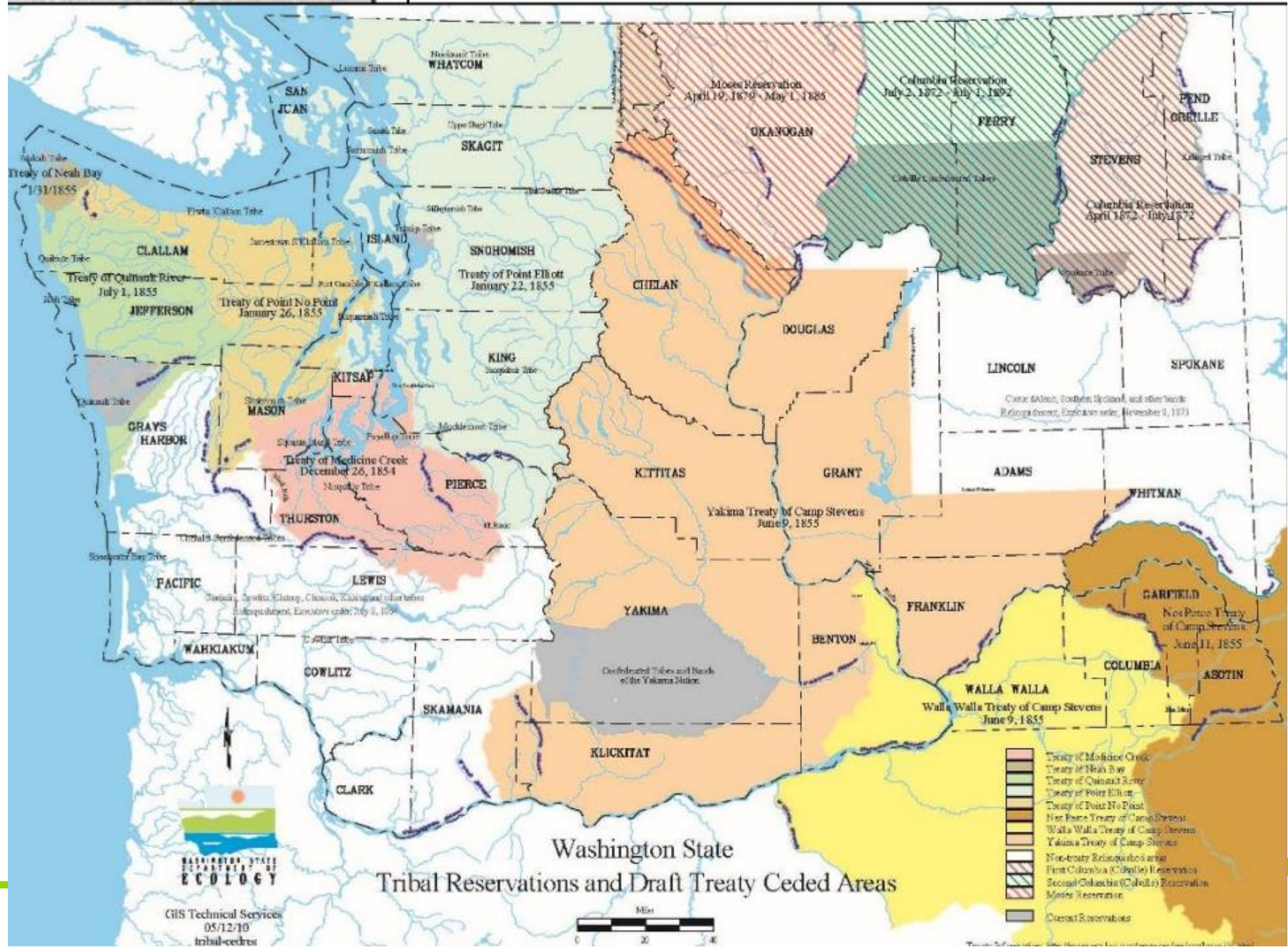
The background of the slide features a scenic view of Mount Rainier, a large snow-capped mountain, rising above a layer of clouds. In the foreground, a calm body of water, likely a lake, is visible, with a forested shoreline on the left. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Washington State WISe, CANS, and Demographics

Annual TCOM Conference
October 14, 2025



Presenter



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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)

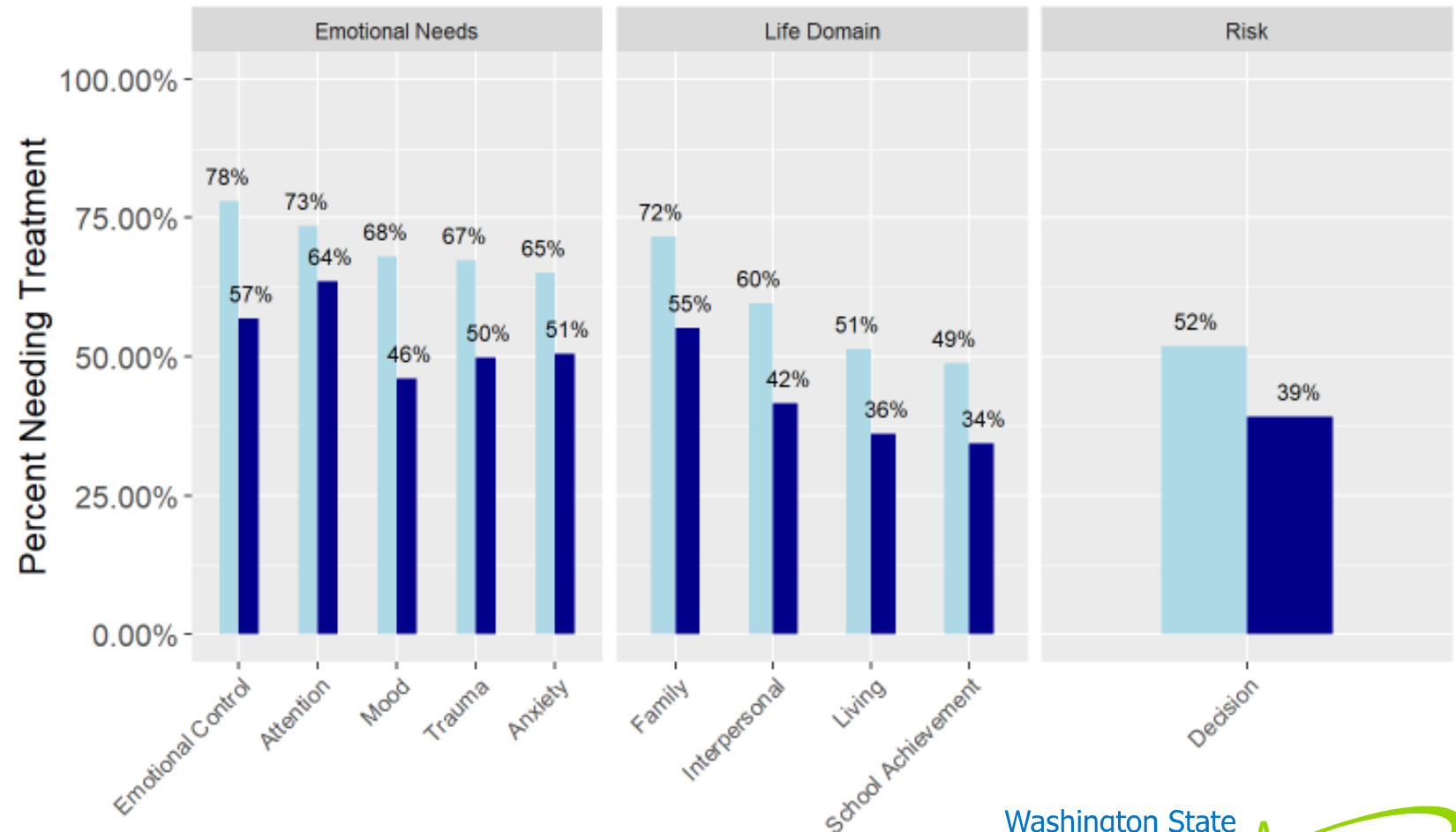
- ▶ A scale to quantify how a youth and their family are doing
 - ▶ Needs
 - 0 = Not currently identified as a need
 - 1 = Potential or past need
 - 2 = Current need
 - 3 = Current need endangering the youth or family
 - ▶ Strengths
 - 0 = Centerpiece strength
 - 1 = Strong strength
 - 2 = Potential 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

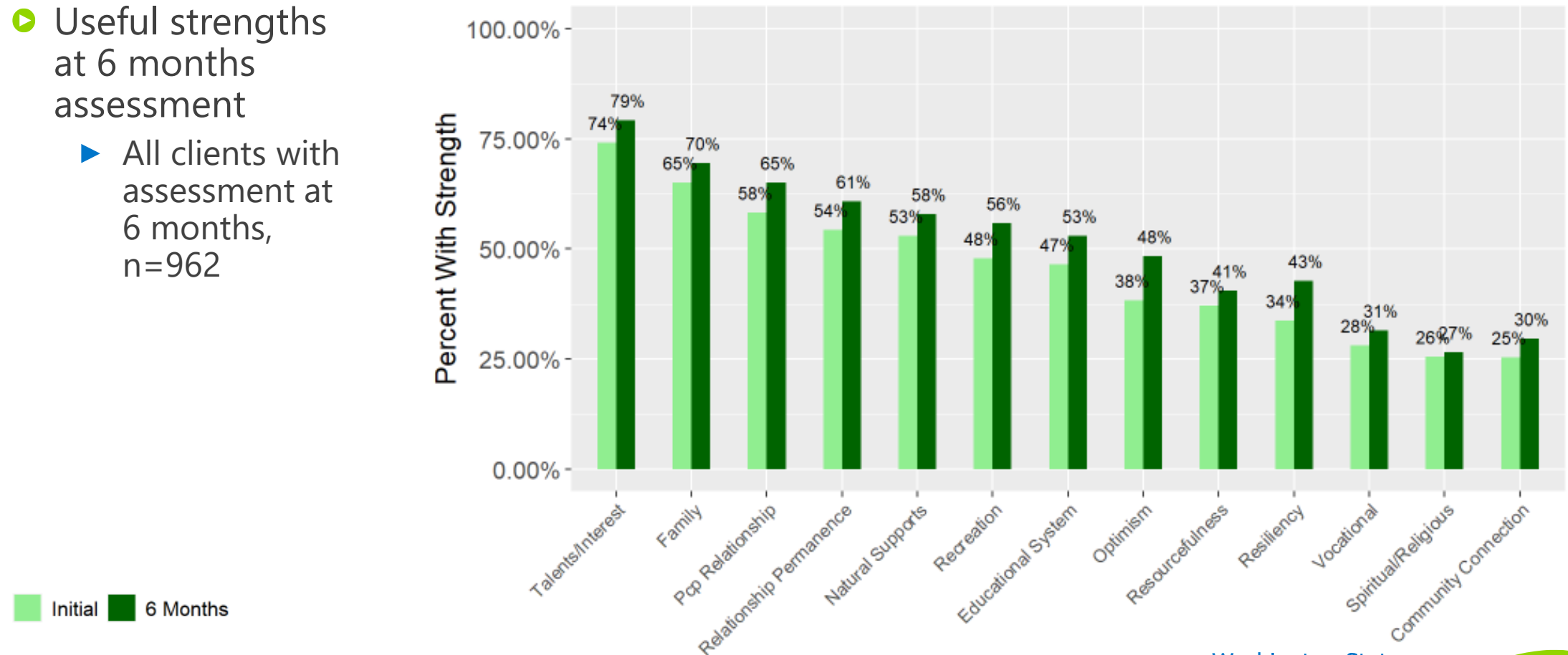
- ▶ Treatment needs at 6 months assessment
 - ▶ All clients with assessment at 6 months, n=962



Initial 6 Months

Child and youth strengths increase after 6 months in WISE

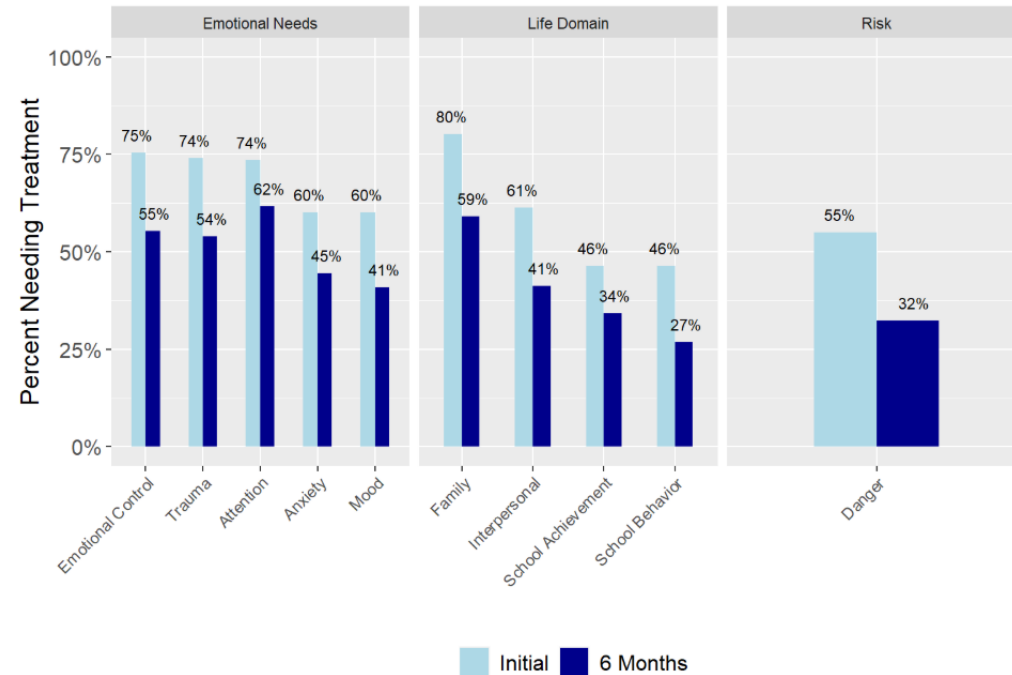
- ▶ Useful strengths at 6 months assessment
 - ▶ All clients with assessment at 6 months, n=962



Comparing two counties' CANS scores

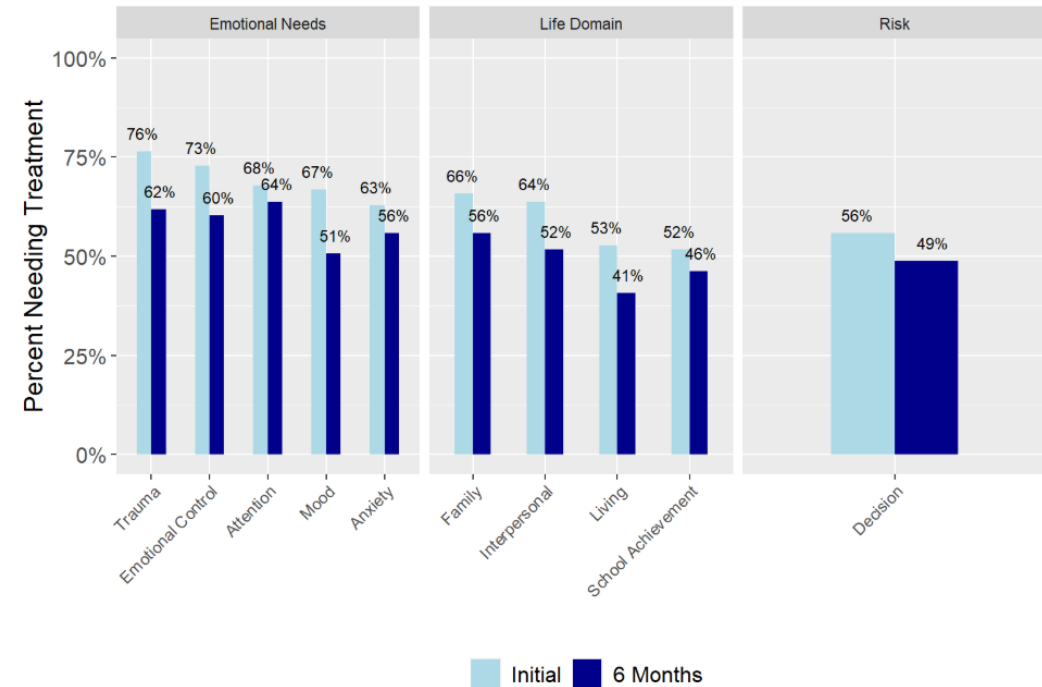
Pierce (Tacoma)

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 | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | 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% | --- | --- | --- | --- | 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% | --- | --- | --- | --- | 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% | --- | --- | --- | --- | 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% | --- | --- | --- | --- | 495 | 11.8% | 771 | 11.1% | 4,525 | 18.0% |
| North Central | 275 | 4.4% | --- | --- | --- | --- | 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% | --- | --- | --- | --- | 428 | 10.2% | 754 | 10.8% | 3,157 | 12.6% |
| Salish | 483 | 7.7% | --- | --- | --- | --- | 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% | --- | --- | --- | --- | 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

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

* - indicates required field

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

A photograph of a whale breaching the water surface, with a large splash of water visible. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains and a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is overcast and grey.

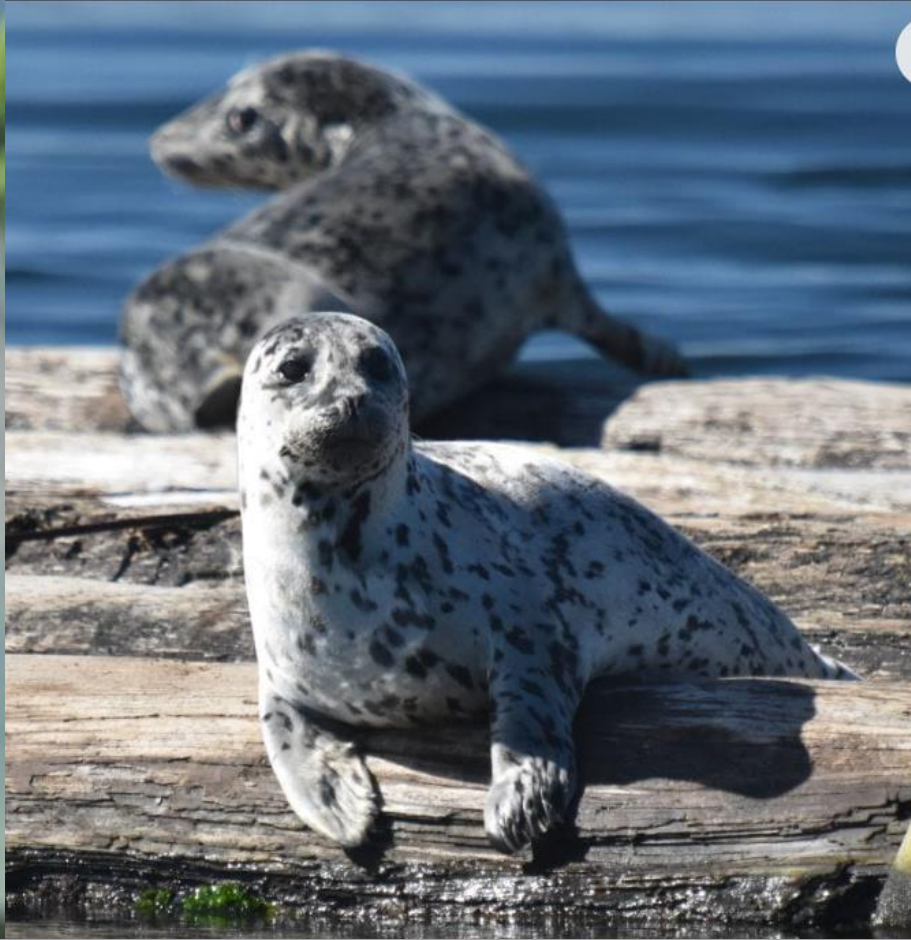
Sometimes you can have
great outcomes even if the
time doesn't seem right.

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?

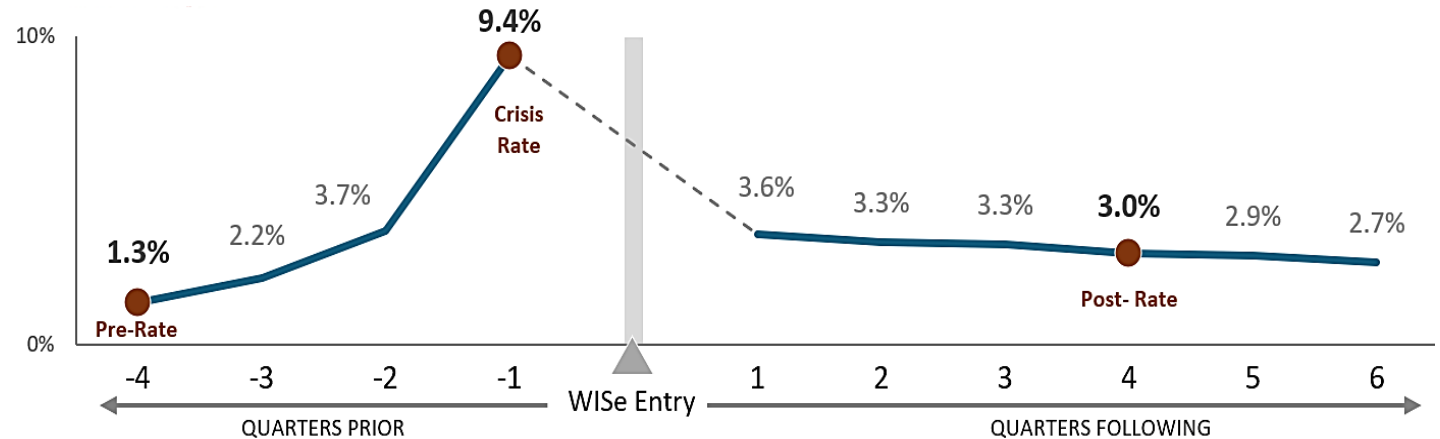
WISe outcomes: Mental health inpatient services

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

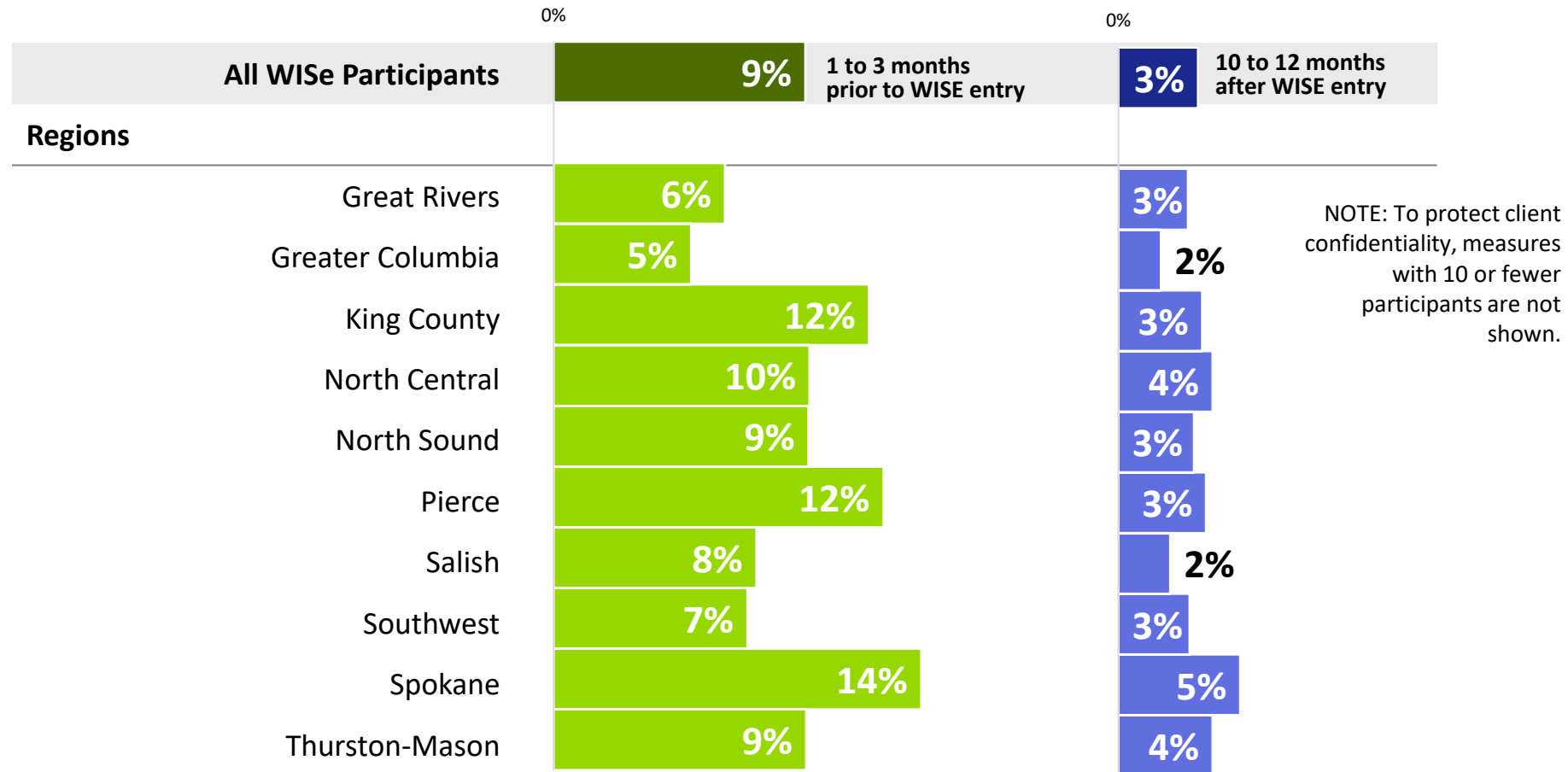
When? Those who entered WISe services from **January 2021** to **December 2023**

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

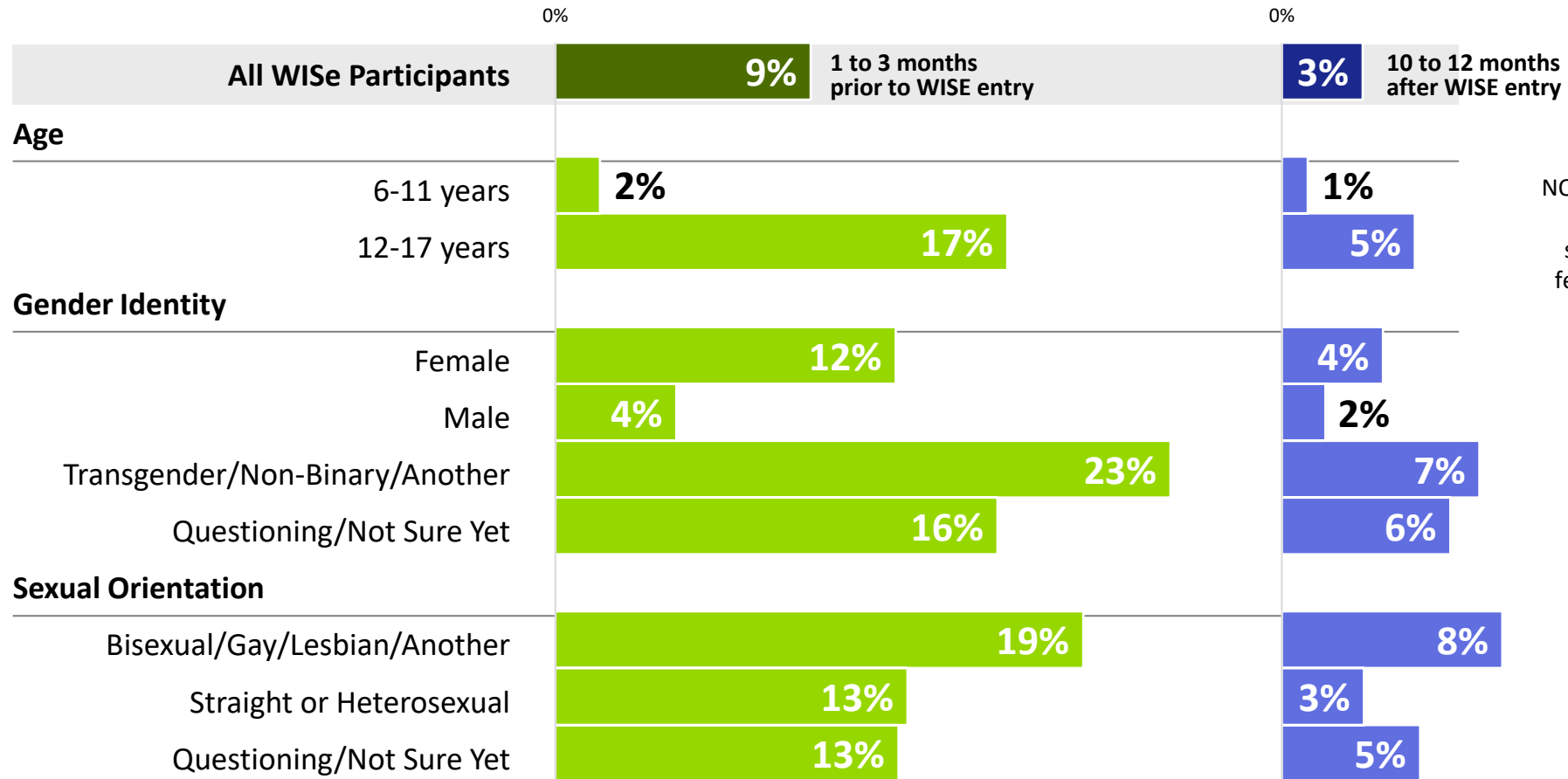
Mental Health Inpatient Services



WISe outcomes: Mental Health Inpatient Services



WISe outcomes: Mental health inpatient services



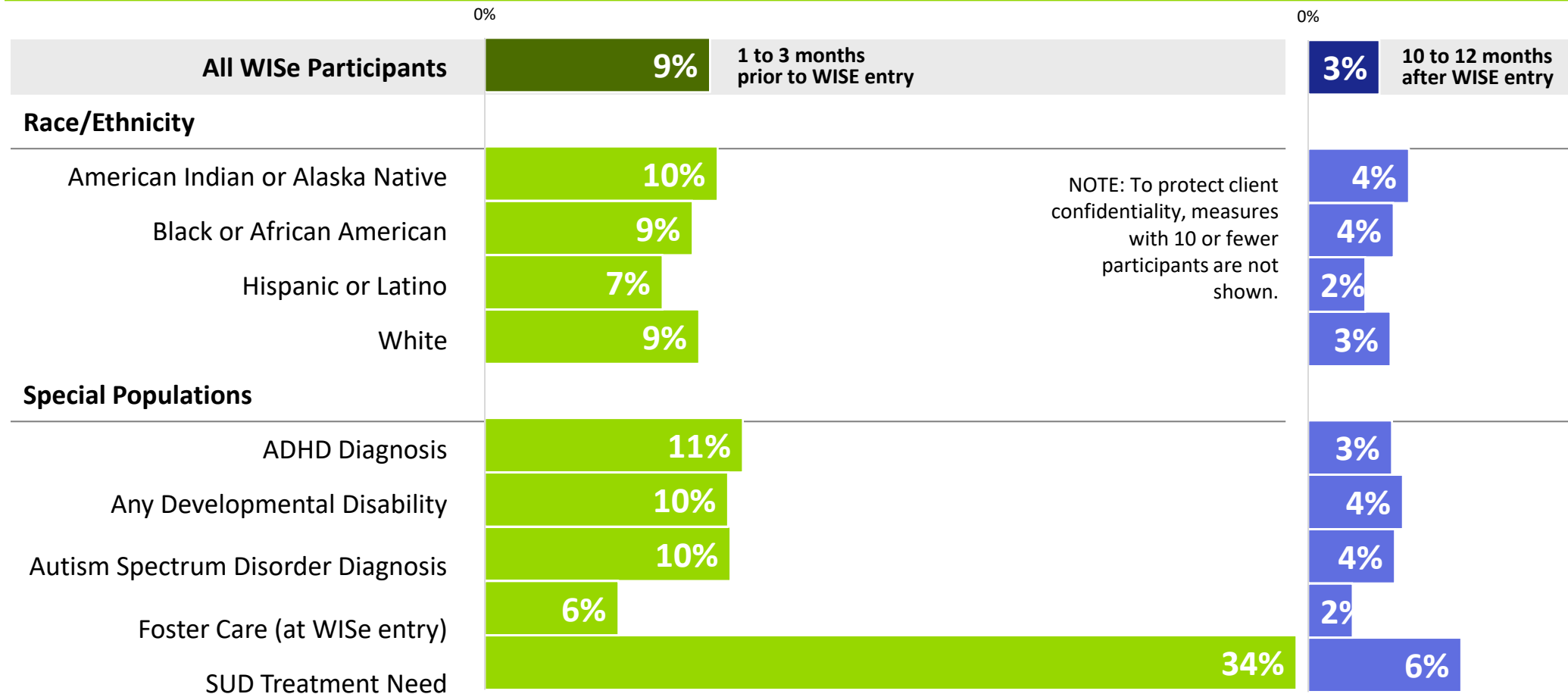
NOTE: To protect client confidentiality, subgroups with 10 or fewer participants are not shown.



DSHS

Washington State
Health Care Authority

WISe outcomes: Mental health inpatient services



DSHS

Washington State
Health Care Authority



Exciting enough for a full tail slap!

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









Questions?