



Tom Rosenberg
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*What Does
Successful Camp
Look Like in COVID*



The big questions

1. Can we open camp?
2. Should we open camp?
3. At what capacity should we open camp?
4. Who's in, who's out?
5. What does our facility look like?
6. What does our program look like?
7. How do we staff our (new/adapted/reduced) program?
8. How do we keep everyone safe?
9. What do we do if there is a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases(s)?
10. *Is this all worth it?*



Can we open camp?

Late & rapidly changing information
Minimal & unclear directives
No evidence to inform decision making

2020

2021

Still rapidly changing information
Evidence from camps, schools, and day care centers
Best practices & tracking mechanisms

2020 Camps that opened:

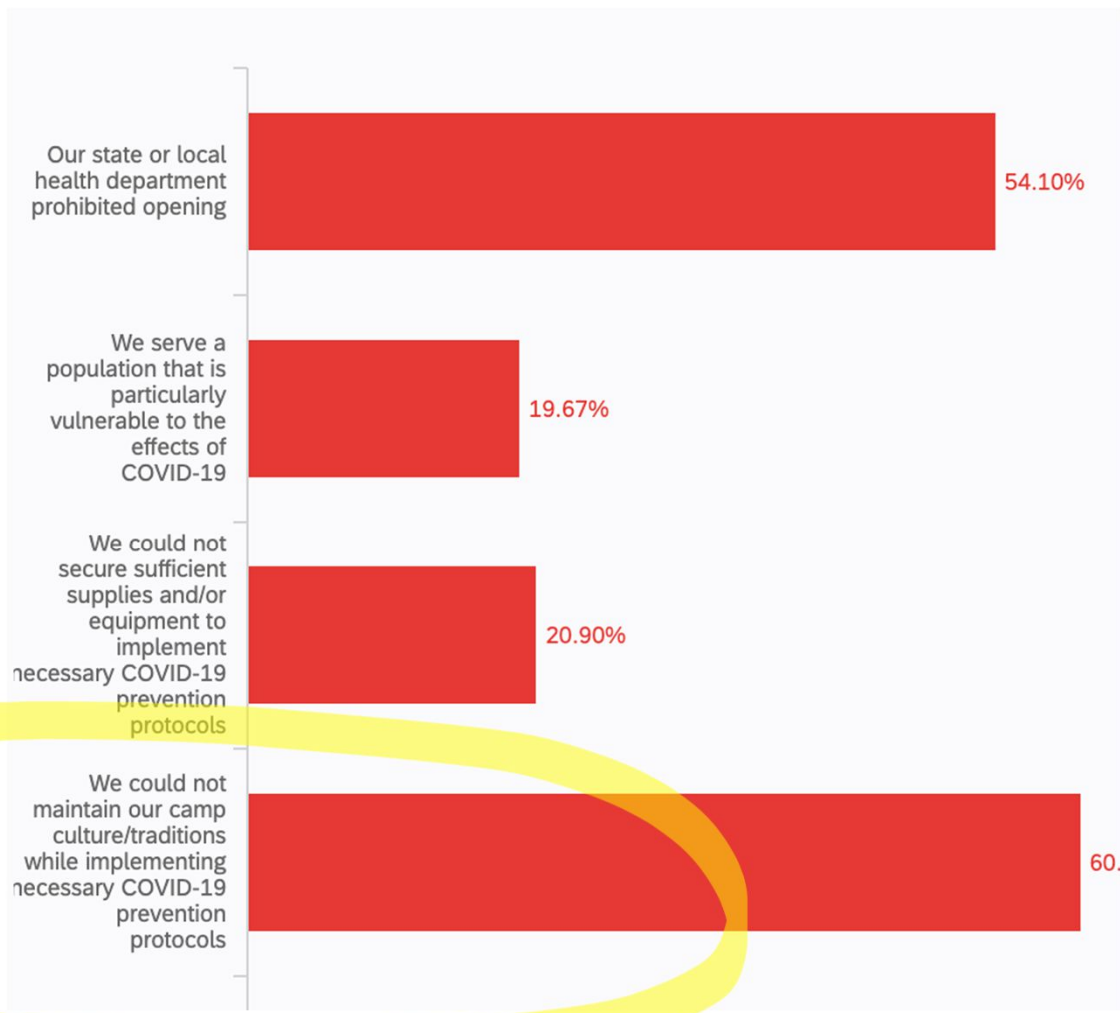
Early and robust decision making

Constant communication with state & local health departments

Engaged parents as partners

Were willing to start from scratch

Should we open camp?



Our state or local health department prohibited opening

54.10%

We serve a population that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19

19.67%

We could not secure sufficient supplies and/or equipment to implement necessary COVID-19 prevention protocols

20.90%

We could not maintain our camp culture/traditions while implementing necessary COVID-19 prevention protocols

60.00%

Developmental Experiences Can Happen in All Settings

Children are shaped by their interactions with the world, the adults around them, and how they make meaning of their experiences no matter where they are.



Developmental Experiences Require Action and Reflection

Children learn through developmental experiences that combine **Action** and **Reflection**, ideally within the context of trusting relationships with adults.



Developmental Experiences Build Components and Key Factors of Success

Over time, through developmental experiences, children build four foundational components, which underlie three "key factors" to success.

Foundational Components

Self-Regulation includes awareness of oneself and one's surroundings, and managing one's attention, emotions, and behaviors in goal-directed ways.

Knowledge is sets of facts, information, or understanding about self, others, and the world. **Skills** are the learned ability to carry out a task with intended results or goals, and can be either general or domain-specific.

Mindsets are beliefs and attitudes about oneself, the world, and the interaction between the two. They are the lenses we use to process everyday experience.

Values are enduring, often culturally-defined, beliefs about what is good or bad and what is important in life. Values serve as broad guidelines for living and provide an orientation for one's desired future.

Key Factors

Being successful means having the **Agency** to make active choices about one's life path, possessing the **Competencies** to adapt to the demands of different contexts, and incorporating different aspects of oneself into an **Integrated Identity**.

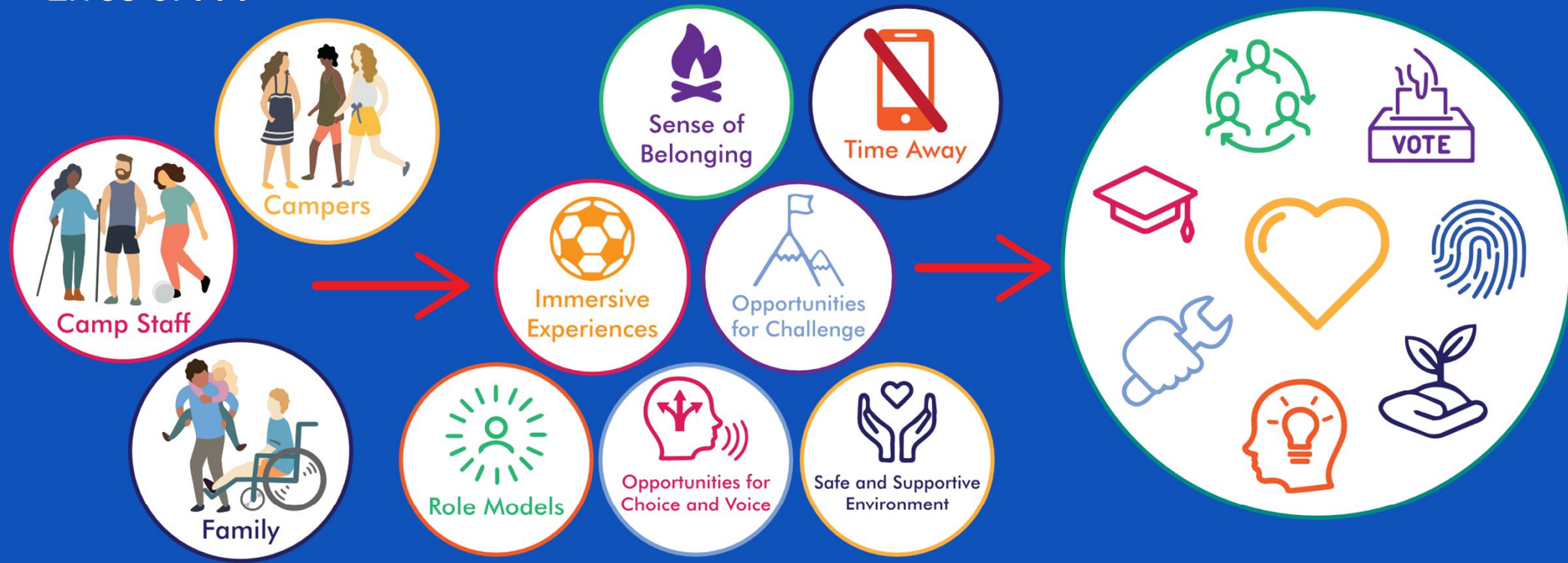


Continued on reverse.

Enriching the Lives of . . .

Camp as a Catalyst for Growth

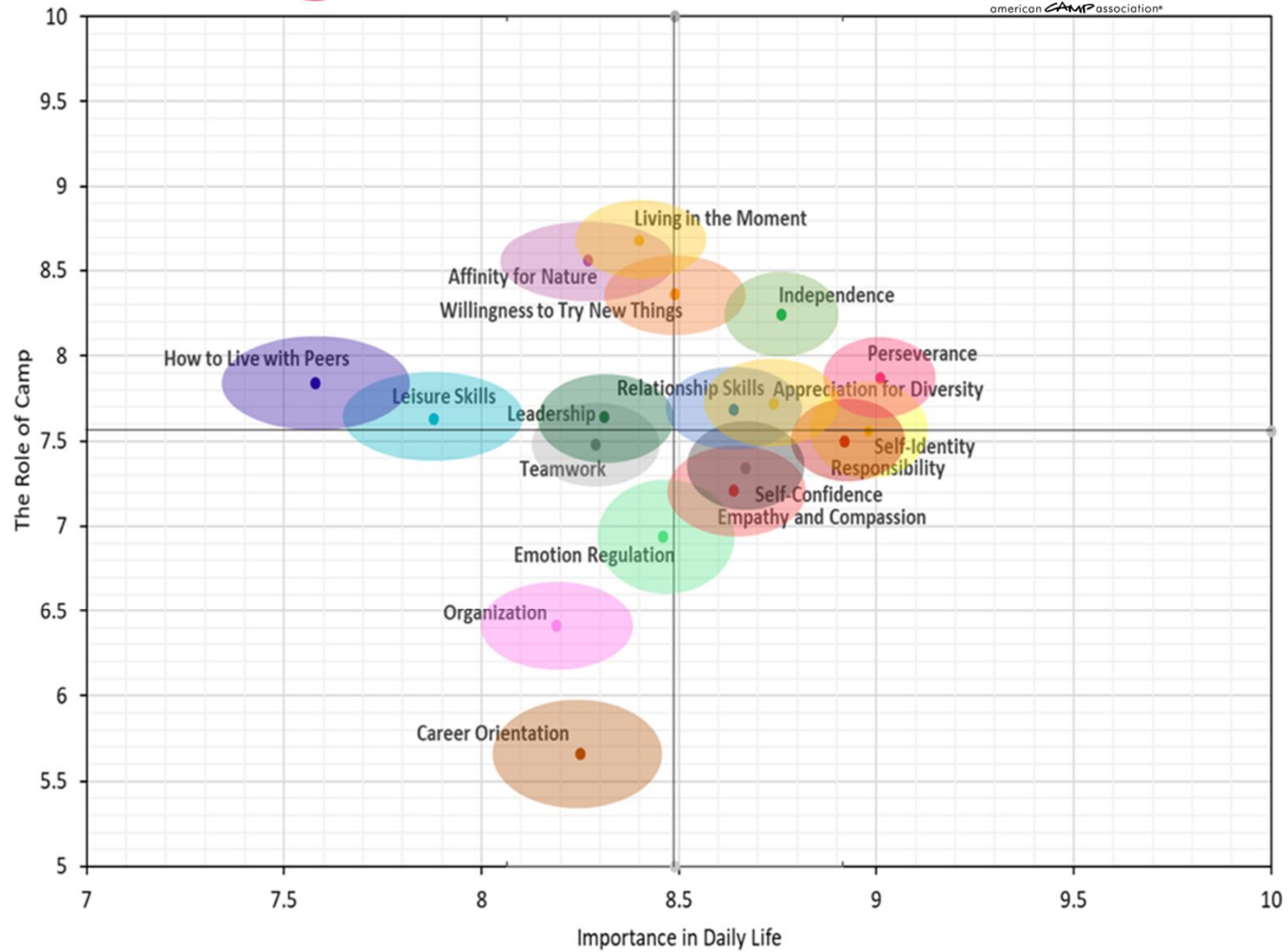
Thriving Adulthood

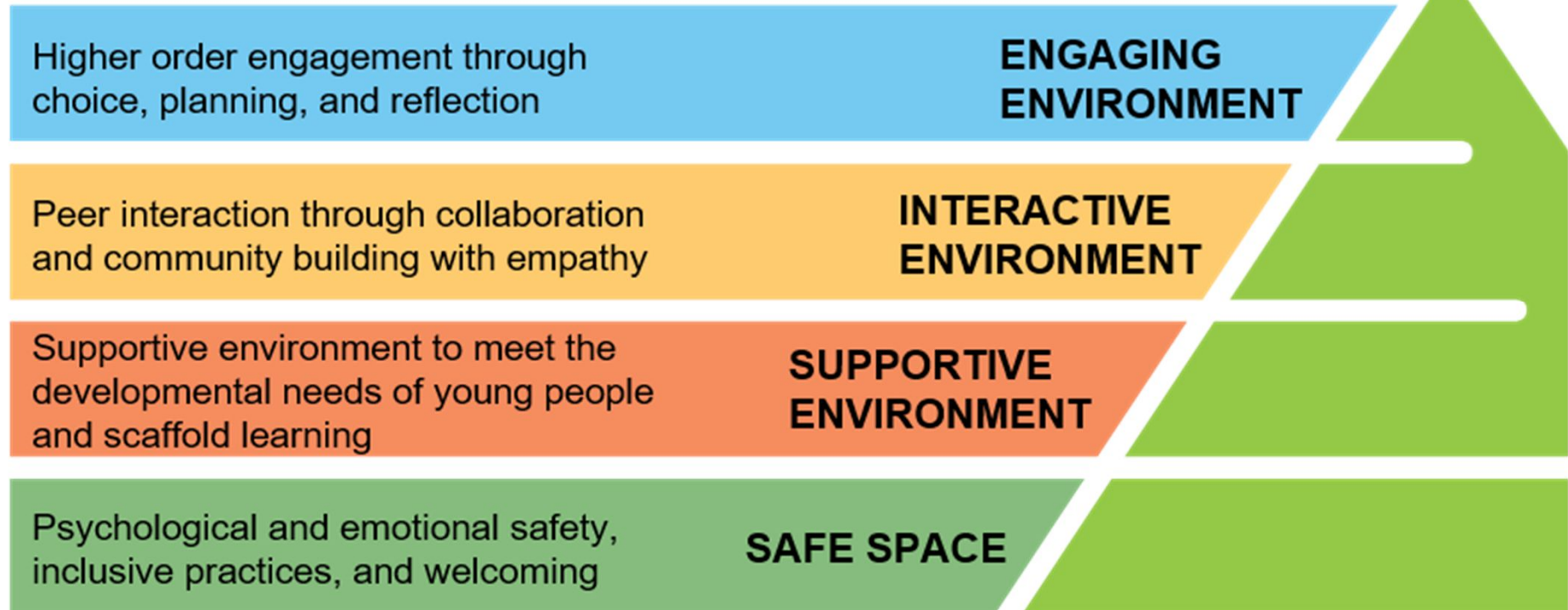




IMPACT STUDY

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At camp:

Sense of belonging
Near-peer "adults"
Separate time and place
Fun & interesting
Dosage
Developmental
progression



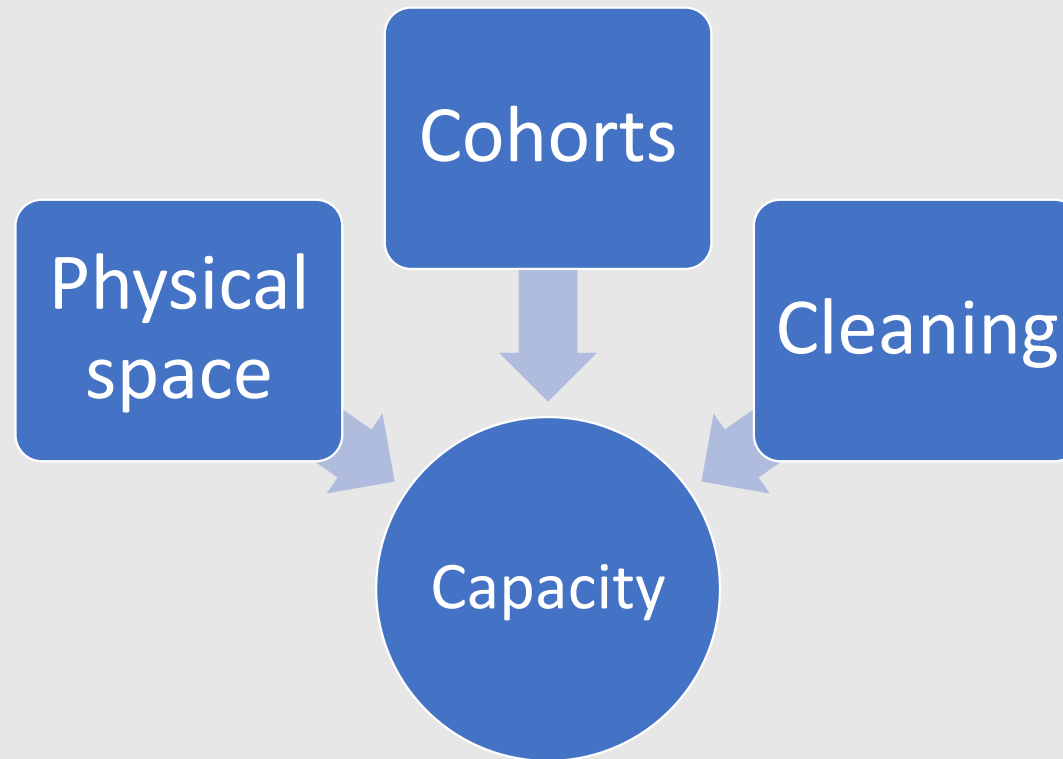
IMPACT STUDY

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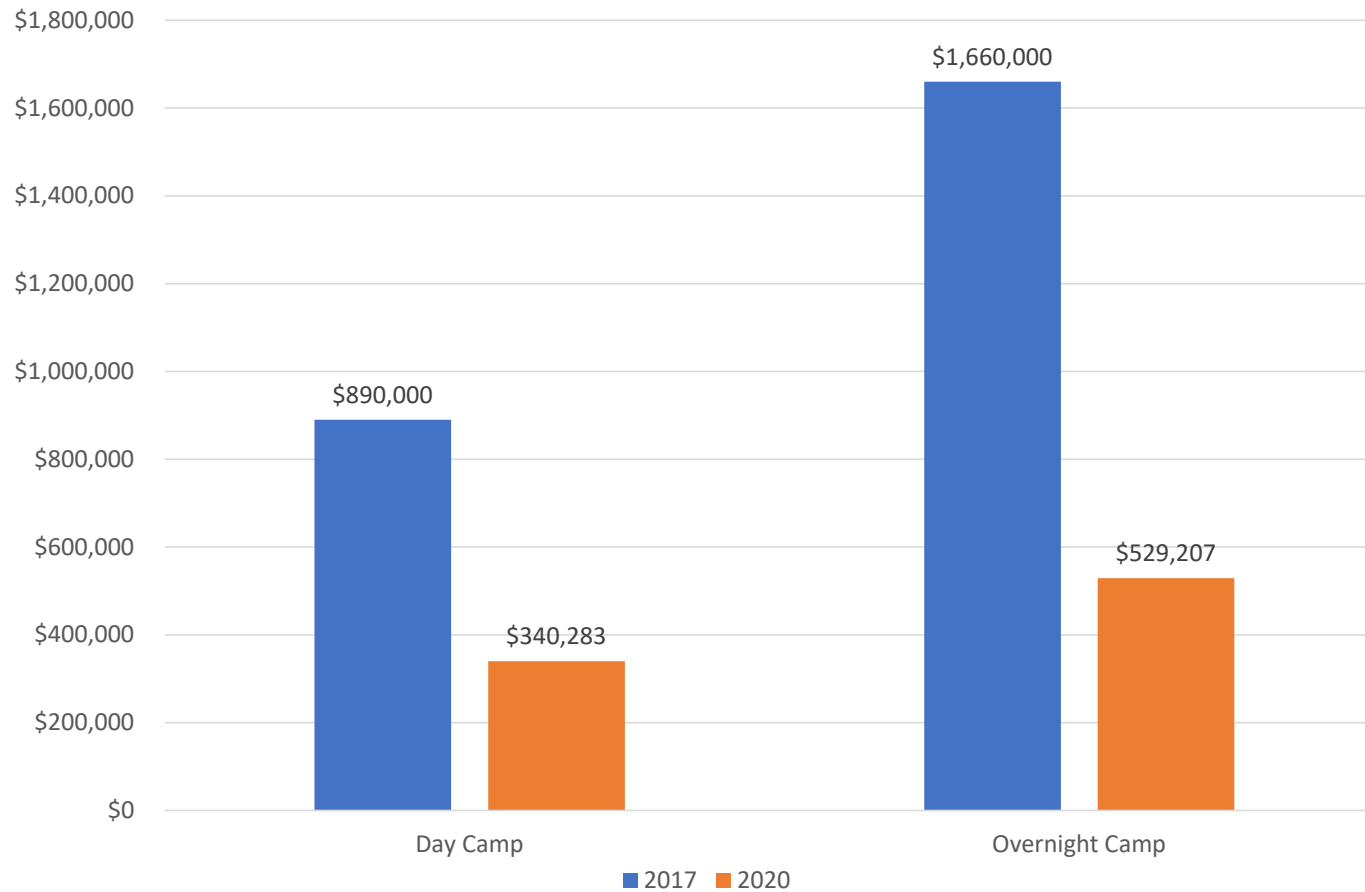


At what capacity?

Factors shrinking capacity



Mean gross revenue 2019 vs. 2020





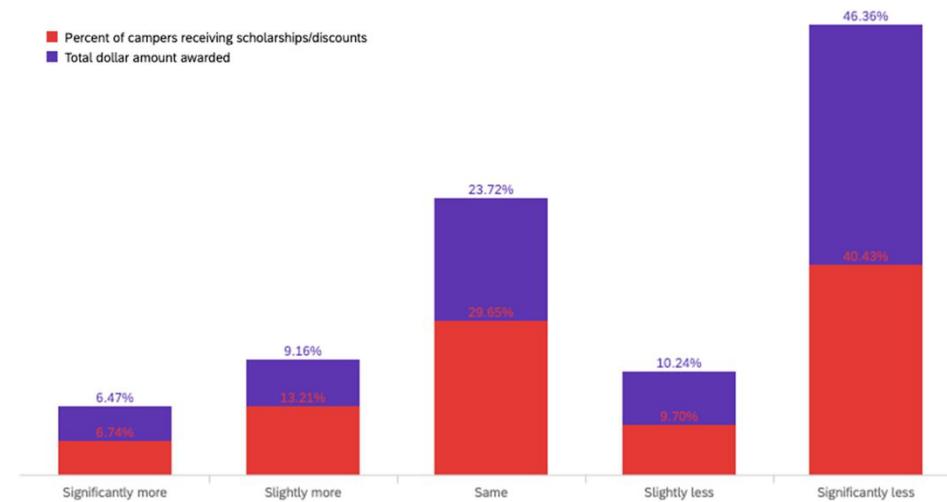
Who's in, who's out?

*We could not serve as many low-income students as we would normally. **We didn't have the funds for scholarships**, and the local school district cancelled all camps that would normally have brought in both low-income and more diverse students.*

***Fees were increased due to State staffing guidelines**, therefore families who needed care couldn't afford it and only a limited amount of financial assistance was available.*

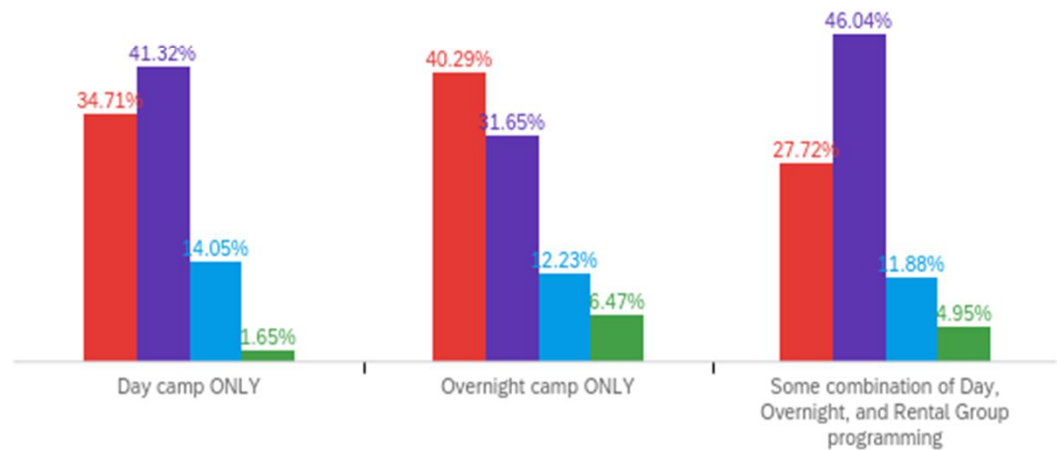
*We served less campers in 2020 due to COVID-19. We had 3 age groups from 7-12 yrs old and **eliminated ages 4-6 and 13-16** due to capacity and needs.*

Scholarships 2020 vs. 2019



Intentions for 2021

- Open at full capacity
- Open at reduced capacity; if so, are holding back any isolation/quarantine ...
- Open but with a new program format, please describe:
- Not open
- Other, please describe:





What will our facility
look like?

Camp facilities in 2020

Adaptations

- Average \$10,000 spent on facility adaptations

Outdoor

- Meals and other indoor activities moved outdoors

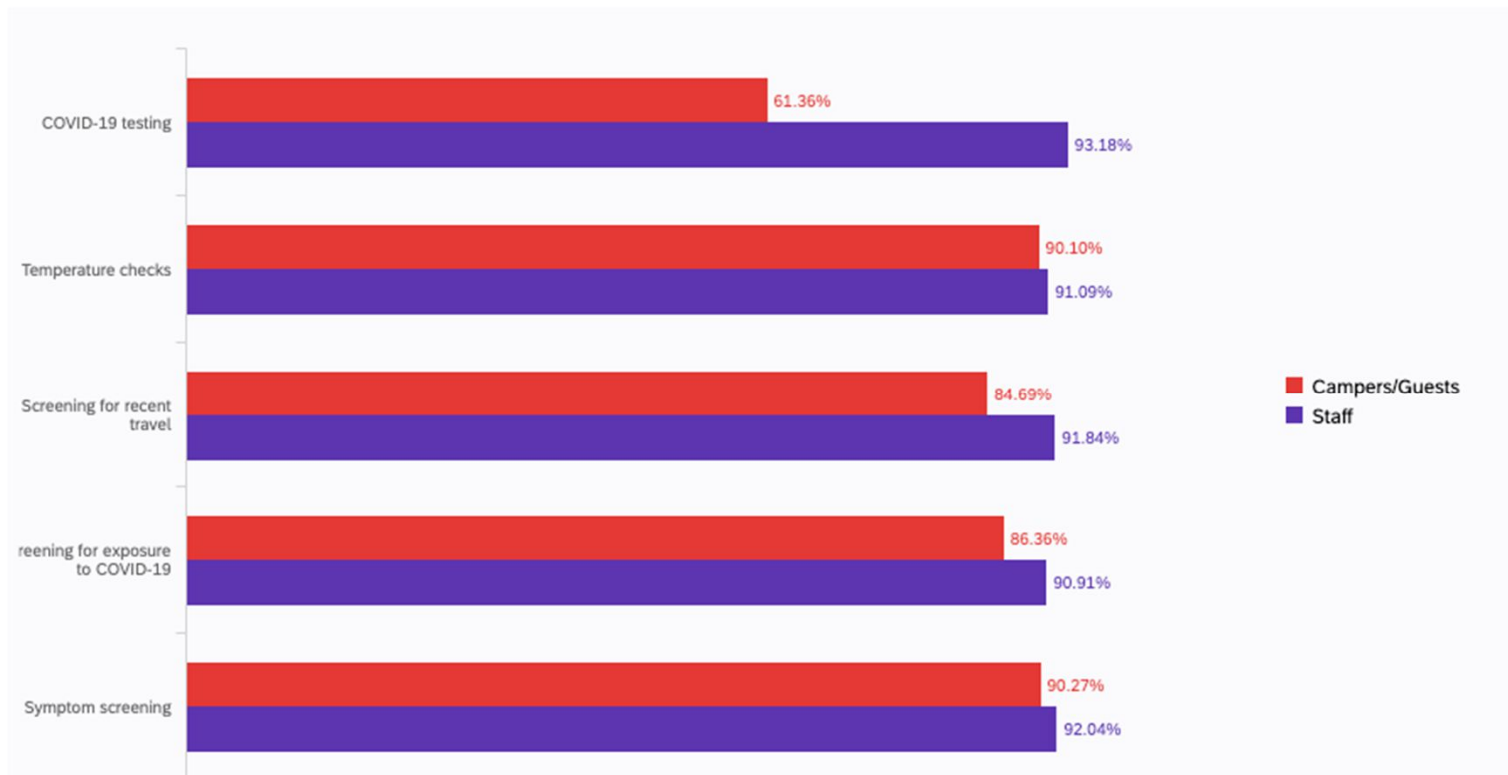
Less options

- Less access to non-owned or public sites



What does our program
look like?

2020 COVID-19 Precautions



Easiest for campers	Most difficult for campers	Easiest for staff	Most difficult for staff	Most costly	Biggest impact on camp culture	Most challenging for parents
Masks	Distancing	Sanitation	Distancing	Cleaning	Smaller camp	Constant changes
Drop off	Masks	New schedules	Masks	Extra staff	Cohorts	Not allowed onsite
Handwashing		Masks	Not allowed off site	PPE	No physical contact	Pre-camp quarantine
Daily screening			Not allowed to interact	Testing	Fear	Masks

CULTURE OF COMPLIANCE



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Preventing and Mitigating SARS-CoV-2 Transmission — Four Overnight Camps, Maine, June–August 2020

Weekly / September 4, 2020 / 69(35);1216–1220

On August 26, 2020, this report was posted online as an MMWR Early Release.

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Camp- related COVID-19 outbreaks in 2020

1. Minimal cases, even less outbreaks;
however...
2. ...Significant media
3. Regionally-specific
4. Correlated with screening practices

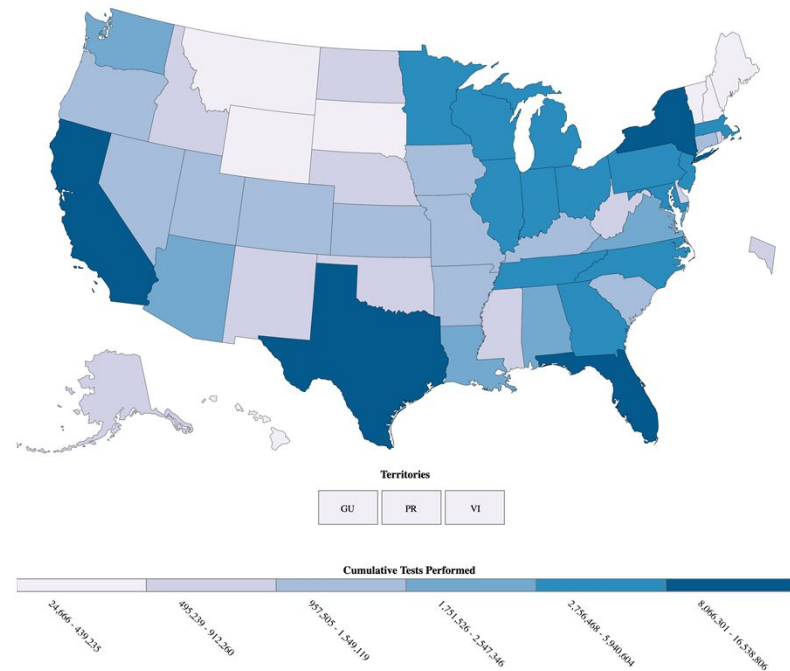


Testing

Best practice: For overnight camps lasting more than three days, campers and staff could undergo RT-PCR testing on site after approximately three to five days with results obtained within 24 to 48 hours to allow for identification of potential travel-related exposures.

Best practice: For overnight camps lasting more than three days, campers and staff could undergo rapid screen testing, such as antigen tests, on-site or using mail-in samples after approximately three days with results obtained within 48 to 72 hours to allow for evaluation of campers and staff with symptoms that could be consistent with COVID-19.

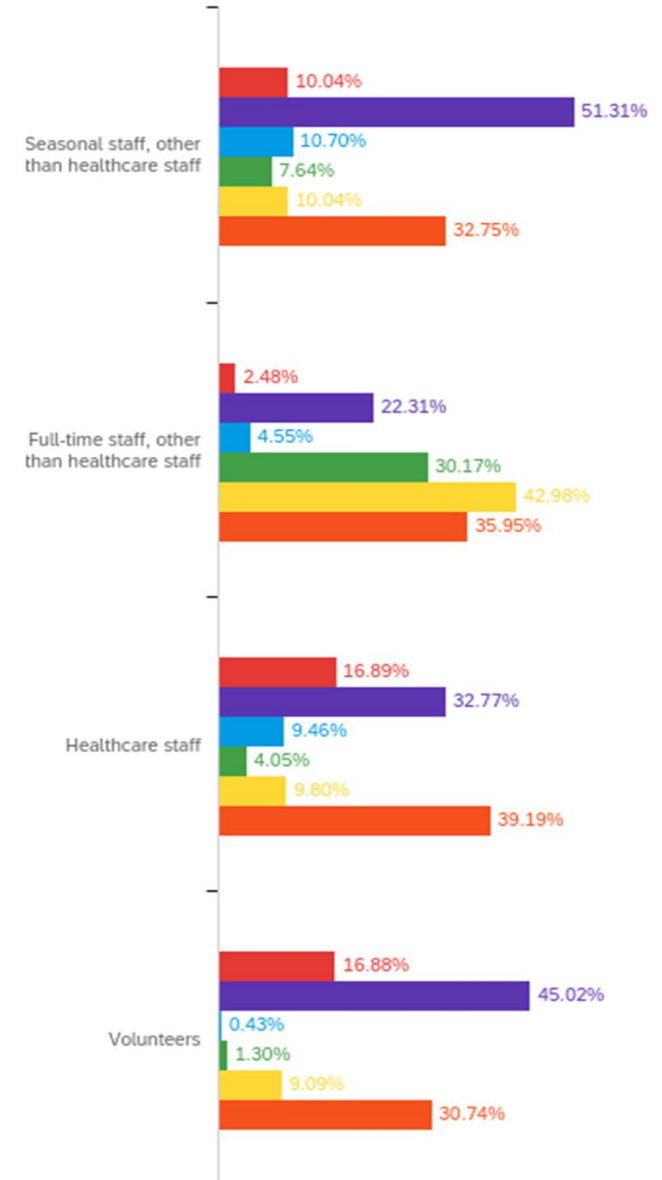
Best practice: Staff at overnight programs who leave camp for weekend trips or other off-facility activities should be tested after three to five days upon arriving back at camp.



How do we staff our
(new/adapted/reduced)
program?

Staffing in 2020

- Hired more
- Hired less
- Paid more
- Paid less
- Furloughed
- Laid off



Other staff considerations

Recruitment

J-1

Rotations

Time Off

Mental
Health

Vaccine



What's Ahead?

What's Ahead

Camp Counts
Study Results
(early January)

Engagement With
State Public
Health Officials

Staff Recruitment
and Training

Parents
Perspective Study
(late January)

Assoc Camp
Nursing Research
Results

Promoting Camp
with Parents

Things To Do

1. Communications with Staff & Parents
2. Communications with Local Public Health
3. Review revised ACA Field Guide and [ACACamps.org/COVID-19](https://www.acacamps.org/COVID-19) for examples and resources
4. Determine Necessary Camp Adaptations and No-Gos
5. [CDC COVID-19 in Camp Website](#)
6. Look for ACA & ACN Camp Research Reports in January. Share where appropriate
7. Help with State Advocacy if appropriate



Is it all worth it?

difficult decision children
offer 2021 successful adapt
back better pandemic person
good lot things community day
flexible camper people open
need covid staff time love
year kid camp plan
big run safe program virtual
make summer parent
case change family operate
long work experience made
clean resilient health great hard
group amazing creative best
again relationships government



Come fall, “young people, with adult support, will have taken incredible steps to forge different relationships, make meaning in new situations, make progress towards new goals, and make a difference to themselves, their families, their peers, and their communities”. (Pittman, 2020)

- **Professional Development Center**
 - Certificates of Added Qualifications
 - Earn Continuing Education Credits
 - Knowledge Center – 13 Core Competencies
- **Convening Empirical and Evaluative Research**
 - Five Year Impact Study
 - Program Quality
 - Evaluative Research Tools For Camps Field-Focused Research Studies
- **Camp Standards & National Accreditation**
 - Voluntary National Standards and External Peer Review Process recognized by courts and government for US-based Camps
 - Program, Site, Transportation, Health & Wellness, Operations Management, Human Resources, Risk Management
- **Advocacy, Publications, Hotline and More**



QUESTIONS?



ACAamps.org | 800-428-2267

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Contact Tom Rosenberg at trosenberg@acacamps.org

Check out our COVID-19 resources: www.acacamps.org

[Revised ACA Field Guide](#) (another version due mid-January)

Read our Research 360 blog: <https://www.acacamps.org/staff-professionals/news-publications/blogs/research-360>