

TOP FINDINGS

The goal of the Safety Summit Project is to help dependency court systems increase utilization of the safety framework and develop a shared understanding around the assessment of child safety. The design of the Safety Summits was based on findings from the baseline evaluation of safety practices in identified project sites conducted. Sites were evaluated 3-5 months post training to compare practice to the baseline assessment. This infographic displays some of the most significant findings from the Washington Safety Decision-Making Practice Follow-up Study.

DISCUSSIONS OF SAFETY

Shelter Care Hearings

Specific Safety Threats **↑32%**

Efforts to Prevent Removal **↑35%**

Review Hearings

Parental Protective Capacity **↑46%**

Justification for Supervised Family Time **↑51%**

ANALYSIS OF SAFETY

35%

Increase in the number of documents submitted prior to the Shelter Care Hearing that included an analysis of safety.



Significantly more documents referenced:

Protective Capacity **↑31%**

Conditions for Return **↑34%**

Vulnerabilities **↑39%**

100% of the post-summit shelter care documentation included an analysis of safety and addressed specific safety threats

FAMILY TIME

21%

increase in discussion of safety-related justification for supervised visitation at the Shelter Care Hearing

SAFETY PLANS

16%

increase in discussion of safety planning at Shelter Care Hearings

PROMISING IMPACT: Project sites experienced a decrease in the percentage of cases where the child was removed after an in-home safety plan was put in place (measured at 6 and 12 months). Because the data are in aggregate, statistical comparisons were not made.

References: Alicia Summers and Sophia Gatowski of the Capacity Building Center for Courts (June 2022) Washington Safety Decision-Making Practice Follow-up Study.

