# Quality Child Care in the Tri-County Region

Herman T. Knopf, PhD\*

Research Director,

Child Development Research Center

University of South Carolina

Leigh Bolick
Director
Division of Early Care & Education
SC Division of Early Care and Education





### SC Child Care Policy Research Team



Vasanthi Rao, PhD Scientist



Diana Tester, MSW Scientist



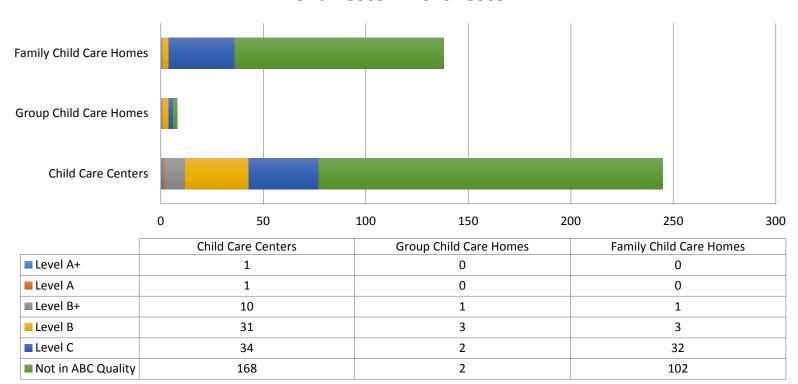
Phil Sherlock Research Assistant



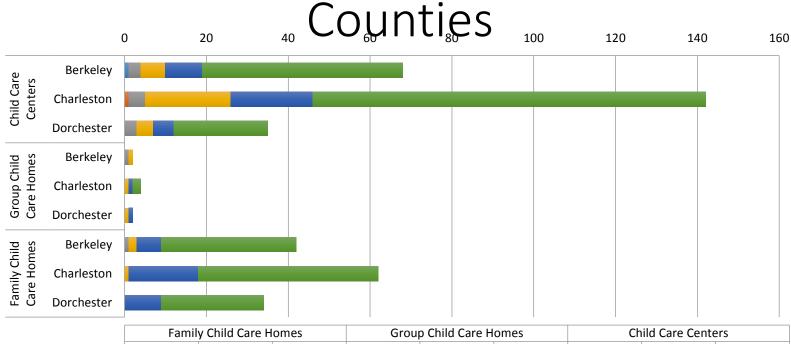
Herman T. Knopf, PhD Research Director

### Current Child Care Infrastructure

### Number of Providers by Quality and Facility type - Berkeley Charleston Dorchester

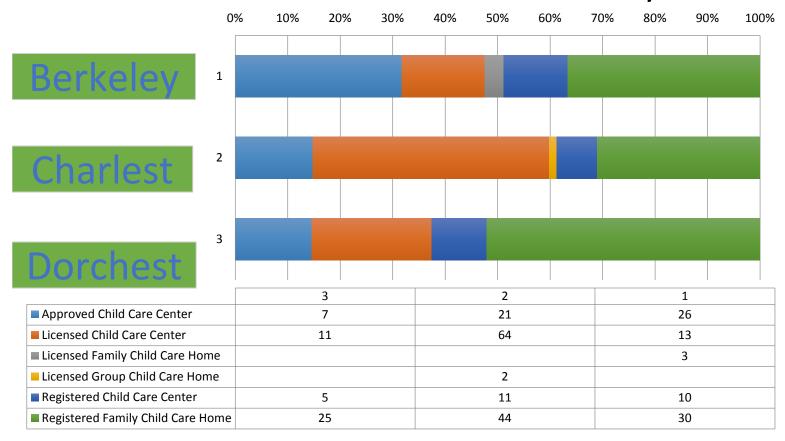


## Child care infrastructure in the Tri-County



	Family Child Care Homes			Group Child Care Homes			Child Care Centers		
	Dorchester	Charleston	Berkeley	Dorchester	Charleston	Berkeley	Dorchester	Charleston	Berkeley
Level A+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Level A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
■ Level B+	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	4	3
Level B	0	1	2	1	1	1	4	21	6
■ Level C	9	17	6	1	1	0	5	20	9
■ Not in ABC Quality	25	44	33	0	2	0	23	96	49

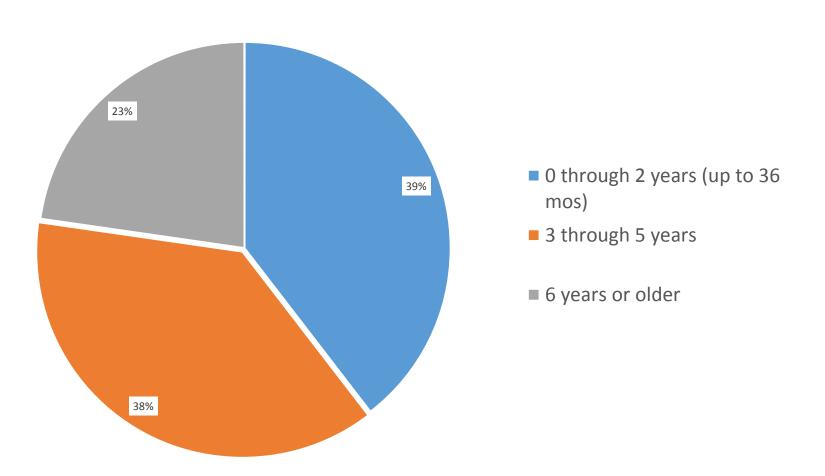
### Who is not in ABC Quality?



<sup>\*</sup> Registered Child Care Centers are not eligible to participate in the Quality program. However, the center can become licensed and eligible.

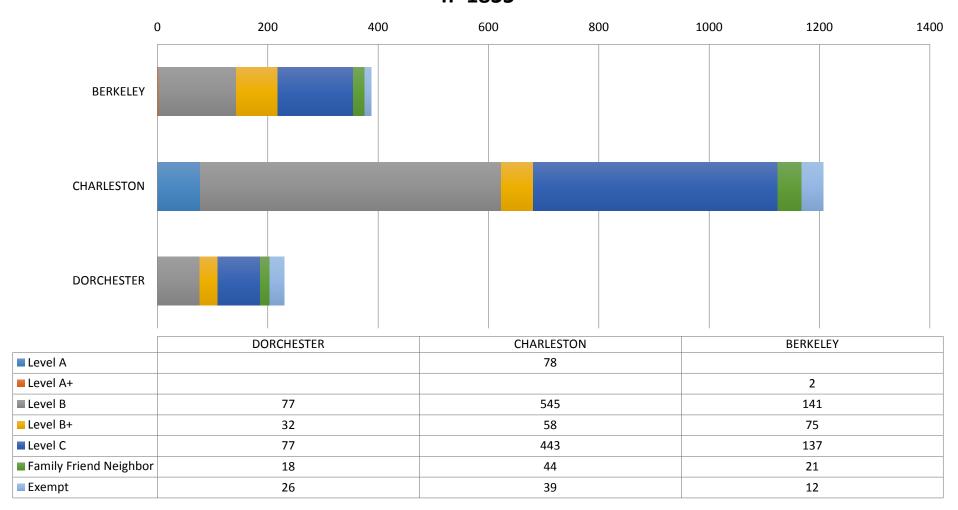
### Children served during July-Sept 2015

#### **Age of Subsidy Recipients**



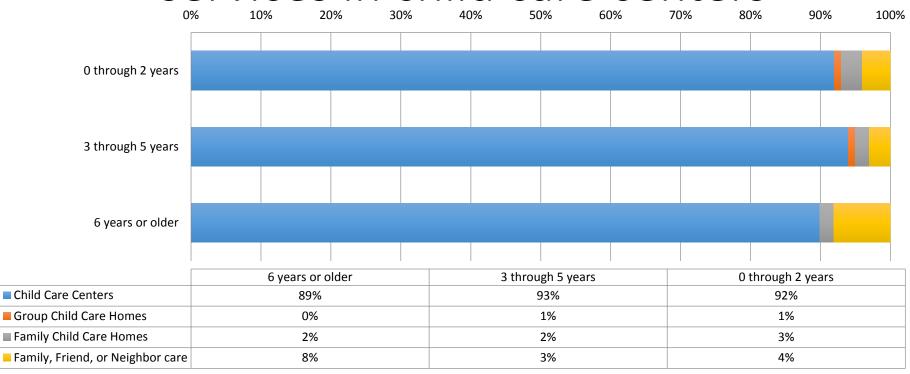
### Children served during July-Sept 2015

### CCDF Subsidy Recipients n=1835



Special needs vouchers: 4% (73) CPS or Foster Care: 8% (146)

## Most children received their child care services in child care centers



Overall 92% of the children received their child care in a child care center

### Ratios defined

LQ Ratio	Kids in low quality / Total kids	Zipcode level
HQ Ratio	Kids in high quality/ Total kids	Zipcode level
Example	20 kids / 100	= .20 (20% are in HQ or LQ)

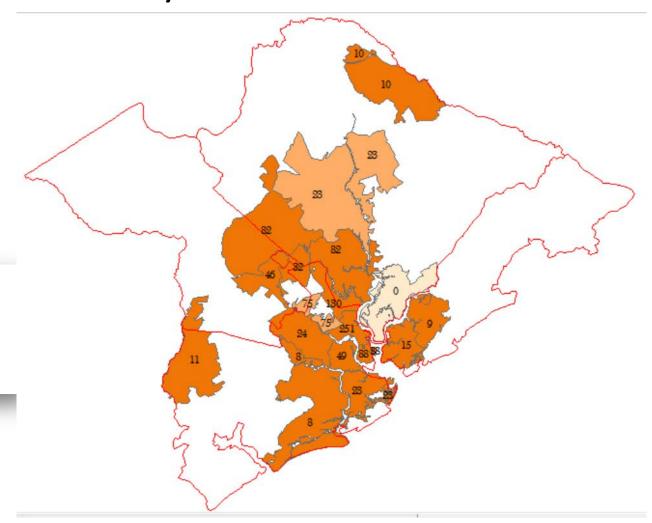
## Low Quality Ratio

LQ\_Ratio

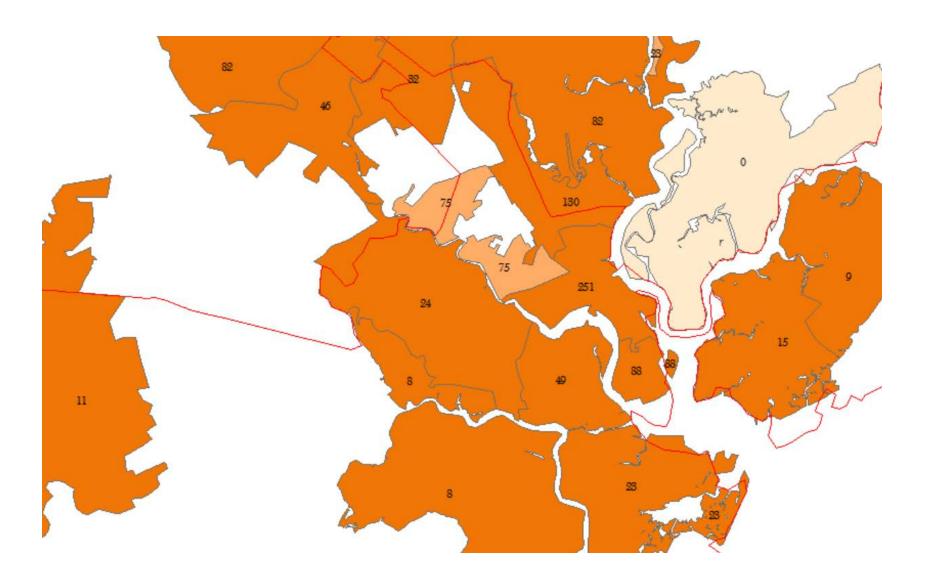
0.00 - 0.33

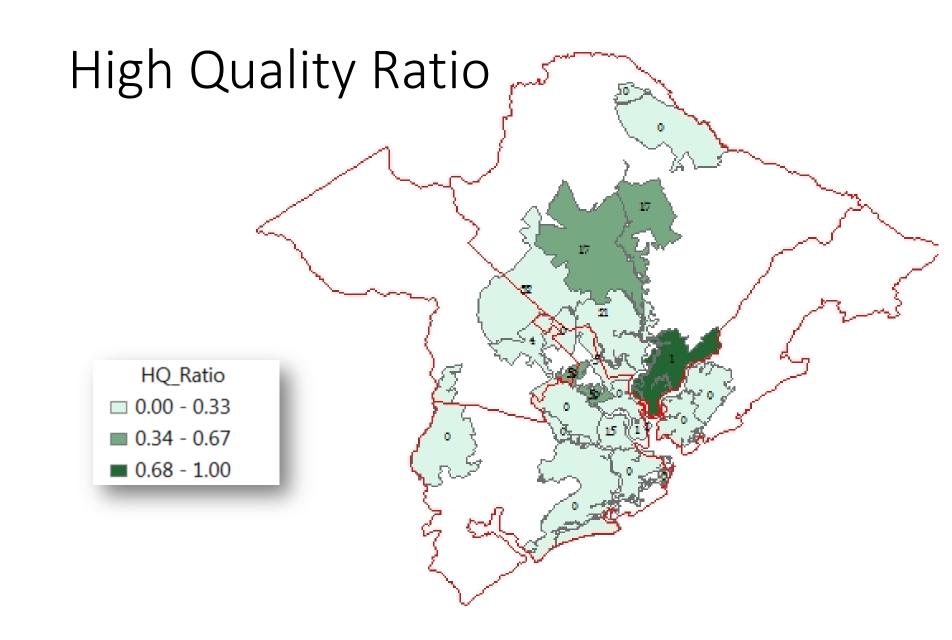
0.34 - 0.67

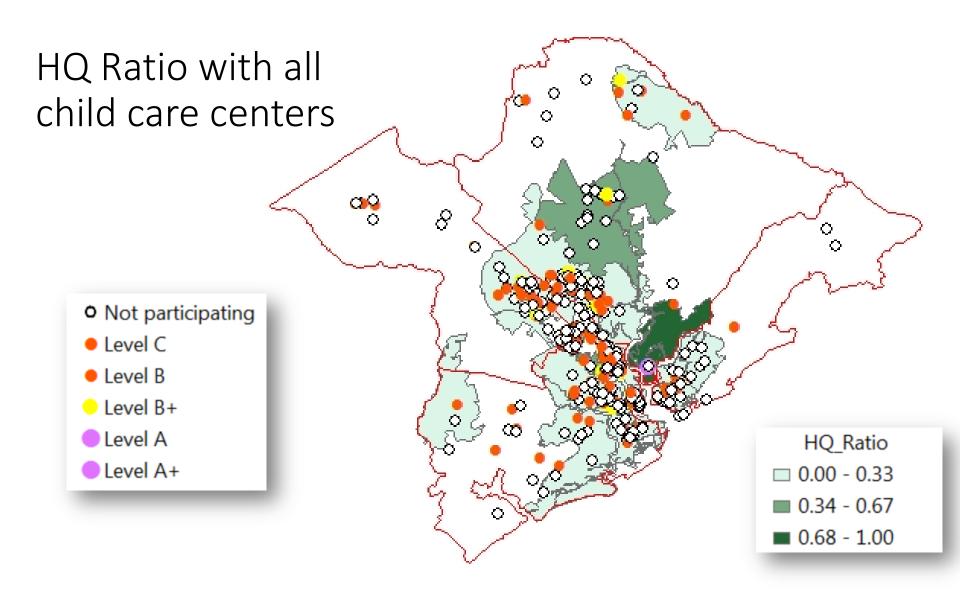
**0.68 - 1.00** 

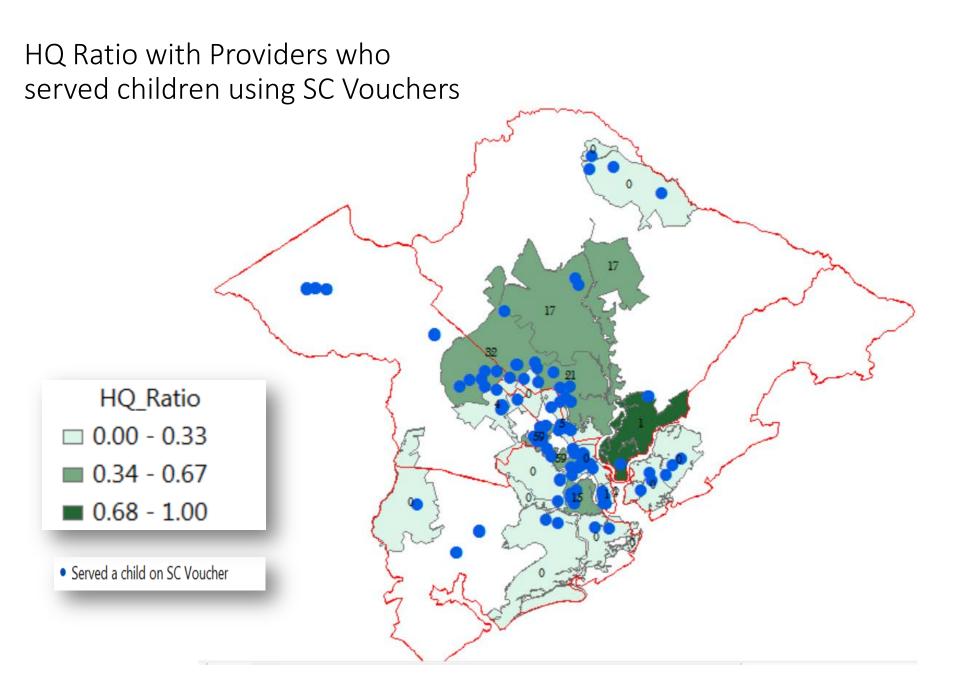


## Detail of LQ Ratio









## SC Department of Social Services Division of Early Care and Education

Informed with results of recent analyses of our administrative data, the Division has recently implemented new strategies designed to:

- 1. Support family access and use of HQ child care
- 2. Respond to CCDBG reauthorization requirements
- 3. Support increased supply of HQ child care



## Recent Changes to SC Voucher

### Support for family access and use of HQ Child care

- 75-95% market rate increase in maximum provider rates
- \$30/week bonus for children in foster care
- 414 slots for homeless children
- 143 slots for parents involved in Family Literacy
- 5 slots per provider in underserved voucher areas
- 52 weeks of eligibility and 3 moths for job search



## Recent Changes to SC Voucher

Support for family access and use of HQ Child care

#### Benefits for families:

- Increased rates help resolve the disparity between the cost of HQ child care and the price parents are able to pay
- Dedicated slots increase supply in areas where HQ child care is sparse
- 52 weeks of eligibility and 3 moths for job search increase stability for children



### CCDBG Reauthorization Changes

### **Health and Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers**

- ✓ Training in 10 different topic areas
  - ✓ Addressed in a 26 hour pre-service training course
- ✓ Ongoing provider training
- ✓ Certification that child care providers will comply with child abuse report requirements
- ✓ Pre-licensure and annual unannounced inspections of licensed CCDF providers
- ✓ Annual inspections for licensed-exempt CCDF providers
- ✓ Qualifications and training for licensing inspectors
- ✓ Appropriate inspector-to-provider ratios
- ✓ Standard regarding group size limits and appropriate child-to-provider ratios based on age of children in care
- Expanding criminal background checks for all child care staff members

## Other CCDBG Reauthorization Changes

### **Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information**

- ✓ Make available by electronic means provider specific information showing results of monitoring and inspection reports as well as number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse
- ✓ Provide a child care website describing processes of licensing and monitoring child care providers
- Federal national website to disseminate consumer education information as well as a national hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect



## Other CCDBG Reauthorization Changes

### **Activities to Improve the Quality of Child Care**

- ✓ Minimum quality set-aside increases to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers
- ✓ Spend quality funds on at least 1 of 10 specified quality activities
- ✓ Establish professional development and training requirements
- ✓ Implement Early Learning and Development Guidelines
- ✓ Provisions on social-emotional health of children



### Grants to ABC Quality Providers

- Purpose: improve, support and promote quality care for all children in ABC Quality programs
- Provides additional support and incentive to participate in ABC Quality and to serve families receiving vouchers
- Three categories:
  - Flood Recovery & Support
  - Quality Improvement
  - Health & Safety
- 992 eligible providers who served 9,864 children on SC Voucher for FY 2015
- Funding from March 31 August 15, 2016

