

Drug Court Peer Review Implementation Successes and Lessons Learned

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Learning Objectives

- What are the benefits of using peer reviews?
- What are the successes in states that have implemented peer reviews?
- What challenges have arisen and how did states overcome them?
- What are the lessons learned that might help states that are exploring this option?

Drug Court Peer Review

- Process evaluation modified for use by peers instead of evaluators.
- Drug court team members assess another program and provide feedback about that program's alignment with research based best practices and State standards.

Purpose of Peer Review

- Create a statewide learning community
- Peers identify areas for program improvements and share successes and challenges
- Low administrative cost, less threatening fidelity assessment
- Builds relationships between programs
- Informs state of areas of needed technical assistance and training

Panel will

- Share stories and information about their state roll-outs and what they have experienced
- Highlight successes and lessons learned
- Share how they are using the information and process

Idaho



Idaho Peer Review Timeline

- Began in spring 2013 with 6 pilot peer reviews
- Fall 2014: 10 Felony Drug Courts, 1 Misd DUI Court were reviewed
- Plans include 33 total courts reviewed over 3 years, with 12 scheduled for fall 2015

Idaho Peer Review Process

- 2 reviewers travel to neighboring Districts
- 2-day stay (approx.)
 - Team and participant interviews,
 - Observations of staffing and hearing,
 - Completion of checklist (left with court)
 - Report (submitted to Statewide Coordinator)
- 6-hour training provided each summer for new reviewers

Idaho Peer Review Process

- Follow-up from Statewide Coordinator
 - Assistance with operations
 - Action planning
 - Technical assistance
 - Quality improvement
- FY 15 budget for 11 reviews: under \$10K

Successes and Lessons Learned



[http://www.isc.idaho.gov/solve-
court/peer review](http://www.isc.idaho.gov/solve-court/peer_review)



Oregon

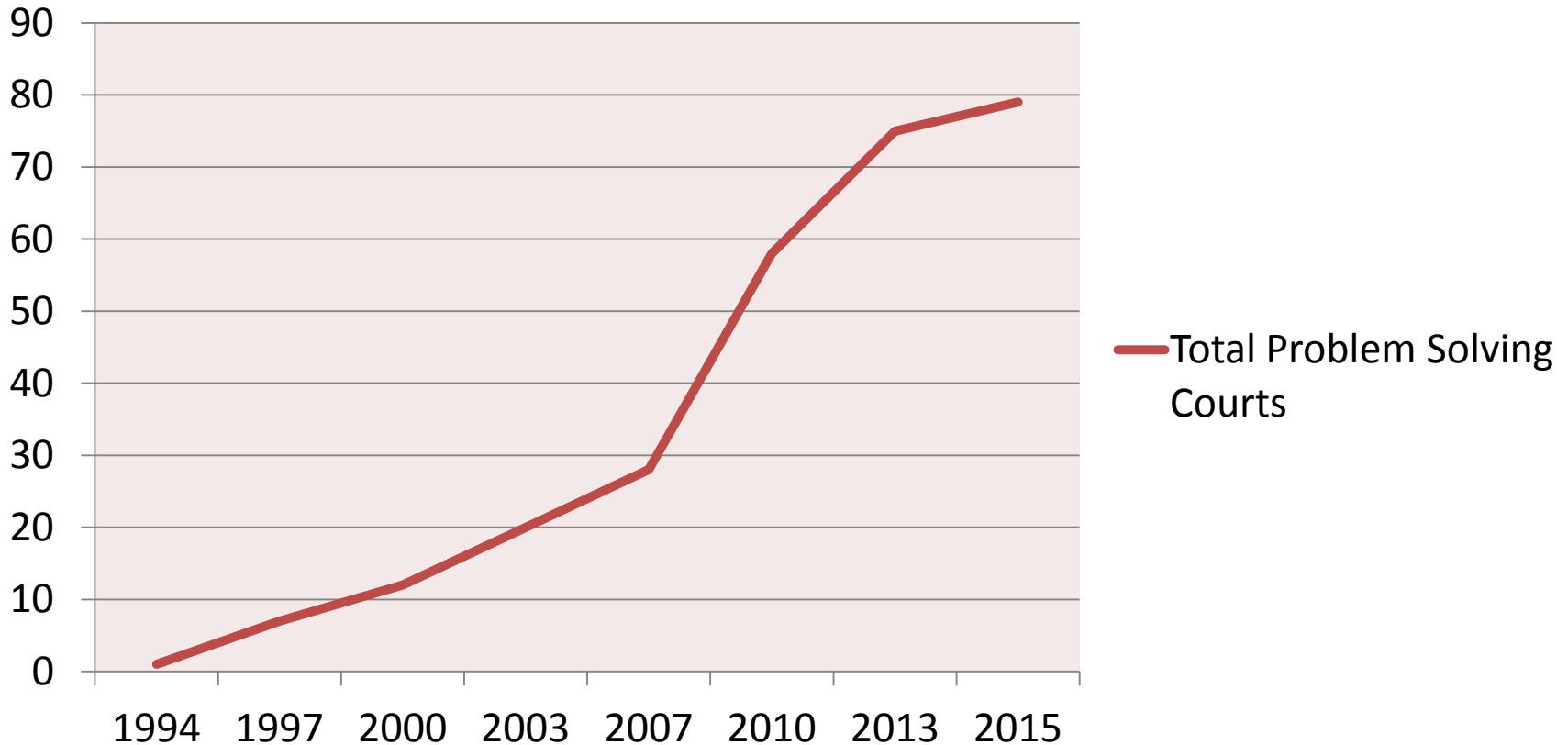


Georgia

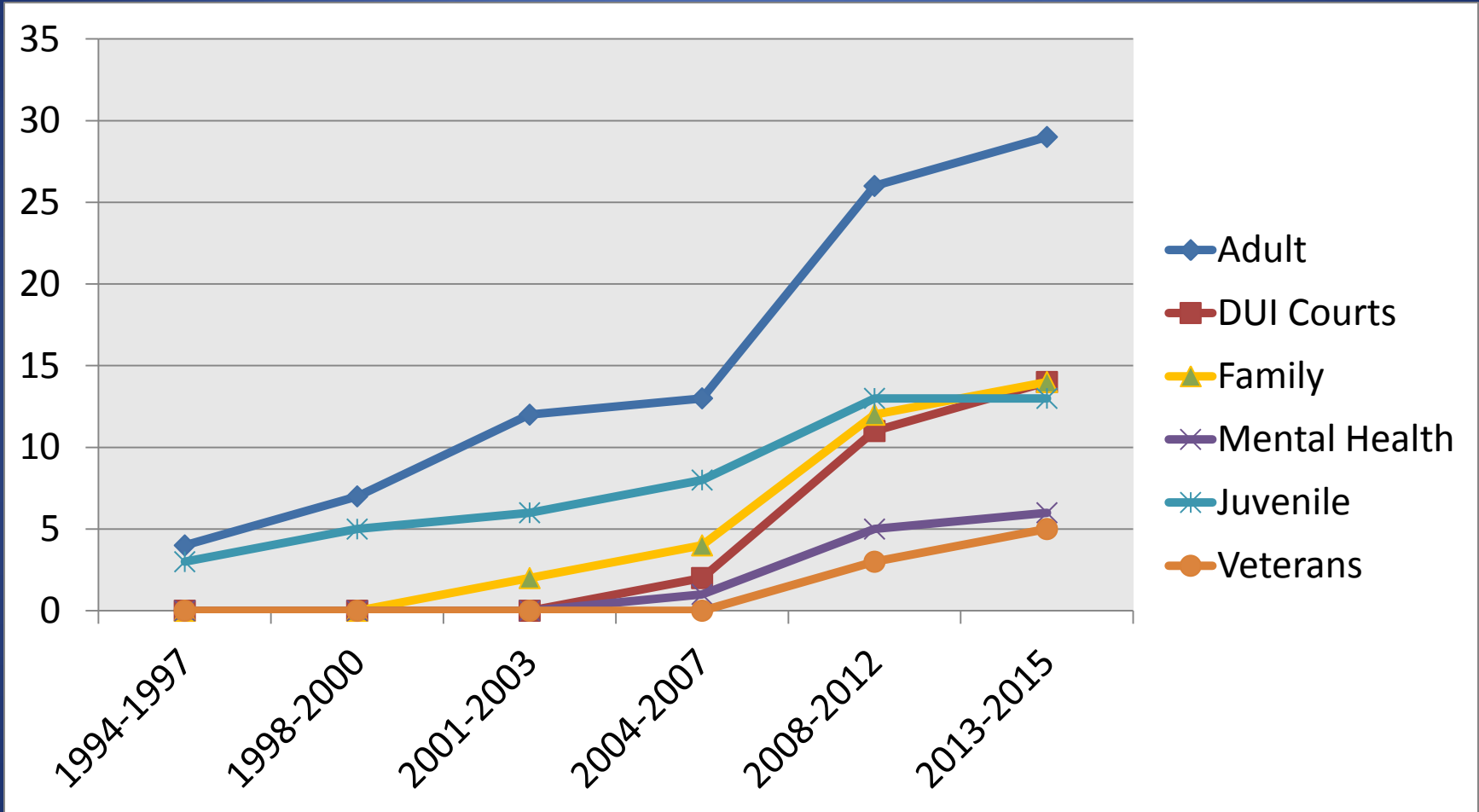


Colorado Problem-Solving Courts

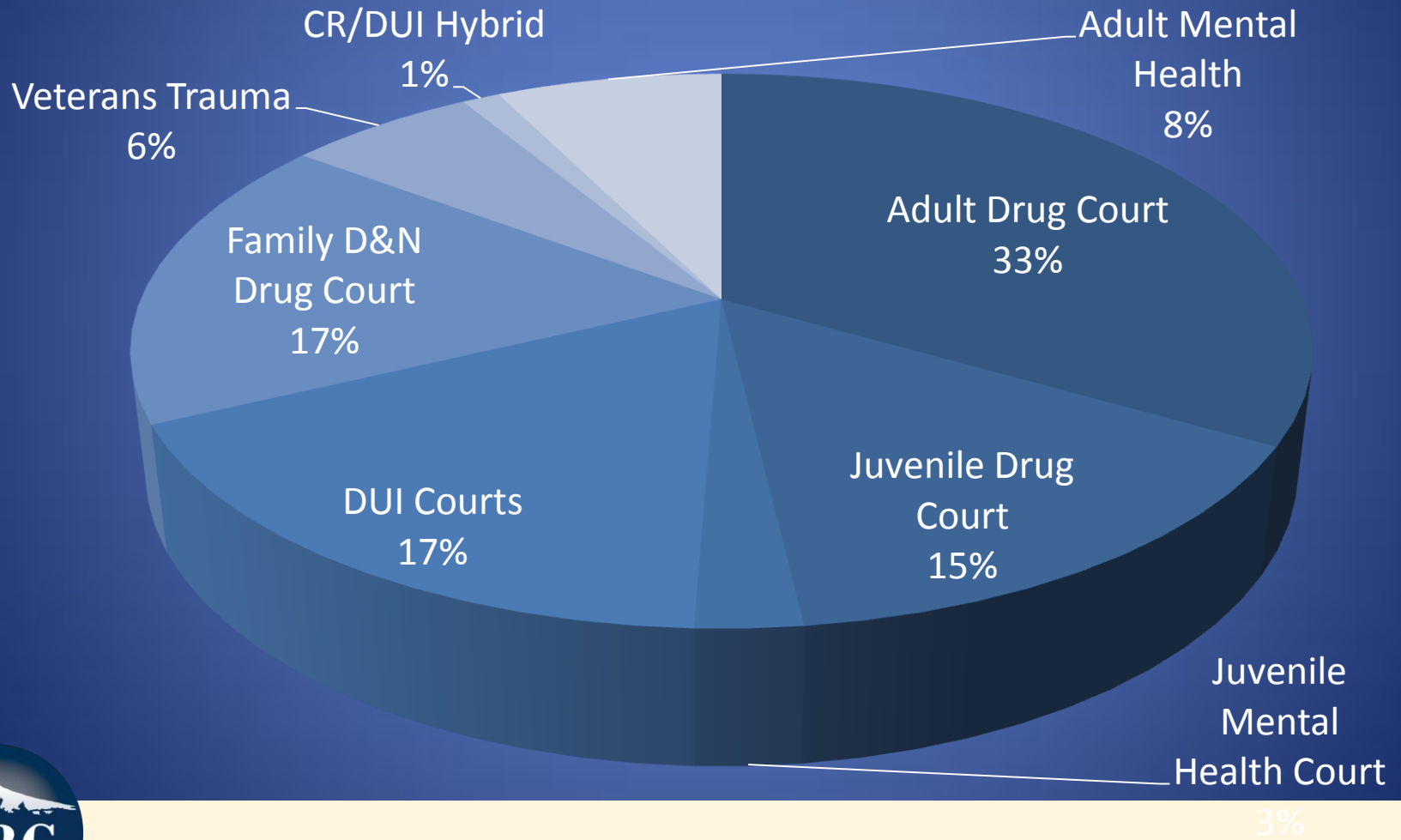
Total Problem Solving Courts



Growth in Colorado



Colorado Problem-Solving Courts



Colorado Problem-Solving Courts

- 2011- First ever permanent funding
- 2012-  9 FTE
- 2013-  2.2 Million for treatment
- 2014-  3 FTE
- 2015-  Treatment funding

Montana





Montana's Peer Review Process

Jeffrey N. Kushner, Montana
Statewide Drug Court Coordinator



The Purpose:

- Align Montana drug courts with national best and evidence-based practices
- Create a learning community among drug court team members
- Comply with state auditor's recommendation in the performance audit to implement monitoring and evaluation of nationally recognized standards to achieve program goals and objectives and monitor effectiveness

The Schedule:

- 60 days prior to review send out letters of intent to carry out review
- Two days later, 2nd letter to local drug court coordinator requesting: 1. completion of on-line survey, 2. completion of cover page (attached), 3. Drug Court documents
- 30 days before review, assure that on-line survey is complete and NPC cross-walks survey results into best practice table
- Peer Review team confirms dates for two day site review and reserves hotel rooms

- Peer review team reviews best practice table, survey responses, documents provided and develops areas for further deeper review
- 2 weeks prior, peer review team meets by phone to discuss individual responsibilities during the review
- Team goes on site, takes notes, completes the best practice table, has exit meeting with team
- Peer Review team drafts report within two weeks of review, finalizes report and sends out format for action plan
- Action plan format is completed by local court and copy is returned to Statewide Drug Court Coordinator and filed along with peer review report
- Statewide Coordinator reviews action plan and provides assistance/training

On-site Activities:

- Interview judge, coordinator, team members
- Observe staffing meeting
- Observe Status Hearing
- Talk with participants (focus group)
- Review and update best practices table
- Hold exit interview before leaving summarizing areas of concern and areas to highlight to all drug courts

Materials Developed:

- Peer Review Process Overview
- Peer Review Checklist
- Peer Review Task Details
- Peer Review Cover Page
- Peer Review Online Survey
- Treatment Definitions
- Best Practices & Standards Table
- Site Visit Schedule and Interview Sign-up Sheet
- Sample Confidentiality Form
- Questions for Team Member Interviews

- Team Member Interview Tips
- Pre-Court Staff Meeting (Staffing) Observation Form
- Status Hearing Observations Form
- Tips for Conducting Participant Focus Group
- Focus Group Disclosure Form Template
- Participant Questions
- Exit Interview Guidelines
- Recommendations for Summary Report
- Summary Report Template
- Sample Peer Review Summary Reports
- Montana Peer Review Policy Q & A's
- Peer Review Resources/Contacts
- Consent Form Required Points and Forms

Question and Answer Session



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