

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC)



Our Mission

The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood seeks to improve the lives of young children and their families by providing exemplary services for the early childhood community. We conduct research that helps to advance equity and promote high-quality education. The DIEEC carries out our mission through four primary service areas that target career pathways, leadership and administration, children's learning environments, and home-based programs. We also support families with quality care and family services through the New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS) program.

Our Research and Evaluation unit utilizes the expertise of faculty, staff, and graduate students to conduct policy-relevant research in real-world contexts. Our research is evidence-based and practice-focused, ranging from organizational analyses within Delaware's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), to research on appropriate kindergarten. Each semester we have approximately five doctoral students who work on research projects funded by state and

Questions? Contact Jason Hustedt at jhustedt@udel.edu

HIGHLIGHTING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS



Jing Tang

examined public reviews of child care programs in Delaware.



Stephanie Kuntz

examined organizational data for internal continuous quality improvement efforts.



Melissa Stoffers

compared attendance at professional development workshops before and during the pandemic.

Data at a Glance

474

total number of Delaware child care programs reviewed

265

number of programs that received ratings only

234

number of programs that receive written reviews

67%

of programs reviewed participated in Delaware Stars

80%

of programs received Purchase of Care (POC)

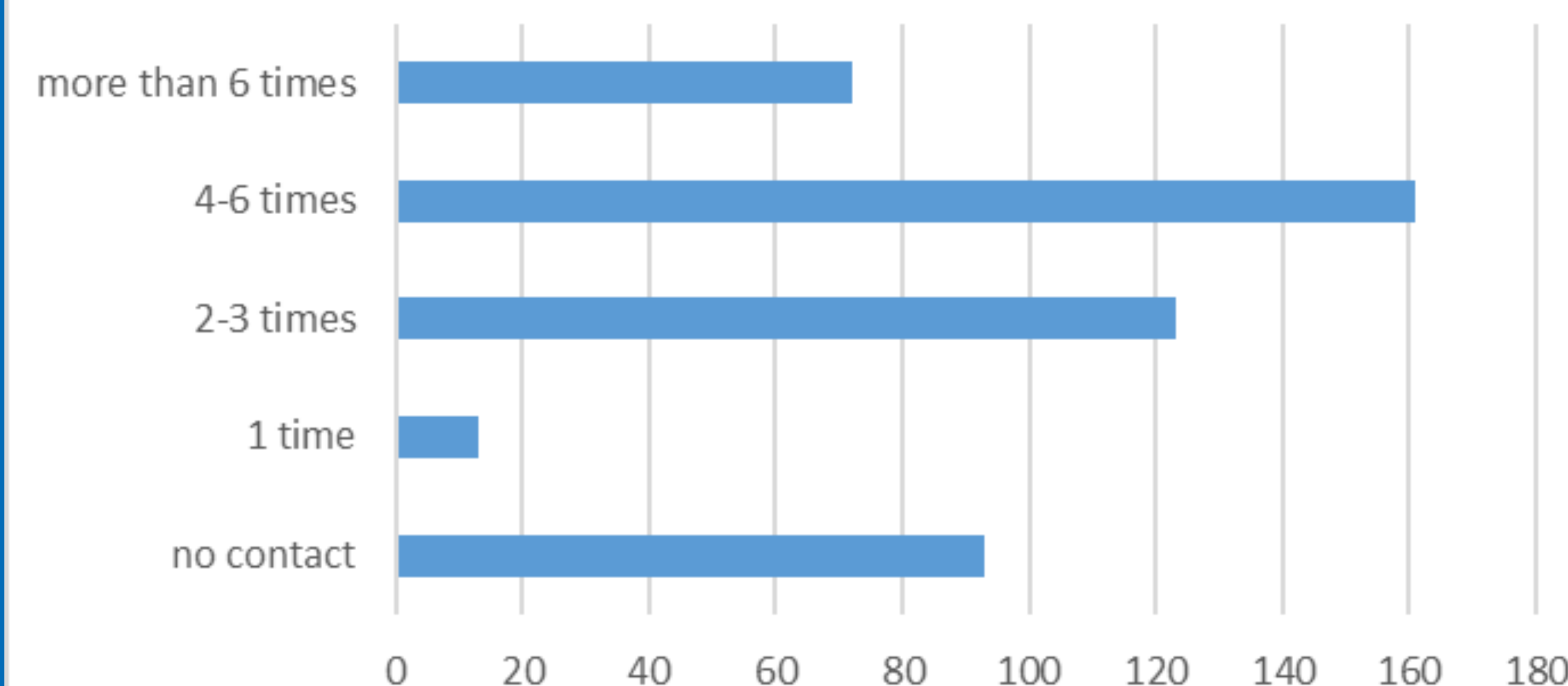
1,731

total number of written reviews

2,650

total number of coded comments within written reviews

Quarterly Contact with Programs in Delaware Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System



ATTENDANCE

2019

2,140

2020

1,213

Professionals enrolled in at least one PD course.

88%

75%

of professionals attended at least on PD course.