

# **Getting the Most Out of State QRIS Data: Secondary Analyses of Quality Ratings from the QRIS Assessment Project**

**April 2011**

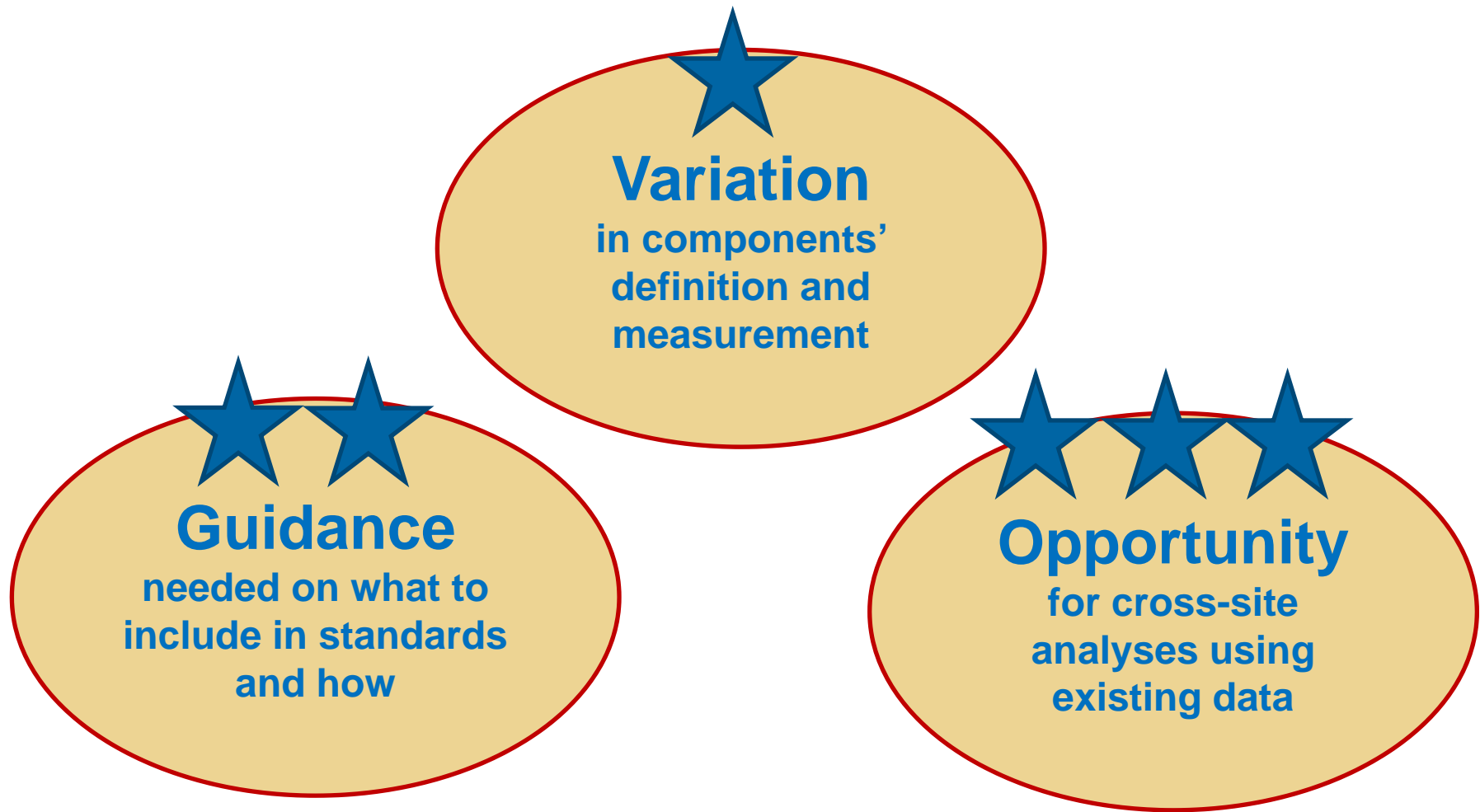
**Presentation at the Biennial Meeting of the  
Society for Research in Child Development**

**Lizabeth Malone • Gretchen Kirby • Pia Caronongan**

**MATHEMATICA**  
Policy Research, Inc.



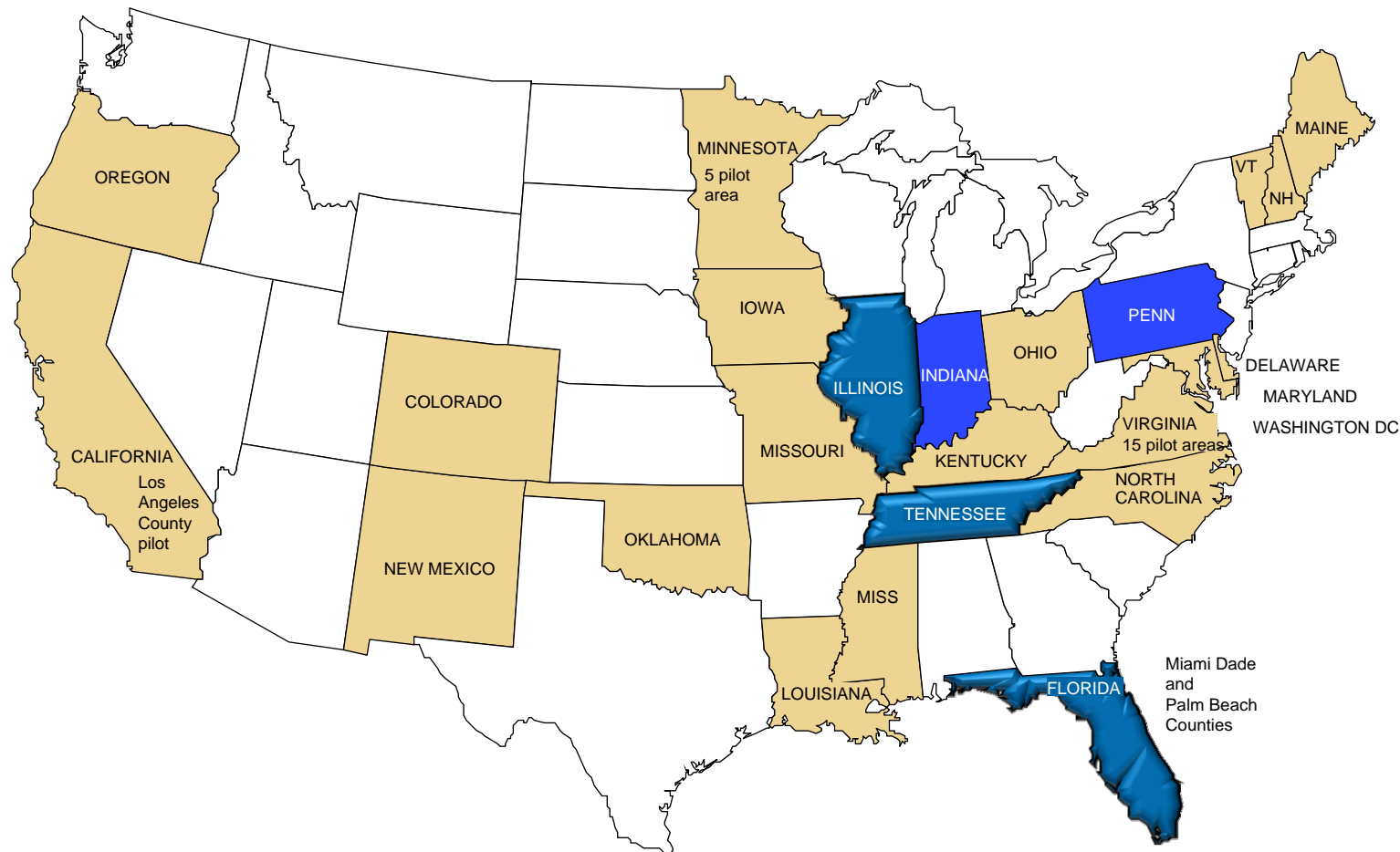
# Quality Measurement In-Depth Study: Motivation





# QRIS Assessment Study States

- 26 QRIS in the Compendium (fall 2009)
- 5 QRIS in the in-depth study of quality measurement
- 3 QRIS in the secondary data analysis of quality measurement strategies



# Quality Measurement In-Depth Study: Selection Criteria



- Operation status
- Rating structure
- Observed environment quality component
- QRIS database

# Quality Measurement In-Depth Study: Secondary Data Analysis

## Objective

To inform development and practice related to standards



## Research topics

- Profiles of providers at different rating levels
- Associations with observed quality and rating level
- Unique contributions of each component
- Strategies for weighting and combining components

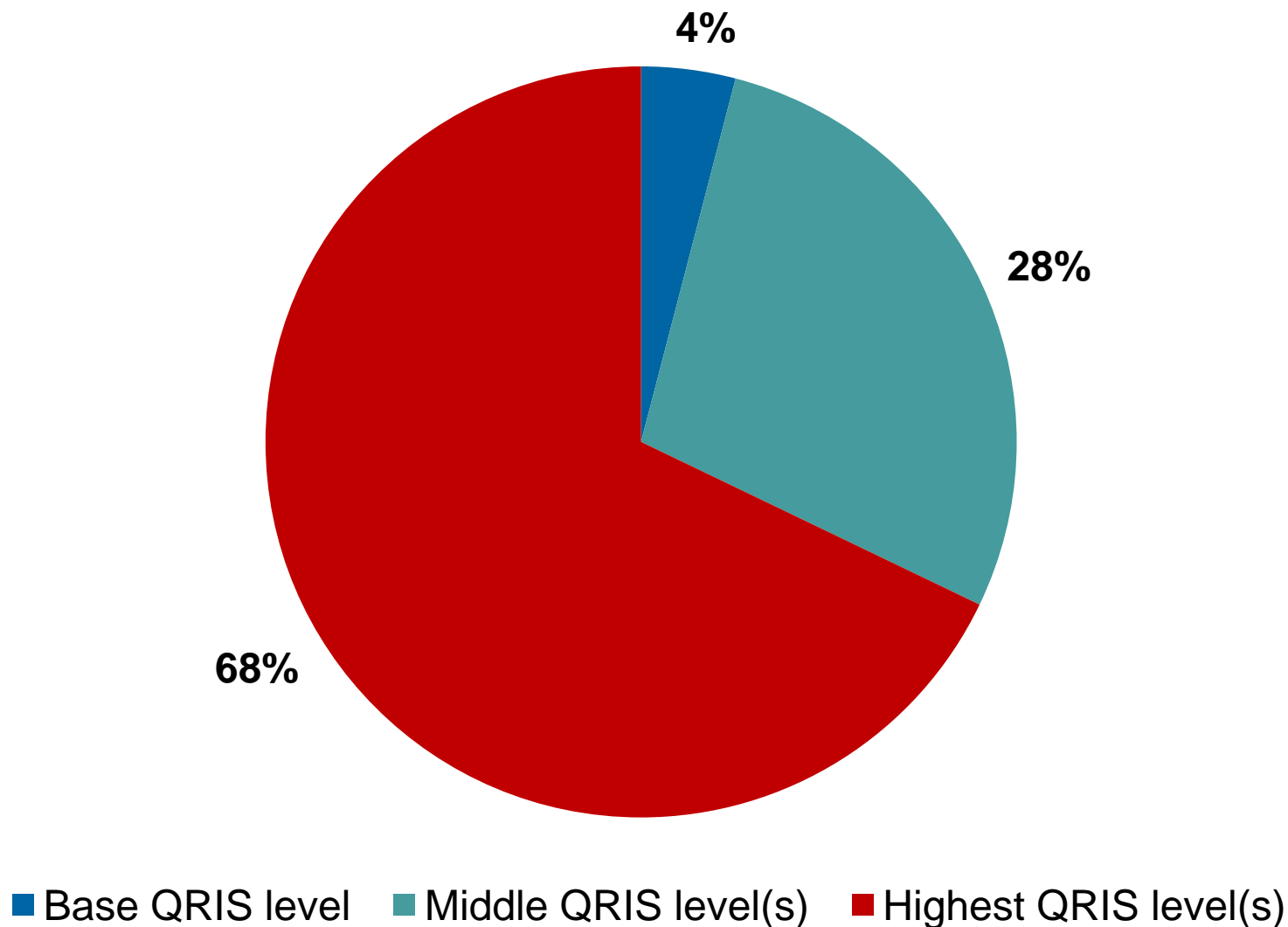
# Quality Measurement In-Depth Study: Approach to Secondary Data Analysis



- Analyze child care centers
- Common metric for quality categories
- Include a “not evaluated” category
- Univariate, bivariate, and multivariate statistics



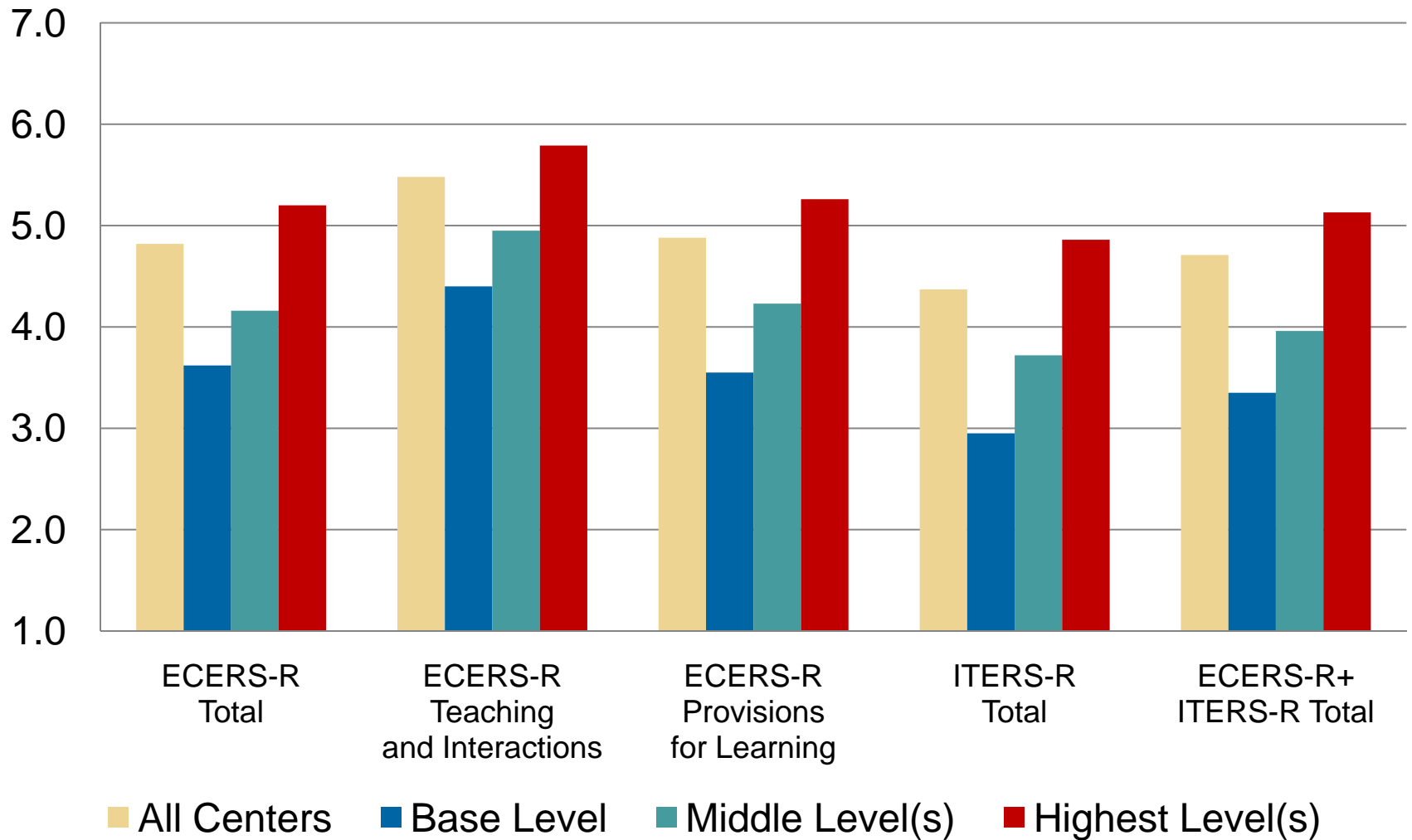
# Majority of Centers Are at Highest QRIS Level(s)







# ERS Scores Rise with QRIS Level







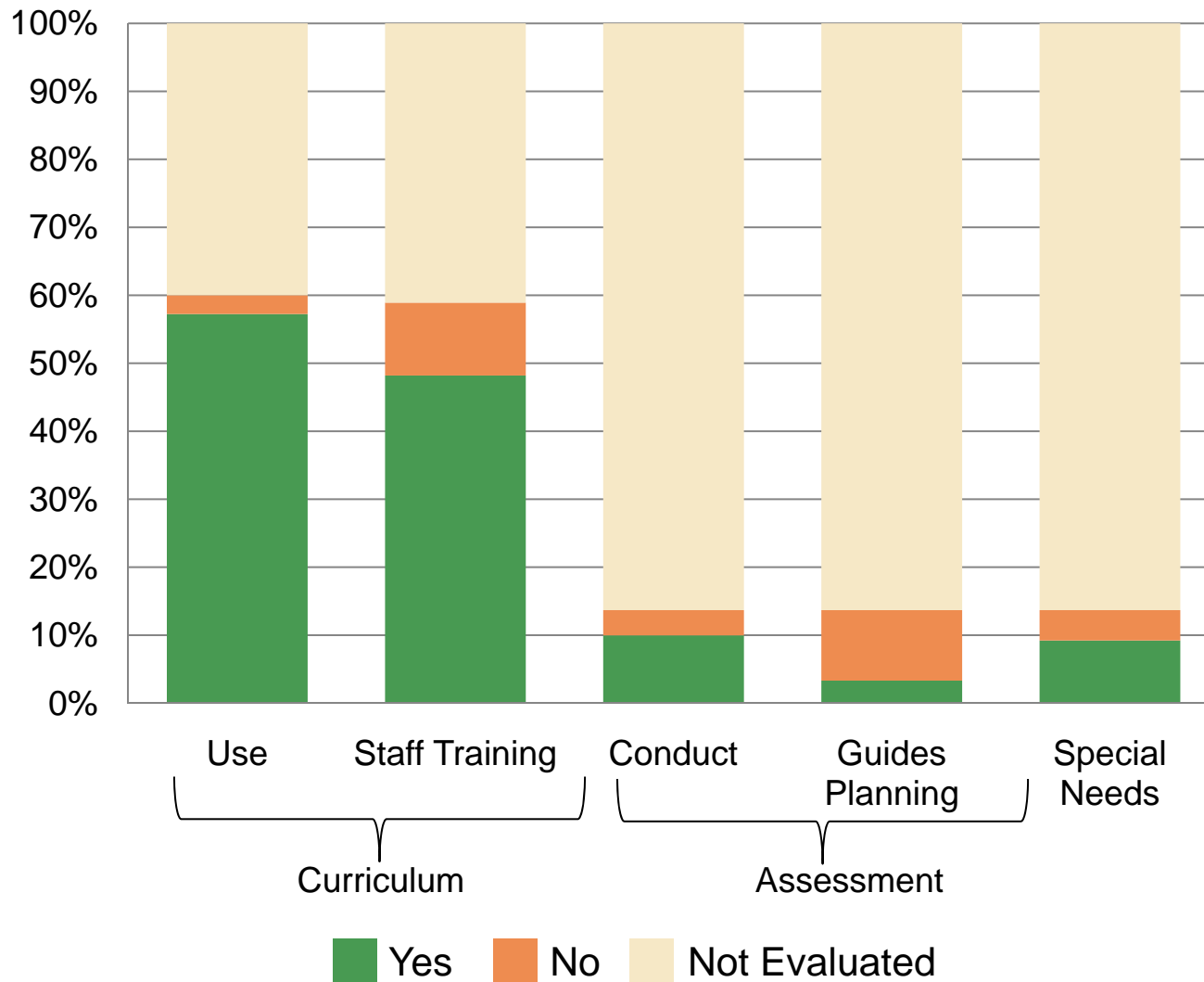
# Cross-Site Quality Component Definition

---

- **Curriculum, assessment, and special needs**
- **Child-to-staff ratios**
- **Staff education**
- **Family and management**
  - **Proportion of strategies**
  - **Presence of activities**



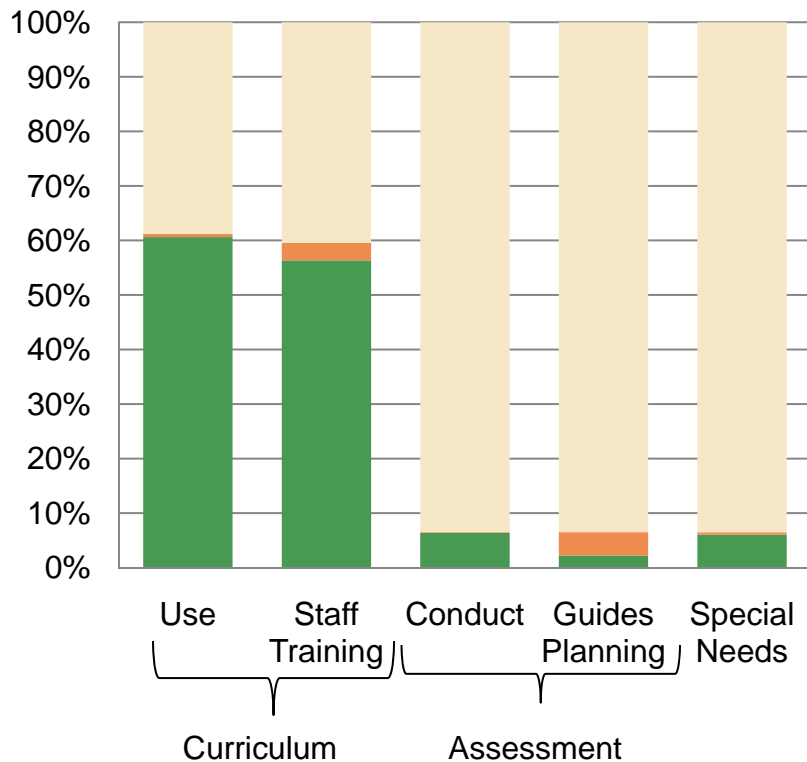
# Curriculum, Assessment, and Special Needs



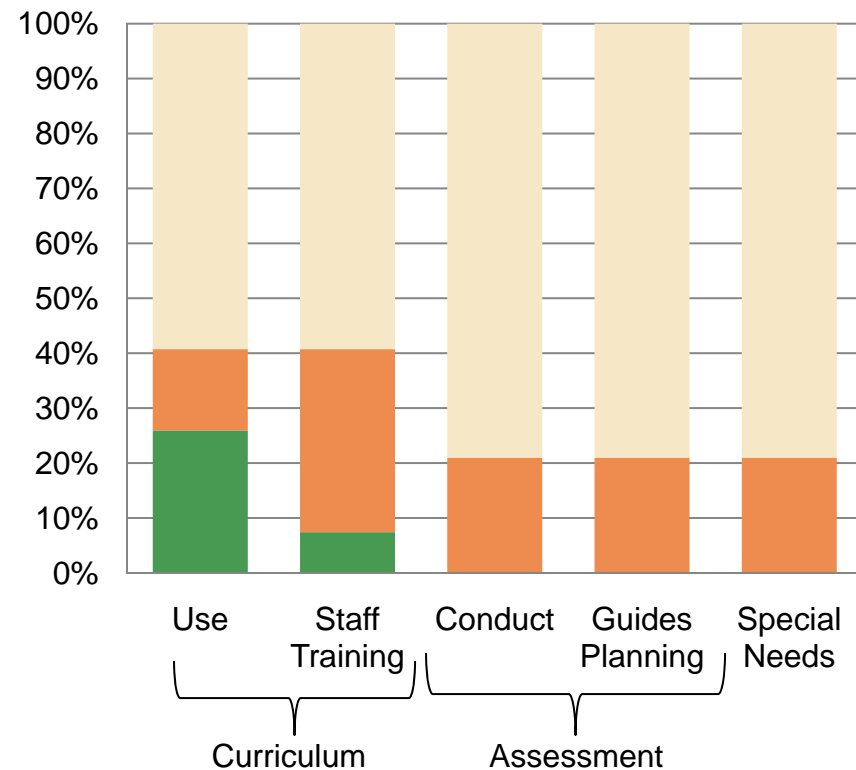


# Curriculum, Assessment, and Special Needs, by Rating Level

## Highest QRIS Level(s)



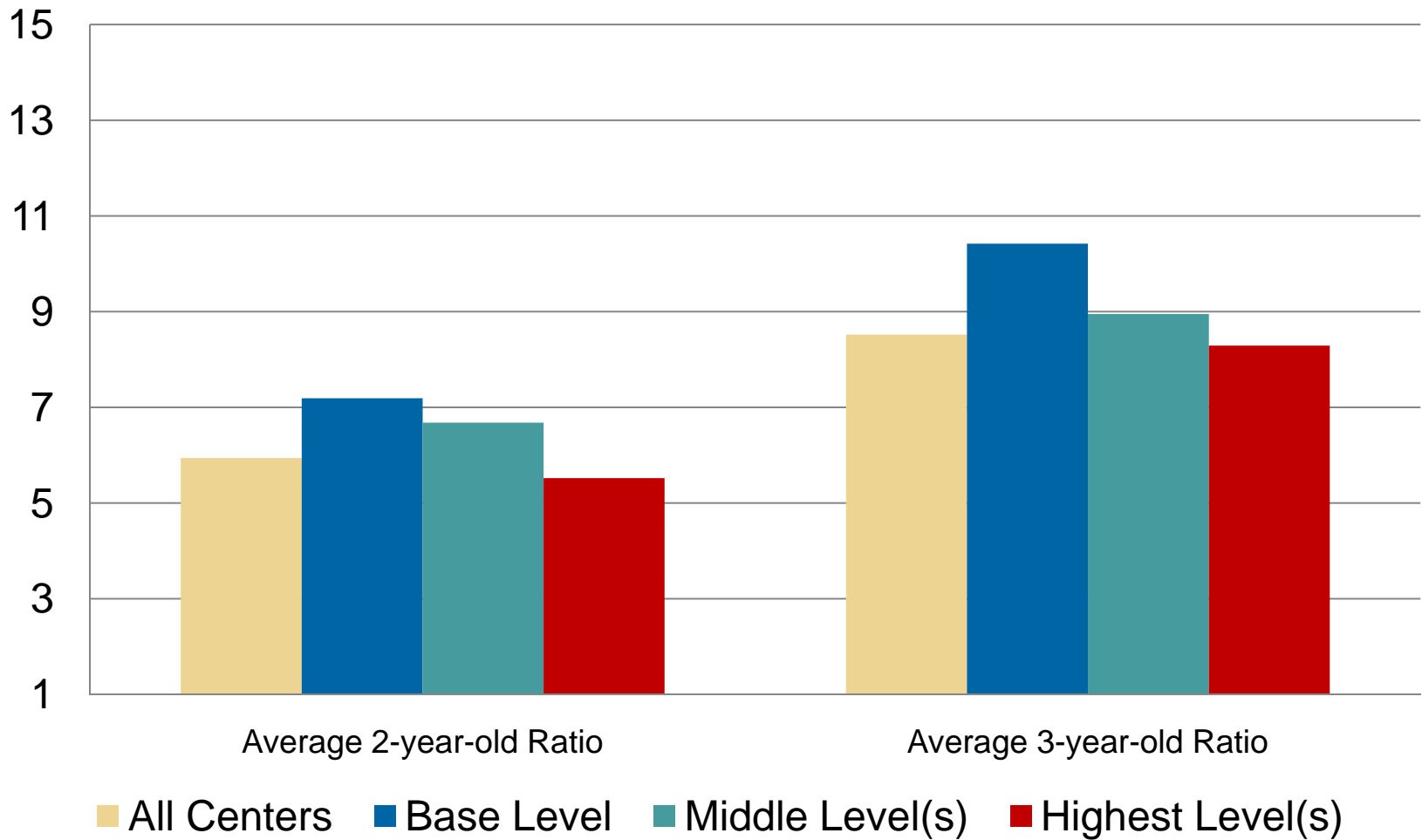
## Base QRIS Level



Yes No Not Evaluated

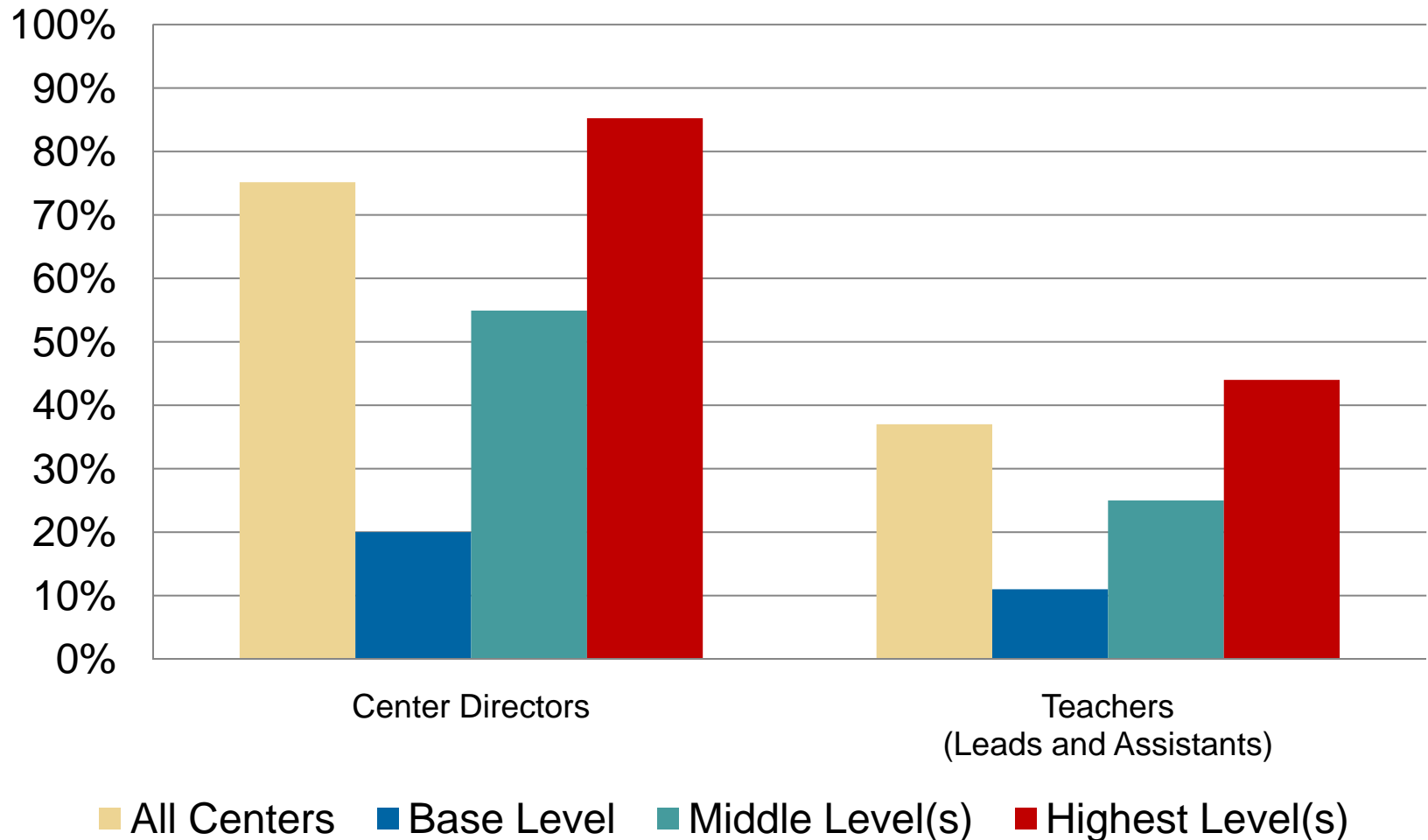


# Child-to-Staff Ratios



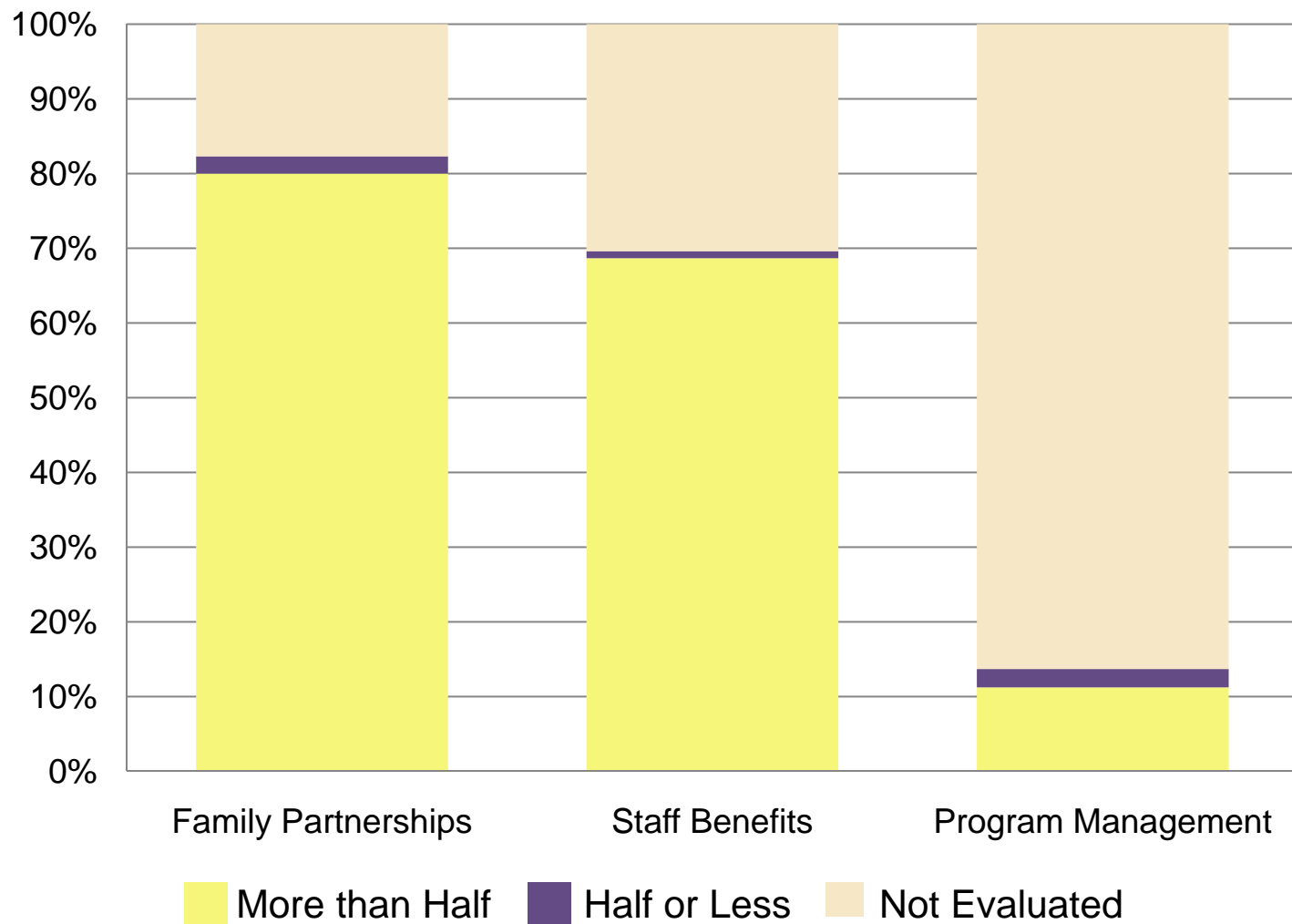


# Staff Education—Some College or Higher





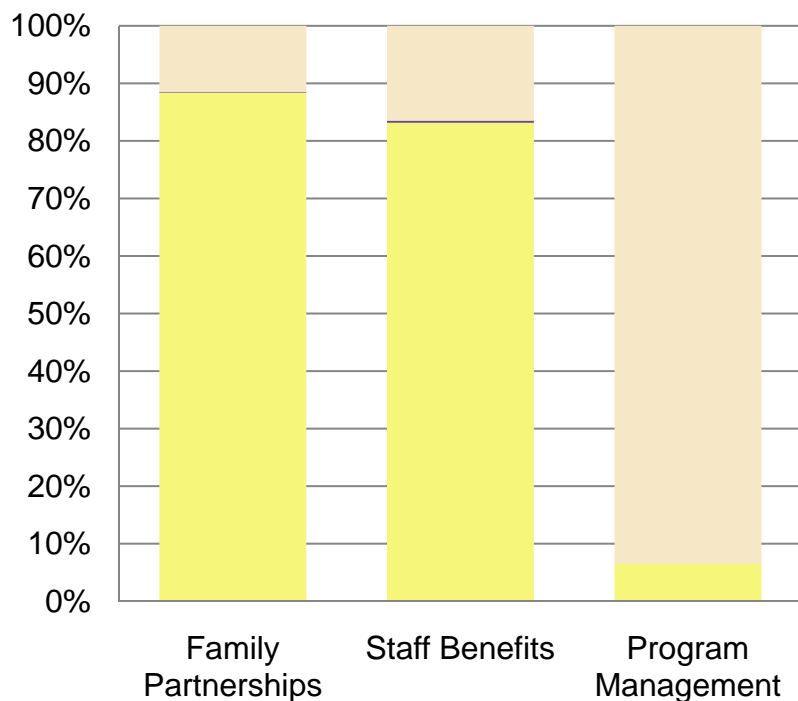
# Family and Management—Proportion Measures



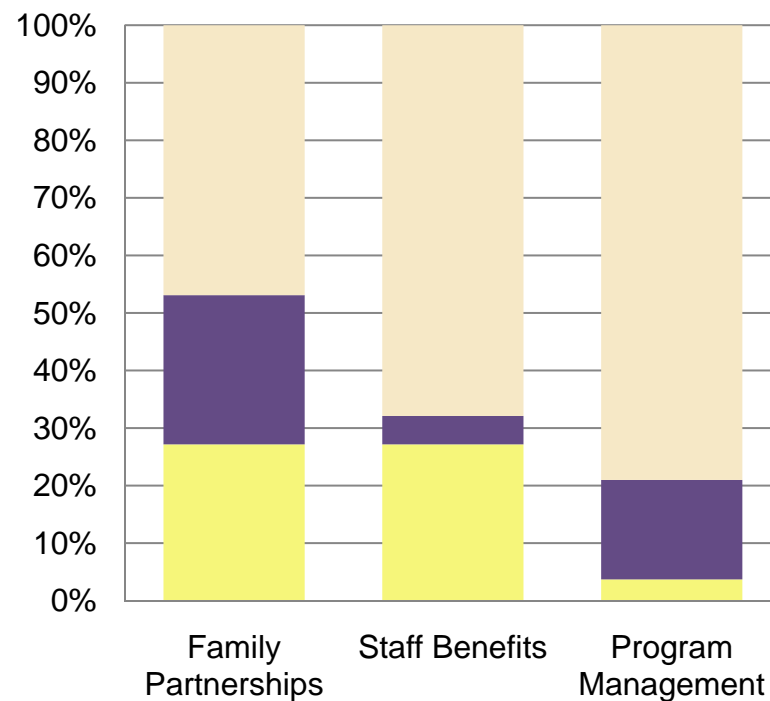


# Family and Management–Proportion Measures, by Rating Level

## Highest QRIS Level(s)



## Base QRIS Level

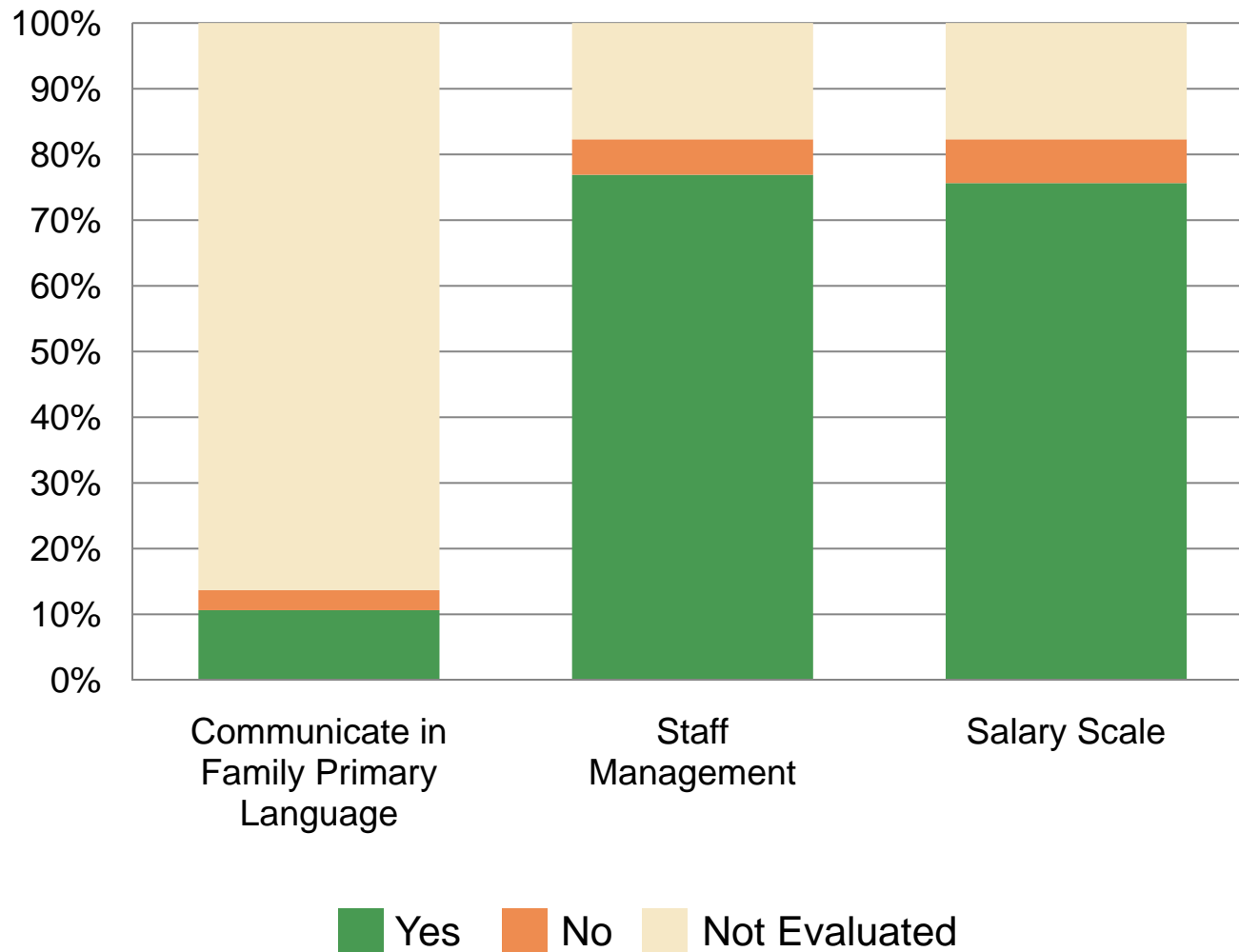


More than Half    Half or Less    Not Evaluated





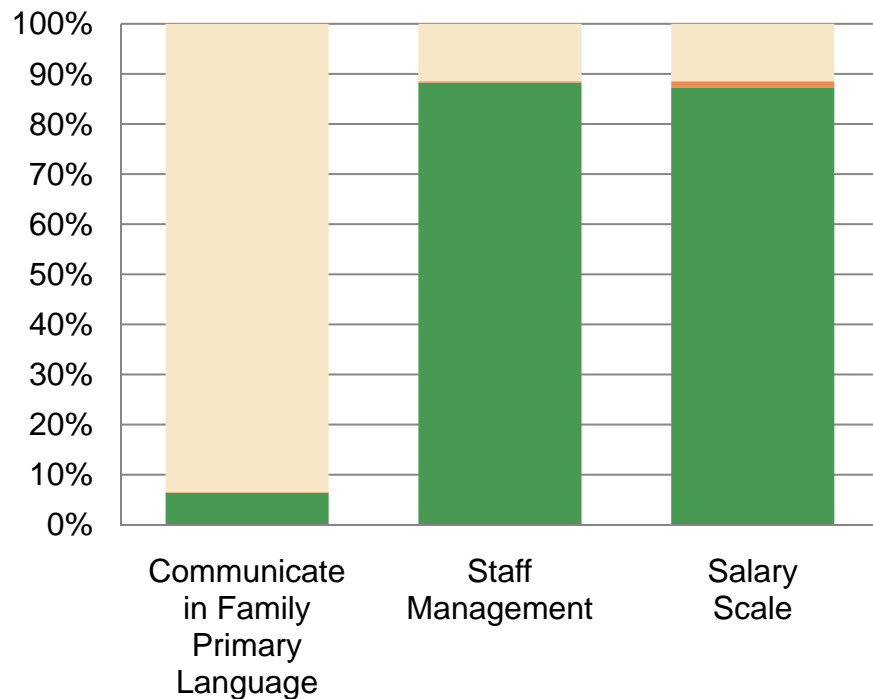
# Family and Management–Presence Measures



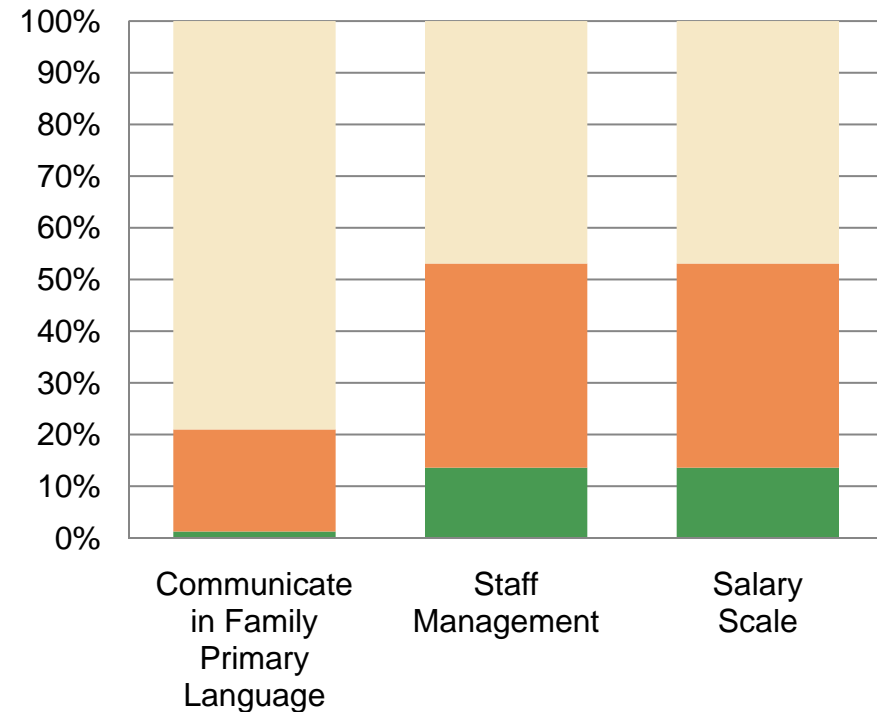


# Family and Management–Presence Measures, by Rating Level

## Highest QRIS Level(s)



## Base QRIS Level



Yes No Not Evaluated



# Next Steps for the Secondary Data Analysis

**Bivariate  
Analyses** =

**Correlations between components**

**Cross-QRIS quality profiles through  
cluster analysis**

**Multivariate  
Analyses** =

**Unique effect of each component on  
observed quality and overall ratings**

**Simulations to vary combinations  
and weights**



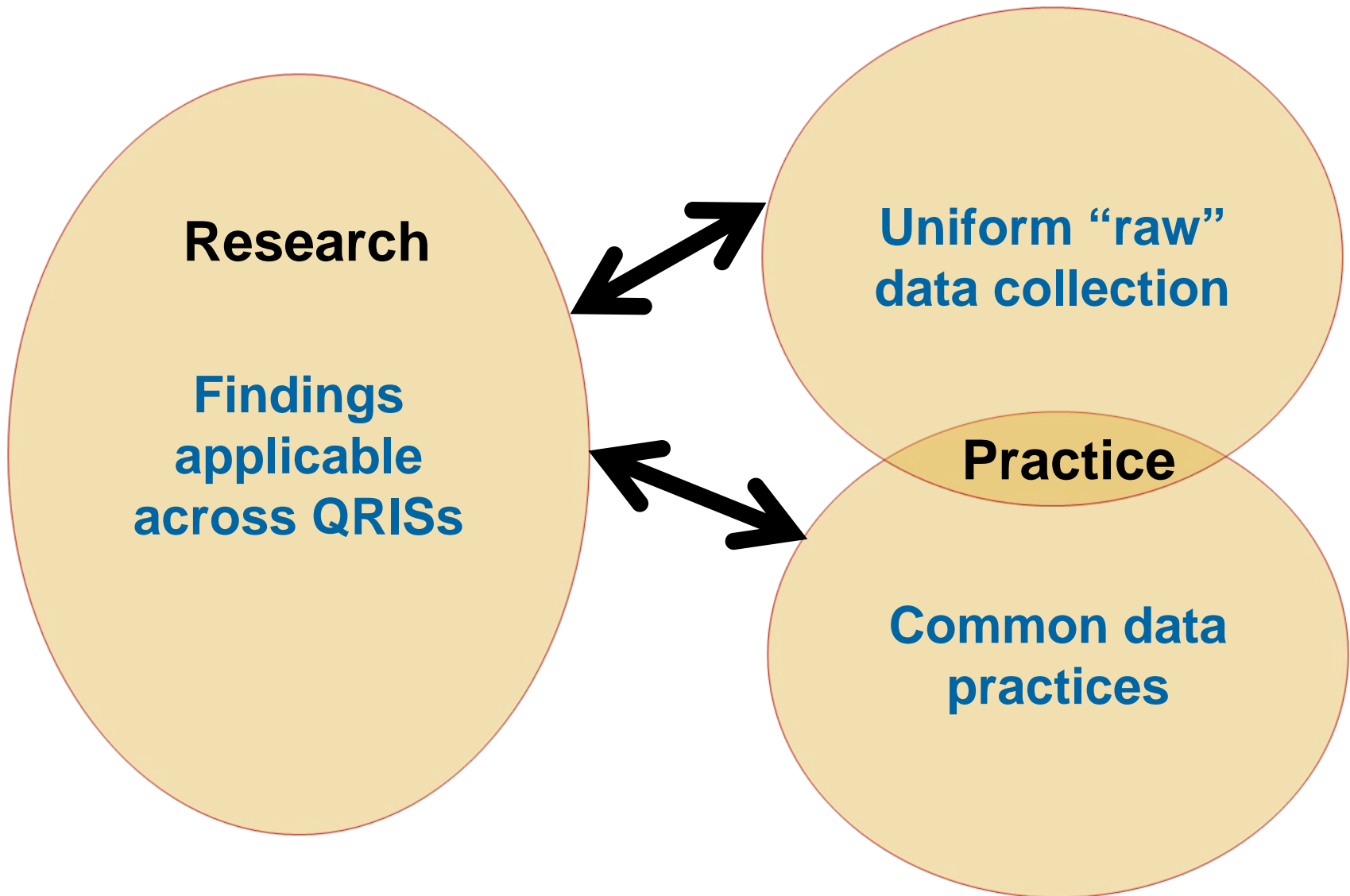
# Cross-QRIS Analysis Challenges

**Balance nuances of individual QRISs  
with need for standardization for analysis**





# Validation and Refinement



# For More Information on the QRS Assessment Project

---

## ■ Contacts

- Ivelisse-Martinez-Beck, Project Officer, OPRE, ACF  
[ivelisse.martinezbeck@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:ivelisse.martinezbeck@acf.hhs.gov)
- Lizabeth Malone, Task Leader, Secondary Data Analysis, Mathematica  
[lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:lmalone@mathematica-mpr.com)
- Gretchen Kirby, Project Director, Mathematica  
[gkirby@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:gkirby@mathematica-mpr.com)

## ■ Website to access products:

- [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/cc/childcare\\_quality](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/cc/childcare_quality)