

# FGDM AND OLDER YOUTH



## FGDM Statewide Evaluation

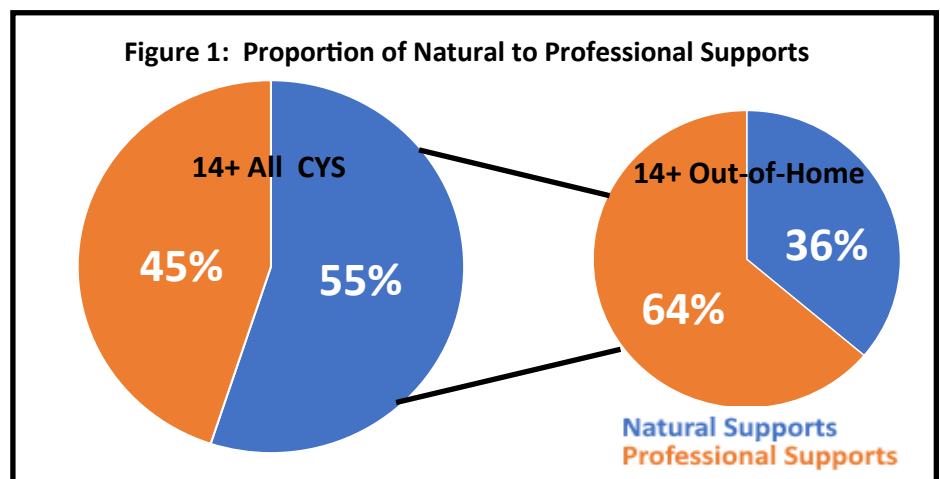
FGDM seeks to widen the circle and bring together support. Bringing people together in this way can be especially beneficial for youth who are starting to make important decisions about their future. When older youth were asked<sup>1</sup> who they seek for support, they identified their biological family, friends, and their IL worker. Family and friends were often present at conferences involving youth (14+) with an open CYC case; however, natural supports were less likely to participate in conferences when the youth was in an out-of-home setting. This data brief explores who makes up “the circle” at conferences for older youth.

Between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2017, counties and providers submitted information for 1,880 conferences held with families with an open CYC case. Approximately one-third of these conferences (34%, n=643) focused on a youth who was 14 or older at the time of the conference. Thirty-eight percent (n=246) of the youth in these cases were in out-of-home care at the time of the conference (Table 1). Conferences with this age group are typically focused on supporting the youth’s transitions to adulthood.

Age	#
All Children	1,880
14+ All CYC	643
14+ Out of Home	246

As seen in Figure 1, the proportion of natural supports (55%) to professional supports (45%) participating in conferences with a youth (14+) with an open CYC case are similar.

The proportion of natural supports is lower when considering only those conferences with youth (14+) in an out-of-home setting.



Even though youth (14+) with an open out-of-home case were less likely to have natural supports at the table, they reported the same level of satisfaction as youth (14+) with an open CYC case when responding to the following three items from the Family Group Conference Survey (Table 2).

Question	14+ All CYC		14+ Out of Home	
	Responses (n)	% of Agreement	Responses (n)	% of Agreement
People at the conference were relatives and/or people who feel "like family".	354	93%	120	93%
The conferences had enough supports and protections.	357	96%	125	97%
I would recommend family group to other families.	341	94%	120	96%

Given this information, consider the following:

- How is FGDM being utilized for older youth in your county?
- Are there adjustments that should be considered that could enhance the engagement of natural supports for older youth?

<sup>1</sup>Youth referenced here represent the 86 youth participating in the 2016 Older Youth Retreat focus groups.