

Recovery Specialist Voluntary Program (RSVP): Preliminary Evaluation Findings



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RSVP Program



- A voluntary program for parents/caregivers who have had a child removed by an Order of Temporary Custody (OTC) and need support for recovery from problematic use of alcohol and/or drugs
- The result of a joint collaboration between the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Judicial Branch, and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
- Administered by Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH) in three pilot sites: Bridgeport/Norwalk, New Britain, and Willimantic
- RSVP assists the parent/caregiver in engaging in substance abuse treatment, conducts random alcohol/drug screens, supports parents in increasing their recovery capital, and provides timely documentation to the courts and DCF on the parents' efforts and progress

RSVP Program Objectives



- Develop an integrated system of care for substance-involved OTC families by changing policies, procedures and practices
- Promote inter-agency collaboration and data sharing for program development and strategic planning
- Improve substance abusing parents' access, engagement and retention in substance abuse treatment
- Increase access to case management, support and recovery services
- Show improvements in rates and timeliness of child permanency decisions
- Reduce repeat cases of child maltreatment and re-entry to DCF due to parental substance abuse
- Reduce costs associated with out of home placements and court proceedings
- Develop a plan for outcomes and performance monitoring

RSVP Eligibility Criteria



- A parent/caregiver whose child has been removed pursuant to an OTC and for whom substance abuse has been identified as one of the factors in the child(ren)'s removal
- Parent has an open DCF case and an active child welfare case at Juvenile Court in one of the three pilot areas
- Parent referred and the client and his/her attorney sign the *Agreement to Participate in RSVP* which is then entered as a standing order in the court files

Program Description



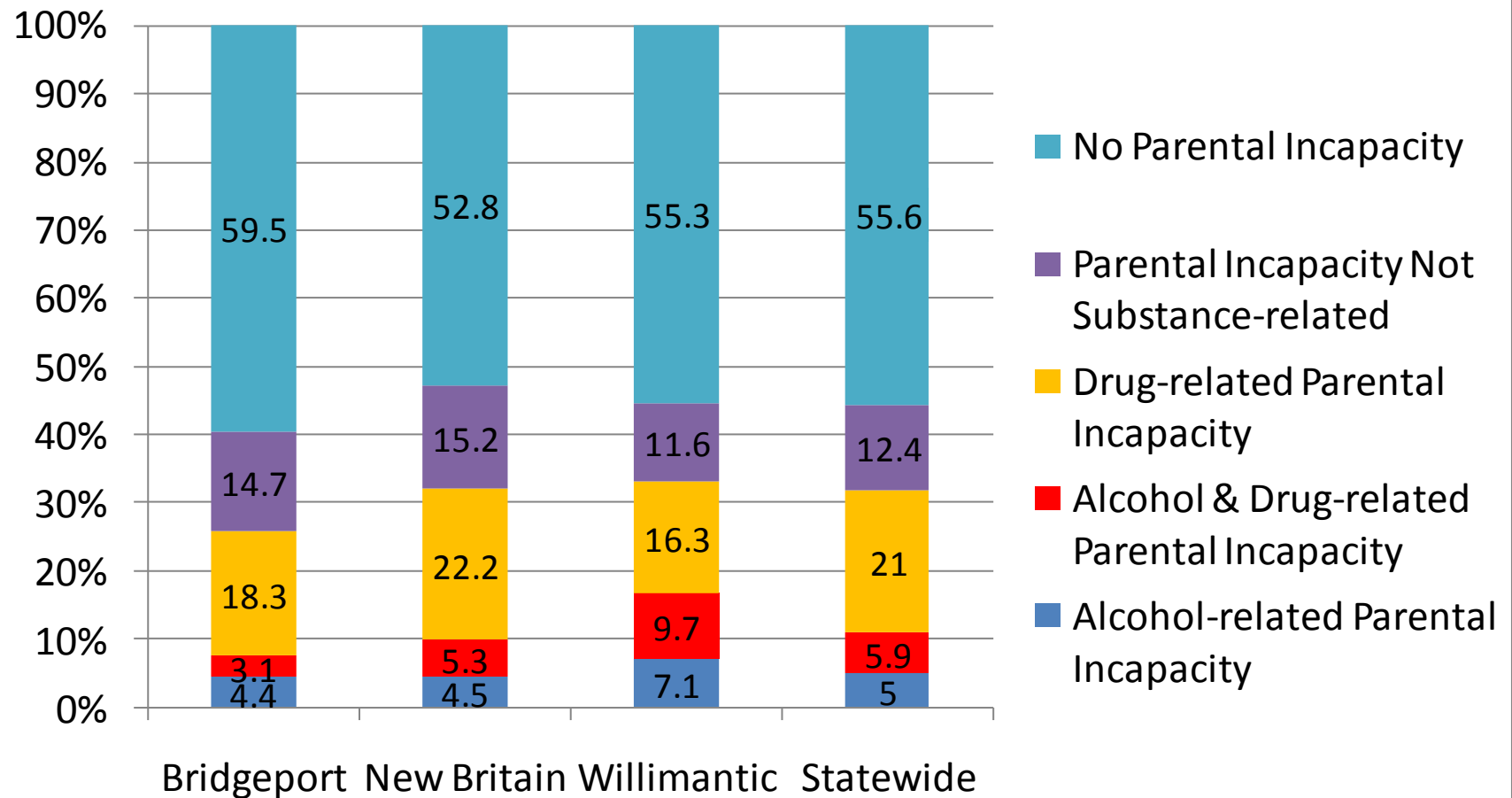
- **Phase I (90 days):**
 - Meet with Recovery Specialist 2x/wk if outpatient or 1x/wk if residential
 - Submit to random, observed alcohol/drug testing at RSVP office 2x/wk or more (not applicable if in residential setting)
 - Obtain substance abuse treatment evaluation
 - Engage in treatment with verified attendance
 - Attend 6+ self-help groups per month with verification
- **Phase II (91-180 days or until discharged from program):**
 - Comply with recommended substance abuse treatment with verified attendance
 - Meet with Recovery Specialist 1x/wk if outpatient or biweekly if residential
 - Submit to random alcohol/drug testing minimum 1x/wk
 - Attend 6+ self-help groups per month with verification

Program Description



- Phase III (181-270 days or until case closure):
 - Have contact with Recovery Specialist at least biweekly, including 1 face-to-face per month
 - Comply with recommended treatment with verification
 - Attend 6+ self-help groups per month with verification
 - Comply with random alcohol/drug testing a minimum 2x/month
- RSVP provides a written report to the court and DCF at the initial 2-week case conference and at monthly intervals until discharge
- Written reports include information on parent's RSVP participation, attendance at treatment and self-help groups, and compliance with and results of random drug testing

Rates of Substance-Related Parental Incapacity in OTC Removal Cases by RSVP Site and Statewide: DCF Link, 2006-2009



Comparison of Mean Days in DCF Placement by Parental Alcohol/Drug Use as a Reason for Child Removal, 2006-2009



Parental Alcohol/Drug Use Identified as a Reason for Removal	Days in DCF Custody	Days in DCF Placement
No	372.51	377.16
Yes	433.86	424.90
Difference in days	61.35**	47.74**
**p<.001		

Number of OTC Parents Enrolled in RSVP: May 2009 – December 2010



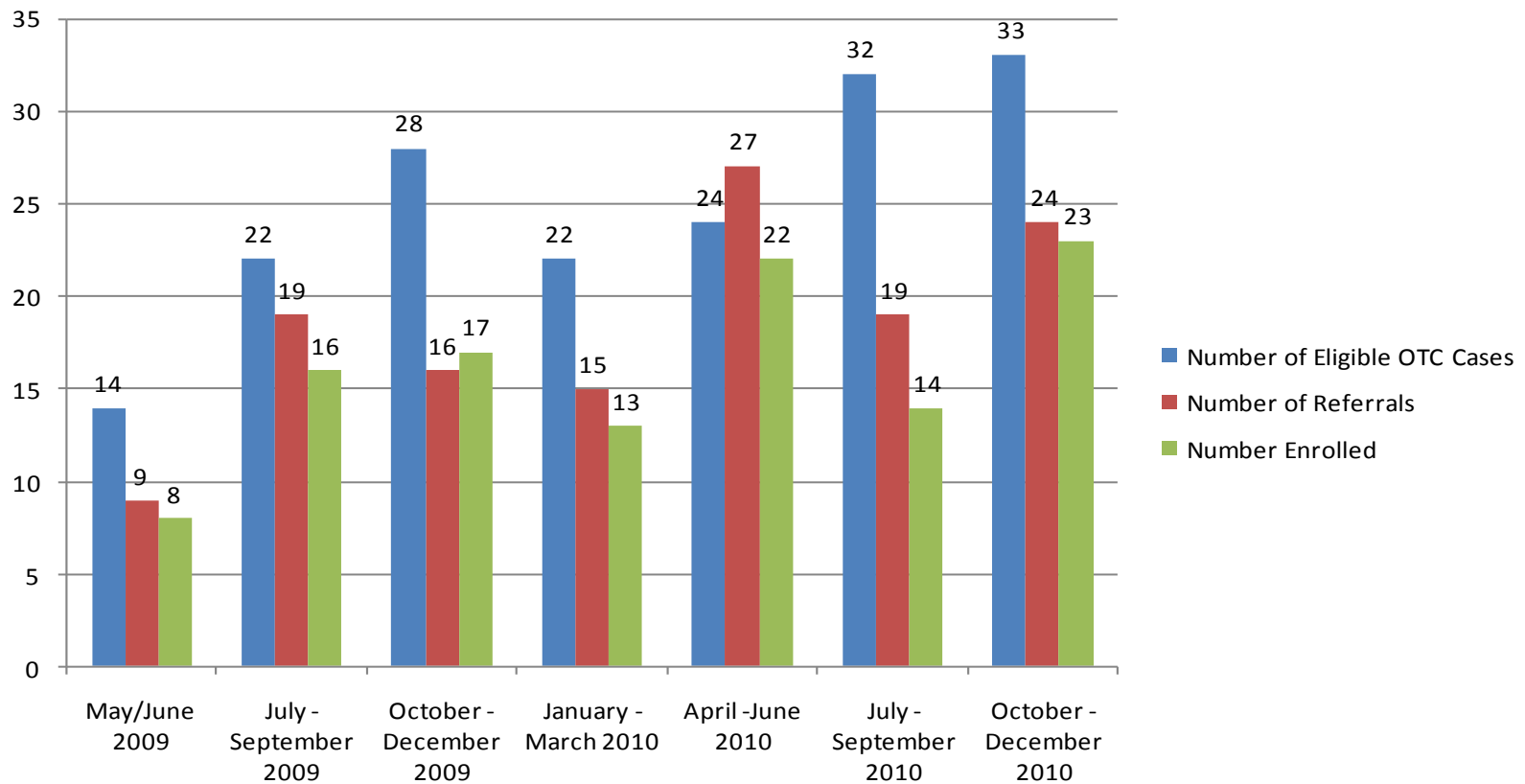
- Number served:

○ Bridgeport	43
○ New Britain	36
○ Willimantic	34
○ Total	113

Referrals to and Enrollment in RSVP over Time: May 2009 – December 2010



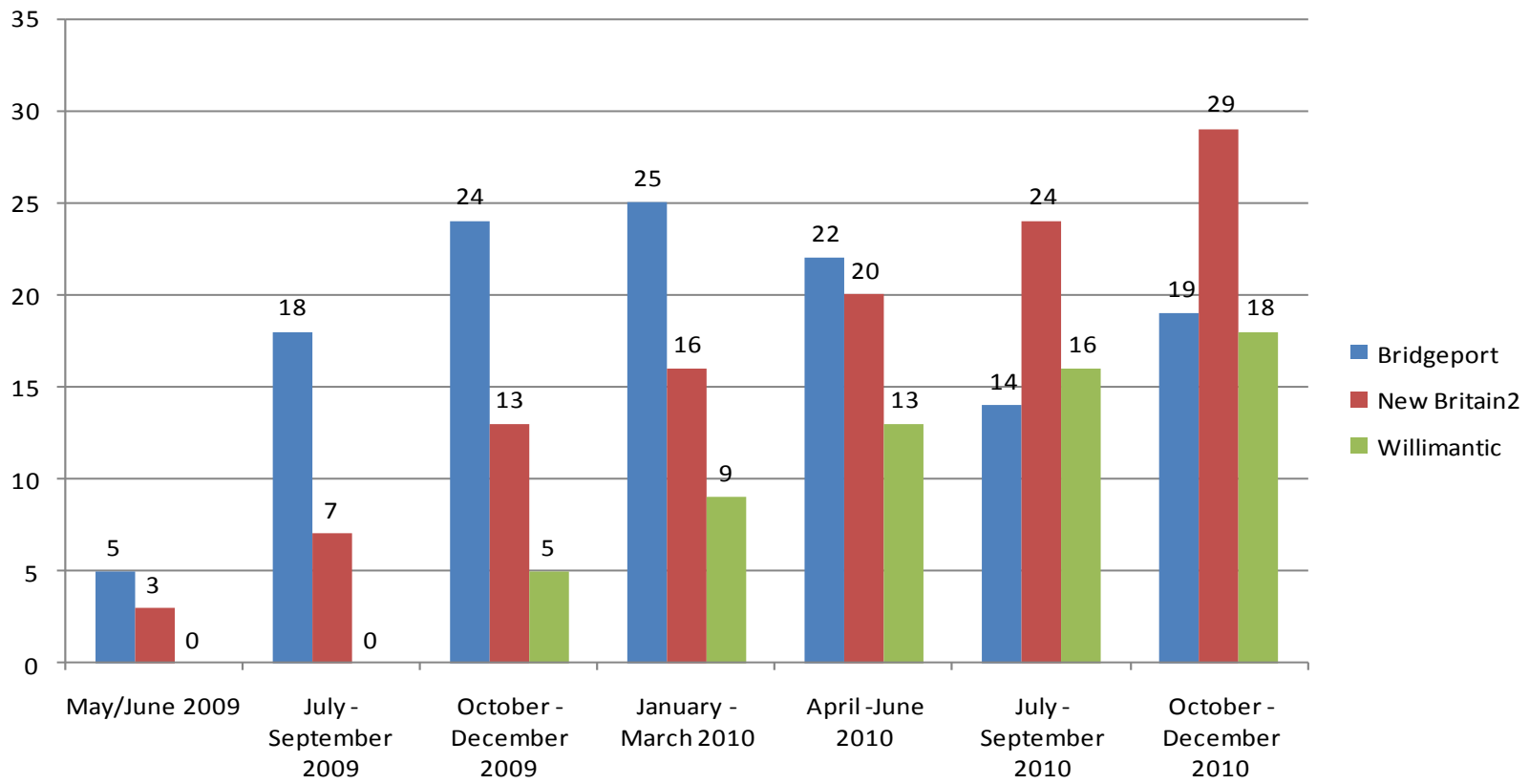
RSVP Referral and Recruitment by Quarter



Number of RSVP Clients Served by Site over Time: May 2009 – December 2010



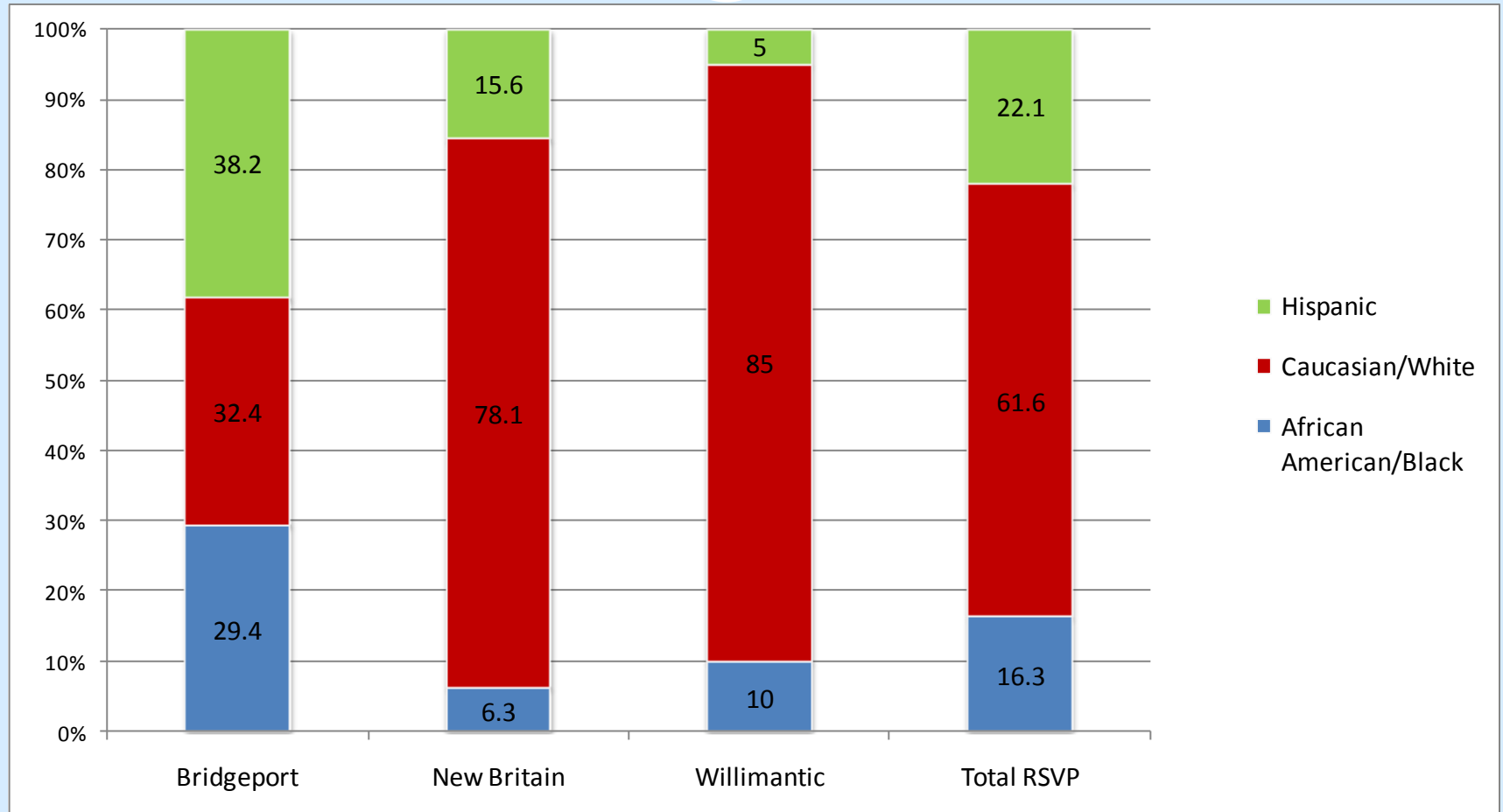
RSVP Clients Served by Quarter



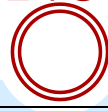
RSVP Client Characteristics: May 2009-November 2010

- Gender
 - Female 82%
- Age
 - 18-29 yrs. 49%
 - 30-39 yrs. 35%
 - 40 or older 16%
- Marital status
 - Married 23%
 - Never married 58%
 - Other 19%
- Income per month
 - None 40%
 - \$1-\$600 31%
 - \$601-1,000 15%
 - More than \$1,000 14%

Racial/Ethnic Characteristics of RSVP Clients by Site: May 2009-November 2010



RSVP Client Characteristics: May 2009 – November 2010



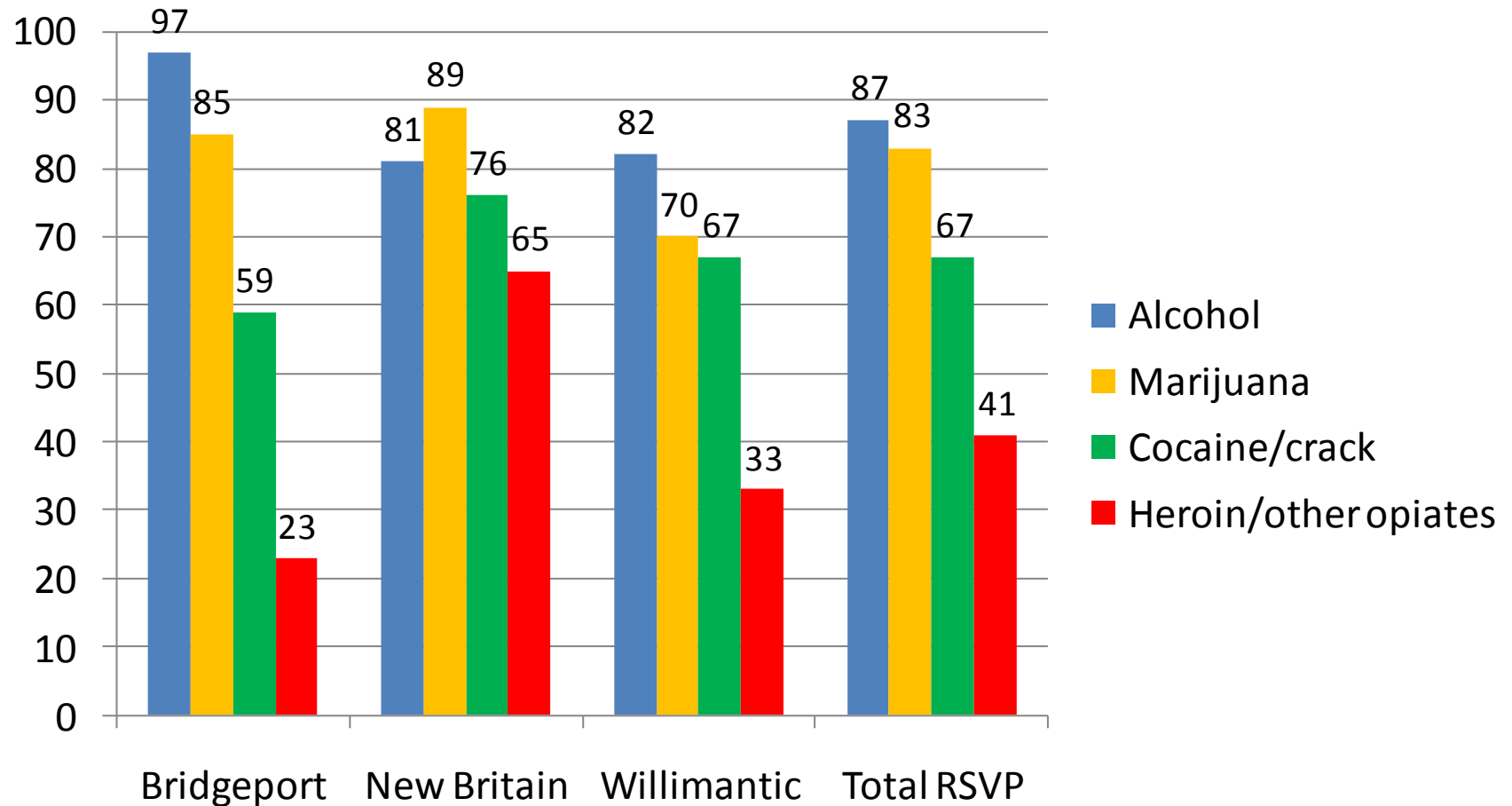
- Housing situation
 - Homeless/shelter/supportive housing 12%
 - Rent 50%
 - Living by self 55%
 - At risk of eviction 18%
- Employed 17%
- Entitlements
 - General assistance/Medicaid 75%
 - None 14%
- Has drivers license 51%
- Has auto available 32%

Co-occurring Problems among RSVP Clients: May 2009 – November 2010

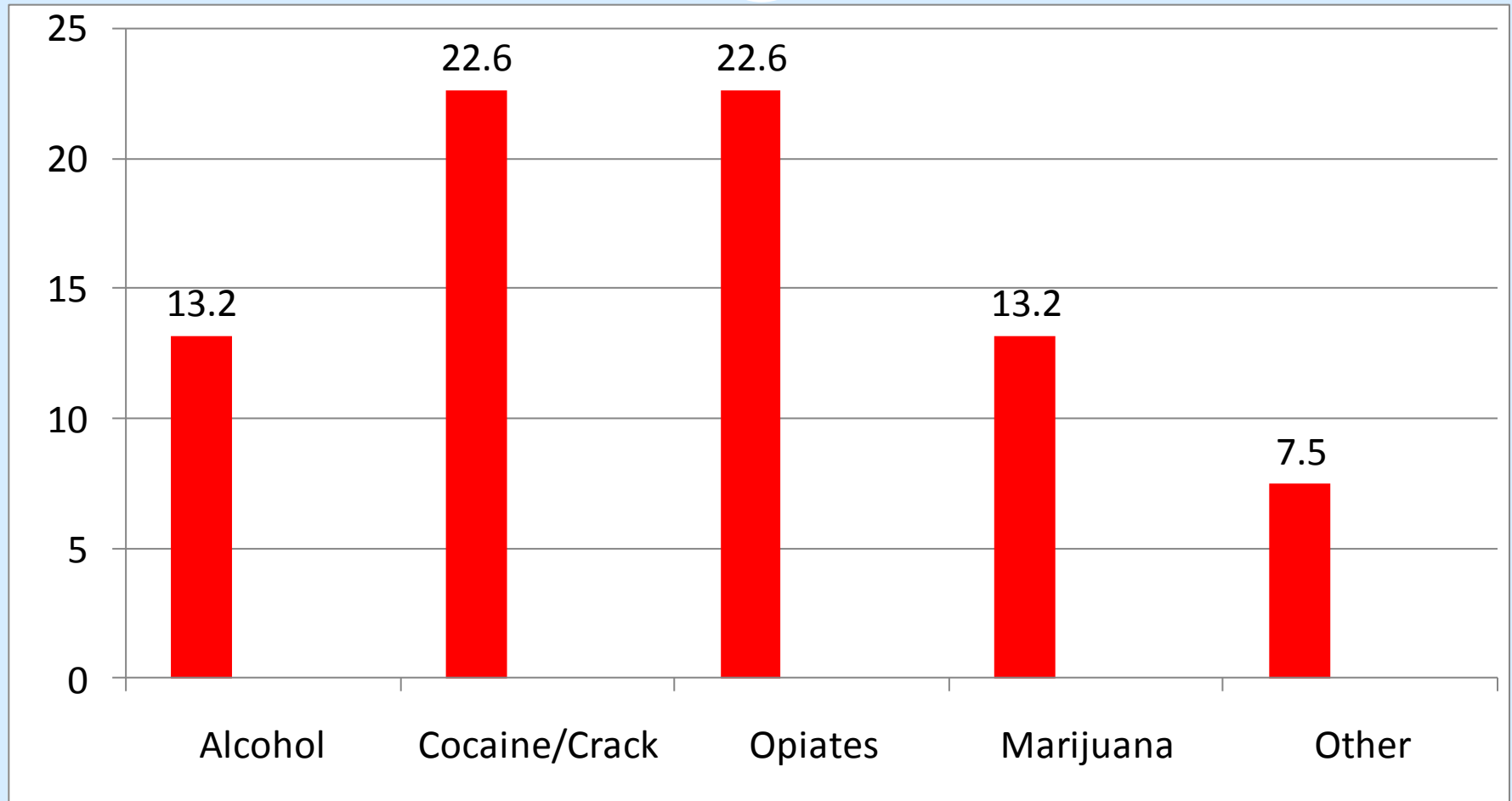


- Ever arrested 70%
- Current criminal justice involvement 48%
- History of domestic violence 49%
- History of trauma 25%
- Family history of mental health problems 36%
- Personal history of mental health problems 49%
- Currently receiving MH services 25%

Alcohol and Other Drug Use by RSVP Clients: May 2009 – November 2010



Primary Problem Substance for RSVP Clients in Treatment: DMHAS, May 2009-May 2010



RSVP Clients' Baseline Family Strengths and Needs Assessment: DCF SMD Data, May 2009-May 2010



Serious Health Concerns/Disabilities Affect Family Functioning

10.5

No Resources, Severely Limited/Insufficient

43.9

Parent Maltreated as a Child, Current Effects

38.6

Severely Impaired or Limited Coping Skills

82.4

Destructive/Abusive Parenting or Inadequately Protects Child

71

No or Limited Social Support

42.2

Frequent/Chronic/Violent Discord in Household

33.3

0

50

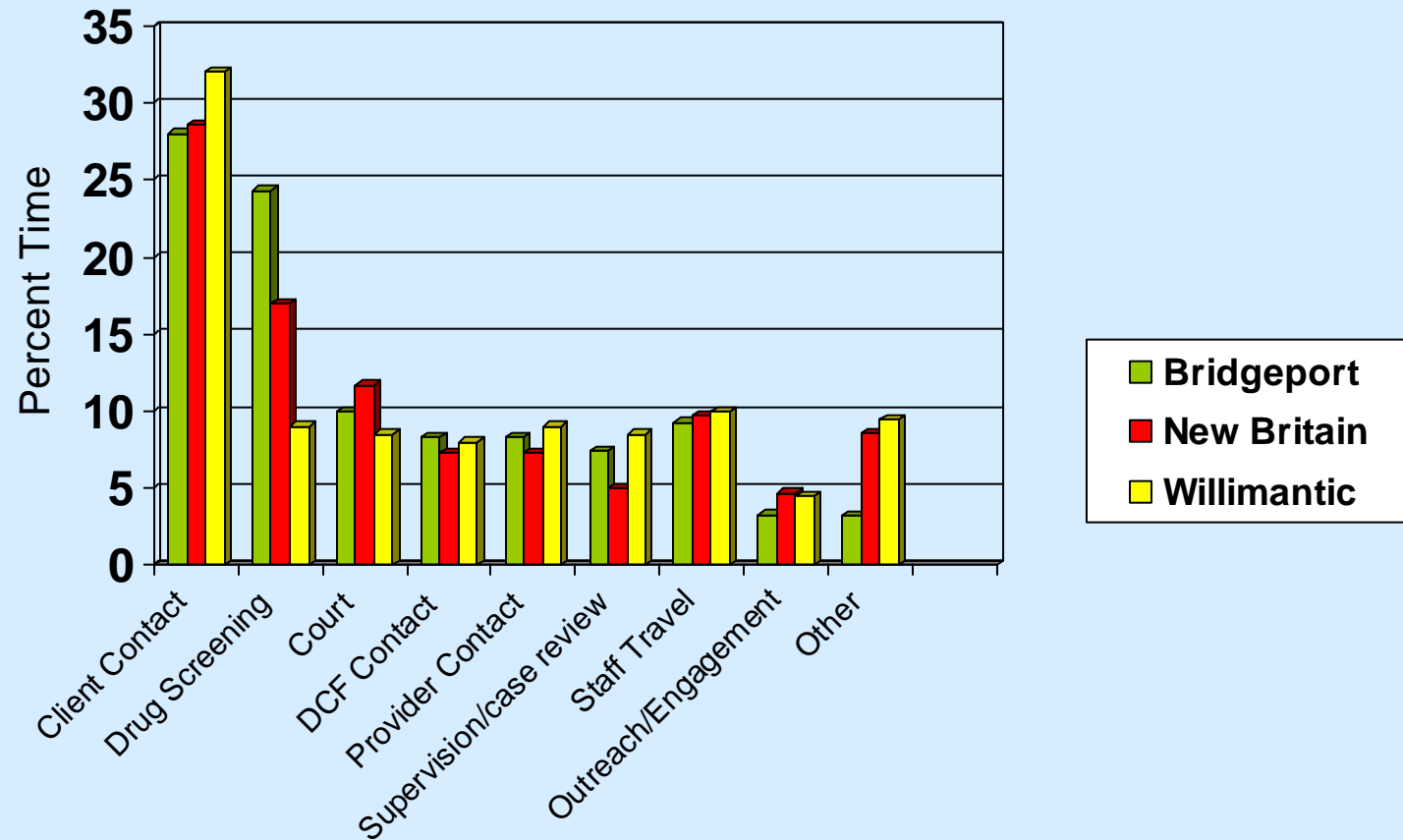
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Other Reasons for Removal for OTC Cases with or without Parental Incapacity Due to Alcohol/Drug Use, DCF, 2006-2009



Other Removal Reasons as Coded in LINK	Parental Alcohol/Drug Use Identified as a Factor in Removal	
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Abandonment-Relinquishment	14%	8%
Child Behavior – Parent Incapacity	14%	6%
Disability	10%	6%
Inadequate Housing	16%	22%
Neglect	68%	73%
Physical Abuse	16%	6%
Sexual Abuse	5%	1%

Percentage of Staff Time Spent by Activity by Site: RSVP FY2010



Discharge Status of RSVP Clients by Site: May 2009-November 2010



Discharge Reason	Total RSVP (n=52)*
Family reunification	19.2
Transfer of guardianship	9.6
Goals met/fully compliant	3.8
Moved	15.4
Incarcerated	5.8
Deceased	1.9
Non-compliant for 2 reporting periods	36.5
Client declined further services	7.7
*2 clients found not to need treatment	

Cumulative RSVP Child Exit Outcomes by Site: Judicial, May 2009-November 2010



Child Exit Outcomes	Bridgeport (n=58) %	New Britain (n=48) %	Willimantic (n=29) %	Total RSVP (n=135) %
Exited Care	37.9%	16.7%	31.0%	28.9%
Reason:				
Reunification	81.8%	87.5%	100.0%	87.2%
Transfer of guardianship	18.2%	12.5%%	0.0%	12.8%
Mean number of days to exit	156 days	158 days	186 days	163 days