

# Georgia Study of Early Care and Education: Family Child Care Findings

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# Study Context

- Study commissioned as the initial work of the Quality System Indicators (QSI) Committee concluded
- 3rd study of overall evaluation examining quality across Georgia's early care and learning system
- Evaluation strengths
  - Conducted independently
  - Representative sample
  - Commonly used observational measures
  - Connects birth to five quality

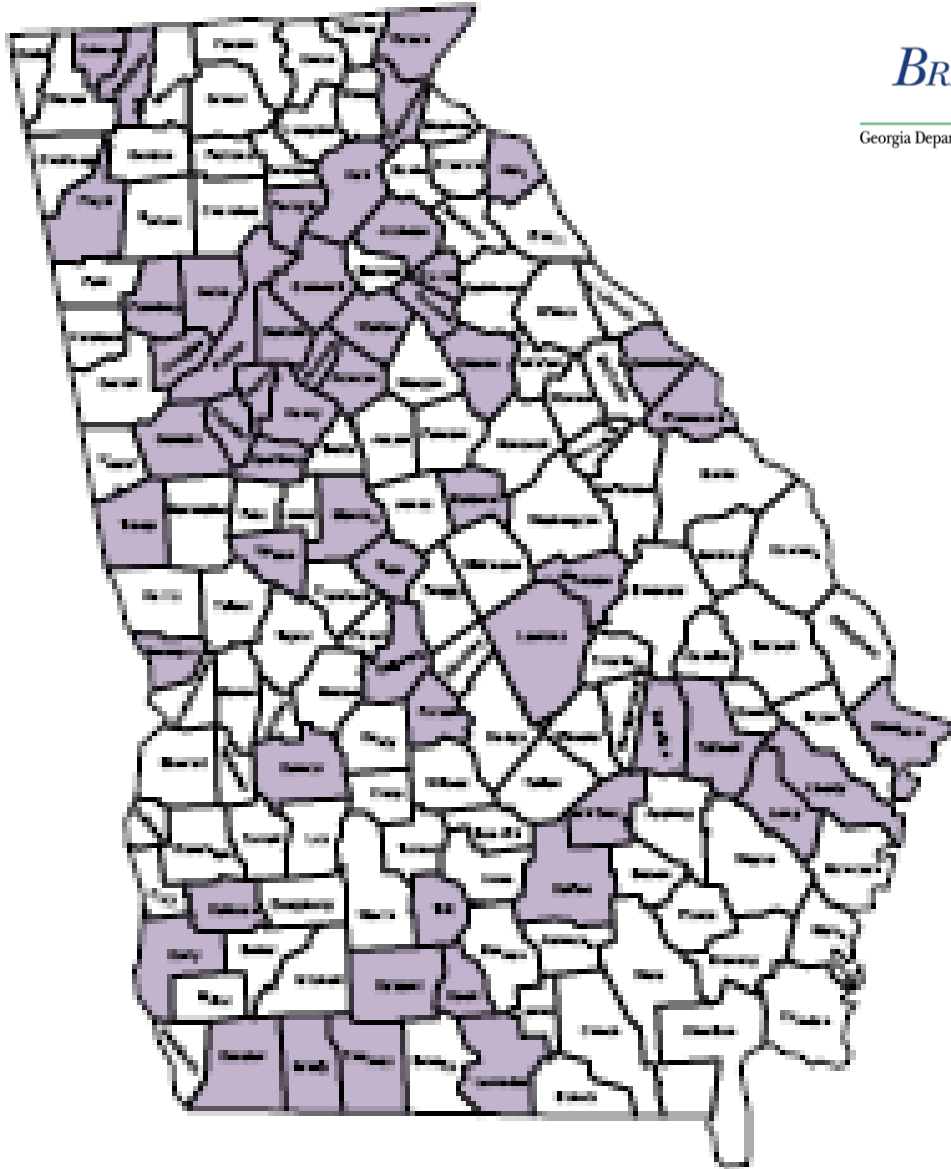
# Family Child Care: National Overview

- 14% of infants, 19% of toddlers, and 13% of three and four year olds are cared for in a home by someone other than a relative.
- About a quarter of children are in family child care at some point during their first five years.
- Children in family child care spend an average of 31 hours per week in care, including nights and weekends.

# About the Study

- Study of quality in family day care homes across Georgia
- Sample size of 155 programs
  - 525 homes contacted
  - 218 determined to be ineligible (e.g., no longer served children, no longer registered)
  - 152 declined to participate
  - 50% response rate from eligible programs
- Similar response rate and observational measures

# Geographic Distribution of Participating Family Child Care Homes



# Family Child Care Findings

- During the previous 6 months:
  - 41% reported providing second shift care.
  - 29% reported providing weekend care.
  - 17% reported providing overnight care.
  - 58% reported providing unpaid care for some children.
- 43% of programs reported serving children receiving Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) subsidies.

# Family Child Care Findings

- Almost all homes (95%) were in compliance for group size and ratios during all observations.
- On day of observation, 40% of providers cared for at least one child for whom they were not paid.
- 3% of providers cared for only relatives.
- 41% of providers cared for some relatives and some unrelated children.
- 56% of providers cared only for children not related to them.

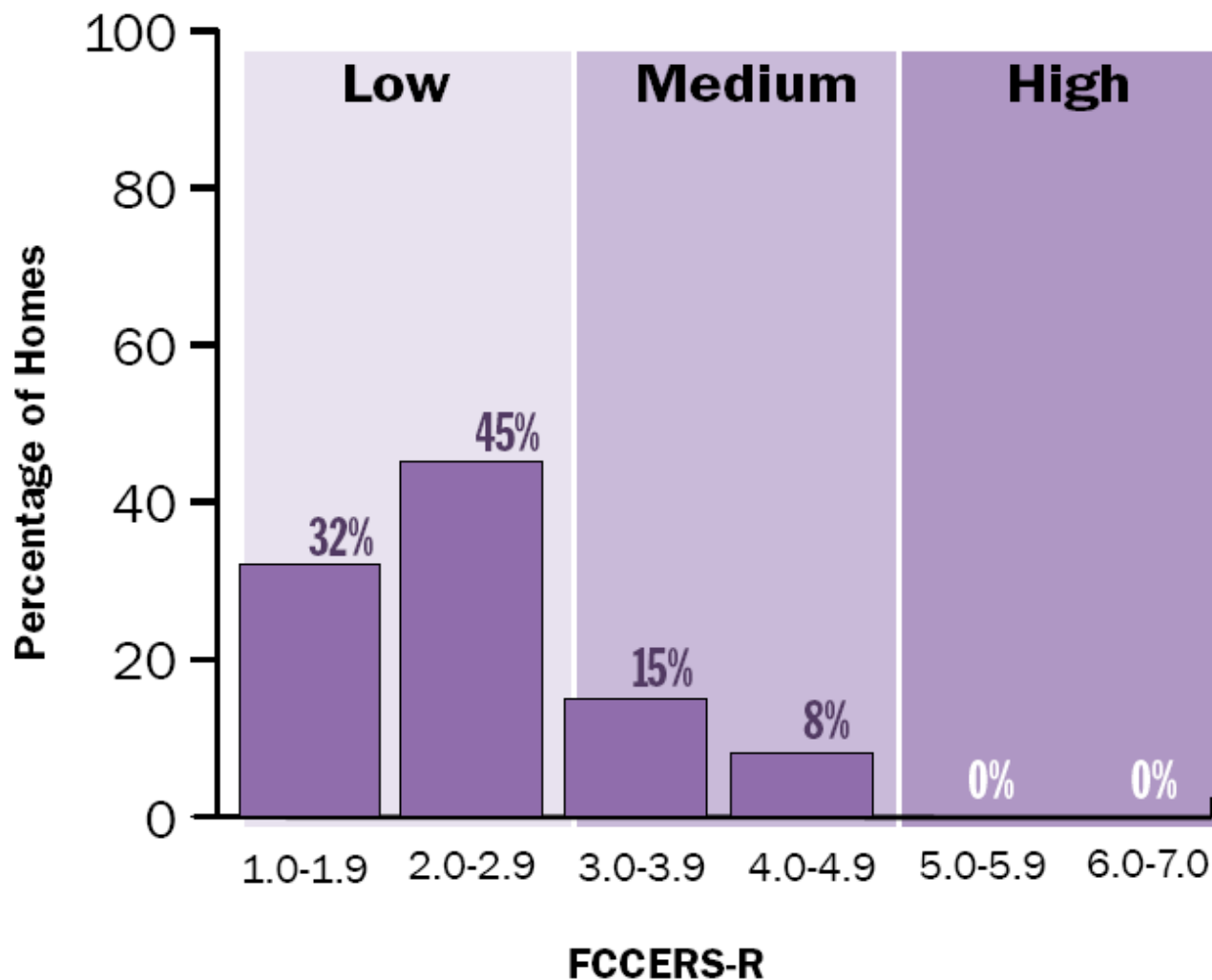
# Family Child Care Findings

At the time of observation:

- Infants were present in 46% of homes.
- Toddlers were present in 90% of homes.
- Preschoolers were present in 64% of homes.



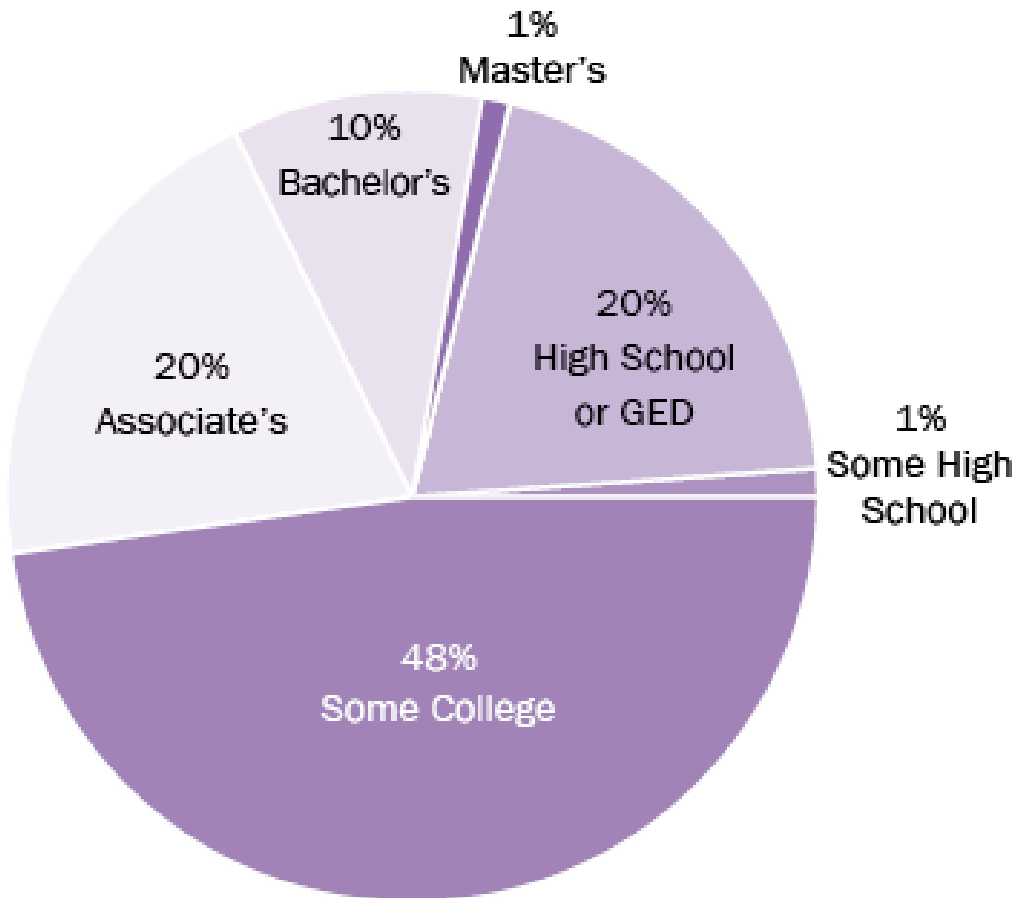
# Family Child Care Quality (FCCERS-R)



# Family Child Care Findings: Literacy Activities

- In 55% of homes, providers read at least 1 book to at least 1 child during the observation.
- In 61% of homes, at least 1 child used a writing implement during the observation.
- 45% of providers reported providing a lending library for families.
- 52% of providers reported providing reading activity packs for children to take home.

# Family Child Care Findings: Provider Education



In addition:

- 9% of providers had a CDA.
- 19% had a TCC in an early childhood field.
- 5% had a Technical College Diploma in ECE.

# Family Child Care Findings: Degrees and Majors of Providers

## Degree

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Associate's degree with major in early childhood | 7%  |
| Bachelor's degree with major in early childhood  | 0%  |
| Master's degree with major in early childhood    | 0%  |
| Other education major, any degree                | 1%  |
| Other non-education major, any degree            | 27% |
| No Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degree    | 69% |

# Family Child Care Findings: Curricula

- 20% of providers reported using a published curriculum.
- 57% reported using a curriculum they had created themselves.
- 23% reported using no curriculum.

# Study Conclusions and Recommendations

- Findings from this study suggest that providers in licensed family child care homes are providing an important service for the families of young children.
- Observed quality in Georgia's licensed family child care homes was generally low.
- Improving the quality of family child care homes will require purposeful, coordinated technical assistance and professional development strategies.

# Study Conclusions and Recommendations

- Quality improvement efforts should build on the growing body of research regarding how best to support quality improvement in family child care.
- Improving the quality of family child care homes in Georgia will require greater public and private investments.
- Policymakers and administrators must think systemically about early care and education.

# Study Closing

**“In closing, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning should be commended for conducting a statewide representative study of the entire early care and education system, including family child care homes, center-based care and Georgia’s Pre-K program. No other state has undertaken such a comprehensive assessment of the services provided to young children and their families in recent years.”**



# References

- Maxwell, K. L., Early, D. M., Bryant, D., Kraus, S., & Hume, K. (2010). *Georgia study of early care and education: Family child care findings—Executive summary*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, FPG Child Development Institute.
- Maxwell, K. L., Early, D. M., Bryant, D., Kraus, S., & Hume, K. (2010). *Georgia study of early care and education: Family child care findings*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, FPG Child Development Institute.