A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE AFTERSCHOOL FIELD'S CHANGING LANDSCAPE AS IT RESPONDED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE ORDERS IN MARCH 2020 TO THE RECENT END OF THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LOCKDOWN ORDERS.

**THE PANDEMIC**

Throughout the pandemic, afterschool and summer programs have been working to maintain basic services for students and families. This has required a variety of strategies, including offering services virtually, adapting to new public health guidelines, and addressing the impact of the pandemic on their operations.

**THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC**

Despite the challenges, many programs have continued to serve students and families. The percentage of programs open in some capacity has continued to increase since the peak in Spring 2020, with 89% open in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.

**TRENDS OVER TIME**

- **Fall 2020**
  - 67% of programs were open in-person.
  - 91% were open in some capacity.
- **Summer 2020**
  - 57% were open in-person.
  - 77% were open in some capacity.
- **Fall 2021**
  - 55% were open in-person.
  - 88% were open in some capacity.
- **Spring 2022**
  - 52% were open in-person.
  - 91% were open in some capacity.
- **Fall 2022**
  - 51% were open in-person.
  - 89% were open in some capacity.
- **Spring 2023**
  - 47% were open in-person.
  - 91% were open in some capacity.

**CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS**

- **Financial Support**: Many programs have faced financial challenges throughout the pandemic, with a significant number of programs relying on unemployment insurance or not being financially supported by their programs.
- **Staffing Issues**: Staffing issues have been a top challenge among program providers, with many programs facing difficulties in attracting and retaining staff.
- **Program Funding**: There are worries about the program's long-term funding and future, with many programs struggling to meet the needs of families.

**PROGRAM OFFERINGS**

- **Virtual Programs**: Over 90% of programs have served students virtually during the pandemic.
- **In-Person Services**: While many programs have served students virtually, a small percentage have continued to offer in-person services.
- **Food Services**: Food services have been a major concern for many programs, with 77% of programs serving as meals or delivering food.
- **Mental Health Support**: Mental health support has been a key focus for many programs, with 77% of programs offering mental health services.
- **Academic Support**: Academic support has been a priority for many programs, with 95% of programs focusing on supporting student's academic progress.

**IMPACT ON STUDENTS**

- **Learning Loss**: Young people have seen a significant increase in levels of learning loss, with 71% of programs seeing an increase in learning loss levels.
- **Mental Health**: Mental health concerns have also increased, with 57% of programs seeing an increase in levels of concern about students' mental health.
- **Social Connections**: Social connections have been a concern, with 38% of programs seeing an increase in the number of students missing out on opportunities for social connections.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Throughout the pandemic, afterschool and summer programs have continued to provide critical resources for students and families. While challenges and concerns remain, many programs have adapted and persevered to provide the support needed during these difficult times.