



Office of Children and Family Services

Status Report

Community-Based Prevention Programs

2020

Release Date: March 31, 2021

Prevention Programs

"I like that I can have somebody I trust to confide in whenever I need to and I love how I feel cared about."

--Parent who received services

Strengthening Families and Communities

OCFS also funds additional **community-based child abuse prevention programs**.

These include Family Resource Centers, home visiting programs, parenting education programs, and clinical family support programs that are **evidence-based or evidence-informed**.

They **work in partnership with other community agencies** and parents to **assist families** in their caregiving roles, **strengthen informal supports**, offer resources directly or through **referrals**, and **promote community investment**. These services build on **protective factors** that research shows can **reduce child abuse and neglect**.

Total services skyrocketed in April and through June at the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but then remained relatively stable compared to previous years (2018 & 2019). However, the types of services provided in 2020 differed (e.g., Family Support and Coaching, Basic Needs, Informal Parent Education, Information / Referrals, etc.) showing how programs quickly adapted their services to meet families' needs.

2020

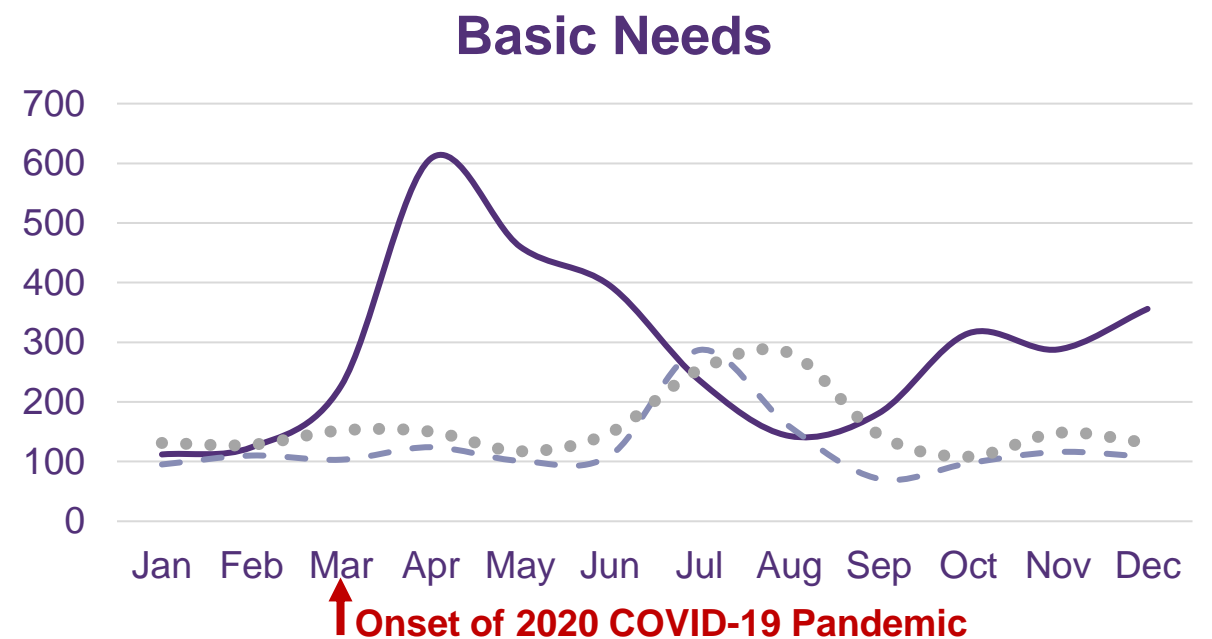
Data from 2020



— 2020 - - 2019 ... 2018

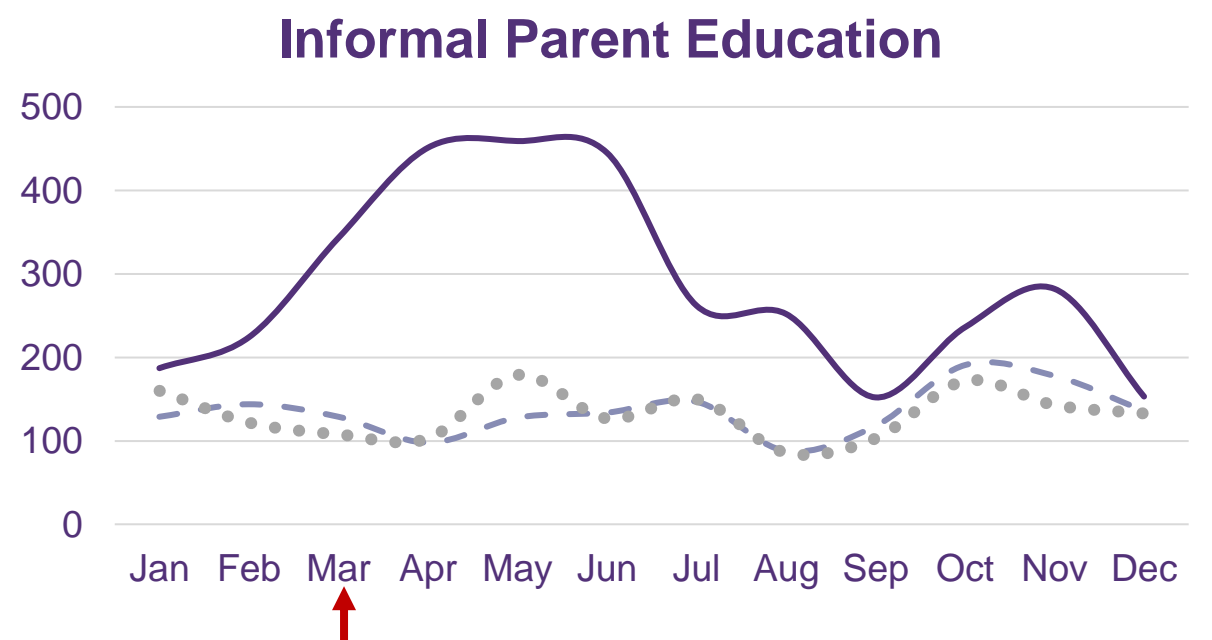
Basic Needs

- Basic Needs saw the category's largest increase at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued through the spring of 2020.
- They saw another uptick in the fall, potentially due to the colder weather.



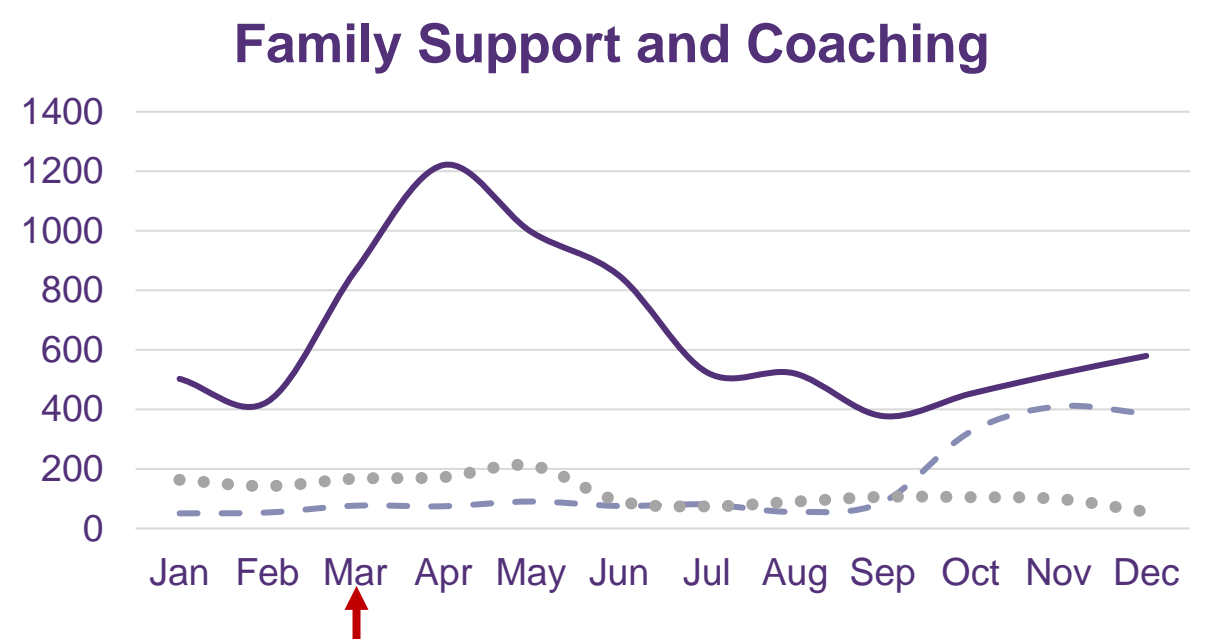
Informal Parent Education

- Informal Parent Education also saw a large increase through most of 2020 as programs pivoted to provide program content virtually and through other creative methods.



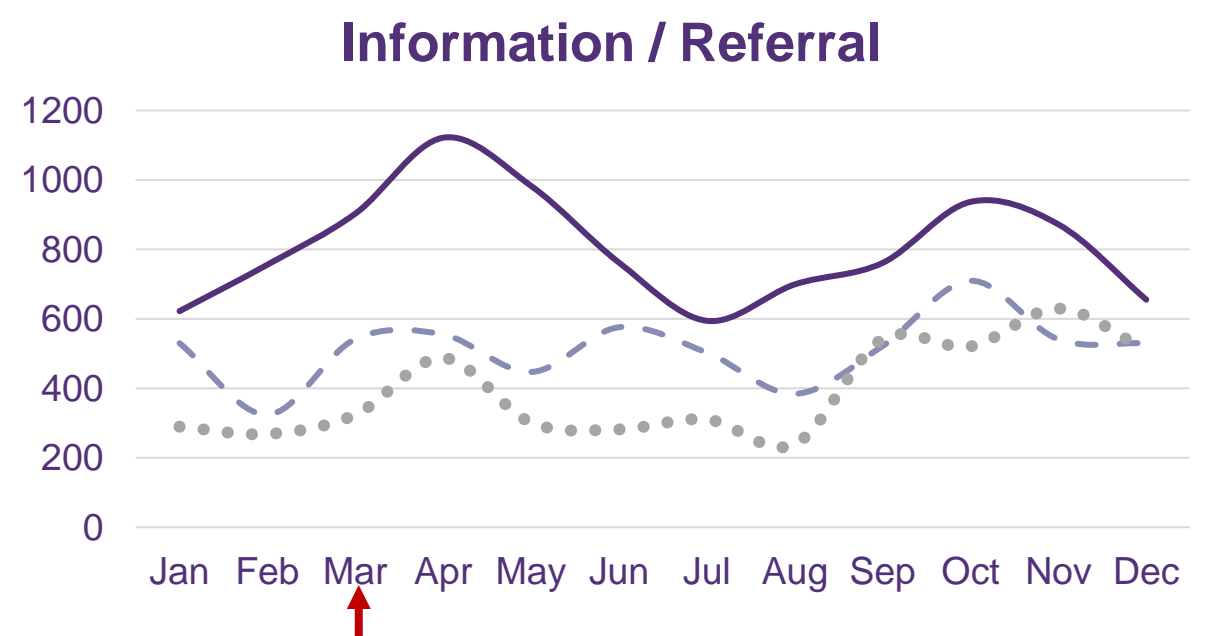
Family Support and Coaching

- Family Support and Coaching saw the largest increase of any prevention program category, skyrocketing from March to April and staying at high levels through the summer as programs worked to support families through unprecedented times.



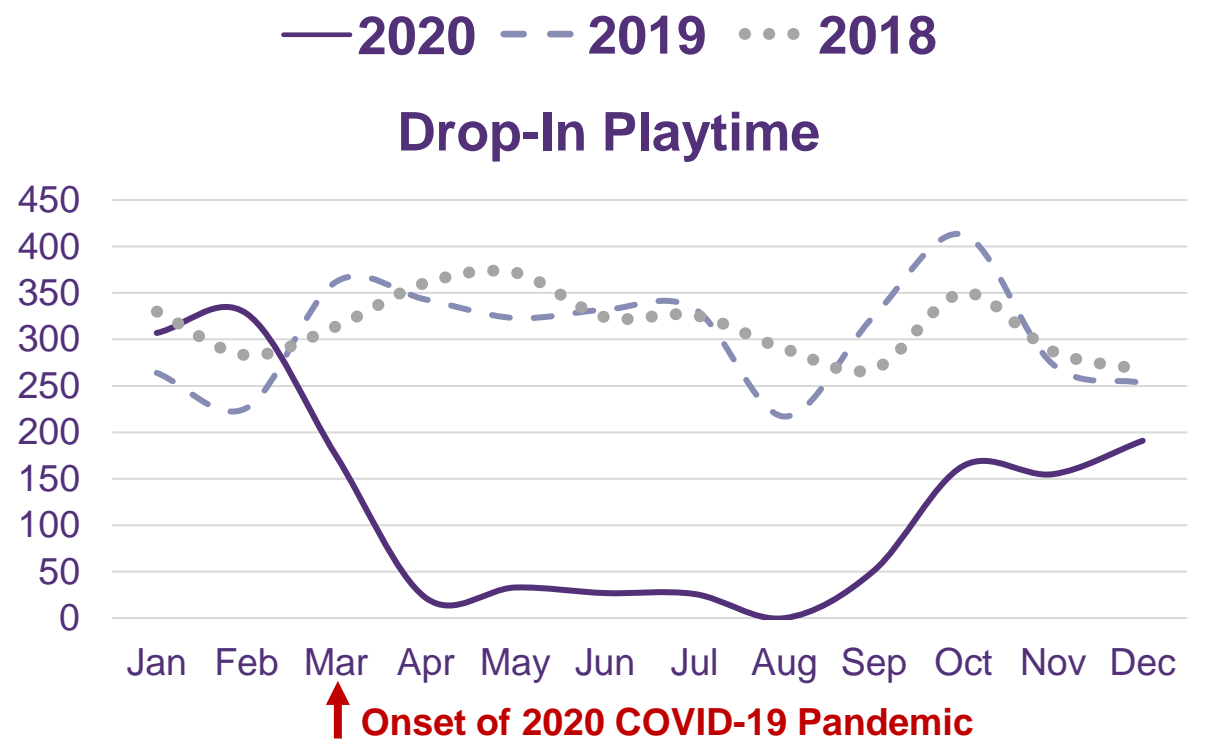
Information / Referral

- Information / Referrals increased in March and April and stayed elevated throughout 2020 as workers connected families with the services they needed during this time period.



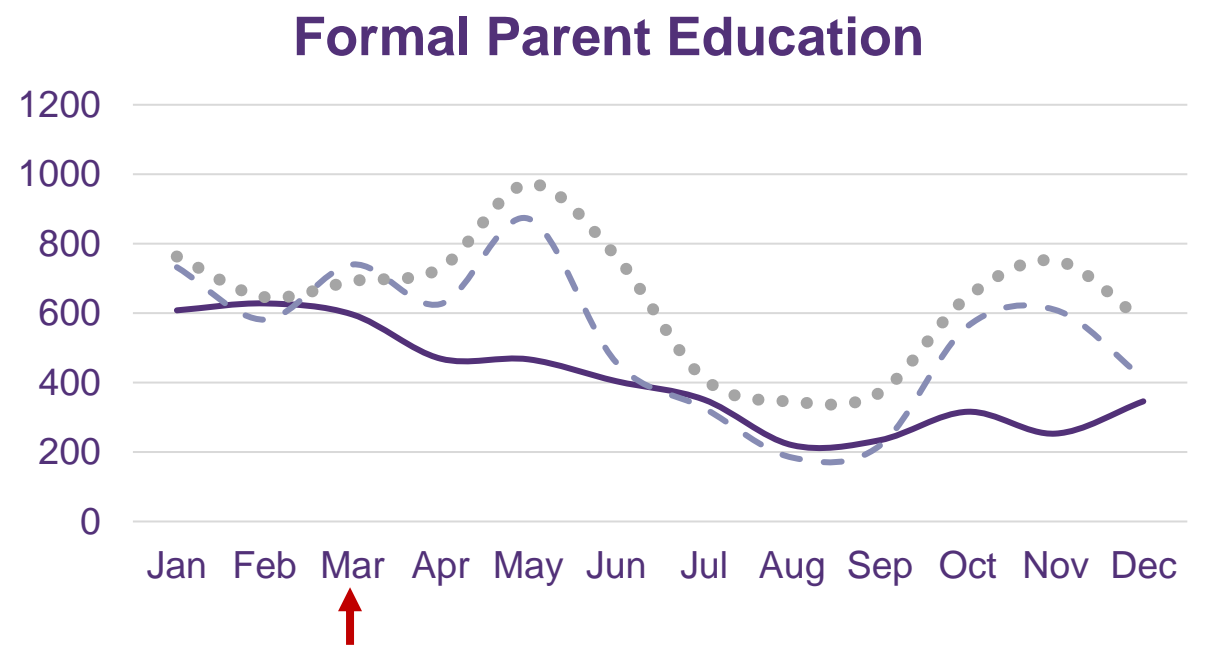
Drop-In Playtime

- Like most in-person activities, Drop-In Playtime dropped at the onset of COVID-19 and stayed at low-levels through the summer since many programs were closed during this period.
- By the fall, some programs were able to resume in-person play groups.



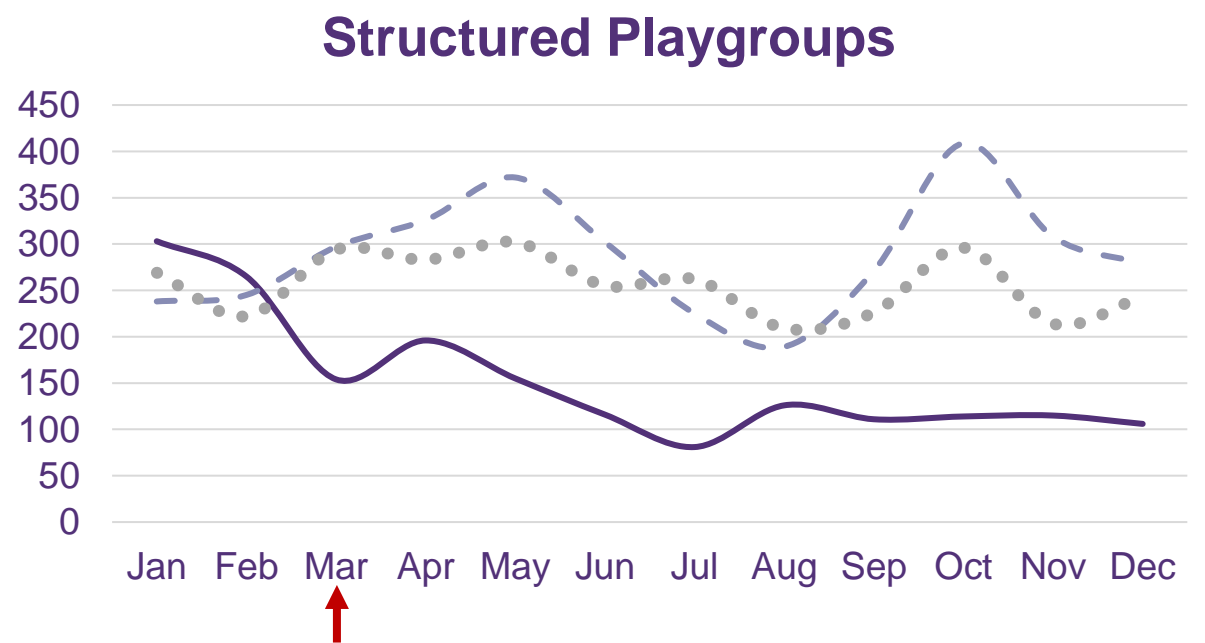
Formal Parent Education

- Formal Parent Education was another category that took a hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, as programs were unable to host in-person sessions for their formal curricula.



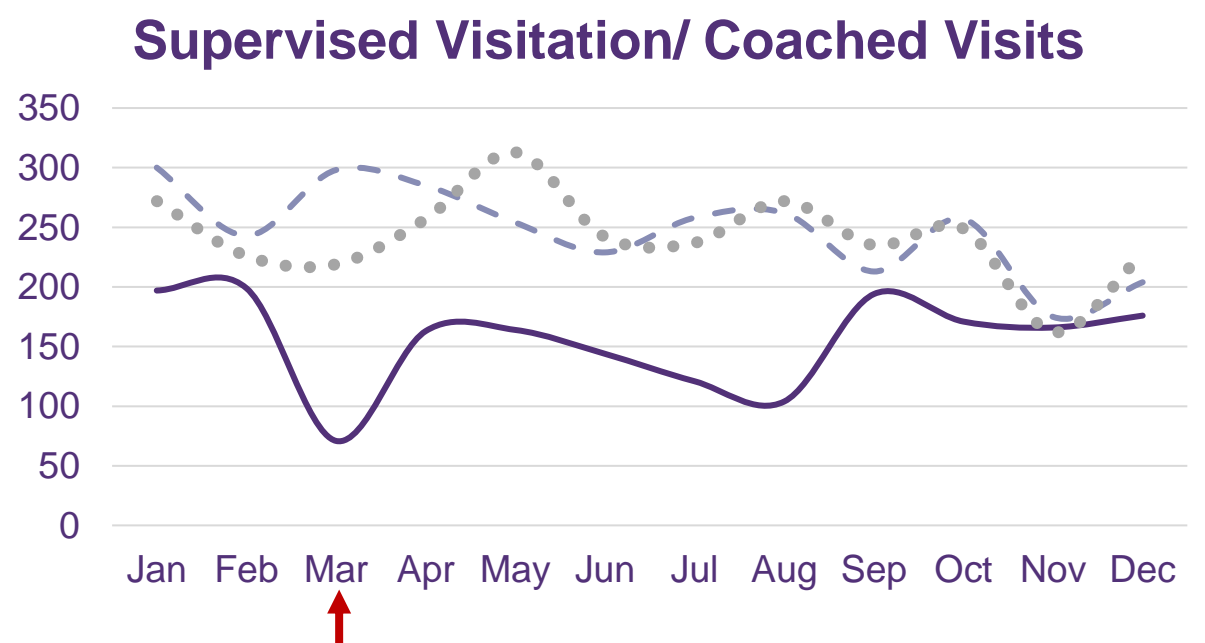
Structured Playgroups

- Similar to Drop-In Playtime, Structured Playgroups saw a decrease in 2020 overall.
- Some programs however were able to find creative ways to continue structured Playgroups throughout the year.



Supervised Visitation / Coached Visits

- Supervised Visitation / Coached Visits dropped in the Spring of 2020 through the summer.
- By the fall of 2020, Supervised Visitation / Coached Visits had regained nearly-normal levels compared to other years.



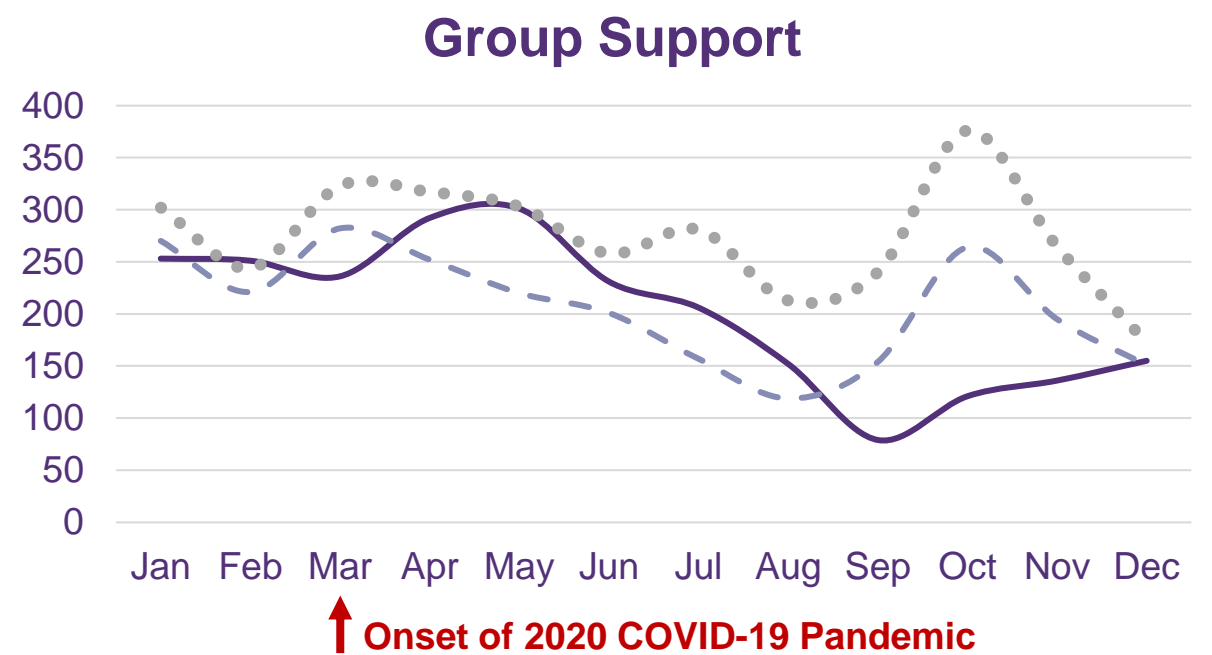
2020

Data from 2020

— 2020 - - 2019 ... 2018

Group Support

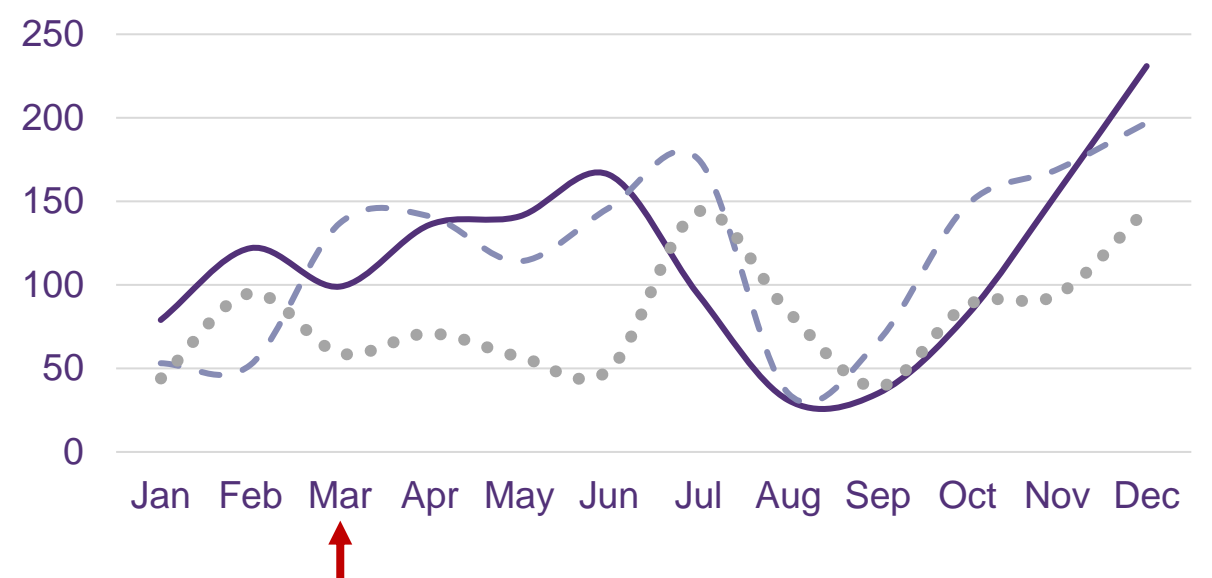
- Group Support held relatively steady in 2020 compared to other years until the fall, where it did not see the usual bump.
- Presumably due to virtual schooling this year, Group Support missed the fall bump due to the usual back-to-school time period.



Family Social / Recreational Programs

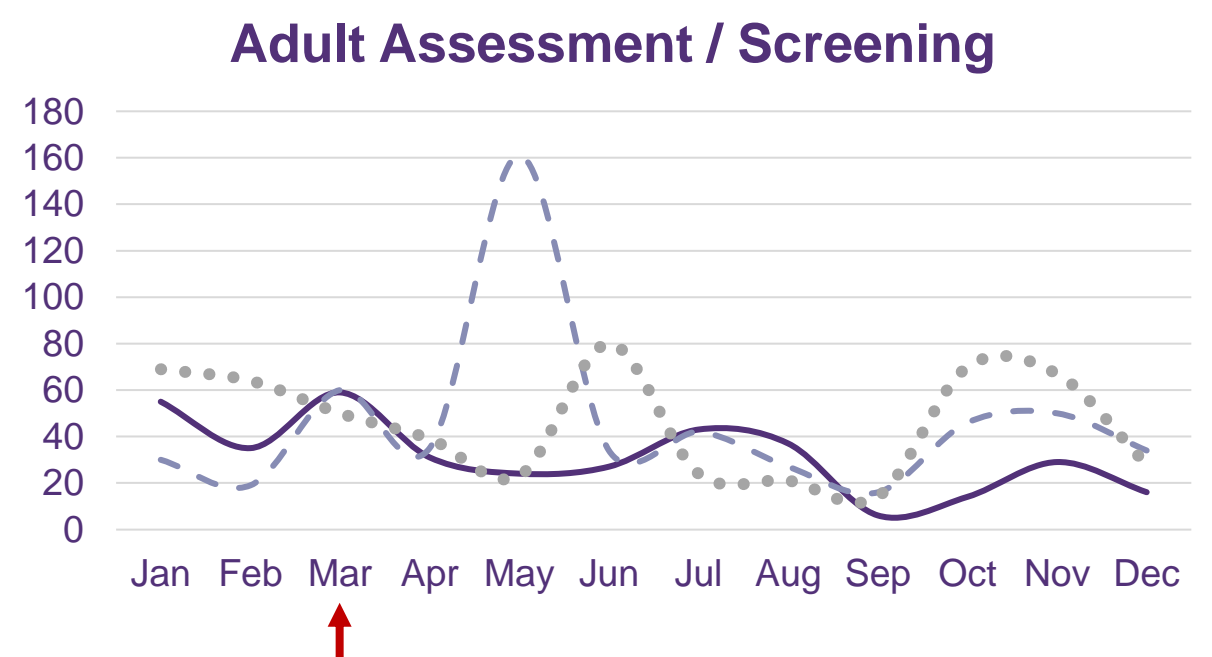
- Impressively, programs were able to hold Family Social / Recreational Programs relatively steady in 2020 compared to previous years, despite challenges the COVID-19 pandemic brought.
- Many programs held virtual events like webinars, book readings, etc. to keep families engaged while following social distancing guidelines.

Family Social/ Recreational Programs



Adult Assessment / Screening

- Despite the pandemic, Adult Assessment / Screening also held relatively steady in 2020 compared to previous years.



The sample size for a number of service categories were too small for them to be included in this brief. The categories Adult Education, ESL / Citizenship, Health Programs, Housing Advocacy, Legal Advocacy, Advocacy (Other), Job Readiness, Lending Library, Life Skills Training, Respite Child Care Services, Translation Services, and Transportation were too small to be included.