



# SOFTWARE ENGINEERING SECURITY EFFECTIVENESS

SEAN SCOTT & JOHN BENNINGHOFF

# ENTERPRISE ENGINEERING



# SECURITY ENGINEERING

# SOFTWARE ENGINEERING SECURITY



Patterns &  
Practices

Secure  
Testing



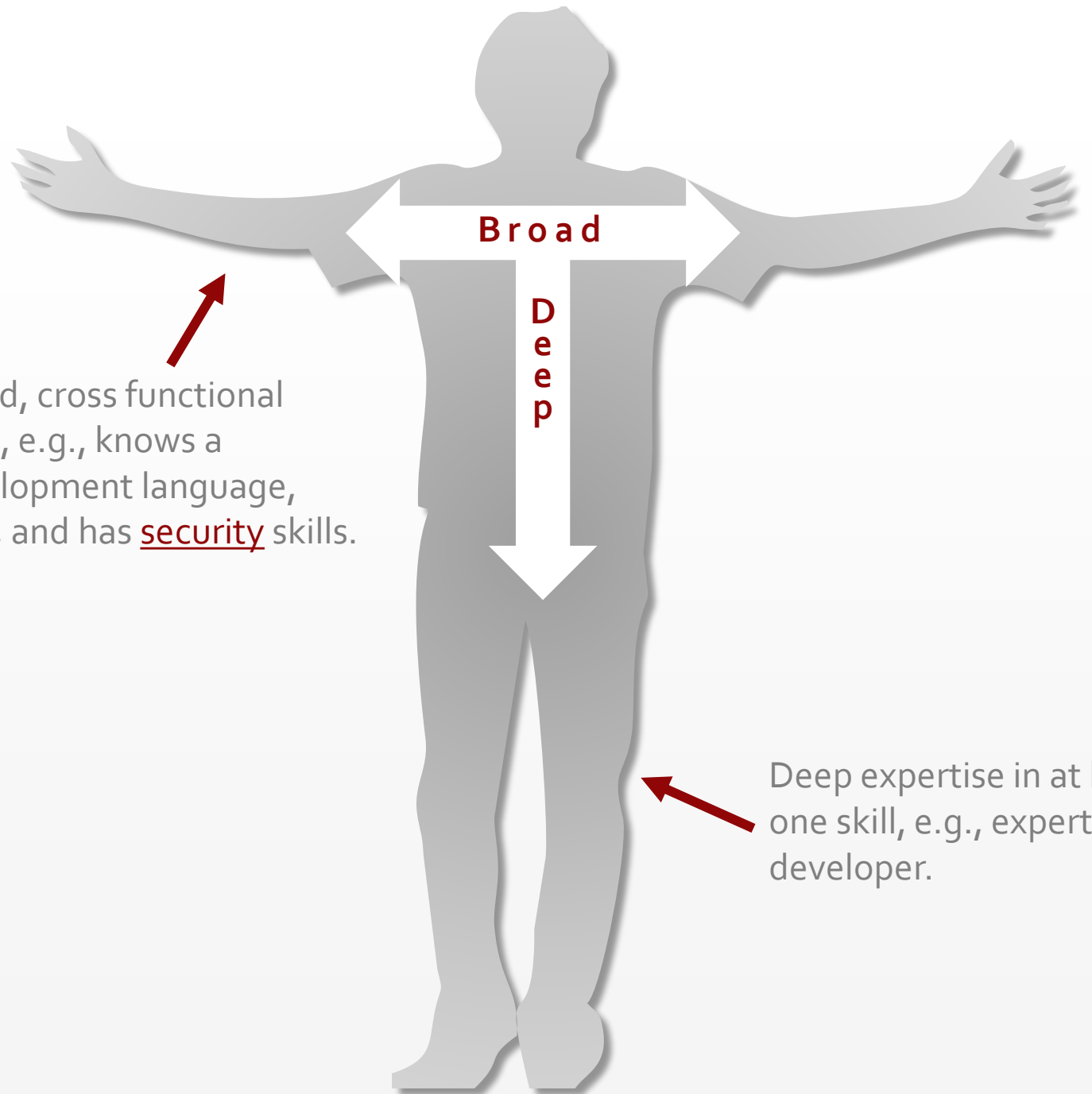
Security  
Engineering





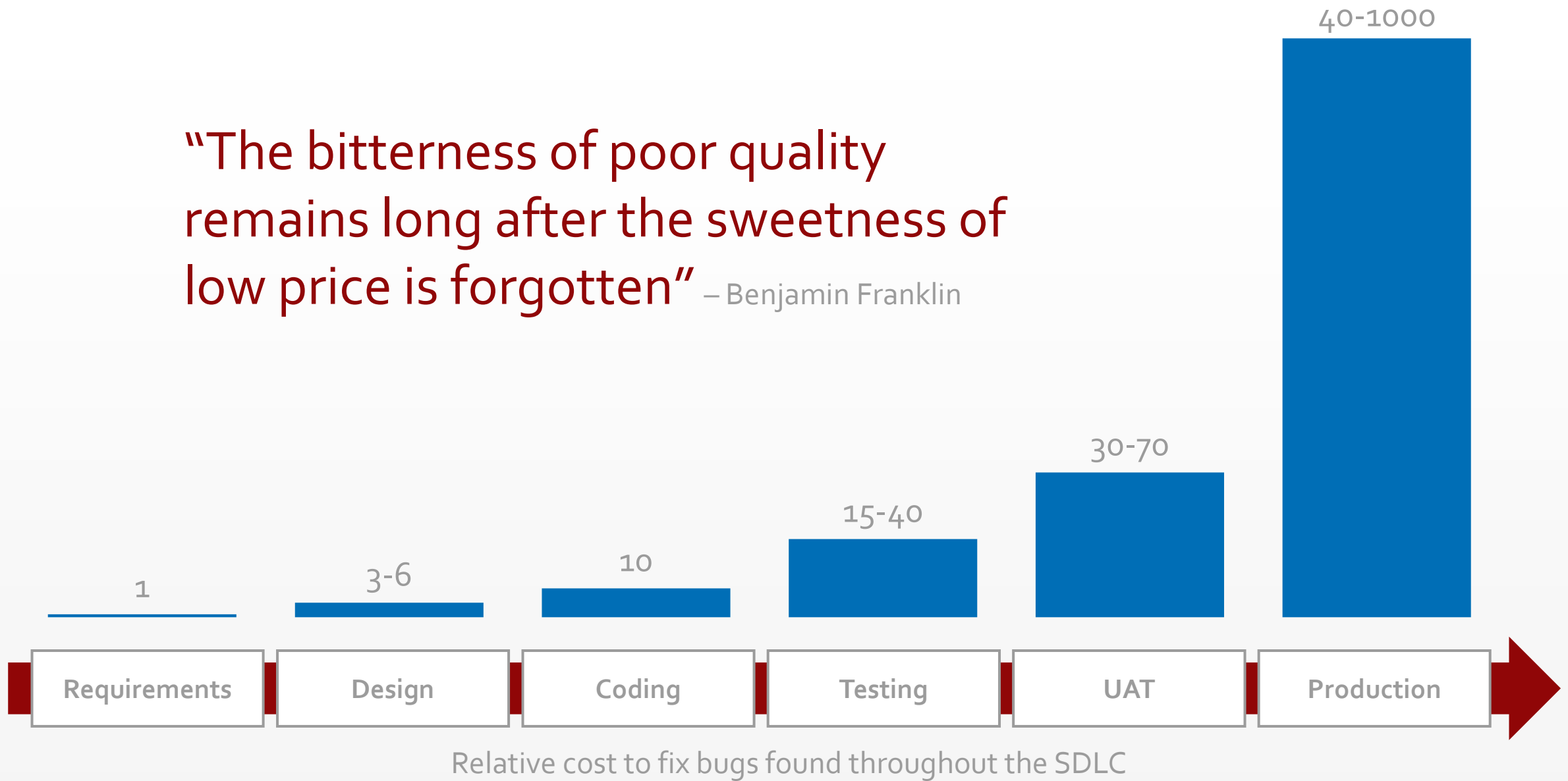
# "T"-TYPE TEAM MEMBERS

Broad, cross functional skills, e.g., knows a development language, SQL, and has security skills.

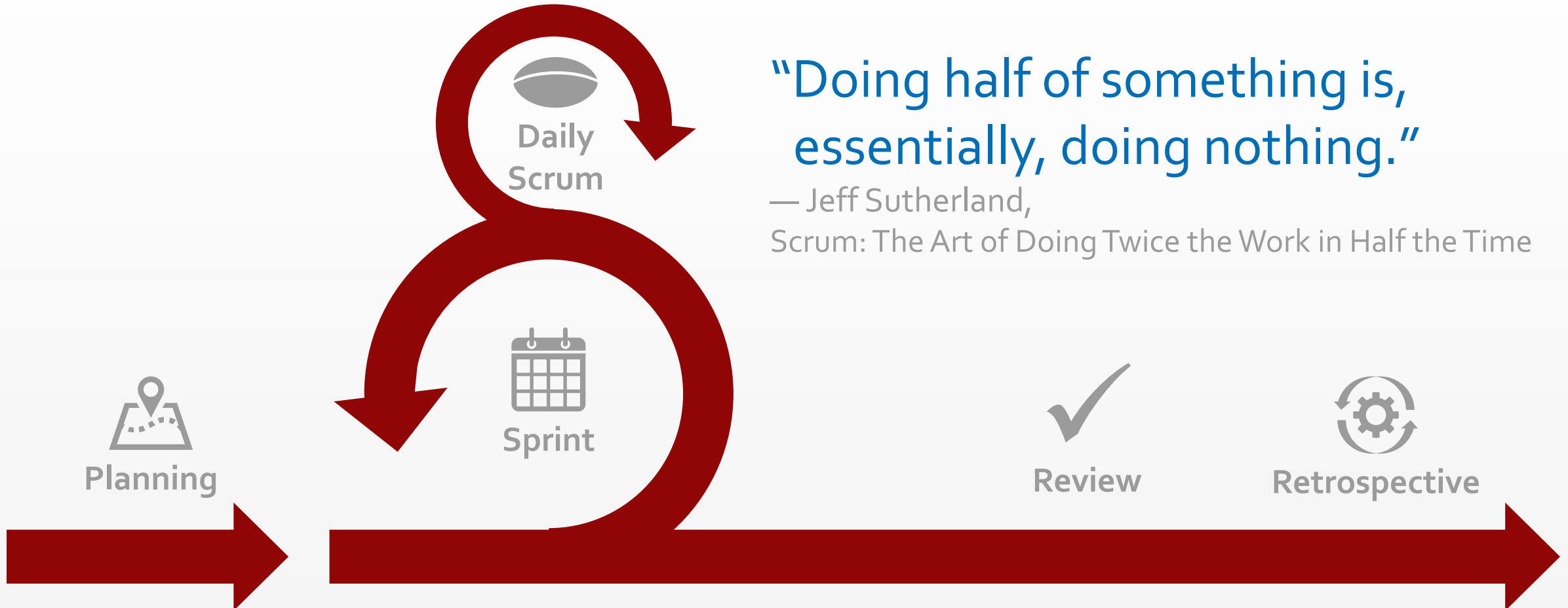


Deep expertise in at least one skill, e.g., expert level developer.

“The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten” – Benjamin Franklin



# SCRUM EVENTS



“Doing half of something is,  
essentially, doing nothing.”

— Jeff Sutherland,  
Scrum: The Art of Doing Twice the Work in Half the Time

There is no wrong time to ask,  
“How will that affect security?”

—Sean Scott

A hand holding a blue pen points towards a document on a wooden desk. The document features a bar chart with stacked bars in yellow, red, and teal, and a line graph with green and red lines. The text 'HOW WELL ARE WE DOING?' is overlaid in large red letters.

# HOW WELL ARE WE DOING?



# NULL HYPOTHESIS

The exposure to the **training, coaching, and consulting** services offered by the Software Engineering Security (SES) group DOES NOT influence the **quality of code** installed into a production environment, as measured by application security **penetration testing**.

# STUDY DETAILS



retrospective  
comparison

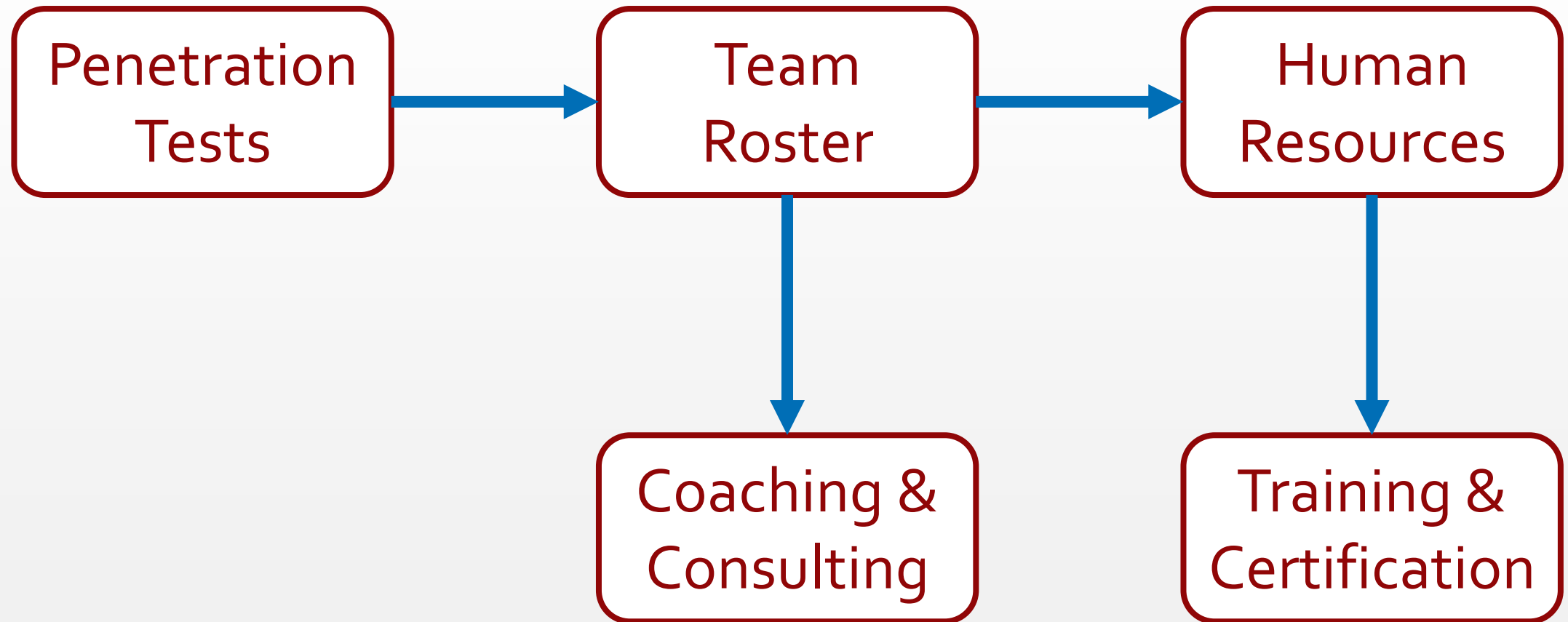


460 Teams

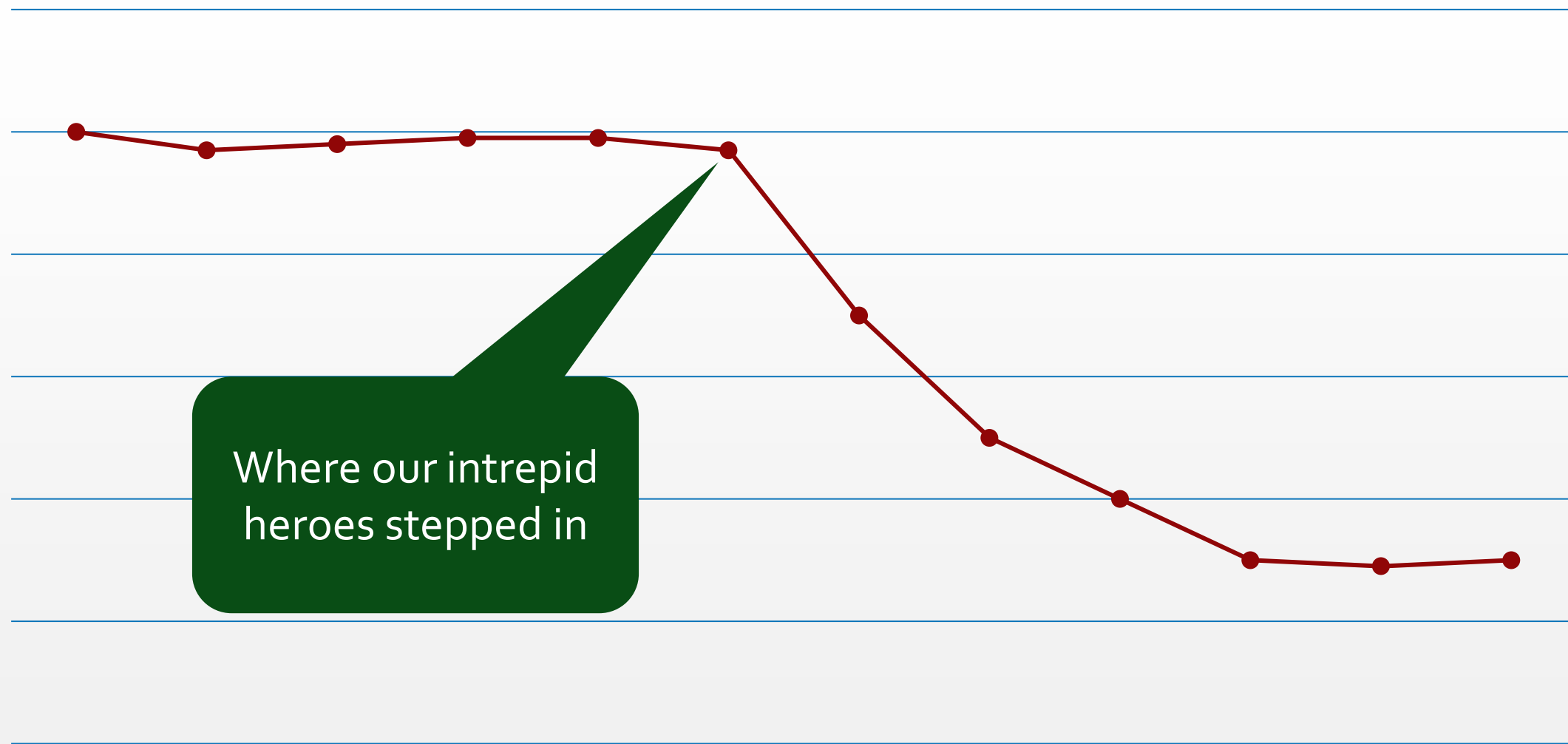


32 months

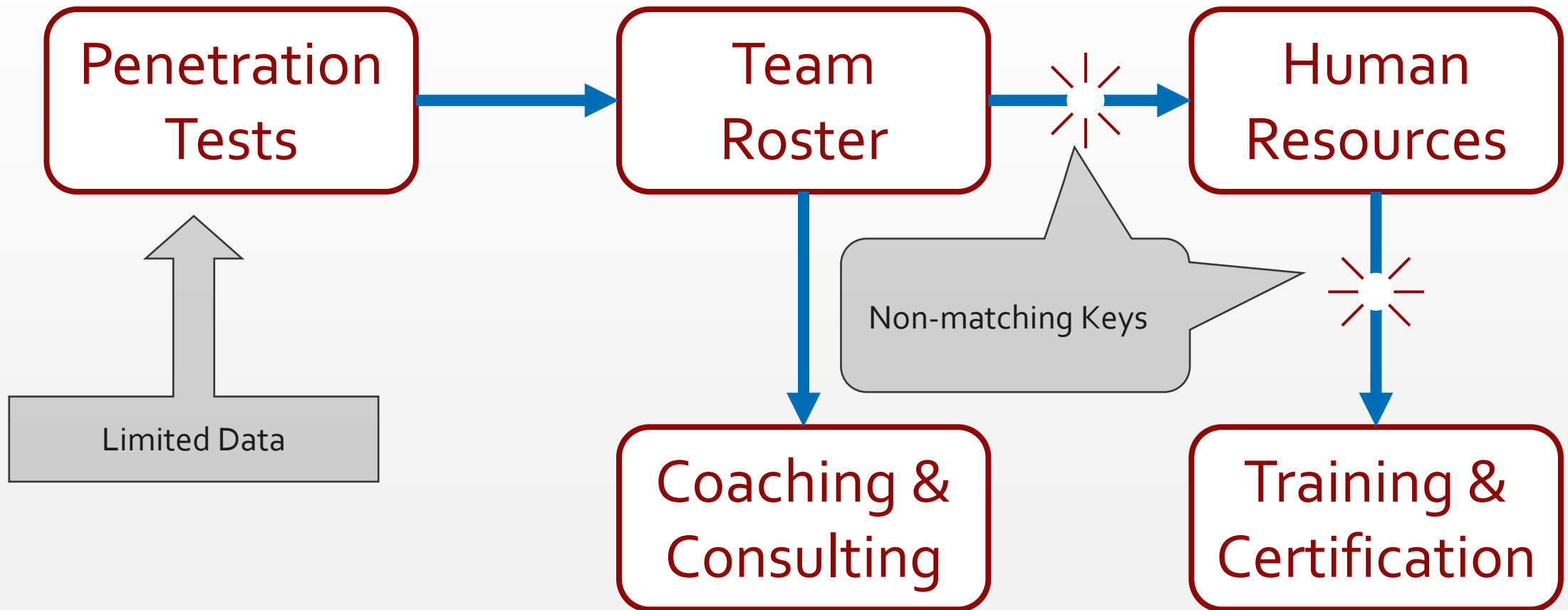
# EXPECTED DATA ORGANIZATION



# WHAT WE HOPED TO FIND



# ACTUAL DATA ORGANIZATION



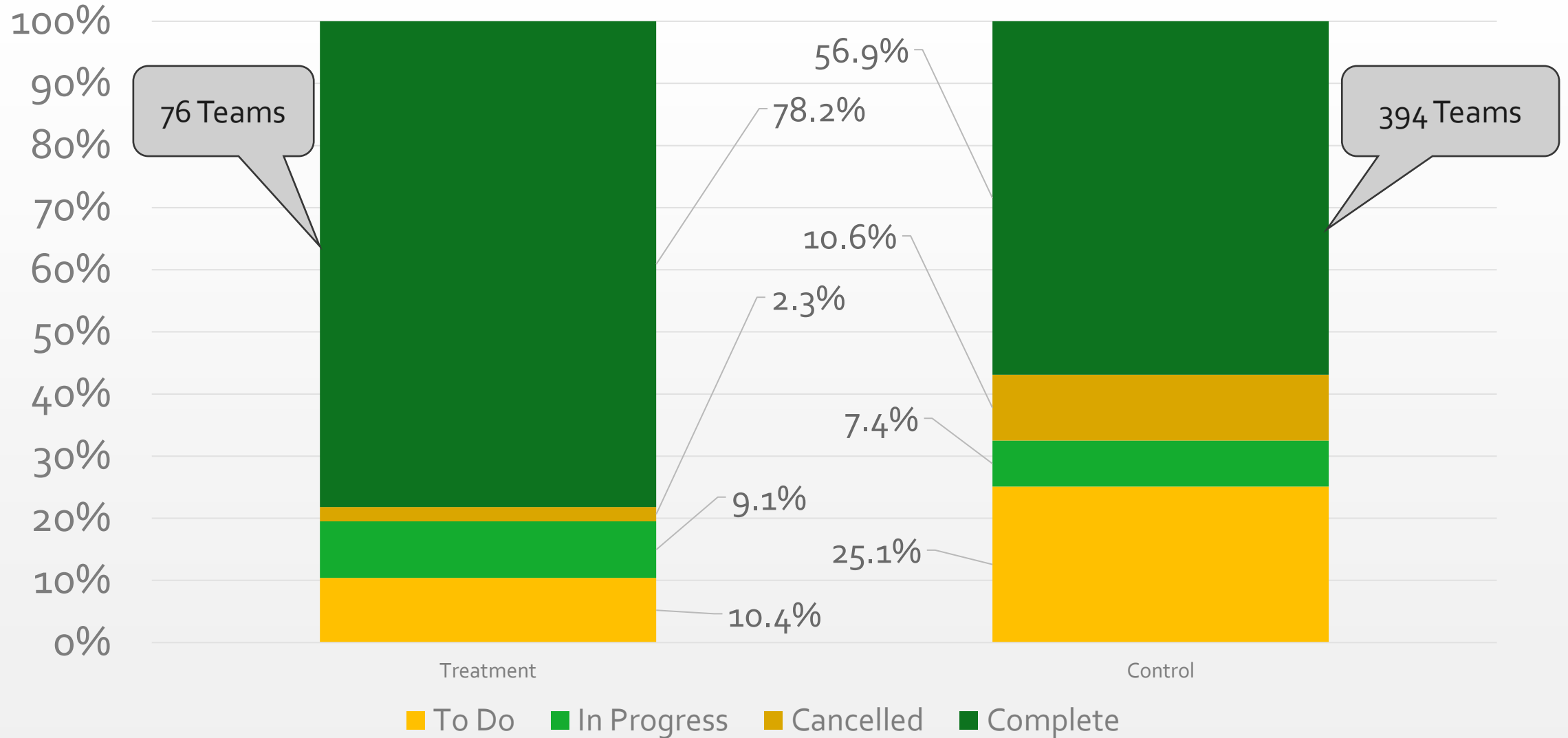


What can the  
data we have  
tell us?

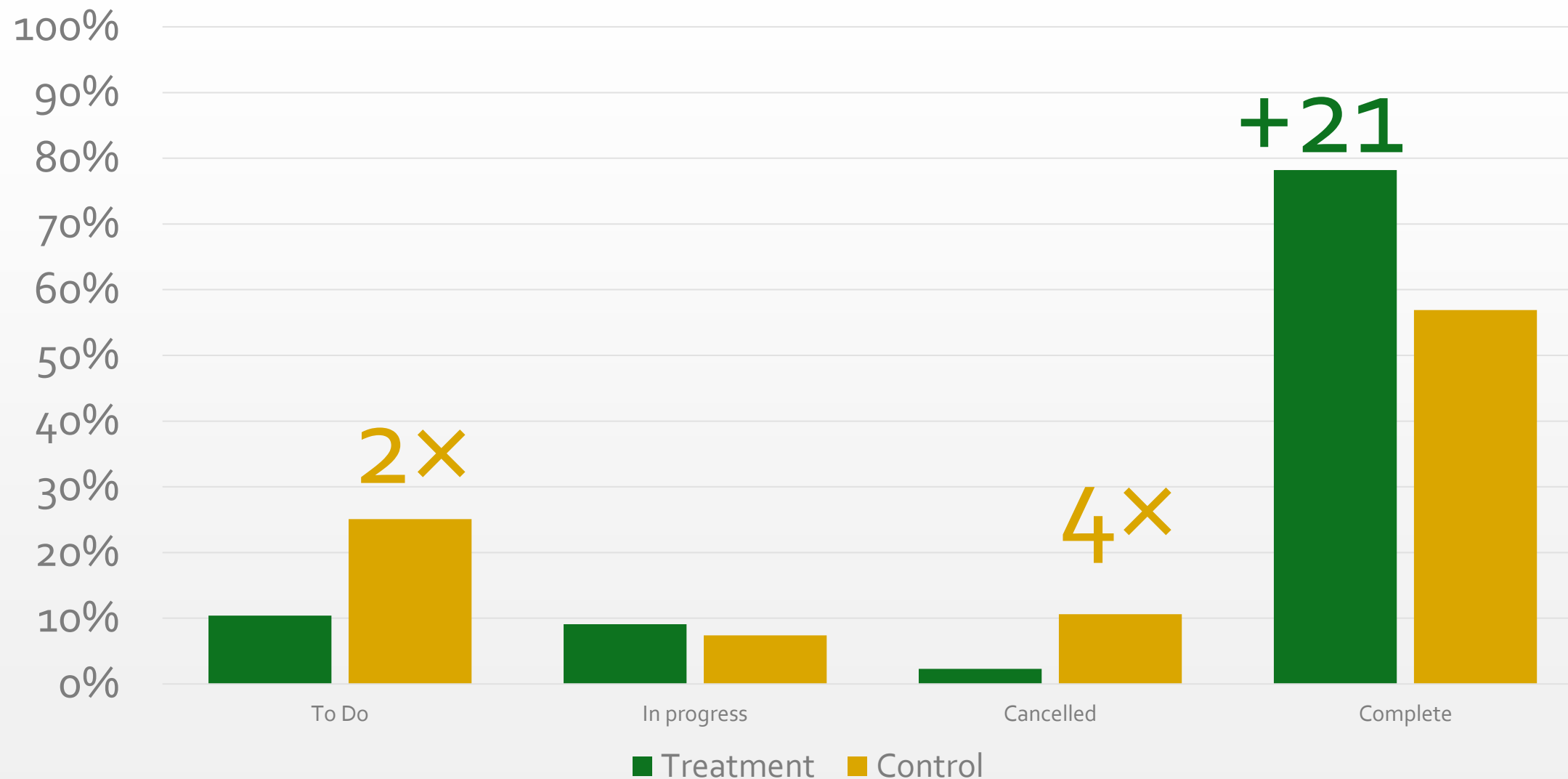




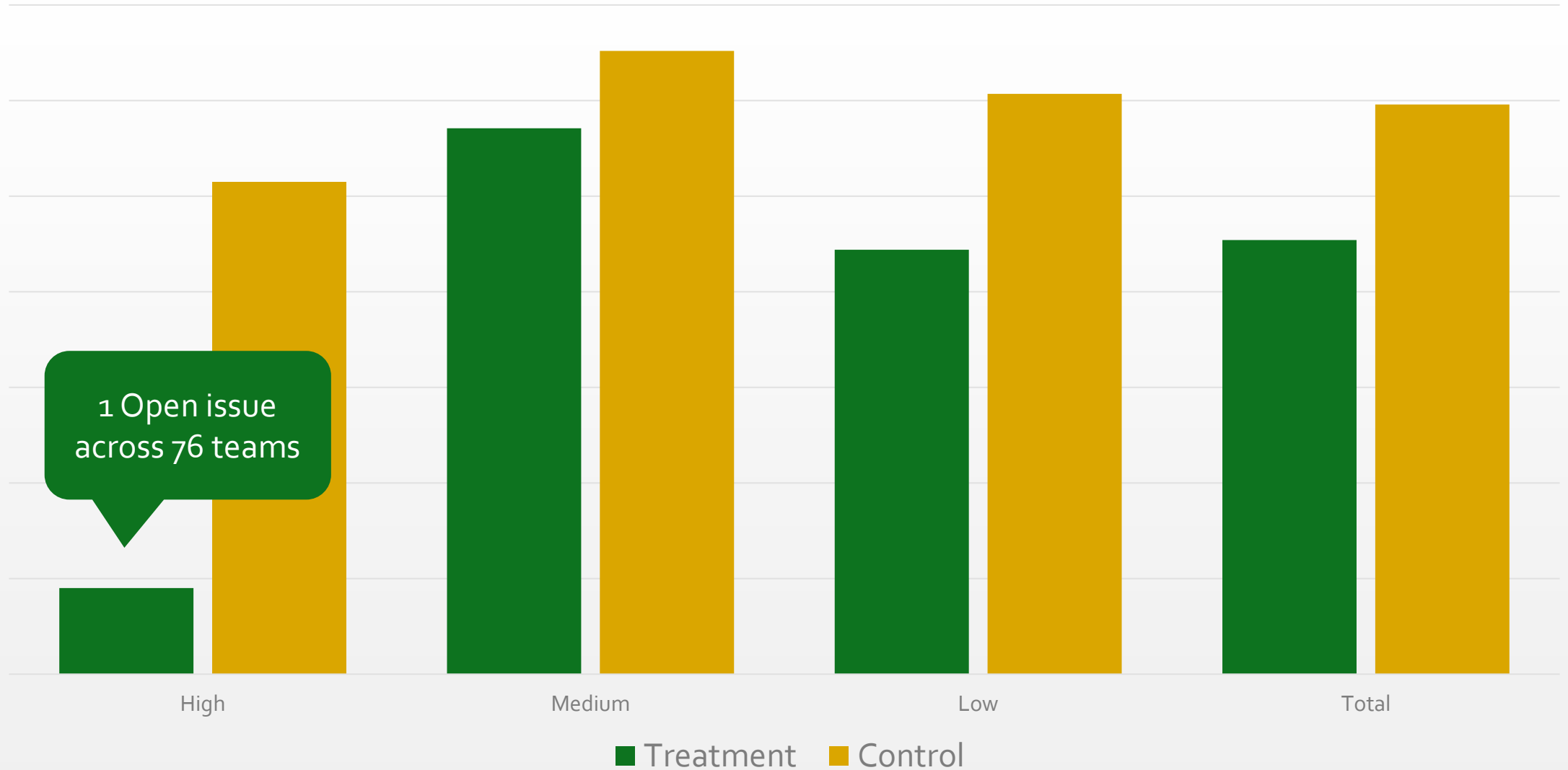
# ISSUES BY GROUP



# ISSUES BY GROUP—FLIPPED

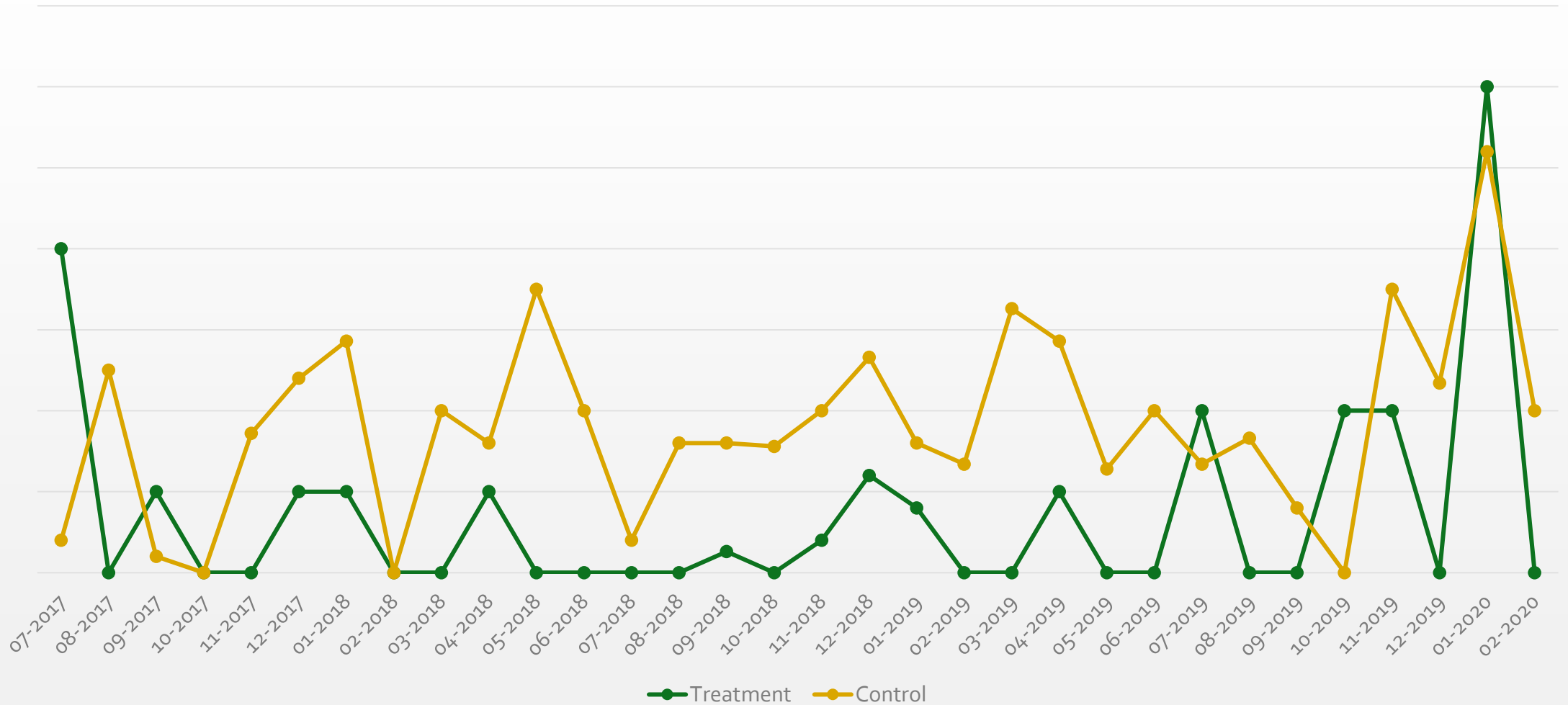


# AGING BY SEVERITY IN DAYS



# HIGH-RISK ISSUES OVER TIME

Issues found per penetration test





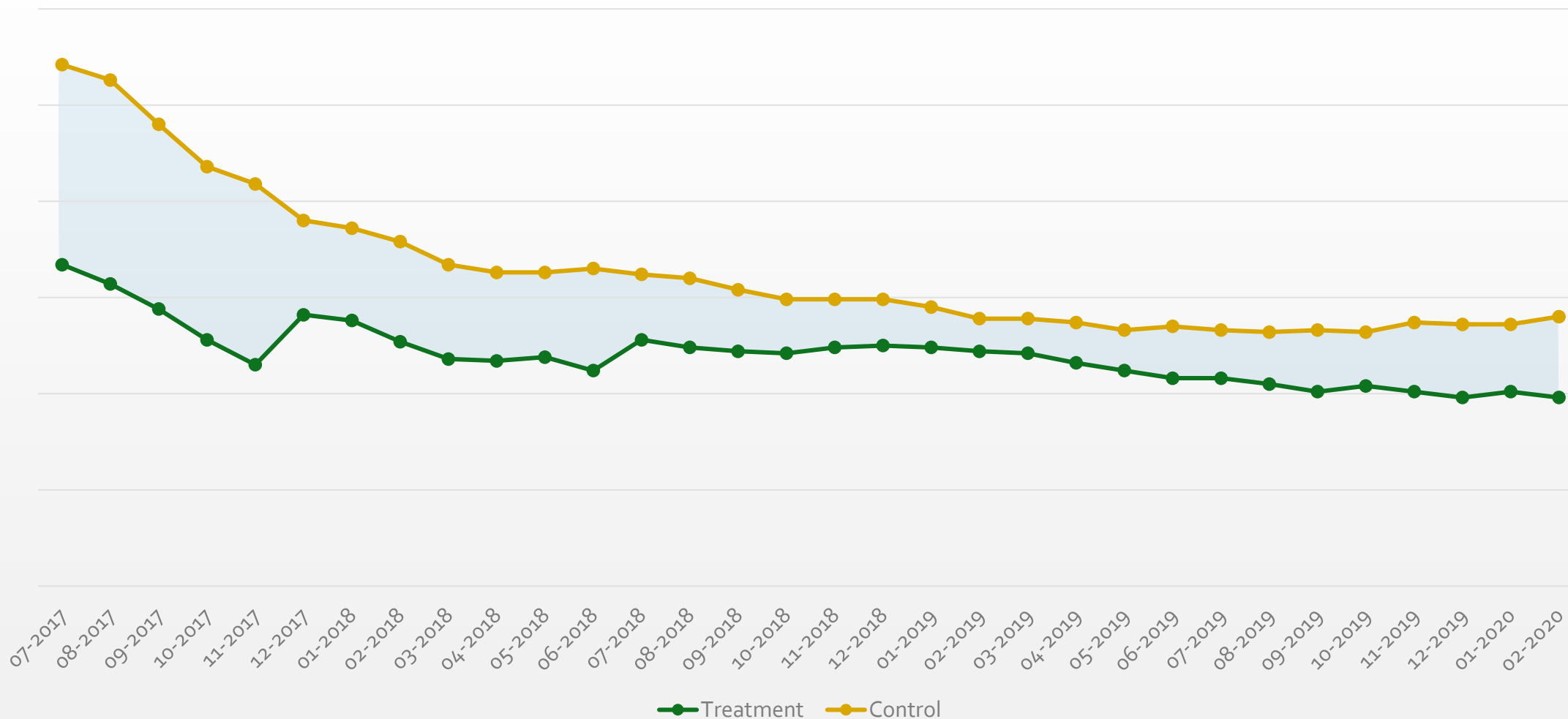
# HIGH-RISK ISSUES OVER TIME

Issues per Pen Test Running Average



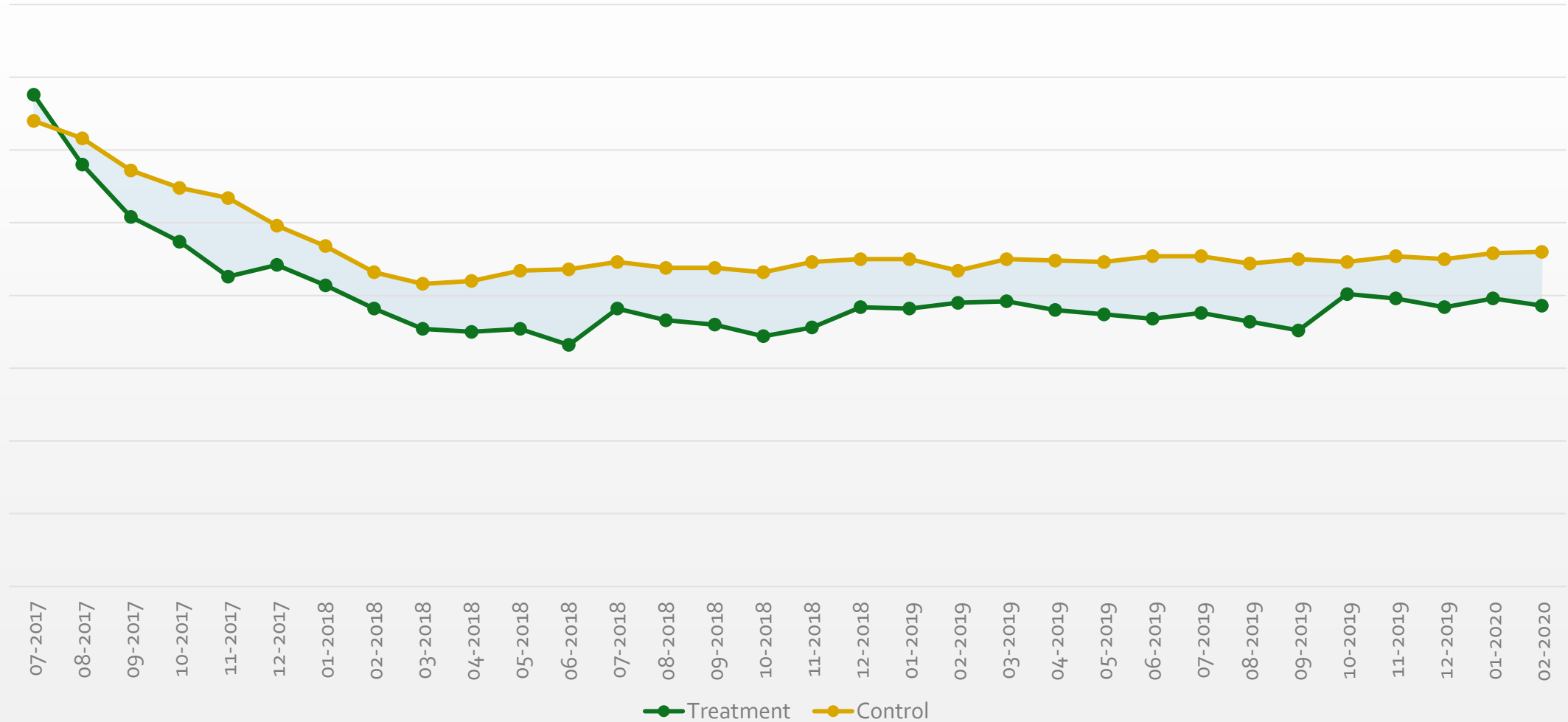
# MEDIUM-RISK ISSUES OVER TIME

Issues per Pen Test Running Average



# LOW-RISK ISSUES OVER TIME

Issues per Pen Test Running Average



# TREATMENTS

Requirements

Risk Analysis

Static Scanning

Code Review

Dynamic Scanning

Training and coaching  
on OWASP Proactive  
Controls and Risks



# TREATMENTS

Requirements

Risk Analysis

Understanding potential problems prior to coding

Static Scanning

Code Review

Dynamic Scanning





# TREATMENTS

Requirements

Risk Analysis

Static Scanning

Code Review

Dynamic Scanning

Breaking builds on high was the key to reducing Pen Test findings



# TREATMENTS

Requirements

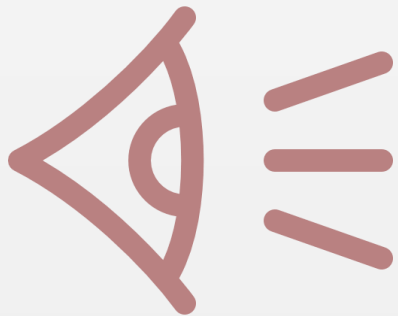
Risk Analysis

Static Scanning

Code Review

Dynamic Scanning

Extra layer of defense  
and an effective training  
opportunity



# TREATMENTS

Requirements

Risk Analysis

Static Scanning

Code Review

Dynamic Scanning

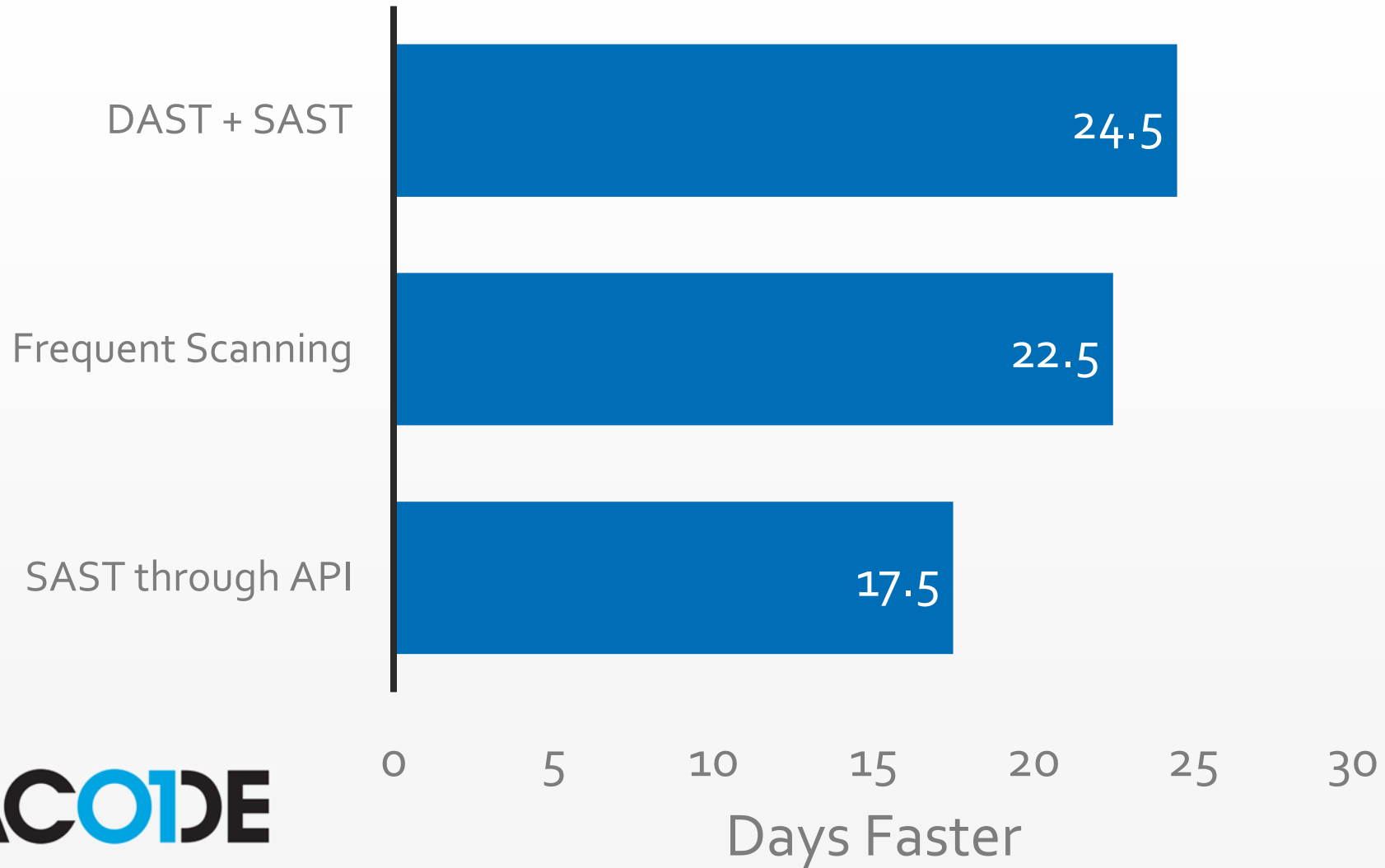
Final testing prior to promoting code to the production environment





# State of Software Security v11

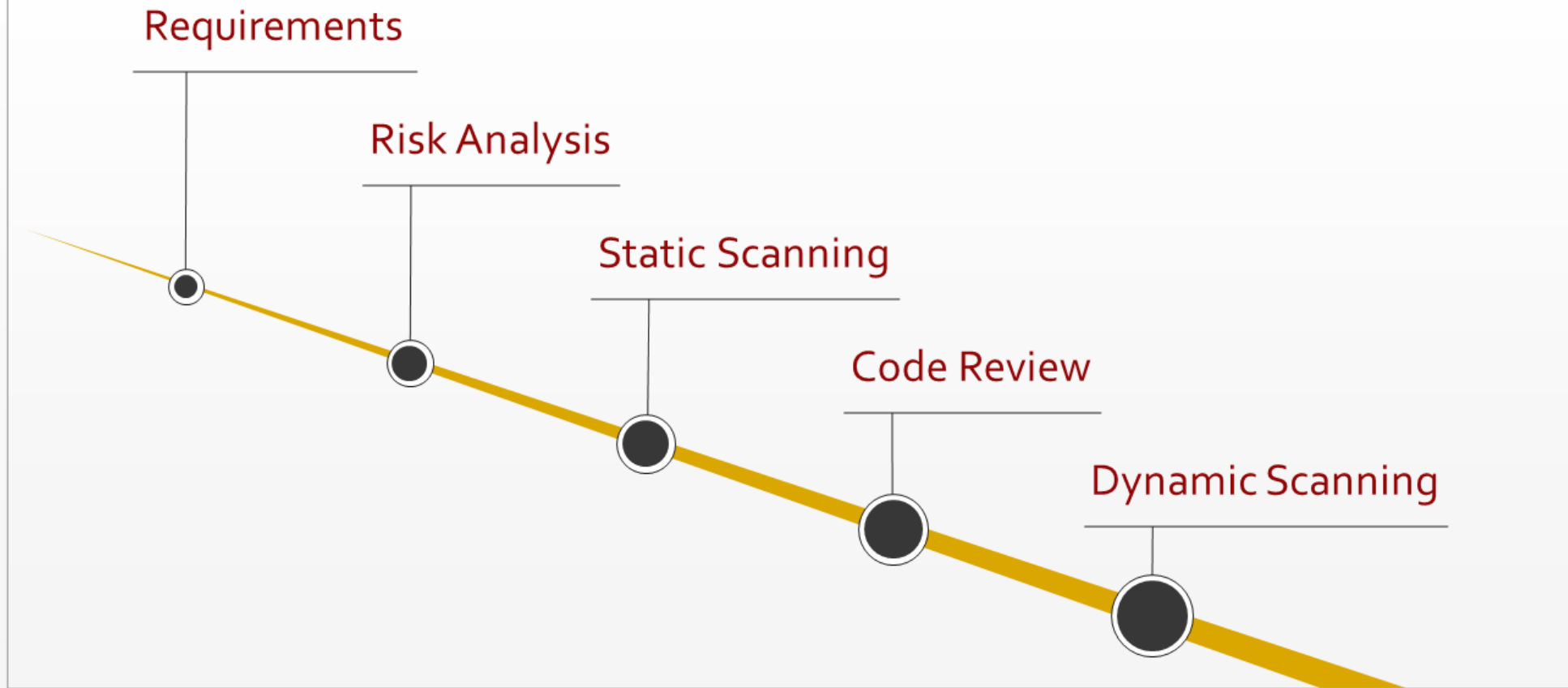
# STATE OF SECURITY REPORT





# SUMMARY

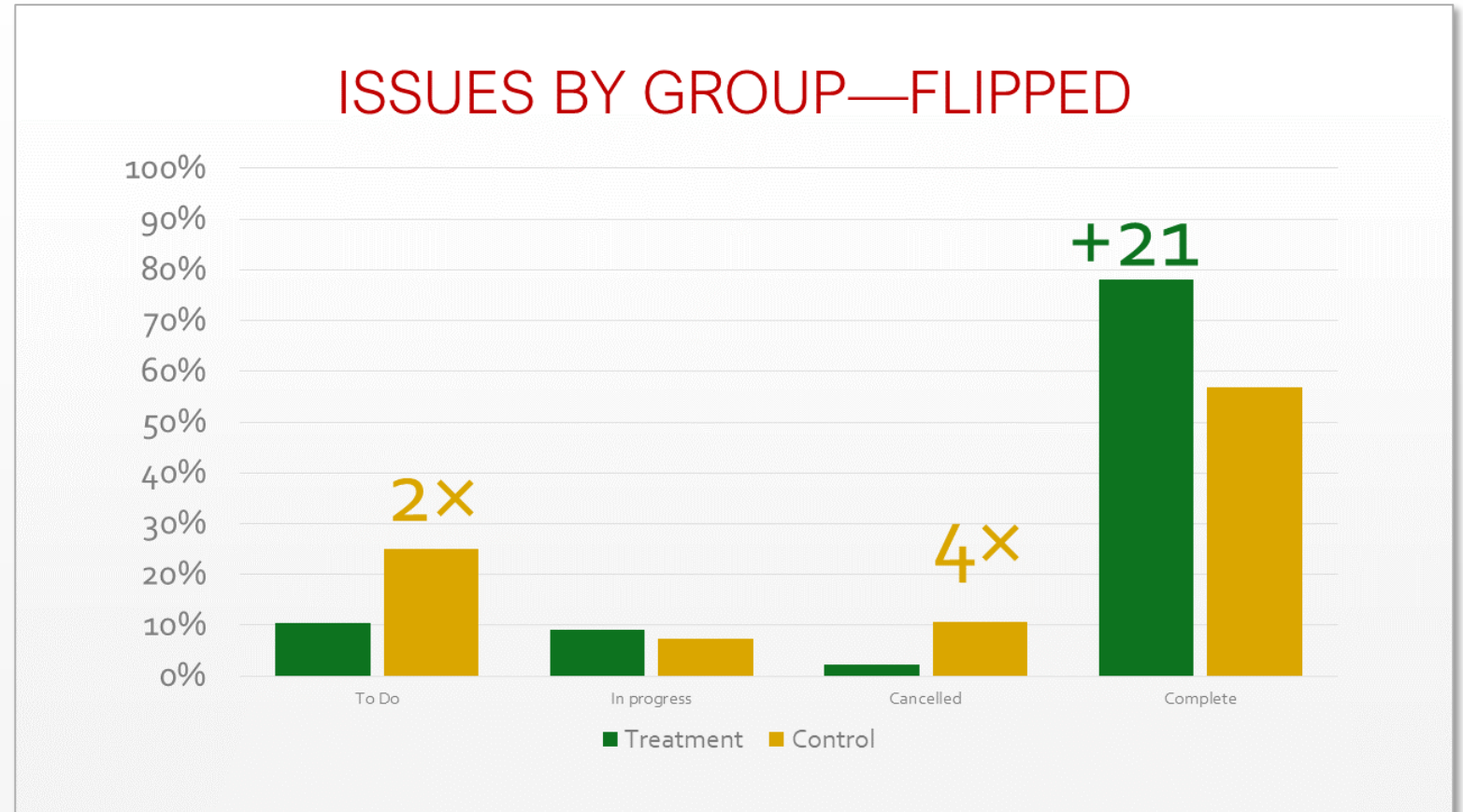
## TREATMENTS



# SUMMARY

Teams which receive coaching and training on application security topics...

Are twice as likely to be working on a security ticket and cancel tickets 1/4 as often,

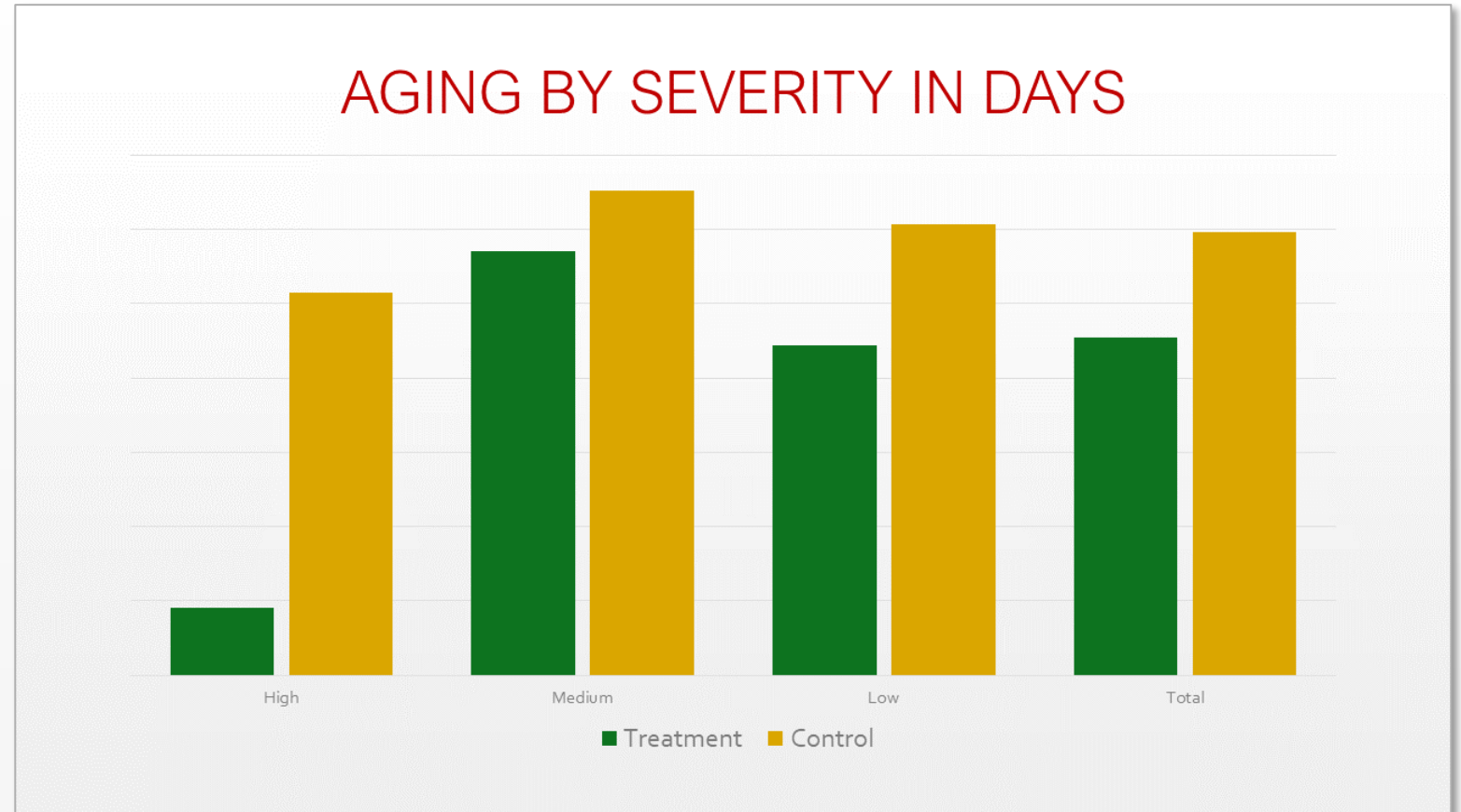


# SUMMARY

Teams which receive coaching and training on application security topics...

Are twice as likely to be working on a security ticket and cancel tickets  $\frac{1}{4}$  as often,

Fix security tickets much more quickly, and,



# SUMMARY

Teams which receive coaching and training on application security topics...

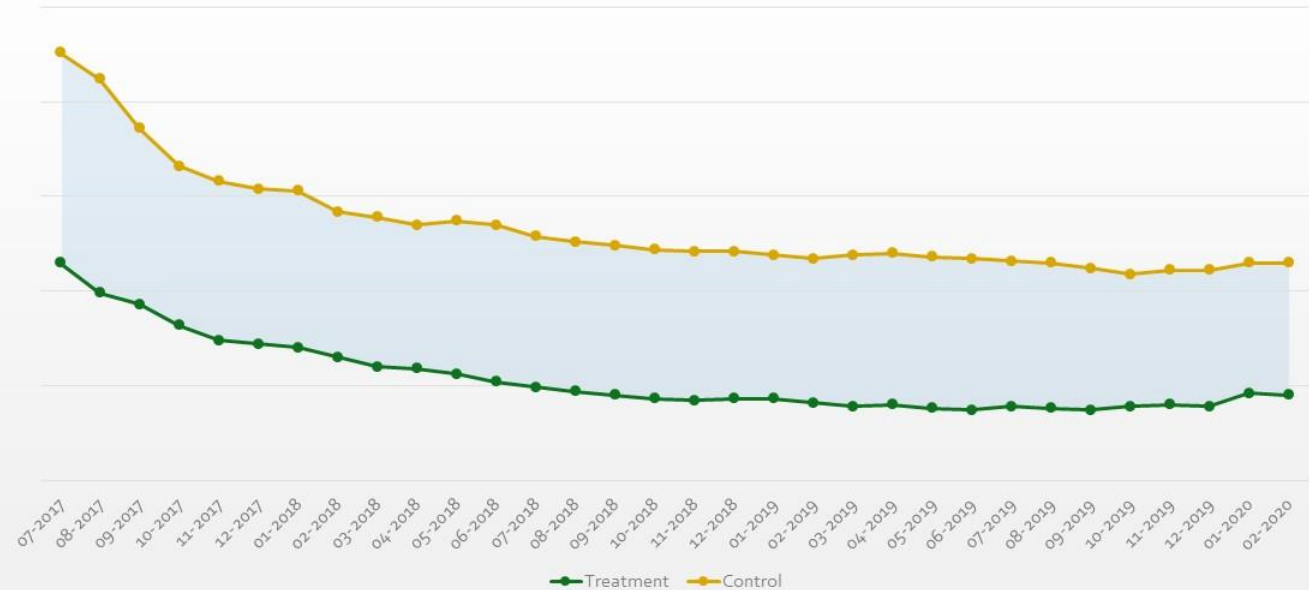
Are twice as likely to be working on a security ticket and cancel tickets  $\frac{1}{4}$  as often,

Fix security tickets much more quickly, and,

Have fewer security bugs found during pen testing.

## HIGH-RISK ISSUES OVER TIME

Issues per Pen Test Running Average



# CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



OWASP



Champions



Opt-in



Break builds

A heavy metal chain is shown broken in the center, with several links separated and debris scattered around. The background is a solid, muted red color. The text 'BREAKING BUILDS' is centered over the broken chain.

# BREAKING BUILDS

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# ROBOT PEDANTRY, HUMAN EMPATHY

“Seek on your project to **automate** and **codify** as much as you possibly can while remembering that the **human touch** is still necessary”

—Mike McQuaid

<https://mikemcquaid.com/2018/06/05/robot-pedantry-human-empathy/>



Running head: SECURE CODING IN LARGE ENTERPRISES

Secure Coding in Large Enterprises: Does Application Security Coaching, Training, and Consulting Increase a Development Team's Ability to Deliver Secure Code.

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University of Missouri—St. Louis

FS20-INFYS5899-006

# ACADEMIC PAPER

To be submitted  
for peer review and  
publishing in third  
quarter of 2021

seantscott.com



# STATISTICS

## High-impact vs. Control

T-test significance level: **0.000212**,

Control group (M=.91, SD=.57)

Treatment group (M=.37, SD=.65,  $t(31)=3.174$ ,  $p<.05$ ).

## High- + Medium-impact vs. Control

T-test significance level: **0.010504**

Control group (M=2.06, SD=1.07)

Treatment group (M=1.23, SD=1.39,  $t(31)=5.01$ ,  $p<.05$ ).

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