

California Reducing Disparities Project - African Americans Cohort
Phase 2 Extension October 2023 – June 2025

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SAFE PASSAGES

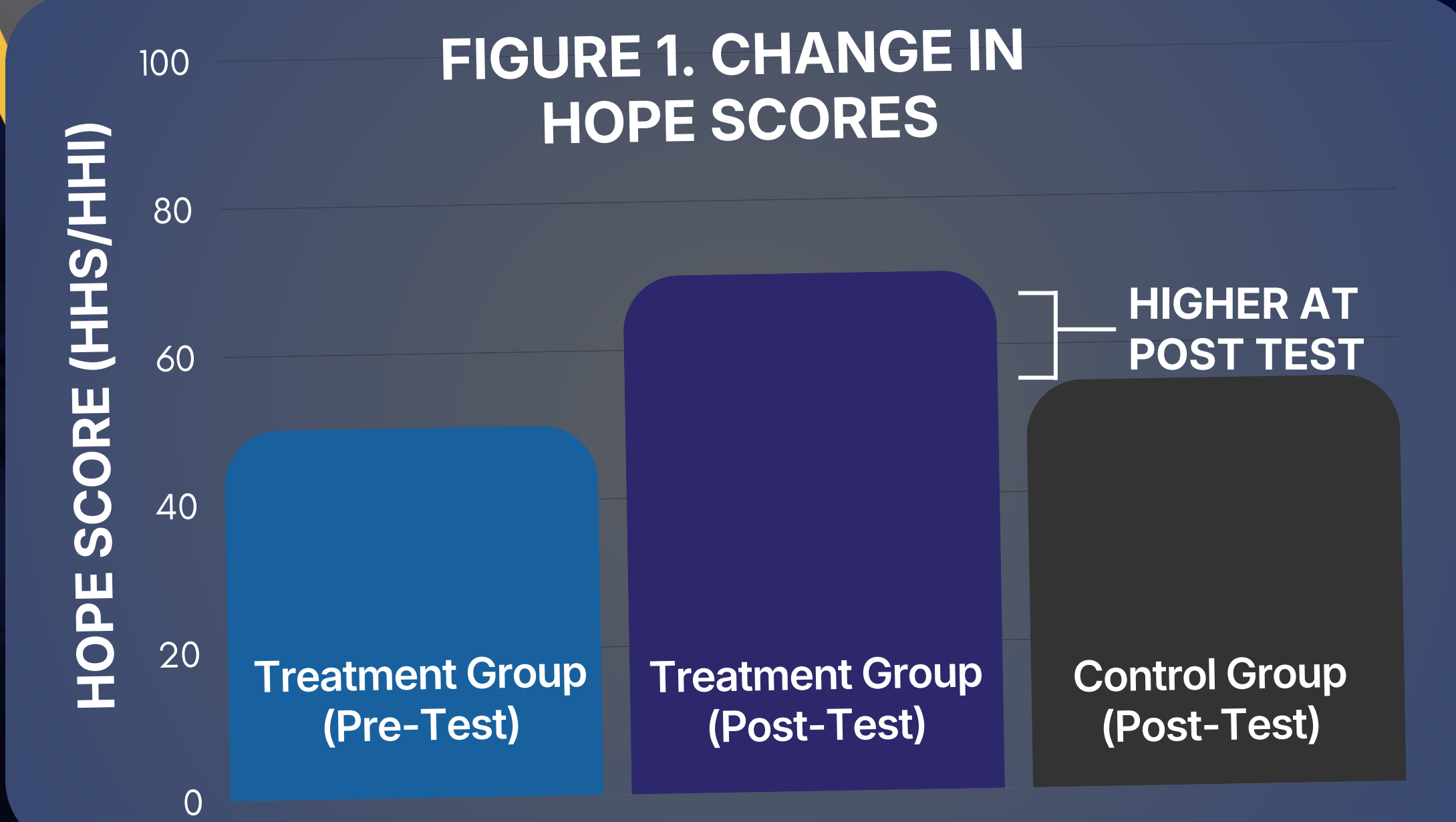
LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LIFE COACHING

EVALUATION DESIGN & METHODS

- Evaluation Design**
- Quasi-experimental design
 - Treatment vs. comparison group
 - Pre- and post-assessment
- Data Sources**
- Herth Hope Scales (HHS) and Herth Hope Index (HHI)
 - Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K6)
 - School & Workforce outcomes
 - Recidivism tracking (administrative records)
- Culturally Responsive Evaluation Approach**
- Grounded in the Community-Defined Evidence Practice (CDEP) framework
 - Youth and lived-experience leadership shaped outcome priorities
 - Protective-factor measures (hope, resilience) prioritized over deficit-only metrics
 - Quantitative findings interpreted within community and systemic context

RESULTS

Hope Significantly Increased
 Treatment group demonstrated significant improvement in hope and scored higher than comparison group at post-test



3S'S WORK

SUSTAINABILITY

Strengthening Capacity Through Collaboration

- Built shared evaluation infrastructure across program and leadership teams
- Integrated CRDP findings into funding strategy and program design
- Stabilized coaching workforce through cross-department support and supervision
- Institutionalized outcome monitoring for continuous learning

SCALABILITY

Positioning the LSJ Model for Replication

- Built shared evaluation infrastructure across program and leadership teams
- Integrated CRDP findings into funding strategy and program design
- Stabilized coaching workforce through cross-department support and supervision
- Institutionalized outcome monitoring for continuous learning

SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

Advancing Cross-Sector Equity Partnerships

- Validated CDEP through strengthened evaluation
- Deepened collaboration with probation, courts, schools, and behavioral health providers
- Integrated recidivism prevention within a behavioral health framework
- Elevated culturally grounded coaching within local equity-centered systems
- Instrumental in advocating for codification of CDEPs in CYBHI and BHSA.

NEXT STEPS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

Interpretation of Findings

Relationship-based, culturally grounded life coaching strengthens hope among African American system-impacted youth. Protective-factor gains may precede symptom-level change.

Cultural & Practical Significance

Demonstrates that community-defined practices can meet strengthened evaluation standards and contribute to equity-centered behavioral health systems.

Critical Takeaway

Culturally grounded, relationship-centered life coaching measurably strengthens protective factors and supports system stability when paired with rigorous evaluation.

Future Directions

- Expand longitudinal tracking
- Increase comparison group power
- Explore replication in additional sites
- Integrate into broader behavioral health funding streams

Workforce Outcomes

25+ youth gained employment

3+ Months sustained placements

Recidivism & Legal Stability

MAJORITY remained system-free at 6-12

Probation **DISCHARGES** achieved

Record **SEALING** support provided

12+ high school graduates

18+ grade promotions

<10% new legal charges

3 GED completions

DESCRIPTION & IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Primary Mental/Behavioral Health Targets:

- Increased hope & resilience
- Improved help-seeking
- Reduced system re-entry
- Improved emotional regulation

Core Components

- High-frequency life coaching (3 contacts/week)
- Legal empowerment ("Know Your Rights")
- Family engagement
- School re-engagement
- Workforce readiness
- Court advocacy

Cultural Grounding

- Community-defined model rooted in African American lived experience
- Strength-based, non-deficit framing
- Trauma-informed & restorative approach

Population Served (Phase II Extension)

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: N=105



Integration of Local & Cultural Knowledge

- Developed from community-identified needs
- Lived-experience leadership in coaching
- Iterative youth and family feedback informed refinement

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Scan for full report & evaluation details
 Accessible version with alt text available via QR code

Data source: Safe Passages CRDP Phase 2 Evaluation Report