

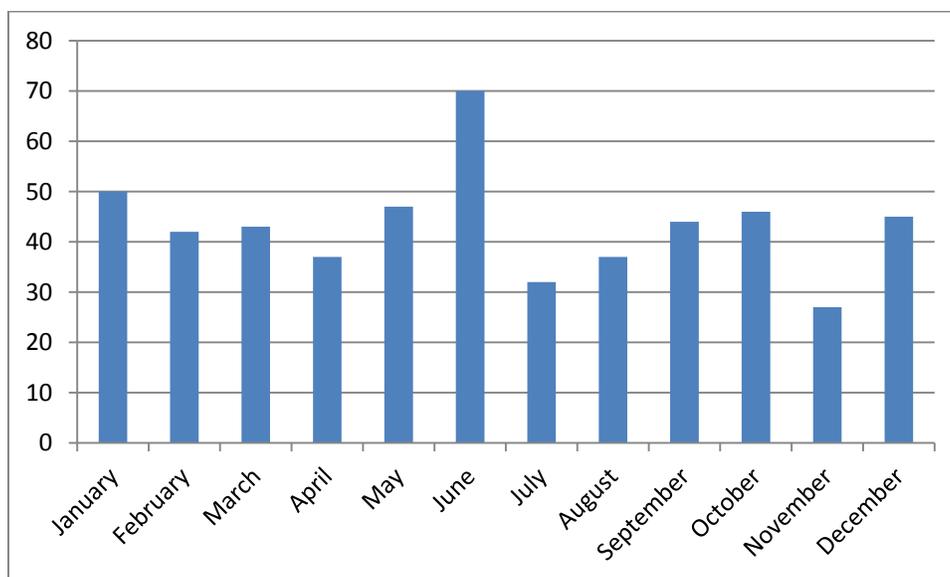


Quarterly Report October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Respectfully submitted to the Oversight Committee on January 3, 2012 by LouAnn Beninati and Johanna Vaczy, STARS Coordinators. We thank Heather Mattison of the Child Development Division for the creation of the charts, tables and graphs.

The goal of STARS is to engage the maximum number of regulated early childhood and school age programs in achieving standards that are associated with better outcomes for children, families and the professionals who work with them.

Applications and Annual Reports received from January 2011 to December 2011



- Number of applications this quarter, Oct-Dec 2011: 118
- Number of applications this quarter last year , Oct-Dec 2010: 110

Our numbers indicate an increase in participation as compared to this quarter last year.

The number of applications is fairly steady month to month except for a high number in June which is related to the number of programs submitting applications prior to the end of the school year. July and August are slightly lower because of summer vacations. The low number of applications in November may have been due to the Thanksgiving week. Based on feedback we received during fall workshops, we know that providers who attended went back to their in-process applications and added more to them in order to increase the number of

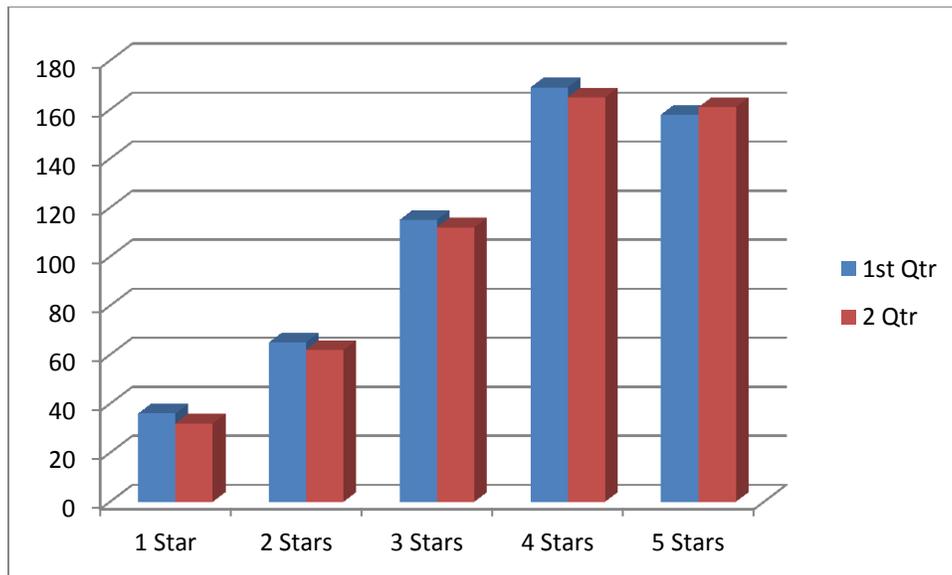
points and stars they might achieve. Also, many providers who used the 2010 application last year were unaware that this year they had to send in an annual report. We have added this information to the reminder letters we send to all programs, and to the revised application.

Average number of points per arena						
	Regulatory	Staff Qualifications	Families and Communities	Program Practices	Program Administration	Total Points
1st QTR	2.5	2.1	2	1.7	2.5	10.9
2nd QTR	2.6	2.2	2	1.8	2.5	11.1

Note: In the last two quarters programs are still using both applications: the 2008 version in which programs can earn a total of 15 points, and the 2010 version in which programs can earn a total of 17 points. Therefore, the higher number of points earned this quarter over last quarter may be related to the differing applications.

Comparison of data from the first quarter of FY12 (July – September) to the second quarter of FY12 (October to December)

Number of STARS Participating Programs



The number of overall programs has gone down slightly as indicated by this chart. This is related to 2 factors. A few providers have elected not to renew STARS in order to avoid using the 2010 application. There were also a number of programs who had exceeded their renewal date by over 90 days. In an effort to discourage programs from letting their renewals go so long overdue, the files for these programs were closed. Many of them have already re-applied.

Number of Programs by STAR level and AHS district:

Count of STARS						
	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	Grand Total
St. Albans	14	12	13	12	15	66
Newport	2	1	9	9	11	32
Burlington	4	8	17	37	44	110
Morrisville	1	4	8	12	5	30
St. Johnsbury		4	4	6	11	25
Middlebury	4	6	7	14	13	44
Barre	3	8	12	14	10	47
Hartford		6	7	12	10	35
Rutland	1	6	16	13	15	51
Springfield	1		5	6	8	20
Bennington		4	3	11	12	30
Brattleboro	2	3	11	19	7	42
Total	32	62	112	165	161	532

STARS Programs by Year and AHS District			
	Dec-11	Total Programs	
Barre	47	180	26%
Bennington	30	101	30%
Brattleboro	42	75	56%
Burlington	110	312	35%
Hartford	35	109	32%
Middlebury	44	100	44%
Morrisville	30	89	34%
Newport	32	88	36%
Rutland	51	152	34%
Springfield	20	66	30%
St. Albans	66	185	36%
St. Johnsbury	25	84	30%
Total	532	1541	35%

This table represents the number of all types of programs participating in STARS in each AHS district, including registered homes, licensed centers and school age programs.

AHS district	# children in STARS programs	#children in licensed programs	Percentage of STARS
Barre	1177	2514	47%
Bennington	798	1345	59%
Brattleboro	824	1400	59%
Burlington	3983	7361	54%
Hartford	835	1530	55%
Middlebury	798	1701	47%
Morrisville	589	1345	44%
Newport	458	736	62%
Rutland	1438	2535	57%
Springfield	590	1261	47%
St. Albans	828	1162	71%
St. Johnsbury	648	921	70%
Statewide total	12966	23811	54%

This table shows the percentage of children in each AHS district who are in STARS programs. These numbers represent licensed centers. The numbers of children are derived from the number of children these programs are licensed to serve.

STARS continues to attract participants from across the state. Differing levels of participation from district to district can be attributed to a number of factors.

- Employment opportunities for parents, which affects the demand for child care.
- Strength and effectiveness of peer groups such as Starting Points Networks .
- Effectiveness of community support agencies and other professionals in connecting with providers and encouraging and supporting participation in STARS.
- Outreach and proximity to STARS coordinators.

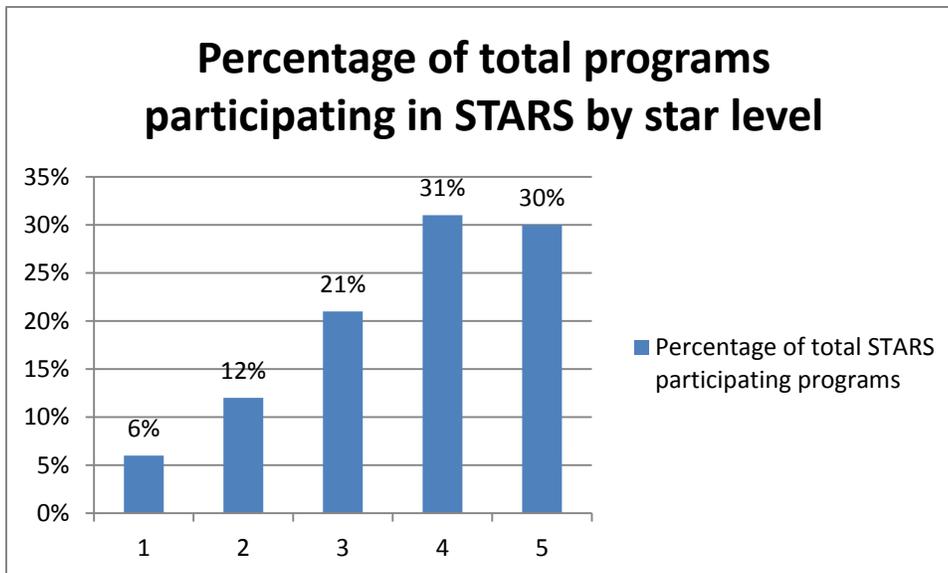
Type of business by STAR level

Count of STARS	Star level					
Type of Business	1	2	3	4	5	Grand Total
1 Independent/ Sole Proprietor	25	40	55	35	16	171
2 C Corporation, S Corporation or LLC	5	4	14	15	5	43
3 Not for Profit or 501(C)(3)	1	10	25	66	82	184
4 Partnership or LLP			2			2
5 Public School		8	16	49	59	132
Grand Total	31	62	112	165	161	532

This data illustrates that programs run by a sole proprietor (typically registered or licensed homes) have the highest number of programs at the three star level, with for-profit programs having high levels at 3 and 4 stars.

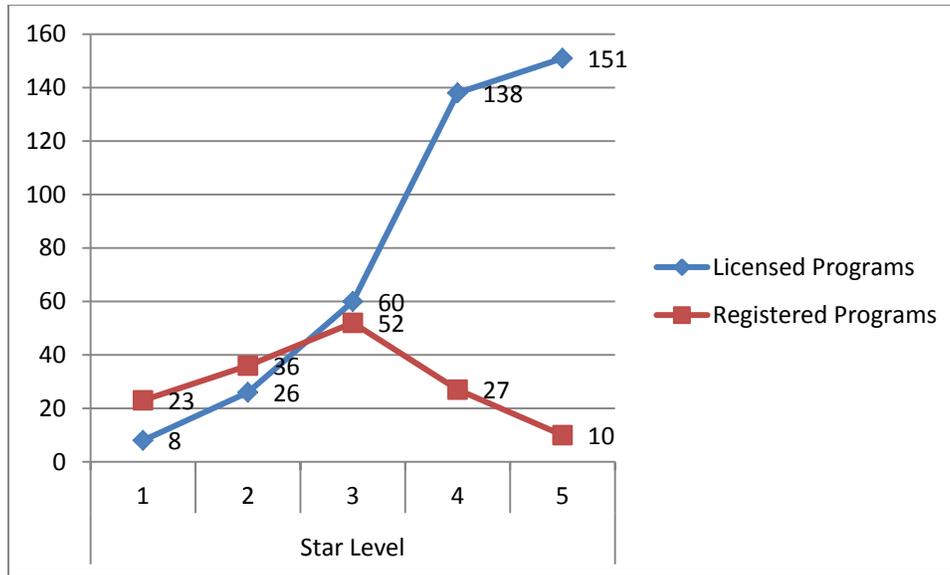
Not for profit and Public School Programs have the highest numbers of programs at the 4 and 5 star level. Possible reasons for this:

- Programs must maintain a level of 4 stars to access funding through act 62.
- Programs achieving high star levels tend to have infrastructure in place to support identified practices that indicate high quality, such as employing credentialed teachers, well trained support staff and the collection of child assessment data.



In looking back at past reports, the distribution of programs at each star level has remained at similar levels in 2008 and 2009, information for 2010 is currently not available. The notable difference is in 2009, 20% of all programs were at the 5 star level, and now 5 star level programs represent 30% of all programs in STARS.

Comparison of Number of Licensed versus Registered Programs by Star Level



Most notable in this chart is that registered providers tend to go up to 3 stars and stay at that level, while licensed programs tend to continue to the 4 and 5 star level. Possible reasons for this are that to go from 3 to 4 or 5 stars:

- Programs need to have their program assessed
- Programs need to use child observation tools
- Programs need to share budgetary, insurance and program policy information.

Many registered providers are reluctant to take these steps for fear of losing the autonomy and privacy they currently experience.

Many providers are not familiar with these types of program practices and find them intimidating.

Total Children Enrolled in STARS Participating Programs

	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	Grand Total
Sum of TOTAL ENROLL	427	995	2846	4981	4962	14211

The number of children enrolled in programs participating in STARS is has been steadily increasing. In April of 2009, approximately 10,000 children were being served, compared to 11,000 in July of 2010. This number is expected to continue to increase along with the continual increase in programs participating in STARS.

Total Number of Programs by Years Participating in STARS and current STAR level

Number of Years Participating in STARS	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	Grand Total
1	9	18	15	3	1	46
2	15	18	33	27	16	109
3	2	13	21	47	32	115
4	1	8	16	44	43	112
5	2	2	8	11	15	38
6	2	2	11	13	23	51
7			7	17	23	47
8		1		3	8	12
9			1			1
Grand Total	31	62	112	165	161	532

This chart indicates that over time programs tend to move up in star level.

Funding Sources by Age of Child and Star Level

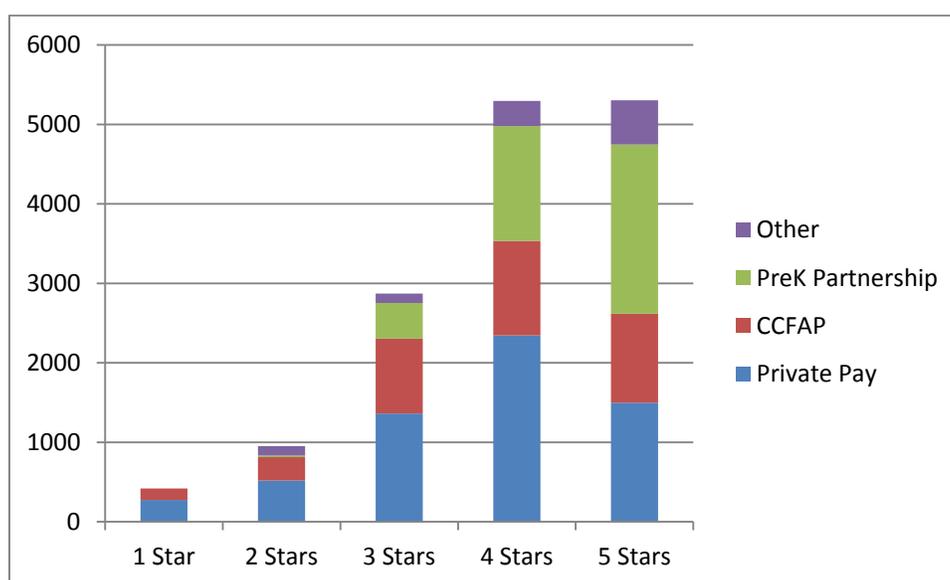
	STAR Level					
	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	Total
Private pay Infants	63	75	151	241	191	721
Private Pay Toddler	59	68	160	294	224	805
Private Pay Preschool	91	161	429	920	773	2374
Private Pay Kindergarten	16	43	122	182	125	488
Private Pay School-Age	46	172	500	708	185	1611
Total	275	519	1362	2345	1498	5999

	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	Total
CCFAP Infants	23	49	137	106	130	445
CCFAP Toddlers	34	39	174	147	147	541
CCFAP Preschool	56	82	301	475	638	1552
CCFAP Kindergarten	8	21	61	105	57	252
CCFAP School-age	23	103	270	355	148	899
Total	144	294	943	1188	1120	3689

	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	Total
PreK Partnership Funded Children	0	20	448	1446	2130	4044

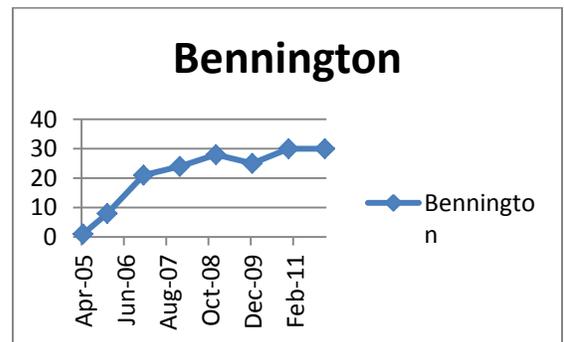
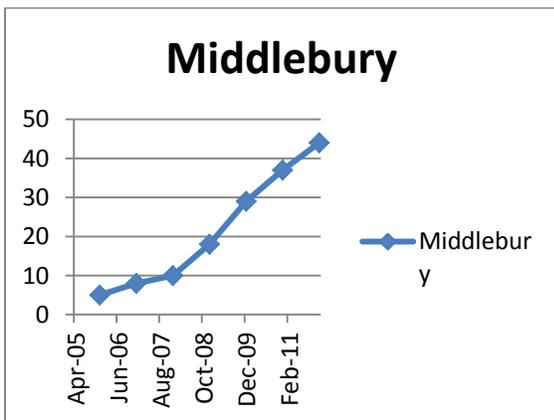
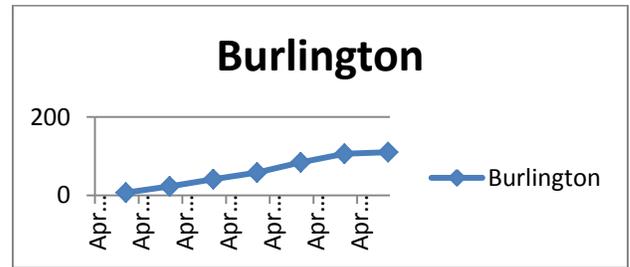
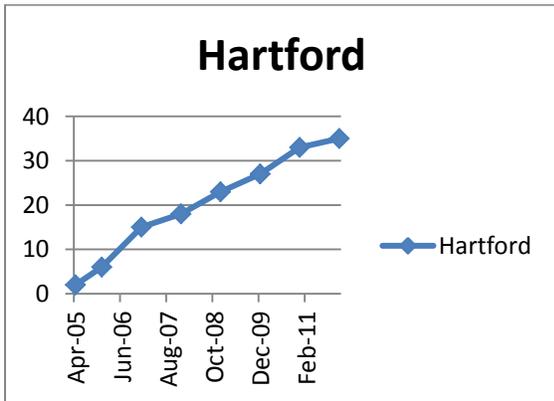
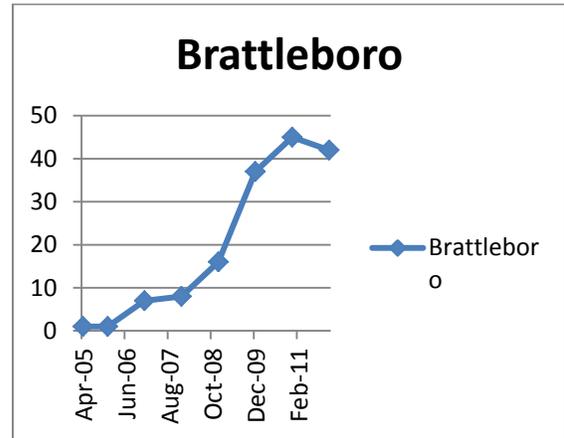
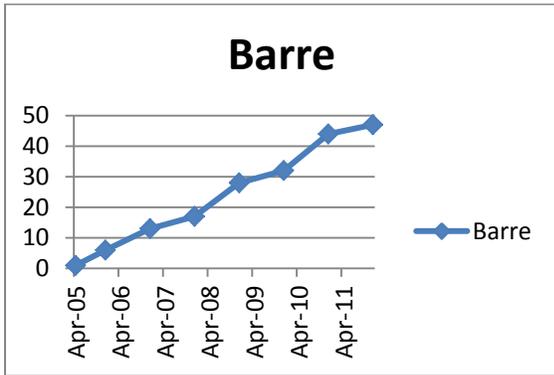
	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars	Total
Other Funding Sources	0	119	118	316	556	1109

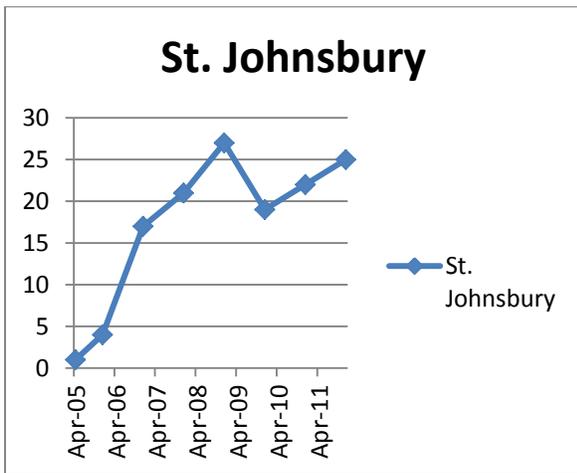
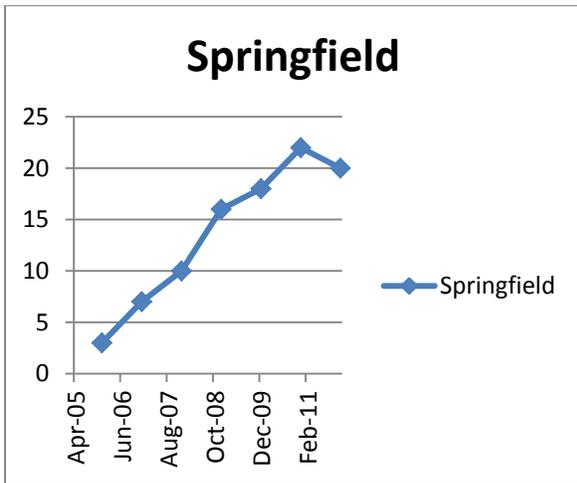
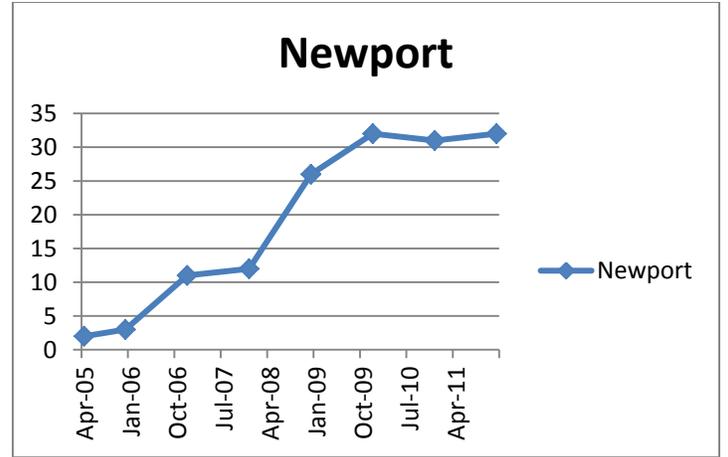
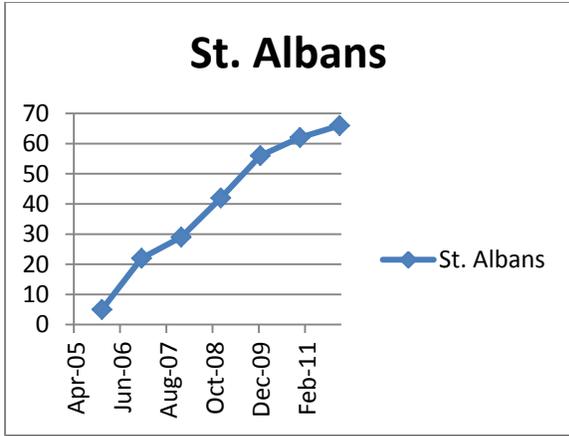
Total Children Enrolled by Funding Source

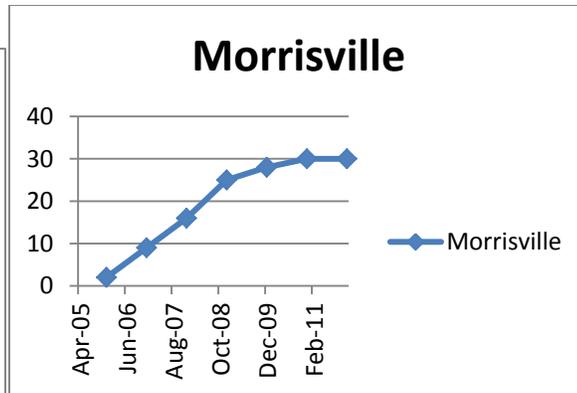
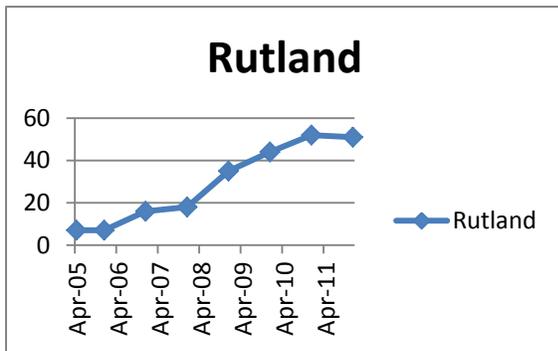


STARS Programs by Year and AHS District								
	Apr-05	Dec-05	Dec-06	Dec-07	Dec-08	Dec-09	Dec-10	Dec-11
Barre	1	6	13	17	28	32	44	47
Bennington	1	8	21	24	28	25	30	30
Brattleboro	1	1	7	8	16	37	45	42
Burlington		7	23	41	58	84	106	110
Hartford	2	6	15	18	23	27	33	35
Middlebury		5	8	10	18	29	37	44
Morrisville		2	9	16	25	28	30	30
Newport	2	3	11	12	26	32	31	32
Rutland	7	7	16	18	35	44	52	51
Springfield		3	7	10	16	18	22	20

St. Albans		5	22	29	42	56	62	66
St. Johnsbury	1	4	17	21	27	19	22	25
Total	15	57	169	224	342	431	514	532

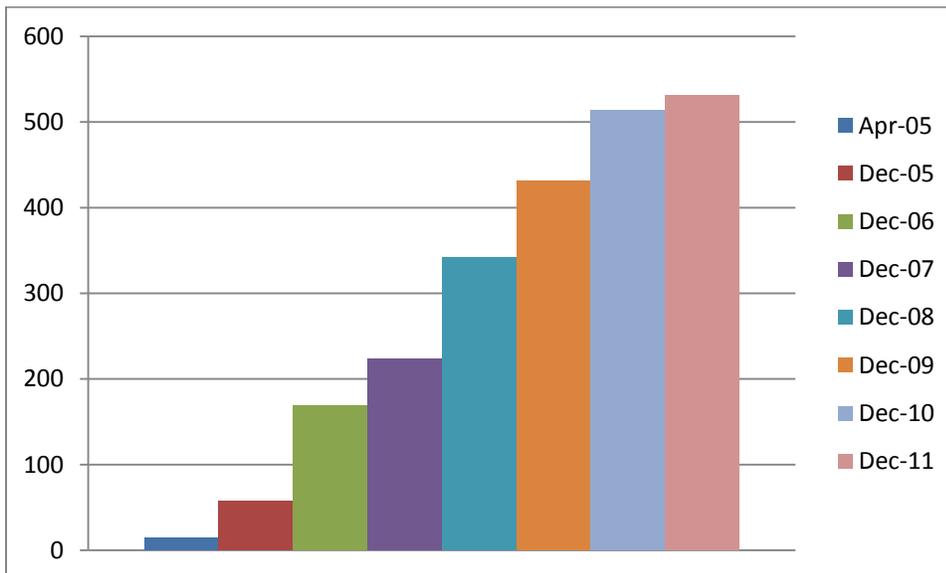






STAR Level By Year		Apr-05	Dec-05	Dec-06	Dec-07	Dec-08	Dec-09	Dec-10	Dec-11
1 Star		2	7	20	25	34	29	39	31
2 Stars		3	6	23	30	48	42	60	62
3 Stars		7	14	53	57	82	118	113	112
4 Stars		2	21	55	77	111	147	181	165
5 Stars		1	9	18	35	67	95	121	161
Total		15	57	169	224	342	431	514	532

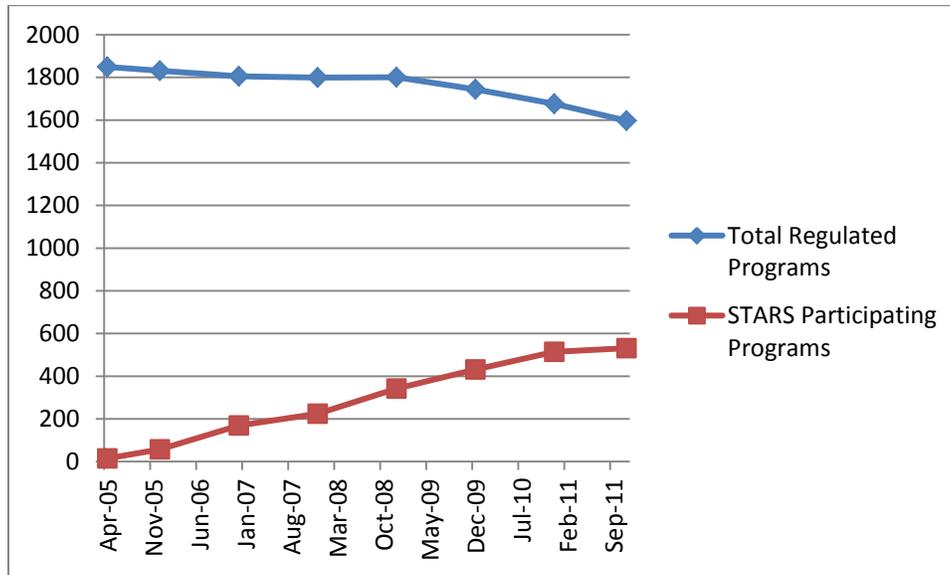
\STARS Participating Programs by Year



This chart indicates slower growth in the number of programs achieving STARS from 2010 to 2011. Possible reasons for this could be:

- Implementation of the revised application
- As STARS makes the transition from a new program to an established program, we could expect the number of participants to increase at a slower rate.

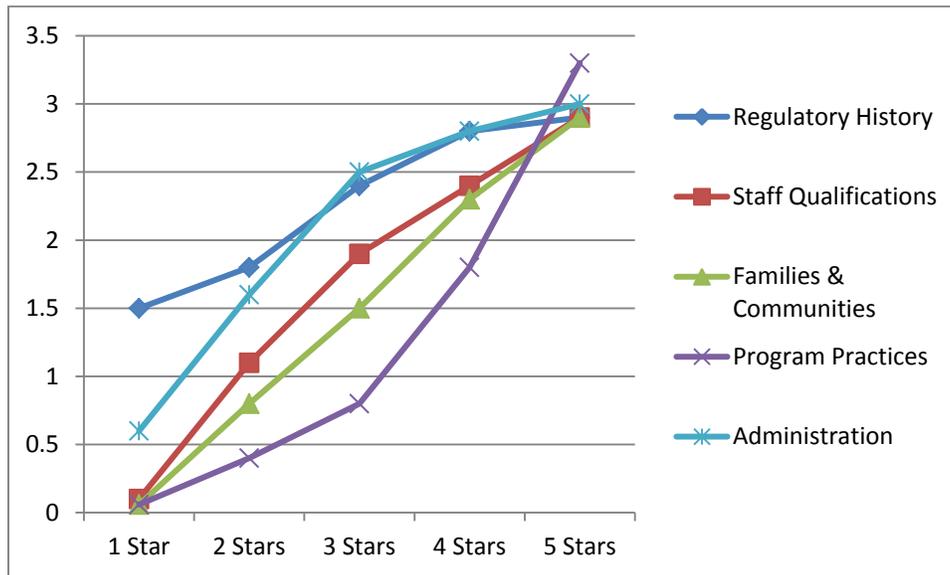
Comparison of STARS Participating Programs to Regulated Programs by Year



	Apr-05	Dec-05	Dec-06	Dec-07	Dec-08	Dec-09	Dec-10	Nov-11
Total Regulated Programs	1849	1831	1805	1799	1801	1744	1676	1597
STARS Participating Programs	15	57	169	224	342	431	514	531

Average Number of points achieved by arena and star level (December 2011)

	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars
Regulatory History	1.5	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.9
Staff Qualifications	0.1	1.1	1.9	2.4	2.9
Families & Communities	0.06	0.8	1.5	2.3	2.9
Program Practices	0.06	0.4	0.8	1.8	3.3
Administration	0.6	1.6	2.5	2.8	3
Total Points	2.4	5.7	9.1	12	15



Overall statewide trends are that the number of regulated programs has decreased, but the percentage of programs participating in STARS has increased. The number of children enrolled in programs participating in STARS continues to increase, due most likely to the increase in center-based programs STARS, as compared to home-based child care, which has fewer numbers of children. Also the number of programs at higher star levels also has increased.

There is participation across regions of the state, with variation between regions.

Feedback from providers about reasons for participating and improving in the STARS system includes the following:

- Bonus payments
- Increased tuition assistance rates for parents
- STARS provides a framework for planning and implementing program improvements.
- Recognition for providing a quality program
- Ongoing support offered by STARS coordinators.

Agency of Human Services Districts

