



**A New System for Evaluating Youth Outcomes and
Wraparound Quality Using Measures of the
Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System**

California Department of Social Services

June 28, 2021



What we'll cover in this presentation

- ▶ Results of recent research
 - ▶ What does it tell us about Wraparound?
 - ▶ What does it say about the importance of Wraparound fidelity?
- ▶ The measures of the Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System (WFAS)
- ▶ An introduction to *WrapStat*
 - ▶ A walk through the new system



A Summary of the Evidence Base for Wraparound: Results from a Meta-Analysis

Jonathan R. Olson, Philip Benjamin, Alya Azman, Marianne Kellogg, & Eric J. Bruns

University of Washington



ERT Wraparound Evaluation & Research Team



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

During the past decade, our team has completed two systematic reviews

Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev (2009) 12:336–351
DOI 10.1007/s10567-009-0059-y

Effectiveness of the Wraparound Process for Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: A Meta-Analysis

Jesse C. Suter · Eric J. Bruns

J Child Fam Stud
DOI 10.1007/s10826-016-0639-7

ORIGINAL PAPER

A Comprehensive Review of Wraparound Care Coordination Research, 1986–2014

Jennifer Schurer Coldiron ¹ · Eric Jerome Bruns¹ · Henrietta Quick¹

Our 2017
systematic
review revealed
a growing
Wraparound
literature base

Non-experimental research designs remain the most common

- Only 22 controlled studies (15 quasi-experimental, 7 experimental)

15 of the 22 controlled studies suggested outcomes that favored Wraparound over comparison groups

- Better functioning and mental health outcomes
- Reduced arrests and recidivism
- Increased rate of case closure for child welfare involved youths
- Reduced residential placements
- Reduced costs

Few studies assessed the quality of Wraparound implementation

Research questions for the new Meta-Analysis

How many new evaluations of Wraparound have been conducted?

How many studies or evaluations have use rigorous methods?

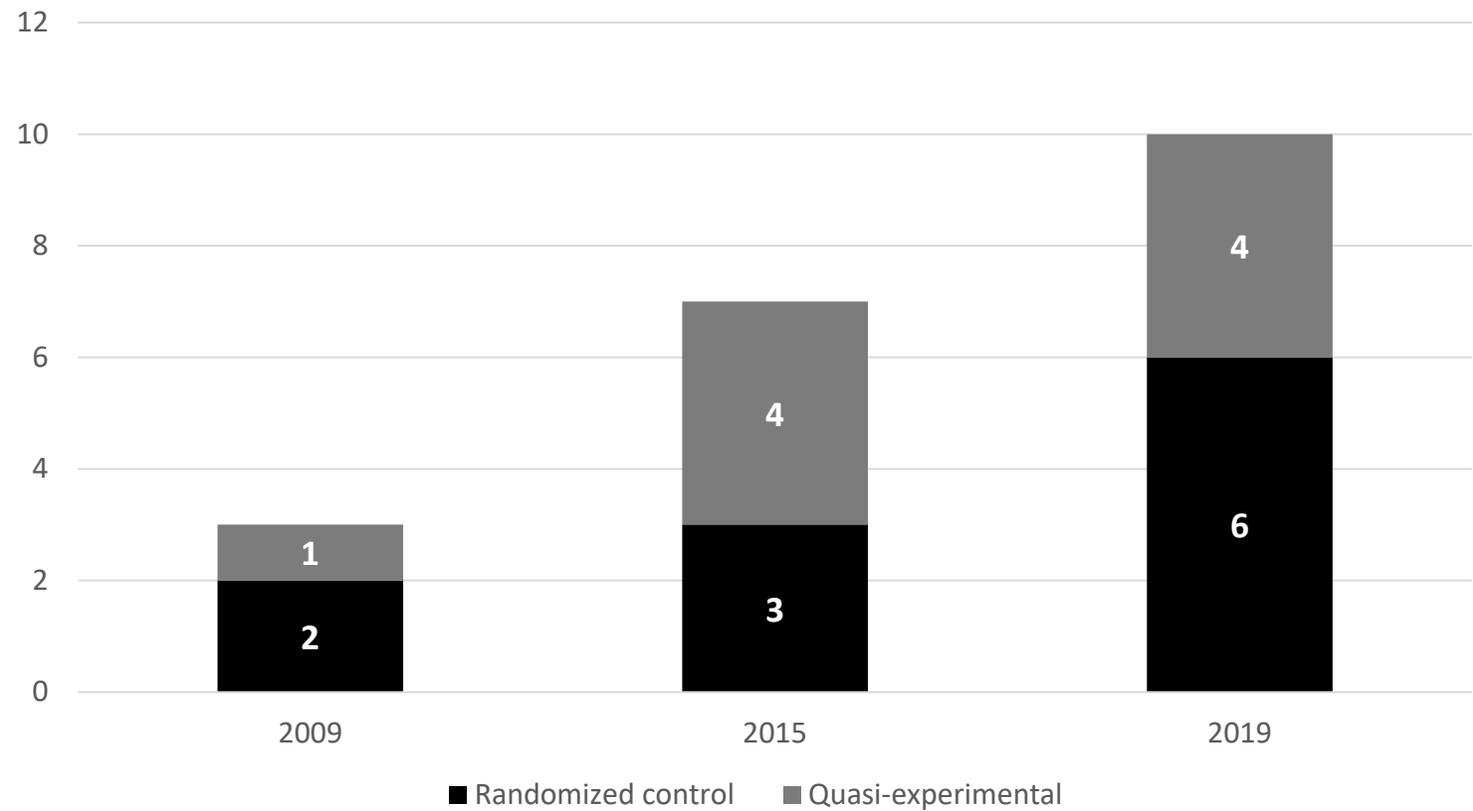
- RCT or quasi-experimental designs

What effects does Wraparound have on youth outcomes as measured in high-quality evaluations?

To what degree do findings vary by participant demographics and implementation fidelity?

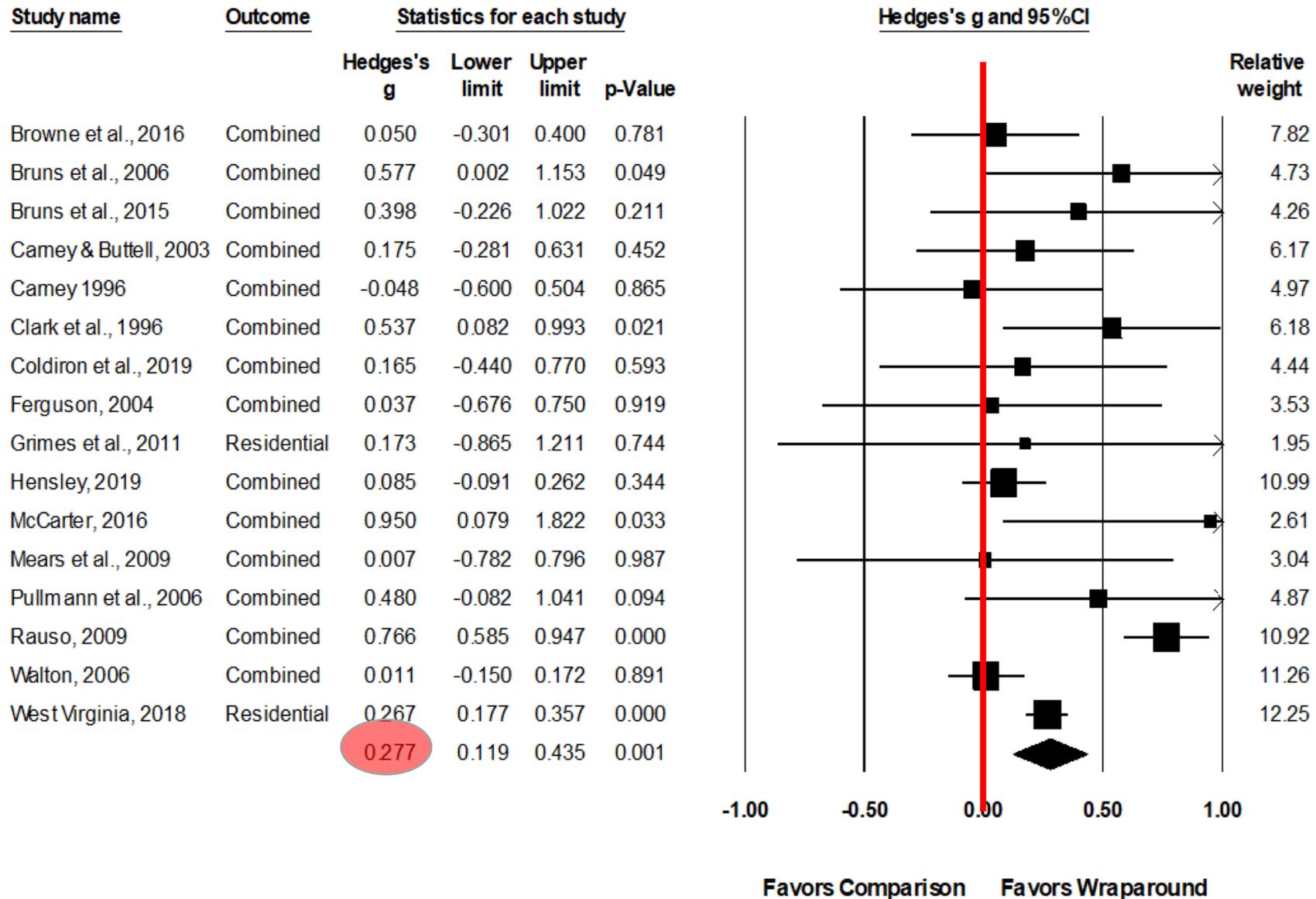
Number of peer-reviewed Wraparound evaluations has increased

Research designs that meet current inclusion criteria by year*



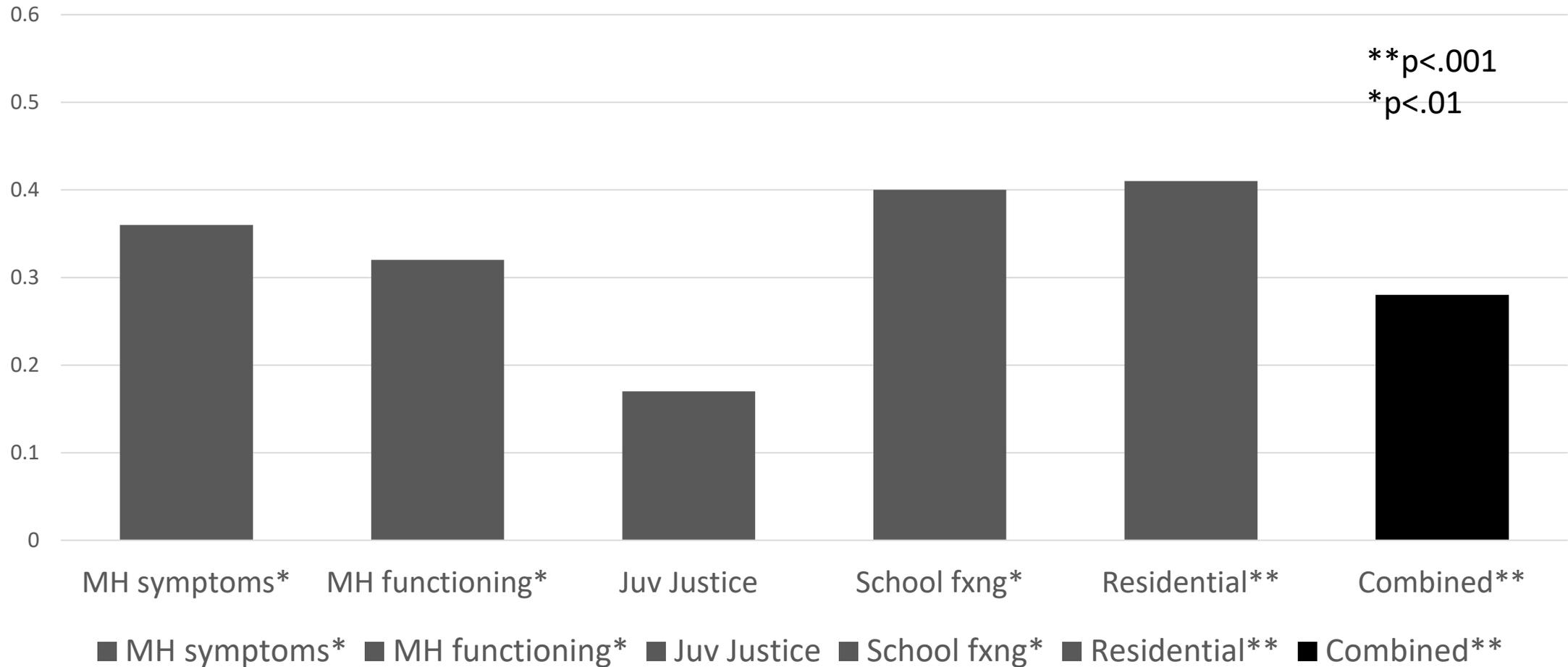
* Only includes peer-reviewed publications

Effects across all studies significantly favored the Wraparound groups

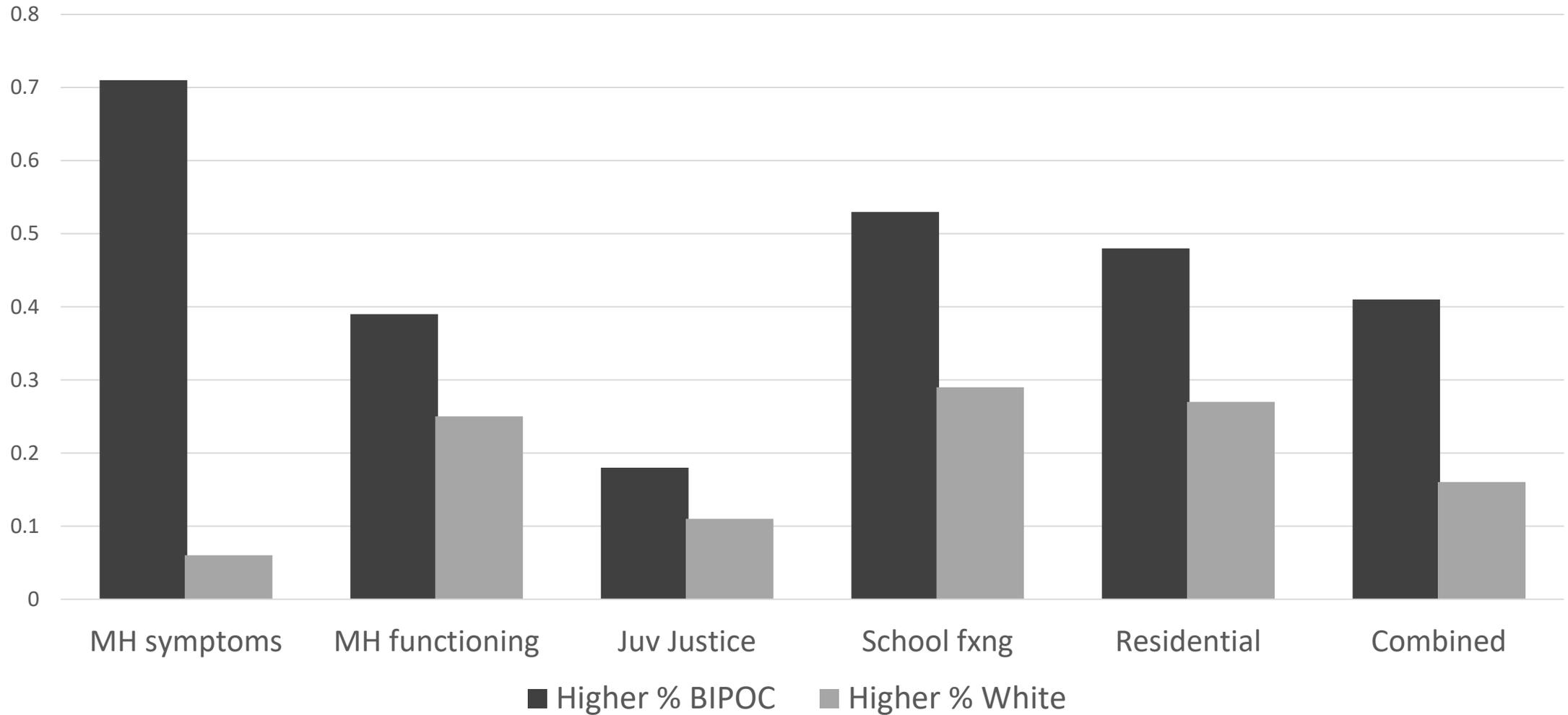


Wraparound Effects Varied Across Outcomes

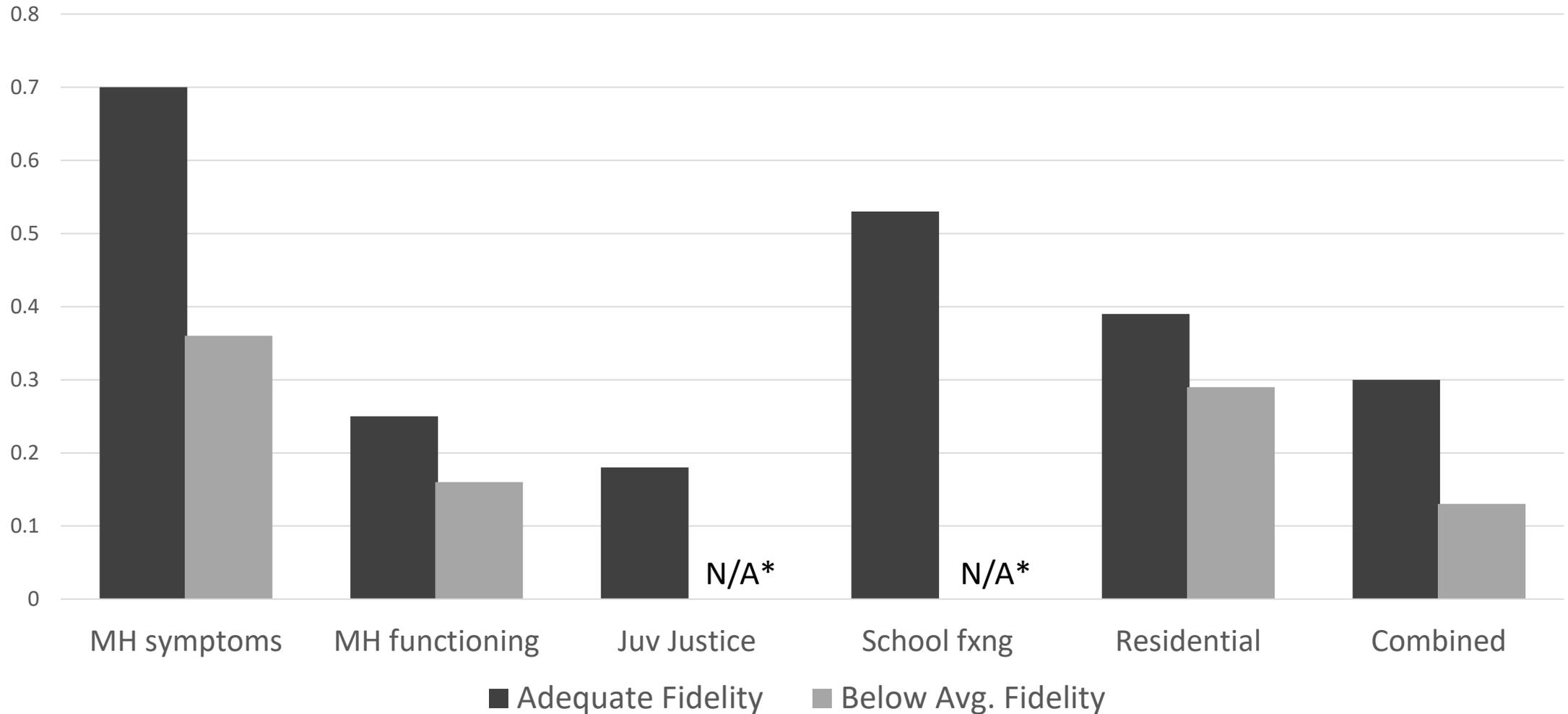
Average Effect Size from Wraparound Meta-Analysis (2020)



Wraparound Effects Larger for Youth of Color

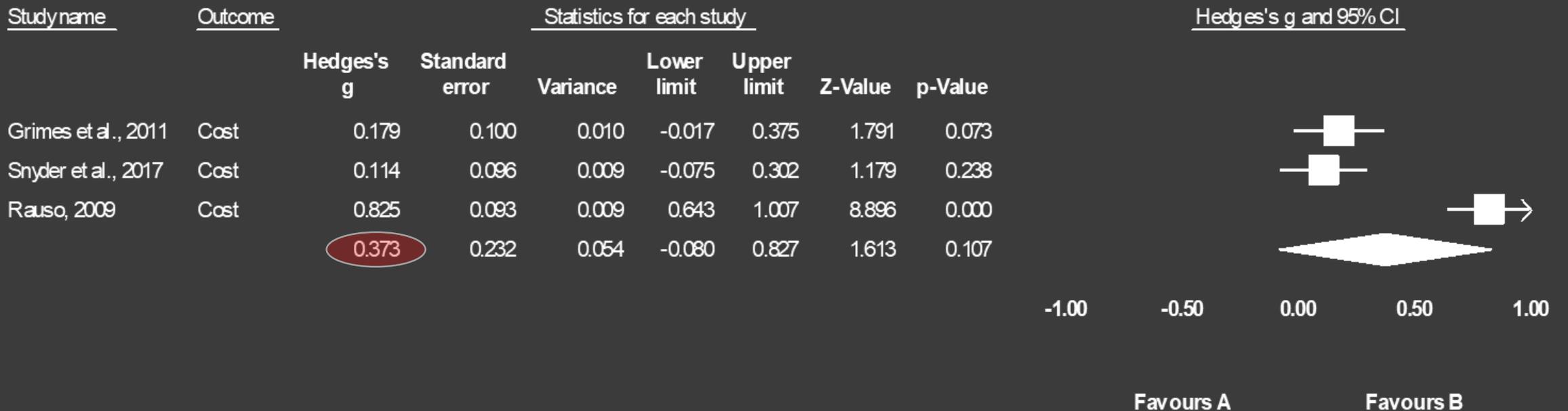


Wraparound Effects Stronger for Studies with Adequate Fidelity



*Inadequate sample size

Studies on cost savings are limited but suggest Wraparound is associated with lower levels of spending than TAU



Conclusions

Future directions,
Conclusions,
&
Implications

Overall, our analyses suggest positive Wraparound outcomes:



Most studies demonstrate more positive effects for Wraparound when compared to TAU



Small to moderate effect sizes across multiple types of outcomes



Lower costs than treatment as usual



Effect sizes are larger among “higher-fidelity” implementations



Effect sizes are larger among studies focused on samples with a higher percentage of youth of color

Results of outcome review will inform federal child welfare policy

NOMINATING WRAPAROUND FOR THE FFPSA PREVENTION SERVICES CLEARINGHOUSE



October 2019

Prepared by staff from the National Wraparound Initiative, Portland State University; the National Wraparound Implementation Center, University of Maryland; and Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team, University of Washington.

The National Wraparound Initiative, in collaboration with the National Wraparound Implementation Center and the Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team, has developed this document and supporting materials to assist states, other entities, and individuals who are interested in nominating *"Intensive Care Coordination Using High-Fidelity Wraparound"* for inclusion in Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, which has been authorized under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). Nominations must be submitted to PreventionServices@abtassoc.com before October 31st. The Clearinghouse reviews will determine which programs can be funded under FFPSA.

Our goal is to promote consistency across the various nominations, so that each nomination describes a model with a set of shared characteristics and a strong set of supportive research studies. We believe this will strengthen the case for including Wraparound in the Clearinghouse, and reduce potential confusion regarding different variants of Wraparound. We believe that consistency across nominations can be achieved if each of the nominations:

It is crucially important that Intensive Care Coordination using High-Fidelity Wraparound is included in the Clearinghouse, so that it can be funded under the FFPSA.

- » Refers to the approach using the same name: *"Intensive Care Coordination Using High-Fidelity Wraparound;"*
- » Consistently and accurately cites the best research and endorsements, including controlled research studies that meet criteria, and listings on inventories or other clearinghouses that catalogue effective practices; and
- » Emphasizes the availability of an array of implementation supports that are research based and aligned with implementation science, to ensure high-fidelity practice. These include:
 - › Descriptions of a clearly defined practice model;
 - › Protocols and manuals that provide a well-developed and clearly defined training, mentoring, and certification process for care coordinators and Wraparound supervisors;
 - › Reliable fidelity tools, as well as training on use of those tools, and reports from the data collected by those tools, to help sites respond quickly as problems are identified; and
 - › System and organizational assessments to help build supportive environments.

GUIDANCE FOR FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT EVALUATION PLANS FOR HIGH FIDELITY WRAPAROUND



March 2021

Prepared by staff from the National Wraparound Initiative, Portland State University; the National Wraparound Implementation Center, University of Maryland; and Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team, University of Washington.

As noted in a previous [National Wraparound Initiative \(NWI\) blog post](#), the [Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse](#), established as part of the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), recently added Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) Using High Fidelity Wraparound to the working list of programs to be reviewed. At this point, there is no specified timeline for when the review will be completed.

Although High Fidelity Wraparound has yet to be given a designation by the Clearinghouse, it may still be included in a state's FFPSA five-year plan, and states can claim transitional payments for services and associated costs until the Clearinghouse provides a designation for Wraparound. In order to receive approval for transitional payments for Wraparound, states must conduct an independent systematic review and submit sufficient documentation to demonstrate that it meets the evidentiary standards for one of the designations outlined by the Clearinghouse: promising, supported, or well-supported. Once Wraparound is approved as part of one state's five-year plan, any other state may submit a five-year plan for approval of transitional payments for Wraparound, so long as the plan is submitted prior to October 1, 2021. An independent systematic review has been submitted by one state and is [currently under review](#).

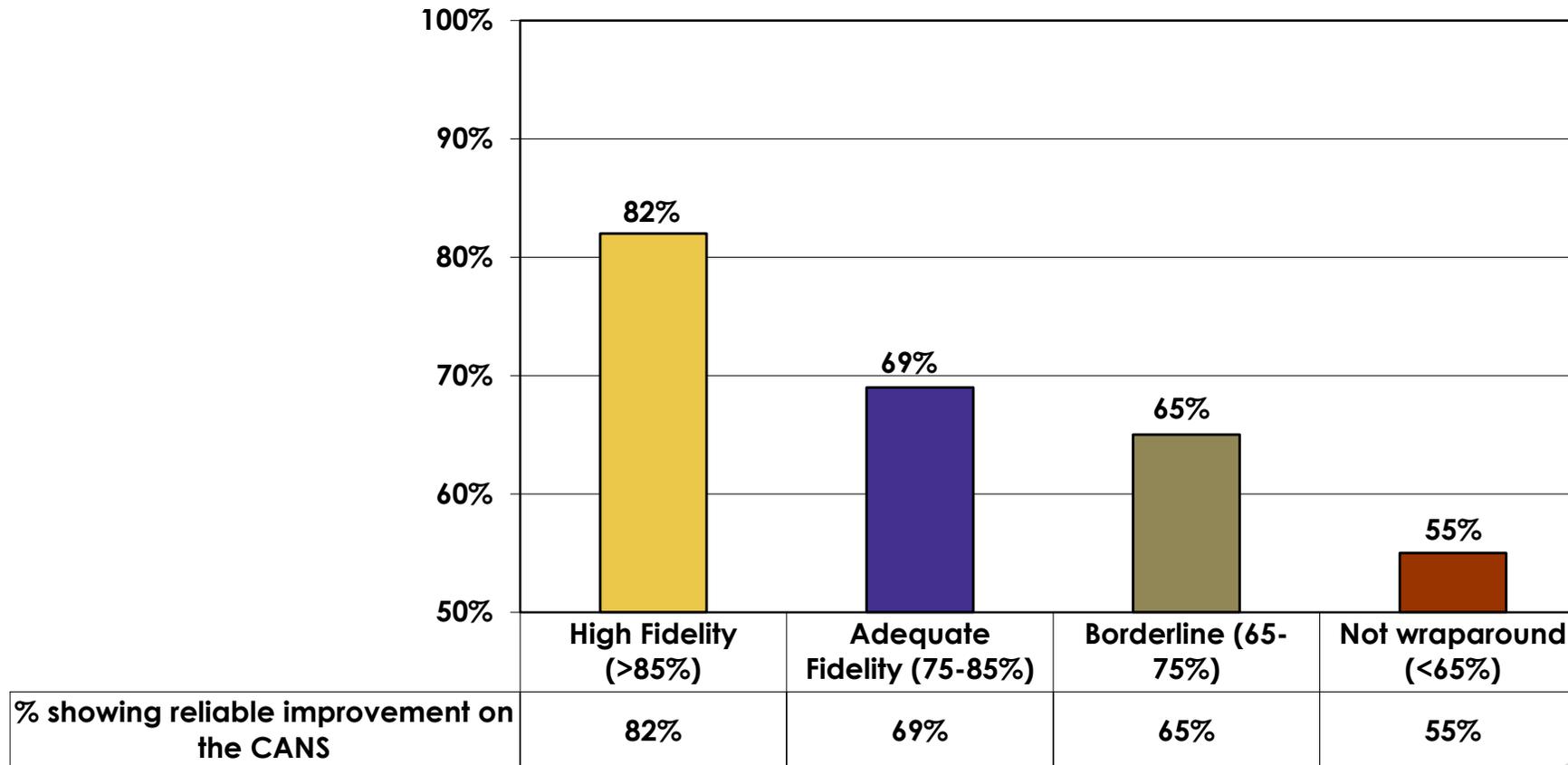
When including Wraparound in a five-year plan, it must be accompanied with a well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy, as well as a plan for continuous quality improvement (CQI) and fidelity monitoring. Several fidelity and implementation support tools have

been developed that could help meet this requirement. Fidelity tools from the [Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System \(WFAS\)](#) can be used to regularly assess fidelity. Additionally, system- and organizational-level tools have been developed to monitor important factors that contribute to the successful implementation of Wraparound (i.e., Wraparound Implementation Standards tools).

FFPSA does not specify what is required for a "well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy," but the Children's Bureau commissioned an [Evaluation Plan Development Tip Sheet](#) (ACYF-CB-IM-19-04) to help guide evaluation design for programs included in FFPSA plans. When developing an evaluation for Wraparound, a few key considerations include:

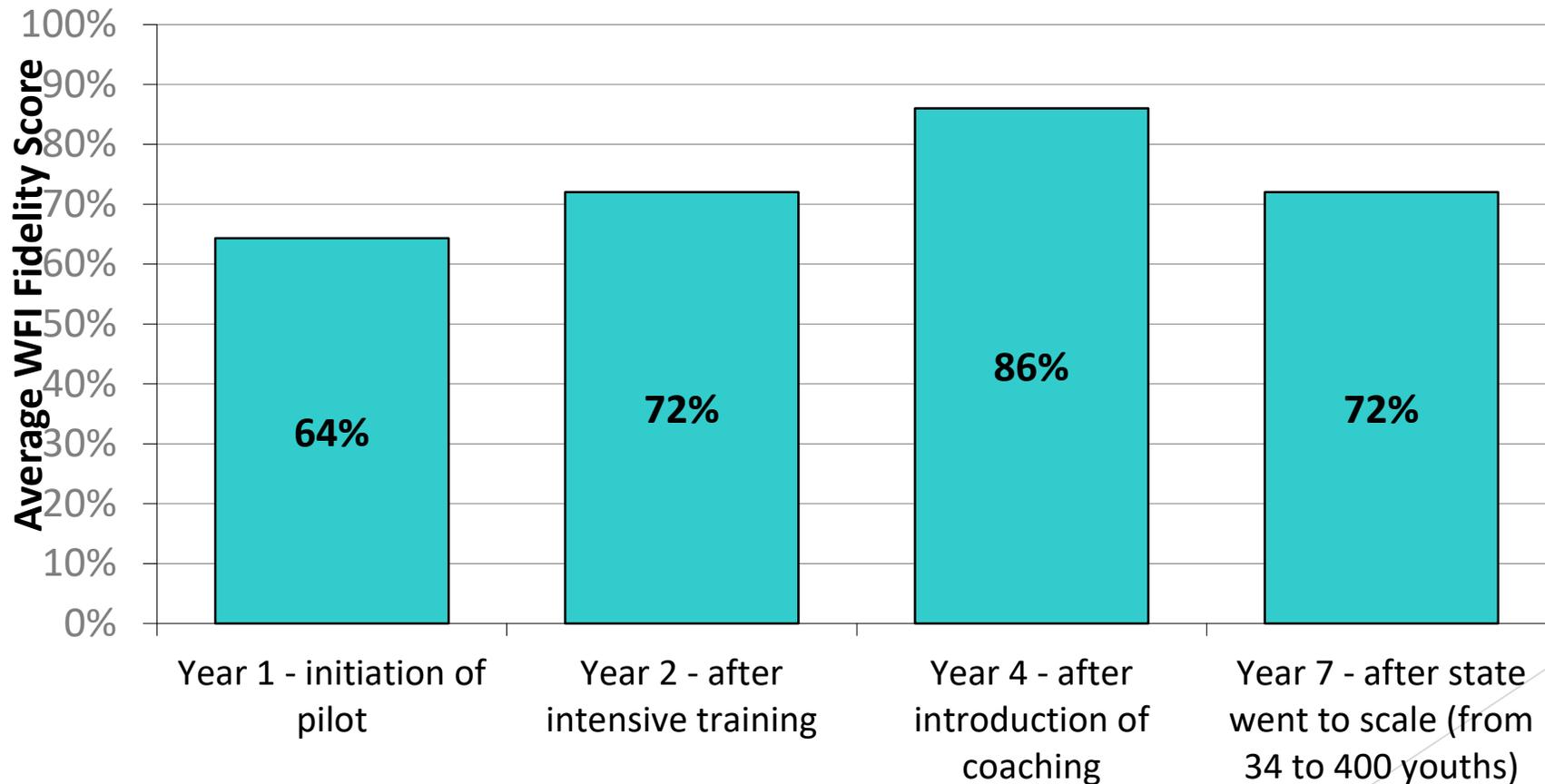
- » **Scope and purpose of the evaluation:** What questions will be answered through this evaluation? Is the implementation of the program being evaluated?
- » **Target population:** Who is the target population to be served by Wraparound? What are the eligibility criteria to be enrolled in Wraparound? How is eligibility being assessed?

Fidelity Has Been Found to Relate to Outcomes in Other Studies



Effland, McIntyre, & Walton, 2010

Tracking fidelity over time can help evaluate success of CQI initiatives



Summary of research review

- ▶ Wraparound is now well-established as an evidence-based practice
- ▶ As for other EBPs, maintaining adequate fidelity is critical to quality and outcomes
- ▶ However, achieving outcomes is not guaranteed even when quality and fidelity are adequate
- ▶ It is critical for state initiatives, localities, and Wraparound providers to track fidelity, satisfaction, and outcomes of Wraparound...
 - ▶ To reinforce the practice model to practitioners and partners
 - ▶ To assess impact of quality assurance and professional development
 - ▶ To make mid-course corrections
 - ▶ To learn from one another in learning communities

Measuring Wraparound quality, satisfaction, and outcomes

WFI_{EZ}

TOM_{2.0}



Wraparound Fidelity Index (EZ)

- ▶ Self-administered survey
 - ▶ Caregiver, facilitator, youth, and team member forms
- ▶ Can be completed on paper or online
- ▶ 3 sections
 1. Experience in Wraparound (25 items)
 2. Outcomes (8 items)
 3. Satisfaction (4 items)

WFI_{EZ}



Team Observation Measure (v.2)

- ▶ Administered by external evaluators or local supervisors or administrators.
- ▶ Based on an in-vivo or video observation of a Child and Family Team Meeting.
- ▶ Organized via 7 subscales.
 - ▶ Same key elements measured as WFI-EZ, plus team membership
- ▶ Quantitative results of fidelity are reported to programs and can be used for training, coaching, or direct supervision.



Documentation Assessment & Review Tool

- ▶ Uses case record material to assess fidelity to Wraparound
 - ▶ Referral details
 - ▶ Team meeting and other notes
 - ▶ Plan of care
 - ▶ Assessments
 - ▶ Crisis, safety, and transition plans



Document Assessment and Review Tool (DART)

Scored Fidelity Sections

- ▶ Fidelity is assessed via 42 items broken into eight subscales:
 - ▶ Key Elements
 - ▶ Driven by Strengths and Families
 - ▶ Based on Priority Needs
 - ▶ Use of Natural and Community Supports
 - ▶ Outcome-Based Process
 - ▶ Timely Engagement
 - ▶ Safety Planning
 - ▶ Crisis Response
 - ▶ Transition Planning



Bringing it all together with...



WrapStat



Key data elements facilitated by WrapStat: *Wraparound Process Outcomes*

- ▶ Number of Youth Served
- ▶ Full and timely engagement
- ▶ Size and composition of the Wraparound team
- ▶ Length of service
- ▶ Caseload sizes
- ▶ Staff turnover



Key data elements facilitated by WrapStat: *Youth/Family Outcomes*

- ▶ Reasons for discharge
- ▶ Rate of successful discharge
- ▶ Progress toward needs
- ▶ Residential placement
- ▶ Justice/child welfare involvement
- ▶ School success



Key data elements facilitated by WrapStat: *Wraparound Fidelity and Satisfaction*

- ▶ Wraparound Fidelity Index - Short Form
- ▶ Team Observation Measure
- ▶ Document Assessment and Review Tool

WFI_{EZ}

TOM_{2.0}



Why Did We Invest in WrapStat?

To Get A Full Picture of Quality, Fidelity and Outcomes

- ▶ Promotes rigorous data collection
 - ▶ Sampling (as an alternative to assessing all youth or convenience samples)
 - ▶ High response rates (so we can be confident in the conclusions we make from the data)
 - ▶ Sending out surveys automatically
 - ▶ Tracking data collection success



Why Did We Invest in WrapStat?

To Get A Full Picture of Quality, Fidelity and Outcomes

- ▶ Evaluates Basic Outcomes for Every Youth
 - ▶ Length of service; reason for discharge; residential, school, and community outcomes
- ▶ Helping states, counties, and providers manage with data
 - ▶ Improved user interface
 - ▶ Improved reports
 - ▶ Readily available dashboards



Overall goals for the new system

- ▶ Storing information for all youth
 - ▶ Not just youth who were administered a tool
 - ▶ Allows for reporting on outcomes and demographics for entire population served
- ▶ All data needs in one place
 - ▶ Collection
 - ▶ Tracking
 - ▶ Reports
- ▶ Information on program
 - ▶ Helps us know what is working (i.e. ideal caseload, staff turnover rates)



System Hierarchy

- ▶ 5 levels
 - ▶ Uber (WERT)
 - ▶ Collaborator (multi-organization; e.g., State)
 - ▶ Organization (multi-agency, e.g., County)
 - ▶ Agency (e.g., multi-site organization)
 - ▶ Site
- ▶ The WERT team will work with you to choose appropriate levels for your program
- ▶ Programs will operate at the lowest number of levels needed, even if titles do not match



Options for Statewide Wraparound Initiatives Using WFAS Tools and WrapStat

Less
prescriptive

- ▶ Obtain statewide license for CA Wraparound providers and allow locals to use as they see fit
- ▶ Obtain statewide license and establish minimum expectations for collection of fidelity and outcomes data
- ▶ Obtain statewide license, establish minimum expectations, invest in efforts such as Learning Communities and analyses, e.g.:
 - ▶ How do state or local QI efforts impact fidelity, satisfaction, outcomes?
 - ▶ What is association between fidelity and CANS scores over time?
 - ▶ What geographic, policy, financing, or other factors affect fidelity?
- ▶ Use WFAS measures and WrapStat statewide, implement incentives/sanctions, or VBP approaches using data

More
prescriptive

Live Demonstration of WrapStat



Questions?



Contact Information

- ▶ For general questions around WFAS tools and WrapStat, please email us at wrapeval@uw.edu
- ▶ UW WERT website: <https://depts.washington.edu/wrapeval/>
- ▶ National Wraparound Initiative website: <https://nwi.pdx.edu/>

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