

Practical Outcome Study of Outdoor Behavioral Health Programs

KEY POINTS

- > 86% of Alumni parents would recommend an Aspen program to other families in need
- > Aspen Outdoor Programs deliver 4 times improvement in the core issues of child safety, trust, family efficacy, and education
- > Students attending Aspen Residential Schools and Programs are 1.9 times more likely to graduate high school on time and 2.7 times more likely to attend college
- > Aspen program staff consistently demonstrated strong clinical and compassionate care for the students and their families

Aspen Education Group conducted a series of focus groups in California and New York which included Alumni families, parents searching for solutions, School Principals and Clinical Professionals. The focus groups revealed a consistent pattern of concerns that parents have for their children and a consistent set of expectation when they enroll their child in a Residential Treatment Center, Therapeutic Boarding School or Outdoor Behavioral Health program. The outgrowth of these focus groups was a survey to over 10,000 parents who utilized an Aspen program from 2007 through 2010. The purpose of the study was to determine if adolescents improve while in an Aspen program, and if the progress made while in the program was continued upon returning home. The results of this study indicate that parents can be confident that Aspen's programs will deliver significant improvement in the key areas parents are concerned about. Over 80% of the parents we serve have also seen enough positive results from their own teens that they would recommend the programs to other families in need.

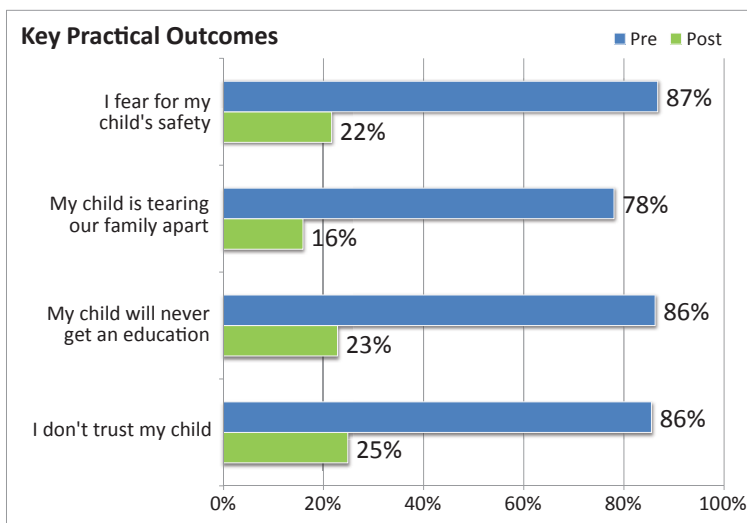
Additionally, of the 1300 respondents, over 800 parents enrolled in the Aspen Education Group Parent Advisory Program further supporting parents' confidence in Aspen programs.

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS RESULTS

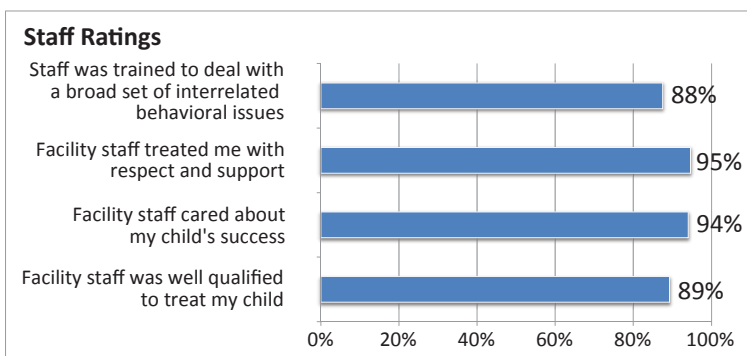
The study found that there was a dramatic improvement in feelings of safety, trust and the likelihood of receiving an education upon return from one of Aspen's outdoor behavioral health programs. While 87 percent of parents feared for their child's safety prior to treatment, only 22 percent felt that way after treatment. Similarly, 86 percent didn't trust their child prior to treatment, while only 25 percent felt that way following treatment. 78 percent of parents felt their child was tearing their family apart prior to treatment, with only 16 percent still feeling this way after. And 86 percent felt their child would never get an education prior to treatment as compared to just 23 percent after treatment.

86%
of Alumni Parents would recommend Aspen programs to other families with troubled children

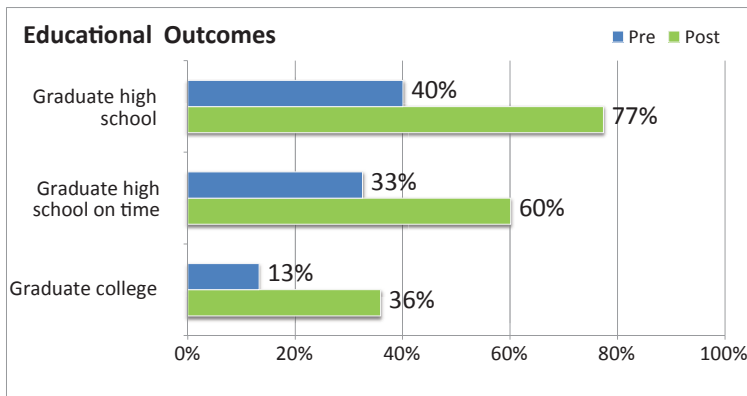
Practical Outcomes	Pre**	Post**	Improvement
I don't trust my child	86%	25%	3.4x
My child will never get an education	86%	23%	3.8x
My child will not be a productive member of society	69%	14%	5.1x
My child is tearing our family apart	78%	16%	4.9x
I am afraid of my child	36%	8%	4.8x
I fear for my child's safety	87%	22%	4.0x
He/she isn't a nice person	47%	10%	4.9x
There is no way to communicate with my child	69%	14%	4.9x
I have failed as a parent	51%	13%	3.9x
My child will have problems with the law	75%	17%	4.3x
My child will become/remain addicted to drugs	69%	15%	4.5x



Staff & Program	Rating**
Facility staff was well qualified to treat my child	89%
Facility staff cared about my child's success	94%
Facility staff treated me with respect and support	95%
Staff was trained to deal with a broad set of interrelated behavioral issues	88%
Program/staff kept me informed of child's treatment while in program	91%
Program treated whole child	85%
Facilities/environment were high quality	77%



Education Outcomes	Pre**	Post**	Improvement
Graduate college	13%	36%	2.7x
Graduate high school on time	33%	60%	1.8x
Graduate high school	40%	77%	1.9x



** Percentages reflect responses of either 4 (Agree) or 5 (Strongly Agree) **