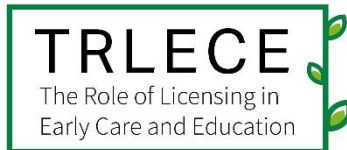


Partnering with States to Address Licensing Research Questions

CCEEPRC
June 28, 2023



Acknowledgements



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OPRE Project Officers | Tracy Carter Clopet, Ivelisse Martinez-Beck, and Shannon Warren

Child Trends Leads | Kelly Maxwell and Brenda Miranda

ICF Lead | Nina Johnson



Agenda

- 1. Overview of Project and Session**
Brenda Miranda, Child Trends
- 2. Project Approach to Engaging States and Others**
Nina Johnson, ICF
- 3. Lessons Learned from Web-scraping Licensing Data**
Tracy Gebhart, Child Trends
- 4. Partnering with States to Analyze Licensing Administrative Data**
Diane Early, Child Trends
- 5. State Perspectives on Licensing Research**
Simon Bolivar, Utah Licensing
Dawn Jeffrey, Arkansas Licensing
- 6. Discussion**

Project Overview

Brenda Miranda



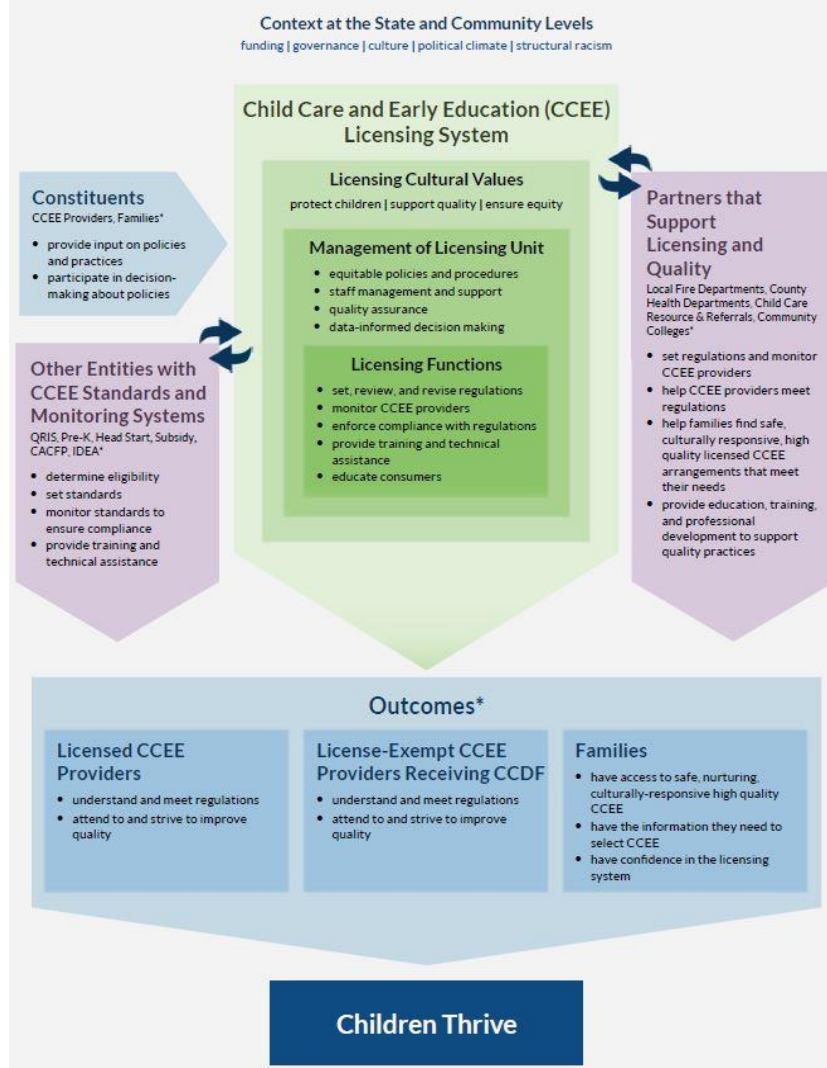
Child Care and Early Education Licensing

- **Child care licensing** establishes regulations that must be met to legally operate a child care program.
- **Child care licensing** also monitors and enforces those regulations.

Purposes of TRLECE Research Project

- **Identify and address gaps in our knowledge** of how key licensing features are related to quality and outcomes
- **Collect new data** to help address the gaps in our knowledge
- **Develop resources** to support states and territories in using data and research to strengthen their licensing systems

Conceptual Framework for CCEE Licensing



TRLECE Research Using State Administrative Data

- Working with 4 states to scrape publicly posted licensing data to address questions about licensing, such as:
 - Do programs that accept child care subsidies tend to have more (or fewer) licensing violations?
 - Do programs in communities with higher poverty levels tend to have more (or fewer) licensing violations?
 - Do programs in communities with more individuals who identify as Black tend to have more (or fewer) licensing violations?
 - Do programs in communities with more individuals who identify as Hispanic or Latino tend to have more (or fewer) licensing violations?

TRLECE Research Using State Administrative Data

- Working with 3 states to use their administrative data (e.g., licensing, QRIS) to address questions of mutual interest, such as:
 - Do licensing violations vary based on the percentage of children receiving subsidy in the program?
 - What is the relationship between licensing violations and a program's QRIS rating?

Licensing Case Studies

License-
exempt
providers

Licensing TA
support

Surveys About Licensing

Licensing
administrator
survey

Front-line
licensing staff
survey

Licensed child
care provider
survey

Engaging States and Others

Nina Johnson



Purpose of Engagement

- Enhance project activities and improve the rigor and relevance of our work
- Inform project decisions, shape priority research questions, develop study procedures, interpret findings, and enhance the utilization of findings

Approach to Engagement

- The project has a pool of experts – which continues to grow.
- We engage subgroups to provide feedback on specific activities or products.

43

activities

Activities

Feedback on product development



Feedback on instruments



Feedback on research processes



Feedback on analyses



State research partnership activities



108

experts

Expert Engagement

Licensing
representatives



Researchers



Provider
representatives



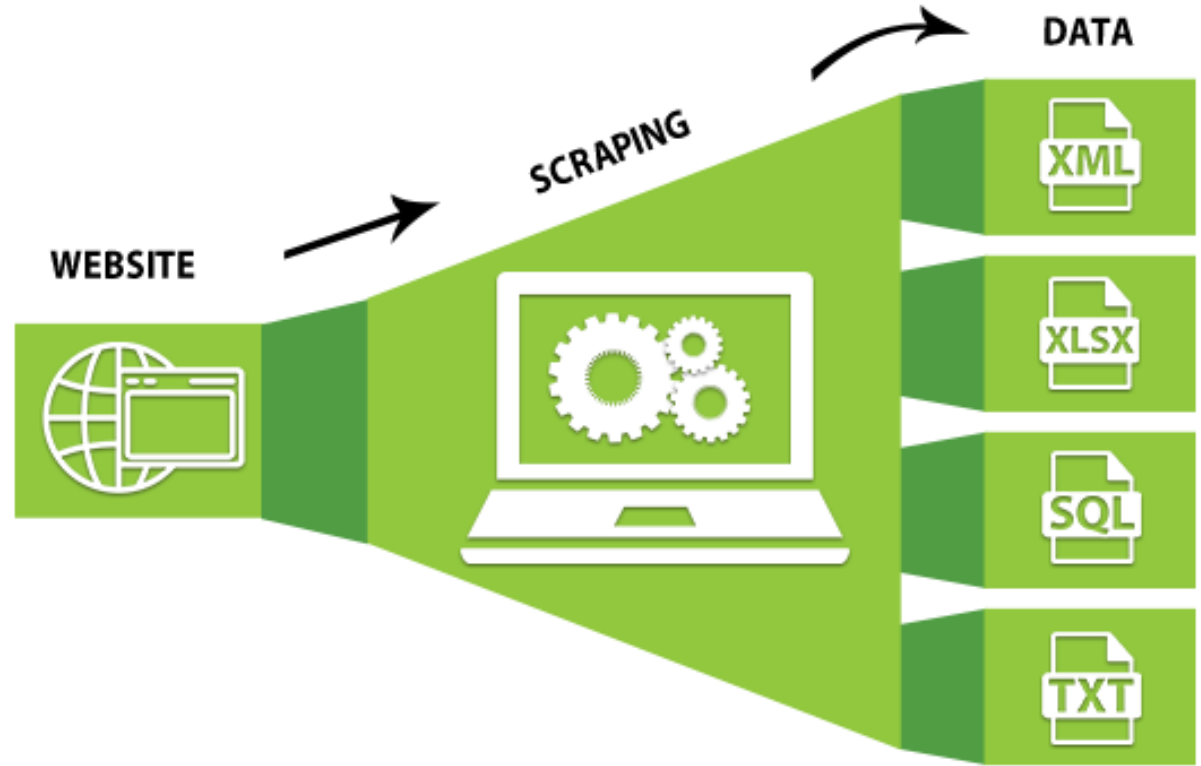
CCEE system
representatives



Other experts



Web Scraping



TRLECE

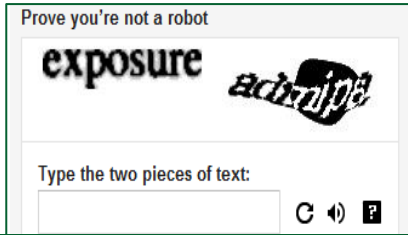
The Role of Licensing in
Early Care and Education

Lessons Learned from Web Scraping

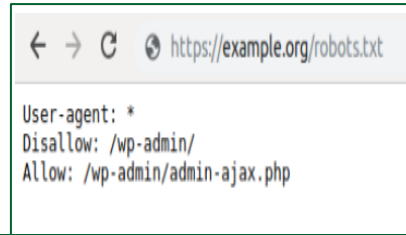
Tracy Gebhart



Ethical Web Scraping



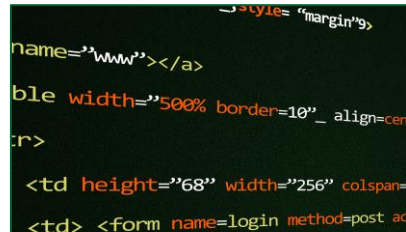
CAPTCHA



Robots.txt



Terms of Service



Website Permissions

Though varying in enforceability, **ethical users** should consider these **protections** and terms of use **before web scraping**.

Scraping CCEE Licensing Data

2016 CCDF Final Rule requires states to have a consumer education website with specific information, including licensing monitoring and inspection results

There is variation in:

- CCEE provider types, licensing rules, and visit types/frequencies.
- Format (e.g., online databases, summative tables of unpublished data, or scans of physical monitoring forms).

Lessons Learned in Web Scraping



Start by investigating website content and structure



Anticipate changes to the website and/or licensing standards



Expect duplicative and inconsistent CCEE facility information



Consider data reliability



Partner for increased interpretability



TRLECE

The Role of Licensing in
Early Care and Education



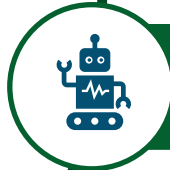
Successes in Web Scraping



Reduced burden on data custodians



Access to rich data



Automated processes



Value-add for data custodians

Working with States to Analyze Licensing Administrative Data

Diane Early



Our Work with States

- Aimed to answer similar, policy-relevant research questions across 3-4 states.
- Outlined questions we thought could be addressed using administrative licensing data .
- Approached four states, based on our understanding of their data.
- Three agreed to partner with us.

Our Work with States

- Each state required several calls with administrators and data staff to:
 - Understand their licensing system
 - Gain needed permissions
 - Finalize decisions about which questions we would address through our research and analysis.
 - Create and execute an MOU
 - Request and receive the needed data
 - Understand the data they provided

Research Questions Co- Created with States

- Predicting licensing violations from:
 - Percent of children receiving subsidies
 - Community poverty level
 - Community race/ethnicity
 - Urban/non-urban
 - QRIS rating
- Standard set of co-variates in each model
- Separate models for centers and family child care
- Separate models predicting total violations and high-risk/severe violations

Working with Administrative Licensing Data

- Understanding the data required multiple conversations.
- Examples:
 - Different terms for violations (e.g., noncompliance), with different meanings within/across states
 - Number of visits in a year may be related to past compliance
 - Documenting every rule inspected vs only those violated

Answering Similar Questions Across States

- Cross state analysis decisions:
 - Which visits to include
 - Timeframe
 - Ensuring variables were comparable

Opportunities and Challenges

- Child care licensing is a foundation of the CCEE system, but has received little research attention
- States have a wealth of licensing administrative data and many are eager to support analysis
- However, the data are often messy and easily misunderstood
- Partnering with states to understand their data is critical

State Perspectives on Research

Simon Bolivar, Utah
Dawn Jeffrey, Arkansas



Discussion



Thank you!

