



WILSON SHEEHAN
LAB FOR ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES

Reducing Poverty with Evidence-Based Research & Policies

OUR AGENDA

Introductions

Overview of LEO

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Q&A





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Overview of LEO



WE BELIEVE

Poverty can be **outsmarted**.

The **social service community** contains innovations that show us how to end poverty.

Evidence (rather than hunches or assumptions) lights the path to learning what works, with whom, and at what frequency, sequence, and intensity.

Families in poverty **deserve** interventions that work.



WHY WE EXIST

37 million people in poverty

\$1 trillion spent annually fighting poverty

As little as 1% goes to evidence-based programs

Less than 2% of service agencies have conducted an impact evaluation



WHAT WE DO

Find the **innovators**

Teach about **impact evaluations**

Overlay research design on anti-poverty programs

Learn & iterate

Share findings & scale



PARTNERS & PROJECTS

90 projects

20 states

11 cohorts



WHY PARTNER WITH LEO



Impact starts with knowing. Evidence-based solutions provide better insight and actionable steps for fighting poverty. The more we know, the better our impact.



Our research is free. We don't charge our partners a fee for our work.



More evidence = more money. Today's philanthropists care about impact on people's lives. Being able to prove this impact with evidence helps our partners raise more money to support their poverty-fighting missions.



Our research is third-party validation of impact. Evidence speaks for itself. Many social service leaders, staff, and supporters welcome independent confirmation of the impact of the agency's work. Third-party validation is critical to creating continuous improvement and attracting future investment.



Research with LEO



FOCUS AREAS



Housing & Homelessness



Criminal Justice



Education



Self-sufficiency



Health



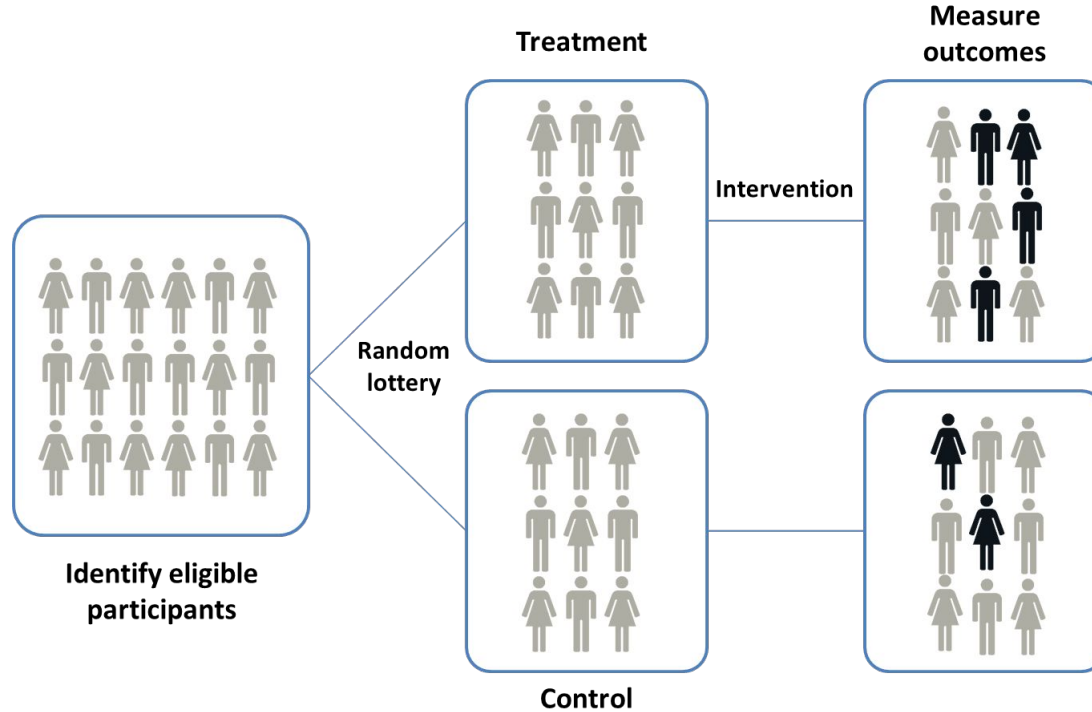
RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS

To **attribute differences** in outcomes to the program (and not other factors)...

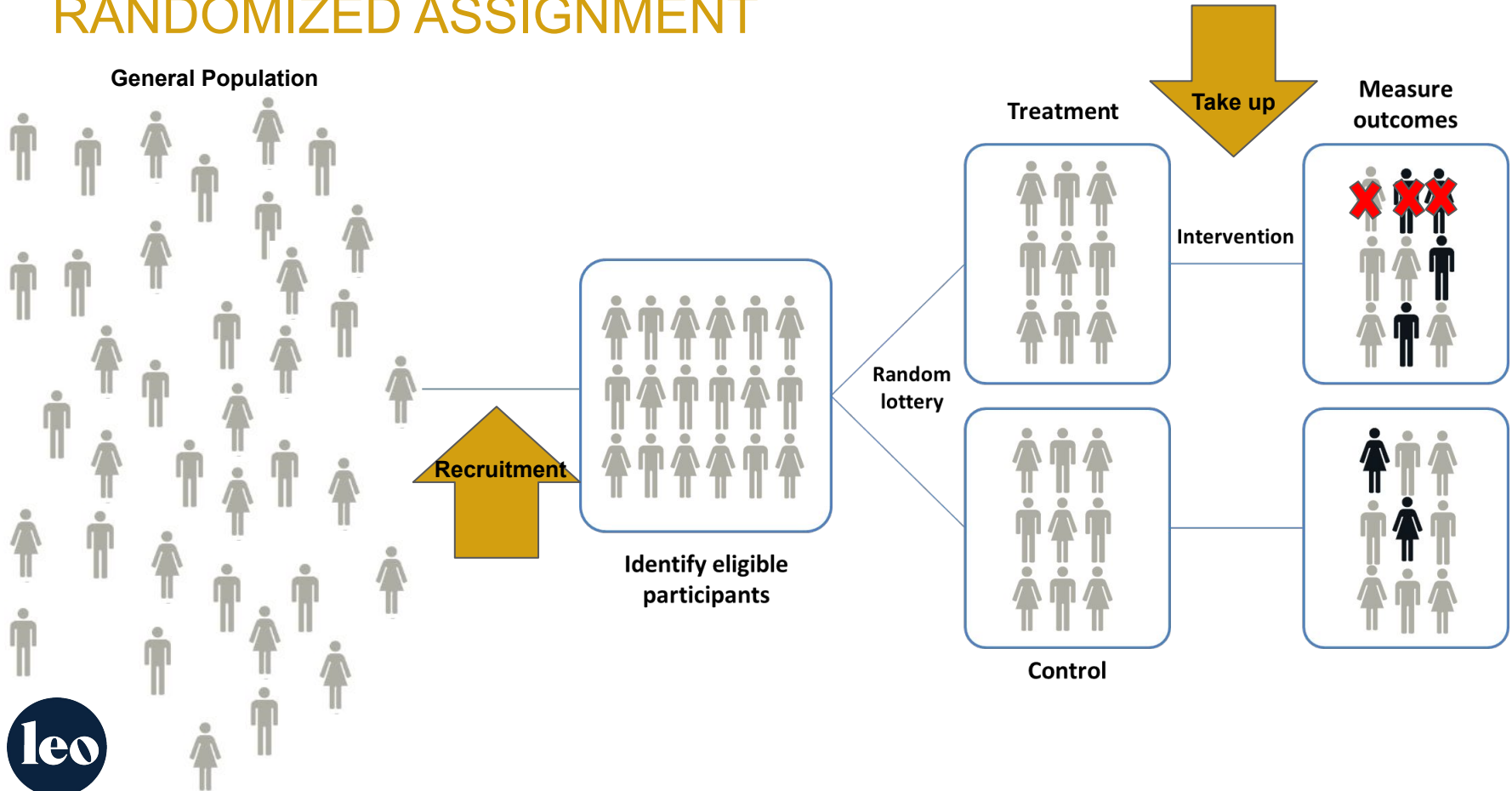
...we must select a group that is **exactly like** the group of participants in all ways but one – their exposure to the program being evaluated.



RANDOMIZED ASSIGNMENT



RANDOMIZED ASSIGNMENT



RECENT LEO PROJECTS



VETERAN THERAPY INCENTIVE



CAMP HOPE

Partnership Process



THE RIGHT LEO PARTNER

Believes in the **people** they serve.

Has stable, committed **leadership**.

Demonstrates the **grit** rigorous research requires.

Nurtures a **culture of learning**.



THE RIGHT LEO PROJECT

Well-defined intervention with potential for scale and/or replication.

Advances collective learning and contributes to existing research.

Commits to incorporating research design into day-to-day operation.

Identifies key desired outcomes.

Uses a comparison group to pinpoint impact.



TIMELINE - COHORT 6



LIFECYCLE OF A LEO PROJECT

****You are here****



Workshop 1

Workshop 2



Next Steps



OUR ASK

We are seeking service providers engaged in the fight against poverty and offering services in any of LEO's focus areas:

- Homelessness
- Self-sufficiency
- Employment
- Housing
- Health
- Education

Will you join us in outsmarting poverty?

Will you refer other organizations?



JOIN US

Start your journey with us by contacting:

Missi Cowart, LEO Project Development Associate



acowart@nd.edu



Or schedule a call to talk further [here](#)



Questions and Discussion

