

Tracking Youth in Englewood, Chicago



MAXIMIZING FOLLOW-UP IN A LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Scott Herrling



16 Main Street
Accord, NY 12404
845-626-2126
Fax 845-626-3206

Background



Five year RCT involving 338 youth in Englewood,
Chicago

Funded by Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)

Treatment condition = Children's Aid Society-Carrera
program

Control Condition = Children's Home + Aid after
school program

Intent-To-Treat Design



“Once randomized, always analyzed”

All randomized youth need to be surveyed
over time, regardless of participation

Data Collection Points



Random assignment (Summer 2011)

Baseline (Fa 2011)

1st follow-up (Sp 2012)

2nd follow-up (Fa 2012)

3rd follow-up (Sp 2013)

4th follow-up (Fa 2013)

5th follow-up (Sp 2014)

6th follow-up (Fa 2014)

7th follow-up (Sp 2015)

Study needed to meet OAH standards



RCT judged on

- attrition of the sample, including treatment/control differential
- baseline equivalence
- group assignment maintained
- confounding factors, events, or changes in data collection methodology across groups
- intent-to-treat model

What happened?



Study attendance declined greatly over time

Collected as much contact data as possible

Hired and trained local residents to act as trackers

Ended study with 81% response rate

Treatment and Control Conditions



- Both were afterschool programs delivering components to youth in grades 4 through 7 at baseline
- Both programs evaluated over a 44 month period
- Three elementary schools served as sites

About the data collections



- Data collections were scheduled for one week each fall and spring
- Program staff spread the word and encouraged participation
- Data collections largely occurred after school but some sites let us visit during school hours to gather makeups
- Stipends used

Gathering Contact Data



- Name
- Address
- Home phone
- Youth cell phone
- Parents' phones (home and cell)
- Parents' employment phone
- Text permission and number
- Three relatives or adult friends and phones
- Names of best friends
- Email

We discovered early on that...



- Englewood was a very transient community with high resident mobility
- Residents moved often, but usually remained local
- Compiling a cumulative list of contact data was the only way to go
- Hiring local residents to act as trackers

Local Trackers



- Community residents having previous experience working with youth
- Trained by Philliber

Participation rate



- In final year, 41% of treatment youth and 52% of control youth had stopped attending the study sites
- Many of these youth moved to other non-study schools and could not attend

Response rates



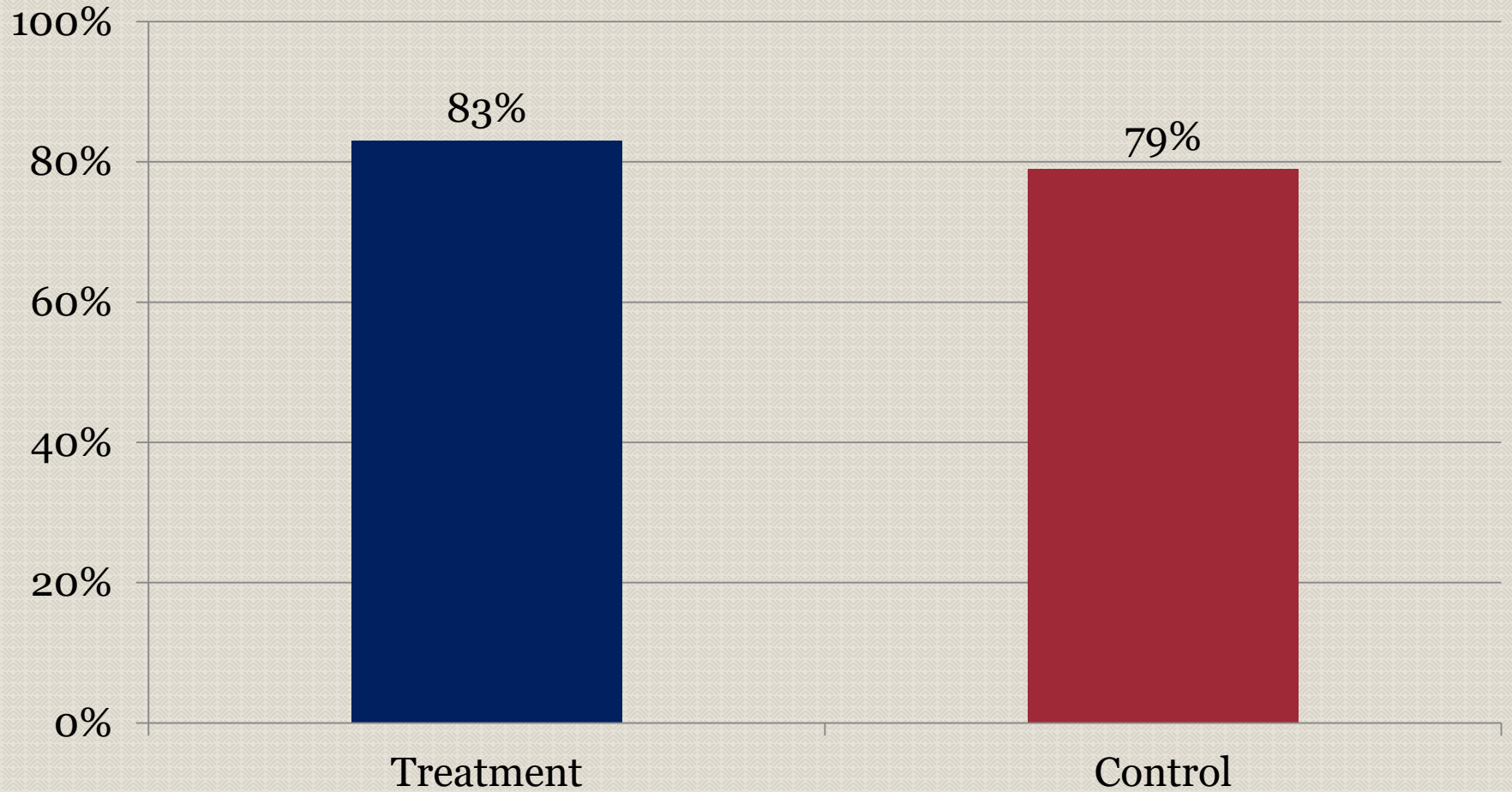
	Total	% of surveys collected from trackers
Random assignment (Summer 2011)	338 (100%)	0%
Baseline (Fa 2011)	336 (99%)	0%
1 st follow-up (Sp 2012)	319 (94%)	9%
2 nd follow-up (Fa 2012)	300 (89%)	17%
3 rd follow-up (Sp 2013)	303 (90%)	26%
4 th follow-up (Fa 2013)	284 (84%)	39%
5 th follow-up (Sp 2014)	275 (81%)	40%
6 th follow-up (Fa 2014)	255 (75%)	53%
7 th follow-up (Sp 2015)	274 (81%)	44%

Contacting Youth



- Phone calls to parents / youth / other relatives / friends
- Scheduling appointments
- Just show up
- Leave notes on doors
- Ask neighbors

Final Follow-up Rate



When to Contact Youth



- Evenings and weekends work best
- Minor holidays when school is closed

Challenges in Englewood



	Englewood	All of Chicago
% of households below the poverty level	42%	19%
Unemployment rate	21%	11%

In Fall 2016, Englewood ranked 10th in violent crime, 9th in quality of life crime, and 33rd in property crime among Chicago's 77 community areas.

<http://crime.chicagotribune.com/chicago/community/englewood>

Planning Ahead



- Stress the importance of follow-up data
- Get buy in regarding data collection from everyone involved in the study
- Allow cell phones when collecting contact data
- Hire local trackers
- Build extra follow-up costs into budget

Overall



- Never give up
- Don't set a number of contact attempts and quit
- Just keep at it with a variety of strategies

Questions or Comments?



Scott Herrling

Senior Program Evaluator

sherrling@philliberresearch.com



16 Main Street
Accord, NY 12404
845-626-2126
Fax 845-626-3206