

University of Vermont

UVM ScholarWorks

Public Health Projects, 2008-present

Public Health Projects, University of Vermont
College of Medicine

1-21-2008

Chittenden County Child Care Providers & Conflict Implementing Sick Child Guidelines

Shahin Foroutan

Joanna Gell

Hui-Shan Hsu

Elena V. Simon

Justin Smith

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/comphp_gallery



Part of the [Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons](#), and the [Health Services Research Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Foroutan, Shahin; Gell, Joanna; Hsu, Hui-Shan; Simon, Elena V.; Smith, Justin; Threlkeld, Kirsten; Weinberg, Nicholas; Flanders, Meghan; and Sullivan, Jillian, "Chittenden County Child Care Providers & Conflict Implementing Sick Child Guidelines" (2008). *Public Health Projects, 2008-present*. 24.
https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/comphp_gallery/24

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Health Projects, University of Vermont College of Medicine at UVM ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Public Health Projects, 2008-present by an authorized administrator of UVM ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uvm.edu.

Authors

Shahin Foroutan, Joanna Gell, Hui-Shan Hsu, Elena V. Simon, Justin Smith, Kirsten Threlkeld, Nicholas Weinberg, Meghan Flanders, and Jillian Sullivan

Chittenden County Child Care Providers & Conflict Implementing Sick Child Guidelines

Shahin Foroutan, Joanna Gell, Hui-Shan Hsu MPH, Elena V. Simon, Justin Smith,
Kirsten Threlkeld, Nicholas Weinberg, Meghan Flanders, Jillian Sullivan MD.

Introduction

Nationwide, 61% of children under age five are enrolled in a form of non-parental care (1). Problems arise when a child becomes sick and is not able to attend daycare or has to be sent home. Parents must either miss work to care for their child or find someone else to care for them. Since there is stress surrounding taking time off, and because the criteria used to exclude children from child care can be ambiguous, parents may feel that their child doesn't need to be sent home (2). Each child care provider has to set up exclusion criteria that meet state licensing requirements. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) developed exclusion guidelines specifically for childcare settings in 2006 (3), but most daycare providers and pediatricians are unaware of its existence (1). Conflicts occur when there are differences in opinion on the child's health status between the child care provider and the parents or the child's pediatrician (4).

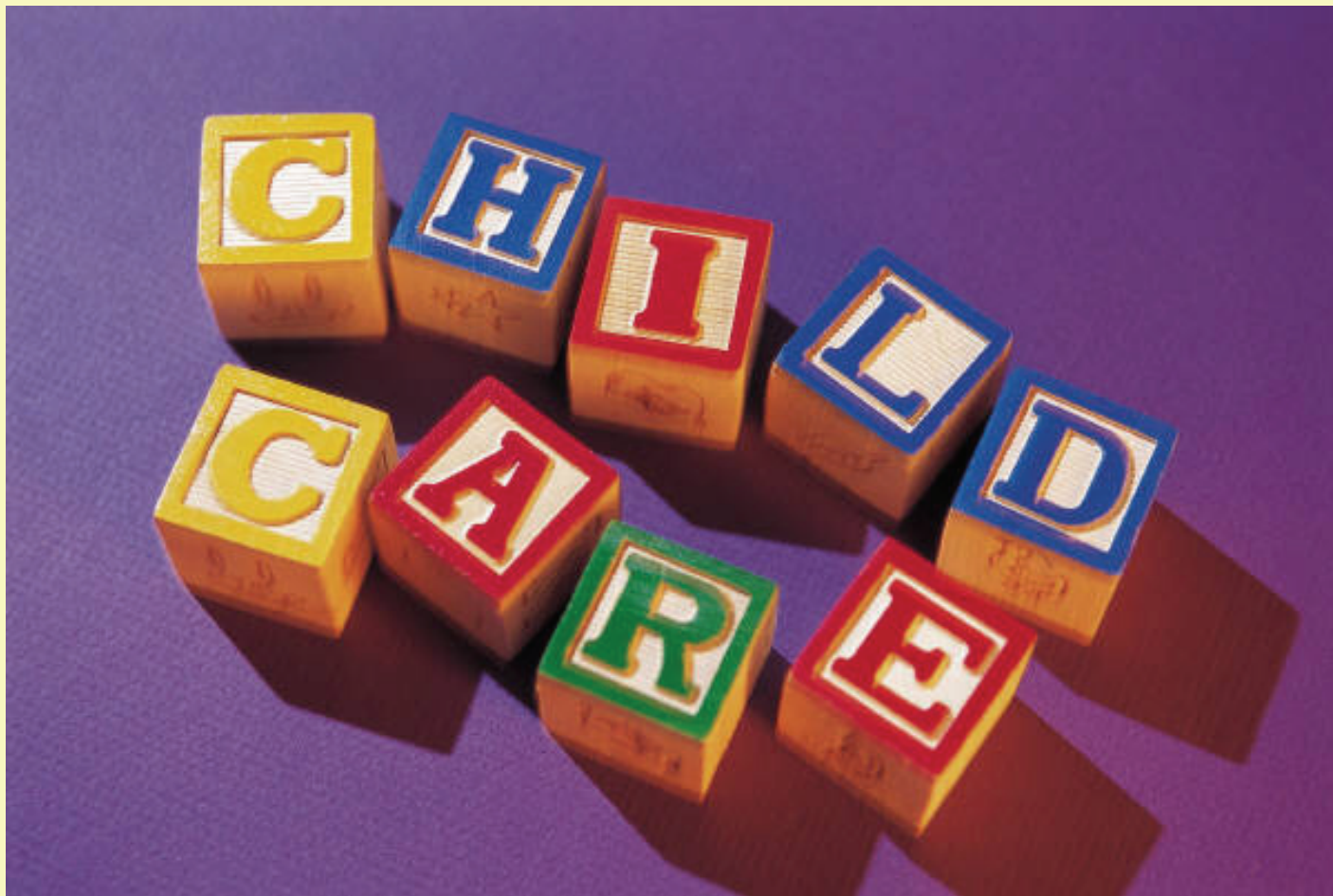
Objectives

- Determine whether daycare providers in Chittenden County are aware of the AAP exclusion guidelines
- Investigate conflict experienced by child care providers when excluding children from care.



Methods

- This cross sectional study surveyed all child care providers within Chittenden County Vermont known to Child Care Resource as of September 2007(N=349).
- A 12 question survey was compiled by the members of our group. Anonymous, self administered surveys were collected from October to November 2007.
- Due to incomplete questionnaires, for specific questions, the samples size varied from 42 to 91. Statistical analysis was preformed using Fischer's two-tailed exact testing (p = 0.05).



Results

Study demographics:

Survey respondents included licensed centers and registered homes with a range of experiences in child care (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographics of Chittenden County Child Care Providers

Provider	Number of respondents n (%)	Mean years of operation n (SE)	Mean number of staff providing child care n (SE)	Mean number of children attending program n (SE)	Providers with illness guidelines n (%)	Disclosure of guidelines with parents (%)
Licensed Center	40 (44%)	16 (1.6)	8.3 (0.9)	31.4 (3.4)	39 (97.5%)	100%
Registered Home	51 (56%)	13 (1.1)	1.0 (0.1)	7.4 (0.9)	47 (95.9%)	100%
Total	91	13	-	-	-	-

SE = Standardized Error

Guidelines used to create sick child exclusion criteria:

The majority of child care providers were not familiar with AAP guidelines for excluding sick children from care (Table 2a). Nineteen percent of providers indicated that they used AAP exclusion guidelines as their own illness guidelines (Table 2b).

Table 2a. Familiarity with AAP illness guidelines

Familiarity	Child care providers n (%)
Never heard of AAP	11 (12%)
Heard of AAP, but unfamiliar with guidelines	47 (52%)
Somewhat familiar with guidelines	25 (28%)
Familiar with guidelines	7 (8 %)
Total n	90

Table 2b: Sources used as illness guidelines

Sources	Child care providers which used each source* n (%)
Created own guidelines	38 (47%)
Same guidelines as another program	11 (14%)
Vermont Licensing Regulation Guidelines	65 (80%)
AAP exclusion guidelines	15 (19%)
Other**	13 (16%)
Total n	81

*Respondents indicated multiple sources if more than one source was used.

**Other included: the health department, on site nurse, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), health providers, school policy, and Women, Infants & Children (WIC).

Exclusion from child care:

Of the subset who responded, greater percentages of licensed centers than registered homes refused care for children for each reason listed in the survey question (see Table 3).

Table 3. Reasons why child care providers exclude children from care.*

	Providers who send children home	Licensed Centers (n=30)	Registered Homes (n=26)
Providers who send children home n(%)	For fear of others becoming sick	27 (90%)	21 (81%)
	Because provider could not provide specific medical care	12 (40%)**	8 (31%)
	Because children's needs could not be met	21 (70%)	14 (54%)

*Respondents indicated multiple answers if applicable. **p=0.035

Conflict between child care providers and parents:

Child care providers experience conflict with parents more often because parents were unable to pick up the child, or because parents could not provide care for the child due to their own work obligations (see Figure 1).

Less common reasons for conflict included parents disagreeing with the decision to send children home and pediatrician clearance (64 and 79%, respectively). (Figure 1)

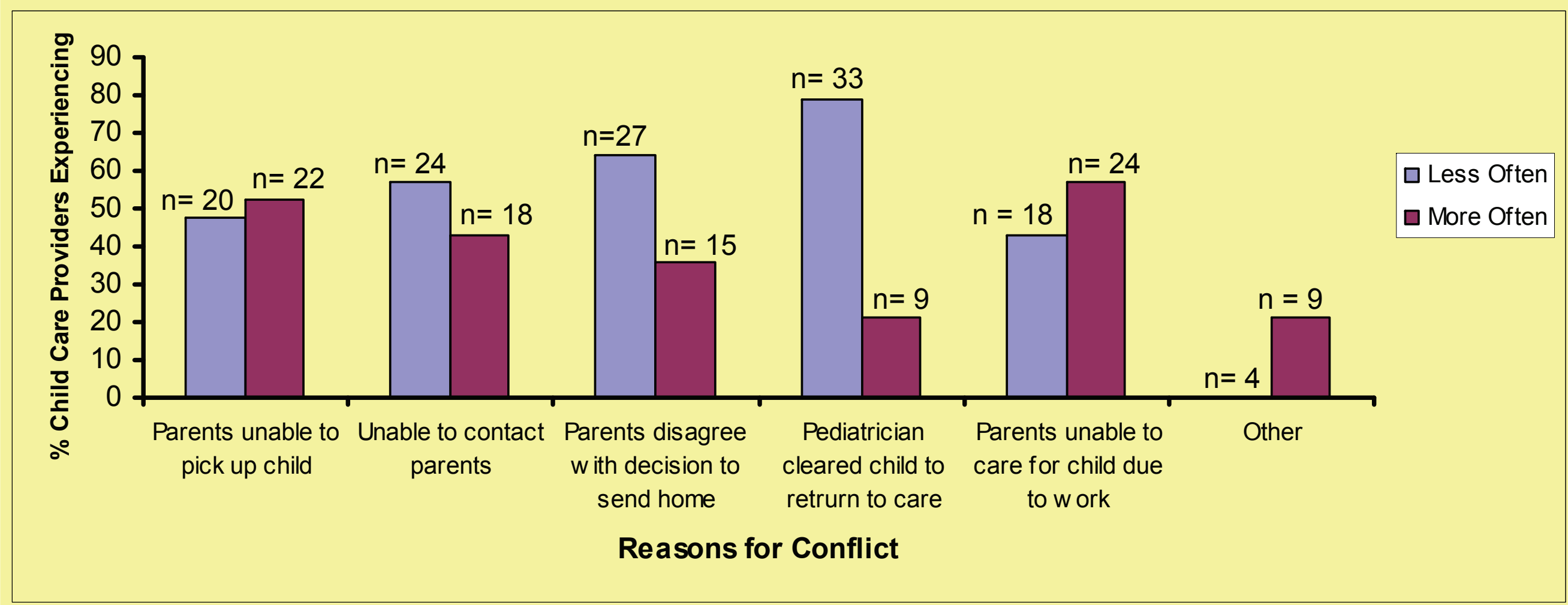


Figure 1: Reasons why child care providers experience conflict when excluding children from care.

When children were sent home from child care, significantly more licensed centers than registered homes reported experiencing conflict with parents in the previous month (41% and 14%, respectively; p=0.042).



Discussion

- The majority of respondents have insufficient awareness of AAP illness guidelines.
- Licensed child care centers
 - Experience significantly more conflict with parents when excluding children from care
 - Are more likely to refuse care for children because of
 - specific medical care (p = 0.05)
 - fear of spreading disease
 - needs which could not be met by staff
- Pediatrician clearance infrequently causes conflict.
- Conflict is more often due to parents' work obligations.
- Areas of future study:
 - Comparison of child care provider exclusion criteria to AAP guidelines.
 - Identification of factors amplifying exclusion from care in licensed centers.
 - Clarified questionnaires to increase sample sizes.
 - Improving awareness of AAP guidelines among child care providers

References

- Copeland KA, Harris EN, Wang NY, Cheng TL. Compliance with American Academy of Pediatrics and American Public Health Association illness exclusion guidelines for child care centers in Maryland: Who follows them and when? *Pediatrics*. 2006;118 :1369 -1380
- Landis SE, Earp JA, Sharp M. Day-care center exclusion of sick children: comparison of opinions of day-care staff, working mothers, and pediatricians. *Pediatrics*. 1988;81 :662 –667
- American Academy of Pediatrics. [Recommendations for Care of Children in Special Circumstances]. In: Pickering LK, Baker CJ, Long SS, McMillan JA, eds. *Red Book: 2006 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 27th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2006 [133-135]
- Shapiro ED, Kuritsky J, Potter J. Policies for the exclusion of ill children from group day care: An unresolved dilemma. *Rev Infect Dis*. 1986;8 :622 –625