

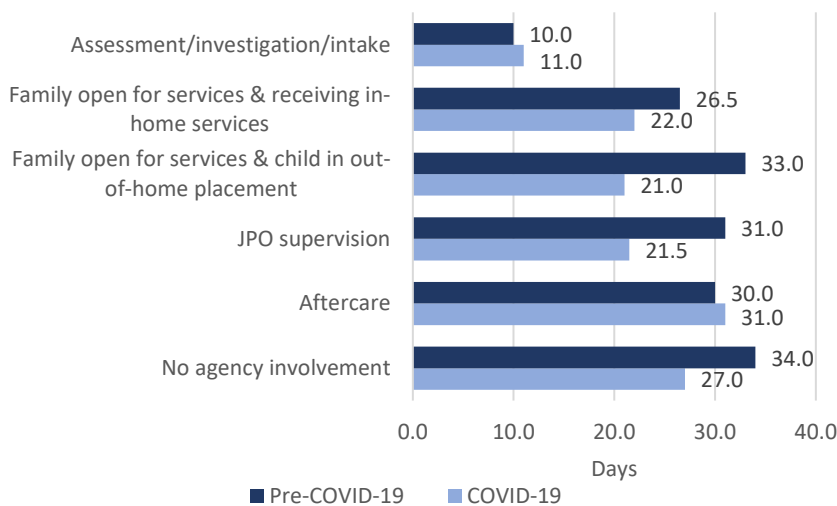
Family Group Decision Making Statewide Evaluation



Challenging Perceptions of FGDM Practice During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This brief illustrates a comparison of FGDM practice statewide from pre-COVID-19 (July 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020; 20 months) to COVID-19 (March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; 16 months). Coordination time, engagement of parents and supports, and participants' experiences were examined for 39 counties that remained active in the FGDM evaluation during both time periods. There were 2,156 conferences held during pre-COVID-19 and 1,091 conferences held during COVID-19. On average, there were 9 conference attendees during pre-COVID-19 and 9 conference attendees during COVID-19. The data analyzed for this brief are based on evaluation form submissions through July 21, 2021.

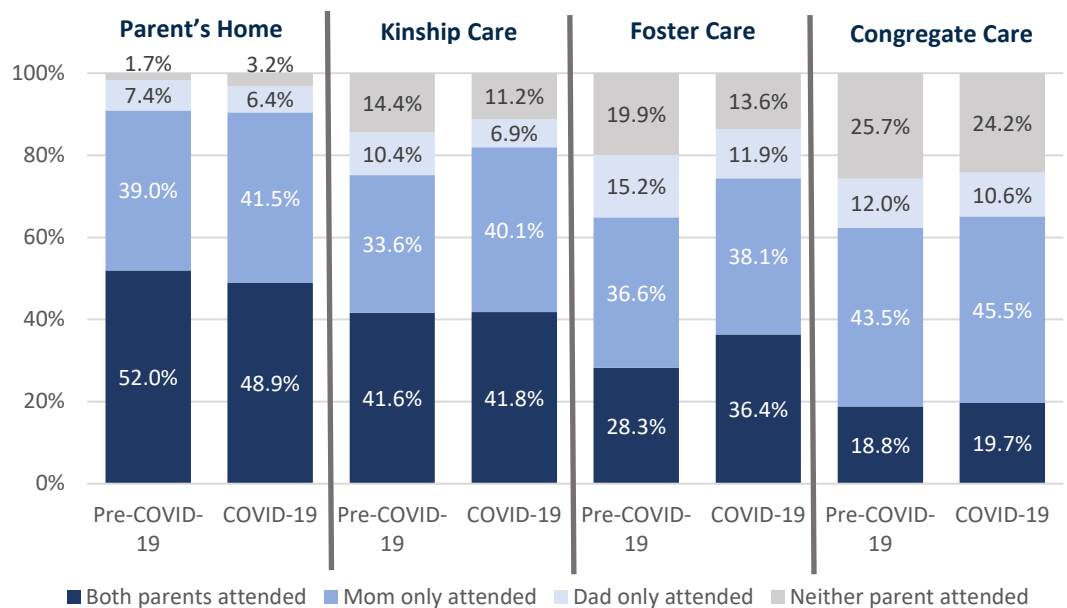
Median Coordination Time by Point in Service Pathway*



During COVID-19, there was a **decrease in median coordination times** for all points in the service pathway except for assessment/ investigation/ intake and aftercare.

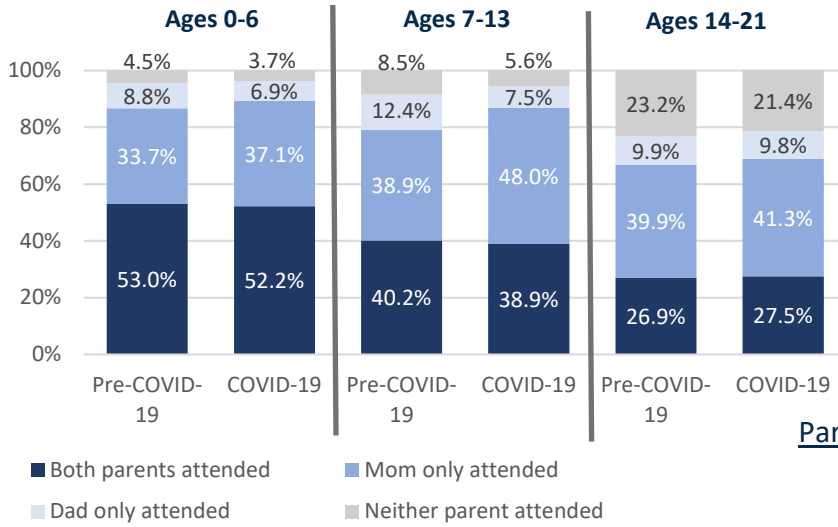
*Due to the large variability in coordination times (0 to 2,235 days), the median days are displayed in this figure.

Parental Engagement by Focus Child/Youth's Living Arrangement



During COVID-19, there was a **slight increase in the percentage of both parents attending the conference** for children/youth living in kinship care, foster care, and congregate care.

Parental Engagement by Age of Focus Child/Youth

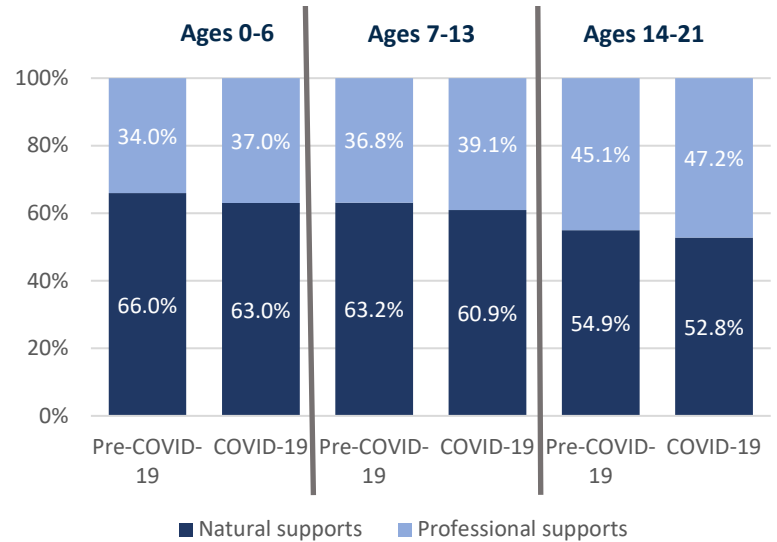


Among all age groups, there was a **slight decrease in the percentage of neither parent attending the conference** during COVID-19.



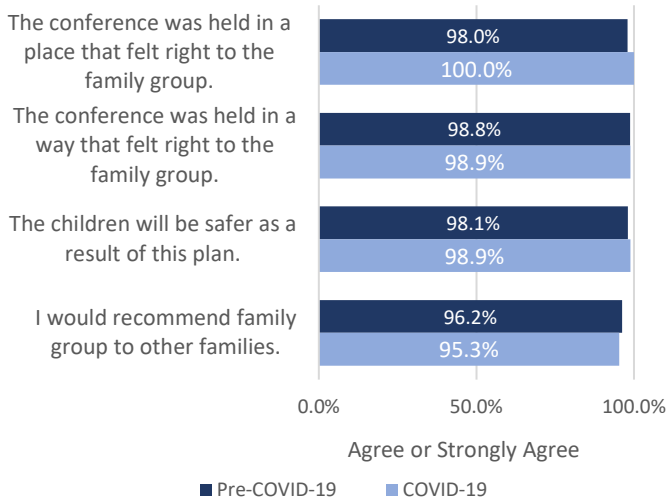
Among all age groups, there was a **slight increase in the percentage of professional supports** participating in the conference during COVID-19.

Participating Supports by Age of Focus Child/Youth



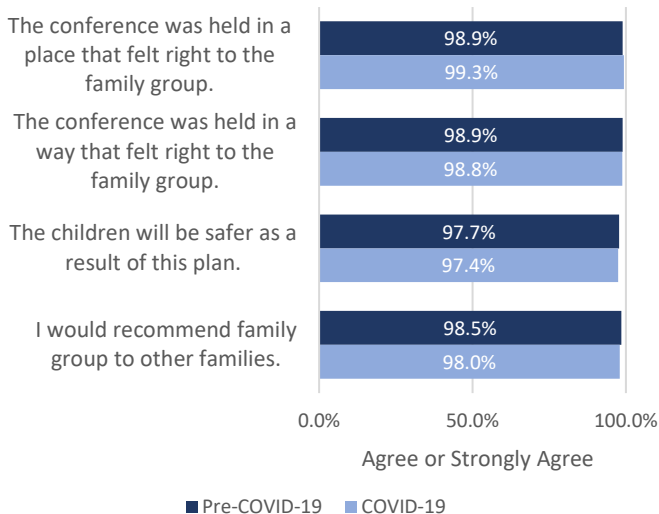
All focus children/youth agreed or strongly agreed that the conference was **held in a place that "felt right"** during COVID-19.

Focus Child/Youth Experience*



*The majority of focus children/youth who responded to the survey were ages 13-17.

Participant Experience



Reflection Questions

- What innovative implementation strategies were utilized during COVID-19 that led to:
 - decreases in coordination times;
 - increases in parental engagement;
 - increases in professional supports; and
 - overwhelming agreement among focus children/youth that the conference was held in a place that "felt right"?
- Which of these implementation strategies should remain standard practice after the COVID-19 pandemic?

Note: Results include 0-12% missing values.