

QRIS Data Systems

Data systems are critical for supporting the activities of quality rating and improvement systems (QRISs). QRISs collect and use various types of data to inform their operations, monitoring, evaluation, planning, and communications. An effective QRIS data system has the capacity to link data across early care and education programs, a workforce registry, a child care subsidy agency, and other organizations in the early childhood system.

This fact sheet summarizes information from the Quality Compendium² about the data systems for QRISs currently operating in the United States. The fact sheet covers the types of data included in QRIS data systems, how the data are being used, and data system linkages.

This fact sheet is one of a series about the state of QRISs in the United States. In 2017, there were 44 fully operational QRISs in the United States.¹ Data are from the [Quality Compendium](#), catalog of the QRISs operating in the United States as of December 31, 2017.

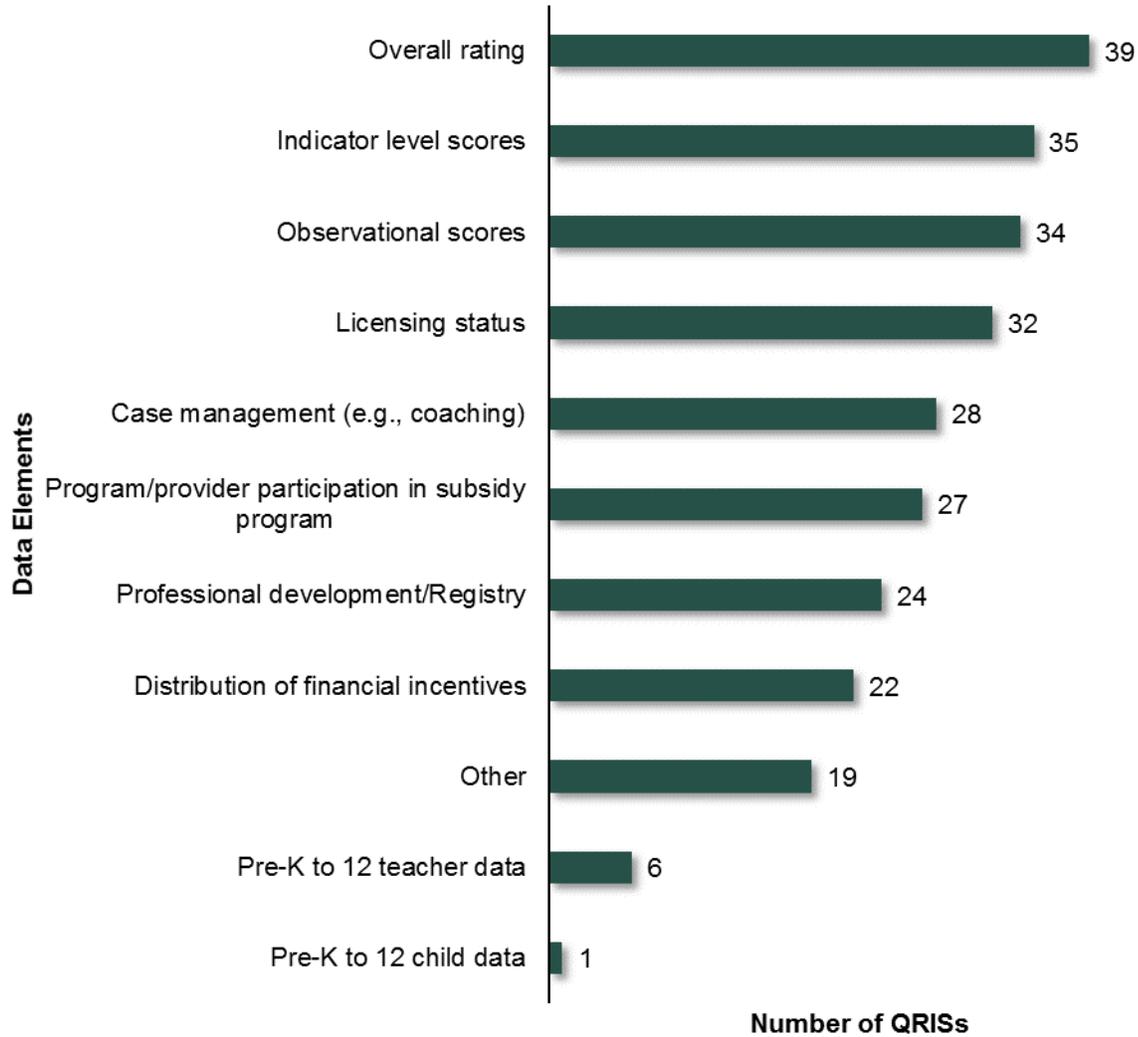
Types of Data

- ◆ Nearly all of the currently operating QRISs have data systems (42 QRISs; 95 percent).
- ◆ Figure 1 shows that most QRIS data systems include data about overall ratings (39 QRISs; 89 percent), indicator level scores (35 QRISs; 80 percent), observational scores (34 QRISs; 77 percent), and licensing status (32 QRISs; 73 percent).
- ◆ Some QRIS data systems include data on case management (28 QRISs; 64 percent), program participation in the subsidy program (27 QRISs; 61 percent), professional development (24 QRISs; 55 percent), and distribution of financial incentives (22 QRISs; 50 percent).
- ◆ Few QRIS data systems include data on prekindergarten through 12th-grade teachers (6 QRISs; 14 percent) or children (1 QRIS; 2 percent).
- ◆ Nineteen QRISs (43 percent) include other types of data in their systems, such as general program information (for example, program type, enrollment, number of classrooms, location), accreditation status, quality improvement plans, approvals for trainings and trainers, and reliability status of onsite observers.

¹ States with a QRIS: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DC, DE, FL (three localities), GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI. While most QRISs operate at the state level, three represent separate counties in Florida (Duval, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach). The California QRIS, while represented in the Quality Compendium as one system, is implemented at the county level and does not include all counties in the state.

² The "Quality Compendium" was previously named the "QRIS Compendium".

Figure 1. Data Included in QRIS Data Systems



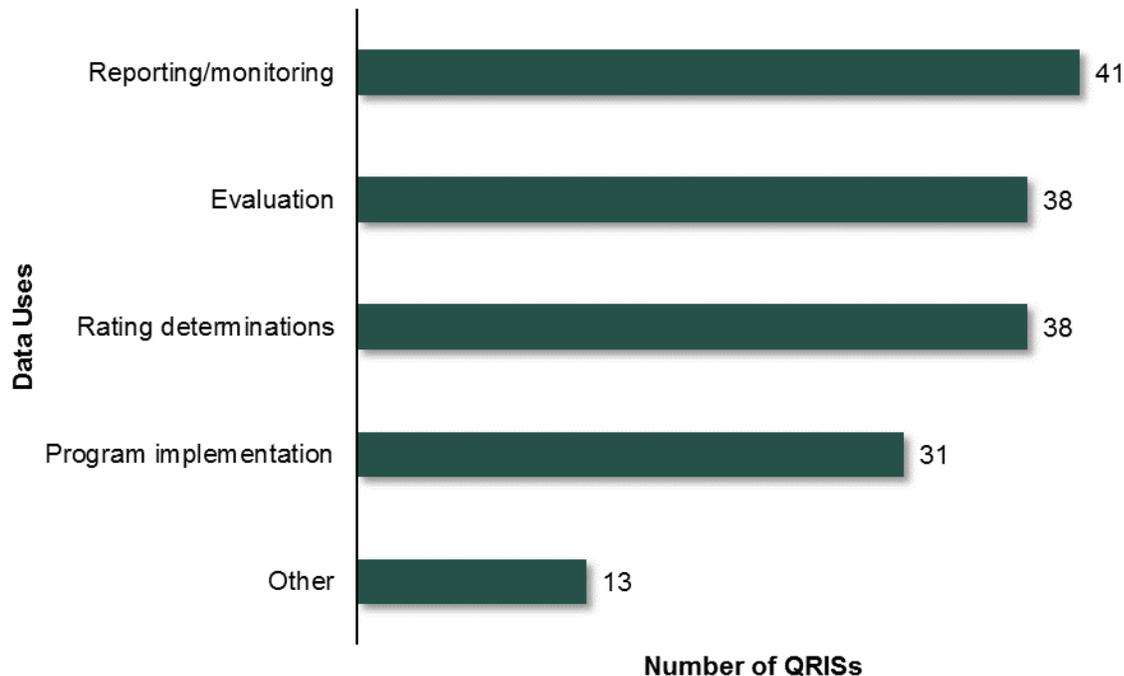
Source: Analysis of data retrieved from the Quality Compendium, 2017, <https://qualitycompendium.org/>

Note: N=42 QRISs with a data system. Some are in multiple categories.

Uses of QRIS Data

- ◆ As shown in Figure 2, the majority of QRISs use their data systems for reporting and monitoring functions (41 QRISs; 93 percent).
- ◆ Thirty-eight QRISs (86 percent) use their data systems for evaluation purposes, and the same number use their data systems to determine ratings (38 QRISs; 86 percent). Thirty-one QRISs (70 percent) use their data systems to guide implementation, which may include activities such as recruitment, program observations, and tracking programs through the rating process.
- ◆ About a third of the QRISs (13 QRISs; 30 percent) report other ways they use their data systems, for example, to guide the provision of technical assistance and disburse financial incentives.

Figure 2. Uses of Data from QRIS Data Systems



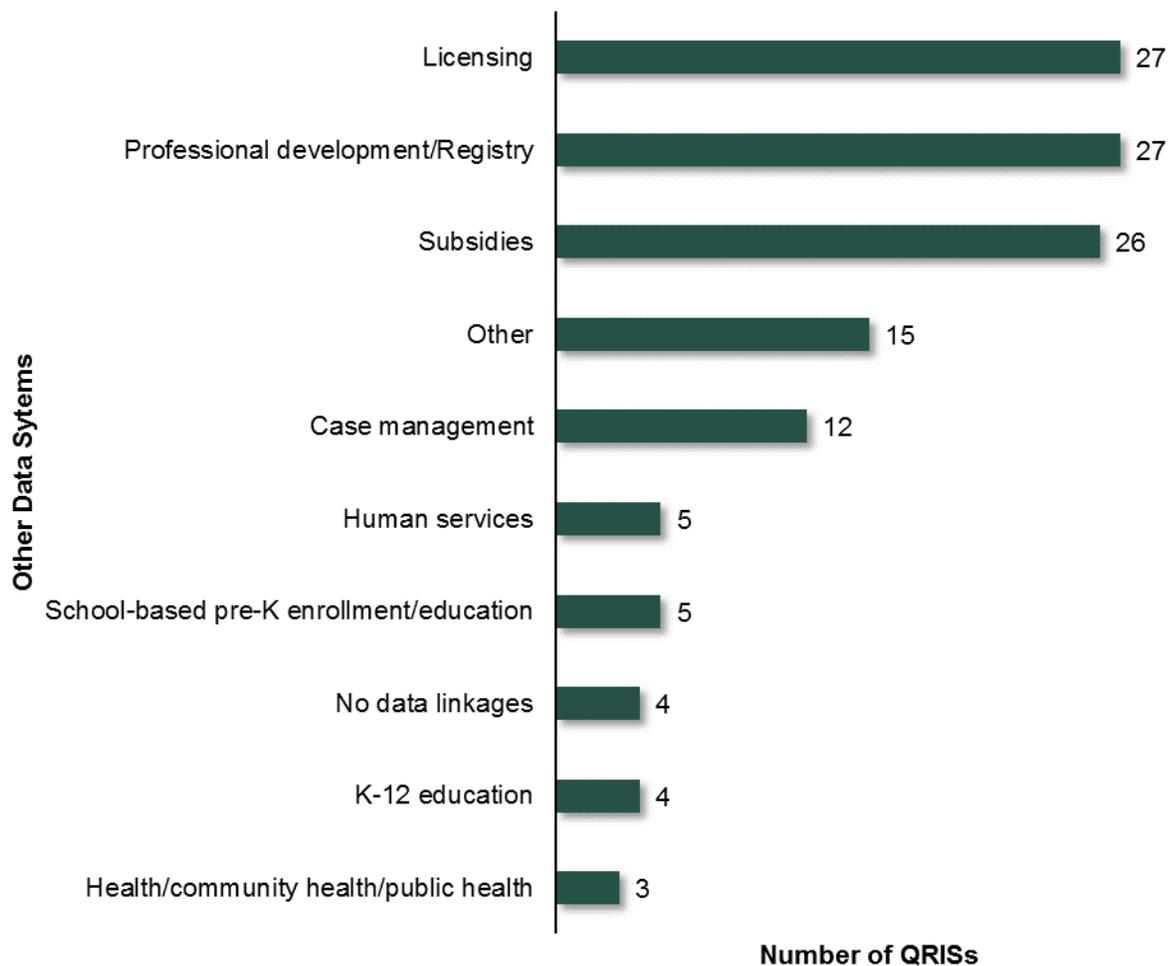
Source: Analysis of data retrieved from the Quality Compendium, 2017, <https://qualitycompendium.org/>

Note: N=42 QRISs with a data system. Some are in multiple categories.

Linkages with Other Data Systems

- ◆ Figure 3 shows that a large portion of QRIS data systems are linked with other data systems. The most common linkages are with licensing (27 QRISs; 61 percent), professional development systems or registries (27 QRISs; 61 percent), and subsidies (26 QRISs; 59 percent). Less common linkages are with K–12 education (4 QRISs; 9 percent) and health systems (3 QRISs; 7 percent). Few QRIS data systems reported no linkages with other systems (4 QRISs; 9 percent).
- ◆ Fifteen QRISs (34 percent) data systems are linked with other systems, including federal assistance programs (for example, the Child and Adult Care Food Program), background checking systems, and state-specific data systems.

Figure 3. QRIS Data Systems Linkages with Other Systems



Source: Analysis of data retrieved from the Quality Compendium, 2017, <https://qualitycompendium.org/>

Note: N=42 QRISs with a data system. Some are in multiple categories.

Additional Resources

The following resources provide more information about QRIS data systems.

Child Care & Early Education Research Connections. (2018). *INQUIRE: Quality initiatives research and evaluation consortium* [Web page]. Retrieved from <https://www.researchconnections.org/content/childcare/federal/inquire.html>

Early Learning Challenge Technical Assistance Program. (2015). *State TA resources: Key considerations for data systems that support TQRIS*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <https://elc.grads360.org/services/PDCService.svc/GetPDCDocumentFile?fileId=15597>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, & U.S. Department of Education. (2016). *The integration of early childhood data: State profiles and a report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education*. Retrieved from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/intergration_of_early_childhood_data_final.pdf

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