

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 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 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

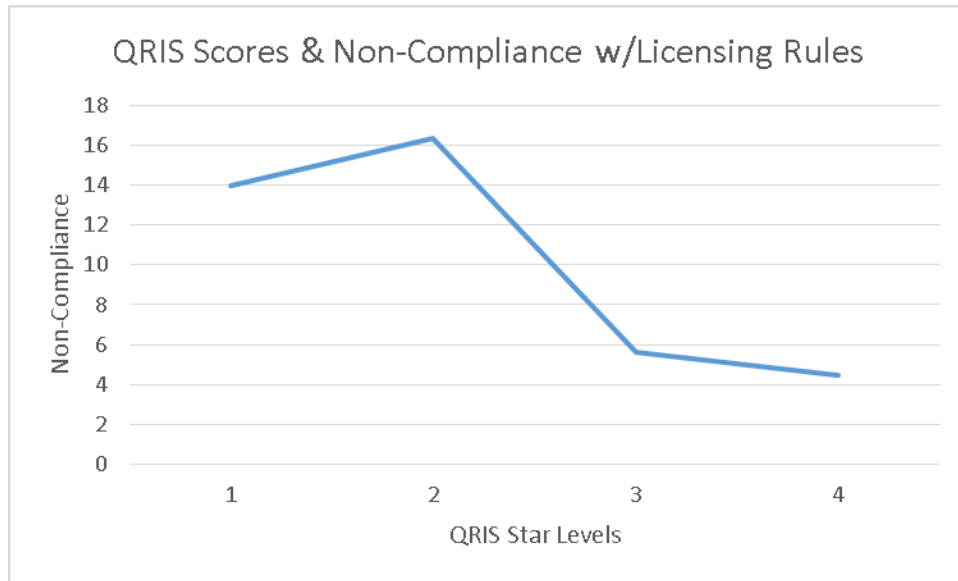
NC1 = Year 1 non-compliance (NC) with licensing rules data collection

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 did reach significance ($r = -.36; p < .008$) and there is definitely a trend in the data when graphed (see Figure 1). There is a trend which demonstrates that as the QRIS Star Level increases, overall non-compliance with licensing rules decreases.

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



In further analyses however, there was a significant correlation between the size of an ECE program and QRIS scores ($r = .47$). And when the Star levels (1-4) were compared via One-Way ANOVA for non-compliance with licensing rules, a significant difference was found ($p < .05$) (see Chart 2). This is the first demonstration of a positive relationship between QRIS (PQ) and Licensing (PC). As compliance in one goes up (PC – Program Compliance), there is a corresponding increase in the other (PQ – Program Quality).

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

QRIS Stars	NC1	NC2	NC3	NC1-3
1	14.23	17.62	10.15	14.00
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