COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM EVALUATION

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A2J Lab

OVERVIEW

- Community Diversion Program

- Quantitative Study

- Questions

LIFE OF THE PROGRAM

- 1752 Males Referred – 1238 were Black (71%)
- 851 Female Referred – 559 were Black (66%)
- Top 3 Charges Referred:
  - Obstructing Official Business (971 Cases – 26%)
  - Disorderly Conduct (828 Cases – 22%)
  - Resisting Arrest (318 Cases – 8%)
- 67 Different Types of Charges Referred
- All 7 Judges Referring

DIVERSION PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS: 2024
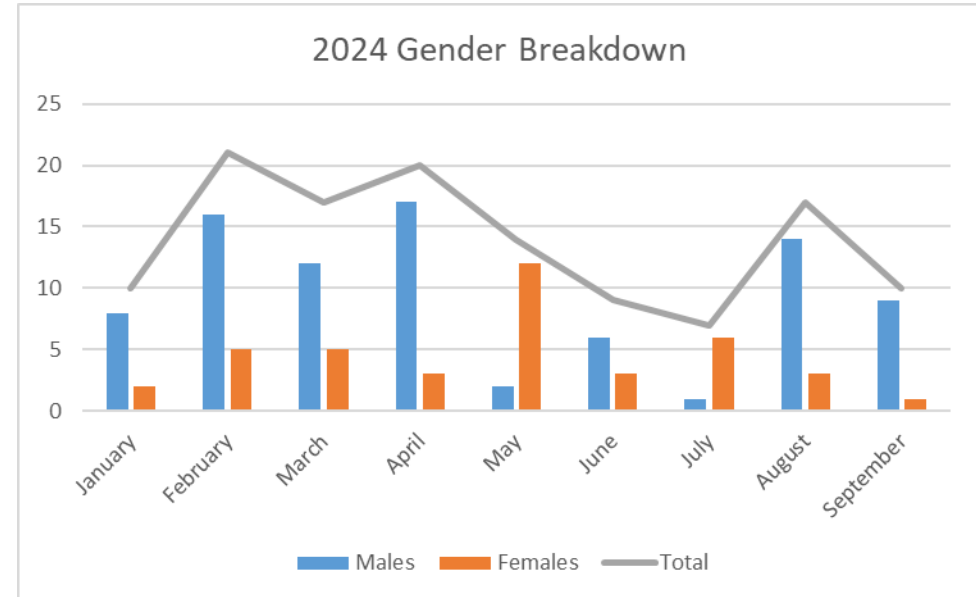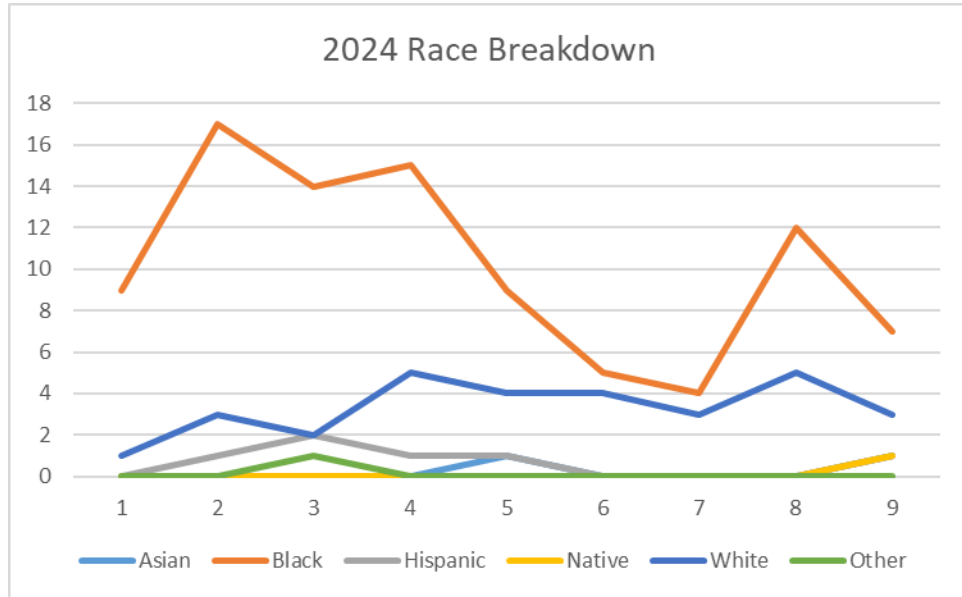
# THE EVALUATION

A randomized control trial

THE PROBLEM(S)

1) How do we handle repeat offenders when those offenses are low-level and typically receive no probation or jail sentence?

2) Interest in deploying diversion, but little rigorous research to know it works.

3) If it doesn't work, what is the answer?

RESEARCH QUESTION

- **Hypothesis**: If persistent low-level offenders participate in the Diversion program, recidivism will decrease and housing and employment stability will increase.

- **Study Population**: individuals eligible for the diversion program
  - Repeat low-level offenders;
  - Who typically receive no jail or probation sentence;
  - Referred by the prosecutor to the Diversion program;
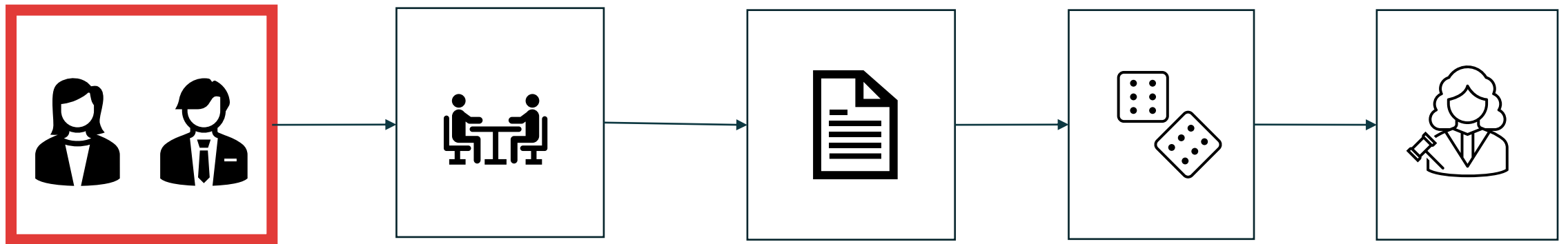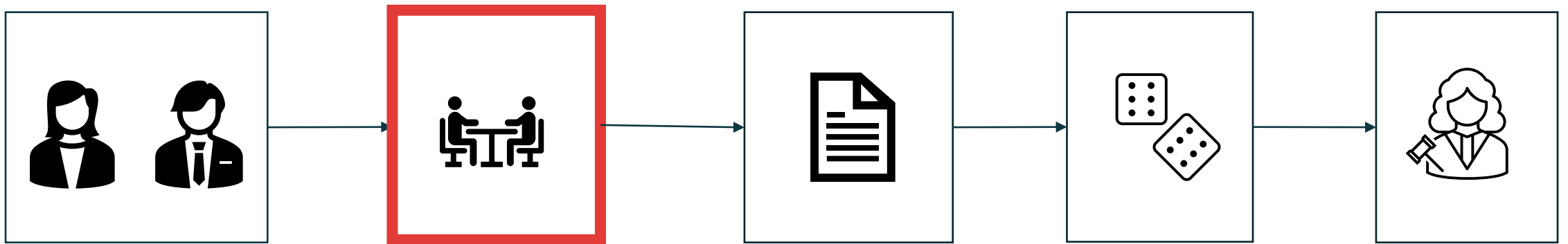 - That plead no contest

THE RCT
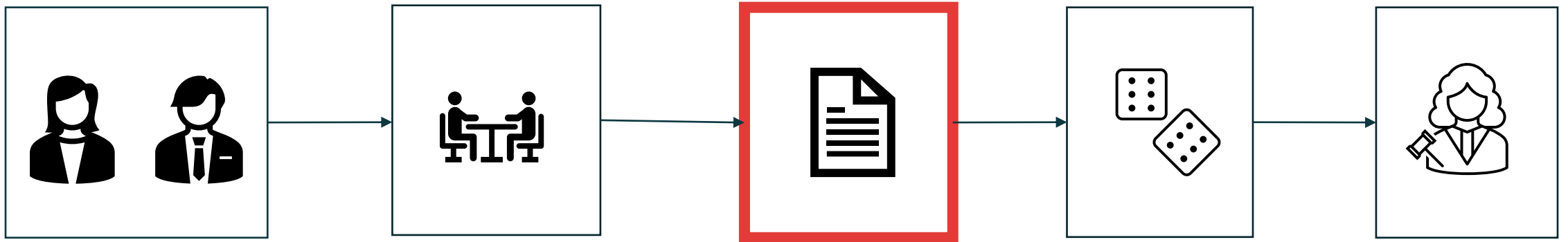
STUDY DESIGN
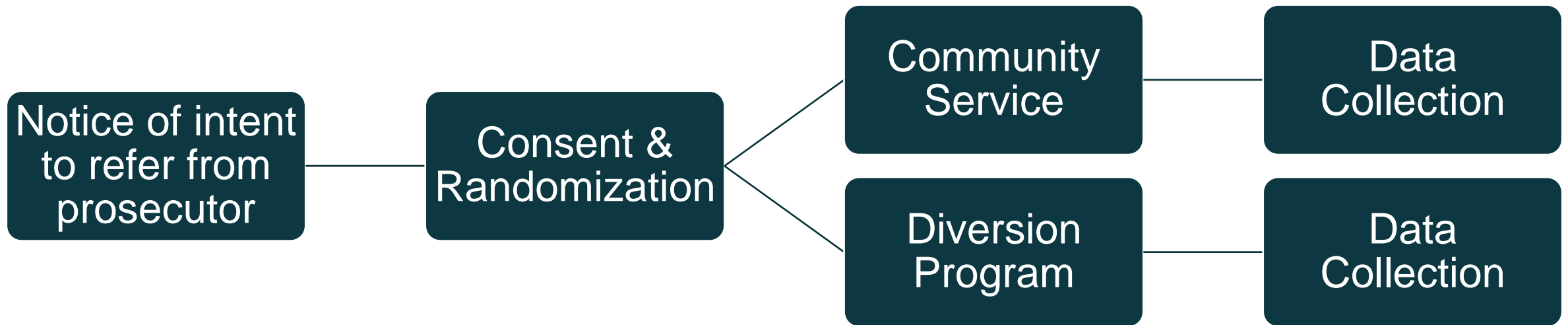
DETAILED STUDY PROCESS
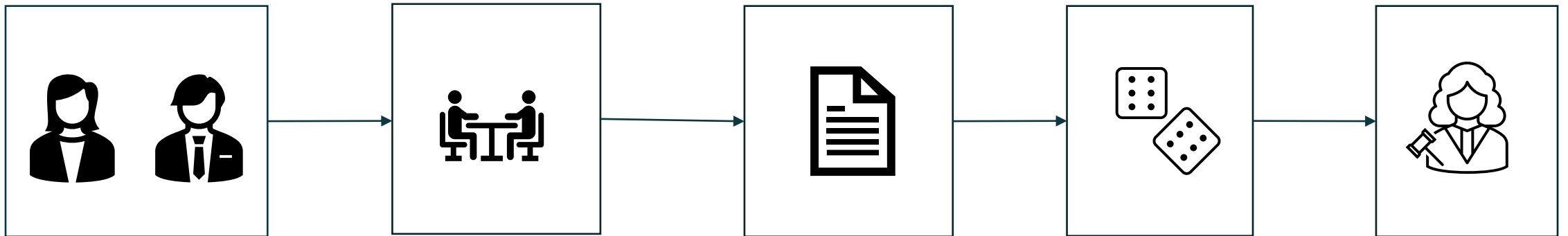
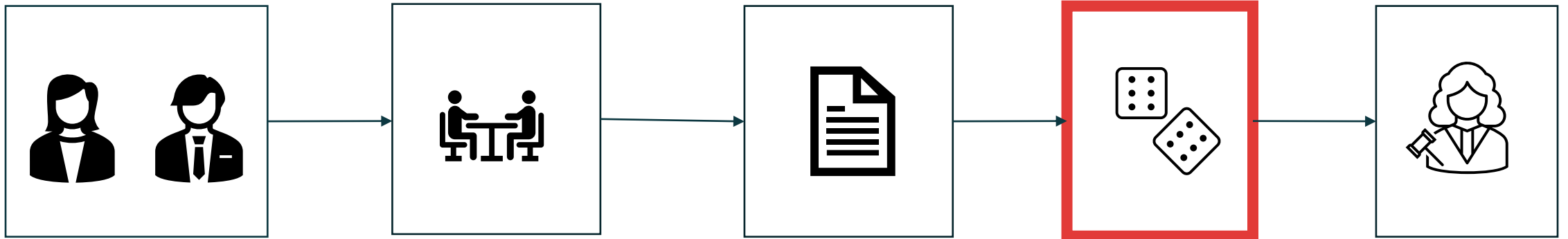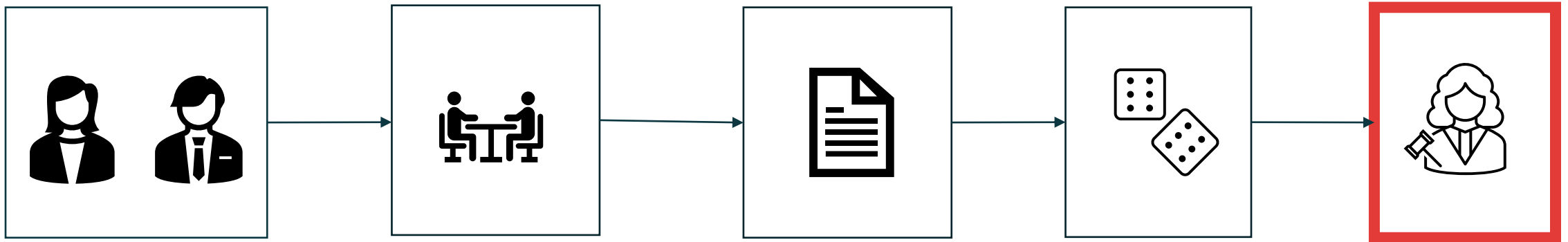# DETAILED STUDY PROCESS

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OUTCOMES

- **Primary**:
  - whether the diversion program reduces recidivism, especially for repeat low-level offenses, and

  - whether the connection with community-based resources is strong enough to improve housing and employment stability

DATA COLLECTION

Outcome Variable	Administrative Data Source
Decreased Recidivism	Any arrest in the follow up period; Court Record Data
Increased Housing Stability	Frequency of contact with the HMIS; HMIS record data
Increased Employment Stability	Actual employment & frequency of job change; OH DOL (unemployment insurance records)

THANKS!

QUESTIONS?

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