

Detecting Real Time Changes for Survivors Impacted by Immigration and Funding Policy Changes

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BACKGROUND

- After interpersonal crimes, such as sexual assault and domestic violence, survivors face significant legal needs as well as barriers to getting those needs met. Survivors who are also migrants face additional barriers unique to immigration.
- Two federal policy changes were poised to impact victim services in Colorado in 2025: 1) major shifts in immigration policy following the 2024 election; 2) decreases in funding to states for victim services.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Is it possible to detect changes in legal needs and barriers for survivors before and after federal policy changes?

METHODS

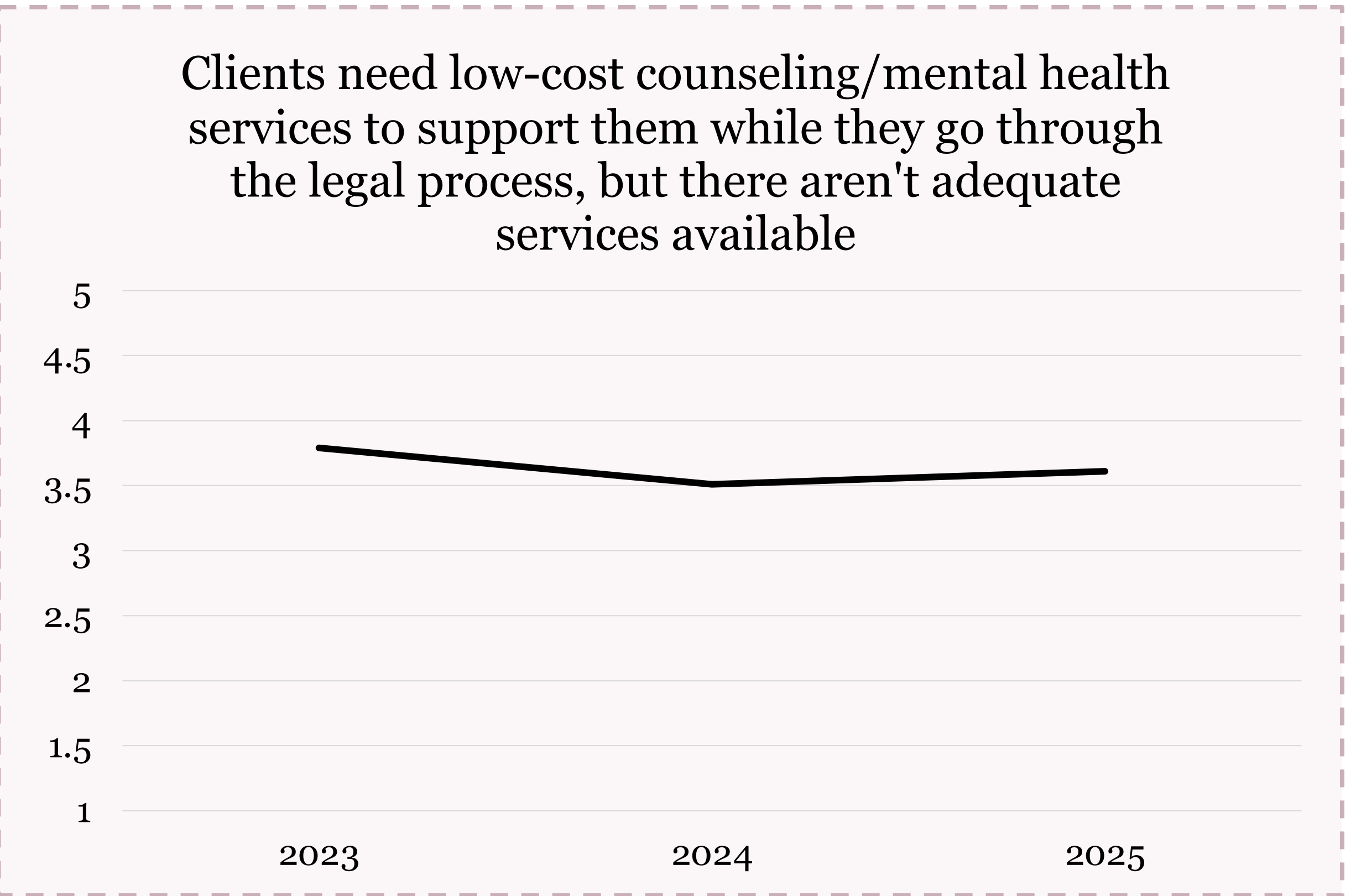
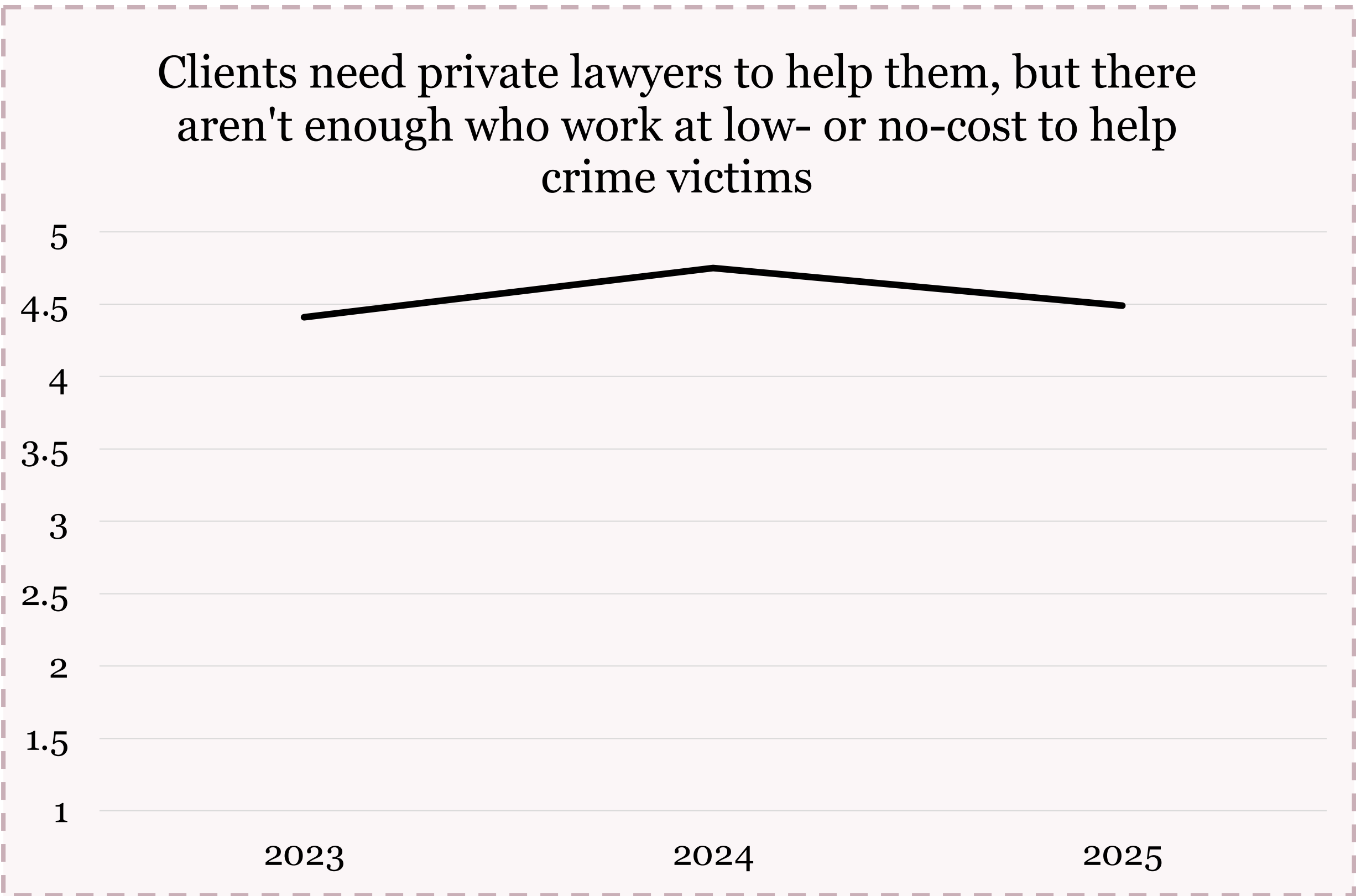
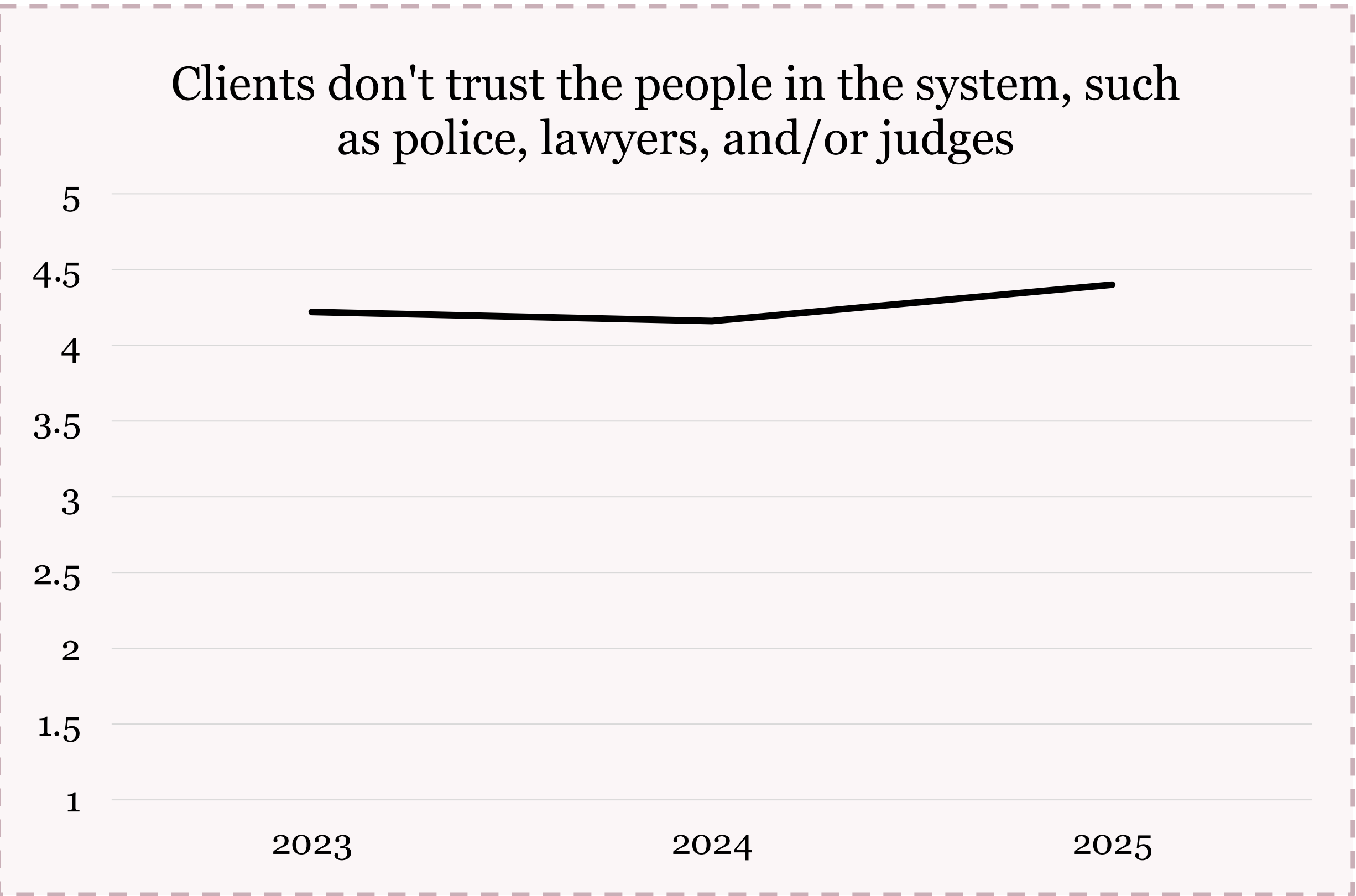
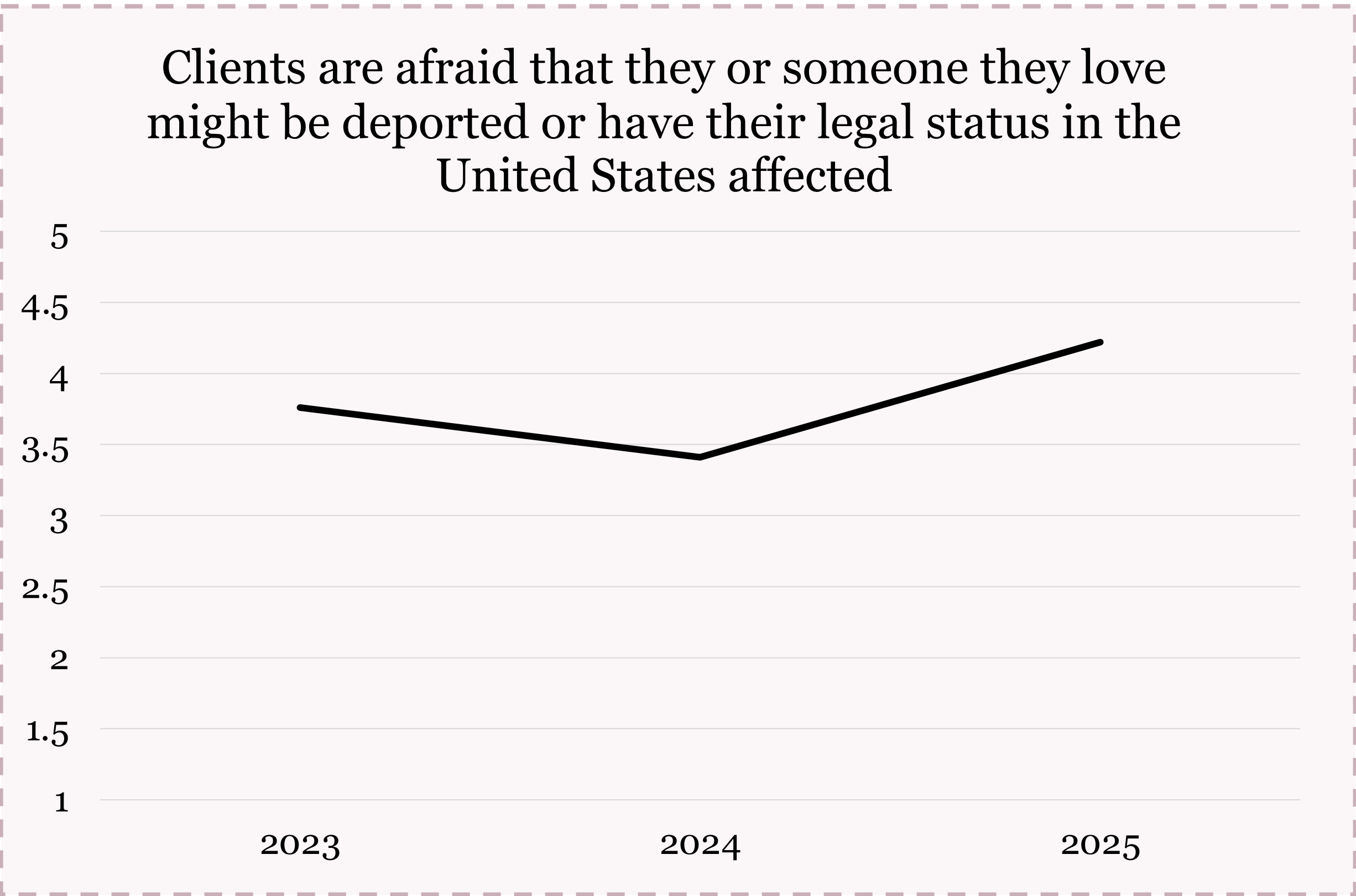
- **Monthly surveys:** n=238 Navigators reported on barrier monthly (2023-2025), rating from 1 (*not a problem*) to 5 (*very big problem*)

ANALYTIC APPROACH

- **Interrupted Time Series Regression** to regress monthly barrier ratings on dummy codes to assess patterns of change from January 2023 to November 2025. See below for data preparation example.

Month	Barrier X	Linear Change	2025 Change
Jan 2023	Mean	1	-1
Feb 2023	Mean	2	-1
...			
Jan 2025	Mean	25	1
Feb 2025	Mean	26	1

Examples of Items that Showed Significant Change in 2025



Barriers Items Tested	Significant Change (+/- represents an increase/decrease in barrier)	
	Over Time	In 2025
Immigration-related Barriers		
Clients are afraid that they or someone they love might be deported or have their legal status in the United States affected.		+
Clients are afraid that their kid(s) will be taken away from them.		+
Clients don't trust the people in the system, such as police, lawyers, and/or judges.		+
Funding-related Barriers		
Clients need private lawyers to help them, but there aren't enough who work at low- or no-cost to help crime victims.	+	-
Clients do not receive enough social support after the crime.	-	+
Clients need low-cost counseling/mental health services to support them while they go through the legal process, but there aren't adequate services available.	-	+
Clients don't receive some or all of their victim compensation even though they are eligible.	-	

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Two kinds of changes detected in provider reports of client barriers: 1) Linear increases and 2) Shifts in 2025.
- Immigration-related barriers were not increasing over time but **worsened** significantly in 2025.
- Funding-related barriers were already worsening over the years; for some barriers, there was also an **increase** in 2025.

IMPLICATIONS

For researchers:

- Interrupted time series methods can be used in psychological sciences to monitor impacts of policy change.
- Partnerships between community agencies & research teams make it possible to evaluate service impacts as they happen.

For community partners:

- Immigration-affirming practices to overcome barriers is important.
- Provider-reported data can capture service-level impacts that support policy change advocacy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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QUESTIONS?

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