

# **Multisystemic Therapy for Emerging Adults: Recidivism Reduction for Those with Mental Illness**

**Ashli Sheidow, Maryann Davis  
Charles Lidz, Michael McCart**



# COLLABORATORS

**Maryann Davis, Ph.D., William Fisher, Ph.D., Charles Lidz, Ph.D.**  
*University of MA Medical School, Center for Mental Health Services Research, Department of Psychiatry*

**Ashli J. Sheidow , Ph.D., Michael McCart, Ph.D., Scott Henggeler, Ph.D.**  
*Medical University of SC, Family Services Research Center, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences*

**Sara Lourie, MSW & Anne McIntyre-Lahner, MS,** *Connecticut Department of Children and Families*

**Edward Mulvey, Ph.D.,** *Univeristy of Pittsburgh*  
**MaryEvans, Ph.D.,** *FMHI, University of South Florida*

**MST-TAY Team -** *North American Family Institute*

**Thanks to the emerging adult participants  
and their social network members**

*Funding for this research comes from the National Institute of Mental Health (R34 MH081374-01) and the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (H133B090018) to PI Davis*

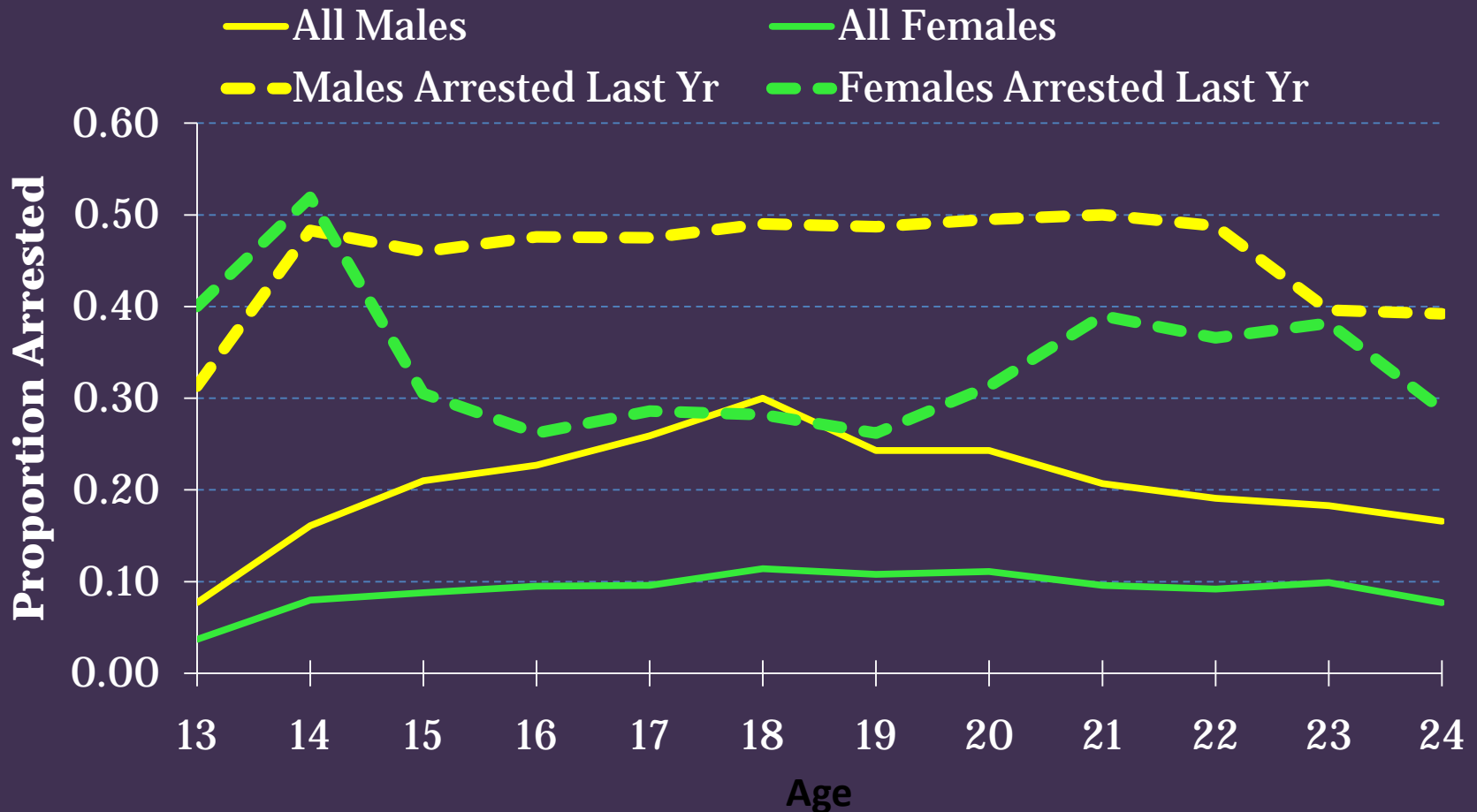


# Presentation Outline

- Background
- Treatment overview
- Pilot study
- Preliminary data
- Next steps



# Arrest Rate in Adolescent Public Mental Health System Users



# **CHILD SYSTEM**

# **ADULT SYSTEM**



**Birth** → → → → **18-21yrs** → → → → **Death**

# Multisystemic Therapy (MST)

- Target population
- Empirical support
- Key elements



# MST for Emerging Adults

- Adaptation of MST for use with justice-involved emerging adults who have serious mental health conditions
  - Treatment of antisocial behavior & serious mental health conditions
  - Social Network
  - Life Coach & Psychiatrist on MST Team
  - Mental Health, Substance Use, and Trauma Interventions
  - Housing & Independent Living
  - Career Goals
  - Relationship Skills
  - Parenting Curriculum



# Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

- 17-20 year olds with a diagnosed serious or chronic mental health condition
- Recent arrest or release from incarceration
- Living in stable community residence (i.e., not homeless)
- Having involvement from family members is neither an inclusion nor exclusion criteria
- Individuals who have children or are pregnant are not excluded





# Research Design

- Single Case Series – all participants in MST-EA
- Feasibility Study
  - Can we recruit and retain in intervention
  - Safety
  - Can we recruit and retain in research
  - Measures appropriate
- Finalize Manual



# Research Design cont'd

## Mediators:

Participants'  
demographic features

Significant history

Treatment fidelity

**MST-EA**

Intermediate Outcomes

Schooling

Housing

Working

Relationships

Ultimate Outcomes

Antisocial Behavior,

Mental Health

Substance Use



# Interview Schedule

## Baseline

- Demographics
- Significant Hx
- Antisocial Behavior
- Substance Use
- MH Symptoms
- School/Work
- Relationships

## Monthly

- School/Work
- Antisocial Behavior
- Substance Use
- Services/Residence
- Fidelity
- Therapeutic Alliance (client & therapist)

## 6&12Month

- Monthly Plus...
- MH Symptoms
- Relationships
- Urine Toxicology
- *School & Court records*

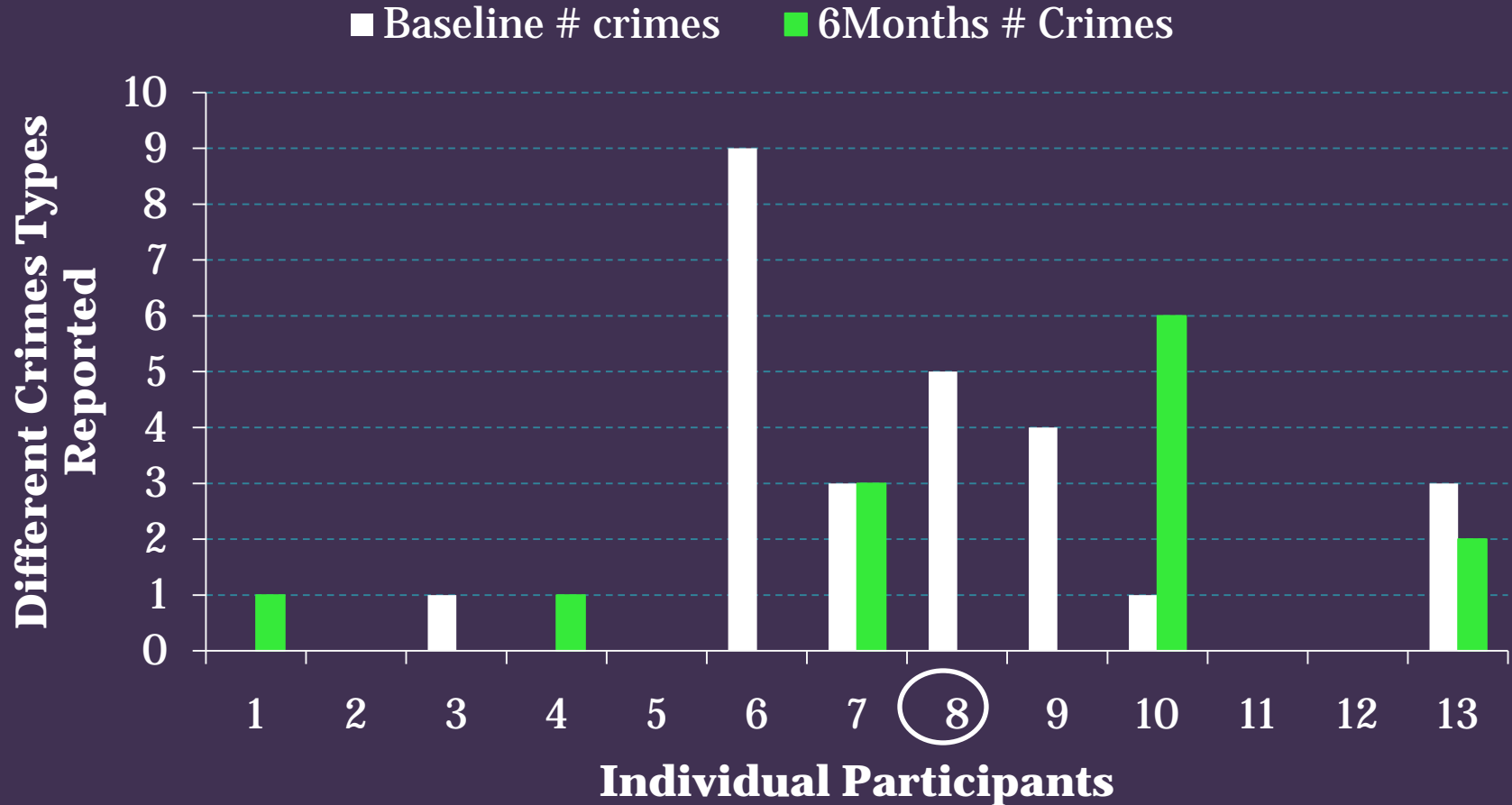


# MST-EA Baseline Demographic Sample Features (N=13)

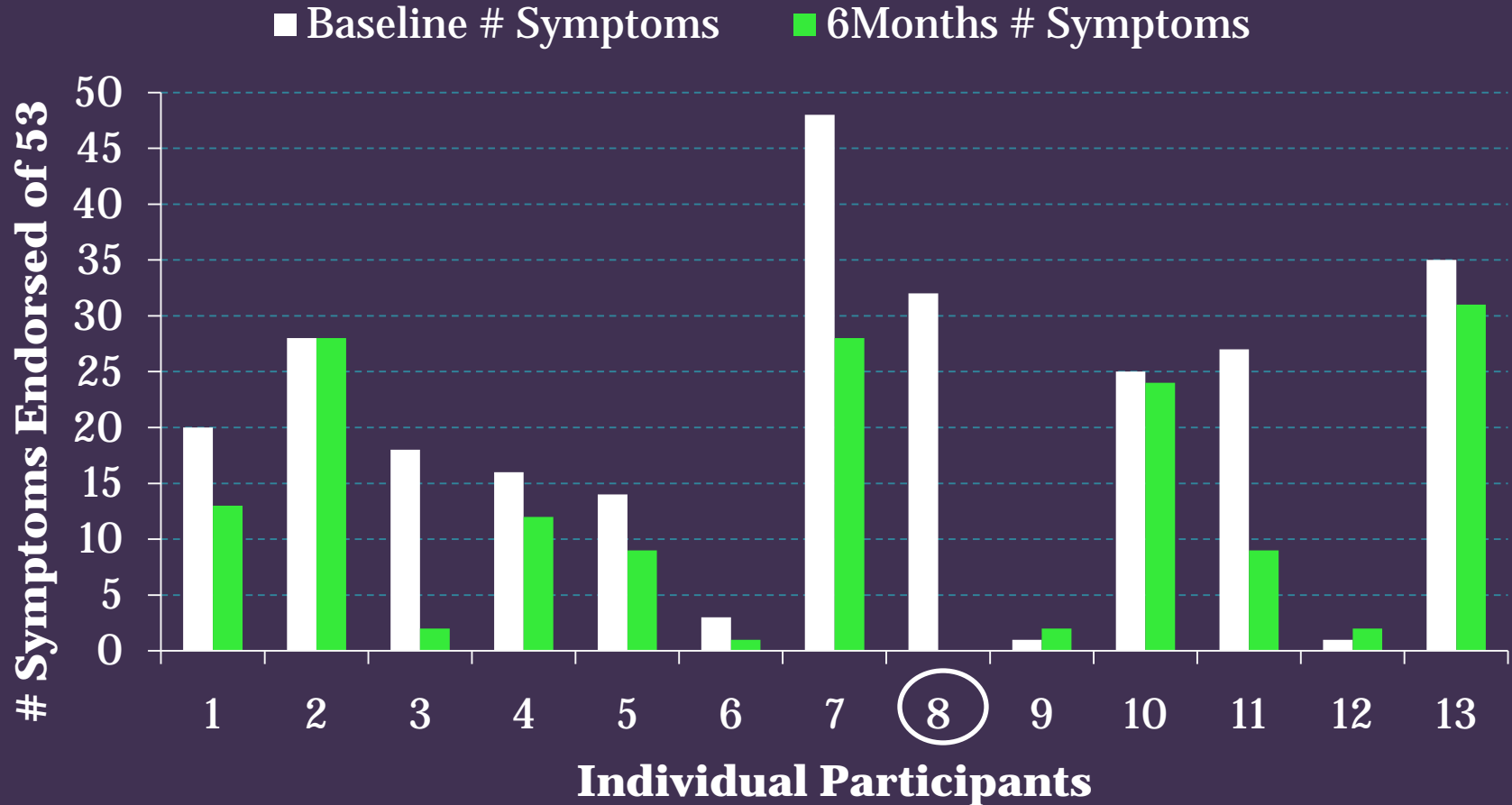
<i>Demographic Characteristic</i>	<i>Distribution</i>
<b>Gender</b>	54% Female
<b>Race</b>	46% African American, 54% White
<b>Ethnicity</b>	15% Hispanic
<b>Age (range 17-18yrs)</b>	54% 17 year olds
<b>Highest Education Level Achieved</b>	38% 11 <sup>th</sup> grade, 38% 10 <sup>th</sup> grade, 15% <10 <sup>th</sup> grade, 8% GED
<b>“Usual” place to live in past 12 months</b>	85% Family’s home, 8% Foster Care , 8% Treatment facility
<b>History of paid employment</b>	62% Yes



# Baseline vs 6 Month Crime Variety in Past 30 Days (YSRDS)



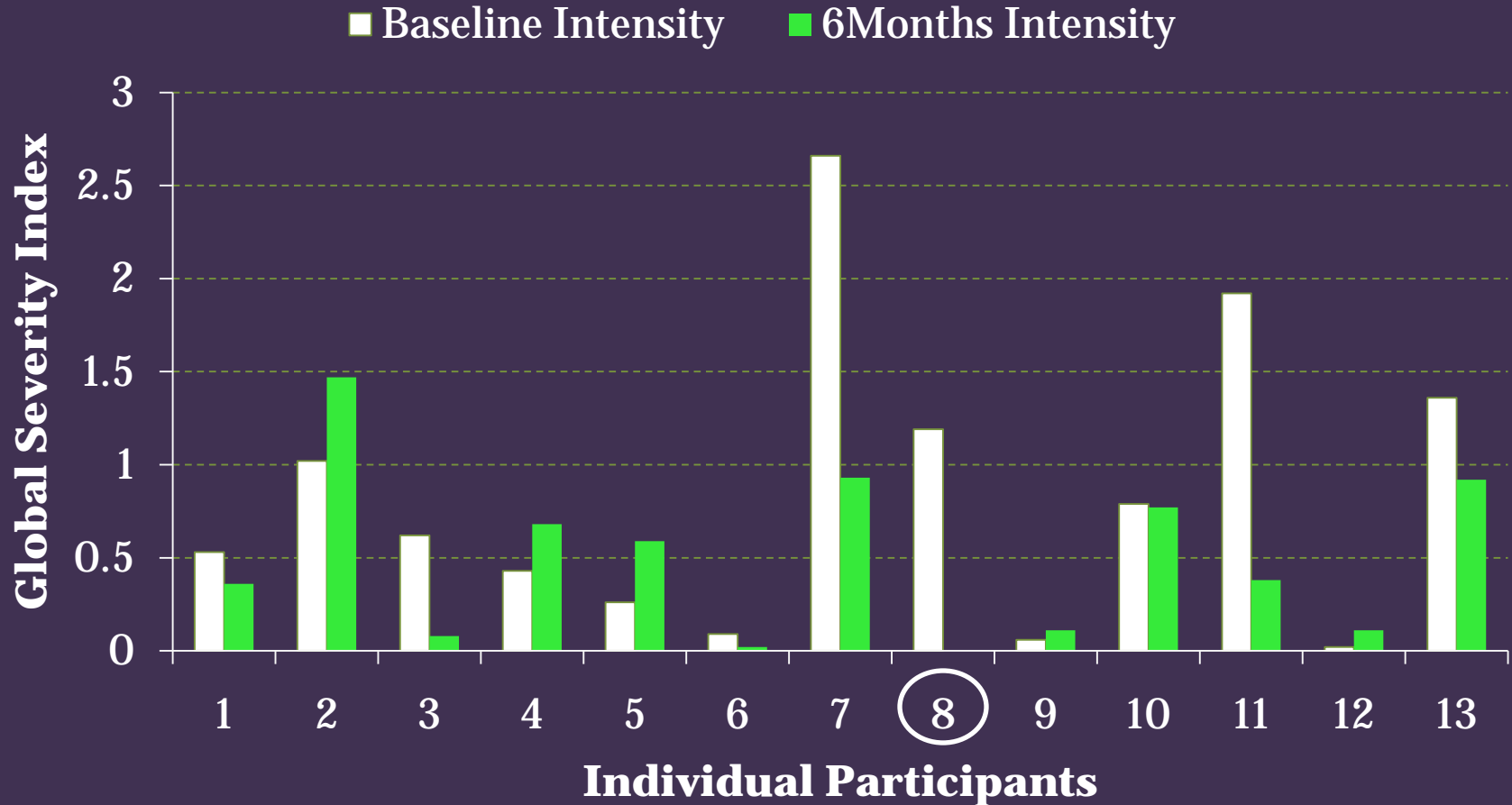
# Baseline vs 6 Month Symptoms (BSI)



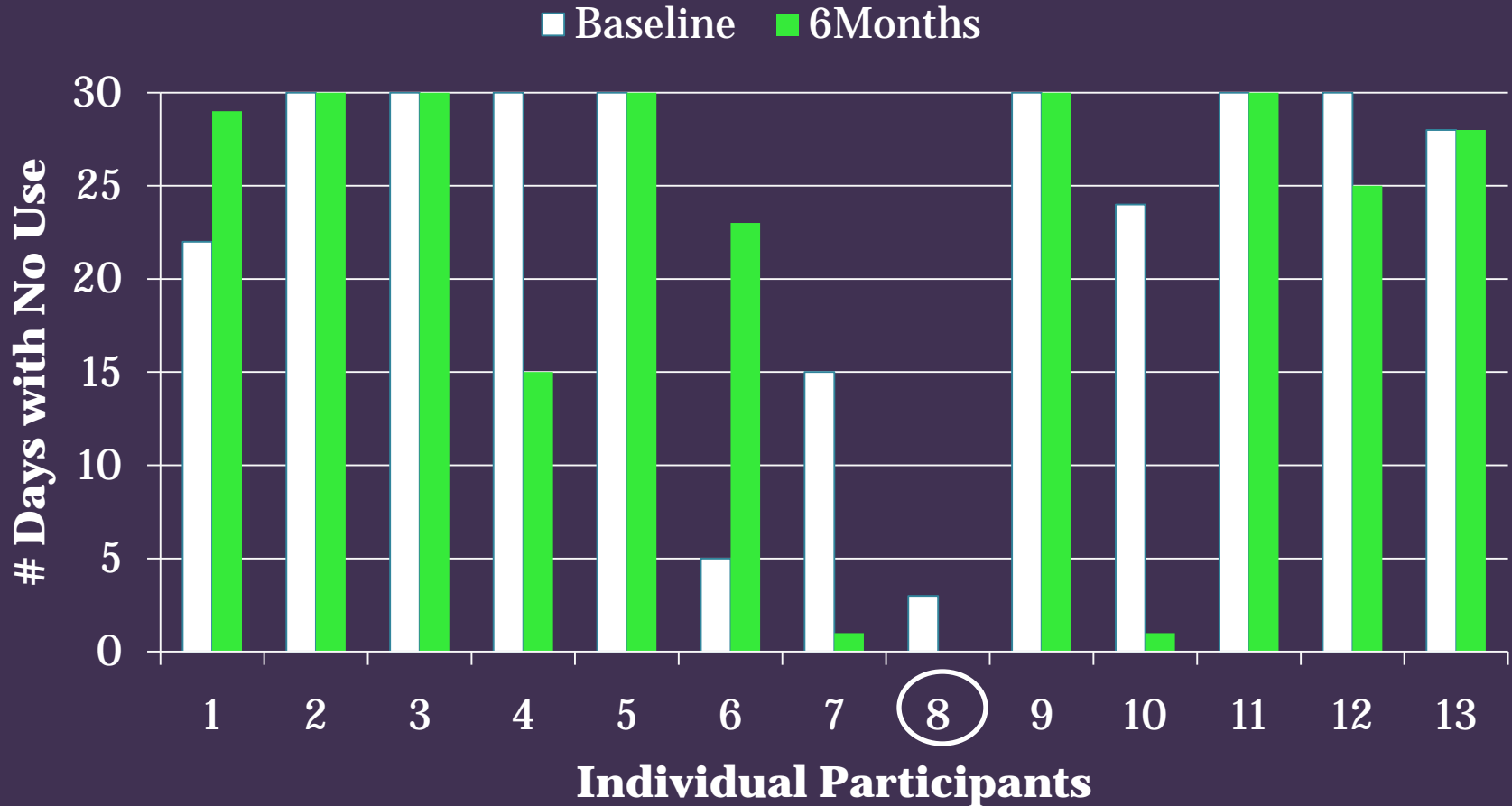
9 w/fewer # symptoms, 2 w/small increase,  
1 w/no change



# Baseline vs 6 Month Symptoms (BSI)



# Baseline vs 6 Month Days Without Alcohol or Marijuana (GAIN)



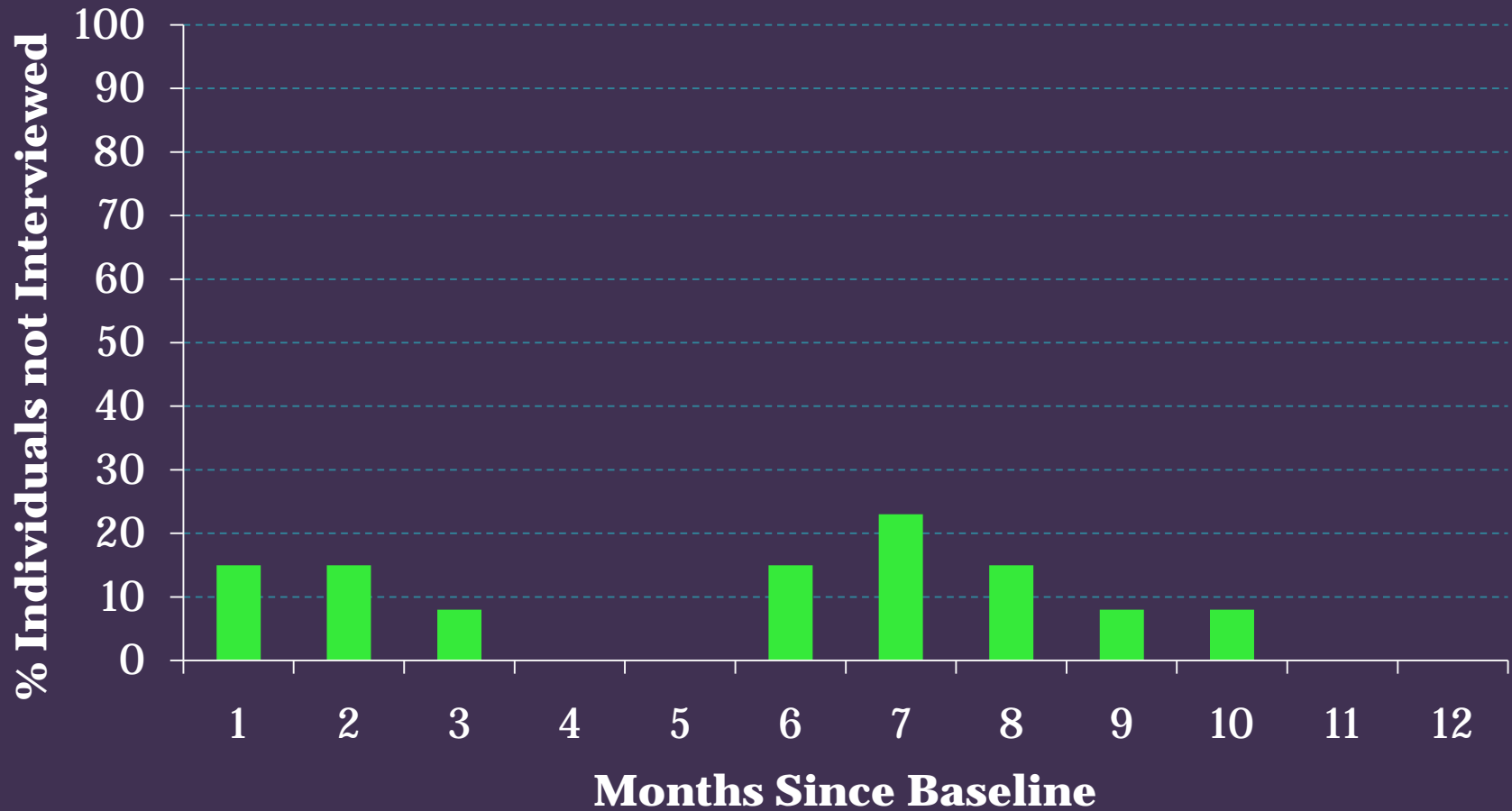


# Challenges

- **Experiment in Real Community Service**
  - Sits between Child/Adult/MH/Justice
  - Budget crisis
  - Justice system unfamiliar with MH
- **Therapist turnover**
  - Costly to train, reduces capacity
- **Tough to follow longitudinally**
  - Disposable cell phones, mobile group, disconnected socially
  - Relationship to interviewer critical
  - Measures boring/irrelevant/adult



# % Missing Interviews



# Additional Collaborators

Thanks to our Research Team:

Kim Smith

Stephanie Ueberall

Richard Rondeau

Sandra Brown

