



Research Snapshots:

Trends in Family Child Care and Center-Based Program Closures during the COVID-19 Pandemic

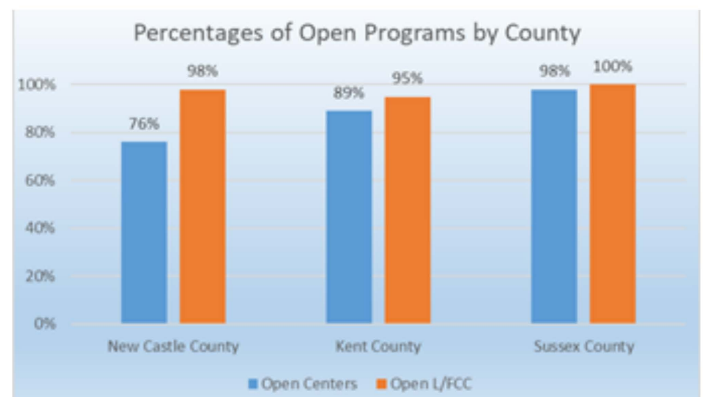
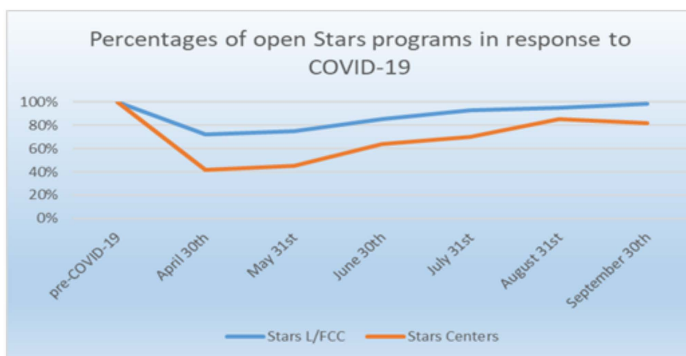
An initial brief in May 2020 provided a snapshot of trends in the operating status of Delaware’s licensed programs in response to COVID-19. Findings showed that about half of Delaware’s programs were closed in mid-April. Additionally, a greater percentage of center-based programs closed in comparison to large family child care (LFCC) programs and family child care (FCC) programs. Further, a greater percentage of Delaware Stars programs operated as emergency sites, in comparison to non-Stars programs. The current brief shows increases in the number of open programs over time, once state regulations permitted re-opening. This data is focused on programs that participate in Delaware Stars for Early Success, the state’s QRIS, which is 72% of center based and 22% of L/FCC programs in Delaware.

Number of Open Programs Over Time:

- Prior to COVID-19, there were 467 Delaware Stars programs operating. By mid-April, several weeks into the state of emergency, about half of the programs had closed.
- In the initial weeks following the state of emergency, a much larger percentage of center-based programs closed (58%) in comparison to family child care programs (27%).
- The number of open programs has been gradually increasing each month since April. As of the end of September, 81% of center-based programs were fully open, 9% were open virtually only, and 100% of family child care programs were open again.

County-Level Highlights:

- Chart presents the number of open and temporarily closed programs by county due to COVID-19, as of September 30, 2020.
- Most center-based and L/FCC programs in Kent and Sussex Counties were open by the end of September.
- A smaller percentage of center-based programs were open in New Castle County compared to Kent and Sussex.
- Greater percentages of L/FCC programs than center-based programs were open in each county.



For questions, please contact Jessica Francis, Research Manager, at jltf@udel.edu