

Length of Stay, Dosage, and What's Good for Kids and Communities

Juvenile Justice Summit

Boise, Idaho

October 14, 2021

What's good for kids and communities?

1. Why focus on length of stay?
2. What the research says
3. Examples of applying the research in practice

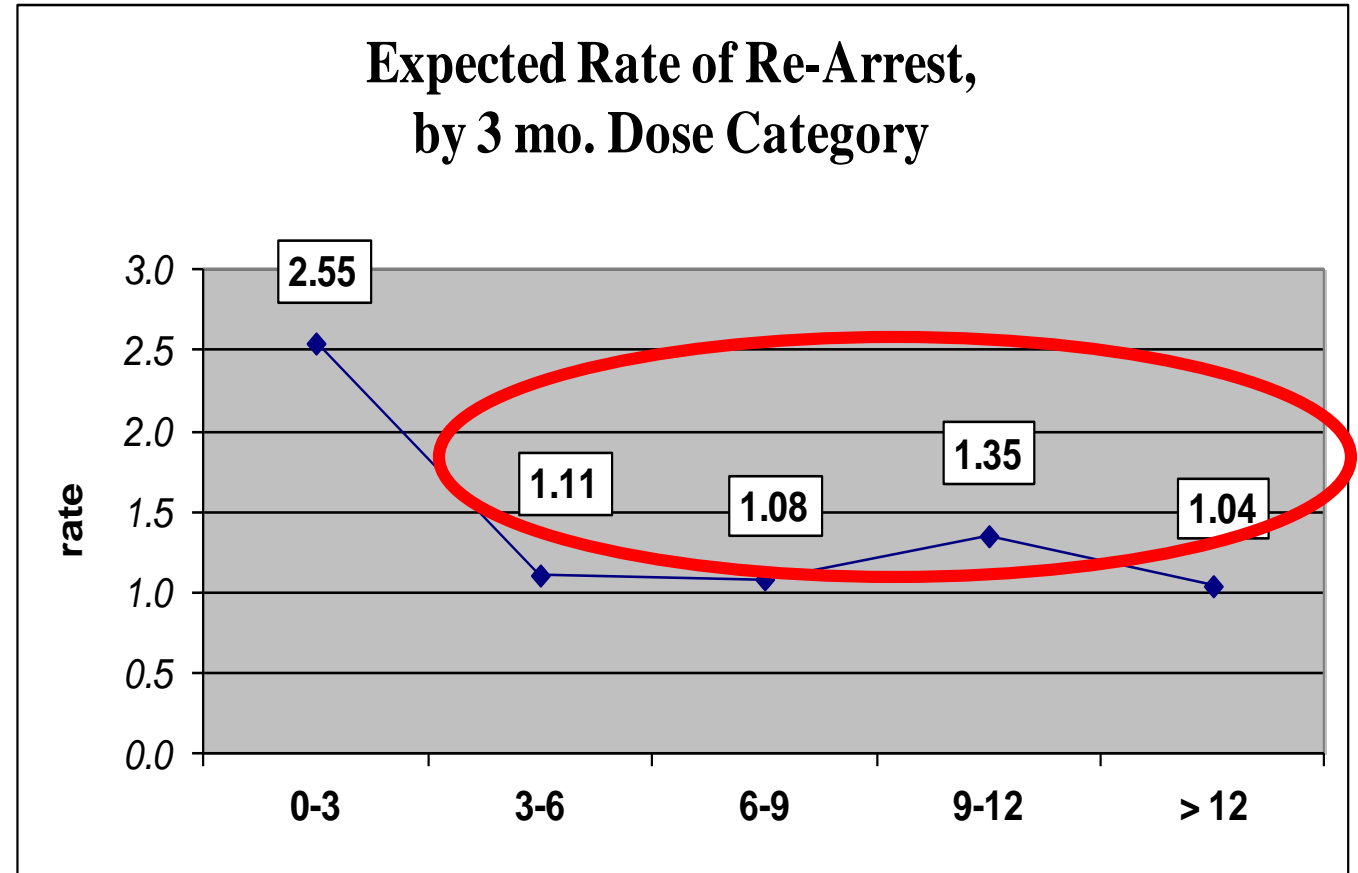
Why focus on length of stay?

Research Principles

Effect of Length of Stay on Re-Arrest

Mulvey, et al: Pathways to Desistance Finding:

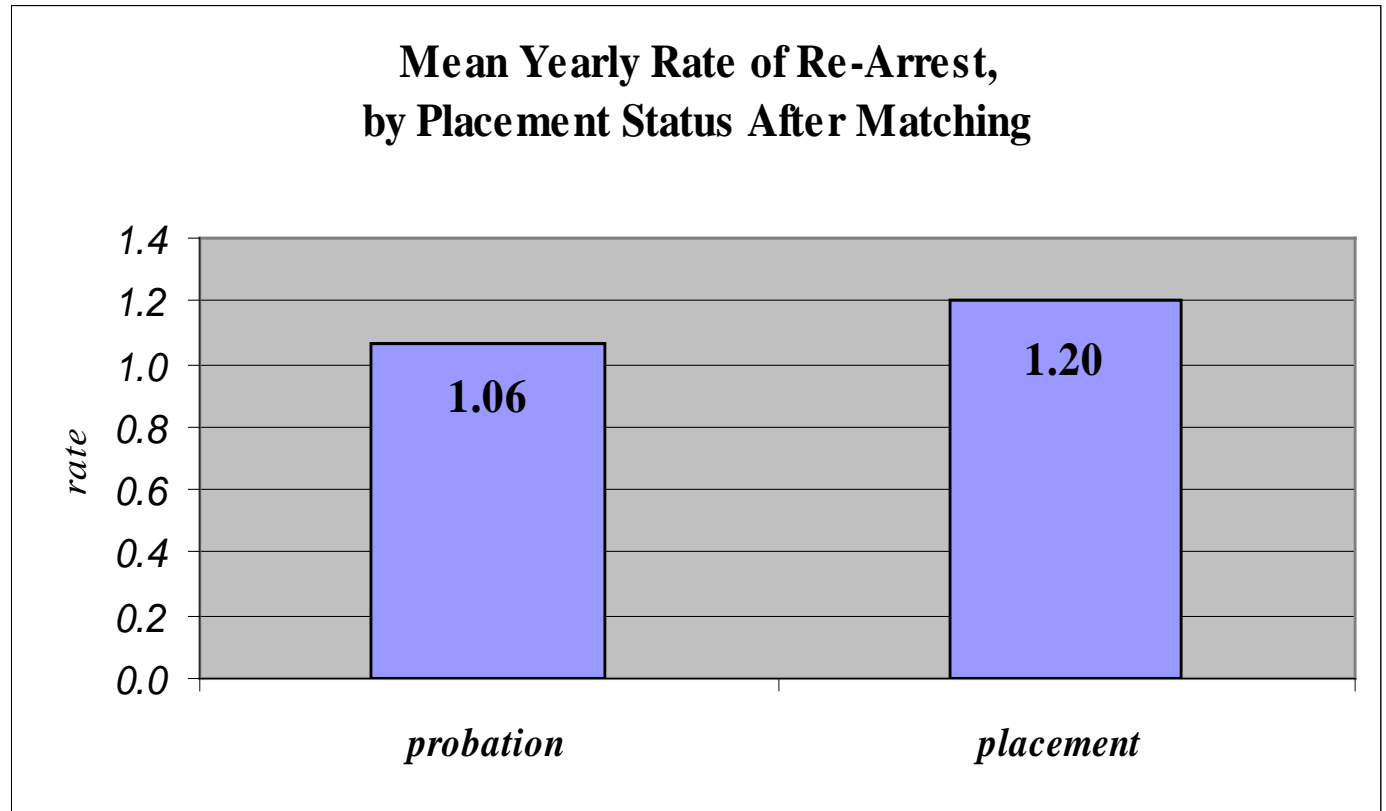
- For intermediate lengths of stay (i.e., 3-13 months), there appears to be no marginal benefit in terms of re-arrest for longer lengths of stay.



Effect of Placement on Re-Arrest

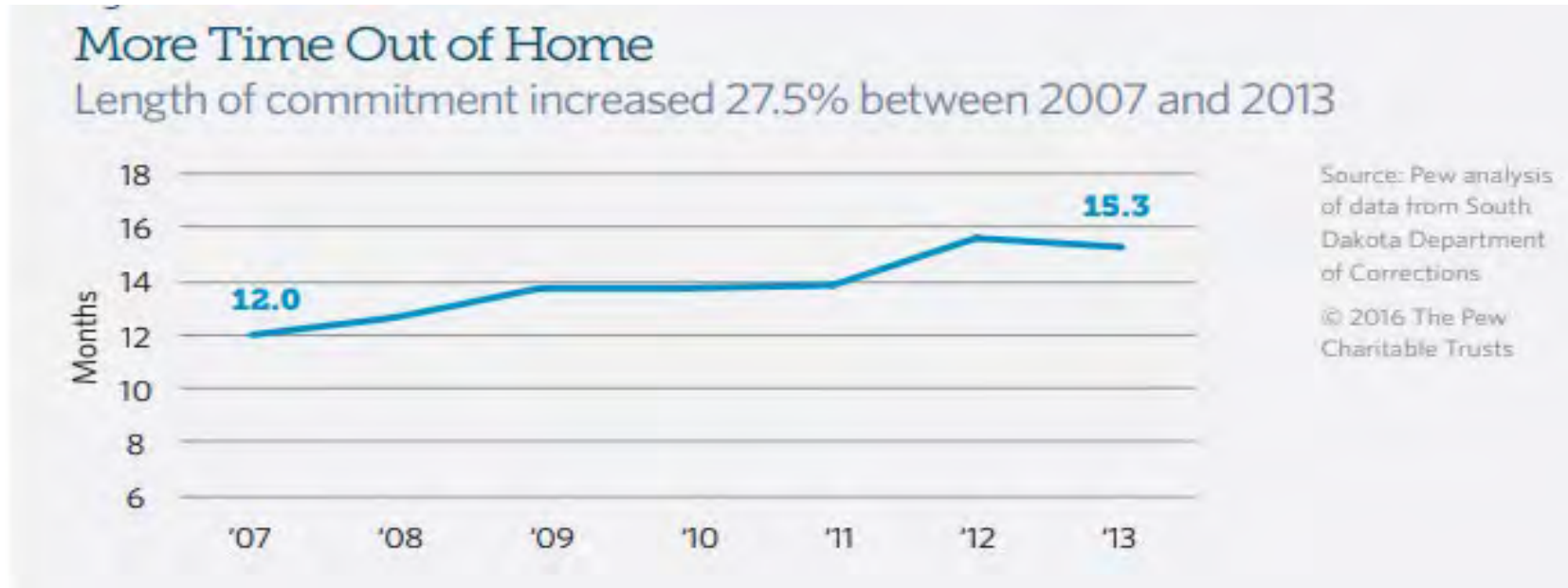
Mulvey, et al: Pathways to Desistance Finding:

- No significant differences between groups in rate of re-arrest



Research in Action

South Dakota data reveal system out-of-step with research



South Dakota aligns practice with research

With the passage of SB 73, state leaders made strides to align policy with research and data by:

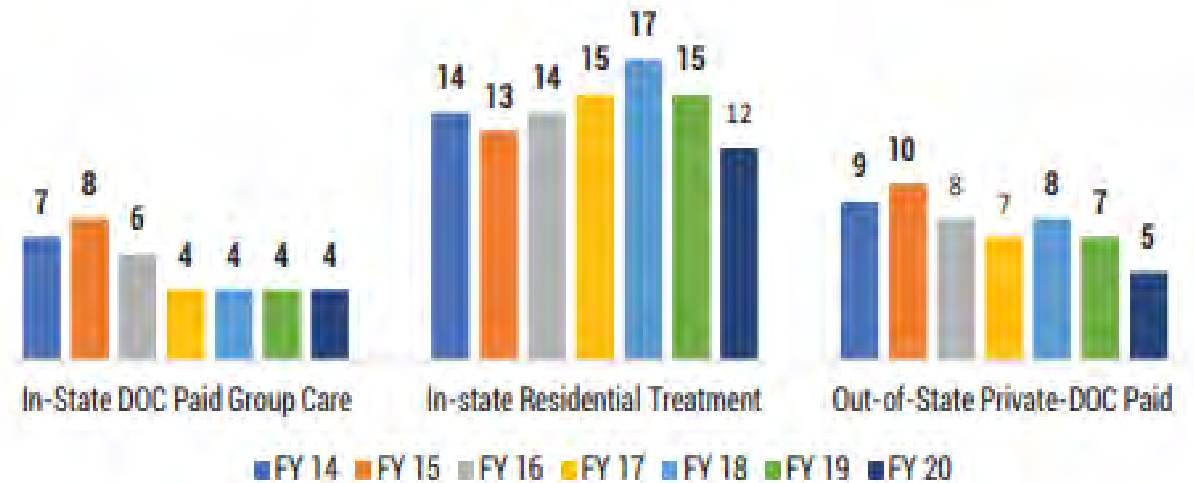
- Establishing a **presumptive community response** to delinquency, including:
 - focusing placement eligibility on young people who pose greatest risk to public safety
 - creating presumptive diversion and incentivizing county participation
- Reexamining practices related to **length of supervision**:
 - Creating **presumptive limits** on probation and stays in state run facilities
 - Providing **contract premiums** to private providers who meet treatment goals within three to four months
- **Individualizing treatment plans** and aligning them with assessed needs
- Training and empowering staff to engage in **meaningful reentry planning**

South Dakota policy changes show promise

What's changed? (FY14 to FY20)

- Petitions down 28%
- 60% decrease in active probation cases
 - 94% complete probation – up 10%
- 50% decline in commitments
- Length of stay is down:
 - 4-month average LOS for in-state group care, down from 8 months
 - 5-month average LOS for out-of-state group care, down from 9 months

Average Length of Stay in Residential Placement* (Months)

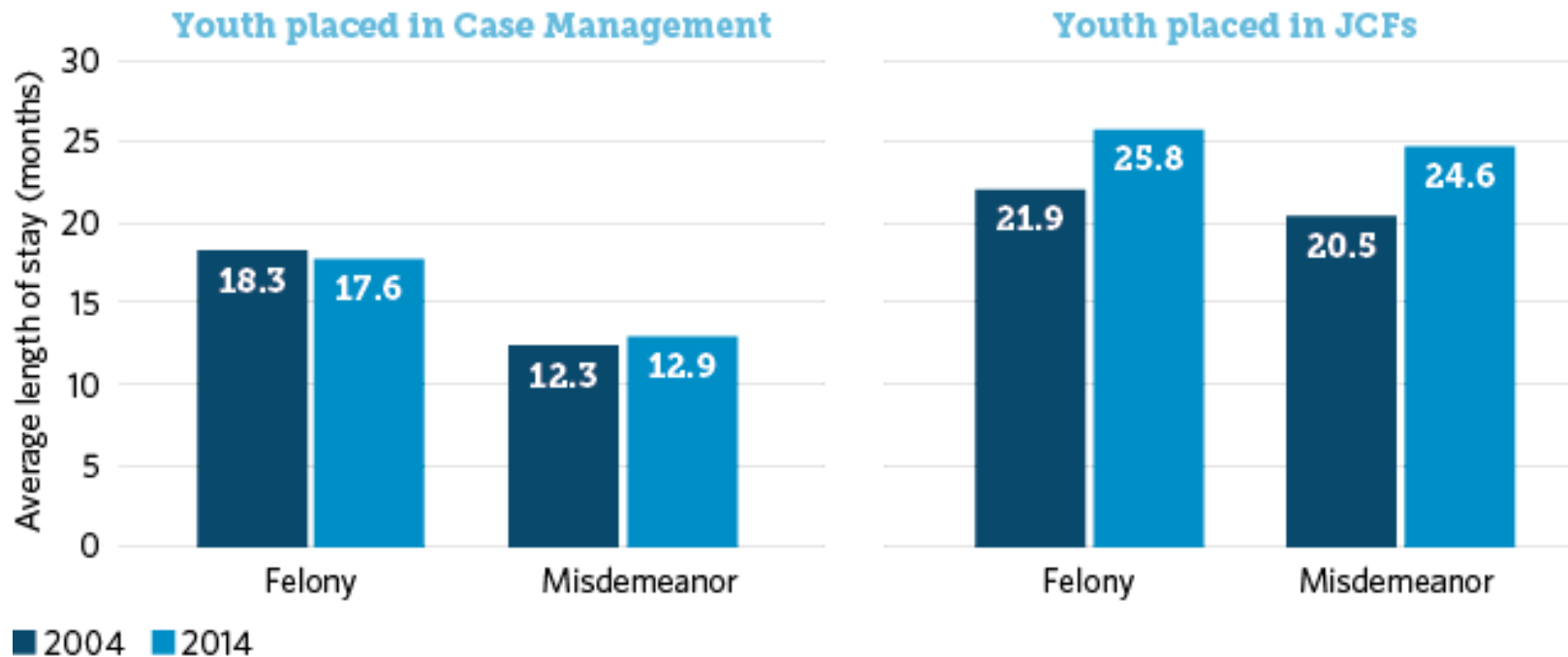


*In-state residential includes Intensive Residential Treatment (IRT) and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)

Kansas data reveal system out-of-step with research

Kansas Youth Were Kept in Correctional Facility for Longer Periods

Juveniles spent more time in JCFs by 2014



Kansas policy changes show promise

With the passage of SB 367, state leaders made strides to align policy with research and data by:

- Shifting practices around **length of supervision and jurisdiction:**
 - Creating presumptive limits on probation, detention, placement and aftercare
 - Crediting youth for time served in detention
 - Limiting overall jurisdiction length
- Focusing **placement eligibility** on young people with serious felonies, chronic history and a clear risk to public safety
- Eliminating mandatory aftercare, permitting **reentry to be individually tailored** to meet youth and community needs
- Promoting adoption of unified case plans with **treatment goals that bridge community and placement**

What's changed? (FY15 to FY20):

- 88% fewer youth are in state custody
- 37% fewer youth in the state's sole remaining correctional facility
- Youth in state custody are higher risk and have higher severity offenses
- JCF LOS static but overall LOS down
- Millions are reinvested annually in nonresidential services and supports, including 5 million in county grants in 2020
- 24% fewer youth enter the system each year

States align practice with research principles

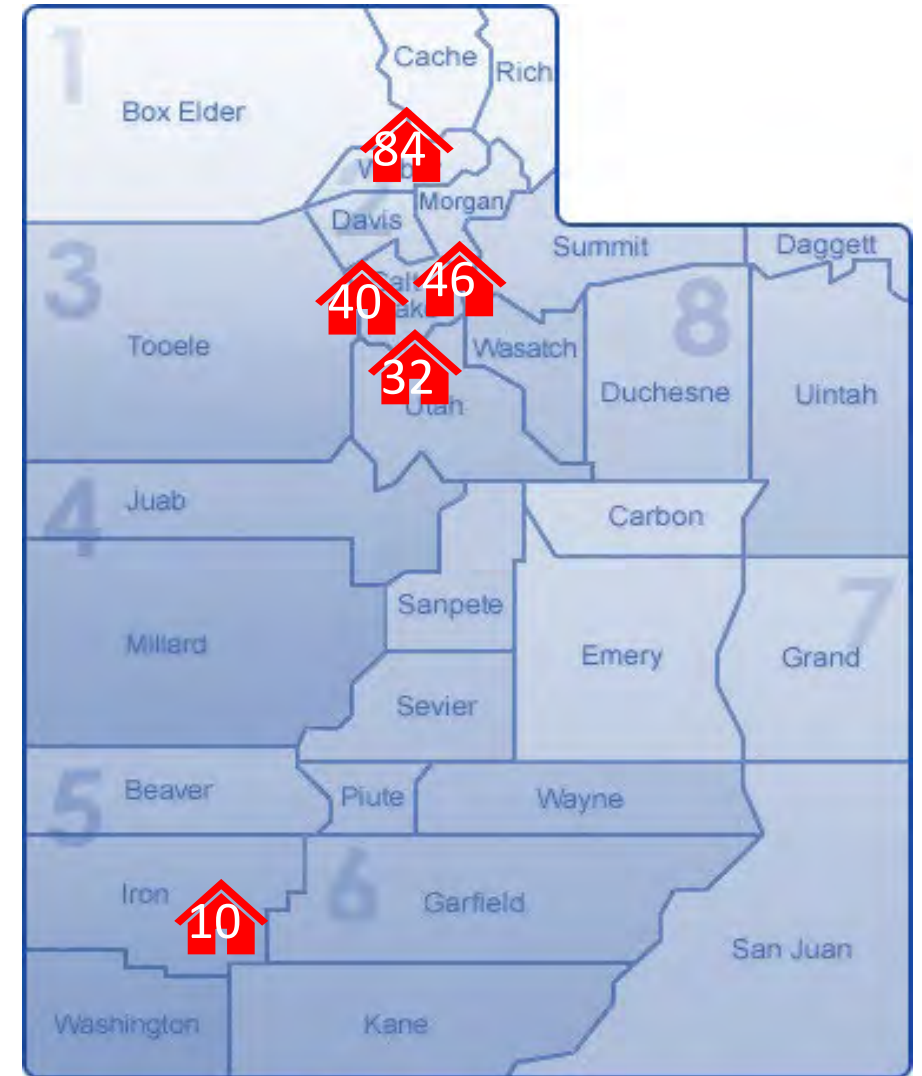
1. **Examine** the makeup of the placement **population, how long** they stay, **who stays longer** than average
2. **Tailor eligibility** for admission
3. Control LOS at the **point of entry**
4. Reduce **pending placement** time and **assessment efficiency**
5. Target **individual youth needs** in case planning
6. Align **developmentally appropriate** treatment, programming and **dosage**
7. Use **behavior motivation** systems to support appropriate LOS
8. Reduce barriers to release with **effective re-entry** practices
9. Provide **fiscal incentives** to motivate alignment with research and data




Utah Case Study

Utah's Post-Adjudication Facilities

- The Juvenile Court can commit a youth post-adjudication to the custody of the Division of Juvenile Justice Services (DJSS) up to their 25th birthday
- In 2010, DJSS operated five post-adjudication facilities with 212 beds (10 beds for girls)
- The Youth Parole Authority determines parole and release from DJSS custody

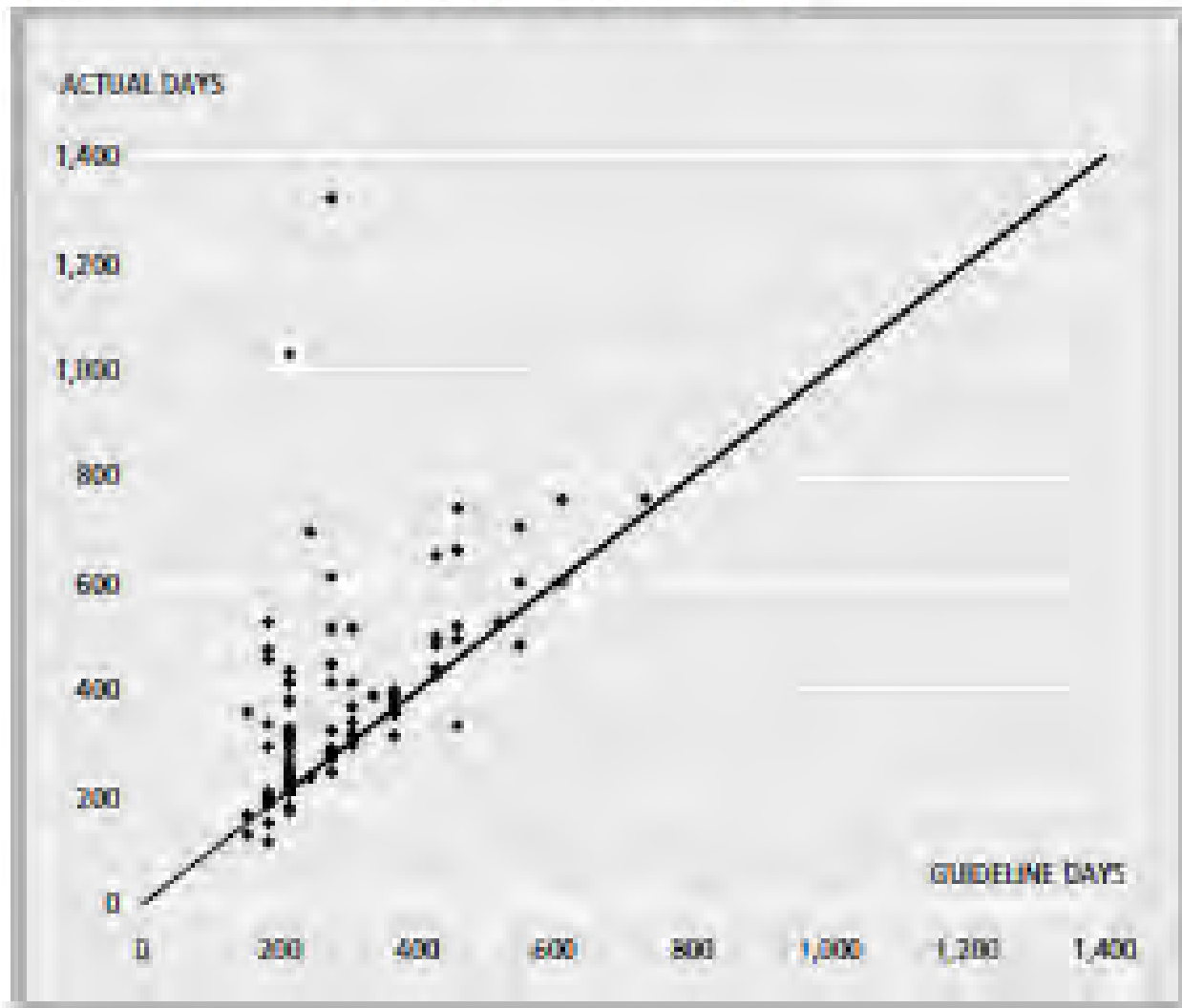


Facility Lengths of Stay (in days)



# of Beds/Facility	2010	2011	2012	2013
84 – Millcreek	318.4	311.6	231.6	281.7
46 – Wasatch	358.3	356.2	343.6	370.6
40 – Decker Lake	163.1	206.7	237.3	224.4
32 – Slate Canyon	194.3	285.9	258.2	402.4
10 – Southwest	316.5	457.3	378.0	284.6
Average	254.9	295.1	261.1	295.4

GUIDELINE VERSUS SECURE STAY



- Guideline Days represent the guidelines established by the Youth Parole Authority.
- Markers above the diagonal line means the youth stayed **longer** than the guidelines.



Study Findings

01

Progress Ill-Defined

Treatment and behavior influenced 80% of the factors related to LOS, but treatment progress, currently, is ill-defined and is, therefore, of little practical use in refining estimates for LOS.

02

YPA Lacks Training


Youth Parole Authority members are less prepared to form an unbiased opinion about appropriate treatment targets, standardized definitions of progress, or the possible iatrogenic effects of secure placements.

03

Staff Circumvent YPA

The independent role of the Youth Parole Authority in determining release is, inadvertently, circumvented by their reliance on the opinions of relatively more experienced staff.

Determinants of Length of Stay in Utah's Juvenile Secure Care Facilities,
Prince, Sarver, Worwood, Butters, Utah Criminal Justice Center, 2014



“Kids who behave are more likely to get out at their guidelines even if they don’t do treatment.”



Other Influencing Factors



Youth Treatment Issues

A youth's behavior sometimes got worse, temporarily, if they were processing complex and difficult emotions.

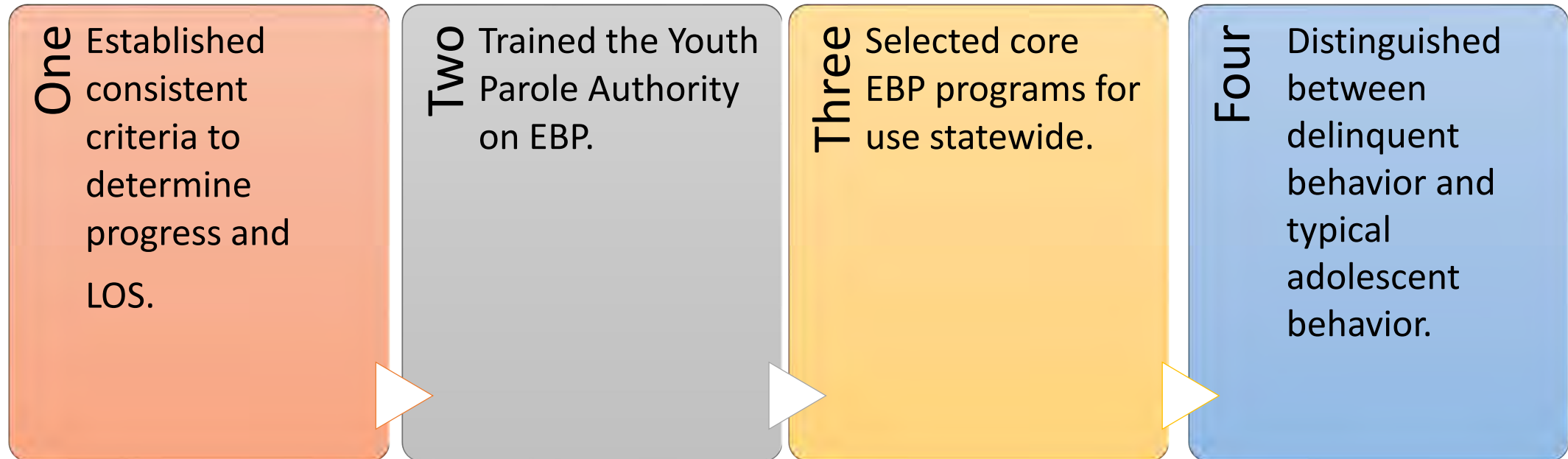
Youth Parole Issues

A youth may deliberately sabotage their release because they were anxious about the next steps.

Youth Immaturity Issues

A youth may stay longer due to relatively minor behavior that is unrelated to risk factors.

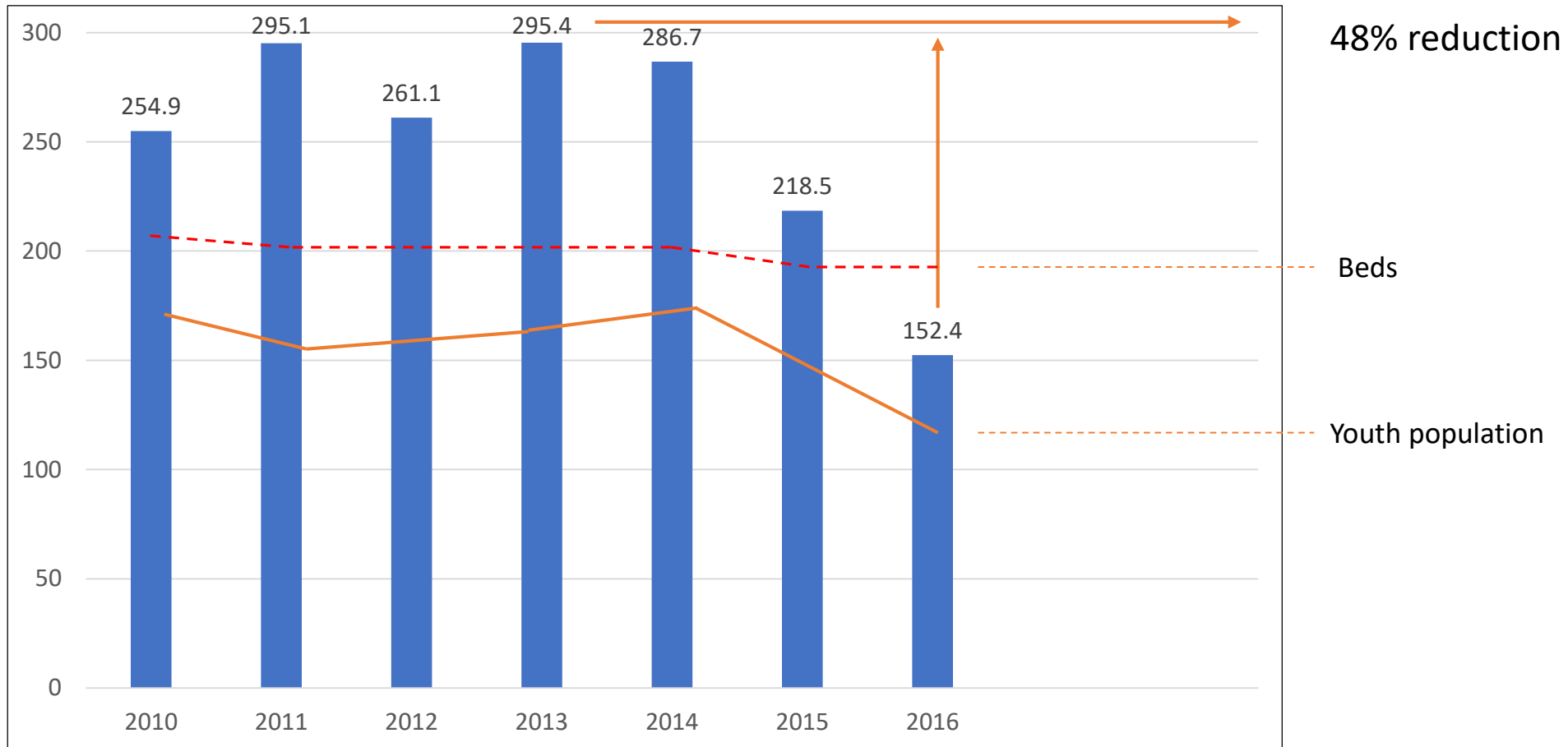
Our Response



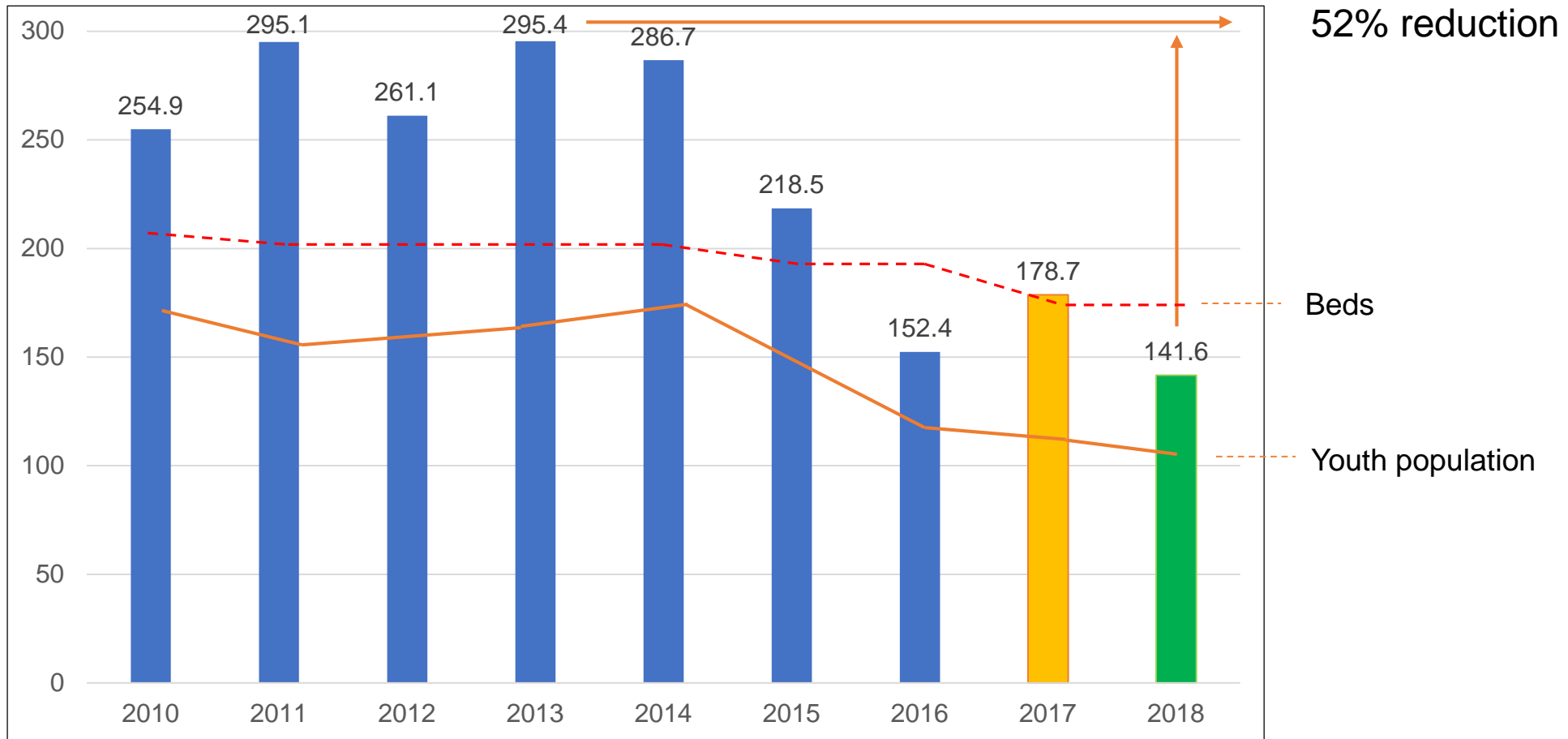
Facility Lengths of Stay (in days)

# of Beds/Facility	2013	2014	2015	2016
84 – Millcreek	281.7	285.9	159.0	121.2
46 – Wasatch	370.6	454.1	402.9	197.3
40 – Decker Lake	224.4	220.9	220.9	123.1
32 – Slate Canyon	402.4	237.7	244.5	226.7
10 – Southwest	284.6	380.9	385.5	221.7
Average	295.4	286.7	218.5	152.0

Length of Stay Trends (in days): 2013-2016



Length of Stay Trends (in days): 2013 - 2018





Reduced the average risk of recidivism by **31%**

**1,142
HOURS**

of time working with youth instead of on transports over the last 9 months

82% of youth reduced dynamic risk in second quarter of 2019

~50%

fewer assaults with injury over 15 months

26% increase in family satisfaction through Quality Service Reviews

**12.5
HOURS**

of dosage (treatment) a week offered to secure care youth for positive, sustainable change, which is considered best practice

