



Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Early Childhood Development

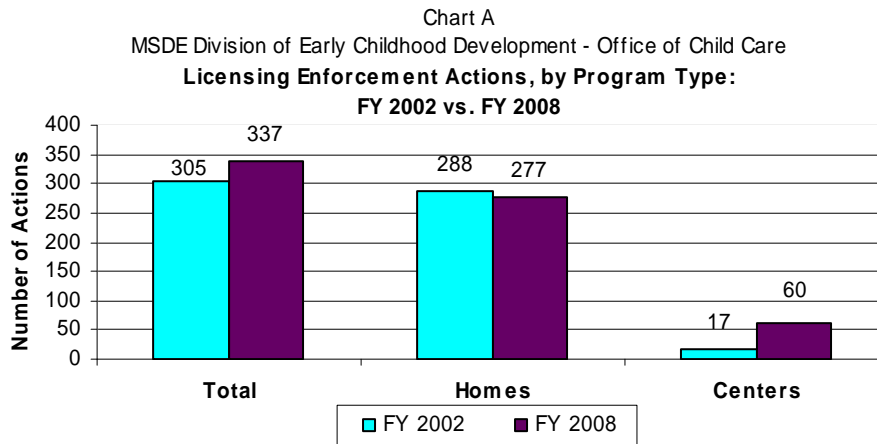
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN MARYLAND

Fact Sheet (08-05) September 2008

Licensing Enforcement Actions: FY 2002 vs. FY 2008

Under Maryland child care licensing regulations, enforcement actions against child care programs are grouped into four main categories: denial of a license application; intermediate sanction (which may involve a restriction of program operations or a compliance agreement); license suspension; and license revocation. The type of enforcement action initiated in a particular case depends on the nature and severity of the issues involved. This Fact Sheet shows general enforcement action trends over the past seven years, comparing FY 2002 and FY 2008 data to summarize those trends.

In FY 2002, the Office of Child Care initiated a total of 305 licensing enforcement actions. Of these, 288 actions were filed against family child care homes, and 17 actions were initiated against child care centers. In FY 2008, 337 actions were initiated – 277 against homes, and 60 against centers. Across the seven-year period, therefore, the overall number of actions increased by 10.5%. The actions against homes decreased by 3.8%, but the actions against centers increased by 252.9%. Chart A shows these enforcement action data graphically:



Using the same data, Chart B compares the percentage share of enforcement actions attributable to homes and to centers in FY 2002 versus FY 2008:

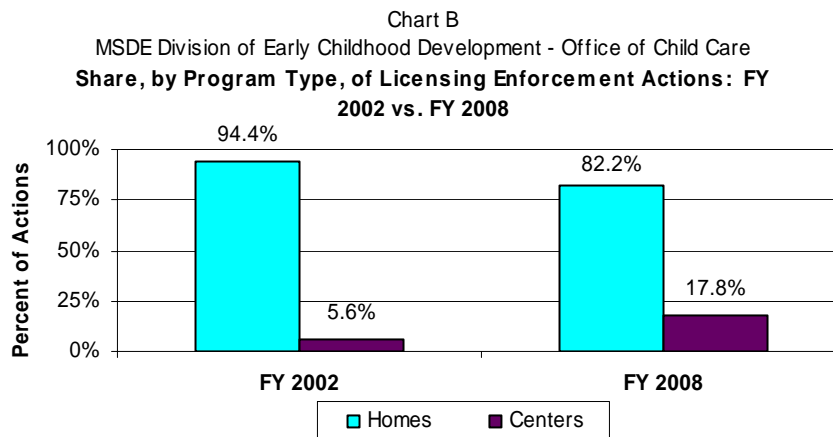


Chart C provides a breakdown of these enforcement actions according to the four main categories:

Chart C
MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development - Office of Child Care
Enforcement Actions, by Type: FY 2002 vs. FY 2008

	Type of Action							
	Denial of License		Intermediate Sanction		License Suspension		License Revocation	
	Homes	Centers	Homes	Centers	Homes	Centers	Homes	Centers
FY 2002	55	0	106	17	51	0	76	0
FY 2008	39	8	73	34	67	12	98	6

In January 2005, licensing regulations were amended to require that each home and each center undergo a routine unannounced compliance inspection at least once every 12 months, as well as an announced compliance inspection at least once every 24 months. Combining the two types of inspections, this means that each program receives an average of at least 1.5 inspections per year. Before 2005, homes underwent an average of only one inspection per year, with unannounced inspections taking place only in alternate years. Most centers were routinely inspected only once every two years (or 0.5 times per year), and those inspections were typically announced.

Since the likelihood of finding more regulatory violations may be expected to increase as the frequency of inspections increases, and since the likelihood of finding a violation is greater during an unannounced inspection than during an announced one, it seems reasonable to conclude that the rise in enforcement actions, especially with regard to centers, has been due primarily to more violations being found as the result of more inspections, particularly unannounced ones.