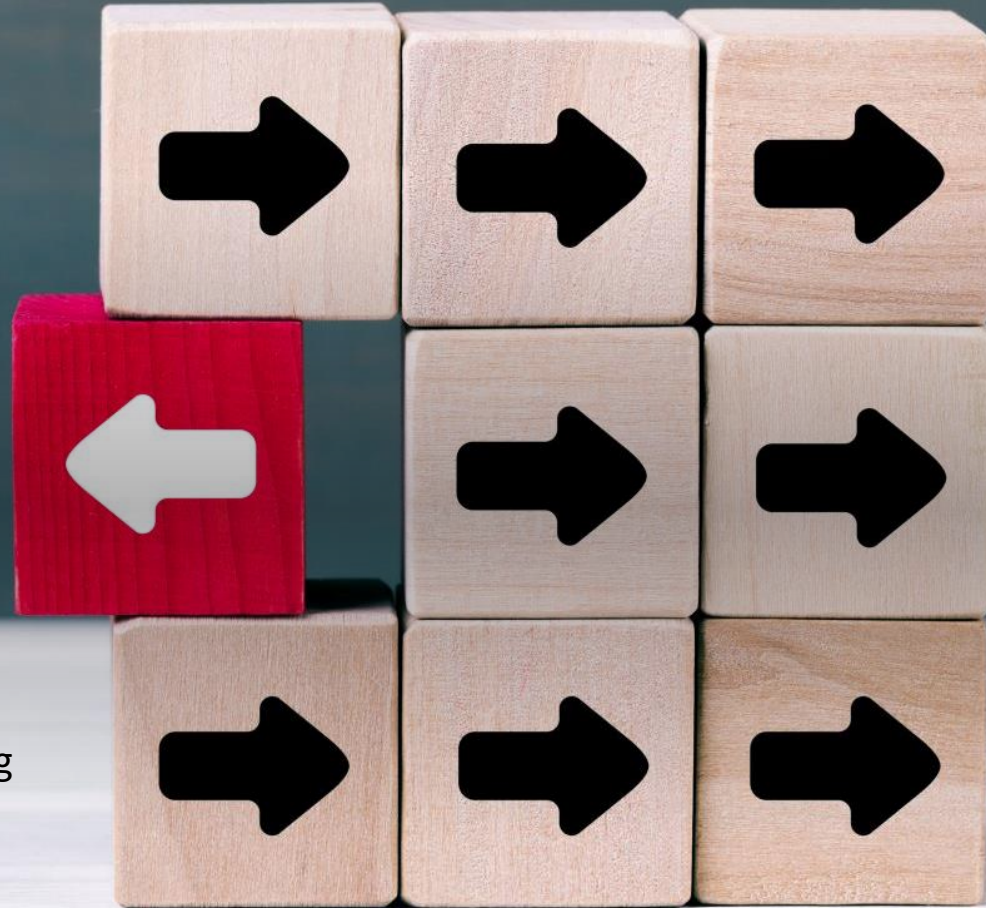




Working towards Change: Intervention for crime prevention and reduction

Mary Ann Campbell, Olivia Reilly, Narissa Rodgerson, Marie-Andrée Pelland, & Jessie Doyle

CHANGING DIRECTIONS: INTERVENING WITH PERSISTENT OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR



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Program Target – Reduce Persistent Offending

In 2022, there were 235 persistent offending eligible cases in NB

“Persistent offending” - per person:

- avg of 44 prior court files
- 8-9 remands
- 91 court appearances
- 33 charges
- 23 custody periods

Program Planning (2010-2017)

- **Program model:** based on a review of the literature (Campbell, Ballucci & Pelland, 2013) to identify best practices for intervention programs targeting chronic repeat (i.e., persistent) offenders.
- **Funding:** Public Safety Canada
- **Project Coordination:** NB Department of Justice & Public Safety
 - supported by other government and community service partners
- **Sites:**
 - Moncton and Miramichi - Year 1 to 4
 - Saint John Region - Year 3 to 4

Figure 1: Five Foundational Principles for Changing Directions



Changing Directions Program: Eligibility

REFERRAL

- **Referral Sources:**
 - police, probation, provincial custody, parole (in situations in which parole is coming to an end), or through self-referral
- Participation was voluntary

SCREENING

- **LS/CMI** (Level of Service/Case Management Inventory)
- **PICTS** (Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles)
- **DSM-5-CC** (DSM-5 Self-Rated Level 1 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measure)
- **DUDIT** (Drug Use Disorders Identification Test)
- **AUDIT** (Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test)
- **URICA** (University of Rhode Island Change Assessment Scale)

ADMISSION

- **Met definition of persistent offending pattern:**
 - minimum of 6 court cases in **past 24 months** (demonstrates currently criminally active)
 - **minimum of 10 court cases in the past 10 years** (demonstrates a persistent history of criminal offending;
- Change in Year 3 for referrals **≤ 25 years old** (as of April 2020):
 - no longer needed to meet minimum of 10 court cases in the past 10 years criteria
 - must still have ≥ 6 court cases in past 24 months and history of persistent youth offending (officially or unofficially)

Case Plan Implementation and Monitoring

Case Management Teams

Year 1-2 : each month
Year 3-4 (pandemic) met on as-needed basis and in consideration of the participants preference.
Services made available through CMT

Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR)-based intervention options as outlined in their individual case plan

Dosage base on client's reoffending risk-need level

CD case manager and client meet weekly to review progress and revise the case plan as needed.

Direct intervention on procriminal thinking patterns and use of *Courage to Change journals*

Address non-criminogenic needs that destabilize client and/or interfere with engagement in criminogenic focused interventions (e.g., mental health counselling, access to stable housing, access to income assistance)

Discharge: CD clients were high risk to re-offend; thus, relapse expected.

Success not defined as complete elimination of criminal behaviour. Rather harm reduction goals were applied.

CMT had discretion to discharge clients who commit a serious offence likely to get federal time or who were non-compliant.

Variety of Data Collected for CD Evaluation (2018-2022)

Quantitative data

90 de-identified records retained on all CD referrals and admissions;

79 identifiable client case records for consenting CD clients

Qualitative data Program implementation

Meeting minutes and observations compile by evaluators from Case Manager team meetings, Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting and Evaluation Subcommittee meetings.

12 interviews with CD staff

3 interviews with service providers representative;

Comprehensive data client experience

79 case file reviews

11 interviews with 6 CD clients;



EVALUATION FINDINGS

CD Client Profile: At Admission

- Most referrals identified as cis-men (74%)
 - 25% identifying as cis-women
- Most referrals from probation services (75%) or provincial correctional institutions (24.5%)
- Clients were high risk to reoffend (LS/CMI)
 - High criminogenic need profiles
 - Mix of violent and non-violent offence histories; Most had history of violating conditions (97.8%)
 - 31% hazardous alcohol use
 - 96% hazardous drug use
- 68.7% Contemplation stage of change



Interventions

- Average of 2-3 different forms of planned intervention per client (Y1-4), **most types included:**
 - Mental health counseling (52.3%)
 - *Courage to Change* interactive journalling workbooks (50%)
 - Substance use intervention referrals (49%)
 - Educational upgrading (29%)
 - Employment services (14%) (better need-match in year 4)





Discharge

- **Duration in Program (intended = 24 months)**
 - average 12.51 months, range: 2 months to 36 months
 - **Only 25% discharged for “successful” program completion**, though most discharged at 14-15 months of the 24-month program
- **Pre-mature discharge reasons:**
 - Unsuccessful in the program (**majority**)
 - Voluntary withdraw - could not commit to program or due to sentence ending
 - Sentenced to federal custody
 - Moved out of program region
 - Death

Change Indicators – Quantitative Measures

Criminogenic Needs	Intake to 6 months	Intake to 12 months*
<i>Recidivism Risk Total Score (LS/CMI)</i>	No change (avg of 27 at intake and 26 at 6 months)	No improvement
<i>Readiness to change (URICA and file coding variable)</i>	Contemplation – no change Moderate engagement	No change Moderate engagement, but 41% rated as showing some improvement in motivation at time of discharge
<i>Education and Employment needs (LS/CMI)</i>	No change	No improvement
<i>Substance use needs (DUDIT, AUDIT, LS/CMI, CM discharge ratings)</i>	No change – alcohol use Improvement - drug use ($p < .036$), but remains in hazardous use/use disorder level	Below hazardous alcohol use levels Remains above hazardous drug use/use disorder levels LS/CMI Need level unchanged – though staff ratings at discharge noted improvements in 54% of cases

*Limited quantitative data for follow-up, especially at 12 months or beyond (e.g., no self-report data @18 months and only 2 cases with such data @24 months) – [precluding statistical analyses for some comparisons]

Change Indicators – Quantitative Measures

Criminogenic Needs	Intake to 6 months	Intake to 12 months*
<i>Leisure/Recreation needs (LS/CMI, staff discharge progress ratings)</i>	No change	No change
Antisocial Personality Features <i>(LS/CMI, staff discharge progress ratings)</i>	No change	Slight potential improvement on LS/CMI Discharge: impulsivity improved in 57% of cases, 59% on hostility/irritability, and 67% on risk-taking
Antisocial Peer Associations <i>(LS/CMI, staff discharge progress ratings)</i>	No change	Worsening on LS/CMI; 32% rated as improved at discharge – most unchanged
Procriminal Attitudes <i>(LS/CMI, PICTS, staff discharge progress ratings)</i>	No change on most PICTS dimensions, except mollification (external blaming) improved	Reduction in PICTS reactive criminal thinking, but increase in proactive criminal thinking Discharge ratings: 65% improved in procriminal thinking ; 26% in empathy
Family/Intimate Partner Relationships <i>(LS/CMI, staff discharge progress ratings)</i>	No change	No change Discharge: 53% no change, but 37% improving

*Limited quantitative data for follow-up, especially at 12 months or beyond (e.g., no self-report data @18 months and only 2 cases with such data @24 months) – [precluding statistical analyses for some comparisons]

Change Indicators – Quantitative Measures

Non-Criminogenic Needs	Intake to 6 months	Intake to 12 months*
<i>Housing Stability (staff discharge progress ratings)</i>	No measure – but interview data speaks to housing issues as barrier	54% improved vs 24% no change
<i>Mental Health Concerns (GAIN-SS for Y1&2/DSM-5 CC for Y3&4; staff discharge progress ratings)</i>	Percentage of cases flagged for mental health concerns remains high (18% to 100% depending on domain) – esp. substance use, personality functioning, depression, anger, and anxiety).	Fluctuates across MH domains - improvement noted in most self-reported areas, but flags persist for 17% - 83% of cases. Discharge: mixed view of MH - 43% no change vs 43% improved in overall MH; and 51% no change in emotional reactivity vs 45% improved
<i>Financial Situation (staff discharge progress ratings)</i>	--	60% no change vs 40% improved

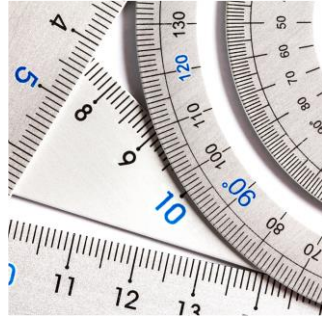
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New charges were most often non-violent, usually breaches of conditions in first 6 months

CD Post-Admission <u>New Charges</u> (from probation records)	6-month follow-up <i>n</i> = 19 (%)	12-month follow-up <i>n</i> = 2	18-month follow-up <i>n</i> = 1
Breach of conditions/orders	7 (36.8%)	2	0
Theft	2 (10.5%)	1	0
Motor vehicle Act offences	2 (10.5%)	0	0
Drug possession	1 (5.3%)	1	1
Mischief	1 (5.3%)	1	0
Weapons offence	1 (5.3%)	0	1
Assault	0	0	1
Escape/being at large	1 (5.3%)	1	1
Fleeing police officer	1 (5.3%)	0	0
Break and enter	0	1	0
Criminal harassment	0	0	1
Uttering threats	0	0	0
Drug trafficking	0	0	0
Fraud	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Murder/manslaughter	0	0	0
Prostitution-related	0	0	0
Sexual offence	0	0	0

Matched Sample Comparisons

(official NB Justice & Public Safety records)



Comparison group

matched sample of CD eligible provincial correctional clients

matched on LS/CMI risk level, total # of prior charges, total # of prior court files, age, gender, and ethnicity to CD clients, & probability of being admitted to CD (estimated by probit regression).



CD group

In CD for at least 6 months

42 CD clients matched to 42 supervision-as-usual clients to compare recidivism indices

Reconviction Rates

Average follow-up period = 518 days (range: 63 days to 1419 days)

- CD follow-up started from date of referral to first new conviction or end of follow-up
- Matched controls followed from April 2018 to first conviction or end of follow-up
- No significant difference in length of follow-up for CD and controls.

Reconviction Rates:

- **CD clients = 21.4% vs Matched Controls = 81%**
- **Lower # of criminal justice contacts for CD** (avg 1.33) relative to controls (avg. 3.41)
- No difference in severity of offence, with most being for NV offences for both groups – most often a breach (11% CD vs 32% controls)
- No CD/control group difference in time to reconviction for those who did re-offend



The Process of Change

Analysis of Qualitative data



From Engagement to Action

Stage 1 – Awareness and ambiguous views towards change



Stage 2 – Decision for change: Entrenchment and discontent



Stage 3 – Preparation for change: Early steps into change



Stage 4 – Engaging in the Process: Accepting challenges



Staff Offered Assisted Desistance

- Creation of a positive relationship with case managers was described by most staff as an important step toward client change – a necessary component to optimize the chances of client "success" with change
- Case managers interviews also indicated that it sometimes took a couple of months to establish that trust, a bond, and a working relationship to the point where clients could freely talk about their unmet needs, express self-knowledge, and develop a meaningful life project/goal.

Limits of Evaluation Data Collection



Low response rate for voluntary evaluation participation – minimized by offering incentives to assist with the evaluation, such as gift cards for each data collection period participated in.



Literacy issues for completion of self-report measures – addressed by offering to read consent forms and questionnaires to participants and allowing verbal responses or self-marking of response choices.



Errors in data collection – as the team got used to data collection process, errors were identified and corrected via bimonthly meetings. Data analysis were triangulated to ensure adequate inter-rater reliability (two evaluators analyzed the same data and verified results to ensure coding).



Challenges with field adherence to the RNR model – addressed by offering refresher training and by tracking adherence for each participant. Adherence issues were also addressed during bimonthly meetings.



Staff turnover with the CD team – most informative data collection came from professionals who were with CD from the beginning, especially as the time frame for the evaluation advanced. Inconsistent staffing and agency representation created gaps in the data. Evaluators had little control or influence over system and human resources factors that contributed to staff turnover.



High rate of CD clients withdrew - significantly limited available data for tracking change, which is a necessary component of the outcome evaluation – especially for quantitative analyses. Evaluators had little control or influence over factors contributing to participant withdrawal or expulsion; so, relied more heavily on qualitative data from remaining participants and professionals to gauge outcome information.



Conclusion

- **Evaluation results demonstrate that CD is targeting a persistent offending client group as intended:**
 - a high-risk population for reoffending with diverse criminogenic and non-criminogenic needs.
- **Official records indicate that CD has reduced the rate of reconviction, and the # of justice system recontacts for new convictions relative to non-CD controls**
 - whether this effect was due to an actual reduction in criminal behaviour or the Crown prosecutor's office electing to respond differently to CD enrolled clients remains unknown.
- **CD was successful as an engagement strategy for supporting persistent offending individuals in the process of change by:**
 - educating probation officers about how to better intervene and work with this population; and, as demonstrated successfully in Year 4, by establishing processes for facilitating access to needed services for persistent offending clients.

Recommendation for CD Style Interventions: Adopt a Two-Phased Intervention Plan



Phase 1: life stabilization and readiness level of intervention (Year 1) focused on life stabilization concerns and introductory criminogenic need focused interventions (financial stability, housing, mental health and addiction interventions; problem solving skill learning).



Phase 2: 24-month intensive intervention model (Year 2-3) - focused on more deliberate/intensive criminogenic need-focused interventions and longer-term recovery of function tied to life instability.



Youth Crime Prevention Programming: Understanding Youths' Perceived Needs

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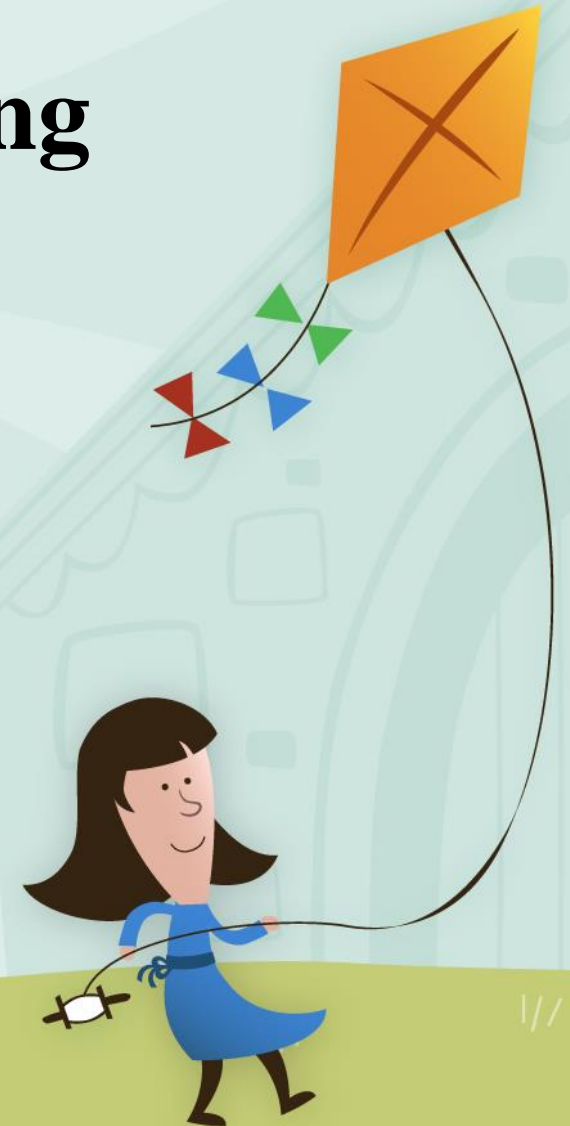
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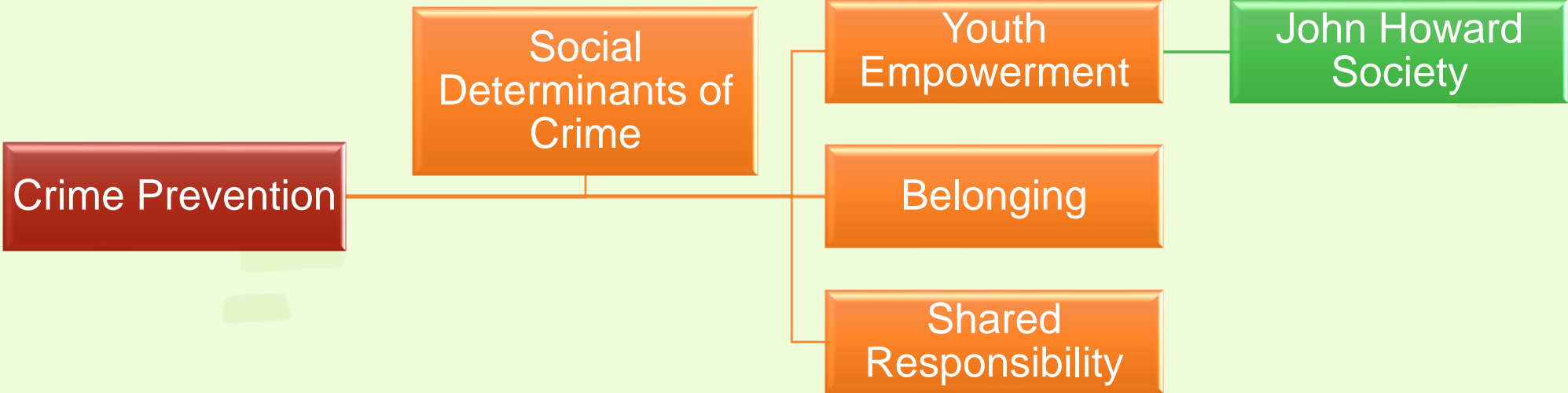
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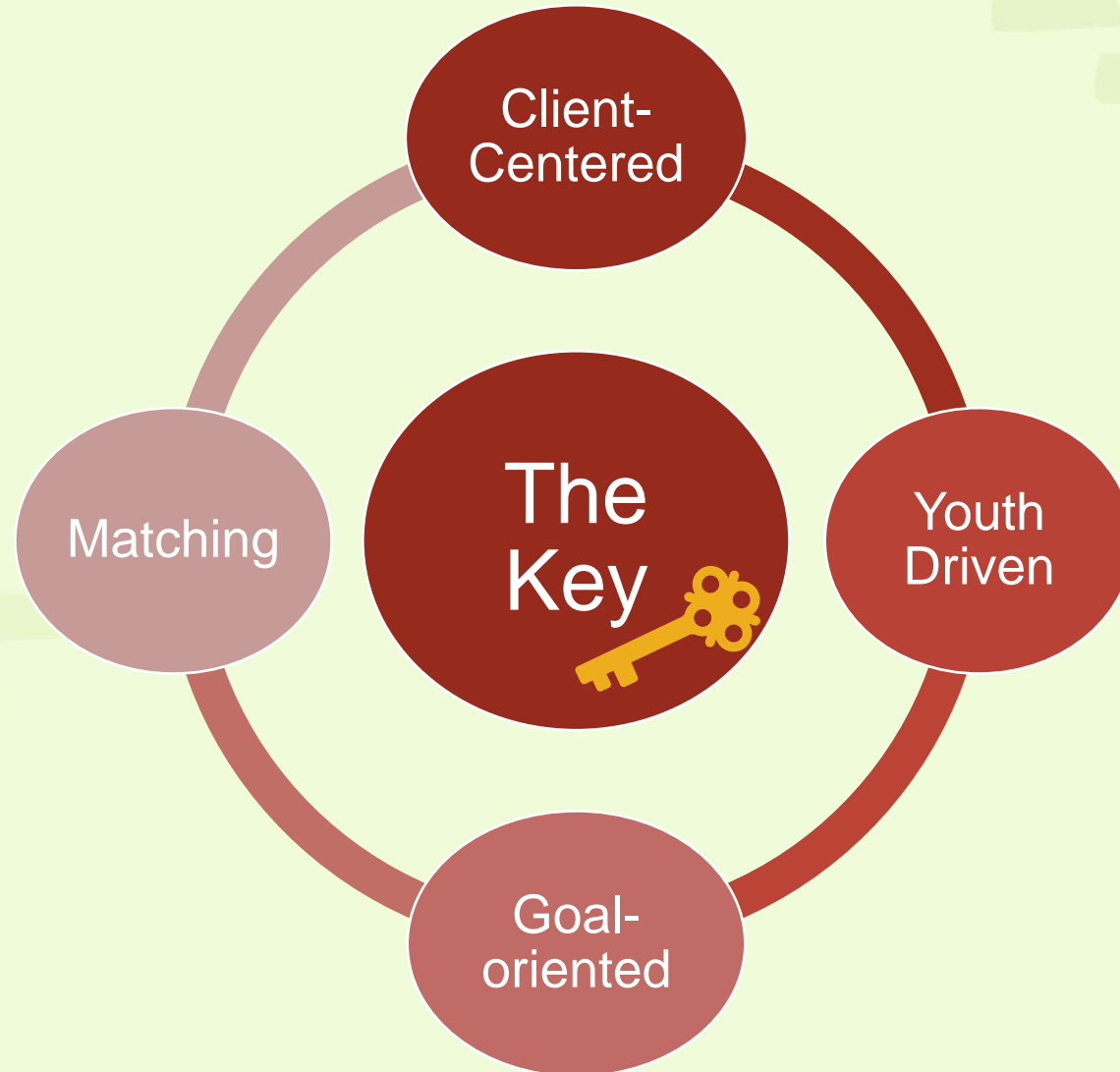
Intercultural Youth Initiative Program (IYI)



The Main Goal



Case Plans



Semi-Structured Interviews



- Qualitative data
- Youth's situation
- Risk factors
- Youth's perspective
- Youth's experience



Purpose of the Present Study

Examine how youths in IYI perceived their own needs

Identify, analyze, and report emerging themes in youths' personal narratives

What are youths in IYI reporting that they need/want in the IYI program?



Procedure



Demographics

Variables	%	M (SD)	Range
Male (gender)	67%	--	--
Indigenous (ethnicity)	48%	--	--
Age (years)	--	13 (1.13)	11-15



N = 33



Measures



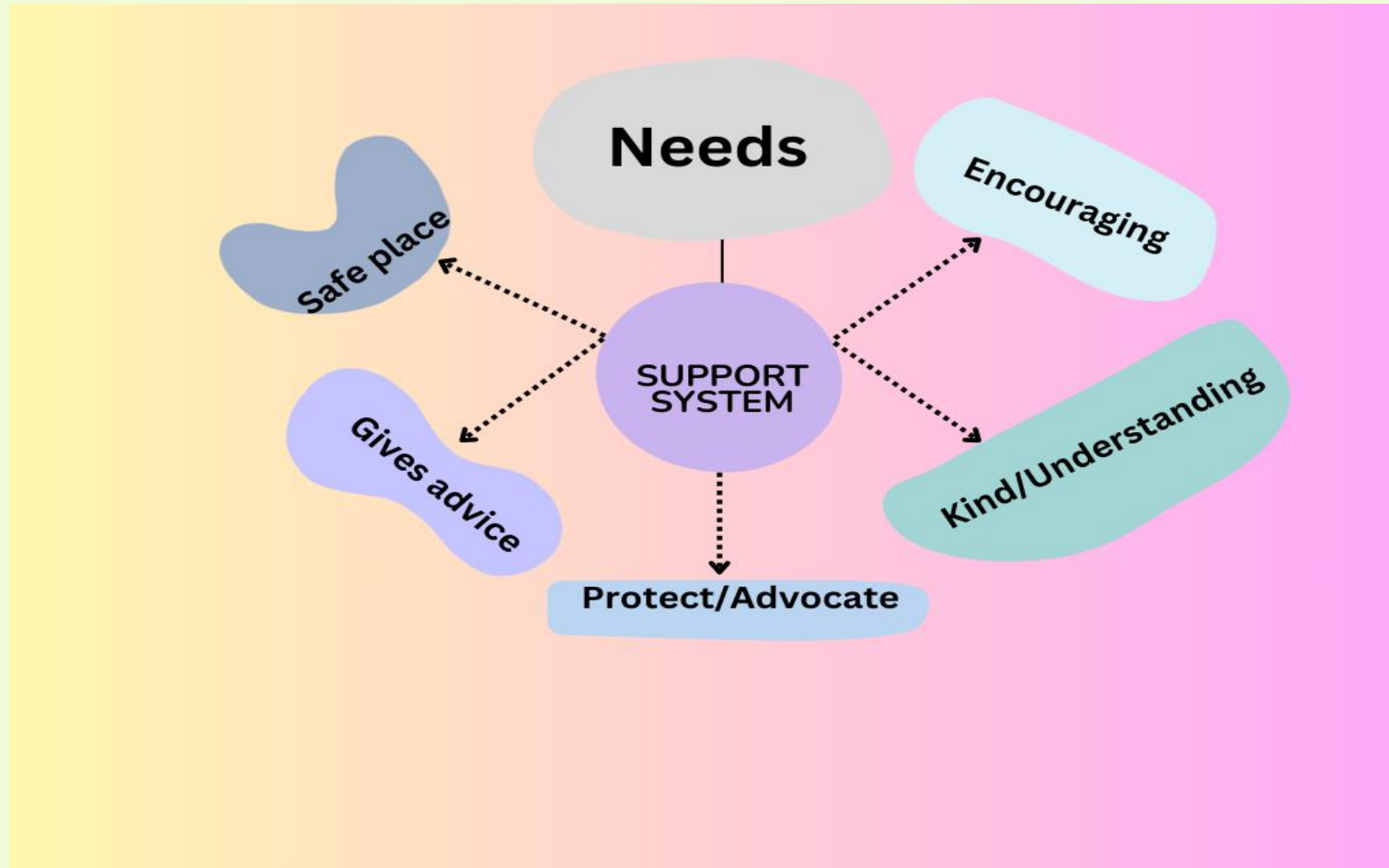
- Intake Interviews
- Thematic Analysis
 - Program = why?
 - Change?
 - IYI = help?
 - Activities?
 - Happy life?
 - Future hopes?



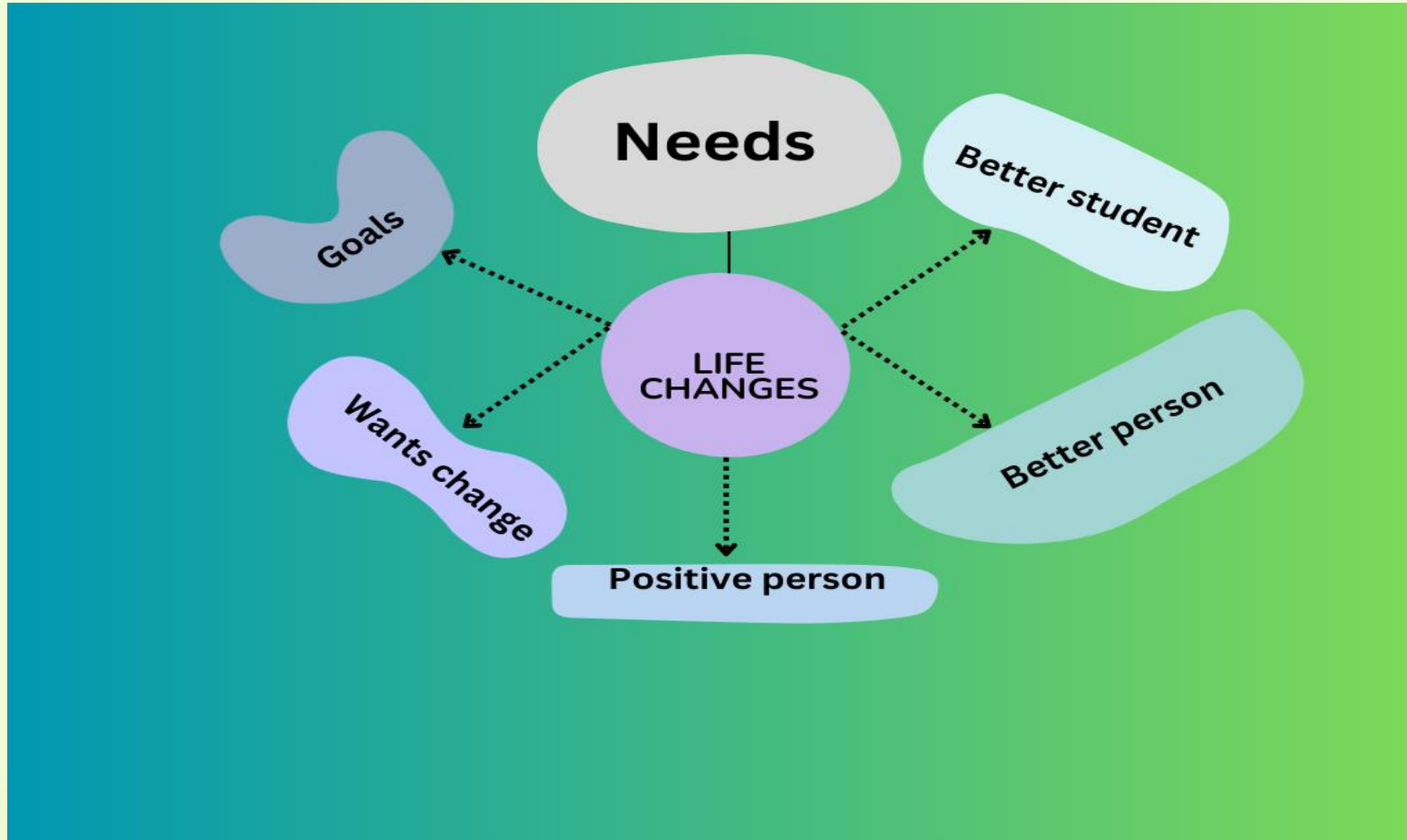
Theme #1: Leisure Activities



Theme #2: Support System



Theme #3: Life Changes

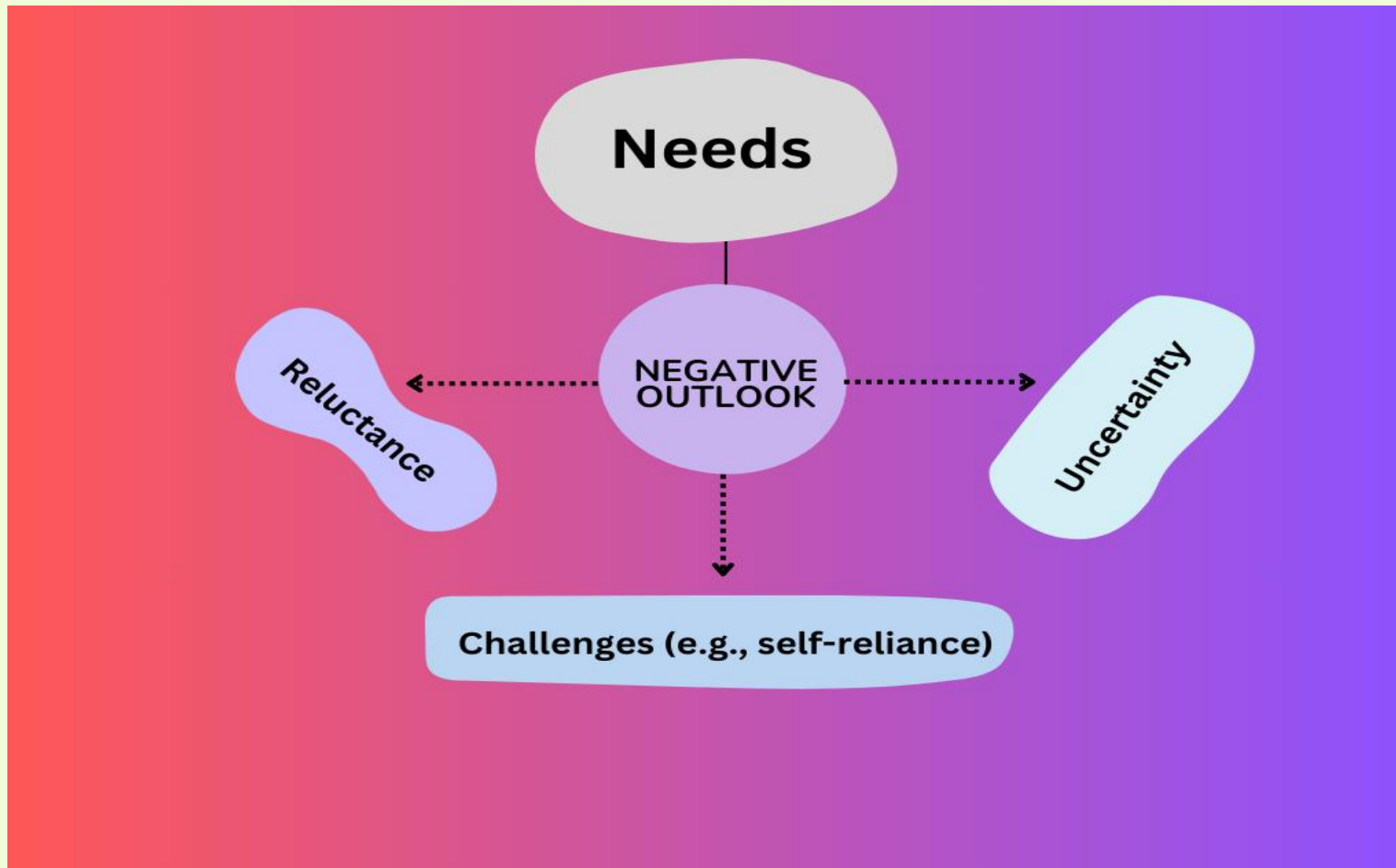




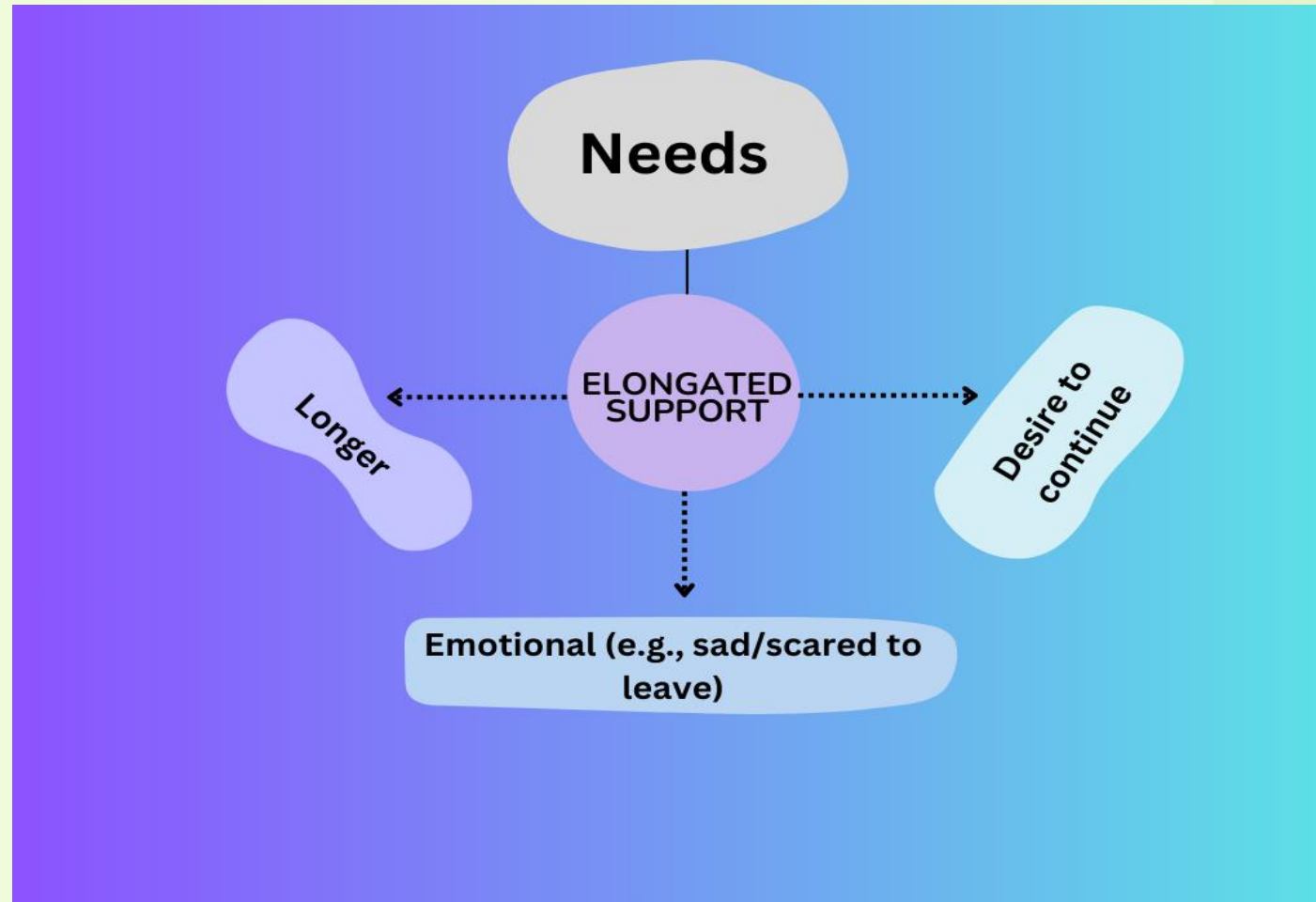
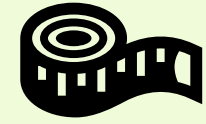
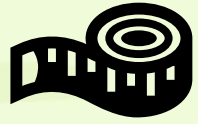
Theme #4: Self-Identified Problems



— Theme #5: Negative Outlook —



New 12-Month/Final Theme: Elongated Support



N = 25

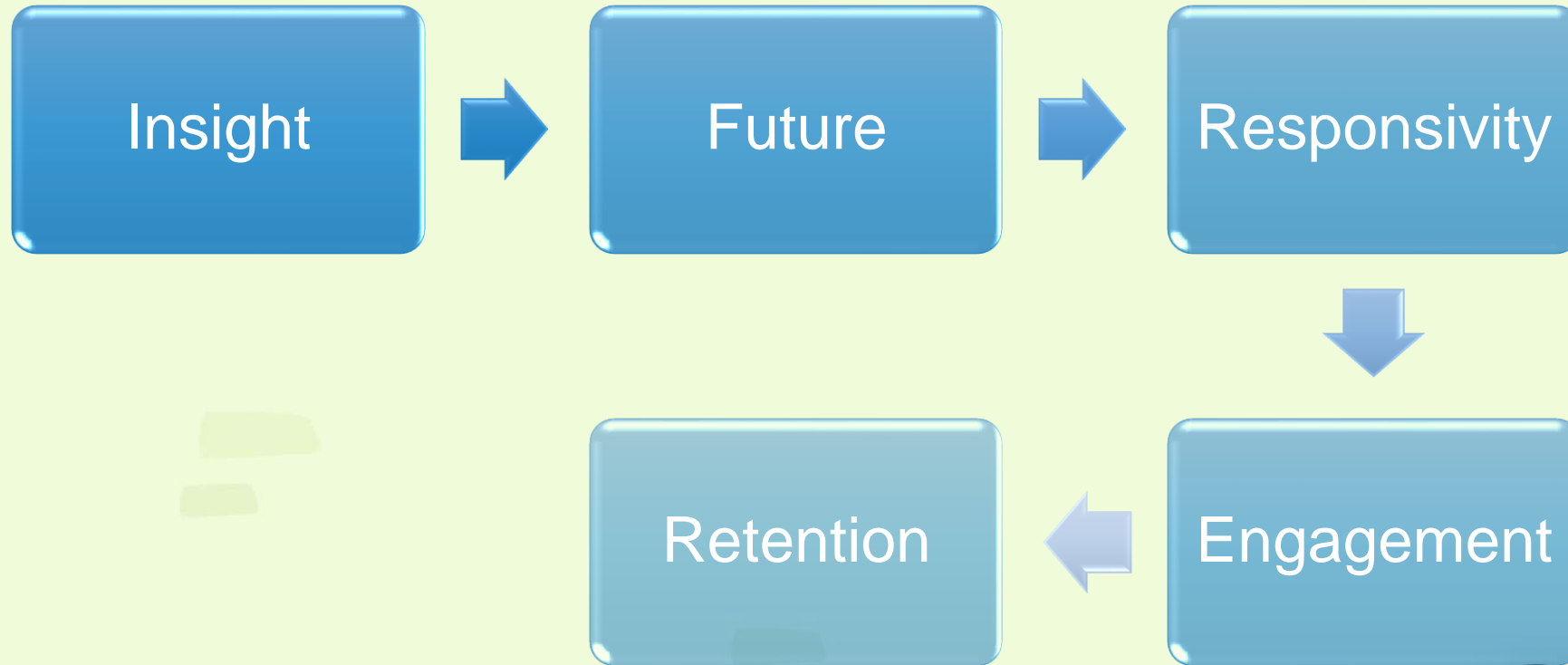


☞ Limitations ☞

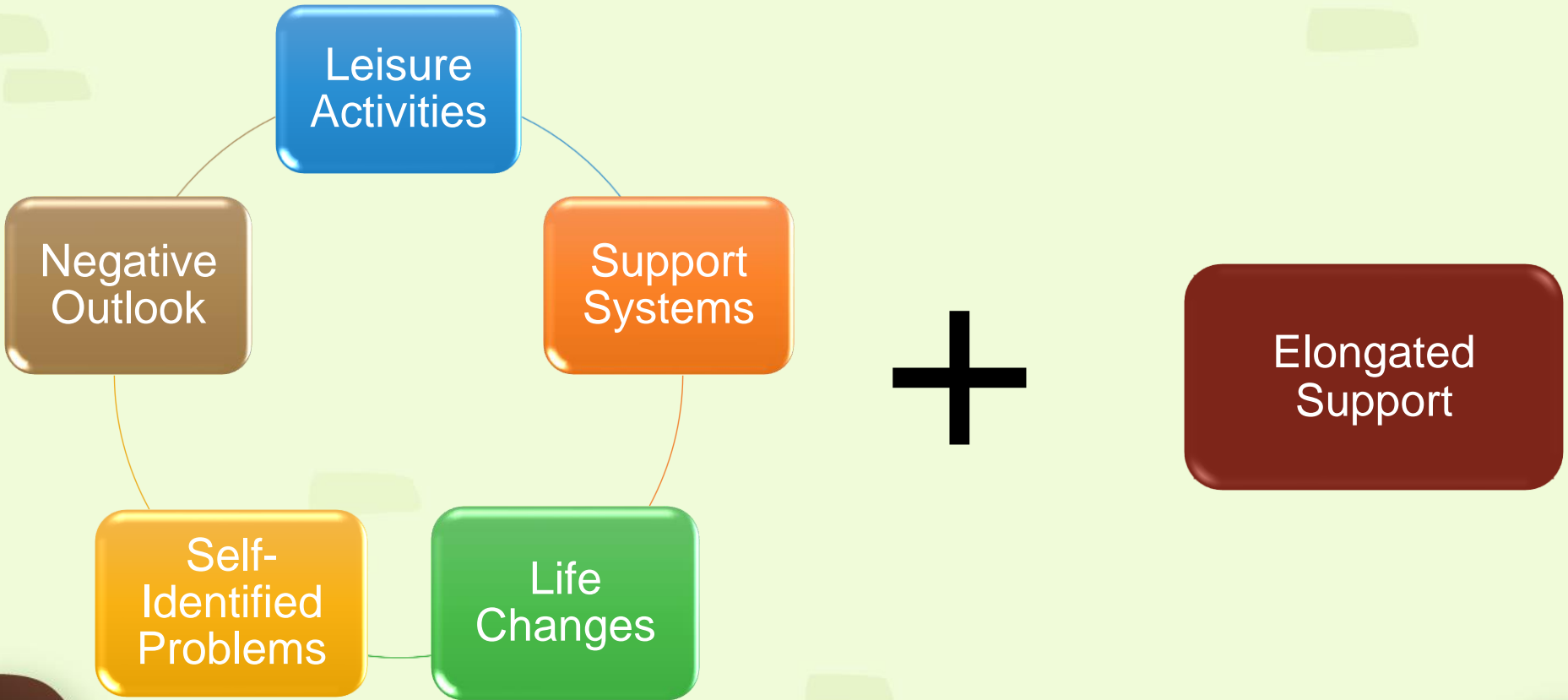
- COVID
 - Missing voices
 - Limited sample size
- Subjective/Open to interpretation



🕒 Implications 🕒



Conclusion





**A big thank you to
Public Safety
Canada and
JHSNB!**



THANK YOU!
Questions or comments may be sent to:
ocostell@unb.ca
Or
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Incremental Validity of Self-reported Strengths Over Criminogenic Risk Factors in Youth Risk Assessment

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Youth & The Justice System

56,442

Youth engaged with the justice system in 2020

11,162

Youth cases brought to court in 2021-2022

41,620

Individual charges against youth in 2021-2022

9,651

Youth admitted to correctional services in 2021-2022

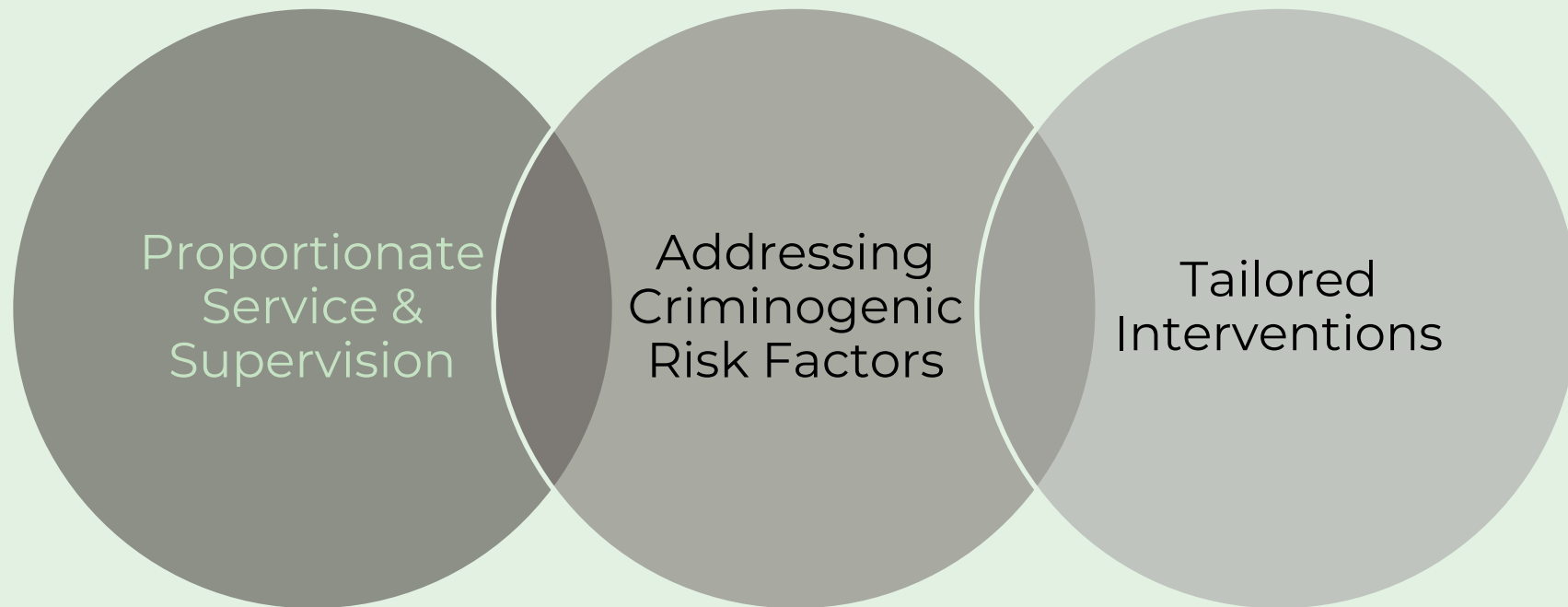
42%

Of youth admitted to correctional services in 2021-2022 were Indigenous

\$43.2B

Estimated cost of crime in Canada in 2014

Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model



Criminogenic Risk Factors

Internal and external factors that may increase one's risk of offending, examples may include:

History of
Antisocial
Behaviour

Personality Traits

Cognitions

Peer Groups

Family Dynamics

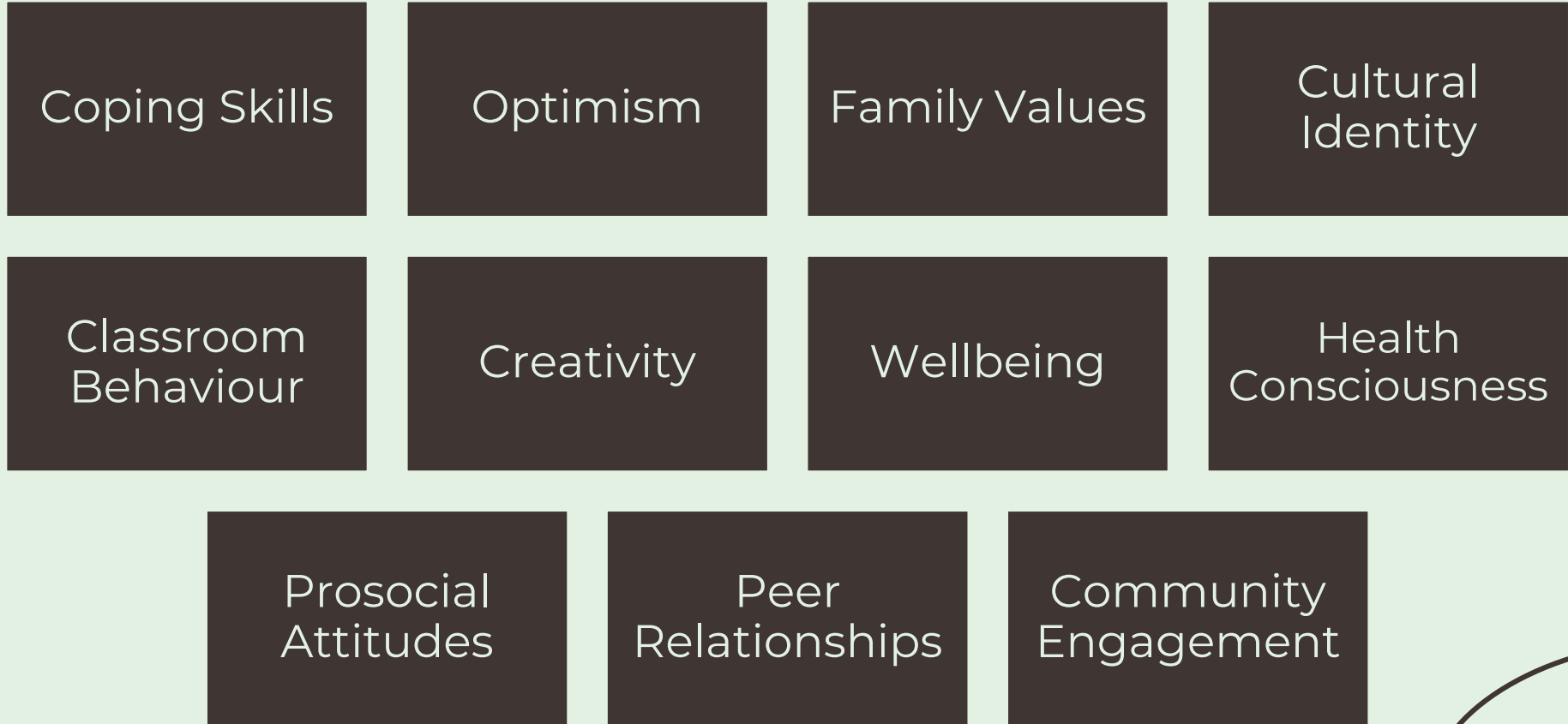
School &
Employment

Lack of Prosocial
Activities

Substance Use

Criminogenic Strengths & Protective Factors

Internal and external factors that may reduce one's risk of offending, examples may include:



Research Questions

Q1

Does including youth's self-reported strengths improve the ability of a risk assessment tool to predict future delinquent behaviour?

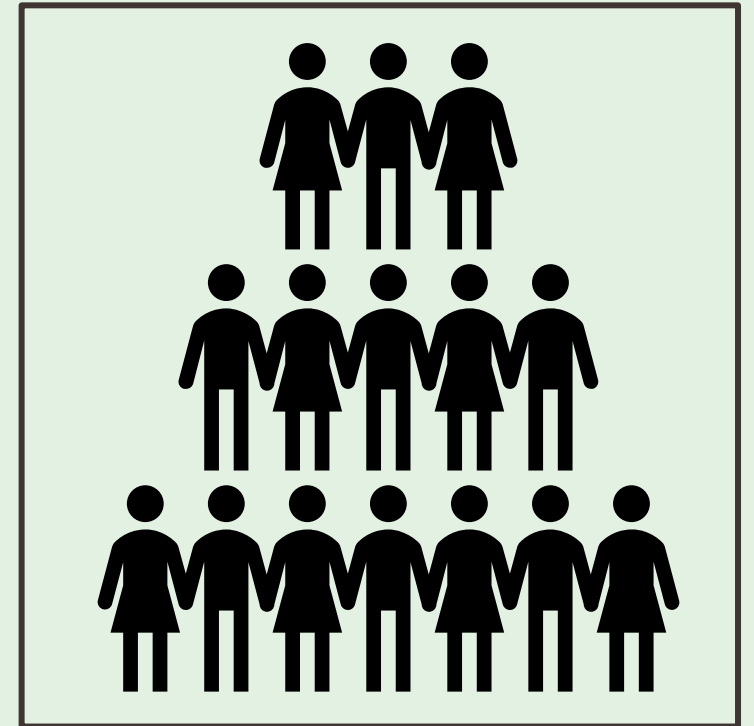
Q2

Are there differences in youth's self-reported strengths based on gender or ethnicity?

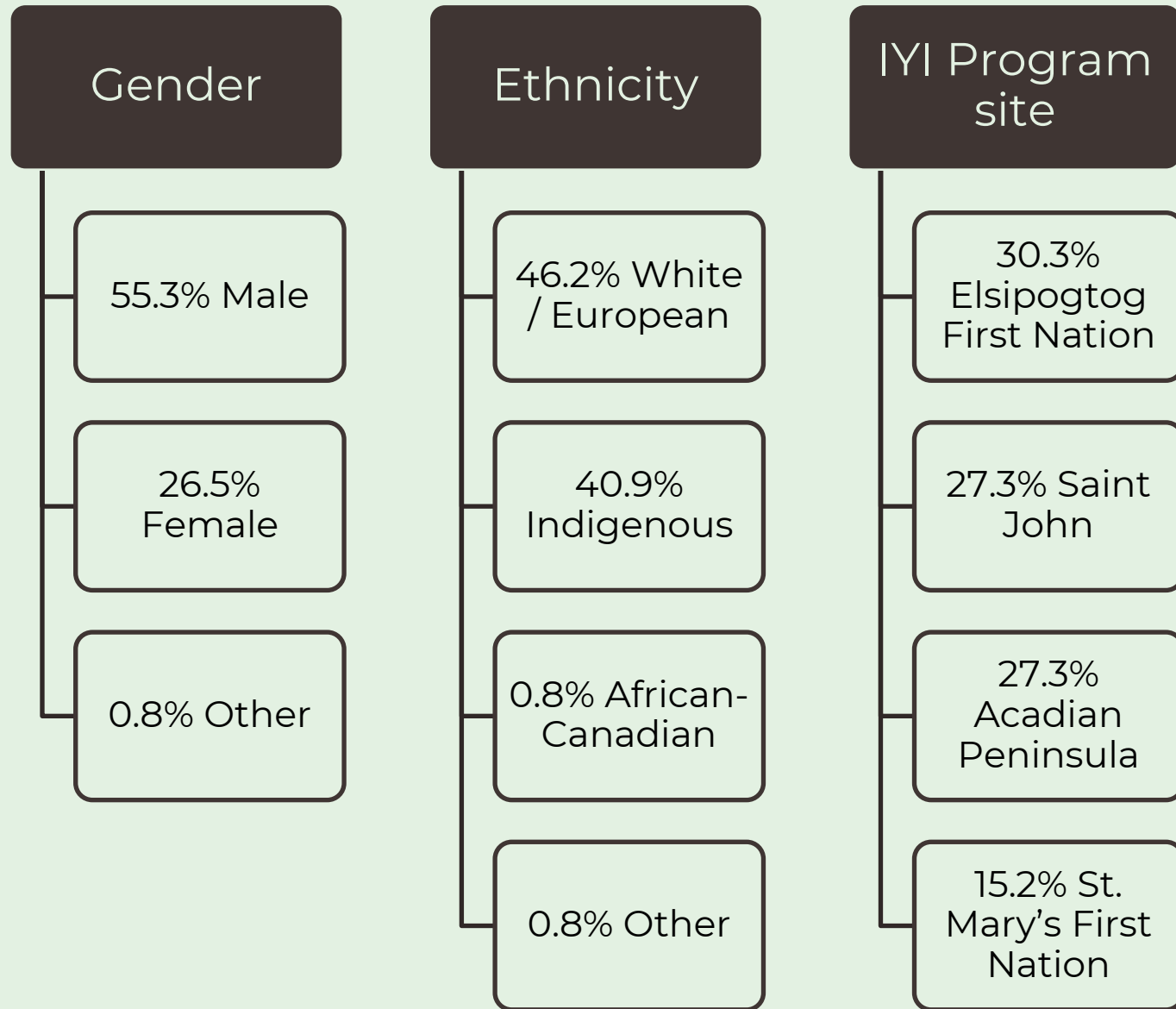


Participants

- Participants were involved in a high-intensity case management program for crime prevention – **Intercultural Youth Initiative** (John Howard Society of New Brunswick, Inc)
- Intake $N = 132$
- 6-month n range $N = 58-64$
- M age = 13.01 years old



Participants



Measures

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0 (YLS/CMI)

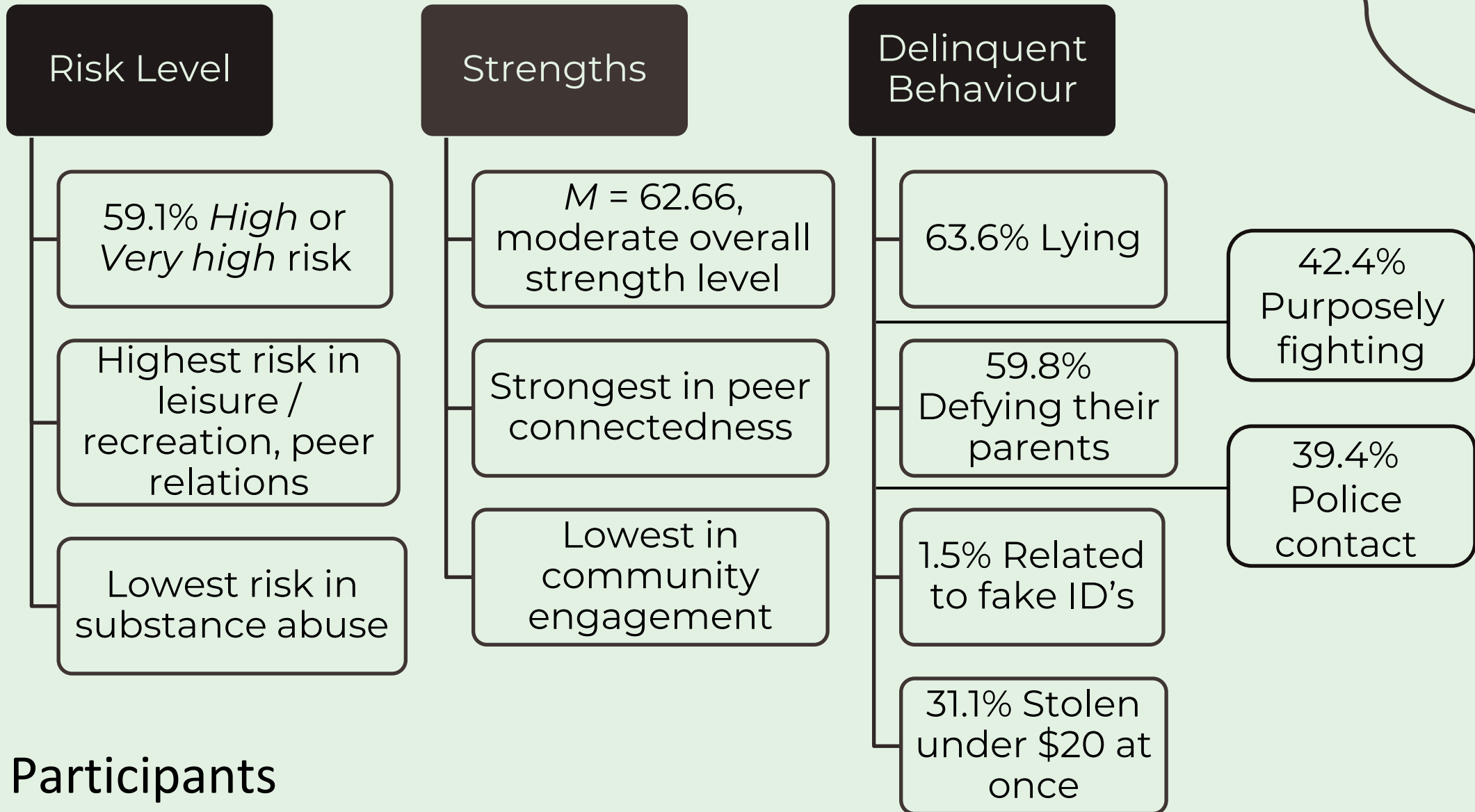
- 42-items on binary (Y/N) scale
- 8 subscales representing criminogenic needs
- Subscale & overall scores produce overall risk/need level (e.g., *low, moderate, high, very high*)
- $\alpha = .69$

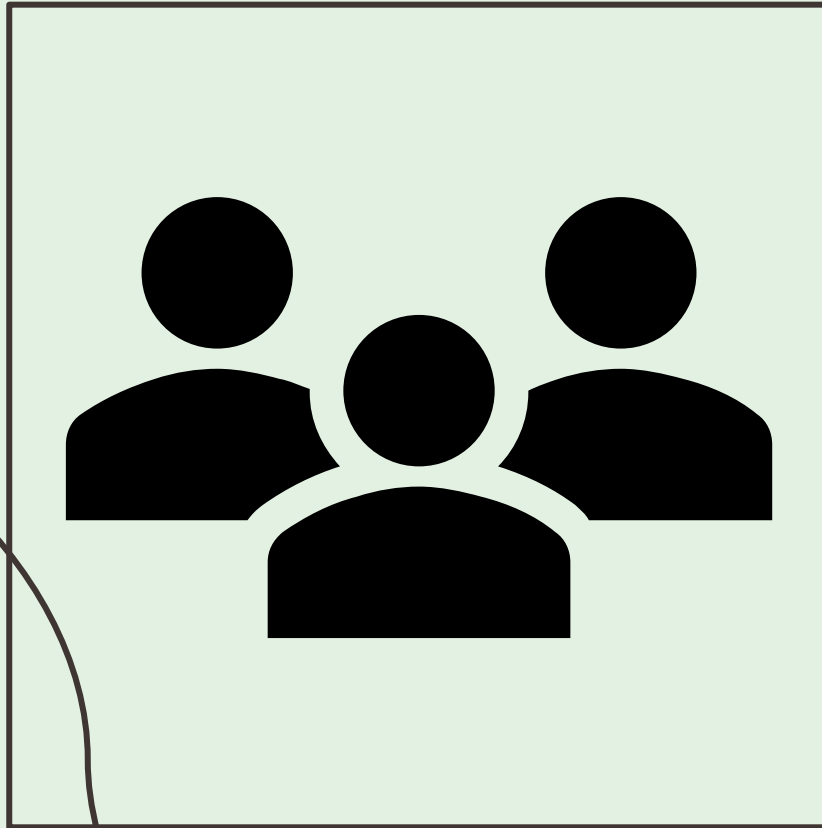
Strengths Assessment Inventory - Youth Version (SAI-Y)

- 124-items (105 were used) on 3-point Likert scale
- 9 clinical content & 11 empirical scales
- Subscale & total-strength scores
- $\alpha = .85$

Australian Self-Report Delinquency Scale – Revised (ASRDS-R)

- 34-items on binary (Y/N) scale
- Total delinquency score
- Adapted for use with Canadian sample
- $\alpha = .87$





Hypotheses

01

Significant differences between males and females in overall strengths, coping, family, wellbeing, creativity, and interpersonal connection

Independent
Samples
t-test

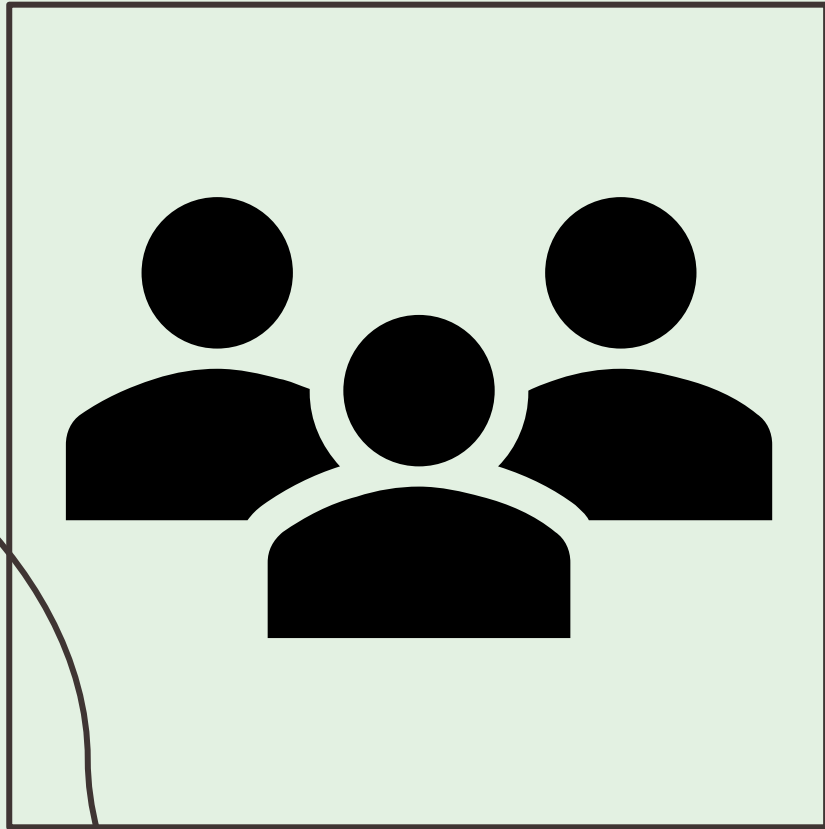
- Compare mean **total strength scores** between males and females
- Found no significant differences based on gender

	Males <i>M (SD)</i>	Females <i>M (SD)</i>
Intake	63.76 (15.51)	60.97 (14.84)
6-month	59.17 (14.46)	64.35 (13.80)

2x2
Repeated
Measures
MANOVA

- Compare mean total **strength scores on specific subscales** between males and females
- Significant differences by gender related to optimism and health consciousness

	Intake		6-month	
	Males <i>M (SD)</i>	Females <i>M (SD)</i>	Males <i>M (SD)</i>	Females <i>M (SD)</i>
Optimism	68.58 (21.92)	71.56 (19.70)	67.37 (22.46)	73.76 (20.73)
Health consciousness	69.13 (16.97)	68.27 (16.13)	63.69 (20.21)	72.49 (14.16)



Hypotheses

01 Not Supported

Significant differences between males and females were found in areas of optimism and health consciousness



Hypotheses

02

Due to a lack of available research, no predictions were made about potential differences in strengths between White/European and Indigenous youth

Independent
Samples t-
test

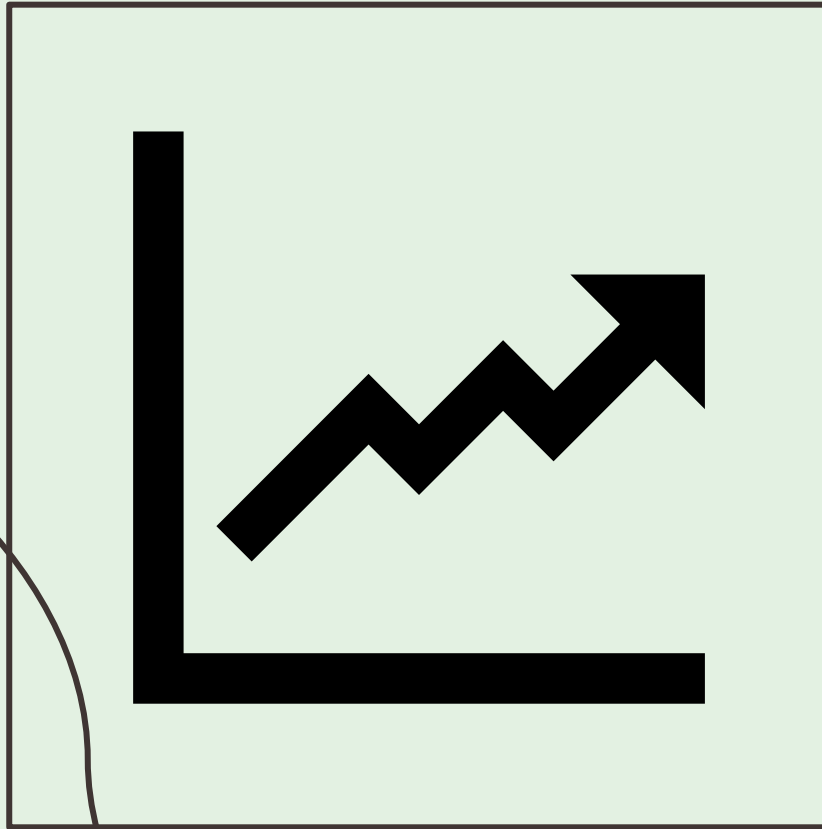
- Compare mean **total strength scores** between Indigenous and White/European
- Found no significant differences based on ethnicity

	Indigenous <i>M</i> (SD)	White/European <i>M</i> (SD)
Intake	63.40 (18.76)	62.79 (10.89)
6-month	58.29 (15.93)	63.80 (11.97)

2x2
Repeated
Measures
MANOVA

- Compare mean total **strength scores in specific subscales** between Indigenous and White/European
- Significant differences by ethnicity related to coping

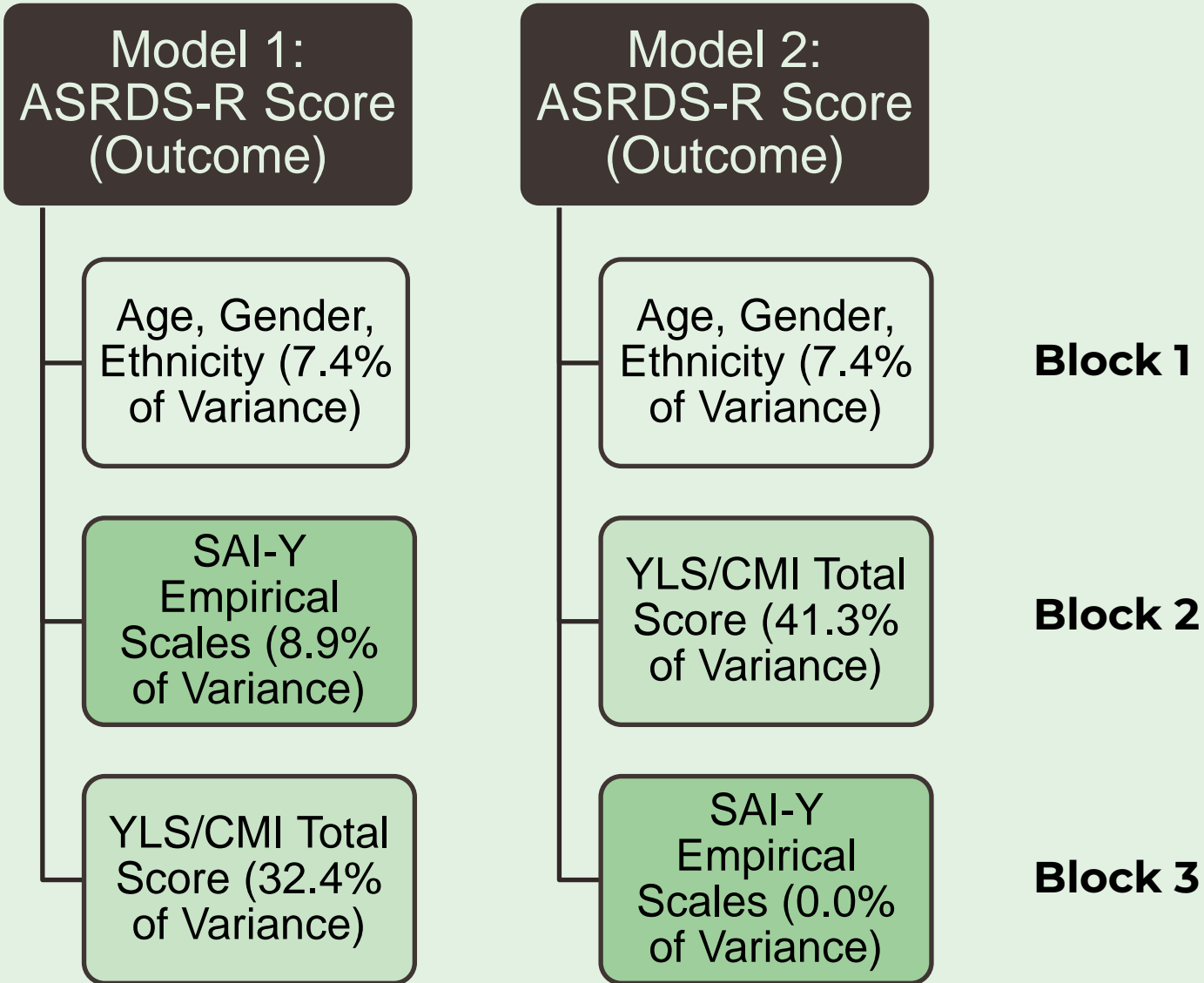
	Intake		6-month	
	Indigenous <i>M</i> (SD)	White / European <i>M</i> (SD)	Indigenous <i>M</i> (SD)	White / European <i>M</i> (SD)
Coping	64.31 (16.94)	66.04 (15.18)	56.03 (19.79)	70.21 (16.52)

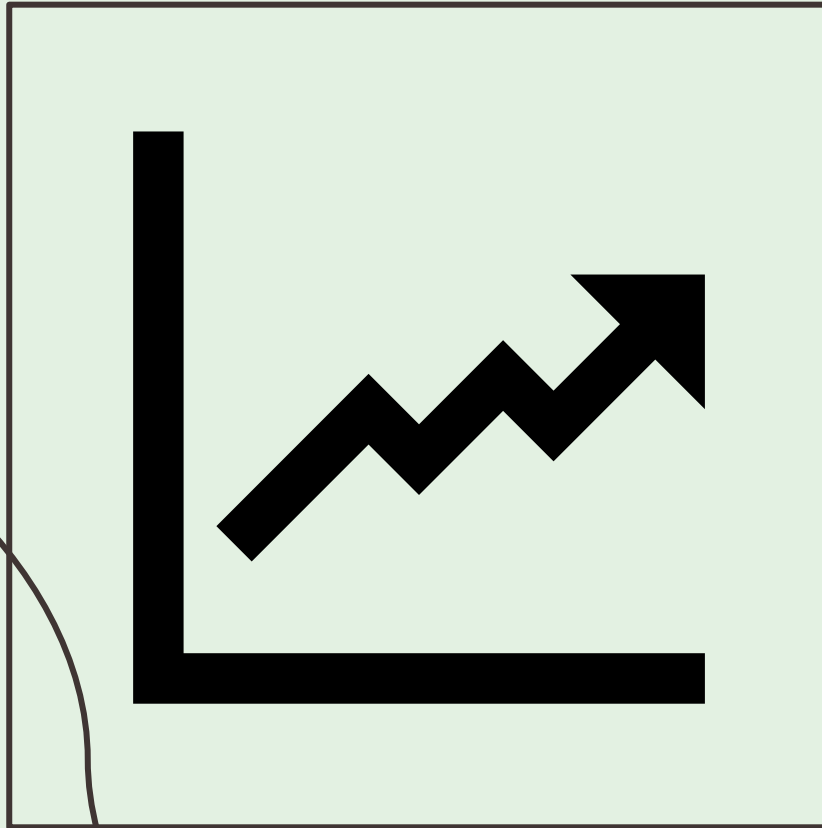


Hypotheses

03

The inclusion of self-reported strengths via the SAI-Y would significantly improve the ability of the YLS/CMI to predict future delinquency





Hypotheses

03

Not Supported

Self-reported strengths had limited predictive ability on their own, but added nothing to the prediction of future behavior after accounting for the risk assessment tool

Conclusions



Self-report
measures



Inaccurate
perceptions



Not directly
reflective of
criminogenic need



Clinician-
administered
measures



Standardized
definitions



Strengths not used
for determination of
risk level

Thank you!



Funded by Public Safety Canada