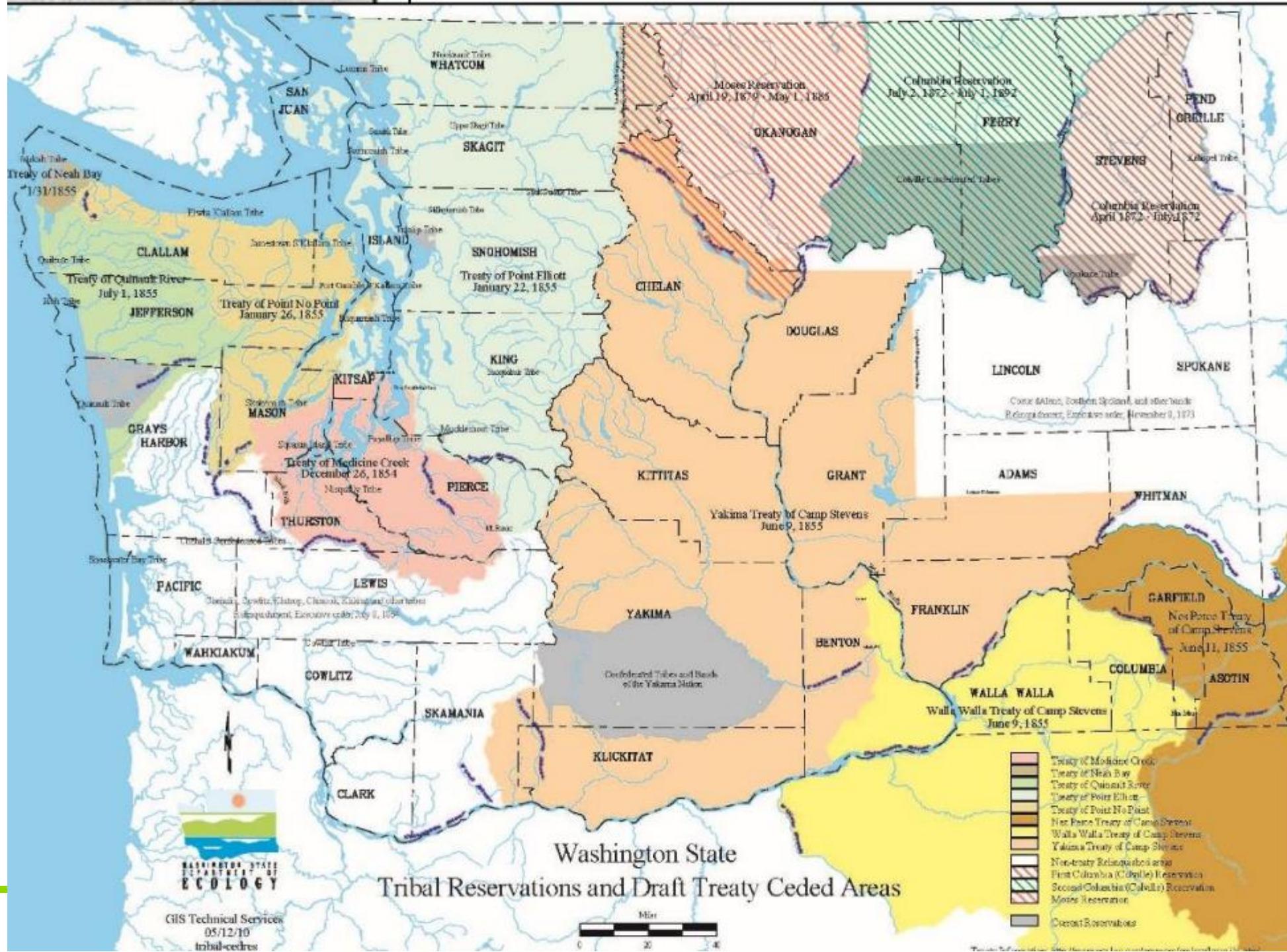


Washington State WISe, CANS, and Demographics

Annual TCOM Conference
October 14, 2025

Washington State Tribal Reservations and Draft Treaty Ceded Areas



Presenter



Paul Davis
paul.davis@hca.wa.gov

Program Administrator
Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe) lead
Health Care Authority
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths

Finding a way to quantify the story and look for disparities

Wraparound with Intensive Services (Wise)

- ▶ As with many things in WA, WISe came about from a lawsuit.
- ▶ Plaintiffs argued that WA was putting too many young people in hospitals, jails, and institutions. We agreed and settled.
- ▶ This resulted in WISe being created and implemented.
- ▶ Based on System of Care and Wraparound principles
- ▶ Uses state plan mental health services as the 'intensive services'
- ▶ Meets participants where and when they want
- ▶ State funds training, CFT meeting, and care coordination
- ▶ Requires use of CANS as a screen and outcomes tool
- ▶ More information online

Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe)

- ▶ Based on Wraparound principles to meet clients where they are and keep them out of institutions.
- ▶ Use System of Care Principles including youth and family voice and choice as well as being outcome based
- ▶ Work to replace as many formal supports with natural supports as possible



Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

- ▶ A scale to quantify how a youth and their family are doing

- ▶ Needs

- 0 = Not currently identified as a need
 - 1 = Potential or past need
 - 2 = Current need
 - 3 = Current need endangering the youth or family

- ▶ Strengths

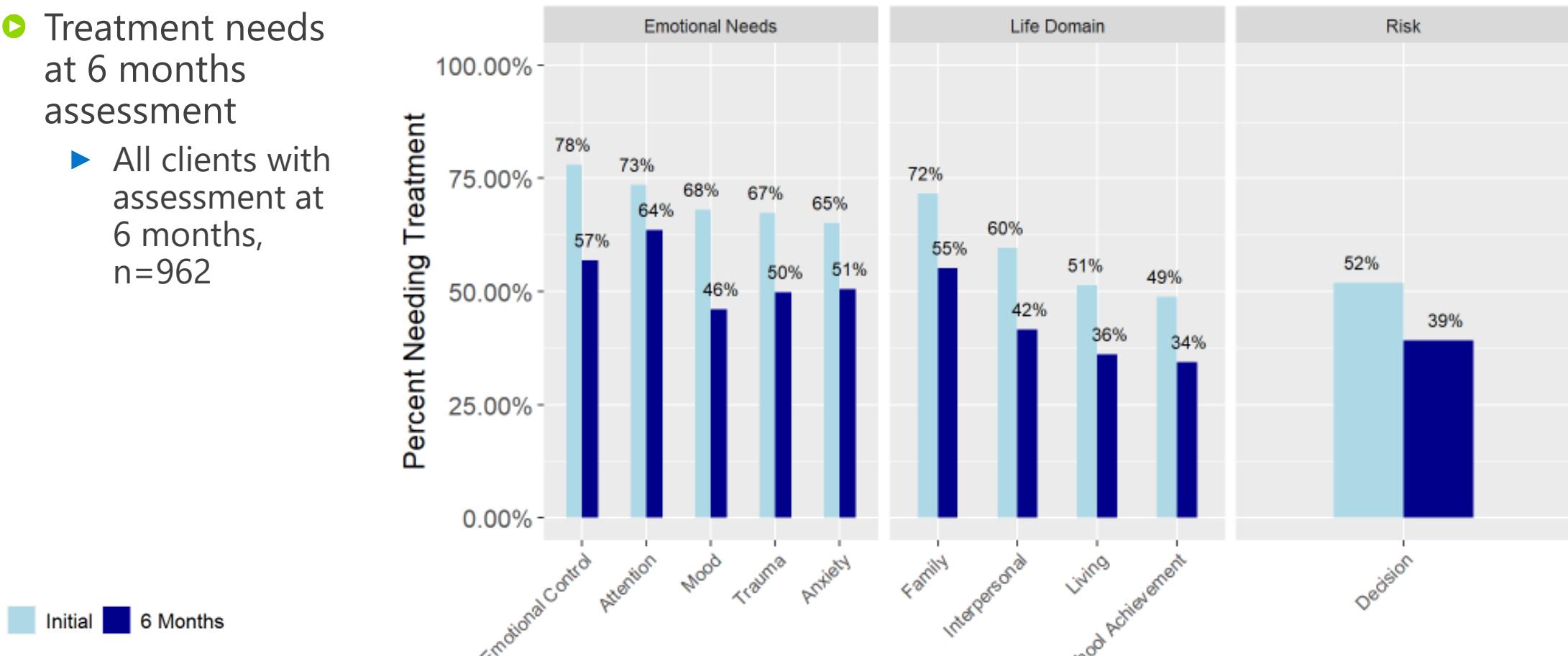
- 0 = Centerpiece strength
 - 1 = Strong strength
 - 2 = Potential strength
 - 3 = Not currently an identified strength

Examples of CANS scores at the state level

What do we see when we look at our CANS aggregated?

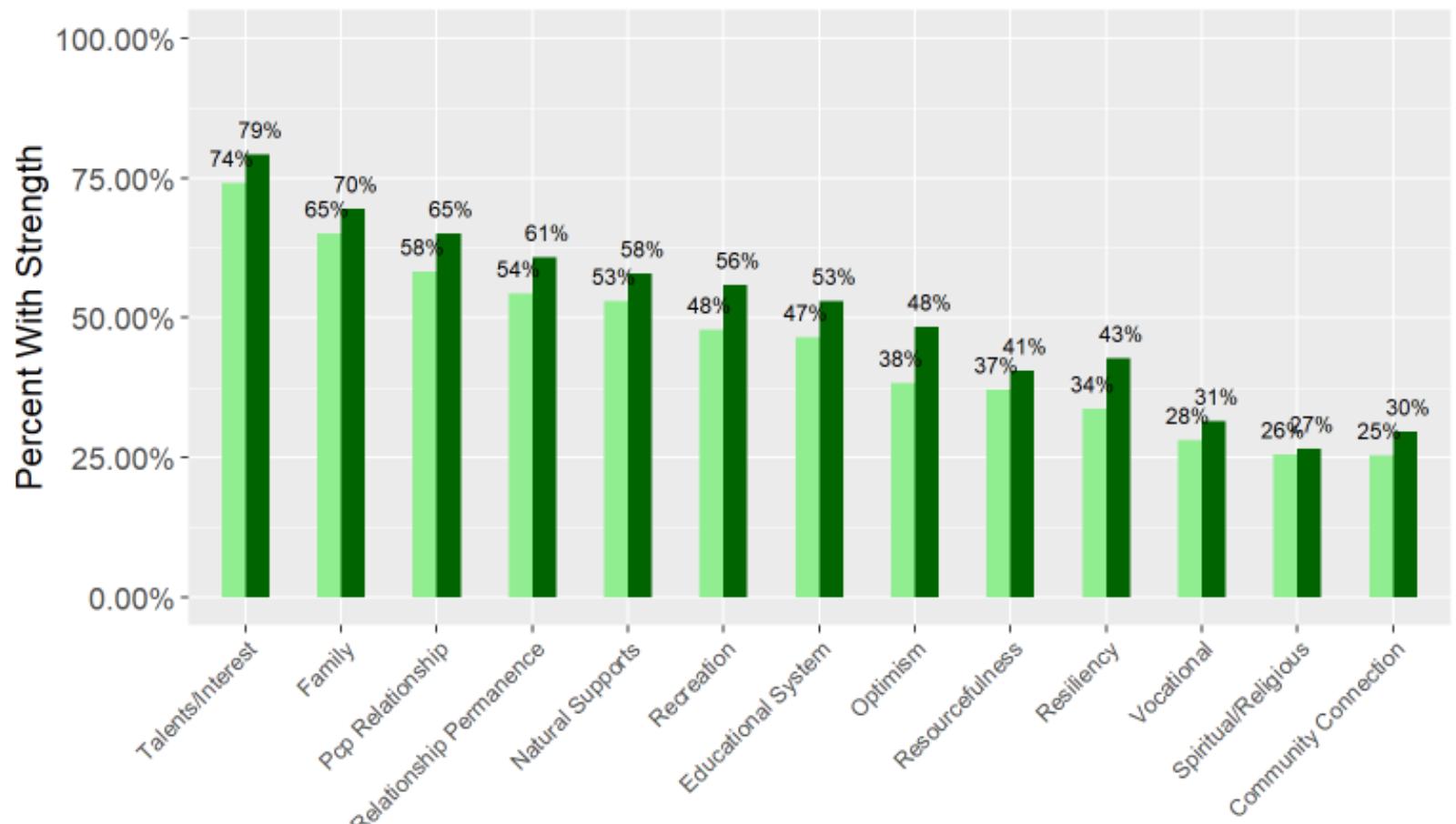
Behavioral and emotional needs decrease after 6 months in WISe

- ▶ Treatment needs at 6 months assessment
 - ▶ All clients with assessment at 6 months, n=962



Child and youth strengths increase after 6 months in WISe

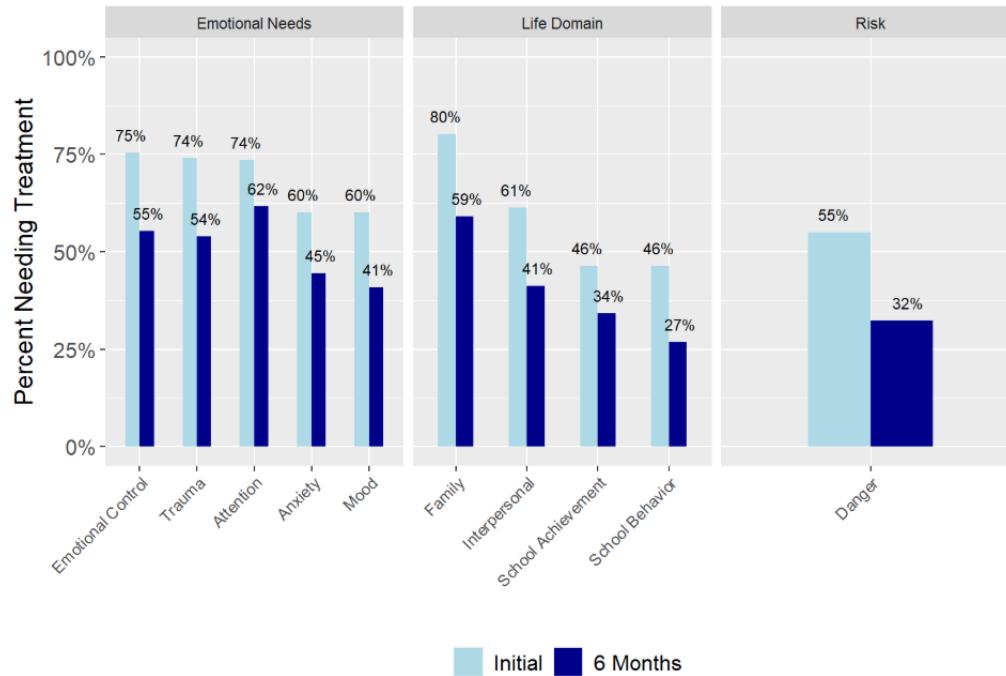
- ▶ Useful strengths at 6 months assessment
 - ▶ All clients with assessment at 6 months, n=962



Comparing two counties' CANS scores

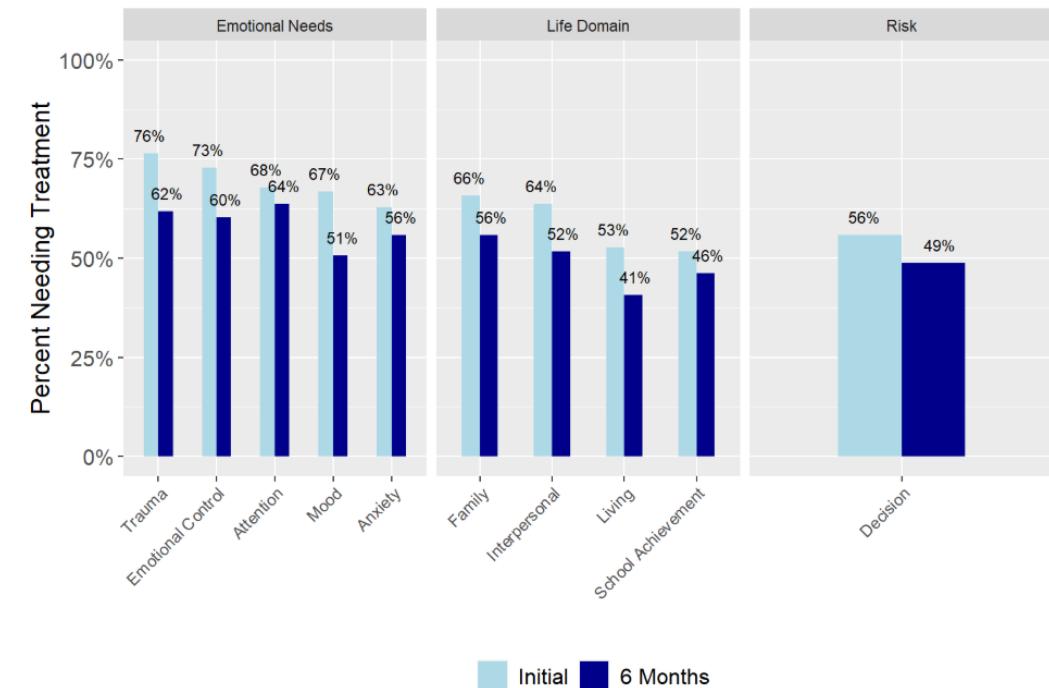
Pierce (Tacoma)

Treatment Needs at 6 Months Assessment
All Clients With Assessment at 6 Months -- n = 269



King (Seattle)

Treatment Needs at 6 Months Assessment
All Clients With Assessment at 6 Months -- n = 199



Outcomes can only be linked to data we collect

- ▶ Tracking enrollment is a good start, but doesn't tell you everything
- ▶ In the previous slides we can disaggregate on factors that we collect
 - ▶ Geography
 - ▶ Managed Care Plan
- ▶ Can't disaggregate on information we don't collect.

WISe screened, served, and proxy populations

▶ Jan '24 - Dec '24

Demographic and Geographic Characteristics

	SCREENED for WISe								SERVED by WISe		WISe PROXY (SFY 2015)	
	ALL YOUTH SCREENED FOR WISe SERVICES		SUBGROUP Referral Outcome: Outpatient/Other		SUBGROUP Referral Outcome: CLIP/BRS		SUBGROUP Referral Outcome: WISe		ALL YOUTH RECEIVING WISe SERVICES		WISe PROXY (SFY 2015)	
	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Gender												
Female	2,811	45.0%	840	44.3%	59	38.8%	1,912	45.6%	3,210	46.1%	12,102	48.2%
Male	3,431	55.0%	1,058	55.7%	93	61.2%	2,280	54.4%	3,747	53.9%	12,988	51.8%
Age Group												
0-5	515	8.3%	... ²	... ²	... ¹	... ¹	355	8.5%	405	5.8%	1,309	5.2%
6-11	2,443	39.1%	745	39.3%	42	27.6%	1,656	39.5%	2,695	38.7%	4,767	19.0%
12-17	3,122	50.0%	943	49.7%	98	64.5%	2,081	49.6%	3,589	51.6%	13,275	52.9%
18-20	162	2.6%	... ²	... ²	... ¹	... ¹	100	2.4%	268	3.9%	5,739	22.9%
Race/Ethnicity												
Non-Hispanic White	2,725	43.7%	803	42.3%	65	42.8%	1,857	44.3%	3,142	45.2%	11,603	46.2%
Minority	3,517	56.3%	1,095	57.7%	87	57.2%	2,335	55.7%	3,815	54.8%	13,487	53.8%
Minority Category (not mutually exclusive)												
Hispanic	1,693	27.1%	558	29.4%	27	17.8%	1,108	26.4%	1,849	26.6%	5,195	20.7%
Black	1,040	16.7%	308	16.2%	32	21.1%	700	16.7%	1,159	16.7%	3,916	15.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	960	15.4%	266	14.0%	48	31.6%	646	15.4%	1,023	14.7%	3,725	14.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	491	7.9%	163	8.6%	11	7.2%	317	7.6%	534	7.7%	1,620	6.5%
Region												
Great Rivers	591	9.5%	... ²	... ²	... ¹	... ¹	407	9.7%	680	9.8%	1,751	7.0%
Greater Columbia	910	14.6%	308	16.2%	29	19.1%	573	13.7%	1,010	14.5%	3,265	13.0%
King County	595	9.5%	... ²	... ²	... ¹	... ¹	495	11.8%	771	11.1%	4,525	18.0%
North Central	275	4.4%	... ²	... ²	... ¹	... ¹	170	4.1%	274	3.9%	1,155	4.6%
North Sound	735	11.8%	132	7.0%	20	13.2%	583	13.9%	972	14.0%	3,287	13.1%
Pierce County	811	13.0%	... ²	... ²	... ¹	... ¹	428	10.2%	754	10.8%	3,157	12.6%
Salish	483	7.7%	... ²	... ²	... ¹	... ¹	326	7.8%	509	7.3%	1,401	5.6%
Southwest	460	7.4%	155	8.2%	12	7.9%	293	7.0%	509	7.3%	2,037	8.1%
Spokane Region	976	15.6%	308	16.2%	66	43.4%	602	14.4%	899	12.9%	3,272	13.0%
Thurston Mason	406	6.5%	... ²	... ²	... ¹	... ¹	315	7.5%	579	8.3%	1,240	4.9%
TOTAL POPULATION with linked data available	6,242		1,898		152		4,192		6,957		25,090	
TOTAL POPULATION	6,277		1,910		154		4,213		6,985		25,090	

Our online CANS repository (BHAS) now collects demographic info

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity:

Gender Identity *

What is your current gender identity? [Select all that apply]

Female

Transgender Identity *

Do you identify as transgender? [select one]

No

Sexual Orientation *

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation: [select one]

Answer not required – youth under 13

* - indicates required field

Race and Ethnicity:

What race(s) and/or ethnicities do you identify with?* [Select all that apply].

Note: If selected 'Prefer not to disclose' or 'Not Collected' will disable all the other selections.

None selected

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Another race or ethnicity
- Asian, East
 - Chinese
 - Japanese
 - Korean
 - Mongolian
 - Taiwanese
 - Tibetan
 - Not listed, please specify
 - Prefer not to specify

Save

Delete

Cancel

Once we
have it
set up...



We wait
to see
what we
captured



But...

- ▶ It was not completely smooth sailing on this journey.
- ▶ What look like small waves can tip you over if you don't pay attention.



The time to launch may be now, if you are prepared

- ▶ Be aware of potential challenges and plan accordingly
- ▶ Communicate those with partners and leadership
- ▶ Determine how to respond to sensitivities and criticism
- ▶ Use the expertise of everyone involved in the project



Sometimes you can have
great outcomes even if the
time doesn't seem right.

Challenges we experience

- ▶ Demographic questions need to be vetted
- ▶ Getting questions into system are a technical lift
- ▶ Reports generated are sensitive even when numbers are above the 'low number' suppression threshold
- ▶ Depends on people using the system to collect and enter data
 - ▶ Clinicians have to be trained on how to ask information sensitively
 - ▶ Participants need to believe that the data will be used appropriately and will be kept secure



When we looked,
what did we see?



Let's take a look!

Demographic Data March '24- February '25, there were 21,149 CANS entered

- ▶ For Transgender:
 - ▶ 145 marked as 'not collected'
 - ▶ 2,003 listed as 'choose not to disclose'
 - ▶ 693 marked 'yes'
- ▶ For Sexual orientation
 - ▶ 123 marked as 'not collected'
 - ▶ 182 marked as 'prefer not to specify'
 - ▶ 2,371 marked as 'Bisexual, Lesbian or Gay, or Not Sure Yet'
 - ▶ 11,874 marked as 'Answer not Required because youth is under the age of 13'
- ▶ For Race/Ethnicity
 - ▶ 2,371 marked as 'not collected'
 - ▶ 9,831 marked as 'white' (almost exactly what administrative data shows)

What does this mean?

- ▶ We continue to see some challenges in collecting demographic data
- ▶ Should not be surprised as we see this in many efforts to collect demographics
- ▶ We need to emphasize and communicate our efforts to
 - ▶ Keep information secure
 - ▶ Use information in a useful and respectful manner

We can also link to administrative data

- ▶ Because we now ask more granular questions about demographics, this will allow us to use the integrated client data base and look at things like
 - ▶ Hospitalizations
 - ▶ Behavioral health risk factors
 - ▶ Other data items in our [Administrative Outcomes](#) and [Dashboard](#) reports
 - ▶ Could look at differences by demographics including:
 - ▶ Hospitalizations
 - ▶ Crisis services
 - ▶ Psychotropic medication use/prescription
 - ▶ SUD need/treatment



What about disparities? Did we find any?

- ▶ Further analysis is needed. We have preliminary data that needs further scrutiny.
- ▶ We are not the only group looking at this kind of data and we would like to stay connected with others who are doing similar work.
- ▶ The results might not show up at first glance

WISe was developed to reduce young people from being in jails, hospitals, and institutions

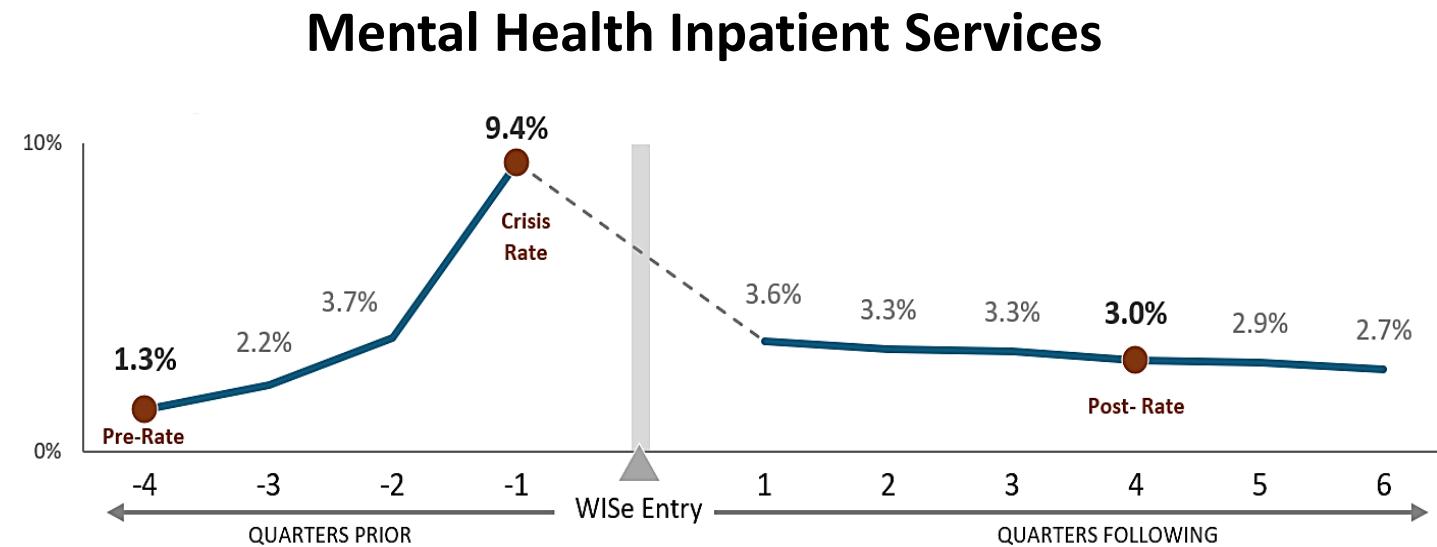
- ▶ Are we reducing hospitalizations?
- ▶ Do we see disparities?
- ▶ Is there gold at the end of that rainbow?

WISe outcomes: Mental health inpatient services

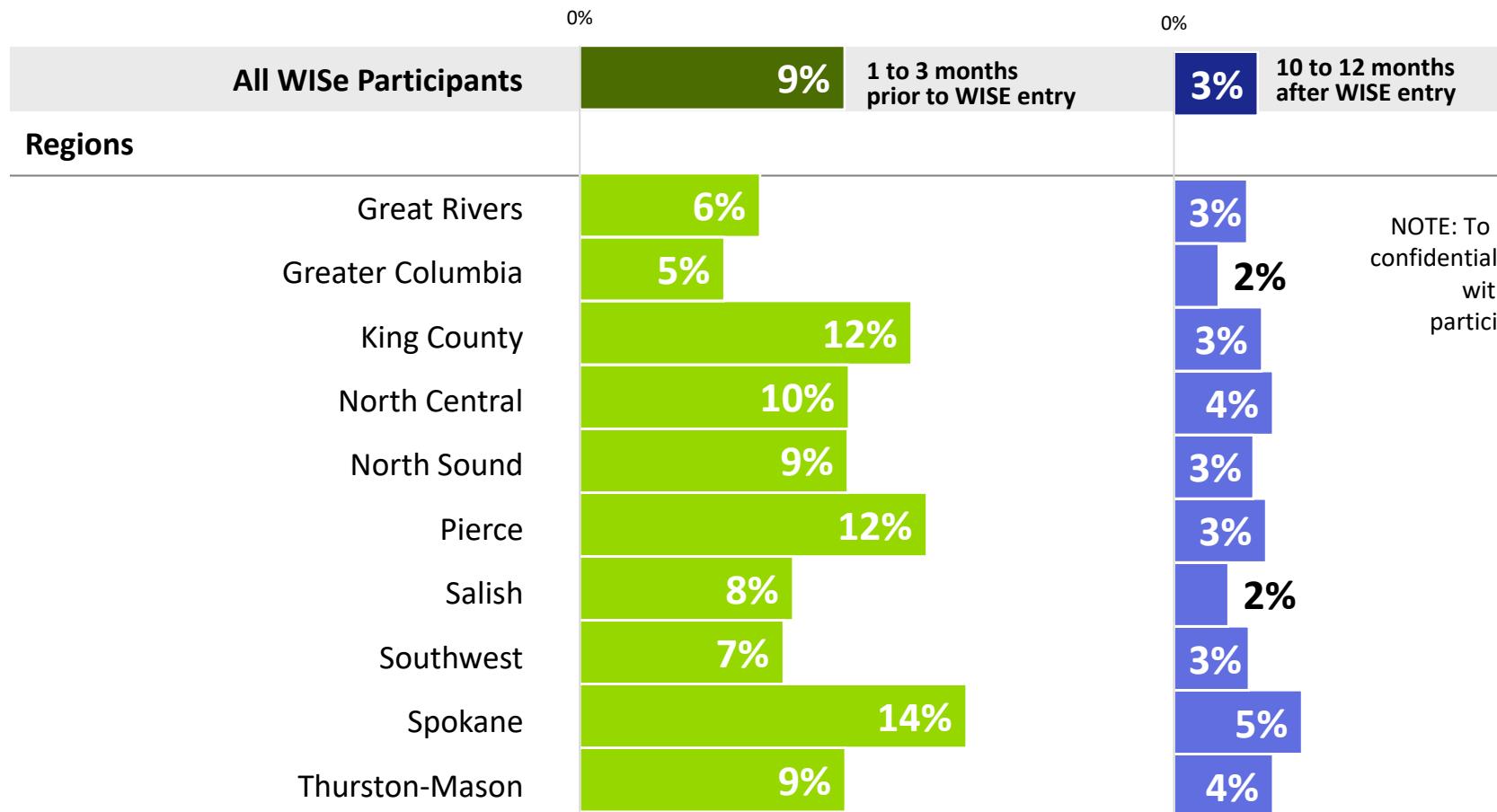
Who? 8,764 children and youth ages 0 to 20 with complex mental health needs and functional limitations

When? Those who entered WISe services from **January 2021 to December 2023**

What? Comparisons from the quarter prior to WISe entry (“**Crisis Rate**”) until the 4th quarter following entry (“**Post Rate**”)



WISe outcomes: Mental Health Inpatient Services

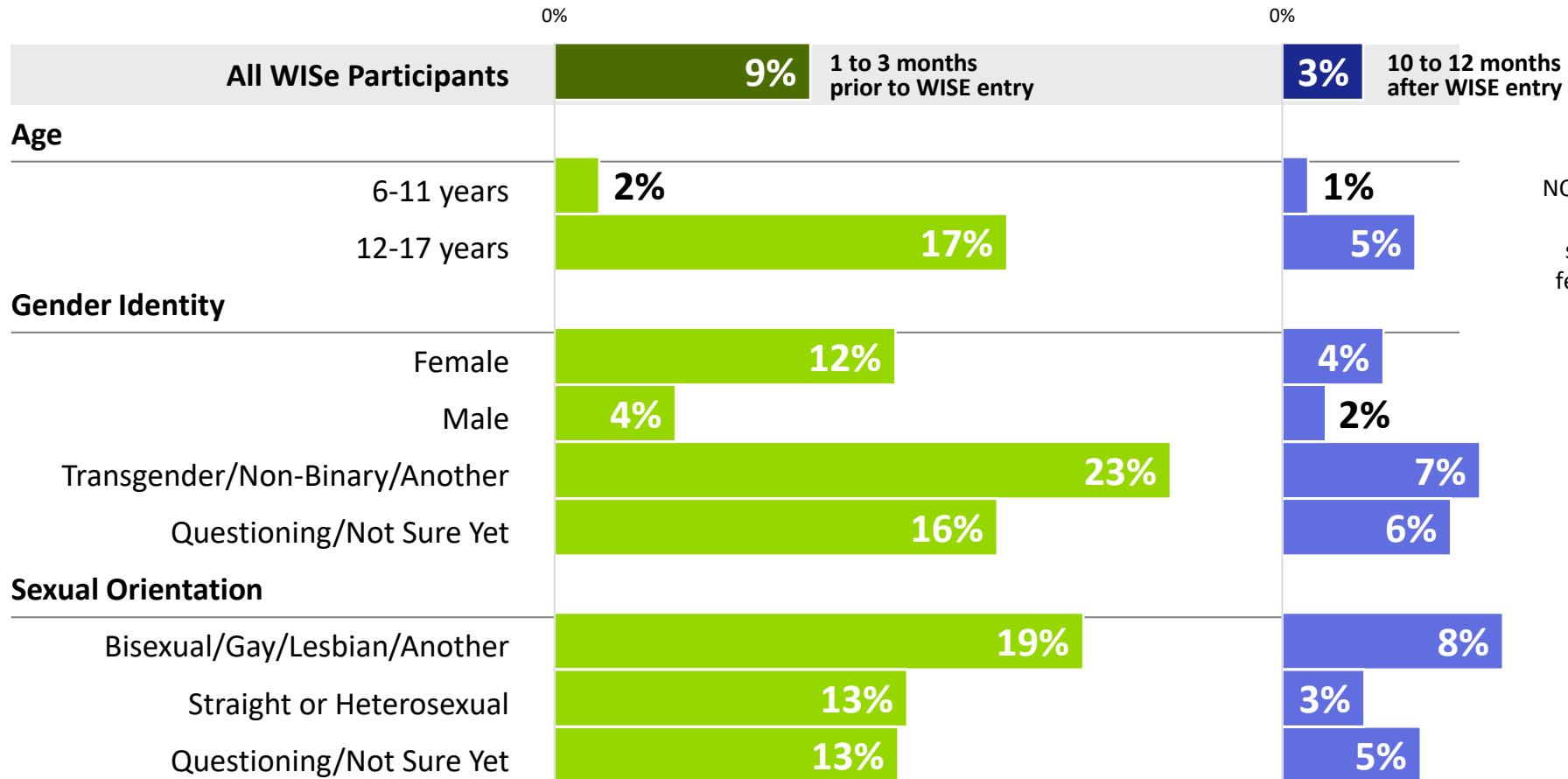


NOTE: To protect client confidentiality, measures with 10 or fewer participants are not shown.



Washington State
Health Care Authority

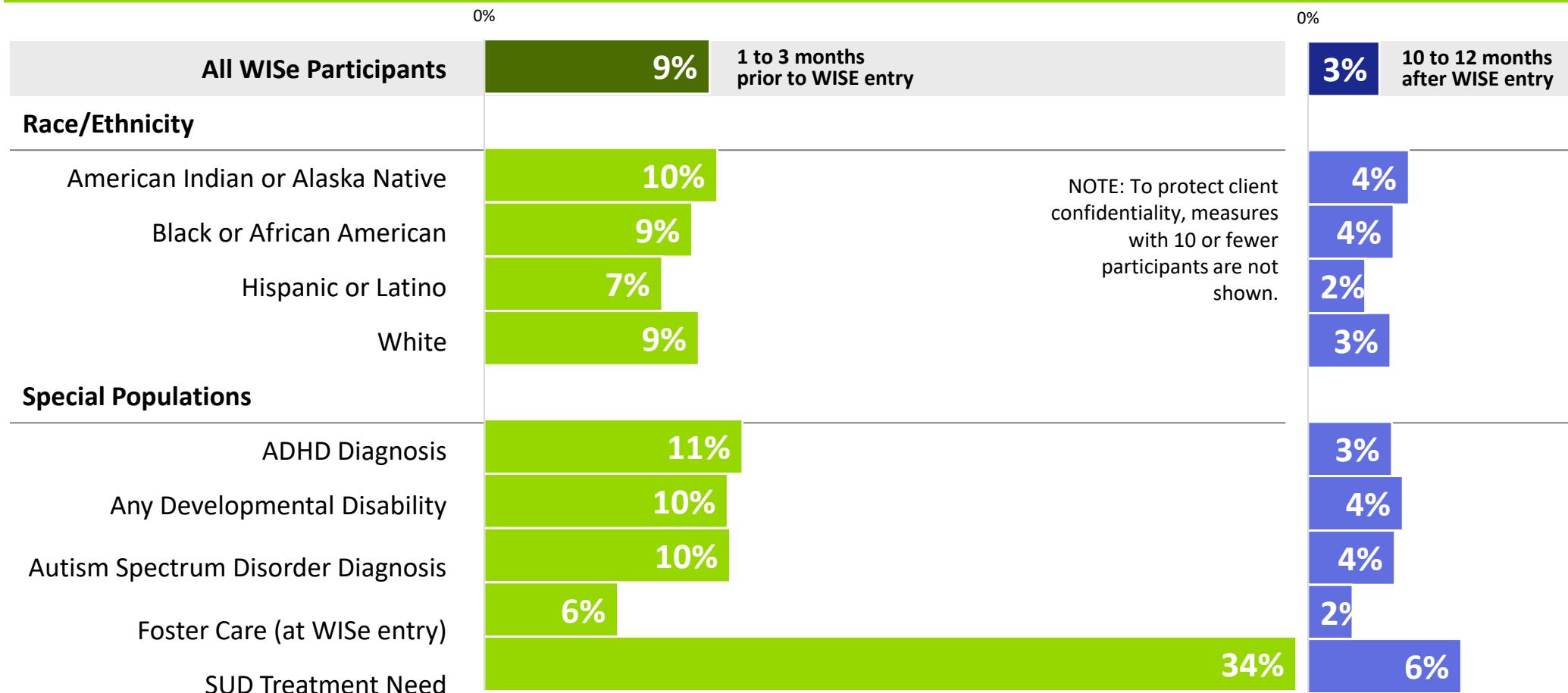
WISe outcomes: Mental health inpatient services



NOTE: To protect client confidentiality, subgroups with 10 or fewer participants are not shown.



WISe outcomes: Mental health inpatient services





Exciting enough for a full tail slap!



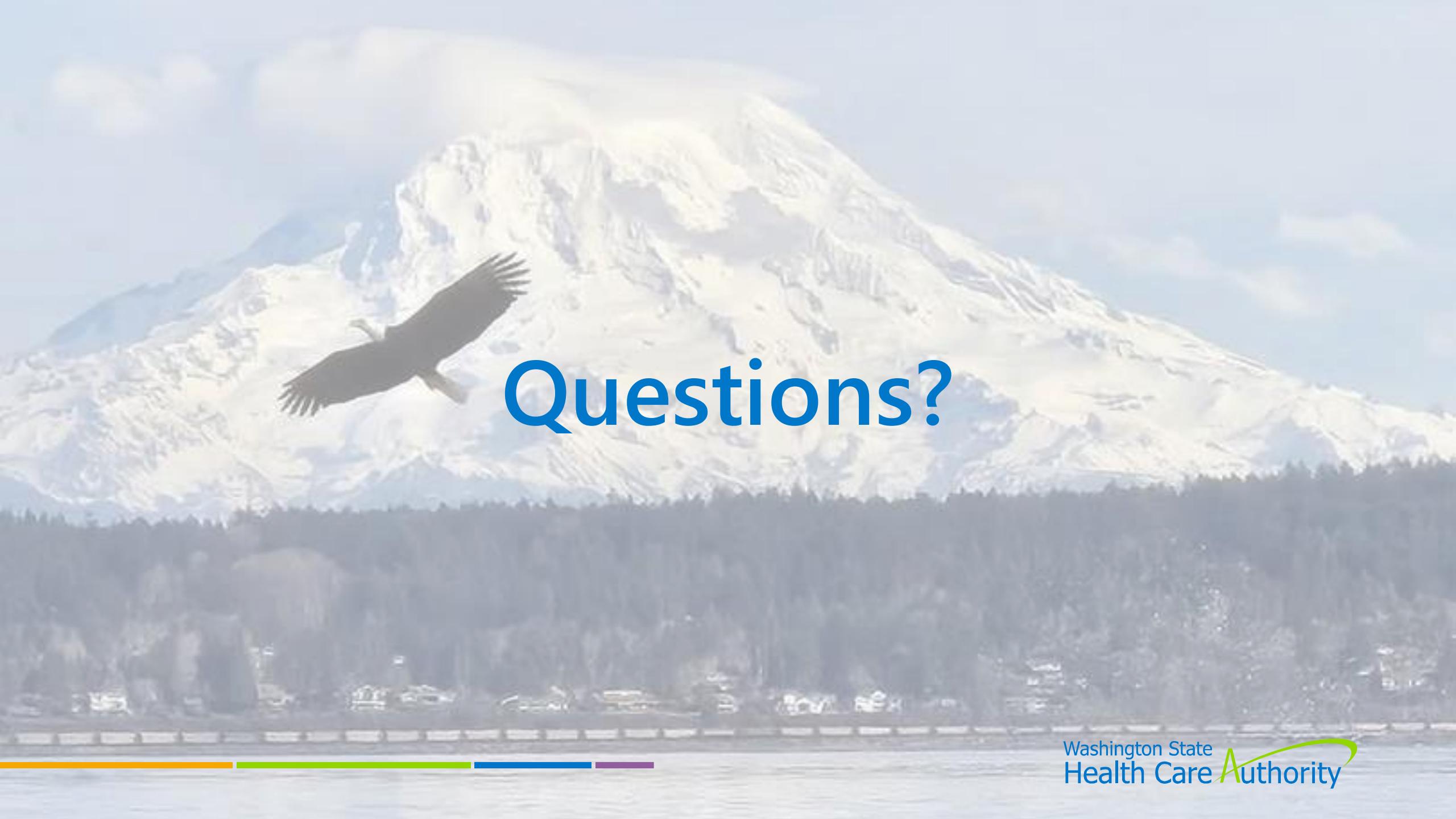
What if the picture doesn't tell the story we hoped for?





Washington State
Health Care Authority





Questions?