

# Recidivism Rates for a Motivation-Enhancing Intervention Versus Other or No Program

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## INTRODUCTION

- After being arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs (OUI), many offenders will continue to drive impaired and be rearrested
- Averaged across studies, 19% of people who receive only legal sanctions (such as jail or fines) for an alcohol-related OUI are rearrested, and rates for drug-related OUIs are even higher
- Research has pointed to brief motivational intervention as an effective tool for reducing OUI recidivism
- PRIME For Life<sup>®</sup> (PFL) is a widely-used group delivered intervention for this population. Its content is manualized, theoretically-guided, empirically-derived, and motivationally-based

## PURPOSE

- Summarize findings from multiple evaluations about PFL's effectiveness in reducing OUI recidivism

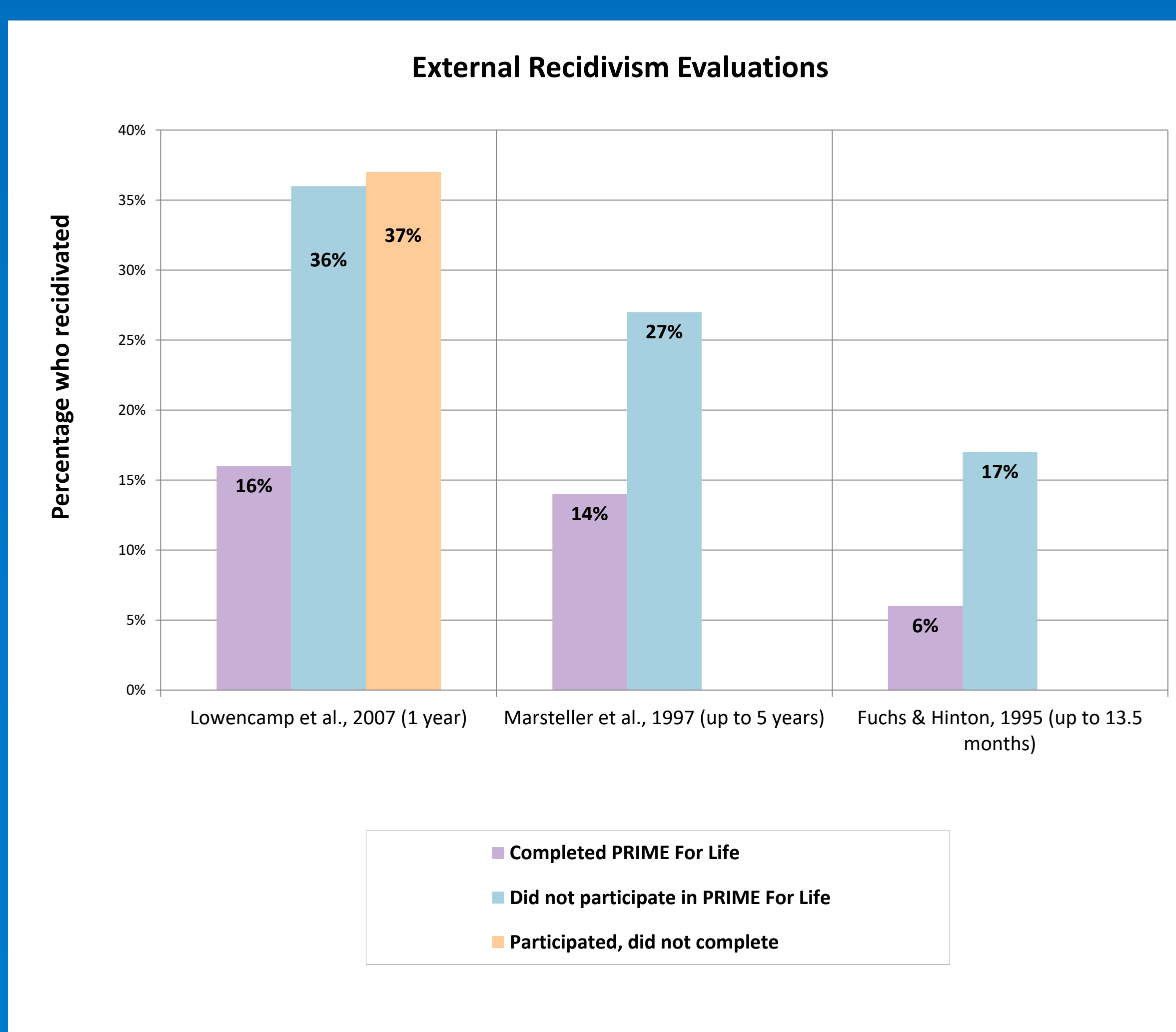
## STUDIES 1-3: PFL COMPLETERS VERSUS NONCOMPLETERS

### BACKGROUND

- Some organizations using PFL have conducted independent program evaluations
- We chose the most rigorous out of a number of evaluations
- To be included, each must include data on rearrest for drug- and alcohol-related infractions, have a written summary of findings available, compare PFL participants with a comparison group, and account for any known differences between the PFL and comparison groups

### METHOD

- Lowencamp et al. (2007) compared PFL completers to two groups: those who did not attend PFL and those who attended but never completed
- Marsteller et al. (1997) compared PFL participants to those who did not participate in PFL
- Fuchs & Hinton (1995) compared youth completing an early PFL version to those who did not



### RESULTS

- All three external evaluations found that recidivism rates were lowest amongst those who completed PFL

## SUMMARY AND LIMITATIONS

- Recidivism studies of indicated prevention programs are challenging to implement and rare
  - Each of the studies here has strengths and weaknesses
- Across these studies, the results consistently show lower recidivism among OUI offenders completing PFL

## STUDY 4: PFL VERSUS AN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

### BACKGROUND

- PRI conducted an evaluation of PFL's effectiveness by comparing recidivism rates before and after a program transition in the state of Maine
- In Maine, individuals arrested for an OUI must complete an education program (which may or may not be followed by substance abuse treatment) to reinstate their license
- There were two Cohorts: Cohort 1 received either a two-hour Adult Assessment Program (AAP) or the 22-hour Weekend Intervention Program (WIP), and Cohort 2 received a 20-hour version of PFL

### METHOD

- We compared the two cohorts' three-year recidivism rates (among people 18 years and older)
- Participants received their OUI or completed their intervention 9/1/1999 to 8/31/2000 (Cohort 1) or 9/1/2002 to 8/31/2003 (Cohort 2)
- Analyses controlled for age, gender, prior OUI, and completion of a prior prevention program

### RESULTS

- Recidivism for noncompleters was similar between the two cohorts
- Recidivism was lower for PFL and PFL+treatment completers than completers of the earlier program

