

Relationship of Size of ECE Programs, Non-Compliance (NC) with Licensing Rules, and QRIS Scores in the State of Washington: RIKI Technical Research Note

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A question regarding the size of an early care and education (ECE) program and overall compliance with licensing rules was asked by ECE providers in the State of Washington. The purpose of this technical research note is to answer this question and other associated questions.

State of Washington staff pulled a random sample of approximately 200 ECE providers (child care centers and family child care homes) representing the state as a whole. Various descriptive and correlational analyses were used to analyze any relationships amongst the data.

Based upon the following chart (**Chart 1**) it is clear that there is no relationship between the size of an ECE program (child care centers and family child care homes) and the level of non-compliance with licensing rules ($r = .113; -.017; .178$ are all non-significant results). What are significant results are the correlations across the years of the non-compliance with licensing rules as one would expect ($r = .747; .623; .47$ are all significant at the $p < .0001$ level).

Chart 1 – Correlations of ECE Size of Program and Non-Compliance with Licensing Rules

	Size	NC1	NC2
NC1	0.113		
NC2	-0.017	0.747	
NC3	0.178	0.623	0.47

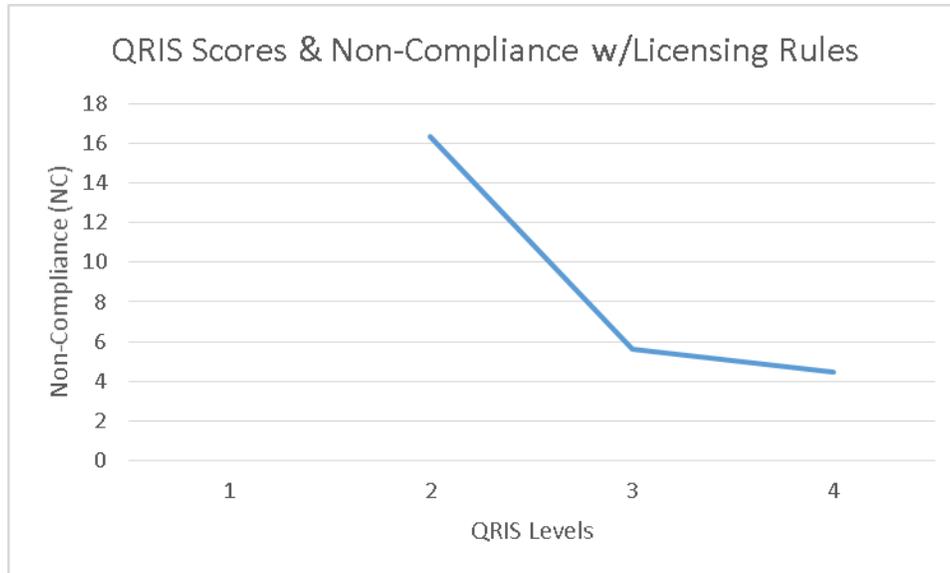
NC1 = Year 1 non-compliance (NC) with licensing rules data collection

NC2 = Year 2 non-compliance (NC) with licensing rules data collection.

NC3 = Year 3 non-compliance (NC) with licensing rules data collection.

Another very interesting question asked by State of Washington staff was the relationship between QRIS scores and non-compliance (NC) with licensing rules. The correlation demonstrated a trend ($r = -.42; p < .02$) in the data when graphed (see **Figure 1**). This trend demonstrates that as the QRIS Level increases from 2 to 4 in child care centers, overall non-compliance with licensing rules decreases.

Figure 1 – Relationship Between QRIS Levels (2-4) and Non-Compliance (NC) with Licensing Rules



In further analyses there also was a significant correlation between the size of an ECE program and QRIS scores ($r = .47$). And when the QRIS levels (2 – 4; Level 1 was not included because these programs are enrolled but not rated) for child care centers were compared via One-Way ANOVA for non-compliance with licensing rules, a significant difference was found ($F = 6.54$; $p < .005$)(see **Chart 2**). This is the first demonstration of a positive relationship between QRIS (Program Quality) and Licensing (Program Rule Compliance). As the QRIS Level increases, there is a corresponding increase in the compliance with Licensing Rules for child care centers. However, the same relationships were not found with family child care homes.

Chart 2 – QRIS Levels (2-4) and Non-Compliance with Licensing Rules (PC x PQ)

QRIS Levels	NC1a	NC2a	NC3a	NC1-3
2	22.50	14.00	12.50	16.33
3	6.31	4.25	6.31	5.62
4	5.23	4.31	3.92	4.49

NC1-3 = NC1a + NC2a + NC3a where NC1-3 is an overall mean of the three years of data.

NC1a, NC2a, and NC3a are means for each of the year's data for child care centers.