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Preliminary findings from an evaluation of an intervention for young people with multiple and complex needs

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Medicine

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Background



Young people with multiple and complex needs (YPMCN) experience disproportionately high rates of harm as a result of a high number of risk factors.



The BackTrack program established 2006 as a multi-component intervention for YPMCN (target group = males aged 14-17 years).



Operationalised through a number of flexible activities which sit within five standardised core program components

1. Engagement
2. Diversionary activities
3. Learning and skills
4. Personal development, identity and culture
5. Case management

Aims

This presentation aims to:

1. Describe the characteristics of crime and the persons of interest (POIs) in BackTrack communities
2. Evaluate the impact of BackTrack on community-level rates of crime

Methods



Routinely collected crime data (BOCSAR, 2015) were obtained from 1999-2014 for BackTrack communities.



Descriptive analyses identified the most common crimes, their characteristics, and the characteristics of the POIs.

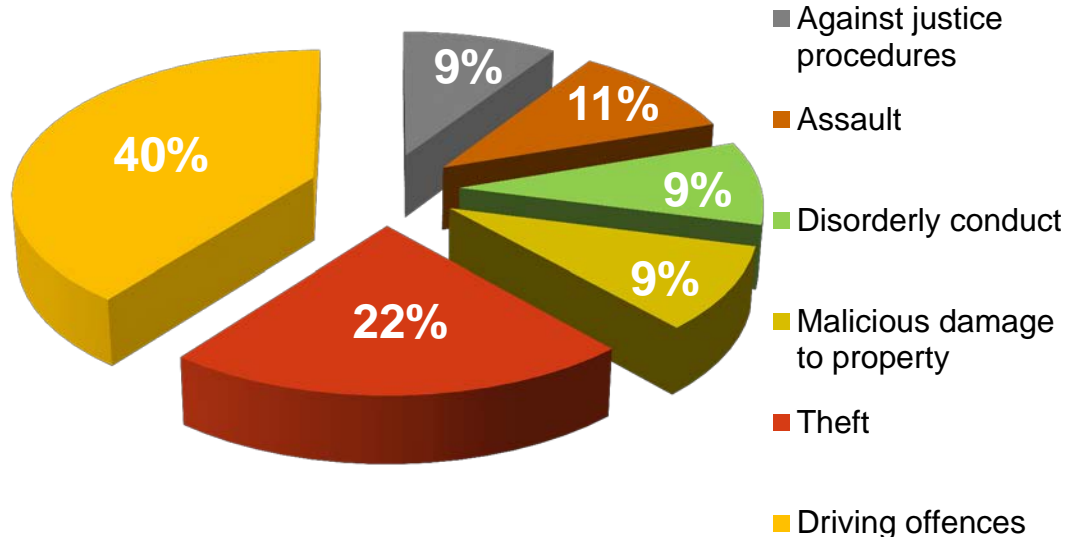


Multiple Baseline Design - Crime data were plotted over time to determine broad trends in pre-, and post-intervention crime rates in the BackTrack communities.

Results

Aim 1: Characteristics of crimes

Most common offences committed by male POIs (14-17 years)



CRIME

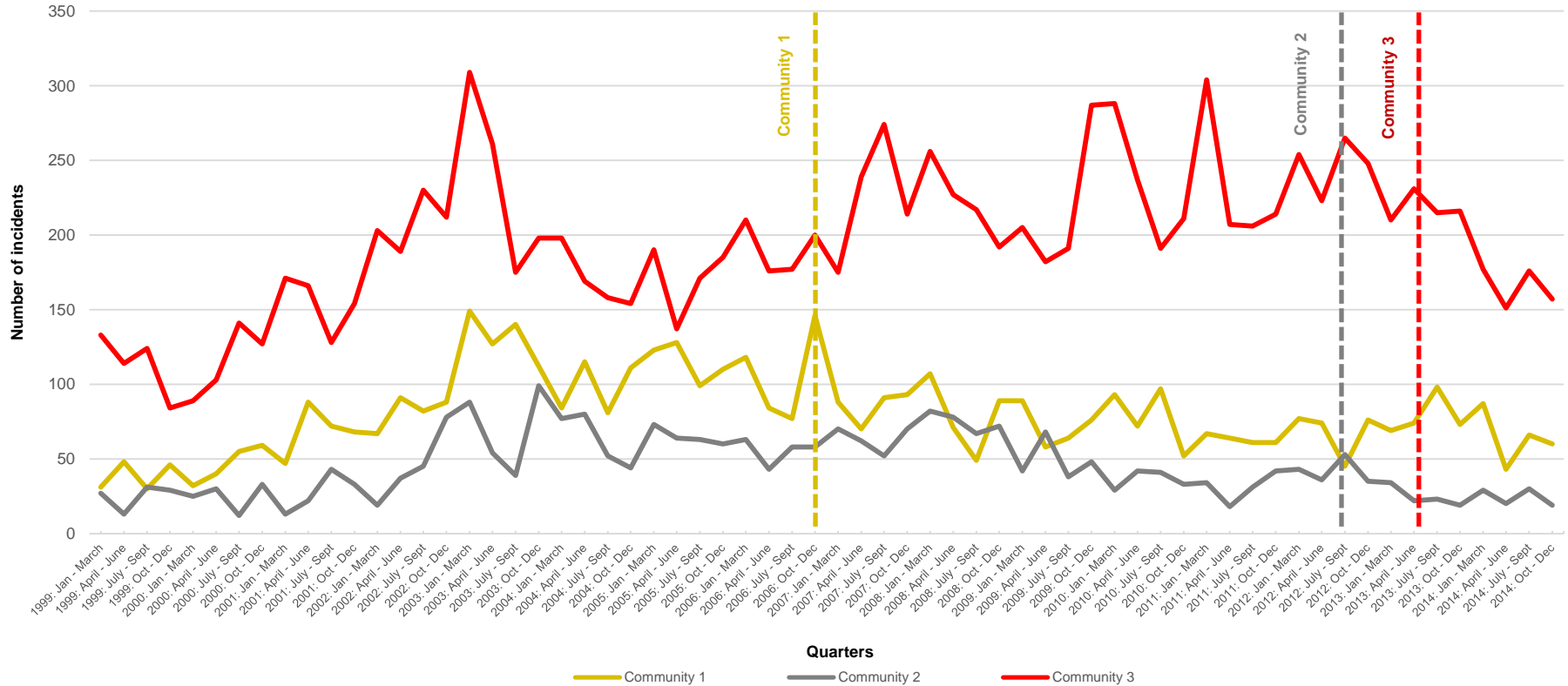
- 50% of offences took place in an outdoor or public place
- 4% were domestic violence related
- 17% were alcohol related
- Majority of offences took place on Saturday and Sunday nights

POIs

- Tended to be older
- 31% Indigenous

Results

Aim 2: Impact of BackTrack on community-level rates of crime



Discussion



These preliminary results form one part (community-level impact) of a larger evaluation

- Need to look at individual-level impact
- Conduct economic analysis



Further analyses will determine whether these broad trends are statistically significant.



This research is the most methodologically rigorous trial of a MCI for YPMCN that has been undertaken anywhere in the world to date.



Results from this evaluation will improve the delivery of MCIs for YPMCN producing positive outcomes for participants and their communities.

Acknowledgements

The staff and participants of BackTrack!

