

Comparison of Indiana's Child Care Licensing and Registration Requirements to the National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of Home Child Care Programs

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and
Indiana Institute on Disability and Community
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This report was completed as part of the Healthy Child Care Indiana Project, a Healthy Systems Development in Child Care Grant awarded to The Indiana Parent Information Network, Inc. (IPIN) and implemented in partnership with the Institute on Disability and Community.

Healthy
Child Care
America



Indiana Initiative

Healthy Child Care Indiana Partners

- ★ Healthy Families Indiana
- ★ IN Association for Child Care Resource and Referral
- ★ IN Association for the Education of Young Children
- ★ IN Association for School Age Child Care
- ★ IN Department of Environmental Management
- ★ IN Department of Health
- ★ IN Family and Social Services Administration
- ★ IN Head Start Association
- ★ IN Institute on Disability and Community
- ★ IN Professional Development System
- ★ Provider Link
- ★ Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
- ★ Riley Hospital - Community Education
- ★ The Indiana Parent Information Network, Inc

Purposes of report

- ★ Determine degree of inclusion of national standards in Indiana's licensure requirements for centers and home child care, and registration requirements for child care ministries
- ★ Encourage discussion about how to increase the level of quality of child care in Indiana through regulation and other means

Study methodology

- ★ Compilation of Indiana's licensure documents
- ★ Attendance at orientation training
- ★ Comparison of National Standards included in the Stepping Stones to Caring for Our Children to Indiana's requirements to the state documents

Stepping Stones to Using Caring for our Children

- ★ Developed by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services -Maternal Child Health Bureau
- ★ Includes those standards most needed for the prevention of injury, illness and death in child care settings

Types of Child Care Regulated in Indiana

- ★ **Center** - a nonresidential building where child care services are provided for more than four hours (but less than 24 hours) a day, for more than 10 consecutive work days.
- ★ **Home** - a residential facility serving up to 12 children (Homes serving less than 6 unrelated children are license-exempt)
- ★ **Ministries** - Child care operated by a church or religious organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. (Ministries must be registered, or become licensed centers)

Application of National Standards

- ★ National Standards applicable to centers used for
 - ★ centers
 - ★ ministries
- ★ National Standards applicable to large family homes used for
 - ★ child care homes

Licensing requirements have two components

- ★ **Regulations** - Specific measure blind to circumstances
 - ★ i.e., 35 square feet space per child
- ★ **Standards** - No measurable quantification, open to interpretation
 - ★ i.e., age-appropriate activities, safe surface, adequate ventilation
 - ★ Guidance may exist separately from requirements

Study Methodology

A score of 4 to 1 was given for each National Standard, for each type of care to indicate the degree to which it was addressed by state requirements

| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Includes all criteria | Includes intent, plus elaboration | Includes Intent, plus mention | Some mention, no elaboration |
| Standard Addressed | | Standard <u>Not</u> Addressed | |

Reports of Results

- ★ % of National Standards included at 3 or higher level
 - ★ 9 topics outlined in National Standards - aligned most closely with areas defined in licensure
 - ★ Staffing
 - ★ Program: Activities for Health Development
 - ★ Program: Health Promotion and Protection
 - ★ Nutrition and Food Service
 - ★ Facilities, Supplies, Equipment, Transportation
 - ★ Infectious Disease
 - ★ Children with Special Needs
 - ★ Administration
 - ★ Management Plan & Statement of Services

Reports of Results

★ % of National Standards included at a 3 or higher level

★ 5 areas - outlined in National Standards

★ Building and Premises: Equipment Safety and Practices

★ Other Safety Policies and Practices

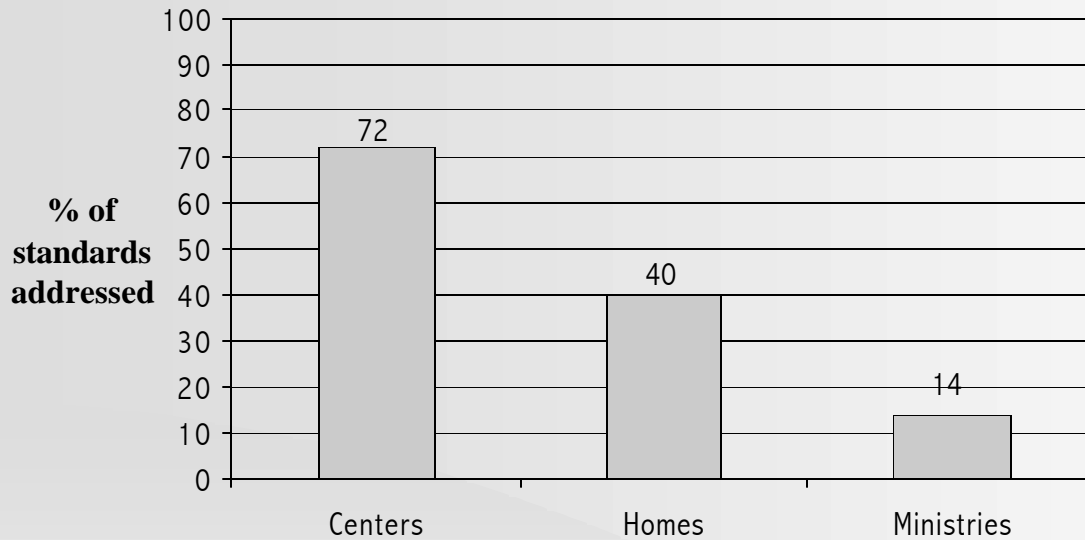
★ Promoting Healthy Development: Policies/Practices/Staff Training

★ Infection Control

★ Reportable Communicable Diseases Policies and Practices

Findings by National Standards Topics

Staffing



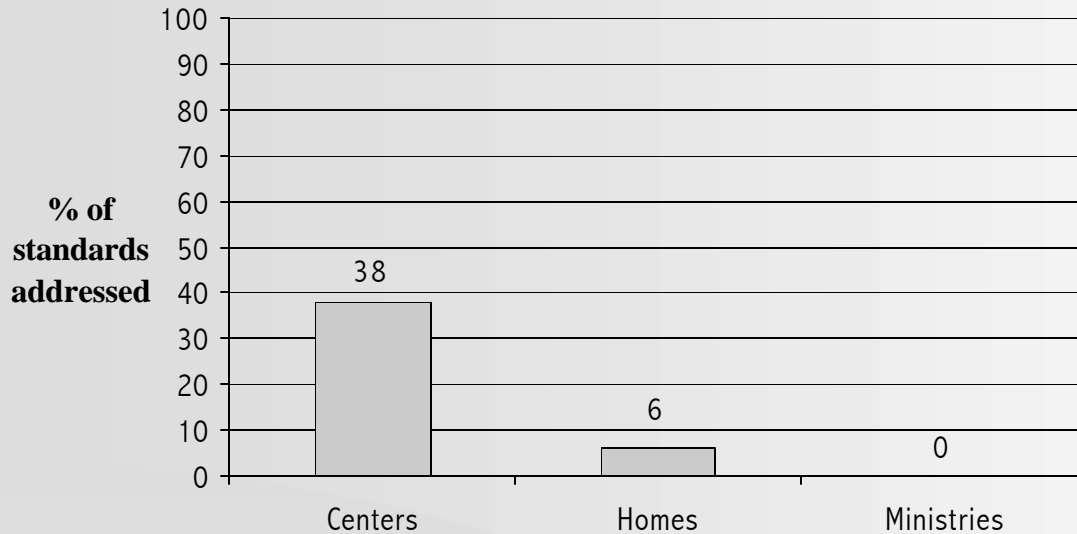
★ Standards:

- ★ Child:Staff Ratio and Group Size
- ★ Staff Qualifications
- ★ Training
- ★ Staff Health, Benefits and Evaluation
- ★ Health Consultants

Findings by National Standards Topics

Program: Activities for Healthy Development

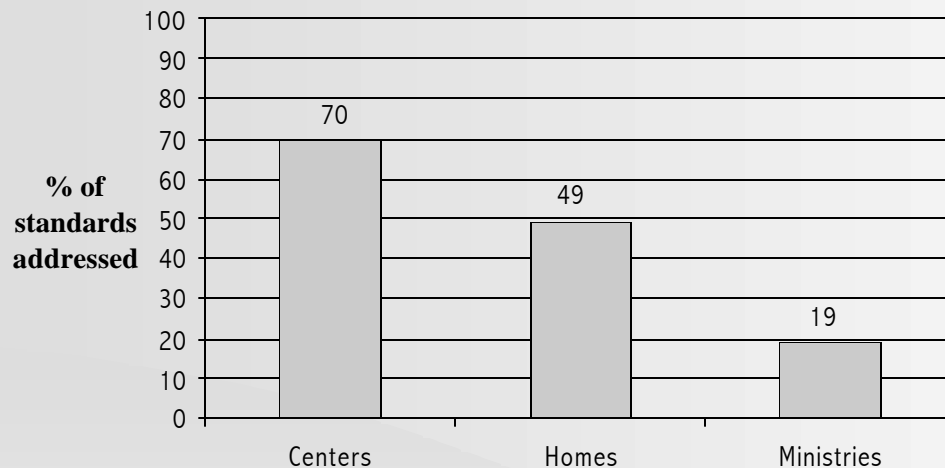
★ Standards:



- ★ Program for Developmental Activities by age group
- ★ Supervision
- ★ Field Trips
- ★ Discipline
- ★ Parent Relationships

Findings by National Standards Topics

Program: Health Protection & Health Promotion



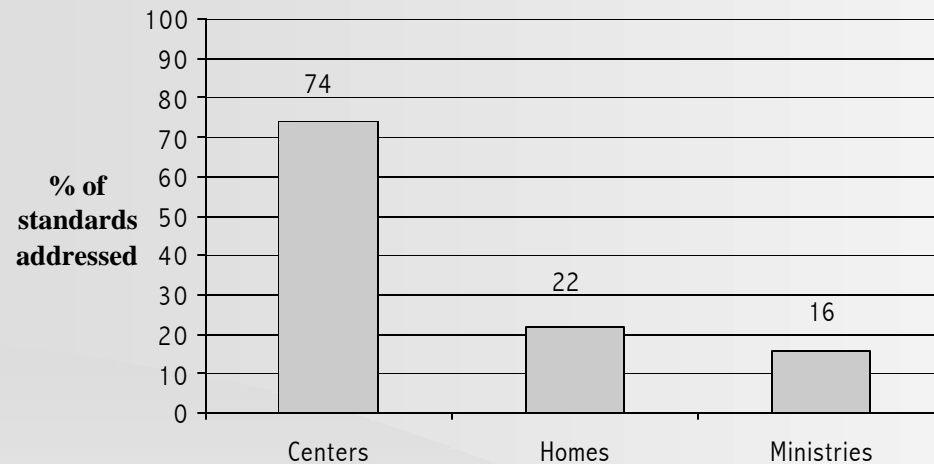
★ **Standards:**

- ★ Growth data
- ★ Diapering and Toilet Training
- ★ Hygiene / Toileting Sanitation
- ★ Management and Prevention of Illness
- ★ Emergency Procedures
- ★ Facilities for ill children
- ★ Smoking and Prohibited Substances

Findings by National Standards Topics

Nutrition and Food Service

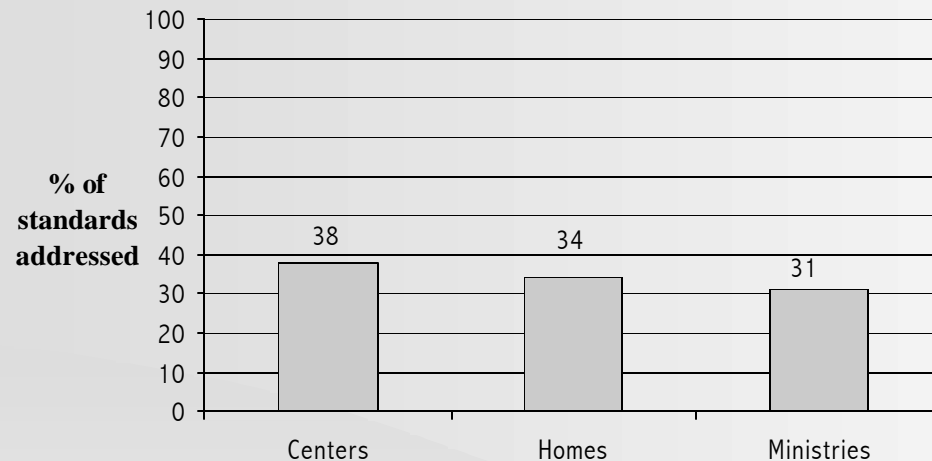
★ **Standards:**



- ★ Nutrition for Special Groups or Ages
- ★ Staffing
- ★ Meal Service
- ★ Kitchen and Equipment
- ★ Food Safety
- ★ Maintenance

Findings by National Standards Topics

Facilities, Supplies, Equipment & Transportation



★ **Standards:**

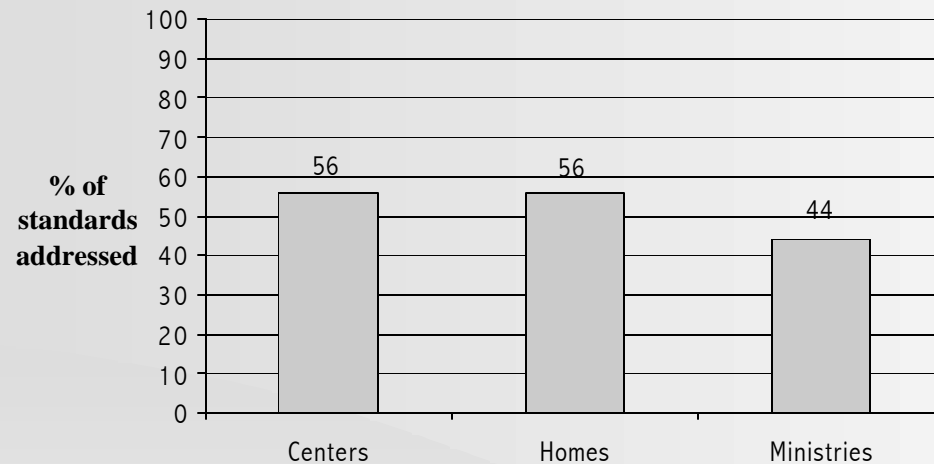
- ★ Overall Space and Equipment Requirements
- ★ Requirements for Indoor Space and Equipment
- ★ Playground and Outdoor Areas
- ★ Swimming, Wading and Water
- ★ Maintenance for Safety
- ★ Transportation

Findings by National Standards Topics

Infectious Disease

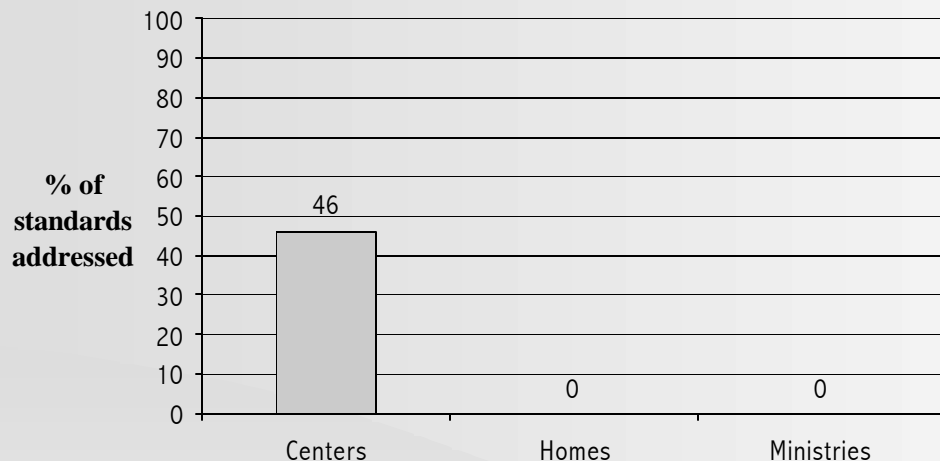
★ **Standards:**

- ★ Respiratory Infections
- ★ Enteric and Hepatitis A Virus Infections
- ★ Vaccine-Preventable Disease
- ★ HIV Policies



Findings by National Standards Topics

Children with Special Needs

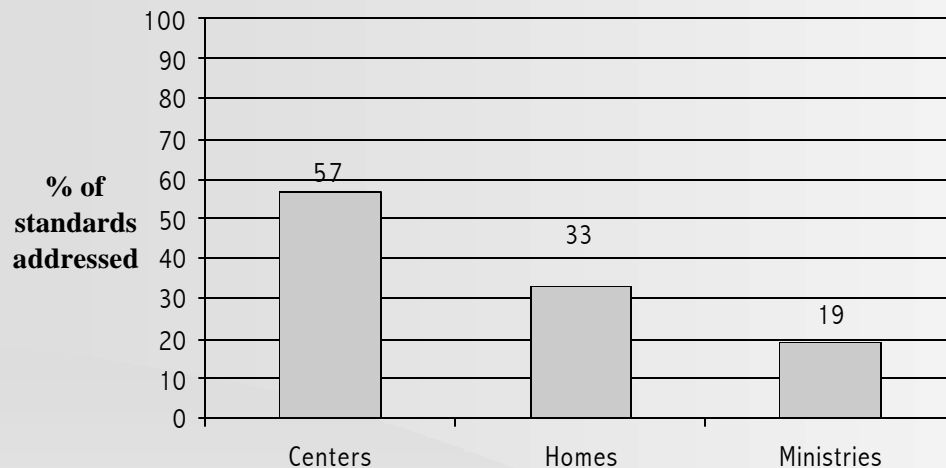


★ **Standards:**

- ★ Integration
- ★ Evaluation Process Prior to Enrollment
- ★ Developing a Service Plan
- ★ Service Coordination
- ★ Formal / Informal Facilities Assessment
- ★ Special Requirements and Equipment
- ★ Transition

Findings by National Standards Topics

Administration



★ Standards:

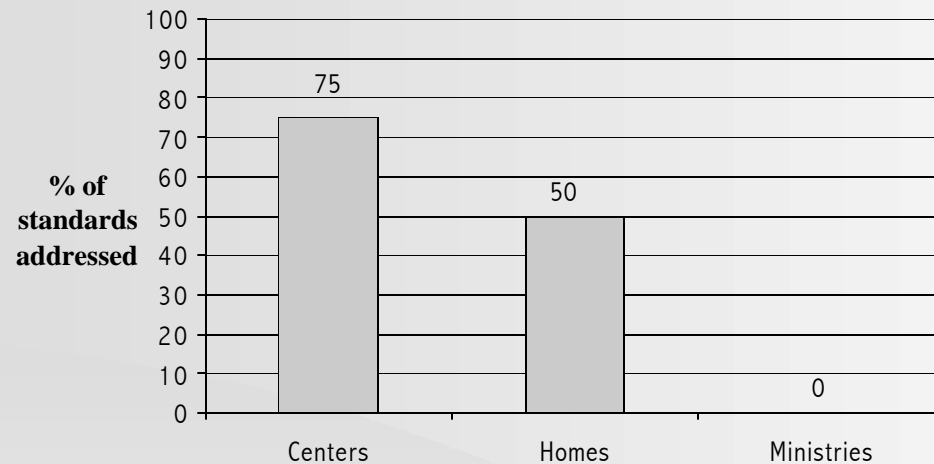
- ★ Management Plan and Statement of Services
- ★ Supervision and Discipline Policy
- ★ Health, Emergency, and Sanitation Plan
- ★ Training
- ★ Program Development
- ★ Regulatory Coordination

Findings by National Standards Topics

Plans & Policies

★ Standards:

- ★ Child Records
- ★ Disease Related Policies
- ★ Training for Child Care Providers
- ★ Emergency Plans
- ★ Infant Feeding Policies
- ★ Immunizations



% of National Standards in *Stepping Stones* included at 3 or greater level

- ★ 60% - center requirements
- ★ 32% - child care home requirements
- ★ 20% - registered ministries requirements

Critical factors affecting Indiana not addressed by study

- ★ Limited scope of application of child care licensure and registration system
- ★ Extremely limited guidance for application of standards
- ★ Degree of enforcement of licensure/registration requirements

Types of Unregulated Child Care in Indiana

- ★ School-based (e.g., before and after school care)
- ★ Nonresidential programs for children that provide services less than four (4) hours a day (e.g., half-day preschools)
- ★ Recreation programs for children that operate for not more than ninety (90) days in a calendar year.
- ★ Programs whose primary purpose is to provide social, recreational, or religious activities for school age children.
- ★ Programs serving migrant children
- ★ Child care homes - caring only for relatives, or caring for less than six (6) unrelated children at one time.

Where are Indiana's children receiving child care ?

- ★ In 1999, 680,000 children (birth to 12 years of age) were in need of child care
 - ★ Licensed child care centers - 55,645 children
 - ★ Licensed child care homes - up to 38,000
 - ★ Total licensed capacity 94,000
 - ★ Registered child care ministries - unknown
 - ★ **586,000 children in unlicensed care**
- ★ Information supplied by the Family Social Services Administration

**What % of the dollars spent on
human care regulation in
Indiana are used to protect
our youngest citizens ?**

We don't have an answer !

Recommended actions to improve quality of child care

- ★ *Increase the scope* of regulation
- ★ *Adopt rules and regulations* that reflect current research and standards
- ★ *Fund initiatives* to support quality child care
 - ★ Compensation for quality programs
 - ★ Child Care Health Consultant Project
 - ★ Funding for provider training
- ★ *Develop and enforce clear penalties* that protect children in child care