



University of Pittsburgh

SCHOOL OF  
**Social Work**

*Empower People  
Lead Organizations  
Grow Communities*

PA Child Welfare Resource Center

# Family Group Decision Making Statewide Evaluation

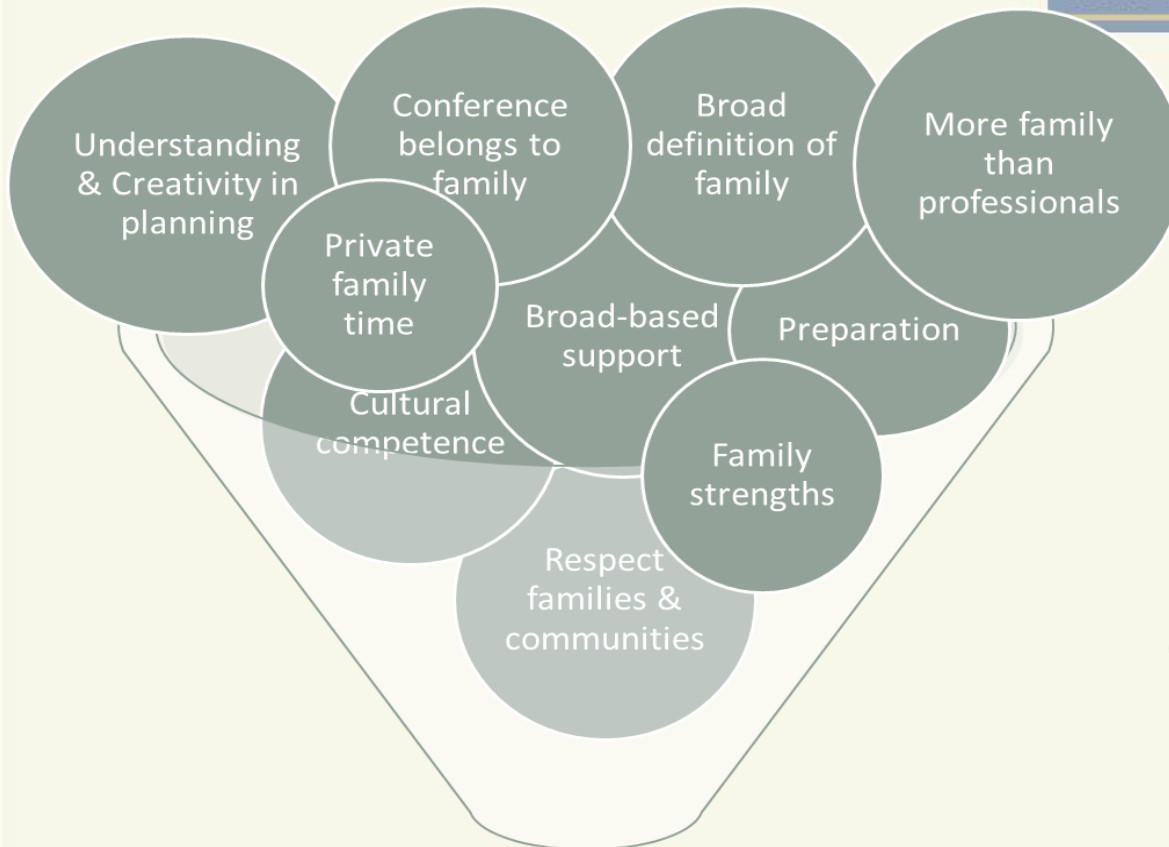
***FY 2014/2015 Survey Results***



*“FGDM is more a family gathering to which service providers are invited, than an agency meeting to which family members are invited.”*

*J. Nice, Family Unity Project*

The purpose of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is to establish a process for families to join with relatives and friends to develop a plan for ensuring that children are cared for and protected from future harm in ways which fit their culture and situation. And, furthermore to extend the responsibility for child safety, well-being and permanence to families, communities and natural support systems.



# Key Principles and Practices

(Pennell, Hardison & Yerkes, 1999)



**Family Leadership**  
**Community Partnerships**  
**Cultural Safety**



- Pennsylvania Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) Leadership Team remains committed to the evaluation of FGDM statewide.
- The evaluation captures an array of information regarding the FGDM practice.
- During fiscal year 2014/2015, 8,118 individuals from 60 of the 67 counties completed surveys about their conference experiences.



## FGDM Evaluation

- Participation in the evaluation is voluntary and can vary from year to year
- Evaluation focuses on
  - Participants' experiences
  - Model fidelity
  - Impact on child outcomes



## Family Group Conference Surveys

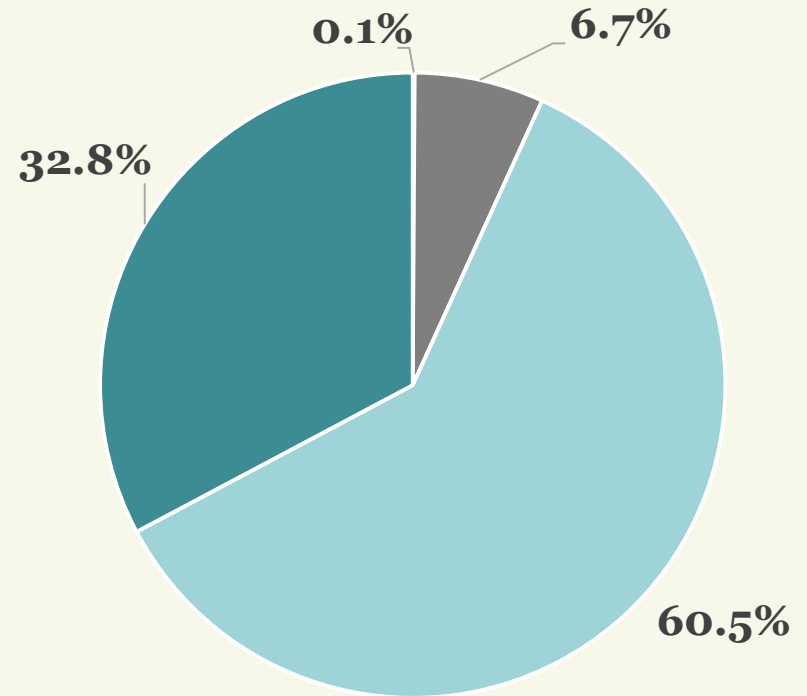
- Assess the extent to which participants perceive the conference was facilitated with fidelity to the key principles and practices
  - Family Leadership
  - Community Partnerships
  - Cultural Safety



## Family Group Conference Objectives

### Family Leadership

7 items examine the extent to which participants respect and support the family as the driving force in developing the plan.



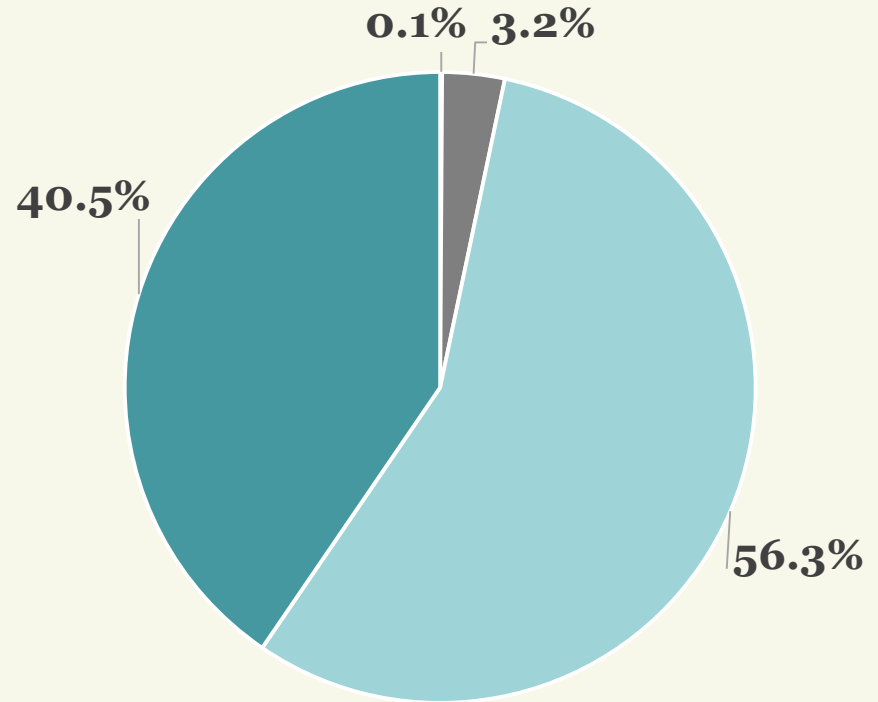
*The average rating for this scale was 3.56.*



# Family Group Conference Objectives

## Community Partnerships

6 items examine role clarity and preparation for the conference (e.g., professionals and family members understood the reason for the conference and were prepared to participate).



The average rating for this scale was 3.62.

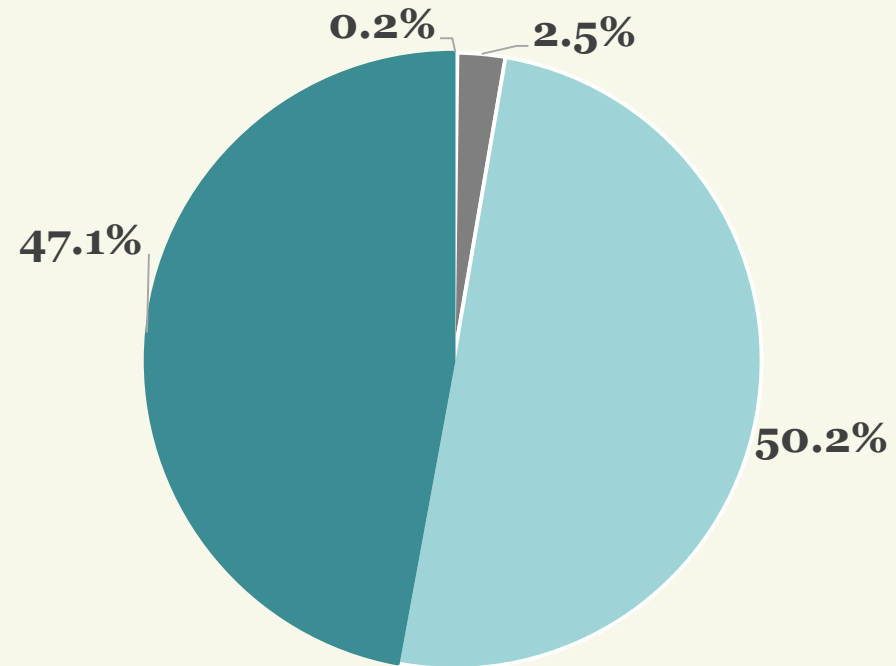




## Family Group Conference Objectives

### Cultural Safety

4 items examine the extent to which the conference was held in a way that felt right to the family group (e.g., in a place/in a way that felt right to the family).

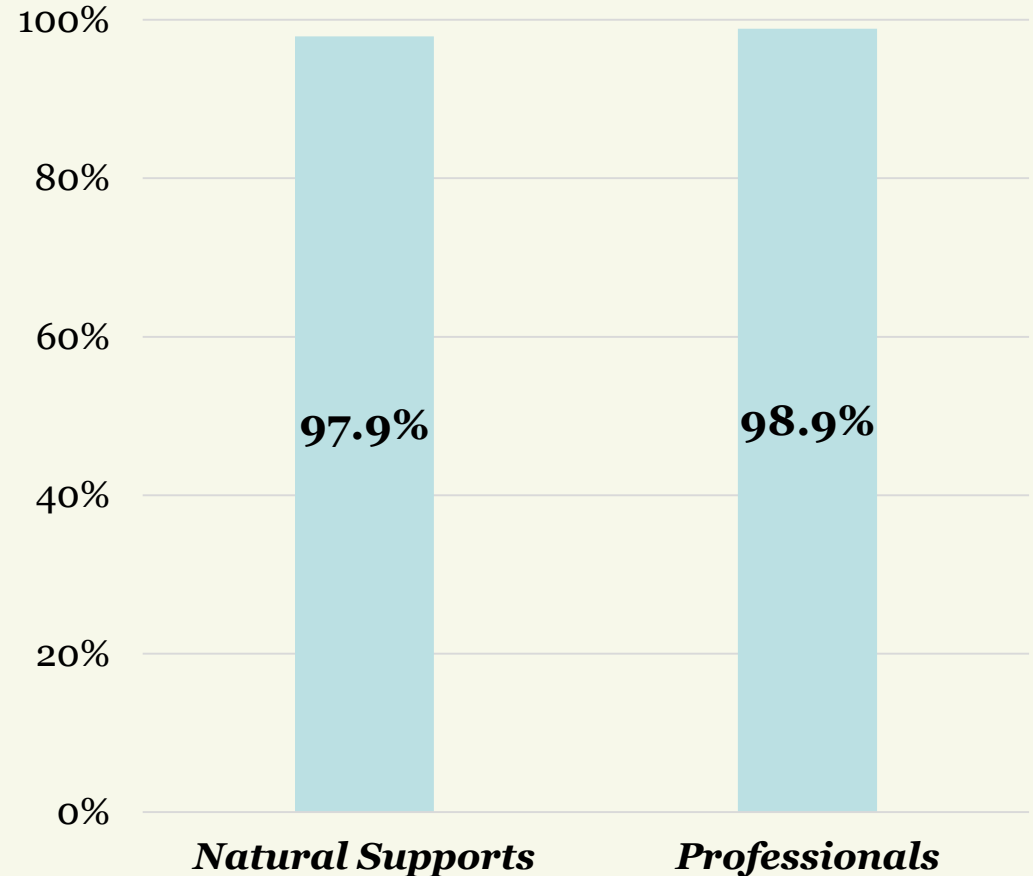


*The average rating for this scale was 3.62.*



*Nearly all of the Natural Supports and Professionals who participated in conferences **AGREED** or **STRONGLY AGREED** with the statement, “I would recommend family group to other families.”*

***“I would recommend family group to other families.”***

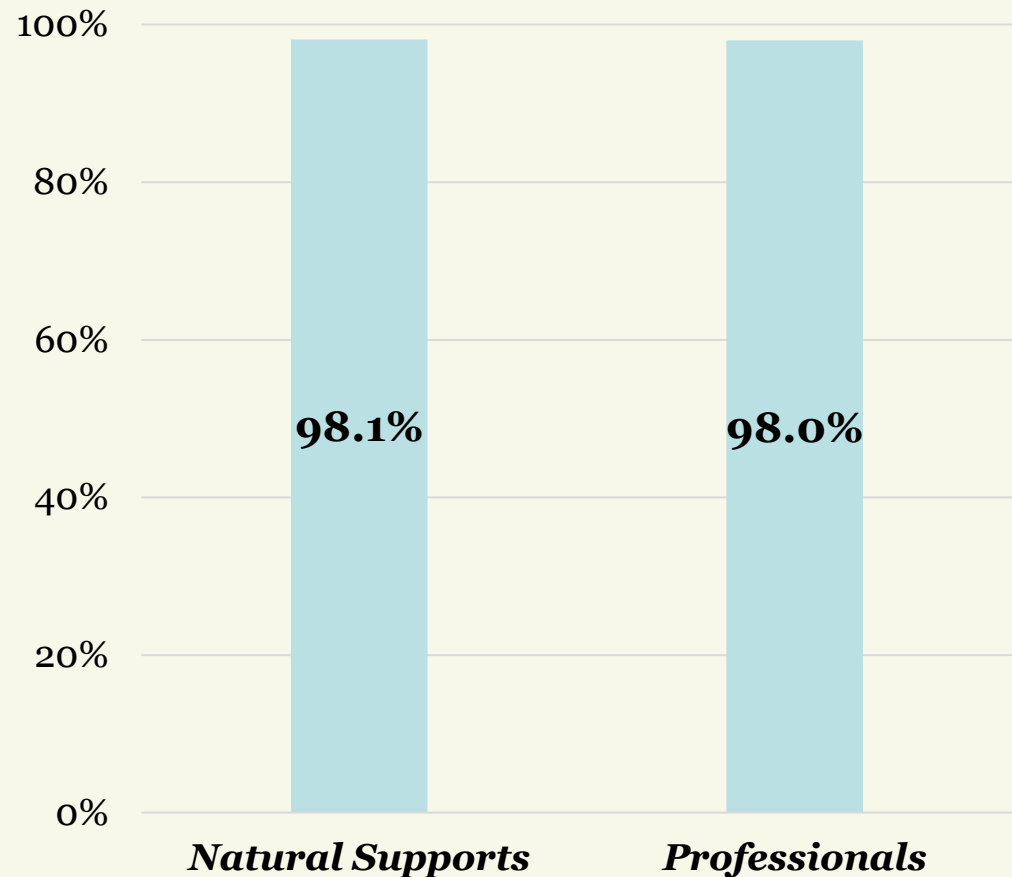




***Wait,  
there's  
more...***

*Nearly all of the Natural Supports and Professionals who participated in conferences also **AGREED** or **STRONGLY AGREED** with the statement, "The children will be safer as a result of this plan."*

***"The children will be safer as a result of this plan."***





## What's Next?

- Begin investigating the outcomes associated with FGDM conferences
- Share this information and more at the Pennsylvania Statewide Conference on Family Group Decision Making in April
- Talk with counties about how they can use this information for planning and practice improvements



## **Stay tuned for the FGDM Evaluation Webinar Series:**

**May 12, 2016 – Overview of Data from the FGDM  
Statewide Evaluation**

**June 9, 2016 – How to Make Sure Your Evaluation  
Forms Count**

**July 21, 2016 – How to Use Your FGDM County &  
Statewide Data to Inform Practice**



## Moving Forward

Submit data to get data!

Become a part of the FGDM Evaluation

<http://www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/FGDM.htm>

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