



California Drug Court Statewide Cost Study: Preliminary Findings in 25 Sites

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The Research

This Study Was Designed to Answer Two Key Policy Questions:

- ❖ Are drug courts cost-beneficial?
- ❖ What drug court practices appear most promising and cost-beneficial?

The Research

Project Phases

Phase I: Building the Cost Analysis Methodology

Phase II: Validating & Revising the Methodology

Phase III: Developing a Cost Analysis Tool for Drug Courts to Use Statewide

California Drug Court Cost Self-Evaluation Tool



[Home](#) [1. About the Tool](#) [2. What You'll Need](#) [3. Create an Account](#) [4. Login](#)

Welcome to the Drug Court Cost Self-Evaluation Tool

This tool was developed by [NPC Research](#) as a part of a statewide study of the costs and benefits of drug courts for the [California Administrative Office of the Courts](#).

It will allow each drug court in the state to easily gather information to evaluate drug court program costs and benefits. Please click on [About the Tool](#) to learn more about the tool and how to set up a user account.

What This Tool is Designed to Do:

The CSET can help you answer questions such as:

1. What are the total criminal justice system costs invested in drug court?
2. What are the costs for each agency that invests in drug court?
3. What are the cost-benefits associated with drug court?
4. What are the benefits for each agency?
5. Which expenditures provide taxpayers with the best return on their money?

[Research Design](#)

Click here to see the basic research design for this tool.

www.drugcourtcset.com

RESULTS

25 California Adult Drug Courts

Drug Court Participants had lower
recidivism rates

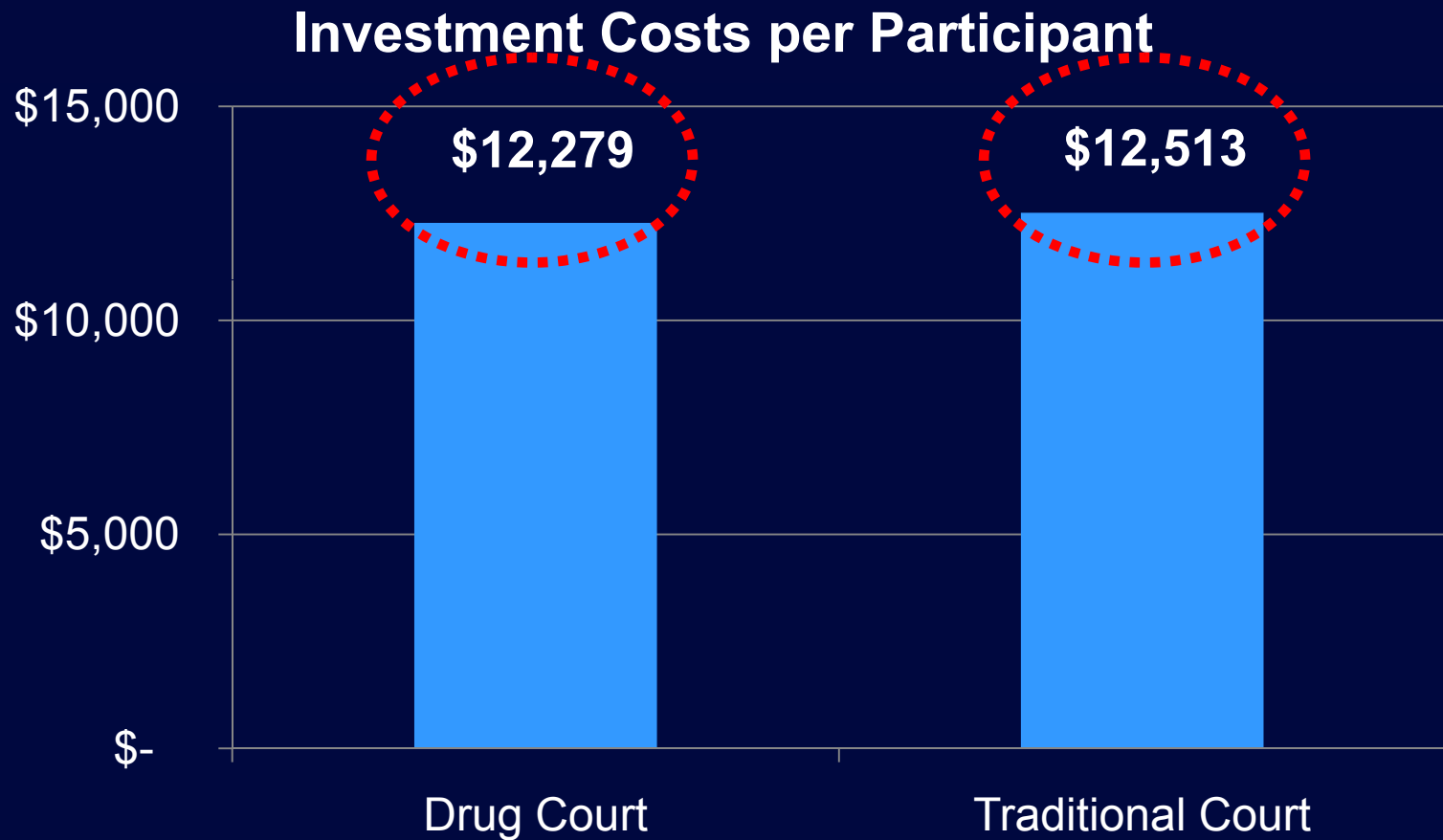
After 2 years:

17% Graduates

50% All Participants

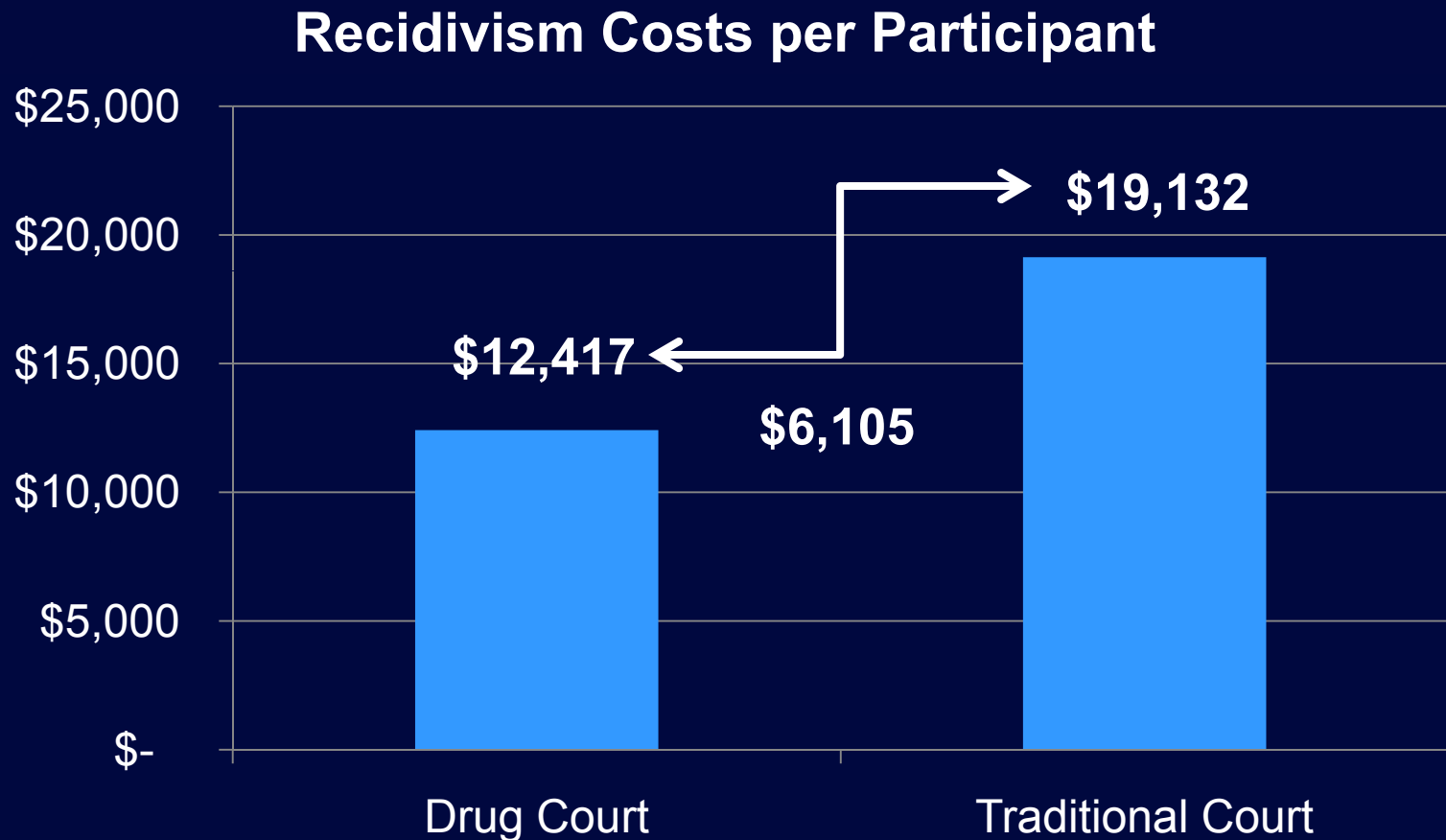
64% Comparison Group

Are CA Drug Court Cost-Beneficial?



Drug Court cost \$234 LESS than traditional court

Are CA Drug Court Cost-Beneficial?



Drug Court saved \$6,105 per participant

Are CA Drug Court Cost-Beneficial?

Cost-Benefit Ratio after 5 years

1:3.80

How Does Drug Court Work?

What practices are promising and cost-beneficial?

Increased Graduation Rate

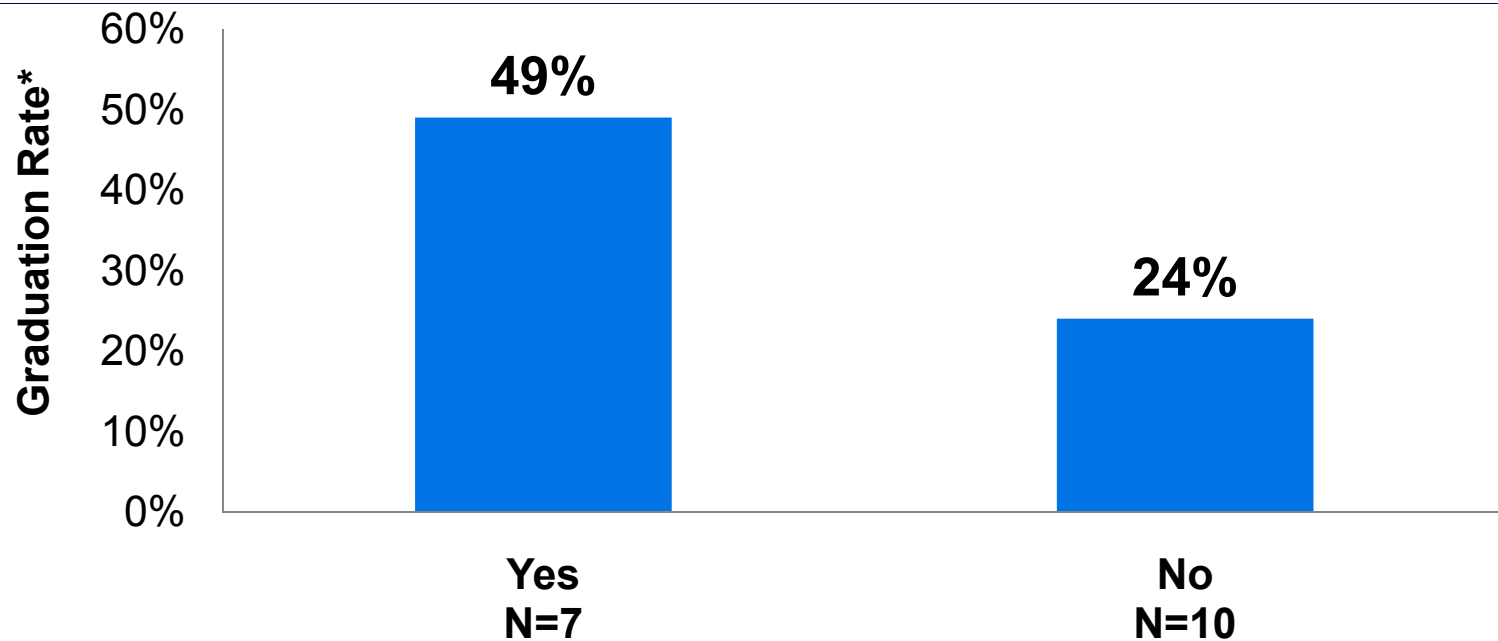
What practices lead to higher graduation rates?



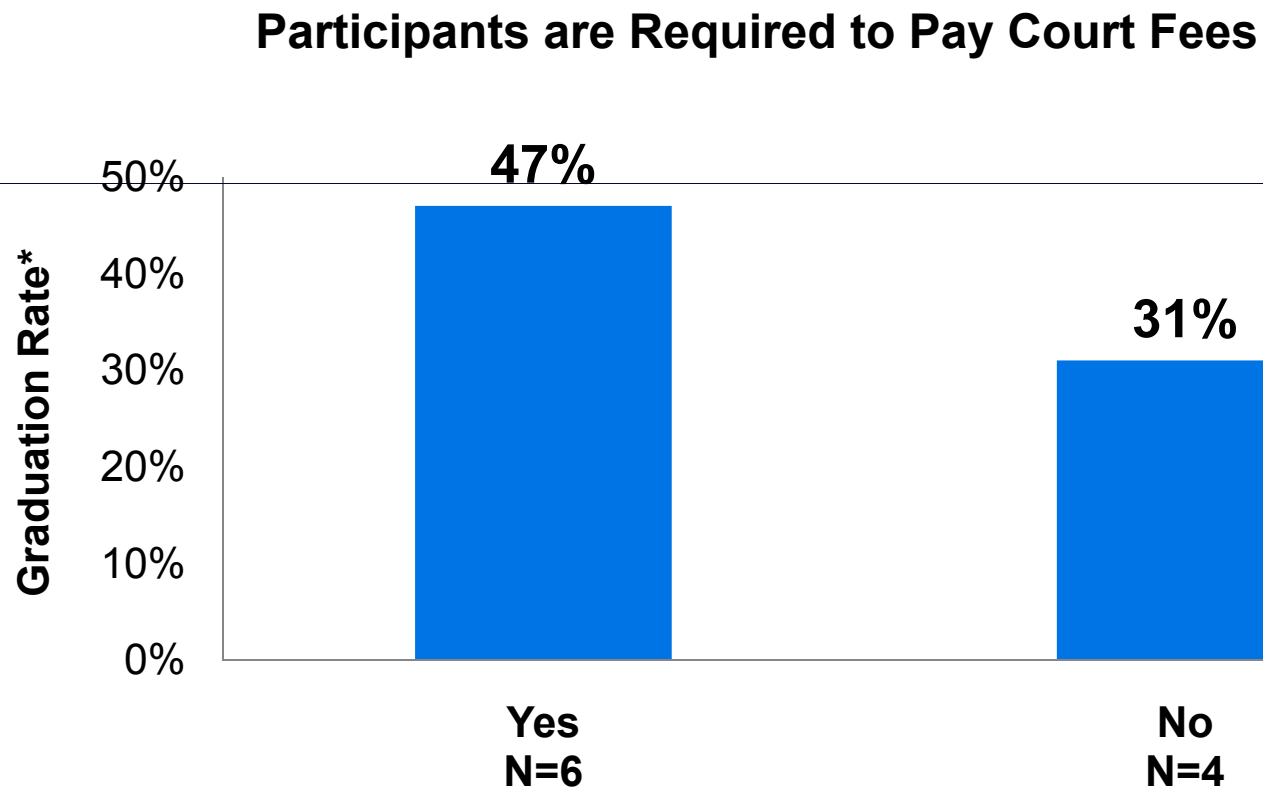
In this current fiscal climate: what practices are low cost but effective?

Drug Courts That Required Participants to Complete Community Service Had Double the Graduation Rate

Participants are Required to Perform Community Service in Order to Graduate

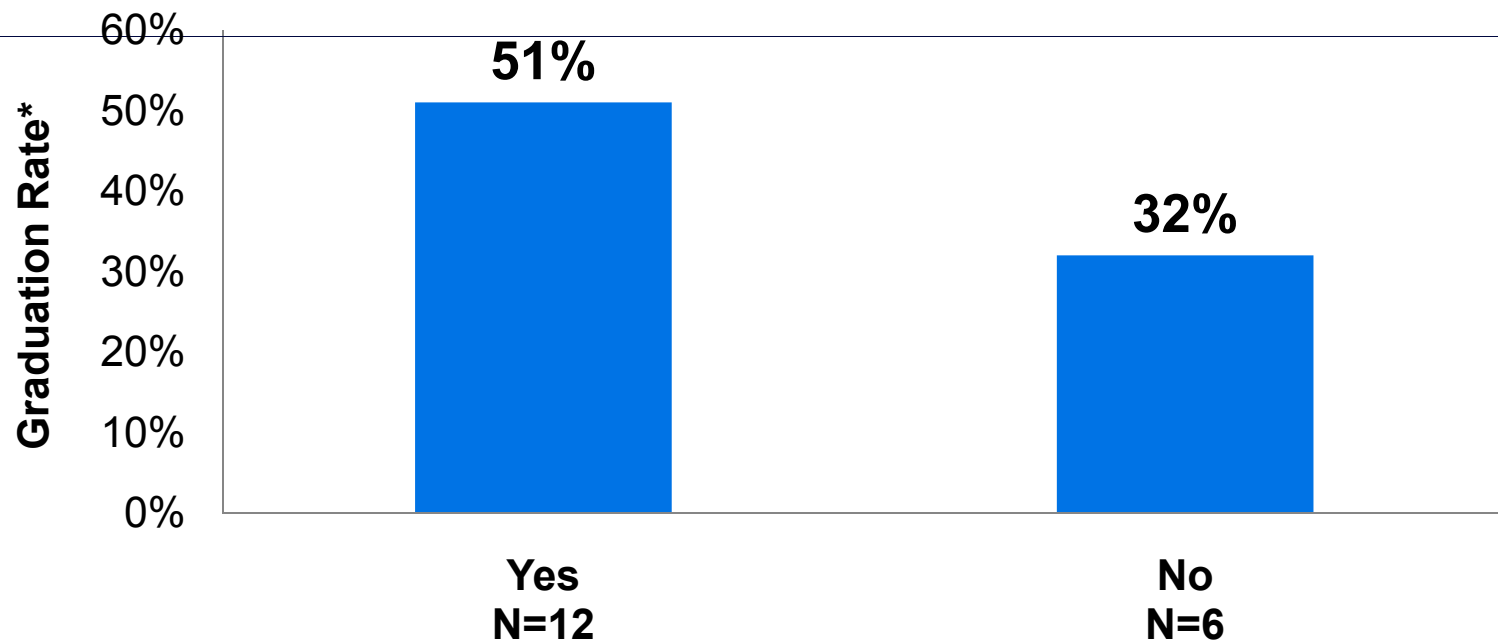


Drug Courts That Required Participants to Pay Court Fees Had 1 ½ Times the Graduation Rate



Drug Courts That Have Written Rules Regarding Participant Behavior and Team Response Had Significantly Higher Graduation Rates

Program Has Written Rules on Team Response to Participant Behavior

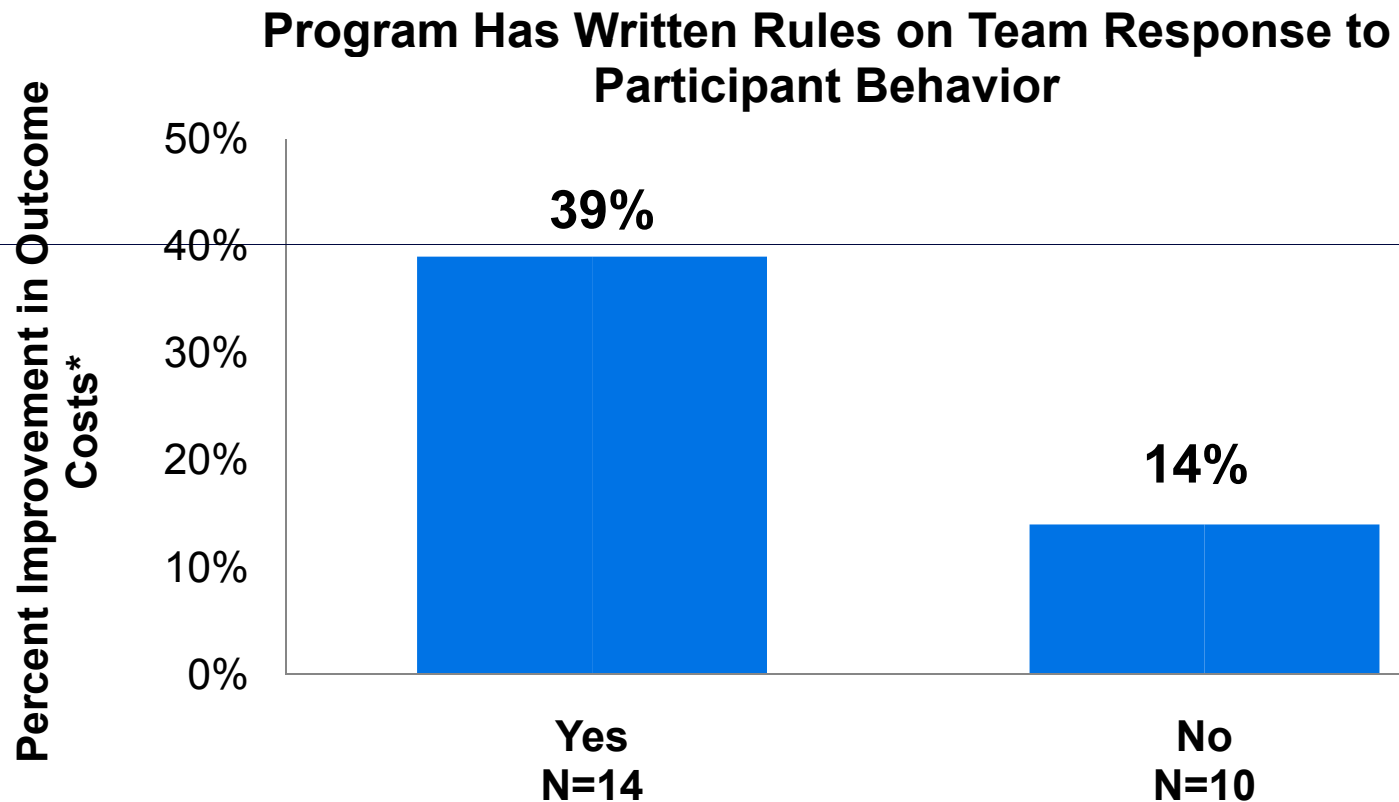


Cost Savings

What practices lead to cost savings due to lower recidivism?

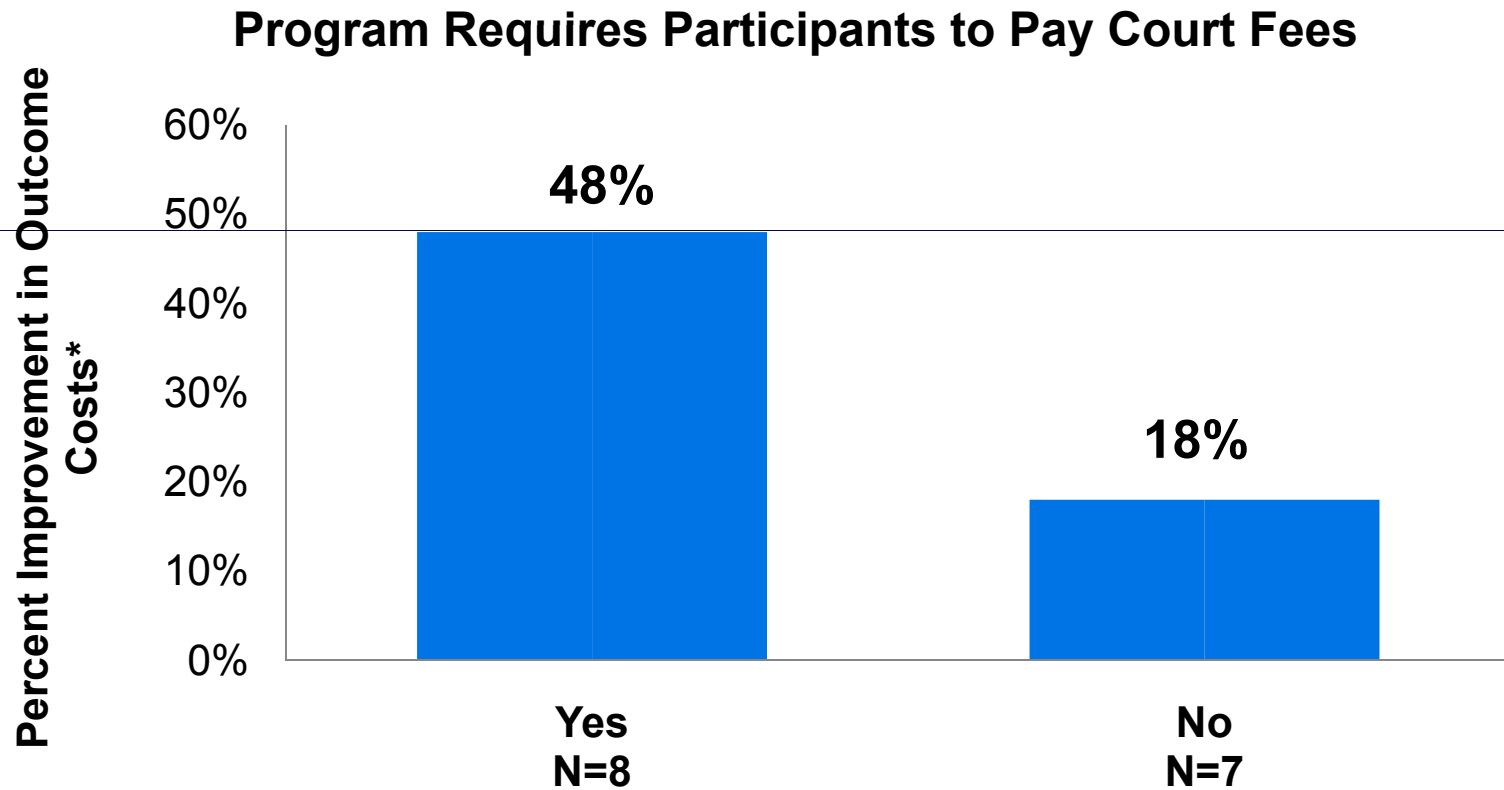


Drug Courts That Have Written Rules Regarding Participant Behavior and Team Response More Than Double the Cost Savings



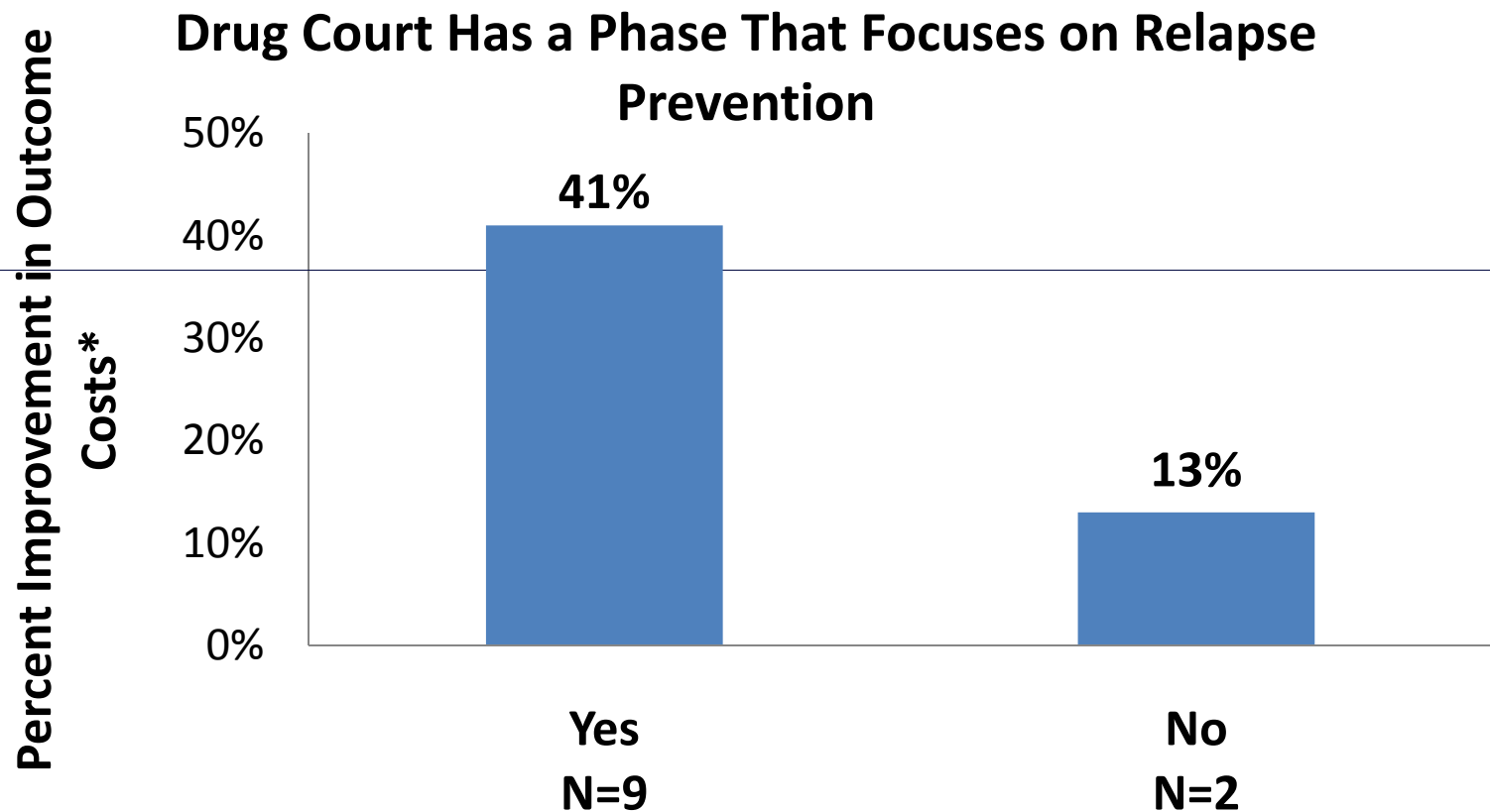
***"Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

Drug Courts That Required Participants to Pay Court Fees Had Nearly 3 Times the Cost Savings



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

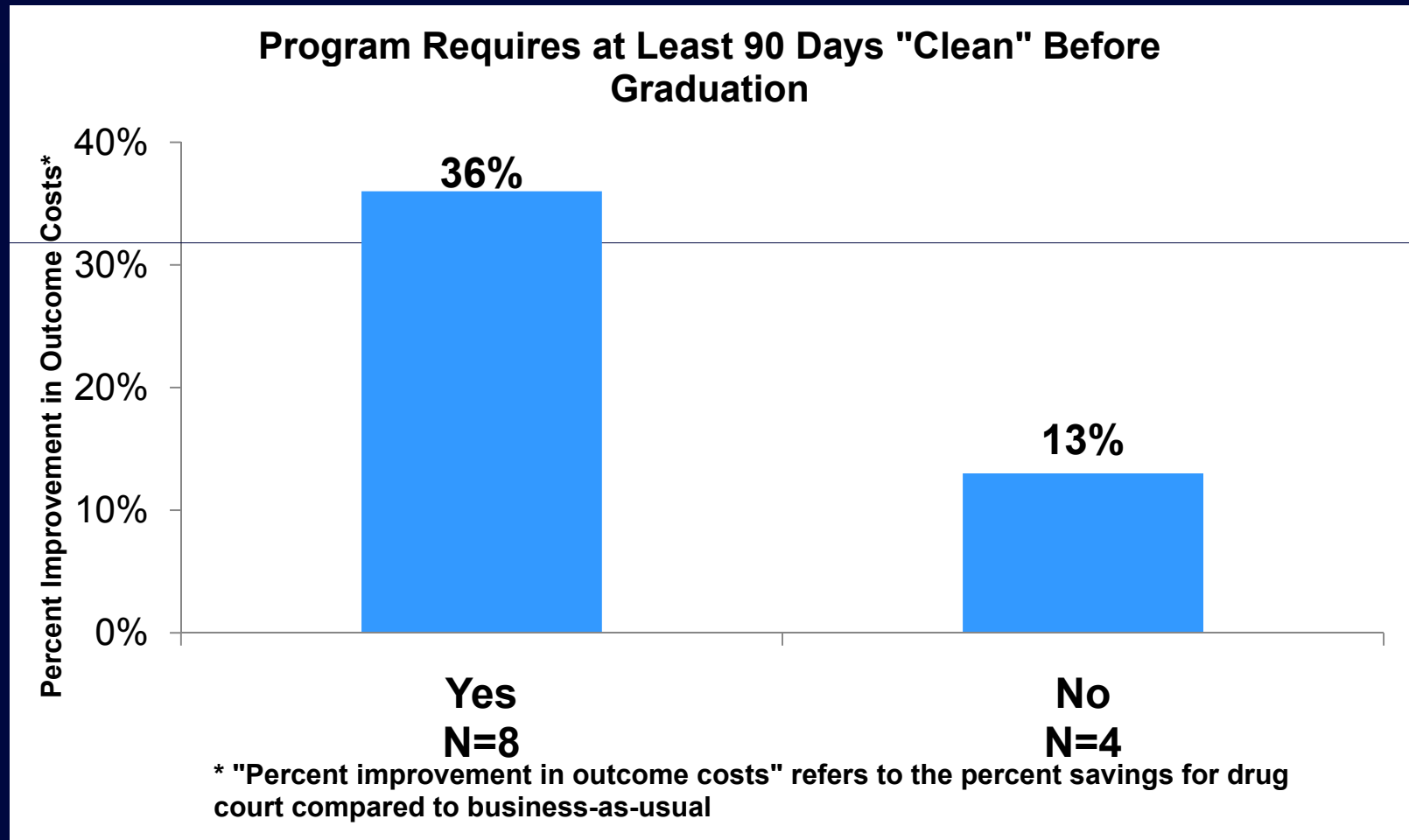
Courts That Had a Phase That Focused on Relapse Prevention had Over 3 Times Greater Savings



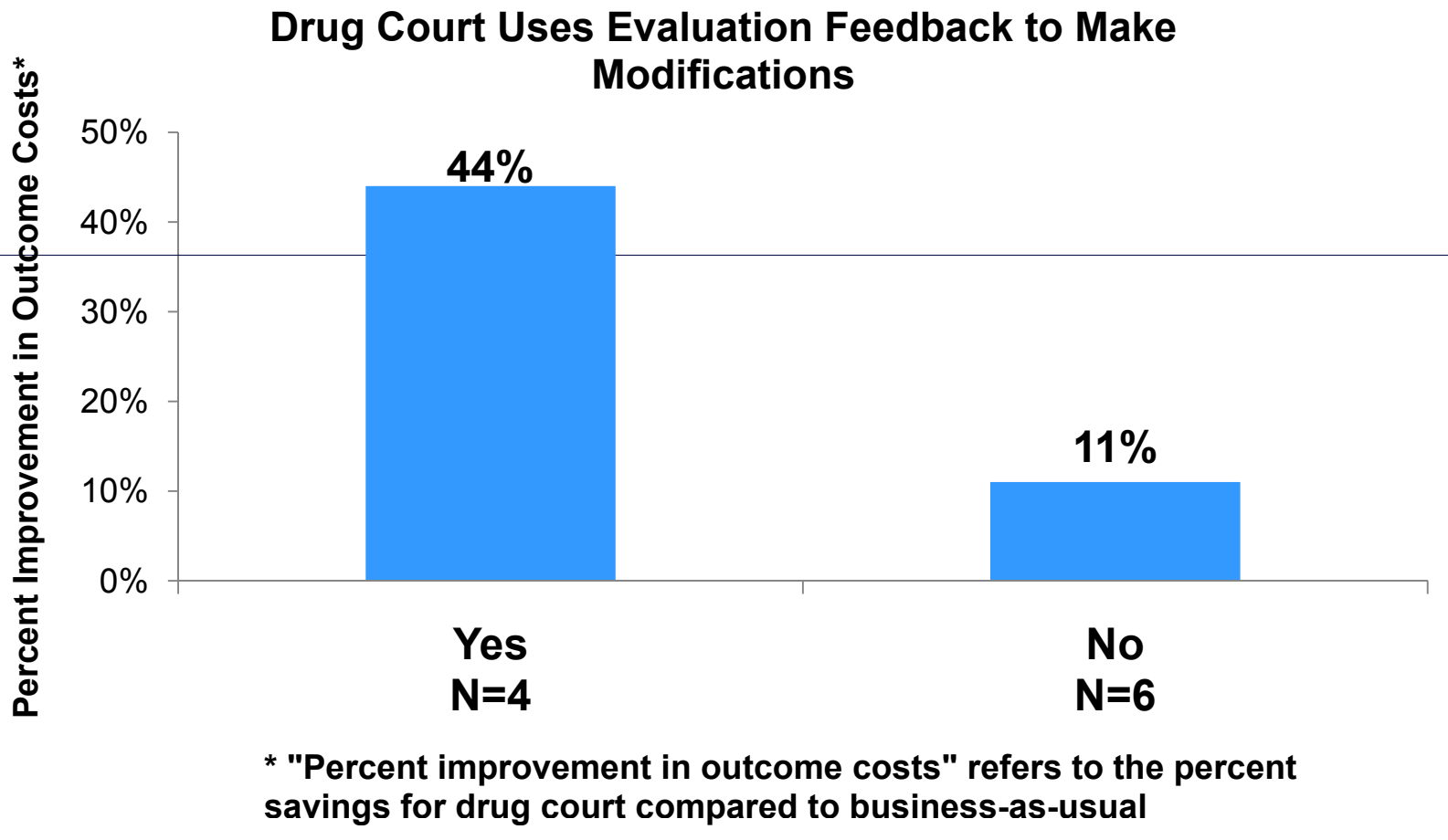
* "Percent improvement in outcome costs" refers to the percent savings for drug court compared to business-as-usual

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

Drug Courts That Required Greater Than 90 Days Clean Had Nearly 3 Times the Cost Savings



Drug Courts That Used Evaluation Feedback and Program Statistics to Modify Their Program Had 4 Times Greater Cost Savings



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



Summary:

For more practices that relate to better outcomes (lower recidivism, bigger savings).

See Handout at NPC Booth #103

**Or download handout online at
www.npcresearch.com**

Conclusion:



Before DC



After DC

Contact Information

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To learn more about NPC or more about drug court evaluations including cost-benefit evaluations see:

www.npcresearch.com

Acknowledgements

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