Social Work Research Center

Research for Results

Predicting Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement among Children and Youth in Colorado

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School of Social Work

Study Goals

- Examine the prevalence of reentry into out-of-home placement among children and youth involved with child welfare in Colorado
- Examine factors affecting reentry into out-of-home placement for children and youth involved with child welfare in Colorado

Primary Finding #1

- Case characteristics better explain reentry into out-of-home placement over and above demographic characteristics

Primary Finding #2

- Greater number of placement settings and prior referrals *increase* risk of reentry and longer duration of prior out-of-home placement *decreases* risk of reentry among both PA4 and PA5 children and youth

Who is in this study?

Children and youth who reunified with family and could have reentered into out-of-home placement

Years 2010-2015

2,353 PA4 youth

14,461 PA5 children

Federal Removal Definitions Impact the Prevalence of Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement

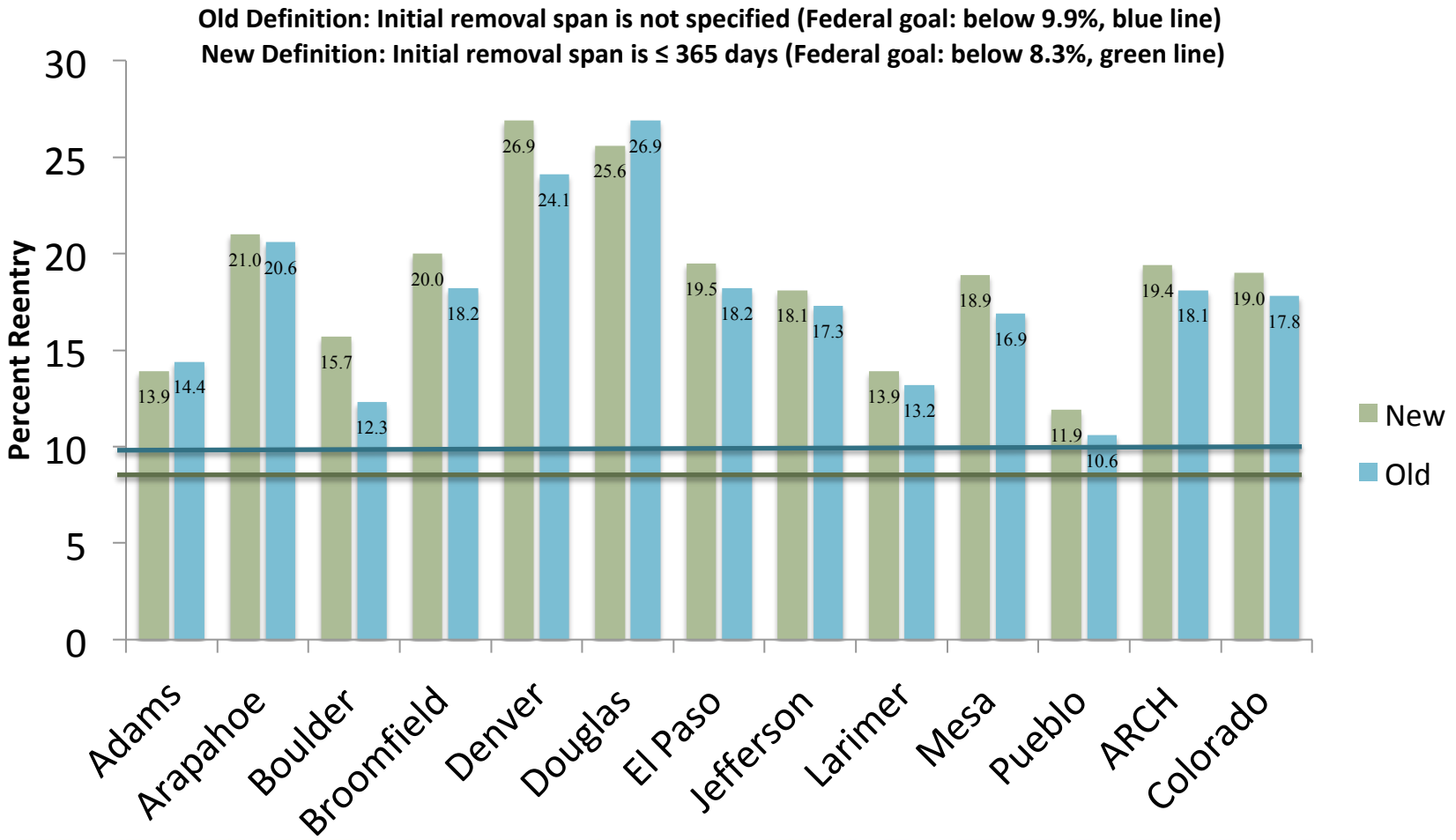
Old Federal Definition

- Initial removal span is not specified

New Federal Definition

- Initial removal span is ≤ 365 days

Example of PA4 & PA5 Reentry into Out-Of-Home Placement by Old and New Removal Definitions (Years 2014-2015)



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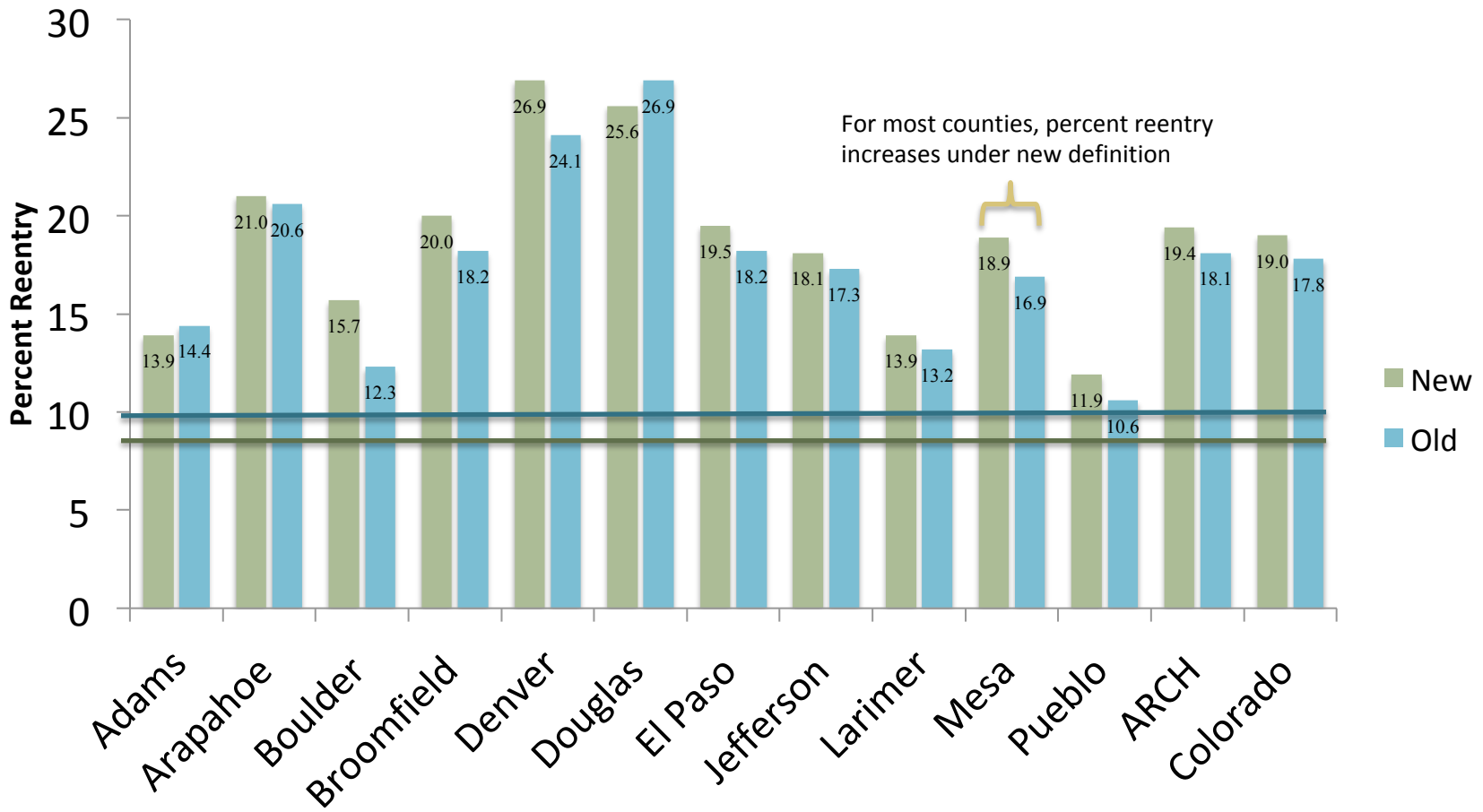


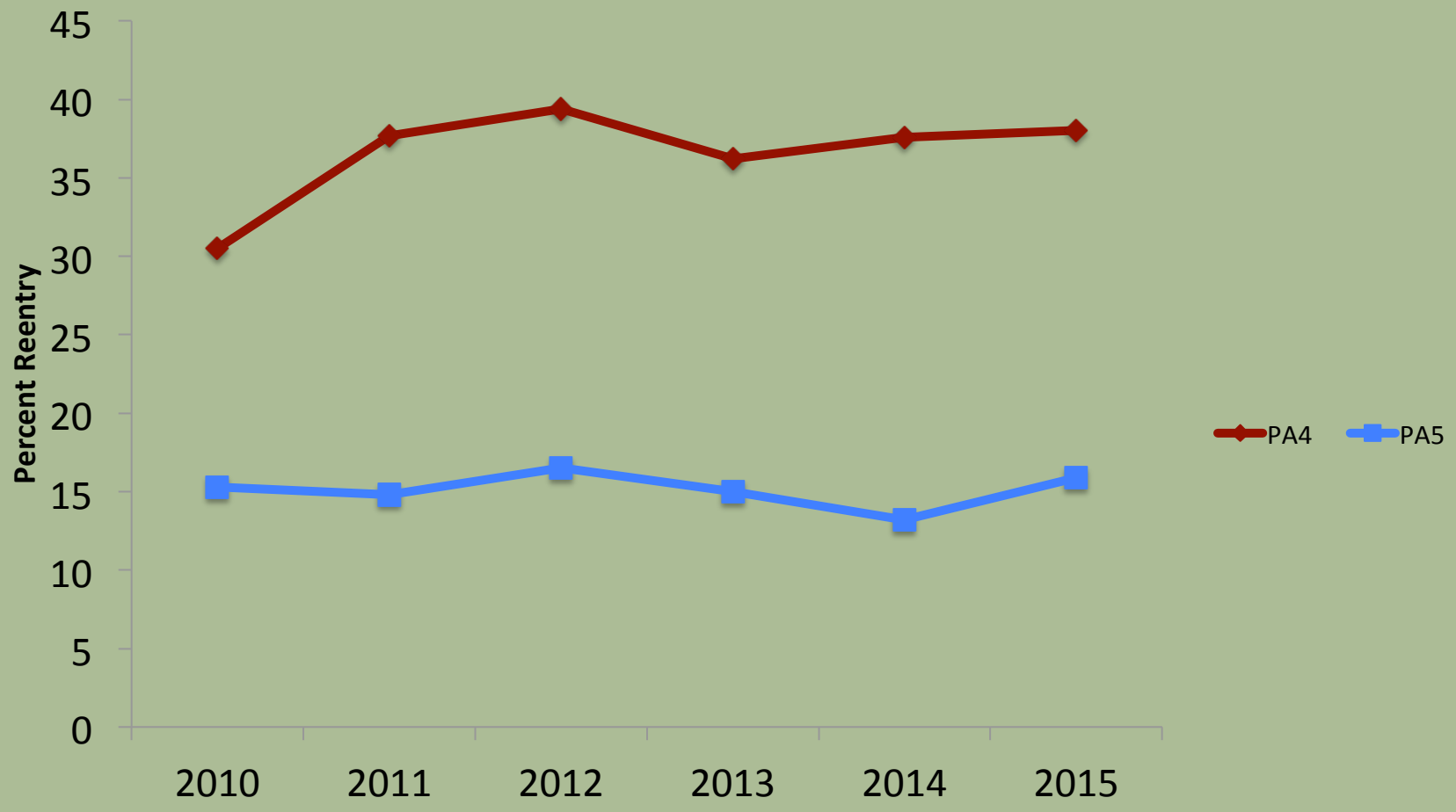
Prevalence of Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement in Colorado

(Using Old Federal Removal Definition)

Percent Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement by Program Area (Combined Years 2010-2015)

Program Area	*n* (%)
PA4	826 (35.1)
PA5	2119 (14.7)

Reentry by Year Exited Care: All Colorado Counties



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Factors Associated with Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement by Program Area

Note. Duplicate cases deleted for analyses

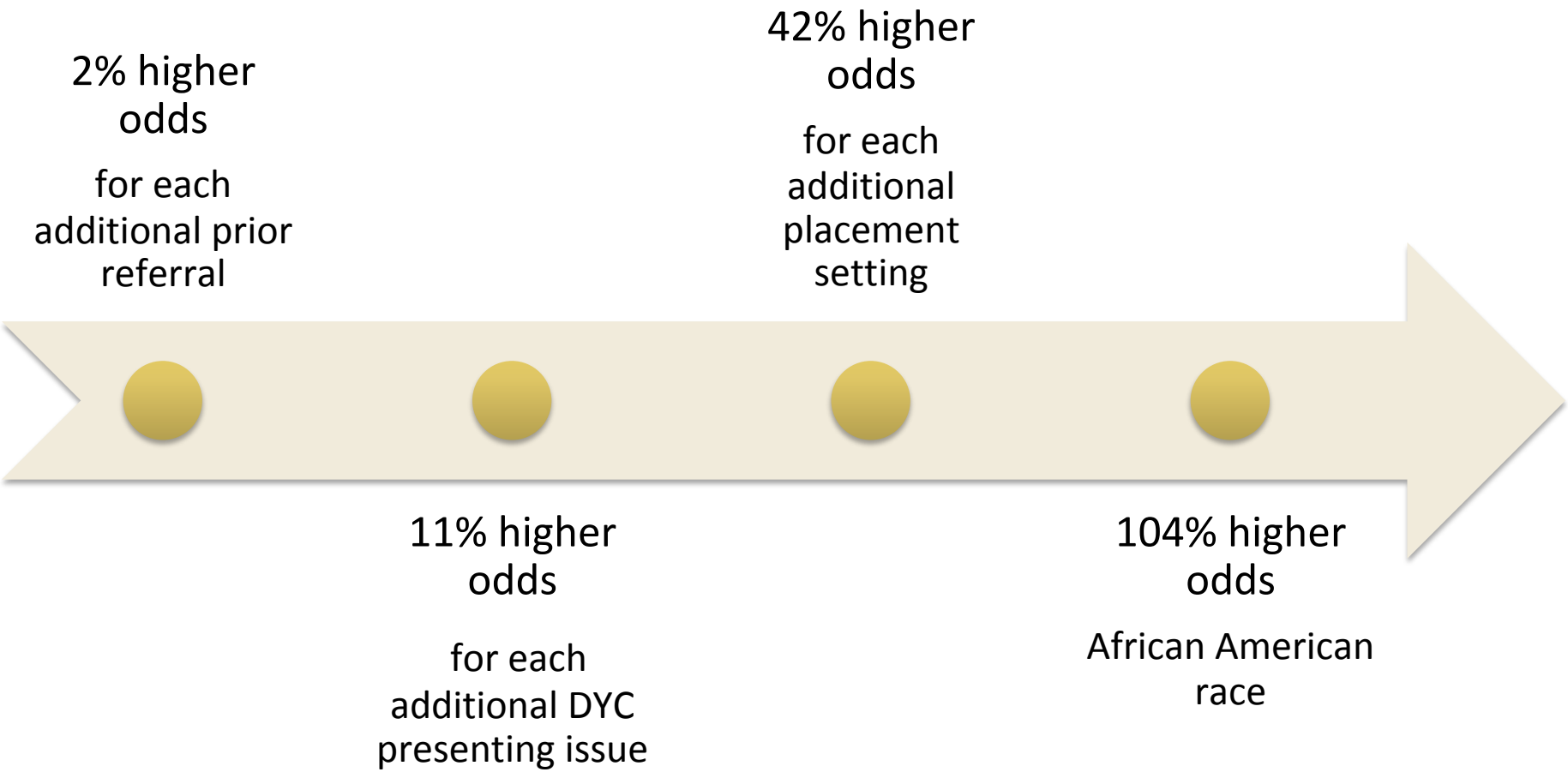
Factors Predicting Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement for PA4

- Demographic characteristics
  - Age
  - African American race
- Case characteristics
  - Number of placement settings
  - Number of prior referrals
  - Duration of prior out-of-home placement
  - PA4 youth corrections presenting issues and department of youth corrections (DYC) involvement

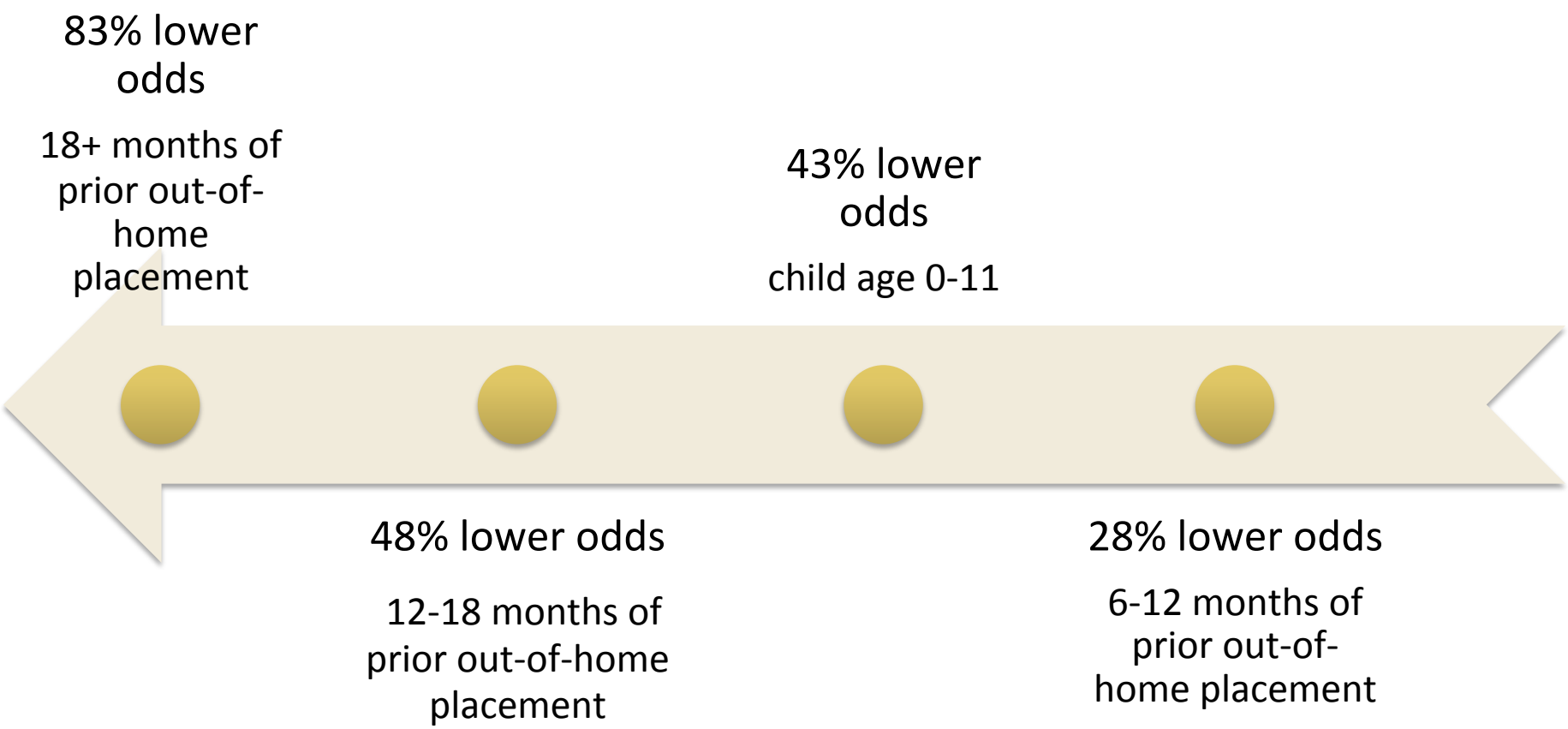
Demographics and Case Characteristics Associated with Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement for PA4

Correlates	*B*(*SE*)	*OR*	*CI*
Step 1: Demographics			
Child Age 0-11 (Child Age 15-17)	-.56 (.26)	.57*	.34-.96
Child Age 12-14 (Child Age 15-17)	-.12 (.13)	.89	.70-1.13
Gender	-.15 (.10)	.86	.70-1.04
Race/Ethnicity Black (White)	.71 (.15)	2.04***	1.53-2.73
Race/Ethnicity Latino (White)	.19 (.11)	1.21	.99-1.49
Race/Ethnicity Two or More (White)	-.03 (.27)	.97	.58-1.65
Race/Ethnicity Other (White)	.64 (.46)	1.89	.77-4.64
IVE Eligible	-.13 (.11)	.88	.71-1.08
Step 2: CPS History/ Case Characteristics			
Number of Placement Settings	.35 (.04)	1.42***	1.32-1.52
Number of Prior Referrals	.02 (.01)	1.02*	1.00-1.04
Last Placement Type: Foster Care (Relative)	-.18 (.20)	.83	.57-1.23
Last Placement Type: Group (Relative)	-.05 (.21)	.96	.64-1.43
Last Placement Type: Residential (Relative)	.16 (.17)	1.18	.84-1.65
Last Placement Type: Other (Relative)	.25 (.27)	1.29	.75-2.22
Removal Days 6-12 Months (0-6 Months)	-.33 (.12)	.72**	.58-.91
Removal Days 12-18 Months (0-6 Months)	-.65 (.19)	.52**	.36-.77
Removal Days 18+ Months (0-6 Months)	-1.75 (.26)	.17***	.10-.29
County at Exit	-.01 (.01)	.99	.96-1.02
Prior DYC Detention	-.06 (.23)	.95	.61-1.48
Prior DYC SB94	.15 (.20)	1.16	.78-1.72
Removal Reason: Parent Substance Use	-.15 (.20)	.86	.58-1.28
Removal Reason: Neglect	-.33 (.21)	.72	.48-1.08
Removal Reason: Child Problems	.03 (.18)	1.04	.73-1.47
Removal Reason: Sexual Abuse	-.26 (.26)	.77	.46-1.30
Sum of Issues and DYC Involvement	.10 (.04)	1.11**	1.04-1.19
Constant	-1.51 (.27)	.22***	
Total R^2	.15		
n	2,350		

Reentry Compared to No Reentry for PA4 Youth



Reentry Compared to No Reentry for PA4 Youth



Factors Predicting Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement for PA5

- Demographic characteristics
  - Age
  - Bi- or multi-race
  - IV-E eligible
- Case characteristics
  - Number of placement settings
  - Number of prior referrals
  - Last placement type of foster care, residential, or other (e.g., emergency removal, runaway, hospital care)
  - Duration of prior out-of-home placement
  - Removal due to child problems, physical abuse, or parental incarceration
  - Abuse and neglect risk levels
  - Caregiver risk characteristics

Demographics and Case Characteristics Associated with Reentry into Out-of-Home Placement for PA5

Correlates	*B*(*SE*)	*OR*	*CI*
Step 1: Demographics			
Child Age 0-4 (Child Age 12-17)	.29 (.08)	1.33***	1.15-1.55
Child Age 5-11 (Child Age 12-17)	-.04 (.07)	.96	.83-1.11
Gender	.06 (.05)	1.06	.96-1.18
Race/Ethnicity Black (White)	.08 (.10)	1.09	.90-1.31
Race/Ethnicity Latino (White)	-.03 (.06)	.97	.86-1.09
Race/Ethnicity Two or More (White)	.32 (.12)	1.37**	1.09-1.72
Race/Ethnicity Other (White)	.35 (.20)	1.42	.96-2.10
IVE Eligible	.17 (.06)	1.18**	1.06-1.32
Step 2: CPS History/ Case Characteristics			
Number of Prior Removals	-.10 (.07)	.91	.79-1.04
Number of Placement Settings	.63 (.03)	1.88***	1.79-1.98
Number of Prior Referrals	.03 (.01)	1.03***	1.02-1.05
Last Placement Type: Foster Care (Relative)	.30 (.06)	1.35***	1.21-1.51
Last Placement Type: Group (Relative)	.35 (.21)	1.41	.93-2.14
Last Placement Type: Residential (Relative)	.62 (.14)	1.85***	1.40-2.45
Last Placement Type: Other (Relative)	.88 (.21)	2.43***	1.61-3.66
Removal Days 6-12 Months (0-6 Months)	-.68 (.07)	.51***	.44-.58
Removal Days 12-18 Months (0-6 Months)	-1.14 (.11)	.32***	.26-.39
Removal Days 18+ Months (0-6 Months)	-1.96 (.15)	.14***	.11-.19
County at Exit	-.02 (.01)	.98**	.96-.99
Removal Reason: Neglect	-.08 (.06)	.92	.83-1.03
Removal Reason: Child Problems	.39 (.11)	1.48**	1.19-1.84
Removal Reason: Parent Coping	-.05 (.07)	.95	.83-1.10
Removal Reason: Physical Abuse	-.36 (.09)	.70***	.59-.83
Removal Reason: Parent Incarceration	-.26 (.08)	.77**	.66-.90
Abuse Risk Level	.12 (.05)	1.13*	1.02-1.24
Neglect Risk Level	.19 (.07)	1.21**	1.05-1.38
Risk Subscale: Caregiver Perceptions	-.17 (.03)	.85***	.80-.90
Risk Subscale: Caregiver Risk Characteristics	.06 (.03)	1.06*	1.00-1.12
Risk Subscale: Child Risk Characteristics	.07 (.04)	1.08	.99-1.17
Constant	-3.52 (.18)	.03***	
Total R^2	.15		
n	13,034		

Reentry Compared to No Reentry for PA5 Children

3-20%
higher odds

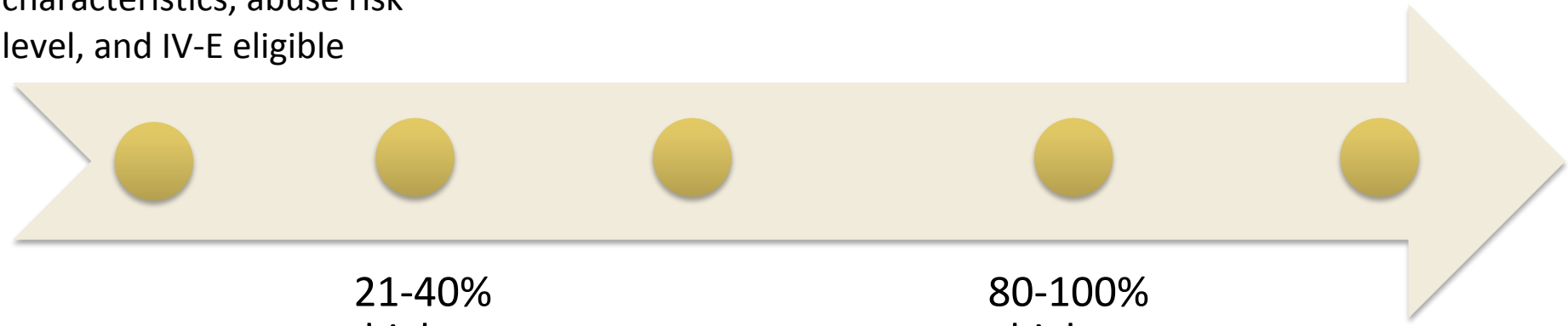
for each additional prior referral, caregiver risk characteristics, abuse risk level, and IV-E eligible

48% higher
odds

removal due to child problems

143% higher
odds

other placement



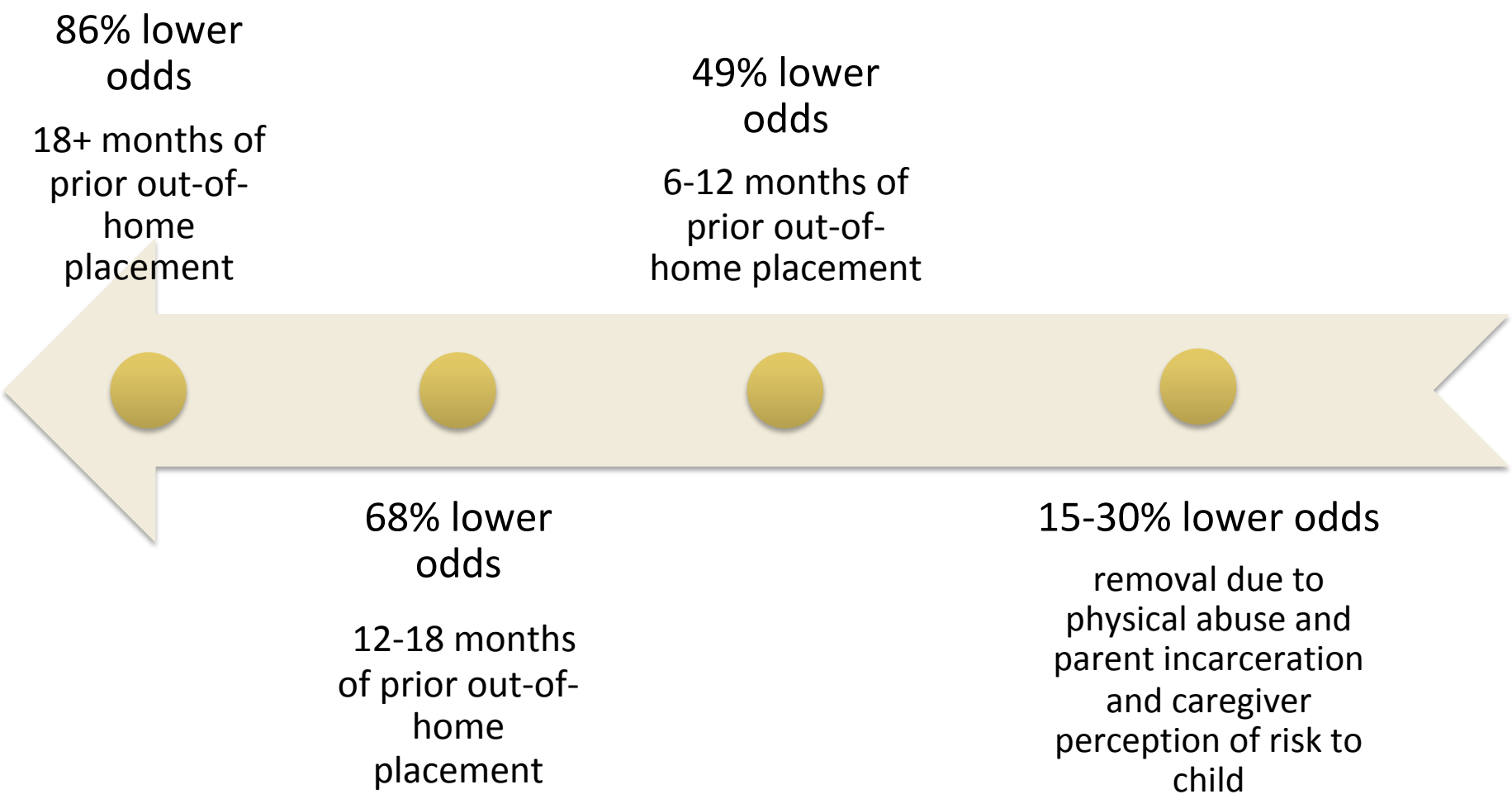
21-40%
higher
odds

neglect risk level,
child age 0-4, foster care placement, and bi- or multi-race

80-100%
higher
odds

residential placement and
for each additional placement setting

Reentry Compared to No Reentry for PA5 Children



Study Implications

- Improve age-appropriate and culturally-sensitive services for children and youth
- Reduce the number of placement settings children and youth experience and place children and youth with relatives when possible
- Given that duration of child welfare involvement may be protective, continue efforts to improve family-based services and ensure family needs are met prior to reunification
- Consider abuse and neglect risk levels in decision-making processes

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- ARCH Workgroup Members

Contact Information

- Social Work Research Center and ARCH

http://www.ssw.chhs.colostate.edu/research/swrc/arch.aspx

- Citation (coming soon)