



DPP Support to Families and Preschools during COVID-19

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BUTLER INSTITUTE FOR FAMILIES

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Operations Evaluation Overview

To what extent do DPP's services for families and providers support children's **access** to **quality** preschool?

- Family surveys and interviews (including 3's, 4's, and 5's)
- Workforce surveys and interviews
- Implementation of quality improvement (QI) resources
- DPP Scholarship evaluation
- Ad-hoc evaluation (e.g., educator stipend survey)

Today, we will focus on families' and providers' experiences with DPP supports during the COVID-19 pandemic.



FAMILY RESULTS



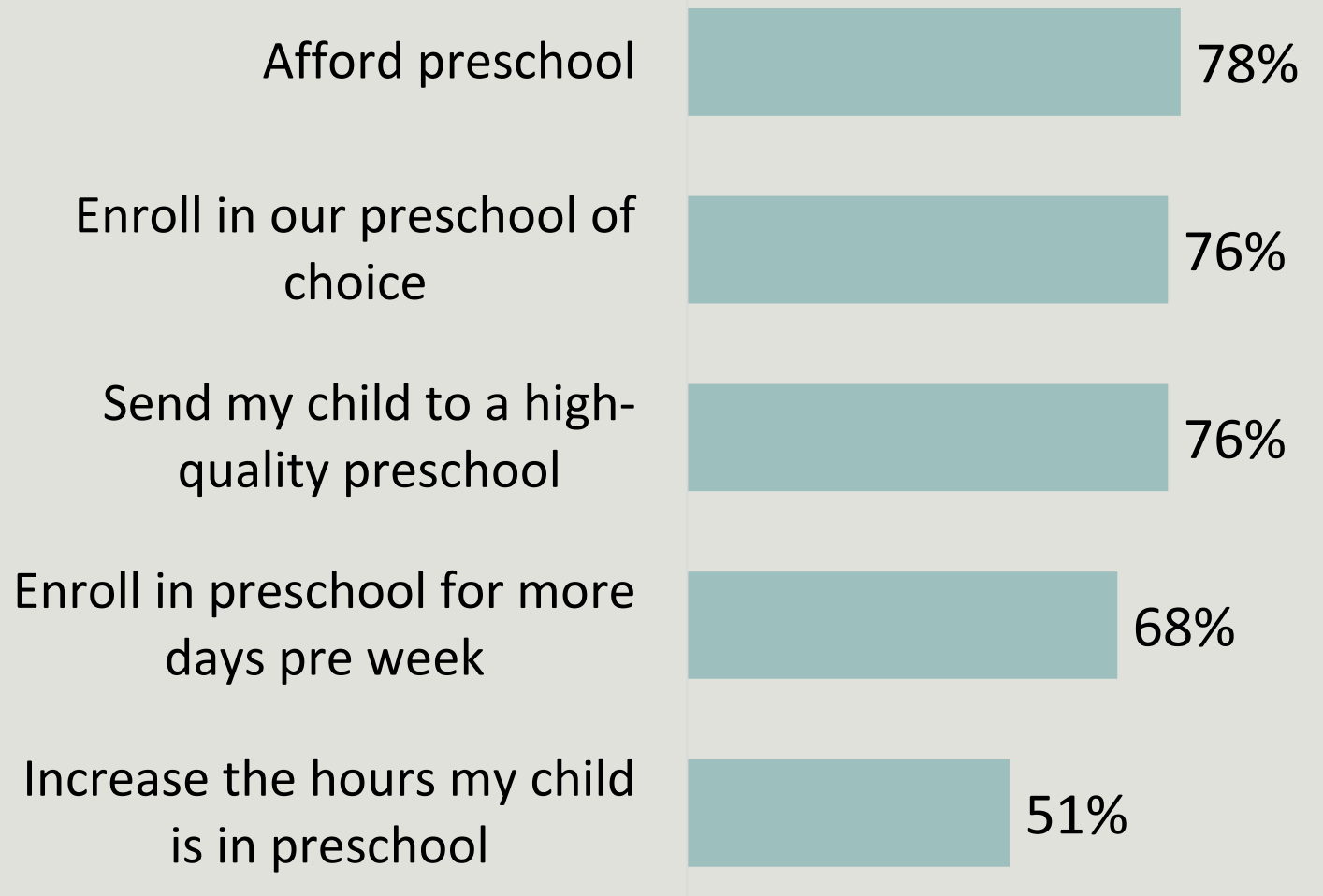
Family hardships and stress

- 70% experienced financial hardships (e.g., layoffs and/or reduced hours/pay)
 - Disproportionate impacts on families who identified as Hispanic and/or had limited economic resources.
- 65% of families faced temporary preschool closures
- Working during preschool closures: *"It was wild. I'm not going to lie ... to work, and to parent at the same time is a ridiculous concept. I don't even understand how we've decided that that's a thing."*

DPP impact: Access to quality preschool

- Almost all DPP families (94%) attended a high-quality preschool
- Families who identified as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) perceived the greatest impacts of DPP tuition credits on preschool access.
- Families in Southwest Denver were most likely to report that DPP made it possible to attend their current preschool.

DPP tuition credits make it possible for my family to...





DPP Impact: Positive preschool experiences

- **Children's growth and development:** *"Thank you for the opportunity to send my child to full-time preschool. He enjoys it very much and is growing in his education every day!"*
- **Culturally responsive preschool experiences:** *"One of her teachers has family that's from the same place in Mexico that she's from and has been so phenomenal in reaching out and trying to figure out how to support her very unique situation, being a foster kid."*



DPP impact: Ripple effects of tuition credits

- Afford basic needs, especially Tier 1 and Tier 2 families
- Preschool/child care for other children, if applicable (76%)
- Participate in the workforce (86%), go to school (24%), or take care of someone who is sick (19%)

DPP Pilot Programs: DPP Scholarship and Preschool for 3's



“I am VERY grateful for the financial support provided to my family and me. A lot of changes have happened since I first applied. The major event is becoming separated from my daughter's father due to [domestic violence]. Therefore, the additional scholarship to have my daughter's tuition covered 100% felt like heaven-sent. Thank you!

– DPP Scholarship Parent/Guardian

“DPP has helped my twins and I tremendously especially during a hardship in our lives. Without DPP, I would have not been able to go back to work and eventually save enough money to go back to school to finish my degree and make my children proud. We are so thankful for all the kind staff and the support given -- we can't thank you enough!!”

– Preschool for 3's Parent/Guardian



PROVIDER/ WORKFORCE RESULTS



Appreciation for DPP's response to the pandemic

- 82% of preschool administrators who took the survey acknowledged that DPP helped them stay in business during the pandemic.
- “Especially during COVID, when [DPP] actually paid for the kids’ [tuition] when they came, or if they didn’t come, that’s what counts a lot. Personally, if I didn’t get that income, I probably would have went out of business.” –Director

Virtual Coaching

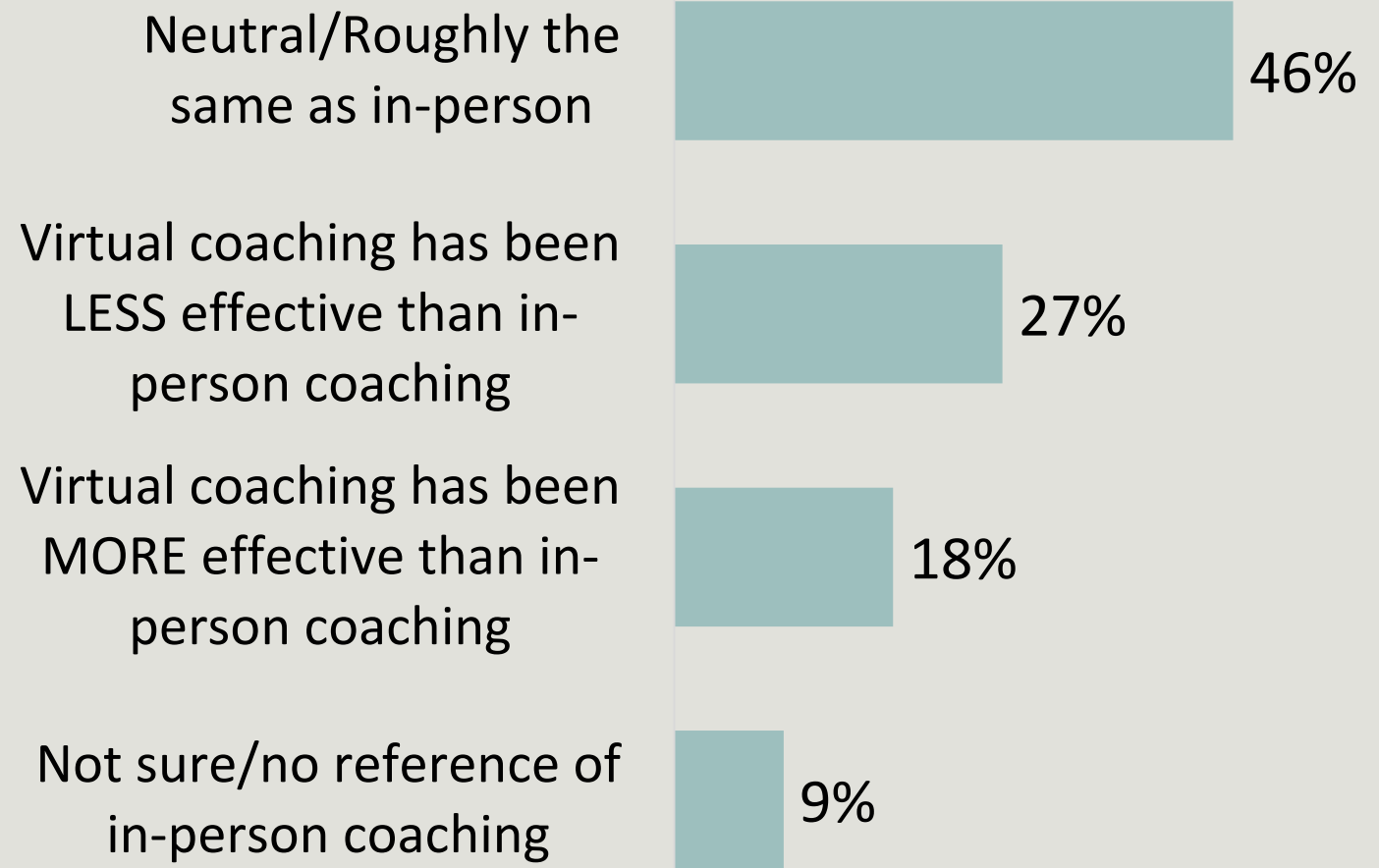
- **Benefits:**

- Increased flexibility
- Deeper conversation
- Less exposure to COVID-19
- Opportunity for group coaching or book studies

- **Challenges:**

- Difficult to find time
- Challenging for coach to observe and provide feedback
- Technology issues
- Relationship building challenges

Educators' impressions of virtual coaching...



Strong relationships between teachers and coaches predicted important outcomes



Conclusions

DPP families and providers alike have faced many challenges during the pandemic, and DPP has provided crucial supports during this time, including:



•Family Access:

- DPP tuition credits and scholarships support family access, especially for BIPOC families and those with limited/no access to economic resources.
- DPP's support helps many families access early care and education for siblings, afford basic needs, and participate in the workforce.



•Supporting the Preschool Workforce

- DPP's financial support helps preschools stay in business.
- Virtual coaching allows educators to continue building their professional knowledge and skills.
- Teacher-coach relationships support teacher well-being and use of developmentally appropriate practices.

Recommendations

Family Access:

- Explore collaborations with other organizations that serve children and families to facilitate access to basic needs and social-emotional supports families need to thrive in preschool.
- DPP's mixed-delivery system and innovative scholarship program that support equitable preschool access should be used as a model to inform statewide UPK in Colorado.

Provider and Workforce support:

- Continue to identify creative and responsive ways support preschools and the workforce.
- Optimize virtual or hybrid coaching by removing potential barriers (e.g., provide substitutes, supply technical equipment) and allow sufficient time for relationship building.