

Early High School Interventions to Increase Students' Access to Post-secondary Education: Experimental Impacts from Canada's Future to Discover Project

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The problem

- Increasing the number of youth who participate in post-secondary education is an economic imperative (promoting growth, innovation and competitiveness) as well as an effective means to promote social inclusion and to reduce social and health inequalities.
- Post-secondary education (PSE) access rates could be higher, particularly for young people in key subgroups.
- Lower rates of access could be due to
 - Lack of information about careers and relative benefits and costs of PSE or inadequate preparation/ability to use information
 - Anticipated unaffordability of PSE

Future to Discover tests two interventions separately and in parallel

- **EYH: Explore Your Horizons**

Enhanced **early career education** in Grades 10, 11, and 12 (~ages 15-17)



- **LA: Learning Accounts**

Early guarantee of **\$8,000 (€6,000)** grant to pursue PSE for lower-income students



Education Ministries, schools and students from New Brunswick (NB) and Manitoba (MB)

Manitoba (pop 1,213,000) has more than half its population residing in Greater Winnipeg

New Brunswick (pop 748,000) is the only constitutionally bilingual province with two separate, equivalent education systems for Francophone and Anglophone youth



EYH is a career education intervention that delivers workshops, magazines, Web site

Six career education components:

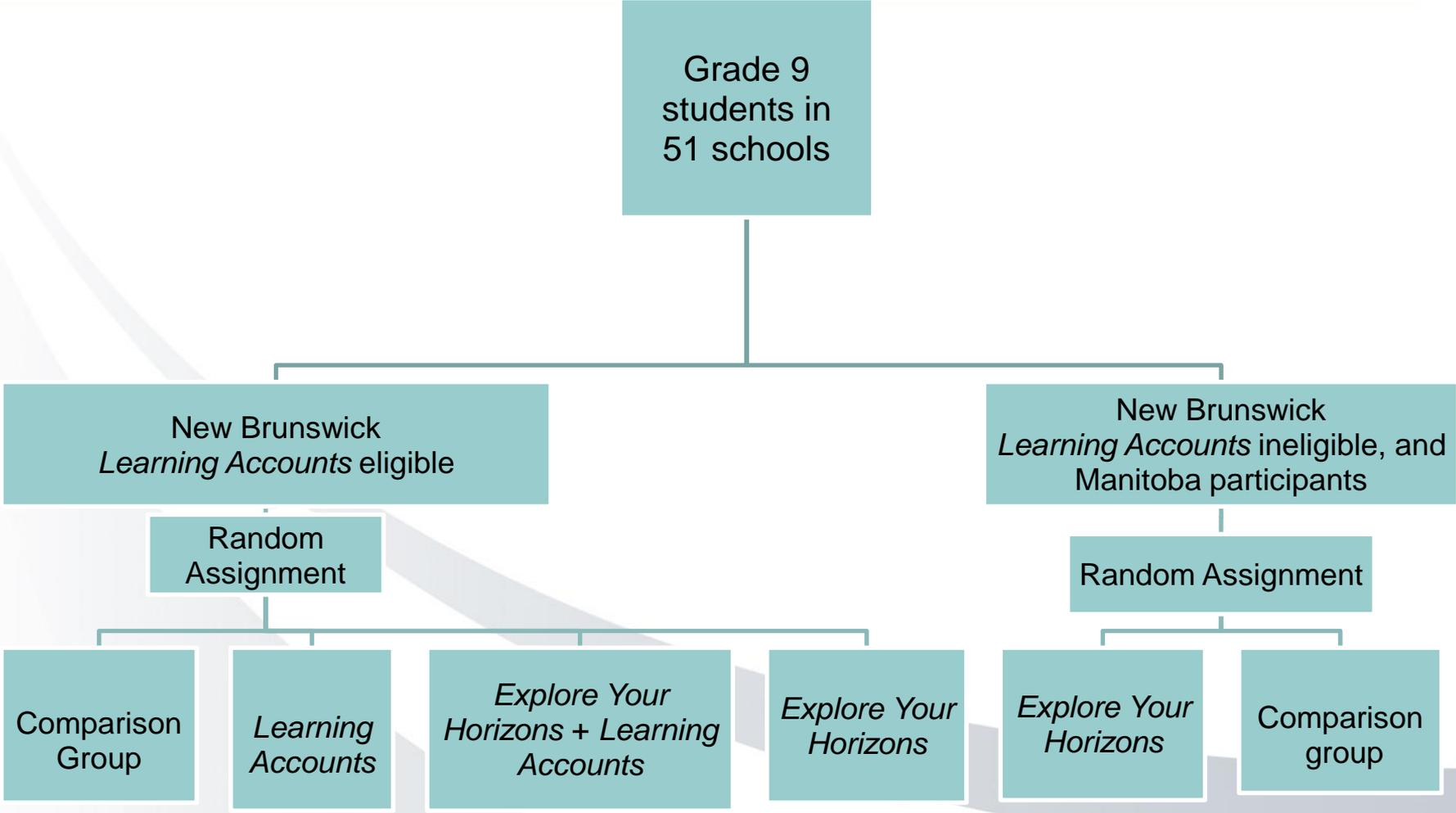
Workshops – 2 hours after school/evening sessions (x20)

- Career Focusing (G10) – finding career focus
- Lasting Gifts (G11) – parents become “career allies”
- Future in Focus (G12) – preparing for transition
- Post-secondary Ambassadors (G10-G12)
- F2D Magazine (G10-G12) – sent to home
- Web site for EYH students only (G10-G12)

LA provides an early guarantee of student aid to lower-income families

- New Brunswick families with below median income (taken from both parents' tax returns)
- Account grows over Grades 10-12
- Total \$8,000 (€6,000) grant available
- Account closes at end of 3rd post-secondary year
- Early promise of aid: enter Grade 10 knowing grant available
- No obligation to apply for loans

Random samples of Grade 9 students (≈age 14) randomly assigned: 4,400 in NB and 1,000 in MB



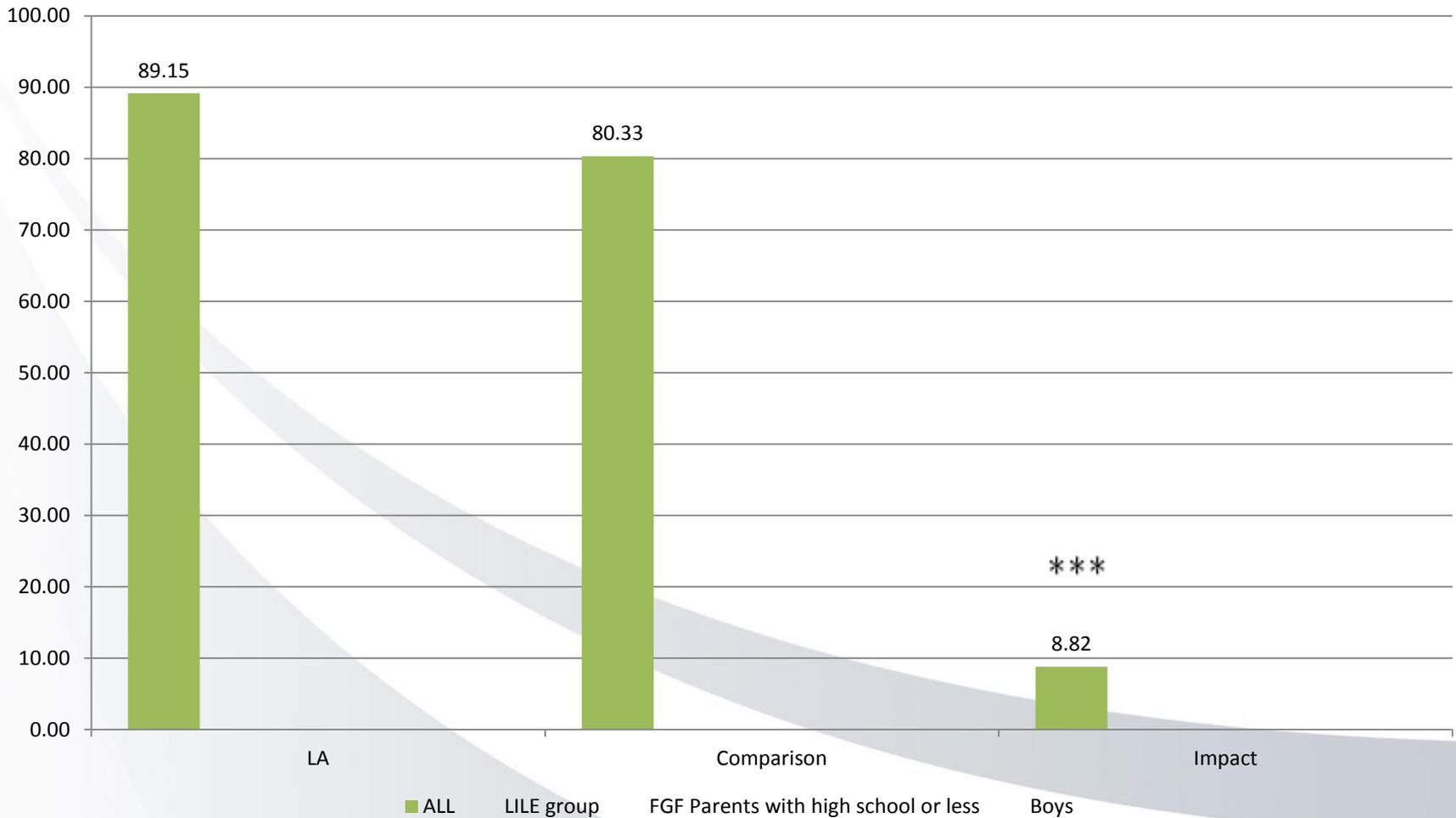
Post-secondary impacts

Measured at the start of third academic year following “expected” high school graduation:

- Applications to and enrolment in post secondary education (survey data)
 - University
 - Community College
 - Private Vocational Institutions
 - Apprenticeships
- Enrolment in post secondary education (administrative data for provincial institutions)
 - University
 - Community College

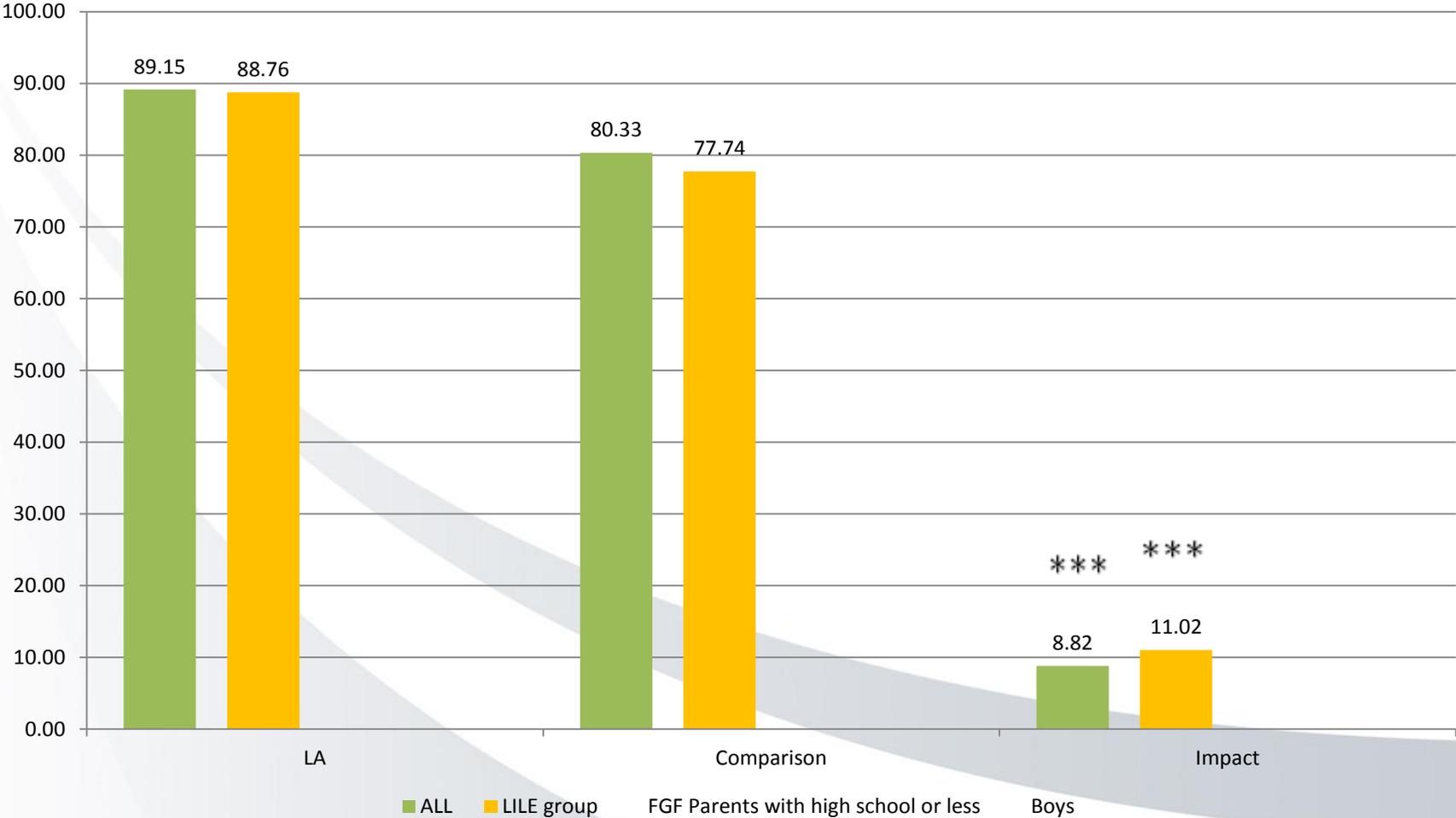
LA (and EYH) increased graduation from high school

NB-An participants graduated high school within five and a half years of assignment (%)



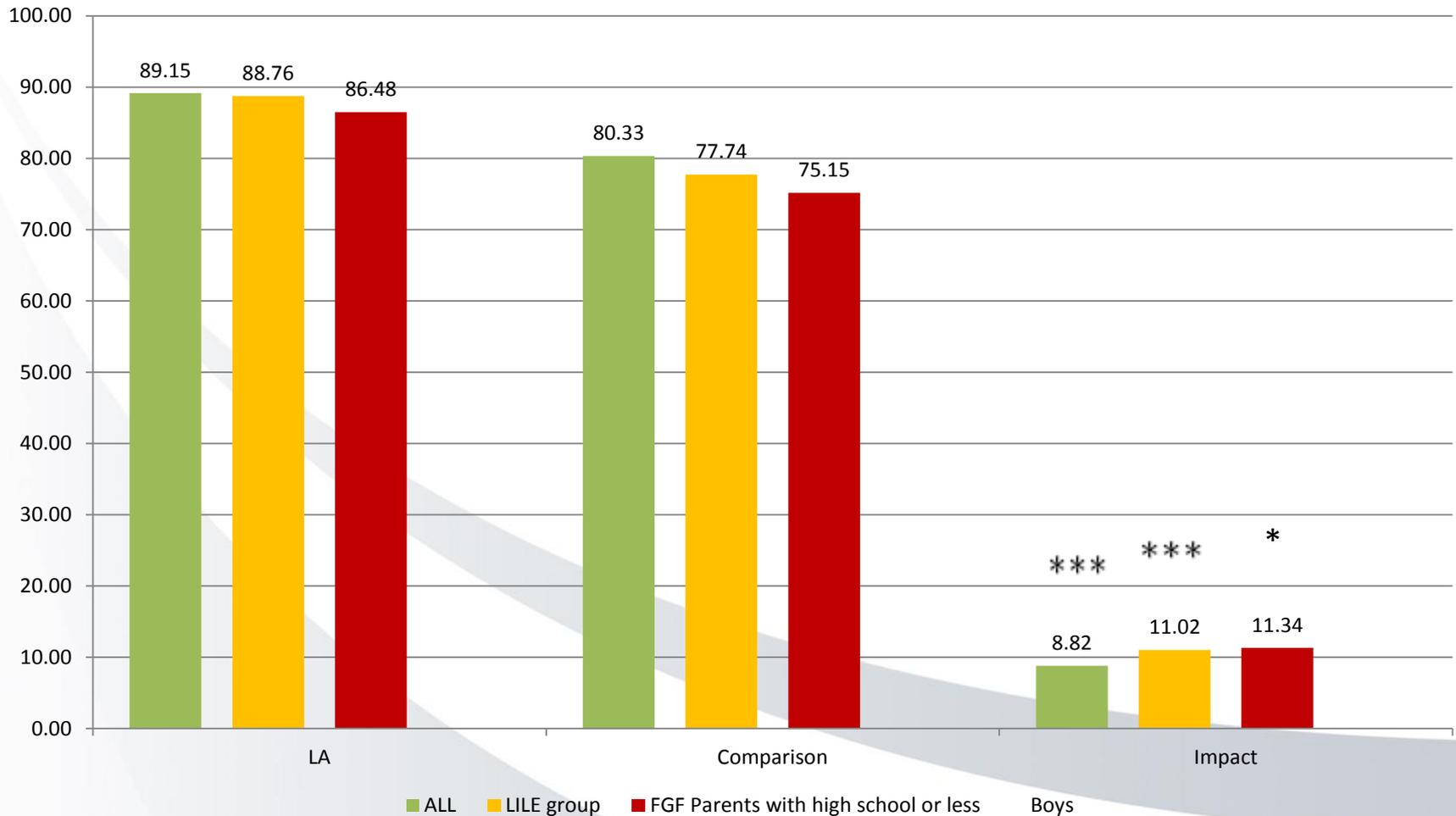
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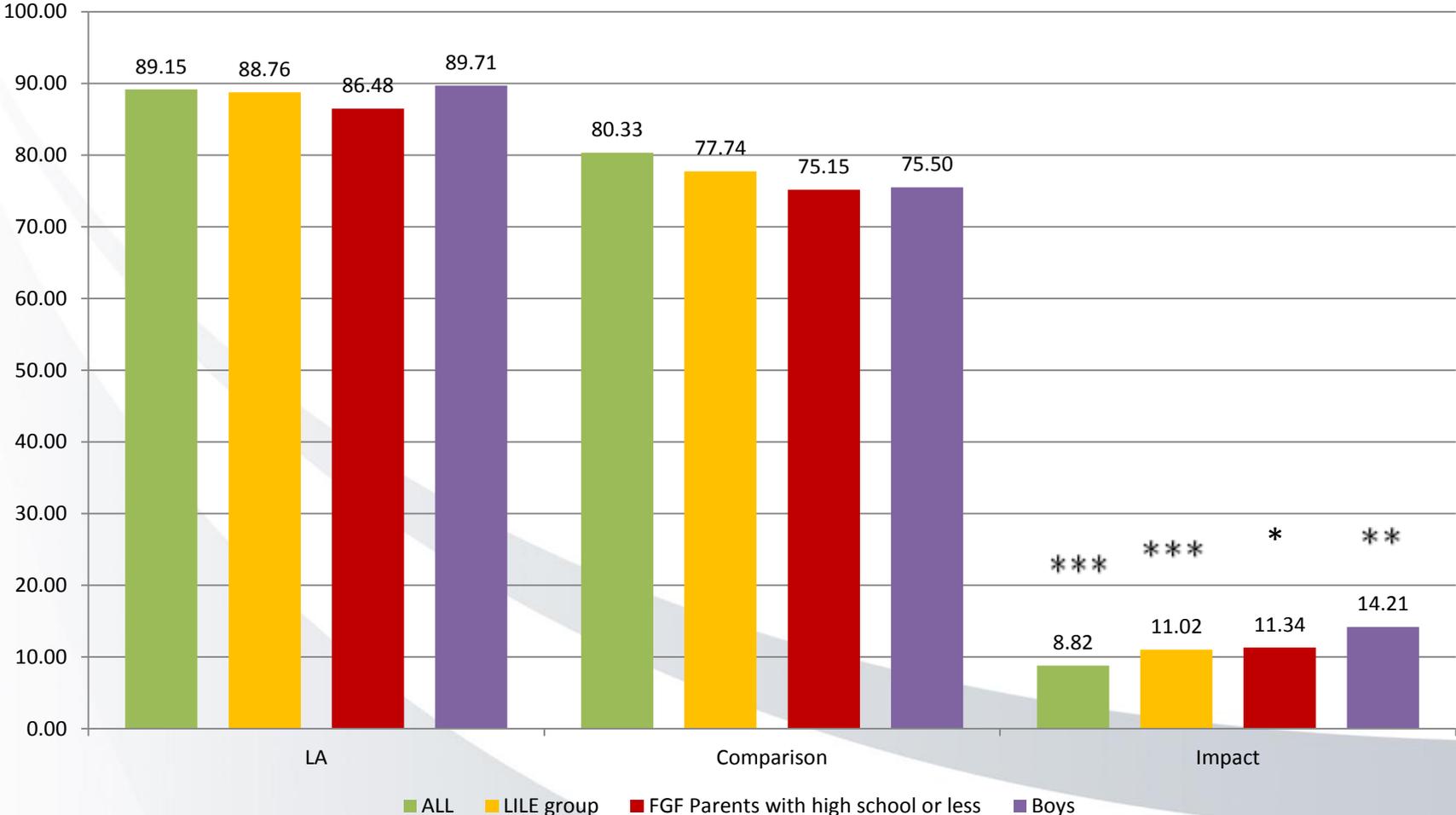
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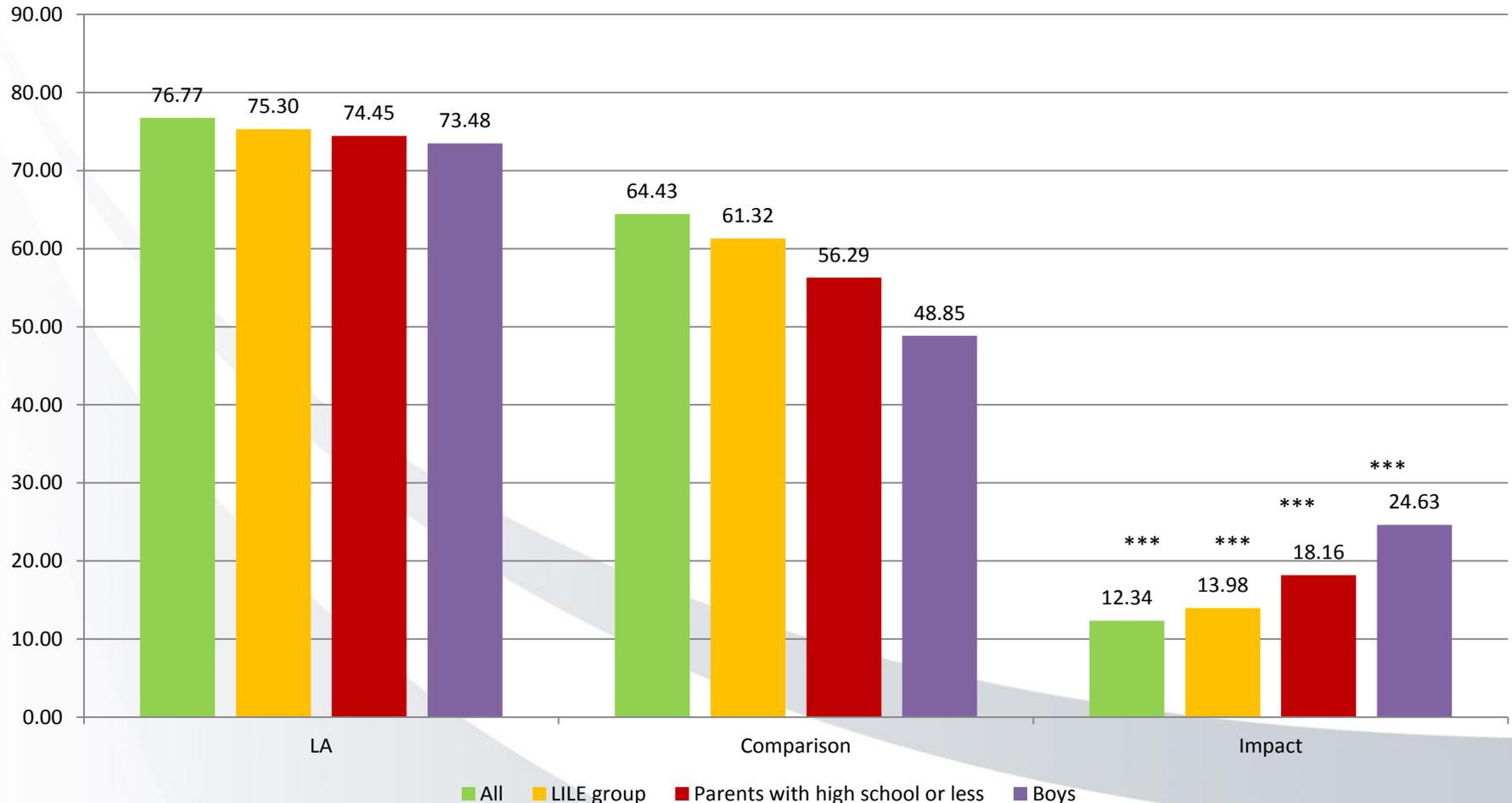
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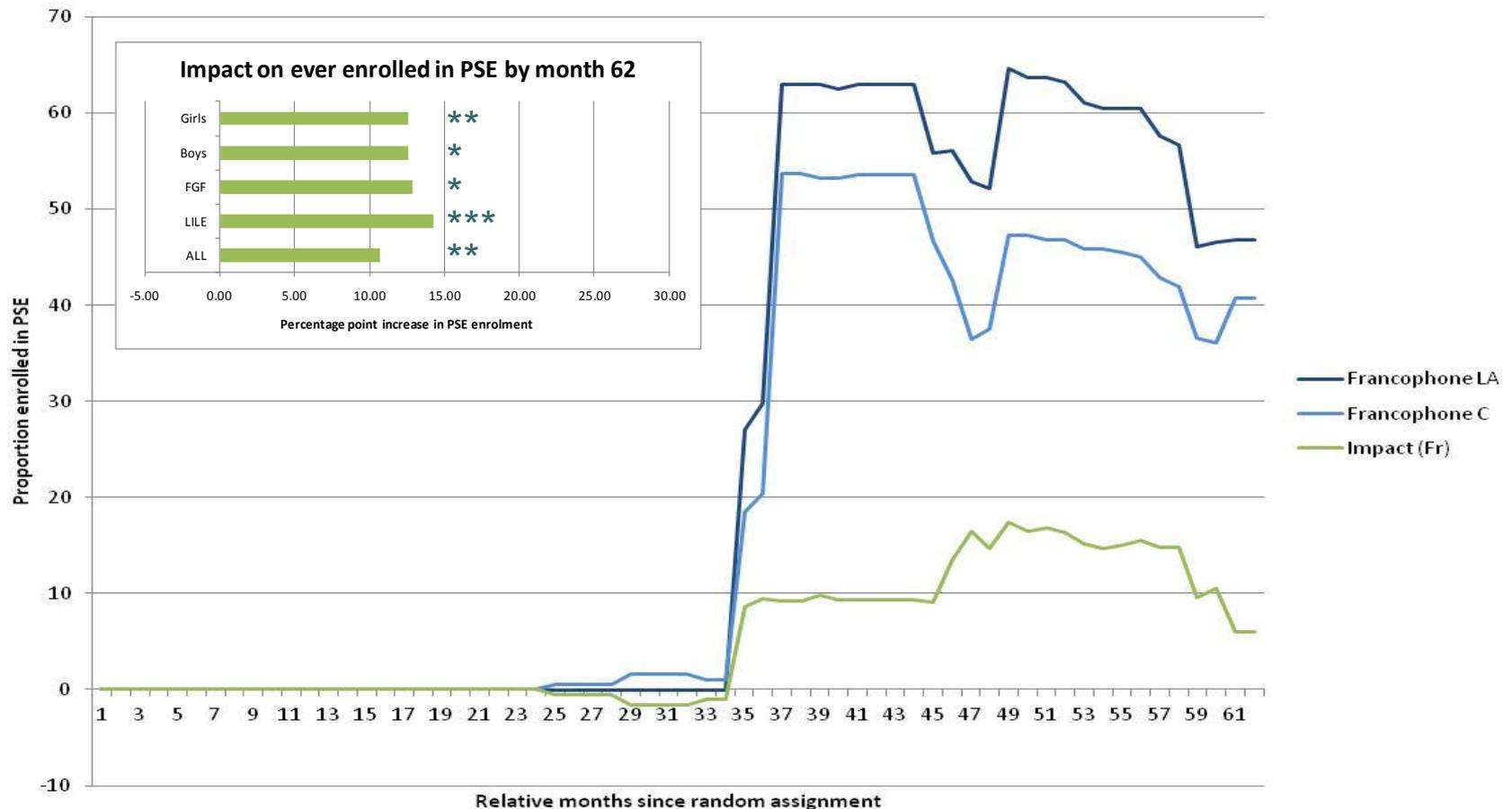
LA (and EYH) increased PSE applications

NB-An applying to at least one PSE program within five and a half years of assignment (%)

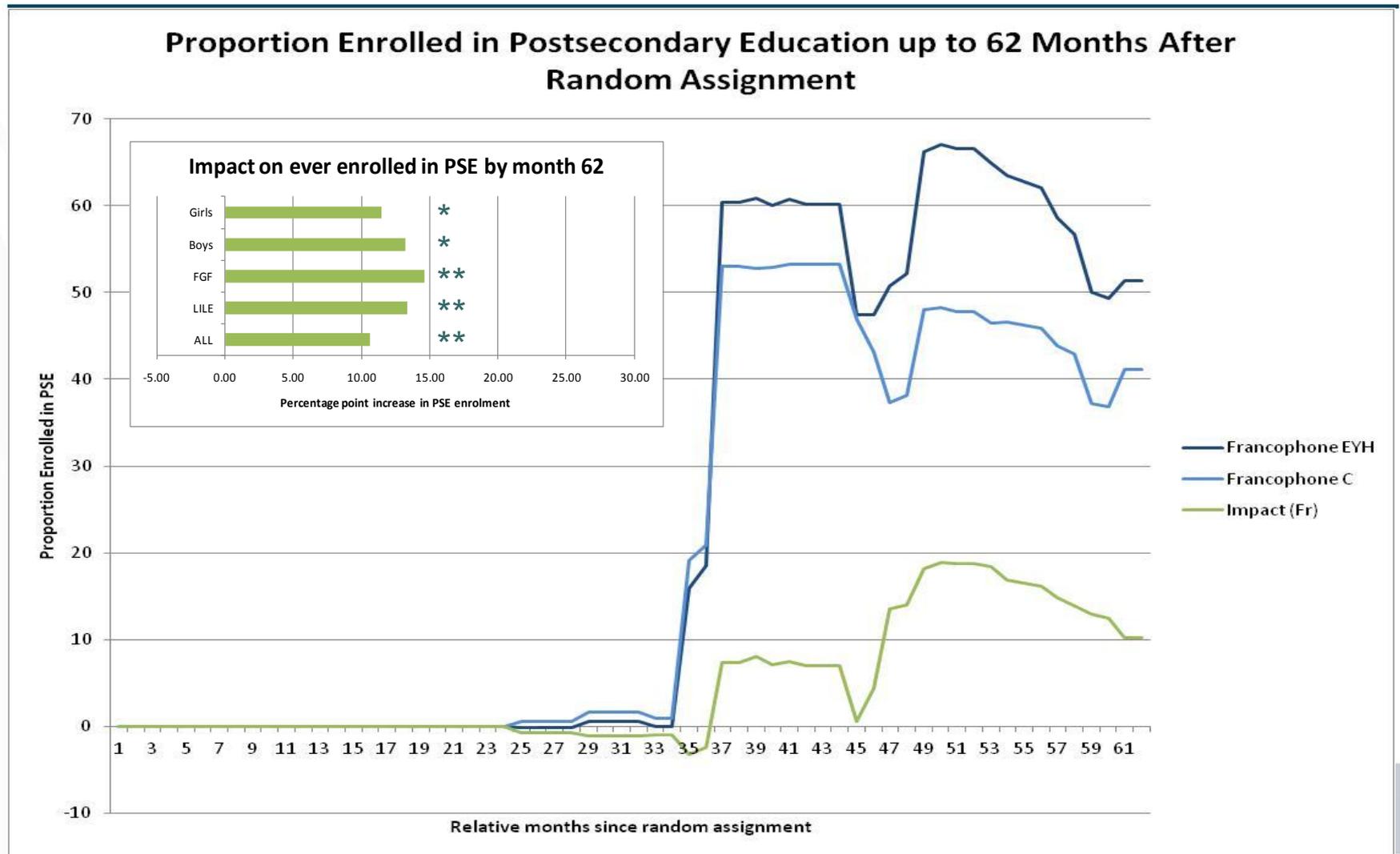


Strong evidence LA increased PSE enrolment: NB Francophone students

Proportion Enrolled in Postsecondary Education up to 62 Months After Random Assignment

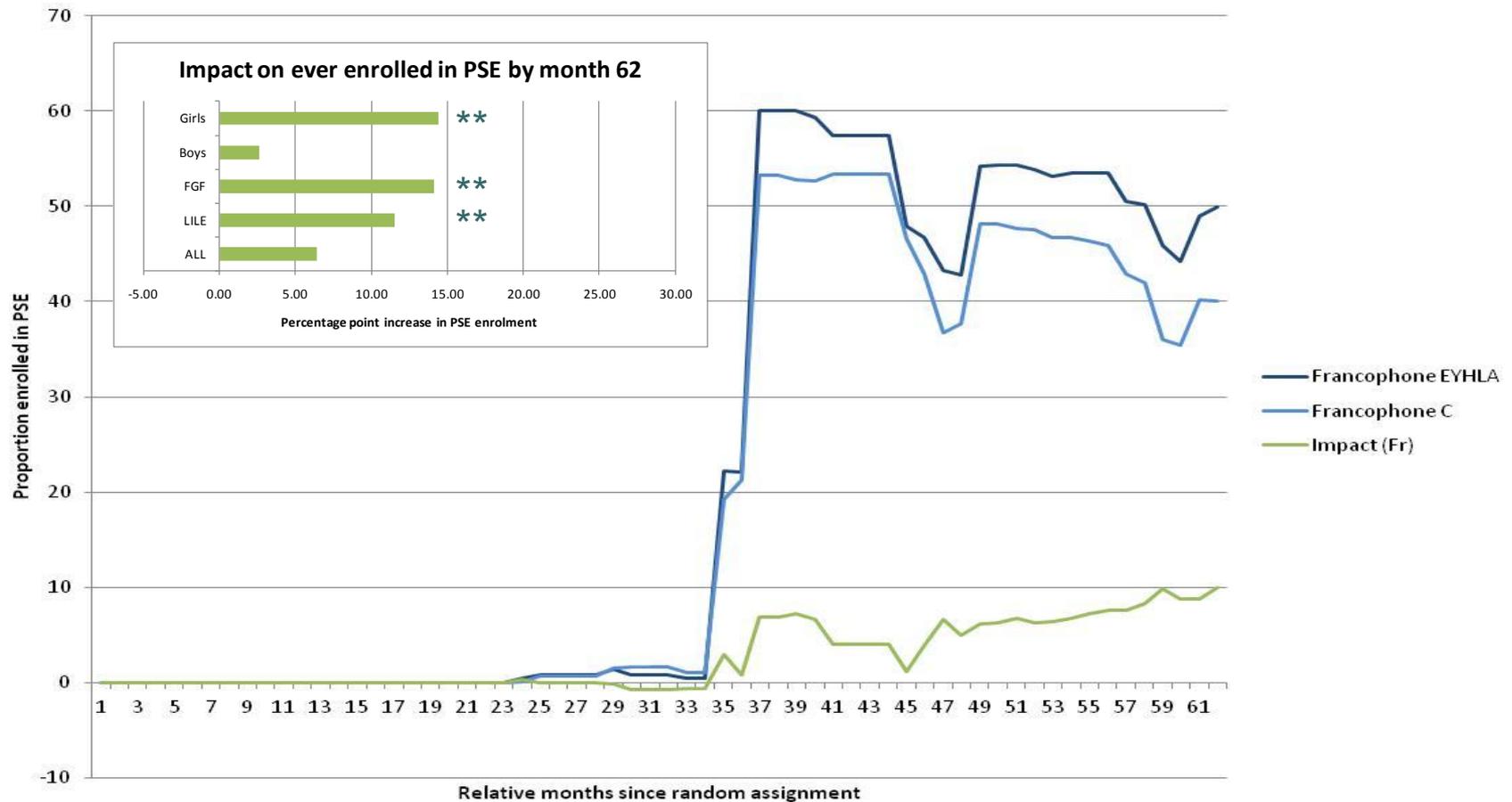


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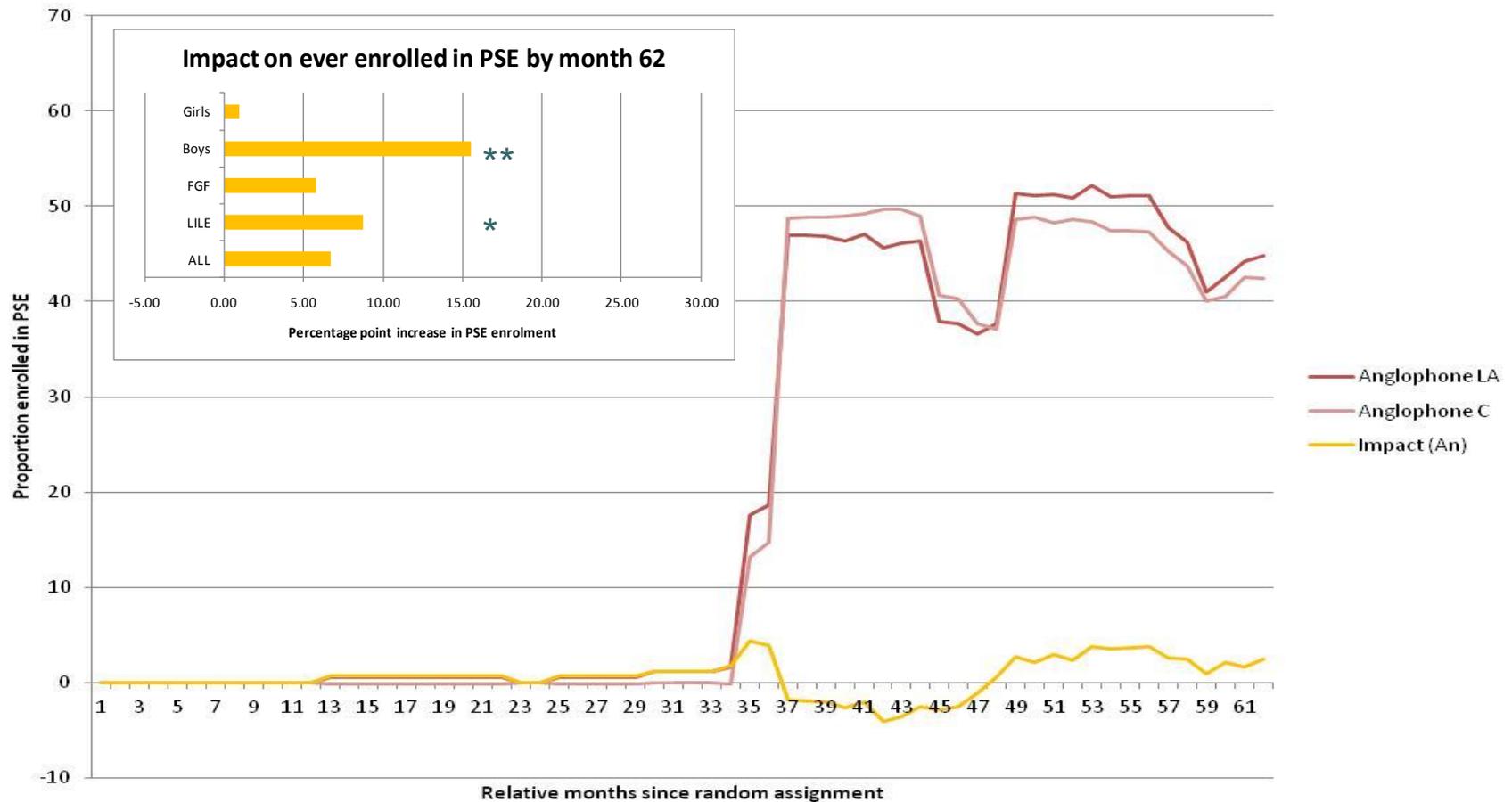
Some evidence EYH+LA increased PSE enrolment: NB Francophone students

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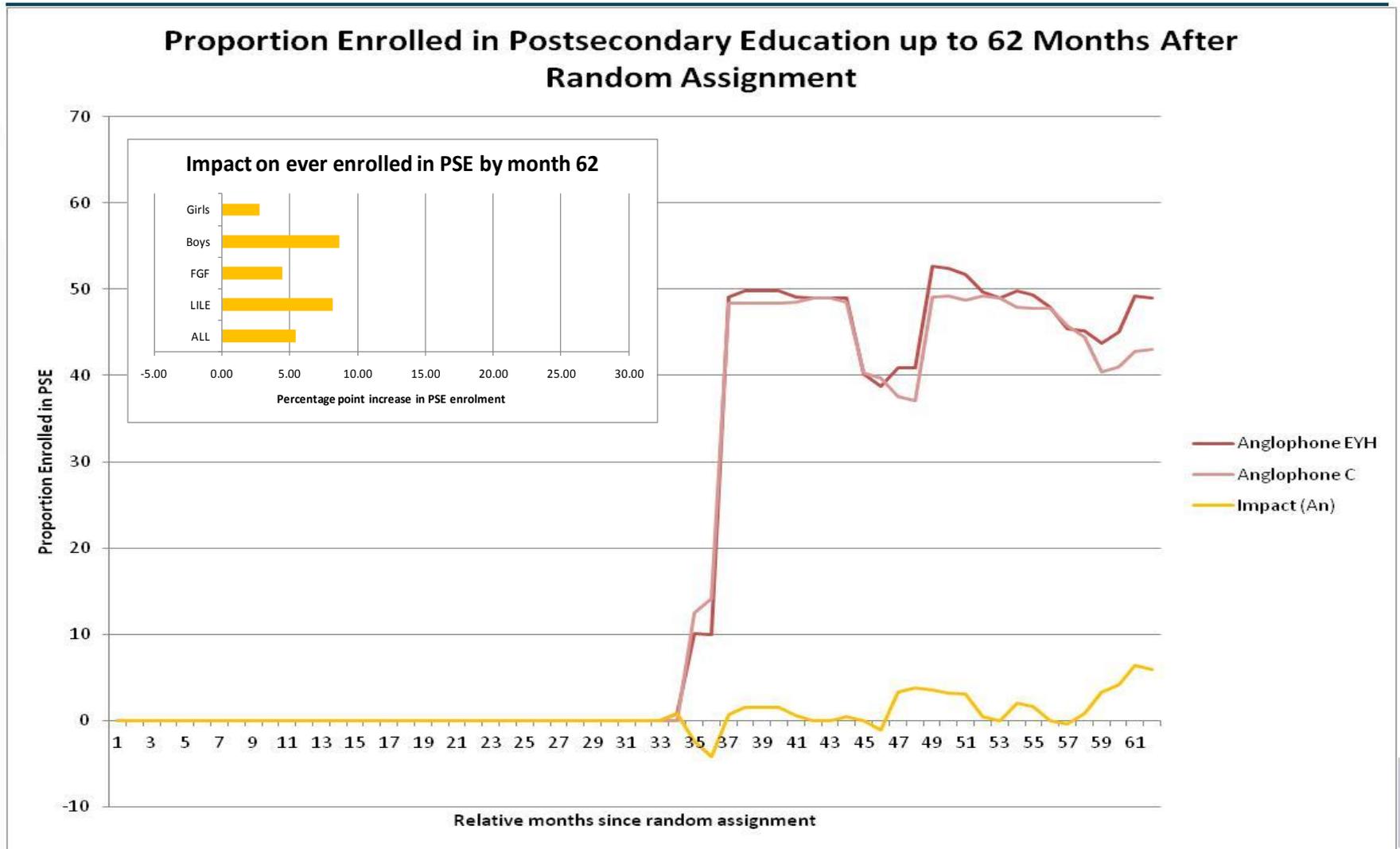


Weaker evidence LA increased PSE enrolment: NB Anglophone students

Proportion Enrolled in Postsecondary Education up to 62 Months After Random Assignment

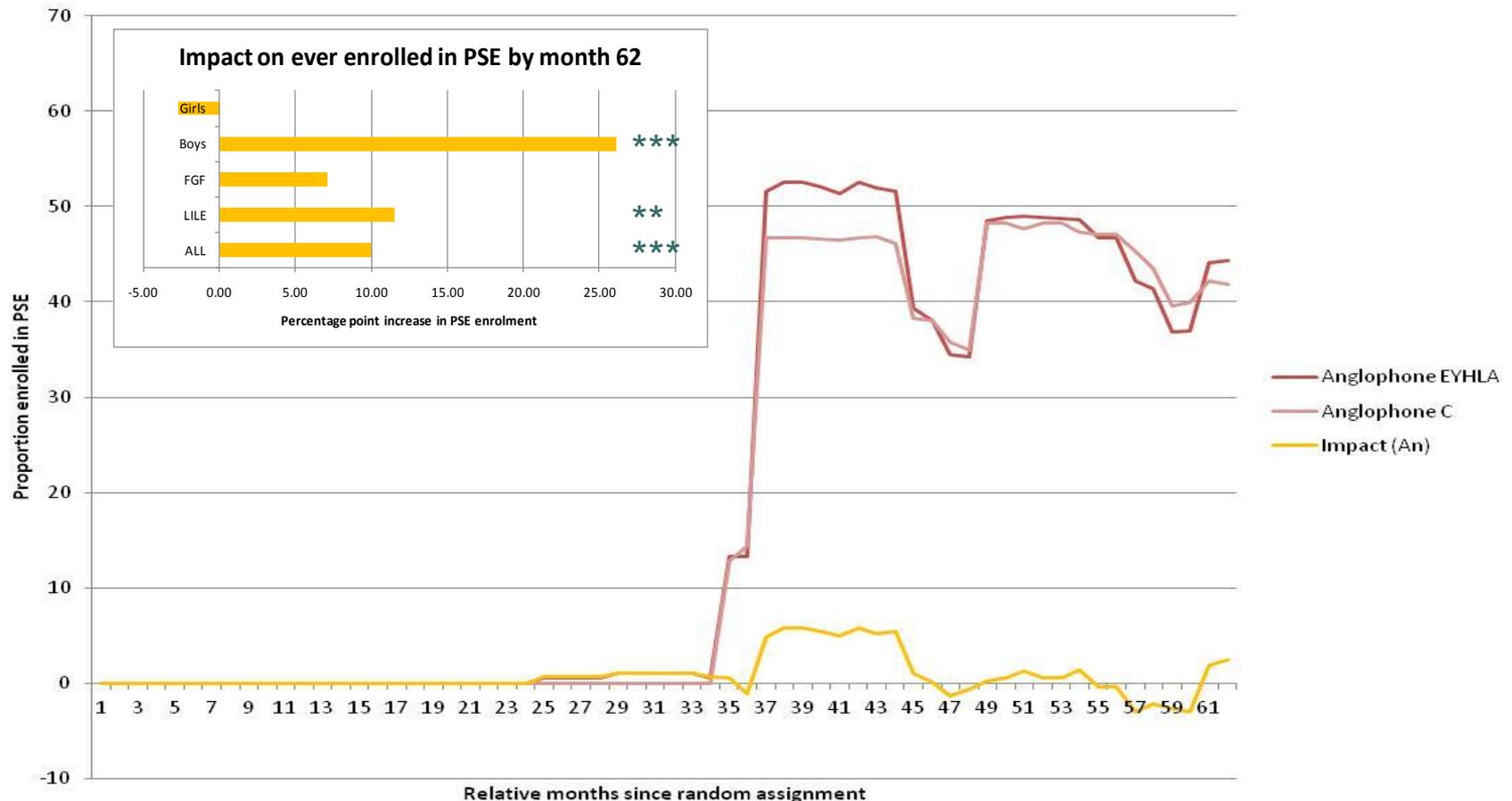


No evidence EYH increased PSE enrolment: NB Anglophone students



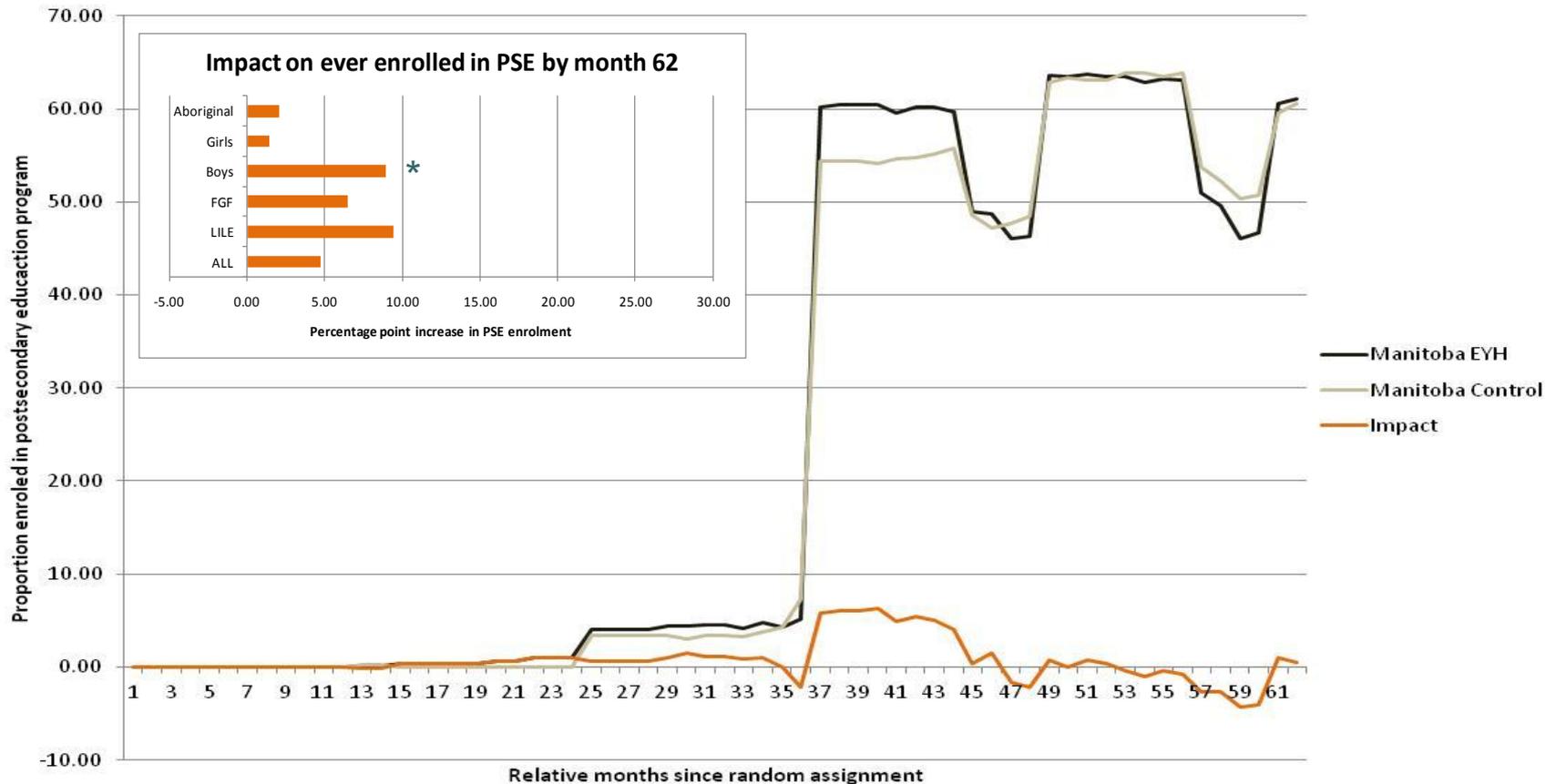
Some evidence EYH+LA increased PSE enrolment: NB Anglophone students

Proportion Enrolled In Postsecondary Education up to 62 Months After Random Assignment



Little evidence EYH increased PSE enrolment: MB students

Proportion Enrolled in Postsecondary Education up to 62 Months After Random Assignment



Conclusion: The impact of the interventions differed by population and sub-groups

- Anglophone sector: significant impact on high school graduation and application (demand)
 - Follow up for longer?
- Francophone sector: no significant impact on graduation, but significant impact on post-secondary application and participation rates
- Interventions typically increase access for boys
- Manitoba: not the type of program needed?
- EYH and EYH+LA increased university enrolment. LA increased college enrolment.
- LA is forecast to be very cost effective, generating \$2+ benefit per dollar cost to government, sensitive to discount rate