



Reducing the incidence of domestic violence: An observational study of an equine-assisted intervention



Ann Hemingway & Kez Sullivann

NB. the participant pictured was not part of the study cohort



TheHorseCourse

This paper is presenting results from an observational study measuring the impact of an equine-assisted education (EAE) intervention on the future occurrence of domestic violence within the family over 1 year following completion of the intervention as part of the troubled families program.





Reducing the incidence of domestic
violence:

An observational study of an equine-
assisted intervention

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/famp.12768>

<https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12768>



**WINNER OF
THE REGIONAL CHARITY AWARD**

<https://www.thehorsecourse.org/>

Troubled Families Data

- ▶ Central government strategy in the UK
- ▶ Families with 2 or more:

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA)

Worklessness

School absence

Vulnerable children

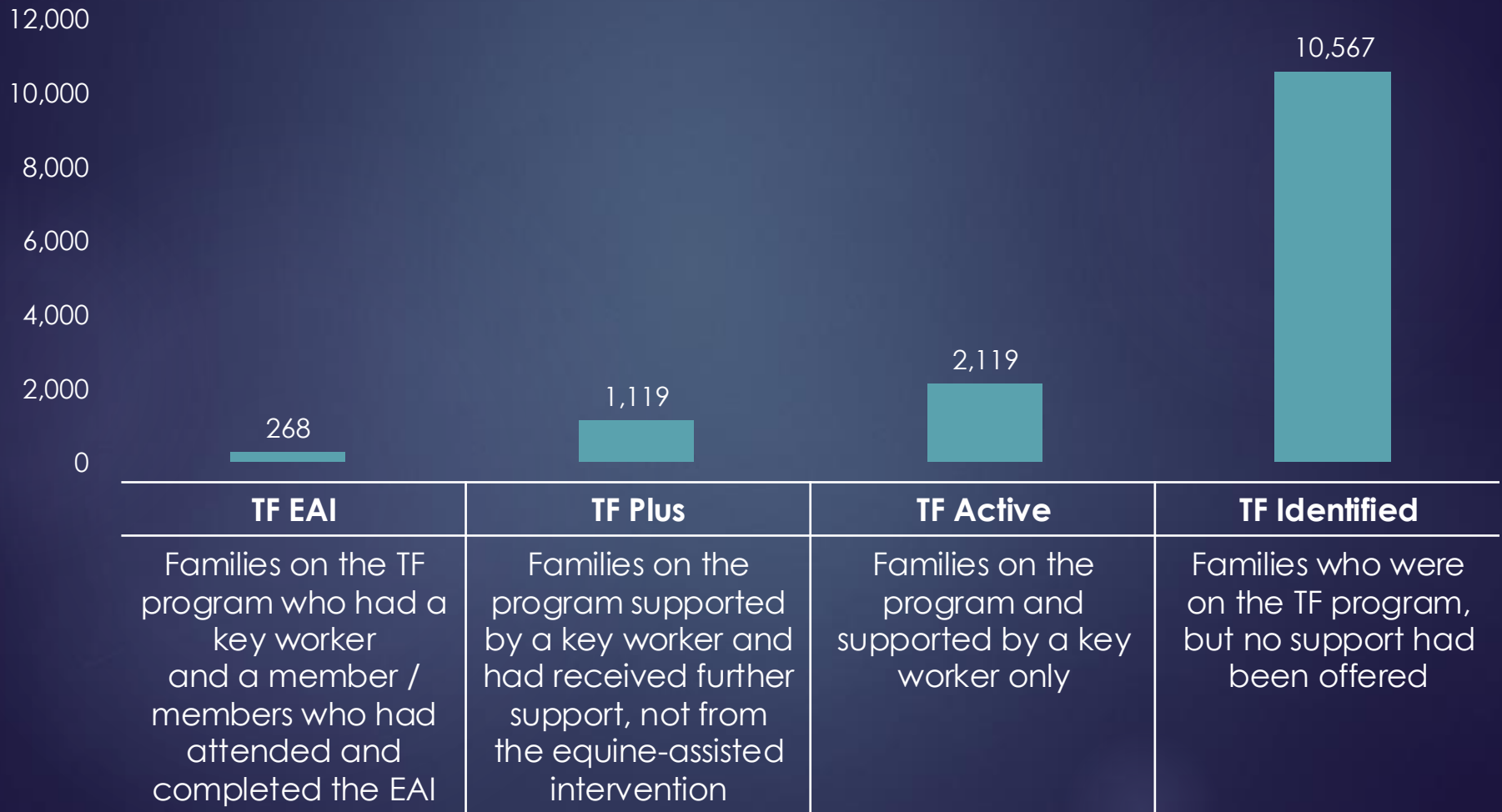
Mental & physical health

Offending

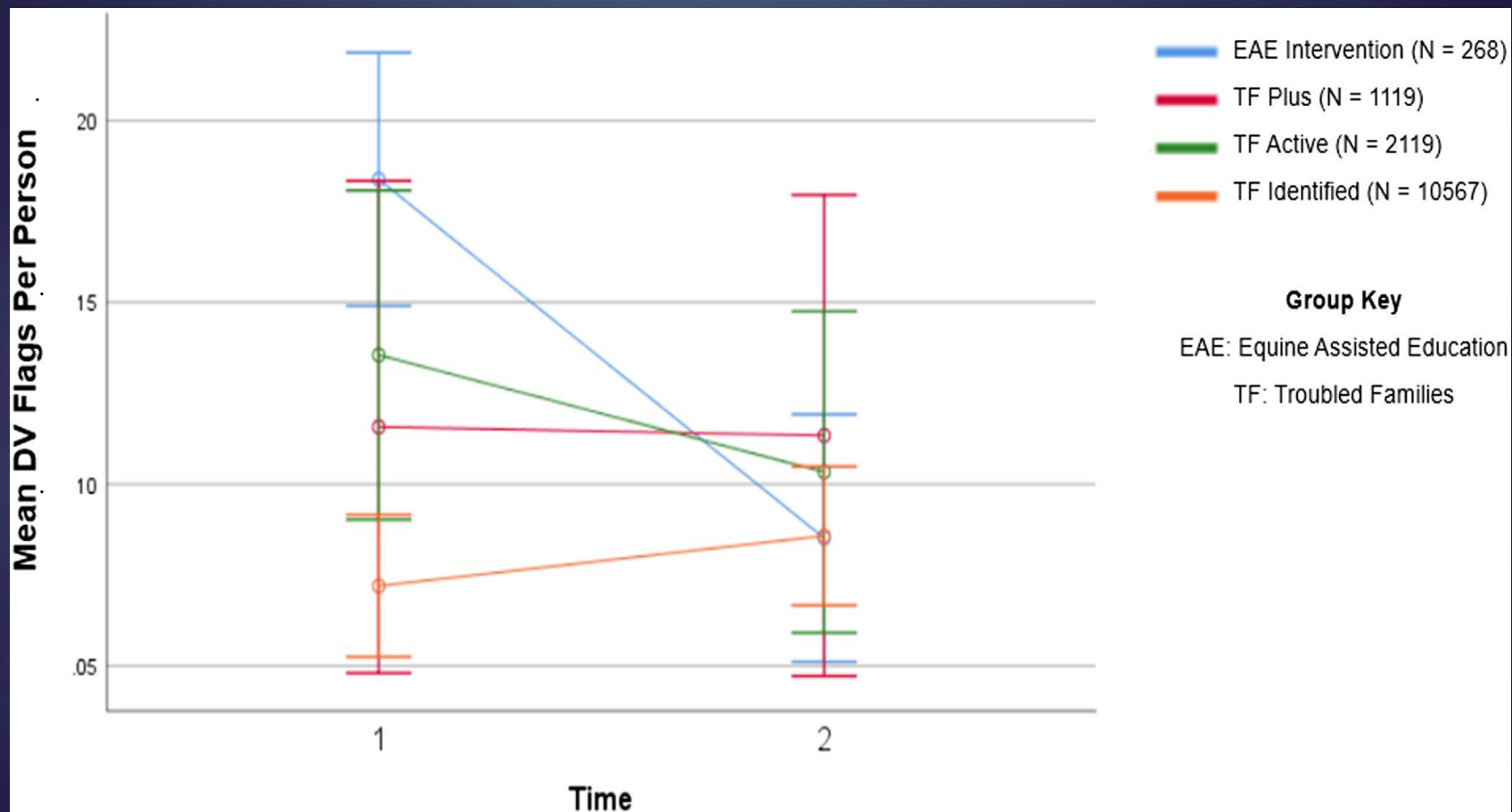
Drug & alcohol abuse

- ▶ Data collected by the Local Authority, crime, health and social care data
- ▶ Gained BU Ethics

The data were analysed and compared across four groups:

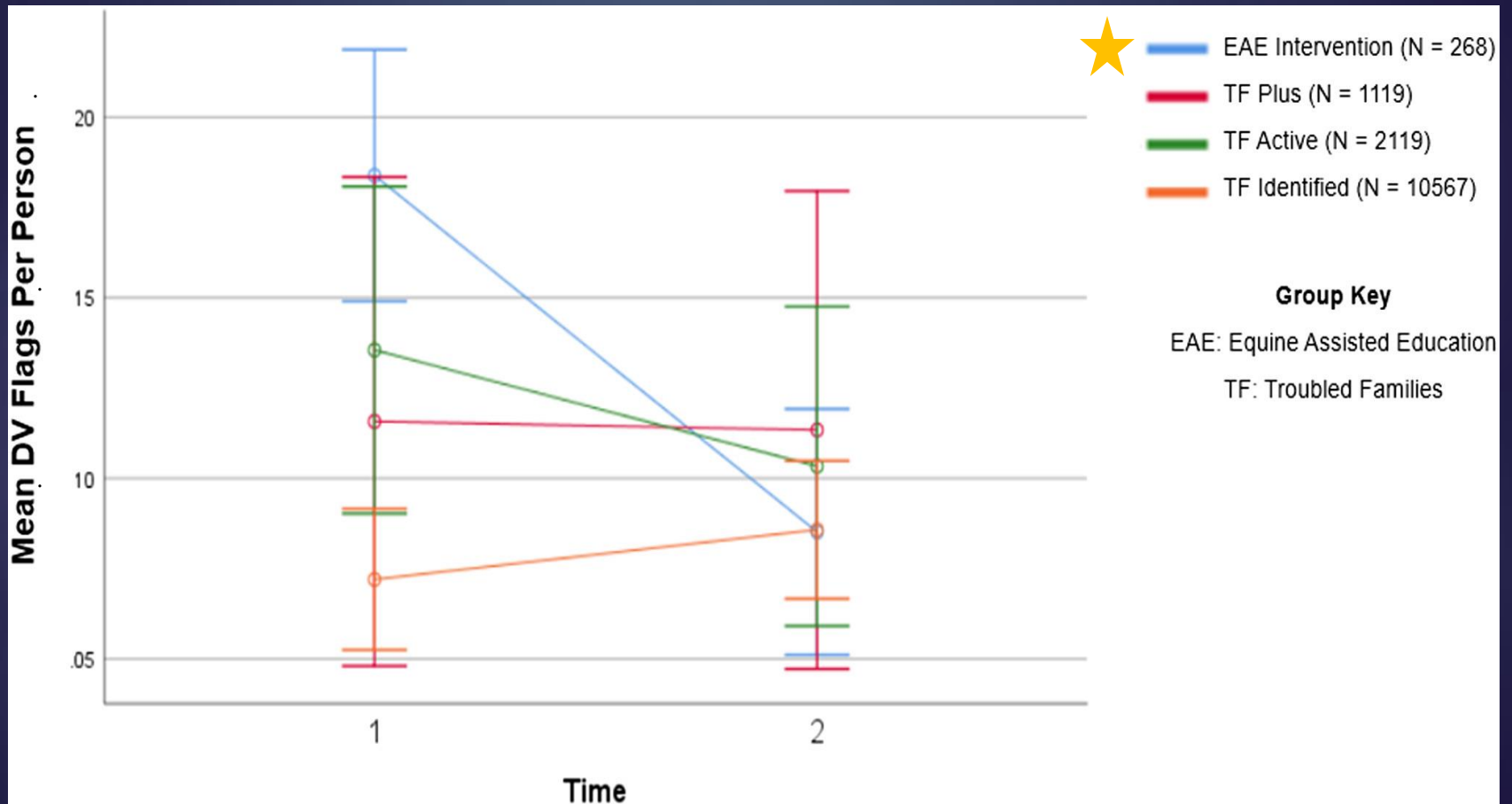


Results:



Results:

Significant reductions in DVA and child in need status were found for those families who had a member or members attend and complete the equine-assisted intervention.



Results:

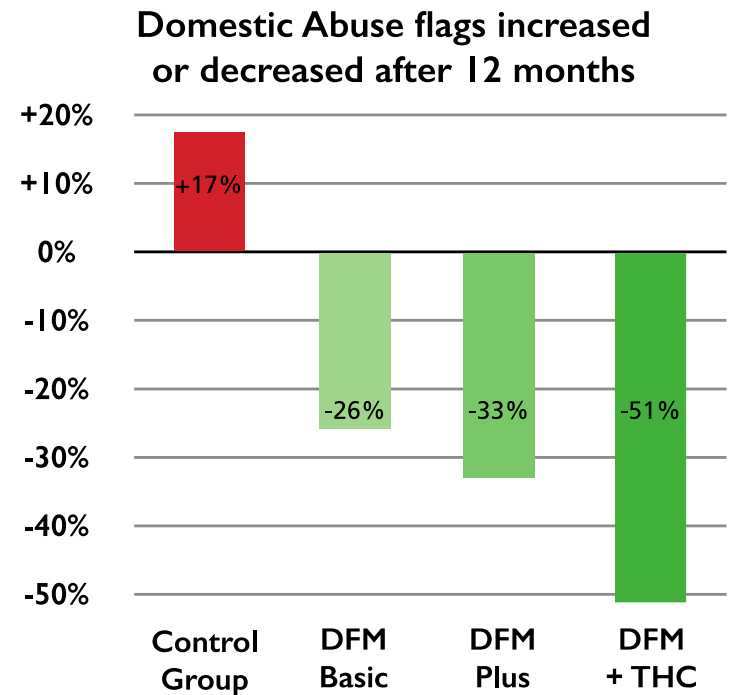
- Those families referred to the equine-assisted intervention also had significantly more complex needs than those in the other groups.
- Referrals to this intervention are normally for those families for whom talk-based interventions such as parenting, or education-based interventions are not working.



DVA Findings

Likelihood of experiencing domestic violence for families who had no intervention **increased by 17%** compared to a **51% decrease** for the EAE group

	Total in group	DV flag pre-	DV flag post-	Increase / Decrease	
Control	10567	720	839	119	+17%
DFM Basic	2119	371	276	-95	-26%
DFM Plus	1119	193	130	-63	-33%
DFM + THC	268	49	24	-25	-51%



Statistical significance: A significant interaction was found between time and group ($p < 0.05$)



TheHorseCourse



The Intervention



A 4 minute video is also available at
www.thehorsecourse.org



TheHorseCourse



NB. the participants pictured were not part of the study cohort

The experiences of children and parents attending....

Quotes showed that parents felt that **being able to witness the changes** in their children from observing the intervention and **the reflective discussions** really helped with the change process for parents and children.

In addition, as parents are normally present during the intervention, they too **had their own experience** of what they had seen and what they had witnessed their child do.

Parents described a significance in seeing something that enabled belief in the **possibility of change** for the family.

The study found that 4 overall themes emerged from their experiences:



Change as a Journey



Seeing is Believing



A Chance to Shine



Making Connections

Watson, S. 2019. Making sense of change in an equine assisted intervention. PhD Thesis
Canterbury Christ Church University Salomons Centre for Applied Psychology

<https://repository.canterbury.ac.uk/item/89151/making-sense-of-change-in-an-equine-assisted-intervention>



TheHorseCourse



NB. the participant pictured was not part of the study cohort



TheHorseCourse