



**CHILD CARE
LICENSING REPORT
STATE FISCAL YEAR 2014**

Office of Family Assistance

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Introduction

The Annual Child Care Licensing Report provides information regarding the licensing inspections performed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Family Assistance, Bureau of Child Care Licensing and Monitoring, as required by Section 5104.04 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC):

“The department shall prepare an annual report on inspections conducted under this section. The report shall include the number of inspections conducted, the number and types of violations found, and the steps taken to address the violation. The department shall file the report with the Governor, the president and minority leader of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives on or before the first day of January of each year, beginning 1999.”

The data in this report outlines licensing activities during state fiscal year (SFY) 2014, between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, for licensed child care centers, Type A Homes and Type B Homes. A child care center is defined as any place that is not the permanent residence of the licensee or administrator in which child care is provided, with or without compensation, for seven to 12 children at one time, or any place in which child care is provided for 13 or more children at one time. A Type A Home is defined as a residence of a child care provider in which care is provided for seven to 12 children. A Type B Home is defined as a residence of a child care provider in which care is provided for one to six children. In order to be licensed, Type B Homes must participate in the publicly funded child care program. Detailed inspection information specific to child care centers and Type A Homes is available at <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/cdc/query.asp>.

During SFY 2014, ODJFS began licensing Type B Homes that participate in the publicly funded child care program. Senate Bill 316 required Type B Homes that previously were certified by county departments of job and family services (county agencies) to become licensed by ODJFS effective January 1, 2014. At the time of the transition, 3,846 certified Type B Homes became state-licensed. The new model for Type B Home licensing is state-administered and county-monitored. County agencies inspect Type B Homes and recommend licensing actions to ODJFS, which approves or denies the recommendations. Licensing actions include initial licensure, license revocation and license closure. Because this change occurred during SFY 2014, this report contains limited data for Type B Homes. However, a joint licensing data system, known as the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System, is being developed to capture information for all licensed programs in the state.

Inspection Overview

Child care center and Type A Home inspections are conducted by ODJFS licensing staff, who are located in five regional offices: Akron, Dayton, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo. The Bureau of Child Care Licensing and Monitoring is managed by a bureau chief, who oversees all operations of the bureau. The regional offices have a total of nine supervisors and 74 child care licensing specialists. The 88 county agencies monitor Type B Homes or delegate the responsibility to a contracted agency.

Child care centers, Type A Homes and Type B Homes are inspected to assess whether they meet minimum health and safety standards, as required in ORC 5104 and Ohio Administrative Code 5101: 2-12, 2-13 and 2-14. An announced initial pre-licensing visit is completed for all new child care centers, Type A Homes and Type B Homes. Newly licensed programs are licensed for a one-year provisional period. Once the program demonstrates full compliance, the provisional license may be amended to a non-expiring continuous license. All programs must receive one unannounced inspection each year once the initial license is approved. Child care centers receive at least one inspection each year and may receive additional inspections based on compliance at the first inspection. Type A Homes and Type B Homes receive two inspections each year. In addition to routine inspections, ODJFS and county agencies conduct complaint investigations regarding rule violations in licensed programs.

During on-site inspections, ODJFS licensing specialists assess child care centers and Type A Homes for compliance with health and safety standards and document the findings in a mobile software application. This application allows the child care licensing specialist to generate a report with details of the on-site inspection. At the conclusion of each inspection, the licensing specialist conducts an exit interview and provides the program with a copy of the inspection report, which describes areas determined to be compliant and noncompliant. Programs determined to be noncompliant must submit a corrective action plan explaining the actions taken to become compliant.

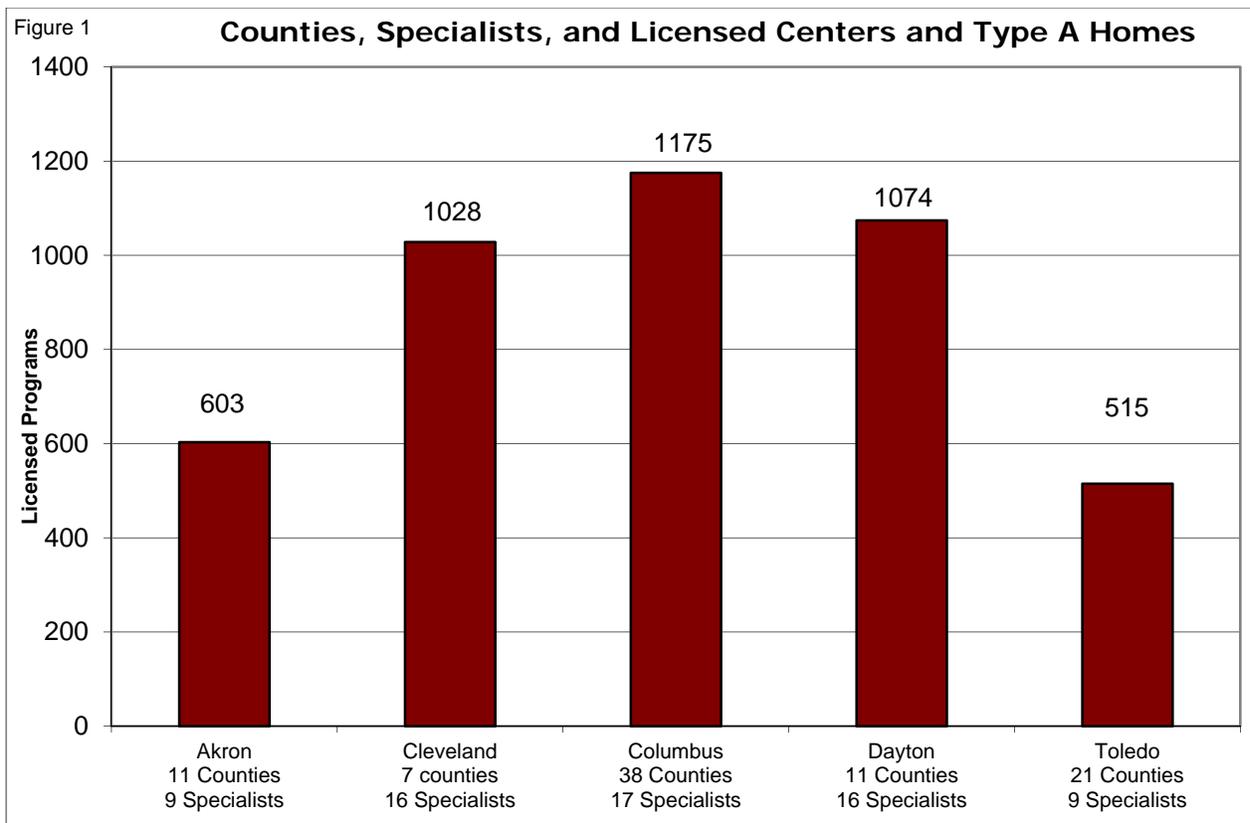
County agency staff assesses Type B Homes for compliance with health and safety standards and document the findings on a prescribed form. At the conclusion of the inspection, county agency staff conduct an exit interview and provide the program with a copy of the inspection report, which describes areas determined to be compliant and noncompliant. Programs determined to be noncompliant must submit a corrective action plan as described in the inspection report. In the future, inspections for child care centers, Type A Homes and Type B Homes will be entered into a shared electronic inspection application and database.

At the end of SFY 2014, Ohio had 8,140 licensed child care programs – including 4,157 child care centers, 238 Type A Homes and 3,745 Type B Homes – serving 314,791 children.

Child Care Centers and Type A Homes

During SFY 2014, ODJFS licensing specialists successfully performed 6,855 inspections, licensed 298 new programs, and provided ongoing technical assistance and training to child care centers and Type A Homes in support of promoting quality care to Ohio's children.

Child care center and Type A Home licensing staff consist of eight licensing supervisors and 67 child care licensing specialists. These licensing specialists complete all licensing inspections, complaint investigations and Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) verification visits in their respective regions. Figure 1 reflects the number of counties, specialists, and licensed child care centers and Type A Homes by region.



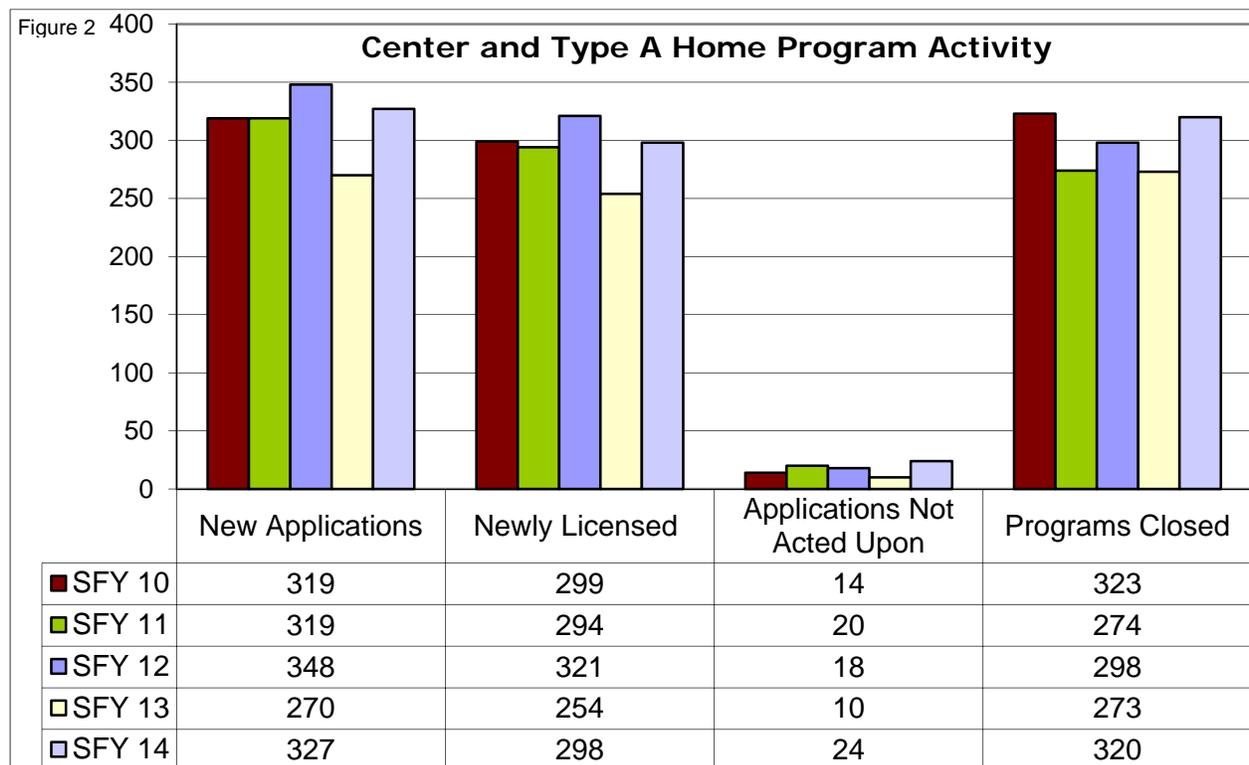
Provider Technical Assistance

In addition to monitoring and facilitating compliance through inspections and complaint investigations, licensing specialists offer technical assistance and training to the child care community to promote quality child care in Ohio. Technical assistance consists of providing suggestions for reaching or maintaining compliance with minimum health and safety requirements, as well as recommendations for exceeding minimum licensing requirements. Trainings on methods to achieve and maintain health, safety and licensing standards are conducted regularly with new programs and administrators. During SFY 2014, 1,149 program administrators participated in 24 administrator rule training sessions, and 1,144 prospective providers participated in 52 “Plan of Operation” trainings, which were offered to individuals interested in operating a child care program.

Program Activity

During SFY 2014, the ODJFS Bureau of Child Care Licensing and Monitoring received 327 new applications for child care center and Type A Home licenses, compared to 270 in SFY 2013. Of the 327 applications, ODJFS licensed 298 programs. The remaining 29 applicants either chose to withdraw or were pending at the end of SFY 2014.

Figure 2 compares the number of applications received, programs licensed and programs closed over a five-year period for child care centers and Type A Homes. Most often, programs cease operations due to voluntarily closing, relocating or changing ownership. An “application not acted upon” is an application that does not include all the required components, such as payment of the licensing fee or the required documentation.

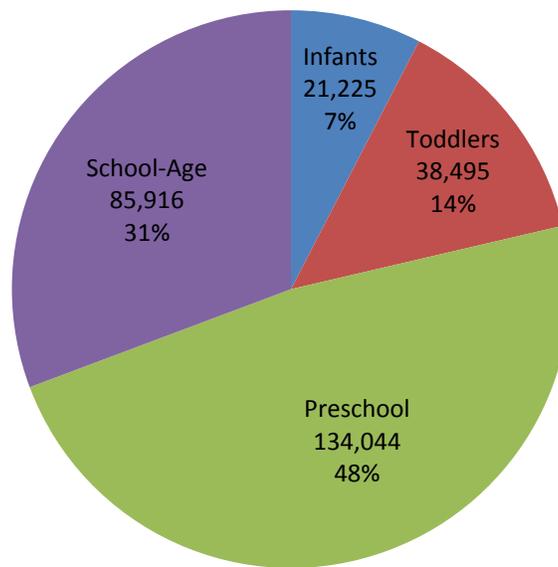


Enrollment

Ohio's licensed child care centers and Type A Homes had the capacity to serve 336,742 infants, toddlers, preschool and school-age children at 4,395 licensed programs. At the end of SFY 2014, the 4,395 licensed child care centers and Type A Homes had 279,680 children enrolled. Figure 3 depicts the number of children enrolled by age group.

Figure 3

Enrollment by Age Group
(Includes private pay and publicly funded children)

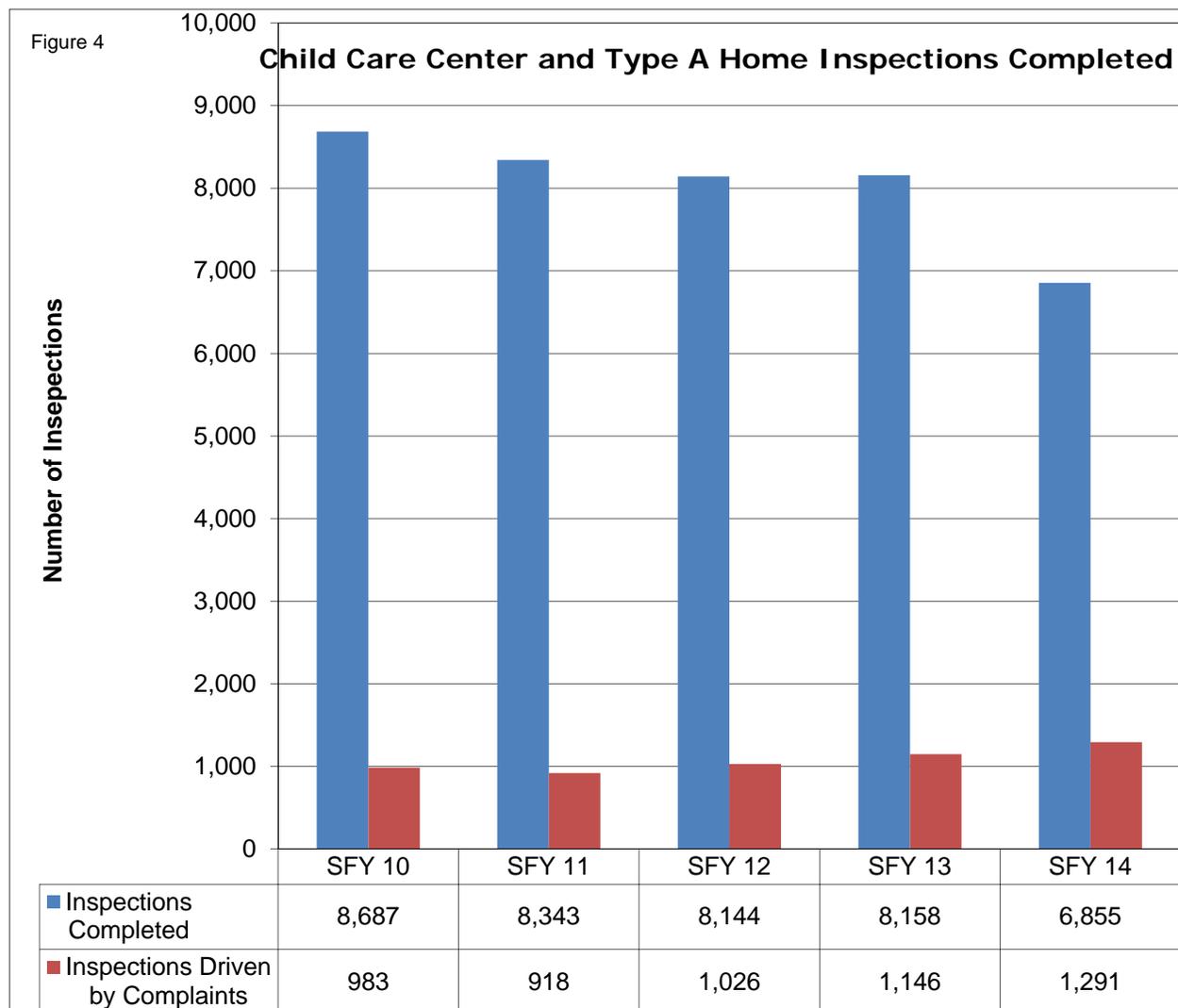


Inspection Overview

In SFY 2014, licensing specialists completed 6,855 inspections in licensed child care centers and Type A Home facilities in Ohio. Of those inspections, 1,291 were initiated due to complaints.

In SFY 2014, ODJFS implemented a new model for conducting center inspections. All centers received one inspection during the first half of the state fiscal year and additional inspections during the year if the program was cited for serious violations. This inspection model allows licensing specialists to increase training, technical assistance and monitoring of programs that have serious compliance issues.

Figure 4 illustrates the number of inspections completed during each of the past five state fiscal years, along with the number of complaint investigations. The number of inspections decreased because of the inspection model change, but programs cited for serious violations received increased technical assistance and training.



Summary of Compliance Findings

During on-site inspections of child care centers and Type A Homes, ODJFS licensing specialists verify program compliance with 42 licensing rules containing numerous subparts. They make observations, conduct interviews and review files.

The following table illustrates the most frequent rule violations cited during SFY 2014. In order to help programs achieve compliance, ODJFS provides technical assistance by explaining the intent of the rule, suggesting best practices to achieve compliance, providing training and conducting additional monitoring inspections as necessary.

Rules Most Often Cited as Out of Compliance	
Rule	Total Number of Violations Determined in SFY 2014
Child Medical/Enrollment Records	4,573
Statement of Non-Conviction and Criminal Records Check (BCII/FBI Background Checks)	4,382
Employee Records (e.g. No employee file, no orientation, no medical statement)	3,900
Safe Indoor Equipment/Environment	3,816
Administration of Medicine	2,779
Attendance	2,639
Sanitary Indoor Equipment/Environment	2,266
Program Medical/Dental/General Emergency Plan	2,051
Persons Trained in First Aid/CPR; Prevention, Recognition and Management of Communicable Disease; and Child Abuse	1,790
Care Plan for Children with Health Conditions	1,421
Total	29,617

Detailed Compliance Findings

The following tables indicate the number of rule violations documented in SFY 2014 for child care centers and Type A Homes, grouped by category and with a brief description of the most common findings.

Licensure/Approval Findings

Programs must have a valid license in order to operate a facility that serves more than six children at any time. Additionally, programs must secure and retain inspection approvals in the areas of building standards, fire prevention and food service safety. Programs are required to give licensing specialists access to their facilities to conduct inspections. Programs must adhere to the capacity approved with their license or request a change in licensure for additional capacity. The program's license and all inspection reports for the last two years are required to be posted in the program's building for review.

Licensure/Approval Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Fire Department Approval	259
License Capacity	120
Building Approval	110
Food Service Licensure/Food Catered	39
Facility Access/Falsification/Misleading Statements	24
Inspection/Investigation Rights	13
Total	565

Children's Records Findings

Programs are determined to be noncompliant when new or updated medical statements and health and enrollment records are unavailable for review for each child. Programs also are determined to be noncompliant when records are incomplete. Records required to be on file include emergency contact numbers, detailed immunization records, lists of allergies, documentation of medications currently being administered, a list of any chronic physical problems and, if applicable, plans provided by parents or guardians explaining how to address their children's health conditions.

Children's Records Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Medical/Enrollment Records	4,573
Care Plan for Children with Health Conditions	1,421
Total	5,994

Space/Program Findings

The minimum requirement for indoor floor space is 35 square feet per child. A frequent noncompliance is the use of an area that has not been approved for child care.

Noncompliance in the category of outdoor equipment indicates the outdoor play environment that poses a safety risk, such as a fall surface or equipment in need of repair.

Space/Program Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Outdoor Play Equipment	1,090
Transportation/Driver Requirements	880
Transportation Procedural Requirements	792
On-site Outdoor Play Space	644
Transportation/Vehicle Requirements	599
Outdoor Play Fall Surface	383
Separation of Infants and Toddlers Under 2½ years	134
Evening and Overnight Care (e.g. no bedtime routines or security plan)	68
Swimming and Water Safety	52
Smoke-Free Environment	47
Indoor Floor Space	32
Parks/Indoor Play Space	10
Total	4,731

Infant/Toddler Care Findings

Programs that provide care to infants and toddlers are required to offer activities that are suitable to the ages and abilities of the infants in care. Programs are required to practice hand washing and basic precautions when preparing bottles and diapering infants and toddlers. All cribs must meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission standards.

Infant/Toddler Care Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Cribs	1,224
Infant Food/Formula	880
Hand Washing and Basic Precautions	687
Diapering and Toilet Training	481
Infant Daily Program	286
Infant Caregiver	95
Total	3,653

Classroom Findings

This category includes a wide range of rules, from “Safe Indoor Equipment/Environment” to “Care and Nurturing of Children,” which requires that staff be responsible for the well-being and safety of each child in care and for meeting each child’s basic needs. Some common noncompliant findings in this category are play equipment in need of repair, cleaning supplies or chemicals that are accessible to children, and insufficient staff-to-child ratios.

Classroom Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Safe Indoor Equipment/Environment	3,816
Sanitary Indoor Equipment/Environment	2,266
Medical/Dental/General Emergency Plan	2,051
Staff/Child Ratios	900
Equipment/Materials	831
Supervision	801
Care/Nurturing of Children	554
Programming Environment	550
Group Size	493
Cots	298
Child Guidance/Management	149
Tooth Brushing	97
Total	12,806

Staff Requirements Findings

Many violations in this category are the result of programs not having the required documentation available for review. Examples include employee medical records, criminal records check verifications and proof of in-service training.

Staff Requirements Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Statement of Non-Conviction and Criminal Records Check	4,382
Employee Records	3,900
Persons Trained in First Aid/CPR; Prevention, Recognition and Management of Communicable Disease; and Child Abuse Recognition and Prevention	1,790
Child Care Staff Educational Requirements	1,091
In-Service Training	934
Administrator Responsibilities/Time On-Site	361
Administrator Qualifications	249
Total	12,707

Food/Nutrition Findings

Programs are required to ensure that all meals for children, whether they are provided by the program or by parents, meet minimum U.S. Department of Agriculture nutritional standards. Posting a menu provides parents and guardians with information about the meals served each day. A common noncompliance in this category is that posted menus do not reflect what is actually served by the program.

Food/Nutrition Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Menus	828
Requirement for Meals/Snacks	352
Food Safety and Sanitation	187
Infant Formula and Toddler Milk	170
Requirement for Food Provided by Parents	135
Interval of Meals/Snacks	27
Total	1,699

Emergency Planning Findings

When a child becomes ill, has an accident, or requires first aid or medical treatment while in care, the program is required to complete an incident/injury report and provide a copy to the parent, guardian or other individual picking up the child. Programs also are required to have a first aid kit available in the event of accidents or emergencies. One common noncompliance in this category is first aid kits that are missing such required items as bandages or thermometers. Another common noncompliance occurs when programs fail to report serious incidents and injuries. These are defined as situations in which a child requires emergency medical treatment, professional consultation or transportation for emergency treatment. Serious incidents and injuries are required to be reported to ODJFS within 24 hours if the incident occurred during the week or within 48 hours if the incident occurred on a weekend.

Emergency Planning Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
First Aid Supplies/Procedures	1,430
Incident/Injury Reporting	310
Total	1,740

Program Policy Findings

Program policies and procedures must be provided to parents, guardians and employees of each program. If a program chooses to administer medication, proper procedures must be followed to ensure the safety of the child. Noncompliances in this category typically are the result of incomplete medication paperwork or the program not following its written procedures.

Program Policy Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Administration of Medicine	2,779
Program Information/ Policies/Procedures	824
Management of Illness	173
Total	3,776

Staffing/Attendance Findings

Daily attendance records help ensure that children are properly supervised and tracked. Child care staff members are responsible for maintaining these records and for knowing the whereabouts of the children in their care at all times. Noncompliances in this area occur when children's names are not included on rosters, when staff members fail to note a child's arrival or departure, or when an insufficient number of staff members is present to supervise children.

Staffing/Attendance Findings	
Rule Violation	2014 Findings
Attendance	2,403
Second Adult	89
Staff/Child Ratios	56
Substitutes	50
Total	2,598

Summary of Serious Risk Noncompliance Findings

Serious risk noncompliances (SRNCs) are child care center rule violations that may lead to the greatest risk of harm, immediately endanger the health and safety of children while in care, and/or cause death. A SRNC violation must be observable, not inferable, by the licensing specialist. SRNC violations are highlighted in red on the inspection report. The table below demonstrates the most frequently cited SRNC rule violations. In the future, Type A Home and Type B Home rules will include SRNCs.

Child Care Center Serious Risk Noncompliance Rules Most Often Cited as Out of Compliance	
Rule	Total Number of Violations Determined in SFY 2014
No Health Care Plan on File	231
Health Care Plan Not Signed by Parent and/or Child Care Staff Member	195
Background Checks Not Requested for Staff	182
Statement of Non-Conviction Not on File	136
Request for Administration of Medication Incomplete	125
No Request for Administration of Medication on File	109
Fire Inspection Overdue	102
Staff Alone with Children with No Background Checks	99
Health Care Plan Incomplete	94
Staff with No Health and Safety Trainings	94
Total	1,367

Complaints

ODJFS is mandated to investigate complaints regarding alleged violations of Ohio’s licensing regulations. In SFY 2014, ODJFS completed 1,156 complaint investigations, which included a total of 2,592 allegations of noncompliances with child care licensing rules. After a licensing specialist completes an inspection and investigation, he or she makes a determination of the final disposition of the allegations. In SFY 2014, 614 allegations were substantiated. The top three allegations cited were staff/child ratios, safe/sanitary indoor equipment/environment, and child guidance and management.

The tables below summarize the number of complaints received, alleged violations and subsequent determinations. Unsubstantiated allegations were found not to have occurred; undetermined allegations could not be proven true or false.

SFY 2014 Complaints Summary

Total Complaint Inspections	Average Complaint Inspections/Month	Alleged Violations	Unsubstantiated	Substantiated	Undetermined
1,156	96	2,592	87	614	1,891

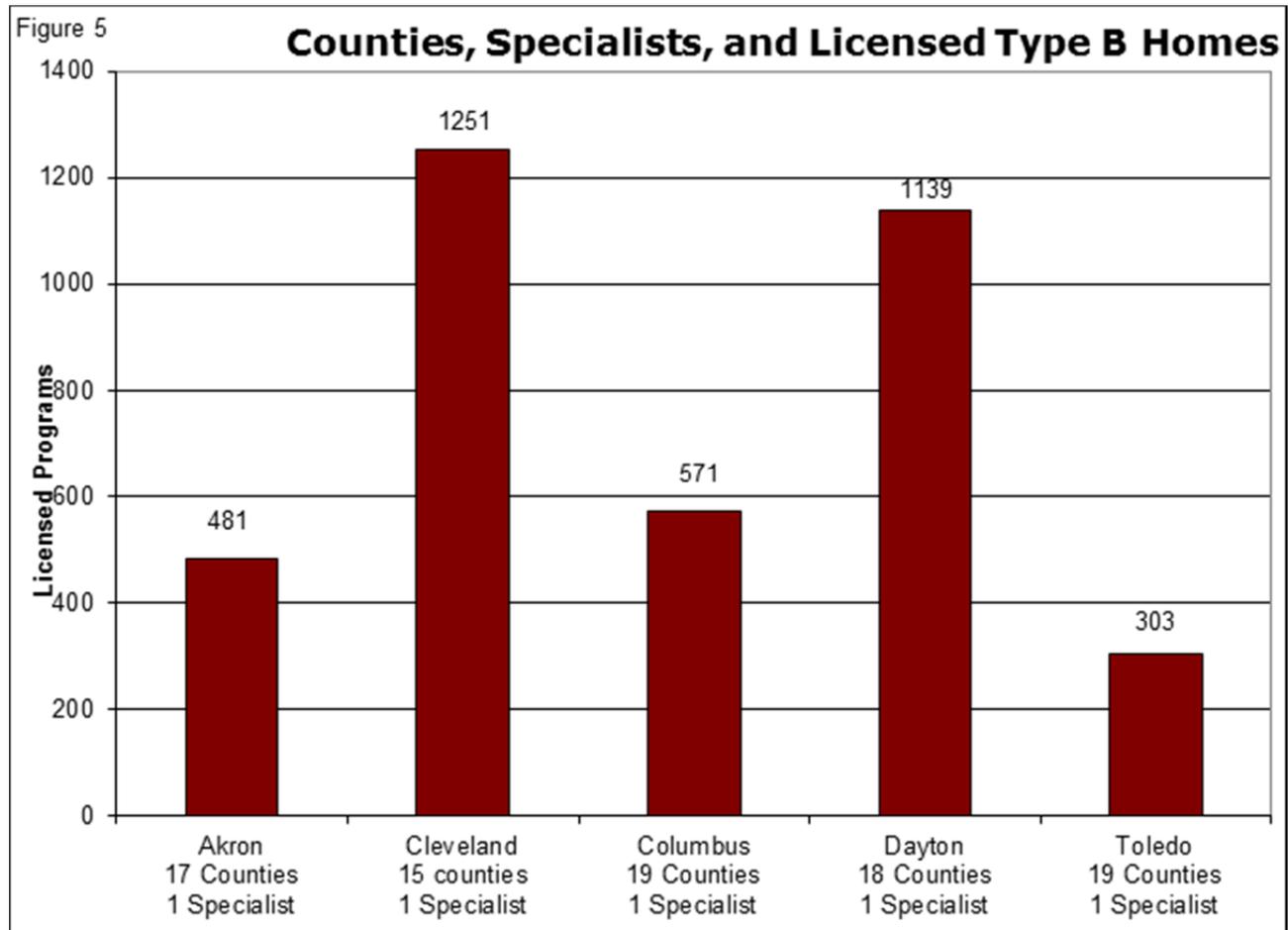
Most Frequently Alleged Violations	# of Times Alleged
Staff/Child Ratios	530
Safe/Sanitary Indoor Equipment/Environment	350
Care/Nurturing of Children	334
Child Guidance and Management	285
Incident/Injury Reporting	155
Meals and Snacks	129
Transportation	105
Program Information/Policies/Procedures	100
Management of Illness	76
Statement of Non-Conviction and Criminal Records Check	68

Most Frequently Substantiated Violations	# of Times Substantiated
Staff/Child Ratios	170
Safe/Sanitary Indoor Equipment/Environment	88
Child Guidance and Management	51
Care/Nurturing of Children	47
Incident/Injury Reporting	39

Type B Homes

In preparation for Senate Bill 316, which required county-certified Type B Homes to become state-licensed, ODJFS created a new Type B Home monitoring unit. The unit consists of one licensing supervisor and two application specialists in the Columbus central office and one licensing specialist in each of the five regional offices. The Type B Home monitoring unit is responsible for reviewing and accepting or denying licensing recommendations from the county agencies. Recommendations can include initial application approval or denial, location changes, license revocations and closures. In addition, the unit monitors the 88 county agencies to assess their compliance with Type B Home child care regulations, by conducting on-site file audits and accompanying staff on inspections to observe inspection practices and provide technical assistance. Because the transition from certification to licensure occurred midway through SFY 2014 and the statewide licensing system still is under development, specific inspection data is not available at this time.

Figure 5 reflects the number of counties assigned to each regional licensing specialist and the number of licensed Type B Homes located in those regions.

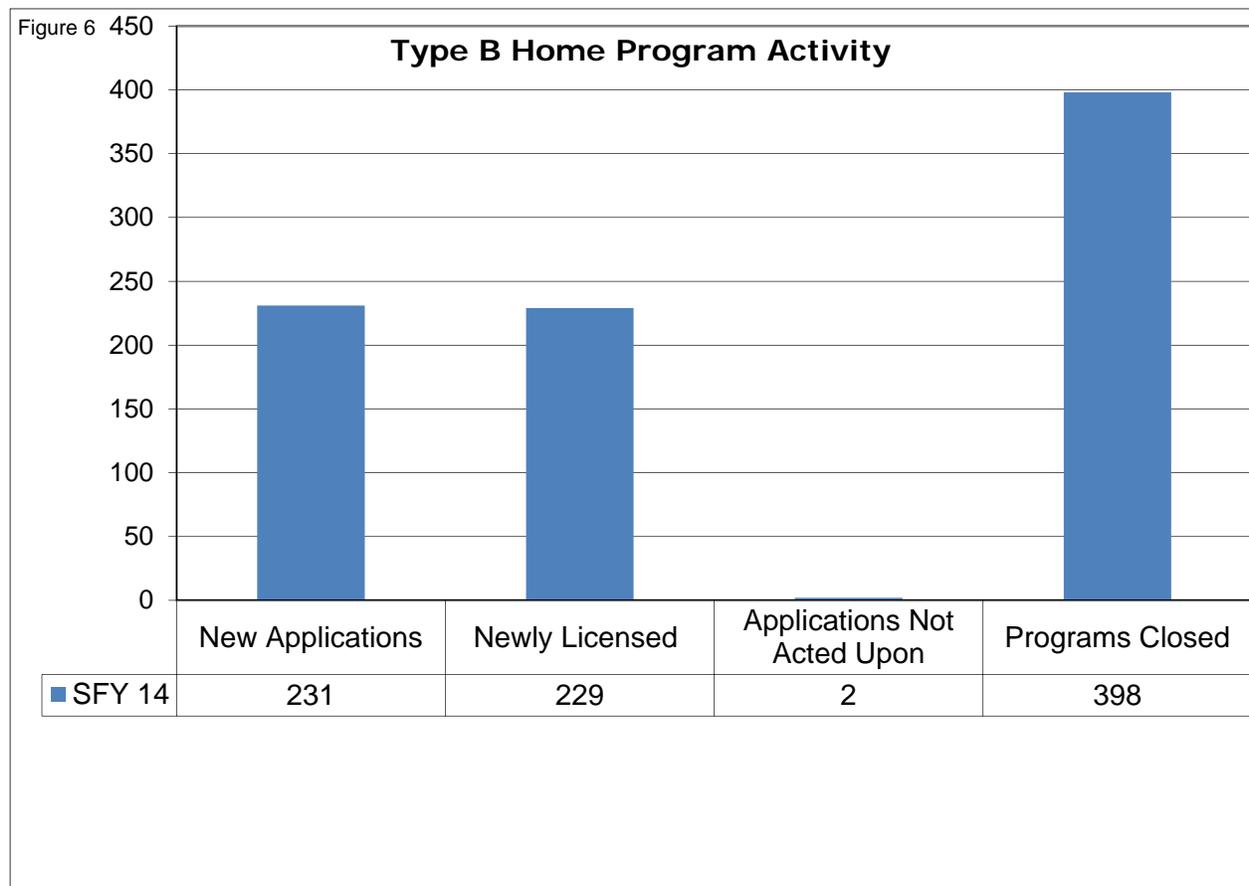


Provider Technical Assistance

During the transition from county certification to state licensure, 204 Type B Home providers attended trainings offered at 16 locations through the state. The trainings provided information about licensure requirements and gave Type B Home providers the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification.

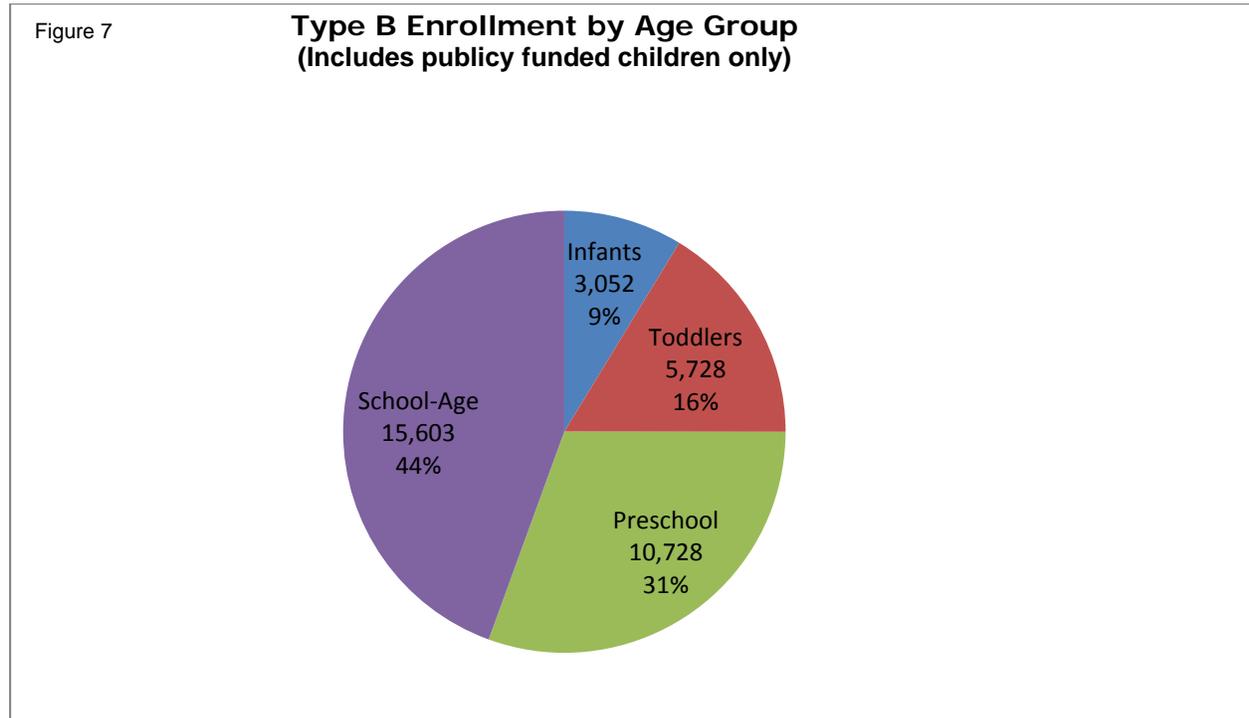
Program Activity

Figure 6 shows the number of Type B Home applications received, the number of programs licensed and the number of programs closed in SFY 2014. Historical data will be provided in future years as it becomes available. Most often, Type B Homes close voluntarily or because they relocate. An application not acted upon is an application that does not include all the required components or paperwork.



Enrollment

At the end of SFY 2014, Ohio's licensed Type B Homes had the capacity to serve 105,808 infants, toddlers, preschool and school-age children in 3,745 licensed programs. Those programs served 35,111 children in the publicly funded program. Data regarding children in Type B care who paid privately was unavailable. Figure 7 depicts the number of children enrolled in Type B care by age group.

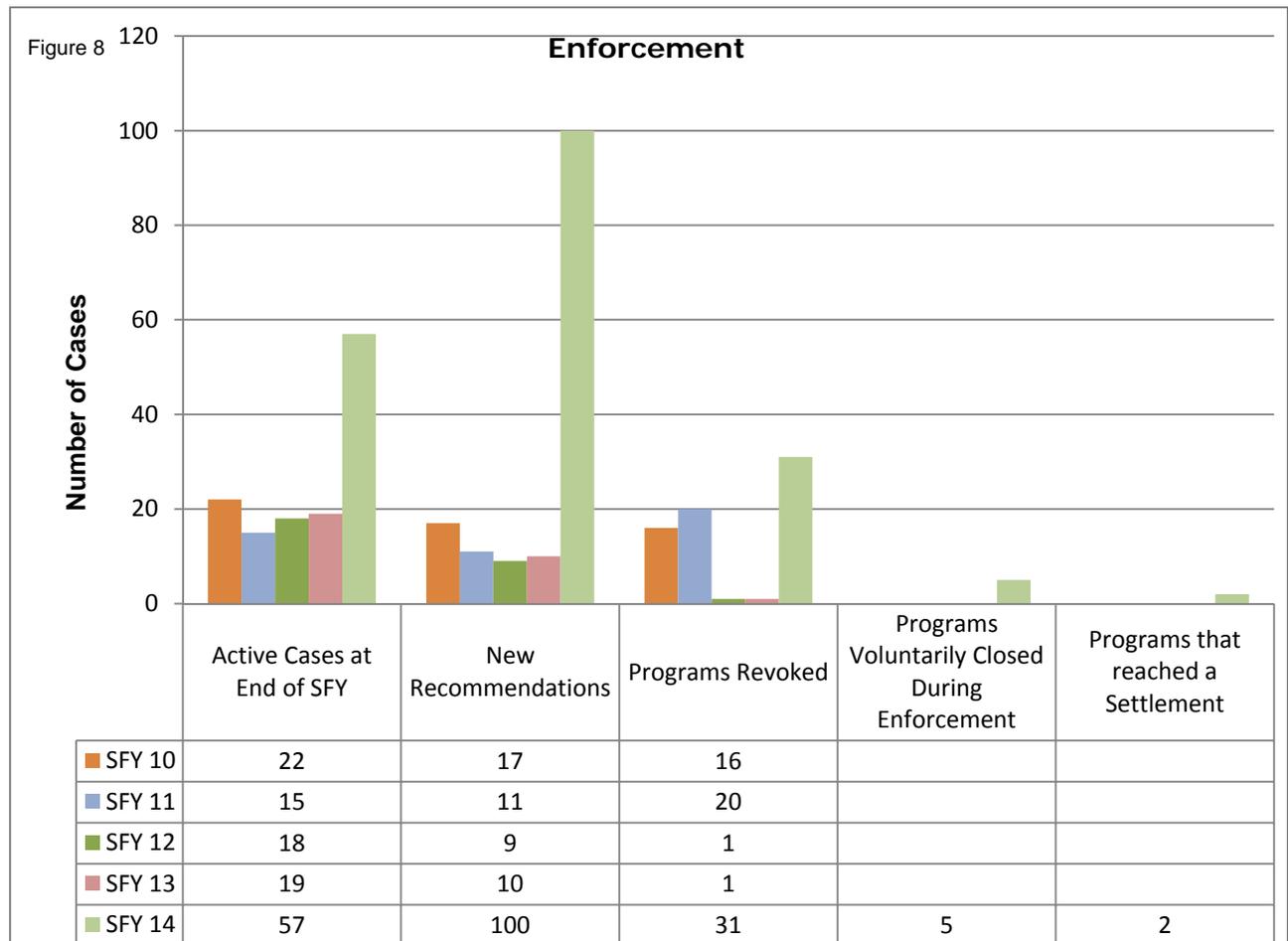


All Licensed Programs

Enforcement

Licensed programs are mandated to submit corrective action plans outlining the methods used to correct violations. Corrective action plans are followed by technical assistance, training and varying degrees of monitoring, including unannounced inspections by licensing specialists. As a last resort for programs that fail to achieve and maintain compliance, ODJFS may revoke the license, pursuant to ORC Chapters 119 and 5104.

At the end of SFY 2014, ODJFS had 57 active enforcement cases in which license revocation was recommended. Over the course of the year, 38 programs were closed as a result of license revocation. Figure 8 shows the number of active enforcement cases for SFY 2010 through 2014. Data concerning programs that had voluntarily closed or reached settlement agreements after being recommended for revocation in previous state fiscal years was unavailable. The number of enforcement cases in SFY 2014 increased because of the addition of Type B Homes, which previously were not included.



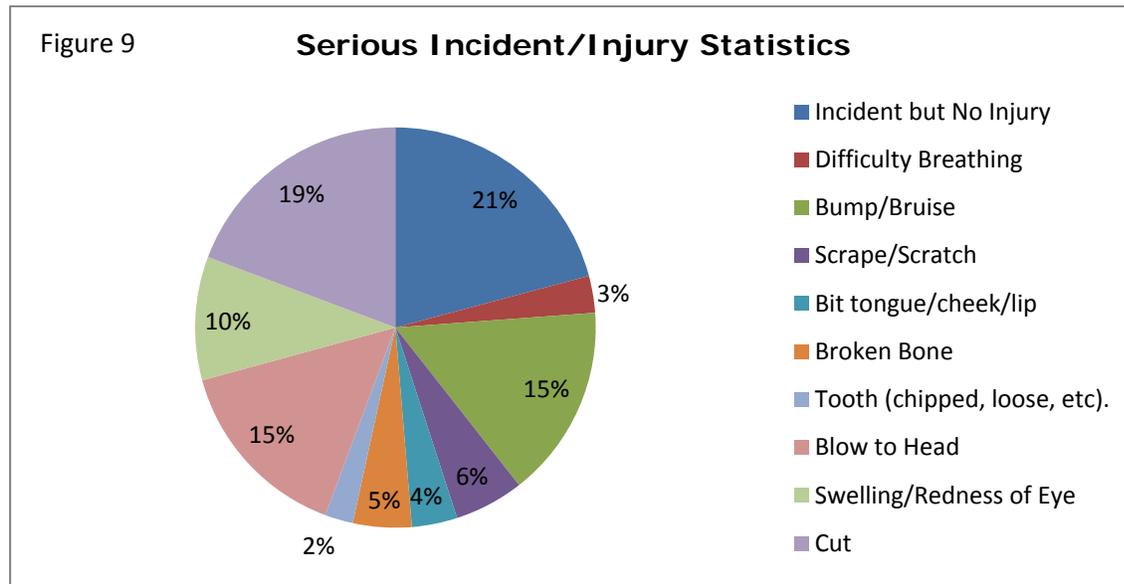
Incident/Injury Management

Mandated incident/injury reporting allows ODJFS to collect data and identify patterns related to when and why children are injured in child care settings. It also allows trends to be analyzed and recommendations to be made for improved incident/injury prevention strategies.

ODJFS received 671 reports of serious incidents and injuries in licensed child care centers, Type A Homes and Type B Homes during SFY 2014. The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) defines a serious incident or injury as “an unusual or unexpected event which jeopardizes the safety of children or staff: an incident, injury or illness resulting in a limitation in the child's activity; medical attention/intervention is necessary (beyond basic first aid by staff); child is taken home/medical office/hospital.” Child care centers, Type A Homes and Type B Homes are required to notify ODJFS of all serious incidents and injuries, as well as the death of a child while in care and any unusual or unexpected events that may jeopardize children’s health or safety. All incident/injury reports submitted to ODJFS that are determined to meet the definition of a serious incident are entered into a database. Programs also may submit reports for incidents that may not meet the OAC definition of serious. The three most frequent types of injuries reported in SFY 2014 were non-injury-related incidents, minor cuts and bumps/bruises.

Licensing specialists investigate all incident/injury reports associated with a complaint and follow up to ensure that programs comply with health and safety requirements. Programs are required to submit corrective action plans to explain how the violations will be corrected, and the licensing specialists then monitor the programs to ensure that the plans are implemented. Additionally, licensing specialists provide technical assistance to programs so they can prevent future incidents and injuries.

Figure 9 depicts the top 10 most frequently reported incidents by injury type in SFY 2014. Some incidents may be counted more than once if more than one injury occurred during the incident.



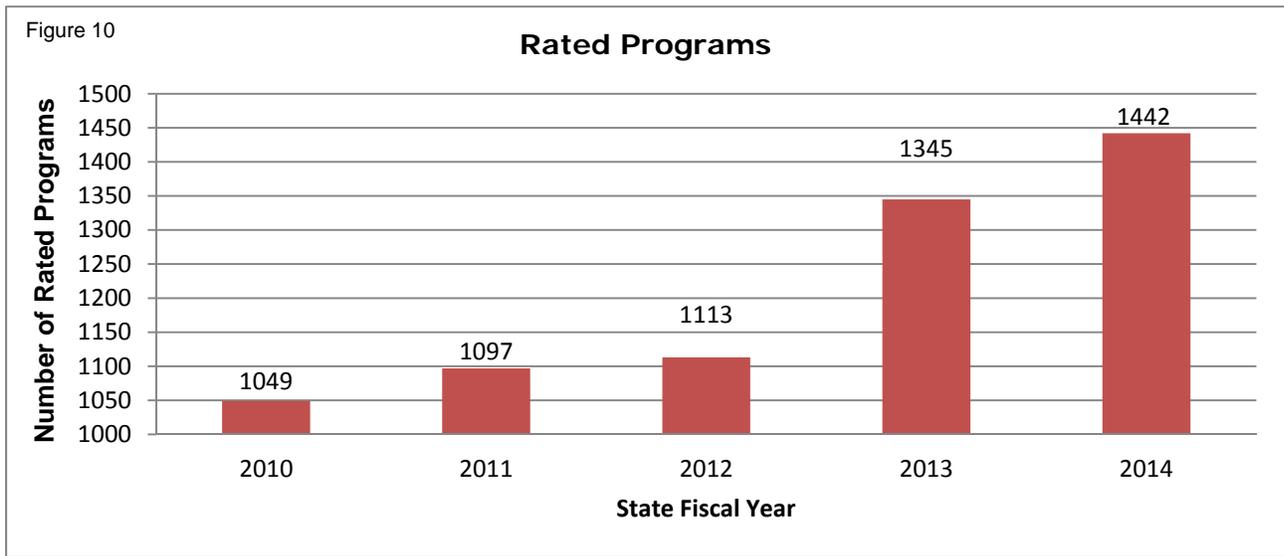
Step Up To Quality

SUTQ, Ohio's tiered quality rating and improvement system for child care programs, is designed to increase the number of high-quality programs, recognize and support programs that achieve higher quality standards, and provide parents with an easy-to-use tool that helps them make informed choices on behalf of their children. Child care centers and Type A Homes can earn one- to five-star ratings based on a set of standards.

At the end of SFY 2014, Ohio had 1,442 star-rated programs serving 67,581 children in 86 counties. In SFY 2014, 97 more programs were star-rated than in SFY 2013; SFY 2014 numbers included 1,294 programs that renewed their ratings and 148 newly rated programs. Beginning in SFY 2015, Type B Homes will be eligible to participate in SUTQ.

SUTQ programs qualify for monetary awards in the form of Quality Achievement Awards and subsidy payment enhancements. In SFY 2014, Ohio awarded Quality Achievement Awards totaling \$10,990,628. The average award was approximately \$6,869, which was a \$987 decrease compared to SFY 2013. Most recipients chose to use their Quality Achievement Awards for classroom support, increased staff compensation and enhanced activity centers. Subsidy enhancement is a 5 percent increase per star rating on top of the publicly funded child care base rates.

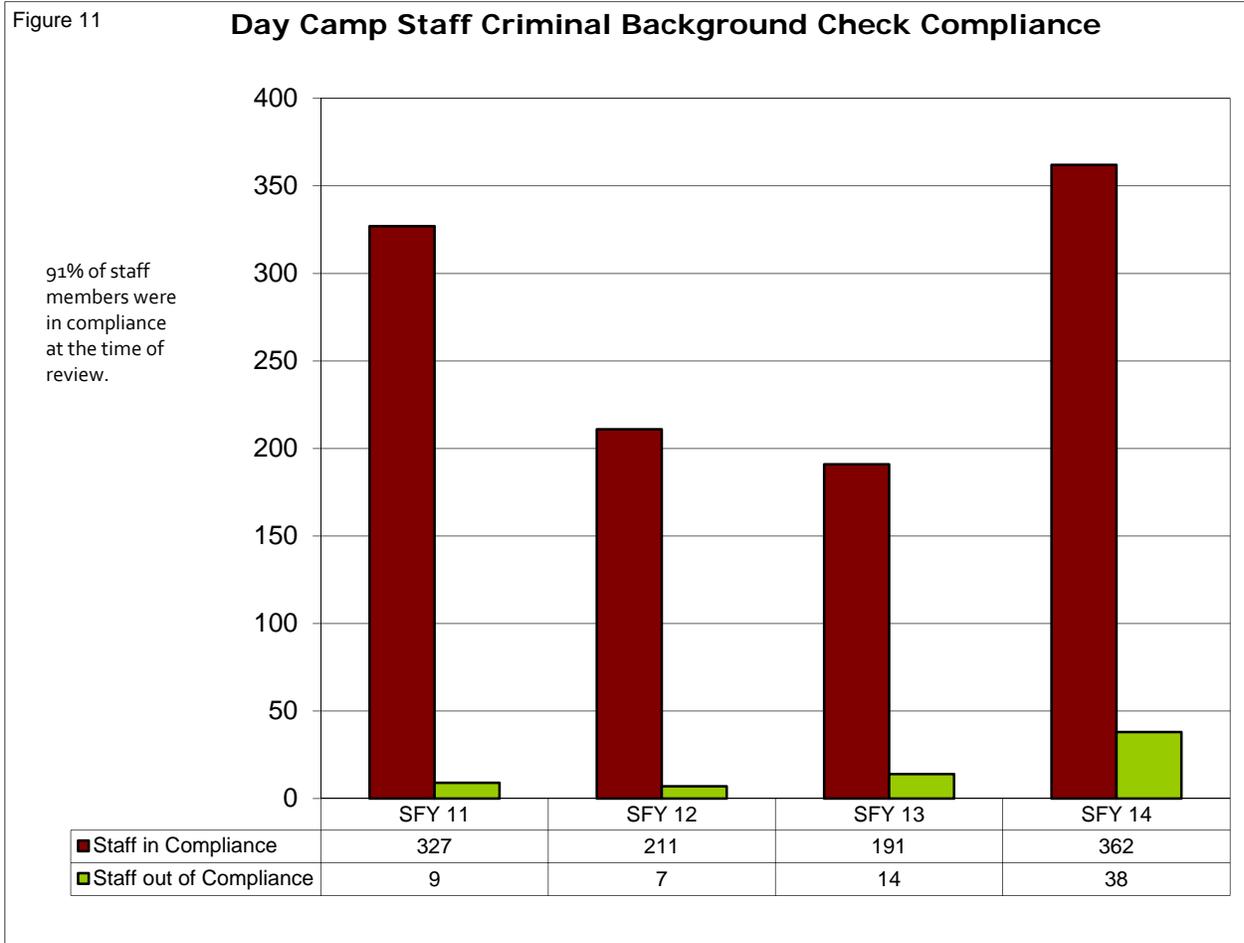
Figure 10 depicts the number of rated child care center and Type A Homes for the past five years.



Other Bureau Activities

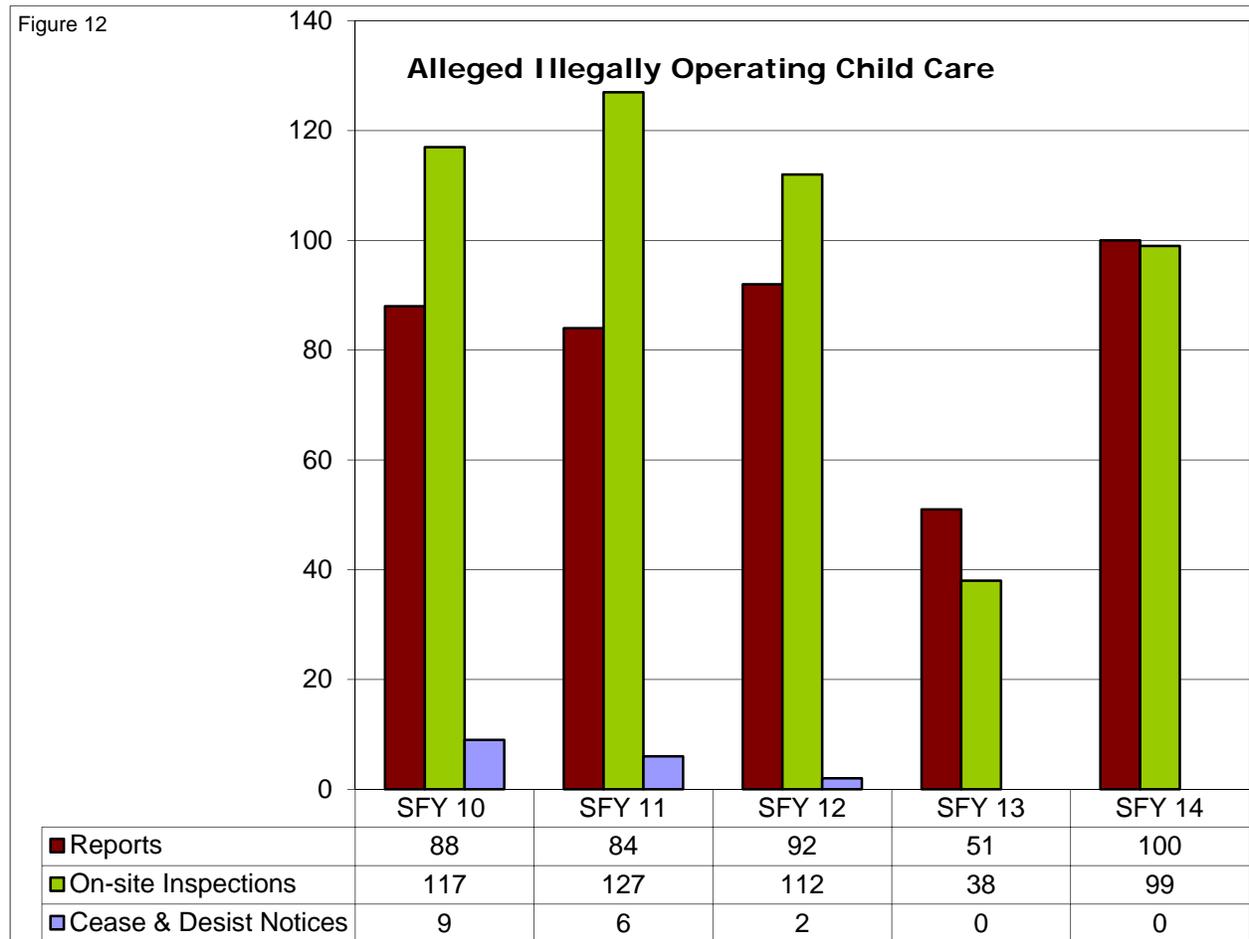
Day Camp Criminal Background Check Compliance Review

All child day camps in Ohio are required to register with ODJFS and obtain new criminal background checks for all staff prior to employment. In SFY 2014, 213 camps were registered in Ohio. ODJFS randomly chose 20 percent of the camps registered and conducted desk reviews to ensure that criminal background check documents were on file for all staff. Of the 40 camps reviewed, five failed to respond. Figure 11 shows the results for the 35 programs that responded. At the time of the review, 91 percent of the monitored camps and 91 percent of the monitored staff were in compliance. Camps that did not meet the statutory requirements at the time of monitoring were given 30 days to achieve compliance.



Reports of Alleged Illegally Operating Child Care

Alleged illegally operating child care is defined as child care being provided for more than six children or more than three children under the age of 2 at one time by an unlicensed provider. ODJFS received 100 reports of alleged illegally operating child care in SFY 2014, and licensing supervisors and specialists conducted 99 on-site inspections or desk reviews. Multiple reports may be covered by one on-site inspection. It is also possible for one operator to require multiple on-site inspections for failure to reduce the number of children in care or because multiple reports were received over an extended period of time. When an operator fails to reduce the number of children in care to be within the legal limits, the case is referred to the Ohio Attorney General so that a cease and desist notice can be issued. ODJFS investigates all reports of alleged illegally operating child care, as indicated in Figure 12.



Additional Accomplishments

Early Learning Challenge Grant

In January 2012, Ohio was one of nine states awarded the Early Learning Challenge Grant, aimed at improving the quality of programs that serve high-needs children from birth to age 5. ODJFS is working collaboratively with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) on multiple cross-agency projects with the goal of closing the kindergarten readiness gap for high-needs children. The following were some major accomplishments of the grant in SFY 2014:

- Expanding SUTQ, Ohio's tiered quality rating and improvement system for child care programs. Providers now may earn a maximum five stars instead of three. In addition, the program is now available to all early learning and development programs licensed by either ODJFS or ODE, including small family child care homes.
- Developing a web-based data system, the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System, which providers can use to register for a SUTQ rating and ODE and ODJFS staff use to complete the SUTQ verification and rating award process.
- Sponsoring three regional conferences that offered high-quality professional development free of charge to early learning and development professionals
- Implementing Ohio's new Ready for Kindergarten assessment, which includes ways for teachers to measure children's school readiness. The previous assessment focused only on language and literacy. The new assessment has six components: social skills, mathematics, science, social studies, language and literacy, and physical well-being and motor development according to <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Guidance-About-Kindergarten/Ohios-New-Kindergarten-Readiness-Assessment>.

Rule Review

In SFY 2014, ODJFS continued a comprehensive review of licensing rules, a process that began in SFY 2012. All licensing rules are being reviewed for efficiency, consistency and their impact on small business in Ohio. In addition, the Type A Home and Type B Home provider rules are being combined into a single chapter for family child care homes. Child care providers and county agencies review the rules at each step in the drafting and revision process. The rules will be effective in fall 2015.