

EPIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR RAISE THE AGE WORKGROUP

WA-PCJJ Workgroup Meeting | March 12, 2025



EPIC “RAISE THE AGE” TEAM



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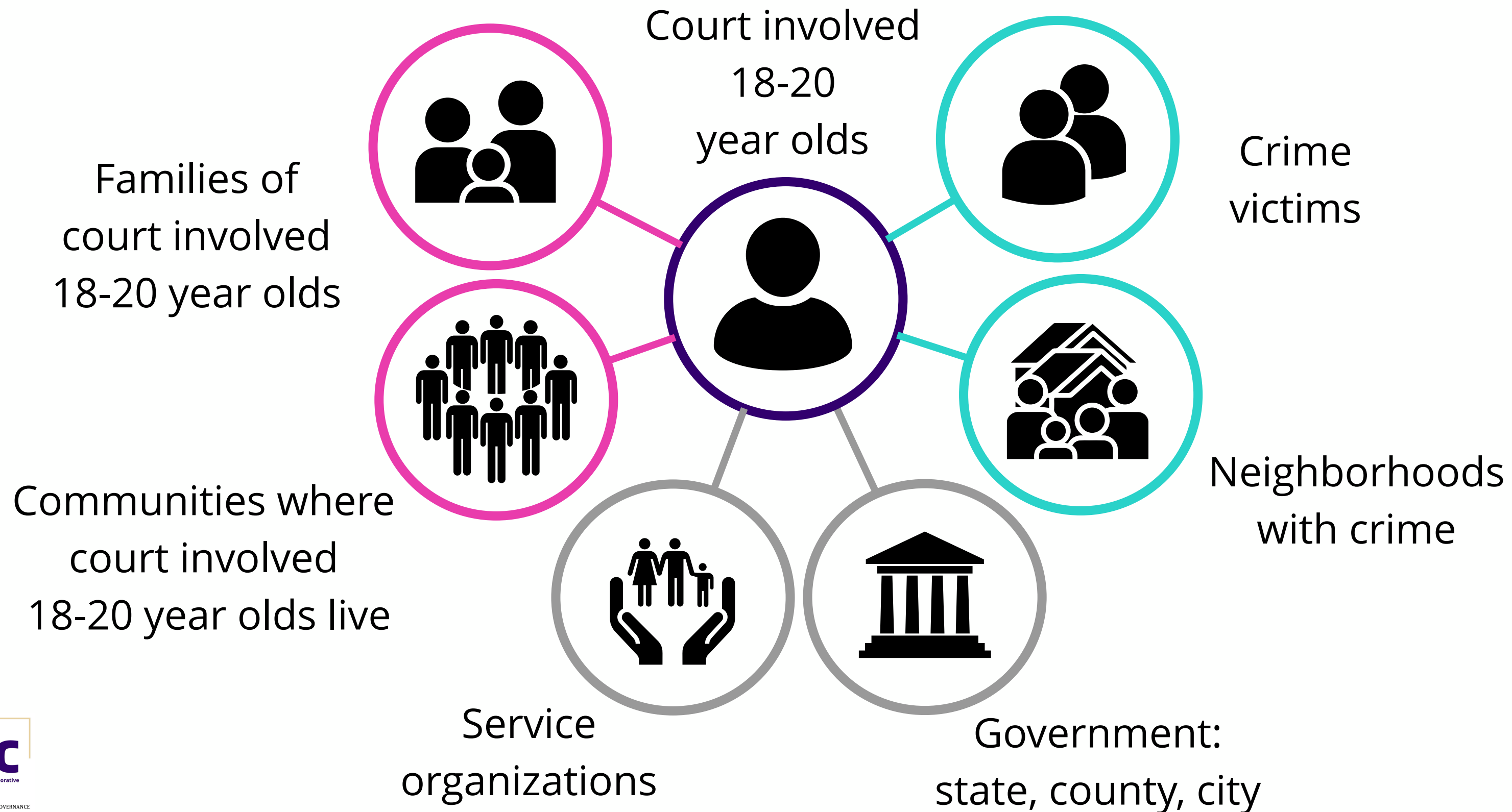


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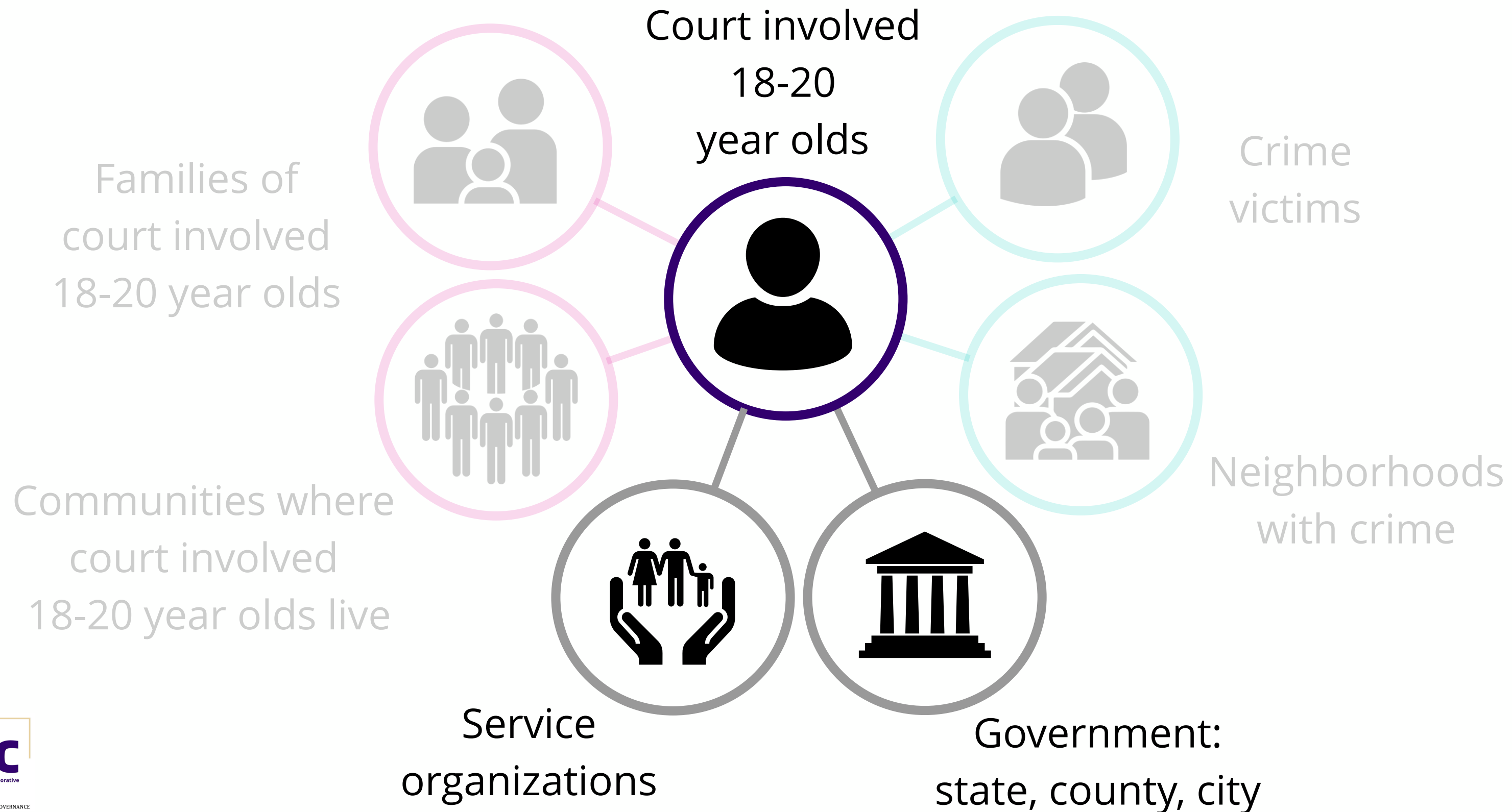


Amanda Bankston
EPIC Director
Collaborative & participatory governance
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360°-VIEW OF RAISE THE AGE



360°-VIEW OF RAISE THE AGE



RAISE THE AGE: ASSET MAPPING SERVICE PROVISION RESULTS



PLAN FOR TODAY

- 01 Revisit our goals
- 02 Our Approach
- 03 Recommendations
- 04 Results & Findings
- 05 Conclusion

OUR GOALS

- Map available services and supports for youth or Emerging Adults (18-20) who are involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile or adult justice system
- Evaluate capacities necessary to serve Emerging Adults
- Inventory existing services and resources that could be leveraged—not created—to support an expanded juvenile court jurisdiction including Emerging Adults
- Evaluate potential impacts of juvenile court expansion on existing community- and court-based resources and services

OUR WORK



Formed an inventory of
service providers



Gathered information
about those service providers



Interviews and Focus Groups

INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Tiered Approach

**ADDITIONS TO JUVENILE COURT SYSTEM
BUDGETS & FORMAL EBP_s**

**CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDING FOR
ORGANIZATIONS PRIMED TO PROVIDE SERVICES**

**PROVIDE TA FOR THOSE NEEDING TO ASSESS
INVOLVEMENT**

WHAT HAVE WE FOUND?

- Working list of approx. 1,100 service providers
 - Counties of operation
 - Service categories
 - Specific populations served
 - Number clients/families served annually (2020-2024)
 - Annual expenses (FY 2023)
 - Number of staff (FY 2023)

SERVICE PROVIDER OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

huge variation!

Annual Expenses

\$8,800 → \$2.3 Billion

Staff Size

1 → 11,236

removing healthcare facilities

Annual Expenses

\$8,800 → \$288 Million

Staff Size

1 → 5,879

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

Engaged **35** individuals

- Lived expertise
- Nonprofit service providers
- Juvenile court administrators
- Legal support
- Therapeutic providers

Built representative sample based on geography, service categories, and organizational sizes

PERCEPTIONS OF RAISE THE AGE

"Maturity level of young people, look at age of juveniles. Should be up to 25 years old, through science and research. Frontal brain hasn't been fully developed. Try to get them to understand. Try to respond/react emotionally. Understand the science behind it, rehabilitation is a bit more clear."

"if 18- to 20-year-olds start getting leniency, you might see harsher punishments for 16-year-olds to make up for it... it's an experiment—there needs to be a lot of eyes on it to see if it's actually working."

"Cart before the horse—we can't successfully manage those already in juvenile court, and now we want to add 20-year-olds?"



**SUPPORT BASED ON
ADOLESCENT BRAIN
DEVELOPMENT**

POLITICAL TREPIDATION

**MAINTAINING QUALITY FOR
YOUTHS UNDER 18**

**POTENTIAL FOR ANTIRACIST
TREATMENT**

NEED FOR RESOURCES

"Are we equipped? Money would be involved. We couldn't handle it tomorrow, but if we got one to two more staff members, we could do it."

"I can expand, but with what I work with right now, within the budget I have, that would be challenging. We all come to agree on the fact that funding is important, the work that we do is love work. Love work takes funding."

"Smaller agencies are on the ground doing the work, but they're not being funded"

STAFFING

TRAINING

ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDS

operational expenses + programmatic
expenses + capital

CRITICAL SERVICES AND APPROACHES

"The conversations and language are different, but we need to capture all components so youth are set up to sustain stability"

"Have been traumatized by the incarceration system. We have lived experiences, are best equipped to connect with young folks in that way. Tap in in those types of ways, primary white institutions cannot replace us"

"If in fact this is something we will do, have to ensure our youth have somewhere to go. Warm bed, place to shower, roof over their head."



**EDUCATIONAL & VOCATIONAL
PROGRAMS**

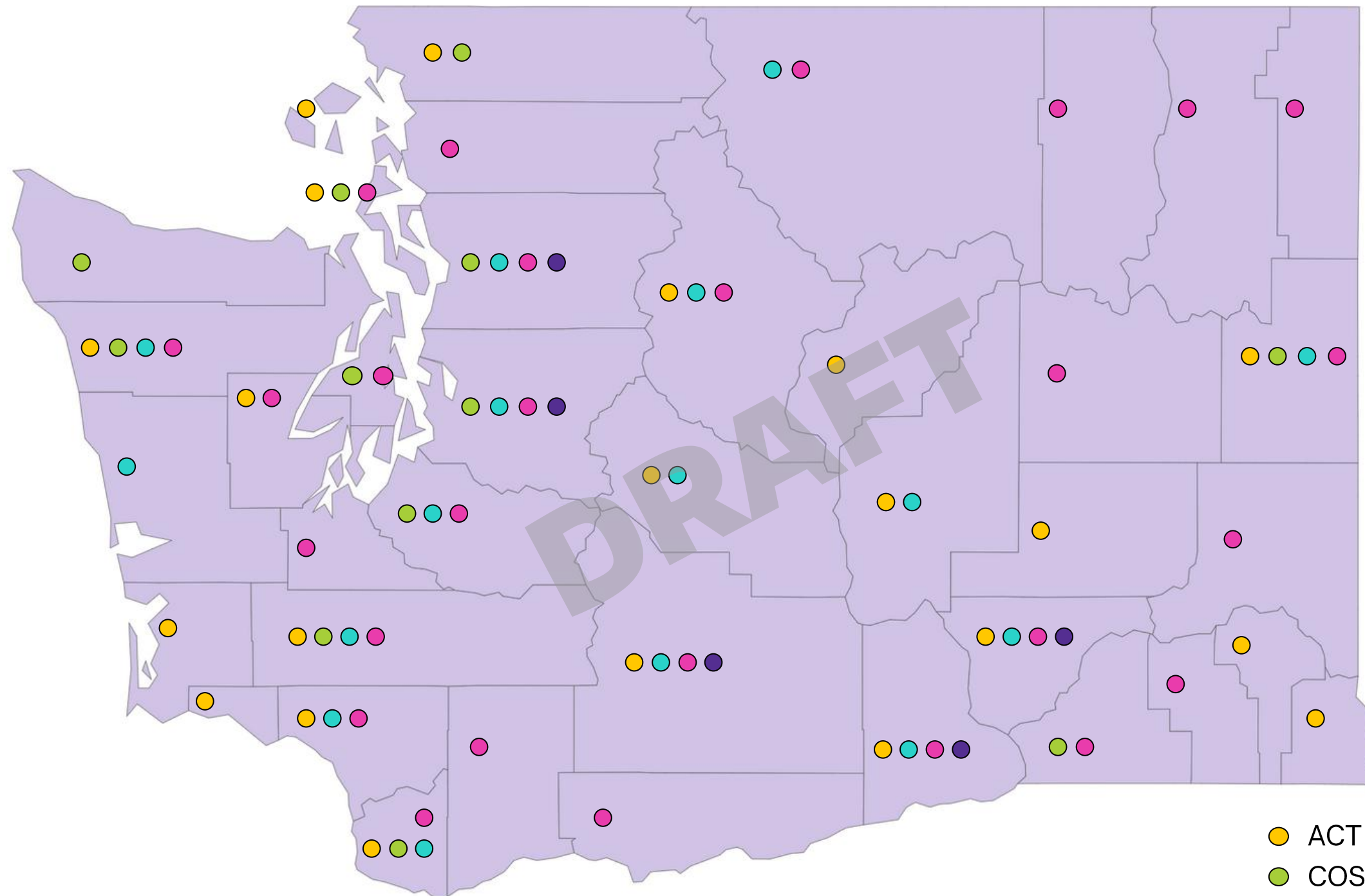
HOUSING

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT/
INDEPENDENT LIVING**

MENTORSHIP

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT &
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
AND RECOVERY TREATMENT**

SPOTLIGHT: EBP_s



Priority given to Evidence-Based Programs as a formal method of service provision

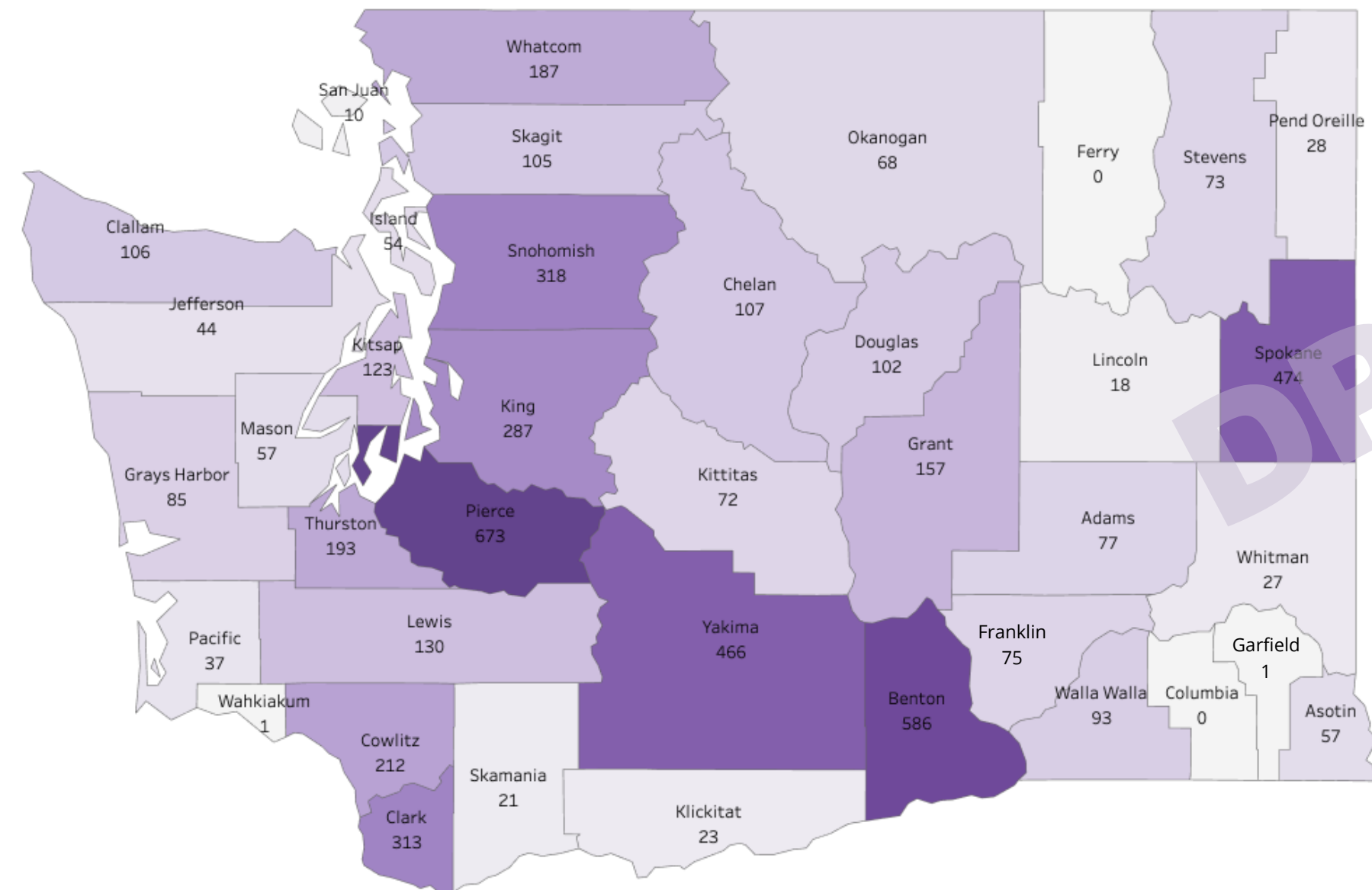
We have information on costs per participant, number of eligibilities, number of starts & completes, etc.

Not all EBPs are available everywhere

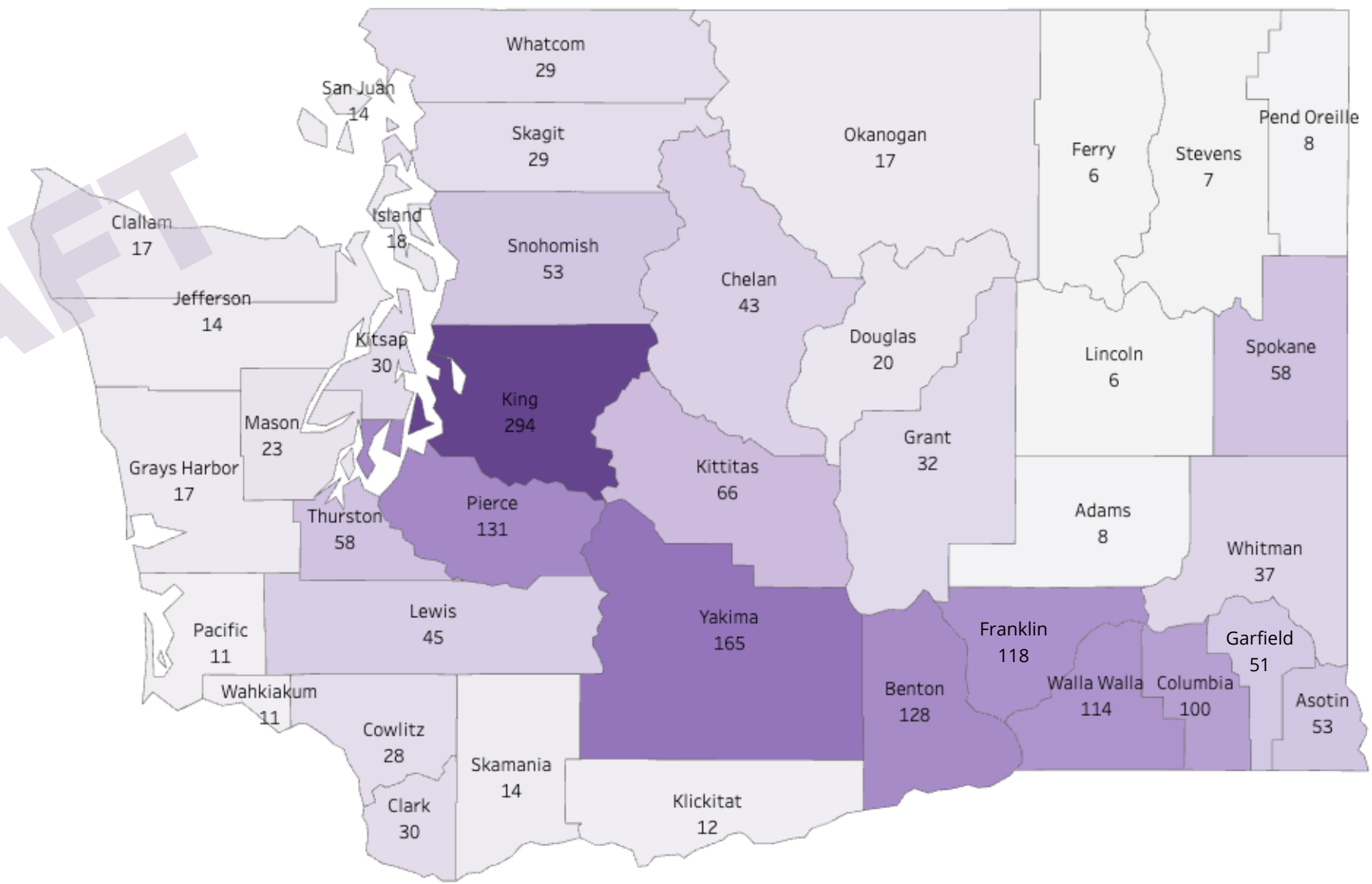
EBPs have not been tested for 18-20 year olds

CAPACITY BASED ON GEOGRAPHY

Total Sentences & Dispositions for Youth and Emerging Adults (2022)

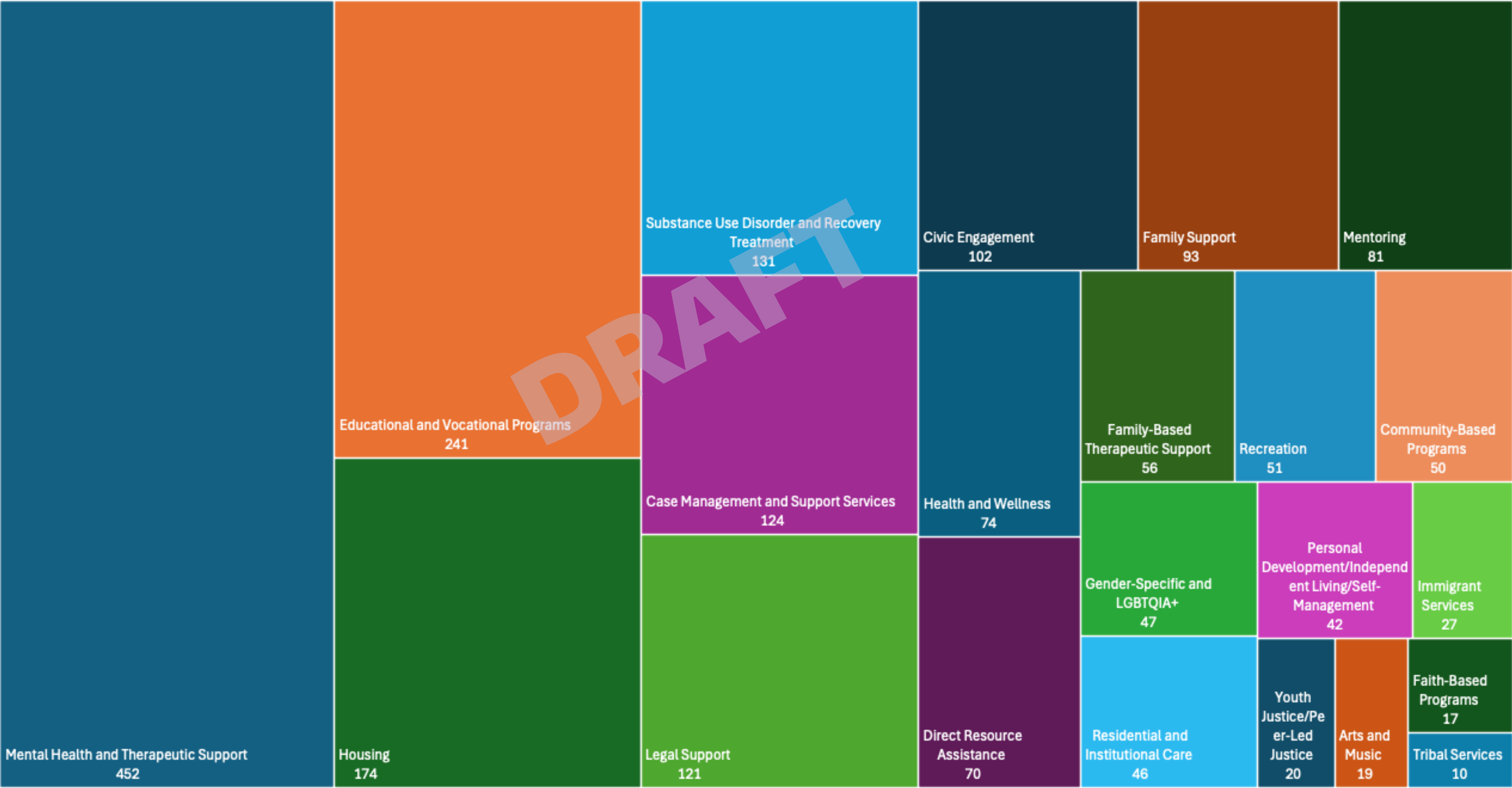


Total Service Providers by County of Operation



CAPACITY BASED ON SERVICE CATEGORIES

Total Service Providers by Service Category



INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Tiered Approach

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BUDGETS & FORMAL EBP_s**

**CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDING FOR
ORGANIZATIONS PRIMED TO PROVIDE SERVICES**

**PROVIDE TA FOR THOSE NEEDING TO ASSESS
INVOLVEMENT**

Implementation recommendations &
future research

QUESTIONS?



W EVANS SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE

BENEFITS-COSTS ANALYSIS OF RAISE THE AGE IN WASHINGTON STATE: PRELIMINARY RESULTS



REMINDER: DATA DELAY

Case data for 15-
20-year-olds

DELAYED

Administrative
Office of the
Courts (AOC)

Caseload
Forecast

PENDING

Emerging Adults
Justice Project
(EAJP)

Benefits-Costs
Analysis

PRELIMINARY

Evans Policy
Innovation
Collaborative
(EPIC)

PLAN FOR TODAY

- 01 Legislature Ask
- 02 Recommendations
- 03 Benefits & Costs: Three Scenarios
- 04 Who Will Raise the Age Touch
- 05 Preliminary Findings

LEGISLATURE ASK

1 - Cost savings

“... a review of the estimated **costs avoided** by local and state governments with the **reduction of recidivism** and an analysis of cost savings reinvestment options;”

2 - New costs

“... and estimated **new costs** incurred **to provide juvenile justice services** to persons 18, 19, and 20 years old”

- 1.How much will Raise the Age cost to the local and state governments?
- 2.What benefits will Raise the Age bring in the long-term and to whom?
- 3.What reform components will bring the biggest benefits?

RECOMMENDATIONS

Preliminary, can change with the new data

#1: PROVIDE FUNDING FOR COUNTIES CONTINGENT ON EXPANDING DIVERSION FOR <18

Juvenile Courts will need funds to house and provide behavioral services to 18-20-year-olds. See WSIPP report from Dec'24 for challenges they face

#2: SUPPORT COUNTIES WITHOUT JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS (JCT)

17 out of 39 counties do not have JCTs, 10 counties saw <20 juvenile dispositions in 2023. Develop implementation plan catered to their needs

#3: TRACK PRETRIAL RELEASE AND PROBATION

Pretrial release and probation will deliver the biggest benefits to emerging adults and cost-savings to the government. Track them month-by-month statewide to make sure that Raise the Age is moving in the right direction

#4: COMMISSION A REPORT 1 YEAR AFTER THE EXPANSION TO 18-YEAR-OLDS

Understand both the system costs and experience of 18-year-olds with poorly recorded outcomes: housing, substance use, mental health.

Adjust the policy before expanding to 19 year olds

BENEFITS-COSTS OF RAISE THE AGE:

Three scenarios

Pessimistic scenario

“worst case”:

No drop in caseload for
minors (<18) +
No drop in recidivism

Cautious scenario

“most likely case”:

Drop in caseload for
minors (<18) +
Mild drop in recidivism

Optimistic scenario

“best case”:

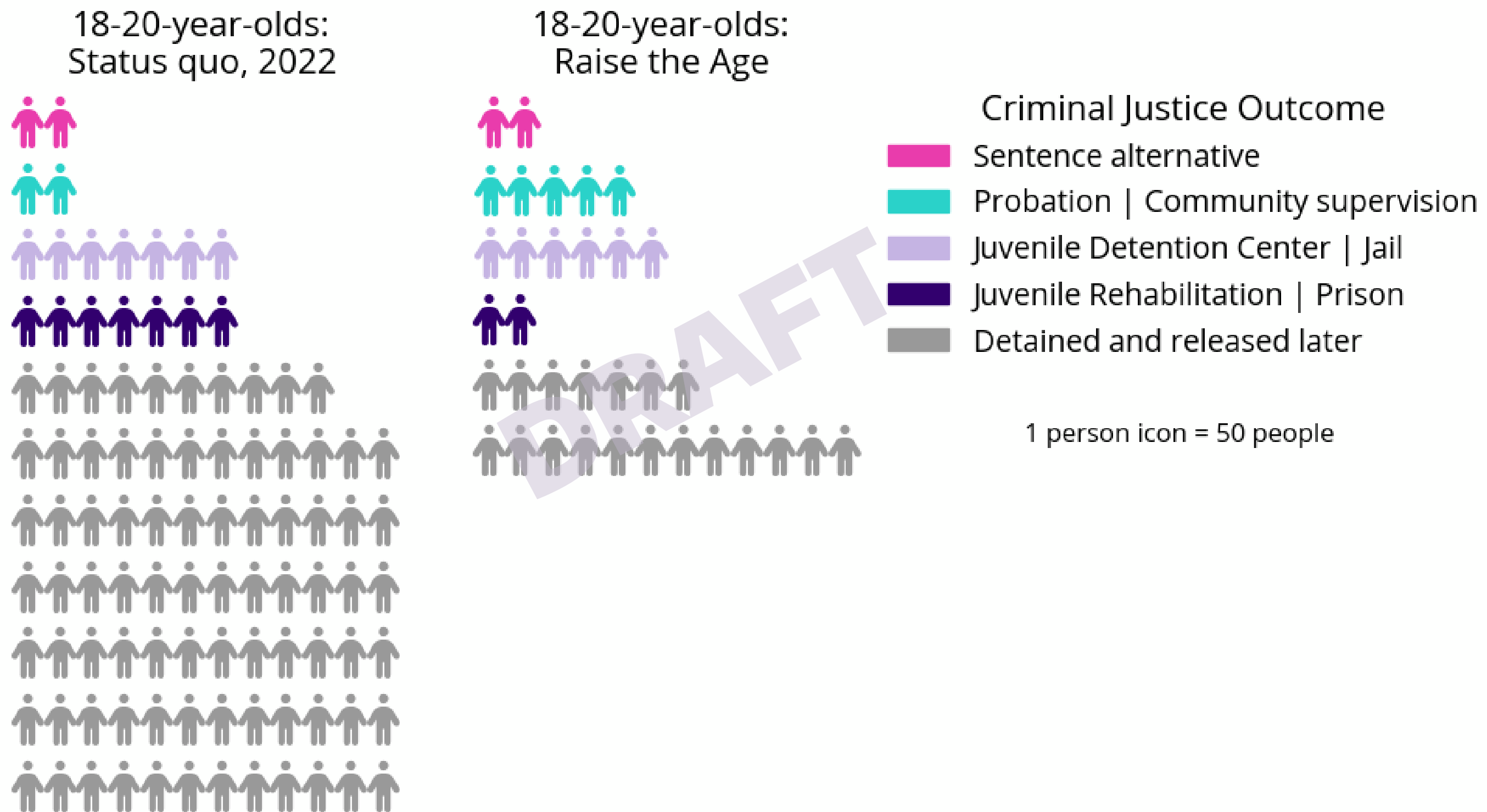
Drop in caseload for
minors (<18) +
Strong drop in recidivism

OUR APPROACH

- **360-degree view of Raise the Age**
 - Detailed analysis of impact to 1) court-involved people and 2) government
 - Show impact to monetary and non-monetary outcomes
 - Discussion of impacts to other stakeholders
- **Extrapolate the impact based on:**
 - **Pretrial release, probation** - academic papers in peer-reviewed journals
 - **Programs in prison and community, re-entry** - WSIPP meta-analysis
- **Do NOT use the evidence from other Raise the Age states (NY, NC, VT)**
 - Caseload trends are informative and will be used in the forecast
 - Long-term outcomes were never measured, cannot separate Raise the Age from overall trends in recidivism, employment, substance use etc.

WHO WILL RAISE THE AGE TOUCH?

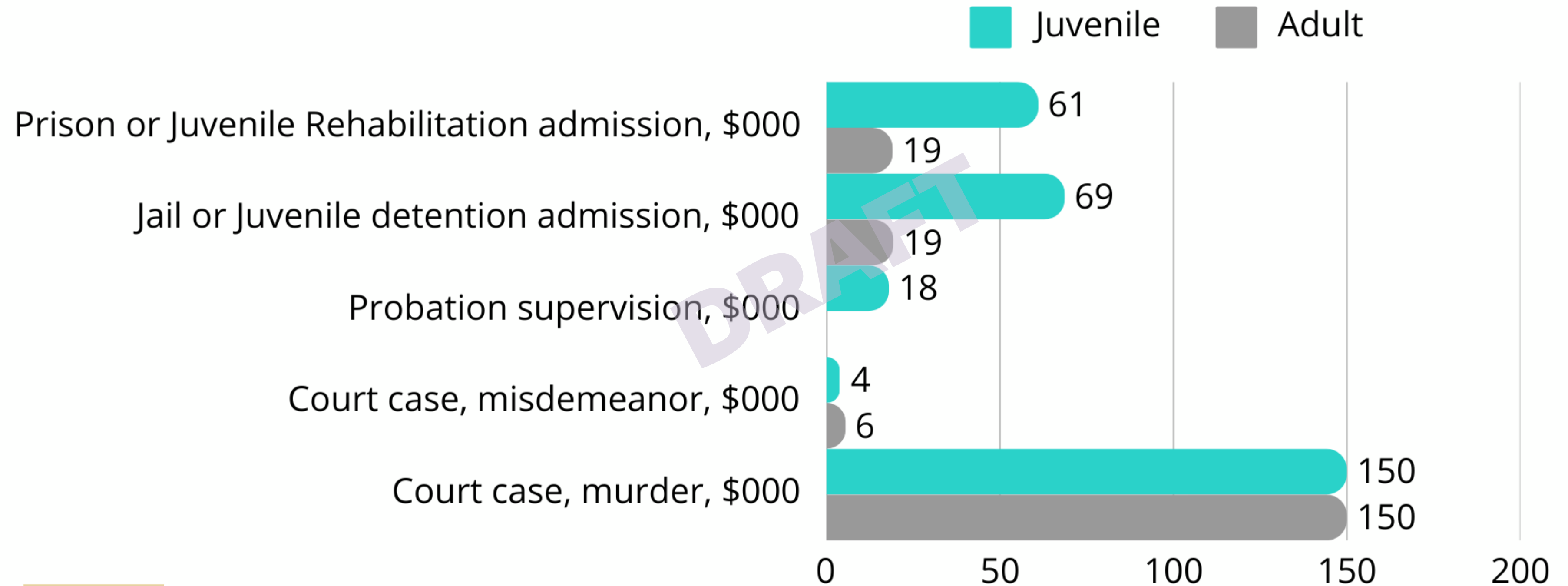
Sentences for 18, 19, 20 year olds



Source: Own analysis for the pessimistic scenario, moving 18-20-year-olds to juvenile court.

JUVENILE VS ADULT CORRECTIONS

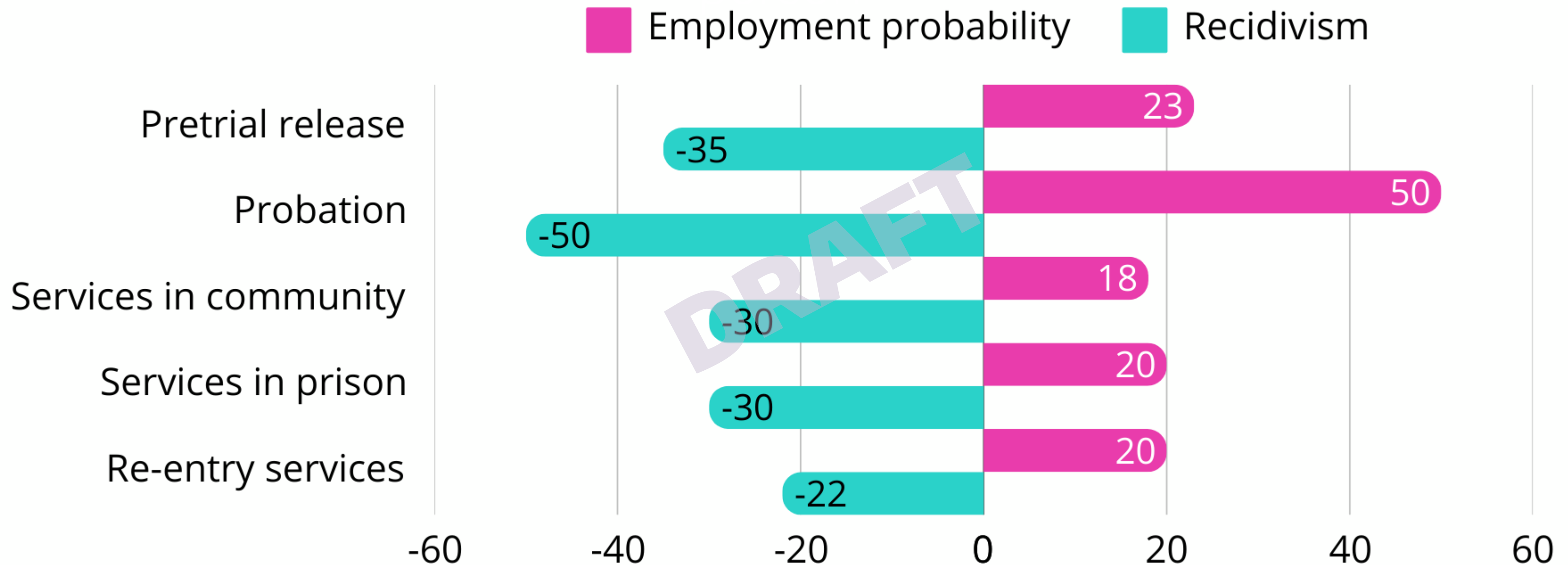
Annual costs to serve +1 case



Source: WSIPP Estimation

IMPACT POTENTIAL

% Change for 1 court-involved



Source: Academic papers in peer-reviewed journals, WSIPP meta-analysis.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- **The biggest cost burden: county legal system**
 - Counties will need to **detain up to +3% people** in juvenile detention centers
 - Counties will need to **supervise up to +15% juvenile probation cases**
 - **Acute need for behavioral health services:** 70% of juveniles in JCTs in 2023 received behavioral health treatment from Medicaid before detention
- **The biggest benefits to court-involved adults: pretrial release + probation**
 - **Services have smaller effect on recidivism and employment**, though education and re-entry services help
 - Services help court-involved people to **find housing** and overcome **substance use disorder, anxiety, and depression**

NEXT STEPS

March 17: Workgroup provides EPIC feedback on Asset Mapping & Benefits-Cost Analysis reports

March 28: EPIC delivers final report on Asset Mapping

May XX: EPIC delivers final report on Benefits-Costs Analysis (after caseload forecast has been completed by the Emerging Adults Justice Project)