



Affiliate Capacity and State Engagement

**State/Regional Profile Survey
Final Report – April 2014**



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

State/Regional Profile Survey

- Designed to assess structure and capacity of associations and state early learning systems
- Conducted December 2013– March 2014
- 43 associations responded to date
 - 40 state
 - 3 regional and other
- 80% of states reporting



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Membership

- Average number of grantee members is 31 (with median of 28 and range of 5 to 93)
- Members serve between 1,500 and over 100,000 children and families.
- 657,594 children and families served (78% of total state Head Start enrollment)

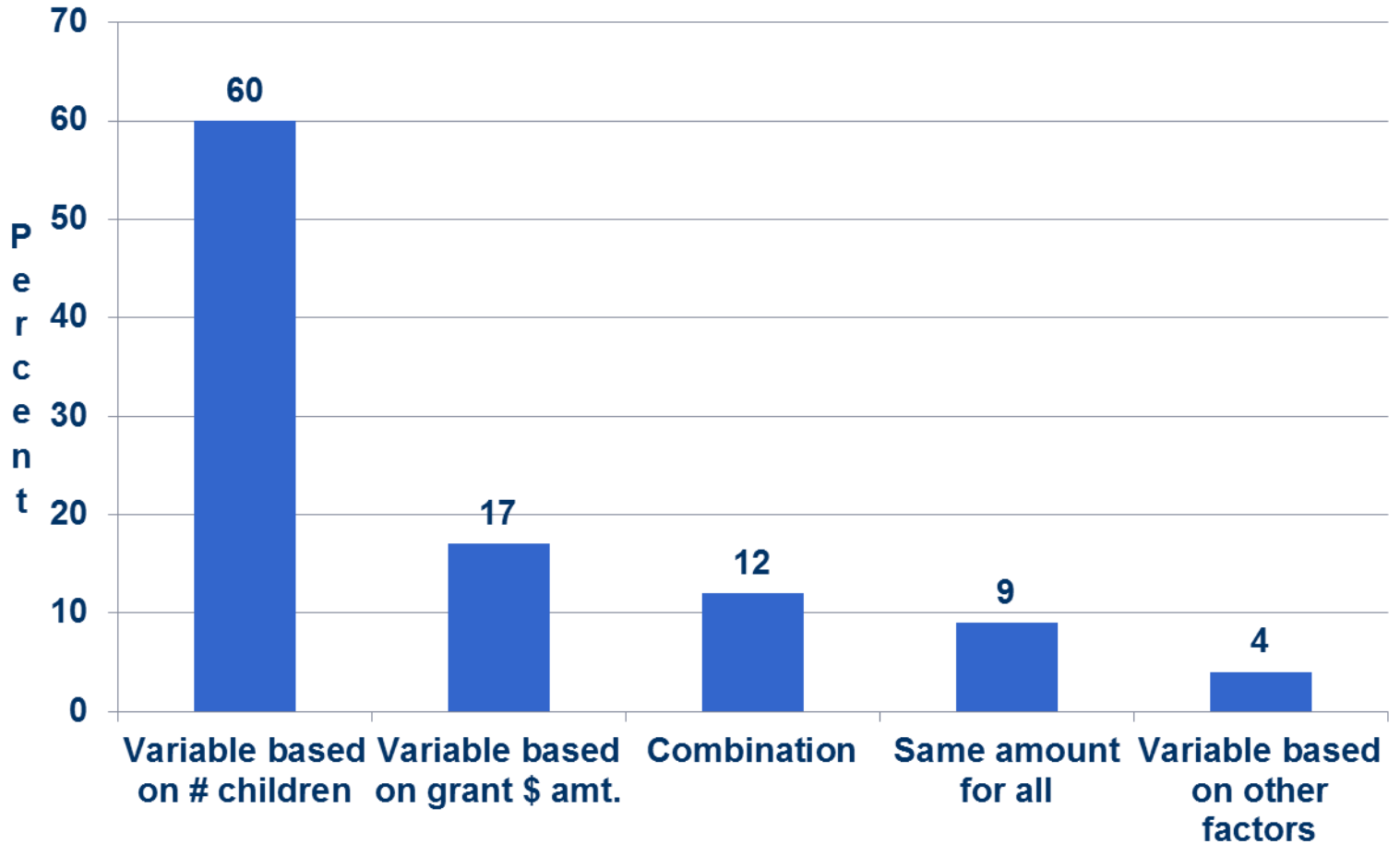


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Staffing

- 72% (31 of 43 associations) have paid staff
 - 24 assns. have an Executive Director
 - 5 have an Associate or Asst. Director)
 - 35 have other staff (average of 2)
- 39% of staff are salaried; 35% contracted and 26% a combination of the two

How Membership Dues Are Determined





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Primary Sources of Revenue

| | <i>Average</i> | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <u><i>% revenue</i></u> | <u><i>% reporting</i></u> |
| Membership Dues | 50 | 100 |
| Conferences/Meetings | 34 | 85 |
| Grants/Contracts | | |
| State | 18 | 61 |
| Federal | 9 | 39 |
| Private | 5 | 41 |
| Corporate Sponsorships | 3 | 51 |



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Board Size and Structure

- Average Board size is 23, median is 17, with a range from 9 to 132.
- Structure
 - 95% of associations have Director members
 - 80% have Staff and Parent members
 - 66% -- Partners
 - 54% -- Other categories



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Resource Sharing

- Percent willing to share materials (of 41 responses)
 - 83% Bylaws
 - 61% Executive Director Position Description
 - 49% Advocacy Materials
 - 46% Strategic Plan
 - 46% Annual Report
 - 44% Board Policies



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State Early Learning Systems

- 39 states funded preschool programs in 2013-2014.
- **In 27 of these 39 states, Head Start enrollment exceeds the number of children in state-funded preschool.**
- Two additional states (Indiana, Mississippi) approved pre-K bills this session.



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Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

- Early Head Start is included as an evidence-based model in 23 of 32 states (72%).
- 12 of these states fund Early Head Start through their MIECHV grants.
- In 20 of 32 states (63%) MIECHV is not administered by the primary early childhood agency.



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Agencies with Primary Responsibility for Early Learning

- 52% in Department of Education
- 21% in designated Office of Early Learning
- 12% in Human Services/Public Welfare
- 15% shared or other



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State Advisory Councils

- 88% of respondents (29 of 33 states) have active State Advisory Councils.
- 77% of respondents rate them as “somewhat” (58%) to “very effective” (19%) in providing leadership and influence.



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State Advisory Councils

- Average number of Head Start representatives is 2.
- 90% of responding states believe Head Start is represented on Advisory Councils (issues and perspectives are adequately voiced)
 - 30% “well-represented”
 - 60% “moderately represented”



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State Advocacy Coalitions

- 26 associations report active state-level advocacy councils.
- 80% rate them “somewhat” to “very effective” in influencing state-level policy and funding.
- Head Start is “very” (47%) to “somewhat” (37%) involved in these coalitions.



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Quality Rating Improvement Systems

- 70% (23 of 33 responding states) have fully or partially implemented QRIS.
- 21% (7 states) are developing systems, while only 9% (3 states) are not yet planning QRIS.



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Head Start in QRIS

- Three-quarters (16 of 21 states) give special consideration to Head Start:
 - 8 recognize Head Start at a defined or minimum quality level.
 - 8 allow an accelerated or simplified application process.
 - 7 each receive financial incentives or other special considerations.



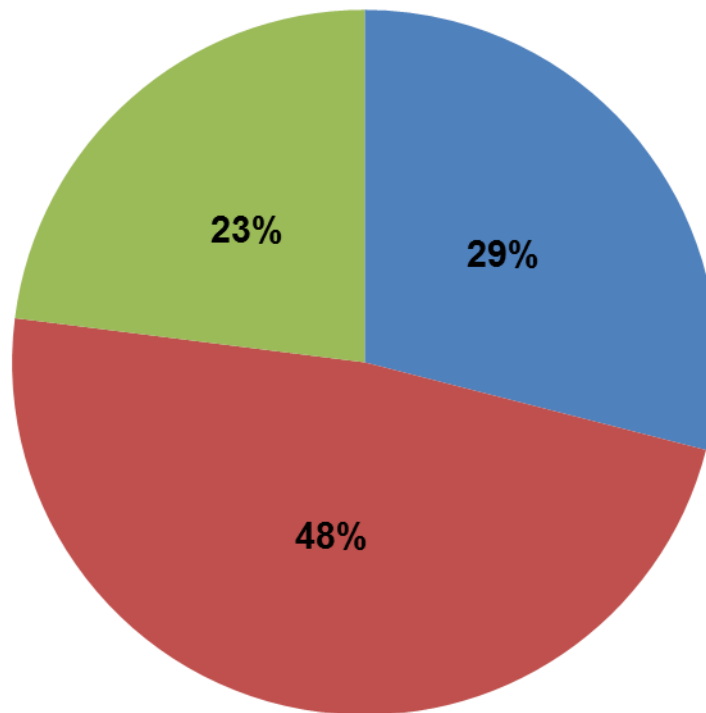
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Head Start Engagement in QRIS

- 20 states reported on grantee participation in QRIS
- 6 have 80% or more participation, with 2 states at 100%.
- Over 8 in 10 states believe that Head Start is represented in QRIS decision making.

Data Aggregation Across Head Start Programs

n = 31



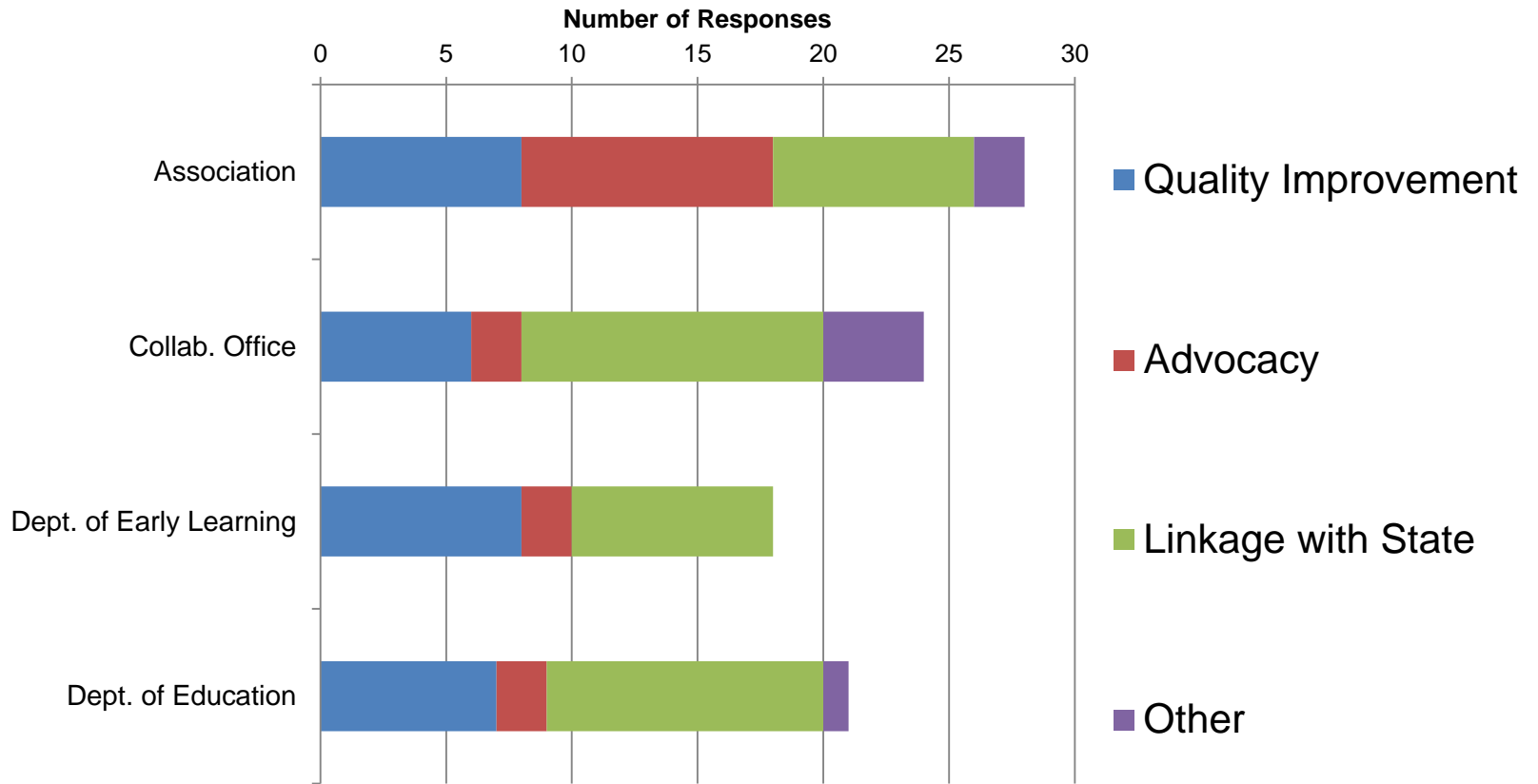
■ Aggregate data from all programs

■ Aggregate data from some programs

■ Not aggregating data at this time

Types of Data Aggregation by Lead Organization

n = 24





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Types of Data Shared with State Data Systems

| n = 25 | Child/Family | Program | Workforce | Other | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|-------|-------|
| All Head Start Programs | 5 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Some Head Start Programs | 11 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 16 |
| No Head Start Programs | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 |



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How Else Is Head Start Involved in State Systems?

Child Assessment (developing or revising assessment tools, identifying common measures across programs, etc.)

63%

Family Engagement (mentoring other providers, incorporating Head Start standards in QRIS, aligning family engagement approaches)

67%

Professional Development/Workforce

96%



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How Can NHSA Be Helpful?

- Data for advocacy and templates for use at the state level
- Leadership training for association Boards and staff
- Updates, information and resources on state and national initiatives



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How Can NHSA Be Helpful?

- Ensuring parent advocacy is included at all levels
- Continued participation in state conferences
- Outreach to state child care partners



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Conclusions

1. Associations are highly diverse in their size and scope, ranging in membership from 5 to 92, with a range of 1,500 to over 100,000 children and families served.
2. Three-quarters have paid staff, but only 24 have Executive Directors. This number has remained relatively constant over the past decade.

Conclusions *(Continued)*

3. Majority of associations are receiving revenue from grants and contracts, with 61 percent reporting state funding
4. Average Board size is 23, with a range of 9 to 132. Nonprofit Boards average 19, with a trend toward smaller Boards.
5. A quarter of respondents did not enter data on state early learning systems and Head Start engagement.



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Conclusions *(Continued)*

6. State Advisory Councils are more active and more effective than 2 years ago. Almost every state has Head Start representation.

7. State Advocacy Coalitions are also perceived to be effective, but only half of associations are “very involved.”

Conclusions *(Continued)*

8. Majority of states give special considerations to Head Start in QRIS, reflecting success in state-level advocacy. QRIS offers opportunities for statewide conversations about quality.
9. Increase in association work with data systems is very positive, with 24 of 31 states aggregating data across programs.



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Conclusions *(Continued)*

10. Survey respondents suggested that NHSA can help in their state-level work through:

- Advocacy data and materials at the state level (e.g., data templates)
- Connecting associations with state partners through NHSA's national affiliations
- Leadership development targeted to state-level opportunities and challenges
- Ongoing education and resource sharing around initiatives, innovations and strategies