



WILSON SHEEHAN  
LAB FOR ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITIES



# Padua Pilot

## Preliminary Results from a Randomized Control Trial



# Background

- P.Is: James Sullivan & William Evans
- Co-Founders of Wilson-Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities
  - Research Question: Which innovative anti-poverty programs in the U.S. programs have the greatest potential to reduce domestic poverty?
  - Method: Impact evaluation through randomized control trial
  - Partners: Charities & Local Government



# Key Components of Padua

- Holistic, wrap-around case management
- Low caseload and two-person service teams
- Detailed needs assessment (~6 hours of interviews)
- Customized service plan
- Financial assistance
- Two-year “treatment”



# Eligibility

- Live in Tarrant County, TX
- At least 1 person aged 18-55 in HH willing/able to work
- Current income below the living wage for area
- Have not received services in past 30 days from CCFW
- Agree to do baseline survey
- Able to receive services in English or Spanish



Summer/  
Fall 2015

Summer/  
Fall 2016

Summer/  
Fall 2017

Summer/  
Fall 2018

Summer/  
Fall 2019

Cohort 1

Enrollment

1<sup>st</sup> Follow-up

2<sup>nd</sup> Follow-up

Cohort 2

Enrollment

1<sup>st</sup> Follow-up

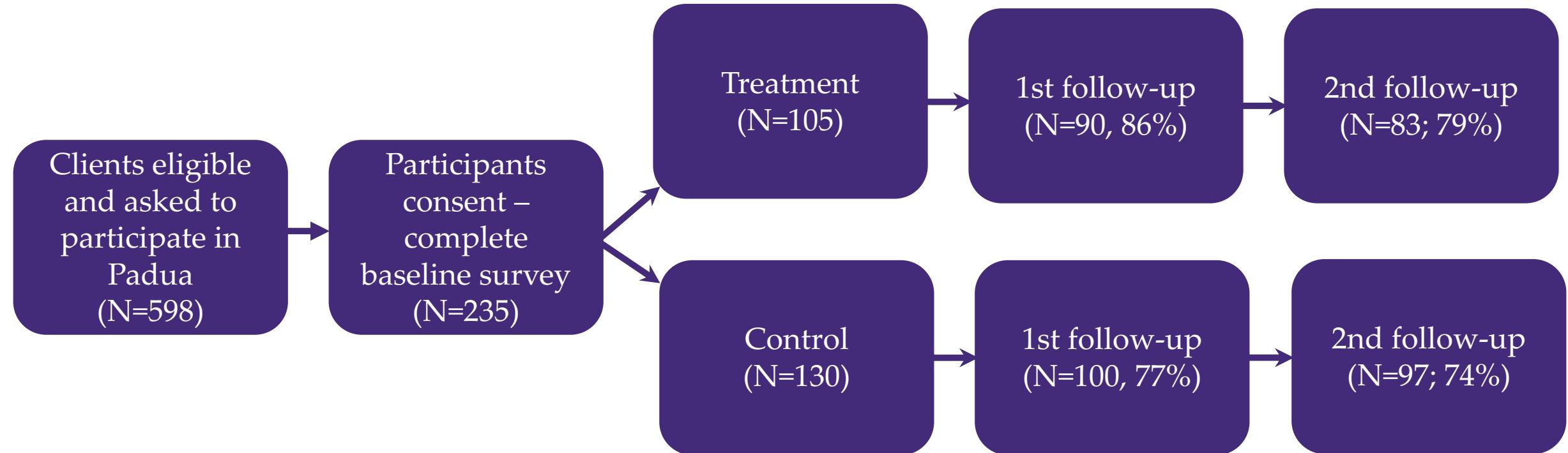
2<sup>nd</sup> Follow-up

Completed

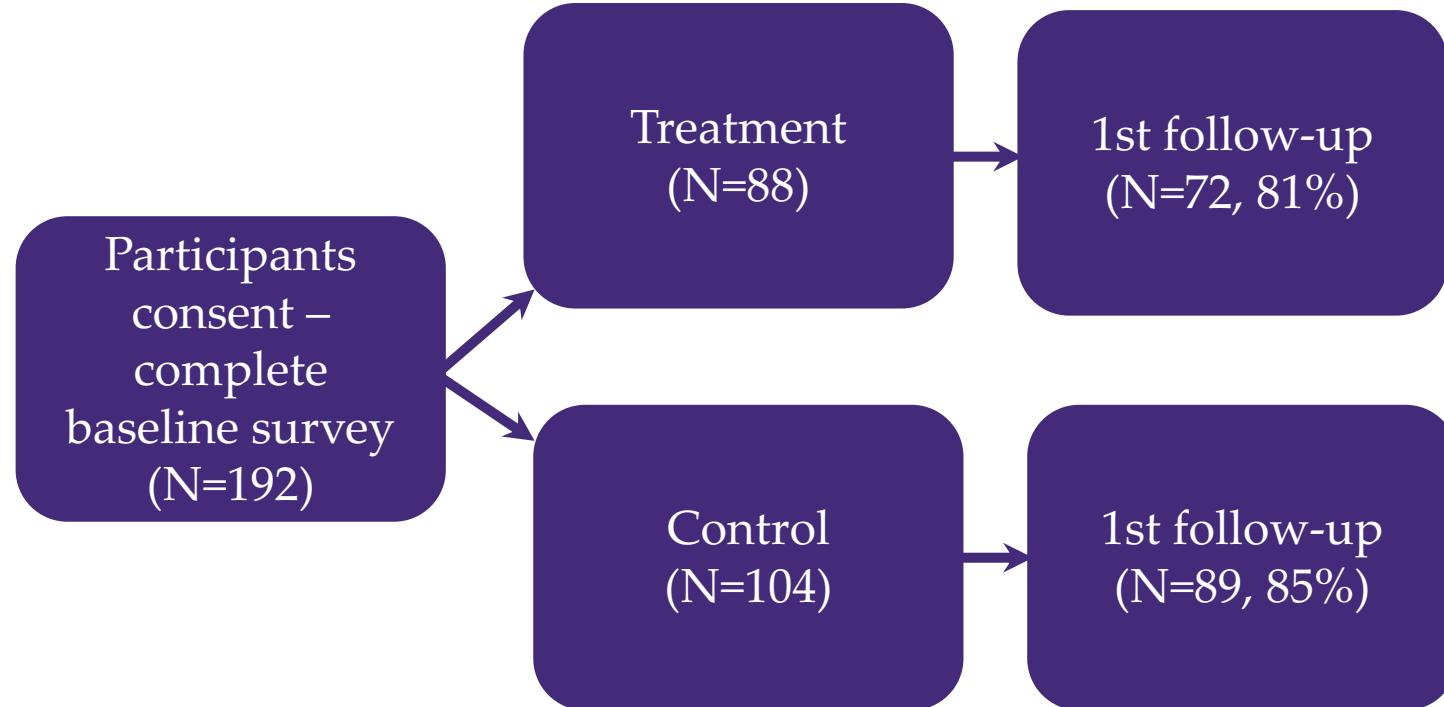
In the field now



# Cohort 1 Timeline



# Cohort 2 Timeline



# Results in three areas

- Labor market outcomes
- Debt & Savings
- Use of government programs



# Caveats

- Two-year follow-up
  - But only half the sample
- One-year data for all participants
  - But only half of the treatment is completed
- That said, results are encouraging
  - Consistency both across/within domains
  - In 12 and 24 month results
- Some puzzling results

# You will not see math in these slides

- I know, this is very sad.
- Very different from what we've been doing in the boot-camp
- 2 different ways of “setting up a laboratory”
- You don't even really need multiple regression
  - If assignment is truly random, treatment effect is simply the difference between treatment group mean and control group mean



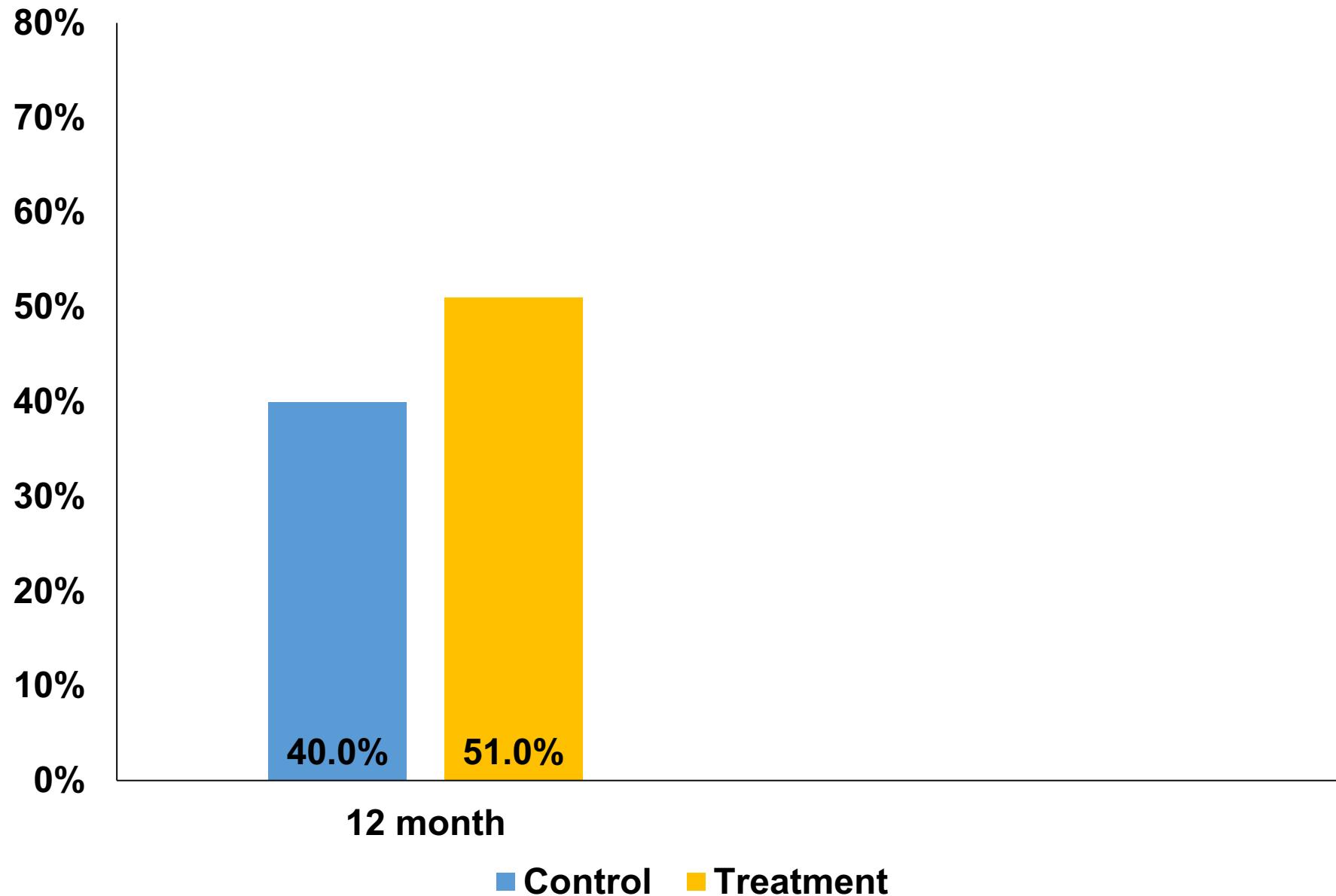
# Employment and Earnings



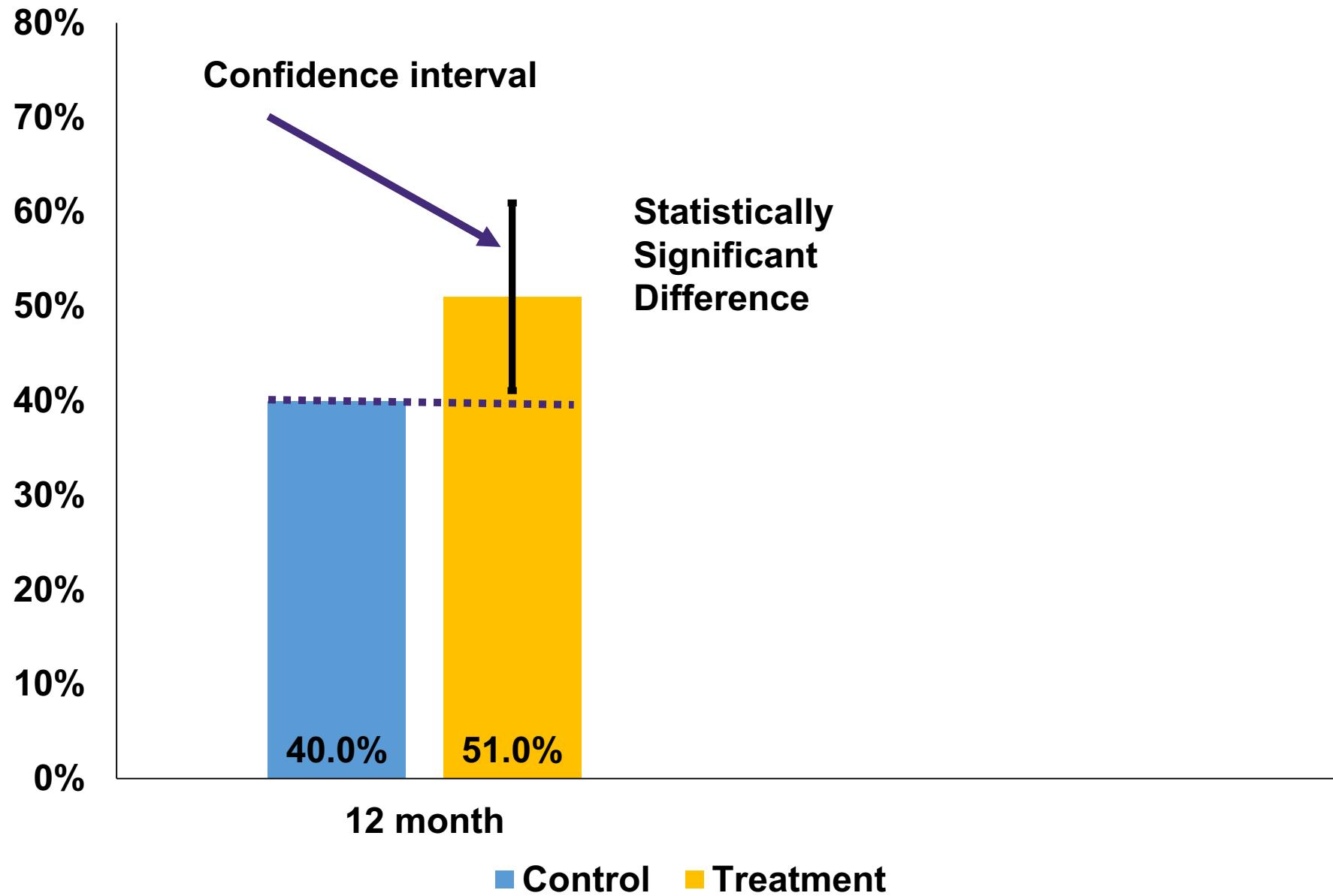
# How to read the graphs



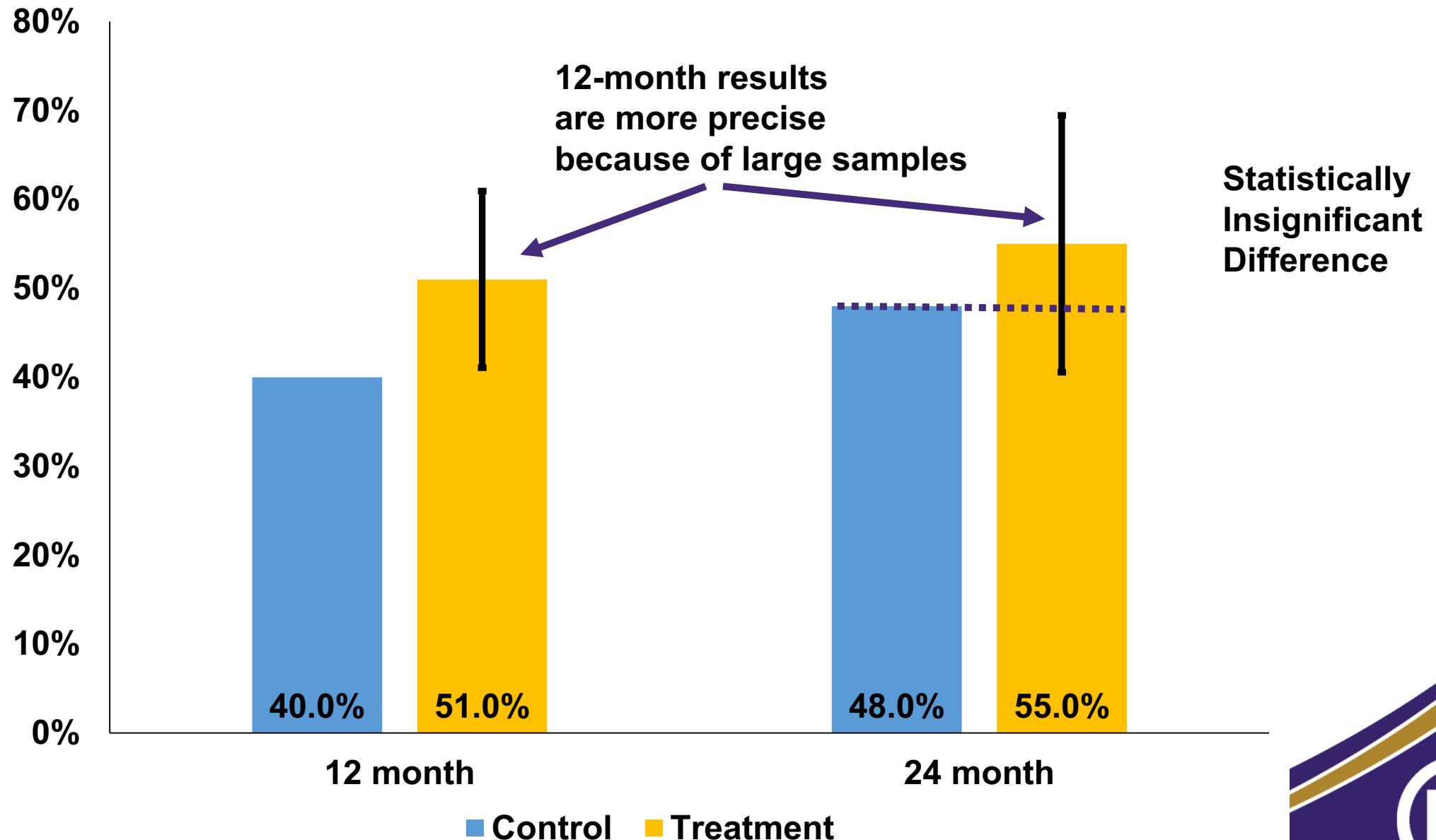
## Employed Full Time



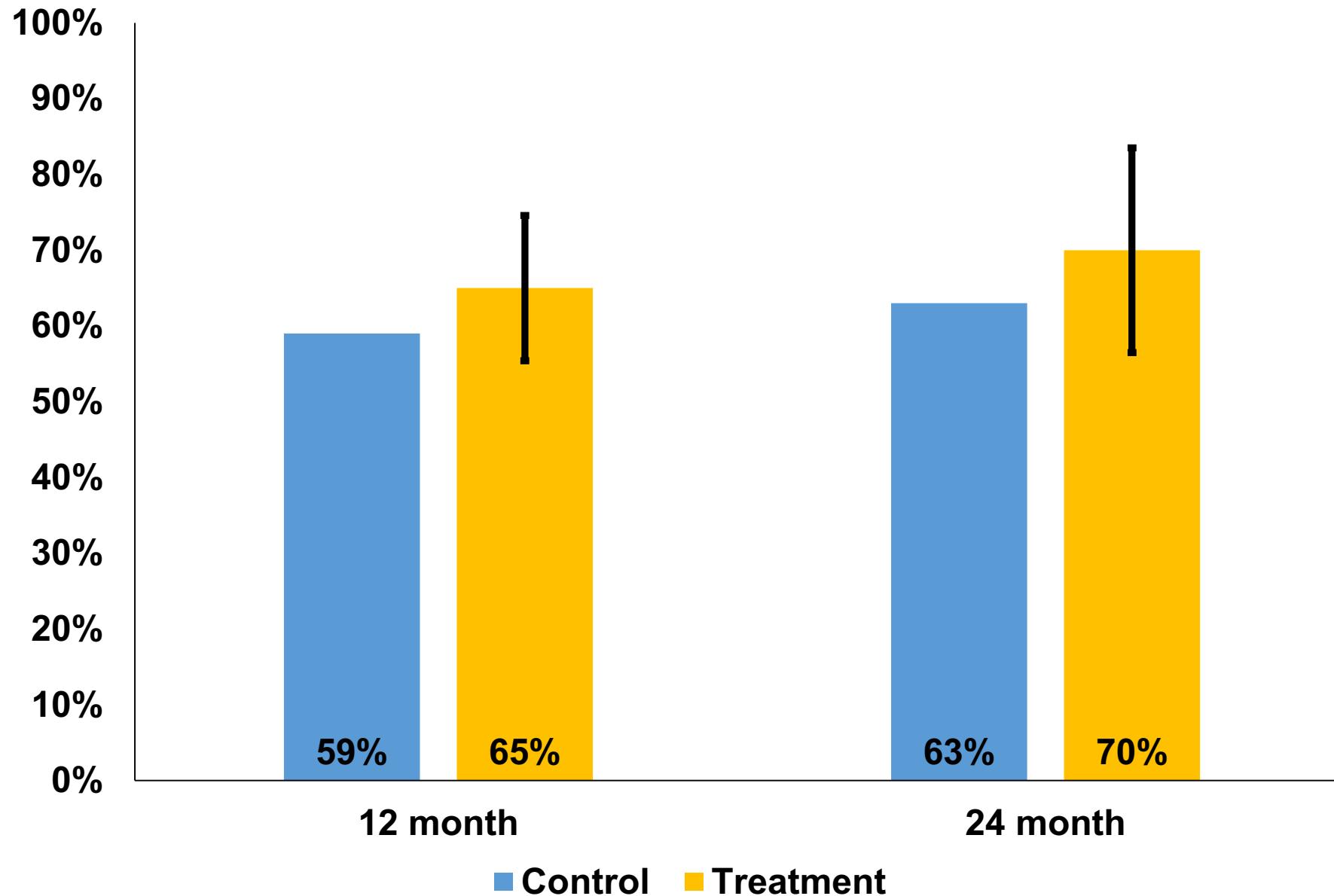
## Employed Full Time



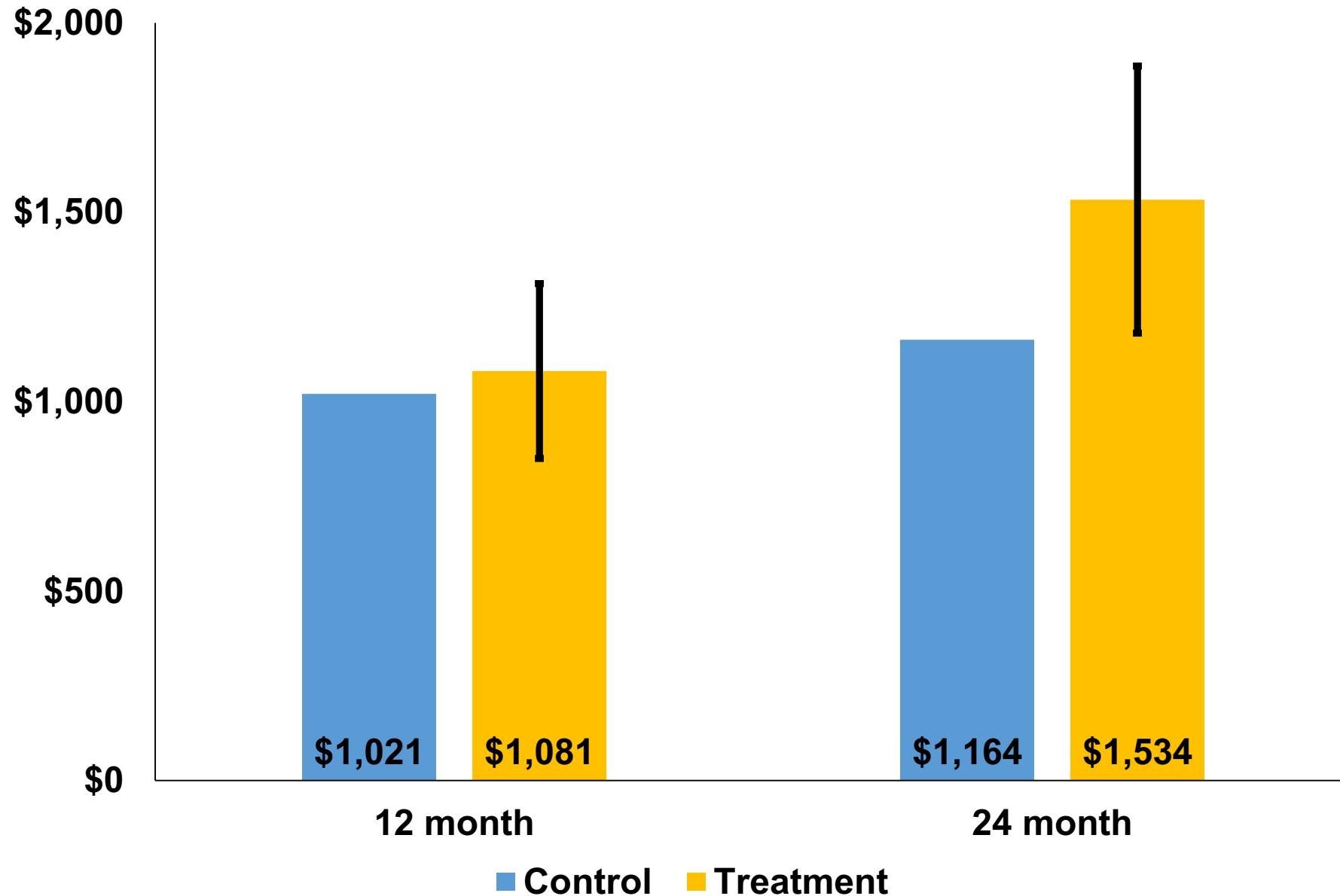
## Employed Full Time



## Currently Employed



## Respondent Monthly Income

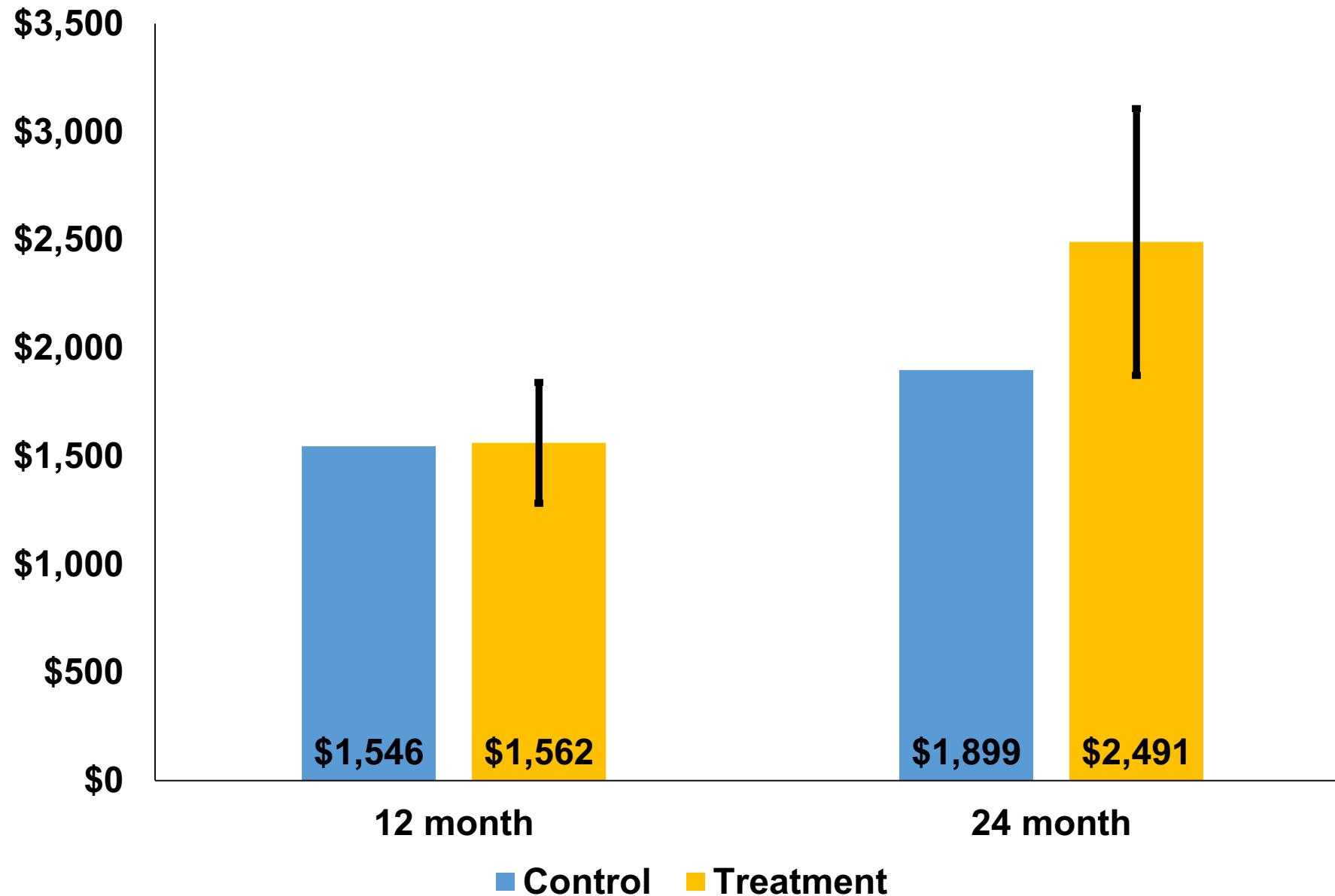


# Change in earnings

- 50% is due to increased work
- 26% is due to longer work weeks
- 24% is due to higher earnings
- None of these results are statistically significant



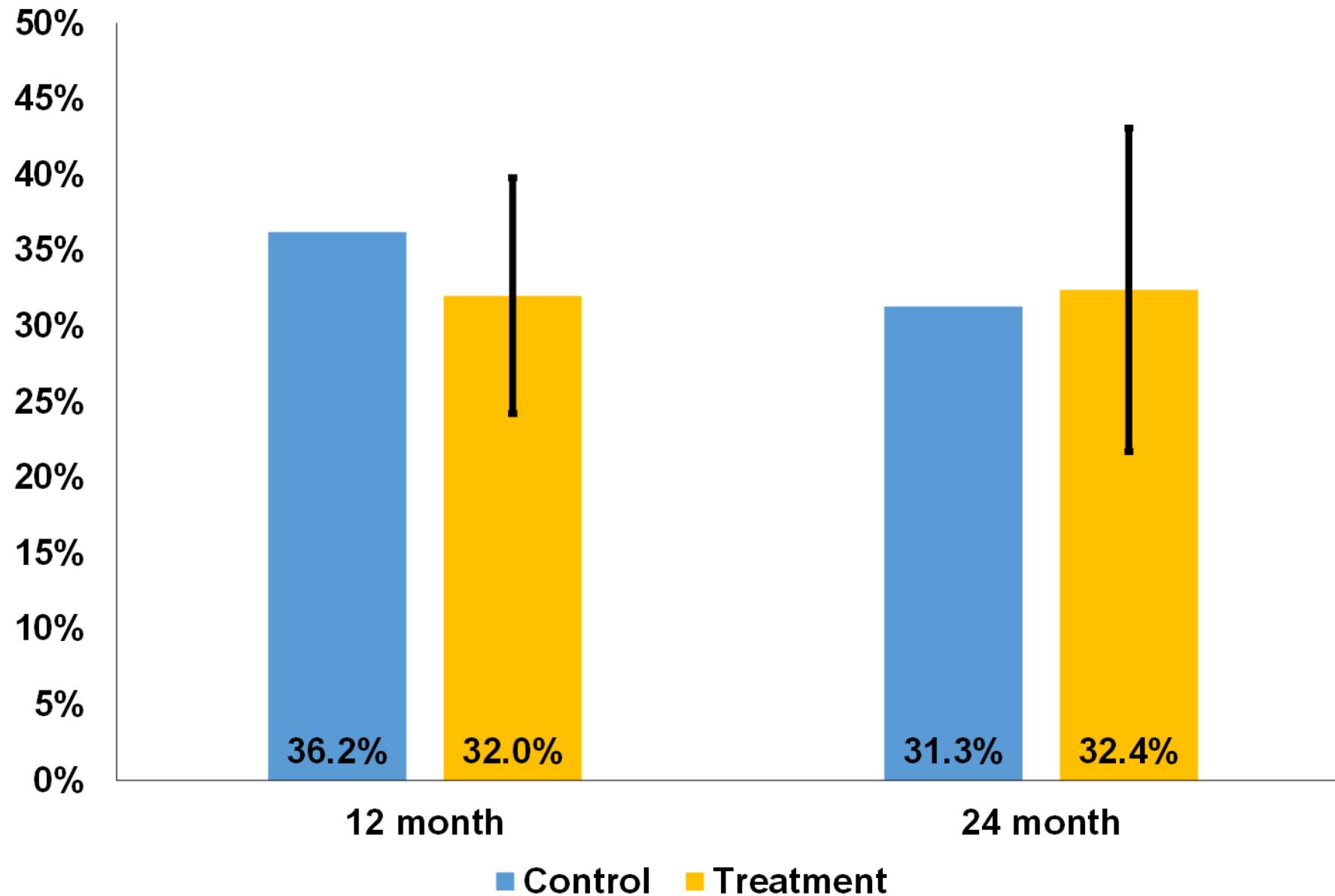
## Monthly Household Income



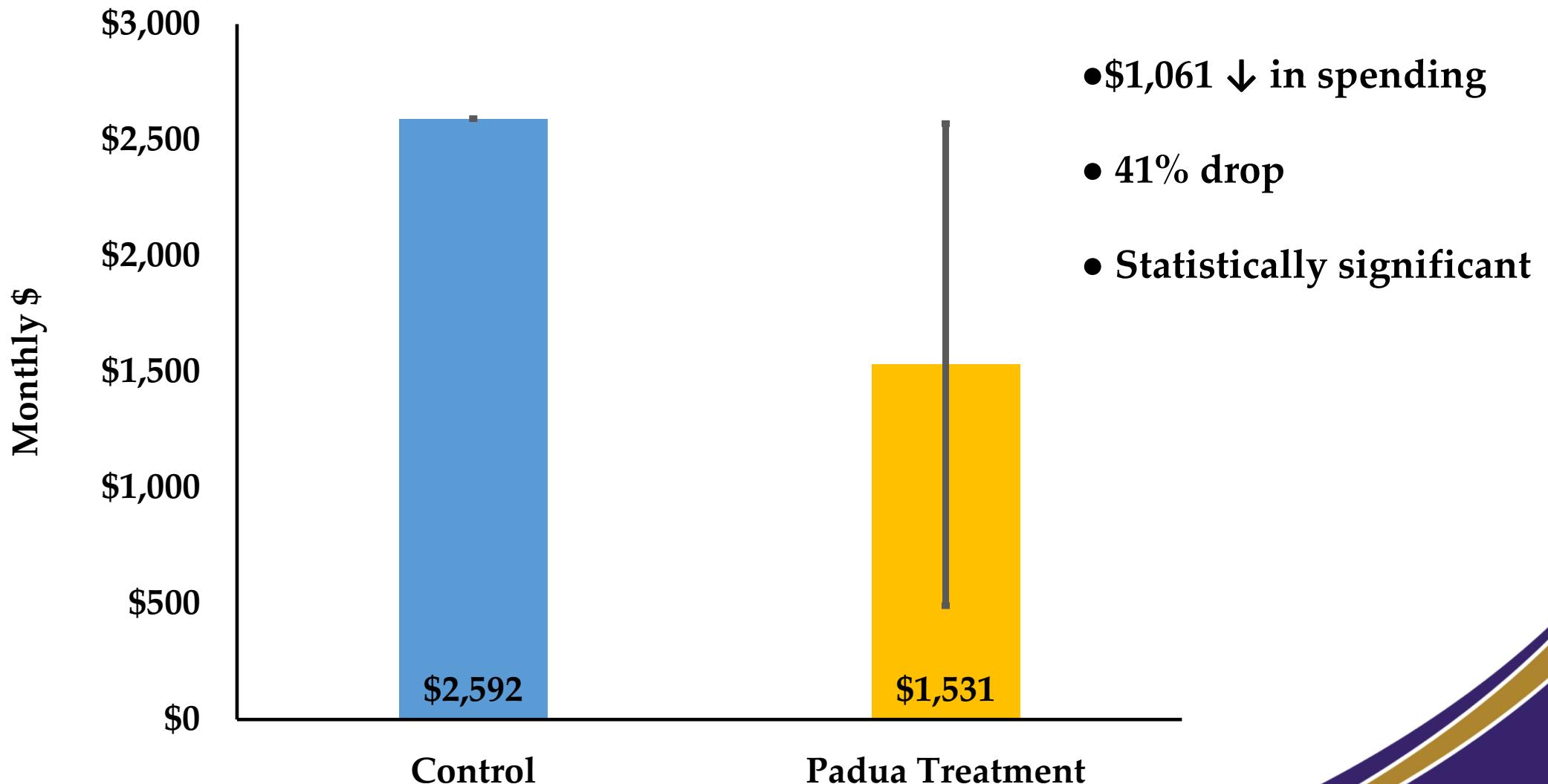
# Debt and savings



## Has Credit Card Debt



## Credit Card Debt



# Social program use

- Some decline in program participation
  - But not large, not statistically significant
- May be too early to tell



# Thanks!

