



Quality improvement efforts among early childhood programs participating in Iowa's Quality Rating System (QRS)

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“A Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) is a method to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care & education and after-school settings.”

– *Anne W. Mitchell*



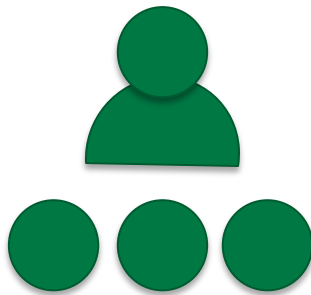
Iowa QRS Ratings:

- 5 levels of quality
- Voluntary
- Centers & homes
- Quality improvement supports



Quality Improvement Supports

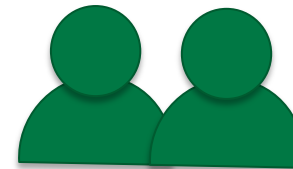
Training



Continuing
Education



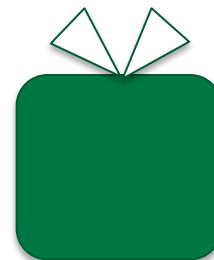
Coaching



Financial
Incentives



Non-financial
Incentives



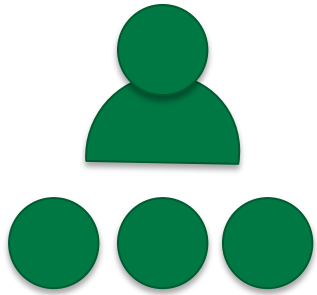


Data

- Survey collected by Iowa DHS on quality improvement activities
- Iowa QRS ratings

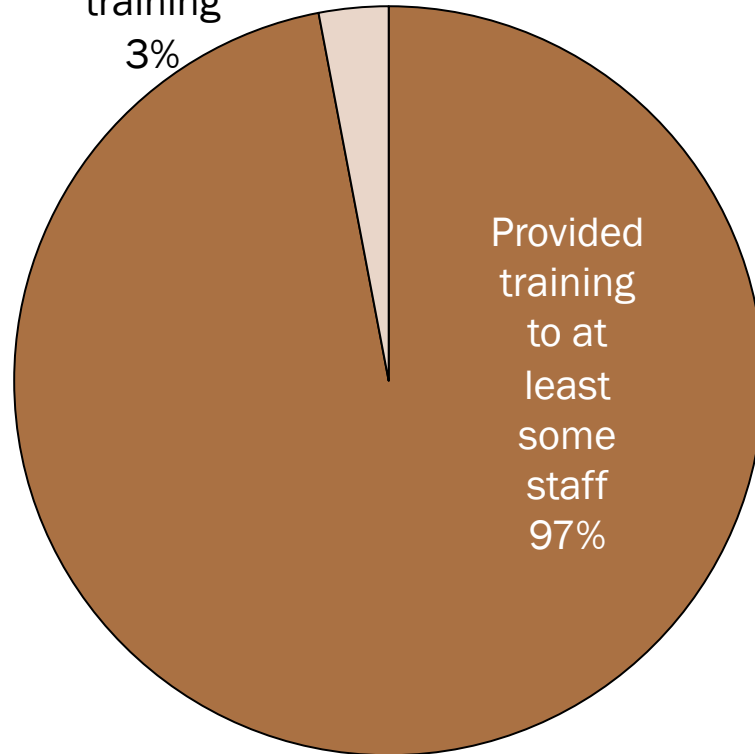
Analysis

- Descriptive statistics
- Logistic regression analysis

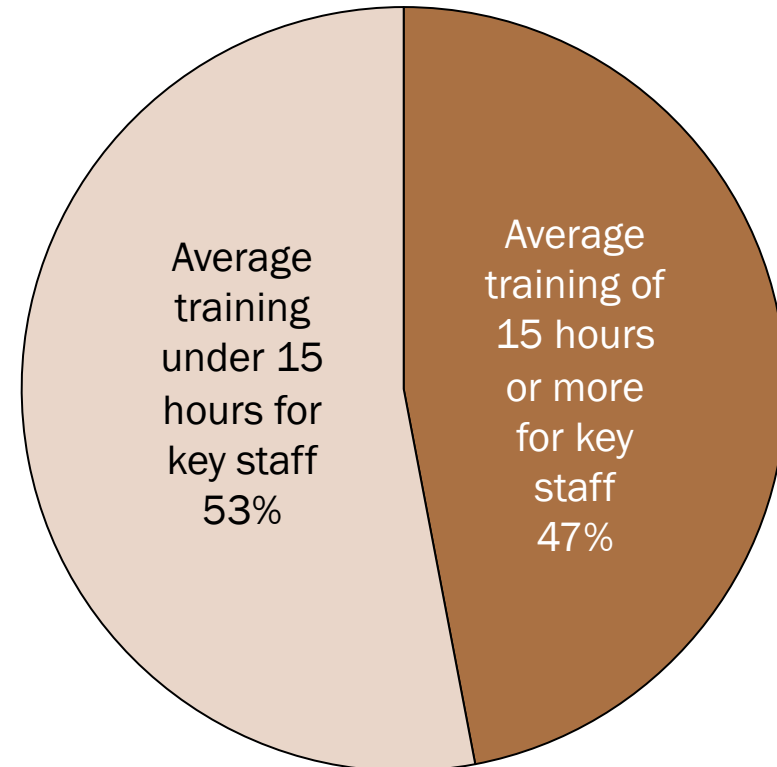


Almost all programs train staff, but meeting a benchmark of 15 hours per year was less common

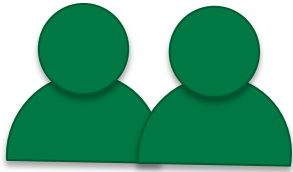
Did not
provide
training
3%



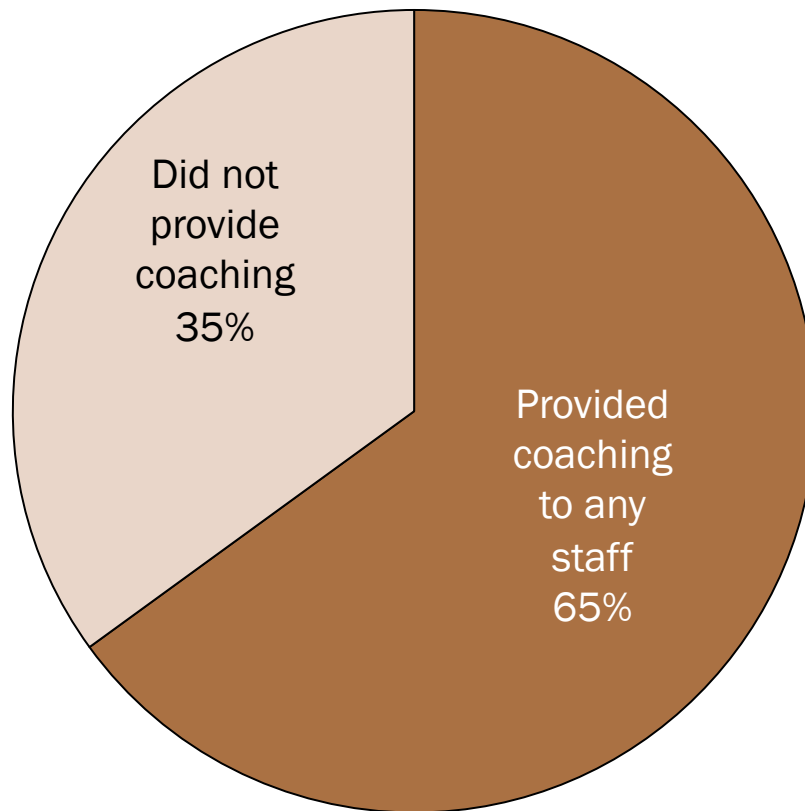
n = 382



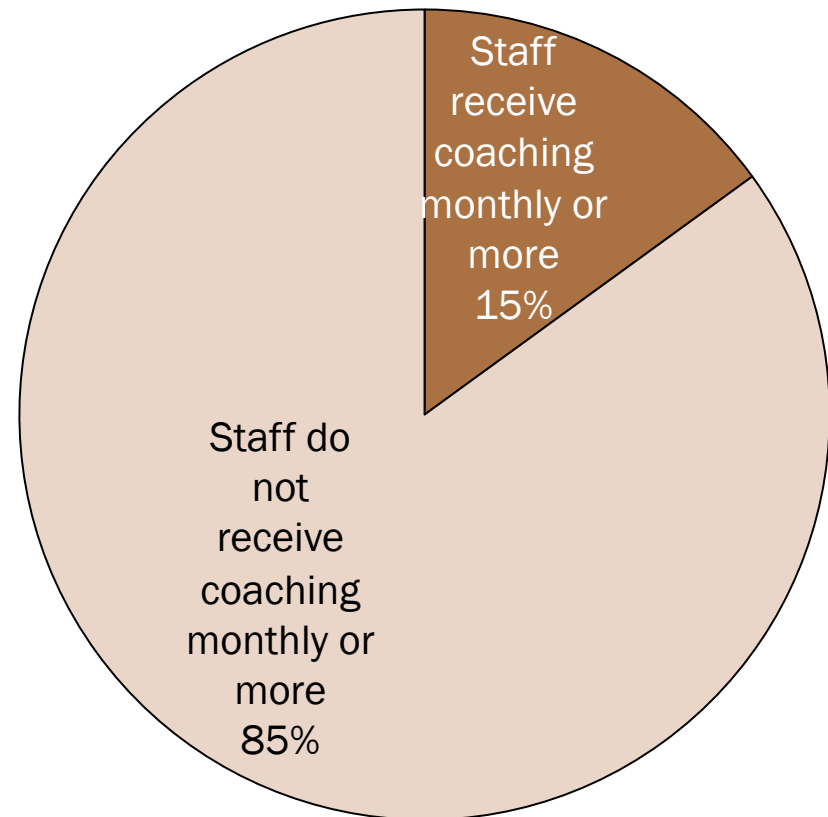
n = 349



Two thirds of programs provided coaching, but monthly coaching was rare



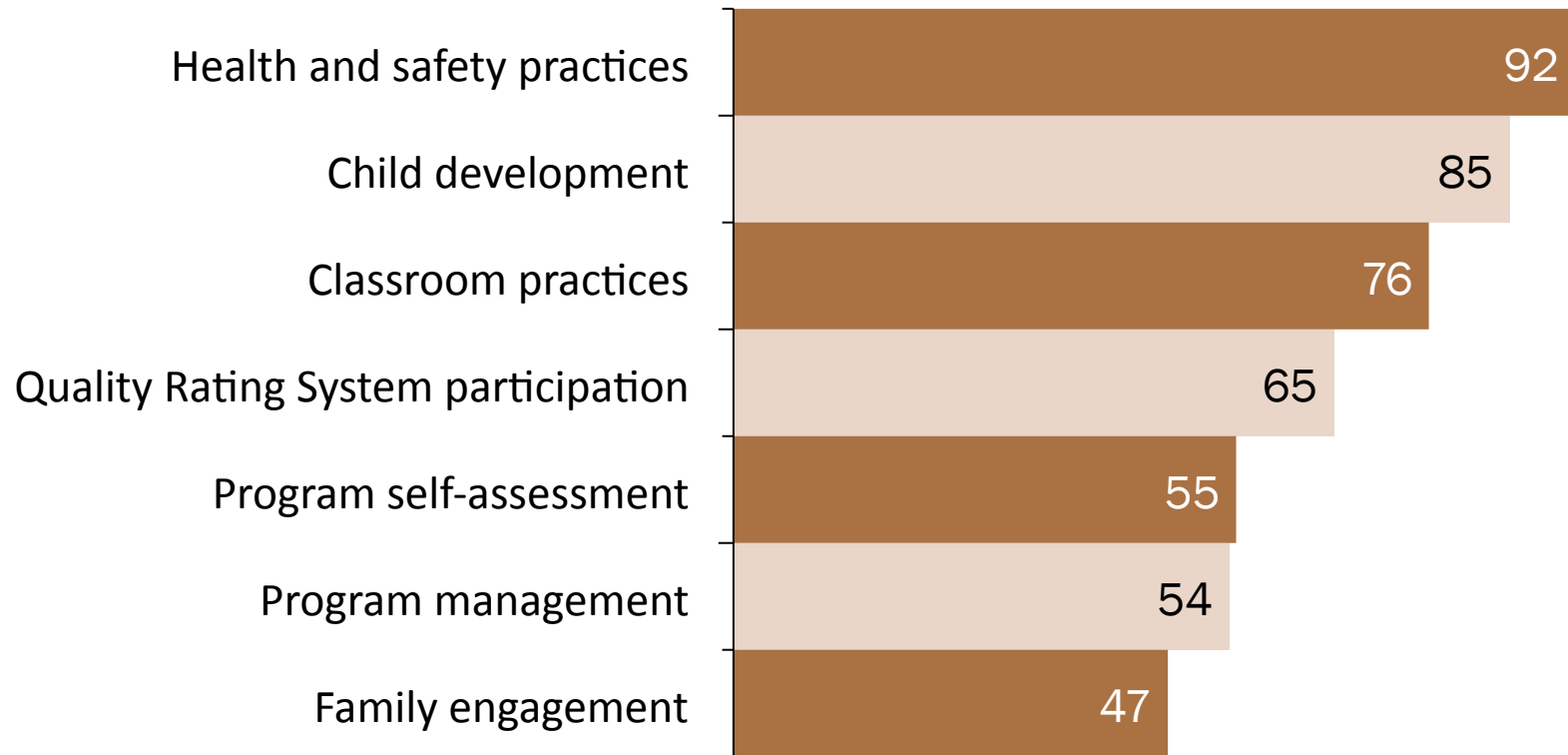
n = 385



n = 377

Health and safety was the most common topic of training or coaching

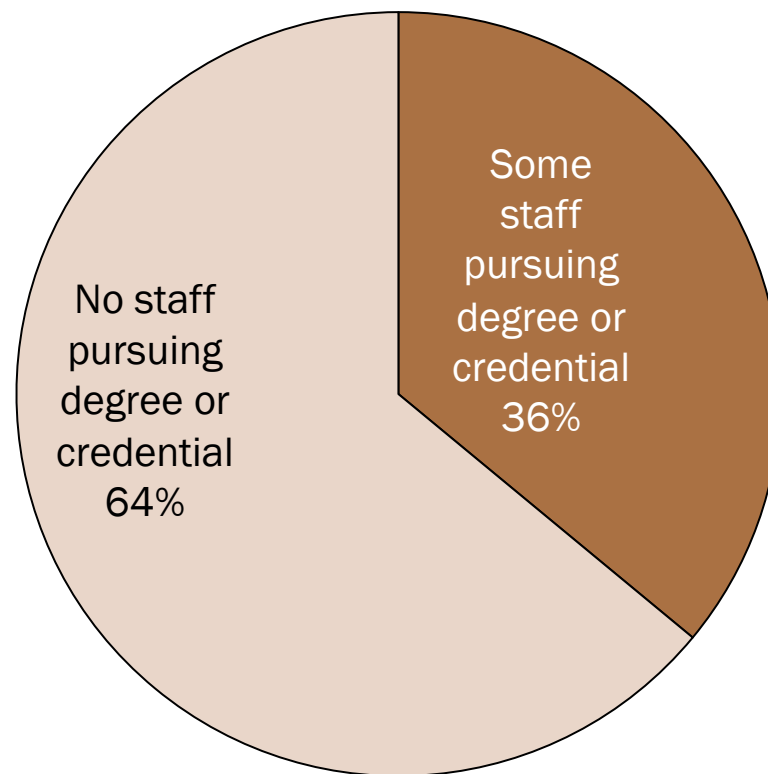
Percentage of programs with training or coaching on each topic



n = 376



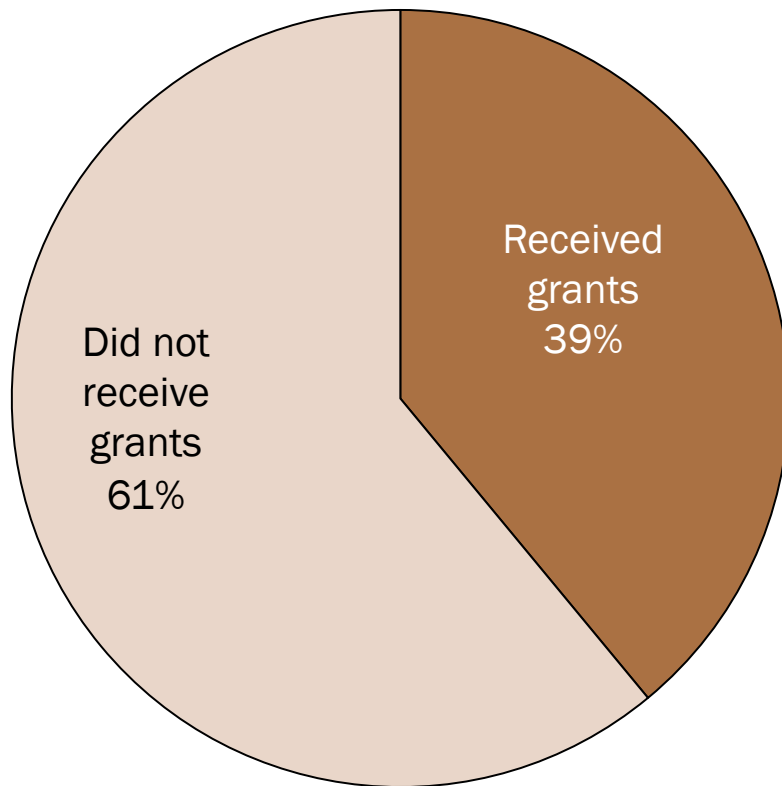
Staff at approximately one-third of programs were pursuing a degree or a credential



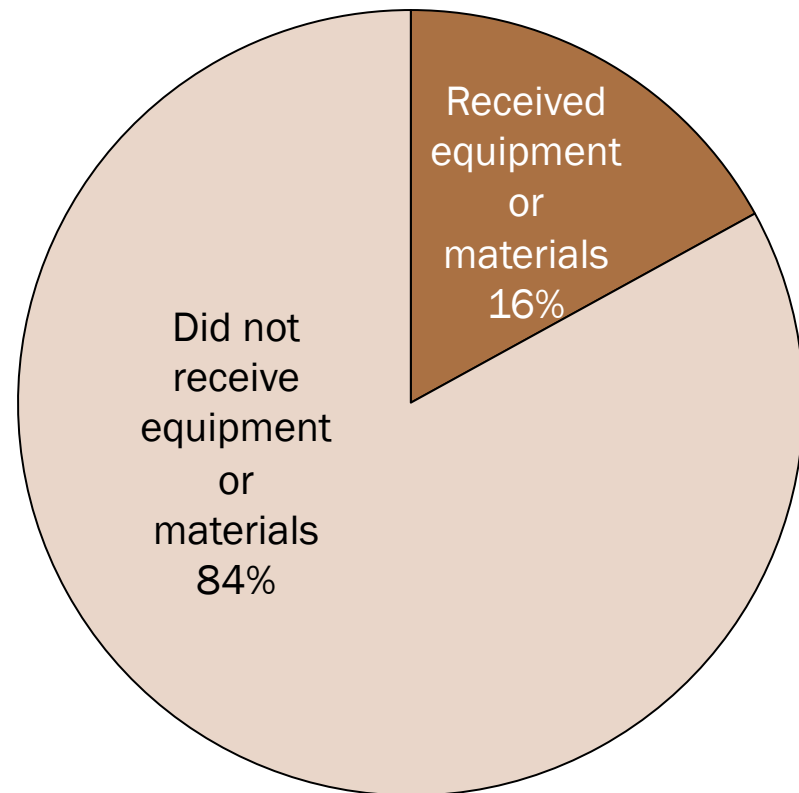
n = 388



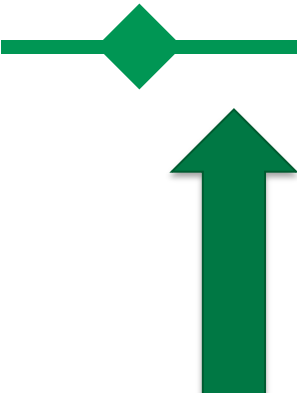
Financial incentives were more common than nonfinancial incentives



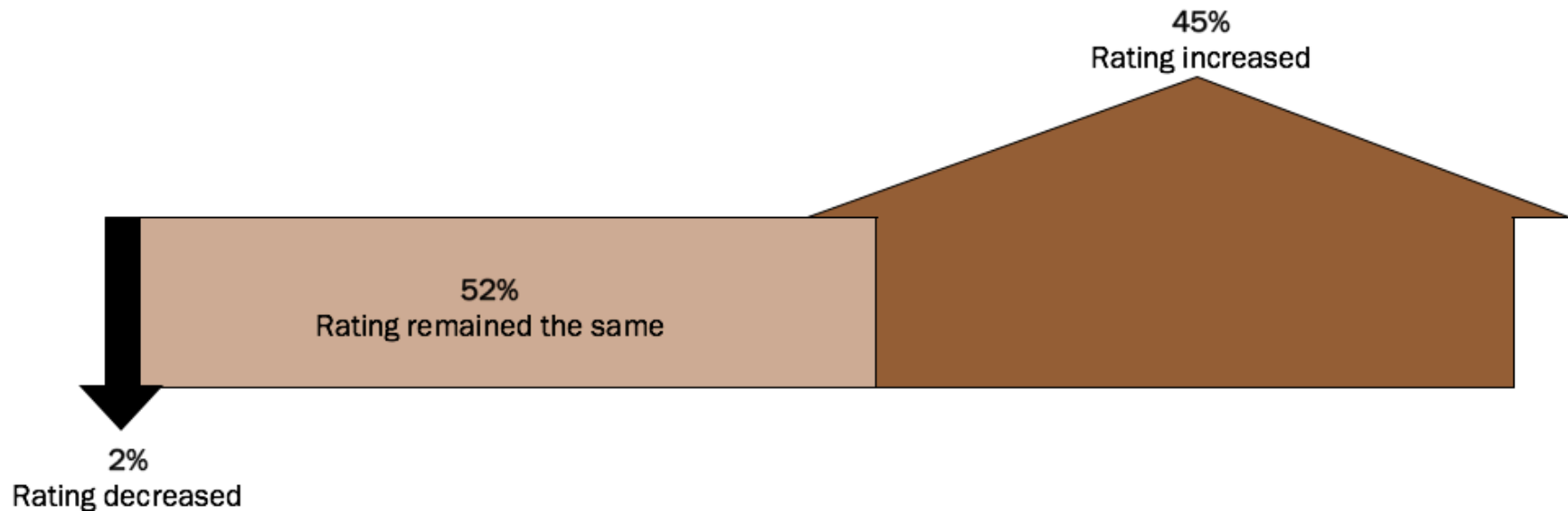
n = 387



n = 387



**Almost half of programs received
a higher rating when they were
re-rated in Iowa QRS**



n = 172 programs that were re-rated in Iowa QRS

Management PD and 15+ hours of training were positively related to rating increases



n = 146

Takeaways

- About half of programs met 15-hour training benchmark, and these programs were more likely to increase their QRS ratings
- Topics of PD seem to matter for rating increases, but relationships are unclear



Thank you!

REL Midwest Team and Co-Authors

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Iowa QRS Oversight Committee

Iowa Department of Human Services

Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral

REL Midwest Early Childhood Education
Research Alliance
