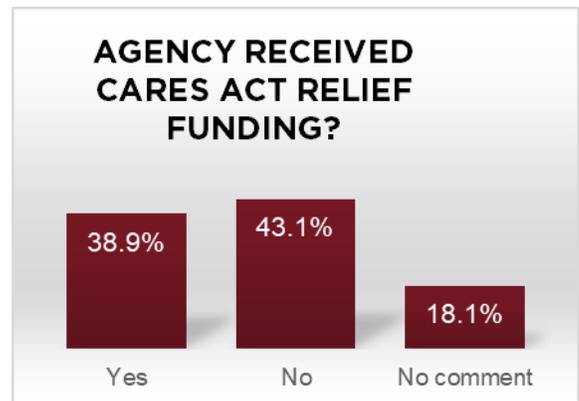
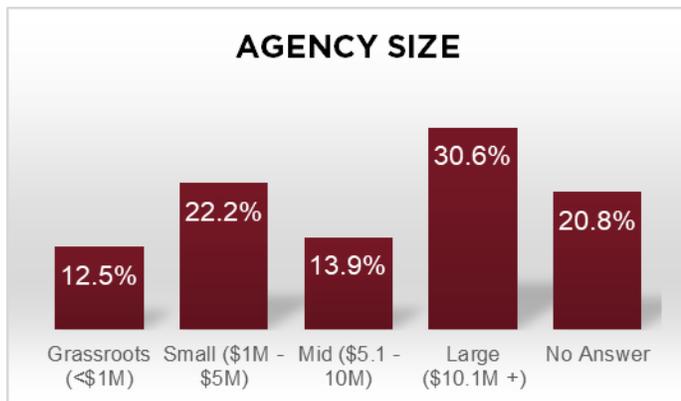
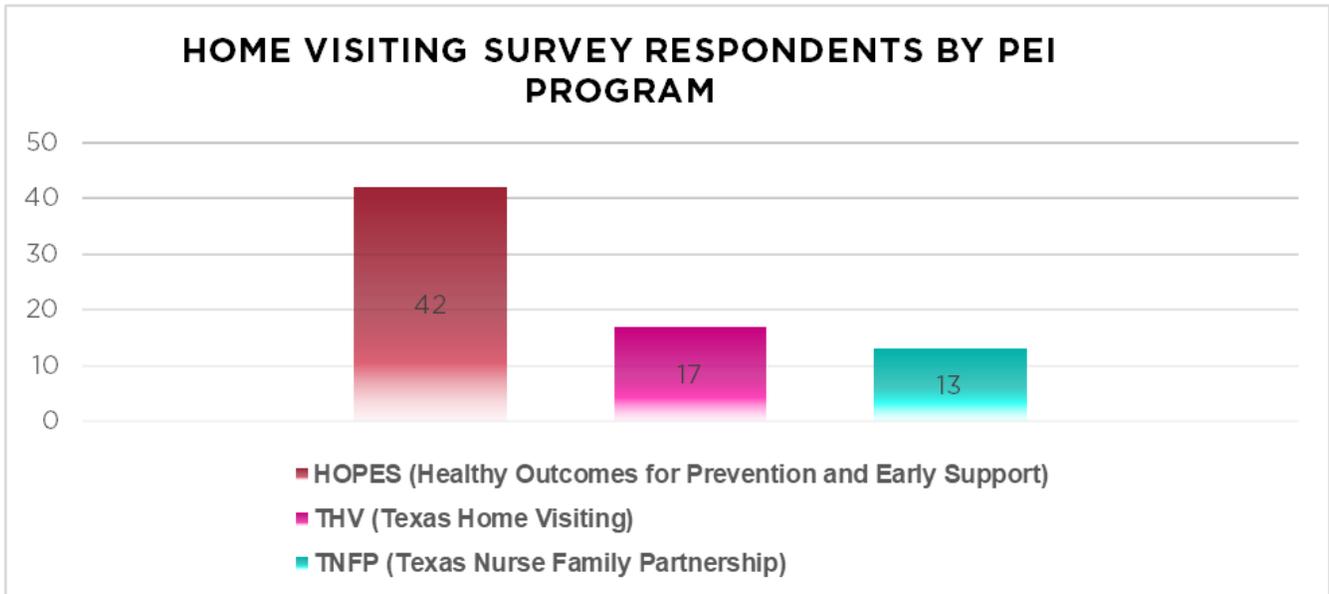


The Impact of COVID-19 on Home Visiting Programs in Texas

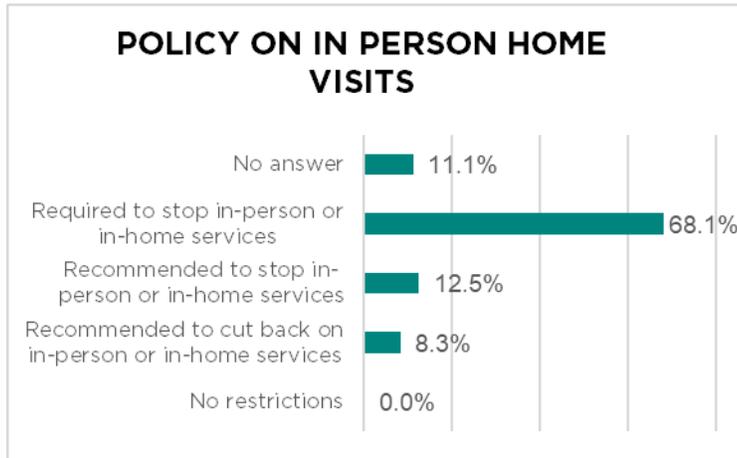
January 2021

Between March and May of 2020, TexProtects conducted a survey of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) providers in Texas to capture the impact of COVID-19 on programs and the families they serve. This document outlines a subset of the survey responses provided by 72 home visiting programs funded through PEI who participated in our survey.

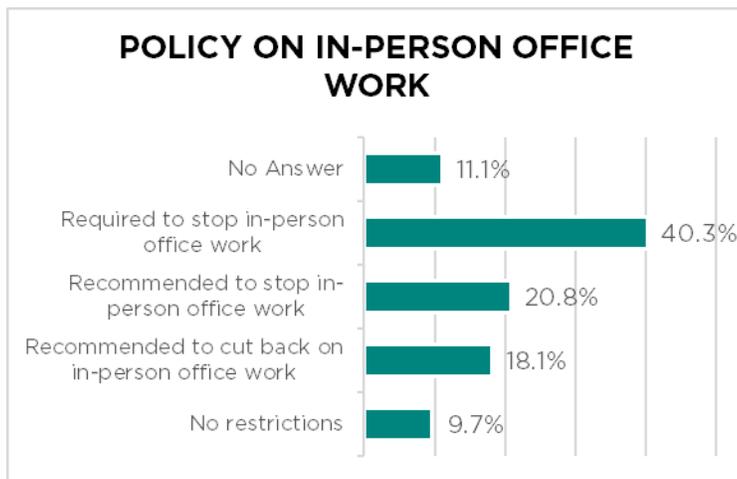
Survey Respondents



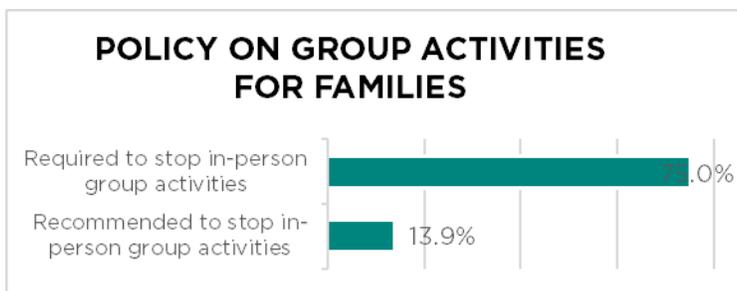
Policy Adaptations Adopted March 2020 in Response to COVID-19



Following Gov. Greg Abbott's Emergency Declaration on March 19, 2020 and with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Federal Administration of Children and Families, PEI leadership provided guidance to programs on March 24 regarding allowable adaptations in response to the public health emergency resulting from COVID-19. That guidance included allowances for adapted registration procedures for virtual enrollments, virtual case management, classes, trainings and home visits, and budgetary adjustments for provisions of basic needs to enrolled families. Technology support, public awareness activities, and staff support needed due to pandemic was also provided.



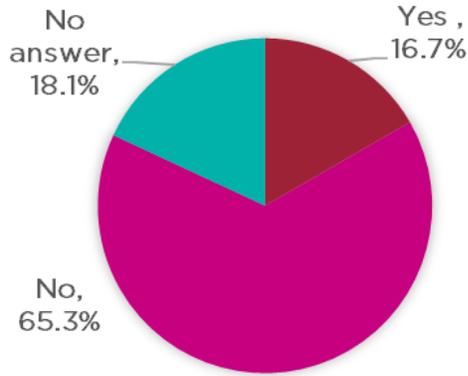
These allowances were provided but not mandated, leaving many decisions regarding programmatic delivery and agency policy in the hands of local contractors who could best respond to the needs and climate within their communities and among their staff. Survey results indicate that most programs stopped in-person groups and in-home visits during the early months of the pandemic.



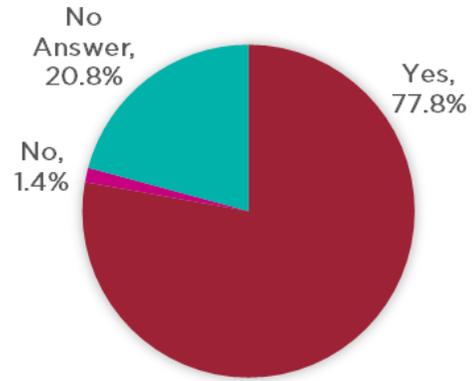
In May, PEI offered additional guidance toward reopening and a more sustainable plan for ensuring family engagement and success while acknowledging the continued uncertainty and need for flexibility in response to evolving public health information and guidance. Agencies were expected to prioritize a move toward in-person engagement when possible and align with other local social service agencies.

A Shift to Virtual Service Modalities

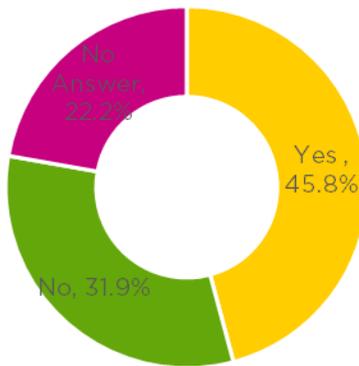
AGENCIES PROVIDING VIRTUAL VISITS PRIOR TO MARCH 2020



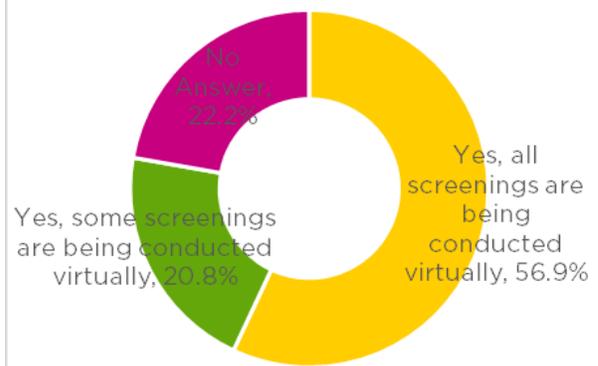
AGENCIES PROVIDING VIRTUAL VISITS DURING COVID



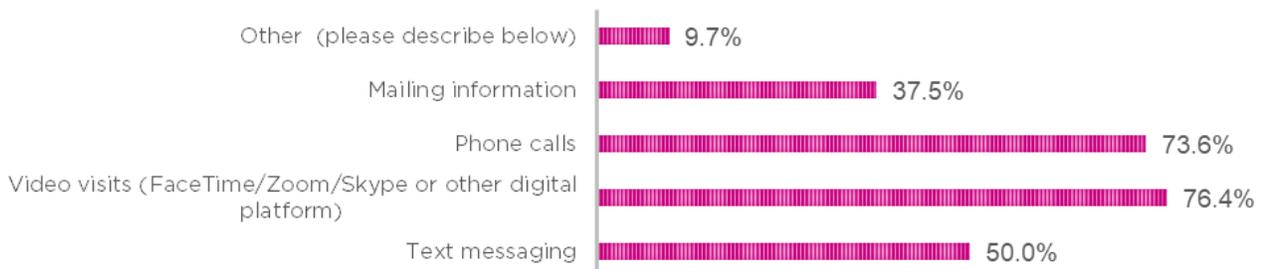
VIRTUAL GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES



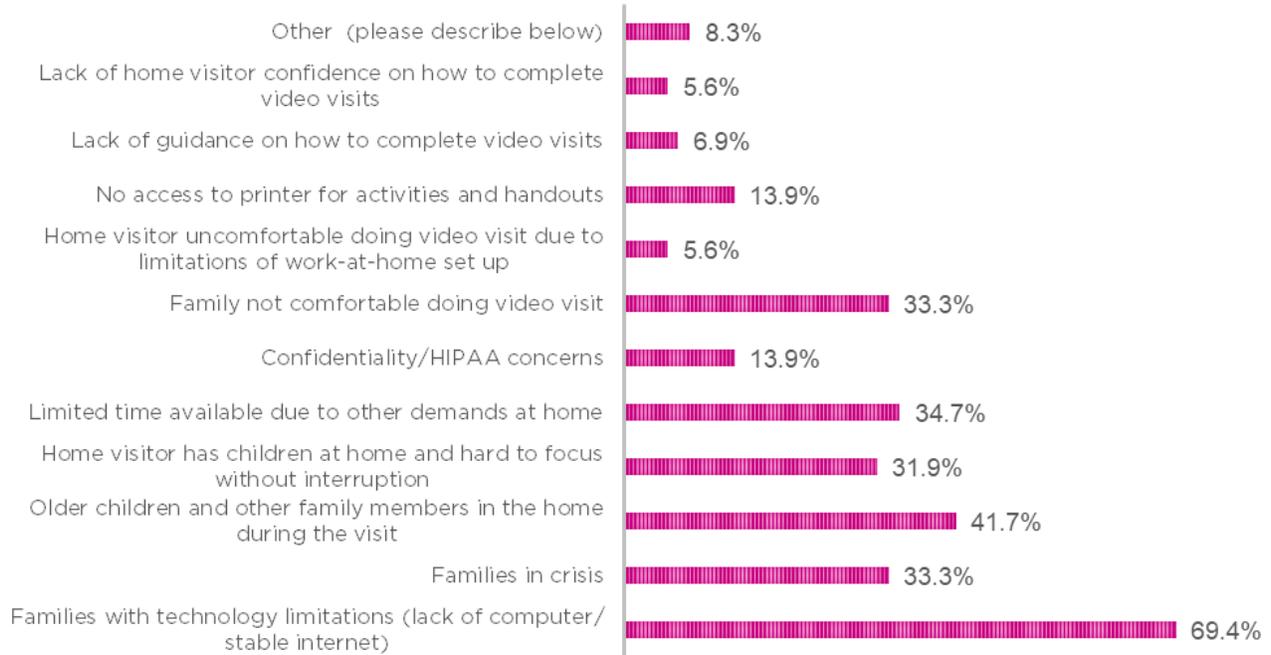
VIRTUAL SCREENINGS CONDUCTED



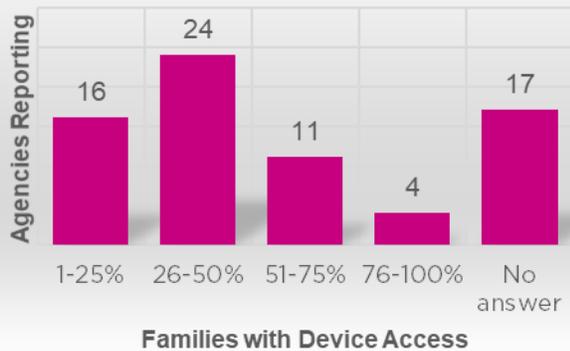
VIRTUAL SERVICE MODALITIES UTILIZED



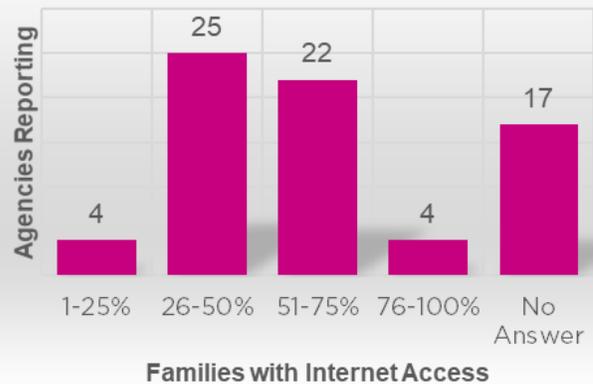
MOST CHALLENGING LIMITATIONS OF VIDEO VISITS



ENROLLED FAMILIES WITH A VIDEO-ENABLED DEVICE LARGER THAN A SMART PHONE FOR VIRTUAL VISITS



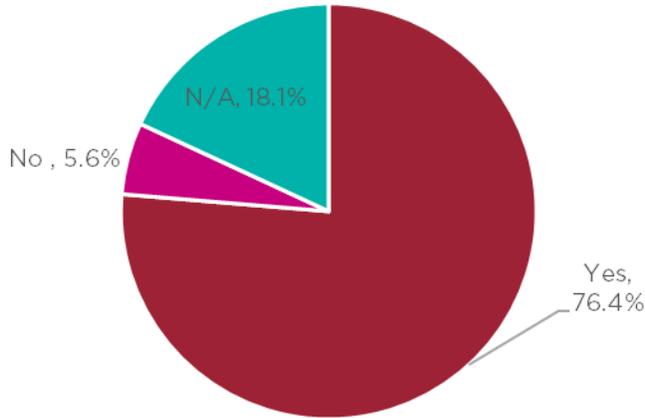
ENROLLED FAMILIES WITH ADEQUATE INTERNET CONNECTION FOR VIDEO VISITS



“We have found that being able to continue to do our work has been extremely beneficial. Our families have a trusted individual to talk to, has a support person to continue to connect families to resources or basic needs. Families have verbalized being grateful for being able to continue telehealth visits and expressed joy when doing video chat and being able to see our faces. I feel that without being able to continue to work virtually, many families would have suffered tremendously. I feel our program has served as a protective factor for many of our families.”

Impact on Enrollment and Workforce

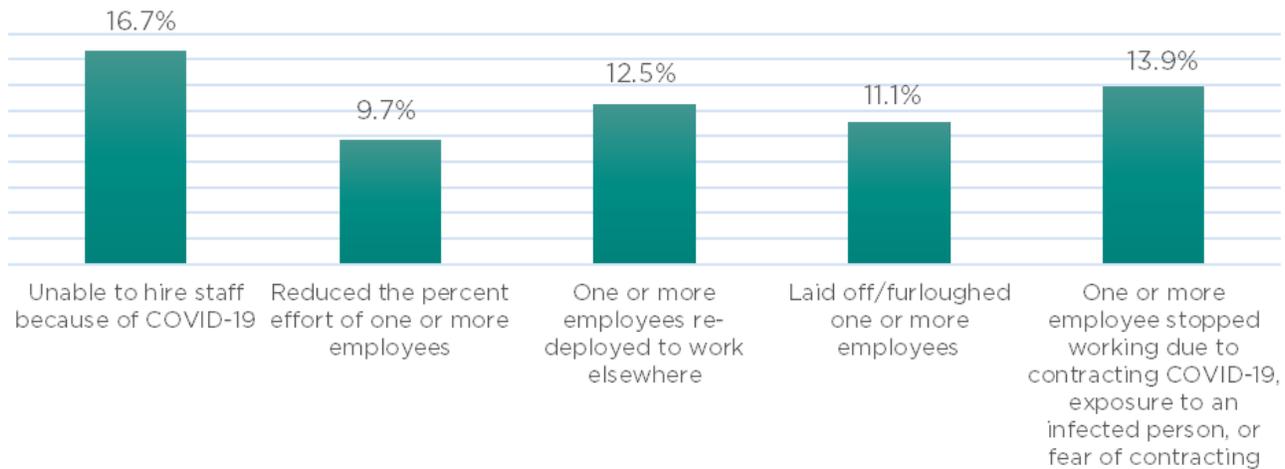
PROGRAMS ENROLLING NEW CLIENTS



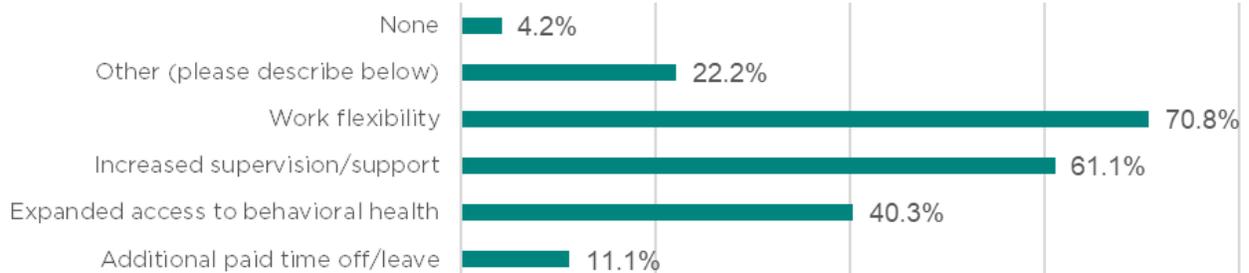
“Balancing a healthy work-life when working from home is extremely difficult, a major challenge my agency faced was trying to do too much with little resources. We realize now that the preparation needed in order to conduct a virtual class or visit is nearly double than an in-person class or visit.”

“Many of our families have expressed a need for basic needs assistance and/or having a need for a referral such as mental health, etc. Being able to work virtually due to COVID-19, has given us the ability to bridge those gaps. In addition, it has allowed us to continue to engage our clients and continue the work we do in helping families.”

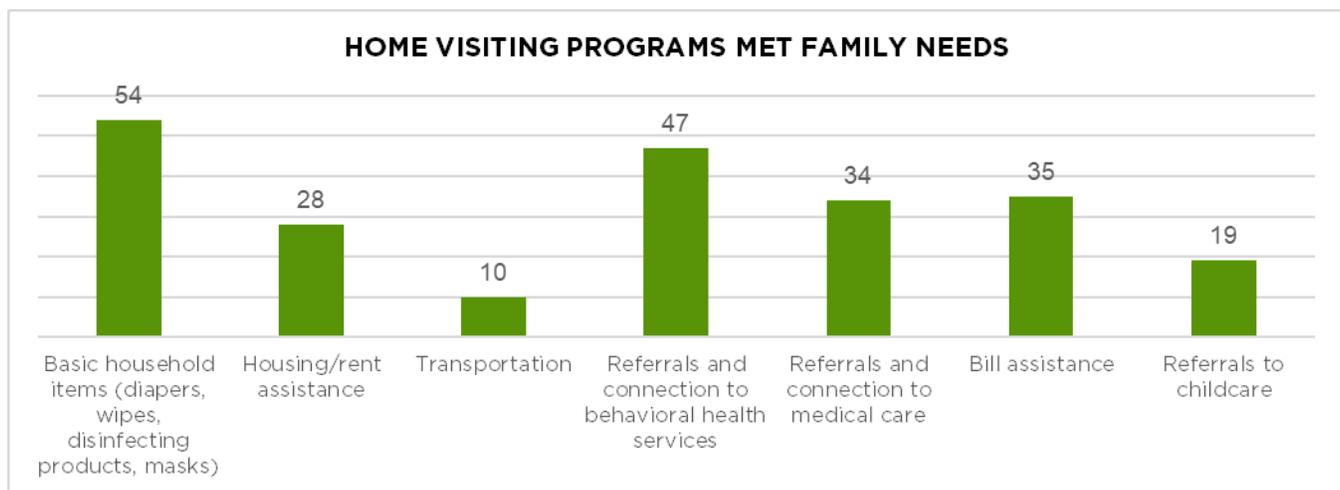
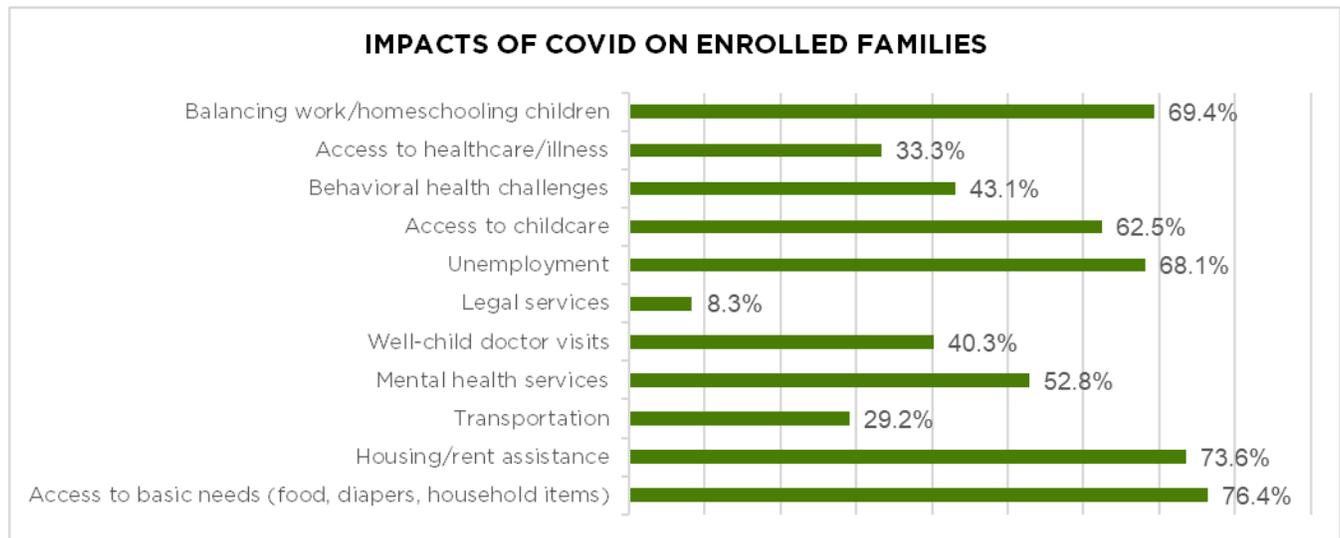
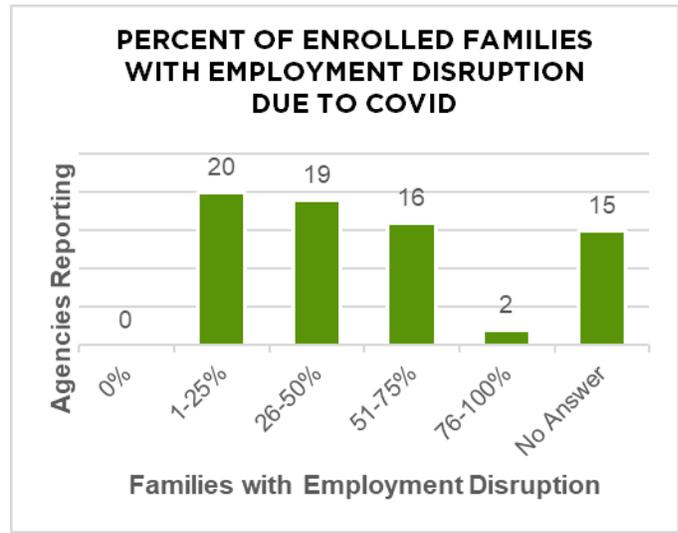
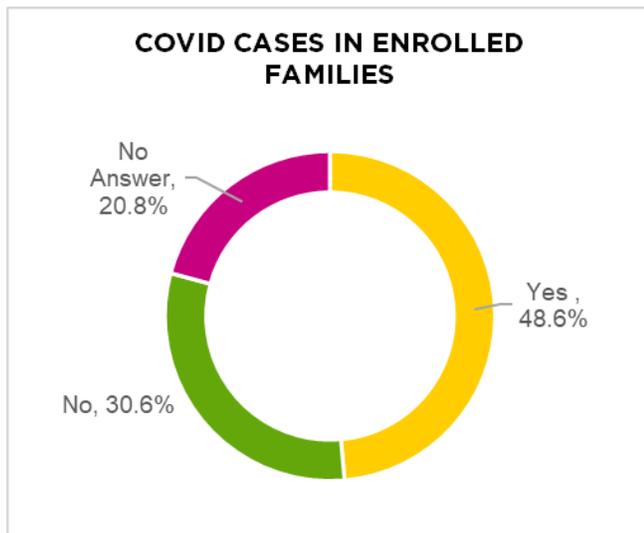
WORKFORCE CHANGES DURING COVID



ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO STAFF



Impact on Enrolled Families



The challenges of COVID-19 continue to impact families in Texas as well as the implementation and delivery of home visiting programs intended to serve them. However, the continued flexibility of local agencies and their staff has made clear the potential for innovation as a result of these challenges as well as the critical lifeline that home visiting programs provide in times of calm and in times of crisis. Continued investments in proven prevention programs like home visiting can ensure that families have access to the right supports at the right time so that children are safe and families are well.

[Learn more about Home Visiting in Texas.](#)

[Learn more about tele-health and other innovations that could improve the Home Visiting field.](#)

[Contact your legislator to talk about the importance of Home Visiting.](#)

For More Information

Jennifer Lucy

Managing Director of Policy

jennifer@texprotects.org

(512) 971-9347