



Getting the Most Out of Your Evaluation

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NPC Research

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NPC Research Experience

- In the past 10 years NPC has completed over 100 drug court evaluations and research studies
- Adult, Juvenile, DWI/DUI and Family Treatment (Dependency) Drug Courts
- In California, Guam, Indiana, Michigan, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Nevada Oregon and Vermont

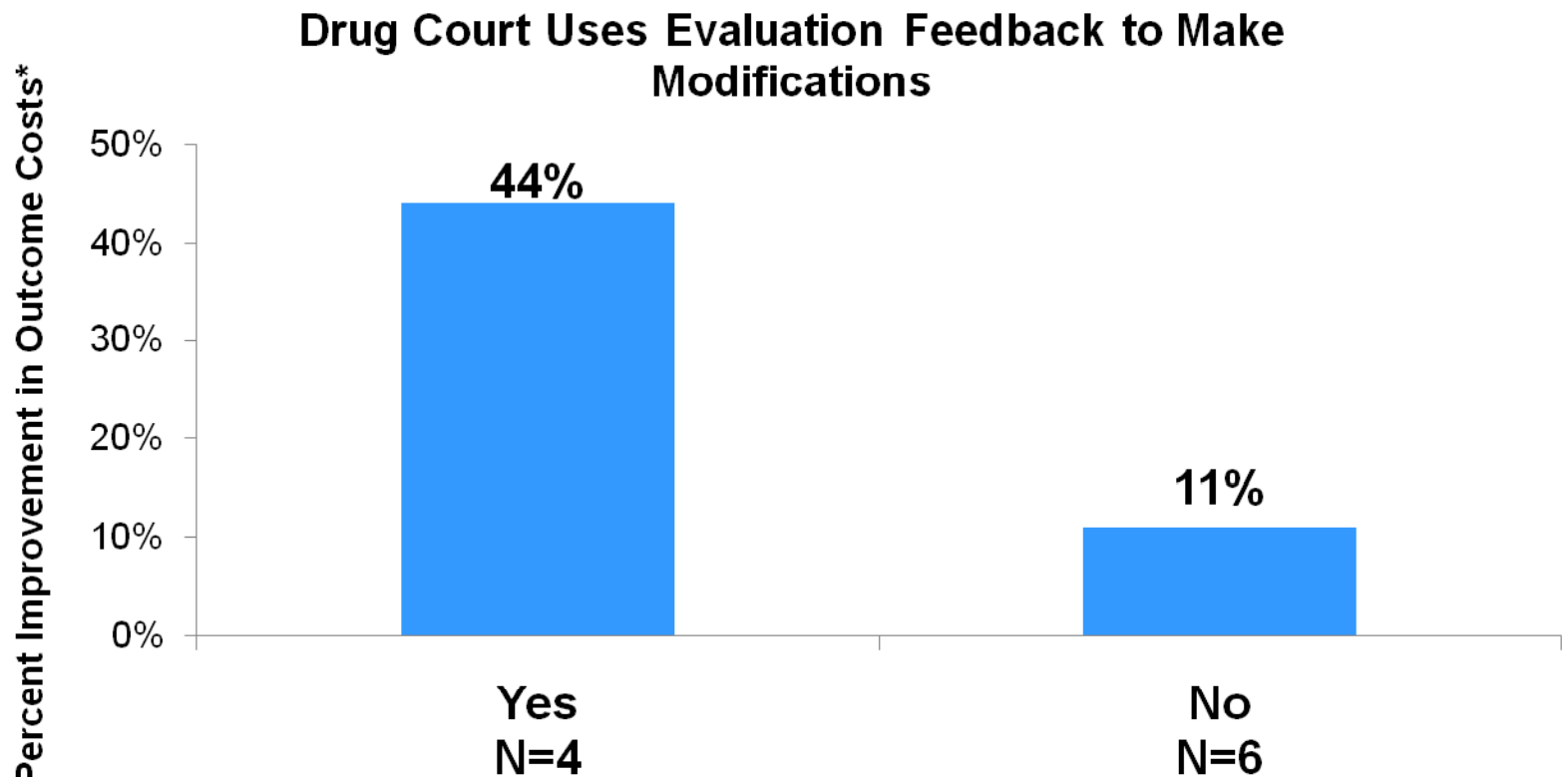
Key Component #8

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

- **Good evaluations are expensive. Are they really worth the \$\$?**



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



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

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

Overview of Workshop

- ❖ How do state drug court administrators use evaluation results? What information is most useful?
- ❖ Who asks for information and what do they ask for?
- ❖ How do local programs use evaluation results?

Evaluation Services

Three main areas of evaluation:

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

Other evaluation services:

Training and Technical Assistance

Process Benefits



- 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
- Contributes to program improvement
- Increases effectiveness for participants
- Better Outcomes, Better Cost-Benefits



Outcome Benefits



- Provides feedback to determine if any adjustments are needed
- Demonstrate program effectiveness to help program:
 - Obtain funding
 - Obtain community support
 - Gaining potential participant interest
 - Give program staff a pat on the back



Cost-Benefit Benefits

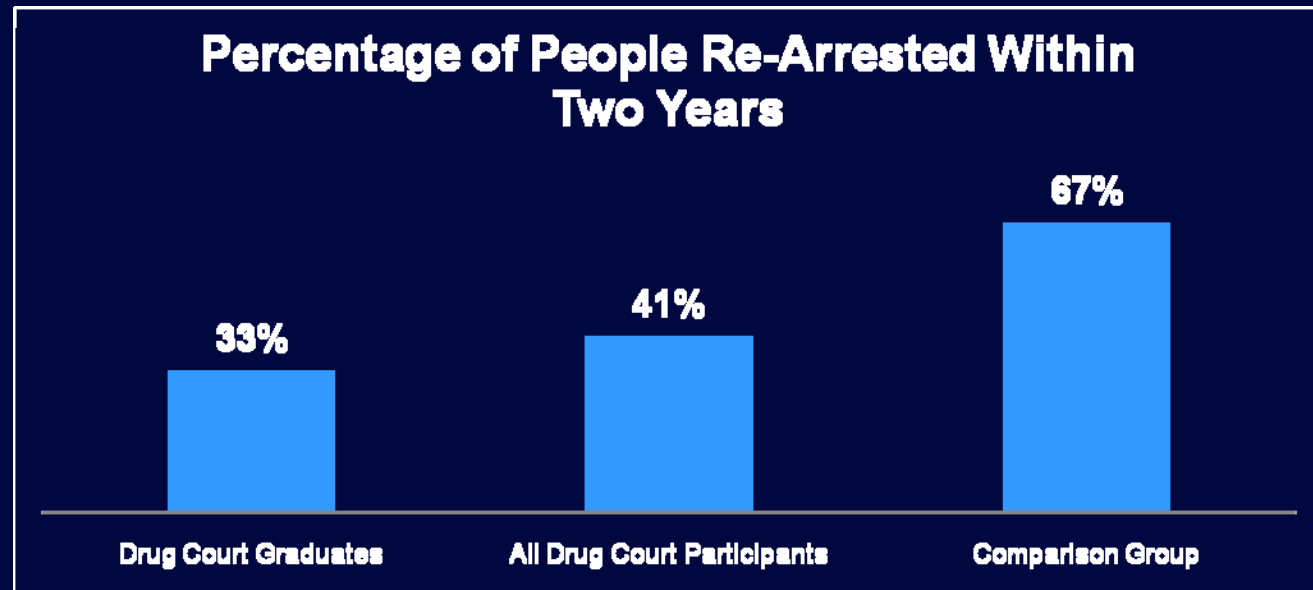
- Demonstrate program effectiveness in dollars
 - Savings that are generated by effective programs
-
- Program can use to gain additional funding and community support
 - Show program importance to legislators that are not familiar with social service concepts but understand money

Preparing the Program for the Evaluation

- Upfront information on the evaluation process
 - Why have an evaluation?
 - Obtain feedback
 - Demonstrate Effectiveness
- Stakeholder meeting
- Assurances from Agency/Department Heads
- Setting up MOU's

Examples of Evaluation Products

- Fact sheets (1 or 2 page quick summary)
- Executive summaries
- Summaries of process recommendations
- Full (academic style) reports

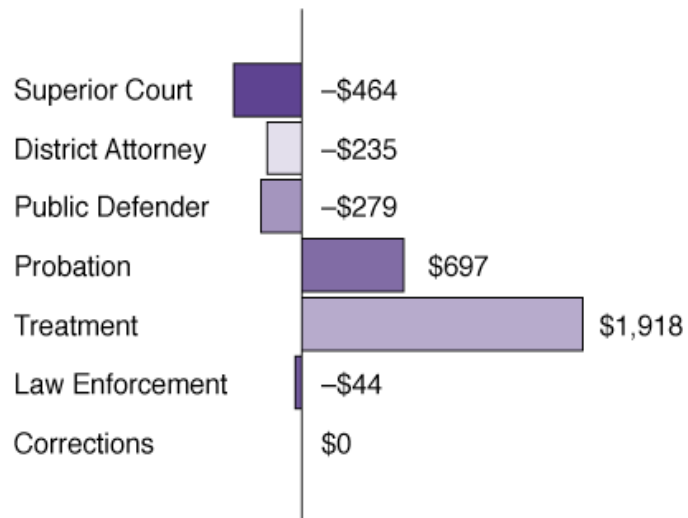


Results

Costs by Agency

Net Investment: Case Processing Costs

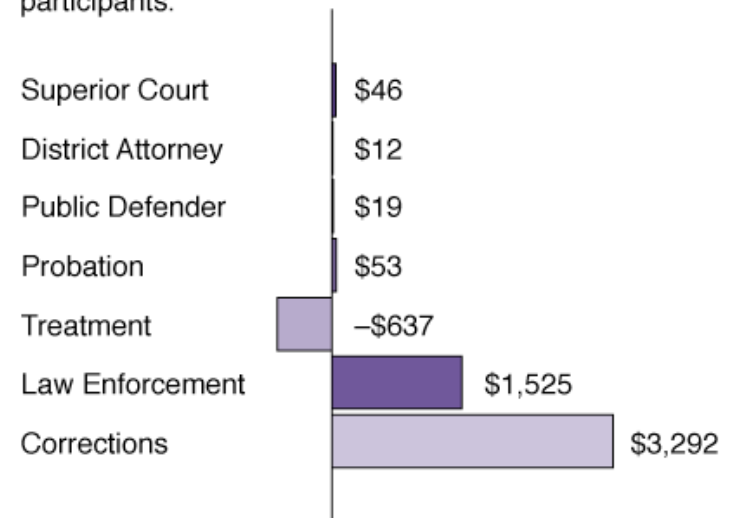
Most agencies spent less on drug court than on traditional case processing.



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

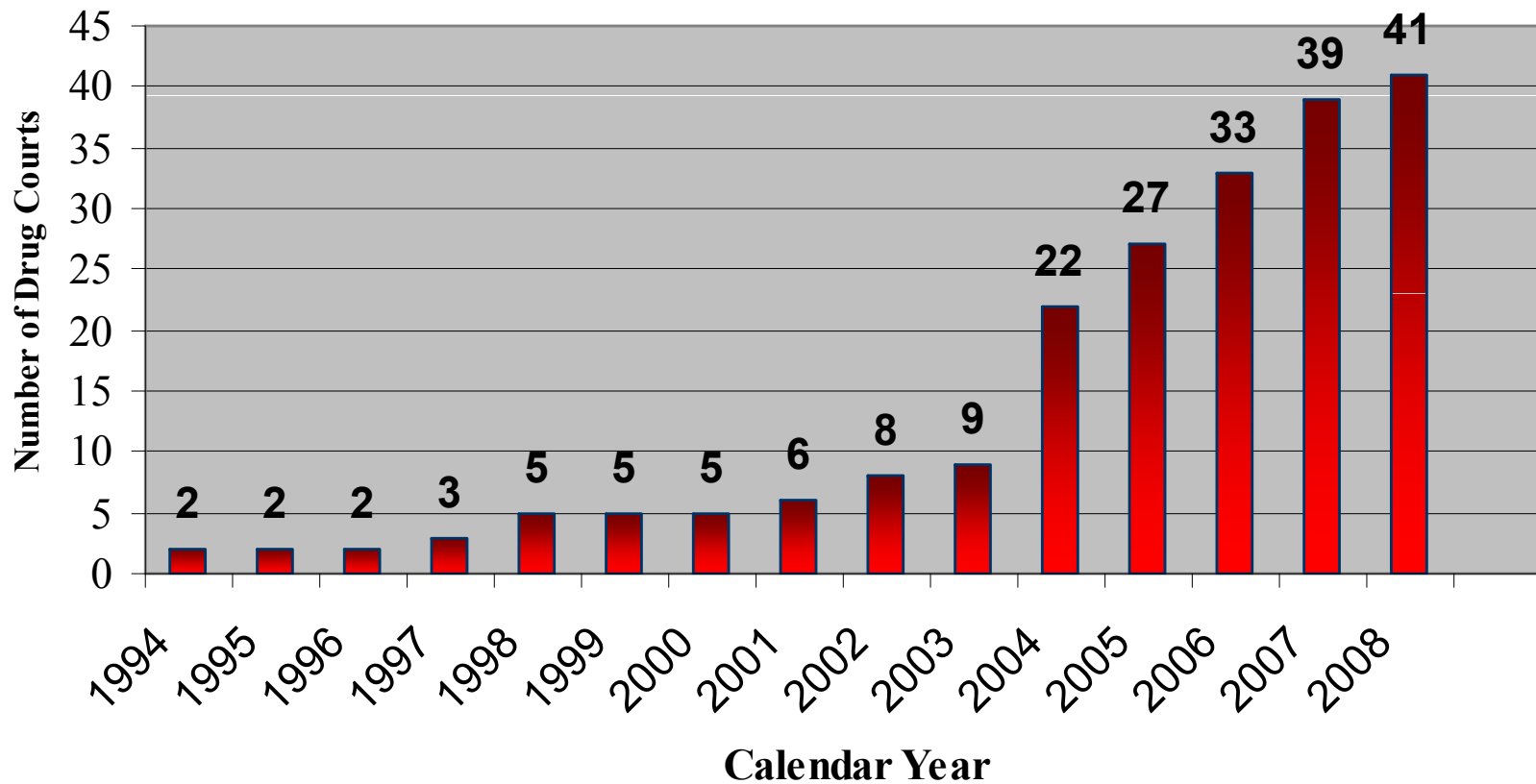


State Level

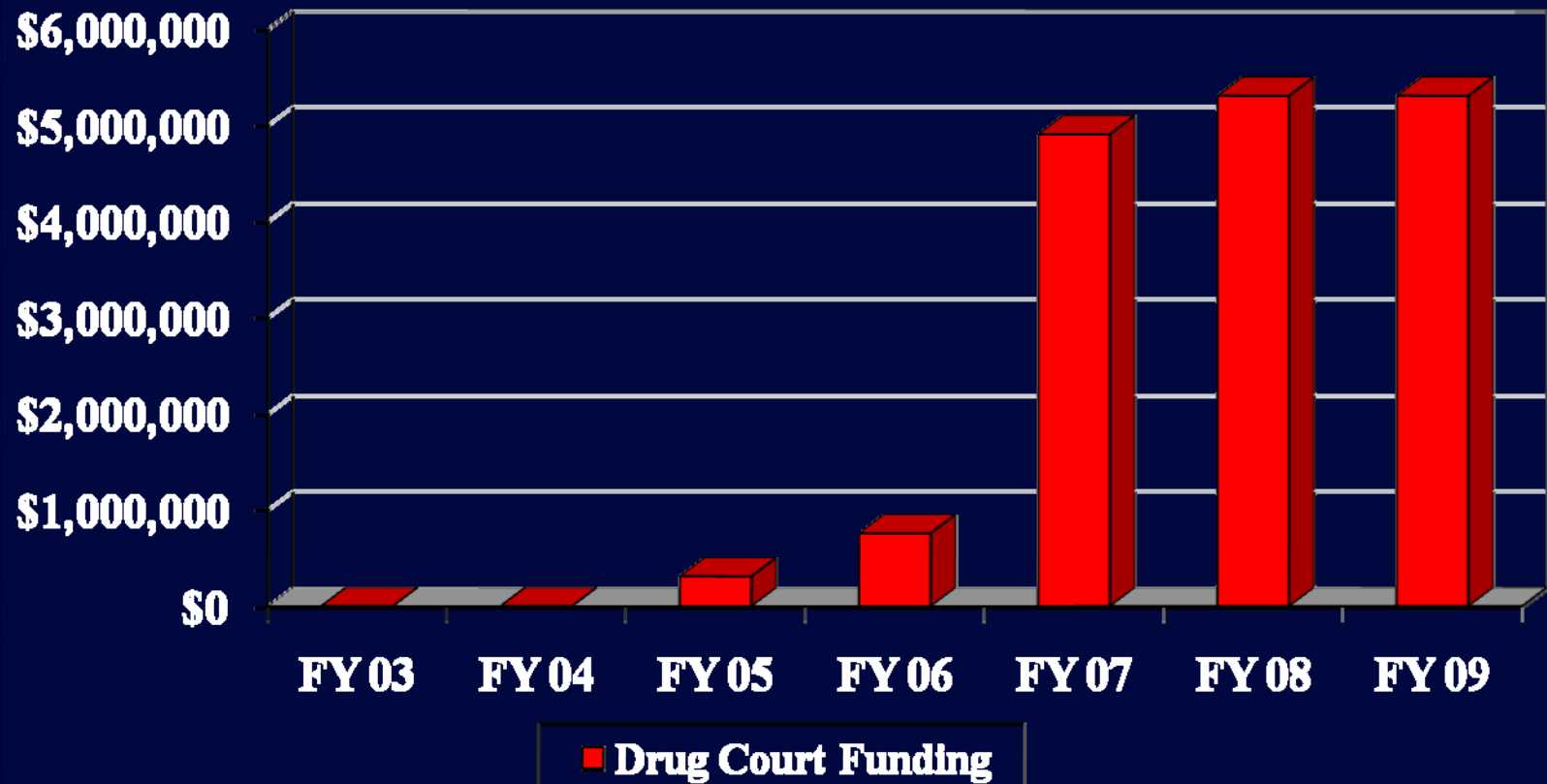
- How do states use evaluation results?
- What information did they find most useful from the evaluation?

History of Drug Courts in Maryland

Operational Drug Court Programs in Maryland



History of Drug Court Funding in Maryland





Evaluation Information: How It's Used

Vermont Style

- **The Media:**

To get the word out to the general public

- **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

Useful Information from Evaluation

- Apply Research to Practice
 - Map the recommendations, current practice & desired practice
 - Implement the changes in a thoughtful, methodical way
 - Share knowledge with other Treatment Courts
- Answer Anticipated Questions

Local Program Level

- How do programs use evaluation results?



- What information was most useful?

Prince George's County Circuit Court *Adult Drug Court Program*



Prince George's County District and Circuit Court

Summary of Recommendations

Process Evaluation:

- ☐ Recommendations were provided for nine out of the Ten Drug Court Key Components.
- ☐ The implementation of changes occurred over a 2-year period.

Outcome & Cost Evaluation:

- ☐ Did the PGCADC program reduce recidivism? **(YES)**
- ☐ Did the PGCADC program reduce participant drug use? **(UNCLEAR)**
- ☐ Are there cost savings (avoided costs) that can be attributed to the PGCADC program? **(YES)**

EXAMPLE: Clarifying Roles

Identified Problem:

Drug Court case managers were making treatment decisions/recommendations without consulting with treatment providers.

Plan to Implement Change:

- 1.) Schedule monthly tours/visits with treatment providers
- 2.) Introduce treatment recommendations during meetings
- 3.) Utilization of Management Information System (SMART)
- 5.) Implement training

Reaction:

Difficult for some case managers to accept

Change Implemented:

Increased communication with treatment professionals which assisted with clarifying the roles.

QUESTIONS



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