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A Study Of Licensed Family Day Care Providers' Views Regarding Regulations

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A STUDY OF LICENSED FAMILY DAY
CARE PROVIDERS' VIEWS
REGARDING REGULATIONS

A Dissertation Presented to
the Faculty of the Graduate School
University of the Pacific
Stockton, California

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Education

by
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October 1981

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Abstract of Dissertation

PURPOSE: Licensed family day care providers in two northern California counties were surveyed to ascertain their views about current licensing regulations and four alternatives. The resulting data can be used by the legislature, the licensing agencies, and other groups involved in planning for improvement and expansion of child care services.

PROCEDURES: Opinion statements were written which contained key elements of the present licensing system and four alternatives. Part I of a questionnaire was composed of these statements. Part II consisted of five items which solicited demographic data which could be related to views on regulatory issues. The questionnaire was pilot tested in Stockton, California and item reliability was established by use of the test-retest technique. A sample population of 620 licensed providers from two counties were asked to participate in this study, of which 343 usable questionnaires were returned. This represented a 57% response return.

CONCLUSIONS: The data indicated the typical respondent to be between 30-39 with some college education. This person had been in business from 3-5 years and cared for 5 children. Day care fees contributed 26-50% to the total family income. The majority of providers favored a highly regulated system which attempted to protect the health and safety of children. The four alternatives were viewed as unacceptable by the providers.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. The state should institute a responsive complaint process and organize a campaign to enlist the aid of parents in protecting their children. A survey of parents should be undertaken to determine their knowledge of a) quality standards and b) available state resources to whom to turn for help. 3. The needs and purposes of inspections should be reassessed. 4. An examination of unlicensed providers' views on current regulations and alternatives should be forthcoming. 5. A regulatory model is presented. This model offers incentives to those providers presently licensed and encourages those unlicensed to join the regulated network.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Child care has attracted increasing attention in recent years. A major reason for this attention is that larger numbers of children are being cared for during working hours by people other than their biological parents. Increasingly, women in two-parent families are participating outside the home in the nation's economy. Fifty percent of these women have children of school age and 35% have children below school age. There has also been an increase in the numbers of single parent families in which that parent is employed outside of the home and needs child care services. Additionally, child care services have been made available to families on welfare with the goal of helping them move toward economic self-sufficiency (U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, 1974).

Data in California from 1970, 1976, and 1978 suggest that by 1984 a) the number of children under 14 years will decrease by 380,000; b) the number of children under 14 years whose mothers work will increase by 215,000; c) 52% of the children under 6 years will have mothers who work; and e) 24% of the children 0-14 years will be living in one-parent families (California State Department of Education, Note 1). All of these predictions portend an expanding need for child care services in the state.

Presently, the most prevalent day care arrangement in existence is the family day care home. California and a majority of other states require all family day care homes to be licensed. However, only 5,000 of the 150,000 children estimated to be in family day care are in licensed homes (League of Women Voters in California, Note 2). A California Legislative Analyst's report estimates that for every licensed family day care home, four operate without a license (1975). The licensing process involves an inspection of the facility prior to operation in order to insure compliance with health and safety codes; post inspections are required every six months. The provider and her family must have a health and criminal clearance; and personal interviews are conducted in order to evaluate the temperament and attitudes of the applicant (League of Women Voters in California, Note 2).

Concern has been expressed about the licensing process and the low percentage of licensed homes (California Child Day Care Licensing Task Force, Note 3; Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs, Note 4). Six alternative models to the current licensing regulations have been developed (Morgan, 1974). Four are considered by the writer to be unique and feasible for the State of California. The models are as follows:

1. Enabling Registration in which a certificate of registration would be issued and requirements promulgated.

2. Credentialing Registration which would require six to eight hours of training as a pre-condition to registering.
3. Simple Registration which would require all persons with intentions of providing day care services to sign up with the appropriate state agency.
4. Deregulation which represents an abandonment of efforts to license or register family day care providers.

Statement of the Problem

It appears that family day care for young children in the United States today is an institution lagging far behind the social changes that have brought about the need for it. It is largely an unlicensed and unregulated service which is indispensable to a growing number of people. This indicates that hundreds of thousands of children are presently in family day care situations, not only without regulatory safeguards of any kind but also without community awareness of the number, locale, or names of persons assuming this responsibility. The effects of illegal child care have been linked to poor school performance, unemployment, delinquency, and poverty (Jackson, 1973).

Solutions to the family day care crisis are being examined and field tested. It has been reported, however, that the majority of licensed providers and parents of children in licensed day care homes prefer licensing to registration (Lounsbury and Lounsbury, Note 5). Yet a study

in Michigan revealed negative attitudes from both providers and parents toward the licensing agent. The staff person was viewed as an "unwelcome intrusion" (Hicks, 1971). The leadership of California's family day care organizations soundly defeated a bill in the early seventies which would have introduced registration instead of licensing as the method of regulation for this service (Sale, Note 6). The organizations have never polled their membership on this question; thus the willingness of providers to accept an alternative form of regulation or their satisfaction with the present system remains unknown. Therefore, an examination of the views of licensed family day care homes appears warranted..

The purpose of this research project is to furnish useful information about the views of family day care providers to the licensing agencies, the legislature, and other groups involved in planning for improvement and expansion of child care services. To accomplish this information need, three primary questions were addressed.

1. What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of key elements of the present system?
2. What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of key elements of the proposed alternatives, i.e., Enabling Registration, Credentialing Registration, Simple Registration and Deregulation?

3. Is there a relationship between the demographic factors, i.e., age, education, years of experience, number of children in care, and percentage of total family income from day care fees, and the acceptability levels of the present system and the four alternatives?

Significance of the Research

Governor Brown expressed his intent to expand child care opportunities for the citizens of California in his inaugural address of 1975. Subsequently, the California Child Day Care Licensing Task Force was formed to identify major problem areas in the field of child care regulation and to develop specific recommendations. The Task Force report stated that the "... current licensing process may be inhibiting the development of child day care services" (California Child Day Care Licensing Task Force, Note 3). and recognized the need for alternative regulatory mechanisms. It thus was recommended that the responsibility for child day care regulation should be shared between the state and the parent.

The Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs also studied the family day care problem in California and urged legislative action (Note 4). As a result, Assemblyman Tom Bates authored a day care licensing bill (AB 1368) which established a pilot project of registration for family day care facilities and instituted a system of random visits to up to 10% of the registered homes and established procedures to be followed in the event of complaints. AB 1368 and other

regulatory options to the present system place responsibility for the maintenance of health and safety standards on providers. It is critical, therefore, that such self-monitoring be acceptable to providers in order that parents may be assured of their children's security. This study will indicate the level of acceptance of such responsibility.

Limitations

Several factors can be identified as limitations of this study. First, only licensed family day care providers from the counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo were asked to respond to the questionnaire. Second, the large size of the group to be surveyed suggested the use of the mail questionnaire. Included in the use of this process are the following assumptions: a) Respondents would interpret the questions as the researcher intends. b) Respondents would honestly answer questions as presented by the questionnaire. A third limitation is that the characteristics of the total family-day-care-provider population would be unknown because of non-respondents. It would be extremely difficult to validly determine representativeness without sampling data from non-respondents. Thus, with this knowledge, analyses were made from the data presented. None of these limitations pose serious obstacles to the formation of general conclusions concerning the views of providers toward family day care regulations.

Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this study, the following terms are defined according to the standards for family day care facilities (California Department of Social Services, Note 7).

Family Day Care means regularly providing care, protection and supervision to a child or children, in the provider's own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day, while the parents or guardians are away.

Family Day Care Provider is an individual who is primarily involved in caring for the children during the hours that the home furnishes care.

License means written authorization by the Department or licensing agency to operate a family day care home.

Licensing Agency means the state department licensing office, the county welfare department, or another public agency which has delegated authority by contract with the Department of Social Services to license designated categories of community care facilities.

Regulations are those rules formulated by an authorized agency governing individuals, groups or institutions who fall within the purview of a specific statute.

Overview

Chapter I introduced the problem of this study, its significance, limitations, and assumptions. In Chapter II, the professional literature and research relevant to family

day care are reviewed. The population, methods, and procedures used in the study are described in Chapter III. The data related to the three major questions of the study are presented in Chapter IV and conclusions and recommendations are offered in Chapter V.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The purpose of this study was to determine how licensed family day care providers view the present regulations and four alternative types of regulations governing licensing. The first part of this chapter provides an historical overview of child care licensing in California. The second part reviews the literature on issues relevant to the licensing and registration of family day care. Research resulting from regulatory changes occurring nationwide is also reported.

Family day care is the oldest form of child care outside the home and presently accommodates a majority of children in need of such services. The providers of family day care are, for the most part, independent entrepreneurs operating outside the market mainstream. They are scattered throughout all neighborhoods. The median caregiver's age was slightly less than 40 years and the majority had attained a high school education (Fosburg, Note 8). Most providers are married and living with an employed spouse (Fosburg, Note 8; Nowak, Note 2). This suggested that the majority of providers were not the sole supporters of their households. The average hourly wage was reported to be \$1.27. In comparison to the wage ratio of the population at large, most providers would be

well below the poverty line, which is \$2.88 per hour (Fosburg, Note 8). Though family day care is not a lucrative profession, providers average 7-10 years in business (Fosburg, Note 8; Nowak, Note 9).

Day care may be either part or full time. Three-quarters of the homes care for only one or two children on a full day basis (Westinghouse, 1971). More than one-fifth of the children in such homes are under the age of two and care is generally provided by persons who live in the community where the parents reside or work (Squibb, 1980). When parents face schedule changes, providers are amenable to renegotiation of hours since day care homes are usually flexible in their operating hours (Squibb, 1980).

Historical Overview of Child Care Licensing in California

The first California licensing law governing child care was passed in 1911 (Gates, Note 10). This law was mainly directed toward the regulation of children's home-finding societies. The California Legislature had created a State Board of Charities and Corrections which carried out enforcement activities. The scope of this law was extended in 1913 to include day nurseries and, in 1927, child day care programs were specifically included (Phadke, 1975).

A 1925 statute authorized accreditation of local agencies; and by 1932, these agencies had assumed the respon-

sibility for investigating and supervising boarding homes in all or part of 15 counties (California State Department of Social Welfare, Note 11). The recommendations of local agencies were the sole criteria upon which the State Department of Social Welfare issued licenses, except for problem cases. At that time, licensure meant the maintenance of uniform standards.

In 1935, the Legislature replaced the State Board of Charities with the newly created State Department of Public Welfare which assumed responsibility for the administration of day care licensing. The Welfare and Institutions Code, adopted in 1936, contained many provisions designed to protect children from the common hazards believed to be present in all types of non-parental care (Phadke, 1975).

The first federal funds for child care were received in 1937 under the Works Progress Administration during the economic depression. Nursery schools were established for the expressed purpose of feeding hungry children and for providing jobs for unemployed teachers (Anderson, Note 12). In the early 1940's, the Federal Lanham Act provided funds for care of children of women needed in defense work. The expansion of day care services during this period put pressure on the licensing capability of the Department of Social Welfare and accelerated the process of delegation of licensing to local agencies (Phadke, 1975). A California bill, passed in 1945, permitted enforcement of local sanitation, health, and hygiene requirements in licensed facilities. In 1946, the state and

counties made provision for reimbursement for licensing of family day care homes (California Statutes, Note 13).

California was among the few states which continued to provide public support for child care after 1946. Despite efforts by labor organizations and public officials urging women to resume their pre war role as homemakers, the female proportion of the labor force remained substantially higher (22.7%) than the pre war figure (14%). Family day care was considered by social workers to be the best alternative for children whose mothers worked (Fosburg, Note 14).

In the mid 1960's, federal funding for children's programs was renewed and brought a plethora of federal, state, and local initiatives, e.g., Head Start, AB 750, The Neighborhood Family Day Care Project. The Community Care Facilities Act (AB 2262 of 1973) was enacted and required a uniform set of licensing regulations for all community care facilities. The purpose of this act was to develop more appropriate standards for residential facilities; however, child care centers and family day care homes were also included (Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs, Note 4). In 1978, efforts to develop separate regulations for family day care homes were successful (California State Department of Social Services, Note 7). The Department of Social Services currently maintains contracts with 47 counties to conduct family day care facility licensing activities. The remaining 11 counties are licensed by the

Department's nine district licensing offices. In 1979, AB 1368 established a three year pilot project for the registration of family day care homes in three California counties. No data regarding this project were available.

Issues Relevant to Licensing
and Registration

The administration of regulations can be dichotomized into a)enabling type of regulatory authority and b)directing type of regulatory authority (Class, Note 15). In the enabling type, requirements have to be met before operations begin, e.g., a license to run a day care center is granted after the acquisition of a certain type of structure, the presentation of an operational plan, an agreement to hire a certain number of persons with respect to the number of persons in care, etc. Present licensing practices governing family day care are in this category.

In the directing type of regulatory authority, standards may be applied to specific situations but it is unnecessary to demonstrate conformity in advance of starting operations, e.g., children may be cared for under specified conditions; however, conformity to those conditions does not have to be demonstrated in advance. No license is granted.

Proponents of a registration form of regulation believe that the directing type is more appropriate for family day care. Proponents of the enabling type of authority view state

monitoring of family day care as serving an essential consumer function and providing protection for children and assurance of safety to parents. Literature relevant to both viewpoints is presented and regulatory changes which are occurring nationwide are reported in this section.

The Purpose of Licensing Family Day Care

Formal licensure of family day care was intended to protect the health, safety, and welfare of children in child care facilities (Class, 1968; Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs, Note 4). The state assumed this protective role by setting up standards and licensing procedures as follows. Each applicant was required to submit an application form, a pledge of non-discrimination, a physical examination report, proof of a tuberculosis test, and fingerprints of the applicant and spouse (California Department of Social Services, Note 7). A licensing agent then inspected the home and conducted a personal interview in order to evaluate the applicant's temperament and attitudes (League of Women Voters in California, Note 2).

Upon receipt of all forms and clearance of a fingerprint check by the State Department of Justice and based on the discretion of the licensing agent, a license was issued. Among the reasons for denial of a license were prior convictions for a felony involving intentional bodily harm or a sex offense, falsification or withholding of information, inadequate

facilities or a determination that the applicant was physically or emotionally unsuited to be a family day care provider (Fosburg, Note 14).

The license was designed to represent a guarantee to parents that minimal health and safety standards had been met by all licensed family day care homes.

Experience of Licensing

Many homes were purportedly not in compliance with minimal health and safety standards (Keyserling 1972; Sale, 1980). Inspections have not been able to assure parents and the community of the health and safety of day care children. It has been suggested, however, that monthly inspections would afford more protection than semi-annual inspections, as are presently required (Morgan, Note 16); but monthly inspections would demand a larger staff than can be supported by current funding.

A related question focused on the reliability of licensing agents in their application of standards on family day care homes. The Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission (1974) conducted studies on this issue. Their data showed substantial disagreement among licensing agents in their evaluation of facilities. Such tangible information as the number of rooms available for naps and play, the number of unrelated children to be cared for and whether or not the applicant's insurance covered day care children were some points of disagreement. The adverse implications of the

Illinois study are that a) substandard facilities may be given a license which endangers day care children. b) Parents could not be assured of the same minimum levels of protection and care in all licensed facilities. c) Nonuniform application of standards may have the effect of denying equal treatment under the law to potential day care providers if some applicants are denied a license or treated more severely than others because of the idiosyncratic judgments of their licensing representatives (Lounsbury and Lounsbury, Note 5). A California report indicated similar problems (Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs, Note 4). Interpretation of state regulations varied widely from county to county at the discretion of the licensing agent of the county welfare department.

There is provision in the regulations governing family day care for revocation of licenses in those facilities deemed unsafe. However, the administrative process to revoke or suspend licenses in California is tedious and fraught with problems. Although the process is an administrative decision, action revoking a license is subject to the judicial branch and must be directed by the county district attorney. Rarely has this occurred due to the lack of priority given to family day care by the district attorney's office (Fosburg, Note 8). The license, then, may well offer a false guarantee of minimal safety to its consumers.

The estimated high percentage of unlicensed facilities

(95%) implies that families use day care which is most convenient and which matches their own preferences, regardless of state licensing (Hubner, Note 1). This freedom of choice ensures a dual system of a minority of those providers who choose to operate within the law and a majority who choose to go unregulated (Morgan, 1974). Insufficient licensing staff and the noncooperation of the unregulated provider have made it uneconomical for the present regulatory system to reach even half of the homes (Morgan, Note 16). These circumstances help to perpetuate the inequity for those providers who incur more expenses to satisfy the conditions of state regulations.

Reasons Why Providers Seek Licensing

State regulations theoretically define minimally acceptable standards for family day care. Licensed providers take pride in the fact that their homes meet state standards. Their licenses have given them professional proof of the quality of care they offer (Sale, Note 6; Hubner, Note 17). Also, regulated providers are eligible for low cost group liability insurance, a prime motivator for undergoing the long licensing process (Sale, 1980; Hubner, Note 17). There are some providers who are licensed because it is required by law (Morgan, 1974). An unpublished survey of licensed family day care providers revealed that the lack of job status and the lack of recognition that family day care is a business were expressed as problems (Webber, Note 18).

Reasons Why Providers Do Not Seek Licensing

A variety of reasons are offered by experts in this field as to why licenses are not sought. Some unregulated providers are ignorant of the law (Morgan, 1974). Others are primarily motivated by their desire to work with children and are unable to or unwilling to work with governmental bureaucracies (Morgan, Note 16; Hubner, Note 17). The unlicensed view the process as complicated, contradictory, often overly detailed and unnecessary (U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, 1974). The time line between date of application and date of approval to operate may be six months to one year (Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs, Note 4); those offering child care out of economic necessity could not and do not wait. The unregulated cite the prohibitive costs of required renovations and the health or safety regulations as explanations of their illegal status (Fosburg, Note 8). Others resent and/or fear inspection of their private homes and questioning of child rearing and house-keeping practices. The legality of inspections without a search warrant is questionable (Morgan, 1974; Hubner, Note 17). Also, family day care is unique in that it does accommodate a diversity of cultures and value systems. It may be the only out-of-home care which reflects the parents' language, dietary practices, and disciplinary philosophy. This continuity in child-rearing enables parents to retain a certain level of control over their children's lives (Hubner, Note 17).

Some providers view the standardization of family day care homes as anathema to the sharing of a real home; the imposition of rigid regulations could result in homelike institutions (California Child Day Care Task Force, Note 3).

Even though the literature indicates that many licensed homes fail to meet established standard, total deregulation raises the spectre of chronic child abuse, unclean and hazardous facilities, and overcrowded homes. Registration, as an alternate form of regulation, has been proposed.

Purpose of Registration

The purpose of any form of registration is to bring all day care providers into the regulatory net. The unregulated operator is presently unidentifiable to the state and local organizations which attempt to distribute information and materials and to conduct workshops and conferences in order to enhance the quality of day care programs. Also, since the state and local family day care organizations are only allowed to publicize names of licensed operators, many parents find that there are not enough identified slots available in licensed homes (Hughes, Note 19). Regulation of all homes would potentially offer minimum guarantees to all day care children and would increase the choices for consumers.

Alternatives to traditional licensing of family day care were first suggested in a Children's Bureau publication

on licensing (Class, 1968). In 1974, Gwen Morgan, child care consultant for Massachusetts, developed several models which represented alternatives to the traditional licensing system. Four models are part of this study. They are: a) Enabling Registration, b) Credentialing Registration, c) Simple Registration, and Deregulation.

The First Option: Enabling Registration. This model of registration enables the state to enforce standards set by a regulatory agency, and to prohibit continued operation when standards are not met. No prelicensing inspection is included. Instead, the family day care provider certifies that her home meets state requirements. Every consumer is given a copy of the requirements in which complaint procedures are spelled out. Parents are then enlisted as partners of the state in assuring compliance with requirements. A certificate of registration is issued, which is in fact a license to operate. Under this option, there are no routine inspections of each home. The state would inspect upon receipt of a request; the provider would be told the reason for the inspection visit. The state would publicize lists of day care homes in order that day care mothers and parents can get in touch with each other.

Under this option, the state's responsibility is less than in the present licensing system. The state does not certify that the day care home meets requirements but certifies that the day care mother has stated that she

believes her home meets requirements. An important provision is that parents are informed of those requirements. No routine supervisory visits are made by the state, but the state does maintain records on family day care homes and makes lists available to potential consumers.

The Second Option: Credentialing Registration. The state establishes competencies for the provider in this model, rather than promulgate or enforce standards or requirements. Registration of all family day care homes are mandated after successful completion of a series of training sessions which are offered by the state. Training attempts to build specific competencies and deepen sensitivities to children. The training program links the family day care providers with each other and with community sources of help and provides direct avenues through which the state funnels information to them. No supervision by an organized agency is provided in this model.

The Third Option: Simple Registration. The goal of this option is simply to identify as close to 100% of the family day care providers as possible. Therefore, registration of all family day care providers is mandated. No supervision of homes takes place in this model and no requirements are promulgated or enforced.

The Fourth Option: Deregulation. This last option involves the decision to abandon licensing or registering family day care providers and instead relies on state

legislation to correct abuse and neglect. The time and energies used in the administration of regulations can be spent in non-regulatory ways of upgrading and assisting family day care. Some services which the state can offer are loan libraries of books, toys and equipment; education and training for both provider and parent; a newsletter; and conferences where providers have the opportunity to meet others in the field and gain information on child care activities.

Many young children are in family day care situations without regulatory safeguards of any kind. The willingness of parents to place their children in homes without ascertaining licensing status perpetuates non-regulation homes (Fosburg, Note 8; Hughes, Note 19). Placement of children in unlicensed homes may stem either from ignorance of the law or reflect their feeling of confidence to judge a family day care situation which meets their standards (League of Women Voters in California, Note 2; Morgan, Note 16; Hughes, Note 19). Mandatory licensing may in fact serve to undermine parental responsibility by reducing parental attention to standards of operation (Morgan, 1974; Hughes, Note 19).

Opponents of registration question whether parents would and could exercise quality control over homes by negotiating with their provider or bringing the problem to the appropriate governmental agency (Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs, Note 4). The degree of commu-

nication between the day care provider and consumer is of key importance. A survey of family day care providers suggests communication between the two is problematic (Webber, Note 18). Without increased parent education and knowledge about assessing child care arrangements, effective enforcement would not be possible. Strong government intervention would then be necessary (Morgan, 1974).

The anticipated increase in the number of people applying for registration may expose more providers to minimum standards and result in an increase in quality of care (Hubner, Note 17). Thus, proponents assert that registration can provide as much if not more protection to the populace as does current licensing practices (Morgan, 1974; California Child Day Care Licensing Task Force, Note 3, Morgan, Note 16).

Reasons Why Providers Would Seek Registration

Registration is expected to have an impact on the availability of day care services because of simplicity and referrals. The simplified procedures of registration are intended to attract more registrants than would apply for licenses. Resource and Referral Agencies, which are funded by the State of California to act as a parental information service, would have an expanded list of legally operating providers from which to recommend to those in need of day care. This service would allow registered providers access to potential consumers that would otherwise be unknown.

Also, a media campaign to inform the general public and unlicensed providers about registration may promote the view that family day care is an important and valued occupational alternative, giving status to the profession.

Experience in States with Implemented Registration: Data

In their quest for ways to better regulate currently licensed homes and extend the regulatory process to those homes operating illegally, states throughout the country have been experimenting with various forms of registration. Nine states have implemented statewide systems of registration: Texas, Massachusetts, North Dakota, South Carolina, Kansas, Iowa, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Five states have only partial state implementation: Michigan, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia. Texas and Michigan undertook registration experiments and have published evaluation reports of their results. These reports and unpublished data from other states are summarized below. One common objective was found among all registration endeavors: to increase the number of homes regulated in comparison to the situation under the conventional licensing process. Most states also expected to maintain or lower the percent of rule violations.

Texas. Registration of family day care homes became effective statewide on January 1, 1976. In order to determine whether or not more homes were regulated under registration than under licensing, it was necessary to predict from the

available data how many homes would have been licensed had registration not been mandated. The trend analysis predicted an increase of 64% between January, 1976 and July, 1978 had licensing remained in effect. The actual increase of homes under regulation with registration was 248%. Those in Texas believe the most likely cause of this increase is the change in the method of regulation. However, other hypotheses should be considered since no experimental research was conducted: a) the number of family day care homes would have increased normally at a far greater rate between January, 1976 and July, 1978 than between January, 1975 and December, 1975. b) There was a decrease in the number of facilities offering other types of care during this period, prompting an increase in the number of family day care homes to meet the resulting demand for child care (Texas Department of Human Resources, Note 20).

Texas also instituted a sample monitoring program of 5% of registered homes each year in order to check for compliance with standards promulgated. Thirty percent of the facilities were in complete compliance with all standards; 90% of the homes inspected had five or fewer violations out of a possible 30. Most rule violations were accounted for by five standards which were indirectly related to the health, safety, and welfare of the children in care, i.e., the maintenance of complete immunization records for each child in care (Texas Department of Human Resources, Note 20).

A comparison was made of complaints alleging child abuse and neglect over a six month period when registration was in effect with those of a six month period when licensing had been in effect. It was concluded from the data that registration was no less ineffective than licensing in preventing child abuse and neglect in family day care homes (Texas Department of Human Resources, Note 20).

Massachusetts. A statewide registration system was mandated in 1974 and continues to the present. A certificate of registration is issued after an applicant has mailed in a self-evaluation form along with two references; this procedure determines compliance with the rules and regulations for operation of a family day care home. The number of regulated family day care homes increased from 862 licensed homes in 1974 to 3,463 registered homes in 1979. This is a 400% increase (Tagg, Note 21).

The three-fold increase in the number of complaints regarding both the registered and unregistered family day care homes has been attributed to the publicity efforts to educate the public about registration. This increase has been viewed as a positive result of public awareness rather than an increase in the number of violations (Tagg, Note 21).

North Dakota. Registration has been mandatory on a statewide basis since 1975. Failure to register is a misdemeanor. Before 1975, there were only 642 licensed family day care homes at any given time. Registration increased

the number of regulated homes to approximately 1500 in two years (Orwick, Note 22).

North Dakota requires an in-home audit of every tenth home registered. Results have indicated that the quality of care is comparable to that of care which was provided under licensing (Orwick, Note 22).

South Carolina. A 1977 regulatory act required registration of all operators of family day care homes. A total of 40 licensed family day care homes was reported in the state prior to June, 1977. As of July, 1979, there were approximately 500 registered homes. Home visits are made in the event of a complaint or provider request. No information has been made available with regard to compliance with standards (McMichael, Note 23).

Michigan. Michigan was the only state which designed a research project involving treatment and control counties. Registration was implemented in two counties; licensing with training and public information was tried in two counties; and two counties continued their current licensing practices. The number of homes registered in the two treatment counties increased more than the number of homes licensed in the four licensing counties. The control counties showed the lowest increase in newly regulated homes (Michigan Department of Social Services, Note 24).

Rule violations were observed during the pre- and post-inspection visits in the licensing counties and in spot-check

visits to a random sample of 5% of the registered homes. There was a higher percentage of homes in violation of rules in the registration counties than there were in the licensing counties. However, the rules most frequently violated in the registered homes were relatively easily corrected, e.g., T.B. test results, medical statements. In licensed homes, a wider variety of rules were violated, e.g., protected outdoor play areas, sanitation, record keeping. Though this experiment terminated in 1977, Michigan has failed to change its conventional licensing regulations (Michigan Department of Social Services, Note 24).

Experience of States with Registration Implemented: No Data

Iowa, New Mexico, and South Dakota are known to have statewide registration programs in effect. No comparison data are available which would indicate an increase or decrease in the number of homes regulated or in the violation of standards (Hubner, Note 17).

A 1971 law in North Carolina mandates those caring for 2-5 unrelated children to register. Only one standard has been applied to those in this situation and no data appear to have been collected to determine compliance (Sokol, Note 25). Florida (Brock, Note 26), Kansas and Georgia have instituted registration programs as of 1980 (Hubner, Note 17). It is too early for any significant data analysis.

California's Pilot Project

California has also legislated a registration pilot

project via Assembly Bill (AB) 1368. This bill replaces conventional licensing with registration in three counties: Alameda, Tulare, and Ventura. Its principal intent is to determine whether a simplified registration procedure will increase availability of care while maintaining substantial compliance with health and safety requirements (Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs, Note 4). The major differences between California's present licensing system and the pilot method of registration is the elimination of a home inspection prior to licensing under AB 1368 and the fact that only a 10% random sample of homes will be visited for on-site evaluation. AB 1368 also requires less information about other persons in the home; self-certification rather than a clearance from the Department of Justice that no person in the household has a criminal record; and less attention to some of the specific precautions addressed by the Title 22 licensing visit. The major responsibility for identification of violations rests on public and parental awareness of standards and complaint procedures. An information campaign to educate the public has been mandated. Remediation of violations depends on procedures for either closing down or upgrading facility operations. It is hoped that the anticipated increase in the number of people applying for registration will expose more providers to the minimum standards, resulting in an increase in quality of care. The pilot project began in January, 1981 and will continue for three years. Data

are unavailable at this time.

Summary

The attempt to regulate the large number of family day care homes which are geographically dispersed has been a time-consuming and costly enterprise. Historical reasons for licensing child care focused on safeguarding children's health and safety. Experiences in other states have shown registration to be a viable alternative by which expansion of day care may be accomplished without compromising children's safety. AB 1368, California's mandated registration project, will indicate the potential impact of a simplified method through which family day care may increase its regulatory net. Proponents and opponents anxiously await results.

This study gathers data from licensed providers to describe their regulatory preferences. It examines the acceptability of the current licensing process as well as four suggested alternative forms of regulation. A discussion of the procedures used in this study are presented in Chapter III.

CHAPTER III

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Licensed family day care providers in two northern California counties were surveyed to ascertain their views about current licensing regulations and four alternatives to them. Presented in this chapter are a description of the population sampled, the instrument, and the procedures utilized in the collection and analysis of data.

Accessible Population and Sample

The population selected for this study included all licensed family day care providers from the counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo. Santa Clara has 11% (2,416) of the licensed family day care providers in California and San Mateo has 8% (624). Santa Clara and San Mateo counties include urban, suburban, and rural areas. Since school enrollment reflects the socio-economic-ethnic composition of the population in this study, demographic data of third and sixth graders in the two counties were examined. These data are presented and summarized below.

Santa Clara County

Demographic data on third and sixth grade pupils from all California's school districts were reported by the state assessment program. These data revealed that 70% of the school

districts throughout the state had a lower percentage of minority students enrolled than did the school districts in Santa Clara county. The enrollment of limited/non-English speaking pupils was also high (73rd percentile) in comparison to the rest of the state's school districts. The number of third and sixth graders who have transferred into Santa Clara's schools was comparable to the state median; thus, the area was neither rapidly growing nor totally stable (California State Department of Education, Note 27).

The socioeconomic index, an indicator of parental occupations of third and sixth graders, revealed percentile ranks of 53 and 57 for both grades. The number of pupils whose families were receiving assistance under the Aid to Dependent Children (AFDC) had a percentile rank of 52 for the third grade and 53 for the sixth. This indicated that a possible balance may exist within this county of high and low income groups.

San Mateo County

The data from the state assessment program (California State Department of Education, Note 28) on San Mateo's schools revealed that 71% of the school districts throughout California had a lower percentage of minority students. The number of students with limited/non-English speaking abilities placed San Mateo's school districts into the 74th percentile. The number of sixth graders who have transferred into this county's school system placed the school districts into the

58th percentile, near the state median. The third grade data indicated fewer transfers since it was located at the 29th percentile.

The percentages of third and sixth graders whose families were participants of AFDC were 6.5 and 6.0 respectively, which placed this county at the 34th percentile. The socioeconomic index of the third and sixth graders ranked this county at the 29th and 27th percentiles.

In summary, the two counties had large minority and limited/non-English speaking populations. More people in Santa Clara county had professional occupations in comparison to San Mateo; however, San Mateo had fewer people on welfare. The data also suggested that fewer young families were moving into San Mateo as compared to Santa Clara county. These data are presented in Table 1.

Sample

A computer print-out of 2,416 licensed family day care providers of Santa Clara was made available by the Northern California Association of Family Day Care Providers. A list of 614 licensed family day care providers of San Mateo was obtained from the California Department of Social Services.

For the purpose of this research, a standard error of 3.5% was deemed tolerable. This required a sample size of 200. A 60% response return was anticipated based on the pilot test data. Therefore a sample size of 333 was selected from

Table 1
Selected Demographic Data From Santa Clara
and San Mateo Counties

	<u>San Mateo</u>		<u>Santa Clara</u>		<u>State Composite</u>	
	Per- ^a		Per-		Per-	
	%	centile	%	centile	%	centile
Third Grade						
SEI ^b		29		53		49
% AFDC ^c	6.5	34	9.7	52	8.9	49
% LES/NES ^d	6.5	72	5.4	68	5.6	69
Sixth Grade						
SEI		27		57		51
% AFDC	6.0	34	9.2	53	8.4	49
% LES/NES	4.6	74	4.4	73	4.4	73
% Total Minority	34.7	71	33.6	70	33.8	70
Indian/Alaskan	.5	56	1.0	69	.9	67
Asian	7.8	96	5.7	92	6.4	94
Filipino	5.1	97	2.0	92	2.8	95
Black	8.9	93	5.2	87	5.7	89
Hispanic	13.5	56	20.5	67	18.7	65

Table 1. Continued

	<u>San Mateo</u>		<u>Santa Clara</u>		<u>State Composite</u>	
	%	Per-centile	%	Per-centile	%	Per-centile
% Student Mobility ^e						
1-3	41.2	29	52.3	50	49.1	39
4-6	50.9	58	48.1	52	48.6	53

^aState Percentile Rank

^bSocioeconomic Index is an indicator of the occupations of the third grade pupils. A high value indicates a community with a large percentage of people in professional and semiprofessional occupations.

^cThe AFDC figure is the percent of pupils whose families are receiving assistance under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

^dThe percent LES/NES is the percent of limited or non-English speaking pupils.

^eThese figures represent the percent of third graders who were not enrolled in kindergarten in their current school, and the percent of sixth graders who were not enrolled in third grade in their current school.

Note 29. Data from Profiles of School Performance 1979-80, California State Department of Education.

Santa Clara. The sampling proportion was lower in San Mateo; to achieve the same level of precision, a sample size of 287 was selected. The sample was systematically drawn by using every seventh name from the list of Santa Clara county and every second name from the list of San Mateo.

Instrumentation

A mailed questionnaire was used to elicit the desired information from the sample. This process seemed most appropriate for the following reasons.

1. It facilitated the collection of data from a large number of persons in a short period of time.
2. It allowed the investigator to cover two counties efficiently, whereas the cost of interviewing by phone or in person throughout such a large geographic area would have been prohibitive.
3. It was more convenient for the working participants.
4. The uniformity of materials assured the researcher that all subjects were answering the same questions (Berdie and Anderson, 1974).

The problems implicit in using a mailed questionnaire were considered. A major limitation in the use of a questionnaire was the danger of a low response rate. Several techniques, suggested by research, were used to encourage return of the instrument. A letter was mailed to all subjects requesting their participation in a study (Berdie and Anderson,

1974; Whitney, 1972). The purpose of the study and the importance of responding were briefly mentioned (Whitney, 1972). Three days later, a cover letter and questionnaire were mailed to the participants. A penny was glued to each cover letter; some studies have shown that such "incentives" increase response rates (Berdie and Anderson, 1972). Both envelopes were handstamped with three small denomination, decorative commemorative stamps (Warwick and Lininger, 1975). The purpose of using many stamps instead of one was to impress upon the recipient the financial costs of each questionnaire to the researcher. Yellow questionnaires were mailed rather than white as another useful technique (Warwick and Lininger, 1975).

The questionnaire sought to determine the views of the sample on present licensing regulations and alternatives. A careful study of the present regulations, which included personal contact with a county licensing representative and with members of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development, allowed the writer to identify key elements of current regulations. The following six alternatives, proposed by Morgan (1974), were thoroughly examined.

1. Improvement of the Licensing System. All family day care homes would become part of a satellite system administered by a central administrative core. This satellite system would be licensed and would eliminate the need for homes to be licensed separately and independently.

2. Enabling Registration. This form of registration

promulgates requirements although no prior proof of compliance is mandated. Inspection visits would occur upon receipt of a complaint. A certificate of registration is issued which would indicate that the home is registered with the state and that the provider had certified that her home met state requirements.

3. Directing Registration. This model mandates registration of all family day care homes and promulgates requirements. No certificate of registration is issued. All registered homes are inspected, thus the state does offer protection to all parents.

4. Credentialing Registration. Six to eight hours training designed to build specific competencies needed by family day care providers would be a pre-condition of registration.

5. Simple Registration. The state would require persons with intentions of operating day care homes to register.

6. Deregulation. The state would abandon any effort to license or register family day care providers but would rely on existing legislation for child protection.

Four of the six were chosen as foci for the study. Improvement of the Licensing System was eliminated because it did not address the problem of the unlicensed provider; and Directing Registration was eliminated because of its lack of distinctiveness and overlapping with the present

system and Enabling Registration.

Statements were written to correspond to the key elements in each of the five proposals. The present licensing system had thirteen key elements. Enabling Registration had eight. Credentialing Registration had seven key elements and Simple Registration had five. Deregulation had four key elements. Forms of Regulation and their corresponding statement numbers on the questionnaire are presented in Table 2.

Statements representative of all key elements comprised Part I of the questionnaire. Closed-ended questions were used because they are interpreted more uniformly by respondents and are unaffected by the respondents' verbosity (Warwick and Lininger, 1975; Whitney, 1972). Since the closed-ended questions did not allow for self-expression, the writer solicited additional comments from the participants. The five point Likert-type scale was selected for use with possible responses graduated on a scale of one to five. The continuum consisted of the following: strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, and strongly disagree. The final arrangement of questions was determined through random assignment.

Part II of the questionnaire elicited background information about the respondents. Information which was thought to be possibly related to the respondents' views included age, education, years of experience, number of

Table 2

Forms of Regulation and Corresponding Question Numbers

Statement	Traditional Licensing	"Enabling" Model of Registration	Credentialing Registration	Simple Registration	Deregulation
1			X		
2			X		
3			X	X	X
4	X	X			
5	X				
6					X
7		X	X		
8			X	X	X
9a	X	X	X	X	
b	X				
c	X				
d	X	X			
e	X				
f	X	X	X	X	

Table 2. Continued

Statement	Traditional Licensing	"Enabling" Model of Registration	Credentialing Registration	Simple Registration	Deregulation
10		X			
11					X
12	X				
13		X			
14				X	
15	X	X			
16	X				
17	X				
18	X				

children under care, and the percentage of family income from day care fees.

A preliminary draft of the cover letter and questionnaire was submitted to a panel of individuals judged to have expertise in family day care or in the construction of questionnaires. This group included Dr. Sandra Anselmo, University of the Pacific; Suibhan Stevens, licensed family day care provider and member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs; June Sale, former director of a community family day care project and member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Development Programs; Vivienne Garfinkle, former owner of a New York marketing research firm. The preliminary draft was also submitted to members of the dissertation committee. This panel and the dissertation committee determined whether the questions were clear, unambiguous and relevant to the topic as well as whether they were appropriate in appearance and format. Modifications were made based on feedback from the panel and from the committee.

Pilot Test

The questionnaire was field-tested in Stockton, California. A letter was mailed on October 21, 1980 to 70 randomly selected licensed family day care providers. Three days later, the cover letter and questionnaire were mailed. The sample was assured of confidentiality (Berdie and Anderson, 1974). Sixty-nine of the 70 mailed question-

naires were deliverable. Forty-three responses were received, which represented a 62% response return. Thirty-six of the 43 responses were returned by November 12, 1980, three weeks after they were mailed. The seven remaining questionnaires were received within four weeks of their mailing.

The technique of test-retest was employed to establish item reliability of the instrument. A coding had been used on the first set of questionnaires to enable the writer to mail a different cover letter and the same questionnaire to the first 36 respondents. Twenty responses (55%) were received from this second set. These data are presented in Table 3.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation (Pearson r) was used with the 20 sets of questionnaires to determine reliability of each item in Part I. SPSS subprogram PEARSON CORR was employed in the computer analysis of these data. Any item with an r of less than .40 was considered weak. Seven items fell into this category and were given further attention. They were 6, 9a, 9e, 14, 15, 16, and 19. Statement 19 was deleted and a substitution of words was made in statement 15. No changes were made in 9a and 9e; however their low reliability coefficients were taken into consideration in the analysis of data. Statements 6, 14, and 16 had spurious reliability coefficients, each due to a single outlier (Marascuilo, 1971). A person who goes from extreme opinion (strongly agree) to the opposite extreme opinion (strongly disagree) is considered an outlier

Table 3

Pilot Data: Test and Retest Questionnaires,
Mailed, Delivered and Returned for Item
Reliability (Test-Retest Technique)

Mailed		Delivered		Test Questionnaires Answered		Retest Questionnaires Answered	
Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
70	100.0	69	98.6	43	62.3	20	55

^a

A sample total of 36 providers had answered by the second mailing, of which 20 returns were received.

and may have skewed the reliability of that item. These data are presented in Table 4.

Also, the first question in Part II was deemed unnecessary since all 69 respondents were female. The questionnaire in its final form included eighteen statements in Part I and five questions in Part II.

Data Collection

The final version of the questionnaire was printed on two 8½ X 11 pages with back-to-back questions on each page. A letter of introduction was mailed to 333 licensed family day care providers from Santa Clara county and 287 licensed family day care providers from San Mateo county. Three days later, a personally addressed envelope containing a questionnaire, a letter explaining the study, and a stamped return envelope was mailed. A coding was employed for follow-up purposes. The date of receipt was recorded as completed questionnaires were returned. A response return of less than 50% from either county required persons who did not return the questionnaire to receive a second one.

A 56% response was received from San Mateo. A 36% response return was received from Santa Clara which represented less than 50% of the respondents; after three weeks, a second mailing of the questionnaire and a cover letter was sent to 190 non-respondents. This mailing resulted in an additional 23% return or a total return of 59% from Santa Clara county.

Table 4
Questionnaire Item Reliabilities
for Pilot Test Data

Statement	r
1. 6-8 hours of free training should be required before a family day care provider could operate with state approval.	.62
2. There should be no further standards imposed on family day care providers once an initial 6-8 hour training period is completed.	.43
3. Existing legislation concerning child abuse and neglect is adequate for protection of children in family day care programs.	.86
4. All family day care providers should have either a license or a certificate permitting them to operate.	.46
5. All family day care homes should be inspected every six months.	.81
6. Any interested person should be allowed to operate a family day care home without notifying the state or taking any other official steps.	.51 ^a
7. An acceptable alternative to current family day care licensing practices is to make parents, <u>not</u> state or county agencies, primarily responsible for insuring quality care for their children.	.73
8. A license or certificate is only a piece of paper and is <u>not</u> necessary in family day care.	.74
9. For all family day care providers, the licensing agency should know:	
a. name and address - - - - -	.37
b. the number of children in care - - - - -	.61
c. the ages of the children in care - - - - -	.74
d. any past criminal record - - - - -	.55
e. birthdate - - - - -	.18
f. telephone number - - - - -	.49

Table 4. Continued

Statement	r
10. The licensing agency should not visit family day care homes unless there were a complaint or a request for help.	.89
11. Providers do not need state intervention in family day care.	.50
12. Inspection visits prior to licensing help to ensure safe family day care homes.	.49
13. Instead of an official inspection before operating a family day care home, providers should simply notify the state that their homes meet state requirements.	.66
14. Any person should be allowed to operate a family day care home by informing the state of that intention.	.82 ^b
15. The state should guarantee the health and safety of children in family day care.	.20
16. Unannounced inspection of family day care homes is necessary to prevent violations of laws and regulations.	.56 ^c
17. Current fire, health, and safety regulations offer protection to family day care children and should be continued.	.60
18. All persons who are present at a family day care home during the hours of operation should be required to take a physical exam.	.75
19. State officials should <u>never</u> visit family day care homes.	.21

^ar=.23 when outlier was included.

^br=.28 when outlier was included.

^cr=.35 when outlier was included.

The combined return response was 57%. The data collection is illustrated in Table 5.

Statistical Treatment

Questionnaires about present licensing regulations and four alternatives were mailed to licensed day care providers in two counties. A Chi Square Test of Significance was performed to determine if the county of residence was statistically related to the participants' responses. The data collected addressed three questions. They were:

1. What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of the key elements of the present system?
2. What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of the key elements of the proposed alternatives, i.e., Enabling Registration, Credentialing Registration, Simple Registration, Deregulation.
3. Is there a relationship between the background factors, i.e., age, education, years of experience, number of children in care, percentage of family income from day care fees, and the acceptability levels of the key elements of the present system and the four proposed alternatives?

To respond to questions one and two, individual items on the questionnaire were analyzed. Means and standard deviations were computed to determine the acceptability level for each item. Tables were used to present this information. Question three was addressed by constructing a Pearson Product Moment Correlation Matrix. This statistical treatment was used to determine relationships between background factors and acceptability levels of the present system

Table 5
 Questionnaires Mailed, Delivered, Returned-Answered,
 and Returned-Unanswered from Santa Clara
 and San Mateo Counties

	<u>Santa Clara</u>		<u>San Mateo</u>	
	N	%	N	%
Mailed	333	100.0	287	100.0
Delivered	318	95.5	280	97.5
Returned- Answered	187	58.8	156	55.7
Returned- Unanswered	8	2.5	5	1.7

and the four alternatives. Computer analyses of all data collected were conducted on the Burroughs B-6700 at the University of the Pacific, Stockton or Cyber-170 at California State University, Sacramento.

Summary

The procedures used in conducting this study were presented in this chapter. A description of the population samples and the reliability of the instrument were included. Three questions were stated and the statistics employed to analyze each question were described. Results of the study are presented in Chapter IV.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS

This study focused on the views of licensed providers about present regulations governing family day care and the following four alternative models: a) Enabling Registration; b) Credentialing Registration; c) Simple Registration; d) Deregulation. The purpose of this research was to collect data which the legislature, licensing agencies, and other interest groups could consider as changes in regulations were planned.

The procedures followed in this study involved several steps. First, key elements of the present licensing system and four alternative systems were identified. Second, opinion statements were written to correspond with each key element. Part I of a questionnaire was composed of these statements. Part II consisted of five items which solicited from respondents demographic characteristics which were thought to be related to views on regulatory issues. Next, the questionnaire was pilot tested in Stockton, California on October 24, 1980 and item reliability was established by use of the test-retest technique.

In the actual survey, a letter of introduction was mailed to 620 licensed family day care providers in the counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo on February 27, 1981 requesting the recipient's participation. Three days later,

a cover letter and revised questionnaire were mailed to this sample. A response return of less than 50% from Santa Clara county necessitated a second mailing of the questionnaire to 190 non-respondents. As a result of these mailings, a total of 343 usable questionnaires were returned, representing approximately 57% of the licensed family day care providers sampled from both counties.

Three questions were addressed in this study:

1. What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of the key elements of the present system?
2. What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of the key elements of the proposed alternatives, i.e., Enabling Registration, Credentialing Registration, Simple Registration, Deregulation.
3. Is there a relationship between the background factors, i.e., age, education, years of experience, number of children in care, percentage of family income from day care fees, and the acceptability levels of the key elements of the present system and the four proposed alternatives?

Data related to these questions are offered in three sections in this chapter. The first section described the respondents according to age, education years of experience as a day care provider, number of children under their care, and the percentage of family income received from day care fees. The second section summarized the responses of family day care providers to questionnaire items in Part I which dealt with the present regulations governing family day care the the four alternative proposals. The third section examined the relationship between certain demographic characteristics of

licensed providers from Santa Clara and San Mateo counties and their responses to Part I of the questionnaire.

It was anticipated that the data presented in this chapter could have been influenced by the county in which the respondents lived. In order to determine the consistency of responses between the counties, a contingency table was constructed for each question and a Chi Square test was performed on each. Twenty-two of the twenty-three tests between the two counties were not significantly different at the .05 level. Thus it appeared that the county of residence was not statistically related to the nature of the responses. A review of the data in Appendix C show similarity of responses to questionnaire items across the counties.

Demographic Data About the Respondents

Responses to items in Part II of the questionnaire provided demographic information about family day care providers who completed the instrument. Data gathered on the age of the sample indicated that almost two-thirds (65.3%) of the respondents were less than 40 years of age; 44% were in their thirties. The remainder of the sample was in their 40's (13.7%) and 50's (11.7%) and only a small percentage (5.2%) was in their 60's.

Almost the entire sample had, at least, a high school diploma. The majority of respondents had either attended college (33.8%) or completed a two or four year college

degree (23.9%). One-quarter (25.1%) of the respondents had a high school education and a minority of the respondents (4.1%) had never attended high school.

The experiential background of the sample showed that almost one-third (28.9%) of the respondents had 1-3 years experience as providers of day care. Nearly one-quarter (22.5%) of the respondents had been serving families for 5-10 years; and more than one-tenth (14.3%) had 10 or more years experience.

The majority of the sample cared for 3-6 children. More than one-third (37.3%) had 6 children in their care; and one-third (33.8%) cared for 3-5 children. One-tenth (10.9%) of the respondents had 2 or fewer children with a minority (3.9%) caring for more than 6. A small percentage (7.9%) of the respondents was either retired or not presently in business.

Information received on the contribution of day care fees to the total family income showed that 25% or less of the total family income for half (49.6%) of the respondents was attributed to day care fees. Less than one-quarter (22.2%) of this sample ascribed 25-50% of their total family income to day care fees. Day care fees made up 50-90% of the family income for slightly more than one-tenth (11.3%) of the respondents. Very few (4.1%) claimed day care fees to be 100% of their income. These data are presented in Table 6.

Views on Regulatory Issues

Responses to the statements in Part I of the question-

Table 6
Demographic Data of Sample of
Family Day Care Providers in
San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties
 (N=343)

Questions	Santa Clara (%)	San Mateo (%)	Combined (%)
Age: 29 or under	26.2	15.4	21.3
30-39	40.6	46.8	44.0
40-49	14.4	12.8	13.7
50-59	9.6	14.1	11.7
60 or above	3.7	7.1	5.2
Years of Schooling			
0-8 grades	4.8	3.2	4.1
some high school	9.1	12.2	10.5
high school graduate	22.5	27.6	25.1
some college	32.1	35.9	33.8
two year college graduate	18.2	5.8	12.8
four year college	9.6	12.8	11.1
Number of Children Under Care			
1	1.9	3.7	2.9
2	9.1	5.8	7.6
3	10.7	8.3	9.6
4	13.4	13.5	13.4

Table 6. Continued

Questions	Santa Clara (%)	San Mateo (%)	Combined (%)
Number of Children Under Care			
5	7.0	15.4	10.8
6	37.8	35.8	37.3
7-12	4.8	3.1	3.9
not actively engaged in offering day care	7.5	8.3	7.9
Experience as a Day Care Provider			
0-12 months	16.6	13.5	15.2
1-3 years	30.5	26.3	28.9
3-5 years	17.1	14.1	15.7
5-7 years	12.3	11.5	12.0
7-10 years	9.1	12.2	10.5
10 or more	9.1	19.9	14.3
Percentage of Family Income From Day Care			
100%	4.3	3.8	4.1
76-99%	3.2	7.7	5.2
51-75%	7.0	5.1	6.1
26-50%	19.8	24.4	22.2
less than 25%	52.4	45.5	49.6

naire addressed two of the three primary questions. The levels of acceptance of key elements of the present system and the four proposed alternatives were demonstrated by use of means and standard deviations. The data have been organized into tables which present key elements of the present system and each of the four alternatives. Some elements were relevant to two or more regulatory proposals and, therefore, were included in more than one table. Five response choices were offered since this response form was most preferred by participants (Berdie and Anderson, 1974). However, for purposes of the current study, intensity of agreement or disagreement was not of primary interest. Therefore data were analyzed in terms of three main categories: a) agreement, b) undecided, and c) disagreement.

Question 1:

What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of the key elements of the present system?

The present system included thirteen key elements. This system offered protection to children in family day care by promulgation of standards, e.g., fire, health, and safety regulations, a fingerprint check, pre- and post-operation inspection visits. A license was issued as proof of compliance to the standards. The data showed that nearly two-thirds (62.7%) of the respondents agreed that the state should protect the health and safety of children in family day care. Providers strongly value their licenses (85.2%) and supported furnishing

the licensing agency with: a) their names and addresses (92.7%); b) the number of children in their care (81.4%); c) the ages of the children (72.6%); d) any past criminal record (90.7%); e) their age (70.2%); and f) their telephone number (88.9%).

Nearly half of the respondents (49%) were in favor of a proposal for six month inspection visits. Pre-inspection visits were given a favorable reception (84.9%); however, there was no majority opinion on the efficacy of unannounced inspections of family day care homes (45.7% in favor and 42% opposed). Respondents highly approved of the current fire and safety regulations (85.5%); they did not uniformly approve of the health regulation which required all persons present during hours of operation to take physical examinations (46.1%). Data related to responses to statements representing the key elements of the present regulatory system are presented in Table 7.

Question 2:

What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of the key elements of four proposed alternatives, i.e., Enabling Registration, Credentialing Registration, Simple Registration, Deregulation.

Enabling Registration. This alternative included eight key elements. Requirements would be promulgated and certificates would be issued to indicate that the home was registered with the state and that the provider had certified that her home met state requirements. However, this alternative would

Table 7
Sample Responses to Statements
Representing Key Elements
of the Licensing Process

Statements	Percentages						
	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	S ¹
4. All family day care providers should have either a license or a certificate permitting them to operate.	56.3	28.9	3.2	8.2	2.9	1.7	1.1
5. All family day care homes should be inspected every six months.	16.0	32.9	12.2	23.9	14.0	2.9	1.3
9. For all family day care providers, the licensing agency should know:							
name and address - - - - -	48.1	44.6	1.7	2.0	.9	1.6	.7
the number of children in care	38.5	42.9	6.1	6.1	2.0	1.9	.9
the ages of the children in care	34.1	38.5	7.0	12.8	1.5	2.0	1.1
any past criminal record - - -	55.7	35.0	1.5	2.9	2.6	1.5	.8

Table 7. Continued

Statements	Percentages						
	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	S ¹
age - - - - -	33.2	37.0	7.6	13.4	2.6	2.1	1.1
telephone number - - - - -	43.7	45.2	3.5	2.9	1.2	1.7	.8
12. Inspection visits prior to licensing help to ensure safe family day care homes.	39.1	45.8	3.2	7.9	2.3	1.9	1.0
15. The state should protect the health and safety of children in family day care.	24.5	38.2	15.5	12.5	5.8	2.3	1.2
16. Unannounced inspection of family day care homes is necessary to prevent violations of laws and regulations.	12.8	32.9	10.2	23.3	18.7	3.0	1.4
17. Current fire, health, and safety regulations offer protection to family day care children and should be continued.	31.7	52.8	5.5	3.2	2.3	1.9	.9

Table 7. Continued

Statements	Percentages						
	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	S ¹
18. All persons who are present at a family day care home during hours of operation should be required to take a physical exam.	9.9	26.2	13.7	34.7	11.4	3.1	1.2

¹SA-Strongly Agree; A-Agree; U-Undecided; D-Disagree; SD-Strongly Disagree; \bar{X} -Mean; S-Standard Deviation.

limit the state's visitation rights to investigate complaints or respond to requests for help. The data indicated that this would be disagreeable to half (49.6%) of the respondents with more than one-third (39.1%) in agreement and one-tenth (9.9%) undecided. Nearly half (48.1%) of the respondents approved of the parents, not the state, as the responsible party for insuring quality day care and one-third (34.1%) expressed opposition with 16% undecided. There was a favorable reception to licensing agencies knowing the names and addresses (92.7%) and telephone numbers (88.9%) of all day care operators. Most respondents (90.7%) believed that the licensing agency should be cognizant of any past criminal record. These data are presented in Table 8.

Credentialing Registration. Seven statements on the questionnaire represented elements in this alternative proposal which mandated training sessions prior to registration. Approximately half of the respondents (52.2%) were in favor of requiring 6-8 hours of free training for providers before approval to operate was granted. More than one-tenth (13.4%) were undecided on this issue and one-third (32.8%) opposed such a requirement. However, the data indicate no consensus (37.9% in favor; 40.9% opposed with 15.7% undecided) on the issue of requiring standards other than a 6-8 hour training period. Disagreement was expressed by a majority of the respondents (72%) over a proposal that licenses or certificates were unnecessary in family day care. Existing

Table 8

Sample Responses to Statements Representing

Key Elements of the Alternative:

Enabling Registration

Statements	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	SS ¹
4. All family day care providers should have either a license or a certificate permitting them to operate.	56.3	28.9	3.2	8.2	2.9	1.7	1.0
7. An acceptable alternative to current family day care licensing practices is to make parents, <u>not</u> state or county agencies, primarily responsible for insuring quality care for their children.	20.1	28.0	15.5	23.9	10.2	2.8	1.3
9. For all family day care providers, the licensing agency should know:							
name and address - - - - -	48.1	44.6	1.7	2.0	.9	1.6	.7
any past criminal record - - - - -	55.7	35.0	1.5	2.9	1.5	1.5	.8
telephone number - - - - -	43.7	45.2	3.5	2.9	1.2	1.7	.8

Table 8. Continued

Statements	Percentages						
	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	S ¹
10. The licensing agency should not visit family day care homes unless there was a complaint or a request for help.	18.1	21.0	9.9	38.2	11.4	3.3	1.3
13. Instead of an official inspection before operating a family day care home, providers should simply notify the state that their homes meet state requirements.	5.0	8.5	6.1	48.4	30.3	3.9	1.0
15. The state should protect the health and safety of children in family day care.	24.5	38.2	15.5	12.5	5.8	2.3	1.2

¹SA-Strongly Agree; a-Agree; U-Undecided; D-Disagree; SD-Strongly Disagree; \bar{X} -Mean
S-Standard Deviation.

legislation safeguarding children from child abuse was considered by many (46.1%) to be adequate protection for children in day care; one-fifth (21.6%) registered opposition with a large undecided response (28.6%) expressed. A proposal relieving the state of prime responsibility for insuring quality care and placing such responsibility onto parents resulted in a varied response (48.1% in favor, 34.1% opposed, and 15.5% undecided). A presentation of the above data can be seen in Table 9.

Simple Registration. Five key elements characterized this alternative which required a minimum of state intervention. The data indicated that the respondents would willingly provide their name, address (92.7%) and telephone number (88.9%) to licensing agencies; however, a clear majority (75.8%) did not accept the key element that would allow providers to operate a day care home by simply informing the state of their intention. No licenses are issued in this alternative; this was not acceptable to a majority of respondents (72%). The last element proposed that children in family day care were already adequately protected by existing child abuse legislation; 46.1% were in agreement, 23.6% in disagreement with 28.6% undecided. The presentation of these data is found in Table 10.

Deregulation. Four key elements represented this proposal of non-intervention. Most (80.2%) providers did not favor people operating day care homes without notifying the

Table 9

Sample Responses to Statements Representing
Key Elements of the Alternative:
Credentialing Registration

Statements	Percentages						
	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	S ¹
1. 6-8 hours of free training should be required before a family day care provider could operate with state approval.	17.8	34.7	13.4	23.2	8.5	2.7	1.3
2. There should be no further standards imposed on family day care providers once an initial 6-8 hour training period is completed.	9.9	28.0	15.7	32.4	8.5	3.0	1.2
3. Existing legislation concerning child abuse and neglect is adequate for protection of children in family day care programs.	14.6	31.5	28.6	14.3	7.3	2.7	1.1
7. An acceptable alternative to current family day care licensing practices is to make parents, <u>not</u> state or county agencies, primarily responsible for insuring quality care for their children.	20.1	28.0	15.5	23.9	10.2	2.8	1.3

Table 9. Continued

Statements	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	S ¹
8. A license or certificate is only a piece of paper and is <u>not</u> necessary in family day care.	9.0	10.8	4.4	41.4	30.6	3.8	1.3
9. For all family day care providers, the licensing agency should know:							
name and address - - - - -	48.1	44.6	1.7	2.0	.9	1.6	.7
telephone number - - - - -	43.7	45.2	3.5	2.9	1.2	1.7	.8

¹SA-Strongly Agree; A-Agree; U-Undecided; D-Disagree; SD-Strongly Disagree; \bar{X} -Mean; S-Standard Deviation.

Table 10
Sample Responses to Statements Representing
Key Elements of the Alternative:
Simple Registration

Statements	Percentages						
	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	S ¹
3. Existing legislation concerning child abuse and neglect is adequate for protection of children in family day care programs.	14.6	31.5	28.6	14.3	7.3	2.7	1.1
8. A license or certificate is only a piece of paper and is <u>not</u> necessary in family day care.	9.0	10.8	4.4	41.4	30.6	3.8	1.3
9. For all family day care providers, the licensing agency should know:							
name and address - - - - -	48.1	45.8	1.8	2.1	.9	1.6	.7
telephone number - - - - -	43.7	45.2	3.5	2.9	1.2	1.7	.8
14. Any person should be allowed to operate a family day care home by informing the state of that intention.	3.2	10.8	7.3	43.1	32.7	3.9	1.1

¹SA-Strongly Agree; A-Agree; U-Undecided; D-Disagree; SD-Strongly Disagree; \bar{X} -Mean; S-Standard Deviation.

state or taking any other official steps. However, no majority opinion was expressed (33% in favor; 36% opposed with 22% undecided) when queried about the need for state intervention. Approximately half (46.1) believed the children were adequately protected from child abuse and neglect by existing legislation. Yet providers want licenses issued. These data are presented in Table 11.

Relationship of Demographic Data to Responses

The third part of this chapter presents data which help determine whether a relationship existed between the demographic factors, i.e., age, educational attainment, years of experience, number of children under care, and contribution of day care fees to total family income, collected in Part II of the questionnaire and agreement or disagreement of respondents with statements contained in Part I. A .05 level of significance was employed using a Pearson Product Moment Correlation Matrix. The correlation coefficient was a measure of the strength of the relationship between the demographic characteristic and the response to one of the key elements. The size of the correlation coefficient in each relationship was not greater than $r=.28$. This suggests that, in variance terms, r^2 or approximately 6% or less of the factors accounting for the demographic characteristic can be attributed to factors also accounting for the response to the key elements (Isaac, 1977). Therefore, over 90% of the determinants of the demographic characteristic are independent of

Table 11
Sample Responses to Statements Representing
Key Elements of the Alternative:
Deregulation

Statements	Percentages						
	SA ¹	A ¹	U ¹	D ¹	SD ¹	\bar{X} ¹	S ¹
3. Existing legislation concerning child abuse and neglect is adequate for protection of children in family day care programs.	14.6	31.5	28.6	14.3	7.3	2.7	1.1
6. Any interested person should be allowed to operate a family day care home without notifying the state or taking any other official steps.	6.7	6.7	5.5	34.7	45.5	4.1	1.2
8. A license or certificate is only a piece of paper and is <u>not</u> necessary in family day care.	9.0	10.8	4.4	41.4	30.6	3.8	1.3
11. Providers do not need state intervention in family day care.	12.0	23.0	22.2	30.9	6.1	3.0	1.2

¹SA-Strongly Agree; A-Agree; U-Undecided; D-Disagree; SD-Strongly Disagree; \bar{X} -Mean; S-Standard Deviation.

the response to the key element. Although statistically significant relationships existed at the .05 level, they had no practical value. Thus age, educational level, years of experience as a provider, number of children in care and percentage of total family income attributed to day care fees were not related on a practical level to the response to questionnaire items in Part I. These data are presented in Table 12.

Comments from the Respondents

Statements on the questionnaire were closed ended; however, a need for self-expression was met by solicitation of additional comments. Information in this form was received from one-third (32.6%) of the respondents. No scientific analysis of the comments was made; yet they are a source of information which should not be neglected. Therefore, a tally was taken of the various subjects upon which respondents commented and a summary of that tally follows.

Positive comments were expressed about the continuation of the present regulations (19). Some of the complaints were that there was a) a shortage of licensing agents and more enforcement of regulations was needed (4). b) The agents' interaction with the public needed improvement (3). c) The licensing process was a "hassle" and licensing made no difference in the quality of care provided (11). Inspection visits were considered to be good (16) with the majority (10)

Table 12

Pearson Correlations of Demographic Characteristics

Items	A ¹ (r)	S ² (r)	E ³ (r)	C ⁴ (r)	I ⁵ (r)
1	.01	-.08	.07	-.10	-.02
2	-.02	.17	-.11	-.04	.08
3	-.01	.21	-.06	-.05	.14
4	-.01	.16	-.00	-.07	-.07
5	.01	.08	.17	.04	-.16
6	.08	-.00	.02	.10	.02
7	-.15	.07	-.13	.06	.10
8	.11	-.10	.04	.09	.08
9a	-.02	.01	-.02	-.08	-.05
9b	-.12	.04	-.03	-.01	-.13
9c	-.15	.07	-.06	.02	-.12
9d	.01	.02	-.01	-.03	-.09
9e	-.07	.17	-.06	-.06	-.04
9f	-.05	.02	-.04	-.06	-.04
10	.03	.12	-.04	-.15	.22
11	-.04	.01	-.18	.04	.16
12	-.09	.10	-.01	-.06	-.08
13	.03	.06	.01	.07	.17
14	.13	.04	.09	-.08	.06
15	.02	.14	.10	.07	.06

Table 12. Continued

Items	A (r)	S (r)	E (r)	C (r)	I (r)
16	-.02	.03	.13	.02	-.25
17	-.04	.24	-.01	.01	.03
18	-.20	.08	-.16	.06	-.04

¹A-Age.²S- Education.³E- Years of experience.⁴C- Number of children under care.⁵I- Percentage of total family income from day care fees.

recommending the demise of unannounced inspections and a minority (6) recommending an increase of such visitations.

Ten respondents commented on the possibility of 6-8 hours of training; four thought it would be helpful to inexperienced providers and three thought it should be optional. One provider recommended that a first aid course be required of all providers.

Two comments in favor of taking yearly exams were received; two comments against taking any physical examinations were also written. Fingerprinting was the focus of five comments, all of whom emphasized the need for those with past criminal records to pursue another career.

Present regulations allow one-person operations to care for six or fewer children. Eleven protested this limitation as being unfair and unrealistic.

Summary

Licensed providers from Santa Clara and San Mateo counties were surveyed to determine the levels of acceptability of key elements of the present system and four proposed alternatives. Data indicated the typical respondent to be between 30-39 years old with some college education. This person was in business from 3-5 years and cared for 5 children. Day care fees contributed approximately 26-50% to the total family income.

Chi Square tests were also performed on each statement

in order to determine the consistency of responses between Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The data indicated twenty-two of the twenty-three tests to be statistically insignificant at the .05 level, thus suggesting that the county of residence had no significant effect on the responses.

Three questions were investigated in this study. Two of the three were addressed to determine the levels of acceptance toward key elements of the present system and the key elements of four proposed alternative systems. Means and standard deviations were used for analysis purposes. Responses to a series of statements which contained key elements of the present licensing system suggested acceptance. Critical key elements to the four alternatives were unacceptable.

The third question examined the relationship between demographic characteristics of the providers and their responses to statements in Part I of the questionnaire by employment of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation. Some statistically significant results were obtained; however, the correlation coefficients were so low as to be of little practical value.

Comments from the respondents were also included as an additional source of information. They were received from one-third of the respondents and covered elements from the present licensing system and four alternative systems.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, and RECOMMENDATIONS

Family day care is the most widely used form of non-parental day care in existence in the United States. The majority of providers offering this service operate without a license. Registration as an alternative to the present regulatory system has been proposed in order to expand the network of regulated providers. The literature suggests that licensed providers find any form of registration unacceptable. This suggestion prompted an examination of the views of family day care providers toward the present regulations and four proposed alternatives. The primary purpose was to gather such data for licensing agencies, legislators, and other groups involved in planning for the improvement and expansion of child care services. Three questions were asked in order to obtain the desired information. They were:

1. What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of the key elements of the present system?
2. What is the level of acceptance by licensed family day care providers of the key elements of the proposed alternatives, i.e., Enabling Registration, Credentialing Registration, Simple Registration, and Deregulation.
3. Is there a relationship between the background factors, i.e., age education, years of experience, number of children in care, percentage of family income from day care fees, and the acceptability levels of the key elements of the present system and the four proposed alternatives?

A two-part questionnaire elicited 343 usable responses from a sample of 620 licensed family day care providers from the counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo. Part I of the questionnaire contained statements which represented key elements of the present regulatory system and four alternative systems. Part II consisted of five items which solicited demographic information that might have been related to responses to Part I. A detailed report of the findings was previously presented and are briefly reviewed in the first section of this chapter. Conclusions of the study are drawn in the second section, and recommendations are offered in the third section.

Review of the Findings

Demographic information from the participants of the study revealed the majority of the respondents to be between 30-39, with some college education. Most of the respondents had from three to five years of experience. Data indicated that the mean number of children under care was five, and that 26-50% of the respondents' total family income was attributed to day care fees. This information was presented in Table 6.

Two of the three primary questions addressed the acceptability levels of the present regulations and four proposed alternatives. The data revealed that the majority of respondents were in favor of a regulatory method which

attempts to protect the health and safety of children and offers licenses or certificates as permits to operate. The data also revealed that the participants believed inspection visits prior to licensing help to ensure safe family day care homes. They did not want providers to simply notify the state that their homes met state requirements nor to be allowed to operate a family day care home at will. There was no consensus of opinion as to whether unannounced inspections were necessary to prevent violations of laws and regulations. However, a proposal to limit visitations to receipt of complaints or requests for help was not agreeable to half of the respondents.

Present regulations place primary responsibility for ensuring quality care on the state. A proposal to make parents the primary responsible party was acceptable to approximately half of the respondents. Licensed providers favored the continuation of current fire, health, and safety regulations. Almost half were not in favor of physical examinations for all persons present at day care homes during business hours. The respondents were positively inclined toward a proposal for 6-8 hours of required training; however, there was a lack of agreement as to whether further standards were needed once this training was completed.

The third question investigated whether responses to Part I of the questionnaire were influenced by a provider's age, education, years of experience, number of children in

care or the amount of money they earn from day care fees. Statistically significant relationships were found among the demographic factors and some of the key elements of the present system and the four alternatives. The size of the correlation coefficient in each relationship was no greater than .28. This suggested that over 90% of the determinants of the demographic characteristic were independent of the response to the key element. Although there were statistically significant relationships, they did not have practical significance. Therefore, it can safely be stated that demographic factors were not strongly related to responses to statements in Part I of the questionnaire.

Tests of significance were also employed to determine whether the county of residence was related to responses. Data indicated similarity of responses between counties as seen in Appendix C; thus the county of residence was not statistically related to the nature of the responses.

Conclusions of the Study

Data from 18 statements representing key elements of five regulatory systems were analyzed for their level of acceptability. The findings presented in Chapter IV indicated that nine key elements were acceptable to a majority of the respondents, six were unacceptable, and three resulted in bifurcated opinions. These data are

reported and conclusions are offered in this section.

Acceptable Key Elements

An acceptable key element was identified after combining the columns, strongly agree and agree. The following statements were determined to be acceptable by most of the respondents who expressed an opinion.

1. Licenses or certificates should be issued as permits for operating a family day care home.
2. The state should protect the health and safety of children in family day care.
3. Licensing agencies should know a provider's
 - a. name and address.
 - b. age.
 - c. any past criminal record.
 - d. telephone number.
 - e. ages of children in care.
 - f. number of children in care.
4. Current fire, health and safety regulations offer protection to family day care children and should be continued.
5. Existing legislation concerning child abuse and neglect protects children in family day care.
6. Parents, not state or county agencies, should be primarily responsible for their children.
7. A free 6-8 hour training course should be completed before operation of a family day care home.

8. All family day care homes should be inspected every six months.

9. Inspection visits prior to licensing help to ensure safe family day care homes.

Unacceptable Key Elements

An unacceptable key element was identified after combining the columns strongly disagree and disagree. The following statements were determined to be unacceptable by most of the respondents who expressed an opinion.

1. Licenses and certificates are only pieces of paper and unnecessary in family day care.

2. Visitations to family day care homes should be limited to complaints or requests for help.

3. Providers should be allowed to notify the state that their homes meet state requirements rather than being inspected prior to operating a family day care home.

4. Any person should be allowed to operate a family day care home without notifying the state or taking any other official steps.

5. Any person should be allowed to operate a family day care home by informing the state of that intention.

6. Examinations should be given to all persons who are present at a family day care home during the hours of operation.

Bifurcated Issues

A statement which was neither acceptable nor unacceptable to most of the respondents was identified as a bifurcated issue. The following statements were determined to be bifurcated.

1. Unannounced inspection of family day care homes is necessary to prevent violations of laws and regulations.
2. Providers do not need state intervention in family day care.
3. There should be no further standards imposed on family day care providers once an initial 6-8 hour training period is completed.

Present Licensing System

Of the 13 key elements to the present licensing system, 11 were acceptable to most of the respondents. There was no majority opinion on the efficacy of unannounced inspections; however, the data do indicate the desirability of the inspections themselves. The unacceptable element requires physical examinations of all persons in family day care homes. Removal of this regulation might result in a loss of some protection to day care children; however, the present system could continue with little apparent change, if the views of this population were followed precisely. It is, therefore, concluded that the present licensing system was viewed as acceptable.

Enabling Registration

Six of the eight key elements in this alternative were

given acceptable ratings. The two unacceptable elements involved alterations in the inspection regulations of the present system, i.e., the state would make no routine supervisory home visits, either prior to or after operation of a day care home. These unacceptable elements would, therefore, release the state from the full responsibility for the protection of the health and safety of the children in care.

Of the eight key elements characterizing this alternative, three were not elements also characterizing the present licensing system. Enabling Registration was viewed as unacceptable because providers found two of the three important differentiating elements to be unacceptable.

Credentialing Registration

Five of the seven key elements in this model were viewed as acceptable. The 6-8 hours of required training prior to registration, which was unique to this system, was acceptable to the respondents. However, standards are not promulgated in this system and no licenses would be issued. Data in this study supported the desirability of the promulgation of standards. The view that licenses are unnecessary pieces of paper was not acceptable. It was thus concluded that Credentialing Registration was viewed as unacceptable.

Simple Registration

Three elements considered key to this system were acceptable; two were unacceptable. The purpose of this system

was to identify all family day care providers by simplifying the regulatory process. This would be accomplished by allowing any person to operate a day care home by informing the state of her/his intention. This unique element of Simple Registration was rejected by the respondents. The system, therefore, was viewed as unacceptable.

Deregulation

Respondents found one key element acceptable, two unacceptable, and were split on one element in the deregulation proposal. This system represented the abandonment of all efforts to license or register family day care providers. In other words, providers, under this system, would be allowed to operate a family day care home without notification to the state or the taking of any other official steps. Respondents handily rejected such a proposal. This was consistent with their refutation of the state's intervention efforts as being anathema to family day care. Deregulation was unacceptable.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the views of the licensed providers surveyed, the review of the literature, and the current political and fiscal situation. These recommendations include changes in current practices and offer suggestions for future research and study.

Data in this study suggest that licensed providers view the parent as a critical force in taking responsibility for the quality of day care. The first recommendation is that the state should institute a responsive complaint process and organize a campaign to enlist the aid of parents in protecting their children. This would include the use of the media to inform and provide education on child care and to organize meetings for providers and parents to engage in dialogue. Mini-workshops would be held to inform parents of the regulations, the licensing process, the process by which persons could report regulatory infractions and the current child abuse and neglect statutes.

Prior to the initiation of such efforts, a survey of parents should be undertaken to determine their current knowledge of quality standards, available state resources, and views of the present licensing system and alternatives. This survey should include parents of children in both licensed and unlicensed facilities.

A second recommendation is for further study of licensed providers' views since data in this study indicated areas of conflict. The results of this research supported the continuance of regulations which protect the health and safety of children through inspections, fire codes, etc. as well as support for parents' maintaining the primary responsibility for the health and safety of their children. These are not compatible since either the state or parents must hold primary responsibility. A massive education program must be launched

so that state agencies and parents can mesh their mutual interest of child protection. Family day care providers as both participants in and objects of state and parent interest must actively and equally share in the planning and implementation of such education. Further research would provide data needed to define the ingredients, mode, and scope of the education for parents and providers.

Further investigation of licensed providers' views is also needed in order to clarify seven statements in which the undecided responses ranged from 10% to 28.6%. Comments from the respondents suggest that possibilities for such responses are a) a lack of information of details about an issue; b) conditional agreement or disagreement; or c) no strong feelings one way or the other.

The data indicated the acceptance of pre- and post-inspections of family day care homes. Comments revealed dissatisfaction with cursory inspections or the absence of visitations. In this era of austerity, increased inspection visits are not likely to occur. Thus the third recommendation is for the needs and purposes of inspections to be reassessed. This could be most effectively accomplished by a committee of legislators, licensing agents, family day care providers, and parents. The committee should formulate policy which could better address the needs of the public.

The present regulatory system has failed to attract 95% of those offering child care. Little is known about this large,

unorganized group of people. The review of the literature indicated several reasons why licenses were not sought. They included a) the complicated, overly detailed licensing process; b) the long delay between date of application filed and date of approval; c) the resentment toward inspection of their private homes; and d) possible expensive renovations required. Registration models would eliminate these objections. Data reported from other states show a marked increase in the regulatory network of providers when a registration model was instituted. Therefore the fourth recommendation is that the unlicensed providers' views on current regulations and alternatives should be examined. Speculation about unlicensed providers must be replaced by the following scientific data:

- a) their knowledge about current regulations; b) their preference of family day care systems; and c) the type of mechanism/system needed to assure their participation in the regulatory network.

Data indicated support of the present system from licensed providers. However, the present licensing system has not been able to guarantee protection to children from physical danger and assure adequate nurturing. Also, it has only attracted 5% of those offering child care. Why then do licensed providers strongly support an ineffective system? An analysis of the unacceptable key elements allows speculation that providers want day care to be a profession. Standards and official recognition via a license or certificate offer a sense

of professionalism. Registration models are advantageous to the state but strip the licensed provider of professional judgments. The ideal model, therefore would offer a simplified procedure to encourage the unlicensed to join the regulated network to further family day care as a profession. A description of this model follows.

A model of registration which mandates specific standards is recommended. Public hearings on minimum standards should be held throughout California. Consumers of day care must receive a copy of the registration procedures and minimum standards. Information about complaint procedures would be included. The state might set up a "hot line" for notification of dangerous situations. There would be no routine inspections prior to registration; however, providers would have to complete a form which stated that all minimum standards had been met. The completion of a training program would be mandated. An official agency would then issue a certificate of registration which stated that the provider had completed a training program and had certified that her home met minimum requirements. A regional registration log must be maintained with pertinent data for each family day care home by Resource and Referral Agencies (parent information centers). Each year 10% of the registered homes would be inspected. A public information campaign at the state and local levels must be continuous. The incorporation of the following incentives to all providers would further the state's goal to have all

providers regulated: a) Extensive community education efforts would bring added status to family day care. b) Federal and state funds to those eligible for subsidization of day care and lunches could only be spent in registered homes. c) State assistance to aid providers in their collection efforts of state funding of day care would meet a need expressed in comments received via questionnaires. d) An inexpensive liability insurance plan offered through a state agency would be another possible incentive. e) Provider-parent communications are important; a course designed to improve such communications should be offered.

The review of the literature, the population and employment data which suggest that the need for day care will continue to increase throughout the 80's, and the results of this study, have allowed for some speculation in regard to an ideal regulatory model. The state must consider itself to be a secondary partner with the parent acting as the primary partner in a quest for a regulatory model that serves the child.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

CORRESPONDENCE

4016 Earnscliff Avenue
Fair Oaks, California 95628

October 21, 1980

Dear Licensed Day Care Provider:

The Capitol is humming about possible changes to current family day care licensing regulations! You will have the opportunity to state your views about the present system and possible alterations to it.

In a few days you will be asked to participate in a countywide survey which I will be conducting as part of my graduate work at the University of the Pacific. The brief questionnaire you will receive will only take a few minutes of your time.

Your reply is extremely important because you are one of a limited number of family day care providers who have been chosen to get this questionnaire. It will be in the mail in a couple of days. Your assistance in filling the questionnaire out will help make this research successful.

Sincerely yours,

Harriet C. Neal

Harriet C. Neal

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS!



Dear Licensed Family Day Care Provider:

Enclosed is the survey mentioned in a letter you received a few days age. As previously indicated, the attached questionnaire will give you the opportunity to express your views about the present system and possible changes in it.

The questionnaire will take only a few minutes of your time to answer and you do not have to write your name or address. The results will be reported to the San Joaquin County Family Day Home Association and the San Joaquin Family Resource and Referral Agency for their information and use. Your name will not be used in any way and your anonymity will be maintained.

While the survey is being conducted to satisfy educational requirements at the University of the Pacific, the results will benefit all family day care providers. Since you are one of a few persons selected for the study, your reply is essential. Please return the questionnaire in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. Any questions about the study can be addressed to either Dr. Sandra Anselmo or me at the University of the Pacific, School of Education, Stockton, California.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Harriet C. Neal
Harriet C. Neal

4016 Earnscliff Avenue
Fair Oaks, California 95628

November 14, 1980

Dear Licensed Family Day Care Provider:

I wish to extend my sincere graditude to all who returned the first questionnaire. Since the political changes in the election were so dramatic, it is necessary to recheck your opinions before submitting the results to the San Joaquin County Family Day Home Association and the San Joaquin Family Resource and Referral Agency. When you return the enclosed second questionnaire, I will then be able to report before-election opinions and after-election opinions.

The major political shift makes it important for you to take a few minutes to answer and again return the questionnaire in the self-addressed, stamped envelope even if you did not return the first one.

Any questions about this study can be addressed to either Dr. Sandra Anselmo or me at the University of the Pacific, School of Education, Stockton, California.

I again thank you for your cooperation and ask you to please fill out and return this second questionnaire.

Sincerely yours,



Harriet C. Neal

March 20, 1981

Dear Licensed Family Day Care Provider:

Three weeks ago you received a questionnaire in the mail to find out how the licensed family day care provider views the present regulations and possible changes to those regulations. I would like to extend my appreciation to all those persons who took a few minutes of their time and returned their questionnaire.

If you have not yet taken an opportunity to express your views on this critical issue, I have enclosed a second questionnaire and a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience.

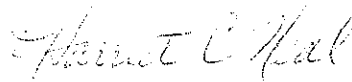
A certain number of questionnaires must be returned for academic requirements. If it is at all possible, I would appreciate having them this week.

The Northern California Association of Family Day Care Providers will receive a final report of how licensed family day care providers from Santa Clara and San Mateo view licensing and possible changes to it. This report will be sent to you upon request.

If you have any doubts about this survey, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Sandra Anselmo or me at the University of the Pacific, School of Education, Stockton, California 95211.

I thank you again for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Harriet C. Neal

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS!



Dear Licensed Family Day Care Provider:

Enclosed is the survey mentioned in a letter you received a few days ago. As previously indicated, the attached questionnaire will give you the opportunity to express your views about the present system and possible changes in it.

The questionnaire will take only a few minutes of your time to answer and you do not have to write your name or address. The results will be reported to the Northern California Association of Family Day Care Providers for their information and use. Your name will not be used in any way and your anonymity will be maintained.

While the survey is being conducted to satisfy educational requirements at the University of the Pacific, the results will benefit all family day care providers. Since you are one of a few persons selected for the study, your reply is essential. Please return the questionnaire in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. Any questions about the study can be addressed to either Dr. Sandra Anselmo or me at the University of the Pacific, School of Education, Stockton, California 95211.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Harriet C. Neal

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRES

Revised Questionnaire

Part I

Please do NOT write your name, address, or phone number anywhere on this questionnaire.

Directions: For each of the following statements, please place a check () by the most appropriate of the five blanks by each item below. Only One blank by each item should be checked.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<u>Example:</u> Family day care is an important social and economic support for many families	—	—	—	—	—
1. 6-8 hours of free training should be required before a family day care provider could operate with state approval.	—	—	—	—	—
2. There should be no further standards imposed on family day care providers once an initial 6-8 hour training period is completed.	—	—	—	—	—
3. Existing legislation concerning child abuse and neglect is adequate for protection of children in family day care programs.	—	—	—	—	—
4. All family day care providers should have either a license or a certificate permitting them to operate.	—	—	—	—	—
5. All family day care homes should be inspected every six months.	—	—	—	—	—

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
6. Any interested person should be allowed to operate a family day care home without notifying the state or taking any other official steps.	—	—	—	—	—
7. An acceptable alternative to current family day care licensing practices is to make parents, <u>not</u> state or county agencies, primarily responsible for insuring quality care for their children.	—	—	—	—	—
8. A license or certificate is only a piece of paper and is <u>not</u> necessary in family day care.	—	—	—	—	—
9. For all family day care providers, the licensing agency should know:					
-name and address - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—
-the number of children in care - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—
-the ages of children in care	—	—	—	—	—
-any past criminal record - -	—	—	—	—	—
-age - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—
-telephone number - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—
10. The licensing agency should not visit family day care homes unless there were a complaint or a request for help.	—	—	—	—	—
11. Providers do not need state intervention in family day care.	—	—	—	—	—

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
12. Inspection visits prior to licensing help to ensure safe family day care homes.	—	—	—	—	—
13. Instead of an official inspection before operating a family day care home, providers should simply notify the state that their homes meet state requirements.	—	—	—	—	—
14. Any person should be allowed to operate a family day care home by informing the state of that intention.	—	—	—	—	—
15. The state should protect the health and safety of children in family day care.	—	—	—	—	—
16. Unannounced inspection of family day care homes is necessary to prevent violations of laws and regulations.	—	—	—	—	—
17. Current fire, health, and safety regulations offer protection to family day care children and should be continued.	—	—	—	—	—
18. All persons who are present at a family day care home during the hours of operation should be required to take a physical exam.	—	—	—	—	—

PART II

Directions: Please place a check (✓) after the correct response.

1. Age: 29 or under _____
30-39 ----- _____
40-49 ----- _____
50-59 ----- _____
60 or above _____
2. How many years of school have you completed?
0-8 grades - - - - - _____
some high school - - _____
high school graduate _____
some college - - - - - _____
two year college graduate _____
four year college graduate _____
3. How long have you been a day care provider?
0-12 months _____
1-3 years _____
3-5 years _____
5-7 years _____
7-10 years _____
10 or more _____
4. How many children are under your care, including your own?
1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____

5. What percentage of your family income is from day care fees?

100% _____

76-99% _____

51-75% _____

26-50% _____

less than 25% _____

Thank you for your help. Please add any comments below.

PART I

Please do NOT write your name, address, or phone number anywhere on this questionnaire.

Directions: For each of the following statements, please place a check (✓) by the most appropriate of the five blanks by each item below. Only one blank by each item should be checked.

Original Questionnaire

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<u>Example:</u>					
Family day care is an important social and economic support for many families.	—	—	—	—	—
1. 6-8 hours of free training should be required before a family day care provider could operate with state approval.	—	—	—	—	—
2. There should be no further standards imposed on family day care providers once an initial 6-8 hour training period is completed.	—	—	—	—	—
3. Existing legislation concerning child abuse and neglect is adequate for protection of children in family day care programs.	—	—	—	—	—
4. All family day care providers should have either a license or a certificate permitting them to operate.	—	—	—	—	—
5. All family day care homes should be inspected every six months.	—	—	—	—	—
6. Any interested person should be allowed to operate a family day care home without notifying the state or taking any other official steps.	—	—	—	—	—
7. An acceptable alternative to current family day care licensing practices is to make parents, <u>not</u> state or county agencies, primarily responsible for insuring quality care for their children.	—	—	—	—	—

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
8. A license or certificate is only a piece of paper and is <u>not</u> necessary in family day care.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. For all family day care providers, the licensing agency should know:					
-name and address -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-the number of children in care -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-the ages of the children in care -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-any past criminal record -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-birthdate -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-telephone number -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. The licensing agency should not visit family day care homes unless there were a complaint or a request for help.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Providers do not need state intervention in family day care.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Inspection visits prior to licensing help to ensure safe family day care homes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Instead of an official inspection before operating a family day care home, providers should simply notify the state that their homes meet state requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Any person should be allowed to operate a family day care home by informing the state of that intention.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. The state should guarantee the health and safety of children in family day care.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Unannounced inspection of family day care homes is necessary to prevent violations of laws and regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
17. Current fire, health, and safety regulations offer protection to family day care children and should be continued.	—	—	—	—	—
18. All persons who are present at a family day care home during the hours of operation should be required to take a physical exam.	—	—	—	—	—
19. State officials should <u>never</u> visit family day care homes.	—	—	—	—	—

PART II

Directions: Please place a check (✓) after the correct response.

- Sex: Female ____; or Male. ____
- Age: 29 or under ____
30-39 ---- ____
40-49 ---- ____
50-59 ---- ____
60 or above ____
- How many years of school have you completed?
0-8 grades ----- ____
some high school ----- ____
high school graduate --- ____
some college ----- ____
two year college graduate ____
four year college graduate ____
- How long have you been a day care provider?
0-12 months ____
1-3 years ____
3-5 years ____
5-7 years ____
7-10 years ____
10 or more ____

5. How many children are under your care, including your own?

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____

6. What percentage of your family income is from day care fees?

100% _____
76-99% _____
51-75% _____
26-50% _____
less than 25% _____

Thank you for your help. Please add any comments below.

APPENDIX C

A COMPARISON OF RESPONSES TO
QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS BY COUNTY

Appendix C

Table 13

A Comparison of Responses to
Questionnaire Items by County

Statements	County	Percentage of Responses					X ²	p.
		S.A. ^a	A.	U.	D.	S,D.		
1. 6-8 hours of free training should be required before a family day care provider could operate with state approval.	Santa Clara	10.7	19.4	7.5	11.3	5.1		
	San Mateo	7.5	16.1	6.3	12.5	3.6	2.25	.69
2. There should be no further standards imposed on family day care providers once an initial 6-8 hour training period is completed.	Santa Clara	4.3	16.4	11.1	16.7	5.9		
	San Mateo	6.2	13.3	5.6	17.6	3.1	8.61	.07
3. Existing legislation concerning child abuse and neglect is adequate for protection of children in family day care programs.	Santa Clara	7.9	19.1	26.8	8.2	4.5		
	San Mateo	7.3	13.6	33.1	6.7	3.0	2.27	.69

Table . Continued.

Statements	County	Percentage of Responses					²	
		S.A.	A.	U.	D.	S.D.	X	p.
4. All family day care providers should have either a license or a certificate permitting them to operate.	Santa Clara	29.3	17.9	2.1	3.8	.9		
	San Mateo	27.3	11.1	1.2	4.4	2.1	6.05	.19
5. All family day care providers should have either a license or a certificate permitting them to operate.	Santa Clara	8.8	18.8	4.4	15.9	6.2		
	San Mateo	7.4	14.4	7.9	8.2	7.9	12.64	.01
6. Any interested person should be allowed to operate a family day care home without notifying the state or taking any other official steps.	Santa Clara	2.6	3.8	2.6	21.5	22.9	6.00	
	San Mateo	4.1	2.9	2.9	13.5	22.9	6.00	.20
7. An acceptable alternative to current family day care licensing practices is to make parents, <u>not</u> state or county agencies, primarily responsible for insuring quality care for their children.	Santa Clara	9.6	14.6	8.4	14.9	6.6		
	San Mateo	11.0	14.0	7.5	9.6	3.9	4.70	.32

Table . Continued

Statements	County	Percentage of Responses					2	
		S.A.	A.	U.	D.	S.D.	X	p.
8. A license or certificate is only a piece of paper and is <u>not</u> necessary in family day care.	Santa Clara	5.5	6.1	2.4	23.9	30.2		
	San Mateo	3.9	5.2	2.1	19.1	33.8	.63	.96
9. For all family day care providers, the licensing agency should know: -name and address - - - -the number of children in care - - - - - -the ages of the children in care - - -any past criminal record - - - - - -age - - - - - -telephone number - - -	Santa Clara	26.0	25.1	.6	1.5	.9		
	San Mateo	23.4	20.7	1.2	.6	.0	4.60	.33
	Santa Clara	22.0	24.4	3.4	3.7	1.2		
	San Mateo	18.3	20.4	3.0	2.7	.9	.12	1.00
	Santa Clara	20.4	22.2	3.4	7.4	1.5		
	San Mateo	15.7	18.5	4.0	6.2	.6	1.69	.80
	Santa Clara	32.0	19.3	.3	3.3	.9		
	San Mateo	25.7	16.9	1.2	2.6	.6	2.72	.61
	Santa Clara	18.3	23.6	3.7	7.8	1.6		
	San Mateo	17.1	15.8	4.3	6.5	1.2	2.51	.64
10. The licensing agency should not visit family day care homes unless there were a complaint or a request for help.	Santa Clara	24.5	25.4	1.2	2.1	1.2		
	San Mateo	20.8	21.5	2.4	.9	0	6.50	.17
	Santa Clara	9.8	11.2	4.4	21.9	6.8		
	San Mateo	8.6	10.1	5.6	16.9	4.7	2.11	.72

Table . Continued

Statements	County	Percentage of Responses					2	
		S.A.	A.	U.	D.	S.D.	X	p.
11. Providers do not need state intervention in family day care.	Santa Clara	6.8	14.6	19.7	19.2	2.5		
	San Mateo	5.9	9.9	28.0	13.6	4.0	6.55	.16
12. Inspection visits prior to licensing help to ensure safe family day care homes.	Santa Clara	21.1	25.5	1.8	4.5	1.5		
	San Mateo	18.7	21.1	1.5	3.6	.9	.34	.99
13. Instead of an official inspection before operating a family day care home, providers should simply notify the state that their homes meet state requirements.	Santa Clara	2.1	5.3	4.7	26.1	15.7		
	San Mateo	3.0	3.3	1.5	23.1	15.1	6.50	.16
14. Any person should be allowed to operate a family day care home by informing the state of that intention.	Santa Clara	2.1	7.2	5.1	23.4	16.8		
	San Mateo	1.2	3.9	2.4	21.0	16.8	4.91	.30
15. The state should protect the health and safety of children in family day care.	Santa Clara	13.0	23.3	7.9	6.9	3.0		
	San Mateo	12.4	16.3	8.2	6.0	3.0	2.13	.71

Table . Continued

Statements	County	Percentage of Responses					²	
		S.A.	A.	U.	D.	S.D.	X	p.
16. Unannounced inspection of family day care homes is necessary to prevent violations of laws and regulations.	Santa Clara	6.8	18.5	6.5	13.1	9.2		
	San Mateo	6.3	15.2	3.9	10.7	9.8	2.01	.73
17. Current fire, health, and safety regulations offer protection to family day care children and should be continued.	Santa Clara	17.2	30.8	3.3	1.2	1.5		
	San Mateo	16.6	23.9	2.4	2.1	.9	2.56	.63
18. All persons who are present at a family day care home during the hours of operation should be required to take a physical exam.	Santa Clara	4.0	15.2	7.3	20.7	7.0		
	San Mateo	6.3	12.2	7.0	15.5	4.9	4.51	.34

^a SA-Strongly Agree; A-Agree; U-Undecided; D-Disagree; SD-Strongly Disagree; X ²-Chi Square; p-Probability.