

J-PAL SOUTHEAST ASIA LAUNCH

JAKARTA, INDONESIA • 25 JUNE 2013

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL
Poverty Action Lab

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

J-PAL in Indonesia

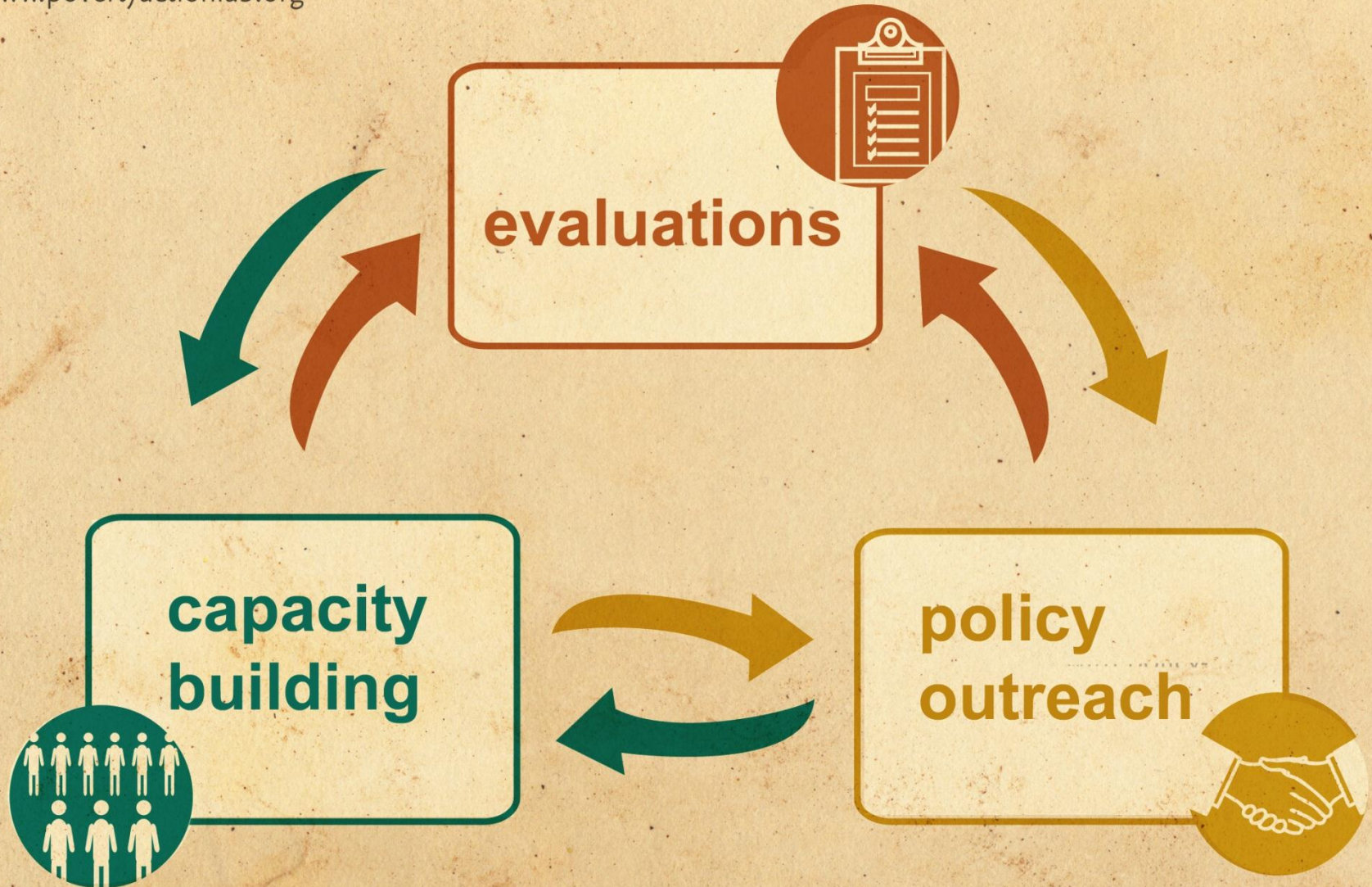
Benjamin Olken

J-PAL Director, J-PAL SEA Scientific Director
Professor of Economics, MIT



J-PAL'S MISSION IS TO ENSURE THAT POLICY IS
DRIVEN BY **EVIDENCE** AND RESEARCH IS TRANSLATED INTO **ACTION**

www.povertyactionlab.org



J-PAL around the world

Over 80 affiliates have conducted over 380 evaluations in 52 countries



Where Does J-PAL Work?

Over 80 affiliates have conducted over 360 evaluations in 52 countries

To date, **over 63 million people have been reached** by programs found to be effective by J-PAL affiliates.



J-PAL around the world



How can RCTs help us improve
policy to reduce poverty?

10 years ago...



A photograph of a dirt road under construction in a rural area. The road is unpaved and has several large piles of light-colored gravel or crushed stone on either side. In the background, several people are visible working on the road. The surrounding landscape is green with trees and vegetation. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

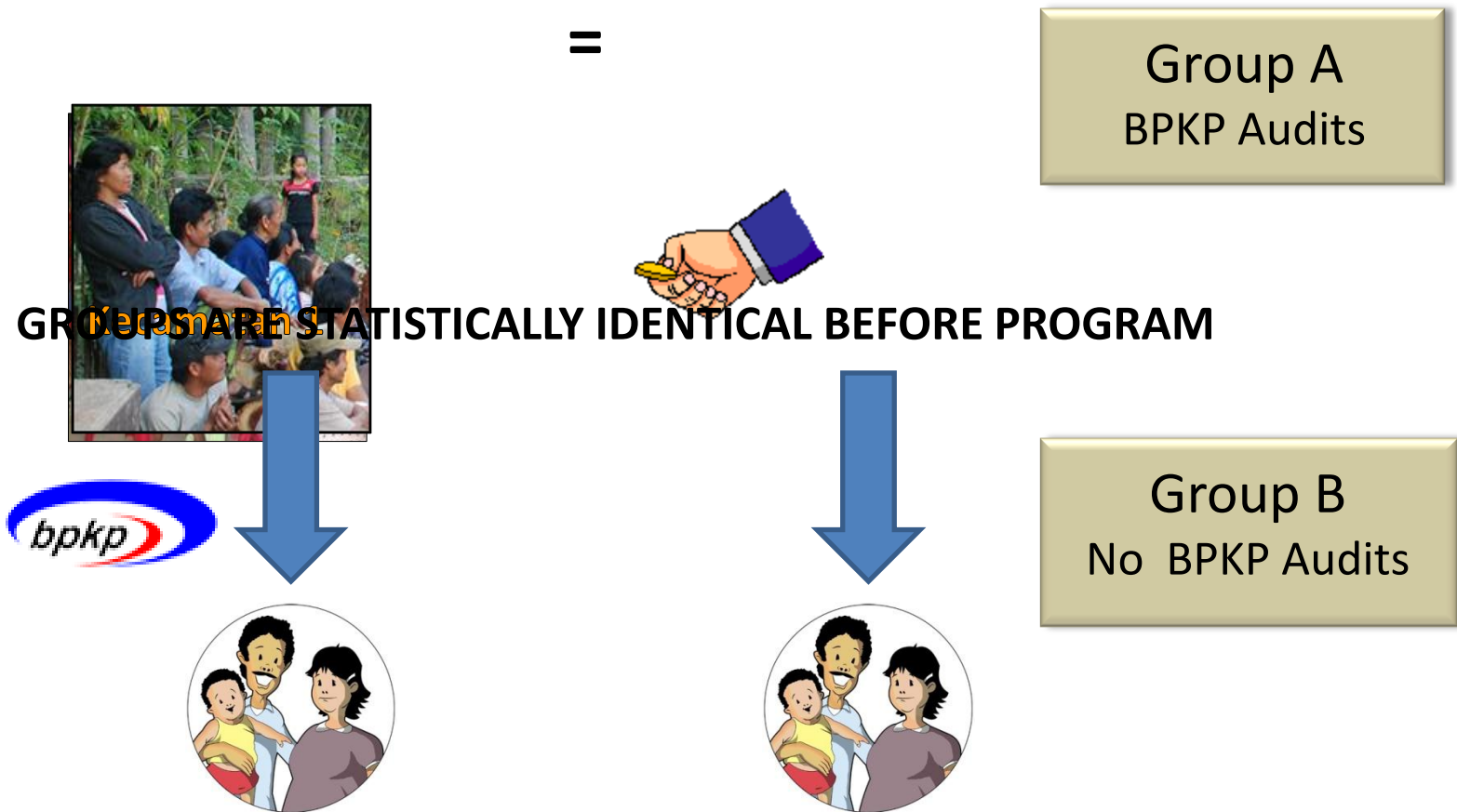
How do you reduce corruption in road projects?

- Government auditing?
- Enhanced community monitoring?

Auditing or community monitoring?



Using an RCT to answer our questions



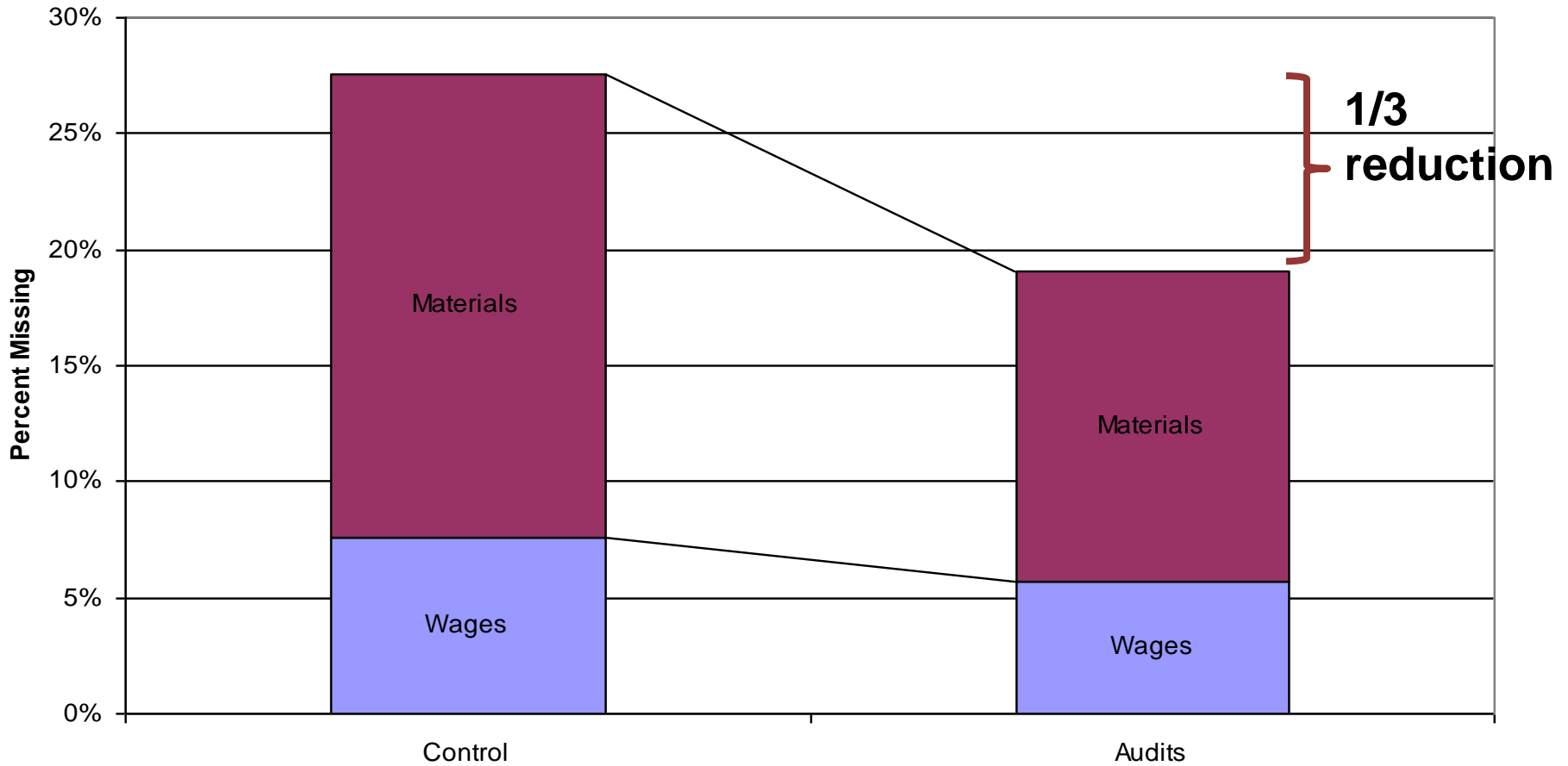
ANY DIFFERENCES AT ENDLINE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO PROGRAM

How do you measure corruption?



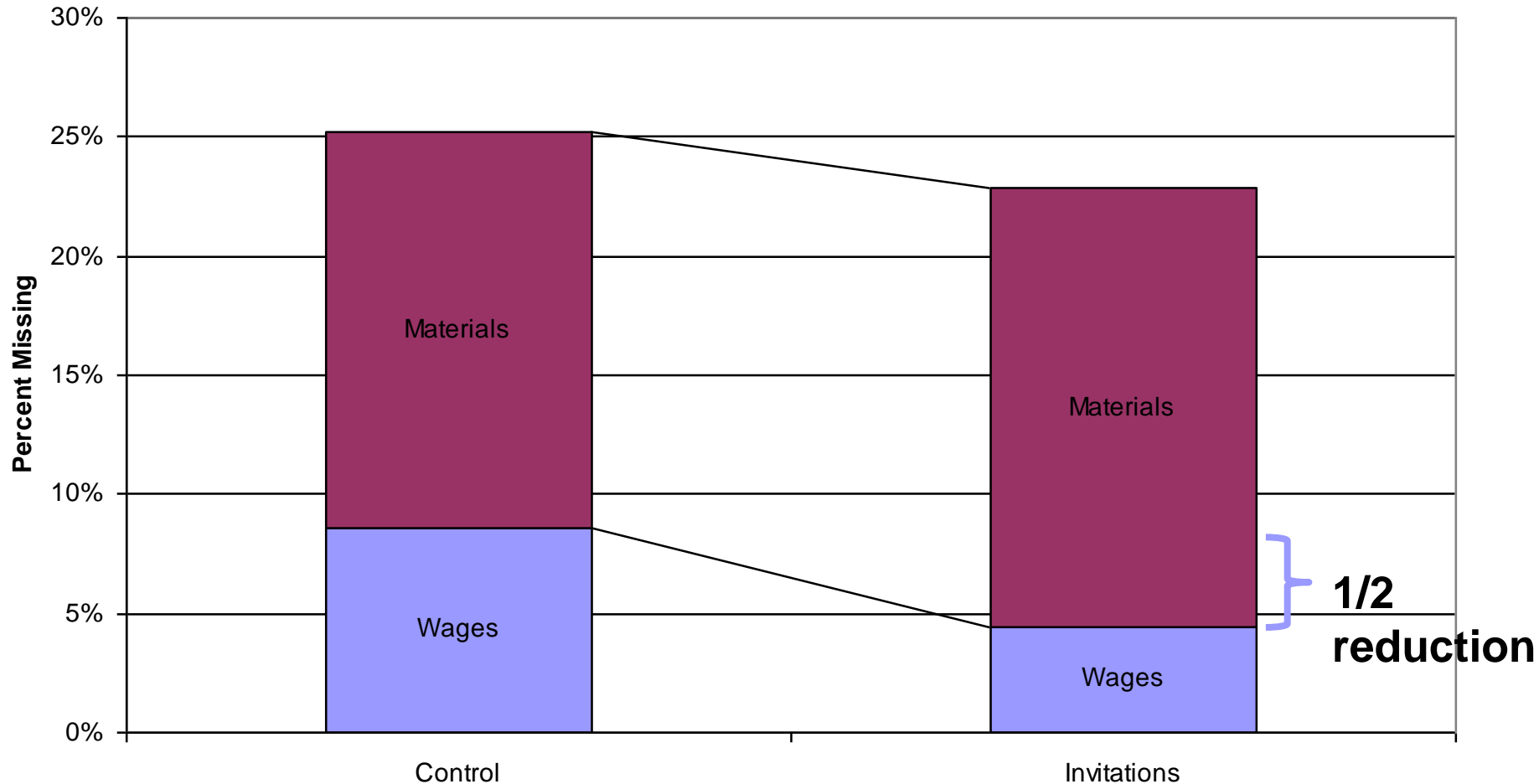
Effect of audits

Effect of Audits on Percent Missing



Effect of community monitoring

Effect of Invitations on Percent Missing





How do you make sure social assistance programs reach the poor?



Proxy means tests



Community-based targeting



Using an RCT to answer our questions

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Group A
PMT method



GROUPS ARE STATISTICALLY IDENTICAL BEFORE PROGRAM



PMT
Method

Community
Method

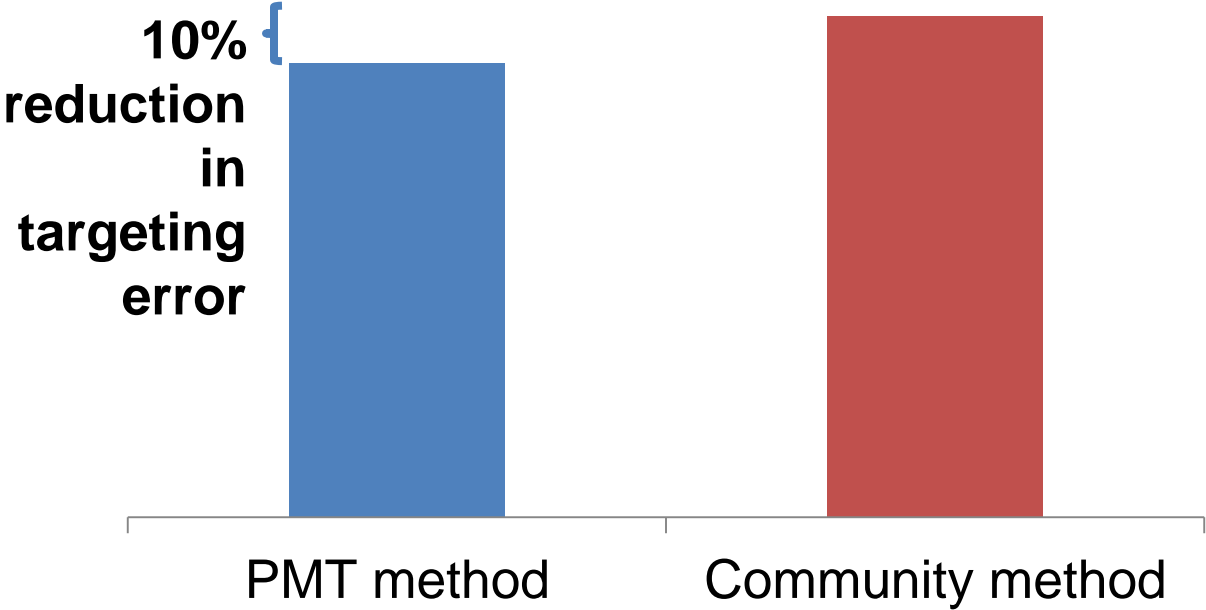
Group B
Community
Method



ANY DIFFERENCES AT ENDLINE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO PROGRAM

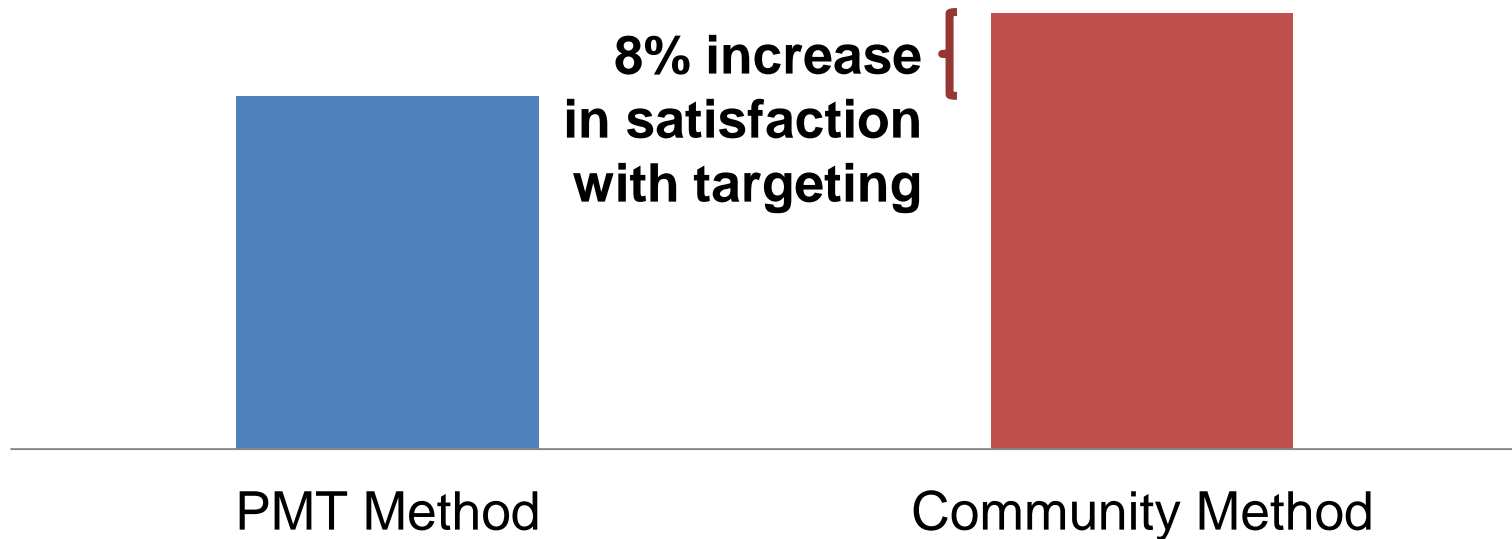
What did we find?

Targeting Error



What did we find?

Satisfaction with Targeting Process



Why Randomized Evaluations?

- Randomized evaluations provide rigorous answers to policy-relevant questions.
- They provide useful inputs in the policymaking process, particularly when rolling out a new program or changing an existing one



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Thank you!

