

# Caregivers' Experience with Family-Centered Service Delivery Across Services In Their Community for Individuals with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

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## Background

- Family-centered care (FCC) is a service approach that emphasizes the integral role that families play in their child's service provision.<sup>1</sup>
- Families of individuals with developmental disabilities benefit from and value FCC,<sup>1</sup> yet it is not consistently implemented across settings.<sup>2</sup>
- To our knowledge, no studies have evaluated FCC in day habilitation (DH) services, which serve over 519,000 individuals in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>

## Objectives

- Our study aimed to assess FCC in DH and four other commonly accessed services using the Measure of Processes of Care (MPOC-20).<sup>4</sup>
- We examined how MPOC-20 factors differ across service categories and within the DH category.

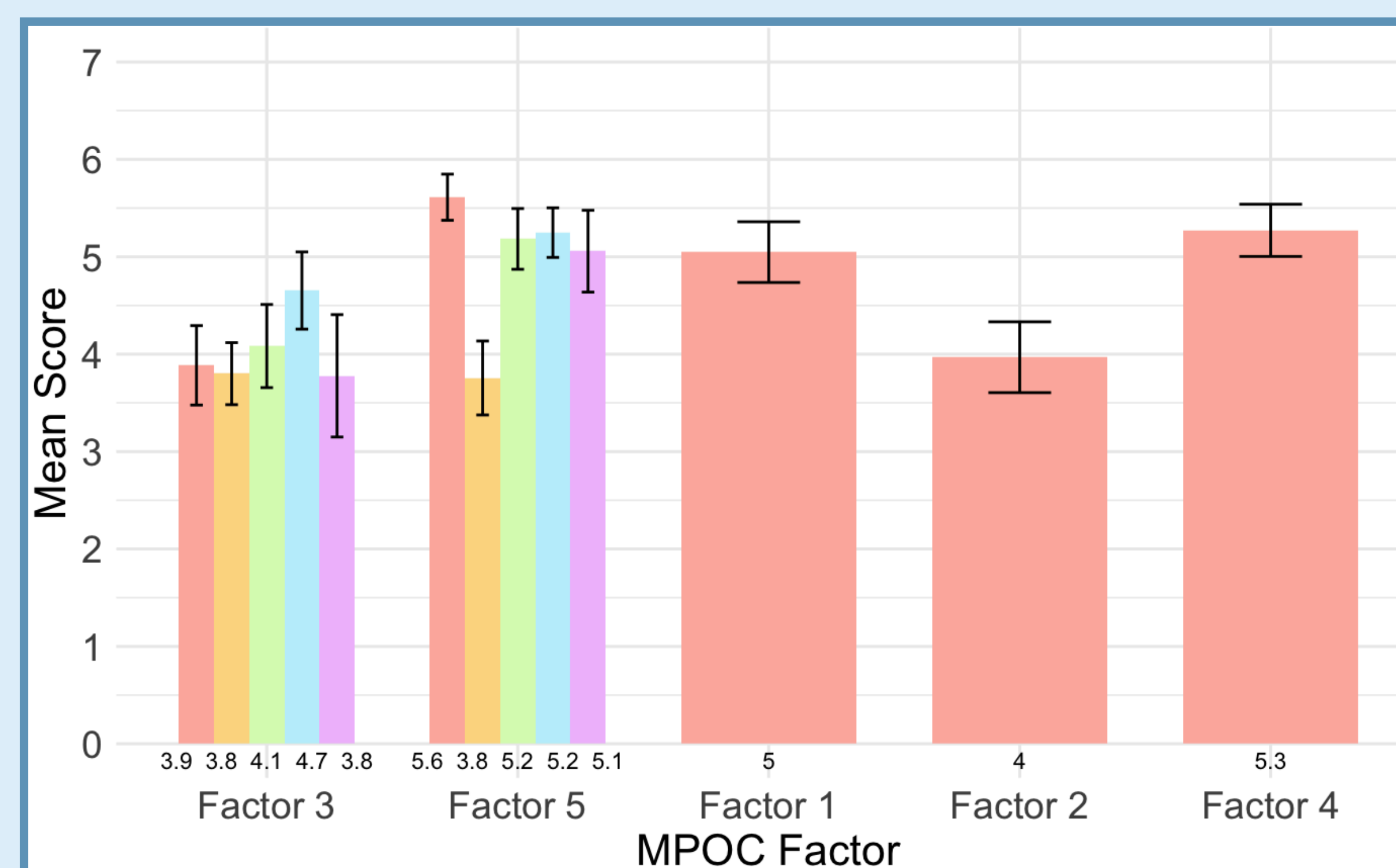
## Methods

- 43 caregivers (90.7% female) of individuals diagnosed with autism (58.1%) and/or intellectual disability (55.9%) (age  $M = 16.0$  y,  $SD = 5.8$  y; 65.1% male) participated in this study.
- We used separate one-way ANOVAs to test for differences in Factors 3 and 5 across service categories.
- We used paired t-tests to compare all factors within the DH category.

## Caregiver Service Use by Category

Service	N use (%)
Day Habilitation (DH)	43 (100%)
In-School Therapeutic (IT)	28 (65.12%)
Community-Based Therapeutic (CT)	18 (41.86%)
Professional Health (PH)	32 (74.42%)
Community Support (CS)	21 (48.84%)

## MPOC-20 Factor Mean Scores



## MPOC-20 Factors

Factor 1	Enabling and Partnership
Factor 2	Providing General Information
Factor 3	Providing Specific Information about the Child
Factor 4	Coordinated and Comprehensive Care
Factor 5	Respectful and Supportive Care

## Results

- Factor 3 did not vary across service categories ( $F = 0.78$ ,  $p = .544$ ), while Factor 5 was significantly different across service categories ( $F = 5.38$ ,  $p < .001$ ).
- Post-hoc comparisons revealed that DH ( $p < .001$ ) and PH ( $p = .007$ ) were each rated higher than IT.
- Within DH, scores were significantly different for all pairs of factors ( $ps < .003$ ), except for Factors 1 and 4 ( $p = .170$ ) and Factors 2 and 3 ( $p = .351$ ).

## Implications

- Our findings suggest that while services may not differ in information provision, they vary in delivery of respectful and supportive care, supporting prior research suggesting variability.
- Additionally, DH services may also be especially effective in facilitating caregiver-provider partnership opportunities, while being less skilled in providing general or diagnostic-related information.
- Future work should further examine inter-service differences in providing FCC.

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