



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Analysis of findings from early years inspections



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Research Matters

Launch of reports

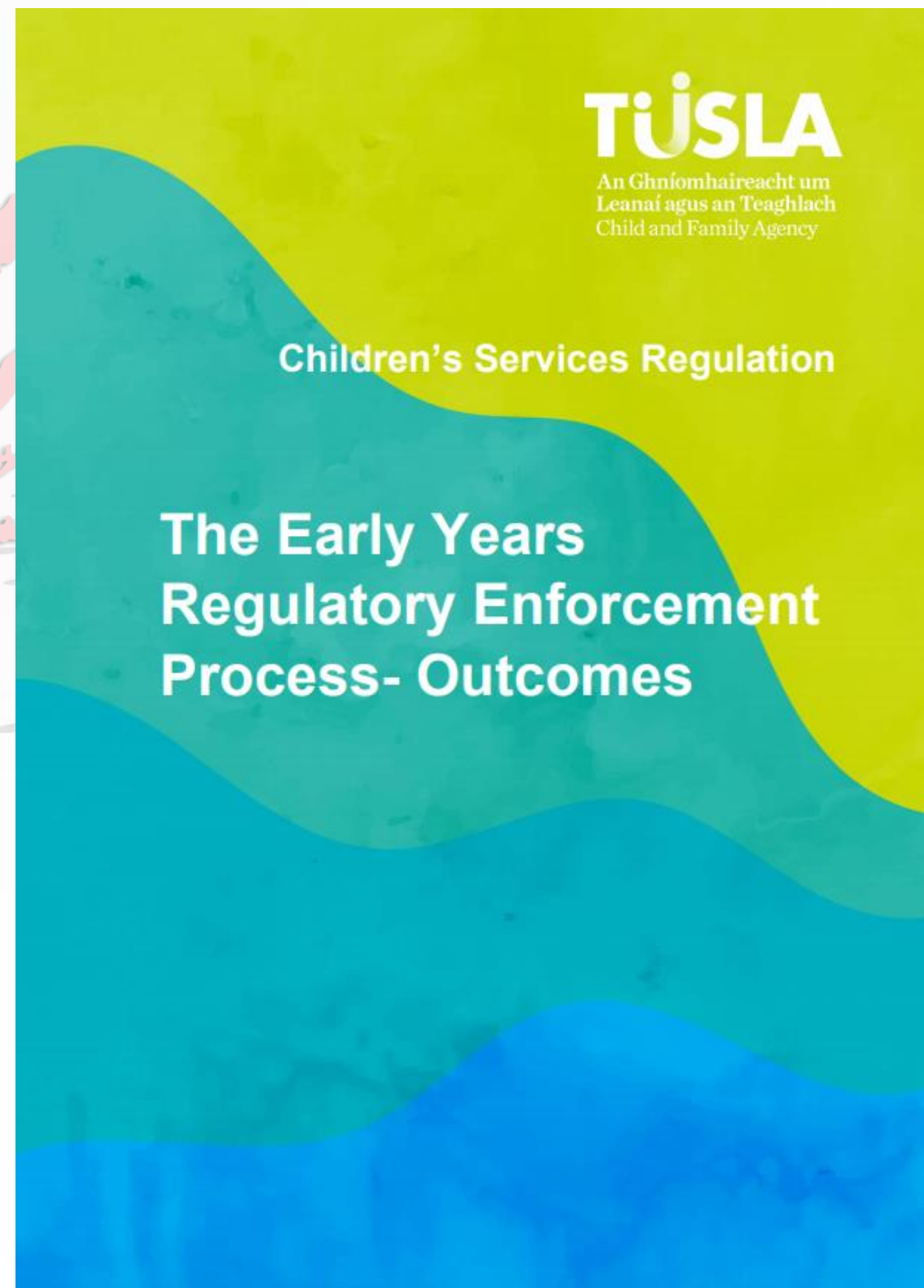
3rd Feb 2021

Report 1: Analysis of Early Years Inspection Reports and trends



- About 80 pages
- Separate analysis for 2018 and 2019
- Information about compliance according to a wide range of variables
- Issues arising in noncompliant regs
- Trends in compliance from 2017-2019
- Summary report also available

Report 2: Outcomes from the Regulatory Enforcement Process



- About 50 pages
- Corrective and preventive actions
- Immediate Action Notices
- Conditions attached to registration
- Removal from the register
- Summary also available



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Trends in early years inspections 2017-2019




Approach adopted

Aim: Carry out a trend analysis on the findings from Early Years Inspections over a three-year period from January 2017 to December 2019.

Methods: Quantitative and qualitative analysis, data linkage with EYI register

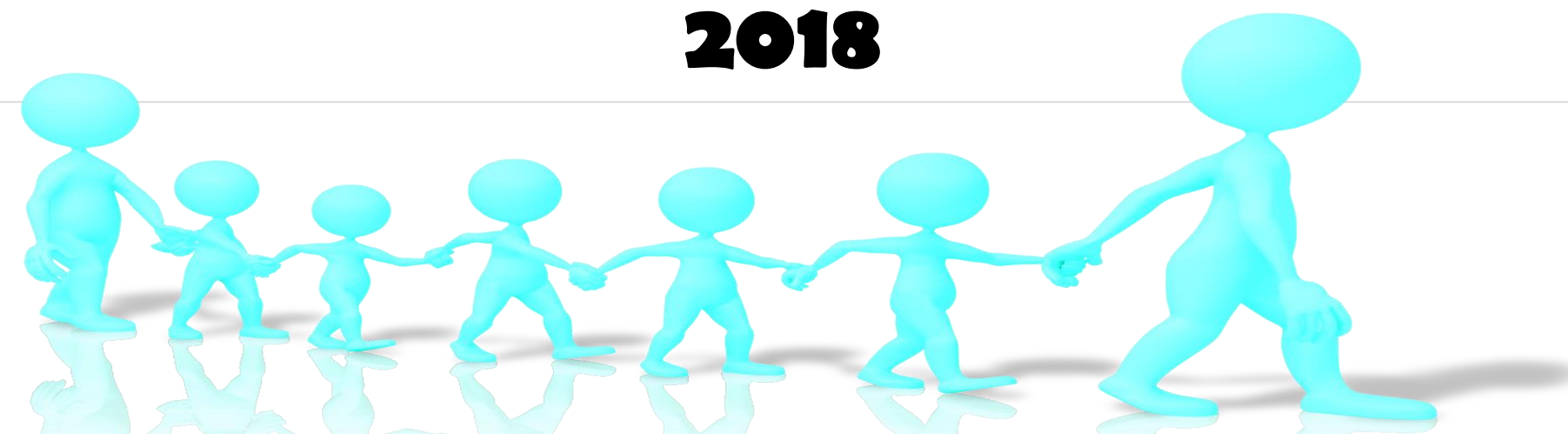
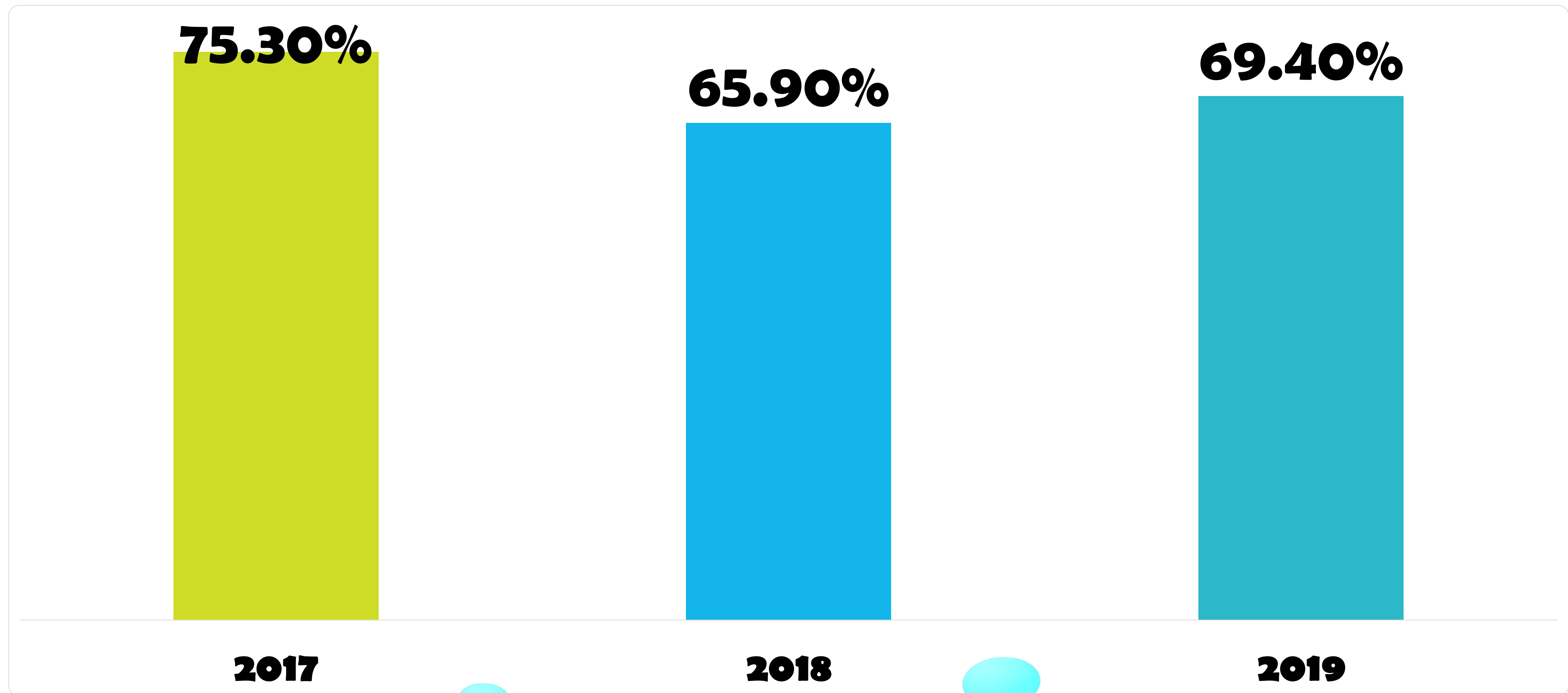


| Reports | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------------------|-------|------|-------|
| Number of reports | 1563 | 1557 | 1389* |
| Number of regulations | 14271 | 7863 | 8625 |

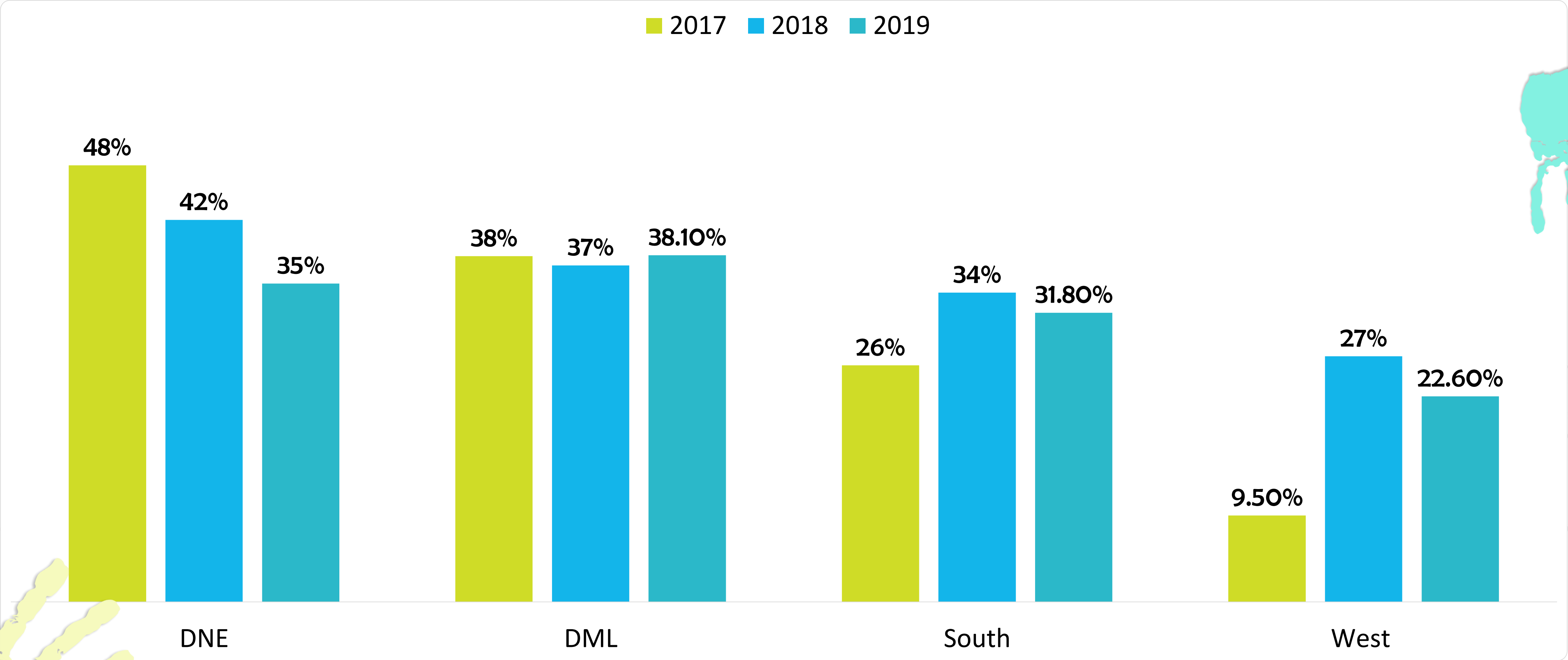


**In 2019, a number of inspection reports documented more than one inspection*

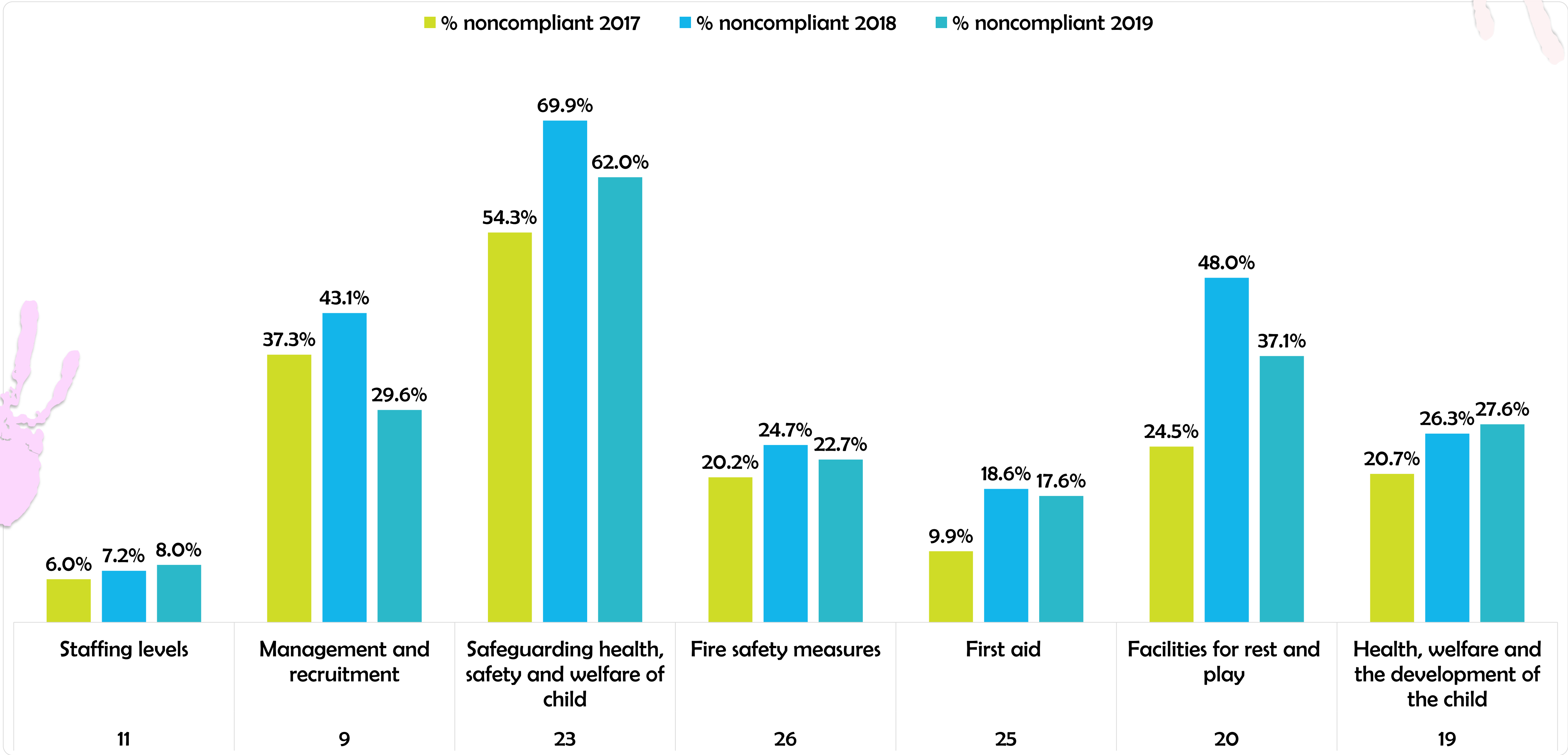
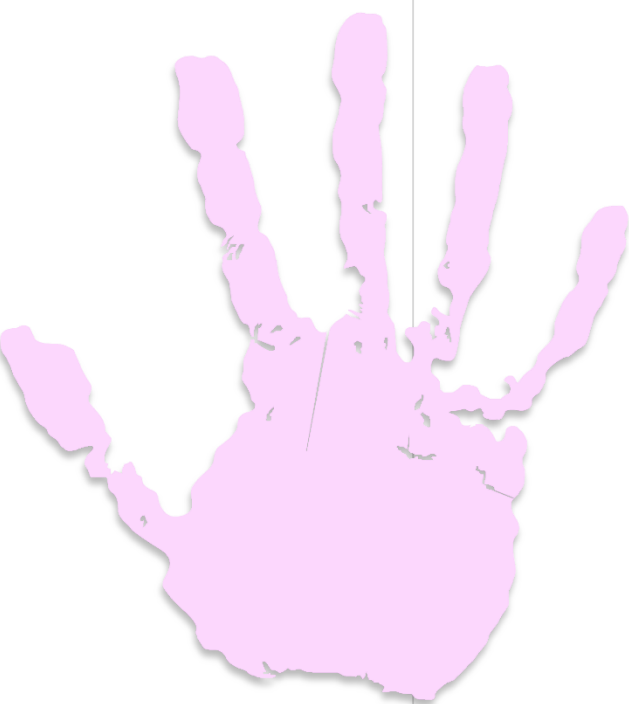
% regulations assessed as compliant



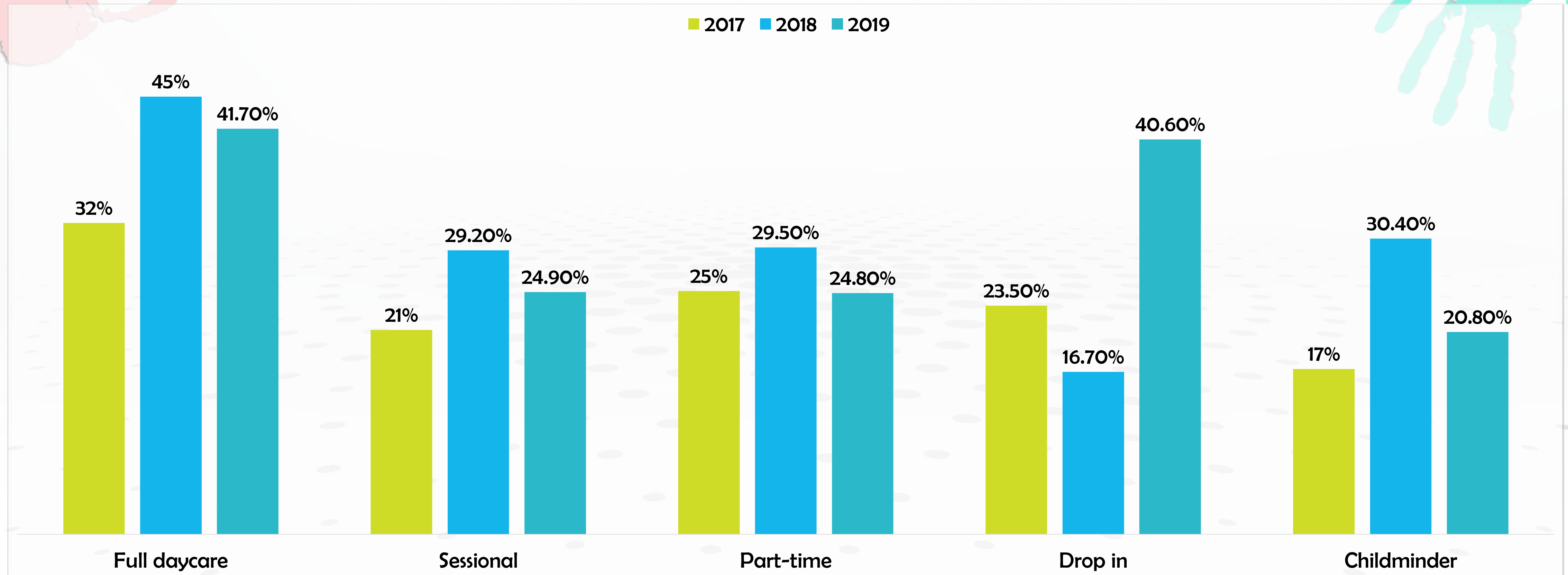
Regional trends for % noncompliant regulations



Noncompliance across the most commonly assessed regulations included in the analysis



% noncompliance by type of service



Notification of incidents and unsolicited information

Regulation 31, Notification of Incidents requires registered providers to notify Tusla in writing within three working days of becoming aware of any specific incidents occurring in the pre-school service.

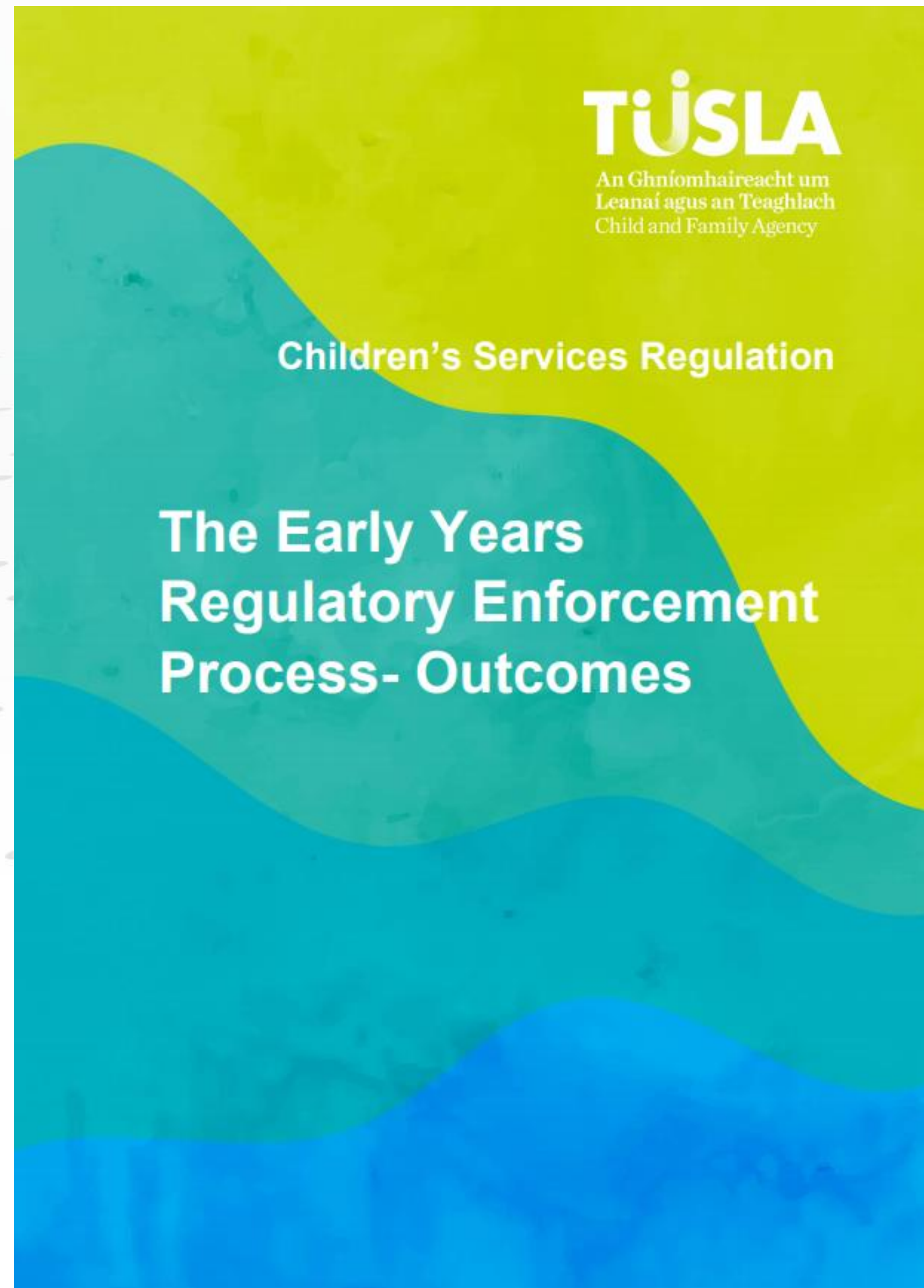
Incidents include: Death of a child in the service or following transfer from the service; Child or staff member diagnosed with infectious disease; Serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner; Irregular closure of a service following an incident in the service; Child missing from service

The number of notification of incidents almost doubled between 2017 (n = 203) and 2019 (403)



Unsolicited information submissions

- The number of unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate increased each year from:
 - 277 submissions in 2017
 - 413 submissions in 2018 and
 - 597 submissions in 2019.



Outcomes arising from the Early Years Regulatory Enforcement Process

Approach adopted

Aim:

to carry out a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the regulatory enforcement process over a two-year period from January 2018 to December 2019.

Data:

- Early Years Inspection reports, in 2018 (1,557 reports) and 2019 (1,389 reports) for Immediate Action Notices and Conditions attached to services.
- A random sample of 500 noncompliant regulations for the analysis of corrective and preventative actions
- Data linkage with the EYI register to enable analysis by additional areas e.g. profit status of the service, number of personnel

Regulatory enforcement process



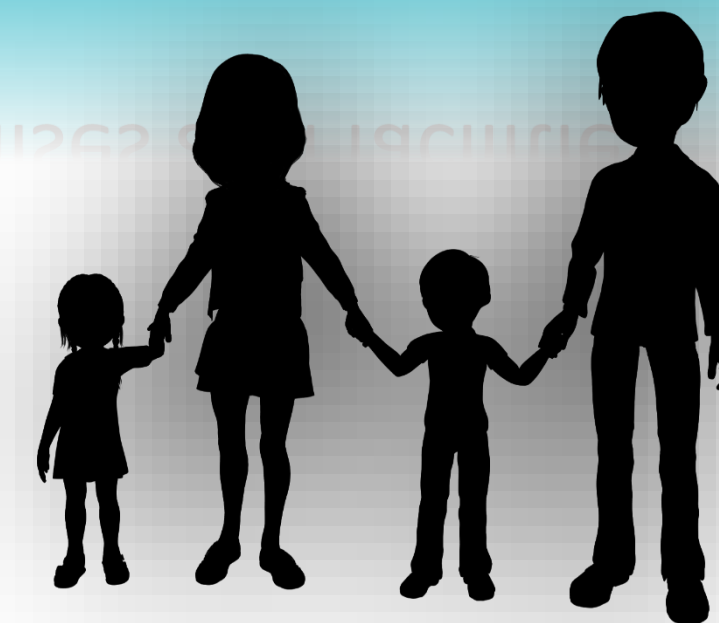
Corrective and preventive actions

85.8% of noncompliant regulations resulted in verified improvements in the service and a further **3.6%** of improvements would be verified at the next inspection.

11% of regulations remained noncompliant at the end of the CAPA process suggesting that insufficient improvements had been made.

Improvements to the service as a result of this process were identified in respect of:

- The governance of the service,
- The health, welfare and development of the child,
- Safety, and
- Premises and facilities.

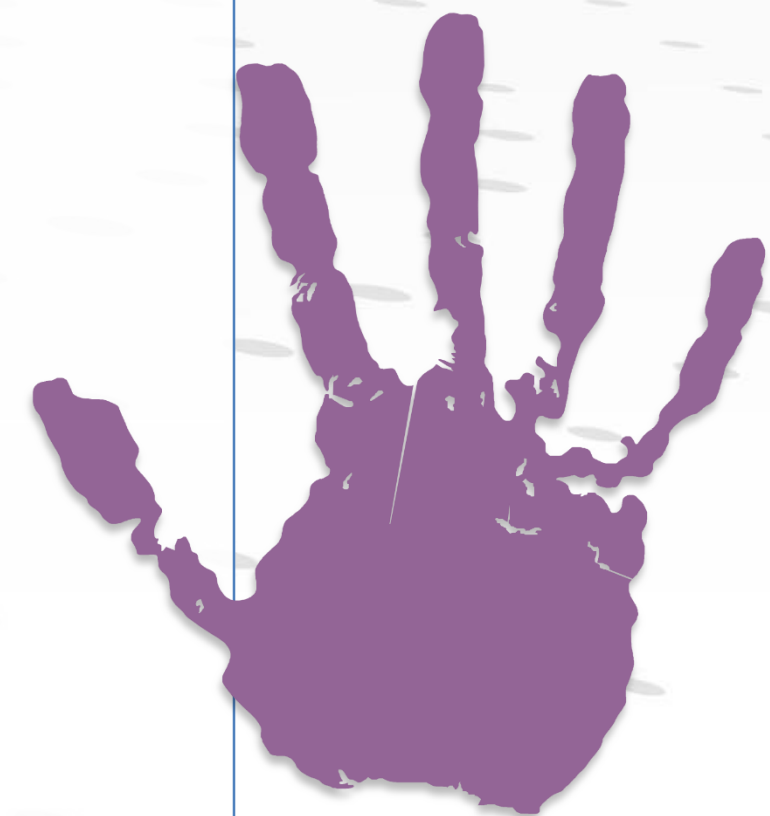


Immediate action notices



197 immediate action notices in respect of regulations assessed in 2018 reports and 110 in 2019

- Most likely to be identified in reports of inspections in:
 - **full daycare services:** 73.6% of notices issued in 2018 and 56.4% in 2019 (Full daycare accounted for 35% of services in 2018)
 - **the DML region:** 31% in 2018 and 32.7% in 2019 (DML accounted for 28% of services in 2018)
 - **services with 0 to 5 employees:** accounted for about half of all immediate action notices issued (Accounted for 66.4% of services in 2018)
 - **for profit services:** 78.6% in 2018 and 82.5% in 2019 (accounted for 76% of services in 2018)



Immediate action notices

Services where immediate action notices are issued are more likely to be noncompliant.

- The mean average number of noncompliant regulations in these reports was **5.14** compared with about **1.8** found in the overall analysis of reports

79% of IANs relate to Regulation 9 (Management and recruitment) and Regulation 23 (Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of the child)

- **Regulation 9:** 55.4% of all notices (main issue related to Garda/Police vetting).
- **Regulation 23:** 24% of all notices (33% due to unsafe sleep practices)

Conditions attached to the service

Conditions were attached to
206 services (13.2%) in 2018
140 services (10%) in the 2019
analysis

Reports of services with conditions attached have, on average, a higher number of noncompliant regulations (4.29 in 2018 and 2019) compared with reports of services where a condition is not attached.

- The regulations most likely to be identified are Regulation 9 (87 in 2018 and 49 in 2019) and Regulation 23 (64 in 2018 and 34 in 2019),

Removal from the register

- Two services were removed by Tusla from register in 2018
- Four services were removed from the register in 2019

