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# Challenges of moving towards an integrated child care quality system

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National Childcare Accreditation Council

Quality and Collaboration Matter  
WA 2009 Childcare and Early Childhood Education Conference  
3-5 April 2009



## Focus of an integrated child care quality system

- Standards that focus on quality outcomes for children: care and education
- Standards that are built from a view of children as competent, capable, inquiring learners... from birth





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# What should be integrated?

- Service types: family day care, kindergartens, long day care, MACS, occasional care, outside school hours care, preschools
- Licensing and accreditation





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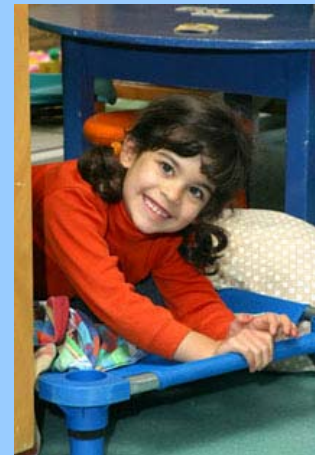
## What does research tell us about quality?

- Importance of ratios, qualifications and group size
- Importance of interactions with children: responsive, unhurried
- Importance of play based learning
- Importance of pedagogy: intentional teaching, reflective practice
- Importance of educational program
- Importance of providing a safe, healthy environment



# Can child care quality systems ensure/improve quality?

- Regulatory processes
- Quality improvement processes

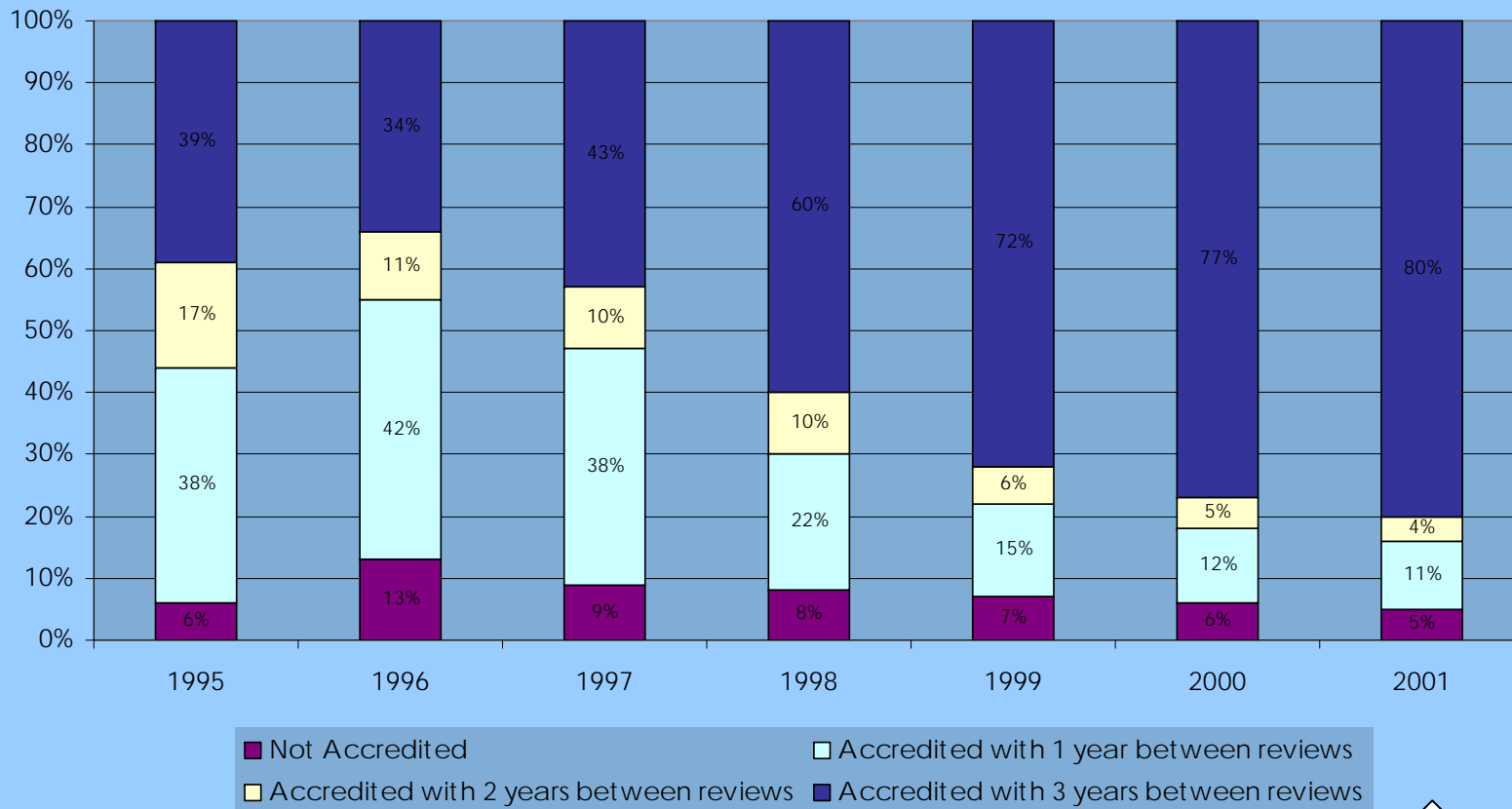




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# What can statistics tell us about quality improvement?

QIAS Progress Statistics July 1995 – July 2001



Last Accreditation Decision under the 'old' QIAS made October 2001

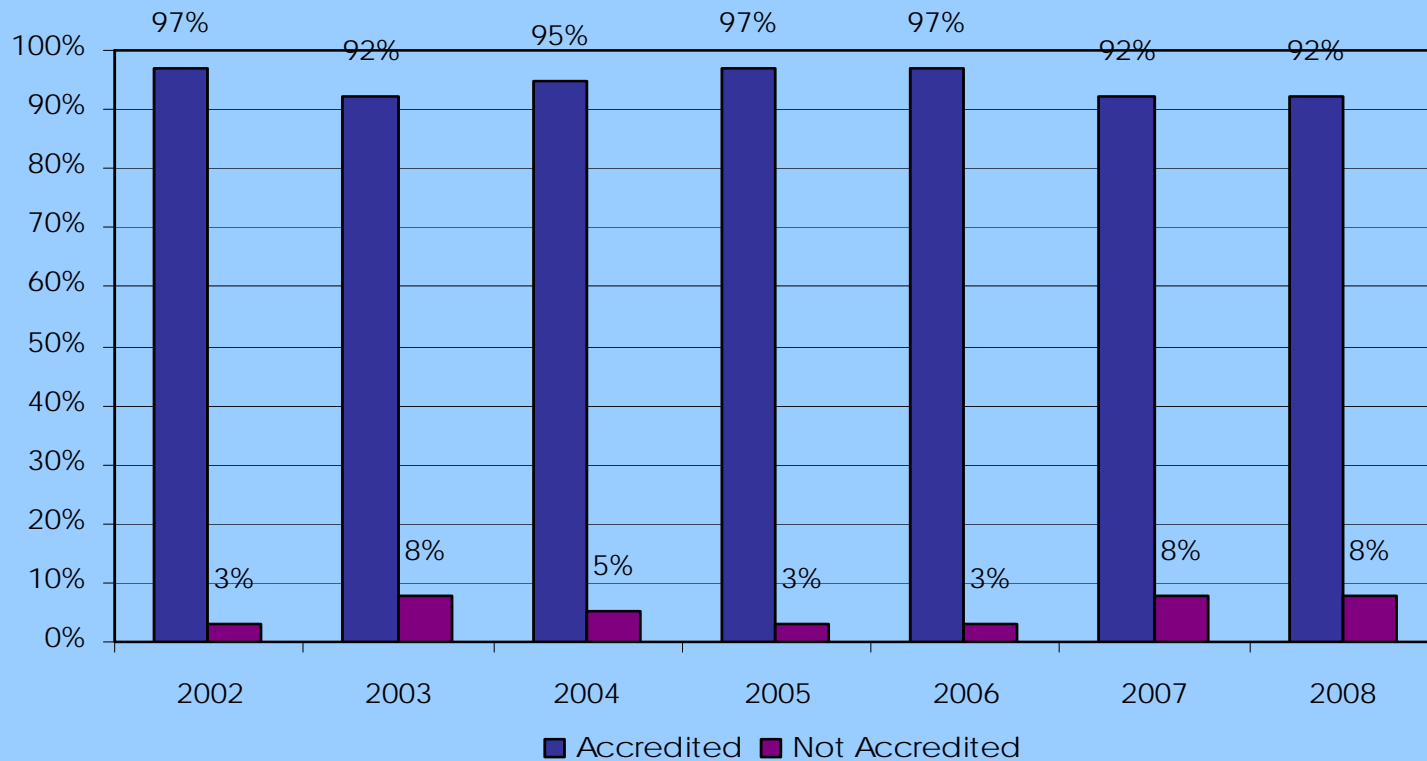




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# What can statistics tell us about quality improvement?

QIAS Progress Statistics July 2003 – July 2008

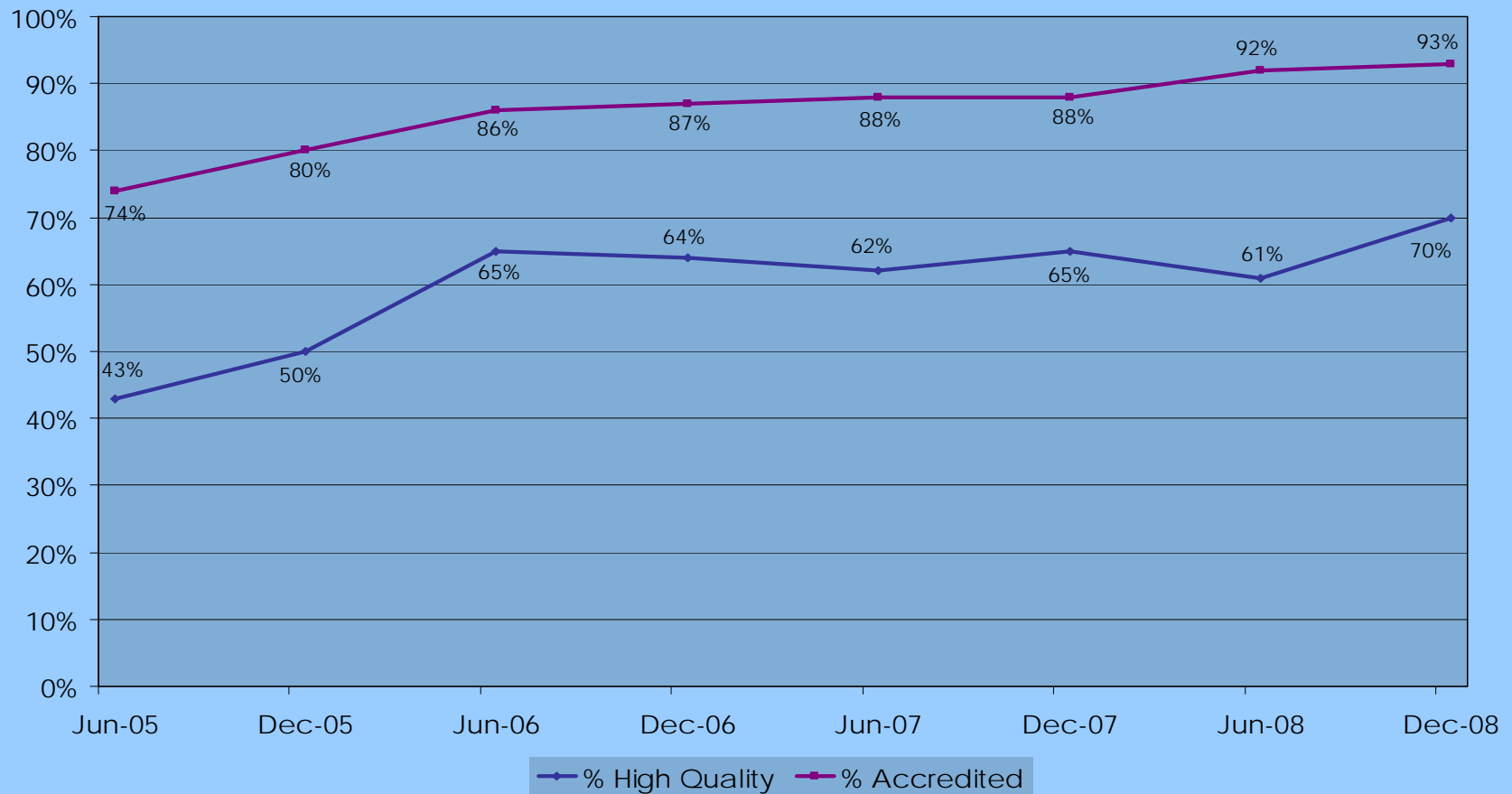


- First Accreditation Decisions made under revised standards 2006
- Unannounced Validation Visits and NCAC employed Staff Validators from 1 July 2006
- Unannounced Spot Checks from 1 October 2006



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# QIAS High Quality Centres

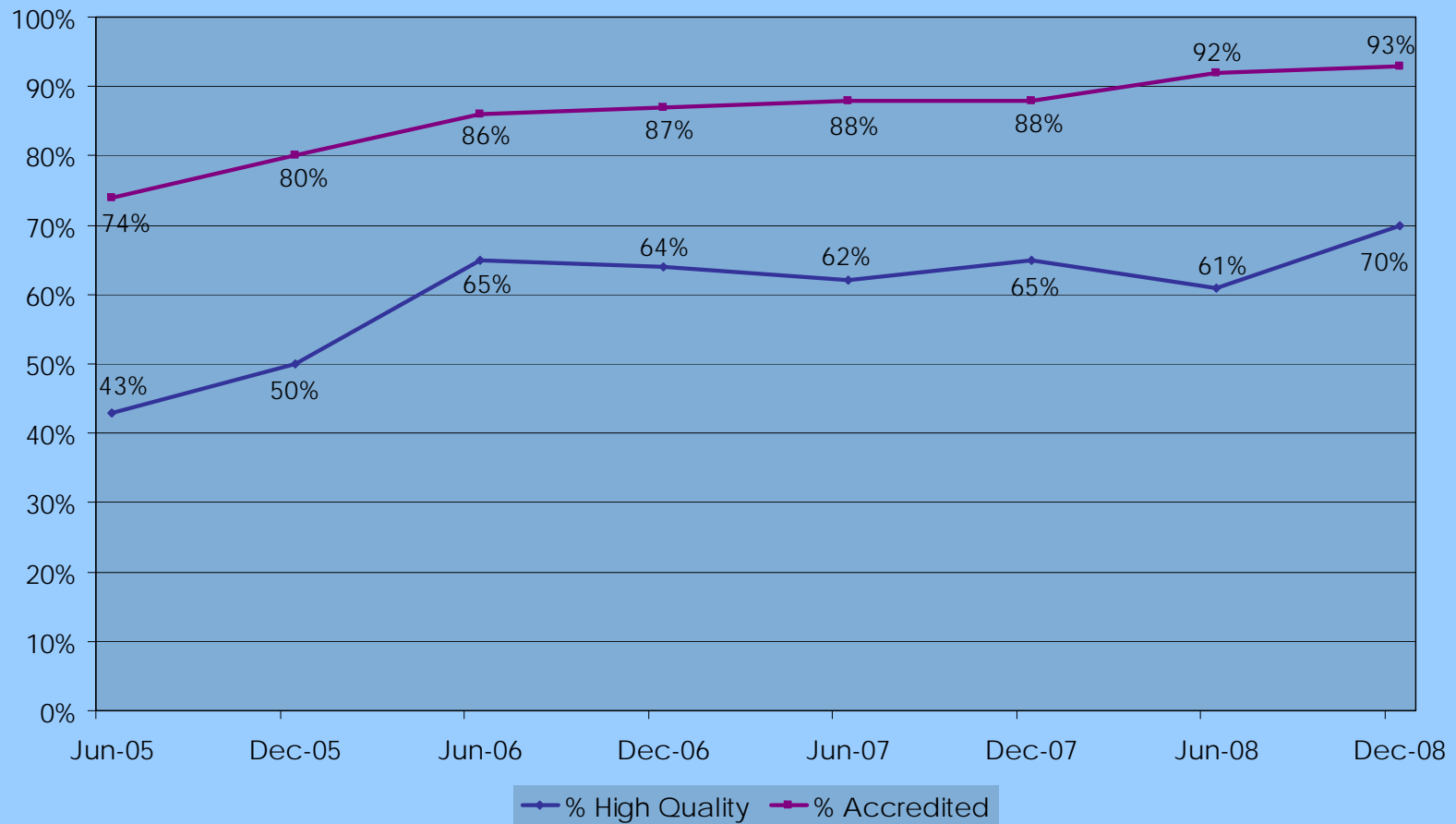






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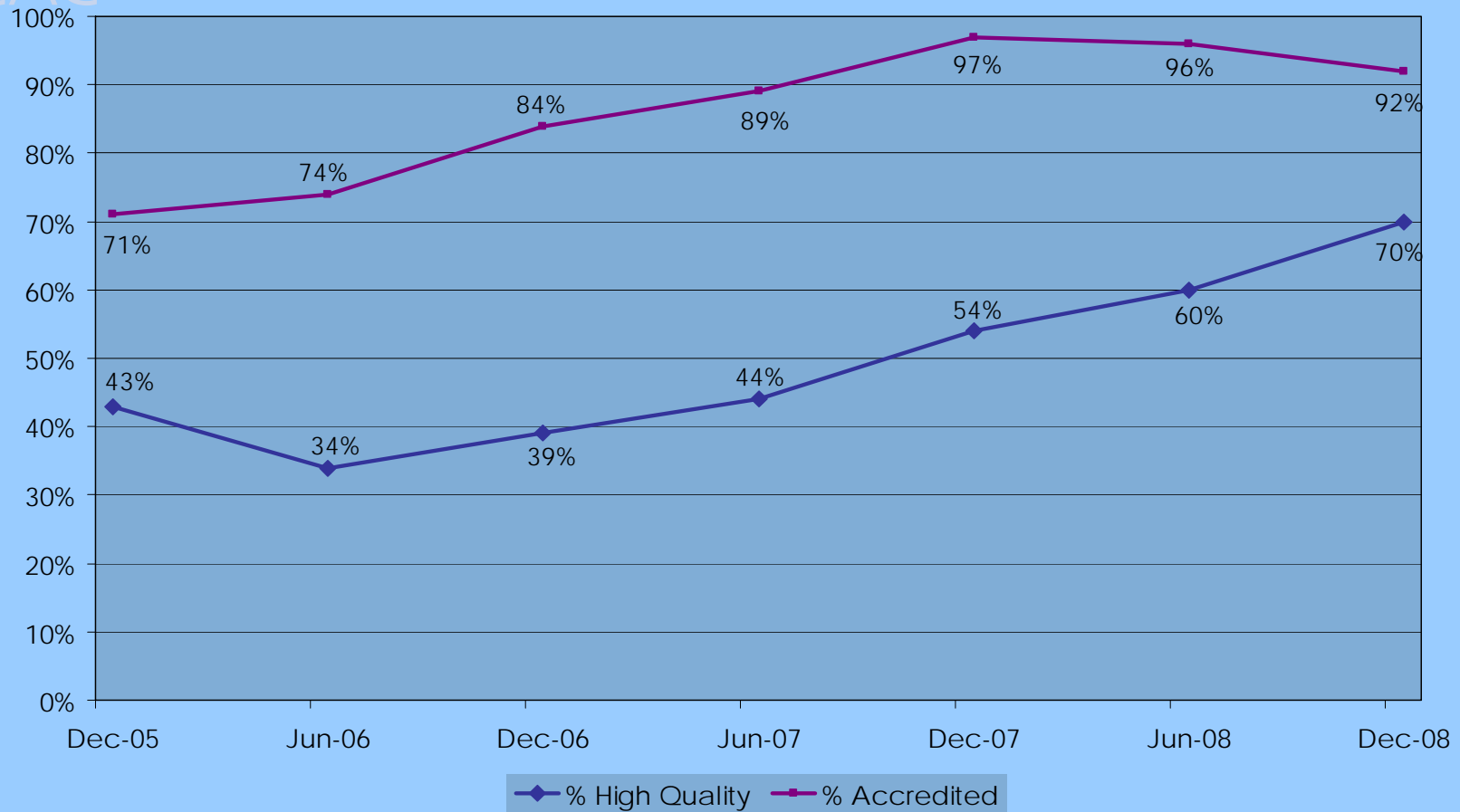
# OSHCQA High Quality Services





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# FDCQA High Quality Schemes





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# CCQA Progress Statistics July 2002 – July 2008





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# What can we learn from current CCQA Systems?

Strengths and Weaknesses:

- Self-study: process, *Report*
- *Surveys*
- Validation: timeframe, process, *Report*
- Accreditation Decision: documentation, service recognition
- Sanctions





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## What is currently in development?

COAG work:

- National Quality Framework
- Early Years Learning Framework
- National Quality Standards
- 5 level rating system
- Streamlining licensing and quality assurance
- Workforce issues





# How should an integrated child care quality system be managed?

- Licensing and Quality Assurance
  - 1 process?
  - 2 processes?
- National System?
- National/State System?
- State Systems?



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