



Who's Caring for Our Babies?

Early Care and Education in North Carolina

Child Care Services Association, 2018

Introduction



Purpose

- To examine the availability of infant-toddler care in counties, regions and statewide
- To assess usage of quality infant-toddler slots in counties, regions and statewide
- To compare the availability and usage of quality between infant-toddlers and preschoolers
- To compare data on availability and quality for infant-toddlers and preschoolers receiving child care subsidy
- To compare data on availability and quality since the 2008 Infant Toddler

The Study

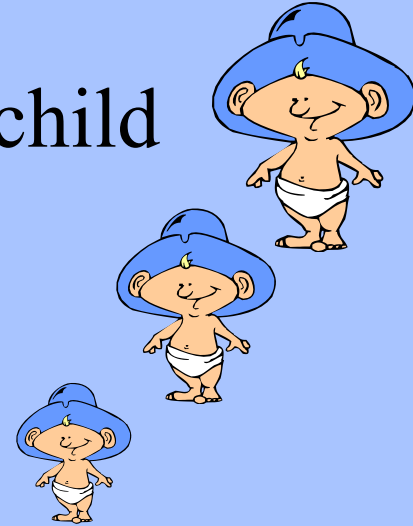


- Data Sources
 - April 2008/Oct 2016 Licensing Data
 - April 2008/Oct 2016 Subsidy Data
 - April 2008/Oct 2016 Subsidy Waiting List Data
 - 2003/2015 ECE Workforce Study
- County, Regional and State Data
 - Complete Reports –www.childcareservices.org

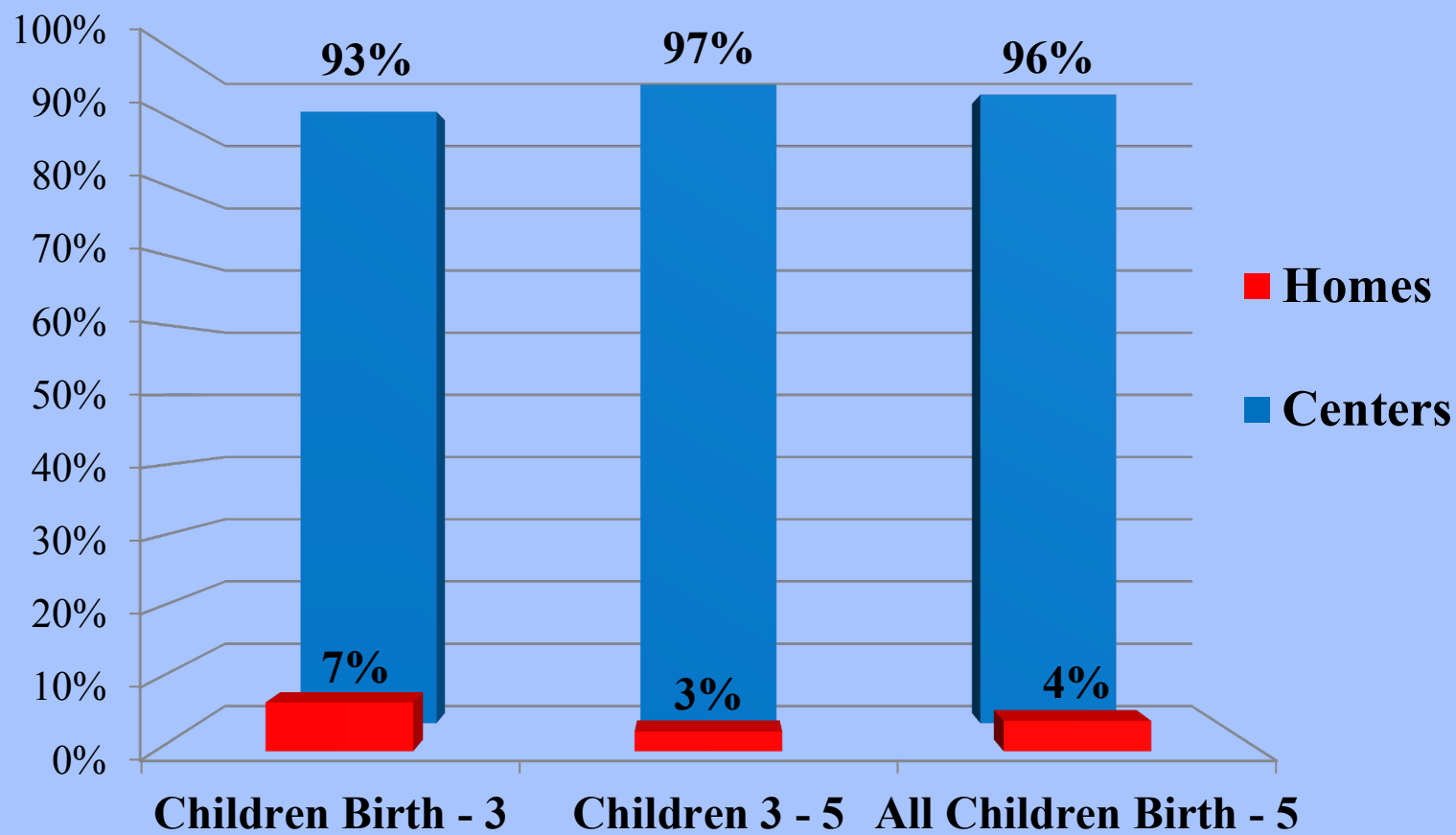
The Basics

Descriptive Data

- 66,353 children from 0-3 in licensed child care settings (down 14% from 2008)
 - 20% infants (22% in 2008)
 - 35% one-year-olds (35% in 2008)
 - 45% two-year-olds (44% in 2008)
- 37% of children birth - five enrolled in licensed child care centers/homes are infants and toddlers (40% in 2008)
- 77% of all programs serve infants and toddlers (83% in 2008)

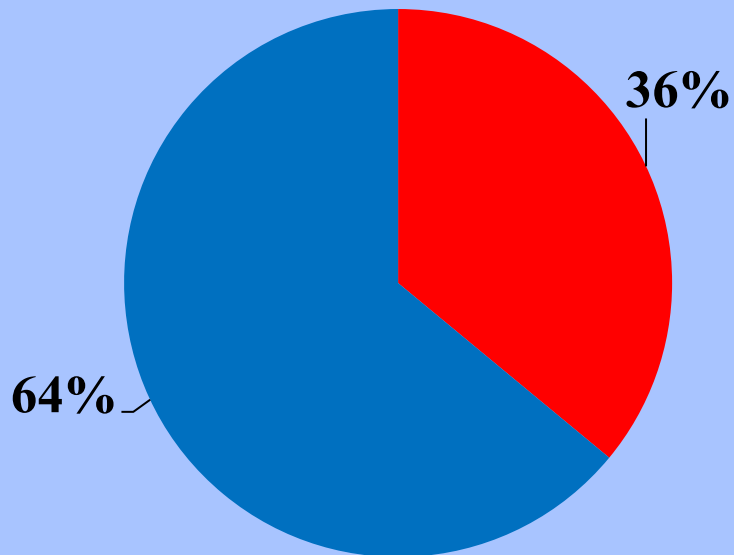


Use of Regulated Child Care by Children Birth to Five



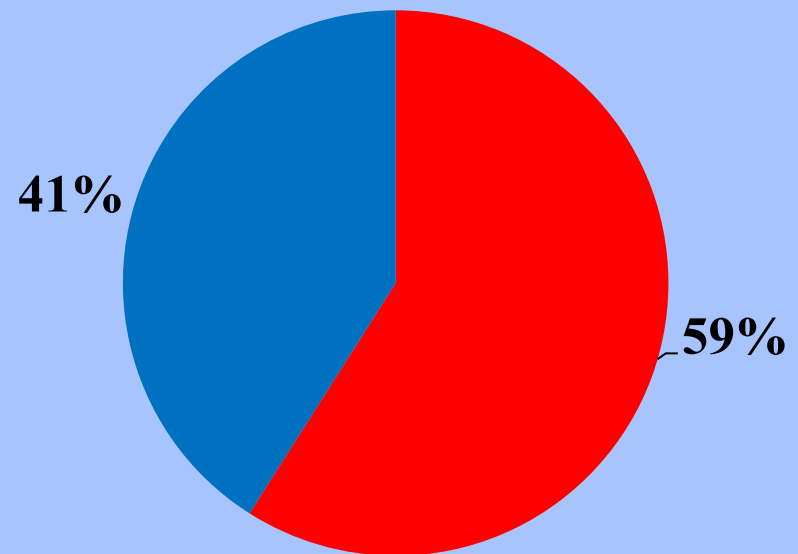
Percent of Children Birth - Five Enrolled in Licensed Centers or Homes

Center Enrollment



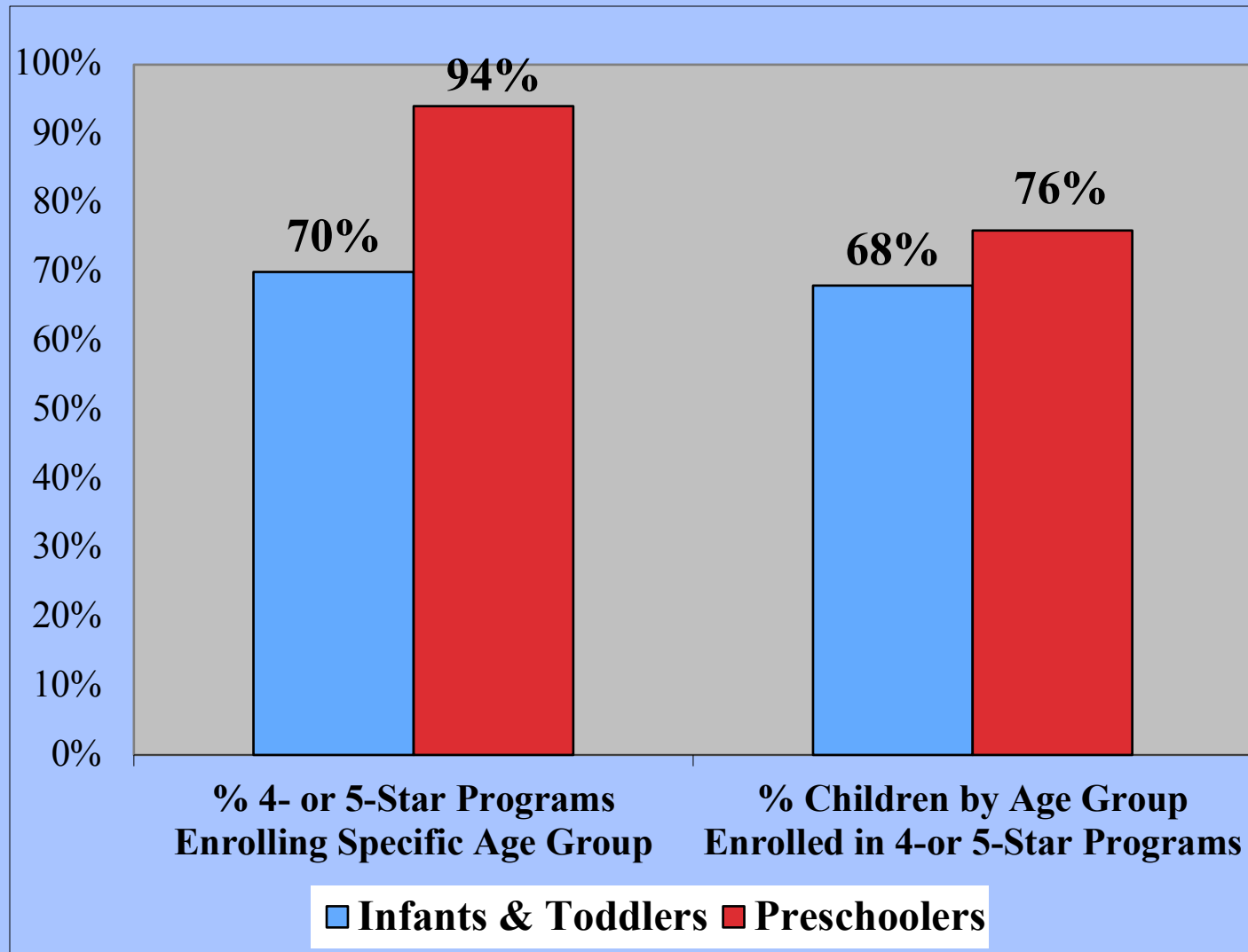
■ Infants & Toddlers ■ Preschoolers (3-5)

Home Enrollment

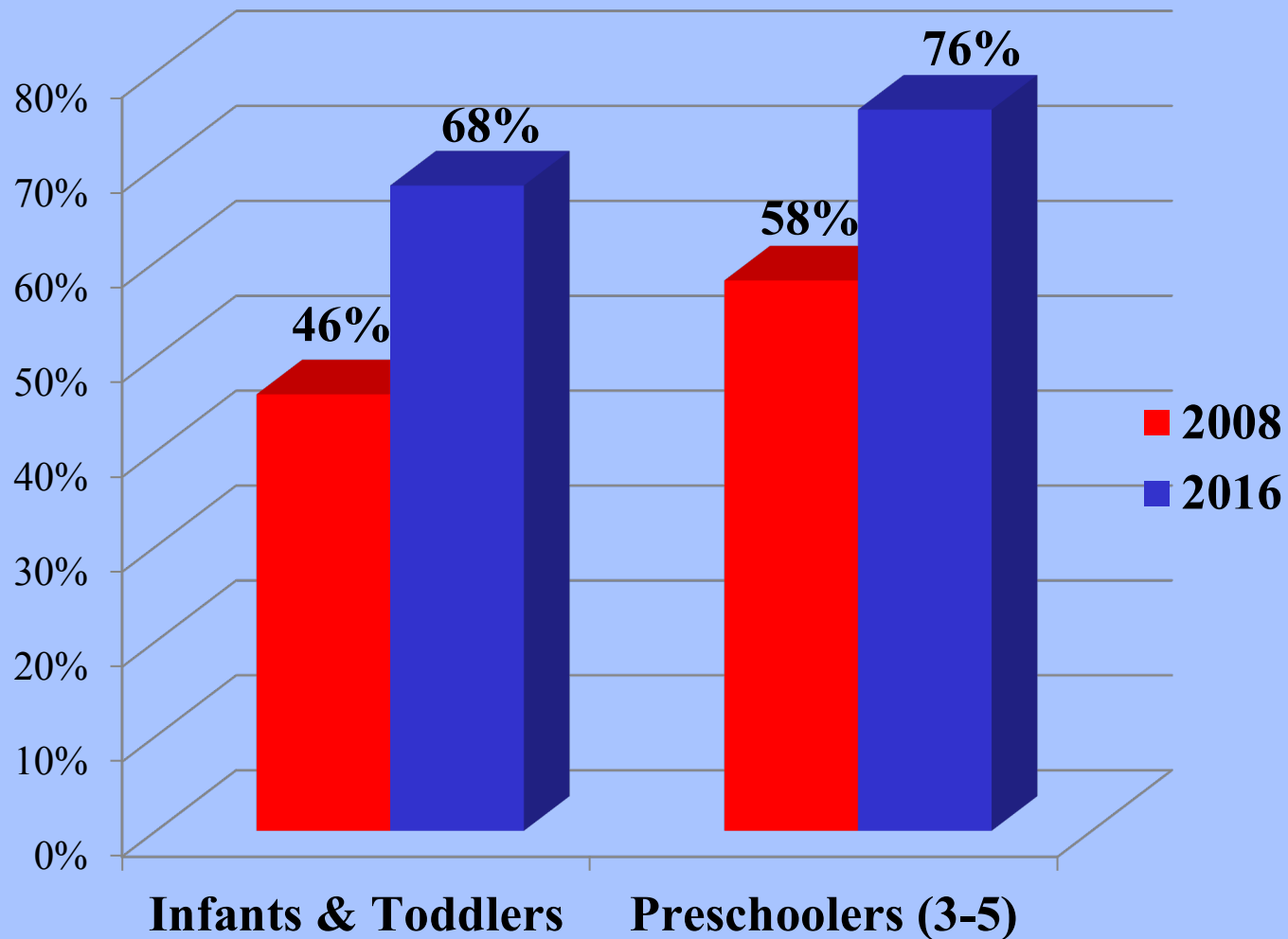


■ Infants & Toddlers ■ Preschoolers (3-5)

Older Children Have Access to Better Child Care



Statewide Enrollment in 4-5 Star Programs Over Time



Percent Infants/Toddlers Enrolled in 4- or 5- Star Centers Across the Counties

County Examples:

Alleghany 40%

Avery 100%

Bertie 64%

Guilford 59%

Hyde 46%

Macon 94%

Mecklenburg 75%

Mitchell 30%

Surry 10%

Union 71%

Environment Rating Scales

- ERS scores only required in higher quality programs
- 65% programs serving 3-5 year olds have ERS scores compared to 53% programs serving infants/toddlers
- Average preschool ERS score = 5.51
- Average infant/toddler ERS score = 4.98

Children Receiving Subsidy...



The Basics

Descriptive Data

- 22,859 infants & toddlers receive child care subsidy (30,932 in 2008)
 - 19% are infants (22% in 2008)
 - 36% are one year-olds (37% in 2008)
 - 45% are two year-olds (41% in 2008)
- 34% of all infants and toddlers in a licensed child care facility receive subsidy (40% in 2008)
- 63% of children waiting for subsidy are infants and toddlers (same as 2008)



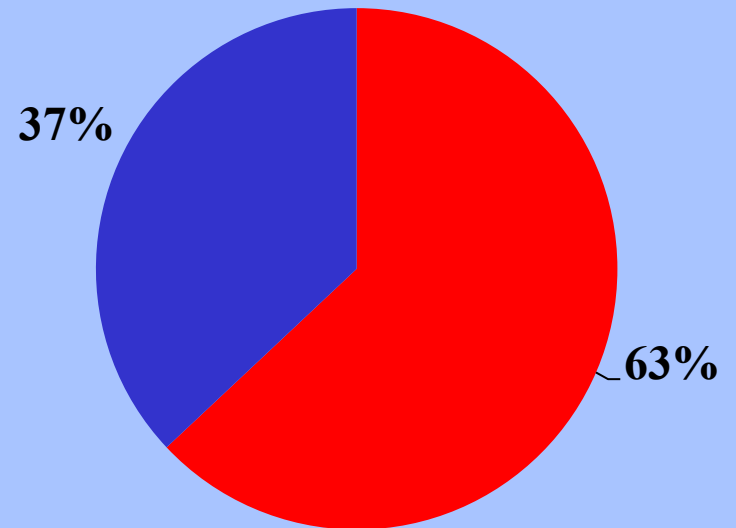
Children Receiving Subsidy and On Waitlist By Age

Receiving Subsidy



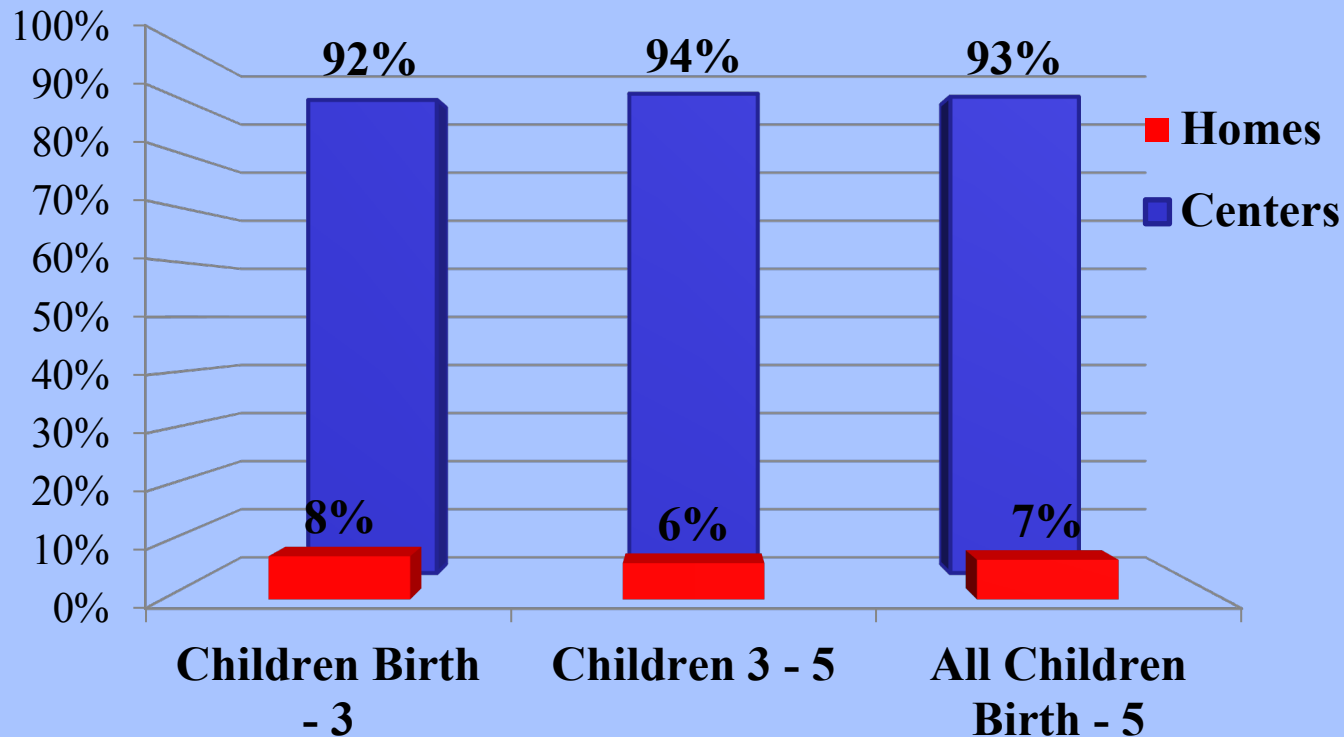
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On Waitlist

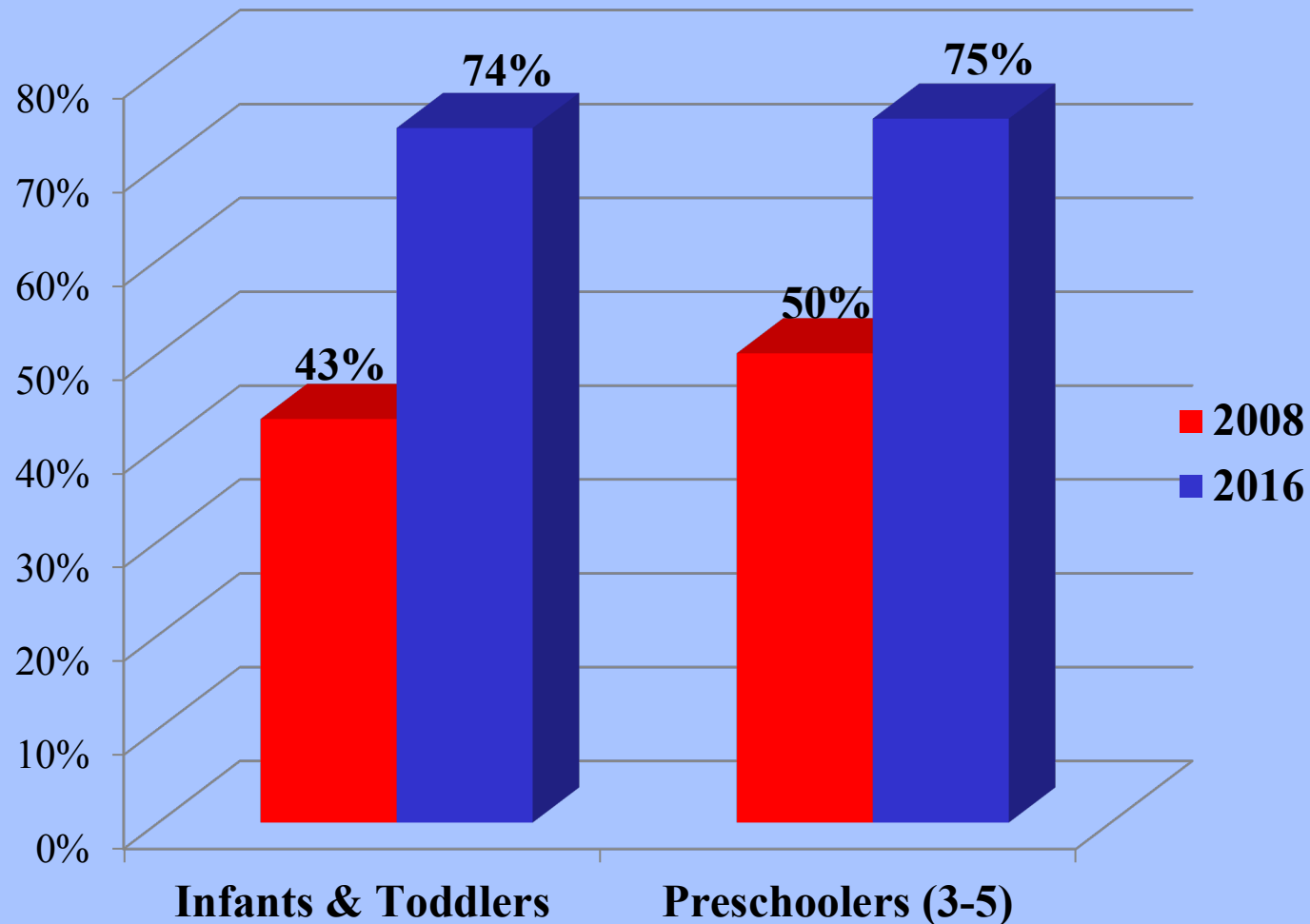


■ Infants & Toddlers ■ Preschoolers (3-5)

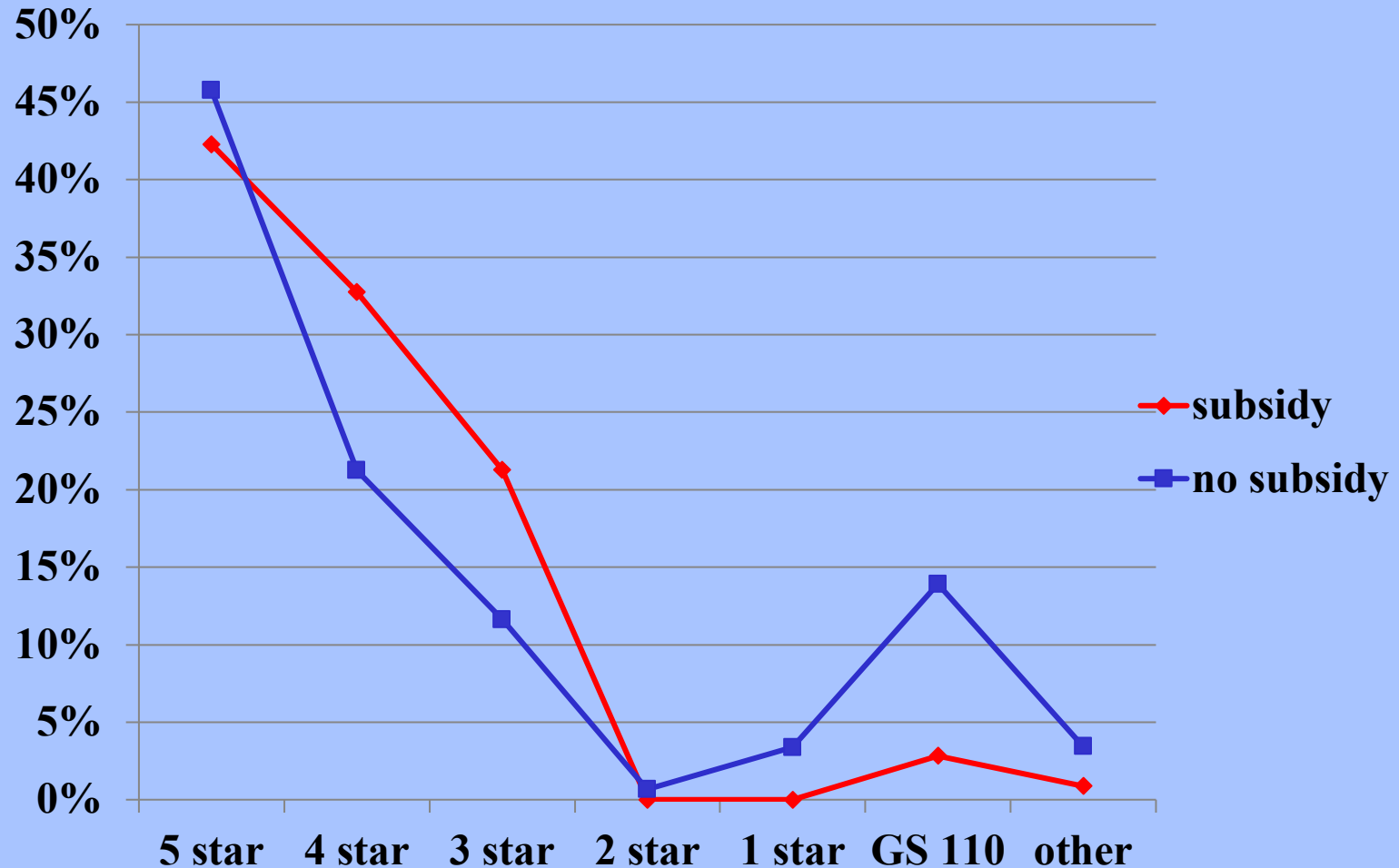
Use of Regulated Care by Children Birth to Five with Vouchers



Statewide Subsidy Enrollment in 4- & 5- Star Programs Over Time



Distribution of Infants & Toddlers With and Without Vouchers in Centers By Stars



Percent Infants/Toddlers Receiving Subsidy Enrolled in 4 or 5 Star Centers Across the Counties

County Examples:

Anson	38%	Currituck	50%
Ashe	100%	Durham	65%
Buncombe	75%	Gates	25%
Carteret	92%	Onslow	83%
Cleveland	70%	Yadkin	10%

Early Childhood Workforce...



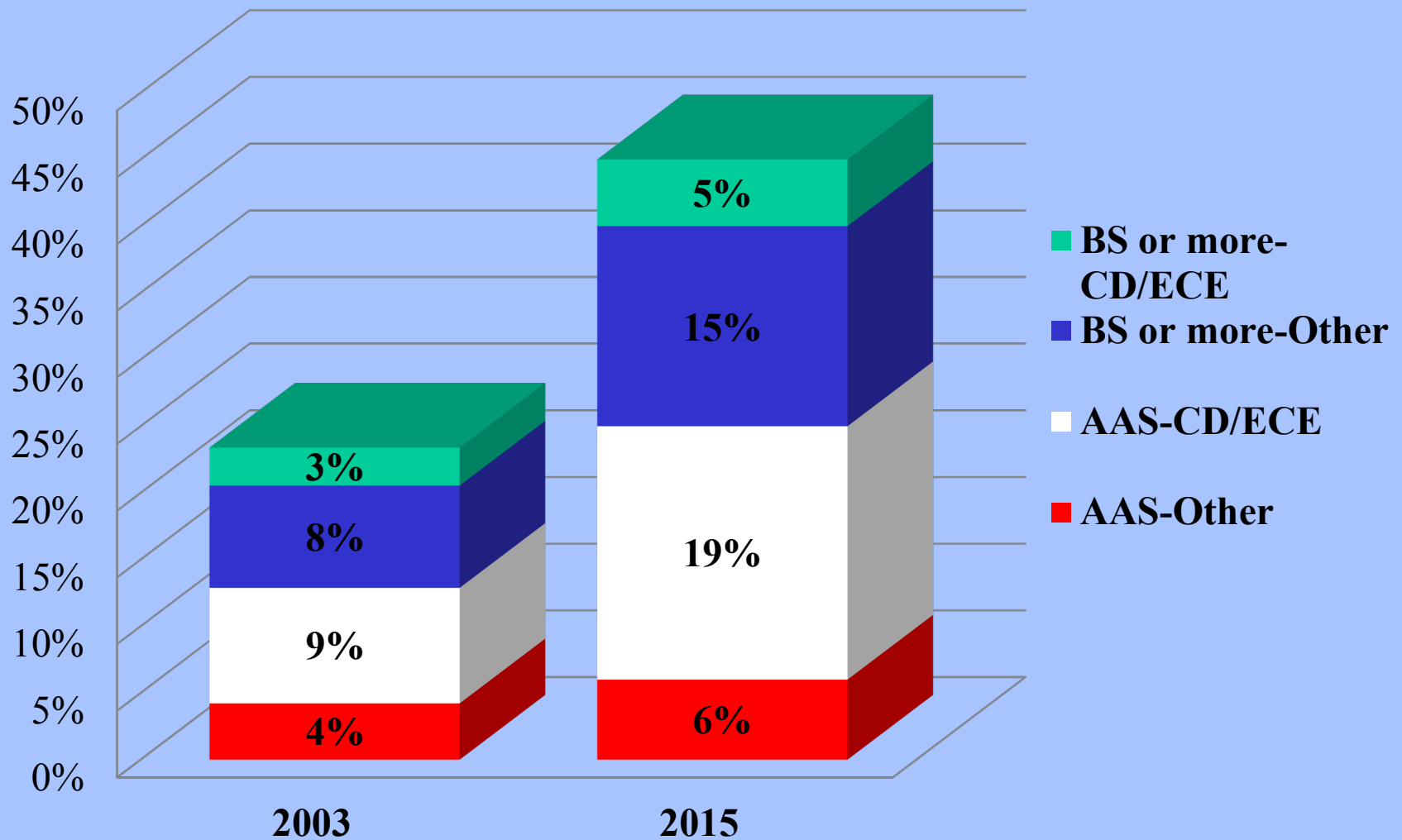
The Basics

Descriptive Data

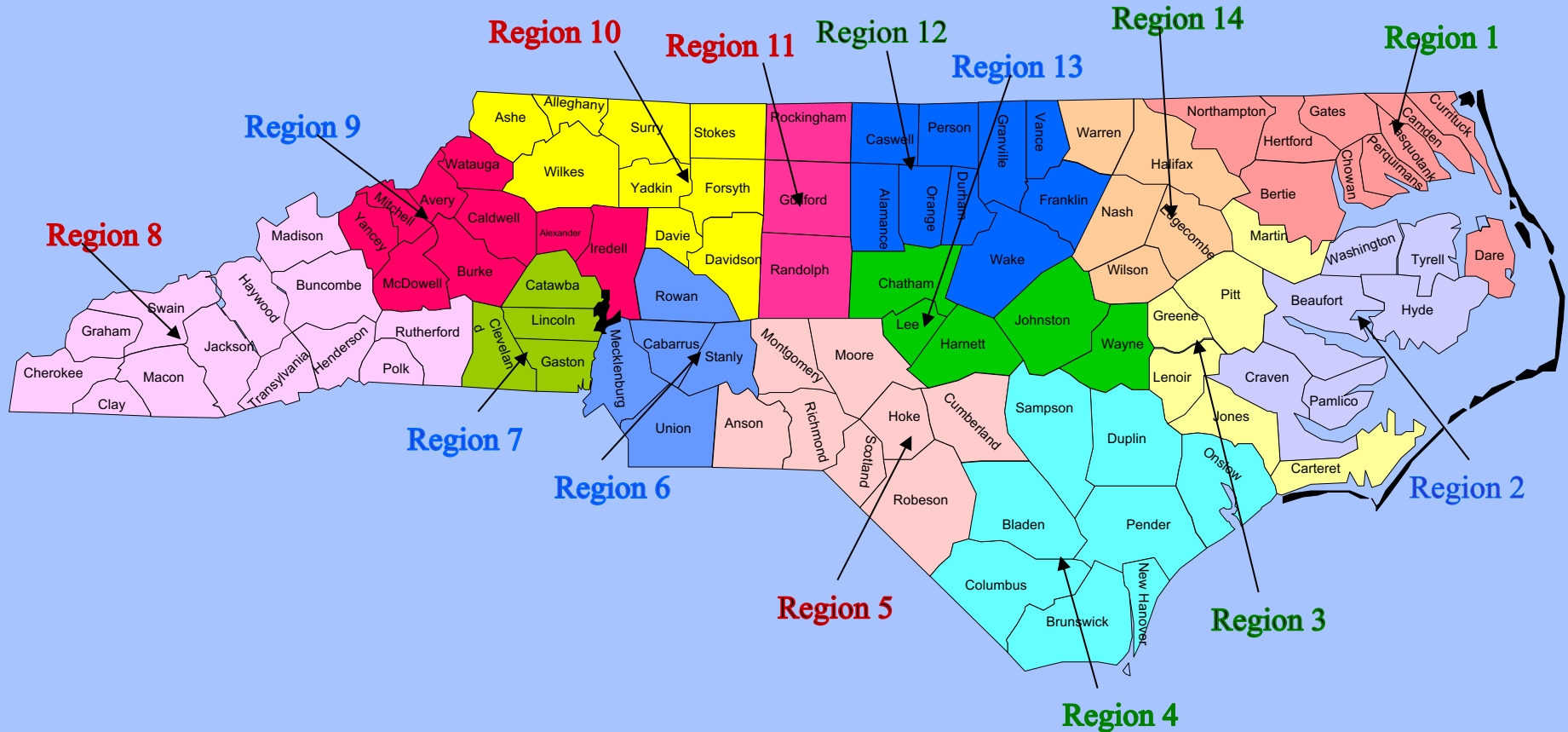
- Infant/Toddler teachers...
 - 38 years old
 - 99.7% female
 - 47% people of color
 - 74% have children
- 45% have a degree (24% in 2003)
- 10 years experience in the field (5.0 years in 2003)
- Make \$10.00 per hour (\$9.67 in 2003-adjusted)



Infant-Toddler Teacher Educational Gains Over Time



North Carolina Regional R&R System-14 Regions



Workforce Differences Among Regions

	% With Degree	Years Experience in Field	Median Hourly Wage	% Family Income Below \$30,000	% with Children
Low	30%	6.3	\$ 8.50	34%	61%
High	57%	13.0	\$11.50	81%	87%
State	45%	10.0	\$10.00	63%	74%

What Did We Do?

- Regulatory agency push to increase quality
 - Targeted RttT-ELC funds
 - Project targeted at 1 & 2 star programs
- NC Pre-K implementation
 - Increased overall program quality
 - Increased teacher education/compensation for all teachers
- Subsidy requirement in 3-5 star care
- Early Head Start expansion
- Increased subsidy rates for infants/toddlers
- Various infant/toddler specific projects

Recommendations

- Provide incentives to expand 5-star slots for infants and toddlers.
- Raise reimbursement rates for center based care at the 4 and 5 star levels to 85th percentile of market rate for all counties.
- Hold counties accountable for meeting the same high standards for infant toddler care as for preschool care.
- Expand the Infant Toddler Specialists available through the statewide Quality Enhancement Project and reinstate incentives in the project.



Recommendations (cont.)

- Raise the Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.
- Reinstate the Earned Income Tax Credit for NC families.
- Examine higher education curricula to ensure that all early childhood degrees include sufficient coursework addressing the unique needs of infants and toddlers.
- Address compensation for those directly working with infants and toddlers.

Recommendations (cont.)

- Maintain three separate waiting lists in the state subsidy system.
- Continue current, effective strategies to address the accessibility, quality and affordability needs of infants and toddlers in regulated child care.
- Encourage employers to support the development and/or provision of high quality infant/toddler slots for employees.
- Conduct a statewide workforce study with data available at the county level.



Conclusion-

Things are better for everyone and the disparity between age groups is diminishing. However...

- Fewer infant/toddler slots (14% decline in enrollment vs. 4% decline in population)
- Less choice for parents of infants/toddlers (77% vs. 92% of all programs)
- Less access to high quality programs for infants/toddlers (70% vs. 94% serving 3-5 year olds)
- Less educated, less experienced and lower compensated teachers of infants/toddlers (45% degreed, 10 years in field, \$10/hour)

Conclusion-

Things are better for everyone and the disparity between age groups is diminishing. However...

- Most children birth-five who are waiting for subsidy are infants & toddlers (63%)
- Fewer infants/toddlers receive subsidized care when Head Start/NC Pre-K are considered
- Fewer infants/toddlers receive high quality subsidized care when Head Start/NC Pre-K are considered
- Wide disparity exists among counties (0% to 100% of infants and toddlers in 4-5 star centers)

