

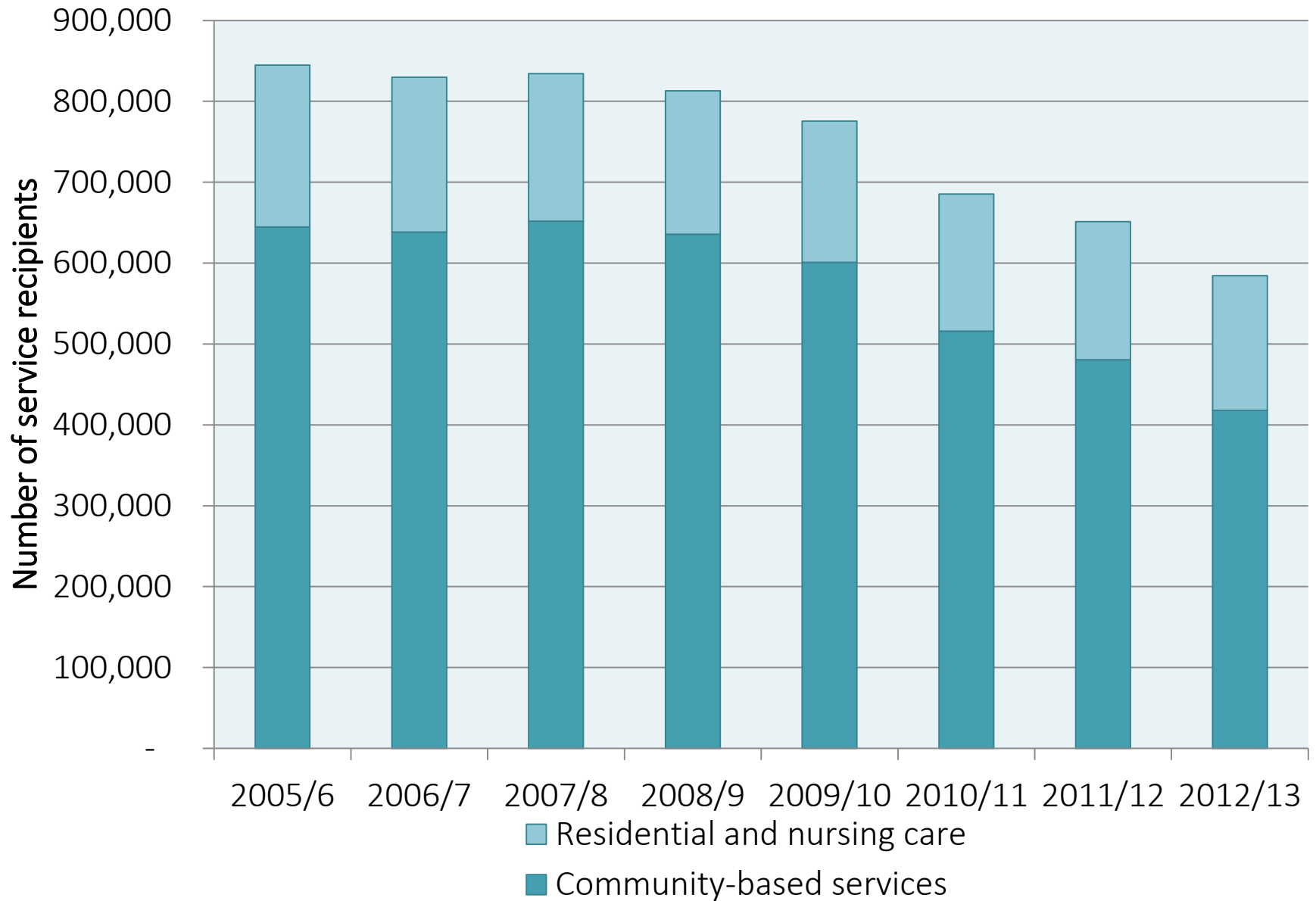
Matching methods to evidence for evaluating the outcomes of prevention in social care

Jose-Luis Fernandez

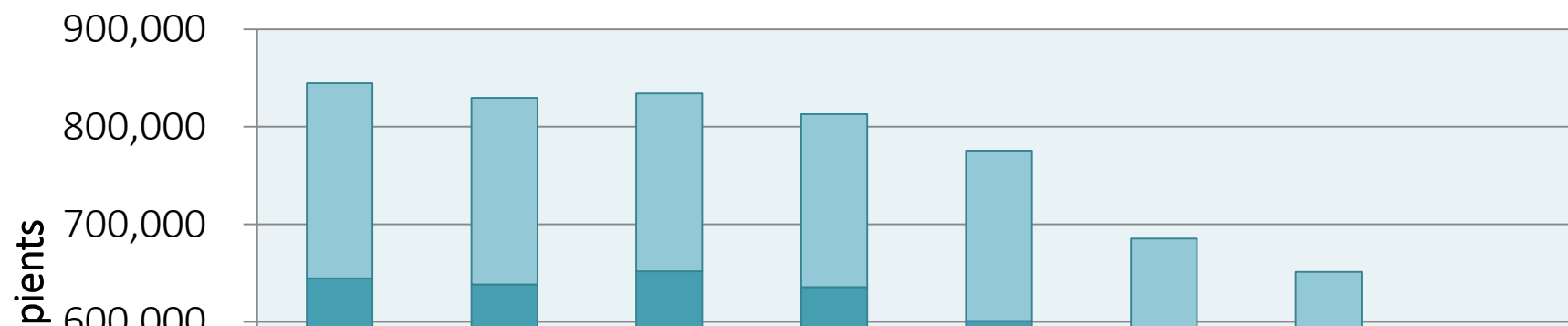
Joanna Marczak

Gerald Wistow

Total older social care recipients by service type in England



Total older social care recipients by service type in England



It is more important than ever to *use resources cost-effectively*

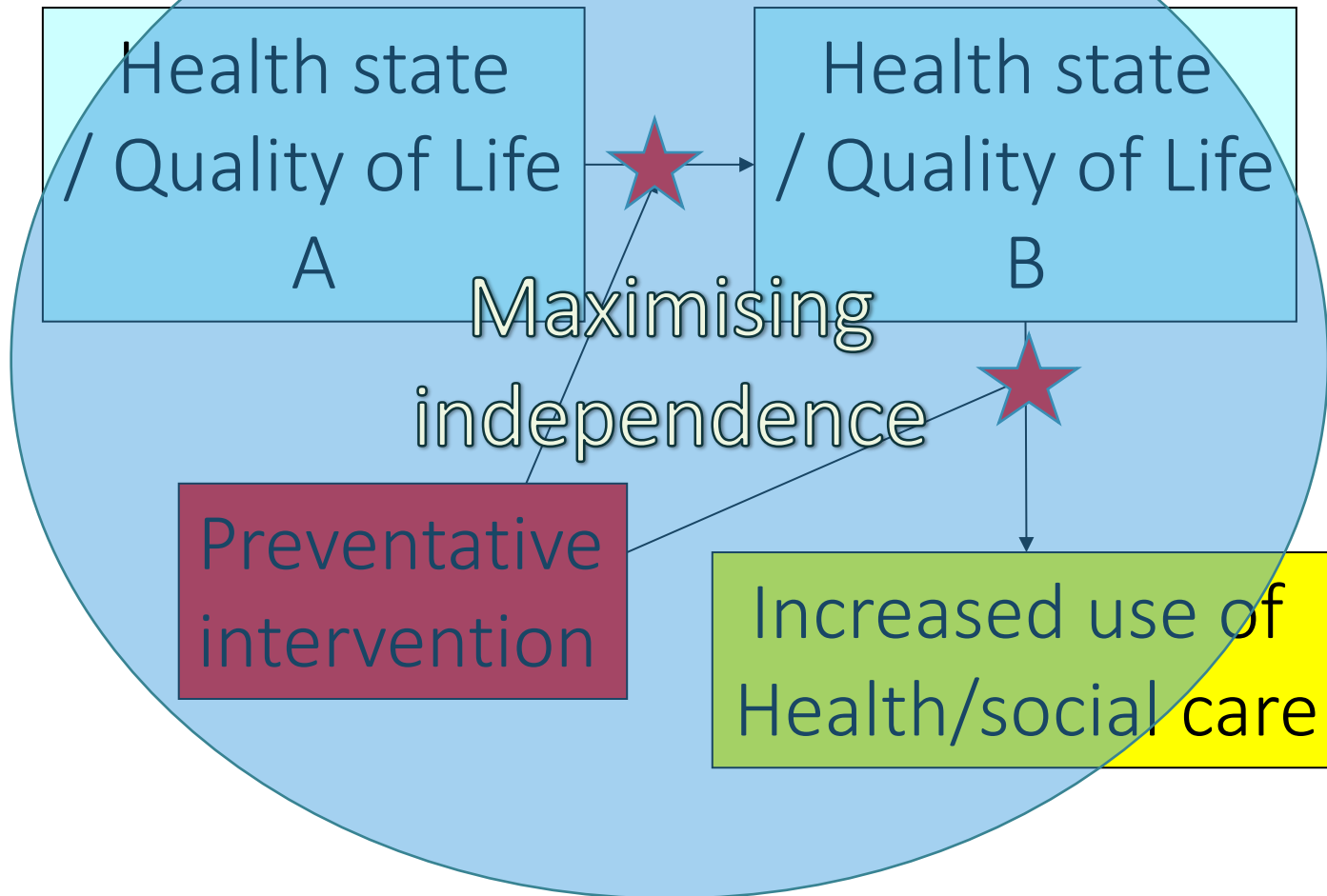
Prevention attractive because it promises *improved wellbeing, health and quality of life* at the same time as *reduced need for services* and lower costs

Will prevention save the day?

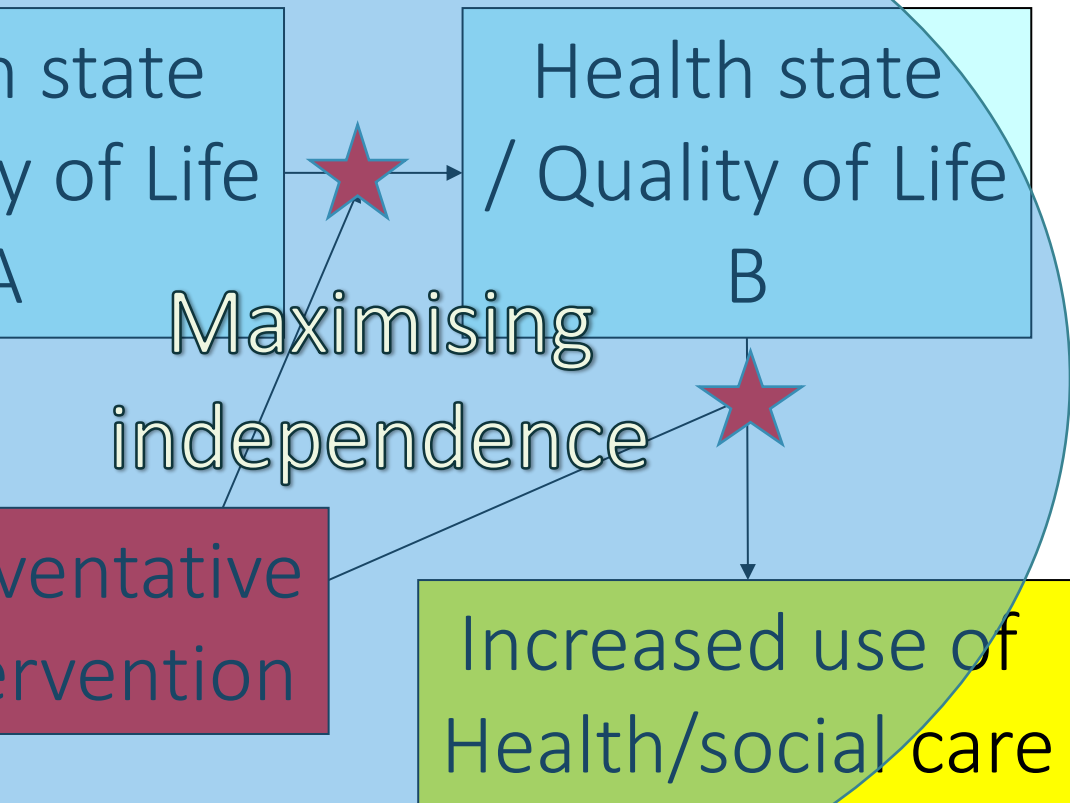
Aims of the presentation

- *what do we mean* by prevention?
- what are the *challenges* of assessing prevention?
- prevention and *the next few years...*

Prevention “outcomes”



Prevention “outcomes”



- The concept of prevention can be muddled (e.g. cost savings vs. improved quality of life)
- Might require changes in other services (e.g. reductions in acute activity)
- Is potentially relevant to all social care activity
- Is as much about how services are delivered as which services are provided
- The key is to understand *what works for whom*, and *how*

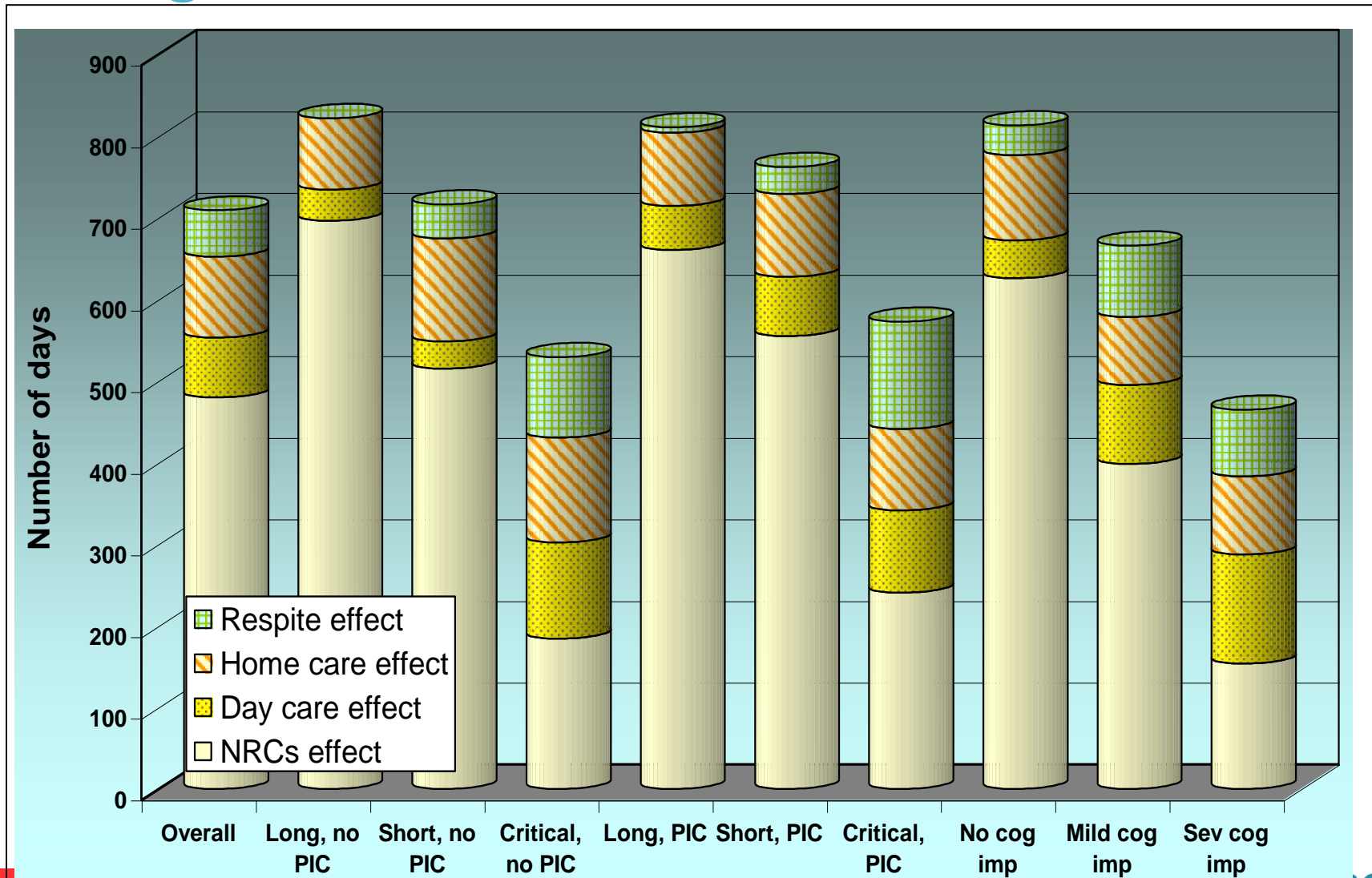
Challenges of evaluating prevention in social care

Heterogeneity of social care needs

- Physical health / disability
 - Problems with Activity of Daily Living (ADLs)
 - *Instrumental activities of daily living (housework, cooking...)*
 - *Core personal activities of daily living (washing, feeding...)*
 - Social construction of dependency
- Mental health
 - Cognitive impairment
 - Depression
- Informal support networks
 - Amount of support
 - Nature of the interrelationship
 - Informal carers as resources and co-clients
- Other environmental factors
 - Housing
 - Safety
- Personal traits
 - Self assurance
 - Aggressiveness



Services and Risk Factors Contributions to Days Living at Home



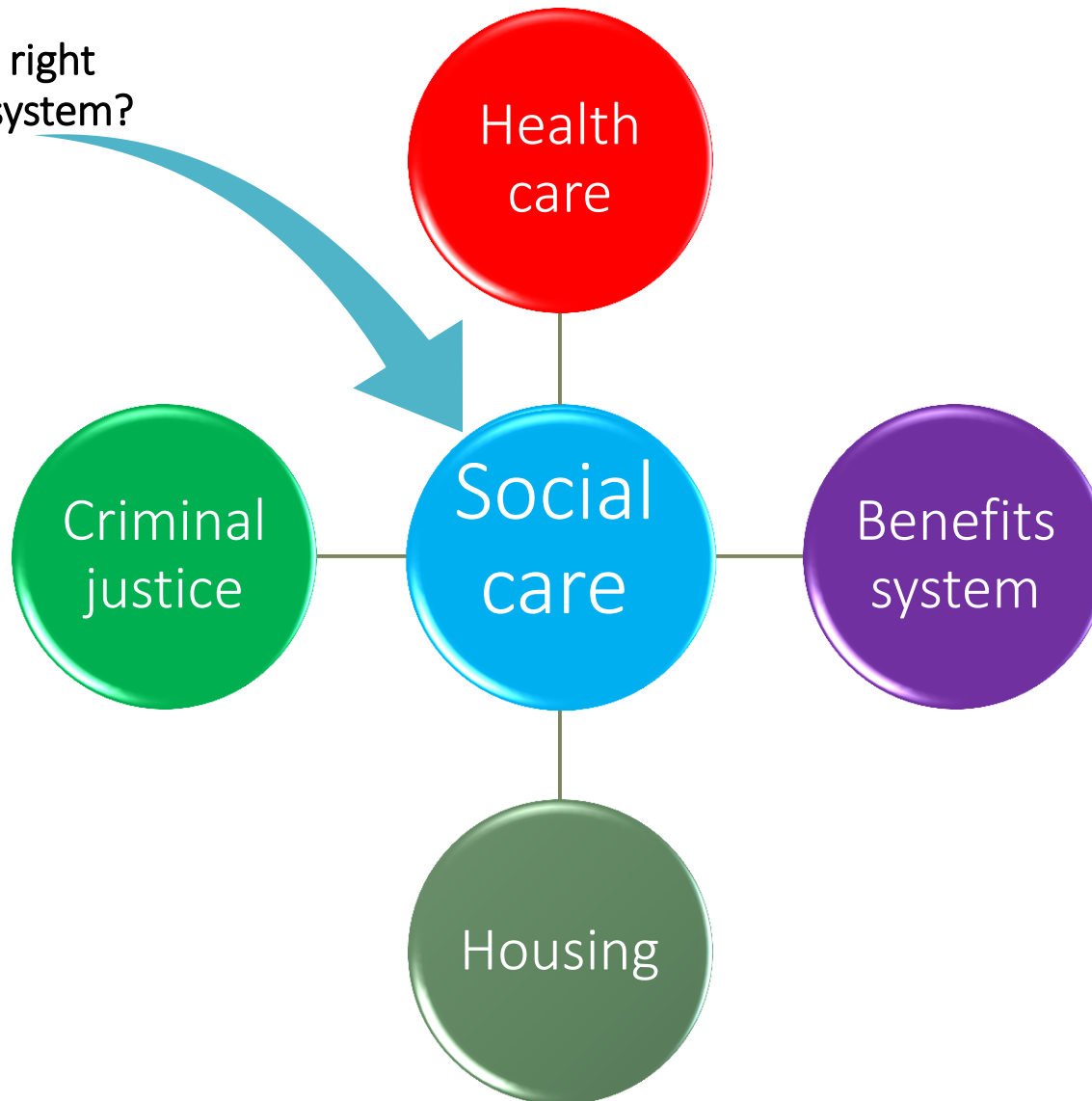
Source: Davies and Fernandez (2000)

Social care outcomes

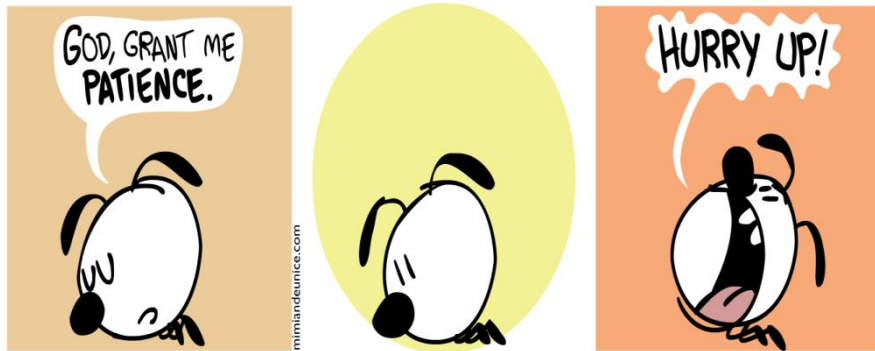
- Outcomes are *complex*
 - Outcomes usually need to be multi-dimensional
 - Each dimension can be difficult to assess
- Sometimes the only change to be expected is *deterioration*
- There are multiple and sometimes *competing* perspectives on outcomes
 - Maximising independence vs. minimising risk of harm
 - Improving the wellbeing of carers vs. service users
- Importance of process outcomes
 - Empowerment
 - Choice

Social care linked to a complex network of support services

Do we have the right incentives in the system?



Long-term effects and costs



- Social care problems are often long-term
- Interventions are also often long-term
- The outcome effects of interventions are often slow to materialise
- And so too are some of the costs

The prevention evaluation challenge



Generating/using evidence about prevention

- Matching evaluation strategies to policy
 - Building business case before a *new intervention*
 - Evaluation of a new *scheme being implemented*
 - *Piloting* new ideas
 - Evaluation of *existing services*. Analysis at the margin.
- The *methods* and *data requirements* will *depend* on the nature of the intervention/aims of the evaluation
- Overall, the key is to identify the *contribution of services to outcomes*

Identifying the effect of the intervention: controlling for needs...

- ***Experimental*** set-ups

Random allocation of intervention to intervention group (at individual or group level - e.g. geographical clustering)

- ***Difference in difference*** set-ups

Control, Intervention, before and after

Staged implementation (e.g. by area) with pre and post data available

Disentangling general changes through time from effect of scheme

- ***Matching*** strategies

Using alternative sources of data to define comparator (e.g. from other areas; from national surveys)

- ***Regression methods***

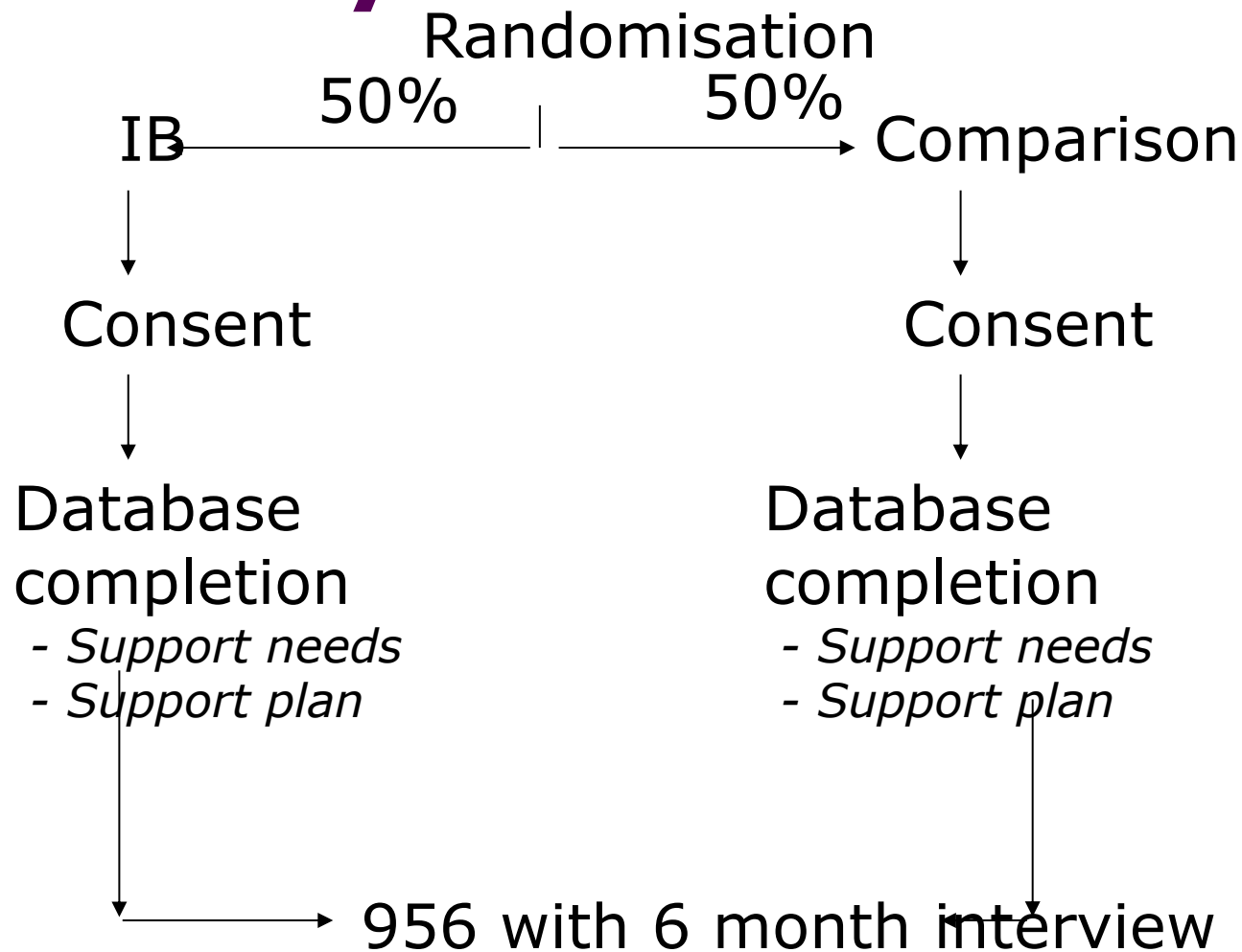
Analysis “other things equal”

More powerful but more complex to apply and more data “hungry”

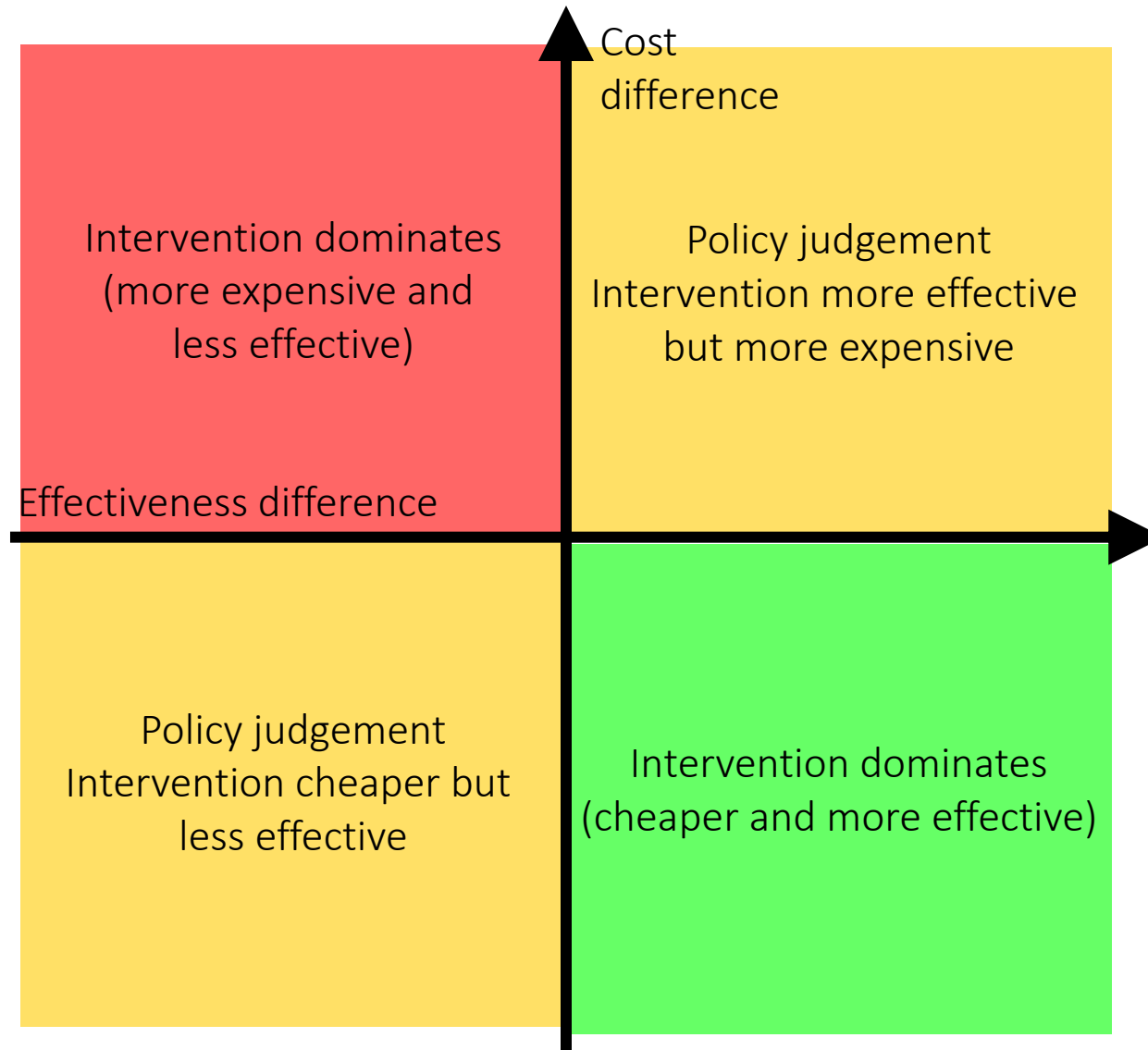
Can be used with some of the strategies above

Can identify strategies for improving targeting of resources

Randomisation process: e.g. IBSEN study

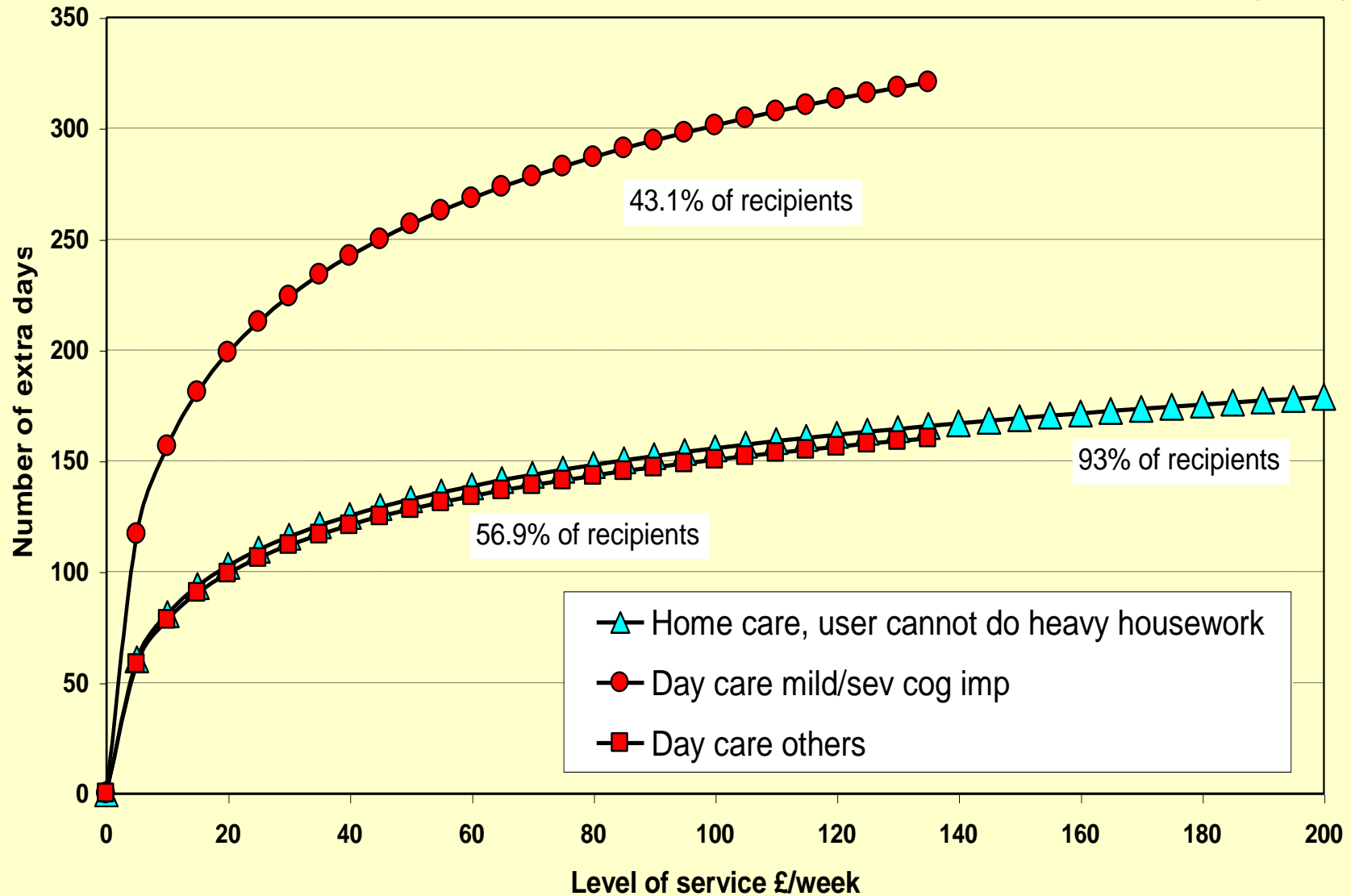


The cost-effectiveness plane



Home Care and Day Care Effect on Days Living at Home

Source: Davies and Fernandez (2000)



What if the data is not available: building a business case

Modelling exercise based on

Expert opinion (but health warning!)

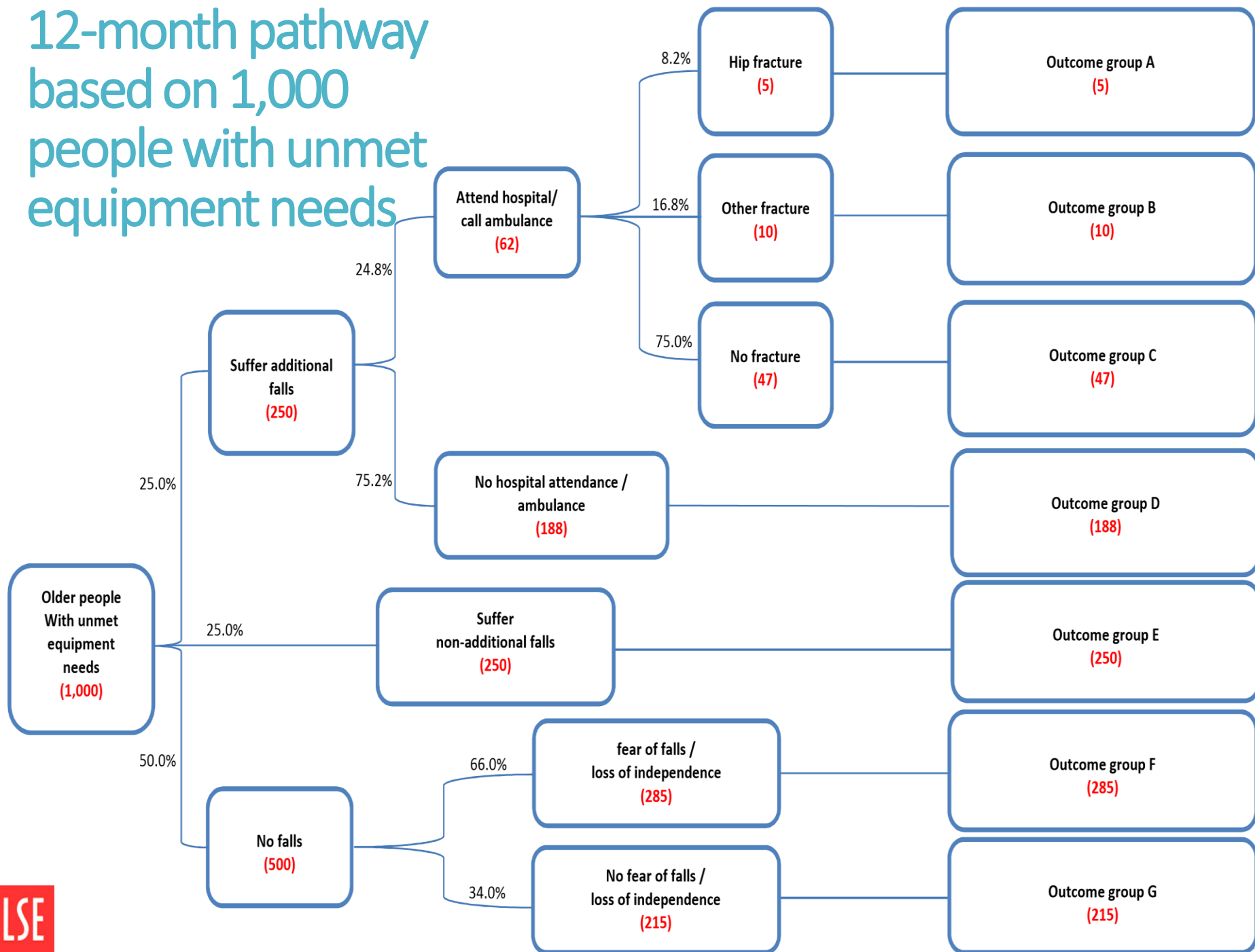
Look for external evidence

Literature

Issues of transferability

Sensitivity analysis

12-month pathway based on 1,000 people with unmet equipment needs



Assessing local capacity for evaluating prevention in social care

- Understanding prevention effects is key (e.g. in the context of Better Care Fund)
- Many local authorities collecting relevant individual level data
Needs; Service use; Outcomes (destinational and/or final); Linked health care use
- SSCR project assessing/developing local strategies for assessing prevention effects
Local understandings of “prevention”
Current evaluation efforts
Availability of evidence needed for ongoing assessment of prevention effects
Develop an approach for use of different types evidence to evaluate prevention