Results First – a new approach to Evidence-Based Policymaking

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The fundamental challenge

- **Governments face incredible fiscal pressures**
  - **Trillion-dollar federal deficits**
  - **Over $500 billion in state budget shortfalls since Great Recession**
  - **Local governments face ongoing property value reductions**
- **We need better ways to make decisions about what to fund**

We have better knowledge and tools

- **The ongoing fiscal crisis has spurred interest in evidence-based policymaking**

  - **Major advances in policy analysis**

    - **Much work is being done to meta-analyze research to identify what works**

    - **Better methodologies allow us to use this evidence to inform policy and budget choices**

Results First builds on these advances

1. Aggregate best research on 'what works'

2. Use research base to estimate program outcomes based on jurisdiction's unique characteristics

3. Monetize outcomes and compare costs and benefits for each program

Predict and compare programs' return on investment

Example: Functional Family Therapy
(Washington State 2010 dollars)

Benefits Per Family   **Main Source of Benefits**

Reduced crime $31,745   Lower state & victim costs

Increased high school graduation $5,686   Increased earnings

Reduced health care costs $307   Lower public costs

Total Benefits Per Family   **$37,739**

Cost Per Family $3,190

Net Present Value $34,549

Benefits Per Dollar of Cost $11.86

Addendum (distribution of benefits)

$3,599 = **Benefits to participant**

$8,336 = **Benefits to taxpayers**

$21,636 = **Benefits to others (crime victims)**

$4,167 = **Other benefits**

Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Rank programs in "Consumer Reports" lists

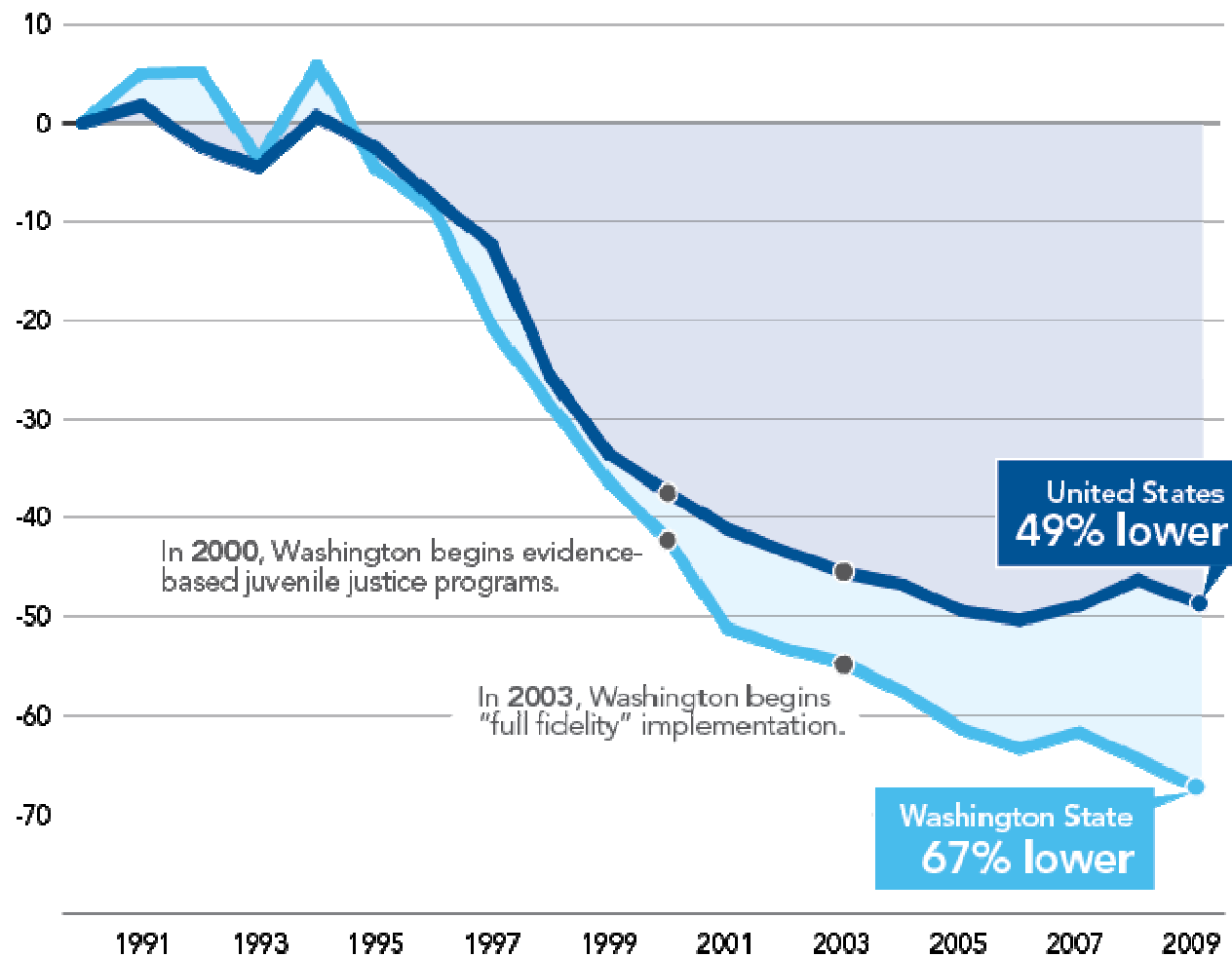| Policy/Program	Cost	Net Long-term Benefits	Cost/Benefit Ratio
Alternative drug sentencing	$1,511	$26,502	$18.57
Correctional education in prison	$1,102	$18,821	$18.11
Vocational education in prison	$1,537	$17,547	$12.43
Community drug treatment	$2,102	$13,317	$7.35
Mental health court	$2,878	$11,352	$4.95
Cognitive behavioral therapy	$217	$10,524	$49.55
Work release	$649	$5,817	$9.97
JUVENILE PROGRAMS			
Aggression replacement training	$1,473	$66,481	$45.50
Drug court	$3,024	$9,713	$4.22
Coordination of services	$386	$4,884	$13.63
Scared Straight	$63	-$6,095	0

Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Long-term success in Washington State

- **Developed by Washington State Institute for Public Policy**

- **Model used for 15+ years to inform budget decisions and achieve better outcomes at lower costs**

  - **Washington has been able to lower its crime rate AND avoid $1.3 billion per biennium**

Keeping track of results: juvenile arrest rates

Change since 1990 in the United States and in Washington State

In **2000**, Washington begins evidence-based juvenile justice programs.

In **2003**, Washington begins "full fidelity" implementation.

United States **49% lower**

Washington State **67% lower**

Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Results First

- **Providing software and providing technical assistance in customizing model**

- **Helping link results to policy/budget process**

- **Building learning community**

- **Expanding model to new programs and policy areas**

- **All services free of charge**

Exploring potential for county model

- **To date, Results First has focused on states; 12 now participating**

- **Exploring potential to customize model to help counties examine programs under Realignment**

- **Potentially could work with 2-4 counties over next year**

- **Criteria would include data availability, capacity, and commitment to evidence-based policymaking**
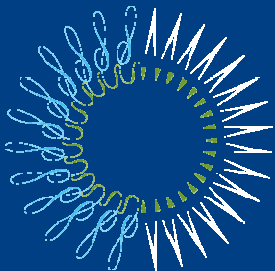
For more information

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Fact sheets and case studies available at
www.pewstates.org/projects/results-first-328069

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