

Costs & Outcomes of a Pre-arrest Deflection Program to Combat Opioid Misuse

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May 16th 2023, ASEBP Conference



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

**Southwest Institute
for Research on Women**

- **Acknowledgement**: The authors thank the Tucson Police Department and CODAC Health, Recovery & Wellness for their contributions to the evaluation of the Deflection Program. We also thank the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and Arnold Ventures for their generous support, without which this project would not have been possible. The collection of the data was supported by SAMHSA (H79TI081559) and by Arnold Ventures. The data analysis was supported by Arnold Ventures.
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Opioid Epidemic

- According to the CDC, in April 2021, drug overdose deaths in the U.S. exceeded 100,000 for the prior 12-month period. This is a 28.5% increase from the preceding 12-month period. (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20211117.htm)
- Arizona experienced a 32% increase in reported drug overdose deaths between January of 2020 and January 2021 (CDC, 2022).
- Pima County had 498 drug overdose deaths in 2021 (Pima County Health Department, 2022). This is a 12% increase from 2020 and a 48% increase from 2019.
 - 71% of the drug overdose deaths in 2021 involved an opiate compound.

The Department-wide Deflection Program Overview:

Goal 1:

Enhance and expand access to substance abuse treatment

Goal 2:

Improve well-being, decrease opioid and other substance misuse and related risk behavior



Feasibility & Acceptability: Expanding Access to Treatment & Services

TPD Deflection Program – 1st 3 years (Nov 1 2018 - Oct 31, 2021)

	Interactions involving encouragement to engage in treatment
Deflections	2,129
"Angel" Program	63
Total	2,192

45%

Individual transported immediately to treatment provider.

21%

Individuals agreed to seek treatment on their own.

2%

Deflection accepted, but individual arrested for pre-existing warrant

1%

Deflection accepted; result unknown

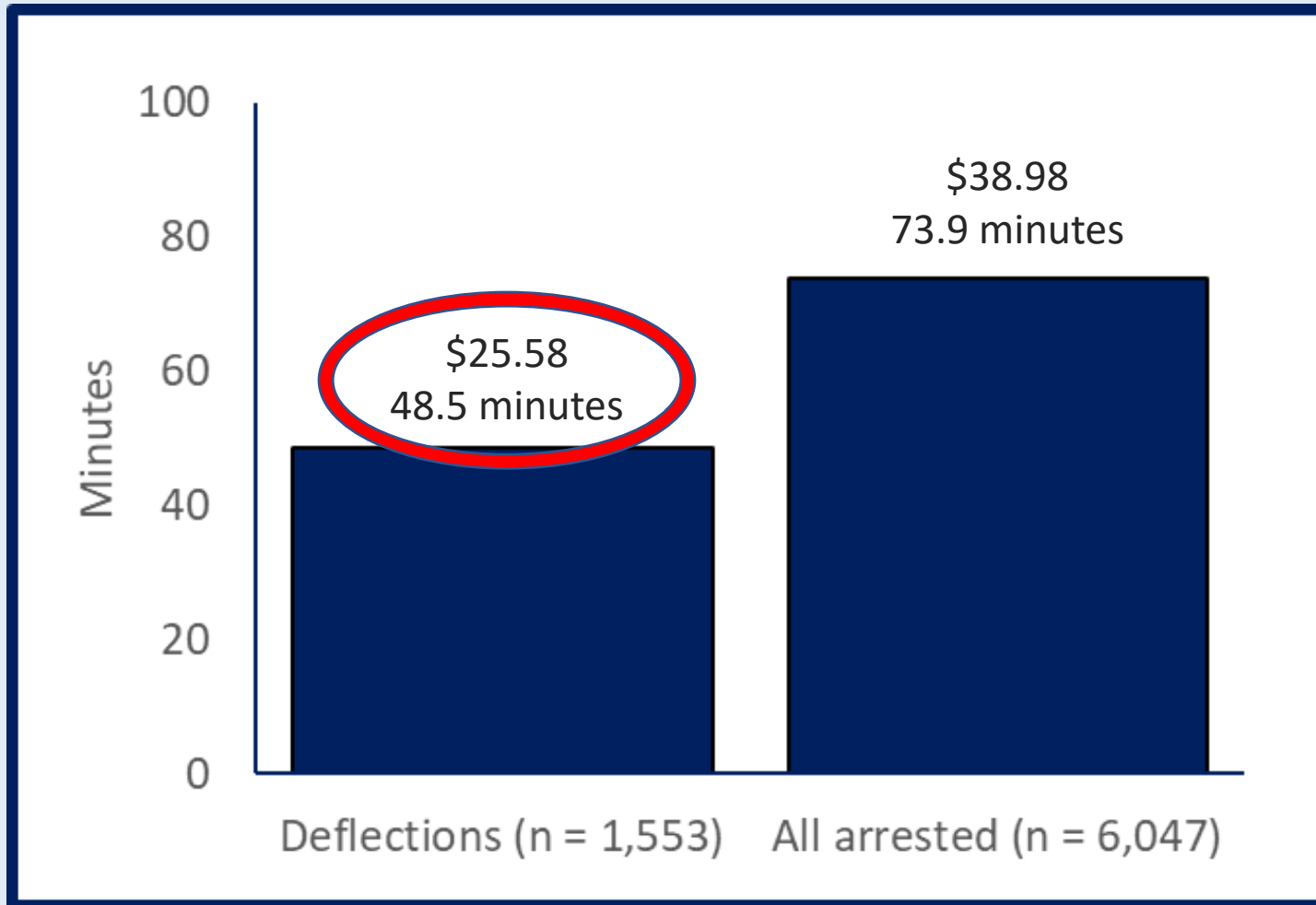
<1%

Individual already in treatment

29%

Individual did not agree to deflection to treatment

Duration & Personnel Costs of Deflection Incidents Relative to Arrest Incidents



On average, deflection incidents took 48.5 minutes, whereas arrest incidents took 73.9 minutes.

The time difference translates to an average cost savings of \$13.40 per incident related to officer time, a **total saving of \$28,529** across all 2,129 deflection incidents.

Deflection Program Potential Cost Savings

*Potential cost savings of **\$48,564** in jail housing expenses.*

If **20%** (426) of the 2,129 deflection incidents would have resulted in one night in jail if not for the Deflection Program, then the Deflection Program would have saved the local justice system **\$48,564**.

*Potential cost savings of **\$601,512** in justice system expenses.*

If **10%** (213) of the 2,129 deflections would have resulted in conviction of charges if not for the Deflection Program, then the Deflection Program would have saved the local justice system **\$601,512**.

Deflected Individual Treatment & Service Engagement

Of the 922 *unique* individuals connected to a treatment provider as a result of TPD's Deflection Program, 789 (86%) were connected with the primary partnering treatment provider – CODAC.

Of these 789 individuals:

- **558 (71%)** received at least one type of healthcare service from CODAC.
- **527 (67%)** completed the clinical intake assessment at CODAC.
- **352 (45%)** engaged in some kind of substance misuse treatment at CODAC.

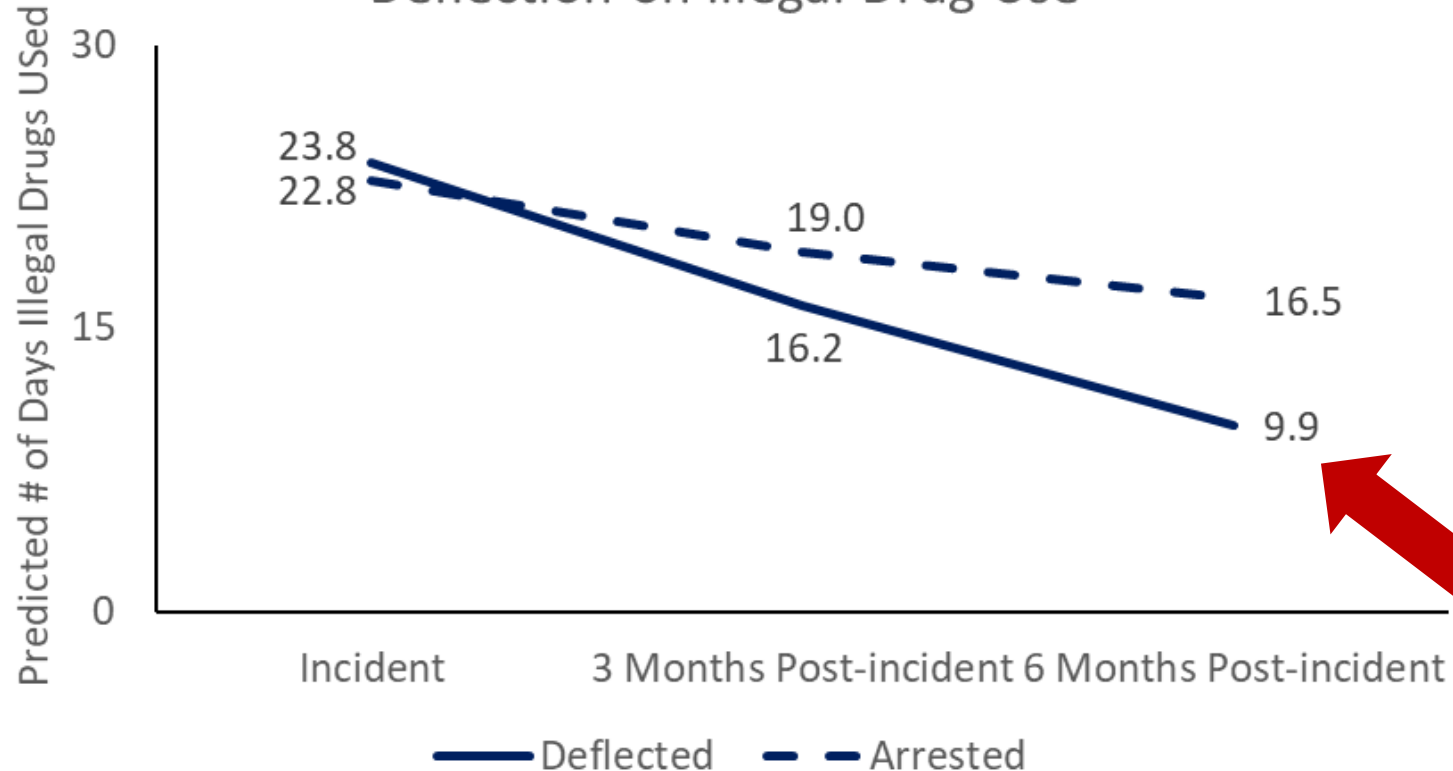
Longitudinal Research Study

- Individuals invited to participate in a longitudinal study
- 3 comparison groups
 - Deflected
 - Arrested for illegal substance-related charge
 - Self-referred for opioid use disorder and appropriate for medication-assisted treatment
- Survey data collected via researcher-led interviews at
 - time of deflection, arrest, or self-referral
 - 3 months post incident
 - 6 months post incident

Change Over Time in Illegal Drug Use

(when individuals were residing in the community, not in controlled environment)

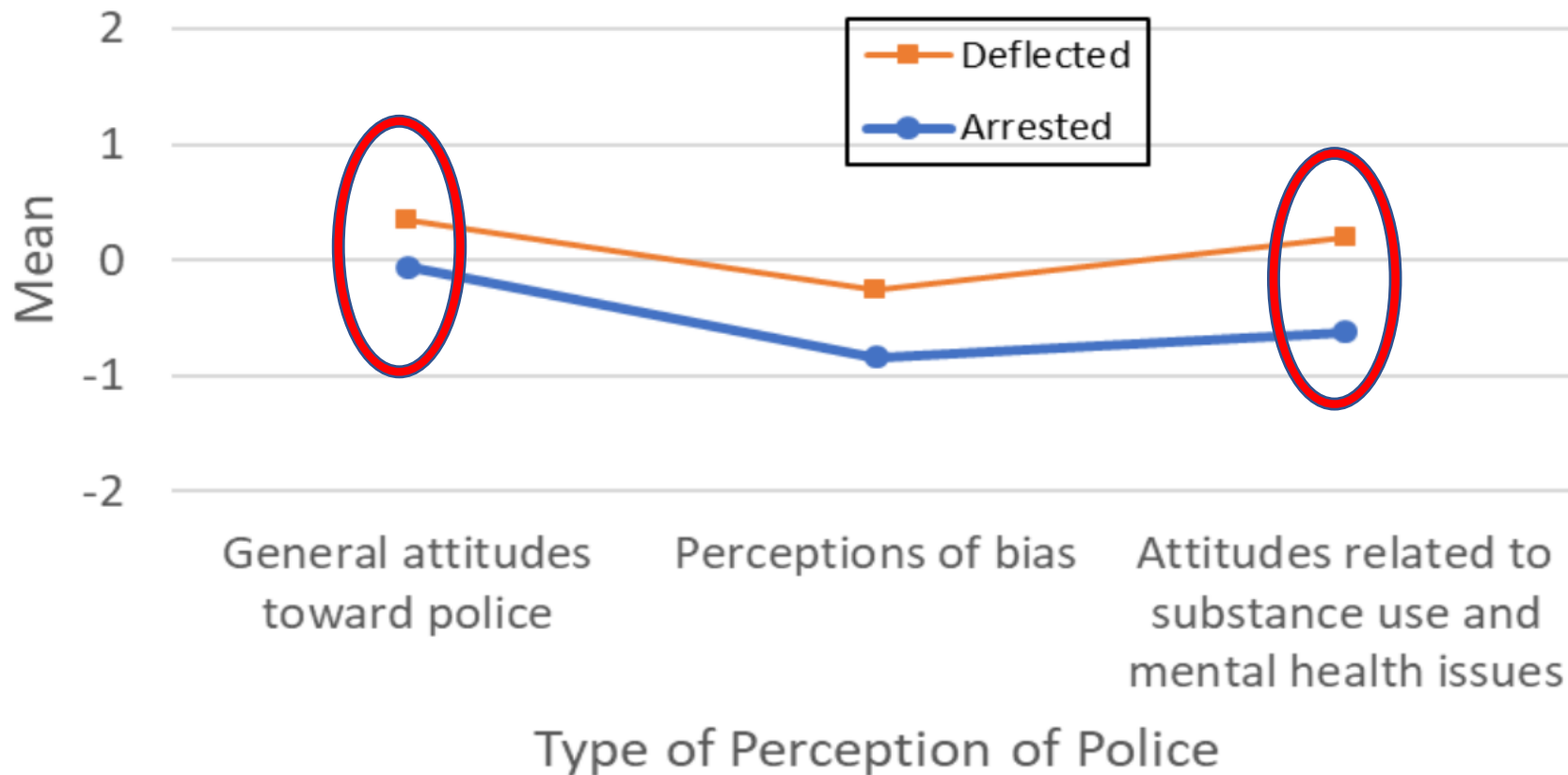
Predicted Values Indicating the Effect of Deflection on Illegal Drug Use



Deflection was associated with a greater reduction in frequency of use of illegal drugs. As shown, at 6 months post incident, individuals who were deflected engaged in 6.6 fewer days of illegal drug use than those who had been arrested.

Impact of Deflection on Perceptions of Police

Overall Profile of Perception of Police
Across Type of Perception

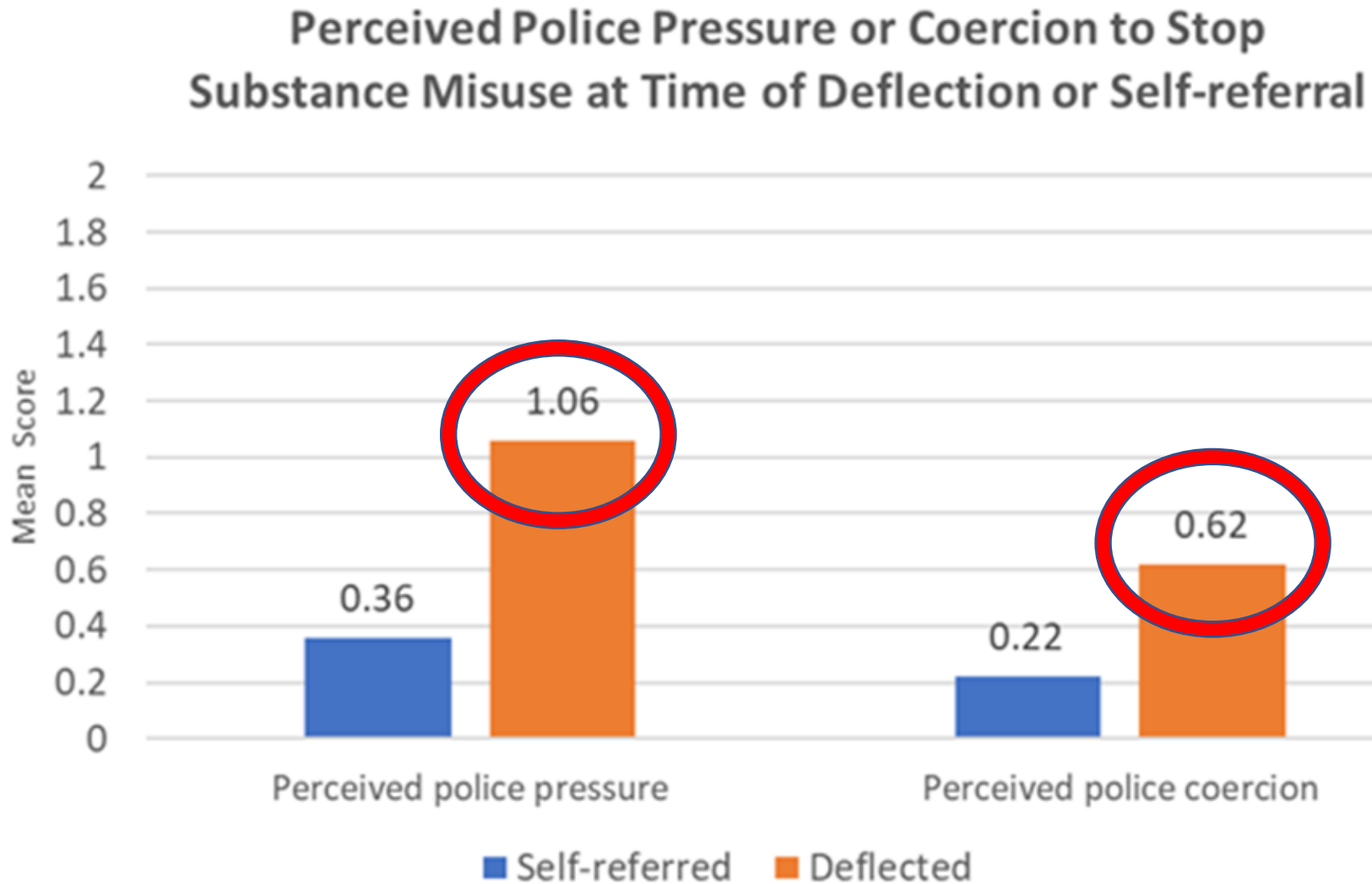


Deflected individuals had more positive perceptions of police.

Deflection, vs. arrest, had the most positive impact on perceived attitudes related to substance use and mental health issues and the least positive impact on general attitudes towards the police.

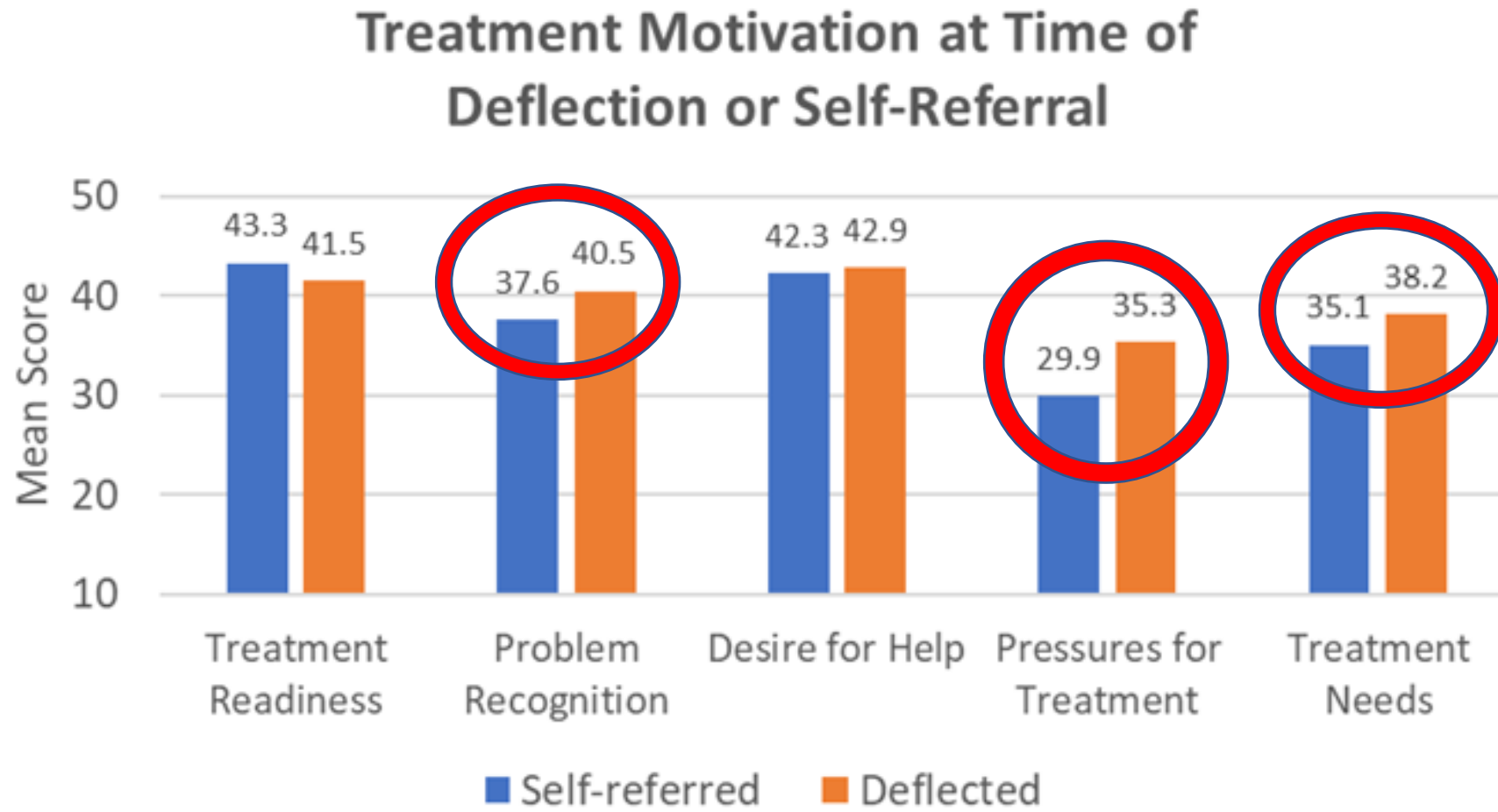
Yes to Deflection to *Avoid Arrest?*

Impact of Deflection on Perceived Police Pressure or Coercion



Among individuals who have OUD and are appropriate for MAT, those who were deflected reported a significantly greater amount of perceived police pressure and coercion to stop or reduce drug misuse than those who self-referred to substance misuse treatment.

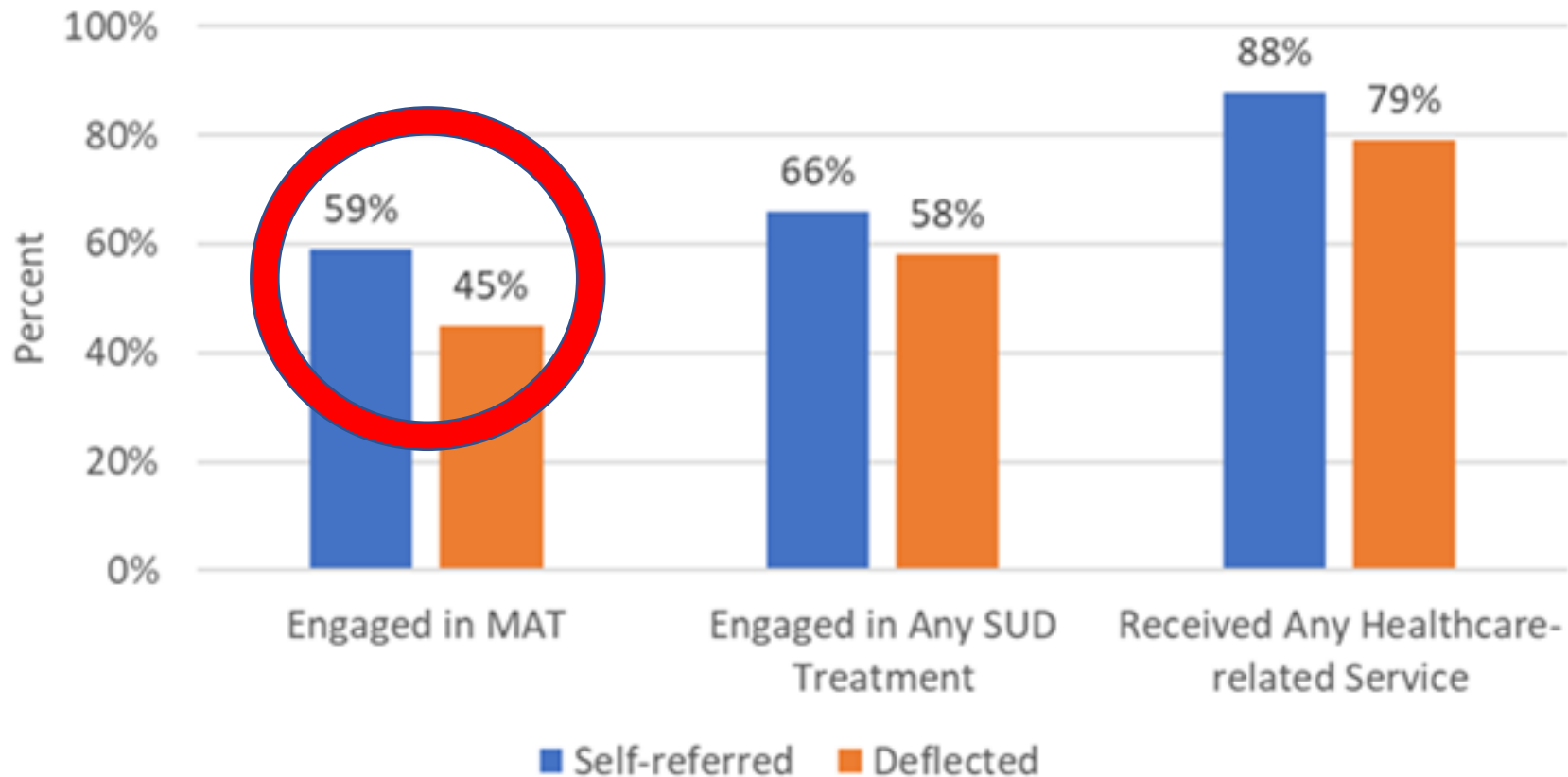
Treatment Motivation: Deflected vs. Self-referred



Although deflected and self-referred individuals were motivated to engage in substance misuse treatment, deflected individuals were more motivated in terms of problem recognition, pressures for treatment, and recognized treatment needs.

Treatment Engagement: Deflected vs. Self-referred

Engagement in Substance Misuse Treatment and Related Services



Officers implementing the Deflection Program are accurately identifying individuals who are motivated to engage in treatment and services.

Deflected individuals are motivated to engage in treatment and services at similar levels compared to individuals who self-refer to substance misuse treatment.

Discussion

Barriers to Pre-Arrest Deflection Implementation

- Evaluation can reduce barriers:
 - Stigma – Evaluation can reduce stigmatizing myths and beliefs regarding criminogenic behavior
 - Belief that services available through jail and court are more effective
 - Belief that community members would simply use deflection to avoid arrest
 - Provide another option to officers to use **at their discretion**, with supporting evidence
- Process evaluation extremely beneficial for new initiatives such as this
- Efficiency evaluation provides a perspective on fiscal responsibility
- Impact evaluation provides tangible results for cops, executives, and community
- Provides direction for future research on alternative responses, organizational culture, individual police decision-making, etc.

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