

# National ACT Study

Funded by Arnold Ventures

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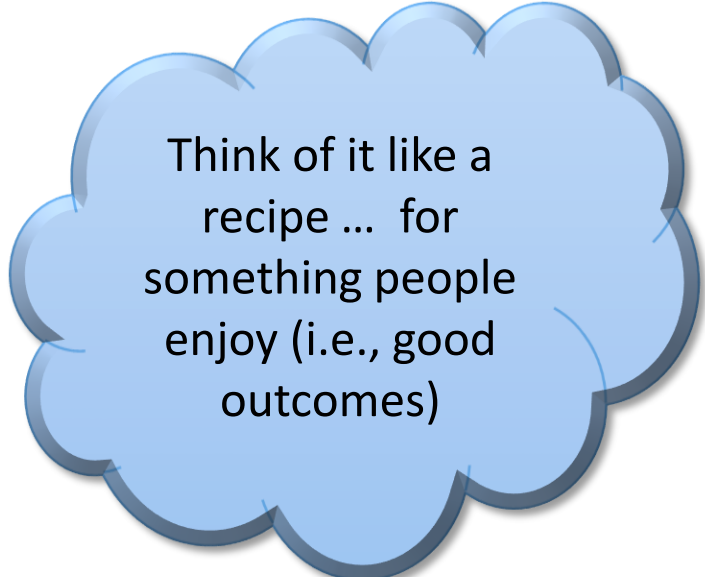
Presentation to the NW MHTTC National ACT Virtual Meet-Up

August 7, 2023



# Program Fidelity

Extent to which the defining elements of a program model, which has been previously established as effective, are implemented as intended



Think of it like a recipe ... for something people enjoy (i.e., good outcomes)

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# VALUE OF PROGRAM FIDELITY



## Quality

Higher-fidelity teams yield better **outcomes**



\$

More cost-effective



## Research

Helps ensure (or question) reliability and validity of research findings and helps with exploring relevant contextual factors impacting fidelity.



## Innovation

Provides a conceptual base from which to make informed adaptations and innovations



# Overview of Project 2 Methods

- Outreached all states (areas) using the Tool for Measurement of ACT (TMACT) to conduct fidelity reviews
  - Focused on areas that had sufficient training in the use of TMACT
- Sought copies of all TMACT related materials (final report and data preparation tools (Team Survey and Excel Spreadsheet))
  - Received direct permission from providers or copies were provided de-identified (removed team name, staffing names)
- Most recent review that pre-dated the pandemic and dated back to 2015 (i.e., only one review per team evaluated)



# National ACT Study: Project 2 Sample

- 11 US States
  - # of teams per state ranged from 3 – 77
  - 222 ACT teams
  - Representation
    - 5 states we had 90%+ ACT teams represented
    - 10 states we had at least 33%+ ACT teams represented
- States varied in their number of years implementing ACT as well as their concerted effort to implement ACT at all (i.e., intensive community-based teams that represented a partial implementation of ACT)

# TMACT Subscales

Item ratings fall along  
a 5-point scale.  
Final Rating is the  
mean (average) across  
all items

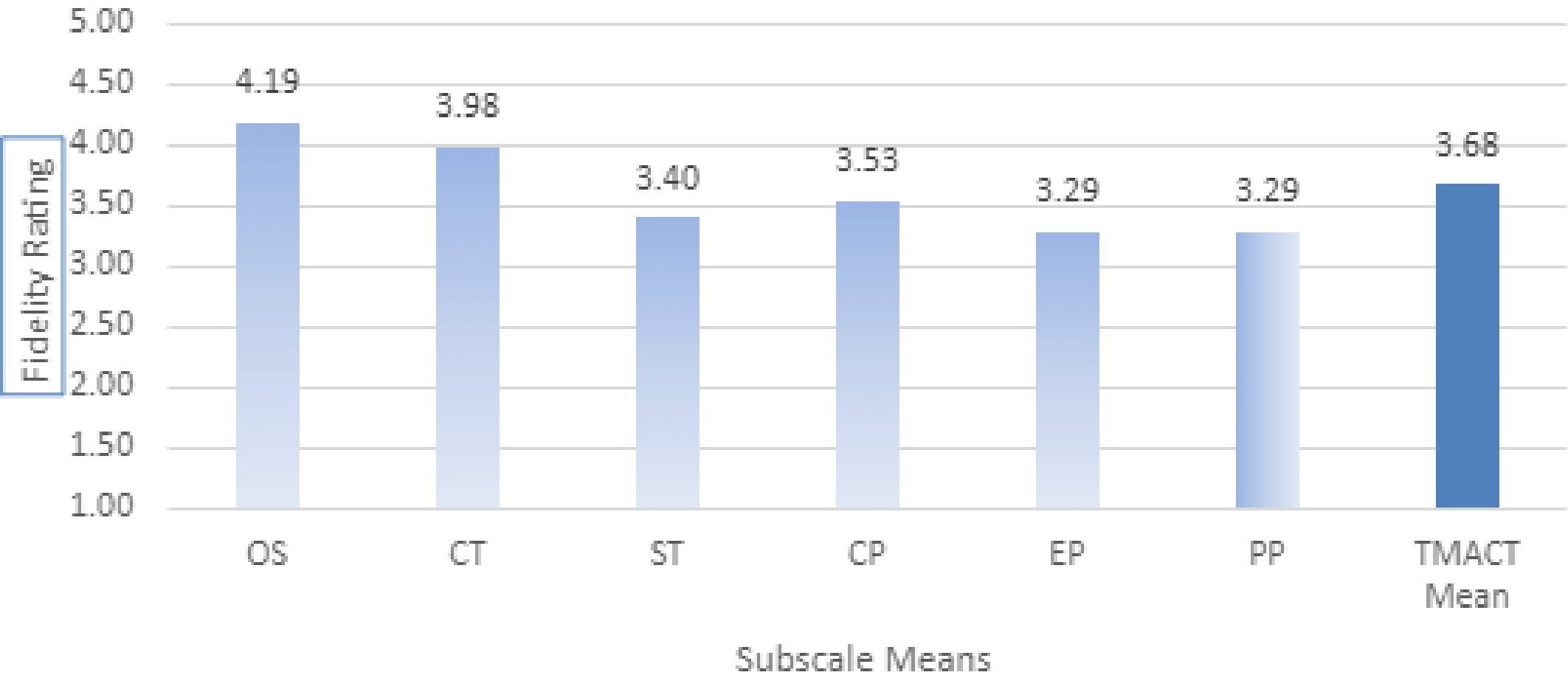
**CP6. Responsibility for Crisis Services:** The team has 24-hour responsibility for directly responding to psychiatric crises. Team is evaluated on whether they meet the following criteria: 1) The team is available to individuals in crisis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; 2) The team is the first-line crisis evaluator and responder (if another crisis responder screens calls, there is very minimal triaging); 3) The team accesses practical, individualized crisis plans to help them address crises for each individual; and 4) The team is able and willing to respond to crises in person, when needed.

1	2	3	4	5
Team has no responsibility for directly handling crises after-hours.	Team meets up to 2 criteria at least PARTIALLY.	Team meets Criterion #1 and PARTIALLY meets 2 to 3 criteria.	Team meets 3 criteria FULLY and 1 PARTIALLY.	Team FULLY meets all 4 criteria (see under definition).

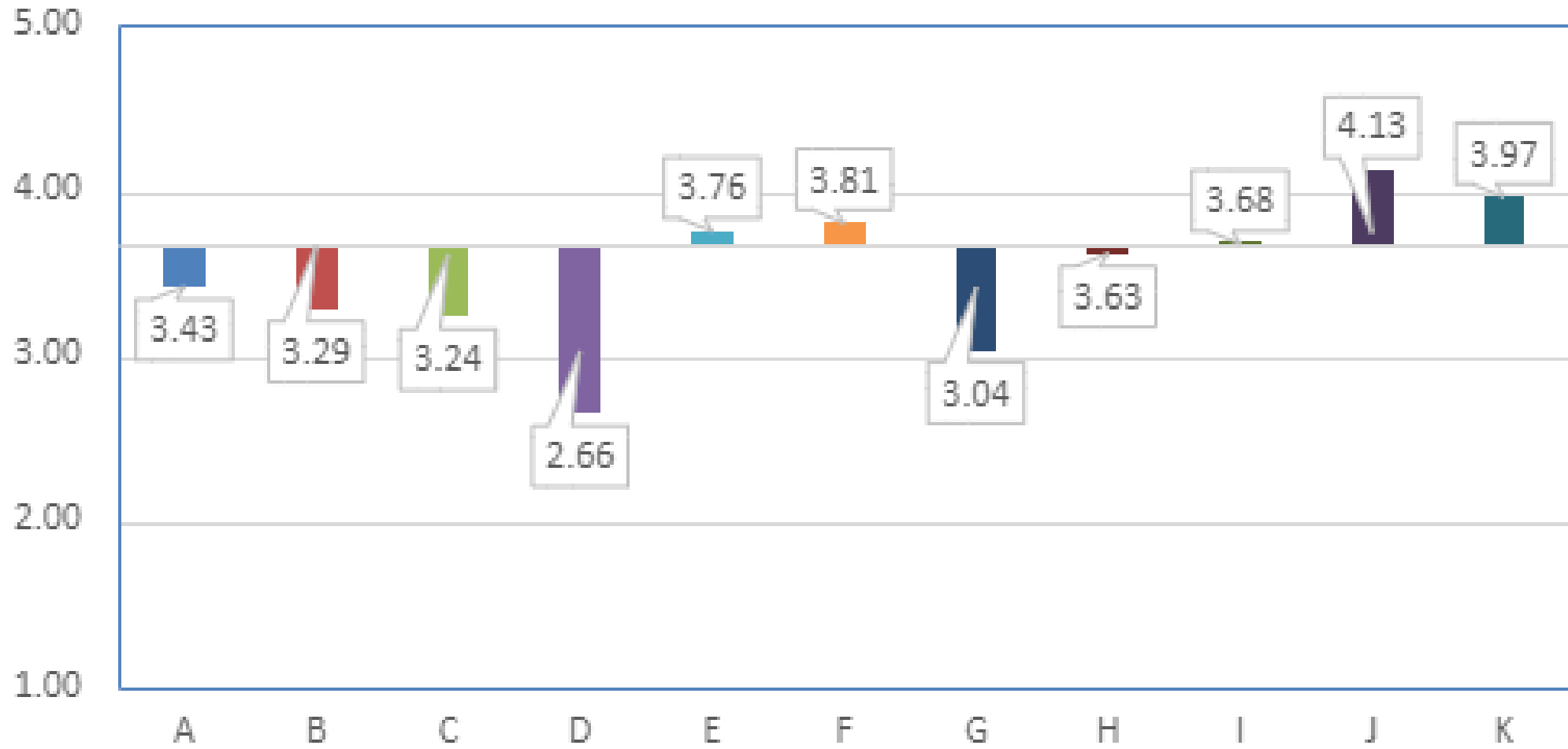
Operations & Structure (OS)	12 items Examples: Team Approach (OS1); Daily Team Meeting-Quality (OS4); and Transition to Less Intensive Services (OS9)
Core Team (CT)	7 items Examples: Team Leader (CT1); Role of Psychiatric Care Provider in Treatment (CT4); Role of Nurses (CT7)
Specialist Team (ST)	8 items Examples: Co-Occurring Disorders Specialist on Team (ST1); Role of Employment Specialist Within Team (ST6); Role of Peer Specialist (ST8)
Core Practices (CP)	8 items Examples: Community-Based Services (CP1); Assertive Engagement Mechanisms (CP2); Intensity of Services (CP3)
Evidence-Based Practices (EP)	8 items Examples: Full Responsibility for Employment and Education Services (EP2); Engagement & Psychoeducation with Natural Supports (EP6); Empirically-Supported Psychotherapy (EP7)
Person-Centered Planning & Practices (PP)	4 items Examples: Person-Centered Planning (PP2); Interventions Target Broad Range of Life Domains (PP3); Client Self-Determination & Independence (PP4)



# All Teams Mean Subscale Scores

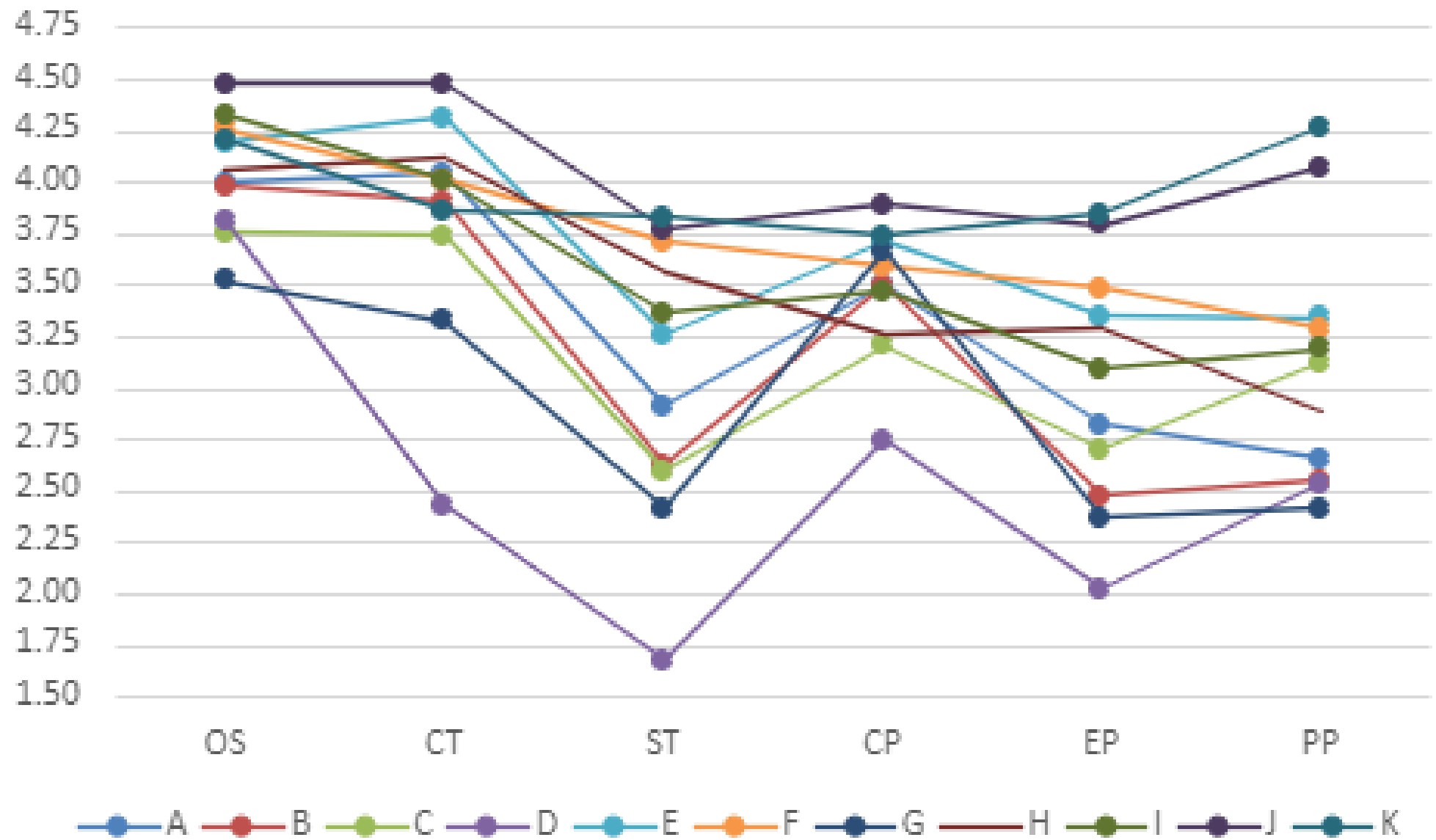


# TMACT Scores By State



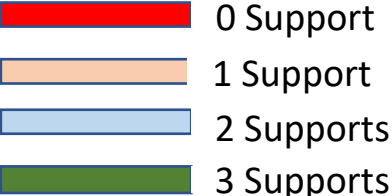


# Subscale Means by State

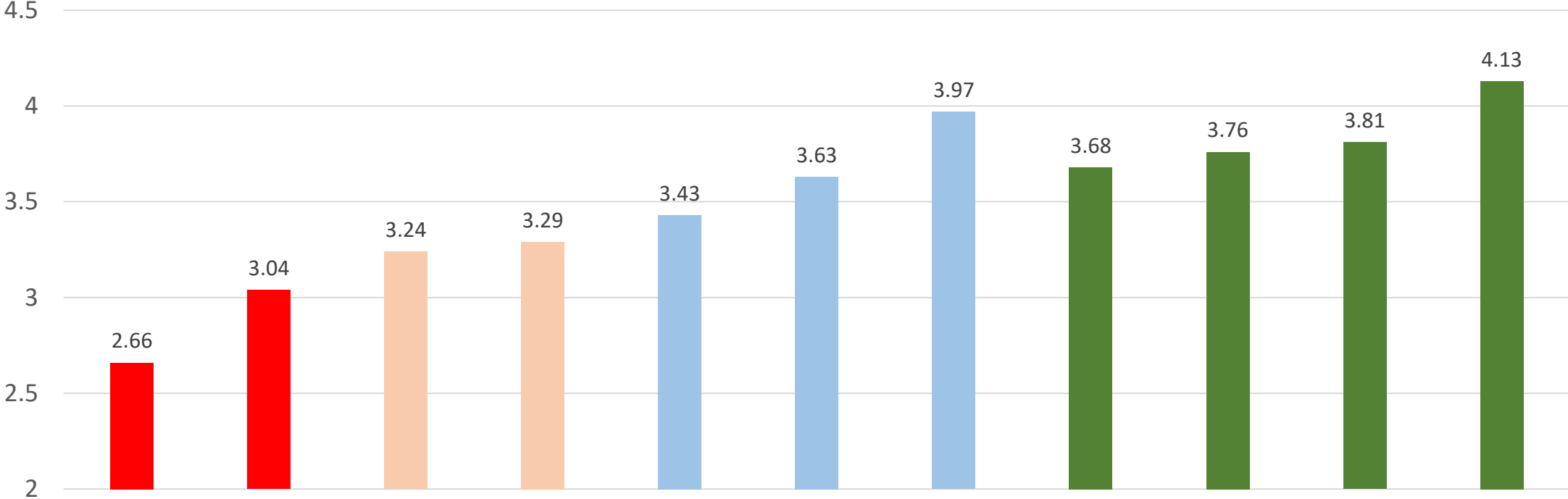


**Supports:**

- 1) Routine Fidelity Reviews;
- 2) Clear ACT Policy;
- 3) Access to ACT Training Resources



### Mean State TMACT Rating By Level of Support

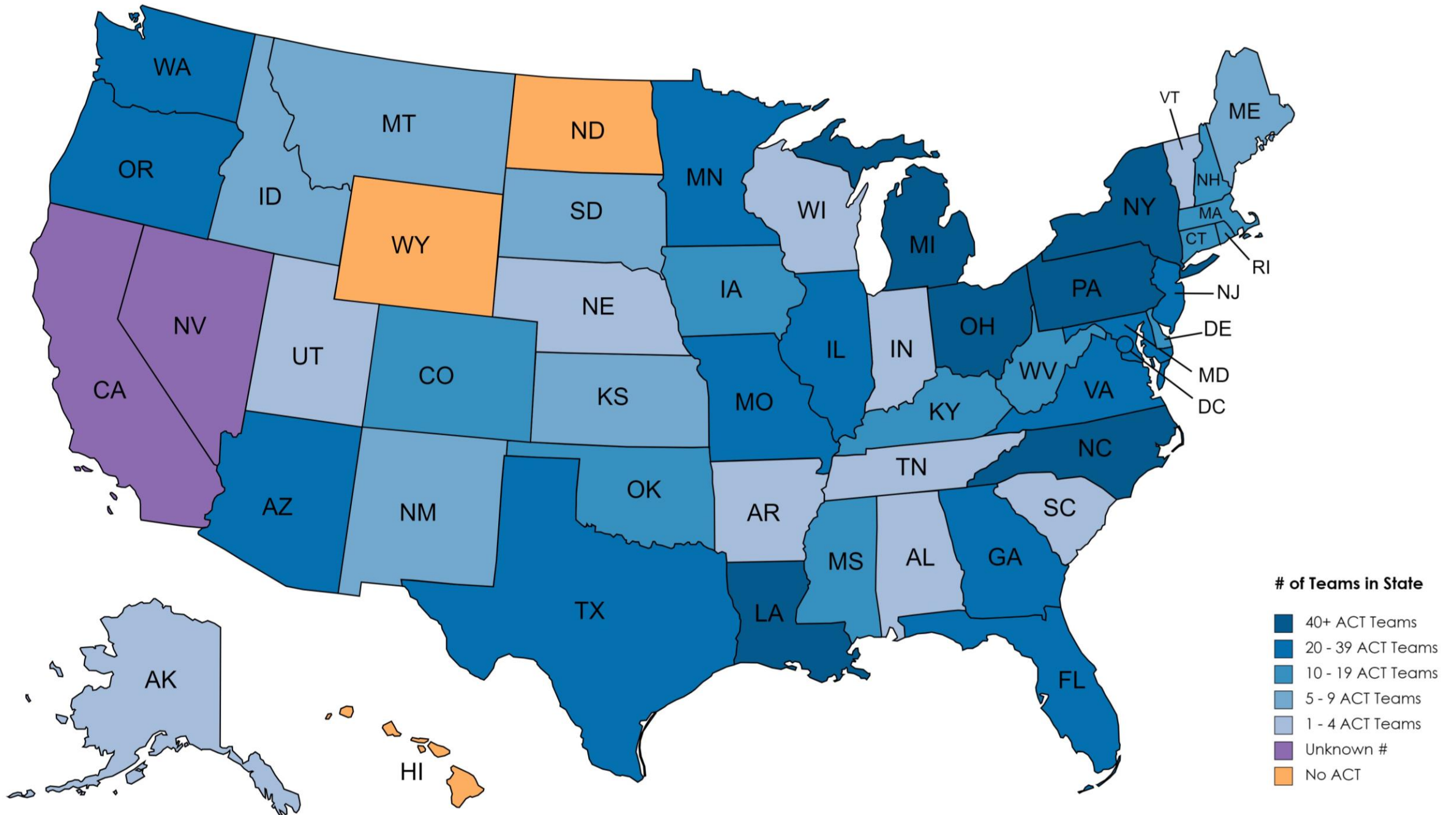


Each Column Represents a State

# National ACT Study Project 1

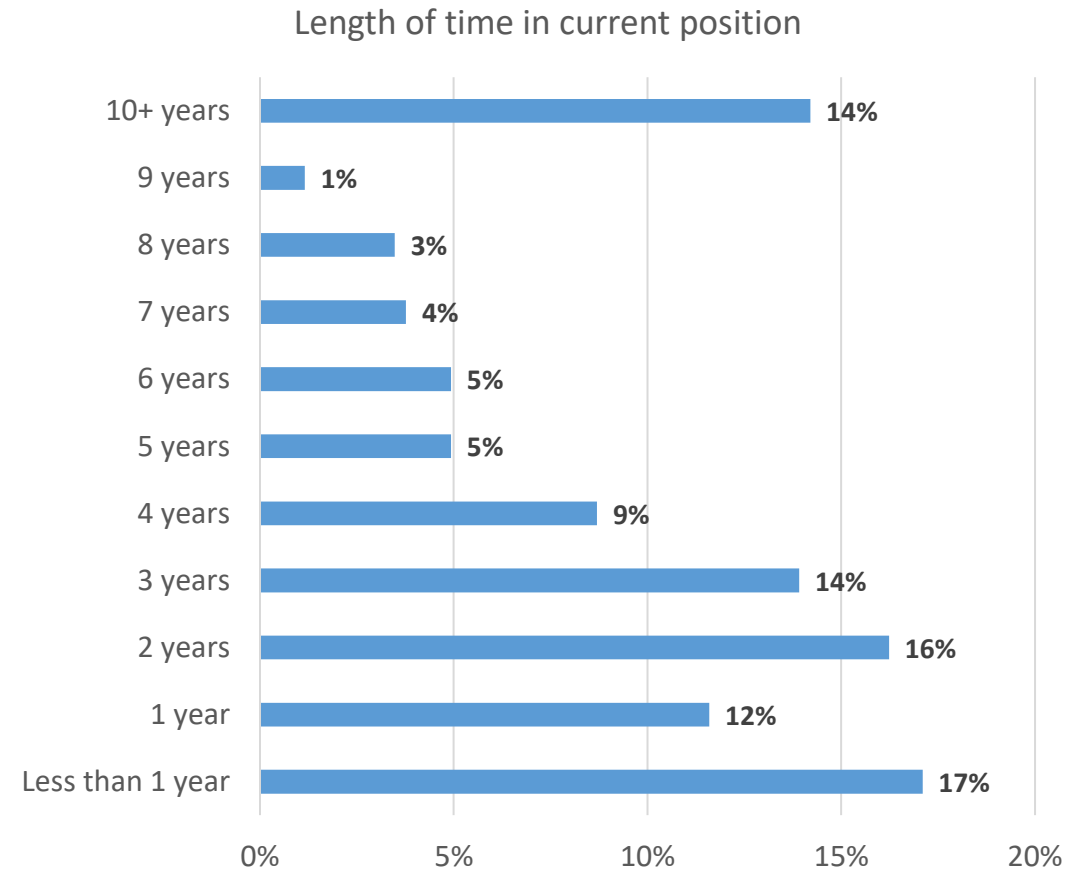
- Surveying of ACT 50 US State, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico on Status of ACT Implementation  
Number of teams and team sizes; funding and reimbursement; contextual factors influencing access; policy and fidelity; outcome monitoring; workforce development
  - Outreach State or Local Mental Health Authorities overseeing ACT; Providers; Technical Assistance staff, where available
  - National ACT Team Leader Survey
- Examine national trends and develop state profiles



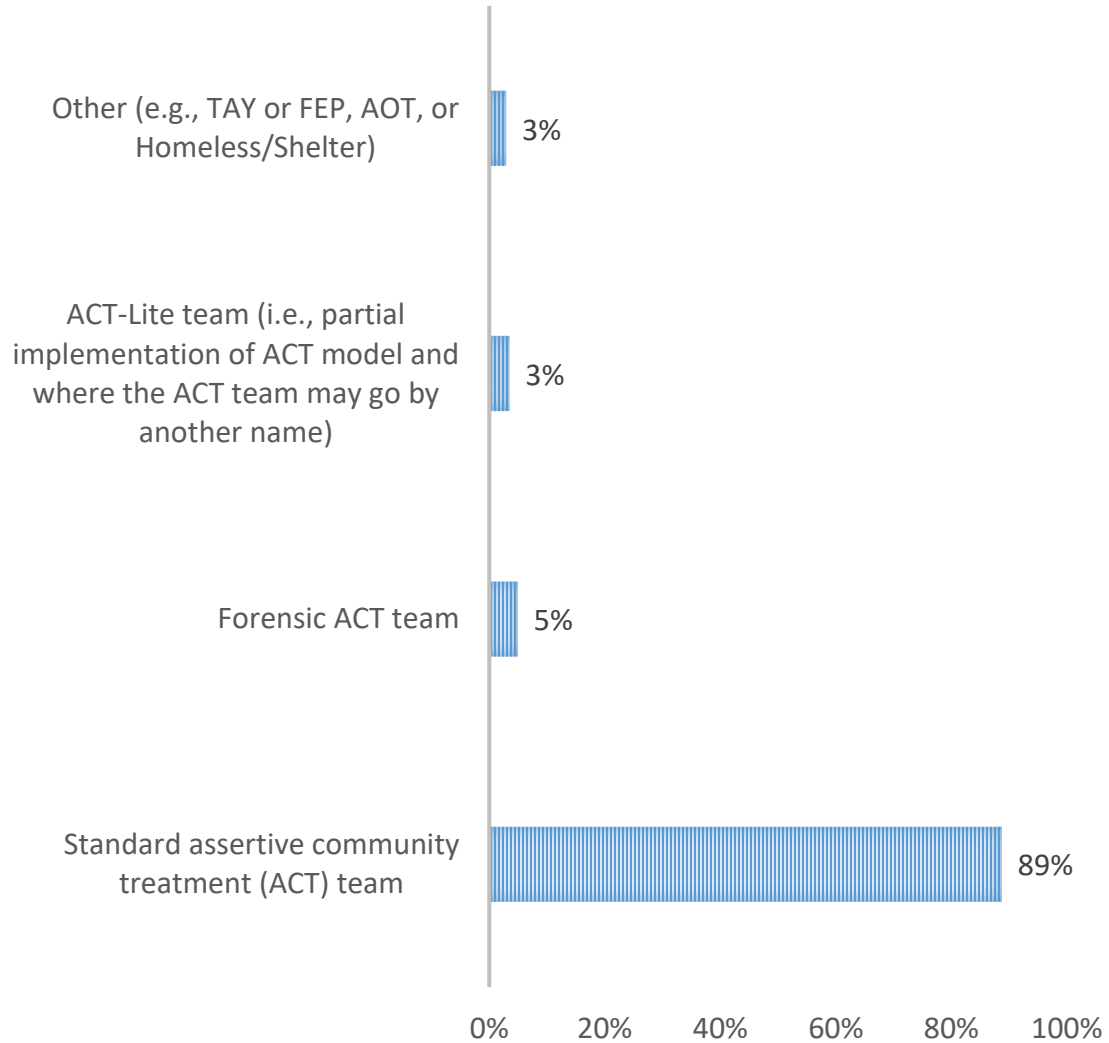


# National Team Leader Survey (2023)

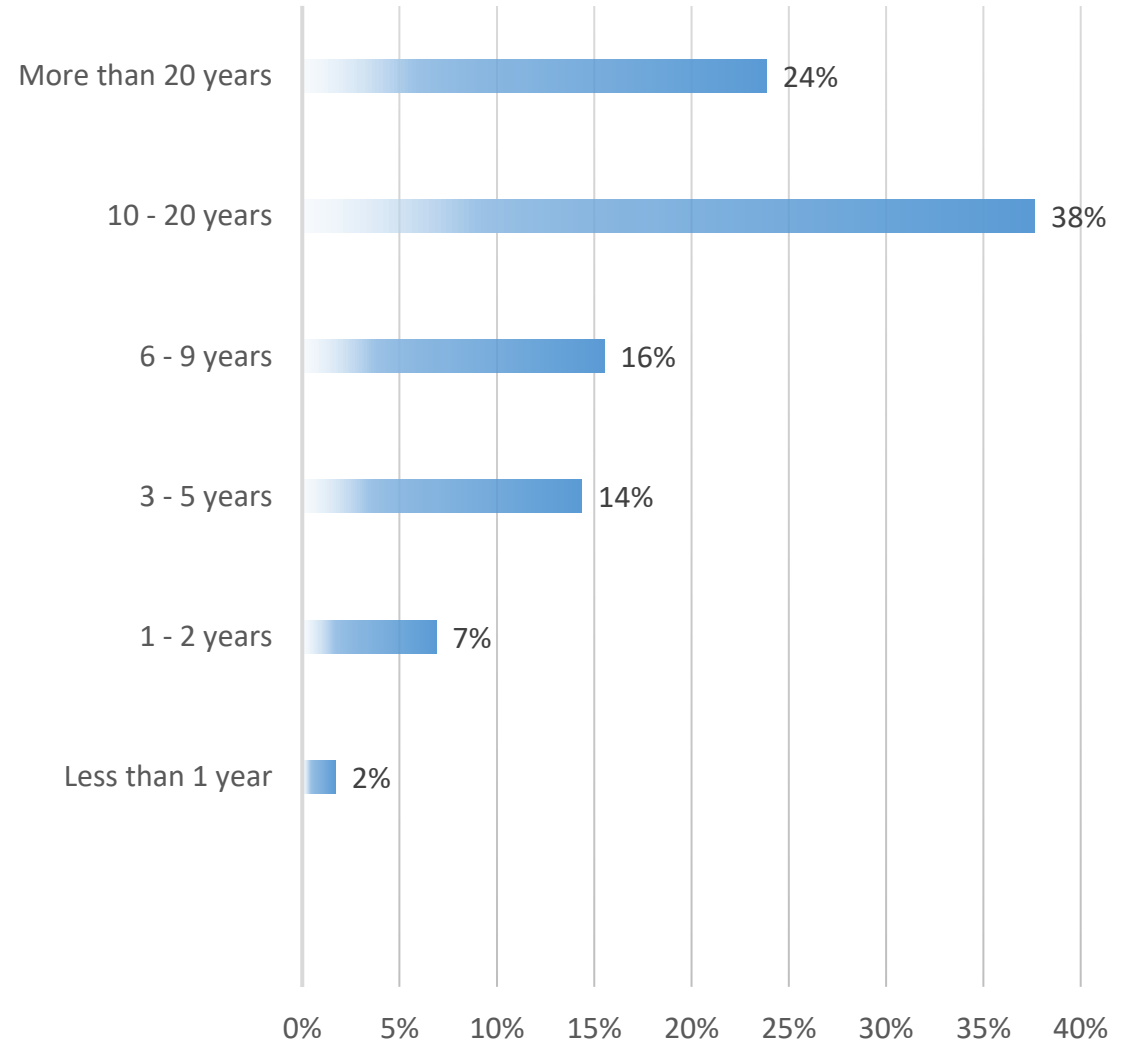
- 381 responses
  - 42 US States, DC, and PR
  - Narrowed sample to exclude:
    - participants with at two or fewer years of experience working with people with serious mental illness (n = 8)
    - minimal teams, defined as those serving 14 or fewer individuals (n = 13)
    - exceedingly large teams, defined as those serving 151 or more individuals (n = 11)
    - participants reporting teams with 30 or more full-time staff (n = 3)
- Final sample: 345 participants



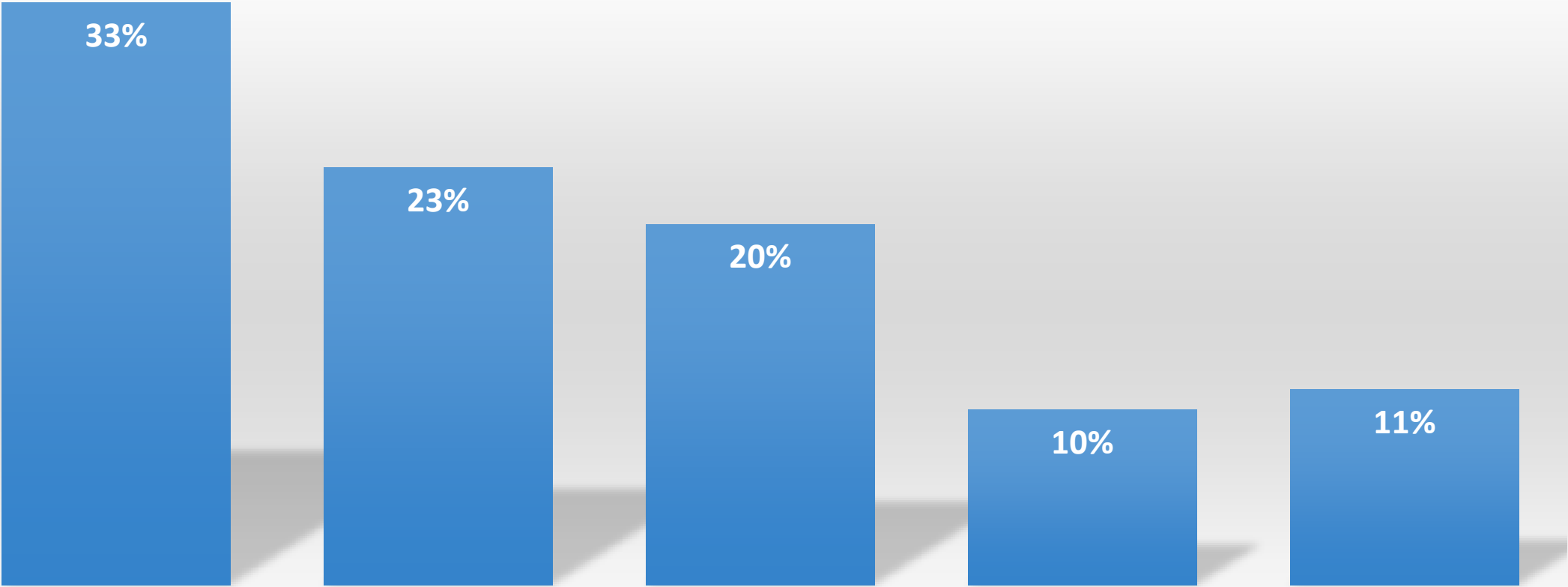
## TEAM TYPE



## TEAM TENURE



# Population of the catchment area the team primarily serves



Population of catchment area is 500,000 or more

Population of catchment area is 200,000 to 499,999

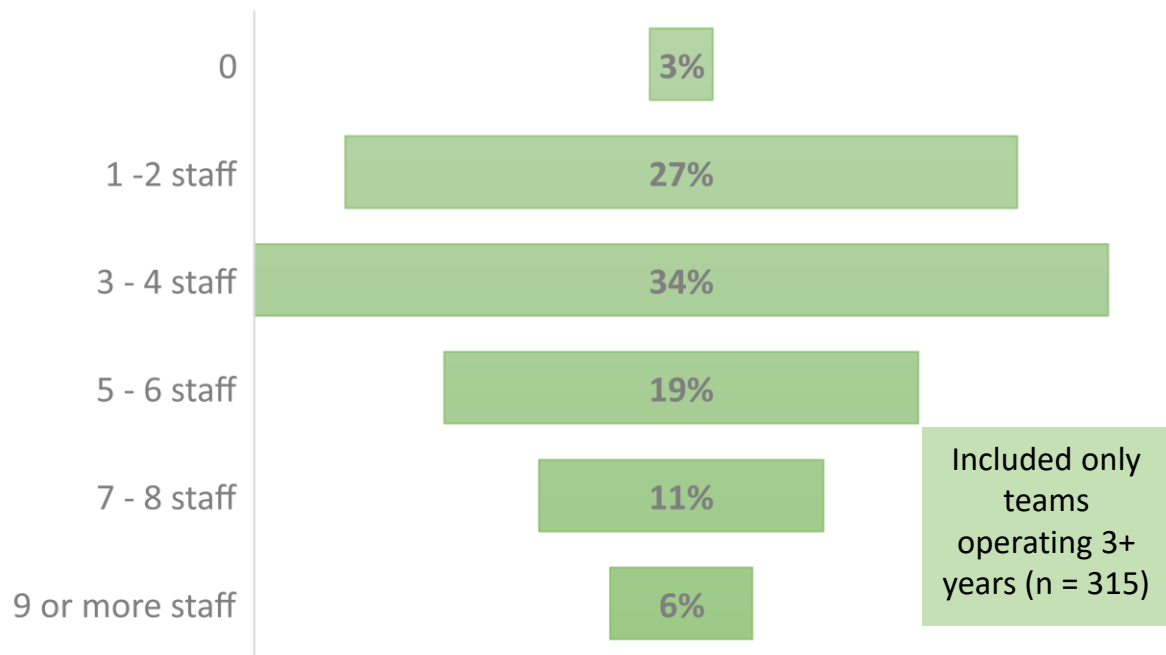
Population of catchment area is 100,000 to 199,999

Population of catchment area is 50,000 to 99,999

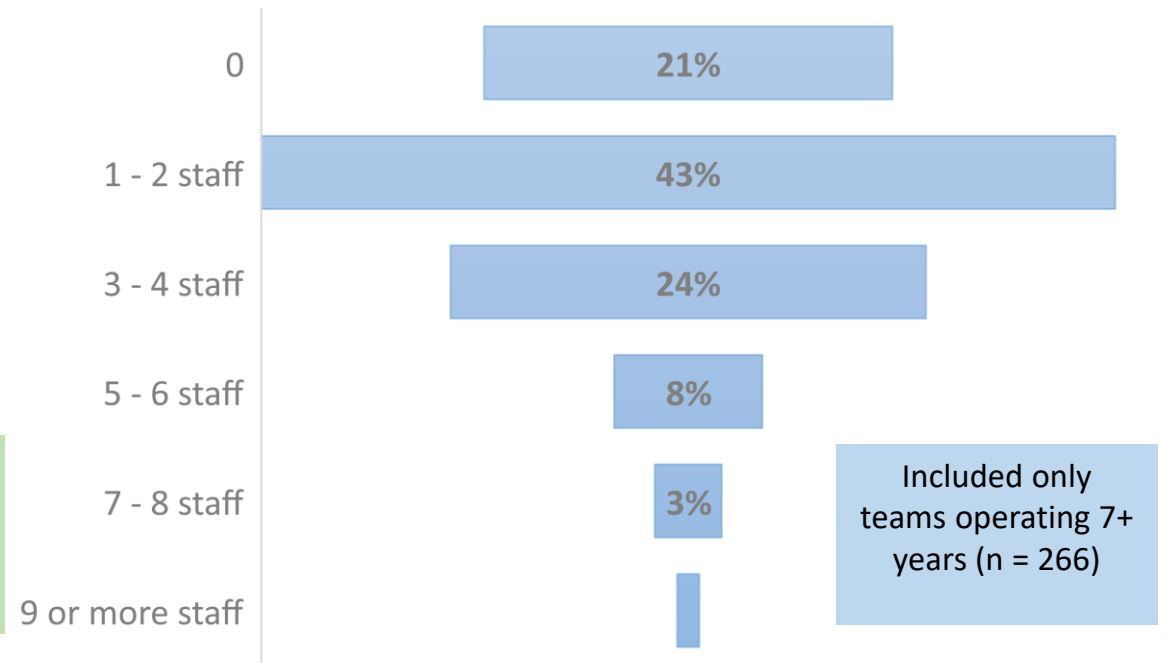
Population of catchment area is under 50,000



### Percent of Teams Reporting the Number of Staff Who Have Been on Team for at Least Three Years



### Percent of Teams Reporting the Number of Staff Who Have Been on Team for at Least Seven Years



When compared to pre-pandemic years (e.g., 2019),  
to what extent has ACT staff hiring and retention  
changed during the pandemic?

