

Operating Under the Influence Offenders: Three Year Recidivism Rates for a Motivation-Enhancing Intervention Versus an Alternative Program

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INTRODUCTION

- Recidivism among individuals arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs (OUI) creates high costs (e.g., emotional, physical, financial) for drivers, victims, and legal systems
- Despite the high costs, comparisons between indicated prevention programs are rare
- Maine's transition from one program to another provided the opportunity for such a comparison

BACKGROUND

- In Maine, individuals arrested for OUI must complete either an education program or an education program followed by substance abuse treatment to reinstate their license
- Education programs in Cohort 1 were either a two-hour Adult Assessment Program (AAP) or the 22-hour Weekend Intervention Program (WIP) (Cohort 1)
- The replacement in Cohort 2 was the 20-hour PRIME For Life (PFL) program, a widely-used, group-delivered psychosocial indicated prevention intervention

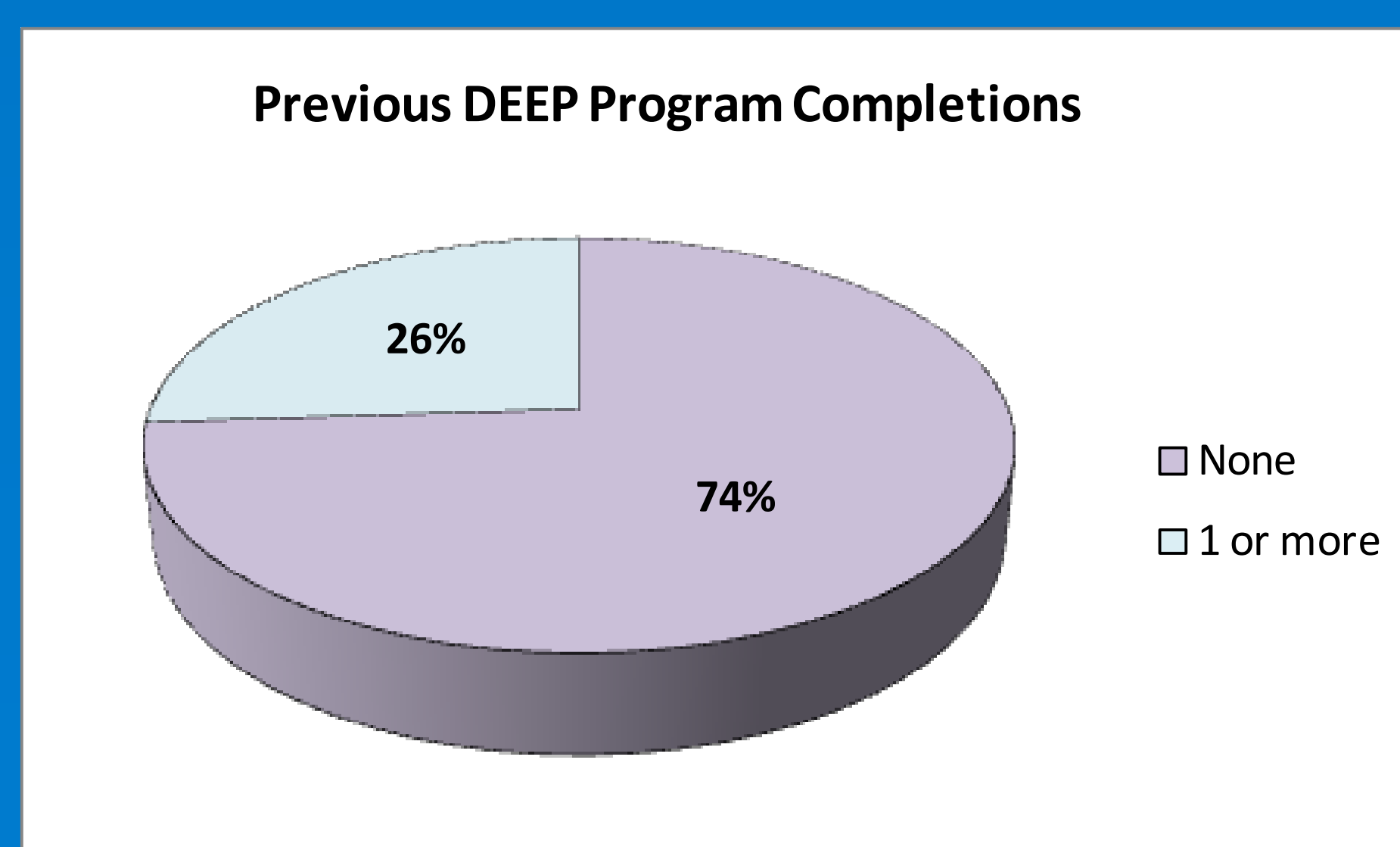
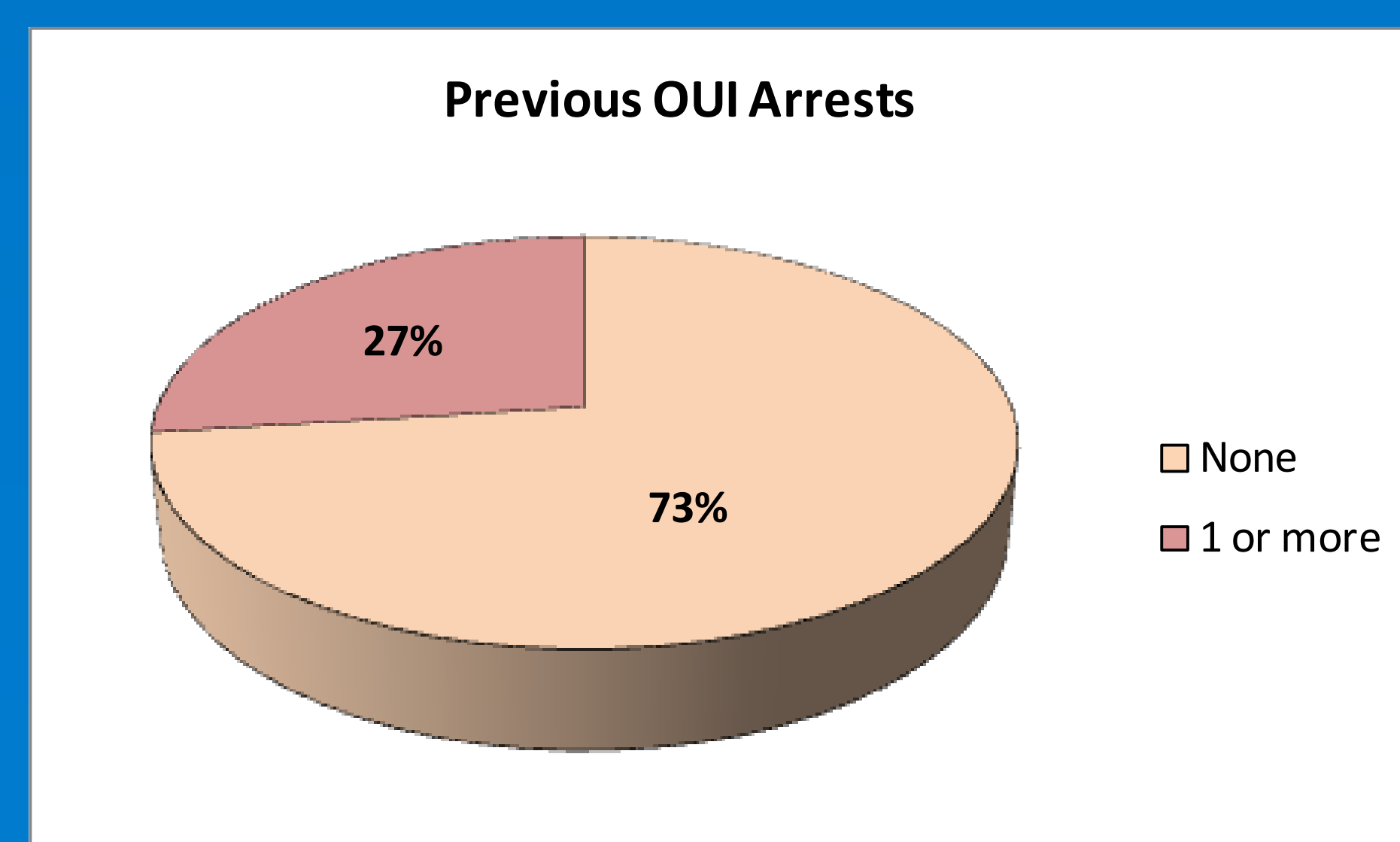
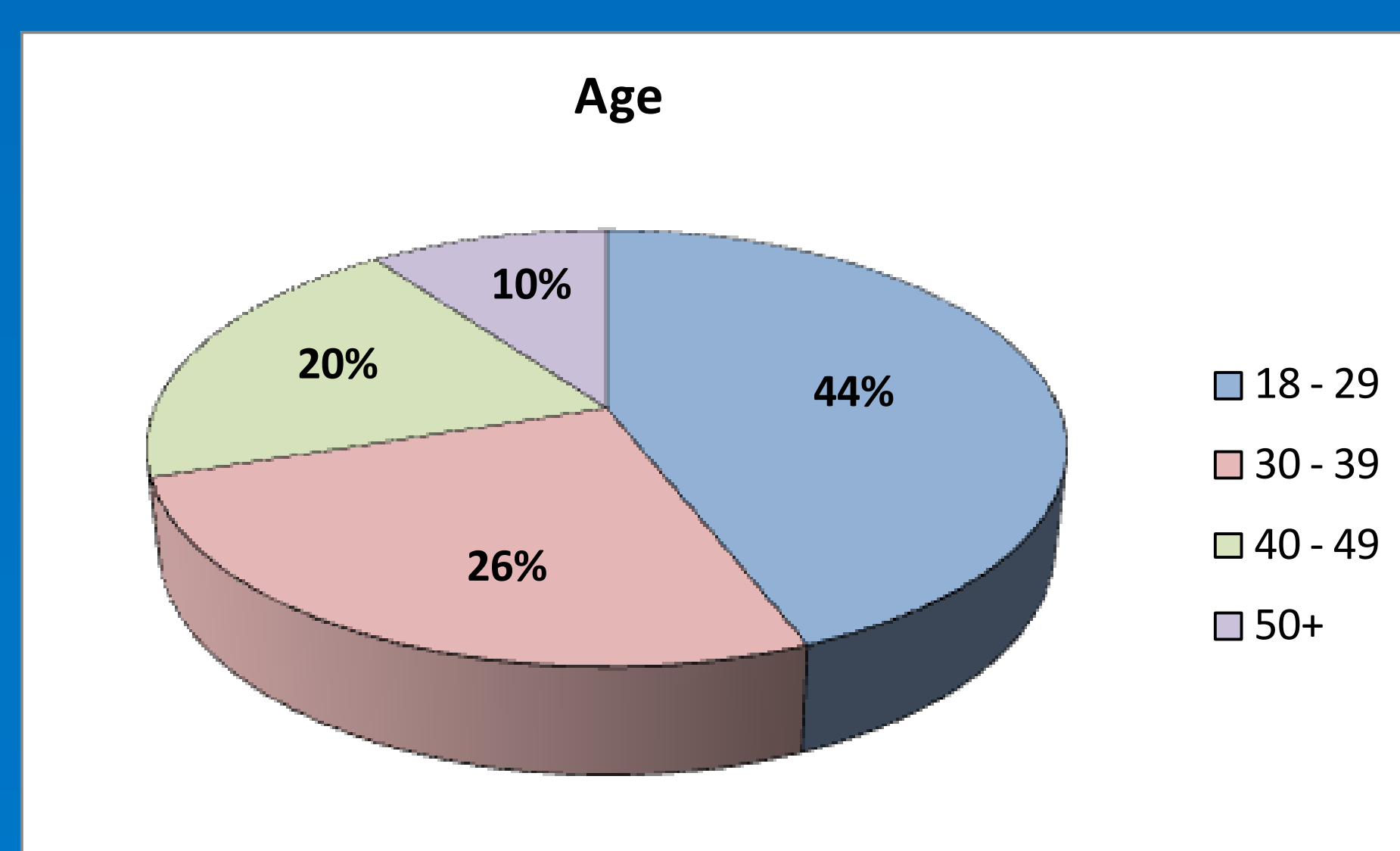
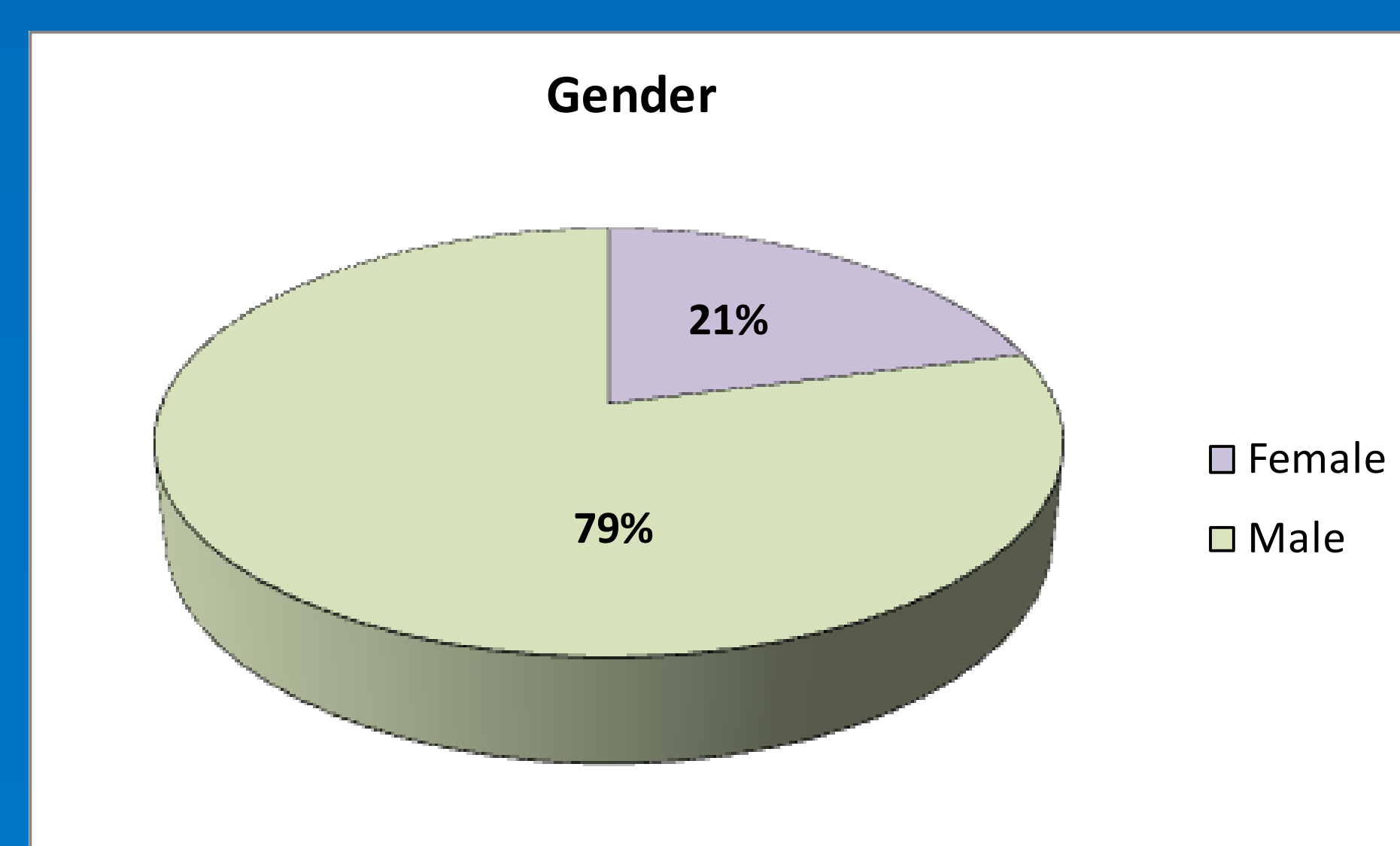
PURPOSE

- Compare three year recidivism rates for participants in AAP/WIP versus PFL

METHOD

- Inclusion: Having an OUI when age 18 years or older
- Exclusion: Military members, out of state drivers, program completion during the three year follow-up period
- Dates: person must have had their OUI or completed their intervention 9/1/1999 to 8/31/2000 (cohort 1) or 9/1/2002 to 8/31/2003 (cohort 2)

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS (N = 9,796)



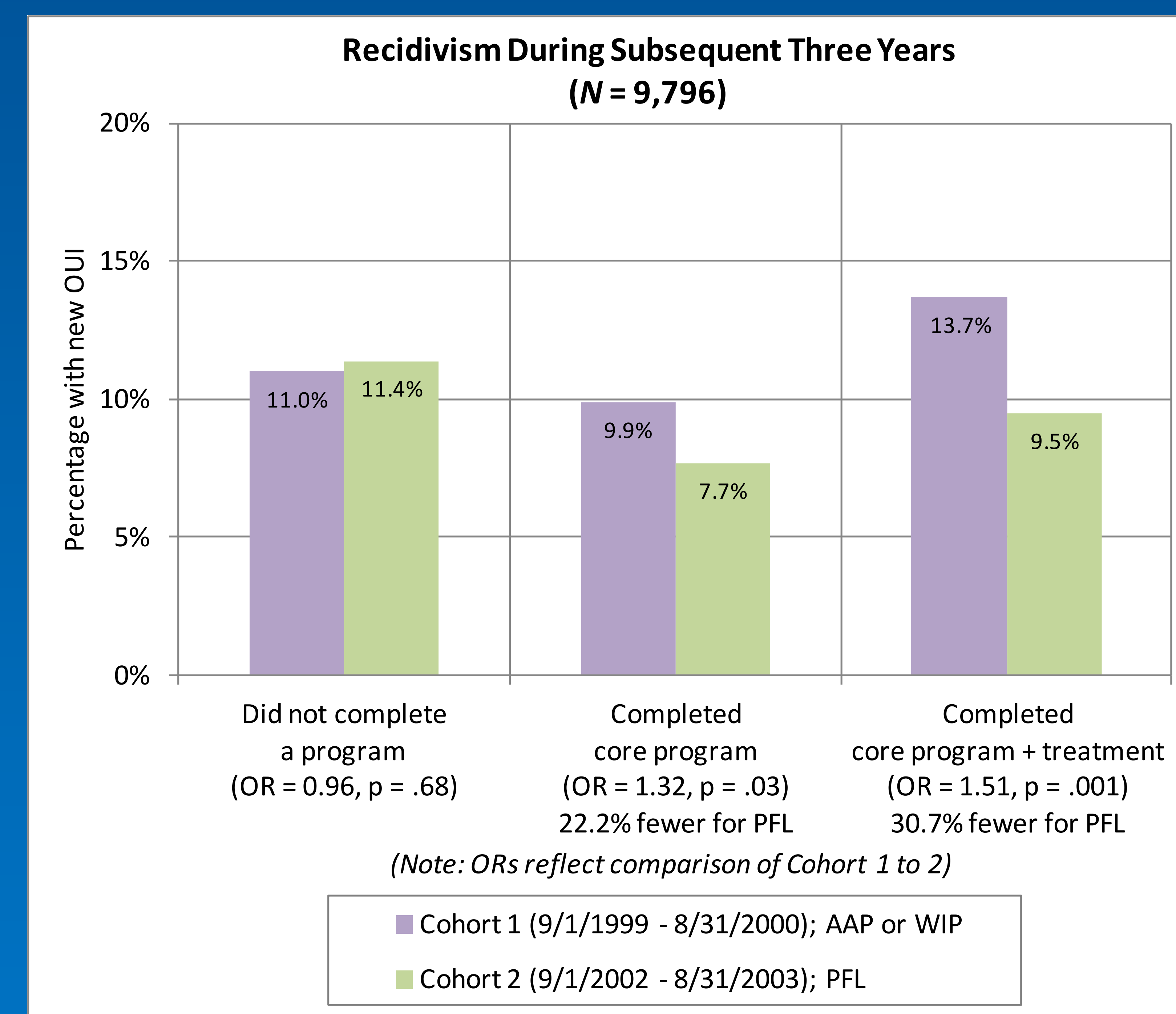
RESULTS

Analysis Strategy:

- Logistic regression with cohort, intervention status, and cohort X intervention as predictors
- Controlled for age, gender, prior OUI, and completion of a prior prevention program
- Outcome variable: repeat OUI in following three years

Primary Finding:

- Cohort X Intervention status was statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 8.70$, $df = 2$, $p = .013$)
- This interaction reflected that recidivism for noncompleters remained similar between the two cohorts, but was lower for PFL and PFL+treatment completers than completers of the earlier program



SUMMARY

- Recidivism studies of indicated prevention programs are rare
- This study indicates lower recidivism for PFL in contrast to previously used approaches
- These lower recidivism rates are likely to represent large savings in financial and emotional costs

LIMITATIONS

- Those categorized as noncompleters represent a heterogeneous group. Some would have been assigned to the basic program and others to the basic program + treatment
- We did not control or otherwise account for the influence of a number of relevant variables (e.g., race/ethnicity, previous substance abuse treatment history, substance dependence) due to these data being unavailable or incomplete. While we were able to control for the overall recidivism differences between the two cohort timeframes, we could not control for any other historical trends