

Can Liaison and Diversion services increase referral to drug and alcohol treatment?

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Talk overview

- Brief background
 - The English Liaison & Diversion programme
 - Approach to evaluation by RAND Europe
- Preliminary results
 - Vulnerabilities and previous service use
 - Interventions delivered
 - Linkage of data from criminal justice system and health and social care system
 - Evaluation with regard to treatment for substance use

Liaison & Diversion services support vulnerable service users

- L&D services aim to improve overall health outcomes and reduce re-offending:
 - Identify people with a range of vulnerabilities during contact with the criminal justice system
 - Ensure health and other needs recognised
 - Support people through early stages of criminal justice system and/or refer to appropriate services
 - including services for drug and alcohol misuse
- We are undertaking a national evaluation of a new National Model of L&D services rolled out in 2017 for the UK Department of Health and Social Care from multiple perspectives:
 - Criminal justice outcomes (re-offending, diversion, court timeliness)
 - Healthcare outcomes (acute healthcare utilisation, drug and alcohol treatment)
 - Economic outcomes

Linked data provide multiple evaluation perspectives

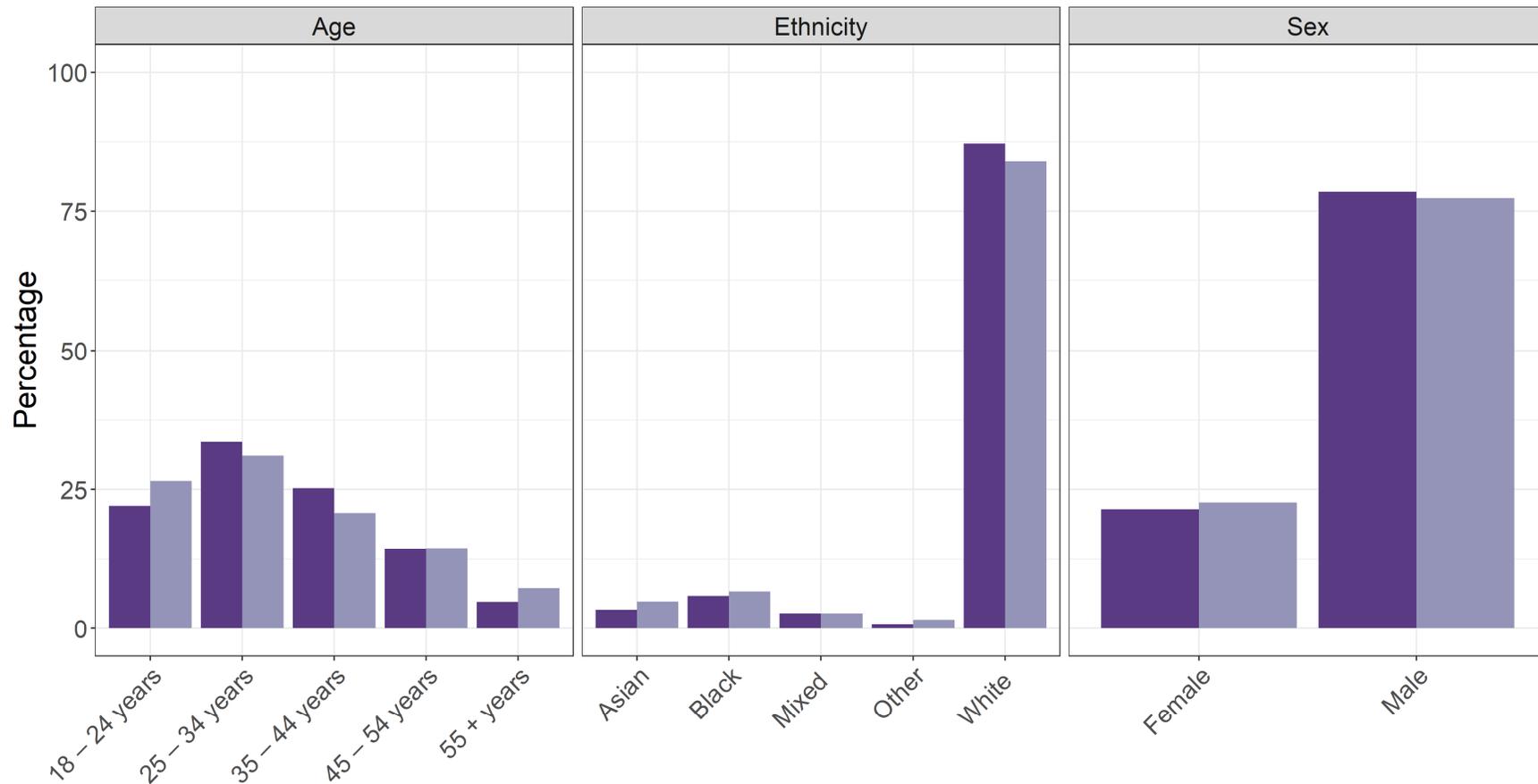
- From 1st January to 30th September 2017, people using L&D services in 28 areas of England were asked to participate in the RAND Europe evaluation
 - Initial assessment: vulnerabilities, current/previous service use, intervention offered
 - Consent for linkage and identifying information (name, date of birth and selected other identifiers)
- For the subset that consented to data linkage, we obtained data from the criminal justice system (police and courts), drug and alcohol treatment, emergency healthcare use.
 - Linked data combined to provide integrated, longitudinal data
- The implementation of the National Model of L&D did not include control areas (without L&D)
 - We created a historic cohort of offenders to provide a comparator

LIAISON & DIVERSION SERVICE USER CHARACTERISTICS

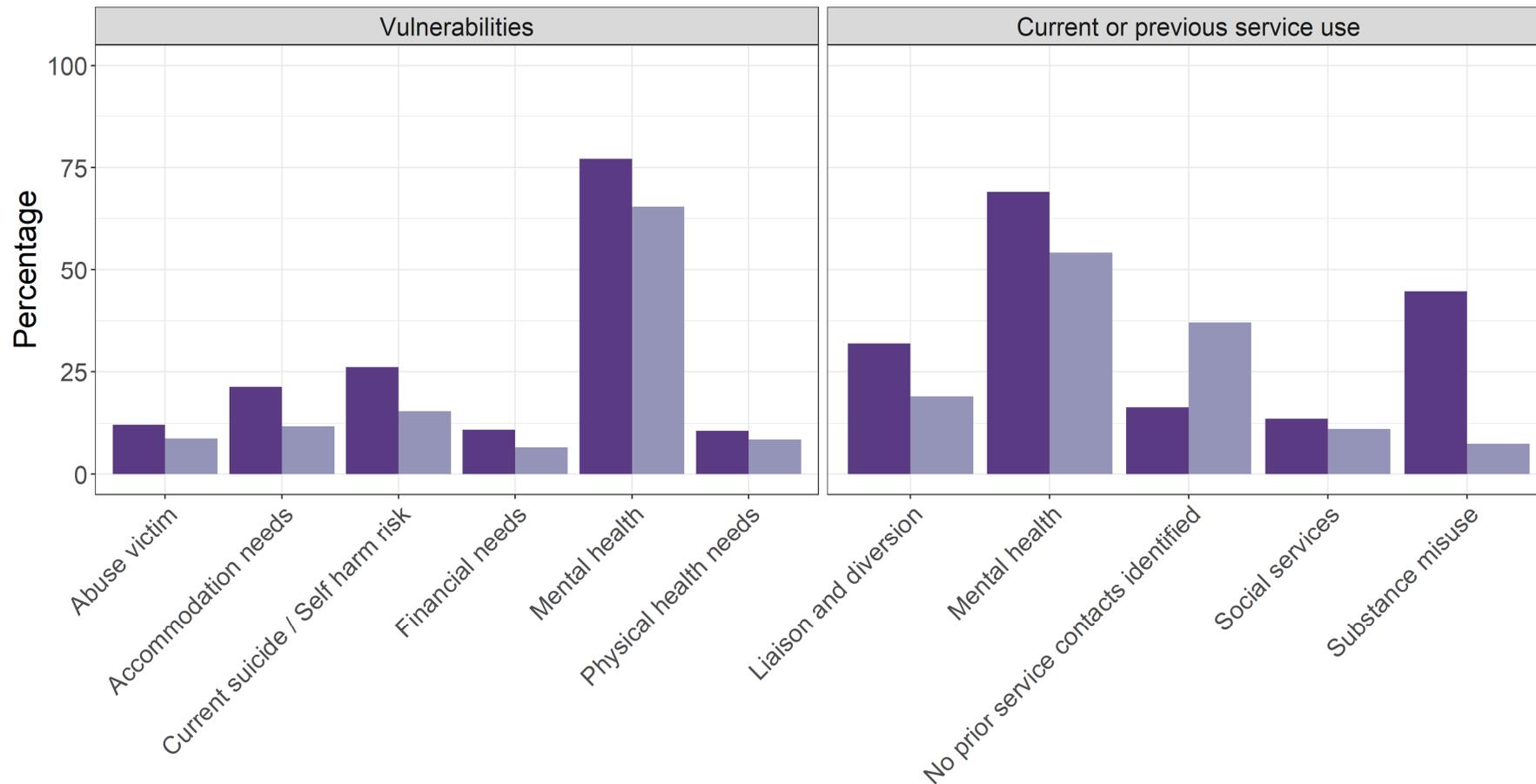
People referred to L&D have many vulnerabilities

- From 1st January to 30th September 2017, 52,406 people referred to L&D
 - L&D refused by ~25%; final analysis sample included **36,491 service users**
- **52.3% had either a drug misuse (31.9%) or an alcohol misuse problem (33.6%)**
 - Only 12% of service users had no vulnerabilities identified
 - 71.5% had mental health problems
- People with substance misuse problems are:
 - More likely to decline a referral to L&D
 - More likely to be offered an intervention
 - More likely to decline the intervention offered than people with other vulnerabilities.

People with/without substance use demographically similar

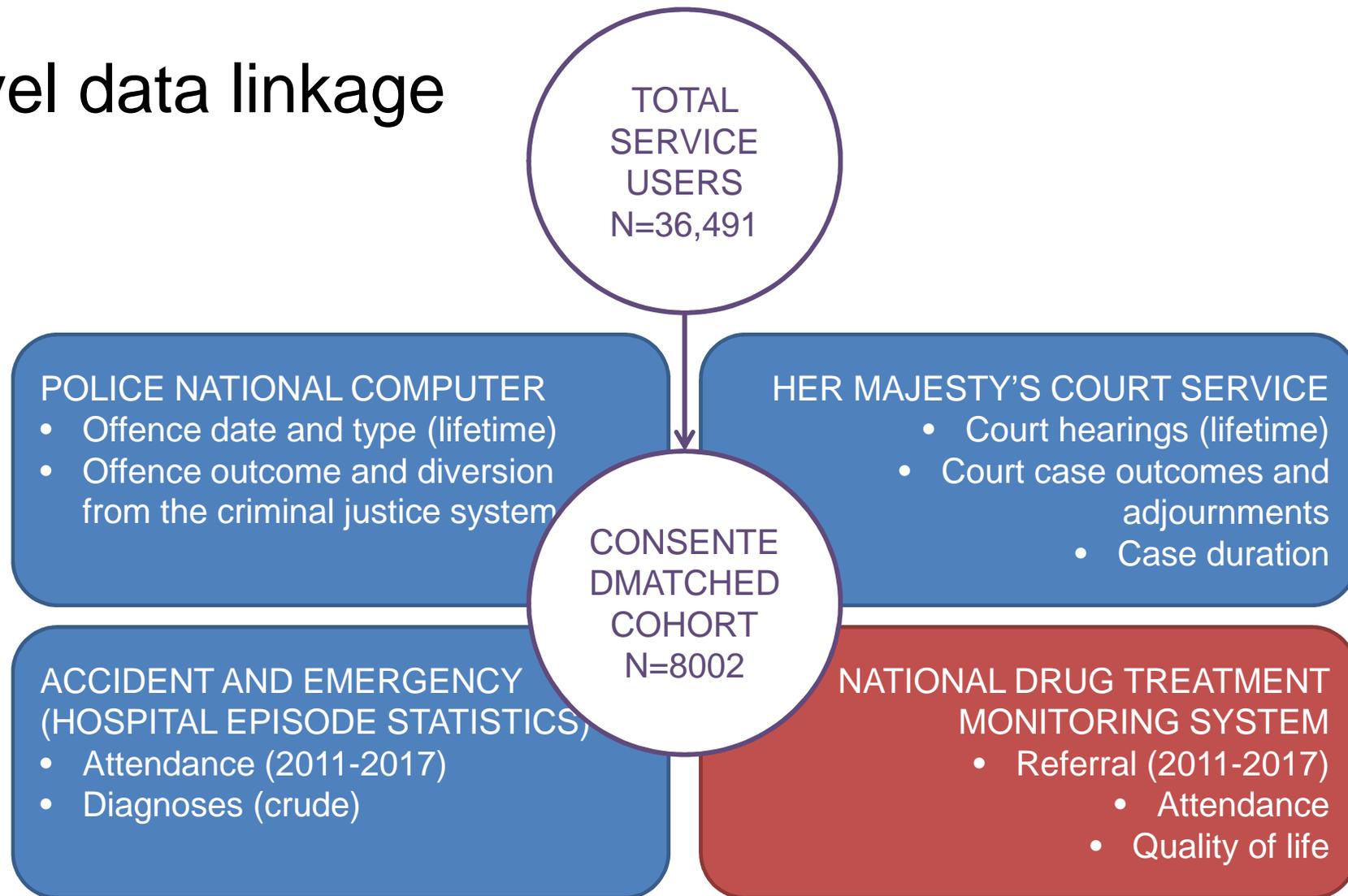


Substance use associated with vulnerabilities and service use

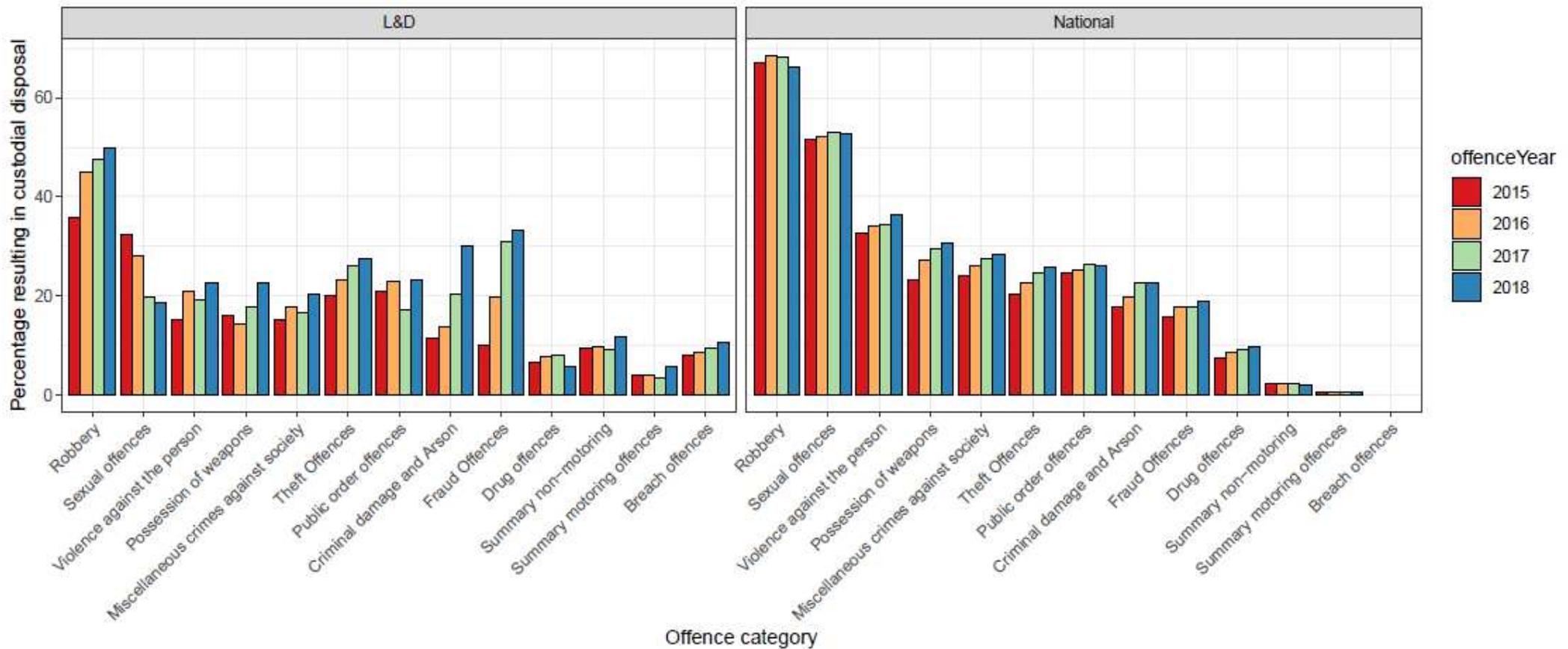


PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM LINKED DATA

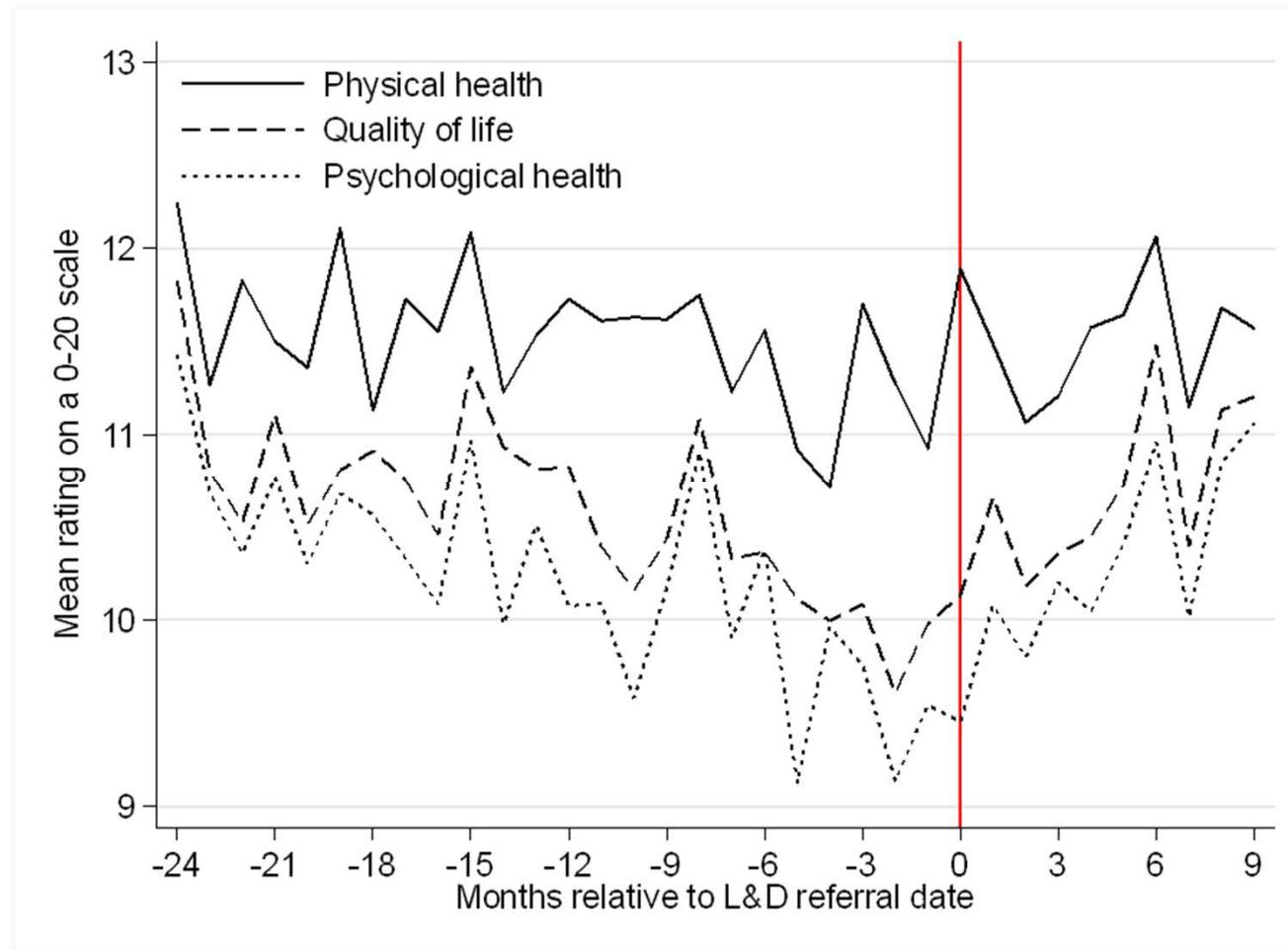
Novel data linkage



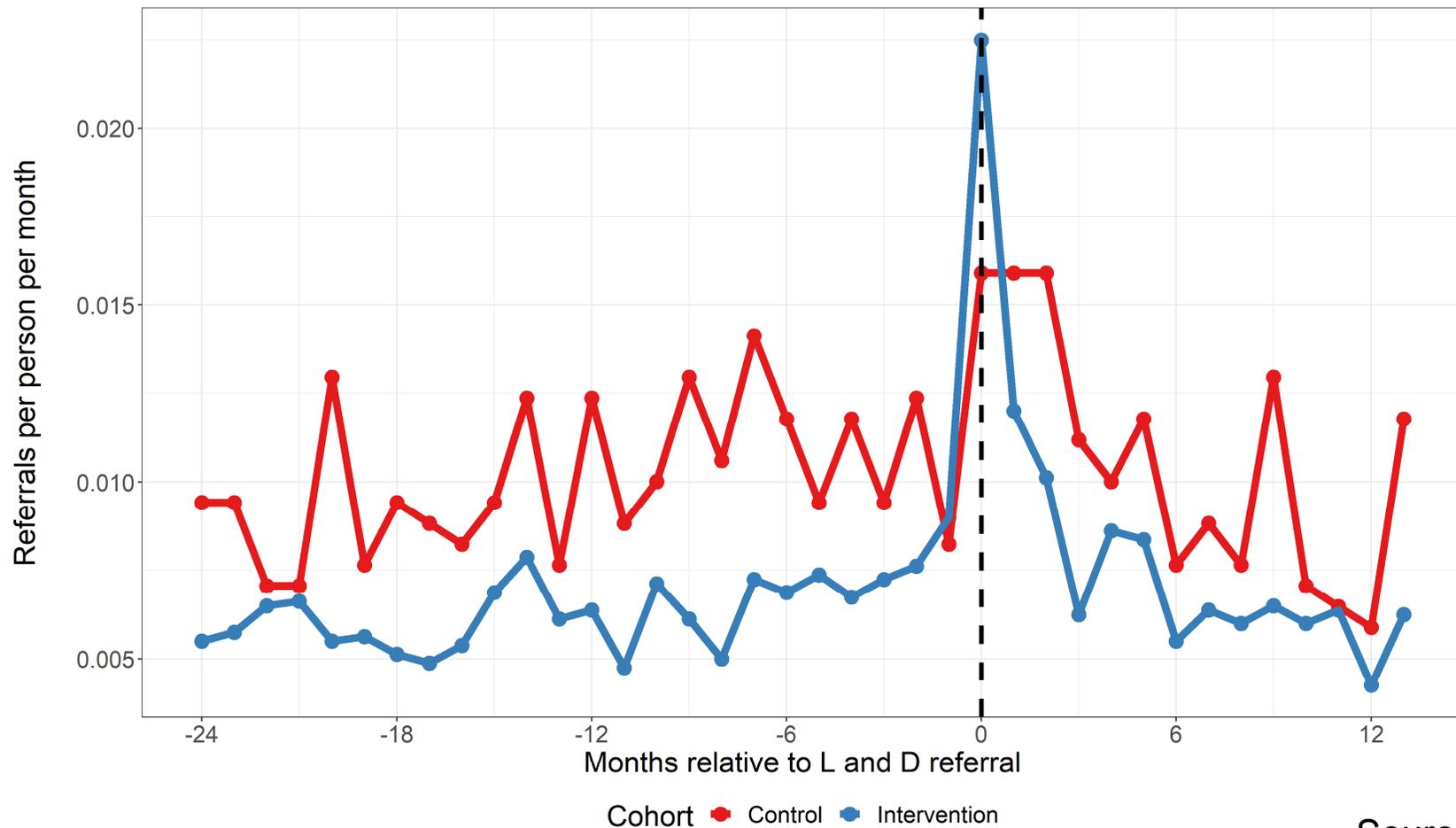
Offences in L&D evaluation cohort different to national trends



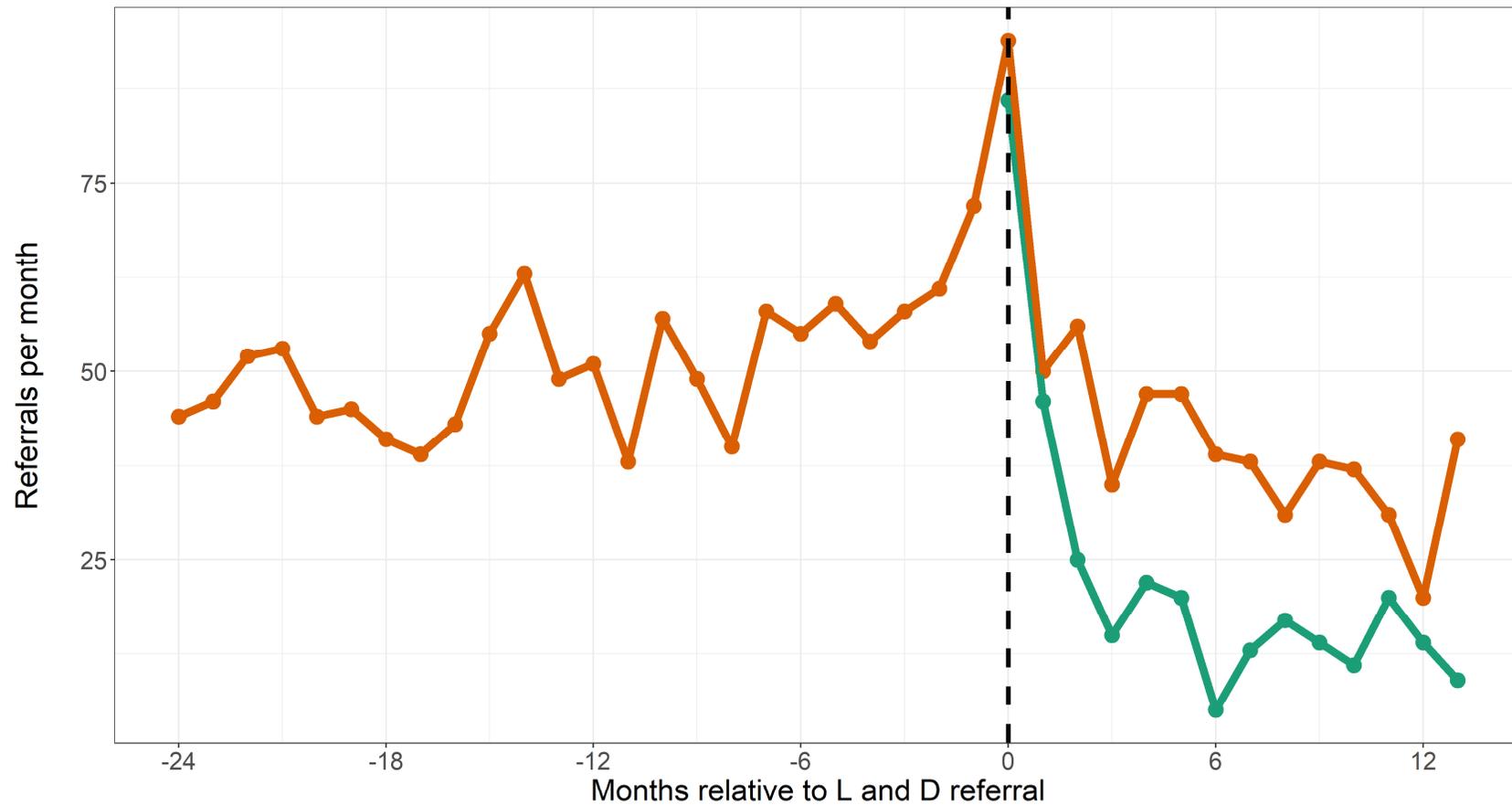
L&D comes at a time of crisis in people with substance misuse



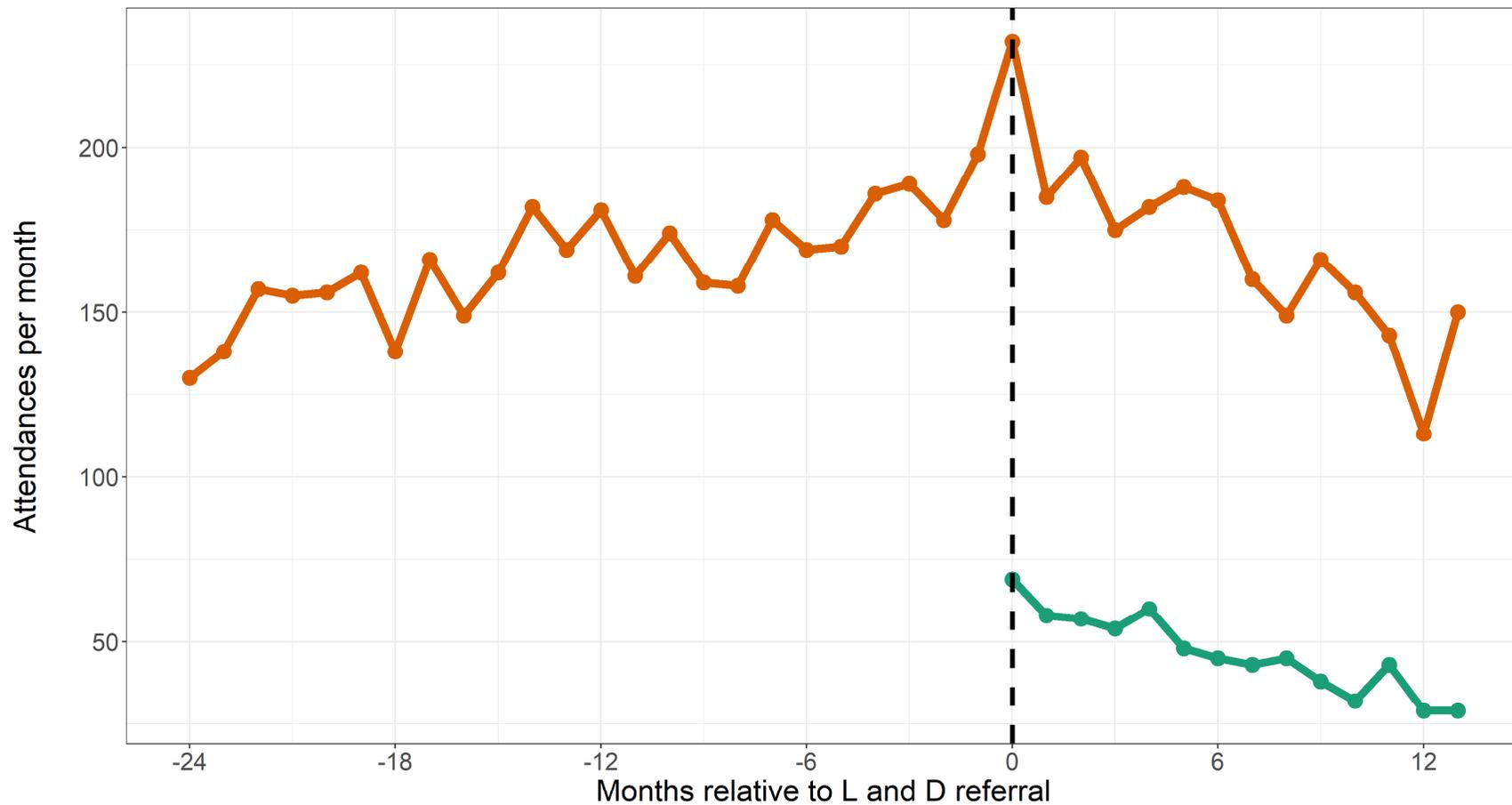
Drug and alcohol treatment referrals increase at the time of L&D; not seen at the time of an historic offence



Referrals increase in people not previously known to drug and alcohol services, and in those who were



Attendances also increase; L&D is engaging those not previously known to services



Summary

- The Liaison & Diversion programme is engaging with service users with high level of mental health and substance use problems
- Liaison & Diversion appears to increase referral and *attendance* for drug and alcohol treatment in this vulnerable group
 - Including people previously unknown to drug and alcohol services
 - In line with support L&D provides via outreach/support workers
 - Unclear how long the effect lasts
- Further in-depth analyses ongoing; publication in early 2020



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