

Beyond a Home: Facilitating Socioeconomic Inclusion for Young People Transitioning Out of Homelessness

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What interventions work with young people who have experienced homelessness?



Evidence Finder

Locate and access relevant studies on homelessness interventions.

Version 1.2 Last updated 13/02/2019

Use our Evidence Finder to see where in the world reliable studies have been conducted. Each pin will provide a link to the original study. You can filter the results by population group, study type or year of publication. Some studies may appear on the map in more than one place if they have been conducted in multiple distinct contexts.

The studies from this map come from our **Evidence and Gap Map of Effectiveness Studies** (red pins) and **Implementation Issues** (blue pins). View the reports behind these maps [here](#) and [here](#). We will continue to add new studies as they are identified; if you know of any we have missed please let us know.

<https://www.homelessnessimpact.org/evidence-finder>

FILTERS (3)



Year of publication

2015 – 2019

Population groups

- Discharge from Health Facilities
- Ex-prisoners
- Families with Children
- Migrants
- People with Alcohol/Drug Issues
- People with Complex Needs/Dual Diagnosis
- People with Disabilities
- People with/History of Mental Illness
- Veterans/Ex-services
- Young People



- 5 relevant papers (including 2 reviews)
- 1 with formerly homeless youth (HF intervention)
- 0 with social or economic inclusion as primary outcome

Interventions for promoting reintegration and reducing harmful behaviour and lifestyles in street-connected children and young people (Review)

Coren E, Hossain R, Pardo Pardo J, Bakker B

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- No studies measured the primary outcome of reintegration (equitable social and economic inclusion)

THE LANCET

Volume 391, Issue 10117, 20–26 January 2018, Pages 266-280

What works in inclusion health: overview of effective interventions for marginalised and excluded populations

Serena Luchenski, Nick Maguire, Robert W Aldridge, Andrew Hayward, Alistair Story, Patrick Perri, James Withers, Sharon Clint, Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Nigel Hewett

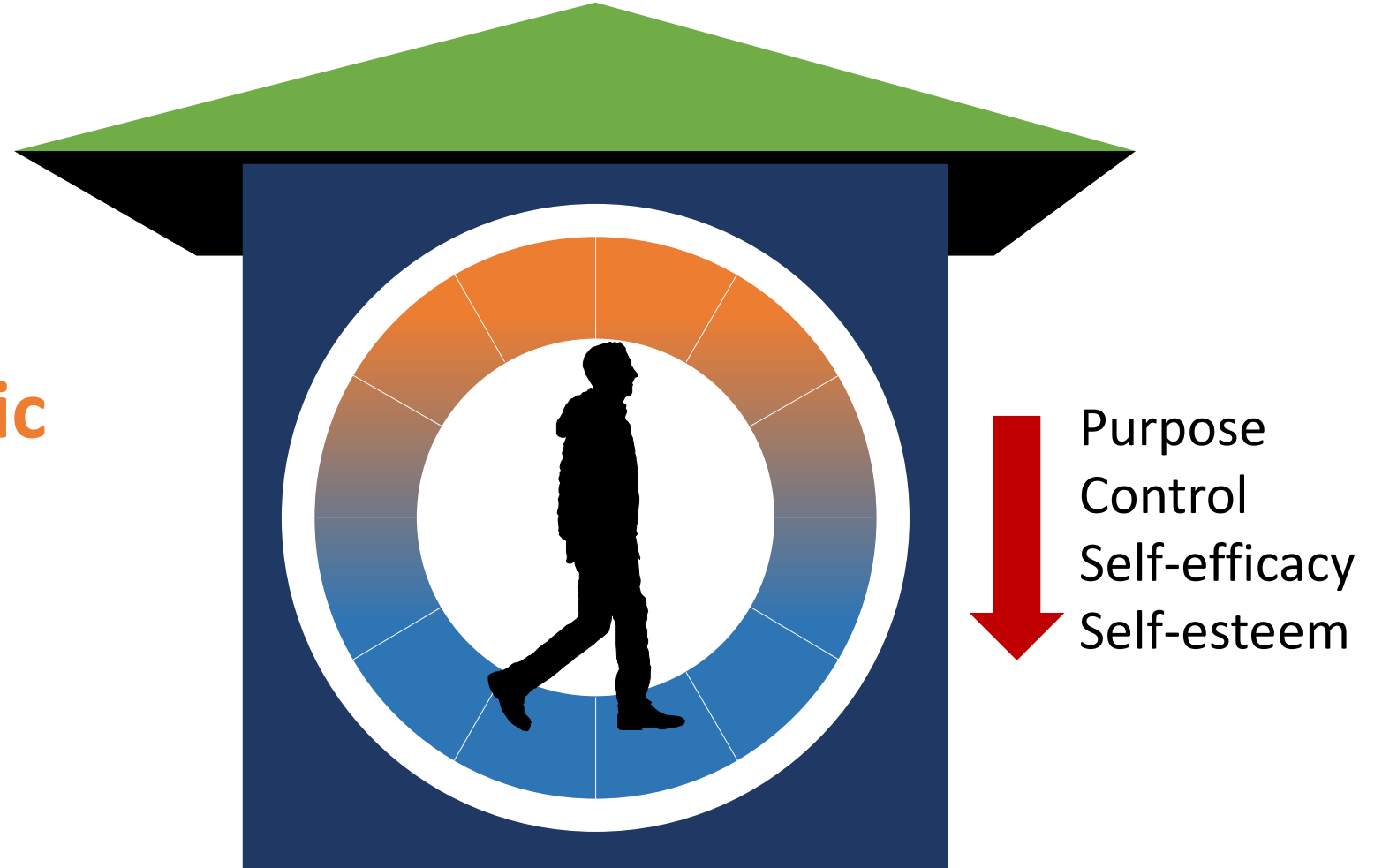
- Little evidence exists on how to promote reintegration and recovery after social exclusion
- Research on how to support socially excluded young people is “urgently needed”

Background

INEQUITIES

Tangible { **Economic**
Social

Intangible **Identity**



Thulien, N.S., Gastaldo, D., Hwang, S.W., & McCay, E. (2018). The elusive goal of social integration: A critical examination of the socioeconomic and psychosocial consequences experienced by homeless young people who obtain housing. *Canadian Journal of Public Health, 109*(1).

Thulien, N.S., Gastaldo, D., McCay, E., Hwang, S.W. (2019). "I want to be able to show everyone that it is possible to go from being nothing in the world to being something": Identity as a determinant of social integration. *Children and Youth Services Review, 96*, 118-126.

Identity

Socially constructed

Malleable

Actions align with identity

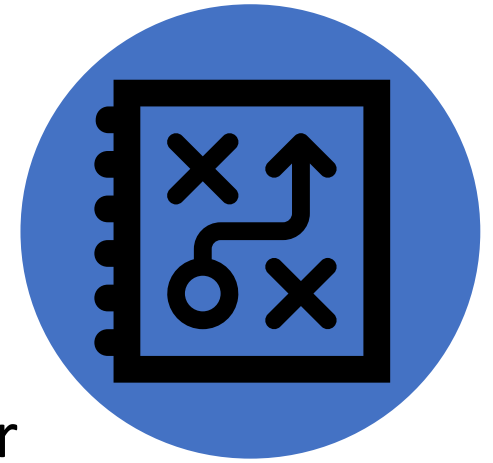
Identity Capital

- ✓ Self-esteem
- ✓ Self-efficacy
- ✓ Control
- ✓ Purpose



Q. Can an **identity capital intervention** delivered outside the social service sector positively impact the **social and economic inclusion** of young people who have experienced homelessness?

Design and Methods



- Recruited by community partner (shelter/drop-in centre)
- Participants must have exited homelessness < three years prior
- Prospective cohort hybrid design (intervention + delayed intervention)
- Mixed methods: quantitative (what worked?) + qualitative (why and how?)
- Quantitative – questionnaires re: social and economic inclusion indicators
- Qualitative – ethnographic study + focus groups
- Quantitative analysis: t-test (statistical significance) + Cohen's d (effect size)
- Qualitative analysis: common themes using equitable social inclusion framework (doctoral work) “lens”

The Identity Project



Week One: Dare to Dream



full-day workshop



15-page workbook



vision board



catered lunch

Weeks Two and Three: Group Coaching



half-day

The Identity Project



Week Four: Strategic Career



full-day workshop



**25-page workbook
3 career/personality
assessments**



**podcast series:
50 industry experts**



catered lunch

Weeks Five and Six: Group Coaching



half-day



Baseline Characteristics

Characteristics	Group 1 (<i>n</i>= 8)	Group 2 (<i>n</i>= 11)
	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)
Age (mean)	23	23
Female gender	6 (75)	5 (46)
Born in Canada	3 (38)	5 (46)
Refugee	1 (13)	0 (0)
Completed high school or more	6 (75)	9 (82)
Social assistance	6 (75)	9 (82)
Attempts to exit homelessness (mean)	2	2
Years away from biological parents (mean)	3	5

Group 1 (intervention) vs Group 2 (no intervention)

Outcome	Group 1 (<i>n</i> =8)	Group 2 (<i>n</i> =10)	<i>d</i>
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	
Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale¹	5.3 (5.1)	0.9 (2.5)	1.2*
Community Integration Scale (Physical)²	1.4 (1.0)	-1.1 (1.7)	1.8*
Community Integration Scale (Psychological)²	0.3 (4.2)	0.1 (2.1)	0.1
Social Connectedness Scale³	1.8 (18.9)	3.2 (9.3)	0.1
Beck Hopelessness Scale⁴	-1.6 (2.5)	-0.5 (3.3)	0.4

**p* < 0.05. Cohen's *d*: 0.2 = small, 0.5 = medium, 0.8 = large

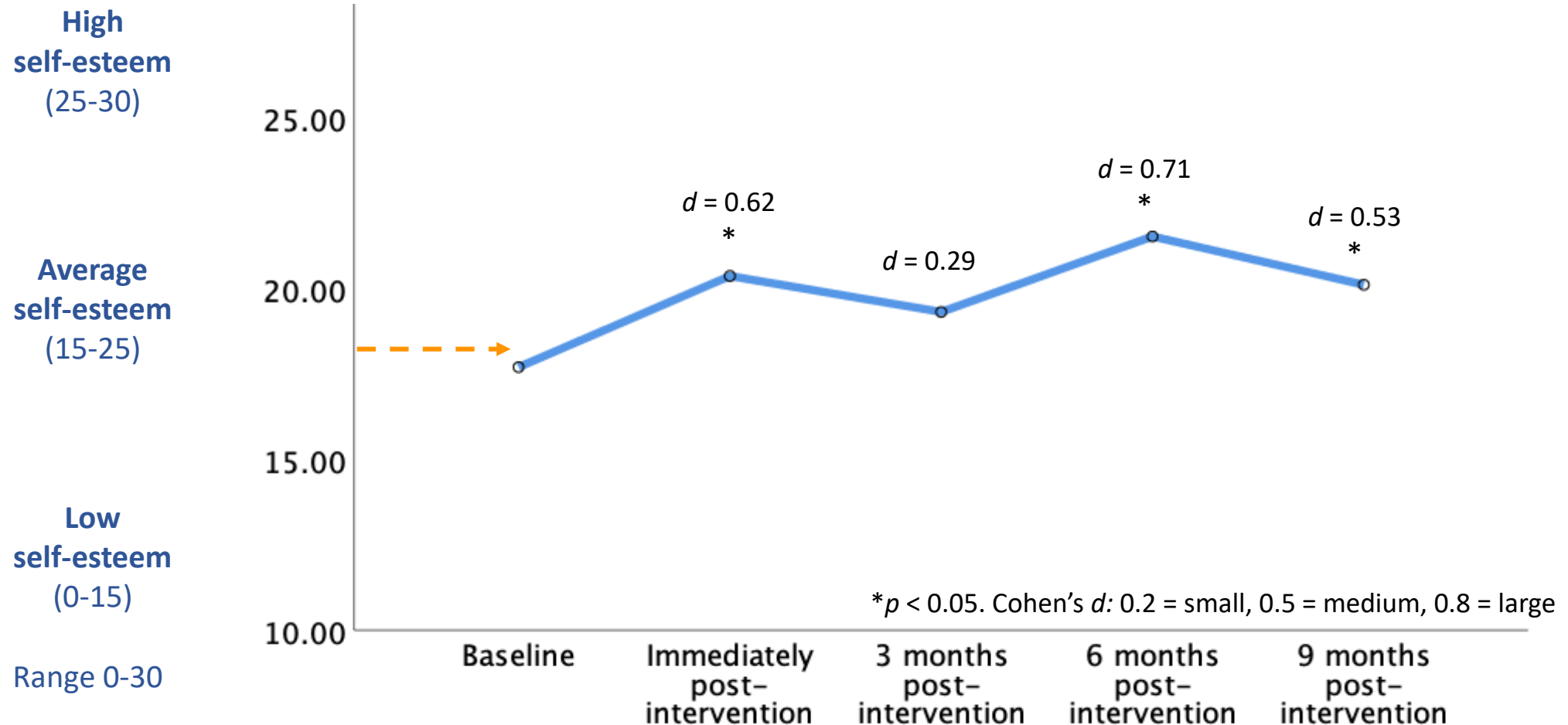
¹Rosenberg, M. (1965). *Society and the adolescent self-image*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

²Aubry T, Myner J. (1996). Community integration and quality of life: a comparison of persons with psychiatric disabilities in housing programs and community residents who are neighbors. *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health*, 15(1):5–20.

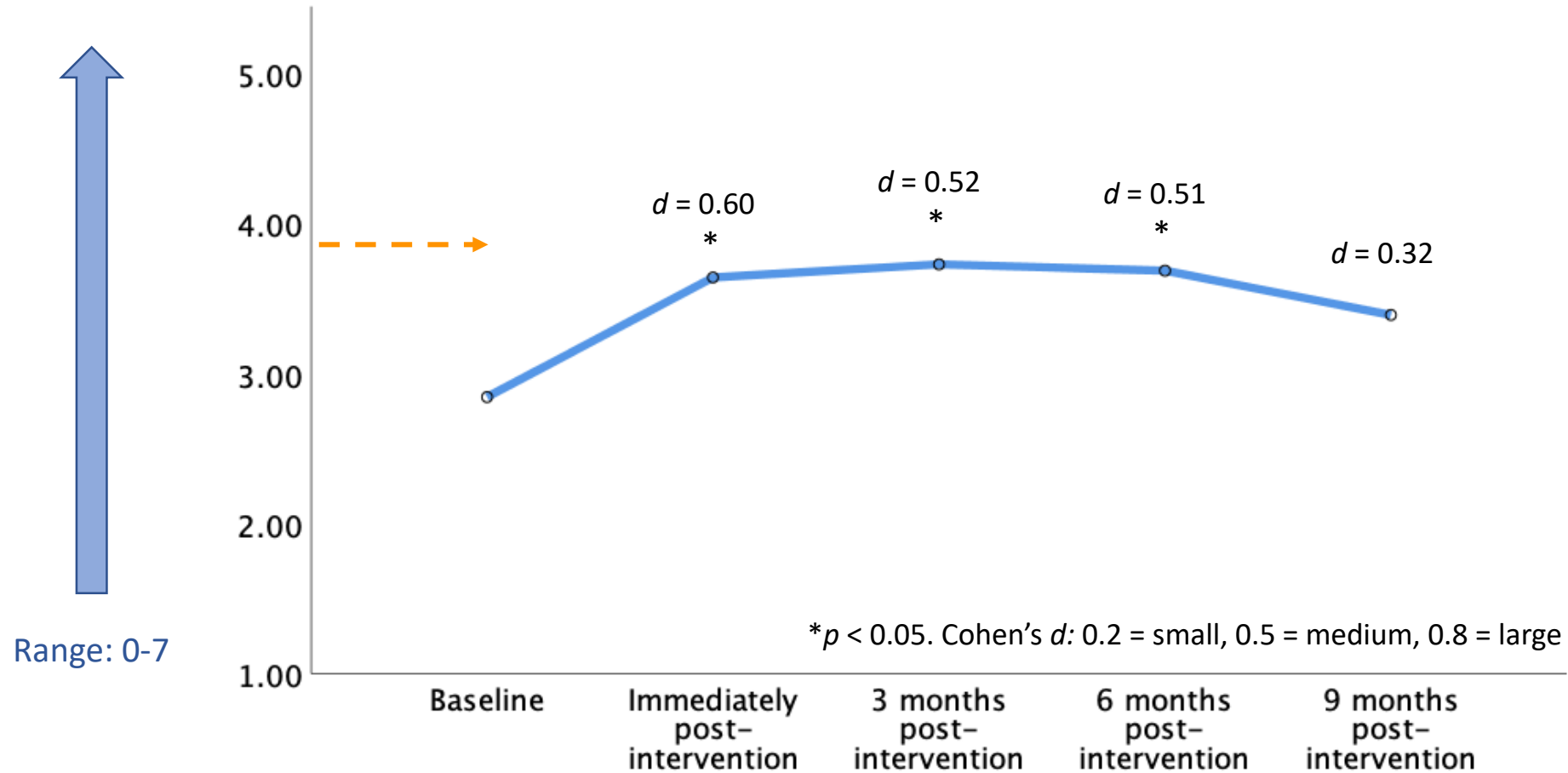
³Lee, R. M., Draper, M., & Lee, S. (2001). Social connectedness, dysfunctional interpersonal behaviors, and psychological distress: Testing a mediator model. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 48(3), 310.

⁴Beck, A. T., Weissman, A., Lester, D., & Trexler, L. (1974). The measurement of pessimism: The hopelessness scale. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 41(6), 639–660.

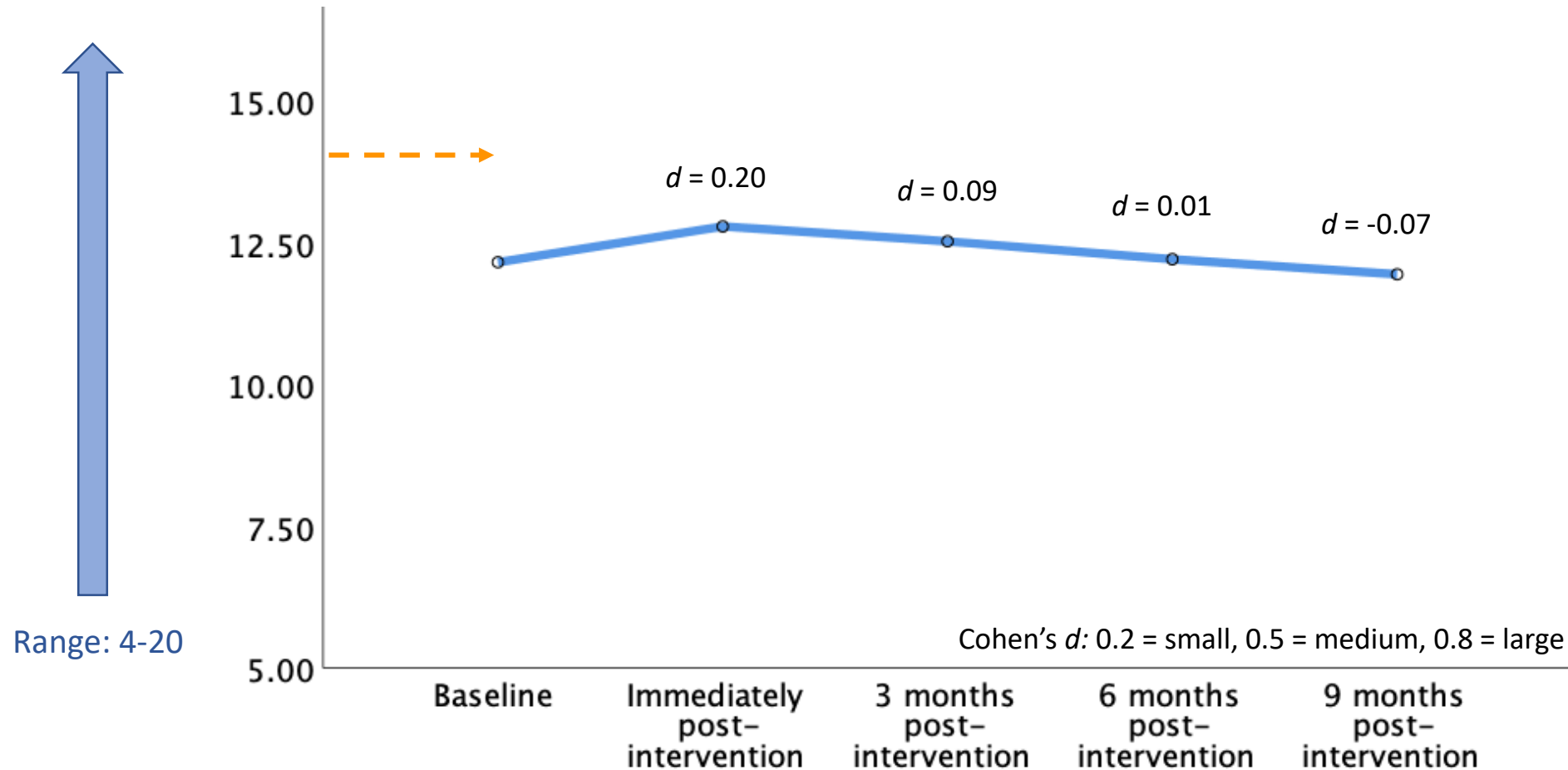
Self-Esteem



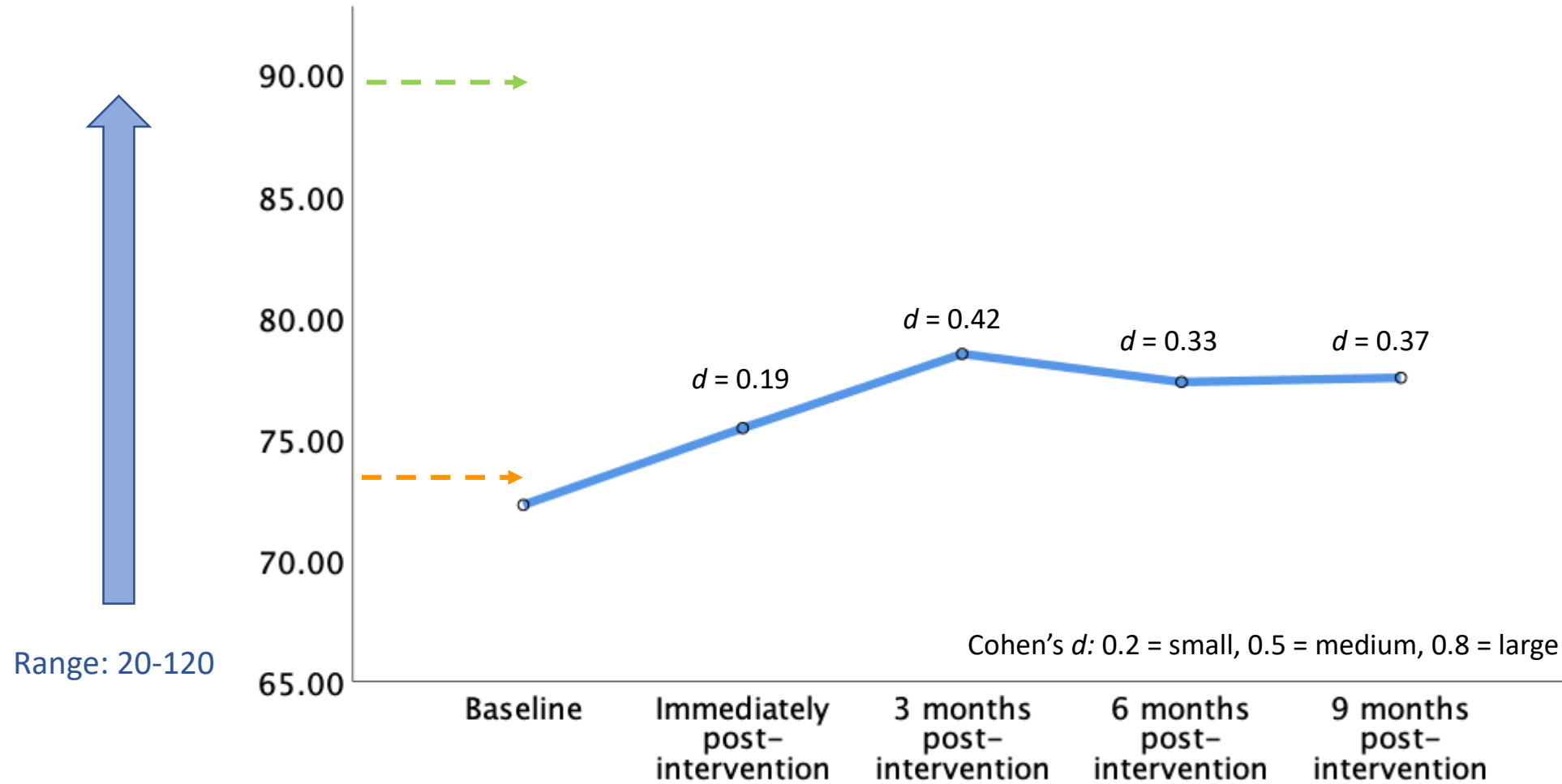
Physical Community Integration



Psychological Community Integration



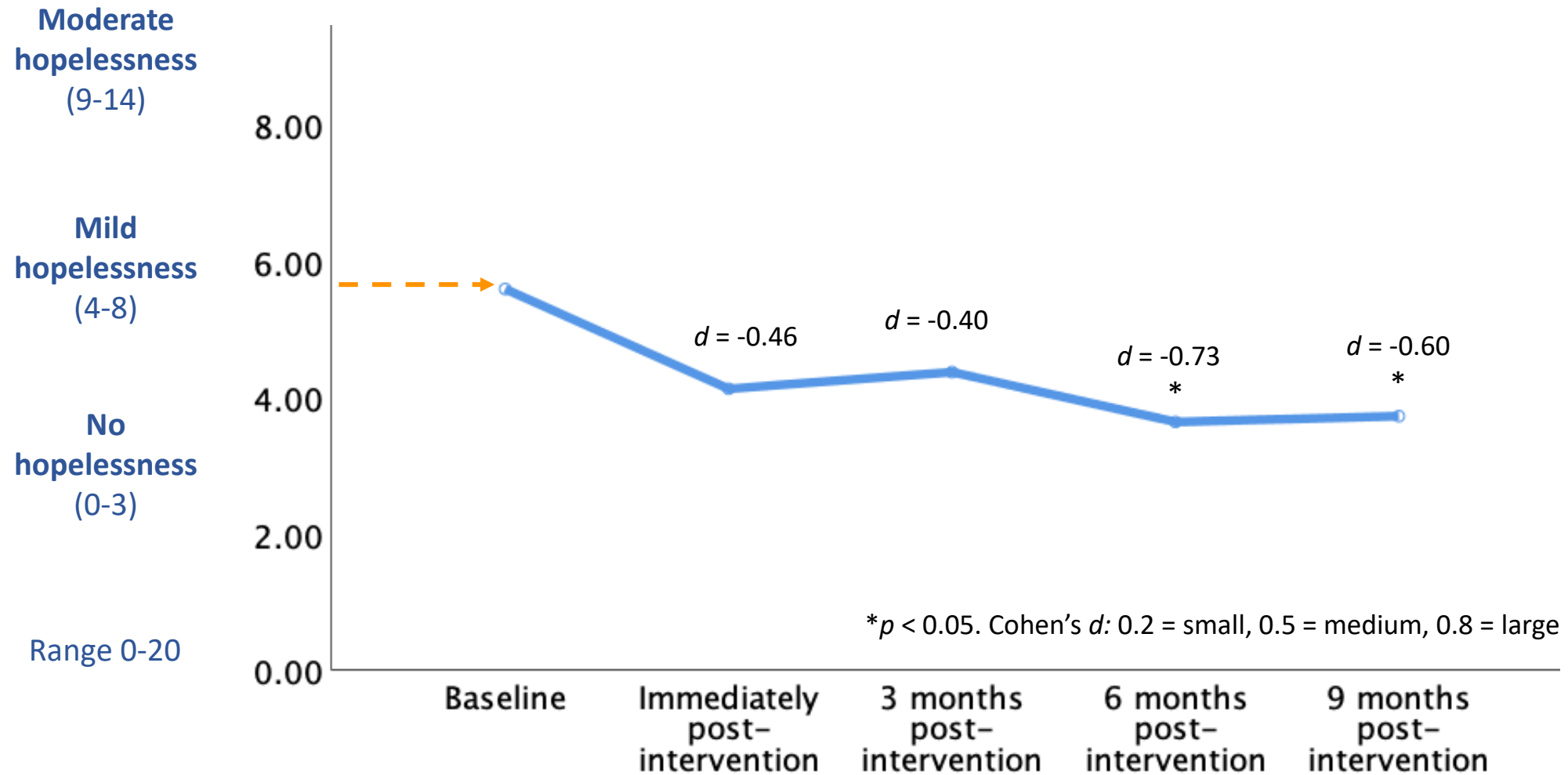
Social Connectedness



Lee et al. (2001)

Beattie et al., (2018)

Hopelessness



Other Socioeconomic Inclusion Indicators

Outcome	Baseline (<i>n</i> =19)	9 Months Post-Intervention (<i>n</i> =18)
Education	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)
Enrolled in secondary education	4 (21)	1 (6)*
Enrolled in post-secondary education	4 (21)	7 (39)
Employment		
Full-time (> 30 hours/week)	3 (16)	2 (11)
Part-time (< 30 hours/week)	6 (32)	5 (28)
Training (any time during study)	1 (5)	3 (17)
Employment Income (mean)	\$1,356	\$1,146
Housed	19 (100)	18 (100)

*Three youth completed secondary education during the follow-up period

Vision for Life

Reaffirming Potential

I don't feel like the shelter is what I represent. I felt like I was downgraded. Going to this program helped boost up my self-esteem again. ~ Dominic (Group 1, FG 2)

- Low program expectations
- Vision board
- Space matters



(Re)gaining Control

My main takeaway is that I am the master of my own future. I feel lots more in control. I'm in the driver's seat. ~ Nayah (Group 2, FG 1)

- Car of life
- Tangible goals vs. positive fantasizing



Reconstructing Identity

Past as an Asset

Because I was able to focus on something changeable and see results, see my own progress, it took away any internalized stigma from the past. The past is still a defining factor in my identity, but it suddenly kind of switched in the program as being an asset as opposed to something that is like a weight. ~ April (Group 1, FG 2)

- Failure a prerequisite to success (grit)



Internal (vs. external) Control

Before, I needed to have support from my worker or some other person [to make decisions]. But now, I'm doing it by myself... Now I see myself in the car, like in the driver's seat and I feel proud of myself. Like, I see myself there. ~ Katherine (Group 2, FG 2)

- Daily schedule (new – *need vision first)
- Having a better life vs. “getting better”



Conclusion

1. Promising intervention


- Statistically significant improvements and large effect sizes in self-esteem and physical community integration in Group One (intervention) compared to Group Two (no intervention) immediately post-intervention
- Pooled data: statistically significant improvements and moderate effect sizes in self-esteem and hopelessness six and nine months post-intervention
- Pooled data: small to moderate effect sizes in self-esteem, physical community integration, and hopelessness at all time points (*aligns with qualitative findings)
- Pooled data: some enrolled in post-secondary education and all remained housed

2. Purpose and personal control key to meaningful social (and ultimately economic) inclusion

3. Limitations

- Small sample
- Specific context
- Atypical baseline education
- No change in income (all still living in poverty)

Recommendations

1. Housing-focused (tangible)  Identity-focused (intangible)
 - ✓ self-esteem
 - ✓ self-efficacy
 - ✓ internal locus of control
 - ✓ purpose in life
2. Trauma-informed care = Identity-informed care
3. Consider adding occupational therapist to team
4. Consider partnerships with established private sector programs
5. More interventions targeting social and economic inclusion!!

Socioeconomic Inclusion

- ✓ A person that has your back
- ✓ A place to stay
- ✓ A dream

~ Summer (Group 2, FG 4)



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