



Final Results from a two-year randomized control trial of “High-Fidelity Wraparound” for dually-involved youth

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Agenda

- Review of Program and Evaluation Design
- Services Provided to Study-involved Youth
- Evaluation Findings Highlights
- Summary and Implications

County-driven pilot of “High-fidelity Wraparound” for dually-involved youth

- In 2014, **Broward County, FL dedicated additional resources** to provide evidence-informed interventions to dually-involved youth in the form of Wraparound Care Coordination
 - Intention to improve youth functioning, stabilize placements, and reduce recidivism
- RFP for “**High-Fidelity Wraparound pilot program**” (HFW)
 - Master’s-level Care Coordinators
 - Low caseloads of 1:7
 - Increased training and supervision requirements
 - Youth advocate

A well-regarded local leader in the Wraparound model won the contract

- HFW was implemented by Henderson Behavioral Health, a well-regarded **mental health organization well-versed in Wraparound**
- Continued targeted case management, but **moved over masters-level staff to HFW**, lowered their caseloads, and provided them with additional training and support
- Also started quarterly **cross-systems training and outreach**

The two-year evaluation had several aims

- Describe and compare the nature and **implementation** of pilot High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) services to pre-existing “treatment as usual” (TAU) services provided to dually-involved in the community
- Explore the **system context** in which these services are provided
- Describe and compare the **outcomes of youth** receiving HFW services to those receiving TAU
 - Child welfare, juvenile justice, and educational events

The randomized control design was the most rigorous design possible

- RCT design allowed us to determine **HFW's additive benefit** as definitively as possible
 - HFW was added to an already robust system of care
- 65 eligible youth were identified by the collaborating entities, and then randomized based on their age, race, gender, risk level, and living restrictiveness
- For a variety of reasons, only **47 youth were included in the evaluation** (see next slide)

65 Youth Identified as Potentially Eligible for HFW

Matched pair block randomization on 5 variables

38 Youth Assigned to HFW (over sampled to ensure 25 enrolled, per contract mandates)

27 Youth Assigned to TAU

24 Youth assigned to HFW received HFW for at least 3 months

14 Youth assigned to HFW did not receive HFW and were excluded from the analysis

4 Youth assigned to TAU did not receive TAU and were excluded from the analysis

23 Youth assigned to TAU received "Treatment as Usual" Below is a breakdown of what they were receiving at the beginning of the evaluation:

3 moved out of county and deemed not eligible before receiving services in the study timeframe

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6 were receiving or had been referred to HBH's Targeted Case Management Services

2 discharged from HFW less than a month after enrollment due to an out of county DJJ direct-file for prior offenses

1 achieved permanency and was deemed not eligible before receiving services in the study timeframe

10 received case management services while in congregate or residential treatment care

9 assigned to HFW received only TAU

4 Youth received family-based Foster Care services

2 received other pre-existing services

3 18+ youth unable to be contacted; already assigned an after-care specialist

2 not contacted by HFW program—existing care team decided HFW referral was not appropriate given progress with current services

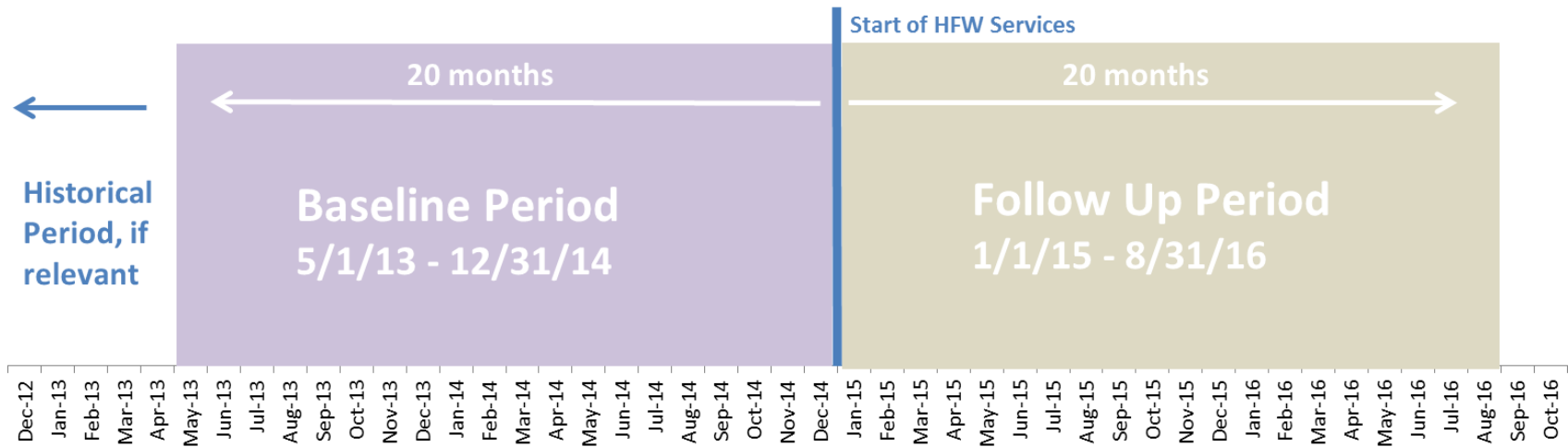
4 contacted, but refused HFW services; already engaged in other services

1 continued to be on long-term runaway

Youth included in HFW Group = [purple box]
Youth included in TAU Group = [olive box]
Youth excluded from the evaluation = [pink box]

Limitation:
Small sample size limits the ability of statistical tests to find significant group differences, even when present

Our final analyses compared youth outcomes during three time periods



- Youth's outcomes during the 20 months prior to 1/1/15 (**baseline**) were compared to outcomes during the 20 months following 1/1/15 (**follow up**)
- For some variables, **historical** data for events prior to the baseline period were also available and analyzed

We collected data from several local child-serving agencies

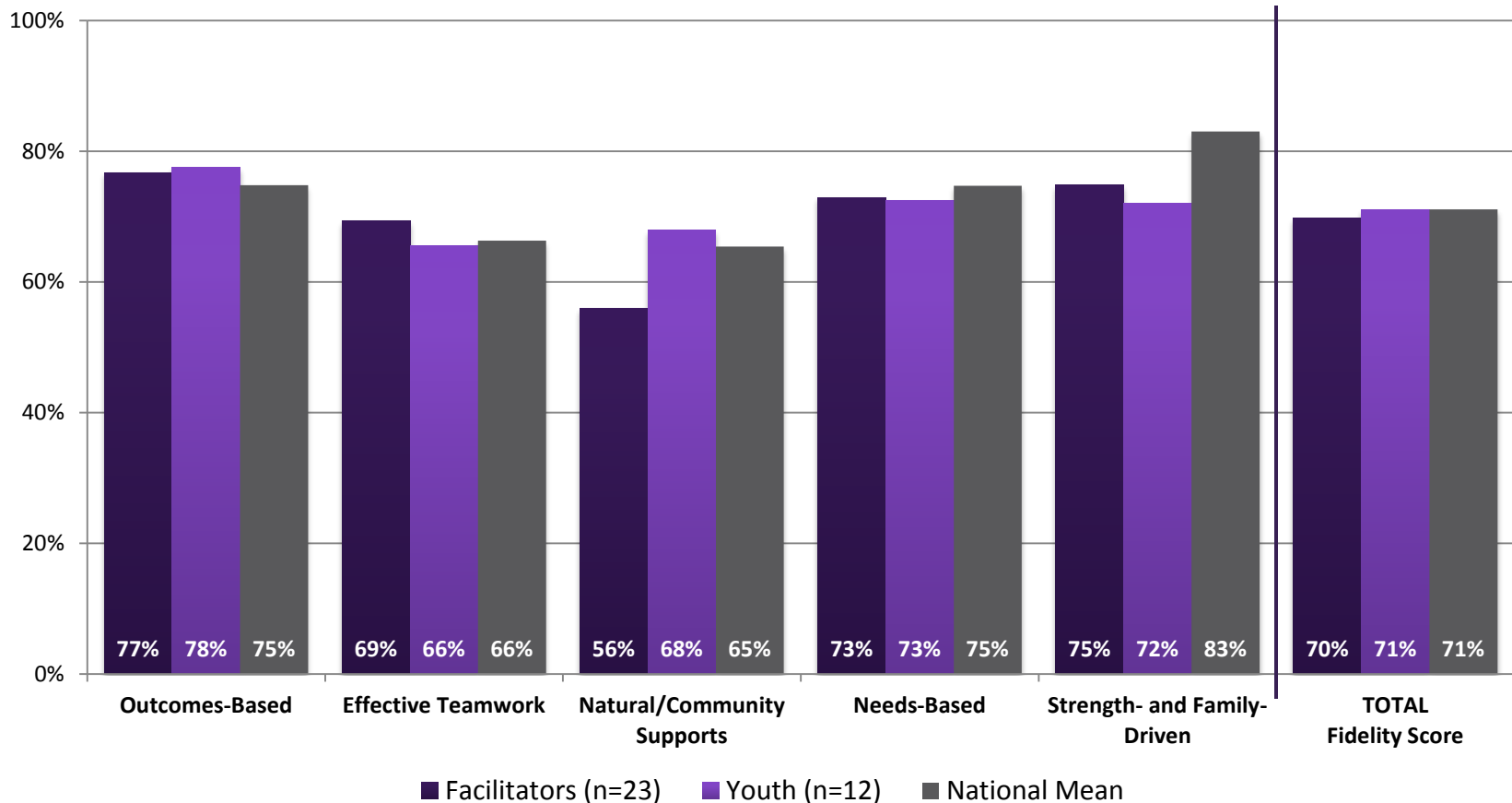
Source	Data Points	Domain
<i>Henderson Behavioral Health (HFW Provider)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly characteristics of youth in HFW • CFARS baseline and quarterly follow-up scores • Quarterly services received by youth in HFW • Wraparound Fidelity Index forms from HFW Youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth outcomes • Process/ Implementation
<i>Department of Juvenile Justice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All offense, arrest, and services data through the end of FY16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth outcomes
<i>School Board's DJJ Transition Specialist</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth's grade, credit accrual, graduation status, and GED program enrollment status for the three academic years between 2013-2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth outcomes
<i>ChildNet (Child Welfare Agency)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All placement and movement records through the end of FY16 • Historical child welfare involvement (age at first investigation and removal) • Monthly contacts with CW worker in FY15 and FY16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth outcomes
<i>WERT</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Groups with staff and administrators from child-serving agencies • Wraparound Fidelity Index forms from HFW Care Coordinators • Community Supports for Wraparound Inventory • Interviews with directors of congregate care facilities and a family court judge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process/ Implementation • System context

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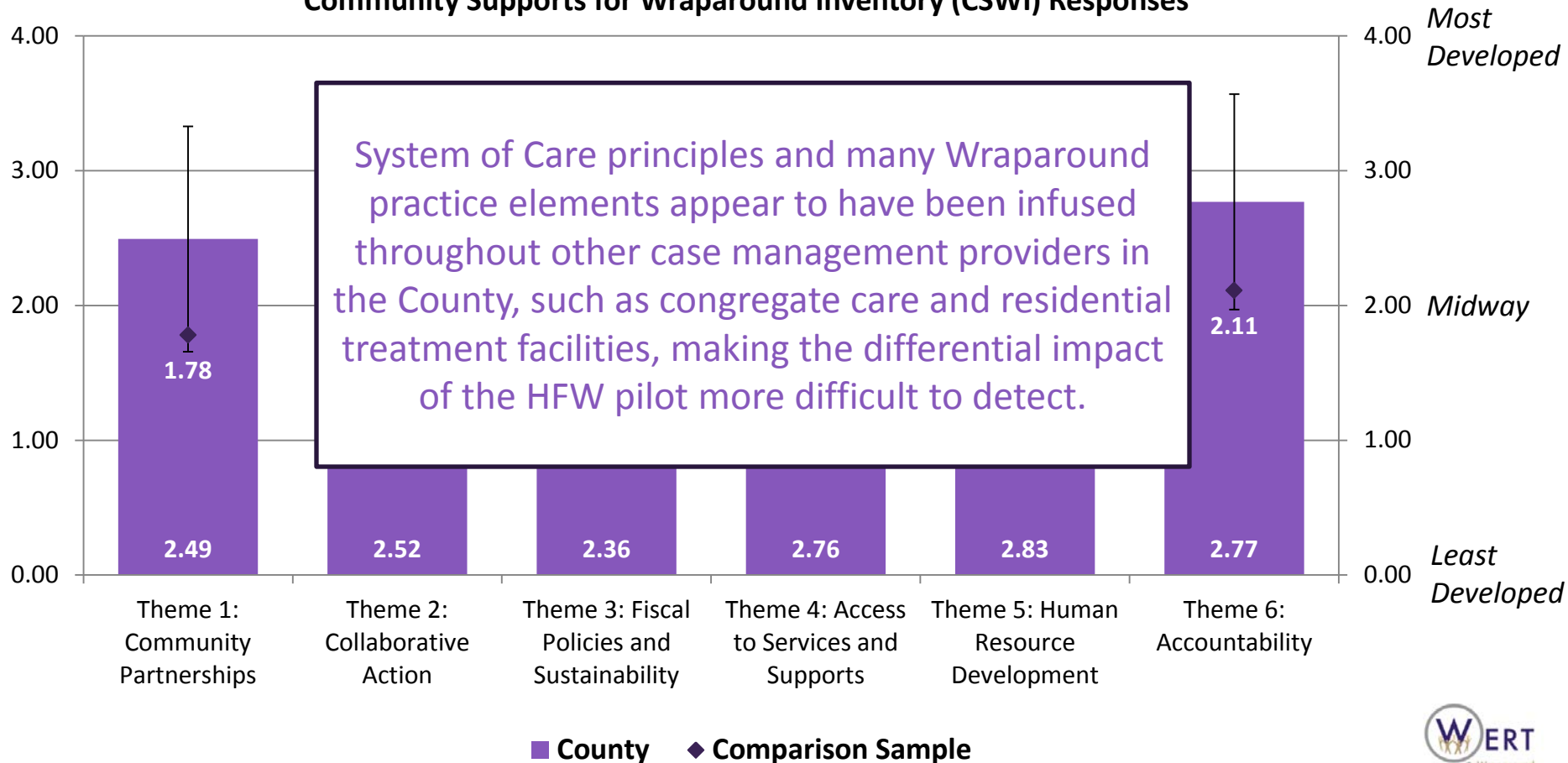
HFW's adherence to the Wraparound model was at or near national means

Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI-EZ) Key Element and Total Scores



Broward County has well-developed supports for Wraparound

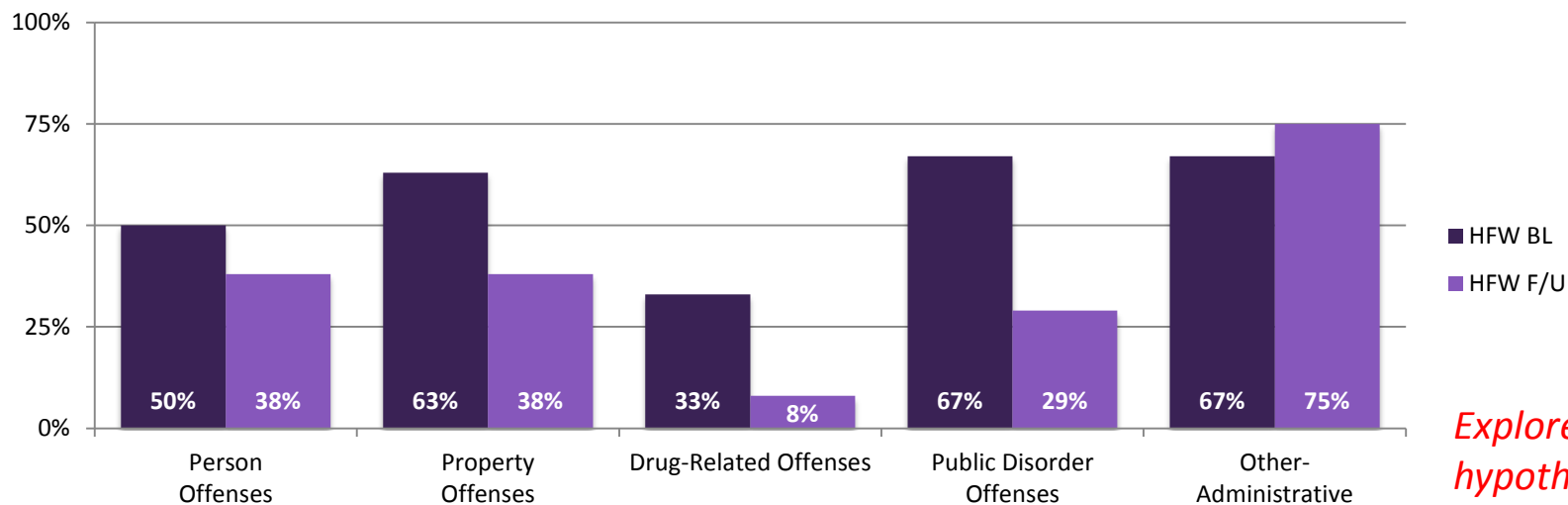
Community Supports for Wraparound Inventory (CSWI) Responses



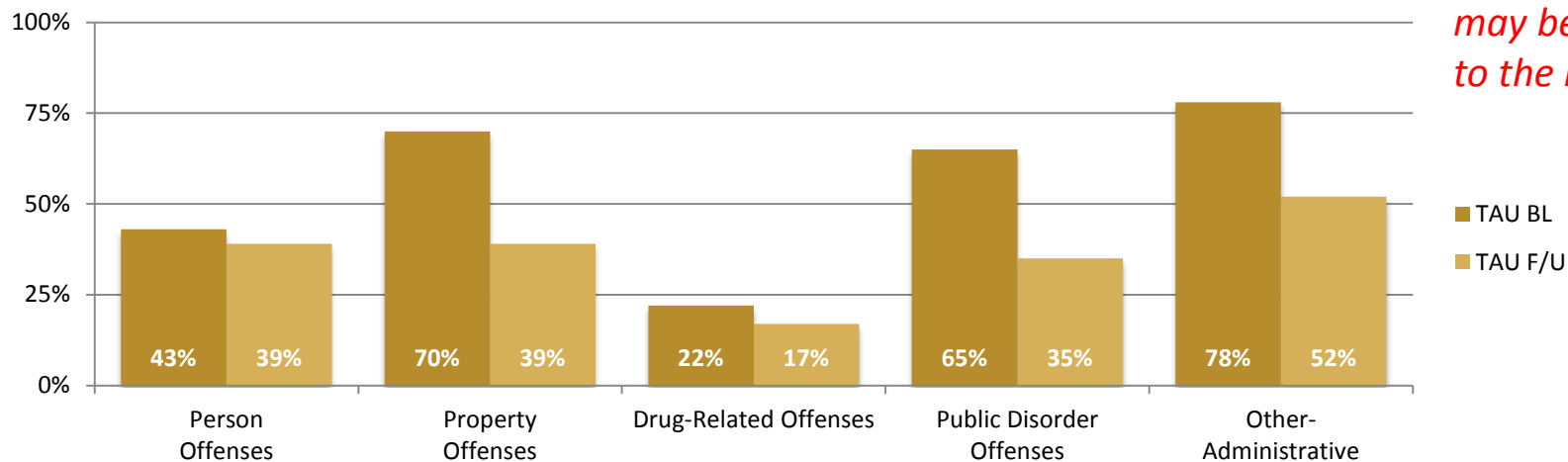
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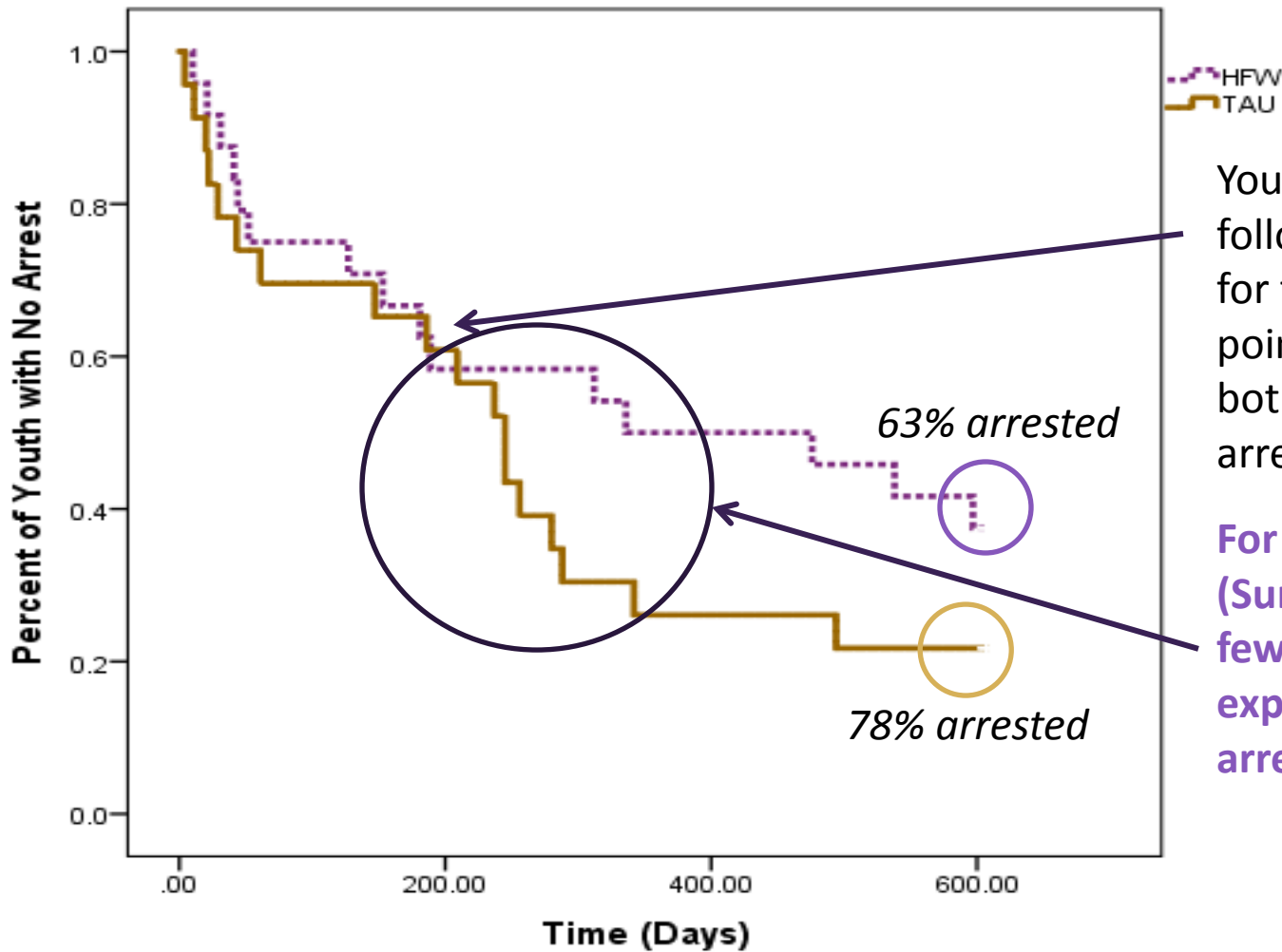
Youth in both of groups committed far fewer offenses in the follow-up period



Explored several hypotheses to explain reduction; may be regression to the mean



Youth in HFW were less likely to be arrested than TAU; arrests delayed



Youth in both groups followed similar trajectories for the first 180, at which point about 40% of youth in both groups had been arrested at least once

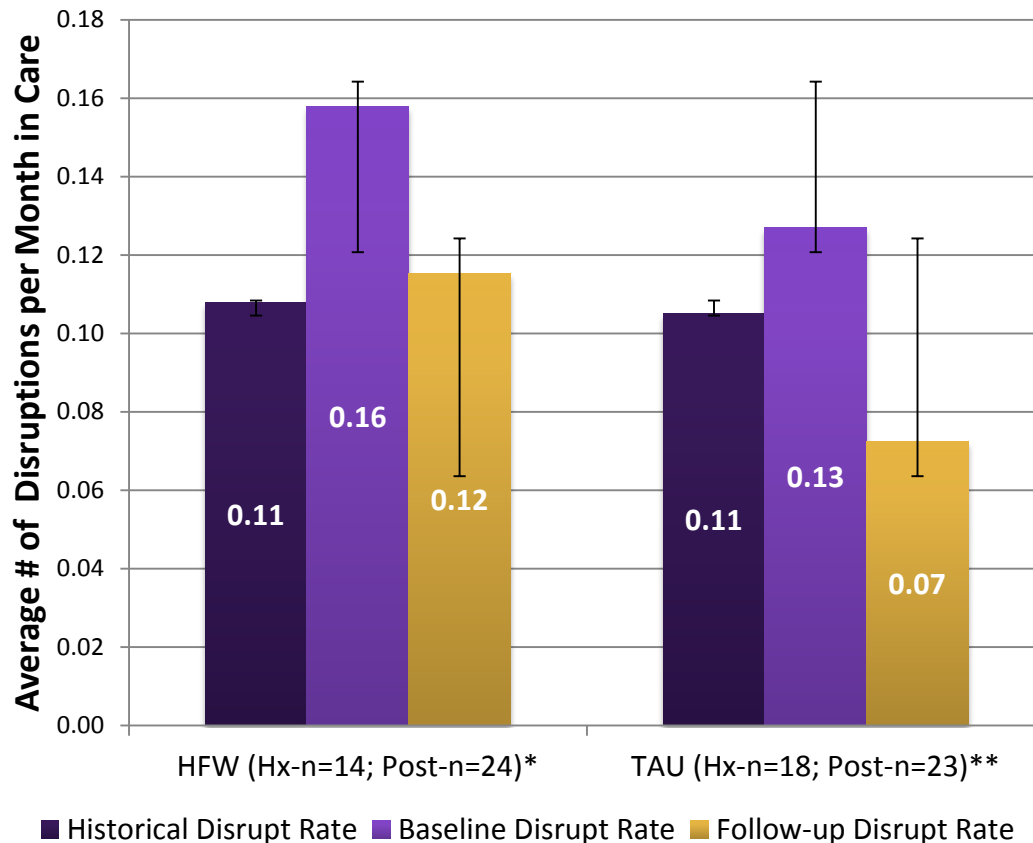
For the next 100 days (Summer 2015), many fewer HFW youth experienced their first arrest

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All youth significantly more stable; possible regression to the mean

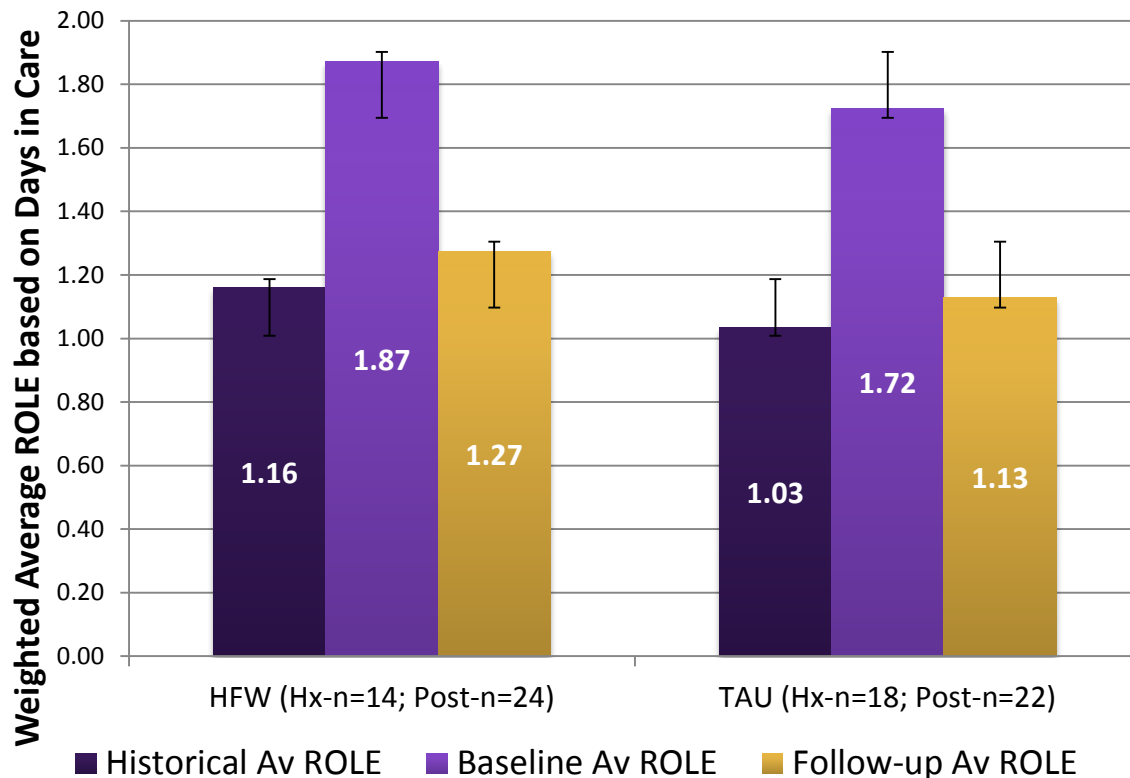
Monthly Placement Disruption Rate
Over Time by Group



- Significantly fewer disruptions (removals, step-ups, or lateral moves) in follow-up, compared to baseline period
- Disruption rates during follow-up period are *not* significantly different from historical (prior to 5/1/13) rates
- While some qualitative group differences exist, none were significant

Again, level of living restrictiveness increased and then decreased

Weighted Average of Level of Restrictiveness of Living Environment Over Time by Group



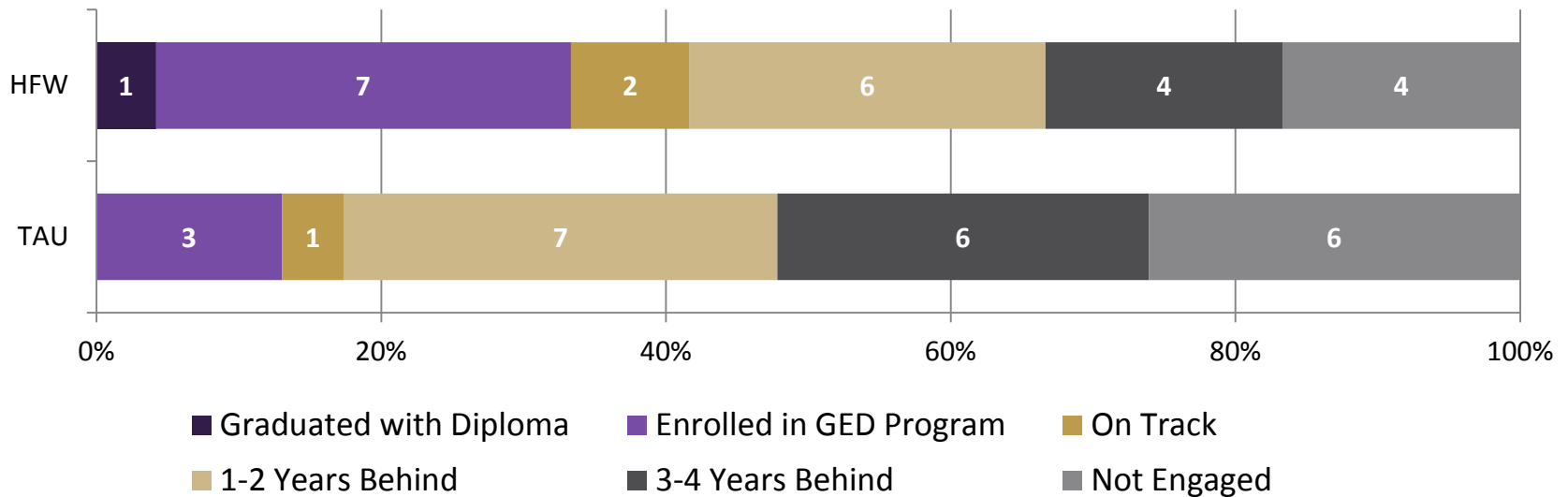
- 4-level Restrictiveness of Living Environment Scale (ROLE)
 - 0 = “Low”: living with family members or on own
 - 1 = “Moderate”: foster care
 - 2 = “Elevated”: congregate care
 - 3 = “High”: juvenile justice and residential treatment facilities

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HFW Youth were more likely to be on-track academically by the end of eval

Educational Achievement at end of 2015-2016 School Year



- No baseline (2013-2014 school year) group differences; 65-70% of youth in each group were 1-2 years behind based on credits
- By the end of August 2016, many more HFW youth were on track
 - **When collapsed into a dichotomous (on-track/not on-track) achievement variable, the difference between treatment groups approaches significance ($p=.069$), with HFW youth faring better**

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Our study had some limitations

- Relatively **small sample size** made it difficult to detect significant between-group differences
- Analyses were **limited to a handful of youth outcomes** able to be assessed using administrative data
 - It is possible that HFW achieved significantly more positive outcomes on factors not explored in this evaluation
- Additional **system benefits of the pilot were not quantified**

In conclusion: not many, but a few promising differences in HFW group

- **All of the study-involved youth appear to have improved on nearly every measure** in follow-up compared to baseline, regardless of group
 - But events in follow-up period usually just returned to historical levels
- No significant differences between groups were found on a variety of outcome measures, **although several positive trends could be sufficiently meaningful to support continued funding of HFW**
 - HFW youth were less likely to be arrested in follow-up period
 - Getting arrested also appears to have been delayed
 - HFW youth were much more likely to pull ahead and be “on track” academically by the end of the evaluation

Implications for practice, policy, and research

- Early teen years and before are critical junctures for prevention
- Expecting immediate outcomes while a program is being installed may be unrealistic
- Adding HFW to a well-developed SOC poses challenges
 - May create some role duplication and confusion—plan ahead
 - Hard to evaluate due to “noise”
- Statistical significance is not the only threshold for meaningful difference, especially when setting policy
- Regression to the mean is a real threat to validity
 - Have a comparison group
 - Explore more historical data
 - Consider how sampling may bias results

Questions? Comments?

