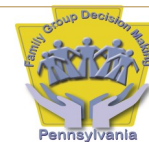


FGDM Participants' Perception of Safety and How the Presence of Domestic Violence May Impact It

Family Group Decision Making Statewide Evaluation

Statewide Meeting April 9, 2019



Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018 counties submitted data about 3,185 family conferences to the FGDM Statewide Evaluation. **Domestic violence** services/supports were included in four percent of the family plans developed during the conferences. (Table 1).

Age Range	Overall	Domestic Violence Support/ Service in plan	
	#	#	%
0-6	1,191	71	6%
7-12	621	22	4%
13-17	1,087	16	1%
18-21	77	0	0%
Unknown	209	7	3%
Total	3,185	116	4%

Three items from the Family Group Conference Survey relate to participants' perception of safety in the conference (Table 2). Overall, participants tend to agree or strongly agree with these items indicating that the conferences were conducted in a way that promoted a sense of safety among participants. Overall, children/youth who were the focus of the conference were slightly less likely to report agreement with the safety-related items compared to all of the participants and to other natural supports.

There were thirteen children/youth whose plans included Domestic Violence services/supports who responded to the survey. These children /youth reported the lowest levels of agreement with the safety-related items on the Survey.

Question	All Participants		Focus Child		Natural Supports	
	Overall (n=19870)	DV (n=540)	Overall (n=1100)	DV (n=13)	Overall (n=12676)	DV (n=360)
The conference was held in a place that felt right to the family group.	93%	92%	89%	69%	94%	93%
The conference was held in a way that felt right to the family group.	93%	92%	89%	77%	94%	95%
The conference had enough supports and protections.	92%	91%	89%	67%	93%	93%

Given this information, consider the following:

- Are there adjustments that could be made to coordination and facilitation to promote children/youth's sense of safety when participating in conferences?
- Are there supports and protections that could be included in conferences that would foster children/youth feeling that the conference was held in a way and place that felt right to them?
- And, how do these practice considerations change if those coordinating and facilitating know domestic violence is present within the family?