# Electronic Monitoring Program Evaluation

SCARLETT SAUNDERS, UC BERKELEY GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY MAY 11, 2022



#### Purpose of Evaluation

- \* Has Not Been Done Before
- Little Reliable Research, But Many Potential Failings
- Increased Push For De-carceration
- ❖ Increased Use Since Pandemic



### Evaluating Impact on

#### YOUTH WELLBEING

Liberty • Family Burden • Relationships
 Accessibility • Access to Services

 Youth Safety • Racial and Ethnic Disparities

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

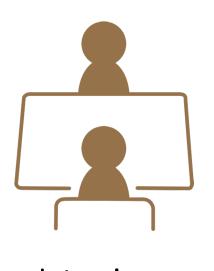
Recidivism • Enforcement Mechanism
 Victim Perception

#### **COMPARISON**

Detention • Evening Reporting • Home Detention









Interviews

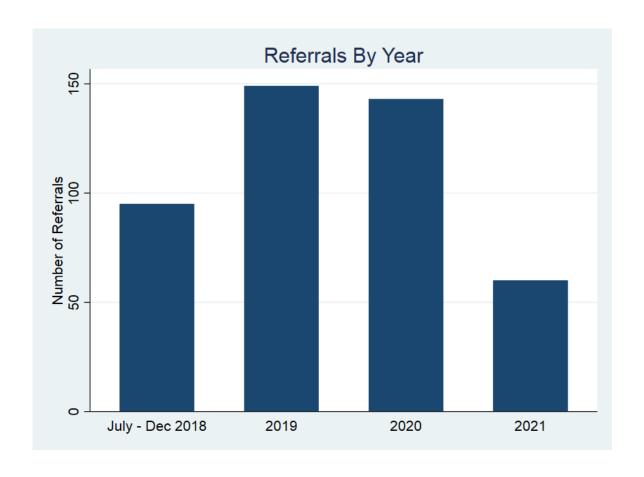
JPD Data

#### Data Sources

# Evaluation Findings

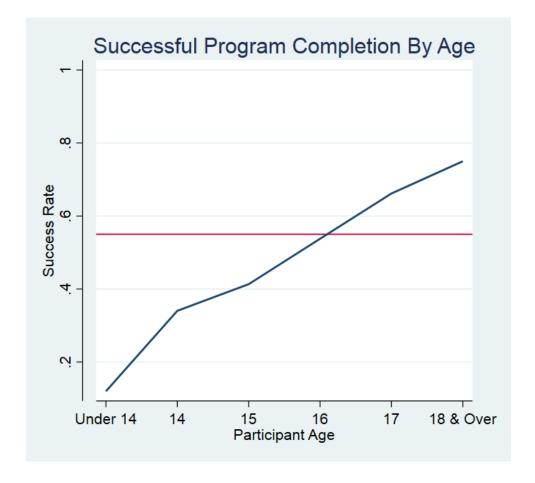


## Program Use



| <b>Episodes</b>                  | 447  |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Unique Youth                     | 288  |
| Average Age of Youth             | 15.9 |
| Minimum Age Of Youth             | 12   |
| Average Referrals Per Youth      | 1.55 |
| Maximum Referrals Per Youth      | 6    |
| Average Episode Length (In Days) | 54   |
| Average Total Time (In Days)     | 84   |







# Program Completion Rates

| Rates of Successful Completion | Percent |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Overall                        | 55%     |
| First Referral to Program      | 62.8%   |



## Benefits to Youth and Families







Returns Youth to Their Communities



Reinforces Parental Authority



**Protects The Youth** 



Deprivation Of Liberty

Stigma of Device

Difficulty Given Age

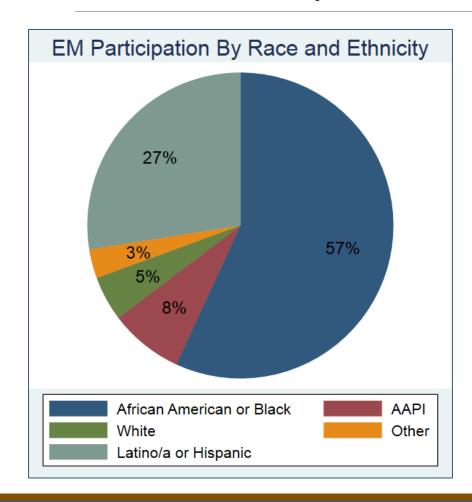
**Limited Services** 

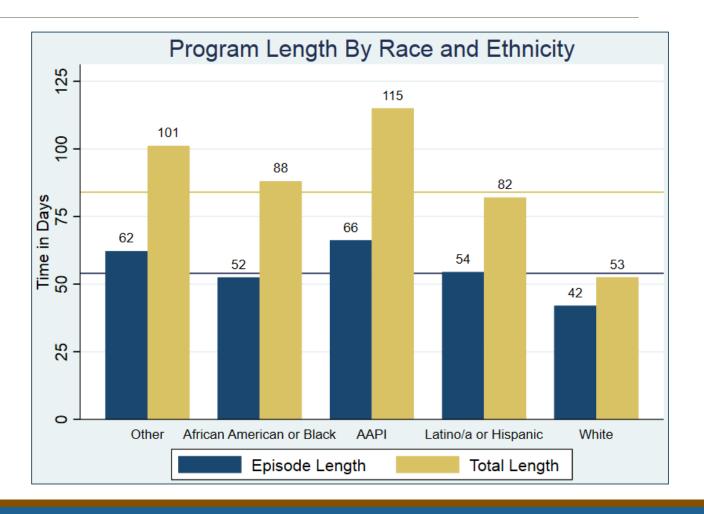
Racial and Ethnic Disparities

# Harms to Youth and Families



#### Racial Disparities







#### Electronic Monitoring Recidivism Rates

#### **COMPARED TO DETENTION**

Slight Increases in Recidivism By Some Measures
After 1 Year





**❖ No Significant Differences** After 6 Months

\*Note that the comparison group is detained for part of this time, decreasing their capacity to reoffend

#### COMPARED TO RELEASE WITHOUT EM

No Statistical Differences in Recidivism by Any Measure or Time Frame











**Inconsistent** 

Frustrating

## Violation Responses

## Recommendations



# CHANGES TO PROGRAM DESIGN

- Change the Device: Less Conspicuous, Lower Charging Requirements
- ❖ Do Not Use For Youth Under Age 14
- Create Other Clear Eligibility Criteria for Program Participation
- Maximum Program Length of 90 Days (Standard of 30 Days)
- Provide Case Managers for All Participants



# CHANGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

- Improve Monitoring
- Develop More Thoughtful Responses to Violations
- Use Days on Electronic Monitoring as Credits for Time Served
- Better Record Data



# CHANGES TO OTHER PROGRAMS

- Expand Out-Of-County Detention Alternatives
- Expand the Evening Reporting Center Program

# Thank You!

ANY QUESTIONS?