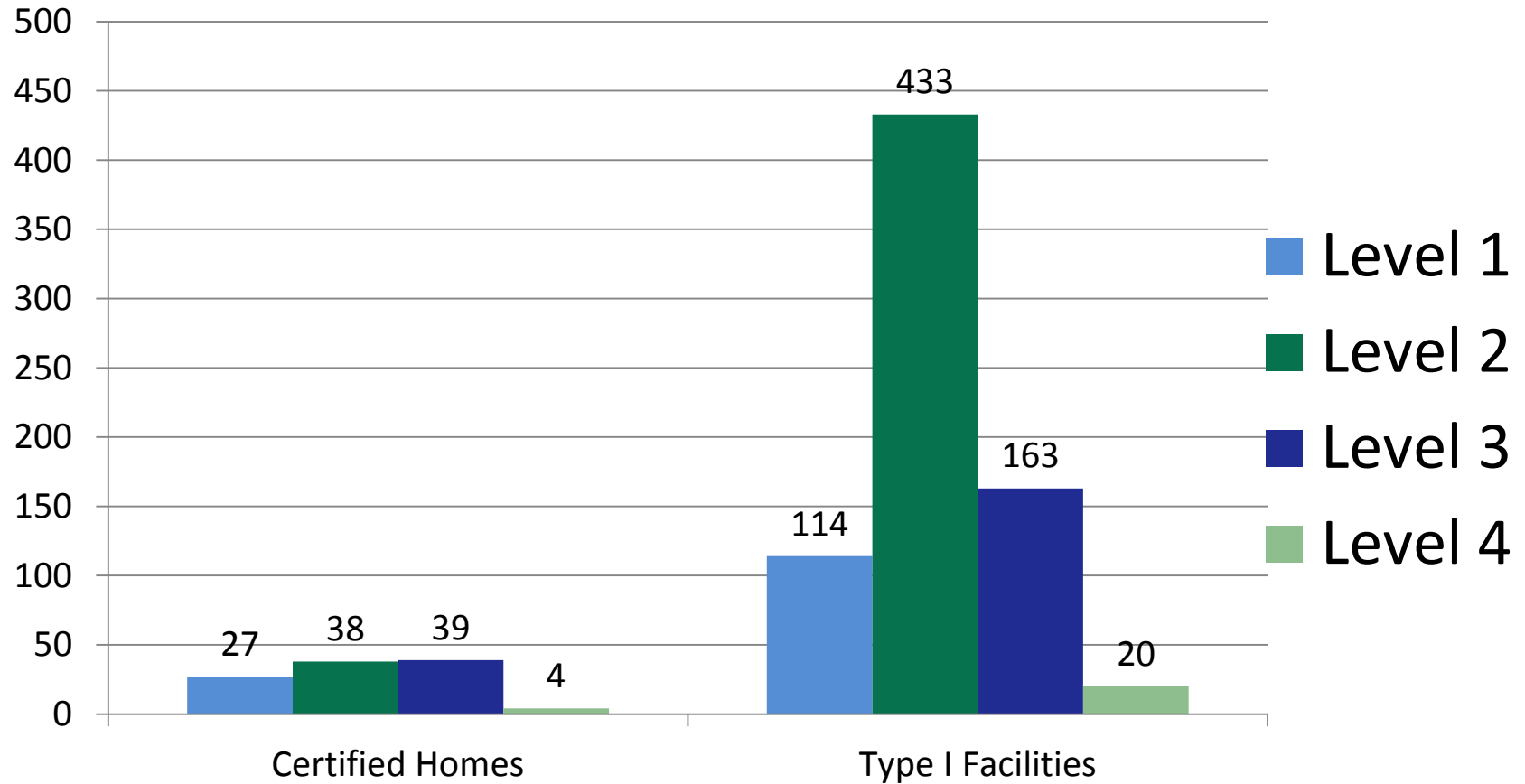
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Reflecting on a Mature QRIS

- After a decade of implementation, what is the status of the QRIS?
 - Density of participation
 - Rating levels of participants
 - Effectiveness of technical assistance
 - Use of the system by parents
- What is new in QRIS nationally? What has been learned?
- What improvements can be made?



Rating level of STARS Participants



May, 2011

Process Evaluation of Kentucky STARS for KIDS NOW

- Five key evaluation questions
 - How do STARS quality standards align with other quality frameworks?
 - What rating process and structures will produce a valid rating?
 - How can STARS technical assistance be enhanced?
 - What strategies can increase provider participation and parent engagement with STARS?
 - How can coordination, collaboration and administrative processes be strengthened?

Approach

- Engage in a collaborative process to identify research questions
- Identify strengths in the current system on which revisions/changes can be built
- Use a multi-method approach and a variety of data sources
 - Interviews with providers and QRIS staff
 - Household survey of parents
 - Analysis of administrative data



Selected Evaluation Activities and Findings

Quality Standards

- Strategy: Conduct a cross-walk of existing standards with foundational KY documents and with national QRIS
- Findings: Standards are aligned with some domains but there are opportunities to improve
- Recommendations: New standards could address curriculum, assessment, screening and referral, and provisions for children with special needs



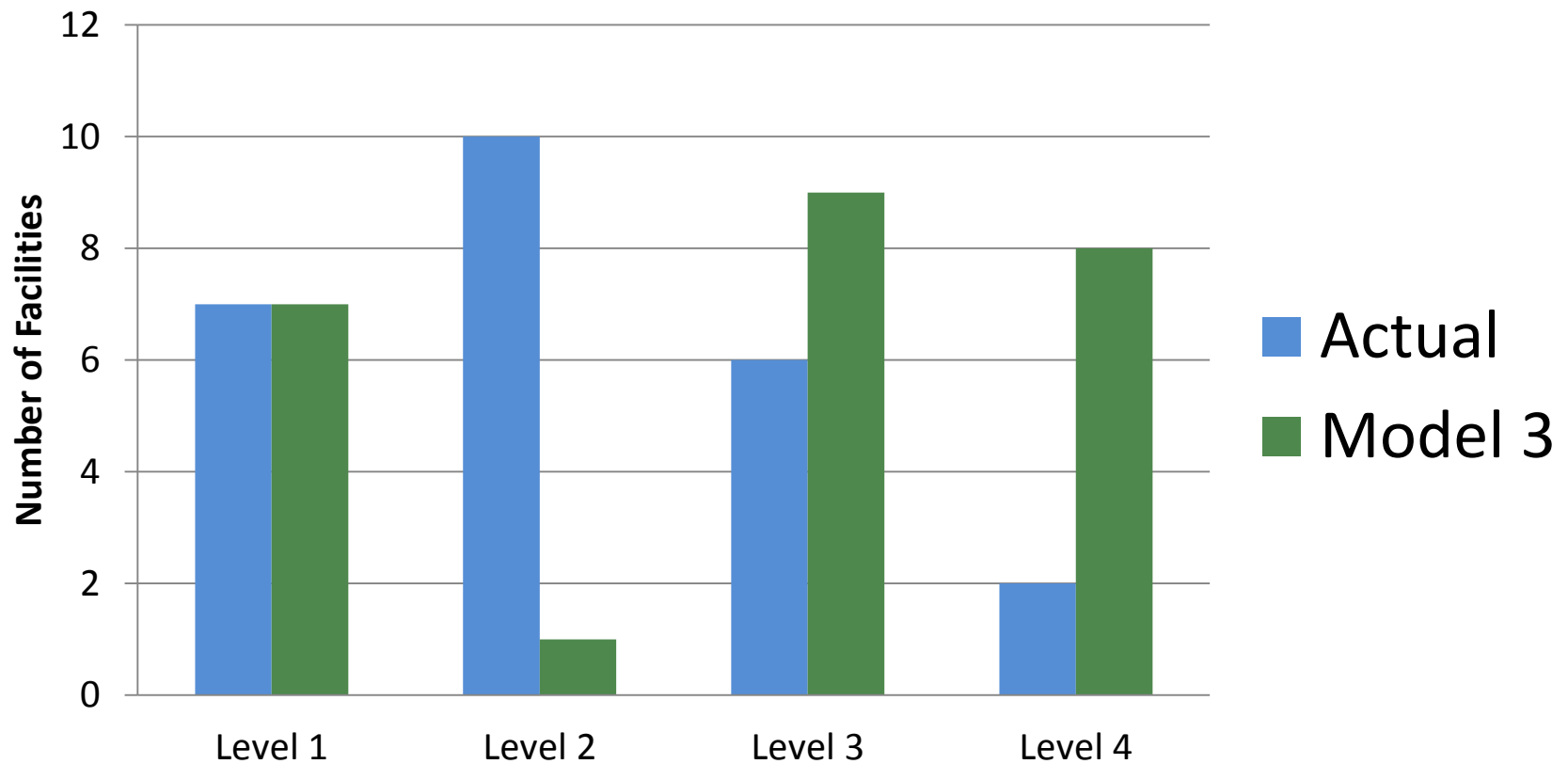
Rating Process

- Strategy:
 - Interview providers to learn which standards are most challenging, which standards they meet above their current level, and which new standards they could meet.
 - Use data to examine the level providers would achieve under four alternative rating structures (points and hybrid structures)
 - Example: Model a hybrid structure with blocks at levels 1 and 2 and points at levels 3 and 4.



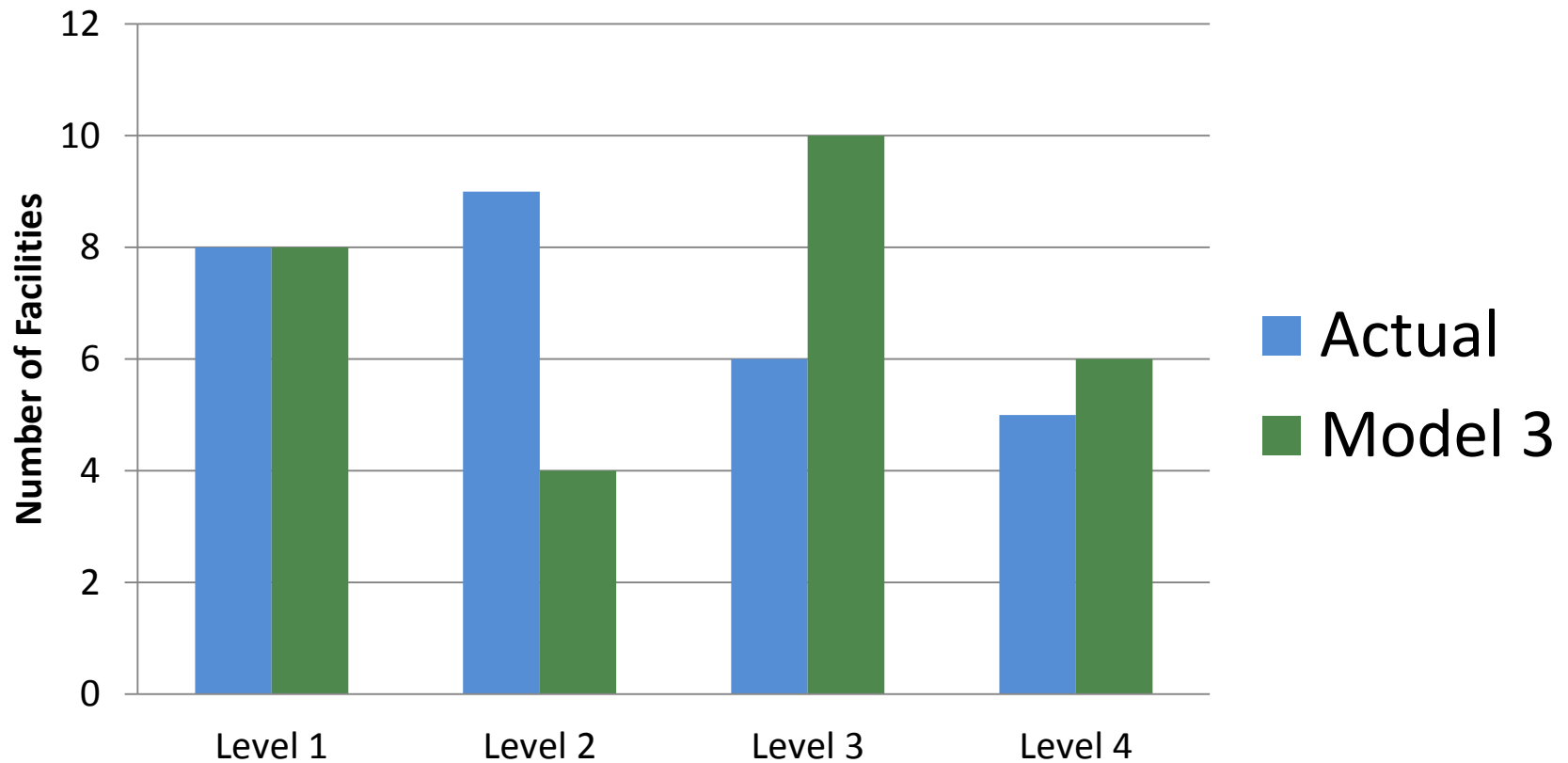
Family child care homes are more likely to be rated at a level 3 or 4 in this alternative model.

Model 3: Certified Homes



About half of child care centers move from level 2 to 3, but there is not much movement to level 4.

Model 3: Type I Facilities



Considerations for Revising Rating Structure

- What “weight” should be assigned to new standards/indicators? Where should indicators be placed in the system?
- Is it important to know rating levels *within* quality categories or is one *overall* rating preferred?
- How important is transparency of each level? What balance is preferred between simple and complex?

Outreach to Parents

- Strategy: Conduct a household survey of parents to learn about early care and education preferences and recognition of STARS
- Findings:
 - 17% of parents recognized the name STARS for KIDS Now
 - Two-thirds of parents report that they would use a STARS rating to select a provider
- Recommendations:
 - Target outreach to parents who are in process of making early care and education decisions
 - Align marketing efforts with values that parents have about early care and education



Summary

- A process evaluation can inform regular review of a QRIS and highlight areas for revision or refinement.
- Recommendations for system changes will have implications for cost, staffing and support. It is important to have a plan and timeline in place for making system changes.
- Elements of the evaluation reflected OCC goals for early care and education initiatives to be child-focused, family friendly and fair to providers.

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