

J-PAL State and Local Innovation Initiative

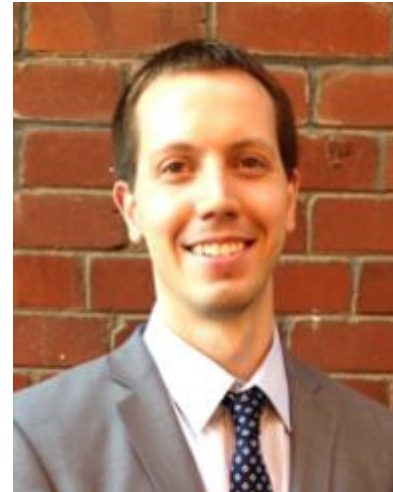
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Introductions



Sara Heller
Department of Criminology
University of Pennsylvania
J-PAL Affiliate



Steven Ryan
Senior Policy Associate
J-PAL North America

Agenda

I. Introduction

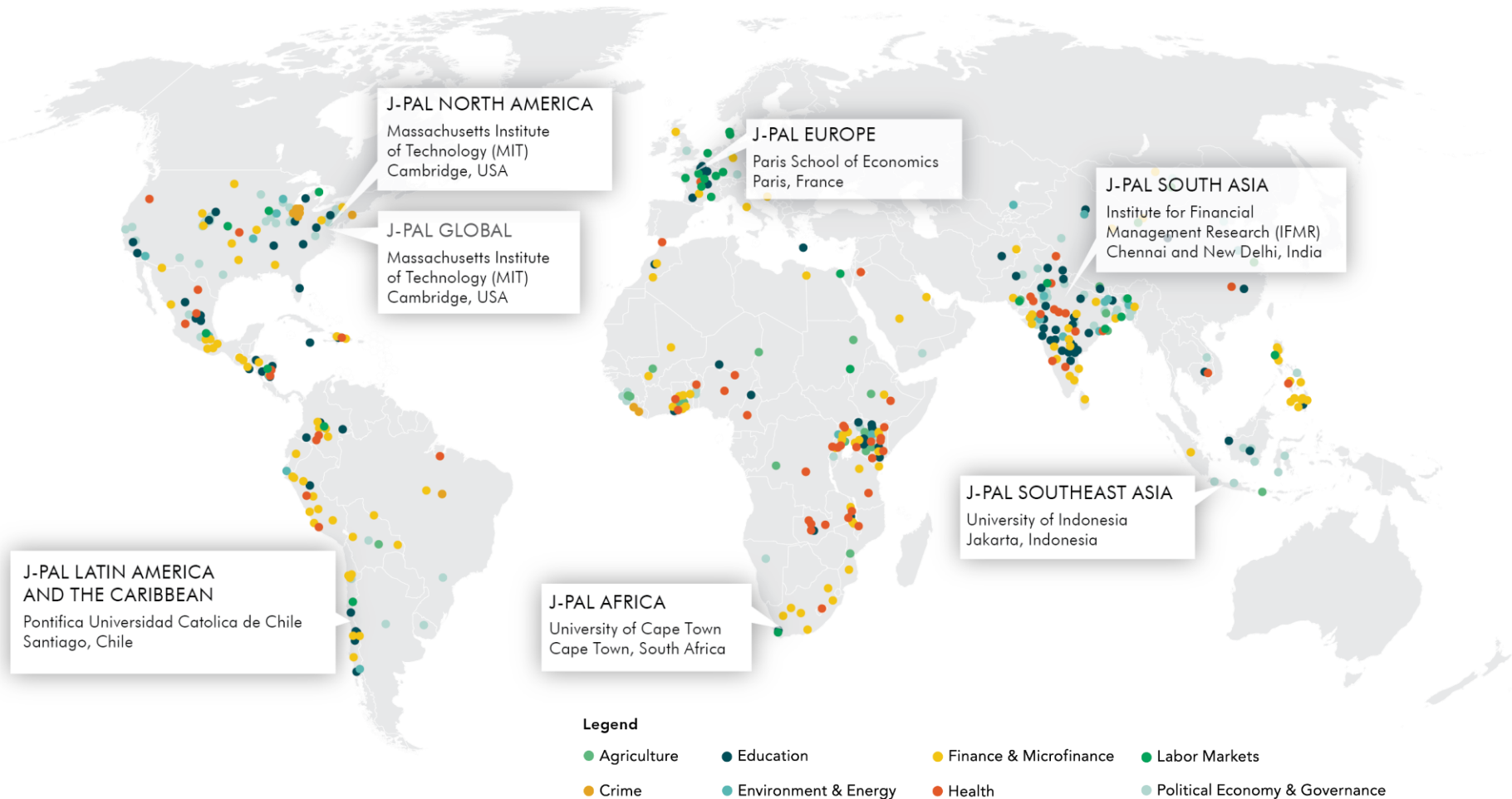
II. Opportunities for Randomization

III. A Randomized Evaluation from Start to Finish:
Reducing Violence in Chicago

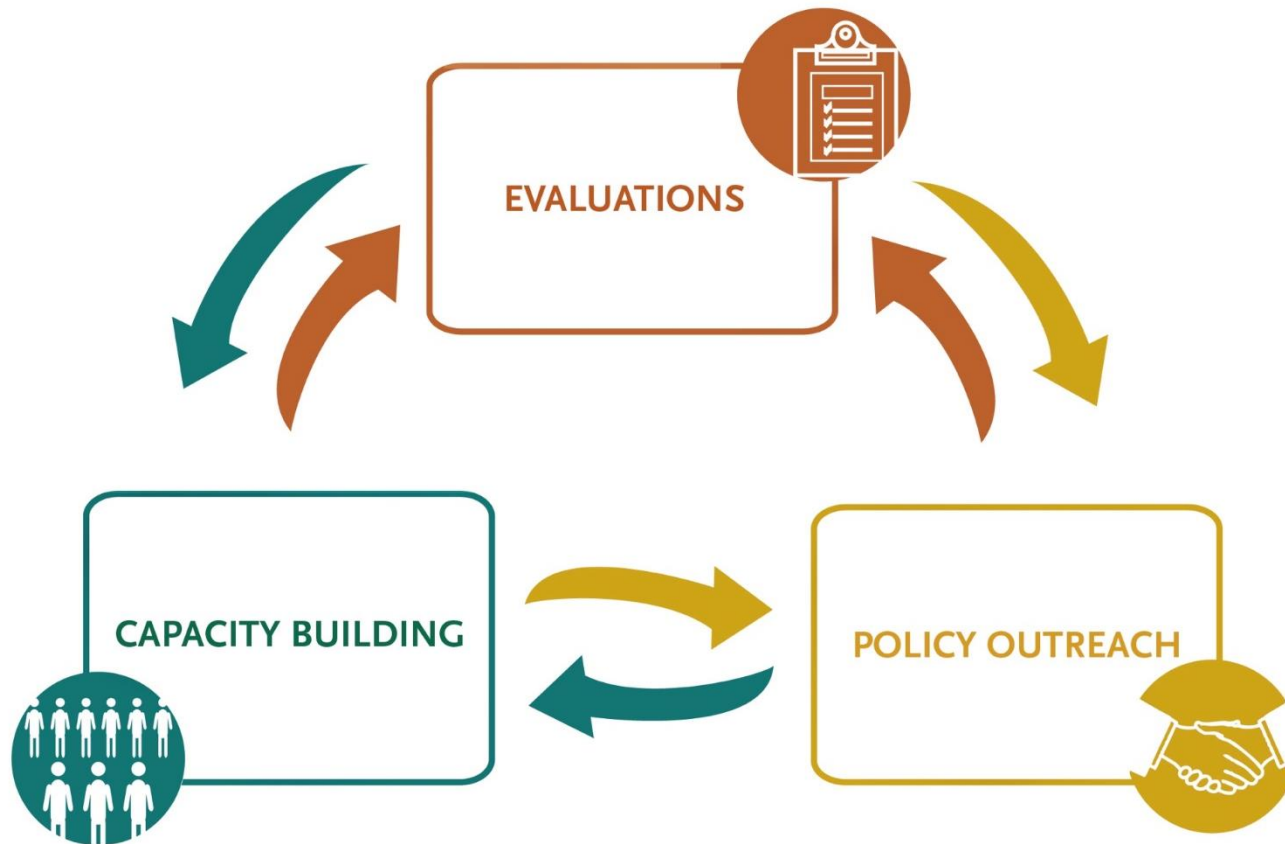
IV. Application Process

V. Q&A

680+ ongoing and completed projects in 60+ countries
200 million + lives touched by the scale up of proven programs



J-PAL's approach



The challenge

State and local policymakers are actively innovating to address **complex policy challenges**.

Often, policymakers have to act without the benefit of **rigorous evidence** about:

- What has been tried and proven elsewhere
- Which of their own policies and programs were most effective

The J-PAL State and Local Innovation Initiative

Selected state and local governments will receive:

- **Technical support** from J-PAL staff to develop feasible, policy-relevant evaluations
- **Flexible funding** to help get these evaluations off the ground
- **Partnerships with experienced researchers** from J-PAL's network to implement the evaluations

Policy areas of interest

J-PAL defines poverty alleviation **broadly**

- Some areas of interest include education, labor markets, health care, crime, housing

We are interested in **questions of highest priority** to policymakers

Submit your questions in a **letter of interest**

An important policy question

Rapidly rising health care costs in U.S. putting pressure on patients, employers, and government budgets

Five percent of patients account for more than half of costs in the U.S.

How can we help patients with complex needs?



A promising approach

Camden Coalition of Health Care Providers' Link2Care program serves “super-utilizers” of health care system

Camden program drawing interest from health care practitioners around the country

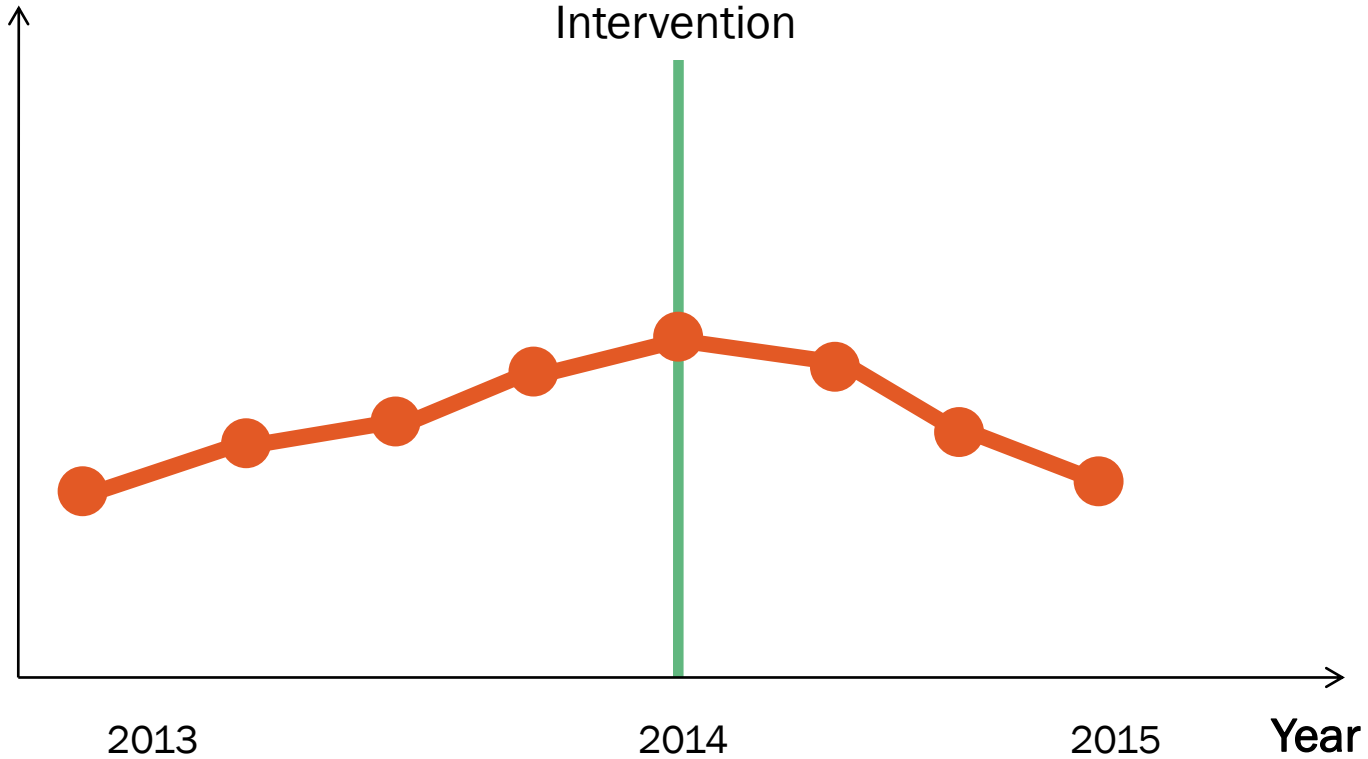
Initial indications that program was effective in reducing costs, improving health outcomes



Dr. Jeffrey Brenner, founder of the Camden Coalition of Health Care Providers

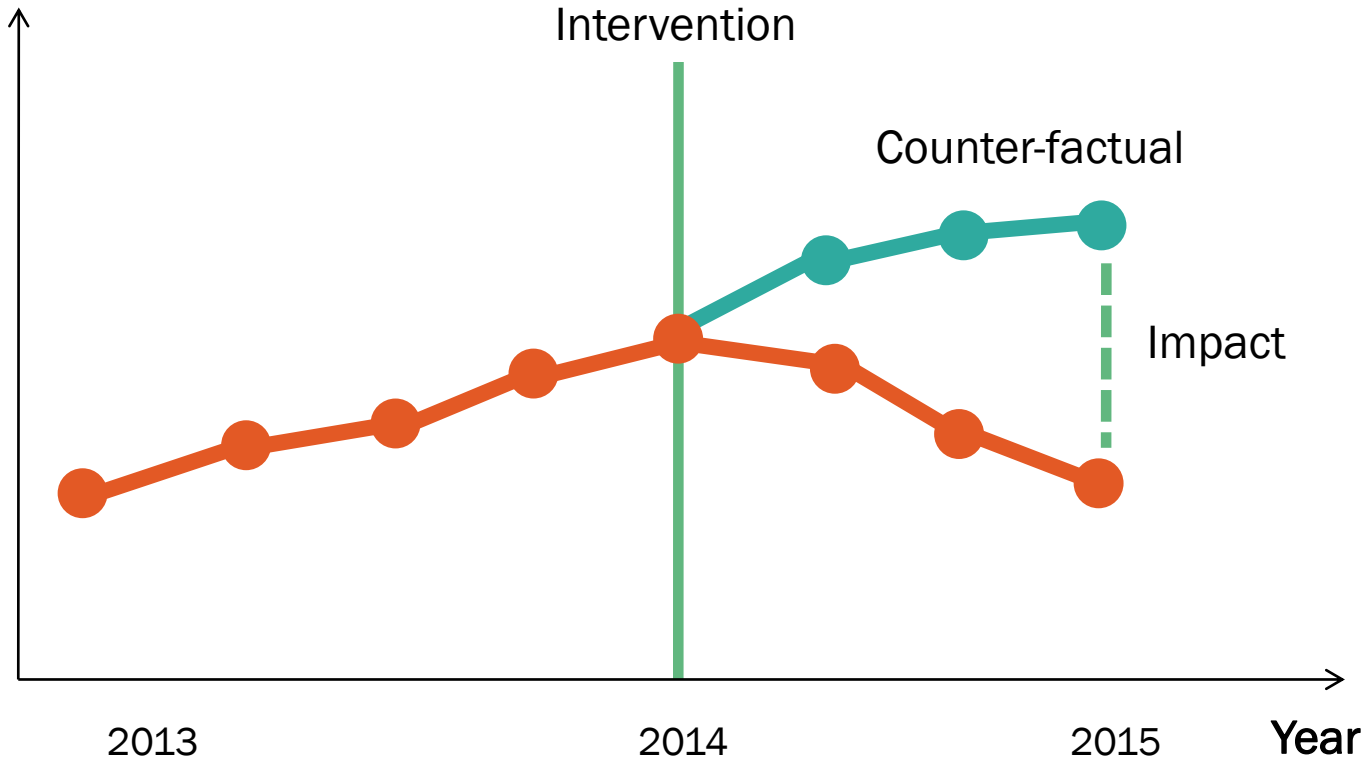
Why randomize?

Hospital readmissions



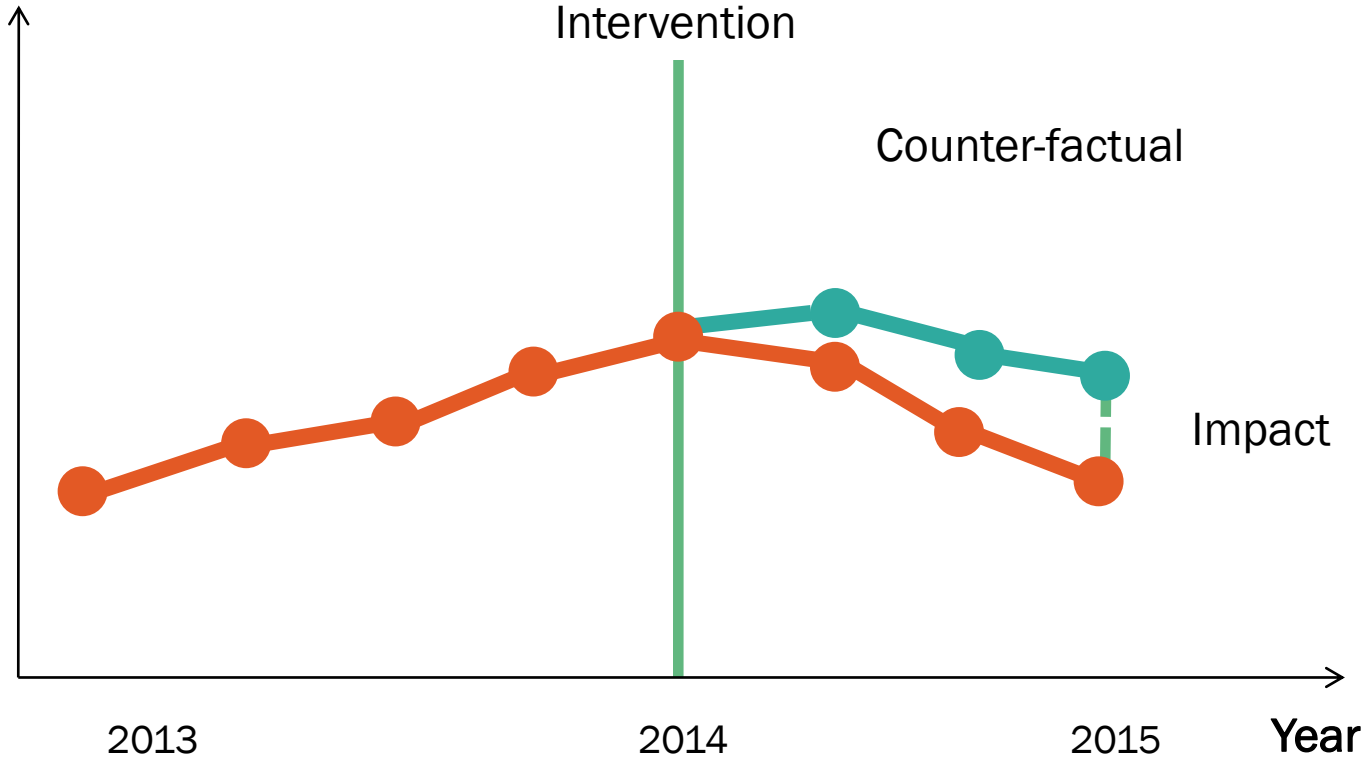
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Hospital readmissions

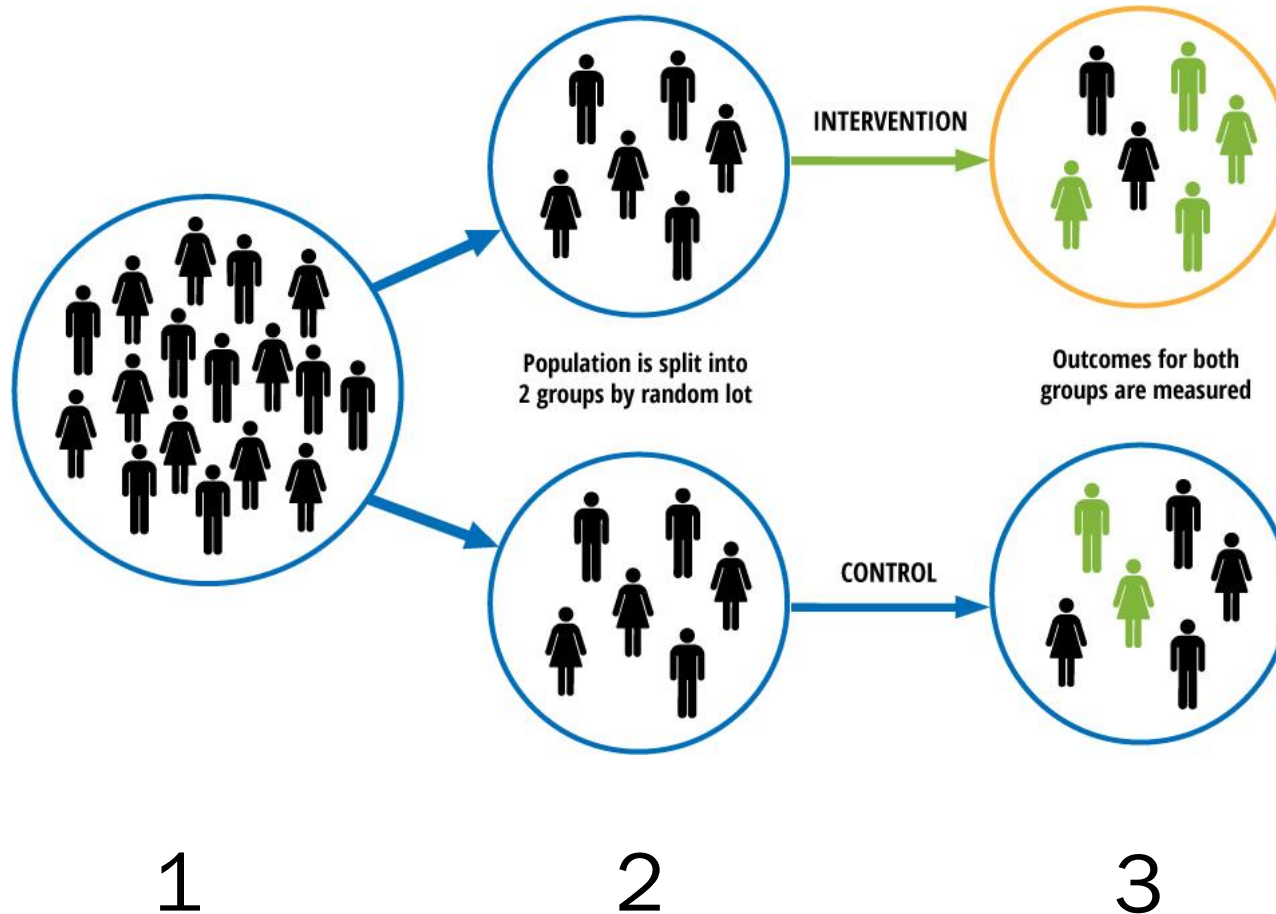


Why randomize?

Hospital readmissions



Steps to randomization



1. Identification of eligible participants



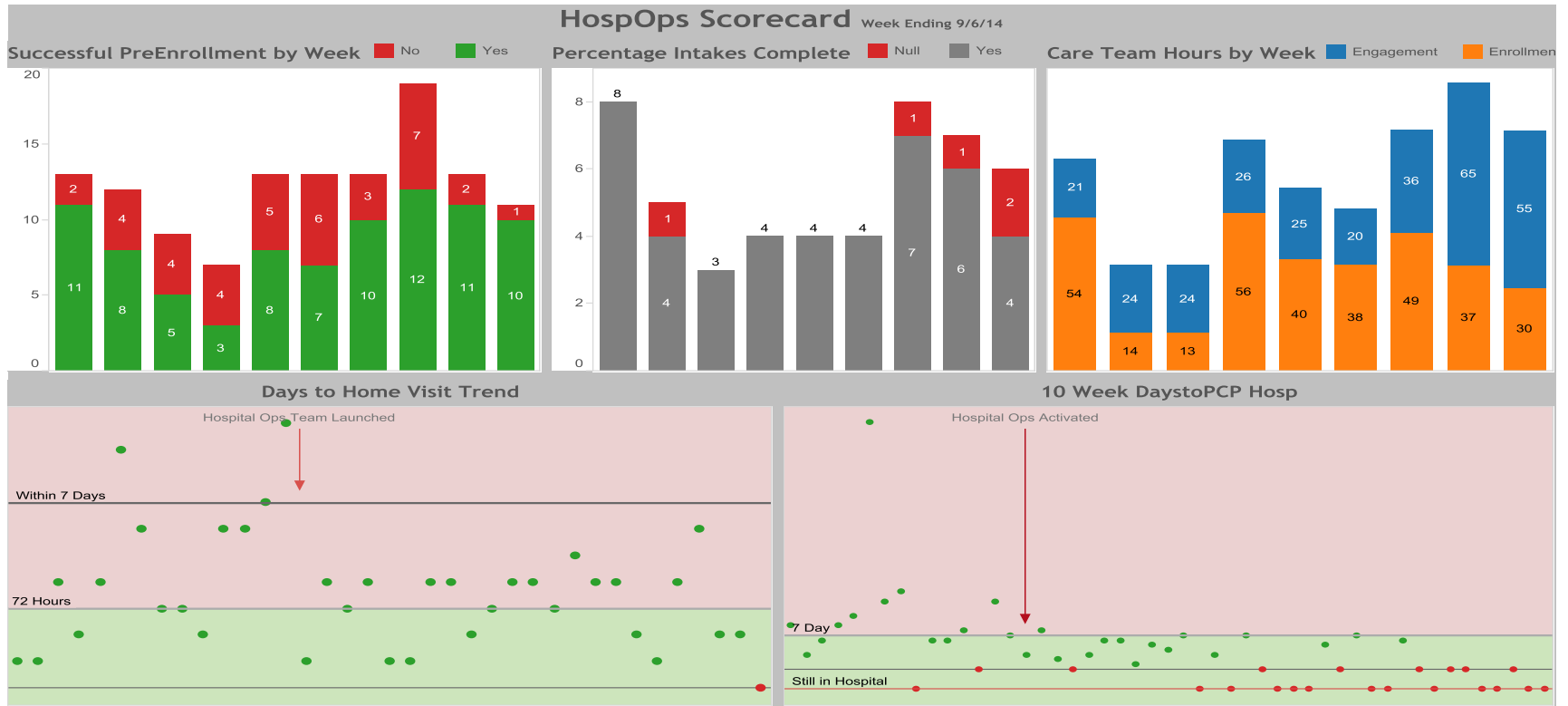
- Health Information Exchange provides daily report of patients with 2 or more hospital admissions in previous six months
- Staff review hospital chart data to further verify eligibility

2. Recruitment, consent, and randomization



Camden Coalition staff introduce program, obtain consent, and randomize using survey software on tablets

3. Service delivery and process monitoring



Real-time data records services delivered to treatment group, including when their first home visit occurred and whether they saw their primary care physician

Outcome measurement and analysis

Real-time analysis of primary outcome (hospital readmissions) using Health Information Exchange

Measure longer-term outcomes using administrative data

- Health care use (Medicare and Medicaid claims)
- Participation in TANF and SNAP (NJ Department of Health and Human Services)
- Participation in homelessness services and housing stability programs (Camden Housing Authority)
- Incarceration rates (NJ Department of Corrections)
- Earnings and employment (NJ and PA Department of Labor unemployment insurance records)
- Mortality (Social Security Administration and NJ Vital Statistics)

Randomization from start to finish



Sara Heller
Assistant Professor
Department of Criminology
University of Pennsylvania



Opportunity: Chicago's youth programs

- \$36 million annual budget for after-school programs and summer employment
 - Driving motivation: reduce violence
- Lots of reasons a summer job could prevent violence
 - Provides income, information on value of schooling, employer connections
 - Develops soft skills and self-efficacy
 - Incapacitation
- Theory is not clear cut, and there is little good evidence



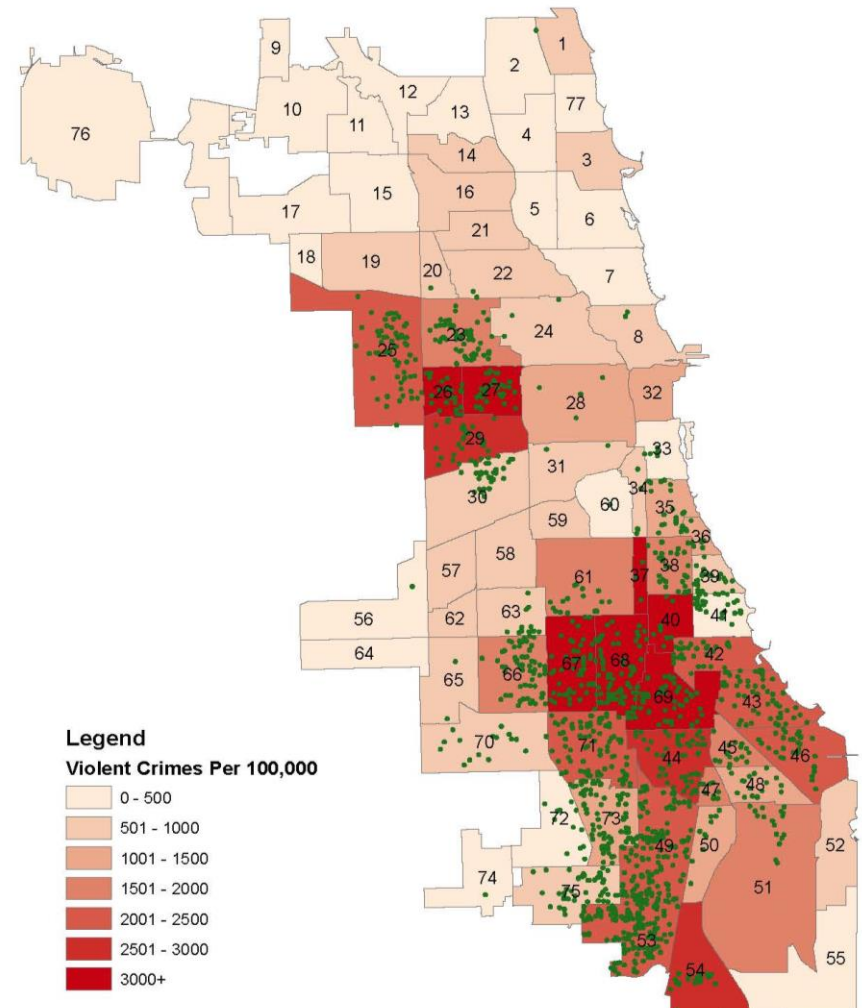
One Summer Chicago Plus

- In 2012, designed an experimental program to test whether supported summer job can reduce violence
- Eight-week summer program
 - Government and non-profit minimum-wage jobs (25 hours/week)
 - Adult job mentor
 - 1-day job readiness training, 1 meal/day, bus passes
 - For half of youth, replace two job hours/day with cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) curriculum



Population of interest

- Youth at high risk of violence involvement in the city
- Administrative data used to identify 13 high schools



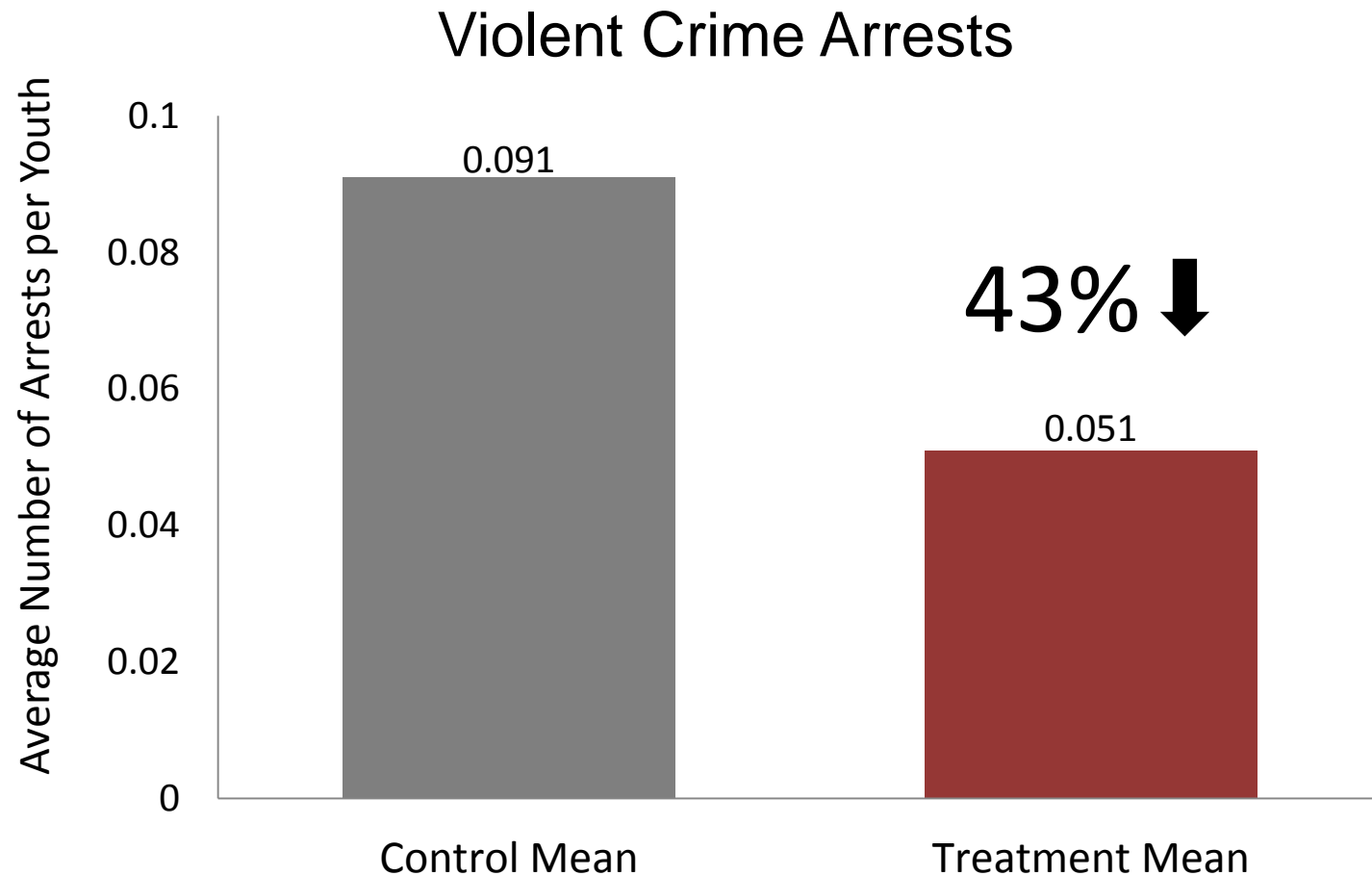
Randomization

- 1,634 applicants enter lottery
 - 364 jobs only
 - 366 jobs + CBT curriculum
 - 904 control (no extra services)

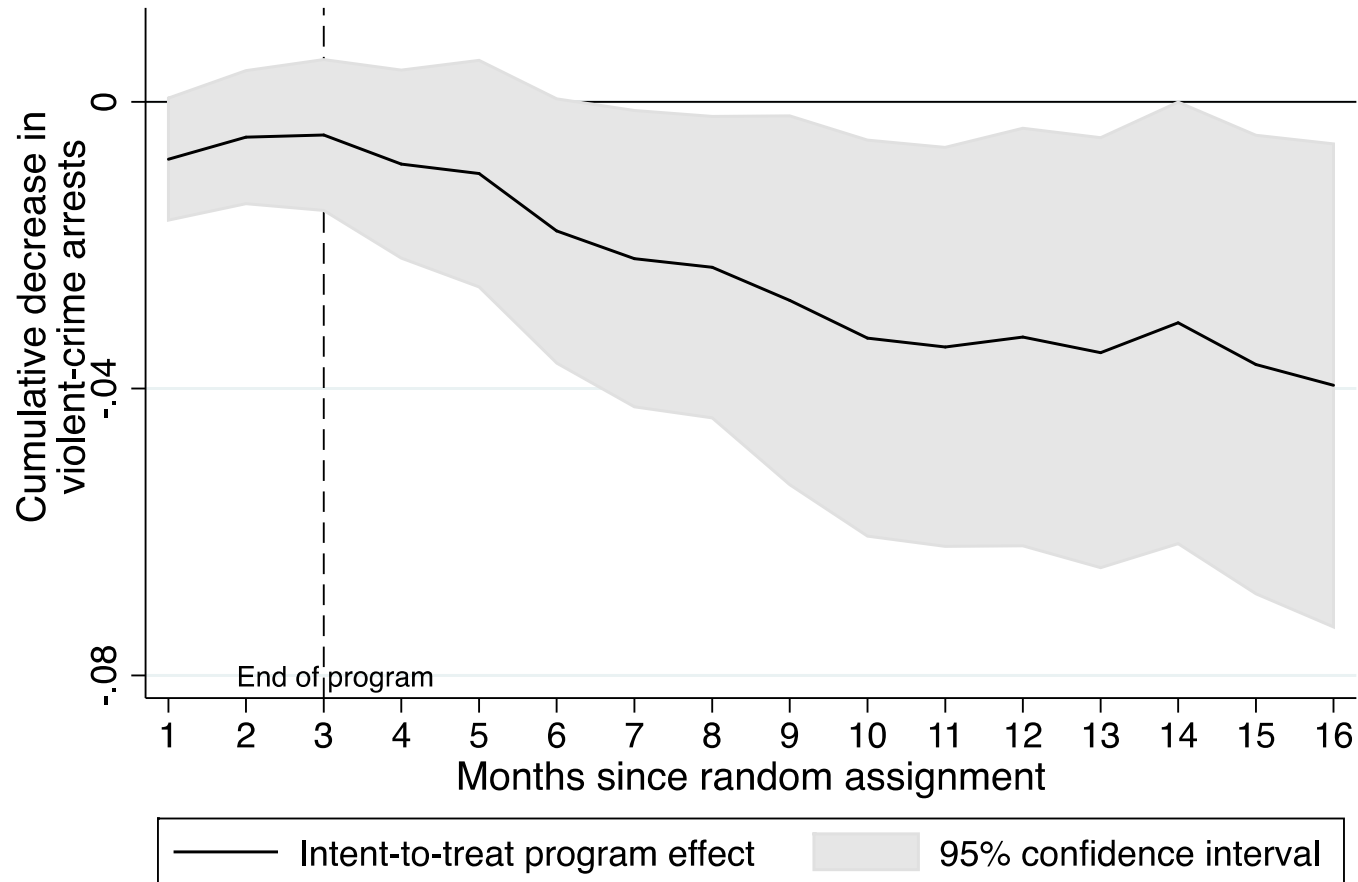
- Track outcomes in administrative data
 - Arrests
 - School
 - Employment

	Mean
N = 1,634	
Demographics	
Age	16.8
Black	94.9%
Hispanic	3.3%
Free/Reduced Lunch	92.2%
Crime	
Ever Arrested	20.4%
Academics 2011-12	
Days Attended	136.8
GPA	2.3
Neighborhoods	
% Unemployed	19.0%
Employment (n = 1,279)	
Any Earnings in Prior Year	6.8%

Program reduces violence over next 16 mos.



And not just “incapacitation”



What happened next?

- Attention from researchers, media, other U.S. cities, as well as international interest
- Mayor Emanuel empowered to seek further funding
- Secured \$10 million from private philanthropists to expand to serve:
 - 2,000 disadvantaged youth in 2015
 - 3,000 youth in 2016
 - 4,000 youth in 2017

The Washington Post

Workblog

Chicago gave hundreds of high-risk kids a summer job. Violent crime arrests plummeted.



Summer Jobs Help Keep Kids Out of Trouble, Study Suggests

CHICAGO

How a Chicago Summer Job Program Reduced Violent Crime

NEW YORK

CRIME

A Cheap Way to Reduce Youth Violence

J-PAL is now inviting Letters of Interest from state and local governments

The J-PAL State and Local Innovation Initiative features a **two-phase competition**.

In Phase I, state and local governments can apply for:

- Technical support from J-PAL for a period of up to one year;
- Flexible pilot funding of up to \$100,000; and
- Matchmaking with J-PAL's network of researchers.

In Phase II, governments that have partnered with a researcher from J-PAL's network can apply for funding, in the range of \$250,000-500,000, to carry out the evaluations.

Timeline

February 16, 2016 – Deadline to submit letters of interest

March 14, 2016 – Finalists invited to submit full proposal

May 2, 2016 – Deadline to submit full proposals

June 6, 2016 – Winners announced

Go to povertyactionlab.org/stateandlocal for further information