



How Research Can Help Disrupt Dual System Involvement

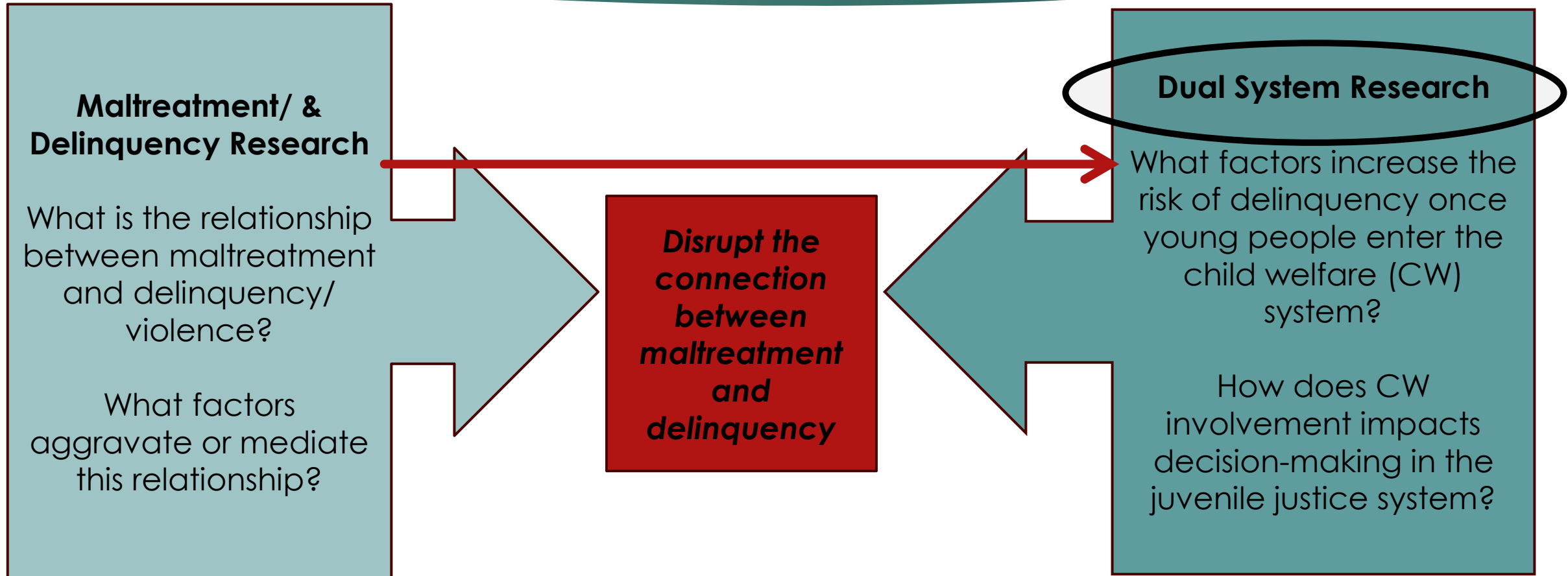
Fall 2023 Child Maltreatment Solutions Network Conference:
Supporting Crossover Youth Involved with Child Welfare and Juvenile Court Systems

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Crossover: Two Strands of Inquiry



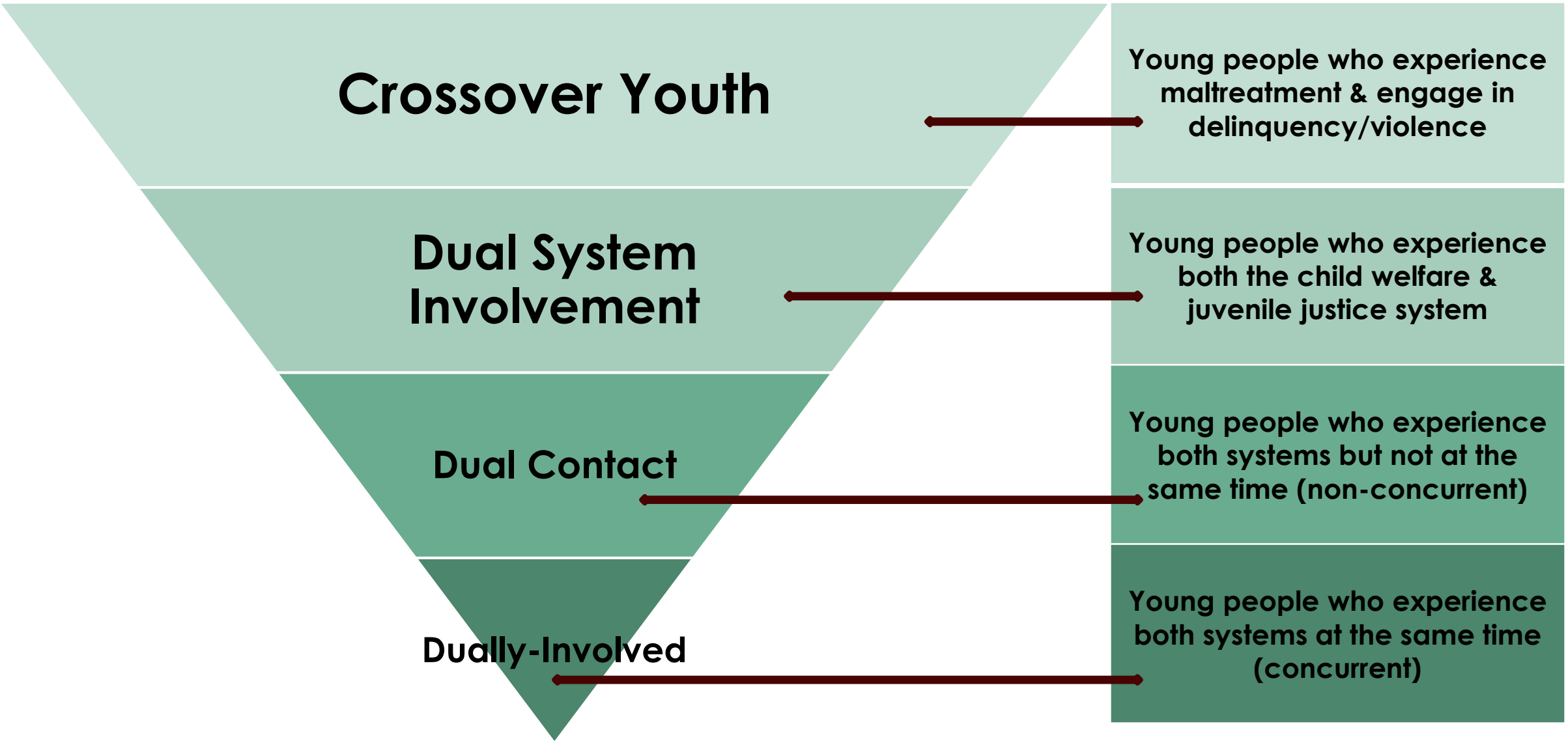
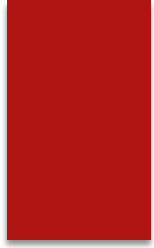
The Prevalence of Crossover



Prevalence rates varies depending on the designs, definitions, and samples used:

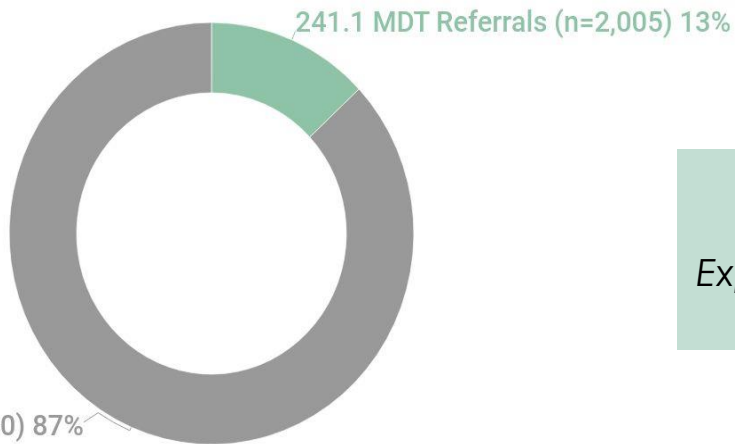
- Prospectively—CPS → JJ—the rates fall between 5%-29%
- Retrospectively—CPS involvement among young people in JJ falls between 7% to over 83%

A Definitional Framework to Guide Research, Policy, and Practice



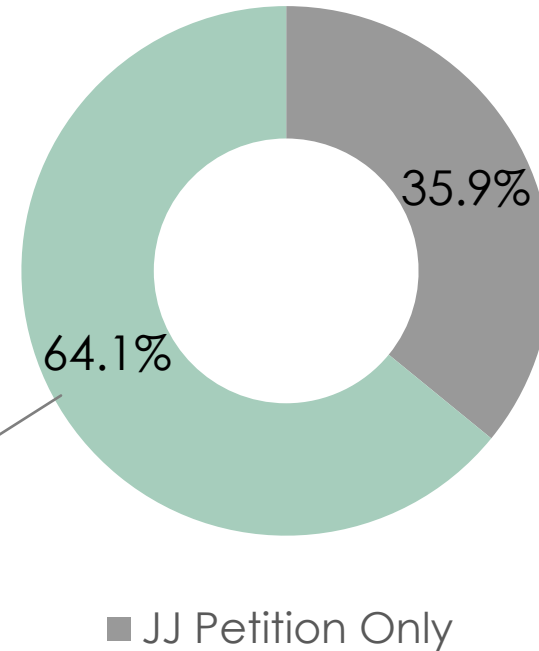
Different Definitions Yield Different Results: Los Angeles County as an Example

Dual Status in LA County=
Any youth with an open child welfare case who subsequently receives a juvenile justice petition
(Welfare & Institutions Code 241.1)
[aka: Dually-Involved]



Probation Data

Dual System Involvement=
Experienced both systems at some point in time



Linked CPS & Probation Data

Similar Definitions & Methodologies Yield Similar Results

Definition:

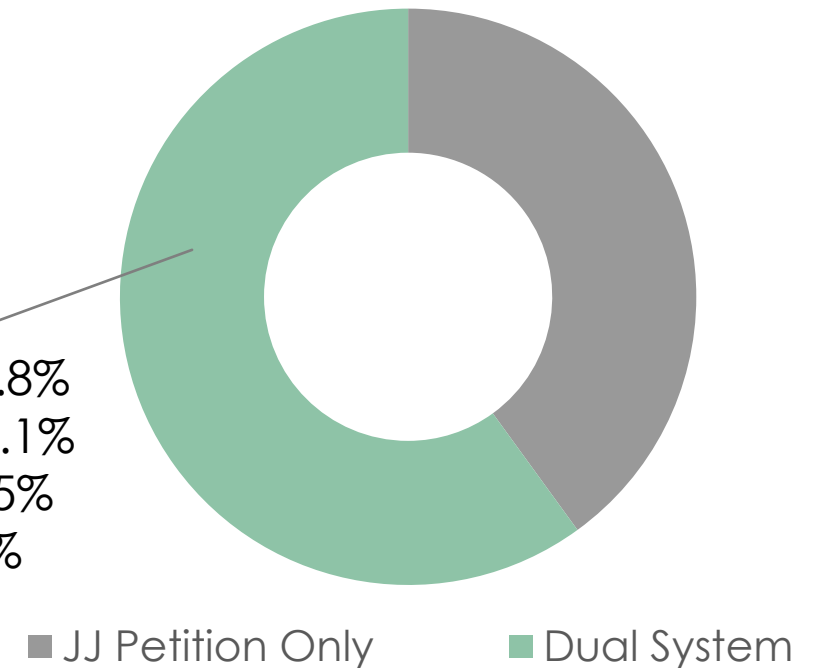
- ❖ Any involvement (including investigation but not referral) with CPS and the juvenile justice system.

Methodology:

- ❖ Retrospective CPS involvement among cohorts of young people with their 1st petition to delinquency court.
- ❖ Linked administrative data from CPS and probation departments in each respective site.

Dual System Involvement

Cook County, IL: 44.8%
Los Angeles, CA: 64.1%
Cuyahoga, OH: 68.5%
New York City: 70.3%



The Importance of Differentiating Risk





Risk for delinquency/JJ involvement is not equally distributed among young people receiving CPS services. For example:

- Placement stability
- Type of placement
- Number of investigations
- Age



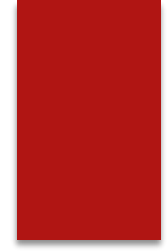
The role of pathways is rarely considered.

- Crossover prevalence typically measured as concurrent involvement across systems.
- Collaborative system initiatives demonstrate that dual system contact occurs in different ways for young people (Crossover Youth Practice Model/CJJR & Dual System Reform Initiative (RFK Action Corp)).
- Risk related studies do not consider how maltreatment and systems experiences can dynamically impact cumulative adversity

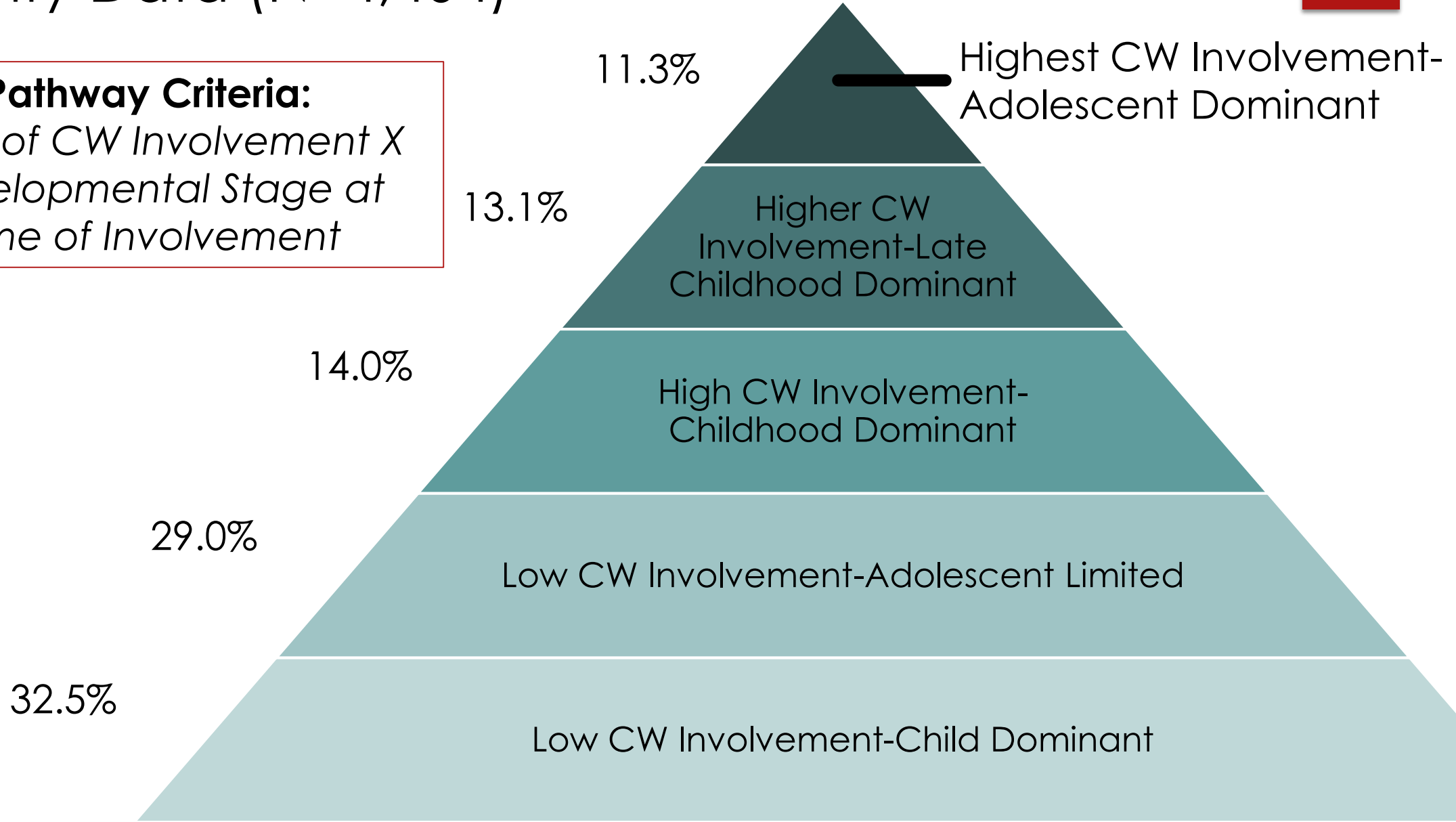


Dual System Pathways

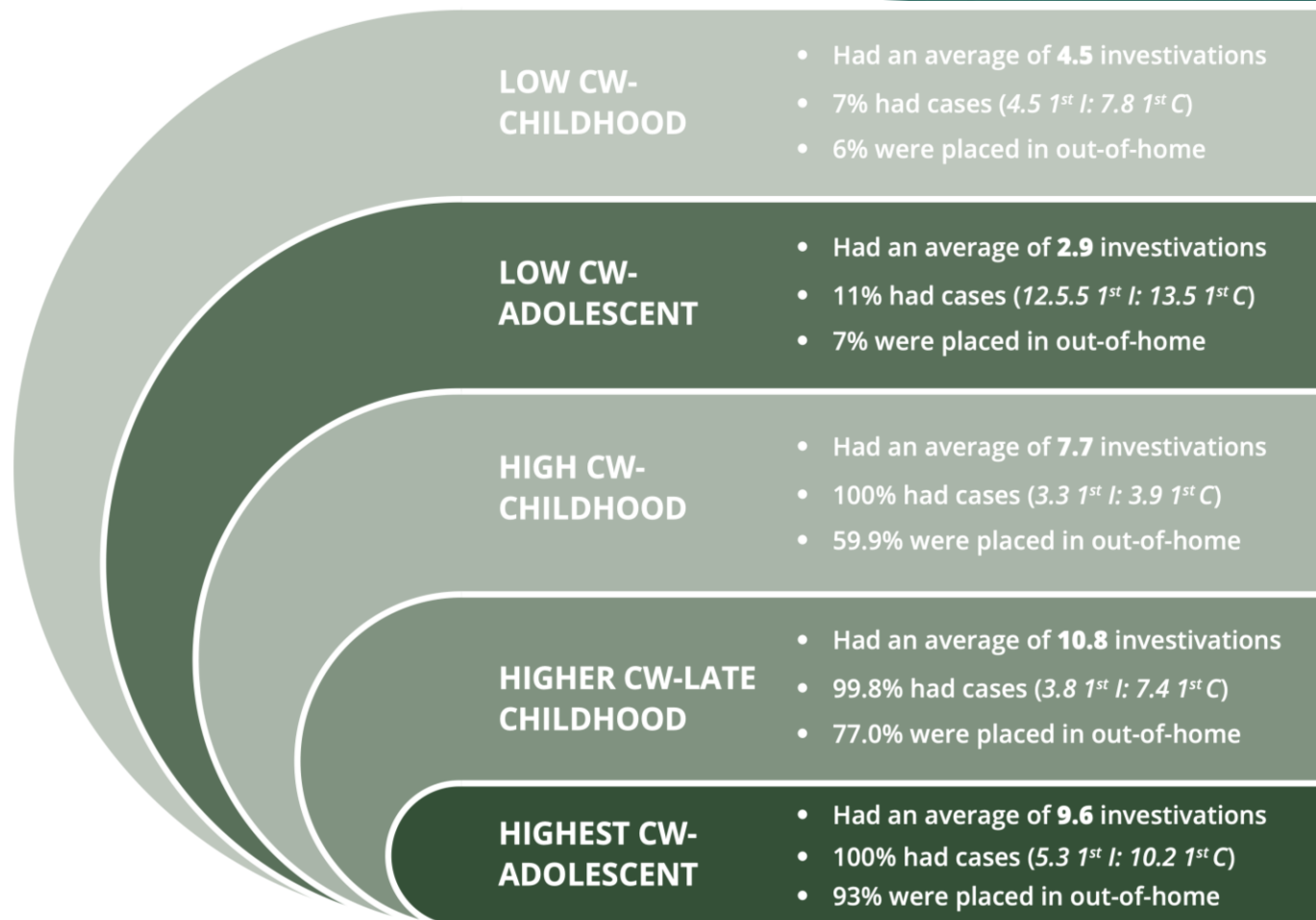
Empirically Derived Pathways Using Los Angeles County Data (N=4,404)



Pathway Criteria:
*Level of CW Involvement X
Developmental Stage at
Time of Involvement*



What Do the Pathways Tell Us about Child Welfare Involvement?



CW experiences vary by pathway

Dual System Involvement & JJ System Experiences

Young People with

Juvenile Justice Involvement Only

- ▶ 26.6% had an assault charge
- ▶ 34.4% were detained
- ▶ 5.9% were placed in a Group Home
- ▶ 18.6% were arrested within 1-year of disposition

Young People with

Dual System Involvement

- ▶ 37% had an assault charge
- ▶ 49.9% were detained
- ▶ 29.7% were placed in a Group Home
- ▶ 35.1% were arrested within 1-year of disposition

What Do the Pathways Tell Us about Juvenile Justice Involvement?

LOW CW-CHILDHOOD

- Had an average of **4.5** investigations
- 7% had cases (*4.5 1st I: 7.8 1st C*)
- 6% were placed in out-of-home

LOW CW-ADOLESCENT

- Had an average of **2.9** investigations
- 11% had cases (*12.5.5 1st I: 13.5 1st C*)
- 7% were placed in out-of-home

HIGH CW-CHILDHOOD

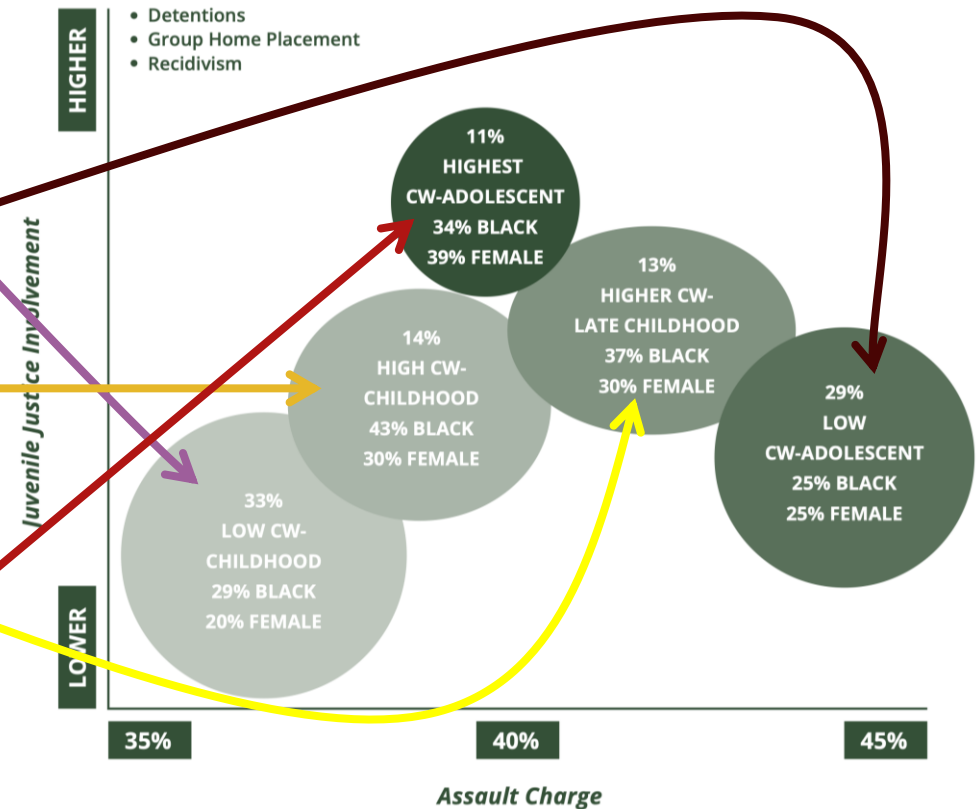
- Had an average of **7.7** investigations
- 100% had cases (*3.3 1st I: 3.9 1st C*)
- 59.9% were placed in out-of-home

HIGHER CW-LATE CHILDHOOD

- Had an average of **10.8** investigations
- 99.8% had cases (*3.8 1st I: 7.4 1st C*)
- 77.0% were placed in out-of-home

HIGHEST CW-ADOLESCENT

- Had an average of **9.6** investigations
- 100% had cases (*5.3 1st I: 10.2 1st C*)
- 93% were placed in out-of-home





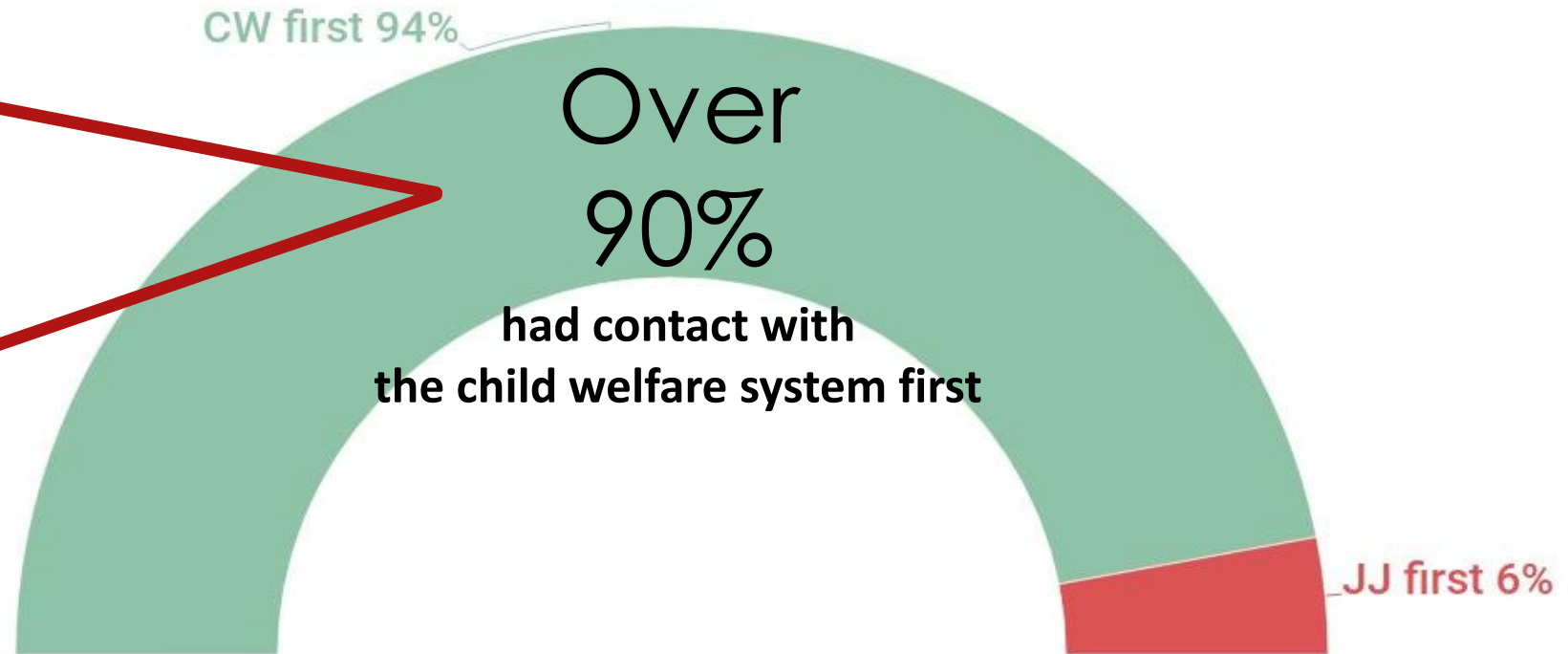
Implications for Research, Policy & Practice

Actionable Research Agenda

- ▶ More replication of pathway research across different geographical locations
- ▶ Prospective studies using CPS-involved birth cohorts and linked administrative data to “test” pathway models produced using retrospective study designs (JJ Cohorts)
- ▶ Better understanding of the capacity to use linked administrative data across the nation to:
 - ▶ Assess the prevalence of dual system involvement
 - ▶ Identify leading practices used to prevent dual system involvement
 - ▶ Identify leading system practices to better address the needs of young people with dual system involvement and improve their wellness
 - ▶ Identify the types of programming that reduces system involvement and improves wellness for young people and their families and their communities
 - ▶ NIJ FY23 Research on Juvenile Justice topics: An Assessment of Dual system Data and Practices Capacity across Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems

Actionable Policy Agenda: Prevent Maltreatment to Prevent Dual System Involvement

44%-70%
of youth with a first
juvenile justice petition
in four metropolitan
cities were dual
system youth



Embed delinquency prevention within a prevention continuum of care targeting maltreatment beginning in the community and continuing throughout both systems.

Actional Practice Agenda: Implement A Delinquency Prevention Continuum of Care

- ▶ Creating equitable learning and development ecosystems with community as the starting point is critical

Primary Prevention:
Community-based supports for families

Secondary Prevention:
Services to mitigate and address risk

Tertiary Prevention:
Continuing services for families involved in CW and JJ

- ▶ Must reframe our focus from deficit models to approaches are centered from a place of trauma-informed care, healing centered approaches, and Positive Youth Development
- ▶ Must be woven through systems involvement at each stage