

Chris Bundy, MD, MPH



Dr. Bundy is the Executive Medical Director of the Washington Physicians Health Program (WPHP) and Past President of the Federation of State Physician Health Programs. He is board certified in adult and geriatric psychiatry and addiction medicine and is clinical associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. Prior to joining WPHP, Dr. Bundy led the Mental Health Service at the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System. Dr. Bundy draws on his experience as a healthcare leader, medical educator, and physician in recovery to support education and advocacy efforts related to physician health and well-being. For this work, Dr. Bundy was the 2021 recipient of the President's Unsung Hero Award from the Washington State Medical Association.

Rx for Success: The Washington Physicians Health Program

Medical Board of California
May 24, 2024

Chris Bundy, MD, MPH

Executive Medical Director

Washington Physicians Health Program

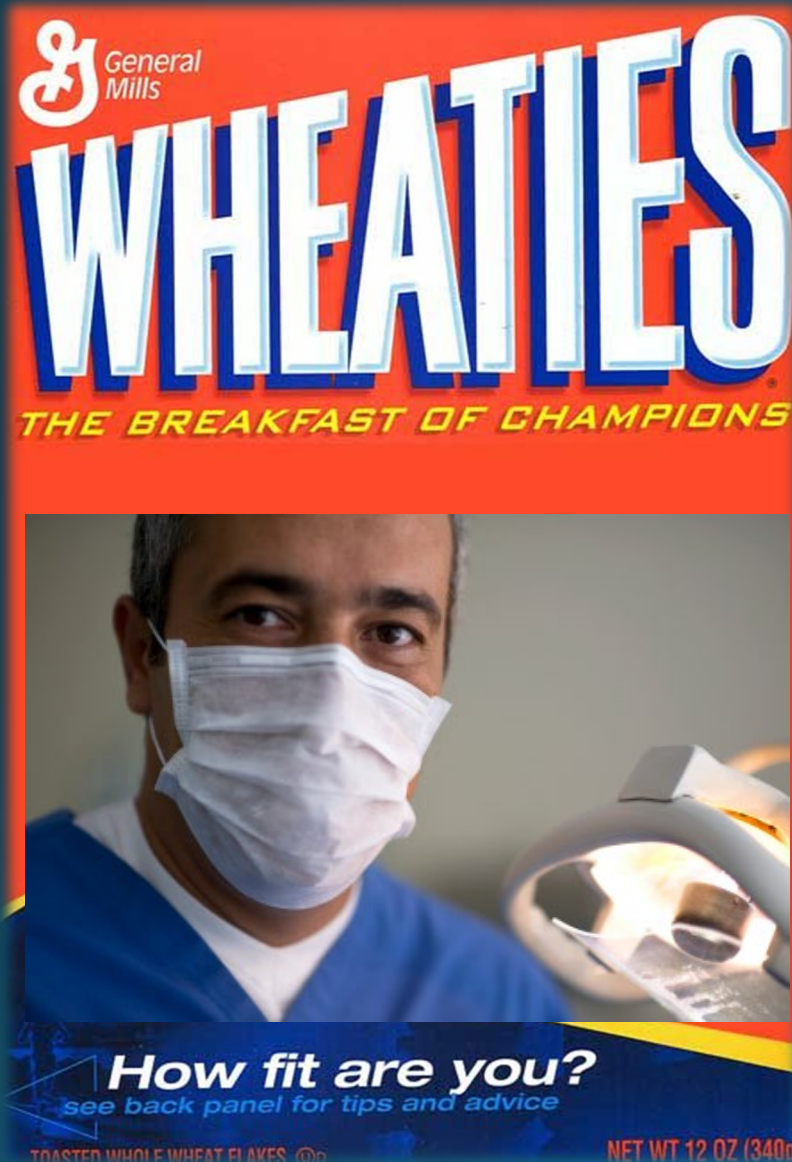
Clinical Associate Professor

University of Washington School of Medicine

Washington State University Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

Past President

Federation of State Physician Health Programs



1/3 health professionals may have an impairing health condition during career

1-2% per year are impaired

WPHP History

- **1972:** JAMA publishes seminal article “The Sick Physician”
- **1974:** WSMA creates Committee on Personal Problems of Physicians
- **1987:** WSMA lobbies legislature for surcharge funding support and appointed an independent Board → Washington Monitored Treatment Program
- **1993:** WMTP becomes WPHP
 - Physician-led, independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
 - Funded by license surcharges through DOH contract
 - Governed by Board of Directors approved by WSMA

Enabling Legislation

- Mandatory reporting: “may not be able to practice with reasonable skill and safety.”
- Authorizes regulator to contract with a PHP approved **by the regulator** (not the Department of Health)
- Authorizes **license surcharge** (\$70 per license holder per year) to fund program
- Mandatory reports can be made to WPHP in lieu of a report to regulator unless there has been patient harm

Enabling Legislation

- PHP can receive confidential referrals that are never known to the regulator
 - 85-90 % of WPHP participants are not known to regulator
- PHP must notify regulator:
 - Immediately: Any physician who poses imminent risk to patient safety
 - In a timely manner: A program participant who fails to cooperate with program or is “probably unable” to practice safely
- PHP records are protected from discovery
- PHP and those making referral to PHP have immunity from civil liability

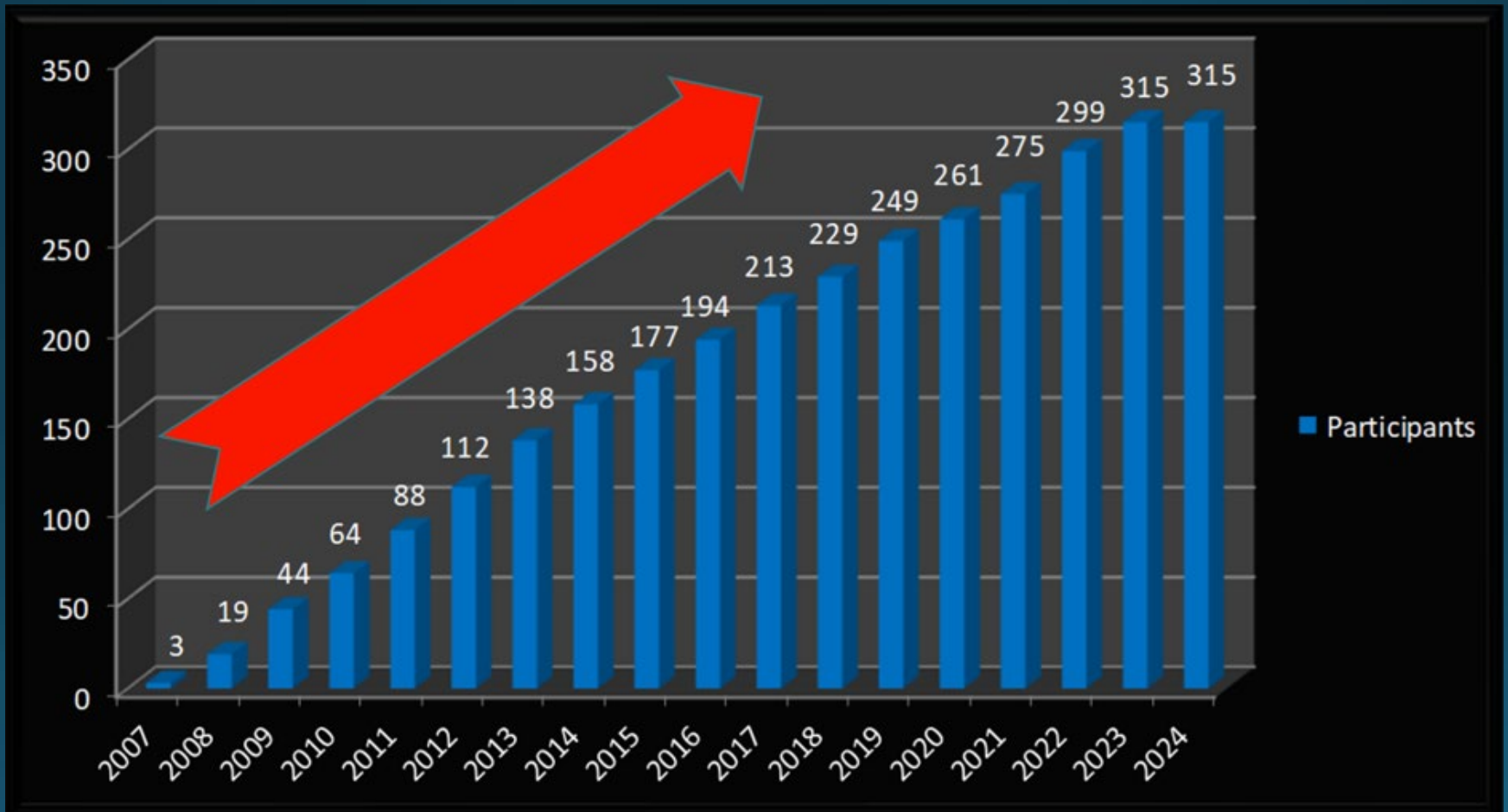
FSPHP Triad of Confidentiality

- Licensure questions allow for non-reporting for PHP participants (e.g. safe haven provisions, attestation models)
- PHP is an exception to mandated reporting; PHP has confidential track wherein participation can be unknown to regulator
- PHP records are protected from discovery in legal proceedings

Washington PHP

- The PHP as an Exception to Mandated Reporting – Washington:
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=246-16-220>
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=18.130.070>
- The PHP Record Protection:
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=18.130.175> (section 4)
- Health Related Licensure Application Question:
<https://wmc.wa.gov/licensing/applications-and-forms>

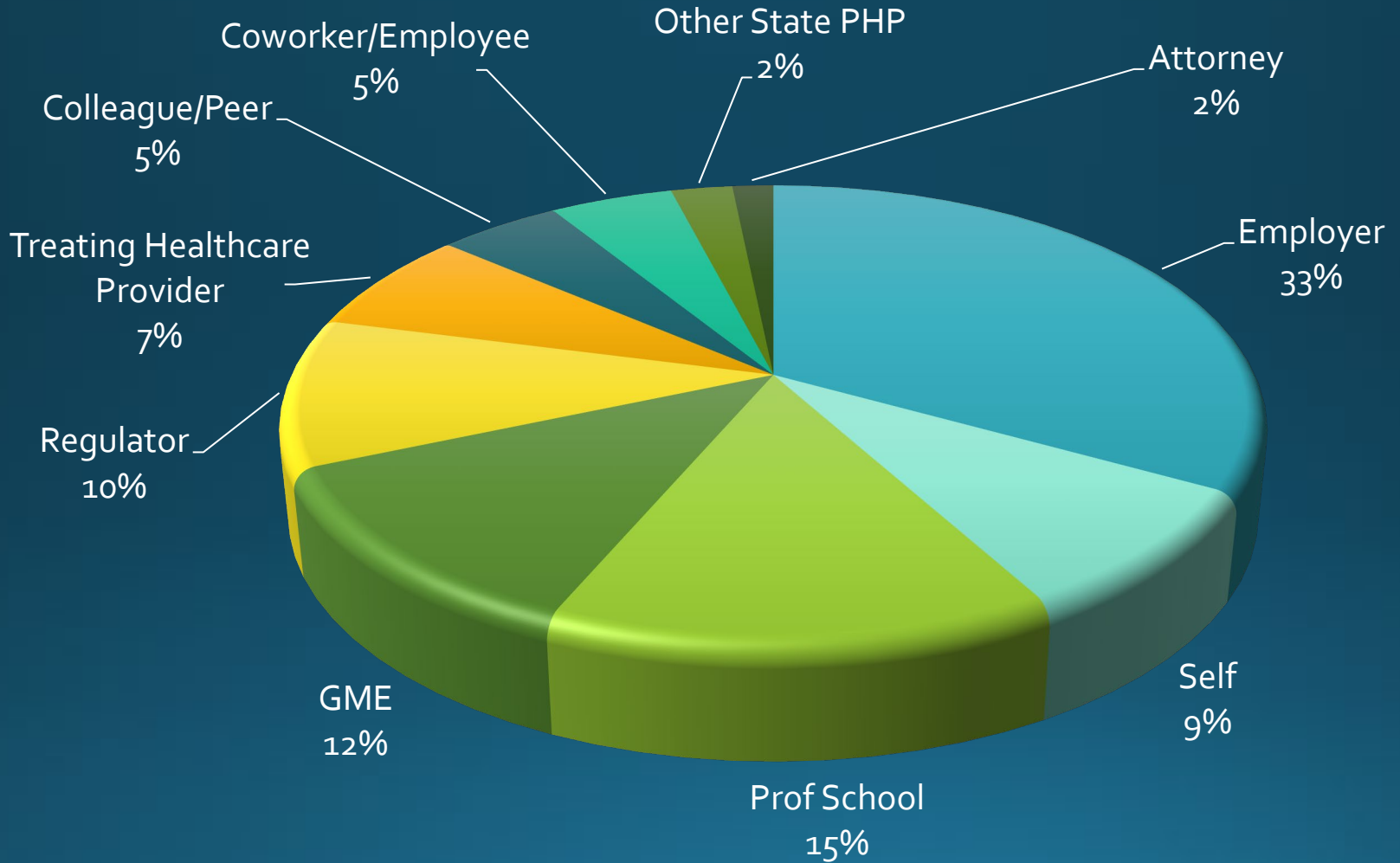
The West Virginia Experience



The Mississippi Experience

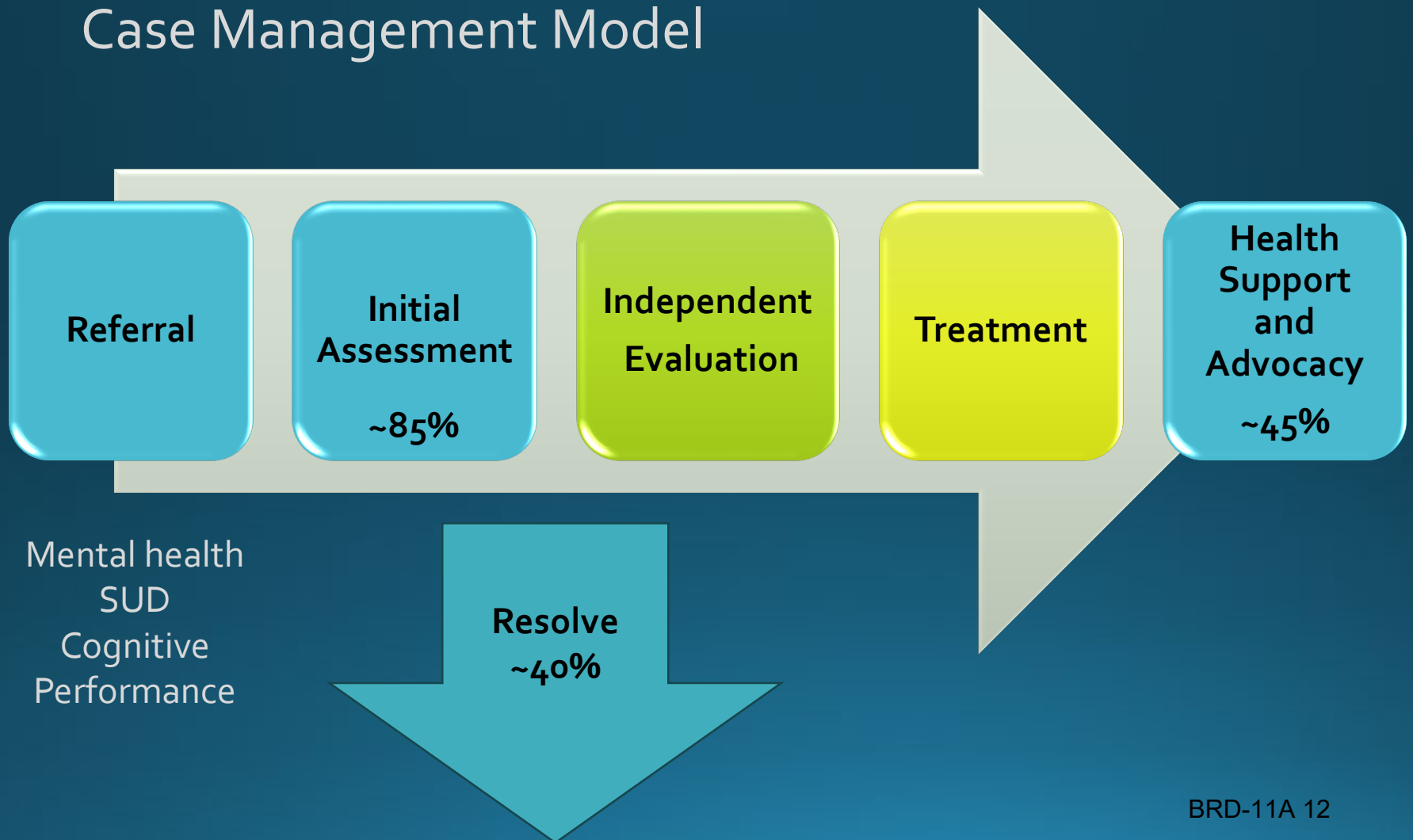
- Pre-PHP: 20 - 25 participants, all known to medical board
- PHP confidential program: within 2-3 years, they were monitoring 125 - 135 participants, which is around 1.75% of actively practicing physicians in the state
- They have consistently monitored this number for the last 20 years or so

WPHP Referral Sources 2023

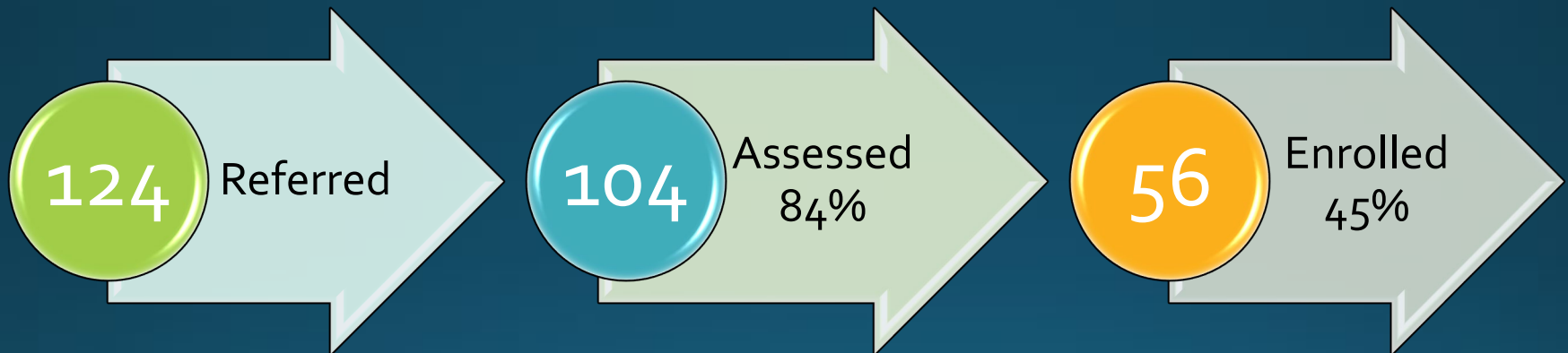


WPHP: Process

Case Management Model



Most referrals are cleared....



...help is offered, concerns are put to rest

64% of referrals are for **non-SUD concerns**

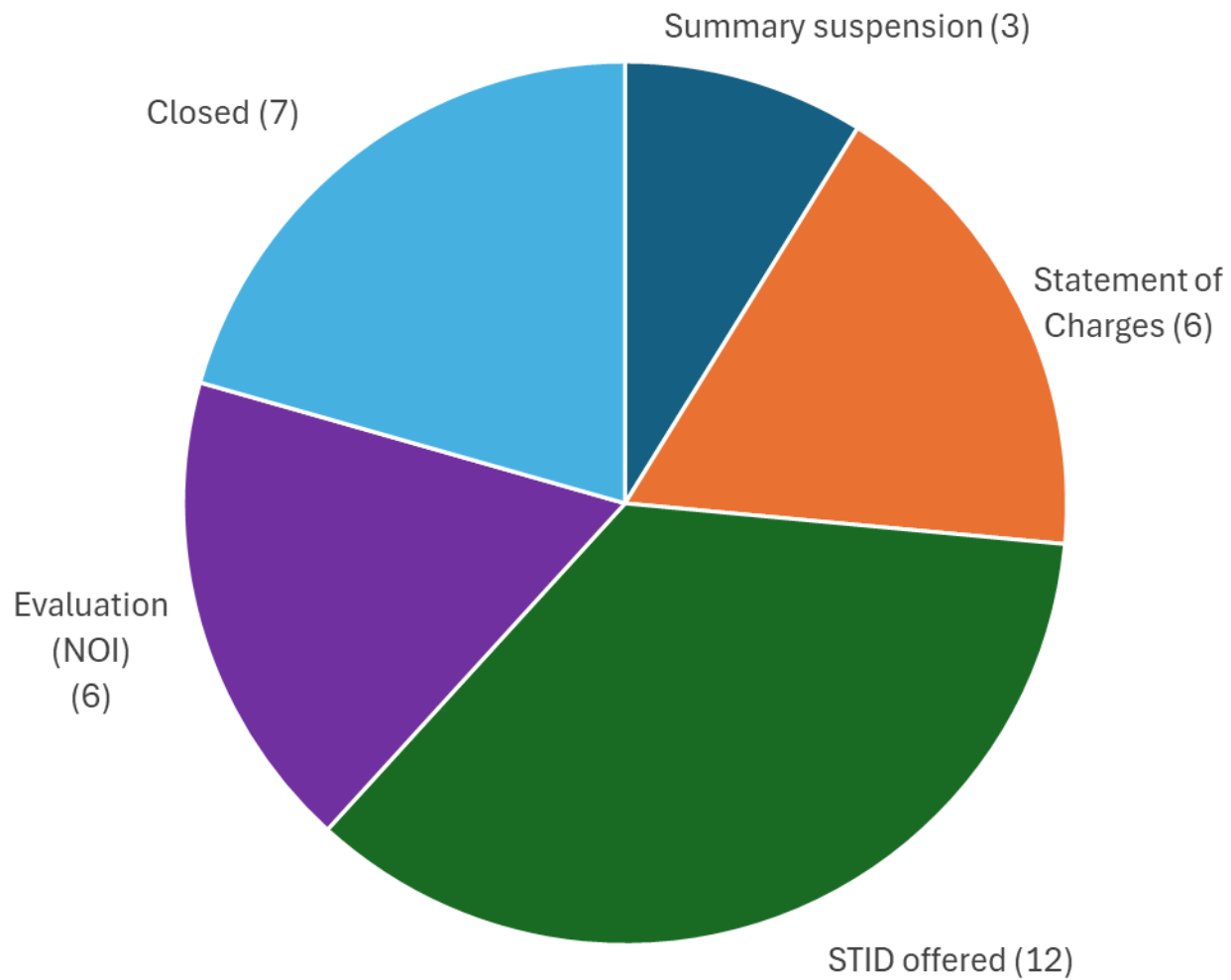
WPHP
reports to
regulator
2023

2.5 % of cases in
development

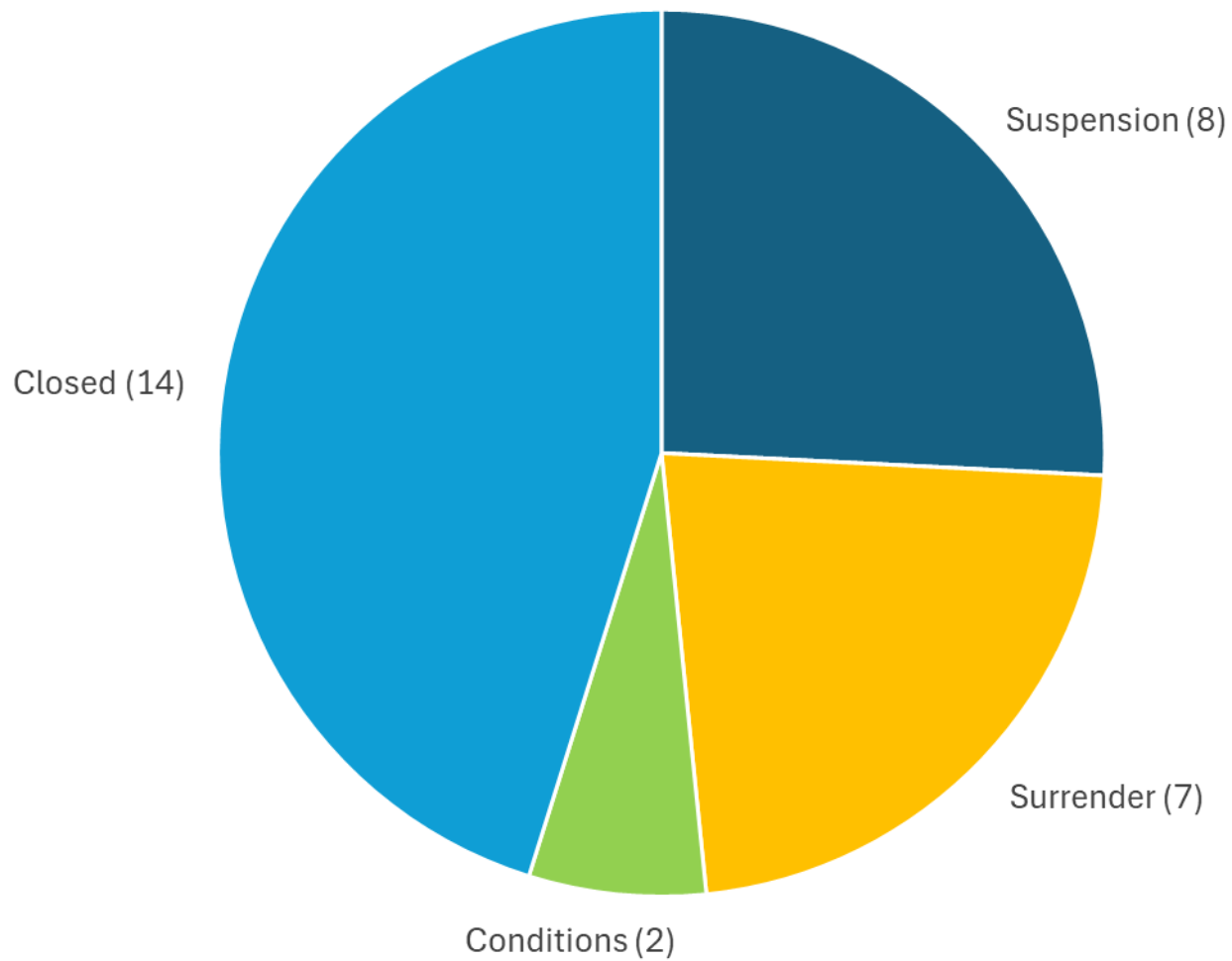
.96% of participants under
agreement

86% of WPHP participants
are voluntary/unknown to
disciplining authority

WPHP Reports 2019-2023--Initial WMC Action (34)



WPHP Reports 2019-2023--Outcomes (31) (3 are still open)



WPHP: Key Statistics

- 85-90% confidential participation
- 95% report needing and benefitting from WPHP advocacy
- Half of referrals are resolved without need for monitoring – help is provided, concerns are put to rest
- One in four participants report WPHP was **lifesaving**
- WPHP participants report **less than half the rate of burnout** as other physicians
- 85% full remission of health condition at discharge
- 84% SUD participants abstinent at 60 months
- WPHP consistently receives high ratings for program service and satisfaction from participants and stakeholders

Secret Sauce

- Clinical expertise
- High touch service
- Stakeholder trust
- Supportive partnerships
- Strong confidentiality
- Proven outcomes
- Education, outreach, advocacy
- Peer engagement and servant leadership

Questions?

Please Follow Us!



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<https://wphp.org>

WPHP Newsletter



Thank You!

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Agenda Item 11A



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