



Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies



Strengthening Services for Vermont Children and Families

2007 Annual Report, July 2006-June 2007

The Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, VACCRRRA, is a network of twelve agencies throughout Vermont. The twelve member agencies share a common commitment to developing quality child care options and delivering consistent services statewide.

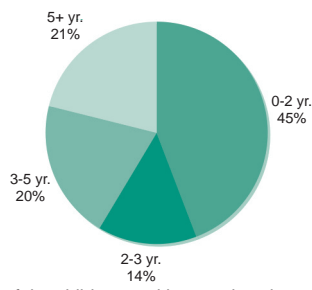
VACCRRRA build awareness of child care issues, provide information of available resources and increase the development of quality services for children throughout Vermont.

While VACCRRRA contributes to improving the child services system, our member agencies are working directly with parents, providers and their communities.....

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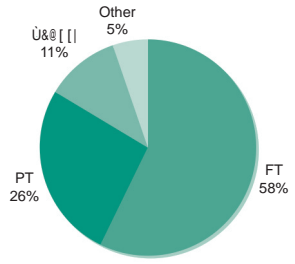
Helping Vermont Families and Children

From July 2006-June 2007, member agencies received 5,058 calls from parents seeking child care for 6,927 children.



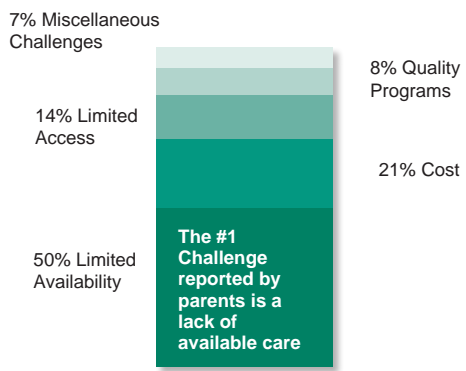
4% of the children seeking services have special needs.

Age of Child Needing Care



49% of parents are seeking care in licensed centers; 47% are seeking family child care; 4% are seeking other arrangements.

Type of Care Requested



The #1 Challenge reported by parents is a lack of available care

Challenges Reported by Parents

The Impact of Educating Parents about Child Care

“Good consumer education is critical to making the market function properly. If parents are not able to make informed choices, their access to the market is limited.”

Department of Health and Human Services

AVAILABILITY FACTS:

- Infant spaces represent an estimated 14% of the 34,000 registered slots;
- In 2007, requests for infant care represented over 45% of all referral calls and the number one reported challenge by parents;
- In 2007, 62% parents found child care, 35 % did not, 3% stopped work. (Based on 20% parent follow up feedback.)

WE BELIEVE The 2007 welfare work requirements will contribute to the existing infant care crisis.

AFFORDABILITY FACTS:

- Financial eligibility remains at 1999 poverty guidelines. Current reimbursement rates fall between the 40th and 70th percentile for each type of care in each region of the state;
- In 2007, VACCRRRA member agencies supported an average of 7,000 assistance.



“Even with 100% subsidy assistance, I still owe \$48 a week. That might not sound like a lot to some people but for my family, that is a week of food!”

-Vermont Parent with two children

WE BELIEVE 1999 poverty guidelines are unacceptable and put children at risk in unregulated care situations.

Reaching for Quality: Our member agencies support the professional development of child care providers

Quality FACTS:

- ∇ Vermont is among the top ten states in developing a coordinated quality system of care;
- ∇ In 2007, the universal pre-Kindergarten bill passed, approving the services;
- ∇ The percent of quality recognized family child care homes and licensed centers has more than doubled over the past 4 years.

Quality Improvement Opportunities for Providers

"I didn't expect much when I started so glad I did it. It has shown me where I have drifted away from some good things I used to do and really refocused and reenergized me. I have reconnected with why I love my work. It wasn't that hard in the end, once I realized that you use what you are already doing."

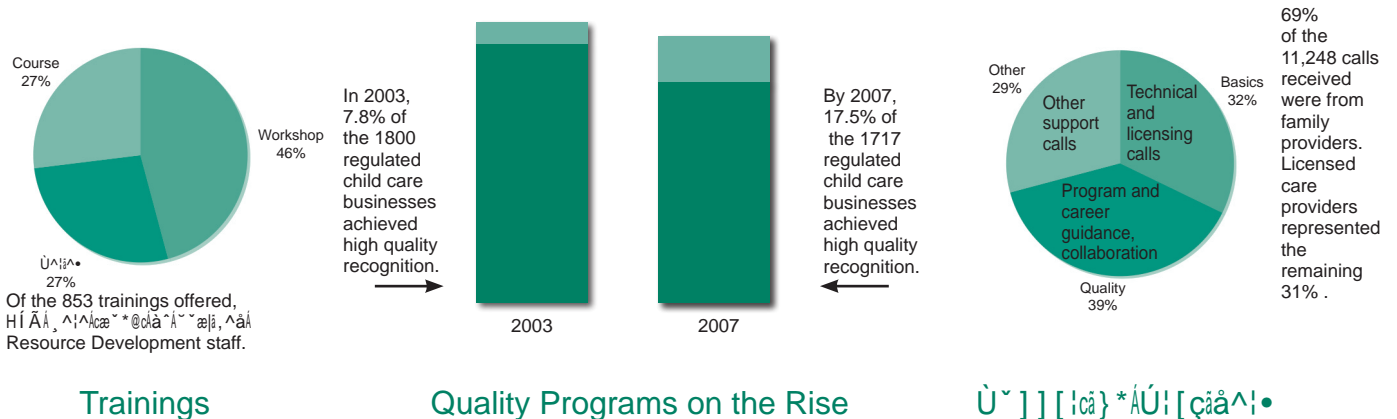
- Pam is registered family provider one of 209 providers throughout the state who has participated in the

WE BELIEVE a coordinated approach to increasing

WE BELIEVE quality preschool services are attainable in quality home based and center based programs. Our member agencies support providers in attaining quality standards.

Helping Child Care Providers

From July 2006-June 2007, VACCRRRA member agencies supported providers, providing 853 trainings, 11,248 phone consultations and 1,052 home visits. In addition, member agency staff assisted non-providers, providing 5,760 phone consultations and 145 home visits.



VACCRRRA FY 07 Key Accomplishments

- Expanded referral services for parents and resource development services for providers.
- Expanded agency services through increased consistent messaging.
- Increased networking and partnership meetings among providers.
- Expanded services through the development of a best practice handbook and initiation of a web-based resource library project, www.vermontchildcare.org

