

2023 Child Care Licensing Study™



National Association for
Regulatory Administration

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) is an international professional organization dedicated to promoting excellence in human care regulation and licensing by promoting the health and safety of children and adults in regulatory settings. This is accomplished by fostering collaboration that leads to learning and the development of leadership practices, which in turn promote integrity, all with the goal of protection. NARA represents all human care licensing, including adult care, child care, and child welfare. NARA's researchers have been studying child care in the United States for over forty years. NARA seeks to improve the overall quality of child care by measuring the effectiveness of licensing policies and procedures and determining which regulations are best at protecting children from harm.

In 2001, NARA was approached by the Children's Foundation to collaborate on the Child Care Licensing Study and assumed full responsibility for the research and publication of the studies in 2005 to present day. NARA also formed a relationship with the Office of Child Care's National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (formerly Child Care Quality Improvement) to produce research briefs based on the study.

The *2023 Child Care Licensing Study* is a study of the current state of licensing regulations in the United States. The Child Care Licensing Study is used to verify and update the information about child care licensing. Unfortunately, due to Covid, the *2020 Child Care Licensing Study* was postponed.

Once again, NARA recognizes Tara Lynne Orłowski, M.Ed. (posthumously), Clifford Schmidt, Kathryn Schmidt, and Deborah Russo, PMP for their co-authorship of the *2023 Child Care Licensing Study*. Without the leadership and tireless efforts of Tara Lynne Orłowski and Deborah Russo, this report would not have been possible.

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(All maps created with mapchart.net/usa.html ©)

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STUDY DESIGN

In 2023, NARA sent a survey to all state child care licensing agencies via an online survey tool. The survey included 132 questions relating to regulatory implementation and operational procedures. Forty states, the District of Columbia, and the North Marianna Islands responded to the survey. The data for each state was analyzed to obtain preliminary information about updates to the regulations since 2017, the last licensing study published by NARA. Data from 2017 was substituted for the 10 states that did not complete the 2023 survey. Where applicable, the results for these states are shown in red text.

DEFINITIONS

Abbreviated Compliance Inspection: An abbreviated inspection utilizing a select set of rules to be reviewed. The use of abbreviated inspections can be a time saving technique to focus regulatory efforts on facilities that require additional inspections or technical assistance. The forms or checklists used for abbreviated inspections may include those standards considered as most critical to children's safety and well-being standards that statistically indicate compliance with the entire set of standards. They also may be used as an indicator checklist to determine when a subsequent full compliance review is required.

Background Check: A process of searching for a history of criminal charges against individuals working in child care facilities.

Building Code Inspection: An inspection of child care facilities for compliance with the state's building construction codes and laws that assure buildings are safe for occupants. This inspection is in addition to those conducted by the licensing agency.

Child Care Centers: A provider licensed or otherwise authorized to provide child care services for fewer than 24 hours per day per child in a non-residential setting, unless care in excess of 24 hours is due to the nature of the parent(s)' work.

Conditional License: A license that is typically limited in some way, such as temporary, provisional, or probational based on the child care program not meeting the minimum regulatory standards. A conditional license can be disciplinary or non-disciplinary in nature.

Consent Agreement: An agreement between parties in a court action which solves a dispute. An example of consent agreement is a document stating that one party will stop the contested actions which will, in turn, resolve the lawsuit.

Criminal History Record (CHR): A compilation of an individual's identification, arrest, conviction (law), incarceration, legal status, sex offender registration, warrant information, and other relevant criminal history. In the United States, these compilations are maintained and updated on the local, state, and Federal levels by various law enforcement agencies.

Differential Monitoring: A method for determining the frequency of monitoring based on an assessment of a facility's level of complaint history and compliance with regulations. This process can be used to determine the number of inspections needed for a particular facility and the content of inspections. Differential monitoring includes Key Indicator Systems (KIS), which identify a subset of regulations from an existing set of regulations that statistically predict compliance with the entire set of regulations.

Emergency/Immediate Closure: Also known as emergency order, summary suspension, temporary closure Conditional License: When used as an enforcement action, also known as restricted license, suspension of specific services, provisional license

Environmental Health Inspection: An inspection of child care facilities conducted by the health department, or other entity, for compliance with the state’s environmental health codes and laws. This inspection is in addition to those conducted by the licensing agency.

Fire Inspection: An inspection of child care facilities conducted by the state fire marshal, or other fire safety entity, for compliance with the state’s fire safety codes and laws. This inspection is in addition to those conducted by the licensing agency.

Large/Group Family Child Care (FCC) Homes: Two or more individuals who provide child care services for fewer than 24 hours per day per child, in a private residence other than the child’s residence, unless care in excess of 24 hours is due to the nature of the parent(s)’ work.

QRIS: Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs.

Small Family Child Care (FCC) Homes: One individual who provides child care services for fewer than 24 hours per day, as the sole caregiver, in a private residence other than the child’s residence, unless care in excess of 24 hours is due to the nature of the parent(s)’s work.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Licensing is a process that establishes the requirements necessary to protect the health and safety of children in out-of-home-care. Strong licensing policies and regulations are key to help ensure the health and safety of our nation's children who spend time in out-of-home care. The potential for licensing to have a positive impact on children is very large given that there are more than 10.1 million slots in licensed child care programs of all types in the United States. States manage the licensing process through the application and enforcement of regulations. The protections offered by well-enforced, effective regulations are critical and broad in scope and impact the millions of children and their families who relied on state licensing agencies to monitor and enforce regulatory requirements in these settings. State child care licensing regulations and monitoring and enforcement policies help provide a baseline of protection for the health and safety of children in out-of-home care.

Licensed Programs, Capacity, and Enrollment

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2017 and 2023 the number of children of child care age (0 to 12) in the United States decreased slightly, from approximately 52.8 million to just under 51.3 million, a decrease of just under three percent. However, during that same time period, the number of licensed child care programs in the U.S. across all program types rose by nearly 13 percent, or nearly 32,000 programs in total. The increase in the number of programs means that the average number of licensed programs per 1,000 children rose from 4.3 in 2017 to almost 5.5 in 2023.

The change in number of programs was predominantly in the large/Group FCC Homes where the number of programs increased by 89 percent. Other types of programs grew by almost 39 percent while the number of centers decreased by slightly more than 6 percent.

For the 48 states with responses in both years, licensed capacity across all program types increased by nearly 98,000 since 2017, from 10.06 million to 10.16 million. The total decrease was approximately one percent. A total of 25 states reported an increase in overall capacity while 14 identified a decrease in total capacity.

In a new question for 2023, 21 states reported structural changes to their licensing programs. Twelve of those states reported a change in department, agency or authority, while 9 reported other structural changes.

Licensing Fees

There was very little change in the number of states assessing licensing fees for child care programs. The numbers for all states remained virtually the same in 2023 as in 2017. In both 2017 and 2023 the fees for centers were predominantly based on maximum capacity while fees for FCC homes were more often based on a flat fee. There was very little change between 2017 and 2023 in the states reporting how fees were assessed though there was slight increase in the number of states assessing fees on child care homes of any size.

Licensing Inspections

Overall, there was a small increase in the number of states conduction licensing inspections of Large/Group FCC Homes prior to licensing. Also, there was a very slight trend toward announced inspections rather than unannounced. Similarly, there was a small increase in the number of states reporting renewal inspections for both Small and Large/Group FCC Homes as well as routine compliance inspections for Large/Group FCC Homes.

For licensing renewal, more states gravitated toward a single inspection every year, with the majority of states conducting either one or two per year. There was a small increase in the number of states requiring FCC homes to renew every one or two years.

Abbreviated Inspections and Differential Monitoring

The number of states conducting abbreviated inspections decreased between 2017 and 2023 with the change coming mostly in routine compliance inspections.

One less reported using “Key Indicators” in 2023 versus 2017 to determine what requirements should be included in abbreviated inspections. States were likely to use a mix of methods to determine requirements.

In 2023, fewer states reported having any policies in place to determine when to switch between abbreviated and full compliance inspections. The number of states reporting policies for specific program types also decreased for every program type.

The number of states reporting having a system of differential frequency of monitoring based on compliance records or quality rating level for each type of child care facility decreased overall and for all program types in 2023.

Risk Assessment

Where almost two-thirds of states reported conducting risk assessments in 2017, almost two-thirds reported they did *not* conduct a risk assessment between 2017 and 2023 and only 9 states reported that they had. States used a variety of methods when conducting risk assessments. Risk assessments were used for a variety of enforcement actions and the selection of risk levels and categorization of rules into those levels were mostly based on internal processes.

Complaints

Since 2017, the number of states relying on hotlines, either shared or dedicated lines, for receiving complaints increased with states less likely to rely on the general licensing agency phone number. While six more states added a web-based form for complaints and one state reported a text message system. The number of states investigating complaints for the three program types changed little, though approximately 10 percent more states reported having separate staff within the licensing agency for investigating complaints.

There were more than 5,000 additional complaints in 2023 versus 2017 but the number of substantiated complaints remained relatively unchanged. This meant the percentage of substantiated complaints decreased from 33 percent to 23 percent. For child abuse and neglect complaints, more states are relying on protective services and police or law enforcement to investigate the complaints. The number of states with specialized units has decreased significantly since 2014.

States were increasingly likely to investigate complaints against license-exempt programs, continuing the trend from the last decade. While the number of states investigating all complaints didn’t change since the last survey, there was an increase in almost all other cases.

Compliance

There was little change between 2017 and 2023 in the number of states reporting having defined compliance within their licensing requirements. States used compliance for an increasing variety of reasons with more states reporting the use of compliance in every category.

Enforcement Actions

There was a slight increase in states reporting the denial of license for child care centers as an enforcement action in 2023 versus 2017 while most other uses declined. There was an approximately 20 percent decline in probation or conditional licenses for Small FCC Homes while there was a 4 percent and 9 percent increase for Small FCC Homes in revocation and denial of license respectively. For Large/Group FCC Homes there was a 10 to 15 percent increase in states reporting the use of revocation, denial, emergency closure, non-renewal of license, and civil fines.

The overall numbers for enforcement actions show an almost 6 percent increase in revocations of license, though denial of license and emergency closures were down 44 percent and almost 38 percent respectively. There was an almost 87 percent decrease on nonrenewal of licensure and an almost 18 percent decrease in programs receiving probation. There was an almost 370 percent increase in conditional licenses and 74 percent increase in consent decrees. Other enforcement actions were up more than 91 percent.

The method by which subsidy agencies are notified of an enforcement action changed slightly with 3 additional states reporting personal contact between the licensing and subsidy agencies and an additional 6 states reported a link between the licensing and subsidy databases. There was little change in how enforcement action affected a subsidy payment with most states still reporting that it depended on the nature of the enforcement action.

Technical Assistance

Licensors continue to provide technical assistance in a variety of circumstances to all program types. The most significant change between 2017 and 2023 is the increased technical assistance provided to Large/Group FCC Homes, with a roughly 10 percent increase in states reporting various methods of assistance. States were reportedly less likely to provide assistance to multiple programs at the same time.

Similarly, there was a slight increase in states reporting the provision of technical assistance throughout the licensing process with an increase of roughly 10 percent in states reporting the provision of assistance to Large/Group FCC Homes.

A new question in 2023 identified referral resources for providers. The most frequent referral source was Child Care Resource and Referral agencies though providers have several options available.

Sharing Licensing Information

Between 2014 and 2017 the number of states that made a full inspection report available online increased from just over half to almost two-thirds. A total of 98 percent of states had a full or summary inspection report available online, up from 83 percent in 2017.

In 2023, an additional 5 states reported all complaints were available online, while three fewer states reported that only substantiated complaints were available. An additional 3 states reported that no complaint information was available. There was a 20 percent increase in the number of states that include enforcement actions in the published reports and a 69 percent increase in reports that include corrective action plans. An additional 7 states (23 percent) reported that providers are given an opportunity to review reports before they are posted.

In 2023 an additional 3 states indicated they posted reports within a day, and an additional 7 states having the reports posted within a month while one less state reported posting the reports immediately. Only 3 states reported not having reports posted within a month in both 2017 and 2023. Only 52 percent of states reported providing public guidance on understanding licensing inspection reports in 2023, down from 60 percent in 2017.

In a new question for 2023, states reported a variety of other information also available online.

Licensing Requirements

New questions added in 2023 asked states about licensing requirements for Tribes in their state as well as child care programs on military bases. When a state had Tribes in the state, most reported the Tribes having their own inspection requirements or a mix of Tribe and state agency requirements. Only 3 states reported that a Tribe was required to have an agreement with the state licensing agency.

Similarly, most child care programs on military bases are exempt from state licensing. Only 4 states reported that child care programs on military bases were licensed by the state.

Licensing and Head Start

The percentage of states requiring all Head Start programs to get a license increased by 5 percent between 2017 and 2023 while the percentage of states requiring some programs to get a license decreased by 4 percent. The most common exemption from licensure in 2017 was that the program is operated by a public or private school, while in 2023 it is equally due to being a school operated program and other licensing exemptions.

One in 5 Head Start states reported challenges for Head Start programs in meeting licensing requirements in 2023, up from 1 in 6 in 2017. The number of licensed Head Start Centers was almost identical between 2017 (n=31) and 2023 (n=30) but there was an increase of almost 90 Head Start family homes. Where states reported difficulty obtaining Head Start data, there was an increase of 5 states saying it was not a designation in the database, which corresponded to 5 fewer states saying another agency collected the data.

The number of states with 50 percent or more of their Head Start programs licensed was approximately the same in 2017 and 2023, though there was an increase of one state that had more than 75 percent of their Head Start programs licensed. The same number of states (15) in both 2017 and 2023 did not know how many Head Start programs in their state were licensed.

License Exempt Programs

In 2023, fewer states reported that license-exempt centers were required to get a license if receiving a subsidy payment, but there was no change in the number of states requiring a license-exempt home to get a license if receiving a subsidy payment. There were more states reporting not having a voluntary licensing process or application process for exempt programs to become licensed.

There was a slight increase in the number of states reporting that the licensing agency also conducted inspections of license-exempt programs and similar numbers of states reporting that licensing agency staff was responsible for inspection of both licensed and license-exempt programs. The number of states reporting the use of other staff or contractors tripled, from 6 states in 2017 to 18 in 2023.

While not a question in 2017, a total of 40% of states responding to the question indicated staff caseloads have increased due to the inspection of license-exempt programs. Fewer states in 2023 reported that all license requirements applied to license-exempt programs, seeming to indicate a shift to requiring only some of the licensing requirements. More states reported having different requirements for license-exempt programs in 2023.

Illegally Operating Providers

Almost every state identifies and addresses illegally operating providers through complaints received by the public. The methods states used to identify illegally operating providers varied little between 2017 and 2023 though there was a significant increase in the number of states seeking to educate the public with a campaign about licensing.

Almost every state (96 percent) encourages a provider to become licensed when found to be operating illegally. This represents an increase from 2017. Every method for addressing illegally operating providers saw an increase in use by the states suggesting states try a number of different options as circumstances dictate.

Fire Safety, Environmental Health, And Building Code Inspections

One state reported a change from 2017 to indicate fire safety inspections were not required by child care programs. The number of states requiring inspections for each program type otherwise remained nearly the same though three additional states reported requiring Large/Group FCC Homes to have fire safety inspections. Fire safety inspections are still generally required prior to licensure and once a year thereafter.

Two additional states reported conducting environmental health inspections for Centers, four additional for Small FCC Homes, and an additional five states reported conducting environment health inspections for Large/Group FCC Homes. Like fire safety, environment health inspections are usually done prior to licensing and once a year thereafter.

Building code inspections are conducted for Centers in 38 states, the same as in 2017, though there was a slight increase in the number of states requiring them for FCC Homes. Building code inspections generally happened prior to licensure though there is a increase in 2023 in the number of states conducting annual building code inspections. Even so, only about 25 percent of states conducting building code inspections conduct them after initial licensure.

Licensing Staff

Child care licensing line staff often have multiple roles and are rarely limited to inspecting just one type of facility or just child care programs. The number of staff dedicated to inspecting both centers and FCC homes remained the same between 2017 and 2023 and the distribution of staff inspection just one type of program, or other types of programs remained essentially unchanged as well. Four fewer states reported regional variation in staff assignments and there were 9 fewer states reporting line staff were specifically assigned to complaint investigations.

Overall, in 2023 the number of states seeing an increase or decrease in staffing appeared similar to 2017 though fewer states reported seeing no change. Average caseloads appear to have decreased slightly since 2017, though a direct comparison is not possible with the data available.

In 2023 there were an average 6.1 line staff FTEs (non-contracted) per supervisor across all states, a decrease of more than 2.3 FTEs per supervisor over the 2017 average of 8.4. The median increased from 5 FTEs per supervisor in 2017 to 6.2 FTEs per supervisor in 2023.

Only 5 states reported conducting a workload analysis since the previous survey compared to 21 in 2017.

Licensing Staff Requirements

Educational requirements changed little between 2017 and 2023. One additional state reported requiring a bachelor's degree, and one additional state required an associate's degree. Two states now accept college level coursework where non did in 2017 and one additional state accepts a high school diploma or GED. No states accept only experience with children and none accept no education or experience.

Where a degree is required, it has become increasingly necessary to have coursework directly related to the field and more than half the states require staff to have experience working in a setting with children, an increase of 9 states. Almost every state requires staff to complete additional training on the licensing system and provider's requirements when starting employment.

Every state requires state regulations, licensing policies and procedures, and health and safety issues in their onboarding training. Three-fourths of states use online training and almost 90 percent of states have one-on-one training with existing staff to complete the required training. The number of states requiring a particular training for onboarding increased for almost every topic.

Five fewer states reported using general state funds for hiring and support of child care licensing staff. The number of states relying on each particular funding source decreased since 2017 except one additional state reported relying on licensing fees.

Fewer states reported incorporating inter-rater reliability training for staff and 9 fewer states report having developed interpretive guidelines for licensing regulations. The same percentage of states have policies for emergency and disaster response in both 2017 and 2023.

More states communicate with the media through social media and every state reports using email to communicate with providers. There was a significant decrease in the use of printed materials to communicate as well as a drop off in the use of marketing campaigns, and phone-based communication. Communicating with the public mirrors communicating with providers with an increased reliance on social media and a decreased reliance on printed material and public meetings/announcements.

Technology and Data

In 2023, 49 states reported having either a single or multiple licensing databases, up from 48 in 2017. More states had multiple databases in 2023 rather than a single database. The database is increasingly being used in all phases of the licensing process. States are increasingly likely to have stand-alone systems that do not link to other state databases though the linkages to quality systems, background check services, and the child care subsidy system. Databases are

more likely to capture and categorize serious injuries when they are tracked. No additional states have produced a publicly available report since 2017. An additional 5 states have an online license application process in 2023 and only half the number of states say they do not have one or are not developing one. Five additional states use or are considering using portable devices and tools for inspections.

Quality Improvement Initiatives

Fewer states reported participating in a tiered quality strategy initiative in 2023 than in 2017. While a similar number of states reported leading an initiative or having such an initiative within their agency, 4 fewer states reported participating in planning. Similarly, fewer states were participating in accreditation facilitation projects. While the number of states participating in a professional development system decreased by 2, those states that are participating in such a program were much more likely to have the program within their agency than just being participants. Two more states are involved with development of an environmental rating scale with the increased involvement being within the same agency.

Rule and Regulation Resources

In both 2017 and 2023, states relied primarily on *“Caring for Our Children: Health and Safety Standards”* for formulating rules and regulations for licensing child care facilities. However, they were less likely to do so in 2023 and increasingly relied on *“Caring for Our Children Basics”*. Other state’s regulations were the second most frequently cited source for formulating rules and regulations. States reported using other sources less frequently across the board in 2023.

COVID

COVID-19 had a substantial impact on child care licensing across the United States, necessitating significant adaptations to ensure the safety of children, families, and staff. Key changes included the shift to virtual inspections, the implementation of enhanced health and safety protocols, and the provision of emergency waivers and temporary regulations to support child care providers.

Many states reported a decrease in the number of licensed facilities, challenges in meeting annual inspection requirements, and workforce shortages that continue to affect the field. Licensing staff were deemed essential workers and adapted their practices to conduct abbreviated or virtual inspections, provide technical assistance, and collaborate with health departments to update guidelines regularly.

The pandemic also led to the establishment of temporary child care facilities, adjustments to group sizes and child-to-staff ratios, and the introduction of new program types such as outdoor nature-based programs. States implemented innovative solutions, including digital practices, rapid response portals, and mental health supports for providers and families.

Several practices introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be used today:

- **Virtual Tools:** Virtual inspections, technical assistance, and meetings remain common. Many trainings are still offered online.
- **Remote Work:** Licensing staff in many states continue to telework, improving flexibility and morale.
- **Digital Processes:** Electronic forms, document uploads, and desk reviews are now standard in many places.
- **Health & Safety:** Enhanced hygiene protocols and COVID-specific training are still emphasized.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Continued focus on emergency planning and tracking provider status.

Some states, however, have returned entirely to pre-pandemic procedures and discontinued COVID-era practices.

Note: Each of the major sections contains a Summary which includes a comparison between 2017 and 2023 license survey results. A total of 40 states, a single territory, and the District of Columbia responded to the survey in 2023 which is a different set of states and territories than responded in 2017. For the states that did not respond to the survey in 2023, 2017 data have been included (in red) for comparison purposes and are included in any analysis that is not measuring changes over time since 2017. In order to more accurately compare changes over time, the Summary analysis will examine and include in the analysis only those respondents who are included in both years (including the states with 2017 data substituted where applicable).

The 50 states, Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Columbia will hereafter collectively be referred to as “states” for analysis purposes. Each sub-section within a major section looks at results from only the 2023 survey.

LICENSED PROGRAMS, CAPACITY, AND ENROLLMENT

Summary:

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2017 and 2023 the number of children of child care age (0 to 12) in the United States decreased slightly, from approximately 52.8 million to just under 51.3 million, a decrease of just under three percent. However, during that same time period, the number of licensed child care programs in the U.S. across all program types rose by nearly 13 percent, or nearly 32,000 programs in total. The increase in the number of programs means that the average number of licensed programs per 1,000 children rose from 4.3 in 2017 to almost 5.5 in 2023.

The change in number of programs was predominantly in the large/Group FCC Homes where the number of programs increased by 89 percent. Other types of programs grew by almost 39 percent while the number of centers decreased by slightly more than 6 percent.

For the 48 states with responses in both years, licensed capacity across all program types increased by nearly 98,000 since 2017, from 10.06 million to 10.16 million. The total decrease was approximately one percent. A total of 25 states reported an increase in overall capacity while 14 identified a decrease in total capacity.

In a new question for 2023, 21 states reported structural changes to their licensing programs. Twelve of those states reported a change in department, agency or authority, while 9 reported other structural changes.

Regulated Child Care Programs

State Abbreviation	State	Regulates Licensed Child Care Facilities	Regulates Licensed Small Family Child Care Homes	Regulates Licensed Large/Group Family Child Care Homes	Regulates Other Facility/Program Types
Total		52	47	39	
AK	Alaska	•	•	•	No
AL	Alabama	•	•	•	
AR	Arkansas	•	•	•	
AZ	Arizona	•	•	No	No
CA	California	•	•	•	
CO	Colorado	•	•	•	•
CT	Connecticut	•	•		No
DC	District of Columbia	•	•	•	No
DE	Delaware	•	•	•	•
FL	Florida	•	•	•	
GA	Georgia	•	•	No	No
HI	Hawaii	•	•	•	•
IA	Iowa	•	•	•	No
ID	Idaho	•	•	•	
IL	Illinois	•	•	•	
IN	Indiana	•		•	
KS	Kansas	•	•	•	•

State Abbreviation	State	Regulates Licensed Child Care Facilities	Regulates Licensed Small Family Child Care Homes	Regulates Licensed Large/Group Family Child Care Homes	Regulates Other Facility/Program Types
KY	Kentucky	•	•	No	
LA	Louisiana	•	No	No	No
MA	Massachusetts	•	•	No	No
MD	Maryland	•	•	•	
ME	Maine	•		•	
MI	Michigan	•	•	•	No
MN	Minnesota	•	•	•	
MO	Missouri	•	•	•	
MP	Northern Marianas	•	•	No	•
MS	Mississippi	•	No	•	•
MT	Montana	•	•	•	•
NC	North Carolina	•	•	No	No
ND	North Dakota	•	•	•	•
NE	Nebraska	•	•	•	•
NH	New Hampshire	•	•	•	
NJ	New Jersey	•			•
NM	New Mexico	•	•	•	No
NV	Nevada	•	•	•	
NY	New York	•	•	•	•
OH	Ohio	•	•	•	No
OK	Oklahoma	•	•	•	•
OR	Oregon	•	•	•	
PA	Pennsylvania	•	•	•	No
RI	Rhode Island	•	•	•	No
SC	South Carolina	•	•	•	
SD	South Dakota	•	•	No	•
TN	Tennessee	•	•	•	•
TX	Texas	•	•	•	•
UT	Utah	•	•	•	•
VA	Vermont	•	•		•
VT	Virginia	•	•	•	•
WA	Washington	•	•		•
WI	Wisconsin	•	•	No	•
WV	West Virginia	•	•	•	•
WY	Wyoming	•	•	•	

• = Regulated

No = Not Regulated

Blank = No response to this question

RED TEXT = Did not respond to the 2023 survey, 2017 data substituted. Red text throughout this report indicates the given state did not return a survey for 2023.

Structural Changes

Question: Please highlight if the organizational structure for licensing has changed since the last NARA Child Care Licensing Survey.

State	No changes since the last NARA Child Care Licensing Survey	Moved to another department, agency, or authority			Other
Total	27	12	0	0	9
AK	•				
AL	•				
AR		•			
AZ	•				
CA	•				
CO		•			
CT					•
DC	•				
DE		•			
FL					•
GA	•				
HI	•				
IA		•			
ID					•
IL	•				
IN	•				
KS					•
KY	•				
LA	•				
MA	•				
MD	•				
ME	•				
MI					•
MN					•
MO		•			
MP					•
MS	•				
MT		•			
NC	•				
ND	•				
NE	•				
NH	•				
NJ	•				
NM		•			
NV					
NY	•				
OH		•			
OK	•				
OR		•			
PA	•				
RI					•
SC	•				
SD		•			
TN					
TX		•			
UT					•
VA		•			
VT	•				
WA					

State	No changes since the last NARA Child Care Licensing Survey	Moved to another department, agency, or authority			Other
WI	•				
WV	•				
WY					

Licensed Programs

Question: What was the TOTAL NUMBER of LICENSED child care programs on December 31, 2023 (or most current count)?

Analysis: The total number of licensed child care programs as of December 31, 2023 was almost 280,000. Nationally that represents almost 5.5 licensed programs per 1000 children ages 0 to 12. In 70% of the states reporting on the number of programs, Child Care Centers were the most prevalent licensed program type, followed by Small FCC Homes in 20% of the states, and Large/Group FCC Homes in 10% of the states. The total counts in this report encompass all facility types reported in the survey responses including centers, small FCC homes, large/group FCC homes, and “Other licensed facilities”.

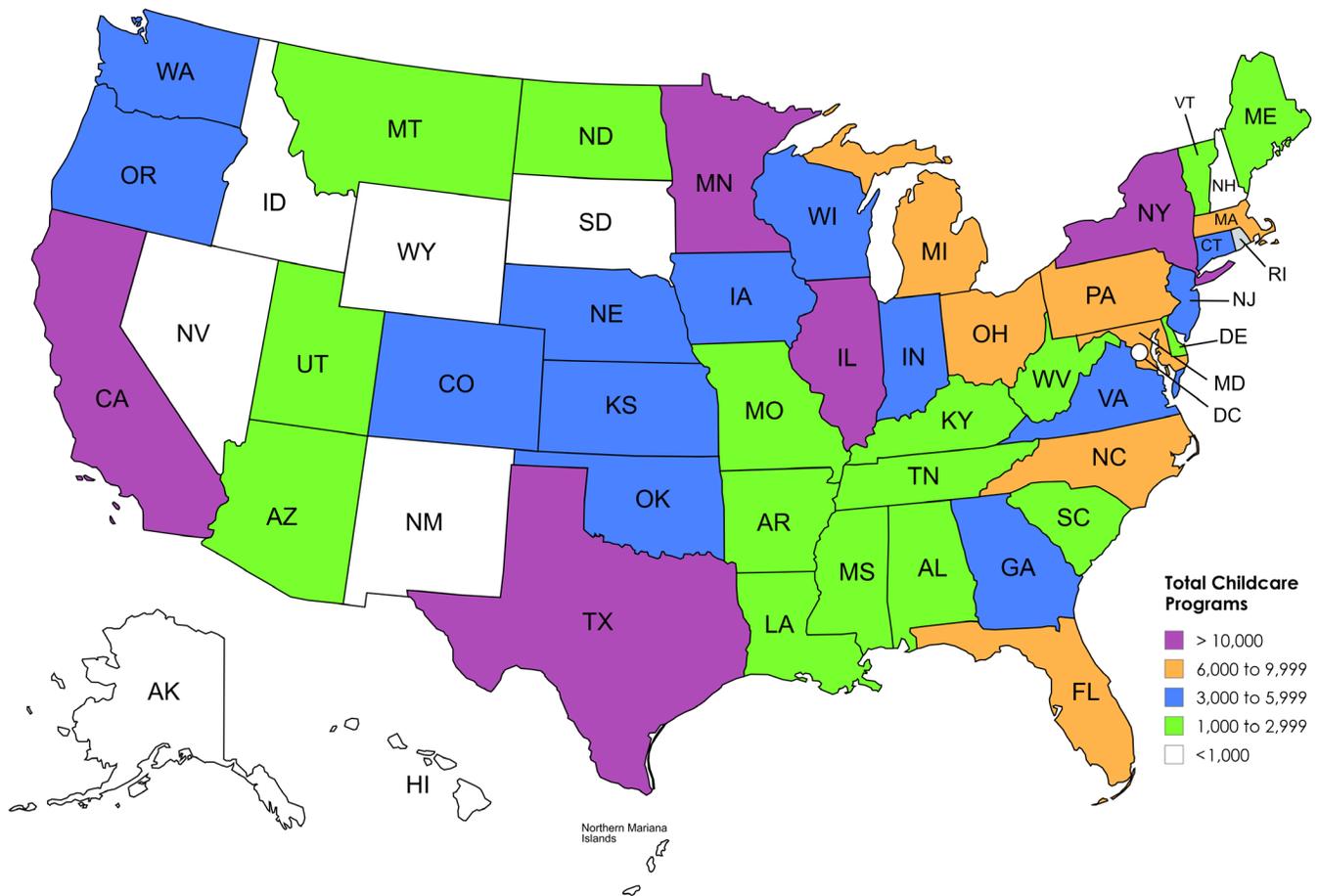
Examples of “Other licensed facilities”:

- Out of school time-school age only
- Children’s Resident Camps, temporary shelter programs, programs serving teen parents, foster care placement and adoption agencies
- Child Placing Agencies and Residential Child Care Facilities and Day Treatment Programs
- In-Home Child Care Provider, who provides child care services in the child’s own home
- Drop-in Centers
- Informal and relative homes

State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	Other Licensed Child Care Facilities	Total number of all Licensed Child Care Programs
Total	102,778	97,504	69,238	10,313	279,833
AK	200	142	58	0	400
AL	1,376	325	238	0	1,939
AR	1,620	346	194	0	2,160
AZ	2,259	290	0	0	2,549
CA	14,807	43,836	43,836	0	102,479
CO	2,157	962	420	971	4,510
CT	1,370	1,817	0	0	3,187
DC	342	44	52	0	438
DE	453	381	72	0	906
FL	4,768	1,010	294	0	6,072
GA	3,240	1,175	0	0	4,415
HI	381	247	4	88	720
IA	1,500	0	0	1,900	3,400
ID	0	0	0	0	0
IL	2,858	5,069	747	0	8,674
IN	712	0	2,645	0	3,357
KS	1,025	2,800	1,306	413	5,544
KY	1,783	218	0	0	2,001
LA	1,556	0	0	0	1,556
MA	2,917	5,437	0	0	8,354
MD	0	0	0	0	0
ME	829	0	703	0	1,532
MI	4,424	2,837	1,696	0	8,957
MN	1,738	6,761	1,695	0	10,194
MO	1,715	564	129	0	2,408

MP	26	5	0	6	37
MS	1,520	0	15	36	1,571
MT	321	189	354	45	909
NC	4,241	1,163	0	0	5,404
ND	155	501	371	170	1,197
NE	1,044	1,026	427	104	2,601
NH	605	53	61	0	719
NJ	3,269	0	0	825	4,094
NM	750	107	128	0	985
NV	336	88	37	0	461
NY	4,246	2,501	7,959	2,741	17,447
OH	4,468	2,169	368	0	7,005
OK	1,274	1,190	499	407	3,370
OR	1,382	1,199	1,062	0	3,643
PA	4,837	1,040	589	0	6,466
RI	417	377	12	0	806
SC	1,528	732	60	0	2,320
SD	297	352	0	125	774
TN	1,609	253	359	11	2,232
TX	8,281	2,474	1,641	1,555	13,951
UT	483	77	869	13	1,442
VA	2,721	1,336	0	1	4,058
VT	503	378	26	143	1,050
WA	1,647	3,497	0	475	5,619
WI	2,180	1,533	0	104	3,817
WV	330	752	166	180	1,428
WY	278	251	146	0	675

Map 1 Total Number of Child Care Programs



Licensed Capacity

Question: What was the total LICENSED CAPACITY for each type of child care program on December 31, 2023 (or most current count)?

Analysis: For the states and territories with available capacity data (n=49), there were just almost 10.2 million slots in licensed child care programs of all types. Nationally this equates to just over 198 licensed slots per 1000 children ages 0 to 12 (US Census Bureau, 2023). The program types with the most slots were child care centers in every state.

The number of programs taken in conjunction with capacity gives an overall idea of the relative size of child care programs in a given state. For example, Illinois and Minnesota were among the states with the largest number of child care programs. Florida, while still having a large number of programs ranked below those two states in overall program count. When looking at capacity however, Florida ranked above both those states in total capacity numbers. This suggests that Illinois and Minnesota, while having more child care programs overall, tend to have smaller capacity per program, while Florida tends to have, on average, programs that provide a larger capacity (larger programs).

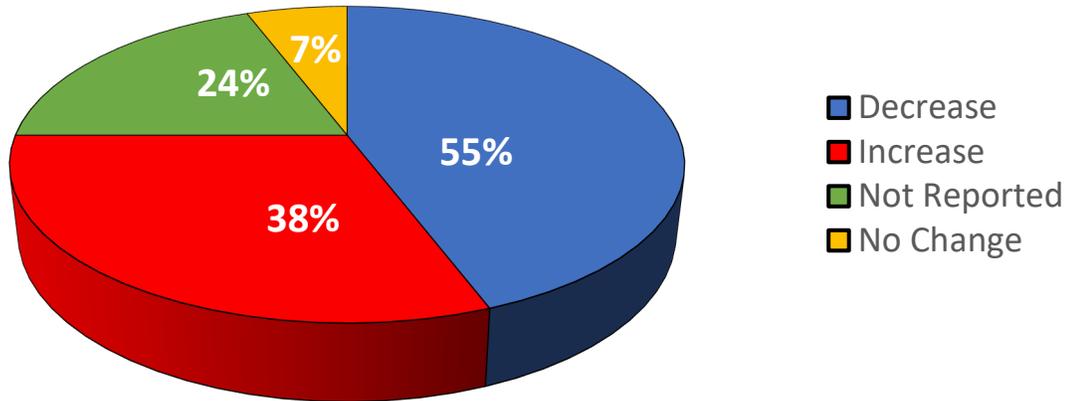
State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	Other Licensed Child Care Facilities	Total capacity of all Licensed Child Care Programs
Total	8,205,641	627,065	540,220	786,808	10,159,734
AK	14,584	336	696	0	15,616
AL	100,220	1,625	2,673	0	104,518
AR	174,000	346	29,540	0	203,886
AZ	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported

State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	Other Licensed Child Care Facilities	Total capacity of all Licensed Child Care Programs
CA	798,204	124,034	187,279	0	1,109,517
CO	134,308	13,154	3,269	79,746	230,477
CT	103,333	16,102	0	0	119,435
DC	23,342	254	477	0	24,073
DE	48,463	3,192	852	0	52,507
FL	529,000	10,100	3,528	0	542,628
GA	381,822	6,770	0	0	388,592
HI	19,896	1,446	48	7,738	29,128
IA	139,746	20,938	0	0	160,684
ID	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
IL	241,346	38,232	8,574	0	288,152
IN	74,473	0	34,028	0	108,501
KS	54,667	27,977	15,660	29,252	127,556
KY	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
LA	134,606	0	0	0	134,606
MA	196,354	43,077	0	0	239,431
MD	2,355	6,747	135	190	9,427
ME	40,354	0	7,869	0	48,223
MI	320,304	16,952	20,329	0	357,585
MN	130,464	75,626	23,480	0	229,570
MO	128,396	5,584	2,482	0	136,462
MP	1,000	29	0	293	1,322
MS	125,000	0	200	2,000	127,200
MT	16,262	1,426	5,084	145	22,917
NC	392,097	19,153	0	32,504	443,754
ND	37,147	0	0	0	37,147
NE	107,383	10,134	6,977	2,821	127,315
NH	43,385	434	877	0	44,696
NJ	318,367	0	0	81,890	400,257
NM	62,677	605	1,514	0	64,796
NV	35,159	534	432	0	36,125
NY	323,992	19,645	122,473	329,726	795,836
OH	414,651	12,248	4,265	0	431,164
OK	0	8,330	5,988	0	14,318
OR	82,049	11,990	15,175	0	109,214
PA	383,783	6,240	6,818	0	396,841
RI	31,617	2,722	0	0	34,339
SC	197,140	4,270	716	0	202,126
SD	28,467	4,203	0	18,998	51,668
TN	146,742	1,743	4,262	745	153,492
TX	1,007,791	28,599	19,547	150,508	1,206,445
UT	45,385	12,378	586	1,250	59,599
VA	290,538	13,349	0	175	304,062
VT	19,067	3,780	306	9,406	32,559
WA	112,530	33,651	0	23,703	169,884
WI	143,884	12,168	0	10,315	166,367
WV	33,584	4,534	1,967	5,403	45,488
WY	15,707	2,408	2,114	0	20,229

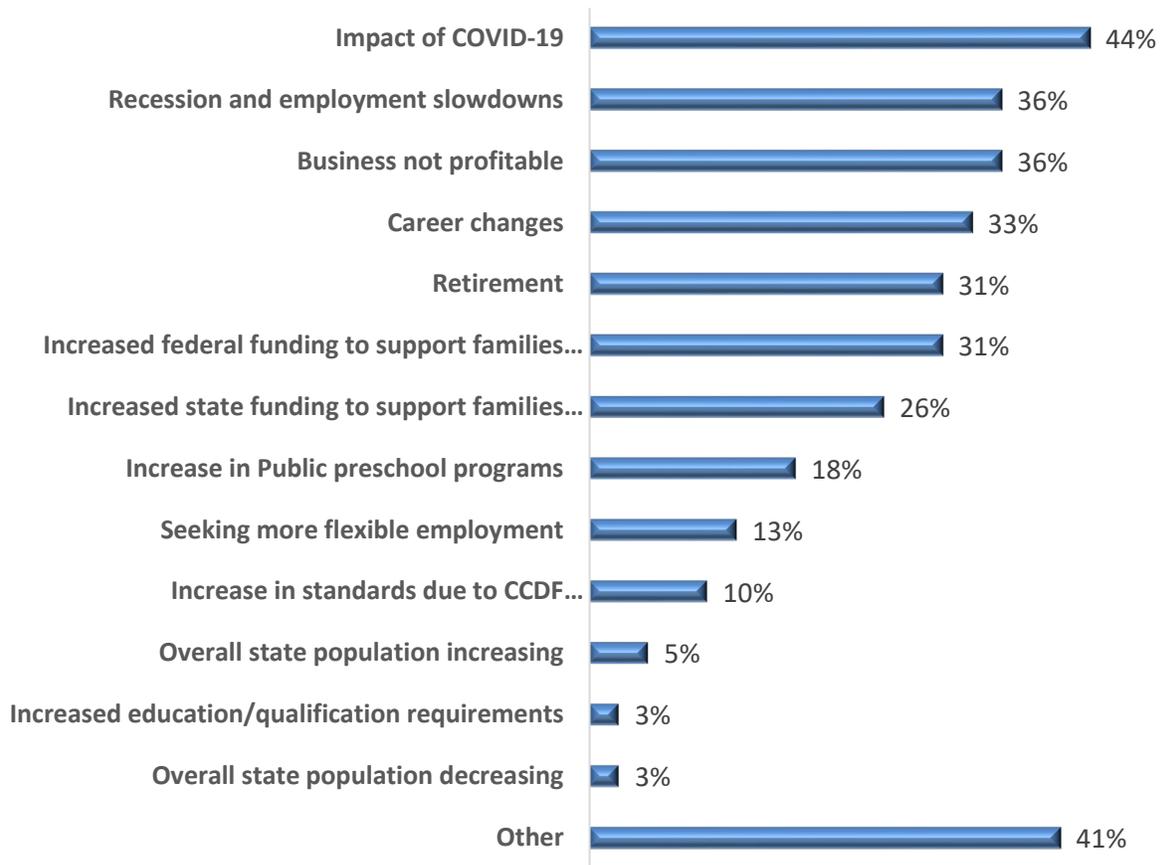
BLUE TEXT = Combined total for both FCC and LGH

Question: Have the numbers of programs increased or decreased in recent years?

Analysis: The majority of states reported an overall decrease in the number of programs in recent years. The effects felt from COVID-19 and the economic impact were the primary reasons listed for changes in the number of programs. Other reasons not listed include staff retention challenges, cost of child care, availability of grant money, and state support.



Reason for Change in Number of Programs - Percentage Reporting



LICENSING FEES

Summary:

There was very little change in the number of states assessing licensing fees for child care programs. The numbers for all states remained virtually the same in 2023 as in 2017.

In both 2017 and 2023 the fees for centers were predominantly based on maximum capacity while fees for FCC homes were more often based on a flat fee. There was very little change between 2017 and 2023 in the states reporting how fees were assessed though there was slight increase in the number of states assessing fees on child care homes of any size.

Assessing Licensing Fees

Question: What type of child care programs does the state charge a fee for a license?

Analysis: Almost 67% of states reported that their state charged a fee for licensing child care centers while 57% of states that regulate small FCC homes charge a fee for small FCC homes. Approximately 47% of states that regulate large/group FCC homes charge large/group FCC homes a licensing fee. One third of states do not charge a fee for a license.

State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	None
	Total Number of States that Regulate			
	52	47	39	N/A
Total	34	29	24	17
AK	•	•	•	
AL				•
AR	•	•	•	
AZ	•	•		
CA	•	•	•	
CO	•	•	•	
CT	•	•	•	
DC	•	•	•	
DE				•
FL	•	•	•	
GA	•	•		
HI				•
IA	•			
ID	•	•	•	
IL				•
IN				•
KS	•	•	•	
KY	•	•		
LA	•			
MA				•
MD				•
ME	•		•	
MI				
MN	•	•	•	
MO				•
MP	•	•	•	
MS	•		•	
MT				•
NC	•	•		
ND	•	•	•	
NE	•	•	•	

State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	None
NH				•
NJ	•			
NM	•	•	•	
NV	•	•	•	
NY				•
OH	•	•	•	
OK				•
OR	•	•	•	
PA				•
RI	•	•	•	
SC				•
SD				•
TN	•	•	•	
TX	•	•	•	
UT	•	•	•	
VA	•	•		
VT				•
WA	•	•		
WI	•	•		
WV				•
WY	•	•	•	

Question: If licensing fees are charged, how is the fee assessed?

Analysis: For child care centers, most states charge a fee based on the maximum number of children allowed at the facility. For FCC homes, fees are more likely to be based on a flat fee.

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Flat fee amount for all facilities	10	21	18
Fee is based on the maximum number of children allowed in the facility	26	9	9
Other	6	2	1

Question: If a fee is charged for a license, what is the amount of the fee for each type of child care program?

Analysis: Fee amounts reported by each state are shown below. Amounts are listed as reported by the state and have not been edited.

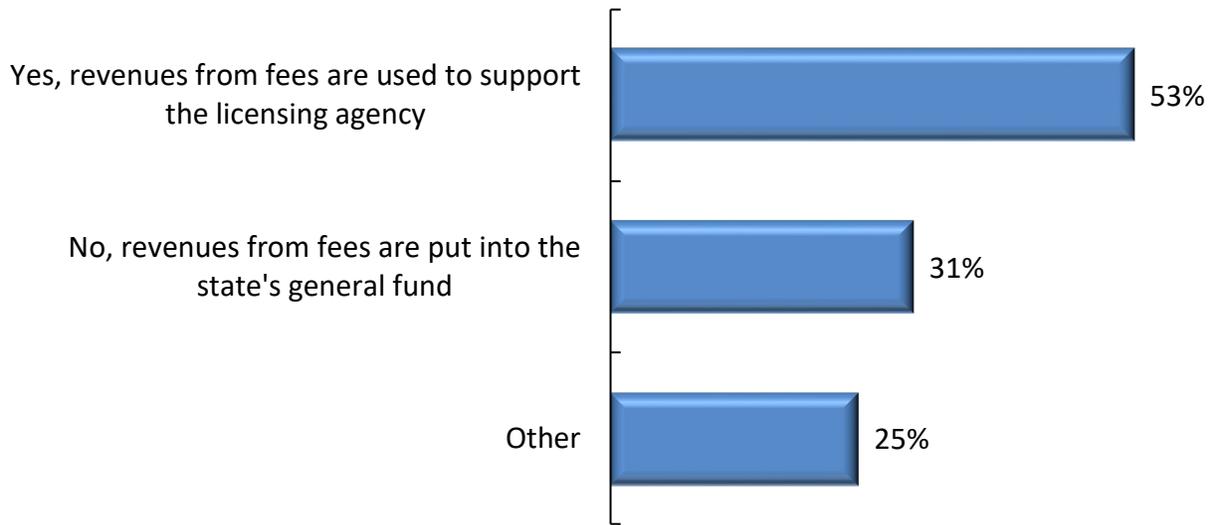
State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
AK	9-20 children \$125.00. 21-80 children \$250.00. 81 or more children \$375.00	\$50.00	
AL			
AR		15	15
AZ	\$330, \$1,330, \$2,575	\$330	
CA	\$242-\$1120	\$73	\$140
CO	not to exceed \$1800	65.00	100.00
CT	500.00	40.00	250.00
DC	1-50 children: \$600; 51-100 children: \$900; 101-175 children: \$1,200; over 175 children: \$1,500	\$225	\$225
DE			
FL	minimum \$25 maximum \$100, fee \$1 per child based on capacity	\$50.00	\$60.00

State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
GA	\$50-\$250; dependent on licensed capacity	\$50	0
HI			
IA	50-150 per 2 years	0	0
ID	325.00	250.00	100.00
IL			
IN			
KS	75 + 1 per child capacity	75 + 1 per child capacity	75 + 1 per child capacity
KY	\$50	\$10	\$10
LA	25.00 - 250.00		
MA			
MD			
ME	\$120/\$240	\$80/\$160	\$80/\$160
MI	150-300	50	100
MN	\$200 - \$1,000 per year	\$50 - \$100 per year	
MO			
MP	The fee is based on the capacity of the facility.	\$25.00	\$75.00
MS	Varies based on capacity	n/a	\$97.50
MT			
NC	Between \$52 to \$600	\$52.00	
ND	\$40	\$20	\$25
NE	\$25 or \$50	\$25	\$25
NH			
NJ	minimum of \$110		
NM	\$55	\$15	\$15
NV	300	20	60
NY			
OH	\$50	\$25	\$25
OK			
OR	\$100.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
PA			
RI	500	100	200
SC	\$50, \$75, \$100, \$125	\$15	\$30
SD			
TN	200-500	100	125
TX	35 + \$1 for each child (capacity)	35	35 + \$1 for each child (capacity)
UT	262	62	62
VA	\$14 to \$200 upon application and annually thereafter if issued an extended license	\$14 upon application and annually thereafter if issued an extended license	
VT			
WA	\$125 for the first 12 children then \$12 for each additional child	\$30	
WI	Base fee of \$30.25 plus \$16.94 for each child for facilities	60.50	
WV			
WY	\$50 initial, \$25 renewal	\$50 initial, \$25 renewal	\$50 initial, \$25 renewal

Uses of Licensing Fee Revenues

Question: Are the revenues collected from licensing fees used to support the licensing agency?

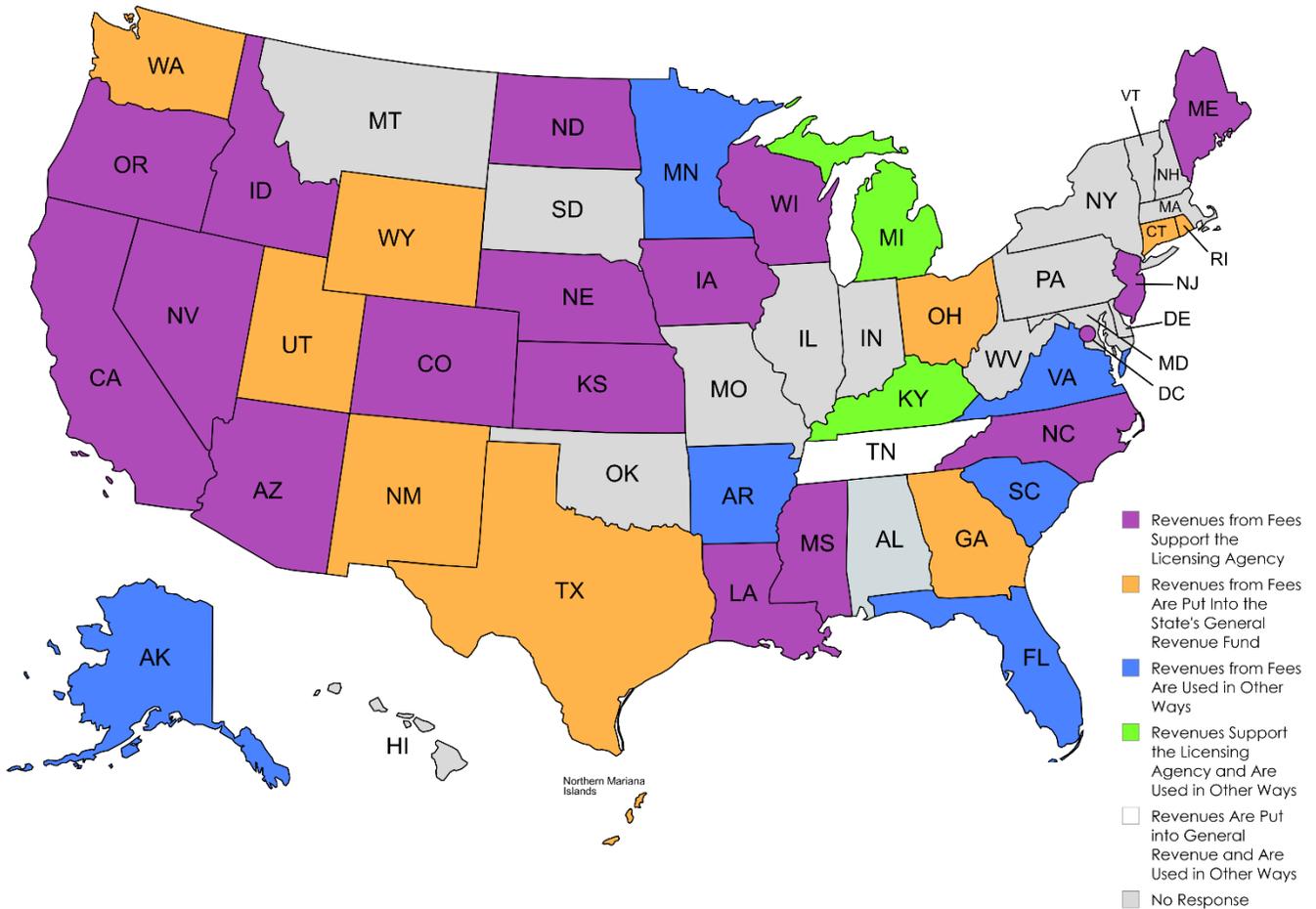
Analysis: More than half of states with responses to the question (n=36) indicated that licensing fees were used to support the licensing agency while 31% reported fees were put into the state's general fund. "Other" included fees paying for background checks, training, and other activities for providers.



State	Yes, revenues from fees are used to support the licensing agency	No, revenues from fees are put into the state's general fund	Other
Total	19	11	9
AK			•
AL			
AR			•
AZ	•		
CA	•		
CO	•		
CT		•	
DC	•		
DE			
FL			•
GA		•	
HI			
IA	•		
ID	•		
IL			
IN			
KS	•		
KY	•		•
LA	•		
MA			
MD			
ME	•		
MI	•		•
MN			•
MO			
MP		•	
MS	•		
MT			
NC	•		
ND	•		
NE	•		
NH			
NJ	•		
NM		•	
NV	•		
NY			

State	Yes, revenues from fees are used to support the licensing agency	No, revenues from fees are put into the state's general fund	Other
OH		•	
OK			
OR	•		
PA			
RI		•	
SC			•
SD			
TN		•	•
TX		•	
UT		•	
VA			•
VT			
WA		•	
WI	•		
WV			
WY		•	

Map 3 Use of Licensing Fees



LICENSING INSPECTIONS

Summary:

Overall, there was a small increase in the number of states conducting licensing inspections of Large/Group FCC Homes prior to licensing. Also, there was a very slight trend toward announced inspections rather than unannounced. Similarly, there was a small increase in the number of states reporting renewal inspections for both Small and Large/Group FCC Homes as well as routine compliance inspections for Large/Group FCC Homes.

For licensing renewal, more states gravitated toward a single inspection every year, with the majority of states conducting either one or two per year. There was a small increase in the number of states requiring FCC homes to renew every one or two years.

Types of Licensing Inspections

Analysis: In most cases, child care programs are rigorously inspected both prior to issuing a license and upon license renewal. Routine inspections are almost always unannounced. License renewal inspections are roughly twice as likely to be announced as unannounced.

Question: Are inspections to assess compliance conducted of licensed child care programs PRIOR TO ISSUING A LICENSE? Are the inspections conducted announced or unannounced?

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Inspections conducted prior to issuing a license	52	46	42
Inspections are announced	47	41	40
Inspections are unannounced	10	8	6

Question: Are inspections to assess compliance conducted of licensed child care programs for LICENSE RENEWAL? Are inspections conducted announced or unannounced?

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Licenses are renewed	43	37	34
Inspections for license renewal are conducted	38	35	33
Inspections are announced	14	13	14
Inspections are unannounced	29	26	22

Question: Are ROUTINE INSPECTIONS conducted on licensed child care programs to review compliance with the regulations? Are inspections conducted announced or unannounced?

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Routine inspections for compliance are conducted	48	43	39
Inspections are announced	1	1	1
Inspections are unannounced	49	44	40

Frequency of Licensing Inspections

Question: Once a license is issued, how often are licensing inspections conducted for each program type?

Analysis: Most states conduct inspections once or twice a year. Three states reported the frequency of inspections had increased since the 2017 survey while 39 states reported no change.

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
More than three times a year	4	2	2
Three times a year	3	2	2
Twice a year	13	13	11
Once a year	32	28	26
Once every two years	0	1	0
Once every three years	1	1	1
Not inspected on a regular basis	0	0	0
Other	3	2	2

Frequency of Licensing Renewal

Question: After initial licensure, how often are licenses renewed for each facility type? Applies to certification or registration, if appropriate.

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Once a year	22	20	19
Once every 2 years	13	13	13
Once every 3 years	5	6	4
Non-expiring license	9	8	6
Other	2	2	2

ABBREVIATED INSPECTIONS AND DIFFERENTIAL MONITORING

Summary:

The number of states conducting abbreviated inspections decreased between 2017 and 2023 with the change coming mostly in routine compliance inspections.

	2014	2017	2023
Yes	35	35	25
No	16	16	27
Initial licensing inspections	3	1	1
Routine compliance inspections	24	23	17
License Renewal inspections	3	4	4
Other	16	1	7

One less reported using “Key Indicators” in 2023 versus 2017 to determine what requirements should be included in abbreviated inspections. States were likely to use a mix of methods to determine requirements.

	2014	2017	2023
Key Indicator System	8	10	9
Consensus	31	21	13
Risk Assessment	19	17	7
Other	6	2	6

In 2023, fewer states reported having any policies in place to determine when to switch between abbreviated and full compliance inspections. The number of states reporting policies for specific program types also decreased for every program type.

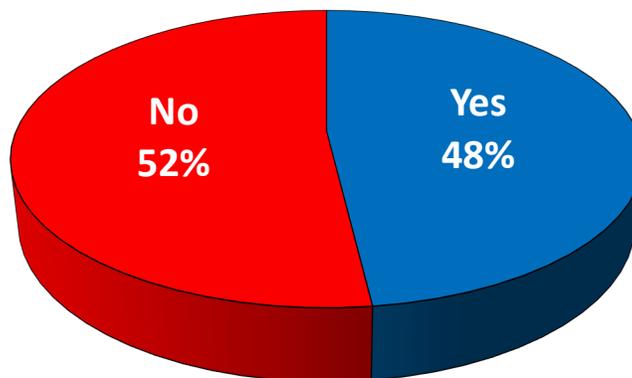
	2014	2017	2023
No, the state does not have policies	13	15	9
State has policies for Child Care Centers	24	23	17
State has policies for Small FCC Homes	17	17	11
State has policies for Large/Group FCC Homes	19	17	11

The number of states reporting having a system of differential frequency of monitoring based on compliance records or quality rating level for each type of child care facility decreased overall and for all program types in 2023.

Using Abbreviated Inspections

Question: Does the state ever use an abbreviated compliance inspection during monitoring inspections of licensed child care programs?

Analysis: 48% of states (n=52) reported using an abbreviated compliance inspection at some point during monitoring inspections of licensed facilities. A total of 17 states reported using an abbreviated inspection for routine compliance, 4 states indicated they used an abbreviated inspection for license renewal inspections. Only one state used an abbreviated inspection for initial licensing inspections. That state also reported using abbreviated inspections for routine renewal inspections.



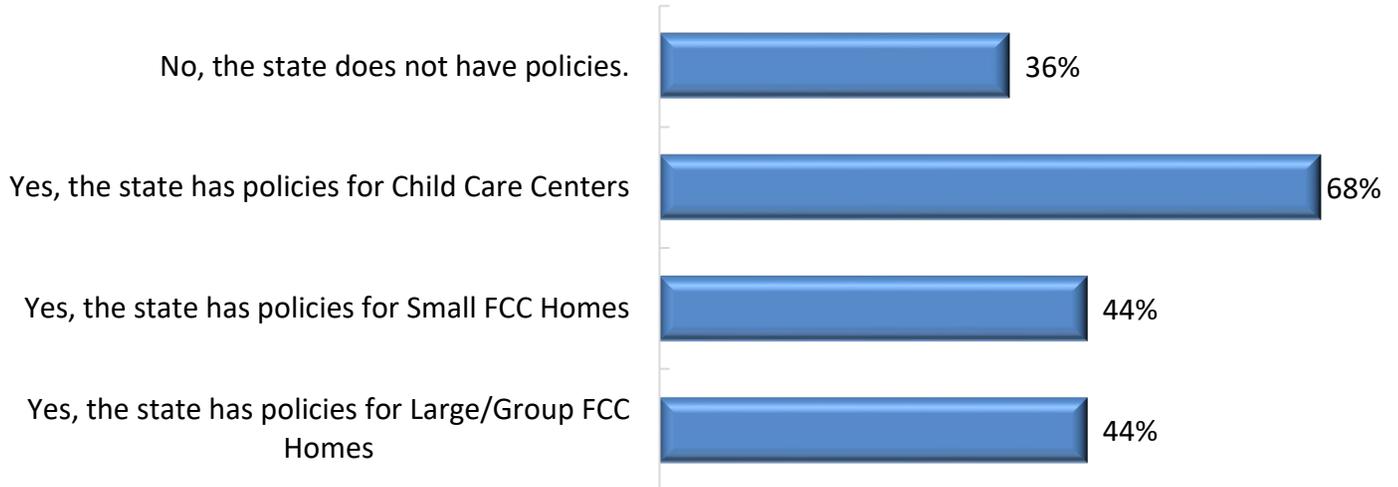
State	Yes	No	Initial licensing inspections	Routine compliance inspections	License Renewal inspections	Other
Total	25	27	1	17	4	7
AK	•					•
AL		•				
AR	•			•		
AZ		•				•
CA		•				
CO		•				

State	Yes	No	Initial licensing inspections	Routine compliance inspections	License Renewal inspections	Other
CT		•				
DC	•			•		
DE		•				
FL	•			•		
GA	•			•		•
HI	•					•
IA		•				
ID		•				
IL	•			•		
IN		•				
KS	•				•	
KY		•				
LA	•			•		
MA	•			•		
MD	•			•		
ME	•			•		
MI	•				•	
MN	•			•		
MO		•				
MP		•				
MS		•				
MT	•				•	
NC		•				
ND		•				
NE		•				
NH		•				
NJ	•			•		
NM	•			•		
NV	•					•
NY	•			•		
OH		•				
OK		•				
OR	•				•	
PA		•				
RI		•				
SC	•			•		
SD		•				
TN	•			•		
TX		•				
UT		•				
VA		•				
VT	•		•	•		•
WA	•			•		
WI		•				
WV	•					•
WY		•				

State	“Key indicator system” developed through a statistical methodology of requirements that would predict compliance with the full set of rules	Selection of requirements based on a consensus of those considered most critical to include in all inspections	Selection of requirements based on an assessment of risk of harm to children if not in compliance	Other
DC		•	•	
DE				
FL				•
GA	•			
HI		•		
IA				
ID				
IL	•			
IN				
KS	•			
KY				
LA			•	
MA	•			
MD		•	•	
ME	•			
MI	•	•	•	•
MN		•		
MO				
MP				
MS				
MT	•			
NC				
ND				
NE				
NH				
NJ		•	•	
NM		•		
NV		•		
NY		•	•	
OH				
OK				
OR	•			
PA				
RI				
SC		•		
SD				
TN		•		
TX				
UT				
VA				
VT		•		•
WA	•			•
WI				
WV				•
WY				

Question: Does the state have policies on determining when to switch from an abbreviated compliance review to a full compliance review?

Analysis: Of the 25 states that reported conducting abbreviated inspections, 36% reported having no policies on determining when to switch from an abbreviated to full compliance review while 68% of states reported having polices for child care centers, and 44% for small FCC homes or large/group FCC homes (or both).



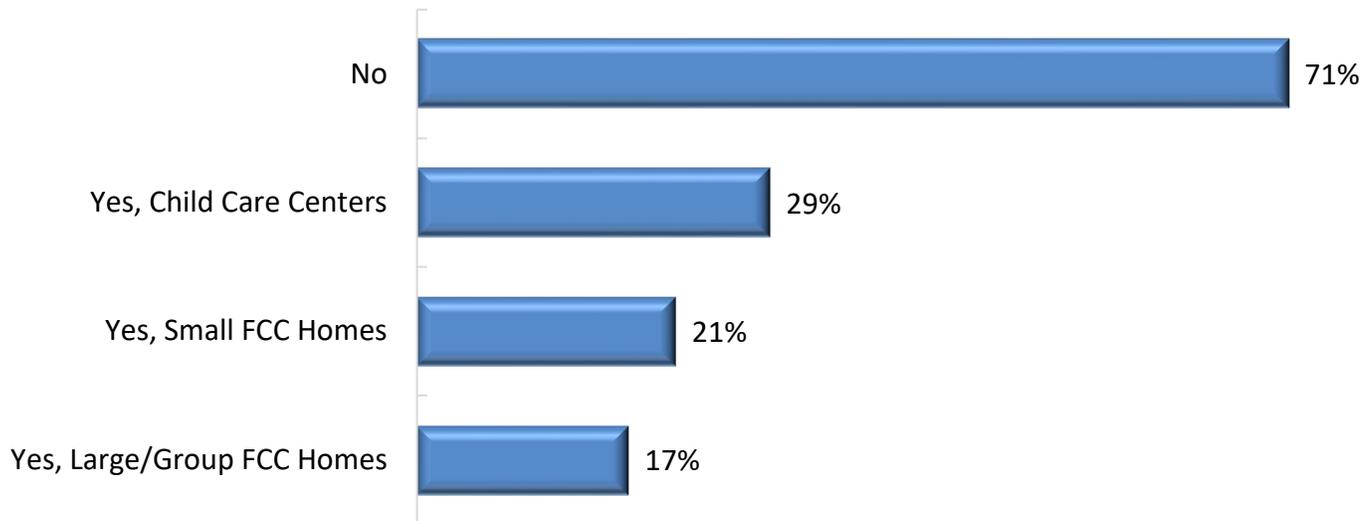
State	No, the state does not have policies	Yes, the state has policies for Child Care Centers	Yes, the state has policies for Small FCC Homes	Yes, the state has policies for Large/Group FCC Homes
	Total Number of States Responding*	Total Number of States that Regulate		
	25	52	47	39
Total	9	17	11	11
AK		•	•	•
AL				
AR		•		
AZ				
CA				
CO				
CT				
DC	•			
DE				
FL		•	•	•
GA		•	•	
HI	•			
IA				
ID				
IL		•	•	•
IN				
KS		•	•	•
KY				
LA		•		
MA		•	•	•
MD	•			
ME		•		•
MI		•	•	•
MN	•	•		
MO				
MP				
MS				
MT		•	•	•
NC				
ND				
NE				
NH				
NJ		•		
NM	•			

State	No, the state does not have policies	Yes, the state has policies for Child Care Centers	Yes, the state has policies for Small FCC Homes	Yes, the state has policies for Large/Group FCC Homes
NV		•	•	•
NY	•			
OH				
OK				
OR		•		•
PA				
RI				
SC	•			
SD				
TN	•			
TX				
UT				
VA				
VT	•			
WA		•	•	
WI				
WV		•	•	•
WY				

Differential Monitoring

Question: Does the state have a system of differential frequency of monitoring based on compliance records or quality rating level for each type of child care program?

Analysis: More than 71% of states (n=52) reported they did not have a system of differential frequency of monitoring. A total of 17 states use differential monitoring for at least one type of facility.



State	No	Yes Child Care Centers	Yes Small FCC Homes	Yes Large/Group FCC Homes
	Number of States Responding*	Total Number of States that Regulate		
	52	52	47	39
Total	37	15	11	9
AK	•			
AL	•			
AR		•	•	•

State	No	Yes Child Care Centers	Yes Small FCC Homes	Yes Large/Group FCC Homes
AZ		•	•	
CA	•			
CO	•			
CT	•			
DC	•			
DE		•	•	•
FL	•			
GA	•			
HI	•			
IA	•			
ID	•			
IL		•	•	•
IN	•			
KS		•	•	•
KY	•			
LA	•			
MA	•			
MD	•			
ME		•		•
MI	•			
MN	•			
MO	•			
MP	•			
MS	•			
MT	•			
NC	•			
ND	•			
NE	•			
NH	•			
NJ		•		
NM	•			
NV	•			
NY	•			
OH		•		
OK	•			
OR		•		•
PA	•			
RI	•			
SC	•			
SD	•			
TN		•	•	•
TX		•	•	•
UT	•			
VA		•	•	
VT	•			
WA		•	•	
WI		•	•	
WV		•	•	•
WY	•			

RISK ASSESSMENT

Summary:

Where almost two-thirds of states reported conducting risk assessments in 2017, almost two-thirds reported they did *not* conduct a risk assessment between 2017 and 2023 and only 9 states reported that they had. States used a variety of methods when conducting risk assessments. Risk assessments were used for a variety of enforcement actions and the selection of risk levels and categorization of rules into those levels were mostly based on internal processes.

Conducting Risk Assessments

Question: Since the last NARA Child Care Licensing Survey, has the state identified licensing program requirements that pose the greatest risk of harm to children if violated (i.e., conducted a risk assessment of program requirements)? Which requirements were assessed for risk?

Analysis: A total of 9 states reported that they have identified licensing program requirements that pose the greatest risk of harm to children if violated since the last NARA Child Care Licensing Survey. Of the states that reported those requirements had been identified, 6 (40%) states indicated that all requirements were given a risk level/weight. A total of 3 (20%) states indicated that only the highest risk requirements were identified and 40% of the states indicated that they had identified categories identified as high risk. Several states reported multiple requirements were used for assessing risk based on various circumstances. Data were excluded for the states where 2017 data had otherwise been substituted since the substituted information would be inappropriate for this question.

State	Yes	No	All requirements were given a risk level/weight	Only the highest risk requirements were identified	Categories of requirements were identified as high-risk	Other
Total	9	33	6	3	6	4
AK		•				
AL		•				
AR						
AZ		•				
CA	•		•	•	•	
CO		•				
CT		•			•	
DC		•			•	
DE	•				•	
FL						
GA		•				
HI		•				
IA		•				
ID		•				
IL		•				
IN						
KS						
KY		•				
LA		•				
MA		•				
MD		•				
ME		•	•			
MI						
MN						
MO		•				
MP		•				
MS	•				•	
MT	•		•			
NC		•				

State	Yes	No	All requirements were given a risk level/weight	Only the highest risk requirements were identified	Categories of requirements were identified as high-risk	Other
ND		•				
NE		•				
NH		•				
NJ	•			•		
NM		•				
NV						
NY		•				
OH		•				
OK		•				
OR	•		•			
PA		•				
RI	•					•
SC	•					•
SD		•				
TN						
TX		•	•			
UT		•				•
VA		•	•			
VT		•				
WA						
WI	•			•	•	
WV		•				•
WY						

Using Risk Assessments

Question: How is the risk assessment used?

Analysis: While only 9 states reported a conducting a risk assessment since the last survey, a total of 21 states reported on the uses for risk assessment. The uses were fairly evenly distributed among the reporting states with multiples states reporting more than a single use. Substituted 2017 data was included in this analysis since it describes how risk assessments are used, when conducted, despite not having completed one recently.

State	Categorizing violations	Determining enforcement actions	Monitoring the high-risk rules during abbreviated compliance inspections	Violations of high-risk requirements determine the frequency of licensing inspections or additional follow-up visits	Other
Total	8	14	10	11	4
AK					
AL					
AR				•	
AZ					
CA	•	•	•	•	
CO					
CT					•
DC		•			
DE		•		•	
FL					
GA					
HI					
IA					
ID					

State	Categorizing violations	Determining enforcement actions	Monitoring the high-risk rules during abbreviated compliance inspections	Violations of high-risk requirements determine the frequency of licensing inspections or additional follow-up visits	Other
IL					
IN					
KS			•		
KY					
LA					
MA					
MD					
ME		•	•	•	
MI			•	•	
MN					
MO					
MP					
MS	•	•			
MT	•	•	•		
NC					
ND					
NE					
NH					
NJ	•		•	•	
NM					
NV					
NY					
OH					
OK					
OR	•	•			
PA					
RI		•	•	•	
SC		•			
SD					
TN			•		
TX	•	•		•	
UT	•	•		•	
VA	•	•		•	•
VT					
WA		•	•	•	•
WI		•	•		
WV					
WY					•

Question: How was the selection of risk levels and categorization of rules into those levels done?

Analysis: Of the 22 states reporting on the use of risk assessments, 77% reported that selection of risk levels and categorization was done through an internal process with consensus of licensing agency staff and other experts. Only two states reported using a statistical methodology

State	An internal process of seeking the opinion and consensus of licensing agency staff and other experts on rules that would cause the most risk of harm	Development of a statistical methodology	Review of research and resources such as Caring for our Children	Work with an external consultant	Feedback from stakeholders, such as child care providers or representatives from child care industry	Other (please specify):
Total	17	2	7	6	6	4
AK						
AL						
AR	•		•			
AZ						
CA	•	•	•	•	•	
CO						
CT	•					
DC			•			
DE	•		•			
FL						
GA						
HI						
IA						
ID						
IL						
IN						
KS	•				•	
KY						
LA						
MA						
MD						
ME	•			•		
MI	•			•		
MN						
MO						
MP						
MS				•	•	
MT	•			•		
NC						
ND						
NE						
NH						
NJ	•				•	
NM						
NV						
NY						
OH						
OK						
OR	•		•			•
PA						
RI	•			•		
SC	•				•	•
SD						
TN	•					

State	An internal process of seeking the opinion and consensus of licensing agency staff and other experts on rules that would cause the most risk of harm	Development of a statistical methodology	Review of research and resources such as Caring for our Children	Work with an external consultant	Feedback from stakeholders, such as child care providers or representatives from child care industry	Other (please specify):
TX						•
UT	•		•		•	
VA	•	•				
VT						
WA						•
WI	•					
WV						
WY	•		•			

COMPLAINTS

Summary:

Since 2017, the number of states relying on hotlines, either shared or dedicated lines, for receiving complaints increased with states less likely to rely on the general licensing agency phone number. While six more states added a web-based form for complaints and one state reported a text message system. The number of states investigating complaints for the three program types changed little, though approximately 10 percent more states reported having separate staff within the licensing agency for investigating complaints .

There were more than 5,000 additional complaints in 2023 versus 2017 but the number of substantiated complaints remained relatively unchanged. This meant the percentage of substantiated complaints decreased from 33 percent to 23 percent. For child abuse and neglect complaints, more states are relying on protective services and police or law enforcement to investigate the complaints. The number of states with specialized units has decreased significantly since 2014.

	2014	2017	2023
Licensing Agency	25	26	24
Protective Services	39	37	43
Police/Law Enforcement	15	26	27
Specialized Unit	34	16	13
Other	16	12	12

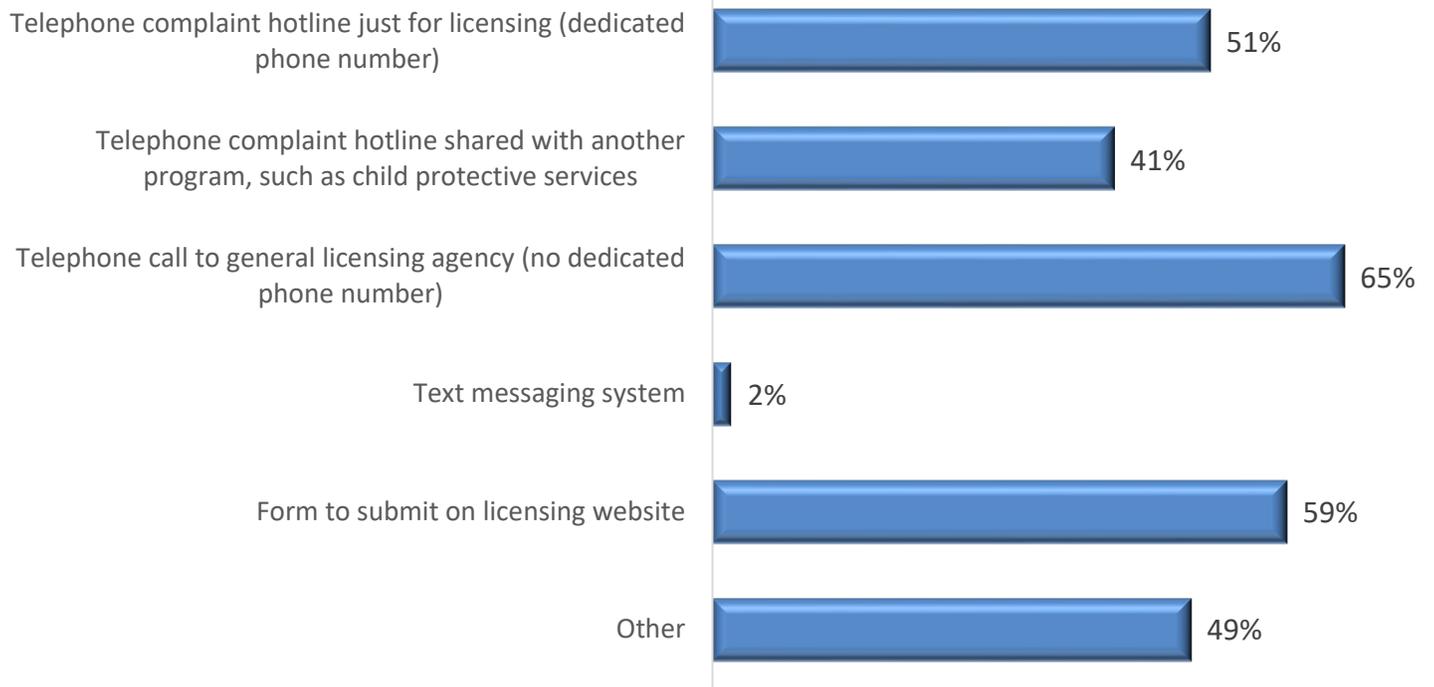
States were increasingly likely to investigate complaints against license-exempt programs, continuing the trend from the last decade. While the number of states investigating all complaints didn't change since the last survey, there was an increase in almost all other cases.

	2014	2017	2023
Yes, all complaints are investigated	8	13	13
Yes, a referral is made on allegations of abuse or neglect	27	29	30
Yes, if there are allegations of serious health and safety risks	6	14	15
Yes, to determine or verify that the facility is legally exempt	22	25	27
Yes, a referral is made to the subsidy program if the provider is receiving federal or state funding	7	12	14
Yes, for legally-exempt facilities that receive payment from the subsidy system	--	14	17
No, the licensing agency does not investigate complaints filed against legally-exempt facilities	15	9	11
No, there is no mechanism for a complaint to be filed against a license-exempt facility	0	1	2
Other	17	15	8

Complaint Submissions

Question: What mechanisms are in place for parents to submit complaints about licensed child care providers?

Analysis: 65% of responding states (n=51) reported parents submitted complaints to a general licensing agency number. Almost 60% have a web-based form for submission and 51% have a dedicated complaint hotline. Only one state reported using a text messaging system.

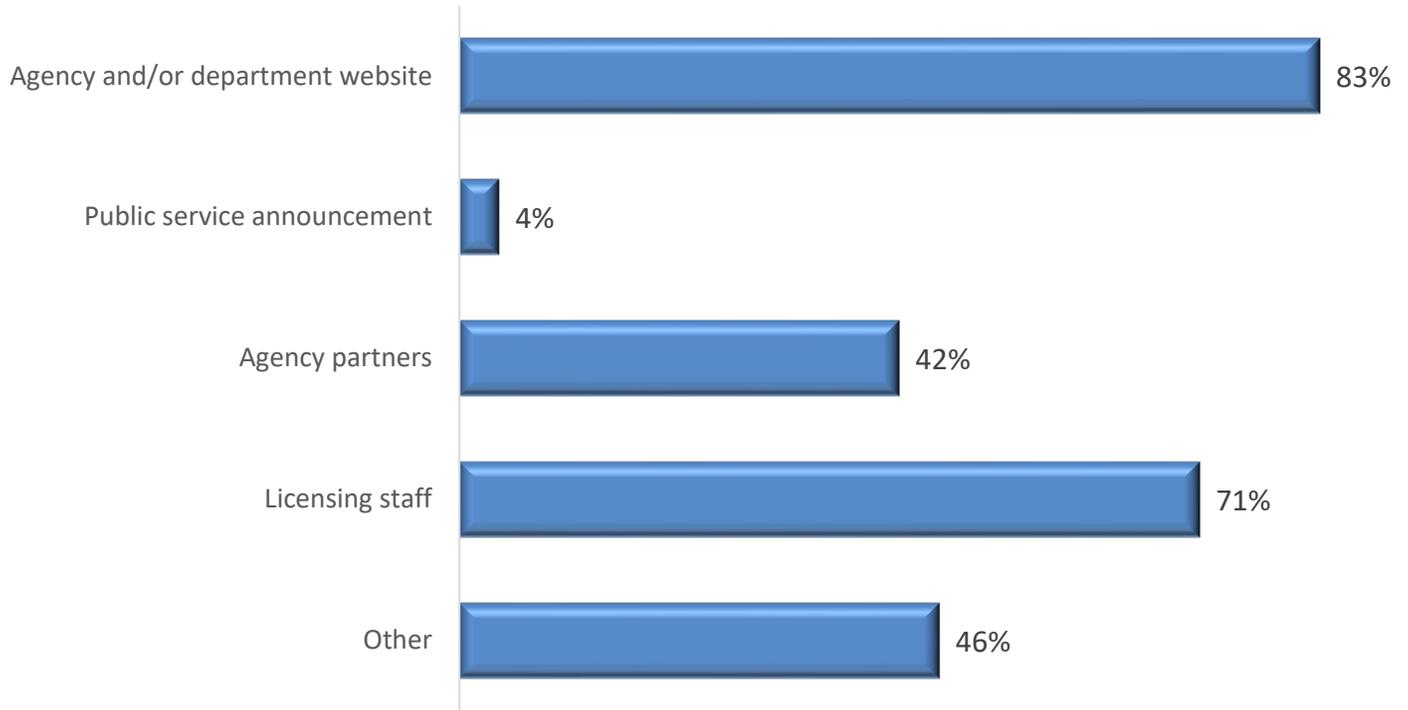


State	Telephone complaint hotline just for licensing (dedicated phone number)	Telephone complaint hotline shared with another program, such as child protective services	Telephone call to general licensing agency (no dedicated phone number)	Text messaging system	Form to submit on licensing website	Other
Total	26	21	33	1	30	25
AK			•		•	•
AL	•					•
AR			•		•	
AZ	•				•	
CA	•	•	•		•	•
CO	•					
CT			•		•	•
DC	•	•				
DE		•	•		•	
FL		•	•			•
GA	•		•			
HI			•			
IA	•	•	•			
ID		•			•	
IL						
IN	•		•		•	
KS		•	•		•	•
KY	•				•	
LA	•	•			•	•
MA			•			
MD			•		•	
ME		•				
MI	•				•	•
MN						•
MO	•				•	
MP			•			•
MS	•				•	

State	Telephone complaint hotline just for licensing (dedicated phone number)	Telephone complaint hotline shared with another program, such as child protective services	Telephone call to general licensing agency (no dedicated phone number)	Text messaging system	Form to submit on licensing website	Other
MT		•			•	
NC	•					•
ND					•	•
NE	•	•	•		•	
NH		•	•			•
NJ		•	•		•	
NM	•	•	•		•	•
NV			•		•	
NY	•		•			
OH	•	•	•		•	•
OK			•			•
OR			•		•	
PA		•	•		•	•
RI			•			•
SC	•		•			•
SD	•		•		•	
TN	•					•
TX		•	•		•	
UT	•	•	•	•	•	
VA	•		•		•	•
VT	•	•			•	•
WA		•	•			
WI			•			•
WV	•	•	•		•	•
WY	•					•

Question: Please describe how parents/consumers are informed about their ability to file complaints.

Analysis: More than 80% of states reported that parents and consumers are informed about their ability to file complaints through the Agency or Department website while more than 70% of states reported that licensing staff informed parents and consumers. Fewer than half the states reported Agency partners informing parents/consumers of their ability to file complaints and only 4% used public service announcements.



State	Agency and/or department website	Public service announcement	Agency partners	Licensing staff	Other
Total	43	2	22	37	24
AK	•		•	•	•
AL	•				•
AR					•
AZ	•			•	
CA	•		•	•	•
CO	•		•	•	
CT	•				•
DC	•				•
DE	•			•	
FL	•				•
GA	•			•	
HI	•			•	
IA	•		•	•	
ID					•
IL				•	•
IN					•
KS					•
KY	•	•	•	•	
LA	•		•	•	
MA	•		•	•	
MD	•			•	
ME	•			•	
MI	•				•
MN	•				•
MO	•			•	
MP	•			•	
MS	•		•	•	
MT	•		•	•	
NC	•		•	•	
ND	•			•	

State	Agency and/or department website	Public service announcement	Agency partners	Licensing staff	Other
NE	•		•	•	
NH	•		•	•	•
NJ	•			•	•
NM	•			•	•
NV					•
NY	•			•	
OH	•		•	•	
OK	•		•	•	
OR	•		•	•	•
PA	•			•	•
RI	•		•	•	
SC	•		•	•	
SD	•		•	•	
TN					•
TX	•				•
UT	•	•	•	•	•
VA	•		•	•	
VT	•		•	•	
WA					•
WI	•		•	•	
WV	•			•	
WY					•

Complaint Investigations

Question: Does the state licensing agency conduct investigations on licensing complaints?

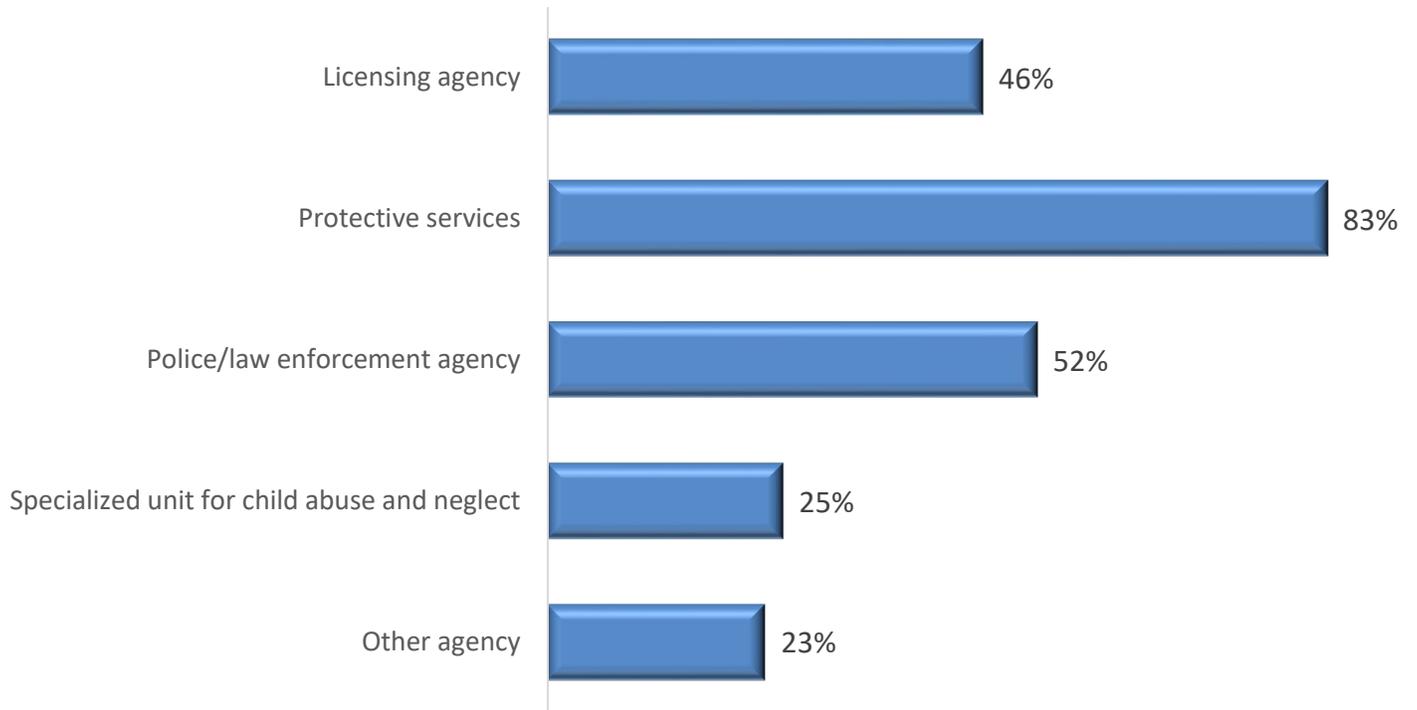
	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Licensing agency conducts complaint investigations	52	45	41

Question: Who conducts complaint investigations, excluding complaints of abuse and neglect?

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Licensing staff who conduct inspections and assigned to the program with the complaint	44	38	33
Licensing staff who conduct inspections but not assigned to the program with the complaint	13	11	8
Separate staff who only work on complaint investigations	9	8	8
Staff from Child Production for all types of complaints	0	0	0
Staff from another agency	4	6	6

Question: Which state agencies investigate child abuse and neglect complaints against licensed child care programs?

Analysis: 83% of states responding indicated that child protective services investigate abuse and neglect complaints while just over half (52%) report the police/law enforcement investigates complaints. Almost half of the states (46%) reported that the licensing agency conducts the investigations.



State	Licensing agency	Protective services	Police/law enforcement agency	Specialized unit for child abuse and neglect	Other agency
Total	24	43	27	13	12
AK	•	•	•		
AL		•			•
AR		•			
AZ	•	•			
CA	•	•	•	•	
CO		•	•		
CT		•			
DC	•	•	•	•	
DE		•	•	•	
FL		•	•	•	
GA		•			
HI		•			
IA	•	•			•
ID			•		
IL	•	•	•	•	
IN	•	•	•		
KS		•			
KY		•			
LA		•	•	•	
MA	•	•	•	•	
MD		•	•		

State	Licensing agency	Protective services	Police/law enforcement agency	Specialized unit for child abuse and neglect	Other agency
ME				•	
MI	•	•	•		
MN	•	•			
MO					•
MP	•	•	•		
MS	•	•	•		
MT		•			
NC	•				
ND	•	•	•		
NE	•	•	•	•	
NH	•				
NJ				•	•
NM	•		•		
NV	•	•	•		
NY	•	•	•		
OH		•			•
OK		•	•		•
OR		•			•
PA		•			
RI		•			
SC		•	•	•	•
SD		•	•		
TN		•	•		•
TX		•			
UT	•	•	•		
VA	•	•	•		
VT	•	•	•		•
WA				•	
WI	•			•	
WV	•	•			•
WY		•			•

Question: Which statement best describes the type of investigations of complaints?

Analysis: Almost every state with a response to this question (n=51) reported the use of unannounced visits to a facility to investigate a complaint. 61% reported using unannounced visits for every complaint, while 37% reporting using an unannounced visit only when an on-site visit is needed for the investigation. In one state, announced visits are conducted for every complaint received.

State	Unannounced visit is conducted for every complaint received	Announced visit is conducted for every complaint received	Unannounced visit only if an on-site visit is needed for the investigation	Announced visit only if an on-site visit is needed for the investigation	Unannounced visits are not routinely conducted	Announced visits are not routinely conducted	Other
Total	31	1	19	4	0	4	5
AK			•				
AL	•						
AR	•						
AZ	•						
CA	•						
CO	•						
CT	•						
DC			•				
DE	•						
FL	•						

State	Unannounced visit is conducted for every complaint received	Announced visit is conducted for every complaint received	Unannounced visit only if an on-site visit is needed for the investigation	Announced visit only if an on-site visit is needed for the investigation	Unannounced visits are not routinely conducted	Announced visits are not routinely conducted	Other
GA			•				
HI			•				
IA			•	•			
ID	•						
IL	•		•			•	
IN	•						
KS	•						
KY	•						
LA	•						
MA							•
MD	•						
ME	•						•
MI			•				•
MN			•				
MO			•				
MP		•					
MS	•						
MT			•				
NC	•						
ND	•						
NE						•	
NH			•			•	
NJ	•						
NM	•						
NV							
NY	•						
OH							•
OK	•						
OR	•						
PA	•						
RI			•	•			
SC	•		•	•			•
SD	•						
TN			•				
TX			•				
UT	•		•				
VA	•						
VT			•	•			
WA	•						
WI			•			•	
WV	•						
WY			•				

Question: The state investigates complaints filed anonymously for which type of licensed child care programs?

State	Not Investigated	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate		52	47	39
Total	7	45	38	36
AK		•	•	•
AL		•	•	•
AR		•	•	•
AZ	•			
CA		•	•	•
CO	•			

State	Not Investigated	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
CT		•	•	•
DC		•	•	•
DE		•	•	•
FL		•	•	•
GA	•			
HI		•	•	•
IA		•	•	•
ID		•	•	•
IL		•	•	•
IN		•		•
KS		•	•	•
KY		•	•	•
LA		•		
MA		•	•	•
MD		•	•	•
ME		•		•
MI		•	•	•
MN		•		
MO		•	•	•
MP		•	•	•
MS		•		•
MT	•			
NC		•	•	
ND	•			
NE		•	•	•
NH		•	•	•
NJ		•		
NM		•	•	•
NV		•	•	•
NY		•	•	•
OH		•		
OK		•	•	•
OR		•	•	•
PA		•	•	•
RI		•	•	•
SC		•	•	•
SD		•	•	
TN		•	•	•
TX		•	•	•
UT	•			
VA		•	•	
VT		•	•	•
WA		•	•	
WI		•	•	
WV	•			
WY		•	•	•

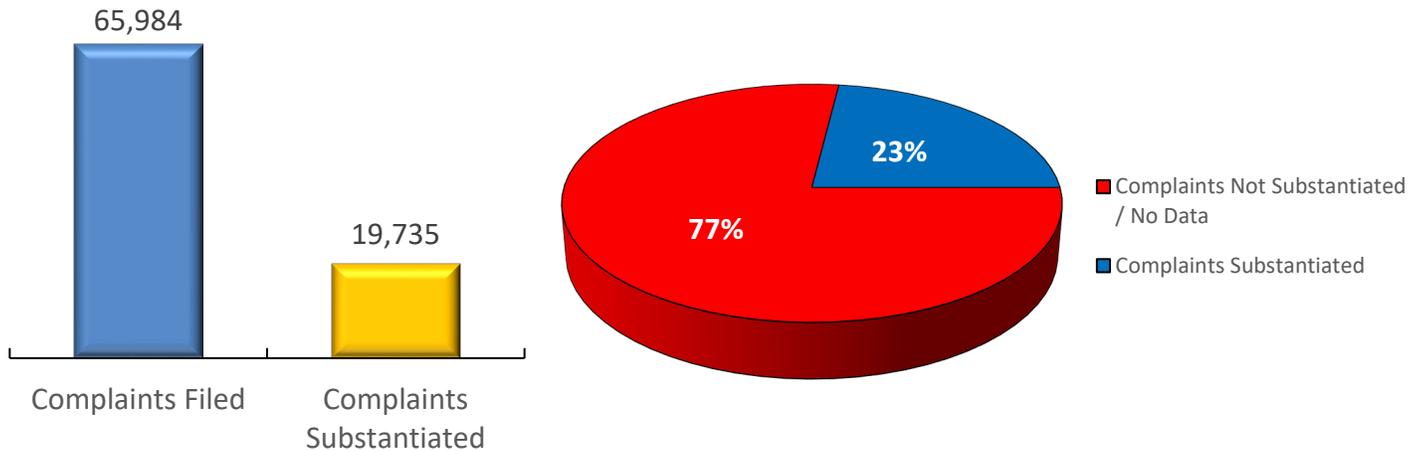
Question: Does the licensing agency investigate or make referrals when complaints are received on legally exempt programs?

Analysis: Approximately 60% of reporting states (n=52) said they make referrals on allegations of abuse or neglect for legally-exempt facilities. Just over half of the states reported investigating to determine if the facility is, in fact, exempt.

State	Yes, all complaints are investigated by the licensing agency	Yes, a referral is made on allegations of abuse or neglect to the child protective services agency	Yes, if there are allegations of serious health and safety risks	Yes, to determine or verify that the program is legally exempt (not subject to licensing)	Yes, a referral is made to the subsidy program if the legally exempt provider is receiving federal or state funding	Yes, for legally exempt programs that receive payment from the subsidy system	No, the licensing agency does not investigate complaints filed against legally exempt programs	No, there is no mechanism for a complaint to be filed against a license-exempt program	Other
Total	13	30	15	27	14	17	11	2	8
AK				•					
AL	•	•	•	•	•	•			
AR	•								
AZ		•		•					
CA		•	•	•	•				
CO	•								
CT	•	•	•	•		•			
DC		•		•		•			
DE							•		
FL		•	•	•	•	•			•
GA				•					
HI	•	•	•	•	•	•			
IA							•		
ID			•	•	•	•			
IL		•	•	•					
IN	•	•							•
KS							•	•	
KY		•		•	•				
LA			•	•	•	•			
MA		•	•	•		•			
MD		•			•	•			
ME	•								
MI							•	•	
MN									•
MO						•			
MP		•					•		
MS	•	•	•	•					•
MT		•		•					
NC		•					•		
ND	•								
NE				•					
NH				•		•			
NJ		•		•					
NM		•	•	•					
NV		•							
NY		•	•	•	•	•			
OH				•					
OK		•					•		
OR	•	•	•	•	•	•			
PA		•					•		
RI		•							
SC	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
SD		•				•			
TN	•	•			•	•			
TX		•		•					
UT	•								

State	Yes, all complaints are investigated by the licensing agency	Yes, a referral is made on allegations of abuse or neglect to the child protective services agency	Yes, if there are allegations of serious health and safety risks	Yes, to determine or verify that the program is legally exempt (not subject to licensing)	Yes, a referral is made to the subsidy program if the legally exempt provider is receiving federal or state funding	Yes, for legally exempt programs that receive payment from the subsidy system	No, the licensing agency does not investigate complaints filed against legally exempt programs	No, there is no mechanism for a complaint to be filed against a license-exempt program	Other
VA		•	•	•	•	•			•
VT									•
WA							•		
WI		•		•	•				
WV							•		•
WY							•		

Question: How many licensing complaints were filed in CALENDAR YEAR 2023? How many were substantiated?
49 states reporting



Question: What was the nature of the licensing complaints that were filed in CALENDAR YEAR 2023?

Analysis: 85% of states responding (n=46) reported supervision being one of the top four complaints in 2023, while 67% reported ratio complaints, 35% reported discipline reported complaints and 22% reported record keeping/documentation complaints.

COMPLIANCE

Summary:

There was little change between 2017 and 2023 in the number of states reporting having defined compliance within their licensing requirements. States used compliance for an increasing variety of reasons with more states reporting the use of compliance in every category.

Defining Compliance

Question: Has the state defined “compliance” with licensing requirements in your policies, e.g., substantial compliance, a pattern of compliance, in good standing?

Analysis: A total of 22 states reported defining compliance within their licensing requirements. About a third of those states reported using defined compliance to inform parents of a provider’s status and to determine the frequency or depth of licensing inspections. Almost half (46%) reported using compliance to determine enforcement actions. Determination of compliance is used by states for a variety of critical reasons.

State	Yes	No	Informing parents of the provider’s status	Determining enforcement actions including non-renewal of license	Determining the frequency or depth of licensing inspections	Determining eligibility for receipt of child care subsidy funding	Determining eligibility for participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	Determining eligibility for participation in quality initiatives, e.g., grants, incentives	Determining eligibility for participation in QRIS or meeting a QRIS standard	Other
Total	22	30	17	24	16	12	5	11	14	4
AK	•		•		•					
AL	•		•				•	•	•	•
AR	•		•		•	•				•
AZ		•								
CA		•								
CO	•		•						•	
CT		•			•	•	•		•	•
DC		•		•	•					
DE	•		•	•	•	•				
FL	•		•	•	•					
GA	•		•	•	•					
HI	•		•		•	•	•			
IA		•								
ID	•		•	•	•		•			
IL	•		•	•	•	•				
IN	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•
KS		•								
KY		•								
LA	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
MA		•								
MD	•		•		•	•	•			•
ME		•		•	•	•			•	•
MI	•		•		•					
MN		•								
MO		•								
MP		•								
MS		•								
MT		•								
NC		•								
ND		•		•			•	•	•	•

State	Yes	No	Informing parents of the provider's status	Determining enforcement actions including non-renewal of license	Determining the frequency or depth of licensing inspections	Determining eligibility for receipt of child care subsidy funding	Determining eligibility for participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	Determining eligibility for participation in quality initiatives, e.g., grants, incentives	Determining eligibility for participation in QRIS or meeting a QRIS standard	Other
NE		•								
NH		•								
NJ	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NM		•								
NV	•		•	•						
NY		•								
OH		•								
OK	•		•		•	•			•	•
OR		•								
PA	•		•		•					
RI		•								
SC	•		•						•	•
SD		•		•	•	•				
TN	•		•		•					•
TX		•		•	•	•	•			•
UT	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
VA	•		•	•	•	•	•			
VT		•								
WA		•								
WI		•								
WV		•		•	•	•				
WY		•								

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Summary:

There was a slight increase in states reporting the denial of license for child care centers as an enforcement action in 2023 versus 2017 while most other uses declined. There was an approximately 20 percent decline in probation or conditional licenses for Small FCC Homes while there was a 4 percent and 9 percent increase for Small FCC Homes in revocation and denial of license respectively. For Large/Group FCC Homes there was a 10 to 15 percent increase in states reporting the use of revocation, denial, emergency closure, non-renewal of license, and civil fines.

The overall numbers for enforcement actions show an almost 6 percent increase in revocations of license, though denial of license and emergency closures were down 44 percent and almost 38 percent respectively. There was an almost 87 percent decrease on nonrenewal of licensure and an almost 18 percent decrease in programs receiving probation. There was an almost 370 percent increase in conditional licenses and 74 percent increase in consent decrees. Other enforcement actions were up more than 91 percent.

The method by which subsidy agencies are notified of an enforcement action changed slightly with 3 additional states reporting personal contact between the licensing and subsidy agencies and an additional 6 states reported a link between the licensing and subsidy databases. There was little change in how enforcement action affected a subsidy payment with most states still reporting that it depended on the nature of the enforcement action.

Adverse Enforcement Actions

Question: Indicate which of the following corrective and adverse enforcement actions does policy allow you to use with licensed child care facilities?

Analysis: Revocation and denial of license as well as emergency/immediate closure of the facility were the most commonly reported enforcement actions with almost every state having those options for centers and to lesser extent in FCC homes. Between 60 and 65 percent of states said conditional licenses were options for centers, small FCC homes and in about 72 percent of states for large/group FCC homes. Civil fines were also a commonly reported options across program types.

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Revocation of license	52	47	43
Denial of license	52	47	43
Emergency/immediate closure of program	51	46	42
Nonrenewal of license	36	33	33
Probation	23	19	18
Conditional license	34	29	28
Consent agreement	20	17	16
Civil fine	30	26	24
Criminal fine	3	3	3
Imprisonment	5	4	4
Other enforcement actions	13	10	9

Question: If your state imposes civil or criminal fines for licensing violations, please describe the amounts of the fines that child care programs must pay.

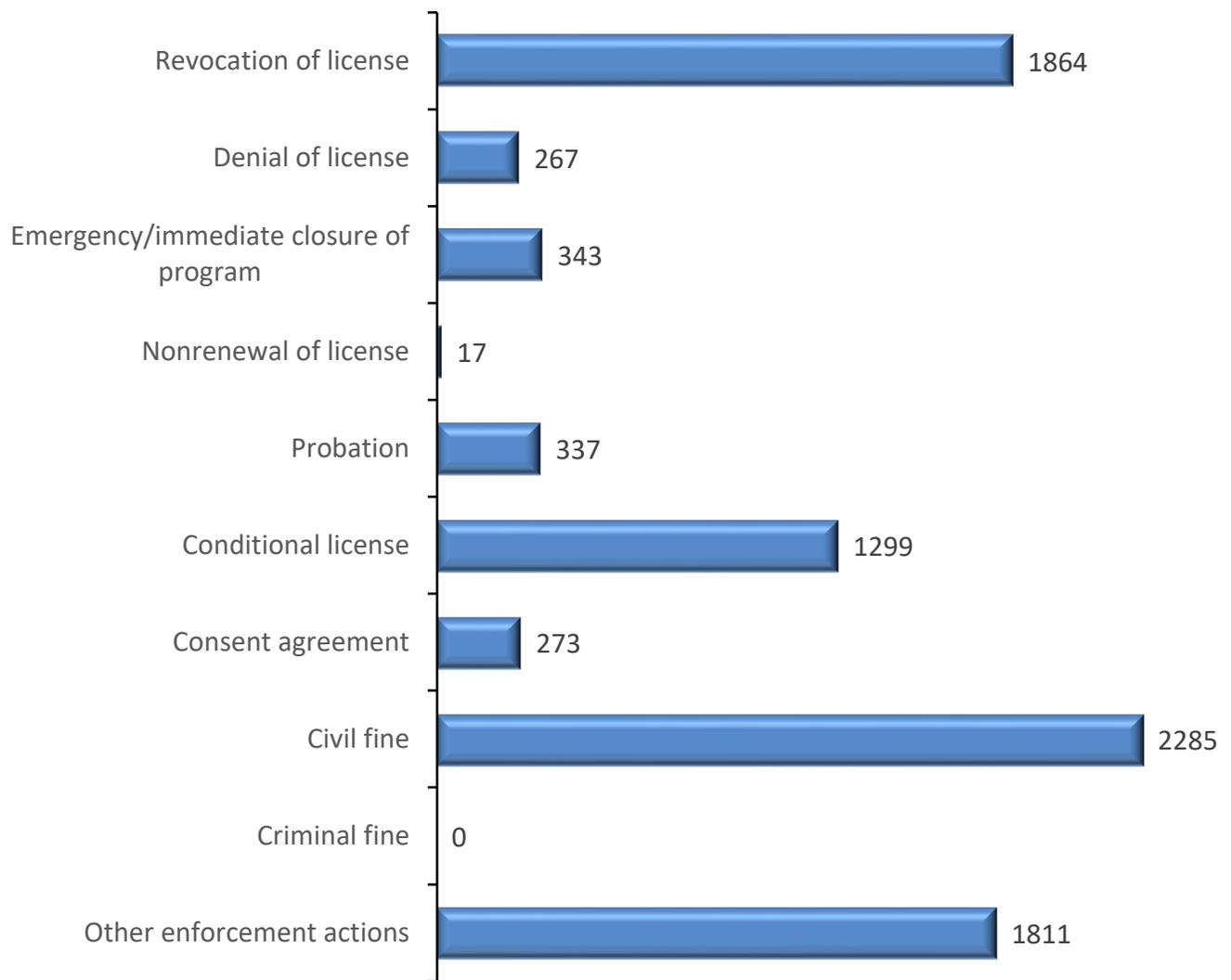
State	Amount of Fine
AK	Can enforce a one-time fine of \$25 to \$2500 per violation or a fine per day until correction is made up to a maximum of \$25,000.
AL	

State	Amount of Fine
AR	
AZ	\$100
CA	Failure to post result in immediate civil penalty of \$100 (HSC 1596.8595) Failure to allow parents to enter or inspect, subsequent violation is \$50 (HSC 1596.857) Failure to provide parent notice of excluded individuals ppwk \$100 (HSC 1596.8712) Unlicensed operation \$200 per day (HSC 1596.891) Failure to correct (1596.99) Repeat Violation \$250 per repeat and \$100 for each day the repeats violation continues. Continued repeat \$500 and \$100 for each day there is a violation for serious violations injury, illness, fire clearance, absence of supervision, bodies of water, accessible firearms, refused entry to facility and presence of excluded person Violation of physical, or serious injury or death \$1000 - \$15,000
CO	Any person violating any provision of this part 3, intentionally making any false statement or report to the department or to any agency delegated by the department to make an investigation or inspection pursuant to the provisions of this part 3, or violating a cease-and-desist order that is not cured commits a petty offense and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of up to five hundred dollars, a sentence of up to ten days in jail, or both. (1) In addition to any other penalty otherwise provided by law, including section 26.5-5-321, any person violating any provision of this part 3 or intentionally making any false statement or report to the department or to any agency delegated by the department to make an investigation or inspection under the provisions of this part 3 may be assessed a civil penalty up to a maximum of ten thousand dollars as follows: (a) Two hundred fifty dollars a day for the first day; (b) Five hundred dollars a day for the second day; and (c) One thousand dollars a day for the third and subsequent days. (2) Each day in which a person is in violation of any provision of this part 3 may constitute a separate offense.
CT	Consent orders may have negotiated civil penalties. Illegal operation may accrue a fine of up to \$100 per day.
DC	No civil or criminal fines are imposed at this time.
DE	Anyone who operates a child care facility without a license will be fined not more than \$1000 or imprisoned not more than six months or both.
FL	
GA	Fees vary depending on violation, repeat violation, number of violations, etc. Range is \$299 - \$10,000
HI	\$1,000 for each day
IA	
ID	
IL	
IN	Indiana legislative just passed safe sleep violations that can be fined for licensed providers, unlicensed registered ministries and exempt CCDF providers. It is a progressive fine during the licensure period The first visit is a warning letter 2nd inspection with safe sleep violations \$50.00 fine for each violation 3rd visit with safe sleep violations \$75.00 fine for each violation 4th visit with safe sleep violations \$100.00 fine for each violation 5th visit with safe sleep violation \$250.00 fine for each violation
KS	Varies on capacity of the license and level of risk.
KY	\$250 for type B violations \$1000 for type A violations
LA	N/A
MA	
MD	\$250.00
ME	Records/disclosure \$500 per violation. Staff/Child ratios - no more than \$500 per incident or \$500 per number of children above the limit, or both and not more than \$10,000 per day.
MI	Seldom used by courts. Reimbursed for expenses is usually what the judge decides
MN	\$100 - \$5,000 depending on program type and violation severity
MO	
MP	§ 1409. Penalty. (a) Any person who operates a day care center on or after January 7, 1986, shall apply for a license, as required by this chapter, within 90 days from January 7, 1986. (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly operate a day care center without a license required by this chapter. (c) A person convicted under 3 CMC § 1409 may be punished by imprisonment of not more than one year, or a fine of not more than \$2,000, or both. Source: PL 4-69, § 1, modified.
MS	Class I violation-\$500 Class II violation- \$50/violation Class III violation-\$25/violation
MT	
NC	civil penalties are not used
ND	
NE	\$1 to \$5 per child capacity of the program, per day of non-compliance.
NH	Per state statute: 170-E:21-a Administrative Fines. – The commissioner of the department of health and human services, after notice and hearing, pursuant to rules adopted under RSA 541-A, may impose an administrative fine not to exceed \$2,000 for each offense upon any person who violates any provision of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter. He-C 4002 lists fines ranging from \$200 up to \$2,000.
NJ	
NM	8.9.4.13(C) The licensing authority has the discretion to impose an initial base penalty at any amount within the range for each deficiency level. (1) Class A deficiency: not less than \$500 and not greater than \$5,000. (2) Class B deficiency: not less than \$300 and not greater than \$3,000. (3) Class C deficiency: not less than \$100 and not greater than \$500.
NV	
NY	This varies based on the evidence/fact pattern of the issue(s) and is assessed case by case.

State	Amount of Fine
OH	N/A
OK	N/A
OR	Civil penalties typically range from \$50 to \$250
PA	62 P.S. § 1031 - The Human Services Code provides that any person operating a child care facility without the required license commits a criminal offense and may be subject to a fine of up to \$300 for each day of operating without a license. These penalties can increase for second and subsequent offenses.
RI	
SC	n/a
SD	
TN	\$50 for minor violations \$750 to \$1000 for violation that results in serious injury or death \$300 to \$500 for any negligence or intentional disregard of regulations that result injury to a child \$200, \$300, or \$400 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd repeat violations for designated items Six or more minor violations in a three-month period = a major and may be subject to an additional \$200 penalty. Three or more minor of the same violation in a three or more-month period may result in an additional \$200 penalty.
TX	See details here: https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=26&pt=1&ch=745&rl=8714
UT	The Civil Money Penalties vary depending on different factors and repetition of noncompliance with the same rule. They go from \$100 up to \$10,000.
VA	\$500 per inspection
VT	N/A
WA	Child Care Centers and School Age Programs - up to \$250 per violation per day Family Child Care Homes - up to \$150 per violation per day
WI	The amount of fines that a program must pay is dependent on the violation, their regulatory history, and other factors.
WV	N/A
WY	

Questions: Indicate which of the following corrective and adverse enforcement actions were used with licensed child care facilities and the number of enforcement actions that were taken in CALENDAR YEAR 2023?

Analysis: Despite every state reporting that policy allowed revocation of license, non-renewal of license, and emergency facility closure, civil fines are the most frequently used enforcement action. Revocation of license, other enforcement actions and then a conditional license were the next most frequent.



Examples of “Other” enforcement actions include:

- Restriction of license
- Reduced capacity
- Mandated training
- Partial sanctions and exclusions
- Voluntary program improvement plans/corrective action plans (plans of action)

Enforcement Actions and Subsidy Payments

Question: How is the subsidy agency notified of licensing enforcement actions taken against a facility?

Analysis: Out of the 51 states responding, almost 65% reported personal contact being made between the licensing and subsidy agencies. Just over one-third of reporting states indicated that an electronic notice is automatically generated or that there is a link between the licensing and subsidy agency databases where enforcement actions are monitored.

State	An electronic notice is automatically generated	Personal contact is made between the licensing and subsidy agencies	There is a link between the licensing and subsidy agency databases, and enforcement actions are monitored
Total	17	33	18
AK			•
AL		•	
AR		•	
AZ	•		
CA		•	•
CO		•	•
CT	•		
DC	•	•	
DE		•	
FL	•	•	•
GA	•	•	
HI		•	•
IA			•
ID	•	•	
IL		•	
IN			•
KS	•		
KY	•		
LA	•		•
MA	•		
MD		•	
ME		•	•
MI	•		•
MN			•
MO		•	
MP		•	
MS		•	
MT		•	
NC	•		•
ND			•
NE	•	•	•
NH		•	
NJ		•	
NM		•	
NV			
NY		•	
OH			
OK		•	•
OR			•
PA		•	•
RI	•	•	
SC		•	
SD		•	
TN		•	
TX		•	

State	An electronic notice is automatically generated	Personal contact is made between the licensing and subsidy agencies	There is a link between the licensing and subsidy agency databases, and enforcement actions are monitored
UT	•		•
VA		•	
VT	•		
WA	•		
WI		•	
WV		•	
WY		•	

Question: If a licensing enforcement action is taken against a facility, does that affect the provider's receipt of child care assistance/subsidy payment?

State	Yes	No	Depends on the enforcement action taken
Total	17	4	31
AK			•
AL			•
AR	•		
AZ	•		
CA			•
CO		•	
CT		•	
DC	•		
DE		•	
FL	•		
GA			•
HI			•
IA			•
ID			•
IL	•		
IN	•		
KS	•		
KY			•
LA	•		
MA			•
MD	•		
ME		•	
MI	•		
MN	•		
MO			•
MP	•		
MS			•
MT			•
NC			•
ND			•
NE			•
NH			•
NJ			•
NM			•
NV	•		
NY			•
OH			•
OK			•
OR			•
PA			•
RI			•

State	Yes	No	Depends on the enforcement action taken
SC			•
SD	•		
TN	•		
TX			•
UT			•
VA			•
VT			•
WA	•		
WI			•
WV			•
WY	•		

Question: The receipt of subsidy payment is discontinued under what circumstances?

Analysis: Most states reported that the effect of an enforcement action on a subsidy payment varied based on the enforcement action. Similarly, whether or not the subsidy payment is discontinued also depends heavily on the type of enforcement action.

State	An enforcement action is made effective	The action is not appealed or is upheld	Varies by type of enforcement action	Receipt of subsidy payment is never discontinued	Other
Total	7	11	36	2	11
AK			•		
AL			•		
AR			•		
AZ			•		
CA			•		
CO			•		
CT					
DC			•		
DE				•	
FL			•		
GA			•		
HI			•		
IA		•	•		
ID			•		
IL					
IN					•
KS					•
KY	•	•	•		
LA	•	•	•		
MA			•		
MD		•	•		
ME				•	
MI			•		
MN			•		
MO			•		
MP			•		
MS			•		
MT			•		
NC			•		
ND	•	•			
NE					•
NH					•
NJ					•

State	An enforcement action is made effective	The action is not appealed or is upheld	Varies by type of enforcement action	Receipt of subsidy payment is never discontinued	Other
NM	•	•	•		
NV					•
NY			•		
OH			•		
OK	•	•	•		•
OR					•
PA		•			•
RI			•		
SC		•			
SD	•				
TN			•		
TX			•		
UT	•	•	•		
VA			•		•
VT		•	•		
WA					•
WI			•		
WV			•		
WY			•		

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Summary:

Licensors continue to provide technical assistance in a variety of circumstances to all program types. The most significant change between 2017 and 2023 is the increased technical assistance provided to Large/Group FCC Homes, with a roughly 10 percent increase in states reporting various methods of assistance. States were reportedly less likely to provide assistance to multiple programs at the same time.

Similarly, there was a slight increase in states reporting the provision of technical assistance throughout the licensing process with an increase of roughly 10 percent in states reporting the provision of assistance to Large/Group FCC Homes.

A new question in 2023 identified referral resources for providers. The most frequent referral source was Child Care Resource and Referral agencies though providers have several options available.

Providing Technical Assistance

Question: Do licensing front line staff who conduct inspections (licensors) provide technical assistance (TA), e.g., guidance, resources, training, and/or consultation to licensees?

Analysis: Virtually all child care centers receive TA throughout the licensing and regulatory process as do most small FCC and large/group FCC homes. While TA is heavily geared toward regulations and compliance issues, about one-third to one-half of states report TA on research-related and non-compliance issues. States also refer all provider types to other agencies and organizations when needed.

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Licensors provide TA/consultation to licensees to help them achieve compliance with the regulations	51	46	42
Licensors provide TA/consultation to licensees to help them improve quality and exceed minimum licensing regulations	33	29	26
Licensors provide individual program TA/consultation related to specific non-compliance issues	46	41	38
Licensors provide resources to individual programs related to specific non-compliance issues	46	41	38
Licensors provide training to multiple programs at the same time related to topics based on current early childhood research	17	16	14
Licensors provide resources to multiple programs at the same time related to topics based on current early childhood research	19	18	15
Licensors provide training to multiple programs at the same time related to topics based on specific non-compliance issues	21	19	19
Licensors provide resources to multiple programs at the same time related to topics based on specific non-compliance issues	24	21	19

Question: When do licensors provide technical assistance (TA) and/or consultation?

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
During application inspection visits prior to issuing a license	48	44	40
During routine inspection visits	51	46	42
During renewal inspection visits	40	35	33
On the telephone	51	47	43

As needed by licensee	49	45	41
As needed determined by licensor	44	40	37
Other	7	7	6

Question: Do licensors ever refer licensees to other agencies, organizations, or people for TA and/or consultation?

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Referrals made to Child Care Resource and Referral	40	36	32
Referrals made to Health Department	32	27	28
Referrals made to Subsidy Program	36	32	29
Referrals made to Abuse and Neglect Department	32	28	27
Referrals made to Department of Education	21	17	16
Referrals made to other agencies, organizations, or people	43	39	34

SHARING LICENSING INFORMATION

Summary:

Between 2014 and 2107 the number of states that made a full inspection report available online increased from just over half to almost two-thirds. A total of 98 percent of states had a full or summary inspection report available online, up from 83 percent in 2017.

In 2023, an additional 5 states reported all complaints were available online, while three fewer states reported that only substantiated complaints were available. An additional 3 states reported that no complaint information was available. There was a 20 percent increase in the number of states that include enforcement actions in the published reports and a 69 percent increase in reports that include corrective action plans. An additional 7 states (23 percent) reported that providers are given an opportunity to review reports before they are posted.

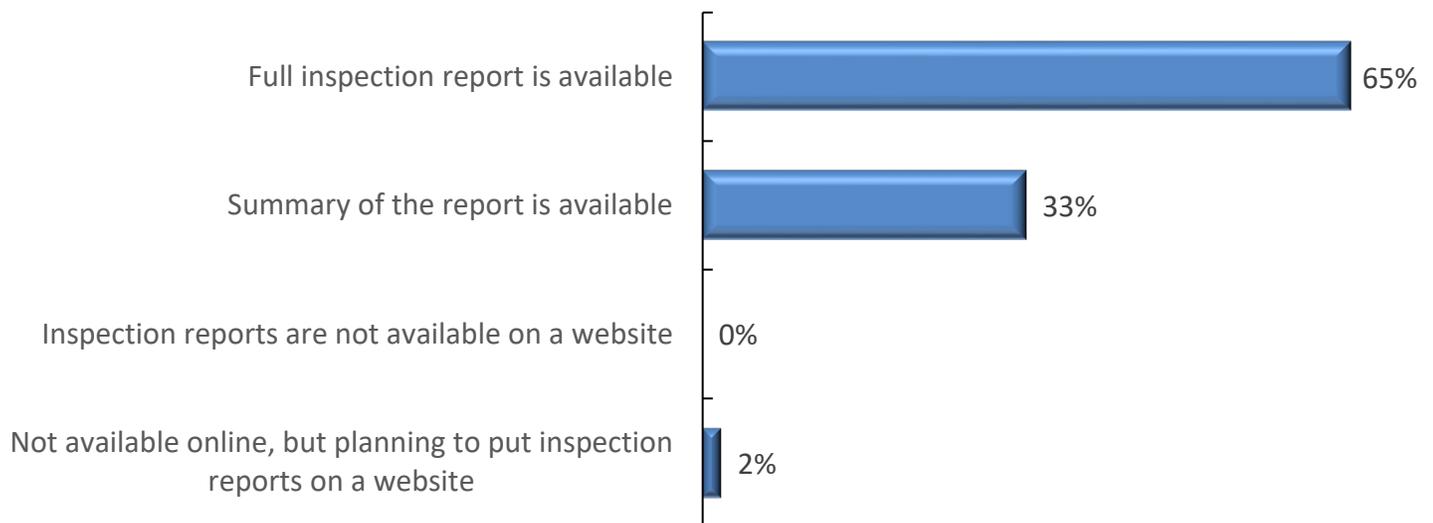
In 2023 an additional 3 states indicated they posted reports within a day, and an additional 7 states having the reports posted within a month while one less state reported posting the reports immediately. Only 3 states reported not having reports posted within a month in both 2017 and 2023. Only 52 percent of states reported providing public guidance on understanding licensing inspection reports in 2023, down from 60 percent in 2017.

In a new question for 2023, states reported a variety of other information also available online.

Shared Online

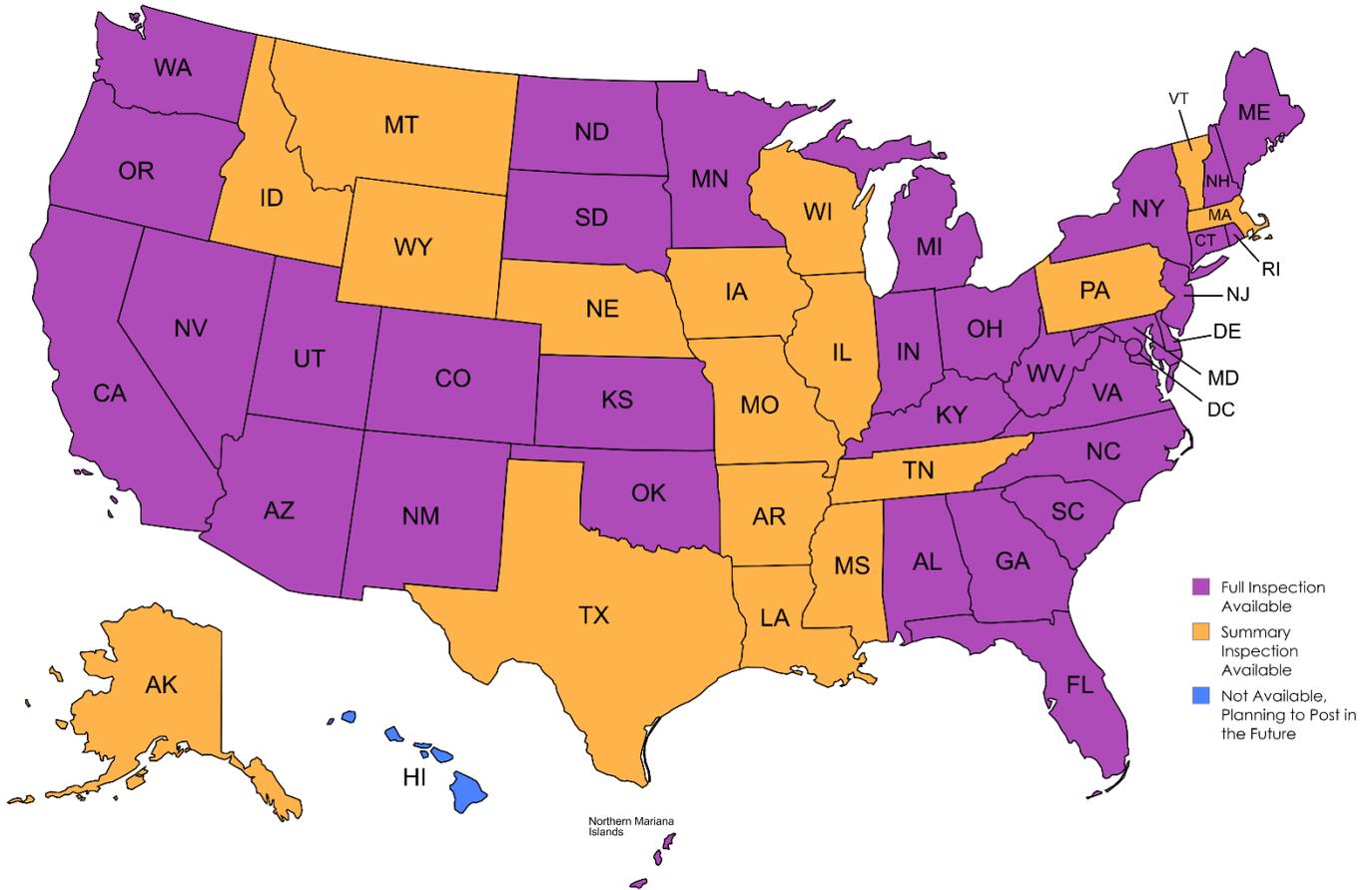
Question: Are licensing inspection reports available on the Internet for parent and public access?

Analysis: Nearly two-thirds of all states reported that full inspection reports are available online while another 33% reported that a summary report is available. The one state that currently does not post information on the internet reported that they are planning to make reports available online in the future.



State	Yes, the full inspection report is available	Yes, a summary of the report is available	No, inspection reports are not available on a website	No, but state is planning to put inspection reports on a website
Total	34	17	0	1
AK		•		
AL	•			
AR		•		
AZ	•			
CA	•			
CO	•			
CT	•			
DC	•			
DE	•			
FL	•			
GA	•			
HI				•
IA		•		
ID		•		
IL		•		
IN	•			
KS	•			
KY	•			
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NY	•			
OH	•			
OK	•			
OR	•			
PA		•		
RI	•			
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TN		•		
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UT	•			
VA	•			
VT		•		
WA	•			
WI		•		
WV	•			
WY		•		

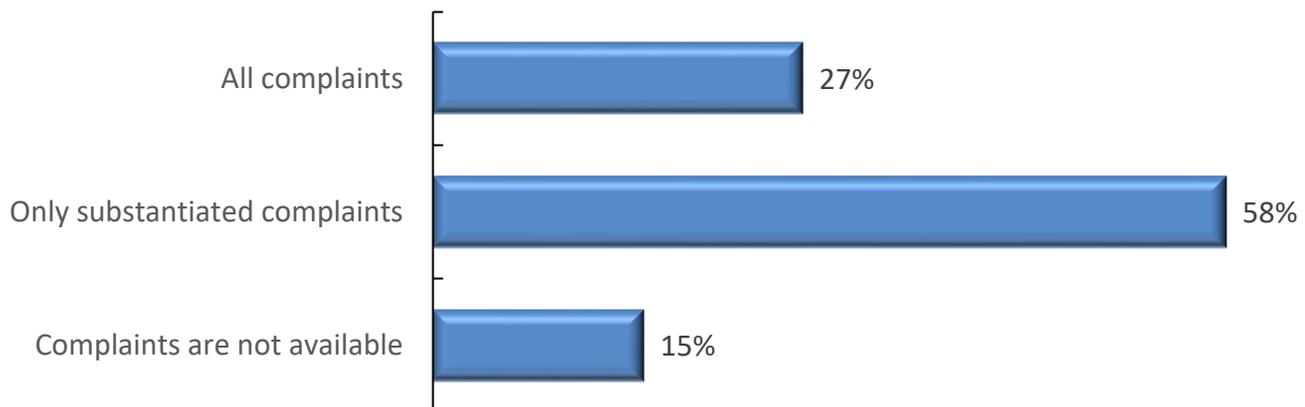
Map 5 Availability of Inspections Online



Complaint Information Shared

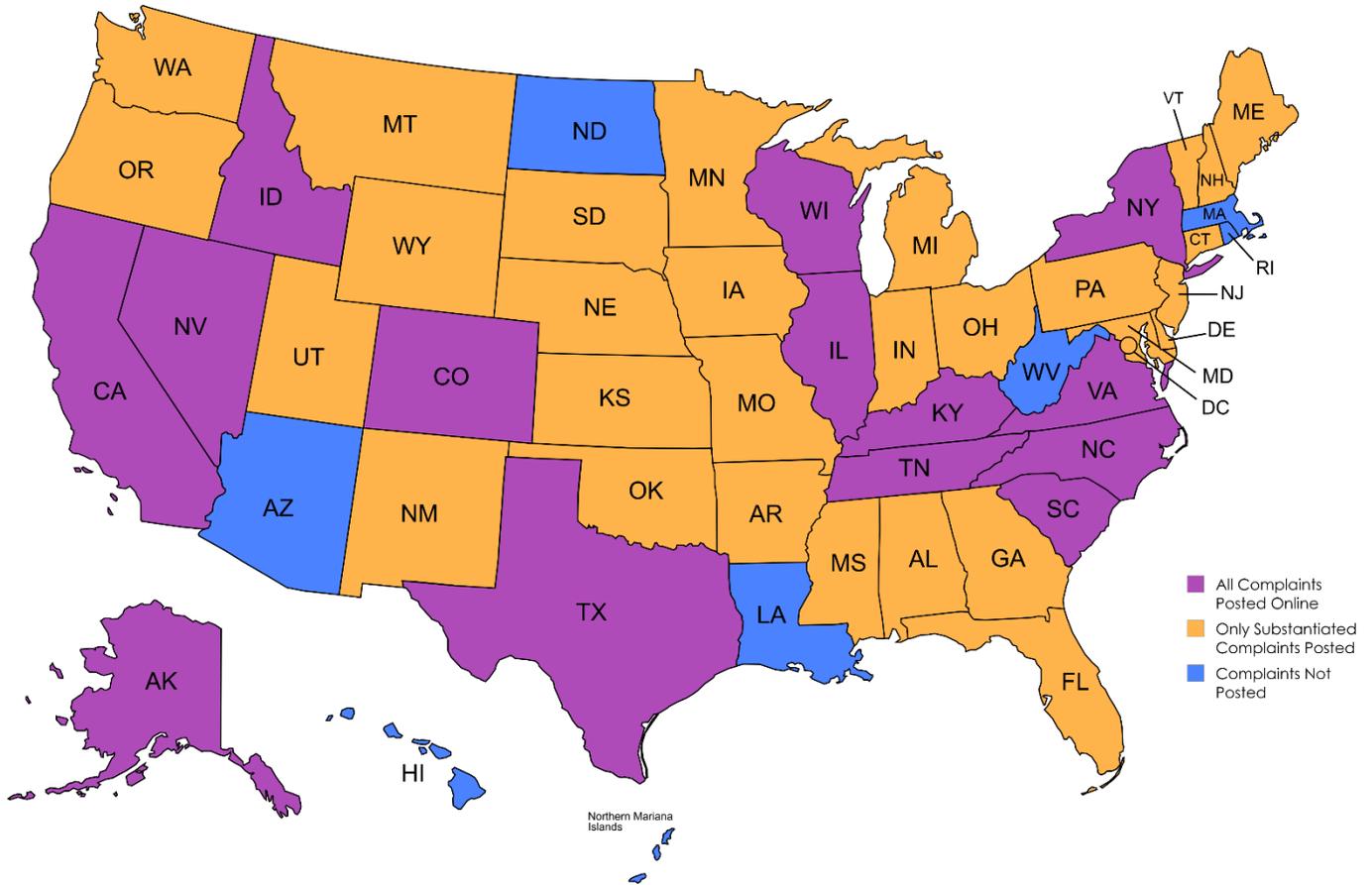
Question: Are complaints against child care programs available on a website for parent and public access?

Analysis: More than one in four states make all complaint information available on a website, while 85% of states make either all complaint information, or substantiated complaint information available. Only 15% of states report not having any complaint information available at all available.



State	Yes, all complaints	Yes, but only substantiated complaints	No, complaints are not available
Total	14	30	8
AK	•		
AL		•	
AR		•	
AZ			•
CA	•		
CO	•		
CT		•	
DC		•	
DE		•	
FL		•	
GA		•	
HI			•
IA		•	
ID	•		
IL	•		
IN		•	
KS		•	
KY	•		
LA			•
MA			•
MD		•	
ME		•	
MI		•	
MN		•	
MO		•	
MP			•
MS		•	
MT		•	
NC	•		
ND			•
NE		•	
NH		•	
NJ		•	
NM		•	
NV	•		
NY	•		
OH		•	
OK		•	
OR		•	
PA		•	
RI			•
SC	•		
SD		•	
TN	•		
TX	•		
UT		•	
VA	•		
VT		•	
WA		•	
WI	•		
WV			•
WY		•	

Map 6 Posting Complaints Online



Question: Do licensing inspection reports published online include enforcement actions and/or corrective action plans? Do child care providers have an opportunity to review reports before they are posted online?

Analysis: A total of 36 states (69%) reported posting enforcement actions online, 44 (85%) include corrective actions plans online and 71% reported that providers were given an opportunity to review reports before they are posted to the internet.

State	Reports published online include enforcement actions taken against the program	Reports published online include corrective action plans	Child care providers are given the opportunity to review reports before they are posted to the internet
Total	36	44	37
AK	•		•
AL	•	•	•
AR		•	•
AZ		•	•
CA	•	•	•
CO	•	•	•
CT	•	•	•
DC	•		
DE	•	•	•
FL		•	•
GA	•	•	•
HI			

State	Reports published online include enforcement actions taken against the program	Reports published online include corrective action plans	Child care providers are given the opportunity to review reports before they are posted to the internet
IA	•	•	
ID	•		•
IL	•	•	•
IN	•	•	•
KS	•		•
KY	•	•	•
LA		•	•
MA		•	•
MD		•	•
ME	•	•	•
MI	•		
MN	•		
MO		•	•
MP	•	•	
MS	•	•	•
MT		•	
NC	•	•	•
ND	•	•	•
NE	•	•	•
NH	•	•	•
NJ		•	•
NM	•	•	•
NV	•	•	•
NY	•	•	
OH		•	
OK		•	•
OR	•	•	•
PA	•	•	•
RI	•		
SC		•	•
SD	•	•	•
TN	•	•	
TX	•	•	•
UT	•	•	
VA		•	•
VT		•	
WA		•	•
WI	•	•	
WV	•	•	
WY	•	•	•

Time to Post Online

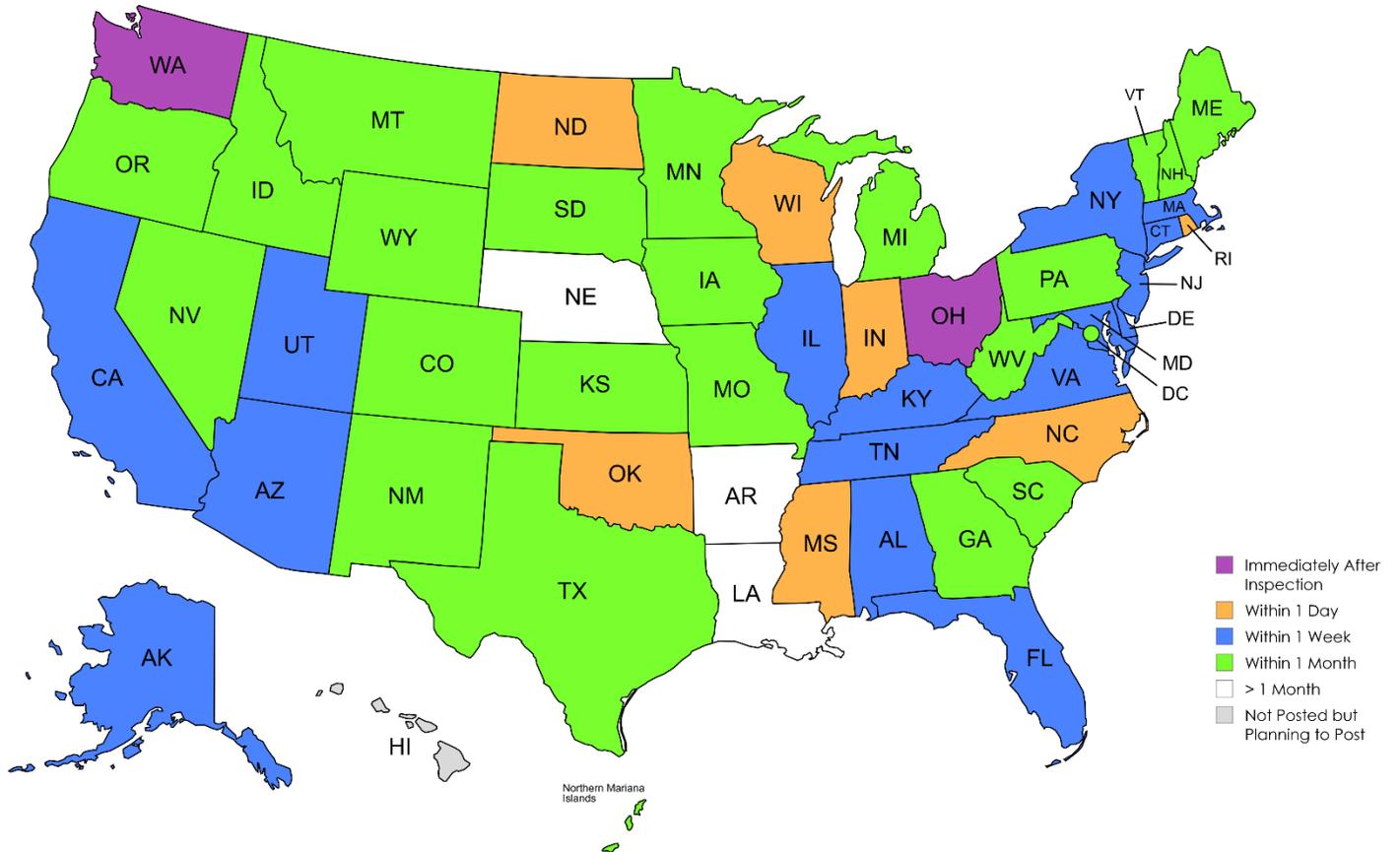
Question: Describe how long, on average, it takes to post a report to the Internet after an inspection.

Analysis: Of the states that report results online, 18% poste within a day of the inspection. Another 31% post within a week of the inspection while slightly fewer than half of the states post results within a month. Only 6% of states take longer than one month to post results.

State	Immediately after inspection	Within 1 day	Within 1 week	Within 1 month	Longer than 1 month
Total	2	7	16	23	3
AK			•		
AL			•		
AR					•
AZ			•		
CA			•		
CO				•	
CT			•		
DC				•	
DE			•		
FL			•		
GA				•	
HI					
IA				•	
ID				•	
IL			•		
IN		•			
KS				•	
KY			•		
LA					•
MA			•		
MD			•		
ME				•	
MI				•	
MN				•	
MO				•	
MP				•	
MS		•			
MT				•	
NC		•			
ND		•			
NE					•
NH				•	
NJ			•		
NM				•	
NV				•	
NY			•		
OH	•				
OK		•			
OR				•	
PA				•	
RI		•			
SC				•	
SD				•	
TN			•		
TX				•	
UT			•		

State	Immediately after inspection	Within 1 day	Within 1 week	Within 1 month	Longer than 1 month
VA			•		
VT				•	
WA	•				
WI		•			
WV				•	
WY				•	

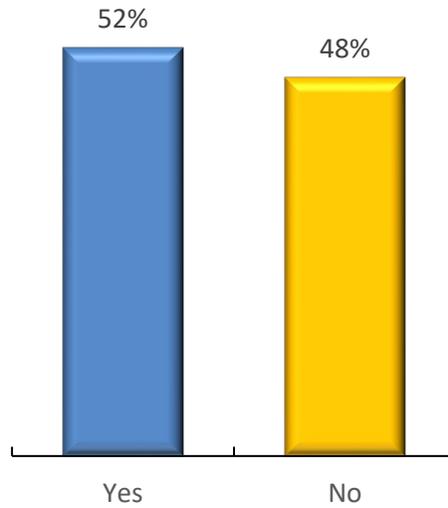
Map 7 Timeliness of Posted Inspection Reports



Question: Describe any other licensing information about child care programs that is available online.

State	Child care program demographics	Accreditation	Hours of operations	Services provided	Ages served	Other
Total	29	21	37	28	38	19
AK	•		•		•	
AL	•		•		•	
AR						
AZ			•	•	•	
CA	•		•	•	•	
CO	•	•	•	•	•	
CT	•	•	•	•	•	•
DC		•	•		•	•
DE	•		•	•	•	•
FL						•
GA	•	•	•	•	•	•
HI	•	•	•	•	•	
IA	•		•		•	
ID	•	•	•	•	•	
IL			•		•	
IN						•
KS						
KY	•	•	•	•	•	
LA			•	•	•	
MA	•	•	•	•	•	
MD						
ME	•				•	
MI	•		•		•	•
MN						
MO	•		•		•	
MP			•	•		
MS			•	•	•	
MT					•	
NC	•	•		•	•	•
ND	•		•	•	•	
NE		•	•		•	
NH	•	•	•	•	•	
NJ	•	•	•	•	•	•
NM	•	•	•	•	•	•
NV						
NY	•	•	•	•	•	
OH	•	•	•	•	•	•
OK			•	•	•	
OR		•	•	•	•	
PA	•		•	•	•	•
RI	•	•	•	•	•	
SC	•		•	•		•
SD	•	•				
TN						•
TX		•	•	•	•	•
UT						
VA			•		•	•
VT	•	•	•	•	•	•
WA	•					•
WI		•	•	•	•	
WV	•		•		•	•
WY						

Question: Does the state provide the public any guidance on understanding or interpreting licensing inspection reports?



State	Yes, the State provides guidance to the public	No, the state does not provide guidance to the public
Total	27	25
AK	•	
AL	•	
AR	•	
AZ		•
CA	•	
CO	•	
CT		•
DC		•
DE		•
FL	•	
GA	•	
HI	•	
IA		•
ID		•
IL	•	
IN	•	
KS	•	
KY	•	
LA	•	
MA		•
MD		•
ME	•	
MI		•
MN	•	
MO		•
MP		•
MS		•
MT		•
NC	•	
ND		•
NE		•
NH	•	
NJ		•
NM	•	
NV	•	

State	Yes, the State provides guidance to the public	No, the state does not provide guidance to the public
NY		•
OH	•	
OK		•
OR	•	
PA	•	
RI		•
SC		•
SD	•	
TN		•
TX	•	
UT	•	
VA	•	
VT		•
WA		•
WI		•
WV	•	
WY		•

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Summary:

New questions added in 2023 asked states about licensing requirements for Tribes in their state as well as child care programs on military bases. When a state had Tribes in the state, most reported the Tribes having their own inspection requirements or a mix of Tribe and state agency requirements. Only 3 states reported that a Tribe was required to have an agreement with the state licensing agency.

Similarly, most child care programs on military bases are exempt from state licensing. Only 4 states reported that child care programs on military bases were licensed by the state.

Licensing Requirements – Tribes

Question: Select the statement that best describes licensing requirements and Tribes.

State	All Tribes in the state have their own licensing requirements and inspection policies	Some Tribes in the state have their own licensing requirements and inspection policies and some Tribes have an agreement with the state licensing agency	All Tribes in the state have an agreement with the state licensing agency	There are no American Indian Tribes in the state	Other:
Total	10	6	3	13	7
AK					•
AL					
AR					
AZ	•				
CA	•				
CO					•
CT	•				
DC				•	
DE				•	
FL					
GA				•	
HI				•	
IA		•			
ID					
IL					
IN					
KS					
KY				•	
LA					•
MA		•			
MD					•
ME					•
MI					
MN					
MO				•	
MP				•	
MS			•		
MT	•				
NC	•				
ND	•				
NE		•			
NH				•	
NJ				•	

State	All Tribes in the state have their own licensing requirements and inspection policies	Some Tribes in the state have their own licensing requirements and inspection policies and some Tribes have an agreement with the state licensing agency	All Tribes in the state have an agreement with the state licensing agency	There are no American Indian Tribes in the state	Other:
NM	•				
NV					
NY	•				
OH				•	
OK		•			
OR					•
PA				•	
RI			•		
SC					•
SD		•			
TN					
TX	•				
UT		•			
VA	•				
VT				•	
WA					
WI			•		
WV				•	
WY					

Licensing Requirements - Military Bases

Question: Are child care programs on military bases licensed?

Analysis: Only 4 states reported that child care programs on military bases were licensed. Most of the states responding reported that these programs were exempt, regulated by the Department of Defense, or were licensed only in certain circumstances such as receiving a subsidy.

State	No, child care programs on military bases are exempt from licensing	Yes, child care programs on military bases are licensed	Other (please specify):
Total	23	4	14
AK			
AL			
AR			
AZ	•		
CA	•		
CO			
CT	•		
DC			
DE			
FL			
GA			
HI			
IA		•	
ID			
IL			
IN			
KS			
KY			
LA			

State	No, child care programs on military bases are exempt from licensing	Yes, child care programs on military bases are licensed	Other (please specify):
MA		•	
MD			
ME			
MI			
MN			
MO			
MP			
MS			•
MT	•		
NC	•		
ND	•		
NE		•	
NH			
NJ			
NM	•		
NV			
NY	•		
OH			
OK		•	
OR			
PA			
RI			•
SC			
SD		•	
TN			
TX	•		
UT		•	
VA	•		
VT			
WA			
WI			•
WV			
WY			

LICENSING AND HEAD START

Summary:

The percentage of states requiring all Head Start programs to get a license increased by 5 percent between 2017 and 2023 while the percentage of states requiring some programs to get a license decreased by 4 percent. The most common exemption from licensure in 2017 was that the program is operated by a public or private school, while in 2023 it is equally due to being a school operated program and other licensing exemptions.

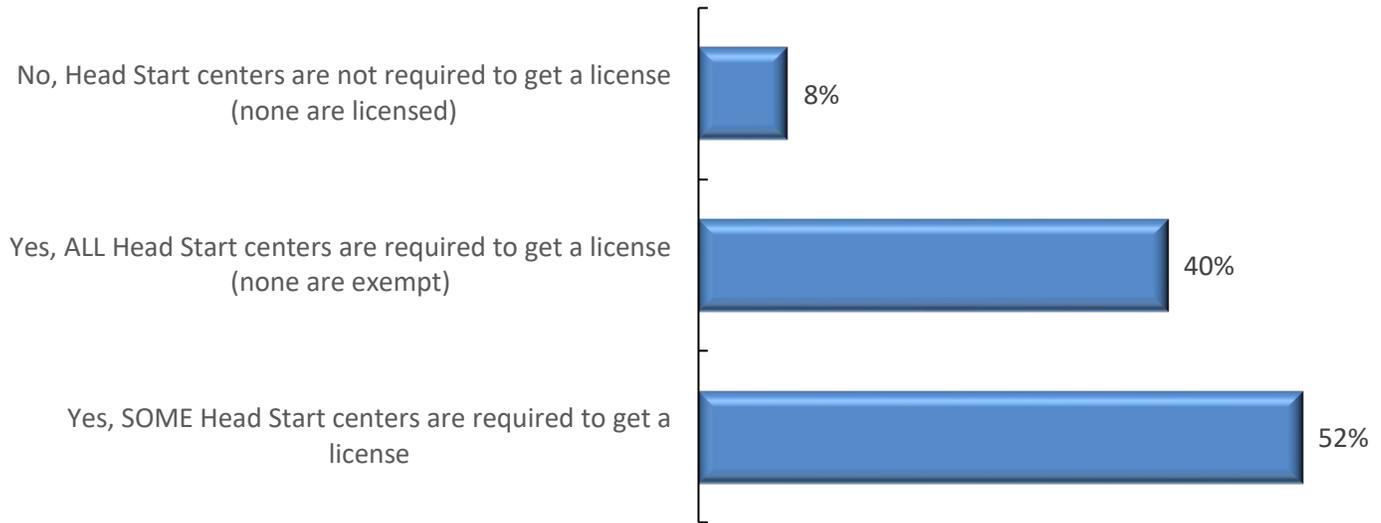
One in 5 Head Start states reported challenges for Head Start programs in meeting licensing requirements in 2023, up from 1 in 6 in 2017. The number of licensed Head Start Centers was almost identical between 2017 (n=31) and 2023 (n=30) but there was an increase of almost 90 Head Start family homes. Where states reported difficulty obtaining Head Start data, there was an increase of 5 states saying it was not a designation in the database, which corresponded to 5 fewer states saying another agency collected the data.

The number of states with 50 percent or more of their Head Start programs licensed was approximately the same in 2017 and 2023, though there was an increase of one state that had more than 75 percent of their Head Start programs licensed. The same number of states (15) in both 2017 and 2023 did not know how many Head Start programs in their state were licensed.

Head Start – Licensing

Question: Are Head Start Centers required to get a license?

Analysis: Almost every state, more than 90%, requires at least SOME Head Start centers to get a license, while 40% require ALL Head Start centers to get a license. Less than 10% reported that no Head Start centers were required to get a license.



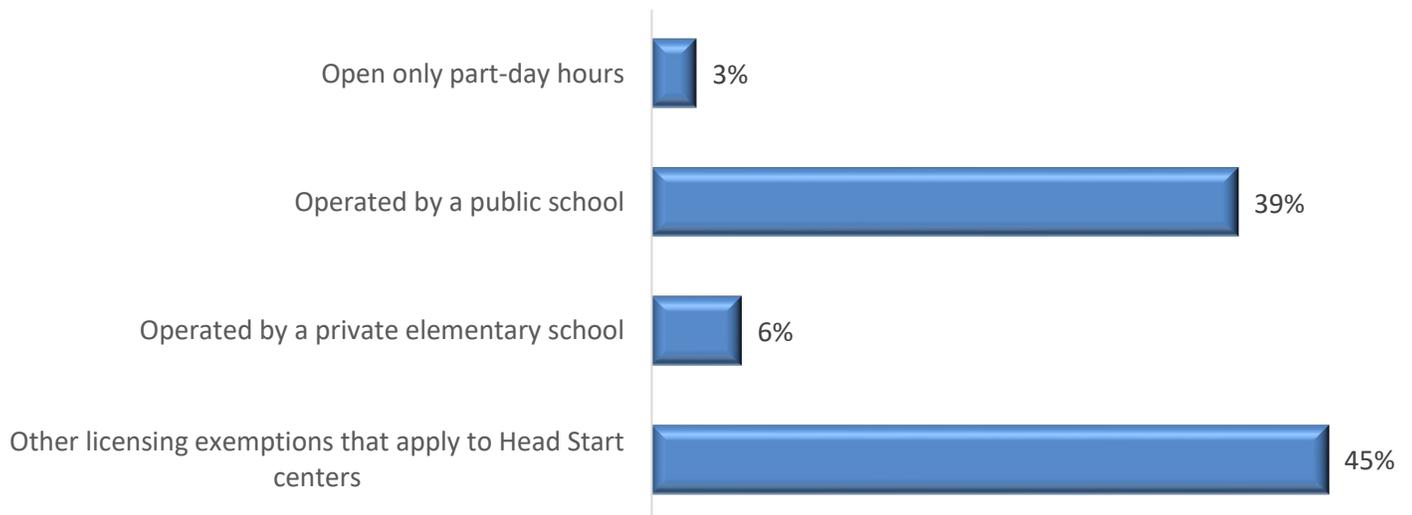
State	No	Yes, ALL Head Start centers are required to get a license	Yes, SOME Head Start centers are required to get a license
Total	4	21	27
AK			•
AL		•	
AR		•	
AZ		•	
CA		•	
CO			•
CT			•
DC			•
DE		•	
FL			•
GA	•		
HI		•	
IA			•
ID			•
IL			•
IN			•
KS			•
KY			•
LA		•	
MA			•
MD			•
ME		•	
MI		•	
MN			•
MO		•	
MP			•

State	No	Yes, ALL Head Start centers are required to get a license	Yes, SOME Head Start centers are required to get a license
MS			•
MT			•
NC		•	
ND	•		
NE	•		
NH		•	
NJ		•	
NM			•
NV		•	
NY		•	
OH		•	
OK			•
OR			•
PA			•
RI		•	
SC		•	
SD			•
TN			•
TX			•
UT	•		
VA			•
VT		•	
WA			•
WI		•	
WV		•	
WY			•

Head Start - Exemption Characteristics

Question: If ONLY SOME Head Start centers are required to get a license, which characteristics allow Head Start center to be exempt from licensing?

Analysis: 39% of states that exempt some Head Start programs reported that the reason was the Head Start program was part of a public school and another 6% reported it was due to the program being part of a private school. Other exemptions included limited hours and limited program components.

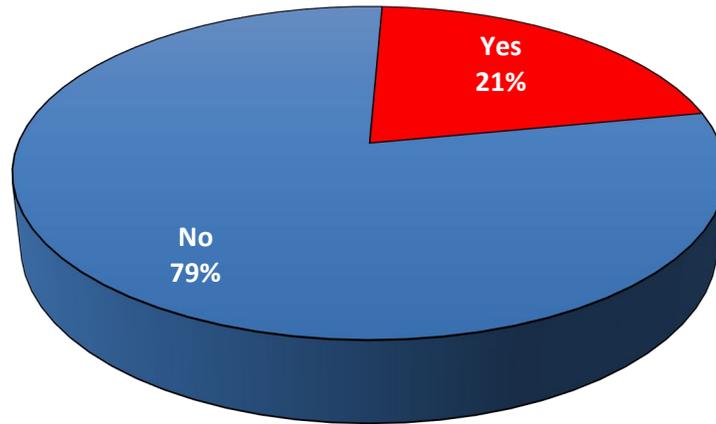


State	Open only part-day hours	Operated by a public school	Operated by a private elementary school	Other licensing exemptions that apply to Head Start centers
Total	1	13	2	15
AK				•
AL				
AR				
AZ				
CA				•
CO				
CT				•
DC		•		
DE				
FL			•	
GA				
HI				
IA		•		
ID				•
IL		•		
IN				
KS		•		
KY		•		
LA				•
MA		•		
MD		•		
ME				
MI				
MN				•
MO				
MP				
MS		•		
MT	•			
NC				
ND				•
NE				
NH		•		
NJ			•	
NM		•		
NV				
NY				
OH				•
OK				•
OR				•
PA				•
RI				
SC				•
SD				•
TN		•		
TX				•
UT				
VA		•		
VT				
WA				•
WI				
WV				
WY		•		

Head Start - Challenges

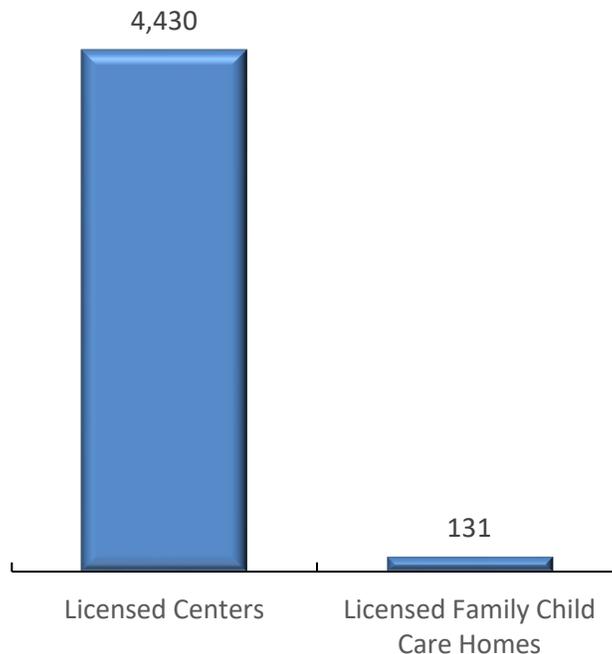
Question: Have there been any challenges for Head Start centers in meeting the licensing requirements?

Analysis: One in 5 programs reported challenges meeting licensing requirements for Head Start centers. The primary reason is the differing requirements between state regulations and the federal Head Start regulations.



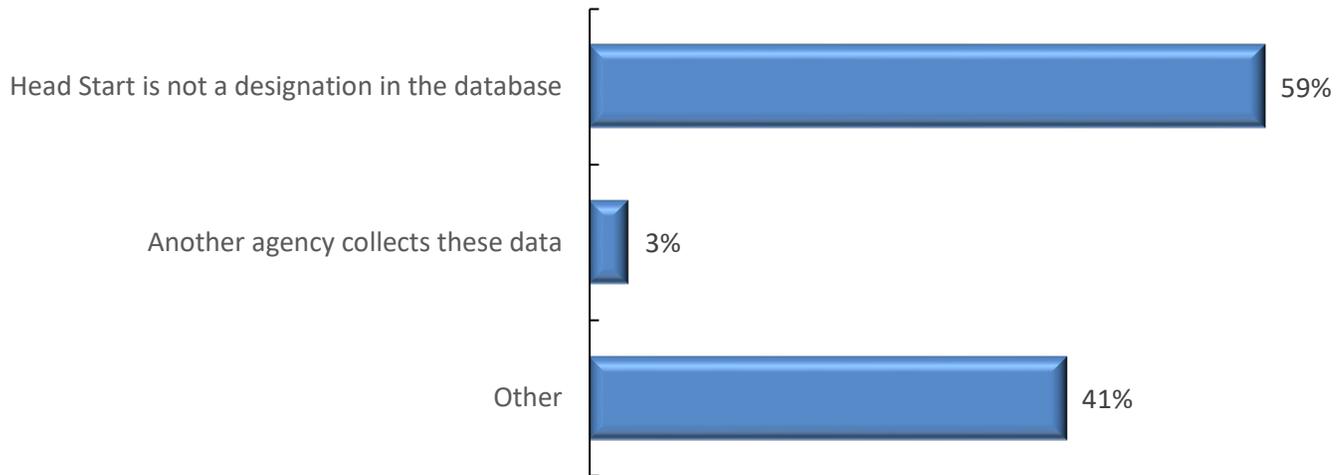
Question: Please provide information about the number of licensed Head Start centers and family child care homes in your state/territory as of December 31, 2023.

Analysis: Only 30 states reported numbers for Licensed Head Start centers and Licensed Head Start FCC homes, while 19 states did not provide any data. The responding states reported a total of 4,430 licensed Head Start Centers and 131 Licensed Head Start FCC homes.



Question: If you cannot provide the number of licensed Head Start centers and family child care homes, please describe why the data is not available.

Analysis: Of the states reporting issues capturing the number of licensed Head Start programs, 59% said the reason was that Head Start was not a designation in the database while 3% reported other agencies collecting the data. While 41% reported other reasons for not capturing the number of Head Start programs, most were some variation of not being able to identify the programs in the data.

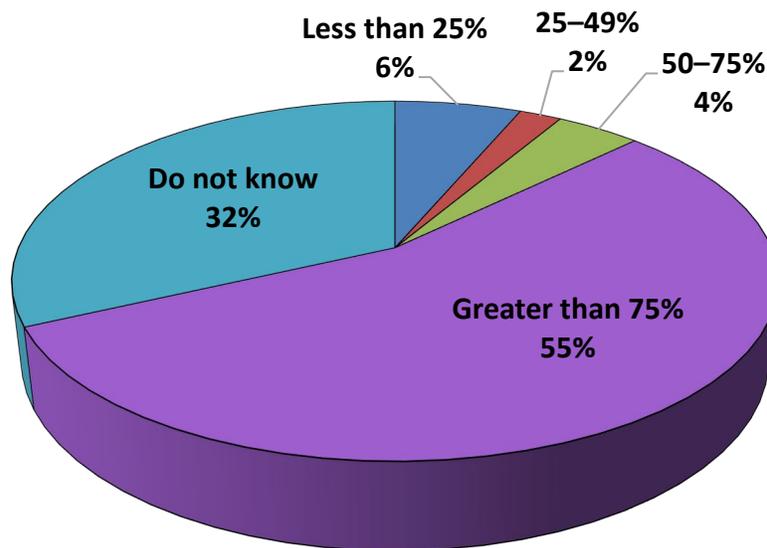


State	Head Start is not a designation in the database	Another agency collects these data	Other
Total	17	1	12
AK			
AL	•		
AR			
AZ	•		
CA	•		
CO	•		
CT			
DC			•
DE			
FL			
GA			
HI			•
IA	•		
ID	•		
IL			•
IN			•
KS		•	
KY	•		
LA			•
MA			
MD	•		
ME			•
MI			•
MN	•		
MO	•		
MP			•
MS			•
MT	•		

State	Head Start is not a designation in the database	Another agency collects these data	Other
NC			
ND			
NE			
NH			
NJ	•		
NM			
NV			
NY	•		
OH			
OK			
OR			
PA			
RI			•
SC			•
SD			
TN	•		
TX	•		
UT			
VA	•		
VT			
WA			•
WI	•		
WV			
WY			

Question: Approximately what percentage of Head Start centers are licensed (whether voluntarily or because of a requirement) in your state/territory as of December 31, 2023?

Analysis: Almost 60% of the states reporting (n=47) said that more than 50% of Head Start centers are licensed, and 55% said more than 75% of Head Start centers are licensed. Only 8% of states reported less than half of their Head Start centers are licensed. A total of 32% of the states with a response did not know what percentage of Head Start centers are licensed.



State	Less than 25%	25 – 49%	50 – 75%	Greater than 75%	Do not know
Total	3	1	2	26	15
AK	•				
AL				•	
AR				•	
AZ					•
CA					•
CO				•	
CT			•		
DC				•	
DE				•	
FL					
GA					
HI				•	
IA					•
ID	•				
IL					•
IN					•
KS		•			
KY					•
LA				•	
MA				•	
MD			•		
ME				•	
MI				•	
MN					•
MO				•	
MP					•
MS				•	
MT					•
NC				•	
ND					
NE					
NH				•	
NJ				•	
NM				•	
NV					•
NY				•	
OH				•	
OK					•
OR				•	
PA	•				
RI				•	
SC				•	
SD					•
TN				•	
TX					•
UT					
VA					•
VT				•	
WA					•
WI				•	
WV				•	
WY				•	

LICENSE EXEMPT PROGRAMS

Summary:

In 2023, fewer states reported that license-exempt centers were required to get a license if receiving a subsidy payment, but there was no change in the number of states requiring a license-exempt home to get a license if receiving a subsidy payment. There were more states reporting not having a voluntary licensing process or application process for exempt programs to become licensed.

There was a slight increase in the number of states reporting that the licensing agency also conducted inspections of license-exempt programs and similar numbers of states reporting that licensing agency staff was responsible for inspection of both licensed and license-exempt programs. The number of states reporting the use of other staff or contractors tripled, from 6 states in 2017 to 18 in 2023.

While not a question in 2017, a total of 40% of states reporting to the question indicated staff caseloads have increased due to the inspection of license-exempt programs. Fewer states in 2023 reported that all license requirements applied to license-exempt programs, seeming to indicate a shift to requiring only some of the licensing requirements. More states reported having different requirements for license-exempt programs in 2023.

Number of License Exempt Program Inspections

Question: How many LICENSE-EXEMPT child care programs are being inspected as of December 31, 2023?

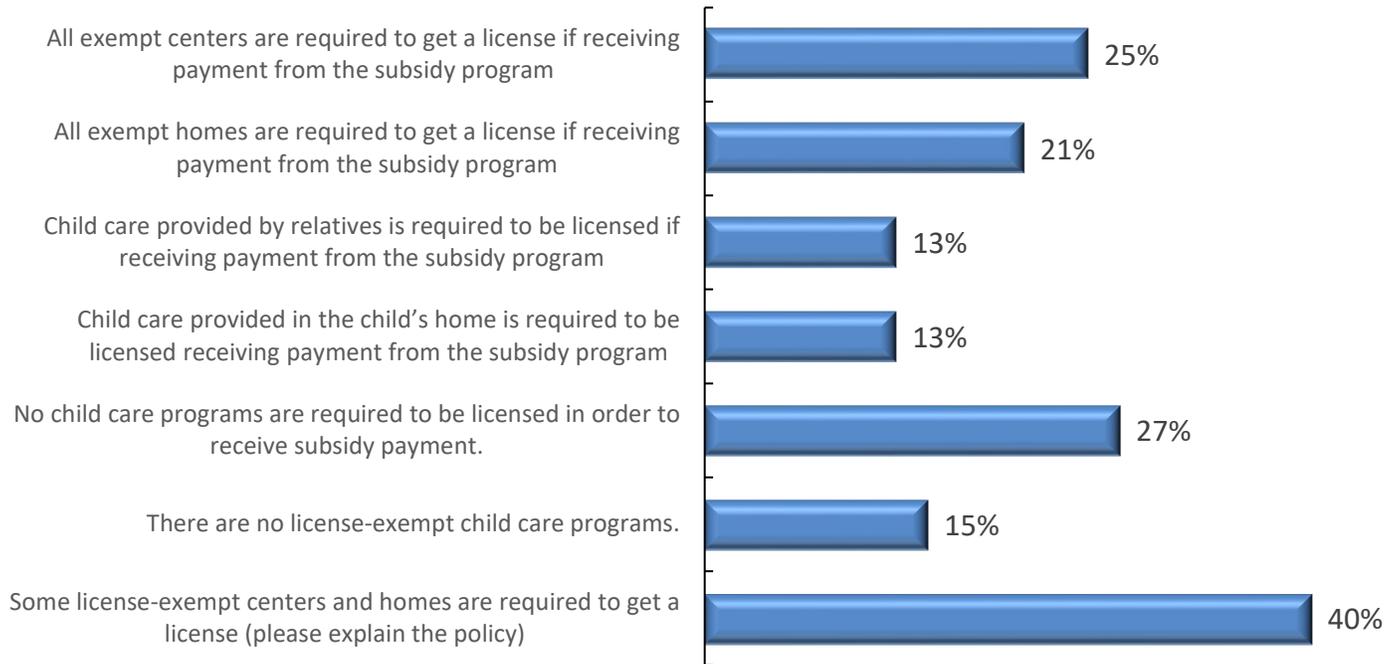
State	License-exempt homes	License-exempt centers	In-home providers (in child's home)
Total	8,485	3,781	697
AK	5	0	2
AL		30	
AR			
AZ			
CA	N/A	N/A	N/A
CO	8		
CT	N/A	107	N/A
DC	N/A	N/A	0
DE	0	0	0
FL	119	881	0
GA	0	182	0
HI	90	181	0
IA	80	0	0
ID			
IL			
IN	126	395	2
KS			
KY	0	0	0
LA	282	0	3
MA			
MD	0	0	189
ME	14	25	N/A
MI			
MN			
MO			
MP	0	0	29
MS	N/A	N/A	100
MT	45	0	
NC		471	
ND	34	0	0
NE	0	0	0

State	License-exempt homes	License-exempt centers	In-home providers (in child's home)
NH	14	8	0
NJ	1363	0	238
NM	943		
NV			
NY	3851		
OH	0	0	20
OK			
OR	345	72	N/A
PA	0	0	0
RI	0	0	0
SC	386	107	52
SD	12	N/A	8
TN	81	300	
TX	0	0	0
UT	116	155	54
VA	571	867	N/A
VT	0	0	0
WA			
WI			
WV	0	0	0
WY			

License Exempt and Subsidy Payments

Question: Are license-exempt centers and homes required to get a license if they receive payment from the child care subsidy program?

Analysis: Only 25% of the states reporting said that all exempt centers were required to be licensed if receiving a subsidy payment and just 21% of states reported exempt homes were required to get licensed to receive subsidy payments. A total of 42% of states either did not require exempt programs to get licensed to receive subsidy payments or did not have license exempt programs in the state. Approximately 40% of states reported that some exempt centers and homes were required to get a license to receive subsidy payments. Those situations typically involved Head Start, faith based programs, or some other publicly operated program.



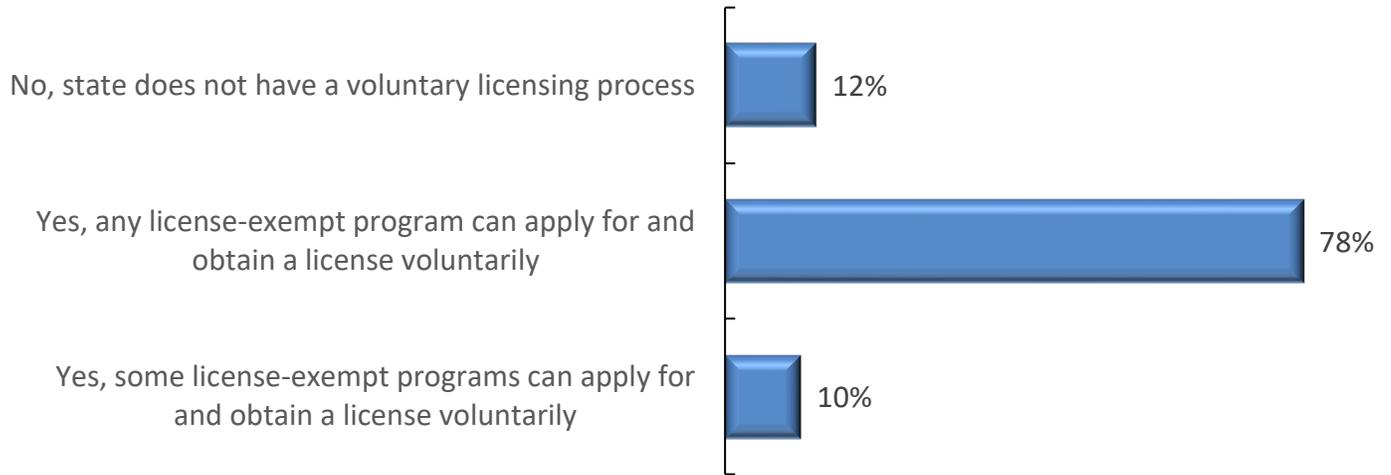
State	All exempt centers are required to get a license if receiving payment from the subsidy program	All exempt homes are required to get a license if receiving payment from the subsidy program	Child care provided by relatives is required to be licensed if receiving payment from the subsidy program	Child care provided in the child's home is required to be licensed receiving payment from the subsidy program	No child care programs are required to be licensed in order to receive subsidy payment	There are no license-exempt child care programs	Some license-exempt centers and homes are required to get a license
Total	12	10	6	6	13	7	19
AK							•
AL							•
AR						•	
AZ	•						
CA					•		
CO							•
CT	•	•					
DC							•
DE	•	•					
FL					•		•
GA					•		
HI					•		
IA							•
ID							•
IL							
IN					•		
KS	•						
KY						•	
LA							•
MA					•		•
MD							
ME					•		
MI							•
MN	•						•
MO					•		

State	All exempt centers are required to get a license if receiving payment from the subsidy program	All exempt homes are required to get a license if receiving payment from the subsidy program	Child care provided by relatives is required to be licensed if receiving payment from the subsidy program	Child care provided in the child's home is required to be licensed receiving payment from the subsidy program	No child care programs are required to be licensed in order to receive subsidy payment	There are no license-exempt child care programs	Some license-exempt centers and homes are required to get a license
MP							
MS	•	•					
MT		•	•	•			
NC			•	•			•
ND					•		
NE							•
NH							•
NJ							•
NM	•	•	•	•			
NV							
NY					•		
OH	•	•	•	•			•
OK	•	•	•				
OR					•		
PA						•	
RI						•	
SC							•
SD		•		•		•	
TN							•
TX	•	•	•	•			
UT	•						
VA					•		
VT						•	
WA							•
WI	•	•					
WV						•	
WY					•		

Voluntary Licensure of Exempt Facilities

Question: If a license-exempt facility wants to obtain a license, does the state have a process for voluntary licensure?

Analysis: Almost 78% of states reported that any license exempt facility that wanted to could apply for and obtain a license voluntarily. Another 10% of states reported that some exempt facilities could get a license. Those that could not were usually informal, religious, military, tribal, school-based, or those not meeting the definition of child care.

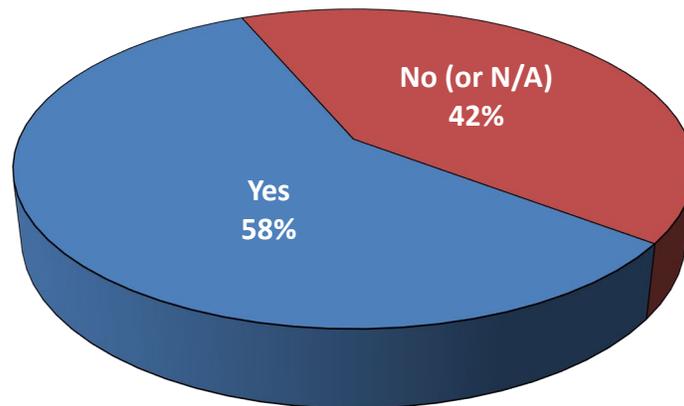


State	No, state does not have a voluntary licensing process	Yes, any license-exempt facility can apply for and obtain a license voluntarily	Yes, some license-exempt facilities can apply for and obtain a license voluntarily.
Total	6	38	5
AK			•
AL			•
AR			
AZ		•	
CA		•	
CO		•	
CT		•	
DC		•	
DE		•	
FL		•	
GA	•		
HI		•	
IA		•	
ID		•	
IL		•	
IN		•	
KS		•	
KY		•	
LA		•	
MA		•	
MD		•	
ME		•	
MI		•	
MN		•	
MO		•	
MP	•		
MS		•	
MT	•		
NC		•	
ND		•	
NE		•	
NH		•	
NJ			•
NM		•	
NV			
NY		•	
OH		•	

State	No, state does not have a voluntary licensing process	Yes, any license-exempt facility can apply for and obtain a license voluntarily	Yes, some license-exempt facilities can apply for and obtain a license voluntarily.
OK		•	
OR		•	
PA	•		
RI			
SC		•	
SD		•	
TN		•	
TX		•	
UT		•	
VA			•
VT	•		
WA			•
WI		•	
WV	•		
WY		•	

Inspections of License Exempt Centers

Question: The Child Care and Development Fund requires states to conduct an annual inspection of center-based facilities and home-based providers that are legally exempt from licensing and receive payment from CCDF. Are inspections of license-exempt centers and homes administered by the licensing agency?



State	Yes	No/No Exempt Programs
Total	28	20
AK	•	
AL	•	
AR		
AZ		N/A
CA		N/A
CO	•	
CT	•	
DC	•	
DE		•
FL	•	
GA	•	
HI	•	

State	Yes	No/No Exempt Programs
IA	•	
ID		•
IL		
IN	•	
KS		•
KY		•
LA	•	
MA	•	
MD		•
ME	•	
MI		•
MN		•
MO	•	
MP		•
MS	•	
MT	•	
NC	•	
ND	•	
NE		•
NH	•	
NJ		•
NM	•	
NV		
NY		•
OH	•	
OK		•
OR	•	
PA		N/A
RI		N/A
SC		•
SD	•	
TN	•	
TX		•
UT	•	
VA	•	
VT		N/A
WA	•	
WI	•	
WV		N/A
WY		

Question: Which staff are conducting the inspections of license-exempt programs?

Analysis: Of the 28 states that reported the licensing agency was responsible for inspecting license-exempt centers and homes, 71 percent reported that existing staff were responsible for inspecting both licensed and license-exempt programs. Two states each used dedicated existing staff, new staff to inspect both license-exempt and licensed programs, or hired new dedicated staff. A total of 18 states reported not having exempt programs or using other than licensing agency personnel to inspect license-exempt programs.

State	Existing licensing agency staff assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt programs	Existing licensing agency staff reassigned to inspect ONLY license-exempt programs	New licensing agency staff assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt programs	New licensing agency staff hired to inspect ONLY license-exempt programs	Other staff, contractors, or entities
Total	20	2	2	2	18
AK	•				
AL	•				

State	Existing licensing agency staff assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt programs	Existing licensing agency staff reassigned to inspect ONLY license-exempt programs	New licensing agency staff assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt programs	New licensing agency staff hired to inspect ONLY license-exempt programs	Other staff, contractors, or entities
AR					
AZ					•
CA					•
CO				•	
CT	•				
DC					•
DE					
FL	•				
GA		•			
HI	•				
IA	•				
ID					•
IL					•
IN					•
KS					
KY					•
LA	•				
MA	•				
MD					•
ME	•				
MI					
MN					
MO				•	
MP					
MS	•				
MT	•				
NC	•				
ND	•				
NE					•
NH	•				
NJ					•
NM	•				
NV					
NY					•
OH	•				•
OK					•
OR	•				
PA					
RI					
SC					•
SD	•				
TN			•		
TX					•
UT		•			
VA	•		•		
VT					•
WA					•
WI	•				
WV					•
WY					

Question: Which statement(s) best describe your states' staffing assignments of license-exempt centers and homes receiving payment from the subsidy program?

Analysis: Just over half the states reporting indicated that staff are assigned to inspect both licensed and license-exempt centers and homes that receive subsidy payments. Other responses indicated that there were no exempt centers or homes participating in the subsidy program, or that the state only had exempt homes, not centers. Just over 13% of states reported having dedicated staff who only inspected license exempt programs.

State	Staff are assigned to inspect ONLY license-exempt programs	Staff are assigned to inspect ONLY license-exempt HOMES	Staff are assigned to inspect ONLY license-exempt CENTERS	Staff are assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt programs	Staff are assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt HOMES	Staff are assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt CENTERS	Other
Total	5	1	0	21	1	1	9
AK				•			
AL				•			
AR							
AZ							
CA							•
CO	•						
CT				•			
DC		•					
DE							
FL				•			
GA	•						
HI				•			
IA				•			
ID							
IL							•
IN				•			
KS							
KY							•
LA				•			
MA				•			
MD	•						
ME				•			
MI							
MN							
MO	•						
MP							
MS						•	
MT				•			
NC				•			
ND				•			
NE							•
NH				•			
NJ							•
NM					•		
NV							
NY							
OH				•			
OK							
OR				•			
PA							
RI							
SC				•			
SD				•			
TN				•			
TX							•

State	Staff are assigned to inspect ONLY license-exempt programs	Staff are assigned to inspect ONLY license-exempt HOMES	Staff are assigned to inspect ONLY license-exempt CENTERS	Staff are assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt programs	Staff are assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt HOMES	Staff are assigned to inspect BOTH licensed and license-exempt CENTERS	Other
UT	•						
VA				•			
VT							•
WA							•
WI				•			
WV							•
WY							

Question: How has the addition of inspecting license-exempt programs receiving payment from the subsidy program impacted staff caseloads?

Analysis: Of the 33 states with responses to this question, nearly 40% reported that caseloads had increased for the inspection of license-exempt centers and homes. Nearly 60% of the states reported caseloads remained the same. One state reported a decrease in caseloads.

State	Caseloads have increased	Caseloads have decreased	Caseloads have remained the same
Total	13	1	19
AK	•		
AL			•
AR			
AZ			
CA			
CO			•
CT	•		
DC			•
DE			
FL	•		
GA			•
HI	•		
IA		•	
ID			
IL			
IN			•
KS			
KY			•
LA			•
MA	•		
MD			•
ME	•		
MI			
MN			
MO			•
MP			
MS	•		
MT			•
NC			•
ND			•
NE			
NH	•		
NJ			•
NM			•
NV			

State	Caseloads have increased	Caseloads have decreased	Caseloads have remained the same
NY			
OH			•
OK			
OR	•		
PA			
RI			
SC	•		
SD			•
TN	•		
TX			•
UT			•
VA	•		
VT			•
WA			
WI	•		
WV			
WY			

Question: What is the average caseload for staff assigned to inspect license-exempt centers and homes receiving payment from the subsidy program?

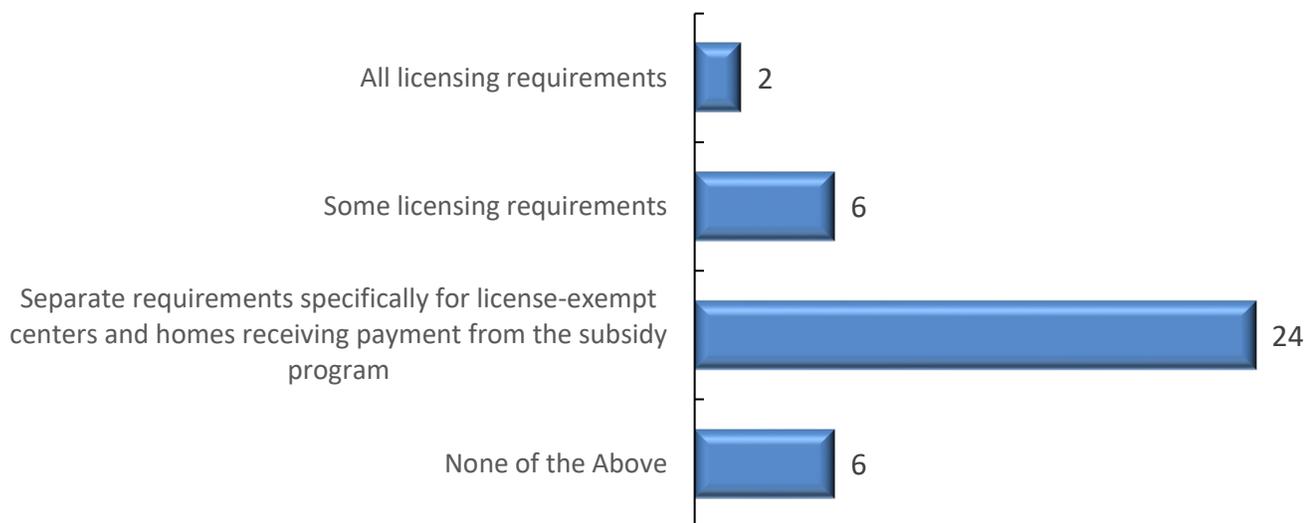
State	Average Caseload for Staff Assigned to Inspect License-Exempt Programs Receiving Payment from the Subsidy Program
Total	13
AK	50 or less
AL	72
AR	
AZ	
CA	n/a
CO	One staff member for the 8 programs.
CT	115
DC	0
DE	
FL	Same staff assigned to inspect licensed programs- total caseload 52.8
GA	23
HI	10
IA	We only have 66 programs across 8 team members that meet definition of license exempt
ID	
IL	
IN	
KS	
KY	na
LA	55-65 licensed and licensed exempt sites per specialist
MA	8 to 20
MD	MD has 3 staff who manage the cases. A manager oversees them.
ME	A range of 80 to 95 per Child Care Licensing Specialist with Licensed and License - Exempt programs.
MI	
MN	
MO	100
MP	
MS	50-60 centers/ licensing official
MT	There are currently two licensors who divide the state, one is primarily assigned to license exempt programs.
NC	
ND	60
NE	Licensing does not administer these inspections.
NH	Average caseloads for per licensing staff is 65-75, the addition of license-exempt programs has not significantly increased caseloads.
NJ	
NM	59

State	Average Caseload for Staff Assigned to Inspect License-Exempt Programs Receiving Payment from the Subsidy Program
NV	
NY	
OH	County caseloads for in-home aides are minimal as we have approximately 25-30 in the state. Approved day camps vary each year, with each DCY licensing staff having approximately 10 approved day camps in their caseload.
OK	
OR	70
PA	
RI	
SC	ABC Quality has 3 Health Educators who divide the caseload of 30 programs each.
SD	1 staff for every two programs
TN	62
TX	N/A - all CCDF recipients are licensed.
UT	155
VA	60 (caseloads consist of both license exempt and licensed)
VT	N/A
WA	As of 2018, this process had not started yet so we are unclear of the number of sites needed to inspect and what the caseloads might look like
WI	15
WV	N/A
WY	

Licensing Requirements for Exempt Programs

Question: Which program requirements apply to license-exempt centers and homes receiving payment from the subsidy program?

Analysis: Only 2 (5%) of the states with responses (n=38) indicated that all licensing requirements were required for license exempt centers and homes receiving subsidy payments while 6 states (16%) reported that at least some of the requirements applied. In 63% of states with responses, there are separate requirements for license-exempt centers and homes receiving subsidy payments.

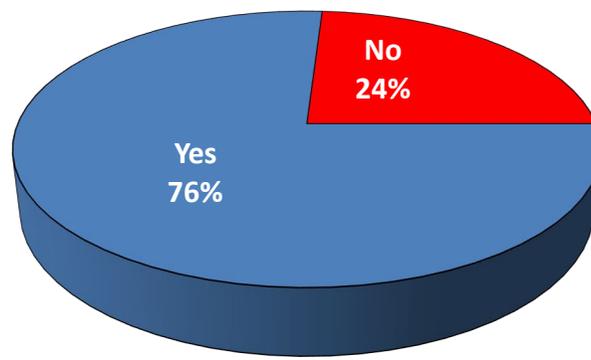


State	All licensing requirements	Some licensing requirements	Separate requirements specifically for license-exempt centers and homes receiving payment from the subsidy program	None of the Above	Requirements for license exempt programs are NOT different	Requirements for license exempt programs ARE different
Total	2	6	24	6	8	29
AK			•			•
AL			•			•
AR						
AZ						
CA				•		•
CO			•			•
CT			•			•
DC		•				•
DE						
FL			•		•	
GA			•			•
HI			•			•
IA			•			•
ID						
IL						
IN		•			•	
KS						
KY				•	•	
LA			•			•
MA			•			•
MD		•				•
ME			•			•
MI						
MN						
MO			•			•
MP				•		
MS		•				•
MT			•			•
NC		•				•
ND		•				•
NE			•			•
NH			•			•
NJ			•			•
NM			•			•
NV						
NY						
OH			•			•
OK						
OR			•			•
PA						
RI						
SC			•			•
SD	•				•	
TN			•		•	
TX				•	•	
UT			•			•
VA			•			•
VT				•	•	
WA			•			•
WI	•					•

State	All licensing requirements	Some licensing requirements	Separate requirements specifically for license-exempt centers and homes receiving payment from the subsidy program	None of the Above	Requirements for license exempt programs are NOT different	Requirements for license exempt programs ARE different
WV				.	.	
WY						

Question: Are the requirements different for license-exempt programs?

Analysis: More than three-fourths of states with responses (n=37) reported having different licensing requirements for exempt programs.



Training for License-Exempt Program Inspections

Question: Please describe how new and existing staff have been trained to conduct inspections in license-exempt programs. How is the training different from the training for conducting licensing inspections?

Analysis: New and existing staff receive a structured blend of onboarding, peer mentoring, and ongoing support to ensure they can effectively monitor license-exempt child care programs. While the overall inspection methodology mirrors that of licensing inspections, the focus shifts to a subset of health, safety, and subsidy compliance requirements unique to exempt providers.

Key Differences from Licensing Inspection Training

Although the inspection process follows the same structured protocol, the training diverges in three main ways:

- **Scope of Rules:** License-exempt monitoring zeroes in on a narrowed subset of group-care regulations, whereas licensing covers the full spectrum of health, safety, staff-to-child ratios, and facility standards.
- **Checklist Variations:** Exempt inspections employ customized checklists that emphasize subsidy eligibility, announced vs. unannounced visit schedules, and self-attestation requirements.
- **Regulatory Focus:** Licensing staff delve deeper into facility licensing requirements (e.g., building codes, personnel qualifications), while exempt training prioritizes compliance with CCDF subsidy guidelines and minimal safety mandates.

The full responses by state are available in Appendix I.

Differences in Inspection Requirements

Question: Please describe how the approach for conducting inspections in license-exempt programs is different than inspections for licensed programs. Does the licensing agency offer more support and technical assistance to the license-exempt providers?

Analysis: The following is a summary of the open-ended responses to differences in requirements between licensed and exempt programs. The full responses by state are available in Appendix I.

Regulation and Rules

Licensed Programs

- Must meet the full set of state licensing regulations, including staff-to-child ratios, indoor/outdoor space standards, curriculum guidelines, and ongoing professional development hours.
- Inspections typically include unannounced visits after initial licensing, with stricter citation and penalty structures for deficiencies.

License-Exempt Programs

- Monitored on a subset of rules focused primarily on core health and safety (background checks, sanitation, basic first aid, safe sleeping practices).
- Use a shorter, tailored checklist reflecting fewer regulatory requirements.
- Visits are almost always announced in advance and occur at least once a year.

Support and Technical Assistance

Both types of providers receive ongoing support from the licensing agency, but their needs differ:

Licensed Providers

- Access to in-depth training on complex regulations (curriculum design, advanced behavior management, staff credentialing).
- Regular webinars, resource libraries, and peer-to-peer learning networks.

License-Exempt Providers

- Often relative or in-home caregivers new to subsidy-eligibility requirements.
- Receive extra hand-holding during the initial inspection cycle: one-on-one walkthroughs of health/safety standards, help completing subsidy paperwork, and guided tutorials on tracking attendance or meal reporting.
- Referral to the provider certification team or quality coaches for practical tips and troubleshooting.

ILLEGALLY OPERATING PROVIDERS

Summary:

Almost every state identifies and addresses illegally operating providers through complaints received by the public. The methods states used to identify illegally operating providers varied little between 2017 and 2023 though there was a significant increase in the number of states seeking to educate the public with a campaign about licensing.

Almost every state (96 percent) encourages a provider to become licensed when found to be operating illegally. This represents an increase from 2017. Every method for addressing illegally operating providers saw an increase in use by the states suggesting states try a number of different options as circumstances dictate.

Identifying Illegally Operating Providers

Question: How does your agency address the issue of illegally operating providers (providers who are required to be licensed under state statute but are not)?

Analysis: All states said they respond to complaints received from the public when trying to address illegally operating providers. Almost two-thirds (62%) work with local law enforcement, while 25% monitor local provider listings/advertisements, and 35% use public information/education campaigns to help inform the public.

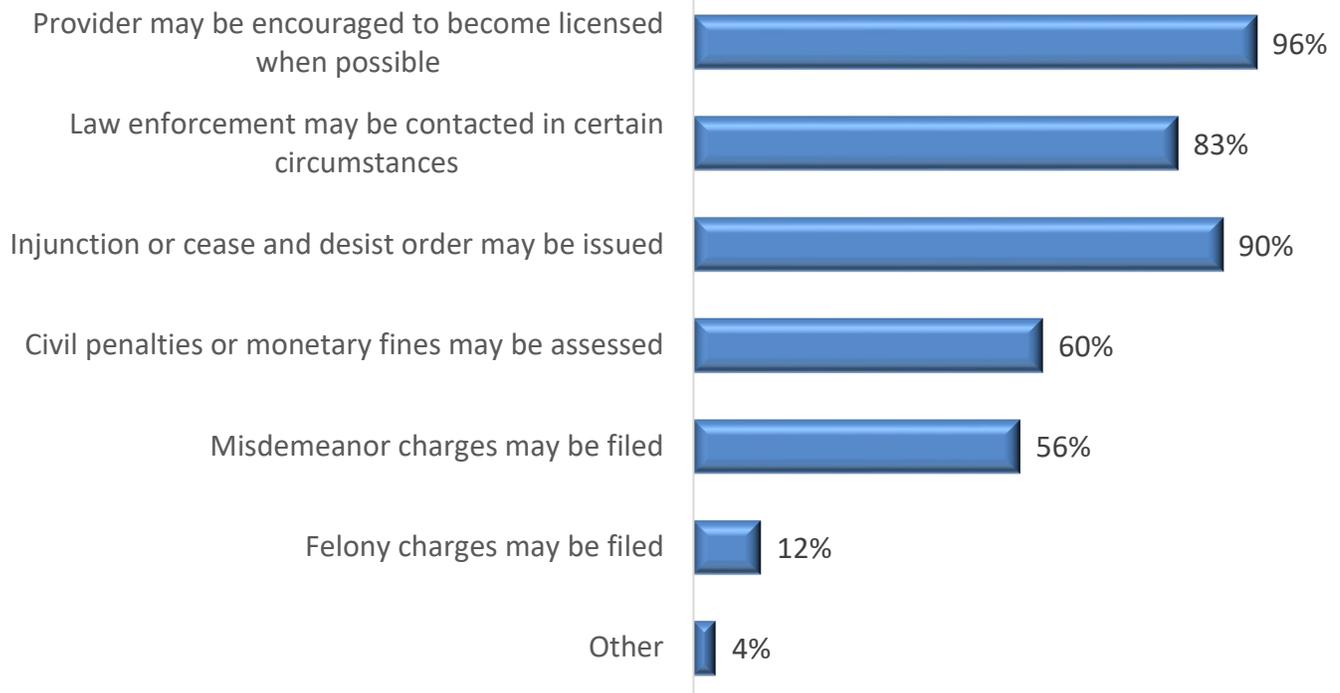
State	Respond to complaints received by the public	Monitor listings where providers advertise	Seek to educate the public with a campaign about licensing	Work with local law enforcement	Other
Total	52	13	18	32	11
AK	•			•	
AL	•	•		•	•
AR	•				
AZ	•				
CA	•		•		
CO	•		•	•	
CT	•		•		•
DC	•				
DE	•		•		
FL	•		•		
GA	•	•			
HI	•				
IA	•			•	
ID	•			•	
IL	•			•	•
IN	•	•	•	•	
KS	•	•	•	•	
KY	•	•	•	•	•
LA	•				•
MA	•	•	•		
MD	•			•	•
ME	•				
MI	•			•	•
MN	•			•	
MO	•			•	
MP	•				•
MS	•			•	
MT	•			•	
NC	•			•	
ND	•		•	•	
NE	•	•		•	

State	Respond to complaints received by the public	Monitor listings where providers advertise	Seek to educate the public with a campaign about licensing	Work with local law enforcement	Other
NH	•			•	
NJ	•			•	
NM	•			•	
NV	•	•	•	•	
NY	•	•	•		
OH	•				
OK	•				
OR	•	•	•		
PA	•			•	
RI	•	•	•	•	
SC	•		•	•	
SD	•			•	
TN	•			•	
TX	•	•	•	•	•
UT	•				
VA	•		•	•	•
VT	•				
WA	•			•	•
WI	•	•	•		
WV	•			•	
WY	•			•	

Addressing Illegally Operating Providers

Question: What actions can be taken when a provider is found to be operating illegally?

Analysis: When a provider is found to be operating illegally, more than 96% of states encourage the provider to become licensed, while in more than 90% of the cases an injunction or cease and desist order may be issued. In 83% of the instances, law enforcement may be contacted while just under 60% of the time an illegally operating provider may face civil penalties, monetary fines, or misdemeanor charges. In almost 12% of cases felony charges may be filed.



State	Provider may be encouraged to become licensed when possible	Law enforcement may be contacted in certain circumstances	Injunction or cease and desist order may be issued	Civil penalties or monetary fines may be assessed	Misdemeanor charges may be filed	Felony charges may be filed	Other
Total	50	43	47	31	29	6	2
AK	•	•	•				
AL	•	•		•	•		
AR			•				
AZ	•	•	•	•			
CA	•	•	•	•			
CO	•	•	•	•	•		
CT	•		•	•			
DC	•	•	•				
DE	•	•	•	•	•		
FL	•		•	•	•	•	
GA	•	•	•				
HI	•		•	•			
IA	•	•	•		•		
ID	•	•			•		
IL	•	•					•
IN		•	•	•	•		
KS	•	•	•				
KY	•	•	•	•	•	•	
LA	•	•	•	•	•		
MA	•		•	•			
MD	•	•	•	•	•		
ME	•		•	•			
MI	•	•	•				
MN	•	•	•		•		
MO	•	•	•	•	•		
MP	•		•	•	•		
MS	•	•	•				

State	Provider may be encouraged to become licensed when possible	Law enforcement may be contacted in certain circumstances	Injunction or cease and desist order may be issued	Civil penalties or monetary fines may be assessed	Misdemeanor charges may be filed	Felony charges may be filed	Other
MT	•	•					
NC	•	•	•	•	•	•	
ND	•	•	•			•	
NE	•	•	•		•	•	
NH	•	•	•	•	•		
NJ	•	•	•	•			•
NM	•	•	•	•	•		
NV	•	•	•				
NY	•	•	•	•	•	•	
OH	•	•	•	•	•		
OK	•	•	•	•	•		
OR	•	•	•	•			
PA	•	•	•	•			
RI	•	•	•		•		
SC	•	•	•				
SD	•	•			•		
TN	•	•	•				
TX	•	•	•	•	•		
UT	•		•	•	•		
VA	•	•	•		•		
VT	•		•		•		
WA	•	•	•	•	•		
WI	•	•	•	•			
WV	•	•	•	•	•		
WY	•	•	•	•	•		

FIRE SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, AND BUILDING CODE INSPECTIONS

Summary:

One state reported a change from 2017 to indicate fire safety inspections were not required by child care programs. The number of states requiring inspections for each program type otherwise remained nearly the same though three additional states reported requiring Large/Group FCC Homes to have fire safety inspections. Fire safety inspections are still generally required prior to licensure and once a year thereafter.

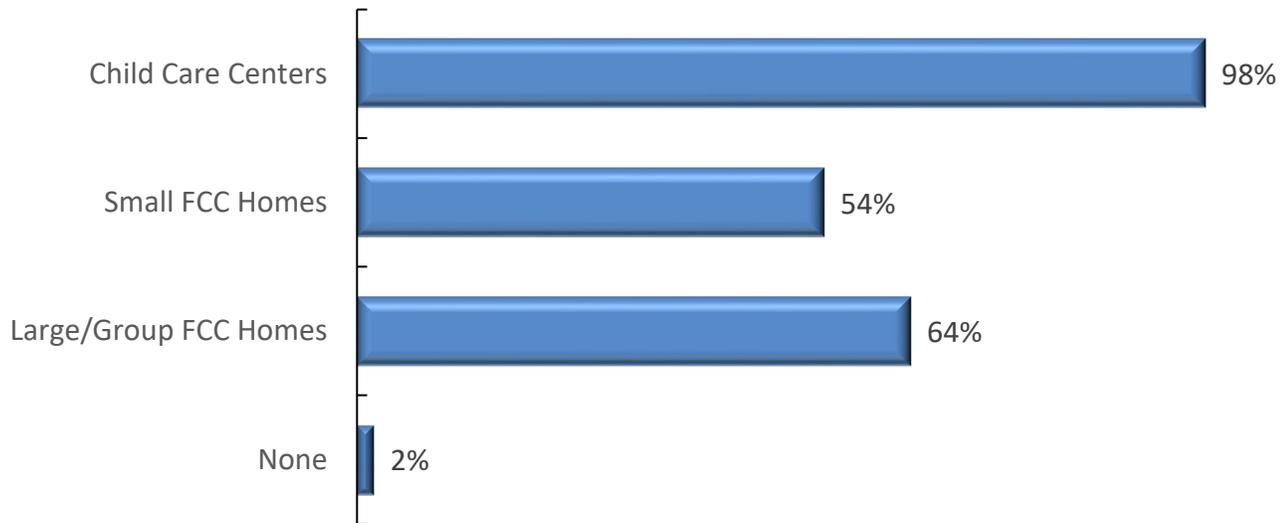
Two additional states reported conducting environmental health inspections for Centers, four additional for Small FCC Homes, and an additional five states reported conducting environment health inspections for Large/Group FCC Homes. Like fire safety, environment health inspections are usually done prior to licensing and once a year thereafter.

Building code inspections are conducted for Centers in 38 states, the same as in 2017, though there was a slight increase in the number of states requiring them for FCC Homes. Building code inspections generally happened prior to licensure though there is a increase in 2023 in the number of states conducting annual building code inspections. Even so, only about 25 percent of states conducting building code inspections conduct them after initial licensure.

Fire Safety

Question: Fire safety inspections are required for which type of licensed child care facilities?

Analysis: Almost every state requires fire safety inspections for child care centers. Just over half of all states require fire safety inspections for small FCC homes and almost two thirds of states require them for large/group FCC homes.



State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	None
Total	49	27	32	1
AK	•	•	•	
AL	•			
AR	•	•	•	
AZ	•			
CA	•		•	
CO	•			
CT	•		•	

State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	None
DC	•	•	•	
DE	•	•	•	
FL				
GA	•	•		
HI	•		•	
IA	•			
ID	•	•	•	
IL	•	•	•	
IN	•			
KS				
KY	•	•	•	
LA	•			
MA	•			
MD	•	•	•	
ME	•		•	
MI	•			
MN	•	•	•	
MO	•	•	•	
MP	•	•	•	
MS	•		•	
MT	•			
NC	•	•		
ND	•	•	•	
NE	•	•	•	
NH	•	•	•	
NJ	•			
NM	•	•	•	
NV	•	•	•	
NY	•	•	•	
OH	•	•	•	
OK	•			
OR	•			
PA	•	•	•	
RI	•	•	•	
SC	•	•	•	
SD	•	•		
TN	•	•	•	
TX	•		•	
UT	•	•	•	
VA	•			
VT	•		•	
WA	•			
WI				•
WV	•		•	
WY	•	•	•	

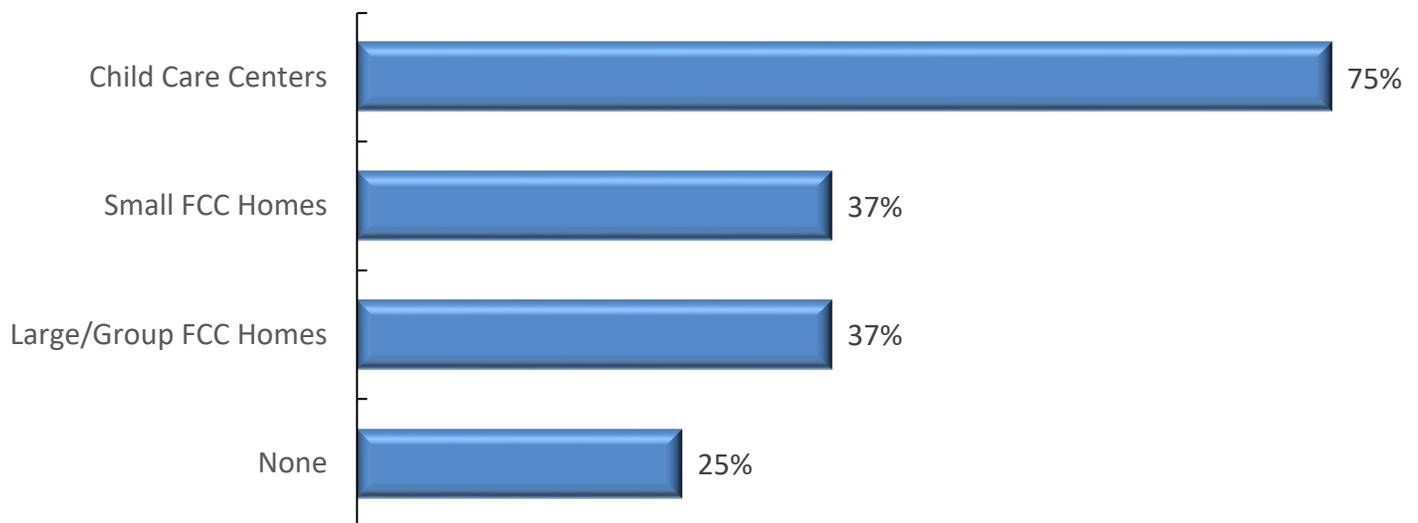
Question: What is the frequency of fire safety inspections?

	Child Care Center	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Prior to licensure	47	26	32
Once a year	31	16	18
Once every two years	8	2	4
Once every three years	3	2	2
Once every 4 or more years	1	1	1
Other	11	6	7

Environmental Health

Question: Environmental health inspections are required for which type of licensed child care facilities?

Analysis: Environmental health inspections are required in 75% of states for child care centers while these types of inspections are required in 37% of states for FCC homes of any size. In 25% of states, no environmental health inspections are required for any facility type.



State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	None
Total Number of States that Regulate				
	52	47	39	N/A
Total	39	19	19	13
AK				•
AL	•			
AR	•	•	•	
AZ	•			
CA				•
CO	•			
CT	•		•	
DC	•	•	•	
DE				•
FL	•	•	•	
GA	•	•		

State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	None
HI	•			
IA				•
ID				•
IL	•			
IN				•
KS				•
KY				•
LA				•
MA	•			
MD				•
ME				•
MI	•	•	•	
MN	•			
MO	•	•	•	
MP	•	•	•	
MS	•		•	
MT	•			
NC	•	•		
ND	•			
NE	•			
NH	•	•	•	
NJ	•			
NM	•	•	•	
NV	•	•	•	
NY	•			
OH	•			
OK	•			
OR	•		•	
PA				•
RI	•	•	•	
SC	•	•	•	
SD	•	•		
TN	•	•	•	
TX	•			
UT	•	•	•	
VA	•			
VT	•	•	•	
WA	•	•		
WI				•
WV	•		•	
WY	•	•	•	

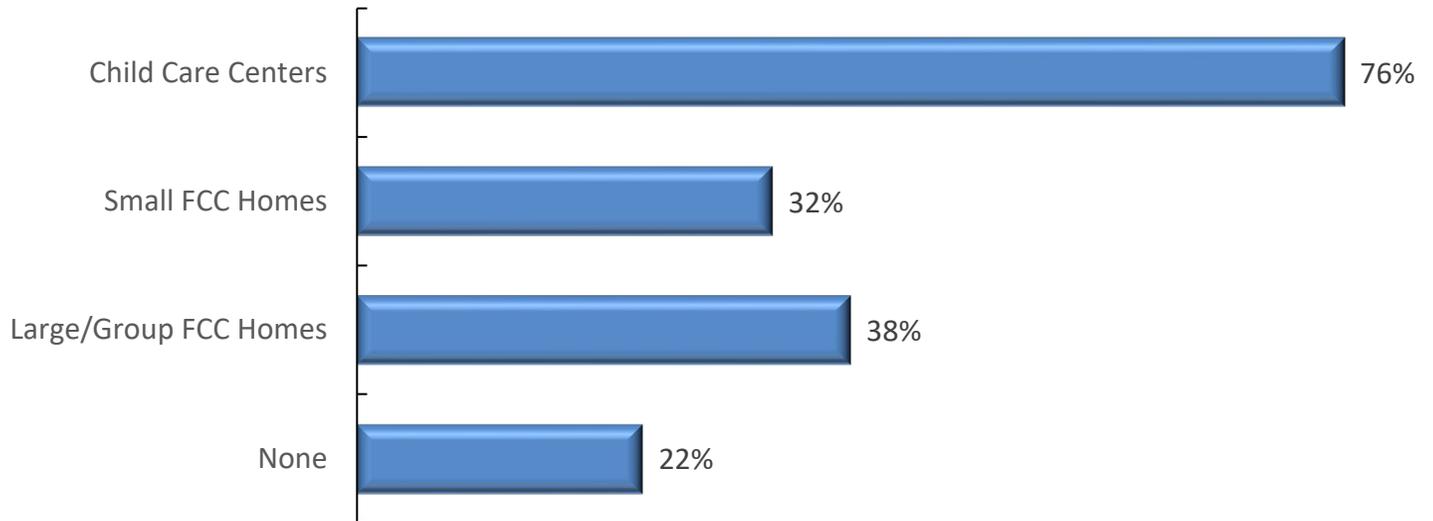
Question: What is the frequency of environmental health inspections?

	Child Care Center	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Prior to licensure	37	16	18
Once a year	23	10	11
Once every two years	7	2	3
Once every three years	5	4	3
Once every four years or more	1	0	0
Other	6	5	5

Building Code Inspections

Question: Building Code Inspections are required for which type of licensed child care facilities?

Analysis: For the states with responses to this question (n=50), 76% of states require building codes inspections for child care centers. 38% of states require them for large/group FCC homes and 32% of states require them for small FCC homes. 22% of states reported not requiring any building code inspections.



State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	None
Total Number of States that Regulate				
	52	47	39	N/A
Total	38	16	19	11
AK	•	•	•	
AL				
AR				•
AZ	•			
CA				•
CO	•			
CT	•		•	
DC	•	•	•	
DE	•	•	•	
FL	•	•	•	
GA	•	•		
HI	•		•	
IA	•			
ID	•	•	•	
IL				
IN	•			
KS	•			
KY				•
LA	•			
MA	•			
MD	•		•	
ME	•		•	
MI				•
MN	•			
MO	•		•	
MP	•	•	•	

State	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes	None
MS				•
MT				•
NC	•			
ND	•	•	•	
NE	•	•	•	
NH	•	•	•	
NJ	•			
NM	•			
NV	•	•	•	
NY	•			
OH	•		•	
OK				•
OR				•
PA	•	•	•	
RI	•	•	•	
SC	•			
SD	•	•		
TN	•	•	•	
TX				•
UT				•
VA	•			
VT		•		
WA	•			
WI	•			
WV				•
WY	•			

Question: What is the frequency of building code inspections?

	Child Care Center	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Prior to licensure	35	13	16
Once a year	9	5	6
Once every two years	0	1	0
Once every three years	0	0	0
Once every 4 or more years	0	0	0
Other	20	10	12

LICENSING STAFF AND CASELOADS

Summary:

Child care licensing line staff often have multiple roles and are rarely limited to inspecting just one type of facility or just child care programs. The number of staff dedicated to inspecting both centers and FCC homes remained the same between 2017 and 2023 and the distribution of staff inspection just one type of program, or other types of programs remained essentially unchanged as well. Four fewer states reported regional variation in staff assignments and there were 9 fewer states reporting line staff were specifically assigned to complaint investigations.

Overall, in 2023 the number of states seeing an increase or decrease in staffing appeared similar to 2017 though fewer states reported seeing no change. Average caseloads appear to have decreased slightly since 2017 though a direct comparison is not possible with the data available.

In 2023 there were an average 6.1 line staff FTEs (non-contracted) per supervisor across all states, a decrease of more than 2.3 FTEs per supervisor over the 2017 average of 8.4. The median increased from 5 FTEs per supervisor in 2017 to 6.2 FTEs per supervisor in 2023.

Only 5 states reported conducting a workload analysis since the previous survey compared to 21 in 2017.

Line Staff Assignments and Caseload

Question: What is the TOTAL NUMBER of child care licensing FRONT LINE STAFF (not including supervisors) conducting inspections in your state?

Analysis: Total number of line staff conducting inspections generally varied according to overall state population and through program structure (such as other state agencies or departments conducting some or all of the inspections). New York, Texas, and California reported the most staff, whereas American Samoa and Rhode Island reported the lowest levels of staffing. Minnesota did not report and Idaho reported that local Health and Fire Departments conduct inspections.

State	Full-time Staff	Part-Time Staff	Full-Time Equivalent Staff	Contracted Staff
Total	2,967	28	471	215
AK	16	0	0	0
AL	26			
AR	31			
AZ	28			
CA	288	0.2	288.2	0
CO	70			
CT	33			
DC	10			
DE	17	0	0	0
FL	123	7	126.5	
GA	119	0	0	4
HI	28	0	0	0
IA	19			
ID				
IL	114			
IN	31			
KS	68	11	73.5	
KY	31	0		3
LA	26	0	0	1
MA	97			
MD	98	2		
ME	18			1

State	Full-time Staff	Part-Time Staff	Full-Time Equivalent Staff	Contracted Staff
MI	90	0	90	
MN			172	
MO	48			
MP	2			
MS	38	0	0	0
MT	11	1		
NC	146			
ND	21	0	0	0
NE	23			
NH	11			
NJ	50		50	
NM	32			
NV	12			
NY	150			180
OH	106	Varies		
OK	91			
OR	62	2	63	0
PA	125	N/A	N/A	N/A
RI	7			
SC	57	0	0	0
SD	11			22
TN	91			
TX	186	0	186	0
UT	21			
VA	92	0	0	0
VT	12			
WA	92			
WI	46	5	50.65	4
WV	31	0	0	0
WY	12			

Question: What is the average statewide caseload front line staff assigned to inspect child care centers and family child care homes?

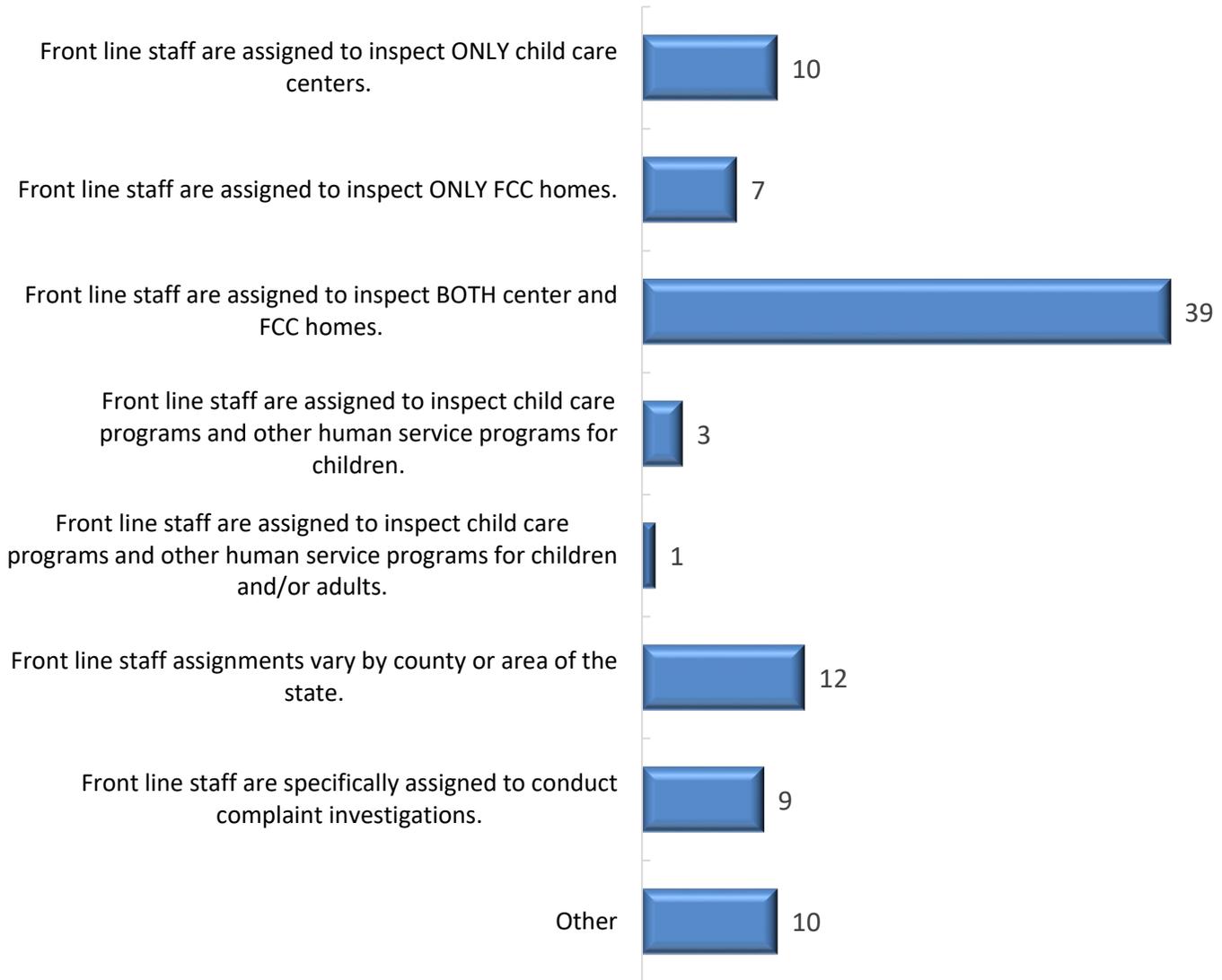
Analysis: Average caseloads for front line staff ranged from a low of 18 to a high of 205. The average is approximately 73, though actual averages vary by program type and a true weighted average cannot be determined from the data provided.

State	Average Statewide Caseload Front Line Staff Assigned to Inspect Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes
AK	50 or less facilities each.
AL	75
AR	60-65
AZ	1:90
CA	The average caseload contains 142 facilities with a breakdown of 95 FCCH and 47 Centers
CO	1:80
CT	115
DC	50
DE	72
FL	52.8
GA	50
HI	1:40 (includes licensed and license-exempt)
IA	1:205
ID	
IL	75
IN	Licensed Child Care Centers also includes 690 unlicensed registered child care ministries so the average caseload 74 facilities Licensed Child Care Homes average caseload 220

State	Average Statewide Caseload Front Line Staff Assigned to Inspect Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes
KS	68
KY	88
LA	55-65
MA	82 for large group and school age; 150 for family child care homes, and 37 for residential and placement
MD	70
ME	80-95
MI	1:100 with a variation of all 3 types of licensees. DF, DG, DC
MN	Centers: 112 centers to 1 licenser (caseloads will continue to reduce as more licensers are hired and trained). Family programs: In 2018, there were approximately 150 county licensers responsible for monitoring approximately 8,400 family child care programs – for an average caseload of 1 county licenser to 56 family child care programs.
MO	70
MP	1:18
MS	50-60 facilities/staff member
MT	83
NC	41
ND	60
NE	120
NH	60-75, depending on the size of the territory and amount of travel required.
NJ	82 licensed centers per staff
NM	Average caseload for Licensed Centers=43 *Front line staff assigned to inspect family child care homes also inspect the license exempt child care homes. • Average caseload for Licensed family homes=16 • Average caseload for Licensed Exempt providers=61 Total caseload for front line staff for all homes=77
NV	Southern Nevada Caseload average 47-50 per staff, Northern Nevada Caseload average 25-30 per staff
NY	45
OH	State licensing staff: Local job and family services staff: varies and data unavailable
OK	37
OR	65
PA	52
RI	135
SC	41
SD	1:55 for front line staff
TN	Statewide Caseload Average is about 26 without exempt agencies and about 30 with exempt agencies
TX	75
UT	105
VA	60
VT	87.5
WA	65
WI	78
WV	55 when fully staffed
WY	50-65

Question: How are the child care licensing line staff assigned to inspect licensing child care programs in your state?

Analysis: Front line staff are assigned to both child care centers and FCC homes in about 78% of states. In about 20% of states, staff are assigned only to child care centers. Assignment and responsibilities tend to vary by state sub-region.



State	Line staff are assigned to inspect ONLY child care centers	Line staff are assigned to ONLY FCC homes	Line staff are assigned to inspect BOTH center and FCC homes	Line staff are assigned to inspect child care facilities and other human service programs for children	Line staff are assigned to inspect child care facilities and other human service programs for children and/or adults	Line staff assignments vary by county or area of the state	Line staff are specifically assigned to conduct complaint investigations	Other
Total	10	7	39	3	1	12	9	10
AK			•					•
AL			•					
AR								
AZ			•					
CA			•					
CO			•					
CT	•	•	•				•	•
DC			•					
DE			•	•				
FL			•			•		

State	Line staff are assigned to inspect ONLY child care centers	Line staff are assigned to ONLY FCC homes	Line staff are assigned to inspect BOTH center and FCC homes	Line staff are assigned to inspect child care facilities and other human service programs for children	Line staff are assigned to inspect child care facilities and other human service programs for children and/or adults	Line staff assignments vary by county or area of the state	Line staff are specifically assigned to conduct complaint investigations	Other
GA			•					
HI			•				•	
IA	•	•						
ID								
IL			•			•		•
IN			•					
KS						•		
KY			•	•		•		
LA			•					
MA	•	•					•	
MD			•					
ME			•					
MI			•					•
MN	•					•	•	
MO			•			•	•	
MP			•					
MS			•					
MT			•					
NC			•					•
ND			•					
NE			•					
NH				•				
NJ	•					•		•
NM	•	•					•	
NV			•			•	•	
NY			•					
OH	•					•		•
OK			•					
OR	•	•	•				•	•
PA			•					
RI			•					
SC			•					
SD			•					
TN					•			
TX			•					
UT	•	•						
VA			•			•		•
VT			•					
WA			•					
WI			•			•		
WV	•	•				•		•
WY			•				•	

Question: Have you increased or reduced the numbers of licensing staff in the last year? What is the cause for this increase or decrease?

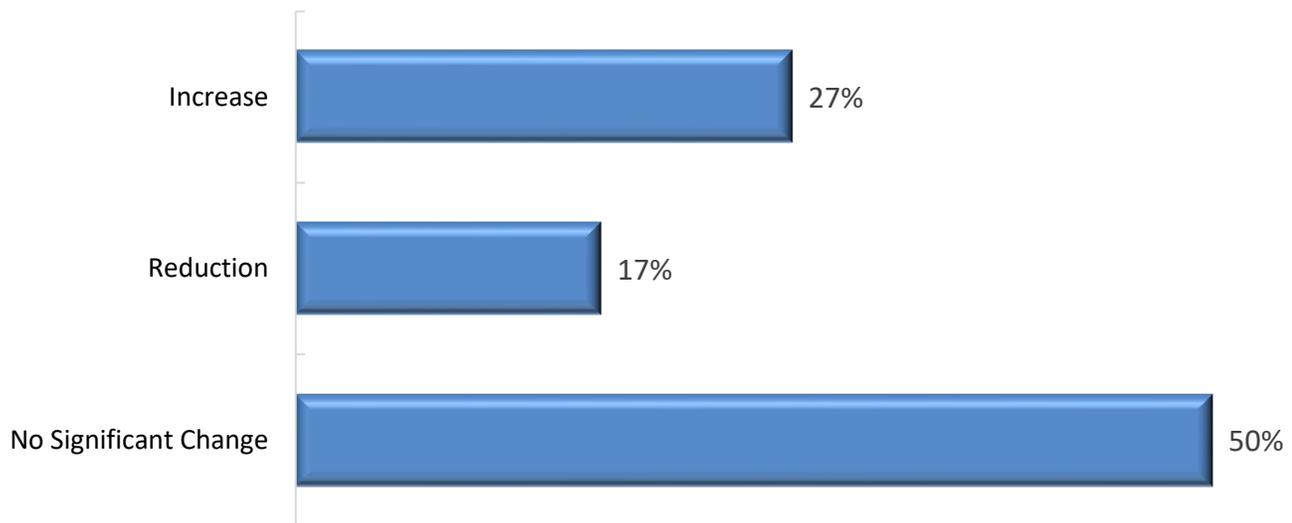
Analysis: 50% of states (n=48) reported no significant change in licensing staff during the previous year while 27% reported an increase and 17% reported a decrease.

Reasons for increase included:

- Changes in the number of programs requiring inspections
- Required change in staff caseloads
- Changes to the frequency of inspections

Reasons for reduction include:

- Staffing requirement changes
- Staff turnover/retirement



State	Increase	Reduction	No significant change
Total	13	8	24
AK			•
AL			•
AR			
AZ		•	
CA	•		
CO	•		
CT		•	
DC			•
DE			•
FL	•		
GA			•
HI			•
IA			•
ID			
IL		•	
IN			
KS			•
KY	•		

State	Increase	Reduction	No significant change
LA			•
MA	•		
MD			•
ME			•
MI			•
MN	•		
MO			•
MP		•	
MS		•	
MT			•
NC		•	
ND			•
NE			•
NH			•
NJ		•	
NM			•
NV			
NY	•		
OH	•		
OK			•
OR			•
PA	•		
RI			•
SC			•
SD	•		
TN			
TX		•	
UT	•		
VA	•		
VT			•
WA			
WI	•		
WV			•
WY			

Supervisory Staff

Question: What is the total number of child care licensing SUPERVISORS in your state?

Analysis: The total number of supervisors ranged from a high of 96 in Minnesota (though only 9 are state-level supervisors) to less than 5 supervisors in 19 states. The mean number of supervisors was almost 12.5 per state while the median was 7.

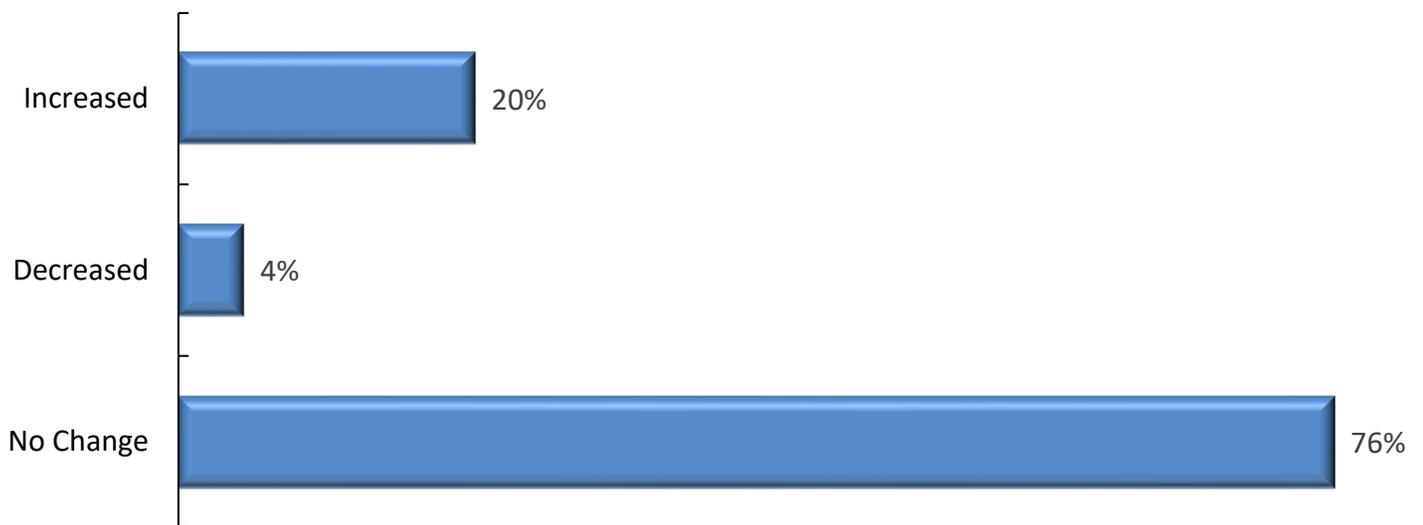
State	Full-time Licensing Supervisors	Part-Time Licensing Supervisors	Full-Time Equivalent Supervisors
Total	513	1	136
AK	3	0	0
AL	6		
AR	5		
AZ	7		
CA	61	0	61
CO	10		
CT	6		
DC	3	0	3
DE	5	0	0
FL	16	N/A	N/A
GA	21	0	0
HI	6	0	0
IA	2		
ID			
IL	17		
IN	7		
KS	4		
KY	15		
LA	4	0	0
MA	12		
MD	13		
ME	2	1	
MI	8	0	8
MN	9 (state) / 87+ (county)		
MO	9		
MP	1		
MS	4	0	0
MT	1		
NC	16		
ND	4	0	0
NE	3		
NH	2		
NJ	8		8
NM	4		
NV	12		
NY	32		
OH	12		
OK	16		
OR	6	0	6
PA	27	N/A	N/A
RI	1		
SC	8	0	0
SD	1		
TN	16		
TX	41	0	41
UT	4		
VA	12	0	0

State	Full-time Licensing Supervisors	Part-Time Licensing Supervisors	Full-Time Equivalent Supervisors
VT	4		
WA	14		
WI	9	0	9
WV	2	0	0
WY	2		

Question: Have you increased or reduced the numbers of supervising staff in the last year?

Analysis: Of the 46 states with survey responses, 76% reported no significant change in supervising staff while 20% reported an increase and 4% reported a decrease in supervising staff.

The most common reason for an increase was to handle an increase in the number of staff. The reasons for supervising staff reductions included staff turnover and promotion.



State	Increased	Decreased	No Change
Total	9	2	35
AK			•
AL			•
AR			
AZ			•
CA	•		
CO	•		
CT			•
DC			•
DE			•
FL	•		
GA			•
HI			•
IA	•		
ID			
IL		•	
IN	•		
KS			•
KY			•
LA			•
MA			•

State	Increased	Decreased	No Change
MD			•
ME			•
MI			•
MN	•		
MO			•
MP			•
MS		•	
MT			•
NC			•
ND			•
NE			•
NH			•
NJ			•
NM			•
NV			
NY			•
OH	•		
OK			•
OR			•
PA			•
RI			•
SC			•
SD			•
TN			
TX			•
UT			•
VA	•		
VT	•		
WA			
WI			•
WV			•
WY			

Workload Analysis

Question: Has your state conducted a workload analysis within the past five years?

Analysis: Five states reported conducting a workload analysis since 2018.

State	Date Completed	Summarization of Process and Results
GA	Annually	Look at workload analysis. Based on travel, number of programs within the geographical area, complaints, sizes of programs, etc.
NC	Annually	The Assistant Director, regional managers and supervisors review workload data to ensure caseloads are equitable, manageable, and if changes need to occur to territory assignments. This is completed each year through an informal process.
OH	2024	after combining programs from multiple state agencies into one state agency
PA	2019/20	After review of CCDBG requirements, staff was increased to bring down caseloads, have a full-time program rep to assist with training of staff and a new Division Chief.
VA	2023	Caseload sizes based on program type, required number of inspections, and required travel were assessed including caseload growth between fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The number of required mandated inspections, complaints received, and enforcement actions issued between fiscal years 2022 and 2023 were also analyzed to determine what staffing was needed to reduce staff travel time and get front line staff to average caseloads of 60

State	Date Completed	Summarization of Process and Results
		programs (licensed and license exempt) and realign regions to move territories from one region to another to limit travel time. The number of direct reports for supervisors of front-line staff were analyzed to determine where more supervisors were needed and if front line positions should be moved from one region to another to reduce the number of direct reports for supervisors.

LICENSING STAFF REQUIREMENTS

Summary:

Educational requirements changed little between 2017 and 2023. One additional state reported requiring a bachelor’s degree, and one additional state required an associate’s degree. Two states now accept college level coursework where non did in 2017 and one additional state accepts a high school diploma or GED. No states accept only experience with children and none accept no education or experience.

Where a degree is required, it has become increasingly necessary to have coursework directly related to the field and more than half the states require staff to have experience working in a setting with children, an increase of 9 states. Almost every state requires staff to complete additional training on the licensing system and provider’s requirements when starting employment.

Every state requires state regulations, licensing policies and procedures, and health and safety issues in their onboarding training. Three-fourths of states use online training and almost 90 percent of states have one-on-one training with existing staff to complete the required training. The number of states requiring a particular training for onboarding increased for almost every topic.

Five fewer states reported using general state funds for hiring and support of child care licensing staff. The number of states relying on each particular funding source decreased since 2017 except one additional state reported relying on licensing fees.

Fewer states reported incorporating inter-rater reliability training for staff and 9 fewer states report having developed interpretive guidelines for licensing regulations. The same percentage of states have policies for emergency and disaster response in both 2017 and 2023.

More states communicate with the media through social media and every state reports using email to communicate with providers. There was a significant decrease in the use of printed materials to communicate as well as a drop off in the use of marketing campaigns, and phone-based communication. Communicating with the public mirrors communicating with providers with an increased reliance on social media and a decreased reliance on printed material and public meetings/announcements.

Staffing Nomenclature

Question: What functional titles are used for child care licensing front line staff position/s in your state?

Analysis: Almost 30% of states use “Licensor” as the functional title for front line staff, though most states use their own nomenclature.

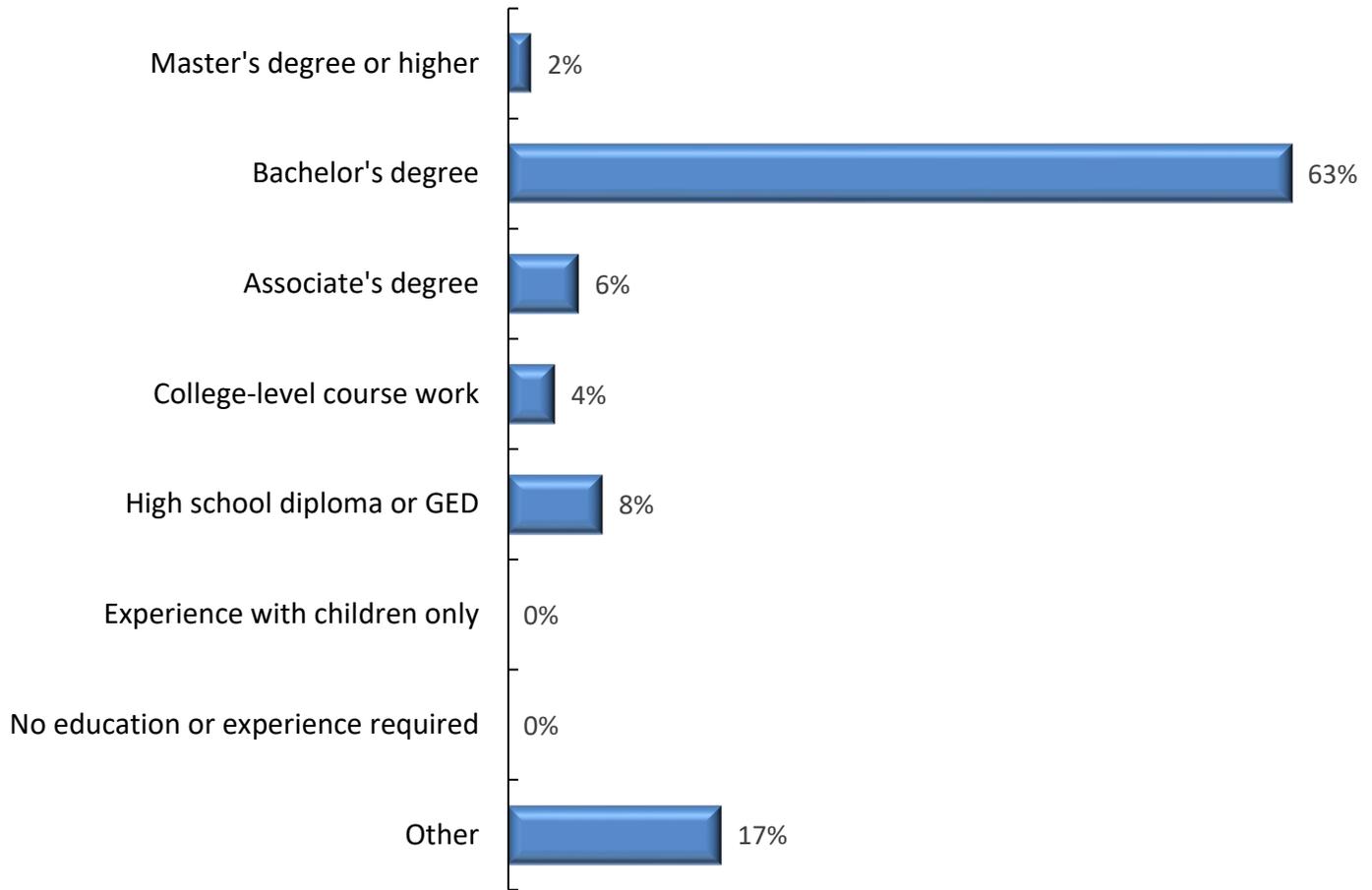
State	Licensor	Inspector	Surveyor	Consultant	Assessor	Evaluator	Advisor	Other (please specify):
Total	15	8	4	6	0	1	0	31
AK								Licensing Specialist
AL				•				Program Specialists
AR								Child Care Service Specialist (Licensing Specialist)
AZ								Compliance Officer
CA								Licensing Program Analyst
CO								Licensing Specialist
CT								Licensing Specialist
DC								Child care licensing specialist and child care program specialist
DE								Child Care Licensing Specialist
FL								Family Services Counselors

State	Licensor	Inspector	Surveyor	Consultant	Assessor	Evaluator	Advisor	Other (please specify):
GA				•				Specialists
HI								Child Care Licensing Worker
IA	•	•						Compliance Worker
ID								Program Specialist & Program Manager Idaho uses contracted agencies for inspection and licensing processing needs, which have their own educational requirements and titles
IL								Day Care Licensing Representative
IN				•				
KS			•					District Specialist, Regional Administrator, Program Consultant, Enforcement Supervisor, Program Administrator
KY			•					
LA								Licensing Specialist
MA	•							
MD	•							
ME								Child Care Licensing Specialist
MI				•				
MN	•			•				Supervisors, Managers
MO		•						
MP		•						Safety Inspectors
MS	•	•						
MT	•							
NC				•				
ND								Licensing Specialist
NE		•						
NH	•							
NJ		•						
NM			•					Child Care Specialists
NV			•					
NY	•							regulator
OH								Specialist
OK								Child Care Licensing Specialist
OR	•							Investigative Specialist, and Senior Licensing Specialist
PA								Early Learning Certification Representative
RI	•							
SC								Licensing Specialist
SD								Licensing Specialist
TN						•		
TX		•						
UT	•							
VA		•						
VT	•							
WA	•							
WI	•							Licensing Specialist
WV								Child Care Licensing Specialist and Family Child Care Regulatory Specialist
WY	•							

Education Requirements

Question: What are the minimum entry-level educational qualifications for child care licensing line staff?

Analysis: 63% of all states reported having a bachelor’s degree as the minimum entry-level educational qualifications for child care licensing line staff. 17% of states reported “Other” which usually meant experience and education equivalent to a bachelor’s degree, or training and/or experience specific to the staff’s position (such as administrative experience or coursework for administrative positions).



State	Master's degree or higher	Bachelor's degree	Associate's degree	College-level course work	High School Diploma or GED	Experience with children only	No education or experience required	Other
Total	1	33	3	2	4	0	0	9
AK								•
AL		•						
AR		•						
AZ			•					
CA				•				
CO		•						
CT								•
DC		•						
DE		•						
FL		•						
GA		•						
HI		•						
IA								•
ID								•
IL		•						
IN		•						
KS								•
KY		•						
LA		•						

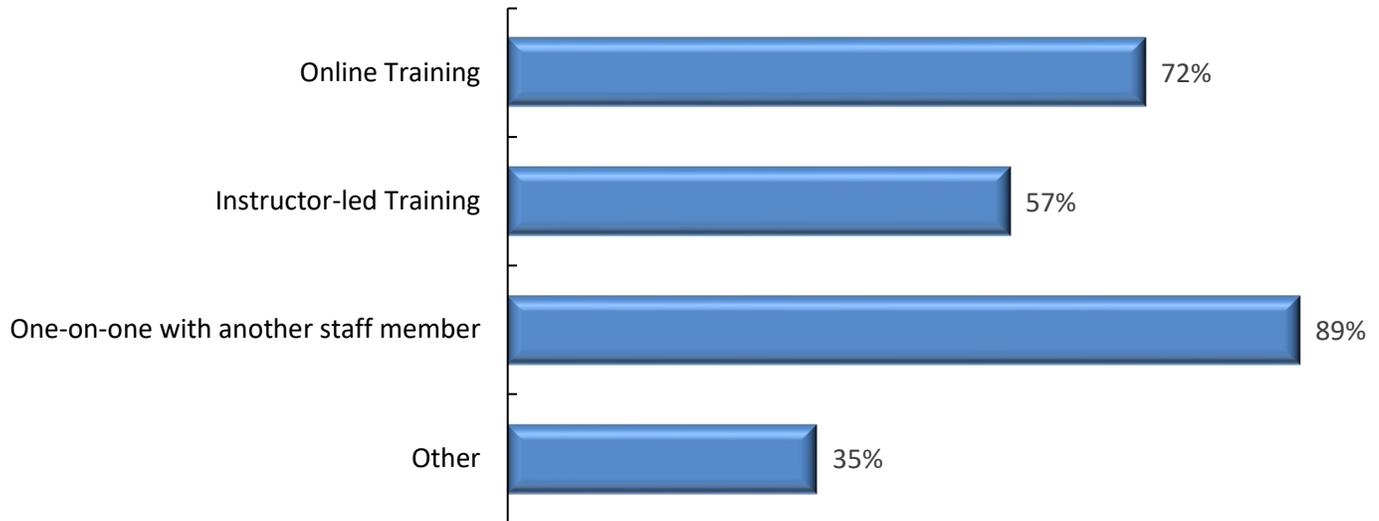
State	Master's degree or higher	Bachelor's degree	Associate's degree	College-level course work	High School Diploma or GED	Experience with children only	No education or experience required	Other
MA		•						
MD		•						
ME					•			
MI	•							
MN								•
MO					•			
MP					•			
MS		•						
MT		•						
NC		•						
ND			•					
NE		•						
NH		•						
NJ		•						
NM		•						
NV		•						
NY		•						
OH		•						
OK		•						
OR								•
PA		•						
RI		•						
SC		•						
SD				•				
TN		•						
TX		•						
UT		•						
VA								•
VT			•					
WA		•						
WI					•			
WV		•						
WY								•

State	Degree or courses must be in early childhood education, child development, or a field related to the care and education of children	Licensing line staff required to have experience working in a setting with children	Child care licensing line staff required to complete training about the licensing system and providers requirements when starting employment
GA	•	•	•
HI			•
IA			•
ID			•
IL	•	•	•
IN		•	•
KS	•		•
KY			•
LA			•
MA	•		•
MD	•		•
ME			•
MI	•	•	•
MN	•		•
MO		•	•
MP		•	
MS			•
MT			•
NC	•	•	•
ND	•		•
NE	•		•
NH	•	•	•
NJ		•	•
NM	•	•	•
NV	•	•	
NY			•
OH	•	•	•
OK			•
OR	•	•	•
PA	•	•	•
RI	•		•
SC			•
SD			•
TN	•	•	•
TX			•
UT	•	•	•
VA	•	•	•
VT	•	•	•
WA	•		•
WI		•	•
WV			•
WY		•	•

Training and Experience

Question: Please describe how new employees are trained.

Analysis: Almost three out of four states (n=46) offer new employees online training while almost 60% offer instructor-led training. Nearly 90% of states have new hires train with another staff member while more than a third offer other kinds of training such as self-directed study or NARA coursework.

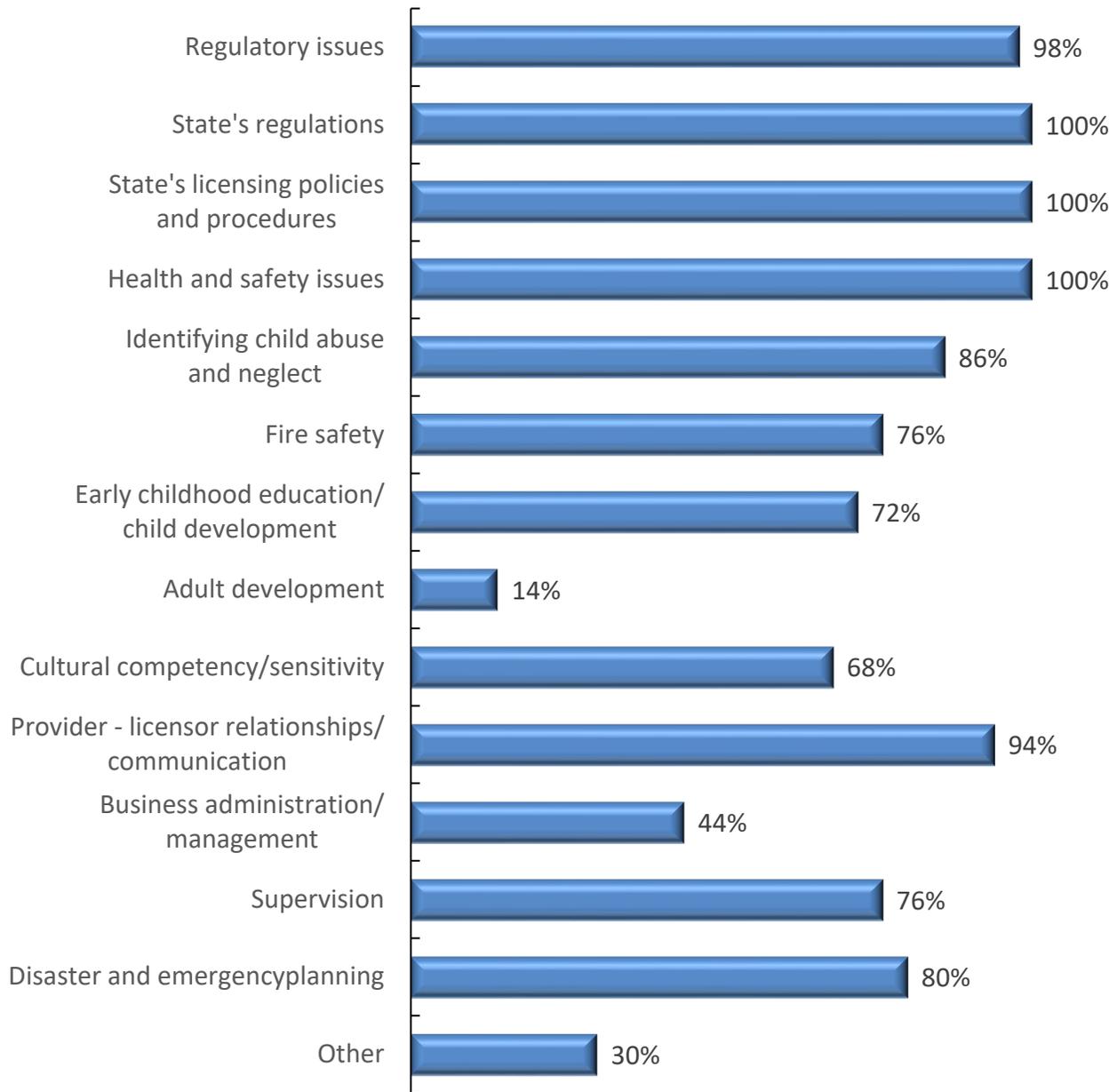


State	Online Training	Instructor-led Training	One-on-one with another staff member	Other
Total	33	26	41	16
AK			•	•
AL	•	•	•	
AR				•
AZ	•	•	•	
CA	•	•	•	•
CO	•		•	
CT	•	•	•	•
DC	•		•	•
DE	•	•	•	
FL		•		
GA	•	•	•	
HI	•	•	•	
IA	•		•	
ID			•	
IL				•
IN				
KS			•	•
KY		•	•	
LA	•	•	•	
MA	•	•	•	
MD		•	•	
ME	•		•	•
MI				•
MN				
MO	•	•	•	
MP				
MS	•		•	

State	Online Training	Instructor-led Training	One-on-one with another staff member	Other
MT			•	
NC	•	•	•	
ND	•		•	
NE	•	•	•	
NH	•		•	
NJ	•	•	•	
NM	•	•	•	•
NV				
NY	•	•	•	
OH	•	•	•	•
OK	•	•	•	
OR	•		•	•
PA			•	•
RI	•	•	•	
SC	•	•	•	
SD			•	
TN				
TX	•	•	•	
UT	•	•	•	
VA	•	•	•	•
VT			•	•
WA				
WI	•	•		
WV	•		•	
WY	•		•	•

Question: What topics are covered in the onboarding training?

Analysis: 100% of all states with a survey response to this question report that licensing counselors receive onboarding training in health and safety, regulatory issues, state regulations, and licensing policies and procedures. More than 70% of states provide training in early childhood education/child development. Approximately 44% offer training in business administration/management. Almost all states provide training in Provider-Licensor relationships while more than three-fourths of states provide supervisory training and 80% provide training in disaster and emergency planning. The types of training offered across all states was quite varied and included things like worker field safety, database use, IT Security, sexual harassment, civil rights, customer service, defensive driving, enforcement procedures, investigatory tools, writing skills, participation in administrative hearings, coordinating with other agencies, interviewing techniques, and report writing.



Onboarding Training Topics

State	Regulatory issues	State's regulations	State's licensing policies and procedures	Health and safety issues	Identifying child abuse and neglect	Fire safety	Early childhood education/child development
Total	49	50	50	50	43	38	36
AK	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
AL	•	•	•	•			
AR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
AZ	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CA	•	•	•	•			•
CO	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
DC	•	•	•	•	•	•	
DE	•	•	•	•	•		•
FL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
GA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HI	•	•	•	•		•	•
IA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

State	Regulatory issues	State's regulations	State's licensing policies and procedures	Health and safety issues	Identifying child abuse and neglect	Fire safety	Early childhood education/child development
ID	•	•	•	•	•	•	
IL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
IN	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
KS	•	•	•	•	•	•	
KY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LA	•	•	•	•			
MA	•	•	•	•	•		•
MD	•	•	•	•	•		
ME	•	•	•	•	•	•	
MI	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
MN		•	•	•	•	•	
MO	•	•	•	•		•	•
MP							
MS	•	•	•	•		•	
MT	•	•	•	•	•		
NC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ND	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NE	•	•	•	•			
NH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NJ	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NM	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NV							
NY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
OH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
OK	•	•	•	•	•		
OR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
PA	•	•	•	•	•		
RI	•	•	•	•	•		•
SC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SD	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
TN	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
TX	•	•	•	•	•		•
UT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
VA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
VT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
WA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
WI	•	•	•	•	•	•	
WV	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
WY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Onboarding Training Topics - Continuation

State	Adult development	Cultural competency / sensitivity	Provider-licensor relationship / communication	Business administration / management	Supervision	Disaster and emergency planning	Other
Total	7	34	47	22	38	40	15
AK		•	•			•	
AL			•			•	
AR		•	•	•	•	•	
AZ	•	•	•	•	•	•	
CA		•	•		•	•	•
CO		•	•	•	•	•	
CT		•	•	•	•	•	•
DC	•	•	•	•	•	•	
DE		•	•		•	•	
FL		•	•	•	•	•	

State	Adult development	Cultural competency / sensitivity	Provider-licensor relationship / communication	Business administration / management	Supervision	Disaster and emergency planning	Other
GA	•	•	•	•	•	•	
HI		•	•	•	•	•	
IA						•	
ID			•	•	•	•	•
IL		•	•	•	•	•	
IN		•	•	•	•	•	
KS			•		•		•
KY		•	•		•	•	
LA							
MA			•	•	•		
MD			•		•		
ME			•		•	•	•
MI		•	•	•	•	•	•
MN		•	•				
MO		•	•			•	
MP							
MS		•	•		•	•	
MT			•				
NC	•	•	•	•	•	•	
ND			•		•	•	
NE					•	•	
NH			•		•	•	
NJ		•	•		•	•	
NM		•	•			•	•
NV							
NY		•	•	•	•	•	
OH		•	•	•	•	•	•
OK			•				•
OR		•	•		•	•	•
PA			•				•
RI		•	•		•	•	
SC		•	•		•	•	
SD			•			•	
TN		•	•	•	•	•	
TX			•				•
UT		•	•		•	•	
VA		•	•	•	•	•	•
VT	•	•	•	•	•	•	
WA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
WI		•	•		•		
WV		•	•	•	•	•	•
WY	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Question: Are child care licensing front line staff and supervisors required to complete any additional training each year?

Analysis: 73% of all states require additional, annual training for both front line staff and supervisors. One state required training for only front-line staff while no states required annual training for just supervisors. One fourth of all states reported not requiring any additional annual training for either supervisors or front-line staff.

State	Yes, both front line staff and supervisors	Yes, but only front-line staff	Yes, but only supervisors	No, neither is required to complete annually training
Total	38	1	0	13
AK	•			

State	Yes, both front line staff and supervisors	Yes, but only front-line staff	Yes, but only supervisors	No, neither is required to complete annually training
AL	•			
AR	•			
AZ	•			
CA	•			
CO	•			
CT	•			
DC	•			
DE	•			
FL	•			
GA	•			
HI				•
IA	•			
ID				•
IL	•			
IN	•			
KS	•			
KY	•			
LA	•			
MA				•
MD	•			
ME	•			
MI	•			
MN	•			
MO	•			
MP				•
MS	•			
MT	•			
NC	•			
ND	•			
NE		•		
NH				•
NJ	•			
NM	•			
NV				•
NY	•			
OH				•
OK	•			
OR	•			
PA	•			
RI				•
SC	•			
SD				•
TN				•
TX				•
UT	•			
VA	•			
VT	•			
WA	•			
WI				•
WV				•
WY	•			

Question: Identify the TOTAL NUMBER of PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS that are completed each year for licensing staff. Describe the format of professional development training hours completed each year.

Analysis: The number of professional development hours required varied significantly from state to state. Of the 33 states reporting a professional development training format, 30 (91%) reported the additional training was provided online while 79% reported instructor-led training. Almost 40% reported professional development training could take the form of one-on-one training with another staff member.

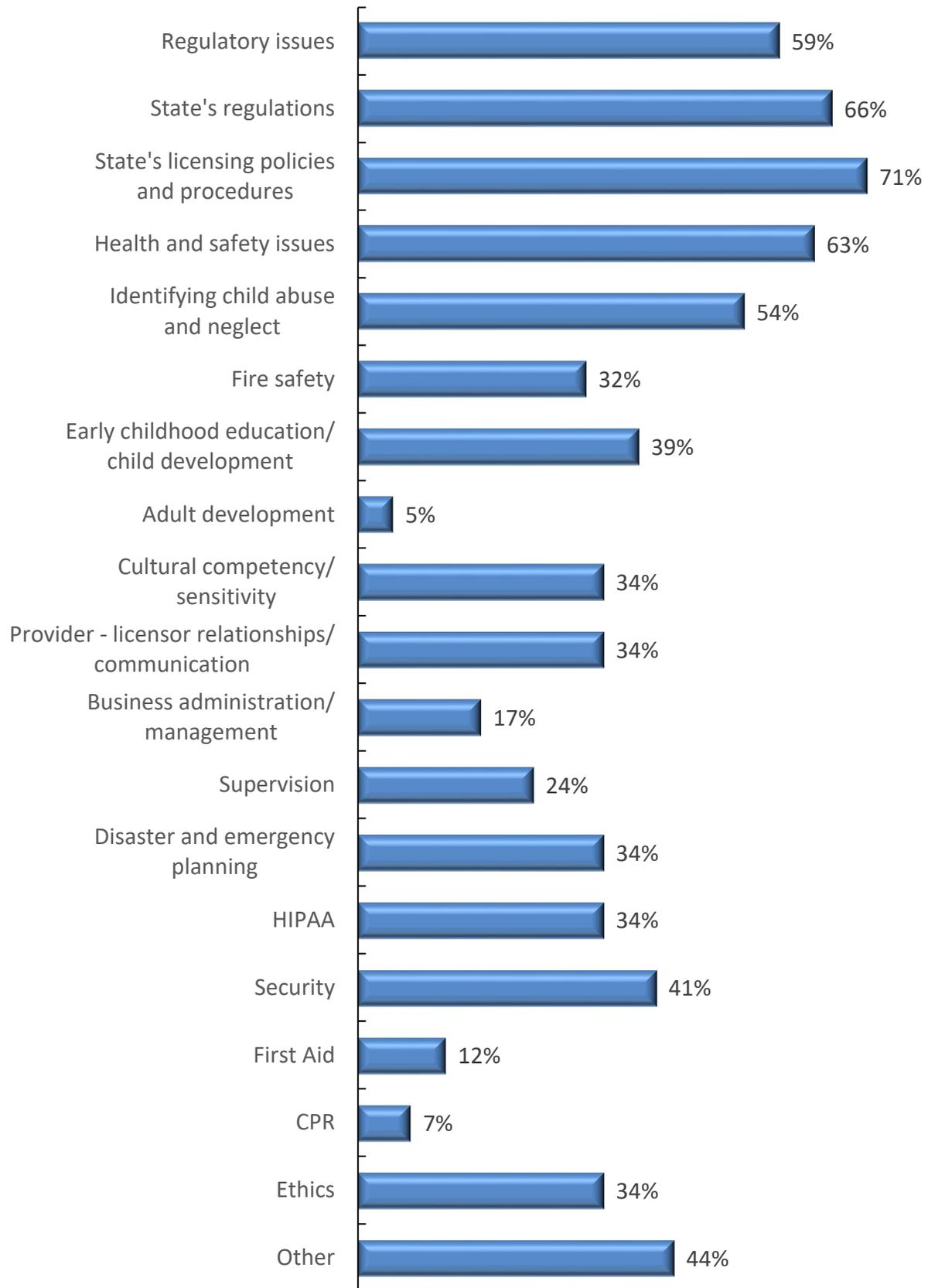
State	Professional Development Hours		Professional Development Training Format		
	Front Line Staff	Supervisors	Online Training	Instructor-led Training	One-on-one with another staff member
Total			30	26	13
AK	Varies	Varies	•	•	•
AL			•		
AR					
AZ	25	25		•	
CA	36	36	•	•	•
CO			•		
CT	24		•	•	
DC	15	15	•	•	
DE	18+	18+	•	•	
FL					
GA	24	24	•	•	
HI					
IA					
ID					
IL			•	•	•
IN					
KS	5	Attend conference or 2 Trainings			
KY	15	15		•	
LA	30	30	•	•	•
MA					
MD	0+	0+	•	•	•
ME	10	10	•	•	•
MI	24	24			
MN	4	4	•	•	•
MO	12	40	•	•	
MP					
MS			•		
MT			•		•
NC	20+	20+	•	•	•
ND	8	8	•	•	
NE	12		•	•	•
NH					
NJ				•	•
NM	18	18	•		
NV					
NY	0	0	•	•	•
OH					
OK	40	40	•	•	
OR	Unknown	Unknown			
PA			•	•	
RI					
SC	10	10	•	•	
SD			•		
TN					
TX	0	0	•	•	
UT	60	80	•	•	
VA	10	10	•	•	
VT	48	16	•		•

State	Professional Development Hours		Professional Development Training Format		
WA					
WI					
WV	Varies	Varies	•	•	
WY	16	16			

Question: What topics must be covered in the training required each year?

Analysis: While only 39 states require annual professional development training, 41 states provided topics that are covered in annual training. More than 70% of these states that reported that the training covers state licensing policies and procedures and almost two-thirds cover state regulations and health and safety issues while almost 60% require training on other regulatory issues. Like onboarding training, the topics and requirements vary widely by state.

Some of the “Other” types of training leadership and teambuilding, monitoring and enforcement, use of technology and cybersecurity, CCDBG requirements, background check requirements, investigation training, balancing authority, writing courses, communication, customer service, Microsoft Office training, heat illness prevention, preventing discrimination and harassment, and any topics related to job duties.



Annual Training Topics

State	Regulatory issues	State's regulation	State's licensing policies and procedures	Health and safety issues	Identifying child abuse and neglect	Fire safety	Early childhood education/child development
Total	24	27	29	26	22	13	16
AK	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
AL							
AR							
AZ	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CA		•	•	•	•		•
CO		•	•				
CT	•	•	•	•	•		•
DC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
DE	•	•	•	•	•		•
FL	•	•	•	•	•	•	
GA	•	•	•	•			
HI							
IA							
ID							
IL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
IN	•	•	•	•			•
KS							
KY	•	•					
LA	•	•	•	•	•		
MA							
MD	•	•	•	•			
ME		•	•	•			
MI			•				
MN	•	•	•	•			
MO	•		•	•			•
MP							
MS							
MT		•	•	•	•		
NC	•	•	•	•	•	•	
ND	•	•	•	•	•		•
NE					•		•
NH							
NJ	•	•	•	•	•		
NM	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NV							
NY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
OH							
OK							
OR					•		
PA	•	•	•	•	•	•	
RI							
SC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SD							
TN							
TX							
UT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
VA							
VT			•				
WA							
WI							
WV	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
WY	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Annual Training Topics – Part 2

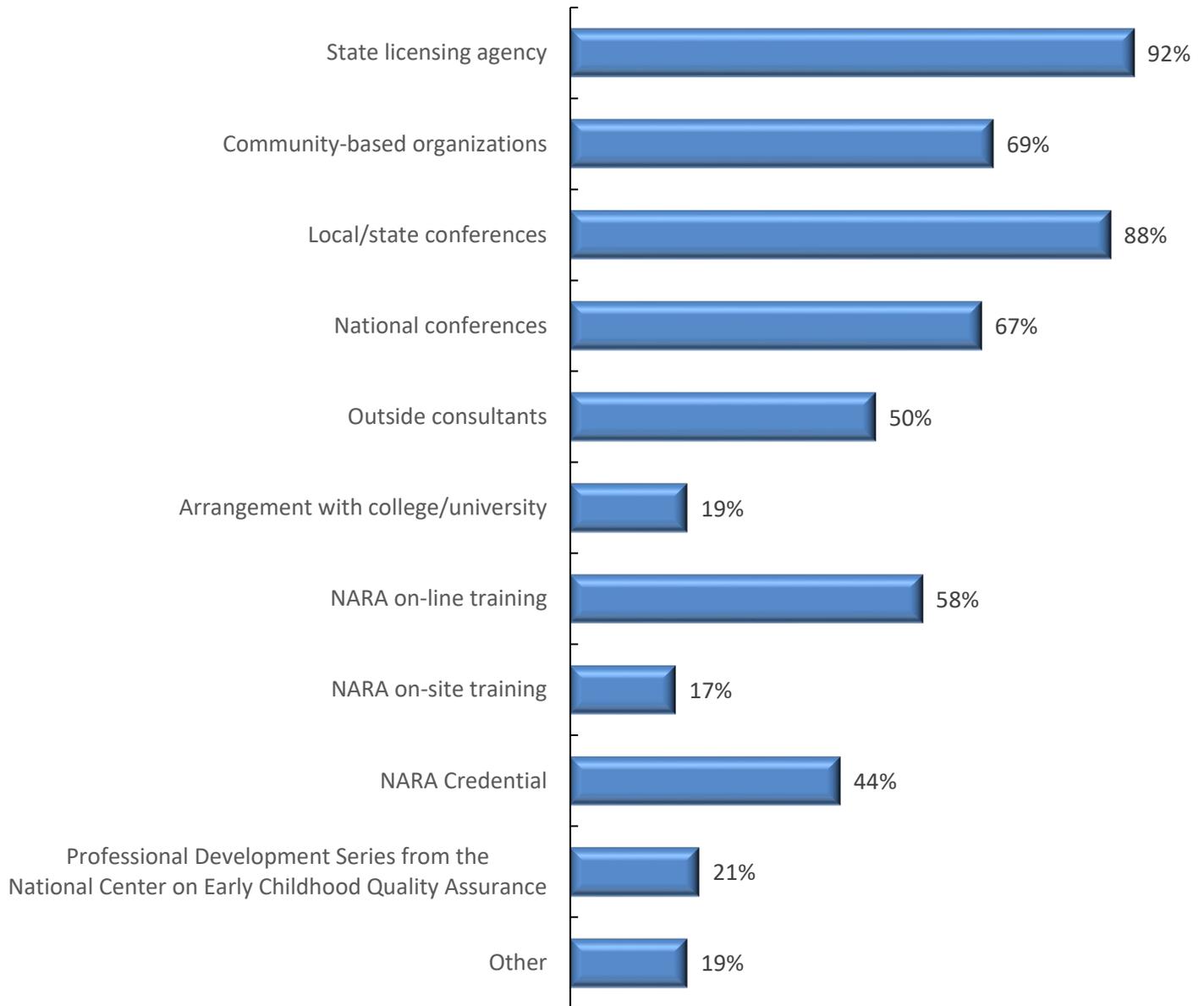
State	Adult development	Cultural competency/ sensitivity	Provider - licensor relationships/ communication	Business administration/ management	Supervision	Disaster and emergency planning
Total	2	14	14	7	10	14
AK		•	•			•
AL						•
AR						
AZ	•	•	•	•	•	•
CA		•			•	•
CO		•				
CT			•	•		
DC			•		•	•
DE		•	•		•	
FL						•
GA						
HI						
IA						
ID						
IL		•	•	•	•	•
IN						
KS						
KY		•				
LA						
MA						
MD						
ME						
MI						
MN		•				
MO						
MP						
MS						
MT						
NC			•			•
ND			•		•	•
NE	•					
NH						
NJ						
NM		•	•	•		•
NV						
NY		•	•	•	•	•
OH						
OK						
OR						
PA		•	•			
RI						
SC		•	•		•	•
SD						
TN						
TX						
UT		•	•	•	•	•
VA						
VT						
WA						
WI						
WV		•	•	•	•	•
WY						

Additional Training – Part 3

State	HIPAA	Security	First Aid	CPR	Ethics	Other
Total	14	17	5	3	14	18
AK	•		•		•	
AL					•	
AR						
AZ	•	•			•	
CA					•	
CO		•			•	
CT						•
DC						
DE		•				•
FL						
GA		•				•
HI						
IA						
ID						
IL	•	•	•		•	
IN						•
KS						•
KY						•
LA						
MA						
MD						
ME						
MI						•
MN						•
MO	•	•				
MP						
MS	•				•	•
MT	•	•			•	
NC	•	•				
ND					•	
NE						•
NH						
NJ		•			•	•
NM	•	•			•	•
NV						
NY	•	•	•	•		
OH						
OK	•	•				•
OR						•
PA						
RI						
SC		•			•	
SD	•	•				
TN						
TX						
UT	•	•	•	•	•	
VA						•
VT	•	•				•
WA						•
WI						
WV	•	•	•	•	•	•
WY						

Question: What sources of training are available in your state for child care licensing staff?

Analysis: In 92% of all states, the state licensing agency is a source of training for licensing staff. Approximately 88% of states reported state and local conferences as training sources while 67% of states reported national conferences as a source. Almost 70% of states rely on community-based organizations for training.



Sources for Licensing Staff Training

State	State licensing agency	Community-based organizations	Local/state conferences	National conferences	Outside consultants	Arrangement with college/university
Total	48	36	46	35	26	10
AK	•	•	•			
AL	•		•	•		
AR	•	•	•	•	•	•
AZ	•	•	•		•	
CA	•	•	•	•	•	•
CO	•		•	•	•	

CT	•	•	•	•	•	•
DC	•		•	•	•	
DE	•	•	•	•	•	•
FL	•	•	•	•		
GA	•	•	•	•	•	
HI	•	•	•			
IA	•	•	•	•		
ID	•		•		•	
IL	•		•			
IN	•	•	•	•	•	
KS	•	•	•	•		
KY	•	•	•	•		
LA	•			•		
MA	•	•	•	•	•	
MD	•	•	•	•		•
ME	•	•	•	•	•	
MI	•	•	•		•	
MN	•	•	•			
MO		•	•	•		
MP				•	•	
MS	•		•	•		•
MT	•		•	•		
NC	•	•	•	•	•	•
ND	•	•	•		•	
NE		•	•			
NH	•	•	•			
NJ	•					
NM	•	•	•	•	•	
NV		•	•	•		
NY	•					
OH	•	•	•	•	•	
OK	•	•	•	•	•	
OR	•		•	•		
PA	•		•	•	•	
RI	•	•	•	•		
SC	•	•	•	•	•	•
SD	•	•	•			
TN	•					
TX	•					
UT	•	•	•	•		
VA	•	•	•	•	•	•
VT	•	•	•		•	
WA	•	•	•	•	•	•
WI	•		•	•		
WV	•	•	•		•	
WY	•	•	•	•	•	

Sources for Licensing Staff Training – Continuation

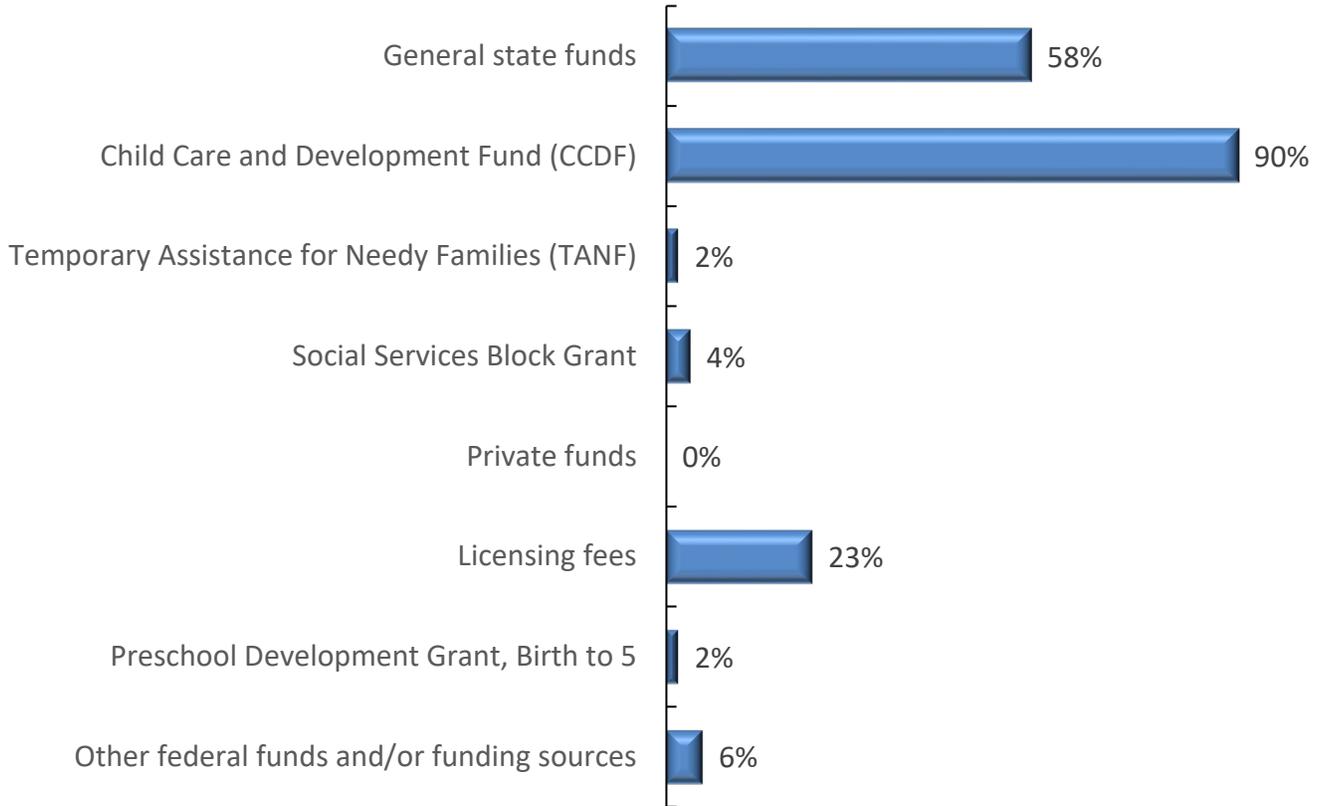
State	NARA on-line training	NARA on-site training	NARA Credential	Professional Development Series from the NCECQA	Other
Total	30	9	23	11	10
AK					
AL	•	•			
AR					
AZ	•				
CA	•				•
CO			•		

State	NARA on-line training	NARA on-site training	NARA Credential	Professional Development Series from the NCECQA	Other
CT	•		•	•	•
DC	•	•	•		
DE			•		•
FL					
GA	•		•		
HI					•
IA			•		
ID					
IL					
IN	•	•			•
KS	•		•		
KY					
LA	•		•		
MA	•			•	
MD	•	•	•		
ME	•		•	•	
MI		•			
MN					
MO	•				
MP	•	•	•		
MS					
MT	•		•		
NC					•
ND	•		•	•	
NE					
NH	•			•	
NJ					•
NM	•	•	•	•	•
NV					
NY	•				
OH					
OK	•			•	
OR	•		•		
PA	•		•	•	
RI					
SC	•	•	•		
SD	•		•		
TN					
TX				•	
UT	•	•	•		
VA	•			•	•
VT	•		•		
WA	•		•		
WI			•		
WV	•		•	•	
WY	•				•

Hiring Revenue Sources

Question: What sources of funding are used in your state to hire and support (including providing training) child care licensing staff?

Analysis: 90% of all states reported that the CCDF was a source of funding for hiring and support of licensing staff. Almost 60% of states reported receiving funding from their state's General Revenue funds. No states reported using any private funding.



State	General state funds	Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Social Services Block Grant	Private funds	Licensing fees	Preschool Development Grant, Birth to 5	Other federal funds and/or funding sources
Total	30	47	1	2	0	12	1	3
AK		•						
AL	•	•						
AR	•	•						
AZ						•		
CA	•	•		•		•		
CO	•	•				•		
CT		•						•
DC	•	•				•		
DE	•	•						
FL	•	•		•				
GA		•						
HI	•	•						
IA	•	•						
ID		•						
IL		•						

State	General state funds	Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Social Services Block Grant	Private funds	Licensing fees	Preschool Development Grant, Birth to 5	Other federal funds and/or funding sources
IN		•						
KS	•	•						
KY	•							
LA	•	•				•		
MA		•						
MD	•	•						
ME	•	•						
MI		•						•
MN	•	•				•		
MO		•						
MP								•
MS		•				•		
MT	•	•						
NC		•				•	•	
ND	•	•						
NE		•						
NH	•							
NJ	•	•	•			•		
NM	•	•						
NV		•				•		
NY		•						
OH	•	•						
OK		•						
OR	•	•						
PA	•	•						
RI		•						
SC		•						
SD		•						
TN		•						
TX	•	•						
UT	•					•		
VA	•	•						
VT	•	•						
WA	•	•						
WI	•	•				•		
WV	•	•						
WY		•						

Inter-rater Reliability Training and Interpretive Guidelines

Question: Has your state incorporated “inter-rater reliability” training or evaluation for licensing staff? Has your state developed interpretive guidelines for the licensing regulations?

Analysis: Five states have incorporated “inter-rater reliability” training or evaluation for licensing staff. Less than 40% of states report developing interpretive guidelines for Child Care Centers or small FCC Homes while less than one-fourth of states have developed interpretive guidelines for Large/Group FCC Homes.

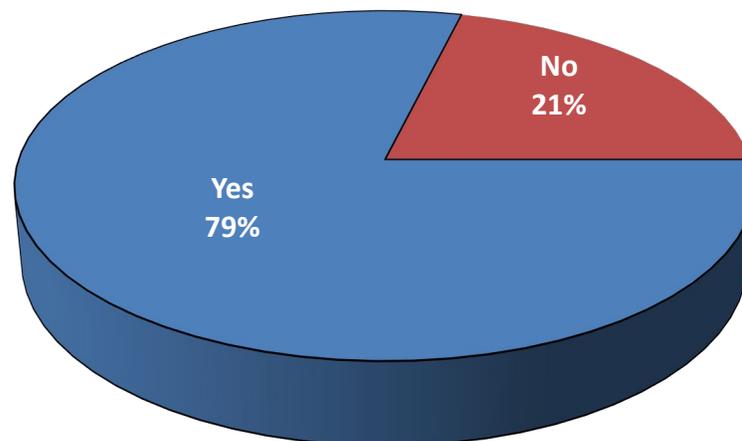
State	State has incorporated “inter-rater reliability” training or evaluation for licensing staff	State has developed interpretive guidelines for licensing regulations		
		Yes, for Child Care Centers	Yes, for Small FCC Homes	Yes, for Large/Group FCC Homes
Total	5	19	17	12
AK				
AL				
AR				
AZ		•	•	
CA	•	•	•	•
CO		•	•	•
CT				
DC				
DE				
FL		•	•	•
GA		•	•	
HI				
IA		•	•	•
ID				
IL				
IN		•		•
KS				
KY				
LA				
MA				
MD		•	•	
ME	•	•		•
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MO				
MP				
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MT		•	•	•
NC		•	•	
ND				
NE		•	•	•
NH				
NJ				
NM		•	•	•
NV				
NY				
OH	•			
OK				
OR		•	•	•
PA				
RI	•			
SC				
SD		•	•	
TN				

State	State has incorporated “inter-rater reliability” training or evaluation for licensing staff	State has developed interpretive guidelines for licensing regulations		
		Yes, for Child Care Centers	Yes, for Small FCC Homes	Yes, for Large/Group FCC Homes
TX				
UT		•	•	•
VA		•	•	
VT	•	•	•	•
WA		•	•	
WI				
WV				
WY				

Disaster and Emergency Response Policies

Question: Does the licensing agency have policies for disaster and emergency response for licensing staff to follow?

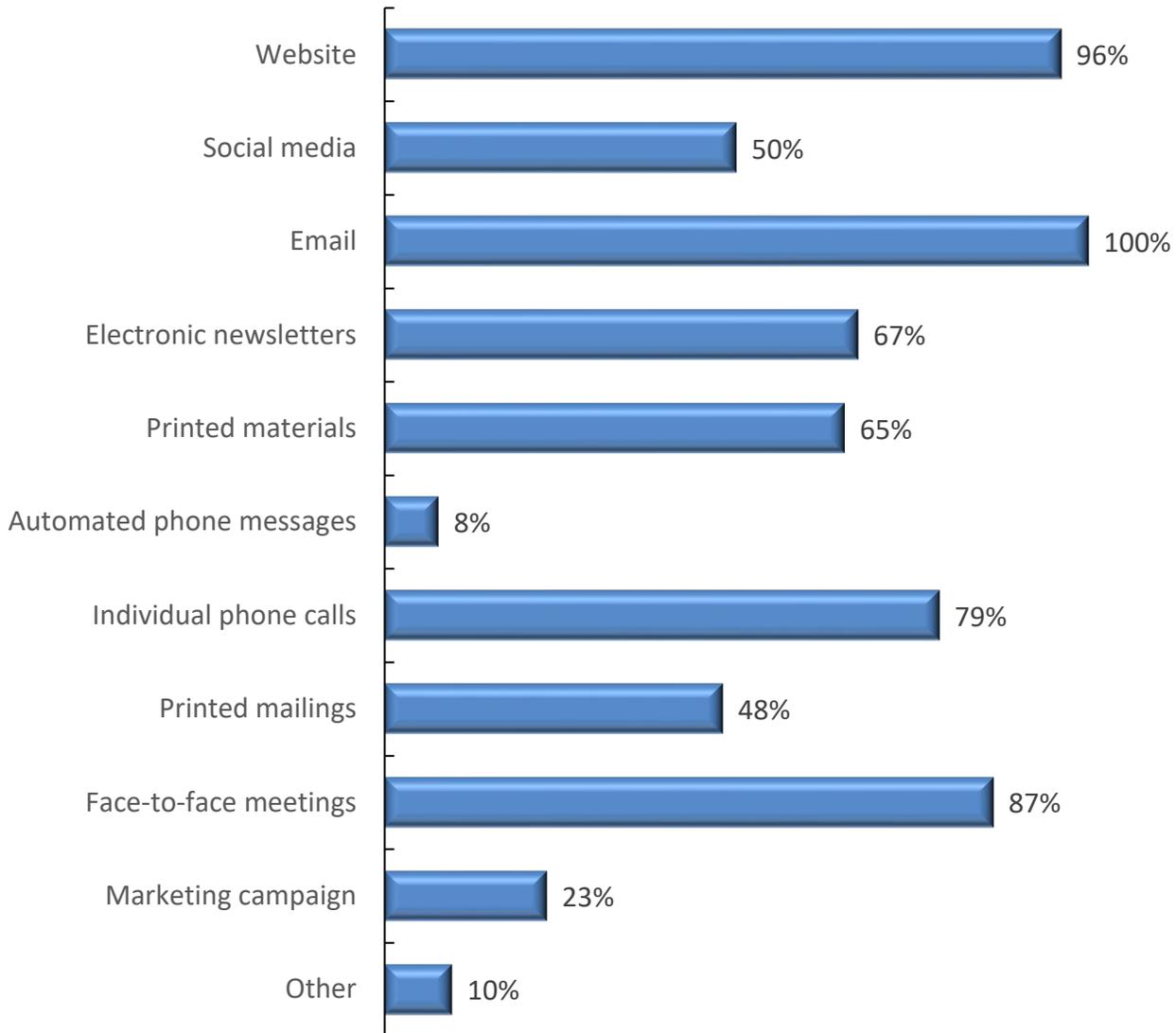
Analysis: Nearly 80% of states have disaster and emergency response policies.



Communicating With Providers and the Public

Question: What methods does the licensing agency use to communicate with providers?

Analysis: States use a variety of methods to communicate with providers with every state using email and most states reportedly using websites, face-to-face meetings, and individual phone calls. Electronic newsletters are used in about two-thirds of states. Half the states use social media and less than a fourth of states use marketing campaigns.

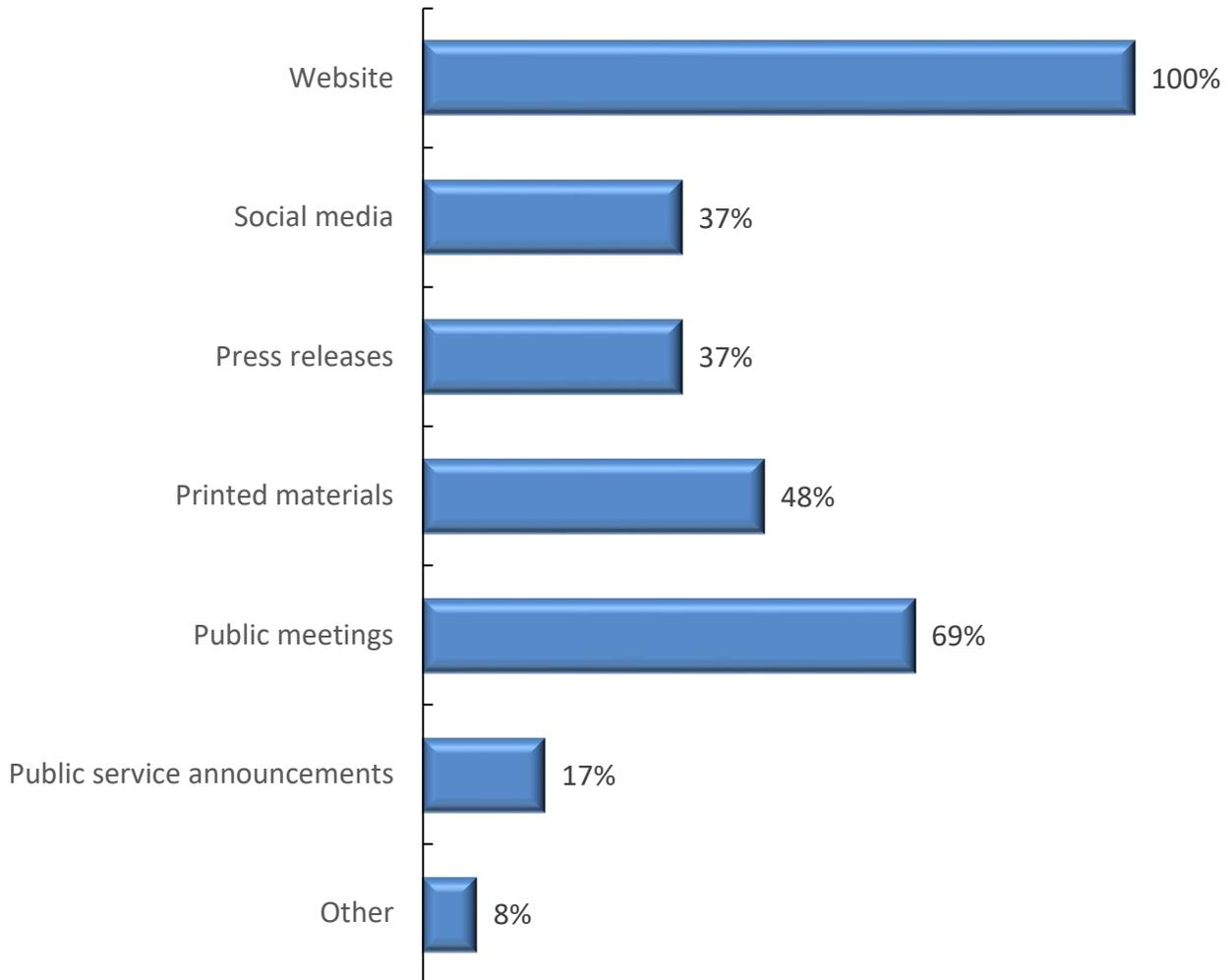


State	Website	Social media	Email	Electronic newsletters	Printed materials	Automated phone messages	Individual phone calls	Printed mailings	Face-to-face meetings	Marketing campaign	Other
Total	50	26	52	35	34	4	41	25	45	12	5
AK	•		•		•		•	•	•		
AL	•		•				•		•		
AR	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	
AZ	•		•	•			•		•		
CA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
CO	•	•	•	•			•		•	•	
CT	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	
DC	•		•	•	•			•	•		

State	Website	Social media	Email	Electronic newsletters	Printed materials	Automated phone messages	Individual phone calls	Printed mailings	Face-to-face meetings	Marketing campaign	Other
DE	•		•	•	•		•		•		
FL	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		
GA	•	•	•	•	•						
HI	•		•		•		•	•	•	•	
IA	•	•	•		•				•		
ID	•	•	•	•			•				
IL	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		
IN	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	
KS	•		•	•			•	•	•		
KY	•		•							•	
LA	•		•	•			•		•		•
MA	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
MD	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		
ME	•		•	•	•		•		•		
MI	•		•	•	•		•	•	•		
MN	•		•	•	•				•		
MO	•		•	•	•		•		•		
MP	•	•	•								
MS	•		•	•			•		•		
MT	•		•		•		•	•		•	
NC	•		•	•			•		•		
ND	•		•	•			•		•		
NE			•		•		•	•	•		
NH	•		•				•		•		
NJ	•		•		•		•		•		
NM	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•
NV	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	
NY	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		
OH	•	•	•	•	•		•		•		
OK	•		•	•			•	•	•		
OR	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
PA	•		•	•	•		•		•		
RI			•		•		•	•	•		
SC	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
SD	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		
TN	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	
TX	•		•				•		•		
UT	•		•	•			•		•		
VA	•	•	•	•			•		•		•
VT	•	•	•	•							
WA	•	•	•	•	•		•		•		
WI	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
WV	•		•				•		•		•
WY	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		

Question: What methods does the licensing agency use to make the public aware of the role of licensing?

Analysis: Every state reported using websites as a method for public awareness by licensing agencies. Almost 70% of states reported using public meetings while slightly less than half of states reported using printed.



State	Website	Social media	Press releases	Printed materials	Public meetings	Public service announcements	Other
Total	52	19	19	25	36	9	4
AK	•			•	•		
AL	•						
AR	•						
AZ	•				•		
CA	•	•	•	•	•	•	
CO	•	•	•		•	•	
CT	•	•	•	•	•		
DC	•		•	•	•	•	•
DE	•						
FL	•	•	•	•	•	•	
GA	•	•		•	•		
HI	•			•	•		
IA	•	•	•	•	•		
ID	•			•	•		
IL	•	•		•	•		
IN	•	•	•	•	•	•	

State	Website	Social media	Press releases	Printed materials	Public meetings	Public service announcements	Other
KS	•			•	•		
KY	•			•			
LA	•	•	•				
MA	•	•	•	•	•		
MD	•						
ME	•						
MI	•		•	•	•		
MN	•		•				
MO	•				•		
MP	•		•				
MS	•				•		
MT	•			•	•	•	
NC	•		•		•	•	
ND	•						•
NE	•				•		
NH	•				•		
NJ	•		•	•			
NM	•	•			•		•
NV	•	•			•	•	
NY	•			•			
OH	•			•	•		
OK	•						
OR	•	•	•		•		
PA	•		•		•		
RI	•	•	•	•	•		
SC	•	•			•		
SD	•						
TN	•		•	•	•		
TX	•	•		•	•		
UT	•				•		
VA	•	•			•	•	
VT	•			•			
WA	•	•	•	•	•		
WI	•	•		•	•		
WV	•				•		•
WY	•						

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA

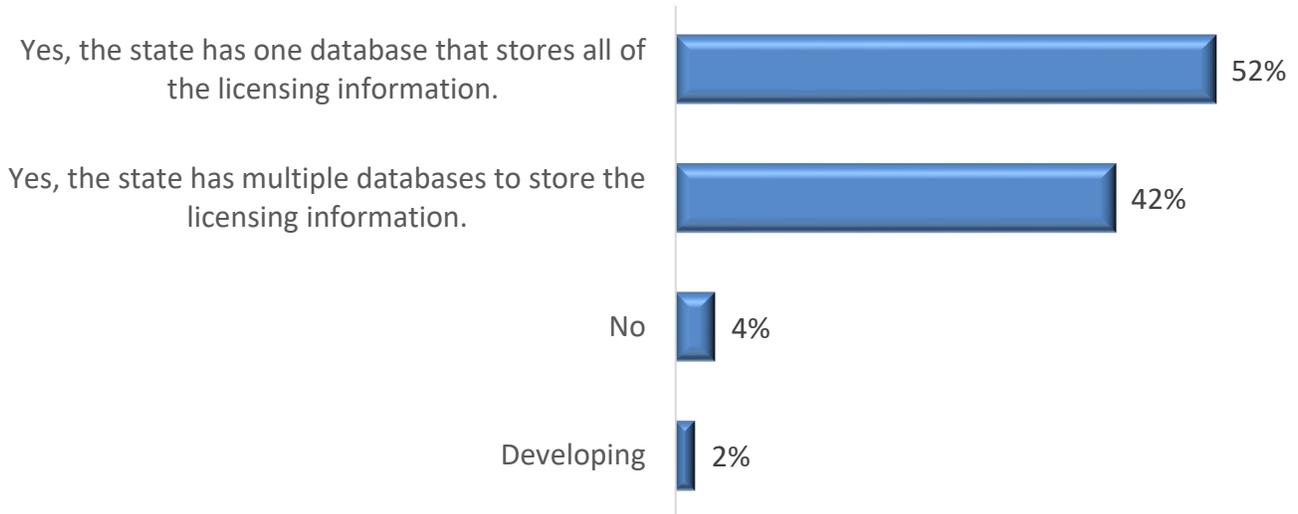
Summary:

In 2023, 49 states reported having either a single or multiple licensing databases, up from 48 in 2017. More states had multiple databases in 2023 rather than a single database. The database is increasingly being used in all phases of the licensing process. States are increasingly likely to have stand-alone systems that do not link to other state databases though the linkages to quality systems, background check services, and the child care subsidy system. Databases are more likely to capture and categorize serious injuries when they are tracked. No additional states have produced a publicly available report since 2017. An additional 5 states have an online license application process in 2023 and only half the number of states say they do not have one or are not developing one. Five additional states use or are considering using portable devices and tools for inspections.

Licensing Database

Question: Does the state have a computerized database to store licensing information about child care programs?

Analysis: A total of 27 states have a single licensing database while 22 states have multiple databases to store licensing information. One state reported developing a database in 2023 and two states said they did not have a licensing database.



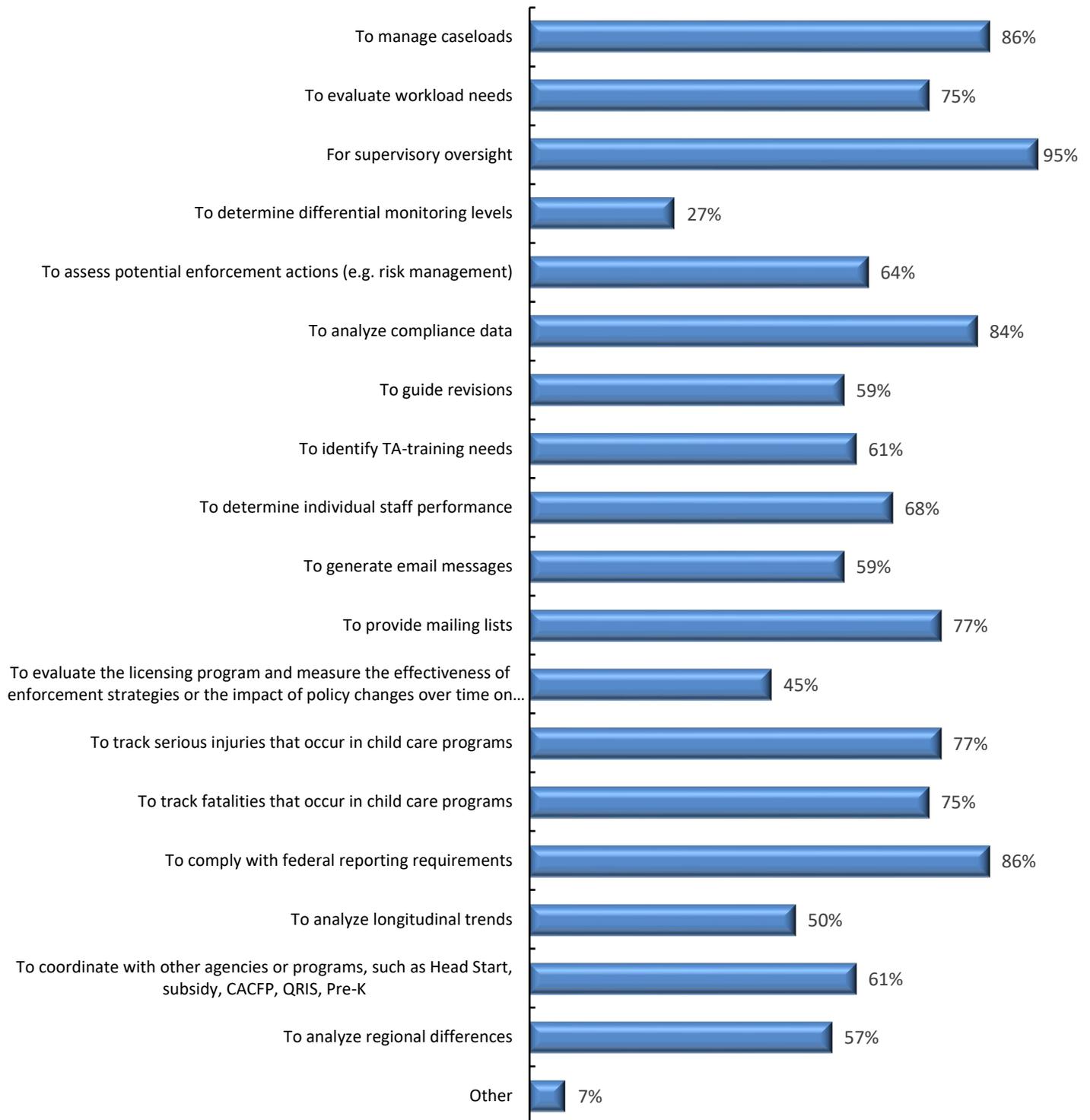
State	Yes, the state has one database that stores all of the licensing information.	Yes, the state has multiple databases to store the licensing information.	No	Developing
Total	27	22	2	1
AK	•			
AL		•		
AR		•		
AZ	•			
CA		•		
CO	•			
CT	•			
DC	•			
DE		•		
FL	•			
GA	•			
HI	•			

State	Yes, the state has one database that stores all of the licensing information.	Yes, the state has multiple databases to store the licensing information.	No	Developing
IA		•		
ID	•			
IL		•		
IN		•		
KS	•			
KY	•			
LA		•		
MA		•		
MD		•		
ME		•		
MI		•		
MN		•		
MO		•		
MP			•	
MS	•			
MT		•		
NC	•			
ND	•			
NE			•	
NH	•			
NJ	•			
NM		•		
NV		•		
NY	•			
OH	•			
OK	•			
OR	•			
PA		•		
RI		•		
SC	•			
SD				•
TN		•		
TX	•			
UT	•			
VA		•		
VT	•			
WA		•		
WI	•			
WV	•			
WY	•			

Using the Licensing Database

Question: How is the licensing database used?

Analysis: Nearly 90% of states with a licensing database responded (n=44) regarding database use. The majority use it for multiple reasons including supervisory oversight (95%), managing caseloads (86%), analyzing compliance data (84%), and in support of many other activities including 86% for federal reporting requirements. Only a handful of states, just over 27% of states reporting, indicated the database is used to determine differential monitoring levels.



Use of Licensing Database

State	To manage caseloads	To evaluate workload needs	For supervisory oversight	To determine differential monitoring levels	To assess potential enforcement actions (e.g. risk management)	To analyze compliance data	To guide revisions
Total	38	33	42	12	28	37	26
AK	•	•	•		•	•	
AL							
AR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
AZ	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CO	•	•	•			•	•
CT	•		•		•	•	•
DC	•	•	•		•	•	•
DE							
FL	•		•	•	•	•	
GA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HI	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
IA			•				
ID							
IL			•				
IN							
KS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
KY	•					•	
LA	•	•	•			•	
MA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
MD	•	•	•		•	•	•
ME	•	•	•				
MI							
MN							
MO	•	•	•		•	•	
MP	•	•	•			•	
MS			•		•	•	
MT			•				•
NC	•	•	•			•	•
ND	•	•	•		•	•	
NE							
NH			•		•	•	•
NJ	•	•	•		•	•	•
NM	•	•	•			•	
NV	•	•	•		•	•	
NY	•	•	•		•	•	•
OH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
OK	•		•		•	•	
OR	•	•	•				
PA	•	•	•		•	•	•
RI	•	•	•		•	•	•
SC	•	•	•			•	•
SD	•	•	•		•	•	
TN							
TX	•		•		•	•	•
UT	•	•	•		•	•	•
VA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
VT	•	•	•			•	
WA							
WI	•	•	•	•		•	•
WV	•	•	•	•		•	•
WY	•	•	•		•		•

Use of Licensing Data – Part 2

State	To identify TA-training needs	To determine individual staff performance	To generate email messages	To provide mailing lists	To gauge effectiveness of enforcement or policy	To track serious injuries that occur in child care programs
Total	27	30	26	34	20	34
AK						
AL						
AR	•	•		•	•	•
AZ	•	•	•	•	•	•
CA	•	•	•	•	•	
CO	•	•	•	•	•	•
CT	•	•	•	•	•	•
DC	•	•		•	•	•
DE			•			•
FL		•		•		•
GA	•	•	•	•	•	•
HI	•	•			•	•
IA						•
ID						
IL			•			•
IN						
KS	•	•	•	•	•	•
KY			•	•		•
LA	•	•	•	•		
MA	•		•	•	•	•
MD	•	•	•	•	•	•
ME		•				
MI						
MN						
MO	•		•			
MP					•	•
MS						•
MT				•		
NC	•	•		•	•	•
ND			•	•		•
NE						
NH		•	•	•		•
NJ	•		•	•		•
NM	•	•		•		•
NV		•	•	•		
NY		•		•		•
OH	•	•	•	•	•	•
OK		•		•		•
OR				•	•	•
PA	•	•	•	•	•	
RI	•	•	•	•	•	•
SC	•	•	•	•		
SD		•	•	•	•	•
TN						
TX	•	•	•	•		•
UT	•	•	•	•	•	•
VA	•	•		•		
VT	•	•	•	•		•
WA						
WI	•		•	•	•	•
WV	•	•				•
WY	•	•		•		•

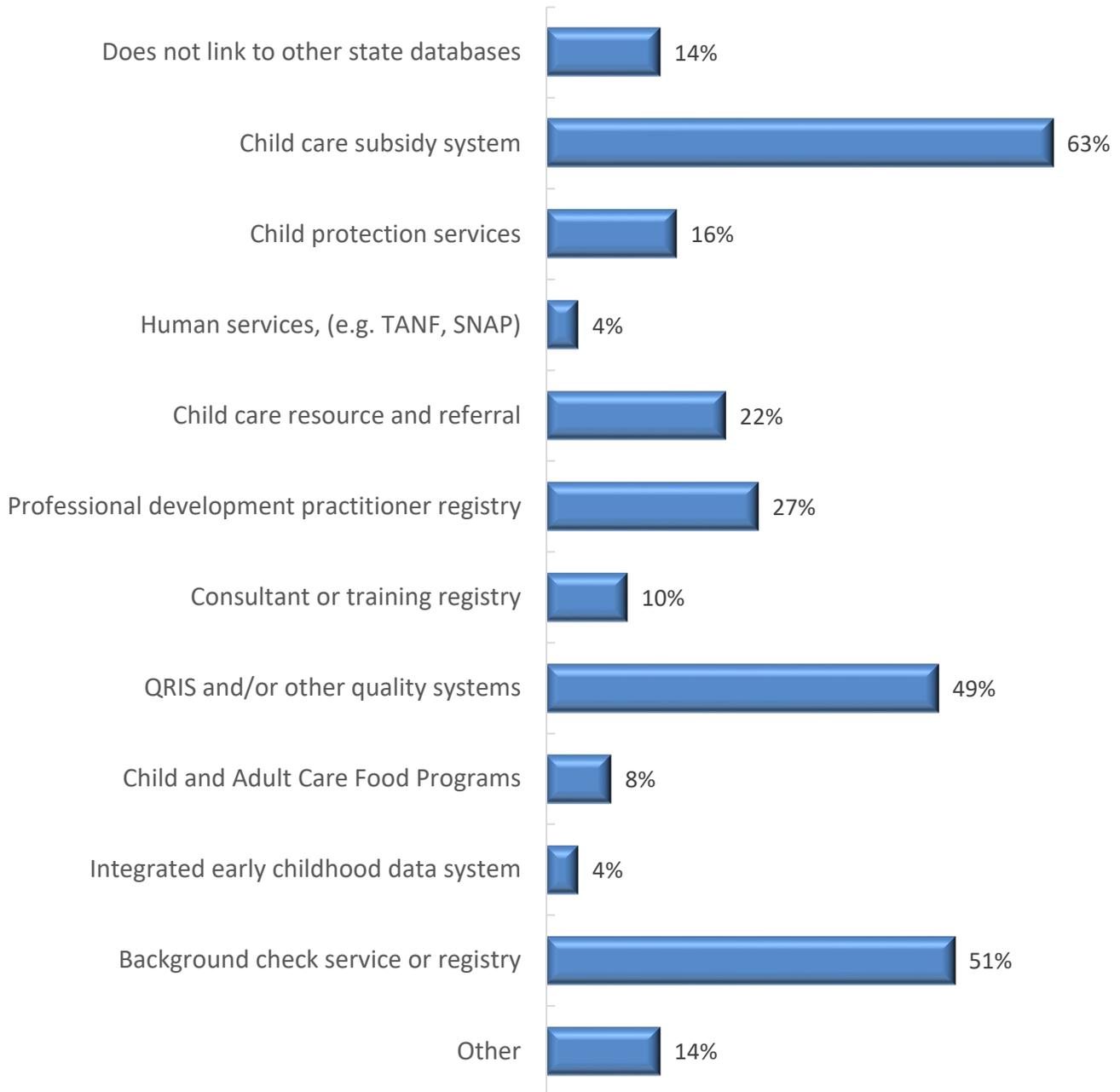
Use of Licensing Data – Part 3

State	To track fatalities that occur in child care programs	To comply with federal reporting requirements	To analyze longitudinal trends	To coordinate with other agencies or programs (Head Start, subsidy, CACFP, QRIS, Pre-K, etc.)	To analyze regional differences	Other
Total	33	38	22	27	25	3
AK					•	•
AL						
AR	•	•	•	•	•	
AZ	•	•	•	•	•	
CA	•	•	•	•	•	
CO	•	•	•	•	•	
CT	•	•				
DC	•	•	•	•	•	
DE	•	•				
FL	•	•	•	•	•	
GA	•	•	•	•	•	
HI	•	•				
IA	•		•			
ID						
IL						
IN						
KS	•	•	•	•	•	
KY	•	•				
LA		•	•		•	
MA	•	•	•	•	•	
MD	•	•	•			
ME						
MI						
MN						
MO		•	•			
MP	•					
MS		•				
MT		•		•	•	
NC	•	•		•	•	
ND	•	•		•		•
NE						
NH	•	•			•	
NJ	•	•	•	•		
NM	•	•	•	•	•	
NV		•		•	•	
NY	•	•			•	
OH	•	•	•	•	•	
OK	•	•		•	•	
OR	•	•		•		
PA		•	•	•	•	
RI	•	•	•	•		
SC		•	•	•	•	
SD	•	•		•		
TN						
TX	•	•	•	•	•	
UT	•	•		•		
VA		•		•	•	•
VT	•	•	•	•	•	
WA						
WI	•		•	•	•	
WV	•	•				
WY	•	•				

Database Linkages

Question: Is the licensing database linked to other state databases?

Analysis: Of the 49 states with licensing databases, 14% report they do not link to other databases. Just under two-thirds link the child care subsidy system while just over half link to a background check service or registry. Almost half link to the QRIS or other quality system.



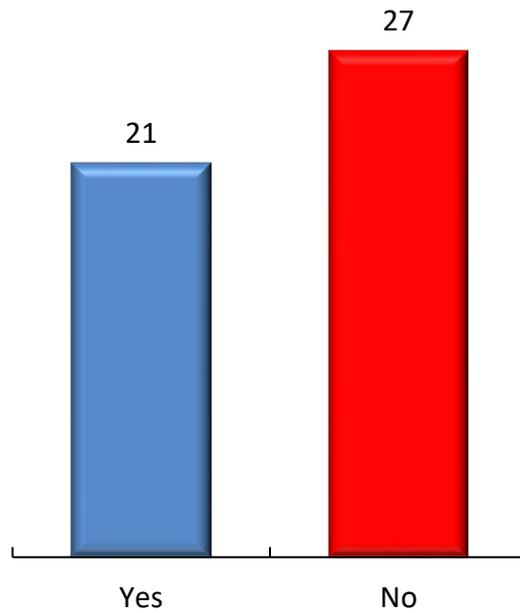
Licensing Database Linkages

State	Does not link to other state databases	Child care subsidy system	Child protection services	Human services, (e.g. TANF, SNAP)	Child care resource and referral	Professional development practitioner registry
Total	7	31	8	2	11	13
AK		•				
AL		•	•	•		
AR		•				
AZ						
CA	•					
CO		•			•	
CT	•					
DC	•					
DE					•	•
FL						
GA		•			•	•
HI		•				
IA		•				
ID						
IL			•			
IN		•			•	
KS						
KY	•					
LA		•				
MA		•				•
MD		•				
ME		•				
MI		•		•		
MN		•				
MO						
MP	•					
MS		•				
MT			•			
NC						•
ND		•				•
NE						
NH		•			•	•
NJ		•			•	•
NM		•				
NV	•					
NY						•
OH		•			•	•
OK		•				
OR		•			•	•
PA	•	•	•		•	
RI			•			
SC						
SD		•				
TN		•				
TX			•			
UT		•	•			
VA		•				
VT		•				•
WA		•	•			
WI		•				•
WV		•			•	
WY					•	•

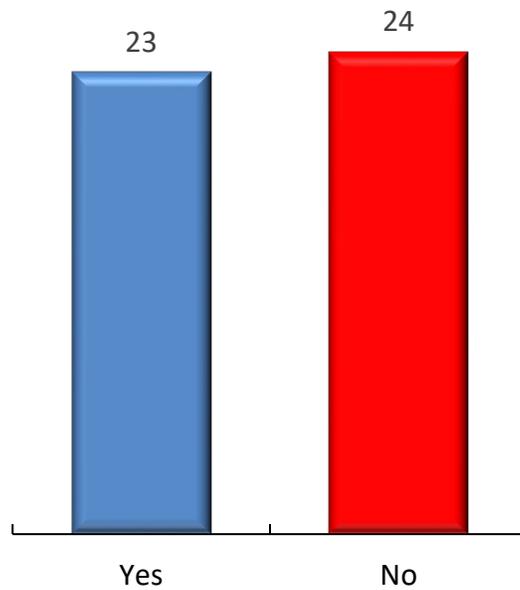
Licensing Database Linkages – Continuation

State	Consultant or training registry	QRIS and/or other quality systems	Child and Adult Care Food Programs	Integrated early childhood data system	Background check service or registry	Other
Total	5	24	4	2	25	7
AK						
AL		•	•		•	
AR		•				
AZ						
CA			•		•	
CO		•			•	
CT						•
DC						
DE		•			•	
FL						•
GA	•	•			•	
HI					•	
IA						
ID						
IL		•			•	
IN		•				•
KS					•	•
KY						
LA		•	•		•	
MA		•			•	
MD		•				
ME		•				
MI		•	•	•	•	
MN		•			•	
MO	•					
MP						
MS						
MT						
NC					•	•
ND		•				
NE						
NH		•				
NJ		•				
NM						
NV						
NY	•				•	
OH		•			•	
OK		•			•	
OR	•			•	•	
PA						
RI						•
SC		•			•	
SD		•			•	
TN					•	
TX					•	
UT		•			•	
VA					•	
VT	•	•			•	
WA						•
WI		•			•	
WV		•				
WY						

Question: If your licensing database system tracks serious injuries and fatalities that occur in child care facilities, does the system capture and categorize them by type and cause?



Question: Has your agency produced a publicly available report from your licensing data in the last two years?

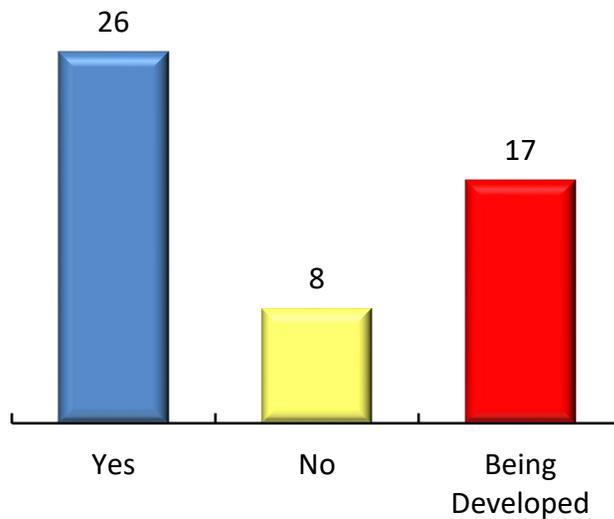


States With Reports Available Online

State	Link to Report
CA	https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/community-care/self-assessment-guides-and-key-indicator-tools/most-commonly-cited-deficiencies
CO	https://cdec.colorado.gov/resources/reports-and-data
DC	https://mychildcare.dc.gov/MyChildCare/AggregateData/2611/0

FL	https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2023-03/Child%20Care%20Continuity%20of%20Operations%20Plan%20%28COOP%29-Disaster%20Preparedness.pdf
MD	https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/Default.aspx
MI	W1.LARA.State.MI.US/Bitfiles/image/CDC.TXT (Allows you to build your own reports)
MN	https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lserver/Public/DHS-7660-ENG
MT	https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensingproject
NJ	https://www.childcarenj.gov/Resources/Reports/Child-Care-Aggregate-Data
NM	Annual-Outcomes April 16 2024 ECECD Comms.pdf (nmececd.org) ECECD-Annual-Outcomes-Final-Repor Aug2023 ECECDComms.pdf (nmececd.org)
NV	https://dwss.nv.gov/Care/CCL/ccl-licensing-home/
NY	ocfs.ny.gov
OR	Data: https://www.oregon.gov/delc/data/Pages/default.aspx#CCLD and Reports: https://www.oregon.gov/delc/resources/Pages/default.aspx#reports
PA	https://data.pa.gov/Services-Near-You/Child-Care-Providers-including-Early-Learning-Prog/ajn5-kaxt/about_data
RI	https://dhs.ri.gov/regulations/state-plans
SD	https://dss.sd.gov/keyresources/statistics.aspx#CCS
TX	https://www.hhs.texas.gov/about/records-statistics/data-statistics/child-care-regulation-statistics
UT	https://childcarelicensing.utah.gov/parents-and-public/incidents-and-injuries/
VA	https://www.childcare.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/273/638487992023870000
VT	https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/reports
WI	https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/ccregulation/reports/2022-becr-annual-summary.pdf
WV	https://dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/Childcare/Documents/WV%20Serious%20Occurrence%20%26%20Injury%20Report.pdf

Question: Does your state have an online license application process or is one being developed?



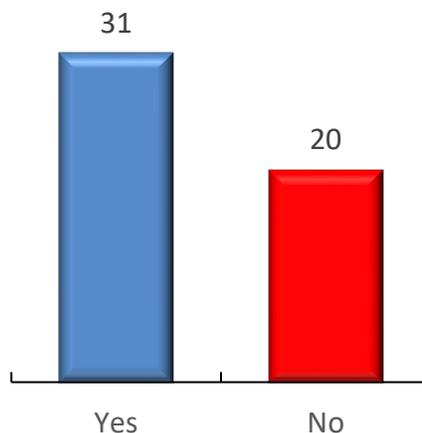
Portable Devices and Other Tools

Question: Is your state using, or considering using, portable, hand-held devices such as smart phones, laptops, and/or computer tablets with specific software for capturing information during licensing inspections?

Analysis: Almost three-fourths of states that regulate child care centers report using portable devices during licensing inspections with 70% that regulate small FCC homes and 77% that regulate Large/Group FCC Homes reported doing so. States that use portable devices almost universally reported using laptops and/or smartphones

	Child Care Centers	Small FCC Homes	Large/Group FCC Homes
Total Number of States that Regulate	52	47	39
Portable devices used for inspections	38	33	30
State is considering the use of portable devices for inspections	14	12	13

Question: Is the state using, or considering using, any other tools/devices/technology (such as laser measuring devices)?



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Summary:

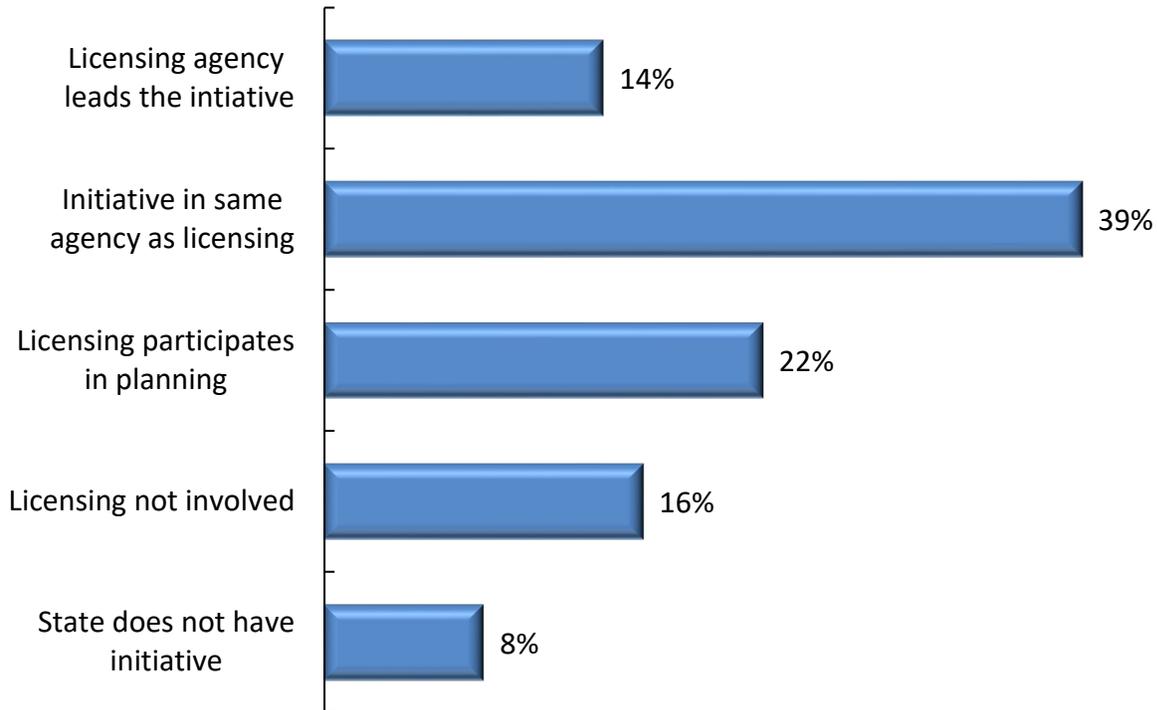
Fewer states reported participating in a tiered quality strategy initiative in 2023 than in 2017. While a similar number of states reported leading an initiative or having such an initiative within their agency, 4 fewer states reported participating in planning. Similarly, fewer states were participating in accreditation facilitation projects. While the number of states participating in a professional development system decreased by 2, those states that are participating in such a program were much more likely to have the program within their agency than just being participants. Two more states are involved with development of an environmental rating scale with the increased involvement being within the same agency.

Question: What is the state child care licensing’s level of involvement in the following initiatives to improve the quality of child care facilities?

Summary of Initiative Participation

	Leads the initiative	Initiative within same agency	Participates in planning	Not involved	No current initiative
Tiered quality strategy	7	19	11	8	4
Accreditation facilitation project	1	6	5	19	14
Professional development system	8	20	15	7	1
Assessing quality with an environment rating scale	3	17	10	13	7

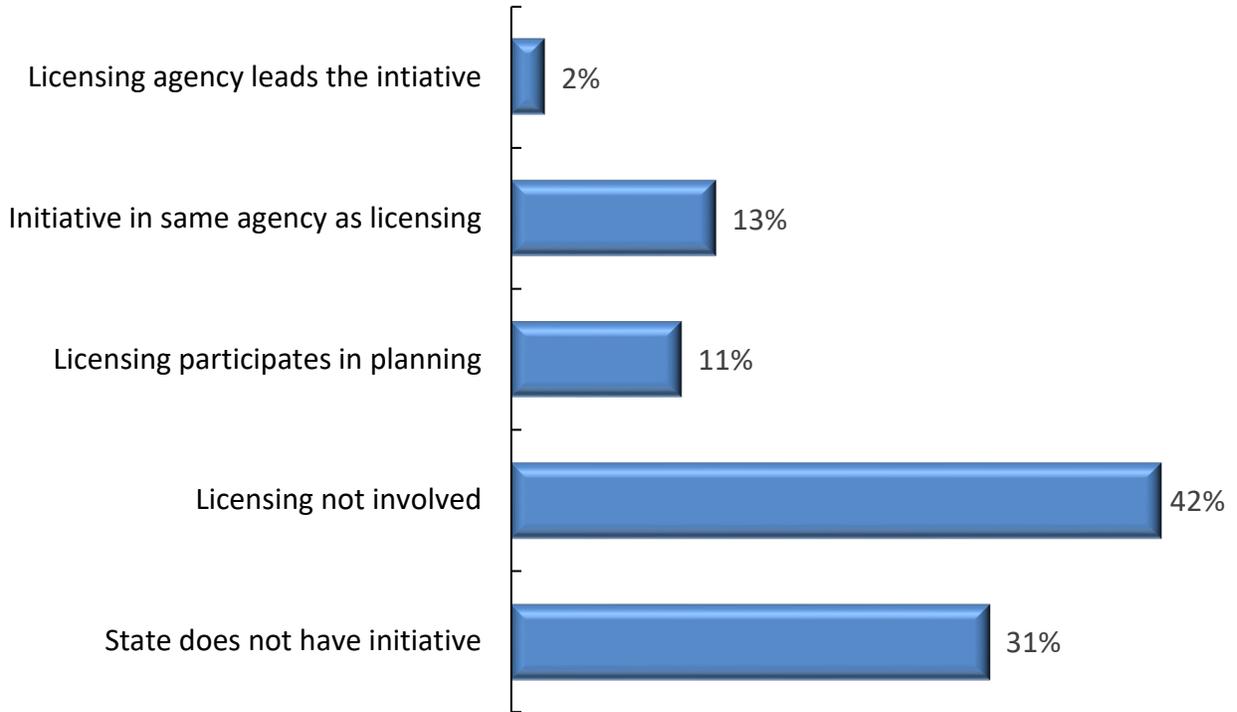
Initiative: Tiered Quality Strategy



State	Licensing agency leads the initiative	Initiative in same agency as licensing	Licensing participates in planning	Licensing not involved	State does not have initiative
Total	7	19	11	8	4
AK			•		
AL		•			

State	Licensing agency leads the initiative	Initiative in same agency as licensing	Licensing participates in planning	Licensing not involved	State does not have initiative
AR			•		
AZ				•	
CA					
CO		•			
CT				•	
DC		•			
DE		•			
FL				•	
GA		•			
HI		•			
IA	•				
ID		•			
IL			•		
IN		•			
KS					•
KY					•
LA		•			
MA		•			
MD		•			
ME			•		
MI				•	
MN		•			
MO					
MP					
MS			•		
MT			•		
NC	•				
ND	•				
NE			•		
NH		•			
NJ				•	
NM		•			
NV			•		
NY					•
OH	•				
OK	•				
OR				•	
PA		•			
RI	•				
SC		•			
SD				•	
TN		•			
TX			•		
UT			•		
VA		•			
VT		•			
WA	•				
WI			•		
WV				•	
WY					•

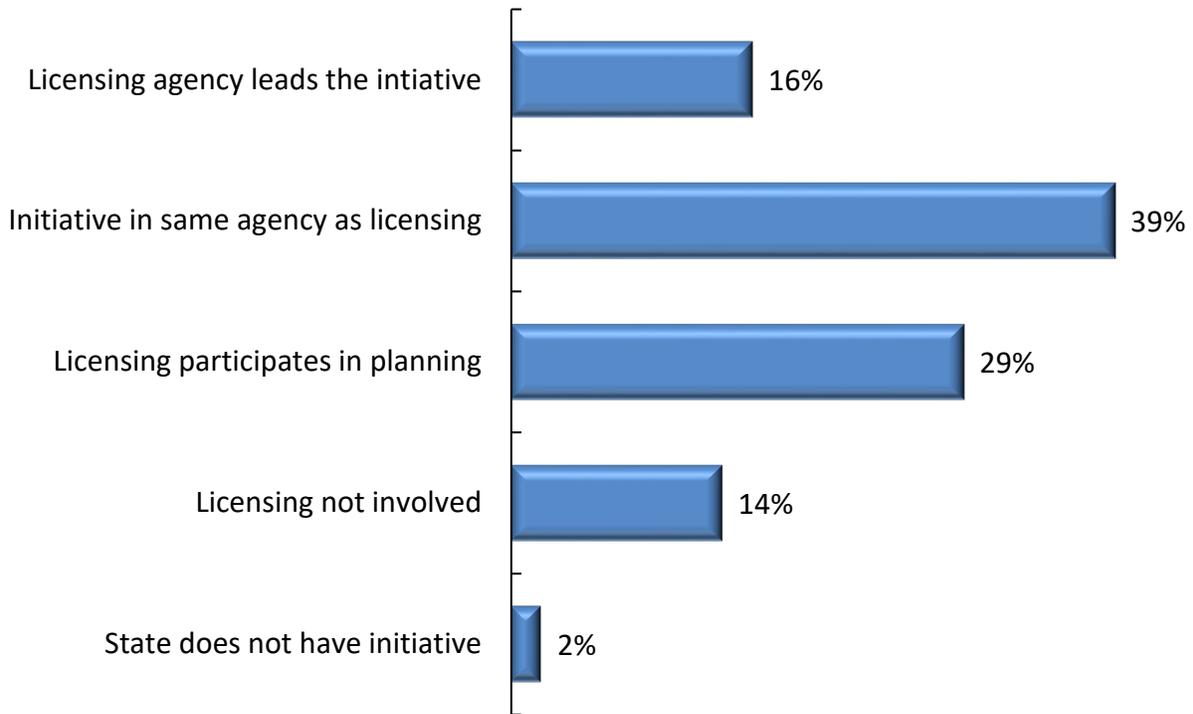
Initiative: Accreditation Facilitation Project



State	Licensing agency leads the initiative	Initiative in same agency as licensing	Licensing participates in planning	Licensing not involved	State does not have initiative
Total	1	7	7	15	16
AK					•
AL		•			
AR			•		
AZ				•	
CA					
CO					
CT				•	
DC		•			
DE			•		
FL				•	
GA					•
HI	•				
IA					
ID					
IL			•		
IN		•			
KS					•
KY					•
LA					•
MA		•			
MD		•			
ME				•	
MI				•	
MN				•	
MO					
MP					
MS				•	
MT					•

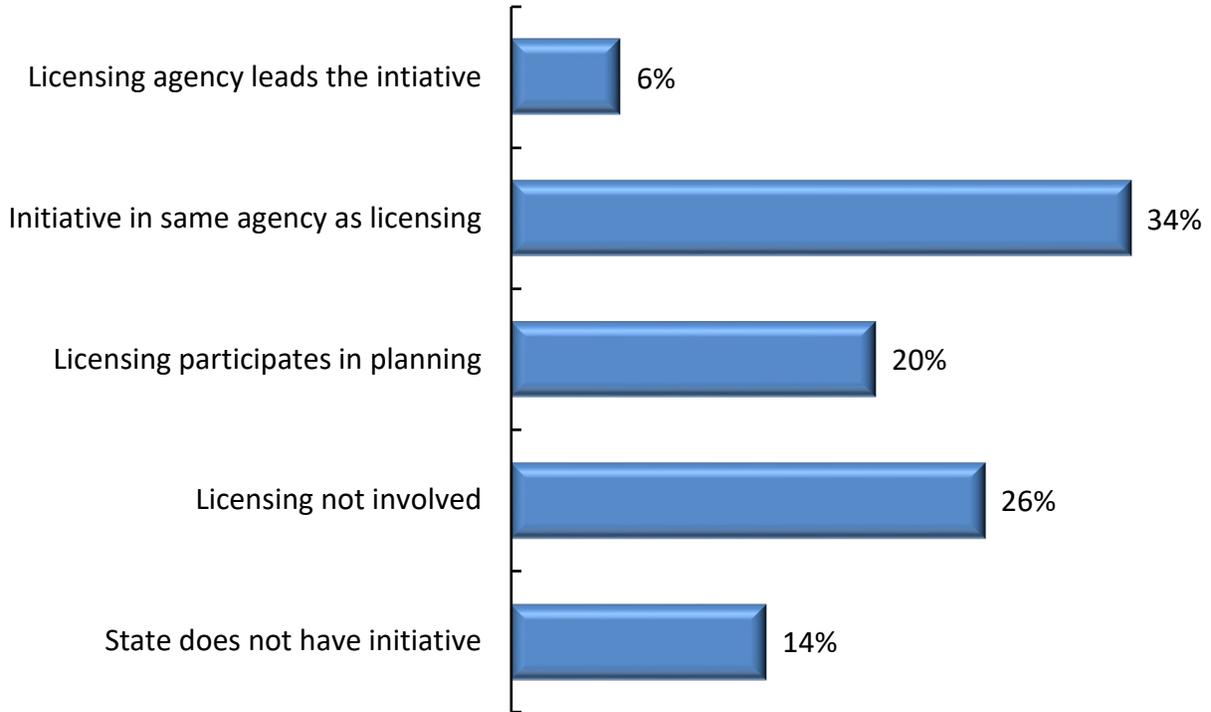
State	Licensing agency leads the initiative	Initiative in same agency as licensing	Licensing participates in planning	Licensing not involved	State does not have initiative
NC				•	
ND					•
NE				•	
NH				•	
NJ				•	
NM		•			
NV			•		
NY					•
OH					•
OK					•
OR					•
PA				•	
RI			•		
SC					•
SD				•	
TN					•
TX				•	
UT				•	
VA				•	
VT				•	
WA					
WI				•	
WV				•	
WY					•

Initiative: Professional Development System



State	Licensing agency leads the initiative	Initiative in same agency as licensing	Licensing participates in planning	Licensing not involved	State does not have initiative
Total	8	20	15	7	1
AK			•		
AL		•			
AR		•			
AZ				•	
CA		•			
CO		•			
CT		•			
DC		•			
DE		•			
FL			•		
GA			•		
HI	•				
IA	•				
ID		•			
IL			•		
IN		•			
KS					•
KY			•		
LA		•			
MA		•			
MD		•			
ME			•		
MI			•		
MN		•			
MO		•			
MP					
MS			•		
MT				•	
NC			•		
ND	•				
NE				•	
NH		•			
NJ				•	
NM		•			
NV			•		
NY	•				
OH			•		
OK	•				
OR			•		
PA		•			
RI	•				
SC		•			
SD				•	
TN			•		
TX				•	
UT			•		
VA		•			
VT		•			
WA	•				
WI			•		
WV				•	
WY	•				

Initiative: Assessing Quality with an Environmental Rating Scale



State	Licensing agency leads the initiative	Initiative in same agency as licensing	Licensing participates in planning	Licensing not involved	State does not have initiative
Total	3	17	10	13	7
AK			•		
AL				•	
AR		•			
AZ				•	
CA		•			
CO		•			
CT					•
DC		•			
DE			•		
FL				•	
GA		•			
HI					•
IA			•		
ID					
IL			•		
IN		•			
KS					•
KY			•		
LA		•			
MA		•			
MD		•			
ME			•		
MI				•	
MN					•
MO		•			
MP					
MS				•	
MT			•		

NC			.		
ND	.				
NE				.	
NH		.			
NJ				.	
NM		.			
NV			.		
NY				.	
OH					.
OK					.
OR				.	
PA		.			
RI	.				
SC		.			
SD				.	
TN		.			
TX				.	
UT			.		
VA		.			
VT		.			
WA	.				
WI				.	
WV				.	
WY					.

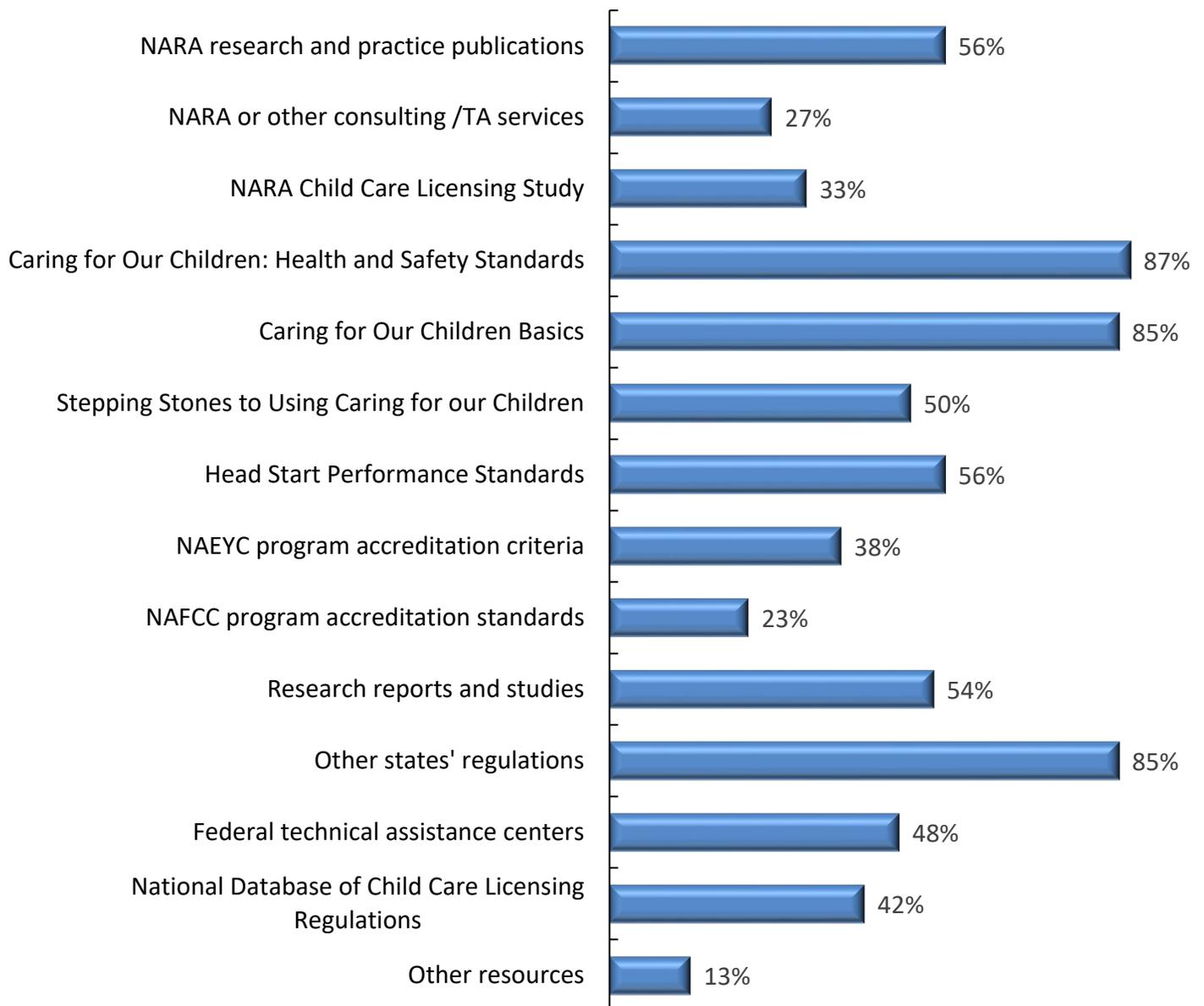
RULE AND REGULATION RESOURCES

Summary:

In both 2017 and 2023, states relied primarily on “*Caring for Our Children: Health and Safety Standards*” for formulating rules and regulations for licensing child care facilities. However, they were less likely to do so in 2023 and increasingly relied on “*Caring for Our Children Basics*”. Other state’s regulations were the second most frequently cited source for formulating rules and regulations. States reported using other sources less frequently across the board in 2023.

Question: What resources does the state use when formulating rules and regulations for licensing child care programs?

Analysis: Approximately 85% to 90% of states use *Caring for Our Children: Health and Safety Standards*, *Caring for Our Children Basics*, or other states' regulations. More than half of states use NARA research and practice publications, Head Start Performance Standards, or research reports and studies. Half or fewer states use any of the other listed resources.



Resources for Formulating Rules and Regulations

State	NARA research and practice publications	NARA or other consulting /TA services	NARA Child Care Licensing Study	Caring for Our Children: Health and Safety Standards	Caring for Our Children Basics	Stepping Stones to Using Caring for our Children	Head Start Performance Standards
Total	29	14	17	45	44	26	29
AK					•		
AL					•		
AR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
AZ	•		•	•	•		
CA				•	•	•	•
CO				•	•	•	•
CT	•		•	•			
DC	•	•		•	•		•
DE	•		•	•	•	•	•
FL	•	•	•	•	•	•	
GA	•	•		•	•	•	
HI				•	•		
IA				•	•	•	
ID		•					•
IL				•	•	•	
IN	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
KS	•		•	•	•	•	•
KY							
LA	•			•			•
MA	•	•	•	•	•		•
MD				•			
ME	•			•	•	•	•
MI				•	•		•
MN		•			•		•
MO	•			•	•	•	
MP				•			
MS					•		
MT				•	•	•	
NC	•		•	•	•	•	•
ND				•	•	•	•
NE	•		•	•	•	•	•
NH	•		•	•	•	•	•
NJ	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NM	•			•	•	•	
NV	•			•			•
NY	•			•	•	•	•
OH	•			•			•
OK	•	•		•	•		
OR	•		•	•	•		•
PA	•	•	•	•	•	•	
RI				•	•		•
SC	•		•		•		•
SD				•	•	•	
TN				•	•	•	•
TX	•			•	•		
UT	•		•	•	•	•	
VA				•	•		•
VT		•		•	•		•
WA	•	•		•	•	•	
WI	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
WV				•	•		
WY				•	•		•

Resources for Formulating Rules and Regulations – Continuation

State	NAEYC program accreditation criteria	NAFCC program accreditation standards	Research reports and studies	Other states' regulations	Federal technical assistance centers	National Database of Child Care Licensing Regulations	Other resources
Total	20	12	28	44	25	22	7
AK							
AL				•			
AR	•	•	•	•			
AZ	•		•			•	
CA				•		•	
CO				•	•	•	
CT			•	•	•	•	
DC			•	•			
DE	•		•	•	•		
FL			•	•			
GA	•		•	•	•	•	
HI				•			
IA				•			
ID			•	•	•		
IL	•	•	•	•			
IN	•	•	•	•			
KS	•	•	•	•			
KY							•
LA	•		•	•		•	
MA	•	•	•	•	•	•	
MD				•	•	•	
ME	•	•	•	•	•		
MI	•			•			
MN			•	•			•
MO			•	•	•	•	
MP							
MS					•	•	
MT	•	•		•	•	•	
NC	•	•	•	•	•	•	
ND				•	•	•	
NE			•	•			
NH			•	•		•	
NJ	•	•	•	•	•	•	
NM				•			•
NV	•			•			
NY	•	•					
OH			•	•	•	•	
OK				•	•		
OR			•	•	•	•	•
PA				•	•	•	
RI	•			•	•	•	
SC				•	•		
SD				•		•	
TN			•	•			
TX				•	•		•
UT	•	•	•	•	•	•	
VA	•	•	•	•	•		•
VT	•			•	•		
WA			•				
WI			•	•	•	•	
WV							•
WY			•	•			

IMPACT OF COVID ON LICENSING PRACTICES

Summary: COVID had significant impacts on some states where the changes are still being felt. Other states reported no change in practices due to COVID. The responses given by the states are included below. No attempt was made at editing except for minor changes for clarification and readability. Those states that did not respond to the 2023 survey are not included in the table since their previous responses were pre-COVID. States that responded to the survey but that did not respond to this question are still included in the table below for completeness.

State:	How did COVID impacted licensing in your state?	What practices that began during COVID continue to be used today?
AK	Prevented on-site inspections. Overall decrease in licensed facilities. Turnover of licensing staff.	Virtual inspections, if necessary, due to travel restraints or follow-up.
AL	Licensing monitoring visits continued.	None
AZ	Staff continued to work in the field and office during COVID. Child Care Licensing was critical to the mission.	Processes did not change during COVID
CA	COVID-19 had a substantial impact on child care licensing in California. The state had to rapidly adapt to evolving public health guidelines to ensure the safety of children, families, and staff in child care settings. This required the implementation of new health and safety protocols, such as enhanced cleaning and sanitization procedures, social distancing measures, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Additionally, licensing inspections and visits had to be modified, with many being conducted virtually to minimize physical contact. The state also provided emergency waivers and temporary regulations to support child care providers during the pandemic.	Several practices initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic have continued to be used in California's child care licensing: 1. Technical Assistance Visits are sometimes conducted virtually, providing flexibility and reducing the need for in-person contact. 2. Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols: Practices such as regular handwashing, the use of PPE, and stringent cleaning procedures continue to be emphasized. 3. Emergency Preparedness: The pandemic underscored the importance of being prepared for emergencies, leading to sustained focus on emergency preparedness and response plans.
CO	Remote inspections for licensing were allowed during COVID-19.	Colorado deployed numerous initiatives during COVID-19, and many of them remain. https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/cdec-stimulus-grant-activity/home
CT	Decreased the number of licensed facilities, we were not able to meet our annual inspection requirements during this period.	Telework for licensing staff, Virtual technical assistance and/or interviews. Virtual child care community/partners meetings.
DC	During COVID the agency pivoted to virtual inspections (initial, monitoring and renewals). Additionally, the agency allowed limited access to child development facilities that allowed each child development facility to upload all required documents for each inspection type.	The agency continues to allow access to child development facilities to upload all required documents for each inspection type (initial, monitoring and renewals).
DE	Child care providers were deemed essential service providers and continued operating during the pandemic. A few providers closed temporarily or permanently. Staffing became an issue and continues to be an issue in our state.	Regulation modifications regarding staff qualifications in light of the child care staffing shortage.
GA	Reduced program operations, for providers; modified licensing inspection processes for agency	Some virtual visits
HI	The licensing workers were essential workers and conducted abbreviated inspections to ensure that health and safety standards were being met and maintained.	none
IA		
ID		
IL		
KY	Collapse of child care program and implementation of limited duration centers, emergency child care associated with emergency programs.	An emergency child care program was created.
LA	There were a lot of locations that were temporarily closed for a period of time due to COVID reducing the availability for child care.	abbreviated inspections
MA	There were a number of programs that closed down. Most reopened but reopening took time. There is a current workforce shortage in the field.	Review of policies and procedures
MD		
ME	During the height of COVID our inspections were less frequent, more time was spent providing TA related to the ever-changing COVID guidelines. We saw an increase of programs moving to	Some management staff participate more frequently in tele-work.

	outdoor nature based programs, which has resulted in us needing to be responsive to the unique needs of this program type.	
MO	Onsite inspections were discontinued for a short period of time but then picked back up as soon as possible. Instead of onsite inspections, we conducted inspections via phone calls. Providers were asked to submit documents for review and asked some questions about their program during the call.	We did not continue any of the practices, we went back to onsite inspections/
MP	We had to revert to virtual inspections.	None.
MS	COVID prevented many of our licensing visits, resulting in less oversight and many providers were wrestling with how to handle the problems and information being thrown their direction.	Licensing staff are still home-based and not based in a physical office location. The push to work from home has enabled us to be more flexible with staff, creating better staff morale and job satisfaction.
MT	Covid impacted which providers stayed open and how licensors were able to provide oversight to licensed programs. No in person inspections were conducted.	
NC	Initially there were concerns about conducting visits to child care programs in a safe and healthy manner. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services released COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Settings. This document was updated several times during the pandemic. Flexibility in Policy and Regulatory requirements were released to provide relief and flexibility to child care facilities. Mental Health Supports were offered to licensing consultants, child care providers, teachers and families. State of emergence rules for school-age care was enacted and licensing assisted with implementation. Licensing conducted monitoring visits a little differently to maintain health and safety. Some items such as program records, policies, and procedures were monitored virtually or by phone, while all other applicable requirements were monitored on site. A checklist was created to document when and how specific requirements were monitored (on or off site).	Licensing went back to monitoring all applicable requirements on-site, but has continued to use a monitoring checklist.
ND	We moved from a paper and pencil practice to a digital.	Digital practices.
NE	In person inspections were done infrequently. Annual licensee and child care staff trainings were waived or postponed.	
NH	Covid delayed regular monitoring visits for several months, complaint investigations still occurred.	
NJ	Centers shut down and then some reopened more immediately to care for children of essential workers only. Others were not permitted to open for months. The Office of Licensing was in constant communication with the State Health Department as the situation was rapidly changing. Information was disseminated weekly via email and our website. At this point, the number of child care centers has surpassed the pre-covid numbers. It took years for centers to recover and regain their capacity and many had difficulty finding and retaining staff following COVID.	The Understanding Licensing training that is required for all directors and direct designees was offered on line during COVID and is still available on line today. Centers have also become more comfortable with using the online software system and uploading documents and have become more diligent about cleaning and following their communicable disease protocols.
NM	The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted child care licensing, requiring numerous adjustments and adaptations. ECECD obtained a waiver to halt Annual onsite inspections to minimize contact and virtual inspections were implemented. Some providers temporarily closed their business. Adjustments were made to group sizes and child-to-educator ratios were reduced. Providers were required to report positive COVID-19 cases daily, leading to frequent closures due to requirements surrounding isolation/quarantining. To ensure safety, health and safety plans were implemented and required of all providers who had a positive case in order to reopen the affected areas. The department implemented the Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) care option. Temporary facilities were established with 3-star or above rated providers permitted to operate these sites under their existing licenses. Educators faced weekly testing requirements and additional health and safety training. In addition, the pandemic also caused significant supply chain issues, resulting in shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies and food supplies. Additionally,	We still require all educators to take the mandatory COVID training, reporting positive cases, and implementing protective measures when a spike in a community occurs - this is not included in their disaster preparedness plan.

	a rapid response portal was created to assist licensing staff and providers in managing the influx of positive case submissions.	
NY	Approximately 2000 programs closed. Utilized virtual inspections.	Not applicable
OH	Ohio created an emergency rule to license "temporary pandemic child centers", complete with application process and administrative code requirements. This rule was then rescinded. Workforce was impacted in a reduction of child care staff. Ohio increased funding and grants to support small business owners in their long-term operations.	Ohio has adopted long term changes such as permitting non-permanent sinks and recognizing COVID as a communicable disease on the Ohio Department of Health developed list of communicable diseases.
OK		
OR	The number of licensed providers of all types dropped during the pandemic.	Electronic visit forms and emailing visit reports to programs
PA		
RI	The state continued unannounced visits during COVID with the exception of a mandated 3-month closure issued as part of a state of emergency.	
SC	We had to find other methods of inspecting facilities and we had to use several different virtual platforms to inspect.	The usage of virtual platforms for meetings.
SD	COVID had a minimal impact in S.D. for licensing. Our requirements stayed the same as did our process for monitoring which included in-person unannounced visits.	N/A
TX	Backlog of inspections due to pausing some activities, more staff turnover and longer vacancies - some due to risk of exposure and some due to economic factors, more challenging to regulate due to emergency orders/rules, cost/frustration with use of PPE	More positions fully remote. (Inspectors have been mobile workers for many years, but many other positions became remote workers or part time teleworkers.) . Use of Teams as a virtual meeting platform.
UT	Licensing was in operation during COVID.	More electronic trainings available.
VA	Onsite licensing inspections were suspended, and virtual inspections were implemented using a specific protocol. Technical assistance and consultation were offered via phone, video or email rather than in person. Meetings with providers and trainings were moved to virtual platforms. Leniency was granted temporarily with certain requirements for programs to address the state of emergency. Our agency collaborated with the health department to provide supplemental child care guidelines to further protect children and families being served as well as the caregivers. The guidelines were updated regularly as new information and progress was made. Many programs closed temporarily and many closed permanently. All inspectors were designated as fully remote staff. PPE was secured for licensing staff to use during inspections once onsite inspections resumed.	Our agency continues to allow a hybrid inspection approach where inspections are conducted on site at facilities, but if there is a need to conduct a portion of the inspection remotely (e.g., record review), this is permitted and encouraged to limit interruptions to programs. Licensing inspectors continue to have PPE available to use during inspections if requested by a provider or preferred by the inspector. Many meetings with providers such as first and second step conferences, intensive plan of correction meetings, and informal conferences continue to be held virtually rather than require providers travel for the meetings. Many trainings continue to be offered virtually.
VT	Our licensing team worked hard to help providers quickly return to providing care and/or setting up alternative programming for first responders, including providing the PPE needed in the first phase of the pandemic. Licensors had to conduct annual visits virtually to protect providers and children in care.	None.
WI	COVID-19 significantly impacted licensing in our state. Many providers were forced into temporary closure or voluntarily closed their child care centers, and many families were struggling to find available child care. Monitoring inspections were moved to a virtual format for approximately 6 months.	Desk reviews for documentation, electronic application processing (emailing in scans of initial and continuation application materials)
WV	At the onset of the COVID pandemic when the state of West Virginia was in shutdown status, an increase in family child care home providers helped families who were identified as essential workers, continue employment. Funding sources assisted all provider types in the state maintain day-to-day operations while fluxes in opening and closing prevailed as operators, staff, and families became ill and recovered. Today, economic effects related to staff turnover and retention represent the impact of COVID.	A system of tracking providers in a manual format continues to be maintained. During the height of the pandemic, many providers closed as the result of a COVID outbreak and subsequently reopened. The system was used to assist other agencies such as the Bureau for Public Health in reporting fluctuation cycles of COVID in child care programs throughout the state. The system is now used to track new providers issued approval to operate, temporary closures, and permanent closures. Pertinent information such as, but not limited to, location, hours/days of operation, and contact information included in the tracking is used to assist the public find appropriate child care within the vicinity of need.

APPENDIX I

These are the open-ended responses by states to the questions on differences between licensed and license-exempt programs.

Question: Please describe how new and existing staff have been trained to conduct inspections in license-exempt programs. How is the training different from the training for conducting licensing inspections?

State	Open-Ended Response
AK	All are trained on the difference between the licensing requirements and subsidy requirements for each provider type.
AL	There is one Program Specialist that does the inspections for the license-exempt facilities, she uses the appropriate regulations to monitor those facilities
AR	
AZ	
CA	n/a
CO	Staff inspecting license-exempt programs are trained by seasoned staff and supervisors.
CT	Existing staff were already trained on conducting licensing inspections. The process for inspecting license-exempt programs is the same. The list of license-exempt requirements were reviewed but existing staff were familiar with the requirements as they were all pulled from licensing requirements.
DC	In Home Monitors (i.e. Education Services Monitors) receive training to monitor in-Home care providers. Training is specific to requirements for license-exempt care.
DE	
FL	No new staff assigned to exclusively inspection license exempt center and homes. Licensing staff's caseloads consist of both licensed and licensed exempt centers and homes. Training is the same for inspecting both provider types.
GA	Onboarding specific training for license-exempt requirements
HI	There are different sets of administrative rules for license-exempt program. Staff are trained to conduct the inspections according to the different rules.
IA	Training is not different
ID	
IL	
IN	Staff have been trained for the existing and new requirements for CCDF. Indiana already had several of the new requirements in place because of State legislation. The training is similar to the licensing staff training. In some cases (centers and unlicensed registered ministries) the staff conduct both licensed and exempt providers so that the conversations are similar for the requirements.
KS	
KY	na
LA	The training concept is the same to conduct inspections for licensed and license exempt programs. The only difference is that license programs receive unannounced inspections once a license is issued and license-exempt programs receive announced and unannounced inspections once certified.
MA	All licensing staff
MD	License-exempt staff, new and existing, are trained using peer-to-peer training prior to the actual inspections, a comprehensive review of documents and expectations, they will continue to receive technical support internally and from the CCDF Lead Agency, and they can discuss concerns during weekly SCRUM meetings, weekly status update meetings or as needed.
ME	The training is similar for conducting either inspection type with the exception of the different requirements.
MI	
MN	
MO	Staff receive hands on training from their supervisor in the field and in the office. They review the subsidy rules, subsidy terms and conditions, and the inspection checklist.
MP	
MS	The licensing official was trained to follow a checklist to ensure compliance with health and safety.
MT	New staff are trained by prior staff. Its a gentle approach with lots of explanations and support.
NC	Training is the same, but points out any differences in requirements.

State	Open-Ended Response
ND	Staff are trained for the same Health and Safety Requirements regardless of license or licensed exempt.
NE	Licensing does not administer these inspections.
NH	Licensing staff are provided the different sets of rules, monitoring checklists, and procedures for licensed-exempt facilities.
NJ	
NM	We follow the same training requirements as we do for licensed programs.
NV	
NY	
OH	DCY licensing agency staff inspecting approved day camps are trained in the same manner in which their colleagues are trained to inspect centers and homes, with the difference being Ohio Administrative Code requirements differing. The same applies for county JFS licensing staff inspecting in-home aides.
OK	
OR	We have a manual for those staff that inspect license-exempt programs, and resources materials for the providers that assist with these visits. Licensing staff are trained by shadowing experienced staff on visits, reviewing rules and training materials as well as through coaching from senior licensing specialists. The training is not different.
PA	
RI	
SC	ABC Quality trains new and existing staff through mentoring. ABCQ Health Educators' educational background is in Public Health which makes them uniquely suited to understand best practices in health and safety of children. Part of their training consists of understanding and implementation of policies and procedures surrounding health and safety requirements for license-exempt centers.
SD	No change in process.
TN	New staff will be trained on policies specific to licensing requirements and CCDBG requirements
TX	N/A - all CCDF recipients are licensed.
UT	The training is basically the same. The difference is in the rules that applies to the different license and exempt facility types.
VA	Back in 2016, existing staff were provided training specific to license-exempt programs to ensure they were familiar with the requirements. Checklists were created to use during inspections if needed. Conducting inspections in license-exempt programs is now a part of the new inspector orientation training. The training related to the inspection protocol, entering inspection findings, and investigating complaints is the same for licensed exempt programs as for licensed programs, but the orientation distinguishes between the different regulations depending on the program type.
VT	N/A
WA	
WI	Staff are trained to conduct inspections in license-exempt programs as they do in group child care programs. License-exempt programs are monitored on a subset of group child care rules that are considered more directly related to the health and safety of children, but license-exempt programs agree to adhere to all group child care rules when they apply for licensure.
WV	N/A
WY	

Question: Please describe how the approach for conducting inspections in license-exempt programs is different than inspections for licensed programs. Does the licensing agency offer more support and technical assistance to the license-exempt providers?

State	Open-Ended Response
AK	Licensing g staff have to understand the differences between licensing requirements and subsidy requirements for each provider type.
AL	
AR	
AZ	
CA	n/a
CO	
CT	Licensing staff have also been assigned to inspect license exempt summer programs.
DC	N/A
DE	

State	Open-Ended Response
FL	
GA	Stand-alone unit of inspectors
HI	
IA	We have inspected subsidy paid child care homes since 2016. Over all, caseloads have decreased in this space.
ID	
IL	
IN	
KS	
KY	na
LA	n/a
MA	Development of Monitoring Tools. Updated databases.
MD	None
ME	
MI	
MN	
MO	
MP	
MS	
MT	
NC	
ND	n/a
NE	Licensing does not administer these inspections.
NH	
NJ	
NM	
NV	
NY	
OH	DCY licensing agency staff inspect approved day camps; local JFS county licensing staff inspect in-home aides. This procedure has been applied for several years with no change.
OK	
OR	The creation of DELC allowed Oregon to bring licensing and the ERDC subsidy program (formerly housed in ODHS) both under one agency. Requirements for license-exempt programs to complete background checks, water lead testing, training and inspections are now all handled by DELC.
PA	
RI	
SC	ABC Quality has Health Educators that conduct the health and safety inspection of license-exempt centers. These programs receive an annual health and safety inspection of their facilities.
SD	South Dakota has approximately 20 license exempt informal and in-home providers. This is a small impact. Each program receives a pre-license and annual inspection.
TN	It has been challenging to develop effective procedures for monitoring agencies for compliance with CCDBG requirements if the agency is also regulated by another Department.
TX	N/A - all CCDF recipients are licensed.
UT	
VA	In November 2023, the agency added seven new inspector positions to be able to reduce caseload sizes.
VT	N/A
WA	
WI	