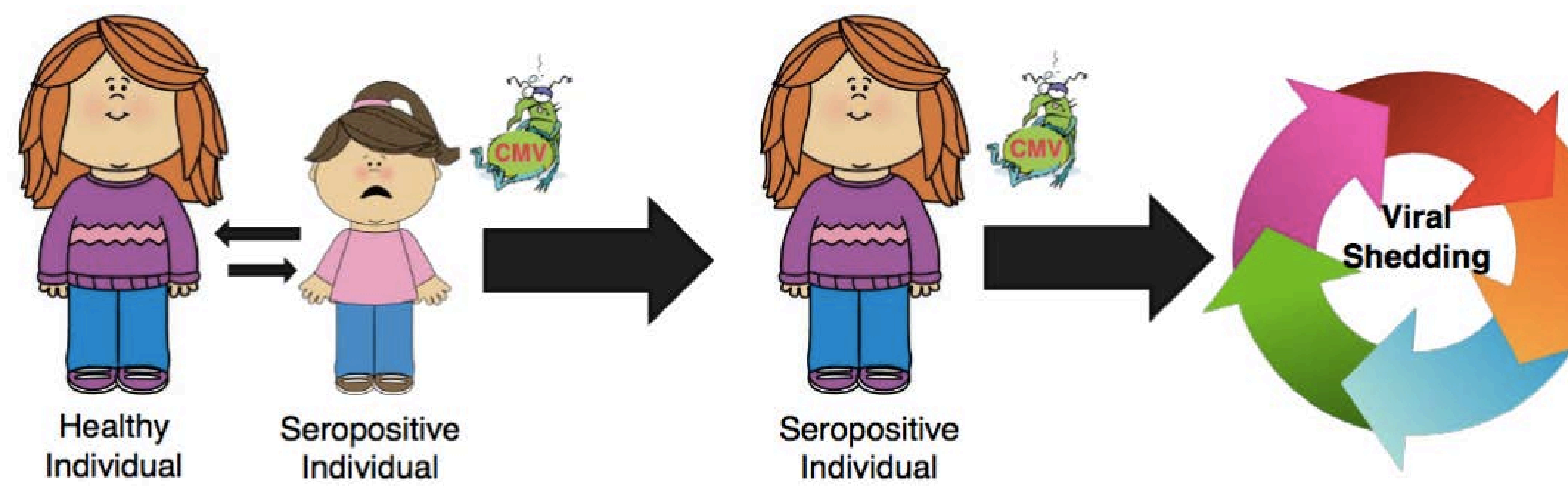


National Child Care Provider's Awareness of Congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV)

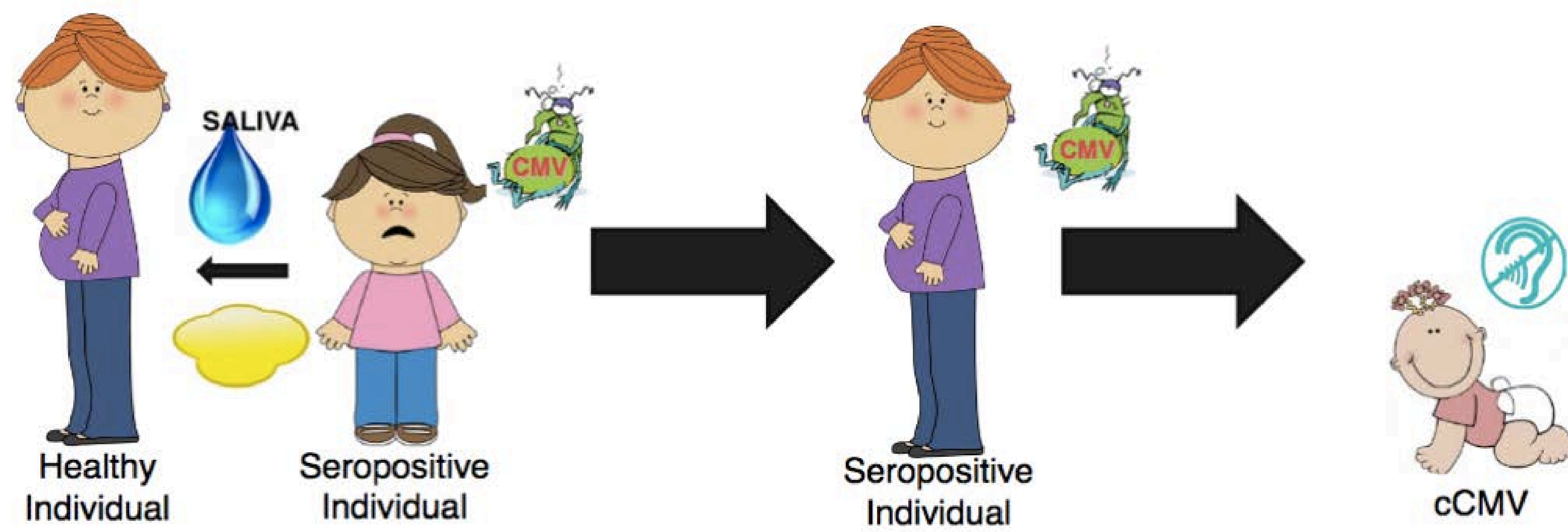
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Introduction

Cytomegalovirus, also known as CMV, is a variant of the herpes virus that is transmitted from one individual to another through various bodily fluids, mainly through contact of urine and saliva.³ Healthy individuals who initially contract CMV from a seropositive individual are often asymptomatic or have mild cold symptoms.



Congenital cytomegalovirus, also known as cCMV, occurs when a pregnant mother contracts CMV and then passes it onto her unborn child. Currently, cCMV is the most common intrauterine infection in the United States today.² cCMV infection before birth can manifest in significant sequelae such as microcephaly, hyperbilirubinemia, seizures, general neurologic deficits, and hearing loss.² While the majority of infants exposed to cCMV before birth do not display these symptoms, the most common sequelae following cCMV infection is sensorineural hearing loss.²



In industrialized countries, CMV rates are high in young children due to exposure during childbirth, in infancy from breast-feeding from seropositive mothers, and throughout childhood through contact with other children.³

- Small children have habits that facilitate the dissemination of viruses, e.g. putting their hands.⁴
- A high prevalence of CMV excretion has been found in daycare settings for these reasons, as well as increased contact and increased viral shedding.⁵
- An examination of the occupational risk for daycare providers contracting cCMV found that transmission of CMV from children carrying the virus to pregnant daycare providers put them at the greatest occupational health risk of transmitting cCMV to their child.³

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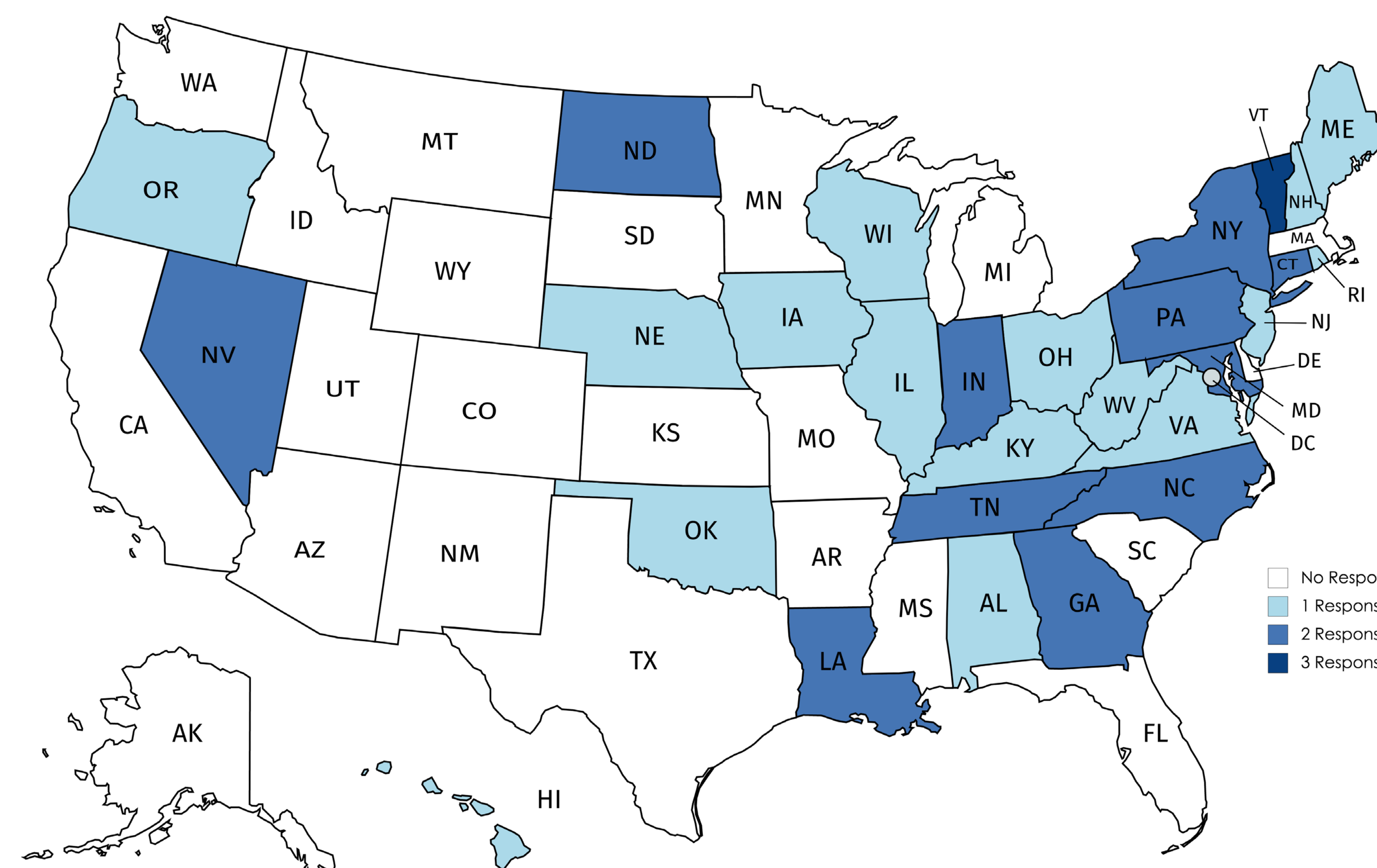
Purpose

The purpose of this study is to determine what education is currently provided to child care providers across the United States about CMV, and what preventive measures are in place to reduce the transmission of cCMV to pregnant child care educators. While other congenital conditions like Down syndrome are more well known, there are more children affected by cCMV.¹ By sending the survey to states across the country, we hope to gain more information on national awareness and prevention of cytomegalovirus and other infectious diseases amongst child care providers.

Method

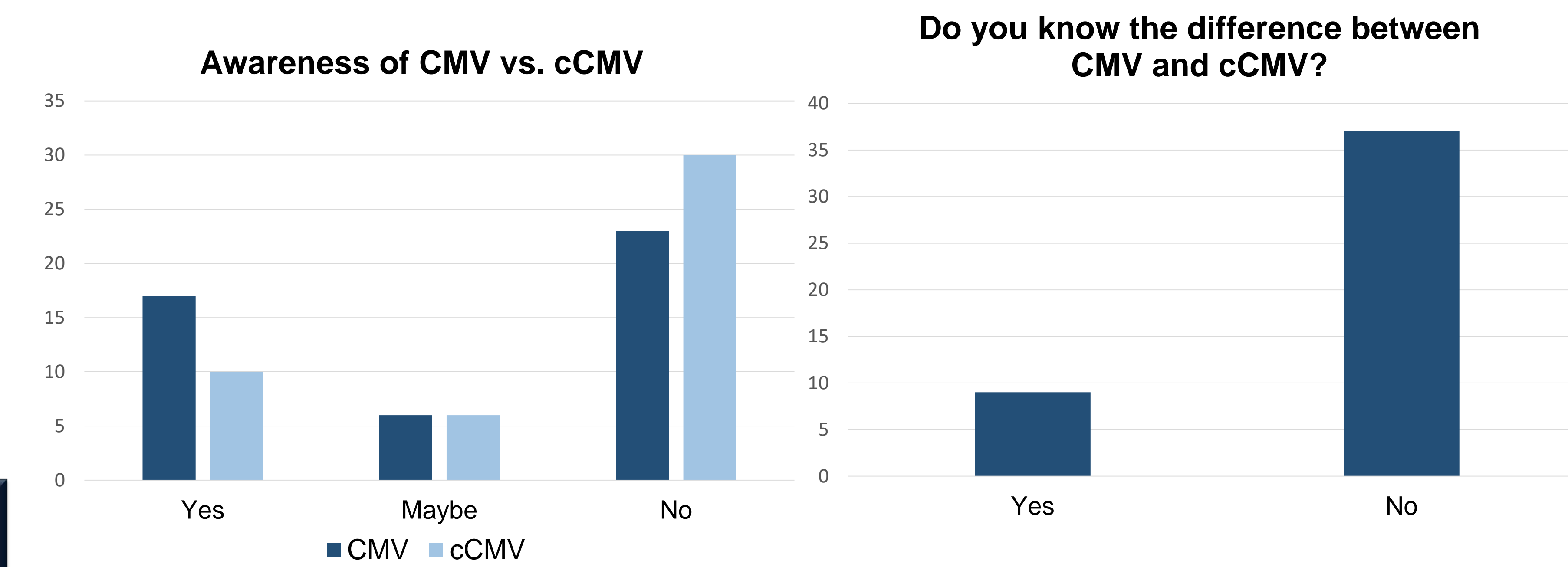
- This study was approved by the UCONN Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Responses were collected using the Qualtrics system
- Survey was divided into two sections:
 - **First section:** General questions regarding the respondent's knowledge of CMV, cCMV, common sequelae and current health and safety training
 - **Second section:** Demographic information, including location, size of child practice, number of employees, years practicing as a child care provider and educational attainment
- **Participants:** Drawn from the National Association for the Educational of Young Children (NAEYC) website

Response Rate by State

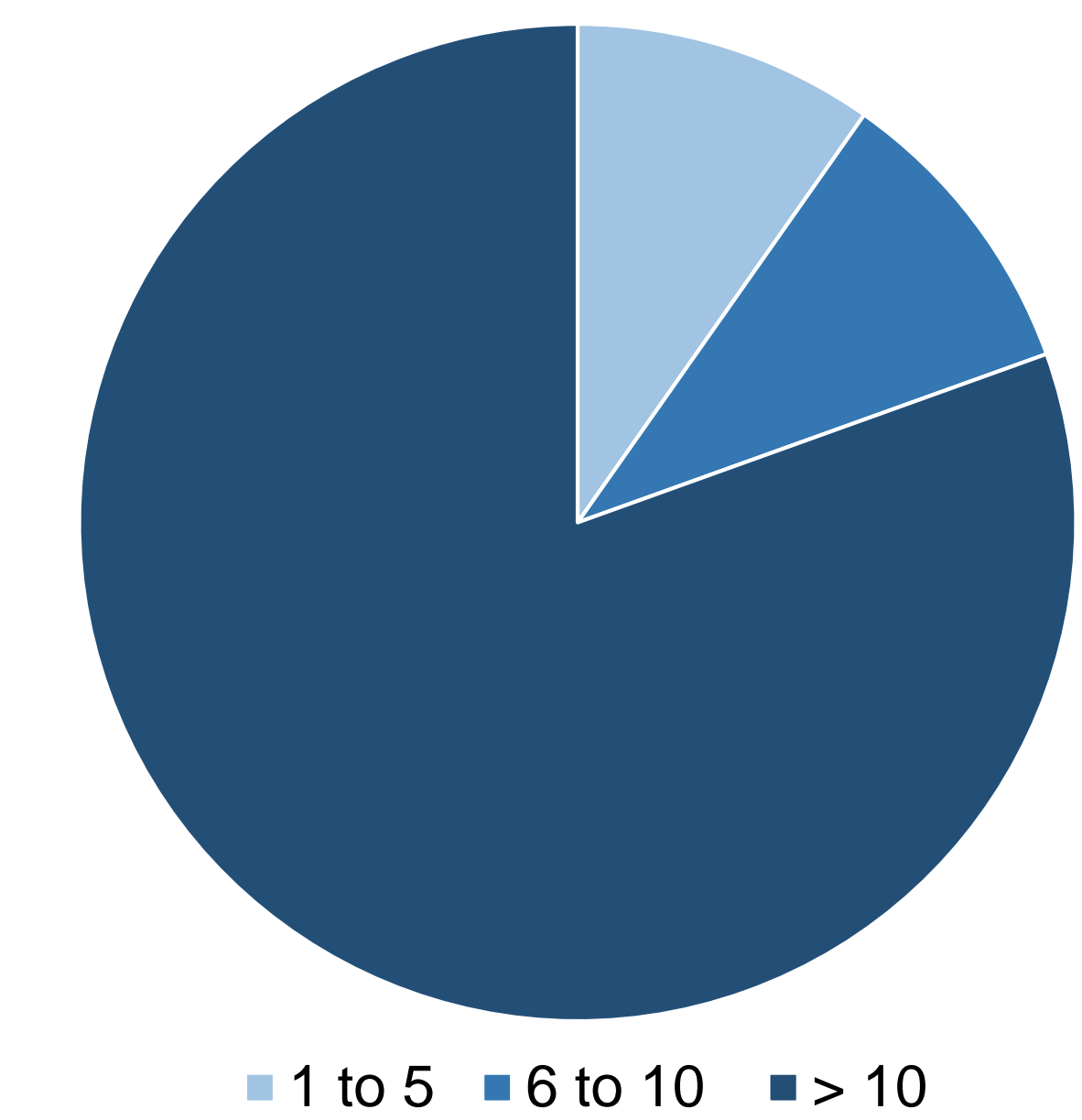


1109 surveys sent, 59 responses obtained (5.3% response rate)

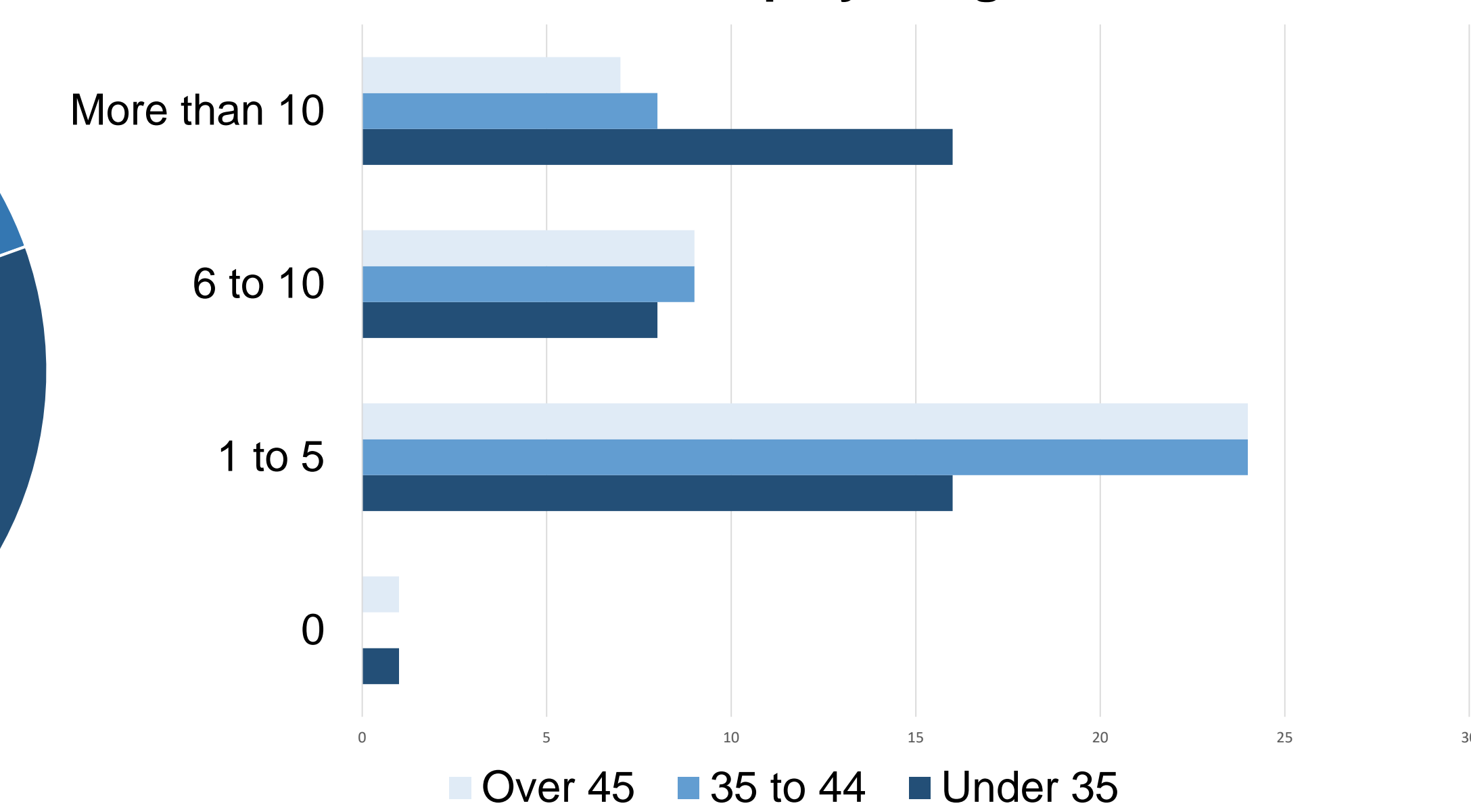
General Knowledge & Awareness of cCMV



Number of Female Employees



Female Employee Ages



Conclusion

- Consistent with previous research, child care providers do not have knowledge regarding CMV or cCMV
- While this is not a representative sample of the United States, it indicates a greater need for education and prevention of cCMV to child care providers
- Future research should focus on the education of families and child care providers' knowledge of CMV and cCMV in order to instill more preventative measures

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