

LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF PROMOTOR ENGAGEMENT

A five-year follow-up study of the Latin American Youth Center's
Promotor Pathway program

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SUMMARY

Study Overview

This report analyzes the results of a five-year follow-up survey given to participants in a randomized control trial (RCT) of the Latin American Youth Center's Promotor Pathway program. A 2016 Urban Institute¹ report describes the Promotor Pathway program and the development, implementation, and 18-month impacts of the RCT. A subsequent Ewald & Wasserman technical brief² describes the implementation of the follow-up survey between June 2016 and June 2019 and the availability of data from the original study cohorts.

Between April 2010 and February 2013, the RCT recruited a study sample of 476 youth and randomly assigned them to treatment and control groups. The follow-up survey collected data from 188 study participants. After adjusting for participants who could not be located or were unable to take the survey for various reasons, the survey had a treatment group response rate of 71%, a control group response rate of 63%, and an overall response rate of 66%. The final data set that was analyzed for this report had 186 participants, 39% from the treatment group and 61% from the control group.

At the time of their entry into the study, participating youth were 16 to 22 years old. The Promotor Pathway program was designed to serve youth up to age 24, so all study participants could have been served for a minimum of two years before they aged out of the program. At the time of the follow-up survey, participants would have been 22 to 28 years old. This context underscores the need to interpret the five-year follow-up analyses differently than the 18-month impact study.

Participants' parenting status illustrates this point. Follow-up data show that treatment group participants were slightly more likely to have children (56% compared to 51%) and had the same size families as the control group (1.7 children). However, treatment group participants appeared more likely to have delayed having children while working with a Promotor. At the five-year follow up, their children were an average of five months younger than the children of control group participants (4.3 compared to 4.8 years old).

This difference may have originated with participants' parenting status at the time of their initial randomization, as the first child of treatment group participants was four months younger than the first child of control group participants. However, this difference nearly doubled for the second child: treatment group participants waited an average of 2.1 years before having a second child, compared to 1.2 years for the control group. Delaying parenthood or a second child may reflect a broader pattern of attitudes and behaviors that helped Promotor Pathway youth take control of their futures.

¹ Theodos, B., Pergamit, M. R., Derian, A., Edelstein, S., and Stolte, S. (April 2016). Solutions for Youth: An evaluation of the Latin American Youth Center's Promotor Pathway Program. The Urban Institute.

² Ewald & Wasserman Research Consultants. (2019). Summary Report: Impact of Promotor Pathway model long-term follow-up telephone study with LAYC/MMYC youth.

Main Findings

The logic model appearing in the 2016 report specifies short-term, intermediate, and long-term program outcomes related to three broad categories: academic success, employment success, and healthy behavior. The current report presents the main findings from the analyses of five-year follow-up survey data in their earliest place in the logic model.

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

Service Access. Two out of three study participants said they did not need medical or social services in the previous six months. Among participants who said they needed services in that time frame, treatment group participants were more likely to:

- report needing help with reproductive healthcare and counseling for mental health or family issues.
- receive alcohol or drug counseling or treatment when they needed it.

PROMOTOR PATHWAY YOUTH SEEMED TO HAVE GREATER AWARENESS OF THEIR NEEDS FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, AND FAMILY COUNSELING. THEY ALSO MAY HAVE BEEN MORE CAPABLE OF NAVIGATING ACCESS TO CARE FOR ALCOHOL OR DRUG PROBLEMS.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Education. In both groups, only seven out of 10 participants completed 12th grade. However, treatment group participants earned high school diplomas or GEDs at a higher rate than control group participants.

Employment. The current employment rate was four percentage points higher for treatment group participants and their recent employment rate was eight percentage points higher.

ATTAINING A HIGH SCHOOL CREDENTIAL MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO PROMOTOR PATHWAY YOUTH'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKFORCE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Education. Overall, 15% of participants earned a postsecondary credential, such as a technical or vocational certification or a two-year or four-year college degree. The percentage of treatment and control group participants earning a postsecondary credential was about the same.

Employment. Both study groups retained their most recent job for an average of 18 months. However, treatment group participants had more stable and more lucrative employment. In the most recent six-month period, treatment group participants:

- were more likely to have one job and less likely to have multiple jobs.
- worked an average of five hours more per week at their job.
- made nearly \$150 more per week at their job.

PROMOTOR PATHWAY YOUTH HAD GREATER WORKFORCE SUCCESS THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS.
POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS WERE NOT THE LIKELY SOURCE OF THIS ADVANTAGE.

Housing. Treatment group participants were slightly less likely to have moved in the last two years and slightly more likely to have experienced homelessness.

- At least half of the treatment and control group participants who experienced homelessness in the past two years were homeless again in the last six months.

PROMOTOR PATHWAY YOUTH AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS REMAINED VULNERABLE TO HOUSING INSECURITY.

Harmful Behaviors. At least eight out of 10 participants said they did not binge drink, use drugs, or carry a weapon in the last four weeks, and over half of them said they never did these things.

- The treatment group was more likely to have used marijuana in the last month.
- Among participants who binge drank, used drugs, or carried a weapon in the last month, treatment group participants were more likely to have done so more than once a week.

PROMOTOR PATHWAY YOUTH WHO ENGAGED IN CERTAIN HARMFUL BEHAVIORS, MAY HAVE DONE SO MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS.

Self-Efficacy Beliefs. Treatment group participants had a slightly but consistently stronger sense of agency and capability.

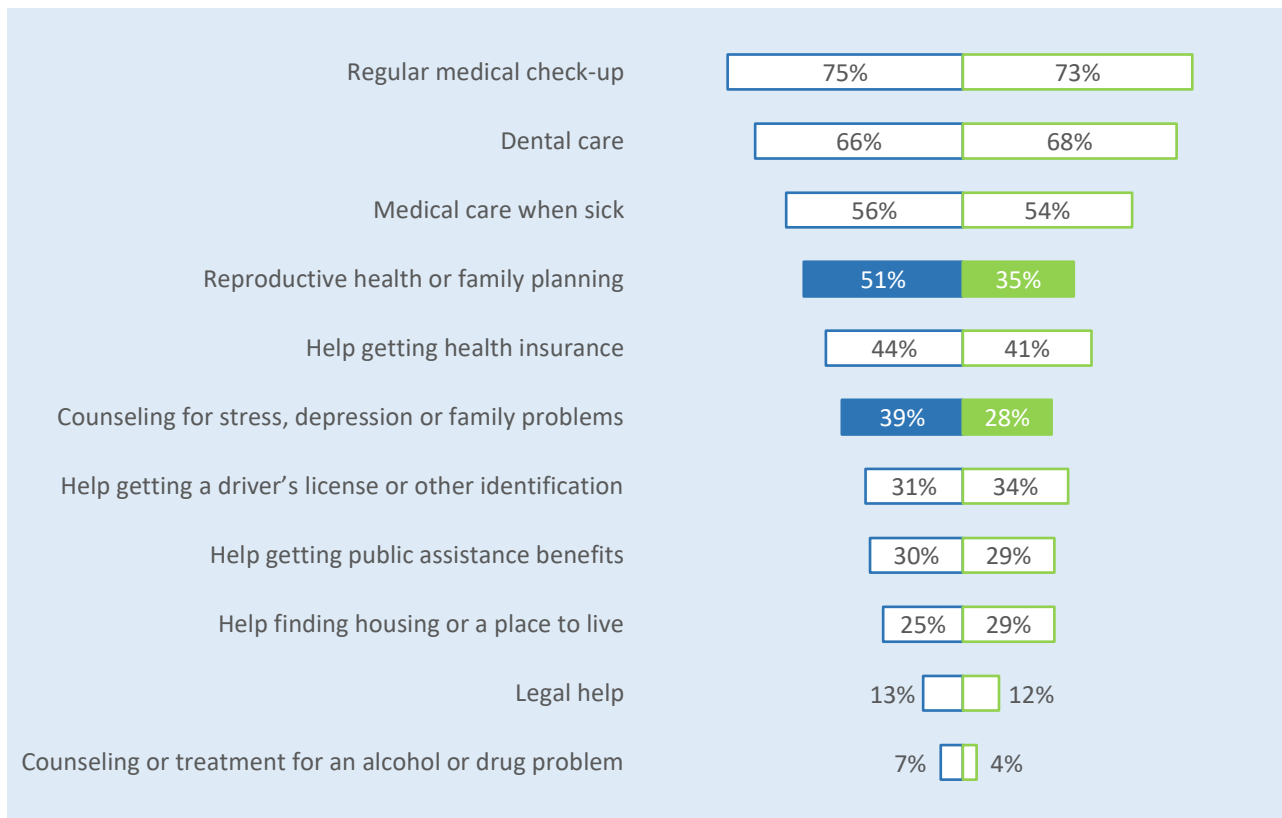
PROMOTOR PATHWAY YOUTH WERE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE IN THEIR ABILITY TO MANAGE LIFE EVENTS AND SHAPE THEIR FUTURES.

SERVICE ACCESS

Need for Services

Less than half of study participants (38%) said they needed medical and social services in the last six months. The most commonly needed service was a regular medical check-up (75% treatment and 73% control) and the least commonly needed service was counseling or treatment for an alcohol or drug problem (7% and 4%, respectively).

Both groups generally needed the same amount of services. THE ONLY AREAS WHERE THE TREATMENT GROUP SAID THEY NEEDED MORE SERVICES WERE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.

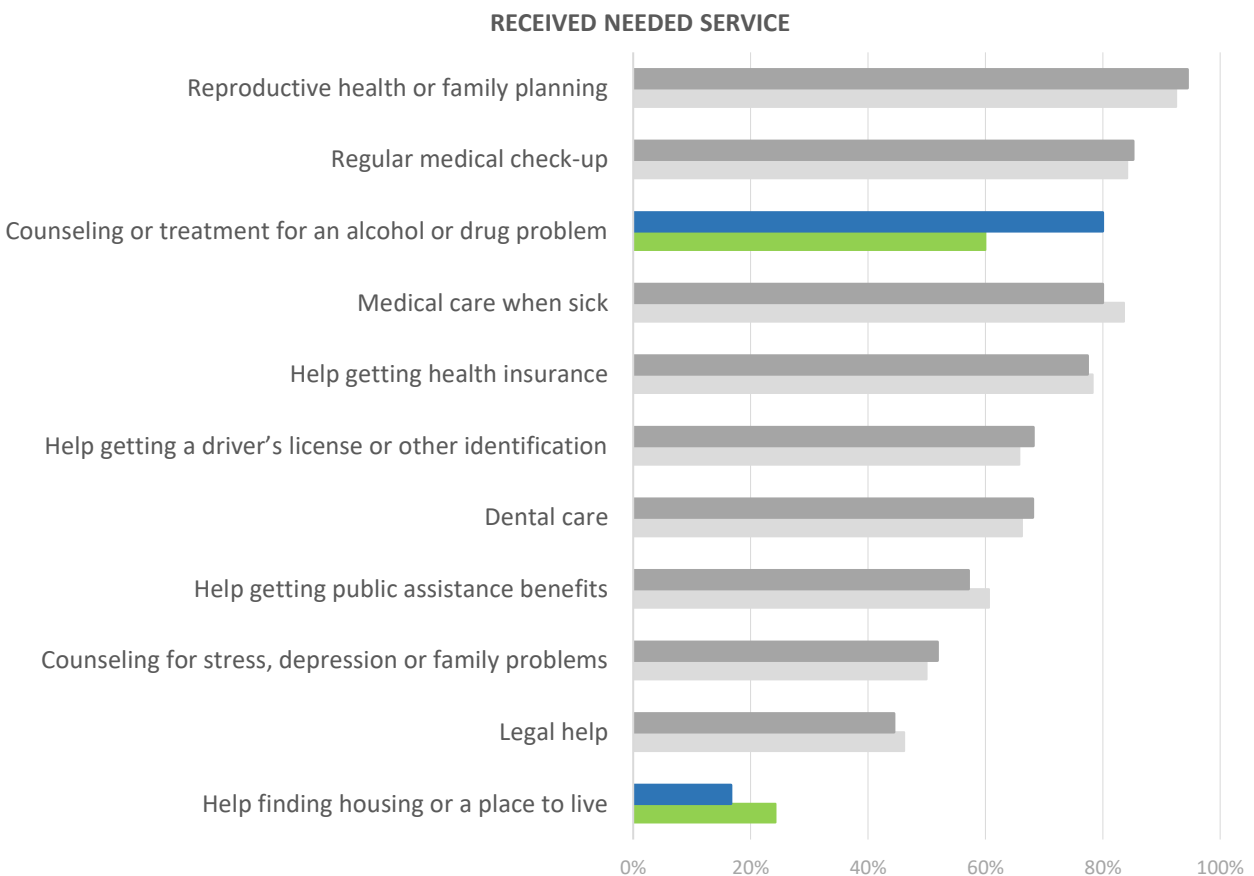


Receipt of Needed Services

Both groups had very similar experiences of obtaining the services they needed, but their experiences getting help varied widely among service areas. Over 90% of treatment and control group participants obtained reproductive health or family planning services when needed and at least 80% got regular medical check-ups and medical care when they were sick. On the low end, around half of participants received counseling for stress, depression, or family problems; less than half received legal help when they needed it; and less than a quarter of participants got help finding housing or a place to live.

The treatment group was substantially more likely to receive alcohol or drug counseling or treatment than the control group (80% compared to 60%). They were also somewhat less likely to get help finding housing or a place to live when they needed it (17% compared to 24%).

Treatment group participants were more likely to receive alcohol or drug counseling or treatment when they needed it and less likely to get help finding housing.

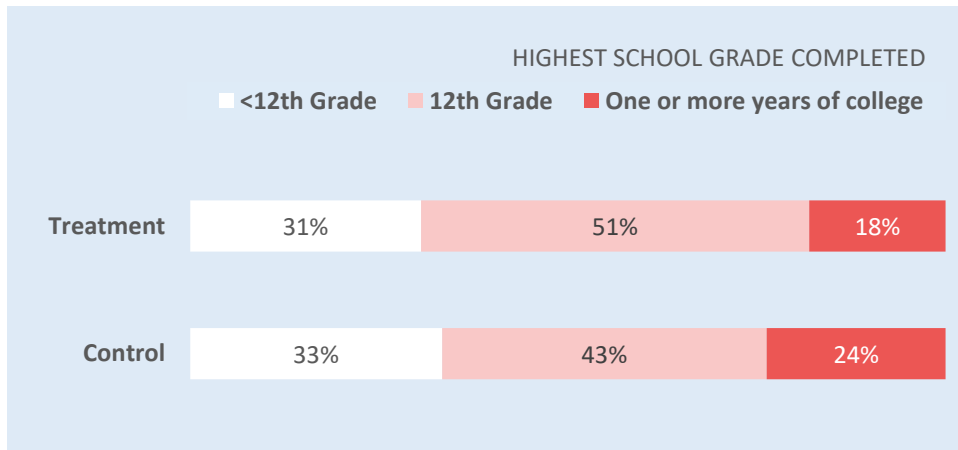


EDUCATION

School Completed

About a third of participants in both study groups completed less than a 12th grade education. A higher percentage of treatment group participants completed 12th grade (51% compared to 43% in the control group) but a smaller percentage completed one or more years of college (18% compared to 24% from the control group).

Treatment group participants were more likely to have completed 12th grade and less likely to have completed at least one year of college.

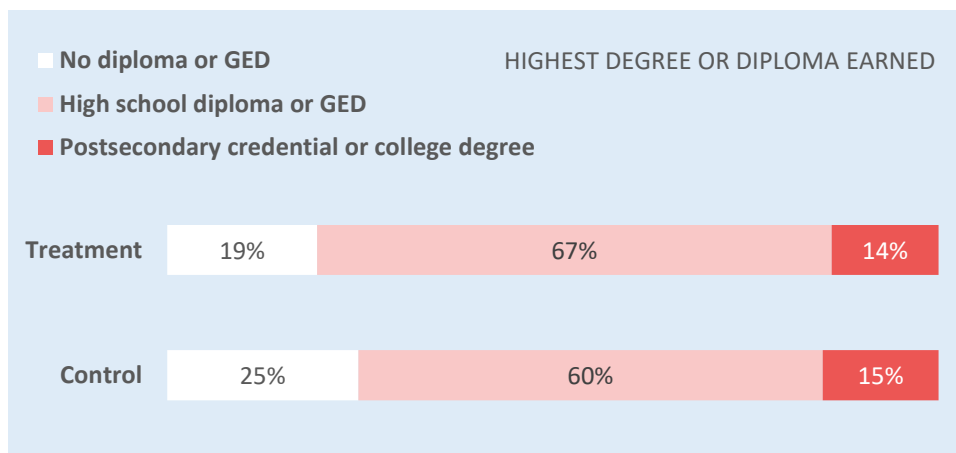


Credentials Earned

A higher percentage of treatment group participants graduated from high school or earned a GED (81% compared to 75% from the control group). The percentage of participants earning a postsecondary credential (such as a technical or vocational certification or college degree) was about the same (14% treatment and 15% control).

Treatment group participants were evenly divided between those who completed a postsecondary certification (7%) and those who earned a college degree (3% earned two-year degrees and 4% earned four-year degrees). In contrast, 9% of control group participants completed a certification, 4% earned a two-year degree, and 2% earned a four-year degree.

Treatment group participants were more likely to have earned a high school diploma or GED and equally likely to have earned a postsecondary credential or college degree.



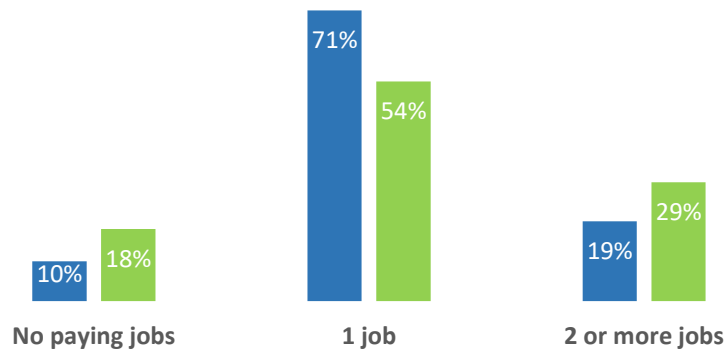
EMPLOYMENT

Treatment group participants appeared more likely to be making a living than control group participants. In addition to having a higher rate of current employment, the treatment group also had a higher rate of recent employment, more stable employment, and more lucrative employment.

Current & Recent Jobs

There was a four percentage-point difference in current employment rates (82% treatment, 78% control) and an eight percentage-point difference in recent employment rates: 90% of the treatment group and 82% of the control group had paid employment in the most recent six-month period. The treatment group also had more stable employment: 71% had only one job in this period, compared to 54% of the control group.

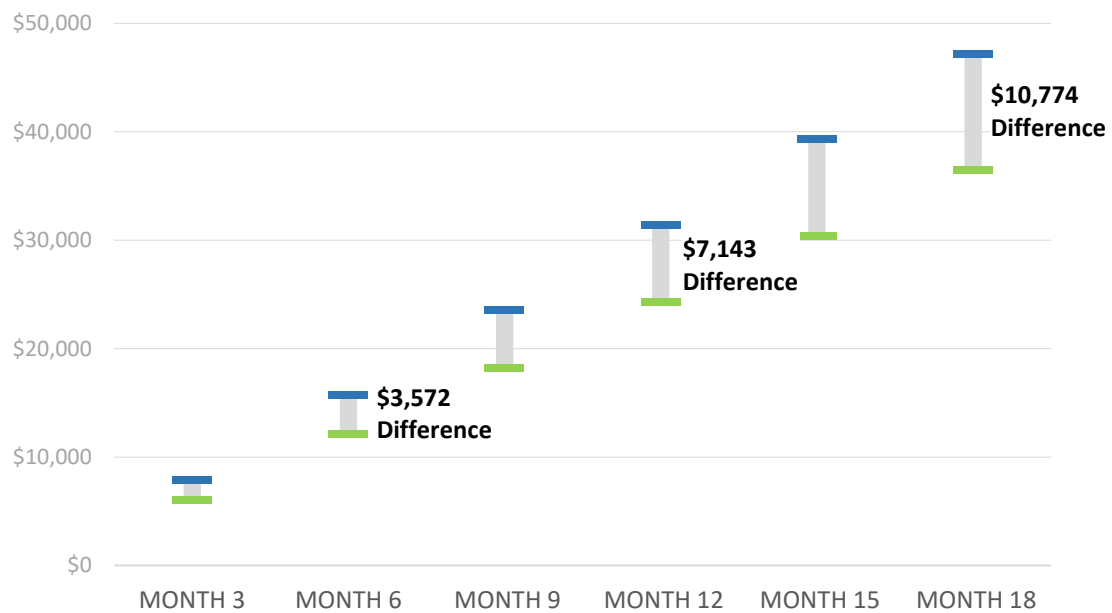
9 out of 10 **treatment group** participants had a paying job in the last six months and 7 out of 10 had a single job.



Hours & Earnings

Although both groups' most recent jobs lasted one and a half years,³ the treatment group worked an average of 5.4 hours more per week and earned \$1.76 more per hour than the control group. As a result, treatment group participants earned \$149 more per week, \$595 more per month, and \$10,774 more over the duration of their most recent jobs.

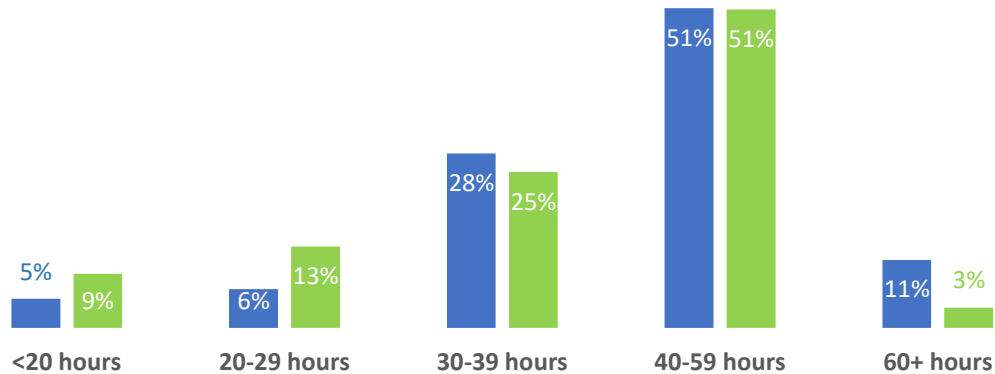
Treatment group participants earned nearly 30% more money than **control group** participants at their most recent job.



³ The average length of both groups' jobs was 18.1 months. To facilitate consistent interpretation, the chart shows the difference between treatment and control groups' earnings at 18.1 months instead of 18 months.

The treatment group's earnings advantage may have been even greater. Wage data reflect participants' hourly earnings at only one of their current or most recent jobs, and control group participants were more likely to have multiple jobs with fewer hours each than treatment group participants.

5 out of 10 participants in both groups worked 40 to 59 hours a week, but a smaller percentage of the **treatment group** worked less than 30 hours a week at a single job.

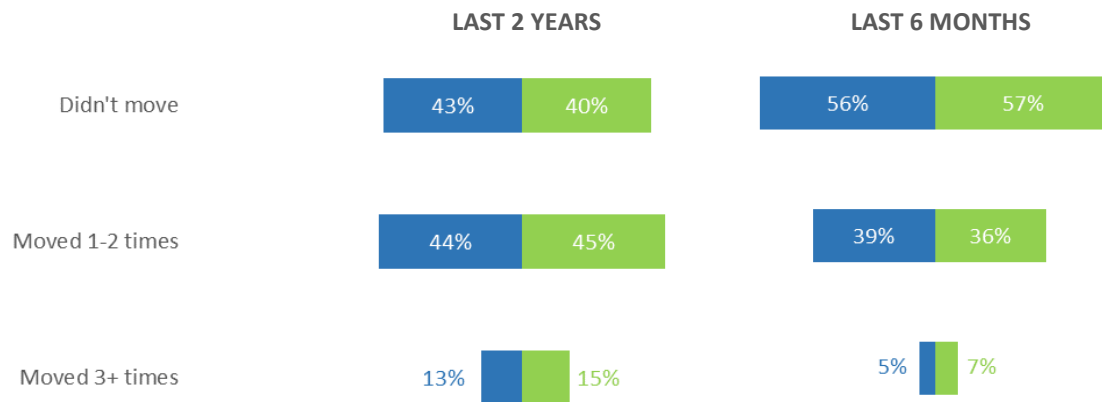


HOUSING

Stable Housing

Both study groups had similar patterns of housing stability. On average, participants moved 1.2⁴ times in the last two years; participants who moved in the last two years, moved an average of 0.8 times in the last six months.

6 out of 10 **treatment** and **control** group participants moved in the last two years. OUT OF THOSE WHO DID, 4 OUT OF 10 MOVED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS.



The treatment group may have had slightly more stable housing. Participants in the treatment group moved an average of 1.08 times in the last two years, compared to 1.2 times in the control group—a difference of 11%. Treatment group participants who moved in the last six months did so an average of 0.66 times, compared to 0.84 in the control group—a difference of 27%.

These differences, however striking, may be less meaningful than the common-sense categorizations appearing in the charts. It seems likely that the experience of housing instability among participants who moved frequently—more than twice in each period—was more similar than different.

⁴ One control group participant moved 30 times in the last two years. The calculation omits this outlier. Including the outlier, the control group average would be 1.46 instead of 1.20.

Homelessness

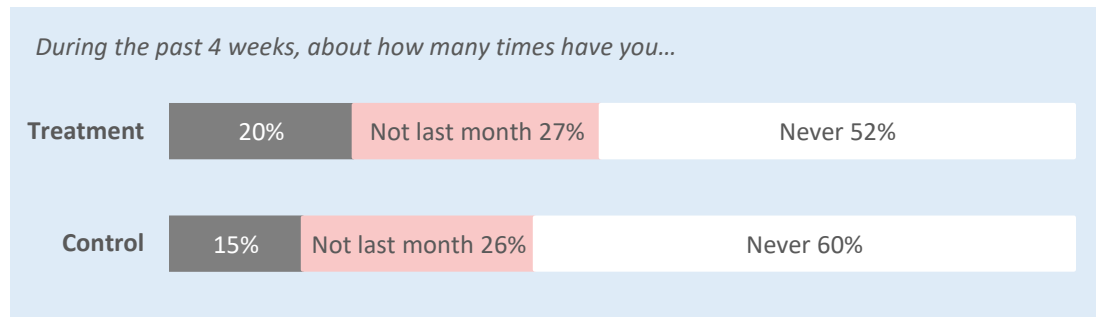
In the past two years, 14% of the treatment group and 11% of the control group slept outside or in a shelter at least once because they did not have a place to live. At least half of the participants who experienced homelessness in the past two years were homeless again in the last six months (eight out of 10 in the treatment group and six out of 12 in the control group).

HARMFUL BEHAVIORS

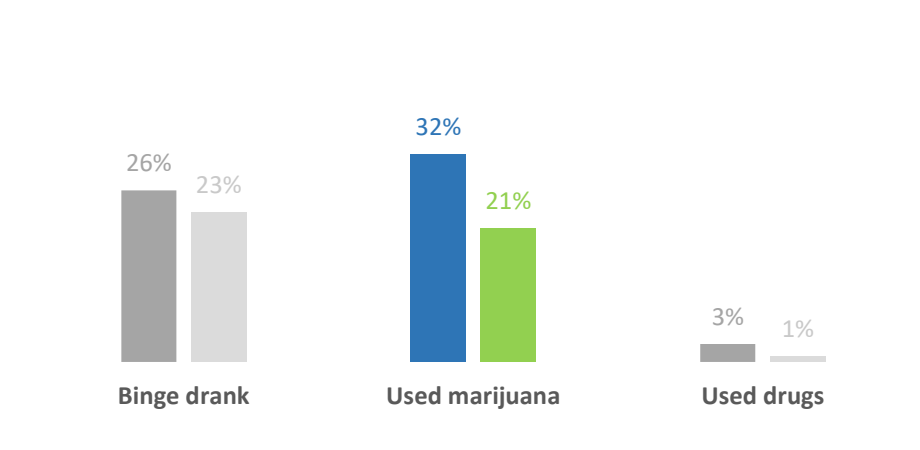
Presence of Behaviors

Overall, 80% of treatment group participants and 85% of control group participants said they didn't binge drink, use marijuana, or use non-prescription drugs in the last four weeks. Additionally, 87% of the treatment group and 90% of the control group did not carry a weapon in the last month. At least half of study participants said they had never abused alcohol or drugs or carried a weapon.

5 out of 10 treatment group participants and 6 out of 10 control group participants said they never binge drank or used drugs.



A higher percentage of **treatment group** participants used marijuana in the last 4 weeks.

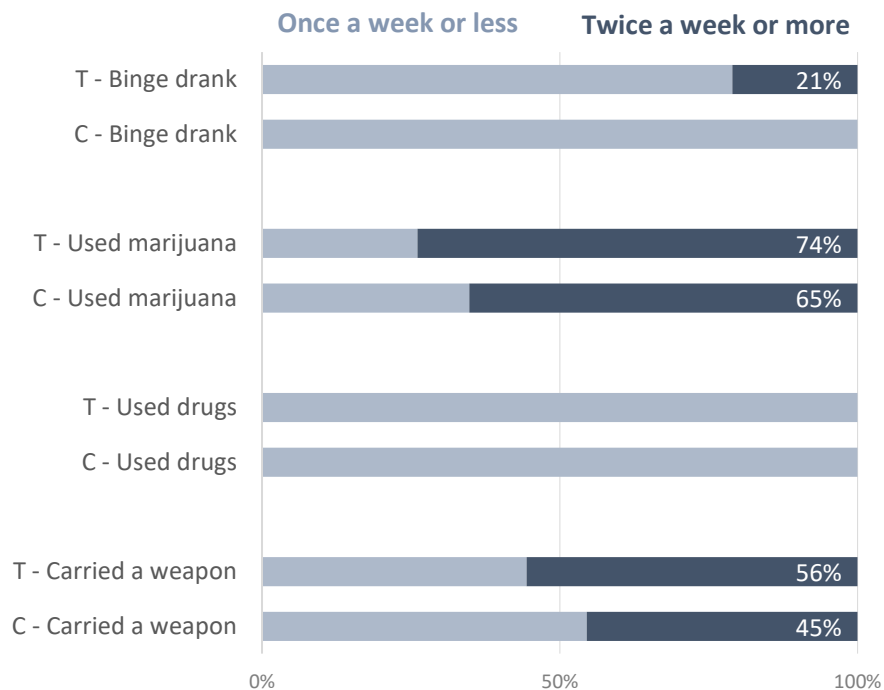


Frequency of Behaviors

Among participants who said they had abused substances or carried a weapon—recently or ever—less than half engaged in those behaviors more than once a week. Overall, 48% of treatment group and 30% of control group participants who said they had abused substances in the last four weeks said they had done so more than once a week.

The majority of participants who used marijuana in the last month, used it more than once a week. ABOUT HALF OF PARTICIPANTS WHO CARRIED A WEAPON IN THE LAST MONTH DID SO MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK.

FREQUENCY (IF DONE IN LAST 4 WEEKS)

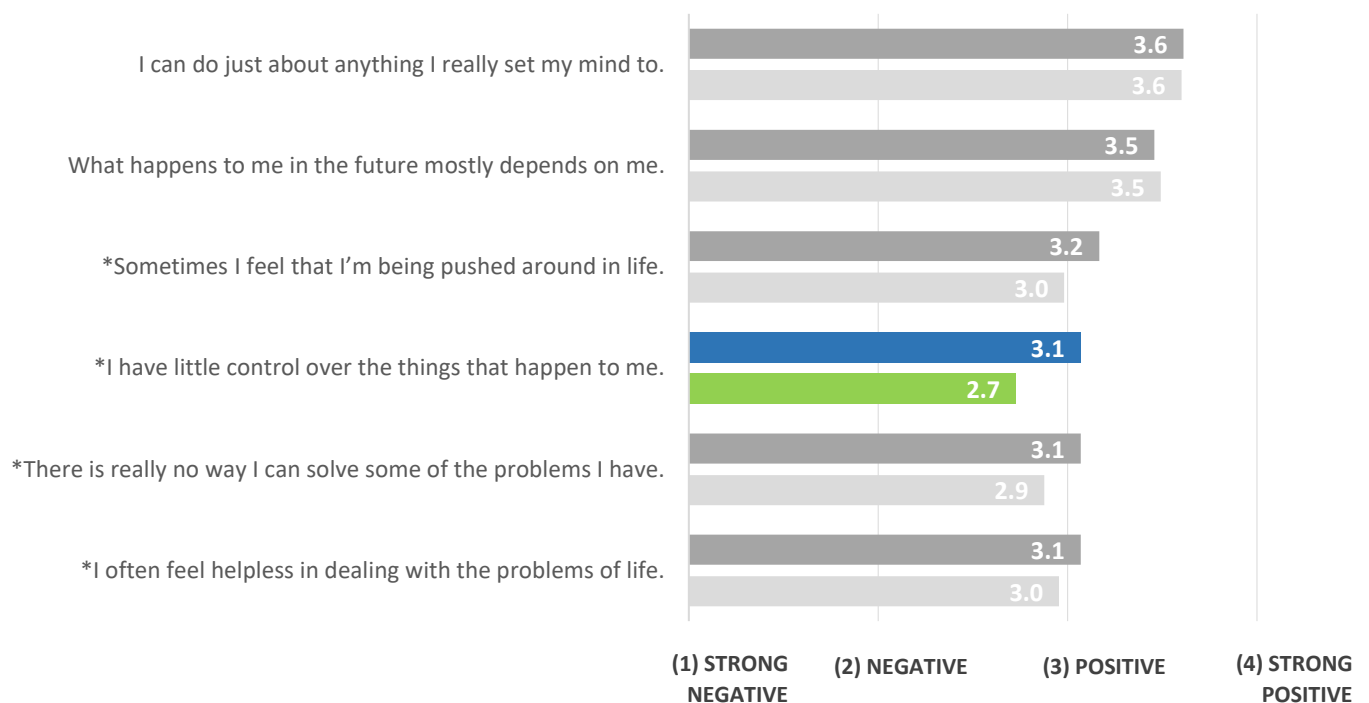


SELF-EFFICACY BELIEFS

Participants used an agreement scale (STRONGLY AGREE, AGREE, DISAGREE, STRONGLY DISAGREE) to respond to a set of six statements about their sense of self-efficacy. Four of the statements used negative phrasing, so that agreement with the statement would indicate a negative view of self-efficacy. The scale direction was reversed for the negative statements, which are marked with an asterisk on the chart below. To facilitate interpretation, **'positivity'** replaces **'agreement'**, so that a score of 4 would represent the most positive self-report on a self-efficacy construct and a score of 1 would represent the most negative self-report on a construct.

Overall, the treatment group had slightly more positive self-efficacy attitudes than the control group (3.2 compared to 3.1 on a scale of 1 to 4). Both treatment and control groups had the same, strongly positive belief in their ability to achieve their goals ("I can do just about anything I really set my mind to"), but treatment group participants had a markedly stronger sense of personal control over their life events.

Treatment group participants had a stronger belief in their ability to control their life events than **control group** participants.



SERVICE ACCESS		
	Treatment	Control
<i>In the last 6 months, did you go to a clinic, a doctor's office, or an agency to get...</i>		
SERVICE 1		
A regular medical check-up?		
No, I didn't need this service	25%	27%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	11%	12%
Yes, I got this service	64%	62%
SERVICE 2		
Medical care because you were sick?		
No, I didn't need this service	44%	46%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	11%	9%
Yes, I got this service	45%	45%
SERVICE 3		
Help with reproductive health or family planning issues like birth control, condoms or pregnancy tests or STD tests?		
No, I didn't need this service	49%	65%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	3%	3%
Yes, I got this service	48%	33%
SERVICE 4		
Dental care?		
No, I didn't need this service	34%	32%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	21%	23%
Yes, I got this service	45%	45%
SERVICE 5		
Counseling to help with problems like stress, depression or family problems?		
No, I didn't need this service	61%	72%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	19%	14%
Yes, I got this service	20%	14%
SERVICE 6		
Help getting health insurance, such as Medicaid?		
No, I didn't need this service	56%	59%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	10%	9%
Yes, I got this service	34%	32%

SERVICE ACCESS, CONTINUED		
	Treatment	Control
<i>In the last 6 months, did you go to a clinic, a doctor's office, or an agency to get...</i>		
SERVICE 7		
Counseling or treatment for an alcohol or drug problem?		
No, I didn't need this service	93%	96%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	1%	2%
Yes, I got this service	6%	3%
SERVICE 8		
Help getting public assistance benefits, such as food stamps, WIC or welfare?		
No, I didn't need this service	70%	71%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	13%	12%
Yes, I got this service	17%	18%
SERVICE 9		
A driver's license, social security card or other identification?		
No, I didn't need this service	69%	66%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	10%	12%
Yes, I got this service	21%	22%
SERVICE 10		
Help finding housing or a place to live?		
No, I didn't need this service	75%	71%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	21%	22%
Yes, I got this service	4%	7%
SERVICE 11		
Help with a legal problem?		
No, I didn't need this service	87%	88%
I needed this service, but I did not get it	7%	6%
Yes, I got this service	6%	5%

EDUCATION

	Treatment	Control
What is the highest school grade that you finished successfully?	(72)	(114)
8th grade or under	6%	3%
9th grade	7%	8%
10th grade	10%	12%
11th grade	8%	11%
12th grade	51%	43%
1st year of college	4%	10%
2nd year of college	7%	9%
3rd or 4th year of college	7%	5%
What is the highest degree or diploma you earned?	(72)	(113)
I have not completed a degree	19%	25%
GED	32%	20%
High school diploma	35%	40%
Technical or vocational college degree or certification	7%	9%
Two-year college degree	3%	4%
Four-year college degree or higher	4%	2%

CHILDREN

	Treatment	Control
Do you or your partner have children?	(72)	(114)
Yes	56%	51%
IF PARTICIPANT/PARTNER HAS CHILD(REN):		
In total, how many children do you and your partner have?	(39)	(58)
	1.74	1.69

EMPLOYMENT		
	Treatment	Control
In the last six months, how many jobs for pay have you had?	(72)	(114)
0	10%	18%
1	71%	54%
2	15%	18%
3	3%	5%
4	0%	4%
5	0%	1%
8	1%	0%
9	0%	1%
IF PARTICIPANT HAD A PAYING JOB IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS:		
Are you working at a job for pay now?	(65)	(94)
Yes	82%	78%
MOST RECENT JOB		
Think about your most recent job. If you are working now, think about the job you have now.		
How many <u>hours per week</u> do (did) you usually work at this job?	(65)	(93)
	39.9	34.6
How much do (did) you earn per hour at this job? (in dollars per hour)	(63)	(87)
	\$16.39	\$14.63
Average length of most recent job (in months)*	(63)	(92)
	18.06	18.10

* For study participants who were not employed at the time of the follow up survey, job length is computed as the number of days between the job start and end dates, then divided by 30 for months and 365 for years. For participants who were employed at the time of the survey, the end date is the survey submission date.

HOUSING		
	Treatment	Control
MOVING		
In the [____], how many times have you moved?		
[past two years]	(72)	(114)
Average	1.08	1.20*
Didn't move	43%	40%
Once	36%	32%
Twice	8%	12%
3 times	4%	9%
4 times	3%	3%
5 times	1%	0%
6 times	4%	0%
7 times	0%	0%
8 times	0%	0%
9 times	0%	1%
10 times	0%	2%
More than 10 times*	0%	1%
IF PARTICIPANT MOVED IN THE PAST 2 YEARS:		
[last six months]	(41)	(67)
Average	0.66	0.84
Didn't move	56%	57%
Once	34%	31%
Twice	5%	4%
3 times	2%	3%
4 times	0%	1%
5 times	0%	0%
6 times	2%	0%
7 times	0%	0%
8 times	0%	0%
9 times	0%	1%
10 times	0%	1%
More than 10 times	0%	0%

* One control group participant moved 30 times in the last two years. The average number of times moved omits this outlier. Including the outlier, the control group average is 1.46 instead of 1.20.

HOUSING, CONTINUED

	Treatment	Control
HOMELESSNESS		
In the [_____], did you sleep outside or in a shelter on any night because you did not have a place to live?		
[past two years]	(72)	(114)
Yes	14%	11%
IF PARTICIPANT SLEPT OUTSIDE OR IN A SHELTER IN THE PAST 2 YEARS:		
[last six months]	(10)	(12)
Yes	80%	50%

HARMFUL BEHAVIORS ('ILLEGAL' / 'DELINQUENCY')		
	Treatment	Control
<i>During the past 4 weeks, about how many times have you...</i>		
WEAPON (ILLEGAL 1)	(72)	(113)
Carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club?		
I've never done this	65%	73%
0 times in the past 4 weeks	22%	17%
1-2 times in the past 4 weeks	6%	5%
About once a week in the past 4 weeks	0%	0%
2-3 times every week in the past 4 weeks	1%	0%
Every day or almost every day in the past 4 weeks	6%	4%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE 1 (ILLEGAL 2)	(72)	(113)
Had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours?		
I've never done this	42%	44%
0 times in the past 4 weeks	32%	33%
1-2 times in the past 4 weeks	13%	17%
About once a week in the past 4 weeks	8%	6%
2-3 times every week in the past 4 weeks	4%	0%
Every day or almost every day in the past 4 weeks	1%	0%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE 2 (ILLEGAL 3)	(72)	(112)
Used marijuana (pot)?		
I've never done this	42%	52%
0 times in the past 4 weeks	26%	28%
1-2 times in the past 4 weeks	7%	6%
About once a week in the past 4 weeks	1%	1%
2-3 times every week in the past 4 weeks	10%	3%
Every day or almost every day in the past 4 weeks	14%	11%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE 3 (ILLEGAL 4)	(72)	(114)
Used any other drugs (other than alcohol or marijuana) without a prescription?		
I've never done this	74%	82%
0 times in the past 4 weeks	24%	17%
1-2 times in the past 4 weeks	3%	1%
About once a week in the past 4 weeks	0%	0%
2-3 times every week in the past 4 weeks	0%	0%
Every day or almost every day in the past 4 weeks	0%	0%

- The scale includes an answer option (“I’ve never done this”) that does not correspond with the question stem (“During the past 4 weeks, about how many times have you...?”). It is not clear whether the second answer option (“0 times in the past 4 weeks”) represents—either explicitly or implicitly—that participants have engaged in the behavior in question prior to the most recent 4-week period.
- The ‘illegal’ domain in the PPM II survey is comprised of three items from the substance abuse domain (binge drinking, use of marijuana, and use of other non-prescribed drugs), and one item from the delinquency domain on the PPM I survey.

A composite score for the ‘illegal’ domain was not computed because two of the four questions reference behaviors that are either legal or decriminalized and one of the items (ILLEGAL #1) corresponds with a different survey domain. Abusing alcohol (ILLEGAL #2) is legal. Recreational use of marijuana (ILLEGAL #3) has been legal in Washington, D.C. and decriminalized in Maryland since 2014.

SELF-EFFICACY BELIEFS ('MASTERY')

Think about how you feel day to day. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Strongly Positive	Positive	Negative	Strongly Negative
COMPOSITE				
Treatment	45%	38%	13%	4%
Control	41%	36%	17%	6%
● MASTERY 1				
There is really no way I can solve some of the problems I have.				
Treatment (72)	36%	40%	18%	6%
Control (114)	30%	39%	21%	11%
● MASTERY 2				
Sometimes I feel that I'm being pushed around in life.				
Treatment (72)	42%	39%	14%	6%
Control (113)	36%	35%	20%	9%
● MASTERY 3				
I have little control over the things that happen to me.				
Treatment (72)	39%	33%	24%	4%
Control (114)	26%	33%	27%	13%
MASTERY 4				
I can do just about anything I really set my mind to.				
Treatment (72)	63%	36%	1%	0%
Control (113)	65%	31%	2%	2%
● MASTERY 5				
I often feel helpless in dealing with the problems of life.				
Treatment (72)	38%	39%	17%	7%
Control (112)	28%	43%	27%	3%
MASTERY 6				
What happens to me in the future mostly depends on me.				
Treatment (72)	54%	40%	3%	3%
Control (114)	58%	35%	5%	2%

● The 'mastery' domain is comprised of four statements using negative phrasing (# 1, 2, 3, and 5) and two statements using positive phrasing (# 4 and 6). Participants responded to all statements using a four-point agreement scale (STRONGLY AGREE, AGREE, DISAGREE, STRONGLY DISAGREE). To support consistent analysis and intuitive interpretation, **the agreement scale was replaced with a positivity scale.**

TECHNICAL NOTES

1. LAYC provided a follow-up survey data file with 194 cases (“PPM Phase II follow up survey”). Eight cases were removed for the following reasons:
 - 1 had the ID “9999” and responses that were obviously invalid (for example, 7 children born the same month and year);
 - 3 had no Case ID and were labeled “test survey”; and
 - 4 had no Case ID or other label.
2. Follow up survey data were submitted between 2016 and 2019.

70% of survey data was collected in 2017 and 2018.

Survey Submission Year	Treatment	Control
2016	15%	15%
2017	43%	46%
2018	22%	26%
2019	19%	12%

3. Out of the 186 study participants with 5-year follow-up survey data, 39% were in the treatment group and 61% were in the control group.
4. Employment data:
 - Current or most recent job dates were removed from 4 cases:
 - 2 cases had a job at the time of the survey (“1”), 2 did not (“0”). These yes/no job data were retained on the assumption that the presence or absence of a job was entered correctly.
 - Job dates were removed on the assumption that they were entered incorrectly.
 - In all 4 cases, jobs were listed as having started after their end date.
 - In 2 cases, the start date was the same as the submission date; in the other 2, the end date was the submission date.
 - If job start date and job end dates were reversed, the average job length was just over a month (34.25 days).