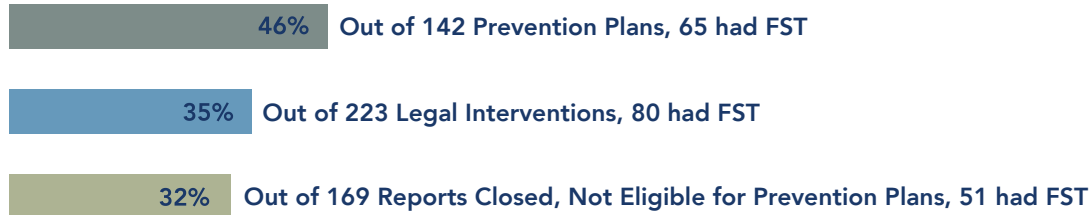


# FAMILY SUPPORT TEAMS & PREVENTION PLANS EVALUATION JANUARY 2022-AUGUST 2023

## 502 Family Support Teams (FST) were Reported Across the State



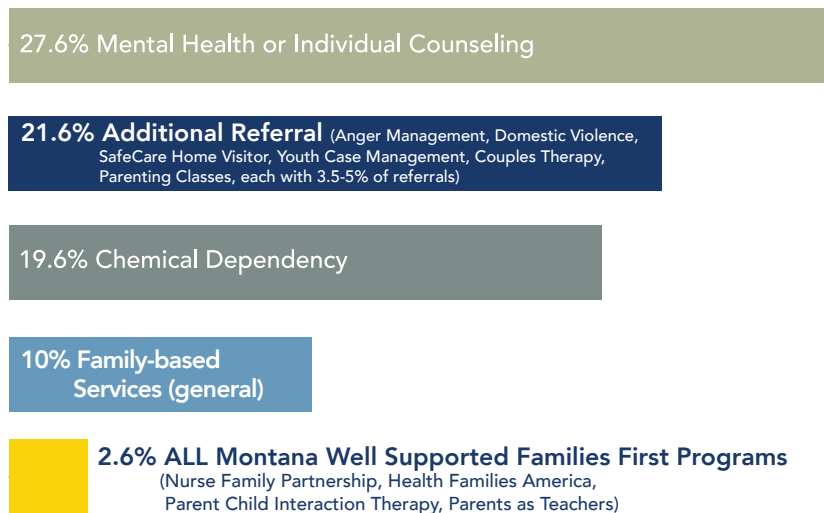
### Family Support Team Meetings:

Family Support Team (FST) meetings are a tool created by CFSD to fully engage families, community providers and natural supports to partner with CFSD at the initial onset of a case to best support families. The goal of FSTs is to engage parents in the process of assessment, service planning and individualized case planning to implement support services that focus on helping keep children in their home, or reunifying families in a timely manner. The FST meetings are held shortly (goal is within 72 hours) after the family has entered an In-Home or Out-of-Home Protection plan with CFSD.

### Prevention Plans can be offered to a parent when either:

1. A report has been made to Centralized Intake on a parent for abuse or neglect, and a Child Protection Specialist (CPS) has completed the necessary assessments outlined in the Investigation of Field Reports Procedure determining there is risk of impending danger and the child can remain in the parents' home under an In-Home Safety Plan with resources to mitigate the safety impending danger concerns; or
2. A parent, or CPS on behalf of the parent, calls Centralized Intake to Request for Service identifying they are willing to participate in prevention services.

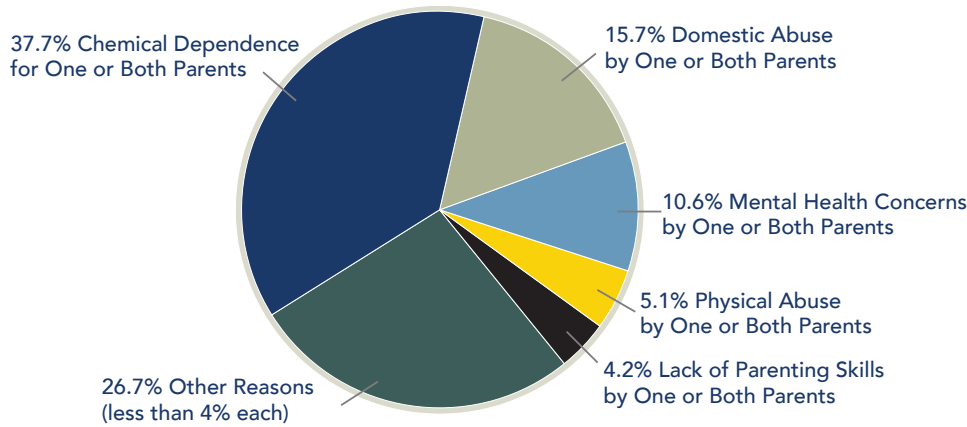
## 289 Services Referred from 142 Prevention Plans



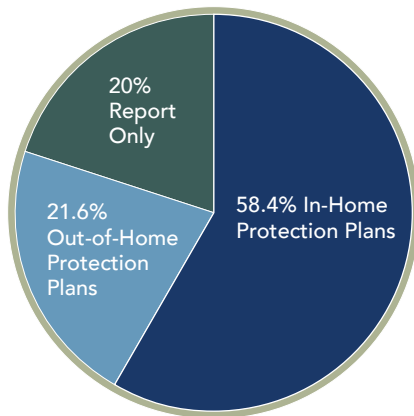
**Families participating in Family Support Team meetings are referred to 3 services or providers on average.**

# Who Was Served?

## Reasons for Intervention



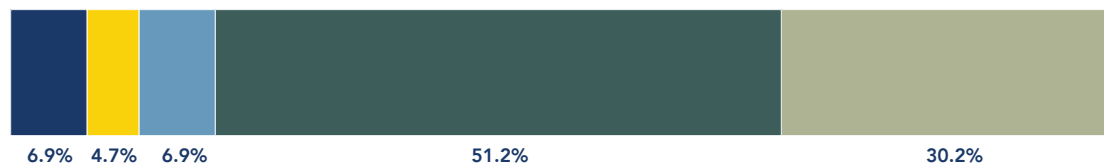
## Before Prevention Plan, Families Were:



“A prevention plan was implemented with a dad living outside of the home who assaulted his wife and was experiencing [a substance abuse disorder]. [Through his engagement with services, he] returned home and the family home remained a stable environment, he continued to attend counseling and remain sober so the prevention plan was closed. The wife was provided information about a scholarship program that could help her finish her teaching degree!”  
 --Child Protection Specialist

## Prevention Plan Successes

### Reason for Prevention Plan Closure (n=43):



### Reason for Prevention Plan + FST Closure (n=42):



- Moved Away
- Lacked Cooperation with Plan
- Child Removed
- Achieved Family Goal
- Closed for Other Reason Not Listed

**Families participating in Prevention Plans are referred to 2.5 services or providers on average.**

## **Growing Impacts of Prevention Plans and Family Support Team Meetings: Region 1 Spotlight**

In 2023, 100% of all tracked prevention or protection plans had documented Family Support Team meetings. Of prevention plans closed since the beginning of 2022, 51% used FST meetings.

*“A new mom was struggling with severe depression and suicidal thought, so after meeting I felt they would be an excellent [candidate for a] prevention plan. After working with the family for a couple of months, the father decided this was not for him and he left. However, the mother was not about to give up on the prevention plan. We sat down together and discussed providers and resources that could be helpful to them. Over the course of 7 months in the prevention plan, the mother was able to learn important parenting skills and she was able to obtain the proper resources for her own mental health. Upon closing the report, she had been admitted into [a] college program and she and the baby were doing excellently.” - Child Protection Specialist*

Families participating in Family Support Teams shared their perceptions of these meetings:

compassion  
learning opportunities  
team housing  
resources family engagement connection  
healing impactful planning  
fair supportive helpful  
non-judgemental

**On average, 11 service organizations participate in each Family Support Team meeting.**

CFSD is committed at all levels to evaluation and Continuous Quality Improvement. Each region has a designated staff member tracking data element of Prevention Plans, as well as Family Support Team meetings in regions they are held. Staff members of the Continuous Quality Improvement Unit are supporting regions throughout Montana in their ongoing prevention efforts to engage family and community stakeholders at the forefront of CFSD intervention. CFSD continues to build strong partnerships with the Early Childhood Family Support Services Division, the Children’ Mental Health Bureau, and other community stakeholder in informal learning collaboratives to ensure families are supported with home visiting, mental health, and substance use disorder models that support their family best in their time of need.