

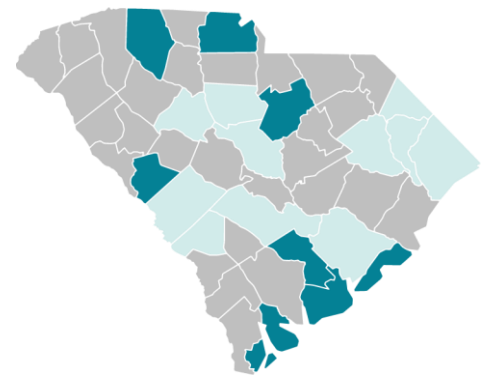
Quality Enhancement/Quality Counts Director Engagement Survey | December 2021

Survey Administration

The Quality Enhancement/Quality Counts (QE/QC) Director Engagement Survey was administered online from November 8th to December 1st, 2021, to QE/QC center directors who participated in the QE/QC program from July 1st, 2019 to the present. The Executive Directors of local partnerships participating in the QE/QC program sent an email with the survey link to their center Directors. A reminder email was sent from the Executive Directors to their center Directors on November 15th, 2021. There were 47 responses from directors representing 7 counties across the state (Spartanburg, Beaufort, Dorchester, York, Charleston, Edgefield, Kershaw).

77% would highly recommend QE/QC programs to other child care providers in their county

33% of directors were also the owner of the center



Respondent Demographics

Most survey respondents were females (98%), 45-54 (29%) or 55-64 (31%) years old and identified as Black (55%) or white (45%). The sample of QE/QC Directors is similar to the 2018 South Carolina Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce which is primarily composed of females (97%). More QE/QC directors identified as Black compared to the 2018 South Carolina ECE workforce (40%). Over half of directors have at least a four-year degree. Nearly 20% of directors have a two-year degree in early childhood education and nearly 20% have completed some college credits.

Figure 1. Map of Survey Respondents by County. The dark teal represents those counties who participated in the survey. The light teal represents those counties who were invited to participate, but did not participate in the survey.

Over Half of Directors Have at Least a Four-Year Degree

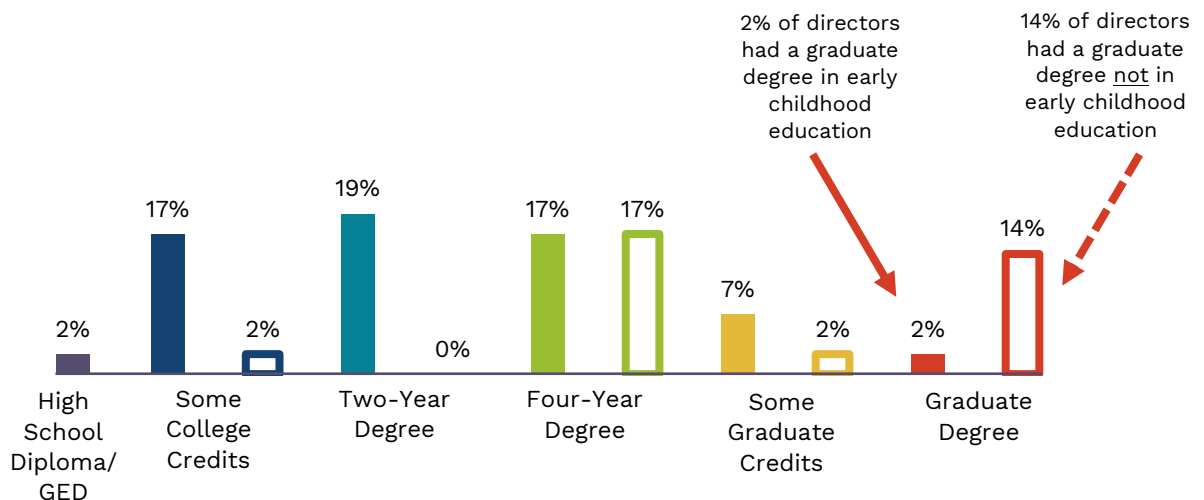
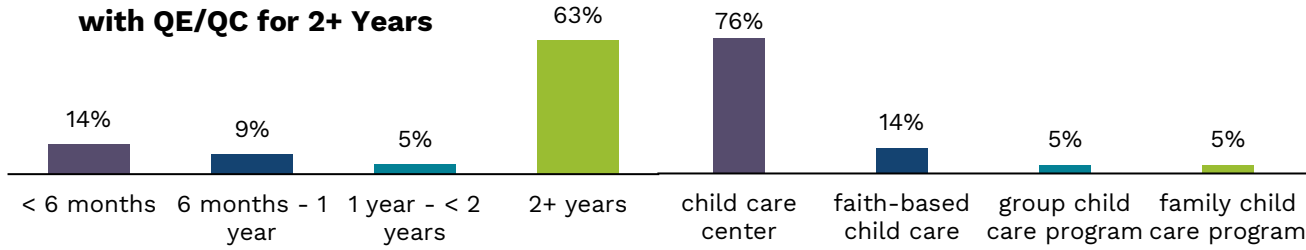


Figure 2. Respondent Demographic Characteristics. Missing educational experience from 5 respondents. The shaded bars represent educational experience in early childhood education. The outlined bars represent experience not in early childhood education.

Center Characteristics

Over half of survey respondents have been involved with the QE/QC program for at least two years (63%). The QE/QC Program has been primarily implemented in childcare centers (76%) across the state of South Carolina.

Over 50% of Directors Have Been Involved with QE/QC for 2+ Years



QE/QC Primarily Serves Child Care Centers

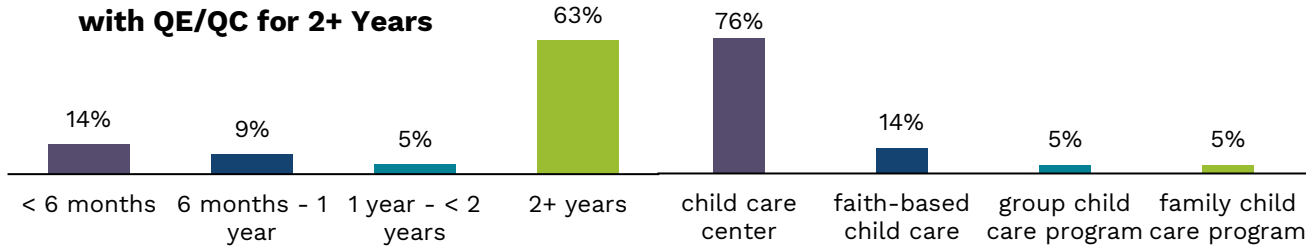


Figure 3. Characteristics of the Centers Served. Missing length of involvement for 4 respondents and center type for 5 respondents.

QE/QC Program Experience

What is the First Steps QE/QC program good at?

- Providing training and technical assistance
- Enhancing high-quality education for children

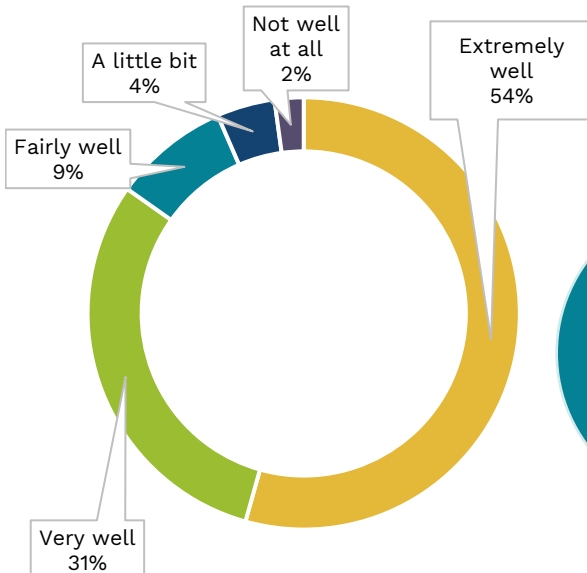
“ They are good at being there to help with ways for our center to grow in ways that will truly benefit the children. The trainings are the BEST! ”

What could the QE/QC program do better?

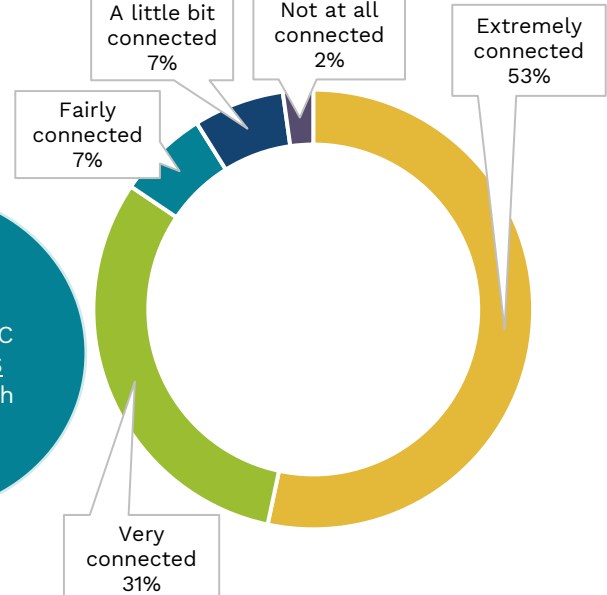
- More focus on curriculum (e.g., child behavior, classroom set-up, handwashing)
- Communication and feedback

“ Weekly updates on what is working and what needs work from the quality coaches. This will have directors support the work of the quality coaches between visits. ”

85% of Directors Said the QE/QC Program Has Met Their Needs Very or Extremely Well



84% of Directors Said they feel Very or Extremely Connected to their QE/QC Coach



90% said their QE/QC coach ALWAYS treats them with respect

What parts of the First Steps' QE/QC program are most valuable to you?

1

60%

Joint professional development/networking opportunities with other directors

2

50%

The Quality Improvement Planning process

3

50%

What I learn during coaching sessions

Additional Services & Resources

What additional services would you benefit from that the First Steps' QE/QC program could provide?

58%

Help with recruitment and retention of staff

51%

Training on how to apply for grants

49%

Support for the educational side of child care

49%

Support for the business side of child care



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The First Steps' Quality Enhancement or Quality Counts program can maybe look at the education and degrees in which their workers have achieved and try to match their income to be as close to the salaries as most of the certified teachers or public school teachers in the state of SC. Also continue to work towards providing training courses to meet the needs of the educators.

”

If resources were unlimited, what could the First Steps' QE/QC program provide that you would utilize?

78%

Funding for retention stipends for staff

76%

Funding for an outdoor learning environment

66%

Funding for recruitment stipends for staff

66%

Funding to improve our current facility

“

Providing the Technical assistance for one and the knowledge that they share. They help to clarify the requirements and explain things in a [way] that makes sense to the teachers. The enrichment opportunities are great incentives to improve quality and to help support retention of staff.

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