

Findings from...

The 2005 Child Care Licensing Study

The 2005 Child Care Licensing Study was produced by the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) and the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (NCCIC).

**Table D:
Frequency of Licensing Inspections in 2005**

State	Frequency of Licensing Inspection		
	Child Care Centers	Small Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Alabama	Once every 2 years	Once every 2 years	Once every 2 years
Alaska*	Once every 2 years	Once every 2 years	Once every 2 years
Arizona	Once a year	Twice a year	Twice a year
Arkansas	Three times a year	Three times a year	NL
California	Once every 5 years if no compliance issues	Once every 5 years if no compliance issues	Once every 5 years if no compliance issues
Colorado	Risk-based schedule varying between once a month to once every 3 years; on average, once every 2 years	Risk-based schedule varying between once a month to once every 3 years; on average, once every 2 years	Risk-based schedule varying between once a month to once every 3 years; on average, once every 2 years
Connecticut	Once every 2 years	Once every 3 years	Once every 2 years
Delaware	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year
District of Columbia	Once a year	Once a year	NC
Florida	Three times a year	Twice a year	Twice a year

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State	Frequency of Licensing Inspection		
	Child Care Centers	Small Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Georgia	Twice a year	Inspected within 6 months of initial registration; 30% of homes inspected annually	Twice a year
Hawaii	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year
Idaho	NL	NL	NL
Illinois*	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year
Indiana*	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year
Iowa	Once a year	20% of homes inspected annually	20% of homes inspected annually
Kansas	Once a year	Facility not inspected	Once a year
Kentucky	Once a year	Once a year	NC
Louisiana	Once a year	NL	NL
Maine	Once a year	Once a year	NC
Maryland	Three times every 2 years	Three times every 2 years	NC
Massachusetts*	Once every 2 years	Once every 3 years	Once every 3 years
Michigan	Once a year	Inspected 90 days after licensure; renewal by mail	Once a year
Minnesota	Once every 2 years	Facility not inspected	Facility not inspected
Mississippi	Twice a year	Twice a year	Twice a year
Missouri*	More than three times a year	More than three times a year	More than three times a year
Montana	Once a year	20% of homes inspected annually	20% of homes inspected annually
Nebraska*	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year

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	Child Care Centers	Small Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Nevada	More than three times a year	Twice a year	Three times a year
New Hampshire*	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year
New Jersey	Once a year	NL	NL
New Mexico	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year
New York*	Once every 2 years	Once every 2 years	Once every 2 years
North Carolina	Once a year	Once a year	NC
North Dakota	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year
Ohio	Twice a year for full-time programs; once a year for part-time programs	NL	Twice a year for full-time programs; once a year for part-time programs
Oklahoma	Three times a year	Three times a year	Three times a year
Oregon	Twice a year	Once every 2 years	Twice a year
Pennsylvania*	Once a year	Facility not inspected	Once a year
Rhode Island	Once a year	Once every 2 years	Once a year
South Carolina	Twice a year	Twice a year	Twice a year
South Dakota*	Once a year	NL	Once a year
Tennessee	More than three times a year	More than three times a year	More than three times a year
Texas	Once a year	Once every 3 years	Once a year
Utah	Twice a year	Twice a year	Twice a year
Vermont	Once a year	Once a year	NC
Virginia	Twice a year	NL	Twice a year
Washington	Once a year	Once every 18 months	NC
West Virginia	Once a year	Once a year	Once a year

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State	Frequency of Licensing Inspection		
	Child Care Centers	Small Family Child Care Homes	Large/Group Family Child Care Homes
Wisconsin*	Once a year	Once a year	NC
Wyoming*	Twice a year	Twice a year	Twice a year

Key:

NC=No category of facility

NL=Facility not licensed

***Notes:**

Alaska: Though state statute only requires minimal visits, the current practice is to visit at least once per year to communities regularly visited by licensing specialists.

Illinois: Policies require other unannounced monitoring, e.g., inspections 60 days following issuance of initial licenses, monthly inspections during permit periods, post-complaint inspections (regardless of the disposition of the complaint), and monthly inspections for conditional licenses. Annual monitoring of child care facilities is mandated by statute.

Indiana: Child care ministry registrations are for 1 year, but inspections are required to be quarterly by law. These inspections are for sanitation and fire and building safety only. For centers, there are inspections annually by the state fire marshal and a nurse.

Massachusetts: Facilities or homes with compliance issues or complaints are visited more frequently.

Missouri: Inspected facilities are inspected annually.

Nebraska: Centers with a license capacity of 300 or more are inspected twice a year. Centers with a license capacity of 290 or fewer are inspected once a year.

New Hampshire: Annual monitoring visits are required by state statute, however there are not enough staff to visit that frequently.

New York: Inspections are also required whenever a complaint is filed against a facility and as part of a 50 percent inspection rate for all family child care homes. Additional monitoring is done based on the history of regulatory compliance and as follow-up to the receipt of a corrective action plan for a serious violation.

Pennsylvania: Small family child care homes are inspected on a random basis. In some years, data are collected by a stratified random sample. Under state law, centers and group homes must be inspected annually at a minimum. Unannounced monitoring inspections and complaint investigations are also conducted during the year.

South Dakota: Voluntarily registered family child care homes are inspected once every 2 years.

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Wisconsin: Inspections are conducted as follows:

- (1) Twice a year: Large (capacity 51 or more) full-day group child care centers;
- (2) Once a year: Small (capacity 50 or fewer) full-day group child care centers and licensed family child care centers (small homes); and
- (3) Once every 2 years: Part-day preschools and before- and after-school facilities.

Certified in-home child care centers and certified school-age only facilities are certified by the county where the program is located. These facilities are inspected at the time of certification and at renewal; some counties may inspect at other times as well.

Wyoming: Providers also submit a self inspection for license renewal.