



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Early Childhood Quality Assurance

# Child Care Licensing Study

Methodology and Data Collected

Selected Key Findings

2020 CCEEPRC Meeting

# Child Care Licensing Studies

- ◆ Studies are done by a partnership of the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center) and the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA).
- ◆ Studies were conducted in 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2017.
- ◆ Data available in the Child & Family Data Archive.
- ◆ Their purpose is to track changes in child care licensing policies, practices, and requirements for providers.

# Data Set: Licensing Practices and Policies

## Licensing policies

- ◆ Facility monitoring, regulation enforcement, and licensing program staffing
- ◆ Results of the NARA survey of all licensing agencies

# Survey Respondents

- ◆ NARA sent the survey to directors and managers of child care licensing agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia (DC), and 5 U.S. territories in March 2018.
- ◆ A full set of responses was received by January 2019.
  - The 2017 survey had 51 responses (including all states and DC).
- ◆ Respondents included licensing managers and directors (who are referred to as “states” in this presentation).
- ◆ The 2014 survey had 53 responses (including 2 territories and DC).

Source: National Association for Regulatory Administration, 2017

# Data Set: Facility Requirements

Licensing regulations for child care facilities

- ◆ include requirements that programs must meet;
- ◆ are compiled from regulations posted on the National Database of Child Care Licensing Regulations; and
- ◆ include the following facility types—child care centers, family child care homes (FCCHs), and group child care homes (GCCHs).

# Source of Regulations



<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/licensing>

Source: National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance, n.d.



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# What Data Are Collected?

# Topics Covered in Facility Requirements Data Set

- ◆ Types of licensing regulations
- ◆ Definitions of facility types
- ◆ Licensing exemptions
- ◆ Staff qualifications and training
- ◆ Child-staff ratios and group size (for centers)
- ◆ Number of children allowed (for family child care)
- ◆ Supervision of children
- ◆ Care of children
- ◆ Facility requirements



# Staff Qualifications and Training Variables

- ◆ Staff roles regulated
- ◆ Minimum age requirements
- ◆ High school diploma requirements
- ◆ Preservice qualifications
- ◆ Orientation training
- ◆ Health and safety training
- ◆ Experience requirements
- ◆ Ongoing training
- ◆ Staff health requirements
- ◆ References



# Care-of-Children Variables

- ◆ Health requirements
  - Physical exams
  - Immunizations
- ◆ Nutrition
- ◆ Guiding behavior and discipline
- ◆ Activities, equipment, and materials
  - Child developmental domains



# Care-of-Children Variables

- ◆ Family involvement
- ◆ Child assessment
- ◆ Children with special needs
- ◆ Specialized care
  - Infant/toddler care; reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome
  - School-age care
  - Care of mildly ill children
  - Evening and overnight care
  - Drop-in care



# Facility Requirement Variables

- ◆ Environmental tests
- ◆ Square footage
- ◆ Condition of facility and equipment
- ◆ Safety of equipment
- ◆ Outdoor space
- ◆ Fire safety and emergency preparedness
- ◆ Security
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Liability and automobile insurance
- ◆ Medical care and related issues; administration of medication
- ◆ Handwashing
- ◆ Diapering
- ◆ Smoking policies
- ◆ Hazardous materials
- ◆ Firearms
- ◆ Animals in facilities



# Topics Covered in NARA Survey

- ◆ Number of licensed facilities and capacity
- ◆ Caseloads
- ◆ Types of inspections
- ◆ Frequency of inspections
- ◆ Frequency of licensing renewals
- ◆ Inspections and monitoring
- ◆ Risk assessment, defining compliance, and differential monitoring
- ◆ Technical assistance to licensees
- ◆ Use of technology and data
- ◆ Complaint investigations

Source: National Association for Regulatory Administration, 2017

# Topics Covered in NARA Survey

- ◆ Enforcement actions
- ◆ Sharing licensing information
- ◆ Illegally operating providers
- ◆ Licensing fees
- ◆ Licensing staff qualifications and training
- ◆ Quality initiatives and resources for formulating regulations
- ◆ Fire, health, and building inspections
- ◆ Background checks



Source: National Association for Regulatory Administration, 2017



# Key Findings from 2017 Study



# Trends in Child Care Licensing for 2017



<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/trends-child-care-licensing-requirements-and-policies-2017>



# Key Findings and Trends, 2017

- ◆ Many states added health and safety topics to training requirements.
- ◆ More states require five types of background checks.
- ◆ More states regulate group size for centers.
- ◆ More states inspect at least once a year.

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c

# Health and Safety Training Topics, 2017

Health and Safety Training Topics	Center Staff (N = 51)	FCCH Providers (N = 44)	GCCH Providers (N = 38)
Recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect	40	26	26
Emergency preparedness and response planning	35	24	21
Prevention and control of infectious diseases	32	20	22
Reduction of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleeping practices	31	28	25
Prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma, and child maltreatment	26	23	20
Administration of medication	24	21	17
Precautions in transporting children	18	18	15
Prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions	15	14	11
Building and physical premises safety	14	13	10
Handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of biocontaminants	14	14	11

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c

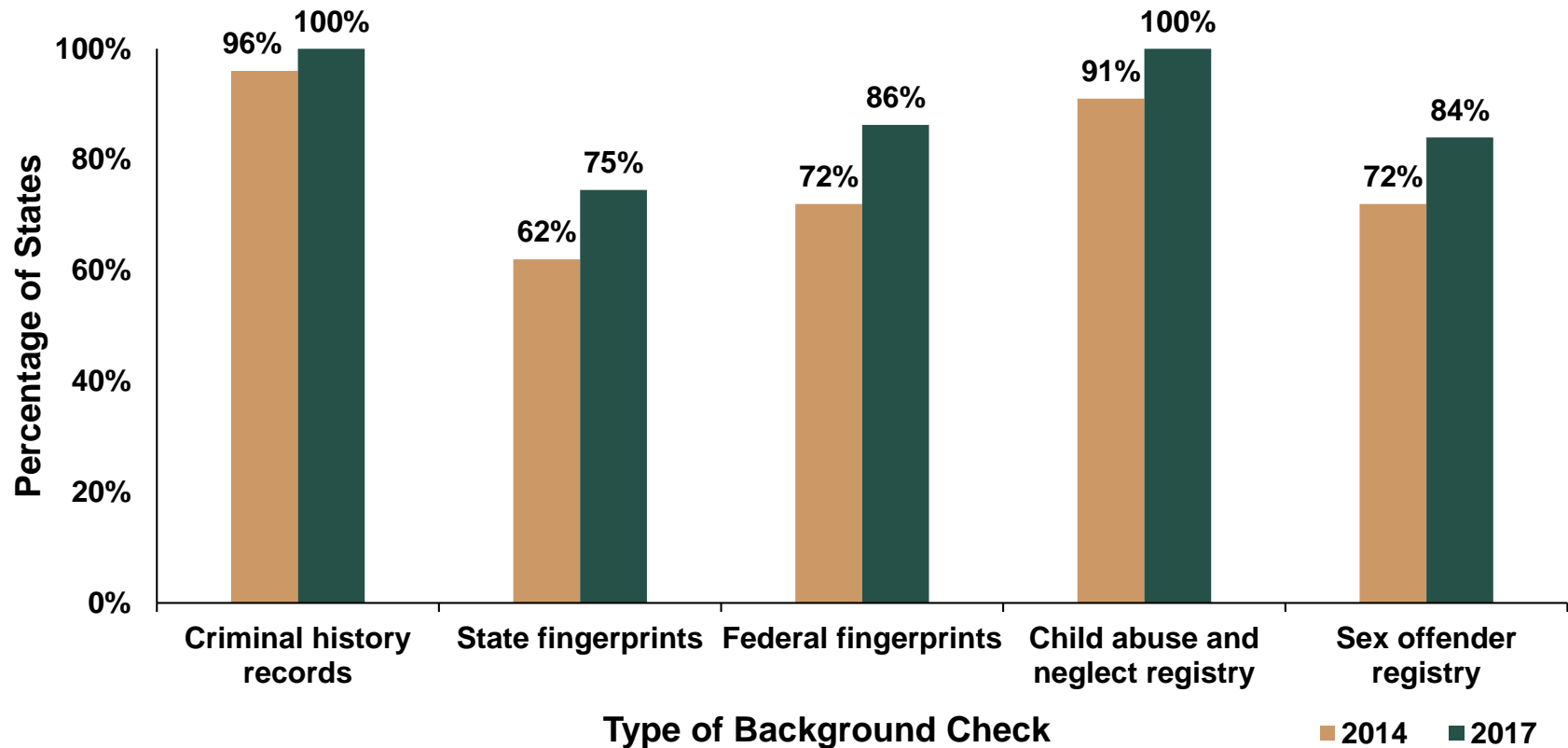
# Changes in Health and Safety Training

Several states added preservice or orientation training requirements in health and safety topics from 2014 to 2017:

- ◆ For centers, the largest increases were in
  - reducing sudden infant death syndrome (16 states to 29) and
  - preventing shaken baby syndrome (11 states to 26).
- ◆ For FCCHs, there were large increases in almost every topic.

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c

# Types of Background Checks: Centers, 2014–2017

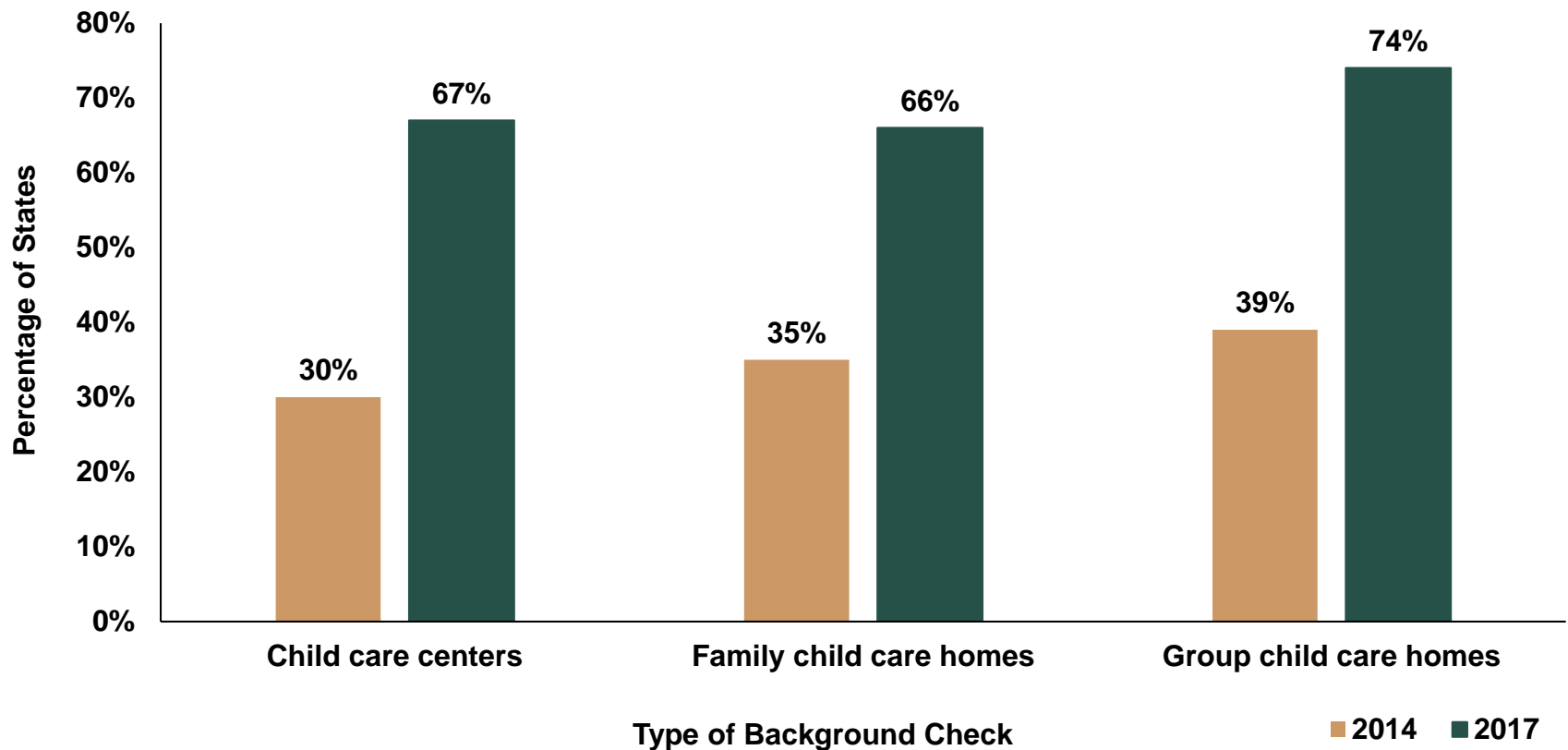


**Notes:** *N* = 53 states (including 2 territories and DC) in 2014. *N* = 51 states (including DC) in 2017.

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c

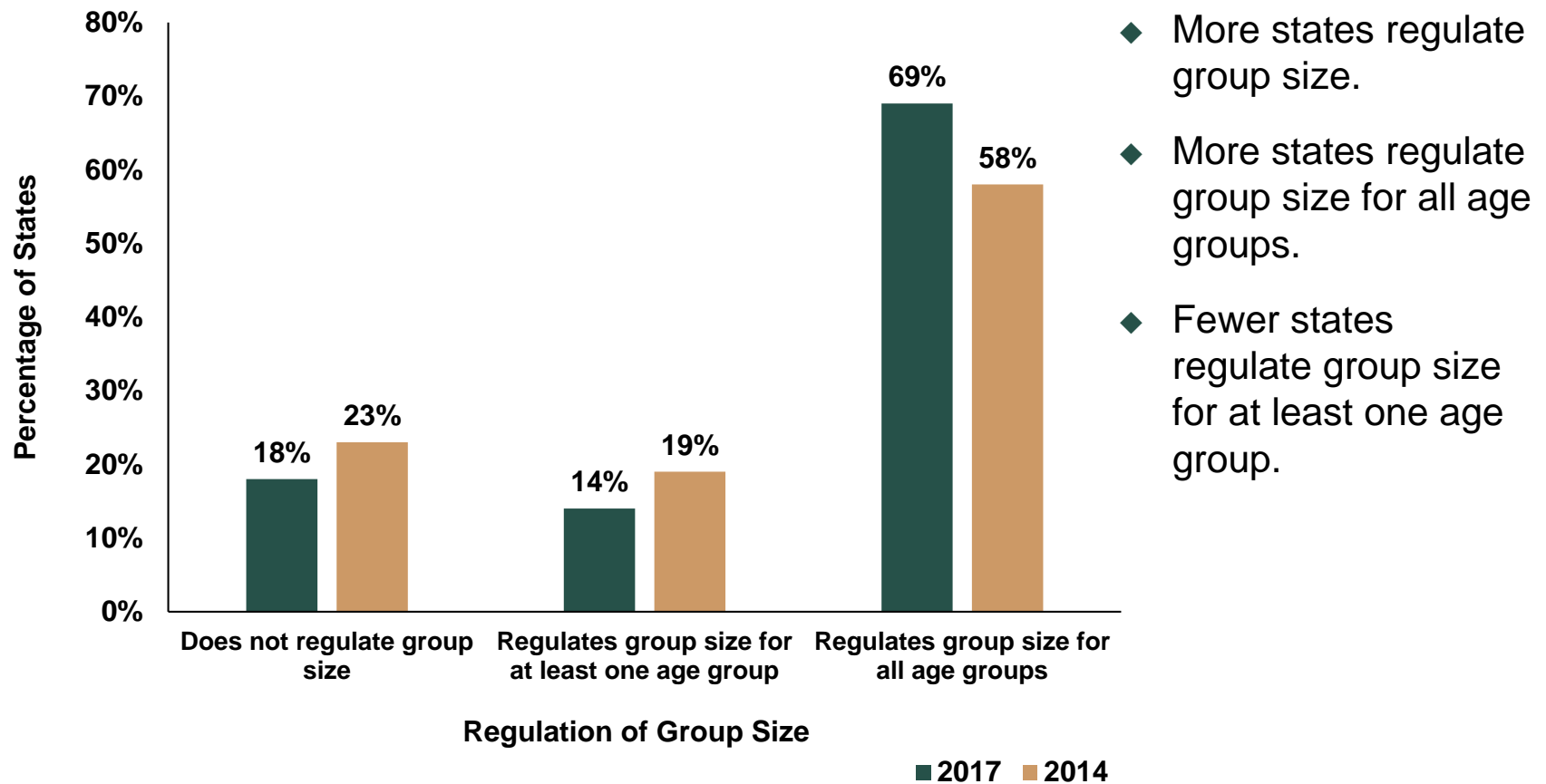
# Five Types of Background Checks Are Required, 2014–2017

In 2017, 1/3 more states required five types of background checks than in 2014.



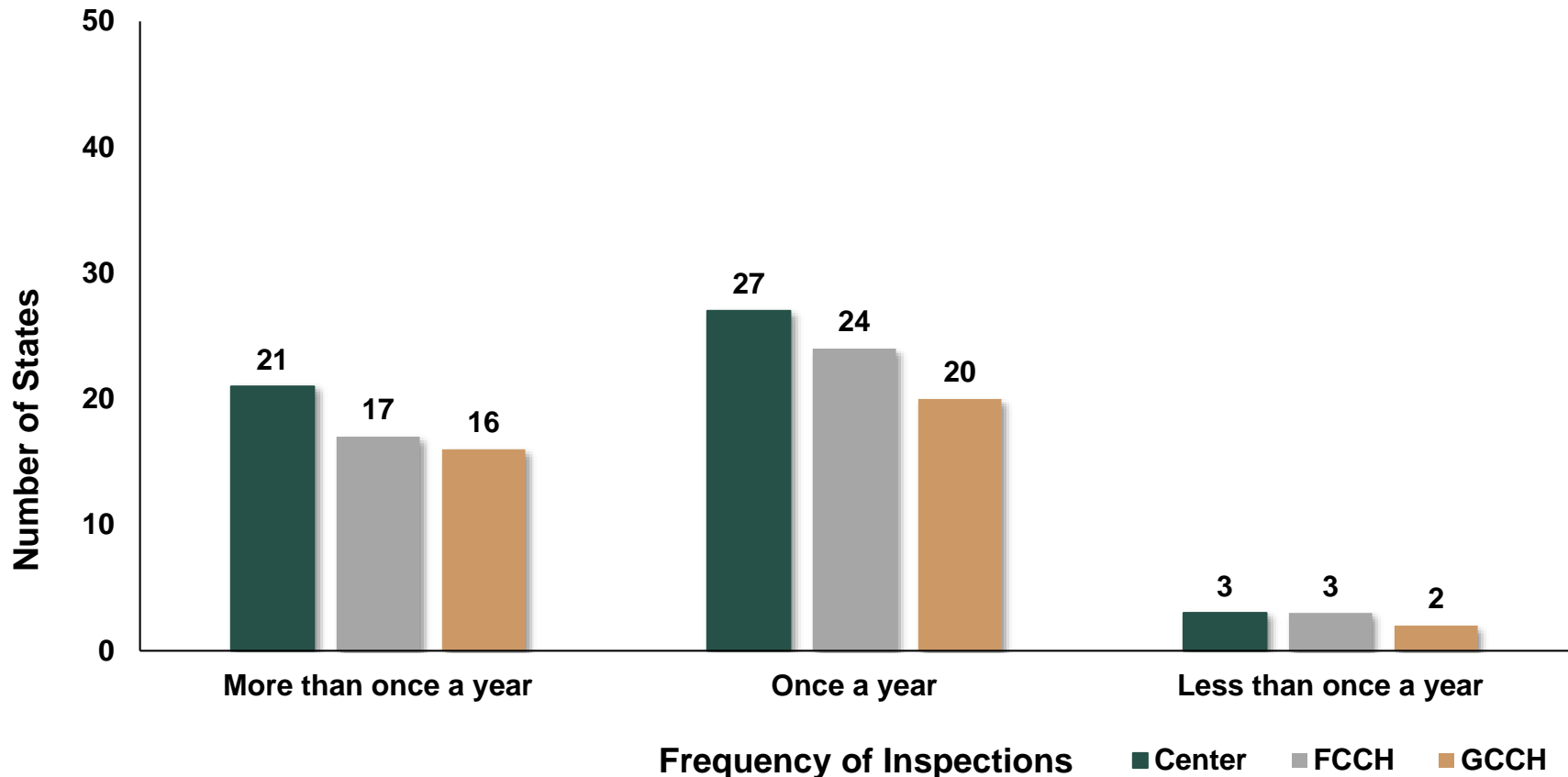
Source: ECQA Center, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c

# More States Regulate Group Size in Centers, 2014–2017



Source: ECQA Center, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c

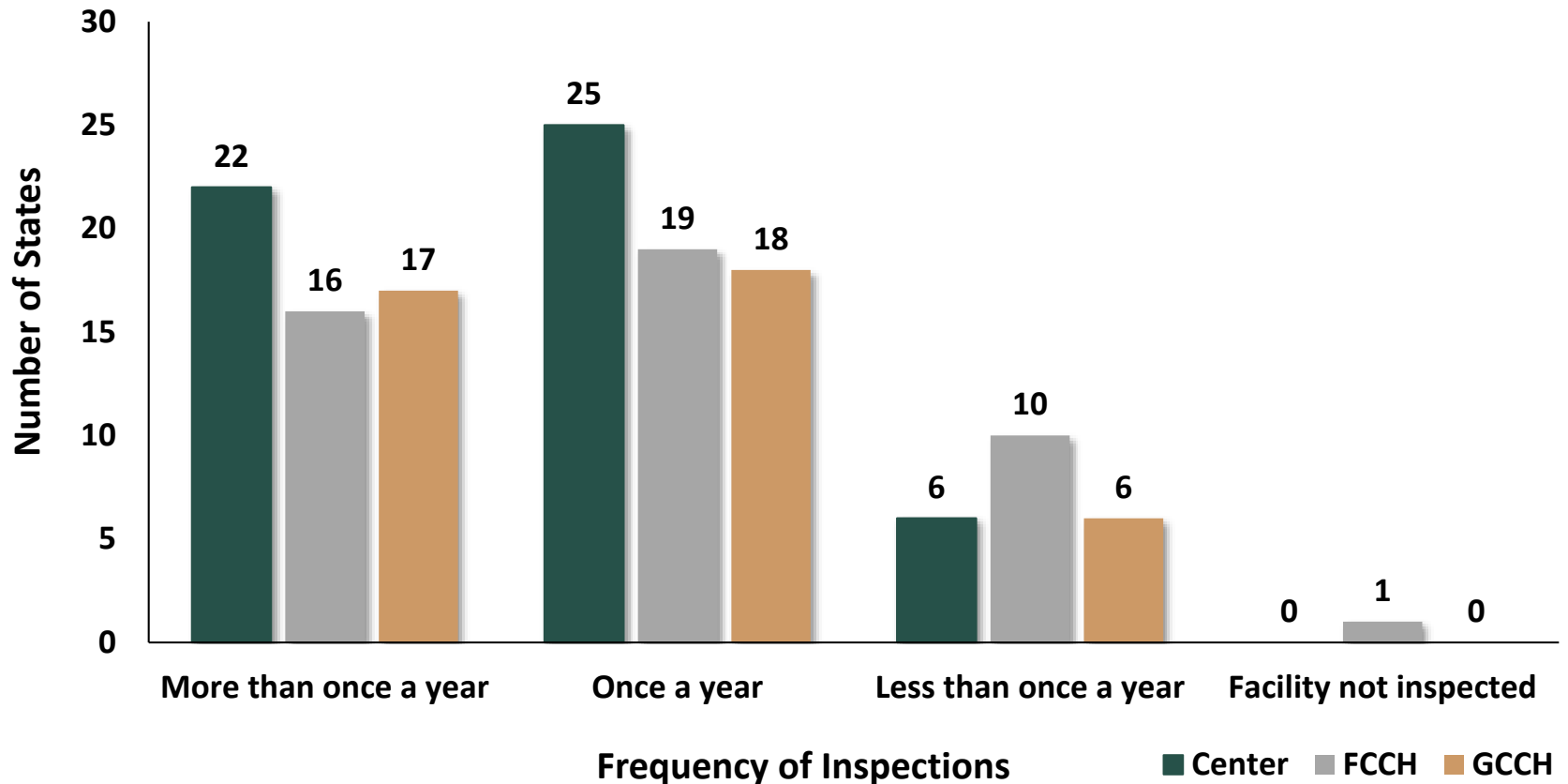
# Frequency of Inspections, 2017



**Note:**  $N = 51$  states (including DC) in 2017.

Source: ECQA Center, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c

# Frequency of Inspections, 2014



**Note:**  $N = 53$  states (including DC and 2 territories) in 2014.

Sources: ECQA Center, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c



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