

Data, Evaluation, and Fidelity to the Model: Best Practices

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Introductions



Overview

- What are the new standards in this area?
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Census and Caseloads
- What is evaluation? (Process, Outcome, Cost)
- How do monitoring and evaluation impact fidelity?
- How can you use evaluation? (Colorado)
- How do census and caseload impact fidelity?

Best Practice Standards for Adult Drug Courts

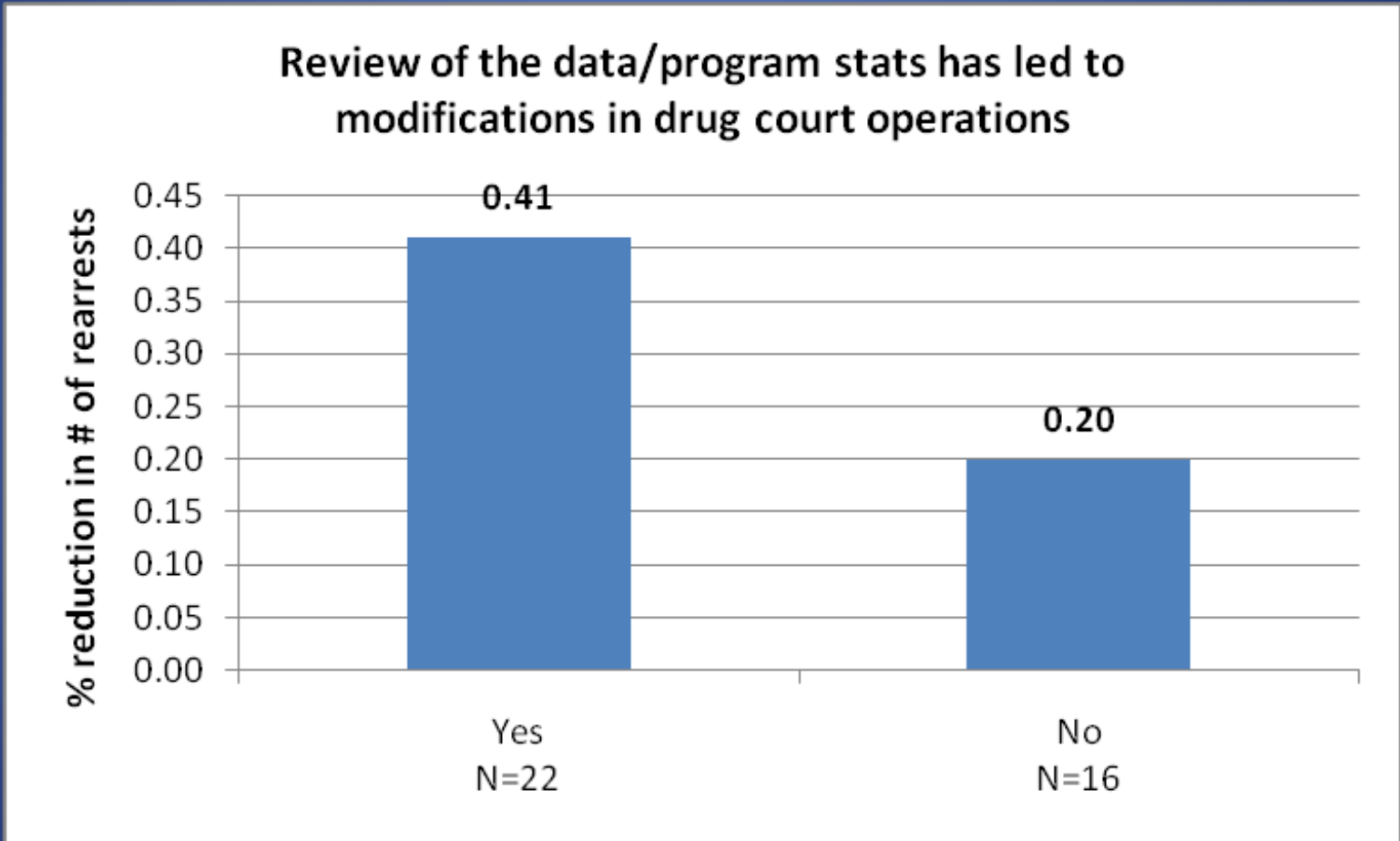
Standard X: Monitoring and Evaluation

The Drug Court routinely monitors its adherence to best practice standards and employs scientifically valid and reliable procedures to evaluate its effectiveness.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- A. Adherence to best practices
- B. In-program outcomes
- C. Criminal recidivism
- D. Independent evaluations
- E. Historically disadvantaged groups
- F. Electronic database
- G. Timely and reliable data entry
- H. Intent-to-treat analyses
- I. Comparison groups
- J. Time at risk

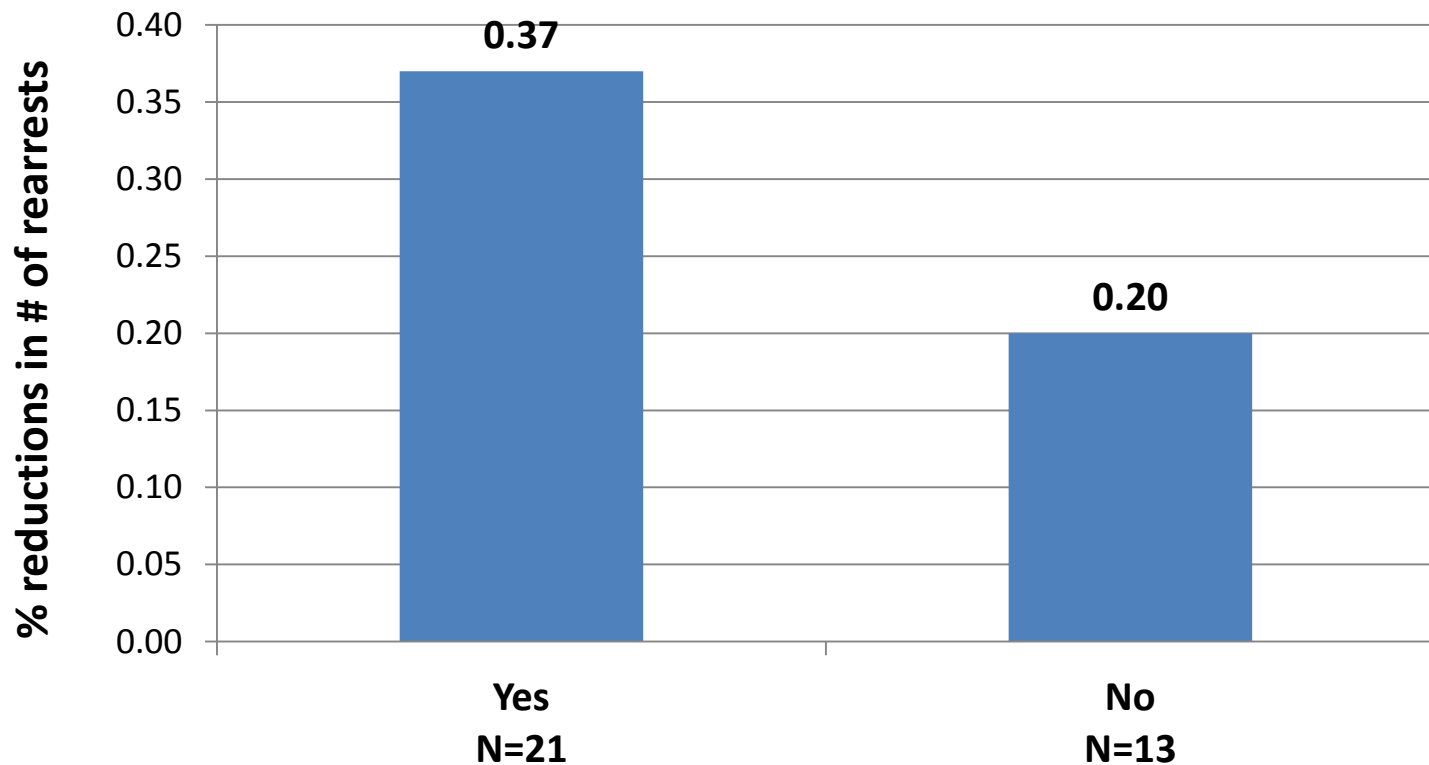
Drug courts where review of the data and/or program statistics led to modifications in program operations had 105% greater reductions in recidivism



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

Drug courts that used program evaluations to make modifications in drug court operations had 85% greater reductions in recidivism

The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations



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

Monitoring and Evaluation

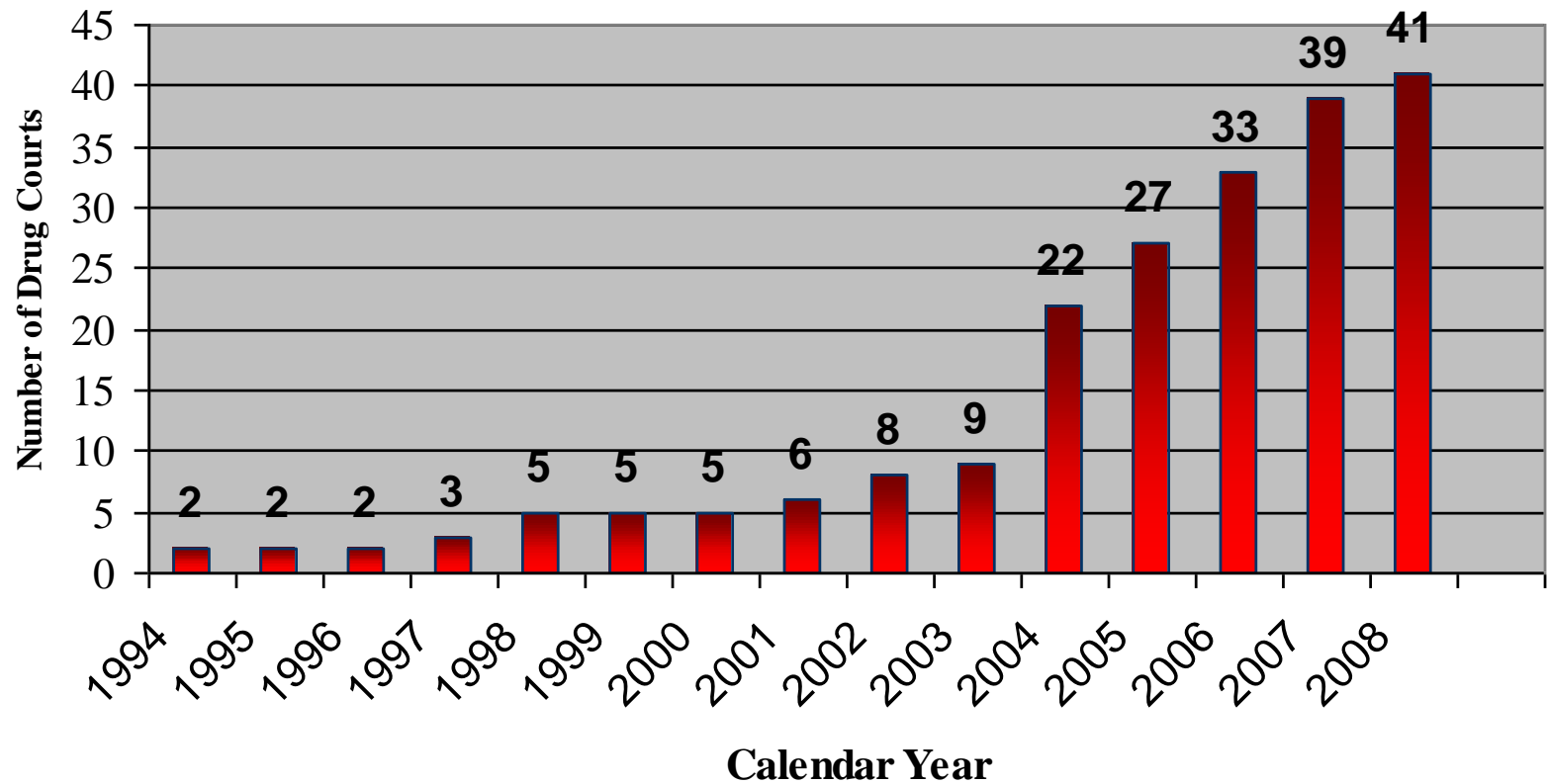
How can monitoring and evaluation be used?

- To gain insights into program performance
- To receive guidance on potential improvements
- To obtain training in ongoing data collection to monitor performance and improvement efforts

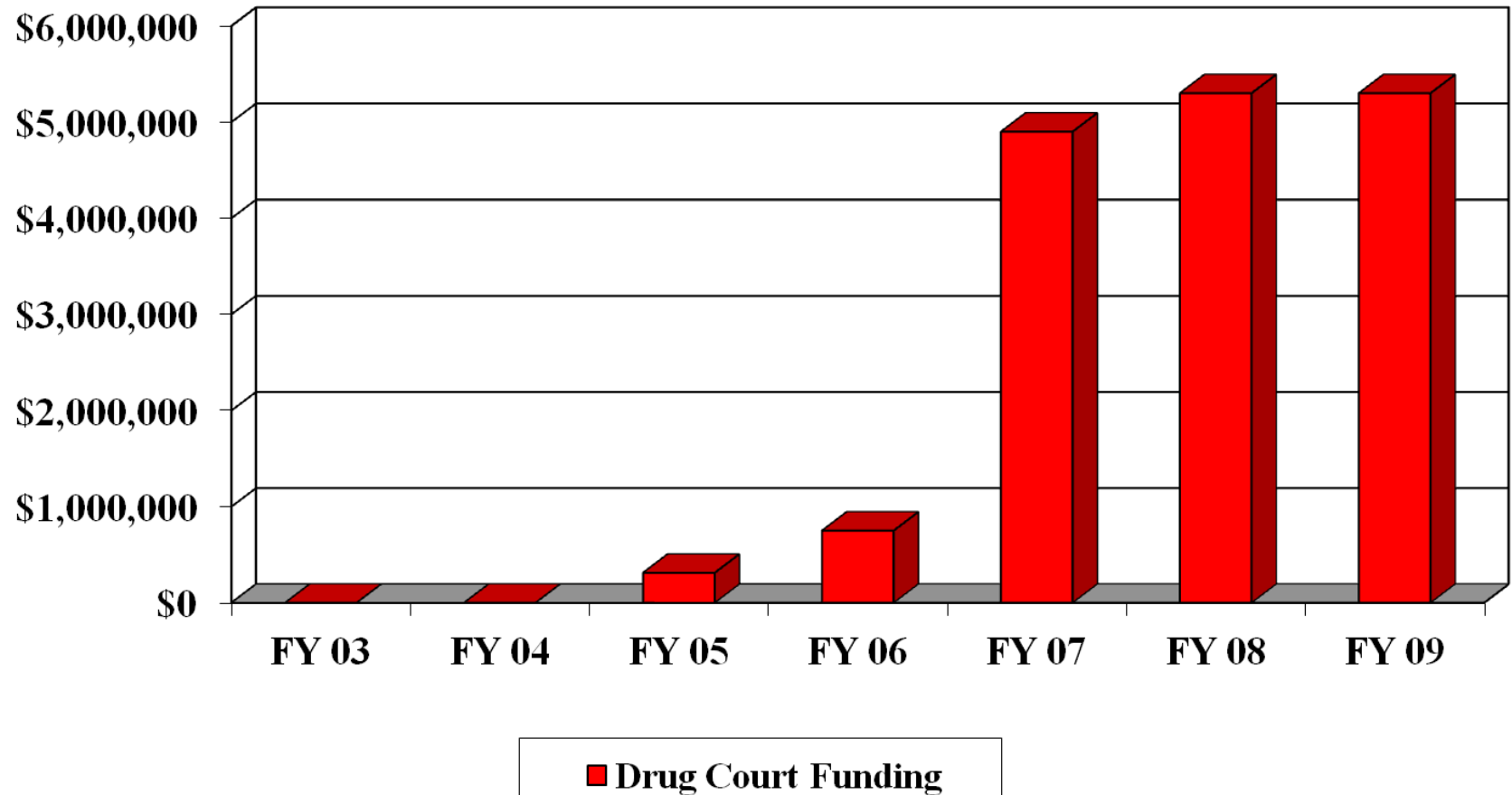
How else can you use it?

History of Drug Courts in Maryland

Operational Drug Court Programs in Maryland



History of Drug Court Funding in Maryland



Electronic Database

- The program uses an electronic data collection (MIS) that provides relevant statistics on program performance....
-that the team can use to
 - garner insights into its performance
 - guide improvements
 - reveal areas where training is needed

Timely & Reliable Data Entry

- Record information about
 - Provision of services
 - In-program outcomes
- Enter when event occurs or within 48 hours
- Data entry is part of evaluation of staff performance

What is Evaluation?

- ❖ General definition: systematic efforts to collect and use program information for multiple purposes, including program improvement, program accountability, program management, and program development.

What is Useful Evaluation?

- ❖ Evaluation should help to inform and improve programs as they develop, and not focus only on whether the programs “worked” or “didn’t work.”
- ❖ Evaluation should involve a collaborative approach with the program sharing in the process and in understanding the results

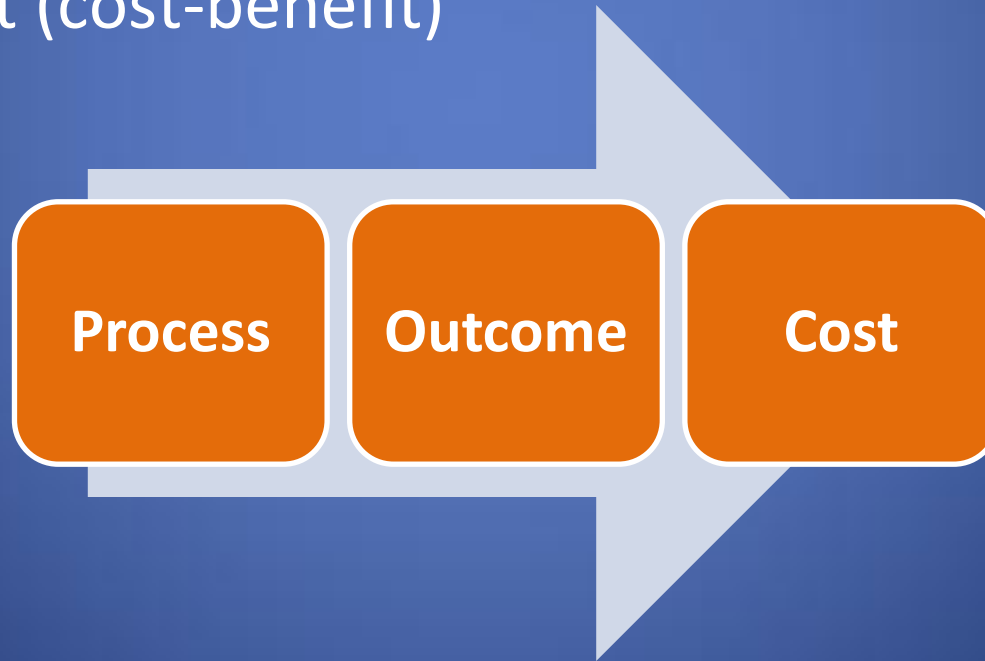
Group Discussion

- Tell us about an evaluation experience that was great and what made it great?
- Have you experienced or do you have examples of an evaluation that wasn't useful?

Evaluation

Three main areas of evaluation:

- Process (program improvement)
- Outcome (impact)
- Cost (cost-benefit)



Process Evaluation

Purpose: Examine program policies & procedures to:

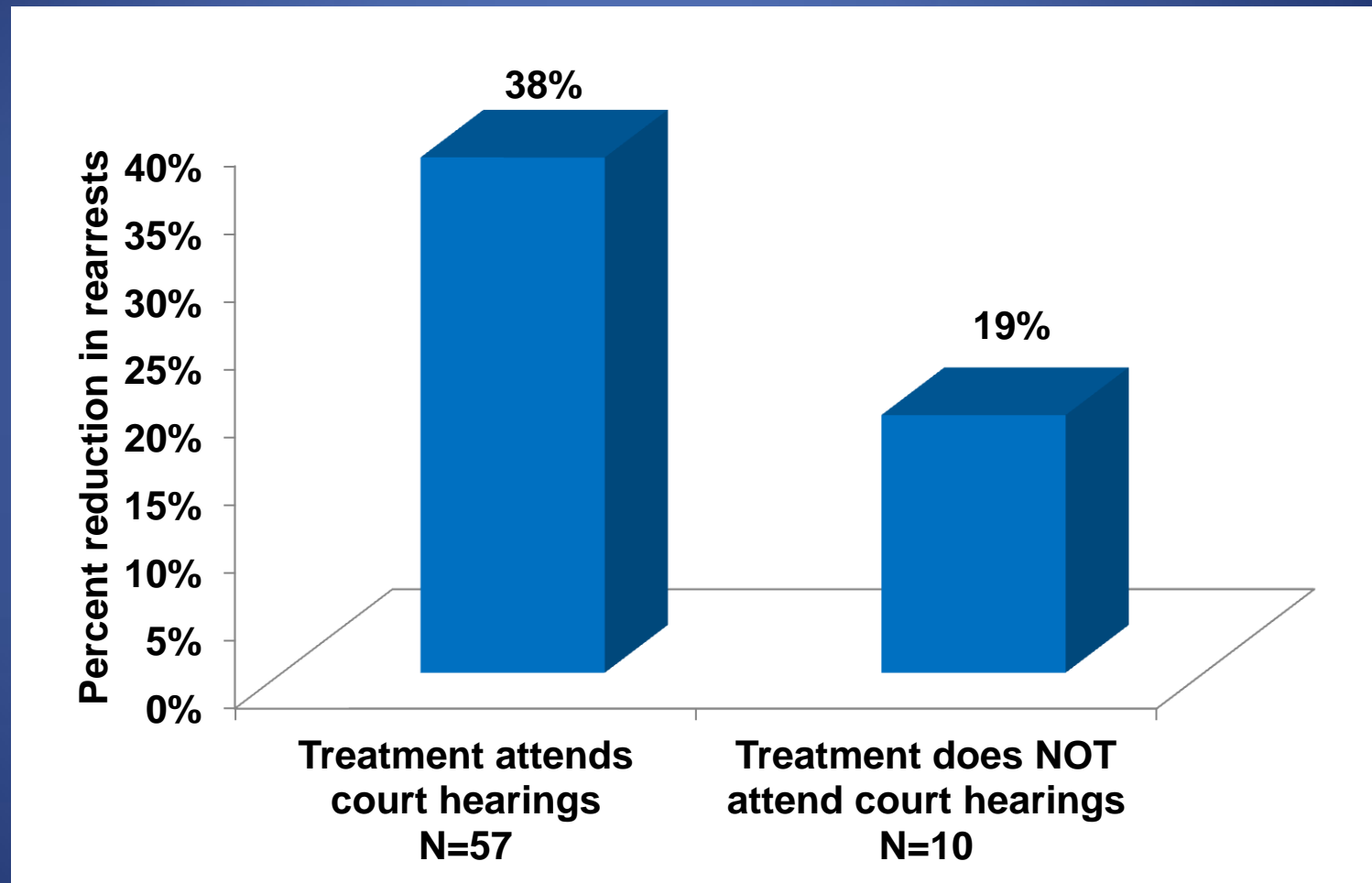
- Determine how the program was implemented and if it was implemented as intended
- Learn whether and how well the program is following the intended model

Why Do Process Evaluation?

Benefits:

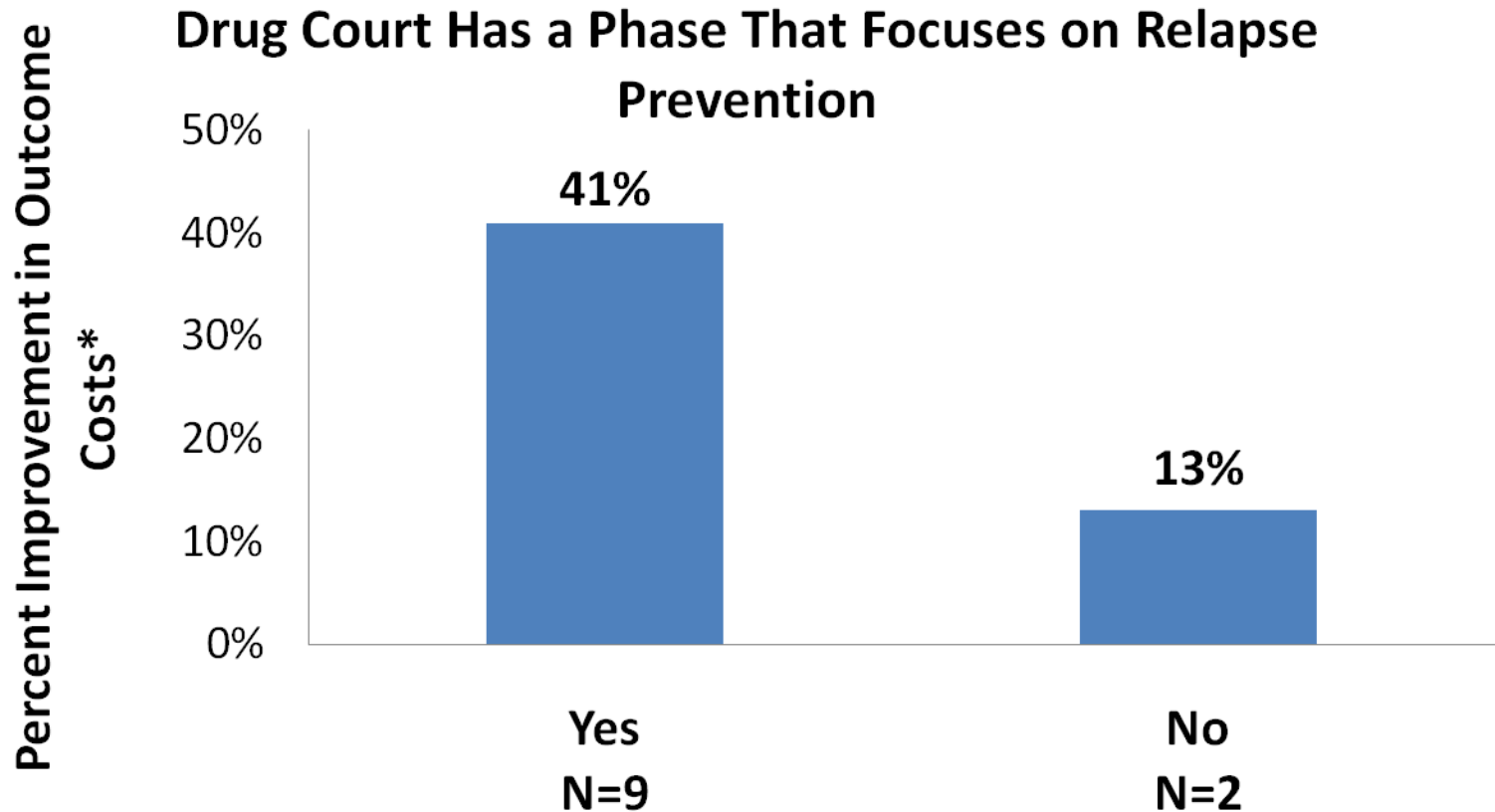
- Provides information about program functioning
- Allows an assessment of the reasons for successful or unsuccessful performance
- Provides information for replicating the program in another site
- Contributes to program improvement
- Increases effectiveness for participants
- Leads to better outcomes, better cost-benefits

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



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

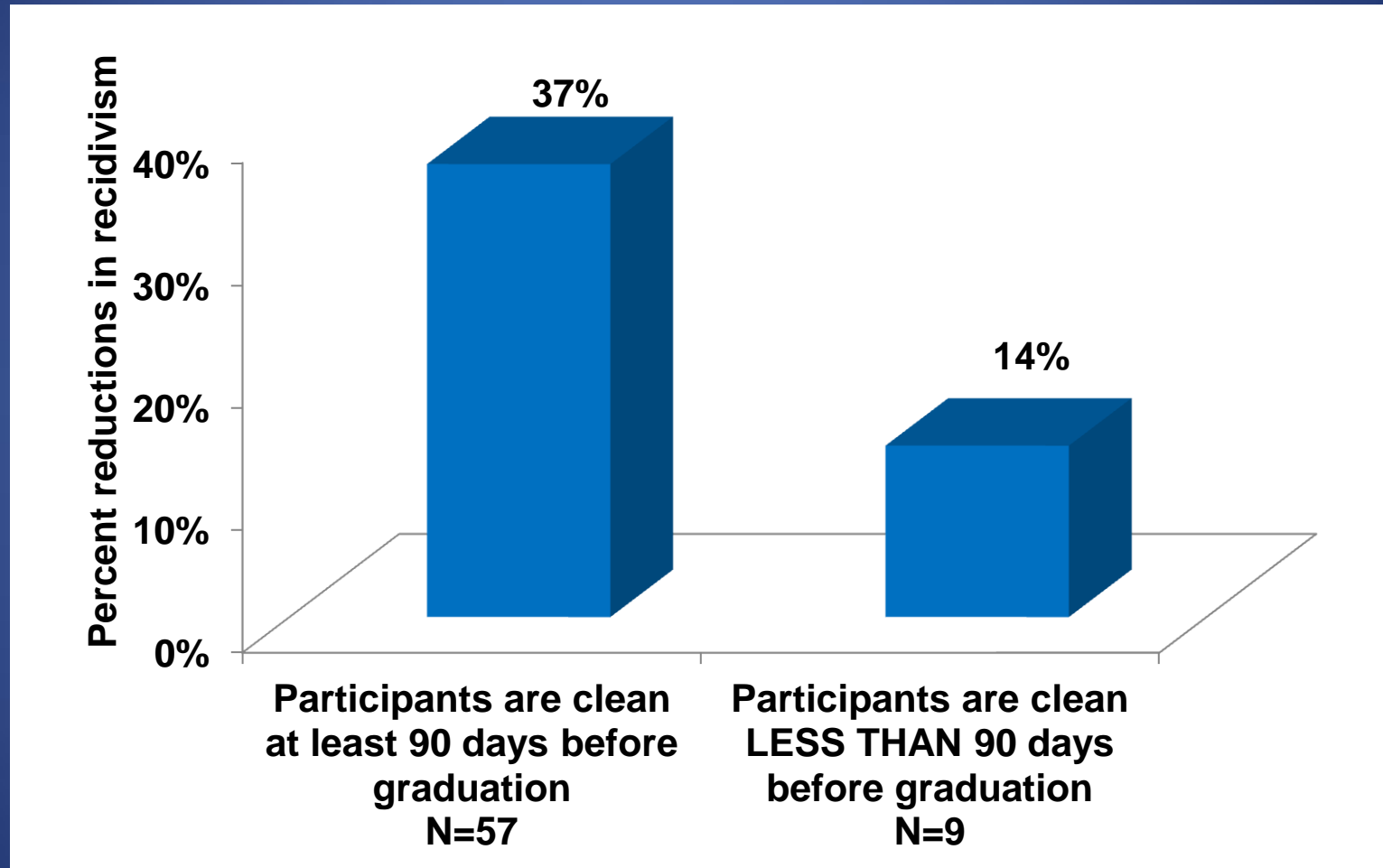
Drug courts that include a focus on relapse prevention had over 3 times greater savings



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

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

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

Process Evaluation/ Peer Review

- Process evaluation can be considered as an evaluability evaluation
- Some programs that “did not work” actually never happened
- Process evaluation clarifies that all intended elements of the program are actually in place, operational and implemented with fidelity

Structured Peer Review

- Peer review can be a three way “win”
- Trained peer brings knowledge of the standards to the “home court”
- The court that is reviewed gains an independent review of operations
- Both peer reviewer and the court reviewed get an opportunity to hear about other ways of operating, innovative practices

Best Practice Monitoring

- Continuous self-monitoring
- Annual check of best practice adherence
- Feed back information to staff/team and decision-makers
- Develop action plan to address issues
- Implement and evaluate progress

Process Evaluation Discussion

- What are some ways you can communicate with your data?
- How do you use your data to support your program?

Outcome and Impact Evaluation

Outcome and Impact Evaluation

Outcome Evaluation: Within Program

(services received, grad rate, completion in intended time-frame, factors that lead to graduation)

(No Comparison Group Needed)

Impact Evaluation: Outside/After Program

(recidivism, subsequent treatment, social services, health care)

(Comparison Group Needed)

Outcome and Impact Evaluation

- Are services delivered as planned? (do all groups have access to program and services?)
- Is program graduating participants as intended?
(What is program graduation rate? What is different about those who graduate and those who do not? Assess historically disadvantaged groups)
- Is the program having the intended impact?
 - Are participants being re-arrested less often?
 - Are participants spending fewer days in jail?

Independent Evaluation

- Statistical expertise
- Outsider can obtain participant feedback
- Whenever program or environment has changed, or at least every 5 years
 - Staff turnover
 - Drift from model
- Address recommendations
 - Create action plan and timeline

Recidivism

- New arrests, convictions, incarcerations
- From program entry or arrest (or release)
- At least 3 years (shorter follow-ups are preliminary), ideally 5 years
- Categorize
 - Level (felony, misdemeanor, summary offense)
 - Nature (drug, property/theft, violent, technical violation, prostitution, traffic)

Outcome/Impact Methods

- Obtain access to data (IRB, MOU)
- Collect data
- Prepare datasets (examine/understand, put in format for analysis, match with other data)
- Select and match comparison group
- Analyze data
- Interpret results

Comparison Groups

Purpose:

To answer the question, “Is the program effective?”

To learn whether the program is effective, there has to be something to compare it to: “Effective compared to what?”

A comparison group tells us what would have happened if there had been no program.

Comparison Groups

Without a comparison group you have to make *assumptions* about what would have happened:

Common Examples:

- Assumption 1: Participant would have had prison sentence so saved the time/cost of that sentence.
- Assumption 2: Participant would have had children in foster care or in shelter care so we saved those foster care resources.

Comparison Groups

Problems with these assumptions:

- Offender does not always get full sentence or get sentence at all.
- Offender almost never actually serves the full time of the sentence.
- Child does not always end up in foster care.
- If child is in foster care or shelter care, it is very difficult to predict how long s/he will stay there.

Comparison Groups

Common Mistake: Comparing program graduates to program failures

“It is not surprising that succeeders succeed and failures fail”

~ John Goldkamp

Comparison Groups

Common Mistake: Comparing program graduates to program failures

- ✓ Both groups received the program. A comparison group needs to be those who did NOT receive the program so we can determine if the program makes a difference.
- ✓ By virtue of successfully completing or not completing the program, the two groups are inherently different.

Comparison Groups

You can compare graduates to non-graduates *when you want to know what is different between those who graduate and those who do not* :

- ✓ Example: If more men graduate than women, it may be an indication that the program needs gender-specific services
- ✓ Example: If those who had a shorter time between arrest and program entry were more likely to graduate, the program may want to look at ways to decrease this time.

Good Comparison Groups

- Should represent what would have happened if there was no program.
- Ideally has individuals who are exactly like the individuals who participated in the program but who did not participate.

Good Comparison Groups

Random Assignment

“Gold Standard” in research and evaluation

- Individuals who have been determined to be eligible for drug court are randomly assigned (flip a coin) to participate in drug court or “business-as-usual”
- Called a *Control Group*

Good Comparison Groups

Benefits of random assignment:

- Should eliminate any differences between the two groups that could affect outcomes (e.g., criminal history, ethnicity, motivation, age)
- Can be reasonably certain that any difference in outcome is due to the program

Good Comparison Groups

Drawbacks of random assignment:

- Difficulty getting judge or team to agree
- Must begin project in real time and wait for outcomes to occur (2 to 3 years)
- This condition does not exist in reality (it is an artificial condition and may not represent true circumstances)
- Groups may not end up comparable
- Very hard to ensure fidelity to the randomization process

Good Comparison Groups

Quasi-experimental design:

Historical Comparison Group

- Individuals who were eligible for the drug court before the drug court was implemented.
 - ✓ Benefit: Motivation is less of an issue
 - ✓ Benefit: Larger sample size
 - ✓ Benefit: Reasonably easy to find appropriate individuals

Good Comparison Groups

Quasi-experimental design:

Historical Comparison Group

- ✓ Drawback: Changes in court system or law enforcement practices over time
- ✓ Drawback: Takes time to select (especially if there are only paper files)
- ✓ Drawback: May not have all the information necessary to determine exact eligibility (e.g., substance abuse)

Good Comparison Groups

Contemporary Comparison Groups

(Same time as program participant sample)

Waiting lists

Eligible for the program but no room

- ✓ Benefit: Very similar to participants
- ✓ Drawback: Generally very small sample (or doesn't exist)

Good Comparison Groups

Contemporary Comparison Groups

(Same time as program participant sample)

“Slipped through the cracks”

Eligible for the program but were not referred

- ✓ Benefit: Less issue about motivation
- ✓ Benefit: Current “business-as-usual” contemporary
- ✓ Drawback: Can be difficult to find

How Do You Decide Which Comparison to Use?

- ✓ What resources do you have available for evaluation?
- ✓ What data are available?
- ✓ Is the program too new for an outcome or impact evaluation?
- ✓ How much time do you have?
- ✓ What are you willing to do?

It is not always necessary or feasible to evaluate all outcomes for every program.

Use Intent-to-Treat Analyses

Include all eligible participants who entered the drug court as the program group

Common for programs to want to look only at their graduates (Graduates are often considered the true product of the program)

- ❖ Terminated participants get program services and use program resources too.
- ❖ Terminated participants are also a product of the program.

Intent-to-Treat Analyses

Do not compare graduates to the comparison group

- ✓ Graduates may have less severe issues at entry than participants who are terminated
- ✓ Comparison group has both of these types of people: those who would have graduated had they participated in the program as well as people who would terminate. (But we don't know which ones.)

Time at Risk

- Same follow-up time for both program and comparison groups
- Comparable start date for follow-up period
- Statistical adjustments if needed
- Time at liberty (not incarcerated or in residential treatment)

Outcome Evaluation Discussion

- What are some ways you can communicate with your data?
- How do you use your data to support your program?

What Data Should We Collect?

What are your program goals?

- Reduce recidivism?
- Reduce drug use?
- Employment?
- Education?
- Family Reunification?

Think about the questions you might have about your participants and your program

Case Management Questions

Who drug tested positive yesterday?
(drug test dates and results)

Whose color came up for a drug test today?
(drug test dates and colors in advance)

Who missed a treatment session?
(dates of treatment sessions for each participant)

Who complied with all program requirements
for the past 2 weeks?

Case Management Questions

Program staff are more likely to collect data if the data are useful to them in their everyday work in the program

Data Needed Within Program

- ☐ Identifiers (so we can find people in other databases)*
- ☐ Demographics*
- ☐ Drugs of Choice (Primary and secondary)*
- ☐ Risk-Need Score
- ☐ Program entry and exit dates*
- ☐ Date of eligible arrest and court case number
- ☐ Date of referral to AODTC program*
- ☐ Program status on exit (Graduated/Terminated/etc.)*
- ☐ If terminated, reason for termination
- ☐ Dates of entry into each phase*
- ☐ Dates of UAs (and other drug tests)*
- ☐ Dates of positive UAs (and other drug tests)*

*crucial data

Data Needed (continued)

- ☐ Dates of drug court appearances*
 - ☐ Dates of services received*
 - ☐ General treatment issues
 - ☐ Rewards and Sanctions (Dates, types and duration)*
 - ☐ Non-compliant behavior (Dates, types)
 - ☐ Aftercare services (Dates and types)
 - ☐ Employment status at entry and exit
 - ☐ Education status at entry and exit
 - ☐ (For Juvenile) School attendance status at entry and exit
 - ☐ (For Dependency and juvenile) Out-of-home placement and re-unification during program
- *crucial data

Impact (and Cost-related) Data

(generally not collected by the program but IMPORTANT for evaluation – so find out source)

- ☐ Subsequent treatment episodes (after program)
- ☐ Dates of re-arrest after entering the drug court program*
- ☐ Dates of DUI re-arrests after entering the program*
- ☐ Probation start and end dates
- ☐ Jail/Detention entry and exit dates
- ☐ Prison start and end dates
- ☐ Social and health services information
- ☐ (For juveniles) School related data such as completion status
- ☐ (For Dependency and Juvenile) Out-of-home placement and re-unification`

Data Elements Checklist

- Handout: Review the list of elements
 - Where are each of these items in your jurisdiction?
 - Do you have the data already? If not, who has it and how can you obtain it?
 - Are there other elements you have or need?

Cost Evaluation

Cost-effectiveness analysis calculates the cost of a program and then examines whether the program led to its intended positive outcomes. Outcomes are not “costed.” (e.g., for every \$1 spent there is a 10% reduction in recidivism)

Cost-benefit evaluation calculates the cost of the program and also the cost of the outcomes, resulting in a cost-benefit ratio. (e.g., for every \$1 spent on the program, \$7.50 is saved in outcomes.)

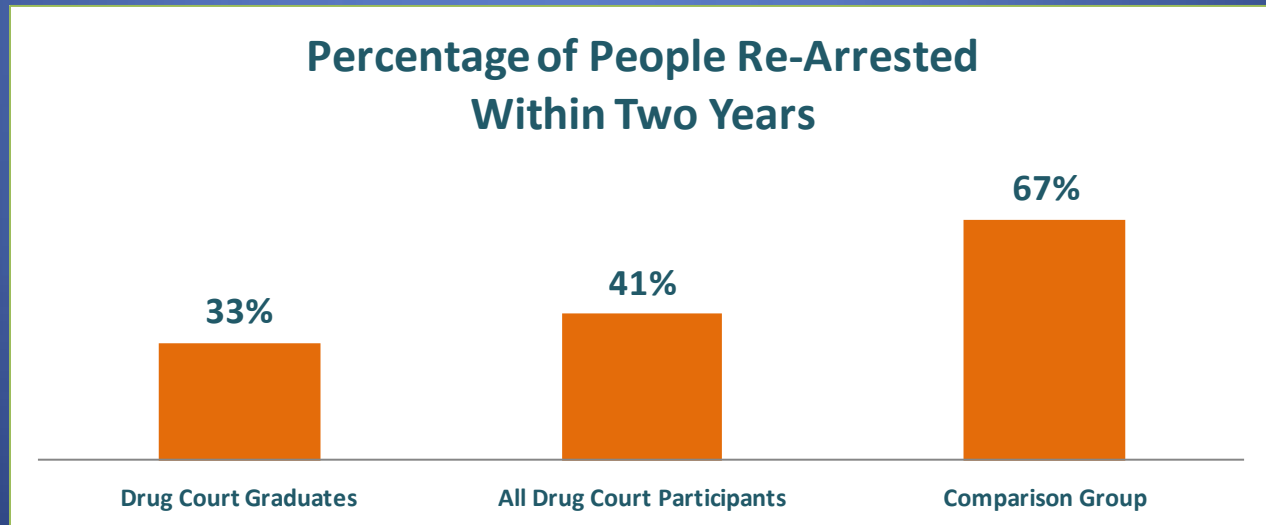
Cost Evaluation

Cost evaluation questions:

1. What does it cost to run the program?
2. What are the benefits?
3. How will taxpayers be impacted by decisions to add, expand, eliminate or shrink these programs?
4. What are the financial implications of problem solving court approaches to meeting public service needs?
5. What does it cost the different agencies that contribute resources to the program? What are the benefits to these agencies?

How do you use evaluation results to get funding?

- Fact sheets (1 or 2 page quick summary of positive outcomes – e.g., cost savings)
- Executive summaries
- Anecdotes from graduates
- Graduates in person

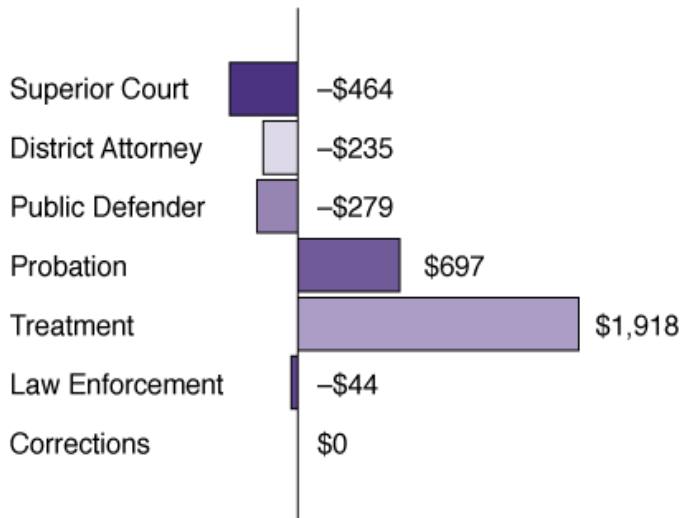


Results

Costs by Agency

Net Investment: Case Processing Costs

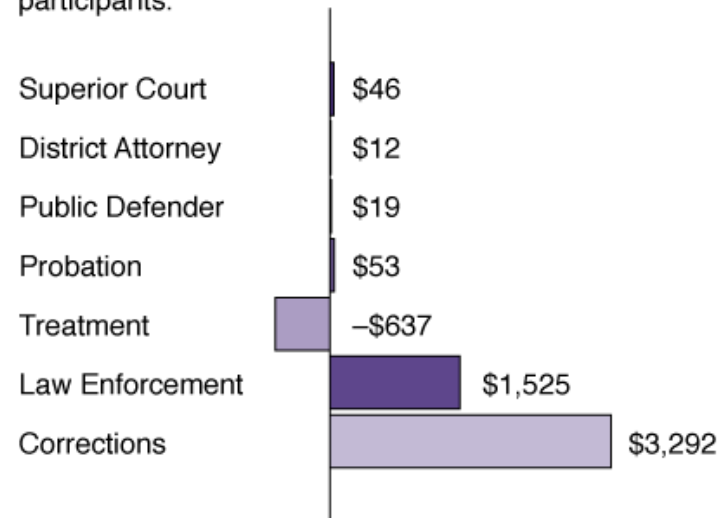
Most agencies spent less on drug court than on traditional case processing.



Phase II: Six-site average per participant

Net Savings From Positive Outcomes

Corrections and law enforcement realize greatest savings from reduced recidivism of drug court participants.



Phase II: Six-site average per participant

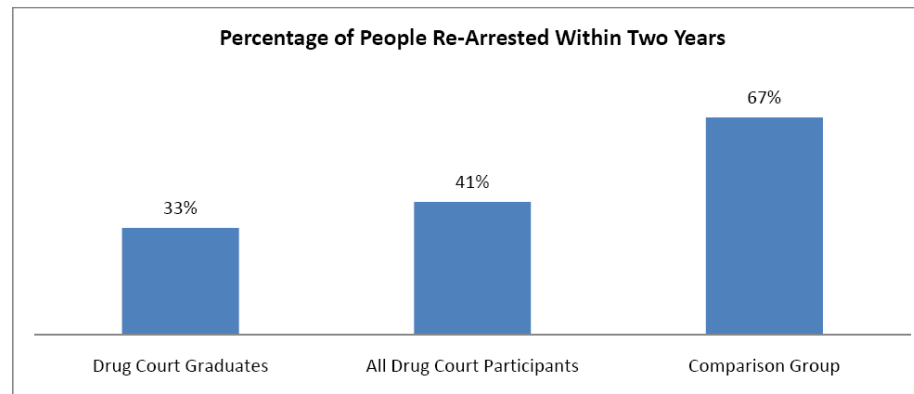
SAN MATEO COUNTY (CALIFORNIA) DRUG COURT - SOUTH COST STUDY FACT SHEET

The following statistics are part of a multi-site evaluation of the costs and benefits of California's drug courts. This fact sheet is a component of Phase III, statewide launch phase, of a research effort to develop a statewide methodology for assessing the benefits and costs of drug courts in the State of California. The aim of this effort is to produce a validated methodology to conduct inexpensive cost-benefit studies on an ongoing basis of drug courts throughout the state. As a part of this effort, a web-based tool was created – the Drug Court Cost Self-Evaluation Tool (DC-CSET) – which drug courts statewide can use to help determine their own costs and benefits. For more information on this study and other drug court studies go to www.npcresearch.com and www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/aoc.

RECIDIVISM RATE

San Mateo County Drug Court - South participants had the following recidivism (re-arrest) rates over a two-year period.¹ Re-arrests include any type of arrest (but not including traffic citations).

Figure A: Two-Year Re-Arrest Rate for San Mateo County Drug Court – South: Graduates, All Participants and Comparison Group



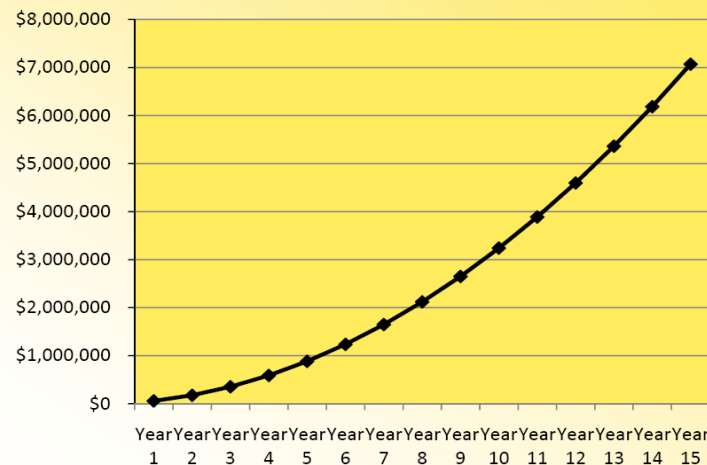
COSTS AND BENEFITS DUE TO RECIDIVISM

Table A shows the average number of recidivism events (e.g., re-arrests, jail time, prison time) per offender for drug court graduates, all drug court participants (regardless of graduation status) and the comparison group over 2 years after drug court entry.²

❖ What individual and programmatic factors influence recidivism?

- Younger participants and individuals with more arrests prior to DTC participation were more likely to re-offend.
- When controlling for the other variables, the odds of re-offending decreased 7% with each additional year older the participant was at DTC start and increased 48% with each additional prior arrest.
- An optimal length of stay in the program—approximately 13 to 14 months—was associated with no cumulative subsequent arrests.

Drug Treatment Court Produces Savings Over Time



❖ Do drug treatment courts save money in the long run?

YES. Overall, the DTC results in cost savings, especially for program graduates. The DTC program had criminal justice system outcome cost savings of **\$2,945 per participant** after 10 years. Outcome cost savings were **\$46,207 per graduate** after 10 years, so there is a clear benefit to the taxpayer in working to engage offenders and helping them successfully complete the DTC program. Overall, these results demonstrate that the DTC program uses fewer criminal justice system resources than traditional court processing.

The chart above illustrates actual and projected cost savings over time.

Show the Human Side



Before DC



After DC

Who Do You Tell?

- **The Media:**

To get the word out to the general public (e.g., community activities)

- **The Legislature:**

Senate Health & Welfare, House & Senate Judiciary Committees, Senate & House Appropriations, House Institutions & Correction

- **State Policy Executives:**

Secretary of the Agency of Human Services, Deputy Commissioner of Health, Commissioner of Mental Health, Commissioner of Corrections

What Does It Cost to Evaluate a Drug Court?

It depends:

- What kind of evaluation?
- What do you want to know?
 - Are you following best practices?
 - How are your participants doing in the program?
 - What is the program's impact on long-term client outcomes?
- Who is doing it?
- What kind of data do you have available?
- Comparison group availability

****BREAK****

Colorado – Outside Evaluation Brenidy Rice

How Do You Choose an Evaluator?

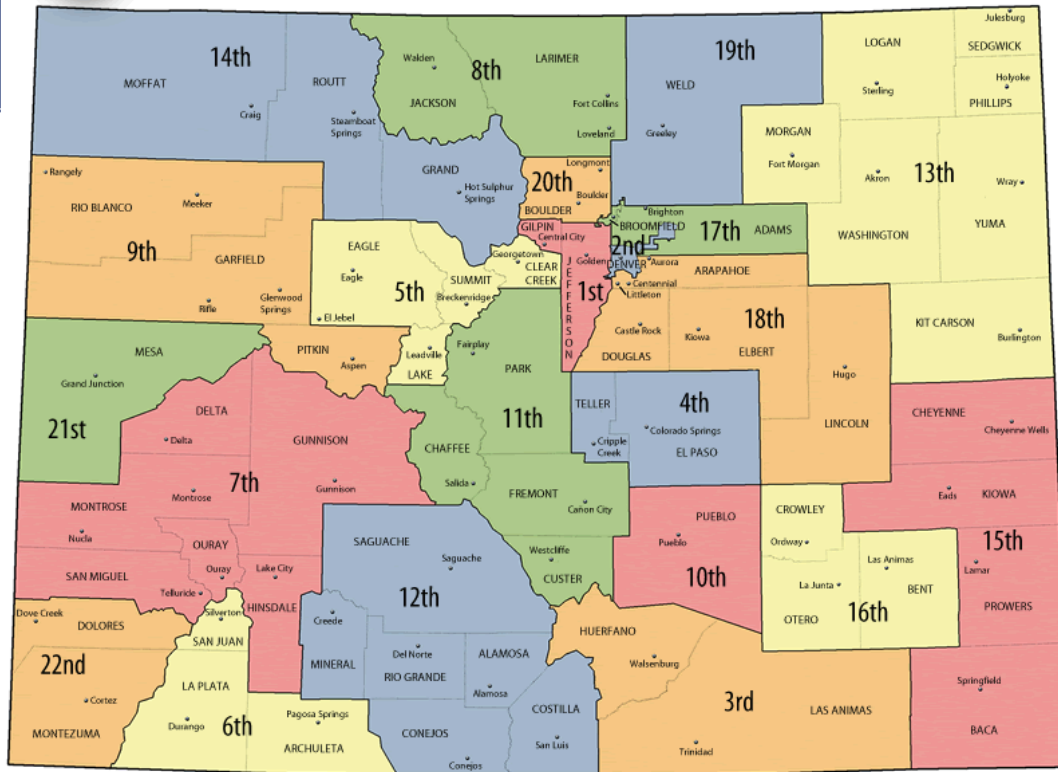
How do you find an evaluator?

- Talk to your state office to find out if the state has evaluators available to do your drug court evaluation.
- Check with the county or city to see if they have evaluators identified.
- You can also find an evaluator by contacting local universities-departments of psychology, education, criminal justice, political science, etc.
- Talk to other programs that have been evaluated and find out what worked for them
- Look for evaluations you like online and see who did them

Colorado Problem-Solving Courts



COLORADO JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

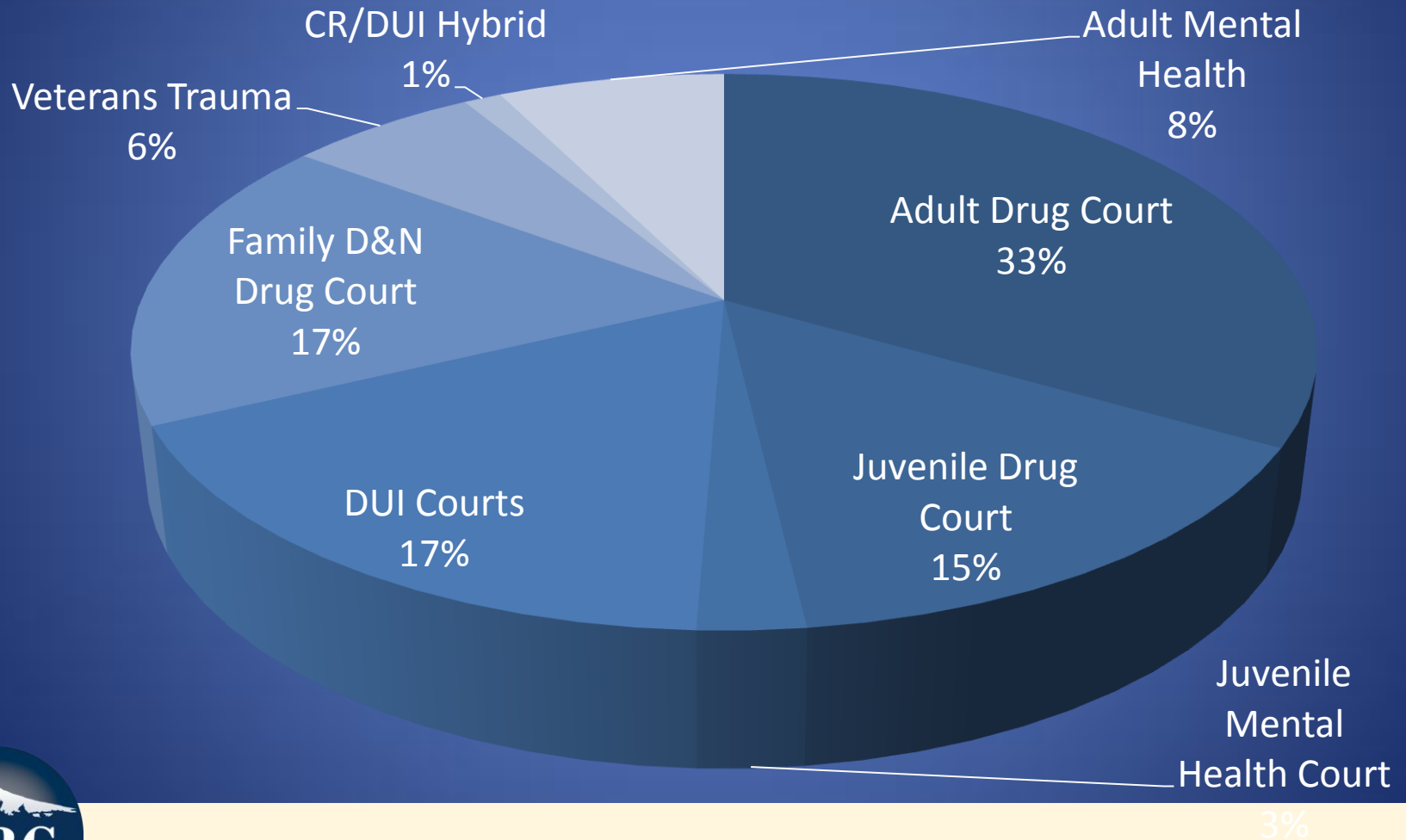


- First drug court started in Denver in 1994
- Grassroots work
- Strong local leadership and support of programs
- Statewide organization started in 2007

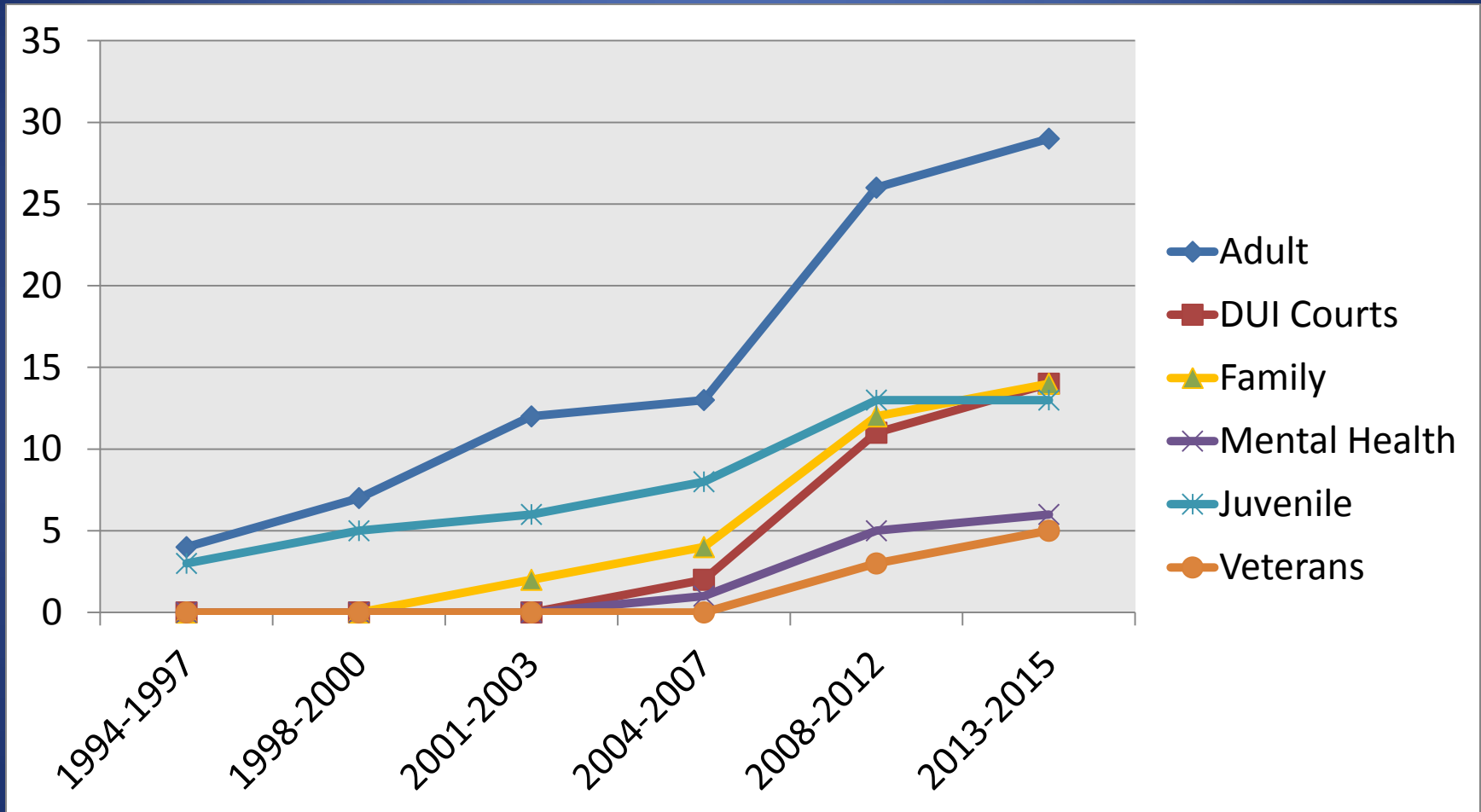
Colorado Problem-Solving Courts

- ☐ 79 Operational Problem Solving Courts
- ☐ 10 Problem Solving Courts in Planning
- ☐ 3,600 Defendants/Clients
- ☐ Most Commonly used drugs
 - ☐ Alcohol
 - ☐ Marijuana
 - ☐ Amphetamines
 - ☐ Cocaine
 - ☐ Heroin and prescription drug use growing

Colorado Problem-Solving Courts

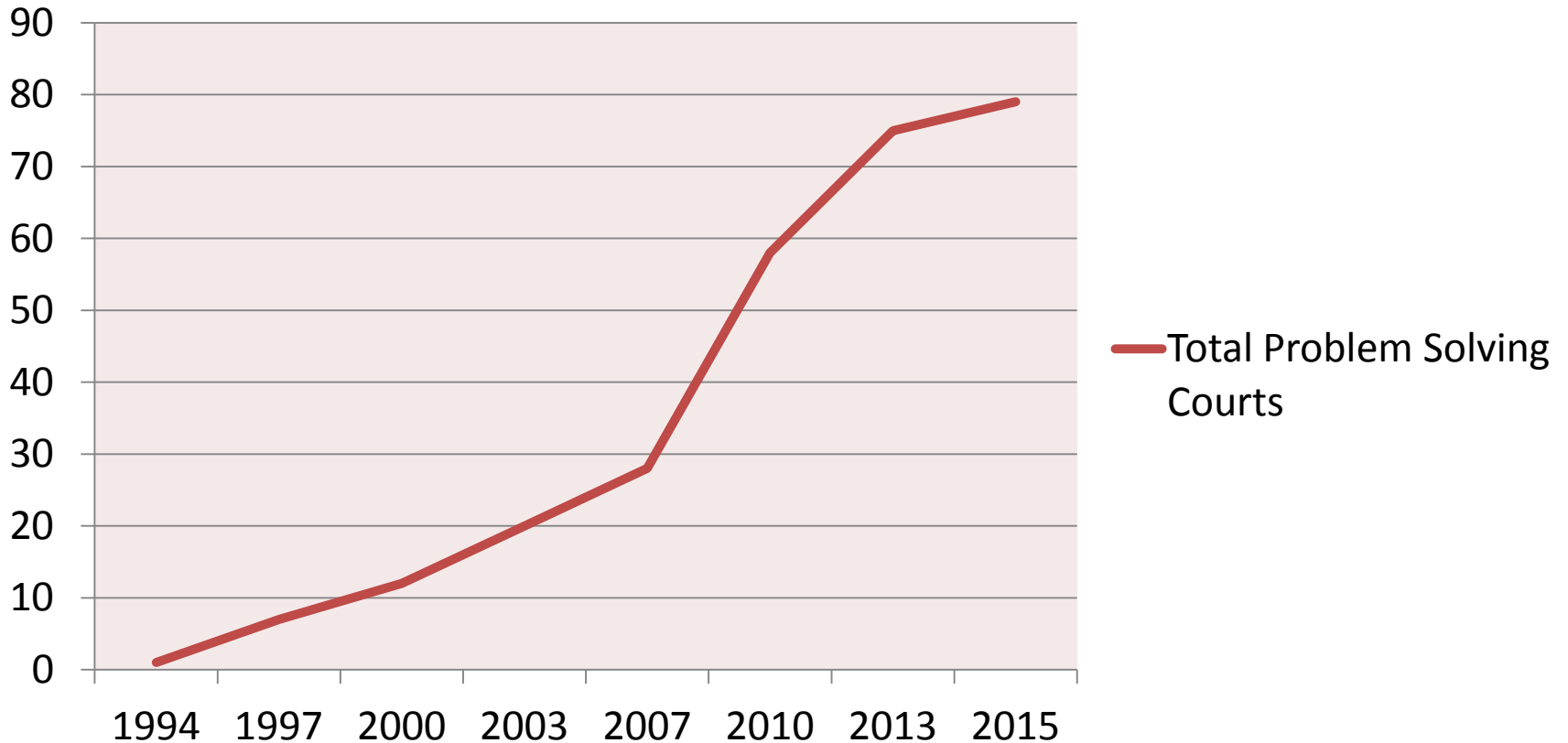


Growth in Colorado



Colorado Problem-Solving Courts

Total Problem Solving Courts



Changing the Culture of Data: Getting Started

- ❑ Statewide courts data system insufficient
- ❑ No drug court data collected prior to 2008
- ❑ Drug Court database created in 2007



Database Design:

What I Wish I Would Have Known

- ☐ Require data elements
- ☐ Drop down menus
- ☐ Use data validations-Dates, Numbers
- ☐ Use data edits
 - DOB can't be prior to 1900
- ☐ On screen instructions
- ☐ Date stamp data entry

Changing the Culture of Data: Making the Case for Data

It's all about the relationships!

- Buy in from leaders
- People: What and Why
- Making the data meaningful
 - Creating reports
- Incentivize



Changing the Culture of Data: Getting Started

Why we needed an
evaluation

- ❑ Tell our story
- ❑ Emerging research
- ❑ Legitimize programs
- ❑ Justify and keep funding
 - What is our money buying us?



Preparing for an Evaluation?

What questions to you want answered?

- Are we reaching our goals?
- Target population
- Fidelity
- Outcomes

How do you Prepare for an Evaluation?

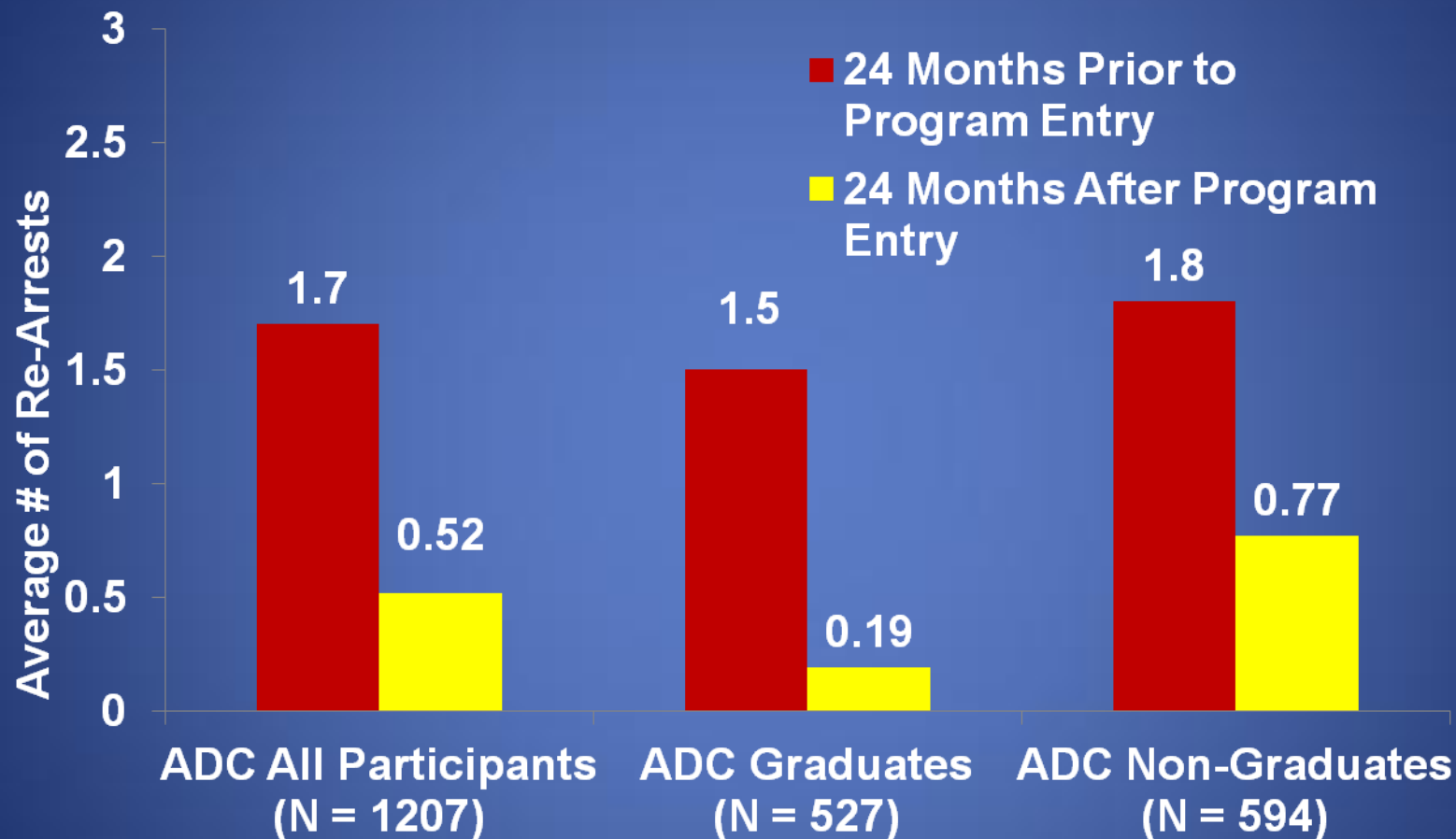
- Know your data: What, Where, When
- Get to know your data people!



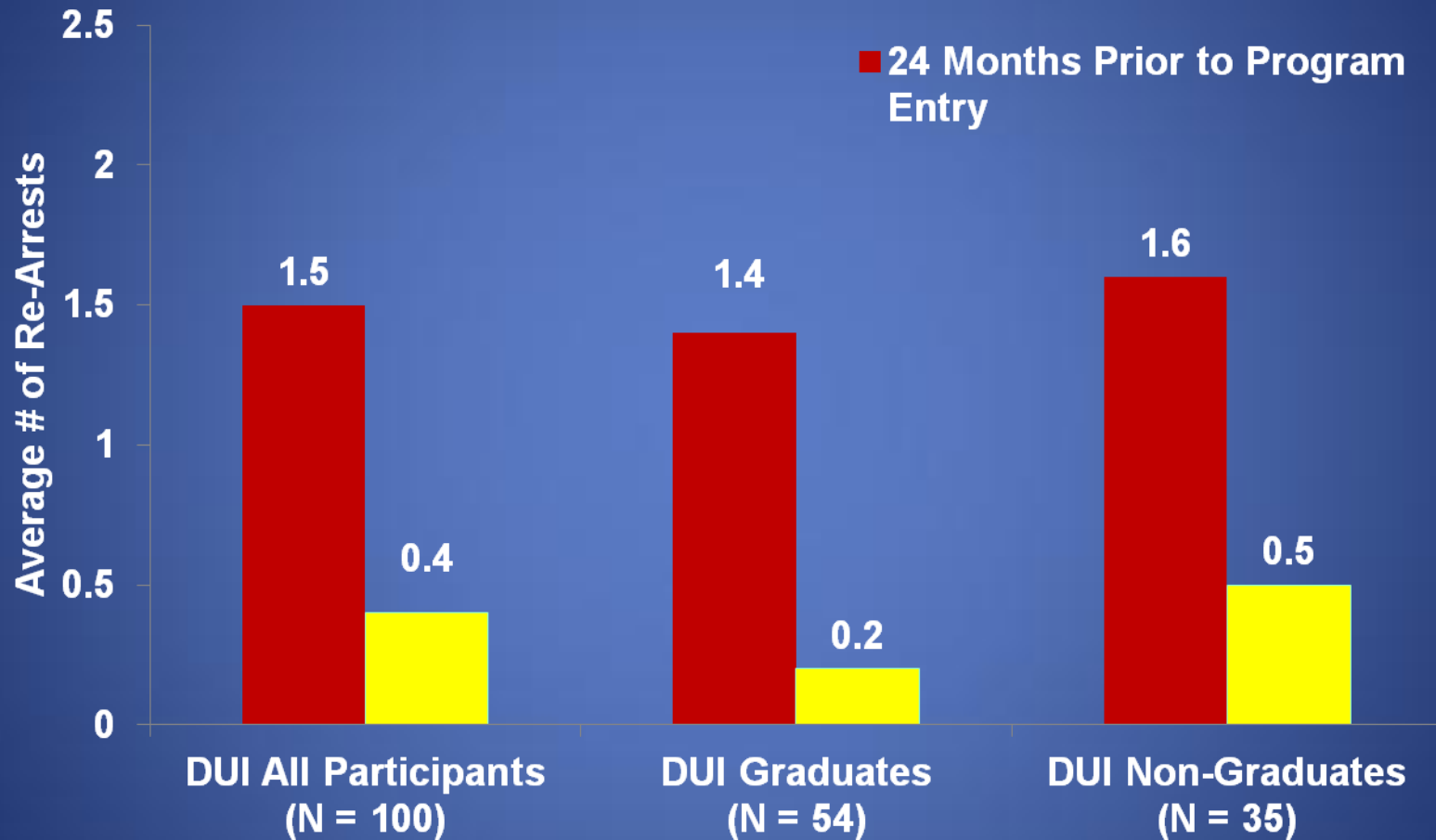
Colorado Evaluation

“The results of the outcome analysis for Colorado’s adult drug courts and DUI courts are overwhelmingly positive.”

Adult Drug Court Impact



DUI Court Impact



Colorado Process Evaluation

- Self evaluation tool
 - Pros
 - Cons
 - Results



Know what you are doing well so you can keep doing it

- ❑ 79% Use email to communicate
- ❑ 81% Performing drug tests at least twice weekly
- ❑ 90% Requiring participants to have over 90 days clean before graduating the program



Know what you are doing well so you can keep doing it

- ❑ 67% Impose sanctions immediately
- ❑ 100% Judges spend at least 3 minutes per participant
- ❑ 85% Require new staff to be trained

Why is process important?



Recommendations

- ❑ Prompt placement –
 - ❑ 21% participants entered the program within 50 days of arrest
- ❑ Attendance at staffings and court sessions –
 - ❑ 66% all six core team members attended staffings
 - ❑ 61% members attended court sessions

Recommendations

- ❑ Sanction and reward guidelines –
 - ❑ 64% give team members a written guidelines
- ❑ Decreased use of jail-
 - ❑ 88% jail can be used after first positive drug test
- ❑ Drug tests back within 24 hours
 - ❑ 55% drug test results within 2 two days

Recommendations

- ❑ Law enforcement on the team
 - ❑ 52% of reported that law enforcement is a member of the team.
- ❑ Graduation requirements
 - ❑ Sober housing and employment or school

Outcome Evaluation Results

- ❑ Graduation rates equivalent to national average
 - ❑ Higher in DUI Courts
- ❑ DUI Court participants were different than ADC participants
- ❑ 70% ADC participants scored as medium to high risk on the LSI and ASUS
- ❑ Key difference in graduates and non-graduates

ADC Graduates

ADC Participants	Graduates (n = 864)	Non-Graduates (n = 1139)	Statistically Significant?
Male	66%	70%	NO
Mean age at index case arrest	32.61	32.09	NO
Race			YES
American Indian/Alaskan Native	.1%	1.0%	
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	.4%	
Black/African American	11.3%	22%	
Hispanic/Latino	11.8%	14.2%	
White	75.1%	62.1%	
Other	.7%	.3%	

More likely to be:

- White
- Educated
- Employed
- Higher income

DUI Court: Significant Findings

DUI Court Participants	Graduates (n = 119)	Non-Graduates (n = 70)	Statistically Significant?
Male	73%	72%	NO
Mean age at index case arrest	39.3	38.1	NO
Race			YES
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1.7%	14.3%	
Asian/Pacific Islander	.8%	0%	
Black/African American	3.4%	4.3%	
Hispanic/Latino	12.6%	5.7%	
White	81.5%	75.7%	
Other	0%	0%	

All DUI Court compared to ADC Participants more likely to be:

- Older
- Employed
- Educated
- Scored significantly lower on risk assessment
- Graduates more likely to be White

You Have an Evaluation ... Now What?

Develop a follow up plan:

- ❑ Statewide Advisory Committee
- ❑ Long Term Strategic plan
- ❑ Annual action planning
- ❑ Integrated into TA and trainings

**“STRATEGIC PLANNING IS WORTHLESS -
UNLESS THERE IS FIRST A STRATEGIC VISION.”**

JOHN NAISBITT

© Lifehack Quotes

You Have an Evaluation ... Now What?

□ Communication plan

- Share results with stakeholders, partners, funders and practitioners
- Report both the negative and the positive- **show transparency and program integrity**



You Have an Evaluation ... Now What?

- ❑ Make sure people have the results!
 - Accessible
 - Website, email, press release
 - Easy and digestible
 - Executive Summary
 - individual court reports



You Have an Evaluation ... Now What?

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

What I Wish I Would Have Known ...

- ☐ Data can be dirty
- ☐ Consistent communication Before, During and After
 - Address fear of evaluation
- ☐ Time is not always on your side



In the Headlines

The chance that you'll enter a drug court that might help you avoid getting arrested again is about 50-50, the equivalent of a coin toss.

Huffington Post “Drug Courts, Enter at your own Risk” 12/15/11

In the Headlines

Drug courts reduce crime by up to 50 percent and have been found to save up to \$13,000 for every individual they serve. We also now know that 75 percent of those who complete drug court are never arrested again, an impressive track record for the courts.

Huffington Post “Drug Courts are Crucial to Criminal Justice Reform”
6/29/11

In the Headlines

On the average "our success rate in drug court is 74 percent and in Veteran's Treatment Court, it is 78 percent."

Huffington Post "Brooklyn Treatment Court: A second chance for drug offenders" Chuck Gomez
4/22/13

In the Headlines

“It has the added benefit of saving taxpayers the \$37,000-a-year cost of incarcerating an individual”

www.nj.com *The Jersey Journal*

“Morgan’s Corner: Learning about Drug Court Options” Earl Morgan
6/26/13

In the Headlines

“Claims that people with substance abuse problems need the added push of judicial supervision to succeed are not supported data...About 49 percent of people who are referred to treatment by criminal justice agencies complete treatment... 62 percent of people referred to treatment by the criminal justice system complete treatment or transfer to further treatment compared to 60 percent of people referred from other sources. People referred to treatment by the criminal justice system are more likely to end up incarcerated than people referred from other sources, 4 percent versus 1 percent, respectively.”¹

“Addicted to Drug Courts: How a Growing Dependence on Drug Courts Impacts People and Communities,” March 2011, Justice Policy Institute

In the Headlines

“Treatment in the community is about 10 times more cost-effective than drug courts; it costs considerably less and is almost equally as effective as drug courts in reducing recidivism.”¹

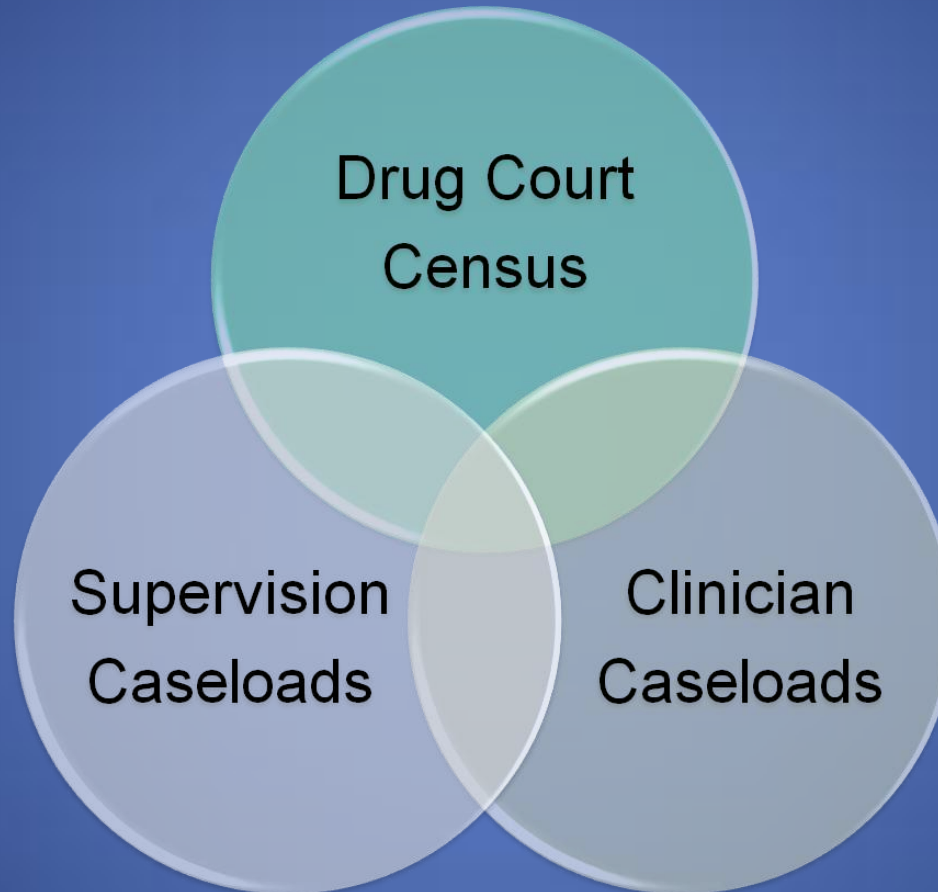
“Addicted to Drug Courts: How a Growing Dependence on Drug Courts Impacts People and Communities,” March 2011, Justice Policy Institute



****BREAK****

Census and Caseloads

Standard IX: Census and Caseloads



Census and Caseloads

The Drug Court serves as many eligible individuals as practicable while maintaining continuous fidelity to best practice standards.

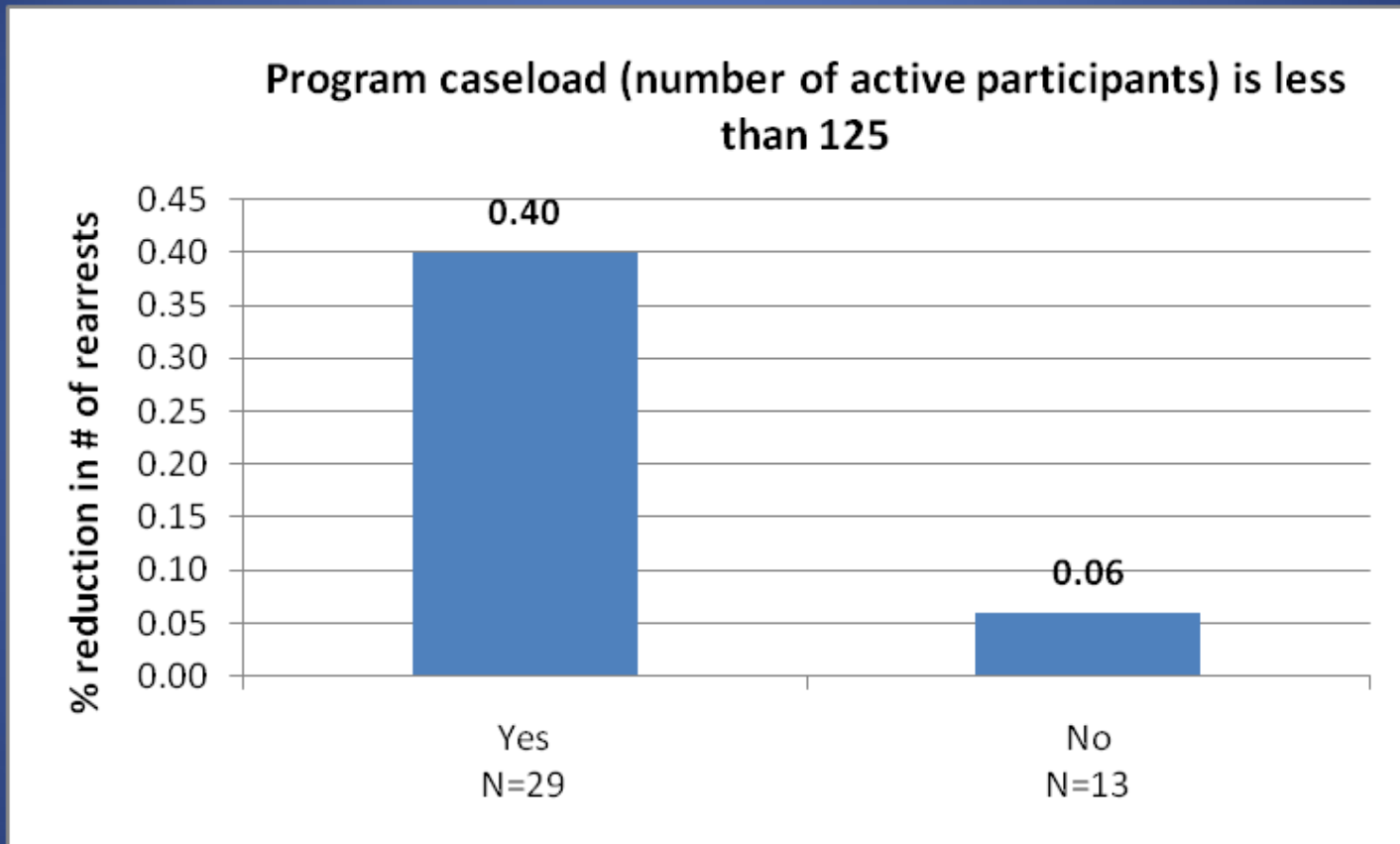


Best Practice Standards for Adult Drug Courts

Program Census Standard:

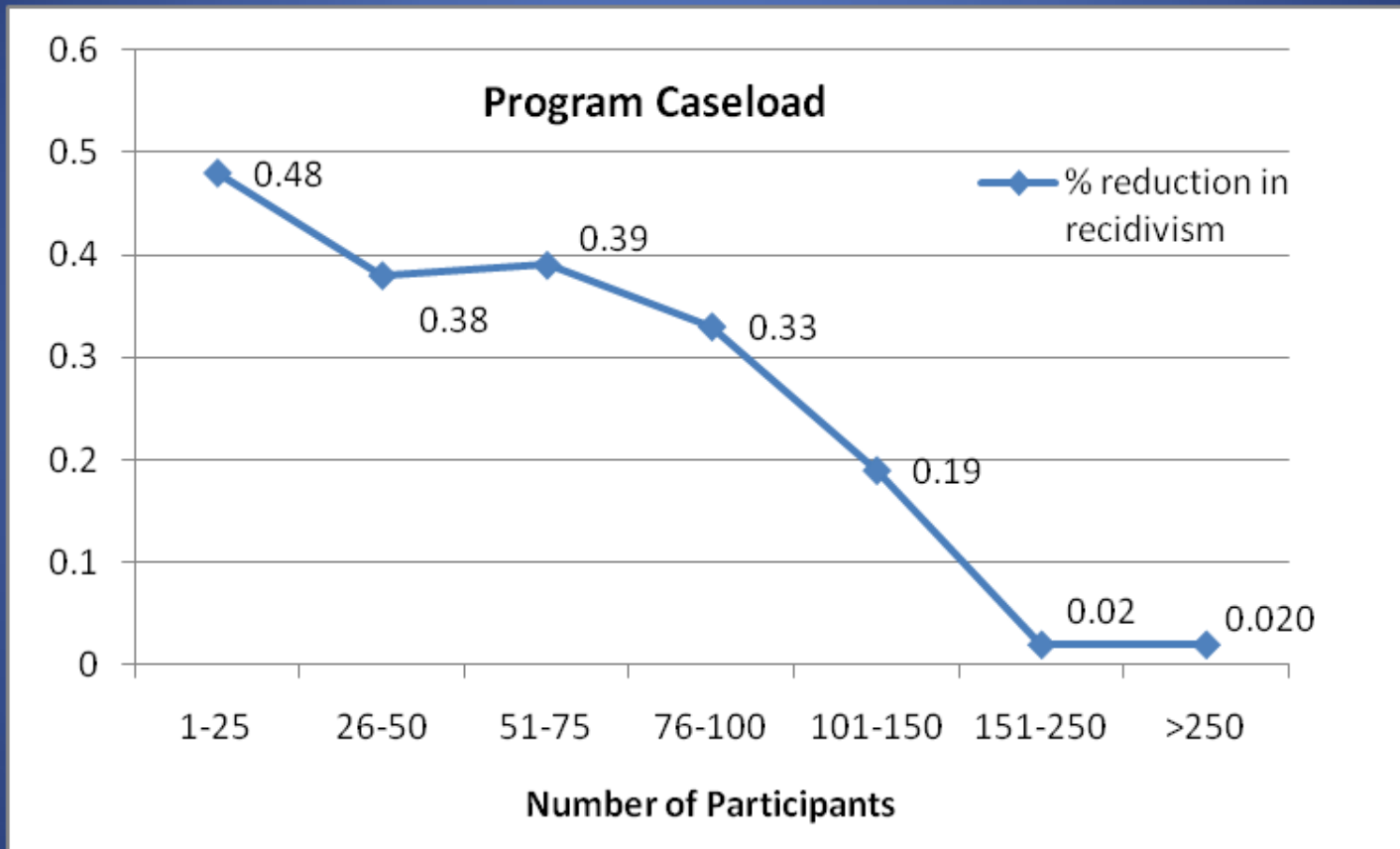
Drug courts should ensure that as the number of participants increases (particularly numbers greater than 125 active participants), fidelity to the model is maintained.

Drug Courts with a Program Caseload (Number of Active Participants) of less than 125 had 7 times greater reductions in recidivism



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

Drug Courts with a Program Caseload (Number of Active Participants) of less than 125 had 7 times greater reductions in recidivism

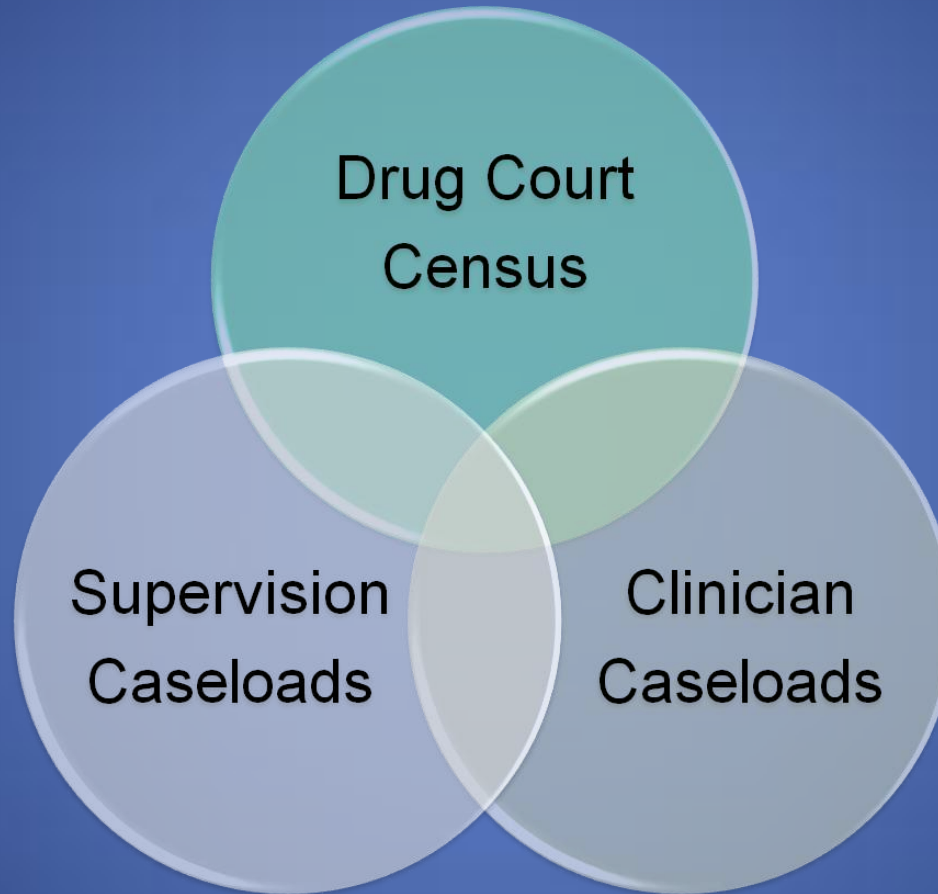


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

In larger programs:

- The Judge spent less time per participant in court (about half the time)
- Tx and LE were less likely to attend staffings
(All team members were less likely to attend staffings)
- Tx and LE was were less likely to attend court hearings
- Tx was less likely to communicate with the court through email
- Greater number of Tx agencies (8 vs 3)
- Drug tests were less frequent
- Team members were less likely to be trained

Census and Caseloads



Science-Based Supervision

(Taxman et al., 2012; 2013)

- Corrections field moving towards comprehensive use of Risk/Need/Responsivity model, whereby Probation or Case Manager is considered an “Agent of Change.” Can only be effectively operated with reduced caseloads.
- Studies have shown that reduced caseloads allow for stronger use of RNR practices and results in recidivism reduction. (Jalbert and Rhodes, 2013)

Science-Based Supervision, cont.

- Training and technology transfer is key to obtain strong outcomes. If caseload too large, unable to exercise/employ use of skills across entire team.
- Monitor for effective implementation
- Treatment effectiveness is enhanced through use of RNR case management

Supervision Roles

- ??

Supervision Roles

- Monitor performance
- Apply effective behavioral consequences
- Report compliance info to team
- Drug/alcohol testing
- Home/employer visits
- Reinforce curfew & geographic restrictions
- Deliver cognitive-behavioral interventions

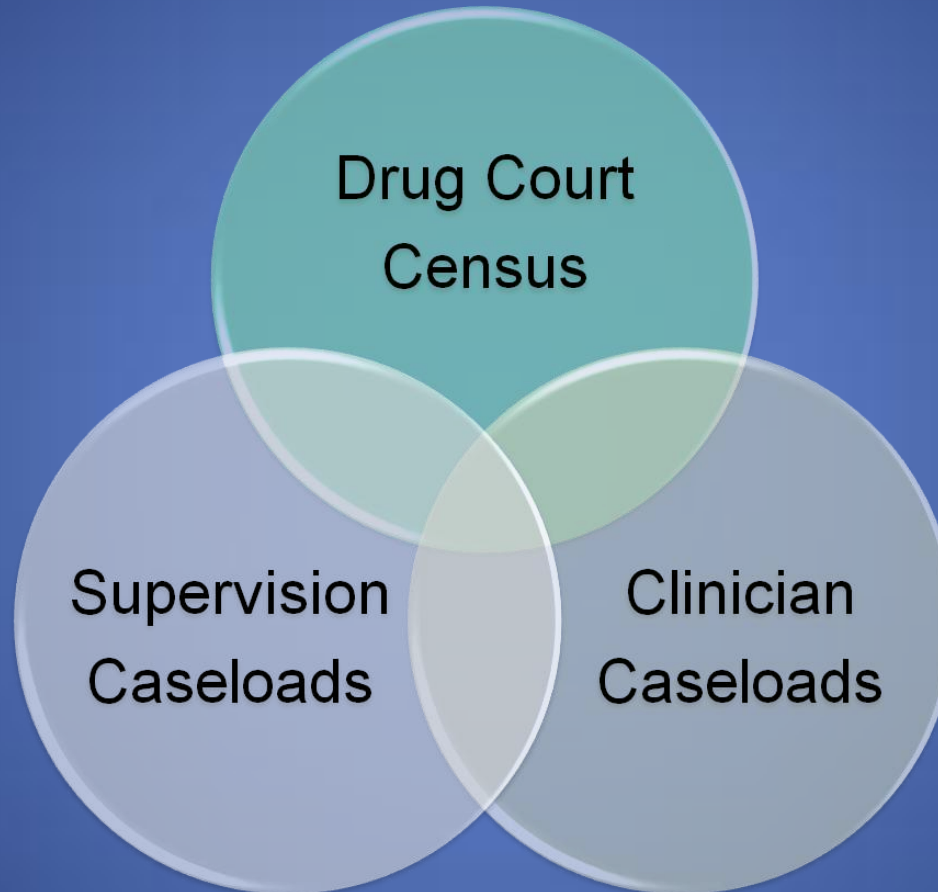
Supervision Caseloads

- ??

Supervision Caseloads

30 active participants

Census and Caseloads



Clinical Roles

- ??

Clinical Roles

- Assess needs
- Deliver treatment and other services
- Meet individually, weekly for 1st phase
- Broker referrals for services
- Report progress to team
- Conduct therapy, counseling; facilitate groups
- Coordinate care

Clinical Caseloads

- ??

Clinical Caseloads

50

40

30

Clinical Caseloads

50: case management

40: individual therapy

30: both case management and therapy

Questions or Comments?



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