Starting Early: Public Health Systems Supporting Healthier Child Care and Early Learning

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VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Agenda

- Virginia's ECE obesity prevention projects
- Virginia's "Spectrum of Opportunities" work
  - Systems Integration: Embedding best practices into existing state and local quality improvement

Public Health & Early Care

- 14.8 million children
- ECE flexible environments
- Early habits predict future behaviors
- Parent trust
- Room for improvement
  - High impact obesity prevention standards
  - Educators responsive
  - Models exist to replicate best practices

Spectrum of Opportunities

Environmental Strategies to Reinforce Healthful Behaviors

- Go NAP SACC (GNS) investment
  - EVB on-line platform leads child care providers to program-level HEPA improvements
  - GY 3 (Pilot) - 106 programs, 4,615 children
- 3 P's
  - Partnership - Child Care Aware of Virginia
  - Plan - "Think Out of the Juice Box" HEPA project
  - Provisions - Kaplan Early Learning materials

ECE Systems Partners: ECELC project

- Emily Keenum (VA Early Childhood Foundation)

- Nemours' ECELC Project
  - Regional 10-month learning collaboratives lead child care providers ~ program-level HEPA improvements
  - 3 years, 9 collaboratives, ~10,000 children
  - Statewide reach, cross-agency partners
  - Built-in incentives

Partnership Movement: Spectrum of Opportunities

***Sustainability*:**

"The process of maintaining an initiative by weaving a practice into the fabric of the community/organization or making a permanent home for a practice within the community/org independent of funding and funding cycles."

Sustainability Opportunities

- HEPA & licensing (CCDF)
- Pre-service & Professional Development
- CACFP
- QRIS

Licensing

- Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success:
  - Health subcommittee
- CCDF opening of regulations
- HEPA recommendations
- Engaged future partners

Pre-service & Professional Development

- GNS delivery via PD staff - VDH + CCAVA + ECE Systems collaborations
- Dr. Craft open training
- ECELC webinars ECE service deliverers
- Integration of obesity prevention into Virginia Community College child health classes
- VHVC e-learning modules

CACFP

- CACFP State Summit: Bridging Nutritional Divide
  - ID barriers to ECE CACFP
  - Cross agency agreements to promote CACFP
  - Policy shift eligibility
  - Linking food insecurity + obesity efforts (state and local)

QRIS

- Cross-walk QRIS standards w/GNS HEPA standards
- QRIS staff linked to GNS, ECELC
- Plans for HEPA e-learning module
- Ongoing conversations & time

Questions?

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Starting Early: Nebraska's Public Health Systems Supporting Healthier Child Care and Early Learning

Brian Coyle, MPH
Physical Activity Coordinator
Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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Presentation Objectives

1. Historical Perspective
2. Importance of the diversity of partnerships
3. Integrated funding to plan, implement, and evaluate
4. Effective process to support training and technical assistance
5. Highlight our success to date
6. Emphasis on the Spectrum of Opportunities
7. Next steps and sustainability efforts

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Historical Perspective

- CPPW Stimulus Funding Opportunity (2010-2012)
  - NAP SACC Initiative
  - Centers vs. Child Care Homes
  - CACFP Sponsor Organizations
  - Pilot Projects
    - Omaha- Center-based approach
    - Lincoln- Center-based approach
  - Outcomes

- 2012 to Today- Next Slides- Go NAP SACC

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Diversity of Partnerships

Children's CENTER FOR THE CHILD & COMMUNITY

Step Up to Quality

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEBRASKA TEAM NUTRITION USDA

N EXTENSION

NEP Nutrition Education Program

CHI Health

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Integrated Funding

- Funding is provided by several different grants:
  - DHHS Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Program (1305)
  - DHHS Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
  - NDE Team Nutrition Grant
  - CDC PICH Grant- Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

- Funding is provided by several different organizations:
  - UNL Extension- SNAP-Ed, NEP
  - Children's Hospital Center for the Child and Community
  - Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI)
  - UNL Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families, and Schools

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Effective Process for Go NAP SACC

Nebraska Process for child care homes and centers:

- Pre-Assessment – Go NAP SACC Training – Action Plan Development – Technical Assistance/Follow Up – Post-Assessment

- Options for training providers
  - Child care home trainings are usually one day 6 hours
  - Multi-day trainings can be offered for homes but mainly for centers

- Options for training trainers
  - Training of Trainers update in August every year
  - Annual Trainer update in June every year

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Quality Improvement Rating System

- Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) is an **early childhood quality rating and improvement system**, which was implemented in NE in July 2014
- **Primary goal:** To improve early care and education quality and increase positive outcomes for young children
- 212 participating programs in Step Up to Quality
  - Step 1 Programs: 117
  - Step 2 Programs: 57
  - Step 3 Programs: 32
  - Step 4 Programs: 3
  - Step 5 Programs: 3
- http://www.education.ne.gov/StepUpToQuality/

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How does Go NAP SACC fit into NE Step Up to Quality?

- Go NAP SACC is required in Step 2 of Step Up to Quality:
  - View the Go NAP SACC orientation video*
  - Complete Go NAP SACC pre self-assessment*
- Additional points (up to 14) may be earned with Go NAP SACC in Steps 3-5 of Step Up to Quality by:
  - Attending a Go NAP SACC training (6 hour minimum) – 1 pt
  - Submitting a Go NAP SACC Action Planning Document* - 2 pts
  - Completing the post self-assessment* and receive points for the number of best practices met – up to 9 pts
  - Incorporating a nutrition and/or physical activity curriculum – 2 pts
- ***Available online at: http://negonapsacc.unl.edu**

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Success To Date

Child Care Homes and Centers in Go NAP SACC

	Homes	Centers
Total Number of ECEs to Date	395	255
Initial Profile Completed	29	26
Pre-Assessment Completed	365	229
Post-Assessment Completed	209	105
No. of Step up to Quality ECEs	80	118

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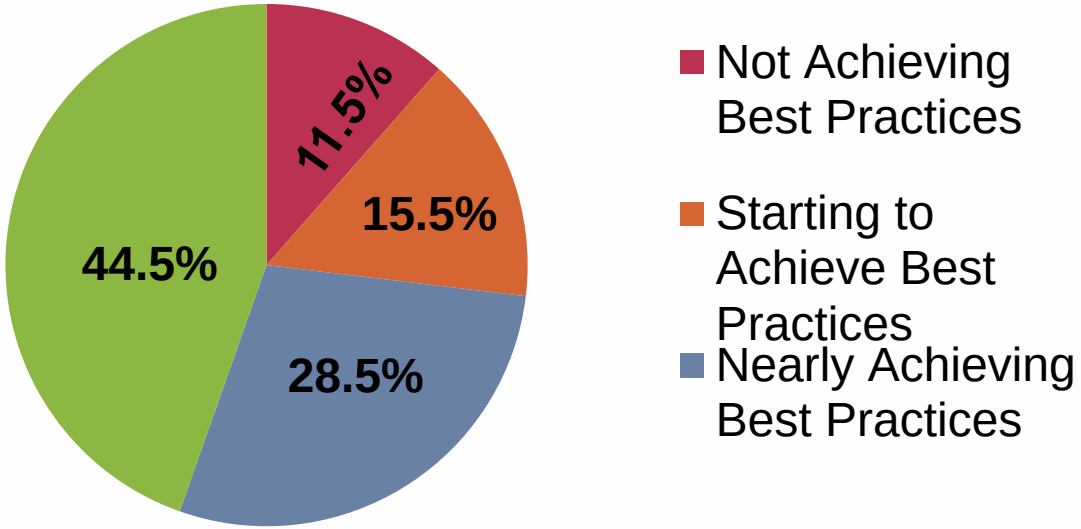
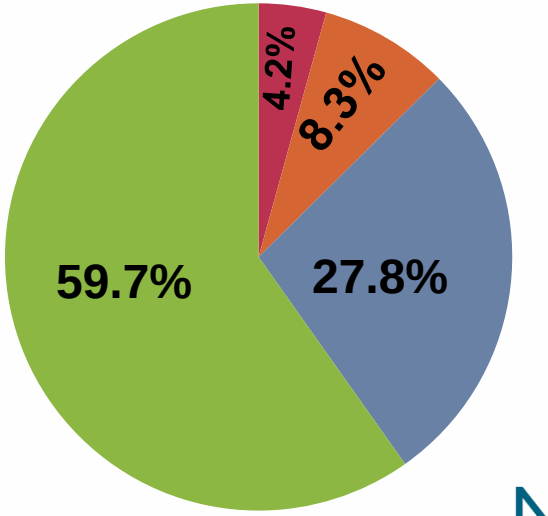
Changes in Best Practices for Family Child Cares

n=209 facilities

Pre Assessment



Post Assessment



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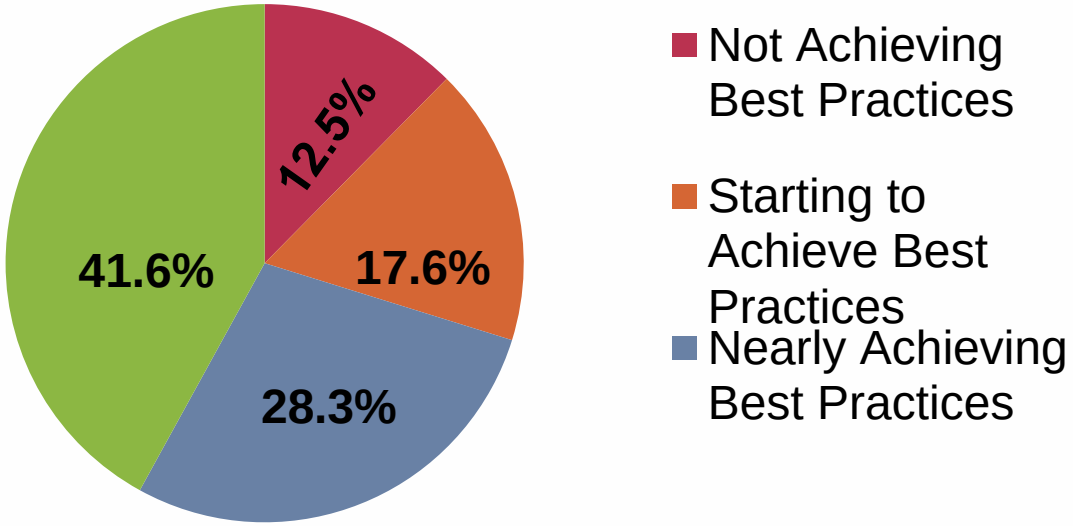
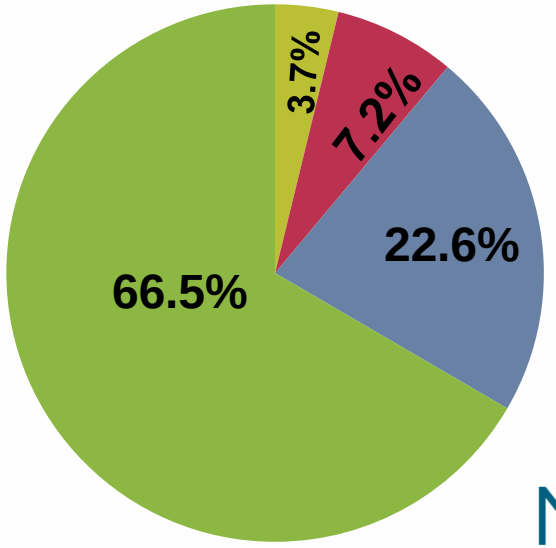
Changes in Best Practices for Child Care Centers

n=103 facilities

Pre Assessment



Post Assessment



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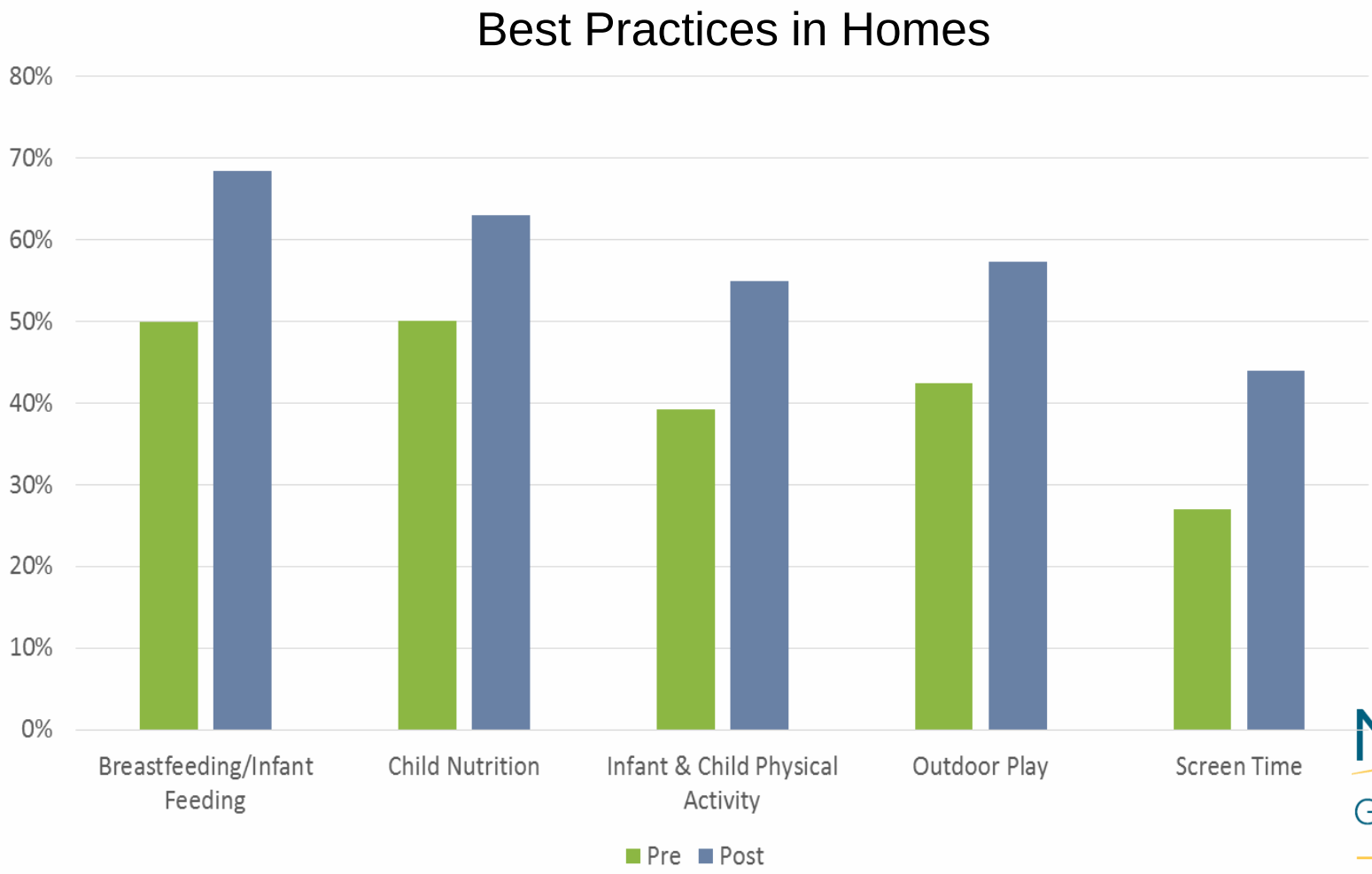
Success To Date



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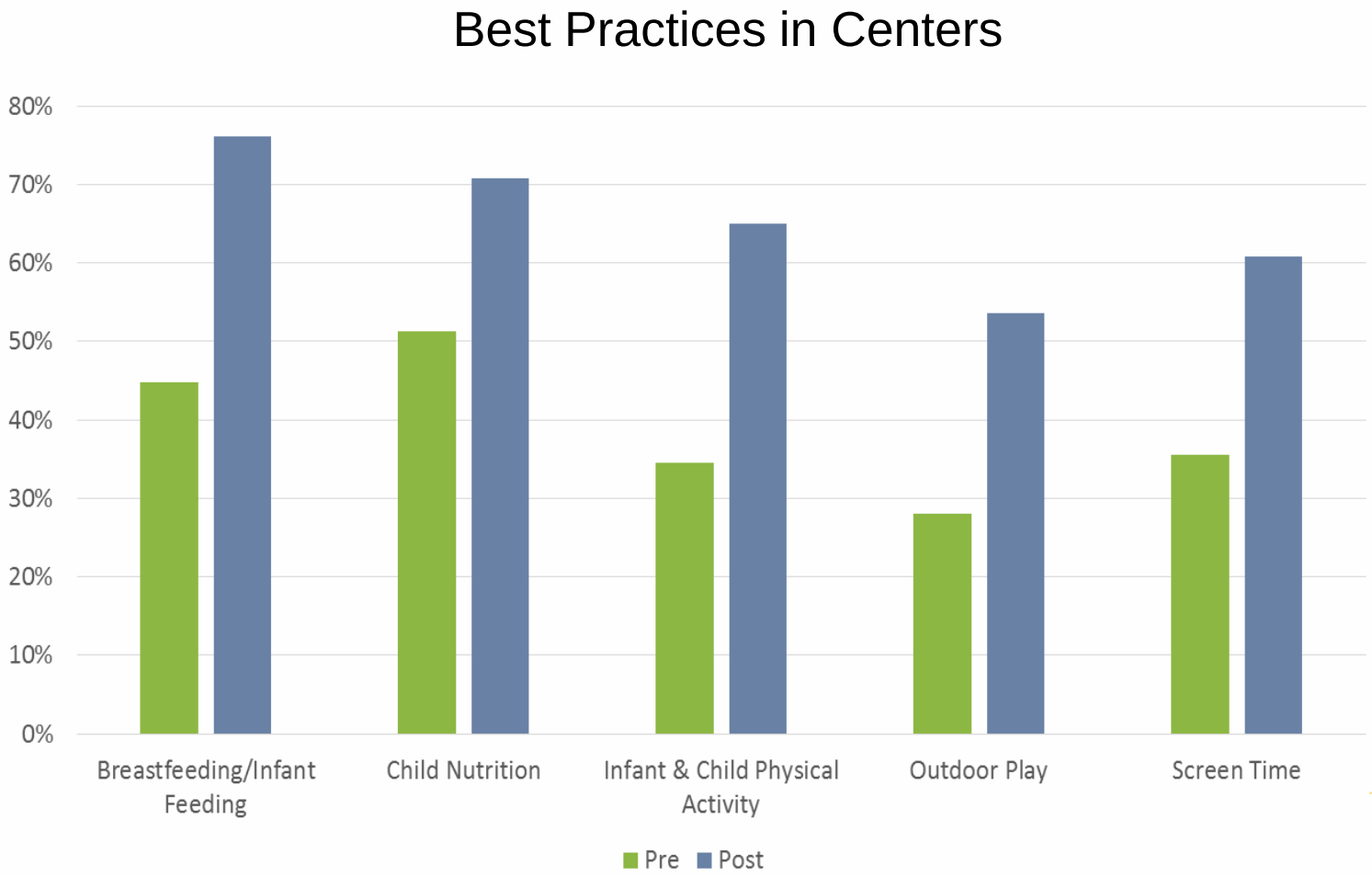
Success To Date



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Spectrum of Opportunities

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Next Steps and Continued Efforts For Sustainability

- Continued partnership engagement and action planning
- Evaluation of the process
  - trainers and child care providers
- Quality check on the data
  - Improvement on data collection and reporting
- Evolution of the Go NAP SACC training process- Phase 2? Online Training? Updating Slides?
- Updates to the DHHS Child Care Rules and Regulations
- Forge new partnerships
- Look beyond 1305 Grant Funding

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