

***Using process evaluation to assess
fidelity to the drug court model***

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National Harbor, MD

Key Component #8

“Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.”

Objectives

- ❖ What is process evaluation?
- ❖ Why do it? (What do you get out of it?)
- ❖ What data are needed and what is it used for?

What is Evaluation?

- ❖ Systematic efforts to collect and use program information for:
 - ✓ program improvement
 - ✓ program accountability
 - ✓ program management
 - ✓ program development

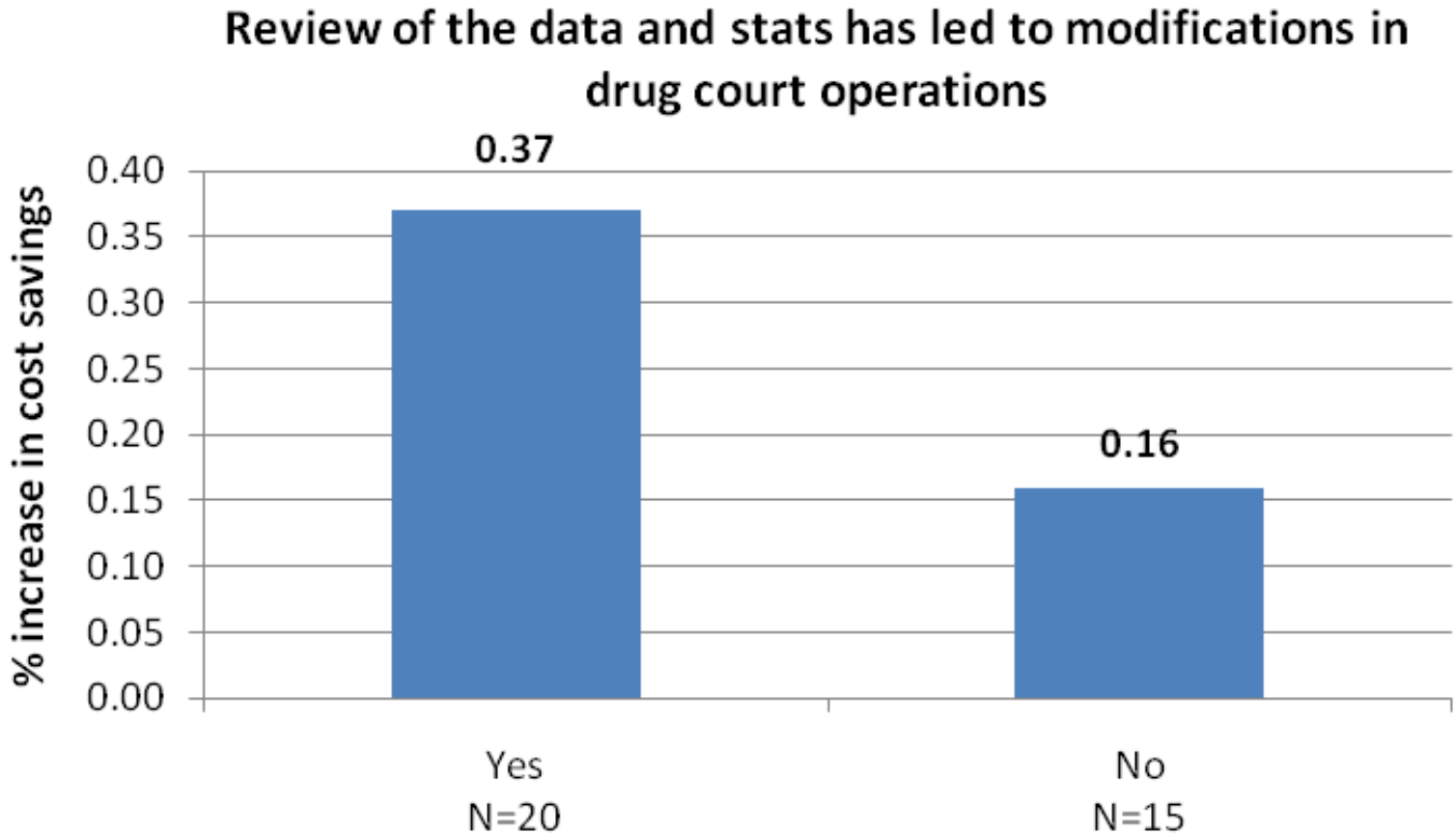
A Useful Evaluation:

- ❖ Helps to **inform and improve programs** as they develop, and does not focus only on whether the programs “worked” or “didn’t work”
- ❖ Involves a collaborative approach with the program sharing in the process and in understanding the results

Why Evaluate?

- ❖ To determine how programs are operating
- ❖ To determine whether and how to improve program functioning
- ❖ To meet accountability requirements
- ❖ To maintain or seek funding
- ❖ To build the knowledge base

Drug courts where review of the data and stats has led to program modifications had 131% higher cost savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Process Evaluation

Purpose: Examine program policies & procedures to...

- Determine how the program was implemented and if it was implemented as intended
- Learn whether and how well the program is following the intended model

Why do process evaluation?

Benefits:

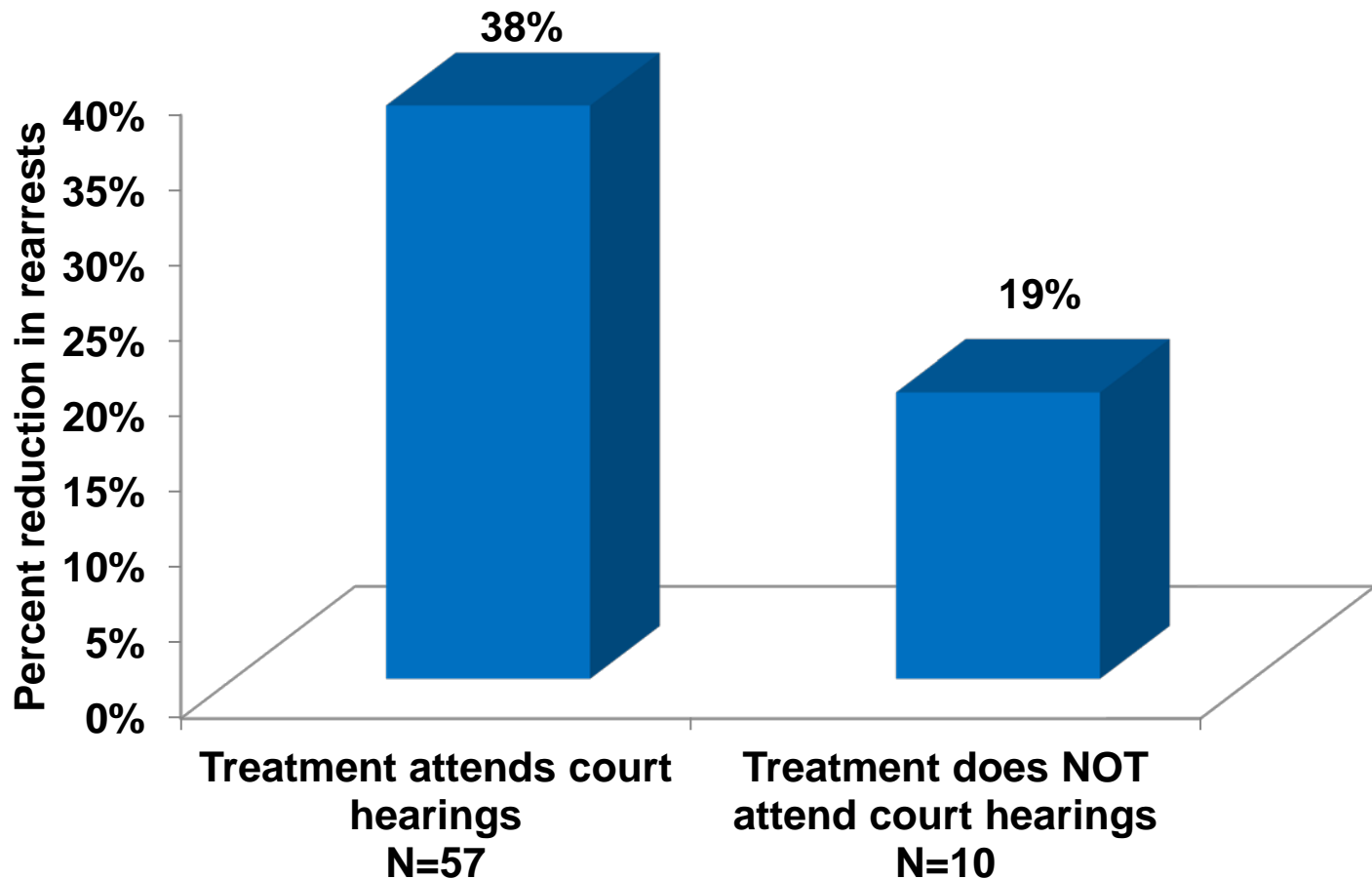
- Provides useful information about program functioning
- Allows an assessment of the reasons for successful or unsuccessful performance
- Provides information for replicating the program in another site

Why do process evaluation?

Benefits:

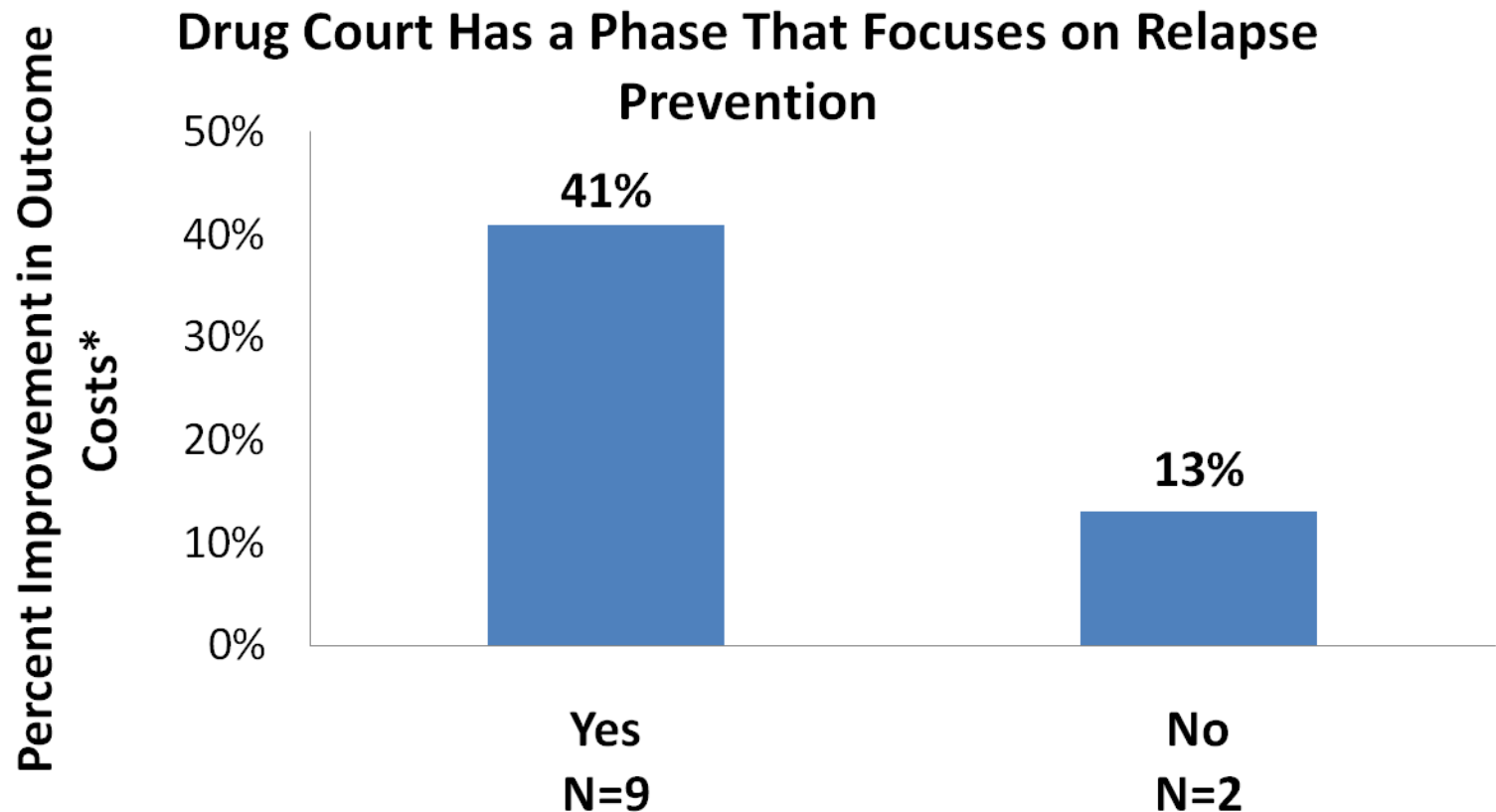
- Contributes to program improvement
- Increases effectiveness for participants
- Helps program achieve better outcomes and greater cost-benefits

Drug Courts where a treatment representative attends court hearings had 100% greater reductions in recidivism



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .10$

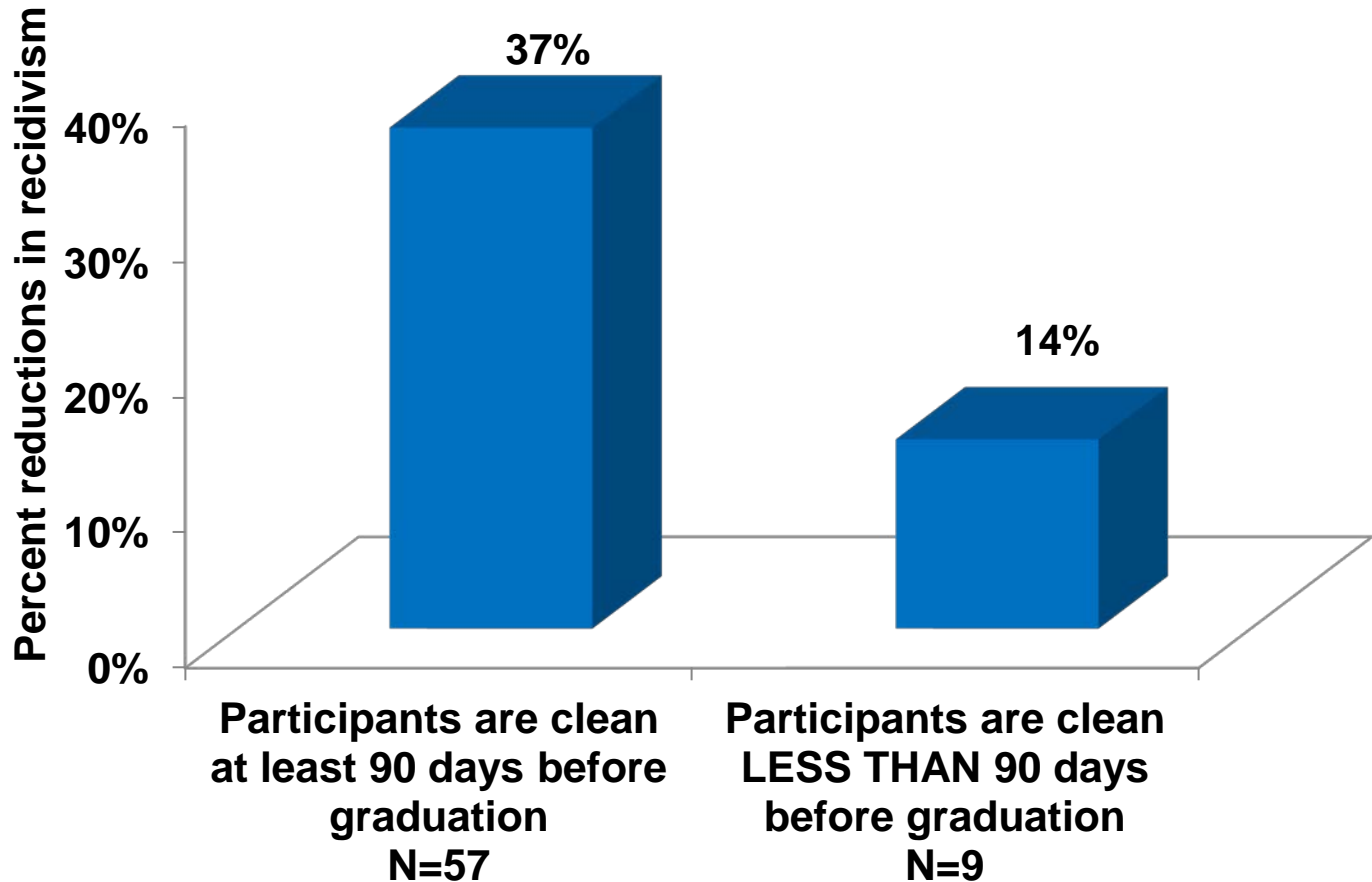
Drug courts that included a phase focusing on relapse prevention had over 3 times greater savings



* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Drug courts where participants are expected to have greater than 90 consecutive days clean before graduation had 164% greater reductions in recidivism



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .15$ (Trend)

Process Methods

- Program survey
- Interviews with program staff
- Document review
- Site visit/observations
- Focus groups with participants

Process Methods

- Review of program participant information from databases & paper files
- Analyze results (summarize data)
- Interpret results – best practices

Final Note on Evaluation

- ✓ Good evaluation does not have to be complicated. Distinguish what you need to know vs. what would be nice to know.
- ✓ Good evaluation will require time, adequate data, and energy to plan and implement.

Final Note on Evaluation

- ✓ Think about your program goals and make sure you are collecting the data you need to measure them
- ✓ Ask for help and consultation when needed

Contact Info

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